

# THE BITTER END

News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron  
October 2016



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

Web Page: [www.skagitsquadron.org](http://www.skagitsquadron.org)  
Email: [ssboatschool@hotmail.com](mailto:ssboatschool@hotmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/)



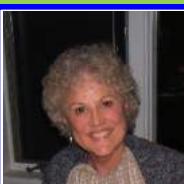
## CALENDAR



13 Oct—Regular Meeting, Farmhouse, Program  
28-30 Oct—D16 Fall Conference, Bellingham  
05 Nov—Train Trip to Tacoma, Foss Museum



**Come to the Fall Conference. The registration is in this edition. This is a great chance to meet other squadrons and members and see how they do things. We have a chance to be in the Skagit Valley College catalog like we used to be, they are willing to work with us again. This was a great deal for us. See Debbie's article. Happy Halloween, be careful of the kiddies out there.**



### Commander's Message Donna J. Mason, AP

A Merit Mark is the only official way USPS has of recognizing your valuable efforts to help the squadron. Yes, it is that time of year again. I know how hard many of you have worked this year, but I don't have all the details needed to recommend you to National. Please e-mail to me ([donna.j.mason@gmail.com](mailto:donnajmason@gmail.com)) what you've done for the squadron to date in 2016 and how many hours you worked. I thank you all for everything, large or small, you have done for the squadron this year. It means a lot and keeps our squadron healthy and thriving.

It also is that time of year to think about how you would like to help our squadron in 2017. The mission of United States Power Squadrons® is to promote recreational boating skills and boating safety through education, hands-on training and civic activities while providing fellowship for members. There are many choices for you. The Nomination Committee soon will reactivate and needs to hear from you so they can build the slate of positions for election in 2017. Please let NomCom Chair Kelly Libby know of your areas of interest. E-mail her at [kellyelibby@gmail.com](mailto:kellyelibby@gmail.com).

A recent example of how boaters come to the aid of those in distress was on Friday morning, September 30. With only 1/4-mile visibility, a Kenmore Air plane from Lake Union en route to Roche Harbor crashed in 9 feet of water off the south end of

Lopez Island. The nearby crew of the vessel "Northern Rose" placed a May Day call and then rescued the four occupants, three men and one woman. The plane occupants were wearing life jackets, were treated for hypothermia and minor cuts, and luckily had no life-threatening injuries. (Seattle Times)

D16 Fall Conference is coming up in Bellingham October 28-30 at the Four Points by Sheraton (formerly BW Lakeway Inn) on Lakeway Drive. Information was in last month's "Bitter End." You may want to attend the free Saturday session and learn more about our USPS®, District 16, and what other squadrons are doing. I'll be there.

Need a book for a young reader? You may be interested in Rescue Squad No. 9 by Mike Austin. A helicopter and speedboat crew are tending to home-base business when a big storm blows in. "SOS. MAYDAY! MAYDAY! MAYDAY!" A sailor and the sailor's dog are in big trouble foundered on a rock! The rescue takes place amid crashing waves, driving rain and howling winds. An endnote provides water safety tips, and the inside covers feature sea and sky rescue tools such as air horns, ring buoys and parachute flares. (Info from Village Books)

Welcome to members Anne and Rolf Nesse who recently transferred from the Spokane squadron. They live in Oregon and keep their motor sailer "Mystic Knot" at Cap Sante.

Hope to see you at our next Members Meeting, October 13!

Our summer boating season has come to an end. **But wait! There's more!**

Saturday, November 5 Train day trip to Tacoma Foss Waterway Seaport Museum. This will involve a little walking and local public transportation in Tacoma.

Amtrak Cascades train #513 leaves Mt. Vernon station at 9:02 a.m. and arrives in Tacoma at 11:58 a.m. We'll walk a block or two to get public transportation to a restaurant, possibly Rock The Dock Pub & Grill, for a group lunch near the museum. You can order lunch from the menu. At 2 p.m. we'll have a docent-led tour of the Foss Waterway Working Waterfront Maritime Museum



([www.fosswaterwayseaport.org](http://www.fosswaterwayseaport.org)). Museum group tours, of 10 or more people, cost \$8 Adults, \$6 Senior. We'll take public transportation back to the train station where we'll return on the Amtrak Cascades #516 at 5:24 p.m. train to Mt. Vernon, arriving at 8:27 p.m. Check Amtrak.com for rates and discounts. Buy your own train tickets. As of 10/2/16, the Saver Fare was \$40 per person round trip. Those fares are available until used up, so get your tickets as early as possible. You usually get the best rates buying tickets 2 weeks in advance. Check their website, [www.Amtrak.com](http://www.Amtrak.com), for possible promotional rates. If you have complicated questions, call 1-800 872-7245 and request "Agent," so you can talk to a human. I scheduled this early November, before the heavy rains might cause train delays, but we have to be flexible with delays. So far 13 people have indicated interest in this trip.

Mark your calendars:

Saturday December 10: SBSPS Holiday Party. Space is reserved for us at the LaConner Pub for the Lighted Boat Parade and dinner party. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. You can order from the menu; we provide dessert. Enjoy the lighted boat parade viewable from the restaurant.



