

THE BITTER END

December 2023

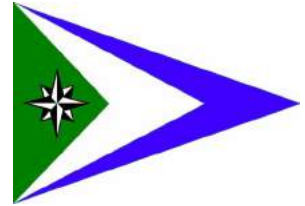


For Boaters, By Boaters

Web Page: www.skagitsquadron.org

Email: ssboatschool@hotmail.com

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



CALENDAR

07 Dec— Excom Meeting, Burlington Hagen, 3PM

09 Dec— Dinner at LaConner Pub, Boat Parade

14-16 Dec— Vancouver Train Trip, Tours

25 Dec— Merry Christmas

01 January— Happy New Year, Be Careful



Remember Holiday Party this month. It's the LaConner Lighted Boat Parade and it will be dinner at LaConner Pub and Eatery on Dec 9. We are full but if you let Donna know soon she may find a spot. Don't forget the eHolidasy trip to Vancouver by train. There still may be time to reserve and it's semi boating related. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Don't forget HIM.



Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN

Welcome to the end of 2023. We hope you all had a great year. We still have a lot of activities this month so don't stop yet.

Its been fairly decent out there still so Deb and I are planning to do a little sailing this month and maybe even January. Feel free to join us at some marina or anchorage for a warm toddy. It's also a last chance to winterize if you haven't yet.

January is our month to make plans for next year. So if you are thinking we never go places or do things you want to, start thinking about it now and we will put together an itinerary at the January meeting. It gives you a month to come up with something fun you always wanted to do as a group.

As far as our education plans go. We still may put on the Marine Navigation class and of course we always try a spring public boating class to get everyone safe. We might even try a hands on Radar and Electronics class. We have an in with one of the local Marine Electricians that has put together a demo unit with modern equipment that we can use. We will be touching base with them further for details.

Take care and Happy Holidays. Ho Ho Ho!



Administrative Officer Carolyn Caporgno, S

Hello Boating Friends,

Time to celebrate at the La Conner Pub for our holiday party. Our friends Dan Niven and Elizabeth Mahoney-Niven will be in this year's Holiday Lighted Boat Parade. Watch for SEDNA from an excellent viewpoint. This event begins at 5 p.m. Downtown parking is always at a premium so arrive early and wander through the shops. Dress warmly.

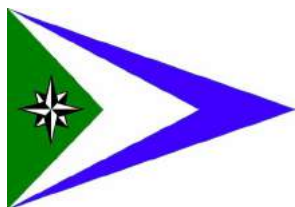
Watch for upcoming Boater Education opportunities. Hope to see you at our upcoming 2024 meetings. Programs for the remainder of the year have been completed.

Happy Holidays to You All.



**THESE PHOTOS ARE OF PLACES WE HAVE BOATED OVER THE YEAR.
THE FIRST PERSON THAT TURNS THE LIST OF THE CORRECT LOCATION S INTO COMMANDER MARK AT THE LACONNER PUB DINNER,
MIGHT GET A PRESENT.**





of Skagit Bay

Vancouver, B.C. Canada Train and Boat Trip

New dates Thursday, December 14—Saturday, December 16, 2023

ITINERARY

Thursday, December 14	9:00 a.m.	Meet at Mount Vernon Amtrak Station with your PASSPORT and carry-on luggage.
	9:24 a.m.	Amtrak Cascades leaves Mount Vernon.
	11:50 a.m.	Amtrak train arrives in Vancouver.
		Clear Customs at station.
		(If starving, have lunch near Amtrak: Tim Hortons in Science World.)
		OR, use Expo Line to get to our hotels and then have lunch.
		Check into hotels and relax.
	6:15 p.m.	Arrive at Harbor Cruises, 501 Denman Street.
	6:30 p.m. sharp!	Board Boat
	7:00 p.m. sharp!	Cruise departs for Holiday Dinner and Carols, 2 ½ hours.
Friday, December 15	9:30 p.m.	Debark from ship. Walk back to hotel, or take taxi from Easy Park lot.
	Breakfast	On your own
	Morning	Check out the holiday shops and decorations on Robson St., take a walk along the sea wall, or explore on your own
	Lunch	Meet up somewhere, or on your own.
	3 p.m.	tram/bus or taxi to Van Deusen Garden, 5251 Oak St.
	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Arrive at Van Deusen in the daylight, enjoy the garden layout, and as it gets dark, see the transformation to magical lights.
	5:30 p.m.	Walk or Cab to restaurant for dinner
	6:00 p.m.	TBD, but <u>might be</u> Johnny's on 3838 Oak St.(local Greek/Italian) or via cab to Cardero's Restaurant & Live Bait at Coal Harbor.
		Walk or cab back to hotels and relax.



