

BELLS VIEWS

The Monthly News Magazine of the
Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron

February 2006, Vol. 44 No. 07

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ADVERTISERS NEEDED

contact Heather Brown, 425-558-9608
HeatherTBrown@hotmail.com

Firewood Needed!!

Help! The 2006 Salmon Bake Committee is desperately seeking a source of a cord of combined dry and green alder firewood for the Salmon Bake in June. Last year we had to purchase a cord, which cost about \$250, to say nothing about the logistics of finding it and then getting it to Brownsville. With this early request we hope to find someone who has an extra stack that can be spared. Contact Lonnie Butler, lonnie4@gte.net, to donate that much needed salmon-smoking material. Many thanks in advance.

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Monthly Dinner Meeting – 01 February 2006

Founders Day and Honor Our Past Commanders Steak or Salmon at \$16.

Reservations (or cancellations of permanent reservations) are required and need to be confirmed **before Noon Saturday** prior to the dinner meeting. Make your reservations (or cancellations) with:

Catherine Keating

206-275-4493, *catherinek@bbxpress.net*

- ✓ There are NO extra meals. Do not expect to dine if you have not made a reservation.
- ✓ People with reservations who don't cancel by Saturday will be billed for their meals.
- ✓ **Get on the permanent reservation list and avoid the hassle of phoning each month. Tell Catherine, "Put us on the List."**
- ✓ We accept Visa and MasterCard, as well as cash and local checks. The check-in table closes at 1900; no late arrivals, please.

Location & Time

Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club, 9927 Meydenbauer Way SE, Bellevue. Members and guests meet from 1800 for a social hour on the Top Deck. Dinner is served at 1900 and the meeting will be adjourned by 2100.

Dress Code

While the Bridge members often wear uniforms to the dinner meetings, the general membership wears appropriate mufti attire or business casual at the dinner meetings. For the Bridge, the uniform for February is **Uniform A**-blue pants; blue jacket; white shirt, long sleeves; black tie.

Program—"Adventures in the Pacific Northwest"

In this presentation, BSPS webmasters Jennifer and James Hamilton will share some of their more memorable trips in the Pacific Northwest, such as cruising 88-square mile Hakai, British Columbia's largest marine park, circumnavigating Vancouver Island, and breaking ice into Princess Louisa Inlet. The Hamiltons boat year round throughout the Pacific Northwest and are correspondents for the Waggoner Cruising Guide and regular contributors to Pacific Yachting magazine. Their work has also appeared in Passagemaker and Nor'westing. Besides managing the BSPS site, they also maintain a cruising web site at *www.mvdirona.com*.

From the Commander

Commander Jean Miller, AP

You cad!" I hissed at the Prince of Frowns' backside as we stood on *Loon Song's* foredeck, clutching black plastic trash bags and small cardboard boxes. He unlocked the salon door and entered, eager to begin.

As many of you know, the Prince has fallen in love with a longer and younger boat, leaving Loonie and me to suffer in mournful abandonment. He and I had come to clean out the majority of our belongings, making Loonie more desirable to potential buyers. This is similar to giving a newly dumped divorcee of a "certain age" a membership to a gym, a body wrap and a leg waxing. Lots of sweat and tears are involved.

This process of replacing our boat, besides generating abandonment issues, has divided our family and friends into two camps; those few who approve and are happily anticipating cruising in updated comfort, and those who thoroughly and loudly disapprove. Our children and grandchildren, seeing their meager inheritance frittered away, fall into the second camp.

"Mom," says our son, who sails and whose disapproval of our boating is already measured at the top of the scorn meter, "just put your foot down and tell him no." Where, I ask him, would he have me put my foot, on the back of the Prince's neck? I'm guessing that's going to generate some hard feelings from the footee and it's difficult enough to live with the Prince in his normal self-satisfied state. Besides, this new boat thing puts me way ahead in couple points, which I can use to my advantage for a long, long time.

