

Tacoma 
& South Puget Sound

The
Wake Astern

November 2020 Monthly Newsletter Vol. 81 No. 11



COMMANDER



Hello Fellow Squadron Members,

There is a lot to report this month so hang on. The D16 Fall Conference was hold via Zoom on Sat. Oct. 10, and a lot came out of it. The message from our Natl. Commander to us was that membership retention and recruitment is Job #1. Several ideas were discussed and shared about keeping members involved in these times when we are all isolated. Natl is also making changes in how its ships store operates. They will no longer carry any inventory but will instead accept orders quarterly and then ship merchandise directly to the party purchasing it. At this time, a National Cdr Gary Dildine, AP-IN Conference is set for Feb. 18-21 in Florida but may be subject to change due to covid-19.

At the District level the big news is that the Agate Pass Squadron is dissolving. Members will be absorbed by the Bremerton Squadron. D16 is also working on a plan to get the D16 newsletter "The Cardinal Points" sent to each member in the District. If there is a Seattle Boat show in 2021, D16 WILL NOT be participating. The last piece of business to be taken care of was voting on the various Squadrons name choices for doing business as "America's Boating Club". Tacoma's dba America's Boating Club of Tacoma and South Puget Sound was approved after some discussion of the definition of "South Puget Sound".

I am proud to tell you that Tacoma received some recognition for several categories of Awards. Our P/C Jerry Lawrence received the lifetime award for accumulating 25 merit marks. P/C Jim Harden and P/C Vicki Sharp were recognized for their VSC numbers. We had 4 members that were recognized for their individual efforts in co-op charting: P/C Jim Harden, P/C Debbie Harden, Exec Officer Stan Wolfe, and P/C Larry Warren. Tacoma as a Squadron was recognized as being # 7 nationally in co-op charting. Thanks to all of you who helped make this happen.

Tacoma also received national recognition for the hard work of our membership dept. We were recognized for 8% growth in 2019 for Squadron's over 114 members. We were 3rd in the Nation. We have also just recently received an award for 2020 for recruiting 15 new members in the first 6 months of the year. Great job everyone.

Now to get down to what is happening here in our own backyard, actually quite a bit. We WILL NOT be able to have our annual Christmas Brunch at Tacoma Yacht Club this year. The restaurant is open, but not for groups over 4 or 5. WE WILL have our toy drive for toys for the Bridges program at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. The toys go to children who are grieving the loss of a parent or sibling. We have supported this program for years and will do so this year also. It has been pointed out that many families this year are struggling financially so we are also asking that you bring a canned food donation that we can take to a food bank. TYC has agreed to let us use their parking lot so that you can drive up to make your donation. The details are not finalized as to dates and times, but we are looking at Sat & Sun December 5 & 6 for about an hour each day. Please watch the website for details and help us to support these worthy causes.

We just had our first general meeting using Zoom on the Internet. It was a small but great turnout. After going over the Minutes from the Executive Board meeting, Jim Harden gave a short but interesting presentation on locating geodetic markers for the co-op charting program.

(Commander Rpt continued on Page 5)

General Meeting
November 24th
6:30-8:30 PM
Via Zoom

Executive Board Meeting
November 10th
7:00-9:00 PM
Via Zoom

Contents

XO Report	Page 3
SEO Report	Page 4
Holiday Message	Page 5/6
The Fog/The Smoke	Page 7/8
VSC	Page 8
2021 TPS Rendv Schedule	Page 9
2020-2021 TPS Organizational Roster	Page10



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN

Greetings from your Executive Officer!

The District 16 Fall 2020 conference occurred October 10 via Zoom. The theme by all, from the National Commander all the way through the D16 Bridge was that despite COVID-19, the Power Squadrons mission remains the same and most mission critical activities can be conducted safely. In that vein, VSCs and geodetic recoveries have continued. During the conference, Tacoma was recognized by National for our contributions in 2019. I discuss below the accomplishments for our VSEs and Cooperative Charting members.

During 2019, District 16 acknowledged, with their national ranking, four members from Tacoma for Cooperative Charting:

- 104 ranking – Larry Warren
- 85 ranking – Stan Wolfe
- 29 ranking – Debbie Harden
- 12 ranking – Jim Harden

Debbie and Jim Harden submitted enough Geodetic Marks to qualify for the national Honor Roll and will be receiving an honor roll certificate. Tacoma Power Squadron is ranked 7th and was awarded an honor roll certificate for having at least six members reporting during the year.

