

# The FORUM

Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring Newsletter since 2003  
January 2020 Issue

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# WHAT IS THE FORUM!

**The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National.**

**The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.**

**The FORUM has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is a Volunteers and Professionals newsletter to promote our senior program. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.**

**As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council etc. stories. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter.**

**Thanks for all you do!**

**Bob the BEAR Monto, Editor in Chief**

## **[How to submit an article]**

**The FORUM would like any articles and event promotions you have on Exploring, Sea Scouting and Venturing programs from your units, council etc. Articles with photos are best. Articles with youth (under 18) must use BSA Youth Protection guidelines.**

**Attach your article as a Word document (preferable method) with identified photos (With descriptions of photo), clipart, etc. and send to [rmon-to47@gmail.com](mailto:rmon-to47@gmail.com). Please email Bob "The BEAR" Monto by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month with your articles. Since the FORUM is published monthly, if you miss one month it will get in the next month.**

**Your article should also include contact information and name of the individual submitting the article.**

**Use subject line FORUM to highlight this is a FORUM email.**

**Please edit your article.**

**All photos should have permission of all the participants in the photos. Indicate in the email that permission has been granted.**

**Submit a brief bio of the author(s) of the article.**

**Thanks for all you do for Youth**

**Bob "the BEAR" Monto**

**FORUM Newsletter Editor**

# FORUM Articles for Download

## **The Current FORUM Newsletter:**

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current\\_forum.php](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php)

## **The FORUM Back Issues**

[http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing\\_archive.htm](http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/venturing_archive.htm)

## **Large Crews**

[http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew\\_27-Large\\_Crews\\_articles.pdf](http://minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/documents/FORUM-Crew_27-Large_Crews_articles.pdf)

**UPDATED March Crew 27 Large Crew Series (Articles on Large Crew Operations)**



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
BAY-LAKES COUNCIL

# WINTER AMIDSHIPS

SAVE THE DATE for The 46th WAM

**February 29, 2020** [www.BayLakesBSA.org/WAM](http://www.BayLakesBSA.org/WAM)

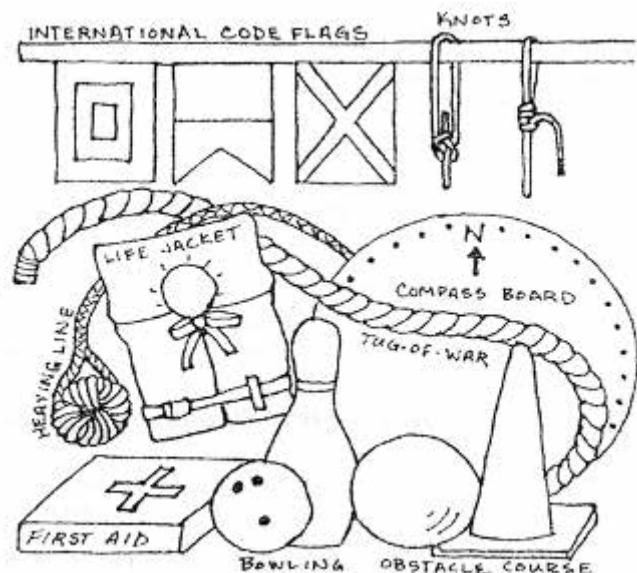
WAM is a 1-day event for Scouts BSA Troops, Venture Crews, Sea Scout Ships, Career Explorer Posts, Varsity Teams, Girl Scout/Mariner Troops, American Heritage Girls Units, and 4H Clubs. Youth participants must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America (Troop, Crew, Ship, Team, Post participant), Girl Scouts-USA, American Heritage Girls or 4H. Dinner is included; lunch is on your own.

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, February 29, 2020; 8:30 AM-10:00 PM  
**PLACE:** National Guard Armory, 796 Sullivan Dr., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
**REGISTRATION:** cost TBD (*Online Registration Required*)  
**LATE FEE:** \$5 per Youth Starting 02/16/2020

## Events:

- \* Life-Jacket Relay
- \* Obstacle Course
- \* Scooter Race
- \* Tug-of-War
- \* First Aid
- \* Bowling
- \* Knots Relay
- \* Heaving Line
- \* Compass Board Relay
- \* Happy Feet Relay
- \* International Code Flags
- \* Surprise Event(s)
- \* Awards
- \* Dance

Overnight offered at  
Church of Our Saviour, Fond du Lac



For more info contact  
Winter Amidships Chair  
Ann Gratton  
(920) 231-3015  
[wamgratton@gmail.com](mailto:wamgratton@gmail.com)



## Winter Sea Camp 2019 Sea Scout Ship Soaring Eagle 7007



November 29-30 saw the first Winter Sea Camp held at the Theodore Naish Scout Reservation in Bonner Springs, Kansas. 40 scouts and 25 adult leaders all arrived for a two-day session with training, camping, advancement, and a great introduction to Sea Scouts.



