

## Cardinal Points

District 16

September 2020 Quarterly Newsletter

AK | WA | ID



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**D/C Craig Brown, SN-IN**

**Commander**

**uspsd16.dc@gmail.com**

Well, I think saying 2020 has been different and challenging would be an understatement. Even before becoming the District Commander I was cancelling my Change-of-Watch District Annual meeting in March, due to COVID-19. Then we had to cancel the District Rendezvous and that was a BIG disappointment for me. Now we've had to cancel the "live" version of the Fall Conference. The good thing out of the latest cancellation is now we'll get to use our virtual meeting skills to hold a virtual District Conference on 10 October 10. More specifics at this time are TBD.

The virtual Conference will be the first for District 16. I've observed it be done by other districts and we'll work through this new tool. It'll allow us to take care of business and provide general sharing of information. This will free us (District and members) of the expenses of time & money of attending traditional meetings. Freeing us to focus on creating more Fellowship types of activities.

Some squadrons have already jumped into the new normal of holding virtual meetings and/or classes. Our District Education Officer (Jim West) and Executive Officer (Ken Smith) created a team to research the different virtual systems to determine what would be the best system to provide a "professional" virtual presence across all of the District. After reviewing several systems, Zoom has been selected and approved to be the standard virtual system used by Squadrons and the District. By having a "standard" (common) virtual system we'll build on the



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Agate Pass—Bellevue—Bellingham—Bremerton—Deception Pass—Everett—Friday Harbor—North Olympic

North Star — Olympia — Point Wilson — Poverty Bay — Seattle — Skagit Bay — Spokane — Tacoma

synergy of multiple members sharing lessons learned which will create a more professional skill set of users. This will lead to a better public interaction when squadrons offer on-line (virtual) classes.

The future of squadrons offering on-line (virtual) classes is NOW. Doing so offers several benefits to both the squadron and to the students. Benefits include not needing to arrange a classroom location, reaching students from a larger geographical area, students can access class from anywhere with the internet, students can view the class sessions at any time, and many more. On-line classes offer the students and teacher (s) the ability to interact basically the same as being in a physical classroom without having to be located in the same physical space. Squadrons and District need to offer on-line classes because other entities are going that way and if we don't we won't be able to compete for students and USPS will die. Students create members. These new members will be interested in engaging with the squadron.

Stay safe and healthy. Like I'm always reminding myself "Stay Semper Gumby" (Always Flexible). Embrace the new normal future. Most importantly create safe Fellowship opportunities. Fellowship will get us through anything.



**D/Lt/C Kenneth Smith, AP**

**Executive Officer**

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Well – 2020 certainly has been a surprise so far. Early on squadron nominating committees had identified their 2020 leaders who were diligently planning the year's activities to keep their members active and engaged. Most squadrons had full calendars of events, cruises and educational opportunities planned. Then, as if a switch had been flipped, change arrived and everything went into slow motion.

One by one plans were modified, meetings then cruises were canceled and education opportunities almost totally evaporated. All the grand plans were gone as the world paused. Now what everyone asked? Do we stop or do we continue to move forward, just differently?

Our dilemma is - We are "The United States Power Squadrons" – "Americas Boating Club". No matter what we choose to call ourselves; we are first and foremost about people. People who gather together, laugh together, play together and boat together. We also love to gather in a classroom or aboard a boat to share our knowledge with others. So lacking all of our traditional contact points and ways; how do we satisfy our needs and move forward? The bigger question is how do we survive?

What we do, must do, is what we already knew we had to do. We capitalize on the situation, moving into the 21st century by embracing the absolute need to change. We adopt technologies that enable us to act partially or totally virtually. We schedule our business and member meetings virtually, we teach virtually, we sometimes socialize virtually and yes we may even boat together virtually. We already knew the education world had been moving ever more online, so we use this situation to develop our own online skills and learn what works for us. Under D/C Brown's guidance our district has investigated, tested and determined the best online meeting and education tools available for us. We are working on ways to assist squadrons in adopting these tools.

While totally virtual squadrons are not our future, they will be the reality for many more months to come. When things start becoming more normal and we reestablish relationships, we can not abandon all of our virtual ways. We must continue using these tools to expand our public reach, simplify meetings, coordinate activities and reduce the burdens of managing a squadron. Remember – we are about people, outdoor water enthusiasts enjoying our passion with fellow enthusiasts!

