

THE BITTER END

News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron January 2016

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons © District 16

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CALENDAR

14 Jan—Regular Meeting, Farmhouse, Rendezvous Planning
25 January—Americas Boating Course, See Ed Article
29 Jan—06 Feb, Seattle Boat Show, C Link Field / Chandlers Cove



Happy Birthday to our Commander — Love to see you all get what you want at the boat show. Next meeting you all get to choose where you want to go this year.



Commander's Message Kari Randall-Secrest, N

Happy New Year Skagit Bay! We've made it past the holidays and on to some really cold, but fantastically sunny weather for our first week of 2016. It was sure nice to see Mr. Sunshine for a few days in a row, and I hope he sticks around for a while as we head towards the 2016 boating season. Speaking of the boating season, our annual planning rendezvous is fast approaching on Thursday, January 14th at 6:00 pm at the Farmhouse Restaurant. Bring your ideas and your calendar and join in the fun as we plan our events for the coming year. We will also be discussing and voting on a potential new fundraiser at a nearby I-5 rest stop where we would supply the coffee and goodies and man the booth for a weekend in 2016. We want to hear from you on this so be sure to attend on the 14th and let us know your thoughts on fundraising.



Marine debris

Isn't this a terrible sight? If you value the health of our local waters like I know you do, you won't want to miss our speaker for the upcoming February 11th meeting, so mark your calendar! We will be hearing from Nir Barnea who is the Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator for the Marine Debris Program at NOAA. Nir's presentation will include an overview of marine debris: What it is, sources, movement, and types, marine debris prevention, removal, and re-

search with examples for each, marine debris emergency response with focus on the Japan tsunami marine debris, and finally, what can we do help address the problem of marine debris as individuals and a society.

Our Education Department finished up strong in 2015 and more classes are already scheduled for the coming year. Mike Wytychak will be kicking off the New Year by teaching our ABC class that starts January 26th at the Anacortes Marina. Way to go, Mike and all of our Education Department members! I'd like to acknowledge another Mike, Mike Connell, for all his work serving as our squadron Treasurer for the past year and a half. Unfortunately, Mike was unable to finish out his term this year so I would like to take this opportunity to personally express my immense gratitude to Bob Miller for temporarily taking over our Treasurer duties until Change of Watch occurs in April. You're a life-saver, Bob!

On that same note, I cannot stress enough how important it is to consider filling a bridge position this coming year. Your nominating committee is finding it difficult to locate new bridge participants so if you have ever considered helping out the squadron by taking a position, now is the time. I hate to think what could happen to Skagit Bay if we cannot fill our bridge next year. If everyone takes a turn at something, we can not only keep this squadron alive, but also make it thrive! We are currently in need of a Commander, Administrative Officer and Secretary. If you can help, or you would simply like more information about any of these positions, please contact one of our nominating committee members, Kelly Libby or Jean Miller. Let's make 2016 our best year yet!



Education Department P/C Debbie Richey, AP

If you have been waiting for a Weather class taught by a retired weather service forecaster, Bellingham is teaching it at Bellingham Technical College.

Bob Jacobsen is a really great instructor and makes weather fun! I highly recommend this course and instructor. The course is \$85 for a member and \$125 for nonmembers. To register for the class and more information, this website has all the information: [Bellingham Technical College](http://www.bellinghamtechnicalcollege.edu). They are also teaching Engine Maintenance and Advance Piloting.

We will be teaching ABC3 starting January 25. It will be taught two nights a week for three weeks. Contact Mike Wytychak for more information.

From the Membership Chair Debbie Richey, AP

Very Important!!

Our squadron is at a crossroads. We are struggling to find folks to help run the squadron. We all love the camaraderie of the people in the squadron, the great classes that are offered. But we are starting to stagnate. The great people that helped us get the squadron off the ground have done all that they can and it now time for someone else to step up. The time commitments are small for most positions. Please take a look at your schedules and see if you can't commit a couple of hours a month to help keep this great squadron going.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

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

NOAA has cancelled another chart in our area, 18445 Puget Sound Possession Sound to Olympia including Hood Canal. For additional information, please visit <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs>

If you are heading south through the Swinomish channel, the front range light is characteristics are not operating correctly (LMN 01/16).

On the approach to Cap Sante Marina, day beacon 1 is 15 feet outside of the channel limit (LMN 01/16).

Local Interest Website for Lake Boaters.

If You Boat in Whatcom County especially lake Whatcom, This website may be of special interest to you. It might affect you even if you live there and never put your boat in fresh water.

<http://whatcomboatinspections.com/>





Boating Activities
P/C Donna J. Mason, AP

Happy New Year! I hope you have great adventures on the water this year.

January 14 Squadron Members Meeting at the Farm-house Restaurant and Boating Activities Planning

I just know that one of your New Year's Resolutions was to add your ideas to the Rendezvous Planning Meeting and perhaps volunteer to be a rendezvous host!

Let's plan lots of squadron boating and other activities for 2016! Once we've all agreed on a plan, marina slips can be reserved, this year's squadron shirts will be available to order, and you can update your calendars.

Bring your calendars and suggestions for weekend rendezvous, other boating activities, and even some non-boating activities. Many of our members no longer have boats, but we enjoy getting together anyway. Where is your favorite weekend rendezvous spot? Do you prefer marinas with hook-ups or remote settings? Are you first timers? Are you seasoned boaters ready to try a new location? Can you do day-trips only? Do you want to know what's involved being a host? Tell us your thoughts, ideas, and preferences. What did you think of the last couple years' activities? What was missing? What should we add?

We'll have guide sheets, tide tables and marine charts to help in planning. I have some firm dates for festivals we've enjoyed in the past. By the end of the meeting, we'll have a plan for the 2016 boating season!