In any case, there we were, cleaning out our tacky and stale belongings, the boat and I moping in a more or less dignified silence, the Prince cheerfully scooping out old tee shirts by the arm load. We could read the names of many of our destinations on them: Sydney, Campbell River, Secret Cove, Ahouset, Bamfield, Sullivan Bay, Echo Bay, Big Bay...lots of bays. Pulling out a tie-dyed dress from Chemaimus with tags still intact, I wondered, "What was I thinking when I bought this when we were at the NorBel rendezvous six years ago?" Did I really envision myself lounging about in something other than my usual aged sweatshirt, forgiving pants and slippers with "Port" and "Starboard" on the toes?

The prince flipped a cap embroidered with the Semiahmoo Yacht Club logo into the discard bag. "They were a fun group," he remarked casually, moving on to the next drawer. My chin quivered. Okay, so it was two yacht clubs, one boat and eight years ago, but I vividly remembered how the group had adopted us newbies and taught us to wear white pants on Opening Day and how to make the arm movements to "YMCA" at the club's holiday party.

I pawed through a basket full of odd stuff, mostly writing implements, Trawler Fest name badges and giveaway West Marine lanyards. Picking up a bright pink pencil embossed with "Agate Pass Sail and Power Squadron" and a pen shaped

(Continued on page 6)





Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron 2006 Rendezvous and Cruise Schedule

28-30 April Joint Rendezvous with Agate Pass Squadron, Brownsville Marina. (No host yet)

19-21 May Theme to be announced: Tentative event with the Sea Scouts during Boating Safety Week. Educational day seminar, etc. (Ray Newmen/Chris Brown)

16-18 June Salmon Bake, Brownsville Marina (west of Bainbridge Island). This is a boat, car, and RV gathering. Also, there is a camping area for tents. (Lonnie Butler)

23-25 June La Fiesta, District 16 (all squadrons), Poulsbo Marina. More details will appear on www.usps.org/localusps/d16/ and in the district newsletter, *Cardinal Points*.

20-22 July Anchoring Event: Spencer Spit State Park, on anchor buoys and/or anchoring. Shore activities at reserved campsites. (Mike Heinrich)

04-13 August Squadron Cruise to Canada and Nor/Bell Rendezvous. Start this weeklong cruise with the annual rendezvous with our Canadian sister squadron, Norvan, over the long Canadian weekend at Maple Bay Marina, B.C. (S.E. Vancouver Island). Then, on August 7, we start open cruising within the Canadian Gulf Islands, meeting up again on 11 August at Otter Bay Marina on North Pender Island with the Vancouver Island squadron. (Mike Heinrich)

18-20 August Steak Fry. Port of Everett Marina. (Lonnie Butler)

xx-xx September New rendezvous, tentatively scheduled for Dockton, Maury Island – Details to be determined. (Dianne Greene)

06-08 October Soup Pot, Port Orchard. Conclude the squadron's cruising season with a soup and chili and stew cook-off. (Karl Lang)

Watch **BELLVIEWS** for the most current information and details on each of these events.

Sea Belles Corner

President Karl E. Lang, SN

(Editor's Note: In the absence of President Lang, Sea Belle Mark Varney submitted this article.)

This month's Sea Belles Corner will be brief. Our President, Karl, and his lovely wife Dortha, are toughing it out on a huge Holland American Cruise ship in warmer climes. We did not have a December meeting due to the Christmas Gala and preparations for the Crab Feed. The Crab Feed was its usual success and the Sea Belles thank all who attended and helped make it so.

We did have some business from the November meeting that needs to be shared with all. The Sea Belles Bridge nominations for next year were held and are as follows:

President:	Lucy Worl, S
Vice President:	Dorthea Varney, S
Treasurer	Pat Dorracague, S
Secretary	Barbara Erickson, AP
Membership	Laurel Redecker, AP
Sunshine	Gretchen Hurter, S
Nominating Committee:	Willa Conrad, P
	Dortha Lang, P
	Diane Heinrich

It has been a wonderful year and next year I'm sure will be just as great. Thank you to all who have worked so hard to make all of our events and rendezvous a success. ❖

Sea Belles Membership

Laurel Redecker, Membership Chair

I want to thank all of you who responded so promptly and sent in your 2006 membership checks. It's not too late to get your name in the 2006 Roster! Those who have yet to respond, those past members who would like to rejoin, and anyone interested in becoming a new member, please send a check for \$8.00, made out to Sea Belles, to Laurel Redecker at 15053 253rd Ave SE, Issaquah, WA 98027. We'd love to have you as a member. ❖



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(Continued from page 3)

like a fake hypodermic from a MBYC event, I remembered those delightful rendezvous and the good people we met.

