Everett Sail and Power Squadron *is*

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

of Snohomish County

The Pike Pole

For Boaters, By Boaters™

WINTER 2026-2027

Volume LXXIV Issue 2



Grays Harbor Park Lighthouse
Photo by D/Lt/C Jim West, JN

WINTER Edition

November '26, Wednesday 4 - Monthly Gathering *at* Firefighters Hall 6:30 pm, Program: Salmon for Soldiers

December, '26, Tuesday 1 - Christmas Party *at* Shawn O'Donnell's *on* 128th in Everett 6:00 pm

January, '27, Tuesday 5 - Monthly Gathering via Zoom at 6:30 pm

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Everett Sail and Power Squadron *is*



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

of Snohomish County

CALENDAR *OF* EVENTS *for* 2026-2027

2026

November

4 (**Wednesday**) "Thankful" Monthly Gathering, Program: Salmon for Soldiers, potluck meal (thanksgiving theme), food bank and bike fund donations encouraged, Everett Firefighters Hall, 6:30 pm

10 Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 pm

December

1 Christmas Party at Shawn O'Donnell's restaurant, Everett, RSVP required, $40 per person, 6:00 RSVP Darcy Baker

5 Holiday by the Bay, Port of Everett, volunteers needed, RSVP Annette

5 Mill Creek Town Center Santa Parade, volunteers needed, RSVP Linda

8 Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 pm

11 Volunteer at Christmas House, RSVP Linda M.

2027

January

5 Monthly Gathering (via Zoom). Speaker TBA. Tune in at 6:30 pm.

12 Executive Committee meeting via Zoom, 6:30 pm

16 Adopt a Street, Marine View Drive, 9:00 to 10:30 am, RSVP Danny or Claire

Please note, *The Pike Pole* will be published quarterly during the ten month Squadron year. The months will be September, November, February and May. If you have any questions, please contact Lt/C Linda Skugstad, or Commander Claire Greer. Thank you

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Website: http://www.BoatClubSnoCo.org

Front Cover: Grays Harbor Park Lighthouse, Photo by D/Lt/C Jim West, JN

You're Invited…

Join us as we celebrate the season at Shawn O'Donnell's
(Everett) Irish Pub
Tuesday the first of December, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Enjoy a festive atmosphere, delicious meal and
entertaining white elephant gift exchange

Let's help our neighbors in need!
Care donations will be collected (warm clothing and personal items)
for donation to the Homeless Hygiene Center in Lynnwood

Holiday Menu

Brown Sugar Glazed Ham
Spiced Salmon
Apple & Pecan Salad
Colcannon Potatoes
Sweet Brandied Carrots
Homemade Irish Soda Bread
Christmas Themed Desserts
No-host Beverages

Cost is $40 per person. RSVP to Darcy Baker by November 25.
Secure your reservation using PayPal at boatclubsnoco.org under the
"Members Only" icon OR sign up & pay by cash/check at the November 4 meeting.

FROM THE HELM

Commander Claire Greer



As we say goodbye to our boats and prepare to settle in for one of the usual cold, rainy winters we tend to get here in the Pacific Northwest. We have some new alliances to look forward to for our boating season next year. Not only does our squadron have some brand new members, Christie and Dan; as well as Moriah, who was sworn in at our October gathering, but we are also pleased to welcome eight members from the Bellevue squadron, some of whom have already attended our gatherings. Bruce and KK Gardiner joined us for our October gathering, and it was really good to be able to hear some stories from our members. Sometimes when we meet as a group I don't seem to get time to talk to people about things other than squadron business; not having a speaker enabled us to focus on our squadron members for a while, and that was very enjoyable.

Earlier this year there was some re-organization of District 30, which covered some of our non-coastal States; Colorado's Boulder Valley Sail and Power Squadron has chosen to come and join us as part of District 16. Having an inland squadron as part of our district presents opportunities for new experiences for all of us and we were very pleased that two of their members were able to attend our D16 conference in Friday Harbor. Lynn Johnson is their executive officer and he was able to go out on the water while he was here, with Ken and Pat Smith. Arnie Strasser has his boat moored in Bellingham so may be able to attend some of our events next year. Annette and I have been invited to attend their October meeting via Zoom and I'm looking forward to hearing about the experiences of a squadron in a different part of the country.

So we have new people to consider as we start planning our activities for next year- this would be the time to let us know if there are classes or seminars you've been thinking that you would like to take, or activities (boating or otherwise!) that you think would be fun for us to do as a group. Please contact us if you've got any suggestions or requests; we'll be happy to consider them. Our next issue of ***The Pike Pole*** will be coming out in February, so by then we will have an outline of events for next year. In the meantime, I hope to see you all at our November gathering when we will be remembering to be thankful, especially for home-made Pie, which will be provided by the squadron members, and at our December Christmas party, where our annual white-elephant gift exchange is always entertaining and memorable.

