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## **Totem Line**

Volume 66 | Issue 2 | February 2019

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### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Super Bowl Party** Feb. 3 at Kris Huber & Lisa Otto's. See below for details.

**General membership meeting on Feb. 5, 2019.** 6:30 for dinner & 7:30 for meeting. Dinner is \$7 per person, exact amount appreciated.

**Dinner will celebrate Chinese New Year.**

**Thanks to Tess Coster & the Gig Harbor Gang!**

**Bremerton Heavy Weather Cruise** is Feb. 15 - 17. This is a great weekend filled with socializing, log races, entertainment, skits, awards dinner, and a lot of fun. More [details here](#), or contact Bob Watson ([robertwatson@comcast.net](mailto:robertwatson@comcast.net) or 253.925.0751).

**Totem's Commodore's Ball** is on Sat. Feb. 23. See below for details.

**Des Moines Yacht Club's Commodore's Ball** is Sat. March 2. See below for details.

[View the full year's calendar 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. 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 board meetings. No meetings in July and August.

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## Change of Watch



Our first meeting each year is the Change of Watch, where the out-going Commodore hands off duties to the newly elected Commodore. The new Commodore then swears in new officers and board members.

Out-going Commodore Tim Reding thanked everyone who stepped up and helped. He spoke of several accomplishments in 2018 including painting the exterior of the clubhouse, getting the mural, and cruises. He presented Certificates of Appreciation to all 2018 Appointed Officers.

Tim then presented the club's annual awards, acknowledging outstanding members:

- **New Members of the Year** to Roger & Linda Lander.
- **Member of the Year** to Nancy Terrell for her creativity, cool stuff and always being there.
- **Commodore Award** to Bob Watson for always being in the background helping out.

- **Boating Family of the Year** to Ron Reding & Cathy Betts for attending almost all the cruises, helping out, and decorating boats.
- **Boat of the Year** to Rick Demere and *Lucky Dog II* for always opening his boat and helping out.



Tim gave a special shout out to VJ Suttmeier & Debbie Zachary for volunteering their boat for the Daffodil Parade. Tim thanked the 2018 Board of Trustees for their work and contributions: Rick Demere, Linda Harm, Barb Bernsten, Provi Simpson, Sally Vraspir, Cathy Betts and Fleet Captain Lyle Kagey. Tim next thanked the out-going officers: Sharon Nell as Purser and Past Commodore; Kris Huber as Rear Commodore; Debbie Ales as Vice Commodore and Matt Ales as Yeoman.

Tim's last duty as Commodore was to swear in Debbie as our new Commodore.

Debbie's first duty as Commodore was to swear in Kris Huber as Vice Commodore, Randy Kenyon as Rear Commodore, Matt Ales as Yeoman, Rick Demere as Purser, Lyle Kagey as Fleet Captain, Linda Harms for a new 2-year term as trustee and new trustees Al Vraspir and Andy Coster.

Jr. Past Commodore Tim presented new Commodore Debbie with a beautiful (and yummy!) cake to welcome and celebrate her new position.



More pictures from the meeting



Commodore Debbie Ales



Vice Commodore Kris Huber



Rear Commodore Randy Kenyon

**Commodore Debbie Ales:** I am looking forward to all the activities we have this year. We have many great cruises and social functions planned. I encourage you to attend as many as you can to enjoy all that Totem Yacht Club has to offer. Be sure to sign up for cruises with Fleet Captain Lyle Kagey. The best way to enjoy the activities is to become involved.

In February we are going to Bremerton's Heavy Weather Cruise (by land

or by boat) to try and win the rubber clam shovel: first place in the skit contest. For dinner reservations please contact Bob Watson as he is coordinating this for Totem. Join us at the February 5th general meeting to get a peek into the fun we will have at this cruise.

The 2019 Commodore's Ball is at our clubhouse on Feb. 23. Thank you to every Totem member who is putting in their time to make this such a great evening to welcome me as Commodore and kick off the balls for 2019. I hope to see everyone there to enjoy this fun night. Please let Purser Rick Demere know as soon as possible if you will be attending to secure your reservation.

Cruising season is just around the corner. While getting your boat ready for the season, remember we are have a fundraising opportunity with the Des Moines Swap Meet March 23. Please bring your donations to the club at our general meeting on March 5. We need a volunteer to head up this fundraiser for Totem. Contact me if you are interested in this.

