



*Helmsman June 2025
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The Peralta Helmsman

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The question of insurance is on the mind of many individuals regardless of it is for automobiles, homeowners, life, boat or fire. Insurers generally weigh the risks involved and if they are willing to cover the risk, will establish their rates accordingly in compliance with state law as applicable. In all cases, they are required to build reserves to cover future losses. Obviously, the greater the risk, the higher the premium. In some cases, if the risks are exceedingly high, the insurance carrier may choose to vacate that market such as been seen in the state of California in regards to homeowners fire coverage in high-risk areas of the state.

Within the United States Power Squadrons | America's Boating Club we have seen a lot of recent changes in regards to the insurability of many of the activities that we routinely perform. These changes involve properly documenting our activities such as meetings, social events, educational activities such as classes and on the water training and certification.

On the water activities, though insurable, must comply with established curriculum and performed by qualified individuals. Qualification includes being a certified trainer or certifier, fit within age limitations and pass a background check. On the water activities will also require that each student sign a waiver and release form.

See Insurance on Page 2

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
- Our Journey to and through the Panama Canal
- Preview of the new Inland Boating Course
- Activity Calendar
- Member's Corner

Educational Officer's Report

R/C NORM PENNINGTON, SN-ON



Inland Boating Course

The Inland Boating course (IB) is currently in progress. The topics covered include the definition of inland boating, cruise planning, charts, weather, navigation rules and aids, river boating (with a detailed discussion of commercial traffic operations), the Automatic Identification System, locking through (featuring a new 5-minute video), bridges, lake boating, human-powered vessels, and transporting your vessel.

The course addresses the essentials of boating on inland rivers and lakes (excluding the Great Lakes) in the United States. Inland rivers, also known as the U.S. Western Rivers or the Inland Waterway System, provide navigable waters from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

Boating on inland waters can involve various

time frames for cruise planning. For day trips, it may involve checking a new launch ramp and the weather. For those preparing for a three-week vacation, winter months may be spent gathering information to finalize their plan.

The course is planned to be offered as an elective with multiple seminars. Successful completion of all seminars (either by attending the classes or testing out) will earn the student the IB grade. The projected release date of the Beta version is the Fall Governing Board meeting in 2025.

Engine Maintenance Course

The Engine Maintenance course is undergoing modification to include calling it the Marine Propulsion Systems (MPS) Course: Currently, some progress has been made at generating a first draft of the manuscript. However, because of the sweeping nature of this update, work on seminars for Outboard Motors and Diesel Motors has been put on hold so that they can be better integrated into the revised course. I have been really looking forward to seeing the Diesel Motors seminar to help me with the engines in my boat.

Insurance (Continued from Page 1)

Additionally, venues such as for classes and social activities that are chosen must be documented prior to the event. In some cases, we may need to acquire an individual policy through reputable online source to cover those risks that are not covered by the national policy.

We still have many questions that deserve answers with a program that national is still working out the kinks in the application approval processes. In the meantime we will have some type of insurance coverage albeit, coverage under the national policy, venue coverage such as a restaurant or similar establishment, or a separate policy that we may need to acquire on our own. Somewhat related is insurance coverage for when and where classes are taught.

In the meantime to learn more, visit this link: <https://www.usps.org/departments/16000/16000-insurance/16000-squadron-district-event-insurance>

June 9	Executive Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.	All members welcome via Zoom
July 7	Executive Committee Meeting -
	No Meeting July
July 26	Possible District 25 Picnic
	Venue to be determined
August 11	Executive Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.	All members welcome via Zoom
Sept 1-7	ABC USPS
	Governing Board Meeting
	Grand Rapids, MI
Sept 8	Executive Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m.	All members welcome via Zoom

Member's Corner

Welcome New Member s

Luther "Lu" Abel and his wife Diane Nelson. Lu is a resident of Alameda and is a member of the Ballena Bay Yacht Club. Lu and Diane come to us from the recently retired Santa Clara Power Squadron. Lu was previously a member of the Minute Man Power Squadron in District 12, and the Susquehannock Sail & Power Squadron in District 5. Lu was the Squadron Educational Officer in Santa Clara, and is also Past District Commander in our District.