Sighing, I turned to back to our clothing. Amazing how much you can stuff into the shallow drawers in a cabin. I found a stack of USPS shirts, most of them very worn. Had we really been members long enough and active enough as members to wear out four USPS polos each? (By the way, when exactly did these shirts become known as “Team Casual”? And who made that decision? Just curious.)

So much stuff...so many memories, mostly of many good times and wonderful people and so much great cruising. Such a good boat. ❖

March Dinner Meeting — 01 Mar 2006
Annual General Meeting and Elections
“Bob Hale and His Boating Adventures”

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Spaghetti Feed and Auction

Dockside Treasures

5 April 2006

Lt Sharon L. Macklin, AP, Auction Chair

Can you believe that we are in 2006 and ready for our annual auction? This year we are calling it "Dockside Treasures" because that is what we are going to have this year. Our sponsors are coming in strong and to date we have already have commitments from close to thirty contributors.

And have a night of wine and liberation of spaghetti, good bread, super friends, and lots of fun stuff in store. So mark your calendars and stay tuned in because it is going to be fun.

We still need some help — in particular an auctioneer since P/C Mark Stevens is still in exile in Holland, and some people to help set up the items before the auction, to keep track of bids and to help collect payments. Give me a yell at (425) 455-2045 or cell (206) 910-3720 or email: *pemrose@comcast.net*.

Partial List of Auction Items

- Vyve Salon – a haircut and color Value \$250.00
- Massage Envy – a one hour massage Value \$60.00
- Art work – framed, approximately \$200.00
- Director Chairs – approximately \$80.00
- A trip to Hoods Canal - ???
- Dunato's – Haul out
- Rosario's – to be announced
- Captain's Nautical
- Hildstad – a model boat
- Mercer Marine – to be announced
- And the list goes on

Donations for the silent auction are still needed. Please, no broken TVs, printers, or electronics. We have to pay for disposal of unsold donated items.

Welcome, New Members

Lt Lonnie Butler, AP – Membership Chair

The Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron welcomes the following new members. Please take some time to introduce yourself to them and help get our new friends firmly and actively integrated into the squadron.

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Who's Who Updates

Lt. Allen R. Cole, AP – Secretary

Please make these updates to *Who's Who 2005*. Send changes of mailing address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, and boat information to allen.cole@comcast.net. The National database will be updated as well as the squadron's mailing list. Remember, because of our non-profit mailing rate, **BELLVIEWS** is not forward by the US Postal Service, so do send in your address changes and not miss a valuable copy.

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Slate of Squadron Officers for 2006-2007

Section 6.08 of the Squadron By-Laws requires your Nomination Committee to select and submit to the Squadron Secretary nominations for the 2006-2007 Bridge officers and committeepersons specified in Sections 5.02, 03, 04 & 06 of the Squadron By Laws. In accordance therewith, the following members are nominated for the stated positions:

Commander	Lt/C Sally N. Stewart, JN
Executive Officer	Lt/C J. Christopher Brown, JN
Administrative Officer	Lt J. Lonnie Butler, AP
Squadron Educational Officer	Lt/C David J. Greene, AP
Assistant SEO	1/Lt William J. Badgley, JN
Treasurer	Lt/C Alan R. Cole, AP
Secretary	William J. Fritz, P

Executive Committee

Members at Large:

Lt. Joseph Saromines, AP
Lt Dennis Dorratcague, AP
Lt Thomas Shepard
Lt Sherri B. Kennamer, S

Rules Committee

Audit Committee

Nominating Committee

P/D/Lt John C. Worl, S, 3 years

P/Lt/C Dawn M. Miller, AP, 3 years

P/C E. Jean Miller, AP, 3 years

These persons have been contacted and have agreed to serve if elected.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nominating Committee: P/D/Lt John C. Worl, S Chairman
P/C Bjorne Ursin, JN
LT Andrejs Zamilis, AP





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USPS District 16 Spring Conference/Change of Watch 17-19 March 2006

Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron welcomes participants in the USPS District 16 Spring Conference to Central Washington. We will be lodging and meeting at Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan.

