

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



of the *North Olympic Peninsula*



STRAITLINES NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



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I DON'T CALL THEM
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

I PREFER THE TERM:
CASUAL PROMISES
TO MYSELF THAT
I AM UNDER NO LEGAL
OBLIGATION TO FULFILL



Alayne Fellows, P
Straitlines Editor

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**Submissions received in formats
other than .doc, .docx, .jpg,
or .gif will not be published.**



RAY MAHALICK

Commander

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Here's hoping and wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year! I am pleased with what **Our Squadron** has accomplished this past year and looking forward to this coming year and boating season. Bernie Armstrong has multiple classes scheduled starting in January, as well as monthly clinics on the first Saturday of each month.

Diane Lacy has dinner/speaker meetings lined up through Spring. If you have not attended a Club function in a while, please consider doing so, we'd love to see you there!

It is also that time of year to consider our next Bridge members for the 2024-2025 Bridge. If you believe in what we do and want to help, please don't wait to be asked, let us know how you would like to participate. Being a Member-at-Large is a great way to learn what and how our Bridge functions. One member I know very well does secretary, treasurer, and membership duties and needs some relief. Instructors are also always needed, and assistants are welcome as well. If you are confident in any subject we teach, please let Bernie or Paul know. I have found that if you really want to know a subject or skill, teach it.

Some good days for boating are ahead, I know it! Take advantage of that heater and enjoy some days on the water this winter.



Bellevue—Bellingham—Bremerton—Deception Pass—Everett—Friday Harbour—North Olympic

North Star — Olympia — Point Wilson — Poverty Bay — Seattle — Skagit Bay — Spokane — Tacoma



TOM FITZPATRICK

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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The Mary James

In the first couple weeks of October a fisherman was found in a life raft 75km off the west coast of Vancouver Island around Tofino. The gentleman had been adrift for almost 2 weeks and was one of two fisherman that set off from Newport 200 km south of the life raft finding. The vessel and the captain have not been found. The captain was a man of 25 years experience. The 40 ft fishing craft apparently got sideways in a trough between two waves and capsized.

This event can certainly make one think. What if? Nah? The odds of that happening is quite remote. But, what if? We all think of MOB scenarios, flotation devices, PFD's, Epirbs, beacons, and life slings. Remember we have about 30 min or so before we start losing motor function and all of the above, assuming we have a vessel.

We all need to make that life raft decision. What's the cost? What's the odds? I mean really what are the odds?

Well, 5000 boats capsize a year. There are 800 deaths. Fifty major vessels are lost at sea yearly. If an aircraft is lost at sea, we hear about it for weeks. Lose a massive vessel, we don't hear much.

Tis a good time to check our service intervals on our safety devices. My life raft was a year overdue. I have a year on the Epirb

I came across this outfit to service mine in case one is needed :

Marine Safety Services
4255 23rd St
Seattle, WA

Safety is the greatest gift we can give our friends and family aboard our vessels.
Be well and be safe!

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.®**



DIANE LACY

Administrative Officer

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Magic Carpet—>



With the shortest day of the year come and gone....meaning we are on the upswing of closing in on improving weather for sailing and cruising, thank goodness!

Our next General Meeting and dinner event, January 9th, will be at the PAYC and our speaker will be Andy Blehm, owner of AB Marine Systems Electrical. I'm very pleased that Andy is presenting as he works on new installations and maintenance projects for a number of boats in the area and is loaded with practical and technical knowledge. We have made a provisional date of **January 16th** in case of inclement weather. We are also planning to start the dinner event at 4:00 PM so as have folks driving in with daylight and driving home hopefully in favorable weather. We will keep you posted.

At the last bridge meeting, we thought that a collaborative 'New Year Comfort Soup' potluck with complimentary side dishes would be fun. However, this means...cooperation, communication and I'm asking for a short-time committee to help out. Andrea and Karen are already having ideas about a themed menu. Ideas (might seem weird, that's why we need a committee):

Soup A: Seafood Chowder (white)

Soup B: Chicken Noodle (yellow)

Soup C: Split Pea (green)

Soup D: Beef Stew (brown)

Soup E: Sweet Potato (orange)

Soup F: Borscht (red)

Easy green salads, breads and appetizers/easy desserts should round it out. If there are folks that prefer to not or cannot contribute to the dinner, \$8 should be fine.

