

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®




# THE DRUM

A Publication of the Finger Lakes Chapter

**In this issue...**

From The Commander ..... 1

From the Education Director .....3

Water Lines .....4

Upcoming Classes & Seminars .....5

    Basic Weather and Forecasting .....5

    Instructor Development .....5

    How to Register .....5

    Looking for Something?.....5

Long-Term Class Schedule.....6

USPS News: Local, District, National & More .....8

    Happy Birthday! .....8

    Vessel Safety Checks in 2021-2022 .8

    Got News? .....8

Measuring Distance Off .....9

The Last Word .....10

Calendar of Events.....11

Report any errors or omissions to:  
[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

## From The Commander

*By Jim McGinnis, AP      SV Brewster*

### View from the Bridge

Wow, what a great boating season! We had a lot of fun racing with FLYC on Seneca Lake and made it to the Barge Race this September. I sailed on the Gulf of Mexico, FL, Long Island Sound, and several times on Penobscot Bay, ME this year. I completed all my USPS boating education classes, attend the “Safety at Sea” classes for off-shore sailing and completed the Boat Operator Certification at our Boat Club Rendezvous at Sampson Marina. Lynne and I know every day that we are fortunate to have our health and ability to enjoy safe boating.

Last week my son Scott and I stopped to help a couple struggling with getting a 20-foot powerboat onto their trailer at the ramp at the Watkins Glen Marina. (I’ve had a few struggles of my own there in the past.) The trailer was cocked at an angle on the ramp and the elderly man (OK, just a couple years older than me)



was attempting to tie the boat to the trailer with a ski tow rope. Yikes!

We got the trailer straightened out and into the water to the top of the wheel wells. We pulled out the trailer strap and got the ratchet working. Then we lined up the boat and started it onto the trailer – nice and square – It cranked right up. The gentleman was very thankful and explained that since the engine wasn’t running, they had to pull the boat out at the WG marina this year. In the past, they had it pulled for them at Frog Hollow. So, he was not familiar with the trailer or how to load the boat. Coincidentally, John Flick taught the USPS Trailing Seminar earlier this year.

My point in telling you all this is that our USPS role in Boating Education is essential to Boating Safety. I think it's also key to our path forward and our survival as an organization. Our service to others is above and beyond what a typical boater is asked to do. The culture of our marina and our Boat Club is to help others in need – not just in the instant of crisis but also in providing training, education and safety checks and gear throughout the year. Please think about what you can do to build our boating community, value boating safety and extend boating education.

We are looking for several positions on the 2022 Bridge and always looking to add instructors. The best way to really learn some of the boating skills is to teach them to others a few times. I also always learn something from the students who have great insight and ask great questions. The USPS ABC class is a great example that covers a wide range of topics but is comprehensive as well. A new instructor would start with just one section to get



Photo 1: Finger Lakes Chapter Educational Officer Charlie Fausold.

confident on how to present the material before moving on to conduct larger segments of a course. Please let me know if you have any time and talent to add to our workforce.

Charlie Fausold has been instrumental to all this educational effort the last three years as our SEO. Thanks, Charlie!

By the way, we had a really nice evening at Fulkerson's Winery on Tuesday night – nearly 30 people attended. A "Thank-you-for-hosting-us!" to Sayre Fulkerson who received is 25-year membership pin from the ABC-FLX that night.

The wine from Fulkerson's and the potluck were terrific. Highlighted by a number of super dish-to-pass dinner items like Fulkerson's Chili and desserts from several contributors from pies to hand made chocolate candies.

Our speaker that evening was Capt. John Schwanz, a 1977 Naval Academy Graduate that had spent his naval career on attack submarines. John served as the Commander of the nuclear attack submarine *USS Dallas*, and as Commodore of the nuclear attack submarine squadron based in San Diego, California. We learned a lot about life on a submarine and the operation of subs themselves. The *USS Dallas* nuclear submarine is over 360 ft long and can travel in excess of 20 knots.

## The Drum

Published six times per year by the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club. The opinions expressed in **The Drum** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of America's Boating Club, its officers, directors, or members.