### **Scouts BSA Program**

Scouts BSA members made up the bulk of the attendance and they worked toward six different merit badges: Bugling; Oceanography; Radio; Signs, Signals, and Codes; Welding; and Weather.



### **Apprentice Deep Dive**

Several new Sea Scouts completed the “classroom portion” of the first rank advancement: Apprentice. Among other activities, they learned all kinds of knots; practice with a heaving line; executed practice radio calls; and more. The following requirements were completed toward the Apprentice Rank at this event: 1, 3, 4b, 5, 6, and 7.

### **Sea Scout Marksmanship Program**

More experienced Sea Scouts went to the rifle range and basically shot rifles for two days. That short sentence encompassed a tremendous experience for the youth who learned about the Sea Scout Marksmanship Program and had quality instruction in the program.

### **Adult leadership training**

Our adults met for various roundtable training and planning sessions: we completed the Incident Command Training introduction course; learned about the James M. Stewart Good Citizenship award; and completed basic planning for next year’s event.

### **Additional activities**

Sea Scout youth members maintained the Camp Galley (Dining Hall) and everyone stayed in staff cabins for ease of overnight arrangements. We had classes, outdoor activities, and burned some flares.

Next year’s event is scheduled for the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving: November 27-28, 2020. Registration opens June 1!



# Winter Sea Camp 2019 Sea Scout Ship Soaring Eagle 7007





Winter Sea Camp 2019  
Sea Scout Ship Soaring Eagle 7007





## Winter Sea Camp 2019 Sea Scout Ship Soaring Eagle 7007



**Paul McDonald is the Skipper of the Sea Scout Ship Soaring Eagle in Overland Park, Kansas. He is the Central Region Area 5 Commodore.**

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**Include address, name, number of patches requested Crew**

# National Commodore's Corner

By National Commodore



Ship 405 Christmas Cruise  
photo by Linda Callaway

## Happy Holidays Everyone!

This has certainly been an eventful year in Sea Scouting, and thanks to the hard work from a lot of you, much has been accomplished. Obviously we don't have final numbers for 2019 quite yet, but we have accomplished growth in the number of ships nationally for the year. It's too soon to know if we'll manage growth in membership, which is the number that really counts. We're still running behind there, due in large part to the loss of a couple of disproportionately large units that were other types of organizations registered as ships. You could claim that those don't matter as they're not 'real' ships but they do affect the numbers significantly. I'll update you on the final 2019 numbers when I get them - mid January or so. With the Coast Guard Auxiliary relationship coming online, I think our prospects for growth in 2020 are excellent and I'm looking forward to watching it unfold. We've got a great team of Regional, Area and Council Commodores in place to lead the charge. Meanwhile, I have a few topics to update you on - some of which may require action, so please read on.



## Sea Scout Manual - 2019 Edition

Since the beginning, the Sea Scout manual has been an evolving document that changed with the times. The 2016 edition incorporated some significant changes - perhaps the biggest of those was the addition of paddlecraft advancement requirements, making true paddlecraft ships a reality. National supply still has a big inventory of those 2016 editions in stock so it'll be a while before another printed edition comes out - but several things have changed since then. Since 2016, we've been making available 'errata' files in the manual resource center on [seascout.org](http://seascout.org) - if you print those and replace the appropriate pages in your 2016 manual, you can bring it up to current. The ability to update like this was the plan and is why the manual was produced as loose-leaf rather than bound. If like me, you prefer to refer to a downloaded PDF of the manual, you're in luck - the PDF version available for download has been updated to 2019 so all you need to do is to download a fresh copy. Check the fine print on the title page to make sure you have the correct one - it should say "Updated to

October 2019". Either way, please do make sure your manual is up to date so that you're looking at current requirements and standards!

