



THE BITTER END

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron May 2020

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

- 07 May—ExCom Meeting—Zoom, 6:30 PM
- 14 May—Regular Meeting – Zoom, 7PM, TBD
- 04 June—ExCom Meeting—Zoom, 6:30 PM, Summer Plans
- 11 June—Regular Meeting—Zoom—Guest Speaker, 7PM, TBD



Hope all is well. The District Rendezvous is going to try and happen with social distancing. See the flyer and instructions in this edition. Take care out there and don't be afraid to ask members for help. There will likely be a June edition to give you updates on summer items.



Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN

Hello members. I hope all of you are safe and not too bored. I know Deb and I have been going for a lot of long walks as the

trails are still open here on Camano as well as our beach community. I have actually been up working on the boat a few times as there is never anyone there and easy to social distance. I see the state lands as well as fishing is opening for day use only this week. Please don't abuse the privilege and maybe it can stay open. Stay Safe!

We are thinking of having a regular meeting for May, including a guest speaker, but it all depends on if you would be interested. It will be using Zoom and be at 7PM on the regular night. Please let me know at the email above or any of the bridge members. If it happens, all members will get an email invitation a few days before. This will likely be the last chance to meet before fall, unless we try a June meeting. We normally don't as everyone is out boating, but this year might be different.

Hopefully some more of the marine recreation will open soon as well more of the marinas. I'm sure we can all stay 6' apart on the docks and toast each other across the walkway. Boating is one way to stay safe but overcome the boredom. Have you been able to get your boats ready?

You all know we have a Facebook Group, right? Any member is welcome to post to it at any time. The administrators will check the post but please feel free to add appropriate items. Also, if you are a Facebook member, and haven't joined our group yet, please do. See the link in the header above.

As of right now we are on Stay Home, Stay Healthy until the end of May. But as I said, state day use is now open and it is good to get out and get exercise away from people. The whole point of this is to not get close enough to an exposure source until a vaccine or other immunity is acquired. The gurus seem to think that will now be sooner than expected. We can only hope and pray.

There are lots of things we can do. If you want to get together someplace that has room so it is from a distance, let Donna or I know. Also, there are lots of online opportunities. Zoom seems to work well and we all get to see each other so can talk like we were there.

When Phase 2 of the opening starts, likely this summer, we will be allowed in groups of 50 or less again. It's up to all of us if we want to. Also, it's up to you to determine if you are a vulnerable individual or not. I know it's set as an age but there are always circumstances that may dictate how true that is. Be safe and we will see everyone soon.

Cdr. mark

The following events may or may not still happen:

The America's Boating Club District 16 rendezvous continues to be scheduled. The rendezvous will be June 12-14th, 2020 in Poulsbo, WA.

Please submit your Registration early so we know the amount of interest. Your registration payments (checks) will be held until just prior to the rendezvous date (in case they need to be returned).

Pertaining to COVID-19 we will follow the requirements of the authorities. We will encourage appropriate social-distancing protocol. Being creative there are many ways to continue to have fellowship.

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

Hosted by Kari and Deanna Randall-Secret, 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-Secret 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. **(Stadium is likely closed for seaason but we can still rendezvous)**

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 or Lt. Susan Tarpley, AP at 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: donnajmason@gmail.com.



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

WASHINGTON * ALASKA * IDAHO



Annual D16 Rendezvous at Port of Poulsbo: 12-14 June 2020

Registration:

Name(s): _____
Phone: _____

Squadron: _____
Email: _____

*****If you are coming for any of the rendezvous events PLEASE register***
Registering only for events/fellowship (no food or moorage) circle YES**

All meal & moorage reservations must be received per below prior to May 26, 2020.

No guarantee for moorage or catered dinners will be given after this date!!

Friday Night Social: No host (BYOB) "Dock Tail Party" from 1700 to 1930 on "E Dock". Squadrons will have tables set up between their boats on the finger docks for serving hors d'oeuvres from their favorite **U.S. State** to share with fellow district members and guests.

