



“America’s Boating Club®”
United States Power Squadrons
ABC - San Diego Sail & Power Squadrons

The Ships’ Mail

The Ship’s Mail is a quarterly publication of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron, Inc., a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, America’s Boating Club®

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Congratulations to our newest SN (Senior Navigator)!



One of our most committed members has reached the highest educational levels in the America’s Boating Club: **Senior Navigator**. We discussed this accomplishment with Richard and received this response.

“It has been a long time coming, but I finally completed the requirements for Senior Navigator (SN). It took a lot of time to complete all the basic USPS classes and the six elective classes that must be completed to reach this level, but I can’t avoid pointing out that there are other “SNs” in the squadron.*

I am proud that I earned this award, but after a review of our squadron roster I am disappointed to find so few of our members have ever taken any of the basic or elective courses. I always keep in mind that we our fundamentally and

education organization, yet many of our members don’t take classes. That’s not right.

I’ve read articles that say studying is good for your mind and your general health and it is certainly good for your boating skills. So do yourself a favor and take a class to uphold the squadron’s status as an organization.

Thank you.”

P/D/C Richard T. Cross, SN-IN

SDSPS Navigators *

- David Baer
- Shelley Bakalis
- Steven Bakalis
- Doug Bass
- Jean-Jacques Bellier
- Allan Bombard
- Richard Cross
- Michael Grinnell
- Edwin Mraz
- David Weimer



Commander's Column

Debra Oberg, JN

Commander, ABC San Diego

Ahoy Mates!! Awww, the lazy days of summer...

The weather is warm to hot, the days are longer, we plan our vacations and master our skills on the BBQ grill. As a child, I always looked forward to summer. No school, no homework, and weekends at the lake. Spending our days in endless play, riding our bikes all over town and hanging with our friends. The good old days!!

Just because we grow up and take on responsibilities like a job and family, we should not forget those times of our youth. We can still play endlessly, ride our bikes all over town and hang with our friends.

What a beautiful day at De Anza Cove, although it did turn quite chilly later in the afternoon. Moving to the sun, felt really good. We had over 30 people attend the picnic, some coming to an ABC event for the first time. We also had a few who made the trek from North County. There was a ton of delicious food, as usual. A feast fit for a sailor. We recognized Richard Cross for completing and passing the Navigation course and achieving his 'SN' certification - the only grade that he had not yet achieved. Congratulations Richard! We ended our time with a raffle where the prizes were evenly distributed throughout. Watch for our next event in September.



SDSPS Summer GMM & Picnic,
DeAnza Cove, San Diego

Save the date for our Ice Cream/Appetizer/Movie party on Sunday, September 24, 2023 from 14:00 – 17:00. Location will be a club house in Escondido. It's open to all District 28 Members.

Earlier this year, I had a health scare and the prognosis from the doctors was not positive. It took me 3 days to convince them to let me go home from the hospital (after being there for 2 weeks!) and finish living life. If it was my time to go, so be it but it was not going to be from a hospital bed!

Never lose that spirit to want to live and get the most out of life. When we do leave this world, it should be with no regrets.

Deb

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Oberg, JN



Administrative Officer

Lt/C Carl Schwartz, P

Hello Fellow Boaters,

2023 Upcoming Event Schedule	
August 12	SD Cruisers BBQ-SWYC
Sept	GMM/Potluck (site TBD)
Nov 19	GMM-SWYC
Dec 10	Parade of Lights BBQ-Shelter Island

Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) Update: **48** as of 18 July

DIST# 28	SQUADRON: San Diego Sail & Power	TOT. CHECKS	# PASSED
	NAME		
	Allan Bombard.	19	18
	Jonathan R. Coats	10	7
	Robert Gibbs	15	11
	Shaun McArdle	4	3
	Michael R. Philbrook	0	0
	TOTALS	48	39

See you on the water. Safe Boating!
 Carl (carls1199@yahoo.com)



**Debbie Lenart, P; Deb Oberg, JN;
 Doug Bass, SN**
 SDSPS Summer Picnic
 DeAnza Cove, San Diego



Secretary

Lt/C Paula Vance, P

As secretary of America's Boating Club San Diego, I'm happy to relay information from our monthly ExCom meetings.

