

HARBOR LIGHTS



The newsletter of the Friday Harbor Power Squadron
a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

VOLUME 25 - ISSUE 5 - September 2009

Commander's Message - Carolyn Bowen, P



As we look at the summer's events in our rear view mirrors, slow our cruising adventures down a bit, and bid the last of our seasonal houseguests farewell, we can gear up for an exciting fall and winter ahead.

First of all, I am so very proud of us! All D/16 Squadron Commanders received an email earlier this month from P/D/C Dave Davis, SN, which read **"Congratulations to Friday Harbor who is now in first place for the PDC Membership Trophy with a net gain of 15 new members"**. While we actually gained more new members than 15, we have to offset those members we have lost, which incidentally, **Friday Harbor is also #1 in the District for member retention!** In fact, we've done so well that I've been asked to give

a special presentation at the D/16 Fall Conference in Penticton, BC, on October 24th on why we are successful. I believe that you all have contributed through word of mouth, by getting involved in courses, and by participating in our fun events like the Flare Shoot, Pocket Cruise, Predicted Log, Int'l Cruiser Navigation Contest and Pig War. Those were just our summer events! Hang on to your hats folks. We promise some interesting speakers in the coming months at our potluck dinner meetings and the always fun auction/fund raiser at our holiday dinner meeting. P/C Fred Bowen (auctioneer extraordinaire) promises to be his charming self plus we're anticipating the help from his assistant again, our own surprise Vanna White.

Continuing on the subject of membership, education is the single biggest reason that folks join the Power Squadron. If you haven't checked our website recently (and within this newsletter as well) check out the schedule of proposed classes that our SEO, P/C Travis Smith, has lined up. We have some real opportunities to continue learning. I can't stress enough the importance to continue to learn. Washington State recreational boating fatalities through August 2009, is at 20. While percentages of causes vary, the US Coast Guard website lists that 80% of the fatalities occur where operators had no formal boating instruction. We must reach out to more people! Even your Commander learned a valuable lesson this summer while at the dock. The #1 rule on *Renaissance* is that we must always wear non-slip shoes. I guess I was letting my polish dry and decided for once that shoes were optional. I took a horrible fall off the top step coming down from the fly bridge and miraculously did not seriously hurt anything other than my pride. I am a confirmed believer that we are never too old to learn!

As always, I welcome your ideas on how we can better serve your needs or your thoughts on how we can improve. We're good, but there is always room to be better! Together we can make it happen. I need your help this year. Please join me in the classrooms, on committees, and at the potluck dinner meetings. Our vision and camaraderie keep us moving forward together!

Education Officer's Message - P/C Travis Smith, JN



It was a busy summer with two squadron courses continuing into mid June and July which included the Weather Course and Sailing. The Weather Course started with an enrollment of 27 members with 20 finishing the 12 weeks' course and scoring average of 93% on their exam. Great Job! The Sail course finished in July with five out of the initial 12 completing the exam. Each Sail Course member was given the opportunity to gain hands-on and practical experience by sailing on a member's sail boat. Special thanks is given to Jack McKenna who volunteered to instruct the course. This was the first time in the past five years that either of these courses were offered by the squadron.

The Marine Radar Seminar will be given on Monday, September 28, at the San Juan Island Yacht Club. It will start at 1830 and go to 2100. It's a "must" seminar for anyone cruising in the San Juans and needs to hone their radar skills. Ron Crenshaw and Travis Smith are the instructors. Presently there are 19 squadron members signed up to attend. There are only eight more Student Course Materials sets available, so act now and sign up on the Radar Sign-up sheet that is being passed around. Couples are encouraged to share the materials.

The 2009/2010 Education Course Schedule is completed with a slate of USPS Courses which will be of interest to everyone. Everything from the America's Boating Course and Seamanship to Junior Navigation where members will have the opportunity to learn the use of a sextant and determine their Lat. /Lon. This time proven way is a must if you plan to do any blue water cruising.

As usual, the Squadron's Educational Courses are determined on the desires of its members. If there is a greater demand for other courses than the ones currently listed, substitutions will be made.

