



# THE BITTER END

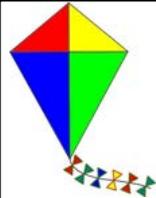
Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron  
March 2021

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the friends <sup>SM</sup>

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

- 04 March—Executive Committee Meeting, Zoom, 6:30PM
- 11 March—Regular Meeting, Zoom, 7PM, Election and Activities
- 13 March—District Conference and Change of Watch, Zoom
- 20 March—ABC Class Starts, Zoom, 9AM—2PM



Come to zoom meeting and give us your cool ideas of where to go this year. How about a kite flying contest this month? Isn't that a March thing? The District 16 Spring Conference is this month and if you want to get to know other squadron ideas its fun to attend. Let mark know and he will send Zoom link. Don't forget to tell your friends about the ABC class this month.



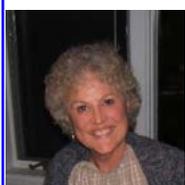
### Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN

Hello and welcome to spring! If all goes as we think, this may be my last article as this is our election meeting and the new team takes over in April. Its been great as your commander this year. Also, don't forget this is also the delayed meeting to decide where we will go and what to do socially this year so join us and give your ideas.

Deb and I were out looking for lost survey markers last week. This is a fun thing you can do as a couple or alone and not have to go near anyone. Chart corrections and Survey marker recovery is one of the things we do to work with NOAA and we get credit for it. Let me know if you want to learn more as I am also chair for that.

I have sent out a survey to see if we want to add another descriptive name as a Db. We are one of the few that don't so let us know your thoughts.

Take care, mask for now and see you at meeting.



### Squadron Activities by P/C Donna Mason, AP

You won't want to miss the March 11 Members Meeting. It will be election time (support those wonderful people who

have stepped up to fill a position in our squadron). And, we will plan our squadron activities for 2021. We want and need your input.

What would you like to do for boating and other squadron activities next year? We will think positively and hope people will be vaccinated so we can enjoy each other's company, probably mid-late summer.

For those of you who have what I call "rendezvous-able" boats, where would you like to have a weekend rendezvous? You can social distance with people sitting on two boats and on the dock. We will plan other activities as well.

Most summer fairs have been cancelled. For example, the April Tulip Festival Street Fair has been combined with The Harvest Street Fair Oct 2 and 3.

I will re-email to members a worksheet you can use during the meeting. All you will have to do is print out two pages. So put your worksheet and 2021 calendar next to your Zoom computer and join in the planning fun on March 11.

Nostalgia Time: I looked at some of our squadron's prior years activity lists, and we have been quite active over the years, in boating rendezvous, civic service and land-based activities. I am a Life Member who has belonged to three squadrons, and I can verify that this squadron is the most active while I was a member. So, let's keep the momentum going! Cdr Mark will email the meeting link.

Burke Museum \$5 per household OnLine Program

## Cruisin' Around Washington: Sucia Island & Stonerose Interpretive Center

MARCH 19 - 5:30 PM

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Take a trip around Washington state and learn about fossils and ancient life from two paleontological sites featured in our new exhibit, Cruisin' the Fossil Coastline! Our host will chat with experts from the Burke Museum and beyond as we travel virtually to Sucia Island and Stonerose Interpretive Center & Eocene Fossil Site.

After signing up, you'll receive a confirmation email with a link to access the webinar.

Tickets: [burkemuseum.org](http://burkemuseum.org)

Note: Only one reservation is required per household, but the whole family can gather around to "join" the event.

### Report of the Nominating Committee

The following members have agreed to hold the shown position for the 2021-2022 bridge year if they are elected. Elections will be held at beginning of March meeting. If there are any concerns or additions, please address them to the squadron Secretary.

Submitted by George Johnson, SN  
Nom Com Chair

#### **Bridge Officers**

*Commander*  
Carolyn Caporgno, S

*Exec Officer*  
Kelly Libby, S

*Ed Officer*  
Mark Richey, SN-IN

*Admin Officer*  
Vacant

*Secretary*  
Debbie Richey, AP

*Treasurer*  
Jack Dyer, P

#### **Executive Committee**

Donna Mason, AP  
Sandy Johnson, P  
Paul Rosetter, AP  
George Johnson, SN

#### **Auditing Committee**

1 yr Jeannie Drummond  
2 yr Deanna Randall-Secret, N  
3 yr

#### **Nominating Committee**

1 yr George Johnson, SN  
2 yr Debbie Richey, AP  
3 yr Vacant

#### **Rules Committee**

1 yr Donna Mason, AP  
2 yr George Johnson, SN \*  
3 yr Ruth Peterson, SN

(Note only the committee members with \* needs to be elected above)



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

As we all are extremely aware, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way the USPS squadrons provide boating education to the public and our members. Classroom teaching, long a hallmark of the way USPS educates, has been shut down for a year now. Active squadrons have pivoted to doing remote education, generally with Zoom or its competitors. Unfortunately, our classroom material and teaching style doesn't easily lend itself to truly effective educational practices. Some of our courses really demand hands-on proctoring to be fully successful. However, many squadrons, including Skagit Bay, have held successful on-line classes.

Other squadrons have struggled and the number of the public ABC classes has dropped during Covid-year. Some states still require in-person monitored exams, while most others (including Washington) have temporarily allowed in-car testing, which Skagit Bay does.