If you're interested in boating activities, there are opportunities. Convair runs fun sails every month on 23-foot boats, plus barbecues after the sailing. Our Club also sponsors sailboat races in the South Bay the third Saturday of each month. For more information about participating, contact **Doug Bass, SN** at DougBass1@gmail.com.

Our annual dues are now \$103 for a single and \$146 for a family membership.

One of our Club's important contributions to the boating community is our Vessel Safety Check program. Our VSC examiners offer free boat inspections and work with boat owners to make their vessels meet current safety standards. Our examiners are **Bob Gibbs, JN** (VSC Committee Chair), **Allan Bombard, SN**, **Shaun McArdle, AP**, **Jon Coates**, **Mike Philbrook, AP**, **Tanya Weimer, AP**. **Carole Hallock, AP** is working on her certification. So far, our team has completed 46 examinations. 37 boats passed, with 3 still TBD. If you have boat in your life that hasn't been inspected yet this year, contact the VSC examiners at vsc@sdsps.org.



The Sepulveda Family (Luis, Eduardo, and Lourdes Alviso); Carl Schwartz, P
SDSPS Summer Picnic
DeAnza Cove, San Diego

Mike Philbrook, AP is once again actively working on our website, so anyone with pictures or information they'd like to see posted there should send them to Mike: webmaster@sdsps.org. As members you are also encouraged to post pictures and comments on our Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/sdspsorg>.

Alice Kulikowski is our Boat Show Chair, organized a booth at the Kohler Wooden Boat Show on Shelter Island Drive June 17-18. Alice is always looking for volunteers to staff boat shows and get the word out about our Club and its benefits to members.

Each year our Club sponsors a Cruiser Navigation race and luncheon celebration. This year it will be held August 12 at Southwestern Yacht Club. Anyone interested in learning more about Cruiser Navigation or helping set up, please contact Carole Hallock at .

I speak for everyone on the Executive Committee in encouraging each or you to join us in helping to plan, set up, and run our events and classes. To learn more about these opportunities, please contact one of us at

ExCom@SDSPS.org.

Paula Vance, P
Secretary, America's Boating Club San Diego

Paula



Education Report

P/C Doug Bass, SN-IN
SDSPS Club Educational Officer

Squadron Education Class Schedule 2023

2023 has started out well, we've been teaching the new Boat Handling course (a.k.a Seamanship, comprising six seminars) and the rest of the year still offers several opportunities to increase your boating education:

Course <i>Tentative</i> Start Date	Duration (Wks)	Location
Sail	4-Sep	10 Southwestern YC
Radar	5-Sep	4-8 Zoom
Marine Electronics (ME2)	6-Sep	8 Southwestern YC
ABC Class	(mid-Sep, TBD)	8 (TBD)
Piloting	9-Oct	8 Southwestern YC
Electronic Navigation (ME3)	1-Nov	6 (TBD)



n.b., Our last ABC class featured a student who received a ticket for not having their California Boating Card. *By 2025 all California boaters will be required to have one.*

In addition to educational courses in the classroom, our Club has been active with our OTW (On-The-Water) BOC (Boat Operator Certification) training. Most recently, a group went from San Diego to Oceanside aboard **Carole Hallock, AP's Carole Ann** with several trainees from SDSPS and ABC Oceanside (SLRSPS). Here's the adventure as it unfolded for me...

July 14th The Carole-Ann left her slip at Southwestern Yacht Club at 0835. All on board were past Squadron commanders - from San Diego **D/Lt/C Doug Bass SN-IN, Lt Bob Gibbs JN-IN, D/Lt Richard Cross SN-IN**, and from San Luis Rey Squadron P/D/C Shawn Goit JN-ON and P/C Kirk Lippert JN-IN. Our goal for the weekend was to navigate to Oceanside Yacht Club, complete the on-the-water skills for Coastal and Advanced Coastal BOC, and attend the District 28 annual picnic.

The skills necessary for the different levels of Boat Operator Certification (BOC) are:



Demonstrate, while onboard, the primary skills for Coastal Navigation:

1. Prepare to return to starting point (two legs)
2. Estimate the effect of the wind or current on the boat and determine the steering correction later.
3. Shortly after leaving the mid-point stop, the GPS/Chartplotter is obscured, and the candidate navigates the boat for the next two legs using traditional methods
4. Plot and label the course line for all the legs of the route
5. Take one or more fixes (two or three bearings each), plot and label position(s) on the paper chart, and enter position into the planning sheet
6. Navigate to the final waypoint.
7. Return to dock and moor the vessel
8. Compare original plan to what actually happened.

