

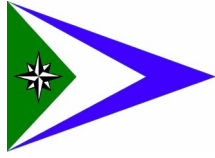
THE BITTER END

News from Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron November 2015

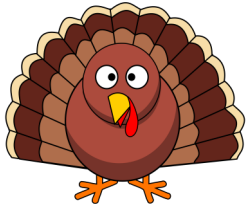
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons ® District 16

Web Page: www.skagitsquadron.org

Email: ssboatschool@hotmail.com



CALENDAR



12 Nov—Regular meeting, Farmhouse, Chilkoot Program
25-29 Nov—Ft Casey RV Thanksgiving Trip
5 Dec—Argosy Holiday Cruise, Kirkland
12 Dec—Annual Boat Parade Viewing, LaConner Pub
No regular meeting. The Boat Parade replaces it.



Its fall folks. Deb and I plan on boating if we can but you need to watch conditions much closer. It can be a nice, quiet, time to boat with only the locals about



Commander's Message Kari Randall-Secrest, N

Thanksgiving is fast approaching and I would like to wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday. May it be filled with good folks, good times, and of course good food. This year, Deanna and I will be spending this lovely holiday in quaint little Leavenworth with lots of her family meeting us there. The squadron got lots of great things planned for the next couple of months, the Argosy Holiday cruise, the lighted boat parade dinner meeting in La Conner and of course when our January meeting comes around, we'll be doing all of our event planning for next year. See below for more details on upcoming dates to remember. I sure hope to see all of you at one or two of these gatherings.

Our November meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 12th at the Farmhouse Restaurant with our social beginning at 6:00 pm, meeting at 6:30 and dinner to follow. The program for this month is one by yours truly, along with some key family members, who dared to hike Alaska's Chilkoot Trail. A more detailed summary is below. Additionally, don't forget to get your merit mark information in to Debbie Richey so that you can receive credit for all the work you've done for the squadron this year ... many of you have donated a great deal of time and effort and I thank you so very much. Be sure to submit your information so you can reap the rewards of your hard work. Again, I

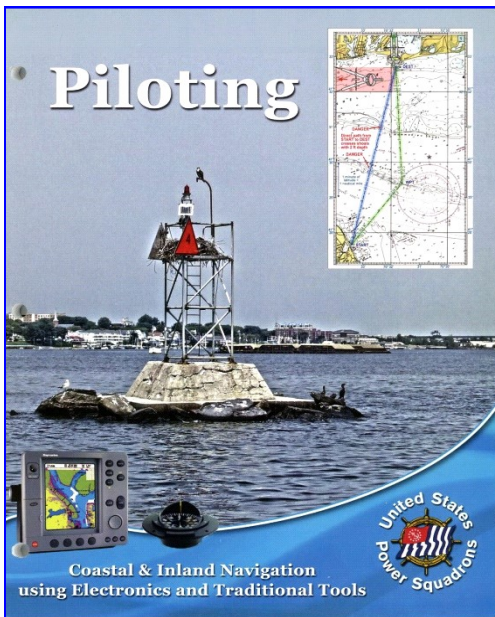
hope you all have an especially happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday!

Nov. 12th Program Summary **Hiking Alaska's Chilkoot Trail: A Family Adventure**

In the summer of 2014, two power boaters, along with some brave family members, temporarily traded in their twin props for hiking boots and trekking poles in order to follow in the footsteps of gold miners and hike Alaska's famous 33-mile Chilkoot Trail. Come and see our slideshow presentation which includes a bit of Klondike Gold Rush and Chilkoot Trail history, our ferry-boat trip from Juneau to Skagway on the Alaska Marine Highway, a bit of trekking on the Mendenhall Glacier, that hike over Chilkoot Pass, and finally our experience with the rite of passage known as the "Sourtoe Cocktail" which we consumed during our visit to the Klondike gold rush boomtown of Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada. Join us Nov. 12th at the Farmhouse Restaurant where we'll share stories about our bucket list adventure from Seattle to Skagway to the Yukon and back again ... and all the blisters in between.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Nov. 12 – SBSPS Meeting at the Farmhouse
Nov. 25-29 – Fort Casey RV Thanksgiving
Dec. 5 – Argosy Holiday Cruise in Kirkland
Dec. 12 – La Conner Lighted Boat Parade & Holiday Party at La Conner Pub
Jan. 14 – SBSPS Annual Event Planning Meeting at the Farmhouse Restaurant



USPS Piloting Course

When: 16 November 2015 to 25 January 2016,
Mondays, 1900-2100

Where: Skagit Valley Hospital, Shuskan Room,
Mt Vernon

Materials: Two books (*USPS Piloting Course*, *The Weekend Navigator*),
dividers, course plotting tool, Rose Point Coastal Explorer Student
DVD

How Much: \$100 per person/\$125 per couple (USPS),
\$175-per person/\$200 per couple (nonmember)

Instructor: Lt Robert J Miller, JN, phone: 360-588-9950

Deadline: 25 October 2015



Education Department P/C Debbie Richey, AP

In November we will be teaching a Piloting course at Skagit Valley Hospital. You will learn how read and use a chart, plot your course to avoid hazards and how to use your GPS for plotting those courses. Bob Miller will be teaching the course and it will star on November 16, 2015, with a break for the Christmas holiday. At this time this class is full. Please let me know if you are interested in the class so we can see about setting up another one.