As we move forward I implore you, as squadron officers, not to cancel everything but to look for alternative ways to do things. While our business meetings and classes may be held virtually we can still boat,

gather and play together all while being responsible. While BBQs and potlucks may be on hold, there are other options:

**Example 1** - My old squadron in Southern California has been holding monthly gatherings at a local beach-side park with up to twenty participants. All they do is set a time and place; the members do the rest on their own. Everyone brings their own everything, they socially distance and keep the size down by breaking into several distinct smaller groups as necessary based on the current county rules. What a good way to connect with newer members even if it is behind a mask. Your eyes still tell a lot.

**Example 2** – Use your squadron website to allow members to communicate with each other. Encourage them send out a CQ, CQ, CQ broadcast \_ . \_ . \_ . \_ . ; \_ . \_ . \_ . \_ . ; \_ . \_ . \_ . \_ . ;. This special Morse grouping as a repeated transmission of CQ essentially means “calling anyone out there that can hear this, come in”. In other words, if you hear this, give me a call back. All it takes is for a member to announce that they will be cruising to some location and anyone interested call back or show up. No formal cruise but small group spontaneity. My local Victory Tug owners group has been successfully doing this for over two months.

**Example 3** – Boat virtually. I participated in a semi-virtual cruise where four of us chatted online about our day’s adventure and where we were cruising to tomorrow. All of us were on our boats; three anchored, one in Garrison Bay, SJI, another at Echo Bay, Sucia, another in Pirates Cove, Wallace Island B.C. (yes they were Canadian) and me – in my cockpit at Cape Sante Marina; legs propped up, holding a glass of Pinot Grigio. We all had a great time. How can one complain – clear skies, a slight breeze, Zoom and a glass of wine!

Not everything we do is still forbidden. Some activities such as Vessel Safety Checks have resumed. Though with restrictions they are still an opportunity to make contact with boaters as they slowly return. Your District VSC coordinator, James Harden, can assist your squadron in navigating the new rules and procedures. Squadron VSC leaders can use virtual meetings to coordinate outings. It has never been easier to put together a meeting. It sure beats a long string of emails. Think about how much fun it can be to video chat with other VSC examiners after a day on the docks; laughing about some of the things each saw and discussing the serious mistakes discovered. This turns a solo event into a group event.

Another way to get out of the house is Coop Charting. As with the VSC program, squadrons can coordinate outings then discuss successes and failures. Please read the companion piece in this Cardinal Points from Coop Chair James Harden on “*NEW Marina Survey Program*”.

Commanders and Officers, please send me an email or give me a call telling me what you have done or are planning to do to keep your squadron going, engaged, moving forward and surviving in these doubly difficult times. I will try to pool these thoughts and ideas and forward them to each of you. Above I presented three things that others are doing. You must have some successes or even failures (great learning opportunity) to share. Please do share with me.

As we transition our name from Power Squadron to Boating Club and broaden our reach physically, mentally and virtually, good marketing becomes vital. As a district we currently lack someone with vision, energy and ability to head our marketing efforts. Many of our old ways, such as boat shows, no longer return value so we must find new ways. Your district bridge is looking to expand the marketing budget, but only if it returns value to our squadrons. Please contact me with any marketing suggestions that fit the requirements; I am all ears.

When I accepted the position as your Executive Officer, it was my intention to physically attend at least one business meeting and one member meeting of each squadron. All three times as D/C of D28 in Southern California that was one of my achieved goals. As a newer member of D16, I have not had the opportunity to know many of you. Attending these gatherings was my way to get to get to know each and every one of you personally. As Past Chief Louie Ojeda was fond of saying, “We get to know each other best when we grip and grin”. Well - needless to say the “grip and grin” part is not happening any time soon.

So far as DEXO I have attended a virtual business meeting of the Friday Harbor Squadron, one down, and fourteen to go. Not great! My apologies to all the other Commanders and Squadrons – I will do better; hoping soon to personally meet you and your members.