In addition to the previous skills for Advanced Coastal Navigation the skills included:

1. An understanding of the potential impact for wind and current on each of the expected DR legs.
2. Establish estimates for set and drift for each leg
3. Correct the course and leg time to compensate for set and drift

We left the dock with these skills exercises in mind, we realized there would be moderate fog for the day that would make our DR position difficult to determine.



As we left Point Loma, we turned North skirting the kelp beds, hoping to have the coast in sight and do some bearing sights. Unfortunately, the coast was completely fogged in all the way to an Oceanside, so we



depended upon our GPS to navigate the approach into Oceanside Harbor, recording on our log and chart the times as we approached each of our GPS waypoints.



P/C Kirk Lippert, JN-CN with D/Lt/C
Doug Bass, SN-CN
SDSPS/SLRSPS BOC Voyage
From San Diego to Oceanside, CA

Around 1035 that morning, we started to notice the port engine was fluctuating in RPM, losing power momentarily. As a precaution, we opened the engine hatch and noticed that the raw water pump on the starboard engine was leaking water into the bilge due to several missing bolts on the water pump plate.

Stopping for a while we attempted to repair the water pump as much as possible, reducing the water flow, but realized it was not possible until we could purchase replacement bolts. As a result, the rest of the day we continued our trip on one engine, reducing our speed from 8.5 kn to 6.5 kn.

Approaching the Oceanside Harbor entrance around 1430 we started the starboard engine and Shawn Goit showed us how to avoid the dangerous entrance into the inlet. The best approach to Oceanside harbor is to approach the inlet from the sea buoy, not taking a shortcut on the south side of the inlet, where the breaking waves could cause a broach of the vessel.

Entering the harbor, we docked the guest slip behind the Jolly Roger successfully with the help **Carole Hallock, AP** which had driven up to Oceanside.

After a brief happy hour on board around sunset to celebrate our arrival, several of us went to Joe's crab shack for a wonderful dinner,

P/D/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON with P/D/C
Richard Cross, SN-IN
SDSPS/SLRSPS BOC Voyage
From San Diego to Oceanside, CA



at
of
us



After an uneventful night at our slip, we all prepared for the District 28 annual picnic that was a short walk in front of our slip. There were about 40 attendees from all three Squadrons - San Luis Rey (the sponsor), San Diego, and Balboa. We had a great time talking with everyone catching up on events, ate some wonderful fried chicken, and a very successful raffle where we had several books that we just could not give away!

The next morning, we continued to work on our leaking water pump, installing a new impeller replacing some of the bolts and noticed that one last



bolt had broken off and even though we attempted to use an easy out, we were unable to remove that last bolt. We reinstalled the cover with the existing bolts. There was still a very slight leak from the water pump; however, we decided that it was working sufficiently well for our voyage back to San Diego.

We left the dock in Oceanside at about 1500, entered the Pacific Ocean and continued southward to San Diego for our return voyage. We were able to see the shoreline, so we were able to take several bearings, fixing our position on a chart, in addition to using GPS and all of us also practiced helmsmanship, driving the boat on the course, without the help of GPS using only our compass for direction. We also practiced calculating our arrival time at subsequent waypoints using our "60 DST" calculations. Each of us was successful at arriving at every waypoint at the expected time.



S/V Carole Ann, Oceanside Harbor
SDSPS/SLRSPS BOC Voyage
From San Diego to Oceanside, CA

As we approached San Diego, once again, we skirted around the kelp beds, and were able to return at the dock around dusk on Sunday. With a review of the requirements for Coastal and Advance coastal navigation, we determined the remaining onshore items to be performed which included a CPR class, a first aid class, several seminars and webinars that needed to be taken in addition to marine electronics class that we've decided would be offered this fall.

With this in mind, the three students who had already completed the other coursework, **Doug Bass, SN, Bob Gibbs, JN, and Kirk Lippert, JN** were awarded the Coastal Navigation (-CN) certificate, and with the

completion of our classes this fall we will have passed the Advanced Coastal Navigation (-ACN).

Kudos to our fearless instructor, P/D/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON, for his patience – and his outstanding leadership on this exciting voyage!



