



THE TOTEM LINE

Volume 64 | Issue 5 | MAY 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2 Dinner \$6 6:30 PM
General Mtg 7:30 PM

May 2-7 Seattle Opening Day

May 12-14 South Sound Open
Des Moines YC & Marina

May 19-21 Blake Island
Boy Scouts Work Party

May 23 Board Mtg 6:30 PM

May 26-29 Poulsbo Cruise
Memorial Day Weekend

June 2-4 Gig Harbor Anchor
Blessing of the Fleet

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

June 27 Board Mtg 6:30 PM

No meetings July & Aug



DAFFODIL FLOAT AWARD

DAFFODIL FLOAT BOAT CHAIR – MATT ALES



"Totem's Daffodil Paradise" won the Commodore's Choice Award for best float boat! (Surprisingly two other clubs also included Mt Rainier in their theme float boat, whereas most went with a tropical theme.)



Many thanks to everyone who worked on the design, painting, construction and decoration of the float boat and of course to Robert Reding for allowing us to use his boat and driving it in the parade. (His boat is still nameless, so pass along ideas for him!) Thanks to all for your great ideas and hard work!

GALLEY MENU – JOANN KAGEY

May 2 \$6 meal at 6:30 pm

*Chili Slaw Dogs, Salad
& Dessert*

provided by: JoAnn Kagey



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OFFICER'S REPORTS

COMMODORE – CATHY BETTS



First things first - **WE WON Commodores Award for our amazing float in the Daffodil Parade!** Congrats go to all who put in so much effort to make our club shine.

Thank You all who attended the Token Parade to cheer on Nancy

Terrell, my officers who rode on the officer boat, the ones who helped Robert Reding guide our parade boat to victory. And of course those who attended Fridays Hula Contest. I am sure you all saw my performance on Totem Facebook!

The endless group, I need to thank all our professional decorators, Mike Merrifield our photographer, Matt Ales our designer, our host boat with Captain Jim on the *Plane n Simple*. There might have been lots of rain that weekend but once they said we were winners somehow it was all worth it. Thank you all again.

We all enjoyed our **first cruise to Longbranch** the first weekend in April. Ron and I attended the Blue Gavel dinner and dance put on by Des Moines Yacht Club April 8th. In the morning Debbie Ales had our first house and grounds. We got a lot of things on her list completed, thank you for all who supported her and the club. We had a great breakfast and even lunch before Ron and I headed to Des Moines.

The next weekend was **Daffodil** so on with the festivities. Also Sat. night Ron and I attended **Fox Island Ball**. It is one of my favorite Balls of the year. We won for having the most members attending. Tim and Linda, Matt and Debbie, Mike and Phyllis all attended. Linda, Debbie, and I were a little tired after spending the last 3 days decorating and getting everything ready for the events at Daffodil. We all had fun dancing but we kind of faded out after the first set of the band and when they took their break we all headed for the Tacoma Yacht Club docks to get ready for the parade Sunday.

Now on to May we have **Seattle Opening May 2 - 7**. Captain Rick on *Lucky Dog II* will be our officer boat. Please let me know if you would like to join us for the parade day on the boat. Or any of the days you are welcome to use our boat to drop off your jackets and things. Any past Commodore or Jr Past wanting to ride on the bow of the boat with Tim, Debbie, and I are more than welcome to join us in uniform representing Totem. Please let me know if you would like to join us, the more the merrier. Also if you just want to ride on the boat and join us for the day please let me know.

We are looking for someone to organize the parking lot for **Taste of Tacoma June 24-25**. We are using this for one of our fund raisers. We need someone to just organize the shifts and oversee it. We made great money last year. Please think about helping us on this.

We're off to another busy month for our club, so please come to the meeting May 2nd. The galley crew will be providing a great meal at 6:30 pm followed at 7 pm by a talk "**Happy Hooking: The Basics of Anchoring**" by Bob Watson.

See you on the water or at our fabulous club house!

VICE COMMODORE – TIM REDING



It's been another fun, busy month with Totem! We had a great time at our Shakedown Cruise in Longbranch. Thank you Rick Demere for hosting the cruise and all you did for us. It was a fun trip to the winery and if you didn't get to visit you should try to the next time you are in Longbranch.

We had a great turnout for house and grounds and we got a lot of things accomplished. Thanks Debbie for putting it all together.

It was a great time at Daffodil this year. We had 5 Totem boats come in to basin and everyone had a great time. Totem won the Commodores Choice Award for the best decorative boat in the parade. Great Job!! Thanks to Robert Reding for the use of your boat to decorate and Thanks to Matt Ales along with his crew for putting it all together.

