



# Cardinal Points

DISTRICT 16 NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012 ISSUE



*Boating is fun ...we'll show you how*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## FEATURES

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Tacoma Squadron held a test of various current and expired Coast Guard approved emergency flares with surprising results

## Directory of District Bridge Officers

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### USPS Web Sites:

D/16: [www.usps.org/localusps/d16/](http://www.usps.org/localusps/d16/)

National: [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)



# District Commander DC

*By DC Hank Willis, SN (Bremerton)*

**A**s this year has unfolded, my pride in our district increases when I witness all the massive changes in our programs that each squadron is implementing. This year, we have made huge strides in getting our on the water program together and operating. There are still some rough ends to polish, but the direction is set and we just need to complete the actions. We recently completed the first electronic meeting and electronic vote of our Council. The process proved that we could do the job successfully and yet still meet all of our legal requirements. Our Educational Conference at Deception Pass gave everybody a chance to recertify as an instructor and offered helpful subjects on education for everybody. The Fall District Council/Conference was a very successful event hosted by Bellevue Power Squadron. Thanks to Cdr Vern Redecker and his great team of volunteers who did a wonderful job of making sure all ran smoothly and for hosting a well planned event. We also had the AO/XO training for 17 squadron officers. We plan on giving this training at district to members who missed it over the last year. Lastly, we have put into play a massive change in our marketing efforts here in the district. We are completely redesigning the boat show booth, and have a theme to promote our on the water activities for visitors to the booth. After all, what do we offer to prospective new members if not an education program that helps them become better boaters by learning skills on the water?

At the coming Spring conference we have invited the Washington division of the USCG Auxiliary to attend. This is, to my recollection, the first time that the Auxiliary has been truly brought into our organization in a true spirit of cooperation. Our incoming officer's meeting this spring promises to be a valuable opportunity for all incoming squadron officers to meeting with their district and squadron counterparts

As this year is passing so quickly, the bridge and I are in the midst of preparing for the spring council hosted by Skagit Bay on Saturday, 11 February, the incoming commanders meeting scheduled for Saturday, 25 February and finally, the BIG event – Friday Harbor's preparations for the installation of your next District Commander, Travis Smith, SN which will take place on Saturday, 31 March at Ocean Shores.

So with the passing of this watch, I would like to say “Thank You” to each and every one of you – from squadron members to the members who attended district meetings or rendezvous to those of you reading this article – not only for your support, friendship and guidance, but also for giving me your support this year! I have learned a lot and enjoyed meeting and working with so many of you over the year. It has been and is an incredible experience. ■



**District Executive Officer**  
**D/Lt/C Travis N. Smith, SN (Friday Harbor)**



*Come to the **Mardi Gras** (Spring Conference)  
 In Beautiful Ocean Shores*

*By Cdr Fred Bowen, AP (Friday Harbor)*

**F**riday Harbor Power Squadron is pleased to host the District 16 Spring Conference and invites all district members and their guests to attend. The conference will be held at the Shilo Inn Suites Hotel in Ocean Shores, Washington, on March 30-31, 2012. Ocean Shores is one of Washington’s favorite vacation and convention destinations. It is situated on a 6,000 acre peninsula at the mouth of Gray’s Harbor, the only deep water port on the Pacific Coast, north of San Francisco. Ocean Shores includes six miles of sandy beaches, with 23 miles of interconnecting lakes, canals, and miles of scenic bayside, offering several activities to enjoy before and after the conference. All Shilo Inn suites face the beach with private balconies and an open, non-obstructed view of the ocean. Each suite has a sitting room with “fireplace,” wet bar, refrigerator, and either double queen or single king size beds. Handicap and handicap accessible rooms are available. The hotel is dog friendly with rooms located on the ground floor. Recreational amenities include an indoor pool, spa tub, sauna, steam room, and fitness facility. Parking is free. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by March 14, 2012, to take advantage of the USPS-District 16 group contract rate of \$99.00 (plus tax) per night. We have reserved 50 ocean view suites for the conference which are expected to go quickly. The Friday evening reception to meet the chief commander’s representative and buffet will be held in the main ballroom. A registration table will be available from 1500-1800 in the lobby, outside the ballroom. Registration will also be available at the same location Saturday morning from 0800-1000 with the conference starting at 0915 in the ballroom. In order to move the conference along and stay on schedule, we will have the majority of the officers’ reports available in writing for the members to read. In the past, this has reduced the time for the business meeting and allowed more time to explore other issues of interest to the members. Time will be made available for attendees to ask questions about the reports.

Since a district goal is for its members to “have fun,” we have added some variety to the conference by

adding a bit of Mardi Gras flair to the Friday evening reception with a classic Cajun Jambalaya Buffet. You may need to brush up on your Mardi Gras knowledge since there will be a fun trivia quiz for those interested. For our Saturday evening dinner, Mardi Gras festive attire or costume is optional and more than welcome. Continuing the district’s trend to dress casual, Saturday evening dress for the district bridge are blazers and no ties (Marti Gras beads optional). You will be provided with complimentary masks and beads. An opportunity for a”photo ops” (with or without masks and beads will be available by District Photographer, Steve Erickson. Live entertainment during the Saturday evening dinner will be presented by Ericka Corban, a local singer/songwriter who has been playing and writing music for the past decade. She has performed in ten different states and five countries with over 40 recorded songs.

