



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
DISTRICT 16 ★ WASHINGTON ★ ALASKA ★ IDAHO

CARDINAL POINTS

DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

GARY BAKER, District Commander

Email: garybaker@grovestreetlaw.com

Welcome to Summer!

I hope you're enjoying your summer and finding time to soak in the warm breezes, sunshine, and cool evenings. I can't think of a better place in the country to spend the summer months.

None of us are far from the water. If we're not on it, we're within sight and/or smell of it. Salt water or fresh water. It is invigorating to spend time in or on it during our summer months. As an organization, we're dedicated to helping our members and the public enjoy our waterways safely and with confidence.

District 16 launched the summer season with a terrific rendezvous at Port Ludlow. Many members participated, and the event was well-planned and presented. The weather cooperated too! We presented the new Batteries seminar, joined by a number of Port Ludlow Yacht Club members. Our District Educational Officer, Jim West, presented the information very well, and attendees joined in by adding information and commenting on the topics as the presentation proceeded. Our friends at the Port Ludlow Yacht Club thanked us, and we thanked them for their hospitality in making their yacht club available for the seminar. The Saturday night dinner and raffle drawings held under the tent, capped off a great weekend. Dave McBride, our District Administrative Officer, deserves a shoutout for his considerable time and effort in organizing the rendezvous. And as usual, thanks go to the other D16 Bridge members for their individual efforts before and during the event.

We also want to welcome D16's newest squadron from Colorado. It is the Boulder Valley Sail and Power Squadron, soon to officially leave District 30 and join us. D16 is very excited to have Boulder Valley, a vibrant and active squadron, join our district and we appreciate their confidence in our district. We promise to meet their expectations.

Please see Ken Smith's article for information about the D16 Fall Conference.

I hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to maybe seeing you on the water.

KEN SMITH, District Executive Officer

Email: kenes@earthlink.net

D16 FALL CONFERENCE

America's Boating Club of Washington Idaho and Alaska is coming together to conduct its business and renew member relationships. This is a biannual event for squadron leaders and interested members to meet and exchange ideas.

Date: 2 – 3 October (Friday – Saturday)

Location: San Juan Island Yacht Club at Friday Harbor on San Juan Island.

723 Front Street, Friday Harbor

5-minute walk along the waterfront from terminal to the Yacht Club

Friday – Attendees wishing to arrive on Friday, to make this a weekend get-away, will gather for dinner at one of three nearby locations (YTBD): San Juan Island Yacht Club, San Juan Island Brewing Company Restaurant (410 A Street), or Haley's Restaurant (175 Spring Street). All are close to the ferry terminal.

Saturday - The meeting start time and length will be scheduled so Saturday walk-on attendees can take the morning ferry from Anacortes and return home that afternoon. The Anacortes ferry terminal offers ample parking. Round-trip walk-on fares are \$18 or \$9 for seniors. A box lunch will be available for order.

Registration – No registration is required to attend the Saturday Conference. A signup and payment flyer will be emailed in advance for selecting and prepaying for lunch. Friday dinner is pay-on-your-own, but advance notice of attendance is required.

Lodging – Because the conference meeting is Saturday only, overnight lodging is optional. Those who wish to stay Saturday night or arrive early will find many hotels near the yacht club and within easy walking distance.

Special Note: This conference marks the official start of the "D16 Fall End of Season Cruise." Speaking of the End of Season Cruise, read on!

D16 FALL END OF SEASON CRUISE

SAVE THE DATES

An End of Season Cruise is in the planning stages. This cruise is the second chance of the boating season for District 16 boaters to gather and then say farewell to another great cruising season. This cruise has been a tradition for three of the last five years.

START: The cruise officially kicks off on Friday 2 October with the D16 Fall Conference in Friday Harbor at the San Juan Island Yacht Club. This location positions the cruisers right in the middle of the San Juan Islands.

ROUTE: Past cruisers have indicated a desire to voyage into Canada, the southern Gulf Islands and tip of Vancouver Island. Exact locations have not been determined. Input from anyone entertaining the idea or committing to the cruise would be very helpful as this is an informal cruise where things can change with weather and other factors.

