

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB 

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

The
Wake Astern

August 2020

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 81 No. 8



COMMANDER



This month there are several things to report on, some good, some disappointing. First the good news. We have 8 new members with us as of June 2020. I would like to welcome Dave and Nancy Good as well as the Morris family; Justin, Matthew, Michael, Michelle, River, and Shelly. Welcome all of you. We look forward to seeing you as soon as this corona virus stuff is under control.

I would like to congratulate some of our members who were recognized at the National Governing Board held in February. With all of the Virus publicity I kind of missed them, but want to acknowledge their efforts at this time. Vicki Sharp received the Century Award for conducting more than 100 Vessel Safety Checks in 2019, she conducted a total of 204. Our Wake Astern newsletter received the Distinguished Communication Award in publishing, and our website received the Distinguished Communication Award for websites. Thank you to Richard Mattox and Tom Ferree for your efforts in these areas.

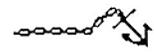
Speaking of Governing Boards, in my last article I said the Sept National Governing Board was planning to go ahead. Well, UPDATE: the event has been cancelled, yep, corona virus hits again. North Carolina has restrictions in place that just will not make it possible to meet. No groups larger than 10 people are allowed to gather, and the hotel can only operate at 25% capacity and has laid off more than half of their employees.

I fear we as a Squadron may be in the same situation for our September meeting and possibly more of them. We have a mandate from National to obey all local laws and restrictions. At this time there is nowhere in the State of Washington where it is alright to meet in groups larger than 10 people. Since September is traditionally the Past Commanders' BBQ, the cooks would probably hit that number all by themselves. I have some ideas I'm going to talk to the Exec Board about and see if we can figure something out. Watch the September Wake Astern and the website to see what we can come up with. One Squadron up North has already cancelled all of their General meetings thru the end of the year. I hope we don't have to do that. Stay tuned.

For those of you who may have been thinking of helping with the State Parks Dept booth at the Washington State Fair, you probably heard that they pulled the plug on the fair too.

At the time I write this we are still scheduled to have our rendezvous at Port Orchard Labor Day weekend. One thing to be aware of is that the big draw, the Blackberry Festival, has been totally changed. It will not be on the promenade in Bremerton where it usually is held. It has turned into a drive thru event at a local credit union where people will be able to drive thru and buy a blackberry desert. We do not know what type of restrictions or rule changes may be in effect at the marina. Cindy Warren had been trying to contact them to get some information, but at this point she has not heard back from them. If you are thinking of going check the website or contact Cindy for current info.

Finally, be safe out there. I miss not being able to see all of you. This has been a rough year for all of us I'm sure. Hang in there and we'll all get thru this eventually. Pick up your phone and call a fellow member or send them an e-mail. Just because we can't be physically together doesn't mean we can't stay in touch.



**General Meetings
Held
SEPTEMBER THRU MAY
ONLY**

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN

Greetings from your Executive Officer!

First up is COVID-19 cancellations. The Western Washington State Fair has been cancelled. Yep, no one will be doing the Puyallup this year. I thank those brave souls who volunteered to help man the Washington State Parks boating safety booth. We'll do it next year.

The USPS Fall 2020 governing board is also cancelled.

The District 16 Fall 2020 conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, but will be a virtual meeting. The District Commander will publish details closer to the date of the meeting.

We don't know yet if the rendezvous for Port Orchard Labor Day weekend will be cancelled. Based on the Governor's proclamation, it will be a matter of the size of allowed public gatherings. As of the time of this writing, that limit is 10 and there are rumors circulating that the number may be reduced, not increased.

The Commander and Executive board will be reviewing the status of the September Past Commanders' BBQ general meeting. Based on the timing of that decision, watch your e-mail for an announcement as to whether or not the general meeting gets cancelled.

News from the Coast Guard is next.

a. The Coast Guard now uses the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) performance-based classification system for portable fire extinguishers. Most extinguishers already have Coast Guard approval and UL rating classification, and all approved extinguishers installed prior to August 22, 2016 are allowed to remain on recreational vessels as long as they are still serviceable. The new classification system requires portable and semi-portable extinguishers to be marked with a combined number and letter designation. The letter designates the general class of fire for which the extinguisher is suitable as identified in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 10. The number indicates the relative extinguishing potential of the device as rated by UL 711.

b. Vessel Examiners shall use the following tables for vessel safety checks:
Length (X feet)

Vessels built after August 22, 2016 (minimum number of 5-B portable fire extinguishers required)

	No fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space	Fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space
26 ≤ X <40	2	1
40 ≤ X ≤ 65	3	2

1 One 20-B portable fire extinguisher may be substituted for two 5-B portable fire extinguishers.

(Executive Officer Rpt continued on Page 4)

(Executive Officer Rpt continued from Page 3)

Vessels built before August 22, 2016 (minimum number of B-I portable fire extinguishers required¹)

	No fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space	Fixed fire extinguishing system in machinery space
X <16	1	0
16 ≤ X <26	1	0
26 ≤ X <40	2	1
40 ≤ X ≤ 65	3	2

¹One B-II portable fire extinguisher may be substituted for two B-I portable fire extinguishers.

