

**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB** 

**Tacoma**   
**& South Puget Sound**

**The  
Wake Astern**

**January 2025**

**Monthly Newsletter**

**Vol. 86 No. 1**





P/C Richard Mattox, AP

**COMMANDER**



**H**ello Everyone,

I trust all of you had a wonderful Christmas and a joyous New Year. This Christmas our Granddaughter Taylor, her husband Drew, and our first Great Grandson Finn, hosted the affair at their new home in Lakeland Hills in Auburn. It was a smashing success, and everyone had a Great time.

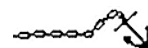
Tacoma Power Squadron may not have had a Great year, but it most certainly a Good year. In April Larry Warren, Ed Yotter, Bob Hays, and Bentley Rickmers were installed as the 2024-2025 Bridge Officers. Numerous boating classes were taught, both in-person and via Zoom. Gary and Barb Dildine hosted our annual Cruise-In at their home in Roy and Chuck and Viki Sharp hosted their annual Salmon Back. Both events were well attended, and a good time was had by all who came.

As many of you know, Larren Warren resigned his Commander position. It was a tough decision for him after serving as our Commander 4 times, burned out no doubt. Ed Yotter, our Executive Officer, had to relinquish his duties do to family obligations.

I'm doing some wishful thinking here. That the Tacoma Power Squadron will continue for another 86 years. We have a paramount duty to uphold, teaching fellow boaters the ins and outs of safe and enjoyable boating.

I have been a member of Tacoma Power Squadron for 24 years, volunteering my time as a Board member, Administrative Officer, Commander and for the past 14 years as Editor of our newsletter, The Wake Astern.

I would like to see some of the many other Past Commanders step up and fill this page of The Wake Astern with their wisdom, knowledge and experience until our next Change of Watch in April 2025. My email is [ricque0602@comcast.net](mailto:ricque0602@comcast.net). Word from a reliable source, we will be installing a new Commander.



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (6:30-8:30PM)**  
**Day Island Yacht Club**  
**University Place**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (6:00-8:00PM)**  
**Location TBD**

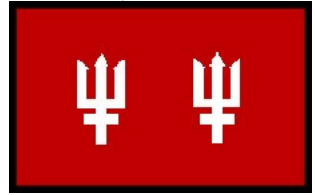
**Contents**

AO RPT/VSC \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3  
 SEO RPT \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4  
 2025 Squadron Cruising \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5  
 Insurance Update \_\_\_\_\_ Page 6  
 Annual Christmas Brunch \_\_\_\_\_ Page 7  
 2024-2025 TPS Organizational Roster-Page 8



*Lt/C Bob Hays,*

# ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT



As the year comes to a close and the changes in leadership in our Squadron, perhaps it is a good time to give you some information on how I came to be in the Tacoma Power Squadron.

My wife Patty and I have been boating since we met over 40 years ago. Her family had always been boaters and I was introduced to the water and boats as a child, but never got to actively boat until I met Patty.

We spent many years on various sailboats, from ten feet to 26 feet. Then in 1989 we bought a home built 26' sailing catamaran, and brought it from Canada to Lake Washington. We learned about sailing a catamaran, and a couple of years later we moved aboard and lived on Lightyears for the next five years. Time was spent moving the boat to salt water, and cruising Puget Sound, the San Juans and Canada.

In 1999 I retired after 25 years in the fire department, we sold our catamaran and moved to another one on the east coast. For the next five years we averaged 3,000 miles a year repeatedly traveling the east coast, from the Chesapeake, to all points to Florida, the Keys and the Bahamas.

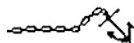
2005, brought us back to Washington, moved to land living and transitioned to power boats. It was at this time that Patty and I fulfilled the requirements to get our master's licenses.

In the past ten years we have continued to power boat and now enjoy our 26' Nordic Tug, which is comfortable for two and will fit almost anywhere. Also during this time I have captained boats on the East Coast, Alaska, and Washington.