This is a bit "out of the box" for a venue but we have lots of enticing things planned and wanted to make this a destination as well as a conference. We might even attempt to charter a new local squadron in that area.

Special Welcome for First Timers

We will be honoring First Time Attendees at the Friday "No Host" Reception. First Timers will receive a free beer or glass of wine!

Saturday – Many area opportunities.

The city of Chelan is the center of a large tourist and wine growing area. There are at least three wineries with tasting rooms, a large district of small shops and restaurants including antiques and nearby Mill Bay Casino. Transportation can be had from the hotel to the wineries and casino for those not driving. Since the resort is right at the head of town, all the local amenities are in easy walking distance.

Accommodations

Reserve your room no later than 15 February 2006 by calling Campbell's Resort at 1-800-553-8225. Ask for the USPS D16 Conference rate of \$72.00 for a traditional room and \$84.00 for deluxe. Affordable rates are also available for other rooms including kitchens. All have a lake view and most have a balcony or deck. Sorry, no pets. Hotel features include spa and fitness center. Free wireless internet is available in Building One and the conference room. If your wi-fi card is sensitive enough, you may get it in other buildings. Check-in time is 1500.

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RV Parking

A city park is just one block north of the resort and has showers and camping.

Friday Lake Chelan Cruise

This is a very special package and we would love to have you all come. Lake Chelan is the longest and deepest natural lake in the area. It is over 50 miles long and runs from the fruit orchards of the Entiat Valley to the Glacier Peak Wilderness. We have organized a boat tour for you to see the amazing changes in scenery and

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Cruising Log

Hurtigruten – A Norwegian Coastal Voyage

Sea Belles P/P Sharon I. Neglay, AP

In 1996 I cut out an advertisement from *Sunset* magazine promoting a round trip cruise along the coast of Norway on a ship carrying passengers, freight, and cars. Last year I called the number listed and booked a 17 day trip starting Sept. 25th. This included two nights in Oslo and Bergen.

My cousin and I sailed on the *MS Finnmarken*. She was launched in 2002, can hold up to 1,000 passengers, and has 624 berths. The car deck holds up to 50 cars. There are 283 cabins, with most being outside, ranging from standard to suites. *MS Finnmarken* is the fourth ship to bear this name. The first, *DS Finnmarken*, was already sailing in 1865 before *Hurtigruten* was officially founded. Our *MS Finnmarken* is 138.5 m in length, 21.5 m in width and cruises at 18 knots, and was remarkably stable in the gale force winds we encountered one night. I was amazed at how many times it was necessary to use her bow and stern thrusters just to keep us off the rocks while maneuvering in extremely tight conditions. All cars and freight were loaded and unloaded from the port side so our port-side cabin gave us an interesting view no matter where we docked.

As we left Bergen the trees were starting to put on their autumn finery and the further north we traveled the hills became swathed in gold, red, and chartreuse. They seemed to challenge the reds, blues, and yellows of the houses for attention. The trees soon gave way to a few low conifers and then just rock. The sides of the individual fiords were dotted here and there with farm houses (generally painted barn red) and, sometimes, sheep or cattle. Many places were home to small fishing or vacation cottages clinging to the side of the fiord with a small boat house in front. The never ending reefs and small islands provided a minute-by-minute change of color, shape, and texture.

The route extends from Bergen up to Kirkenes (on the Russian border) and back, stopping at large towns and small villages day and night. Those visited at night on the way out were seen during the day on the way back. Most of the stops did not allow enough time for sightseeing or shopping but tours were offered, where possible, and I found they were well worth the money. North Cape is Europe's northernmost point (71° 11' 8") and our tour stopped at the interesting museum located on the small headland.

