



# United States Power Squadrons' America's Boating Club® ABC - San Diego Sail & Power Squadron



## 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®

Vol. 76, No. 5, Holiday Issue 2024



### Commander's Corner

Cdr Jerry Murphy, AP

Our very active Autumn has included teaching three courses, Marine Navigation, Weather, and the continuation of Junior Navigation with sun sights out on the Imperial Beach Pier.



Our November General Membership

Meeting was graced by a fascinating talk on rescuing submariners trapped below water. Several of us participated in the District-28 Raft Up on Mission Bay. Thanks to all who contributed to these events and helped them run smoothly.

November was **Planning Month**, and our current bridge is working hard to develop the plans for next year's courses, meetings, and boat shows. The nascent schedule in this Ship's Mail is our best estimate for next year, as of publication, but you can expect additions and possible changes by the time of our Change of Watch. We are open to suggestions!

**Change of Watch will be on 11 January 2025, at Southwestern Yacht Club.** At that time, we will vote in the New Bridge and other officers, ratify the teaching and meetings schedules, review the audit of 2024 finances, and hopefully ratify a budget for 2025. Instead of a guest speaker, this will be a chance for outgoing officers to say a word or two and the incoming commander may give us a

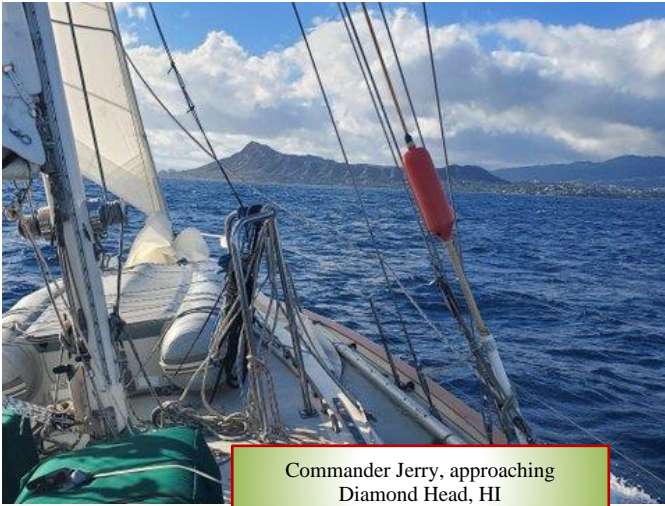
### 2025 SDSPS Calendar

Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	6 Jan
Change of Watch	Southwestern Yacht Club	11 Jan
USPS Annual Mtg	Orlando, FL	2-9 Feb
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	10 Feb
USPS Annual Cruise	BVI	9-16 Feb
District 28 Conf.	Oceanside, CA	7-9 Mar
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	10 Mar
Day at the Docks	(Site TBD)	6 Apr
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	7 Apr
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	5 May
District 28 Cruise	Douro River (Spn/Prtgl)	10-17 May
VSC-a Thon	Southwestern Yacht Club	17 May
National Safe Boating Week		17-23 May
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	9 Jun
Wooden Boat Show	(Site TBD)	14-15 Jun
Sunroad Boat Show	Sunroad Marina	19-23 Jun
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	7 Jul
Annual BBQ	DeAnza Cove	13 Jul
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	4 Aug
Ice Cream Social	(Site TBD)	17 Aug
USPS Gov Bd Mtg	Grand Rapids, MI	1-7 Sep
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	8 Sep
Education GMM	Southwestern Yacht Club.	13 Sep
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	6 Oct
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	10 Nov
Parade of Lights	Shelter Island	7 Dec
Exec Cte Meeting	Southwestern Yacht Club	8 Dec

*(Note: the calendar is subject to change)*



preview of his plans for the new year. There will be awards, good food, a raffle, and wine. Please plan to come and support your Squadron as we start the new year!



Commander Jerry, approaching  
Diamond Head, HI

We are a relatively small Squadron, compared with prior decades, and many of our members are now elderly. Each year we have a challenge filling the many roles needed to keep the squadron functioning smoothly. At publication there will likely be **several positions still open** for new members to contribute by serving in some capacity or for older members who have had some time off to jump back in.

For event planning, we are considering a new idea where each meeting or gathering would have an **Event Captain** who would be responsible for planning that particular event. This would require only a one- or two-month time commitment and would make the jobs of the

Administrative Officer and Executive Officer so much easier. Please consider which meeting, boat show, social event, or raft up you would like to coordinate, and the rest of us will rally around you in making it happen.

We were able to get **Merit Marks** approved for 24 members this year. It only takes about 12 hours of effort to be eligible for an MM. Seven members contributed over 100 hours. More people being active would reduce the workload on the few giving the lion's share of the effort. Could you do one more thing to help our Squadron succeed? Coordinating one meeting would likely get you an MM.

I encourage each member to think about **what you are good at** or **what you personally enjoy doing** that might help SDSPS succeed or be more enjoyable. Volunteer organizations run best when people are doing what they enjoy. Call me or our prospective Commander, Carl Schwartz, with your ideas or requests to volunteer.

Thanks again for all you do to help improve seamanship and boating safety in the US. And thanks for your fellowship in our fraternity of fellow boaters and navigators. Come and join us in our classes, meetings, and social events!

*Jerry*

Commander, America's Boating Club  
San Diego

[gsmurphy@ix.netcom.com](mailto:gsmurphy@ix.netcom.com)

(847) 890-2470



Quiz of the Issue!

What is the name for this and why is it useful? Tell Commander Jerry and if you are correct he'll treat you at the bar during our January CoW.



## Executive Officer

Lt/C Carl Schwartz, AP

Greetings Fellow Boaters!

