

BELLVIEWS

OCTOBER 2020

Vol. 59 No. 3

Monthly Newsletter



**The *Peter D*, belonging to Dennis and Pat Dorratcague,
seen entering the marina on Blake Island**

Photo taken by Bill Dock on 13 September 2020

Dennis has shared some incite from his experience navigating in low visibility in an article that you will find starting on page 17

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

of BELLEVUE



BELLEVUE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON BRIDGE

UNITED STATES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON - DISTRICT 16

Commander	Cdr Sally Stuart, SN	425-455-2369
Executive Officer	Lt/C Michael Reichstein	925-699-2105
Admin Officer	P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN	425-746-1094
Educational Officer	P/C/C Lance Jensen, SN	425-747-4143
Treasurer	P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN	425-746-1094
Secretary	Lt/C Bobbi Jensen	425-747-4143

BSPS: www.BellevuePowerSquadron.org D/16: www.uspsd16.org/

COMMANDER'S AIDES

Chaplain	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN
Flag Lieutenant	Lt Mark Christenson
Sunshine	Anne-Marie van Opdorp
MBYC Liaison	Lt Willa Conrad, P
North Shore Liaison	P/Lt/C Rick Vicik, P
Merit Mark	Lt Jan Brintnall
Operations Training	P/R/C L.D. Brown, SN

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Executive Officer	Lt/C Michael Reichstein
Marketing/PR - Chair:	Michael Reichstein
Safety Officer	Lt Dale Vodicka, AP
Coop Charting	Open
Liaison Office	Open
Social Activities	Lt Willa Conrad, P
VSC Chair	P/C Dennis Dorratcague, SN

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Admin Officer	P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN
Auction Chair	Open
Boating Activities	Lt Mike Heinrich, P
Dinner Reservations	Lt Jan Brintnall
Programs	Open
Advertising Mgr.	Open
Sqdn Photographers	Lt Willa Conrad, P
	R/J Steve Erickson, JN

TREASURER DEPARTMENT

Treasurer	P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN
Asst Treasurer	P/C Mark Stevens, SN
Property Officer	P/C Mark Stevens, SN
Ship's Store	Lt Diane Heinrich

SECRETARY DEPARTMENT

Secretary	Lt/C Bobbi Jensen
Bellviews Editor	P/Lt/C Laurie Stevens, AP
Webmaster	P/Lt/C Frances E. Waters
Database	Lt Brad Waters, SN
	P/Lt/C Frances E. Waters
Historian	Open

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bridge Officers	
Past Commander:	P/C Nick Ledbetter, JN
Members at Large:	
	P/R/C L.D. Brown, SN
	Lt. Michael Heinrich, P
	P/Lt/C Rick Vicik, P

AUDITING COMMITTEE

P/C/C Frank A. Dvorak, SN	1 year
Frank N. Young, Jr.	1 year

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Chair	
	P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN
Membership Involvement Chair	
	P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN

BUDGET COMMITTEE

P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN
Lt/C Michael Reichstein
P/C Mark Stevens, SN

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

P/Lt/C Laurel Redecker, AP	2 year
Open	3 year

RULES COMMITTEE

Lt Michael Heinrich, P	1 year
P/C Donald Williams, AP	2 year
Open	3 year

BOAT OPERATORS CERTIFICATION

BSPS Coordinator	
	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN-IN-CN-ACN
Certifiers:	
Inland, Coastal and Advanced Coastal	
	IN CN ACN
P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN	• • •
P/C Dennis Dorratcague, SN	• •
P/Lt/C Dennis Kinch, AP	•

Hands on Training (Small Boat & Large Boat)	
	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

SEO	P/C/C Lance Jensen, SN
Assistant SEO	P/R/C L.D. Brown, SN
Chairs Local Board of Boating	
	Lt Bruce Gardiner, JN

ABC Third Edition

Lecturers	Lt Bill Badgley, SN
	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
	P/C Dennis Dorratcague, SN
	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN
	P/C Nick Ledbetter, JN

ABC Third Edition All Day Classes

Lecturers	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
	P/C Dennis Dorratcague, SN
	Lt Bruce Gardiner, JN
	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN
	Lt Harry Johnson, AP
	P/C Nick Ledbetter, JN

