

For Boaters By Boaters

Cardinal Points

WINTER 2019

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D/C Mahmoud Abdel-Monem, SN

Commander**co@uspsd16.org**

I started writing this message December 30th surrounded by my four grandsons who are visiting to celebrate the Holidays with us. Keeping 4 boys ages 7-17 entertained is getting more difficult with each of their visits. My wife and I enjoy their visits and are blessed by being able to keep up with them and continue to be an important part of their life.

2018 has been a good and busy year. It seems that it was only yesterday that we had the Annual Spring Meeting and Change of Watch in Oak Harbor. But since then we all stayed busy promoting Boating Safety and advancing the goals of the District. I was fortunate to attend the Change of Watch of 13 of the Districts 15 Squadrons. In each of these meetings I had the pleasure of meeting members of the Squadrons leadership and learning about their aspirations and concerns. I hope this tradition will continue in the future because it benefits members of the squadrons and the District Commander

In preparation for my year as the D/C I wanted to identify 5 issues that I should focus on during my tenure. The first and I believe the most critical issue is the decline in membership. I attempted during the last year to shine a bright light on the importance of focusing our attention on member retention. Yet as of December 31, 2018 the trend of decline in enrollment has continued and the District has lost 5.43% of its members since February 28, 2018. I hope that all of us recognize the urgency of this challenge and we do all we can to meet this challenge. MEMBER RETENTION MUST BE OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY, OUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE DEPENDS ON IT.



Please send all correspondence to:
Alayne Fellows
Cardinal Points Editor at
alaynef@gmail.com

Submissions received in formats other than .doc, .docx, .jpg, or .gif may not be published.

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

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

One of the common concerns I heard of my fellow members over the years is that USPS is not making enough changes to allow members to socialize during meetings. Some of my friends who decided not to renew their membership expressed that the reason for leaving is that they are not having fun. Another common complaint is that the Council meetings do not serve any purpose and they occupy the evening of the first part of the meetings. I think that the Conference's vote to revise the District Bylaws to eliminate the Council will streamline our Annual meetings and provide members the opportunities to socialize on the eve of the Conference meeting and have some Fun.

Two of the issues I wanted to address are related. As our enrollment declines, the District's income is decreasing. To make up for our deficits the District had started to use funds from our accumulated savings in previous years to balance the budget. I feel that this is not a sustainable solution to our problems. To address this situation, we streamlined the financial procedures to comply with the "Treasurer's Manual". This should provide members of the bridge a clear and standardized reporting of the financial position of the District and help the Commander and members of the bridge to appropriately manage their budgets. Another solution to our budget shortfall is to seek sources of income other than membership dues such as grants and gifts. The adopted Financial Procedure establishes procedures to manage grant and gift accounts in a manner that ensures that these funds are used only for the proposed designated by the Granting Entity and Donors. It is anticipated that these changes will encourage more of our friends to make gifts to support their favorite initiatives.

One of the issues I wanted to address during my tenure is to promote the need for us to establish clear and measurable outcomes of our activities, especially those activities that consume significant District resources. I also advocated the need that we use our efforts to ensure that we have indeed accomplished the desired outcomes. Using this strategy will certainly require more time and effort but it will help us direct our resources to projects that help us meet our objectives. I am pleased to report that my colleagues who are responsible for major District activities have adopted this philosophy and I hope this will make us more effective in achieving our goals.

This is my last message as the District Commander, and I want to thank you all for your generous support. I especially want to thank members of the Bridge, Committees and Officers. I had a lot of Fun and made many wonderful friends.

Have Fun and Stay Safe.

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.®



D/Lt/C Annette Ferguson, AP

Executive Officer

xo@uspsd16.org

The Art of Giving

The holiday season is behind us and I am sure that everyone was aware of the theme of “Giving”. It seemed that every form of media made reference to giving not to mention the non-profit organizations that were seeking year-end donations. While the spending of money was the focus of giving, it is

important to remember that giving can be shown in many other ways.

Tess Marshall in an article “The Bold Life” reminds us that giving “comes from the goodness of the heart” and has “no self-serving nature”. I would like each of us to consider how we can give to our organization in 2019.