See you then. Commander Claire



Lt/C Linda Martin, JN receiving the Carroll Walker award for excellence in teaching from Commander Claire Greer

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Lt/C Nick Rich, AP



Greetings fellow mariners! We have some updates for outreach/outings of this past month and for events coming up soon.

Adopt-a-Street: As this issue is going to print, we held our Fall clean-up for the Marine View Drive in Everett on Saturday, October 17th with the group meeting at 9:00 AM. As it usually is, this was a fun and rewarding way to give back to our community and if you missed this opportunity and would like to participate in the next clean-up, please keep an eye on the calendar of events in *The Pike Pole* and mark your calendar for the next event. These run quarterly throughout the year, and the next Marine View Drive clean up is anticipated to be January 16, 2027. If you have interest in participating in some fun exercise and good company, please contact/RSVP Danny or Claire.

Boating in Colder Fall Weather: Staying Safe in Chilly Waters: While many of us start winterizing our boats for the upcoming winter season, I know that there are many intrepid boaters who enjoy the Puget Sound waters even during the colder months of the year. Boating safety is paramount for all seasons of the year, so for those who extend your season of enjoyment on the water, please do so safely, and be vigilant and prepared with the following recommendations.

Dress for Survival, Not Just Comfort When boating in cold weather, it's critical to dress appropriately:
- Layering: Start with moisture-wicking base layers to keep sweat off your skin, followed by insulating layers to retain warmth, and a waterproof outer layer to block wind and water.
- Avoid Cotton: Cotton holds moisture and loses insulation properties when wet. Stick to materials like wool, fleece, or synthetics that retain heat even when damp.
- PFDs: Always wear a life jacket, ideally one designed for cold-weather use. These often include extra thermal protection, making them essential in preventing hypothermia if you fall overboard.

The Threat of Cold-Water Immersion Falling into cold water can be deadly. Understanding the body's response to cold-water immersion can help boaters react effectively in an emergency:
- Cold Shock Response: Upon falling into cold water, your body may react with an involuntary gasp reflex, which can cause you to inhale water. This is often followed by hyperventilation and loss of muscle control.
- Hypothermia: Prolonged exposure to cold water reduces body temperature. Hypothermia can set in quickly and be fatal if not addressed promptly. It's important to know the signs: shivering, confusion, slurred speech, and loss of coordination.
- Remember the "1-10-1" Rule: This survival rule is helpful for boaters: you have 1 minute to control your breathing after falling into cold water, 10 minutes of meaningful muscle use to self-rescue, and 1 hour before hypothermia becomes life-threatening.

Equipment and Vessel Preparation Your boat and gear need to be up to the task of winter conditions. Here are key considerations:
- Check the Weather: In colder months, weather can be more unpredictable. Make sure you check multiple forecasts and be ready to alter plans if conditions look dangerous.
- Battery Maintenance: Cold temperatures can affect your boat's battery performance. Ensure your battery is fully charged and carry a backup if possible.
- Fuel Management: Engines may need longer warm-up times, and cold weather can affect fuel consumption, so plan for extra fuel to avoid running out on the water.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Lt/C Susan Tarpley, AP



It's November and the grey skies, cooler temps, and shorter daylengths have arrived. Many of us have put away our boats and RVs, pulled out our extra blankets and winter coats, and have even turned on the heaters in our homes.



What's special about November? It's more than the start of the holiday season, it is very much a time of "Thankfulness". There are many things in our day to day lives to be grateful/ thankful for, e.g., family and friends, good memories, good health, special trips and places,… the list goes on. November is a perfect time to do some of that reflection and realization.

For example, Veterans Day. It is observed every year on November 11. It memorializes the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month," when the armistice of World War I was signed. That date seems a very long time ago, but it is oh so meaningful.

Present day, Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who served or are currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. It is a day when we celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, their love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

In recognition of our theme of "Thankfulness", we have invited a special guest speaker for the November gathering. We will be joined by Salmon for Soldiers!

Come be a part of our November gathering. Hear their story, how it has made a positive difference in people's lives, and how we can partner with them in the future.

Again, there are MANY things in our day to day lives to be grateful/ thankful for. November is a perfect time to do some of that reflection and realization for what we have and should appreciate. and maybe even inspire a call-to-action in us to better the lives of those around and/or the place, the space, and the environment we live in.