Saturday, December 16

Breakfast on your own

Check out of hotel room; store luggage at hotel

On your own until

4:30 p.m. Collect luggage from hotel and take light rail to Amtrak Station

5:15 p.m. Gather at Amtrak Station

5:45 p.m. Amtrak Cascades leaves Vancouver

Clear Customs

8:11 p.m. Amtrak due in Mount Vernon

ToDo: Our groups are too small to get group rates, so you have to make your own reservations.

- 1) RSVP to Donna via donnajmason@gmail.com for last minute coordination and restaurant reservations.
- 2) Reserve HOTEL 2 nights Thursday, Dec. 14 and Friday, Dec. 15: Make your hotel reservation on your own. Suggest near Burrard Sky Train. Paul and I are reserved at Executive Hotel Le Soleil, 567 Hornby St. close to the Sky Train and bus lines. It was the best TOTAL WITH FEES rate for the hotels in my target area. Some other nearby hotels are Pinnacle Harbor Front, Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle, Exchange Hotel Vancouver; cheapest = Days Inn. Check for discounts such as AAA. Pay attention to USD rate vs. Canada dollar rate and total price with all fees.

- 2) Buy your Amtrak round trip tickets at <https://www.amtrakcascades.com> from Mount Vernon to Vancouver B.C. Canada Thursday, December 14 departing 9:24 a.m., and returning Saturday, December 16, from Vancouver, BC Canada to Mount Vernon departing at 5:45 p.m. As of October 10, round trip cost for 2 seniors is US\$88. Buy online at Amtrak or the Bellingham station has a ticket agent.

- 3) Bring your Passport.

- 4) Buy your tickets on line for the "Vancouver Holiday Dinner and Carols Cruise" Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. boarding for 7:00 p.m. departure, a 2 ½ hour full buffet dinner cruise with live carolers, cruising through False Creek, North and West Vancouver or Deep Cove, with decorated boats on parade. It only operates on Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

OPTION 1: Direct with Harbor Cruises (boatcruises.com gets you to Vancouver's Harbor Cruises website.) Can\$197.00 total = US\$144.85 per person) Includes taxes and gratuities. Alcoholic drinks extra. Tell them to seat you with "Donna Mason." [<https://boatcruises.com> , or call 1 (800) 663-1500 or (604) 688-7246].

OPTION 2: Trip Advisor/Viator advertises a cheaper rate of US\$92.00, but they can only sell 10 tickets per cruise at that price. If you buy your ticket from them, follow up by calling the Harbor Cruises number in Option 1 to ask them to seat you with "Donna Mason".

Boat trip tickets are non-refundable and non-transferrable. *Vessel & routing subject to change due to inclement weather for your safety and comfort .*

- 5) November 1: Order tickets at vandeusengarden.org, December 15 Festival of Lights. Final information is not available until November 1. Cost TBA: estimated Can\$20-25 for senior—adults. Order early; tickets sell out.



Squadron Activities

By P/C Donna Mason, AP

December 9, Saturday, LaConner Lighted Boat Parade and Squadron Holiday Party Dinner, hosted by Paul and Donna

Place: The LaConner Pub, 702 South First Street in LaConner

Time: 5 p.m. (arrive earlier for a parking space and wander through the shops)

We are lucky to get 25 spots to enjoy dinner while viewing the boat parade. At date of writing, 20 members and 4 guests signed up. See the Snohomish Yacht Club lighted boat parade from this great viewing spot right on the Channel. We can order from the menu (www.laconnertavern.com); they usually offer prime rib on this special night. We'll finish off our meal with a holiday-decorated chocolate cake, which we share with the Pub's hardworking staff. Parking is on-street. Carpooling is recommended and reduces the number of "designated drivers" needed. I don't yet know if we will be outside on the protected patio or inside. Dress in layers and your favorite holiday sweater and/or socks.

As is our custom, we will have available a voluntary cash donation box for the Skagit Valley Neighbors in Need.

It is after the deadline, but contact me right away at donnajmason@gmail.com if you want to attend. I'll see if they can find space.

December 14-16 Vancouver B.C. Canada Train/Boat Weekend. Members already received the flyer for this event. If interested, contact me. So far, six people are going.

As you recover from the holidays, please think about activities you'd like our squadron to do in 2024, and come to the January 11 meeting to finalize our plans.

Books to Consider for Christmas Presents

Done with your holiday shopping yet? Still need a gift for that boater in your life. You may want to consider these books:

Sea cutting edge photography of creatures of the deep by Mark Laita

The Mountain in the Sea by Ray Naylor. A near-future thriller about a series of octopi which may have developed language and culture. A multi-national corporation has sealed off an archipelago where a marine biologist wants to study.

