

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



of the *North Olympic Peninsula*



STRAITLINES NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024



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Alayne Fellows, P  
Straitlines Editor

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**Submissions received in formats other than .doc, .docx, .jpg, or .gif will not be published.**



TOM FITZPATRICK

**Commander**

[willie01x@aol.com](mailto:willie01x@aol.com)



The Mary James

Another summer boating season has come to an end. For me it's my fifth season owning a boat. As I've mentioned before, I continue to wonder if it was the best move I made in retirement or the dumbest. I will say it has resulted in a thousand stories and moments from running The Mary James out of Sequim, Sekiu, Neah Bay and offshore. Those moments are the keepers. The input and contact from NOSPS members continues to be invaluable.

My summer was again spent out of Neah Bay fishing in the Strait and offshore. The month of August was devoted to my first long distance excursion for two weeks up the west coast of British Columbia to an area called Rivers Inlet. It is about 400 miles out of John Wayne. I was fortunate to go with a fellow NOSPSer, Chuck Sullivan, and a good friend, Bob Cooper, of the Puget Sound Anglers.

The adventure proved quite interesting for me as I often wondered if I was having fun or being more anxious and stressed. The Boat operations, water and weather conditions, different docking demands, rocks, routes, and a myriad of issues can occupy the mind. Overall, it was worth it!

It left me with a few powerful takeaways:

- 1) The adventure is exactly that: It's the greatest thing to do and a stressful thing to do. It was all a mental gradient from thinking, to anxious, to stress but it's all awesome and keeps the brain working. That's much needed at 76. HA! There is a saying: "that if something doesn't scare the hell out of you a bit then it's not worth doing."
- 2) The Pacific Northwest is truly one of the most gorgeous places on earth. We are surrounded by it constantly and we become normalized to it to a degree. A trip like this to the middle of nowhere is not only humbling but stunning. The vastness of the waterways is beyond belief.
- 3) The amount of preparation starting months before is an eye opener.

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

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

4) It is a team effort. I was blessed to go with two great friends. Two weeks passed. We set foot on land for no more than 10 hours total. We are still all good friends upon return! That's a winner for sure! Not to say there is never a shortage of opinions on a vessel.

5) There is NO WAY and I mean none that this could have been done by me without our class courses in Boat Handling, Navigation, Piloting, Communication, Radio, Trip Planning, Engine Maintenance as well the all the courses and clinics offered by ABC of NOP! I thank all of the instructors, NOSPS members, and dear friends that helped me on this journey.

Remember there are great days for boating in the winter. Watch for the days.

Our membership in ABC continues to decline. It's hard to imagine as it provides such an invaluable service. We all need to encourage new members. If we are able to prevent one accident it's all worth it, let alone saving a life.

Catch some moments!

**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](mailto:bernie1221@gmail.com)

Randy Blackburn-Lappin [edbl16782@gmail.com](mailto:edbl16782@gmail.com)

Ray Mahalick [rmeho2@msn.com](mailto:rmeho2@msn.com)

Doug Schwarz [dougschwarz@gmail.com](mailto:dougschwarz@gmail.com)





**DIANE LACY**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

[xo.nosps.dlacy@gmail.com](mailto:xo.nosps.dlacy@gmail.com)



**Magic Carpet**

*Ahoy and welcome into Fall Colors, Pumpkins and Mushroom Hunting!*

*Wow, autumn seems to have come fiendishly quick! Time to winterize.....hmm...I think I could benefit from a 'How to Winterize Your Vessel' clinic!*

*Please welcome Chuck Sullivan as our new Administration Officer, I'll be assisting him with our upcoming dinner events for this calendar year as he gets his sea legs and a few events under his belt.*

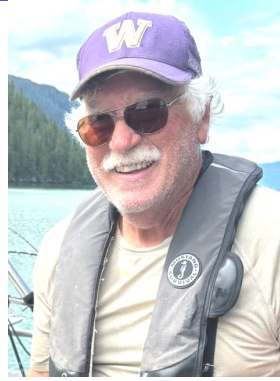
*Our bridge continues to discuss on how to retain and attract new members which is the priority. It would be helpful to have input from our members on what aspects of the club are most beneficial - vessel safety checks, clinics such as MOB drills or maintaining propane systems. Group cruising plans did not materialize this past season so let us know what thoughts come to mind on sailing or cruising ideas.*