As there was no entertainment provided, so we either spent our time reading or sitting in the 360 degree view lounge enjoying the remarkable scenery. I was surprised at the lack of navigational aids until I realized that there were so many reefs, islands, and blind bays that it would cost a fortune to mark each with a light, etc. Many times I saw vertical markers indicating what must have been the safe channel. These were few and far apart and I would have thought not easily picked up by radar.

As the standard cabins were quite small, we booked one of the few Jr. Suites with twin beds and found it perfect. It was furnished with a davenport, coffee table, two

chairs, and a long shelf under one of the two large windows which held a TV and vanity area. The head was certainly adequate as to storage and the tile floor was heated. There were two small hanging lockers and shelf space (one with a safe). A refrigerator and mini bar were under the TV. As we were on the promenade deck we only had to go around the corner to be on deck.

Meals consisted of a set three course seated dinner, and open seating buffet breakfast and lunch. Dinners began with an appetizer or soup, then entrée (fish, beef, lamb, venison, or chicken with side potatoes and vegetables) followed by dessert. Breakfasts were interesting — typically, in addition to many more dishes, one could find cold cereals, many different types of bread, sliced ham and salmon, pickled herring (plain or in mustard or tomato sauce), pickled beets, baked beans and tiny wieners, fried eggs sunny side up, fried potatoes, cooked cereal, fruit, juice, and coffee/tea. Lunches included three hot entrees, potatoes, vegetable, tossed salad fixings, three kinds of roe, crackers, cold salmon and shell fish, soup, and desserts and cheeses. The food was well presented, cooked, and guaranteed not to cause weight gain.

The passengers were mostly Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and German so I found it fun trying to remember German from about 48 years ago with a congenial German couple. Our table companions were from Australia and Norway and we thoroughly enjoyed visiting with them. On one of the bus tours the gentleman seated across from me was pointing out a step just in front of our seats that was dark and could be tripped over. I saw our Norwegian table mates boarding so I indicated I wanted to say “step”. I did and we then took turns pointing out this hazard in Norwegian and English. After another stop it didn’t seem necessary to resume our step duty and I was just sitting there minding my own business when I felt a nudge on my arm. The gentleman across the aisle indicated that I should say “step” to the people boarding. It happened so fast I just did what I was told. All of a sudden my hand was being shaken and a one krone coin was left in it. The two gentlemen were laughing and I realized I had been “set up”. I kept the coin to remind me that humor is universal and sometimes shows up where least expected.

Our packaged tour was well planned. We flew SAS non-stop from SeaTac to Copenhagen, then to Oslo going over and from Bergen to Oslo to Copenhagen upon returning. The hotels were first class (including fabulous buffet breakfasts) and wonderfully located as to transportation and areas of interest. Vouchers included train fare from the Oslo airport, the seven hour train trip from Oslo to Bergen (light snow falling at one stop), special bus to the ship, 24-hour passes for public transportation (bus and ferry), and admittance to museums in Oslo and Bergen. In addition, we had our choice of one of four restaurants for dinner in Bergen. The restaurant we chose was just a few blocks from the hotel in the restored Hanseatic buildings in Bryggen (the oldest waterfront area in Bergen). The ambience was superb and so was the food. In Oslo we took public buses to the Viking and Thor Heyerdahl museums and visited the Antarctic ship *Fram*. From there it was just a few steps to catch a ferry back to within three blocks of our hotel. All in all, a trip well worth recommending. ❖

(Continued from page 11)

geography of the area. The town of Stehekin at the head of the lake has a small store and some historic areas. Reserve your room for an extra night (to keep from having to drive early Friday) and bring your camera. This is a wonderful tour up to the end of 55 mile Lake Chelan and to see beautiful Rainbow Falls as well as wander rustic Stehekin. The cost of this special outing is \$54 per person and includes:

- Round trip Chelan to Stehekin on *Lady Express* (10AM-4:20PM)
- Box Deli Lunch on boat provided by Lady of the Lake
- Bus tour to Rainbow Falls at Stehekin.
- 45 minutes to wander Stehekin.
- The boat will be back at Chelan by 4:30. Plenty of time to get to evening cocktails.