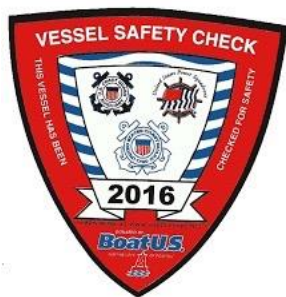
2024 has been a great year. We just restarted our Raft-Ups and had a great weekend October 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. On board we had a potluck and a very special wine tasting. Four boats anchored for this special event and for the non-boaters a 24-hour tender was available to whisk you to and from the shore.



We have three terrific classes running simultaneously. Marine Weather, Junior Navigation, and Marine Navigation. All 3 classes add tremendously to your boating skills. Junior Navigation covers the use and purpose of using a sextant for navigation. Weather is always applicable for boaters and non-boaters as well. Marine Navigation is the new Piloting Course, with more emphasis on GPS chart plotting. We were fortunate enough to add San Diego Yacht Club as the location for our Marine Navigation class.

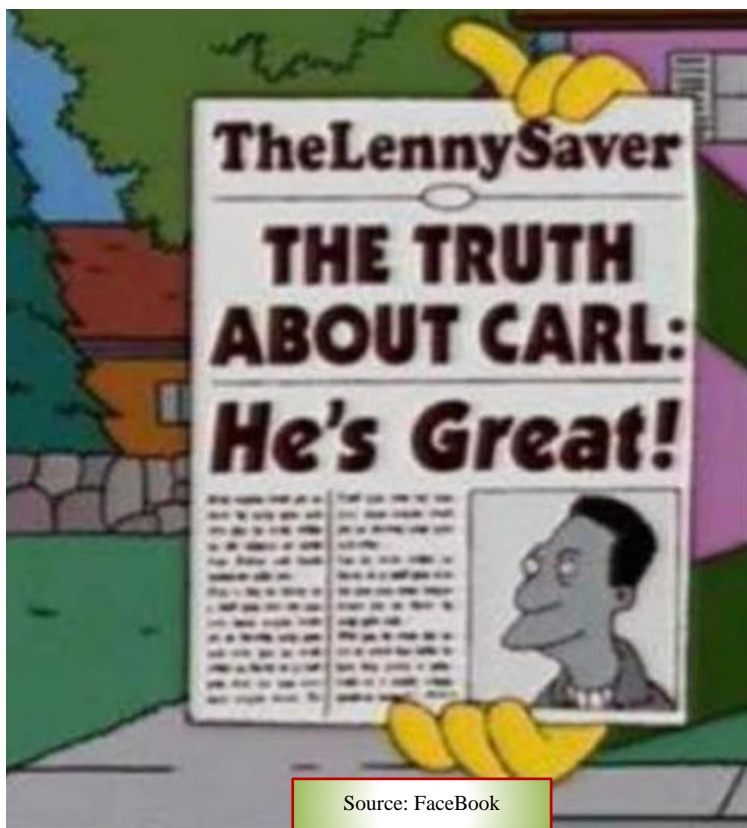
HOT "Hands on Training" has begun as our District has obtained a boat from National headquarters for "on the water" training and certification. This certification would be beneficial for all active SDSPS members.

## Vessel Safety Check Update



We've been finishing out the year by having those Vessel Examiners who hadn't yet completed the required five examinations in order to be qualified in the coming year to do

the required exams. **D/C Doug Bass, SN-ON**, a member of the Convair Sailing Club, arranged to have those VEs complete their required quota. Not only did they complete their individual exams, together they did the Convair entire fleet. They were **Jon Coats**; **Lt/C Alice Kulikowski**; and **P/C Shaun McArdle, AP**. The others on our VSC team: **R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON**; **P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN**; and **Lt Michael Philbrook, AP**.



Source: FaceBook

Our VSC (Vessel Safety Check) Program continues to be quite robust in San Diego! The 2024 year for Vessel Safety Checks was a nice improvement over 2023. A new vessel safety examiner was confirmed with Alice Kulikowski, who completed 5 supervised vessel exams as well as three solo exams. Great job Alice. A very special thanks goes to **R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON** for completing 56 vessel safety checks. **VSC Chair P/C Shaun McArdle, AP** reports the following year-end summary for our Squadron's Vessel Safety Check performance in 2024:



Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Update:

94 as of 5 December 2024

DIST# 28 SQUADRON: San Diego Sail & Power

NAME	TOT. CHECKS #	PASSED #
Alice Kulikowski	3	3
Allan Bombard	56	42
Jonathan R. Coats	14	4
Robert Gibbs	11	11
Shaun McArdle	5	5
Michael Philbrook	5	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>67</b>

Vessel Safety checks are a valuable service performed by Squadron members and Coast Guard Auxiliary members. During a vessel safety check, examiners are able to instruct boaters as to Coast Guard requirements as well as point out any deficiencies in critical safety areas such as the functionality of navigation lights, fire extinguishers and signal flares. Additionally, performing vessel safety checks is a great way to meet other boaters and learn more about sail and power boats.

Anyone interested in becoming a vessel safety examiner should contact Bob Gibbs at (858) 255-9527.

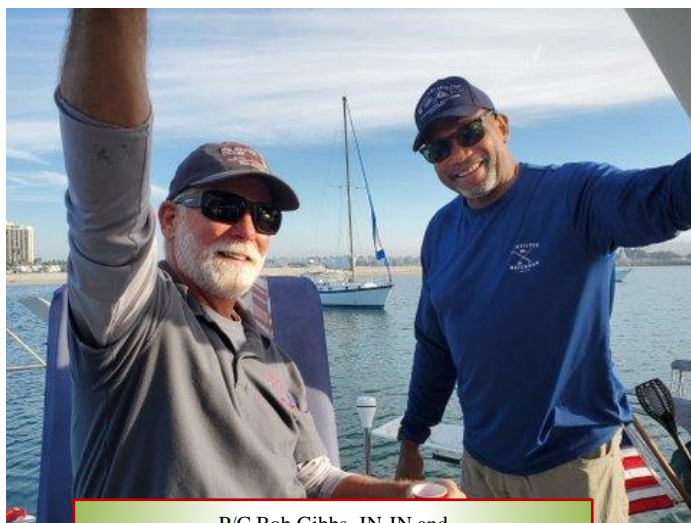
Wrapping up this year is the Parade of Lights BBQ, December 8<sup>th</sup> at Shelter Island. Always a great time watching the amazing, decorated boats.

