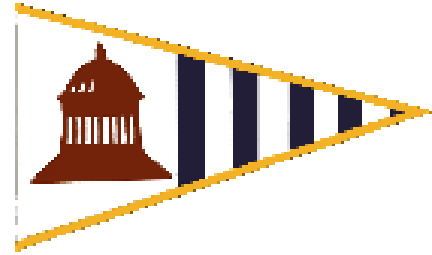




# THE SEAMAN'S LOG

The Voice of the  
OLYMPIA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON  
June 2012.

<http://www.usps.org/olympia>



## COMMANDER'S MUSINGS

### *May meeting speakers*

At our May general meeting we were privileged to have two speakers from Shelton High School, Amanda L. Thomson and Lt. Commander Tom Thien, Ret.

Lt. Commander Thien is the instructor for the Navy Junior ROTC program at Shelton High. He talked to us about the goals of the program, and about the budget considerations that threaten the program. Funded by the Navy, the program is required to have at least 100 students to remain in good standing, a difficult if not impossible condition for Shelton. Although not a new rule, in past years that requirement has been waived by the Navy, but belt tightening at the federal level may scuttle the program after next year.

Amanda is a senior at Shelton High, but, under the Running Start program, she has, for two years, been taking classes at South Puget Sound Community College. Upon graduation, she will receive both her high school diploma and, from SPSCC, an associate degree. She served as Commanding Officer of Shelton's NJROTC program until its change of watch a few weeks ago.

Amanda is one of the students who took the ABC3 course described in the Education Officer's report below, receiving the highest score of all those who took the test.

She described for us her participation in NJROTC and her plans for the future.

The US Navy recognized her outstanding achievement by awarding her a four-year scholarship valued at \$180,000. She intends to use that scholarship at Marquette University in Wisconsin where she will major in Electrical Engineering. After graduation she plans to join the Navy.

It has been our pleasure and privilege to meet this extraordinary young lady, and we wish her much success in her career.

### *Educational Seminar*

The District 16 Educational Seminar, hosted by the Bellingham Sail & Power Squadron, was conducted Saturday, June 2, at the Bellingham Yacht Club. The two principal topics were the District 16 marketing efforts and the HQ-800 system for tracking our classes.

The marketing segment was started by P/D/C Barbara Erickson, who issued a plea for more volunteers to assist the marketing team. Goals of the team are (1) to see United States Power Squadrons become a household word when it comes to safe boating education; (2) create a central point of contact for advertising of courses in newspapers and magazines; and (3) to have a user-friendly website that will give us an edge over our competition.

To help achieve the first goal there is a push to have all of the squadrons use the national USPS logo as our primary "identifier" instead of our squadron logo. This, it is believed, will create an image of a large, unified organization as opposed to a group of disconnected squadrons.

The committee is already working on the second goal. Apparently there will be an example of joint advertising in the July issue of *48° North*.

The second segment of the marketing presentation was given by P/C Doug Schwarz, SN, who explained the new district web site, [nwboatertraining.com](http://nwboatertraining.com), and its relationship with the marketing group. This site is intended to be a place where non-members can get information about USPS boating classes scheduled anywhere in District 16. It's still a work-in-progress. (The presenters invariably referred to it as "northwest boater training dot com", but, the word "northwest" does not appear in the URL, which, I think, increases the chances that people may not find the web site. ED.)

The other major topic of the seminar was the HQ-800 system for managing boating courses, seminars, and advanced classes. This system will eventually replace the Boating Course Assistant which we currently use. It is nearly impossible to learn much about a new computer system via a Power Point presentation, but learn HQ-800 we must.

There is a considerable amount of HQ-800 help on the USPS web site, but a more-than-cursory examination of that help reveals a system that seems to be needlessly complicated. There might be salvation in the fact that USPS has thoughtfully provided us with a "dummy" squadron to practice on.

My personal opinion is that none of the USPS computer services available to us can really be graded as user friendly. In 1943 Thomas J. Watson, Chairman of International Business Machines was quoted, probably erroneously, as saying, "I think there is a world market for about five computers." If all of our software were as difficult to use as that provided by USPS, I believe Mr. Watson would have been correct!

The seminar ended on schedule so Donna and I were able to drive to Issaquah and watch the last two innings of our

grandson's Little League playoff game. Gus' team won 11 - 4.

Cdr. Paul Davis  
[skookumbay@comcast.net](mailto:skookumbay@comcast.net)



## **EDUCATION OFFICER'S** **REPORT**

Well, summer is almost here and we (education department) are taking a well deserved break to do some cruising over the warmer months of summer.

