



THE BITTER END

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron
September 2020

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

Web Page: www.skagitsquadron.org

Email: sboatschool@hotmail.com

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



CALENDAR



03 Sep—Excom Meeting—Zoom—6:30 PM
04-07 Sep—Port Townsend with Evt and Sea, Check with host
10 Sep— Regular Meeting—TBD



Don't forget the Cruise Planning class the end of September. Registration closes Sep 1. Please check on status on some of the boat trips as they may still happen if you are willing. Social distance is easy in your boat. Even at a dock. Take care and use masks.



Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN

Hope you all had a good summer. We did, in spite of Covid. Boating and camping and outdoor dining are all fun and safe. Still a month or so

left of that in fact.

We have lost a few members over the summer. I hope when this is all over we can still be alive. There are lots of online activities in the mean time. I know some folks have been frustrated as they can't get any action from local squadrons for VSC's etc. All those kind of things are still available but it is up to the members how much contact they want with others to perform certain duties. It does make it difficult.

We had hoped to get back to in-person meetings this fall but I am guessing we won't have any sort of relief that would make everyone feel safe for at least a year yet. I hope I am wrong and these fast-track vaccines work our but we need to play it safe.

There are many things we can do however, even if it takes 6' and masks. Maybe we can have one outdoor meeting at a restaurant before the weather gets too bad. Anyway, let us know what kind of online program you might like and what would keep you interested. If some of you are willing to make safe contact with public to do some of our items, please let us know.



Educational Department Lt/C Robert J. Miller, JN

Let's start getting smart (again). The Summer Education

Doldrums are over and we need to get back to boating fundamentals. This Fall, we are teaching (by Zoom) courses about preparing for cruises – weekend or month long – and how to use that very important, but often understood piece of equipment – RADAR.

Cruising and Cruise Planning Course (CCP)

The Cruise Planning course starting on September 22 already has 11 people signed up and registration closes on September 1. Contact your boating friends and show them the flyer describing the course, found elsewhere in this issue of *The Bitter End*.

Radar for Boaters Course (RA)

The Radar for Boaters course will be held via Zoom video conferencing over six sessions, 6:30-8:30 pm, on Tuesdays and Fridays, starting on November 6, 2020, and the in-car final exam is set for December 5. The course flyer is shown elsewhere in this newsletter and you are encouraged to pass information about this course to your boating friends.

The course text book is Kevin Monahan's 240-page *The Radar Book*, 2nd Edition with a 2018 Supplement on the latest technology. Topics include: how radar works, what

you see on the screen, how to control and manage settings and fine tuning, connecting with other nav devices, using radar for blind navigation, as well as a review of Colregs which apply to radar.

Cost is \$150 for a non-USPS member or \$190 for two family members sharing course materials. (USPS member's costs are \$80/\$100.) To register and for more information phone Bob Miller at 360-588-9950, or email him at bobmillerwa@hotmail.com. The class is limited to 15 students. Registration closes October 10, 2020. You can register by going to <https://americasboatingclub.org/courses/radar-for-boaters>.

Skagit Bay's Website

Our squadron website, www.skagitsquadron.org is maintained nicely by P/C Kari Randall-Seacrest. The education courses are listed on <http://skagitsquadron.org/education.html>.

Online Resources

Although we are not having class-room training sessions in the near future, there are lots of good boating-related sessions being held online. Instructor George Brooks has been viewing the near weekly webinars offered by Anacortes' own Waggoner Cruising Guide, <https://waggonerguide.com/>. While their online seminars are not free, check out their podcasts and download them for your listening pleasure, <https://waggonerguide.com/podcasts/>

Also, a series of webinars on cruising in the Pacific Northwest was presented by the Seattle Boat Show and recordings of the sessions can be reviewed at <https://www.openforboating.com/sbsslive>.

Be Safe and mask up,

Skagit Bay Sail & Power Squadron Executive Committee Meeting Minutes July 16, 2020 (virtual)

Attendance:

Bob Miller	Debbie Richey	Mark Richey
Paul Rosetter	Carolyn Caporgno	Glenn Carporagno
Dan Niven	Donna Mason	Jack Dyer
Sandy Johnson	Elizabeth Mahoney	

*Quorum present

In accordance with our bylaws a virtual meeting was held via e-mail to discuss the resignation of the secretary and admin officer. Debbie Richey volunteered to step in as secretary for the remainder of Elizabeth's term.

Thank you Dan and Elizabeth for your contributions to the bridge of the squadron.



