

# THE BITTER END

September 2024



*For Boaters, By Boaters*

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A Division Of United States Power Squadrons™  
District 16

## CALENDAR

- 05 Sep— Excom Meeting, 6PM, Burlington Haggan
- 12 Sep— Regular Meeting, 6PM, Farmhouse, Program
- 28 Sep— Anniversary Cookout, Cornet Bay



Let's plan some classes this fall. Let Adam or your Commander know what you want or if willing to teach. We could use someone to publish the October newsletter. If someone is interested and has MS Publisher, I can send them a previous months as a .pub file. We would also love to have any member submit articles and we can likely get them in. Word format is preferred.



### Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN

Welcome back everyone. How was your summer? Deb and I had a great time with one of our longest boating trips ever. See my article in this issue.

Its time to get started on another fall/winter season. Time for more classes and talking about boat problems that we can work out between us. We can always use more programs for our meetings so if you have something or someone of interest please bring them in. This next meeting will be a show by our own members, Paul and Donna about their trip to New Zealand and Australia.

Speaking of Australia, you won't see Deb and I for awhile as we are leaving starting this month for 6 weeks there. Maybe we can have some program stuff for later.

Hopefully we can meet on the water at least one more time before winter. D16 may have a fall cruise so keep your eyes on the district website and event calendar. This one has always been great and is always a bit informal.

Let's start this new season with excitement. We have a few new members and students that I am sure would enjoy some of our programs and meetings. It would be great to hear your voices and see how we can keep your interest in our group and safe boating.

See you all next week.



### Administrative Officer Carolyn Caporgno, S

Like most summers, this one moved along too fast. The weather didn't bring many sweltering days, but most days were good for boaters. I hope you enjoyed your days to the fullest!

This month's guest speakers will take us on a journey entitled "What's So Great About Australia?" This is Part 2 of their 30-day adventure to New Zealand and Australia in November-December 2022. Paul and Donna have been on at least three Road Scholar adventures. Road Scholar is "the leader in educational travel since 1975. Their comfortable learning adventures are domestic and international in 100 countries, aboard ships on rivers and oceans. 80,000-100,000 travelers participate in their programs annually." Their presentation will last about 33 minutes.

Join us on **Saturday, September 28, 2024**, for our 21st Anniversary Cookout in Cornet Bay, starting at **2 p.m.** Come by boat or car. There is free parking for cars. Boaters need to make reservations. **Please see the flyer for this event in this newsletter.**

Our special team headed to the Farmhouse in late April to make meal changes. The changes took effect for the May meeting. You can find the new menu choices in September if you couldn't make that meeting. Thank you, Sandy and Debbie!

Reminder: large burgees are available for \$45, and small burgees are \$25. I will bring a supply to the meeting. You can pay by cash or check, but no charge cards.



## **Skagit Bay's 21st Anniversary Cookout Saturday, September 28, 2024**

Come by boat or car and join Squadron members for fun and cheer at our Anniversary cookout, where we'll celebrate our squadron's 21st anniversary!

Weather:	Rain or Shine – we're under a covered day-use shelter with picnic tables
Location:	Cornet Bay, Deception Pass State Park
Address:	160 Cornet Bay Road, off State Highway 20
Time:	2 p.m. onward
By Car:	"free parking day" in all of our Washington State Parks so there is no parking fee.
By boat:	Check the latest regulations at Washington State Parks for Cornet Bay docks.

We'll provide the burgers and hot dogs with all the fixings and an anniversary cake for dessert. Plates and utensils will also be provided. Please bring your lawn chairs, a side dish or dessert to share with all our friends, and your beverage of choice.



**RSVP by Monday, September 18  
to P/C Carolyn Caporgno  
carolyncaporgno@gmail.com**

Looking forward to seeing you!

## Mark and Debbie's Desolation Sound Trip

We started in **Friday Harbor** where all that were to have gone were to meet up. But the others needed to meet other schedules so we went on ahead or behind us to catch up later. We are a slow boat so were planning 15 to 25 miles a day.



Our next stop was **Sidney BC**. We love that marina and always go. Lots of stores to provision and a nice walk around town. We cleared customs by phone on way over as we have Nexus and did not even need to stop at the dock.



Next up was **Thetis Island Marina** in Telegraph Harbor via Sansum Narrows. There is a newer marina that the big boats stay in in the head of the bay but we have always liked this little marina with a cool pub and store on shore. Its the locals hang out also as it's the only pub and liquor store on the island. We have been here a few times. It's a good half way point between Sidney and Nanaimo.