## Medical Forms

For the first time in several years, BSA has made some changes to the standard medical forms for 2020. There's no need to panic, they've given us a year to transition - but do remind your people that if they're going in for their annual physical, be sure to use the new form. Read more about this in Bryan on Scouting along with some good advice as to when you need parts A, B or C but if you don't need that, you can go straight to the form here.

# National Commodore's Corner

By National Commodore

## Coast Guard Auxiliary

As I'm sure you saw, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has gone nationwide with our new agreement making us their official youth program – so any Auxiliary flotilla anywhere can charter a ship, and any Sea Scout youth 14 and up anywhere can join the Auxiliary (whether or not they are in an Auxiliary chartered ship). If you somehow missed that, full details are [here](#) on our website. We have gotten tremendous support from inside the Auxiliary as you can see from the [Sea Scout coverage](#) in the current edition of their magazine, Navigator Express. It even includes an interview with me!



One of the challenges in this new relationship is explaining to our councils (both the professionals and the non-Sea Scout volunteers) what this whole partnership is about. The December newsletter for District Executives included a link to this [8-minute video](#) that tries to explain the essence. If you need to make a similar presentation at a roundtable or whatever, you're welcome to use or adapt the [slides](#) and the [talking points](#) for your purposes.

And finally, several of you have asked me where to get those navy blue shirts (featured in the last **Commodore's Corner**) with both our logo and the Auxiliary logo on the back. We are working with the merchandising folks in the Auxiliary Association to make some

things like that available and I expect you'll see some of them appear soon. If there's anything you'd like to see available, let me know and I'll pass it along to that team. I've asked for a Coast Guard orange wicking t-shirt with the Auxiliary logo on one sleeve and ours on the other (so that they're still visible with a life jacket on) but I don't know if I'll get that or not. We'll see!

### Dan Wilson

I had the honor this week to preside over the Change of Watch ceremony for Sam Houston Area Council. Dan Wilson, who has served as SHAC Commodore for 25 years, is retiring from that role. Dan has been a friend and mentor to many, including myself, and Sea Scouting has benefited enormously from his direct and indirect influence – among other things, he has been instrumental in spreading SEAL and Seabadge around the country. We recognized his service at the Change of Watch ceremony by awarding him the National Sea Scout Leadership Award. I will miss everything about him but the duck call! But I do hope he'll continue to show up and to be involved. Meanwhile, he has left SHAC in the capable hands of Tony Scharp, who has big shoes to fill but who I believe will be a great Commodore.



Sam Houston Area Council Change of Watch  
photo by Neal Farmer

### Speaking of Council Commodores



We have tried really hard to increase the number of officially appointed Council Commodores across the country this year, with pretty good success. Out of 261 Councils, 74 have Council Commodores that we know about. That may not sound like much but it's about double what we started the year with! If your Council doesn't have a designated Commodore, consider trying to convince them to appoint one. Your Area Commodore can help. By the way, there is a myth floating around that a council can't have a Commodore until there are 5 ships. That's completely wrong – the national [Standard Operating Procedures](#) make it clear that a council with zero ships can appoint a Commodore – who then becomes the focal point for starting some ships. While it's handy if the Commodore has some Sea

Scout experience, that isn't always possible. If it isn't, consider someone who has been a commissioner – their knowledge of how to start and grow units is an important part of the role.

# National Commodore's Corner

By National Commodore

## IOWLS

Please take advantage of the 'off' season to plan an Introduction to On-the-Water Leader Skills Training in your council. You don't need national or regional or area authorization – it's a council level course and can be approved by your Council Commodore or Council Training Chair. Everything you need is [right here](#) – if you don't have the expertise to teach it, ask your local Coast Guard Auxiliary if they can help. This course is designed to be customized to the sort of boating in your area – you can use big or small boats, salt or fresh water, even paddlecraft. Reports so far from around the country have been excellent – my home council just hosted one on Lake Travis led by Skipper Chris Schuttger. This course is designed to help our ships onboard new adults and move them toward being useful Sea Scout leaders on the water, but it's also relevant for more experienced adults. Please use it! (and let me know how it went!)



IOWLS on Lake Travis, Texas  
photo by Dave Aronson



National Flagship Trophy

## National Flagship

It is time to start working on your National Flagship applications! The requirements and scoring criteria remain the same as last year, but we're going to switch to an online application that should make it easier for everyone and that will let you be sure your application was received and is complete. More information is available [here](#) – expect the new application form to be live there no later than early January. Right now would be a great time to take a quick check to make sure that you've done everything that must be done in 2019 to achieve JTE gold, which is a pre-requisite. The scorecard for that is [here](#).

