



The Totem Line



59 years of yachting – 60 years of friendship

In this issue: Don't forget – Taco dinner (\$6) and General Meeting 6:30, Tuesday, May 3rd; Report and pictures from Daffodil Days; A "Getting to Know You" report from Mike Holman, 2016 Commodore;

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	
May 3 rd	Taco Dinner & General Meeting
May 6-8	Seattle Opening Day Weekend
May 14-16	Boy Scout Blake Island Clean-up
May 14 th	..South Sound Opening Des Moines YC
May 27-31	Memorial Day Cruise to Poulsbo
June 3-5	Blessing of the Fleet, Gig Harbor

<i>Leadership</i>	
CommodoreMike Holman
Vice CommodoreCathy Betts
Rear CommodoreHeidi Merrifield
PurserSharon Nell
YeomanBarbara Berntsen
Fleet CaptainRon Reding

Commodore's Report



Ahoy TYC Members,

Well, it's official. With the Tacoma Yacht Club Daffodil Marine Parade the boating season has begun. This year Totem had about 30 participants in the festivities decorating boats and playing in the Trivia contest. That was a great showing by our club. Special thanks go to Tim Reding for once again being the captain of his boat "*Satisfaction*," our parade flag ship; to Matt Ales for designing and constructing our theme boat's ("*Zivjeli*") rotating dolphins (they made it past the judges); JPC Joe Simpson for leading our trivia team; Ted Shell our theme boat's fearless airborne surfer dude; and all the many members that participated. Well, we didn't come home with a trophy, but we had a great time, and I don't think my boat has ever looked as funky as it did as the Totem theme boat.

Right around the corner are the Seattle Opening Day festivities at the Seattle Yacht Club on May 7th which Rick Demere's boat "*Lucky Dog II*" will be Totem's Flag Ship. On May 14th the Des Moines Yacht Club will host the South Sound opening day at their club. We will have our Commodore, Vice and Rear all in attendance. Besides the traditional flag ceremony at 2:00 PM there will be a lot of exhibits and then evening dinner and dancing for all. See the attached flyer. I encourage all members of Totem to join us at Des Moines.

The Big Cruise - Memorial Day Weekend is our annual cruise to Poulsbo. Traditionally this has been one of our two most-attended cruises by boat and drive-ins by car. Three days of great fun in what I believe is one of the Sound's two best little destination towns for a fun weekend. There will be a lot to do, and as usual, we have the floating party room reserved for Totem. Please contact Fleet Captain PC Ron Reding to make your reservations and to find out more. As usual, our hosts will be Past Commodores Roger and Louise Gallington. This is always a great weekend and we encourage all of our boaters to sign up. Let's make this our biggest turnout ever, regardless of the weather.

The very next weekend, June 3rd to the 5th is the "Blessing of the Fleet" in Gig Harbor. Plan to attend and join the raft out and dingy parade. Again, see Ron Reding for specifics. Last year we had something like 13 boats and

everyone had a ball paddling and swimming and cooking on their BBQs and running dingys all over the harbor. Ya'll come.

May 3rd General Meeting: More info on this elsewhere in this month's Totem Line, but I would like to address the program side of the meeting. For some time now, I have wanted to talk with members about the future of our club. I am planning on setting aside time to do that Tuesday night. What I would like everyone to think about is the following question: "If we were sitting in the clubhouse three years from now, and we were to look back over that three year period to today, what would you like to see accomplished by the club, for us to feel good about our progress?" Please think about this question and come ready to answer it. Your answers will help the Bridge and the Board to plan for the next three-year period. Think about potential cruises, events, club growth, physical changes and improvements to the club, membership dues, in fact, think about anything that will help improve our organization. We will also give members more time to plan and co-ordinate summer cruise activities and agendas.

