



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

WASHINGTON★ALASKA★IDAHO



Cardinal Points

Fall 2025 Quarterly Newsletter



Prevent Boat Explosions

Courtesy of America's Boating Compass, August issue

While boat explosions are rare, with the right safety practices in place, they are often preventable. Every boater should know how to prevent boat explosions.

Why do boat explosions happen?

Boat explosions are most commonly caused by gasoline vapor buildup in the engine compartment or bilge. If these vapors ignite, often due to a spark from the engine, battery, or electrical system, the result can be catastrophic.

How to prevent a boat explosion

- **Always ventilate before starting the engine:** Use your bilge blower for at least four minutes

Continued on next page

before starting a gasoline-powered inboard engine. This clears out potentially explosive fuel vapors.

- **Smell for fuel odors:** If you detect a strong fuel smell, do not start the engine. Investigate the source and ventilate thoroughly.
- **Check fuel lines and connections:** Before every trip, inspect fuel lines for cracks, leaks, or loose fittings. Damaged lines should be repaired or replaced immediately.
- **Refuel safely:** Turn off the engine and all electrical systems while refueling. Keep all passengers off the boat. Close all hatches and ports during fueling, then open them to ventilate afterward. Use absorbent pads to catch spills and prevent fuel from entering the bilge. Never overfill your boat's fuel tank. Fuel expands as it warms, and overfilling can cause spills into the water or hazardous fumes on board. Always leave room for expansion and follow safe fueling practices.
- **Maintain electrical systems:** Faulty wiring is a common ignition source. Have your electrical system inspected regularly by a marine professional.
- **Carry fire extinguishers and know how to use them:** Make sure you have the correct type of U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher on board and that it's accessible and in good working order.

—National Safe Boating Council

GET WELL WISHES FOR

Alayne Fellows, our
editor who was in a car
accident and suffered a
broken right arm!





AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

WASHINGTON*ALASKA*IDAHO



REGISTRATION FORM

District 16 Fall Conference

26—27 September 2025, Port of Everett Marina
1205 Craftsman Way, Suite 200, Everett, WA 98201

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Squadron: _____ District: _____

Please Note: This is a registration form so we know how many will attend. There is no charge for attending the Meeting.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Meet and Greet at the Hotel Indigo from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner on your own.

____ Yes, I/we are attending the Meet and Greet ____ Yes, I/we are interested in dinner!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Attire: USPS Casual

Registration is open from 0830 [Coffee and pastries will be available]

Conference begins at 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Lunch from Noon — 1 p.m.

Conference resumes 1 — 3:30 p.m.

CIVIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: Jetty Island Clean-up after the conference. ____ Yes, count me in!

All lunch orders **must** be postmarked by **Saturday, September 20 2025**

All box lunches and salads include chips or roll, a cookie, and beverage.

ONE LOW-COST MEAL for \$25.00

Ham and Swiss _____

Classic Cob Salad _____

Roast Beef and Cheddar _____

Oriental Chicken Salad _____

Roasted Turkey _____

Vegan Mediterranean Wrap _____

Total (USD) \$ _____

Any Dietary requests with these lunch options? _____

Accommodations

- **Boaters:** the guest dock is a very short walk away; reservations through the marina at 425. 259.6001.
- **Hotels** of various prices are located near the Everett Marina
- **RVers:** Lakeside RV Park, 12321 Highway 99. Call 425.321.8531 to make your reservation.

FOR FREE CONFERENCE PARKING: Car Information below

Make and model _____ License number _____

Payment and Conference Reservations & Questions

Make checks payable to: **D/16 USPS**

Mail form and payment to: **Darcy Baker**

4030 Mission Beach Road, Tulalip, WA 98271

If you have any questions, please contact: Darcy Baker, 425.760.6475 or thebakerfamily4@comcast.net

DISTRICT COMMANDER GARY BAKER

email: garybaker@grovestreetlaw.com

I hope you've all been enjoying the boating season. The weather has cooperated, and I hope your schedules have too.

