

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

of SEATTLE



The Pilot

Monthly Newsletter



March 2023

In this issue

SSAPS Organizational
Listing

Schedule of Events

Boatswain's call:

Commander
Educational Officer
AO

The Pilot's Shorts

Reminders
Help Wanted

Articles:

Seasick Landlubber

March Birthdays

Flyer:

District 16 Spring
Meeting

Thank you Members !



Member Appreciation Meeting in March 2017.

Photo: Courtesy of Squadron Archives.



2022-2023

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF SEATTLE ORG. LISTING UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS—DISTRICT 16



OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

Commander	Mike Lancey, AP
Commander's Aide	Lt Susan Lancey
Flag Lieutenant	Lt/C Mike Lancey, AP
Merit Mark Officer	Lt David Rust, JN
Education Fund Chair	Lt Shirley Bollinger, AP
Historian	P/C Tim Rutledge, SN
Chaplain	Cdr Mike Lancey, AP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Commander	Mike Lancey, AP
Executive Officer	Open
Educational Officer	Lt/C Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N
Administrative Officer	P/C Robert Dahlin, AP
Secretary	Lt/C Emily Warren, AP
Treasurer	Lt/C Rick Laboda, AP
Asst Educational Officer	1st/Lt Rocky Mazzeo
Elected Member	P/C James Haglund, P
Elected Member	Lt Jeremy Zink, S
Elected Member	Lt Stephen Mohr, AP
Past Commander	P/C Robert Dahlin, AP

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Executive Officer	Open
Canadian Liaison	Lt David Berger, S
Radio Tech Officer	Lt David Rust, JN
Safety Officer	Open
VSC Chair Examiner	Lt Rebecca Garvie, P
Vessel Examiners	P/C James Haglund, P
Social Media CH	Lt Shelly Wistar
Sea Scouts Liaison	Lt Stephen Taylor, S
USCG Liaison	Lt Chris Antony, P

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Educational Officer	Lt/C Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N
Asst Educational Officer	1st/Lt Rocky Mazzeo
ABC Instructors	Lt/C Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N
	Lt Reid Larson, AP
	Lt Stephen Taylor, P
	Lt Stephen Mohr, AP
Advanced Grades CH	Lt/C Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N
Sextant Custodian	1st/Lt Rocky Mazzeo

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Administrative Officer	P/C Robert Dahlin, AP
Fleet Captain	P/C Leslie Kodish, JN
Boating Activity CH	Lt Suzanne Schoonover, JN
Bartending Comm. CH	Lt Rebecca Garvie, P
Membership Comm. CH	Lt/C Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N
Member Processing	Lt/C Rick Laboda, AP
Dinner Meeting Coordinator	Lt Richard Bollinger
Dinner Meeting Greeter	Lt Shirley Bollinger
Operations Training	P/C James Haglund, P
Photographer	Lt Steve Erickson, JN
Squadron Artist	Lt Janice Reeb, JN
Sunshine Comm CH	P/C Cathy McDonald, JN
Telephone Comm. CH	Lt Donna Berger
Youth Poster CH	Lt Jon Brown, AP

SECRETARIAL DEPARTMENT

Secretary	Lt/C Emily Warren, AP
Electronic Committee CH	Lt Gordon Sivley, S
Information Tech Contact	P/C James Haglund, P
National Roster	P/C James Haglund, P
Pilot Advertising CH	Open
Squadron Roster	Cdr Mike Lancey, AP
Pilot Editor	P/C Robert Dahlin, AP
Webmaster	P/C James Haglund, P

TREASURER DEPARTMENT

Treasurer	Lt/C Rick Laboda, AP
Dinner Mtg Bookkeeping	Lt/C Rick Laboda, AP
Ships Store	P/C Robert Dahlin, AP
	Lt Adrienne Dahlin, S

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Auditing Committee CH	Lt Jay Krueger, S
	Open
	Lt Janet Pearson, S
Nominating Comm CH	P/C Robert Dahlin, AP
	P/C James Haglund, P
Rules Committee CH	P/C Steve Kodish, JN
	P/C Ginger Marshall-St. Arnaud, AP
	Lt Maggie Murphy, JN-IN

