

# THE BITTER END

## News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron March 2013

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons ® District 16

Web Page: [www.usps.org/localusps/skagit](http://www.usps.org/localusps/skagit)

Email: [ssboatschool@hotmail.com](mailto:ssboatschool@hotmail.com)



### Calendar



March 9—Friday Harbor Day Trip

March 14—Regular Meeting, Farmhouse, Maritime Place Name program, Elections

March 11—ABC Class Starts at Anacortes Marina

March 15-17—District Spring Conference, Spokane, See form this issue



### PROGRAM FOR MARCH:

A local fellow from Bellevue Power Squadron, Dick Blumenthal, has a program on Maritime Place Names in the area. He has done this presentation for other squadrons with rave reviews.



#### Commander's Message

Kelly Libby, S

It's a good day when you see young people interested in the marine industry. Yesterday our first assignment at the office was to open up four tugs ranging in length from 37' to 42'. About twenty students all carrying their clipboards from Skagit Valley College's Marine Technology Center showed up shortly thereafter to do mock engine surveys as part of their curriculum. Mike Beemer, the lead systems instructor, is very proactive in proving that this line of work can be interesting, exciting and you can make a good living at it. He said that every one of these "kids" has a job when they are done with the program! That's a good thing to hear these days! Coincidentally, the other evening, King 5 News had a story about how the maritime industry is actively looking to hire more people in the Puget Sound Region. The story noted that nearly a quarter million people are employed in this industry in this area, either directly or indirectly. Wouldn't it be fun to be young again and ponder these opportunities?

Last month I said something like 'spring is in the air' and I was trying to be optimistic. Hopefully if I keep saying it, it will come true! Boating season is getting closer and so is the fun that goes along with it! Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>.



#### Executive Officer

Kari Secrest, N

Members who attended our day trip to Langley on February 16 for lunch and shopping had a very enjoyable afternoon! It was a treat to get to try Donna's favorite delicacy at the Prima Bistro. We enjoyed fabulous food and lots of good company.

Don't forget that our annual ferry day trip to Friday Harbor is coming up this weekend, Sat. March 9<sup>th</sup>, and you don't want to miss out on that one. A good time will be had by all, I'm sure of it!

I want to give a big thanks to George Brooks, Jean Miller and Deanna Randall for tackling the supremely difficult job of nominations for the upcoming year. It's a tough task, but these three were up for it and their efforts should not go unnoticed. Many thanks to all three of you!

I've been brushing up on my knots lately. They seem to come so easily to some folks, but I am definitely not one of them. For me, it's practice, practice, and more practice! Below is a picture of the clove hitch, the one I've been reviewing lately in order to get ready for spring boating. It works great for attaching fenders to railings and you'll find lots of other uses for it too. Give it a try if you don't know this highly useful knot!

Tying the Clove Hitch:

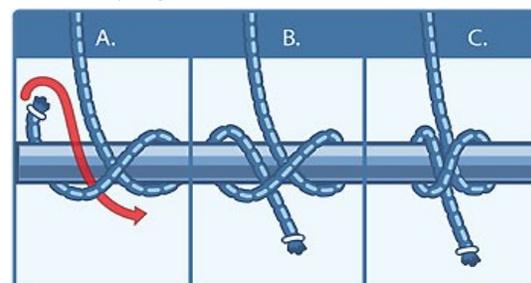


Image: backpacker.com



## **Boating Activities**

### **Let's gather together on Saturday, Mar 9 for Ferry, Fun, and Food!**

We'll take the ferry from Anacortes to Friday Harbor for a day trip, ending with 5 p.m. dinner at the Cask and Schooner Public House and Restaurant at 1 Front Street. It is a casual eatery with good food selections and is easy access to the ferry. Our group will gather in the back large dining room.

You'll want to arrive with plenty of time to poke around on your own in this port of interesting places: art galleries, clothing and gift shops, bookstores, antique and collectible stores, hardware and marine supply stores. You can rent a scooter to explore further.

Check the latest ferry schedule at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Schedule](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Schedule). March 9 ferries are scheduled to leave Anacortes at 9:00 and 9:25 in the morning and 1:25 and 1:50 p.m. Returning from Friday Harbor, the ferry leaves at 7:50 and 9:50 p.m. Paul and I plan to walk-on.

