



THE TOTEM LINE

Volume 64 | Issue 2 | FEBRUARY 2017



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 7 Dinner \$6 6:30 PM
General Mtg 7:30 PM

Feb 25 Totem's Ball 6:00 PM

Feb 21 Board Mtg 6:30 PM
Location change:
Blue Dolphin Interiors,
1101 "A" Street, Suite 2

Mar 4 DMYC Ball 6:00 PM

Mar 7 Dinner \$6 6:30 PM
General Mtg 7:30 PM

Mar 31-Apr 2 Longbranch

CHANGE OF WATCH

Totem's 2017 Bridge is Commodore Cathy Betts, Vice Commodore Tim Reding, Rear Commodore Debbie Ales, Yeomen Barbara Berntsen, Purser Sharon Nell and Past Commodore Mike Holman. Board of Trustees includes Matt Ales, Sharon Blair, Rick Demere, Lyle Kagey, Provi Simpson and Fleet Captain Ron Reding.

2016 AWARD WINNERS

Recipients of the 2016 Commodore awards: Boat of the Year - Rick Demere for Lucky Dog II, Boating Family of the Year -Mike & Heidi Merrifield, and Member of the Year - Provie Simpson. A new member award was presented to Matt & Debbie Ales, and Lyle & JoAnn Kagey.

GALLEY MENU – JOANN KAGEY

February 7th \$6 meal at 6:30 pm

*Fried Chicken, Potato Salad,
Baked Beans & Cobbler*

provided by:

JoAnn Kagey, Virginia Allard,
Jenny Kenyon, & Sally Vraspir



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OFFICER'S REPORTS

COMMODORE – CATHY BETTS



The club is up and moving to a great new year. We had a very productive Board Meeting the end of Jan. The floor is on its way being installed this month.

I would like to invite everyone in the club to come and celebrate with Ron and I at the 2017 Totem Yacht Club Commodore's Ball at our clubhouse on Feb. 25th. I want each Totem member who is putting their time in to make this an amazing evening for me to know how much I appreciate all the work you have done. Thank You. If you'd like to attend the ball, contact purser Sharon Nell to secure your reservation by Feb 15 at rosesharon22@comcast.net.

In January I had the honor of attending 3 funerals of past members. Our Club has lost 4 wonderful men who were Commodores, and or just great members. First was PC Jerry Rudd who was Commodore in 1994, 2006 and 2007. Ray Ozanich who joined in 1986, he and his wife Patty attended many functions and cruises. Totem's 1989 PC Commodore Ray Schuller also passed away last Month. Then I received a call that PC Commodore Karl Schnoor passed away, too. I would like to thank these 4 men and their families for all the time and commitment that they gave to make Totem what it is today.

I want everyone to start thinking of the events that are coming up in the next couple months. Daffodil in April, Seattle Opening and South Sound opening at Des Moines in May. Please come join us to make these events even more special. We will be having Tacoma Yacht Club PC Roger Williams and his wife come join us for dinner this Tuesday to show a short video and talk to us about Daffodil Marine weekend at their club.

Cruising season is about to begin. While getting your boat ready for the season remember we are having our fund raiser at Des Moines Swap Meet March 25 so please bring all your donations to the club at our March 7th meeting, or contact Ron Reding at 253-279-0314 or r_reding@comcast.net if you have any questions.

VICE COMMODORE – TIM REDING



Well here we are off and running to another fun year of boating with friends. There are a lot of things going on this month. We are going to be getting our new flooring installed starting on the 13th. We are looking for some volunteers to help in the preparation that has to

happen before the floor goes down. Please contact RC Debbie Ales for further instructions. Of course after all that work comes the fun of our Commodore Ball for Commodore Cathy. PC Mike has a great venue for the evening. (I hope that Cathy likes hot dogs and chili for our dinner.) Looking forward to seeing all there. Come support our club. May your seas be gentle.

REAR COMMODORE – DEBBIE ALES



Please let me know if you can help with some tasks in February to help prepare the clubhouse for our Commodore's ball that will be on February 25. After the February 7 general meeting, we need folks to help move the tables and chairs off of the vinyl flooring to the carpet

areas. The floors will be stripped and the baseboards removed before February 10. The flooring is planned to be installed February 13-16.

After the flooring is installed, the carpets need to be shampooed, the kitchen and bathroom floors will need to be mopped, general cleanup of the club needs to be done and some of the chairs need to be cleaned before the ball. Please contact me at alesmw161@gmail.com or [434-944-0348](tel:434-944-0348) to volunteer and set up access to the clubhouse.

House and Grounds has been added to the events calendar on Saturday, April 8th and September 9th. I am working on the list of tasks for the one in April. If the weather permits, we need to repair and paint the deck, finish the repairing the awning, trim bushes and weed, put down beauty bark. We also need to clean out and organize the basement. More details will follow as the date gets closer.