Birthday Wishes for the first half of 2025:

George A. Zdasiuk	01/02
John M. Chapman	01/13
Arthur J. Harriman	01/31
Jonathan A. Zdasiuk	02/15
Margaret Hallahan	03/17
Julie Fouquet	03/23
Lilley E. Yee	03/31
Mike A. Holmes	06/01
Richard L. Folger	06/14
Mary L. Pack	06/20
Luther C. Abel	06/23
Josette V. Mares	06/23
George Patrikeyev	06/27

2024-25 Bridge

Commander:

Cdr Vickie Erickson, JN

Executive Officer:

Lt/C Nicholas J. Pack, JN

Educational Officer:

R/C Norm Pennington, SN-ON

Administrative Officer:

Lt/C Alan Smith, P

Secretary:

Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher, JN

Treasurer:

Lt/C Janis K. Chapman, AP

Assist Educational Officer:

1st/Lt Rick Erickson, SN-IN

General Committees

Auditing

Susan Ann Holmes, S
P/Lt/C Fred Holmes, AP

Nominating

P/Lt/C Josette Mares, S

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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JUDY PENNINGTON'S MEMORIAL CRUISE - PANAMA CANAL APRIL 17 TO MAY 3, 2025 - BY BARBARA WALDSTREICHER

We waited patiently for a year for April 16th to finally come
Around Northern California and Las Vegas we descended from.
After initial conversations abounded on our first meet up
Dinner at the sports bar and off to bed to anticipate our morning wake up.

Norm was the last traveler, arrived late Wednesday night
Where Judy Ireland, Barb and Rick greeted him to confirm he made it with a safe flight.
A leisurely breakfast then 10:30 shuttle to the ship
With a smooth embarkation to begin our trip.

The daily evening martini meeting began in the Rendezvous Bar
Where we heard music and singing by a duet with a guitar.
The Cosmopolitan Restaurant was the main dining room for the dinner meal
Where we met our servers Jeyrold and Craig and Sommelier, Rodel, who were ideal.

A leisurely wake up for the first sea day
We met on the starboard side for breakfast in the buffet.
Some listened to lectures, looked for watches and others tested their trivial smarts and the evening entertainment was a piano player playing to our hearts.

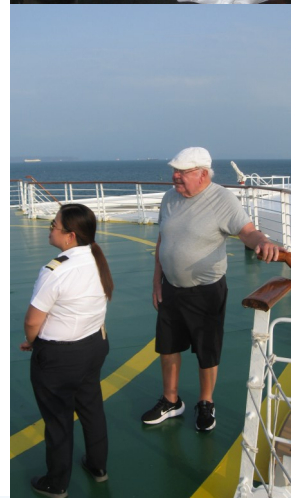
Anticipation was building the next morning at breakfast for the turtle adventure
Where the Ericksons and Bonnie went on a joint venture.
When they returned, the excitement in their voices was plain to hear That is was a highlight excursion and extraordinary premiere.

That night some went to the theatre to hear a comedian perform
While others went to hear music from Motown and to trivial brainstorm.
Barb put down a ceremonial bet in the casino for Judy Pennington's luck to shine on her throughout the trip to gain many a buck.

Easter came with many people wearing rabbit ears on their head
Smiles and good cheer and lots of Easter wishes were spread.
Betsy played the Easter Bunny, handing out chocolate eggs to the crew
Which brought them big smiles and eyes that lit up and grew.

We next arrived in Cartagena, Columbia, our next port
Where the Ericksons, Norm and Folgers saw the old fort.
We all had an awesome steak dinner at the Tuscan Restaurant that night
We ate so much tasty food that we could not eat another bite.

The entertainment that night was a Cabaret show that featured Broadway songs
That had everyone belting out familiar sing-a-longs.
Some went to the adult encore comedian show
Where the response was mixed for his solo.