Upcoming D/16 Meetings. D/16 leadership has been busy planning for the Fall Conference scheduled for **September 27 and 28** and the 2026 Rendezvous in Port Ludlow. We set the Rendezvous date early, allowing us all to plan to attend next **June 5 through 7**. We hope to see you there!

National Meetings. Several D/16 leaders are planning to attend the ABC|USPS Fall Governing Board meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan early in September. There are lots of issues surrounding our national organization, and your D/16 leaders will report back to you what we learn during the various meetings. National USPS finances, marketing support, and membership are topics sure to be discussion items.

Support. D/16 leaders are here to support you, and our Clubs and Squadrons are ready to support each other. We have important work to do, and fun to have off and on the water. Please let your D/16 leaders know if you have questions or need help on any USPS matter.

PLANNING AHEAD!



Annual Meeting
February 9-15, 2026
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

The National Meetings Committee is
working on the Myrtle Beach, SC
2026 Annual Meeting

February 9 — 15 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL OFFICER JIM WEST

email: phnx789@msn.com

Greetings D16 Membership

Well, the summer is advanced and the heat has been only just bearable (largely because I still remember the heat of Charleston, SC). But clear days and warm weather make for a good boating season, so I hope you were able to get out on the waters of your choice and enjoy our Pacific Northwest the way it was meant to be enjoyed.

Updates on some Educational topics:

- 1) Headquarters and National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) continue to refine the newest version of America's Boating Class (ABC3rd Edition). National hopes to have the final version on the street by the end of the year. In the meantime, we are still authorized to use the existing version as long as we have books in stock. The new version includes an option for E-Books, which will save printing and mailing costs, and with younger boaters fully engaged in the electronic age, we will be able to attract them to our classes. New Advanced Grade courses will also be available in E-Book format.
- 2) As I noted in the last newsletter, most of the insurance issues at National have been resolved. Which means that we are back to teaching in person classes. This is important since our educational outreach is the primary source of potential new members.

The new Advanced Marine Navigation course, fully replacing Advanced Piloting (AP), is in final stages of development and should be available for presentation by the end of the year. National Educational Officer Chuck Wells is looking for statistics regarding AP participation, and the interest in moving up to Coastal Navigation and Celestial Navigation, [the old Junior Navigation (JN) and Navigation (N) courses respectively]. National would like to know who is interested in these more advanced skills. As a JN from the old school, I can tell you that figuring out where you are with just a sextant, a Nautical Almanac, and a graphing calculator, is a lot of fun. You may never need that knowledge but having it in your back pocket is a real thrill.

Speaking of JN and N, there are now new paths to acquiring the coveted rank of Senior Navigator. One is for JNs who complete 7 electives and seminars, and the other is for Navigators who complete 6 courses and seminars. The full list is available on the national website in the Education Department. If you are looking for this rank, please see your local SEO, or contact me at phnx789@msn.com.

For those of you looking to assist your local club with education, SEO and ASEO training modules are available. District 16 is in real need of people interested in shepherding squadron education efforts and getting the public interested in what we have to offer.

For SEOs who need to get the word out to the membership and the public, the HQ800 link now has the option to search for On-The-Water and Boat Owners Certification (BOC) classes. If you have members looking for Practical On the Water (POTW) and BOC training, this is the most efficient way to find the class you're looking for. And since many classes are now being held via Web-Based

