

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB 

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

The
Wake Astern

July 2020

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 81 No. 7



COMMANDER



Cdr Gary Dildine, AP-IN

Hello fellow squadron members,

With all the changes and restrictions happening, it's hard to know what to write about. There are a few things to relay to you though. There have been some things going on to update you about. Our education dept just finished teaching a class using "zoom" on the internet. They met in person to take the final exam only. Kudos for our education dept for setting this up and making it work. Remember if you are interested in any of the classes we offer, let your interest be known to Bentley Rickmers, our Education Officer. Maybe if you took a class a long time ago, you might want to brush up.

During the early stages of the corona outbreak, Vessel Safety Checks were put on hold by order of the Coast Guard. They have since been ok'd to resume if certain criteria are followed. Contact our VSC Chairperson Susan Walker for more details, or to have a VSC arranged.

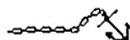
The Washington State Parks Dept. is looking for volunteers to man their booth at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup in Sept. At this time there are many things to be ironed out including whether or not the fair will even happen. At this time they are planning on moving forward as if it will occur, with a final decision to be made at a later date. If you are interested, Stan Wolfe is the person to contact.

The big news from National headquarters is that they are going to have the Fall Governing Board in Raleigh N.C. on Sept 6-13 at The Hilton Raleigh North Hills. The discount for early registration is July 23, so if you want to go don't delay.

In conclusion, at this time we are still scheduled to have our rendezvous in Port Orchard Sept 4-7. We will try to update everyone if anything changes, as soon as we know. At this time we do not have any hosts, so if you would like to host the rendezvous, please contact Cindy Warren.

BREAKING NEWS: Most of you have probably already heard this, but, just in case you have not, Washington Governor Jay Inslee has ordered **MANDATORY** use of masks when out in public beginning June 25. So if you come to the Sept rendezvous make sure to bring your mask.

Stay safe out there, both on your boat on the water, and in your outings in public.



General Meetings
Held
SEPTEMBER THRU MAY
ONLY

Executive Board Meetings
Held on
As Needed Basis

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN

Greetings from your Executive Officer!

The COVID crud continues and may be intensifying with more folks out and about during Stage II. Hopefully, we may be able to start engaging in some limited activities in the near future.

Vessel safety checks (VSC) are back! USPS had suspended VSCs earlier in the year but has now resumed them. There are some rules. The vessel safety examiner (VSE) must perform a risk assessment. They will ask if the owner or the family has had COVID-19 or if they have symptoms.

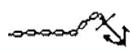
Everyone has to wear a mask - if the owner doesn't want to wear a mask, no VSC. The VSE should wear gloves when possible. Try to maintain six feet of separation, as much as the boat will allow. There had been a prohibition on VSEs 65 years or older from performing VCSs, but that has been dropped. However, no mentoring is allowed.

I'm continuing to track the volunteer opportunities that have been discussed between Washington State Parks and the Western Washington State (Puyallup) Fair. No decision has been made about the Fair occurring late Summer. I find it hard to believe that it won't happen so I remain engaged. My understanding of the ongoing discussions seems to indicate the booth will not be operated in the same manner as in the past. There may not be a manned booth, but rather a static, museum-like display. Again, I will monitor and report to the membership as information becomes available. If you are considering volunteering, don't fade away quite yet; nothing is settled and may not be until early August.

It has not been all doom, gloom, and nothing to do. Lt Brenda Williamson, P held another ABC in June. I was privileged to conduct one of the four two-hour sessions. Additionally, I volunteered as one of several test proctors grading completed exams. Several things I noted. The four presentations were conducted using Zoom rather than face-to-face and the technology worked very well. Next, the class had 27 attendees, of which 26 took the exam. That's the largest class I can ever recall in my 16 plus years in the Squadron. Finally, the exam occurred in the Tacoma Yacht Club parking lot. Students completed the exam most sitting in their cars. The test proctors broke out chairs, tables, umbrellas, and face masks. The weather was absolutely excellent. It looked like a street fair. Everyone had fun and all the students passed, all while maintaining social distancing.

As I discussed in previous month's articles, there are still several other opportunities for those wishing to serve our club. There are several vacant positions under the purview of the Executive Officer: Boat Show, Legislative, Public Relations, and Safety. If interested, contact me (wolfesd@comcast.net or 253-948-6101).

Additionally, the Squadron really needs an Administrative Officer. I filled this position most recently and departed simply because it's part of working the chairs. If interested in becoming the AO, contact our Commander, Gary Dildine, AP-IN.