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](http://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. So far we have 4 people interested.



**Education Department  
Lt/C Debbie Richey, AP**

Happy Halloween! Fall is here and gone are the long days of cruising. But you can still cruise in the winter. You just have to aware of the weather forecast. Mark and I have cruised many times in the winter. The waters are quiet and the marinas even quieter. You will see different wildlife than you do in the summer. Try it!

Bob Miller is currently scheduling Advance Piloting to start in January on Monday evenings. The course has been updated significantly to include more electronic navigation and how to use it. Those of us that took the course before 2011 might want to take it again (without the exam) to brush on our electronic navigation. The course will be taught at Anacortes Marina starting on Monday, January 9.

I have reached out to Skagit Valley College to see if we can add our ABC course to their Community Education program. When the squadron was first started, we taught many of the founding members at the college. But due to budget cuts at the college, we had to discontinue.

As always, we are still looking for instructors. Be safe out there!

## **March 2016 Membership**

Please welcome Don Coleman, Anton and Margaret Kerkhove, and Glen and Carolyn Capragno.

## Coronet Bay Charter Party



**Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron  
United States Power Squadron  
Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2016**

The following members were in attendance at the Farmhouse Restaurant:

Donna Mason	Sandy Johnson	George Johnson
Paul Rosetter	Kari Randall-Secret	John Bellinger
Kelly Libby	Marlene Bellinger	Don Coleman
Debbie Richey	Craig Ford	
Dick Hunter	Billie Ford	
Glenn Caporgno	Carolyn Caporgno	

Guest: Isaac Oczkewicz, La Conner Maritime

Meeting called to order by Commander Donna Mason at 1900. A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Officer Report – Debbie Richey for Mark Richey

Nothing new to report.

Liaison Officer Report – Debbie Richey:

Sooke and Juan de Fuca Canadian Power Squadrons have folded. The Vancouver Island North and South districts are merging to the Vancouver Island District.

Co-Op Charting – Donna Mason for Lynn Stewart

Nothing new to report.

Public Relations – Kari Randall-Secret for Deanna Randall-Secret

Nothing new to report.

Squadron Educational Officer – Debbie Richey:

Debbie and Instructor Bob Miller are planning an upcoming Advanced Piloting course.

Debbie is looking for a room for an all-day Saturday ABC course this fall, taught by Debbie and Mark Richey.

There are plans for a second ABC course to begin in January at Anacortes Marina, taught by Mike Wytychak.

Debbie is planning an upcoming Operations Training course.

Discussion regarding squadron course fees:

Debbie suggested we set prices for our courses based on what we've done for some recent courses, which will make advertising easier.

In the past, we haven't always charged enough for our courses to cover the instructor's materials. Recently, for our squadron's last Piloting course, we charged members \$100 for a single and \$125 for two folks sharing the book/materials and \$175 for a single non-member and \$200 for two non-members sharing the book/materials. This went very well and the class was full (about ½ the class were non-members) and there was even a waiting list to get into the class.

For ABC, our squadron typically likes to keep the cost a bit lower cost at \$55 for a single and \$65 for a couple sharing materials.

There was also discussion regarding shipping of materials and course exams to/from national.

Donna initiated further discussion regarding how we should handle pricing for a non-member agency requesting a class, such as a local fire department. The Burlington Fire Department, for example, has requested we teach an ABC course next spring. Debbie is working on this with them. After discussion, the consensus was to keep it simple with just two pricing plans, one for members and one non-members.

Debbie made a motion that we charge cost + 20% markup for members, and cost + %100 markup for non-members for our advanced course fees. Kari seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Administrative Officer Report – Dick Hunter:

Program Tonight: Dick Hunter announced Isaac Oczkewicz of La Conner Maritime will talk about boat maintenance.

October program will be presented by our own Bob Miller.

November program will be a speaker from the Coast Guard Sector Bellingham about preparing for and dealing with a Coast Guard boarding.

#### Boating Activities – Donna Mason:

Sept 24 will be the Anniversary Cookout at Cornet Bay. Plan is rotisserie chicken because of the burn ban. Let Donna know if you're coming. See newsletter for more information.

Sept 30-Oct 2 will be the Rosario Resort Rendezvous. A reminder email will be forthcoming.

Report passed on adventures of the Wytychaks summer cruising.

Debbie reported on a possible event Sat. Nov. 19, Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce presenting the Skagit Wine and Beer Festival at Eaglemont Golf Course. Contact Debbie if you're interested. Debbie will send an email with more information.

Donna reported on another possible November event on either Saturday Nov. 5th or 19th: a day train trip to Tacoma for lunch and a group tour of the Foss Waterway Seaport Museum. Minimum 10 people. Donna will send an email with more information.

For members without boats, there are commercial services that offer various day trips to Sucia Island from Bellingham.

Donna passed a form to gather information regarding our squadron's boats.

#### Argosy Christmas Cruise:

Discussion re: Sat. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 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. If a group is interested, Donna can arrange to have lunch beforehand.