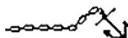
In 2019, two individuals were recognized by District for conducting a significant number of vessel safety checks. Jim Harden completed 80 VSCs making him the second most prolific VSE in the District while Viki Sharp completed 204 giving her first place within the District. Viki was acknowledged at the National Annual Meeting awarding her the Century Club Member for the 10th year.

Not discussed in detail but mentioned in passing at the Fall Conference was the fact that VSCs have been conducted despite COVID limitations. The National Vessel Safety Committee has announced that the minimum of five VSCs to maintain qualification as a VE has been suspended for this year due to COVID 19.

For 2020, totals for VSCs to date:

- Mike Arrington-12
- Tom Ferree-8
- Bob Gunter-5
- Jim Hanson-3
- Jim Harden-36
- Brett Hassler-2
- Bill Larson-9
- Brian Prudente-10
- Otto Rasmussen-3
- Viki Sharp-42

Looking ahead to Christmas, it appears we will not be having our annual Christmas Brunch on December 6th. But all is not lost; we do plan on supporting Bridges Center for Grieving Children by holding a gift drive with collection of gifts in the Tacoma Yacht Club parking lot on Sunday, December 6. Be on the lookout for more information and please support this worthy cause.



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.



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

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



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

Classing are zooming along! ☺

Gary Ball conducted another Partner in Command October 20 that was very well attended over Zoom. Gary is also teaching a Piloting class now through December 10 via Zoom. Lance and Brenda Williamson are heading America's Boating Course beginning October 27 through November 24 with 18 students by Zoom! Stan Wolfe and Monti Minion are also teaching one section each for ABC. See what I mean!! We are Zooming!! Since many classes are virtual that opens many classes throughout District 16 and beyond. We have members taking classes from Seattle, Beaverton and Everett Squadrons.

Some upcoming classes being offered virtually are:

Boat Handling (formally called Seamanship) Starting November 2 by Beaverton Power Squadron.

Our new Boat Handling course is intended for newer recreational boaters who have completed a basic boating class (like America's Boating Course) and want to gain more knowledge, skill, and confidence to boat safely and have more fun in a variety of situations. Boat Handling covers these six topics:

- Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach
- Confidence in Docking and Undocking: Slow-Speed Maneuvering
- Boating with Confidence: Handling Your Boat Under Way
- Anchoring with Assurance: Don't Get Carried Away
- Emergencies on Board: Preparation for Handling Common Problems
- Knots and Line Handling: The Knots You Need to Know

It is taught by Live Instructor led Virtual Conference Meeting. Starting Monday November 2nd, 2020. Six sessions total plus exam. Time is 7 PM to 9 PM Mondays. Price \$75 including eBook and exam.

Any questions and registrations can be directed to Alf.Dueser@alum.rpi.edu or 9148264127 cell.

Junior Navigation starting January 4 by Bellevue

Sail starting January 11 by Everett Sail and Power Squadron

<https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregformx.cgi?L-16587>

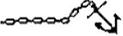
Check out usps.org for all other classes being presented.

<https://www.americasboatingclub.org/find-a-course-near-you?zip=98467&range=150>

We hope to have an Advance Piloting class early next year probably starting January 21, 2021! Stay tuned!!
So, if you are looking for something to do while stuck at home why not take a boating class! 🚤



(Commander Rpt continued from Page 2)

It is something you can do even during covid-19. It's worth merit marks, and it's a lot of fun. After Jim's presentation we all visited online about what we are doing or have been doing. Hopefully more of you will join us in Nov. I think you will enjoy it, and it's nice to see a lot of people we haven't seen for a while. Since it is November, I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. I hope you are all safe and well and looking forward to a better boating season in 2021. 