Please try and sign-up for at least one Advance Course and one Elective Course this coming year to help gain additional knowledge of boat handling, coastal navigation, and safety on the water. We are offering several interesting and challenging courses and seminars.....Expand your boating horizons!

Friday Harbor Power Squadron Education Courses 2009 / 2010

| Course Name | Course Starts | Course Ends | Meeting Day | No. of Weeks | Course Type | Instructor |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| ABC | September 22, 2009 | October 27, 2009 | Tuesday | Six | Public Boating | A. Einboden |
| Marine Radar | September 28, 2009 | September 28, 2009 | Monday | Two Hours | Seminar | R. Crenshaw |
| Engine Maintenance | November 2, 2009 | December 14, 2009 | Monday | Seven | Elective | E. Ferro |
| Seamanship | November 10, 2009 | January 5, 2010 | Tuesday | Eight | Advanced | M. Forlenza |
| Instr. Development | December 5, 2009 | December 12, 2009 | Saturday | Two | Advanced | A. Einboden |
| How To Use A Chart | January 4, 2010 | January 4, 2010 | Monday | Two Hours | Seminar | A. Einboden |
| Piloting | January 19, 2010 | March 23, 2010 | Tuesday | Ten | Advanced | A. Einboden |
| Coastal Navigation | January 25, 2010 | January 25, 2010 | Monday | Two Hours | Seminar | T. Smith |
| Cruise Planning | February 6, 2010 | February 13, 2010 | Saturday | Two | Elective | A. Einboden |
| Using GPS | February 15, 2010 | February 15, 2010 | Monday | Two Hours | Seminar | D. Good |
| ABC | February 23, 2010 | March 30, 2010 | Tuesday | Six | Public Boating | A. Einboden |
| Junior Navigation | March 22, 2010 | June 14, 2010 | Monday | Twelve | Advanced | T. Smith |
| Marine Elect. Sys. | April 5, 2010 | May 31, 2010 | Tuesday | Nine | Elective | M. Close |
| Advance Piloting | April 6, 2010 | June 8, 2010 | Tuesday | Ten | Advanced | T. Smith |
| Operations Training | April 24, 2010 | April 24, 2010 | Saturday | One | Elective | R. Crenshaw |
| Weather | TBD | TBD | Tuesday | Ten | Elective | T. Smith |

Note: Classes are scheduled to be held at either the San Juan Island Yacht Club or Friday Harbor Middle School from 1900 to 2100.



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Win Valuable Prizes!

Take and complete a USPS Course
between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010!

United States Power Squadron members can take any one or more of the following courses between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 to be eligible for the following prizes:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Seamanship: | WIN A HANDHELD VHF RADIO |
| Piloting: | WIN A HANDHELD GPS |
| Advanced Piloting: | WIN A SET OF NAVIGATIONAL SOFTWARE |
| JN: | WIN A CHARTPLOTTER |
| Weather: | WIN A BAROMETER |
| Marine Electrical Systems: | WIN A MULTIMETER |
| Engine Maintenance: | WIN A MULTIMETER |

To enter the drawing, all you need to do is the following:

1. Take and complete the qualifying course or courses between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010
2. Successfully pass the examination before June 30, 2010
3. You will be automatically entered in the drawing

The Available Prizes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. For Seamanship | (3) Handheld VHF Radios |
| 2. For Piloting | (3) Handheld GPS |
| 3. For Advanced Piloting | (3) Sets of Navigational Software |
| 4. For JN | (1) Chart Plotter |
| 5. For Weather | (3) Barometers |
| 6. For Marine Electrical Systems | (3) Multimeters |
| 7. For Engine Maintenance | (3) Multimeters |

The winner's names will be drawn at the 2010 Governing Board held in Seattle from August 30th through September 4th, 2010.

Safety Officer - Ed Ferro, P



Storage of propane containers, large for cooking facilities and small canisters for barbecues, need to be stored in a designated, well ventilated storage bin only. Numerous VSCs have found these storage units are also being used for other items. ie: PFDs, cleaning supplies, tools etc.

Another subject always stressed is that your guests on your vessel be assigned a proper fitting PFD and know the location of all other safety devices. As skipper, you are responsible for all aboard and areas around you. Obey the no wake zones, be courteous, and we will all have a fun boating experience.

