


Tacoma   
& South Puget Sound  
The  
Wake Astern

May-June 2026

Vol. 87 No. 3





**COMMANDER**



**V**ery honored to have the opportunity to be the Tacoma Power Squadron Commander.

*Cdr Craig Brown, SN-ACN*

America's Boating Club "South Puget Sound" (TPS) are members with the mission of providing bar-none the best recreational boating education opportunities, fellowship via social gatherings & rendezvous, and community services.

Since I got involved with USPS, back in 2000, I've been impressed with the intelligence and commitment of our members. And when I say members I mean those that have come before and those to come. We can, and we will, with the right attitude find the ways to secure our future.

I've been asked "what are your [my] plans for 2026/27?" I'll layout an outline of my plans & goals. I want to build on honoring 100+ year history of USPS traditions while at the same time embracing the changes America's Boating Club (ABClub) bring.

Change is a slow but necessary fact of life. We've learned that experienced boaters know & understand what USPS is and provides. We saw that at the Seattle Boat Show where 70+% are experienced boaters and they were asking/saying "where is the USPS?" That is something built on tradition. But at the same time we've learned it is much harder to connect USPS with younger/newer boaters. ABClub quickly means something to them connecting us & them more quickly. We experienced that while attending a Governing Board meeting, at Louisville, where there was a large contingent of young concert goers that didn't understand or care about the USPS, but quickly connected & engaged with us "boaters" being part of "the boating club".

So, what did I learn over the past years? I've learned we need to continue to co-brand USPS and ABClub. We have a tradition with experienced boaters as the USPS while at the same time we need to change by engaging younger/newer boaters as the ABClub. Which means we'll need to continue to co-brand until ABClub is known by all boaters.

Over the years as the "Outreach Liaison" between USPS and other RBS organizations I've had a motto of "Partner/Outreach/Knowledge". Via partnerships we increase RBS outreach opportunities which increases the boating public's knowledge and from knowledge we learn about more outreach opportunities which leads to additional partnerships. When it is properly working it is a two-way street continuing to repeat over time.

**(Commander's Report continued on Page 3)**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30PM**  
**@ Day Island Yacht Club**  
**University Place, WA**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**HELD ON**  
**AS NEEDED BASIS**

**Contents**

Cdr Rpt	Page 2/3
SEO Rpt	Page 4
XO Rpt/VSC	Page 5
Daffodil Marine Parade	Page 6
COW Pictures	Page 7
Port Ludlow Rendezvous	Page 8
2026-2027 TPS Organizational Roster	Page 9



(Commander's Report continued from Page 2)

How does my motto apply to TPS? Internally I suggest we can apply the same philosophy. By partnering with other members, squadrons and/or districts we can increase the outreach of helpful sharing that improves our knowledge of easier methods to accomplish our missions. When you run into a challenge ask around if others have found ways to overcome/reduce the challenge. And when you find good ways to make something easier/better openly share it. We're not in this by ourselves. Jointly taking on challenges lightens the load we each carry. Friendships (fellowship) are developed when you network (partner).

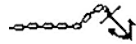
Why is this important? Remember P/C/C Mary Paige's statement "Job 1 - All actions must be to GAIN new & RETAIN members." We recruit new members but have a serious problem with members leaving faster. Commonly I hear "it is too much work" or "I don't know what to do". By partnering, finding outreach opportunities, and sharing knowledge we can reduce the "too much work" and solve the "don't know what to do". And friendships will be created.

These go a long ways toward "retaining" because we'll remove the "over worked" and the "don't know" frustrations & more friendships are created. Engaging members helps them have a stronger sense of belonging, achieving, and being a valued part of something worthwhile. Member involvement in worthwhile activities deepens friendships, creates new memories, and extends member satisfaction to a whole new dimension. Making USPS/ ABClub a cause that members have a reason to stay actively involved with.

Another retention improvement area is to reexamine how we do business, not a change in the mission, but a willingness to change how we carry it out. We need to find ways to adopt the modern volunteer's expectations. They generally don't have interest in traditional squadron tasks. Volunteers in our growth market expect to get engaged quickly with the squadron creating confidence "skills" on the water to build memories with the family. When this happens, they'll create friendships, they'll see ABClub as a "club" worthwhile to invest their time in, and a vested interest to continue their membership.