Please see the following Spring Conference Registration Form for meal costs and specific event times. Complete the form and mail with your check to P/D/C Joanna Webster, AP before March 14, 2012, to take advantage of the reduced conference meal costs. Make your check out to: **FHPS, D16 Spring Conference**. We are looking forward to having a productive meeting and an enjoyable time at Ocean Shores. ☐.....,

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS**  
 From I-5 heading South toward Portland, at Olympia, take Exit 104, Ramp (Right) onto US-101 {Pacific Coast Scenic Byway} for 5.9 miles toward Aberdeen (US-101 N). Keep left onto SR-8 for 21 miles toward SR-8 W to Aberdeen. Road name changes to US-12 at Elma. Continue on US-12 for 20 miles to US-101. Continue on US-12/US-101 through Aberdeen to Emerson Ave. Turn LEFT (West) onto Emerson Ave. (SR-109). Keep Straight on SR-109 for 15 miles. Turn LEFT (South-West) onto SR-115 for 2 miles. Turn Left (South) onto Point Brown Ave. N.W. (Main Street) for 1 mile Guide RIGHT (West) at “round-about” onto E. Chance a la Mer NE for 0.5 mile. Arrive at the Shilo Inn Suites, 707 Ocean Shores Blvd NW on your Right.



## District Educational Officer *D/Lt/C Karin McLean JN (Seattle)*

# DEO

**B**oating Education is alive and well in District 16. Squadron websites are a great place to see all the classes being offered. Soon we will have all, or at least most of our classes accompanied by on the water training. This is the direction we are headed. This sets us apart as the most valuable boating teaching organization. We have it all. The price is right and the education is superior. Congratulations to all the USPS members here and across the country for bringing us to this point.

Many awards were presented to our members at the fall conference held in Bellevue on 22 October. At the teaching aids competition, a tie was declared for “Best of Show”. The winning aids, submitted by **Pam Kaufman (North Olympic)** and **Andy Backus (Bellingham)**, will be entered in the national TA competition at the annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

### OTHER AWARDS at the CONFERENCE

#### Prince Henry Awarded to Bellingham Squadron

*SEO Graham Hunter,  
AP with  
Cdr Sandi Horne, N  
photos by Steve Erickson*



### Educational Proficiency Awards

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Allen L. Cowles       | (Agate Pass)     |
| Nicholas P. Ledbetter | (Bellevue)       |
| Rodney D. Jacobson    | (Bellevue)       |
| Bruce Gardiner        | (Bellevue)       |
| Arlen B. Horne        | (Bellingham)     |
| Sandi Horne           | (Bellingham)     |
| Eric C. Lagergren     | (Bremerton)      |
| Allen W. Parks        | (Deception Pass) |
| Jim Wagner            | (Deception Pass) |
| Ed J. Ferro           | (Friday Harbor)  |
| Michael R.iffin       | (Friday Harbor)  |

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Janet Jones       | (North Olympic) |
| Robert F. Monica  | (Point Wilson)  |
| Richard Rutkowski | (Poverty Bay)   |
| Steve Mrowiec     | (Seattle)       |
| David F. Wagner   | (Seattle)       |

### Educational Achievement (Full Certificate) Awards

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Tom Dalglish        | (Bellingham)    |
| Deborah D. O'Connor | (Bellingham)    |
| Gary S. Yaruss      | (North Olympic) |
| Clifford Brown      | (North Olympic) |
| Pamela J. Kauffman  | (North Olympic) |
| Edward E. Yotter of | (Poverty Bay)   |
| John Franklin McKay | (Poverty Bay)   |

The outstanding educators submitted by their squadrons for the national *Charles E. Chapman Teaching Award* were **Richard Edel (Poverty Bay)**, **Graham Hunter (Bellingham)** and **Ray Huggins, SN (Bellevue)**. The *V/C Carl C. Mahnken Memorial Trophy for Excellence in Teaching* was presented to **Ray Huggins** by **Ruby Ann Mahnken (Bellevue)**. This is a highly prized award and is gratefully received. We thank the Mahnken family for their generous gift. Ray is the D/16 nominee for a national Chapman Teaching award, to be given at the annual meeting



*Ruby Ann Mahnken, & Ray Huggins, SN*

*We are very proud of our award winners and offer each of them our congratulations. As I prepare to move on, I wish to thank all of the people who have helped me perform my duties. I am especially grateful to ASEO Ron Jones, SN who stepped up every time he was asked to help. I really love being part of this USPS family.*

**Please go to page14 for the JN-N Quiz  
And page 5 additional conference photos**

# FALL CONFERENCE PHOTOS

Photos by District Photographer Steve Erickson, AP

For additional pics, please go to the Photo Gallery on the District Website



CoCh Chair Inez Schwartz and Smith Bros.trophy winner Charles Leavitt, SN (Everett)



