

FRIDAY HARBOR POWER SQUADRON
January 2009 General Meeting
MINUTES
Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009

Cdr. Fred Bowen called the meeting to order at 1825 at the Friday Harbor Grange with 52 persons present. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Andrea Douglas with Steve Percer giving the Invocation. Dinner began at 1830 followed by dessert.

Capt. Richard Rodrigues of Vessel Assist, was introduced by AO Mike Griffin. His topic was "Safety and Sea Tales." He covered Vessel Assist and tales of boats encountering obstacles other than water with a slide show. He encouraged everyone to visit his blog: <http://captrichardrodriguez.blogspot.com/>

The Minutes of General meeting of Dec. 4, 2008 were approved as posted on the website

Guests introduced include Bish Wheeler, guest of Mike Close, and Ron & Barb Hylton of Anacortes, guests of Chris and Susan Beachamp. (A note: the Hylton boat has our first VSC of 2009 thanks to Andrea Douglas).

Squadron Officer's Reports:

XO Carolyn Bowen – began by mentioning some January birthday's and then announced that the Change of Watch (COW) is set for April 2nd at the San Juan Island Yacht Club.

SEO Travis Smith - The piloting class is at its half-way mark, completing its fifth week last Tuesday, is about to begin charting the "Cruise." We have 6 squadron members enrolled in the class, plus one member taking it for a refresher. The Instructor's Sail Course Manuals and Overheads were received and passed on to Jack McKenna to review. A sign-up sheet was sent around for those interested in Sail, Weather (12 weeks), and a 2-hour Marine Radar Seminar. Ann Einboden, Chair for the Public Boating class announced that the new book "America's Boating Course, Edition 3" (ABC 3) are ordered, and the materials include the MapTech CD and also the Course on CD for those who are unable to attend, due to living on other islands. "ABC 3" begins Tuesday, February 17th at the Middle School. SEO Smith is looking for another "volunteer instructor" to help present the Marine Radar.

AO Mike Griffin announced that the February 5 General Meeting speaker will be Nick Teague, Bureau of Land Management, who will discuss the project for the restoration of the Patos Island Light House. Mike reported that the December Holiday Party and Auction was a big success. Marc Folenza was credited for securing a good selection of items for the Auction and Fred Bowen was acknowledged for his work as Auctioneer. The Auction resulting in \$2,150 for future Squadron activities. We had 65 in attendance with thanks to the food crew: Mike, Marc, Travis, and Ann (provided salmon). For the decorations, credit was given to Sharon Towson, Lizz Smith, and Carolyn.

Treasurer Dan Watson was not present, so Jan Ferro read his report given on Tuesday. We have \$5,894.27 in checking and \$2,541.61 in the Business certificate. (Not included at the meeting is a check for \$53.25, from Consignment Treasures, for items sold contributed by Travis Smith, thank you).

Secretary Jan Ferro Reminded members to sign in. The minutes of the meetings are now posted on the website, thanks to the efforts of Dave Good in putting it in a compact table format. http://www.fridayharborpowersquadron.com/Squadron_Archives/MeetingMinutes/index.htm Fred added that in place of the old annual questionnaire used to update member information for the roster, we are considering directions for how each member can do this directly, by going on-line to their own listing.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee – John Towson announced that we have six new members to be sworn in . They are: Rusty & William VanRooy, Kerwin and Margaret Johnson, Denise Ireland, Luke Furber, Jeanne Marie Dickerson, and Phillip Johnson. Kerwin and Margaret Johnson were present for the Pledge and given their Certificates and pins. The Barretts also received their Certificates.

Membership Involvement – Dave Cable was absent so Mike Griffin reported that at this point there is nothing new.

VSC – Ed Ferro reporting for Burke Critchfield was pleased to announce that with 129 VSCs we finished 2008 as second in District 16, with Olympia first, having 16 VEs. Andrea Douglas completed her 5 and is enthusiastic about continuing. He also introduced other VEs present: Bill Paden and Jan Ferro.

Safety Officer Ed Ferro advised everyone not to forget to regularly check their boats during the off season, particularly the bilge, and to run the engine and check the power supply. With the New Year it is time to get a 2009 VSC. He related that for every boat sinking “in open water”, 4 are partially sunk or completely sink at the dock, due to failure of thru-hull fittings, hose clamps, failure of bilge pumps, clogged scuppers, etc. We have a good safety record for 2008. Keep it up and have a safe 2009.

Fred announced that our new website received an “Excellent” with a score of 98 and most likely the highest in the nation. He called on Webmaster Dave Good to report on his latest innovations, including the preservation of our Squadron’s history, through posting of all past issues of Harbor Lights and ExCom and General Meeting minutes. He noted that he learned much more about FHPS when he took time to read them. He thanked Jan Ferro for copying the old Harbor Lights to CD and Carolyn Bowen for supplying missing Minutes.

Old Business:

- 1.) The FHPS Holiday Function, December 4, was covered in the AO report
- 2.) Nominating Committee Report – P/C Marc Forlenza announced that Steve Percer has agreed to chair the Membership Involvement Committee. The XO position still is open and is critical for the continuation of the Squadron. Anyone interested should contact Marc.

New Business:

- 1.) We have a list of 22 volunteers for the International Power Boat Association Predicted Log event, scheduled for July 18, 2009. We will consider how this event can benefit our own event. It is good experience for those working on Piloting and beyond. Burke Critchfield and Fred Hoepfner are prepared to instruct everyone on what is required as an observer.
- 2.) The use of FHPS Funds for Educational Activities for 2009 will be in various forms, such as providing scholarships to young boaters. It is also necessary that our officers attend various USPS and District functions and need some support to defray expenses.
- 3.) A recent USPS Member Survey has shown that members value education and fraternity highest, but are not supportive of the paramilitary/traditional approach. They rate USPS very high among organizations they belong to. National USPS intends to focus more on a market based organization through education, fraternity and fun, than a dues based organization.

Fred thanked those who had come early to help set up. The Griffins, Ferros, Bowens, and Goods.

Other Items: Next Ex/Com Meeting, Tuesday, February 3, 2009, and General Meeting, February 5, 2009. Adjournment was at 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Ferro, Secretary.