



BELL SIGNALS

Bellingham Sail and Power Squadron

FEBRUARY 2012



Seattle Boat Show, Jan 29

*Graham Hunter, David Sitzenstock, Paulette Sitzenstock,
Tom Dalgliesh, Penny Dalgliesh, Donna Hunter,
Deborah Frost*

Photo: Randy Olson

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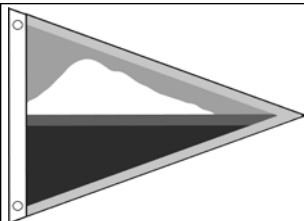
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NAUTICAL TRIVIA

In the time of Columbus, a ritual performed each evening was to point at the North Star, and then slowly lower the arm in a steady arc to the ship's compass. What was this ritual called?"

ANSWER: *The Pilot's Blessing*

Vessel Safety Checks

The 2012 Vessel Safety Safety decals have arrived. Our five Vessel Safety Examiners are ready to meet you at your boat and do the job. Let's get 100% participation this year!

Lt Merle Herrett, AP
Safety Officer
(360) 354-7026
m_e_h@comcast.net



COMMANDER

Cdr Sandi Horne, SN

I am writing this from Utah, where Arlen and I are skiing. I really appreciate Jim West for chairing the meetings in my absence. The weather feels like home with mild temperatures and rain in the valley. Or at least the way Washington weather usually is. Luckily, it is just cold enough here to snow in the mountains.

Congratulations to the 2012 Hearsey Award winners to be announced at the February dinner meeting. Members who won other awards during the past year will also be recognized. They all deserve your thanks for contributing to our squadron.

Speaking of contributing, we sorely need a volunteer for Administrative Officer (AO). Much of the workload can be spread out with committees or volunteers for individual meetings and cruises. However, an AO is absolutely necessary or we won't have an Executive Officer next year or a Commander after that. Keeping that chain of succession is important, not only for continuity of programs but also to make it easier for the person to eventually take the Commander position. The Executive Committee will help establish an events committee if you are worried about the time required to be AO. We also need one three-year member each on the Audit and Rules Committees. Please reconsider and volunteer – the future of the squadron depends on you. Contact Jim West or me if you can help.

The draft by-laws have been posted on Sail Angle and Secretary Cheryl West made a hard copy available at the January meeting. She will also have it at the February meeting before you will be asked to vote for approval. Most of the changes are minor editorial issues. The most significant is the merging of the Membership and Member Involvement committees.

Deborah O'Connor has been working hard on the BSPS website. If you have not visited it recently, take a look. Let her know what you think---she encourages your suggestions.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER (XO)

Lt/C Jim West, AP

What the Bell?

Everyone has experienced meetings which begin and end with the banging of a gavel. The gavel is a symbol of the authority for the presiding officer. It is used to call for attention or to punctuate rulings. One misuse of the gavel, commonly seen in the movies, is to rapidly and repeatedly bang the gavel to try and restore order to an out-of-control meeting. According to “Robert’s Rules of Order” the chair should never use the gavel in such a manner, rather giving it one vigorous tap at longer internals. The advice for proper use of a gavel also suggests the chair should not lean on the gavel, juggle or toy with it, nor use it to challenge, threaten, or emphasize remarks.

The Bellingham Sail and Power Squadron does not have a traditional gavel for use at meetings. Instead, the Squadron uses a ship’s bell which has a plaque inscribed “Commander’s Gavel, Bellingham Squadron, District 16, U.S. Power Squadron.” Ship’s bells have been used for centuries for signaling, keeping time and sounding alarms. The ship’s name is traditionally engraved or cast onto the surface the bell, often with the year the ship was launched as well. If a ship’s

name is changed, maritime tradition is that the original bell carrying the original name will remain with the vessel. Ship’s bells are also used for safety in foggy conditions, their most important modern use.

Our Squadron’s use of a ship’s bell is appropriate and clever, but how did it come to be? I asked at the January ExCom and dinner meetings if anyone knew the history of our bell. No one knew. Perhaps it is related to *Bell Signals*, our newsletter name? A search of the Squadron’s historical documents at the Western Washington Library is needed unless someone can provide the answer. Please let me know if you can solve the mystery.





ADMIN OFFICER (AO)

Lt/C David Wright, P

Hearsey Awards

Our annual meeting with elections and final reports was held 12 Jan. The slate of Officers presented in the December *Bell Signals* were all successfully elected. Unfortunately, we still need an Administrative Officer.

Graham Hunter did a presentation on B.O.C. (Boat Operators Course). We are lucky to have several instructors willing to put in the time to make us all better boaters.

