

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB 

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

**The
Wake Astern**

December 2025 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 86 No. 12





COMMANDER

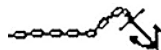


Well, it has been a year since I agreed to step back into being a Squadron Commander. It was both challenging and fun.

Cdr Craig Brown, SN-ACN We had our annual Christmas brunch last Sunday. We had a very good turnout, including guests from Bremerton Squadron. The kids (including those older kids at heart) had a wonderful visit from Santa. The squadron was generous with unwrapped toy gifts for the “Bridges Center for Grieving Children”. I want to thank those that made the brunch the great success it was. Gary and Barb Dildine for the center pieces, Lorraine Stargel for the kids’ gift bags, Andy Temple for selling raffle tickets (for the center pieces), Doug Temple (Andy’s son) for helping with Santa’s appearance, Jackie and Richard Mattox for helping with the toys collection, Lance Willianson for the invocation, and Mason Dixon for leading the flag salute. As usual TYC put together a wonderful brunch.

As I write this article we’re having record flooding around western Washington. I hope our members stay dry and safe. In the Kent & Auburn area I’m seeing areas flooding that haven’t been for 20+ years. As members of USPS we provide community service. One great way to do that is to get “Community Emergency Response Team” (better known as CERT) trained. When there is a large disaster event, our neighborhoods are the last that emergency responders will support. Therefore, we need to have the skills and knowledge to provide our neighborhood with emergency support. The CERT curriculum includes: disaster preparedness; fire suppression; terrorism & HAZMAT; light search & rescue operations; disaster medical (different than first aid); disaster psychology; and team organization. Anyone young or old (and between) can/should get the training. All our communities provide CERT training opportunities. Check with our local Fire Department about CERT training. Each CERT training is unique to its community.

As I say, HAVE HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS!!



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 27th, (6:30-8:30 PM)
@ Day Island Yacht Club
University Place

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
January 13th, (6:00-8:00 PM)
@ Black Bear Diner

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Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

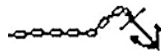
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



We just finished our Fall ABC course, and I'm thrilled to announce that all test takers passed. A special thanks to our instructors for preparing these students so well. Several of the students commented that they were glad to take an in-person course with people who know what they are doing. The alternative of an online course couldn't measure up. Three cheers for the club!

The next course on the schedule is an Engine Maintenance course taught by Gene Kautzman. I took this course a couple of years ago and there were tons of good stuff. Even if you don't plan to do your own engine maintenance, this course is full of golden nuggets that will help you communicate more intelligently with your mechanic. If you're someone that likes to dig into the mechanical workings this course will help you with the twists and turns of marine machinery.

We're hoping to get a Radar class to follow Engine Maintenance and are trying to work out a schedule. Stay tuned.





Lt/C Bob Hays, AP

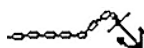
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Winter boat preparedness begins with a thorough inspection of your vessel before temperatures drop. Start by checking the hull for cracks, loose fittings, or wear that could worsen in freezing conditions. Ensure that all essential systems—steering, electrical, fuel, and bilge pumps—are in good working order. Cleaning the boat inside and out also prevents mold and mildew from forming during long periods of storage.

Protecting the engine and plumbing systems is critical when preparing for winter. This typically involves flushing the engine, adding antifreeze to cooling systems, and stabilizing the fuel to prevent degradation. Water left in pipes or tanks can freeze and cause costly damage, so draining freshwater and wastewater systems is equally important. Properly greasing moving parts and replacing filters will help ensure the boat runs smoothly when spring returns.

Finally, secure your boat for storage in a way that shields it from harsh weather. Whether you choose dry storage or keep the vessel in the water, use a high-quality cover that prevents snow and ice accumulation. If stored outdoors, ensure the vessel is well-supported and slightly angled to allow runoff. Regular winter check-ins—either by you or a marina professional—help catch problems early and keep your boat in optimal condition until it's time to launch again.



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
P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN
Email: craig-sandybrown@msn.com
Phone: 253-350-4884
Address: 4634 Kent Ct.
Kent, WA 98032-7112

P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN is our VSC Chairperson. He will also be taking requests for VSC supplies etc. as well as helping organize VSC team events that we may do.



TPS Christmas Brunch 2025

By P/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN

America's Boating Club of Tacoma and South Puget Sound assembled on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at the Tacoma Yacht Club. Per tradition, the first Sunday in December we meet for a Christmas Brunch in lieu of the normal monthly general meeting.

