

THE BITTER END

News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron December 2016



Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the friends SM

Web Page: www.skagitsquadron.org

Email: sbboatschool@hotmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/



CALENDAR

10 December,- Lighted Boat Parade, Laconner Pub

17 December—Argosy Christmas Ship Cruise

25 December—Merry Christmas

01 January 2017—Happy New Year—Be Safe



Have a safe and Happy Holidays. Hope Christmas is good for you all...

And MOST importantly remember that HE is the reason for the season.



Commander's Message Donna J. Mason, AP

Things are looking up. We have two people interested in becoming vessel safety checkers and one person has stepped up to become an instructor. If you've been considering either of these positions, please do join us—we can use MORE help! Also, I would like to see a full Safety Committee with people in our area available to spread the USPS safety message at fair booths, marinas, boat launches, and other special events where we can get free booth or card table space. For that, one need only be a member of our squadron and be willing to talk with people who stop by our table, hand out literature, class information, etc. Two people per event would be ideal. Interested?

The year is drawing to a close so quickly. I've noticed the older I get, the faster time flies, which happens to be the name of our boat, "Time Flies," so I guess we named that one appropriately! As I write this the day after Thanksgiving, I am so thankful for all the people who contribute to the success of our squadron.

Speaking of success, I understand our Nominations Committee is doing a great job filling the important positions for our squadron's new year in April. Thanks so much to those of you who have stepped up to fill a position.

I am looking forward to the Holiday Party and Lighted Boat Parade 10 December. We've reached seating capacity so it'll be another roaring party!

If you're looking for nautical-related books for gifts, here are a few suggestions: Body of Water: A Sage, a Seeker, and the World's Most Elusive Fish (bonefish)

by Chris Dombrowski; Tides: the Science and Spirit of the Ocean by Jonathan White (if you want to see the free author's presentation, go to Village Books in Fairhaven Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.); and Tranquility: A Memoir of an American Sailor (Pacific NW) by Billy Sparrow;

The days will be getting longer in less than a month!

Hope you and your family enjoy wonderful holidays, whichever holidays you celebrate.



Commander Donna Presents George Brooks his 50 year member certificate and Jean Brooks her Certificate of Appreciation



Boating and Other Activities

Cdr Donna J. Mason, AP

December 10, LaConner Lighted Boat Parade & Squadron Holiday Party at LaConner Pub –

Time to celebrate! This also is our December Members Meeting. We have confirmed reservation space for 24 people. Have dinner and watch the Lighted Boat Parade from the waterfront restaurant. LaConner installed new walkways along the channel so there is more space for outside viewing. Dress warmly and in the holiday spirit. If you'd like to make a monetary contribution to the local food bank, a Food Bank collection box will be available. Parking is on-street. Carpooling is recommended and also reduces the



number of "designated drivers" needed. We've reached seating capacity.

The LaConner Pub and Eatery, 702 S. 1st Street,

5:30 p.m. Cocktails and Revelry

6:00-7:30 p.m. Watch the boat parade from the restaurant's outside deck or warmly inside while eating dinner. We'll provide cake for dessert.

Food: The LaConner Pub and Eatery will offer its full menu, including prime rib. See their menu at www.laconnertavern.com. Eat as much or as little as you wish.



Saturday, December 17: The Argosy Christmas Ship cruises from Shilshole Bay Marina in Seattle, boards at 2 p.m., cruises from 2:30 – 4:45 p.m. Several members were interested in a Seattle cruise (vs. the Kirkland one we have done). If you are interested, this fills up fast, so reserve your spot on the Christmas Ship Lead Boat (with chorus) at www.argosycruises.com or call 1-888-623-1445. Tickets: \$39 adult, \$35 senior, \$25 youth, children under 3 are free. If a group is interested, we could arrange for lunch at a nearby restaurant before the cruise. Please let me know if you are interested by December 3. So far we have 4 people interested.

January 12, Cruise Planning Program at the Monthly Members Meeting.

January is just around the corner. Start gathering your thoughts for the January Member's 2017 Cruise Planning Meeting. Where would you like to rendezvous? At a dock or on the hook or some of each? Quiet places or festivals with lots of activities? Tried and true places or new adventures? Who will be rendezvous hosts? Share your wishes at the meeting so we can come up with a rendezvous schedule for 2017 that we'll all look forward to.

VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO AND YOUR FAMILIES!

The Short Story of the Pink Socks.

During our Tacoma train trip, George Johnson mentioned that he lost his most important cap: his USPS cap. When I was on the USPS website looking at the Ship's Store, I noticed that caps were on sale but they only had red or pink. I emailed George to let him know and he replied, "But I'd have to get pink socks!" At our last member's meeting at The Farmhouse, a brand new pair of men's pink socks mysteriously appeared at George's place setting. George modeled the socks (see photo). But, now will he buy the hat?





