



District 10 D10 Communicator

Volume 16 Issue 2

May 2020



D/C Kevin Wehrmann, S

Ahoy there District 10!



Welcome to the first edition of the 2020/2021 Watch year **D10 Communicator**. On behalf of the District Bridge and all the committee's of D10 I would like to welcome you to another eventful year with **America's Boating Club!** During the last two years of serving at the district level I have come to realize and fully appreciate how much of an impact we make in our community and its surroundings. My goal this year is to parallel the message of the Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott. Her message at the Conference in Florida was:

"Membership is Job One"

***"If what your doing does not positively impact membership,
it goes to the bottom of the list"***

I challenge all of our membership to move "Onward & Upward" and recognize that our membership is the most important resource that we have. I challenge you to commit to finding a new member and welcome them into America's Boating Club. I would also challenge you to commit to taking a class or a seminar this year, after all let's come for the Education and Stay for the Friends!

It is tradition in District 10 to create a theme for the watch year, my theme this year is "Onward & Upward in 2020". Little did I know that literally, during the weekend of our Change of Watch on March 14th that we were entering new uncharted territory that we are calling a world wide pandemic caused by a virus named Covid 19! I came to realize that when I stopped at the grocery store Sunday afternoon on my way home from the Marriott and there was no bread, meat, cheese of any kind and of course no toilet paper. It was at this time that I realized how serious this situation was and I began thinking of how this is going to affect our beloved boating club and the 2020 boating season!

Had our COW been scheduled one weekend later it would have been cancelled. Fortunately, we had excellent attendance for the conference and we were able to maintain our food and beverage minimums with the hotel even though we had some cancellations due to Covid 19.

Look for information via E-Blast on District upcoming events. Labor Day weekend the Duluth Squadron will host our **Annual Rendezvous** at their dock in Superior Wisconsin. RV's and campers are welcome along with your trailered boats, join us for Corn Roast in Superior Wisconsin!

Fall Conference will be held in Eau Claire Wisconsin on October 30th – November 1st at the Metropolis Resort, 5150 Fairview Drive. The St. Paul Squadron is hosting the event, look for some fun social activities Saturday afternoon.

Continued on page 2

Spring Conference Highlights

At the Spring Conference in March we attempted to try something that was challenging and has not been done before. Two COWS for the price of One! With over 90 in attendance on Saturday evening. Well the general consensus was that we pulled it off with great success. I would like to thank Dave Fine for writing the script, Don Duncan, Kris Harmon our MC, and Ben Coons for a great job at the podium installing the Commanders! District Flag Lieutenant Karen Christenson for all the behind the scenes detail. Minnetonka Squadron did a very nice job hosting the event, a special Thank You to Commander Andy (33) Lalim and Fiancé Leesa Paalman.



Congratulations New Life members, Earning 25 Merit Marks

Bill & Bernie Dohr from Central Wisconsin and Dennis Caslavka from Minnetonka

District 10 Awards presented at Spring Conference

Congratulation's **Door County** winning the 2019 **Pelican Award** with 253 VSC's

VSC Century Club – 100 checks in a single year

Central Wisconsin – John Paprocki **Door County** – Louis Pasquesi

Minnetonka – Richard Hascall

Golden Eagle Award

11th Place Squadron Honor Roll – Green bay Power and Sail Squadron

19th Place Individual Honor Roll – Joe Leland from Minnetonka Squadron

[Thank You Dave.....You ROCK!](#)



First and foremost, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Past Commander Dave Fine 2018/19 & 2019/20. I have had the honor and privilege of working with Dave behind the scenes the past seven years in District 10 and the Minnetonka Squadron. His accomplishments as Commander of D10 are something to be proud of; earning many National Awards for our District including two MIRA awards and the most coveted US BOAT award for excellence in Civic outreach on a National level. Dave was also the leading force in maintaining a TEAM effort in Membership Retention and New Member Recruitment. District 10 was the only district last year that had a positive record with membership at +2.3%! Dave I can speak for all the Commanders, Bridge Members and those of you on committees, and your friends from D10.....

Thank you for all you have accomplished during your Commandership,

Dave YOU ROCK!!

Congratulations!!

R/C Wes Koplitz, Chairman – Basic Public Education Committee

[News from National - D10 Recognition](#)

District 10 recognized at the National Meeting with a total of 37 Awards. 3 for District 10, 29 squadron, and 5 individual awards!