STANDING COMMITTEES

Law Officer	Rick Laboda
House Committee CH	Lt Rebecca Garvie, P

DISTRICT 16 BRIDGE

Commander	D/C Kenneth Smith, AP
Executive Officer	P/D/C Annette Ferguson, AP
Administrative Officer	Open
Educational Officer	D/Lt/C James A West, SN
Secretary	D/Lt/C Barbara Erickson, JN
Treasurer	D/Lt/C Rose Ann Walker, JN
Past Commander	P/D/C Craig Brown, SN



Schedule of Events



Date	Time	Meeting Location	Status
March 4, 2023	10AM-3PM	Boating Skills & Safety Event Puget Sound Yacht Club	In-person
March 9, 2023	1830-2000	Monthly SSAPS Board Meeting	Virtual
March 11, 2023	8AM-4:30PM	District 16 Spring Conference Port of Everett	In-person/ Virtual
March 16, 2023	18:00-2100	Monthly Membership Meeting Puget Sound Yacht Club	In-person
April 13, 2023	1830-2000	Monthly SSAPS Board Meeting	Virtual
April 20, 2023	18:00-2100	SSAPS Change of Watch Dinner Meeting	In-person
May 6, 2023	8AM-3PM	Seattle Yacht Club Opening Day	In-person
May 11, 2023	1830-2000	Monthly SSAPS Board Meeting	Virtual

Join us for the Next Meeting !!

Membership Appreciation Dinner

March 16, 2023

Puget Sound Yacht Club

Potluck Dinner

Social Hour: 1800 (6:00pm)

St Patty's Day Dinner: 1900 hours (7:00pm)

Awards 7:30PM - 8 PM

Meeting 8-8:30PM

Venue: Puget Sound Yacht Club

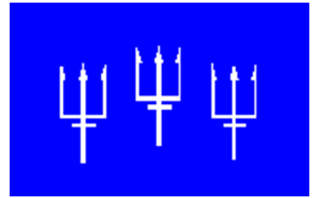
Cost: Free to Members as part of Membership Appreciation!!

Reservations: <https://www.seattlesailpowersquadron.org/potluck>





From the Helm



Cdr Mike Lancey, AP

March is month eleven of my service as Commander of Seattle Sail and Power Squadron/ America's Boating Club of Seattle. Serving as your Commander this year has been a challenge with our club struggling to get back to pre-pandemic levels so I am very appreciative of the members that volunteer their time to ensure that our wonderful squadron continues on into the future!! I am also am grateful for the many of you that continue to attend meetings and events and who read this fine newsletter!

As part of our thanks for our wonderful members, this Thursday, March 16th, is our Member appreciation dinner where we will formally recognize those members who have contributed their time and energy this year helping the squadron and the many members who continue to support our cause by renewing your membership with the squadron every year. Please be sure to come to the dinner meeting and enjoy a delicious St Patty's Day meal for free! Please RSVP today to attend Thursday March 16th 6pm-9pm at the Puget Sound Yacht Club.

Also there will be the approval of our 2023/2024 budget and election for club officers. Be sure to attend to participate in these discussions plus learn of news from the District Spring Meeting, and upcoming events such as the Change of Watch Dinner meeting, Sea Skills and plans for summer events.

This is a month to reflect not only on the present members who have kept the squadron going but the members who put in so much time and energy in the past to continue to drive our message of Boating Safety to the public. You are all my heroes. Our members, officers, past commanders instructors, District officers, committee heads, vessel safety Check officers, etc. It is in all that you do that helps build and maintain our Seattle Sail and Power Squadron family. I am honored to be of service to you my Seattle Squadron.

Thank you!!

Mike Lancey

Commander
2022-2023



Gail Force Winds

Lt/C Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N
SEO



Education, Education, Get your Education

Classes are in session.

Boat Handling (S) students just finished their tests and are awaiting their grades. Testing students spanned a full day for me starting at QCYC with Chef Willie's superb breakfast, great conversations, running into some old friends, then finally getting around to testing. Thank you to Jeremy Zink (S) and Shelly Wistar for the great breakfast idea. Next, was driving North to meet with Bellingham students, but we met halfway near Marysville to take the tests. Again, great conversations with potential members, a little lunch, then on with the tests. We also set up a rendezvous in the San Juan Islands in July. Thank you to Jenn and Scott Kloehn for the summer invite. Great group of students with plenty of great questions for our wonderful instructors, Reid Larson (AP) and Steven Mohr (AP). Thank you to both of them for teaching and adding all their extra knowledge to the class and for making the Local Knowledge final class a great updated addition to the course. To the right is just one of the many new slides with wonderful anchorages in the South Salish Sea. Do I spot a super cool American Tug in the bottom of the photo owned by Steven and Gessica Mohr? Thanks everyone for your hard work and dedication to the Education Program.