Most squadrons, including Skagit Bay, cover their annual operating costs by marking up the cost of classes slightly. Squadrons who haven't been teaching as many classes as they normally did are suffering financially. USPS National has seen this problem and decided to donate to every interested squadron a stock of 20 ABC course materials, costing \$34 each, including shipping. The cost of this program is covered by the Educational Fund, to which our squadron donates \$100 yearly. The squadrons requesting these donations are asked to teach ABC at any price, and to keep the full registration fees since the course materials are free. Most squadrons are now teaching ABC at slightly discounted or normal prices and are restoring their depleted treasuries. Skagit Bay has been financially sound from the start and really doesn't need the full profit of offering ABC, so we lowered our price on the March class. We generally don't keep a stock of class textbooks, but now have a unallocated set of 15 ABC course materials for future classes.

### **Sail Course in February**

Everett Squadron offered a Sail Course by Zoom in February and Skagit Bay had three people from its mailing list sign up. The Everett-based instructor says that our three students are doing well and I have scheduling the in-car final exam for the first week in March. Good job to all.

### **ABC Course in March**

We now have eight students registered for ABC course by Zoom on March 20 and 27, with the in-car exam at the Seafarers' Memorial Park on April 3. Pass the word to your boating friends and tell them this is a good time to get their Washington State Boaters Education Card. Registration closes on March 10. Have them contact [bobmillerwa@hotmail.com](mailto:bobmillerwa@hotmail.com) for more information.

Be Safe and mask up,  
Bob Miller  
SEO

### **Anacortes Waterfront Festival has been cancelled for 2021.**

For several years, up until a couple of years ago, Skagit Bay enjoyed fun parties there. Donna Mason set us up with the party dock and slips for many of our boats. We would walk the vendor runway and docks, watch the "Quick and Dirty" boat race and have a BBQ. Great times, and we hope to at least gather there next year.

Geo Johnson

# NOSTALGIA PHOTOS



Squadron lineup, July 4, 2015 Squalicum Harbor Bellingham



Poet's Cove, South Pender Island, B.C. Canada Cruise August 2017



low tide at Deer Harbor Marina, Orcas Island August 2017



Friday Harbor, Canada Cruise August 2017



Happy Hour on "Loon Song", Sidney, BC marina



We all scream for ice cream, Bellingham, July 2017



# USPS America's Boating Course

**Zoom Online (by invitation)**

**Class online: Saturdays, March 20, 27, 2021, 9:00 am to 2:00 p.m.**

**Exam in-car: Saturday, April 3, 2021, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

The US Coast Guard-approved *America's Boating Course* provides you with basic boating knowledge to decide what type and size boat you need, what to do when meeting another boat in a crowded waterway, and how to recognize and handle hazards. Become a more competent boater, learn from the best, and enroll in *America's Boating Course* today. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete *America's Boating Course*. And, this course provides a sound basis for continuing your recreational boating education.

**What's Included?** For both sail and power boaters, *ABC* covers a wide range of topics:

- Types of boats and their uses,
- Boating laws, both Federal and State,
- Safety equipment, both required and recommended,
- Finding your way, and adverse conditions,
- Communications,
- Trailering, knots and lines,
- Water sports topics.

The course materials include a 280 page bound *Student Guide*. The course is completed by taking two five-hour online sessions with Zoom. The final exam is administered in your car in the open air safety of the parking lot at Seafarers' Memorial Park in Anacortes. Successful completion of the final exam allows students to apply for their Washington State Boaters Card, required for anyone born after Jan 1, 1955, and operating a vessel with a 15HP motor or greater.

**\$40 for individuals or \$50 for two sharing a book in a household**

**Contact Bob Miller at 360-588-9950 or**

**[bobmillerwa@hotmail.com](mailto:bobmillerwa@hotmail.com)**

**Registration closes March 10, 2021**

**Class is limited to 15 students**

**Skagit Bay Sail & Power Squadron  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2021 Virtual**

**Attendance:**

Bob Miller	Debbie Richey	Mark Richey
Glen Caporgno	Carolyn Caporgno	Donna Mason
Paul Rosetter	Jack Dyer	

\*Quorum present

Meeting Called to Order: 1835

**Executive Officer** – Carolyn Caporgno

Carolyn will try to get David Williams, Puget Sound a Maritime Highway for our May meeting.

Marketing Report – Donna Mason

Nothing to report

**Education Officer** - Bob Miller

ABC stuff is out and advertisements are out. Sail class exam is February 27 in the car. Deception

Pass is advertising in the Anacortes American. Mark will contact the Deception Pass commander about territory.

**Administrative Officer** –

Activities: Donna Mason

Planning meeting have been moved to March for 2021 activities.

Membership – Adam Dietz and John Woodard have been approved.

Programs –

Adam Dietz will do a presentation in February.

**Secretary** – Debbie Richey

Moved and seconded that we accept January ExCom minutes from January.

**Treasurer** – Jack Dyer

Balance: \$6,755.04 (as of 01/31/2021)

Motion to send \$100 to USPS Education Fund was seconded and approved.

**Commander** – Mark Richey

Notes: Upcoming virtual National Meeting using free conference call, District Meeting in March will be virtual.

**Old Business** –

None

**New Business:**

District Commander is asking for our DBA (Doing Business As). We are one of a few squadrons that don't have one attached to our squadron name. Mark is going to send an e-mail to the squadron members asking for their input.

Meeting adjourned: 1859

## 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.



<b>Bridge Officers</b>		
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
<b>Executive Committee</b>		
	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Paul Rosetter, AP	360-595-1083
	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
<b>Commander Department</b>		
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	
<b>Executive Department</b>		
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	
<b>Education Department</b>		
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
<b>Administrative Department</b>		
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
<b>Secretary's Department</b>		
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
<b>Auditing Committee</b>		
1 Yr. Chair	Marlene Bellinger, AP	
2 Yrs.	Jeannie Drummond	
3 Yrs.	Deanna Randall-Secrest	
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
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
<b>Rules Committee</b>		
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.**