From the District 16 Treasurer

Dues Increase

1 December 2016 - 30 November 2017

The United States Power Squadrons Governing Board voted to increase the 2017 Membership Year dues by \$2.00 for single members and \$3.00 for Family memberships. The resulting new dues values are:

	<u>National</u>	<u>District 16</u>
Single Member :	\$53.00	\$ 8.50
Family Unit:	\$79.50	\$12.75

(Add your individual squadron's dues for total membership amounts)

The good news is that the District 16 Dues have not increased!

The other good news is that with the added benefits that USPS has been able to secure for our members we can easily make up the small additional increase. Have you looked at the Members Benefit Committee page under the National Administrative Department?



No kidding, they actually have a little pirate's chest on the page to suggest there are treasurers to be found. Member Benefits is right at the top left once you have logged on. Take a look, you might find a benefit that once taken advantage of will more than offset the increase in your dues.

I personally have seen a BIG discount by using my USPS membership for Office Depot/Office Max. What would have cost over \$25 turned out to be around \$4.50! And have you checked out the Solude Coffee? Take a look, you may find that treasure!



Education Department P/C Debbie Richey, AP

Where has 2016 gone? Are you still boating? Winter is an absolutely wonderful time to go boating. No crowds, abundance of wildlife, and empty marinas. What more could you want? Just remember to look at the weather before you leave your home port. Did you know that you can listen to NOAA weather radio on the web? Weather Underground has listed several weather stations in all 50 states on their website, <https://www.wunderground.com/wxradio/>. It's another great way to get the weather before you head out.

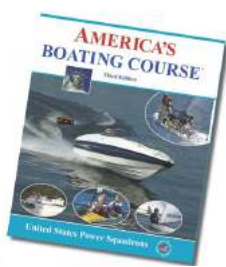
We have an ABC class scheduled for January 14 and 21. It will be held at the new YMCA in Stanwood. We are going to teach over two Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. Come and help! Please look for a flyer in the newsletter (next page) to print out and post in your neighborhood. Thanks for the help! We also have an Advanced Piloting course starting on Monday, January 9, at Anacortes Marina. Talk to Bob Miller for more information.

Become a Skilled Boater!

Saturday 10 am to 2 pm
January 14, 2017 and January 21, 2017

YMCA Community Room, Stanwood

Presented By
Skagit Bay Sail & Power Squadron



\$55 per person (\$65 for two sharing a book)

Qualifies you for
Washington State Boater Education Card
(Required if born after January 1, 1955)

You will learn about Boat handling, boating rules, aids to navigation (buoys, markers and lights), emergencies, communications and much much more!

To register or for info contact Debbie Richey at
360-387-1260 or drichey@rocketmail.com



Approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the United States Coast Guard



Boating is Fun... We'll Show You How!®

**Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron
United States Power Squadron
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2016**

The following members were in attendance at the Farmhouse Restaurant:

Donna Mason	Sandy Johnson	Bob Miller
Paul Rosetter	Kari Randall-Secrest	John Bellinger
Debbie Richey	Marlene Bellinger	Carolyn Caporgno
Dick Hunter	Glen Caporgno	Kelly Libby
George Johnson	Anton Kerkhove	Margaret Kerkhove
Bill Stewart	Lynn Stewart	Jack Dyer
Judy Bennett	John Bennett	George Brooks
Jeanne Brooks		

Guests: Stephen Drummond, Jeannie Drummond, Steve Drummond, Dan Scott, Mr. Marlow (USCG)

Meeting called to order by Commander Donna Mason at 1825. A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Donna passed USPS posters around and asked members to post them wherever they see fit and asked to be emailed the location of postings.

Safety Officer's Report – Bill Stewart

- Nothing new to report.

Squadron Educational Officer's Report – Debbie Richey:

- Debbie announced we have an 8-hour ABC course scheduled for two Saturdays in January (14th and 21st) at the brand new Stanwood YMCA which has two community rooms that they allow non-profit organizations to use for free. Instructors for this class are Debbie and Mark Richey and they are requesting anyone in the squadron to that is interested in helping them on either of these days to teach a lesson or two, please contact them. Commander Donna may attend on the final day to speak to the class.
- Bob Miller announced he will begin teaching an Advanced Piloting at Anacortes Marina January 9th, 2017 and there are 7 people signed up already with room for more. Class has been updated to include more electronics than the course from years past. Contact Bob if you are interested or know someone who might be.
- Debbie reported she is still working with Skagit Valley Community College to have our courses posted in their catalog as well as classrooms for said squadron classes to be held. Spring quarter will likely be the soonest we could see classes listed in the course catalog.