Our next step in the BOC program is the Offshore Navigation certification (-ON) which will require an overnight passage. We are hoping to accomplish that sometime later this year with a trip to Oceanside or Catalina.

Stay tuned and we hope that others can join us on the voyage.

Respectfully,
Doug Bass, SN-CN



Treasurer's Report

Lt/C Debbie Lenart, P
SDSPS Treasurer

Widgets, passwords, activation, ID....

I understand that protection is a must nowadays but REALLY? Do we need to jump through hoops and crawl under fences? Well, if you've ever gotten a new or transferred a bank account you know what I mean.

It all started out as a calm, peaceful morning. I was enjoying my usual cup of coffee, not too strong with a touch of creamer; ok, a lot of creamer, when I decided to update our squadron debit card information. You may recall that I mentioned Union Bank was going to be US Bank and that the rollover was happening soon. Well, it rolled over. As usual, I did not roll over until this morning. You know, life happens, right?

Well, I had some time, and I had some coffee. No time like the present. So, I gathered up my information and my new card and proceeded to try to log in. Easy, right? Wrong. I was sent to so many different places I felt like I was a travel agent for the bank. This site sent me to that site, and I ended back up where I started. I finally looked at the new debit card and realized that I was using the old Union Bank card. Aha! Cut up old card, use new card. Now start from the beginning and go s-l-o-w-l-y this time. Aha! Second time was the charm. But wait, there's more...

It's telling me I need to set up a new username. What was wrong with the old one? All right, I'll set up new username. Now press next. Oh no, now I need to set up a new password. All right, set up new password. Now, very important, stop and WRITE IT DOWN. If you're like me, you have passwords and code names for numerous devices and accounts. I have a little rolodex (remember those?) where I keep my very important names and addresses and passwords. I can't keep all that information straight. Ok, that's done. Now let's see if we can log in. Finally, after more coffee



Past Members Diane and Dan Nephew,
with Lt/C Bob Gibbs, JN-CN
SDSPS Summer Picnic
DeAnza Cove, San Diego



and a little cussing, success! I managed to log in. I can only hope that US Bank doesn't decide to go anywhere for a while or change its name. I don't need the extra stress and caffeine!

Ahh, summer. Time to get the boat out, relax in the sun, chill, enjoy your favorite beverage, all things fun. However, with all this fun comes, wait for it, traffic! Boat traffic. Tourists!



**Jeanne Gibbs and New Member Scott
Hinckle, P**
SDSPS Summer Picnic
DeAnza Cove, San Diego

Summer seems to bring out hordes of people who think they know how to drive a boat but, as we all know, will park their brains on the dock somewhere and revert to who knows what on our waterways. Well then, let's take this as an opportunity to inform and teach and tell them about us. You know you have brochures on your boat (if not, get them!). So, strike up a conversation and tell them about water safety even as you cringe as they scoot by on their rented jet skis and/or boats. Hey, you never know what a simple "hi" or "hello, have you heard about water safety and our free boating courses?" can do! It could save a life or even the sides of your own boat! So, grit your teeth, smile, and get out there and let everyone you meet know about safe boating practices!

Oh, and have a safe, smart boating summer while you're at it!

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lenart, P
Treasurer SDSPS

**A year-long membership in the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron
Renew a year-long membership for yourself, your family, your friends
Members-only discounts galore**

Sailing, Weather, Boat Handling, Advanced Courses, and more

[Start a Gift Membership Today](#)

San Diego Sail & Power Squadron
A unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

This 501(c)3 California nonprofit organization has been looking out for Southern California boaters since 1952. Our mission is to make boating education easy to reach, create safer boaters, and lower the cost of watercraft ownership.



Squadron Chaplain

Are you in need of a prayer? Need a friendly phone call or a special card?

Duane Leathers, AP, is a long-standing squadron member who has 47 Merit Marks and has been active in our District for many years on the Planning Committee and Chair of the Education Fund. You may not know it, but Duane is not only our District Chaplain, but also our San Diego Sail & Power Squadron Chaplain. He has graciously offered to serve your needs in that capacity, confidentially and enthusiastically.

Please give Lt/C and Chaplain Duane Leathers, AP a call or send an email message as you need. He can be reached at (858) 695-2532 or d.o.leathers@sbcglobal.net



Law Report

D/LtC Michael Wales
SDSPS Legal Officer

MARITIME LAW CORNER

By Mike Wales,
District 28 Law Officer

Beware of E-Mail Spoofing!

