

HARBOR LIGHTS

Volume 20, Issue 7, December 2003

Commanders Message This is who we are; this is what we do.

Cdr Virgil Boyt, AP

Good News! The Squadron Education Officer, Ann Einboden, has everything in place to educate the boating public. All that is required is for them to step forward and take the Boat Smart class.

USPS Headquarters has tipped me off that there is a movement underway in Olympia to require that boat owners be licensed. This isn't mandatory yet, but many other states, and Canada, already require it.

Passing our class will be what the State

will require as prerequisite to obtaining a Boat Operator's License. The increased attendance will require us to train more instructors to cope with the enlarged classes. Some of our instructors will be required to pass an instructor's course before they can teach.

Bad News! Drowning incidents have continued to plague the boating community - most are attributed to not wearing PFDs. I have borrowed from a paper written by the current Chairman of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC), Mr. William S. Griswold. "For years, the National Safe Boating Campaign has exhorted the public to *"Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Wear It"* or older versions, *"It Floats, You Don't"*, *"Boat Smart from the Start, Wear your Life Jacket"*, direct references to wearing your life-jacket. Every organization associated with recreational boating safety pounds that message, in classrooms, in literature, during vessel checks, at boating booths, and in the media. This core message transcends alcohol abuse, hypothermia, and all the other hazards one might encounter on the water. Yet, the *JSI National PFD Wearage Observational Study 2002*, states, that there has been no improvement in PFD wear rates over the five-year period, 1998-2002. This study observed a total of 71,074 boats and 190,936 people during the 5-year period. And I believe that most would agree, our present tactics are not improving the situation." End of quote.

Some of our members are hypocritical in this respect, by telling the public to wear PFDs and then not doing so themselves. Remember, you are an icon of what a good seaman is all about. Dazzle them with your knowledge, commitment, dedication, and concern for the average Joe. Set an example for them, because if we cannot convince the boating public of the need for self-discipline then we may face governmental intervention on PFDs.

Anita & Conrad
Kimes at
Christmas Party.



Friday Harbor
Power Squadron
Newsletter

Educational Department

SEO, Lt/C Ann Einboden, AP

The Piloting class concludes on December 16, and has been not only a very hard working class but also the first one to have the benefit of the new multi media projector. Congratulations to all the students for work well done, and to Exec. Officer Travis Smith for his excellent instruction. Thank you also to Mike Close and Susan Ley for helping out with this class.

Classes that are upcoming in the Spring are the Boat Smart and Chart Smart classes, which will start on February 24th and an all new Marine

Electronics class taught by Mike Close, which will start in March. All who are interested in the Marine Electronics class please e-mail me as soon as possible at: ein@rockisland.com. , so that we can order sufficient materials. This class will be presented in 3 modules, with one dealing with only electronic navigaton.

If there are any other requests for classes, please let me know.

Happy Holidays,

VSC Report

Cdr Virgil Boyt, AP

A bell is no longer required on vessels up to 20 meters.

A vessel of 12 meters or more but less than 20 meters in length shall not be obliged to give the bell signals prescribed in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this Rule. However, if she does not, she shall make some other efficient sound signal at intervals of not more than 2 minutes.

RULE 33(a) is amended to read as follows:

(a) A vessel of 12 meters or more in length shall be provided with a whistle, a vessel of 20 meters or more in length shall be provided with a bell in addition to a whistle, and a vessel of 100 meters or more in length shall, in addition, be provided with a gong, the tone and sound of which cannot be confused with that of the bell." And so on.

The Coast Guard does not plan on reprinting the "Navigation Rules".



Happy
Holidays to All!
From
Cdr Virgil Boyt.

Safety Corner

Cdr Virgil Boyt, AP

I became aware of a problem with the Flare Pistols made by both Olin and Orion companies during the Flare Shoot-out conducted at Fred & Peg Hoepfner's beach on Mitchell Bay.

The problem stemmed from a design deficiency of the locking mechanism used to hold the chamber in line with the firing pin. I fixed the errant gun and thought no more about it until I received a note from D-16 VSC Chair Bob Miller, in which he alerted me that this was not an isolated incident. In fact, it was observed that 9 out of 69 pistols being examined by a Marine Surveyor in Florida, had the faulty mechanism.

A Nylon tip rides over a cam surface when the breech is opened, and drops into a slot upon closing, thereby holding the barrel in alignment during firing. However, excessive wear can cause the tip to not lock the barrel in alignment, causing the flare to not ignite, or if ignited, to allow the primer to split and allow gasses to blast from the rear of the mechanism. NOT A

GOOD IDEA!

In addition, if the nylon tip is made too soft, it can deform, flow upward into the opening under the barrel, and make it difficult for the barrel to open adequately to accept a flare cartridge. You can check this very easily! Tilt the barrel up to see if a cartridge has clearance to enter the chamber, then close the breech and jiggle the barrel to see if it locks in the closed position.

Our Vessel Examiners will be alerted to verify proper functioning of all flare guns during a VSC. There are two other design flaws that can be serious and I will elaborate on those in a future report.



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
To All



Administrative Department

Lt/C Sammy Long, P

Although I am usually not at a loss for words, I feel inadequate to describe the warm, elegant, superb Christmas Banquet we enjoyed on the evening of Thursday, December 4 at The Place Bar & Grill. It occurred to me that perhaps you would get a feel for my sentiments if I simply let you read the letter of thanks I sent to Toni Bailey, Chair of this event. I hope she doesn't mind my sharing.