Please start thinking about the Daffodil Weekend in April. We will be working on a float for the theme of "Service with a Heart". We need a volunteer to lead the float decorating. This is a fun filled weekend that includes a 70's themed dance party on Friday night with awards for the best costumes. Saturday features the trivia contest along with the Token parade. We will need 6 people for the trivia contest. Sunday is the marine parade. Totem will have a float boat and an officer boat in the parade.

Seas the day ~ Debbie Ales 2019 Commodore

**Vice Commodore Kris Huber:** I'd like to thank everyone for entrusting me to being your Vice Commodore this year. I look forward to a great year boating and involvement with club activities! The Change of Watch was very successful. Congrats to our new Commodore Debbie Ales. I promise to support her and our new Rear Commodore Randy Kenyon.

I'm very excited about the upcoming boating season and can't wait to get it started. February we have the Foul Weather cruise to Bremerton YC. The highlight being the dinner and skits presented on Saturday evening. This is a great time by all. If you have an opportunity to join us, it proves to be a memorable evening for sure.

We also have our Commodore's Ball on Feb. 23. An evening that no one can miss.

Finally, Debbie, Matt, Rick and I worked on the budget for 2019. I will ask again about anyone that is interested in advertising in the Totem Membership directory. If you have someone in mind, but would like some

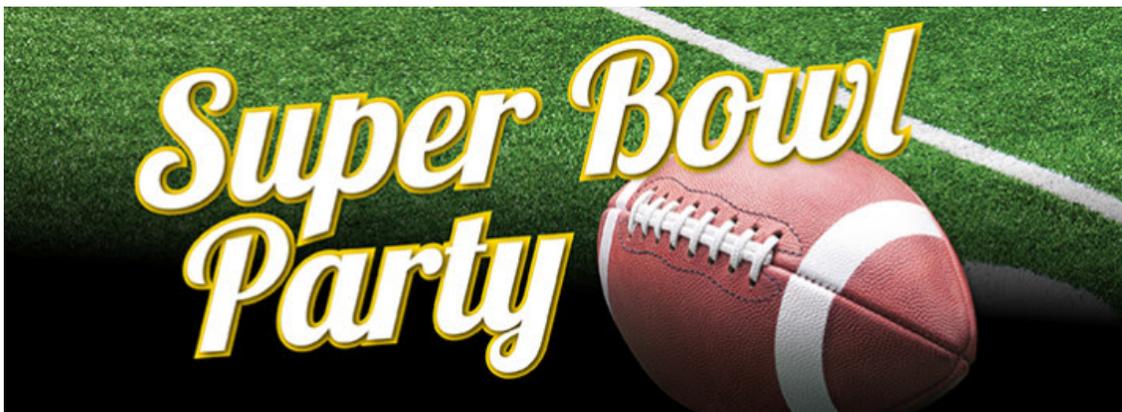
help talking to them, Bob or I would be happy to help. If we want to make any improvements this year, we need support of these and other donations.

**Rear Commodore Randy Kenyon:** March 30 is our spring house & grounds day, from 9 am – 1 pm. Please save this time on your calendars to help. The more, the merrier and the quicker we are all done. Details to come on our projects for the day. You can sign up at the February or March general meetings or email me at [thethespian7@gmail.com](mailto:thethespian7@gmail.com).

I'm on the ad hoc committee that is reviewing capital improvements and deferred maintenance issues. This committee will make recommendations to the Officers and Board regarding priorities. Projects under consideration include: replacing the kitchen and bathroom flooring to match the main room; new toilets and bathroom upgrades; galley remodel; new lights and blinds in the main room; updating or replacing the canopy and exterior signs; replacing the decking; and restriping the parking lot. Please reach out at the email above if you'd like to be part of this committee.

As to rentals, I am happy to report that we have strong interest. We had 3 rentals in January. Noreen & Ted, our rental managers, showed the clubhouse to 4 potential clients in one day!

**Jr. Past Commodore Tim Reding:** The Commodore Ball is coming up on Feb. 23 to celebrate Commodore Debbie. Cost is \$45.00 per person. Please mail your checks to the clubhouse or contact Rick Demere. Payment is due by Feb. 16. I'm still looking for more volunteers to help at the ball. Please contact me if you are interested. at 253 905 9573.