I really want to get more participation on our events...it's more fun with more people!

Everyone have a toasty holiday with family and friends!

Thank you Volunteers



We are better together!



BERNIE ARMSTRONG
Education Officer

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ABC of NOP Education Update

Please visit your ABC of NOP website, to learn what is happening and join in.

America's Boating Club of the North Olympic Peninsula in partnership with Port Angeles Yacht Club is presenting a series 2 hour classes on topics of interest to recreational sailors, boaters and fishing enthusiasts. These FREE classes will be the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 at Port Angeles Yacht Club, 1305 Marine Drive, just west of Port Angeles Boat Haven.

Here's a rundown of topics:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 6 | Crossing borders and extended Cruising – Latest information about requirements for cruising into Canada and returning to the USA. This session will touch on topics about where to go and how to get there, and how to prepare for extended times on your boat. |
| February 3 | Communications Systems and Antenna considerations |
| March 2 | Fishing for Cruisers – Types of gear needed, license requirements and techniques for catching your dinner. |
| April 6 | Food for Cruisers – Now that you've caught that fish, how do you prepare it and serve it to keep your crew happy. Tips on shopping, storing, preparing food for your cruise. |
| May 4 | Cruising safety – Anchoring, docking, avoiding trouble. It will either be a good experience or a good story! |





KAREN MAHALICK

Membership Chair

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MEMBERSHIP

**Come for the Boating Education.
Stay for the friends**

Happy New Year to Everyone! I believe we are all looking forward to what awaits us in 2024.

As we move into 2024 Ray and I will be renewing our membership. Our renewal and yours will help keep America's Boating Club of the North Olympic Peninsula aka NOSPS, afloat to help us continue to provide opportunities for virtual classes, meetings, clinics, and socializing with our members.

The America's Boating Channel You Tube videos and LIVE podcast options are up and running. Check out what is available with a simple You Tube search for America's Boating Channel, or login into the national website to go the channel, this week's feature is about River Safety and whitewater rafting.

Our current **membership stands at 66**, we have seen the departure of 45 members since 2021, I hope we will reconnect with old friends and with new in the upcoming year as our education and club activities progress.



Alayne Fellows, P
Editor, Straitlines

Please send all articles to:
Email: alaynef@gmail.com

***Submissions received in formats
other than .doc, .docx, .jpg, or .gif
will not be published.***

How to send documents or articles for the Newsletter

1. Please have your articles to me by the 25th by 5PM.
(If you are going to be late, please let me know)
2. Please use Calibri 12 pt front for your articles
3. Please Single Space lines
4. Indent 3 spaces with each new paragraph
5. Label your article with your first and last name.
6. Submit all articles in word format and attached to your email.
7. All pictures are to be submitted as .jpg format
8. Run "spell check" before submitting your article

Thank you for your cooperation in making my task a lot easier and go a little faster!

FREE - 2024 Vessel Safety Checks are available & a great way to get ready for an enjoyable & safe boating season.

Please visit the following link, to learn more & make a reservation for a courtesy VSC on your boat.

<https://northolympicboaters.com/civic/vessel-safety/>

Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you from your squadron

Vessel Safety Check Examiners:

Bernie Armstrong bernie1221@gmail.com

Randy Blackburn-Lappin edbl16782@gmail.com

Ray Mahalick rmeho2@msn.com

Doug Schwarz dougschwarz@gmail.com



This one is from the cold spell this time last year, taken on the Curragh, Co. Kildare. It was -10°C, hence the Hoar Frost.

— at [The Curragh Plains](#).

Photo permission by:

Damo Dempsey Photography



ABClub Annual Meeting February 6-11, 2024 *Orlando, Florida*

Ready for adventure?

