



*Helmsman August 2024  
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# The Peralta Helmsman

[www.peraltasquadron.org](http://www.peraltasquadron.org)

## iMIS Report

There has been talk about a new information management system at ABC | USPS Headquarters that is intended to make the organization more efficient in the handling of information. iMIS by Advanced Solutions International (ASI) is a cloud-based software designed to help non-profit organizations manage volunteers, fundraisers, donors, and more on a unified platform. The built-in contact management system enables professionals to capture and store contact details, addresses, and demographic information for members, organizations, or groups.

The migration to the iMIS system is underway and is expected to be online sometime during the second week of July, however that date appears to have moved back. In the meantime, the following services will remain unavailable on the USPS Member site:

**See iMIS on Page 3**

*The Peralta Sail and Power Squadron is one of four Northern California Squadrons in District 25*

### Also in this Issue:

- Messages from our Commander and Bridge Officers
- America's Boating Channel explains the Difference Between Boating Knowledge Versus Skill
- Cruising Under Power and Sail
- Cruise Ship Tour of Scandinavia
- Our Journey to London and Scandinavia
- Photo Remembrances
- Activity Calendar

## Educational Officer's Report

R/C NORM PENNINGTON, SN-ON



### HOW TO USE A GPS CHARTPLOTTER

Know where you are and where you are going using GPS. Learn how to use GPS, select and use GPS devices, and apply GPS to your navigational

needs.

Boaters need the most reliable location and position information available, which makes getting the most out of your Global Positioning System pretty important. Learn how to use waypoints, build and execute routes, and monitor progress. Learn to interpret location information and tracking data, and get an overview of how GPS integrates with your boat's electronic systems. Explore what features you need and how to arrange your display. Also get tips on connecting your GPS to your VHF marine radio, which opens up a new world of digital hailing and distress signaling.

The GPS Seminar is available in the classroom as well as online. <https://uspsonline.enrolmart.com/courses/how-to-use-gps>

## How to Use a GPS Chartplotter Seminar Presenter Guide



**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB**  
For Boaters. By Boaters®

### California Boater Card

Did you know that the California Boater Card (CBC), is required for every boat operator 45-years and younger? However, starting in January 2023 the age was increased to 50-years and younger. Additionally, every boat operator regardless of age supervising a child 12 to 15-years of age must have the CBC. You ask, who is checking if one has a CBC? I'm told that state and local authorities such as the county sheriff is checking when stopping a boat for safety compliance. The Coast Guard may or may not check as they are more concerned with compliance with Coast Guard regulations. One way to qualify for a CBC is to have taken the America's Boating Course after January 2018. As your squadron educational officer I am prepared to present the America's Boating Course to members at a very small cost to cover mailing of materials. Presentation of the course will be via Free Conference Call, so members will not need to travel to the classroom. Drop Norm a line if you are interested. Remember, the first offence for not having the California Boater Card is a \$100 fine.

**Apply Now!**



## iMIS Report (Continued from Page 1)

Making member dues payments

Generating Dues notices

Updating member information, including street addresses and email addresses.

Updating class and seminar completions

Adding new members

Transferring members between squadrons

Once the first phase of the iMIS implementation is completed the above functions will be made available. We are sure that there will be a learning curve as features are rolled out. In a later phase, educational functions including a new course examination tool will be added to iMIS.

### America's Boating Channel™

#### Explains the Difference Between Boating Knowledge Versus Skills

Think about it: knowledge is theory and skills put knowledge into practical practice. It requires a combination to become a better boater.

This is brought home through the Knowledge Versus Skills (<https://youtu.be/6Fi2A8b4cC0>) video that covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers also learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities and the pitfalls to avoid in boater education.

Knowledge doesn't mean you're good at boating, but it can help you more easily and safely develop boating skills that must be practiced on the water. Concepts, principles, and information about boating can be

learned

through reading, studying, and observing. The ability to plan, depart, anchor, dock, and perform other boat maneuvers is mastered through experience.

Videos like this one can kick-start a classroom presentation. Follow the video link above or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find this and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.