### *What's Been Happening*

The Squadron conducted an ABC3 boating class for the Shelton High School Navy Junior ROTC cadets in May. We started the class with 17 cadets but a couple had to drop out due to other high school class loads. We finished the class with 13 cadets passing and getting their state boating education card. The 40 et 8 veteran's organization was instrumental in leading and arranging the six classes and cadet attendance. A BIG thanks goes out to Harvey Farrimond (a board member and editor) from the 40 et 8 for all of his hard work. I also want to thank P/C Clyde Shiner, N, Jim Hanson, AP, P/C Donna Davis, AP, Lt Viki Sharp, S and Cdr Paul Davis, AP for their help during the class.

### *What's Coming Up Next*

The Squadron will be holding an ABC3 boating class for the public on 9 June 2012 at the fire station #34 in Lacey. We are hoping to have about 10 students in attendance. Cdr Paul has been making the arrangements while I snuck off to New York to visit family for a short vacation. I need

class instructors to help teach this class, please let me know.

We are working with Harvey Farrimond, 40 et 8, in having another ABC3 boating class for the cadets at the end of June. This will allow the students to complete all their finals E102792 for high school without having another class to attend. We are hoping to have 14 to 20 cadets taking the class with a couple from the first class. I need class instructors to teach this class, please let me know.

I plan on having an Advanced Piloting class in September with maybe a Seamanship class in October. This will depend on the number of students wanting to take the classes. The education department is willing to teach any of our 13 advanced or elective classes along with any of our seminars, but we need you to volunteer to take the classes. If there is a class you would like to take, please let me know.

See ya around the docks.

P/C Jim Harden  
Squadron Educational Officer  
(360) 438-9742  
[JDHARDEN@MSN.COM](mailto:JDHARDEN@MSN.COM)



## **THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA**

I had an adventure yesterday. Went out with some friends and a naturalist on three boats next to Hope Island, in South Puget Sound where we explored the shoals that were exposed due to a very low tide.

We rafted the boats together on a buoy and dinghied out to the shoals. I felt like I was actually walking on water as I stepped out of the dinghy onto the now ex-

posed bottom of the sea. These shoals are only exposed a couple of times in a year and the time available to explore this under sea garden and habitat of sea creatures and plant life is quite short as the tide quickly turns and begins flooding and erasing our footprints as if we had never been there.

I learned so much about the various forms of sea weeds. There were more than I ever imagined and more than I had ever seen in any tide pools and were of all types, sizes, colors and textures. We saw no kelp. It used to be in this location and it is unknown why it is not there now.

Fish were scooting along on their bellies. I picked up one and put it gently back into the water. All the expected life was there, starfish of many types, squirting sea anemones, shell fish, and crabs of all sorts. New were strange large egg sacs that resembled a piece of broken plumbing and felt like egg cartons, seaweed parasites on other seaweed and critters hanging on to other critters.

Having Dr. Tom Mumford, marine biologist, describe our treasures and discoveries as we waded in our boots over the slippery sea weed was living and learning in the moment. Discovering the abundance of life exposed to our eyes and minds was an experience I will always remember. Tom pointed out and explained things I had never imagined in my long life.

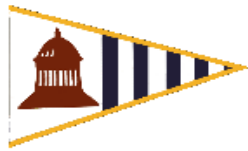
He also collected specimens to take and study. Iridescent sea weed is used for scientific research and testing. Seaweed colors range from red to brown to green. One bright green frilly seaweed is used for salads. We tried it and it tastes like salty slippery noodles. Rocks coated with red algae of different types and other features were examined with a magnifying glass.

We heard of things we would never have seen or recognized without the sharing of knowledge from an expert in the field. We also had waterproof cards to help us identify what we found. Finally after the water was rising above the level of our boots,

we dashed for our anchored dinghies and motored back to the boats for a great potluck lunch, relaxed and enjoyed being on the water together. (My favorite place to be). Finally, we departed the buoy and headed back to the docks and home.

I was a deck hand on the boat I was on. The group of about 15 was a lot of fun to be with and we all came back with a greater appreciation and knowledge of what goes on right under our noses and under our boats. A whole different world!!!

P/Lt/C Pat Brower, JN  
June 3, 2012



### **IN MEMORIAM**

It is with heavy hearts that we report the death of our member and friend P/C GEORGE H. CARLE, AP. George joined the Olympia Power Squadron on March 8, 1968, and served as our Commander in 1980-81. He had 19 Merit Marks.

On May 18, 2012, following a two-year battle with cancer, George, age 68, passed away.

He grew up on a family homestead near Lake St. Clair and attended Yelm schools. During high school George worked as a stock boy at Pickett Drug Store in Yelm where he developed an interest in pharmacy. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1967 after which he worked for several area pharmacies before purchasing two pharmacies in Tacoma. In 1985, wanting to return to Olympia, he purchased Medical Center Pharmacy. In 1989, along with two friends, he purchased Yauger Park Pharmacy.