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JUDY PENNINGTON'S MEMORIAL CRUISE - PANAMA CANAL

Next port was Colon, Panama, which sits on the Caribbean coast at the Atlantic entrance to the waterway
Where half of us went to learn about the expansion of the present and future locks as the take away.

For dinner, the group split specialty restaurants for which to dine

The Tuscan menu was the same however Le Petite Chef was an immersive experience product line.

The entertainment was a magician whose sleight of hand and tricks were feats of illusion That left us all in a state of confusion.
At this point in our adventure, we were all commenting about how relaxed we had become and could definitely continue forever with unlimited income.

The next morning, we woke up to the highlight of the cruise
Where we staked out our positions for the optimal visual views.
Some of us were fulfilling bucket list memories to forever hold
While others were having an experience that never gets old.

After a relaxing sea day, we arrived in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, early the next day
Where Norm and the Ericksons had breakfast on the starboard side in the buffet.
Their excursion was another destination highlight by land and boat
Where they took in the local culture, scenery and animals, to note.

Judy, Bonnie and Barb went to the local craft market at the end of the pier
To see and purchase Judy's recommendation for the handmade keychain gear.
Several of the group went to the helipad to witness the sail away
Which was the perfect ending to another enjoyable day.

Afterwards, some went to the show to hear a comic on a unicycle entertain
While others went to the casino hoping for monetary gain.
We thank Judy for getting to the Rendezvous Lounge early for our cocktail hour
and securing our spot
And her efforts in putting together our trivia game and gifts that she bought.

The next day was a sea day when we re-grouped and chilled
and at night went back to the Tuscan Restaurant where our bellies were once
again fulfilled.

It was another Chic night where we dressed to impress
With no one showing any signs of undue stress.

Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, was where the Ericksons excursion to Antigua to
experience the sites
Had bumpy bus rides that did not go down as comfortable highlights.
The rest of the group remained on the ship or perused the shops at the end of the
pier
Before the ship set sail with the captain's command of "all clear".



Article continued on Page 6

JUDY PENNINGTON'S MEMORIAL CRUISE - PANAMA CANAL

The Ericksons contributed to the economy and purchased some jade
They each picked some jewelry for which they paid.
The sax player in the theatre that night was enjoyable to listen to Barb and Judy heard the music to mentally renew.

The next two sea days were smoother and totally laid back
Norm and Rick kept checking their apps to confirm the ship's track.
There were two times an Erickson phone was misplaced
Luckily both phones were eventually traced.

The officers meet and greet party was attended by the Ericksons and Judy to do their schmoozing
It was here where our group increased in size with Cathy joining our cruising.
The Ericksons attended a steak class where they pan fired and grilled
The perfect piece of meat they touted and so thrilled.

Judy and Barb went to the Rock and Roll show where songs were sung from decades ago
Then on to the Abba sing-a-long which was fun, loud and packed elbow to elbow.
Barb was the second to get a massage while on our sail
And joined Bonnie for the experience which did not fail.

Judy, Betsy and Barb reserved cabins for next year's planned cruise
For an itinerary with Turkey, Greece and Italian historical views.
Judy and Barb went to the next show featuring a Broadway singer from the Jersey Boys Who encouraged the audience to sing
60's decade songs with beautiful noise.

Before the ship arrived in Mazatlán, the rest of the group booked their cabins for next year's trip
For an extraordinary itinerary on the Celebrity Ascent cruise ship.
The Ericksons and Norm took the shuttle to the shops
Where Vickie was able to fulfill her wish to drink her Mexican beer with hops.

We watched the Celebrity Summit cast off from the Mazatlán port and sail away
From our daily Happy Hour spot in the Rendezvous Lounge without delay.
At dinner Rick presented Jeyrold with a magnet from our Table 226 group
He was so honored and danced when receiving it before delivering our soup.

We continued to enjoy the camaraderie with the guy's table next to us
From their entrance greetings to the times, we did discuss.
Judy and Barb attended the theatre show highlighting the "Greatest Divas of Dance"
songs Her fantastic voice, ongoing energy and upbeat personality led the audience in different sing-alongs.