We had a wonderful time on Jim and Nancy's boat *Plane n Simple*, as our flag boat. Thanks Jim and Nancy for your hospitality and a great day!

We have a lot of things coming up: The 1st weekend of May is the Seattle Opening Day Cruise and looks like we will have 4 boats at the "O" dock. It should be a fun time so come on up and join us! If you are coming up let us know ahead of time so we can have a head count and if you are going out on the parade boat bring a snack to share along with your own beverages. Rick Demere has kindly volunteered *Lucky Dog II* for us to ride on - Thanks Rick!

We have the **Boy Scouts Clean-Up Cruise the weekend of May 19th** and are looking for volunteers to help us get the scouts up and back. It's a fun weekend and you also get free moorage for the weekend just for helping transport the scouts. They do such a great service, if you would like to be a part of it please contact me or Fleet Captain Ron to let us know if you would like to assist with the scouts.

Memorial Day weekend is coming up and hosted by Lyle and JoAnn, Linda and I. We have 20 slips reserved and would like to get them all filled up so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to reserve a spot. It should be a fun weekend for all!

Looks like a fun filled month so please come and join us. Hope to see you there!

REAR COMMODORE – DEBBIE ALES



The galley crew provided a great meal in April. Thank you Sally, Al, Val and the galley crew for providing the meal, Linda for providing the bar service. We appreciate your hard work and dedication for having a meal ready for us at each meeting.

The April House and Grounds was a success. We cleaned the galley, bathrooms and windows; repaired the deck, worked on repairing the awning, weeded and trimmed the bushes, put down 4 yards of beauty bark, and patched the roof. Thank you Cathy Betts, Ron Reding, Tim Reding, Linda Harms, Matt Ales, Tony Dulas, Lyle

Kagey, Al Vraspir, Ray Sharpe, Jim & Nancy Terrell, Heidi Merrifield, Rick Boskovich, and Kris Huber.

Thank you to everyone that helped on the Daffodil weekend projects and activities. We had a great time.

Provi Simpson has rentals lined up for the clubhouse on May 20, June 10, August 5, October 21 and December 2 & 9. Continue to keep your ears open and help promote the clubhouse rentals. Information can be found at www.totemyachtclub.com or 253-759-9062. You can send Provi the contact information of anyone interested in renting the clubhouse at joe.n.provi@gmail.com.

OTHER REPORTS

CLOTHING – SALLY VRASPIR



Additional blue polos are available at the clubhouse if you would like to buy one. Be sure to bring your checkbook!

FLEET CAPTAIN - RON REDING

To sign-up for cruises please contact me at r_reding@comcast.net or see me at our general membership meetings to sign-up in our cruise log book.

TOTEM CRUISE SCHEDULE

The cruises below require moorage reservations for our limited slips, so sign up today to secure your space.

DATE	CRUISE
May 26-29	Memorial Day Cruise, Poulsbo
July 14-16	Commodore's, Brownsville
July 28-30	First Mates, Bell Harbor
Sept 1 – 4	Labor Day Cruise, Swantown
Oct 13-15	Halloween, Port Orchard
Nov 24-26	Turkey Cruise, Des Moines
Dec 9	Lighted Boat Parade, Dock St

MEMBERSHIP – VAL WATSON



We swore in new members Jon & Katie Tuite in April and will be swearing in another member at our meeting in June. Please come welcome new member Tony Butler!

SUNSHINE – LOUISE BURNS

Totem member Kay Hafterson passed away Saturday, April 22. A card was sent to the family. Condolences to her husband Mark. I have no further sunshine news. Please contact me at 253-845-4326 or at FBurns5105@aol.com



TOTEM “FUN” AWARDS – TIM REDING

Tim has been having fun bringing back Totem’s “FUN” awards this year. So far we he has presented the *Screwball Award* to Joe Simpson and Mike Holman for showing up to meetings out of uniform: Joe in slippers for Change of Watch (Feb) Mike for blue shirt and Dockers instead of his uniform (Mar).



missing out on our Shakedown Cruise. Annual plaques that go with these awards are in the trophy case. Who will be next?

Al Vraspir was presented the *Bent Prop Award* (Apr) for hitting something on his way to Longbranch – sadly



GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

BARBARA BERNTSEN



Barb learned about Totem Yacht Club while doing a construction project on Roger and Louise Gallington’s home. She is a Tacoma native and went to school a year behind JR Reding.

