

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB 

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

**The
Wake Astern**

September 2024 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 85 No. 9





Cdr Larry Warren, AP

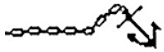
COMMANDER



September always seems like a new year or a new beginning to me. Like a school kid who's had a summer off and is ready to start a new year of learning. Ready to see old friends and brag about the experiences they've had during the summer break. For me, it just feels like I need to get back in the groove to do my small part in making the Squadron a more vital, more appealing place that people want to join, belong and contribute to the mission of the United States Power Squadron's, AKA, America's Boating Club. It's a tall order that has yet to be elusive to get a hold of; even for our National headquarters, retaining members is struggling. Part of this has to do with the age of the overall group that we all belong to. I only have a few more merit marks before I receive my 25th MM.

Many before me have already crossed that milestone, leaving a hole in a strained budget of National, Districts and squadrons alike. It's bad enough that we lose members due to a lack of interest, stopped boating, or a million other reasons. Still, from a monetary standpoint, we also lose members' contributions to funding the squadrons, District, and National. Even if they remain loyal members! So quite a difficulty we've gotten ourselves into! Of course, the only logical thing to do is "We need to recruit new members" I do believe it's been said many times it should be "Job One"! Well, as far as that goes, yes, it's essential to bring in new members; we'll always have that need because there's the fact that we will all cross that bar someday, and then there are those reasons mentioned before. But no matter the reason for needing new blood to run things, we also have a great need to retain those members who may have just joined, transferred from another squadron, or have been loyal members for many years. It seems more challenging to arouse interest in some people to want to join a team and be involved. But Suppose we were able to get them to enter. In that case, we "Must" give them what they need to succeed in their endeavors to be better seamen and navigators or become a licensed Capt..

Anyway, I digress! To get back on track, it takes money to keep an organization up and running. Our Squadron has always been steady in the finances department, not gaining by much but enough to sponsor dinners, picnics, and special events during the year. But in the last couple years slowly losing ground. That most likely has occurred because of a need to have a storage facility for training aids, banners, portable canopies, teaching supplies etc. that we never had before. These things were always in someone's garage or basement, well besides things being spread all over, making it very difficult to keep track of and a real inconvenience for the people who volunteered to store them; thus, the need was there for a storage unit. This leaves us, like others, in a tight spot, so to speak. Well, there's always the easy way out, raise the dues so all, meaning Squadron, District, and National, get a little more each. Or we could ask those who have achieved their 25 MM status to continue paying, say, half of their regular dues. This is something our Squadron has tossed around for some time now. It's time to see how those affected by this change would feel about such an idea to keep us all going for many years.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
Past Commanders' BBQ
September 24th, 2024 (6:30-8:30 PM)
Day Island Yacht Club
University Place

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS
September 10th, 2024 (6:00-8:00 PM)
@ Black Bear Diner
Lakewood, WA

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



New system Changeover

Lt/C Edward Yotter, SN

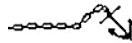
All of us who have found ourselves working in an office environment in our previous lives can relate to the recent letter from the USPS Executive Director asking for our patience during the rollout of the new USPS business system. The new system will solve some of the shortcomings of the previous version, streamline many of the existing functions, and introduce new capabilities. As usually happens, all of the innovations visualized and along with the new bells and whistles has not been smooth.

Some of the processes updated are:

- New member form
- Membership and dues reports
- Enhanced roster reports and
- A Squadron events calendar

So, as you go about poking around in the National USPS new system/data changeover you can probably expect some things to not go as they once did and lead you down a proverbial blind alley or dead-end. Be patient. New computer systems are always more complicated and buggy than the programmers thought they were when they bid on the update. Share your findings and concerns with our squadron and forward them on to National as appropriate.

I seldom used the old system and just recently tried my hand at the new version, so my take on any problems would probably be moot.



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. He will also be taking requests for VSC supplies etc. as well as helping organize VSC team events that we may do.



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

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



America's Boating Club has several boating education opportunities on the horizon. The first is a one-night free seminar on Boat Handling in close quarters September 19. This is a hybrid class, both in person and virtual. See below to register:

Boat Handling in Close Quarters
A Hybrid Class, presented by Point Wilson Squadron
To register, contact Jim West at: phnx789@msn.com

Piloting, Marine Navigation, will be offered via Zoom starting September 23 for 10 weeks, 7-9 pm on Mondays. Piloting is the first of the navigational classes focusing on techniques for piloting a boat in coastal and inland conditions. The course emphasizes planning and checking along with the use of GPS for determining position, and introduces digital charting along with traditional charting, compass and dead reckoning skills. Plotting, labeling, use of the compass, aids to navigation and a host of related topics are included in this all-new approach to coastal and inland piloting.

The cost for the class is \$120 for Power Squadron members and \$180 for non-members, which includes books, course plotter and dividers.