Friday Evening Activity

There will be a “No Host” reception starting at 1800. Dress is Team Casual (Polo shirt and “Dockers”)

Breakfast Meetings

Squadron Commanders, XO’s P/D/Cs, SEOs and ASEO’s will meet at 0800. Other squadron officers may also meet their district counterparts at a room provided during breakfast.

Saturday Conference

Will be called to order by D/C Dennis Morris, SN, at 0930. All USPS members are welcome to attend. Team casual or appropriate attire.

A lunch buffet will be available 1200 – 1300 and will offer Swedish Meatballs, Lasagna, Noodles and includes beverage (coffee/tea) and chef’s choice dessert.

Concurrent Public Class

A public “Americas Boating Course” will be running all day concurrent with the conference. If you see these people wandering during breaks, be sure and say “hi”. It is our hope to swear in as many as we can at the banquet and possibly get enough to start the paperwork to charter new squadron at that time.

Saturday Evening Change of Watch Banquet

Reception 1800 – 1900 with a no host bar, dinner will be served at 1900. Lakeside Buffet with Salmon Fillet, herbed Chicken Breast, Roasted Vegetables, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Salad, Pasta Salad, Seasonal Fruit Salad, Dinner rolls, Chefs choice dessert. Swearing in ceremony follows. Uniform A with bow tie or appropriate attire requested.

Comedy Magic Show

The evening entertainment (besides the swearing in) will be a local magician/comedian who does a wonderful 45 minute show. It should be fun for all ages.

(Continued on page 23)

**USPS® District 16 Spring Conference & Change of Watch
17-19 March 2006 — Registration Form**

Campbell's Resort, Chelan, Washington

Name _____ Squadron: _____
(Please include rank and/or grade)

_____ Phone: _____
(spouse/guest name)

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP _____

1st time at a D16 conference ___Y___N E-mail _____

There is no charge to attend Conference Meetings. **Early Bird** prices apply for prepaid reservations postmarked no later than 15 February 2006. **Regular** prices apply to walk-ins and reservations postmarked 16 February or later. All prices include sales tax and service charges.

Activity	Early Bird	Regular	#People	Total
Friday Lady of the Lake Tour	\$54	\$56	_____	\$_____
Friday Reception	"No Host Cocktails"			

Saturday Officer Breakfast

Commander/Exec Officer No Charge to Cdr/XO _____ (continental)
 Educational Officer/ASEO No Charge to SEO/ASEO _____ (continental)
 P/D/C - Order off restaurant menu and go to the reserved room
 Other Incoming Officers - Order off restaurant menu.

Saturday Conference Luncheon:

Luncheon Buffet	\$18	\$20	_____	\$_____
-----------------	------	------	-------	---------

Saturday Alternate Activities

There are many shopping opportunities. There is a local casino and winery tours are available from the downtown area.

Saturday Evening Banquet

Salmon and Chicken Buffet	\$28	\$30	_____	\$_____
TOTAL				\$_____

Hotel

Make reservations directly with Campbell's at **1-800-553-8225** no later than Wednesday, 15 February, and mention USPS D16 to get the conference rate of \$72 (Traditional) or \$84 (Deluxe).

Payment and Conference Reservations

Mail this form and payment in US funds by Wednesday, 15 February 2006, to Skagit Bay Sail and Power Squadron, D16 Spring Conference, P/C Debbie Richey P, 1233 Noble Fir Lane, Camano Island, WA 98282.

Contact info: Debbie Richey, ssboatschool@hotmail.com, (360) 387-1260. For hotel questions, call them directly.

