



# THE BITTER END

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron  
April 2020

*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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/)



## CALENDAR

02 April—Ex-Comm Meeting, 6Pm, Zoom  
09 April—Regular Meeting, Virtual? TBD  
07 May—Ex-Comm Meeting, 6Pm, Zoom



The new bridge is elected and the roster on the last page is updated with new names. Please be safe during these trying times and look after each other as much as possible. We will work around whatever obstacles are presented and keep going. We will be creative!



### Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN

Hello Members! I hope you are all staying safe. We are going to try and keep things going creatively in the short term with online meetings, lots of email news etc.

We sent out an email to Skagit Bay members earlier about offering help for each other, please take advantage of it if you need to. Also, we are considering online meetings and the next board meeting will be that way so its something to think about. Let us know if you would be interested in some sort of tele-conference type meeting. I wonder if we could even get a guest program that way?

Here is some business info. The vote for the new bridge and elected committees was held by an electronic vote 2 weeks ago. The vote for the slate presented by the Nominating Committee was unanimous so we have a bridge. USPS National says that during an emergency we can conduct business by any means possible so our vote is good. Welcome new officers!

The word is that exercise, running, walking, hiking, etc., helps both your health and your mood. Be aware that a lot of the public areas like parks and campgrounds have been closed. State Parks, WDFW, DNR have all closed as well as various county sites. This includes day use areas and boat ramps. As of this article National Forests are

still open but be careful out there. Don't do anything that will close the few outdoor exercise spots we have left.

WDFW has closed all recreational sport and shell fishing at least for the short term. This has never been done before. Apparently a lot of the river banks were crowded with folks trying to get outdoors. The lowland lakes and lingcod open next month but it remains to be seen how that will go.

As far as boating goes, I know some of you may think of your boat as a 2nd home and you are allowed to be in your home. However, most of the transient moorage in the San Juan's as well as a lot of places in Puget Sound are closed, so please check. The San Juan's have politely stated that if you are not a resident please stay away. Canada will also not allow you across the border so the Gulf Islands are out. As of this moment fuel docks are open so I suppose we can go anchor but it's not one of the items allowed during the Stay at home order, unless your boat is your home of course.

Take care folks. We can talk to each other online or by phone. Lets look out for each other and follow proper guidelines and we will get back together before you know it. If you need help, please let us know. We are a strong, tight, friendly, group and will all get through these times together.

Note: If members that are not on the bridge or the Executive Committee (see list back page) want to attend our online Ex-Comm meeting, let me know and I will send you a ZOOM invitation.



## **Squadron Activities 2020 ... Or Not!** **By P/C Donna Mason, AP**

How are you doing during this “lockdown”? Paul and I have decided to think of it as a staycation.

In over 25 years with United States Power Squadrons, I never have experienced a virtual Change of Watch, but due to COVID-19 necessity, that’s what we had this year—it happened in thin air! I wish success to the new Bridge, Ex Com and all those in new positions.

Sadly our beginning-of-the-year squadron activities have been cancelled or postponed. We’ll revisit the schedule when life becomes safer. In the meantime, all activities are cancelled through at least mid- May. We hope you all stay safe and well. I offered to get groceries for our nearly-90-year-old neighbors. Their first grocery list was whole milk and merlot wine! They were enjoying a glass of champagne when I called.

As boaters, we are lucky in that we can take our boats out into the middle of a lake or saltwater bay, in the fresh air, plunk and not be exposed to other people. In fact, I see a small boat plunked in Lake Whatcom as I write this. If you are stuck in the house, have done all your spring cleaning and are caught up on all your chores, you might be looking for amusement. You could get on your computer chart plotter and play with traveling to some locations you wouldn’t normally. Or, you could pull out your paper charts and practice plotting a new course. (Why do I hear groans?) Or, how about some water-related reading? Here are a few suggestions your local bookstore could get and mail to you for about 99 cents postage, since local libraries are closed for a while:

### Barons of the Sea and Their Race To Build The World’s Fastest Clipper Ship by Steven Ujifusa

In America’s early days the journey by sea from Canton to New York could take six months, so competitors raced to build the fastest cargo ships to increase profits. This history covers how some of the greatest fortunes were made.

Paradise of the Pacific by Susanna Moore The history of late 18<sup>th</sup> Century Hawaii via the people arriving by sea: Polynesian adventurers, British navigators, Protestant missionaries, and shipwrecked sailors.