Advanced Grades

Chair	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
Seamanship	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
Piloting	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
	Lt Harry Johnson, AP
Advanced Piloting	Lt Harry Johnson, AP
Jr Navigation	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN
Navigation	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN

Elective Courses

Chair	Open
Cruise Planning	Lt Eileen Huggins, SN
Engine Maintenance	Lt Carl C. Lang, AP
Instructor Development	
	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
Marine Electrical Systems	
	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
Marine Communications Systems	
	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
Sail	Open
Skipper Saver	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN
Weather	Lt/C Vern Redecker, JN

Seminars

Chair	Open
Lecturers	P/Lt/C Robert Cooper, P
	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN
	Lt Harry Johnson, AP

Sight Reduction Checker

	P/Lt/C David J. Greene, SN
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Equip. Custodian

Open

OCTOBER MEETING - 7 October 2020

The meeting will be on Zoom

6:00 pm	Social Opportunity
6:30 pm	Program – A Different Kind of Winetasting Party
7:00 pm	Short Business Meeting

You will receive an invitation with a link to join the meeting on Zoom a few days before the meeting.

A Different Kind of Winetasting Party



Wine is for sharing, for drinking with friends or family over a meal. Enjoying a good wine often requires companionship. Unfortunately, in our current COVID-19 world sharing a wine is a Tricky Dance. However, the good news is that **YOU** will be able to do so.

You will have the opportunity to share your favorite wine with BPS Zoom participants by giving a quick tasty presentation of the wine characteristics in the privacy of your own home. And guess what, there's no charge except for the bottle of wine that you would buy anyway.

Please plan to join us for fun and giggles. Details will follow soon in a separate email. (A Zoom reservation may be required) 



From the Commander

Cdr Sally Stuart, SN

Our first General Meeting, a Zoom Dinner-Less Meeting, took place on Wednesday, 9 Sept 2020. 21 members attended via Zoom and Pat and Dennis Dorratcague by phone for a total of 23 members. Joseph and Laurel Saromines joined us from their home in Bremerton. It was great to see them looking so healthy, especially Joseph after his bout with COVID-19. BJ and Mary Ursin joined us from their home on Chuckanut Mountain. Pat and Dennis Dorratcague joined us by phone from their boat, the *Peter D*, while cruising in South Puget Sound. Frank Dvorak joined us from *Solitude*; he was preparing to leave the next morning for the San Juan Islands. Judi and Bill Badgley joined us from what looked like Hawaii, with palm trees and ocean swells in the background, but instead of relaxing on the beach they were home, using a Hawaii Zoom background.

The meeting started with a social event. Visiting with everyone was relatively easy since we were all together on the screen and not at our separate tables. We can participate from the safety and comfort of our homes or boats or RVs. It doesn't matter where we are as long as we have internet access. The zoom format will make it easier to introduce and get to know new or potential members and make them feel welcome during our social event. Members who have moved away from our area or those who prefer not to travel at night when the weather is bad will be able to join us.

Barbara arranged for Marty Lafferty to provide the program from the East Coast. Marty told us about

America's Boating Channel's COVID-19 project's ongoing launch of the Season Four videos and the newly awarded US Coast Guard grant for Season Five. America's Boating Channel™ features safe boating videos and boater education digital media created especially for boaters, by boaters. You can visit the America's Boating Channel's website for information and available videos at <https://americasboatingchannel.com/>.

The evening ended with a brief meeting. The previous year's Bridge Officers, Members-at-Large, Committee Members and members were thanked for their contributions to the success of the 2019-2020 Watch: Commander-Nick Ledbetter; Executive Officer-Rick Vicik; Educational Officer-Robert Cooper; Assistant Educational Officer-Dave Greene; Treasurer-Vern Redecker; Secretary-Laurel Redecker; Members-at-Large-L.D. Brown, Barbara Erickson, Mike Heinrich, and Lance Jensen. Programs-Trudy Brown; Dinner Reservations and Merit Marks-Jan Brintnall; Membership Chair-Dianne Greene; Ships Store-Diane Heinrich; Boating Activities-Mike Heinrich; Social-Willa Conrad; Boat Show participants; Website-Fran Waters; Data Base-Brad Waters; Auditing-Frank Dvorak and Frank Young; *Bellviews* Editor-Barbara




Erickson and Photographers-Willa Conrad and Steve Erickson. Thank you to all, and my apologies if I omitted anyone.

