

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

The
Wake Astern

November 2024 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 85 No. 11





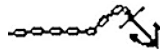
Cdr Larry Warren, AP

COMMANDER



Here it is, the spookiest time of the year! The weather is cooling down, and the autumn leaves are red and golden, falling to the ground. People look forward to the end of October, a time for goblins, spooky ghost stories, decorating, & treats. For others, it is that annoying knock on the door of children saying Trick or Treat, or it is that frightening phone call from your Nominating Committee member, asking you to consider one of those scary jobs that need doing, so your Squadron can continue to be strong! Oh yes, it is that time of the year for you to start thinking about how you could help with one of the many positions available to be filled. We will call those people who currently hold a position first to ask if they will move up or continue with their present position. When we have a good idea of where we stand with a position, we'll call almost everyone to ask for your thoughts on filling a position. It won't be so Scary, I promise!

In other news, referring back to last month's The Wake Astern article about the Christmas Brunch. We already had a spot on TYC's calendar, and the paperwork procedure has been started and of course a check of current prices from their menu. So, save the Date, **Sunday, December 1st, 2024**, and a flyer will be coming soon for you to look at and make your decision to attend this joyous and fun-filled time to visit Santa and get together with good friends! It's a time to celebrate our community and the holiday season.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 26th, 2024 (6:30-8:30 PM)
Day Island Yacht Club
University Place

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 12th (6:00-8:00PM)
Location TBD

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Electric Outboard Motors

Lt/C Edward Yotter, SN

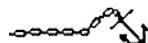
After retiring and moving to the Seattle area, we decided that to better enjoy the Puget Sound region with our 24' open bow boat it would be nice to have a dinghy. Being able to single handed inflate, launch and retrieve without the need for an additional person has always appealed to me. That dinghy became a 10.5' inflatable with a high-pressure inflatable floor and weighs in at 90#. It came with a wrap-around bag with handles, and I added a 3' duffle bag for the wooden seat, collapsible oars, emergency foot pump, etc. Additionally, I installed two retractable wheels on the transom so one person could roll it down ramps or across beaches. With the rope handle on the bow of the dinghy, we pull the bow up on the swim platform and slip the rope handle through the ski rope tow ring for taking the dinghy to locations around the Sound.

That worked well for several years and kept the grandkids occupied during our vacations to the San Juan Islands. Then rowing got tiresome for teenagers, and I began looking for a small motor. What I wanted was a small motor without the need for a separate fuel tank or battery to clutter up the area near the outboard. And of course, it had to be easily portable to go with the equally portable dinghy.

Boat shows always seem to have exactly what you think you need. My attention was drawn to the Epropulsion Spirit motor which looks like a small outboard gas motor. It is manufactured by a Chinese company that makes underwater dive scooters and adapted their lightweight technology for the Spirit motor. It breaks down into two parts: the lower end and a metal hydride battery. The lower end consists of the shaft, propeller, steering handle with electronics to monitor battery drain and time remaining based on your present battery draw. At the slowest speed you get about 4 hours at 1 mph and at full throttle about 1 hour at 5 mph. The battery looks like the cowling on a small gas motor and takes a couple of hours to recharge. The lower end weighs about 21# and the battery about 23# and the battery floats if you happen to drop it in the water. I purchased carrying bags for the two pieces. The lower end bag has a shoulder strap and the battery bag a handle. This allows both bags to be easily transported and stowed.

The lower end is secured to the transom of the dinghy with the usual outboard motor locking device that covers the attachment screws to keep the motor from being easily or accidentally removed from the dinghy's transom. The battery goes into the boat when towing the dinghy until needed when cruising.

A recent America's Boating Club Ensign magazine has a good article to guide you through the things you should consider when making your decision on electric boat motors.



Need a Vessel Safety Check?
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P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN
Email: craig-sandybrown@msn.com
Phone: 253-350-4884
Address: 4634 Kent Ct.

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.



ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT



Perhaps it is time to not only winterize your boat, but also winterize your mind?

Lt/C Bob Hays,

As the weather cools, we are reminded of the many things that we need to do to make sure that our boats are ready for the winter. There are at least two goals. First, making sure that the boat and its systems are not damaged by cold temperatures, rain, and, wind. Secondly, we want to have any repairs or maintenance done so the boat will be ready to go come spring. Certainly, there are some exceptions to the above. Perhaps you no longer have a boat, but perhaps you could assist a new boater with this process. You might be fortunate, as Patty and I are. We use our boat year around, and it is kept in a boat house, so there is minimal winterization. But for many, vessel winterization is a necessity.

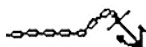
Most of you, I am sure, have gone through this process before. Have you created a check list and a cheat sheet? If you do not have a check list, now is the time to develop one. There are a number of resources on the Internet to assist you in either creating a winterization check list or to improve the one that you have. By having a check list, there is much less chance for things to be forgotten or not done. What about the cheat sheet? That document covers the things to know about winterizing your vessel. How do you prepare the water system (where is the drain, do you just drain it or add antifreeze, how much antifreeze do you need, etc.). What about the engine, the bilge, the electronics? Every boat is different and the cheat sheet for your boat can make the entire winterization process go easier and quicker.

Winterize your mind? Really?

What can you do to get the most out of the “off season” for yourself? What classes can you take to better prepare you for boating, or teaching, or just expanding your knowledge? What books might you want to read? While there are countless books that would be of value, I can name a few that I regularly visit. How to read a Nautical Chart by Nigel Calder. While we might be using paper charts less often, there is a wealth of information there, and even some of it carries over to the electronic charts. Nigel does a great job of not only giving you more information than “Chart One” ever did, but sprinkles the information with some history lessons.

Would you like to challenge yourself, your friends, or your grandkids? How about The Nautical Puzzle Book, by The National Maritime Museum. I can grantee you some smiles and lessons learned. What about the maritime history here in our own backyard? Exploring Maritime Washington: A History and Guide, by Erich Ebel, will no doubt increase your knowledge and appreciation for just some of the things that have gone on in the waters of our area.

While the fall and the winter are a time to clean the gutters, rake the leaves and drain the garden hoses, it is also a time to prepare our boats and ourselves. Before you know it, the rain will lessen, the sunny days will increase, and Spring will appear. What preparations you make now will impact how prepared your vessel and your mind is for boating in 2025.





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

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

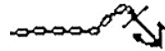


Currently we have Marine Navigation on Thursdays via Zoom with Beaverton Power Squadron.

Beaverton will also be having the seminar All About VHS/DSC Marine Radio on November 17. This is a one-time 2 hour seminar. It is free for USPS members but \$25 if you want to take the exam and get USPS credit for it. For more information and to pre-register click here:

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregformx.cgi?S-9567>

I hope to have another Engine Maintenance class starting in February if there is enough interest.



**TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
2024 – 2025**

Commander	Cdr Larry Warren, AP
Executive Officer	Lt/C Edward Yotter, SN
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

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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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Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
Boat Show	Vacant
Legislative	Vacant

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Membership Involvement	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
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Programs	Lt Barbara Prudente

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Historian	Vacant
Commencement Bay	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

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1 Yr Term	Lt Debbie Wolfe
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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

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2 Yr Term	Lt Becky Arrington, S
3 Yr Term	Lt Tom Ferree, JN

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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

1Yr Term	Cdr Larry Warren, AP
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

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Lt Scott MacLeod, P

ELECTIVE COURSES CHAIRPERSON

Vacant

ADVANCED GRADES CHAIRPERSON

P/C Kevin Kennedy, SN



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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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Lt Karen Jackson

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Cover photo by
Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Christmas Brunch @ TYC	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Ex.Bd Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ TBD	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 No General Meeting this month	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26 <small>Boxing Day</small> Deadline for January edition The Wake Astern	27	28
29	30	31				

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November 2024