- In the Membership Growth category, D10 takes 1st place among 33 Districts!
- The Duluth Squadron took a 1st Place at the Squadron level earning the most members in 2019! And a 3rd place MIRA in 2019
- Education Honor Roll all 11-squadrons earned 100%
- 3 Members received the VSC Century Club
- Geodetic Marker Recovery, Green Bay 16th Place Honor Roll

Remember with a Boat and a Little Imagination you can go Onward and Upward!

Respectfully submitted,

D/C Kevin Wehrmann, S

2020 SPRING CONFERENCE





District Educational Department

Once again, the boating season lurks, though it has been threatened by a rare plague. As I write this there is a major amount of concern for the health of us. I wish and pray for your good health and a safe meaningful boating season soon!

2020 Spring Conference Wrap-up

I want to thank all of you who were able to attend our District's conference. I was very pleased with the attendance at our two seminars. I conducted the Advanced Powerboat Handling session and John Raby conducted the Mariner's Compass session. Both were well attended. We have already started discussions for seminar sessions at our upcoming Fall Conference. Please send me an email at wkoplitz@aol.com if you have a specific seminar you would want us to consider offering.



D/Lt/C Wesley D. Koplitz, AP

ABC3 (America's Boating Course)

As many of you know we as an organization are struggling with inability to conduct our spring classroom boating courses. Virtual classroom discussions are a hot topic for those of us on the Public Boating Education Committee. Compounding our effort is the need to have the many states approve our ABC offering in a virtual configuration. We have a few states that refuse to permit any classes not conducted face to face. Until we gain NASBLA and specific state approval I can only say we are working on this problem. Many squadrons have cancelled their classroom offerings and rescheduling them for a fall course. The major issue for us is the need to avoid our tests being openly shared. We have two tests currently and need to keep them secured as in the classroom. One possible process would be to have a *timed presentation* where via the internet students would have read ability. The student would make their choice and record it on a supplied answer sheet. They would then send the completed answer sheet to the instructor for grading. At the current moment our instructors could conduct an online course with PPT presentation and discussion. Getting student manuals sent out would be via snail mail. By now you may be getting a snapshot of the logistical issues. Stay tuned as we find a friendlier process.

BOC Boat Operator Certification Event

Please think about participation in a BOC weekend to be held in the later part of July. All levels of OTW (On the Water) will be offered in Sturgeon Bay. I will be sharing and promoting event details as soon as they become available. I can only ask you for a "save the date" consideration. I believe it starts on July 31st.

Instructor Re-certification

I will soon schedule a Go to Meeting event for the purpose of Instructor Re-certification. I know we have a few instructors in need of the seminar.

Instructor Development

I have a list of members interested in completing the course and becoming certified instructors. Certification is required for conducting the ABC program to the public. Please email at wkoplitz@aol.com if interested. I have about 6 individuals from Duluth and a few individuals in the Twin Cities area. I will conduct 6 sessions via online education. Students are required to create lesson plans and make a few presentations. Audiences can be their respective squadron leadership or at a D-10 conference. Evaluation and submission to our national headquarters for final approval must be via your SEO.

D/Lt/C Wesley D. Koplitz, AP-CN

District 10 Educational Officer

Rear Cdr Public Boating Committee





District Executive Department



Greetings,

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Chad Lowney, my wife (Stacy) and I are avid boaters. We got our first “big” boat in 2007. It was a 28’ Ranger sailboat. That boat taught us much about the pleasure of boating, the challenging work that goes into it, and yes, the sacrifice. Soon after that purchase, Wednesday night racing became our passion. In my opinion, nothing will teach you more about your boat than making it do things you wouldn’t normally do and competitiveness brings that out. We have since moved on from sailing and now own a 38’ Bayliner. Fishing has replaced racing, but as I tell my wife, sailing trophies don’t taste nearly as good as fresh Lake Superior fish. Boat ownership early in our marriage was a defining experience. No matter the size or type of boat, it has taught us many things, not the least of which are personal responsibility and a love of the water. 2007 was also the year I became a Power Squadron member. Boating for us was different then. Power Squadron education is what I sought after to get you safely from point A to point B. Education was mandated by the Squadron in order to even become a member. In spite of that, or more probably because of it, our classes were full and our ranks constantly expanding. People got educated because they wanted to and knew they were safer if they did. The world has changed a lot since then. We find ourselves in a time when we are striving to redefine ourselves as an organization to survive. There is a new logo, uniforms are no longer in vogue, people find paper charts passé, and electronics are all the rage. Writer William Arthur Ward once said, “The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.” So, our organization is adjusting its sails. We are tailoring our educational programs and activities to attract today’s boaters. We’ve yet to identify them completely, but what we know so far is, like yesterday’s boaters they like to have fun, and have sufficient disposable income to do so. We also need boaters that like to contribute to public service. While harder to find, we believe there are fellow boaters out there just waiting to discover us. We are struggling to find our new identity in a constantly changing world, where technology rules. Technology which was supposed to make life easier and give us more leisure time has instead complicated our lives and made that time a precious commodity.