*This is a good time of the year to check out your vessels, review your inventory and currency of safety devices. This past year I had my propane system professionally assessed and updated to meet current standards which my system was sorely out of date. Additionally, I had a 'smoked' out AC outlet which prompted another professional assessment – that will be a larger project this winter to plan and design a likely near-complete replacement of the AC/DC interior wiring. The previous owner had quite a bit of adding runs to components that either no longer work, or are needed or are simply dead runs. I don't think it can be overstated that the battery and electrical systems are the most critical systems to be continually monitored.*

*That being said, I hope I'll see a good many of you at our November dinner meeting and if not, hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!*

### **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.®**



**Chuck Sullivan**

**Administrative Officer**

[sullivan@olyphen.com](mailto:sullivan@olyphen.com)

Fall has finally come and we have sadly transitioned from boating to winterizing and cleaning out the orchards and gardens. This brings us to our November 12, 2024, dinner meeting at the Port Angeles Yacht Club. Our potluck menu will reflect a fall harvest. The club will provide traditional Bratwurst and a vegetarian alternative.

If your last name starts with A-H, please bring appetizers.

If your last name starts with I-R, please bring a vegetable dish.

If your last name starts with S-Z, please bring a dessert.

The speaker will be a ship pilot from Puget Sound Pilots (the people who guide the ships to and from Port Angeles to Puget Sound). They look forward to telling us how to avoid their ships in the fog!!!

Education wise Paul Areida gave an excellent talk on “propane on board” and December 7 Randy Roberts will tell us about getting into Canada and cruising the Canadian waters.

A major concern of mine is the dwindling membership participation in this Club and its long term viability.

I would like to hear your thoughts about this subject. Please e-mail me at [sullivan@olyphen.com](mailto:sullivan@olyphen.com).