Hello, fellow Power Squadron Members, as you know it is about this time of year, we start making plans for our Christmas Brunch. However, this year has brought us yet another disappointment. We will not be able to get together for this year's Brunch. On the bright side, we felt it would be a shame Not to continue the tradition of giving gifts to Bridges Center for Grieving Children, so we contacted P/C Phyllis Hayes who in turn contacted the center. Their response was overwhelming and very delighted that we would still do this for them. So, here is our plan, Phyllis Hays contacted the Tacoma Yacht Club, and they were also delighted for us to do this and said we could use the parking lot as a drop off point for Toy drop off's . If you would like to help a child get through a grieving process with a gift donation, we would be incredibly grateful. We will be set up to receive your gifts at the Tacoma Yacht Club on Saturday December 5th and Sunday December 6th from 12:00 – 2:00 PM each day. We may be under the Portico if the weather is bad, but if not at the front entrance we will make it easy to find us to drive by and drop off. Please follow safe distancing we do not want to have too many people gathering, follow safe protocol. We have talked with Santa and he has agreed to be there to help out as long as the weather cooperates. On another note as long as we have volunteers on site to help, we thought maybe it would be a good plan to give to a local food bank. If you could find it in your heart to bring canned foods or nonperishable items for Nourish Pierce County. Please see a suggested list of items for donation on the next page. Bless you and Keep Safe and Thank you in advance. Happy Holidays!!

Your 2020 Bridge and Board

(Bridges/Food Drive article continued on Page 6)

(Bridges/Food Drive article continued from Page 5)

What to Donate:

Thank you for your interest in giving food to help our neighbors in need. We are working to best serve our community while safeguarding the health of all involved.

We are most in need of the following **food items**:

- Canned protein – such as chicken, salmon, and tuna; Canned Chili or Stew
- Soup
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Shelf-stable (powdered or canned) milk
- Baby food and formula
- Oats
- Low sugar dried fruits
- Canned seafood
- Canned olives
- Dried herbs and spices

Also consider donating **non-food Items**:

- Soap
- Diapers
- Shampoo
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Feminine hygiene products

Please keep in mind Nourish Pierce County is **unable to accept**:

- Rusty or unlabeled cans
- Open or used items
- Expired items
- Homemade items
- Perishable items cannot be collected at food drives, but can be delivered directly to our Nourish Food Banks during hours of operation





The Fog (or more accurately The Smoke)!

Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN

America's Boating Club of Tacoma and South Puget Sound

Deb and I recently completed our annual cruise to the San Juan Islands here in Washington State. After attending the COVID-19 induced un-rendezvous at Port Orchard, we went north to Oak Harbor, Rosario and Anacortes then returned to Tacoma with an overnight stay in Kingston. It was an adventure to say the least.

An hour after departing Port Orchard and transiting Agate Pass, we cruised through Port Madison and into Puget Sound. Immediately, we hit thick fog so applied our training and procedures to continue our voyage. That means we confirmed our location, slowed down from 13 to 8 knots, turned on our navigation lights and our automatic fog horn setting that broadcasts from our radio to a front-mounted loud hailer. I also turned on our radar and set the range to give us a clear close-in view. Finally, Deb was designated as the alternate watch with her primary responsibility as the port and aft sectors. As radar contacts emerged, I would call them out so we could be on the lookout. We encountered a lot of boats (to include the Edmunds-Kingston ferry) passing the opposite direction, crossing in front and behind us; some we visually saw thus confirming our radar was working well; others we never saw. What's more disconcerting is that we never heard any of them (except the aforementioned ferry). In restricted visibility, making a sound signal is required. We also noticed that less than half the boats had their running lights on, and several couldn't be bothered with reducing their speed to allow them to stop in half the distance they could see. Scary situation, but we pressed on using our chart plotter to follow the pre-qualified route I had created and saved from past trips. Keeping the black projected course line on the magenta active course line was very tiring and I was glad when the fog lifted as we approached Clinton. Little did I know that the hour plus of fog was just a short training session for what was to come.

