



Midwestern Pilot

Winter 2025

District 30 Celebrating 50 years 1975-2025



Commander's Corner

Welcome to a new year and some exciting updates coming our way. We have just returned from the Annual meeting and have lots of information to share. Keep checking the National website and news updates as well. The staff at Headquarters and the Board of Directors are working hard to get information out as soon as possible. Stay warm and start planning for your boating season!

Kent Simpson
D30 Commander



Chief Commander's Rep:

V/C David Allen, SN-IN, has been National Administrative Officer since 2024. A Life Member with 37 Merit Marks, he served on the National Law Committee for 18 years and as National Law Officer for four. He developed the USPS Endowment

Fund before becoming Assistant National Secretary in 2019 and then National Secretary in 2022. In 1985 he joined America's Boating Club of Lake Murray/26 in central South Carolina, where he has held every leadership position, including bartender. An avid University of South Carolina Gamecock, David had a career in public relations before becoming an attorney, retiring as corporate counsel and a business law professor. On the water, you may find him and his wife, Debra, at the coast aboard *Surcee*, a 43-foot Carver cockpit motor yacht; its tender, *Frolicking Detour*; or at the lake aboard *Cocktales*, a Sea Ray 260 express cruiser. He is also co-owner of a 19-foot Sea Pro center console, *Bad Alibi*, with a young, new club member.

Call to Conference:

The Spring conference will be April 30, 2025. . The purpose of this meeting will be as follows:

1. Receive and act upon reports of officers and committees.

2. Fill any vacancies in accordance with D30By-Laws.
3. Consider and/ or act upon properly presented business.
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Treasurer:

Greetings D30 members and friends, I would like to introduce myself. I am D/Lt/C Terry Elia, JN with the Des Moines Sail and Power Squadron. I am the new District Treasurer for District 30.

I have just a quick reminder. When you recruit new members and collect the fees that include membership dues, you are only sending a check to National for their portion of the dues. You keep your squadron dues, and you should be sending the district treasurer, the appropriate district assessment. As of March 2023, when dues were last updated, you should be sending District 30 the following assessment:

Single Member	\$7.00
Family Unit	\$11.00
Life Member w/attached	\$4.00

These fees come to the district automatically through the renewal

process, but it is your responsibility to forward these fees to the district for a new member. Please send district assessments to:

Please remember National will soon be mailing TR1 paperwork regarding your 990. Please make sure you complete and turn in your 990s and verify by completing the USPS TR1. Failure to do so for three (3) years, you will lose your tax-exempt status, and it is not easy to recover once lost. Have a safe boating season.

Terry Elia, JN
D30 Treasurer
Insurance Updates

Insurance for district and squadron events is now available. Please note that this does not include all events. Clarification of what's covered will be forthcoming. Requests are to be made by filling out the fillable pdf found here and sending it to: documentrequest@coreinsured.com

As you may know, the current insurance policy that covered district and squadron events has been cancelled, as of December 1, 2024. Much progress has been made in obtaining replacement insurance, although more work needs to be done. General liability insurance for squadrons and districts and their officers is available effective December 2, 2024.

Most, but not all events



will be covered. There are important exceptions, so please review the status update on the District and Squadron Event Insurance page under the Treasurer's Department for more information about the coverage. Further updates will be posted as they become available, so please check that page periodically.

Shirley Heald
National Treasurer



**Education
Department
Prop walk, Friend
and Foe**

Prop walk affects all propeller driven vessels. It is most noticeable in vessels with inboard engines and a fixed prop shaft. Prop walk occurs when a turning propeller pushes a boat's stern sideways. A right-handed fixed propeller will tend to push the stern of a vessel to starboard when going forward and to port when going in reverse. You can determine and visualize the effect of prop walk with the following procedure:

- Tie your boat securely to the dock.
- Put the engine in reverse and add some RPM's
- Go onto the dock and notice the water flow around the boat

on both sides. You will see that the volume of water being pushed forward is much greater on one side than the other. The side with the higher volume will push the stern in the opposite direction.

- If the boat's stern is pinned to the dock on the Port side you have a right-handed propeller. If the stern of the boat is pinned to the dock on the Starboard side you have a left-handed propeller.

To overcome prop walk when backing up you can do the following. (Will assume a right-handed propeller for this example - stern being pushed to the port.)