Let us begin with our squadrons. Consider teaching a class, proctoring an exam, being a Vessel Safety Examiner, helping out with your newsletter or website, posting a squadron event on your Facebook page, setting up for a meeting, calling someone who wasn’t at your last meeting, offering someone a ride because they don’t drive well at night, or saying “yes” when asked to serve as a chair of an activity or an office position.

At the district level, the opportunities may not seem as obvious, but there are many places to give. The Seattle Boat Show is happening 25 January through 2 February. Have you signed up to work with the District Marketing Team or Virtual Trainer? This is a great place to meet folks who are interested in boating and talk about the many class room and on-the-water teaching opportunities that we can provide. Other opportunities to give to your district are by attending a conference, serving as a chair or committee member, or serving as a bridge officer.

What about our national organization? Before you say, “Are you kidding me?” how can I, little ole’ me give to them? There are opportunities! Most of us do not aspire to be on the national bridge, but you can give by writing an article for the Ensign that describes a squadron activity you felt proud of. You can give by attending a national meeting and participating in a committee meeting on a topic you are passionate about. Believe it or not, folks serving as national officers and department chairs do listen to those attending the meetings. You can give by being a delegate to the national meeting and voting your position on items that come up for a vote.

It is my hope that my thoughts on giving have generated some ideas about how you can give to our organization. United States Power Squadrons is America’s Boating Club. I would like to close with this quote by Winston Churchill:

“We make a living by what we get.

We make a life by what we give.”

Best of 2019 to each of you.

Annette

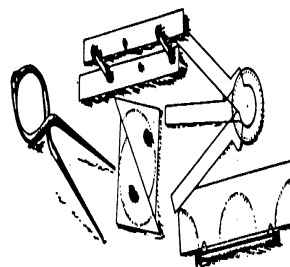


Craig Brown, SN-IN

Executive Officer

xo@uspsd16.org

Always Prepared



While preparing to teach “Piloting” I was again reminded about always having the correct equipment to be prepared for anything. When I did my Boat Operator Certification skills demonstration for “Advance Coastal Navigator” I had to demonstrate having the correct skills to be prepared for anything.

There are several wonderful electronic versions of compasses available. Depending on how much money you want to spend and space on your boat you could have Fluxgate compass, Gyrocompass, and/or GPS compass. The “Mariner’s Compass” seminar says these electrical dependent compasses are “excellent when installed in addition to a magnetic compass – but not instead of a magnetic compass”. This statement not only applies to the compass, but applies across the board for all navigational safety gear.

There are many wonderful types of electronic navigation equipment. Your boat may have GPS with navigational software suite and radar. These make navigation easier than the traditional piloting methods. But what do you do when you’re navigating in low visibility in an area you’re not familiar with and the equipment fails. And don’t kid yourself it will (and don’t count on electronic backups), and I can provide several cases where everything electronic quit working.

Do you have reasonably current charts of the area, plotting tools, and the piloting skills to plot a course route, determine conversions from True heading to Magnetic/Compass heading, and Speed/Time/Distance calculations? Do you have a non-electronic method to determine your speed through the water? Do you have non-electronic methods to determine the tidal height and currents?

These are powerful and important skills and knowledge our excellent Education Department team can help you acquire. There are many classes available: Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Cruise Planning, and Marine Electronics as examples. Check your squadron’s education schedule for this coming year for classes & when/where they’re offered. Check with other squadrons about additional opportunities (including joint teaching). And why not share these skills with the boating public by helping teach.



Photo Courtesy of United States Power Squadrons



AL KEIM, SN
EDUCATION OFFICER
deo2uspsd16.org

Boating Simulator Virtual Trainer

Lives at my house in Seattle. Al Keim al@keimco.net

You can use it two weeks at a time

It can be picked up and returned, shipped or a combination of the two.

Our experience is that squadrons who go through a hands on assembly/disassembly and operations session just prior to use have the most success. Squadrons can forgo this step but the cost/effort of transport is considerable and if you are unable to operate it you are still out these costs.

See <http://americasboatingchannel.com/virtual-trainer/> for three great short video's.

Reservation with National is a required step.

Go to National web page.

Log on as a member.

Site Index.

Boating Simulator Virtual trainer.

Request reservation.

Receive reservation.



This stack of rugged plastic boxes weighs 190 lbs.

