

THE BITTER END

News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron November 2016



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

10 November—Regular Meeting, Farmhouse, Program

24 November—Happy Thanksgiving

25-27 November, Some folks may RV to Ft Casey

10 December,- Lighted Boat Parade, Laconner Pub



Holidays are coming up. Have a safe and happy time.

We have a program next meeting and there is some interesting info from the conference in this issue.



Please don't forget to vote on Nov 8.



Commander's Message Donna J. Mason, AP

We are lucky to have a good squadron with talented, friendly people. It is a pleasure to work on our goals with all of you.

At the October Meeting we especially enjoyed the blueberries provided by Craig and Billie Ford. Thank you!

A big thank you goes to Debbie Richey, in her Merit Mark Coordinator hat, for processing the Merit Mark recommendations from my Excel spreadsheet into DB2000, USPS' National Database, before the end of October. Over 50% of our squadron members have been approved to receive Merit Marks. Just since January those members, not counting the commander, have racked up at least 862 hours of volunteer time, demonstrating an amazing group effort.

I hope those of you who are new to our squadron have some fun and getting a feeling of accomplishment helping us achieve our goals. As the Nominating Committee works to fill the Bridge, ExCom and other positions for the next squadron year, please let them know what you are willing to do.

Squadron commanders gave State of the Squadron reports at the D16 Conference, both good and bad. Don't worry: our squadron is in good shape. We just need more members to help us with our

various activities, especially in the areas of teaching and assisting instructors, safety including vessel safety checks, public relations, property/supply officer, and we need a membership involvement committee. There are many ways you can participate without getting overwhelmed with volunteer work.

Advance notice to all incoming Bridge Officers and those going to the Educational Seminar: Save the date: Saturday, April 29, 2017. District 16 wisely pushed the date to after elections and combined the Educational Seminar in the same venue in Bellevue. Perhaps some carpools can be arranged.

I hope you'll join us at our Thursday, November 10 Members Meeting, at the Farmhouse Restaurant, where we'll be making a very special presentation to one of our members. Also, our Administrative Officer Dick Hunter has arranged for an interesting program with a USCG representative. Social time begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.



Boating and Other Activities

Cdr Donna J. Mason, AP

By the time you read this, our November 5 Train day trip to Tacoma Foss Waterway Seaport Museum probably will be over. So, on to December:

Saturday December 10: SBSPS Holiday Party Space is reserved for us at the LaConner Pub, 702 First Street, on the waterfront in LaConner, for the Lighted Boat Parade and dinner party. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. You can order from the menu (www.laconnertavern.com/menu/); we provide dessert. Enjoy the lighted boat parade viewable from the restaurant. RSVP to Donna by December 3.



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 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 by December 3. So far we have 4 people interested.



Education Department Lt Bob Miller, JN

Winters dark nights are a great time to stay indoors and warm by taking boating classes. We have several course announcements for courses starting in January 2017.

Advanced Piloting

SBSPS's Educational Department is offering the [Advanced Piloting](#) course to SBSPS members and to the public during the twelve weeks starting on 09 January 2017. The course continues the plotting and navigation techniques covered in Piloting and adds in use of electronic navigation tools such as Radar, GPS, and AIS. It also introduces the free *openCPN* navigation software for PCs and Android devices. The course will be held at the Anacortes Marina on Monday evenings, from 1900-2100. Space is limited to 15 people and registration closes on December 10. Contact ASEO Bob Miller, 360-588-9950, bobmillerwa@hotmail.com, for details.

Marine Communications Systems and Electronic Navigation

Our neighbors to the south in Deception Pass squadron have invited members of Skagit Bay to take part in their [Marine Communications Systems](#) elective course starting on Thursday, 12 January 2107, and in the [Electronic Navigation](#) class starting on Thursday, 02 March 2017. The courses will be held in Oak Harbor starting at 1800. Contact SEO Steppe Williford, steppen@frontier.com for details.

Weather, plus On the Water Training

Also starting in January, our neighbor to the north, Bellingham squadron is offering the Weather elective course. The course starts on Wed, 11 Jan 2017. Contact Debora Frost, education@boatingisfun.org.

How to Find Courses

National's public home webpage has a course locator which you can use by pulling down "Boating Courses" on the top menu bar and clicking on "[Finding a Course or Seminar Near You.](#)" Pick the course type - Boating Courses (basic ABC), Seminars, or Advanced Courses, fill in the location guidelines and click on Locate. You will see course details, a link to the course description, contact information, and the course status.

Here are a few jottings that I made during the D16 Fall meetings. I will bring some handouts and reports to the next squadron meeting.

