



District 16

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Cardinal Points

Fall 2022 Quarterly Newsletter



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D/C Kenneth Smith, AP

Commander

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The Present is Good; the Future Looks Great

Wow! Let me say that again - Wow! Wow have we ever emerged from two years plus of Covid lockdowns. D16 squadrons, from Puget Sound, Idaho (Spokane) and Alaska are buzzing around everywhere, having fun, gathering, and teaching. From my position as district commander, I see excitement within our membership; relief from restrictions and a desire to get out and go. Crossing the Canadian border is no longer holding us back. Daily I learn of members crossing for just a week-end. What a refreshing change! Go - go ABClub members!

Membership:

Not all is perfect on our waters. There is one dark storm cloud hanging over D16: our total membership. Last year we were the third largest district in USPS with just over 1,200 members: an impressive number. Now we are barley over 1,100 members. Ouch! - Why? Over the years many reasons have been given for membership drop: heard time and again that "You, squadron leaders, need to try harder, recruit more, teach more, just do more... I say enough already! All our leaders are doing their best at any given time. For that we should all be very thankful they stepped up. We should not chastise, complain, or criticize asking more from them; we should all help them.

Think way back to your childhood and the thousands of



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Submissions received in formats other than .doc, .docx, .jpg, or .gif may not be published.

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

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

decisions your parents made every day, juggling work, finances, relationships and yes, family needs. With the lens of hindsight, maybe some decisions could have been different, but then what would be the timeline consequences of those decisions? We, as squadron members need to realize the fact: our leaders are doing their best!

Squadron leaders, just as their parents did, need to look at what they are doing, reflect and determine if they could do things better moving forward. You cannot change the past, but you can redirect your future. You can ask each of your newer, younger members why they joined and what they hope to get and to give as a squadron member.

Squadron members, when talking to others, it is also your duty to ask and discuss each others needs. If you do not ask what your members need and can also give, then everything you do, and every decision you make are just a guesses. It is that simple. If you do not have many new members then ask the older, less active members how you can better serve their needs. No amount of teaching or marketing yields better results than asking. If you ask, I know you will be surprised at the answers. Retaining members is a collaborative, cooperative job to be shared by all. It does not take much time or effort. Please, just ask.

What's Happening at National:

Beside all that is happening in District 16, there is so much exciting news from the National level that it is impossible to put it all down here. In three weeks at the Raleigh National Governing Board meeting sweeping changes to the national bylaws are being proposed and when adopted, will allow squadrons and districts to completely rethink how they structure themselves and operate. For decades, the century old prescriptive bylaws have stood in the way, forcing squadrons into a standardized model, incompatible with today's membership needs. All of this revision was made possible by a collaborative effort of the National Rules and Planning committees. At the upcoming D16 virtual conference, 1 October we will be discussing in detail all these changes. Fortunately for D16, the R/Cs of both the Rules and Planning committees will be attending. A great chance to ask questions and learn about new opportunities. Lookout for the meeting Zoom link.

This is just the start of additional broad-brush changes to the way we operate coming our way. Within a few months, expect totally new Squadron and District Model Bylaws that reflect these open, non-prescriptive changes. Committees become optional versus mandatory. New structures allow adapting your club to your members needs versus a generalized ideal. Districts can now be molded to fit its squadrons needs versus requiring squadrons to adapt to a rigid district model.

District Cruise:

For the second year, your district will be holding an "End of the Season Cruise". Last year's cruise was so successful that I thought we would do it again. This year the cruise starts on the 29th of September in the town of Langley on Whidbey Island. From there it progresses to Oak Harbor where it pauses for the District 16 Fall Conference then continues onward to Cornet Bay, also on Whidbey. After traversing Deception Pass it proceeds to Fisherman Bay on Lopez Island, Fossil Bay on Sucia Island, Prevost Harbor on Stewart Island, Jones Island and then finishes off in Friday Harbor for a wonderful prime rib and salmon dinner at the San Juan Island Yacht Club. There is a flyer about this cruise within the pages of this Cardinal Points. Additional detailed information is available from Cruise leader D/C Ken Smith kenes@earthlink.net . Can you think of a better way to end the season before putting your boat up for the year? I can't!