## National/Regional/Area Boatswain Applications

It also almost time to apply for National, Regional, or Area Boatswain for next year. You can find that form [here](#) – National applications are due by February 15th!

## SEAL 2.0

Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership Course (SEAL) is a week of adventure and leadership on the water. We have doubled the number of SEAL courses in 2020 to ensure that every Sea Scout who wants to go to SEAL, can go to SEAL, and we've revised and improved the curriculum. Moreover, we will have our first paddlecraft SEAL courses! And for the first time ever, we have SEAL courses being held in all four regions! Applications are now available [here](#) and are being accepted already – don't wait to submit them!

If your Scouts aren't sure about SEAL, have them check out the new SEAL testimonial videos that highlight the benefits and adventure of attending SEAL:

[National Boatswain Hannah on SEAL](#)

[SEAL with Trinity from Texas](#)

[SEAL Seattle with Sea Scout Madi from Ship 993](#)

[Sea Scout Nick from Ship 24 on his SEAL Cruise](#)

[SEAL Prospective from a Skipper](#)



# National Commodore's Corner

By National Commodore

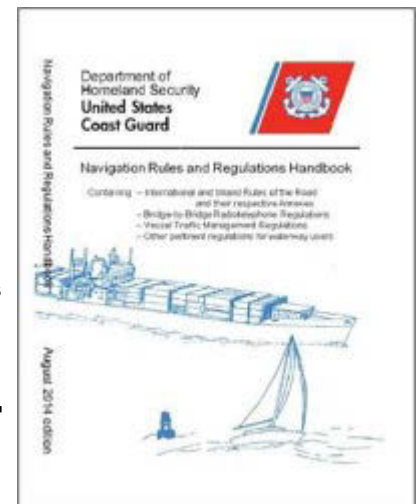
## Recharter

I know most of you have already finished with your recharterers – and it's a bit more complicated than usual because of the new background check disclosure forms, but please do make sure that all of our ships get this taken care of on time so that we don't have to start the year playing catch up and instead can focus on recruiting new youth! If you've been having trouble tracking down some of your off-at-college 18-year-olds to get their signatures, this week is probably your best chance!

### Rules of the Road Requirements for Advancement

For many Sea Scout leaders understanding the Rules of the Road and being able to teach them to youth can be a challenge. Understanding what is meant by certain requirements can be misunderstood by even an experienced Skipper. Here is my take on a couple of requirements related to the Rules of the Road based on a recent conversation I had with a Skipper. Ordinary 9b is written as: *Know the general "Rule of Responsibility."* Flipping to page 173 of your Sea Scout Manual you would see that the Rule of Responsibility is Rule 2 of International and Inland Rules of the Road and it is quoted word for word in the Manual. The expectation is not that Scouts need to be able to recite this rule word for word. Flipping to page 174 you will see that the Rule of Responsibility is described as, *"A rule may be departed from—that is, it may be disobeyed—only when circumstances of the case make it necessary to avoid immediate danger."* The paragraph goes on to describe an example where Rule 2 may apply. I think a Sea Scout who is able to briefly describe Rule 2 correctly and provide a reasonable example, which may be the one from the Manual, has met this requirement. A Scout is certainly welcome to memorize Rule 2 in its entirety, but I really don't think that is necessary for advancement.

Able 9a asks a Scouts to *"Demonstrate a working knowledge of Navigation Rules, International and Inland."* The keyword in this requirement is "Demonstrate." The idea here is that the Scout is out on the water and correctly applying the Rules of the Road. Some Ships such as those sailing on Puget Sound and adjacent waters will always be in waters where the International Rules apply, while a Ship in Galveston Bay would rarely find itself outside of waters where Inland Rules apply. I don't think a Scout would need to sail on both sets of waters to complete this requirement. As long as the Scout is able to demonstrate to their Skipper that they are able to correctly apply the rules on boating trips then this requirement is met. Some Ships operate on small bodies of water where contact with other vessels may be a rare event. In cases like that, Skipper will have to develop some sort of exercise to provide an opportunity for Scouts to demonstrate their knowledge. That exercise could occur on land, perhaps on a chalkboard. The Scouts have already passed a written Rules of the Road test when they completed a boating safety course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in Ordinary 15, so using a USCG Rules of the Road written test (like those used for commercial licenses – there are plenty on the internet) is overkill here and isn't really necessary. This requirement is meant to be about practical application. It will probably be difficult for a Scout to complete this requirement if they have not already completed Ordinary 15. If you have questions about other requirements, please let me know and I will try to address them in a future update. Remember, if you are not sure about something, there are probably other Ships in the same boat. I can be reached at [twcook@seascout.org](mailto:twcook@seascout.org)



