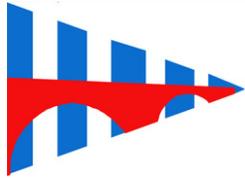


December 2022



SPINDRIFT



Commander's Corner

Hi Everyone! I hope everybody is ready for a fantastic dinner meeting coming up the 13th of December at the OHYC, beginning at 6:pm. Ted Mihok will be creating magic in the kitchen and we have reached our limit of 40 people who responded in time to join in. Jerry Liggett has orchestrated the evening's entertainment, and, given how talented he is, I can't wait!

We just had our Christmas Lights Parade from Oak Harbor to Coupeville and back last night and we had around twelve vessels join in. From the applause I heard from the wharf in Coupeville, it was very well received. We had an absolutely stunning, starlit night with the brightest moon you've ever seen reflecting off the water. On our way back, someone over the VHF reported the International Space Station was crossing overhead, to which

another said "they planned it that way to see our boat parade".

Congratulations to those who received Merit Marks for their contributions to the squadron last year. None of this works without you. Contributions included teaching classes, serving on the bridge, being a presenter, aiding to those presenting, donating time for squadron activities, vessel inspections, spending countless hours working on our communications and marketing, literally earning the club thousands of dollars through crab pot sales (Jerry Liggett), and many more. Thank you all for everything you do! A quick shout out about the meeting. It is the flu season and Covid is still a thing, so if you have any symptoms whatsoever, please stay home. We need to take care of one another.

Last, I want you all to really consider volunteering this next year. It is difficult when there is just a few people doing everything and our old guard has already been there done that. So step up and throw your hat in the ring if you'd like to help. We would all appreciate it.

Merry Christmas to all, and have a Cool Yule!

Shawn

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Phoning it in . . .

Squadron Education Officer (SEO) Jerry Liggett took time from a recent Hawaiian tanning session to report that last month's ABC basic boating course was a success, with all six attendees passing with flying colors. Scores ranged from 88% to 100%! Much thanks to instructors Shawn, Jerry, Chip, Reg, Fred, Pat, Bob, Karen and Steppe for your time and knowledge invested!



Submit Your Best Snapshot: Squadrons' National Photo Contest (from the Ensign magazine)

The past two years have been a time of uncertainty and closures, but one thing remained a reliable pastime—boating! In fact, more people than ever took to the water during the pandemic to enjoy recreation and togetherness. For The Ensign's 2023 Photo Contest, we want you to send us your best photos from your recent cruises, weekend getaways, raftups or other on-the-water activities! Finalists will be voted on during the 2023 Annual Meeting in February, and the winners will be featured in the Spring 2023 issue.

To submit your high-resolution photos, use this link:

<https://theensign.org/photocontest/>

Please include a caption for each picture, containing pertinent information such as names and location. Email ensign@hq.usps.org with any questions. Deadline to submit photos is Dec. 31, 2022.



Winterize Your Boat

Follow these tips to winterize your boat during the colder months ahead (*Reprinted from America's Boating Compass, Nov. 2022*)

Replace engine and gear oil. Moisture and acids in old oil will pit bearings and internal engine parts while in storage. To drain oil, first warm up the engine so more contaminated oil drains out and impurities flush out easier.

Flush and drain cooling water. Flush the engine with clean water. Next, remove engine drain plugs to prevent freezing water from damaging the engine. Check your owner's manual for the location of drain plugs, which are usually found in the engine block and manifold.

Stabilize fuel. Add fuel stabilizer to the fuel to prevent deterioration. Then fill the fuel tank. A full tank prevents water condensation.

Protect internal engine components. While in storage, engine oil drains away, leaving internal engine components exposed and vulnerable to corrosion. Use a fogging oil to coat internal components.

Grease and lubricate. Find grease fittings, and service them with a quality marine grease. Most fittings will be located in the steering mechanism area. Check your owner's manual for all areas needing lubrication.

Secure batteries. Top off batteries with distilled water, or take home to store in the garage. Set up a trickle charge to keep batteries topped off.

Drain water tanks. Drain water and add non-toxic antifreeze, running it through the system to purge water that could freeze.

Check your owner's manual for further information, or consult a certified marine technician.

-Beth and John Schwab



Good Reads

If the weather outside is a bit too frightful, here are a few links to some interesting and informative boating/adventure publications:

[The Ensign \(U.S. Power Squadrons\)](#)

[The Boating Compass](#)

[Northwest Yachting Magazine - Fore & Aft monthly newsletter](#)
[48 North](#)



May your holiday season be bright and memorable! If you have any boating or squadron-related photos you'd like to share, please email them to Jennifer Geller at Geller.jen@gmail.com.