District Conference:

This year's Fall District Conference is a bit different than in past years. It was scheduled to be totally virtual to save on expenses and increase attendance. It still is virtual, but since the D/C will be leading the End of Season Cruise and stopping over in Oak Harbor, he will be Zooming from the Oak Harbor Yacht Club ballroom. You may come if you wish and be in the room which should have a projection screen. There will not be any amenities supplied.

The main topic of the conference will be the bylaw changes that should be passed at the Raleigh GB meeting. We will have both the Rear Commanders of the National Rules and Planning committees attending the meeting virtually. This should be an incredible opportunity to learn firsthand how things in USPS / ABClub are changing.

In closing, I ask every member of D16 to stay engaged, give of yourself what you can and take what you need to feel energized and enthusiastic about what it means to be a member of the United States Power Squadrons. Also, as I have said many times: "Go out there, get wet and show everyone who is not a member of USPS what they are missing".

The Whistle Sounds of Our Ferries What do They Mean?

Oh, our ferries – we hate them and we love them. Well, we love them when they are on time; so therefor we occasionally love them! What makes us love them is that they safely and serenely move us between these beautiful islands and occasionally the mainland. I know I said safely, but did I also say serenely? I may have misspoken! With the increased boating traffic during the busy Summer months ferry traffic has become anything but serene. Post Covid the channels and harbors are seemingly packed with boats, small and large. Ferry horn blasts have become more frequent than ferry delays.

This month I thought we would look at just a couple of very common ferry horn signal we hear virtually every day. Think back and recall all you may have heard: "●", "●●" or "— — ●". Do you remember what all these signal sounds mean? Are they all official or just some local tradition? Read on to find out.

Question 1

One afternoon a ferry was departing the Friday Harbor terminal when the following horn blasts were heard. "One long blast a pause then three short blasts". About 30 seconds later the ferry sounded "Five short blasts".

- What is the meaning of the first signal(s)? ——— ●●●
- Is this first signal listed in the COLREGs or is it unique to the WSF system?
- Why did the ferry sound then sound? ●●●●●

Question 2

Many times, when one of our WS Ferries is approaching the landing, you hear one long horn blast followed by two short blasts. ——— ●●.

- Is this signal unique to the WSF system and is it defined in the COLREGs?
- What is the meaning of this signal?
- What is this signal called?

Answers Question 1

- "One Prolonged Blast + Three Short Blasts – This is technically two different signals in succession. One prolonged blast "————" indicates you are getting under way, and three short blasts "●●●" indicate you are backing up. This is what is sounded when you are departing a dock in reverse." The short pause breaks up the two distinct signals.
- No it is not in the COLREGS and it is not unique to the WSF system. As stated in answer (a), it is actually two different signals with a short pause, each signal will be listed and defined separately in the regulations.
- The five short blasts ●●●●● is the danger alert signal "*Your intentions are unclear*". The captain did not know the other vessels intentions and felt there was a chance of collision.

If the Captain had not stopped there very likely would have been a devastating collision. "Knowledge and vigilance save lives".

Note: The above is a true situation - I was there watching! Our ferry was backing out of the berth – hence the ——— ● ● ● signal. A small, about 10 foot, tiller-controlled inflatable shot out from the right doing maybe 10 kts, the drivers back to the ferry. Even with the ● ● ● ● ● blasts, the driver did not alter course or look around; totally oblivious to the impending danger. If the

Answers Question 2

- a) Yes, it is unique to the WSF system and therefore not defined in the regulations (see (b) below).
- b) Dating back to the early days when the *Black Ball Ferry Line* ran most of the Puget Sound ferries, the captains created this unique sound as an alert to passengers that their transport was arriving. It also acted as a warning signal to nearby craft. In deep fog, the distinctive signal let listeners know which ship was coming into dock. Just as each ferry whistle was unique, each captain has his own distinct sound style. Here is a link to a very interesting page on the "Ferry Whistles on Puget Sound" [Whistle Signals on Puget Sound](#)
- c) The signal is called a "*Warp and two Woofs*".