Undaunted Courage Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West by Stephen E. Ambrose. Ken Burns used this as a source for his “Lewis & Clark” documentary. An amazing true story of one of the most difficult expeditions to discover the American West, by water and by land. A year before the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this expedition, Paul and I followed their journey as best as we could by car from Missouri to Washington State and took a cruise down the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The North Water, a novel by Ian McGuire. A story of an ill-fated voyage on a Yorkshire whaler to harpoon whales in the Arctic Circle, set in the time of the Siege of Delhi. This 2016 novel was nominated for the Booker Prize.

### Pirate Hunters Treasure, Obsession, and the Search for a Legendary Pirate Ship, by Robert Kurson

Using cutting edge technology, two men try to locate the sunken vessel “The Golden Fleece” of 17<sup>th</sup> C. vicious and notorious Pirate Joseph Bannister.

For mystery fans:

Death in Rough Water, A Merry Folger Nantucket Mystery by Francine Mathews. A decades-experienced fishing boat captain off Nantucket is swept overboard during a storm. Was it accidental? The local police are not inclined to be helpful to the captain’s estranged daughter.

The Grave’s a Fine and Private Place, A Flavia de Luce murder mystery novel by Alan Bradley. While 12-year-old Flavia de Luce takes a punt boating trip with her two older sisters, her fingers in the water discover a disturbing clue.

Shadows on the Lake, A Stefania Valenti Mystery, by Giovanni Cocco and Amneris Magella. Translated by Stephen Sartarelli. The remains of a young man are unearthed on private property above Lake Como. The investigation delves into WW II and fascinating pieces of Italian history.

The Troubled Man, A Kurt Wallander Mystery, by Henning Mankell A retired navy officer vanishes in a Stockholm forest. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> and final installment of the Wallander series.

## **The following events may or may not still happen:**

Delayed Tulip Festival booth.. TBA

### June 12-14 – D16 Rendezvous, Poulsbo

Meet other members of our USPS District 16 at this activity-packed weekend rendezvous, hosted by the D16 Commander. See the D16 website for details, [www.uspsd16.org](http://www.uspsd16.org).

### June 26-28 – Sidney, B. C. Canada Weekend

Bob Miller has begun plans for a weekend for those with or without boats. We might have a joint rendezvous with another squadron. Boaters can make slip reservations with the Port Sidney Marina. People can easily travel from Anacortes, walking onto the ferry and staying at a hotel a short walk from the ferry and near the marina. Bob will announce more in March.

### July 10-12 – Cornet Bay Crab Cookout, Deception Pass State Park

Hosted by Kari and Deanna Randall-Secrest, members can cruise by boat for a day or spend the weekend at the floating docks (no services). Those coming by car can come Saturday and enjoy the crab potluck cookout. Discovery Parking Passes are required.

### July 18 – Shipwreck Day, Anacortes

We'll have a smaller booth this year, as a fundraiser selling used, donated items and also as an information booth to acquaint the public about America's Boating Club and our classes. Our group enjoys dinner after booth takedown.

### August 1 – Lake Whatcom Potluck Rendezvous

Enjoy a day at the Lake! Venture up to Whatcom County to the peaceful south end of 13-mile long Lake Whatcom. Paul Rosetter and Donna Mason are hosting a fun day at the lake. See some of the lake from our Boston Whaler "Wow Whee." Chance winning a prize in the scavenger hunt. Go swimming from the dock. Hike through the woods. Relax and enjoy the view. We'll work up an appetite for an afternoon potluck dinner.

### August 28-30 – Mariners vs. Dodgers and Bell Harbor Marina Rendezvous, Seattle

Kari and Deanna Randall-Secrest and Mark and Debbie Richey are hosting a weekend boating rendezvous at Bell Harbor Marina. The weekend will include Saturday's Mariner's game against the "Dreaded Dodgers." Debbie will arrange for tickets. People also can come by land and stay in a hotel.

### September 4-7 – Port Townsend with Seattle and Everett Squadrons

Spend Labor Day weekend in lovely Port Townsend. This joint rendezvous has been enjoyed for several years. You'll need to reserve slip space early. For information and reservations, contact Lt. Darcy Baker, P at [thebakerfamily4@comcast.net](mailto:thebakerfamily4@comcast.net) or Lt. Susan Tarpley, AP at [jsetarpley@frontier.com](mailto:jsetarpley@frontier.com).

### September 11-13 – Fisherman Bay Weekend Rendezvous, Lopez Island

Mark and Debbie Richey will provide details for this weekend at Fisherman Bay.

### September 26 – Squadron Anniversary Cookout at Coronet Bay Shelter, Deception Pass State Park

Our annual celebration of the Squadron will occur on a free-parking-pass day at Coronet Bay. We'll reserve the shelter for our group picnic and cookout.

