

# THE BITTER END

November 2023



*For Boaters, By Boaters*

Web Page: [www.skagitsquadron.org](http://www.skagitsquadron.org)

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/)



## CALENDAR



31 Oct — Happy Halloween  
02 Nov — ExCom Meeting, Burlington Haggan, 3PM  
09 Nov — Regular Meeting, Shawn O'Donnell's 6PM  
23 Nov — Happy Thanksgiving



Great program at next meeting. You don't want to miss it. The Marine Navigation class scheduled for Nov 7 has been cancelled due to lack of signups. Don't forget to sign up for the train trip to Vancouver and a boat ride. The tickets get more expensive as time gets closer. Be careful of all the ghouls and goblins out running around on Halloween.



### Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN

Coming up on the end of the year. I hope you all had a great one. Still have one more boating event to do.

November is our last regular meeting of the year and we have a great program. The December meeting is the boat parade in LaConner so be prepared for that. Unfortunately the Marine Navigation Class that our squadron was planning to offer starting November 7 has been cancelled. No one has registered to take the class as of the registration deadline date.

Deb and I will still likely do some boating in November. The weather guessers say its going to be a warmer, milder fall so we should be able to get out. A lot of the area boaters tend to be year round anyway.

What you all doing for the long Thanksgiving weekend? Deb and I will likely avoid black Friday and it may be best to stay off roads close to town anyway unless you think you can find parking. Be a good weekend to go for a late fall drive and see some of our lovely state spots away from the rat race. There are some gorgeous areas in driving distance even along the water that wont be crowded that long weekend.

I hope to see you all at the next dinner meeting.

Be Safe!



### Administrative Officer Carolyn Caporgno, S

Join us **Thursday, November 9** for our General Meeting at Shawn O'Donnell's Farmhouse for dinner and a program. Phyllis Woolwine, aka Captain Wooly, from Shearwater University, will speak on Tides and Currents on the Salish

Sea. The mission of Shearwater University is to provide high quality maritime education, from professional educators, personalized to the individual backgrounds, goals, and learning styles of students. "We build skills to meet the challenges of the Salish Sea and beyond for safe, enjoyable boating." Captain Wooly holds a USCG Captain: Master Near Coastal. She has been a passionate sailor since age 5, cruising and racing on both coasts. She has been kayaking and canoeing since age 12. She has 18 years of boating experience in Southeastern Alaska and has piloted vessels of every size, from kayaks to 68-foot tenders, throughout the entire archipelago. Captain Wooly has lead kayaking trips throughout Washington and British Columbia since 2011. She taught for 14 years high school science: Biology, Chemistry and Earth Science, and taught 8 years at the University of Washington and University of Alaska. She founded Shearwater University in 2015 to bring professional education to maritime training. If you have ideas for speakers for 2024, email me with their name and contact information.

I have a good part of the year booked, but always looking for new presenters.



### **Squadron Activities**

By P/C Donna Mason, AP

*There are no scheduled activities for November. Thank you veterans for your service and to all hope you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving.*

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

The LaConner Pub is expecting us for dinner and the Lighted Boat Parade December 9. This is instead of having a Thursday monthly meeting. See the Snohomish Yacht Club lighted boat parade from this great viewing spot right on the Channel. We can order from the menu; they usually offer prime rib on this special night. After dinner, the Squadron provides cake for dessert. Join us this year for a jolly time. Wear your favorite holiday sweater and/or socks. Seats are limited for this popular event. RSVP to me via email [donnajmason@gmail.com](mailto:donnajmason@gmail.com).

Have dinner: Full menu available, including prime rib. See their menu at [www.laconnertavern.com](http://www.laconnertavern.com). Eat as much or as little as you wish. Dress warmly and in the holiday spirit. The squadron will provide a holiday-decorated chocolate cake for dessert.

If you'd like to make a monetary contribution to the local food bank "Neighbors In Need," a collection box will be available.

