



THE MARINER'S NEEDLE



June/July 2026

Volume 66 Number 01

Celebrating 66 years!

ABC/USPS D13

SAN LUIS REY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON



A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

JUNE/JULY 2026

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AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING RATES AVAILABLE





2026

JUNE

- 1 1830 ExCom Meeting—via Zoom
- 6 **H.O.T. Seminar**
- 11-14 San Diego Boat Show—San Diego
- 19 **1630-1800 Happy Hour at The Yard House in The Shoppes at Carlsbad Mall.**

JULY

- 4 1300 Oceanside Harbor Annual Yankee Doodle Dinghy Parade
- 6 1830 ExCom Meeting—hosted by Viki & Phil Woelfel
- 11-12 Raft-Up—TBD
- 13 1400-1700 San Diego Annual BBQ—DeAnza Cove. Bring a chair.

AUGUST

- 3 1830 ExCom Meeting—via Zoom
- 8 **H.O.T. Seminar—Oceanside**
- 19 **1830 Dinner & Guest Speaker—Oceanside Yacht Club**

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day: 1830 ExCom Meeting—Zoom.
- 15 **1630—1800 Happy Hour at The Yard House in The Shoppes at Carlsbad Mall.**
- 19-20 **Raft-Up Oceanside Outer Harbor**
- 22-27 USPS/ABC Governing Board Meeting—Raleigh, NC

OCTOBER

- 5 1830 ExCom Meeting—Hosted by Cida Diehl
- 9-10 **USPS/ABC D13 Fall Conference—Santa Barbara area—SAVE THE DATE**
- 23-25 **Raft-Up Mission Bay—Organizer Shawn Goit**

Bold—Our own club event and all members invited to attend.

Commander's Report



Greetings Fellow Members,

1. STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & BOAT SHOW REPRESENTATION

- **Joint Squadron Success:** I am pleased to report that our recent representation at the boat show was a significant success. By working in collaboration with the **San Diego** squadron, we effectively showcased the strength and unity of our local boating community.
- **Operational Impact:** This joint presence allowed us to reach a broader audience, fostering better communication between our squadrons and enhancing our collective visibility among local boaters.
- **Membership & Recruitment:** The event provided a prime platform for recruiting new members and promoting our upcoming educational offerings to potential students who are eager to learn safe boating practices.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE (PIER PROJECT™)

- **Oceanside City Council:** We continue to advance our proposal for the PIER Project™. We are focused on the deployment of 25 USCG-approved rescue life ring stations at high-risk waterfront structures, specifically targeting the North and South Jetties. *See report on Page 10.*
- **Advocacy:** This project remains a 100% community-funded safety net, and we are actively organizing our volunteer task force to maintain the momentum generated during our recent City Council engagements.

3. COLLEGE ARTICULATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Scholarship Rollout:** We are actively deploying the **19 student scholarships (\$150 each)** funded by our **\$2,850.00 California DBW Aquatic Center Grant**. These scholarships are instrumental in removing financial barriers for **MiraCosta** and **Palomar College** students participating in the **Hands-On Training (HOT)** program.

Continued on Page 10

Photos in this issue contributed by Jill Powell. Video contributed by Darryel Simmons.

Cover: Pont Du Gard: Adriaan & Cheryl Veldhuisen, Jill Powell and Cida Diehl.



Happy Birthday !!

JUNE

JULY

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | GLENN HENDERSON | 03 | JOSE OTERO |
| 2 | CIDA DIEHL | 06 | JAN FOLLESTAD |
| 4 | LOIE POWELL | 18 | JEFF OLSEN |
| 6 | PHIL WOELFEL | 25 | ADRIAAN VELDHUISEN |
| 11 | SANDRA LIPPERT | | |
| 18 | JAKE ALCANTARA | | |
| 18 | SUE ANN BEAN | | |

Oceanside, CA Harbor - Live



San Luis Rey USPS
666 subscribers

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2 watching now Started streaming on Jan 19, 2025

Please donate to America's Boating Club Oceanside to help support this camera.

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted...>

Oceanside, CA Harbor - this IP Camera is paid for and maintained by America's Boating Club - Oceanside and Oceanside Yacht Club. Check weather conditions or just watch the boats go by. Here is the schedule for camera angles.

12 midnight - 3:30am - - The North Jetty Only

3:30am - 8pm - - - - - Panning/Zooming of the harbor

8pm - 12 midnight - - - - Marina Only



San Luis Rey USPS
666 subscribers



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
OCEANSIDE, California 

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Educational Department Report

SAN LUIS REY SAIL & POWER SQUADRON / AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

OCEANSIDE

MARINE NAVIGATION



Marine navigation is the first course in the sequence of USPS/ABC courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the students' skills through hands-on practice and learning. Nine classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition, the students have seven days to complete the open book exam.