Measures 2 feet x 3 feet x 4 feet.

Instate shipping via UPS is in the hundreds of dollars.

Set up requires a 30" wide x 5 foot table. The sturdier the better.

Watch out for the person who pulls themselves up via the steering wheel!

Difficulties: Contact Rachael Jones

jonesr@hq.usps.org

We do want you to use the BSVT.

There have been misunderstandings as to what is provided. Transportation and operation are the duties of the individuals to whom it is check out. Kinda like a library.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters™





United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Coast Guard 5th District Mid-Atlantic
Contact: 5th District Public Affairs
Office: (757) 398-6272
After Hours: (757) 434-7712
[5th District online newsroom](#)

Coast Guard responds to over 700 false alerts in 2018, urges everyone to properly register their device beacons

PORTSMOUTH, VA — After responding to over 700 false alerts in 2018, the Coast Guard is urging anyone with an emergency position indicating radio beacon to properly register their device.

An EPIRB is a device that transmits a distress signal to a satellite system called Cospas-Sarsat. The satellites relay the signal to a network of ground units and ultimately to the Coast Guard and other emergency responders.

Owners of commercial fishing vessels, uninspected passenger vessels that carry six or more people, and uninspected commercial vessels are legally required to carry an EPIRB. However, the Coast Guard recommends that every mariner who transits offshore or on long voyages should carry an EPIRB.

The Federal Communications Commission requires all EPIRB owners to register their beacons with NOAA and keep the registration information up-to-date.

If an unregistered beacon activates, the FCC can prosecute the owner based on evidence provided by the Coast Guard, and will issue warning letters or notices of apparent liability for fines up to \$10,000.

Coast Guard personnel were only able to contact 163 of the more than 700 EPIRB owners to determine the cause of the false alerts. The other individuals had not registered their beacons, not updated their registration information, or had disposed of them improperly.

“We handle EPIRB alerts with a bias for action,” said Lt. Daniel Dunn, a command duty officer in the Fifth Coast Guard District’s command center. “We have to treat them as actual distress calls until we can prove otherwise.”

When Coast Guard watchstanders receive an EPIRB alert and cannot trace it to the owner due to missing or outdated registration information, they launch aircraft and boat crews to search the area for signs of distress.

It costs approximately \$15,000 per hour to fly an HC-130 Hercules airplane, \$10,000 per hour to fly an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter, and \$5,000 per hour to operate a Coast Guard small boat.

“If people used this system appropriately, it would take a lot of the guesswork out of search and rescue,” said Dunn. “Unregistered EPIRBs result in lost time, money, and the misuse of resources that could be used to save someone’s life.”

To register your beacon with NOAA, [click here](#).



By P/C Linda Martin, JN

BOATING SAFETY 4 KIDS AT THE BOAT SHOW

Everett Sail and Power Squadron

It's not too late to tell P/C Linda Martin, JN of the Everett Sail and Power Squadron that you will help her at the Seattle Boat Show to teach the kids of the Greater Seattle Area the safe way to go Boating.

The Seattle Boat Show has given us the last day of the Seattle Boat Show to present the Boating Safety 4 Kids seminar; **Saturday, 2 February**. It's a one- hour seminar but it is an all-day event for the volunteers.

I have a few members signed up to help, **but I need more**. You don't have to have ever taught Boating Safety 4 Kids to be a helper. And you get into the Seattle Boat Show for FREE as a helper.

The plan is to teach a one-hour seminar at the Seattle Boat Show. We are looking for helpers to invite kids to the seminar at the Boat Show before the seminar starts. We are looking for teachers. We are looking for support staff to make the kids feel welcome and talk to the parents about USPS and the America's Boating Club. We will even need help behind the scenes with follow up with the families.

If you are interested, call or click me with your area of expertise and put the date on your calendar. My best contact numbers are 425-422-4721 or PFDprettyfancydude@yahoo.com

And you get into the Boat Show for FREE.



Last years crew: L to R: Seagull Linda Martin, Jim West, Paulette Sitzenburg, Chris Brown, Jackie and Richard Mattox, and Seagull Joellyn Jackson.

America's Boating Club – Wheelhouse Travelers

By: Stf/C Barbara Erickson, JN

You've heard of the Highway Mariners? Our district now has the Wheelhouse Travelers! It's a newly formed group of boaters – current and former – who elect to travel on four wheels versus the water.