Administrative Officer's Report – Dick Hunter:

- Program Tonight: Officer Marlow from the Coast Guard Sector Bellingham will speak about preparing for and dealing with a Coast Guard boarding.
- December will not have a speaker since we will be having our Holiday Party at the La Conner Pub and watching the lighted boat parade.
- January's program will be our rendezvous and event planning.
- February program will be presented by our own Bob Miller on the Charter Industry.

Boating Activities Report – Donna Mason:

- In December we will not meet at the Farmhouse Restaurant because we will be having our Holiday Party at the La Conner Pub to watch the lighted boat parade, see details in the newsletter. Dessert will be provided by the squadron. Please email Donna if you plan to attend.
 - Debbie announced that she received a thank you letter from “Neighbors in Need”, the recipient of our donations collected at the Holiday Party. We will again collect completely voluntary donations at this year’s party.
- January meeting is back at the Farmhouse and is our planning meeting of our events and rendezvous for 2017, so she asked members to come with their plans, wants and wishes for next year’s events.
- Tacoma day train trip was lots of fun, but very wet and rainy! Many thanks to the 14 members who attended. Donna passed out free guest passes to squadron members who might want to visit the museum that was visited in Tacoma that day.
- Argosy Christmas Cruise:
 - Discussion re: Sat. Dec. 17th 2 pm is the only day the cruise runs on the Seattle side (starts at Shilshole Bay Marina) rather than the Lake Washington side that we’ve done in the past. If interested, let Donna know and make your reservations online. Ticket prices are \$39 adult/ \$35 senior/\$25 youth. See the Argosy website for all the details. If a group is interested, Donna can arrange to have lunch beforehand.
- Kelly Libby announced that on Dec 15-18, Cap Sante Marina will be providing free moorage to boaters who are willing to light their boat up for their “Christmas on the Dock” celebration. If the weather is good, a lighted boat parade will be held on Dec. 17th. Contact Kelly for more information.

Membership Report – Debbie Richey:

- Donna and existing squadron members helped swear in new members Dan Scott, and Glen and Carolyn Caporgno to our squadron.
- Upcoming Operations Training course (approx. 3 hrs), contact Debbie if interested ... it is designed especially for new members to USPS to understand the organization and how it works. It is also recommended for incoming Bridge and ExCom members haven't taken it.
- Our members, the Wytychaks notified Donna that they have moved from Anacortes to Seattle and since Sheryl was our Supply Officer, and the Nominations Committee has been working to find a new Supply Officer.

Secretary’s Report – Kari Randall-Secret:

- October meeting minutes were posted in the Bitter End.
- Newsletter: The Bitter End is out for October. See your email or find it posted on the squadron website: skagitsquadron.org
- Webmaster: Nothing new to report.
- It was moved and seconded to accept the October minutes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Bob Miller

- Bob announced he had received a letter thanking us for our squadron's annual donation to the USPS Educational Fund. Letter was provided to the squadron Secretary.
- Treasury's November balance is \$5,052.25.
- Recent expenses:
 - \$340 for National Dues
 - \$100 for Honor Roll
 - \$68 for storage unit
 - \$116 for annual website hosting
 - \$100 reimbursements
- Incoming funds are coming in for students signing up for the Advanced Piloting Course.

Commander's Report – Donna Mason

- Donna reminded everyone that we desperately need to get folks qualified as Vessel Safety Checkers and anyone interested should contact Donna or the Nominations Committee. To get qualified, you go through a course via National and take an exam and you are assisted with your first 5 vessel safety checks.
- Spring Conference for District 16 will be held at Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan Mar. 10-12, tourist activities on March 9th. See the district newsletter for more information.
- Incoming Officer Meeting and Educational Seminar will be held in Federal Way on April 29th, 2017. More information to come on this.

Nomination Committee's Report – Kelly Libby

- Kelly Libby, George Johnson and Paul Rosetter have been hard at work lining up nominations for squadrons positions for 2017. Thank you to all who have volunteered already. Contact one of them if you are interested in finding out how you can help the squadron.

Old Business

- Paul Rosetter provided a great summary of the Tacoma maritime museum that we now have free tickets for anyone who is interested.
- Question by John Bennett regarding On-the-Water Training USPS offers ... Skagit is not providing this training, but the Bellingham squadron does provide it so contact them if you are interested or check the District 16 website.

New Business

- George Brooks announced the Pacific Marine Expo will be held in Seattle at Century Link Field Nov 17-19. Admission is free via the expo's website, parking is \$15.

- Donna presented George Brooks with the National 50-Year Member Award and 50-year pin as well as a gift from the squadron. George was kind enough to share his completed squadron certificate for Senior Navigator which was dated 1956! Truly an impressive amount of time committed to the United States Power Squadrons. George has been a member of 5 different power squadrons throughout his lifetime.
- Donna presented Jeanne Brooks with a Certificate of Appreciation for her commitment to the United States Power Squadrons after all these years. Jeanne has been a women's squadron member since 1970, when women were not allowed to become actual squadron members.
- George Brooks announced that on Tuesday, he and Jeanne celebrated their 58th anniversary! Congratulations George and Jeanne!

