

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB 

Tacoma   
& South Puget Sound

# The Wake Astern

October 2020

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 81 No. 10



**COMMANDER**



**H**ello fellow Squadron members

As I'm writing this it is pouring rain and windy outside, it's also only 64 degrees out. The "summer that wasn't" has definitely ended, and Fall is on the way. If you are not going to be boating anymore until spring, now is the time to think about winterizing your boat. A good thorough wash down is just the beginning. It's time to make sure all valves are closed, scuppers are clean, fuel tanks topped off. Check your zincs, and remove anything that might get damp over the winter months. Don't forget to pump out any holding tanks and absolutely be sure to drain water tanks.

The farmers almanac is calling for a cold winter this year. If your boat is moored in the water all of the time, make sure that automatic bilge pump is operating correctly and there is no debris in your bilge that could clog it. Last but not least, check to see if there are any repairs or service work required for your boat. The boatyards are not as busy in the winter and you can get your work done rather quickly compared to the springtime.

Speaking of Fall, the D16 Fall Governing Board is Saturday Oct 10. It will be a virtual meeting all done online. We are still in need of delegates to represent the Tacoma Power Squadron. We need a minimum of 2, and can have a maximum of 6 voting delegates. The rules do not allow Squadron Commanders to have a vote, so just letting the Bridge do it doesn't work too well. Stan Wolfe will be one of our representatives, but we have no Administrative Officer so we currently have only one voting delegate. This is a good time to get in some hours towards a merit mark. If you have accumulated some hours but have not got 10 hours in, this could be enough to put you over the top. To be a delegate you only need to be a dues current member in good standing (which everyone is if your dues are paid). If you ever wondered what goes on at these meetings, but couldn't make the trip to some location far away here is your chance. Just let myself or Stan Wolfe know and we will notify district that you are a delegate and they will send you an invitation to participate via Zoom. The whole thing will be a watch only/audio off presentation until they do the voting later in the afternoon. I would encourage any new or short time members to participate and see how things work and what direction we are headed.

There has been no change in the social restrictions due to covid-19 so we will not be having physical general meeting for October. However, the Executive Board has authorized, and the Squadron has purchased a commercial (?) Zoom account. What this means is that we will now have the capability to do online meetings for Education classes, Executive Board meetings, and General meetings. A big THANK YOU to Stan Wolfe for setting this up for us. This will be new to a lot of us so please be patient with us as we work our way thru making this work for the general meetings with many people involved. At this point there is a lot to figure out so be patient and we will see what we come up with. We are leaning toward having presentations, that could be one of our members relating an experience they had, or a short seminar on a subject, or a guest speaker, either a live presentation or canned. So stay tuned and see what happens.

Lastly, some of our members were at Port Orchard Labor Day weekend. There is still some life out there on the water. Hopefully the 2021 boating season will be a lot more fun than this one was. We all miss seeing and visiting with each other and sharing our experiences. Remember that our Wake Astern editor Richard Mattox has graciously agreed to accept stories we submit to him and e-mail them out to members as a way to try to stay in touch with each other. So send him some stories, your best day on the water, or, your worst. If you learned something interesting from an experience, or found a small out of the way marina worth sharing, let Richard know. I will be sending him a story very soon, and Stan has already sent him one, so start watching your e-mails. Until next time, stay safe, get ready for next season and stay in touch. 

**General Meeting**  
**October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Format & Time**  
**To Be Determined**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**October 13th (7:00-9:00 PM)**  
**Via Zoom**

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# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN

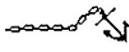
Greetings from your Executive Officer!

The District 16 Fall 2020 conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, but will be a virtual meeting. The District Commander will publish details closer to the date of the meeting and I will have a flash e-mail distributed to all members conveying those details.

Don't forget that despite the pandemic and the restrictions on activities it has caused, there are activities you can still do. Cooperative charting and getting a vessel safety check come to mind.

Deb and I found a geodetic survey marker quite by accident. We were at Mount Constitution on Orcas Island, admiring the pre-smoke view when Deb looked down next to her feet and said, "Isn't that one of those markers like we looked for last year?" Yes it was. I used a \$0.99 phone app called Solocator to take a picture of it and reported it up the chain to our Cooperative Charting Chairperson, P/D/C Jim Harden, JN-CN.