In January we will be teaching the ABC course at Anacortes Marine. We have a new instructor, Mike Wytychak. Thank you Mike for stepping up!



Executive Department P/DC Mark Richey, SN

Synopsis of reports at recent D16 conference in no particular order

We are going toward online ABC exams to compete with the commercial guys. How does this affect personal contact? Need to follow up differently.

Database of possible members from outside seminars & USPS gets some money used of materials.

There is a new voluntary membership class called Family only. It's for all members in same household and the fee is 1 ½ times a single member. If we opt to do it, it can increase membership but we can no longer charge for single member. All new members,

even singles, will have to pay the new fee except for existing singles.

Discussion on charging to attend National meetings.

Annual meeting is in Orlando next year 15-21 Feb.

D16 has a Facebook page. Check it out.

USCG Rep – Something we may not have realized with our new law. Marijuana is still illegal to use or possess in any federally regulated areas. That includes all the navigable waters of this state as well as the State Ferries.

Geodetic Marker program is back! Rules much more strict and no credit will be given for un-found marks. See Geodetic Program on USPS website. A printed copy of the new program has been included with our commander info and might be available at the next meeting.

Some of my concerns:

I realize we do what we can but I want to reiterate the importance of keeping our name and presence known. We should try the best we can to get our Squadron to any local event such as Trawlerfest, local boat shows, waterfront festivals maybe doing more than just VSC. I know we do some but we can also share a booth or presentation with some of the other squadrons that are there. It's a great membership tool. Maybe we can somehow make it a family affair and attract more of that much needed crowd.



Boating Activities **P/C Donna J. Mason, AP**

Hospitals, not the calm seas, have been calling to some of our members lately. Judy Bennett had hip replacement surgery, Mike Wytychak had foot surgery which was moved up to an earlier date and caused the cancellation of the Stewart Island Rendezvous, and I am two weeks into my new hip. We've winterized "Time Flies" for the season.

Here's a recap of upcoming activities. Hope to see you at some or all!

November 25-29 Fort Casey RV Thanksgiving Weekend. Depending on the weather, the RVers may go to Langley on Whidbey Island for a yummy lunch at Primo Bistro and poke around town one day and walk-on ferry to Port Townsend another day. If you are interested, contact me and I'll try to get the particulars from the RVers. Paul and I may do this via day trips.

December 5 Argosy Holiday Cruise, Kirkland Ahead of time, the sooner the better, order your own tickets for the "official Christmas Ship with choir on board" December First Sailing from 3:30 p.m. – 5:50 p.m. A portion of ticket sales benefits The Seattle Times Fund For The Needy. Contact www.argosycruises.com or call toll-free 888 623-1445 or 206 623-1445. Don't wait too long to get your tickets; they may sell out. Regular ticket prices are plus tax: Adult \$39, Senior (65+) \$35, Kids 4-12 \$21.50, children 3 or under are Free. A discount of 10% is offered for AAA members. On December 5, drive to downtown Kirkland (carpooling encouraged) and park in one of the lots. See "www.kirklandwa.gov/parking" for parking lot info and map. At 12:30 p.m., we'll meet for lunch at The Lodge Sports Grill, 107 Lake St. South. This is walkable from parking areas near the Argosy Kirkland City Dock. Boarding begins at 2:45 p.m. at the Kirkland City Dock for the 3:30 p.m. cruise. Your tickets will be available at the departure dock on the day of the cruise. "Will call" opens approximately 1 ½ hours ahead of departure time. Look for a tent or ticket booth. A choir onboard will sing 20-minute performances at Medina Beach Park and Houghton Beach. On shore, thousands of people will gather around bonfires to listen. The Christmas Ship returns to the Kirkland City Dock. RSVP by December 1 to Donna so I can make lunch reservations: donnajmason@gmail.com or 360 595-1083.

December 12, LaConner Lighted Boat Parade & Squadron Holiday Party at LaConner Pub – We have a confirmed reservation for 24 people. Have dinner and watch the Boat Parade from the waterfront restaurant. RSVP by December 5. Hope for no gas leaks or other disaster this year...