Topics covered include:

- *Charts and their interpretation*
- *Navigation aids and how they point to safe water*
- *Plotting courses and determining direction and distance*
- *The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic*
- *Use of GPS—typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route.*
- *Pe-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS*
- *Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning*
- *The "Seaman's Eye" - simple skills for checking that one is on course.*

MARINE NAVIGATION / ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES

7/2 to 9/24 Thursdays 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Instructors: P/C Darryel Simmons, SN-ON, Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON

AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE

ABC—AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE / ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES

8/4 TO 10/6 THURSDAY 7:00PM—9:00PM

Instructors: P/c Kirk Lippert, JN-ON & Captain Jack Guida / Cdr Shawn Goit, SN-ON

Location: Oceanside Yacht Club

BOATING SAFETY TOPICS

The basic boating knowledge topics include:

Introduction to Boating: types of power boats, sailboats, outboards, paddleboards, houseboats, different uses of boats, various power boating engines, jet drives; family boating basics.

Boating Law: boat registration, boating regulations, hull identification number, required boat safety equipment, operating safely and reporting accidents, protecting the marine environment, Federal boat law, State boating laws, personal watercraft requirements;

Education Report - Continued from Page 4

Boat Safety Equipment: personal flotation devices (life jackets), fire extinguishers, sound-producing devices, visual-distress signals, dock lines and rope, first-aid kit, anchors and anchor lines, other boating safety equipment.

Safe Boating: bow riding, alcohol and drug abuse, entering, loading, and trimming a boat, fueling portable and permanent tanks, steering with a tiller and a wheel, docking, undocking and mooring knots, filing a float plan, checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides, using charts, choosing and using an anchor, safe PWC handling, general water safety.

Navigation: the U.S. Aids to navigation system, types of buoys and beacons, navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules), avoiding collisions, sound signals, PWC "tunnel vision".

Boating Problems: hypothermia, boating accidents and rescues, man overboard recovery, capsizing, running aground, river hazards, strainers, emergency radio calls, engine problems, equipment failures, carbon monoxide (CO), other boating and PWC problems.

Trailing, Storing and Protecting Your Boat: types of trailers, trailer brakes, lights, hitches, tires, bearings, loading, balancing and towing (and backing) a trailer, boat launching and retrieving, boat storage and theft protection, launching, retrieving and storing a PWC.

Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating: carrying hunting gear and weapons in a boat, fishing from a boat, water-skiing safety guidelines and hand signals, waer-skiing with a PWC.

2026 EDUCATIONAL CALENDAR

CLASSROOM/ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES

BOAT HANDLING /ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES - DOCKING & UNDOCKING –

6/20 Saturday 10:00AM tp 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

BOAT HANDLING /ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES - ANCHORING –

6/20 Saturday 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

BOAT HANDLING / ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES - DOCKING & UNDOCKING –

6/27 Saturday 10:00Am to 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

BOAT HANDLING / ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES - ANCHORING

6/27 Saturday 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

MARINE NAVIGATION / ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES -

7/2 to 9/24 Tuesdays 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Instructor: P/C Darryel Simmons SN-ON and Cdr Shawn Goit, SN-ON

Location: Oceanside Yacht Club

Continued on Page

Education Report –Continued from Page 5

POWER -

7/11 Saturday 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

BOAT HANDLING /ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES - ANCHORING –

7/11 SATURDAY 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

BOAT HANDLING /ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES DOCKING & UNDOCKING –

7/11 Saturday 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

ABC - AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE / ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES -

8/4 to 10/6 Tuesdays 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Instructors: P/C Kirk Lippert, JN – ON and Captain Jack Guida / Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON

Location: Oceanside Yacht Club

POWER -

8/8 SATURDAY 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

POWER –

9/12 Saturday 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Instructors: Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON, Lt/C Jeff Olson, P

Location: Oceanside Harbor

SAIL / ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES –

10/1 to 12/17 Tuesdays 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Instructor: Captain Russel Schneider

Location: Oceanside Yacht Club

ABC – AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE/ ON-THE-WATER EXERCISES -

1/5 to 3/16 Thursdays 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Instructors: P/C Kirk Lippert, JN – ON and Captain Jack Guida / Cdr. Shawn Goit, SN-ON

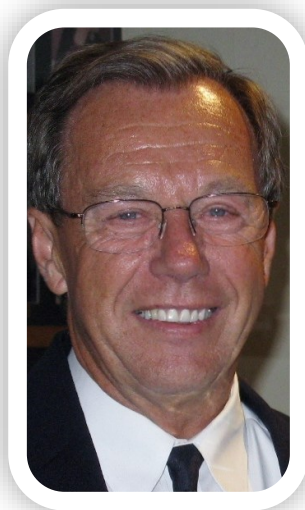
cidadiehl@sbcglobal.net

760-7985794

Fair winds!