**KAREN MAHALICK**

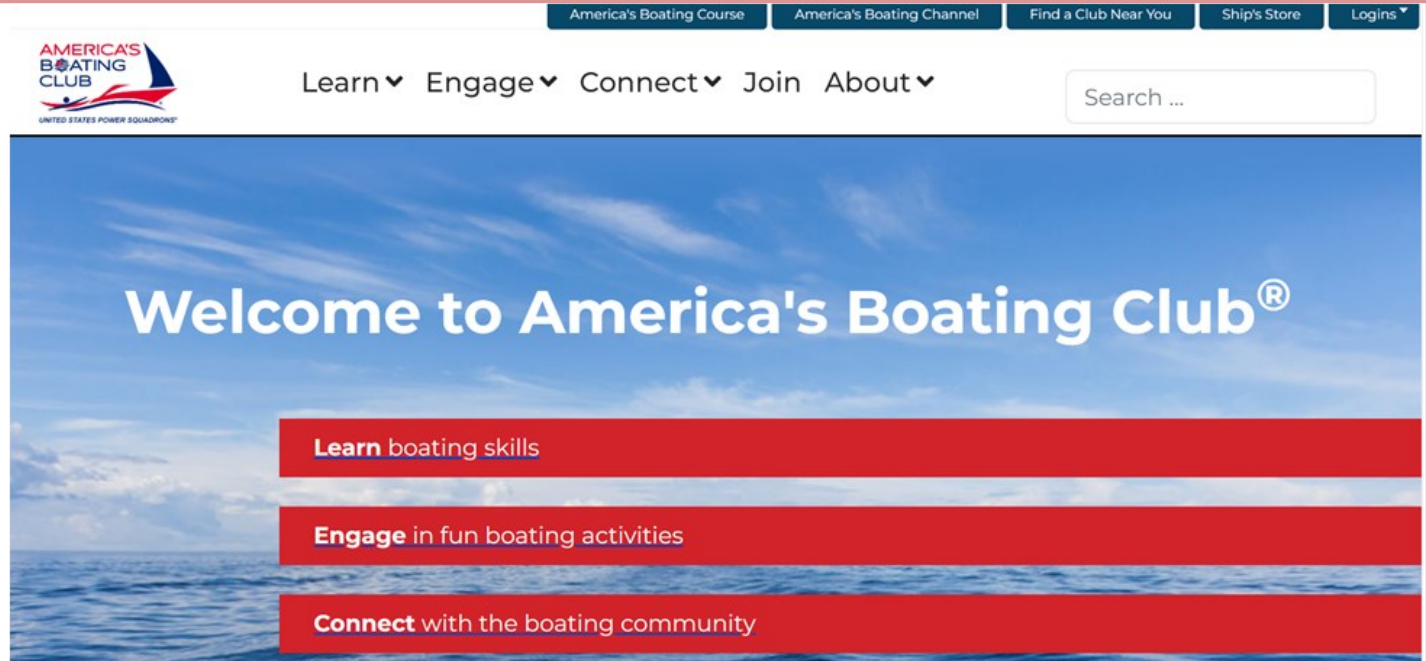
**Membership Chair**

**kmahalick@hotmail.com**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Come for the Boating Education.**

**Stay for the friends**



<https://americasboatingclub.org/>

You have seen many emails from National about the new membership portal, where you can renew your membership and see what type of certificates of training you have, look at current benefits and opportunities offered by our national organization. This is what the login page looks like, the top right will drop down and you will see “Membership Portal”

You can also access America’s Boating Channel on this page where you can view numerous educational videos, which I would encourage you to look over.

There have been numerous changes in the last six months, and I would encourage you to check out the new format.

Locally we have begun to develop our Facebook page known as “North Olympic Boaters”,  
<https://www.facebook.com/northolympicboating>

This will be evolving in the next month, but we hope to vastly improve what is there to give you more timely information.

I hope you have enjoyed the summer vacation and look forward to getting together at the next dinner meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>.



PAUL AREIDA

Education Officer

[pareida@gmail.com](mailto:pareida@gmail.com)



La Sorciere

**Propane Clinic:**

A “Propane on your Boat”, clinic was held on October 5 at the Port Angeles Yacht club. Eight (8) squadron members were in attendance.

**Winter classes:**

This winter (Jan.- Apr. 2025), we would like to offer Piloting, Engine Maintenance and Marine Electrical Systems classes to our members and the local community. Please contact me if you are interested in taking any of these classes so we can finalize the schedule. Location and timing will be determined once we know how many people are interested.

**Call for Instructors:**

We need additional instructors for our classes and clinics. Any organization needs “new blood” to sustain itself and while we are fortunate to have excellent instructors, it is not fair to expect them to carry the load every year. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, now would be an excellent time to start, while we have our senior instructors available for guidance. Team teaching with one of our senior instructors is a great way to get started. Contact me and we can discuss how to make this happen.



**Alayne Fellows, P**  
Editor, Straitlines

Please send all articles to:  
Email: [alaynef@gmail.com](mailto: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

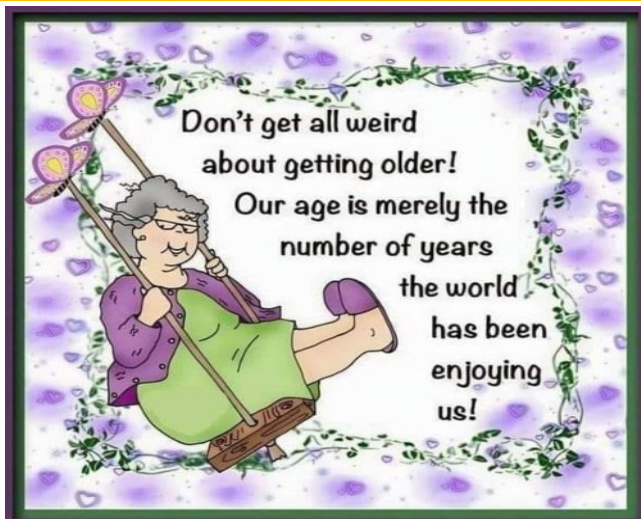
Thank you for your cooperation in making my task a lot easier and go a little faster!



