

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB 

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

The
Wake Astern

December 2023 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 84 No. 12





Cdr Larry Warren, AP

COMMANDER

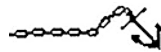


Greetings from the department of the Commander. As we begin the "Holliday Season," we think of family, friends, food, laughter, and joy! For some families, this may not be the Happiest time of the year. I can only imagine what it must be like if you didn't have food or necessities for yourself and maybe a family to feed. As a fraternal boating club that believes in education and civic service, we have contributed to our community in many ways. One of those ways has been to donate to our annual food drive during the holidays. Some have chosen to donate nonperishable food and everyday necessities. Others have given in the way of a monetary contribution.

We all have done an outstanding job helping our community by donating through Nourish Pierce County. I have been to their central warehouse in Tacoma several times, delivering food and monetary donations. Their warehouse is amazingly huge, filled with rows of shelving racks and bins for storing and sorting food and supplies to be distributed to many food banks throughout Pierce County. I spoke with them earlier this year about our continuing support and commitment to collecting nonperishable food and other necessities. For many reasons, I was informed they no longer ask for canned food and other essentials. One reason is that it is simply a logistical nightmare and a time-consuming task for them to match what is donated with other items that make proper meals. To make things easier and more practical, they can purchase Much More food and necessities with a monetary donation. You can certainly imagine how this makes perfect sense for them and us. We no longer have to go buy food at premium prices these days. We no longer have to take it to a meeting place or deliver the goods to them. It's a win-win situation! So, we ask that your kind donations be made as a check, payable to "Nourish Pierce County" for ABC of Tacoma & So. Puget Sound.

Thank you in advance for giving some less fortunate a Happier Holliday's. You can send your donations to me, and I will deliver them all at once to Nourish Pierce Co. My address is 26516 154th Street East, Buckley, WA 98321.

Cdr. Larry Warren



**No
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
This Month

No
Executive Board Meeting
This Month**

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Lt/C James Harden, JN- CN

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Aaah, the holiday season has arrived with all the savory dishes of food. We must not forget those holiday specialties. that I am sorry to say. having far too many calories. You know what I mean, the candies, cakes and pies. Well, after that wonderful Thanksgiving dinner, I hope you didn't add too many inches to the waistline.

SAFETY

This time of year, brings us one more item to deal with while we do our winter boating around the Puget Sound. This is the FOG that always comes with the warm days and cool nights. We need to take time to ensure that our electronic navigation equipment is working properly so when it is needed it is available. Maybe a Weather course will help explain the mysteries of FOG and other weather anomalies we face on the water.

BILGE PUMPS

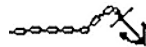
When we need the bilge pumps it is too late to find out that they don't work, or they are too small. Maybe we should test them or maybe get larger ones. Make sure your pump has enough capacity for the job. What size pump do you need? In my view, to move water out of the boat, you need at least a 2,000-gallon-per-hour pump; bigger boats and those going offshore should have more.

While that sounds like a lot, consider that a 1-inch hole (like a broken through hull) one foot below the waterline will flood at 12 gallons per minute—that's 720 gallons per hour. Once installed, however, a 1,000-gph pump may lose 15 to 30% capacity depending on hose type, head and filters. Assuming a 25% loss, a 1,000-gph pump will only evacuate 750 gallons per hour at best. That leaves a small 30-gph margin of error.ⁱ

JUST A REMINDER

To navigate safely in coastal waters, you need to compare your visual bearings and observations with your charts or GPS. You can take [relative bearings](#) (the angle to a target relative to the ship's heading) using your boat, but you must convert them to magnetic or true before comparing them to your GPS or a chart. On your GPS map screen, zoom out to display the nearby landmarks you programmed as waypoints before leaving home. Compare a quick relative visual bearing with the landmark on the GPS screen. If the two agree, your GPS is probably fine. If not, take more precise bearings.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Americas Boating Compass, November 2023



Need a Vessel Safety Check?
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All you have to do is contact
P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN
Email: craig-sandybrown@msn.com
Phone: 253-350-4884
Address: 4634 Kent Ct.
Kent, WA 98032-7112

P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN is our VSC Chairperson.