Old Man and the Sea. An Ernest Hemingway classic

Rebels At Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution by Eric Jay Dolin

Sailing the Graveyard Sea by Richard Snow. The U.S. Navy's only mutiny.

In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick

Log From the Sea of Cortez classic by John Steinbeck

The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest by Audrey DeLella Benedict and Joseph K. Gaydos. Stunning photos and compelling stories.

For preteens:

Sea by Jen R. Shrum An ocean dolphin caught in a fishing net lives in an aquarium and is then released back into the ocean.

Spy School at Sea by Stuart Gibbs. Ben Ripley faces his nemesis on a cruise ship's maiden voyage.

For Tiny Tots:

Sea by Charlotte Archer. A board book for tiny tots.

Happy Holidays!

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 02, 2023

Attendance:

Carolyn Caporgno	George Brooks	Donna Mason	Mark Richey	Debbie Richey
Glen Caporgno				

Quorum present
Meeting started: 1500

Officer's Reports

Executive Officer

Marketing – No Report.

Education Officer – Adam Deitz (Not present)

Marine Navigation Class – Class has been cancelled for November. May teach it in February.
Disappointing that more folks didn't sign up. Discussed teaching Boat Handling first, then Marine Navigation. Will discuss this more in December.

Administrative Officer – Carolyn Caporgno

Programs – Shearwater University

Membership – Debbie Richey – no report

Activities – Donna Mason #1 on LaConner Pub's list for Boat Parade on December 9. They are reserving 25 spots for us.

Secretary – Debbie Richey

Treasurer – Jack Dyer

Jack Dyer reported bank account balance of as of October 31, \$xxxxx.

Commander – Nothing to report

Old Business

New Business

Meeting adjourned 1534

America's Boating Club of Skagit Bay

General Meeting November 9, 2023

Attendance:

Mark Richey
Debbie Richey
Jack Dyer
Carolyn Caporgno

Glen Caporgno
Bernard Robinson
Steve Drummond
Jean Drummond
Gordon Murphy

Donna Mason
Paul Rosetter
Dan Niven
Elizabeth Mahoney-Niven

The meeting started at 1831 at Shawn O'Donnell's Farmhouse Restaurant

Marketing – No Report.

Educational Officer Report – Marine Navigation is cancelled for November. More to come. We received a generous offer from K & R Marine to use their radar simulator for our Radar class. We would have to teach the class on Friday evenings or Saturdays at the Skagit Valley Maritime Center.

Administrative Officer –

Programs: January – activity planning, March – Paul and Donna travelogue of Australia and New Zealand.dd

Squadron Activities – December 9, LaConner Boat Parade. Vancouver train trip December 14-16. Contact Donna Mason for more information.

Secretary: - October minutes were approved.

Treasurer - Jack Dyer reported bank account balance of as of October 31, \$xxxxx. A motion was made and seconded and the budget was approved.

Commander: Mark Richey – Merit Marks are due. Will be input this weekend.

Old Business – Still waiting to hear from National on our new by-laws.

New Business - No new business.

Meeting Adjourned: 1840

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.®

Squadron Logo Wear

Did you know that there is a shop in La Conner that will embroider shirts, bags and hats with the Skagit Bay name and burgee? It's called CleverKathy. She has our logo already setup. You can bring your own items or purchase one of her many items. Stop in sometime and see what she has to offer! https://www.cleverkathydesigns.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

We are always looking for boating related articles from any member. Photos too. If you think it would be of interest o the Squadron, send it. The editor will insert as space and subject provides. Note that the green box on the first page is quick editorial comments and attention getting items .

~ General Meeting Information ~

Our General Meetings are normally held monthly on the 2nd Thursdays of each month (except July & August), at Shawn O'Donnell's, 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	Vacant	
Education Officer	Adam Deitz	203-536-6402
Administrative Officer	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Secretary	Debbie Richey, AP	425-750-9551
Treasurer	Jack Dyer, AP	425-785-7782
Executive Committee		
	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	George Brooks, SN	
	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Vacant	
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
	George Brooks, SN	
Public Relations	Various members split	
Radio Technical	George Brooks, SN	360-982-2999
Safety	Don Coleman	360 333-2962
Vessel Exams	Vacant	
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Vacant	
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds	George Brooks, SN	360 982-2999
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	Vacant	
Scrapbook	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Webmaster / IT	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Sandy Johnson, P	
2 Yrs.	Jeannie Drummond	
3 Yrs.		
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
2 Yrs.	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
3 Yrs.	Vacant	
Rules Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	George Johnson, SN	
2 Yrs.	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
3 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson	

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 no longer wish to hold the committee spot we have you in, please let us know.