

November 2023



Commander's Corner

We recently held the first of several meetings that focus on planning for longer cruises, specifically to Princess Louisa Inlet, BC. We'll continue through June 2024, covering everything necessary for a safe and enjoyable trip. Each class will be stand-alone and everyone is encouraged to participate when they can.

Our experienced squadron members, and other experts such as Custom and Border Protection agents will be sharing advice, knowledge and regulations necessary for the trip: cruise planning, tides and currents, navigation and charting, VHF radio, meal provisioning and prep, and more!

If you missed October's meeting, you can access the notes through our [website](#), or check your email.

Mark your calendar for future dates - next one is

Tuesday, November 14.

Commander Jerry Liggett



Upcoming Member Meetings

Tuesday, November 14 - Marine Navigation & Charting

Tuesday, December 19 - TBD

Tuesday, January 16 - Crossing Canada, featuring a speaker from U.S. Customs & Border Protection

Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. at the Oak Harbor Yacht Club

Squadron Leadership Opportunities

Emergency Response Team Leader

We're looking for a member interested in resurrecting and heading up our emergency response team that will coordinate with city, county and federal agencies.

America's Boating Club encourages all squadrons to establish a *Squadron Emergency Response Assistance Team* (SERAT) to render voluntary assistance to city and county government, local police, fire and rescue departments, United States Coast Guard and other agencies in the event of a water-related emergency.

The duties are to coordinate a team of qualified boaters with knowledge of local waters who are willing to donate time and effort to assist in the event of an emergency such as a major earthquake or wind storm. These may include water search and rescue, transporting people or supplies, water related patrols and help in securing an area in the event of an emergency.

Contact [Jerry Liggett](#)



Meet Our New Squadron Safety Officer



John and Chris Klemser have been squadron members for 2 years. John recently agreed to serve as Safety Officer. Be sure to read his "Boat Safety Before Departure" on the next page.

Ahoy Shipmates! My name is John Klemser. I am the new safety officer. My wife Chris and I have been with the club about 2 years now.

My boating experience was gained during my eight years in the U. S. Navy. I had an interest in "underwater warfare," so I was recruited into submarine service. I was trained for and was stationed aboard Polaris Submarines as the Navigation Electronics Technician. The first boat I was stationed on was the USS Sam Houston SSBN 609 stationed out of Scotland in the North Atlantic. I spent two interesting years and made 4 patrols on the Sam Houston while playing cat and mouse with the Russians. The Sam Houston went into the yards after my 4th patrol so I was transferred to the USS Will Rogers. The Will Rogers was the last Polaris missile submarine to be built (41 For Freedom). Since I was part of the commissioning crew I got to be called a plank owner. I spent 3 years on the Will Rogers, one year in the yards, new construction and four patrols out of Rota, Spain.

As you may know, being stationed on a submarine and under water about ninety percent of the time, safety becomes a big item. In order to qualify to get onboard and stay on board you have to become familiar with everyone else's job and know every system in every compartment on the boat. Riding around under water in tight compartments with a nuclear reactor for propulsion, nuclear torpedoes/standard torpedoes and nuclear missiles with multiple war heads kept safety on your mind. We trained and drilled almost every day for every kind of situation. We had each other's back, with safety being the primary goal.

Between now and then I owned three other boats:

- **I owned a Bayliner 27 foot with 8 foot beam for about 1 year.**
- **After that I owned a 28 foot bayliner Contesa with single engine, Volvo outdrive and 10 foot beam for about 2 years – nice boat. Had to sell. as I had to move.**
- **Now about 30 years later I own a 2019 cutwater 30 with command bridge. Single diesel engine 435 inboard. Does have bow and stern thrusters, "Thank the Good Lord."**



Membership Officer Needed!

(PLEASE)

America's Boating Club of Deception Pass can only continue to exist and grow if we have members who step up and are willing to devote a bit of time each month. How much time? How about an hour of your time, which is what we estimate it will take to keep track of our new members, getting them properly enrolled, and communicating with other club officers to make sure they're all updated?

The Membership Officer's duties include making sure membership forms filled out correctly, work with treasurer and secretary to make sure new members are added to the rolls and mailing lists. Plus a chance to be a part of the squadron leadership and decision making. Contact Jerry Liggett.

Boat Safety Before Departure

Reminders from Safety Officer John Klemser

1. Check the weather. The weather this time of year is very unpredictable with rains and winds popping up unexpectedly. Listen to the weather station or call ahead to confirm the weather before shoving off.
Also, fog is very dangerous this time of year and can occur anytime without warning, especially in the mornings. I recently heard of a fog called "Super Fog" which apparently is a very dense fog where you can't see past your nose, and takes a while to burn off. It is made up of fog and smoke from another source like a fire or accident close by.
2. Inspect Your Boat:
 - Look for hull damage you may not have noticed before or may have occurred recently.
 - Check Engine oil level and transmission fluid level, and coolant level.
3. Safety Equipment
 - Life jackets for everyone. Could have lost a few during the year. Fire extinguishers - check date, distress signals & date, navigation lights are functioning.
4. Communication Equipment
 - Is the VHF radio working okay? Fully charged cell phone as backup.
5. First Aid Kit
 - May want to inventory it, as items may have been used during the year.
6. Emergency Contacts:
 - Inform family member or friend on shore about the details of your trip.
7. Fuel and Engine Check:
 - Verify you have enough fuel for the trip.
 - Inspect all fluid levels. If low, top off.
8. Navigation Equipment:
 - Ensure your GPS, Compass and navigational charts are up to date and functional.
 - Familiar yourself with the area's navigational markers and hazards.
9. Anchors & Lines:
 - Check your anchor and lines to ensure they are in good condition and ready for use in case of an emergency.
10. Load Distribution:
 - Ensure your boat is loaded evenly and not overloaded, which can affect its stability.
11. Boat Documentation:
 - Carry all required documentation, including registration, insurance and permits.
12. Safety Briefing:
 - Before departure, provide a safety briefing to all passengers covering life jacket use, emergency procedures and location of all safety equipment.

Please share your boating and squadron meeting photos in the Spindrift. Email Jennifer Geller, squadron publicity officer and newsletter editor

