

# THE BITTER END

February 2026



*For Boaters, By Boaters*

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

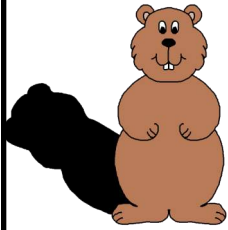
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A Division Of United States Power Squadrons™  
District 16

## CALENDAR



30 Jan- 07 Feb- Seattle Boat Show, Lumen Event Center

12 Feb— Excom Meeting, Farmhouse, 5:30 PM

12 Feb— Regular Meeting, Farmhouse, 6 PM

14 Feb— Happy Valentines Day

06-7 Mar— D16 Spring Conference, Everett



**This month we have a list of activities that some of our members decided to go on this year. You are invited to join them. Also, we would love to have a spring Basic Boating Class (ABC) so if you or your friends are needing or wanting one, please let us know. It will likely again be free.**



### Commanders Message Debbie Richey, P

Happy Valentines Day a little early! Hasn't January weather been a little weird?? I have a bad feeling about this summer and forest fires.

Have you made plans to join us on our activities? The schedule is in this newsletter. We have lots of great stuff planned. Let Carolyn or myself know if you have any questions about the activities. One I'm looking forward to, is going to Burroughs Island. We'll take an excursion boat over for an afternoon of exploring the island.

We are in need of people that would like to help out our squadron. We need instructors, folks that wouldn't mind being a secretary, or just getting the flags to our meetings. George Johnson and myself would love to hear from you.

We decided to change holding the executive board meeting to the same night as the general meeting. The executive board meeting will start at 1730 (5:30 pm). All are welcome to join us.

### What Not To Do – Nexus Tales

We recently went to Whistler, BC, for our week-long skiing trip. About halfway there, Mark re-

membered he had forgotten his ski boots at home. He broke his left ankle when he was 14 and it was never set correctly. His ski boots were fitted to him with his bum ankle. So we really needed to go back home and collect his boots. That means we had to go back across the border to the US.

We do have a Nexus cards so speed up the border crossing. However, I had taken food with us to cook in the condo at Whistler. I didn't even think about the food UNTIL the border guard decided to look in our ice chest. I tried to remember what I had put in there. I basically was cleaning out the refrigerator. We got pulled aside and told to go into the building for agricultural reasons. I had a dozen eggs in the ice chest. Turns out two days prior to our crossing, the USDA listed them as a prohibited item to bring into the US. We were very fortunate the inspection fellow was sympathetic after hearing our tale of woe. He did not confiscate the eggs. If he had confiscated the eggs, we would have lost our nexus cards.

When we came home from our trip, I took an inventory of what I had placed in the ice chest. This time though, no questions about the food we had. It just depends on the guard

at the crossing.

Canada is a great place to visit and I know we all have stories to tell of border crossings gone awry. The moral of the story is to always, always check the restrictions on bringing food across the border to the US. I knew about citrus and raw beef. I did not know about the restrictions on poultry products due to avian flu.

Here is the link to find out what you can bring back from Canada to the US across the land borders.  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traveling-with-ag-products/traveling-united-states-canada-land-borders>

**Some of our members are going to do these events this year and invite you to join them. Details of the invitations will be sent out as they get closer. Feel free to ask for details via email before if you wish.**

Date	Destination	Host	Theme
January 30-February 7	Seattle Boat Show		What's new in boating?
March 6-7	D16 Spring Conference	Everett	
March 27-29	Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, boat or ferry		Spring on the Island
April 17-19	Langley, Whidbey Island Boat or Car Day Trip	Johnsons and Caporgnos	Village by the Sea, Lunch together on Saturday
May __	Burrows Island Light House Tour		Lighthouse History, Dinner or late lunch together
June 5-7	D16 Rendezvous, Port Ludlow	D16 Cdr. _____	
June 11	Shelter Bay Squadron Picnic June Meeting		1 <sup>st</sup> picnic this year
June 12-26	Gulf Islands	Mark & Debbie Richey	
July 10-12	Roche Harbor, San Juan Island Boat or Car Ferry		San Juan Island Sculpture Park and Nature Reserve
August 21-23	Deer Harbor, San Juan Island, boat or ferry		
September 26	Anniversary Cookout, Cornet Bay, Whidbey Island		Saturday Free Day Picnic
October 23-25	Port Townsend, boat or ferry	TBD	Architecture/Arts/Maritime Culture, Dinner Saturday night
November 13-15	Leavenworth by train or bus		Bavarian-themed village, alpine architecture, German food
December 12	La Conner Boat Parade & Holiday Party		Holiday celebration

**Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron  
Executive Committee and General Meeting Combined Minutes  
January 8, 2026**

**Attendance:**

Mark Richey  
Debbie Richey  
Jack Dyer

George Johnson  
Sandy Johnson  
John Woodard

Glen Caporgno  
Carolyn Caporgno

**Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.**

**Executive Officer – Mark Richey**

Deception Pass Past Commander Jerry Liggett will confer with Commander regarding teaching together.

**Administrative Officer – (Commander)**

Christmas Boat Parade was cancelled, BUT our squadron still had dinner in LaConner at the Pub.

Spring Conference is in March. Debbie and Mark Richey expect to attend.

We still can't host social events because we still have no insurance for such.

**Education Officer – Adam Dietz**

We have insurance to cover classes and must notify insurer of location and other information.

**Secretary - George Johnson**

November meeting minutes approved.

**Treasurer – Jack Dyer**

Bank balance reported.

2022 still "pending" in IRS site. Jack is in a dialogue with IRS regarding this.

Mark Richey reports that we can get refurbished crab pots from DFW again but may have to call ourselves..

Our annual collection for the Food Bank was made at the LaConner dinner, and the \$90 collected was forwarded to Jack Dyer by Donna Mason.

**Commander - Debbie Richey**

There was a brief discussion of the upcoming Spring Conference and potential attendees.

**Old Business –**

None.

**New Business –**

Carolyn Caporgno led a session to plan our annual calendar of monthly events. Results will be published in the February Bitter End.

## 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.®

### Squadron Logo Wear

Did you know that there is a shop in La Conner that will embroider shirts, bags and hats with the Skagit Bay name and burgee? It's called CleverKathy. She has our logo already setup. You can bring your own items or purchase one of her many items. Stop in sometime and see what she has to offer! [https://www.cleverkathydesigns.com/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](https://www.cleverkathydesigns.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)

[www.cleverkathydesigns.com/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](https://www.cleverkathydesigns.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)

We are always looking for boating related articles from any member. Photos too. If you think it would be of interest to the Squadron, send it. The editor will insert as space and subject provides. Note that the green box on the first page is quick editorial comments and attention getting items .

### ~ General Meeting Information ~

Our General Meetings are normally held monthly on the 2nd Thursdays of each month (except July & August), at Shawn O'Donnell's, 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.



Bridge Officers		
Commander	Debbie Richey, AP	425-750-9551
Executive Officer	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Education Officer	Adam Deitz	203-536-6402
Administrative Officer	-	-
Secretary	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Treasurer	Jack Dyer, AP	425-785-7782
Executive Committee		
	Donna Mason, AP	360-595-1083
	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
	Carolyn Caporgno, S	
Commander Department		
Chaplain	Ruth Peterson, SN	360-293-1888
Flag Lt.	Glen Caporgno, S	
Port Captain		
Law Officer		
Merit Marks	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Executive Department		
Co-Op Charting	Mark Richey, SN-IN	425-876-6274
Liaison	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Marketing		
Public Relations	Various members split	
Radio Technical		
Safety	Don Coleman	360 333-2962
Vessel Exams	Vacant	
Education Department		
Assistant Education Officer	Mark Richey, SN-IN	
Local Board Public Boating	George Johnson, SN	360-588-8125
Local Board Advanced Grds		
Local Board Elect Courses		
Administrative Department		
Boating Activities		
Rendezvous		
Greeting	Sandy Johnson, P	360-588-8125
Membership	Debbie Richey, AP	
Operations Training	Debbie Richey, AP	360-387-1260
Programs	Carolyn Caporgno, S	
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	Vacant	
Roster	Debbie Richey, AP	
Scrapbook	Carolyn Caporgno, S	209-609-1182
Webmaster / IT	Kari Randall-Secrest, N	360-387-1194
Auditing Committee		
	Sandy Johnson, P	
	Jeannie Drummond	
Nominating Committee		
	George Johnson, SN	
Rules Committee		
	George Johnson, SN	
	Donna Mason, AP	

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 no longer wish to hold the committee spot we have you in, please let us know.**