

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



of the *North Olympic Peninsula*



STRAITLINES NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025



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Happy,
Valentine's
Day 



alaynef@gmail.com

Alayne Fellows, P
Straitlines Editor

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or .gif will not be published.**



TOM FITZPATRICK
Commander

willie01x@aol.com



The Mary James

I hope all had an enjoyable holiday season and New Year. Being 76, I think more of whew? I made it to another year!

As the new year is upon us, our squadron faces decisions as to how or if we go on as a Squadron. We have been faced with Covid, declining membership, declining interest in classes and activities, and declining interest in member participation. Many factors may all come into play here and most have been previously discussed. These include but are not limited to an aging club demographic, a declining interest from younger age groups in clubs and groups, and ABC National issues with its member portal and insurance issues.

National continues to work on the member portal and the insurance issue.

Currently it looks like national has a carrier for our insurance. It has coverage for Educators, Officers and Directors. Meeting venue insurance is available at the squadron level. There is currently a lack of clarity for the CRUX of our organization, which is the volunteers and the on-water activities such as vessel safety checks, jump start MOB drills and the like.

Considering all of the above, the bridge plans a Feb 11th all member business meeting. Do we continue as a Squadron?

I hold a special appreciation for this club. Without it I have no idea where I would be in my boating experience. However, this is not 2019 and 2020 times and interests.

We face a tough decision ????

I look forward to seeing all on Feb 11th at the Sequim Bay Yacht Club!



DIANE LACY

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Magic Carpet

Our organization is at a pivotal decision point on the viability in terms of continuing our mission activities.

In the light of changes at the national level and the declining participation of our membership. My perspective is in regard to our core mission of education and boating safety. Education and boating safety are incented by members to augment their boating skills and ensure their vessels are sea-ready and safe.

Education is provided through local instructors and by online curriculums through the national portal. Our club has offered several USPS courses and safety clinics but have received little or no enrollment from our members. The facts appear to indicate that our members have:

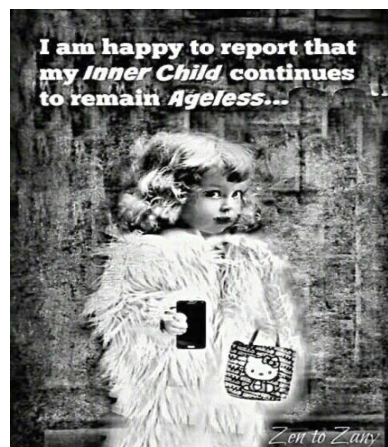
- 1) Sufficient boating knowledge due to their experience
- 2) No need to expand their knowledge (possibly no longer boat owners) or
- 3) Don't see the added value of club-provided instruction and would rather learn through online offerings or other non-USPS offerings.

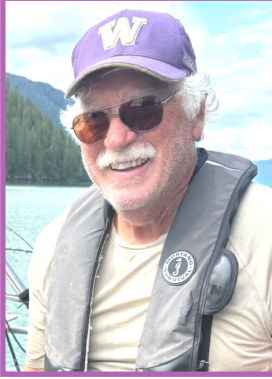
We are not the only organization evaluating continuing their activities; many have already deactivated their charter and retired from the national organization. As a member of this organization for five years, it has been frustrating to not understand the root causes of our inability to invigorate participation from our membership, be it through social events, cruises, education or community events.

Our February meeting is potentially a crossroads decision on whether or not to continue our organization. There are other factors involved as Tom Fitzpatrick will describe but the biggest factor is on whether our members have the energy to contribute and participate.

“The sea is dangerous and its storms terrible, but these obstacles have never been sufficient reason to remain ashore...”

— Ferdinand Magellan





Chuck Sullivan
Administrative Officer
sullivan@olyphen.com

**When you're young,
 you play with them.**



**When you get older,
 you start losing them.**

I hope you all had a peaceful and joyous holiday. This nice winter weather has made it possible to get out on the water and head to Canada for several successful salmon trips.

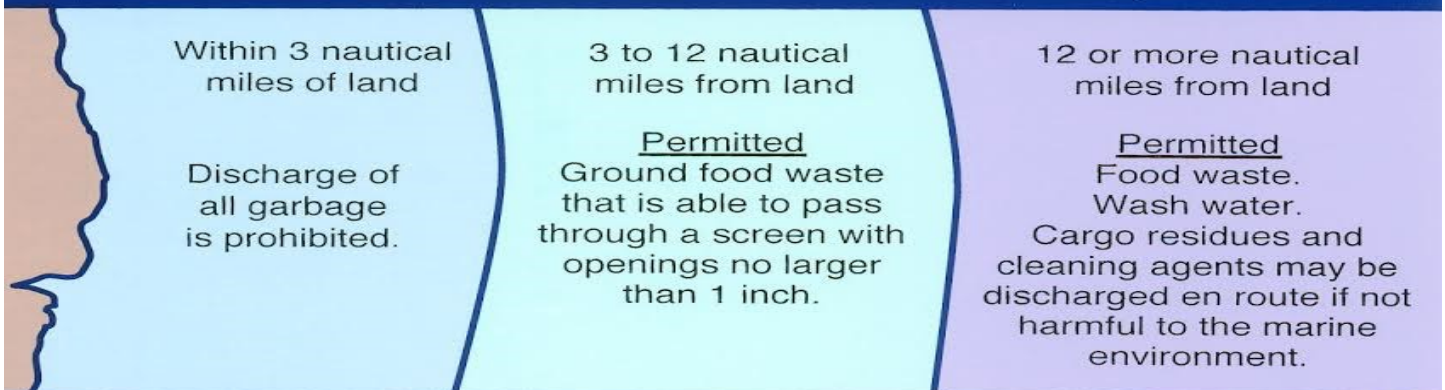
Now it is time to get down to business and think about our boating club and its future. There is trouble with our club. When I visit with our older members I hear stories of wonderful cruises with many boats and educational classes with 15 to 20 students. Cruisers are still offered but rarely does anybody join. Classes are still offered by very knowledgeable teachers, but nobody signs up. WHY??