The group got its start with the Everett-Seattle Point Hudson Labor Day Rendezvous where one could take their boat or bring their motorhomes. We packed up our Class C motorhome with supplies and along with Gloria our kitty, met up with Everett RVers at the Point Hudson Marina and RV Park! This was a great joint rendezvous and having *the boat there (after years of having White Magic and referring to it as the boat – it naturally fit to call the RV the boat!)* brought back the feeling of being a part of a rendezvous again!

The Bellevue Squadron's Soup Pot Rendezvous brought another opportunity to go via *the boat*, as we hooked up with Bremerton's Cdr Jim Mills, S and Lt/C Cindy Mills, S, and their huge motorhome at Port Orchard! Plans were then set to continue land and water yacht adventures into the coming year.

So here it is 2019, and a group of RVers from D/32, Bremerton, Bellevue and Skagit Bay will be going to Cape Disappointment to spend 2 – 5 May enjoying the comradery that the Power Squadron brings.

So, if you are boat-less in the district, and are looking to enjoying the boating life on land, come join us! This is a district-wide group and not formal, so whenever an opportunity arises where *the boat can tag along*, we'll be there! Hope you will join us! Contact Barbara at bje46@msn.com for information.

USPS Needs You!

We, Committee on Nominations, need your help.

You have devoted your time and talents at the squadron and district levels; here's your chance to share your skills with National. Please update or fill out your resume (SIRS) online.

How? Log onto the USPS website. At the homepage, use the horizontal menu along the top to select Committees>Nominations, then scroll down the page to locate the "Enter/Update Resume" button. Complete or update your resume online.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Barbara Erickson
Committee on Nominations
bje46@msn.com



What's in a Name?

By Stf/C Barbara Erickson, JN
District Marketing Chair

We have been known as “District 16” since February 1944. There are now 31 districts, with the loss of Districts 9 and 31, in the United States Power Squadrons® and we all are known by our chartering numbers.

So here we are in the present day; slowing transitioning from references to “United States Power Squadrons” to our newer “America’s Boating Club” to continue to hold and grow our market share where we excel – education and comradery. Squadrons are adding descriptors to their Power Squadron name – *America’s Boating Club of (insert a name)*. *They are not dropping their Power Squadron name, just adding America’s Boating Club along with a location descriptor.*

As the squadrons take the lead, so too follows your district. When you think about it, telling someone (even a Power Squadron member) that you are in District 16 leads to the inevitable question: “Where’s that?” Then you explain Washington state and Alaska.

The Marketing Committee sees the value in having a geographical descriptor versus a number. Our class location map (on the district website) shows user-friendly city locations vs squadron names. Allowing potential students to find the location best for them rather than wondering about the name shown and who are these “power squadrons”?



Marketing has struggled with that descriptor. PACIFIC NORTHWEST, oh what about D/32? They are part of the Pacific Northwest. NORTHWEST – includes Canada and what about Alaska? NORTHWEST TO ALASKA? What about WASHINGTON TO ALASKA? WASHINGTON & ALASKA? Gyration after gyration of names. Marketing and the District Bridge finally settled on ***America’s Boating Club WASHINGTON & ALASKA***.

We would like you to discuss this with your squadron members. Our banners, display tablecloths, etc. could feature our name as:

This will come up for a vote at the Spring Conference and Change of Watch, 8 – 10 March 2019. You will receive the formal resolution in the Call to Meeting and will have an opportunity to discuss and vote. One more step forward to visibility.

LEARN | ENGAGE | CONNECT



District 16 Spring Conference

Friday, March 8th and
Saturday, March 9th 2019

Bellevue Hilton

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Boehm's Candy Factory tour in Issaquah. Transportation leaves hotel at 1230.

Continue afternoon tour with a trip to view beautiful Snoqualmie Falls.

Cost \$30 (includes admission to Boehm's and transportation)

OR

"Walk on the Wild Side" guided tour led by Susan Tarpley, Everett's own naturalist.

Tour group will carpool to Mercer Slough and begin an interpretative walk of approximately 1.5 hour.