See you in January.

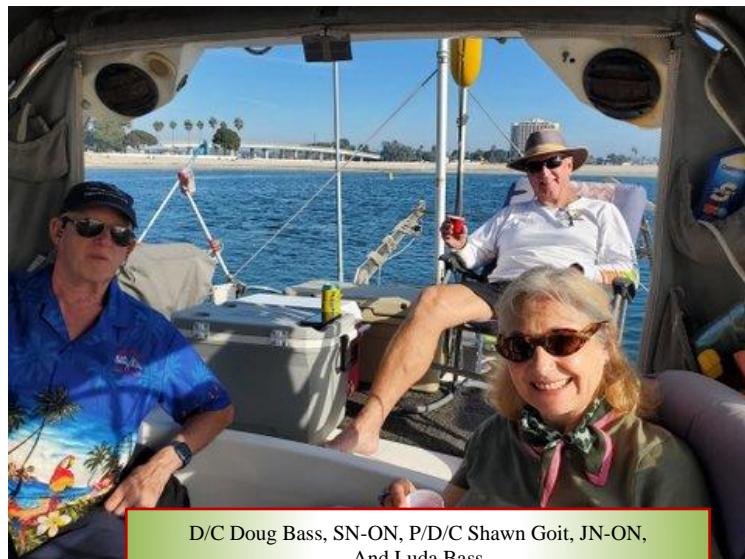
Carl  
Executive Officer, America's Boating Club San Diego  
([carls1199@yahoo.com](mailto:carls1199@yahoo.com))

SDSPS-SLRSPS Raft Up October 2024 in Mission Bay

Photo source: D/Lt/C Jill Powell, AP



P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN and  
SLRSPS Cdr Darryel Simmons, AP-ON



D/C Doug Bass, SN-ON, P/D/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON,  
And Luda Bass



## Administrative Officer

Lt/C Alice Kulikowski

Hello Fellow Boaters,

Our



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual SDSPS Meeting & Change of Watch Dinner and General Membership Meeting Saturday January 11, 2025

All members of the San Diego Sail & Power Squadron and their guests are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Change of Watch Dinner, with no-host cocktails at 18:00 (6 pm). Dinner will be served at 18:30 and the business meeting and installation will begin at 19:00.

**Dress:** Business casual (Uniform A or G, optional\*)  
**Date:** Saturday January 11, 2025  
**Place:** Southwestern Yacht Club  
 2702 Qualtrough Street  
 San Diego, CA 92106

**Purpose of the meeting:** To conduct an **election of the officers for the year 2025**; to consider and **vote upon the 2025-2026 budget** proposed for adoption by the SDSPS Executive Committee; to hear reports of outgoing officers and committee chairs; and to accomplish such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

(\* USPS Operations Manual App. B.87; p.224)

**Purpose of the Change of Watch:** To install the 2025 Bridge Officers and Elected members.

### Entrée Choices

Entrée choices for the Change of Watch will be mailed out to everyone soon. Options are still being worked out with the Southwestern Yacht Club Events Manager and the new Chef. Please check your email regularly! When it arrives, please RSVP your attendance and MENU CHOICE as soon as possible, but no later than January 6, 2025 to Cdr. Jerry Murphy, AP at [gsmurphy@ix.netcom.com](mailto:gsmurphy@ix.netcom.com) or call him at (847) 890-2470.

Friend, Guests – All Potential Members - are welcome!



With the approval of the Commander, this slate of officers will be presented to the Squadron membership at the 11 January 2025 annual meeting. Positions above that are open may be filled by nominations from the floor at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cdr Jerry Murphy, AP (Chair, NomCom)

Thanks! Your AO,  
*Alice*

Administrative Officer, America's Boating Club San Diego  
[alicek@ucsd.edu](mailto:alicek@ucsd.edu)  
(619) 315-7383



## 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.

To: P/C Paula Vance, P  
From: Cdr Jerry Murphy, AP  
Subject: Bridge Slate for 2025



In accordance with San Diego Sail & Power Squadron bylaws, sections 6.8 and 11, the Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers for the 2025 Bridge:

### Bridge

<u>Commander</u>	Carl Schwartz, AP
<u>Executive Officer</u>	(Open)
<u>Education Officer</u>	Steven Bakalis, SN
<u>Assistant SEO</u>	Kim Stanford, P
<u>Administration</u>	Peter Oberg
<u>Secretary</u>	Paula Vance, P
<u>Treasurer</u>	Carole Hallock, AP

### Members at Large

Luis Sepulveda, P  
P/C Shaun McArdle, AP  
R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON  
P/C Jerry Murphy, AP

