



The Wake Astern

September 2025 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 86 No. 9





For Boaters, By Boaters"



COMMANDER



SPS members are viewed as knowledgeable boaters. We share that knowledge with other boat operators increasing their skills. I thought it would be fun to shake some cobwebs off of our knowledge with a short quiz. I take no credit for creating this quiz. I borrowed it from the November 2022 edition

Cdtr Craig Brown, SN-ACN of the Squawk Box (USPS Bremerton).

How Salty are You? Light 'em Up

- 1. You are cruising at night when you see a vessel 2 points off your starboard bow that's displaying a white masthead light, red port running light and a steadily flashing yellow light. What is it and what is it doing?
 - a. A float plane taxiing
 - b. A fishing vessel with a trawl astern
 - An air-cushion vessel underway in non-displacement mode
 - d. A submarine operating on the surface
- You are cruising at night, and you encounter a vessel, but this time on your port bow. It is displaying two white lights one higher than the other (the higher light is to the right of the lower) and a green side light. What could it be and what is it doing?
 - A small craft underway and up on plane.
 - A tug with a barge in tow.
 - A submarine operating on the surface.
 - d. A large (over 50m) vessel underway.
- You spot a vessel operating close aboard to port. It is not displaying running lights. As you pass the vessel all you can see is a single steady white light. Choose all that may apply.
 - A 12-foot motor-powered vessel under command
 - A 25-foot craft at anchor
 - A rowboat under way
 - d. A lighted mid-channel buoy

(Quiz continued on Page 3)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2025 (6:30-8:30 PM)

@ Day Iland Yacht Club **University Place**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

September 9th, 2025 (6:00-8:00 PM)

@ Black Bear Diner

Contents Cdr Rpt/Quiz-SEO Rpt-Page 5 XO Rpt/Salmon Bake/Quiz Answers-Page 6-7 Dist 16 Fall Conference— 2025-2026 TPS Organizational Roster-Page 9



(Quiz continued from Page 2)

Cans, Nuns, and Buoys

- 1. The phrase "Red, Right, Returning" is familiar to all experienced boaters. What does it mean? Choose as many as are true.
 - a. You are nearing a port.
 - b. You are operating in the northern hemisphere.
 - c. When entering a U.S. port keep the red buoys to starboard.
- 2. You haven't been to Liberty Bay for a while, but you finally have a weekend to go boating so you head to Poulsbo Marina. As you enter the bay, you notice a red and white vertically striped sphere floating right in the middle of the channel (47°- 43. 05' N 122°- 38.30'W). What does it mean? (Doesn't actually exist any longer)
 - a. Liberty Bay has been designated as a Washington State Exceptional Boating Recreation Area.
 - b. It is a parade route marker buoy for the Poulsbo Christmas lighted boat parade.
 - c. It is marking a submerged hazard.
 - d. The water is unobstructed on all sides of the buoy.



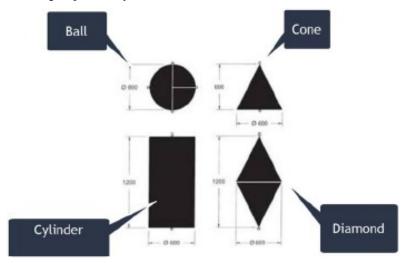
- 3. You are cruising north in Skagit Bay preparing to enter the cut into the Swinomish Channel. You know that you need to turn east when the Range Mark Dayboards are aligned. After you make your turn, you look astern and note that the rear marker is to the right of the front marker. Did you turn...
 - a. Too soon?
 - b. Too Late?
 - c. Just right?

(Quiz continued on Page 4)



(Quiz continued from page 3)

The Shape of the Day



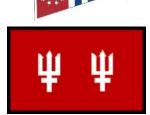
- 1. You are at an anchorage when a large vessel riding low in the water enters displaying a black cylinder. What does the black cylinder mean?
 - a. The vessel has a submerged tow.
 - b. The vessel has limited maneuverability due to its draft.
 - c. The vessel is fully loaded and waiting for space on the wharf to unload.
 - d. The vessel contains hazardous cargo.
- 2. A vessel is displaying one black ball near the masthead. The vessel is . .
 - a. Anchored.
 - b. Waiting for a pilot.
 - c. Not under command.
 - d. Underway with no way on.
- 3. You are headed west in the Strait of Juan de Fuca when you site a vessel displaying two cones point-to-point in the rigging of the mast and an upright cone displayed in the rigging on the port side of the mast. What is the vessel doing?
 - a. Trawling with a trawl net deployed 150 meters aft
 - b. Fishing other than trawling with gear extending out horizontally to port 150 meters or more
 - c. Sailing with the engine on
 - d. At anchor with a 500m security zone
- 4. You come upon a small vessel displaying an Alpha Flag . What does the flag signify?
 - a. The skipper is waiting for other members of the YC to join for a raft up.
 - b. The vessel is anchored with engines running.
 - c. The vessel is waiting to be boarded for a quarantine inspection.
 - d. The vessel is engaged in diving operations.

(Quiz answers on Page 7)





EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

here are two courses currently scheduled for this Fall. The first is a course on Weather starting October 2 and running for seven weeks at Tacoma Yacht Club. Thanks Stan Wolfe for teaching this. The second is an 8-hour basic boating course starting November 3 at Day Island Yacht Club taught by Stan Wolfe, Bob Hays, and Jim Harden. Thank you all for volunteering your time to fulfill one of the key strategic objectives of our club.