**Same Great Game, Same Great Day  
But Change of Venue**

Numbers are out: 61% of the people are rooting for **LA Rams**, but over 70% feel that the Patriots will win. So let's all cheer for the **Rams!**

All Totem YC members are invited to Kris Huber & Lisa Otto's condo to watch the Super Bowl this year. Rather than all driving to the Club, setting up TVs etc, Kris & Lisa will host the Super Bowl Party.

**WHEN:** This Sunday, Feb. 3. You're welcome any time after 2 pm. Kick-off is 3:30.

**WHERE:** 1515 Dock St, #912, Tacoma. RSVP to Kris at 253-777-5976 or email at [Seattle\\_REO@live.com](mailto:Seattle_REO@live.com). Kris & Lisa live in a secured bldg., so they need to buzz guests in to the building's front door.

**BRING:** Please bring an app to share, BYOB and \$1s for betting on the quarter, half time and final score.



*You are cordially invited to our*  
**2019 Commodore's Ball**  
**Honoring Commodore**  
**Debbie Ales**

**Saturday, February 23, 2019 | 6pm to Midnight**

Totem Yacht Club  
5045 N. Highland, Tacoma, WA 98407

**6:00:** BYOB/Cocktail hour | **7:00:** Introduction of Commodores  
**7:30:** Dinner | **9:00:** Music by Michael Crane band

**Attire:** Dress whites for officers, semi-formal for guests

**RSVP by:** February 16, 2019 | **\$45 per person**

**Pay to:** Totem Yacht Club | **Contact:** Rick Demere at 253-232-4228

[Click here to download a flyer.](#)

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### **Commodores Ball Raffle Donations Needed**

As in past years Totem Yacht Club will have raffle baskets at the Commodore's Ball. We are looking for NEW item donations for the baskets. Please bring new items to the general meeting Feb. 5. Your donation is appreciated!

From the Commodore's Ball Committee

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Totem members are invited to attend the  
**Des Moines Yacht Club**  
**62nd Annual Commodore's Ball honoring**  
**Commodore Mike McGahan**  
**and his First Mate Charlene**

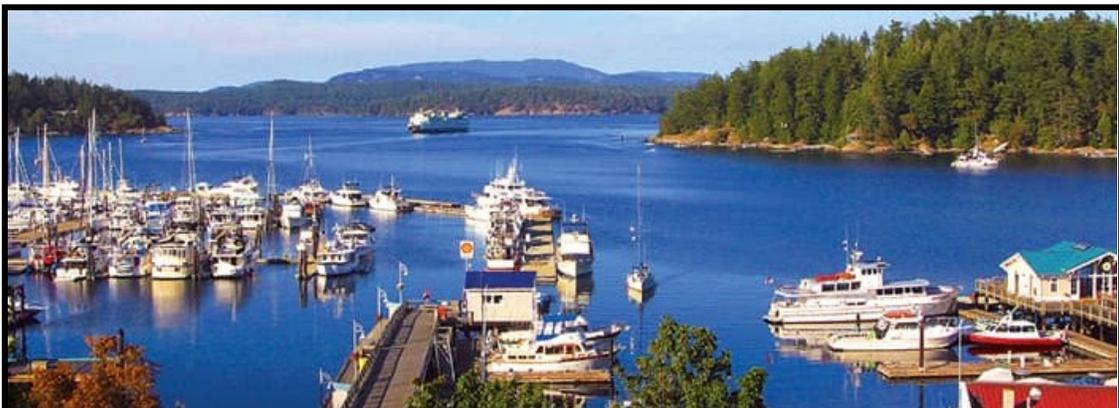
Saturday March 2, 2019

Des Moines Yacht Club

6:00 BYOB Social | 7:00 Commodore  
Introductions | 7:30 Dinner | 9:00 - 12:00  
Dancing

Dress is semi-formal, with dress whites for officers. | \$90 per couple  
RSVP to Joe McCaslin (206.227.5636) or Shannon McCaslin (253.217.1662).  
Send checks, payable to DMYC, to PO Box 13004, Des Moines, WA 98198

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### **Fleet Captain's Report from Lyle Kagey**

Even though it is winter, there are still some great opportunities to get out on the boat! JoAnn and I tend to do shorter cruises and we like to go to the many reciprocals that our club has to offer.