D/C Brown has canceled our D16 Fall Conference and rescheduled it as a virtual meeting. I hope to see all of you at this meeting. There may be no handshakes but at least no masks so we can actually see each other's smiles. Please remember that this will be a Conference, just like any other, and you still do have reports to make and delegates to assign. Please send your delegate list to the secretary before the start of the meeting. All of this will be new to us, so please be patient. We will all learn from this trial, though real online Conference. What we learn from this will enable us to hold future virtual conferences; possibly reducing physical meetings to just one and expanding district rendezvous. No matter what, we will learn a lot so please encourage attendance and again, be patient.

See you online in October !



D/Lt/C Sandy Thomas, AP

Administrative Officer

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## MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWING

I have been a member of the US Power Squadron, now America's Boating Club for nearly 15 years and I cannot be more enthusiastic about the benefits I have enjoyed during my membership with this group. Not only classes teaching everything from basic seamanship to engine maintenance

and senior navigation, but also the discounts offered from private companies. Most of all it is the great friends and the fun we all have together.

But now, due to the COVID 19 virus, we must all step up and do our part to help our club. **We can help by making sure we renew our membership when our bill arrives.** We know things will get better and we will again be teaching, learning, helping others to be safe boaters, and enjoying friendships with other members.

How do you know when your membership renewal is due? Two months prior to your due date which is generally a year from the month you joined, you will receive a billing invoice through the US Postal Service with a follow-up email explaining the amount due as well as how to complete the renewal process. If the dues go unpaid, another email notice is sent one month prior to the due date. Once your actual due date occurs, and no payment is received, you are listed as "Past Due" and you will receive a call, email or letter from your local Club to make sure you received your billing and to assure you have the opportunity to renew. **Since your mailing and email addresses are vital for getting information to you, contact your local Club Commander and/or Roster Chair to make sure the addresses they have on file are accurate.**

Renewing your dues on-line is the preferred method among members, but you can also send a check through the mail to the address listed on the Invoice. In fact, many local Clubs have a clickable button within their own websites which will take you directly to the appropriate area within the National website to complete your renewal. The National website is: [www.americasboatingclub.org](http://www.americasboatingclub.org)

To renew on-line, you will need your "E" number, your PIN or Password to the "Members only" portion of the National website, your Invoice Number and your Credit Card. If you need assistance with the process or even if you need a copy of your Invoice, contact your local Club Commander, Membership Chair, or myself at [uspsd16.dao@gmail.com](mailto:uspsd16.dao@gmail.com).

So, please, do your part and support your local Club by renewing your dues upon receipt of your billing. We will be back to normal socializing at some point and you will benefit greatly from being a member of this great organization.





**D/Lt/C JAMES WEST, JR**  
**EDUCATION OFFICER**  
**uspsd16.deo@gmail.com**

Greetings District 16, America's Boating Club of Washington, Idaho, and Alaska!

The sun is bright, the sky is blue, and the temperature gauge topped 90 degrees today. Summer in Seattle, what a time to be a boater.

I realize that the above statement is perhaps a little rosier than is warranted in the current situation, given the state of our economy, our society, and the Covid-19 issue, and normally I take a back seat to no one for cynicism and skepticism. But in the past three weeks, I have participated in a Jump Start program for a new member, completed 7 Vessel Safety Examinations, and finished the first ABC Class my local squadron has been able to hold in over a year. So I am going to stay upbeat, and hope for the best.

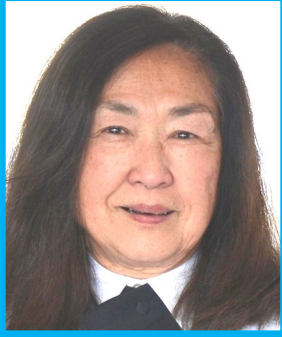
District 16 is still leading the way in maintaining an active Educational Program. There are three squadrons that are currently planning or actively presenting America's Boating Course to the public, and several advance grade classes are planned for the fall. Whether these classes will take place in person, or in the virtual universe remains to be seen. Governor Inslee has continued the social distancing restrictions, and added new rules for masks and business operations, including education classes. Everett Sail and Power Squadron completed an ABC class this weekend by splitting the six person class into two sections of three each, allowing them to do the class in person. Other squadrons are working with their local health departments to find venues for classes that meet the mandated guidelines, or are in the planning process for using ZOOM or WebEx on-line tools to present their classes. While summer has finally arrived, and many people are taking advantage of the great weather to get out and go boating, (Being on a boat in the middle of Puget Sound is a great way to maintain social distancing), all too soon we will find ourselves facing those gray fall days, and that will be the time we USPS educators need to step up, get our books and Power Points ready, and reach out to the boating community. Keeping up our presence in the Puget Sound area will hopefully reassure recreational boaters that improving their boating skill set is still possible, even in the current environment.