D/C Hank Willis, SN ready to ring the bell to open the conference



Youth poster winners



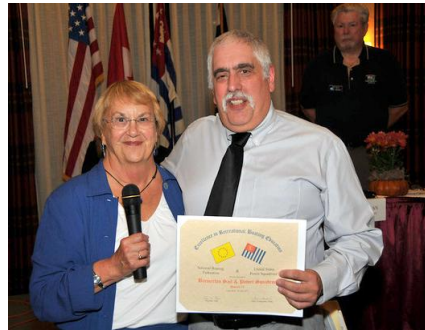
Excellence in teaching candidates. From L. Ray Huggins, SN (Bellevue); P/D/C Joanna Webster, AP for Rick Edel, JN (Poverty Bay) and SEO Graham Hunter, AP (Bellingham)



50 Year members: Receiving for Chuck Hurter, SN (Bellevue) is Cdr Vern Redecker (left) and P/D/Lt/C Jim Harden, JN for William Grindstaff, JN (Olympia)



Member Retention Award goes to Deception Pass. Cdr Mary Williford, AP accepting



Bremerton Wins Recreational Boating Award. Karin McLean presents to Cdr Kevin Pisani, JN



Les Grandes Dames of D 16 (l to r) Trudy Brown, Karin McLean and Ruby Ann Mahnken

# SPRING CONFERENCE

30 – 31 March 2012  
Shiloh Inn Suites Hotel  
Ocean Shores, Washington

## Schedule of Activities

### Friday Evening 30 March

Dress: USPS casual or Mardi Gras attire

1500-1800	Registration	Lobby
1730-1930	No host reception	Ballroom
1830-1939	Buffet	Ballroom

### Saturday, 31 March

Dress: USPS casual or appropriate attire

*No charge for attending meetings.. All squadron officers and interested members are encouraged to attend whether or not they have a vote. Non delegates have the privilege of the floor.*

0800-1000	Registration	Lobby
0800-0900	Hot breakfast buffet Breakfast meetings: Commanders, XOs, SEOs, ASEOs, P/D/Cs	
0915	Conference convenes Opening formalities C/C's message Commodore Peter Raiswell USCGA Conference business	Ballroom
1145-1300	Break for buffet lunch	
1300	Conference reconvenes Award presentations Election of new bridge	
1630	Conference recess	

### Saturday Evening Activities and Banquet

Dress: USPS Blazer or Mardi Gras attire

1800-1900	No host social hour	Ballroom
1900	Dinner Live entertainment Award presentations Change of Watch Ceremony	
2100	Spring conference adjourns	

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Nominating Committee report 2012 – 2013

In accordance with Section 2.11.1 of the District 16 Bylaws, the Committee on Nominations files this annual report setting forth the Nominees for elective office for the 2011-2012 bridge year.

POSITION	NOMINEE and HOME SQUADRON
<b>Bridge Officers</b>	
Commander	D/Lt/C Travis Smith, SN (Friday Harbor)
Executive Officer	D/Lt/C John Sherrick, JN (Spokane)
Educational Officer	Lt. Richard Edel, JN (Poverty Bay)
Administrative Officer	D/Lt/C Rod Barnes, SN (Deception Pass)
Secretary	P/C James Jones, SN (North Olympic)
Treasurer	D/Lt/C J. Christopher Brown, SN (Bellevue)
Asst. Educational Off.	Cdr. Kevin Pisani, JN (Bremerton)

#### General Committees

##### Nominations

* Chair 1 yr	P/D/C Barbara Erickson, AP (Bellevue)
* Member 1 yr	P/C Robert Nelson, AP (Deception Pass)
* Member 2 yrs	P/D/C Joanna Webster, AP (Poverty Bay)
* Member 2 yrs	P/C Tony Gubernatz, P (Everett)
Member 3 yrs	Lt/C James West, JN (Everett)
Member 3 yrs	D/C Hank Willis, SN (Bremerton)

##### Audit

* Chair 1 yr	P/C Allen Grochowski, AP (Spokane)
* Member 2 yrs	P/C Jim Crane, AP (Bellingham)
Member 3 yrs	Lt/C James Harden Jr., JN (Olympia)

##### Rules

* Chair 1 yr	P/C John Tarpley, AP (Everett)
* Member 2 yrs	P/C Ray Thomas, JN (North Olympic)
Member 3 yrs	P/C Elaine Matthews, P (Everett)

\*completing term, no need to re-elect

All candidates have indicated in writing their willingness to serve, if elected, in the position nominated. The candidates for District Educational Officer and Assistant Educational Officer have been approved by the National Educational Officer.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Nominations:

P/D/C Mark Richey, SN (Chair)	(Skagit Bay)
P/C Inez Schwartz, JN	(Agate Pass)
P/D/C Barbara Erickson, AP	(Bellevue)
P/C Robert Nelson, AP	(Deception Pass)
P/C Tony Gubernatz, P	(Everett)
P/D/C Joanna Webster, AP	(Poverty Bay)

## The USPS Governing Board is more...



*USPS Headquarters building, Raleigh, N.C.*

*By P/D/C Barbara J. Erickson, JN  
Photos by Barbara Erickson*

...than just a meeting. This past September I decided to skip out of the usual Thursday morning meetings and take advantage of the tours being offered by the Meeting Committee during the Greensboro Governing Board. So I signed up for the tour of our USPS Headquarters hosted by the Raleigh squadron.

