THE BITTER END

May 2026

For Boaters, By Boaters

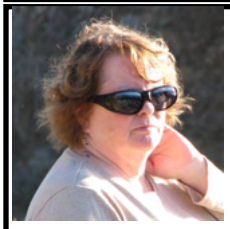
Web Page: www.skagitsquadron.org
Email: ssboatschool@hotmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/

A Division Of United States Power Squadrons ™
District 16

CALENDAR

14 May— Excom and Regular Meeting, 5:30, Program
16 May— Burrows Island Lighthouse Tour, See Flyer
25 May— Memorial Day
5-7 June— District Rendezvous, Port Ludlow, See Flyer

Wecome to the new BridgeYear. We should have a couple of transfer members coming to the meeting so come greet them. Also take a look at the upcoming ABC Class. This should be a good one as we already have folks registered. This may be the last issue before mid summer.



Commanders Message
Debbie Richey, P

I hope everyone is out enjoying the unusual warm weather. Our new yard is liking the weather as long as we water it. We've been out in the boat and it as nice to be out again.

Our adventure this month is going to Burroughs Island. Please see the flyer in this issue of the Bitter End. Don't forget our end of the year picnic in June at Shelter Bay picnic shelter. We have several activities planned for the summer make sure to look at our calendar in this issue.

The district rendezvous is June 5-6 in Port Gamble. Mark and I will be there Saturday afternoon. Come join us!

If you know of a group this in need of a class, let Mark and I know so we can set something up.

Have a great summer!

Come one and come all to the Shelter Bay Squadron Picnic June Meeting

Date: June 11, 2026

Hosts: Dan Niven and Elizabeth Mahoney-Niven

Meat provided, as well as condiments, napkins, cutlery, plates, cups, coffee, and tea. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Please RSVP by Monday, June 1, to confirm your meat preference (brat or burger) and let Dan and Elizabeth know whether you are bringing a side dish or dessert. niven@msn.com or emniven@msn.com

Some of our members are going to do these events this year and invite you to join them. Details of the invitations will be sent out as they get closer. Feel free to ask for details via email before if you wish.

Date	Destination	Host	Theme
January 30-February 7	Seattle Boat Show		What's new in boating?
March 6-7	D16 Spring Conference	Everett	
March 27-29	Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, boat or ferry	Mark & Debbie Richey	Spring on the Island
April 17-19	Langley, Whidbey Island Boat or Car Day Trip	Johnsons and Caporgnos	Village by the Sea, Lunch together on Saturday
May 16	Burrows Island Light House Tour	Caporgnos and Johnsons	Lighthouse History, Dinner or late lunch together
June 5-7	D16 Rendezvous, Port Ludlow	D16 Cdr._____	
June 11	Shelter Bay Squadron Picnic June Meeting	Dan and Elizabeth Niven	1st picnic this year
June 12-26	Gulf Islands	Mark & Debbie Richey	San Juan Island Sculpture Park and Nature Reserve
July 10-12	Roche Harbor, San Juan Island Boat or Car Ferry		
August 21-23	Deer Harbor, San Juan Island, boat or ferry		
September 26	Anniversary Cookout, Cornet Bay, Whidbey Island		Saturday Free Day Picnic
October 23-25	Port Townsend, boat or ferry	TBD	Architecture/Arts/Maritime Culture, Dinner Saturday night
November 13-15	Leavenworth by train or bus		Bavarian-themed village, alpine architecture, German food
December 12	La Conner Boat Parade & Holiday Party		Holiday celebration

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Figure 1Burrows Island Lighthouse (Washington, 1906)

The Burrows Island Lighthouse, first lit in 1906, is a historic beacon located on Burrows Island, guiding mariners through Rosario Strait and undergoing restoration efforts to preserve its legacy.

Event: Burrows Island Light House Tour

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2026

Time: Leaves at 3 p.m. and returns at 5:30 pm.

Island Express water taxi. **Call 360-299-2875 for reservations.** $45/person round trip

(1/2 proceeds go to the Northwest Schooner Society supporter of restoration)

Dinner: El Jinete Mexican Restaurant, 509 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes

Please R.S.V.P. Carolyn & Glen Caporgno for dinner reservations at carolyncaporgno@gmail.com

May 14 Speaker: Wayne Watne, Senior Fish Habitat Biologist

Wayne grew up in a logging and commercial fishing family that migrated annually to the Washington coast for the commercial salmon season. As a child, he passed between boats in a dip-net to see what was in the lunchbox of the other fishermen in the fleet. He was so young that he couldn't remember his first salmon. Wayne recalls his first "keeper", a 23-pound king caught on a red and white wooden salmon plug…this was his "rite-of-passage" that allowed him to be a commercial salmon fisherman on his grandpa's boat at the age of 6. Wayne has always been around logging and salmon…when not in fish camp, he could help his grandpa run the lathe at Puget Sound Plywood. His life has been involved in every aspect of salmon, from sport fishing, guiding, and commercial fishing along the west coast to working at salmon hatcheries and salmon farms, and finally as a fisheries biologist. Wayne is a salmon historian who, while in high school, helped write a book about the history of PNW salmon fishing and runs a small salmon history museum. He now teaches about salmon where opportunities allow and serves on the Board of Directors for Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.

