Totem Yacht Club **Volume 63 Issue 9** **December 2016**

The Totem Line

59 years of yachting – 60 years of friendship

In this issue: Don't forget – Dinner ($6) starting at 6:30 and General Meeting 7:30, Tuesday, Dec. 6th. "Getting to Know You" article about Mike and Heidi Merrifield. Pictures from the Christmas Party. See Totem Yacht Club's Facebook Page for more pictures from the Christmas Party.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 6th ……Dinner and General Meeting
Dec. 16-18th Lighted Boat Parade Foss Waterway
Dec. 31……...New Year's Party with DMYC

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,

No Report,

Mike Holman, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

Hi All,
This is my last month as your Vice Commodore. I want to take this time to thank you all who have supported me this year. Ron and I have enjoyed ourselves at all the events we have joined in this year to support Totem.

The clubhouse is ready for the Holidays. We had a great time in Des Moines over Thanksgiving Holiday. Thank you to all who joined us--decorating your boats., joining in on the ironing project, the raffle, breakfast at Mike and Heidi's, dinner, and great football game on Friday. (Go Huskies!)

We have a couple of events left befoe New Years: December 17th Lighted Boat Parade – although sponsored by other clubs, you are welcome to join in or just come down to Dock Street and enjoy watching the Parade. December 31st, Des Moines Yacht Club has again invited us to join them for the New Year's Party. Bring your boat and spend the night, or drive over. So mark your calendar and please come join us.

See you over the Holidays,

Cathy Betts, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

I am so excited for Cathy Betts, our 2017 Commodore, and hope you'll enjoy the experience she brings to the table and want to step in to support her. I do not plan to attend many meetings in 2017, but do plan to attend cruises, coordinate decorations for the ball, and participate in special events. The newsletter will be my lifeline and I'm hoping others with take the time to read it to be knowledgeable about upcoming events as well as intrigued by past events, and getting to know our members. I keep Totem's website bookmarked on my smart phone for easy reference, go to www.totemyachtclub.com and check out the links to Totem Line Newsletter.

Before deciding to join Totem in 2013, I'd looked at websites for various clubs and read their newsletters. Mike and I weren't people who went out on work nights, so although excited to jump in and get active with the club, it has grown increasing difficult to serve as an officer of the club. In 2014 I served on the Board of Trustees, then was 2015 Fleet Captain (my favorite role), and 2016 Rear Commodore. Mike has served on the Board of Trustees in 2015 and 2016. We are also enjoying living at Des Moines Marina and sailing with new scenery and time savings going north. Be sure to let us know if you bring your boat over for a weekend!

Heidi Merrifield, Rear Commodore

Fleet Captain's Report

Greetings and Happy Holidays;

I was glad to see many of you at our annual Christmas party. The Turkey day cruise sure went well, with 15 boats showing up and several drive-ups! A great big thanks goes to Tom & Virginia Allard for going all out again and hosting this most popular cruise, and for Mike & Heidi Merrifield for having us all in for breakfast. That's something like 35 of us served! The weather even cooperated! Great weekend! After having a planning meeting and other ongoing discussions with many members over the Thanksgiving weekend, I am very excited about next year's cruise schedule. Not a lot is changing from this year, but we are adding a joint cruise with Viking YC to Heron Island in June, moving the Commodore's cruise to Brownsville, and doing a south sound cruise from the Penrose anchor-out to Olympia, Labor Day weekend. I hope to have more info for you at the December 6th meeting. A complete schedule wil be in the 2017 yearbook. See you then!

Ron Reding, Fleet Captain

Sunshine Report

Past commodore Jackie Rudd had foot surgery on both of her feet she is home and doing well. Just got word that Past Commodore Jerry Rudd is in the hospital. Will try to have more information for the meeting.

Please contact Louise Burns with any sunshine news. Email FBurns5105@aol.com or call (253) 845-4326.

Louise Burns, Sunshine

Galley Report and Menus for 2016 Meetings

Thank you to all who contributed food for the Christmas Party – it was delicious!

Joann Kagey, Galley Steward

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

Cruise Cruise and Event Schedule for the Remainder of 2016

December 16-18 Lighted Boat Parade Cruise – Dock Street Marina, Tacoma
December 31 New Year's Eve Party with Des Moines Yacht Club

Getting to Know our Members – Mike & Heidi Merrifield

Mike and Heidi joined Totem Yacht Club in 2013 after cruising two summers with their first sailboat. There were several reasons they selected Totem: (1) Mike's folks Clenet and Bernie (Past Commodore) were members and Heidi's father, Alan Simmons had been a member, so they had family history with the club, (2) they'd attended parties at the club over the years because of them; (3) they'd attended a couple cruises or been invited to drive to them; and (4) as individual cruisers they were finding it difficult to get reservations at marinas in the summer and for holiday weekends which was important to them to maximize PTO.

Mike and Heidi both grew up in Federal Way and started boating during their childhood at Redondo Marina. Mike was able to walk there from his house and rent row boats to go fishing. Heidi went out fishing with her dad launching their 8 foot pram, or sailing on their 14' Catalina. Later when they were dating Mike's dad took them out on his boat to enjoy 4th of July fireworks, go through the locks to Sea Fair on Lake Washington, and follow the Christmas ship. They both loved boating, camping and outdoor activities, as well as dancing.

A few years after they were married they bought their first home in Federal Way and their first boat a 10' Sorenson. The next year they added a motor and cushioned seats. It worked well to launch at Redondo or to trailer camping gear to Lake Chelan. After a few years Mike decided he didn't like trailering, so they sold the boat and bought a windsurfer, then another and another until they had an impressive stack of boards when they headed to the Gorge, Lake Washington or camping at Lake Wenatchee. They also continued to enjoy boating with Bernie when their son Ryan was little.

Next came a series of trailer boats: a Polaris Jet ski, which took them to Lake Tapps in Sumner where they lived for 7 years. A Malibu Tournament ski boat for skiing and wakeboarding was added during that time. When they moved off the lake to Redondo in 2002 they sold the boat and planned to get something for the Sound. They didn't expect another decade to pass before that happened. In the mean-time they got a Sea Doo (seized engine & died over & over), and then a Honda 3-person and resumed camping. They attended the boat show each year to help decide which type of boat to get in the future – which ended up being their 42 foot 2001 Catalina *Alan's Leg-A-Sea*.

Pictures from the 2016 Christmas Party