Barbara’s dad had her in a boat before she could walk! She has great stories about the area history including her grandfather from Norway who ran the steam mosquito fleet from Cromwell Beach by Fox Island Bridge. In those days cows were transported to farmers on the bow of the ship and “shoved off” near shore (some delivery).

Her dad made prams and sold them out of the front yard. She used to love to rent row boats at Point Defiance and row all over. In the later years they had motors and that was really wonderful! Her dad worked for Foss Tug and she’s never known life without a boat.

Her first boat was a 26’ Steel Craft. When she married in her 30’s they lived aboard a 38’ CT Pilothouse Ketch Sailboat at Johnny’s Dock. She has lived in her current Cabin on Commencement Bay for the past 30 years. She is a beach girl at heart – having lived on Steilacoom Lake where she spent time at Salmon Beach, as well as with her folks on Hammersley Inlet to Shelton.

Barb’s favorite Totem activities have been putting on crab feed fundraisers with rock ’n roll bands. She choose to be Totem’s Yeoman again this year to support Cathy Betts as well as to feel more involved with the club. Although she currently has a small Boston Whaler, she has enjoyed cruising aboard with others in the club. She cruised on Tim’s boat with JR to the San Juan’s years ago and had a fabulous time. She took the bus back from Nanaimo. She’d spent a lot of time in the San Juan’s exploring during her childhood with her cousins – her uncle owned Crane Island near Orcas and logged it. The kids took the old tug boat they used to haul logs to explore nearby beaches.

JERRY & GAIL BURG



Still boating at 87 and 85 years old, it is inspiring to know that Jerry and Gail didn't even buy their first boat until they were in their

70's in 2000 (other than a 19' Glassply and row boats). They went to Petersburg Alaska with their boat the second year they had it, and have taken annual trips to the Broughton's ever since. This summer will be their last trip that far as it is getting tricky for Gail with a cane.

They decided to keep the original name for their 1971 Grand Banks *Dawn* – since it was the “dawn” of a new experience for them. The boat was 3-times more than they were planning to spend, but they vowed to use it at least once a month and have kept that commitment.



They were interested in getting involved with search and rescue so they joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary to gain skills. They joined Totem after talking with former members Gail and Phil Courts who were also moored at Zittel's Marina in Olympia at the time. They passed along a great tip about a boathouse available to rent at Chamber's Creek which was custom built for a 32' Grand Banks. Jerry is a Mason with meetings that run late twice a month, so it has worked out great to use as a “in town condo” – the Grand Banks Hotel.

Jerry was a Korean War fighter pilot and although they were childhood sweethearts, they went their separate ways and raised families for 25 years before reuniting. Gail had studied nursing in her 50's and used it with the

Fire Department. They are related – Gail's adopted mother's sister is Jerry's grandmother. They were married in Korea and it took 3 days to go through all the required paperwork. In 1981 Jerry retired and they moved to Anderson Island where Jerry's grandpa's family had homesteaded since 1889. They started building their geodome next to the ferry dock in 1982 and moved in 1984. They plan to live there forever.

RICK DEMERE



Rick is a second generation Totem member – his father-in-law Ray Ozanich and his wife Dorothy introduced him to the club by inviting them along on a number of outings over the years. He remembers the tent we just sold at the swap meet last month

was originally purchased to use for catering and skits at Fair Harbor for Labor Day weekends over 25 years ago.

Rick grew up boating on a 9' El Toro Sailboat. It was a wooden boat with slip in keel. Next he had a 14' ski boat he used for over 8 years waterskiing afternoons on Lake Steilacoom with his buddies. They all had boats and rotated so they could share gas expenses. He'd worked night shifts at Shakey's at that time, so could play during the day. He didn't get back into boating again until after his kids were grown. Eight years ago he and his wife Sandy bought their Sea Ray and named it *Lucky Dog* which was her nickname. They'd been married for over 29 years when Sandy passed away.



Now that Rick is retired, he is enjoying the mobility of living aboard his 44' Nova *Lucky Dog II*, as well as his

32' travel trailer. He enjoys the South Sound as it is less crowded and tends to anchor more often than go to docks. He volunteers to camp host 3 times a year at state parks and frequently marine hosts at Blake Island, which



is one of his favorite places. He decided he can't serve in a Commodore position as he is gone too much. Not surprising when he joined Totem in 2011 he was nominated for RC at his second meeting. He declined and decided he needed to experience just being a regular member first. He has volunteer commitments with several other organizations, limiting his time. He also enjoys flying off to Hawaii or Cancun.