Change is good, and I embrace it, but I believe we need to take the time to slow down, look at where we came from, and recognize the reasons why we got into boating in the first place. Hopefully, if we can identify those reasons, we can also share them with our group of today’s boaters, and encourage them to join us. Okay, so I’m a boater, no surprise there. I’m also a bit of a traditionalist. I love the history and the traditions of all things nautical, including the United States Power Squadrons. So, you’ll see me flying flags on my boat, attending classes and seminars, furthering my knowledge of boating, and trying to get our members to slow down and safely enjoy their families and friends on their boats.

In these trying times we will be “adjusting our sails District wide. I will be looking for a VSC goal of 1237 this year. I look forward to talking with you commanders on how we are doing and what can we do to achieve more. Geodetic Marker Recovery is brand new to me, but I can’t wait to dive in and see what all the hoop-la is about. National Boat Safety Week is fast approaching. During our current situation, how can we as an organization reach out to the public as ambassadors on the water.

I look forward to working with you all. I want you to know what an honor and privilege it is to have been chosen to serve as your Executive Officer. Have a wonderful summer, stay safe out there and remember...Life is short, Boats are Cool.

Your District 10 Executive Officer,

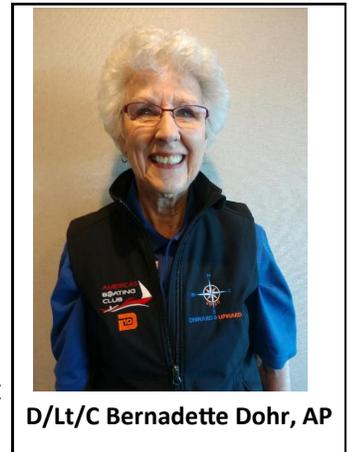
D/Lt/C Chad Lowney, AP



District Administrative Department



Thanks to the efforts of many, we enjoyed a successful and fun spring conference in Minneapolis hosted by Minnetonka Power Squadron. Several members had to cancel their reservations at the last minute because of the coronavirus issue, but we know they were with us in spirit.



D/Lt/C Bernadette Dohr, AP

These days that we are “homebound” give us a good opportunity to reach out to our members. Just a phone call to let them know you are thinking of them would be a good idea. Maybe you could have a “virtual” meeting with your members.

Our rendezvous this year will be in Duluth hosted by Duluth Power Squadron. They have invited the district to their annual corn roast on Labor Day weekend. Should be a fun time. More details about this are forthcoming.

Our fall conference will be October 30-November 1 at Metropolis Resort In Eau Claire, WI. What do you think, might a Halloween costume be in order?



Bernadette Dohr

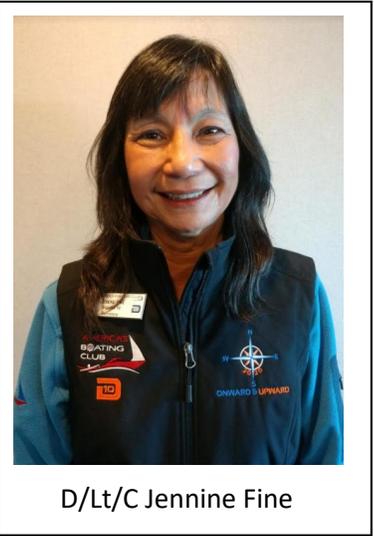
D/10 Administrative Officer



District Secretary

Hello All,

Hoping you and yours are well. It has been over a month since the “stay at home” request was put in effect. It is sad that many activities have been cancelled, however our family has been able to spend more time together. I am able to get things done at home and spend less money shopping. It was a very quiet Easter ... Hoping you and yours had a Happy Easter.



