

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB 

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

The Wake Astern

January 2024

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 85 No. 1





Cdr Larry Warren, AP

COMMANDER



We've managed to use up another three hundred and sixty-five days! Most of you made the most of those days and felt you accomplished something with your time. I've not accomplished much, but I feel good about our accomplishments in the Squadron. I can't praise enough the Educational Dept. led by Lt/C Bentley Rickmers and Lt. Scott McLeod heading up the Basic Boating Program. Bentley has gone above and beyond to make our most important Dept. run smoothly. Of course, we would be dead in the water if it weren't for our talented Teachers; we thank you all for your dedication and willingness to make a difference in the boating community. Our Secretary, Lt/C Jin Fugate, is new this year, and it's been a struggle for her to get used to boat terminology and the squadron way! But she's been doing a fine job, and I'm sure I can convince her to stick with it! We've had the most excellent and knowledgeable Executive and Administrative officers that Money can Buy! That's not true, of course. I'm sure they're only doing it for the Merit Mark! We really have to applaud P/C Jackie Mattox for handling the day-to-day treasurer's duties while we found a new Treasurer; thankfully, P/D/C James Harden stepped in and was appointed as assistant treasurer for the balance of this year.

We've been blessed with a talented and enthusiastic Editor of our newsletter, "The Wake Astern," recognized by our National HQ, and a Note of thanks to P/C Richard M. Mattox, AP, from Diane Dawes, the National Newsletter Evaluator. A big thank you to P/D/C Christine Rasmussen SN for gathering information and time spent by members working toward a Merit Mark. Long hours of evaluating and finding just the right way of submitting all the information to the evaluator for approval before it's sent to the Chief Commander. Thank You, Christine. We've had a great year in the VSC and Cooperative Charting departments, with an excellent number of VSCs from our expert vessel examiners and some awards for cooperative charting. Many thanks to P/D/C James Harden, Sue Walker, and all our examiners for keeping these programs up to date and going strong. We have many talented people in our Squadron; some never get any praise or accolades; they work quietly in the background, making things better for all of us.

Our Board members are Gary and Barb Dildine, Jeff Krueger, Beckey Arrington, Richard Mattox, Debbie Wolfe. Web Master, Tom Ferree

Kitchen/ Data processing/ Rules Committee, Lt Lorraine Stargel, AP

Mailing/ Advertising/ The Wake Astern/ Coffee & Water at meetings, P/C Richard Mattox, AP

Ships Store, Karen Jackson

Rules Committee, Lorraine Stargel, Bill Larsen, Mitch Carroll

Nominating Committee, Gary Dildine, Stan Wolfe, James Harden

Finance Review Committee, Leah Hafterson, Beckey Arrington, Tom Ferree

Programs, Barbra Prudente

Flag Lt, Mason Dixon

These people (all volunteers) and probably a few that I may have missed, to whom I'm sorry. All deserve our extreme gratitude for all those things we may taken for granted. I thank you all for your time and expertise.

(Commander's Report continued on Page 3)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 23rd, 2024 (6:30-8:30 PM)
Day Island Yacht Club
University Place

Executive Board Meeting
January 9th, 2024 (6:00-8:00 PM)
Black Bear Diner
Lakewood, WA

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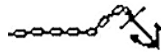
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In closing, I would like to thank all those who donated generously during the Holidays to the Food Drive for Nourish Pierce County and the Toy Drive for Bridges Center for Grieving Children! The person who came from the Center for Grieving Children was amazed at how generous you all had been. Also, some gave a monetary donation, which they certainly appreciated. We all raised \$1085.00 to help the less fortunate citizens of Tacoma; I call that a success in anyone's book. The tray centerpieces were a great success as well, I wish I had more time to make a few more. I have to thank Andy Temple for handling the tickets; I owe you for a roll of tickets. Your donations will be given as prizes at our next Cruise-In Squadron Summer Picnic.

There were 10 centerpieces; from what I was told, were all raffled off. But there was one left on one of the tables? Did someone forget it, or did it not get raffled? If someone can shed some light on this, I'd appreciate it! Oh, the raffle netted a little over \$300.00!





EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



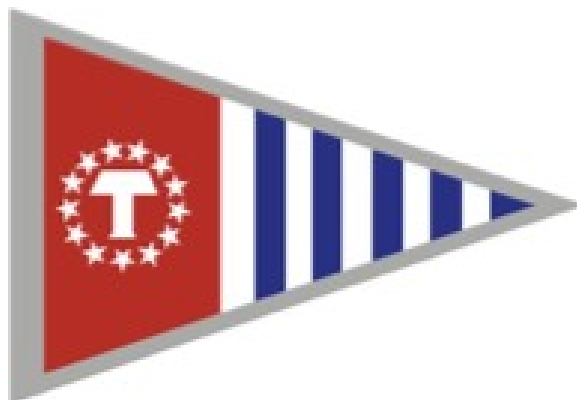
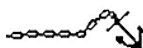
Lt/C James Harden, JN- CN

Wow! Where did 2023 go to so fast. As we look back over the past year I hope all your memories are of fond times with good friends. Now that we are welcoming in the New Year, I hope the New Year brings you and your families health, wealth, and happiness.

