


Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound
The
Wake Astern

January-February 2026

Vol. 87 No. 1





COMMANDER

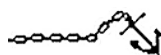


Well, I'm very challenged to come up with articles, even only doing 6 articles per year. I've already gone through prior articles looking for those that could be re-used.

Cdr Craig Brown, SN-ACN I did just get back from the USPS Annual conference at Myrtle Beach, SC. I was there primarily to support the USPS Safety Committee. I presented the 2026 VSC Workshop sharing what the primary purpose is for the subjects covered in the Workshop. FYI – in my USCG Auxiliary position as the National Division Chief – Vessel Examinations, I'm responsible for creating/publishing the annual VSC Workshop.

A new National Bridge was elected. National has sent emails to members stating who is on the new Bridge. There was a vote to increase membership dues. There was a vote to approve allowing Associate members to hold elected positions (which will require By-Law changes at the District & Squadron).

One additional item I thought should be shared. A couple of USPS members went to Canada and then had to unexpectedly return to the USA right after entering Canada. They didn't keep track of the limitations on what can be brought into Canada and what can be brought into the USA. When returning to the USA they were stopped for bringing eggs (even thou they came from the USA). Because of that mistake they almost lost their NEXUS border crossing approval. The key is always to check what the limitations are for what can be brought across any borders you'll be crossing. Check about limitations going in both directions across the border(s). Limitations are changing all the time, so check official government websites just prior to crossing.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
February 25th, 6:00-8:00PM
@ Black Bear Diner
Lakewood, WA

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 10th, 6:00-8:00PM
@ Black Bear Diner
Lakewood, WA

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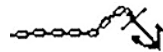
Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



Greetings Club Members.

There is an Engine Maintenance course currently underway at Tacoma Yacht Club being taught by Gene Kautzman. The reconstruction of the Day Island Yacht clubhouse will put a damper on any additional classes for the foreseeable future. I'll start scheduling additional courses once we have certainty on Day Island Yacht Club availability. We hope to squeeze in a Marine Navigation course and one more ABC course followed by a boat handling course. Fingers crossed...



As BOC Region Director for the Pacific Northwest, it is my job to try and keep the BOC program active. Therefore, I need your help in determining if any of your members are interested in completing the on the water portion of the Boat Operator Certification for Inland Navigator. During the D16 Rendezvous, Jim Harden and I would like to conduct the OTW training along with the seminar. We would be using my 10-foot dinghy as the training device. My dinghy has a center console with a 20HP outboard. We would conduct docking, anchoring, Man Overboard, using a range marker and possibly a high-speed stop. The training would be entered into their education page and their online BOC Passport. If the member would like to continue and complete the Inland Navigator certification, the passport can be ordered and would cost 40.00. Please let me if you any interested members by March 15.

Thank you
D/Lt/C Dave McBride, AP-CN
BOC Director Pacific Northwest



Lt/C Bob Hays, AP

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Let's talk about why stepping forward into leadership positions will do more for this organization, and you. We all need to realize that if you do not get involved in assisting in the leadership of our Power Squadron, we will cease to exist. The Tacoma Power Squadron has been here, assisting the public and fellow boaters for many years, however without leaders, it will be here no longer.

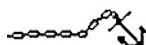
Taking leadership positions within any volunteer agency is essential because leaders set direction, shape culture, and ensure accountability. Effective leaders translate mission into strategic goals, prioritize initiatives, and allocate scarce resources so volunteers' efforts multiply rather than fragment. When volunteers step into leadership roles, they bring frontline knowledge to planning tables, creating realistic, achievable plans rooted in direct experience. Leadership also models the agency's values—integrity, inclusivity, and service—establishing behavioral norms that influence recruitment, retention, and public reputation. Without volunteers willing to lead, agencies risk drifting without clear priorities, duplicating efforts, or failing to respond to changing community needs.