A busload of us, including Poverty Bay's P/R/C Bob Miller, SN headed to Raleigh at 0900 on Thursday, 15 September. We drove through the lovely countryside until we came to the building, set back off the road nestled in a woody setting.

In front of the building were three interesting objects. The original flag pole and bell from the former Montvale, New Jersey site was relocated to the Raleigh headquarters. Right behind the flag pole sits a High Accuracy Geodetic Control Marker given to USPS by the NOAA's National Ocean Service in appreciation for our efforts with Cooperative Charting. And off to the left of headquarters was a most unusual family cemetery plot. It belongs to the previous owners of the building and is maintained by the family – sort of a restful place...

As we walked into the building, we were greeted by Stephanie Ford, Administrative Assistant. I was struck by the "Brick Wall." Back in 1990, a fund raiser was held to help pay for a much needed building addition and for a \$1000, one could purchase a brick and dedicate it to oneself, family, squadron or district. As I checked out "the wall," I recognized the bricks with the names of District 16 members, squadrons and an auxiliary near and dear to my heart – the Bellevue Squadron Sea Belles!

We then walked around the office spaces, where interestingly enough, I didn't see names on the office doors – just the titles of the people there. So I didn't see the work areas of Lena Pedro, Mary Catherine Berube, Yvonne Hill or Tom Kemp since they were attending the Governing Board.

*Continued on next page*

# *The USPS Governing Board is more.....*

## *Continued from previous page*

It was really nice, however, to meet Lynnda Stevens, Art Stevens and Jacky Van Doren, a few of the behind-the-scenes voices with whom we interface when we call headquarters.

There is so much to see in this two story building that you will find it difficult to take in everything. There are portraits, paintings, plaques decorating the walls. Wherever you look, you will see objects of interest. In one of the office areas, there is a beautiful area rug with the ensign and United States Power Squadron emblazoned on it that had been donated to headquarters. I didn't really want to step on it, but I did!

The "warehouse" is humongous. Very orderly, but HUGE 20,000 square feet HUGE. I would think roller skates or maybe a go-cart with ladder would be helpful.

Then we moved upstairs to the Memorial Library. This is where the Board of Directors meets. A huge wooden table with arm chairs sits in the middle of the floor. I learned after the fact that one of those chairs was donated by our own P/D/C Gus Decock, SN.

As you take in the room, you immediately notice the alcoves surrounding the table and chairs. There are eleven of them and each alcove was dedicated by individuals or members of the United States Power Squadron by making a \$1000 donation. Each alcove contains historical memorabilia. There is so much history in this room that I really didn't have time or memory to take it all in.

The things that stood out for me were:

- Ensigns that had traveled on several space shuttle missions.
- Charles F. Chapman photographs and personal belongings.
- Original 85th Anniversary painting, "Marblehead Harbor 1915".
- 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary painting, "The Great Rescue of 1912".
- The Past Chief Commander's Corner featuring all the past chiefs beginning with Roger Upton and awaiting the portrait of our own Chief Commander Frank Dvorak, SN.
- A soapstone carved walrus donated by the Canadian Power Squadrons.
- Alcove 7 dedicated to V/C Carl Mahnken, SN and Family.
- Very old navigation instruments.

This was just one of the tours offered at the Greensboro Governing Board. The Jacksonville Annual Meeting is coming up in January 2012. Tours are being offered. Take a moment to check out the tours!

This is the meeting where we will be saying Thank You and farewell to C/C Frank Dvorak, SN and hello to our incoming Chief, John Alter, SN. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend a national meeting, make this the one! Remember, take the time to enjoy your surroundings as well as the educational aspects at a national meeting! See you there! 📍

***Dear reader, Please continue to the following page for the photo essay that accompanies this story.***

# Barbara's Headquarters Photo Essay



# ON THE ENVIRONMENT

**P/D/C Carolyn Black, AP (Everett)  
Chair, District environmental Committee**

***Our Beautiful Puget Sound needs care and concern as much as any other part of our lives. The following was taken from an email I received from the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance. ....C.B.***

## **2011 milestones in our work:**

- On our weekly boat patrols, we see the direct results of Soundkeeper's legal action-- newly installed advanced water **filtration systems that remove up to 99% of heavy metals from industrial stormwater.**
- 18 years after Soundkeeper's legal action, the **City of Bremerton reduced its untreated sewage overflows by 99%** and shellfish beds reopened in Dyes Inlet.
- Soundkeeper certified the **60th Clean Marina** through our award-winning program.

We have measurably reduced pollution in our waters, but we still have much more work to do and your support is critical.

**Our salmon are endangered, orca whales are dying, oyster beds are closing and our cultural heritage is threatened – all because of illegal pollution.**

Soundkeeper is the only organization defending all of Puget Sound through a dual approach of pollution prevention and Clean Water Act enforcement. We are on the water every week monitoring Puget Sound, in the court room standing up for cleaner water and on the ground educating the people of the Puget Sound region.