Closing date for articles is the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please direct all articles to the Editor. E-mail to: ricque0602@comcast.net, Mail to: 5105 Grand Loop, Apt # 811, Tacoma, WA 98407. Telephone: (253) 581-1732. Please submit member address and other data changes to the Tacoma Power Squadron Secretary.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



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



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

During these strange times everyone has made adjustments. Kudos to Brenda and Lance Williamson for coordinating the ABC class via ZOOM in June. There were 27 students that took the class! Some people joined the class with their spouses after the class had started and we even had an entire family to take the class. Testing was done June 22 in the parking lot of Tacoma Yacht Club on a beautiful warm evening. See pictures below. Thanks to Stan Wolfe and Monti Minion for their part in teaching a class and thank you to everyone who came and helped grade the exams!

Currently there are not any classes scheduled for summer so people can go boating!! Check America's Boating Club website for the next upcoming classes and email blasts.

Speaking of boating, the U.S. Coast Guard has released its 2019 Recreational Boating Statistics Report, revealing that there were 613 boating fatalities nationwide in 2019, a 3.2 percent decrease from 2018. From 2018 to 2019, the total number of accidents increased 0.6 percent (4,145 to 4,168), and the number of non-fatal injured victims increased 1.9 percent (2,511 to 2,559).

Alcohol continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2019, accounting for over 100 deaths, or 23 percent of total fatalities.

The report also shows that in 2019:

- The fatality rate was 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels, which tied as the second lowest rate in the program's history. This rate represents a 1.9 percent decrease from last year's fatality rate of 5.3 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.
- Property damage totaled about \$55 million.
- Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol use ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Where the cause of death was known, 79 percent of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 86 percent were not wearing a life jacket.

Capt. Scott Johnson, chief of the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety at Coast Guard Headquarters, cited one case in November, in which a party of eight in Indiana attempted to cross the White River in a 14-ft boat. Overloaded, it capsized sending occupants into the water. Five perished from drowning as a result, including a 6-year old child. None of the victims were wearing a life jacket.

(Education Officer Rpt continued on Page 5)



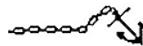
(Education Officer Rpt continued from Page 4)

“It’s critical for boaters to wear a life jacket at all times because it highly likely will save your life. Ensure that it is serviceable, properly sized, and correctly worn.” Johnson noted that sometimes victims had not fastened their life jacket properly or had not replaced the expired cartridge in their inflatable life jacket. In one case, the cartridge had been modified, making it ineffective as a lifesaving device.

Where boating instruction was known, 70 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had not received boating safety instruction. The Coast Guard recommends that all boaters take a boating safety course that meets the National Boating Education Standards prior to getting out on the water. The most common vessel types involved in reported accidents were open motorboats, personal watercraft, and cabin motorboats. Where vessel type was known, the vessel types with the highest percentage of deaths were open motorboats (48 percent), kayaks (14 percent), and personal watercraft (8 percent).

The Coast Guard reminds all boaters to boat responsibly on the water: wear a life jacket, take a boating safety course, attach the engine cut-off switch, get a free vessel safety check, and boat sober.

Stay safe and have a wonderful boating summer!!



(Pictures provided by Lt/C Bentley Rickmers)

Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW)

This report is published with permission of Past Commodore Day Island Yacht Club Chuck Gay. These reports will keep us updated on the current Washington legislation regarding area boaters.

Here's what's happening

COVID-19 Update

Per our last COVID update - the San Juan's have reopened for visitors with lodging / transient moorage taking reservations at 50% capacity. As there are still restrictions in place, to include some closures, please review both the State and County guidelines before traveling.

Click [HERE](#) for the Visit San Juan Islands website

Click [HERE](#) for the San Juan County website

May 2020 Legislating Report from RBAW State Lobbyist Doug Levy

May was a "keep on keepin' on" 31-day period for our work on COVID-19, clearing a better path for marina mitigation projects, and seeing how to best advance the Lakebay Marina acquisition.

COVID-19 – Governor starts month by reopening recreational boating and vessel sales, ends it by transitioning “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” into a county-driven process : I previously reported to you on some high-profile wins for, most notably the Governor's decision to reopen the recreational boating sector (*and a broad swath of other outdoor recreation activities*) and vessel sales as part of the Phase 1 component of his recovery plan. Because our sector got an early green light for reopening (*albeit under strict guidelines, for example, requiring that boaters limit the numbers of those on-board and keep open-water boating to the same household only*), we teamed up with the Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA) on a thank-you letter that I've attached with this monthly report. While boating and launch ramps reopened as of May 5 in nearly every part of the state, that wasn't universally the case. *See below for City of Seattle.*

In any case, while the Governor began May by detailing his 4-phase reopening plan, he closed it by putting an end to the “Stay at Home, Stay Healthy” plan and transitioned Washingtonians into a process that will be more county-led in nature.