Join us to kick off the month of "Thankfulness":
Date/time: Wenesday, November 4th (note date change)
Social time begins at 6:30pm. Program at 7:10pm
Where: Everett Firefighters Hall, 2411 Hewitt Ave, Everett

What to bring:
Potluck items…Main dishes &/or Sides. Homemade pies to be provided by club members!
Donations for local food bank, *see page 8 and 16*
Looking forward to seeing you all soon. With gratitude for all and sincere regards, *Susan*

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Lt/C Linda Martin, JN



WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

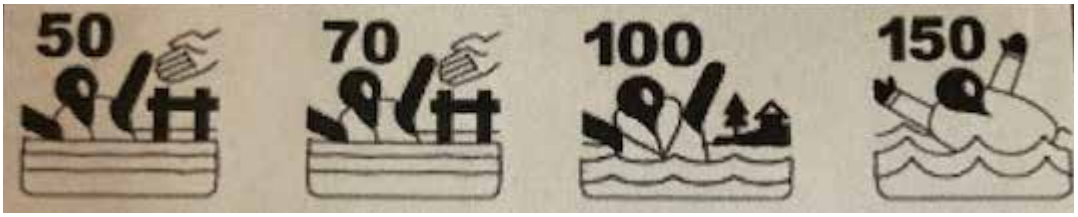
Two very interesting things happened at the Fishermen's Fall Festival at our Boating Safety 4 Kids booth.

One, Marie McBride from the Bremerton Squadron and faithful volunteer at Boating Safety 4 Kids events donated a brand-new kid's life jacket to the event. Her son found it in a dumpster. Brand new has never been worn that we could tell. It had the new label for life jackets inside.

Two, Mike from the US Coast Guard booth across the way came over to complement our activities in our booth and brought me a new US Coast Guard set of rules. We discussed the new labels in the life jackets. He showed me the page in the set of rules with a diagram of the new life jacket labels and its short description.

The United States and Canadian Coast Guards retired the "Type" categories describing PFDs. In its place, it describes PFDs by performance categories that includes levels of buoyancy and turning characteristics.

Most of the new labels are easy to figure out compared to the Type I, II, III, VI labels from before. But there is one confusing part. That is what I want to address in my article. We spend a lot of time at our events teaching the parents what to look for when purchasing a life jacket for their children and themselves. With the new labels, we want to make it easy for them.



THE NUMBER

Each label above has a number. It is not 50 inches in chest measurement. It is not 50 pounds in body weight. It is 50 N. The N stands for Newtons of buoyance. What does that mean? Well, I sure didn't know, but I learned that Newton is a unit of force and in terms of buoyance it describes how strongly a buoy pushes you upward in the water. That means that a buoy with 50 N provides about 5 kg of additional lift. What is important is that it doesn't need to support your full body weight. Your body already has natural buoyancy. What really matters is keeping your airways above water. The head and shoulders (the part above water) weigh around 4 kg, regardless of the body size. So, 40 N is roughly the minimum needed to keep a person afloat and able to breath.

Note: 4 kg. equals 8.82 pounds therefore, 50 N is for 5 kg. equals 11.025 pounds. 70 N for 7 kg. = 15.435, 100 N for 10 kg. = 22.05, 150 N for 15 kg. = 33.075. For us that didn't learn kilograms at school, it is a little over double when you change kg. to lb.

Then why do the numbers get bigger? The rougher the water the more Newtons you will need to keep your head and shoulders above water to breath.

THE WATER

Look carefully at the drawings of water on the labels. As you move from left to right the water gets rougher. Therefore, you

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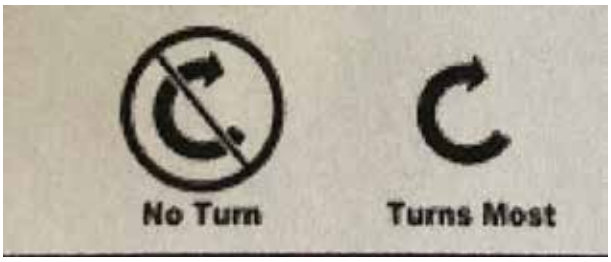
will need a life jacket with a higher number.

THE PERSON
The drawing of the person gets a different life jacket as you go from left to right. The rougher the water the bigger the number. The bigger the number and better life jacket you will need. Also the longer time it will take to rescue the person in the water.

THE BACKGROUND
Now look at the background in the label. On the left is a dock with a hand reaching the person. This symbolizes that you are in calm water near a dock. You have probably fallen off the dock or off a boat and help is nearby.

As you move to the third drawing the background is now an island with trees. Now you are in the water away from shore but not quite out in the ocean as the forth drawing shows.

Notice the style of life jacket as you move away from the calm near shore to the rough offshore.



THE TURNING SYMBOL
Also on the life jacket label is the Turn symbol. This shows whether the life jacket will turn the face up or not. No life jacket is guaranteed to turn your face up every time, but some do a better job than others.

Final Note: To help you purchase the right size of life jackets, they still have the recommended weight on the label.