Leadership roles also improve operational effectiveness by organizing work, developing others, and strengthening systems. Volunteer leaders coordinate teams, set expectations, and implement simple but vital processes—onboarding, training, feedback loops, and performance measures—that turn goodwill into reliable outcomes. They mentor new volunteers, transfer institutional knowledge, and cultivate skills that deepen capacity over time. Empowered volunteer leaders reduce burnout among staff and peers by distributing responsibility, resolving conflicts, and maintaining momentum when challenges arise. This operational backbone allows programs to scale, adapt, and sustain quality service even as demand fluctuates.

Additionally, volunteer leadership is critical for sustainability, advocacy, and community trust. Leaders represent the agency to funders, partners, and the public, translating grassroots experience into compelling stories and credible proposals that unlock support. They build networks, forge collaborations, and advocate for systemic change informed by on-the-ground insight. Investing in volunteer leadership fosters succession planning, ensuring continuity when key people leave and preserving organizational memory. In short, encouraging volunteers to assume leadership positions multiplies impact: it clarifies purpose, strengthens execution, and secures the relationships and resources necessary for the agency to serve its community effectively over the long term.

Finally, serving in leadership roles within a volunteer agency accelerates personal development and delivers deep satisfaction. Leaders gain practical skills—communication, decision making, project management, conflict resolution—and learn to adapt under pressure. Guiding teams fosters emotional intelligence, empathy, and confidence as you mentor others and navigate diverse perspectives. Seeing initiatives move from concept to impact creates tangible reward and a sense of purpose. Leadership also expands networks, exposes you to new ideas, and strengthens civic commitment. The combination of skill growth, meaningful relationships, and visible community benefit cultivates lasting fulfillment and motivates continued contribution, enriching both personal and professional life and social well being.

I ask you to look at what you can contribute to your fellow Squadron Members, and the community, by stepping into one of the leadership positions (or sharing one) to keep the Tacoma Power Squadron alive and benefiting us and the community at large.





America's Boating Club

Tacoma and South Puget Sound

St Patrick's Day Cruise

Swantown Marina, Olympia

March 13 – 15th, 2026



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Things to Do

- Visit Olympia downtown
- Best boat decorations
- See Farmer's Market
- Walk along the water
- Get a Vessel Safety Check

Agenda

Friday, March 13th

- Arrive, tie up
- Decorate your boat
- 5:00 Hors D'oeuvres on dock
- BYOB

Saturday, March 14th

- Explore Things to Do
- 5:30 dinner at Anthonys Bar & Grill
(This should be a short walk from the marina. IF you need a ride, there will be people who can drive you to dinner)

Sunday, March 15th

- Safe trip home



Hosts

Jim & Debbie Harden
Please **RSVP** to:
:
Bentley @ 253.208.1678
Jim @ 360.870.5530

**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

Commander
P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN
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Executive Officer
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Administrative Officer

Vacant

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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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SHIPS STORE

Vacant

TPS WEBSITE

www.tacomapowerandsailsquadron.org

D/16 WEBSITE

www.uspsd16.org

Cover photo by
Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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Lytton Station Vineyard Vista

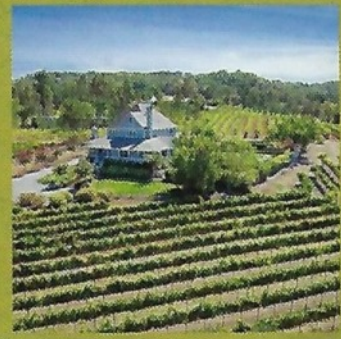
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January 2026

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 Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM @ DIYC	28	29	30	31



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Ex.Bd Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ Black Bear Diner	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Gen Mbr Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ Black Bear Diner	26	27	28

March 2026

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

TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
5105 Grand Loop, Apt 811
TACOMA WA 98407-3196

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



January-February 2026

THE WAKE ASTERN

A foggy day at Deception Pass

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