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DURATION: The exact length of the cruise will depend on final planning, but it is expected to last at least a week. This is a come and participate as you can and desire event. There is no requirement to attend every day. There may be a short pre-cruise start in mid-Puget Sound to gather cruisers as they head north to the District Conference and the official cruise kickoff.

CONTACT: If you are interested in attending (even a portion of the cruise) please email or text me using:

EMAIL: kenes@earthlink.net or **TEXT** at 818-929-8316 with the subject line: **2026 Cruise Adventure** with the following information: your name, boat name, type and length. Please include your desired cruising destinations. Become part of the planning because this is “Your Cruise Adventure.”



Fall Governing Board
September 20-27, 2026
Raleigh, North Carolina

JIM WEST, DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

Email: phnx789@msn.com

Hello, District 16 Membership,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer boating season. Warmer weather, long, bright days with abundant sunshine make this the best time of the year for recreation boating on Puget Sound and local fresh water. Although, we did have a stray thunderstorm on July 16th, which knocked out the power on lower Queen Anne where I work, a reminder that we can't take the weather for granted, even here in the Pacific Northwest.

On the Educational Department calendar this summer, several squadrons have presented the America's Boating Course this spring and summer, and more are planned for the fall. So, if you're out on the docks at your local marina, be sure to wear your USPS/America's Boating Club apparel where your fellow boaters can see you and keep up to date with the educational activities of your local squadron, so that you can provide knowledgeable information. If you are a member of a yacht club as well as USPS, provide the best information to the Yacht Club, and work on being a liaison for both organizations. The same goes for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, we need to keep up those partnerships.

As District Educational Officer, I presented the Instructor Development Recertification Seminar in April for three of your instructors, to keep their links up-to-date. And I am certainly willing to present a second or even a third session this fall, so if you're a qualified instructor and it's been more than three years since you requalified, please contact your SEO to schedule one. You can also reach out to me as DEO at phnx789@msn.com and I will be happy to work with you to get another presentation in the works.

At the D16 Rendezvous in June, I was pleased to present the new Marine Battery Seminar for 14 members and four Port Ludlow folks. Thanks to Craig Brown and D/C Gary Baker for facilitating that event. We had a lot of fun and passed along a LOT of good information. If your squadron would like to do that seminar for your membership, please have someone contact me so I can get the Power Point to your SEO.

Lt/C Linda Martin of the Everett Squadron put on several Boating Safety for Kids presentations this past quarter. The Port of Everett sponsored four days of open-air viewings of the FIFA World Cup Games on the Everett Waterfront where more than 17,000 people viewed the games. The Port arranged for the Boat Show Paddle Boat pool to be on site, so Linda and several D16 members, including yours truly, assisted with getting kids into life jackets and then into plastic paddle boats. Over 630 kids from ages 4 - 10 participated in this fun activity. Linda is preparing several more Kids' Boating events, and she always needs volunteers. Check with her at Pfdprettyfancydude@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping the new generation of boaters learn about USPS/America's Boating Club.

The District Education department, meaning me, and Everett member Don Doody, presented the Boat Handling Course over a two day weekend at the Port of Everett for four people, of which two signed up for membership. That's a pretty good batting average if I do say so myself. This event demonstrated that we can provide education seminars at the district level, so if your squadron is trying to present seminars and classes, and you need help, the district is here for you.

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Finally, I again invite volunteers to join D16's cadre of instructors and help strengthen our public presence. We can offer an instructor development course with as few as four participants, so please let me know if you are interested in becoming a Public Instructor.

Enjoy the summer, I'm sure there's lots of hot days coming. See you on the water.



United States Power Squadrons Headquarters, Raleigh, NC

BARBARA ERICKSON, DISTRICT SECRETARY

Email: bje46@msn.com

Greetings from your District Secretary!

You may have noticed Cardinal Points is on a different publishing schedule and the look has changed once again. With Publisher, our former publishing program, no longer being supported, I'm moving this issue to Word. Now this was a challenge. We're also moving from quarterly issues to publishing three times a year. Sometimes change is necessary, and this is one of those times.

We hope to continue to fill the issues with information pertinent to what will be happening in the district or at the National level. If you would like to submit an article for the next issue, please contact me at bje46@msn.com. We'd love to have you information share!