I am also happy to report that all of our squadrons have a Squadron Educational Officer elected and in place, so that education planning can continue. If you are interested in taking an advanced grade or elective class, please contact your SEO and get signed up. I have heard great reports that on-line classes do work. If you have an interest in becoming an instructor, by all means reach out and let your bridge know. We always need new faces in the teaching world.

Speaking of on-line teaching, the Technology Support Committee finished its work, and recommended that the District purchase two ZOOM licenses. That has been done, and I can report that the SEO/ASEO monthly meeting in July was held via ZOOM, with good response and usefulness. Any SEO that was unable to attend, please feel free to contact me at [phnx789@msn.com](mailto:phnx789@msn.com), and I will provide the recording link for you to review. The next meeting will be held on 10 August at 6:30 pm (1830 for you nautical types). Look for an E-Mail invitation the day before. If your squadron has not yet settled on an on-line communications options, please feel free to contact me and I will assist you in choosing the best option for you. The Tech Committee examined numerous applications, so I have a working knowledge of the top three picks, and I can find someone if you have another plan in mind.

So there you have it. Deep into summer, even with the restrictions, we still live in a great part of the nation for boating. Let's all see what we can do to bring our knowledge, experience, and resources to the rest of the boating public.

Take care of yourselves and your families, stay safe, and let's hope to see each other out there on the water. At a safe distance of course.



**D/Lt/C Barbara Erickson, JN**

**SECRETARY**

**[uspsd16.dsec@gmail.com](mailto:uspsd16.dsec@gmail.com)**

The coronavirus is affecting everything we do or more like making this a most memorable year, but for all the wrong reasons! The September Governing Board meeting in Raleigh, NC has been cancelled. And it is too bad, as the agenda, the seminars/workshops, and the activities – they had very interesting and reasonably priced activities planned – were things we needed to hear, see and

Next target is the 2021 Annual Meeting in Ponte Verda, FL.

The National Meetings Committee did a fantastic job planning this meeting. Next target is the 2021 Annual Meeting in Ponte Verda, FL.

The same is true for our district. No Spring Conference & Change of Watch, no in-person Fall Conference, but stay tuned for a virtual meeting. Your district is carrying on. Here's what's happening in the Secretary's area:

The **District Roster** is now ready and available on the district website: <https://www.uspsd16.org/> you will find it under the [Member Site] tab, but a password is required. My thanks to everyone who helped update the 2020 – 2021 version!

**Distinctive Communicator Awards.** There are national awards for both your newsletter and website known as the Distinctive Communicator Awards. For the newsletter award, are you sending at least four issues of your squadron newsletter to our Advisor, Diane Dawes at [didawes@yahoo.com](mailto:didawes@yahoo.com)? Add her to your distribution list so you don't forget.

Our Website Advisor is Kathleen Lambert, [kglambert@comcast.net](mailto:kglambert@comcast.net), and she just completed a review of the district and the squadron websites. This review provides your webmaster with an opportunity to see what improvements can be made to either

- 1) make it more attractive to the public or
- 2) increase its eligibility for the award.

The review that determines whether you receive an award or not happens later in the year.

**Social Media.** It is never too late to learn something new in this area. I did and thanks to Marty Lafferty, I can share with you! Do you know about America's Boating Channel? This is the official site where our digital videos that focus on boating safety and education reside. Find the YouTube videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AmericasBoatingChannel/videos>

Facebook is another great source for sharing boating tips. All you have to do is go to Facebook, search for [America's Boating Channel](#) and Like it. Once you do this, you can share any of the current posts or you can choose YouTube videos from the library and share them directly from that Facebook page to your squadron Facebook page. There is a "share" button on the bottom right of each America's Boating Channel post. Click on that and choose "share to page" and select your squadron's page from the drop-down menu. Keeping your Facebook page Up To Date with interesting pictures and articles will keep your members and the public tuned in and promoting ABClub.