Lt/C Cida Diehl, SN-CN

JUNE/JULY



SAFETY LESSONS LEARNED FROM ..THE ...



The proverb "***You're Never Too Old to Learn***" means that learning can happen at any age. It encourages people to keep an open mind and embrace new knowledge or skills, no matter how old they are. This saying suggests that age should not be a barrier to education or personal growth. The proverb applies to my life, particularly with regard to boat safety.

I gained that quote from some AI source and it's easy to agree with. Imagine an 84-year-old man (me) who decides to go on a RIVER cruise in south-east **France**, between the cities of **Lyon** and **Avignon**, with members of his local **Power Squadron**. He thinks that there is not much news to learn about boating safety, right? *Not necessarily.*

Picture this, all safety information for this cruise comes from a continuous loop on your cabin TV, without verification that you viewed the 30-minute segment, while being encouraged to consume large amounts of alcohol and live under high levels of distractions! It made me think that life is good, but that this kind of safety instruction is far from applicable to our **Southern California** boating life. The key idea is that age should not limit the ability to gain new knowledge or skills, even under extremely pleasant circumstances. Back home, a safety briefing before you take guests out is still a good idea.

On a different topic, our country celebrates its 250 years of existence. That may not seem like much after we extensively toured through **Europe**. (*We visited the palace*

of the French pope, 700 years old!). But I hope that our boating community will commemorate this year, as without SAIL there wouldn't likely be a "discovery" that lead to this **Independence Day**.



For my challenge in the previous issue, we looked at one of the two Rules that I have used most to formulate my questions. They are Rule 34 – **Maneuvering and Warning Signals**, and Rule 18 – **Responsibility Between Vessels**. This last one is also called **Vessel Priority** or "Pecking Order". Here was my question: ***your power-driven vessel is underway when you sight a sailing vessel on your port bow. Which is the stand-on vessel?*** The **Navigation Rules and Regulations Rule 18** (a) says that a power-driven vessel underway shall keep out of the way of (iv) a sailing vessel. This makes it a give-way vessel, Rule 16, and it makes the sailing vessel the stand-on vessel, Rule 17.

For **JUNE/JULY**, let's take this one important step further. We determined that the sailing vessel is the stand-on vessel. ***So, when is this stand-on vessel first allowed by the Rules to take action in order to avoid collision?***

- 1) *When the two vessels are less than one-half mile from each other.*
- 2) *When the give-way vessel is not taking appropriate action to avoid collision.*
- 3) *When collision is imminent.*
- 4) *The stand-on vessel is not allowed to take action at any time.*

First, read the Rule which defines a **Stand-on Vessel**. It is the vessel that shall maintain its course and speed when encountering another vessel, known as the "give-way vessel."

I hope you consider our "**On-the-Water Boating Program**" with **Stf/C Shawn Goit** as the instructor in the classroom and on the water.

<https://americasboatingcluboceaside.org/classroom/>

Captain Adriaan Veldhuisen

awveldhuisen@gmail.com



FOUND IN FRANCE! A TINY REPLICA.

Our Lady of **Aparecida** is the principal patron saint of **Brazil**, revered as a title of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** associated with the **Immaculate Conception**. Her feast day is celebrated on 12 October, a national public holiday in Brazil.

The devotion originated in 1717 when 3 fishermen **Domingos Garcia, Filipe Pedroso and Joao Alves**—found a dark clay statue in the **Paraiba River** while preparing for a banquet for the **Count of Assumar**.

After retrieving the head and reassembling the statue, they experienced a miraculous abundance of fish, leading to the name "**Aparecida**" (*the Appeared*). The statue, approximately 36 centimeters tall and made of terracotta, is now housed in the **Basilica of the National Shrine in Aparecida, São Paulo**, which is the largest **Marian** shrine in the world.

🐾 *Captain Walter*

Life Jackets Save Lives

 A fluffy white dog named Captain Walter is sitting on a wooden dock. He is wearing a yellow baseball cap with "CAPTAIN" written on it, blue mirrored sunglasses, and a blue and white striped t-shirt. A large orange and black life jacket is draped over his front. The background shows a marina with boats and water.

Life Jackets Save Lives.

America's Boating Club®
americasboatingclub.org

 A fluffy white dog wearing a red baseball cap with "AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB" and a life jacket is sitting on a wooden dock. The background is a marina.

Captain Stays Sober.

America's Boating Club®
americasboatingclub.org

 A fluffy white dog wearing a red baseball cap and a red t-shirt is sitting at a table. On the table is a clear plastic water bottle and a glass of amber liquid. The background is a marina.

Generator? Ventilate.

America's Boating Club®
americasboatingclub.org

 A fluffy white dog wearing a red baseball cap and a life jacket is sitting on a boat. A generator is visible in the background.

