

# Harbor Lights

FEB 2026

Summer's Coming!



## General Membership Meeting

**Feb 10th @ 6:00 - 7:00**

Zoom Meeting

**[Click here to Join](#)**  
on Feb 10th at 6:00PM

Commodore's Message  
Rick Nolte, "Scoutabout"

Ahoy HHYC!

What a great January! The weather was a bit cool, but largely dry and beautiful, which enabled us to get out on the water a few times. Even better, the Seahawks are going to the Superbowl after a fabulous season and playoff run. As we wait in eager anticipation of the Superbowl, and (we hope) a decisive Seahawks win, what better way to pass the time than going to this year's great Seattle boat show!



There are few opportunities in life where we are presented with so many ways of spending copious sums of our hard-earned money. Maybe it's time for an electronics upgrade, or a sweet new dinghy. Perhaps your dog-eared Waggoner Guide is outdated and in need of replacement. Even if you don't have any specific needs or aspirations, the boat show is bursting with inspiration and information. Of particular interest are the many educational seminars offered, covering subjects like maintenance, provisioning, fishing, and crabbing, anchoring, and scores of other interesting topics. Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> is "Dogs on Board" day, and the show will welcome our furry four-legged friends. I know Moxie is always keen to attend, as many booths offer treats, not only for us bipedal creatures, but puppies too!

You could find yourself so enraptured by the show that you end up buying a whole new boat! If you do you should consider closing the purchase before this summer, because Washington State has a shiny new tax law that applies to boats, cars, and aircraft. Beginning July 1, 2026, a new 0.5% tax will apply to "certain" watercraft in addition to the regular, rather onerous sales tax. The language of the law essentially says that the tax applies to "every watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water, other than a seaplane." Vessels that are not subject to this additional 0.5% tax include government vessels, vessels without propulsion machinery (i.e., rowboats, canoes), vessels primarily engaged in commerce, vessels held for resale by a licensed dealer, and some other types.

The tax is measured strictly by the vessel's selling price; and a new wrinkle: any vessels traded in as partial payment do not reduce the amount of tax that applies. As we all know, boating is already a pretty expensive (albeit worth-it) activity; and this serves to add a bit more burden to our bank accounts. As they say, only death and taxes are inevitable.

Nonetheless, I hope you all enjoy the boat show, spend some money, indulge in the spectacle, and enrich your lives. We will have a Zoom get together in February, and Kim and I look forward to seeing everyone then. Happy sailing!

Cheers,  
Commodore Rick



**Vice Commodore's Message**  
**Steve Rittereiser, "Dock Holiday"**

Does it feel like we are starting to turn the corner on Winter? Telltale signs for me are the end of the football season, the Boat Show, and the start of baseball spring training. This is a good time to plan attendance at the upcoming club General Zoom meetings in February and March. It is a great way to get important details on planned rendezvous activities, fleet captain events and check in with friends. And new business items are always welcome. It has been helpful to go to the Website to see our Calendar of Events and our cruising schedule. Look there for the Event Calendar sign-ups so your hosts know you are coming to each of the club's activities.

I am personally excited about the opportunity we have this year to celebrate HHYC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For me, it started with the recent email from John Keene about ordering new clothing. Suzy Hoffman has done an excellent job working with our supplier to get our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo added to our clothing orders. So now you can order your "swag" with either the new 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration logo or the traditional logo. Wendy and I placed an order so we could display both logos throughout the year. And don't forget to order those pajamas for the traditional Commodore's Ball afterparty. Make sure you get your order completed before the end of February so we can send the bulk order to the supplier in time for the boating season. Suzy can help with any details you might need to complete your order.

The Seahawks are headed to the Super Bowl. Regardless of whether you are a die-hard fan or a casual observer, you can't help but marvel at the way the Seahawks organization goes about its business. Players talk about how much they care about one another and how much they respect their fans and the city of Seattle. While we are not the Seahawks, I think our club does mirror Seahawk pride. HHYC cares about one another. HHYC members are very respectful of our boating environment. And HHYC members are often doing things together to support the northwest boating community. Wendy and I are pleased to enjoy the upcoming boating season with each of you. Go Hawks!

**Membership News**  
**Paul Quinn**

Membership cards for 2026 have been mailed. If you do not receive them by the within the next couple of weeks, please reach out and let me know.

We currently have 39 memberships including 7 lifetime for a total of 64 members following the renewal process for this year.

Hope to see you out on the water this summer.

February B-Days

- 4 - Belinda Macauley
- 8 - Al Herrensperger
- 9 - Judy Templeman
- 2 - Joan Parker
- 20 - Eileen Hall
- 21 - Kristen Amrine  
Terry Fantz  
Jeff Irby
- 28 - Dave Hoffmanbru



Pictures from the 2025 Commodore's BALL!





## **Bridge Members**

**Commodore: Rick Nolte**  
**Vice Commodore: Steve Rittereiser**  
**Rear Commodore: Bart Kooyman**  
**Past Commodore: Jeremy Hardy**

## **Board Members:**

**Sue Burke**  
**P/C Dane Fantz,**  
**P/C Dennis Kroeger**  
**P/C Vic Portolese**  
**P/C Paul Quinn**

## **Officers**

**Treasurer: Wendy Rittereiser**  
**Secretary: Open**  
**Fleet Captains: Tiah Holt and Terry Fantz**  
**Quartermaster: Suzy Hoffman**  
**Membership: Paul Quinn**  
**Recruitment: Terry Fantz**  
**Health & Welfare: Open**  
**Newsletter: Paul Quinn**  
**Safety: Gary Wood**  
**Website: Jill Lehman**  
**Communications: John Keene**



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