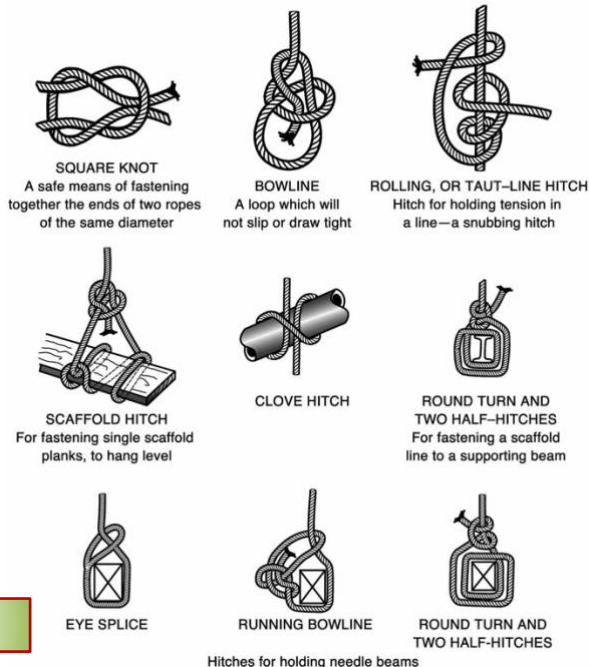


**Committees**

<u>Nominations</u>	(Open)
<u>Rules</u>	P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-ON P/C Steven Bakalis, SN
<u>Audit</u>	P/C David Baer, SN
<u>Public Relations</u>	P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN
<u>Membership</u>	P/C Paula Vance, P
<u>Ships Mail Editor</u>	R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON
<u>Legal</u>	(Open)
<u>Publications</u>	P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN (Open)
<u>Boat Shows &amp; Public Shows</u>	(Open)
<u>Sea Scout Liaison</u>	Lt Mike Philbrook, AP
<u>Sail Fleet</u>	P/C Ted Bowler, AP (Open)
<u>Boating Activities</u>	(Open)
<u>Vessel Safety Checks</u>	P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN P/C Shaun McArdle, AP
<u>San Luis Rey Liaison</u>	R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON
<u>SWYC Liaison Officers</u>	P/C Carole Hallock, AP R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON
<u>Ships Store and Property</u>	(Open)
<u>Web Page &amp; IT Support</u>	Lt Louis Swanepoel
<u>Merit Mark Committee</u>	P/C Carole Hallock, AP P/C Paula Vance, P

**Merit Marks:** Each year our Club members contribute to our organization by teaching classes, conducting Vessel Safety Checks, performing administrative tasks necessary for operation, and working in other ways to keep us going. We recognize the efforts of these members by awarding each of them a Merit Mark. This year 24 of our members achieved Merit Marks. Congratulations to the following members and many thanks for your dedication and hard work.

- Cdr Jerry Murphy
- XO Carl Schwartz
- Asst Treasurer P/C Carole Hallock
- Treasurer Joy Bladykas
- SEO P/C Bob Gibbs
- Secretary P/C Paula Vance
- Member-at-Large Louis Sepulveda
- Member-at-Large P/C Shaun McArdle
- Member-at-Large R/C Allan Bombard
- D/C Doug Bass
- P/D/C Richard Cross
- P/D/C Duane Leathers
- AO Alice Kulikowski
- Mike Philbrook
- P/C Steven Bakalis



Source: FaceBook



Michael Wales  
Peter Oberg  
P/C Ted Bowler  
Claudia Bowler  
Jean-Jacques Bellier  
Kim Stanford  
Scott Hinkle  
Past Treasurer Debbie Lenart  
Dan Dreesen

Source: FaceBook  
(The SDSPS could use  
YOUR help too!)



**Public Relations:** As members of the Bridge, we are proud of our Club and are always seeking new ways to publicize our organization, fill our classes, and draw new members. Recent suggestions for publicity include posting class and event notifications in local schools, libraries, and boat brokerages. We need your help in distributing our flyers and notification, and your ideas for broadening public awareness. Contact any member of the Executive Committee if you'd like to help.

**Nominations:** Nominations for next year's Bridge are listed elsewhere in this issue, but we will have many openings for committees, such as Sail Fleet, Public Relations, Rules, Finance, and others. Some committees require monthly contributions of time, while others require concentrated efforts over a shorter period of time, like year's end. We are also seeking "Event Captains" to assist the AO with individual Squadron Activities. If you'd like to become involved in this, or anywhere else, contact any member of the Executive Committee.

**Over the Horizon:** We recently learned that long-time member **P/C David Weimer, SN** passed away in August. Dave was one of the leaders of the Cruiser Navigation Club and won awards over the years for his navigation skills. He was the liaison with our Club, recruiting Observers and volunteering to take members out on his boat during races. We send our prayers to Dave's family and friends.

In addition to my duties as Club Secretary, I am also the **Membership Chair**. We recently welcomed new members: The **Akin Family**, Natalie, Brian, Sam, Dean, and Isabel! Please join us in welcoming the Akins aboard!

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](mailto:ExCom@SDSPS.org).

Our annual dues remain at \$103 for a single membership and \$146 for a family.

*Paula*  
Secretary, America's Boating Club San Diego  
[VancePaula@gmail.com](mailto:VancePaula@gmail.com)





## Education Report

**P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN**

*SDSPS Club Educational Officer*

**Heads Up!!:** *By the end of this year (12/31/2024), The State of California REQUIRES most operators of BOATS WITH MOTORS to have a "CA Boater Card" (basically, an operator's license).*



The 2024 year for course offerings by the San Diego Squadron was very successful. In addition to the two Weekend ABC classes offered, we also completed classes in Marine Navigation (Piloting), Advanced Marine Navigation (AP), Offshore Navigation (JN), Electronic Navigation, Cruise Planning, and Marine Weather. We had also offered Boat Handling (Seamanship), however there were not enough registrants to hold the class.

I would particularly like to thank the following instructors for their expertise and dedication in teaching these boating topics in 2024: **P/C Steven Bakalis, SN; D/C Doug Bass, SN-ON; Cdr Jerry Murphy, AP; Lt Mike Philbrook, AP; P/C Ted & Claudia Bowler, AP.**

The 2025 Education Course Schedule is currently being planned, bringing back the Long ABC class, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electrical Systems and SAIL.

Should any SDSPS members like to get involved with teaching any of our courses, or seminars, we welcome your interest and will find the proper fit for your talents.

As many of you know, the D28 District now has a 21-foot power boat for use in teaching On-The-Water training. This boat is on a trailer, that is currently kept in Oceanside, but can be launched at any boat ramp in Southern CA. So far, at least five On-The-Water trainings have been conducted since August and they have been very well received. Our own **Jean-Jacques Bellier, N** is a Coast Guard Captain licensed instructor.