Training Builds Confidence

America's Boating Club®
americasboatingclub.org

 A fluffy white dog wearing a red baseball cap and a red t-shirt is sitting at the helm of a boat, holding the steering wheel. The background is a marina.

OCEANSIDE PIER PROJECT™

By Nigel Woolf, AP

Oceanside California is an “*epidemiological outlier*” in **San Diego County** (SDC) with a disproportionately high-risk for drownings. While Oceanside represents only 5% of the SDC coastline, it has experienced 8 new drownings (*one fatal*) within the last 3 months alone.

As founder and director of the new, non-profit **PIER Project™** (Public Installation for Emergency Rescue) Advocacy Initiative, after the March 21st drowning of a father and daughter off the South Jetty, I have contacted the **Oceanside City Council** 3 times (*by letter March 25, 2026; at the Harbor & Beaches Committee Meeting April 20th; and at the May 6th Oceanside City Council Meeting*) to propose the installation of “**Rescue Life Ring Stations™**” (RLRS) on the **Oceanside Pier, North and South Jetties**, and other high-risk drowning locations. Unfortunately, despite my warnings that the “*Clock is ticking for Oceanside’s next avoidable drowning tragedy*”, for three months the City has refused to formally act on my **RLRS** deployment proposal, or even respond to my offer to help jumpstart the program with a pledge to fund the first RLRS installation myself. During this period of their inaction, 6 additional Oceanside drowning incidents have occurred.

Most recently, on Sunday June 7th, Oceanside experienced its 6th new drowning incident since March 21st, when a fully clothed man jumped off the end of the **Oceanside Pier**. And shortly after that, on June 9th, during one of our regions frequent high surf conditions with caution flags posted by **Oceanside Lifeguards**, we experienced our 7th and 8th new drownings in less than three months when two more people required rescue after “*one person was knocked off the North Jetty by a large wave and another jumped in to help.*”

<https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/lifeguards-rescues-dangerous-surf-san-diego-county-beache/509-9d04bdae-0efc-4abb-a66f-784f0934d8bf?tbref=hp>

Since Oceanside Officials have refused to take any formal action for 3 the months since I first proposed my explicit, detailed, **US Coast Guard** approved **PIER Project™** plan to deploy RLRS equipment at Oceanside’s most hazardous, high-risk drowning locations, the time has come to encourage Oceanside residents and **San Luis Rey Sail and Power Squadron/Club** members to take up the cause and demand the **Mayor** and **City Council** take immediate action to adopt and implement the **PIER Project™** RLRS deployment plan to help prevent Oceanside’s next, currently inevitable, avoidable drowning tragedy.



90% of DROWNINGS ARE PREVENTABLE

Drowning is not always fatal, as it is defined as the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion or immersion in liquid, which can result in death, long-term health problems, or no health complications.

While the term is often associated with mortality, the **World Health Organization** and **CDC** classify outcomes into three categories:

Fatal drowning: *The incident results in death.*

Nonfatal drowning with injury: *The survivor experiences breathing problems, confusion, or neurological damage.*

Nonfatal drowning without injury: *The survivor has no lasting health issues.*

Although 90% of drownings are preventable, it remains a leading cause of unintentional injury death, particularly for children aged 1–4 years.

Commander's Report continued from Page 2

4. Outreach & Visibility

- **Marketing Reimbursement:** We are on track to finalize our application for the USPS/ABC 50% reimbursement program. This initiative will help us recover costs for our marketing collateral and ensure our promotional budget remains sustainable for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- **Digital Presence:** Our YouTube Live Harbor Camera continues to serve as a key community resource. I encourage all members to maintain engagement by directing interested parties to the feed.

Commander's Note:

I want to personally thank everyone who represented our squadron at the boat show; your professionalism and enthusiasm were the primary reasons for our successful engagement with the public.

Are there any questions regarding the boat show results or our upcoming outreach activities for the remainder of the summer?

Respectfully,

Stf/C Shawn Goit, SN-ON Commander, America's Boating Club Oceanside <https://americasboatingcluboceanside.org/webcam/>

Go our website: <https://americasboatingcluboceanside.org>

OCEANSIDE DREDGING PROJECT

The **2026 Oceanside Harbor dredging project**, led by the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, was completed in **early May**, removing approximately **320,000 cubic yards** of sediment from the harbor entrance. This sand was pumped directly onto **Oceanside beaches** south of the pier, marking one of the city's largest recent beach nourishment efforts.

Key project details include:

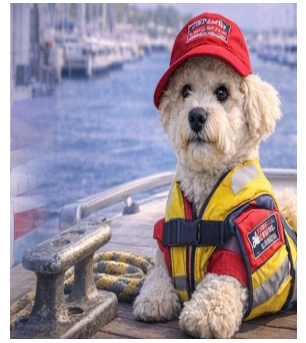
- **Timeline:** Mobilization began in late March, with active dredging running from **April 6 to May 1, 2026**.
- **Purpose:** The operation ensured safe navigation for vessels by clearing hazardous shoaling and replenished eroded shoreline for the summer season.
- **Schedule Shift:** With **\$8.2 million** in federal funding secured, the city is transitioning to a **fall dredging schedule** starting in September 2026 to better retain sand on beaches using seasonal wave patterns.
- **Safety & Environment:** Operations included strict safety measures for beachgoers and environmental protections for **Western Snowy Plovers** and **grunion** spawning areas.



Put work away,
come on out one of these evenings
and join us for a Happy Hour get-together.
Let's talk "boating".



SAFETY REPORT – JUNE/JULY— Captain Walter™



1. HARBOR CONDITIONS & NAVIGATIONAL AWARENESS

- **Entrance Status:** Great news, mates—the harbor entrance is currently clear and safe for transit!
- **High Surf Caution:** Even with the improved channel conditions, please continue to exercise extreme caution whenever the surf is high, as swells can still create hazardous conditions at the mouth of the harbor.
- **Stay Informed:** Always check the latest tide charts and swell reports before you cast off to ensure a safe transit.

2. PIER PROJECT™ (PUBLIC INSTALLATION FOR EMERGENCY RESCUE)

- **Lifesaving Equipment:** We are moving full speed ahead with our plan to deploy **25 USCG-approved rescue life ring stations** at high-traffic areas like the **North and South Jetties**.
- **Bystander Responders:** These stations are designed so that anyone can be a hero in an emergency. With 100 ft. buoyant throw lines and high-visibility cabinets, we are turning bystanders into responders—no training required.
- **Volunteer Call:** We need all hands on deck! If you're interested in supporting our presentation to the **City Council**, please reach out to the **Commander** or **Nigel Woolf**.

3. CAPTAIN WALTER'S SAFETY REMINDERS

- **Wear It!:** Remember, a life jacket only works if you're wearing it! All of our safety imagery and Captain Walter™ materials strictly follow this rule—I am always wearing my life jacket whenever I'm near the water to set a safe example for all our boaters.

Vigilance: Keep a watchful eye on your crew and passengers. Let's make this summer our safest season yet by practicing situational awareness and keeping our safety gear in top condition.



LEON HULL

Phone: 760-809-9327

Vessel Safety Examiner
North County San Diego, CA.
E323385

Email:

LeonVesselSafetyCheck@gmail.com

Website:

<https://AmericasBoatingClubOceanside.org>



For Boaters, By Boaters™

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"We will come to you."



Please Contact:

Leon Hull
Shawn Goit
Kirk Lippert

As Above
(760) 468-6212
(442) 488-4178

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WWW.USPS.ORG

FRANCE with D28



Fifteen members and friends within the now retired **District 28** traveled to **France** in May and spent time in: **Paris**, on the **Rhone & Saone Rivers**, and at various personal choice locations along the **French Riviera**. Unexpected was the heatwave with temperatures in the high 80sF and low 90sF. Blue skies in Paris made the days glorious.

Eleven of the group arrived early in Paris staying at a 4 Star hotel in a prime location within one block of **The Louvre**. Which means they were close to **The Seine**, the **Eiffel Tower** and **Notre Dame**.

The first group activity was an introductory meeting at the hotel with personal introductions.

The next morning the group met at Notre Dame and enjoyed a private tour of the interior which highlighted the renovations incurred since the drastic fire on 19 April 2019 in which it burned for 15 hours. The previous fire in the cathedral was recorded as being in 1182.

The next day 9 of the group traveled to **Giverny** to enjoy **Claude Monet's Home & Gardens**. It was quite busy but we all managed to see the highlights and take some wonderful photos. Of course, the highlight was the Watergardens with its lilies and Japanese green bridge. Then the home and of course the huge giftshop with panoramic murals of the water-lilies. Several completed the day with a dinner cruise on The Seine.

With **TGV** train tickets in hand the group made its way to **Gare de Lyon** and 2 1/2 hours later with speeds up to 191 mph, arrived in **Lyon Part Dieu** (station). Two private vans met the group and set out for the docking space of Riviera Travel's river ship the 176 passenger 443' x 39' m.s. *Thomas Hardy*. Unfortunately the ship was at a different location due to port issues. And after considerable frustrations and many Euros later, arrived at the revised river dock.

Waiting for us to arrive were the ever-present **Hotel Manager Georgi**, the **Cruise Director Leonard** and **Cruise Host Peer**. Upon boarding, they provided us with a glass of bubbly and assured us that our luggage would be taken to our respective cabins. Four more members who had flown into **Lyon** joined

us onboard, making a total of 15 in our group.