Safe boating is a constant learning process. Learning new things and reinforcing things we learned years ago. Like checking tides and currents. We had a friend run Yuculta Rapids without checking Ports and Passes or any other references for currents. He hit it when it was flowing way beyond anything I would feel comfortable doing. Wayyy beyond. He and his crew came out just fine, but the outcome could have been different.

Recently another experienced boater didn't check tide tables and put his boat underwater. A simple oversight with significant consequences.

We offer several courses a year. Take one. Take two. Recommend them to your friends and family. Let's all be safer together.











EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Lt/C Bob Hays, AP

Well, we all had an opportunity to take a break during the summer. Some of us (me) seemed to take perhaps too much of a break. I have managed to miss the deadline for getting my article into virtually all of the Wake Astern issues. I will do a better job on watching my calendar, and catching the reminders from our amazing editor Richard Mattox.

Are you ready for our first Fall Meeting? Have you got stories to share about your summer adventures? Do you want to know what classes are already scheduled for the coming months? Do you have some ideas of classes that need to be considered to add to our calendar?

So many questions, but most, if not all of the answers can be found by attending our September Meeting! Please take a few moments to put the date and time for our upcoming meeting on your calendar. Give some thought on what things you would like to be involved in as we move back into activity mode.

You have knowledge that others can benefit from. You have skills that would help others. By sharing what we know with each other and others in the community we all benefit.

Here are excerpts from an online posting by Seattle Fabrics Inc.

Carry Safety Equipment

Safety should be the top priority for all boat trips, whether they are long or short. Unexpected weather or accidents can quickly dampen your holiday fun, or even turn into real threat. Stay prepared by bringing the safety essentials with you.

To begin, all passengers should be wearing a life jacket. Each boat requires a different standard of life jacket depending on its size, so be sure to check the regulations before beginning your trip.

You will also need a sounding device like a horn or whistle designed for boaters. This can help notify others during cloudy or foggy weather with little to no visibility. Vessels greater than 39 feet need a bell that must be sounded regularly during murky visibility.

Navigation lights are also essential. You will need a specific type of light or lights depending on your boat's size and use. There are a variety of day and night time flares available, each casting a bright light and smoke to make a clear alert in times of need.

For even greater security, ensure you are aware of marine distress signals. There are a variety of distress signals such as, a ball over or under a square flag, or an orange cloth with a black square and black circle, which signals to flying vehicles for help.

Aside from emergency preparations, it's always a great idea to carry medical kits, VHF radios, flashlights, and cellphones for your maximum protection.

Review the Washington State Required Equipment Checklist

Each state requires you to follow their own rules and regulations for the safest trip possible. By failing to comply with the required equipment checklist, you could be held legally liable, and you will also be risking your own safety and that of those on the boat.

(XO Rpt continued on Page 7)



(XO Rpt continued from Page 6)

Some of the most important must-haves are a boating registration, personal flotation devices, and a copy of the State Parks-approved educational checklist. Check with the official list to make sure you have absolutely everything you need before departure.

Keep Track of the Forecast

Staying informed about the weather is highly important for a safe and enjoyable trip. For the most accurate information, watch the <u>marine weather forecast</u> on the days leading up to your trip.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!



IT'S ALMOST HERE!!!

WHAT? Sharp's Annual Salmon Bake

WHERE? 5517 Kinney Rd. S.W. Olympia, WA 98512

WHEN? Saturday, September 20th, 2025. 1:00 P.M.

WHY? Getting together for socializing can be fun. We put that together with food and adult beverage and call it a party. We gather to see old and new friends.

We will serve the best Clams and Salmon cooked on an open fire. Bring your chairs and a side dish. We will call it a potluck. B.Y.O.B., we will have mixers. We usually have corn on the cob. We will guess on that one. We do ask \$10.00 each to cover the Salmon, Clams, etc. Thank you, Chuck and Viki. All plates, silver, etc. will be provided.

Please RSVP directly to Chuck & Viki Sharp by Thursday, September 18, 2025:

email: trickyviki1944@q.com, HP: 360-866-7134, Cell: 360-359-2774.

Quiz Answers

Light 'em Up
1. c, 2. d, 3. a, b, c
Cans, Nuns, and Buoys
1. c, 2. d, 3. b
The Shape of the Day
1. b, 2. a, 3. b, 4. d



SAVE THE DATE!

District 16 Fall Conference

September 26 - 27, 2025 Port of Everett Marina 1205 Craftsman Way, Suite 200 Everett, WA 98201

Friday, September 26

Evening Reception & Dinner: Location TBD

Saturday, September 27

Fall Conference 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

- Continental Breakfast
- Catered Lunch
- Guest Speaker





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Lt Jeff Krueger

Lt Brian Prudente

Lt Debbie Harden

P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

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Vacant

The Wake Astern

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Vacant

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Cover photo by Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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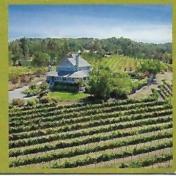
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September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	6:00	9 .Bd Mtg -8:00 PM k Bear Diner	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18		20 Inon Bake narp's Home
21	6:3	30-8:30 PM Octo	24 eadline for ober edition Wake Astern	25	26 Dist 16 Fall Con	27 f
28	29	30				



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Weather Cls @ TYC	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Weather Cls @ TYC	10	11
12	6:0	14 x.Bd Mtg 0-8:00 PM ck Bear Diner	15	16 Weather Cls @ TYC	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Weather Cls @ TYC	24	25
26	6:3	0-8:30 PM Noven	29 adline for nber edition Vake Astern	30 Weather Cls @ TYC	31 Halloween	

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



September 2025

THE WAKE ASTERN

A foggy day at Deception Pass
(Winning Photo Contest by P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN)