



# THE BITTER END

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron  
June 2020

Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the friends <sup>SM</sup>

Web Page: [www.skagitsquadron.org](http://www.skagitsquadron.org)

Email: [ssboatschool@hotmail.com](mailto:ssboatschool@hotmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SBSPS/)



## CALENDAR

04 June—ExCom Meeting—Zoom, 6:30 PM, Summer Plans

11 June—Regular Meeting—Zoom—7PM, TBD

10-12 July—Possible Coronet Bay Crab Cookout

01 Aug—Lk Whatcom Small Boat Rendezvous and Picnic



Be Safe. Have Fun. Be Careful. We will see everyone in the fall. We have been doing well and want to hear from all of you how we can continue. This is your newsletter and I will add articles and items from anyone as I can. Next edition is mid summer or Sept. YOUR EDITOR

### Commanders Message Mark Richey, SN-IN



It looks like summer may be better. All the stay at home orders go away June 1. The parks are open for camping, picnics and moorage. Phase 2 will happen at a lot of places. You still need to be careful and wise but can at least get out and recreate. Most of us, I think, are in the at risk group but outdoors doing what we love, is by far the safest activity.

What did you think of last months' zoom meeting? Want to do it again? We had 19 in attendance which is almost as good as some of our smaller, in person, meetings.

This may be the last newsletter until fall. If we can all get out and about and do what's on the schedule, we wont need one. Let's hope. Speaking of fall, I'm thinking we will be in Phase 4 by then which means everything is open. However, there will be no vaccine and possibly not even a treatment so we want to decide if we want to meet in a group since a lot of the members, including the core, are in the at risk category. I will leave it up to you folks.

As far as what's open and closed in the way of boating stuff, Waggoners has been doing a very good job of staying on top of it. Even though Phases allow for it, individual businesses are making their own rules to keep customers and locals safe. The San Juans are a prime example. To see what's opening at any given time look at Waggoners Cruising Guide online for notifications. We also keep it updated on our Facebook Group. Click the link above.

We hope to at least see some of you out on the water this summer. We will be happy to throw you a beer or leave it on our rail as you walk by. Getting outdoors is healthy.

Be Safe



## **SQUADRON ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2020**

**by P/C Donna Mason, AP**

Dear Squadron Members, I hope you are being safe, wearing masks, and keeping a safe distance. The monster still is out there. We look forward to social time with you in the future. I've been researching information on some prior year rendezvous photographs for Scrapbooker Carolyn Caporgno, and it has been a wonderful trip down Memory Lane. Our squadron has enjoyed some good times!

This will be the wierdest activities article since I began doing them in 2009. We cannot offer much! There's more "no news" than "yes news."

The July 10-12 Coronet Bay Crab Cookout at Deception Pass is iffy, depending on State Regulations and how we progress with the pandemic. Stay tuned. an email notification will be sent.

We have received notification of these cancellations: the June D16 Rendezvous in Poulsbo, the Sidney,B.C. Canada rendezvous, the rescheduled June Tulip Festival in Mount Vernon, and the July 18th Shipwreck Day. More than one-half of our planned yearly schedule vanished into thin air.

Our dock, which was damaged in April's big 3-day north windstorm, is scheduled for repair beginning in two weeks. It may be finished by the scheduled August 1 Lake Whatcom Rendezvous. If we go ahead with that, depending on State Guidelines, it would be limited in the number of people.

We have to stay tuned about the August 28-30 Bell Harbor Marina Rendezvous. Since Major League Baseball still is up in the air on its schedule, it may be a boating rendezvous with no ballgame or another cancelled event.

Paul and I feel lucky to be "stuck at home" at our lake setting. We've stayed busy with landscape projects and extended happy hours at the dock (the undamaged deck area) enjoying the view, wildlife, and variety of boating activity. We hope you've made the best of the situation too, and we look forward to time together again.

### July 10-12 – Cornet Bay Crab Cookout, Deception Pass State Park

Hosted by Kari and Deanna Randall-Secrest, members can cruise by boat for a day or spend the weekend at the floating docks (no services). Those coming by car can come Saturday and enjoy the crab potluck cookout. Discovery Parking Passes are required.

August 28-30 – Mariners vs. Dodgers and Bell Harbor Marina Rendezvous, Seattle Kari and Deanna Randall-Secrest and Mark and Debbie Richey are hosting a weekend boating rendezvous at Bell Harbor Marina. The weekend will include Saturday's Mariner's game against the "Dreaded Dodgers." Debbie will arrange for tickets. People also can come by land and stay in a hotel. ([Stadium is likely closed for seaason but we can still rendezvous](#))

### September 4-7 – Port Townsend with Seattle and Everett Squadrons

Spend Labor Day weekend in lovely Port Townsend. This joint rendezvous has been enjoyed for several years. You'll need to reserve slip space early. For information and reservations, contact Lt. Darcy Baker, P at [thebakerfamily4@comcast.net](mailto:thebakerfamily4@comcast.net) or Lt. Susan Tarpley, AP at [jsetarpley@frontier.com](mailto:jsetarpley@frontier.com).