A vessel safety check is another safe activity that requires minimal and safe interaction. If you haven't gotten your boat's vessel safety check this year, it's not too late, but in any event now is the time to get ready for 2021 by preparing your boat and contacting Lt Sue Walker, P via e-mail at [sue98402@gmail.com](mailto:sue98402@gmail.com). I'd like to share some observations from my last VSC. Be it a car or a boat, systems you don't use often enough are the ones that tend to break down and since you don't use them, you don't know they are inoperative. So, during my last VSC, my boat failed - first time ever. The root cause was lack of use during routine boating. The secondary cause was my failure to check everything before the examiner arrived. I have a diesel boat and have gotten into the bad habit of not using my blower prior to starting the engines. If I had gasoline engines, that would be a big no-no, as gas vapors can detonate. Diesel seems to be immune from such behavior, but I should run the blower and do so now. The other item was the horn. I have one of those two-horn electric types, and the contacts tend to corrode. I stopped blowing my horn as I departed my boathouse in deference to other folks preference for peace and quiet. Yup, at some point the horn had corroded and was also inoperative. I was able to remedy both with some simple maintenance and earned the VSC decal. Since then, and in preparation for our vacation cruise to the San Juans, I discovered that neither of my aft bilge pumps worked. Routine troubleshooting (per my USPS Boat Electrical Systems course) indicated a corroded connection on one and a frozen shaft on the other. I replaced the bad pump and rewired both to make the connections more water-proof. Lesson learned, throw those switches to check and use all your safety systems. I will report that my running lights worked first time, every time - I remember to check them at least once a month. Of course the obvious solution to all these problems is - go boating more often!



## TACOMA & SOUTH PUGET SOUND SEA STORIES

With our current situation of social distancing and limited face-to-face communication, Cdr Gary Dildine thought it might be beneficial and fun to connect our membership with your Sea Stories.

**Contents would be forwarded and shared only with our Squadron members via email.**

So with this in mind, if you would like to share your stories and photos with the rest of our members, please send your inputs to [ricque0602@comcast.net](mailto:ricque0602@comcast.net). The narrative should be in word document format (.doc) and the pictures should be submitted as (.jpg) documents.

Closing date for articles is the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please direct all articles to the Editor. E-mail to: [ricque0602@comcast.net](mailto: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.



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

**EDUCATIONAL  
DEPARTMENT**



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

**Virtual Education**

Public schools are not the only ones learning remotely. America's Boating Club is going strong in the virtual learning world! We just completed Partner in Command led by Gary Ball and Gary is also leading a Piloting class October –December. Other Squadrons in District 16 and nationwide are holding classes virtually. This gives people many options to learning from home. Another Partner in Command class is tentatively scheduled for October 20 since we had to turn people away from the last class. The **Partner in Command** seminar includes an introduction to boating, understanding anchoring, docking, and navigation, preparing for bad weather, first aid and on-board emergencies, and more. If you or someone you know wants to take this class, sign up at [usps.org](http://usps.org) or contact me, [benric7@gmail.com](mailto:benric7@gmail.com).

Other classes being offered in our district remotely are:

Class	Squadron	Start date
Boat Handling	Seattle	Oct. 5
Boat Handling	Friday Harbor	Oct. 7
Boat Handling	Everett	Oct. 22
Radar for Boaters	Skagit Bay	Nov. 6

If you are interested in any of these classes and others visit:  
<https://americasboatingclub.org/find-a-course-near-you/?zip=98467&range=150>  
or go to [usps.org](http://usps.org) and search for courses near you.





**Tacoma Power Squadron  
Executive Board Meeting  
September 8, 2020**

**ROLL CALL** (Quorum = 7: C,E,A,S,T, E & 7 board members)

**Bridge members responding:**

Cmdr Gary Dildine, AP, IN  
Lt/C Stanley Wolfe, SN-CN  
Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S  
Lt/C Beth Stone, S  
Lt/C Aaron Strasser

**Board Members: responding**

P/C Richard Mattox, AP  
Lt Cathy Reed  
Lt Barbara Dildine, AP, IN  
P/C Larry Warren, AP  
Lt Sam Hill  
Brenda Williamson  
Tom Ferree

**Board Members not responding:**

Lt Karen Jackson  
P/C Tim Craig, P – (had trouble accessing Zoom)

Brenda Williamson gave us a quick lesson in how to use Zoom.  
Minutes of March 10, 2020 – Minutes accepted. Motion to approve and seconded.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**Executive Officer** – Lt/C Stanley Wolfe, SN-CN

Reached out to Jim Harden for charting plans with squadron. Sue Walker on status of Vessel Safety Checks.  
Have not heard back from either.