Have fun out there and start listening to the sounds of our ferries.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily of *Cardinal Points*, D16 or USPS®

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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.®



Executive Officer

Annette Ferguson

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I'M PADDLING AS FAST AS I CAN !



Please
remember your
Life Jackets !

Have you ever felt like the title of the article? I know I have and I suspect many of you reading this have in the past and possible now. Everyone seems to be busier as we move out of the COVID restrictions and into the “new normal”.

As I review the last few months, our squadrons/clubs have been active in boating activities, teaching classes and planning for the fall. Summer in the PNW includes all the activities that we in District 16 enjoy. The District 16 Rendezvous in Poulsbo was a perfect example of how we do summer. We had people attend by boat, RVs and car from Washington, Oregon, Canada and Florida. This is what we here at District 16 call a Joint Rendezvous! Seventy-five people had dinner together on Saturday evening at the Poulsbo Yacht Club. Saturday, which was a beautiful day, began with a Pancake Breakfast followed by flare demonstration and practice on the beach. Craig Brown led both the flare practice as well as a modified man overboard activity. The fun and socializing continued into the evening with docktails. Our rendezvous' are always fun, but this year was special as we were able to see friends we had not seen since COVID began.

The busy summer continued with the District renting a storage unit. Why is a storage unit a big deal? We have stuff... flags, AV and sound equipment, OSCAR (man overboard dummy), the Virtual Trainer, and much more. Our most recent Flag Lieutenant, Viki Sharp and husband Charles had graciously stored much of this equipment for several years. It was time to relieve them of this, so we now have a storage unit located in Lynnwood. By the way, the Virtual Trainer is available for any squadron/club to use in an ABC class, at a meeting or for a PR event. Contact SEO Jim West regarding the trainer.

As we roll into fall, we are still paddling. We have an end of the year cruise and Fall Conference the end of September and into October. Combining the two events is a first for our District! The Fall Conference will be October 1st at the Oak Harbor Yacht Club which coincides with Oak Harbor being one of the destinations on the cruise. The meeting will be virtual but members are encouraged to attend whether coming by boat as part of the cruise or driving to the meeting. Because we have never done this combined format, it will likely be filled with a few oops!

As you can see, your squadrons/clubs in District 16 have been on the move and at times “paddling fast”. With the reduced restrictions, we have a lot to do to return to a robust organization. Let's all paddle fast for a while to get things back on track with classes, vessel safety checks, meetings and social outings.

But remember... always wear your PFD when you paddle -



D/Lt/C JAMES WEST, JR
 EDUCATION OFFICER
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Greetings USPS District 16, America's Boating Club of Washington, Idaho, and Alaska™

There won't be an article this time as Jim is in the hospital recovering from pneumonia

Cardinal Points Instructions for each quarterly newsletter articles

1. Please have your articles to me by the 15th by 5PM. (If you are going to be late, please let me know).
2. Please use Arial 12 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 or your officer title.
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



Alayne Fellows

Cardinal Points Editor



12 things to always remember

- 1. The past cannot be changed*
- 2. Opinions don't define your reality*
- 3. Everyone's journey is different*
- 4. Things always get better with time*
- 5. Judgements are a confession of character*
- 6. Overthinking will lead to sadness*
- 7. Happiness is found within.*
- 8. Positive thoughts create positive things*
- 9. Smiles are contagious*
- 10. Kindness is free*
- 11. You only fail if you quit*
- 12. What goes around, comes around*



D/Lt/C Barbara Erickson, JN
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Come for the Education; Stay for the Friends

We had this tag line, “Come for the Education; Stay for the Friends”, back a few years ago before we chose to do business as “America’s Boating Club” and use the “For Boaters, By Boaters” tag line. I miss it, especially the “stay for the friends” aspect.

This Labor Day weekend, we were fortunate to be able to join the America’s Boating Club of Snohomish County (Everett Sail & Power Squadron) at their annual Labor Day weekend rendezvous at Point Hudson Marina. America’s Boating Club of Seattle (Seattle Sail & Power Squadron) members and a threesome of RV’ers – Dan & Annette Ferguson, Mike & Linda Martin, and Steve & Barbara Erickson – who are willing to join a rendezvous whenever a RV park is nearby, were also included.