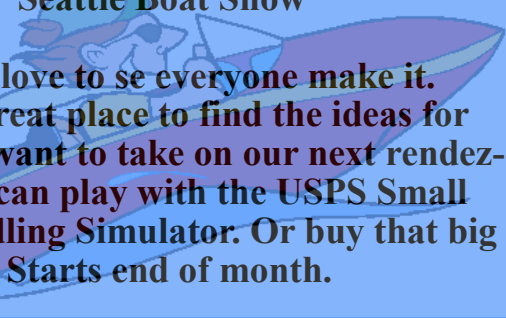
Looking forward to seeing you there!

Squadron members donate \$200 to Skagit Valley Neighbors in Need

Things went a lot more smoothly for our Squadron Holiday Party at LaConner Pub this year. Not so much so for the decorated boats who had to fight a strong wind and opposing current. Some boats traveled a bit sideways up the channel, but we all enjoyed their efforts. At the party we collected for the Skagit Valley Neighbors in Need and amassed \$200 to contribute to this worthy organization. Thanks to all the generous Squadron members! Happy New Year To You All!

“The Boat Show, The Boat Show, The Big Seattle Boat Show”

We would love to see everyone make it. This is a great place to find the ideas for what you want to take on our next rendezvous. You can play with the USPS Small Boat Handling Simulator. Or buy that big sale item!! Starts end of month.



ASSORTED PHOTOS OF THE FUN WE ALL HAD AT LACONNER LIGHTED BOAT PARADE. THANKS TO LACONNER PUB FOR A GREAT TIME — SEE MORE ON NEXT PAGE



Skagit Bay Sail & Power Squadron

Executive Committee Meeting

La Conner Pub & Eatery

December 12, 2015

Committee members in attendance:

Kari Randall-Secrest
Deanna Randall-Secrest
Kelly Libby
Donna Mason
Sandra Johnson
Bob Miller
Mark Richey
Debbie Richey
Sharon Knowles

Meeting was called to order by Commander Kari Randall-Secrest at 1634 hours.

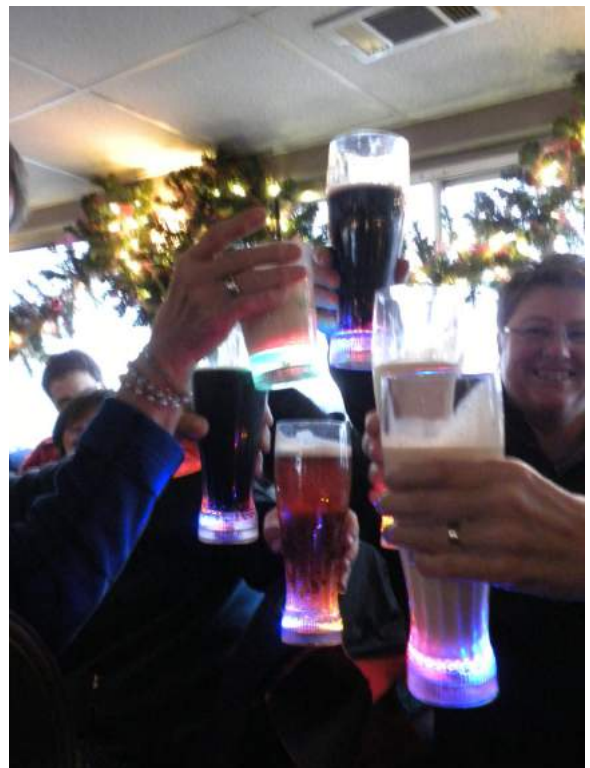
Kari Randall-Secrest informed us that Treasurer Michael Connell has presented his resignation. Bob Miller moved to accept his resignation. Motion was seconded by Donna Mason. Unanimous decision.

Bob Miller volunteered, and made the motion to fill in as treasurer until the Change of Watch in April, when a new treasurer can be voted in. Mark Richey seconded the motion. Unanimous decision.

Secretary Sharon Knowles has delivered the treasurer's materials to Bob Miller.

Meeting was adjourned at 1637 hours.


Respectfully Submitted,



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
JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**



**Laurel Cochran
Jean Miller
Kari Randall-Secrest
Cliff Williams
Todd Woodard**

~ 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.

Ships Store

Did you know that our ship's store carries embroidered shirts, hats with our burgee on them, and burgees for your boat! Be sure to let me, Sheryl Wytychak, know if you would like a new shirt or hat! Make sure to check out the National Ship Store also: <http://store.shopusps.org/>.

New ship store keeper! See Sheryl Wytychak for all your squadron attire and flag needs.

Bridge Officers		
Commander	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Executive Officer	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Education Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Administrative Officer	Deanna Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Secretary	Sharon Knowles, AP	360 333-7808
Treasurer	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Executive Committee		
	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
	Donna Mason, 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.	Albert Miller, P	360-391-1897
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	Albert Miller, P	360-391-1897
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Vacant	
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds		
Local Board Elect Courses	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
	Vacant	
Administrative Department		
Boating Activities	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Galley	Vacant	
Greeting	Vacant	
Membership	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Vacant	
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
Roster	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Scrapbook	Vacant	
Webmaster	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr Chair	Sharon Knowles, AP	360 333-7808
2 Yrs.	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
3 Yrs.	Judy Bennett, S	
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
2 Yrs.	Jean Miller, N	360-588-9950
3 Yrs.	Vacant	
Rules Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Bill Stewart, JN	360-424-1270
2 Yrs.	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
3 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888

Please note the vacancies. Also, the positions in red are unknown if they are correct. Contact editor or committee chair with corrections. We also need the class student count for the chart.