Hearsey Awards (09 Feb)

Our Hearsey and Squadron awards dinner is 09 February. This will be a time to recognize members that have gone above and beyond the call to keep our Squadron going.

Lets try and have a potluck dinner this time. If everyone brings their **own** main dish, you will be assured of something you like. In addition, members with less than 15 years in the Power Squadron, please bring some type of side dish to share, and those with 15 years or more in the Power Squadron, please bring a dessert to share. If my calculations and predictions are correct, we should have enough of each.

Operations Training (18 Feb)

18 February is our Operations Training class. Come and learn some of the history of both the BSPS and the USPS (Why we do what we do). There is no cost for the class, we will provide lunch and snacks, and, of course, some good laughs. RSVP to boatingneeds@hotmail.com if you would like to attend.

Change of Watch (24 Mar)

Change of Watch will be 24 March. This will be an evening event at the **Northwood Hall**, starting at 1730 for social hour. We plan to make this a Change of Watch that you won't want to miss.

The dinner will consist of carved Eye of Round beef roast or Chicken Dijonaise, caesar or green salad, sweet pea salad with bacon, potatoes or rice, seasonal vegetable medley, bread and rolls, chef's dessert assortment, coffee and tea. Cost is \$30 per person. We will also have a no-host bar. Come and welcome the incoming Bridge.

Whatever the event, new members are especially welcome. We need your stories and your thoughts on boating to keep our squadron the vital, fun, and educational force that is envied by all. David



EDUCATIONAL OFFICER Lt/C Graham Hunter, AP

That Sinking Feeling

Dear Captain Schettino:

What were you thinking? It must have been awful to feel your ship hit the rocks off Giglio Island. What went through your mind at that point?

Mind you, what were your other deck officers doing while you ordered the ship to cruise within 400 yards of a rocky island. Was the navigator anxiously searching for hazards on the charts and electronic equipment? Was there a diplomatic nudge from your First Officer to perhaps slow down from 20 knots? You must have known that the ship's draft deepens as the bottom gets closer at high speeds. It's your job to know this stuff.

Come to think of it, isn't that what happened to the QE II in 1992, near Martha's Vineyard, while taking a short cut at speed inbound to New York? For that matter has the shade of Titanic's captain been visiting you at night? Oh, and do you remember hearing about Queen of the North? She was doing a fair rate of knots when her distracted crew allowed her to slice over a reef heading south from Prince Rupert B.C. And does the name *Exxon Valdez* ring any bells? Or the container ship *Rena* that grounded on Astrolabe Reef, just north of New Zealand last Fall?

I'm pretty sure you haven't heard of the pleasure boat skippers here in the San Juan's, approaching kayakers to ask where they are. Some brandish ferry schedule maps or restaurant place mats as their navigation source. Seems this a fairly common occurrence.

That is why we have organizations like USPS to teach new boaters the fine points of safety and navigation. And why the BPS Education Officer feels the icy hand of hubris on his shoulder as he pontificates about safe navigation. He is that close to making mistakes when he relaxes too soon on a pleasant day out. Or when he allows himself to get so tired that he just cannot concentrate on the charts.

Commanding a boat can be dangerous, captain. Sometimes you get distracted from what you'd normally consider safe and then do something really stupid.

I'll bet you wish you could have steered your lifeboat towards the island of Elba, only 60 nautical miles away. Napoléon spent some time there. Nice quiet spot.

Yours, aye,

Graham

The Learning Never Stops

Seamanship (S): 08 Feb – 14 Mar. Excellent follow-on to ABC,
Jim West & Michael Guelker-Cone.

Engine Maintenance: 27 March – 15 May. Instructor: *TBA.*

Cruise Planning: 28 March – 16 May. Prepare for this summer's great cruise, and get deep into Local Knowledge. Plan an actual cruise for early June. *Tom & Penny Dalglish.*

America's Boating Course (ABC)

03 April – 22 May. Our public introductory course, taught at Bellingham Technical College, *Sylvia Holmstrom.*

WINTER SEMINARS

Anchoring \$30/\$35

How to select an anchor and rode, safest anchoring procedures.

06 Feb, 1900 at Bellingham YC, Commodore's Room, *Chris Backus.*

13 Mar, 1800 at West Marine, Blaine, (Bring Chair), *Pete Werner.*

Basic Weather Forecasting \$35/\$40

Understanding weather forecasts, predicting local weather.

14 Feb, 1800 at West Marine, Blaine (Bring Chair), *Bob Jacobson.*

05 Mar, 1900 at Bellingham YC, Commodore's Room, *Bob Jacobson.*

Marine RADAR \$30/\$35

Radar selection, controls, collision avoidance, navigation.