The Ex-Com has been meeting monthly on Zoom. The minutes of our Ex-Com meeting are included in the *Bellviews*. A new committee was formed related to membership, marketing, and the website. The purpose is to identify who we are, and why someone should be interested; what we offer and why; and to create a marketing strategy. We held our first meeting 9 September 2020. Fran created a mock-up of a new website. Michael will meet with boat dealers to promote our activities and provide them with the Tri-Fold Barbara recently created. Dale Vodicka, Safety Officer for Bellevue gave an update on safety issues related to COVID-19 from the USCG Auxiliary.

Lance has been working with the educational instructors to start online classes either using Zoom or Free-Conference Call. Robert will teach Marine Navigation (Piloting) on Zoom starting 6 October 2020. Sign up is available on the Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron Website.

Zoom is providing us with a safe, convenient way to meet, socialize, and plan activities from the comfort of our homes, boats or RVs. We hope you will join us for our next meeting. Jan will host a wine tasting event in October and Bobbi will host an Armchair Travel Show in November. Please refer to fliers in the *Bellviews* for details.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom at the General Meeting on 7 October. Please let me know if you would like a practice session before the meeting. 




From the Executive Officer

Lt/C Michael Reichstein

CO-OP CHARTING

For a fun activity for the whole family, consider helping to update the markers on our waterways in and around the greater Pacific Northwest. As many of you know, when we start a planned trip, we need a roadmap. As members of the America's Boating Club of Bellevue, many of you know the importance of our markers in and around the water. These markers need to be updated on their locations and reported. I will

be working with fellow member and Co-Op Charting expert Jim Harden over the next few weeks to learn as much as possible about this process. This can be a team effort and if it is something you are interested in being a part of, please let me know. We can also share any added advise.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of L.D. Brown for all his hard work on recruiting new members to our club. You are *"the man!"* Now it is up to us to extend a welcome to them and offer any help they need. I look forward to meeting everyone, be it on Zoom or better yet, a day we can all come together for a fun dinner meeting. I am very grateful to those of you have put in many great ideas regarding how we can make America's Boating Club of Bellevue the place to be. 




Vessel Safety Checks, A Lost Year

VSC Chair

P/C Dennis Dorratcague, SN

We normally perform around 100 Vessel Safety Checks (VSC's) per year; just about all of these in the spring before the boating season. This year, due to the Corona Virus, in March the Coast Guard suspended all VSC's performed by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the USPS. There was talk of performing virtual VSC's, but there were no approvals for carrying this out. Finally, approval was received for performing VSC's with social distancing restrictions, namely the boat owner could not be

aboard while the examiner was on the boat during the inspection. This reduced the effectiveness of the VSC, since part of the value of the inspection is to instruct and converse with the owner. The Coast Guard left it up to the individual inspectors as to whether they should perform inspections.

Since the boating season is over and the VSC decal is only good for the calendar year in which it was issued, there is not much interest for boaters to obtain a VSC. This year the BSPS VSC inspectors performed six safety inspections. Now that we know more about avoiding the virus and, if we can be vaccinated in early 2021, we should be able to resume our normal VSC activities in 2021. With everyone else, we are looking forward to a normal 2021. 

KARL'S KWIZ #28

OCTOBER, 2020 BELLVIEWS

1. In 1884, the tallest man-made structure in the world was in:
a.) England, b.) India, c.) Egypt, d.) America, e.) France, f.) China, g.) none of the above.
2. Wrestling used to be a real competitive sport---not the side show it is today. In the early 1990s, a very famous American statesman of the early 19th century was finally inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He lost only once in over 300 matches. Who was he?
3. The Middle East is in the news most every day. Name the Capitals of each of these Middle East countries: Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Afghanistan?
4. Eating popsicles, chewing ice, etc. will help you lose weight. True or False?