Walk is rated as EASY. Dress for outdoors, wear hiking boots / shoes. Bring your binoculars, water, field guides and explorers inquisitiveness. Will cancel if high winds and very cold temps occur.

Meet in lobby 1215

Cost - One Smile

Group size limited to 15

OR

Shop 'til you drop. Visit Bellevue Square and the Shops at the Bravern. Transportation provided by hotel shuttle.

FRIDAY EVENING

Get ready to party! Wear your comfy clothes to a D16 picnic with adult beverages at a no host bar and entertainment led by Seattle's AO Robert Dahlin.

Join in for an Old Fashioned Cake Walk made new... D16 Wine Walk

Cost \$10 (guaranteed to win a great bottle of wine)

Caution! Laughing and having fun is required.

Sign up for Per-conference Events on PayPal
at www.everettsailandpowersquadron.com

See You There!





District 16 Spring Conference

Friday, March 8th - Saturday, March 9th 2019

Bellevue Hilton, 300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue WA 98004

Full Name: _____ Guest/Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Squadron: _____

Email address for registration/payment confirmation: _____

Attending Conference without meals? _____ Is this your first time attending a District Conference _____

Friday Evening 1800 - 2100 (No Host Bar)	Before 15 Feb.	After 15 Feb.	No. People	Total
Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Condiments, Potato salad, House green salad, Dessert	\$30.00	\$33.00	_____	_____
Vegetarian Garden Burger	\$30.00	\$33.00	_____	_____
<u>Saturday (Breakfast on Your Own)</u>				
<u>Saturday Lunch 1200 - 1300</u>				
Soup du jour, Season greens with bacon bits, Mushrooms, Shredded cheddar cheese, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Hard boiled egg, Diced turkey, Diced chicken, Rolls & Dessert	\$28.00	\$30.00	_____	_____
<u>Saturday Evening Banquet 1800 - 2130 (No Host Bar)</u>				
All dinners include Herbed roasted potatoes, Season Vegetable, Rolls, Tiramisu, Coffee/Tea				
Salmon, Soy ginger glaze	\$42.00	\$45.00	_____	_____
Pork loin, Dijon mustard sauce	\$42.00	\$45.00	_____	_____
Three Cheese Manicotti, Roasted Tomato Coulis	\$42.00	\$45.00	_____	_____
			Number of People	Total
			_____	\$ _____

Do you have any food allergies? _____

Hotel Reservations for Bellevue Hilton 300 112th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98004 ~ 1-800-643-7907

Must be made by 6th February 2019 to guarantee a room. Use Group Code: D16 CI for the conference rate.

Room rate is \$119.00 per night plus 14.4% tax. After 6th February, rooms are reserved as space available.

The Bellevue Hilton is Pet-friendly

Make all checks payable to Everett Sail and Power Squadron (ESPS) Mail registration to Susan Tarpley, 13423 51st Ave. West Edmonds, WA 98026

You may also pay for meals by PayPal at www.everettsailandpowersquadron.com

(Go to website menu for registration form)



SUPER SEMINAR SERIES -- "PROPANE SYSTEMS ON YOUR BOAT"



The quiet evening at the marina in Sequim was suddenly rocked by a massive explosion. Nothing was left of the 38-foot, William Garden designed powerboat other than a floating field of debris. Nearby boat owners pulled the injured owner out of the water; he was subsequently airlifted to Harborview Medical Center where he died of injuries two-weeks later. The blast was so powerful that boats 75 feet away were damaged by the flying debris. Could this have been prevented? Absolutely!

This just-released America's Boating Club seminar on propane systems, gives you the knowledge you need to use propane fuel safely on your boat and to prevent such accidents from happening. Propane and butane, also known as LPG, are the most common cooking fuels used on boats. While efficient, cost-effective and widely available, these fuels can also be dangerous, especially since the fumes are heavier than air and sink into the interior of spaces of your boat. This seminar explains boat propane systems, propane safety, and how to keep your boat and crew safe. The seminar author, Gordon Bilyard, AP, North Olympic Squadron, will teach this seminar.

- The proper way to turn propane appliances on and off safely
- How to check for propane leaks
- The basics of inspecting and maintaining your propane system
- Parts of a safe marine propane system
- How to use and store small propane fuel cylinders
- Important properties of propane and butane fuel

This is the third seminar in Everett Sail and Power Squadron's (ESPS) Super Seminar Series "Propane Systems on Your Boat."