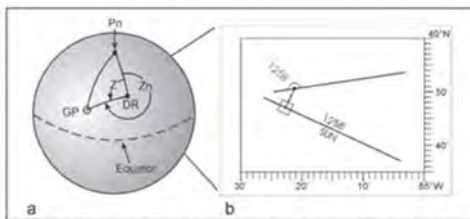
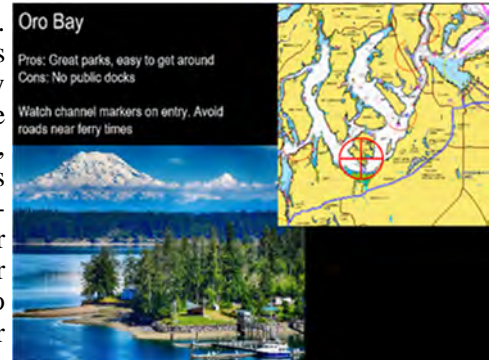


Figure 7-8(a) Navigational Triangle for the Sun, 8(b) Expanded View of DR Area with LOP Plot

Offshore Navigation (JN) students are in week 8 and they are getting ready to cast off the dock and head out into the open sea using Sun Sights to chart their course. So far, the weather has not been helpful for the student as we really need the sun to come out and play with us, in order to take our sun sights.

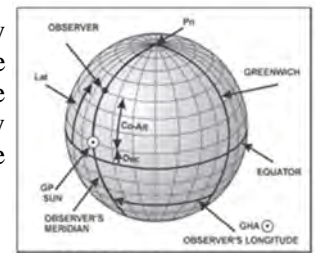


Figure 9-1 Meridian Transit

Question: When is "High Noon" at the exact location you are standing?

This is not the same as when your watch says it's noon because that "noon" spans 15 degrees of longitude. Using the Meridian Transit Method will tell you at that exact moment when the sun is directly over your head. You can see this happening by using the sextant too. I think it's the coolest part of this course. Seeing the sun reach it's highest point in the sky above you through the sextant to the exact second. That's just one of the fun things about Offshore Navigation (JN).

Thank you to all the roughly 360+ members, students, and new friends that have taken my courses over the past 5 years. It has been a great and interesting experience being your Squadron Education Officer all these years. It's time for me to take a break and focus on family and health wellness. With that wellness comes a full travel calendar and our much-appreciated volunteer medical service trips around the globe. Dr. Rocky and I will be adding two new countries to our list this next year in Uganda and Nigeria. This is where we are needed the most. Our calling.

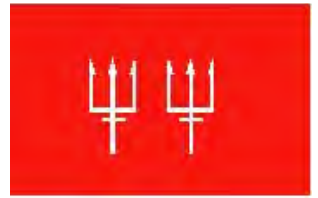
Yours in Education,

Captain Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N

Charles F. Chapman Award Winning Instructor 2021



AO REPORT



P/C Robert Dahlin, AP

Happy March Club Members

Be sure to attend our March Membership Appreciation Meeting. Not only will there be great St Patty's Day corned beef served by our Mom and Son dinner team of Richard and Shirley Bollinger, but we will also be voting on a new 2023-2024 Squadron budget and there will be an election of club officers for 2023-2024.

Here is the current slate of Club officers that were nominated at the February Meeting on Feb 16, 2023:

Commander	-	Mike Lancey, AP
XO	-	Dennis Harris, S
AO	-	No Candidate
SEO	-	No Candidate
Secretary	-	Emily Warren, AP
Treasurer	-	Rick Laboda, AP
Elected Member	-	Jeremy Zink, S
Elected Member	-	Stephen Mohr, P
Elected Member	-	No Candidate

Please be present to cast your vote. Results will be listed in the April Newsletter.