Hope you can make it! RSVP to Donna at 360 595-1083 or email [donnajmason@gmail.com](mailto:donnajmason@gmail.com) by Wednesday March 5. The restaurant needs a headcount.



**Port Sidney Marina**  
*Sophisticated Coast*

## **SBSPS Rendezvous in Sidney, BC 13-14 April**

**Hosts:** Bob and Jean Miller,  
[bobmillerwa@hotmail.com](mailto:bobmillerwa@hotmail.com), 360-588-9950

**Where:** Port of Sidney Marina, BC, VHF CH 66A  
<http://www.portsidney.com/>, 48° 39' N, 123° 24' W,

Come on over to Vancouver Island, BC, and join Bob and Jean Miller (and Bodhi, the orange tabby boat cat) as we visit nearby Sidney on (with luck) a nice Spring weekend. This will be the new *Loon Song's* first SBSPS rendezvous, so be gentle.

The Town of Sidney (sometimes called Sidney-by-the-Sea or the 'Book Store Village' is a great place to spend the weekend, with plenty of good restaurants, nice galleries, and lots of chocolate shops! Bob always says "Chocolate is one of the basic food groups."

The Port Sidney Marina features wide concrete docks, lots of space (at least early in the season), and is located at the base of the main shopping street. Winter rates are still in affect.  
**SBSPS Planned Activities:** Not many; this is a way kicked-back rendezvous. Just wander along the streets and waterfront, get some exercise, do some shopping, eat some stuff, and take it easy. On Saturday night we will go to a restaurant, which will be chosen by the rendezvous attendees.

**By Boat:** Sidney is about 35 nautical miles from Cap Sante in Anacortes. Turn left out of Fidalgo Bay into Guemes Channel and just go west. You may have to dodge some islands and large white and green ferry boats, but the cruise is protected and scenic. Look for the orca pods and other wild life. Upon arriving at the entrance to the channel to the marina, hail Port Sidney Marina on VHF Ch 66A, to get docking directions.

**By Ferry:** The Anacortes-Sidney Washington State ferry leaves Anacortes at 08:30 am and arrives in Sidney by 11:10 am, with a stop in Friday Harbor. On Sunday, catch the 12:05 pm ferry to arrive back in Anacortes by 3:00 pm.

**Lodging in Sidney:** There are several hotels within walking distance of the ferry terminal and the marina. <http://www.sidneybritishcolumbia.com/Accommodation/results.asp?region=20&city=43&interest=all&webregionid=1>

**Passports and Border Control:** US Passports are required to get back into the USA. Standard Drivers Licenses are not adequate identification. Ferry riders are checked as they exit in Sidney, and in Friday Harbor. Boaters tie up to the customs dock at the turning basin at the marina and use the direct line phone on the dock for clearance. Returning to the USA, boaters can phone US Customs and Border Protection while underway at 800-562-5943.

### **More Information**

Town of Sidney website, <http://www.sidney.ca/>

BC Tourism site for Sidney, <http://www.sidneybritishcolumbia.com/>

WA State Ferry Schedule for Anacortes-Sidney, <http://www.wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/ScheduleDetailByRoute.aspx?schedrouteid=1558>

Reservations at the Port of Sidney, <http://www.portsidney.com/contact-us/reservations/>

## **Our Trip to Primo Bistro @ Langley WA**



## “Active Captain – Let’s go Boating Online”

By Bob Miller

Some of us go ‘boating’ while seated in front of our computer monitors. Agreed, this is a very poor substitute for really being out on the water, but ‘virtual boating’ can partially substitute for sitting in the captain’s chair on our boats.

I have been a long time subscriber to Active Captain, [www.activecaptain.com](http://www.activecaptain.com), and its Interactive Cruising Guidebook, a wiki-guide to boating facilities. Wiki means that the content is generated by fellow boaters. The website is run by Karen and Jeffrey Siegel, of Castine, Maine. Many of you know of Siegel’s previous business venture, The Cap’n nautical charting software that was one of early leaders in computer-based navigation.

In addition to the graphical display of boating-related information on the website, users can subscribe to a weekly e-newsletter that generally has a short article on some boating function and a discussion of a new product that is being sold by the online boating company, Defender 1st, [www.defender.com](http://www.defender.com).

An example of the boating related article is this week’s follow-up discussion on how to establish the correct distance for a GPS-enabled guard circle for an anchor watch alarm. (You can read the original article in the Active Captain Newsletter archive.)