The new year brings the beginning of a fresh start doing vessel safety checks and cooperative charting. We normally receive the new vessel decals during the month of January which are sent to our vessel safety chairman. He will be contacting all of the examiners soon after they arrive.

Before you depart for your search and are looking up available PID's, as you find those that you're going out to find, check the datasheet to see if there are photographs of the mark and its general field location. The photos of the location of the marks you are going out to find can be quite helpful saving you a lot of time.

See you around the docks.



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-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



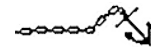
Greetings fellow members of America's Boating Club of Tacoma and South Puget Sound!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas season with family gatherings, good food, kids around the Christmas tree, and thoughts of loved ones here and gone. Now, it's another year and time to begin anew.

The slate of elected and appointed officers is near completion with a few holes that we really need to have filled by enthusiastic volunteers. In the Administration Officer's realm, the nominating committee is still seeking a member to serve as Boating Activities Chair. This is the person that helps with the Fellowship activities by coordinating rendezvous for the club. Currently, we are trying to populate the rendezvous schedule by having folks volunteer to serve as a host at a location and date of their choosing. I know it's kind of hard to think about boating when it's gray, wet, windy, and cooler but the locations we normally select will be filling up fast with the arrival of the new year. Give me a call when you are ready to host.

With the new year, it's time for resolutions. I'm not a big fan of them as I usually do the typical month or so of exercising regularly before deciding I'm too tired or bored. My changes in diet eventually slide back into eating what I like. The one resolution I do keep is to maintain my boat and use it. With all the planned and unplanned events, family obligations, home and lawn care, the calendar fills up pretty quick. And despite being retired, both Deb and I now use our calendar more than ever. We consult our shared calendars every day to make sure we don't miss appointments. With all that, we still take the boat out overnight or for several nights year round. I resolve to continue that. Would love to see other boaters while we are out and about, thus my previous comments about the rendezvous issue.

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





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

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2024!

With a new year comes new classes!

ABC, America's Boating Course, will begin January 8 at Day Island Yacht Club, 7-9 pm for 4 classes plus the night of the exam. Passing this course qualifies you for the Washington State Boater's Card.

Taking a boating class reduces your risk of accidents and injuries, saves you money on boat insurance. America's Boating Course is the most comprehensive, single source, in-person boating course available to give you the skills you need to enjoy your time on the water and boat with confidence. Available in both English and Spanish, our boater safety class meets most states' certification requirements.

What You'll Learn:

- Information about your State Boating Laws, regulations, boat registration, and licensing.
- Required boating safety equipment.
- Dos and Don'ts of boating safely
- Practical Knowledge of navigation and rules of the road
- How to handle medical emergencies onboard and mechanical problems on the water
- The basics of towing and trailering
- Special important information for hunters, anglers, and sports enthusiasts.

To register for this course, click on the link below:

<https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/find-a-class-near-you?zip=98467&range=20>

Pass this information on to people you know who need this course.

Boat Handling will start in late February. This is the next class after ABC.

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](#)

(Education Officer Report continued on Page 7)



(Education Officer Report continued from Page 6)

Our instructors will enrich the course with local knowledge, experience, and discussion that will help you expand your boating horizons.

Ask your local squadron about on-the-water coaching to help you grow in your situational awareness, knowledge of what to do in each situation, and ability to perform boat-handling skills that will help you enjoy boating more and with the confidence you desire.

Below are a couple of classes being offered via Zoom, Weather and Propane Systems on your boat.

Course: [Weather](#)
Starts: January 18, 2024
Distance: 121.96 miles
[Click To Register](#)

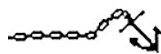
Squadron: Beaverton
Location: Instructor Lead Zoom Class

Questions? Contact:
✉ [Steve Gatton](#)
503-620-9497

Course: [Propane Systems on Your Boat](#)
Starts: January 28, 2024
Distance: 121.96 miles
[Click To Register](#)