It is my hope that this will make it clearer to the shopper when they need to purchase a new life jacket. If your children are playing in the pool or near the beach and you are nearby to watch, the 30 N and 50 N will probably be just fine. As a boater in the Puget Sound 70 N to 100 N is probably the best bet. For my brother who cruises the inside passage to Alaska every spring and fall027 and is open to the Pacific Ocean a couple of times, he would want to have the 150 N onboard for emergencies. There is also a 275 N available.

Fill the Tote!



Don't forget our monthly food drive to gather provisions for our local food banks. There are MANY people in our county that are in real need of supplemental assistance with food and toiletries. So, please help us with our club's civic efforts!

Bring non-perishable food and/or personal items, such as:

- Canned Goods
- Boxed Meals Cereal or Oatmeal
- Protein or Breakfast Bars
- Kitchen Staples
- Toiletries
- Feminine Products
- Baby & Adult Diapers and Wipes
- Pet Food
- Monetary Donations

Cash or check donations are also gladly accepted! Bring what you can. Thank you for helping those in need.



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of Snohomish County

2027 BOATING EDUCATION SCHEDULE

AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE -- ABC
Course will begin again, April 2027 Date:TBD

GO TO www.BOATCLUBSNOCO.ORG
FOR MORE DETAILS and link to register and pay

ADVANCED AND ELECTIVE CLASSES

We are looking for students to attend
Marine Electrical Systems and Marine Navigation
Please Contact Linda Martin if interested.

Free Seminars
TO BE ANNOUNCED

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FOR MORE DETAILS



https://safeboatingcampaign.com/

MASTER LIST OF USPS COURSES

ADVANCED GRADES

Boat Handling: How the heck do I get this boat to do what I want?
Marine Navigation (aka Piloting): How to get from here to there without running into something.
Advanced Marine Navigation (aka Advanced Piloting): Navigation under more difficult circumstances while using electronic tools, especially GPS all the while taking wind and currents into account.
Off-shore Navigation (aka Junior Navigation or JN): When off-shore there are no longer landmarks for reference; we must substitute celestial objects such as the sun.
Celestial Navigation (aka Navigation or N): The final navigation course focuses on sextant use---for when all your electronics fail!

ELECTIVES

Cruising and Cruise Planning: You're going on a two-week cruise in Canada – what do I take? Customs? Forbidden fruits & veggies? What if I get hurt? We answer all these questions and more!
Engine Maintenance: Diesel, gasoline, spark plugs, pistons, fuel mixtures, . . and how they all work together to get you where you're going.
Instructor Development (ID): Want to teach a course? We'll show you how! Open only to members.
Marine Electrical Systems (MES): There is one system on the boat and one that you plug into at the dock, which is which?
Marine Communications Systems (MCS): It can be a matter of life or death to be able to communicate with the first responders. We teach you how to make a SOS call and more.
Electronic Navigation Systems (ENS):
Radar for Boaters: The systems used to navigate by on the boat are changing as we speak. Learn now before they crihange.
Sail: What are all those lines and gadgets for? Are you sure the wind will blow me where I want to go?
Weather: Look to the clouds, wind and temperature for safe boating weather.

BOATING SAFETY 4 KIDS OVER 1,000 KIDS IN 2026

by Lt/C Linda Martin, JN, SEO

I can't believe we have touched and taught over 1,000 kids this year with boating and water safety lessons in a super fun way.

About this time of year, I add up all the events, kids and helpers that *Boating Safety 4 Kids* participated in. So here goes for 2026.

Right out of the gate in February we spent three days, the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday, at the **Seattle Boat Show Aqua Paddle Boat event** on the main floor, not up in the hidden room. 416 children put on a life jacket and paddled to their hearts content for a few minutes. We had 18 members taking shifts at the Boat Show, eight of them came from District 16.



Welcome Station at Mill Creek Kid's Fest



The crew at Fisherman's Fall Festival

In the same month, we were invited to do a presentation at the **Mill Town Sailing Association.** There were six kids and 35 adults listening to the presentation by Linda and Jim West. We started a partnership with the Sailing Assoc. that has brought us together a couple of times.

April brings **April Pool's Day** at the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Center. About 60 kids attended the fun event at the pool and we taught them about life jackets. Three members from Everett did the teaching.

Then the really big deal came our way. Thanks to Annette Ferguson's relationship with the Port of Everett, we are invited to attend the all four **FIFA World Cup Watch Parties** in June. They rented the Aqua Paddle Boats and Pond, and we put life jackets on 655 kids. What an exciting event that was, like a great big, huge birthday party. The visitors were so happy to watch their teams win the soccer games projected on a very huge screen. We had nine helpers from Everett and five from District 16. Photo below is from a girl at my church with permission from her mom to print it.