Gratitude: I want to shout out a few words of thanks to various members. First, a special thanks to all who turned out for Daffodil. It takes time (even though it is fun) to decorate boats, participate in Trivia, etc., and the club leadership appreciates all of your contributions. Second, thanks go out to PC Carolyn Hershberger for handling the duties of bar manager these past several months. If you drink at meetings, anything from soda to spirits, you owe it to Carolyn for seeing that your beverage has been on hand. Third, I want to recognize the efforts of Provi Simpson and PC Dave Redding, who together have become quite the team in handling our club rentals. If they keep going at their current pace we are going to have a banner year in rental income. Fourth, to all who came out for the Spring House and Grounds Workday - thank you, thank you, thank you. Fifth, a big thank you to the JoAnn Kagey and her galley crew. We are well fed.

Finally, let me say something about the nature of a volunteer organization. In most volunteer organizations 20% of the members always seem to do at least 80% of the work. In many respects Totem is no different. It's not unusual but it can be problematic. In a large organization that has say, 300 members, that would mean that 60 are seriously involved, active and volunteering. The workload gets spread around, and no one gets worn out and drained. But when the organization shrinks and there are only, say, 80 members, that means that only 16 are seriously involved. At that rate members get worn out quickly. That is the case with Totem. It seems that the same people always show up to do the mundane work, the work that frankly wears people out. I am asking every single member, regardless of whether you are a boater or a social member to talk with a board member and let them know what you are gifted at and what you would like to be involved in. Let's get the workload spread out so that everyone raves about how much fun they are having at Totem. That will help us grow the club and keep everyone actively involved.

I hope to see you all Tuesday, and on the water. Smooth Sailing Days ahead.

Mike Holman, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report



Hi all,

We have been so busy the last month--So many things going on. Ron and I went to the TOA ball the first Saturday of April. It was held at Day Island this year, and we all had a wonderful time. Good food and great band.

The next Saturday we had our Totem work party. Boy did we clean house! It was so nice that so many came to help. Heidi was quite impressed with all we got done. Way to go, Totem Club Members!

The third Saturday, we had Daffodil at Tacoma Yacht Club. WOW! Was that a busy 4 days. We entered an officer boat and a parade boat. We worked really hard and all of us were really proud of our boats that we entered. And our trivia team was outstanding. We all had a great weekend. The next weekend we joined DMYC on their Fox Island raft out. We were all taken to the Ball on *Seebee* with Captain Don at the helm. Had another great Dinner and fun time dancing. Then back down to the dock to catch our ride back to the raft out.

In May we are heading to Seattle Opening with *Lucky Dog II* being our officer boat. We have *4RSpirrlt II* and *Plane 'n Simple* that will be on the dock, too. So please come see us and ride on the officer boat with all of us in the parade. There is plenty of room, just bring a snack.

The next event is South Sound Opening on the May 14th celebrating the opening of South Sound at Des Moines Yacht Club. That's always a fun day. There's Dinner and Dancing. Everyone is welcome to come. You are also welcome to bring your boat--free moorage at the club that weekend. Also, the Boy Scout clean-up on Blake Island is that weekend. Anyone who could take the scouts up and help fix a couple meals would be great. Let Ron know if you can help out with this. Free moorage is offered that weekend. Then on the 27 -29 we will be in Poulsbo for a cruise. Gallingtons are hosting this cruise. Hope to see you all that weekend.

We have a general meeting and Taco dinner Tuesday, the 3rd. See you all there. Have a great month of May. See you on the water.

Cathy Betts, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report



Our membership really stepped up to help out on April 9th House and Grounds. A huge round of applause for the 17 people who came out! That has to be a record and is very encouraging of pride in our club. The galley & bar area was cleaned and organized, windows washed, weeding tackled, downspout replaced, and the back office storage space cleaned out and organized. Now that we've seen the contents in the tubs in the back office, the next step is to inventory what is there and make plans to use them for upcoming events. The remaining list is small: paint the back deck (it has been cleaned/prepped), and re-tape the entrance awning (we need to determine how to precede first, as Barb has received a bid on replacement costs as an option). Joe will replace weather stripping on the deck doors, and Tim replaced lights by the officers' parking (already been ordered). The mini fridge in the bar area didn't survive a recent attempt to defrost it, so it was hauled to the dump and we need to determine whether or not to replace it.