Saturday Evening Dinner: Catered dinner buffet of Meat Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Classic Caesar salad, fresh seasonal fruit salad, toasted Garlic Bread and dessert. \$26.00 per person. BYOB

Please show number of meals and total amount included: _____ # of meals@**\$26.00** each
Total amount for food: \$ _____

MOORAGE Reservations:

- Pay a nonrefundable \$5 for moorage reservation prior to May 26, 2020.
- Pay moorage fee to Port of Poulsbo Marina after arrival. The moorage fee is \$1.15/foot (30' minimum) + .75/visit + \$5/night (30 amp electrical).
- Please circle your "1st choice" of moor: bow in port bow in starboard bow out port bow out starboard
- Please circle your "2nd choice" of moor: bow in port bow in starboard bow out port bow out starboard
- Please circle Arrival Day: (Wednesday) (Thursday) (Friday) (Saturday)
- Estimated arrival time: _____

Boat Name: _____ LOA _____ Beam _____ Draft _____

Special Considerations: _____ (will try to accommodate)

Prior to entering the marina hail "America's Boating Club" on Ch72 for docking instructions (no self-assigning slips).

Non-refundable Moorage Reservation Fee (\$5.00): \$ _____

Total Enclosed (food & moorage): \$ _____

LODGING:

Call Best Western Plus Silverdale Beach Hotel. Reference "Phyllis Ferguson" for group rate of \$146.49 plus tax (for 6/12 and 6/13 only—additional nights must be negotiated with the hotel). **Group block rate closes June 8, 2020.** Please make your hotel reservations early. **Make hotel reservation and payment directly with the hotel.**

Registration and payment must be received prior to May 26, 2020. Please Send to:

PDC Annette Ferguson
222 Driftwood Shores Rd
Camano Island, WA 98282-8486

For Questions Contact: Annette Ferguson at newfy03@gmail.com or 206-818-1560



Educational Department Lt/C Robert J. Miller, JN

The Covid-19 pandemic drags on with daily depressing news, but we are hearing talk of 'the curve is flattening' and that cases of infections are dropping in Washington State. Let's hope that these sparks of good (at least, better) news continue to come out and are sustained by newer evidence. To make sure, we need to continue the social distancing programs and not to return to 'our old life style' too quickly. This disease passes from person to person, so staying away from groups of people is the only way at this time to be safe.

Boat Handling Class – Now Online, “Brought to You by Zoom”

“But we want to continue boating and learning to be better boaters,” some of you say. Although boating is still off limits, we can continue learning. The Boat Handling class that started in March completed two of the six classroom sessions before we shut it down on early March. I recently polled the 14 class members and nearly all wanted to continue the class using Zoom as a distance learning tool. The ExCom has been meeting with Zoom, and I know of several other squadron members who have replaced face-to-face meetings and social gatherings over breakfast with Zoom conferences. It does work.

With some recommendations from the BH class members and the teaching staff, we restarted the class with a optional, but well attended, session on how to use Zoom on April 24 and have completed two of the remaining classes by now. The last two online sessions in PowerPoint mode will be completed by May 8 and we will have the closed book final in a deserted parking lot in Anacortes on May 16. The students will take the exam in the comfort of their car, with their cups of Starbucks handy.

I have been meeting online with other SEOs of District 16 and they are eagerly watching our experiment in distance learning. While all of the instructors prefer the classroom environment for its camaraderie and conversational give and take, training people to be better boaters, even remotely, is important to all of us.

Sydney, BC, Rendezvous – Cancelled

We decided that holding the Sydney Rendezvous at the end of June may be pushing people's feelings of personal safety a bit much and cancelled the event. Our fellow boating mates in the Deception Pass squadron agreed, but indicated that they want to share in some of our rendezvous. Also, the state of the ferry schedule for Anacortes to Sidney continues to be unresolved.

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.

SUPER SEMINAR SERIES

BY L/C LINDA MARTIN, JN

Once the international borders are open this summer and we are released from our Stay at Home orders, many boaters will be planning to cruise into Canada. There are such lovely destinations up north like Canadian Gulf Island, Desolation Sound, Victoria, and even Princess Louisa Inlet, Past Commander Linda Martin has crossed the Canadian and Mexican borders many times and will be teaching the **"Crossing Borders Seminar"**.