D/Lt/C Jennine Fine



Leo and I continue to try to get the bounced list shortened. Here is the results for this past month. If you know of anyone who does not receive D10 publications, please send them my way and I can help them to “OPT-IN”.

Enjoy the rest of the Spring !!! Stay happy and healthy.

Respectfully Submitted,

D/Lt/C Jennine Fine

D10 Secretary

Squadron Name	Apr-20	
Central Wisconsin	2	delete 1
Door County	1	
Duluth	27	delete 2
Green Bay	4	delete 1
Hiawatha Valley	2	
Madison	4	
Marinette-Menominee	4	delete 1
Milwaukee	3	
Minnetonka	15	add 2
Oshkosh	4	
St. Paul	3	
Totals	69	delete 3



District Treasurer

Ahoy from the D-10 Treasurer's Department !

We had a super time at the Spring Conference hosted by the Minnetonka Power Squadron.

The state of affairs at this time put a dampener on the number of members we would have liked to join in on the celebration and the first time doing both a District Change of Watch and a Squadron simultaneously.

Thanks to the Commander working with the hotel and the generous donations of some members, etc – We managed to come out better than expected financially.

Hopefully, we can all join together at the Fall Conference in Eau Claire and have some fun and camaraderie. If anyone has any questions about the finances or anything from the Treasurer of the District Please feel free to contact me anytime ☺

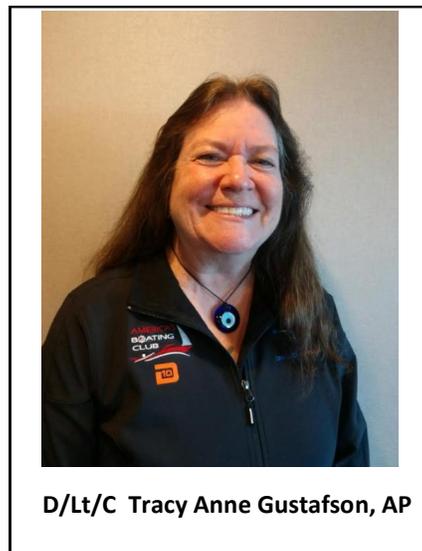
I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer !

Have a Safe and Enjoyable 2020 Boating Season ☺

Fraternally - D/Lt/C Tracy Gustafson, AP-IN

22 April 2020

"Never Regret The Things That Make You Smile !"



D/Lt/C Tracy Anne Gustafson, AP



Immediate Past District Commander

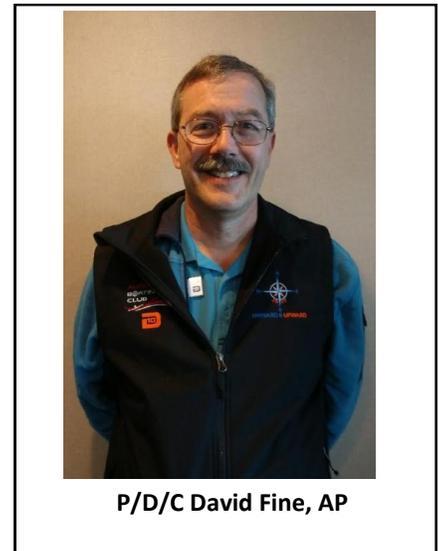
Hello D10!

Past District Commander Dave Fine here. Hard to believe my 2 years as your District Commander has come to a close. I want to thank each of you for all you have done and continue to do to make District 10 one of the best in the Nation. Our membership is strong, we have great civic and education programs, we have been on the leading edge of change for our organization, and on top of that we are also a very social and fun group! Speaking of fun, I want to thank all of you who were able to attend the Spring Conference which included a combined Change of Watch with Minnetonka. It was a great event and that format may be a model for future Spring Conferences. For those that had planned to attend but could not because of COVID-19, we definitely missed you, but completely understand your decision. It was an exceedingly difficult situation we were all facing. As I look back, things were changing very rapidly at the time. We went from all agreeing at the Council Meeting on Wednesday to “press on”, to facing many cancelations on Thursday and Friday, to giving serious consideration to cancel the event entirely. In the end it was a great weekend with all of us following the practices being recommended at the time by our local and national leaders. The “elbow bump” was adopted as the official greeting of the weekend which was a major challenge for D/C Kevco who in the words of Past Chief Commander Louie Ojeda, loves to “grip and grin”. I am very happy to report there were no illnesses reported.