JUDY PENNINGTON'S MEMORIAL CRUISE - PANAMA CANAL

Article Continued from Page 6

Judy and Betsy attended many of the trivia contests, occasionally with additional aid. Many times, their total correct answers were respectably played.

Several of our group could be heard singing throughout the ship in elevators and dining room. Wherever they felt like singing about bananas or Christmas, they would resume.

Friday night dinners we celebrated Shabbat with Barb leading us in the prayers over the candles, bread and wine. Before we began our orders and were served our food to dine.

The days seemed to go fast even though they did not seem constructive. Lying or sitting around, reading, napping, Cafe al Bacio appeared to be productive.

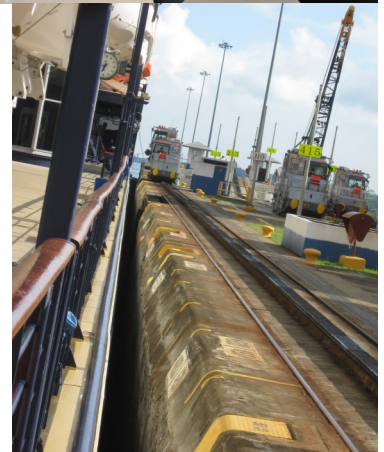
The Chic night dinner was a special one that most of us had anticipated for. Our lobster dinner was finally here and we did not have to wait any more. We did the obligatory group photo along with our servers and the guy's table next to us. And we even did a sing-a-long banana song with the guys, which was certainly a plus.

Judy and Barb went to hear the comedy and vocals of the Rebels second Rock and Roll show. Unfortunately, the rest of the group missed out as they decided not to go. The Queen sing-a-long was next in the Sky Lounge which was fun. As was the music afterward with the dance floor packed with everyone.

Judy Pennington's spirit was with us all throughout the trip. With memories of food, discussions, games and locations around the ship. She was extremely missed by our group of eight. I'm sure she was following us, smiling, looking down from the Pearly Gate.

What an awesome time and experience we each have all had. From the friendships, camaraderie, lightheartedness, excursions and the helipad. We once again thank Judy for her extraordinary service and keeping us on track. She makes it look effortless and definitely has the knack.

Winding down on the concluding day was leisurely and quiet. And the last day to remain completely off our diet. Til next cruise to Turkey, Italy and Greece. Blessings to all to stay healthy with continued peace. .



THE PERALTA HELMSMAN

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Commander's Comments



Ahoy,

It is an honor and pleasure to serve as the commander of the Peralta Sail & Power Squadron. I will do my best to fulfill your expectations.

I would like to thank the members of this year's bridge who have selflessly volunteered to serve. Nick Pack will serve as the Executive Officer, Alan Smith will continue as the Admin Officer, Norm Pennington will continue his longstanding service as the Education Officer, Janice Chapman has accepted the call to serve as the Treasurer, and Barb Waldstreicher will continue as the Secretary. I truly appreciate the dedication and sacrifice of these folks,

who work tirelessly to keep our squadron alive.

Recently, some of the members of the Executive Board went on a cruise through the Panama Canal. It was 16 glorious days that started in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with stops at Grand Cayman, Cartagena, Colombia and Colon, Panama before transiting the Panama Canal. After transiting the canal, we made stops in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, and Mazatlán, Mexico before ending the cruise in Los Angeles, California. We all had a great time with plenty of great food, entertainment, and lots of laughs at the evening dinner table.

The summer boating season is coming on full force. Be sure you have a current vessel examination, and all your maintenance and trainings are up to date. There are a lot of novice boat operators out there, so keep a keen eye out.

If District 25 decides against doing the annual rendezvous at Rio Vista, the Executive Committee is considering a picnic gathering during the summer. Be sure to check your emails for details. Should you have any ideas, comments, or concerns please let any of us know.

I look forward to serving you all!

Commander Vickie Erickson