Bob

Educational Department

- ABC classes – some of the larger squadrons are giving 3-4 ABC classes yearly since they have larger regional populations than ours.
The successful ones have team teaching and do a combination of 8x2 hour classes and shorter 8 hour class in a day.
- Bellingham and Everett are teaching through the local community college, with success. The class charges are \$110 and \$120 respectively because the colleges collect 50% of the income.
Having college facilities and the fact that the courses are listed in the college catalogs is a big benefit, particularly in capturing younger students.
- Squadrons giving classes at the cost of materials (about \$50) are struggling because of poor facilities and lack of community outreach.
- Having an active membership recruitment process during the classes gains members
Expecting the instructors to do all of the ‘selling’ is not working well
- Offering Seamanship or Piloting directly after an ABC class finishes has good student retention.
Don’t let up on the pressure, keep the students thinking about more classes
- Skagit Bay ranks number seven from bottom of the 16 squadrons in students in 2015-16 with 18
- Seamanship is being renamed to “Boat Handling” in a modular form of two hour seminars per old chapter.
Allows students to pick on-line topics at will
Still working on how to package as a full course with proctored exam
- National recognizes that the old ‘progression through the grade ranks’ is no longer attractive to many boaters
“Let me learn what I feel I need, when I want to”
- E-books will develop and replace printed copies in many situations
Initially downloaded PDFs (ugh)
Later e-book readers
- Piloting is being restructured as “Coastal Navigation”
Much more emphasis on using electronic tools
Less attention to plotting on paper charts
- OpenCPN is the navigation software of choice
Runs on many platforms
40 minute webinar on how to use is available

Miscellaneous Items

- A show of hands indicated that most squadrons have 25-30% of membership attending monthly meetings
SBSPS is 40-50%
Having strong presentations is a major factor in good attendance
Invite other groups to meetings (yacht brokers, yacht clubs)
- Use of HQ-800 for all Educational postings is strongly recommended
All of the members’ educational history is online
- Squadrons are slowly accepting the “Standard Squadron Website” mode
Better branding with the USPS programs
- 60% of National’s income is through member dues
- More members died last year than joined
- SBSPS is heavy on monthly member activities when compared to other squadrons

**Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron
United States Power Squadron
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2016**

The following members were in attendance at the Farmhouse Restaurant:

Donna Mason	Sandy Johnson	Bob Miller	Paul Rosetter	Kari Randall-Secret
John Bellinger	Debbie Richey	Marlene Bellinger	Don Coleman	Dick Hunter
Craig Ford	Ruth Peterson	Billie Ford	Glen Caporgno	Carolyn Caporgno
Mike Wytychak	Sheryl Wytychak			

Meeting called to order by Commander Donna Mason at 1825. A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Ruth Peterson

Executive Officer Report – Debbie Richey for Mark Richey

- We need vessel safety examiners! Contact Mark Richey if interested.

Co-Op Charting – Donna Mason for Lynn Stewart

- Nothing new to report.

Public Relations – Donna Mason for Deanna Randall-Secret

- Donna brought a sample “Welcome to the Neighborhood” poster.
- Debbie Richey offered to print some and put her contact information on the posters to tell folks about the USPS and Skagit Bay when they call.

Squadron Educational Officer – Debbie Richey:

- Debbie recently reached out to Skagit Valley Community College regarding a venue for our squadron courses and they have agreed to give us a classroom and post the courses in their catalog.
 - o ABC course will be taught there in winter quarter and advertised in SVCC’s course catalog.
 - o Likely some of our advanced courses will also be taught there in the future.
- Bob Miller will begin teaching Advanced Piloting at Anacortes Marina January 9th, 2017. He passed out a flyer for members to post any public place around town. Class has been updated to include more electronics than the course from years past.
- Debbie reports there has been interest shown in a Weather course, so she will be contacting Bob Jacobsen, our instructor from the Bellingham Squadron, to see if she can schedule an upcoming course with him.
- We need instructors for Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics and Marine Electrical Systems. Contact Debbie if you are interested in teaching any of these courses.
- Discussion regarding confirmation of last month’s vote to approve new course pricing system:
 - o Bob Miller announced that National is now charging \$20 per non-squadron member for every test they take.
 - o Our squadron’s new pricing system results in the course cost to a member being about a 20% markup over the cost of course expenses (materials and shipping fees). For non-members the new price for a course will be 100% markup and have had success with this price for some recent courses. For a partner sharing materials, we charge \$25 extra so they can receive the course exam and for non-members we will charge an additional \$20 per person for the exam. This pricing plan will fully cover any materials and shipping expenses incurred by the squadron to teach courses. It does not include any markup to cover purchase and maintenance of our computers and projectors, which are typically funded by our Shipwreck Day fundraising efforts.
 - o Using the new pricing plan, the upcoming Advanced Piloting Course fees will be:

- For members, \$100 for single student, \$125 for a couple.
- For non-members, \$200 for single student, and \$245 for a couple.
- Many members agreed that these fees are reasonable and expressed their concern that the squadron must ensure we charge enough to cover costs.
- Upcoming Operations Training course (approx. 3 hrs), contact Debbie if interested ... it is designed especially for new members to USPS to understand the organization and how it works. It is also recommended for incoming Bridge and ExCom members haven't taken it.