As noted in several articles, our Fall Conference is coming up! October 2 is an optional Friday night pre-conference dinner. Nearby lodging is available for those who would like to spend some time visiting before or after the conference. Saturday, October 3 the Conference will be held in the San Juan Island Yacht Club. The information flyer and details will be out soon!

And our rendezvous at Port Ludlow was well attended with another fine community meal and everyone had a great time, thanks to the organizational skills of Administrative Officer Dave McBride. But change is happening in that realm also. Feedback is having us look at a different venue for our 2027 rendezvous. We hear you!

The Fall Governing Board is coming up September 23–27 near Raleigh, NC. Registration is now open for both the hotel as well as the activities and meals. Please access the 2026 Governing Board information through your iMIS account. You will notice that trips (with transportation) to the Headquarters Building are scheduled Wednesday and Friday... A great opportunity to visit the Chapman Library! and there will be a daily sale of materials and surplus items at the Headquarters Warehouse. The Keynote Luncheon speaker will be Jeff Babbie from Core Insurance, some interesting things on that front!

If you haven't been to a National Meeting, this might just be the one for you! And don't forget, the Saturday meeting will be hybrid offering you an opportunity to be in "attendance." The 9 a.m. EDT start time means 6 a.m. PDT, so get a good night's sleep, have your cup of coffee/tea ready early and join us! The Zoom link will be available to you soon.

JOBS. Anyone looking for a job at the district level? I could sure use an editor for the Cardinal Points. Contact me if you are interested. The pay is great and the benefits are too generous to even mention!

NOTE WORTHY NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

From Annette Ferguson, Aide to the District Commander

Email: newfy03@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER... THE MONTH OF TRANSITION

As this edition of The Cardinal Points comes to you, the month of September is quickly approaching. September serves as the month that transitions from summer to the crisper days of fall. Boating adventures don't stop but tend to happen on the weekends as our members return to work, children return to school, and our members return to meeting again at their squadron meetings.

As squadrons resume their meetings, this can be a good time to plan for the remaining months of the bridge year. How do you want your squadron to look in the future months? Do you have a plan to teach classes or seminars? Do you have a plan to reach out to your local Cyber members and invite them to a class, a meeting or an activity? Do you have a plan to update your Bylaws in order to participate in the Direct to Squadron Membership program? Do you have a plan to submit items to your Facebook page?

These actions can be strategies to help your squadron transition from stagnant to energized. Although seasons transition in a predictable manner, squadrons do not. We must put thought, planning and energy into helping our squadrons transition from "just there" to a place that is filled with fellowship, boating education, and fun.

Let's all work together to make that happen.

From Ron Schwiesow, Commander, Boulder Valley America's Boating Club - Colorado

Email: nanron62@msn.com

Ahoy from the Rocky Mountain West! Members of America's Boating Club – Colorado are pleased to be transferring to District 16.

There's a bit of a story in the name. Previously Boulder Valley Sail and Power Squadron, we adopted the "Club" image that was promoted at the national level of United States Power Squadrons a few years ago and realized that the geographic scope of our organization went beyond the Boulder Valley. Now, with members coming from multiple states, we are adapting our membership approach to be more virtual while still trying to follow our goals of boater education, boating comradery, and public service.

We sometimes say, only partly in jest, that "Colorado is the best place for a boater to be from, because all waters are equally inaccessible." Our members have boated multiple oceans, the Great Loop, coasts including the Pacific Northwest, Atlantic, Mexico, Caribbean Islands, the Great Lakes, Canadian and European canals, smaller mid-continent lakes, and Colorado whitewater. Previously we had many trailer sailors, but now chartering and boats docked on the coasts are more common.

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Being based in a town with the University of Colorado and a number of government labs, boater education has always been an important part of our identity. Previously we taught USPS courses in donated classrooms, but with Covid, the advent of online courses from our national organization, and the increasing geographical dispersion of our membership, we are working to promote the virtual (Zoom) classroom as our teaching environment.

Our logo shows our national affiliation and tries to reflect our geographic diversity and challenge.



From Craig Brown, Commander, Tacoma Power Squadron

Email: craig-sandybrown@msn.com

Sandy Brown brought this very tasty soup to the district rendezvous at Port Ludlow. It was such a hit that the Browns generously shared the recipe and photo after many requests.