So final thoughts during these times of social distancing, wearing facial coverings, and virtual meetings, we should remember: **LEARN | ENGAGE | CONNECT**. Take time to consider different ways you can virtually engage the public with boating safety; stretch your squadron by offering them a wider range of out of the norm opportunities; challenge your squadron even more by beginning plans for a COVID influenced future. Stay Safe ! Stay Healthy!

D/LT/C Rose Ann Walker, JN D16 Treasurer

A new squadron and district year have begun. Which means that it is time to file form 990N with the IRS. This form must be filed by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> month of the previous year.

I would like to thank all the squadrons that have already sent me copies of their accepted 990N form for 2019.

Year 2018 990N forms have been received by most squadrons. I am still waiting for this form from North Olympic. Remember the form must say accepted.

New Members – remember you do not have to wait for an invoice to pay the district dues. A few squadrons pay the new member district dues at the same time as they pay the national dues.

Burgees – We now have a supply of District 16 burgees with the platinum border. Contact me if you are interested in purchasing one.

If any treasurers have questions or concerns, I can be reached at [bnrwalker@comcast.net](mailto:bnrwalker@comcast.net).

### **NEW Marina Survey Program**

**By: D/Lt Jim Harden**

D16 Cooperative Charting Chair  
Americas Boating Club  
(360) 870-5530



This article describes the marina survey program. Included are the reporting options and a discussion on its purpose and reporting frequency. Suggested preparations and materials for conducting the survey are presented so that you will be well prepared in advance of the survey. The requirements for conducting a survey and credits awarded for approved reports are also described in detail. After a survey is completed, you will want to complete the appropriate form and worksheets that make submitting a report a rewarding experience. All reports should be submitted to the Cooperative Charting Committee using the submittal form on the Cooperative Charting website. The data for the report is to be provided on the appropriate form that will be uploaded along with any pictures, chartlets or other associated documents. A member of the Cooperative Charting Committee will review the report and assign the appropriate number of credits if approved. After the report is approved, the information will be forwarded to Cruisers.Net for them to update their marina database information. If errors are found or the information is incomplete, the submitter will be advised via email of what actions are needed to gain acceptance.

The Cooperative charting year will be from 01 January to 31 December and reports must be submitted within 30 days of the observation, except for reports done near the end of the year. To be counted in the current year, reports will need to be submitted no later than 15 January of the following year.

This is a great way to earn your merit mark points as well providing a great service to NOAA. Please contact me for program details or visit the Cooperative Charting website.

### **USPS 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.®**



## New Worldwide Safety and Travel Benefits



United States Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club announces new safety and travel benefits for all current members and families beginning mid-October 2019. Get the full details at [danboater.org/abc](http://danboater.org/abc).

We have entered into an MOU with DAN BOATER that makes each individual and family members eligible for free\* safety and travel benefits offered to current individual and family members.

### What's included?

- 24/7 Emergency Hotline
- Medical Information Line for non-emergency travel health questions
- Worldwide Medical Evacuation Assistance (up to \$150,000)
- Worldwide Medical Repatriation Assistance (up to \$25,000)
- Search and Rescue Expense Reimbursement (up to \$25,000)
- Free Travel Health and Safety Guides
- Travel Assistance Services including prescription assistance, medical and legal referrals, the emergency return of traveling companion or dependent children, and more

These travel benefits originate when you are over 50 miles from your home and cover you and your family for worldwide travel.

Your new benefits are effective beginning mid-October. When it's time to renew your annual membership, you may keep these valuable traveler safety benefits as part of your individual or family membership for only \$25 per year. Primary active members can opt-out of coverage by logging into their Member Profile using the link below and scrolling down to "Receive Dan Boater Benefits."

\*If you don't opt-out, you and your family will automatically be enrolled in free health and safety benefits from DAN BOATER that are in effect until your renewal date. The option to continue DAN BOATER safety and travel benefits will be available when you renew your annual dues online.