**Admin Officer** –

Vacant, but nothing to report

**Secretary** – Lt/C Beth Stone

Jackie has been working with me to bring me up to date.

**Treasurer** – Lt/C Aaron Strasser

Via email: Aaron had trouble accessing bank account. He has a meeting scheduled with the bank to be able to get full access to both the savings and checking accounts. He has reported that we currently have \$13,136.79. He will have a full report, plus information on the HQ Education account by the next meeting.

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

Classes – “Partner in Command” class has been scheduled. Have 6 books and 6+ students. Gary Ball will teach, 9/22 & 9/24. Gary will also do a Piloting Class. Class is full & is starting on 10/1/20.

**(Exec Brd Mtg Minutes continued on Page 6)**

**(Exec Brd Mtg Minutes continued from Page 5)**

**Commander** – Cmdr Gary Dildine, AP, IN

**Wake Astern** – sent out last week. Asked for input from members of their experience, to share with others. Will share as an email (Show and Tell!) Pictures can be included. Richard will send it out. May be Internet only as a possibility in the future.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Purchase of Zoom for use by Education Dept and Exec Board meetings** - \$149 per year for account. Have asked for approval. Is opening up classes with different squadrons, so we have more options for classes. Bellevue can have people scan their test and send to them for approval. Brenda has “proctored” some people’s tests as an option. We will proctor future test if our members sign up for other squadron classes. Squadron needs an email to sign up for Zoom. Tom will send it out. Motion approved. Stan Wolfe will be setting it up.

**Possibility of cancellation of future General meetings and Christmas Party** – Looking forward towards the rest of the year, there is a likelihood that we will be unable to have gatherings for the rest of the year. Asking for ways to get together in other ways. Tom suggested we do Zoom for monthly meetings. Have business side go quickly and have a speaker do a presentation. Unless there is something to vote on, we don’t have to have the business portion of the meeting (this was decided on in February.) Recommending to still have a status. Send out a copy of the Board Meeting to the general membership so they have the information.

Have a presentation for members for the general meetings.

Barbara Prudente – putting together next general meeting. (Intro to use of Zoom.) Picture of boating from this summer.

**Extra Newsletter (internet only)** – Richard M. will send out an email with an attachment of us sharing our stories. Tom suggested to maybe give a prize at the end of the year for favorite story, funniest story, or other categories.

**National Meeting this weekend (virtual)** – Itinerary of classes. If you want to watch, can click in.

**Delegates for October District virtual meeting (min of 2, max of 6)** – Rec’d email from Craig asking for at least 2 delegates (maximum of 6 delegates). Past district commanders cannot be a delegate. Currently, no one has volunteered. Stan W. will attend. Will publish in the web site to ask for delegates.

**Sunshine person** – how well is everyone doing health wise. It will be put in the next newsletter to remind people that we have this benefit. Tom F. volunteered to oversee this.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Merit Marks : credit for Covid-19 activities** –

- National has added an additional category to earn a merit mark – Put in any time to assist in anything related to Covid-19 (i.e., making masks, encourage health care 1<sup>st</sup> responders, meals, etc.). Members can submit their hours to National for credit. This announcement will be posted on our web site. Another example is if someone worked on helping the Summer Cruise, that person would receive Merit Marks (even though the cruise was canceled). Other areas as well. If you put in Hours... you get credit.
- Christine R. is still the Merit Mark Coordinator, but Gary will double check with her.
- Credit if 10 hours a year to help the squadron. After 25 years of merit marks, a member is not required to pay national dues (way of thanking us). Stan Wolfe will take care of Merit Marks,

**Adjourned at 8:08 PM**



# Tacoma & South Puget Sound 2020 Rendezvous Schedule

TPS Summer Cruise 2020 is officially re-scheduled for 2021 with one exception. New dates with mostly same locations:

Poulsbo	July 23	July 25
PortLudlow	July 25	July 27
** Port Townsend (Need to call for scheduling)	July 27	July 30
Pleasant Harbor	July 30	August 2
Kingston	August 2	August 5
Brownsville	August 5	August 8

Port Townsend does not have the ability to re-schedule a year in advance; they are considering a 10-month in advance system. They will send a refund check. I will call them the end of September and attempt to re-book for July 27, 2021. All other ports will keep the money sent for group reservations and have confirmed our visit as reflected above.