## **National Commodore's Corner**

By National Commodore



***T.W. Cook*** National Commodore paddling on the San Gabriel River last week  
Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Fair Winds! It looks like Christmas week here in  
Central Texas will be warm enough to go paddle, so I'll see you on the water!  
- ***T.W. Cook, National Commodore***

## **Northern Lights High Adventure Base Fairbanks, Alaska Celebrating 20 Years of Northern Lights High Adventure Base**

**This past Summer season marked the 20th anniversary for the Northern Lights High Adventure base, and proved worthy of celebration in every way.**

**Troops from across the “lower 48” trekked across glaciers, paddled over 150 miles down the legendary Yukon River, hiked above the Arctic Circle, and pitched tents under the midnight sun. Wildfires raged across most of interior Alaska this summer, but fortunately no treks were cancelled and very few re-routed to alternative locations.**

**Each trek is planned exclusively for the Troop or Crew visiting based on their needs, goals, and expectations. Alaska boasts vast, diverse landscapes, climates, and endless opportunities to explore, which is why Northern Lights High Adventure takes so much time to learn the wishes of each individual Troop or Crew and plan the best possible adventure, down to the very last detail.**

**Although the majority of treks occur during the Summer season, those wishing to try cold weather camping, snow sports, and maybe catch a glimpse of the aurora borealis might consider a winter trek.**

**Interested in learning more about visiting the Land of the Midnight Sun? For more information on planning your trek or open guide positions contact Matthew Banaszewski, Director of Northern Lights High Adventure: (907) 452-1976 [Matthew.Banaszewski@scouting.org](mailto:Matthew.Banaszewski@scouting.org)**

**Space is still available for Summer 2020 and 2021!**

**Facebook: [facebook.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](https://www.facebook.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase)**

**Instagram: [@NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](https://www.instagram.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase)**

**Website: [alaskahighadventure.com](http://alaskahighadventure.com) Written**

**Written by**

**Stephanie Kelly, Backcountry Trek Manager and 2018 & 2019 Backcountry Guide.**

**Photos courtesy NLHA.**

**Northern Lights High Adventure Base Fairbanks, Alaska  
Celebrating 20 Years of Northern Lights High Adventure Base**



**Sea kayaking off the coast of Valdez,  
July 2019**



**Hiking across Root Glacier in Wrangell  
St. Elias National Park, July 2019  
Backpacking**



**Backpacking in Denali State Park,  
June 2019**



**Backpacking in the White Mountains  
National Recreation Area, July 2019**

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Commodore's Minute

**Hello, Shipmates and friends of the Western Region, Happy Thanksgiving!**

**We have had a very positive year so far thanks to our dedicated leaders here in the West. We have had successful Seabadge courses and SEAL programs that have made our adults and youth better leaders. To all those who participated in and taught the curriculum, I appreciate your hard work and dedication to Sea Scouting. As I traveled around this past summer I often heard talk of how our program is shrinking and that we may not exist sometime in the future. Well, let me squash those rumors now. The West has experienced positive ship growth numbers from where we were last year. This is great news but it doesn't mean we can rest and celebrate. We still have much work to do in our rebuilding process, but we are moving forward again. Our goal is to at least one Sea Scout Ship in every council. Out of the 51 Councils in the Western Region, only 13 do not have Sea Scout Ships. However, 20 Councils are in need of a Council Commodore.**

**For those who are unfamiliar with the official role of a Council Commodore, they serve as the Chairman of the Council Sea Scout Committee, are often a member of the Council Executive Board, whose duties include providing support to existing Sea Scout Ships, visiting Ships, conducting Unit Assessments if they also serve as a Unit Commissioner, and starting new Sea Scout Ships. The position code is 36 and Sea Scout Council Members 36M.**

