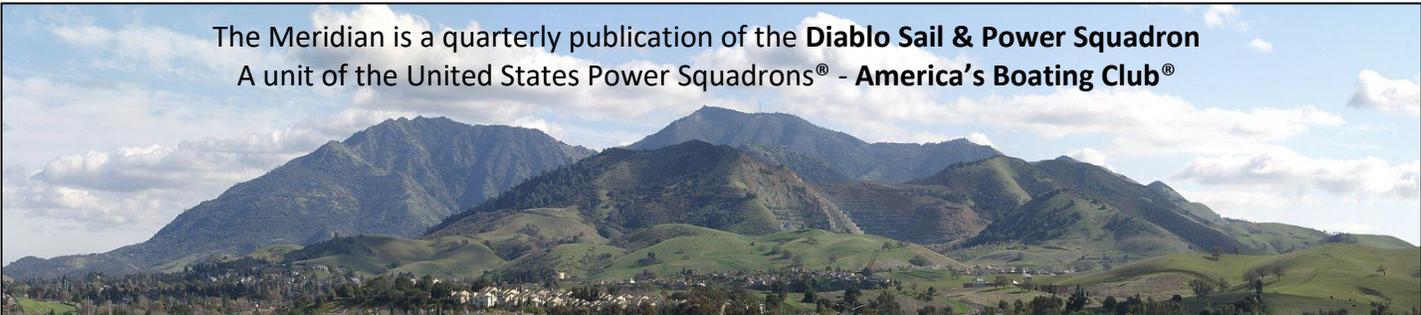


The Meridian is a quarterly publication of the **Diablo Sail & Power Squadron**  
A unit of the United States Power Squadrons® - **America's Boating Club®**



**Spring Issue – 15 March 2019**



**Commander's Report**

haltoyone@frontier.com



Cdr Hal Morris, AP

Since we were not having a bridge meeting prior to when my report for this issue of the Meridian was due, I thought I would just take this opportunity to introduce myself, in this first quarterly issue of 2019.

No doubt, everyone is aware that I was nominated to serve and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February was indeed elected to become your commander for the watch year 2019/2020. This will be my third time. As the saying goes, "If at first you don't succeed, TRY, TRY again.". Well, "here's hoping!".

I have been a member of Diablo Sail & Power Squadron since 1987, and served as supply officer, class proctor, vessel safety examiner, vessel safety chairman, safety officer and of course I have served for many years on the bridge. I am a Life Member, which means at least 25 years of service and having earned 25 Merit Marks. Since being a member, I have maintained 3 vessels; a 19ft Reinell cuddy cab, a 31ft Silverton cruiser, and a 38ft Bayliner. At this time, I am "between boats".

Although there are many reasons why I've been a member for as long as I have, I think the main reason is that I take my oath so seriously. Also, my philosophy is:

**"You Only Get Out of An Organization, What You Put Into it!"**

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## Commander's Report (continued from prior page)



We are going to have an active Year. So far, we have 4 cruises on the calendar, and our SEO (Squadron Educational Officer) **Lt/C Rich Holden, JN**, assures me that we are going to have enough courses/seminars to satisfy just about everyone. If there is a course or seminar that you would like to have on the schedule, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Our ExCom (Executive Committee) Meetings are, unless otherwise noted, the first Thursday of the month at 1900 (7pm) in the 'back room' of Round Table Pizza, at 504 Center Ave., Martinez. Often referred to as 'bridge meetings', **all members are welcome** to attend and a fair number, do. Remember, you do not have to be 'on the bridge' to attend. Stop in to visit with us and see what it's all about. Next ExCom meeting is 4 April. Check out the list of other Coming Events in Diablo's Calendar, and add them to your calendar, as well.

Your Commander Harold (Hal) Morris, AP



A view of our delta waterways from the boat's flybridge, with Mount Diablo in the far distance. Can you guess from where?



