

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



of the *North Olympic Peninsula*



STRAITLINES NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



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Happy
Valentine's
Day



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or .gif will not be published.**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 everybody, and your boats made it through the last deep freeze without too much damage. If you haven't visited your boat lately, it might not be a bad idea since leaks cause the most damage after the thaw. A short shakedown voyage before any long trips after your vessel is idle over the cold months is always a smart move, especially after this very cold January. Karen and I housed three Hummingbirds in our greenhouse who were struggling with the freeze, I think they appreciated the temporary housing!

Elections for the new Bridge will be held at our March business meeting. Since we will not be having a business meeting in February, after the February Bridge meeting I will email the membership with the proposed bridge for the coming year. Any oppositions or comments can be voiced at that time. There is still time to volunteer to fill any Bridge position, so if you feel the urge to help your Squadron out, please let I or Jim Lewis know, and we will get you on the ballot. We still have one of three Member-at-large positions unfilled.

As our weather slowly improves and you start to crank up your boat for the season, let us know if you would like a free vessel safety check. It takes all the anxiety of getting a visit from the Coast Guard away knowing your boat is good to go before hand. Contact Doug Schwarz, VSC Chair, or Bernie Armstrong, Randy Blackburn-Lappin, or myself directly to arrange for a check.

You can tell the days are getting longer, kind of.

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

I'm always happy I made it to another year. It's a good time with the storms, cold, and all to settle in and think of how we plan to use our boats for the year.

The other day while fishing in 35-degree weather and decent water I could not help to reflect on the mariners of old. The storms a week or so ago with waves of 28 ft hitting the opening of the strait at Neah Bay and temperatures in the 20's really brought it home. Today we're lucky. We have cabin heaters, weather designed attire of fleece, leggings, skins and other foul weather gear.

These mariners would use the winters to prepare and outfit with furs, make attire of heavy lanolin wools and fat treated skins and hides. Shields were repaired to line the gunwale sides to protect from splashes. Sails repaired for use as sail or rain protection. Our winter prep consists of calling orders to west marine, Amazon, fisherman's supply or the like. Can you see those Northman, Vikings and Celts saying "are you kidding me."

May we all imagine or dream for a moment when we are at sea. Let's get out of our adult mind for a second and think as a kid that are a pirate or a Viking stroking oars across the North Atlantic?

Have fun over the winter. Prepare. One has to admit those mariners were a set of one tough cookies!

Check out the tale, or is it, of Brendan the Navigator "Twas said to have discovered America (Newfoundland) around 500 ad in a skiff made of leather.

The Voyage of St Brendan the Navigator.

Have fun. 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—>



Hope everyone is staying warm and dry, it has been a dang nasty winter.

Our January 16th dinner event was pretty darn successful I believe. We had a simply awesome spread and variety of soups, sliders, desserts! Our speaker, Andy Blehm held an excellent discussion on marine battery technologies, troubleshooting and installations configurations. Thank you to all who made it a successful and delicious evening!

Our next General Meeting and dinner event, March 12th and will be at the Big Elk Restaurant in Sequim. Our speakers will be from the Olympic Peninsula Paddlers Club, Keri French, Safety and Skills Coordinator and Susan Blenk, Paddle Coordinator. I'll send out an email prior to the event asking for RSVPs.

5:00 – 5:30	Social Time
5:30 – 5:45	General Meeting
5:45 – 6:30	Dinner
6:30 – 7:30	Speakers



Our final dinner meeting will be April 9th and will include the Change of the Watch and the introduction of our 2024-2025 Bridge. Tentatively, to be at the PAYC and a proposed 'Italian Night' theme.

A question for folks: The PAYC lends itself to potlucks – would folks like to have a venue in Sequim for potlucks rather than the Big Elk? Would members want a restaurant venue in Port Angeles as an option?

Enjoy the lengthening days!





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:

- 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!

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:

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Ray Mahalick rmeho2@msn.com
Doug Schwarz dougschwarz@gmail.com





KAREN MAHALICK

Membership Chair

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MEMBERSHIP

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



Ray Mahalick, center, and I had the pleasure of swearing in one of our new members, Bob Vosburgh, left, during the January dinner meeting.

Bob and his wife Cynthia have a new 43-foot Ranger Tug, the "Improbable" docked at John Wayne Marina in Sequim.

Welcome Aboard!