### October 3 – Leavenworth Octoberfest and Foliage Bus Tour

Sit back, relax and leave the driving to Bellair Charters who will offer a day trip to Leavenworth, with pick-up in Burlington. We'll enjoy the fall colors along the way and arrive in Leavenworth in time for a group lunch, after which we can explore town on our own. This event is not as crowded as the December Tree Lighting, so don't worry about being crushed in the crowds! We can book this in August. Price will be approximately \$85 per person for transportation. Lunch extra.

### October 2-4 (or 9-11) – Roche Harbor Weekend Rendezvous

We'll work out which weekend this cruise will be. Enjoy quiet off-season relaxation at Roche Harbor, with reduced boatslip rates. Non-boaters can come by ferry and stay at the hotel. Mark and Debbie Richey are the hosts.

### December 12 – LaConner Lighted Boat Parade and Holiday Party

Ring in the holidays with this festive evening at the LaConner Pub, enjoying the boat parade and your choice of dinner. It is our squadron's Holiday Party instead of having a December meeting.

If you have any questions about these activities, or want to sign up, please let me know: [donna@mason@gmail.com](mailto:donna@mason@gmail.com).

# Some Nostalgic Photos of Past Events



Rosario Resort 9/23/2013

Sucia 5/31/2008



Ganges Harbor 8/20/2014



## Educational Department Lt/C Robert J. Miller, JN

For this month, let's talk about *People Safety* instead of *Boating Safety*. As you read this newsletter on your electronic device while hunkered down and practicing proper social distancing, we need to review the need for people to communicate with others. Human beings are social creatures, accustomed to having other people around them, sharing common tasks, gathering food, preparing meals, raising children, and passing on traditions and history to younger beings.

The bunker mentality of slamming the door and keeping outsiders outside never has produced good civilization. So, let's consider how we can promote good social interactions while remaining safe behind our self-quarantined walls. In the past, people involved with epidemics had to stand outside the city walls and shout to their friends inside. Today, it is much easier due to the proliferation of web-based devices and good internet bandwidth in most homes. That said, the rest of this article will focus on virtual face-to-face get togethers, not just voice or text messaging.

Why face to face? The bandwidth of information flow from someone's face is much wider than listening to their voice, and even more so than when reading a text message or email. You can see the other person's eyes and expressions. The other person can see how you are reacting to them and how you are really feeling, too. This flow of subconscious status reports on a person's well-being is fast, efficient, and vital. I can be saying "I am ok. I am not fearful", but my facial expression as seen by the other person in a video conference may say, "No, I really need to talk with someone about my fears." You can't get this information if you simply rely upon a phone call or text message.

My advice is to reach out and 'see' more people remotely. Make a video call to Aunt Bea. Yes, she rambles on and talks about things you really don't care about. But, she may need to talk with someone and you may be the designated listener. Make her feel good and pat yourself on your back and add a gold star to the awards plaque on the refrigerator door.

Our interconnected world has a ton of applications, services, websites, and tools to stay connected visually. Search them out; you probably already have some on your laptop, cellphone, or tablet. Don't feel that the Aunt Beas of the world are technologically behind. Where do you think she finds those new knitting patterns? Check out Skype, FaceTime, Zoom, Alexa, Facebook Video Messenger, and others.

Remember, the tools that we Boomers (and older) use – email, phone calls, Facebook – may not work for other age groups. My granddaughters constantly tell me, "Bob, we don't check email unless we are in school. Also, we may not answer cell phone calls because it is impolite to just phone a person in a cold-call (whatever that is)." You may have to send a text message saying, "Chloe, I want to see you face to face, what tools do you use for video calls?" Then match your technology with Chloe's.

Some hints for good video conferencing:

- Make sure that you have a good wifi connection. Move closer to your router/wifi access point. Make sure that it isn't buried behind the TV or on the floor behind a desk. If possible, move the wifi router into an open space near eye level.
- Use headphones with a built-in microphone. The speakers and microphones on laptop computers and tablets generally have poor audio capabilities and you may not want to share Aunt Bea's end of the conversation with the rest of the household. Obviously, when a group of you are calling Aunt Bea, you will need to use the device's speakers and mic.
- Check out your background. When videoconferencing from a computer or tablet, many people don't closely look at the small thumbnail of their image and fail to see the background. Lighting of your face is important and backlighting from a window or lamp behind you may make your face hard to see. Also make sure that the laundry strung out in the bedroom behind you isn't visible.