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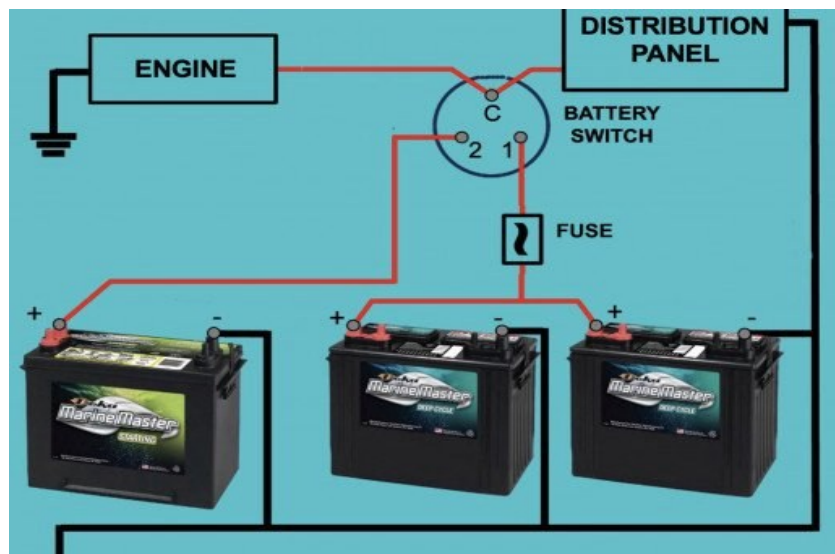
ZOOM Conferencing, you can reach out find someone somewhere who is presenting the course you're looking for.

We definitely need to reach out to the public at this time of the year. As I also noted in the last edition, Coast Guard statistics continue to show that most mishaps, accidents and fatalities occur because recreational boaters simply do not have the necessary education when they get out on the water. ABC|USPS still has the most comprehensive navigation and operational education program in the country. Let's all remember that we are ambassadors to the public for America's Boating Club.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Fall Conference. We are meeting at the Port of Everett Administration Building on September 27th. Contact your Squadron Secretary, SEO or Commander for information and reservations.

NEW COURSE!

Introduction to Marine Batteries



Boat batteries are easy to forget – until they conk out and ruin your adventure. Learn the ins and outs of marine batteries before leaving the dock. This seminar covers how to

- ***Choose the best battery for your boat***
- ***Maintain your battery for longer life***
- ***Get the best performance from your charging system***
- ***Work safely with batteries***

Get expert tips on both lead/acid and lithium batteries, plus upgrade considerations.

DISTRICT SECRETARY BARBARA ERICKSON

email: bje46@msn.com

The Secretary's Department has been rather quiet. It's summertime and most squadrons take a "summer break" to enjoy time with family/friends on the water or traveling on wheels to various destinations. Which is very, very good for the body and soul!

I'm, in fact, sitting at a RV park writing this article and thinking about the Secretary Department. There's more to this department than sitting in a meeting and taking minutes. Minutes are an integral part of it, but when you think about it, our department is a communication hub. We offer a roster, newsletters, take care of our websites, and in this digital age, electronic communications including the new Member Portal and iMIS. Now that's an eye-opening statement for me. "Digital Age." Something to ponder and delve into a bit more so I did a bit of research (Operations Manual) and here's what I found out:

The Squadron Information Technology Committee (SITCom) is chaired by the IT Contact. SITCom may assist squadron members with their personal software and hardware issues, although committee members are under no obligation to do so. SITCom serves five main functions:

1. Creating and maintaining the squadron's website and social media presence;
2. Receiving and posting to the squadron website certain documents for members-only access, including the roster, bylaws, standing rules, meeting minutes, and other material as directed by the Secy or ExCom;
3. Assisting squadron members with navigating the district and national websites;
4. Assisting squadron members with the software developed by the United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club;
5. Interfacing with the District Information Technology Committee (DITCom) and the National Information Technology Committee (ITCom). [Refer to Section 4.44 and 3.56]

Support for website development is available through the National Communications Committee (CommCom) which also sponsors the Distinctive Communicator Awards for Websites. Guidelines for websites at all levels of the organization are detailed on the ITCom web page under the Policies side-menu.

For squadrons without the ability to create or maintain a website, the National ITCom provides "Squadron Standard Sites." These websites, detailed under the web sites selection of ITCom's "Presentations" side menu, reside on the national server and meet the organization's website guidelines. Once created, squadron standard sites are configured and maintained by squadron officers through the use of menu-driven software with an accompanying user guide.