Finally, in the absence of an Administrative Officer, allow me to pass on a member benefit available to all USPS members. There is a special offer from LifeLock. Deb and I have been members for several years. Two years ago, LifeLock notified me of a credit card request that had been received by my credit card company. Since I hadn't requested a new one or change to my current card, I contacted my financial institution. Yep, somebody spoofed their system, tried to change my address and then requested a \$25,000 credit card. I worked with the fraud support folks to turn it off. LifeLock works. And I did all this from my boat while out over the New Year's weekend. So, get 35% off your first year of LifeLock membership. Use promo code: USPS. Read more at <https://www.lifelock.com/store?promocode=USPS>. A personal note about LifeLock - LifeLock also provides access to a virtual private network for a small fee. It allows us to connect to an insecure wifi, connect to a LifeLock VPN, which then encrypts all of our internet access.



Need a Vessel Safety Check?

**It's Fast, It's Easy, and best of all,
IT'S FREE !!!**



All you have to do is contact

Lt Sue Walker, S

Email: sue98402@gmail.com

Phone: (253-213-2850)

Susan Walker is our VSC Chairperson, phone number: 253-213-2850. **Please note new email address above.**

Address where the VSC inspectors should send a copy of inspection reports to Sue Walker, P.O. Box 519 Tacoma, WA 98401. She will also be taking requests for VSC supplies etc. as well as helping organize VSC team events that we may do.



*Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Sq Education Officer*

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



*Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN
Asst. Education Officer*

I hope everyone has a chance to get out on their boats and enjoy the water and the beautiful Pacific Northwest!

While in the San Juan Islands most of July, we noticed quite a few boaters either very new or not educated in boating. Some people must think they can charter or buy a boat and go boating! Granted I believe there are a lot more people out on boats to isolate or just get away. We witnessed people zooming by us in a no wake zone, no life vests on or in sight in dinghies, kayaks and paddleboards and just the proper etiquette of the U.S. flag. Just a few reminders:

Remember you are responsible for your wake. Whether you are in a no-wake zone or not, you are responsible for any injury or damage caused by your wake.

Wear your life vests. It only takes a minute to don your vest. I wear mine when handling lines and fenders. You never plan to go into the water unexpectedly so be prepared on open boats, paddleboards, kayaks and in your dinghy.

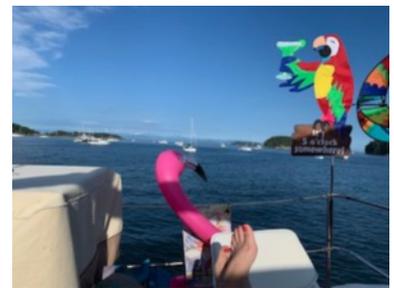
Learn to read a chart, tide and current table.

There have not been any classes during the summer, but we hope to have classes up and running in the fall probably via Zoom. Of course, there are the online classes and seminars on the national website usps.org.

Take care and stay safe.



Here are a few pictures from our trip.



(Picture provided by Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S)

Remember the old proverb?

“Some pictures are worth a thousand words”





Chief Commander

C/C Mary Paige G. Abbott, SN-IN
Phone Number: 239.395.9409 Cell Number: 239.246.9687
mpgabbott@gmail.com

07 July 2020

MEMBERSHIP IS JOB ONE

Following are highlights of actions, discussions, and decisions made during the past month; please share this information with your committees, squadrons, districts, and members.

