

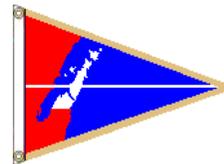


THE DOOR

# Scuttlebutt

Newsletter

America's Boating Club® of Door County  
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Vol. XV, Issue 4  
May 2021

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## BOAT OF THE MONTH



**BOB DENOTO AND CAREFREE A 25' POWER BOAT**

Editor's Note: New Feature—this space will be reserved each month to highlight a member boat, but I need your help. Please send two photos of your boat and a little about it to: dolores.e.hermann@gmail.com

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

To paraphrase our friend Jerry Garcia: "What a long, strange trip it's been". I finally passed my Celestial Navigation exam. This journey started when I was a member of the Saybrook Squadron in Connecticut. After a 13-year hiatus from USPS, and joining Door County in 2002, I took my first real run at it in 2008. While my sight folder was fine, my exam results were not. Tried again with the 2015 class: Not quite. Finally, with the '20'21 class. Thank you, Alan.



**Congrats!**



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**Yea!  
Whoopie!  
Way to Go! Nice  
Job Commander!**

**From The Leadership  
Team**

## Website, Facebook @ a New Brochure

Last month, I shared with you that Dolores, while on vacation on Kiawah Island, S.C., developed a Trifold brochure for distribution. I recently picked up the printed copies. Thank you again Dolores.



Have you seen what Cynthia is doing on our Facebook Page? She's using a tool called *Doodly*. *Doodly Is Whiteboard Animation Software that enables one to create "whiteboard videos"*. *Doodly* was introduced to us by Kevin Shutes and Kevin Cooper (Minnetonka), during their workshop at the D-10 virtual Spring Conference. Take a look at the VSC's whiteboard video, [Cynthia created: \(20+\) Door County Sail & Power Squadron | Facebook](#). Great addition Cynthia. Thank you.

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## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Our Webmaster, Austin Hermann, has a career with Northrop Grumman. His high priority project is requiring quite an excessive amount of his time. As a result, Austin needs to resign his position. I want to sincerely thank Austin for his many contributions over the years and look forward to seeing Austin this summer.

With Austin's resignation, it may be time to consider a Website rebuild, and a hosting company to sustain it. The Minnetonka and St Paul Squadrons, as well as District 10 have recently done just that. They used Digital Focus. I will be pursuing this with your leadership team soon. In the meantime, Austin will continue with our website while we work to replace it.

### ABC-3 Boater's Safety Course

Last month I reported that we were planning to conduct an in-person ABC-3, Boater's Safety Course, starting late May. The intent was to offer the course in Partnership with the Green Bay USCGA Flotilla, at the Door County Maritime Museum. I just received notice that the DNR will not lift their "stand down" position on in-person courses until end of June. So: DCS&PS will not be offering an in-person Boater's Safety Course in 2021.

### District-10 News

D-10 held a Virtual Spring Conference, 20-25 April. One of the highlights for me was the Workshop that the two Kevins from Minnetonka held Saturday morning on "Websites and Building Ads." The workshop was recorded. If you are interested in viewing it, I will send you the link. I attended the AIS seminar as well. Instructor, Ben Coons gave an excellent presentation. I'm confident we will go to one in-person and one virtual soon. The Fall D-10 Conference is scheduled 5-7 November in Eau Claire. I'm confident we will go to one in-person and

The Chief's Rep was Ralph Bernard. Ralph is our National Administrative Officer. In wrap-up sessions it was emphasized that our desire is to go to one National meeting a year and conduct the second virtually. What I like about Ralph: he listens. I don't think D-10 will wait for National's decision. I'm confident we will go to one in-person and one virtual soon. The Fall D-10 Conference is scheduled 5-7 November in Eau Claire.

### The Virtual D-10 Classroom

One of the deliverables of the D-10 Task Force Team is Virtual Education, offered throughout the district. We have assembled a Master Instructors list and published a two-year forward calendar. I tried to do this in 2013 when I was District Educational Officer. The technology to offer distance learning was in its infancy and cranky. I'm proud to say that the technology has caught up. D-10 Virtual has recently completed MES, Boat Handling (S), & Celestial Navigation. Sail has just started. Our Master Instructors, Gary King and Alan Wentworth have taught MES and Celestial Navigation and Steve Mayheu is co-teaching Sail with Bill Dohr (Central WI). Thank you, DC-Masters.