It's that time of the year again—time to set sail for adventure! We are thrilled to invite you to the highlight of our year, the 2024 Annual Meeting of United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club. Get ready to embark on a voyage of camaraderie, learning, and celebration February 6–11 at the [Rosen Plaza Hotel](#) in sunny Orlando, Florida.

Agenda Highlights

Create Engaging Presentations: Bring your laptop for this hands-on workshop as you learn to create effective presentations using PowerPoint and Google Docs. Space is limited, so sign up today!

Awards Dinner and Life Member Recognition: Celebrate the achievements of outstanding members during this once-a-year event!

Going Away Dinner: Pay tribute to outgoing Headquarters Executive Director Mary Catherine Berube as she embarks on her next adventure.



Networking Opportunities: Connect with fellow boaters, share sea stories and make waves as we plan for the future of United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club. Whether you're a seasoned member or a newbie, the annual meeting is the perfect opportunity to expand your network.



Change of Watch Celebration: Enjoy a night of festivities, a delicious dinner, and live entertainment during the 2024 Annual Meeting Dinner-Dance. Let's welcome the 2024 Board of Directors in style and raise our glasses to the adventures ahead.



Register Now to Secure Your Spot!

Don't miss the boat on this incredible opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate with fellow members and boating partners. Your presence aboard is vital to making this annual meeting unforgettable! [Register for events](#) before the January 10 early bird deadline to save big!

Boating Under the Influence: Talk about it before it's too late

Let's talk about boating under the influence (BUI). Just because November is upon us and a lot of boats have been winterized, we continue to need to educate each other about this dangerous practice. America's Boating Channel™ BUI videos offer an excellent way in which to do this.

Check out the "Dispelling BUI Myths" video in Season Four that covers six major misconceptions about boating under the influence (BUI). It teaches viewers about unique dangers associated with boating while intoxicated and features law enforcement actions and penalties for conviction of BUI. In Season Five there is a video entitled "BUI Fatalities" that covers the most fundamental reason for not boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Viewers will learn of additional associated risks and receive tips for avoiding BUI, such as using a designated sober operator.



It's not too early to start planning your boat show booth. Have you considered using a computer or TV to play a loop of the many America's Boating Channel videos? It is an excellent way to draw people in to talk with you about safe boating through education and the opportunities your club offers.

The videos referenced here, and others, are available to USPS members to view and download for free at bit.ly/USPSABC. There is an index to help you find the topic you need, which is very convenient for instructors who want to use these videos in the classroom without the need for an internet connection. Otherwise, visit America's Boating Channel on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and nearly 100 other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel on-demand app on Roku, FireTV and, as of November 2023, Apple TV. [America's Boating Channel™](https://www.uspsabc.com) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.





It's not too early to start planning your boat show booth. Have you considered using a computer or TV to play a loop of the many America's Boating Channel videos? It is an excellent way to draw people in to talk with you about safe boating through education and the opportunities your club offers.

You could create a multi-topic loop or just use two single-issue videos on the leading contributor to recreational boating deaths to offer just over nine minutes of education. Check out the "Dispelling BUI Myths" video in Season Four, which covers six major misconceptions about boating under the influence while teaching viewers about unique dangers associated with boating while intoxicated. Season Five has a video entitled "BUI Fatalities" that covers the most fundamental reason for not boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Grant-funded through the U.S. Coast Guard, these videos also are available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) and via the America's Boating Channel on-demand app on Roku, FireTV and, as of November 2023, Apple TV.





SWAP and SHOP

If you have an item or items you would like to sell?
Please send the information to our Editor Alayne Fellows
and she will list it here!

NEW


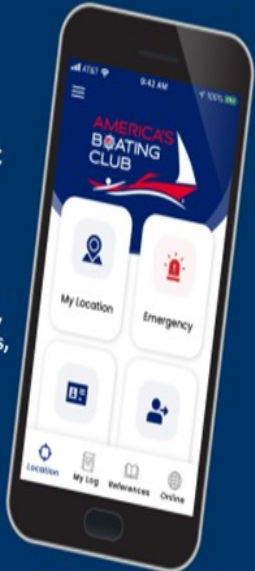
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FREE Mobile App
For Your Phone or Tablet**

Your Single Information Source
for a Great Day on the Water

Nautical Reference Information,
Maintenance Records, Float Plans,
Weather, Radar, Tides and Currents,
and much, much more.