Answers on page 13



From the Administrative Officer

P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN

Come for the Education, Stay for the Friends

Owning a land yacht, (we call her “*The Boat*”) is like still having our sailboat, *White Magic*. We have the preplanning stage, provisioning, check-off to ensure we have everything ready

to leave the slip, setting up when we reach our destination, and then having great adventures with our other land yacht owning ABClub friends who may or may not still have boats. After our time at the different “ports” is over, we pack-up, perform our checklist again to make sure everything is turned off and tucked away, and then we head home. Life is good!

But let’s get back to the adventures. With COVID-19 having a tight grip on us all, we didn’t have an opportunity to get out and about until the end of May. This was our first road trip and we found the standard wrinkles; annoying little things that would need to be fixed, but not a show stopper. That’s the way it was for our June, July, and August trips. Pretty smooth sailing, lots of great ports to visit, fishing, and we even re-engaged with Co-Op Charting.

August provided an opportunity for an unexpected great adventure. Steve and I had not done any Co-Op Charting since... well, for a very long time. We were over in Prosser, WA with the District Co-Op Charting Chair, Jim Harden, Debbie and Rocky their dog, and we went on scavenger hunts every morning after stopping to fuel up with lattes. We found quite a few geodetic markers that had not been recovered since 1962! This was great fun. As you can image, the instructions for where the marks were had altered considerably since back then. With each recovery, we are



Geodetic Marker

helping NOAA by letting them know the markers are still around and what shape they are in.

So up until now, all has been well – the trips exciting, the weather was wonderful, and all is good with the world (except COVID is still around). Labor Day weekend, we head out with our boating friends from Everett. Arrangements are made to stay at Cove RV Park and Country Store. A rather funky little place with great staff and friendly campers. Then it hits. We cannot level *The Boat*. The levelers come down, but the front end has wheels up. Yup. Lifted off the ground. We finally borrowed blocks from our friends and we were no longer air born. We go through our preparations and then the slide would not go out. With the slide in, our beam is about 12 feet – a foot shorter than beamy *White Magic*. We could get to the major necessities – refrigerator, bathroom, but our

bed would not be available. We spent two nights, with the cat, up in the cabover. We were finally, with a little help from our friends, able to get the slide out, and sleep in our own bed with the cat – Gloria likes to have company.




Highway 101, near Oswald State Park

A week later, we are now parked in Garibaldi, Oregon with boating friends. Steve and I stopped at Cannon Beach on the way down and my how it has changed. At least my memory of it is not very clear. We found a place to park *The Boat*, found the Visitor Center and coffee. The skies are gray with smoke and

fog. We were going to stop at Haystack Rock, but the fog was so dense you couldn't see anything and the bigger showstopper – the RV parking was limited to three spots and those three spots were taken. When we had *White Magic*, we had to make sure the marina slip could accommodate our 9' draft. Now we need to make sure a parking space will accommodate our 32' presence and we have enough room to maneuver. Some things never change.

We had originally left town on Saturday, 12 September and stayed for two nights in Ilwaco where I had great internet and WiFi service. So I completed and sent the editor (by the way, isn't she doing a great job?) my membership article. Arriving in Garibaldi on Monday, 14 September, I thought I would be able to write this article and send it off. Wrong. The entire city of Garibaldi lost power for some unknown reason. Can you believe it? Woke up this morning and the electricity is back and I'm finishing this article.

The moral of this story is whether you have a "home" that travels through water or a "home" that travels on wheels, those courses we took, the rendezvous we attended, and the friends we made all continue to play a huge part in our lives. We use to say "Come for the education, Stay for the friends"; it still holds true! 

From the Membership Committee

P/R/C Barbara Erickson, JN



We've Got a Friend!

Member recruitment can be a challenge in this COVID environment, but P/R/C L.D. Brown, SN, is accepting that challenge and has recruited Paulo Albuquerque to be one of our newest members.

You are invited to meet Paulo Albuquerque by reading a little about him below:

Ten years after arriving in Los Angeles from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Paulo graduated from Cal Poly San Louis Obispo in California with an Electrical Engineering Degree specializing in Power Systems. He is now retired, but worked for Westinghouse and EATON Corporations for 39 years.

Paulo has been thinking about purchasing a boat to fish for salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout in the Puget Sound. His friend, Walt Jones, belonged to the Power Squadron many years ago. During research, he found America's Boating Club offered many technical boating classes. He took the online ABC3 class and applied for membership.