### General Information

[info@abc-flx.org](mailto:info@abc-flx.org)

### Commander

James McGinnis, AP  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)

### Executive Officer

Phil Cherry, S  
[xo@abc-flx.org](mailto:xo@abc-flx.org)

### Administrative Officer

Fred Seip, S  
[ao@abc-flx.org](mailto:ao@abc-flx.org)

### Education Officer

Charlie Fausold, SN-IN  
[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

### Secretary

Dee Stafford  
[sec@abc-flx.org](mailto:sec@abc-flx.org)

### Treasurer

Marcia Taylor, AP  
[treas@abc-flx.org](mailto:treas@abc-flx.org)

### Assistant Education Officer

Jim Morris, JN  
[aseo@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo@abc-flx.org)

### Membership

Mark Erway, AP  
[membership@abc-flx.org](mailto:membership@abc-flx.org)

### Public Relations Officers

Glenda Gephart &  
Judy Cherry, S  
[pro@abc-flx.org](mailto:pro@abc-flx.org)

### Vessel Safety Check Chairman

Ray Margeson, AP  
[vsc@abc-flx.org](mailto:vsc@abc-flx.org)

### Web Site Administrator

Thomas Alley, SN  
[webmaster@abc-flx.org](mailto:webmaster@abc-flx.org)

### Youth Committee Chair

Katie Alley, P  
[katie@abc-flx.org](mailto:katie@abc-flx.org)

Unless attributed otherwise, ©2021 copyright by America's Boating Club - Finger Lakes Chapter. All rights reserved.



*Photo 3: Capt. John Schwanz, USN (Ret).*

We are heading to the District Meeting in Rochester on Friday 10/29/21. The District is led now by D/C Rick Hibbs, SN of the Rochester Squadron. There will be a presentation by a National Representative and social sessions on Friday and Saturday with a Business Meeting on Saturday



*Photo 2: USS Dallas nuclear attack submarine.*

morning. Our ABC-FLX Chapter will be represented by Tom Alley, Katie Alley, Mike Crouse and me. We are presenting a summary of our travels on Long Island Sound and the Sam Weatherill Ocean Race last summer.

The future of our organization is growing the skills of our members and instructors and providing the best boating education available. We are undergoing a dramatic

expansion of the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) with certification in boating skills for Inland Navigator (every captain/boat owner should be able pass this one), Coastal Navigation, Advanced Coastal Navigation and Offshore Navigator. To prepare members and the public for the basic skills certification we will be

providing 8-hour Hands-on-Training (HOT) which we will extend from the on-the-water session in ABC, Boat Handling, and Sail. If you would like to participate as a trainer or trainee in any of these sessions, please let Charlie know.

- Jim, SV Brewster  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)

## From the Education Director

*By Charlie Fausold, SN-IN*

### Recognition of Our Own



At the District 6 Conference in Rochester on October 30<sup>th</sup>, ABC-

FLX club President Jim McGinnis, SN-IN, was awarded the Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching. Jim is recognized for his creative and innovative approach to teaching,

especially ABC where he has incorporated in-class exercises as well as on-the-water practice to make the class especially impactful for young students. Older students taking other courses with Jim praise his relaxed delivery and ability to relate his own considerable boating experience to the lesson at hand. Jim is now eligible for one of only three Chapman awards given out at the national level each year. Those winners will be announced after the first of the year. Congratulations Jim, and Good Luck!



*Photo 4: 2021 Chapman Award presentation. L to R: National Administrative Officer Ralph Bernard, District 6 Commander Rick Hibbs, Jim McGinnis, and District 6 Education Officer Tom Alley.*

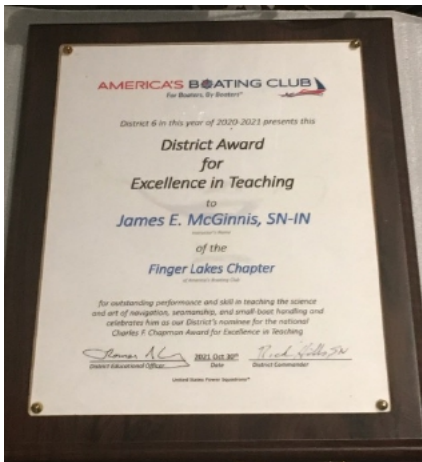


Photo 5: The District Chapman Award Plaque.

### And Now for the Weather

We all know how weather can mean the difference between a great day on the water or an unpleasant or even unsafe experience. **Basic Weather and Forecasting** is a two-hour seminar that will help you better understand what you hear on the evening

newscast or read on your phone, and more importantly, apply it to your boating plans. The topics include Air Masses and Fronts, Winds, Storms, Clouds and Thunderstorms, Fog and Forecasting. The seminar will be held Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9 pm in Room 120 of the Schuyler County Human Services Building, 323 Owego Street in Montour Falls, as well as via Freeconferencecall.com. Don Kloeber will be the instructor. The course fee is \$45 for members. (Note new date and fee.) Please drop me a note to sign up at [seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org).