Beefy Stuffed Bell Pepper Soup



Ingredients:

- 1 Onion
- 1 Green Bell Pepper
- 16 ounce Ground Beef
- 1 teaspoon Dried Oregano
- 1 can Tomato Paste
- 5 ounce Marinara Sauce
- 2 Tbs Beef Stock Concentrate
- 2.5 ounce Israeli (Pearl) Couscous

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Instructions:

- Wash and dry produce.
- Halve, peel, and dice onion into ½-inch pieces. Core, deseed, and dice bell pepper into ½-inch pieces.
- Heat a drizzle of oil in a medium pot (large pot for 4 servings) over medium-high heat. Add beef*, onion, and bell pepper; stir to combine.
- Season with oregano, salt, and pepper. Cook, breaking up meat into pieces, until beef is cooked through and veggies are tender, 4 - 6 minutes.
- Add tomato paste to pot with beef and veggies; cook, stirring occasionally, until tomato paste darkens in color, 1 - 2 minutes.
- Add marinara, stock concentrates, couscous, and 2 cups water (4 cups for 4 servings). Bring to a boil, then cover and reduce heat to medium low. Cook until couscous is tender and soup has thickened slightly, 6 - 8 minutes.
- Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Divide soup between bowls and serve.

*TIP: If there's excess grease on the surface of the soup, carefully skim it off.

From Jim Harden, Chair, District Co-Op Charting Committee

Email: jdharden@msn.com

GOOD CHANGES IN THE CO-OP CHARTING WORLD

In May 2026, the Co-Op Charting national committee announced new point values for recovering geodetic marks, reporting ATONS, and reporting marinas. These changes will make it easier for members to qualify for Honor Roll status and the Triple Anchor Award. The new point values are listed in the charts below.



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<i>Mark Type / Condition</i>	<i>Recovery Status</i>	<i>Credits</i>
Geographical Mark (tower, tank, cupola, antenna, etc.)	Found intact	0
	Missing or Destroyed	10
Geodetic Mark (disk, rod, bolt, chisled cross, etc.)	Not Found / Not Recovered	5
	Missing or Destroyed	10
	Found Good or Poor	10
Geodetic Mark Time Bonuses for: "Found Good or Poor" Note: these bonuses are not additive	5 to < 15 years since last recovery	5
	15 to < 25 years since last recovery	15
	25 to < 50 years since last recovery	25
	50 or more years since last recovery	35
Geodetic Mark Bonus For: "Not Found to Found"	Found Good or Poor, but last reported as Not Found / Not Recovered	35
	Note: the time bonuses shown for "Found Good or Poor" also apply to "Not Found to Found". The "Not Found" date should be taken as the last recovery.	

If

<i>Type of Report</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Credits</i>
ATON Discrepancy	All	25
ATON Verification	All	15
ATON Inspection	No discrepancies	15 for 1 to 10 ATONS 5 for each additional 20 ATONS or portion thereof
	Non USCG discrepancies	5 ea.
	Non USCG discrepancies repaired by the surveying squadron	10 ea.
Bridge Discrepancy	All	35
Bridge Verification	All	25
USACE Chart Discrepancy	All	25
USACE Bridge Photo Request	All	35
NOAA Chart Discrepancy	All	25

If you have any questions about Co-Op Charting or would like some help getting started, please contact Jim at: jdharden@msn.com or text: 360.870.5530.

From Linda Martin, Boating Safety 4 Kids

Email: pfdprettyfancydude@yahoo.com

District 16 and Everett Sail and Power Squadron were invited to volunteer at the World Cup FIFA Soccer Watch Parties at the Everett Marina in June.

The marina had rented the same pond and paddle boats that we used when we volunteered at the Seattle Boat Show in February. So, we were asked to come and help the children put on lifejackets, help them get in and out of the paddleboats and share something about America's Boating Club|United States Power Squadrons. The dates that we did this were Friday and Saturday June 11 and 12 and June 18 and 19.

I began about a month before this event recruiting helpers from the entire District as we needed five or six volunteers each day and it was a six hour shift each day. Some shifts started at 9:30 in the morning and some started at 3:30 in the afternoon.