Robert Dahlin

Past Commander and Acting AO
2022-2023



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

WASHINGTON ★ ALASKA ★ IDAHO



District 16's
Spring Conference and
Change of Watch
is taking place on
Saturday, March 11, 2023

TWO WAYS TO ATTEND

**In-person at the Port of Everett Marina
or via Zoom (See Meeting Link Below)**

11 March 2023

0800 Registration opens with coffee and light pastries

0900 Conference begins

1200 Box Lunch served (*Make sure you reserve your lunch*)

\$22 Early Bird and \$25 after March 3!

1330 Conference resumes

1630 Adjourn

COME FOR THE DAY, STAY FOR THE FUN!

Questions? Email: Annette at newfy03@gmail.com



Seasick Landlubber

By 1st/Lt Rocky Mazzeo

Beyond enjoying adventures with words in print, I also take pleasure in listening to stories. It might be on the radio, through audiobooks, or podcasts. Growing up in Southern California as a kid, I would work with my dad on home projects, and we always had the radio on, listening to the news or perhaps a talk radio show. In summer and fall nights in bed, I would clandestinely listen to Vin Scully broadcasting Dodger games on my crystal radio with earphone in place.



Now when driving to Chelan, walking in the community, working out at the gym, or working on a home project, I frequently have a book going or one of twenty-some podcasts from my iPhone library. One of my favorites is the *Outside Podcast* from the publishers of *Outside Magazine*. They describe themselves as coming from a “longstanding literary storytelling tradition (which) comes to life in audio with features that will both entertain and inform listeners... (the show) offers a range of story formats, including interviews with the biggest figures in sports, adventure and politics, as well as reports from correspondents in the field.” A particularly compelling hour listen was the November 12, 2022 issue titled ["An SOS from the Middle of the Ocean"](#).

It's the story of Richard Carr, a retired seventy-one-year-old psychologist who on the twenty-sixth day of the first leg of his lifelong dream, a solo sail around the world, sends frantic messages to his family about being kidnapped by pirates. These and other confounding messages were the last communications between Carr and his family. Explaining the apparent psychosis that developed because of sleep deprivation and isolation, the authors referenced a book titled **438 Days** by **Jonathan Franklin**.

This is the tale of a Salvadoran fisherman who drifts over 6,000 miles from Mexico to the Marshall Islands in a 26-foot fishing boat and survives. Two days after listening to this podcast, I downloaded both the eBook and audio versions of this story and knew this would be my next article.

“Salvador Alvarenga had walked on rocks for six full days along the Mexican coastline to reach the beach village of Costa Azul. He carried only a small backpack, and his clothes were worn. From the moment he entered Costa Azul in the fall of 2008, he felt a deep sense of relief. The mangrove swamps, nearby cornfields, crashing oceans and protected lagoons reminded him of his home in El Salvador, but here no one wanted to kill him. Only a few hundred people lived in the beachside community, though it was densely populated by flocks of migrating birds, many making the 2,000-mile annual journey south from California. Thousands of sea turtles embarked from coastal hatcheries to breed and migrate—some making the 12,000-mile swim across the Pacific Ocean to China. The town was half ecotourism paradise, half lawless Wild West—ideal cover for a man trying to escape his past and embark on a new life.”

The fishermen in this area not uncommonly commute up to 100 miles for optimal fishing and drop their two-mile lines with over 700 hooks with visions of tuna, mahi mahi, marlin and sharks biting, with dreams of filling their pockets with cash. Although they commonly earn only 40 cents per half pound of fish, they can make upwards of \$250 over a 60-hour expedition. Alvarenga quickly earned the reputation of a skilled, hardworking, fisherman who was valued by his employers and honored by his fellow fishermen.



Seasick Landlubber

By 1st/Lt Rocky Mazzeo

Continued from Page 9

His fishing boat was a 25-foot fiberglass vessel that lacked a cabin and roof. It was canoe-shaped and was fast, but it could roll quite easily. "Loading the boat was a 2-hour process and involved over a thousand pounds of