New benefits have been added on the Americas' Boating Channel at the Members benefits page:

<https://www.usps.org/departments/14000/1450001>

These relate to BoatFix.com, LightStream, UPS, MyMedic and Farmers Insurance.

Our current February 2024 membership stands at 67.



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 Arial12 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!



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.



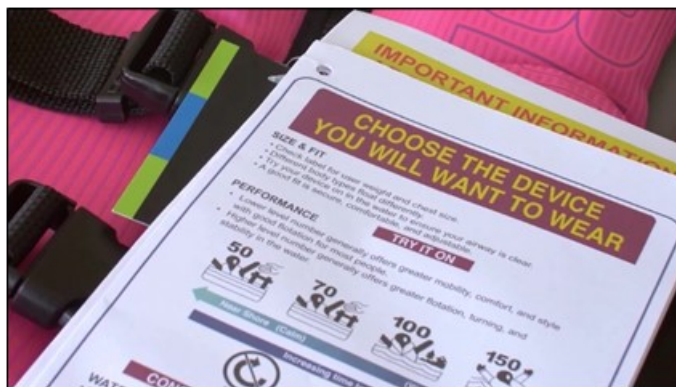
Register Now to Secure Your Spot!

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!

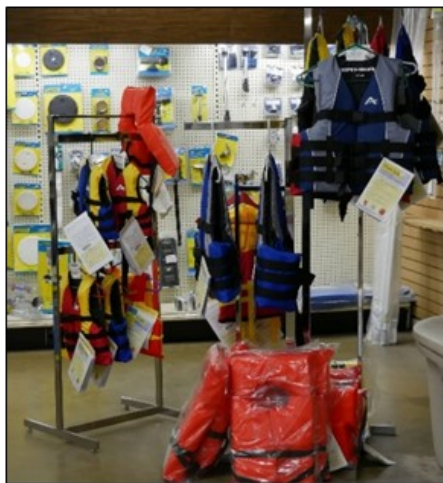
America's Boating Channel™

Understanding Life Jacket Labels

Let's start the year by getting our life jackets ready for the 2024 boating season. If you cleaned and inspected your life jackets before storing them for winter storage, you should know how many need to be replaced. Which brings us to our topic of life jacket labels. You may be unaware of the new labeling system if you have not purchased a life jacket recently. Type I, II, III and IV labeling was removed by the U.S. Coast Guard from the Code of Federal Regulations in 2014, but it is taking several years for the legacy designations to be phased out.



To help boaters understand the current labeling system, Season Four of America's Boating Channel offers the video "[Life Jacket Labels](#)" in which you are introduced to the simplified labels that contain less writing and more icons.



Regardless of your age or experience level, data shows that life jackets save lives. So don't hesitate to replace older life jackets. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "[New Label Benefits](#)" that covers the advantages of the new life jacket labeling system. In this video, viewers learn how to interpret label icons. Also featured are tips for selecting the right life jacket for your intended on-the-water activity.

Follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and 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 free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. [America's Boating Channel™](#) 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.





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

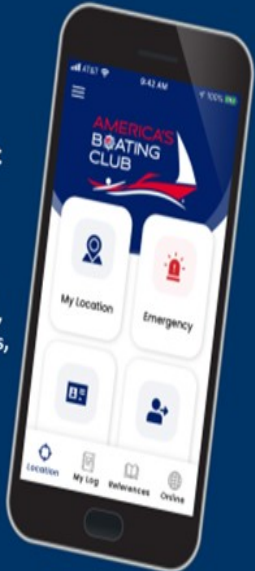
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U.S. Coast Guard image by Scott Giard.

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.

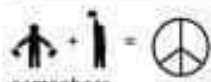
Need Pin number to access member websites.

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.

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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



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Karen Mahalick

Members-At-Large
Doug Schwarz

Administrative Officer
Diane Lacy

Asst Administrative Officer
Chuck Sullivan

Open
Open

Past Commander
Jim Lewis

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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:
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Planning Committee
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Ray Mahalick

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Tom Fitzpatrick

Membership
Karen Mahalick

Radio Technician:
Bruce Cutting

Webmaster:
Carl Zetterberg

Bridge Meeting

Tuesday February 13, 2024 09:00 am

Sequim Bay Yacht Club

All members are welcome to attend

NEXT General Meeting

Tuesday MARCH 12, 2024

social half-hour from 5:00-5:30 followed by dinner

Big Elk Restaurant—Sequim

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



The District 16 Web Page is at

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

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