Feb 20, 1900 at Bellingham YC, Commodore's Room, *Tom Dalglish.*

Mar 26, 1800 at Semiahmoo Marina store, *Tom Dalglish.*

Navigation Rules \$30/\$35

Understanding your role in preventing collisions at sea.

Feb 27, 1800 at Semiahmoo Marina store, *Tom Dalglish.*

Using VHF/DSC Marine Radio \$30/\$35

Proper use of your VHF, understanding Digital Selective Calling.

Mar 19, 1900 at Bellingham YC, Commodore's Room, *David Wright.*

Apr 10, 1800 at West Marine, Blaine, (Bring Chair), *Pete Werner.*

How to Use a Chart \$30/\$35

Understanding the chart, plot courses, interpret symbols, apply GPS rules.

02 Apr, 1900 at Bellingham YC, Commodore's Room, *Jim West.*

Boating Traditions and Etiquette \$25/\$30

Flags, Signals, and Nautical Etiquette. History and use in today's boating.

Apr 16, 1900 at Bellingham YC, Commodore's Room, *Randy Olson.*

Registration: *Graham Hunter* (360) 332-5526, gndhunter@telcomplus.net,
or *Deborah Frost* (360) 671-7453, deborahkayak@yahoo.com

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WELCOME ABOARD

Membership Chair

Lt Kathy Baer, S

Six new members, five of them six month introductory members who have joined us.

Michael Owen comes to us with a long background of boating experience. Michael is originally from Pontiac, Michigan and served 22 years in the Navy aboard aircraft carriers. He discovered the pleasures of the Pacific Northwest with three rotations on Whidbey Island.

Michael has had a sail boat for years, but recently crossed to the "dark side". Now he divides his time aboard a 40 foot Grand Banks power boat named *Adagio* in Semiahmoo Marina, and at his home in Custer.

Donna-Marie Cahill and her husband David moved to Bellingham in 1984. By 1985 they were participating in the formation of the Corinthian Yacht Club. David eventually became their third commodore. Donna Marie is now the Commodore. That makes them the first couple to fill the job. As Commodore, Donna Marie wants to be the "go to person" concerning boating safety. She took the squadron ABC course with the intent of becoming a vessel safety examiner. She is presently working towards that goal under the tutelage of Safety Officer Merle Herrett.

Jenny Burkhart and *Jefferson Miller* have joined the squadron in order to take further classes. Since graduation

night Jenny has completed Seamanship. And they both have participated in the Weather and Anchoring seminars.

Their boat, is a 30' Rawson Pilot House named the *Nissedal*, which they intend to sail to Alaska next June. They are busily involved in building a home at the same time that they are preparing for their Alaska adventure.

Alex Mazurkewyck and his wife Hanna moved to Blaine four years ago from Utah. In Utah Alex decided to build a 45' Catamaran which he continues to work on with the goal of being finished this year.

Alex says he joined the squadron because he found the courses very helpful in the building process and for preparing for the boat's future use.

Dawn Durand, when I spoke with her on January 17, a snowy day in Whatcom County, told me that the snow where she lives was already up to her knees. But, not to worry, because very soon she and her husband are going to be in sunny Port Stephens, Australia, participating in the Pacific Rim Regatta.

Dawn and Joe own a J36 sailboat named *Jamoca*. Lately they have been considering giving up *Jamoca* for a less physically demanding power boat. That possible switch from sail to power is what prompted Dawn to take the ABC class.



COMMITTEE BENEFITS

By: Penny Dalglish, P

Join a committee, volunteer, everyone says. How much fun is that? Read on.

It all began quite early on Saturday morning. The drive to Bellingham was lined with snow and my apprehension about leaving my warm bed increased as I headed South.

But the lure of Strawberry & Whipped Cream Waffles à la Gawain O'Connor was a strong pull indeed.

I arrived to find Deborah O'Connor making sandwiches for our ferry trip, helped by ASA instructor Mary Ross who will speak at our April *Boating for Women by Women* Seminar.

The ferry crossing was rough and we rocked and rolled for the short passage to Port Townsend.

The Water Street Hotel occupies the 2nd and 3rd floors of a very funky old building located near the Point Hudson end of town. A dozen of us shared 3 rooms with trundle beds and lofts as well as Queen sized beds. The rooms were great for us all to gather and begin our 'brain storming session' complete with wine, chips, salsa, fruit, etc.

But first we needed to explore. The nearby Chandlery offered a cellist playing as we enjoyed special coffees and chai teas. Then off to walk the docks at Point Hudson.

The South Sound Women's Sailing Group is sponsoring a women's seminar for the 3rd year in May. Our goal was to exchange ideas and procedures--to share what worked and what didn't--and why? We talked about the logistics of the venue, the scheduling of speakers, the finances, etc. The group included several captains, instructors, and boat owners, all *sharing our passion*.