Summer was winding down and we set up our "Dog and Pony Show" in the Mill Creek Town Center for the **Mill Creek Kid's Fest** in August. Global Credit Union sponsored our activity and let us use the bank for the life jackets and cold-water lessons. The Shark had to stay outside doing the Rescue Toss lesson. The Seagull welcomed the kids and gave out the passports. Since we were up at the far north end of the Town Center, we only had 21 kids. But we still had fun. We had four members from Everett helping.

Coming into fall there was the **Fishermen's Fall Festival** at the Fishermen's Terminal at Ballard. They provided our double tent and tables and chairs. We

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Enjoying a paddle boat at the Everett Soccer's Watch Party in June. Photo by Whitney Mayer

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- Partial Winterizing Your Boat: Even when you're actively boating, partial winterization can help prevent damage. Flush your engine with antifreeze and check that bilge pumps are working efficiently to prevent freezing.

Emergency Preparedness and Communication Staying connected and prepared for emergencies is critical during cold-weather boating:
- VHF Radio and GPS: Ensure your VHF radio is working properly and keep it within easy reach. A GPS or chart plotter is equally important for tracking your position, especially in low visibility conditions.
- File a Float Plan: Always inform someone on shore of your route and expected return time. This simple step can save precious time in the event of an emergency.
- First Aid Kit and Emergency Blankets: Pack a well-stocked first aid kit with items for treating cold exposure, such as thermal blankets and chemical heat packs. It's also a good idea to include extra food and water, as cold-weather conditions may delay rescue times.

While cold-weather boating offers unique rewards, it also requires more thorough preparation and respect for the dangers that cold temperatures pose. By dressing appropriately, preparing your vessel, and understanding the risks of cold-water immersion, you can safely enjoy the tranquility and beauty that off-season boating brings.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to enjoy a great summer and fall as we have, and we look forward to sharing sea stories with all of you at our next meeting.

- Nick

Adopt-A-Street
Clean up planned
January 16, 2027

The next Adopt-A-Street **clean up** is planned as follows: Meet *at* Henry M. Jackson Park for clean up *at* 9:00 am. The activity is EASY and FUN. It usually takes about 1-1/2 hours to complete.

Please contact Lt Danny Daniels, AP *or* Lt Claire Greer, AP to sign up. It is important to sign up at least 1 week prior to ensure we have enough materials.

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taught about life jackets, cold water and the rescue bag toss. We had 31 kids and two helpers from Everett and five from District 16.

Now let's do the math…..416 + 6 + 60 + 655 + 21 + 31 = 1,189 kids. We had 32 members and 5 squadron volunteer for 6 events.

To add to the excitement at each event we had a raffle drawing where the children could win a stuffed seagull wearing a life jacket. Each winner was super excited to win. The raffle ticket asked if they go boating and would they like to take a class.

We have three more Boating Safety 4 Kids events as I write this. The next one is October 23 at the Everett Marina called **Haunted Harbor**, so it will have passed. We show up with 60 bright yellow life jackets and offer them to the children to wear as they go down on Dock 5 to get treats from the Mukilteo and Everett Yacht Clubs. The next two are on the same date.

December 5 at the Everett Marina is a **Holiday at the Bay** event. In the past few years, we have offered a craft for the kids to make and take home. Could you help with this event? It's from noon to 6pm. Annette Ferguson is the lead at this event, and you can let her know if you are available.

December 5 beginning at 4pm the **Santa Parade** in the Mill Creek Town Center is headed up by PFD Seagull, aka Linda Martin. She would love to have someone join her march down Main Street giving out Wear It Stickers. Let her know if you can help.

So that's wrap for 2026.

Our Summer Rendezvous

by Lt/C Brian Rachal, AP



Moriah Rachal being sworn in by Cdr. Claire

Ahoy mates. It's been a while since I wrote for *The Pike Pole* and I thought I could share a couple of stories from our rendezvous schedule this past summer. Of course this is the experience that my first mate Admiral Moriah and I had, but we did enjoy a few meet ups with our fellow ESPS members worth sharing. In true Brian fashion, some of the trips were not without notable events. It was actually a pretty light summer of boating activity for us, because we were late getting "M/V Most Precious" ready for the season, and Moriah was away for three weeks enjoying the hot summer in Romania during the best cruising time here. That was poor planning, but hopefully next year we'll do better.