## **In 2012, Soundkeeper asks for your support to sustain our work in:**

- finalizing the **Municipal Stormwater permits** to reduce the largest source of toxic pollution in Puget Sound;
- organizing **shoreline and waterway cleanups** throughout Puget Sound to remove harmful marine debris and creosote-treated lumber; and
- **patrolling our waters** by boat and kayak and **enforcing the Clean Water Act** with citizen action against illegal pollution.

***There are many ways each of us can help, but donating \$\$\$ saves us time and energy letting those involved to all the leg work.***

# M A R K E T I N G

## has come to the district!

*By P/D/C Barbara Erickson, JN, (Bellevue), District Marketing Chair*

**H**ow many of you were at the District Fall Conference in Bellevue? Do you recall the riveting marketing presentation by professional marketing consultant **Lt Bill Munroe**, (Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron)?

The energy from this presentation brought together new leadership for the District Marketing Committee and new interfaces for our squadrons.

**Lt/C John Chen, P** (Agate Pass) leads the Kitsap region (Agate Pass, Bremerton, Deception Pass, North Olympic); **P/C Lonnie Butler, AP** (Bellevue) is lead for the Central Puget Sound region (Bellevue, Seattle) and **P/D/C Joanna Webster, AP**, (Poverty Bay) leads the South Sound region (Poverty Bay, Tacoma, Olympia ).

As of this writing, we are still looking for a lead for the North Puget Sound region (Bellingham, Friday Harbor, Skagit Bay, Everett) and for the stand-alone region of Spokane.

So what are we about? With this marketing thrust, this is an opportunity for us to utilize the strengths of the squadrons as a cohesive group. We can increase our buying power by providing one public face in Washington State from which we can promote and generate education and membership.

To capitalize on the momentum, the district website and the January 2012 boat show booth became the first candidates that would benefit from a quick face-lift. “Branding” is the buzz word associated with the website. What is the message we want to convey? Who is the audience we are trying to reach? The district website is the gateway to the squadrons. We believe providing a public friendly website will allow that potential student/member to find the right location for their educational needs and at the same time, show the breadth and depth of this organization! So between the Quick Response code (QR code) created by John Chen and the soon to be updated “splash” webpage for the boat show designed by P/C Richard Michels, SN, (North Olympic), we will be up and running.

The impetus for all of this was the Seattle Boat Show. Under the leadership of D/C Hank Willis, SN, (Bremerton), D/Lt/C Chris Brown, SN, (Bellevue),

Lt Dennis Kinch, AP, (Bellevue), Lonnie Butler and the coaching of Bill Munroe, this district was encouraged to define and decide on one theme for the boat show. The theme, *On the Water* training, separates us from our competition and enables us an opportunity to begin to change the district’s culture.

We have begun to change our culture through various successful acts. The District Council performed a first time ever electronic vote to approve an \$1800 budget to overhaul the boat show booth. A portion of the money is being used to shore up the booth walls to support two 32” LED screens where one screen will show looping segments of *On the Water* training while the second focuses on the classes we offer. Money is also designated for give-a-ways that promote *On the Water* along with brochures the size of a business card with pertinent information allowing the attendee to put them in their pocket versus pick up and toss later. Your district is sponsoring discounts on *ABC/On the Water* classes if they sign up at the show. The district is also sponsoring a nightly drawing for a free *ABC/On the Water* class for two.

If you are volunteering at the Boat Show, you will have an opportunity to support the new direction. If you are visiting the Boat Show, stop by our booth. Check out it and the volunteers. See the difference and be proud of the professionalism being displayed!

This is only the beginning for this district. This is a huge task and will not be accomplished overnight. Your District Bridge and this Marketing Committee are committed to making a difference through working together with and for you. Developing joint promotional material and media relationships, identifying opportunities to be involved in events that promote USPS as well as benefit the boating community and lastly, the ability to create a budget to make the possibility a reality – this is where we are headed.

So you remember I mentioned that as of this writing, we needed a lead for the North Puget Sound region and Spokane? Do you want to become part of the cultural change? There is plenty of room! Lt/C Dianne Greene, AP, (Bellevue) has joined the team. Will you step up to help continue to bring marketing to District 16 squadrons? We need you! For more details or to join us, contact me at [bje46@msn.com](mailto:bje46@msn.com). ■