As far as volunteer organizations and boating, I joined the US Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1998 and was active until 2021 when I retired. While I enjoyed the Auxiliary and what we could do to help and educate boaters, being attached to the government required a lot of required repeated training and paperwork. So, we left the Auxiliary and joined the US Power Squadron to continue to learn, share and have fun.

While these two organizations have a similar mission, there are a lot of differences. With your help and patience I will learn these new ropes.

I share with you what I used to share with every new fire crew I was assigned to as their officer... If I am doing something wrong, or you know a way that I can do it better, let me know. Because if you don't say something, it will probably not change. I am striving to do the best I can for all involved, not to make things worse. I appreciate all you can do to help me help you.



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**Phone: 253-350-4884**  
**Address: 4634 Kent Ct.**  
**Kent, WA 98032-7112**

P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN 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.



Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S  
Sq Education Officer

# EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



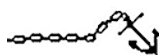
Happy New Year!

As I write this we are out boating. Winter boating is a little different. You really need to pay a little more attention to the weather. Conditions can change rapidly, and we usually have more fog. So, speaking of weather, Point Wilson Power Squadron is offering an in person and Zoom Weather class starting January 9<sup>th</sup>. I mentioned this last month, so I hope some of you took advantage of this opportunity. If not, the Weather course is offered online. Some people may have their boats winterized and put away for the winter. Your boat may be in hibernation, but you don't have to be. Learn to handle any weather you encounter next boating season from the comfort of home. With the [Weather Course](#) from America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons, you'll learn about:

- basic meteorology
- U.S. weather systems
- weather dynamics fundamentals
- National Weather Service forecasting tools

Are you ready for tsunami? The Chair of the Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition, a 501c3 out of Gig Harbor reached out to me. They are working with Pierce County to set up an emergency flotilla, similar to what Bainbridge Island has in place. Kitsap is also starting to form one. They want to form a 4-person team of citizen volunteers to guide this process. They would like to have one member from our club. Please reach out to me if you are interested in this volunteer position and I will put you in touch with the appropriate people for more information.

Happy and safe boating!





## 2025 Squadron Cruising

Boating is an incredible way to spend quality time with your family, creating lasting memories while enjoying the great outdoors. Whether you're navigating tranquil lakes, cruising along rivers, or exploring coastal waters, family boating can offer a unique blend of relaxation and adventure. At [America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons](#), we understand the importance of making these outings enjoyable for everyone, from the youngest crew members to the most seasoned sailors. Here's how to ensure your [family boating](#) trips are packed with fun and excitement!

### Best Boats for Families

When selecting a boat, consider your family's size, interests, and the types of activities you wish to enjoy. Whichever boat you choose, ensure it's equipped with safety gear and meets all boating regulations.

## How to Get Your Family Involved in Boating

Getting your family on a boat and ready for an adventure starts with involvement and participation. Here are some engaging ways to bring everyone on board:

- **Assign roles:** Give each family member a specific task while on the boat. Whether it's steering, setting the anchor, or keeping an eye on safety equipment, having designated roles fosters teamwork and responsibility.
- **Plan fun activities:** Incorporate activities that cater to everyone's interests, such as [fishing](#), swimming, or picnicking on the water. You can even plan a scavenger hunt or educational games about marine life to keep things exciting.
- **Encourage learning:** Teach your family about boating safety, navigation, and maintenance. Enrolling in boating courses together can be both educational and enjoyable, reinforcing the importance of [safe boating practices](#).
- **Capture the moments:** Encourage everyone to take photos and create a scrapbook of your outings to cherish the memories.
- **Create a boating tradition:** Establish a regular family boating day or trip. Whether it's a weekend outing or an annual vacation, having a dedicated time for boating strengthens family bonds and creates anticipation.