Also take a few minutes to rock your chemical filled fire extinguisher back and forth to keep the powder from packing. This is very important on upright mounted units.

Vessel Safety Check Report - Burke Critchfield, P



As the end of the year approaches, we have completed 142 inspections but we are still short of our goal. If you have not had an inspection, please call me at 378-7235 and we will be happy to arrange to meet you. Every vessel of a member of the squadron should have had their vessel inspected. Help us finish out the year. Thank you.

Administrative Officer's Message - Mike Griffin, P



Our October potluck dinner and meeting will be on October 1st at the Grange Hall. Starting time is 1800 for appetizers and socializing with the dinner and program starting by 1830. Please bring your favorite beverage and dinnerware PLUS A DISH TO SHARE. Our guest speaker for the evening is Mike Kaill, Biologist and keeper of the Front Street Aquarium. Mike is a brilliant speaker and this promises to be an interesting evening. For more information, please [click here to view the flyer](#). Or, you can simply go to our website where the notice is also posted on the website's main page. We hope to see you there!

Membership Report - John Towson



We continue to grow at record levels exceeding other Power Squadrons in our District with 19 new members thus far this year. Our current count at this date is 169 members. I attribute this exceptional growth mostly to our Bridge leadership and Instructors and their dedication to the mission of the Squadron to provide boating safety training and knowledge on boating across the spectrum. Our classes are very professional and really appreciated by all who take them.

New 2009 members boat information not previously listed in Harbor Lights:

Steven and Susan Alexander: They have a 28' powerboat named *Sovereign*

Jimmy and Joan Gouge: They have a 24' power boat named *Seasport*

Elizabeth and Michael Wingren: They have a 32' sail boat named *Ingrid II*

Mike and Sandy Killion: They have a 21' power boat named *Striper*

Mary Lou Sternitzke: Mary Lou just sold her 27' *Sun*

VONNIE AND ROBERT ALLEN

During 1992 Bob had been working both domestically and internationally for a very long period without a break. One of Bob's business partners had encouraged him to see Friday Harbor and offered him his 42' trawler for a month. Vonnie and Bob had been dating intermittently and Bob thought this was a chance to see how they could get along for an extended period. Vonnie accepted (with a plane ticket in her purse) and to Friday Harbor they winged on a Kenmore floatplane.

Bob was from Colorado and had never captained anything larger than a fishing boat, but was a licensed pilot and comfortable with navigation. Vonnie grew up next to Lake Erie and spent years on the Great Lakes motoring in her dad's Chris Craft with her family. After a three day shakedown trip to Butchart Gardens with the boat's owner, we were left on our own. After twenty-eight days of smooth sailing things fell in place and we were married at the Valley Church, here in Friday Harbor on October 1, 1994.

In 1993 Steve Percer found us our own CHB trawler, *Father Mac*, which promptly went into his Charters Northwest fleet. That same summer we also purchased our townhouse behind the Community Arts Theatre from builder Ed Carney and have been Friday Harbor people ever since.

Our second boat was a 32' Bayliner, motor yacht, which also went into Steve's fleet until 1997 when we sold both boats. Our next boat was a 28' Trophy, but 40 knots was too much for Vonnie so finally we found our perfect boat: *Kiwi Gold*, a brand new 33' Back Cove Express, which we purchased late in 2007.

Bob is from Denver, Colorado and graduated from vet school at Colorado State where he was a Sig Ep. He was recruited on a swimming scholarship to compete for CSU where he was a four year varsity swimmer and qualified as a backstroker for the NCAA finals.



He was a practicing veterinarian for 25 years, including 4 ½ years in the army. Bob has been a Rotarian for over 40 years and is a past President of Chico's 275 member club. In 1972 he, and other investors, were instrumental in starting California's kiwifruit industry and he operated California's largest kiwifruit operation for 27 years.

Vonnie is from Fremont, Ohio and graduated from Miami of Ohio where she was a Gamma Phi Beta. She was a school teacher, but switched to real estate and was a practicing broker for 30 years in Fresno, CA where she raised her two sons.