# Safe Boating

## Who Says WE Can't Make a Difference ?

*P/C Pat Lemagie, AP (Tacoma)*

**I**t started out simply enough, an evening safety demonstration of visual distress signals followed by an opportunity for members to practice with their own flares while at the same time disposing of outdated material. Well, that's how it was supposed to go during our October 2011 weekend rendezvous at the Longbranch Marina in South Puget Sound. Most of the VDS's demonstrated were typical of the consumer grade flares and hand held devices found in marine stores throughout the country but for the purpose of comparison we added several SOLAS grade signals that are required on commercial vessels. Following a brief description of what was to take place, two members went to the far side of the bay which just so happened to be exactly one nautical mile from the end of the marina docks. First to be demonstrated was an emergency strobe light attached to reflective material on a PFD. To almost everyone's surprise, it was almost impossible to see even though the evening was clear and the moon was mostly obscured. Following that came several Skyblazer© flares with none actually functioning. It should be noted that all the flares were either expired or soon to be expired but in all cases, they were in good to new condition. Next came the common hand held devices that are found in popular VDS kits. Although visible from one mile, they were not impressive. This was followed by the common Orion 12 gauge, low base pistol fired aerial flare. Even though some were fifteen years old they all worked but again, from one mile out, their brief and low altitude display left several wondering just how effective they would be in an emergency. The big surprise came with the new, higher base, all plastic 12 gauge flares. With an expiration date of "Oct. 2011" and in "like new" condition, two of the three failed to ignite following their launch. During the subsequent practice session, an 83% failure rate of these same flares was experienced. Following the consumer grade flares we moved on to less common products including the 25mm pistol launched flares which were significantly better than anything previous. The most impressive signals without a doubt were the two SOLAS grade devices; a hand held and aerial signal, both over ten years old. With enough candle power to cause near blindness and an elevation of over a thousand feet, it was agreed that the added expense of SOLAS devices was well worth their expense.

As a result of our Longbranch VDS demonstration and the rather surprising results, a letter was sent to Olin

Marine Safety Products regarding the less than satisfactory product performance. A short while later, I received an email from the "Plant Manager" at Olin explaining that our letter had received much attention and, "was the main topic of discussion during a meeting this morning involving the top Orion management officials". He further indicated that they are looking into the problem and that we, Tacoma Power Squadron, would be hearing back from them. Well, in less than three weeks from being notified of the problems, Olin Safety products issued a recall notice of these products, in part, from our squadron's experience; see <http://www.uscgboating.org/default.aspx>.

There is a lesson to be learned here by all squadron members and fellow boaters alike. Visual distress signals are an important part of the safety equipment carried aboard every boat cruising on Puget Sound and coastal waters. Skippers do so hoping these devices will never be needed but also believing that should the worst ever occur, their safety devices will function as designed and summon necessary rescue personnel. It's indeed unfortunate when any product fails to work as advertised but for an item that is intended to be stored unused and untested until needed only then to discover that it's defective is unacceptable. Olin Marine Safety Products is one of the best known names in the marine safety products field and they took swift and positive action to address this problem and they deserve our respect and continued confidence. Although we will never know the end result, we can believe that among the thousands of boaters that will exchange their defective signals for newer and more reliable products, somewhere, a life will most likely be saved because the emergency signal they activate will function properly and summon the proper rescue response. In conclusion, this incident brings to light an important message; never rely on a single method when safety is concerned and redundancy is the key to safety. Federal law requires that we carry three different day and night devices aboard our vessels. There is nothing prohibiting us carrying several times more than the minimum.

***The United States Power Squadrons have always been advocates of boating safety and education. With the recall of the defective distress signals, we, as squadron members, can be proud to have made a difference.*** ◻

# CALLING ALL SQUADRON OFFICERS

## *Incoming Squadron Officers' Orientation meeting, Set for 25 February at Our Saviors Baptist Church in Federal Way*

The agenda for the annual incoming officers' meeting is shown below. All incoming squadron officers are invited to attend. The morning session will be a general meeting of all officers. In the afternoon, each district officer will have a break out session for the squadron officers and district committee chairs under that officer. This will give each squadron officer to spend time with district and squadron officers and get to know each other. We hope that all incoming officers will take the time to attend this event and get a chance to meet the district bridge and your counterparts in other squadrons. It is really the only time that you will have this opportunity, so please plan on attending. We will have some formal discussions, but most of the meeting will be informal with lots of time for questions. The intent is to give each incoming officer as much information as we are able to help them in their new jobs. A \$13.00 charge for lunch will be collected at the door.

Please RSVP to Joanna Webster at [Jimjoweb@aol.com](mailto:Jimjoweb@aol.com) by Monday, 20 February.

**Who:** All incoming squadron officers, district officers and district committee chairs

**Location:** Our Savior's Baptist Church  
701 South 320th Street  
Federal Way, Washington

**When:** 25 February, 2012; 0830 - 1430

### **A G E N D A:**

0830-0900 – Registration	
0900-0910 – Introductions	D/C Hank Willis, SN
0910-0945 - DB2000/ Merit Marks	D/Lt Bob Anderson, AP
0945-1000 - Role of the District Council	D/C Hank Willis, SN
1000-1030 – District Marketing	P/D/C Barbara Erickson, JN
1030-1050 – Nominating Committee Procedures	P/C/C Lance Jensen, SN
1050-1110 – Commander's Challenge	P/C/C Frank Dvorak, SN
1110-1200 – OTW Activities for Squadrons	Incoming D/Lt/C Rick Edell, JN
1200-1300 – Lunch	
1300 – 1430 – Breakout sessions for each department. Each District Bridge Department Head and Committee will meet with squadron department officers.	
<b>1430 Adjourn</b>	