I am sure that there are many good reasons, but the question the bridge is asking: "Is there a good reason to continue this mission with such poor interest or participation?" Traditionally our Modus Operandi has been "Come for the education and stay for the friendships." It seems like neither reason is working.

There certainly is a small core of volunteers and active participants who always rise to the occasion but this is a shrinking number and do they see any value in continuing this organization?

This will be our discussion at the 4:30 PM February 11, 2025 for FREE PIZZA. Please come to the meeting at the Sequim Bay Yacht Club at John Wayne Marina. Hope to see you there!

The discharge of all garbage, most importantly all forms of plastic, is prohibited into the navigable waters of the United States and into all other waters except as specifically allowed below. A person who violates these requirements is liable for civil and/or criminal penalties.



Regional, state, and local restrictions on garbage discharges also may apply.





PAUL AREIDA

Education Officer

pareida@gmail.com



La Sorciere

Winter In Class Training

We will be offering three classes this winter: Piloting, Engine Maintenance and Marine Electronics. Before we schedule these classes, we need to know how many people are interested in attending these classes. Once that is established, we can set the location and when the classes will be held. If you are interested in taking one of these classes, contact SEO Paul Areida at (818)482-6917 – pareida@gmail.com

Clinics

We are in the process of scheduling these free Saturday clinics. We need instructors and topics so if you have a particular skill or knowledge, we can help you put together a 2-hour clinic.

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.

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.®



KAREN MAHALICK

Membership Chair

kmahalick@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Come for the Boating Education.

Stay for the friends



America's Boating Channel Is offering a video this month about Navigating Inlets.

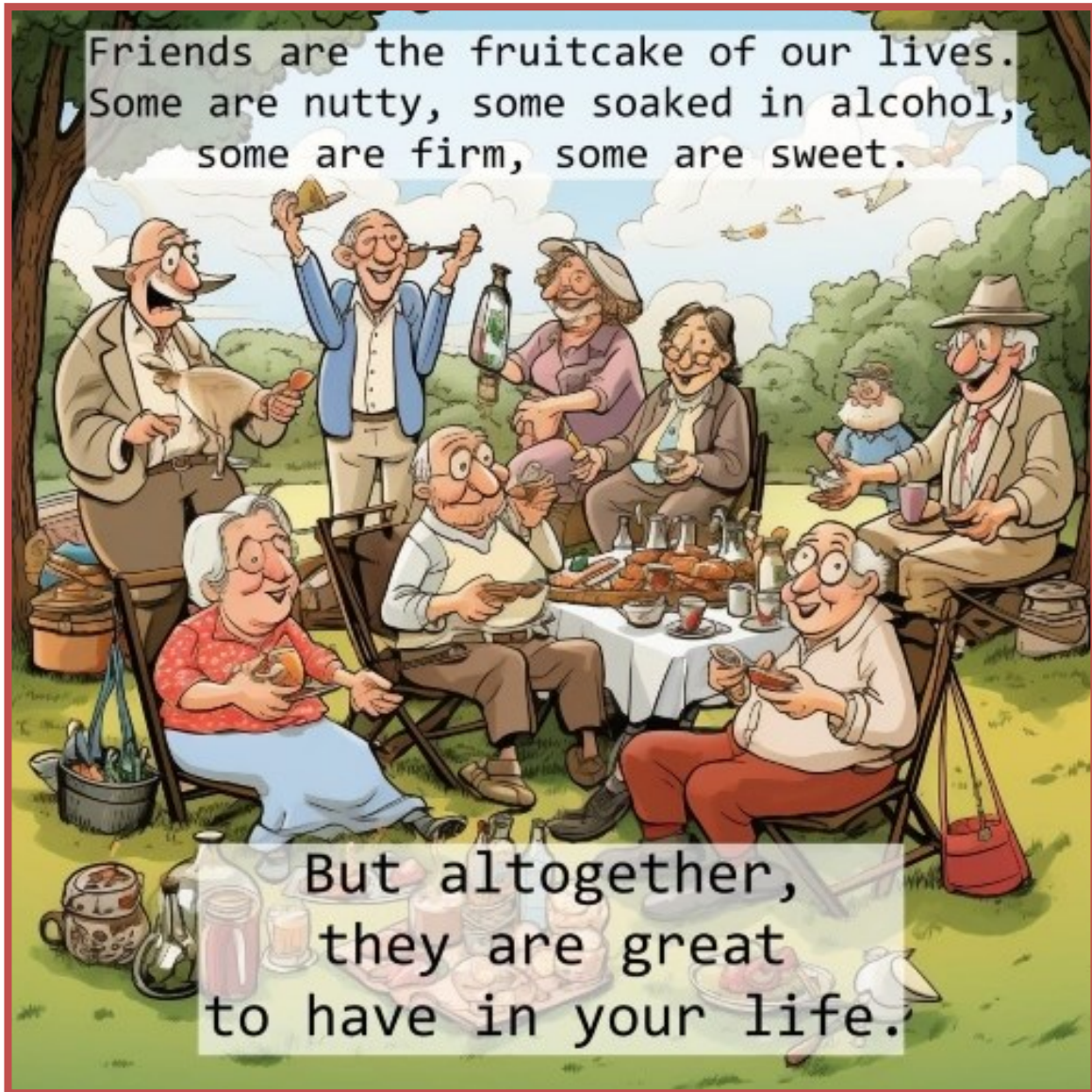
The new "NAVIGATING INLETS" video covers the fundamentals of crossing major waterway entrances. Viewers will learn how to prepare for departing and returning through challenging inlets.