## Make Family Boating a Memorable Experience!

At America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons, we're committed to helping families enjoy safe and fun boating adventures. Explore our [resources](#) and [boating courses](#) to enhance your family's boating knowledge and skills. Whether you're new to boating or looking to improve your experience, we're here to support your journey on the water. [Join us today](#) and start making unforgettable family memories out on the waves! (Article from USPS boating blog)

**P/C Jim Harden, JN-CN**

## Insurance Coverage Update

From Gary L. Baker, D16 Executive Officer

Here is the latest information on the insurance situation:

1. A policy of general liability and officers and directors insurance for squadrons, clubs and districts went into effect on December 2. A copy of the policy is not available but will be posted on the national website when received. The policy will state any coverage exclusions.
2. There is currently no coverage for on-the-water, cooperative charting, and vessel safety checks activities; but the national officers expect to obtain that coverage by the end of December. They will let us know when that happens.
3. There will be no coverage for fundraising activities and holiday parties in third party venues, but ABC|USPS will make available a website portal for districts, squadrons and clubs to purchase event coverage for those activities. The portal is not yet available.
4. ABC|USPS will later advise us how to obtain a Certificate of Liability Insurance Coverage to provide to a municipality as a requirement to use their facilities.

If any D16 leader or member has insurance questions, please contact me at [garybaker@grovestreetlaw.com](mailto:garybaker@grovestreetlaw.com) or any D16 Bridge member.



# Tacoma Power Squadron Annual Christmas Brunch @ TYC December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024



(Pictures provided by Dist 16 photographer Steve Erickson and Heather Mattioli )

**TACOMA POWER SQUADRON  
2024 – 2025**

Commander	<b>Vacant</b>
Executive Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays
Educational Officer	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Secretary	Lt/C Beth Stone
Asst Treasurer	Lt/C James Harden, JN-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	<b>Vacant</b>
Safety Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Coop Charting	P/D/C James Harden, JN-CN
VSC Chairperson	P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN
Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
Boat Show	<b>Vacant</b>
Legislative	<b>Vacant</b>

**ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT**

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

**SECRETARY DEPT**

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

**TREASURER DEPT**

Treasurer	Lt/C James Harden, JN-CN
Property Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Ship's Store	<b>Vacant</b>

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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

**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**

2 Yr Term	P/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN
3 Yr Term	P/D/C James Harden, JN-CN

**EDUCATION DEPT**

Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S

**ABC CHAIRPERSON**

Lt Scott MacLeod, P

**ELECTIVE COURSES CHAIRPERSON**

**Vacant**

**ADVANCED GRADES CHAIRPERSON**

P/C Kevin Kennedy, SN





**BRIDGE OFFICERS**

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**Vacant**
- Executive Officer  
**Vacant**
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- Educational Officer  
Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S  
Email: benric7@gmail.com
- Secretary  
Lt/C Beth Stone  
Email: beth.stone@comcast.net
- Treasurer  
Lt/C James Harden, JN-CN

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- P/C Stan Wolfe,
- Lt Debbie Wolfe
- P/C Gary Dildine, AP-IN
- Lt Barbara Dildine, AP-IN
- Lt Becky Arrington, S
- Lt Jeff Krueger
- Lt Brian Prudente

**BOATING ACTIVITIES CHAIR**

**Vacant**

**The Wake Astern**

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**SHIPS STORE**

**Vacant**

**TPS WEBSITE**

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**D/16 WEBSITE**

www.uspsd16.org

Cover photo by  
Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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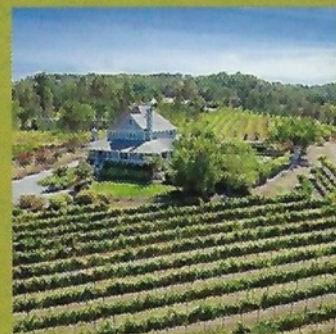
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# January 2025

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



# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Weather Cls via Zoom	7	8
9	10	11 Ex.Bd Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ TBD	12	13 Weather Cls via Zoom	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Weather Cls via Zoom	21	22
23	24	25 Gen Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM @ DIYC	26 Deadline for March edition The Wake Astern	27 Weather Cls via Zoom	28	

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**January 2025**

# **THE WAKE ASTERN**

A foggy day at Deception Pass

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