Address where the VSC inspectors should send a copy of inspection reports to: 4634 Kent Ct, Kent WA 98032-7112. He will also be taking requests for VSC supplies etc. as well as helping organize VSC team events that we may do.



Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT



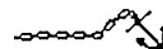
Greetings fellow members of America's Boating Club of Tacoma and South Puget Sound!

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving and the Tacoma Power Squadron Christmas brunch held at Tacoma Yacht Club. I'm hoping folks supported our civic commitment to Nourish Pierce County by donating to the food drive and to Bridges with a toy donation. These are worthy efforts along with our boating education and vessel safety check programs. A big thanks to everyone that has contributed.

The year is winding down, kind of like the number of daylight hours. Longer, colder nights do not make for much thought of boating, but that will change soon enough. As all of us start thinking about the next boating year, I'll point out that the rendezvous schedule is still staring at me - blank and unfulfilled. In the last issue, I proffered that to get the ball rolling and help break the ice for 2024, Deb and I will match the first offer of anyone volunteering to host. That is, you volunteer to host by providing your name, location, and date then Deb and I will do the same. With mid-winter weather always being a bit unpredictable, staying near Tacoma would suggest a rendezvous at locations like Arabellas, Dock Street, or Des Moines. Hosting can be as easy or as detailed as you are willing to plan, but we do need to start locking down dates and locations before locations fill. And I'm still hoping we can engage someone as our Boating Activities Chairman.

Off the beaten track, but perhaps of interest to the mechanically inclined, is the latest scheduled maintenance of Grey-Wolfes'. We sent it to the yard for new dripless shaft seals and what appeared to be a bent shaft. We had converted from conventional flax packed shaft seals about two years ago, but the dripless seals still dripped on the starboard side. Tweaking and adjustments finally stopped the drip, but it also led to over tightening which could result in catastrophic failure down the road. The suspected bent shaft turned out to be a bent propeller. It wasn't bad but we could feel a slight vibration while running. We pieced together these two symptoms and now believe the bent propeller was causing the dripless shaft seal carbon component to not mesh flatly against the steel collar. The slightly off-angle alignment caused the leaking. Coming out of the yard, there was no vibration and no drip. Lesson learned: when things change, it's worth the effort to track down the source.

That's all for now. Stay tuned, stay safe, engage and do some boating!





Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Sq Education Officer

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We celebrated early and went out on the boat over Thanksgiving weekend. The weather and water were beautiful! What a great place we live in!

A couple of people have asked me about a Junior Navigation course. That course is now Celestial Navigation and Offshore Navigation. The *Celestial Navigation* course will teach you how to use the moon, planets, and stars to determine your position at morning and evening twilight to supplement daytime sights on the sun, moon, and bright planets. You will also get access to and use navigational software tools that can be used to plan and execute any voyage.

What's included?

- An overview of how the celestial bodies in the sky appear to us on earth.
- Finding the local mean time of solar and lunar phenomena and converting these times to watch time.
- Reducing sights of the moon, stars, and planets by the *Law of Cosines* and *Nautical Almanac Sight Reduction* methods, along with sight data averaging
- Achieving acceptable 2- and 3-body fixes, using both traditional end electronic tools.
- Provisioning an emergency navigation kit and constructing emergency plotting sheets.

In *Offshore Navigation*, you will continue to use GPS but also learn celestial navigation as your backup technique. Because terrestrial landmarks are no longer visible to the offshore navigator, you will learn to use a marine sextant and the sun as your reference point, derive a line of position and develop a running fix. You will also learn to calculate your latitude from a noon sight on the sun.

What's included?

- Determining precise time
- Using the *Nautical Almanac*
- Determining latitude from a noon sight
- Using special charts and plotting sheets for offshore navigation
- Setting offshore navigational routines for recreational craft

This interesting and challenging course emphasizes the practical aspects of daytime celestial navigation. You will also learn to prepare a sight folder that documents your positioning skills using sights taken on the sun.