Email spoofing occurs when someone sends an email message to you with a forged "From" address, making it appear to come from someone you personally know or are doing business with. The "spoofers" then try to trick the recipient into revealing sensitive information or downloading malicious software. In many cases, the spoofer has used a bot to search the internet for email subject lines indicating a pending financial wire transmission in business. The spoofer then intercepts an email from the person slated to receive the wire, forgers the recipient's name in the "Form" address and send bogus wire instructions so as to misdirect the funds being wired to the spoofer's account. This crime is so prevalent that the FBI will not even investigate these crimes where the loss is under \$1,000,000!

Here are a few ways you can protect yourself.

- When sending money, always CALL the recipient to confirm the routing and account number.
- Check the sender's email address – is it the same as in previous emails? The sender's email address may look unusual and suspicious, such as including a misspelled name or extra characters that make it different from the legitimate sender's address. BE attentive.
- Spoofed emails often contain requests for personal information, such as credit card numbers, social security numbers, or passwords. Do NOT take the bait.



- Spoofed emails may contain an urgent request to act, such as resetting a password or verifying account information. Do NOT take the bait.
- Emails containing unusual attachments, such as .zip or .exe files, should be treated with caution as they may contain malware. Do NOT open any attachment you are not 100% sure about.
- Emails/SMS may contain grammatical errors, typos, or strange language usage. BE attentive.
- Suspicious links in the email may lead to a fake website that looks like the legitimate one, or they may contain unusual characters or redirect to a different website. Do NOT open suspicious links.

ABC – San Diego Past Commanders

A 'fluther' of jellyfish; a 'flotilla' of swordfish; a 'herd' of seahorses. What do you call a collection of ex-Club Commanders?

And the winner is...

P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-IN with "Noble a of Commanders"!

If you have been the victim of such a crime, the first thing to do is contact your bank to claw back the wire or place a hold on your financial accounts. Regrettably, local law enforcement will decline jurisdiction and refer you to the FBI. You may file a complaint with the FBI about the crime at the FBI's Internet Crime Center (IC3.com). Unfortunately, you will likely receive a polite call from an agent telling you there is nothing they can do, and they are understaffed.

Michael Wales is a San Diego attorney and co-owner of AGL Yacht Sales on Harbor Island. You may reach him at 619.493.1700 or at mwales@waleslaw.com.



Lessons Learned from the US Coast Guard – 2023

P/D/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN-ON
San Luis Rey Sail & Power Squadron

[Ed. Note: This issue of the Ships' Mail continues a regular educational column by one of our local senior USPS members, a USCG-licensed Captain, and a great instructor. This marks but one of several initiatives to bring our geographically close Squadrons closer nautically, educationally, and socially. Please thank Adriaan for his willingness to help us educate the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron boating community!]

SAFETY LESSONS FROM THE US COAST GUARD – JUNE/JULY

May 20-26 was National Safe Boating Week in preparation for this year's boating season. The US Coast Guard urged us to take a moment to reflect on the boating behaviors that will keep you, your loved ones, and those around you safe while on the water. Their focus was wearing an approved Life Jacket, taking a boating safety course, and filing a float plan with someone you trust. New in the recommendation to file a float plan is to include a recent photo of your boat. This seems like a great idea, particularly if the picture is digital.

For three days leading up to your July 4th celebrations, the US Coast Guard is organizing "Operation Dry Water," as alcohol use remains the leading contributing factor in fatal boating incidents. The heightened alert for those violating boating under the influence (BUI) laws invites local media, businesses, and recreational boaters to spread the message and raise awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence.



And lastly, I received some questions about the rules regarding fire extinguishers. So rather than writing a whole page about this topic, let me point you to the updated fire extinguisher requirements for recreational boats. <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/fire-extinguisher-faq.php> It comes with a series of 16 questions, and if you find that you already know the answer to all questions, you're a better boater than I am!