Parking is on-street. Carpooling is recommended and also reduces the number of "designated drivers" needed. Hint: come earlier in the day to find a parking space and enjoy exploring up and down the main street.

The LaConner Pub and Eatery, 702 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, LaConner.

5:30 p.m. Cocktails and Revelry begins

6:00-7:30 p.m. Watch the boat parade from the restaurant's outside deck or warmly inside while eating dinner.

### **NEW DATES: Thursday, December 14 – Saturday, December 16 Vancouver, B.C. Canada train and boating trip.** Revised itinerary and instructions are in this issue.

---

### **Boating is full of surprises**

We have a 1994 Boston Whaler. Each season we have been careful to top off the gas tank with non-ethanol gas and fuel additive before winter storage. This boating season we were surprised to have trouble with our new, well-maintained 4-stroke engine running. Long story short: the fiberglass in our tank was deteriorating and pieces of fiberglass were going through the gas lines. Our wonderful neighbors helped tow us out of the Lake. "Wow Whee" was out of commission for weeks, waiting for a new tank to be shipped from Florida and the local boat repair facility to have the time to do the installation. Boating is full of surprises.

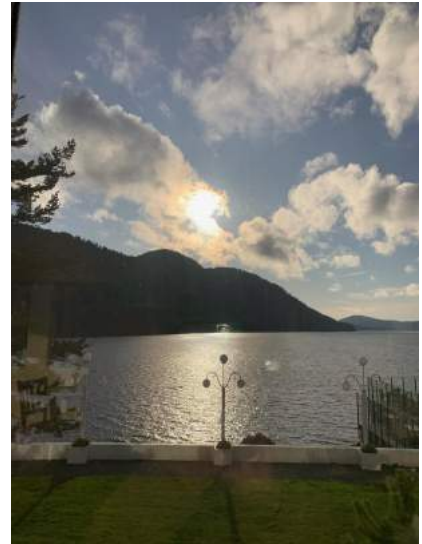
--

Donna Mason



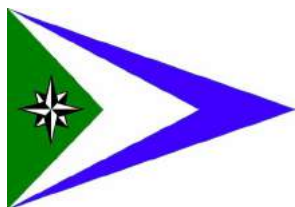


# ROSARIO RENDEZVOUS PICS



There were 7 of us there in 3 boats. Dan Niven and Bear in Sedna, Ken and Pat Smith in Polar Mist, Woody Woodward in Strider and Mark and Debbie via WSF. We had dinner on board Polar Mist (see below) and some of the group met at breakfast in the mansion to watch the eclipse.





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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

## America's Boating Club of Skagit Bay

### General Meeting October 12, 2023

**Attendance:**

Mark Richey  
Debbie Richey  
Jack Dyer  
Jeanne Brooks

George Brooks  
Carolyn Caporgno  
Glen Caporgno  
Steve Drummond  
Jean Drummond

Donna Mason  
Paul Rosetter  
Will Schellenberger  
(Pacific Northwest Naval  
Air Museum)

The meeting started at 1836 at Shawn O'Donnell's Farmhouse Restaurant

**Marketing** – No Report.

**Educational Officer Report** – ABC class just finished; 3 students took the test. Marine Navigation class will start November 7. Two probable students.

**Administrative Officer** –

**Programs:** November, Phyllis Woolwine. Shearwater University; December, LaConner Boat Parade

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

**Secretary:** - September minutes were approved.

**Treasurer** - Jack Dyer reported bank account balance of as of September 30, [REDACTED] A motion was made and seconded and the budget was approved.

**Commander:** Mark Richey – Mark did a recap of the District 16 Conference.

**Old Business** – Merit Marks are due.

**New Business:**

Meeting Adjourned: 1855

## 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](https://www.cleverkathydesigns.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)

Amazon has recently announced that it is ending the Amazon Smile charitable giving platform on February 20, 2023. The squadron will receive one more donation check from them and then no more. To those of you who supported the squadron through the Smile program, the bridge says "Thank you very much!"

### ~ 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.**