Asked about hobbies, Paulo provides this list: "A few hobbies: Scuba Diving, Mountain (Rock and Glacier) Climbing as a guide, and now, finally spending most of my time fishing on the Rivers and Salt. Steelhead fishing and salt water flat fishing; mostly in Fiji, Alaska, Canada and Mexico have been my current focus. Sometimes, playing golf with friends brings a lot of satisfaction even though I'm not a good golfer; sporadic great shots on the course brings me back for more."

I think these words from Paulo say it all:

"I like adventures, so floating rivers, setting up fishing camp and casting for steelhead, Coho, chinook and leopard trout in Alaska rivers like the Kanektok and Goodness Rivers are my current adventures. I am an avid Spey Caster fly fisherman. I go yearly to Christmas Island in Fiji to cast in the flats for Bonefish and GTs (Grand Trevally). Love fishing at Baja California, Los Barriles and Magdalena Bay. Also love to fish at the Olympic Peninsula's Queets, Hot, Bogachiel Rivers. I also go frequently to fish the Deschutes, Sandy, North Umpqua and Rogue Rivers in Oregon.

This year, Lori Ann, my wife of 30 years, and I were going to Europe for a cruise in the Mediterranean but we cancelled. We like cruising, but they are on hold for a while. We are leaving soon to spend a week at Kalaloch Lodge in the Olympic Peninsula.

Life is Good, the family is well and we live an excellent and calm life."






From the Education Officer

SEO Lance J. Jensen, SN-IN

Bellevue's online Marine Navigation (nee Piloting) class is taking shape. We have four registered students with more expected. If you have been thinking about taking this class, now is the time. The class teaches the basics of navigating using GPS and dead reckoning. It's worth noting that our own P/C/C Frank Dvorak was recently heading north from Pt. Townsend to Roche Harbor when his electronic navigation failed forcing him to rely on dead-reckoning to make the

crossing. He made it fine, thanks to having taken our P and AP courses.

P/R/C L.D. Brown has been rounding up students for the Piloting class and getting us some needed new members at the same time. It's a lot of work but going great!

Bellevue's Education Department has many excellent, fully qualified instructors. If you are looking to take a course in the near future, be sure to let us know! 

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2019 BSPS Chapman Award Candidate

Dave Greene P/ASEO.

In July of this year, as previous ASEO, I proposed Robert Cooper, P as our Chapman Award candidate. His service as SEO for 7 years, including his penchant for teaching, and his enthusiasm with making the classes he teaches vibrant, stimulating, and worthwhile, makes him an obvious candidate. There have been numerous letters of recommendation from his students, and the explanation of how he enhances courses such as *Seamanship* (now named *Boat Handling Under Power*) which he renamed SOS (Seamanship On Steroids) which not only contains all the BHUP class requirements, but also includes the essence of 3 other seminars: *Rules Of The Road*; *Atons* (Aids to Navigation); and *Advanced Boat Handling Under Power*.

He also teaches *Piloting*, *Marine Communications Systems*, *Marine Electrical Systems*, *Marine Electronic Navigation* and the full length seminars *AIS*, *GPS*, *VHF Radio* and *Radar*. He is one of 2 instructors who teach the *Hands On Training* (HOT) which was formerly named *On The Water Training*. He teaches both the small boat, and large boat sessions (8-9

hours long which is free to members.

Even before the current restrictions against holding in person classes due to Covid-19, he was offering major portions of his classes remotely via video conferencing tools like FreeConferencCall.com. These remote offerings allowed him to offer classes to students that either lived well outside the Seattle area or were unable to attend due to work induced travel. He's had students as far away as Spokane and one student even attended one class while on a business trip to Switzerland.

The nomination submittal was given to D-16 DEO in early July and at the end of July, the DEO turned in a recommendation to National, which was Graham Hunter of Bellingham. Still, it is of note that Robert was the obvious BSPS Chapman Award candidate for 2019. His name will be put on the plaque containing BSPS Chapman Award nominees.

A big thanks to Robert Cooper and his continuing commitment to teaching. 

Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron Executive Board Meeting Minutes For 26 August 2020

The meeting was called to order by Commander Sally Stuart at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Sally Stuart, Michael Reichstein, Lance Jensen, Bobbi Jensen, L.D. Brown, and Rick Vicik. Absent: Barbara Erickson, Mike Heinrich and Nick Ledbetter. Sally informed the group that Nick had resigned from his duties as Membership Chairman and Member-at-large on the Executive Board due to family illness and business concerns. There was a quorum present. The corrected minutes from the past meeting were approved.

COMMANDER'S REPORT - Sally began a discussion which covered many topics from Merit Marks, the BSPS Website, the *Bellviews*, Facebook, payment options to the squadron, meeting reservations, and delegation of various duties.

Lance provided an overview of Merit Marks. (Recognizing valuable services benefiting all aspects of America's Boating Club). Merit Mark recommendations by officers and committee chairman should be sent to Jan Brintnall who will enter them into the national database.

Sally asked if we identify ourselves now as America's Boating Club or do we still use Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron? L.D. Brown said we should identify ourselves as America's Boating Club of Bellevue and our Website and other documents should reflect that name. We are legally Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron, doing business as America's Boating Club of Bellevue.

Sally will schedule Zoom meetings to address changes to the website, marketing and membership.

Sally announced that Jan Brintnall would send out notification of a forth coming event or meeting and then send an invitation to Zoom to those that RSVP. (Since then, we have learned that we can send out the invitation and the Zoom URL all in one email and not have to ask for an RSVP)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER-MICHAEL REICHSTEIN - Michael reported on comments he has heard and read from boat dealers and industry surveys. Retailers are sold out of boats and brokers are having a difficult time even getting used boats for their inventories. He said the overall vibe out there is that people want to get outside and away from all the negative media that bombards us 24/7. He said he asked this question to many people on his latest cruise to San Juan Island, "Do you own a boat and do you have a Washington State Boaters' Safety card?" Most said "Yes", which is the correct answer. He said he doesn't get the same answer when he asks recreational boat owners on Lake Washington and Lake Union. He said they respond, "What is that?" and that one boat owner told him it was a requirement of his bank for a boat loan.

EDUCATION OFFICER-LANCE JENSEN - Lance stated that four or five people had inquired about classes. Some inquiries came from the District Education officer, some from the National organization and some from our own Website. He, in turn, forwarded the names and information to Assistant Education Officer, L.D. Brown, who talked to the individuals and explained the pandemic problems as far as live classes and in

AN ARMCHAIR TRAVEL SHOW

4 NOVEMBER, 2020

6:00 SOCIAL 6:30 POWER POINT AND SHORT MEETING

Do you miss traveling? Did you have a trip cancelled during this pandemic? Fear Not! From the comfort of your home, you will be able to travel to the 4 corners of the earth when we each share a photo of somewhere we thought was beautiful, restful, intriguing, or even scary—a place you will definitely not forget. To participate, please send a jpeg photo by email to Bobbi Jensen at bobbilink@comcast.net by October 30th and she will put them into a Power Point presentation to be shown at our November Membership Meeting on Zoom.

Be prepared to speak for a very short time and include the following:

Where was this photo taken?

When was this?

Who were you with?

What impressed you about this place?

Would you return to this place if you could?

Photos will be presented in the order in which they are received. Don't delay, send it soon!

Community Event:

Luther Burbank Dock Reconfiguration and Repairs

Paul West extended an invitation to our members to participate in the Luther Burbank Docks Open House. The City of Mercer Island's Parks and Recreation Department has begun planning for the future of the docks at Luther Burbank waterfront. The City is hosting a self-guided, socially-distanced event at the waterfront in Luther Burbank Park starting 2 Sept 2020 through 7 Oct 2020. Boaters and other waterfront users are invited to visit the park (following appropriate COVID-19 measures) and view an

outdoor display of project alternatives presented on six posters. The plan provides a vision of a waterfront activity center centered around small boats including power, sail and paddlecraft. The design will also consider how to make the waterfront more accessible and attractive for the general public. If you can't make it to the park, the information is available on their website <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbdock> For more information contact Paul West, project manager, at paul.west@mercergov.org or 206-275-7833. 📍



New Book Club

P/R/C L.D. Brown, SN


Members of the Executive Committee have been searching for ideas for activities for our members to participate in during the pandemic. One of the ideas was a Book Club. We started a trial run with a group of eight volunteers including many who had never belonged to a book club and never intended to.