We left the hotel to dine at a Thai restaurant. Naturally we swapped stories and experiences – we're boaters, remember? Back in our suite, a fine selection of chocolate from the local candy store complemented the wine beautifully.

The snow had still not hit PT on Sunday when we walked to a creperie for breakfast. Checking out from the hotel, we decide to meet at Boat Haven, the main Port Townsend marina. The *Adventress*, a well known training ship, was there being worked on. The web site for *Adventress* lists: educate; inspire; empower – perfect words to describe our BWW goals.

Our plans for a midday sail on Lucky (a 40' Tripp) were canceled because the weather was turning to snow. So it was goodbye to our new friends and we headed for the ferry. The return crossing was a delight, and also the ride home through Whidbey Island and up I-5.

Great fun, and we were encouraged with offers of "Come see us, come boat with us. We'd like to meet in Bellingham". We wish the South Sound women a successful Seminar in May and hope to see them on the water soon.

D-16 SPRING CONFERENCE (30-31 March)

The D-16 Spring Conference will be held at the *Shilo Inn Suites Hotel* in Ocean Shores, Washington, hosted by the *Friday Harbor Power Squadron*. Ocean Shores is a 6,000 acre peninsula just north of Gray's Harbor, the only deep water port on the Pacific Coast, north of San Francisco. Ocean Shores includes six miles of sandy beaches.

All Shilo Inn Suites rooms face the beach with private balconies. Each room has a "fireplace," wet bar, refrigerator, and either double queen or single king size beds. Handicap accessible rooms are available. The hotel is dog friendly with rooms located on the ground floor. Recreational amenities include an indoor pool, spa tub, sauna, steam room, and fitness facility. Parking is free.

Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by March 14, 2012, to take advantage of USPS-District 16's Group Contract rate of \$99.00 (plus tax) per night. Reserve early...rooms will go quickly.

Friday evening's *Cajun Jambalaya* Buffet and Saturday's dinner will have a Mardi Gras theme. Dress is casual, blazers and no ties. You will be provided with complimentary masks and Mardi Gras beads.

Registration: www.usps.org/localusps/d16/calendar/calendar.html

BSPS Fire Extinguisher Training

Saturday 11 Feb, 1000 to 1200 at the Fire District training facility on Britton Loop Rd, Bellingham. This training is required for the *Inland Navigator* level of the Boat Operator Certificate, and is great hands-on training to operate your fire extinguisher.

Please bring any old or expired extinguishers. These will be used first, after which the Fire District will supply their training extinguishers.

The training is *free*, but space is limited. RSVP by Sunday 05 Feb.

To register, please contact Randy Olson at: yankee30@comcast.net, or 360-733-0547.

ABC Exam and Graduation

Tuesday
28 Feb at
BTC, please
volunteer to
assist with the
ABC exam and
congratulate our
new graduates.



Exam starts at 1830; Meet and Greet at 1900. Meeting room is next to the cafeteria behind the Haskell Building. Cookies and juice welcomed.

If you can assist, please call Donna Hunter 332-5526, or email: gndhunter@telcomplus.net.



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- 02 Executive Committee Meeting**
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 Contact: Jim West, jwestboater@comcast.net.
- 06 Anchoring Seminar**
 Instructor: *Chris Backus*
- 08 Seamanship starts**
 Instructors: *Jim West & Michael Guelker-Cone.*
- 09 Hearsey Awards**
 Squalicum YC, Bellingham, 1800.
- 11 Fire Extinguisher Training**
 Instructor: *Randy Olson.*
- 11 D16 Spring Council**
 Mount Vernon. See *Jan Bell Signals.*
- 14 Weather Forecasting Seminar**
 Instructor: *Bob Jacobson.*
- 20 Radar Seminar**
 Instructor: *Tom Dalgliesh.*
- 27 Navigation Rules Seminar**
 Instructor: *Tom Dalgliesh.*

MARCH 2012

- 01 Executive Committee Meeting**
 Contact: Jim West, jwestboater@comcast.net.
- 05 Weather Forecasting Seminar**
 Instructor: *Bob Jacobson.*
- 13 Anchoring Seminar**
 Instructor: *Pete Werner.*
- 24 Change of Watch**
 See page 7.
- 26 Radar Seminar**
 Instructor: *Tom Dalgliesh*
- 27 Engine Maintenance starts**
 Instructor: *TBA.*
- 28 Cruise Planning starts**
 Instructors: *Tom & Penny Dalgliesh.*
- 30 D16 Spring Conference**
 Ocean Shores, see p12.



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BSPS

**Member Meeting
Hearsey Awards
09 FEBRUARY, 1800**

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Bellingham



RSVP 06 February