So now after waiting for Dodd Narrows its into **Nanaimo** we go. The Port Marina is huge and will try to shoehorn you in but prefer reservations. There are also a couple of other marinas that take transients in the channel. We spent a couple nights there waiting for the weather in Georgia Strait to calm a bit. That can be very nasty based on current and wind opposing. Great restaurants and provisioning near the dock. Its actually a large town.



Across Georgia Strait we head. WG was active so we had to go north to Balenas Island then cut over to the south end of Texada. The water was choppy but no more than maybe 2ft and when we reached Texada shadow it went flat. Our destination was **Secret Cove**. A lot of folks like Pender Harbor but we thought we would give this a try. It was very cute with a small store with café and showers. The folks were pleasant and helpful. Some interesting homes built with posts holding them off the cliff. How I wonder?



## Mark and Debbie's Desolation Sound Trip

We left Secret Cove heading up Malaspina Strait toward Desolation Sound. We did make one overnight stop at **Beach Garden Resort Marina** which is in Powell River. It's a small marina with one long moorage and a laundry/shower area and a small fuel dock. There is a hotel and also a bus stop so you can get to town. The opening is right into the strait so you have to move fast to get thru but once inside its calm.

Leaving Tenedos we decided to head for Refuge Cove. It's a eclectic marina that is generally the first stop for boats heading into Desolation Sound and points north. Unfortunately they removed all the power form the docks but they do have a well stocked store and decent restaurant with a summertime bakery. There is no shore access beyond the property but we decided to spend 2 nights and just putt around.



The next day we rounded Sarah Point north of Lund which is the boundary for Desolation Sound Marine Park. We continued on to **Tenedos Bay**. This is a deep bay with lots of rocky shoreline and a good trail system to a warm lake inland. We spent 2 nights there practicing an anchor and shore stern tie arrangement.



Now onward to the most desolate and gorgeous destination of the entire trip. **Toba Wilderness Marina** in Toba Inlet. It is the only moorage available in the inlet and there is not anchorage for miles. We went up Homphrey Channel after going around corner from Refuge and ran into the most rugged and wonderful scenery we have seen. The only thing we saw was birds and some fish. Maybe 2 other boats until we dumped out into Toba inlet right across from the marina. There was some salmon fishing going on in that area.

Speaking of salmon fishing we were catching them off the marina dock in 150 ft. of water and one guy caught 15lb Chinook while we were there casting a chartreuse buzz bomb. We saw otter and eagles and seals. The weather was dreary but the scenery was wonderful and as we were ready to leave there was a bear on the beach at the top of the dock. If you ever go this is a must stop. They have generator power, great showers, free ice, a fire pit and covered patio and hiking trails. They also have a solid wifi connection to satellite internet. If you need emergency supplies they can make a run to Campbell River which they did at least once. I'm not sure the cost. But the couple that runs the place is always down on the dock helping out.





We left Toba Inlet (see chart clip) heading for someplace to provision. This was just over our 1/2 way point and we were going to go to Campbell River but the Toba hosts and others said why there? So instead at someones suggestion we headed for **Gorge Harbor** at Whaletown on Cortes Island. This was just barely outside Desolation Sound but was still a gorgeous run.



It was a great choice as it had a freshly stocked store with meats and veggies and lots of amenities as well as concerts on the beach on summer weekends. We stayed at the dock but the entire bay is great anchorage.



So now we started back south, After two nights at Gorge Harbor our next stop was to be **Lund**. This is a frequent stop for those going north for fuel etc and has a hotel and some good restaurants. Its clkaim to fame is also being the northern terminus of Highway 101, yes the same as ours. You can drive back to Vancouver from here (and beyond, but it takes at least 2 ferries.



We spent one night in Lund then headed south down Malaspina again. We did spend one night at Beach Garden again before continuing on to **Pender Harbor**.

Pender Harbor is a great stopover for a day or 2 while waiting to cross back over Georgia Strait. Its actually not a harbor in itself but a bunch of little marinas scattered in 3 or 4 fingers. Lots of restaurants and supplies in dinghy distance, We stayed at John Henry Marina. Nice store and lunch place with ice cream and music on the dock.



We had to wait a couple days as the strait looked nasty with forecast 2-4 ft chop and opposing wind. But soon we headed back to Nanaimo trying to leave early to get best weather. WG was open but even so the wind was 15-20 so we had to quarter across and drop down from Balenas. We turned south and cut in through Departure Bay and the channel and made it mid afternoon.

They Shoehorned us in behind a commercial boat as we promised to leave the next morning since we had to make the current in Dodd Narrows. We left at 9 AM and as we got past Protection Island and wind was worse than coming across the straits and all of us sailboats had our sails down and were quartering across the bay until we got in the lee of Gabriola so we could turn south toward Dodd, Once inside Dodd all was smooth and calm. Onward to next destination.