Rick has always hosted the first cruise of the year. He enjoys all of our cruises, but especially loves being with boaters who help each other. His Nova entertains great and is a popular gather spot on cruises. He will be Totem's flag ship again this year for Seattle Open. He is looking forward to doing more boating with Totem this year. In 2018 he is planning to take his boat to Alaska for the first time doing a 4-month cruise.

BOB & JUDY HERRINGTON



Bob's earliest memories of boating are as a boy growing up in Spokane. His dad had a 16 ft. boat called a "Sutherland Special" and every summer weekend they would head for the

lakes to go fishing and waterskiing. By the time Bob was

in high school they bought a cabin on Coeur d'Alene Lake - he "lived" for the time spent there! After high school Bob came to UPS where he graduated and has lived here ever since. By then he had his own boat, a 15' Glaspar, which he used on both Puget Sound and trailered to Coeur d'Alene in the summer months. Bob was a junior high school band director so he usually had summers free for boating.

At age 33 Bob met his wife Judy who is also a music teacher. Judy teaches at Charles Wright Academy and 26 years ago founded the Tacoma Youth Chorus which has grown from a small group of 28 kids to 200 choristers in 6 choirs. This summer she will be taking her advanced high school choir to perform throughout Europe. As if that's not enough she is also a published composer and was recently commissioned to write a piece that was just premiered at both Carnegie Hall in New York and The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

After having kids, the Herrington's sold the boat and the cabin and remained boatless until last August.

Bob & Judy have two grown daughters. Anna and husband Massimo live in New Jersey and both work for Coach. Massimo manages the Corporate Shop that produces all the models for new bags and Anna was just promoted to manage the new flagship store, Coach House, on 5th Ave. Their youngest daughter Katie and husband Jon live in Gig Harbor. Jon is a solutions Architect and Katie is a graphic and web designer.

Last fall Jon and Bob decided we wanted to buy a boat together so they could spend time fishing, crabbing and cruising the sound. After a lot of looking, they found a 1973 36 ft. Uniflight in Seattle



which they named "Lady Tuton" (Toot-un) somewhat combining their last names. The maiden voyage from Seattle's Queen City Yacht Club to its new home at Breakwater Marina turned out to be an event they hope never to repeat! After successfully navigating the locks, they headed south to Tacoma on a beautiful August day. Almost directly out from Elliot Bay, right in the shipping lanes, both motors quit. It acted like it was out of gas but since they had been assured by the seller that there had

been “plenty of gas” they assumed it was something else and tried to check out all electrical systems etc. Finally, they gave up and had to be towed all the way to Tacoma arriving at 1:00 am. Later they found out it was indeed simply out of gas.

This spring and summer Bob and Judy are looking forward to several, hopefully more successful, cruises with Totem. Both are excited to be new members!

RON REDING



Ron was a member of Totem long before he met Cathy Betts! *(She says meeting her through the club was his favorite Totem memory.)* Ron joined the club in 2007 to support his brother Tim during his Commodore year.

Prior to joining he had mingled with the club occasionally over the years and attended a few cruises to Fair Harbor.

Meeting Cathy Betts was definitely a conspiracy of friends at Des Moines Yacht Club and TOA. Folks who had heard her complain, “there are no good eligible men available at clubs anymore” put them together at the same table at TOA’s 2012 Commodore’s Ball. His other favorite Totem memories include 4th of July anchor outs at Quartermaster Harbor as well as volunteering to go through the chairs and serve as Commodore in 2013.

Ron’s childhood had lots of great boating memories. The first time he ran a motor was when he was 9 years old, on his grandfather’s 2 ½ hp Elgin. This family spent most summers on Lake St Clare near Lacey fishing for trout, crape, and blue gill. His best memories are of his dad’s 21’ Lady Clipper in 1957 when he was 7 years old. Amazingly with 9 kids in the family they did overnight trips with that boat and everyone slept on the floor. He is currently working on refurbishing the boat for its 60th anniversary and plans to bring it out for our 4th of July anchor out.

Ron is on his 5th boat. His first boat was a 14’ wood hauled runabout (1976) without an engine. He used that while he attended Western Washington University in Bellingham. Next he bought a 20’ cabin cruiser Glassply that had haul damage which he repaired. Then he partnered with his twin brother Rick to buy a 20’ cuddy cabin which they named 4 R Spirit (Rick Reding + Ron Reding = 4 R’s). In May 2007 he bought his 4th boat a 28’ Bayliner which needed work, too – it was in dry dock in Hylebos when Rick went into the hospital before he passed away. Ron named it 4 R Spirit as a tribute to him. Finally in Apr 2014 (the day after the swap meet) he bought his 32’ Bayliner 4 R Spirit II.