1. The first thing you have to contemplate is that you will have no steerage until the boat is moving.
2. In anticipation of movement astern and the prop walk that will be pushing you to port pre-align the rudder about 15 degrees to starboard before backing. Thus, when you do have some way on the rudder will pull the boat to starboard and start to negate the prop walk to port.
3. Give the boat a burst of reverse throttle and immediately go back to neutral. The boat will start to move backward and the rudder will start to kick in.
4. Continue to give the boat bursts of reverse throttle and back to neutral until

you have achieved steerage. Now you can go into reverse and steer as normal.

Prop walk can be your friend when trying to turn your boat in a confined space and you have a choice of turning to port or to starboard. Remember that a right-handed fixed propeller will tend to push the stern of a vessel to starboard when going forward. This will give you a tighter circle if you make that tight turn to port as opposed to starboard.

Vince Comella *D30 Education*



Administrative Department

IMIS Migration Information

The migration to the iMIS system is continuing. You can now perform the following operations on the Member Portal:

- Pay your dues
- Update your member information, including street addresses, email addresses and alternate email addresses
- Change your Member Portal password. (On the Member Website, you will still log in with your PIN and certificate number.)

- Print dues notices
- Add new members
- Enter OD information for squadrons and districts using Committee Admin privileges
- New cyber members can register and join

National Committee member additions/removals coming soon. (HQ 229) Please send all changes to Lena Padro at Headquarters.

The following services remain unavailable on the USPS Member site:

- Updating class and seminar completions
- Assignment and updates to USPS National Committees (HQ 229); please also send any changes to Lena Padro at Headquarters as this data doesn't transfer.

Please enter OD information on both the member portal and the member website until further notice.

For detailed information and instructions on how to perform the functions that have been enabled, visit the IMIS Migration Update page.



Nautical Trivia:

A seaman's name for a reef knot tied upside down is called

what?



Dues Renewal

You can now pay dues by logging into the member portal and going to “My account” under your username in the top bar. You will either see a button or hyperlink to renew dues. Email hilly@hq.usps.org if you don't have a log in or if you don't see a link to renew. You can also call headquarters at 888-367-8777 ext. 219 or 229 and our membership staff will renew your dues over the phone. Invoices will go out soon, but renewing online or by phone is the easiest way to pay dues.



Secretary's Department: What is the role of a Secretary?

Sometimes the role of secretary is not understood by members. Before I became the commander of Boulder Valley Sail and Power Squadron (now America's Boating Club –Colorado), I was the squadron secretary. The secretary does take minutes of meetings and presents them to the group members for their approval. Meeting minutes are usually form is one of two forms: (1) a decisional form in which only the results of motions and votes are recorded; and (2) process minutes that attempt to capture to opinions, emotions, and positions of various

participants. In our squadron and district practice, we use a combination of both methods. What is very important is that the club and district 30 have accurate and permanent records of decisions.

This leads us to another secretarial functions: gathering, filing, saving, and retrieving records. Computer technologies make these functions much easier than in the past except that we are not fully settled about software formats so that all members can share information easily.

Other functions of the secretary are:

1. Production and dissemination of newsletters and other official publications of the club
2. Maintaining historical records of the club and its members
3. Ensuring that statistical reports are prepared and utilized where appropriate, e.g. membership figures, financial summaries, activity reports, and merit mark information
4. Maintaining educational records of courses, students, and outcomes
5. Maintaining the club website
6. Maintaining official documents: bylaws, communications, etc.
7. Ensuring that the nomination committee completes its scheduled work by plan and reports decisions to D30 and ABC national.

8. Assists the commander on request; helps the SAO with meeting plans; supervises the membership chair/committee.

The bottom line is that an ABC secretary can have many roles or just one or two depending on the wishes of officers and the willingness of the secretary to step forward. Recently, Bill Johnson resigned as our D30 secretary due to health issues. I called Bill to ask if I could help with the secretarial position. Surprise! I will be filling in at the pleasure of the D30 Council at least for 2025. I am hoping that Bill Johnson can return. In the meanwhile I promise to do my best to fill his shoes.

