



From The Helm

This was a great summer for cruising, wasn't it? We enjoyed beautiful weather, plenty of warm sunshine, and great seas. I hope everyone had great excursions and safe times on the water during this

boating season.

While we were cruising back from the San Juan Islands this summer, we were monitoring Channel 16 and overheard the Coast Guard receiving a distress call from a vessel near the north end of Whidbey Island. We were south of that area and did not think we could be of any assistance. However, during the next hour

### June General Meeting Tues., September 20, 2016 @ 5:30 PM

5:30	Social Hour
6:00	Potluck Dinner
6:30	Sea Stories & Dessert
6:40	General Meeting
7:00	Program
8:00	Adjournment

Boating First Aid: Tracy Gordy, M.D. will talk about first aid for boaters when a medical incident occurs and assistance may be several hours away. He will also discuss what should be in a boat's medicine cabinet or first aid kit.

several transmissions came through our radio asking if anyone in the area had sighted the vessel. No contact from the vessel in distress was received since the initial transmission. Then a request came from the Coast Guard for all captains who heard the initial transmission to provide the Coast Guard with their vessel's coordinates and antenna height. I assumed the Coast Guard was trying to triangulate coordinates to better pinpoint the location of the boat in distress. We did not hear the outcome of this situation, but Anne and I made a mental note of additional procedures to follow when we are cruising. The most important additions were: If you hear a distress broadcast while your vessel is underway, 1) immediately note your longitude and latitude coordinates, 2) know the height of your antenna from the surface of the water, and 3) be ready to help if you are in the noted area.

Sometime later, we heard about a different boat that was out on the water cruising when it struck a rock and sank within about fifteen minutes. It happened so fast that the dingy was pulled underwater before it could even be launched. Fortunately, another boat was nearby and all the people on board were rescued. Consider for a moment what you would do if you were in this situation. Do you have an evacuation plan in place that can be implemented in the event of an emergency like this?

Many of us don't plan ahead for emergencies. It's too late to make a plan in the middle of a crisis. Teaching boating safety is the Sail and Power Squadron's primary objective in our classes, meetings and discussions. The



better we communicate this information, the more attractive and effective our organization will become. Do you know of someone who is new to boating or who could benefit from taking classes which would enhance their safe boating skills and enjoyment? Invite them to join our Squadron by visiting and participating in our meetings. As you might have already discovered, the squadron is not just about providing education through formal class offerings, but it's also about learning through discussions with other members, listening to guest speakers who have expert knowledge, and experiencing the sea stories others tell about their personal boating encounters.

Many people move into our area in search of a pleasant place to live and soon discover that they also have a fabulous new venue to explore – the Puget Sound and beyond. That is exactly what Anne and I did. We wanted to explore this wonderful new world of saltwater but had no boating experience except for canoeing and kayaking. That's when we made the commitment to educate ourselves and began looking for classes on safe boating. At first, it seemed like a daunting and formidable task, but with the help of many new friends and the instruction from informative classes, our new pursuits became a reality. Boating provided us with some of the most interesting and rewarding experiences of our lives. Many of you have expressed the same sentiments no matter how many years you've been boating. Be ready to share the benefits and fun experiences we enjoy in the Sail and Power Squadron with others in order to get more people involved in this rewarding organization.

Ramsay Smith





# **Boating First Aid and Your Medicine Cabinet**

Dr. Tracy Gordy will be our guest program speaker at the September 20 monthly Squadron meeting. He will talk about first aid for boaters when a medical incident occurs and assistance may be several hours away. Do you know what your boat's medicine cabinet or first aid kit should contain? Be sure to come and find out this important information.

Dr. Gordy graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch where he received his M.D. He did an internship in Wichita, Kansas and then pursued psychiatric training in Austin, Texas. He began in private practice in 1965 and then was deployed for an Army medical tour from 1966 to 1968. In 1969 he returned to private practice. After more than 35 years of private medical practice, he moved to Port Ludlow in 2003 and

continued to consult internationally on hospital accreditation. Tracy bought his first sailboat, a Cal 20, in 1969 and raced it one-design and then multiclass for several years. He then bought and raced a J-24 with two other partners. After moving to Port Ludlow, Tracy continued racing by crewing on the Etchells and then on the big boats in multiclass competition. (Editor's Note: The Etchells is a fiberglass boat with aluminum spars; it has no electrical systems or auxiliary power. It is trailerable and light enough to drysail—berth out of the water.)