# Vessel Safety Check – Examiner’s Report

Committee Chairman Cdr Hal Morris, AP

At this time, Diablo has two examiners, **Lt/C Rich Holden, JN** and myself and we are looking for additional members to join us and become Vessel Safety Examiners. Just one of the services offered by local members of America’s Boating Club across the USA. This is a great way to earn a Merit Mark, and help your fellow boaters at the same time. Come join us – it’s FUN!



**Does YOUR boat have this decal?**

As of this writing, Rich and I have examined 14 boats so far, 5 of which were from the Trilogy Fishing Club. Although the weather has not been very cooperative, we expect to be out there checking more vessels as soon as it clears.

Rich has contacted the Dos Rios Yacht Club and he expects to examine 7 to 10 of their boats, and to get a chance to examine quite a few more from Devil’s Isle.

I have been in contact with the Commodore of the Delta Yacht Club. He will be setting a safety day soon and has invited me to help by doing vessel exams for them, as well.

**The coupon to the left** is given out to skippers for boats which are missing essential safety equipment and did not pass the safety check. As you see, West Marine supports our efforts by giving discounts to those boaters who need additional safety items including:

- PFDs • Tethers for PFDs • Personal Safety Lights
- Horseshoe Buoys • Life Rings • Flares • Bells & Whistles
- Horns • First Aid Kits • Fire Extinguishers
- Gas/Propane/CO Detectors

If YOU or any of your neighbors or dock mates are in need of our services, call me. Call **Hal Morris** at 925-699-6741

**West Marine**  
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**Safety on the Water**

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**10% OFF**  
SAFETY ITEMS ONLY  
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Not for use

Coupon valid from 10/1/13 to 12/31/13. Not redeemable for cash or gift cards. Limit one coupon per customer per day. Excludes PLUS Plan extended warranties, memberships, services and gift cards. Excludes sale-priced and discontinued items, plus Men Kutz®, Torpedos, Mercury®, Cannon®, Hammerhead®, Dawa, Kuhn®, YETI®, Axel Reels, GoPro®, Oukit®, Huffy®, Simms®, Cubing, KUSA, Natus Watercraft®, Odozor®, Valmar®, Helly Hansen®, Miki Jari®, Palaganus®, Pharis®, Altus®, Pelagic, Crabe®, Mares Diving®, BOTE® Packable Boards, Garm®™, ICOM®, Lowrance®, Simrad, B&B® Products, select Raymarine® products, Skymaster®, Shakespeare® Fishing, Calcutta®, ACIF®, Johnson Outboards, select Magnum® products, Confluence Outdoors, Beachworks, Surf, Fuzzies®, Rony®, J. Aude®, Hawker®, Pirelli® and Shimano® products. Discount does not apply to taxes, shipping and handling charges or similar processing charges. Offer valid for retail transactions only. Offer void where prohibited by law.



## Safety Reminders

(from America's Boating Club members around the country)



- 1. Inflatables offer more flotation** than regular life jackets, and their increased buoyancy improves survivability in rough waters because they float higher.
- 2. Check the label** to make sure your life jacket is Coast Guard approved.
- 3. Life jackets wear out** even if not in use. If the fabric has faded from sun exposure, be wary.
- 4. Not wearing one could be illegal.** Federal law requires that kids under 13 wear one in a recreational boat that is underway, unless below deck or in an enclosed cabin.
- 5. Fit matters**, especially with children. To check, pick a child up by the shoulders of the life jacket. If his or her chin or ears can slip through, the jacket doesn't fit properly.

### April 2019 GPS Rollover/Possible Problems with older GPS units

On April 6th, 2019 older GPS units may experience a range of problems because of a limitation in how they handle dates. Those problems could include not being able to receive location data. It turns out the way dates are stored in older GPS units has a rollover event every roughly 20 years and we are about to experience the second one since the GPS constellations came online. The rollover last happened in 1999 but in the last 20 years, the use and dependence on GPS has increased dramatically.