What's included?

- Charts and their interpretation
- Landmarks and navigation aids (buoys, day marks, lights, etc.)
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS - basic GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS course
- Pre-planning courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning

For more information and to pre-register for this course click on the link below:

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

In October we will have America's Boating Course on Mondays (Oct 7, 14, 21, 28) at Day Island Yacht Club, 7-9 pm. Passing ABC qualifies you for Washington State Boater's Card. Cost of this course is \$45. This course covers:

- Charts and their interpretation
- Landmarks and navigation aids (buoys, day marks, lights, etc.)
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS - basic GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS course
- Pre-planning courses and entering them into the GPS

(Education Officer Report continued on Page 5)



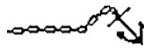
(Education Officer Report continued from Page 4)

- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning

To pre-register for this class click below:

<https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/find-a-class-near-you?zip=98467&range=50>

For more information contact Bentley Rickmers, benric7@gmail.com



America's Boating Channel™ Fire Extinguisher Regulations

In 2022, the Coast Guard amended portable fire extinguisher rules for recreational vessels in the U.S., making it easier and less costly for millions of boat owners to maintain the onboard fire protection equipment that they need.



The rules do not change the number or types of extinguishers required on board but do simplify inspection and record-keeping requirements. The simplified rules also are now published with other recreational boating rules, making it easier to identify them.



America's Boating Channel video "[Fire Extinguisher Regulations](#)" offers an overview of the rules that separates commercial and recreational vessel fire protection requirements. It will help you learn how to ensure that all required portable fire extinguishers comply. Also featured are tips for preventing onboard fires in the first place.

If you need a refresher on classifications and carriage requirements for marine fire extinguishers, the channel offers a second video titled "[Fire Extinguisher Standards.](#)" It offers tips for placing and servicing fire extinguishers, and explains the acronym PASS. Above all, ensure that the proper number of functional fire extinguishers are on board, readily accessible and that all responsible adults on board know to pull, aim, squeeze, and sweep.

If you need a refresher on classifications and carriage requirements for marine fire extinguishers, the channel

U.S. Coast Guard approved marine-type fire extinguishers fully charged and in good and serviceable condition are required on recreational boats where the engines or fuel system could pose a fire hazard. Good and serviceable means that a fire extinguisher aboard a recreational vessel is properly charged and reads charged if it has a pressure gauge reading or charge indicator, that the extinguisher has a pin lock that is firmly in place, that it does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage and has a discharge nozzle that is clean and free from obstructions. Disposable dry chemical extinguishers expire 12 years after their date of manufacture, and rechargeable extinguishers expire annually unless maintained by a certified technician.



Follow the video links above 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.



Jump-Start Your Boating Adventures!

Check your calendars!
District 16 is on an educational mission!

... to provide you with a series of 2-hour web-based no-cost seminars that will enhance your boating experience this summer...

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| June 13 | Rules of the Road with
D/Lt/C Gary Baker, AP-IN, Everett |
| July 25 | Marine Charts and Buoys with
SEO Brian Rachal, AP, Everett |
| August 22 | Using GPS and AIS with
DEO James West, JN, Everett |
| September 25 | Boat Handling in Close Quarters with
SEO Rob Hamilton, Point Wilson |

The clinic, **All About VHF and DSC**, is a precursor to the series and is offered to all attending the Poulsbo Rendezvous. Or just come for the seminar—there's room!

Additional seminars/clinics are scheduled for the Fall of 2024.
If you want to know more or are interested in teaching,
please contact Jim West at phnx789@msn.com.

Tacoma & South Puget Sound 2024 Rendezvous Schedule

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOST</u>
Salmon Bake	Sharp Homestead	September 21	Sharp

Please call host if attending a rendezvous for planning purposes and consider hosting a rendezvous or helping to host.



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.



TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
2024 – 2025

Commander	Cdr Larry Warren, AP
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Administrative Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays
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3 Yr Term	Lt Brian Prudente

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Vacant

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P/C Kevin Kennedy, SN

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Lt Karen Jackson

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Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <small>Labor Day</small>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Ex.Bd Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ Black Bear Diner	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Sharp's Salmon Bake
22	23 Marine Navigation via Zoom	24 Gen Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM @ DIYC	25 Deadline for October edition The Wake Astern	26	27	28
29	30 Marine Navigation via Zoom					

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 ABC Cls @ DIYC Marine Navigation via Zoom	8 Ex.Bd Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ TBD	9	10	11	12
13	14 ABC Cls @ DIYC Marine Navigation via Zoom	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 ABC Cls @ DIYC Marine Navigation via Zoom	22 Gen Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM @ DIYC	23 Deadline for November edition The Wake Astern	24	25	26
27	28 ABC Cls @ DIYC Marine Navigation via Zoom	29	30	31 Halloween		

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AUGUST 2024