The cabins were well accommodated with a large sliding glass door and French balcony, 2 closets, bathroom with shower, desk, coffee-maker, large mirror, bedside tables with drawers and telephone. The beds could be set as a Queen or split into 2 Twins.



We dined as a group courtesy of the **Matre'd Victor** and for the rest of the week stayed with the same tables and waiter **Hristo** who provided us with very good table service.

The next day was sightseeing in and around Lyon. Transportation was outstanding with brand new motorcoaches. The cruise passengers were divided into 6 groups using 3 coaches.

That evening we "set sail/cruise" northward along the **Rhone** for the city of **Beaune** in the heart of, and the wine capital of **Burgundy**.



Riviera Travel provides complimentary but limited choices of wine/beer and alcoholic drinks (*as well as soft drinks*) from 10:00a.m. to Midnight. Our group took advantage of this amenity.

Docked in **Chalon-sur-Saone**, we enjoyed the comfort of the motorcoaches and traveled through the tiny villages of **Meursault**, **Volnay** and **Pommard**, all well-known for producing fine wines. In Beaune we visited the **Hotels-Dieu des Hospices**—old hospital for the poor and needy. Its colorful tiled roofs and 6 centuries of hospital history didn't disappoint.

Next day was **Vienne** where we were free to explore and appreciate the treasure trove of historic remains. Then back to the ship where we partook in some wine tasting. A very different style of wine tasting too.

Continued on Page 15

France Report continued from Page 14

June 01 brought forth a relaxing cruise downstream to **Le Pouzin**. After lunch motorcoaches took us on an excursion to the **Ardeche Gorges**. Some of the group chose to explore **La Grotte de**

La Madeleine and others took in the **Lavender Museum**. This included a tour by small train through the lavender fields which were just coming in to bloom.



The Grotte de La Madeleine was discovered in 1887 by a shepherd. There is 0.3 mile of walkway with a vertical drop of 213'. Highlights included the massive calcite draperies up to 19' high, and stalagmites.

Next morning we awoke in deepest **Provence**, moored in **Arles**. Guided tours were conducted after lunch. Coaches took us all to the Roman aqueduct. The UNESCO **World Heritage** site of **Pont du Gard** is the best-preserved Roman aqueduct bridge in the world. Built in the 1st century AD, this monumental structure stands 160' high and was designed to carry water over 31 miles to the Roman colony of Nimes. Here is where we had a little rain, the only time in the entire trip.

We celebrated **Cida Diehl's** Birthday at dinner onboard and ended the meal sharing the personal cake that the chef had made for her.

We were invited to visit to the ship's Bridge and spoke with the captain at length. **Adriaan** and **Darryel** plied him with questions *See photos in this issue*.

Avignon was a highlight where we had plenty of spare time to just wander the streets and explore the wares in each shop. We began the day with either a tiny train tour through its streets or a visit to the **Palais des Popes**.

One afternoon a golf putting contest was arranged for the Top Deck. It was a beautiful day and fun to be outside soaking up its rays. Some embarrassing shots were made but eventually a winner was "capped".

June 04 was our departure day. So we had some that drove to **Marseille** and beyond, some that took the TGV back to Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport, some that went on to **Cannes** and some to **Antibes**. I chose **Nice**.

Each evening some form of entertainment was arranged. Everything from Trivia, to Guess the Name of the Musical,

to Dance Instruction, to Piano Solos. And late one evening **James** stepped up and accompanied the piano with the harmonica. Of course, it wouldn't be right if there wasn't at least one Congo Line.

The average age on the passengers was 65—no one was immobile. The ship is UK registered and the crew all speak English. So we would go from our street excursions struggling to speak our broken French to coming back onboard and speaking English.

Breakfast and lunch were either buffet style or one could order from a table menu. Dinner was plated with a choice of dishes for each course. I did hear some of our group say that although the meals were exquisitely presented, they were rather bland. The reason being, the staff said, is that the ship caters to the English palette. We were some of the very few Americans on board. Strangely enough, we were appreciated too. Was it because we were too loud, or because we shone at competition and let it be known when an answer was correct. The English were very quiet and subdued. The Cruise Director and his Cruise Host loved us! (*For our participation and enthusiasm*)

It was Open Seating for every meal. There were set times for dining within a range of 2 hours. However, the staff preferred that we come in at 7pm for dinner.

The dress code in general was casual. However on the **Gala Evening** everyone "dressed up" a little. There were even a couple of bow ties but no jackets. The French in general are very well dressed and I was amazed at the number of ladies/women who were wearing dresses throughout the country, long and short. If they wore pants, they were "classy" pants with straight legs. It was rather a rude awakening on departure from Charles De Gaulle Airport back to **North America** to see the way the passengers dressed for the flight—*very sloppy*. Nothing like we had experienced in the country of France.

My son and I continued our journey into Nice for another 4 nights where we spent hours and miles exploring, admiring, partaking and even picnicking on **the Promenade des Anglais** above the beaches.