Our cruising summer started with the D16 Rendezvous in Port Ludlow, and those that went already know how ugly the passage was on Friday the 5th of June. I knew it would be challenging as we were passing the Everett Marina and the swells in the river were bigger than I've seen before. There was a south wind pushing up the river and the tide was going out. We got out of the river just fine and into Possession Sound, and made it to Mukilteo with no issues. It was a little rough, but tolerable. Once around the point heading to the southern tip of Whidbey, the swells grew, the pounding got unbearable, and we had a full yard sale in the cabin. We dropped off a plane, and slowly made our way across using most of what I learned about cruising in adverse conditions. I say most because the first thing we talk about is avoiding being there in the first place, and I had already failed at that. It was uncomfortable, but well within the capability of our boat. We made it to Port Ludlow in three hours. Yes, it was a three hour tour, and the weather got rough. On the way back, the weather was much better and we made it home in less than half the time.

The following weekend we met up with some of our ESPS friends at Coupeville. Thankfully, our passage to Coupeville was uneventful. It turned out there was a farmers market and Pride Parade that Saturday, so the small town was hopping and full of very colorful people. It was my first time seeing a Pride Parade, and it was kinda fun.

The big event of the summer was a reminder for me that when you go cruising, you really need to be flexible. It's important to plan ahead, but there are many factors that can challenge your best laid plans and leave you with no choice but to just roll with it. This was the longest trip I had planned since getting Most Precious, and overall, she and her crew performed well. However, we were cruising up Saratoga Passage on day one, when the port engine started to overheat and the system shut it down. I opened up the engine compartment, and the serpentine belt was sitting on the floor, as was what was left of the tensioner pully. The bearing had failed and melted the pully. Ugh! Had I been smarter, I would have turned around and headed back to Everett, as we were a little less than halfway between Everett and Oak Harbor. I didn't want to backtrack so we continued to Oak Harbor. As we were headed to Oak Harbor I was on the phone trying to find a part and possibly a mechanic to help me. I have to give a shout out to Performance Marine for helping me identify the part. In the end, a friend of mine in Anacortes came to our rescue…again, and drove me to Bellingham to pick up the part the next morning. It took me ten minutes to put it back together and we continued on. We cruised to Roche Harbor to anchor out with the Tarpley's aboard "M/V Moondancer". Of course, my dinghy ran out gas going ashore and I got to make the row of shame up to the fuel dock.

We continued the trip to Todd Inlet near Victoria to meet up with the other boats in the Rendezvous and go visit Buchart Gardens. Of course, the first time I cleared customs at Sydney we had a little fun dealing with some contraband. It turns out they have a database that ties the boat name with passengers, and whatever held you up, so we had a small delay clearing customs on this trip. The officer I later spoke with on the phone wasn't sure why he was asked to check us out, so I finally told him the story of the last time, and that I now had different people on board and no contraband, so he sent us on our way. Hopefully, that's the last time Most Precious has an issue with Canadian Customs. We had a great time in Todd Inlet, enjoying a wonderful picnic with all of the folks that made the trip, and seeing the fireworks at Buchart Gardens. It was the biggest ESPS rendezvous since I joined the club.

After that, the boats separated and went their own ways. We joined the Baker's and their boat "M/V Traveler", to cruise a couple of days in the Gulf Islands going as far north as Telegraph Harbor on Thetis Island. On the way, we stayed the night at Maple Bay and ate award winning fish and chips at the Shipyard Restaurant and Pub. At least they say they are award winning, and Moriah made a point of comparing and agrees they are her favorite so far. The trip home was uneventful, other than stopping for a night in Anacortes and having an opportunity to look at a couple of larger boats that were on the market.

MERIT MARK – WHAT ART THOU?

The America's Boating Club has this thing called a Merit Mark — what is it?

I thank P/R/C Chris Brown, SN, for writing this wonderful article regarding Merit Marks

Almost everyone likes to be acknowledged for a job well done. Whether a politician or athlete wins, a student acing a test, or a worker receiving a promotion being recognized for an accomplishment is well received. Of course, we America's Boating Club members are no different. There are several types of awards such as plaques, but none have the prestige of the Merit Mark.

In 1920, just six years after the documents were signed in the New York City Yacht Club founding what was then called the United States Power Squadrons, the first Merit Marks were presented by then Chief Commander A. B. Bennett. He saw the need for an award to members who gave of their time and talents to help the organization accomplish its mission, whether it be at the national, district, or the squadron level.

Any member who meets the minimum requirement of 11 hours worked in a calendar year (January 1st to December 31st) is eligible to receive a Merit Mark – only one per year regardless of additional hours put in. Merit Marks are only given for actual hours worked and not for other contributions. After 25 Merit Marks have been earned a member is awarded the honor of being a Life Member. With this award, the member is not required to pay the national dues (squadron and district dues are still owed). However, many members still donate a like amount to the USPS national dues.

We needed to turn your hours into the Chairman by early October. Yes, this is a few months before the end of the year; however, the squadron can send supplemental submissions later in the year for work done until the last day of December (there is no lack of tasks the squadron needs done).