Our "Job 1 - All actions must be to GAIN new & RETAIN members" tasks us with looking for different ways to do things. It doesn't mean throwing everything out. We should honor our traditions while embracing change by looking for partners, increasing our outreach, and sharing our knowledge to make our "club" a destination for the modern volunteer. Changes made now will make us stronger in the future. Making changes will nurture our existing members (retain) & grow our membership. I don't even come close to having all the ideas how to do this. What I ask you to do is think about this and share your idea & thoughts with me. Together we'll make a bigger wake affecting more.

I'll close with the quote from Henry Ford; "Coming together is a beginning; keeping it together is progress; and working together is success."



(Picture provided by P/C Jackie Mattox, AP)



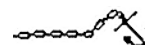
Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

# EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT



**S**hort report this month. We have an ongoing ABC course at Day Island Yacht Club that will be done about the time you read this. Three more safe boaters in the making. We're entering boating season so there won't be much educational activity for the next few months.

My plan is to kick off the Fall season with the new Marine Navigation course followed by Radar and another ABC course. More to follow...



**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-ACN**  
**Email: craig-sandybrown@msn.com**  
**Phone: 253-350-4884**  
**Address: 4634 Kent Ct.**  
**Kent, WA 98032-7112**

P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN 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 Bob Hays, AP

# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



**N**ational Safe Boating Week is May 16 – 22, 2026. While it is an important annual campaign that promotes responsible boating practices and helps reduce water-related accidents and fatalities, it is something to be focused on year around. The week highlights the need for preparation, awareness, and compliance with maritime safety regulations. As recreational boating continues to grow in popularity across the United States, the 2026 campaign places strong emphasis on education, life jacket usage, weather awareness, and environmental responsibility.

One of the most important considerations during Boating Safety Week 2026 is the consistent use of properly fitted life jackets. Many boating fatalities occur because individuals fail to wear personal flotation devices, even when they are available onboard. Safety experts recommend that all passengers, especially children and inexperienced swimmers, wear life jackets at all times while on the water. Modern life jackets are lightweight and comfortable, making them easier to wear for extended periods.

Another critical issue is operator education and certification. Boaters should understand navigation rules, emergency procedures, and local waterway regulations before operating any vessel. Many states now require boating safety courses for operators of certain age groups. In Washington State, you need a Boater Education Card if all of these apply:

- You operate a boat with a motor of 15 horsepower or more
- You were born after January 1, 1955
- You are at least 12 years old

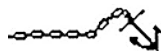
Completing these programs improves judgment, reduces risky behavior, and helps prevent collisions and capsizing incidents.

Weather preparedness is also a key concern. Sudden storms, high winds, and poor visibility can quickly turn a recreational outing into a dangerous situation. Boaters are encouraged to check marine weather forecasts before departure and continuously monitor changing conditions while on the water. Carrying communication devices such as marine radios or fully charged mobile phones can be lifesaving during emergencies.

Alcohol consumption while boating remains a major safety hazard. Operating a boat under the influence impairs balance, reaction time, and decision-making ability. During Boating Safety Week 2026, authorities continue to stress the importance of sober boating to protect passengers and other water users.

In addition, environmental stewardship forms an essential part of modern boating safety. Responsible disposal of waste, prevention of fuel spills, and protection of aquatic habitats help preserve waterways for future generations.

Overall, Boating Safety Week 2026 serves as a reminder that safe boating depends on preparation, responsibility, and respect for both human life and the environment. We in the U.S. Power Squadron can do our part by focusing on our mission, to improve maritime safety and enjoyability through classes in seamanship, navigation, and other related subjects, in addition to vessel safety checks.



## Marine Daffodil Parade April 17-19, 2026

Even though Tacoma Power Squadron did not place in the award winning category this year, our efforts reflected numerous thumbs-up from the on shore crowd who were watching the parade. Saturday, decorations were again assembled on Brian and Barbara Prudente's boat "Sjoen." Assisting that task included Brian & Barbara Prudente, Mason Dixon, Lorraine Stargel, Jerry Lawrence, Jim Harden, Craig Brown, Stan & Debbie Wolfe, and Richard & Jackie Mattox.