My next writing will hopefully have many of us "splashed in."

Fair winds and stay safe. I'm still looking for your Rainbow????

Your Commander, Bob

### EVENTS CALENDAR

**May 8 — VSC season prep meeting/Quarter Deck @ 1000**

**May 11—Exec Com Mtg via Go-To-Meeting @ 1900**

**June 5—VSC blitz at Quarterdeck/Harbor Club @900**

**July 9—13 Cruise to Fish Creek & Washington Island  
Possibly extended if group wishes**

**July 18—Squadron picnic (TBA)**

**August—Menominee Rendezvous (TBA)**

**November 5-7—D10 Fall Conference/Eau Claire**

**December—Holiday party (hopefully) TBA**

### VESSEL SAFETY CHECK SCHEDULE— 2021

- 8 JUNE VSC BLITZ -Quarter Deck Marina/Harbor Club
- 15 JUNE Ephraim Muni/Yacht Club/Rentals
- 17 JUNE Sister Bay Rentals/Transient Slips
- 22 jUNE Fish Creek Muni/Alibi Dock/Rentals
- 23 JUNE Egg Harbor Marina or As Requested By Boater's Group
- 29 JUNE Wavepoint Marina/Center Point Marina
- 6 JULY Bailey's Harbor
- 10 JULY Gills Rock Marina/Ellison Bay or As Requested By Boaters
- 10 JULY Washington Island Paddle Fest – 10:00 AM /Boat Over  
Kap's Marina/Shipyard Island Marina
- 17 JULY Return to Quarter Deck/Harbor Club
- 17 jULY Lathem Smith Marina
- 18 JULY Return to Yacht Works/Sister Bay/Ephraim
- 18 jULY Return to Wavepoint
- 17 JULY Check Marinas for Transients frequently
- 7 AUG Bailey's Harbor/Egg Harbor
- 4 SEP Sister Bay Marina Fest PR Tent/Knots/Info

# CRUISE PLANNING

It is time for boats to “splash in.” Usually early shake-down cruises venture to Marinette/Menominee, Fish Creek, Egg Harbor and later to Escanaba, Fayette, Washington Harbor and points east into Lake Michigan.

Gary and Sandy King are planning a cruise in July and anticipate this proposed schedule and stops:

7/9 & 7/10; Friday and Saturday night, Fish Creek, WI, Alibi Marina. (They have a wedding to attend)

7/11 & 7/12; Sunday and Monday night, Washington Island, Jackson Harbor.

7/13 and beyond; Tuesday, depart to any suggestions. Manistique or St James Harbor or Charlevoix area for several days. Possible continuation to The Mackinac Straight area.

If you have interest in participating in all or part of this July trip, let us know and together we will plan to go. We will set up a cruise-specific text or email communication mechanism for participants to plan and communicate. Some cruisers may start earlier and catch up with other cruisers along the way.

Once the marinas and harbors are open for business, you will need to make your own reservations. For July's cruise, be aware that Fish Creek's Alibi Dock (<https://www.alibimarina.com/>) fills up early so check in as soon as they begin taking reservations (920-868-3789). Call Pam Young (920-847-2454) at the Jackson Harbor Inn (<https://jacksonharborinn.com/>) to reserve a slip in Jackson Harbor.

Offer ideas as to where you would like to extend this cruise into Northern Lake Michigan. Some favorite ports include Beaver Island [St. James Harbor - they are working on building out a second municipal marina (North and South docks)], Charlevoix, Elk Rapids, Petoskey, Leland, Frankfort and Fayette. Many of you would also enjoy anchoring in the Manitou Islands, South River Bay, and others still to be discovered.

Especially if you are new to boating it is helpful and enjoyable to cruise with others and make new friends. So send me an email with your availability and any suggestions you may have.