We started eight weeks ago and Surprise! Surprise! We are enjoying the Book Club. We found that discussing a book we had just read with a group of friends on Zoom to be great fun and found the different opinions to be fascinating.

Now we would like to start a real club with all members who would like to participate. We think groups limited to 10 will work best as each member will have more time to talk at the suggested one hour Zoom Meetings. Each group can make their own rules and our group thinks the fewer rules the better. We also change the rules when we come up with improvements.

Anyone interested, please contact L.D. Brown 425-785-3844, ldandtrudy@outlook.com and he will assign you to groups of 10 and help you get started. The Squadron will provide Zoom for the meetings and one member from each group will have to be the host.

We have read the following books so far: *Squirm*, Carl Hiaasen; *Dead Wake*, Erik Larson; *The Kill Artist*, Daniel Silva; *The Last Bus to Wisdom*, Ivan Doig; *Nice Work*, David Lodge; *An Irish Country Doctor*, Patrick Taylor; and *Typhoon*, Joseph Conrad. 📍



POINSETTIA SALE

In the spirit of Christmas, it has been the custom of BSPS each year to make a philanthropic contribution to a worthy cause. Recipients this year are Toys for Tots and the King County Humane Society.

This year we have partnered with Squak Mountain Nursery to bring you an opportunity to purchase poinsettias for yourselves or to sell to others who might desire to brighten their home. They are also great for gifts to those who have provided services to you throughout the year such as hair dressers, yard service providers, housecleaners, etc.

The plants come in a 6.5 inch pot and are 15 to 17 inches tall.

They are carefully packaged to protect the plant.

Please print out this page and fill in the quantity, color and total cost. Mail, with your check payable to Bellevue Sail and Power Squadron, to: Bobbi Jensen, 16645 SE 16th St., Bellevue, WA 98008 by **1 November**. Poinsettias will be delivered in early December by the Squadron Elves.

Name.....

Phone.....

Address.....

Color and quantity: Red.....White.....Pink.....

Total plants.....@ \$16.00 each.....



Navigating Through the Smoke without Getting Smoked

P/C Dennis Dorratcague, SN

Our cruising season was cut short this year due to the corona virus. We finally decided to take a two week cruise from 2 - 16 September. On the eighth, the smoke began to build, when we were approaching Pleasant Harbor on Hood Canal. We could barely make out the Olympic peaks. The visibility continued to deteriorate after that. On 10 September we anchored in Blakely Harbor across from Seattle to view the Seattle skyline, while drinking a cool one on the back deck. We could barely see the skyline through the smoke. On the 11th, we picked up our son, family, and dog at Elliott Bay Marina and travelled to

Blake Island Marine Park, which was full. We then went to our backup, the Bremerton Marina. We arrived at sunset when the sun was a dim red disk low in the west. During the next few days the fog combined with smoke to make the visibility progressively worse. On 13 September, after returning our guests to Elliott Bay Marina, we went back to Blake Island Marina, which was rather empty this time. Visibility was about 100 yards as we entered the marina at Blake Island. A boater at about mid-marina took a picture of our boat, *Peter D*, as we entered the marina. We were about 150 yards from him at the time.



The **Peter D** Entering Blake Island Marina (photo by Bill Dock)

This description of our vacation provides an introduction to a discussion of boating safely in limited visibility. We have often navigated in the fog in Rosario Strait returning to our moorage in LaConner. The equipment and procedures described below are those that we use traveling in reduced visibility. We are fortunate to have a good set of electronics on the boat to help us with navigation and avoiding other boats. However, our boat cruises at about seven knots. Most other boats, especially the commercial vessels travel much faster. The ferries usually cruise at about 16 knots and the passenger ferries to Bremerton and Winslow travel at about 35 knots. It is important to see them and know their intended routes in time to avoid them at seven knots.

LIGHTS Turn on navigation lights. This is required in low visibility, as well as at night.