Much like last year, parade day turned out to be spectacular, clear skies and calm water. There was a total of 40 boats with "Sjoen" toward the beginning at position No. 13. Sun Flowers and Gardener on board were Craig Brown, Jim Harden, and Mason Dixon on the upper deck. Sun Flowers Jackie & Richard Mattox, Barbara Prudente, and Martha on the lower deck.



(Picture provided by Tacoma Yacht Club website)



**Tacoma Power Squadron's  
Change of Watch  
April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



P/D/C Cdr Christine Rasmussen, SN received the Otto Rasmussen Award



P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN received the Bob Haun Award



P/C Bill Larsen, AP presented the Governing Board Emeritus (50 Merit Marks)



P/C Gary Dildine, AP-IN and Barb Dildine, AP-IN receive the Outstanding Volunteer Award



P/C Richard Mattox, AP and P/C Jackie Mattox, AP Receive the Committed Couple Award

(Pictures provided by P/C Jackie Mattox, AP and Lt Lorraine Stargel, AP)



# Port Ludlow Marina

## June 5—7 2026

**\*\*If you are attending any of the rendezvous' events, PLEASE register and mail check and form to Dave McBride, C/O D16, 22245 Veteran St. NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370\*\***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES, I am coming to Taco Dinner! Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$28.50 = \_\_\_\_\_**

**Check number \_\_\_\_\_ is included with this registration.**

If you are registering only for events/fellowship (no moorage or meal) Circle YES or NO below

Moorage Required      YES    NO

Hotel Accommodations Required  
                                 YES    NO

Events Only, No meal    YES

### Friday, June 5

**5 p.m.      Night Docktails: Bring your own beverage and finger food to share!**

### Saturday, June 6 Events:

**9 to 10 a.m.    Coffee and Danish to Start Your Day**

**10 to 10:15 a.m. Opening Ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

**Activities: Sign up at the Registration Desk. Please circle any event you would like to join.**

- ⇒ Seminar – Introduction to Marine Batteries, Located inside PLYC
- ⇒ Seminar - Co-Op Charting—Opportunity to earn the Triple Anchor Award! Located inside PLYC
- ⇒ Seminar – Boat Operator Certification (BOC) What is it? Located inside PLYC
- ⇒ Event – First Annual Corn Hole Tournament in the Tent area.
- ⇒ Event – Life Ring Toss on the Dock
- ⇒ Vessel Safety Checks throughout the day

#### **On Your Own Activities**

- ⇒ Kayak, canoe, and skiff rentals
- ⇒ Beachcombing
- ⇒ Hiking trails
- ⇒ Golf

#### **Evening Activities**

**6 p.m.      Dinner catered by God Bless Food (GBF) & Auction under the Tent!**

### Sunday Morning, June 7

**9 a.m.      Fresh brewed coffee and leftover Danish to fuel your trip home!**



## TACOMA POWER SQUADRON 2026 – 2027

Commander	Cdr Craig Brown, SN-ACN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays, AP
Administrative Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Educational Officer	Lt/C Scott Macleod, P
Asst Education Officer	P/Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Secretary	Lt/C Christine Rasmussen, SN
Treasurer	Lt/C James Harden, SN-CN

### COMMANDER'S DEPT

Flag Lt	Lt Mason Dixon
Sunshine	Lt Leslie Burton, S
Merit Mark	P/D/C Christine Rasmussen, SN
Galley Manager	Lt Lorraine Stargel, AP Lt Viki Sharp

### EXECUTIVE DEPT

Executive Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays, AP
Safety Officer	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN
Coop Charting	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN
VSC Chairperson	P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN
Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
Boat Show	<b>Vacant</b>
Legislative	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN

### ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT

Administrative Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Boating Activities	<b>Vacant</b>
Membership	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Membership Involvement	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Operations Training	P/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN
Programs	Lt Barbara Prudente
Sunshine	Lt Leslie Burton