Thank you to Allen & Sally Vraspir for providing April's hamburger feast and Carolyn Hershberger for bar services. Provie Simpson reports rental are continuing to roll in and is grateful to Dave Redding for fielding the communications from prospective rentals. Patty Chastain has done a great job getting our Totem Line out each month while traveling. Nice job folks! Thank you to Joe and Provi Simpson for donating a propane BBQ so that we have one for June's dinner social. We'll also have a charcoal BBQ (if anyone else has an extra propane BBQ they'd like to donate, please let me know.)

Mike and I have been having a ball attending Commodore balls. Can't believe we did 4 in two months, plus attended the opening cruise and daffodil all in that same time span. This weekend we're taking a quiet getaway to Bell Harbor, then it will be back for Seattle's Opening Day parade the following weekend. There is so much to enjoy!

Heidi Merrifield, Rear Commodore

Fleet Captain's Report

Greetings fleet.

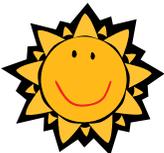
I am happy to say things have warmed up substantially since our opening cruise! Daffodil weekend was so great, weather and otherwise! Now we have Seattle opening around the corner (May 5-7) and more fun and hopefully, great weather again. Totem has 5 boats (or more) going up this year. *4 R Spirit II*, *Lucky Dog II*, and *Plain&Simple* will be on 0 dock by the club house, and *Satisfaction*, *Hip Nautic*, and *Defiance* plan to anchor across from the log boom. The Main Events to see are the international crew races and the Boat Parade on Saturday. There are many other activities going on throughout the weekend (see [Seattle Yacht Club.org/opening day](http://SeattleYachtClub.org/opening%20day)) or give me a call for more info. If you are not cruising up, I encourage you all to drive up and visit us on the dock and see the parade. have a meal and/or join the dancing at Seattle or Queen City YC.

The following weekend May 13-15 is our club's main service cruise. *Satisfaction*, *Lucky dog II*, *Gracefull Spirit*, *Chalk Stick*, and *Sauvage* will be headed to Blake Island, loaded with Scouts and camping gear. (35 to 40 scouts and adults) The scouts will be setting up camp on Friday, and then spending the day Saturday cleaning the beaches and trails. Our crews will be fixing and serving the boys lunch and dinner, then bring them home Sunday. We could still use a sixth boat for this endeavor. Call me if you are interested, but I would have to know soon.

Also on May 14th, Totem boats and members are invited to attend South Sound Opening day festivities at DesMoines YC . Commodore Mike Holman will be the formal flag raising ceremony. Cathy & I, Mike, and several others will be there for that, as well as the dinner and dance Saturday evening. See DesMoinesYachtClub.org for more info. There is is also free moorage there for the weekend.

Smooth Cruising,

Ron Reding, Fleet Captain



Sunshine Report

Charlene Sharpe was in the hospital during the Daffodil weekend. She had two surgeries on a abscess. She is home and slowly recovering. Remember to contact me with any Sunshine news.

You can reach me at FBurns5105@aol.com or at !-253-845-4326.

Louise Burns, Sunshine

Galley Report and Menus for 2016 Meetings



Dinners before the general meetings will be provided for \$6 each month at 6:30, followed by the General Meetings at 7:30.

May 3 - Taco night - Hosted by Tim Reding

June 7 - BYOM (Bring your own meat) BBQ with side dishes, salad and dessert.

September 7 - Potato Bar

October 4 - Bratwurst and German potato salad. Hosted by the Merrifield's.

November 1 - Soup Night - Need 10 volunteers to bring soups.