Bill Buffum
D30 Secretary

Trivia Answer:

Rogue knot



Save the date:

D30 Spring Conference
30 Apr 2025 @1930
Central
Eastern 2030

Mountain 1830

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85906368594?pwd=iCiELKEvPeuloqLhqkPq747SytiW8G.1>

Meeting ID: 859 0636 8594

Passcode: 755439

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,85906368594#,,,,*755439# US

+13126266799,,85906368594#,,,,*755439# US (Chicago)



Upcoming Dates:

April 30, 2025

D30 Virtual Meeting and COW
(Invites will be sent via email for Zoom)

Sept 1-7, 2025

Governing Board
Grand Rapids, MI

Feb 9-15. 2026

Annual Meeting Myrtle Beach, SC





Hobbies and Passions:

Life In Margaritaville By Vince Comella

Many of you know that we flee to Mexico during the cold winter months of Colorado. Our experience in Mexico dates back to 1998 when we sailed our ketch 'S/V Itchy Feet' from San Diego to Mexico in the Baja Ha Ha race sponsored by the sailing magazine "Latitude 38". We came in 3rd in that race along with everyone else in our class, the Frijole Class, who didn't come in 1st or 2nd.

At that time we spent the better part of two seasons in Mexico before departing for the Marquesas. So, we have a long running connection with Mexico and in particular the Paradise Village Marina where we had our boat. A condo overlooking the marina is where we now plant ourselves in the winter. We hang out at the "Vallarta Yacht Club" to trade sailing stories, I help friends working on their boats, we read, and walk on the beach. So, normally life here is pretty easy and predictable – until the day of March 31 that is! I'd just come back to the condo after helping my friend Tom work on an electrical problem on his 35' power boat when Tom

called me with a little urgency in his voice. There was a protest going on that had completely blocked the main highway that runs north to south from all of the resorts in Punta de Mita, Bucierus and Nuevo Riviera to the airport. The people were protesting a new law that required an annual smog check on their cars and the cost associated with it. The tourists that needed to fly home were panicking.

The only other way to get to the airport now was by boat from the Paradise Village Marina to Marina Vallarta in Puerto Vallarta and then by cab from there and my friend Tom had been asked to participate in a flotilla to transport people. Tom needed a crew and I volunteered. As I ran to the dock I passed maybe a 100 people lined up on the boat ramp with their suitcases hoping for a solution to their peril. Tom was already on the boat. He fired up the dual outboards, I slipped the dock lines and we moved to the public dock whereupon we helped people and their luggage on board and headed out of the estuary and into Banderas Bay for the 40 minute high speed run to Marina Vallarta.

The bay was a little rough and I had my eye on our cargo of tourists hoping that no one would get seasick. We reached our assigned dock and offloaded the passengers, turned around and headed back to Paradise Village Marina.



We were thinking that our task was complete as we slowly motored toward the slip but then spied more tourists on the dock with their luggage still waiting. Back to the public dock to pick up our second load of people and luggage. We turned around and headed back to Marina Vallarta where we offloaded the folks. Upon our second return we no longer saw any stranded people and put the boat away hoping that most of them were able to catch their flights back home. I think we both needed a double dose of Margaritas that night.

PS: The Puerto Vallarta News reported that 632 tourists and 32 flights were impacted by the protest.



NOMINATIONS REPORT 2025

In accordance with the Bylaws of District 30, the USPS District 30 Nominating Committee submits the following

proposed slate:

BRIDGE OFFICERS

District Commander: Commander Kent Simpson, AP

District Executive Officer: D/Lt/C Tracy Simpson, AP

District Educational Officer: D/Lt/C Vincent Comella

District Administrative Officer: OPEN
District Secretary: D/Lt/C Bill Buffum
District Treasurer: D/Lt/C Terry Elia, JN

GENERAL COMMITTEES

RULES COMMITTEE

3 year – Tracy Simpson, AP

2 year – OPEN

1 year – Marjorie Burgess

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3 year - Bettie Danley, S

2 year – Rosemary Bialecke

1 year – Rex LeCocq, AP

AUDITING COMMITTEE

3 year - Gus Elia, JN

2 year - Kenneth Danley, P-IN

1 year - OPEN

All nominees have indicated that they are willing and able to serve in the positions noted, if elected. The nominee for District Educational Officer has previously been approved by the National Educational Officer, D/Lt/C Vincent Comella.

Respectfully submitted,

P/D/C Bettie Danley (Chair)