**Need a Vessel Safety Check?**  
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**All you have to do is contact**  
**Lt Sue Walker, S**  
**Email: [sue98402@gmail.com](mailto: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 POWER SQUADRON  
2020 - 2021**

Commander	Cdr Gary Dildine, AP,IN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN,CN
Administrative Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Educational Officer	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Secretary	Lt/C Beth Stone
Treasurer	Lt/C Aaron Strasser, S

**COMMANDER'S DEPT**

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

**EXECUTIVE DEPT**

Executive Off	Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN,CN
Safety Off	<b>Vacant</b>
Coop Charting	R/P/C Jim Harden, SN, CN

Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
VSC Chair	Lt Sue Walker, P
Boat Show	<b>Vacant</b>
Legislative	<b>Vacant</b>

**ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT**

Admin Off	<b>Vacant</b>
Boating Activities	Lt Cindy Warren, AP
Membership	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Mbrship Involvement	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Operations Training Programs	P/D/C Otto Rasmusen SN, CN Lt Barbara Prudente

**SECRETARY DEPT**

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

**TREASURER DEPT**

<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lt/C Aaron Strasser, S</b>
Ship's Store	P/C Tim(P) & Linda(S) Craig
Property Off	<b>Vacant</b>

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1 Yr Term	P/C Richard Mattox, AP
1 Yr Term	Lt Karen Jackson
1 Yr Term	P/C Tim Craig, P
2 Yr Term	Lt Cathy Reed
2 Yr Term	Lt Barbara Dildine, AP,IN
3 Yr Term	P/C Larry Warren, AP
3 Yr Term	Lt Sam Hill

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1 Yr Term	Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN
2 Yr Term	Lt Leah Hafterson, P
3 Yr Term	Lt Patti Ambrose

**RULES COMMITTEE**

1 Yr Term	Lt Melinda Mackey, S
2 Yr Term	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
3 Yr Term	<b>Vacant</b>

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

1 Yr Term	P/C Larry Warren, AP
2 Yr Term	P/C Mark Hafterson, AP
3 Yr Term	P/C Richard Mattox, AP

**EDUCATIONAL DEPT**

SEO	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
ASEO	Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN

**ABC CHAIR**

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

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

**Vacant**

**ADVANCED GRADES CHAIR**

P/C Kevin Kennedy, SN



**BRIDGE OFFICERS**

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Administrative Officer  
Vacant  
Educational Officer  
Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S  
(253) 566-8105  
Lt/C Sandi Carroll, SN  
Secretary  
Lt/C Beth Stone  
Treasurer  
Lt/C Aaron Strasser, S

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

P/C Richard Mattox, AP  
Lt Karen Jackson  
P/C Tim Craig, P  
Lt Cathy Reed  
P/C Larry Warren, AP  
Lt Barbara Dildine  
Lt Samuel Hill

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www.uspsd16.org

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Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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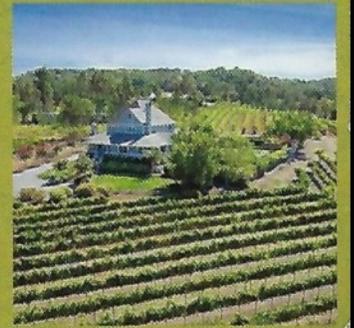
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DON JACOBSEN

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# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>Plt Cls via Zoom</b>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 <b>Plt Cls via Zoom</b>	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13 <b>Ex. Bd Mtg 7:00-9:00PM via Zoom</b>	14	15 <b>Plt Cls via Zoom</b>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <b>Plt Cls</b>	23	24
25	26	27 <b>Gen Mtg To Be Determined</b>	28 <b>Deadline for November Edition The Wake Astern</b>	29 <b>Plt Cls via Zoom</b>	30	31 Halloween

October 2020

# Tacoma & South Puget Sound



## November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 <b>Plt Cls via Zoom</b>	6	7
8	9	10 <b>Ex. Bd Mtg 7:00-9:00PM via Zoom</b>	11 Veterans Day	12 <b>Plt Cls via Zoom</b>	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 <b>Plt Cls via Zoom</b>	20	21
22	23	24 <b>Gen Mtg To Be Determined</b>	25 <b>Deadline for December Edition The Wake Astern</b>	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

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**OCTOBER 2020**

*The Wake Astern*