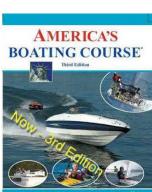
Welcome back from the Summer Break. Don't forget to visit our website www.PointWilson.org which is updated with information throughout the year.





#### **Engine Maintenance Class Begins**

The Engine Maintenance class begins on September 12 and six students are signed up to take the class. Steve Tucker, the instructor, is energized and ready to impart information to his students. The instruction will include helping them learn to avoid engine problems through regular, correct maintenance as well as teaching them how to diagnose problems as they arise. The class will be held on Mondays for six consecutive weeks. Students will be able to choose whether or not they will take the exam during the final session. We'd like to salute and show our gratitude to Seaport Landing for allowing us to use their recreation room for this class at no charge.



United States Power Squadrons 🛞

#### ABC Class

We are planning to hold an America's Boating Course again this fall. The Executive Committee will be meeting on September 19 and will determine the time and place for the class. After the meeting, I'll send out an email describing the details. If you're interested in taking the class, you can let me know. Please pass along the information for the class to your friends and neighbors who might be interested as well. This class is the entry level US Power Squadron course in basic boating safety and seamanship. If you successfully pass a written test at the end of the class, you will receive the Washington State Boater's Education Card.

#### Point Wilson Makes the Honor Roll

Recently, in the statistical summary of all power squadron courses taught across the United States, our Point Wilson Sail and Power Squadron garnered a tenth place position based on enrollment (percentage of students to membership) for Bob Miller's Piloting course taught last fall. Chelcie Liu's Weather Class which was taught in spring 2016 received a second place distinction. Nice work, District 16! Our Washington state district is always among the top five districts based on enrollment statistics for electives and grade.



#### Laptop Needed

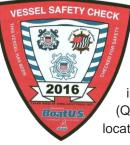
Our Power Squadron laptop, which was graciously gifted to us by Ron Hayes a few years ago, recently "bit the dust." It worked flawlessly up to today. This morning when I plugged it in, it failed to boot up. Steve Tucker used his multi-meter to check the flow of electricity. The power was flowing through the cord, but the laptop failed to power up. This laptop was a loyal and steadfast worker and assisted with our many courses and presentations over the years.

Does anyone have an older laptop he/she would be willing to donate to the Squadron? Since we use it for PowerPoint presentations, it must have a CD drive and at least Windows XP on it. Also, our LCD projector uses a pin connector at both ends. I'm not certain if an USB connector would work for the connection. The projector does not have a port for one. Also, if you're experienced with working on computers and with technology and would be willing to take a look at the projector, I would appreciate knowing if we could potentially use a newer style of computer with it.

Linda Newland, Squadron Education Officer



## Decal Awareness Program (DAP)



There is a new replacement tool in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) tool box called "DAP"-acronym for "Decal Awareness Program". The flyers and posters were designed to display the three primary aspects of the United States Power Squadrons: EDUCATION, SAFETY, and CAMARADERIE. Using the Vessel Safety Check decal at its nucleus is beneficial; since it is a recognizable symbol. Another benefit of the flyer is Squadrons and VEs can add their contact information electronically from their computer. Also displayed on the flyer is the Quick Response (QR) code for the USPS web site, plus a QR code for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary VSC locater web site. This is a new National project that adheres to the USPS branding manual policy.

"Save a Life" boater safety signs were designed to be placed at recreational merchant locations and boat ramps. By including the form 7012, boaters will know in advance what is expected in order to pass a VSC. One of the signs is designed to have a Squadron address box and the other is a Universal sign that combines the USPS and USCGAUX.

With your leadership and support, the Decal Awareness Program can increase the number of annual Vessel Safety Checks.

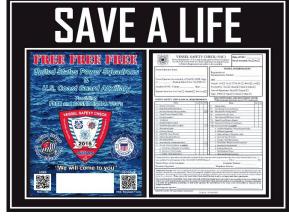
DAP Announcement quoted from Safety Committee Webpage

Member Site of the United States Power Squadrons® National Website

## **Publications and Resources**



Click on the icons to open latest editions of the magazines and information.