Terry Keating

Email: [terrykeating4@gmail.com](mailto:terrykeating4@gmail.com)

New Cell: (920) 889-9059



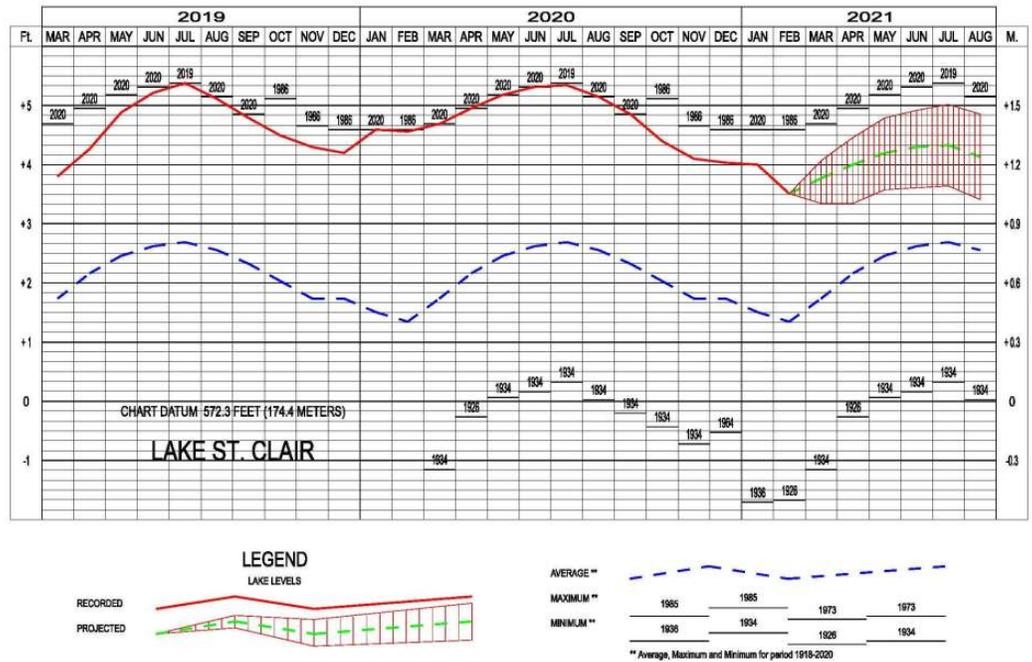
# FROM YOUR EDUCATION OFFICER

Ahoy Everyone,

Everyone is breathing a sigh of relief as we observe the water levels compared to this time last year. The lagoon I live on has seen a good two-foot drop for which we are very grateful. Last year broke the all-time high water level on Lakes Michigan/Huron. The lots on that lagoon were flooded and I had to install pallets as stepping stones in order to get to our docks. This year the lots are dry so I find myself asking why. Many people have suggested that climate change is behind these fluctuations and I believe that is certainly a factor. The great lakes do go through a natural cycle of rising and falling water regardless of climate change but climate change can exacerbate the crest and trough as well as the period if we think of it using a wave analogy.

The reason the levels are lower this year is because we have had an extremely dry winter and spring. The big reason for the lower water levels is drier than normal weather. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that January 2021 was the driest on record for the entire Great Lakes drainage basin. February and March had around 50 percent of the normal precipitation over the drainage basin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says that over the past year, precipitation over the Great Lakes drainage basin is about 18 percent lower than normal.

LAKE ST. CLAIR WATER LEVELS - MARCH 2021



So long-term drier weather in the past year, and significantly drier than normal weather in the past three months, have allowed the Great Lakes water levels to drop a meaningful amount. This could be due to La Nina or a shifting of the jet stream, or global warming or??? We are not out of the high water woods yet but the water will be lower than last year's dangerous levels, thank God.



## Spike in Number of Drownings

Last year an alarming spike in the number of drownings occurred and is probably linked to the high water causing narrower beaches and COVID-19. Why COVID? When restrictions were relaxed people flocked to the beaches. COVID resulted in many local governments not providing lifeguards, swimming area markings or flag warnings for dangerous wave days. Many beach users were inexperienced in swimming in wave and rip tide environments and may have overestimated their abilities and underestimated the dangers. Social distancing could have also increased the danger inadvertently. On Lake Michigan there were 37 drowning deaths in the 2020 period. This was 11 higher than the annual average from 2010 to 2019. The lesson for us all is stay safe and don't let your guard down.

(continued on page 5)

## FROM YOUR EDUCATION OFFICER (CONTINUED)

Finally, I want to remind all the jet-skiers who will again flock to the water this summer that there will probably be more people on the water than last year as the pandemic hopefully winds down. This is therefore a good time to review the rules of the road. Please review these yourselves and with your grandchildren. Remember, use courtesy and common sense when on the water and please don't harass the wildlife.