The **Department of Homeland Security** has published a [bulletin on the upcoming rollover](#), as [has the Coast Guard](#). Both bulletins make reference to a new GPS spec ([IS-GPS-200](#)) that deals with these rollovers gracefully. Unfortunately, the bulletins also warn that not all implementations of the new specification work properly and some GPS units might be prone to trouble either at the 4/6/19 rollover or later.



The underlying problem stems from the way GPS units store dates. The original specification for GPS had dates stored by week in a 10-bit field ( $2^{10}$  or  $2 \times 2 \times 2$ ) which is 1,024 weeks. 1,024 weeks is 19 years, 36 weeks. Dates for the GPS constellation start at midnight on January 5th, 1980, so the first rollover occurred on August 21, 1999. Now, 19 years and 36 weeks later the same thing will happen again on April 6th, 2019.



Lt/C Rich Holden, JN

Since all Bridge Officers have been asked to introduce themselves, I guess I have to do more than say I have been boating ever since I helped Noah build his ark. So...here goes:

I started my "career" in boating at about age 7, by joining my Dad as he helped a friend learn to sail. That went along with riding in the middle of our family canoe, being told "don't tip the boat" when I tried to touch the water by sticking my hand out. As you can see, it wasn't too exciting. So, in college, a friend had a ski boat and that was a lot more fun/exciting!

Later, my wife and I bought a first, then a second ski/family picnic boat early in our marriage (and 2 kids) and then spent a lot of time in the Delta and nearby California lakes. I still have that second boat (1970 Pipestone Mariner).

Sailing is what most of you know me by and that started later, mostly after kids and then near retirement. My brother-in-law and I bought a sailboat at his suggestion. My only criterion was I didn't want a slow one, so we bought a Hobie 16 and eventually raced it on SF Bay and most CA lakes. (Gave that one to my cousin last year).



Then nearing retirement, I wanted a sailboat that wasn't slow, but had a real head on board, so we bought a 27' trimaran and have raced and cruised Sea Bird since the '95 purchase (yes, we still own it). Although Seabird has won over 20 trophies, the most notable is first overall in a 322 boat race on SF Bay in 2013.

Along the way, I joined the Power Squadron in 1968 to learn more about "real boats" (over 17') and after a 3 year "holiday," I rejoined in 1991, taking all the available USPS courses (but, so far, not completing N) and holding office as Secretary, AO, XO, Commander, and now SEO for the second time.

Lastly, my dear wife said that I would soon be too old to sail so we should get "The Beautiful Special" boat from our friend and fellow Diablo member, Dick Spragens. That's how we got Calliope, our Tug/Trawler.



We now have one of the slowest power boats and one of the fastest sailboats; probably kinda backwards. Since I maintain (for now) that I am not too old to sail, Calliope is Mary's boat, but she does kindly let me drive it and maintain it.

So, yes, some would say we have too many boats, but boating is fun....in any form. I hope this gets you to take an active part.

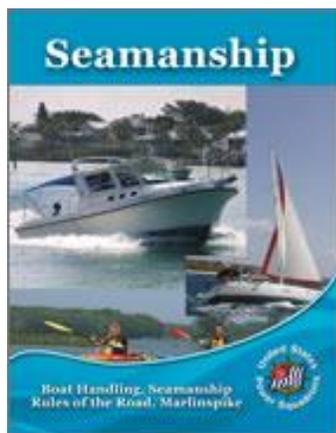
**And Now for the SEO Report:**

National is in the process of reconfiguring many courses from multi week to multiple, stand-alone seminars, and provide for On the Water Training (OTW). These seminars could be taken in any order at any time and, if full course credit is desired (or required for advancement) you could take a full exam for course credit. More on this next month.

We have a slate of courses for you to consider this year and are working on a 3-year plan so you too, can do some planning. We want to hear from you, as to what YOU would like to learn. There are many choices.