Happy Pumpkin Day

A HUG IS A MAGIC CIRCLE  
AROUND A HAPPY FEELING  
IT'S A VERY SPECIAL GIFT  
THAT EVERYONE FINDS APPEALING  
IT'S A GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE  
AND EVERY TIME YOU DO  
THE PERSON THAT YOU ARE  
HUGGING  
GIVES A HUG RIGHT BACK TO YOU  
IT REQUIRES NO SPECIAL TRAINING  
EQUIPMENT OR AGILITY  
SO EVERY DAY IS A PERFECT DAY  
TO SHOW YOUR HUG ABILITY

Authors unknow





## Invites you to join us at our Annual Crab Feed!

Saturday, November 16 2024  
Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club

6:00pm for social hour

6:30pm for the crab dinner!

No Host Bar (Beer, Wine, and soft drinks)

Cost:

\$35 for whole crab

\$25 for 1/2 crab

\$20 for spaghetti

\$10 spaghetti for kids under 10

**Meal includes Potato and Caesar salads,  
MBYC's amazingly delicious Italian bread & ice cream sundaes!**

Deadline for reservations: **Saturday, November 9 2024**

**NO PAYMENTS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE DOOR**

Reservations by credit card by using PayPal at [Social Events | Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron | United States \(bellevuepowersquadron.org\)](#) or send your check (made payable to BSPS) to: Jan Brintnall

6220 82nd Ave S

Mercer Island, WA 98040

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JAN at 206 669-6152 (text) or [jbrintnall@comcast.net](mailto:jbrintnall@comcast.net)

Don't forget your crab crackers, butter is available upon request.



## America's Boating Channel™ Fire Extinguisher Regulations



In 2022, the Coast Guard amended portable fire extinguisher rules for recreational vessels in the U.S., making it easier and less costly for millions of boat owners to maintain the onboard fire protection equipment that they need.

The rules do not change the number or types of extinguishers required on board but do simplify inspection and record-keeping requirements. The simplified rules also are now published with other recreational boating rules, making it easier to identify them.

America's Boating Channel video "[Fire Extinguisher Regulations](#)" offers an overview of the rules that separates commercial and recreational vessel fire protection requirements. It will help you learn how to ensure that all required portable fire extinguishers comply. Also featured are tips for preventing onboard fires in the first place.

If you need a refresher on classifications and carriage requirements for marine fire extinguishers, the channel offers a second video titled "[Fire Extinguisher Standards.](#)" It offers tips for placing and servicing fire extinguishers, and explains the acronym PASS. Above all, ensure that the proper number of functional fire extinguishers are on board, readily accessible and that all responsible adults on board know to pull, aim, squeeze, and sweep.

U.S. Coast Guard approved marine-type fire extinguishers fully charged and in good and serviceable condition are required on recreational boats where the engines or fuel system could pose a fire hazard. Good and serviceable means that a fire extinguisher aboard a recreational vessel is properly charged and reads charged if it has a pressure gauge reading or charge indicator, that the extinguisher has a pin lock that is firmly in place, that it does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage and has a discharge nozzle that is clean and free from obstructions. Disposable dry chemical extinguishers expire 12 years after their date of manufacture, and rechargeable extinguishers expire annually unless maintained by a certified technician.

Follow the video links above 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.

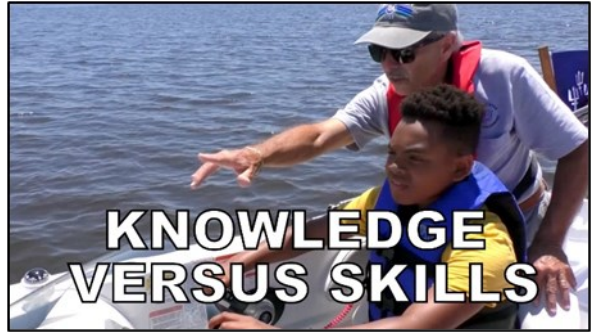
[America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND**

**A SAFE AND BLESSED THANKSGIVING**

## America's Boating Channel™

### Explains the Difference Between Boating Knowledge Versus Skills



Think about it: knowledge is theory and skills put knowledge into practical practice. It requires a combination to become a better boater.