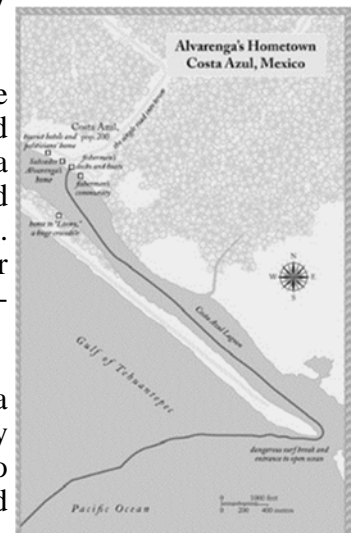


equipment, including 70 gallons of gasoline, 16 gallons of water, 100 pounds of sardines for bait, 700 hooks, 3 knives, 3 bailing buckets, a cell phone (in a plastic bag to avoid seawater, a GPS tracking device (not waterproof), a two-way radio (battery half-charged), several wrenches for the motor and 200 pounds of ice. Draped over the entire pile of gear was a mountain of empty bleach and detergent bottles...The heaviest items were the gasoline containers, which sank the boat to just 20 inches above the waterline...The largest item on the boat was a five-foot long four-foot-high icebox with a removable lid. When filled with ice and fish it had the potential to flip the craft if it shifted at sea."

On the fateful day, Alvarenga's mate was delayed and instead of waiting to see if he was going to make it, a 22-year-old local soccer star Ezequiel Cordoba, a day laborer, would fill in. They had never worked together, and Cordoba had only two years' experience and that was not in the open sea but in the calm waters of the lagoon. All the fishermen were discussing the coming of a *Norteno*, a major storm that might persist for days; they often dropped little rain but attacked with violent wind gusts that put these banana boats in great peril. The prospects of schools of tuna and companion sharks and the potential for a great payday overwhelmed any caution the ten-vessel fleet might be feeling.

This novice team soon found themselves 100 miles offshore of what turned out to be day 1 of 438. They also found they were no match for this tremendous storm and Cordoba was in fear for his life and began begging for a return to port. Alvarenga acquiesced and they began hauling in the line. They hauled in half of the line and found they had secured a good catch already; ten fish, tuna, mahi mahi, and sharks. The storm only increased in intensity and with less line anchoring them in place their craft was tossed this way and that, and the task of hauling in the rest of the line became impossible and they cut it loose.

Alvarenga set a course of 70 degrees east, battled the 50 mph winds and foaming sea and believed that in 5 hours they would be safely home bragging of their victory against the torrent. Cordoba bailed nonstop but was losing the battle. If they fell into the sea from a rogue wave or the boat sinking, they would undoubtedly be shredded by the ever present sharks before they would drown.



Eight hours later, land was in sight when the motor died. They performed a quick overhaul, but the motor could not be revived. He called on the radio for help, but his GPS unit wasn't functional, and he couldn't give coordinates. A rescue was mounted as Alvarenga shouted into the radio, "If you are coming to get me, come now, these waves are huge. We are taking on lots of water. Come now, I am really getting f***d out here." These were the final words to shore for more than one year.

Four rescue boats set out in the treacherous sea and at the end of twelve continuous hours, they found nothing. There was no evidence of the boat whatsoever. Winds calmed down after 72 hours and a small aircraft search was undertaken. Still no sign. Water searches continued for two weeks but still there was no indication that the fishing vessel had ever been there.



Seasick Landlubber

By 1st/Lt Rocky Mazzeo

Continued from Page 10

Finally, sixteen days after the start of the storm, the *Norteno* played out. With their survival of the storm, the worst was yet to come. They battled starvation, lack of potable water, exhaustion, and loss of hope. On day 118, Cordoba died.



It was over a year later and nearly 7,000 miles before Alvarenga would land his boat in Tile Islet, Republic of the Marshall Islands. It was an additional month of interviews, medical tests, and recoveries before he returned home to El Salvador, to his parents and 14-year-old daughter. It was at least a year before he became comfortable in his own skin, enough so that he was able to collaborate with the writing of this book. Seven years have passed, and it is presumed that Alvarenga has regained some normalcy to his life. No updates on his most current status could be found and it is only hoped that he has the peace he desired after his ordeal.



America's Boating Channel

America's Boating Channel Urges Use of Engine Cut-Off Devices.

Are you aware of the legal requirement for using engine cut-off devices? This is a requirement that could save your life.

The requirement to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) took effect on April 1, 2021, and applies to all U.S. waterways, with fines of \$100, \$250, and \$500 for the first, second, and third offenses, respectively. State and local authorities may choose to enforce the law differently, but using an engine cut-off switch is now the law for qualified vessels everywhere in the United States.