### Rules of the Water

- *Do not operate a PWC within 200 feet of swimmers, divers, the shoreline, or moored vessels.*
- *When launched from shore or returning to shore, PWCs must proceed directly to the area where launching is allowed in a direction as near perpendicular as possible and not in excess of headway speed.*
- *When two watercraft are heading towards each other, each must keep to their starboard (right).*
- *When crossing, the boat to the right has the right-of-way, just like a car at an intersection, and is called the stand-on vessel. This vessel maintains its' course and speed. The give-way vessel should slow and turn to starboard if necessary, and carefully pass the stand-on vessel astern (behind or back of vessel).*
- *When overtaking another boat from the stern (behind), you are the give-way vessel. The boat being overtaken should hold course and speed. Pass with care on the right or left of the stand-on vessel.*
- *Boats such as commercial fishing boats, deep-draft ships, towing boats (tugboats), sailboats or other non-motorized vessels that have less maneuverability, all have the right-of-way over any PWC.*

### Harassing dolphins is not fun – it is STUPID.

The following is from Michigan but it applies to Wisconsin as well.

“Riding personal watercraft is a great way to enjoy summertime fun in Michigan’s water wonderland, but care must be taken not to endanger waterfowl,” said Lt. Pete Wright, DNR district law supervisor. “At this time of year, many ducks and geese are out on the water with their young broods. It is important for riders to avoid these waterfowl.”

Over the past several years, the DNR has received reports of negative interactions between PWC riders and waterfowl. Some areas have become places of recurring concern. Parts of Houghton County are one example.

“We are getting complaints of individuals on personal watercraft harassing or pursuing ducks and geese on the Portage Canal and other area inland lakes,” said Sgt. Grant Emery, DNR area law supervisor. “This has been an ongoing problem over the past several years. We are continuing our enforcement and educational efforts to inform riders of the laws in place protecting waterfowl.”

Michigan law dictates that it is illegal to take waterfowl during closed hunting seasons or to take game with a motor vehicle. Penalties for these misdemeanors include up to 90 days in jail, up to \$500 fine, or both, and the costs of prosecution. In addition, \$500 restitution may be imposed.

To report illegal take of waterfowl or other species, call the Report All Poaching hotline at 1-800-292-7800. Those providing tips may remain anonymous. The RAP line offers rewards to tipsters. Amounts vary depending on the incident being investigated and the value of the information provided.

### Class Notes

I wish to extend my congratulations to our Commander Bob DeNoto for achieving his N after many years. His perseverance is an inspiration to me. He will be an SN in the near future.

Fair Winds,

Steve

## OFFICERS AND BRIDGE

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**Merit Marks**

**Craig Weis**  
**Alan Wentworth,**

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**Public Relations**  
**VSC Officer**  
**Safety Officer**  
**Port Captain**

**Open**  
**Lou Pasquesi**  
**John Hermann**  
**Dave Baumann**

### *Education Department*

**Adv. Grade Courses**  
**Elective Courses**  
**ABC Representative**  
**& Boat Operator Certification**

**Steve Rank**  
**Open**  
**Bob DeNoto**

### *Administrative Department*

**Membership**  
**Cruise Planning**  
**Meetings & Programs**  
**Member Involvement**

**Cynthia Weis**  
**Terry Keating**  
**Open**  
**Dolores Hermann**

### *Secretary's Department*

**Newsletter**  
**Webmaster**  
**Facebook Manager**

**Dolores Hermann**  
**Austin Hermann**  
**Cynthia Weis**

### *Treasurer's Department*

**Ships Store**

**Cynthia Weis**

Thank you to all of the members who contributed articles and pictures. Please take no offense if your article was somewhat changed or if your picture was not included in the Scuttlebutt. Changes, exclusions and inclusions are made based on space.

Submit articles and pictures for the June Scuttlebutt by May 30, 2021.

Send your comments, ideas and articles to:

[dolores.e.hermann@gmail.com](mailto:dolores.e.hermann@gmail.com)



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Austin Hermann, Web master



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Email your boating related photos and stories to Cynthia Weis—[weiscynthia@yahoo.com](mailto:weiscynthia@yahoo.com) for posting and tell her if you would like to include a comment. It is helpful to you to say you "like" the site and be sure to give it a review.

## May Birthdays

- 8—Lowell Ranum
- 23—Gary King
- 23—Linda Wember
- 25—Jeri Rank
- 26—Andrew Murphy
- 26—Michael Murphy
- 26—Tara Murphy

