



The Totem Line

59 years of yachting – 60 years of friendship



In this issue: Don't forget – Dinner (\$6) and General Meeting 6:30, Wednesday, Sept. 6th;

Upcoming Events

Sept. 6 Dinner & General Meeting
Sept. 24.....Carling Yacht Club Ball
Oct. 1.....House and Grounds Work Day
Oct. 7-9.....Halloween Cruise to Port Orchard
with Des Moines Yacht Club

Leadership

Commodore.....Mike Holman
Vice Commodore.....Cathy Betts
Rear Commodore.....Heidi Merrifield
Purser.....Sharon Nell
Yeoman.....Barbara Berntsen
Fleet Captain.....Ron Reding

Commodore's Report



Ahoy Totem members,

The summer is rapidly coming to a close and while this may not go down in the books as the warmest and sunniest, there have been several bright spots that we should all celebrate and look back upon with fond memories. A number of boats and members made the trip north to the San Juans and beyond, and several boats were present at our sponsored cruises. The largest turn out occurring at Quartermaster Harbor for our annual 4th of July cruise with 15 boats. But more on cruises in other reports.

In any volunteer organization it is the members that make things happen. When there are no paid staff members to run the organization it is the members that must do the heavy lifting. At Totem that is reality - things happen and get done when people step up and deliver. I feel the need to recognize two specific members this month who have done just that. After all, you should know who is making things happen.

The first is Rick Demere, captain of Lucky Dog II, a member since 2011, and a Trustee. Every year for the last several years the club has made money by charging for parking in our lot during "The Taste of Tacoma". This year there were no co-sponsoring groups and no members available to take on this effort. The results - lost opportunity and lost revenue. Then out of the blue, Rick stepped forward, got the Boy Scouts involved, organized and supervised the effort, and made the club \$717.00 in parking fees and raised an additional \$150.00 for the Boy Scouts. Now here's the great thing about Rick's actions - nobody asked Rick specifically to do this, he simply saw a need, an opportunity, and took it on to make it happen and two organizations benefitted. Thank you Rick, you are a great example of members in action.

The second is Provi Simpson. Provi, and husband Joe (our Jr. Past Commodore), have also been members since 2011, and are both Trustees. Currently Provi has been handling clubhouse rentals. This is not a small task, as it involves making contact with parties interested in renting our facility, showing them the club house, closing the deal, meeting with them to set them up for the rental and delivering the keys to the club, and then following up after their event to make sure the club has been left clean and in order. It also involves cleaning when necessary after the event. No small task. Provi has pursued this task with tenacity and has not wavered. It has been a time demanding

job. But then she fully understood what it would take. But here is the deal - she understood the task, took it on, and in the face of increased demands at work has stuck to the task for Totem and delivered. Her efforts have already produced \$6,850.00 in rental income to the club with an additional \$2,625.00 already signed up for the balance of the year before we start booking the Christmas party rentals. Her efforts will produce in excess of \$10,000 in rental income in 2016. A great job! Thank you, Provi, for being so dependable.

Provi and Rick provide us with two great examples of what happens when members step forward to volunteer to do the jobs that are not in the limelight, but that make the club function and work. We need more of that from more of you. Remember - Totem is 100% volunteers. If everybody volunteers to do something on a consistent basis, no one gets burned out and the club grows and is healthy and everybody has fun. So, as we face a new year, get involved - even if only in a small way. You only get out what you put in, so make a deposit.

Smooth Sailing and Calm Waters,
Mike Holman, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report



Hi All,

I want to welcome everyone back from a wonderful summer. Ron and I had a busy summer. We attended many functions representing Totem, met some wonderful people and traveled to many new Ports and Harbors on our summer cruising.

I want to thank Rick Demere for jumping in and pulling together a great weekend of people to help for the Taste of Tacoma parking lot fund raiser. We had Boy Scouts come one day and we shared the money with them, but Rick and members covered the rest, and we did great. He and I figured out not so good on Friday--we only parked 3 cars, but the rest of the weekend was great. Thank You ,Rick! It was a great fundraiser.

We have a lot of things coming up in the next months, so come to the meeting Wednesday, September 6th. We will have dinner first, 6.30, then the general meeting following.

We need to start getting ideas of who may be interested in being on the board or be willing to take on one of the other many positions I will need to fill. I hope we have some members who have been thinking about joining me as I represent Totem for 2017. I will need help so we can get this club on the move to have a great year.

Thank You to all of you who have helped me so far along on my journey to becoming your 2017 Commodore

Cathy Betts, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report



Kudos to Provi Simpson for her exemplary service to the club as our rental manager. She's continued to support rentals throughout the summer to help generate income to defray operating costs of having a clubhouse.

Please mark your calendar to attend our Fall House & Grounds on Saturday, Oct 1st, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (note this is a date change from earlier published calendar as a result of a rental taking our original date). Two items on the list that didn't get completed yet are painting the deck and retaping the awning. The board agreed last spring, that it makes more sense to retape instead of replacing the awning and to look into adding lighting so it also serves as signage.