Wow, last week's item about anchor alarm math generated a lot of comments, arguments, and ideas. It's amazing how anchoring brings this out in people - and we didn't even say which type of anchor is the best!

Comments from multiple boaters pointed out that our anchor alarm distance formula needed to take tide swing into consideration in order to add to the accuracy.

Perhaps it doesn't add much when you're in a 1 foot tidal area but surely when the tide swing is something like 8 feet or more, it really matters, right?

Well, actually, no. And after many nights at anchor in our home port on the Penobscot Bay with 10-12 foot tides, trust me, it doesn't matter at least as far as an anchor alarm goes. Good old Pythagoras and his  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$  triangle theorem provides the proof.

Consider the triangle formed by your bow, anchor position, and the location on the sea floor where your boat is located. That's a right triangle which makes the math pretty easy. The hypotenuse (c) is the anchor rode.

So let's go back to last week's example - a 42 foot sailboat with a bow that's 5

feet off the water. We'll add that the anchor is set exactly at high tide in 15 feet of water with a tide swing of 8 feet and a good scope of 5:1 let out. This means  $5 * (15 + 5) = 100$  feet of rode is let out. Using the Pythagorean theorem, the distance the boat is back along the sea floor is:  $\text{sqrt}((100 * 100) - ((15 + 5) * (15 + 5))) = 97.98'$

Fast forward to low tide and the distance the boat is actually pushed back is now:  $\text{sqrt}((100 * 100) - ((7 + 5) * (7 + 5))) = 99.27'$

Subtracting the two gives the amount the boat moved backwards because of the tide swing:  $99.27 - 97.98 = 1.29$  feet or about 15.5 inches.

So that huge tide swing that took more than half the water away from the anchorage will push the boat back by about a foot. That's something that would be difficult to detect with today's technology.

Tide doesn't really matter for anchor alarms but tide swing has a huge effect on scope. Now that's something to sit up and notice when you're in an area with larger tides. Looking at this same example with our sailboat anchoring at low tide this time, they'd drop their anchor in 7 feet of water and put out  $5 * (7 + 5) = 60$  feet of rode to get 5:1 scope. Now switch to high tide with 8 feet more water and their 60 feet of rode is only giving  $60 / (15 + 5) = 3:1$  scope. Now that's dramatic and might very well not be enough. We hear about boats dragging at high tide in Maine all the time. This is why it happens.

Check out the website, [www.activecaptain.com](http://www.activecaptain.com), sign up for the newsletter (it's free), and start receiving the very useful weekly articles.

The screenshot displays the ActiveCaptain website's search interface. On the left, a 'Location Search' sidebar shows a search for 'cap sante, wa' with 5 results. The results list various locations such as 'Cap Sante cape', 'Cap Sante Park park', 'Cap Sante populated place', 'Cap Sante Waterway inlet', and 'Cap Sante Boat Haven marina'. The main area shows a map of the Penobscot Bay region with various markers and a search bar. The map includes labels for 'Guemes Island', 'Hat Island', 'Fidalgo Island', and 'Deception Pass State Park'. The search bar at the top right of the map area contains the coordinates '48°31'26"N 122°38'21"W'.

## From The Nominating Committee

Officers Submitted for Election on 14 March 2013

Commander	Kelly Libby, P
Executive Officer	Kari Secrest, N
Education Officer	George Brooks, SN
Administrative Officer	Mark Richey, SN
Secretary	George Johnson, SN
Treasurer	Marlene Bellinger, AP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE –	Bob Miller, JN
	Lynn Stewart, P
	Sandy Johnson, P

Assistant Education Officer	Paul Rosetter, AP
-----------------------------	-------------------

Auditing Committee	3 Yr Sharon Knowles, AP
--------------------	-------------------------

Nominating Committee	3 Yr George Brooks, SN
----------------------	------------------------

Rules Committee	2 Yr Bill Stewart, JN
	3 Yr John Bellinger, SN

Members who have been previously elected to multiple year terms and are not standing for election this year are as follows:

Auditing Committee	1 Yr Chair	Sandy Johnson, P
	2 Yr	Dale Libby, P

Nominating Committee	1 Yr Chair	Jean Miller, N
	2 Yr	Deanna Randall, N

Rules Committee	1 Yr Chair	Ruth Peterson, SN
-----------------	------------	-------------------

All have accepted the nomination.

