



America's Boating Club®

Birmingham Squadron



P/C/C Richard William Miner, SN



Past Chief Commander Richard W. Miner, SN, passed away on August 27, 2020. He was born on February 18, 1929 in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Dick is survived by his wife of 70 years, Nancy Miner,

by his daughter, Pam Miner (Theodore Rogowski), by sons Randy and Rick, by five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Dick was born and raised in Bloomfield Hills where his folks were in the grocery business.

In 1948, Dick graduated from Bloomfield Hills High School and went to the University of Colorado. He met Nancy there and they were married during his sophomore year.

After graduation Dick and his family returned to Michigan where he managed the family grocery store. In 1955, Dick sold the grocery store and opened the business in which we all knew him – Miner's, which specialized in fine foods, liquor, and gifts. His wife, Nancy operated a clothing bazaar nearby.

Dick purchased his first boat, a 26' Owens, in 1960, and headed into Lake Huron. Fog and high wind intervened and on the voyage back to Port Huron, they hit the rocks at Kettle Point. Dick still owns the bent propeller from that trip. On their return, Dick immediately registered for a 10-lesson boating course offered by United States Power Squadrons, and joined Mt. Clemens Power Squadron in December of that year. He and his family cruised on Georgian Bay and skied in the winter.

Dick Miner was a founding member of Birmingham Power Squadron. His name appears in the first edition of the *Bilge Chatter* published in December 1963 when he reported on the "Sarnia Blast," a week end social event. He never looked back in his dedication to Birmingham and National.

He did not neglect his safe-boating education. He completed his first class in 1962 while a member of Mt. Clemens Power Squadron, moved through the Advanced Grade classes to Navigator in 1965, and earned his Educational Achievement Award (now recognized as Senior Navigator) in December 1981.

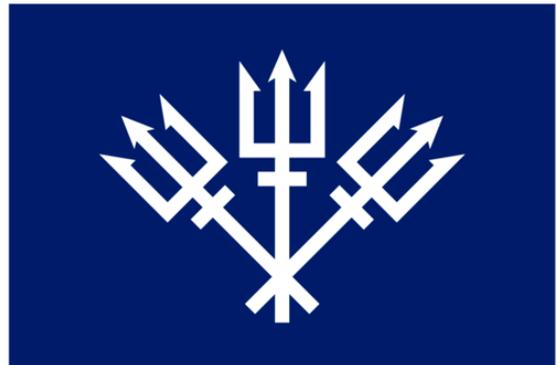
Being a member of a squadron, district, or national bridge each represents a multi-year commitment. In 1963, Dick was a 1st Lieutenant on Birmingham's Bridge – in a position roughly equivalent to today's Administrative Officer. He advanced through the chairs and served as Squadron Commander in 1966-67. Of course, organizations recognize achievers by giving them more jobs to do. That placed Dick on the District 9 Bridge, advancing to District Commander in 1973-74. Dick began his service on the National Bridge in 1982, and in 1986 he became the 40th Chief Commander, the highest office in the organization. As a "Past Chief," of course, his service continued in the background for the rest of his life.

Dick Miner was a member of United States Power Squadrons for 61 years. He earned his first merit mark as a Birmingham member in 1963. In addition to all of the offices he held, he achieved Emeritus Membership status in recognition of his 55 merit marks earned. This represents the true pinnacle of achievement in our organization. In addition, Dick was a friend and a mentor to those of us privileged enough to have known and worked with him.

We wish Dick fair winds and following seas. We will miss him.

In one of his messages as Chief Commander, Dick reminded us to live life and to take advantage of squadron rendezvous and other activities, closing with one of his favorite quotations, whose source is anonymous:

*On an ancient wall in China
where the brooding Buddha blinks,
Deeply graven is the message -
It is later than you think.
The clock of life is wound but once
and no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
at late or early hour.
Now is all the time you own,
the past a golden link.
Go cruising now my brother --
it is later than you think.*



In 2020, Birmingham lost two giants: P/C/C Richard W. Miner, SN, and P/N/F/L Dick Jarmon, SN. Both were Emeritus Members of United States Power Squadrons, together with more than 100 merit marks earned. While we shared our memories of Dick Jarmon earlier, we thought a collage with both of them was appropriate here. Fond memories and fair winds, dear friends.



P/C/C Richard W. Miner, SN



Dick Miner's Birmingham 1966-67 Bridge: Gil Pear, Richard Shirk, Don Neal, and John Moss



Dick and Nancy Miner



Dick Jarmon



In 1967, Birmingham was privileged to have three Commanders: Cdr James Lawson, C/C Richard Miner, and D/C Dick Jarmon



Dick Miner



Titans of Birmingham: Dick and Pat Jarmon and Dick Miner at Birmingham's 2008 Change of Watch