In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. America's Boating Channel™ is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

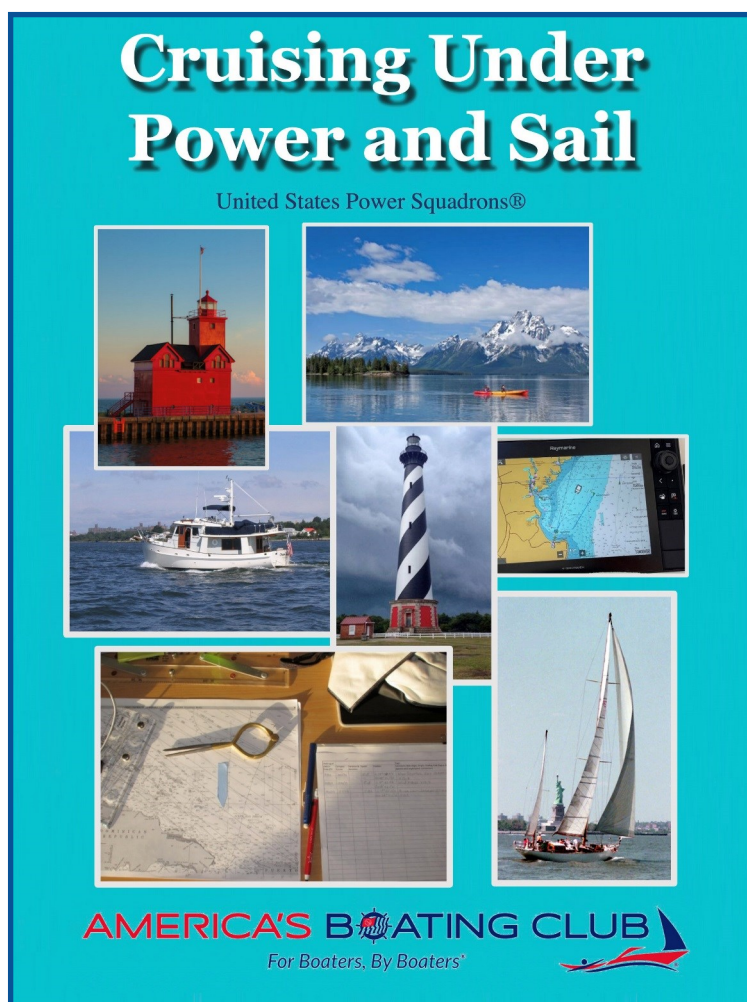


## Cruising Under Power and Sail

Although the details of cruising differ for coastal and inland boating, the planning process is similar. The basics that boaters need to know for coastal cruising also apply to lake and river boating. This course covers the overall preparation and process for cruising in the sixteen chapters with an anticipated course length of eight 2 to 2-1/2-hour sessions. The 8th session is for class presentation of the cruise planning exercise. The course may be taught in person or instructor led synchronously online using conferencing applications such as Zoom. The course could be divided into more sessions if you have the class time available.

The best way to summarize what this course covers is to look at the sixteen-chapter headings listed below. The authors have attempted to cover the full range of topics that a cruiser would need to address.

- Chapter 1 – Preparing to Cruise
- Chapter 2 – A Boat for Cruising
- Chapter 3 – Propulsion & Electrical Systems
- Chapter 4 – Vessel Subsystems
- Chapter 5 – Electronics & Navigation
- Chapter 6 – Communications
- Chapter 7 – Safety Equipment
- Chapter 8 – Security
- Chapter 9 – Anchors & Anchoring
- Chapter 10 – Weather for Boaters
- Chapter 11 – Crew Selection
- Chapter 12 – Provisioning & Meals
- Chapter 13 – Boat Emergencies
- Chapter 14 – Medical Emergencies
- Chapter 15 – Chartering
- Chapter 16 – Crossing Borders



The student manual includes eleven appendices and five supplements: Cruising in the Intracoastal Waterway, Great Lakes, Inland Rivers and Lakes, Pacific Northwest, and Special Navigation such as harbors, inlets and overfalls, bridges, locks, and dams.

The new Cruising Under Power and Sail (CUPS) course is now available in beta edition. The course Student Manual is available in eBook format, and may be ordered by contacting your Squadron Educational Officer, Me!



*Our Trip to London and a Cruise Ship Tour of Scandinavia**R/C Norm Pennington, SN-ON*

Regular readers of the Peralta Helmsman know that Judy and I are regular travelers aboard cruise ships, which are predominately on Celebrity Cruise Lines. Some who cruise with us like to be on a cruise where the ship generally cruises at night and enters port in the early morning for a day's tour of the local sites. Judy and I actually prefer those long ocean crossings where we are out of sight of land for several days such as in a crossing of the Atlantic from Florida to a port in Europe. These are generally known as a repositing cruise, where the cruise line is moving a ship from a winter cruising destination to a summer destination.