- 1) 2020 Fall Conference: As of today the event remains on the calendar for Wednesday, September 9 through Sunday, September 13. As stated previously, we are constantly monitoring the COVID-19 situation, discussing the status weekly, and comprehending alternatives. Watch for updates especially where to find uploaded presentations, join a conference call and more!
 - a) The current schedule of events is posted on the website:
<https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/documents/202006131640340.2020FallRaleighAgenda05222020.pdf>
 - b) The June issue of the Fall Conference Newsletter and more is available, too: https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=39
- 2) BOD Actions
 - a) MMSI Update: The MMSI program oversight has been moved to the National Safety Committee (Executive Department) from the Educational Department. We are awaiting the final revision needed to reinstate the MMSI service of online assignment for members and non-members. America's Boating Club will again offer this service at NO CHARGE once reinstated. You will be notified when it is accessible.
 - b) SailAngle status: The MOU relationship and service has been officially terminated effective June 30, 2020. All national sites referencing SailAngle are being deleted. We ask that all squadrons and districts do likewise.
 - c) VSC/VSE Update: Due to ever-changing directives and the national scope of this program, please consult the National Safety Committee webpages for the most up-to-date information regarding member involvement with Vessel Safety Checks, whether virtual or live or other: <https://www.usps.org/departments/12000/12900/12900-vessel-safety-check>. Keep in mind that each USCG District works independently and therefore each USCG District could have a different set of directives as it pertains to conducting a VSC. Also, take the time to distinguish between USCG District numbers and our USPS/ABClub District numbers - trust me it can be confusing if you are in a hurry to sort information.
 - d) Travel Reimbursement Policy Update: The Travel Reimbursement policy has been updated as it pertains to the use of frequent guest awards points, frequent flier points and similar programs. The information is on the National Treasurer's webpage and in the Operations Manual (G6). <https://www.usps.org/images/secretary/opman/opsmanag.pdf>
 - e) National Awards: this section of the Operations Manual is now current. Please review Appendix C at <https://www.usps.org/images/secretary/opman/opsmanac.pdf>



- 3) Cost-savings Implemented: Due to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic our revenues are down and therefore we are "attacking" both variable and fixed costs. Following are some of the steps taken with more to come:
- a) Headquarters Initiated:
 - i) The Ensign will be sent to all members electronically rather than printed starting with the final issue of 2020. Currently published only four (4) times per year due to costs, going electronic saves the printing and mailing costs while allowing for innovations in member communications, such as more current information and increased contact.
 - (1) 2020 printing & mailing savings per Issue: \$14,000
 - ii) Personnel: staff hours reduced due to the corresponding work reductions then reinstated for the duration of the awarded SBA Payroll Protection Program loan.
 - (1) SBA PPP Loan secured which is paying our headquarters staff during the allotted time span. We are examining the personnel requirements for the remainder of 2020 and projecting needs for 2021.
 - iii) Recurring costs like utilities and other services are being reviewed and changed for monthly savings. These may be smaller savings opportunities, yet it all adds up.
 - b) Travel Expenses
 - i) Due to the travel restrictions and directives imposed by states and local agencies, all but five (5) District Spring Conferences were changed to virtual conferences or other. Of those five, the majority of Chief Representatives did not submit for travel cost reimbursement. Those budgeted travel reimbursement funds not used this year are a "savings".
 - ii) Travel reimbursement to national meetings is a very large annual expense which needs to be reduced now and more fully for 2021. In the interim...
 - (1) I ask each member volunteer eligible for reimbursement to attend a national meeting to voluntarily forego reimbursement for hotel and travel this year
 - (2) I ask each district to financially support the attendance at national meetings of at least the District Commander and the District Educational Officer. If you need to know what amount to budget for 2021 then please contact the National Budget Officer Joe Gatfield (joe@wmmconstruction.ca).

Thank you in advance for your fiscal support!

I hope you had a wonderful Fourth of July and that our CPS-ECP friends and Canadian members enjoyed Canada Day on July 1st. I found it a bit disheartening to have both of those days pass like any other day of late. I miss those chance encounters with strangers and friends alike, the sharing of a smile or laugh (cannot see those while wearing a mask), a reassuring pat on the shoulder, and so much more.

Stay safe, smart, and healthy: wear those face masks when in public, practice best hygienic practices, and maintain social distancing.

Wishing you fair winds and calm seas as we continue this unplanned journey together,

Mary Paige Abbott
Chief Commander

"It always seems impossible until it's done."
Nelson Mandela

Sponsored by Kitsap Credit Union
Transitions to Taste of Blackberry
September 5-6, 2020 (Labor Day weekend!)

Saturday September 5th 10am - 5pm | Sunday September 6th 10am - 5pm

For more information go to: www.TasteOfBlackberry.com

The 2020 Bremerton Rotary Foundation Blackberry Festival sponsored by Kitsap Credit Union will be transitioning to a "Taste of Blackberry" drive-thru. The event, originally scheduled for Labor Day weekend September 5-7 2020, will now be held on September 5th and 6th from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

After consultation with our stakeholders, the City of Bremerton, and Kitsap Public Health the Bremerton Rotary is transitioning the event to a Taste of Blackberry, a drive-thru event to be held at the Olympic College Building 7 roundabout. The event will offer blackberry lovers the very best tastes and treats of Blackberry Festival, as well as an opportunity for the community to support three local nonprofits. In consideration of current social distancing guidelines, A Taste of Blackberry will a drive-thru experience for the community to support local non-profits while bringing the community the best tastes of Blackberry Festival. Blackberry Festival is a major fundraiser for local non-profits in order to provide scholarships and outreach to the Bremerton community.