***Directions: From I-5, take Exit # 143 toward the West. The church is located about 1.2 miles on left.***

# What's Happening

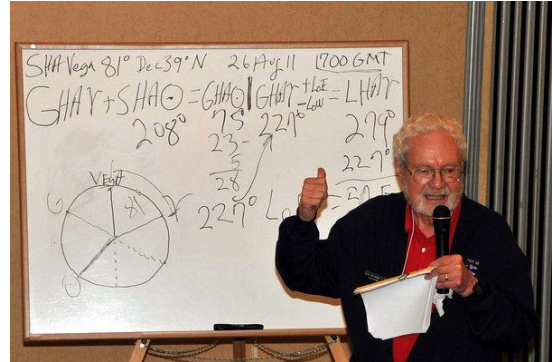
In USPS and around the district

## 2012

22-30 Jan	USPS Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida
27 Jan- 05 Feb	Seattle Boat Show, CenturyLink Event Ctr
28 Jan- 04 Feb	Spokane Boat Show, State Fairgrounds and Event Center
11 Feb	D/16 Spring Council, Skagit Bay Sqdn, host
25 Feb	Incoming Squadron Officers' Meeting Queen City Yacht Club
02-03 Mar	D/32 Spring Conference Scappoose, Oregon
30-31 Mar	D/16 Spring Conference Friday Harbor Sqdn., host Ocean shores, Washington
05 Apr	<b>DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE CARDINAL POINTS</b>
19-25 May	National Safe Boating Wk.
02 Jun	D/16 Educational Seminar Bellingham Sqdn., host
22-24 Jun	D/16 Rendezvous, @ Sons of Norway Poulsbo
04-07 Sep	USPS Fall Governing Board, Detroit, Mich.
19-21 Oct	D/16 Fall Council/Conf. Agate Pass Sqdn. host

## JN-N QUIZ For SPRING CONFERENCE

By P/R/C Robert E. Brummett, SN  
(North Olympic)



Bob Brummett reviewing the fall conference quiz  
Steve Erickson photo

**Y**our anthropology graduate student grandson is on his way to Thailand to study a collection of human teeth. According to his plane ticket he will arrive in Bangkok at 10:23 AM their time on 2 June 11. His mother called you and wanted you to tell her when she should call from her home in Oregon to make sure he had arrived OK. She wanted to allow him three hours to clear customs and get to where he was going to stay, near the airport, in Bangkok.

You check your World Atlas and find that the Longitude of Bangkok is approximately  $101^{\circ}$  E, from which you calculate the ZD. His mother did not know if Thailand observes DST, so you check *The Nautical Almanac* which confirmed the ZD you calculated and you find that Thailand does NOT observe DST.

You call his mother back in about eight minutes to tell her the suggested time to make the call.

### Question:

What was the ZD you calculated?  
What was the time you told her to call her son from Oregon?

Send your answer along with all of your work to:

**Robert E. Brummett**  
40590 N. US Hwy 101  
Lilliwaup, WA 98555  
Or [robertebrummett@gmail.com](mailto:robertebrummett@gmail.com)

Everyone with an acceptable answer will have their name entered into a drawing for a bottle of Hoodspout Winery wine at the Spring Conference. You do not have to be present to win. 🍷

## DISTRICT 16 HAS A NEW VISITOR WEBSITE

*To debut during the Seattle Boat Show*

By D/C Hank Willis, SN (Bremerton)

Over the past several months we have struggled with our concern that USPS is the best kept secret in the boating community. We spent quite a bit of time thinking about how to make improvements. One of the items that we came up with is to change our approach to the boat show and emphasize our on the water capabilities. We wanted to have people go on to our website and sign up for ABC classes on line. When we looked at our current district website, we felt that it would be too difficult to do a complete remake of that site in a short time. The answer to the problem was proposed by our Boat Show team, Bill Monroe, Chris Brown, Dennis Kinch, Rick Edel and Laurie Stevens who developed a new visitor website completely dedicated to the visitor who wanted to find out more about USPS and be turned on by our great graphics which promoted our boating activities and classes. The answer resulted in our buying a new website address called

[WWW.NWBOATERTRAINING.COM](http://WWW.NWBOATERTRAINING.COM).

This new web address will guide Washington boaters who Google boater education or training as a choice for Washington. We are also going to have a section listing the education schedule for each squadron, a location map for our district squadrons and other information of use for a boater looking for help. We are giving away a waterproof pouch at the boat show that will have this URL on it for the booth visitor. We hope that the give away will keep the URL available to visitors throughout the coming year. The website is only one item that is being developed by the Marketing Committee to help improve our image. Stay tuned for lots of other concepts to be developed in the coming year.

The site is being designed right now, but has been promised to be completed in time for the boat show. I believe that this website is a great step forward for the district to improve its image and accessibility. No longer will USPS be the best kept secret in the boating world. ☐

## District Newsletters to Receive Distinctive Communicator Awards



Editors from all publishing squadrons in District 16 will be presented with certificates from the National Communications Committee for their outstanding newsletters at the District Spring Conference, 31 March in Ocean shores. They will be able to display the Distinctive Communicator logo in their publications during 2012.