Let me know if you are interested in either of these courses and we will get it scheduled.

We are scheduling another America's Boating Course, ABC, beginning January 8, 2024 in person. So, tell your friends who need the Washington State Boater's Card. This course qualifies you for the card.

(Education Officer Report continued on Page 6)

(Education Officer Report continued from Page 5)

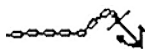
Boat Handling, the next course after ABC, will start in late February. Learn how to handle your boat in a variety of situations and become the skipper you want to be. Gain confidence in docking, underway, anchoring, and other seamanship skills.

Our new Boat Handling course is intended for newer recreational boaters who have completed a basic boating class (like America's Boating Course) and want to gain more knowledge, skill, and confidence to boat safely and have more fun in a variety of situations.

Boat Handling covers these topics:

- [Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach](#)
- [Confidence in Docking and Undocking: Slow-Speed Maneuvering](#)
- [Boating with Confidence: Handling Your Boat Under Way](#)
- [Anchoring with Assurance: Don't Get Carried Away](#)
- [Emergencies on Board: Preparation for Handling Common Problems](#)
- [Knots and Line Handling: The Knots You Need to Know](#)

Hope everyone has a happy holiday!



Boating Safety 4 Kids

Our Boating Safety 4 Kids seminar was accepted this year at the Seattle Boat Show. They gave us the date that we requested, Saturday, February 3, 2024. Our seminar shift starts at 12:00. We need to arrive at the Boat Show well before that.

Back in October when I applied for a space, I contacted 17 members of D-16 and Everett to see who could help. Five of YOU replied "YES" back then. Are you still able to help? We do well when we have eight helpers.

Once we get to the Boat Show with all the "Dog and Pony Show" gear, we take it to Stage #1 and park it. Next, we divide up into teams of two and walk around the Boat Show inviting the kids to come to the seminar and we tell them a little bit about it.

Close to our start time we return to Stage # 1 and set up our gear. We have a 50-minute time slot to teach the kids about Life Jackets: what to buy and when to wear them. We touch on Hypothermia and give them a certificate and a PFD Puzzle Storybook. We also reach out to the parents about our ABClub and what we offer. We keep in touch with the families after the show.

Lastly, we pack up our gear and take some time to enjoy lunch and the Boat Show.

It's a super fun day and no matter how many or how few kids show up they bring their parents along with them and it is a great opportunity to reach the young boating families with our safety message.

Are you interested in helping? Let me know PFDprettyfancydude@yahoo.com

Past Cdr Linda Martin, JN
Everett Sail & Power Sq



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| 2 Yr Term | Lt Barbara Dildine, AP-IN |
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Lt Scott MacLeod, P

ELECTIVE COURSES CHAIRPERSON

Vacant

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P/C Kevin Kennedy, SN

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Lt Jin Fugate
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Lt Barbara Dildine, AP-IN
Lt Becky Arrington, S
Lt Jeff Krueger

BOATING ACTIVITIES CHAIR

Vacant

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December 2023

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**Christmas Brunch
@ TYC 11:00AM**

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| 10 | 11 | 12 No Ex Bd. Mtg. this month | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
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| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
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|----|------------------------------------|--|--|----|----|----|
| 24 | 25 <small>Christmas Day</small> | 26 <small>Boxing Day</small> No Gen Mtg this month | 27 Deadline for January edition The Wake Astern | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|----|------------------------------------|--|--|----|----|----|

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| 31 | | | | | | |
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January 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|--|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 <small>New Year's Day</small> | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 ABC Cls @ DIYC | 9 Ex.Bd Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ Black Bear Diner | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 ABC Cls @ DIYC | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 ABC Cls @ DIYC | 23 Gen Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM @ DIYC | 24 Deadline for February edition The Wake Astern | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 ABC Cls @ DIYC | 30 | 31 | | | |

TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
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DECEMBER 2023



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