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## October 2020 Totem Line

1 message

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**Totem Yacht Club** <totemyachtclub@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: totemyachtclub@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 5:53 PM

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# Totem Line

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## Mark Your Calendar

Totem's general meeting on Oct. 6 will be via Zoom. Yeoman Matt Ales will send instructions and links in advance. The Oct. 20 board will also be via Zoom. If you would like to join the board meeting, contact Matt Ales for the connection info ([males.ohe@gmail.com](mailto:males.ohe@gmail.com)).

[The updated 2020 calendar can be found here.](#)

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**Totem General Meetings** are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise announced), at 6:30 for dinner & 7:30 call to order. Dinner is \$7 per person, exact amount appreciated. **There are no meetings in July and August.**

**Board Meetings** are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the clubhouse. Members are welcome to attend. Minutes of board meetings are available by request; contact the Yeoman. **There are no meetings in July and August.**





Commodore Kris Huber

Vice Commodore Randy  
Kenyon

Rear Commodore Mike  
Holman

**Commodore Kris Huber:** Wow! Another month has flown by! Hi folks. Coming to you from the upper helm again (AKA the condo).

First off, I hope everyone is doing well. Please don't forget that if you need help, reach out to someone. The past 7 months has been very difficult on everyone. Not just financially, but emotionally as well. We are a tight group, if you need to talk to someone, reach out.

Our General Membership meeting in next week, the 6th. Please, please plan on attending. We again are planning on a Zoom meeting. For some, this may be something new to you. It was to me several months ago, but is not as scary as it seems. You can join with your computer or call in from your phone. Reach out to someone if you have questions. If for nothing else, it gives us a chance to see each other, while not in person, it is fun. We have a lot of important things to discuss this month.

As far as the past month. Wow! Crazy month with the smoke huh? Lisa and I did our annual trip to the San Juan Islands. We were able to go to some new places this year. We went to Sucia and Stewart Islands. For someone that grew up in MN, was in Scouts, and had parents that loved to go camping, the San Juan's are a thing of beauty. We had a great time! We had to learn our new navigation on the fly. Great to have sonar when your visibility is only a half nautical mile!

We do have our Pt. Orchard Halloween cruise Oct. 9 - 11. I believe that we are full for boats, but if you want to drive over to visit, please do. The Turkey Cruise has been moved to Gig Harbor. See Fleet Captain Linda's report for details.

That's all for now. Stay safe out there and See you on the water!

**Vice Commodore Randy Kenyon:** Hi Everyone! I hope this finds you and yours happy, healthy and well. It has been a summer like no other.

Beautiful weather, social distancing and masking up. Jenny and I had fun hosting the Labor Day cruise in Kingston.

One of my duties as Vice Commodore is to lead the nominating committee for next year's officers and board. The officers have agreed to serve another term (allowed in the bylaws, Article III Section 8) -- a "do over" as Commodore Kris says. Board members' whose term ends this year -- Andy Coster, Linda Harms, and Al Vraspir -- have agreed to serve another two year term. At the October and November general meetings, we will take nominations from the floor, or contact me directly if you are interested ([thethespian7@gmail.com](mailto:thethespian7@gmail.com)).

Totem is a social club and it's challenging to maintain those connections when we can't meet in person. It's been fun to follow many of you on Facebook to know you are well and vicariously share your adventures. Keep sharing the dad jokes.

**Rear Commodore Mike Holman:** Ahoy TYC members. I truly hope all of you are well. 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. That is certainly true for Totem. No meetings, limited club cruises subject to social distancing, masks, and closed marinas. And that is just the start. But it has also been a learning year, a year of discovery. It has forced us, as a Board, to examine some tough issues and make a series of decisions that we have not had to face before, at least not recently. So I want to address the elephant in the room - finances and dues revenue.

There is never a good time to ask for an increase in dues. No one likes to pay more for something, especially in a year like 2020, but after an exhaustive study of our budget, covering multiple models of income and expenses built under various assumptions, we are recommending an increase in dues. As Matt has informed all members a motion has been made to increase vessel annual dues to \$250.00 a year. This is the amount that dues for a vessel couple were in 2013 before they were lowered. The question is why propose an increase and why do it now? The answer is quite simple.