About a week later, our second day at Anacortes greeted us with the smell of smoke. Wood smoke to be precise, faint but discernible. It persisted the remaining time we were in Anacortes. On departure day, it was hard to discern smoke from fog, but we could see Cap Sante from our near shore berth thus estimating we had at least a half-mile of visibility. After double checking our horn, running lights, and AIS, we made way. Our plan was to try for home port with an alternate of Kingston. We had called Kingston and knew there was room for us if we needed to stop there for the night. After clearing Cap Sante, the best we saw of shoreline was a faint view of tree tops on the bluffs aligning our route. Going slow, running lights on, sounding the fog horn every two minutes, using radar, and maintaining watch for boat traffic with two pairs of eyes, we slowly passed each waypoint on our route. We crossed the East end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca encountering very few boats. Other than the fog/smoke, weather was mercifully calm - flat water all the way. As we passed the faint outline of Point Wilson about half a mile to the West, the port engine began to act up. 200 RPMs may not seem like a lot, but when the tachometer drops by that much in the fog, it is certainly noticeable. Our first thought was that we had hit something in the water. We didn't see anything bobbing in our wake and with the RPM back up to normal, we continued our slow slog south. Maybe ten minutes later, the RPM surged again. Suspecting something was amiss, my anxiety about a breakdown had my mind racing. Do we ignore the RPM, head to the nearest port, call for help? I decided, based on my training from the USPS Engine Maintenance course, to shut down the engine and continue south at reduced speed with the intent to stop in Kingston for troubleshooting and repair. I figured that it was most likely a fuel filter problem and I could restart the engine long enough to dock in Kingston.

(The Fog/The Smoke continued on Page 8)

(The Fog/The Smoke continued from Page 7)

Our backup plan worked. It took longer to get there, but we arrived in Kingston, used both engines to dock, and shut the boat down. After making arrangements to spend the night, I began some troubleshooting and determined that the secondary filter for the port engine needed replacement. I did so, then bled the fuel line and restarted the engine. Assured it would run, I found an adult beverage and relaxed until bedtime. Waking up the next morning, my mind filled with the possible issues we would encounter. Still smoky/foggy with the potential for engine problems, the list of what-ifs inspired me to double check my fuel system. “Rut roh, Scooby Doo!” Yup, there was crud in both primary fuel filter bowels. I had checked them the previous day, but did not squeeze between and crawl all the way past both engines to eyeball the filter bowels up close and personal. Having done so now, I decided to replace both the primary and remaining secondary filters. I carry four primary and two secondary spare filters. After replacing them and spending about an hour bleeding both engines, I got the boat operational. I’m glad to have not only the filters, but the tools to do this work. I actually broke a filter wrench trying to remove one of the primary filters. Luckily, I carry a 14-inch channel lock plier on board. I was able to use it to get the filter off. We topped off the fuel tanks and proceeded to Tacoma without further incident.

Several USPS courses played into our successful foray into and back from the San Juans. Cruise Planning, Weather, Boat Handling, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Electronic Navigation, Engine Maintenance and the Radar Seminar allowed us to safely accomplish our voyage. I can also state that years of advice from more experienced fellow members re-enforced all the information passed in those classes. Without all the training and prior years of ever increasing experience, Deb and I would have remained in Anacortes for another week.

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
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 2021 Rendezvous Schedule

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

2021_Arr_Date	Location	DayofWeek	2021_Depart_Date	Number of days
July 23	Poulsbo	Friday	July 25	2
July 25	Port Ludlow	Sunday	July 27	2
July 27	Port Townsend	Tuesday	July 30	3
July 30	Pleasant Harbor	Friday	August 2	3
August 2	Kingston	Monday	August 5	3
August 5	Brownsville	Thursday	August 8	3



**TACOMA POWER SQUADRON
2020 - 2021**

Commander	Cdr Gary Dildine, AP,IN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Stan Wolfe, SN,CN
Administrative Officer	Vacant
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	Vacant
Coop Charting	R/P/C Jim Harden, SN, CN

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

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT

Admin Off	Vacant
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	Vacant
Commencement Bay	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

TREASURER DEPT

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

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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	Vacant

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



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 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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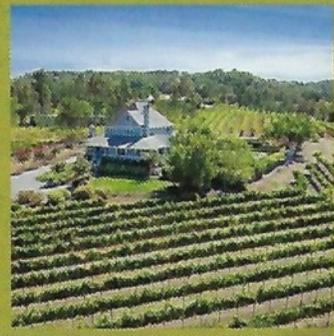
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November 2020

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





December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1

2

3
**Plt Clas
via Zoom**

4

5
**Bridges &
Food Drive
@ TYC**

6

**Bridges &
Food Drive
@ TYC**

7

8
**Ex. Bd Mtg
7:00-9:00PM
via Zoom**

9

10
**Plt Cls
via Zoom**

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22
**Gen Mtg
6:30-8:30 PM
via Zoom**

23

24

25
Christmas Day

26
Boxing Day

27

28

29

30

31



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 2020