Dear Toni:
Well, wasn't that something! The annual Christmas Banquet, planned and produced by you, was absolutely the best such event in the history of the squadron, I am sure. You know it was special when 56 folks show up on a rainy, blustery evening because they know they are going to have fun. Everything was perfect, from the choice of restaurant and food, to the selection and wrapping of door prizes, to your fine sense of professionalism and good humor. As the Administrative Officer, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I appreciate your quickness to say "yes" when I approached you about taking the leadership in this event, and your patience with me through all the planning and doing. I do tend to worry that things will go well, and I needn't have. You were superb.

Again, thanks. I like your style!
Sincere regards,
Sammy Long, AO

Although I did not mention the special music in my letter to Toni (because I had made the arrangements) I want to thank Sonja Zarek (piano) and Lisa Lindberg (cello) for providing Christmas music for us during the dinner. This special touch to the evening was a beautiful way to usher in the Advent season. The piano was provided through the courtesy of member Laura Long. Special thanks also go to Lizz Divers-Smith, Lt/C Travis Smith, Fred Bowen and Carolyn Bowen for assisting in their special ways.

Coming Events.
Our speaker for the

January general meeting will be Captain Richard Rodriquez, representing our new marine store in town, *West Marine*. His topic will appeal to all of us: *GPS: Navigating the Gulf Islands in the Fog*. If you have been pondering whether to get a GPS or not, or if you want to learn more about using yours, here's your chance.

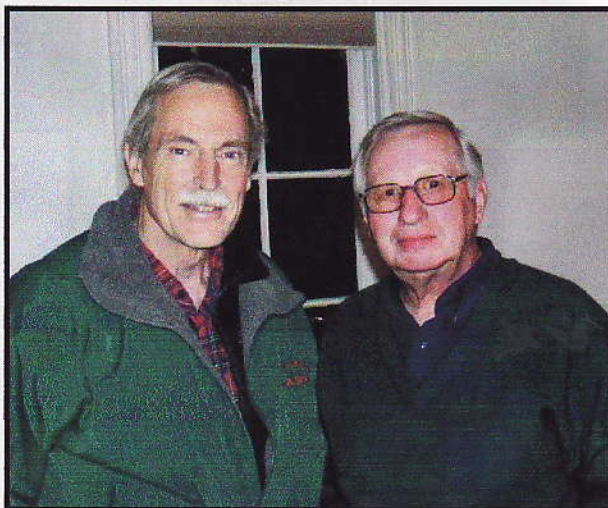
I am excited about the February general meeting. This event will be our big annual **Valentine's Day Potluck** (a little early), and will be co-chaired by our capable Commander and his Lady. Watch the next issue of the **Harbor Lights** to find out what to bring. The Grange Hall will be gaily decorated, so wear your special duds, and bring your sweetheart. The after-dinner speakers will be **Captain David Goode** and his talented wife, and they will be telling us of the adventures (and misadventures) they have had with their new 62-foot double-hulled steel North Sea trawler—which they designed and built. If you love the sea, you will enjoy this great evening of food, romance, and adventure!

New Members. As the Bridge officer responsible for membership, I want to take this opportunity to welcome three new members into the squadron. They were inducted by the Commander at the Christmas Banquet, and were happily received by the members. They are **Anita Hays**, and **Carl and Barbara Tokarski**. Welcome to the squadron! We have a happy family of boaters, and are pleased to have you join our ranks.



Dr. Dennis Willows, guest speaker at November Squadron Meeting with Sammy Long.

(Left) Sammy Long presents Toni Bailey with Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding leadership in organizing the Christmas party.



Incident at Taos

Sammy Long, Chaplain

Years ago I stood in front of a small mission church on the Pueblo Indian reservation of Taos, New Mexico. The late afternoon sun cast long shadows, creating a pensive mood, and a crisp autumn wind nagged me into pulling my scarf a little tighter around my neck.

My thoughts turned to my ancestors on my grandmother's side of the family—American Indians—and I wondered what kind of people they were. What were their beliefs about the universe, and their place in it? What were their hopes for their children? Between battles and skirmishes, did they, like me, hope for peace? Could they even cope with the realities of our modern world if they were suddenly thrust into it?

As I mused on these thoughts, an elderly Indian woman climbed slowly down a hand-made wooden ladder from her rooftop chamber, picked her way across the courtyard through the chickens, and entered the tiny church. In a flash of

intuition, my questions were answered. Here at Taos were people whose culture was from the past, but who were certainly coping with the demands of the present. And, the church before me symbolized the element that made it possible. I realized that one adjusts to the demands of the present by means of an ancient, but living, faith.

From across the miles a military test explosion at Los Alamos shook the ground, the little church, its ancient walls, and me. But the little church stood firm on its foundation, the old lady continued to pray in peace, and I returned to my car with much to ponder.

During this Christmas season, let each of us ponder anew the meaning of the Christmas story, and the peace it is capable of bringing into our troubled world.



Our thanks to Sonja Zarek (piano) and Lisa Lindberg (cello) for providing Christmas music.



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Coming Events



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Coming Events

06 January	1315
Executive Meeting	
Library	
08 January	1900
General Meeting	
Grangc	
03 February	1315
Executive Meeting	
Library	
05 February	1800
Valentine Day Pot Luck	
Grangc	



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