There are several within a 15-mile radius! Take a look in your Totem Annual Membership Book for details or ask me and I'll help you find one! Winter is a slower time for club cruises, but we still have some on the agenda:

### **Feb. 15-17 - Heavy Weather Cruise to Bremerton Yacht Club**

The cruise includes Log Races that you can participate in as a contestant or an observer. Bob Watson is handling the details. If you would like more info, please contact him. Additionally, there are many other festivities, including a skit on Saturday night! Totem is looking to bring home the coveted "Rubber Clam Shovel" trophy for our skit. Bernie Merrifield is leading the crew. If you'd like to get involved, please give Bernie a call.

### **Mar. 15-17 - Totem's Shake-Down Cruise to Longbranch Marina**

Our annual Shake-Down cruise is a great time to get together for a late winter cruise to Filucy Bay. We will conduct the "Blessing of Totem's Fleet" on Saturday afternoon, followed by a great potluck. This is the cruise to start making that clean-up and maintenance to-do list! Summer cruise season is just around the corner!

### **Apr. 12-14 - Daffodil Weekend at Tacoma Yacht Club**

Daffodil weekend is always a great event and a fun time! Their website has all the details, [you can find it here](#).

Registration is open and I will need to get a good count on the number of boats that plan to attend (currently 3). We plan to register immediately after the February club meeting to ensure we get enough space. If you plan to attend, please let me know or sign up in the Cruise Book at the meeting.

The Cruise Book is updated and all set for your cruise planning. It'll be at the meetings or you can reach me via email to add yourself to any cruise! [See cruise plans here](#).

## **New Members: June & Stuart Simpson**

New members, June and Stuart Simpson, were introduced to members of Totem via Skype at the January meeting. They could not attend the meeting in person as they are on their new boat, a 38 foot catamaran named *Eternally Entwined IV*, sailing in the Caribbean and eventually making their way to the west coast. The Simpson's are establishing a blog which will allow Totem members to track



their travels. Their application was recently approved, and the club hopes to induct them via Skype at an upcoming meeting.

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New applicants, John and Linda Winther, will attend our meeting on Feb. 5. Let's make them feel welcome!

*If you have questions or a new member to recommend, contact Val Watson at [robertwatson6@comcast.net](mailto:robertwatson6@comcast.net) or 253.219.7704.*



#### **Updates & Photos for 2019 Directory**

If you need to have your picture taken for the 2019 membership directory (or would like a different picture), see Bob Watson at the Feb. 5 meeting. This will be the final opportunity for photos for the directory. Feb. 5 is also the deadline for updating your contact and/or boat information.

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#### **Building Advertising Revenue**

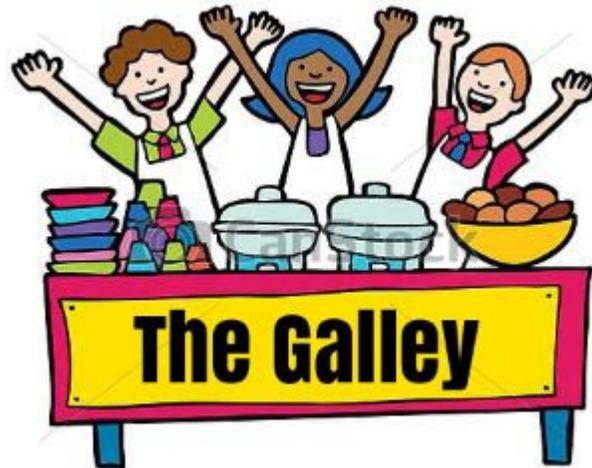
We want to increase the number of ads in the directory. In recent years, the ads have covered the cost of printing the directory. We'd like to step up this year and see if it can be a money maker. Our goal is 15 new full-page ads which translates to \$1,500 in income.

If you know a business interested in advertising, [please share the details and form here](#). Ads are included in the printed and PDF copies of the directory as well as on Totem's website sponsors page.

Thank you to the members who advertise their businesses in the directory -- your support is appreciated.

Contact Kris Huber (253.777.5976 or [seattle\\_reo@live.com](mailto:seattle_reo@live.com)) or Bob Watson (253.925.0751 or [robertwatson6@comcast.net](mailto:robertwatson6@comcast.net)) if you have questions, to reserve ad space, or to recommend a business.

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© Can Stock Photo - csp2566562

For our February meeting, Tess Coster and friends will provide our Chinese New Year dinner. Bring your appetite! If it is anything like last year, the food was fantastic and plenty of it.

March's dinner will be Sheppard's Pie.