After two years of Bob keeping Vonnie in Friday Harbor or traveling, she also decided it was time to retire. Bob's four grown children and Vonnie's two have produced nine grandchildren. Traveling, family, friends and boating are their primary pursuits. We are happy to become members of the Friday Harbor Power Squadron and are looking forward to expanding our horizons.

Robin and Tom Donnelly

Hello to all Power Squadron members. Intrepid boaters, we are glad to be a part of this terrific organization. Reminiscent of "First You Row a Little Boat" as a boy Tom sailed on Pinecrest Lake in the Sierra and as a teenager built a speedboat. Robin grew up sailing on Lake Washington and Portage Bay (with her parents hosting many Seattle Power Squadron events) as well as cruising in northern waters, including Friday and Roche Harbors way-back-when.

Many boats later, we are presently enjoying the *Equinox*, a 40-foot Hanse Sailboat and just returned from a month in the Broughtons with friends, fellow PS members Doug and Barb Ray and Craig and Martye Green! We are hoping the weather class Tom, Craig and Doug took would come in handy. We did get stuck in a storm "sailing" (OK being beaten to death under power) from Smugglers Cove to Vancouver. Never take the weather report as gospel. And never promise to meet your adult kids in Vancouver on their 24-hour layover.

Anyhow, we survived and the *Equinox* is now pleasantly at berth at the end of our shared dock at Roche Harbor. We encourage all of you who boat at Roche to give a wave to us as you pass and to watch your wake! Looking forward to some adventures together.



| September Birthdays | | October Birthdays | | November Birthdays | | December Birthdays | |
|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Rick Benedict | 1 | Yvonne Powell | 4 | William Giesy | 1 | Greg Simon | 3 |
| Mary Granger | 6 | Shari Harrison | 12 | Robin Donnelly | 2 | Mike Chadwick | 4 |
| Greta Duval | 13 | Travis Smith | 23 | Steve Alexander | 4 | Mike Erickson | 4 |
| Mary Watson | 15 | Dan Watson | 23 | Tony Bailey | 4 | Kathy Chadwick | 13 |
| Nouridine Jensen | 17 | Dave Woodall | 24 | Joan Gouche | 11 | Patti Douglass | 14 |
| Barb Ray | 19 | Sara Hudson | 26 | Phil Johnson | 13 | Andrea Douglass | 17 |
| Floyd Cornett | 24 | Rebbie Bates | 29 | Mike Close | 16 | Joan Kinderfather | 19 |
| Margaret Todd | 26 | Bob Bennett | 29 | Dianne Hall | 15 | Caroline Close | 22 |
| Ellen Johnson | 27 | Don Madsen | 29 | Penny Woodall | 25 | Don Ragsdale | 24 |
| Steven Billmyer | 30 | | | Ron Einboden | 28 | Craig Green | 26 |
| Mike Couey | 30 | | | Joyce Ragsdale | 28 | Sandy Killion | 28 |

September Picnic at Lakedale - P/C Fred Bowen, AP

A great time was had by all at our first general meeting of the season on September 10--a picnic at our favorite site, Lakedale Resort. The weather was perfect, and we had an overflow crowd of 44 people. Commander Carolyn Bowen (with the help of John Towson) inducted five new energetic members: Bob and Vonnie Allen, Mike and Sandy Killion, and Paul Barger. She spoke of fall and winter activities and thanked members for their support to the Squadron. Membership Chair, John Towson, reported on our excellence in getting 19 new members thus far in 2009. Membership Involvement Chair, Steve Percer, (also Port Captain and "Chaplain"), presented his focus on getting more members to participate in Squadron events. The dynamic duo of Burke Critchfield and Ed Ferro reported on their enormous successes with vessel safety checks and safety issues in our day to day boating activities. Public Boating Education Chair, Ann Einboden, reported for D/Lt. Cdr Travis Smith, who was in Kansas at a USPS National Conference, and outlined what will be a fabulous list of course offerings for the year, including the upcoming ABC which will begin on September 22nd. Thanks to all who attended!



Wild Alaska - Susan Beauchamp

May 3, 2009, we headed north in *Wind Star* bound for a three month cruise to Alaska. The Inside Passage through Canada and the waters of Alaska are truly remarkable; Chris and I always feel privileged and somewhat awed each time we experience it. There is nothing like the grandeur of the mountains and the vastness of the open spaces to equal these cruising areas. Wildlife is plentiful in these areas.