Mike and I took our first cruise to the San Juans this summer and enjoyed a marvelous two-week vacation hitting the most popular ports: Rosario Resort, Deer Harbor, Friday Harbor, and Roche Harbor Resort. We only ended up grabbing a buoy one night on our way up at James Island, a little state park we passed shortly after going through Deception Pass. The journey motoring was two days each way, including stops at Everett headed north, and Edmonds on the return leg. We were impressed that we were actually able to sail 3 times while up in the islands on the days between ports. A highlight of the trip was a whale watch excursion. We also took our dingy to Garrison Bay and toured English Camp and kayaked on several days and really enjoyed playing in the eddies off of Battleship Island northwest of Roche.



Three years ago, Mike and I joined Totem Yacht Club, having discovered the difficulty of getting moorage during holiday weekends and in the summer time due to “clubs” blocking out the most popular places. Our move to Des Moines Marina last summer has caused much reflection (and rumors) about our future with Totem. One key decision I made last spring was that it no longer makes sense for me to continue in leadership at Totem. I've enjoyed the 3 years of service as a trustee on the board, fleet captain, and this year as Rear Commodore, however weeknight meetings are just too tough with a long daily commute to Seattle and a 4:15 a.m. wake-up. Mike agrees, and so although we will continue to be active members of Totem in 2017, we will not be running for re-election this fall. This decision opens the door for long-time members interested in serving as an officer without a 6-year commitment, as well as for new members to get involved. While serving on the board we chose to attend everything that was available and discovered reciprocity wasn't just about free moorage – it was really about getting to attend neat events hosted by other clubs, too. We look forward to active participation in Totem events in 2017.

Heidi Merrifield, Rear Commodore

Fleet Captain's Report

Greetings Totem Members;

With summer winding down (Already!) I reflect back on a busy cruising season. Our Independence Day anchor-out at Quartermaster, featuring VJ & Debbie's scow, *Nemo*, for a base was a blast, with 15 boats attending, and only minor anchor dragging involved. We had a lot of boats up north on extended cruises this summer, leading to light turn-outs at some cruises, and the Port Orchard cruise cancelled during that time. A lot of us bumped into each other up there; all good encounters from what I hear! Last I heard, JR & Carol were still in Alaskan waters, but heading south.

We had the most successful kids' cruise in years, with 23 kids in attendance at Dockton, hosted by VJ and Debbie, and Tim and Linda.

The First Mates' cruise to Bell Harbor, hosted by Mike and Heidi, went very well, although only 3 boats attended (sorry I missed that one!)

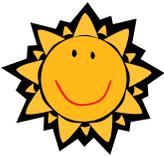
Tim & Linda hosted the anchor-out at Penrose Aug 23-26 and we had a great time, despite being blown around quite a bit on Saturday, and a little anchor dragging boat shuffling in the morning. Seven boats attended.

We still have our Labor Day cruise to look forward to this weekend, hosted by Commodore Mike Holman, to wind down the season.

I will be organizing a planning meeting for some time in December to set locations and dates for next next year's cruises and other activities. I hope many of you will attend and give input. In the meantime, please let me know if you have suggestions for future cruise locations and/or activities, and if you might host a cruise, or help host a cruise.

'Til then, smooth cruising.

Ron Reding, Fleet Captain



Sunshine Report

PC. Bernie Merrifield had knee replacement surgery. He is home and doing fine. He plans on being at the meeting Tuesday. You can reach me at FBurns5105@aol.com or [1-253-845-4326](tel:1-253-845-4326) with any sunshine news.

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. We are looking for volunteers to host any of the non-hosted meals mentioned below.

September 7 - The galley will be serving pulled pork sandwiches with baked beans and Cole Slaw. JoAnn is looking for some help with any other sides and desserts. Please contact her at (253) 840-9538, if you would like to help out! She would need to know by the 5th.

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

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

Joann Kagey, Galley Steward

Position Openings within the clubs leadership: Reminder that we have several positions open in Totem Yacht Club. Please consider letting your board members know that you would be willing to serve – they can explain what the position involves, beyond the short “job descriptions.”

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 – Patty Chastain

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, 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>

I've been hiding out as your Totem Line editor these last few years, and thought I should contribute to the “Getting to Know You” efforts, so here's a little bit about me:

I have been married to my husband, Gary, for 43 years, and we have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. I retired 9 years ago from Pacific Lutheran University, where I taught math and science content and methods to future teachers. When I'm not on the boat, I enjoy golfing and line dancing. So far, I've gotten some of the grandkids involved with golfing and boating, but none has taken up line dancing yet.