Approved by: George Brooks, SN; Jean Miller, N; Deanna Randle, N



### Education Department **John Bellinger, SN**

The Education Department has completed the Marine Communications Class with ten people taking the exam. Thanks to Rick Anderson for administering the test so George Brooks and I could take it too. I hope we all pass.

There were a lot of comments on the content of the course with the consensus that it was too technical for the needs of the average boater. I think the students did a very good job of working through the homework and we had a lot of great questions and discussions about the material. My guess is they all learned a lot about marine communications that they did not know before and as they say new knowledge is good for all of us.

I want to thank George Brooks for sharing the teaching duties with me. Also I want to thank Bob Miller and George Johnson for helping in the class discussions.

On Monday March 11<sup>th</sup> George Johnson will start a new ABC class at the Anacortes Marina. He tells me that he has 18 or 19 students signed up so it should be a good class. George and Jeannie are going to provide coffee and cookies and Marlene and Lynn will help with the registration of the students. Bill and I will eat cookies.

Our Squadron will have an opportunity to participate in the On-The-Water-Training this summer. George Brooks will have more information at the meeting. If you are interested in taking this training please let George know so he can develop a plan.

Hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday.

## 2013 Rendezvous Schedule



**April 13-14**      **Sidney, B.C. via Boat or Car Ferry**  
**April 26-28**      **Oak Harbor Marina & RV**  
                         **Holland Happening**

**May 31-June 2**      **Anacortes Waterfront Festival, GM & VSCs**

**June 14-16**      **Sucia Island**

**July 4-7**      **4th of July Rendezvous**  
                         **Squalicum Harbor Bellingham**  
**July 20**      **Shipwreck Day, Anacortes**  
**July 26-28**      **Fisherman Bay, Lopez Islander Resort**

**August 9-11**      **Deer Harbor Marina, Orcas Island**  
**August 23-25**      **Port Hudson Marina, Port Townsend**

**September 6-8**      **Blind Bay Anchor Out, Shaw Island**  
**September 20-22**      **Roche Harbor Marina, San Juan Island**  
**September 28**      **SBSPS Anniversary Cookout**  
                         **Coronet Bay, Deception Pass**

**October 4-6**      **Rosario Resort & Spa, Orcas Island**

**November 9**      **Granville Island, B.C. Day Trip**  
**November 27-30**      **Fort Casey RV Weekend**

**December 7**      **LaConner Lighted Boat Parade &**  
                         **Squadron Holiday Party**

Contact Donna Mason at [donnajmason@gmail.com](mailto:donnajmason@gmail.com) or Paul Rosetter at [paul.rosetter@gmail.com](mailto:paul.rosetter@gmail.com) for info, suggestions or to be the host.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.®**

<p><b>Happy March Birthdays!</b></p>	<p><b>John Bellinger Lennart Bentsen Mike Connell Peter Harradine Gary Mohr Joan Scarboro</b></p>
--------------------------------------	---

**~ 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.

Course Passed	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Boat Smart</b>					
<b>Boating Course</b>					
ABC	7	42	20	29	15
Seamanship			8	2	
Piloting	5		4	1	
Advanced Piloting	4	3	3		
Junior Navigation		8			
Navigation			9		
Cruise Planning					
Instructor Development (Certified Instructors)				8	
Engine Maintenance					
Marine Electronics		9			
Weather					
Sail	7				
Operations Training		3	2		

