

THE BITTER END

News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron

December 2014

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons ® District 16

Web Page: www.usps.org/localusps/skagit

Email: ssboatschool@hotmail.com



CALENDAR

6 December, Argosy Holiday Cruise, Kirkland
13 December, LaConner Lighted Boats, LaConner Pub 1730
8 Jan, Regular Meeting, Farmhouse, Rendezvous Planning



Merry Christmas! HE is the reason for this season! Have a safe and happy one.



Commander's Message Kari Randall-Secrest, N

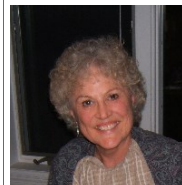
I hope you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving Holiday! It's hard to believe we're preparing to close out another year. At the time I write this, Deanna, Bo and I plan to be heading down to Salem, Oregon to spend the holiday with family. We are hoping I-5 traffic is at least bearable this year. Yikes!

Don't forget to join us on our Argosy Holiday Cruise on December 6th or our Holiday Party at the La Conner Pub on December 13th, which will be in lieu of a meeting at the Farmhouse for December. Here's a better idea ... join us for both!

I'm sending a big shout out to George Johnson, our course instructors, and the rest of the Education Department for all of their hard work getting our course schedule lined out for next year. As you know, there is an enormous amount of work that goes into setting up our squadron's classes and these folks are really stepping up. You are all to be commended.

Be sure to mark your calendar for January 8th for our next meeting at the Farmhouse Restaurant which will be our annual event planning meeting. It's always a great time to help set up our rendezvous' and day trips for next year.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season and I hope 2015 is your best year ever!



Boating Activities P/C Donna Mason, AP

Make your Holidays Happier!

Saturday, December 6 - Argosy Holiday Cruise, Kirkland

By the time you read this, I hope you made your reservation and joined us for a fun time on the water. Deadline for lunch reservations was December 1, but if you find you can join us at the last minute and you can get a reservation with Argosy, let me know.

Saturday, December 13 - SBSPPS Holiday Party & Boat Parade

We hope you will join us for this popular, festive event. Celebrate the Season and view the LaConner Lighted Boat Parade at:

The LaConner Pub and Eatery, 702 S. 1st Street, LaConner.

5:30 p.m. Cocktails and Revelry begins at LaConner Pub and Eatery.

6:00-7:30 p.m. Watch the boat parade from the restaurant's outside deck or warmly inside while eating dinner. We'll provide cake for dessert.

Food: The LaConner Pub and Eatery will offer its full menu, including prime rib. See their menu at www.laconnertavern.com. Eat as much or as little as you wish. A Food Bank collection jar will be available, if you'd like to make a monetary contribution to the local food bank. Parking is on-street. Carpooling is recommended and also reduces the number of "designated drivers" needed. Dress is casual and festive.

RSVP by December 6 to Donna at donnajmason@gmail.com or 360 595-1083. We need to give a headcount to the restaurant.

Happy New Year!

January 8 Member's Meeting & Rendezvous Planning

This ends my job for this calendar year. Our January 2015 meeting will be here before you know it. Think about what boating activities you'd like to participate in and bring your suggestions to the January Member's Meeting on January 8.

More Adventure Than We Planned

Thanksgiving Weekend RVers George and Jeanne Brooks, Sandy and George Johnson joined Paul and I for our traditional Thanksgiving Weekend lunch at Primo Bistro in Langley. John Bellinger was back in Burlington helping with communications due to the flooding, so the Bellingers couldn't join us. Thank you John for your aid!

We ran into a couple of problems. The temperature was 22 degrees. It is 85 miles from Whatcom County, but Paul and I were ready and willing for the drive because the food is so good! We did fine for the first 65 miles, then we saw cars with 1-2" of snow, then snow along the roadsides, then we ran into icy roads. It looked like a winter wonderland. One RVer's truck wouldn't start. The Johnsons couldn't get through to Primo to make a phone reservation. Cars skidded around us;



one was in a ditch. We were late arriving at Primo, and there was no room for us. We were willing to wait an hour, but while we waited, the power went out-- not only in the restaurant but in a few nearby towns. Primo has a generator, but it couldn't handle all the power needs. Candles were lit instead of using overhead lights, but the power kept going out. Finally it was announced that the restaurant had to close because without the blower working in the kitchen, the cooks wouldn't be in compliance. The hilly roads and sidewalks in Langley were all ice. Our 4WD vehicles carefully got us out of town. We made our way to a Chinese restaurant in a nearby town, which had just gotten its electricity back. Finally, we happily enjoyed lunch of a different cuisine than intended. Sandy and I insisted on a "rain check" to make a trip to Primo Bistro soon.