I highlighted the one bullet item, as this is an update to the Operations Manual and I, as Secretary for District 16, was not aware of this "added" feature! I am almost ready to publish the district roster and getting up to more speed on iMIS. The National meeting will offer a seminar on iMIS again that I have already noted on my calendar.

Just a word about the National meeting. It is being held in Grand Rapids, MI at the Amway Grand Plaza, September 4 thru 7; a shortened version this year. Thursday highlights are the:

Continued on next page

Secretary, continued

- Ship's Store open from 1 to 4pm
- Education's NMEA Seminar
- "Welcome Dinner" that evening

Friday will contain the bulk of the seminars along with a new addition – a breakfast buffet to begin the day and then multiple seminars throughout the day. Of special note is the Membership Committee's "Membership tools" seminar which talks about things we all need to hear—attracting new members, retaining new and existing members. There are many other worthwhile seminars too. Check out the agenda at https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=50

It is too late to join us at the Grand Rapids Fall Governing Board, but the Saturday Governing Board meeting will be livestreamed. Check the Call to Meeting for the link. I know this conference will provide you with the opportunity to LEARN | ENGAGE | CONNECT.

See you at the District 16 Fall Conference the 26th and 27th of September!



Scenes from our travels
to Yosemite and Smith
Rock State Park.

Lower left: El Capitan

Left: Half Dome

Lower right: Smith Rock with
Crooked Creek!



DISTRICT TREASURER JIM HARDEN

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WASHINGTON IS EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY!

More than 1,000 earthquakes occur in Washington State each year. Be prepared and know what to do.

What to do during a quake if you are indoors:

- Drop, Cover and Hold On – Cover your face and head.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors, and walls.
- If in bed, you should stay there and hold on.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops.

What to do during a quake if you are outdoors:

- Stay there
- Move away from buildings, trees, streetlights and utility wires.
- Stay at least 30 feet from downed lines.

If you are in a car:

- Stop as quickly as safety permits, pull to the side of the road and stay inside.
- Know how to exit a car with energized power lines; do so **only** if car is on fire.

If you are trapped under debris:

- Do not light a match.
- Cover your mouth with fabric or clothing.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can find you. Use a whistle if available.
- Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

We all hope this will never happen, but it is best to be prepared. Remember, to text your out-of-area contacts letting them know you are okay. Thanks to the Emergency Management Division of Washington State for this information.

Stay safe out there even when you are not on the water.



2026 D/16 Rendezvous

Port Ludlow Marina

June 5—7 2026



PLAN NOW FOR
ANOTHER FUN AND
EXCITING TIME IN
PORT LUDLOW!

WHAT'S IN STORE:

- 15 slips reserved under “USPS—D16”
- 5 king-size rooms reserved at The Old Alcohol Plant Inn
- Port Ludlow RV Park for RVers

WHAT'S IN STORE ON FRIDAY!

- 5 p.m. Big Tent Docktails on Friday evening

WHAT'S IN STORE ON SATURDAY?

- 9 a.m. Big Tent Morning Wake-Up with coffee/sweets
- 6 p.m. Big Tent Catered Taco Bar Dinner
- Silent Auction [Squadrons start thinking about your donations]
- Plenty of time for Seminars, Games, Vessel Safety Checks, Co-op Charting and other adventures in the area

Questions? Contact Dave McBride 360.228.6003 or email: davmcb@comcast.net

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER CRAIG BROWN

email: craig-sandybrown@msn.com

A Whale of an Experience

We share the Salish Sea with many different things. This requires us to be aware of all the rules that apply to those different things. And keep up on changes to those rules. One of the things we need to be aware of is the regulations pertaining to proximity to Orca whales. These changed at the beginning of the year.

So, let me go back to why I brought this up.

During Memorial Day weekend I decided I needed to take a shake-down cruise since I had had work done on the boat over the winter. We had aboard Sandy (wife), the three granddaughters (ages 11, 9, and 4), and our two grown sons. We left Des Moines Marina, went to Commencement Bay, and then headed towards Dalco Passage. While heading towards Dalco I heard on channel 16 that a pod of Orcas was spotted in the Narrows (no specific location or direction of travel).