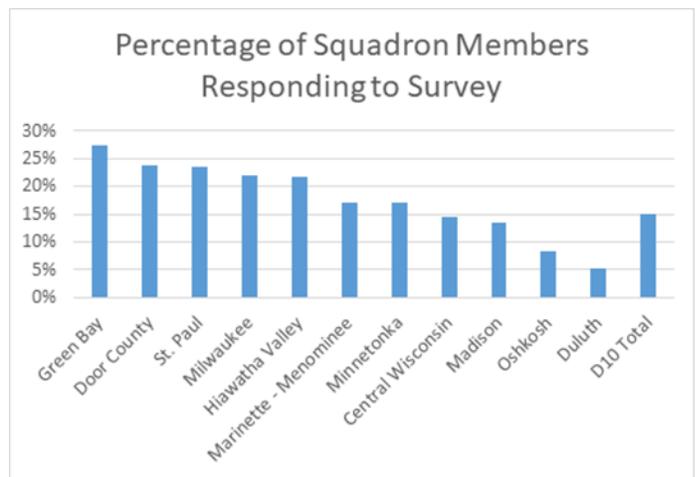
I wanted to give you a quick update on the D10 Task Force. You may recall that this was a team represented by all 11 D10 Squadrons that was chartered to “look at potential changes in our operations to free up resources to focus on positioning D10 for the future”. The team brainstormed the various issues facing our organization at the local, district, and national levels, worked to identify the root causes of those issues, and then prioritize the top items we felt we could positively impact. The result was a list of thirteen areas to work on. Six of those were focused on value proposition and retention of existing members, and seven focused on marketing to attract new members. We primarily tend to reach new members through education, so we are working through a process to get a grant from the National Education Fund, to help market and promote those classes and our squadrons. On the retention side, we decided to conduct a District wide survey to learn a little more about why our members joined, where they see value, and what we can do to better provide that value. The survey went to nearly 700 of our 900 members in early March and we had 135 responses (about 15% of our total membership). Thanks to each of you who responded!! Individual squadrons had a low of 5% and a high of 28% of their membership respond (see chart). As a result, we decided as a team to take one more run at getting feedback. On April 27, the survey went out to everyone who did not originally provide feedback. Please take the 10 minutes required to respond. We will use the data to determine ways we can make our squadron’s better and will share the results in future meetings and communications.

Once again, my personal thanks to all the great members of D10 for a wonderful run as your Commander. Now “Onward & Upward”!

P/D/C Dave Fine



P/D/C David Fine, AP





St. Paul Squadron



District 10

2020 Fall Conference

October 30 to November 1

METROPOLIS RESORT
Where the Fun Never Stops

5150 Fairview Drive | Eau Claire, WI
MetropolisResort.com
844-855-2724

From Lorch Ave, right on Fairview Dr.

ONLY RESORT IN EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

Have meetings, rest & relaxation, dining, and entertainment all under one roof.

ON-SITE RESORT ATTRACTIONS

Featuring Chaos Indoor Water Park and Action City Fun Center & Trampoline Park.

FULL SERVICE RESTAURANT & BAR

The Pub is open for breakfast & dinner, offers Happy Hour specials, and dishes up flame grilled burgers, wraps, salads, and more! Additional dining options are available in Action City.

ROOM SERVICE

Delicious meals off The Pub menu delivered right to your room when it is convenient for you.

COMPLIMENTARY WIFI

Wireless Internet is included in all meeting spaces & sleeping rooms. We have two 100 mbps fiber lines, and we can dedicate routers within meeting rooms.

ON-SITE AUDIO VISUAL

New projectors and house sound system with touch screen control panels.

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

Metropolis Resort is off of and visible from Interstate 94.

SPACIOUS RESORT PARKING

Free parking for all guests attending your event.