<b>Bridge Officers</b>		
Commander	Kelly Libby, S	360-435-3835
Executive Officer	Kari Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Education Officer	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
Administrative Officer	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Secretary	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Treasurer	Marlene Bellinger, AP	360-757-8091
<b>Executive Committee</b>		
	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Vacant	
<b>Commander Department</b>		
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
<b>Executive Department</b>		
Co-Op Charting	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Liaison	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Public Relations	Deanna Randall, N	360-387-1194
Radio Technical	George Brooks, SN	360-466-3470
Safety	Bill Stewart, JN	360-424-1270
Vessel Exams	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
<b>Education Department</b>		
Assistant Education Officer	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grades	George Brooks, SN	360-466-3470
Local Board Elect Courses	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
<b>Administrative Department</b>		
Boating Activities	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Paul Rosetter, AP	360-595-1083
Galley	Sandy Evans	360-305-8330
Greeting	Sandy Evans	360-305-8330
	Dale Libby, P	360-435-3835
Membership	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Property Officer	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Supply Officer	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Telephone	Vacant	
<b>Secretary's Department</b>		
Editor "Bitter End"	Mark Richey, SN	360-435-3835
Historian	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Roster	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Scrapbook	Coco Haynes, S	360-293-0592
Webmaster	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
<b>Auditing Committee</b>		
1 Yr Chair	Jean Miller, N	360-588-9950
2 Yrs.	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
3 Yrs.	Dale Libby, P	360-435-3835
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
1 Yr. Chair	George Brooks, SN	360-466-3470
2 Yrs.	Jean Miller, N	360-588-9950
3 Yrs.	Deanna Randall, N	360-387-1194
<b>Rules Committee</b>		
1 Yr. Chair	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
2 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
3 Yrs.	Vacant	





**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**USPS D/16 2013 Spring Conference**  
**15-16 March 2013**  
**Red Lion Hotel at the Park**  
**303 W. North River Dr., Spokane WA**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

FUNCTION: (Meal prices include gratuity & sales tax)	Early Bird \$	Regular \$	# of People	Total \$
Friday Evening Informal No-Host Reception 1730 - 1830 Meet & greet Chief's Rep and other USPS & CPS Friends	No-Host Bar			xxx
Friday Evening Informal Buffet Dinner 1830 - 1945 Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage with Red Potatoes, Seafood Chowder, Green Salad w/Assorted Dressings, Pasta Salad, Roll & Butter, Cookies & Brownies, Coffee/Tea/Decaf (No-Host Bar to Remain Open until 1900)	\$ 24.75	\$ 26.75	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Breakfast 0730 - 0845 Menu: Stuffed French Toast w/Cream Cheese & Strawberries, Assorted Breakfast Breads, Choice of Juice, Coffee/Tea/Decaf <input type="checkbox"/> Cdrs/XOs <input type="checkbox"/> SEOs/ASEOs <input type="checkbox"/> P/D/Cs <input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ 19.75	\$ 21.75	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon Buffet 1200-1300 Menu: Turkey Breast, Ham, Chicken Breast, Assorted Cheeses, Onion, Tomatoes, Pickles, Lettuce, Mayo, Sauces, Assorted Breads, House Salad, Potato Salad, Fresh Fruit, Soup du jour, Assorted Cookies & Dessert Bars, Coffee/Tea/Decaf, Iced Tea	\$ 26.95	\$ 28.95	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Evening No-Host Re-Gathering 1800-1900 Final chance for Raffle Tickets and Silent Auction bids	No-Host Bar			xxx
Saturday Evening Conference Banquet 1900-2100 Menu - Choice of: <input type="checkbox"/> Double Cut Pork Loin Chop, Served with Apple Bourbon Mustard Glaze, Smashed Red Potatoes, & Fresh Vegetables OR <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Oscar - Boneless Chicken Breast Topped with Dungeness Crab Meat, Asparagus, Saffron Rice & Fresh Vegetables Both Entrees Served with Choice of Starter Salad, Assorted Breads & Butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Decaf	\$ 38.00	\$ 40.00	_____	\$ _____
	\$ 38.00	\$ 40.00	_____	\$ _____
(Early Bird prices apply only for Registrations post-marked no later than 20 Feb 2013) TOTAL:				\$ _____

Please make check payable to: "U.S. Power Squadrons D/16 2013 Spring Conference" and mail with Registration Form to: **Dorothy Weldon, 1711 E. Cambridge Lane, Spokane WA 99203-4418 (Phone: 509-747-4726)**

Make hotel reservations directly\* with Red Lion Hotel at the Park no later than Wed., 6 February 2013, by calling 1-800-RED-LION (1-800-733-5466). Ask for "USPS D/16 Spring Conference" rate to get conference rate of just \$95.00 + tax.

(\* Please do NOT book your room through Expedia.com or hotels.com or similar sites. We do not get credit against our room-night guarantee for those bookings. Plus, our rate is \$14.00 cheaper than theirs!)

For questions, Contact P/V/C Jim Roeber, SN at: Tel/Fax: 509-328-6165 E-mail: [jimroeber@comcast.net](mailto:jimroeber@comcast.net)