JoAnn Kagey headed up a great meal in January. Thank you JoAnn and Virginia for providing the meal and the galley crew for their hard work.

Provi has 6 rentals lined up for the clubhouse so far for this year. The clubhouse was promoted as a rental facility at the January Bridal Fair in Tacoma. Be sure to keep your ears open and help promote the clubhouse rentals. Information can be found at www.totemyachtclub.com or [253-759-9062](tel:253-759-9062). You can send Provi the contact information of anyone interested in renting the clubhouse at joe.n.provi@gmail.com.

PAST COMMODORE – MIKE HOLMAN



No report this month.

Editor's Note: Mike has been very busy in January raising funds at the Bridal Fair, hosting an open house which resulted in two wedding rentals, and Coordinating efforts for the upcoming

Commodore Ball. He has been under the weather fighting the seasonal flu the past few weeks.

FEB BOARD MEETING CHANGES

Per our by-laws, changes to dates or locations for meetings during the year need to be communicated to the membership 6 days prior to the event. We had the opportunity for a rental on the scheduled date of our February board meeting, so Barbara Berntsen has graciously offered to let the meeting be held at her business. Board meetings are open to general membership, so if you plan to attend the meeting, it will be held on **Tuesday, Feb 21 at 6:30 p.m at Blue Dolphin Interiors, located in Tacoma 1101 "A" Street, Suite 2.**

OTHER REPORTS

TOTEM LINE – HEIDI MERRIFIELD

As editor of our monthly newsletter, I've have taken over monitoring our club's e-mail at totemline@gmail.com. If you have information to include in the newsletter, please submit through this e-mail address by the end of each

month so that I can publish the Totem Line by the first Saturday each month.

COMMODORE'S BALL RAFFLE AND DECORATIONS – VIRGINIA ALLARD & HEIDI MERRIFIELD

Virginia is still collecting donations of new items at the February 7th meeting. Contact her at @ [206-948-4766](tel:206-948-4766).

Heidi is coordinating decorations and set up for the ball. Volunteers interesting in helping can come to the clubhouse on any of the following dates: Sat, Feb 18, Mon, Feb 20, and Fri, Feb 24 between 10 am – 2 pm. We will also need clean-up help on Sunday, Feb 26 10 am – 2pm. If you'd like more details please email her at totemline@gmail.com.

SUNSHINE – LOUISE BURNS

The month of January was a very sad month for Totem Yacht Club. On January 4th we lost Past Commodore (1989) Raymond Schuller. Then on January 8th we lost Past Commodore (1994, 2006, and 2007) Jerry Rudd. On January 20th we lost Raymond Ozanich. Our thoughts and prayers are with all three families. You can contact me by phone 1-253-845-4326 or FBurns5105@aol.com Louise Burns

MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL DIRECTORY – VAL & BOB WATSON

We are in the process of finalizing the membership info for our 2017 Totem Membership Directory for distribution at the March 7th meeting. Please check your info in the 2016 directory, and let us know if updates are needed robertwatson6@comcast.net.

If you have not had a photo taken for the directory, Bob will be taking photos before the February meeting. If you already have a head-and-shoulders style photo you would like us to use, email it in a JPG format.

Four membership applications were brought to the board at January's meeting and will be sworn in at Tuesday's meeting. A warm welcome to Kris Huber & Lisa Otto, Robert & Judy Herrington, Brian & Phillys Slater, and Michael & Gabrielle Scanwell.

2017 APPOINTED CHAIRS:

Archives _____	Bob Watson
Bar _____	Linda Harms
By Laws _____	Bob Watson
Clothing _____	Sally Vraspir
Facebook _____	Doug Gelowitz
Fleet Surgeon _____	Tony Dulas
Galley Steward _____	JoAnn Kagey
IOBG _____	Ron Reding
Membership _____	Val Watson
RBAW _____	Bob Watson
Reciprocal Manager _____	Ron Reding
Rental Manager _____	Provi Simpson
Sergeant at Arms _____	Karen Bodecker
Sunshine _____	Louise Burns
Totem Line _____	Heidi Merrifield

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

LYLE & JOANN KAGEY



JoAnn and I began boating about 20 years ago. We started with a trailer-able boat and spent our first couple of summers running back and forth to Lake Chelan. Our kids were teenagers at the time and it was always a fun time to go boating as a family and learn the world of boating together.

Eventually, we started getting two-foot-itis and started thinking about a bigger boat. I told JoAnn at the time that we should spend a summer on the Sound and see if it was something we really wanted to do. That summer we spent as much time as possible on our little 24' Four Winns, "Saint Somewhere", going from Blake Island to Jarrel Cove and many points inbetween. It wasn't tough for us to decide to "move up"!