Through COVID restrictions we have learned that we cannot rely upon rental income to cover club expenses. Rentals are not a consistent and reliable source of income. 2020 will produce virtually no rental income and 2021 factors may produce a similar outcome. Hopefully not, but you cannot operate the club on hope. As Matt has so expertly laid out a return to \$250 in dues for vessel memberships will allow the club to break even on its minimal fixed expenses (insurance, property taxes, utilities and required maintenance) without draining reserves.

That's the why - we need to be able to pay our bills, but why now? Simply put - because now is when the need is occurring. The timing is not great, but the requested increase is a modest amount - only \$75 per year for a vessel. And, of course there is in the motion an increase in dues for Social and 20 Year members as well, although they are lower in dollar amounts. To put that into perspective many members will spend more than that on fuel for a weekend cruise or a night's moorage at a marina in the San Juans. And, as Matt has outlined, we need to move forward with long delayed repairs to the parking lot (\$6,500), and those funds will come from the reserves. In order to maintain a minimal safety level of reserves we must not use them to cover normal expenses.

So, the need is now, the increase is modest, and it is the responsible thing to do. I hope you will join me in voting yes at our October meeting in support of this increase.

Stay safe and stay health.

**Jr. Past Commodore Debbie Ales:** The annual Halloween Cruise with Des Moines Yacht Club to Port Orchard is the weekend of October 9-11. We have 14 boats signed up. If you plan to attend, please let Linda Lander or myself know by October 4. Be sure to check out the flyer for this cruise as it has changed for 2020.

The board and the flag officers are busy working for you as they plan for the rest of this year and next year. I encourage you to remain patient and supportive. If you have suggestions please contact anyone on the board or any of the flag officers. Keep watching your emails for any announcements that may come from our Yeoman Matt. If you are not getting his emails, please contact him at [males.ohe@gmail.com](mailto:males.ohe@gmail.com).

Seas the day!





## **Linda Lander Fleet Captain Report**

Happy Fall Ya'll,

Ok I couldn't help myself! Fall is my favorite time of year. Trees changing colors, apple cider with cinnamon, pumpkins everywhere and the crisp air! What's not to love!

The next cruise is our Halloween Cruise Oct 9-11. This is a joint cruise with Des Moines Yacht Club. We have 13 spots and all are filled at the moment, but Deb is trying to see if we can get more if Des Moines isn't using all of theirs. Stay tuned for more announcements. Please see Deb's flyer and email regarding no snacks, dinners or breakfast for the cruise. All food is on your own. Wrapped and sanitized candy for the kids is welcomed. There will be prizes for Totem only members to include a best decorated boat and kids costume contest.

The Turkey Cruise to Des Moines this year has been cancelled. I have been in touch calling marina's with cabana's but have so far been unsuccessful in securing an enclosed area that we can use with more than 5 people. Don't give up the ship yet as there is a plan to meet at Gig Harbor! If I can get 3-4 boats to arrive early, we can take up the space at City Dock and as others arrive, we can shift the boats to stern in to have room for all who want to attend. If you are more comfortable anchoring out, that is easily arranged as well. Thanks Tim, Bob, Jenny, Heidi and Kris for suggestions! This cruise still needs a host - if you are interested, please let me know so we can coordinate.

I'll send more info about the lighted boat parade as I get it. The special people's cruise was cancelled.

Safe cruising everyone and hope to see you on the water!

Linda Lander  
Fleet Captain

The Fleet Captain will have the AED (automatic external defibrillator) on her boat (*Our Happy Place*). Rick Boskovich has oxygen on his boat (*Vigilant*).



Please keep Lyle Schneider and his family in your thoughts and prayers as **Theresa Schneider** passed away due to an aortic aneurism on Sept. 9. This was very unexpected, and the family needs all the love and support you can give at this time. Mailing address for cards and the like is PO Box 428, Selah, Wa 98942. Her obituary can be found at <https://www.valleyhillsfh.com/obituaries/Theresa-Schneider-Sharp/>.