The brunch started at 11:00 AM in the main ballroom. CDR Craig Brown, SN-ACN, served as MC, P/C Lance Williamson, AP offered the invocation, Flag/LT Mason Dixon led the flag salute, followed by a motion to suspend the business portion of the meeting. After a unanimous, enthusiastic and affirmative vote, brunch was served. The TYC staff offered a buffet-style meal of eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, assorted fruits and sweet rolls.

CDR Craig Brown acknowledged the contributions of those that made the event noteworthy. P/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN and Debbie Wolfe, S sponsored the event as attending TYC members collecting reservation forms and payments. P/C Gary (AP-IN) and Barb Dildine, AP-IN donated a dozen ceramic, lighted Christmas tree centerpieces which were raffled by P/C Andy Temple, AP at the end of the brunch. P/C Jackie (AP) and P/C Richard Mattox, AP coordinated receipt of new, unwrapped toys donated by all of our generous members to Bridges Center for Grieving Children. CDR Craig also thanked Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus (Doug and Chonticha Temple) for taking the time to stop by, visit with six children, and hand out gift bags assembled by Lorraine Stargel, AP. Santa then heard from several young-at-heart attendees.

In addition to taking several pictures at the Christmas tree for various groups of attendees, P/D/C Jim Harden, SN-CN, serving as Squadron Treasurer, has made several trips to the bank to deposit monies collected for this event.

Plan to attend the next general meeting to be held January 27, 2026 at Day Island Yacht Club and be sure to mark your calendar for next year's Christmas Brunch to be held December 6, 2026.



**TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
2025 – 2026**

Commander	Cdr Craig Brown, SN-ACN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays, AP
Administrative Officer	Vacant
Educational Officer	Lt/C Scott Macleod, P
Asst Education Officer	P/Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Lt/C James Harden, SN-CN

COMMANDER'S DEPT

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

EXECUTIVE DEPT

Executive Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays, AP
Safety Officer	Vacant
Coop Charting	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN
VSC Chairperson	P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN
Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
Boat Show	Vacant
Legislative	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT

Administrative Officer	Vacant
Boating Activities	Vacant
Membership	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Membership Involvement	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Operations Training	P/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN
Programs	Lt Barbara Prudente

SECRETARY DEPT

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

TREASURER DEPT

Treasurer	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN
Property Officer	Vacant
Ship's Store	Vacant

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1 Yr Term	P/C Gary Dildine, AP-IN
1 Yr Term	Lt Barbara Dildine, AP-IN
2 Yr Term	Lt Jeff Krueger, S
2 Yr Term	Lt Becky Arrington, S
2 Yr Term	Lt Brian Prudente
3 Yr Term	Lt Debbie Harden
3 Yr Term	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	Lt Leah Hafterson, AP
2 Yr Term	Lt Becky Arrington, S
3 Yr Term	Lt Tom Ferree, JN

RULES COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	P/C Bill Larsen, AP
2 Yr Term	P/C Mitch Carroll, SN
3 Yr Term	Lt Lorraine Stargel, AP

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN
2 Yr Term	Vacant
3 Yr Term	Vacant

EDUCATION DEPT

Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

ABC CHAIRPERSON

Lt/C Scott MacLeod, P

ELECTIVE COURSES CHAIRPERSON

Vacant

ADVANCED GRADES CHAIRPERSON

Vacant



BRIDGE OFFICERS

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Asst Education Officer
P/Lt/C Bentley Ricckmers, S
Email: benric7@gmail.com
Secretary
Vacant
Treasurer
P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN

EXECUTIVE BOARD

P/C Gary Dildine, AP-IN
Lt Barbara Dildine, AP-IN
Lt Becky Arrington, S
Lt Jeff Krueger
Lt Brian Prudente
Lt Debbie Harden
P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

BOATING ACTIVITIES CHAIR

Vacant

The Wake Astern

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Vacant

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www.uspsd16.org

Cover photo by
Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ABC Cls @ DIYC	2	3	4	5	6
7 Christmas Brunch @ TYC	8	9 No Ex.Bd Mtg This Month	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 No Gen Mbr Mgt This Month	24	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26 <small>Boxing Day</small>	27
28	29	30	31 Deadline for January 2026 edi- tion			



January 2026

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

TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
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TACOMA WA 98407-3196

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2025

THE WAKE ASTERN

A foggy day at Deception Pass

(Winning Photo Contest by P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN)