

**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB** 

**Tacoma**   
**& South Puget Sound**

**The  
Wake Astern**

**August 2025**

**Monthly Newsletter**

**Vol. 86 No. 8**





Cdr Craig Brown, SN-CN

**COMMANDER**



**A whale of an experience**

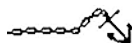
We share the Salish Sea with many different things. This requires us to be aware of all the rules that apply to those different things. And keep up on changes to those rules. One of the things we need to be aware of are the regulations pertaining to proximity to Orca whales. These changed at the beginning of the year. So, let me go back to why I brought this up.

During Memorial Day weekend I decided I needed to make a shake-down cruise since I had had work done on the boat over the winter. We had aboard Sandy (wife), the 3 granddaughters (ages 11, 9, & 4). and our two grown sons. We left Des Moines Marina, went to Commencement Bay, and then headed towards Dalco Passage. While heading towards Dalco I heard on channel 16 that a pod of Orcas was spotted in the Narrows (no specific location or direction of travel). I sent both boys, with binoculars, up to the flying bridge with instructions to be on the lookout for the Orcas. I told them I need to stay at least 1000 yards (approx. ½ mile) away from the whales. They were to report any whale spotted. After a few minutes they both reported whales spotted dead ahead. I asked how far & just as I asked, I spotted a dorsal fin go across our bow a short distance off. I realized I was well within the 300 yard stay out of zone. I immediately went to neutral and shut the engine off (should have also shut off the depth sounder). I immediately assessed the situation. Realized another boat was heading directly for the center of the pod at high speed, I was able to flag them down & stopped. Then I flew the “Whale Warning Flag” from our mast.

Now everyone, especially the granddaughters, were excited to have the Orcas swimming around & under the boat. We had about a 20-minute show before they headed off. We then headed off at a slow speed in the opposite direction to continue our cruise.

The key is knowing the regulations. I was aware of the changes that went into effect at the beginning of the year. The legislation increased the distance that recreational boaters must stay away from Southern Resident killer whales from 300 to 1,000 yards. The requirement is to stay under 7 knots when within 1000 yards. Stop movement (motor, sailing, or paddling) when 400 yards along the Orca path or 300 yards on either side of the Orca. Be aware Canadian regulations have greater distances. The reason for the slow speed (7 knots) and shutting down engines (including fish finder and/or depth sounder) is because the noise interferes with the whales’ ability to echolocate and communicate.

As Recreational Boater Safety (RBS) educators we have the responsibility to pass along the knowledge to other Salish Sea users. RBS includes protecting our endangered Orcas. The USA and Canadian regulations and the “Whale Warning Flag” are available via [www.bewhalewise.org](http://www.bewhalewise.org)



(Commander’s Report continued on Page 3)

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HELD SEPTEMBER THRU MAY ONLY**

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON AS NEEDED BASIS**

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(Commander's Report continued from Page 2)



Above shows both USA and Canadian regulations



Above shows USA regulations with additional clarity of actions



Above shows the "Whale Warning Flag". When you see it know whales are in the area.



Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

# EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

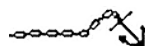


Here we are enjoying the Broughtons after a month of great boating. There's a gale blowing in Johnstone Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound but we are tucked safely on a dock. So far I've used what I learned in various classes to swap an impeller, change generator oil, navigate some tricky shoals, determine when it's safe to go, declutter the radar screen on days with big chop, and deal with an autopilot gremlin. I had some great instructors in the Tacoma Power Squadron and used what I learned to safely plan and execute this trip.

Things don't always go to plan but with a little diligence we can find a solution. For instance, when Craig, Bentley and I were locked out of the ABC website and couldn't set up classes or do much at all we kept pestering those in control and after a month or two regained access. Now that we are up and running the November ABC course is finally published on the website.

As I listen to the winds from the gale blowing to our west, I think it's time we offered another course in maritime weather. I have yet to take this course and look forward to learning more. That course will start October 2 and run for seven weeks at Tacoma Yacht Club. Thanks Stan Wolfe for teaching this. It will appear on the website as soon as I figure out which buttons to push to post it. It's a learning process for me.

I hope you are all out enjoying your boats and lives to the fullest.



**Need a Vessel Safety Check?**  
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**P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN**  
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Phone: 253-350-4884  
Address: 4634 Kent Ct.  
Kent, WA 98032-7112

P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN is our VSC Chairperson. He will also be taking requests for VSC supplies etc. as well as helping organize VSC team events that we may do.



## IT'S ALMOST HERE!!!

WHAT? Sharp's Annual Salmon Bake

WHERE? 5517 Kinney Rd. S.W. Olympia, WA 98512

WHEN? Saturday, September 20th, 2025. 1:00 P.M.

WHY? Getting together for socializing can be fun. We put that together with food and adult beverage and call it a party. We gather to see old and new friends.

We will serve the best Clams and Salmon cooked on an open fire. Bring your chairs and a side dish. We will call it a potluck. B.Y.O.B., we will have mixers. We usually have corn on the cob. We will guess on that one. We do ask \$10.00 each to cover the Salmon, Clams, etc. Thank you, Chuck and Viki. All plates, silver, etc. will be provided.

**Please RSVP directly to Chuck & Viki Sharp by Thursday, September 18, 2025:  
email: [trickyviki1944@q.com](mailto:trickyviki1944@q.com), HP: 360-866-7134, Cell: 360-359-2774.**



# SAVE THE DATE!

## District 16 Fall Conference

September 26 - 27, 2025

Port of Everett Marina

1205 Craftsman Way, Suite 200

Everett, WA 98201

### **Friday, September 26**

Evening Reception & Dinner: Location TBD

### **Saturday, September 27**

Fall Conference 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

- ◇ Continental Breakfast
- ◇ Catered Lunch
- ◇ Guest Speaker





## TACOMA POWER SQUADRON 2025 – 2026

Commander	Cdr Craig Brown, SN-CN
Executive Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays, AP
Administrative Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Educational Officer	Lt/C Scott Macleod, P
Asst Education Officer	Lt/C Bentley Rickmers, S
Secretary	Lt/C Beth Stone
Treasurer	Lt/C James Harden, JN-CN

### COMMANDER'S DEPT

Flag Lt	Lt Mason Dixon
Sunshine	Lt Leslie Burton, S
Merit Mark	P/D/C Christine Rasmussen, SN
Galley Manager	Lt Lorraine Stargel, AP

### EXECUTIVE DEPT

Executive Officer	Lt/C Bob Hays, AP
Safety Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Coop Charting	P/D/C James Harden, JN-CN
VSC Chairperson	P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN
Radio Tech	P/C Andy Temple, AP
Boat Show	<b>Vacant</b>
Legislative	P/D/C James Harden, JN-CN

### ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT

Administrative Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Boating Activities	<b>Vacant</b>
Membership	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Membership Involvement	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP
Operations Training	P/C Stan Wolfe, SN-CN
Programs	Lt Barbara Prudente

### SECRETARY DEPT

Secretary	Lt/C Beth Stone
Web Master	Lt Tom Ferree, JN
Newsletter	P/C Richard Mattox, AP
Historian	<b>Vacant</b>
Commencement Bay	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

### TREASURER DEPT

Treasurer	Lt/C James Harden, JN-CN
Property Officer	<b>Vacant</b>
Ship's Store	<b>Vacant</b>

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

1 Yr Term	P/C Gary Dildine, AP-IN
1 Yr Term	Lt Barbara Dildine, AP-IN
2 Yr Term	Lt Jeff Krueger, S
2 Yr Term	Lt Becky Arrington, S
2 Yr Term	Lt Brian Prudente
3 Yr Term	Lt Debbie Harden
3 Yr Term	P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

### FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	Lt Leah Hafterson, AP
2 Yr Term	Lt Becky Arrington, S
3 Yr Term	Lt Tom Ferree, JN

### RULES COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	P/C Bill Larsen, AP
2 Yr Term	P/C Mitch Carroll, SN
3 Yr Term	Lt Lorraine Stargel, AP

### NOMINATION COMMITTEE

1 Yr Term	P/D/C James Harden, JN-CN
2 Yr Term	<b>Vacant</b>
3 Yr Term	<b>Vacant</b>

### EDUCATION DEPT

Lt/C Lt/C Scott Macleod, P

### ABC CHAIRPERSON

Lt/C Scott MacLeod, P

### ELECTIVE COURSES CHAIRPERSON

**Vacant**

### ADVANCED GRADES CHAIRPERSON

**Vacant**

**BRIDGE OFFICERS**

Commander  
P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN  
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**Vacant**  
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Email: benric7@gmail.com  
Secretary  
Lt/C Beth Stone  
Email: beth.stone@comcast.net  
Treasurer  
Lt/C James Harden, JN-CN

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

P/C Gary Dildine, AP-IN  
Lt Barbara Dildine, AP-IN  
Lt Becky Arrington, S  
Lt Jeff Krueger  
Lt Brian Prudente  
Lt Debbie Harden  
P/C Jackie Mattox, AP

**BOATING ACTIVITIES CHAIR**

**Vacant**

**The Wake Astern**

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ricque0602@comcast.net

**SHIPS STORE**

**Vacant**

**TPS WEBSITE**

www.tacomapowerandsailsquadron.org

**D/16 WEBSITE**

www.uspsd16.org

Cover photo by  
Lt Cindy Warren, AP



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**Lytton Station Vineyard Vista**

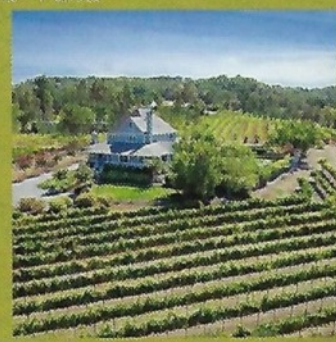
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# August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 No Exec Brd Mtg June thru August	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 No General Meeting June thru August	27 Deadline for September edition The Wake Astern	28	29	30
31						

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <small>Labor Day</small>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 <b>Ex.Bd Mtg</b> <b>6:00-8:00 PM</b> <b>@ Black Bear Diner</b>	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 <b>Salnon Bake</b> <b>@ Sharp's Home</b>
21	22	23 <b>Gen Mtg</b> <b>6:30-8:30 PM</b> <b>@ DIYC</b>	24 <b>Deadline for</b> <b>October edition</b> <b>The Wake Astern</b>	25	26 <b>Dist 16</b> <b>Fall Conf</b>	27
28	29	30				

TACOMA POWER SQUADRON  
5105 Grand Loop, Apt 811  
TACOMA WA 98407-3196

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**August 2025**

# **THE WAKE ASTERN**

A foggy day at Deception Pass

*(Winning Photo Contest by P/D/C Craig Brown, SN-CN)*