Most City of Seattle launch ramps remain closed – but a breakthrough in late May: While launch ramps throughout most corners of the state reopened, it was a source of frustration to us to have City of Seattle-operated launch ramps remain closed for much of May. Both President Bob Wise and myself joined Peter Schrappen of NMTA in pushing that to change. We did a request letter, sent numerous e-mails, made behind-the-scenes phone calls to City staff, and held two conference-call meetings with Seattle's Deputy Mayor and staff. Finally, as of May 30, the City had agreed to open two saltwater ramps (Don Armeni and Golden Gardens) on Elliott Bay. There will be a two-week trial period before the City agrees to any reopening of freshwater ramps such as Magnuson Park and others on Lake Washington. I'm also aware of one ramp that has remained open – will cover at Thursday night Board meeting. *Meanwhile, it's more important than ever for all to boat safely and avoid big crowds and gatherings – that's vital to the City of Seattle bringing more ramps back on line.*

Campgrounds and Marine State Parks in 22 “Phase 2” counties now open ! By month's end, we received encouraging news from Washington State Parks that the agency is reopening marine parks, allowing overnight tie-ups to buoys, and reopening campgrounds. Here is a list of what has reopened in the Phase 2 counties, as well as about a dozen sites that remain closed:

<https://parks.state.wa.us/1181/Parks-opening>

As I share all this with you, I must issue a reminder that individual counties are authorized to issue more stringent conditions than those contained in the Governor's orders and guidance. Kudos to one of our Members for taking note of the fact that in the San Juans, facilities will be open locals but not those travelling into the area from other destinations.

Meeting with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on federal permitting for marina upgrades – a glimmer of hope? Late in the month (May 27), we had a virtual meeting with the Central and South Puget Sound branch chief for NMFS (Jennifer Quan) and members of her team. Jennifer Quan shared with President Wise, NMTA Vice President Peter Schrappen, Logan Brown of Marine Floats, and myself that NMFS will provide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a “batch” list of over 30 marina upgrade projects that can be permitted for on-the-water work this summer if they meet certain mitigation requirements. Jennifer did not specify the mitigation requirements but did agree she would be notifying us right away of details once the list and mitigation requirements are transmitted to the Corps. We also provided a list of routine activities that we would hope can be exempted for mitigation requirements based on a ‘calculator’ that NMFS staff plans to use. These include projects with footprints less than eight (8) feet wide; in a deep-shore zone; featuring removal of solid docks; those that replace aging creosote piling; etc. Stay tuned.

(RBAW Report continued on Page 7)



(RBAW Report continued from Page 6)

Lakebay Marina: I start this update by noting that fund-raising in the throes of a pandemic is about as difficult as it gets. While we are moving towards applying for a state “Heritage Projects” capital grant, we’ve not yet nailed down near-term funding to close the acquisition-price gap we have for Lakebay. Last month, Bob Wise, Dave Kircher, and myself had meetings with both Forterra and the Washington State Housing Financing Commission (which runs a non-profit facilities component of its programs) on bridge loan options they have available or could make available. Unfortunately, the RBAW Marine Conservancy Board is very new and has no financial track record or well-heeled ‘guarantors’ we can point toward. We are continuing to plug away and will work with volunteer Bruce Barbarasch on a likely “crowd-funding” initiative, but we have not yet found the breakthrough to close up our \$800,000 gap. We have a few other ideas and will keep all posted.

No Discharge Zones: On May 29, RBAW Board Executive Officers met and voted in favor of distributing to the membership a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) related survey developed by a DOE consultant. The survey is confidential in nature and RBAW is not taking a position on or vouching for it. Respondents will see a question about race because Ecology believes communities of color are a disproportionately lower-use segment of the recreational boating public. Nonetheless, at times such as these, the question will be controversial to say the least.

Boat US funds ! Another late-May development – this one quite positive – was the news that Boat US had sent RBAW a \$5000 check to help with our operations and efforts. It’s now in hand – Woo!

If you have any questions, please email us at info@RBAW.org.

Thank you and please stay safe.

Need a Vessel Safety Check?
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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.

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





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2020 - 2021

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Administrative Officer	Vacant
Educational Officer	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
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ASEO	Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN

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

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Vacant

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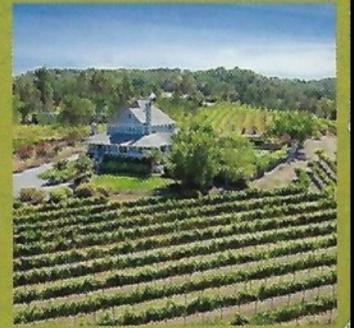
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July 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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Independence Day

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 **No**
Ex. Bd. Mtg.
June thru August

19 20 21 22
Deadline for
August Edition
The Wake Astern

26 27 28 **No**
Gen. Mtgs
June thru August

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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
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