

Midwestern Pilot

Fall 2025

District 30 Celebrating 50 years 1975-2025



Commander's Corner

New from the Fall Governing Board in Grand Rapids, Michigan. First National Bylaw changes; Squadron Bylaws may be amended such that Associate Members now can be elected squadron officers. Having trouble filling your squadron bridge an associate member might be able to help, now. The new squadron bylaws should be out by end of month. Overall it was a very lively meeting with discussions and voting. We are having a Special Governing Board December 2nd not certain if format will be Zoom or Free Conference Call, but definitely an online meeting. We will be discussing /voting on “(a) Each squadron shall be allowed one delegate for every 100 50 active members or fraction thereof as of 75 days before the meeting.” This will give the squadrons a larger share of

the power.

Kent Simpson
D30 Commander



Education Department

ABC National has been hard at work and has made some significant changes to enhance student development and to make taking courses easier. I would like to highlight two of the more important of these changes in this issue.

New pathways to Senior Navigator (SN)

A person with this award is known as a Senior Navigator and uses the printed grade designation of SN.

The pathway to Senior Navigator has changed to accommodate the introduction of new courses and replacement

of existing courses. To accommodate these changes new pathways have been introduced to achieve the status of Senior Navigator as follows;

The SN grade is awarded to anyone attaining the N, JN, OM, CM, or IM grade plus a specified number of electives and additional advanced courses. Currently, considering currently offered curriculum, there are 5 paths:

N grade + 6 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB = SN

JN grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB = SN

OM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, CN, IB = SN

CM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, IB, ON = SN

IM grade + 7 of: CUPS, EM, ID, MCS, MES, Radar, Sail, WE, CN, ON = SN

Course abbreviations are: CUPS - Cruising Under Power and Sail (which for this purpose includes its 2 precursors: (1) Cruise Planning and (2) Cruising and Cruise Planning),

CN - Celestial Navigation, EM - Engine Maintenance, IB - Inland Boating (under development), ID - Instructor Development (which for this purpose includes IQ-Instructor Qualification), MCS - Marine Communications Systems, MES - Marine Electrical Systems, ON - Offshore Navigation, and WE - Weather.

For members who previously completed the 3-part Marine Electronics course (which has been retired), that course counts as 3 electives towards the SN grade, so long as its successor electives (MCS, MES, and (now retired) Electronic Navigation) are not simultaneously counted.

Congratulations to new Senior Navigators in District 30

As a result of the above change the following members of District 30 have achieved the status of Senior Navigator:

Carl Forsberg ABC- Colorado
(formally Boulder Valley)

Gerald Le Cocq ABC-Colorado
(formally Boulder Valley)

Terry Elia Des Moines

Richard Des Camps

Four Rivers



Orville Edwards Grand Lake

My hearty congratulations to all of you.

On-Line Exams

Online tests will be available for any of the multiple choice exams. The ABC 3 Class and any non multiple choice exams will still be done in the traditional manner. Online exams will be available for the following classes:

Boat Handling

Marine Navigation

Engine Maintenance

Marine Communications Systems

Marine Electrical Systems

Radar for Boaters

Cruising Under Power and Sail
Sail

Weather

Here is a brief summary of how this will work.

Every student in the class will be given the same exam.

The SEO will be given a key for each student test. The key is provided to the student with instructions.

Once the student activates the key the test will begin.

Note: the exam has a time limit of 90 minutes except for Weather 2 hours and Marine Navigation 7 days.

Once the test is completed it will be

immediately graded and the student will be provided with immediate feedback including a description of missed questions.

The SEO can see exam progress and grades at any time.

If you need assistance with any education related problem please feel free to reach out to me.

Vince Comella

D30 Education



**Executive and
Administrative
Departments**

Power of One

Continues

This program is built on a simple idea: one person can make a difference. Whether it's referring a friend, helping someone renew, or reconnecting with a former member, your individual action has the power to grow and strengthen our organization.

How It Works:

The Power of 1 will use a cumulative point system the more you do, the more you earn. Points can be earned for recruiting new members, bringing back former members, and transferring members from Cyber Squadron.



Prizes include:

Branded ABC/USPS merchandise
not available at the Ships Store

Exclusive giveaways

National recognition

And more!

Top prizes will be awarded to the Top
5 individual recruiters in the country
and the Top 2 squadrons with the
highest impact.

Key dates:

May 1 – Initial announcement to
membership via Member News.

May 15 – Email to
Squadron/District Commanders and
Membership Chairs

June 1 – November 30 – Official
recruiting period

December 12 – Final results
published

February 14, 2026 – Top recruiters
recognized at the Annual Meeting;
prizes presented to winning
squadrons and members
Program Details are available on the
Administrative page under the
Membership Committee.

We are showing some positive results,
new numbers for August and
September will be available soon,
July numbers are posted already.

Tracy Simpson

Executive Officer



Nautical Trivia:

The crew of an icebreaker is watching
a large 'hummock' off the starboard
bow. What are they looking at?



Save the date:

Feb 9-15, 2026

Annual Meeting Myrtle
Beach, SC



**Secretary's
Department**

Hobbies and Passions:

Tell us about something you enjoy
doing, it can be related to boating or
something else. I am always looking
for ways to help us connect and learn
about our members. Send me an
article, photos to share.

Tracy Simpson

Editor Midwestern Pilot

Trivia Answer:



A hummock is a ridge of
broken ice which has been
forced upwards by pressure.