JOIN US:

- Tuesday, February 12
- Beginning at 6:30pm
- At the Snohomish County PUD Building: 2320 California Street, Everett.
- Prepay price is \$30 per person or \$45 per couple sharing a book. Pay more at the door!

SIGN UP TODAY:

<https://www.everettsailandpowersquadron.com>
or call P/C Linda Martin, JN at 425-422-4721

Future seminars in our Super Seminars series are "How to Use a Chart" in March and "Anchoring" in April. See website for details or call Linda.



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
For Boaters, By Boaters™



District 16 Educational Seminar/ Incoming Officers Meeting

Saturday, 20 April 2019 – 0900 to 1600

116 COAST Hotel, Bellevue, WA

Hosted by District Education Department

The 116 Coast Hotel located at 625 116th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004 is the venue for this year's District 16 Educational/ Incoming Officers Meeting. The conference room doors will open at 0830. We ask that you preregister and send a check indicating your lunch selection, which will be catered by the hotel.

For those members driving and planning to stay overnight there will be a special guestroom rate of \$109.00 per night for Friday 19th and 20th. To take advantage of this rate call Shari at 425-709-1102 or email: skimball@coasthotelsusa.com.

Please attend the lunch as we have a food & beverage requirement to cover the cost of the meeting rooms. Choose either of the three lunch selections for \$22:

[] Chef Salad:

Julienne strips of turkey & ham, cheddar & swiss cheese, eggs, peppers and tomatoes with choice of dressing.

Cookies, Starbucks regular & decaffeinated coffee, assorted teas.

() Spinach Salad:

Spinach and boiled eggs, mushrooms and red peppers topped with warm bacon vinaigrette.

Cookies, Starbucks regular & decaffeinated coffee, assorted Teas.

() Vegetarian Lasagna:

Served with fresh seasonal vegetables and garlic bread.

Cookies, Starbucks regular & decaffeinated coffee, assorted Teas.

To register for lunch, send a check for \$22.00 and indicate your lunch preference to P/R/C Trudy Brown, AP, 3220 98th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004-1813, Phone (425) 454 0115. Email: trudyb36@outlook.com

Make checks payable to D-16 ED Seminar.

Need lunch count **by Monday, 15 April.**

Please address any additional questions/comments or suggestion to the agenda to Al Keim, (206) 779-5346 al@keimco.net. or Jim West Ph: 330-495-4442, E-Mail: phnx789@msn.com

The agenda will be distributed separately.

Name: _____ Squadron _____

Email: _____

Our Experience using NEXUS to Cross the US Canada Border by boat both ways

By P/D/C Mark Richey, SN

We took a trip to Sidney BC last summer and used our NEXUS Cards for the first time by boat. We based it on instructions from the web published by both governments. We had done it many times by car. It was a breeze and a joy by boat and this is what we did.

Heading into Canada

Our ultimate destination was Sidney but you could use that, or any other port of entry, as a waypoint. This was what we did and it worked well.

First, for this to work, everyone on board must have a NEXUS Pass. If not then the boat MUST stop at a port of entry and not use this process.

As we headed west around the end of San Juan Island, we set a waypoint where the International Border was. You need a minimum of 30 minutes to maximum of 4 hours to a designated port of entry. We waited a bit too long and were less than 30 minutes out when we called but it worked ok. When you are in Canada but between 30 mins and 4 hrs estimated out, the skipper must call Nexus at **1-866-99-NEXUS**.

They asked for our ETA and location of landing site. It must be on the “**designated site**” list which “Port of Sidney BC” was. (A hint here, if it’s on your way, you may want to pick a check in site that isn’t regularly manned as you won’t actually have to touch shore or dock if nobody is there.) We would suggest, and this is only opinion, you don’t pick Bedwell Harbor as that is the training site for Canada Customs and is always manned possibly with rookies.

They asked us for name and/or registration of boat. Since we are documented we only gave name. They also asked for the full names, DOB and citizenship of all NEXUS members on board as well as final destination and length of stay.

They finally asked for our NEXUS numbers.

They did not ask for permanent residence status or if we had any goods but they may.

They then gave us an entry number and said welcome to Canada. You need to keep the number for return to US. That was it.