#### Membership – Debbie Richey:

She will be adding several folks to our squadron: Glenn and Carolyn Caporgno, Don Coleman, Anton and Margaret Kerkhove and transfer of Ann and Rolf from the Spokane squadron.

#### Secretary's Report – Kari Randall-Secretary:

June meeting minutes were posted in Bitter End

Craig Ford motioned we approve the June minutes, seconded by Dick Hunter. Motion passed.

Kari and Deanna checked the squadron defibrillator battery and it is still good. The defibrillator is currently located on Kari and Deanna's boat, Briongloid.

Newsletter: The Bitter End is out for September.

Webmaster: Kari is still working on a "Member's Only" section of the website.

#### Treasurer's Report: Donna Mason for Bob Miller

Bob provided Donna with the July 2016 treasury report.

Treasury balance as of August 9 is \$6,406.57.

A copy of the Treasurer's report was submitted to the Secretary's records.

#### Nominations Committee – Kelly Libby

Nothing new to report.

#### Commander's Report – Donna Mason:

District 16's Fall Conference will be held on Oct. 28 in Bellingham at the Sheridan on Lakeway Drive. The day conference is available to all members for free.

Please get your merit mark information ready ... due in October.

We need Vessel Safety Examiners and Course Instructors. If you know of someone who might be interested please contact us.

Squadron pins were provided to those new members who had not yet received them.

#### Old Business

Donna requested that we need to contact all past Secretaries and attempt to gather records for prior years.

Kari will be working on updating the document we have on file for our 5013c incorporation as it needs to have updated with current Officer names and contact information and be submitted to the Washington Secretary of State's Office.

Dick Hunter motioned we close the meeting. Paul Rosetter seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1935.

# *United States Power Squadrons* District 16 Fall Conference

**28-30 October 2016**

**Four Points by Sheraton  
Bellingham, Washington**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse /Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note:** this is an activity registration form. There is **no charge** for attending conference meetings. However, we depend on your attendance at meals and registering at the hotel with the conference rate (\$99 + tax) to cover the costs of the conference for the host squadron.

Early Bird prices apply for reservations made no later than September 28, 2016. Regular hotel prices apply to reservations received by the hotel after Wednesday, September 28, 2016, subject to space availability.

Will you be attending just the district conference without meals? Check if YES \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday 28, October 2016**

Hotel check in begins: 1500, but come early and enjoy beautiful Bellingham!

Activity		Early Bird	After Sept. 28	# People	Total
<b>Conference Registration on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor right off the elevator: 1600 – 1830</b>					
<b>Friday Night Pirate Party:</b> 1700-1900	Potato & Salad Bar Buffet & No Host Bar <u>Wear your best pirate attire—Prizes!!</u>	\$20	\$22	_____ \$ _____	
<b>Saturday Breakfast:</b> 0700-0900	Continental Supreme	\$21	\$23	_____ \$ _____	
<b>Saturday Lunch:</b> 1200-1300	Soup & Salad Bar	\$21	\$23	_____ \$ _____	
<b>Saturday Plated Dinner:</b> 1800-2100	Roasted Pork Penne Pasta w/ Chicken Butternut Squash Ravioli (Veggie)	\$45 \$33 \$33	\$47 \$35 \$35	_____ \$ _____ _____ \$ _____ _____ \$ _____	

Dinner includes rolls & butter, salad, potatoes/rice, seasonal vegetables, dessert, coffee/tea/water, 8.7 % tax and 20% tip inclusive.

Any Dietary Restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Optional Local Tours on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Woodz Coffee Roastery Tour-3PM</b>	No Charge	_____ \$ <b>FREE</b>
	<b>Bellewood Acres Distillery Tour &amp; Tasting-2PM</b>	\$10 for the tasting	_____ \$ _____
Total in (US Funds)			_____ \$ _____

Make checks for the meals payable to Bellingham Sail and Power Squadron (BSPS), D16 Fall Conference. Mail registration and checks to:

Bellingham S & PS  
P/C Sandi Horne, SN  
6776 Olson Rd.  
Ferndale, WA 98248-9638

Make your hotel reservations early and directly to the hotel: \$99 per night plus tax

Four Points by Sheraton  
714 Lakeway Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98229  
Phone: (360) 671-1011

Reservations should be made under: United States Power Squadron District 16

For more information contact: P/C Michael Guelker-Cone  
mguelker53@gmail.com  
(360) 510-5543

## 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  
OCTOBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

**Paul Rosetter  
Jeri Starrett  
Lisa Weber**



## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

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

Celestial Navigation Anyone?

Our squadron's George Brooks will love this! From The Bellingham Herald September 1, the U.S. Service members are back to learning Celestial Navigation along with other traditional skills. Military leaders are preparing for what happens when their high-tech wizardry no longer functions. With potential adversaries becoming more adept at disruptive digital warfare, we may lose satellite service, communications may be jammed, and/or computer links may be disrupted. So Pentagon officials are preparing for a "going dark" condition and are training the U.S. Military in skills used in WW I and WW II just in case. Celestial Navigation is one of those "back to basic" skills along with the ability to operate in the "unconnected" world.

## ~ 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.