I sent both boys, with binoculars, up to the fly bridge with instructions to be on the lookout for the Orcas. I told them I need to stay at least 1000 yards (approx. ½ mile) away from the whales. They were to report any whale spotted. After a few minutes they both reported whales spotted dead ahead. I asked how far and just as I asked, I spotted a dorsal fin go across our bow a short distance off. I realized I was well within the 300 yard stay out of zone. I immediately went to neutral and shut the engine off (should have also shut off the depth sounder). I immediately assessed the situation. Realized another boat was heading directly for the center of the pod at high speed. I was able to flag them down and they stopped. Then I flew the "Whale Warning Flag" from our mast.

Now everyone, especially the granddaughters, was excited to have the Orcas swimming around and under the boat. We had about a 20-minute show before they headed off. We then headed off at a slow speed in the opposite direction to continue our cruise.

The key is knowing the regulations. I was aware of the changes that went into effect at the beginning of the year. The legislation increased the distance that recreational boaters must stay away from Southern Resident killer whales from 300 to 1,000 yards. The requirement is to stay under 7 knots when within 1000 yards. Stop movement (motor, sailing, or paddling) when 400 yards along the Orca path or 300 yards on either side of the Orca. Be aware Canadian regulations have greater distances. The reason for the slow speed (7 knots) and shutting down engines (including fish finder and/or depth sounder) is because the noise interferes with the whales' ability to echolocate and communicate.

As Recreational Boater Safety (RBS) educators we have the responsibility to pass along the knowledge to other Salish Sea users. RBS includes protecting our endangered Orcas.

The USA and Canadian regulations and the "Whale Warning Flag" are available via www.bewhalewise.org

Continued on next page

A Whale of an Experience, continued



Above shows both USA and Canadian regulations



Above shows both USA regulations with additional clarity of actions



Above shows the "Whale Warning Flag". When you see it, know that whales are in the area.

PAST DISTRICT COMMANDER ANNETTE FERGUSON

email: newfy03@gmail.com

ODDS and ENDS FROM A PAST COMMANDER

I ,like many of you, wear several hats in this organization we fondly know as United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club.

It has been a hard “ bunch of years” including Covid, declining membership, competition from many arenas including You Tube for boating education, and our own organization that lost insurance coverage for Squadrons and districts due to a large claim. OH, let ‘ s not forget iMIS which has been a challenge .

You get the picture... challenge after challenge. Yet some squadrons / clubs continue to hold on, are having gatherings for their members, and are teaching classes and seminars. These squadrons are existing due to many members wearing several hats at squadron, district, and national levels. Let me say... Thank You!

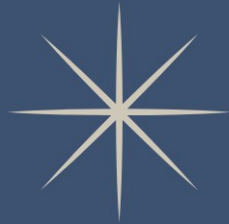
My first hat... Squadron Commander of Everett Sail and Power Squadron, America’s Boating Club of Snohomish County. Our membership numbers are not where they were pre-pandemic but we continue to teach ABC, Boat Handling and seminars. We are conducting Vessel Safety Checks, Boating Safety 4 Kids events, and social outings including cruises and RV adventures. We are reaching out to the boating community and offering for FREE the new Marine Battery seminar. This event will be in October **and** is open to all members in District 16 and the world. We are aiming high.

My second hat... Chair of District 16 Committee on Nominations. Your District needs YOU! WE have positions that need to be filled in the next bridge year. As chair and a member of our organization, I am asking you in “District16 land” to step up and help. If you get a call, say “Yes, where can I help?”

My third hat... Staff Commander, National Membership Committee. I have served on this committee for several years because membership is critical to our survival. The committee is comprised of dedicated folks who like myself wear squadron and district hats. The committee meets monthly via Zoom with the primary topic being membership, both getting new members as well as meeting the needs of existing members. Currently there is a membership campaign called POWER OF ONE. The campaign is simple... if each member gets one new member, the Squadron will double in size. Let the thought of doubling your membership sink in... that means more fresh ideas, more folks to take classes, and more boating friends.