This year we are thinking of offering **Seamanship** as we have some new members and also **Engine Maintenance**. I would like to hear about the kind of knowledge YOU would like to obtain.

Enjoy your boating!





## Administrative Officer's Report

sunnymoraga@yahoo.com



Lt/C Sunny Sutton

My passion for boating began as a child. My father was an avid water skier, built a ski boat in our garage and introduced my mom, brother and me to the sport.

We spent most summer weekends at our lake cabin in Bass Lake, CA or out on the Sacramento Delta. My whole family enjoyed waterskiing and Steamboat Slough was a favorite.

My second husband, Greg (**Treasurer Lt/C Greg Sutton**) and I realized our shared love of the water and spent time on our ski boat in the 90s. After considering a cabin somewhere, we decided a boat that we could sleep on would be an excellent way to spend our time.

Greg knew that stepping up in boat class required more than seat of our pants boat skills. He took the on-line ABC USPS course and the Diablo squadron representative found him.

Check out the list of Coming Events in Diablo's Calendar (last page in this Meridian), and add them to YOUR calendar. Save the dates, now – then watch for all the details to be sent via SailAngle messages to YOUR email inbox.

Coming up soon - Mark YOUR Calendar:

27 April Diablo Pizza Social

7-9 June Willow Berm Cruise  
& General Meeting



### MEMBER PLEDGE

**I do solemnly pledge to: Abide by the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons®;  
Promote high standards of navigation and seamanship;  
Maintain my boat and operate it legally;  
Render assistance whenever possible;  
and conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige, honor and respect  
to the United States Power Squadrons.®**



Secretary

martholden@comcast.net



Lt/C Mary Holden, S

Our next ExCom Meeting (leadership) is **Thursday April 4, 2019** at Round Table Pizza - 504 Center Ave., Martinez. 1900 (7pm)

Our next General Membership Meeting (all members) is **Saturday June 8, 2019** at the Willow Berm Marina Club House. Stay tuned for details to be sent out via SailAngle to YOUR email inbox.

### Is **YOUR** contact data UP-TO-DATE?

We will soon begin pulling together the squadron's "Officer & Committee Directory and Member Roster" for the 2019 Watch Year. This also includes all member names, addresses, phone #, email, etc. for our Diablo members. Please review YOUR personal contact data, stored in the USPS database, to confirm we have your CURRENT information.

**To do this**, log on to Member Page of the [www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org), using your USPS Certificate # and password. On the right side of Member page, under Member Profile, click on Manage Profile button. Scroll down to see the box(es) of data you want to change, and fill in. When done, click on the Update button to complete.

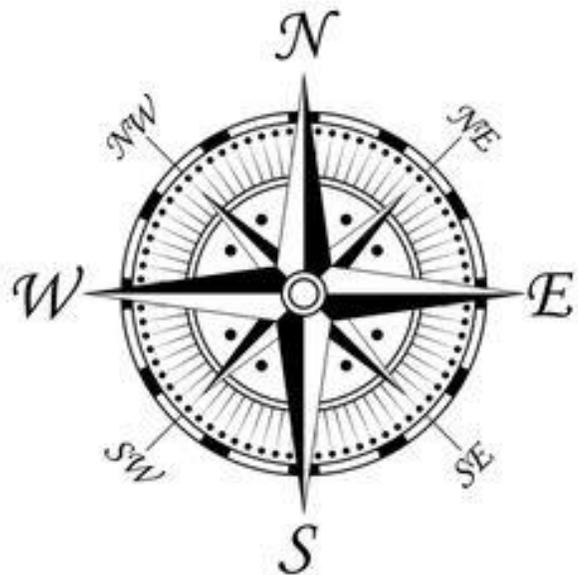
**Secretary Lt/C Mary Holden, S** can also make these changes for you, but would appreciate your updating your own data, if possible.