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Date	Day	Event	Location	Time
9/12/2016	Monday	Engine Maintenance Class Begins	SL	7:00 PM
9/19/2016	Monday	Ex Com Meeting	PLF&R	6:30 PM
9/19/2016	Monday	Engine Maintenance Class	SL	7:00 PM
9/20/2016	Tuesday	Squadron Meeting & Potluck Dinner	PTYC	5:30 PM
9/26/2016	Monday	Engine Maintenance Class	SL	7:00 PM
10/3/2016	Monday	Engine Maintenance Class	SL	7:00 PM
10/3/2016	Monday	Ex Com Meeting	PLF&R	6:30 PM
10/10/2016	Monday	Engine Maintenance Class	SL	7:00 PM
10/17/2016	Monday	Engine Maintenance Class	SL	7:00 PM
10/18/2016	Tuesday	Squadron Fundraiser Dinner	PTYC	5:30 PM
11/7/2016	Monday	Ex Com Meeting	PLF&R	6:30 PM
11/15/2016	Tuesday	Squadron Meeting & Potluck Dinner	PTYC	5:30 PM
12/5/2016	Monday	Ex Com Meeting	PLF&R	6:30 PM
12/20/2016	Tuesday	Squadron Holiday Party	PTYC	5:30 PM
1/2/2017	Monday	Ex Com Meeting	PLF&R	6:30 PM
1/17/2017	Tuesday	Squadron Meeting & Potluck Dinner	PTYC	5:30 PM

PTYC	Port Townsend Yacht Club
PLF&R	Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue
NWSWBB	NW School of Wooden Boat Building
SL	Seaport Landing, 1201 Hancock Street, Port Townsend





- 1 Sep The equation of time is zero.
- 6 Sep The moon is at apogee, 63.51 Earth-radii (405,000 kilometers) away.
- 8 Sep Low in the southwest at sunset, Saturn is 2 finger-widths below the moon. Arcturus lies 3 finger-widths to Saturn's lower left. Mars is 1 fist-width to the moon's lower left.
- 9 Sep Tonight the first-quarter moon is 4 finger-widths to the upper left of Mars.
- 10 Sep The moon is above the dome of Sagittarius this evening.
- 12 Sep Tonight the bright star 2½ fist-widths above the moon is Altair. Mercury is at inferior conjunction, passing between the sun and earth.
- 16 Sep Low in the south at midnight, Fomalhaut is 3 fist-widths to the full moon's lower right.
- 18 Sep The moon is at perigee, 56.74 Earth-radii (362,000 kilometers) away. Venus passes within 1 finger-width of Spica this evening. Venus sets little more than 1 hour after the sun, so look low in the west as the sky darkens.
- 20 Sep The moon rises late this evening, 3 hours after sunset, followed shortly by Aldebaran.
- 21 Sep Aldebaran is 3 finger-widths to the moon's left or upper left high in the south before dawn. The Pleiades Cluster is 1 fistwidth to the moon's upper right. Orion is far to the lower left. Follow the three stars that make up Orion's belt 2 fistwidths to the lower left to Sirius, the Dog Star.
- 22 Sep Betelgeuse is 1½ fist-widths to the moon's lower left. The sun crosses the celestial equator from north to south at 1421 UT, marking the autumnal equinox, the first day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere.
- 23 Sep This morning, the last-quarter moon is surrounded by several fist magnitude stars: Aldebaran, 2 fist-widths to the upper right, Betelgeuse, 1 fist-width to the lower right, and Procyon, 2½ fist-widths to the lower left. Pollux is 2½ fist-widths to the left, and Capella is 3 fist-widths to the upper left.
- 25 Sep The moon lies between Procyon, 1 fist-width to the lower right, and Pollux, the same distance to the upper left. The Big Dipper, Ursa Major, stands on its handle far to the left.
- 27 Sep Regulus is 2 finger-widths to the moon's lower left this morning.
- 28 Sep Low in the east this morning, Regulus is 3 finger-widths above the moon, and Mercury is less than 1 fist-width to the lower left. Since Mercury is at its greatest western elongation, 17.9 degrees, this is your best opportunity to see it.
- 29 Sep Using binoculars, look low in the east as the sky begins to lighten. Mercury is 1 finger-width above the thin crescent moon.





Have something taking up space and collecting dust? ...... List it on Barnacle Bill's

Contact: Gordan & Sherry Lacey

# Sandra Smith-Poling

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# 2016-2017 Bridge Officers & Committee Chairs

COME FOR THE BOATING EDUCATION...STAY FOR THE FRIENDS<sup>SM</sup>

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