I encourage all members to consider taking a class, or even teaching a class, in an effort to promote and strengthen our organization.

Our first **Long** (8 weeks) **ABC Course** in years, will be offered mid-January 2025.

The America's Boating Club San Diego ([www.SDSPS.org](http://www.SDSPS.org)) offers the qualifying **ABC course** and test for the "**CA Boater Card**." In other words, take and pass our ABC course and you meet the California Boater Safety Course requirements. Fill out the State forms, submit your USPS documentation, and you'll get your card in the mail (keep a copy of the course documentation with you on the boat until your card arrives from the State!). The 8-hour course with test costs \$40 for USPS Members.

Ever notice when geese fly in a v formation, one side is always longer than the other? This is because there are more geese on that side.



Source: FaceBook

→ Effective of **1/1/25**, EVERYONE OF **ALL AGES** (with few exceptions) must have a CA Boater Card to operate a vessel with a motor in CA waters. Our ABC Course qualifies for this card. ←



Once a Member passes our ABC Course and has their CA Boater Safety Card, they are eligible to participate in America's Boating Club's "Hands On Training," it's HOT!

Bob

Robert Gibbs, JN-IN  
[BobGibbs555@gmail.com](mailto:BobGibbs555@gmail.com)

## Treasury Report

The Ship's Mail – DEC 2024

Treasury Report

Cdr Jerry Murphy, AP



We haven't had a Treasury Report in a while, so we here provide an update of events over the past 5 months. **P/C Carole Hallock, AP** has been helping **Lt/C Joy Bladykas, AP** with the Treasury. Operating Funds are net positive by about \$600 since June. We have transitioned from US Bank to Wells Fargo Bank for our day-to-day operations, due to better customer service. The US Savings Bonds that had been overlooked were found and determined to have matured over a year ago. They were cashed in through the US Treasury Department and invested in a newly created SDSPS Investment Account with The Vanguard Group. For these capital funds, the Executive Committee decided to use a Money Market Fund that invests primarily in short term US Treasury Bonds, because of their safety. With current yields between 4 and 5%, the fund is now earning us between \$44 and \$50 per month in interest income. We have no outstanding obligations. The Squadron is therefore on a sound financial footing.

Also, SEO, **P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN** and AO, **Lt/C Alice Kulikowski** have greatly helped the Squadron financially by carefully running courses and meetings with minimal net cost. This is challenging because of low enrollment in classes and rising costs for catered meals.

We have benefitted from leftover course materials purchased in previous years that reduced this year's costs for two of the courses. The other courses have run slightly negative because with low student enrollment, the costs of instructor manuals and shipping are not quite covered by course tuition. Overall, shipping costs are way down, since we converted to cheaper ground shipping rates. We also did one class using entirely electronic materials to avoid shipping altogether, although this policy did not find favor with several of the students, who preferred a hard copy book. This led us in the Autumn to employ a hybrid policy of offering either electronic or paper materials for the recent two courses.

Our catered meetings at Southwestern Yacht Club run slightly negative, which has been partially mitigated by raffles and auctions creatively organized by Alice. The yacht club no longer allows us to order off the bar menu for groups larger than 20 but restricts us to the more limited and expensive event menu. By the time tax, service charge, coffee/tea service, and dessert are added, the prices look higher than they would on a restaurant menu, yet, compared to the final tab, prices are reasonable. (*Ordering off the bar menu also has a 27.14% tax and service charge added to the list price in your final bill. Our events cite the total price, including these charges.*) The potluck meeting at the home of **P/Lt/C Debbie Lenart, S**, was wonderful, with a cozy



atmosphere and great food. The costs of this home event were minimal, since everyone attending contributed something.

During November, **R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON** as Chairman of our Finance Committee prepared a draft Budget for Squadron Year 2025-2026. This was discussed at our most recent ExCom meetings and will be fine-tuned during December, based upon our course and meetings plans for next year. The final draft 2025 draft budget, approved by the Executive Committee for review by and vote of the membership, will be presented at the upcoming Change of Watch on 11 January 2025. We also plan to have the annual audit completed in time to present to the membership at that meeting.

We could better secure our financial future by increasing our membership, increasing the number of students (including our members) taking courses, employing more pot lucks as opposed to catered dinners, increasing participation by all Members in the social activities and General Membership Meetings, and continuing to improvise fund raising events at our meetings to offset costs. Creative ideas are always welcome!

*Jerry*



## Lessons Learned from the US Coast Guard - 2024

**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 – November**

You may feel, like me, that our lives are in turmoil like never before: close election, war in two major regions, and extreme division among people affecting neighbors and family. So, we recently went, with guests, to the Abraham Lincoln Museum and library in Springfield, Illinois. I find our Presidential libraries amazing, and we have visited several of them. What the Lincoln library teaches us is that life in his days was a lot worse than it is today. The political competition, the press, the civil war, and the economy were as bad as you can ever imagine. There is still hope!!

One form of boating that we like particularly is cruising. We like "adventure excursion" though not as extreme as in my younger years. Last week I was reading a US Coast Guard casualty report about an accident that happened two years ago. A 19-foot Zodiac, with a 60 Hp outboard, was exploring wildlife off the coast of Antarctica. They were surprised by a 7-foot wave, made the wrong maneuver, and rolled over: 2 dead (80 and 74 yrs. old) and 6 injured. The Coast Guard found that the operator/guide had no formal qualifications, and there is no international rule about these adventures. What do you think, does that make sense? Of course, that is now part of the recommendations everybody is working on.

In my last challenge, I chose a very simple question. The white masthead light required for a power-driven vessel under the Rules must be fixed and show over how many degrees of the horizon? While this may be an obscure question, I got more answers than usual, and all were correct! Thank you to those who took the time



to write to me. The correct answer is C, 225 degrees. Remember that the stern light shines 135 degrees to come to a total of 360 degrees - full circle, right? This is described in USCG Rule 21 (a) and (c).

