



THE BITTER END

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron

January 2018

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

Web Page: www.skagitsquadron.org

Email: ssboatschool@hotmail.com

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



CALENDAR

- 11 Jan - Regular Meeting, Farmhouse, Rendezvous Planning
- 15 Jan—Cruise Planning, Anacortes Marina
- 25 Jan—Last day for rooms for Spring Conference



Happy New Year All. May 2018 be better for you than 2017. Although not so bad right now, be careful out there especially up north. ALSO—SAVE THE DATE FOR SPRING CONFERENCE! See this issue!



Commander's Message Donna J. Mason, AP

Sure hope you had a great time seeing in the New Year of 2018. It is going to be interesting! I wish for you a year of safe boating at enjoyable destinations and new adventures on the water.

Our squadron treasury and individual members contributed a total of \$332 to the Neighbors In Need Food Bank. This will help them a lot, and I thank all of you who contributed at the Holiday Party.

Didn't get what you wanted for Christmas? Budget busted? Well, I just happened to be in a good used bookstore in the Fairhaven area of Bellingham: Eclipse Books. I noticed among the travel writing and other places that they have a big selection of nautical books and sea stories. They have tons of books, so one needs to come in with their patience in tow. Might be fun to find a warm, cozy spot during the rains and enjoy a good book. (Disclaimer: I have no stock or financial interest in any bookstores!)

Let's do some simple math. Giving more ABC classes = more new members = more volunteers to share workload of the mission of our squadron, including becoming instructors, bridge officers and other spots on our list of positions. How do we teach more ABC classes in the meantime? Older "retired" instructors coming out of retirement for a while and new members becoming qualified in-

structors. We have lost some members due to moving out of the area, illness, death, aging, and getting out of boating. We need a constant influx of new members to keep our squadron thriving. The need is real to prevent a downward spiral in membership and our success as a squadron.

Do you like to tie knots, discuss routes on charts, use GPS, talk about safety on the water, compare different types of boats, go boating, and want more people to be safe on the water? You can be an instructor or an instructor aide. There are people to assist you. We need you.

My plea for the New Year is: help with teaching ABC classes. Contact Squadron Educational Officer Debbie Richey, AP. At the moment we do not have an ABC class scheduled because we have an instructor shortage and we're looking for new spaces for classes. This is unfortunate because people from our area visiting the USPS D16 Booth at the Seattle Boat Show won't have an ABC class to sign up for. What a missed opportunity!

Do join us for our 2018 Activities Planning Program at our next Members Meeting, Thursday, January 11. (See Boating Activities section for details.)



Boating Activities By Cdr Donna J. Mason, AP

Happy New Year! I hope you have safe and great adventures on the water this year. Let's make them happen!

January 11 Squadron Members Meeting at the Farmhouse Restaurant and Boating Activities Planning

Did you make a New Year's Resolution to be more active in boating this year?

We'll plan a good schedule of boating and other activities for 2018. We need and welcome your ideas! 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, list of committed weekends, 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? Do you want a "boat buddy" to travel to rendezvous with? 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?

New this year: Each boating activity will need to have a rendezvous host designated at the time of scheduling. "How to host a rendezvous" pamphlets will be at the meeting. Paul and I will host some non-boating activities, but we will not be boating. Margaret and Anton Kerkhove have stepped up to coordinate some of the boating rendezvous, and I welcome their willingness to be more involved.

We'll have guide sheets, tide tables and marine charts to help in planning. By the end of the meeting, we'll have a plan for the 2018 boating season!

See seeing you there!



Education Department P/C Debbie Richey, AP

Cruise Planning will start on January 15 and the class is almost full. Winter is the perfect time of year to start planning next year's cruises and destinations. If you are interested in taking Weather, Bob Jacobsen is teaching the class at Bellingham Technical College starting on Wednesday, January 11. Weather is a great class to take and Bob makes it fun. He is a retired weatherman from NOAA. It will not be a dull class. Signup through BTC. Contact BSPS SEO Deborah Frost for more info (seo@boatingisfun.org.)

We are in the planning stage of a Saturday ABC class. Probably late February or early March. I may be calling on you for assistance!

I would like to get a few volunteers together to help teach Piloting. If you volunteer, you will not be the only teacher. We will limit the course to 10 students to make sure everyone gets the assistance they need. I have one volunteer! Thank you!

One of the problems vexing us is a venue to teach the classes. I know of places in the Stanwood-Camano area, but not Mt. Vernon or Anacortes. We have checked out the library in Anacortes and the senior center in Anacortes. If anyone has some more ideas, I would love to hear them. My e-mail is: drichey@rocketmail.com.



DECEMBER MEETING AT LACONNER PUB



Jeanne and Steve Drummond, Father Stephen couldn't find parking so had to return home!



Jack and Pat Dyer



John Bellinger, Richard Hunter, Shani Taha, George and Jeanne Brooks, Marlene Bellinger



Anton and Margaret Kerkhove, Don and Tammy Coleman



Kari and Deanna Randall-Secret, Sandy Johnson, Debbie Richey, Paul Rosetter, George Johnson



Mark Richey, Carolyn and Glen Caporgno

HOLIDAY TRIP TO LEAVENWORTH



Top row: Anton and Margaret Kerkove, Deanna and Kari Randall-Secrest and Paul Rosetter. Bottom row: Don and Tami Coleman, Donna Mason

Kari and Deanna's relatives joined the bus for a hearty Bavarian lunch. (L-R) Kari's Dad Nick, Mom Pam, Niece Jorhdyn, Don and Tamika Coleman, Anton and Margaret Kerkhove, Paul Rosetter, Donna Mason, Deanna's Mom Rae-anna, Sister Danette, Deanna and Kari Randall-Secrest.