- **What: Taste of Blackberry, Sponsored by Kitsap Credit Union**
 - **When: September 5th and 6th 2020, 10AM to 5PM**
- **Where: Olympic College building 7 roundabout. 1600 Chester Ave, Bremerton, WA**
- **Who: Three local nonprofits coming together for your favorite blackberry treats.**
 - **Information: www.tasteofblackberry.com**



Tacoma & South Puget Sound 2020 Rendezvous Schedule

4th-7th Sept

Port Orchard (Labor Day)
Call Host to Reserve Slip

Need Hosts
(10) Boats
\$5 Reservation Fee

Any Marina with a phone # means you must call the marina and the host or fleet captain to reserve for the weekend. Please call host if attending a rendezvous for planning purposes. Please consider hosting a rendezvous or helping to host.

Cindy Warren 360-897-8692 c.m.warren-7@hotmail.com
Text: 206-571-3096



**TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
2020 - 2021**

Commander	Cdr Gary Dildine, AP,IN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN,CN
Administrative Officer	Vacant
Educational Officer	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Secretary	Lt/C Beth Stone
Treasurer	Lt/C Aaron Strasser, S

COMMANDER'S DEPT

Flag Lt	P/C Larry Warren, AP
Sunshine	Lt Leslie Burton, S
Merit Mark	P/D/C Christine Rasmussen, SN
Galley Manager	Lt Lorraine Stargel, AP

EXECUTIVE DEPT

Executive Off	Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN,CN
Safety Off	Vacant
Coop Charting	R/P/C Jim Harden, SN, CN
Programs	Lt Barbara Prudente
Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
VSC Chair	Lt Sue Walker, P
Boat Show	Vacant
Legislative	Vacant

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT

Admin Off	Vacant
Boating Activities	Lt Cindy Warren, AP
Membership	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Mbrship Involvement	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Operations Training	P/D/C Otto Rasmusen SN, CN

SECRETARY DEPT

Secretary	Lt/C Beth Stone
Web Master	Lt Tom Ferree, S
Newsletter	P/C Richard Mattox, AP
Historian	Vacant
Commencement Bay	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

TREASURER DEPT

Treasurer	Lt/C Aaron Strasser, S
Ship's Store	P/C Tim(P) & Linda(S) Craig
Property Off	Vacant

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1 Yr Term	P/C Richard Mattox, AP
1 Yr Term	Lt Karen Jackson
1 Yr Term	P/C Tim Craig, P
2 Yr Term	Lt Cathy Reed
2 Yr Term	Lt Barbara Dildine, AP,IN
3 Yr Term	P/C Larry Warren, AP
3 Yr Term	Lt Sam Hill

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN
2 Yr Term	Lt Leah Hafterson, P
3 Yr Term	Lt Patti Ambrose

RULES COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	Lt Melinda Mackey, S
2 Yr Term	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
3 Yr Term	Vacant

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	P/C Larry Warren, AP
2 Yr Term	P/C Mark Hafterson, AP
3 Yr Term	P/C Richard Mattox, AP

EDUCATIONAL DEPT

SEO	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
ASEO	Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN

ABC CHAIR

P/C Lance(P) & Brenda(P) Williamson

ELECTIVE COURSES

Vacant

ADVANCED GRADES CHAIR

P/C Kevin Kennedy, SN



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Vacant
Educational Officer
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(253) 566-8105
Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN
Secretary
Lt/C Beth Stone
Treasurer
Lt/C Aaron Strasser, S

EXECUTIVE BOARD

P/C Richard Mattox, AP
Lt Karen Jackson
P/C Tim Craig, P
Lt Cathy Reed
P/C Larry Warren, AP
Lt Barbara Dildine
Lt Samuel Hill

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www.uspsd16.org

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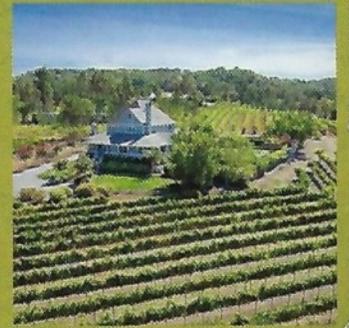
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August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 No Ex. Bd. Mtg. June thru August	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 No Gen. Mtgs June thru August	26 Deadline for September Edition The Wake Astern	27	28	29
30	31					



September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
					Port Orchard Rendezvous	
6	7 <small>Labour Day</small>	8 Ex. Bd Mtg To Be Determined	9	10	11	12
Port Orchard Rendezvous						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Gen Mtg @ DIYC To Be Determined	23 Deadline for October Edition The Wake Astern	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 2020