The first day started with about 75 children coming to our pond which was located where the Everett Yacht Club used to stand at the Everett Marina. The huge screen where the soccer games were shown was up near the Weyerhaeuser building. So, we were quite a distance from the big screen. On June 11, Mexico was playing the Republic of Korea, and I had Joellyn Jackson, David and Paulette Sitzenstock from Tacoma helping me. Our shift started at 9:30 in the morning and ran until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Mexico won the game that day.

On June 12, Past District Commander Annette Ferguson and her husband Dan and District Education Officer Jim West were my volunteers. Our shift ran from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; the USA played Paraguay and won 4 to 1. We helped about 125 children.

On June 18, we began at 3:30 in the afternoon until 9 o'clock that night and my helpers were Cathy Rich, Joellyn Jackson, and myself. Mexico was playing the Republic of Korea and they won 1 to 0. It was so much fun to see the children dressed in their soccer shirts from all over the world. And those who were rooting for Mexico – it was like they were at a birthday party. They were having so much fun. I don't recall the total number of children from that day, it's written down somewhere.

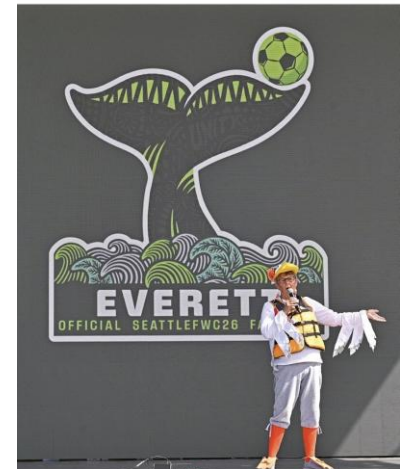


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On Friday the 19th we started at 9:30 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon and the USA was playing Australia and we won 2 to 0. My volunteers that day were Jim West, Barbara from Skagit Bay and Steve Erickson from Seattle and myself. I need to add that the Everett Marina and a sports association provided us with multiple volunteers each day, which was wonderful in assisting the children getting in and out of the paddle boats. Nathan Caferro was the volunteer coordinator and Emma Leedy was the Everett Marina Events and Outreach Coordinator for the entire event at the Marina. They were so very helpful and kind.

When I woke up the next morning, I added up how many children we had participating in the entire paddle boat event. The total was 655 children! It was a well-planned and orchestrated event and very secure and safe.

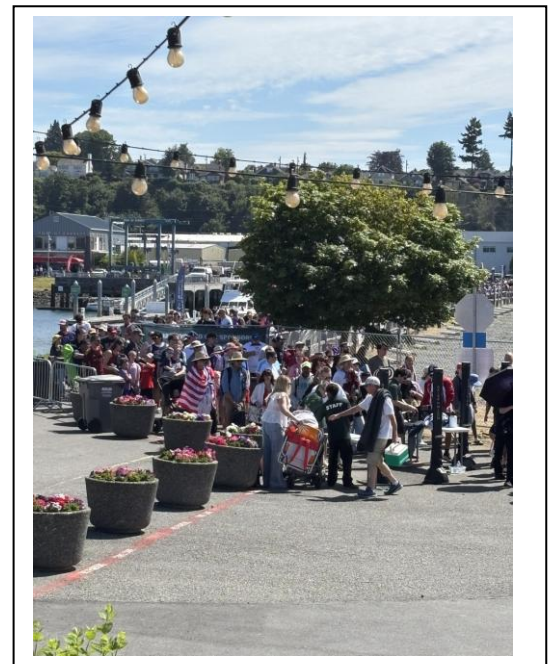
The highlight for me was on the last Friday of the event I was invited to go up on the stage as PFD Seagull and tell the crowd who I was, where I was from, and what we were doing at the pond down at the other end of the Watch Party.



Sharing photos taken by B. Erickson



The experts at booth set up – Linda & Jim have it all planned out!



Above: The lines of soccer fans were just amazing! It was a huge party!

USA scores a goal!
The cheers were loud
and long!



DISTRICT 16 CALENDAR

August

14 – 16 District 32. Mt. St. Helen's
Rendezvous and 50th Anniversary
Celebration

September

20 – 27 Annual Governing Board, Raleigh
NC

October

2 – 3 Fall Conference at San Juan Island
Yacht Club, Friday Harbor



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Send all correspondence to:
Stf/C Barbara J. Erickson, Interim Editor
Email: bje46@msn.com

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