Other Activities:

Hesselgrave Tours offers day excursions and longer trips by bus to many interesting activities. They have a pick-up location in Mt. Vernon at the Best Western Skagit Valley Inn (formerly Cotton Tree) which charges for day parking--check in at the front desk. Contact Hesselgrave at: 360 734-3570 or 800 457-5522 Mon-Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. or go to their website: www.hesselgrave.com. Here are just a few examples:

1. **Tuesday, December 8 Christmas Lights @ Van Dusen Botanical 55-Acre Gardens Vancouver, B.C. Canada.** \$90 per person includes bus, dinner in Surrey, B.C. and entrance to the gardens. Leaves Mt. Vernon at 2 p.m. This is magical and mind-boggling! See some photos at www.vandusengarden.org.
2. **Sunday, December 13 (day after Holiday party) The Sound of Music at 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle.** \$135 per person includes bus trip and main floor tickets to 1 p.m. matinee. Have lunch on your own prior to show. Bus leaves Bellingham at 9 a.m., can stop in Mt. Vernon. Arrives in Seattle 10:30-11 a.m. depending on traffic. Bus returns right after the show.
3. **Saturday, December 19 Leavenworth Tree Lighting Festival.** \$50 per person covers bus trip. Leaves Mt. Vernon at 8:30 a.m., arriving in Leavenworth about 11 a.m. Have lunch and enjoy the town on your own until the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bus leaves Leavenworth about 5 p.m. after the lighting ceremony.

MONEY SAVING TIP: Contact Hesselgrave at 360 734-3570 or 800 457-5522 for new customer discount information. They do not have discounts for seniors; however, I was told if you ask to get on their mailing list, you'll have the opportunity to save \$50 on your first trip!

Skagit Bay Sail & Power Squadron

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2015

Meeting Location: Farmhouse Restaurant

Start Time: 1842 hours

Attendance:

Debbie Richey	Dick Hunter	Albert Miller	Sharon Knowles
Judy Bennett	John Bennett	Bob Miller	Jean Miller
Deanna Randall-Secrest	Kari Randall-Secrest		

No Invocation was given.

Flag Salute was led by Albert Miller.

Secretary's Report by Sharon Knowles: Minutes were approved, as published in the Bitter End. Motion was made by Kari-Randall-Secrest to approve, without a second being called for. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report by Michael Connell: Mike had not contacted anyone with a balance, so the previous balance on August 31, 2015 was again reported to be \$4,632.30.

Administrative Report by Deanna Randall-Secrest: The Cold Water Bootcamp movie was shown, and next month will be Kari and Deanna's presentation about their hike on the Chilkoot Trail.

Executive Report by Mark Richey: Mark had nothing to report.

Education Report by Debbie Richey: Jean Miller has achieved her SN by completing all the required courses, and was presented a plaque. Mike Wytychak is completing his instructor development class with the Everett squadron, and will be teaching our upcoming ABC. Bob Miller is about to begin teaching the Piloting Course, with Albert Miller assisting. There are currently 10 students signed up. Debbie put in a plug for a book by Linda Martin called "PSC Seagull" which she felt the squadron might like to have to give out to children. Bob Miller was volunteered, by Jean Miller, to purchase 10 copies for the squadron's use. Debbie also told of their visit to an observatory.

Commander's Report by Kari Randall-Secrest: The D16 Fall Conference will be held the weekend of October 23-24 at the Coast Hotel in Bellevue. More details are available from the D16 website. Mark and Debbie Richey are planning to attend. Merit Marks are due to Debbie Richey by November 1st. The homepage for Skagit Bay's website now meets the new branding standards as set forth by National.

Old Business: Judy Bennett questioned whether the sale at Shipwreck Day was the only fundraiser the squadron had and/or was interested in. The estimated costs of storage was compared to the amount taken in, and it didn't appear to be worth all the effort involved. It was suggested that a printed budget be obtained from the treasurer, Mike Connell. The idea of offering cookies and coffee at a rest area was discussed, as well as ideas for something at the Oyster Run, a silent auction, or even breakfast offered at a fishing derby. Albert Miller volunteered to gather information about the rest area, as he'd found it to be a good fundraiser in the past.

New Business: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 1942 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
NOVEMBER**



BIRTHDAYS
George Johnson
Dale Libby
Sharon Robertson
Clark Scarboro
Rhonda Wahlgren
Richard Wisniewski

~ 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.

Ships Store

Did you know that our ship's store carries embroidered shirts, hats with our burgee on them, and burgees for your boat! Be sure to let me, Sheryl Wytychak, know if you would like a new shirt or hat! Make sure to check out the National Ship Store also: <http://store.shopusps.org/>.

New ship store keeper! See Sheryl Wytychak for all your squadron attire and flag needs.

Bridge Officers		
Commander	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Executive Officer	Mark Richey, SN	360-387-1260
Education Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
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
	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
	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	Vacant	
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds	Rick Anderson, SN	360-757-6241
Local Board Elect Courses	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
	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	Sheryl Wytychak	208-704-2249
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	Sharon Knowles, AP	360 333-7808
2 Yrs.	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
3 Yrs.	Judy Bennett, S	
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
2 Yrs.	Jean Miller, N	360-588-9950
3 Yrs.	Vacant	
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. Also, the positions in red are unknown if they are correct. Contact editor or committee chair with corrections. We also need the class student count for the chart.