DOWNLOAD NOW!

AmericasBoatingClub.org
Apple Store
Google Play Store



U.S. Coast Guard image by Scott Giard.

Membership Number and Pin

Each new member is assigned a membership number.

That number is on your membership certificate.

SAVE IT!!

You need it to enroll in courses

Also you are given a Pin number.

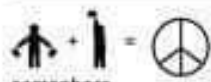
Need Pin number to access member websites.

SAVE IT!!

phonetic alphabet

A alpha	B bravo	C charlie
D delta	E echo	F foxtrot
G golf	H hotel	I india
J juliett	K kilo	L lima
M mike	N november	O oscar
P papa	Q quebec	R romeo
S sierra	T tango	U uniform
V victor	W whiskey	X xray
Y yankee	Z zulu	

With this NATO alphabet chart you will no longer use "M as In Mancy" during a support call with your mom, or while defusing a bomb.



semaphore

Pre-electronic flag letter signals for naval communication represented in a circle. The peace sign was created by combining the letters N (Nuclear) and D (Disarmament).

OUTSIDE OPEN

international morse code

The world's first digital code. The length of each letter's code corresponds to the frequency of that letter's usage in Morristown, New Jersey's newspaper in 1837.

Download this poster at outsideopen.com/alphabet



international code of signals

These maritime flags are used to visually communicate letters and messages while maintaining radio silence.

© 2023 OUTSIDE OPEN

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

Commander
Ray Mahalick

Education & Safety Officer
Bernie Armstrong

Asst. Education Officer
Paul Areida

Executive Officer
Tom Fitzpatrick

Secretary/Treasurer
Karen Mahalick

Members-At-Large
Doug Schwarz

Administrative Officer
Diane Lacy

Asst Administrative Officer
Chuck Sullivan

Open
Open

Past Commander
Jim Lewis

COMMITTEES:

ABC Chair:
Bernie Armstrong

Facebook
Karen Mahalick

Merit Marks
Doug Scharz

Rules Committee:
Doug Schwarz

Adopt-A-Marina Coordinator
open

Financial Review
Tom O'Laughlin
Marlene Lewis

Nominating:
Ken Barnaby
Ken Williams
Jim Lewis

Safety Officer
open

Budget & Finance:
Judy Armstrong
Karen Mahalick
Marlene Lewis

Historian
volunteer needed

Photographer
Volunteer needed

Ship Store:
open

Chaplin:
Open

Law Officer:
Paul Crone

Planning Committee
Judy Armstrong

Straitlines Editor:
Alayne Fellows

Co-op Charting:
Ruth Kohl

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Paul Kolesnikoff PAYC
Open - SBYC

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Randy Blackburn-Lappin

SWAG:
Carl Zetterberg. Chair

Cruise Director
Judy Armstrong

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Randy Blackburn-Lappin

Education& Safety:
Ray Mahalick-Jump Start
Bernie Armstrong
Ken Barnaby

Operations Training:
Ray Mahalick

Public Relations:
Tom Fitzpatrick

Membership
Karen Mahalick

Radio Technician:
Bruce Cutting

Webmaster:
Carl Zetterberg

Bridge Meeting

Tuesday January 9, 2024 09:00 am

Sequim Bay Yacht Club

All members are welcome to attend

January General Meeting

Tuesday January 9, 2024

social half-hour from 4:00-4:30 followed by dinner

PAYC (Port Angeles Yacht Club)

Pot Luck Dinner or \$8 fee if no food entry

**Visit the NOSPS Website at [http://
northolympicboaters.com](http://northolympicboaters.com)**



The District 16 Web Page is at

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d16>

Straitlines

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