Our trip culminated at the **Monaco Grand Prix** final day Sundry 07 June. A bucket list item for both of us. We had General Admission tickets which meant we didn't have assigned seats.

Continued on Page 16

France Report continued from Page 15

We had a steep bank of sod and trees at the foot of the walls of the **Royal Castle and at Turn #18**. We made a “nest” on a stone with a hewn log for a backrest. Our view was down to the bend at #19 and the straightaway with an added bonus of a large TV screening the entire race in front of us, but at a little distance. To our front-right we had the entrance to **Pit Lane**. We actually couldn't have asked for a better viewing area. In the distance we could see the course as it came out of the tunnel having maneuvered the **Fairmont Hairpin**. The cars were “flying”. Blink and you missed them. Of course, we topped our spot off with a bottle of **Prosecco**, some very fine Jambon, Brie cheese and a baguette. There were no restrictions on what one could bring in for food. The kiosk was selling miniature **Kit Kats** made in the shape of a Formula 1 racecar. *Unique!*

The **Monaco Harbor** was chockablock/jammed with boats of every size, from mega yachts to rubber dinghies to paddleboards and kayaks. At the checkered flag the majority of boats sounded their horns and the noise was glorious.

A funny thing happened, arriving at **Charles De Gaulle** on the **TGV** from **Nice**. We didn't know that we were at our disembarkation station because we didn't understand the muffled cabin announcements. After a good minute or so from the TGV coming to a halt I asked the man across the aisle which station we were at. He said “*Charles De Gaulle*”. “*Oh, shoot*” I uttered out aloud. I grabbed my handbag and ran. James jumped over my seat picking up the phone I had left, disembarking with one suitcase from the cargo rack by running through the café car to the open door. He told the lady dispatcher that I was still coming. I yanked my suitcase from the rack and hurried through the café car too. Only to jump onto the platform and say that I had left my hat. But it didn't matter I could lose it. James jumped back on the train, ran to our seats and retrieved his new **Blanc de Nil** hat along with mine, while the dispatcher held the train for us. As soon as James jumped off, she blew the whistle and the TGV was on its way to Brussels, Belgium. These trains operate to the minute! We may have held it up one or two minutes!!!!

What has this article got to do with BOATING?

Well not much actually. But WHAT it does HAVE is a notification and reminder that our squadron/club has an annual trip to a fascinating destination. So far, always with a nautical theme. And to be a part of it, you just need to let it be known!!!!

Traveling with a group strengthens friendships and conversation flows. We ALWAYS guarantee LAUGHTER on every trip.

Now that you have read this to the end, where would you like to travel with us/District 13 in 2027/2028?

CHOICES:

- *Dalmatian Coast—Croatia + Bosnia & Herzegovina*
- *Mississippi River Memphis to New Orleans*
- *Magdalena River—Colombia*
- *Mekong River—Vietnam & Cambodia*
- *Colorado Rockies to the Red Rocks of Utah (Train)*
- *Lake Mead/Lake Powell Houseboats (Spring/Fall)*

Respond to: District 13 Administrative Officer at abcd13ao@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS!