POST A LOOKOUT The first thing is to post a lookout putting all hands on watch. Pat helps me in the pilot house, and, if anyone else is aboard, they are assigned different sectors to monitor, such as port, starboard, and aft. The more eyes that are looking, the safer we are. We found that using binoculars can spot other boats at a greater distance than with the naked eye in reduced visibility. When scanning for other traffic, frequently we look at the water at a distance to re-focus our eyes. It is easy to lose distance focus just staring into the fog.

SOUND THE HORN All boats are required to carry a sound producing device. When travelling in reduced visibility, sounding a prolonged blast at a minimum interval of two minutes is required. Many newer VHF radios that are connected to a loud hailer will do this automatically for you. I found that the ferries sounded their horn, when the visibility was less than about half a mile.

VHF RADIO In addition to monitoring channel 16, it is a good idea to monitor the Vessel Traffic Service,

VTSS, channel. All commercial traffic in the Puget Sound are required to check in with the VTSS giving their time and location of departure and their destination. The VTSS then gives the captain the name and location of the vessels that have checked in with VTSS in the vicinity of his course. Channel 14 is used south of Bush Point, and channel 5A is used north of Bush Point and east of Whidbey Island. Canada has several other channels. In general, channel 11 covers the Gulf Islands and Victoria area. Many radios have a dual channel monitoring feature, so you can monitor VTSS and channel 16, or use a hand-held radio if you have one.

CHART PLOTTER & GPS When navigating in any conditions we need to know where we are going. We have a chart plotter and GPS connected to our autopilot. We first create a route and have the boat follow the route automatically. This frees us to look out and be aware of where we are in relation to traffic routes, especially in crowded areas near Seattle.

RADAR A radar can display the location of other vessels and land on a display with the radar set at the center. If tuned properly, it can show targets down to the size of small boats. Most newer radars have a device called MARPA (Mini-Automatic Radar Plotting Aid) for tracking other targets. I designate a target on the radar screen and a symbol appears showing the direction of travel and speed relative to our boat. This is not as accurate as AIS mentioned below but can be used to track all radar targets.

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) All commercial vessels over 300 tons and passenger vessels are required to have an AIS transmitter and receiver. Pleasure vessels can install AIS transmitters and receivers. This system uses a GPS receiver and a VHF receiver/transmitter to send a ship's speed, position, direction of travel and other information depending on type of vessel. This information can

be displayed on a chart plotter or radar. AIS information can also be displayed on your cell phone. There are apps that display AIS targets. This will let you see the other AIS broadcasting vessels. However, the app will not broadcast the AIS signal.

The pictures below show the chart plotter and radar of the same situation. We are traveling north on the west side of the traffic lanes and the ferry *Spokane* is approaching from the east on its way to Winslow. Our boat is the green boat-shaped object at the cen-

ter-left, and the blue triangles are AIS targets. Winslow is in the upper left and Elliott Bay Marina is in the upper right. There are a lot of AIS targets in these locations. The second photo (next page) is of the radar taken at the same time, showing essentially the same view. Our boat is in the center and the ferry *Spokane* is shown to about 1.5 miles to starboard. The AIS target symbol is imposed over the return from the radar signal.



Chart Plotter View



Radar Screen View

There are a number of good boating practices, which can guide the skipper in navigating through reduced visibility. All the advanced electronics do not make up for poor decision making on the water. If you are un-

comfortable navigating in poor visibility, don't go. The most important thing is to stay safe out there.



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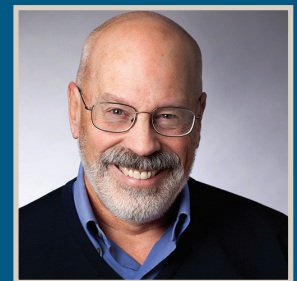
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September

2 Sept - 7 Oct Community Event: Luther Burbank Dock
Reconfiguration and Repairs

30 Sept Executive Board Meeting

October

7 Oct Virtual BSPS Meeting -
"A Different Kind of Winetasting Party"
hosted by Jan Brintnall (details to come)

November

1 Nov Deadline for Pointsietta Fundraiser

4 Nov Virtual BSPS Meeting -
"The Arm Chair Traveler"
hosted by Lt/C Bobbi Jensen (details to come)



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