Our travels have taken us across world oceans, and several seas. We have crossed Equator, the International Date Line and the Prime Meridian. I can say that I have straddled the Prime Meridian, with one foot in the Eastern Hemisphere and the other in the Western Hemisphere. Many have asked us if the ocean is very rough way out in the ocean? Quite the contrary, at least the time of year and where we have sailed. I would say roughest water is along the California Coast out of San Francisco heading to Vancouver, Washington. Another area that can be rough is along the European Continent from Portugal heading towards the English Channel.

This year we set our sights on going back to England followed by a 12-day cruise around Scandinavia. Our Secretary, Barbara Waldstreicher provided another one of her excellent poems describing our journey in this publication.

Our next cruise will be through the Panama Canal and is scheduled for April 2025 aboard the Celebrity Summit. Our first cruise through the canal was aboard the Celebrity Infinity, sistership to the Summit back in April 2010. These ships are the oldest in the fleet, and are the smallest of the big fleet with a capacity of about 2,200 passengers. This cruise will depart the port of Ft. Lauderdale and will end in San Diego. Once again, Judy Ireland and Betsy Vetter will be accompanying us on this cruise. Besides the excitement of traveling through the canal zone, which takes a day, there are ports of interest on the Caribbean side of the canal as well as up the coast of Central America and Mexico.

View of passing through the locks in the Panama Canal from our ship back in 2010

With the exception of the photograph of the Vasa on Page 10, all other photographs courtesy of Dick Folger, Judy and Norm Pennington. Course and seminar images used with permission from ABC|USPS.



### What is ahead on the Calendar:

<b>Aug 12</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>
7:00 p.m.	All members welcome via Zoom
<b>Sept 9</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>
7:00 p.m.	All members welcome via Zoom
<b>Sept 24-29</b>	<b>ABC   USPS</b>
	<b>Governing Board Meeting</b>
	Pittsburgh, PA
<b>Sept 28</b>	<b>Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association</b>
	<b>Margot Brown Wheelchair Regatta</b>
<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>America's Boating Course</b>
7:00 p.m.	All members welcome via Free ConferenceCall

### Member's Corner

#### Welcome New Member

**Margaret "Maggie" Hallahan.** Maggie is a resident of San Francisco, is SF Sea Scout Leader, has a 55' Blue-water powerboat and is an Outrigger Canoe Community president. She is also friends of Gary and Bonnie Rogers of the San Joaquin Delta Squadron and has an OUPV Six-Pack Captain's License.

#### Birthday Wishes for the remainder of 2024:

Dick Folger	6/14
Mary Pack	6/20
Josette Mares	6/23
George Patrikeyev	6/27
Barbara Waldstreicher	7/25
Alan Smith	7/27
Nick Pack	8/2
Maria Spracklen	8/11
Rick Erickson	9/23
Barbara Maylon	10/7
David Jackson	10/15
Victor Maylon	10/23
Sue Holmes	10/26
Jay Spracklen	11/25
Janis Chapman	11/29
Eric Holmes	12/1
Norm Pennington	12/21
Ricardo Mares	12/26
Vickie Erickson	12/30

A warm welcome to Maggie, and best wishes to those celebrating birthdays for the remainder of the year. Special Wishes go to Dick Folger who recently celebrated his 90th Birthday.

## 2024-25 Bridge

### Commander:

Cdr Nicholas J. Pack, JN

### Executive Officer:

Lt/C Ricardo L. Mares, P

### Educational Officer:

R/C Norm Pennington, SN-ON

### Administrative Officer:

Lt/C Alan Smith, P

### Secretary:

Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher, JN

### Treasurer:

D/Lt/C Judy Pennington, P

### Assist Educational Officer:

1st/Lt Rick Erickson, SN-IN

### General Committees

#### Auditing

P/C Janis K. Chapman, AP

Susan Ann Holmes, S

P/Lt/C Fred Holmes, AP

#### Nominating

P/Lt/C Josette Mares, S

P/Lt/C Vickie Erickson, JN

#### Rules

R/C Norman W. Pennington, SN-ON

Lt/C Alan Smith, P

Lt/C Ricardo L. Mares, P

For all inquiries contact the editor listed below

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## OUR JOURNEY TO LONDON AND SCANDINAVIA

Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher, JN

It felt like a long time coming for May 22, 2024 to finally arrive  
And our lives to be adventurous, free, wild and ready to thrive.