### September 11-13 – Fisherman Bay Weekend Rendezvous, Lopez Island

Mark and Debbie Richey will provide details for this weekend at Fisherman Bay.

### September 26 – Squadron Anniversary Cookout at Coronet Bay Shelter, Deception Pass State Park

Our annual celebration of the Squadron will occur on a free-parking-pass day at Coronet Bay. We'll reserve the shelter for our group picnic and cookout.

### October 3 – Leavenworth Octoberfest and Foliage Bus Tour

Sit back, relax and leave the driving to Bellair Charters who will offer a day trip to Leavenworth, with pick-up in Burlington. We'll enjoy the fall colors along the way and arrive in Leavenworth in time for a group lunch, after which we can explore town on our own. This event is not as crowded as the December Tree Lighting, so don't worry about being crushed in the crowds! We can book this in August. Price will be approximately \$85 per person for transportation. Lunch extra.

### October 2-4 (or 9-11) – Roche Harbor Weekend Rendezvous

We'll work out which weekend this cruise will be. Enjoy quiet off-season relaxation at Roche Harbor, with reduced boatslip rates. Non-boaters can come by ferry and stay at the hotel. Mark and Debbie Richey are the hosts.

### December 12 – LaConner Lighted Boat Parade and Holiday Party

Ring in the holidays with this festive evening at the LaConner Pub, enjoying the boat parade and your choice of dinner. It is our squadron's Holiday Party instead of having a December meeting.

## PAST MEMORIES

July 4th Weekend Rendezvous Bellingham 2013

Kelly and Elisabeth Libby with Gidget  
Squadron boats filled the 240' U Dock  
Potluck on the dock  
Paul Rosetter relaxing on Time Flies



SBSPS Rendezvous at the Mariners August 18





## **Educational Department Lt/C Robert J. Miller, JN**

Summer is on the way, but today (Memorial Day), it's raining, which is typical of our late May weather pattern. The stay-at-home program of Covid-19 has kept recreational boat traffic on Guemes Channel very quiet this Spring, but I saw a large increase in boat traffic on the Saturday before Memorial Day. I sure hope that the boaters were practicing proper social distancing. We saw one sailboat which didn't and which received a huge blast from the tanker overtaking it.

Crossing the border into Canada is still prohibited for recreational boaters, but San Juan and Island Counties are now in Stage 2, while Skagit and Watcom Counties remain in Stage 1 (as of Memorial Day). Roach Harbor Marina, <https://www.rocheharbor.com/covid-19/>, doesn't allow overnight mooring during State 2, but will open moorage at Stage 3, now estimated for mid-June. Check with your destinations before heading out. While some marine state parks are open for day use, it isn't clear if overnight mooring is permitted. Check with <https://parks.state.wa.us/1177/Novel-Coronavirus---COVID-19> for up-to-date information beyond the May 02 announcement.

### **Boat Handling Class – Online Success**

The Educational Department finished the Boat Handling class by holding the last six sessions online with Zoom. The final exam was held on May 16 in the Anacortes Marina parking lot during a heavy rain. Ten students showed up on the damp day and are eagerly awaiting their results. USPS Headquarters is still closed, so I am waiting for an opening notification before I can send in the exams for scoring. The students and instructors generally felt that the online experience was satisfactory, although all would have welcomed the higher level of personal interaction found in the classroom environment.

### **District 16 Distance Learning and Meeting Initiative**

The District Education Officer, Jim West, has been directed by the District Commander, Craig Brown, to investigate tools to facilitate online education, which also can be used to host virtual face-to-face meetings. The focus points and needs include: allow a squadron to distance-teach to its members and outside attendees; to allow squadrons who don't have a critical mass of attendees or time to teach a class to send their students virtually to the squadron holding the class; to provide a tool to hold small meetings within a squadron (like Skagit Bay does for the Executive Committee or as D16 does for the SEOs); and to host squadron-wide or district-wide meetings (as Skagit Bay did for the May 'Dinner' Meeting).