If you're interested in helping in March or any other meeting, see Lisa Otto at a meeting or contact her at [lisa.otto@fnf.com](mailto:lisa.otto@fnf.com).



Lets all stay healthy in 2019!

*Please report sunshine news to Louise Burns at [FBurns5105@aol.com](mailto:FBurns5105@aol.com) or 253-845-4326.*

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### **Getting to Know You: Randy & Christine Wills**

Randy, from Fort Worth and a U of Texas grad, and Christine, from the Chicago suburbs and a Marquette University grad, met while working for AT&T in San Diego in the early 80's. Randy transferred to the Bay Area where they both worked another 16 years until they retired.



Knowing they were going to take an early retirement, in the mid 90's they started the search for where to spend those retirement years. Criteria included no state income tax, lower cost of living, cooler weather and what they perceived to be a better "quality of life". They knew Washington met the first 3 for sure. They spent 5 years researching and taking long weekend trips to scout out areas. Port Ludlow didn't impress.

Mukilteo, Issaquah, North Bend, Lake Tapps, Sequim and other locales were ruled out. A chance exit off the freeway one weekend took them down Soundview Dr. into Gig Harbor. It reminded them so much of the feel of their much-loved community in LaJolla, CA that it was a foregone conclusion.... Gig Harbor was it! Many more weekend trips and countless treks with real estate agents looking for a lot to build on, found them making a spur of the moment offer on a home. After living in WA now for almost 17 yrs, they both agree that the 4th criteria - better quality of life - was absolutely met. Married 34+ yrs now, they can't envision living anywhere else.

One of the blessings of living in the Harbor, was finding the NewNeighbors organization. Christine jumped right in with their various social activities and held multiple board positions over 10 years. She was even able to drag Randy along for dining, theatre and bridge groups. Many great friends were made through club functions, including fellow Totem members - the Costers, Deides, Barrons, Viklunds and Austins. Christine's most popular activities now, independent of NewNeighbors, include 2 Bunco groups, Mah Jongg and Canasta, along with an occasional game of golf.

When the decision was made to move to WA, Randy started dreaming of boating. One thing led to another and a 30 ft. Bayliner was eventually purchased. It was an older boat, requiring lots of time to refurbish (a lot of it spent with the boat parked in the Coster's driveway) and of course a significant amount of money too. Consequently, the boat was named *Ka-Ching*. It was first moored in downtown Gig Harbor, but eventually moved to covered moorage in Port Orchard. It became their "waterfront property" for cocktails and apps. However, since they also started golfing around the same time, they found that the weather competed for both those activities. Golfing eventually won. But their experience as members of the Gig Harbor YC (including chairing the Special People's cruise one year) along with the wonderful, fun people they met through that group, encouraged them to seek another yacht club now that golfing had taken a back seat in their lives.

Their most loved pastime is traveling. Besides travels to most everywhere in Western Europe, Canada and Mexico, they have visited Iceland, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Central America and Australia. Barcelona is a favorite city. A

photo safari to Kenya was definitely the experience of a lifetime. Christine has also taken "girl trips" to Thailand and China. Their most frequent vacation mode now is cruising the waters on BIG BOATS to Alaska, Panama Canal, Hawaii, Mexico, and Transatlantic - 32 cruises in total. Future cruise bucket list goals are South America and the Baltic.

For the last 7 years, they have spent 1-2 months each winter in the Palm Desert area enjoying the sun, happy hours, a little golf, and street fairs on weekends. They'll be traveling south soon for stops in the desert, Scottsdale, San Diego, Vegas, and the Bay Area. They look forward to being back in April.

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## 2019 Board of Trustees

Barb Bernsten (2018 - 2019) | Andy Coster (2019 - 2020)  
Linda Harms (2019 - 2020) | Al Vraspir (2019 - 2020)  
Sally Vraspir (2018 - 2019)

## 2019 Appointed Chairs

Archives – Bob Watson | Bar – Linda Harms | Bylaws – Jenny Kenyon | Clothing – Sally Vraspir | Facebook – Doug Gelowitz | Galley Manager – Lisa Otto | IOBG & RBAW Delegate – Ron Reding | Membership – Val Watson | Reciprocal Manager – Ron Reding | Rental Managers – Noreen Jensen & Ted Shell | Sergeant at Arms – Barb Berntsen | Sunshine – Louise Burns | Totem Line – Jenny Kenyon



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