Extending invitations to other squadrons and your members who travel on wheels – with thoughtful planning to include the locations of nearby accommodations – makes for keeping all members active and increases the friendships which develop.

We brought our lawn chairs to the grassy area by the Marina Room to take advantage of the sun and the view of the water and boats, and soon we became the gathering place. It was wonderful to see members we hadn’t seen or talked to for the last two plus years!



Impromptu gathering
Outside the Marina Room

Photo courtesy of Steve Erickson



The View

Photo courtesy of
Steve Erickson

As dinner time arrived, we all found seats in the Marina Room and the noise level escalated as more members from Everett and [Seattle](#) arrived, sat down, and we talked and talked and talked. Dinner was an excellently prepared meal of chicken fettucine, mixed green salad, *fresh* corn on the cob, bread, and dessert! And followed by an ice breaker – did we really need one? But it was well worth it! Responses to the pre-prepared questions on the table for us to select, provided a little additional insight into each person. We learned something about everyone...



A blend of Squadrons and friends

Photo courtesy of
Steve Erickson

So, all of this came about from one person stepping up, Everett's Executive Officer Darcy Baker, to host the rendezvous; followed by squadron members signing up and getting involved; boaters using the skills learned from our educational classes along with "local knowledge" provided by fellow boaters to travel the waters from Everett/Seattle to Point Hudson; and most importantly – from the lasting friendships gained from being a member of the United States Power Squadrons America's Boating Club. What a wonderful Labor Day Weekend and a Labor of Love for this organization. Happiness is staying for the friends !

29 September through
7 October

Begins in Langley, Whidbey Island
ends San Juan Island Yacht

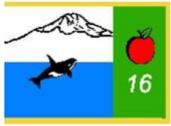
D/16 END OF SEASON CRUISE

Agenda to whet your appetite!

- 29 Sep – 30 Sep Langley Marina
- 1 Oct – Oak Harbor Yacht Club – Fall Conference
- 2 Oct – Cornet Bay, Whidbey Island
- 3 Oct – Fisherman Bay, Lopez Island
- 4 Oct – Fossil Bay (Sucia)
- 5 Oct – Prevost Harbor (Stewart Island)
- 6 Oct – Jones Island
- 7 Oct – Friday Harbor Wrap Up (San Juan Island YC)

Hosted by D/C Ken Smith

Contact Ken at kenes@earthlink.net



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

WASHINGTON★ALASKA★IDAHO



You're Invited to District 16's Saturday, 1 October 2022 Fall "Semi-Virtual" Conference

Attend either via Zoom or travel to Oak Harbor YC!

Either way, this will be a different conference!

- The Zoom link for home viewing in comfort will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- Attend in-person at the Oak Harbor Yacht Club!
Address: 1301 SE Catalina Dr, Oak Harbor
- Special guest speakers, Rear Commander Al Lakin, SN, National Rules Committee, will be joining us via Zoom and Rear Commander Kenneth Smith, AP, National Planning Committee, wearing dual hats, will review the By-law changes that affect us all at a squadron and district level.
- Come if you want and sit, otherwise do it as usual by Zoom. There is plenty of room to accommodate those who wish to attend in person. We will have an AV screen set-up plus all the accessories needed. This is also a great opportunity for us to learn the basics of a hybrid meeting.
- The room will not be setup like a normal conference, it will be a very informal set-up. No coffee nor food will be served. This is solely a location to conduct the short Zoom meeting yet let some of us gather.
 - After the meeting we are planning to either take a long walk or drive to a local restaurant for an on your own lunch.
- Patience requested as things may change with little notice. We hope not, but...
- Join us as we share what the future of USPS|ABClub could look like!

**HELP US BLAZE A TRAIL FOR THE DISTRICT
AND OUR SQUADRONS!!!**

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***District 16 Calendar
2022-2023***

September 2022

14-18 September ABC Governing Board Meeting
Raleigh NC

October 2022

1st October Virtual Fall Conference Oak Harbor

November 2022

15 November Winter Cardinal Points deadline

February 2023

15 February Spring Cardinal Points deadline