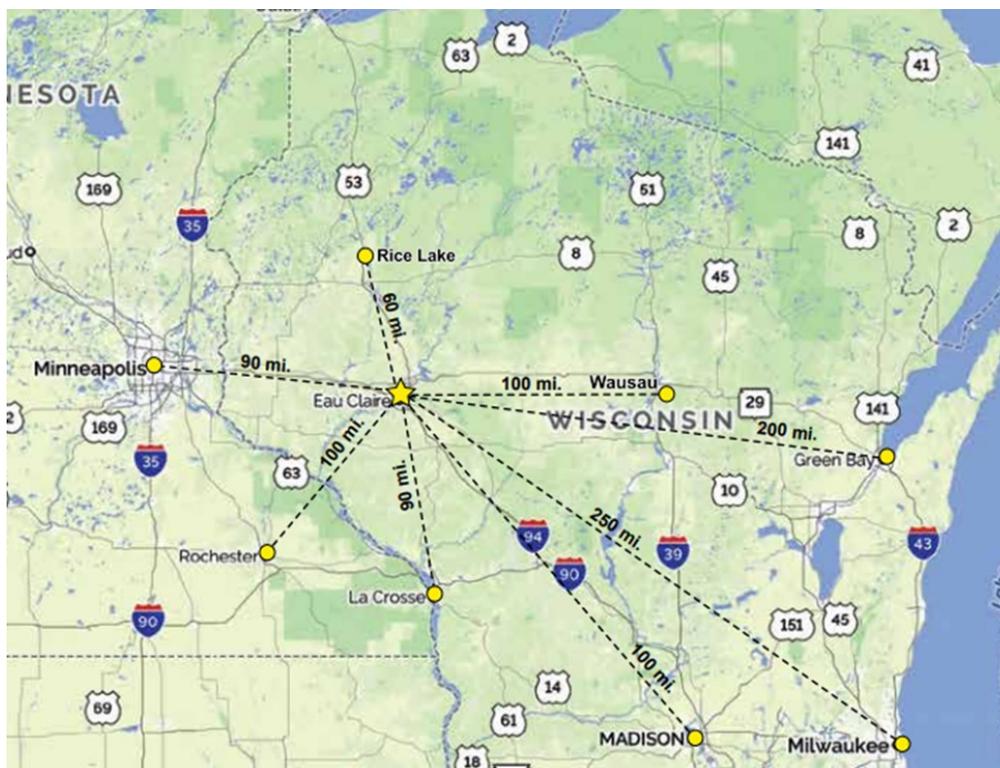
<https://www.metropolisresort.com>



St. Paul Squadron



Metropolis Resort



WE'RE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Milwaukee, WI 250 miles	Green Bay, WI 200 miles
Rochester, MN 100 miles	Madison, WI 100 miles
Wausau, WI 100 miles	Minneapolis, MN 90 miles
La Crosse, WI 90 miles	Rice Lake, WI 60 miles
Marinette, WI 230 miles	

Duluth Sail & Power Squadron



Corn Roast

*September 4 through 7
Saddle Up and Ride-on Out to the
Squadron Dock for a
Country Western Themed Weekend*



Friday, September 4

6:00 pm Open Grill and Bonfire

Saturday, September 5

8:00—10 am Commander's Omelet Breakfast

8:30—11 am Bloody Mary Bar/Screw Ups

Noon Dinghy Run

6:00 pm Shrimp Boil

7:30—12:00 Line Dance Party, Bonfire and S'mores

Sunday, September 6

8:00 —10:00 am Pancake/French Toast Breakfast

1:00—3:00pm Kids Games / Volleyball & Bags Tournament

5:00 pm Corn Roast Dinner

8:00pm Stompin boots to the music of Aftershock

Monday, September 7

8:00 am Coffee and Rolls

8:30 am Clean up

Purchase one wristband that will admit you to all four meals!

Adults \$TBD

Children 12 & under \$TBD

Family of 5 \$TBD

Individual meal wristbands

will be available. \$TBD

Wristbands will be required for all meals.



Come by horse and buggy, boat, outrigger, truck, car, motor home, bike, etc.

Just make sure to come! Everyone is Welcome!

Bring your friends and family for a fun-filled weekend.

Questions?