We stayed with sound signals for power-driven vessels in INLAND waters for the May challenge. So, I asked what sound signal is required when your power-driven vessel is leaving a dock or berth. However, in reality, even sailing vessels are power-driven most of the time when leaving the dock, right? The question seems so simple, but there is still some complexity hiding in the choice of my answers. I received one response that it should be one long blast. Look at Rule 32 for the definition of sound signals. I received one reply saying it should be one long and three short blasts. Also not correct because the three short blasts indicate astern propulsion (and the vessel may be leaving the dock going forward). The answer can be found in US Coast Guard Rule 34 (g). Note that there is no section 34 (g) for INTERNATIONAL. The proper response is C, one prolonged blast.

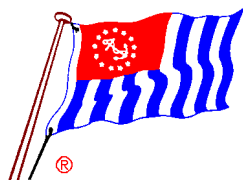
We are looking at anchor lights INLAND and INTERNATIONAL waters for next month's challenge. Let me start by saying that four vessels do not (have to) show anchor lights. Extra points for my readers that know all four. However, I'm asking for one: Which of the following vessels, when anchored at night, would NOT be required to show anchor lights?

- A A power-driven vessel.
- B A vessel engaged in pilotage duty.
- C A vessel dredging.
- D A sailing vessel.

Even if you immediately know the answer, I hope you consider taking a course from our Americas Boating Club Oceanside. The next class, Marine Electrical Systems, will start on June 8, 2023, at OYC at 7.00pm with instructor Jorge Alonso. And if we have 5 or more, we will start the Marine Navigation (Piloting) class. We will teach an "On the Water Boating Program "with Shawn Goit as the instructor in the classroom and on the water. To see if you can join, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jan Follestad at <https://americasboatingcluboceanside.org/classroom/>

Captain Adriaan Veldhuisen
awveldhuisen@gmail.com

News from National



Communications Committee's
United States Power Squadrons® Member News



"Brilliant - putting 'procrastinate' at the top of our to-do list."

Kansas City Awaits!



Close out summer with a celebration! Join your friends—new and old—in Kansas City, Missouri, for the **2023 Governing Board Meeting of United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club.**

Don't delay! [Register by July 25](#) for the best discounts on meal and event tickets.

CAN'T-MISS EVENTS

- **Kansas City Royals vs. Pittsburgh Pirates**, Tues., Aug. 29
- **Arabia Steamboat Museum Tour**, Wed., Aug. 30
- **Kansas City History Dinner and Barbershop Quartet** (choice of meal), Thurs., Aug. 31
- **An Evening of Jazz** (choice of meal), Sat., Sept. 2

America's Boating Channel Premieres Season Seven

From Memorial Day through Labor Day 2023, America's Boating Channel will debut its seventh season of 12 new original boating safety and boater education videos on smart TV and the internet. Subscribe for free to the America's Boating Channel video-on-demand app and continuously play television channel on Roku and FireTV, or to America's Boating Channel on YouTube. [-Marty Lafferty](#)

Beware of Phishing Emails With Our Logo

A fake email using the America's Boating Club logo is making the rounds. The email subject is "You're WANTED: For participation in Paid Surveys." This email is not from America's Boating Club and should be considered dangerous. If you receive this email, delete it and do not open it. [-Jay Stevens](#)

Environmental Considerations for Good Stewardship

Ever seen litter such as a styrofoam coffee cup in the parking lot or along an area you frequent? Not only does litter detract from an area's beauty, but it's also harmful to the environment. Instead of walking on by or ignoring the litter, take a moment to pick it up and place it in a proper trash can. This same principle applies when you're out on the water. Let environmental best practices guide your actions regarding plastics, garbage disposal, toilet use, oil and fuel