It is the duty of the Bridge and other officers to submit the hours a candidate worked to the Squadron Commander. These are then submitted to the Chief Commander in late October who then approves the submissions (note, the C/C has several area monitors to assist in this momentous task). You should receive your Merit Mark by email around mid-November.

I want to conclude that most of your hours have been turned into Chairman, Chuck Taylor. The hours have been collected by Linda Martin and by each member also. There are a few members that don't quite have enough hours to get the Merit Mark, but they are close. So, if that is you, we might be asking you to help us with an event or dinner or task that needs help with.

Send data or questions to the Merit Mark committee:
Chairman:
P/Lt/C Chuck Taylor, SN:
Committee Member:
P/C Linda Martin JN: pfdprettyfancydude@yahoo.com

ANOTHER YEAR LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR CHRISTMAS HOUSE DONATIONS

by Lt/C Linda Martin, JN

Another year of dedication to the Christmas House project in Snohomish County. After a very generous donation at the October Gathering, we are up to $1127.22 towards the purchase of bikes for the less fortunate children in Snohomish County.

Our next AND LAST collection will be at the November 4th General Gathering. Our goal is $2,000. The attendance at our last meeting was 21 members. If each member who attends donates $40, we will meet our goal.

If you are in the habit of donating more, please do. If you are unable to attend the meeting and want to contribute, you can donate on our website or mail a check to Linda Martin. The more money we have the more bikes we can buy at Walmart. They give us a great discount also.

Then there is the Christmas House Volunteer project. We have chosen Friday, December 11 from 8am to 2pm to help the parents "shop" for toys for their children. So far four of our regular members have signed up for that shift and I just checked and that day is filled.

As of the writing of this article, there are eight days still open. You can check their website www.christmas-house.org, click on Volunteer Register and it will tell you which dates are open.

Here's the stats: since 2015 we have collected $16,704.43 and bought 260 bikes with that money. Last year we collected $2036.54 and bought 34 bikes.

Thanks so much to all who contributed to the fund. If you need a receipt for your donation, I'll bring them to the November gathering.

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Visit: http://www.safetyseal.net

Vessel Safety Check

Anyone who would like a vessel safety check done on their boat

Contacts are below:
VSC Chairman
Lt Danny Daniels, AP 206/229-9649
DannyLDaniels@gmail.com

D/Lt/C James West, JN 330-495-4442
phnx789@msn.com

Vessel Safety Exams 2026
Contact: Lt Danny L.Daniels, AP for

Vessel Safety Check Schedule

Starting in February through October: The second Saturday of every month we will be at the Port of Everett and Dagmar's from 9am to 3pm. Pre-registration is appreciated.

COMING In FEBRUARY

VSC... PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD!

by Lt Danny Daniels, AP

Looking for a simple way to volunteer and provide a valued service to the boating community at large? WE offer FREE Vessel Safety Checks to all boats under 65 foot, and that takes Examiners. Most exams are under an hour; and you will meet some fascinating boaters as well as touring some beautiful boats.

Can you do this?? YES YOU CAN!! Just a simple Training Course and a brief test at the end, and you are ready to start checking vessels. Your first 5 vessels will be in the company of a certified Examiner; you will watch 2 VSChecks and then do 3 more on your own while being assisted. Then you will be ready do checks on your own. WE also do events for Yacht Clubs where we meet on a special day and cover 15 to 20 boats.
Contact: Lt Danny L Daniels AP -if you would like to start.



HIGHWAY MARINERS 2027 RENDEZVOUS

by P/C Mike Martin, P

We have planned MOST of our trips for 2027, and the holiday weekends are already on the calendar. Reservations for Washington State Parks need to be made 9 months in advance.

The dates and places are....
May 6-10 – Wenatchee - Confluence State Park
May 27 to June 1 – Yakima Sportman's State Park
July 1-6 – Wenatchee River Park
Two-Week Trip – August to be announced
September 2-7 – to be announced

If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to Mike Martin NOW and he can fill you in on the details and contact numbers.

Everyone wanting to camp with the Highway Mariners needs to make their own reservations. Mike can help you with the websites and phone numbers. After you have made a reservation, contact Mike Martin at 425-330-6990 or frugalboatnut@frontier.com with your space number.



TO JOIN THE ***COMMUNITY*** REWARDS PROGRAM:

- Have your Freddy's card handy
- If you do not yet have a Freddy's card they are available at the customer service desk at any Freddy's or Kroger or QFC store.
- Register your Freddy's card online at the www.FredMeyer.com/CommunityRewards
- Click on "Enroll". Follow the steps to create an account and link it to your Freddy's card number.
- Enter our NPO number which is BD627 or Everett Sail and Power Squadron and click on "confirm".