- Don't point the camera up your nose. Many laptop cameras are positioned below eye level and the tablet may be in your lap. Looking at someone's face from below emphasizes the pores on your nose. Move the camera to eye level and smile (a lot).
- Some conversations should be private, so make sure that your roommates don't interrupt the call. We all have seen the videos of people holding video conferences interrupted by children or pets coming into view of the camera. I definitely don't want Buddy the Cat to walk across my keyboard while online.
- Set up meeting times in advance, just don't place a FaceTime call to Aunt Bea without warning. She may not 'have her face on' yet. Use text messages or simple phone calls to arrange a time, while doing that, perhaps you can suggest "Let's do this every other day at 11:00 am" to set up a recurring meeting. It shows that you care, even though you know that Aunt Bea is leaving her house to her worthless nephew.

To reiterate – Get out there and communicate, face to face, virtually.

Be Safe,  
Bob Miller  
SEO

PS: We are not worrying about Ed Department activities right now, we just need to care for each other.



## Executive Officer Lt/C Carolyn Caporgno, S

As your new Executive Officer, I'd like to welcome the rest of our new and returning Bridge members. I am looking forward to getting back to seeing everyone at our dinner meetings and boat/land activities as well. I saw a quote over the past few weeks that reminds me that I am doing the right thing now by staying home as much as I can for this time. "It will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be QUITE apparent if we under reacted or did too little." Stay safe & healthy!

The first Squadron shirt orders has been given to Clever Kathy Designs. New orders can be sent directly to her per the email that was sent out to all members last week. Any questions, please contact Glen, Supply Officer or Carolyn Caporgno.

Get ready to get back in your boat and show your squadron spirit! Burgees can be purchased for \$25, includes tax.

Some books, not all boating, to add to Donna's list:

The Fate of the Corps: What Became of the Lewis and Clark Explorers After the Expedition by Larry E. Morris

The Journals of Lewis and Clark edited by Bernard DeVoto

How Navigation Makes Us Human: Finding North by George Michelsen Foy

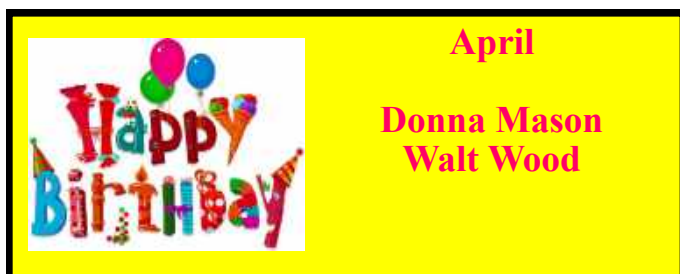
Navigation is the key human skill. It's something we do everywhere, whether feeling our way through a bedroom in the dark, or charting a jetliner's flight. But how does navigation affect our brains, our memory, ourselves? Blending scientific research and memoir, and written in beautiful prose, *Finding North* starts with a quest by the author to understand this most basic of human skills--and why it's mortal peril.

Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean by Jonathan White

Writer, sailor, and conservationist Jonathan White hunts for arctic mussels at low tide, races a twenty-five foot tidal bore, investigates tidal power generation, and examines the threats of sea level rise. Tides combines lyrical prose with travel adventure and cultural history with scientific inquiry to provide a deep understanding of the forces that keep the earth's water in constant motion.

## 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.®



### ~ 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	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Executive Officer	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Education Officer	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Administrative Officer	Dan Niven	
Secretary	Elizabeth Mahoney	
Treasurer	Jack Dyer, P	
Executive Committee		
	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Paul Rosetter, AP	360-595-1083
	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Steve Drummond, AP	
Port Captain	Vacant	
Law Officer	Vacant	
Merit Marks	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
	Vacant	
	Vacant	
Executive Department		
Co-Op Charting	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Liaison	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Marketing	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Public Relations	Various members split	
Radio Technical	George Brooks, SN	
Safety	Don Coleman	360 333-2962
Vessel Exams	Vacant	
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
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
Rendezvous	Donna Mason, AP	
Greeting	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
Membership	Catherine Carter	
Operations Training Programs	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
	Dan Niven	
Property Officer	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Supply Officer	Glen Caporgno, S	209-484-2365
Secretary's Department		
Editor "Bitter End"	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Historian	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Public Contact	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
Roster	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Scrapbook	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Webmaster / IT	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Marlene Bellinger, AP	
2 Yrs.	Jeannie Drummond	
3 Yrs.	Deanna Randall-Secrest	
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
2 Yrs.	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
3 Yrs.	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Rules Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
2 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson, SN	
3 Yrs.	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091

Please note the vacancies. You don't need an advanced grade. 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.

**If you don't show a phone number and want it to show, please let us know.**