Ron recently retired, and after working in construction all those years where he was never able to take more that 2 weeks to cruise during the summer which limited him to the South Sound and San Juans. He is looking forward to extended cruising, however, with Cathy as Commodore and serving again as Fleet Captain, he is still limited to short trips this year. In the near future he looks forward to the freedom to venture out for longer periods. Use the motor home to visit national parks, visit JR’s new place in Yuma, cruise to Desolation Sound, the Broughtons. He is hoping within the next two years to get up to Chatterbox Falls by Camp Malibu where John Wayne used to go in the 1950’s. On his travel wishlist is also a trip to Europe, a Mediteranan Cruise to Greece, Turkey and Cicely. So much to look forwards to.

TOM & KERRI SWIFT



Tom is a native of Tacoma and Fox Island area. Kerri moved around a lot growing up. She moved to Seattle in 1982. She and

Tom met through a dating web site twelve years ago.

They have been married for eight years. Both have been married before and have seven children between them. Kerri was a stay-at-home mom for twenty years taking care of FIFTY foster children during that time. She adopted three, calling them "store bought" and has three "homemade". Six of the children live in the area and one lives in

Mississippi. Three grandkids; of the three, one lives in Vancouver, WA and the other two live in Mississippi. The six-year old "child with paws", Lucy, the Chihuahua-mix makes herself at home on their boat.



Kerri has worked for Digestive Health Specialists in the medical billing department for the past ten years. Tom is the lead plumber at the Emerald Queen Casino, having been there for fifteen years.

Tom was a commercial fisherman in Juneau and Wrangell and other places in Alaska as a teenager but has not done any serious boating until three and a half years ago when he and Kerri bought a 12" skiff as a hobby. Apparently it was not fun with the leaks and all, but they liked boating so they moved up to a 16' Tiderunner and had a great summer. She confided that

the migraines she was experiencing even went away on the water! In August they bought a 26'



Carver and decided they wanted to live on their boat. In November, a 32' Bayliner proved to have more needed living space. Six weeks ago they purchased a 38' Uniflite

from a local dealer. They are now serious "boat people" and not "dirt people" any longer. They like the sharing and camaraderie of other boaters. The name of their new boat is *Ohana Kai*, which means "home on the sea". They enjoy cruising somewhere every weekend, mostly to Gig Harbor. They plan to visit many places on the water in the future. Kerri prefers staying at a marina and Tom, of course, likes to anchor. Someday soon Kerri would like to see a whale!

BOATING SAFETY TIPS

Tickets are still available for the South Sound Women's Boating Seminar on Saturday, May 20th at the Olympia Yacht Club! The theme this year is 'Chart Your Own Course.' Presentations by experienced women captains will include:

- Understanding Weather on the Water with Capt. Karen Sullivan
- Navigation Essentials with Capt. Mary Campbell
- Docking Your Boat with Capt. Ace Spragg
- Boat 12V Systems with Capt. Allison Mazon
- Panel discussion of Favorite Cruising Locations

Our popular Hands-On Fair will offer opportunities to explore charting, boat circuitry, galley provisioning, knot tying, canvas repair and more.

The seminar welcomes power boaters as well as sailors. The novice can build a solid foundation, while more experienced boaters can deepen their knowledge and strengthen essential skills. Past participants report that they gained critical information and techniques to feel safer and more confident on the water.

We're also proud to support the next generation of women boaters through a raffle to fund scholarships for "Girls at the Helm" aboard the historic schooner *Adventuress*. Raffle prizes include baskets of boating gear, professional survey and maintenance services, and captain's license instruction.

Register now for the seminar at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2803493 – "South Sound Women's Boating Seminar." Early registration is \$45 by April 30, \$50 after April 30. Includes parking and lunch!

Questions? Contact boatingseminar@gmail.com

SHAKEDOWN CRUISE



Left-Right-Center ✓ Puzzles ✓ Comradery ✓ Relaxing ✓
Feeling blessed ✓ Fun time ✓ Rain ✓ Sunshine ✓





Totem enjoyed a fun time at TYC's Daffodil Paradise weekend. Cathy Betts scored 9th place and Brian Woods scored 5th place in the Commodore's Hula contest on Friday. Token Nancy Terrell was decked out as a daffodil to answer for the Marine and Music Trivia Team of Jim Terrell, Joe Simpson, Kris Huber, Mike & Heidi Merrifield. Flag ship Plane n Simple looked sharp with our officers. Our float boat won!