We are looking for volunteers to host any of the non-hosted meals mentioned above. There will be a sign up sheet at April's meeting!

Joann Kagey, Galley Steward

Position Openings within the clubs leadership: Membership Chairperson (s) and Clothing Coordinator
If you have an interest in either position, please contact the Commodore, Mike Holman, by sending him an e-mail to Mike.zboat@gmail.com.

Area Fuel Prices <https://activecaptain.com/fuelLists/fuelIndex.php>

Current wind direction and speed conditions in Puget Sound:

<http://i90.atmos.washington.edu/ferry/Ferryjs/mainframe1.htm>

Webcams showing current coastal water conditions:

<http://www.northwestwebcams.com/washington-web-cams.shtm#coastal>

Getting to Know You –

A feature in Totem Line dedicated to helping us get to know one another. We hope everyone will be willing to share a little personal information with us. Included in this issue are some questions you might consider as “Story Starters” as you write about you and your family, or maybe you would like to write about someone in the club who you feel has had a positive effect on you or the club. If you'd like to volunteer, please send me your story at <http://totemline@gmail.com>

Mike Holman, 2016 Commodore

Mike joined Totem with his wife, Lois, in March of 2014. While new to the yacht club world, he has had extensive experience leading a number of volunteer organizations and groups. He has served three terms as President of the Tacoma/South Sound Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, as President of the South Puget Sound Chapter of Society of Financial Service Professionals, as President of the Board of Trustees of the University Place Presbyterian Church, as

President of his college fraternity's building corporation for 12 years, and as Chairman of various committees for the University Place School District. He is owner and President of PensionLabs, Inc., a pension consulting company with a national clientele.

Mike was married to Lois (TYC's 2015 Member of the Year) for 46 years, until her death in November of 2015. He has a son, Gary; a daughter Christine and her husband Michael; and a grandson, Jonathan. His boat, "Zivjeli" is a 2005 Beneteau 373 sailboat equipped for sailing as far north as Alaskan waters. Well, the boat can handle those waters; it remains to be seen if Mike can. He also owns a trailerable 20ft bow rider that he uses on Puget Sound and in local lakes. He loves traveling by land, sea or air, and has traveled to 45 states, some 20 countries, and 4 continents. At 68, he still operates his business, and at least for now has no plans to retire.

Possible outline or "Story Starters" for getting to know you, or another Totem member you would like to write about:

1. Name and family members
2. Position in the Club, if any (include any past positions you have held, if you want) This could include leadership positions, or maybe you were in charge of the galley, clubhouse maintenance, Totem Line, etc. Any "traditions" you were involved in starting?
3. Boat name (if any) and some information about your boat (including "interesting boating experiences") or past boats or other boating information or experiences you'd like to share. How did you get into boating?
4. Membership in Totem Yacht Club – how long? How did you learn about TYC, or what attracted you to TYC?
5. Hobbies or interests outside of boating you'd like to share? How did you get interested/involved in them?
6. Career or job information you'd like to share?
7. How about some personal story or anecdote(s) that would help us get to know you as an individual? As possible starters, what's the wackiest thing you've ever done, on or off a boat? What's your all-time favorite book or movie, or a recent book or movie you'd like to recommend? What's the best "fish story" or joke you've heard lately? What is something no one would guess about you? How about some boating advice?

Cruise and Event Schedule for the Remainder of 2016

May Events

May 6- 8 Seattle Opening Day & Parade - Seattle YC
May 13-15 Boy Scouts Work Party Cruise - Blake Island Marina
May 27-30 Memorial Day Cruise - Port of Poulsbo Marina

June Events

June 3-5 Blessing of the Fleet – Gig Harbor Anchor Out
June 24-26 Taste of Tacoma Parking Fundraiser