Our Club's monthly food drive is still on-going, so please help us to help others. Current Needs at the local food banks include:

- Canned Goods
- Boxed Meals Cereal or Oatmeal
- Protein or Breakfast Bars
- Kitchen Staples
- Toiletries
- Feminine Products
- Baby & Adult Diapers and Wipes
- Pet Food
- Monetary Donations

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Classified Advertising:
If you have something to sell, sell it in *The Pike Pole*. It's free..



The Pike Pole **is the official publication of the Everett Sail and Power Squadron, America's Boating Club *of* Snohomish County, a unit of the UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS, published quarterly September, November, February & May**
Editor: **Lt Linda Skugstad, AP**
E-Mail: **info.boatsnoco@gmail.com**

Articles & photos must be received no later than the second Friday of the month. Articles should be in Adobe In-Design compatible format, preferably Word format for Windows and .jpg for photos, send via email.

Webmaster: Lt Linda Skugstad, AP-info.boatsnoco@gmail.com

Everett Sail and Power Squadron *is*

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB *of* Snohomish County

Online "Members Only": Please see Roster for phone numbers and email addresses

BRIDGE

Cdr Claire Greer, AP 78thcommanderesps@gmail.com
Executive Officer Lt/C Nick Rich, AP rich.nicholas@outlook.com
Admin. Officer Lt/C Susan Tarpley, AP activities.boatsnoco@gmail.com
Education Officer Lt/C Linda Martin, JN PFDprettyfancydude@yahoo.com
Assistant Educational Officer 1st/Lt/C Cathy Rich, AP
Secretary Lt/C Brian Rachal, AP edu.boatsnoco@gmail.com
Treasurer Lt/C Frank Havens AP-IN trea.boatsnoco@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer P/Lt/C Randy Krumm, AP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

R/C Annette Ferguson, AP
D/C Gary Baker, AP-IN
P/C Darcy Baker, AP
D/Lt/C Jim West, JN
P/Lt/C Randy Krumm, AP
Lt Danny Daniels, AP
Lt Linda Skugstad, AP
1st/Lt/C Cathy Rich, AP
Lt Perry Moore
Lt Don Doody, AP

COMMANDER'S DEPARTMENT:

Chaplain Lt/C Linda Martin, JN
Community Relations R/C Annette Ferguson, AP
Flag Officer OPEN
Law Officer D/C Gary Baker, AP-IN
Merit Marks P/Lt/C Chuck Taylor, SN

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT:

Adopt-a-Street Lt Danny Daniels, AP
Public Relations Officer P/C Darcy Baker, AP
Safety P/C Frank Havens, AP-IN
Sea Scout Liaison Lt Danny Daniels, AP
Vessel Safety Check Chairperson Lt Danny Daniels, AP

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Galley Crew Lt Sharon Ward
Membership R/C Annette Ferguson, AP,
P/C Frank Havens, AP-IN,
Ship's Store Lt/C Susan Tarpley, AP
Highway Mariners P/C Mike Martin, P

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Adv/Elec Grades *and* Teaching Aids P/Lt/C Joellyn Jackson, S-IN
ABC Lt/C Linda Martin, JN PFDprettyfancydude@yahoo.com
Seminars Lt/C Brian Rachal, AP edu.boatsnoco@gmail.com
Boating Safety *4* Kids Lt/C Linda Martin, JN
PFDprettyfancydude@yahoo.com
On-The-Water, Jump Start Chair P/C John Tarpley, AP

SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT:

Editor *The Pike Pole* & Webmaster Lt Linda Skugstad, AP
info.boatsnoco@gmail.com
Social Media Chair 1st/Lt/C Cathy Rich, AP

USPS Member Benefits Link

https://www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/benefitsdescription.htm

MONTHLY GATHERINGS
When: First Tuesday of the month except July & August,
Second Wednesday of the month in November.
(Meeting dates may change on occasion)
Time: Social 6:30 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm
Program 7:30 pm
Location: Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Ave.
Everett, WA 98201
http://www.boatclubsnoco.org
Contact Cdr *for* Members Only Password
D-16: http://www.uspsd16.org
Facebook: America's Boating Club of Snohmish County

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
When: Second Tuesday of each month except July
Time: Business Meeting 1830 (6:30 pm)
Location: ON ZOOM
All members welcome!

Standing Committees....

Telephone Committee
Lt/C Linda Martin, JN
Lt/C Nick Rich, AP
Lt Elaine Keasey, S
General Committees....
Auditing...
1 yr Lt Susan Green, P
2 yrs P/C John Tarpley, AP
Rules...
D/C Gary Baker, AP-IN
R/C Annette Ferguson, AP
Nominating...
1 yr Lt Perry Moore
2 yrs D/C Gary Baker, AP-IN
3 yrs P/C Darcy Baker, AP



The USPS®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."