We purchased our current boat brand new off the showroom floor in 2003 and "Hip Nautic" has been our home away from home for over 13 years now. We have been as far north as Princess Louisa Inlet and Desolation Sound and practically everywhere in the Sound. Every

year we try to get to a new place or two that we haven't been, along with our many favorite places.

Our boat name "Hip Nautic" was a collaboration between JoAnn and I. We wanted something that was unique and fun!



We have had many exciting moments on "Hip Nautic" and she has always handled those moments very well... Us, not so much! One particular day, we left Roche Harbor heading for Sucia Island. I am very meticulous about safety and weather conditions and I had spent the early morning checking forecasts, etc. After checking my route and the weather, we set off for Sucia. It was a beautiful summer day and the winds were calm. As we ran inbetween Waldron and Orcas Islands, I noticed whitecaps in the distance but didn't give them much of a thought... The wind was still fairly calm! That changed very quickly!

As soon as we came out from behind Waldron Island, the wind picked up to a gale force coming from the NW, wind waves were running 8-12 feet and I had no choice but to turn into the waves for fear of the boat capsizing! As we went from wave crest to wave trough, we saw logs to either side of us but no other boats! The ride was so bad that neither one of us could get up long enough to put our life jackets on... We had bluewater running all the way up to the windshield at times!

Fortunately, Patos Island wasn't too far from us and I piloted the boat into its wind shadow. We stayed in the shadow and calm waters for a little while hoping for a reprieve from the wind but it didn't let up and we made the decision to make for Sucia... Eventually (about 2 hours), we pulled into Fossil Bay and grabbed a buoy for the night. JoAnn and I went below and took a much needed nap!! A very scary trip but "Hip Nautic" handled it with out any problems! The lesson learned was that weather reports are sometimes too general... Trust what you see and react!

We have had many more fun times than bad times and continue to learn something every trip out. The challenges make us better boaters!

JoAnn is a "whale magnet", it's almost a guarantee that we will see the resident Orca's when we go north!

We began boating with many of the Totem members several years ago. Tim Reding invited us to many of their cruises. We enjoyed every outing that we went on with Totem and it wasn't a hard decision to join. The club has great members!

We decided to become more active in the club because we felt the need to give back. Even though we have been members for only two years, we've been boating with the club a few more than that! We enjoy the company, comradery and friendships we have made in the club... And look forward to more in 2017.



Some of our favorite cruises are the Penrose anchor out, the blessing of the Fleet in Gig Harbor and the July 4th cruise. If you haven't been to these cruises, come join us this year!

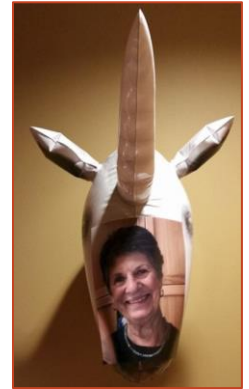
JR REDING & CAROLE MERCURIO

Match.com was responsible for connecting JR and Carole a few years ago. Be sure to ask them to tell their story of their first meeting, it is charming to hear them each tell their part. It involves intrigue over a red speedo.

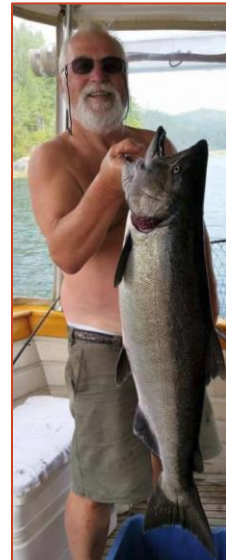


JR joined Totem in 2007 persuaded by younger brother Tim to help him out when he was preparing to be Commodore in 2008. JR was a member of Tacoma Yacht Club (and still for 20+ years, is as it is a requirement when your boat is moored there). Carole was born in Vancouver, Canada and moved to the US when she was 10 years old. She had never been on a cruising yacht. She had enjoyed trailer boats and fishing on the river with her dad and brother growing up. She has a 19' Glass fly that she has trailered to Canada to Pender Cove a favorite fishing spot. JR says

she has a bad "fishing habit" – perhaps still perplexed because she wanted to dump the beef in his freezer when she caught too many fish last year while they were boating May – Sept up North. They did 5,500 nautical miles together. Her family jokes she is a unicorn – because it is rare to see her!



The Reding boys grew up around boats as their father built boat and started the business Zephyr Boats. When the trend for boat building changed over from wood to fiberglass, he decided it was time to convert to a cabinet shop instead, since he didn't like working with fiberglass. JR remembers his first trip to the San Juan's was with his dad on a 16' Lady Clipper.



JR built his own first boat – an 8' paddle board (lay down style) out of plywood in the cabinet shop. He has always had a boat and still owns 9 boats! He has had day sailboats and crewed in 1959 with the Sea Scouts which he feels has an incredible program and taught him a lot.