### The squadrons, their newsletters and editors are:

Agate Pass	<i>The Halyard</i>	Davie Swolgaard, AP	Point Wilson	<i>The Point</i>	Natalie Hutton, AP
Bellevue	<i>Bellviews</i>	Laurie Stevens, AP	Poverty Bay	<i>The Pirate's Log</i>	Marcus Nelson, AP
Bellingham	<i>Bell Signals</i>	Tom Dalglish, SN			& Kara Dalkey, P
Bremerton	<i>The Squawk Box</i>	Kevin Pisani, JN	Seattle	<i>The Pilot</i>	Richard Kay, SN
Deception Pass	<i>Spindrift</i>	R. E. Edwards, S	Skagit Bay	<i>The Bitter End</i>	Kelly Libby, S
Everett	<i>The Pike Pole</i>	Linda Skugstad, AP	Spokane	<i>The Lubber Line</i>	James Roeber, SN
Friday Harbor	<i>Harbor Lights</i>	David Good, AP	Tacoma	<i>The Wake Astwern</i>	Robert Mattox, P
North Olympic	<i>Straitlines</i>	Alayne Fellows, S			
Olympia	<i>The Seaman's Log</i>	Skip Hash, P	District 16	<i>Cardinal Points</i>	George W. Lucker, SN

# District 16 Spring Council

## REGISTRATION

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Farmhouse Restaurant  
13724 LaConner Whitney Road  
Mount Vernon, Washington

Please join us at the Farmhouse Restaurant in Mount Vernon for the 2012 District 16 Spring Council meeting. The price for meals is \$20.00 per person and includes gratuity and tax. Meals include a continental breakfast and a sandwich buffet lunch. The continental breakfast begins at 9:00 am.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (for Confirmation of Registration and Payment): \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be attending the council meeting without meals? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

(This is an activity registration form. There is no charge for attending meetings.)

Meals: \$20.00 per person No. of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total included (U.S. funds): \_\_\_\_\_  
\*includes tax & gratuity

### Payment and Registration

Please make checks payable to: **SBSPS, D16 Spring Council**

Send Checks and Reservation Form by **Feburary 3rd** to Kari Secrest  
PO Box 1919  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
Phone: 360-387-1194

### **Brief Agenda**

<b>0900</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
<b>0930</b>	<b>Call to order</b>
<b>0930-1200</b>	<b>Opening formalities</b>
<b>1200</b>	<b>Standing Committee reports - - -NOMCOM report</b>
<b>1215-1300</b>	<b>Break for lunch</b>
<b>1300</b>	<b>Old business</b>
<b>1330</b>	<b>New business: Spring conference</b>
	<b>Marketing Com activities</b>
	<b>Incoming squadron officers' meeting</b>
<b>1545</b>	<b>Council Adjourns</b>

The Farmhouse Restaurant is located at the intersection of SR 20 and LaConner-Whitney Road, about 6.7 miles west of I-5. Take the Anacortes off ramp on I-5.

**REGISTRATION FORM  
D/16 SPRING CONFERENCE,  
30-31 MARCH 2012  
SHILO INN SUITES HOTEL, OCEAN SHORES, WASHINGTON**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address for Confirmation of Registration and Payment \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be attending only the District Conference without meals? YES \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: This is an activity registration form. There is no charge for attending meetings.**

**Early Bird prices apply for reservations received by 14 March, 2012.**

**A \$3.00 Surcharge will apply to reservations received after 14 March.**

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>Early Bird Price:</u>	<u>After 03/14/12:</u>	<u>No. of People:</u>	<u>Total</u>
Friday reception and no host bar 1730-1930				
Friday Buffet 1830-1930				
Classic Cajun Jambalaya	\$15.00	\$18.00	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Hot Breakfast Buffet 0800-0900				
Commander/Executive Officer	\$19.00	\$22.00	_____	\$ _____
Educational Officer/SEO	\$19.00	\$22.00	_____	\$ _____
PDC's and all other attendees	\$19.00	\$22.00	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon 1145-1300				
Executive Deli Bar	\$20.00	\$23.00	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Evening Banquet and no host bar 1800-2100				
Banquet 1900-2100				
Prime Rib & Salmon	\$39.00	\$42.00	_____	\$ _____
Vegetarian Entrée	\$35.00	\$38.00	_____	\$ _____

DIETARY PREFERENCES OR RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

Total (U.S. Funds) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Meal prices include gratuity and tax)

**For Hotel Reservations**

Shilo Inn Suites Hotel  
707 Ocea Shores Blvd. NW  
Ocean Shores, WA, USA 98569  
Phone: (360) 289-4600  
(For \$99.00+tax / Group rate; you  
must reserve by 14 March .  
Ask for USPS/D16 room rate)

**Payment and Conference Reservations**

Make checks payable to: FHPS,D16 Spring Conference  
Send Checks and Reservation Form to:  
P/D/C Joanna Webster, AP  
31820 – 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Federal Way, WA 98023-2176  
Phone: (253) 927-7474      E-Mail: jimjoweb@aol.com