I am a lifelong “boat addict.” I lived on an 83 foot ex-Navy boat with my parents, who bought it when it was declared surplus by the Navy near the end of WWII, and had it converted to a pleasure boat (or maybe it was already converted – I was way too young to know.) Anyway, the boat, named the “Patty Lou,” after their first child (me) was moored on Lake Union in Seattle, right across from the Gas Works Park, which was actually an electricity-producing plant in the 1940's and early 1950's and belched black soot and smoke all over everything. We did lots of cruising all over Puget Sound and Canada, where one of their favorite ports was Sidney, BC. I had my first experiences on my own in a boat during those times – they would put me in the dinghy with a life jacket on (actually, I pretty much lived in a life jacket) and tie a long line to the dinghy so I wouldn't get swept away. I fished and played with jellyfish, and hunted shore crabs and generally enjoyed the whole experience. After they sold that boat and moved ashore, we still always had some kind of boat (my dad once took a hydroplane in trade for a car, and I got to ride in it a couple of times before he decided it was not that good for cruising or fishing.)

After my dad died when I was 12, my mother soon bought her own boat, a 27' Fairliner, and joined a yacht club. We cruised with the club, and on our own, then she traded it for a new Owens. When I was 16, she bought me a 16' outboard and moored it on the ship canal, so I could take my younger sister and friends out on the lake and through

the locks to the Sound. I couldn't imagine giving a 16 year old that kind of freedom today, but it was wonderful, except the time ...oh well, stories for another day.

Fast forward to adulthood (and it was fast – I'm already practically past middle age!) I got hooked on sailing in the 1980's, and my husband and I had a 15' Arima that we used for fishing, and series of small sailboats. I finally decided that sailing was too much work, and sold the last sailboat, a 19' West Wight Potter. My mother had passed away in 2000, and my sister and I inherited the property on Lake Union where I had begun life so many years ago. The property had been leased out for many years, and developed into a marina, and I bought out my sister and the remaining years of the lease and began managing the marina. Lo and behold, shortly after selling the sailboat, there was a 27' SeaRay for sale in the marina that appeared to be in very good condition, so I bought it. I soon decided I wanted a twin engine, straight drive or V-drive (never did master the inboard-outboard docking routine.) That led to the 28' Marinette that I had when I joined Totem in 2011. (And still have, since it hasn't sold). Last fall I bought the 37' Canoe Cove, *Sea Dancer*, that I absolutely love! (Well, other than the profuse smoke produced by those old Caterpillar engines when they are cold!) PC Carolyn Hershberger, my "first mate" Margaret, and I brought her down from Blaine last October. There is nothing like getting out on Puget Sound, enjoying the salt air and the wildlife, but I really didn't know where to go, or what to do when I got there, so joining Totem Yacht Club has been a godsend for me. Someone is usually around to help with lines, and the fellowship is great. I've been editing the Totem Line for a few years now, something that keeps me in touch with the club even when we are snow-birding in California.

Cruise and Event Schedule for the Remainder of 2016

September Events

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

September 24 Carling YC Commodore's Ball

October Events

October 1 House & Grounds

October 1 Viking YC Commodore's Ball

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

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

Bell Harbor Cruise Report (For more great pictures, see Totem's Facebook Page)

Totem's Bell Harbor City Cruise July 29-31

By Heidi Merrifield

We had a gorgeous weekend for our city cruise. and Although we only had three boats, we all agreed it was great getting to know each other and enjoying downtown during the best weather of the summer time. Rick Boskovich, Matt & Debbie Ales, and Mike & Heidi Merrifield enjoyed breakfast on Alan's Leg-A-Sea on Saturday morning before walking along the waterfront.



In the afternoon, Rick had friends hang out on his boat, while Ales and Merrifield's attended a musical and went to dinner by the great wheel.

Saturday evening was Seafair Torchlight parade, so we wandered up to view it learning each other's tricks for navigating the hill climb and elevators along the waterfront to Pike's Place Market. Rick was intrigued to learn that the Seafair pirates are recruiting – one handed out a brochure with their information and lots of fun photos of parade events.



We hadn't attended the torchlight parade since childhood and really enjoyed how easy it was to attend from Bell Harbor Marina. We're going to go back again next year. Rick and the Ales are also planning their next visits downtown. Sorry we missed the rest of you!

Be sure to check out our photos and videos for this event on Totem's Facebook page.

Dockton Kids' Cruise Report

VJ and Debbie Suttmeier, Tim Reding, and Linda Harms hosted this year's Kids' Cruise at Dockton, and over the course of the weekend, kids came and went. Some stayed the whole weekend and others just visited friends or relatives for a few hours, but there were also so many other kids at the park who joined in swimming, fishing, beachcombing and kayaking, that it was impossible to know who was actually with Totem, and who wasn't...and that actually led to at least one new family joining Totem, because they saw how much fun we were having! Debbie planned some great art activities at the park, and the kids decorated "octopus cupcakes" that they shared with us "grown-ups" after dinner. The older boys enjoyed swimming and fishing off the dock and caught flounder, dogfish, and crabs. Ron towed kids around with his dinghy.