For this month's challenge I take one of our common weather conditions (California) into consideration for this time of the year. Say you are on watch in the fog. The vessel is proceeding at a safe speed when you hear a fog signal ahead of you. The Rules require you to navigate with caution until the danger of collision is over and to \_\_\_\_\_.

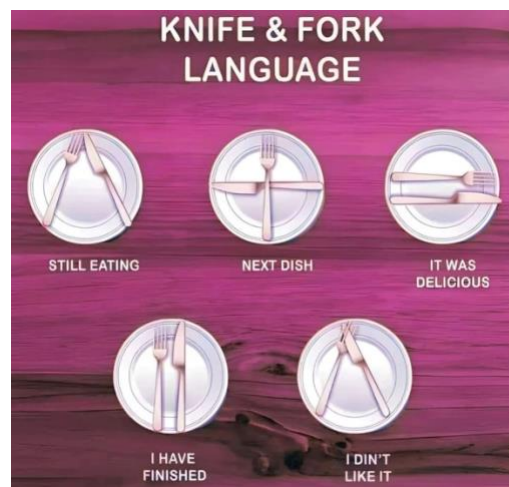
- A slow to less than 2 knots
- B reduce speed to bare steerage way
- C stop your engines
- D begin a radar plot

*Herewith a P/D/C Adriaan "Two-fer"...*

### SAFETY LESSONS FROM THE US COAST GUARD – December

When we lived in Southern California, I used to hear people say, "I miss the seasons." Cool weather is nice for Thanksgiving, and maybe snow for Christmas, but I loved our SoCal climate over anything else in the world. I am thankful for 22 wonderful years of a mild climate, a boating season that lasted all year long, and the many friends I could share this with.

In the past month there was one particular article that drew my attention. I have taught different levels of Navigation for many years, and the concepts of TRUE NORTH vs. MAGNETIC NORTH are particularly crucial to the process of knowing where you are and where you go. So, don't be alarmed, but if you read in The Independent that "the Magnetic North Pole moves closer to Russia" you should at least be curious. *"The world magnetic model is embedded in pretty much any piece of technology, from smartphones to cars and military jets,"* Dr Brown told *The Independent*. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/magnetic-north-pole-moves-closer-to-russia-in-way-never-seen-before-by-scientists/ar-AA1ucGcQ?ocid=socialshare> Interesting, and good to understand the concept, but the last 'geomagnetic reversal' was about 780,000 years ago and the reversal took between 2000 and 7000 years to complete.



Source: FaceBook



As most of my readers know, I am a proud captain, licensed by the United States Coast Guard (USCG), since 2012. It may seem clear to us, California sailors, where this function belongs, but the history of the USCG tells a different story. USCG goes back to 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury to "chase" U.S. revenue off our shores. It became the US Coast Guard in 1915 as a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." In 1939 the US Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard.



The Coast Guard itself was moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and in 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security. Since 2006, the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Department of the Navy. And while we may all have an idea what the USCG does, here are some of their press releases for November 2024.

**11/05/2024:** Coast Guard medevacs 39-year-old male from oil tanker near Oceanside, Calif.

**11/15/2024:** Coast Guard interdicts 21 migrants off coast of Newport Beach

**11/19/2024:** Coast Guard crew offloads \$335.8 million worth of cocaine in San Diego

**11/24/2024:** Coast Guard interdicts 37 migrants off coast of Point Loma

**11/30/2024:** Coast Guard medevacs 66-year-old woman from cruise ship off California Coast



"Everyone can just put down their loot and plunder, and Sven here—yes, old Sven, who was in charge of reading the tide chart—has something to say to us all."

Source: FaceBook (Maybe Sven should take the USPS Marine Navigation Course...)

In my last challenge, I took one of our common weather conditions (California) into consideration for this time of the year. Say you are on watch in the fog. The vessel is proceeding at a safe speed when you hear a fog signal ahead of you. The Rules require you to navigate with caution until the danger of collision is over and what else do you have to do? Let me reiterate the process just one more time: Find on the **CONTENTS** page your "Conduct of Vessels in Restricted Visibility, Rule 19, where (e) says to reduce speed to a minimum at which she can be kept on course. So, the right answer was B.

For this month's challenge, you probably need to draw yourself a picture. Let me try to talk you through the situation. You are vessel A, a power vessel towing another vessel on open waters. You are crossing paths with sailing vessel B off your port bow. My question is: which vessel is **stand-on** and why?

- A Vessel A is the stand-on vessel because she is towing.
- B Vessel A is the stand-on vessel because she is to starboard of vessel B.
- C Vessel B is the stand-on vessel because she is sailing.
- D Vessel B is the stand-on vessel because she is to PORT of vessel A.

I hope you consider taking a course from one of our Americas Boating Clubs, San Diego and/or Oceanside. We also teach the **HOT** "On-the-Water Boating Program" with **P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN** and P/R/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON, respectively, as the instructor in the classroom and on the water.

Captain Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN-ON  
[awveldhuisen@gmail.com](mailto:awveldhuisen@gmail.com)



America's Boating Club®



## News from District 28

D/C Doug Bass, SN-ON

It's not too soon to be planning to attend our upcoming Change of Watch!

This year, America's Boating Club Oceanside will be the host Squadron, and our Chief Commander's Representative will once again be P/C/C Craig Fraser, SN-ON. It should be a wonderful event.