**Every Sea Scout Ship in the West matters to me. Our Regional Committee wants to see everyone be successful. If your council does not have a Commodore and you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me.**

**I'm sure we all know and have heard about the tragic charter boat fire in Southern California. This hit especially hard for me as the owners of the diving company who chartered the boat are good friends of mine. We have a big responsibility with being a high adventure program. The routine tasks we do daily should not be taken for granted. Let's make sure we are safe and that our vessels that carry youth on board are all up to specs. I have been working with my Regional Vice Commodore of Safety Kris Young who is active duty USCG to review the current BSA policy and to see what can be improved on.**

**As always the Skippers and Mates are the backbones of our program. Your dedication is the reason why we are still around today and rebuilding. I thank you all!**

**Fair Winds,**

**Greg Harden  
WR Commodore**

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Commodore's Minute

### Happy Holidays Western Region,

**As we steam into 2020, I would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Sea Scouts BSA. 2019 has been a success for the Western Region with positive ship growth in all areas of the West. We need to carry this momentum forward as we cruise into the New Year.**

**Every registered Ship we have matters, because every Ship is key to sustaining our existence for future generations to come. If your Ship is struggling to stay afloat, please reach out for help. We are working to fill the vacant 32 Council Commodore positions in the Western Region with individuals dedicated to starting new Ships and supporting existing program. Moreover, there is an initiative to train Commissioners on how to support Sea Scout Ships, Venturing Crews, and Exploring Posts. If you need assistance, please reach out to your Council or District Commissioner, especially if you do not have a Unit Commissioner. No Ship should ever fold from a lack of support.**

**Sea Scouts BSA is evolving with the times to be relevant to the youth of the 21st Century. This has included adopting the Official Sea Scout Uniform to align us with the rest of Scouting, and program innovations such as Ships focused on kayaking and SCUBA. With all this change our mission remains the same: We are here to invest in the lives of young adults and to preserve our maritime heritage. Let's not forget this mission it doesn't matter what our uniforms look like or what we call our new and existing Ships, we are all Sea Scouts together.**

**This coming year I will do my best to come to see as many of you as I can. I had a great year meeting a lot of new faces and seeing new Ships. I am proud of our accomplishments during 2019 and can't wait to see what 2020 brings us. Happy Holidays!**

**Fair Winds,**

**Greg Harden  
WR Commodore**

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Holiday Message from the WR Boatswain

**As the year comes to an end, we have a lot to be grateful for! In the Western Region, we have seen great growth in numbers thanks to the hard work of every dedicated scouter. But that doesn't stop here! Stepping into the new year of 2020, we are going to make ourselves the strongest we can be. Let's continue building our program by holding even more recruiting events so that can provide more opportunities to youth. Remember that resources can always be found on [seascout.org](http://seascout.org), but it is also beneficial to reach out to fellow scouters. We all have skills and ideas to share**

**While we want to recruit we also want to maintain; I would encourage all of the ships in our region to partner with another ship for an event at least once. This helps create memories for a lifetime, and you're likely to retain the scouts you have; additionally, try something new! Step out of your comfort zone! But most important, be safe and have fun.**

**Look out for items coming from your Regional Quarterdeck including messages, Webinars, events, and more! Let's all end the year off strong and come back even stronger.**

**Fair winds and happy holidays,  
Jordyn Alexis, Western Region Boatswain**

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Meet WR Area 6 Commodore Sheldon Allred

**There has been a change of watch in WR Area 6. Mr. Sheldon Allred has taken over the helm as Area Commodore. Commodore Allred is a dedicated Sea Scouter and already moving full steam ahead with his duties of growth and retention in Area 6. Welcome aboard Commodore Allred. I would also like to say thank you to outgoing Area 6 Commodore Mike Philbrook. Commodore Philbrook, I thank for your service to WR Area 6 and dedication to Sea Scouting.**

## Sea Scouts BSA and Coast Guard Auxiliary Partnership

**It is now official: Sea Scouts, BSA is the official youth program of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. With our new partnership now underway, more opportunities will be opening up for us soon. The Coast Guard Auxiliary can now be charter partners of Ships. We will be able to utilize classes and training materials of the USCG Aux to help us with bettering our Sea Scouts' knowledge and abilities. We will also have an increase in adult leadership to help support our existing ships and help with the formation of new ships to come. This is a very exciting time for us with new positive changes.**