Meeting adjourned at 1905.

United States Power Squadrons®
District 16 Spring Conference & Change of Watch
9-12 March 2017
Campbells Resort in beautiful Lake Chelan

save the date
THE ONLY LIGHTHOUSE IN THE WEST

the BEST
Escapes
 northwest escapes

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- ◆ WINE & CIDER TASTING
- ◆ BOATING
- ◆ CYCLING
- ◆ FISHING
- ◆ LADY OF THE LAKE
- ◆ GOLF
- ◆ MILL BAY CASINO
- ◆ HIKING
- ◆ TOURS
- ◆ TAKE IN A MOVIE

THE RESORT

- ◆ VOTED THE #1 RESORT IN THE NORTHWEST
- ◆ ALL ROOMS ARE LAKE VIEW W/PRIVATE BALCONY
- ◆ ROOM PRICES WILL BE AROUND \$100/NIGHT
- ◆ STATE OF THE ART CONFERENCE SPACE
- ◆ WALK TO DOWNTOWN SHOPPING
- ◆ DAY SPA ON SITE

"EVERYTHING WASHINGTON"

THIS WILL BE THE THEME THIS YEAR, IN CELEBRATION OF OUR DIVERSE GEOGRAPHY, SKILLS, HERITAGE AND STYLE!

Details coming soon!

The Pledge

I do solemnly pledge to: Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons®; Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship; Maintain my boat and operate it legally; Render assistance whenever possible; and conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor and respect to the United States Power Squadrons.®



HAPPY
DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Averill
Kelly Libby
Debbie Richey

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

A place for articles and items of general interest, Jokes, recipes, etc.

From FCC website

License Renewals

If you operate a marine VHF radio, radar, or EPIRBs aboard a voluntary ship operating domestically, you are not required to renew your current license. Although a license is no longer required for these ships, you may still renew your license and retain your call sign.

The FCC will send you a Renewal Reminder Notice approximately 120 days prior to the expiration date of your license. You must submit FCC Form 605 along with the proper payment to renew your license.

If you send an application for renewal before your current license expires, you may continue to operate until the FCC acts on your application. You do not need a temporary permit but you should keep a copy of the renewal application you send the FCC.

You must stop transmitting as soon as your license expires, unless you have already sent your renewal application to the FCC.

~ General Meeting Information ~

Our General Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursdays of each month (except July & August), at The Farmhouse Restaurant, corner of SR20 and La Conner-Whitney Road. Greetings and social time starts at 1800 with dinner at 1900. Meeting is normally held just before dinner. When a program is available it usually starts about 1930. The meeting is sometimes moved to another date or venue for special occasions, but that will be advertised in the newsletter or an email notice.

Bridge Officers		
Commander	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Executive Officer	Mark Richey, SN	425-876-6274
Education Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Administrative Officer	Richard Hunter, P	206 851-2831
Secretary	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360 387-1194
Treasurer	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Executive Committee		
	Marlene Bellinger, AP	360 757-8091
	Paul Rosetter, AP	360 595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Craig Ford	360 333-5308
Port Captain	Vacant	
Law Officer	Vacant	
Merit Marks	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
	Vacant	
	Vacant	
Executive Department		
Co-Op Charting	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Liaison	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Public Relations	Deanna Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Asst Public Relations	Vacant	
Radio Technical	Vacant	
Safety	Bill Stewart, JN	360-424-1270
Vessel Exams	Vacant	
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Bob Miller, JN	360 588-9950
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds	George Brooks, SN	360 466-3470
Local Board Elect Courses	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
Administrative Department		
Boating Activities	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Galley	Vacant	
Greeting	Craig Ford	360 333-5308
	Billie Ford	360 941-1956
Membership	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Richard Hunter, P	206 851-2831
Property Officer	Vacant	
Supply Officer	Sheryl Wytychak	208-704-2249
Telephone	Vacant	
Secretary's Department		
Editor "Bitter End"	Mark Richey, SN	425-876-6274
Historian	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Public Contact	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Roster	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Scrapbook	Carolyn Caporgno	
Webmaster / IT	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr Chair	Elisabeth Libby, S	425 923-9368
2 Yrs.	Judy Bennett, S	707-443-2855
3 Yrs.	Billie Ford	360 941-1956
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
2 Yrs.	Paul Rosetter, AP	360 595-1083
3 Yrs.	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Rules Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
2 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
3 Yrs.	Vacant	

Please note the vacancies. This is a fun group and you don't have to have a grade to have a committee position. Every little bit helps. Pick something you think you can do and help out. If you don't know what a spot does, ask the chair or an officer.