We had planned to go to Pirates Cove for a night or 2 but since it was only a total of 10 miles from Nanaimo we decided to go back to Thetis Island since it was about half way and we enjoyed the marina. So we headed south and spent the night. You can see on previous photos.

We left the next morning considering anchoring in Montegue Harbor and dingy to the cute pub on shore but again decided to go back to Sidney since it was not as far back to USA. So we headed for Sansum narrows and Swartz Bay.

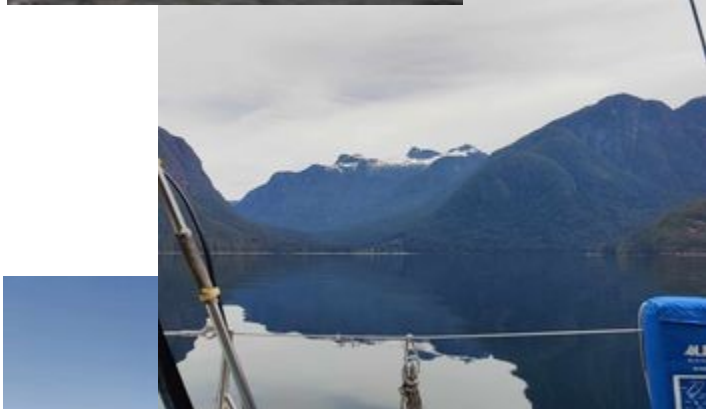


Well it had to end sometime. We headed home via **Deer Harbor**. This was our last stop and we loved it as always. We have been there many times and it's a regular stop for both us and Squadron get together. There is a wonderful pizza spot on shore and great ice cream.



Then back home to LaConner. We did spend the last night there so we could take all day cleaning next day. Love to have more of you come along next time. We are thinking again in a couple years and hitting some more spots and anchoring more.

Assorted photos on the water underway.





## Squadron Activities

By P/C Donna Mason, AP

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with boating adventures. Here on Lake Whatcom, we saw just about every possibility for on-the-water propulsion: motorboats, sailboats, paragliders from boats, seaplanes, sailboarders, kayaks, canoes, people paddling sitting on paddleboards, standup paddleboarders with and without dogs, water skiers, wakeboarders, swimmers, and even river otters.

Luckily this year, so far, we haven't needed firefighters.

September 28: Our squadron's Anniversary Cookout. See P/C Carolyn's flyer for all the juicy bits. Remember, it is a free parking day at this State Park.

October D16 End of Season Cruise TBA by D16

See the Fall *Cardinal Points* or D16 website <https://www.uspsd16.org/news-events>.

November 15-17 Destination Train Trip: I'm working on a destination for this trip; somewhere we haven't just been and a place with interesting activities. Stay tuned. If you have a suggestion, please email me.

December 14 LaConner Lighted Boat Parade and Squadron Holiday Party Dinner, hosted by Paul and Donna

In December we celebrate instead of having a monthly meeting. The LaConner Pub and Eatery at 702 First St. has reserved space for our Squadron Holiday Party beginning at 5 p.m. The Snohomish Yacht Club has scheduled its lighted boat parade that evening. Join us this year for a good time.

December 21 Afternoon Meal and Argosy Christmas Caroling Ship Cruise from Lake Union Seattle, hosted by Paul and Donna

The cruise schedule won't be available until after Thanksgiving, but based on prior years, this will be the grand finale weekend and the cruise will be in Seattle, not Kirkland. The 1 ½ hour cruise will be from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. AAA members receive a 20% discount ordering online. Prior to the cruise, we will enjoy a meal at a nearby restaurant. Some people may want to spend the night and enjoy other holiday festivities in Seattle





## 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)

We are always looking for boating related articles from any member. Photos too. If you think it would be of interest to 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	Adam Deitz	203-536-6402
Education Officer	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Administrative Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	425-750-9551
Secretary	Jack Dyer, AP	425-785-7782
Treasurer		
Executive Committee		
	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Glen Caporgno, S	
Port Captain		
Law Officer		
Merit Marks	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
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		
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		
Local Board Elect Courses		
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	Carolyn Caporgno, S	
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	Vacant	
Roster	Debbie Richey, AP	
Scrapbook	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Webmaster / IT	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
	Sandy Johnson, P	
	Jeannie Drummond	
Nominating Committee		
	Debbie Richey, AP	
	George Johnson, SN	
Rules Committee		
	George Johnson, SN	
	Donna Mason, AP	

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.**