Education Department
George Johnson , SN

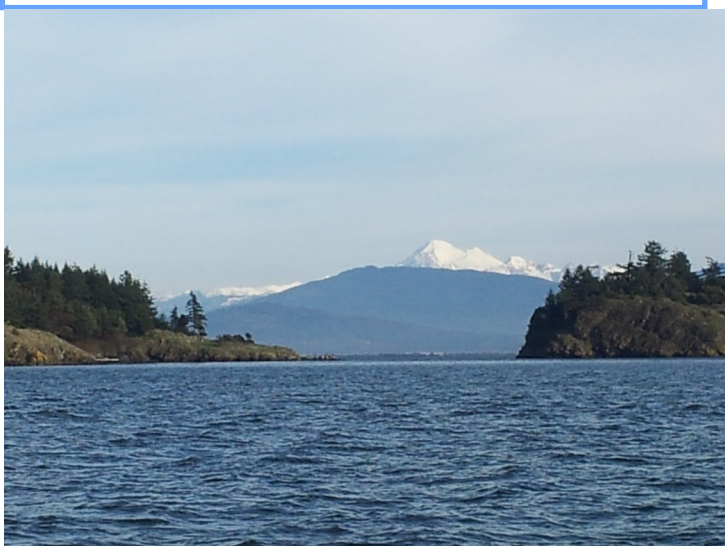
Marine Electrical Systems is ready to roll December 3 thru February 4 at Anacortes Marina. Twenty students, including two auditing as repeats, will enjoy it. As advertised, lead instructor is John Bellinger, and assisting will be George Brooks. That's a pretty good pair to draw to. Many students are non-members. We have had to turn away four non-member student prospects because the room is already very, very full. This was a successful promotion to the general boating public, and we will keep it in mind when we begin promotion for other courses.

As noted here last month, Debbie Richey's Partner-In-Command Seminar will be January 12, 2015, at the PUD building in Stanwood. Registration closes mid-December, so contact Debbie soon at drichey@rocketmail.com, or 425-750-9551. Price is \$40, or \$50 for two sharing a book.

Bill Stewart's Engine Maintenance will be at Skagit Valley Hospital starting February 16, 2015. Price for members is \$55, or \$65 for two sharing a book. Registration closure has been extended to January 26. Contact Bill at 360-708-2471 or George at 360-588-8125 or georgeandsandy@comcast.net.

Our other great courses for next year include Cruise Planning, Marine Communications, Electronic Navigation and Weather.

We are looking for a volunteer to teach ABC next year. Full training and assistance provided. Don't forget our generous pay and benefits package. Contact George Johnson, georgeandsandy@comcast.net.



Some nice fall photos to finish out your year.
By Mark Richey



While it was snowing and freezing here, this was Heart Lake near Othello.



Love these abandoned homesteads. October near Bridgeport.



Same time of year last year in Columbia National Wild life Refuge.

I know these aren't boating pictures, but they represent a part of our state that some folks may not see much. See one boating picture to left. Autumn scene of Baker from our boat near Sinclair Island.

Skagit Bay Sail & Power Squadron
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2014

Meeting Location: Farmhouse Restaurant

Start Time: 1839 hours

Attendance:

George Johnson	Sandra Johnson	Albert Miller	Sharon Knowles
Jeanne Brooks	George Brooks	Marleen Bellinger	John Bellinger
Mike Connell	Stacy Connell	Joe Ford	Beth Ford
Deanna Randall-Secrest	Kari Randall-Secrest	Michael Lambert	Paul Rosetter
Donna Mason	Bill Stewart	Lynn Stewart	Debbie Richey
Bill Robertson	Sharon Robertson	Coco Haynes	Michael Wytychak
Sheryl Wytychak			

Flag Salute was led by Albert Miller.

Invocation (none)

New member Michael Lambert was introduced and welcomed to the squadron.

Treasurer's Report by Michael Connell: The balance on October 31, 2014 was \$2328.96.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting, as published in the November issue of The Bitter End was made by Mike Connell and seconded by John Bellinger.