to the 2026-2027 Bridge



Chief Commander: Mike Wiedel

National Educational Officer: Jan Wright

National Administrative Officer: Shirley Heald

National Secretary: Al Lakin

National Treasurer: Larry Cole

Immediate Past Chief Commander willing to serve: Ralph Bernard

As of February 14, 2026

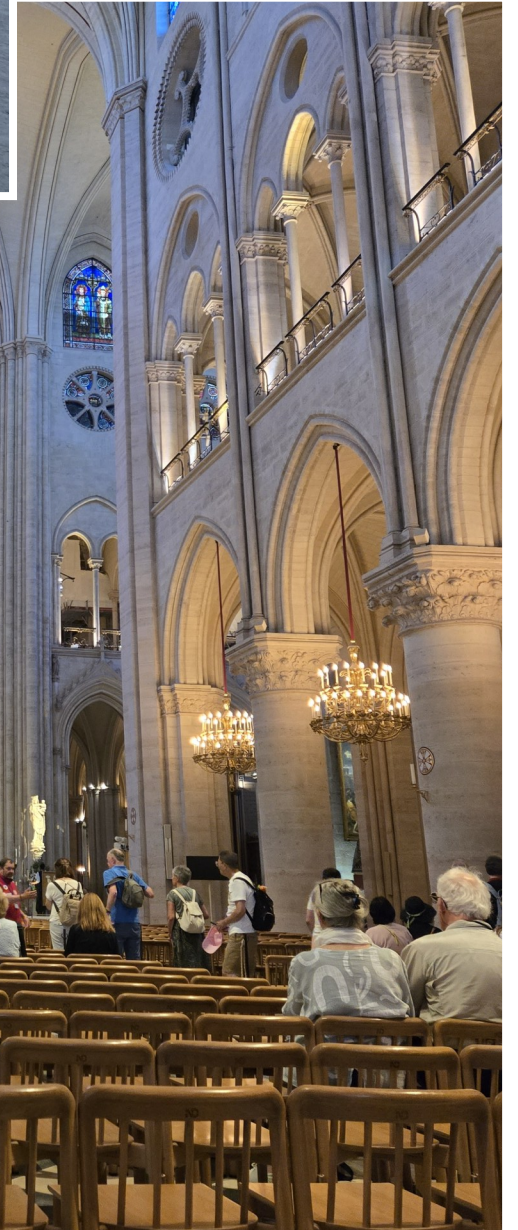
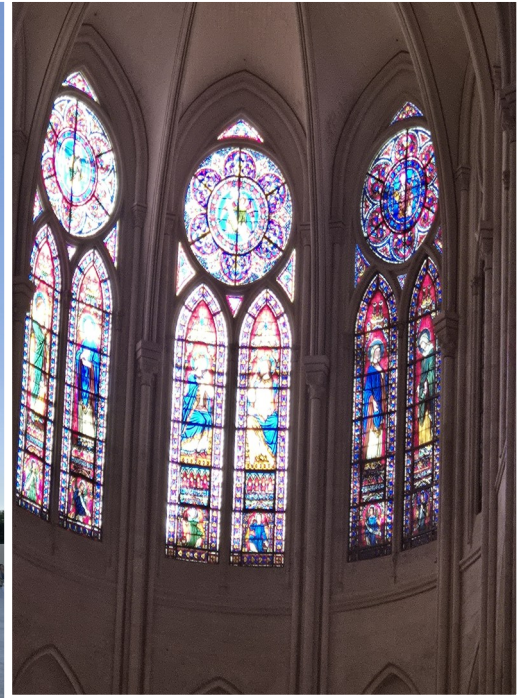


Chief Commander Mike Wiedel joined America's Boating Club Milwaukee in 1988, eventually becoming commander.

*At the district level, he then progressed to commander. At the national level, Wiedel served as rear commander of the **Safety Committee** and was aide and **national flag lieutenant** to two past chief commanders before becoming **national administrative officer** and then **national executive officer**.*

*He also enjoys teaching courses and seminars. He and his wife, Kim, enjoy boating on the **Great Lakes, Lake of the Ozarks, and the inland river systems**.*

Joanne O'Neil, Kathie & Chuck IacuanIELLO, Jill Powell, Nancee & Ron Hanson, Cida Diehl, Adriaan & Cheryl Veldhuisen and Rachael Kubiski.



**NOTRE
DAME
-
PARIS**





Claude Monet's Home and Gardens in Giverny, France



Left: Jill Powell and Darryel Simmons

Below: TGV from Paris to Lyon: Joanne O'Neil, Rachael Kubiski, Cida Diehl and James Powell





The name honors Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, the British Royal Navy officer who served as Horatio Nelson's Captain on HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

**FRANCE MET THE
"OLD GUARD" FROM
DISTRICT 28**

Make sure you check out the links provided on page 20 to see some of the fun the group had.

Cruise Director Leonard with his extraordinary sense of humor, blessed the river cruise passengers.

We guaranteed laughter on the invitation to travel and we DELIVERED unconditionally!

**PARIS—LYON—BEAUNE—
VIENNE—AVIGNON—ARLES.**

**PLUS GIVERNY, MARSEILLE,
ANTIBES, NICE , CANNES AND
MONACO**



The pictures and videos in the links below were produced by the Cruise Director on the **Riviera River Cruise (Burgundy, the River Rhône & Provence)** m.s. **Thomas Hardy**.



[Riviera Cruise—Southern France—June 2026](#)
[USPS Travel Group Riviera Got Talent](#) videos.

Following videos contain clips of our group members:

3806, 3819, 3820, 3821, 3824, 3862, 3863, 3864, 3904 and 3910.

Feel free to share the provided links with family and friends.



Top: Jill Powell, Cida Diehl, James Powell, Rachael Kubiski, Cheryl & Adriaan veldhuisen enjoy a respite after a long city hike in Arles.

Cida Diehl is glad to be on vacation.

The Chef onboard baked a special personal cake for Cida's Birthday celebration!!!



m.s. Thomas Hardy Captain Wesley, Darryel Simmons, Cida Diehl, Joanne O'Neil and Adriaan Veldhuisen

Cocktail Reception at iconic George V Hotel, Paris: Joanne O'Neil, Chuck and Kathie IacuanIELLO, Cheryl Veldhuisen, James Powell, Cida Diehl and Adriaan Veldhuisen

Adriaan & Cheryl Veldhuisen, Jill Powell and Cida Diehl.





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