The flight to London was smooth with no hitches

Upon landing, the hike to baggage claim and looking for the bus driver were a few only glitches.

We were exhausted when we got to the hotel, however many of the rooms were not completed  
So, Judy Ireland and Betsy Venters went to the bar, had a drink and stayed seated.

An early night was pretty much had by all

Unfortunately, Dick Folger took a tumble and Vickie Erickson was locked in the bathroom stall.

The next day began with everyone waiting for Barb to begin  
the Stonehenge tour

Luckily, we all made it to the train station on time, rest assured.

To see those ancient rocks in the middle of that field  
Lie many secrets that may never be revealed.



That night for dinner we had traditional food and drink from a  
local pub

And had fun conversation with a group of businessmen while we ate our grub.

The hotel was comfortable with a location in a good place

And shout out to Betsy for a generous space.



The 2nd day had the Pennington's and Erickson's making their way  
to Greenwich to get their fix

And Judy, Betsy and Barb took the hop on/off bus and boat cruise  
to get their pics.

That night the Folgers and Barb took in the night life with music  
and song

With Michael Jackson in the theatre, we did not go wrong.

The next day had Rick attempting to get to King's Cross

However, his trek was for naught due to the bike race and was a loss.

Vickie and Judy P. ventured to Harrod's Department Store where they shopped

To replace Vickie's teapot that was dropped.

Barb taxied and walked the detour to the Churchill Museum from the war  
Where she learned about the history and inner workings of the rooms from before.

The Mares' met up with our group for dinner at our hotel

Our loud and boisterous group was now complete and ready to excel.

In the morning the Mares' met the group for the next phase of the trip

We were finally on our way to Southampton and the Apex ship.

It was a smooth embarkation, had lunch and waited to set sail  
Martinis, dinner, gambling and an opera singer show the first  
night did entail.





## OUR JOURNEY TO LONDON AND SCANDINAVIA

Article Continued from Page 7

We made it to Copenhagen on day number three  
Where Barb and the Mares' met up with family.  
What an experience to see relatives in a land far from our own  
Where the currency is called the Swedish Krone.

Barb and Betsy took the metro and train to Malmö, Sweden which was ideal  
Where they met Hava, Barb's niece, and enjoyed a walking tour and traditional Swedish meal.  
The Mares' were picked up by Ricardo's aunt where they toured the country and spent the night  
In the family country home, they caught up on the family site.

Then another sea day brought Judy P. more rest and relaxation and time in the casino  
Where she was in her happy place along with drinking her cappuccino.  
We ate breakfast and lunch in the Oceanview Cafe on the starboard side  
There was a variety and plenty of food which they did provide.

The itinerary continued in Helsinki, Finland with interesting sites  
We saw many churches, old buildings and the Olympic stadium, which was nice.  
On to Tallinn, Estonia which is a quaint old city with cobblestone  
And awarded a UNESCO World Heritage Site and world renown.

Cruising in to Stockholm, Sweden which was the next port of call  
Many of us were reminded of the San Juan Islands, which we did recall.  
The Vasa Museum was very interesting, regarding the wooden ship that sunk  
And the explanation of the vessel which was initially a junk.

Visby Gotland, Sweden is a former Viking city and another UNESCO World Heritage Site  
Awarded best preserved city in Scandinavia - another highlight.  
The protective walls, cobblestone streets and buildings were a site to see  
That was a consensus of our group, which we all did agree.

Skagen (Skane) Denmark was the last stop on our incredible cruise  
Which revealed interesting smells, migrating dunes and beautiful views.  
It is located in Jutland, at the northernmost point  
And is a fishing town, mainly herring, and did not disappoint.

The nightly routine was meeting at the Martini bar at five  
And answering Judy's daily question once we all did arrive.  
From there to the dinner table, to gambling and some to the shows  
Where the piano, singing, music, illusionist and Beatles entertained like pros.

No sizable luck was had with our group at the Deal or No Deal game  
Vickie and Betsy were the only ones to receive a small monetary claim.

Three Card Poker was the table game of choice  
Where Betsy and Bonnie continue to rejoice.



Article Continues on Page 9

## OUR JOURNEY TO LONDON AND SCANDINAVIA

Article Continued from Page 8

At each port, the best magnet was searched for to remember the place  
So, our memories, in our minds, would not erase.