**Bruce Johnson of the National Sea Scout Support Committee has led the rollout of the partnership with a series of webinars, which have been recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube. You can watch Introduction to AUXSCOUT, AUXSCOUT Workshop 102, and AUXSCOUT Workshop 201-Standard Operating Procedures, on the embedded links to learn more about the partnership known internally by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as "AUXSCOUT"**

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Sea Scout Ship Propeller Featured in Boys' Life Video



**The Sea Scout Ship Propeller from the Chief Seattle Council has hosted Sea Scouts from around the country for SEAL. Check out the new video on the Boys' Life YouTube channel featuring the Propeller and the SEAL program.**

## Sea Scout Open House Images for Facebook Events

**The Marketing Toolbox on SeaScout.org now has cover images for Facebook Events promoting a Sea Scout Open House. More photos will be added before Spring. For Ships that wish to create their own Facebook Event Cover Images, the image size is 1920 x 1080 pixels with a 16:9 ratio**

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## Seabadge Long Beach

Seabadge will be held at the Long Beach Sea Base on March 6-8, 2020. [Registration is open now.](#)

## New Health Forms



The BSA Annual Health Forms will be updated in 2020. Please see the [Bryan on Scouting Blog](#) to see a full description of the new forms. The forms can be [downloaded directly from Scouting.org.](#)

## SEAL Applications Now Open

Sea Scout Experience Advance Leadership Courses (SEAL) is a week of adventure and leadership on the water. We have doubled the number of SEAL in 2020 to ensure every Sea Scout who wants to go to SEAL, can go to SEAL. Moreover, we will have our first paddlesports SEAL courses in Colorado and Tennessee. [Applications are now available on SeaScout.org.](#)

# Sea Scout News

Across the Western Region

## National Boatswain Hannah on the Benefits of Attending SEAL

Check out National Boatswain Hannah on the [value, adventure, and benefits of SEAL](#).

To learn more about SEAL, here are more video testimonials:

[SEAL with Trinity from Texas](#)

[SEAL Seattle with Sea Scout Madi from Ship 993](#)

[Sea Scout Nick from Ship 24 on his SEAL Cruise](#)

[SEAL Prospective from a Skipper](#)

## SEAL Courses in 2020



**Twice the number  
Sea Scout Experience Advance Leadership  
Courses in 2020**

Course	Type
San Francisco Bay, CA	Keelboat
Seattle to Ketchikan	Keelboat
Ketchikan to Seattle	Keelboat
Colorado	Paddlecraft
Tennessee	Paddlecraft
Long Island Sound, NY	Keelboat
Narragansett Bay	Keelboat
Chesapeake Bay, MD	Keelboat
Tidewater, Va	Keelboat
Tampa Bay, FL	Keelboat
Galveston Bay, TX	Keelboat

# Websites

## National Venturing

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing.aspx>

## National Sea Scout

<http://www.seascout.org/>

## Central Region Venturing

<http://www.crventuring.org>

## Northeast Region Venturing

<http://nerventuring-bsa.org/>

## Southern Region Sea Scout

<http://srventuring-bsa.org/wordpress/>

## National Exploring

<http://www.exploring.org/>

## Yahoo Groups

### Central Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crventuring/>

### Northeast Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nerventuring/>

### Southern Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srventuring/>

### Western Region

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wrventuring/>

### National

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/venturinglist/>



# the FORUM

The FORUM is a National cluster concept and a friendly way to help Scouting Leaders exchange ideas and programs among our Troops, Crews, Ships, Posts, Councils, Areas, Regions and National..

The FORUM is shared by Volunteers and Professionals across the country.

“The **FORUM**” has been published monthly since 2003 and is not an official publication of any Council, Area, Region or National. It is the Leaders and Professionals newsletter. Help support our teenage program by sending the FORUM your stories, Newsletters. Council articles, By-Laws, Questions and Best Practices to share with others.

As always, articles, questions and comments are welcome. Promote Venturing, Sea Scouting and Exploring by promoting your Unit and Council. We are seeking support from anyone interested in working on the newsletter .

Thanks for all you do!

**Bob the BEAR Monto—Editor in Chief**  
**Bernie Suess - Webmaster**

## TO SUBSCRIBE to the FORUM:

Email Bob the BEAR at

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Use the email account you want to receive the FORUM and give Full name and Council to place you in the right email list.