Contact Mary at [martholden@comcast.net](mailto:martholden@comcast.net)

Our next Meridian will be published June 15

**Due date for input**  
is **June 5, 2019.**

(articles, photos, messages, tidbits, all welcome)





## Treasurer's Report

gregmsutton@gmail.com



Lt/C Greg Sutton

My exposure to boating began as a small child, with rented rowboats and a family friend's cabin and a small outboard boat on Cass Lake in Michigan. Somehow, we managed to water ski behind it. We fished, but lake fish in Michigan were mostly small and all bones. The biggest fish I ever caught was a largemouth bass, .5 inch too short to keep. Those early memories of fishing, as well as my overall impatience have resulted in my fishing being limited to the grocery store.

Sunny (**Admin Lt/C Sunny Sutton**) and I had an open bow 20 ft Stingray with a small block V8, purchased new (I'll never do that again), that was in play until our son grew up and moved out. We got back into boating with a cuddy cabin that we could sleep in and heat simple meals. It was small and 2 people moving around in the cabin was tight, but it reignited our passion for boating. It sold quickly as it was flawlessly maintained, impeccably clean and our timing was perfect. We replaced it with our current 33 ft express cruiser, with all amenities, more room and even an ice maker. It's very comfortable to spend overnights.

My early adult involvement can best be described as seat of the pants boating. I did oil changes and winterized the Stingray but it was simple and I could get by. The bigger boats required a lot more knowledge. Being retired, I had time to throw myself into learning all I could about boating. I got my boating card and joined the Diablo Power Squadron. My first course was boating electronics, which was incredibly informative and useful and made me understand that there was still a lot more to learn.



## A Moment in Time – From Meridian of August 2004.

Tip of the hat to **P/C Bob Burget, AP** who took this photo and submitted it for the Meridian back then.



Excerpt from the caption back then:

Tell me again, why we live in the Bay Area of California? --- Oh Yea! “It’s the weather.”  
Weather here is more favorable than in the North Atlantic (no icebergs!).

On the left is **P/C Dick Spragens, SN**, aboard ‘*Calliope*’, and at right is **P/C Bob Knott, AP\***,  
aboard ‘*Sea Otter*’, reenacting a scene from the movie ‘*Titanic*’. Another ‘moment in time’ for  
Diablo members. It’s times like these that make membership all the more special!

### ICYMI (In Case You Missed It):

Check out our club’s namesake, Mount Diablo, in the distant background. In the foreground, on the left, of course, is indeed the same *Calliope* now belonging to **Secretary Lt/C Mary Holden, S** and skippered these days by her hubby, **SEO Lt/C Rich Holden, JN**

## National & D25 Awards for Diablo

Presented at the D25 Spring Conference



Presented by D/C Lu Abel, SN (right)  
Santa Clara, Peralta and Diablo Squadrons were  
recognized by National  
for donations to the **2018 Educational Fund**

Left to right  
Cdr Lindy Zink, AP accepts for Santa Clara  
Cdr Barbara Waldstreicher, JN for Peralta  
**Cdr Hal Morris, AP accepts for Diablo**



Presented by D/C Lu Abel, SN (right)  
Diablo recognized by National  
for **2018 Distinctive Communicator  
Website Award**

**Cdr Hal Morris, AP accepts for Diablo**



Diablo wins the  
**2018 P/D/C Ralph A. Stoppel Leadership Award**

Left to right  
Presented by Awards Chair D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN  
and C/C Gary Cheney, SN

**Cdr Hal Morris, AP accepts for Diablo**





**Your Elected Officers & Committees**

**Executive Committee:**

Commander	Cdr Harold Morris, AP
Executive (XO)	open
Educational (SEO)	Lt/C Richard Holden, JN
Administrative (AO)	Lt/C Sunny Sutton
Secretary	Lt/C Mary Holden, S
Treasurer	Lt/C Greg Sutton
Immed P/C	P/C Kevin Blatter, SN
Elected Board	D/Lt Herb Lederman, P
Elected Board	D/Lt David Beyer, SN
Elected Board	D/Lt/C Gary Smith, JN