Doug

Commander,  
District 28  
[DougBass1@gmail.com](mailto:DougBass1@gmail.com)



# D28 ANNUAL MEETING AND CHANGE OF WATCH

# 2025

## FRIDAY 07 MARCH

DOCK PARTY—"S" DOCK—OCEANSIDE HARBOR

## SATURDAY 08 MARCH

### LA COSTA VALLEY CLUB

2080 CALLE BARCELONA, CARLSBAD, CA. 92009

0900 —1500 1700 —2030

*Bridge: Uniform G –Regulation short-sleeve white shirt with uniform trousers or other appropriate attire.  
Attendees: USPS Polo shirt or equivalent.*



## News from National

R/C Allan T Bombard, SN-ON

### USPS/ABC Governing Board Wrap-Up



#### Membership Renewals

We have received many returned envelopes containing membership renewals and many members have said they have not received their renewal notice. To make this process as easy as possible, we invite any affected member to ***please call headquarters***. Our staff (Deliah Holloway) will help you renew your membership over the phone (or email or mail a hard copy). Our numbers are 888-367-8777 (toll free) or 919-821-0281.

## Call for Hands-on-Training Coaches

#### New Hands-On Training Coaches

The requirements and terminology around the Hands-On-Training (HOT) Coach and BOC-IN (Boat Operator Certification Inland Navigator) Certifier roles can be confusing due to their overlapping responsibilities in America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons' education programs. Here's a breakdown to clarify the roles and requirements: HOT Coach vs. BOC-IN Certifier:

1) **HOT Coach:** A HOT Coach primarily assists with the on-the-water, hands-on portion of boating training. They are not necessarily fully qualified BOC-IN Certifiers. The role of HOT Coach can be filled by individuals who have gone through the BOC Certifier Training seminar (training on safety, teaching methods, and on-the-water instruction) and demonstrated proficiency in practical boating skills. The main goal of a HOT Coach is to teach and reinforce safe boating practices and handling skills, but they do not typically carry the same certification authority as a full BOC-IN Certifier.

2) **BOC-IN Certifier:** A BOC-IN Certifier is a fully qualified individual in the Boat Operator Certification program, capable of certifying others at various levels (Inland Navigator, Coastal Navigator, etc.). To be a BOC-IN Certifier, one must complete extensive training, including instructor qualifications, as well as demonstrate advanced boating skills in a formal evaluation process. The term "certifier" here implies the authority to issue certifications, which is not necessarily a part of the HOT Coach role.

#### HOT Coach Requirements for Enhanced Boating Education Card:

- HOT Coaches do not need to be fully qualified BOC-IN Certifiers. This distinction is important because requiring full BOC-IN certification would drastically limit the pool of available instructors.
- The Enhanced Boating Education Card program is more likely to focus on individuals who have completed the HOT Coach training and demonstrated practical boating skills to meet the on-water training requirements. This would make it feasible to have more instructors to administer boating skills tests for state-level certifications.

#### Certified Instructors for Enhanced Boating Education Card:



If the HOT Coaches are administering training or evaluation as part of a state's Enhanced Boating Education Card requirements, then it's quite possible that they will need to be Certified Instructors in addition to their HOT Coach training. Certified Instructors have gone through specific education on how to teach and evaluate students, and this qualification ensures that they meet the standards required for official state or national certifications.

**Summary:** HOT Coaches need to complete the BOC Certifier Training seminar and demonstrate boating skills. They do not need to be full BOC-IN Certifiers. BOC-IN Certifiers have a higher level of qualification and certification authority in the Boat Operator Certification program.

## Member Benefits →

### iMIS Update:

Many of you who have tried to renew your membership, or sponsor new members and get them aboard, have been frustrated by “systems” issues in the process. This is a temporary setback as our legacy systems (e.g., iSeries) are more than 4 decades old, and converting the entire organization to a cloud-based system has been quite a challenge. But we are gaining ground!

Once the new iMIS system software has been fully implemented we will be able to accomplish all of the tasks we could previously (such as looking up a

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[AmericasBoatingClub.org/Benefits](https://AmericasBoatingClub.org/Benefits)



member's information – their E-number, rank, grade, address, contact data, etc. - in the INFO CENTER). All of this will migrate to the new website, with its improved interface and enhanced capabilities, such as event planning and joining, billing, fee-paying at events, Merit Mark documentation, and more. When you receive the email to login to the new IMIS website, PLEASE DO IT! It will ensure that your user information profile is correct.

### [Member Portal](#)

Your username and password. Password can be retrieved via email or reset by the portal admin. If you did not get an introductory email, please contact [hilly@hq.usps.org](mailto:hilly@hq.usps.org).

Go to the member portal to update your membership information, add addresses, change your email, create preferences for emails and other content, and renew your membership.

If you are a squadron or district bridge member, you'll go to the portal to manage your membership, update dues renewal pricing, create events, email members, download rosters and dues reports, and add members (pending). HQ should be sending out a Member Portal User Manual toward the end of this week, so keep an eye on your email.

### [Member Portal User's Manual](#)

Download this [quick start guide](#) to the member portal. Learn how to log in, update your profile, pay dues and much more.

### [Member Website](#)

You will need your certificate number and PIN (personal identification number). If you don't know your pin, you can contact [help@usps.org](mailto:help@usps.org) for help retrieving it. Go to the member website to order educational materials, submit vessel safety checks, manage merit marks and more.

### [Vessel Examiners: Last Chande to Get VSC Reports in for This Year \(Plus, New Workshop\)](#)

As the end of the year approaches, don't forget to submit all your vessel safety check reports. HQ will be closing the logging system on 12/16/24 for maintenance and recording the 2024 results. **You will not be able to enter any reports in after that date.** If you do not have at least five (5) recorded, you will get changed to INACTIVE status for next year and need to complete two (2) supervised exams to get reinstated. The exception to this is if you were a newly qualified Vessel Examiner this year. In that case you will need to do five next year. The U.S. Coast Guard is supposed to release a new mandatory workshop after the first of the year.