FREE BASIC BOATING CLASS

Tell your friends!

ABC America's Boating Class

This NASBLA approved and USCG Recognized class will be hosted by **OARS (Old Anacortes Rowing and Sailing Society)** and taught by Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron. Passing will qualify you for the State Boaters Card.

The location will be the Parish Hall at Christ Episcopal Church. It's located at 1216 7th Street, Anacortes.

The class is in 3 sessions over 3 days:

Saturday, June 27 9:00am – 1:00pm

Saturday, July 11 9:00am – 1:00pm

Monday, July 13 6:00pm - 8:00pm Exam

To register or get info contact Adam Deitz adamdeitz@gmail.com.

Cuttoff for registration is June 20. There is space for 25 students.

Let your boating friends and neighbors know.

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron
Executive Committee and
General Meeting Combined Minutes and
Change of Watch
April 9, 2026

Attendance:

Mark Richey	George Johnson	Glen Caporgno
Debbie Richey	Sandy Johnson	Carolyn Caporgno
Jack Dyer	John Woodard	Dan Niven
D/C Gary Baker		

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.

Executive Officer – Mark Richey

No response to date from Deception Pass regarding teaching ABC together.

Administrative Officer – (Commander)

Activities –
We still can't host social events because we still have no insurance for such.

April 17-19 Langley by boat or car. Lunch at Prima Bistro on Saturday April 18.

May 14 Membership meeting, Wayne Watne, Senior Fish Habitat Biologist, will talk about salmon fishing and salmon history of Puget Sound.

May 16 Burrows Lighthouse tour. Carolyn Caporgno will make ferry reservation **for all who contact her**. Dinner will be at El Jinette in Anacortes after the tour.

June 11 End of Year picnic at Shelter Bay.
Debbie Richey will make a reservation for Sept 26 at Cornet Bay for our barbecue.

Education Officer – Adam Dietz (absent)

Next ABC class expected to be June or July. A hybrid class is being considered.

An On-the-Water training boat has been acquired by D/16 and will be at the D/16 Rendezvous at Port Ludlow June 5-7.

Secretary - George Johnson

Minutes of March meeting approved as corrected.

Treasurer – Jack Dyer

Bank balance reported.

The annual payment for Zoom is due. Adam Dietz will be contacted to determine if Zoom will likely be needed this year.

Commander - Debbie Richey

The announcement of annual dues increases has been received from National.

Debbie Richey will update the dues spreadsheet and distribute.

Old Business

This meeting was our Change of Watch. The current bridge was terminated, and the new bridge was installed by D/C Gary Baker.

New Business –

Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm.

2026 D/16 Rendezvous

Port Ludlow Marina

June 5—7 2026

PLAN NOW FOR ANOTHER FUN AND EXCITING TIME IN PORT LUDLOW!

WHAT'S IN STORE:

- 15 slips reserved under "USPS—D16"
- 5 king-size rooms reserved at The Old Alcohol Plant Inn
- Port Ludlow RV Park for RVers

WHAT'S IN STORE ON FRIDAY!

- 5 p.m. Big Tent Docktails on Friday evening

WHAT'S IN STORE ON SATURDAY?

- 9 a.m. Big Tent Morning Wake-Up with coffee/sweets
- 6 p.m. Big Tent Catered Taco Bar Dinner
- Silent Auction [Squadrons start thinking about your donations]
- Plenty of time for Seminars, Games, Vessel Safety Checks, Co-op Charting and other adventures in the area

Questions? Contact Dave McBride 360.228.6003 or email: davmcb@comcast.net

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	Debbie Richey, AP	425-750-9551
Executive Officer	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Education Officer	Adam Deitz	203-536-6402
Administrative Officer	-	-
Secretary	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Treasurer	Jack Dyer, AP	425-785-7782
Executive Committee		
	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Carolyn Caporgno, S	
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		
Public Relations	Various members split	
Radio Technical		
Safety	Don Coleman	360 333-2962
Vessel Exams	Vacant	
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Mark Richey, SN-IN	
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds		
Local Board Elect Courses		
Administrative Department		
Boating Activities		
Rendezvous		
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		
	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.