The wait staff in the Tuscan and Martini Bar were over the top  
The service was beyond measure and never did stop.

The conversations at the dinner table never ceased  
Except when we were eating our mealtime feast.  
One conversation took up the entire meal and then some  
Was the movie production and quotes from the entertainment alum.

It is unsure who actually won the game  
And have the title of the best napkin ring holder roller to claim.  
However, as time went on with the learning curve  
Everyone improved, we all did observe.

An emotional ceremony was performed for the anniversary of D-Day by the crew  
Which was attended by passengers and staff — much more than a few.  
Our crazy group sang Christmas and banana songs everywhere we went  
The spontaneous singing was always quite an event.

The overall highlight for the group was enjoying and being together and the new and continued relationships

And looking forward to getting together on future trips.  
Our appreciation, once again, to Judy, our travel agent extraordinaire  
Who made it so we could completely enjoy ourselves without a care?

Our long-awaited trip finally ends  
The anticipation was well worth being in the company of great friends.  
Looking forward to the next trip, wherever it may be  
To continue our conversations and relationships, we all agree.





## PHOTOS FROM OUR JOURNEY TO LONDON AND SCANDINAVIA

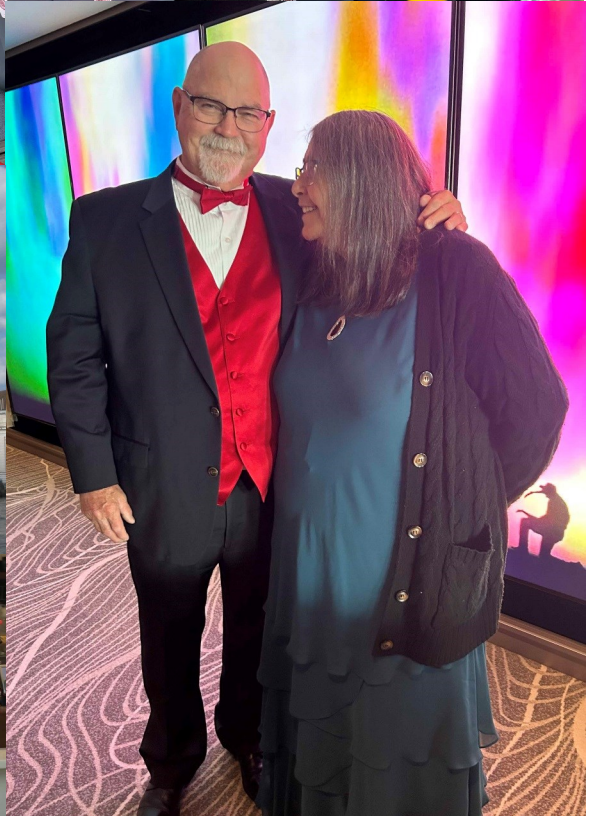


The ship Vasa in the Vasa Museum. Photo: Karolina Kristensson, the Vasa Museum/SMT





## MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR JOURNEY TO LONDON AND SCANDINAVIA





## THE PERALTA HELMSMAN

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# Commander's Comments



The summer boating season is with us regardless if you are boating on a lake, rivers, bays, or the ocean. The idea is to stay safe by wear-

ing your life jacket as well as all of your guests and pets too. Before you venture out, make sure to get a free vessel safety check (VSC). Having a VSC will build confidence that your boat conforms to all safety regulations as having the proper number of life jackets, fire extinguishers, functioning navigational lights and signals, proper registration or documentation, and the bilge is clear of oil or debris.

The United States Power Squadrons® has officially changed its name to Americas Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons®. The impact on the name of the Peralta Sail and Power Squadron will be minor language changes to our newsletter and our website?

Time is close for everyone operating a boat needs to have a California Boater Card (CBC) with them while underway. The procedure to obtain your CBC is to have taken a NASBLA approved safe boating course and passing the examination. Then it is a simple matter to apply for your lifetime CBC from <https://californiaboatercard.com/>



## Navigation Center

United States Coast Guard  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Did you know that the United States Coast Guard Navigation Center provides a whole host of Maritime Safety Information for mariners. Items include Local Notices to Mariners, Light Lists, Automatic Identification System (AIS), Navigation Rules, Vessel Traffic Services and others. Follow this link to reach the Navigation Center: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/maritime-safety-information>