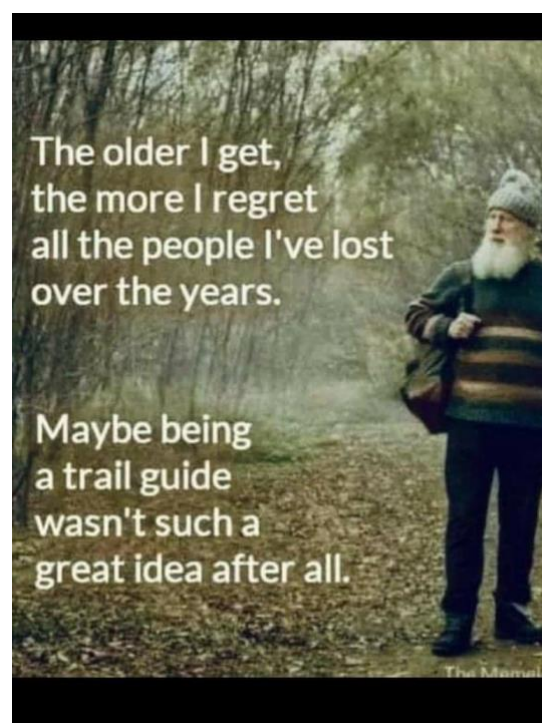
control, toxic waste, and more. If we're all good environmental stewards—on and off the water, we will make a difference. As a club, we can also choose to take the next step and do something together, reaching out to our local communities to undertake a local waterway cleanup project—big or small. Be sure to coordinate with local media and news outlets, and be sure to let me know what you're doing. These events make a positive impression in your community and could gain new members for your club. Good stewardship doesn't go unrewarded! One final note: Squadrons can order the free environmental best practices brochures at https://www.usps.org/eddept/files/free_brochure_form.pdf. However, they must pay for shipping. An updated Environmental Best Practices trifold brochure is also available for local printing. Look for it online using the link below. [-John DiPrima](#)

Cruise to the British Virgin Isles With Us

The America's Boating Club group cruise to the gorgeous BVIs continues to grow, and we'd love you to join us! We will be sailing on the newest Celebrity ship, *Celebrity Ascent* for our next group cruise following the Annual Meeting. The ship sails Feb. 11–18, 2024, from Fort Lauderdale to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Tortola, BVI; and Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis. Our exclusive group pricing is better than the advertised Celebrity promotion and does include drinks, Wi-Fi, and tips. This is an annual fundraiser, and your district can also benefit if supported. For more details, please [email me](#) or call 727-403-0406. [- Dawn Eckhart](#)

A Hint of What's to Come in Kansas City

Get ready for Kansas City! Come early to allow plenty of time to visit the vibrant atmosphere of Kansas City, known for its barbecue, fountains, and River Market. Take advantage of the free KC Streetcar, which stops right outside our hotel doors, to visit nearby museums as well as the activities scheduled for your entertainment. And don't forget the Royals vs. Pirates game at Kauffman Stadium on August 29! Get your tickets early as seating is limited! And of course, the Thursday Keynote Breakfast with the United States Army Corps of Engineers is a must! Learn about the history (commercial and recreational uses) of the waterways from the Corps' perspective, how resources are presently used, and what the future may hold. This talk will span inland lakes, rivers, and the Port of KC and touches multiple districts and clubs. Connect with your friends from different districts by attending the diverse set of offerings brought to you by your favorite committees. We have lunches for everyone and two special dinners—Wednesday's Welcome Night Western-themed Barbecue and Saturday's Jazz Night. There's more coming, so please keep watching the [NMC website](#). [-Rich Frenz](#)





A Final Note from P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-IN

King Neptune Awards

Shellback	Cross Equator 0° Latitude (anywhere)
Golden Dragon	Cross International Dateline 180° Meridian
Emerald Shellback	Cross Equator at the Prime Meridian (Longitude 0°/ Latitude 0°)
Golden Shellback	Cross Equator at International dateline (Longitude 180° Meridian)
Blue Nose	Cross Artic Circle



Richard's & Carole's Experiences

International Date Line **Golden Dragon**

West Bound	1954 San Diego, CA, to Kobe Japan via Midway Island. Troop Ship 1998 October 27: Fiji to New Caledonia- Sailing Vessel Evie*
East Bound	1955 Yokosuka, Japan to Alameda, CA via Pearl Harbor. CV 10 Yorktown 1997 February 3: Majuro, Marshal Islands to Fiji -Sailing Vessel Evie*

Equator

Shellback

South bound	1996 June 6: Christmas Island, Kiribati (Line Islands) to Raita, French Polynesia * 1998 June 3: Majuro, Marshall Islands to Fiji -Sailing Vessel Evie*
North Bound	1997 February 3: Kanton Island, Kiribati to Majuro, Marshall Islands*

Date Line at Equator **Golden Shellback**

1997 June 29: Passage from Majuro, Marshal Islands to Fiji*

Notes on Fiji

Fiji lies on the Date Line with some islands in the West Longitude like Taveuni while Venua Levu is in the North West and Viti Levui (Main Island) to the southwest. The capital Suva is on Vita Levui. Musket Cove Island is to the west of Nadi (big city)

* Passages on S/V Evie





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