### Instructor Development

Could a Chapman Award be in your future? An **Instructor Development** class is now being formed. Unlike other ABC/USPS

courses, the Instructor Development course is not designed to enhance boating skills. Rather, its emphasis is on enhancing presentation techniques and instructor skills. The course has been designed to demonstrate interactive teaching methods focused on adult learning. Students are required to prepare lesson plans and give three presentations to their peers utilizing a variety of teaching aids and presentation skills. The class will begin in December; timing and length will depend on the number of students and their availability. Please contact me if you are interested. Our corps of Certified Instructors is the educational foundation of our organization.

- Charlie  
[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

## Water Lines

By Glenda Gephart, Public Relations Officer

### Lake Water Quality Plan



A management plan that focuses on improving the water quality of Seneca and Keuka lakes is expected to be finalized in the

first half of 2022.

The lakes are connected by the Keuka Outlet. They contain more than 50 percent of all water in the 11 Finger Lakes. The lakes' watershed includes parts of Schuyler, Seneca, Ontario, Yates, Chemung and Steuben counties.

Development of the Nine Element Watershed Management Plan, or "9E Plan", has been underway for more than four years, with input from municipal officials, environmental experts, and the public. The most recent public session was in early October in Penn Yan.



The draft plan will be presented on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, at 10 a.m. at the Watkins Glen Community Center. Additional public

comment will also be heard. The final, state-approved 9E Plan will be unveiled on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Yates County Office Building in Penn Yan. The public is welcome to attend both sessions.

The 9E plan will identify water quality problems in the watershed, including sources of non-point pollution. With involvement of key stakeholders, solutions will be proposed, and restoration and

protection strategies developed that are consistent with federal EPA and state Department of Environmental guidelines.

Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership newsletters can be read on the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization website at [www.senecawatershedio.wordpress.com](http://www.senecawatershedio.wordpress.com). Go to the "Documents" section of the website.

Other organizations in the partnership include the Keuka Lake Association, Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative and the Finger Lakes Institute.

- Glenda  
[pro@abc-flx.org](mailto:pro@abc-flx.org)

---

## Upcoming Classes & Seminars

To register for any of these classes or to get more information, please contact Education Director Charlie Fausold at:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)  
or call 607-207-7771

---

### Basic Weather and Forecasting

The safety and comfort of those who venture out on the water have always been weather dependent. This seminar serves as an introduction to the basics of weather and forecasting. It is a must for boaters who have never taken a weather course.

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9 pm, Schuyler County Human Services Building in Montour Falls as well as over freeConferenceCall.com.

Seminar fee \$45.

Instructor: Don Kloeber

---

### Instructor Development

This course deals with effective communication for speakers and teachers – a quality that benefits the individual in all walks of life. It offers practical instruction in: preparing for teaching assignments; preparing for meeting presentations; effective teaching techniques; conducting efficient meetings; and selecting and using audiovisual aids.

Begins in December.

Cost: FREE

Instructor: Charlie Fausold

---

### How to Register

If you have questions about any of these courses, or better yet, to sign up, please contact:

Education Director Charlie Fausold, Finger Lakes Chapter:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

or call 607-207-7771

Or you can go to the national website ([www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)) and register under the "Find A Boating Class" tab on the member home page.

---

### Looking for Something?

The Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club will be happy to accommodate requests for courses not currently on our schedule of formal offerings. If there is an area in which you would like to get some instruction, please contact Charlie Fausold, the Chapter Education Director, with your request.

Available subjects for instruction can be found on the chapter website:

[www.abc-flx.org](http://www.abc-flx.org)

# Long-Term Class Schedule

Seneca Education Department

Level	Title	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Inland Navigator	Classes	ABC	C	X	X	X	X	X
		Boat Handling	C		X		X	
		Engine Maintenance		X				
		Marine Electrical Systems						X
	Seminars	Using A Chart			X			
		VHF/DSC Radios			X			
		Using GPS		X				
		Basic Weather and Forecasting	X					
	Skills	Basic Powerboat Handling	C	X				
		Fire Extinguishers	C					

Level	Title	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Coastal Navigator	Classes	Marine Navigation	X		X		X	
		Marine Communication Systems						X
		Weather			X			
	Seminars	Tides & Currents			X			
		Rules of the Road				X		
		Anchoring		X				
		Mariner's Compass					X	
	Skills	Coastal Nav		X				
		Pyrotechnics	C					