July Events

July 1-5 Independence Day - Quartermaster Harbor Anchor Out
TBD Summer Cruise – San Juan's – 2 weeks
July 16-17 Tacoma Maritime Fest – Foss Seaport
July 22-24 Commodore's Cruise – Port Orchard Marina
July 24-July 29 North Sound Cruise – TBD – 1 week
July 29-31 First Mates Cruise – Bell Harbor Marina, Seattle

August Events

August 12-14 Kid's Cruise - Des Moines, Marina
August 26-28 Penrose State Park Anchor Out
August 28-September 2 South Sound Cruise – TBD – 1 week

September Events

September 2-5 Labor Day – Arabella's Landing, Gig Harbor

September 24 Carling YC Commodore's Ball

October Events

October 1 Viking YC Commodore's Ball

October 7-9 Halloween Cruise w/DMYC - Port Orchard Marina

October 15 House & Grounds

November Events

November 1 Soup Night & General Election

November 25-27 Turkey Cruise – Des Moines Marina

December Events

December 3 Special People's Cruise - Foss Waterway

December 3 Christmas Party

December 16-18 Lighted Boat Parade Cruise – Dock Street Marina, Tacoma

Daffodil Weekend Highlights

Forty-five people supported Totem's efforts this year for Tacoma Yacht Club's Marine Daffodil Festival. We didn't win any prizes, however we should feel good about working together to enjoy participation in this event. Who could have guessed we would actually have a warm, sunny weekend for "fun in the sun!"

Here are a few special thank you for folks that went above and beyond:

- Two brave, trusting souls: Barbara Berntsen and Ted Shell. Both went up the mast of Commodore Mike's sailboat in a boson's chair – Barb clear up to the radar to hang our 1970's "have a nice day" smile (sunshine), and hang ten; Ted for being an awesome surf dude with flowing locks and groovy board shorts – working the crowd aboard a hot surf board for the entire parade route.
- Several shooters: Mark Hafterson and Doug Gelowitz for taking beautiful photographs and posting them to our Facebook site for all to enjoy. Our theme boat makes a great screen saver! V.J Suttmeier launched several water balloons at us hitting Ron and missing Ted – we were expecting him and Debbie to be taking photos of the beautiful paint job they did on the wave, so this was a surprise at the end of the parade route.
- Two willing skippers and boat loaners: Tim Reding once again provided *Satisfaction* aboard his boat as the flag ship. Mike Holman loaned his boat *Zivjeli* and his son, Gary Holman, graciously skippered it for the event after having spent two days beautifying it. The Holman family rode aboard for the parade – Grandson Jonathan dressed in officer attire, and his daughter Christine and husband Mike in crew clothes.
- A multitude of designers: It has been years since Totem has done a theme boat and Ray Sharpe led the efforts and built the structure for the sun and wave. Matt Ales engineered three dolphins leaping around the side of the boat – it was fantastic when it worked and enjoyed by a few folks by the judges station. We'd done a few planning meetings, so it was amazing to finally see our economic first venture materialize. Cathy Betts shopped for sheets and paints and decorations to support keeping the daffodils alive and fresh.
- A basket case: Virginia Allard created beautiful "bribe" baskets with Totem Sangria in hopes of scoring with the judges in this new award category.
- Token Trivia: Joe Simpson had the best disguise of the group, Provi didn't even recognize him in his long blond wig and the shorty wetsuit he was sporting for the Token parade. Our team scored 45 points in the three round trivia contest naming both songs and artists and getting our cruise location correctly identified. Our team consisted of Mike Merrifield, Lyle Kagey, Tim Reding, and Tom and Virginia Allard. Joe says the

lesson learned is to trust Virginia – he didn't listen to her and it turns out she had the correct year on both songs which is worth 15 points each! If he had, we would have won!

- Three cheers: Actually lots of cheers! Congratulations to the cheer squad and to everyone who snuck back to the boats to complete decorating! This was a fabulous year for Totem!

Pictures from Daffidil Festival (For more great pictures, see Totem's Facebook Page)