Deanna's hearty lunch



The Coleman's hearty dessert



WATCH the CHANGES

9 - 11 March 2018



USPS® District 16 Spring Conference and Change of Watch

Come join the Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron as we host YOUR District 16 **Spring Conference** and celebrate the **Change of Watch**.

Nestled where the Salish Sea surrounds high cliffs, rocky beaches, lush green fields, and majestic pine and hemlock forests is the town of **Oak Harbor** on **Whidbey Island**, protected by the Naval Air Station, home to honored service men and women, and where hospitality is unsurpassed.

This two-day event is on 9 and 10 March, 2018. Activities will be at our world-class Whidbey Golf and Country Club and at Best Western Plus conference center, which is also offering accommodations at a special rate. Both are in Oak Harbor.

On Friday, 9 March, come early and enjoy one of three tours being offered to show you a bit of our lovely Whidbey Island surrounding areas.

- ✚ Wineries and Distillery Tour
- ✚ Penn Cove Shellfish Farm
- ✚ Shopping Spree—at Anacortes, across the northern end bridges, on Fidalgo Island. (Quilting, knitting, antiques, and fashion shops. (Also a marine hardware store, boat builder, and West Marine.)

Gourmet offerings begin Friday evening at the Reception and continue through the Banquet on Saturday evening, both at the Whidbey Golf and Country Club, an easy 3.2 miles from the Best Western Plus Hotel. Map and driving instructions will be available during registration at the Best Western Plus Hotel Friday evening.

Early Bird Discount Deadline:

Meals and Activities if you sign up by February 9.

Hotel reservation by January 25.

You won't want to miss the changing of the guard and the great opportunity to visit old Squadron friends, or meet new acquaintances who can turn into life-long friends.

Talk boating  **Talk safety**  **Talk fun.**
Come join us.

USPS-D16 » Spring Conference & Change of Watch « 9-11 March 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name: _____ Spouse/Guest name: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Squadron: _____
 E-mail Address for confirmation of registration and payment: _____
 Attending the Conference without meals? Yes ___ Is this your first District Conference? Yes ___

	Activity	Early Bird - before 9 th February	After 9 th February	No. of People	Total Cost
Friday After-noon Special Events	Tour of the Penn Cove Shellfish Farm (Maximum 25 people)	FREE	FREE		-----
	Winery and Distillery visit	\$25	\$25		
	Shopping tour in Anacortes (on your own)	-----	-----		-----
Friday Evening	Registration - 1600 - 1800	@ Best Western Plus Hotel			
Friday Night	No Host Bar - 1800 - 2030 Hot and Cold Hors d'oeuvres @ Whidbey Golf Club	\$25	\$30		
Saturday a.m.	Breakfast is on your own	(included with Best Western Plus Room reservation)			
Saturday Lunch	Lunch 1200 - 1300				
Box Lunches	Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad	\$20	\$25		
	Italian Focaccia Sandwich	\$20	\$25		
	Thai Vegetable Wrap	\$20	\$25		
	Seafood Louie Salad	\$20	\$25		
*also select ONE option of a side	* Fresh Fruit				-----
	* Potato Chips				-----
	*Hummus w/Pita				-----
	*Smoked Salmon Chowder				-----
	(all lunches include a Lemon	Berry	Crumb Bar)		
Saturday Evening Social	No Host Bar 1800 - 1900 Banquet 1800 - 2100				
Dinner - Your Choice	Roasted Half Chicken	\$30	\$35		
	Prime Rib Au Jus	\$40	\$45		
	Portabella Mushroom Ravioli	\$30	\$35		
Optional Dessert (circle One)	Whidbey Ice Cream Sundae	\$5	\$7		
	Lemon Cake				

Totals \$

Mail with your check (in US funds) made to Deception Pass Sail and Power Squadron (DPSPS)

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-Secret Paul Rosetter Cliff Williams

~ 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.

Good cook needed - The Nominating Committee has completed filling all squadron positions except "Galley". The current commander (who we won't name so that not to embarrass her) has declined, saying that we don't need a Galley person since we now meet always at the Farmhouse Restaurant. I think she fears that she can't bake the 4-layer (minimum) chocolate cake, complete with heavy frosting and decoration, **as required during the interview process**. So, step up if you got the moxie. This is the only blank spot on the entire ballot. Contact a friendly NomComm officer, either Paul Rosetter or George Johnson, at the January meeting, and don't forget our top pay and generous benefits package.

Bridge Officers		
Commander	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Executive Officer	John R. Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
Education Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Administrative Officer	Vacant	
Secretary	Kari Randall-Secret, 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.	Glen & Carolyn Caporgno	209-484-2365
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	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
Asst Public Relations	Vacant	
Radio Technical	George Brooks, SN	
Safety	George Brooks, SN	
Vessel Exams	Don Coleman	360 333-2962
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	Vacant	
Property Officer	Vacant	
Supply Officers	Margaret & Anton Kerkove	360-588-4808
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-Secret, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Judy Bennett, S	707-443-2855
2 Yrs.	Billie Ford	360 941-1956
3 Yrs.	Jack Dyer	
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Paul Rosetter, AP	360 595-1083
2 Yrs.	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
3 Yrs.	Carolyn Caporgno	209-484-2365
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. **Please insure the names shown are correct!**