JR's current boat is named "Defiance" – he jokes it was named after all off his past girlfriends, but actually it was a suggestion from a dear friend who thought it could have a dual meaning: for the area, as well as him. He logged 120,000 nautical miles on his previous boat "Scott Free" over the 34 years he had it before it sunk.



JR has boated all over the world (Fiji, Carribean, Asia), however he believes the finest cruising in the world is the Puget Sound from Olympia to Alaska. The farthest North he has gone is Glacier Bay Alaska. Carole's favorite place is Desolation Sound and Rebecca Spit and the island near Campbell River. JR loves Barkley Sound and the Gulf Islands.

MATT ALES



I joined Totem in the fall of 2015 after hearing about the club at a booth at the Tacoma Maritime Festival. We were looking for a fun cruising club with folks that we could learn from about boating in Washington.

I started sailing with my father on lakes in Ohio on a Pearson 23 when Debbie and

I were dating and we continued to sail with him on Lake Michigan after Debbie and I were married and he retired up there. My recollection of launching and attempting to sail that little boat bears an uncanny resemblance to a combination of Keystone Cops, Laurel and Hardy and the Three Stooges.

I think the first time Debbie went with us, we ended up sitting in the middle of the lake in a lightning storm and getting shocked if you were touching anything metal.

Dad didn't think that you were really sailing unless the gunwale was in the water and that didn't go over well



with Debbie so it nearly ended our boating life before it even started. Luckily, Debbie eventually gave in and we took sailing lessons then bought our first boat, a 32 foot PDQ sailing catamaran named "Auspicious".

We got our Hunter 41 sailboat "Auspicious Too" after we decided the PDQ was too small but bigger catamarans were too big to fit in most slips. The company I came to Washington to work for in 2014 picked up much of the cost of shipping it across the country. Hopefully I'll even



get the hailing port on the boat changed to Tacoma before much longer.

I'm looking forward to spending a

lot more time on the water in 2017. The club calendar is pretty full so there are plenty of things to do. It might even be a challenge to fit in motorcycle rides between boating and the new grandson.



If you think "Tacoma" is an odd name for the energetic dog from the Yakima humane society that cruises with us on the sailboat, ask one of us how she got her name sometime.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: NEW MEMBERS

Next month we'll have an article on our newest member Shelli Rowe of Foss Harbor Marina who joined our club at January's meeting. Val Watson will be writing articles on our new members for 2016-2017.

We also encourage our members to use Facebook to get acquainted. See our facebook site at:

<https://www.facebook.com/totemyachtclub/>

View our newsletters and cruise & event schedule on our website (see left column): <http://totemyachtclub.com/>

CRUISE SCHEDULE 2017 – FLEET CAPTAIN RON REDING

Here is the official schedule for 2017. The sign-up book will be available at all meetings, but you can also contact me to add your name to a cruise. I still need hosts for the cruise to Herron Island in June, as well as the anchor-outs for Blessing of the Fleet in Gig Harbor, and Independence Day in Quartermaster.

Contact me at: r_reding@comcast.net or 253-279-0314.

DATE	CRUISE	DESTINATION	HOST(S)
March 31-Apr 2	Opening Day Shakedown Cruise	Longbranch Marina	Rick Demere
Apr 20-23	“Daffodil Paradise” Marine Parade	Tacoma YC	
May 2-7	Seattle Opening	Seattle YC	
May 13	South Sound Opening	Des Moines YC	
May 19-21	Boy Scouts Work Party	Blake Island	Tim Reding
May 26-29	Memorial Day Cruise	Poulsbo Marina	Lyle & Joann + Tim & Linda
June 2-4	Blessing of the Fleet Anchor-out	Gig Harbor	
June 9-11	Joint Cruise with Viking YC	Herron Island	
July 1-5	Independence Day Anchor-out	Quartermaster Harbor	
July 14-16	Commodore’s Cruise	Brownsville Marina	Cathy Betts & Ron Reding
July 28-30	First Mates Cruise (Seafair Parade)	Bell Harbor Marina	Mike & Heidi Merrifield
Aug 11-13	Kid’s Cruise	Dockton	Ray & Shelan Aldridge
Aug 25-Sept 1	South Sound Hop	Penrose to Swantown	Lyle & JoAnne Kagey
Sept 1 – 4	Labor Day Cruise	Swantown Marina	Jim & Nancy Terrell
Oct 13-15	Halloween Cruise	Port Orchard	w/Des Moines YC
Nov 24-26	Turkey Cruise	Des Moines Marina	Mike & Heidi + Tom & Virginia
Dec 2	Special People’s Cruise	Foss Waterway	Bob & Val Watson
Dec 9	Lighted Boat Parade Cruise	Dock Street Marina	Bob & Val Watson