USPS Cruise Planning Course

Classes by Zoom in the Comfort of Your Home

(Laptops/large tablets preferred to view the PowerPoint slides, broadband Internet needed)

Tuesdays and Fridays

September 22, 25, 29, October 02, 06, 09, 13, 17, 2020

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

There is something very special about the thrill of cruising in new waters and the sense of accomplishment upon completing an extended cruise. To go beyond what most boaters do on a weekend overnight or even a week or so marina hopping requires boaters to leave their normal cruising areas and comfort zones. The Cruising and Cruise Planning course focuses on the planning and preparation necessary for safe enjoyable extended cruises on both inland and coastal waters. Students receive a 240 page textbook for reading, answer quizzes, and complete a final exam. Designed for boaters who cruise on either a sail or powerboat (owned or chartered)—this course covers the following topics:

- Cruise preparation and planning - General
- Boat and Equipment
- Anchors and Anchoring
- Security
- Chartering
- Cruising Outside the United States
- Crew and Provisioning
- Voyage Management
- Communications
- Navigation
- Weather
- Emergencies

\$130 for individuals or \$170 for two sharing a book

(USPS members, \$60 and \$80)

Contact Bob Miller at 360-588-9950 or bobmillerwa@hotmail.co

Registration closes September 01, 2020



Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron



Radar for Boaters

Classes by Zoom in the Comfort of Your Home

(Laptops/large tablets preferred to view the PowerPoint slides, broadband Internet needed)

Tuesdays and Fridays

November 06, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, December 05, 2020

The course covers the different types of radar equipment, their capabilities and limitations, as well as their features and how they apply to students' needs. It covers what you need to know about radar, from how and where to mount the antenna to how to interpret the displays, so you can use your radar for collision avoidance and for navigational purposes.

What's Included? For both sail and power boats, *Radar for Boaters* covers a wide range of topics:

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- How radar works – basic concepts,
- What you see on the screen,
- How to control and manage settings,
- Fine tuning of detailed settings,
- Connecting to other nav devices,
- Using radar for blind navigation,
- Review of error conditions and heavy weather,
- Review of Colregs as they apply to radar use.

The course materials include the 240-page *The Radar Book, 2nd Edition* with a 2018 Supplement on the latest technology. It is written by the well-known local author of nautical guides, Kevin Monahan. The course is completed by attending the six two-hour Zoom sessions, followed by an in-automobile final exam. A Certificate of Completion will be awarded.

\$150 for individuals or \$190 for two sharing course materials
(\$80/100 for USPS Members)

Contact Bob Miller at 360-588-9950 or bobmillerwa@hotmail.com

Registration closes October 10, 2020

Class is limited to 15 students



SQUADRON ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2020

by P/C Donna Mason, AP

A Different Flavor of Summer

What fun we've had on squadron weekend boating rendezvous to various Puget Sound and British Columbia marinas and parks over the years; but not this year.

We took advantage of our sequester time at Lake Whatcom to enjoy the scenery, relax at our dock, watch the water activity pass by us, explore the Lake on "Wow Whee" our Boston Whaler and row about in "Wee Whee" our Achilles inflatable to visit neighbors, have some social distancing happy hours with other couples (one at a time) at our dock deck. We also had neighbor visits to our dock from motor boating neighbors and friends with spaced out kayaks. Yes, it has been hard not to have parties and other social activities.

It used to seem that USPS® was mainly enjoyed by members with larger cruising boats. Our updated America's Boating Club® is of benefit to many types of watercraft users, and we see just about all of them on the Lake: float planes, cabin cruisers, ski boats, wake boats, sailboats, catamaran hybrids, runabouts, personal watercraft, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, and even a long-distance swimmer with a large, bright red float flag attached and an accompanying kayaker to make sure other boaters saw the swimmer. Occasionally we see the US Coast Guard practicing water rescue from helicopters.

We also see many boaters who could benefit from safety education and boating safety checks. We have dropped off safety literature at the primitive South Lake Whatcom boat ramp where there is an invasive species checkpoint station. Someone has donated some PFDs for boaters use.

We hope by next boating season there will be an effective vaccine available to us all and we can get back to our USPS mission of education, social activities, and community service.

Alas, my large bottle of Tanqueray is nearing the bottom. Happy hours with Tanqueray and tonic at the dock and summer will be coming to an end. Yes, it has been a different flavor of summer this year.

Looking forward to Zooming with you for ExCom and Member Meetings this fall!

Some of these still might happen. Contact the hosts.

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.

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.

Here's a few nostalgia photos:



The gang at Valentine's Lunch, Prima Bis-tro 2015

4th of July Rendezvous Bellingham, 2015



Squadron boats Aug. 2016 Deer Har-bor

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 normally 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	Vacant	
Secretary	Debbie Richey, AP	
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	Debbie Richey, AP	
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Vacant	
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.