### [New Release of Celestial Tools Software Package](#)

A new release of the ABC Celestial Tools software package is available for download and installation. The current version is Version #2024-0011-0004-1934. This version number is visible on the upper left corner of the Main Menu Form that first shows when you execute the Celestial Tools software program. The new version fixes problems identified in the Sailing Form when it is used to generate either route waypoints on a Great Circle Route or route waypoints on a Rhumb Line Route. This problem was identified late this summer by a Navigation Committee member using Celestial Tools as part of reviewing and preparing the new Marine Navigation and Advanced Marine Navigation class material.



The USPS Navigation Committee web page for Celestial Tools download and installation instructions can be found [here](#). This link may not be available due to the implementation of the new iMIS package and changes to the member login sites. To use this link, first log in to the member login page and then click on the link above. (Without logging in first, you may be directed to the new iMIS member portal login and the link won't work.) The [Celestial Tools download link](#) from GitHub is independent of the national website pages and should always work. Contact Harry Hammond with any problems or questions.

## Orlando is Calling

Now that the very successful USPS Governing Board meeting in Pittsburgh is over, the National Meetings Committee is gearing up for the USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando. You can too!

### Doors Are Open!

Yes, the doors are opening for you to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting in Orlando! Book your room at the [Rosen Plaza](#) now. Consider coming to Orlando early to take in the local sights in a more relaxed atmosphere. The National Meetings Committee is diligently working on tour options and the meeting and seminar agenda. There will be different opportunities to visit area locales as well as an opportunity to engage with leadership and fellow members during the meeting. Group room rates are available for Feb. 2–9, 2025. Book now and get ready for an Annual Meeting that you will be glad you attended!

P.S. Plan Ahead! The 2025 Fall Governing Board will be in Grand Rapids, MI (1-7 September) and the 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in Myrtle Beach, NC (9-15 February). Nice changes of venue!

*Allan*

*Assistant National Secretary  
Commander, Cyber Squadron  
[District28ABC@gmail.com](mailto:District28ABC@gmail.com)*



Pensacola, FL Bay  
Photo by Allan Bombard

## 2025 Annual Meeting

February 4-9



*Orlando, Florida*



**New Members:**

If you would like to join our Squadron, please print the application below, fill it out, and send it to the Secretar, P/C Paula Vance, P at 230 W. Laurel St; Unit 304; San Diego, CA 92101. Our annual dues are currently \$103 for a single and \$146 for a family membership.



**Membership Application**

<b>Primary Active Member Information</b> <i>Please print or type</i>			<input type="radio"/> <b>Active 18+</b>	<input type="radio"/> <b>Apprentice (age 12-23)</b>
Name (First, Middle, Last)			DOB	
Mailing Address			Gender	
Cell Phone	Home Phone	Spouse Name		
City, State, Zip			Spouse Name	
Email Address			Have you ever been a member of USPS/ABC? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
Personal Skills willing to share			SeaScout <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
Do you own a boat? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	Boat Length	Boat Name	Boat Type (Power, Sail, etc.)	

**Additional Active Member(s)** *(Primary and Others must live in the same household)*

<b>Name (First, Middle, Last)</b>	Cell Phone	Have you ever been a member of USPS/ABC? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	DOB
Email Address	Personal Skills		Gender
<b>Name (First, Middle, Last)</b>	Cell Phone	Have you ever been a member of USPS/ABC? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	DOB
Email Address	Personal Skills		Gender
<b>Name (First, Middle, Last)</b>	Cell Phone	Have you ever been a member of USPS/ABC? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	DOB
Email Address	Personal Skills		Gender

**Volunteer areas:** Areas I/we are willing to help the squadron succeed *Please check all that apply*  
 Hospitality     Membership     Education     Communications     Photography  
 Newsletter     Public Relations     Community Service     Boating Activities  
 Programs for Youth     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signature 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Squadron Name</b>		District #	Squadron Code
ExCom Approval Date	Authorized Signature (Membership Chair or Cd)		Authorized Signers Certificate #



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America's Boating Club San Diego  
San Diego Sail & Power Squadron: 2023-2024 Bridge

**Commander**

Jerry Murphy, AP  
(847) 890-2470

[GSMurphy@ix.netcom.com](mailto:GSMurphy@ix.netcom.com)

**Executive Officer**

Carl Schwartz, AP  
(619) 933-9111

[CarlS1199@yahoo.com](mailto:CarlS1199@yahoo.com)

**Education Officer**

Bob Gibbs, JN-IN  
(858) 255-9527

[BobGibbs555@gmail.com](mailto:BobGibbs555@gmail.com)

**Administrative Officer**

Alice Kulikowski  
(619) 315-7383

[alicek@ucsd.edu](mailto:alicek@ucsd.edu)

**Secretary**

Paula Vance, P  
(619) 916-6975

[VancePaula@gmail.com](mailto:VancePaula@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Joy Bladykas, AP  
(619) 336-1057

[JoyBladykas@yahoo.com](mailto:JoyBladykas@yahoo.com)

**Ass't Education Officer**

Kim Stanford, AP  
(858) 525-5373

[kimberck@gmail.com](mailto:kimberck@gmail.com)

**Members-at-Large**

Allan Bombard, SN-ON  
Carole Hallock, AP

Shaun McArdle, AP  
Luis Sepulveda

**Assistant Treasurer**

Carole Hallock, AP  
(619) 316-3312

[CaroleHallock@hotmail.com](mailto:CaroleHallock@hotmail.com)

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D/C Doug Bass, SN-ON  
P/C Debra Oberg, JN

**Merit Marks**

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P/C Paula Vance, P

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P/D/C Richard Cross, SN-ON  
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P/C Carole Hallock, AP  
R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON

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R/C Allan Bombard, SN-ON

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(Open)

**Boating Activities**

(Open)



**Boat Shows**  
Lt/C Carl Schwartz, AP

**Social Media**  
P/C Bob Gibbs, JN-IN

**Sail Fleet**  
Lt Dan Dreeson, P



The editor can be reached at [ShipsMail@SDSPS.org](mailto:ShipsMail@SDSPS.org)