The skipper is still responsible for the behavior, legality and administrative issues of all the passengers and if anything changes before actual arrival, needs to call in again.

The rules state that if an officer is not at the specified entry site at your ETA or at your actual arrival, you may proceed to final destination. Sidney is a phone in Port of Entry with a phone box on dock and is rarely manned unless they have come down to inspect someone for some reason. We only had to drive by the dock on way to our slip and saw that there were no officials there. The harbormaster told us that actually, once we had our number, we didn’t even need to bother to do that. That may have been only Sidney but in any case, there was nobody official visible.

Returning to US Waters

A couple of suggestions to make life easier with this. Before you even leave on the trip you should consider doing 2 things.

If you are 30' or longer get a CPB user fee decal. This is yearly. You can purchase it when you call in your arrival but this makes it much easier and you won't have to have your credit card ready.

Call CPB and get a VR number. You may have to use ROAM to do this now but it's handy. That basically puts all your boat info etc. in the system and they may not even ask you some of the questions. One of the first questions we were asked is if we had that number.

Ok. This was just as easy as going into Canada. It was somewhat different but similar.

We came back from Canada the same way we went in by going around north end of San Juan Island. There is no time limit on this and you just need to call in after entering US water but before you reach a port or anchorage. (This is only for Alternate Inspection Programs like NEXUS).

I called CPB at **1-800-562-5943** someplace in Spieden Channel. This number is for Puget Sound arrivals only.

This is what was asked of us in order:

- 1) Our full names, date of birth and citizenship
- 2) Boat name and registration as well as manufacturer.
- 3) Did we have a VR number? (If we had they may have reduced some of the questions)
- 4) CPB decal number. (If we did not have one we could pay for it right now during the call and the sticker would be mailed)
- 5) Current location (This is your GPS coordinates) and destination. Your destination does not have to be a valid port of entry, just where you plan on ending up that day.
- 6) Finally they asked for a return contact number and gave us our clearance number.

They asked no questions about declaring anything or if we were bringing in food or anything. I imagine that they could but chose not to. The guy I spoke to was very friendly and helpful about how to get VR info etc. He walked me through giving current location as I had originally thought it was something like "North End of San Juan Island". It may have been I was a first timer but he was very cheerful.

That was it, we were cleared. We did not have to do anything else. They could have asked us to stop at the nearest port of entry but have heard this is rare doing it this way.

Again, everyone on board has to have a NEXUS card.

Note: There is a new smartphone app, CPB ROAM, to try for Washington and Alaska but the above method will still work.

Ref: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/nexus/marine-maritime-eng.html>

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/pleasure-boats-private-flyers/pleasure-boat-locations/psound-ne-wa>

DIRECTORY OF DISTRICT BRIDGE OFFICERS

COMMANDER (Deception Pass)
D/C M. Abdel-Monem, SN xo@uspsd16.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Everett)
D/Lt/C Annette Ferguson, AP ao@uspsd16.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Craig Brown, SN-IN xo@uspsd16.org

EDUCATION OFFICER (Seattle)
D/Lt Al Keim, SN adeo@uspsd16.org

ASST EDUCATION OFFICER (Everett)
James (Jim) West phnx789@msn.com

SECRETARY (Skagit Bay)
D/Lt/C Debbie Richey, A Secretary@uspsd16.org

TREASURER (Agate Pass)
D/Lt/C Rose Ann Walker, J treasurer@uspsd16.org

D-16 WEBMASTER (Seattle)
Jim Haglund, P webmaster@uspsd16.org

DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHER: (Seattle)
Steve Erickson, JN steve-erickson@msn.com

CARDINAL POINTS EDITOR: (North Olympic)
Alayne Fellows, P alaynef@gmail.com

District 16 Calendar 2019

January

26 Jan –3 Feb Seattle Boat Show

February

18-24 Feb National Annual Meeting (Orlando)

March

8-10 Mar D16 Spring Council & COW (Bellevue)

April

20 April D16 Educational Conference &
Incoming Officers Meeting (Bellevue)

June

20-23 June D16 Rendezvous (Poulsbo)

August

1 August Fall Cardinal Points deadline

September

08-15 Sept USPS Governing Board Meeting
Louisville, KY