**Auditing Committee**

1 year	D/Lt/C Gary Smith, JN
2 years	open
3 years	open

**Nominating Committee**

1 year	P/C/C Leslie Johnson, SN
2 years	R/C Charles Tremaine, SN
3 years	P/C Kevin Blatter, SN

**Rules Committee**

1 year	D/Lt/C Gary Smith, JN
2 years	D/Lt Elizabeth Dysart, JN
3 years	open

Meridian Editor: Elizabeth Dysart  
[dysarts2@earthlink.net](mailto:dysarts2@earthlink.net)

Comments – Suggestions – Photos  
**Gratefully accepted – Please Send**

## 2019 – 2020 Diablo Squadron Calendar of Events

*Diablo's nearly monthly ExCom meetings are in RED. (all members welcome)*  
*Events in BLUE are for Dos Rios Y.C., shown to avoid conflict, when possible, with Diablo*

Month	Event
<b>March</b>	<b>Event</b>
5	<i>Meridian input due for publication on the 15th</i>
7	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b>
9	D25 Combined Council, Spring Conference & COW
17	<i>Ryde Hotel Brunch</i>
<b>April</b>	<b>Event</b>
4	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b>
5-7	<i>Grindstone Joe's</i>
27	<i>Diablo Pizza Social Round Table 504 Center Ave Martinez</i>
<b>May</b>	<b>Event</b>
3	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b>
?	ABC3 Chapters 1-4, Antioch
?	Diablo Piloting Course starts - 8 weeks, Sea Scouts Martinez
?	ABC3 EXAM then Chapter 5 Navigating & Tides/Currents, Antioch
17-19	<i>Owl Harbor Cruise</i>
<b>June</b>	<b>Event</b>
5	<i>Meridian input due for publication on the 15th</i>
7-9	Diablo Willow Berm Cruise - invite D25 via SailAngle
8	Diablo General Meeting Willow Berm Approve Auditing Committee Report
14-16	<i>Vallejo Pirate Festival</i>
<b>July</b>	<b>Event</b>
1	Cdr/SEO send Chapman Nomination to DEO
11	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b> Pu Pus & meeting at Johnson's
19-21	<i>Dos Rios Mildred Island Cruise</i>
19-21	District Cruise/Rendezvous to Delta Marina at Rio Vista - Peralta hosts
<b>August</b>	<b>Event</b>
1	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b>
17	Diablo Moonlight Cruise to The Point
<b>September</b>	<b>Event</b>
5	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b>
5	<i>Meridian input due for publication on the 15th</i>
14	Devil's Isle Day Cruise
8-15	USPS Governing Board Meeting, Louisville, KY
21-25	<i>Benicia - Angel Island Cruise</i>
<b>October</b>	<b>Event</b>
3	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b>
11-13	Anchor Out (Bedroom)
18-20	<i>18-20 Rio Vista &amp; Horsehoe Bend Anchor Out</i>
20	D25 Combined Council & Fall Conference, SLYC (lunch & dinner) Adopt budget
<b>November</b>	<b>Event</b>
2	<b>Diablo 1800 ExCom meeting</b> prior to 1900 Pot Luck & General meeting at Johnson's
2	Diablo General Meeting & Pot Luck The Johnson's, Martinez Adopt budget ??
<b>December</b>	<b>Event</b>
5	<i>Meridian input due for publication on the 15th</i>
7	Diablo General Meeting & Holiday Brunch <b>TBD</b>
10	2020 Activity Planning Meeting - Holden Residence (1900 hrs)
<b>January</b>	<b>Event</b>
9	<b>Diablo ExCom meeting ('Bridge')</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Event</b>
1	Diablo Annual Meeting, Election & COW <b>TBD</b>
7-14	USPS Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra, FL