Administrative Officer Report – Dick Hunter:

- Program Tonight: Dick Hunter will present a DVD program on Twin Screw Boat Handling
- November program will be a speaker from the Coast Guard Sector Bellingham about preparing for and dealing with a Coast Guard boarding.
- January will be our event planning meeting, in lieu of an official program.
- February program will be presented by our own Bob Miller.

Boating Activities – Donna Mason:

- See the latest information in the newsletter.
- Tacoma day train trip is a go, some folks already have their train tickets. Lunch in Tacoma and a tour of the Foss Waterway Seaport Museum is scheduled for that afternoon.
- Dec. 10th will be our squadron's annual Holiday Party at the La Conner Pub where we'll have dinner and watch the lighted boat parade.
- Argosy Christmas Cruise:
 - Discussion re: Sat. Dec. 17th 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:

- Welcome to the Anne and Rolf Nesse who are now Skagit Bay members, their transfer from Spokane is now complete!
- Welcome new members Glen and Carolyn Caporgno and Carolyn is our squadron's scrapbooker!
- Welcome also to new members Don Coleman as well as Anton and Margaret Kerkhove!
- Dues changes:
 - \$20 processing fee for new members has been in place at National but Skagit Bay has not been charging for it and losing \$10 per member each time someone was signed up. To cover costs, we will now charge an additional \$20 processing fee to all memberships (single or family) on their first year membership fees only.
 - Therefore, Skagit Bays new proposed due fees are as follows:
 - For a single membership during their first year the fee is \$96.50, all following years will be \$76.50.
 - For a family membership (2 people or more at the same address), first year price is \$133.25, all following years will be \$113.25.

- Don Coleman moved that we approve this new dues fee structure, Ruth Peterson seconded the motion. Donna Mason conducted the vote, and the motion carried.

Supply Officer – Sheryl Wytychak

- Nothing new to report
- Sheryl and Mike Wytychak gave a brief report of their summer-long voyage and Mike was happy to announce they used every skill they had ever learned on the trip and encouraged long-time members to not be afraid to re-take any squadron course to brush up on your skills!

Secretary's Report – Kari Randall-Secret:

- September meeting minutes were posted in Bitter End.
- Roster – Bob Miller announced he will be sending out an updated roster.
- Newsletter: The Bitter End is out for September.
- Webmaster: Kari is still working on a "Member's Only" section of the website.
- Kari collected mailing addresses for the specific Ex. Com. members that need to be listed on our annual non-profit incorporated organizational report that is submitted to the state annually in November.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Miller

- Bob will provide training to Commander Donna Mason regarding merit marks in DB2000.
- Treasury balance as of last month is \$6,600. For reference, our annual budgetary costs are about \$2,500.
- Bob presented a copy of our current squadron budget.
- Bob confirmed we sent \$100 annual donation in October to National's Educational Fund.
- A copy of the Treasurer's report was submitted to the Secretary's records.

Nominations Committee – Donna Mason for Kelly Libby

- It is time to begin nominations work for the coming year.

Commander's Report – Donna Mason:

- D16 Fall Conference will be in Bellingham on October 28-30, 2016. Saturday's all day meeting is available to all members without cost. Bob Miller and Debbie Richey were designated as our squadron's delegates.
- Merit marks have been submitted for this year. Donna nominated about 50% of our members for merit marks this year!
- Donna has scheduled our meeting dates at the Farmhouse Restaurant for 2017.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Craig Ford was kind enough to bring fresh blueberries for all. Thank you, Craig!

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

Meeting adjourned at 1930.

The Tacoma Train trip on November 29



Waiting in the pouring rain at Tacoma Amtrak station for bus



More of happy group drying off at Rock the Dock



Still raining on soggy group as they walked to lunch



Inside Foss Seaport Museum. We got a private tour.



At Rock the Dock Pub . Foss Waterway, Tacoma



Another shot inside museum.

It was a soaking wet day and we were all drowned rats as we had to walk about 3/4 mile in the rain to the bus back to the train station but it was a wonderful time anyway.

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 BIRTHDAYS
NOVEMBER



George Johnson
John Bellinger
Mike Connell
Pete Haradine
Gary Mohr
Joan Scarboro

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

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

From FCC website

License Renewals

If you operate a marine VHF radio, radar, or EPIRBs aboard a voluntary ship operating domestically, you are not required to renew your current license. Although a license is no longer required for these ships, you may still renew your license and retain your call sign.

The FCC will send you a Renewal Reminder Notice approximately 120 days prior to the expiration date of your license. You must submit FCC Form 605 along with the proper payment to renew your license.

If you send an application for renewal before your current license expires, you may continue to operate until the FCC acts on your application. You do not need a temporary permit but you should keep a copy of the renewal application you send the FCC.

You must stop transmitting as soon as your license expires, unless you have already sent your renewal application to the FCC.

~ 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.