Level	Title	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Advanced Coastal Navigator	Classes	Advanced Marine Navigation		X		X		X
		Cruise Planning				X		
		Marine Navigation Systems					X	
		Radar				X		
	Sem.	Emergencies Onboard			X			
		Marine Radar				X		
	Skills	Advanced Coastal Nav			X			
		First Aid		X	X	X		

Level		Title	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Offshore Navigator	C	Offshore Navigation		X				X
	Sem.	Computer Weather Forecasting				X		
		Thunderstorms / Severe Weather				X		
	Skills	Offshore Navigation				X		
		CPR/AED			X	X		
Endorsmentss		Sail		X		X		X
		Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes	C					
		Canadian Regulations					X	
		Paddlesmart		X			X	
Other		Instructor Development		X				
		Instructor Recertification				X		
		Operations Training		X				

**Table Key**

X = Planned

C = Completed

# USPS News: Local, District, National & More

## Happy Birthday!

Best wishes to Finger Lakes Chapter members who are celebrating their birthday in next couple of months.

### November

- Judy Cherry
- Tom Keebler
- Glenda Gephart
- Andre Wigley
- Patti Dawson-Elli
- Jeff DeMeritt

### December

- Debra Pietro
- Denis Kingsley
- Jeff Mack
- Robert Drake
- John Flick
- Marcia Taylor
- Lisa Oldroyd

And we don't want to forget our neighbors in the Ithaca Sail & Power Squadron who are celebrating their birthdays:

### November

- James Saroka

## December

Rich Dolge

## Vessel Safety Checks in 2021 2022

*By Ray Margeson*

This year has passed, time to consider a Vessel Safety check next year from one of our three intrepid Vessel Safety Examiners (Charlie Fasould, Don Kloeber and Ray Margeson).

The check only takes 15-30 minutes and ensures that your boat is in compliance with Coast Guard and New York State standards. We check such items as running lights, sufficient PFDs on board, proper boat registration and display of numbers, verification of your vessel's HIN and several other items of safety interest.

Your boat does not have to be in the water for this inspection, but you do need your battery

connected on those boats that need running lights.

You can [request a VSC through America's Boating Club](#) website or by contacting any of the Vessel Safety Examiners listed above.

So, help ensure you are a Safe Boater next year and get your check when spring rolls around.

*- Ray Margeson,  
ABC-FLX VSC Chair*

## Got News?

*By Tom Alley, Editor*

Do you have any squadron-related news or announcements? Contact your editor and have it printed here. We're happy to publicize anything of interest to our members, whether it's for the Seneca Squadron or one of our neighboring squadrons.

Contact Tom Alley:

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

o o o o o



# Measuring Distance Off

Got a tape measure and a piece of string? You can use them to find out how far away you are from, say, a lighthouse.

BOAT/US

Reprinted from The SeaChest (Susquenango Squadron)

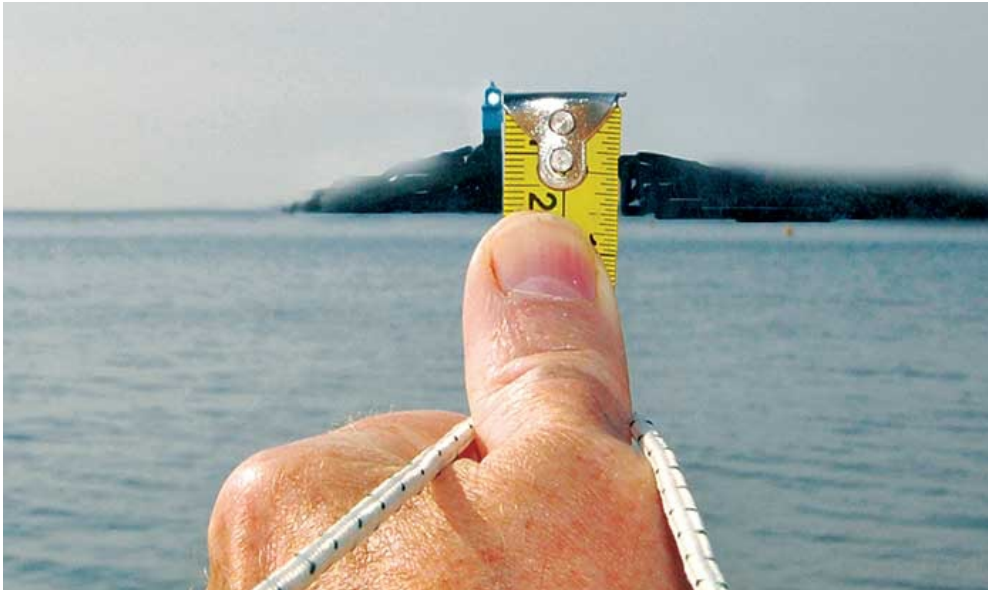


Photo 6: In this example, I know from my chart that the height of the center of the light is 100 feet above sea level. So, holding a vertical ruler 60 cm from my eye, I measure from the center of the light to sea level, which is 20 mm. Using the formula below, I multiply that by 10 for a total of 200. Then I divide 100 (the height of the light) by 200, which equals 0.5. That means I'm about half a mile from the light.