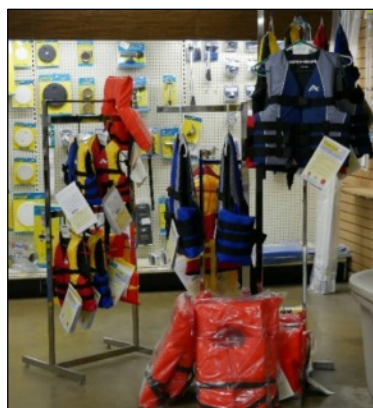
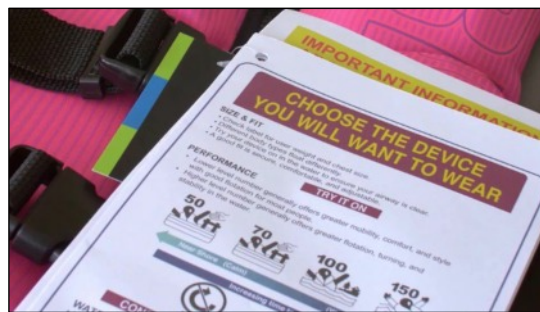
Squadron: Beaverton
Location: Virtual Instructor Presented
Lead Beaverton OR

Questions? Contact:
✉ [Alf Dueser](#)
914-826-4127



America's Boating Channel™ Understanding Life Jacket Labels

Let's start the year by getting our life jackets ready for the 2024 boating season. If you cleaned and inspected your life jackets before storing them for winter storage, you should know how many need to be replaced. Which brings us to our topic of life jacket labels. You may be unaware of the new labeling system if you have not purchased a life jacket recently. Type I, II, III and IV labeling was removed by the U.S. Coast Guard from the Code of Federal Regulations in 2014, but it is taking several years for the legacy designations to be phased out.



To help boaters understand the current labeling system, Season Four of America's Boating Channel offers the video "[Life Jacket Labels](#)" in which you are introduced to the simplified labels that contain less writing and more icons.

Regardless of your age or experience level, data shows that life jackets save lives. So don't hesitate to replace older life jackets. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "[New Label Benefits](#)" that covers the advantages of the new life jacket labeling system. In this video, viewers learn how to interpret label icons. Also featured are tips for selecting the right life jacket for your intended on-the-water activity.

Follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. [America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

A flight of nine new Inlet Drone Videos (IDVs) have been approved for public release by the U.S. Coast Guard. IDVs combine aerial video footage and 3D chart animations to help recreational boaters plan their first sorties through challenging and dangerous U.S. waterway entrances. Closed-captioned streaming versions of these videos will be available the first week of January at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgIbejlMU2Hd_IYJGtyK6udYt4t-4zFSz. Eight of the new IDVs are available now for download from https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DsuI_dzAx-oZTISpmeQ9jYhxYGs6lvUd, with the ninth to be added in the near future.

America's Boating Channel was honored with the 2023 Go Global Award for Maritime Services. The press release is available [here](#).

You also may want to remind your members, and especially your Educational Officers, that since America's Boating Channel's launch, all of its videos have been available to USPS members to screen and download for free at bit.ly/USPSABC. This is very convenient for instructors who want to use these videos in the classroom without the need for an internet connection



**Tacoma Power Squadron
Annual Christmas Brunch
December 2023**



*Pictures provided by
Lt/C Jim Harden, JN-CN
P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN*



Santa presenting the Otto Rasmussen Memorial Award to instructor Gary Ball, SN

**TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
2023 – 2024**

Commander	Cdr Larry Warren, AP
Executive Officer	Lt/C James Harden, JN-CN
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN
Educational Officer	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Secretary	Lt/C Jin Fugate
Asst Treasurer	Lt/C James Harden, JN-CN

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

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Safety Officer	Vacant
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VSC Chairperson	P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN
Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
Boat Show	Vacant
Legislative	Vacant

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

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Historian	Vacant
Commencement Bay	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

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Property Officer	Vacant
Ship's Store	Lt Karen Jackson

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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

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

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

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

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Lt Scott MacLeod, P

ELECTIVE COURSES CHAIRPERSON

Vacant

ADVANCED GRADES CHAIRPERSON

P/C Kevin Kennedy, SN



BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander
 Cdr Larry Warren, AP
 (206) 571-3099

Executive Officer
 Lt/C Jim Harden, JN-CN
 (360) 870-5530

Administrative Officer
 Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN
 (253) 536-3309

Educational Officer
 Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
 Email: benric7@gmail.com

Secretary
 Lt Jin Fugate
 Email: a194566@gmail.com

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

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BOATING ACTIVITIES CHAIR

Vacant

The Wake Astern

Editor: P/C Richard Mattox, AP
 (253) 732-2264
 ricque0602@comcast.net

SHIPS STORE

Lt Karen Jackson

TPS WEBSITE

www.tacomapowerandsailsquadron.org

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 Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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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			



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 ABC Cls @ DIYC	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 Deadline for March edition The Wake Astern	29		

TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
5105 Grand Loop, Apt 811
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JANUARY 2024