Ten interested members of D16 squadrons have been meeting online and by email for the past several weeks to discuss requirements, experiences, and to evaluate some common virtual meeting platforms. A couple of squadrons, notably Bellevue and Everett, have been using Free Conference Call to provide distance learning and D16 Squadron Education Officers have been use FCC for several months in a monthly evening meeting. Skagit Bay held successful class using Zoom and a couple other squadrons have also used the app for squadron meetings. The study group has held platform-specific meetings with Free Conference Call, Zoom, and Cisco Webex and plan on making a recommendation soon. At this time, the Pro version of Zoom, as used by Skagit Bay, is one of the contenders. Webex currently limits new accounts to paying businesses and the no-charge version is limited. Free Conference Call is fairly hard to use easily and is basically a voice-based system doing screen sharing. One person in the study group tested the new Google Meet product, but it lacks a couple of commonly-used features and requires all participants to have a Google account.

Stay tuned for more announcements on our virtual experiments.

### **Upcoming Classes**

The Educational Department is in flux while we figure out how and where to hold classes. We are thinking about holding the Cruise Planning and Radar for Boaters classes starting in September. Both can be done easily with our online tools, but we really would like a classroom. We need to sort out locations, etc. More info will be coming during the Summer

## .Safety Notes: Summer 2020

### *Browsing for Safety*

Boating safety information comes at us from various directions and many different sources. Be it a legitimate safety issue of which all boaters should take notice or slick marketing of the next “must have safety gizmo”, we need to keep up with it. While many boaters intentionally subscribe to specific publications and websites to stay on top of such information, others might be more casual about staying informed. Allow me to suggest several sources all boaters might consider *bookmarking*. These sites can be trusted to alert boaters of developing safety issues, give guidance on rules and regulations, provide safe boating practices.

**United States Power Squadrons:** [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)

Hopefully, this site is familiar to all of us. For those who have yet to visit the Safety Committee section of our website I hope you will take time to check it out. You will find latest information about developing safety issues as well as product recalls. It covers basic safety issues important to recreational boaters.

**Official Website of the United States Coast Guard- Boating Safety Division.**

[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

This is a great site. It provides critical safety information to both recreational boaters and to boat manufacturers. For the recreational boater you will find information about accident reporting, boating education, safety checks, safety afloat. On the manufacturer portion of the site you might find information about possible defects and recalls related to your or a friend's boat.

Of particular interest here is Boating Safety Circulars. While mostly related to commercial operations and issues, some items are directly related to recreational boaters as well.

**USCG Navigation Center** [www.navcen.uscg.gov](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov)

This is a big site with lots of information. It covers maritime safety data, navigation systems, safety information, reporting problems and much more. I hope you will take time to check it out as well. While you are there, sign up to automatically receive **USCG District 13 “Local Notice to Mariners”**. This weekly publication provides a host of safety information about our local and regional waters as well as more widely developing issues.

While these sites are familiar to many, I know others may be unaware of them. For those who not familiar with them I hope you will find some value in taking time to peruse each of them.

I wish everyone a *fun and safe* summer and hope to see you *all in person* soon!

## Lt Don Coleman - Safety

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### Alternative Moorage – Linear Moorage

At the Sucia Island rendezvous, there were only two boats Briongloid and ourselves. Briongloid arrived on Friday afternoon about an hour ahead of us. The Fossil Bay docks were absolutely full! All the mooring buoys in Fossil Bay were also taken. So they tied up to the linear moorage in Echo Bay. There was a spot for us when we arrived about an hour later. We have looked at that tie up before and for us if the line with the rings in it is too high, we can't moor there. But at this particular one in Echo Bay we were able to tie up. It was interesting. Saturday afternoon the wind came up at tide change and all the boats were rocking really well. But after about an hour or so, it calmed down. For the most part, it's just like being tied to a dock. You definitely want to use fenders even though there are Styrofoam floats on the line. They squeak something awful when rubbing on your hull. As you can see in the picture below, you tie up to the rings with a bow line and stern line. You cannot raft off while tied up here. There are two of these systems in Echo Bay and I know of one in Reid Harbor. Try it!

Debbie



**Skagit Bay Sail & Power Squadron  
General Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2020 Online Zoom Meeting**

**In Attendance:**

John Bellinger	Marlene Bellinger	George Brooks	Carolyn Caporgno
Glen Caporgno	Don Coleman	Steve Drummond	Jeani Drummond
Jack Dyer	George Johnson	Sandy Johnson	Elizabeth Mahoney
Donna Mason	Paul Mason	Bob Miller	Dan Niven
Debbie Richey	Mark Richey	Guest: Tom Griffin	

Meeting Called to Order: 1902

**Executive Officer** –Carolyn and Dan

**Marketing**-Donna

Marketing Report -

We let them know that we were not participating with the Tulip Booth and discovered that the Tulip Festival had already been canceled  
Cornet Bay Cookout trip is canceled July 10-12

**Administrative Officer** – Carolyn and Dan

Clever Kathy now has masks available with the Power Squadron logo:  
\$15 for heat printed design (preferred for wearing comfort)  
\$20 for embroidery