The law applies to all personal watercraft and recreational boats under 26 feet with motors capable of 115 pounds of static thrust (a little under 3 horsepower). Boats not currently equipped with an engine cut-off switch are exempt, but that grandfather clause is closing fast. Another recent federal law required manufacturers to install engine cut-off switches on all new boats starting in January 2020. Videos are available that offer an overview of the importance of specialized safety equipment for recreational boating that will shut down the engine in an emergency such as the boat operator falling overboard.

America's Boating Channel produced these videos to help viewers learn about traditional lanyard type devices, as well as the new wireless systems. Watching videos like "Engine Cut-Off Devices" (<https://youtu.be/3J3M8dMzqTk>) is an excellent way for boaters to prepare for safer experiences on the water. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "Wear an ECOS" (<https://youtu.be/i0Nu7Gu-JG0>). It covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities. You can follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find



these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer. Available on YouTube, America's Boating Channel offers quick and easy access to professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos. America's Boating Channel is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



The Pilot's Shorts

Become an Associate Member of SSAPS

Are you interested in becoming an Associate member of Seattle Sail and Power Squadron? If you are a member of one of the squadrons of the United States Power Squadrons or a member of Burnaby Power and Sail Squadron (our sister Squadron in British Columbia) we welcome you to become an Associate Member of Seattle Sail and Power Squadron. To join, all you have to do is let me know, and I will send you an application form or visit our website: <https://www.seattlesailpowersquadron.org/associate> or click [here](#) You can also contact Lt/C Gail Kalbrener-Mazzeo, N, at ssaps.membership@gmail.com



On the Water Education (OTW) - Members interested in OTW education please contact Jim West, regional director for OTW events, at jwestboat-er@comcast.net

Be a Part of History - As Squadron Historian, I collect photographs every year for storage in the Squadron archives. Steve Erickson, JN is a huge resource for this and we are ever so grateful. However, I welcome pictures from others, preferably low resolution to minimize electronic storage. Send them to the historian at rutledges@aol.com

Membership Information up to date? - If there are any changes to your address or contact information there is an online form you may fill out on the membership page of our Seattle website. This also includes boat and or boat name changes as well. We don't want you to be left out of the loop. <https://www.seattlesailpowersquadron.org/member-update> or click here: [Update My Membership Info Link](#)



Merit Marks - Want to view or print your merit mark from 2022? Go to <https://www.usps.org/php/DHinders/meritmarks/getMM.php> or

Click here [I want to see my Merit Marks](#) and put in your USPS Certificate number

Vessel Safety Checks

Request your Vessel Safety Inspection!! Go to

<https://www.seattlesailpowersquadron.org/vsc-request>



Flare Disposal Option - Disposing of old marine flares always seems like a challenge. They can't all be shot off as a demonstration. Sometimes Police or Fire Departments will take them, but it can be a hassle to arrange this. Thankfully, several King County transfer stations now accept expired flares. The North Seattle, South Seattle, and Factoria Hazardous Waste sites will accept up to 10 expired marine flares per person. For more information, visit www.HazWasteHelp.org or call (206) 296-4692.

JUST A REMINDER

Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) Call and schedule your free inspection today!
Email or call VSC Chair Lt Rebecca Garvie, P., canstyle@aol.com
(206) 979-1870 or use the Online Request Form:

<https://www.seattlesailpowersquadron.org/vsc>

America's Boating Club of Seattle Needs your Help!!!

The Squadron/Club really needs your help to keep this club running. Many of you have already served many faithful years performing excellent work for this squadron, but we've reached a critical point where only a select few are holding the club up in regards to holding bridge positions, teaching and providing services to the members and our boating community.

Open positions for 2023 –2024 bridge year

- **AO** {Admin Officer} Social and Cruise Planning
- **SEO** {Squadron Education Officer} Chairs and teaches Classes
- **Membership Chair** - Actively recruits new members
- **AEO** {Asst Education Officer} Assists SEO
- **Treasurer** - Handles club finances
- **Telephone Committee Chair** Contact members to invite them personally to meeting events.
- **Newsletter Editor** – Help us create this fine newsletter!



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!



2 Frank Leonard
12 Lt Jon Brown, AP
14 Reid Larson, AP

27 Rebecca Neel, P
30 Paul Frodesen, P
22 Steve Rittereiser, S



Chartered 1941
A Unit in District 16 of The United States Power
Squadrons®
Founded 1914



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
of SEATTLE

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