### SECRETARY DEPT

Secretary	Lt/C Christine Rasmussen, SN
Web Master	Lt Tom Ferree, JN
Newsletter	P/C Richard Mattox, AP
Historian	<b>Vacant</b>
Commencement Bay	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

### TREASURER DEPT

Treasurer	P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN
Property Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Supply Officer	Chuck Sharp

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

1 Yr Term	Lt Debbie Wolfe
1 Yr Term	Lt Jeff Krueger, S
1 Yr Term	Lt Becky Arrington, S
2 Yr Term	Lt Brian Prudente
2 Yr Term	Lt Debbie Harden
3 Yr Term	P/C Richard Mattox, AP
3 Yr Term	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

### FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	Lt Leah Hafterson, AP
2 Yr Term	Lt Becky Arrington, S
3 Yr Term	Lt Tom Ferree, JN

### RULES COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	P/C Bill Larsen, AP
2 Yr Term	P/C Mitch Carroll, SN
3 Yr Term	<b>Vacant</b>

### NOMINATION COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	<b>Vacant</b>
2 Yr Term	<b>Vacant</b>
3 Yr Term	<b>Vacant</b>

### EDUCATION DEPT

Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

### ABC CHAIRPERSON

Lt/C Scott MacLeod, P

### ELECTIVE COURSES CHAIRPERSON

**Vacant**

### ADVANCED GRADES CHAIRPERSON

**Vacant**

**BRIDGE OFFICERS**

Commander  
P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN  
Email: craig-sandybrown@msm.com  
Executive Officer  
Lt/C Bob Hays, AP  
Email: captn.bob.hays@gmail.com  
Administrative Officer  
**Vacant**  
Educational Officer  
Lt/C Scott Macleod, P  
Email: 165racer@icloud.com  
Asst Education Officer  
P/Lt/C Bentley Ricckmers, S  
Email: benric7@gmail.com  
Secretary  
P/D/C Christine Rasmussen, SN  
  
Treasurer  
P/R/C James Harden, SN-CN

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Lt Debbie Wolfe  
Lt Becky Arrington, S  
Lt Jeff Krueger  
Lt Brian Prudente  
Lt Debbie Harden  
P/C Richard Mattox, AP  
P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

**BOATING ACTIVITIES CHAIR**

**Vacant**

***The Wake Astern***

Editor: P/C Richard Mattox, AP  
(253) 732-2264  
ricque0602@comcast.net

**SHIPS STORE**

**Vacant**

**TPS WEBSITE**


www.tacomapowerandsailsquadron.org

**D/16 WEBSITE**

www.uspsd16.org

Cover photo by  
Lt Cindy Warren, AP

**Lytton Station Vineyard Vista**  
In the heart of Alexander Valley




**Vacation Rental**  
360 degree vineyard views

4 Bedroom 3.5 baths  
Pool, spa, game room, amazing kitchen

+1 707.433.1984  
info@vineyardvista.com  
http://vineyardvista.com

**Lighthouse Marine Gig Harbor, LLC**



www.lighthousemarine.net  
lhmlcgigharbor@gmail.com

5926 Sehmal Dr. Suite A  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
253 858-7280 or 253 858-8160  
fax: 253 858-8162

Authorized Dealers  
MERCURY • YAMAHA • EVINRUDE  
MERCUISER • VOLVO



# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 ABC Cls @ DIYC	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 ABC Cls @ DIYC	12 Ex.Bd Mtg 6:00-8:00 PM @ Black Bear Diner	13	14	15	16
17	18 ABC Cls @ DIYC	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Gen Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM @ DIYC	27	28	29	30
31						

# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ABC Cls @ DIYC	2	3	4	5-6 Dist 16 Rendezvous Port Ludlow	
7 Dist 16 Rendv Port Ludlow	8 ABC Cls @ DIYC	9 No Exec Brd Mtg June thru August	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 No General Meeting June thru August	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

TACOMA POWER SQUADRON  
5105 Grand Loop, Apt 811  
TACOMA WA 98407-3196

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**May-June 2026**

# **THE WAKE ASTERN**

**A foggy day at Deception Pass**

*(Winning Photo Contest by P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-ACN)*