Contact Cdr Chad Lowney (218) 341-9142



DAN BOATER



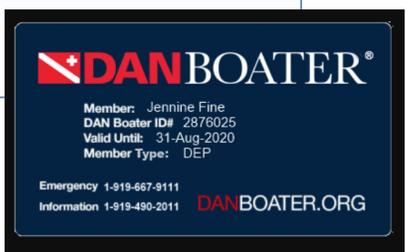
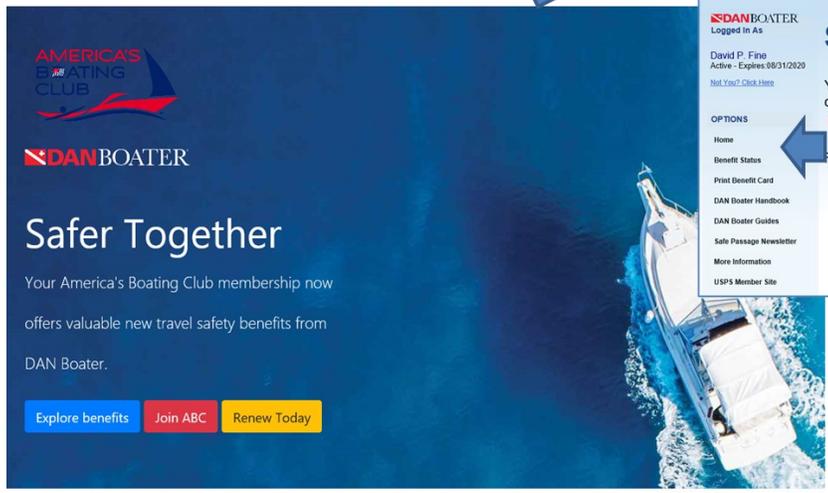
The Dan Boater organization became a partner with America's Boating Club and an MOU was signed. Dan Boater provides medical assistance to their members whenever they become ill or are injured while traveling more than 51 miles from home up to and including worldwide.

Check out their WEB site at www.danboater.org/abc. As of October 8, each and every member of America's Boating Club will be enrolled in the Dan Boater program. The cost for the first year is "0", "NADA" "FREE"! After the first year, America's Boating Club Members will have \$25 added to their dues to continue this coverage. It is for your entire family. If you do not wish to continue with it, you will have the opportunity to opt out. This insurance is far and away the least expensive insurance of this type available anywhere. This is a truly wonderful member benefit and we are lucky to have it. One other thing, the reason Dan Boater came to us is because of our educational opportunities. They were considering opening their own educational department when they discovered us. Thank about that for a minute.

17

News From National

- Dan Boater – Development Program Manager (Ursula) addressed DC/DXO meeting
- If you did not opt out, you are enrolled
- Benefits card - https://www.usps.org/DANBoater/DBLogin.php?ret_link=%2FDANBoater%2FGetCard.php&type=notLogged
- USPS DAN Boater page - <https://www.usps.org/DANBoater/dbindex.php>
- Benefits description – <https://danboater.org/abc/>
- At your next renewal per family, \$25





Help Wanted !!! – District 10 is looking for people interested in taking on a role at the District level. Key needs are:

- ⇒ Membership Chair
- ⇒ Assistant Secretary
- ⇒ Audit Committee Member
- ⇒ Nominating Committee Members—Duluth & M&M
- ⇒ Nominating Committee Alternate Members — Duluth & Milwaukee
- ⇒ Publications Editor

D-10 Staff

District Commander	D/C Kevin Wehrmann, S	kevin@anchorconstructionanddesign.co
District Educational Officer	D/Lt/C Wesley D. Koplitz, AP	wkoplitz@aol.com
District Executive Officer	D/Lt/C Chad Lowney, AP	lowney.chad@gmail.com
District Administrative Officer	D/Lt/C Bernadette Dohr, AP	berniedohr@charter.net
District Secretary	D/Lt/C Jennine Fine	jennine.fine@gmail.com
District Treasurer	D/Lt/C Tracy Anne Gustafson, AP	gustag13@live.com
Immediate Past District Commander	P/D/C David Fine, AP	davefine2@gmail.com
District Webmaster	D/Lt Leo Loeb, SN	leo@leoloeb.com
Publications Editor	D/Lt/C Jennine Fine	jennine.fine@gmail.com

Jennine Fine
D10 Secretary
27740 Brynmawr Place
Excelsior, MN 55331

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Excelsior, MN
55331