Patty's husband **Gary Chastain** passed away July 28. Read about his wonderful life at <https://cadycremationservices.com/obituaries/gary-dale-chastain/>

**Bill Mahon**, a Totem member since 1985 passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Patty sent flowers on behalf of Totem.

**Val Watson** is recovering at home from knee surgery.

If you or another member is ill, please contact Sunshine Chair Patty Chastain so we can offer support. You can reach Patty at 253.670.3072 or [pattychastain@yahoo.com](mailto:pattychastain@yahoo.com).



## Membership

If you know someone interested in joining Totem YC, please refer them to Barb Berntsen ([barb@bluedolphininteriors.com](mailto:barb@bluedolphininteriors.com) or [TotemYachtClub@gmail.com](mailto:TotemYachtClub@gmail.com)).





# RECREATIONAL BOATING ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

The voice of Northwest boating

Hello RBAW Membership,

Earlier this month, we received a request that recreational boaters [take an official "pledge"](#) to give additional distance to Southern Resident Orca Whales in the Salish Sea and including waters between and around the San Juan Islands. The WEC (Washington Environmental Council) is being joined in this request by several other environmental organizations.

At the heart of the "pledge" would be a commitment to stay at least 1,000 yards (1/2 nautical mile) away from the Southern Resident Orcas, **especially now that three of the whales are pregnant and carrying calves**. We wanted to share this information, as well as some background on what we at RBAW believe and have tried to do in respecting the Orca population and the health of our marine environment.

As you review this 'Take the Pledge' request, know that there is an updated statute on recreational boating and commercial whale watching distancing from Southern Orcas, collaboratively developed and agreed to in the 2018 Legislature. We've provided more detail about that law at the end of this email. We also have checked with other organizations and with Ports, and while this request has not yet been widely received or is viewed with concerns, we felt it was important enough to share with our membership. RBAW believes strongly in protecting Southern Resident Orcas (and all whales), and in maintaining a respectful distance from them.

We are sharing this information to keep you aware of and educated on issues that affect you as recreational boaters. We encourage you to take the actions you believe will be most effective in protecting these awesome creatures and the waters they call home.

If you have any questions about this pledge request, or would like to discuss it further, please contact an RBAW Board Member that represents your club, or our state lobbyist Doug Levy ([Doug@outcomesbylevy.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:Doug@outcomesbylevy.onmicrosoft.com)).

More info here: <https://www.bewhalewise.org/>



1,000 Yards/1 KM

**Give  
Them  
Space!**

Take the pledge.



**BoatU.S.<sup>®</sup>**

As boating season winds down in many parts of the US and Canada, @BoatUS has everything you need to know about properly winterizing a boat, all in one place <https://bit.ly/32xlryX>. The website is chock full of winterizing checklists, tips, and a downloadable Boaters Guide to Winterizing to help all vessel owners ensure their boats are stored safely for the winter.

"In addition to winterizing the engine, there are a few other important things boaters should know," said BoatUS Vice President of Public Affairs Scott Croft. "Like [should you use a plug-in heater?](#) How do you [store a boat that has E10 fuel in the tank?](#) Or once preparations are done, [how can you keep your boat safe over the winter months?](#)"



## 2020 Board of Trustees

Andy Coster (2019 - 2020) | Linda Harms (2019 - 2020)  
Roger Lander (2020 - 2021) | Al Vraspir (2019 - 2020)  
Sally Vraspir (2020 - 2021)

## 2020 Appointed Chairs

Archives – Bob Watson | Bar – Linda Harms | Bylaws – Jenny Kenyon | Clothing – Sally Vraspir | Education - TBD | Facebook – Doug Gelowitz | Galley Manager – Lisa Otto | IOBG & RBAW Delegate – TBD | Membership – Barb Berntsen | Reciprocal Manager – TBD | Rental Manager – Jenny Kenyon | Sergeant at Arms – Barb Berntsen | Sunshine – Patty Chastain | Totem Line – Jenny Kenyon



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