Distance off by vertical sextant angle is an old navigation technique used for keeping a safe distance from an object of known height, such as a lighthouse, the height of which is shown on a chart. With modern GPS, there's no longer need to know how to calculate this, but it's a fun trick to show the kids, and it's a useful backup if you're ever forced to use basic navigation techniques. But as many of us don't carry a sextant, or a set

of tables, we can copy what the ancients had been doing for centuries before the sextant was invented. They simply exploited their knowledge that the ratio of 60:1 is equal to an angle of 1 degree. To find this distance, simply measure the angle of the center of the light above sea level and look up the "distance off" in a set of tables, such as those found in a nautical almanac, or use a simple calculation (below). The center of the light

itself, not the height of the top of the tower, is used because that's the height marked on the chart. Usually, we can forget any tidal height allowance, as less tide will put us farther off in safer water.

In its simplest form, you'll use something that measures 60 units from your eye attached to a vertical ruler marked in the same units. (Using a metric rule to do this exercise makes your math calculation simpler because you can work in whole numbers instead of fractions.)

Hold a piece of string 60 cm (about 2 feet) in front of your eye. (I find a loop of string of the correct length around my neck more comfortable than holding a knot in my teeth.) Sight across the ruler and measure the height of the center of the light above sea level, in millimeters. Then use the formula below.

It's a rough-and-ready technique, but one day it might save you being set in too close to a nasty reef or rocks.

o o o o o

The calculation for this is written as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Height of charted object in feet}}{\text{Height of measured object in mm} \times 10} = \text{distance off in nautical miles}$$

\* 1 nautical mile = 1.15 miles

# The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN

SV Tomfoolery

## Winding Down - Maybe



Since the District newsletter is also coming out this month, I won't repeat the comments

published in the Editor's column in that issue, especially since all of you will be receiving a copy of that newsletter as well. Suffice it to say that I've been fairly "wound up" all year for various reasons and that the fall season looks like it may be offering an opportunity to unwind a bit.

Well, maybe not right away.

As I write this, the District Fall Conference is just a week away and there is always a considerable amount of planning and activity that takes place to get that event organized and ready to go. I'll be spending three days in Rochester as the District's Education Officer, which means there will be plenty of presentations to prepare for delivery to those attending.

By the time you read this, the conference will be completed. If you've never been to one, I would encourage you to go. Aside from hearing about what's going on in other corners of our District and having the chance to interact with a National representative and hear the "big picture" view of our organization, there are also some good meals and fun activities in

which to participate. It's also an opportunity to make a difference. A casual conversation with District or National personnel can easily kick off a new initiative or correct the direction of an old one.

One suggestion that is a bit timelier: With winter on its way, consider taking a class. If there is a subject that you'd like to learn more about, whether it's listed in our course schedule or not, let our SEO (Charlie Fausold) know about it.

- Your Editor, Tom  
o o o o o

*As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:*

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)  
o o o o o

# Calendar of Events

## November 2021

- 05 Finger Lakes *Drum* November issue publication date.
- 05 *The Deep 6* fall issue publication date. (Delayed to cover Conference activities.) (D/6)
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## December 2021

- 17 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## January 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* January issue publication date
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 16 Finger Lakes Change of Watch.
- 21 Deadline for D/6 *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

## February 2022

- 01 *The Deep 6* winter issue publication date. (D/6)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 19-27 USPS Annual Meeting, *Ponte Vedra, FL* (National)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## March 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## April 2022

- 08-10 District 6 Spring Council & Conference, *Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY*. (D/6)
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 22 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## May 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 21-27 Safe Boating Week (National)

## June 2022

- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 17 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## July 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 22 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

## August 2022

- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 26 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## September 2022

- 01 Finger Lakes *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 11-18 Governing Board Meeting, *Raleigh, NC* (National)
- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## October 2022

- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* articles
- TBA District 6 Fall Council & Conference (D/6)

Calendars are "living documents." For the latest information on squadron activities, please check our web site:

<http://www.abc-flx.org>

or our Facebook page:

<http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron>

for any last-minute changes.