George was an Eagle Scout, a long-time member of the Olympia Yacht Club, an active member of the Rotary Club of Lacey, and a ham radio operator.

George is survived by his longtime companion, Jory Small, and his extended family, Ronald and Susan Ayer and their children Julian, David and Marie.

A celebration of life was held on Sunday June 3rd at St. Mark Lutheran Church attended by an overflowing number of friends. In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to Lacey Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 5850, Lacey WA 98509.

As a personal message from me, George always loved coming to the Power Squadron Salmon Bake to cook the salmon. In fact, one of the last things he told me was, one of his goals was to get well enough to come back and cook salmon. He could cook a mean salmon. You will be there George, Rest in Peace.

Executive Officer Viki Sharp, S



### **FOR ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS**

Ages ago, when we first were boating, Paul's goal was to have our own boat and travel to Alaska in it. That hasn't happened, and although we do have our own boat, it doesn't seem large enough for that trip, and we've lost our sense of "bring on the big adventure". Fortunately, our squadron has Gary and Judy Ball, who are younger, have a bigger boat, lots of free time, friends to cruise with them, and a willingness to share their adventures with all of us. Check out their Cruise to Alaska blog at

[www.coastalexplorer.net/users/gvball/blog](http://www.coastalexplorer.net/users/gvball/blog).

It's not quite the same as being there, but sitting at home enjoying the trip vicariously, you don't have to worry about the wind, the weather, or the price of fuel.

P/C Donna Davis

## **MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Each month we honor the birthdays of our members born in that month. Because we will not be meeting in July and August we have included birthdays from those months also.

### **JUNE**

P/Lt/C Jane Shiner, P, 06/01  
Judith M. Kruller, AP, 06/03  
Lt. Skip A. Hash, P, 06/11  
David F.J. Tollefson, AP, 06/19

### **JULY**

John R. Turner, P, 07/30

### **AUGUST**

P/C Deborah E Harden, P, 08/03  
Holly Robinson, -8/13  
Spencer Scholes, 08/14

**HAPPY BIRTHDAYS to all of you!**

**Remember, our next meeting is a potluck!  
We start at 1830.**

## **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

My heartfelt thanks go out to Jim Harden, Pat Brower, Viki Sharp and Donna Davis for their contributions to this newsletter. It makes my job much easier.

There is buried somewhere in this newsletter a membership number belonging to one of our members. If that member spots it, and tells Jim Harden before the end of June, the lucky individual will be entitled to take any of our advanced courses, for which the member has completed any prerequisites, without payment of tuition. Isn't that great?

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2012 - 2013**

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<b>ACTING SECRETARY</b>	P/LT/C PAT BROWER, JN	

<i>June 2012</i>			
11	Bridge (Executive) Meeting 1800: Dinner 1900: Meeting	1800-2030 All members welcome	Nickelby's Restaurant 660 Trosper Road SW Tumwater
15-16	District 16 Rendezvous		Poulsbo Marina
18	General Meeting <b>1830: Potluck</b> 1930: Meeting	1830-2100	Olympia Yacht Club 201 Simmons St NW Olympia WA
<i>July - August 2012</i>			
	Summer Activities to be determined		
<i>September 2012</i>			
10	Bridge (Executive) Meeting 1800: Dinner 1900: Meeting	1800-2030 All members welcome	Nickelby's Restaurant 660 Trosper Road SW Tumwater
17	General Meeting	1930-2100	Olympia Yacht Club
<i>October 2012</i>			
8	Bridge (Executive) Meeting 1800: Dinner 1900: Meeting	1800-2030 All members welcome	Nickelby's Restaurant 660 Trosper Road SW Tumwater
15	General Meeting	1930-2100	Olympia Yacht Club
26-28	District 16 Fall Conference		Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort on Agate Passage

**Did You Forget Already? Our Next Meeting  
is a Potluck.**

Olympia Sail & Power Squadron  
PO Box 1171  
Olympia WA 98507

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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The Seaman's Log is the publication of the Olympia Sail & Power Squadron, published monthly except August as the main line of communication of our members. Please send changes of address, and requests to be included or removed from mailing lists to the Circulation Manager

Lt Viki Sharp, Circulation Manager, 5517 Kinney Rd SW, Olympia WA 98512 , home 360 866-7134,  
[trickyviki1944@q.com](mailto:trickyviki1944@q.com)

Squadron meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 1930, unless otherwise specified. Call one of the Officers for the location. Summer meetings (July & August) are usually held at different locations.

Executive Committee meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at places *to be announced* in the Seaman's Log, starting at 1900 except in July and August when they are held at Rendezvous. **THEY ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.**