## **DAN BOATER**

**BY LT/C LINDA MARTIN, JN -- AUGUST 2020**

There are angels watching over you !

Mike and I got up super early on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and drove to the new Paine Field Airport packed and ready to attend the USPS National Meeting at the Sawgrass Hotel and Spa, Florida. Beautiful airport I might add at Paine Field.

While changing planes in Denver, CO I tripped over Mike's foot, fell and broke my right hip. Here's where the "angels" came in. Right away "Tim" an EMT from Oklahoma rushed to my side and comforted me until the EMT's from Denver Airport arrived. "Melissa" a United Airlines supervisor was also in the area and called 911 and got information from Mike. She also got our luggage off the plane so it didn't go on to Florida.

Meanwhile I am in a pain level of 12 and am being rushed to the University of Colorado Hospital. This is probably the best hospital in Colorado. After two sets of x-rays it is determined that my hip is fractured and I will require a partial hip replacement.

My surgery was very successful on February 13<sup>th</sup> and recovery took about a week in the hospital with great nurses and doctors at my side.

When Mike called Annette in Florida to tell her of the accident, she suggested he call DAN Boater Travel Assist Insurance that the USPS had currently partnered with. He did and they called him every day to check in on my progress and his needs. They were "all in" on our dilemma. In the end they covered the cost of our transportation from the hospital to the airport.

We learned if we had continued our trip to Florida, go on a boat and went out to sea and then I broke my hip, DAN Boater would have covered and handled the transport to a Florida hospital and covered or trip back to Washington.

Melissa from United Airlines also contacted Mike every day, delivered our luggage to Mike at the hospital, helped with rescheduling or flight back home and met us at the airport with two wheelchairs and helped us through security, bought us snacks, took us onto the airplane to make sure we were treated well by the staff on the plane. She then called us when we got home to check in again.

Lesson 1: DAN Boater Travel Assist Insurance is a must for all travel needs; you never know when you will have an accident and need their assistance rescheduling your flight back. The cost is only \$25 per person or per family per year. A bargain at twice the price.

Lesson 2: Buy Travel Insurance when you fly. United Airlines reimbursed us for the entire flight and Mike for his hotel costs in Denver.

Lesson 3: Last of all be thankful for all those angels who come to your aid when you are hurt. I am so thankful, especially to Mike, for all he has done to stand by me (and sit by me) through this ordeal.

You are invited to join a special group event for members of



## FEB 2021 WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

7 days: 21 - 28 February 2021

Roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on the BRAND NEW CELEBRITY EDGE®

Itinerary: Key West, Costa Maya, Cozumel, Grand Cayman

**NEW, LOWER GROUP PRICING FROM \$1319pp**

Outside stateroom from \$1319pp

Infinite verandahs from \$1399pp

Concierge class from \$1639pp

Aqua class from \$2039pp

Price does not include \$144.65 pp taxes & port fees. Travel protection & transfers are additional.

### PRICING INCLUDES 2 PERKS TO CHOOSE FROM:

Classic beverage package, onboard credit, free gratuities or free wifi

This is the **HOTTEST** ship in the industry-voted the best new ship of the year & was voted one of **TIME's** World's Greatest Places in 2019!

Feel free to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us.

Everyone must book through Dawn Eckhart in order to be included in our group & receive the exclusive group benefits. USPS will receive remuneration from proceeds of this group event.

Email [dawnstraveldeals@gmail.com](mailto:dawnstraveldeals@gmail.com) or call

(727) 403-0406 to join our group on this exciting cruise!



Celebrity **X** Cruises®



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## ***District 16 Calendar 2020-2021***

### ***September 2020***

### ***October 2020***

***10 October D16 Virtual Fall Conference***

### ***December 2020***

***1 December Winter Cardinal Points deadline***

### ***January 2021***

### ***February 2021***

14-21 February ABClub Annual Meeting  
Ponte Vedra, Fl

21-28 February Western Caribbean Cruise

### ***March 2021***

12-14 March Change of Watch/Spring Conference

### ***May 2021***

15-21 May National Safe Boating Week

### ***June 2021***

10-13 June Poulsbo District Rendezvous

### ***August 2021***

1 August Fall Cardinal Points deadline

### ***December 2021***

***1 December Winter Cardinal Points deadline***