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FREE PARTY FREE PARTY FREE PARTY!!!! ATTENTION NEW, "USED", AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

New Location—Duncan and Cheryl Milloy's home

Save the date of Saturday, 25 February 2006 for an informal welcoming gathering in the home of Duncan and Cheryl Milloy, 14731 3rd Drive SE, Mill Creek, WA 989012 (425-745-1131). Use Google Maps or Mapquest to get good driving directions. *Please disregard last month's announcement about the location—due to Chuck Hurter's bum leg, the Milloys volunteered their home.*

This **no-charge** welcoming party begins at 1830 and ends around 2100. "New Members" means anyone who wants to get to know more people, whether you joined two months ago or five years ago, or just feel you want to know how to get involved in the squadron. We are inviting members, their spouses, girl/boyfriends, but the meeting is not conducive to small children.

The purpose for this event is to answer your "Who, what, where, when and why?" questions about the Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron. The informal setting allows the squadron's leaders more time to get to know you and your talents and to describe how you can participate more fully. Our objective is to make you feel like you belong. You will meet the officers, committee chairmen and other members who just like an excuse for a party, have fun and tell stories about boating, including yours, some real and some exaggerated, and yes, some members actually go aground!

There will be no organized program, but we will have PowerPoint information to show you about most any activity. The squadron is much more than just teaching classes. New ideas are always welcome for on-the-water activities to practice and enjoy the confidence which is gained from the added education. Being around other boaters who have cruised our wonderful waters love to share their knowledge and stories to make your time on the water a memorable experience.

You will find no pretences amongst this group of people. It makes no difference whether you have a 16' runabout or a 100' schooner, you are with friends. Do you have expertise in teaching methods, electronics, engine mechanics, organizational methods etc? You name it, we probably have a teaching spot for you. Just want to take classes and/or hang out at rendezvous, that's ok too.

There will be plenty of hors d'oeuvres to take care of your dinner hour, along with beer, wine and pop, so just come and relax and enjoy the fun. As in the past, we need "Used" members as well to help welcome the "New" members.

Please contact me, Mike Heinrich, 425 885 1127 (mikelheinrich@aol.com), or Lonnie Butler, 425 827 3740 (lonnie4@gte.net), so we can have an idea of how many to plan for. You can also email or call Duncan himself at 425-745-1131 (dmilloy@comcast.net), but please copy me, too. ❖

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Boating Safety

Lt Bob Evans, P, Boating Safety Officer

Well, it is February and the winter solstice is behind us and we are rushing head first into summer boating. Other than the holidays, I spent the dreary, rainy month of December working on a grant proposal with our Executive Officer, Lt/C Sally Stewart, JN, directed to the National Safe Boating Council. The purpose of the grant is to promote Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) via a flyer that can be distributed in our public boating courses, at boat shows, marine outlets, and dealers. If funded we are looking at a kick off date of 20 May 2006 to coincide with National Safe Boating Week.

Writing this grant got me to thinking—an activity that my wife constantly reminds me is no small task. Anyway I was thinking about the number of squadron members who have not had a VSC? How can I find out? Ah-ha! President Bush said it was OK to spy on our fellow Americans, so I established my own spy ring within the squadron. Secret Agent X reported that the granddaughter of a Past Commander pointed out a VSC violation to me. If you are still interested in a free lunch and can collaborate this finding or confess, I will buy.

Any way back to my latest obsession—VSC. Do you know what the 15 items in the check list are? Read the list and make sure that all items are met, then call Joe Saromines to get an actual VSC performed. Since Joe has retired I understand he has a lot of time on his hands (and Laurel would like to get him out of the house). Here are the 15 check points:

1. Proper display of the boat's registration numbers.
2. Registration or documentation papers on board.
3. U.S. Coast Guard Approved PFDs for each person on board and readily accessible (out of their plastic packaging). Do not forget children sizes for the little ones and a throwable device.
4. Appropriate Visual Distress Signals. Be sure to check the expiration date on your pyrotechnic devices.
5. The required number of readily available fire extinguishers. Do not forget to turn them upside down and shake them once a month or you may find yourself squirting propellant on the fire as all of the fire retardant chemicals have settled to the bottom.

6. Gasoline engine boats built after August 1, 1980 must have a blower to vent the engine compartment. Remember it



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(Continued from page 19)

does not do any good unless you turn it on.

7. A backfire flame control on all gasoline inboard or inboard/outboard engines.
8. A sound producing device i.e., a whistle, horn etc. audible for 1/2 mile. If your boat is longer than 40 feet you will also need a bell. Great for announcing the cocktail hour if you never use it for any thing else.
9. The required navigation and anchor lights.
10. An oily waste pollution placard in the engine compartment/room.
11. A MARPOL trash placard. I have no idea what the acronym stands for but you can buy one of these little puppies for about a dollar at West Marine and it says do not throw your trash overboard unless you are beyond the 12 mile limit. I personally think nothing should be thrown over board, but I do not write the regulations.
12. A marine sanitation device with a closable overboard disposable Y valve. Don't forget to close the valve when returning from Canadian waters.
13. If your boat is longer than 39.4 feet you must have a current copy of the Navigation Rules on board. Not a bad idea for smaller boats, too. It is very useful to settle those cocktail hour discussions (arguments?).
14. A copy of state and local requirements. So don't forget to stick a copy of the Washington requirements on board.
15. Overall vessel condition. This is the catch all. Make sure your bilges are clean, no loose lines or clutter on the decks, no electrical tape holding wires together. Any way you get the idea. Your boat should not look like a derelict.

I checked the Coast Guard web site and learned that boating fatalities are down this year but that drowning still account for 90% of all fatalities, mostly as a result of individuals not wearing PFDs. To quote an unnamed esteemed member of the Bridge, "Gentlemen, if you must relieve yourself overboard remember to PEE with your PFD." ❖

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Signals From the Editor

Lt Robert J. Miller, AP

A short column this month. The magazine is quite full, even after removing two half-page ads. So, let me whine a bit about your squadron's magazine.

Advertising

We need more advertisers to help defray publishing costs. If you know of a potential boating-related advertiser, contact our Advertising Manager, Heather Brown, and she will get in contact with the advertiser. We have one of the lowest ad revenue periods in years. Her phone is 425-558-9608.

Cover Photos

The cover is great space to display a lovely photo of your boat or of a photo of a generally "nautical-ish" nature. Send me your high resolution photo and we will proudly display it for the rest of the squadron. Otherwise, you get some rather boring photos of locks on the Main-Danube Canal taken while the Commander and I froze our framuses off cruising in Germany last December.

Dinner Meeting Programs

The Program Chair, P/N/F/Lt Trudy Brown, AP, has scheduled some great cruising-related programs for the next couple of months. So, come on out and joint the rest of the squadron at the dinner meetings. See you there!

The deadline for the March issue is 3 February 2006.

Calm seas and fair winds,
Bob Miller ❖

(Continued from page 14)

D16 Spring Conf

Ship's Store and Raffle

Shop Friday evening or Saturday in the Ship's Store for the latest offerings from National. Stock up on raffle tickets from your district officers and buy more when you register. Note: We will not presell unless you want us to but the tickets and prizes are much more valuable than ever. You'll want many chances to win once you see the selection of prizes!

Registration and Payment

Send your registration form with payment by 15 February to take advantage of Early Bird pricing.

Directions

Take I-90 or US 2 to US 97. Go north on US 97 to Wenatchee and take 97A "Entiat/Chelan". At Chelan, follow the signs to City Center.

Contact

Conference Chairperson, Debbie Richey 360-387-1260 or e-mail ssboatschool@hotmail.com. ❖

Classified Ads

WANTED MOORAGE SUMMER IN ANACORTES OR LA CONNER

We are looking for temporary moorage this summer in Anacortes or La Conner in exchange for temporary moorage in Meydenbauer Bay in Bellevue. I have an open 32 foot slip and need an open slip for a 29 foot sailboat. Looking for time in July and/or August, dates and duration flexible. Call Allen Cole at 425-869-7334 or e-mail at allen.cole@comcast.net.

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BELLVIEWS Classified Ad Policy

Free to Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron members, ads may appear for two consecutive months and are restricted to non-commercial boating and boating-related items. Ads may be edited for length. Deadline for submissions is the first Wednesday of the month. Ads must be delivered to the editor by mail or e-mail.



Annual Fundraiser and Pasta Feed

05 April 2006

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