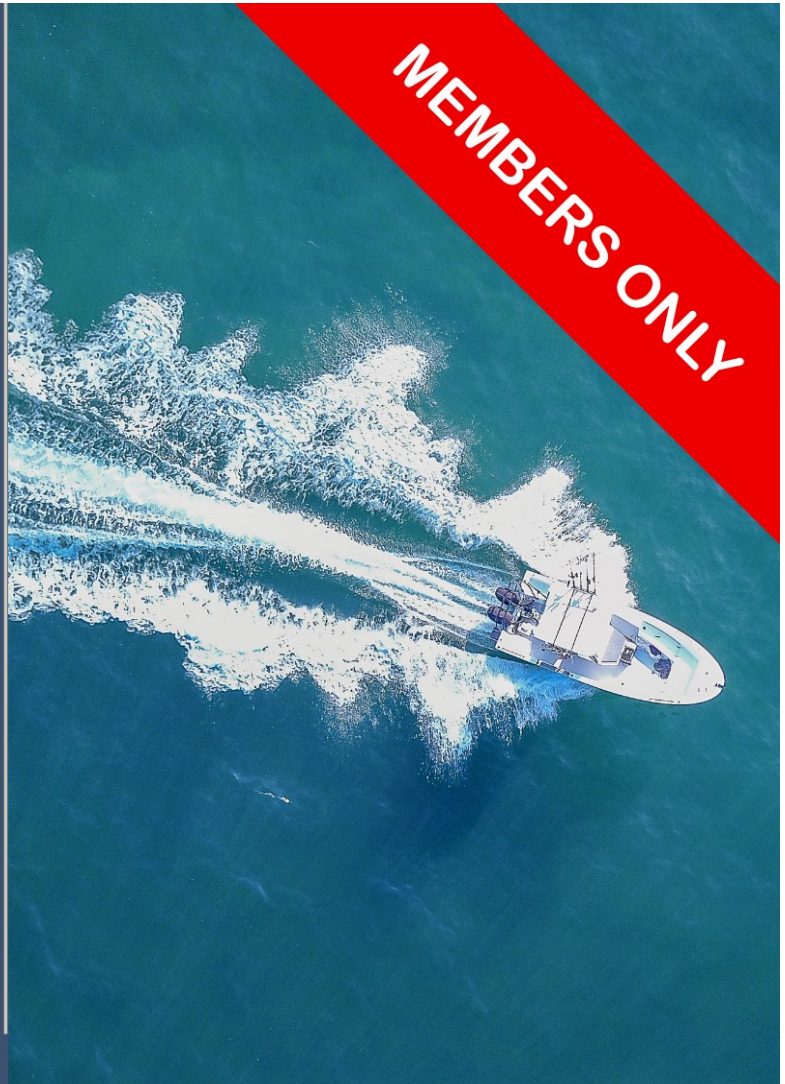
By this time, you may have stopped reading. I hope not. For those who read to the end, I thank you. Do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts, questions, or suggestions. Let’s hang in there together.

POWER OF ONE



GROW OUR
MEMBERSHIP!

MEMBERS ONLY



MAKE WAVES , GROW THE CLUB

Be the reason someone joins America's Boating Club!

Every member can make a difference — just recruit ONE new member and help build a stronger, more vibrant boating community. Earn points, rewards, and recognition for your efforts!

Your Mission

- Invite friends, family & fellow boaters to join
- Get credit for every new member you bring in
- Earn rewards — starting with just ONE recruit!



Program by the United States Power Squadrons Membership Committee

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DISTRICT 16 UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2025

4 - 7—National Fall Governing Board,
Grand Rapids, MI

26-27—District 16 Fall Conference. Port
of Everett Marina

June 2026

5 - 7—District 16 Port Ludlow
Rendezvous