The lesson includes the proper documents and procedures of entering and exiting Canada and Mexico. Also included are many tips to cross with confidence. Since she was one year old, Linda has traveled to Canada and cruised through Canada many times with Mike. They cruised on a cruise ship to Mexico. **This seminar will be taught on Free Conference Call on May 12th beginning at 6:30 pm.**

COST \$30 PER PERSON OR \$45 PER COUPLE (SHARING A BOOKLET) PAY ON LINE at www.BoatClubSnoCo.org

**ALL SEMINARS FROM 6:30 – 8:30 PM
ALL SEMINARS TAUGHT ON-LINE FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE**

*******RSVP LINDA MARTIN 425-422-4721*******

Rendezvous Recollections



Primo Bistro April 2019



Vancouver in Rain 2017



Ganges Potluck 2015



Bellingham July 4, 2014

"Choppy Waters for Yacht Escapes" by Donna Mason

This contains some excerpts from "The New York Times" Sunday Styles Section, April 19, 2020 as well as my own writing.

For those using maritime isolation as a way to escape the COVID-19, there have been challenges. Some in the Bahamas, for example, say it is the most depressing time they've ever had. Local residents fearing infection don't want boaters coming ashore, supplies are hard to get, some ports have closed, and boaters can no longer socialize with other boaters except by a dinghy's length.

The Mediterranean has all but shutdown to private boating. Cruising hot spots such as the Caribbean and South Pacific are imposing restrictions that change by day. One boater lamented that they had to leave Puerto Rico which closed down all marina services and their boat problems could not be fixed. If a technician got caught coming out to their boat, he could be fined \$5,000. Another has no place to haul out their boat for hurricane season. Insurers compel cruising vessels to leave the hurricane zone by certain dates, but many skippers don't know where they'll be able to go.

Chartering boats has become a challenge.

Our Mexican boating friends, Tom and Annie, (some of you met then at the Cornet Bay crab feed last year) completed a 7-day, 24-hr/day sailing about 500 miles to get "Tappan Zee" up the Baja Peninsula where they are anchoring in a protected area, probably till the fall season. They can dinghy into a very small town, order supplies to be delivered later by truck from another town. These two are quite resourceful: Tom is an electrician, Annie is an engineer. Their sailboat is equipped with a solar water maker, inverter, refrigerator, wind generator and solar panels. They've been living this life for seven years now. Their next challenge will be getting an engine tune-up. There are several other boating friends in the area, and they practice dinghy social distancing. They said many of the smaller towns are closed to outside people.

Safety Notes: May 2020

Green Light Devices: As a follow up to the spring safety reminder regarding Electrical Shock Drowning (ESD), a word about *Green Light Devices*. These are devices intended to alert people to the presence of electricity in the water around docks. They provide a visual means of indicating when it's safe to enter the water, and some visual or audio indication when not.

According to the *Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association (ESDPA)*, these systems create a false sense of safety when used as an indication that it's OK to swim around the docks. By design these systems are reactive, not predictive. They can only show conditions at any given moment but not predict when the next electrical fault might cause dangerous voltages to be present in the water. As example, some faults can be periodic causing electrical faults only when cycling, or an incorrectly wired visiting boat suddenly connects to shore power. Also, installed monitoring and protection devices exposed to harsh marine environments can fail. These are all reasons not to trust green light devices as an indication it OK to take a swim.

Green light devices are manufactured and installed according to various codes and standards. But, according to ESDPA, "Codes and standards are designed to provide an acceptable margin of safety for anyone who might accidently find themselves in the water around an electrically-equipped dock. Codes and standards are not intended to be a "green light" for swimming or entering the water".

ESDPA position statement on "Green Light Devices" can be downloaded at:

https://www.electricshockdrowning.org/uploads/4/8/5/6/48564375/esdpa_position_statement_on_green_light_devices_-_dated_6.6.16.pdf

I hope you will take time to Learn more by reading this short but informative statement. **Bottom line:** stay out of the water around electrically equipped docks.

Lt Don Coleman AP - Safety

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	425-785-7782
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	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	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-Secret, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Marlene Bellinger, AP	
2 Yrs.	Jeannie Drummond	
3 Yrs.	Deanna Randall-Secret	
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.