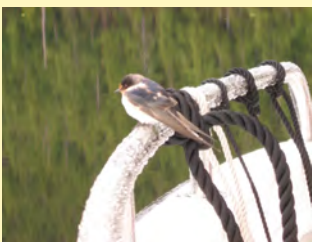
For power, size and “oh, wow” nothing tops the whales, of course. In Tenakee Inlet (Baranof Island, AK) we saw a group of humpbacks engaged in bubble feeding. Six or seven whales formed a circle as they rose together, churning the water to force their targets into a compact area for easy feeding. After a minute or so they blew for air, flipped up their tails and disappeared for several minutes before repeating the entire process. We were traveling south in Fitzhugh Sound (BC) amidst numerous humpbacks in the distance when suddenly one rose up about thirty feet in front of us to casually blow and roll. One of us yelled something like, “WHALE! WHALE! OUT OF GEAR! NOW!” Needless to say we did not want to enter his path!



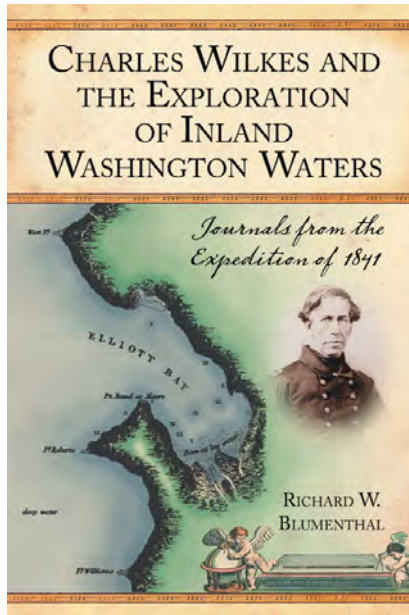
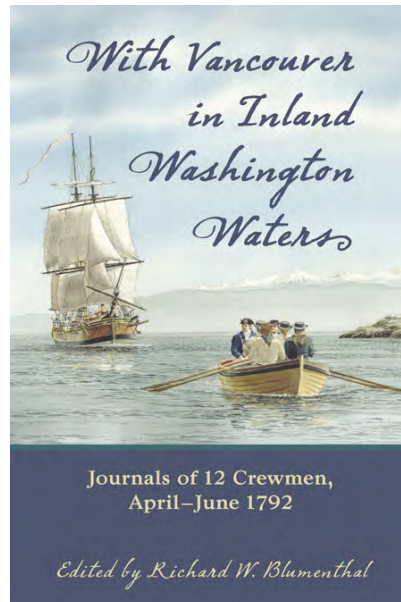
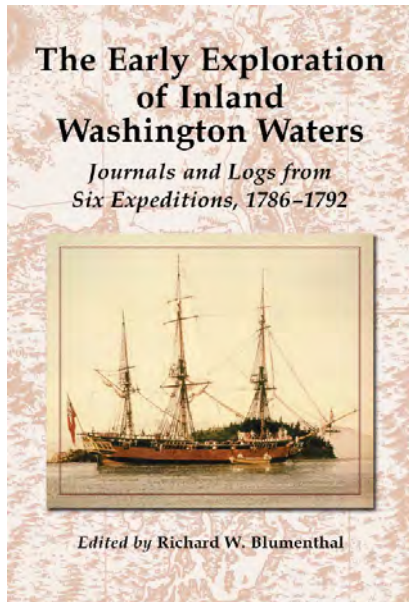
If whales are the most dramatic creatures, otters are the sweet-hearts of the sea. In the Gulf of Esquibel we managed to get close enough to a mother otter to get a good look at her little baby. These expressive little creatures clutch whatever they are holding and roll away upon our approach, then pop upright in the water to study us from a safe distance. Later we came upon a raft of otters (a hundred or more) with many babies among them. Quite a snug little community.