**Secretary** – April 2<sup>nd</sup> Ex Comm minutes were approved. Mark takes responsibility for missing 2 articles for the previous Bitter End

**Membership**- Catherine is working on membership paperwork for 2 new, potential members. Bob will work with Catherine on a short promotion spiel for class members that are not currently members

**Treasurer** – Jack Dyer- Monthly Treasurer's Report

\*Previous Balance: \$5,841.76 end of April

\*Current Balance: \$6159.26 with \$68.00 going toward the locker fee

Meeting adjourned: 1908      Guest Speaker: Captain Tom Griffin of Anacortes

**CPS-ECP is Launching a Monthly Webinar Series**

We're launching an exciting new webinar series for people who want to brush up on their boating skills or explore a new interest. Our volunteers have been developing this collection of informative webinars and will be bringing them to your living room, cottage, boat or office by offering them online.

Webinars are not new to CPS-ECP; over the years many Squadrons have developed their own successful webinars to satisfy a local need. We're now offering some of these as monthly webinars at 8pm Eastern Time for everyone to enjoy. We'll cover subjects such as Automatic Identification System, Environment, Weather, Paddling and traditional subjects like Tides, Charting and Celestial Navigation.

Each webinar will be presented by our experienced boaters for an hour with time for you ask your questions. The cost is \$30 for non-members and \$25.50 for members. Each attendee will also receive an ePub copy of the seminar booklet. Schedule below.

Protecting Our Waterways' Environment	May 13
Paddling and Board Smart	June 10
Weather For Boaters	July 8
Chart Reading For Beginners	August 12
AIS For Recreational Boaters	September 9
Celestial Navigation in a Nutshell	October 14
Tropical Weather For The Winter Boater	November 11
Tides and Currents	December 9



To review descriptions and register please visit: [www.boatingcourses.ca](http://www.boatingcourses.ca) and choose the Seminars category in the Level dropdown menu. Space is limited, book your spot today!

## 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.®



### ~ General Meeting Information ~

Our General Meetings are normally 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.

### Executive Office Lt/C Carolyn Caporgno, S

The weather has been beautiful. I hope you have been able to get out on your boats just for a day here and there. I can't wait for our Crab Cookout at Coronet Bay in July. Looking forward to seeing you all.

You can now order COVID-19 protection masks through Clever Kathy Designs. Just go to her website online. They have the squadron logo on them.

The first Squadron shirt orders are completed, and I have them in my possession. You can still order online through Clever Kathy Designs. New orders can be sent directly to her. Questions, please contact Glen Caporgno supply officer or myself.

Burgees are available for \$25, tax included.

Some book suggestions:  
The Sea Around Us by Rachel Carson  
This Isle of Guemes by Helen Troy Elmore  
On the Trail of the Ice Age Floods by Bruce Bjornstad & Eugene Kiver

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Bridge Officers		
Commander	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Executive Officer	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Education Officer	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Administrative Officer	Dan Niven	
Secretary	Elizabeth Mahoney	
Treasurer	Jack Dyer, P	425-785-7782
Executive Committee		
	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Paul Rosetter, AP	360-595-1083
	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Steve Drummond, AP	
Port Captain	Vacant	
Law Officer	Vacant	
Merit Marks	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
	Vacant	
	Vacant	
Executive Department		
Co-Op Charting	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Liaison	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Marketing	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Public Relations	Various members split	
Radio Technical	George Brooks, SN	
Safety	Don Coleman	360 333-2962
Vessel Exams	Vacant	
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds	George Brooks, SN	360 466-3470
Local Board Elect Courses	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
Administrative Department		
Boating Activities	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
Rendezvous	Donna Mason, AP	
Greeting	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
Membership	Catherine Carter	
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Dan Niven	
Property Officer	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Supply Officer	Glen Caporgno, S	209-484-2365
Secretary's Department		
Editor "Bitter End"	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Historian	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Public Contact	Kelly Libby, S	425-359-7078
Roster	Bob Miller, JN	360-588-9950
Scrapbook	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Webmaster / IT	Kari Randall-Secret, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Marlene Bellinger, AP	
2 Yrs.	Jeannie Drummond	
3 Yrs.	Deanna Randall-Secret	
Nominating Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
2 Yrs.	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091
3 Yrs.	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Rules Committee		
1 Yr. Chair	Donna Mason, AP	360 595-1083
2 Yrs.	Ruth Peterson, SN	
3 Yrs.	John Bellinger, SN	360-757-8091

Please note the vacancies. You don't need an advanced grade. Every little bit helps. Pick something you think you can do and help out. If you don't know what a spot does, ask the chair.  
**If you don't show a phone number and want it to show, please let us know.**