Administrative Report by Deanna Randall-Secrest: Deanna mentioned the Cold Water Survival video was to be our night's program. (There were technical difficulties and it will hopefully be shown at some future date.) She inquired about interest in First Aid and CPR Training. There were many members who were interested. Deanna will schedule a class for us. This brought up the subject of the squadron's defibrillator. Donna Mason wanted us to be aware that it is currently at her house, which will hopefully preserve the battery, rather than leaving it on the boat during the cold weather.

Squadron Events Report by Donna Mason: It was reported that the Granville Island Day Trip was a great success, although paying for parking proved to be challenging. Donna passed around sign-up sheets for upcoming events, to aid in making reservations.

Debbie Richey reported about the D16 Fall Conference. Items were published in October's issue of The Bitter End.

Education Report by George Johnson: ABC class finished with flying colors. Two of those students signed up for the Marine Electrical Systems class beginning 3 December, as are 14 or so other people, about half of which are non-members. On 12 January, Debbie Richey is teaching the Partner in Command seminar. The Engine Maintenance course will start 16 February, followed by Cruise Planning on 27 April.

George Johnson was questioning whether Shipwreck Day is worthwhile for our squadron. It is a big social thing for those who are involved, but the income has been dropping. Ideas are open for alternative fundraiser(s). It was asked whether the booth generated any public interest in the USPS, and Lynn Stewart suggested devoting some of the table space toward promoting the squadron.

Commander's Report: Kari Randall-Secrest said that the 2014 membership growth for Skagit Bay as of October, is up to 9.84% from 8.2% the previous month. The entire district is up 2%.

Debbie Richey asked for submissions for Merit Marks.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 1939 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Knowles
Secretary

The Pledge

I do solemnly pledge to: Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons®; Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship; Maintain my boat and operate it legally; Render assistance whenever possible; and conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor and respect to the United States Power Squadrons.®

**HAPPY
DECEMBER**



BIRTHDAYS

**Kim Aryss
Kellie Dalrymple
Ryan Lavine
Kelly Libby
James McClane
Pam Mettler
Debbie Richey-
William Robertson
Christine Woodward**

~ General Meeting Information ~

Our General Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursdays of each month (except July & August), at The Farmhouse Restaurant, corner of SR20 and La Conner-Whitney Road. Greetings and social time starts at 1800 with dinner at 1900. Meeting is normally held just before dinner. When a program is available it usually starts about 1930. The meeting is sometimes moved to another date or venue for special occasions, but that will be advertised in the newsletter or an email notice.

Course Passed	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ABC	42	20	29	15	24	19
Seamanship		8	2		10	
Piloting		4	1			
Advanced Piloting	3	3				
Junior Navigation	8			1		
Navigation		9				
Cruise Planning						
Instructor Development (Instructor Recert)					8	
Engine Maintenance			8			
Marine Electronics	9					
Marine Communications					7	
Marine Electrical Syst						
Weather						
Sail						
Operations Training	3	2				

Bridge Officers		
Commander	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Executive Officer	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Education Officer	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Administrative Officer	Deanna Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Secretary	Sharon Knowles, AP	360 333-7808
Treasurer	Mike Connell, AP	425 327-3557
Executive Committee		
	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Albert Miller, P	360-391-1897
Port Captain	Vacant	
Law Officer	Vacant	
Merit Marks	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
	Vacant	
	Vacant	
Executive Department		
Co-Op Charting	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Liaison	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Public Relations	Deanna Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Asst Public Relations	Vacant	
Radio Technical	Vacant	
Safety	Bill Stewart, JN	360-424-1270
Vessel Exams	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Paul Rosetter, AP	360-595-1083
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
Grades	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
Local Board Elect Courses	Vacant	
Administrative Department		
Boating Activities	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Galley	Vacant	
Greeting	Vacant	
Membership	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Vacant	
Property Officer	Vacant	
Supply Officer	Vacant	
Telephone	Vacant	
Secretary's Department		
Editor "Bitter End"	Mark Richey, SN	425-876-6274
Historian	Lynn Stewart, P	360-424-1270
Roster	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Scrapbook	Vacant	
Webmaster	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr Chair	Dale Libby, P	360-435-3835
2 Yrs.	Sharon Knowles, AP	360 333-7808
3 Yrs.	Jean Miller, N	360-588-9950
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Jean Miller, N	360-588-9950
2 Yrs.	Vacant	
3 Yrs.	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
Rules Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Bill Stewart, JN	360-424-1270
2 Yrs.	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
3 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888

Please note the vacancies. We would love to have someone fill these spots. They are just little fun spots and don't take much time. They really help out the squadron and make us better. Contact the Commander or department head if interested.