This is brought home through the "[Knowledge Versus Skills](#)" video that covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers also learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities and the pitfalls to avoid in boater education.

Knowledge doesn't mean you're good at boating, but it can help you more easily and safely develop boating skills that must be practiced on the water. Concepts, principles, and information about boating can be learned through reading, studying, and observing. The ability to plan, depart, anchor, dock, and perform other boat maneuvers is mastered through experience.



Videos like this one can kick-start a classroom presentation. Follow the video link above or visit :

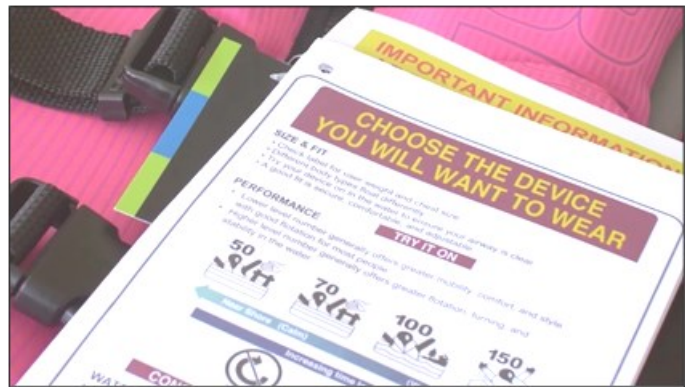
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# America's Boating Channel™

## 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.

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**Blow Up Your Life Jacket Every 2-6 months!**  
**Inflate, Inspect for Leaks, Repack, and Wear It.**

**Use Oral Inflator**

Life Jackets Worn... Nobody Drowns  
PleaseWearIt.com



## 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**

**America's Boating Club  
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.

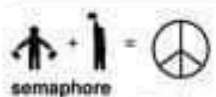
Need Pin number to access member websites.

**SAVE IT!!**

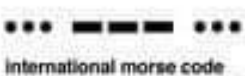
# phonetic alphabet

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



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).



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.



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

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



**Commander**  
Tom Fitzpatrick

**Education & Safety Officer**  
Paul Areida

**Asst. Education Officer**

**Executive Officer**  
Diane Lacy

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Karen Mahalick

**Members-At-Large**  
Doug Schwarz

**Administrative Officer**  
Chuck Sullivan

**Asst Administrative Officer**

Ted Lively

**Past Commander**  
Ray Mahalick

### 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

**Liaison Officers:**  
Paul Kolesnikoff PAYC  
Open - SBYC

**Port Captains:**  
Randy Blackburn-Lappin

**SWAG:**  
Carl Zetterberg. Chair

**Cruise Director**  
Judy Armstrong

**Media:**  
Ken Williams  
Kathie Zetterberg

**Property Officer**  
Jan Jones

**Vessel Safety**  
Doug Schwarz  
Bernie Armstrong  
Ray Mahalick  
Randy Blackburn-Lappin

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

**Operations Training:**  
Ray Mahalick

**Public Relations:**  
Tom Fitzpatrick

**Webmaster:**  
Carl Zetterberg

**Membership**  
Karen Mahalick

**Radio Technician:**  
Bruce Cutting

## Bridge Meeting

Tuesday November 12, 2024 09:00 am

Sequim Bay Yacht Club

### **November 12th General Meeting**

**Time: 5 pm**

**At the Port Angeles Yacht Club**

Our potluck menu will reflect a fall harvest. The club will provide traditional Bratwurst and a vegetarian alternative.

If your last name starts with A-H, please bring appetizers.

If your last name starts with I-R, please bring a vegetable dish.

If your last name starts with S-Z, please bring a dessert.

Speaker: is from Puget Sound Pilots (the people who guide the ships to and from Port Angeles to Puget Sound). They look forward to telling us how to avoid their ships in the fog! And, answer any questions you might have!

**Visit the NOSPS Website at**

<http://northolympicboaters.com>



**The District 16 Web Page is at**

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

### **Straitlines**

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