Also featured are tips for maneuvering safely and warnings about hazards.

I encourage you to reach out to the Boating Channel for its educational content while we grapple with our membership concerns as a local organization.

We presently have 46 members on our active membership list, I would love to see you all at the February 11th dinner meeting.





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!



FEB 2025 EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 days: 9-16 Feb 2025

Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on the BRAND NEW CELEBRITY ASCENT®
Itinerary: **Bimini, Bahamas; Labadee, Haiti; Georgetown, Grand Cayman**

ENJOY THE ALWAYS INCLUDED PERKS-DRINKS & WIFI

GROUP PRICING FROM \$1789pp

Ocean view from \$1789pp

Infinite Verandah from \$1919pp

Concierge class from \$2119pp

Aqua class from \$2319pp

Price does not include \$153.22 pp taxes & port fees. Travel protection & transfers are additional.

**Feel free to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us
as we sail on this revolutionary new ship!**

Everyone must book through Dawn Eckhart in order to be included in our group and receive the exclusive group benefits. This is the annual fundraiser event for America's Boating Club.

Email dawn@dawnstraveldeals.com or call

(727) 403-0406 to join our group on this amazing new ship!



©2019 Celebrity Cruises. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador

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.

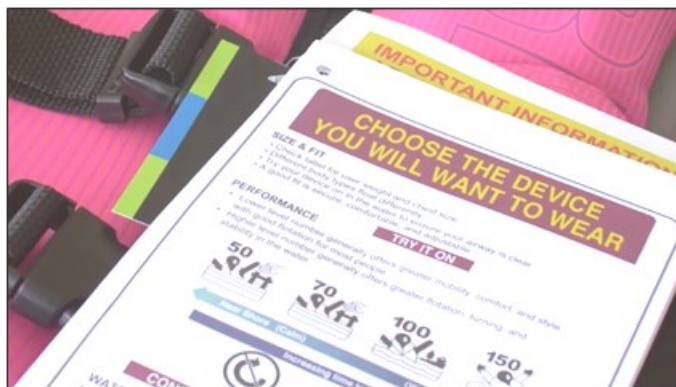
In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV.

[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.

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

At: alaynef@gmail.com and she will list it here!

NEW

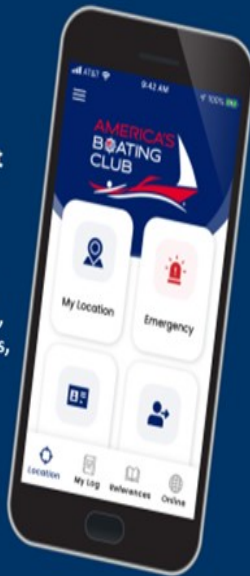
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and much, much more.

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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.

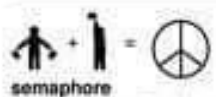
Need Pin number to access member websites.

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).



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.



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

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



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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

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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:
Paul Crone

Planning Committee
Judy Armstrong

Straitlines Editor:
Alayne Fellows

Co-op Charting:
Ruth Kohl

Liaison Officers:
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Carl Zetterberg. Chair

Cruise Director
Judy Armstrong

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Kathie Zetterberg

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Jan Jones

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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 FEBRUARY 11, 2025 09:00 am

Sequim Bay Yacht Club

All members are welcome to attend

FEBRUARY 11th General Meeting to discuss what to do with our Squardon?

At the Sequim Bay Yacht Club

4:30 PM

FREE PIZZA, sodas, water or bring your own beverage

See you there

Visit the NOSPS Website at

<http://northolympicboaters.com>



The District 16 Web Page is at

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

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