Grizzlies were common sites where streams had created flat meadows. At Saltery Point (Baranof Island, AK) we counted four grizzlies spread out equally over the grassland. The food sources must have been quite rich to allow such an intense concentration of animals normally solitary and territorial by nature. We chose to remain aboard that day! Black bear were also common and we occasionally observed them overturning rocks on the beach in their search for food. Later in the season they would be feasting on salmon.

Deer can swim distances! Chugging down Cousins Inlet, B.C. we were about to alter course because of a log in the water ahead. This “log”, however, was behaving in a rather unusual manner - moving across Cousin’s Inlet rather than with the current. Binoculars revealed a young buck about three fourths of the way across the half mile wide channel. We wondered what possessed him to embark upon a long swim in frigid water.



My journal is full of additional notes about porpoise surfing in our bow wake, Orcas riding through a pass alongside us, eagles swooping down to snatch fish, and the little bird that perched on the stern rail one night. We never tired of observing the wildlife of Alaska. By the time we returned home July 22nd the boat had a new name - but that’s a story for another day.



For armchair historians interested in the earliest exploration of inland Washington waters, these texts bring Northwest maritime history to life. Beginning in 1786 and continuing through 1792, *The Early Exploration...* includes transcriptions of the journals and logs of our first explorers. This text follows the journey of John Meares in 1786, four expeditions by the Spanish including José Maria Narvaez, Manuel Quimper, Francisco de Eliza, and Alcala Galiano/Cayetano Valdéz and culminates with George Vancouver's detailed exploration of our inland waters in 1792.

With Vancouver... continues the saga with the journals of Vancouver's men including Peter Puget, Joseph Baker, and more. These present a view of shipboard life as well as detail on additional exploration.

These fascinating reads include the first European descriptions of Puget Sound country and the people who lived here. They also record the events and history surrounding the naming of many prominent locations in the area by Vancouver including Puget Sound, Whidbey and Vashon Islands, Hood Canal, Admiralty Inlet, Mounts Rainier and Baker, etc.

Readers will also be fascinated by the numerous Spanish names including the Haro Strait, Port Angeles, Padilla Bay, Sucia, Matia and Patos Islands as well as many more which did not stand the test of time.

Charles Wilkes completes our early exploration with his discoveries in 1842. Wilkes was responsible for the majority of our inland place names. Special attention is paid to these names as well as his reason for the name. The text includes the journal of Charles Wilkes, ten of his men, and eighteen meticulous charts. None of this material has previously been printed.

We owe our history to these early explorers, these texts brings them to life.

Dick Blumenthal lives in Bellevue, WA and can be reached at RichardWBlumenthal@hotmail.com

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Request for Pictures - David M. Good, Editor & Webmaster

Hopefully everyone agrees with the old saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words"! They certainly add to Harbor Lights and to our Squadron's website. It seems a few of us always have our cameras with us, but I would like to encourage any of you, with an interest, to carry your camera to our events and take your own pictures. Individual perspective ALWAYS adds so much to pictures, and I would like to include yours in our publications.

A few guidelines that will help me use them. Always send them in the highest quality format that you have, at least 640 x 480 resolution, and preferably larger. Don't edit them unnecessarily, it is actually easier for me to work with the original, rather than a reduction. Downsizing is easy, upsizing usually ruins the quality. Don't worry about file size, I can handle what you have.

One other important contribution you can make is to submit your pictures with a CAPTION! The hardest part of my job is to figure out an appropriate caption for a picture YOU took.

Thank you for sharing your pictures in the past and I look forward to receiving even more.

**Put on your
Holiday Attire!**



**And Come Join
In the FUN!**

WE'RE GETTING AN EARLY START—MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

Friday Harbor Power Squadron 2009 Holiday Dinner Buffet

Thursday, December 3rd - The San Juan Island Yacht Club - 237 Front Street



**Cocktails ▪ Dinner Buffet
Short Meeting ▪ Live Auction**

When you start your fall cleaning, remember to save those items that you just can't use anymore for our auction. We REALLY need your help to make this successful! We also need your help on the Decorating Committee, Appetizer Committee and Dessert Committee. Watch for sign-up sheets and more information in the coming months.

**Harbor Lights is the newsletter of the Friday Harbor Power Squadron
David M. Good - Editor**

Email comments, corrections, or content to: editor@fridayharborpowersquadron.com