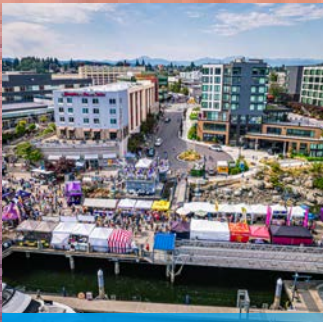


The Port Report

Port of Bremerton Newsletter • Summer 2025



Changes to Staff



Events



Tenant Spotlight

*Setting the stage
for Autumn!*

Foreword From Port Commission Secretary

Axel Strakeljahn

Summer at the Port of Bremerton is always something special, but 2025 promises to be one for the books. With sunshine, community spirit, and a lineup of incredible events, the Port of Bremerton is proud to be at the heart of it all.

One of the biggest highlights this year was the Bremerton National Air Show. If you've ever wanted to feel the ground shake under the roar of jet engines or watch precision pilots dance across the sky, this was the place to be. From aerobatic thrills to historic warbirds, it's an annual event that inspires kids, excites families, and reminds us just how important aviation is to our region.

Of course, summer wouldn't be complete without the Bridge Blast fireworks show, lighting up the waterfront in a celebration that brings thousands together. It's Kitsap Peninsula's and Bremerton's largest fireworks display and one of our community's most beloved traditions. We again filled our Marinas with boats and fun-loving families who had a great time at this huge Community event which we are proud to support.

We're also keeping our focus on the future. This year we are updating our economic impact study, showing how the Port of Bremerton supports family wage jobs, generates revenue, and keeps our economy flying high. As the second largest economic driver in Kitsap, we are excited to share this updated study with our community when we get the updated data.

The Phase 2 Aviation Study is now underway, ensuring we're ready to meet the needs of tomorrow as our region grows and the need for passenger travel becomes more of a demand. We are eager to support our community as well as region while maintaining a quality way of life as we grow.

On the water, progress continues at the Port Orchard Marina with design and construction plans for a new breakwater. This project will improve safety, welcome more visitors, and strengthen our waterfront economy while protecting this very important asset of the Port Orchard Marina. We are looking forward to construction in 2027.

As summer winds down, we'll gather once again for the Blackberry Festival. With food, music, arts, and—of course—plenty of blackberry treats, it's a tradition that blends small-town charm with big-time fun. Don't miss this annual event on Labor Day weekend. It's sure to be a wonderful event to remember.

These events and projects all have one thing in common: they bring people together while building a stronger future for our region. I couldn't be prouder of the work being done by the Port of Bremerton team and our partners across the community.

So here's my invitation: come out, enjoy the sunshine, and be part of what makes Kitsap County such a great place to live, work, and play. I'll see you at the waterfront, at the air show, and—most importantly—among friends.

Sincerely,

Axel Strakeljahn, Port of Bremerton Commissioner



Making Moves

Director of Marine Facilities, James Weaver, Departure



James Weaver, who served as the Director of Marine Facilities for the Port of Bremerton for seven years, resigned on Wednesday, August 13th. During his time with the Port, he oversaw both Bremerton & Port Orchard Marinas and assisted on numerous projects, including helping to secure funding for our upcoming Port Orchard Marina Breakwater Replacement.

In discussion, James stated that his favorite part of working with POB had been the spirit of community present. Particularly loving the ability to be present within both Bremerton & Port Orchard, he said it was “incredible” to work alongside tenants and community members to build relationships and improve infrastructure.



James isn't going far, though, and boaters will be able to find him as the Port of Poulsbo's new Port Manager. This shift will allow James to spend time within the community he resides in, establishing relationships and building roots. His experience with the Port of Bremerton will surely make him a strong leader for Poulsbo, and the Port of Bremerton wishes him success.

In the meantime, we thank our resident and visiting boaters for their continued support.

Port of Bremerton Marinas Promote Maintenance Member



Kevin Sauerland was recently promoted from Port Attendant to Port Maintenance I, an acknowledgement that came after only two months of being with the Port! His hard work, dedication, and positive attitude have quickly made him an integral part of our team. At the Port, we appreciate being able to celebrate the work of our team and are especially excited for this movement of one of our newest members. If you see him on the docks, be sure to give him a warm congratulations.



Bremerton's Juiciest Event - Labor Day Weekend

Bremerton Blackberry Festival

The Bremerton Blackberry Festival is always the best party of the summer, and this year was no different! Just steps from the Bremerton Marina, this waterfront bash is bursting with blackberry everything: cobblers, pies, donuts, ice cream, wine, jams, and sauces. The Bremerton Rotary Foundation is pleased to present this long-time community festival with over 150 vendors offering handmade goods, berry-themed merchandise, tasty treats, and non-stop music. If you missed it this year, be sure to mark your calendars for Summer 2026!

More information about the event is available on their website:
<https://www.blackberryfestival.org/>

Upcoming Night Markets



There are two more opportunities to support our local night markets this year, centered around community, delicious food, and entertainment. Both markets take place at their respective marinas; don't miss out!

Port Orchard Night Market: Sat., Sept. 13th | 6-10 PM

Bremerton Night Market: Fri., Oct. 3rd | 5-9 PM

Bremerton Air Show Recap

Bremerton National Airport's Biggest Event



Photo Courtesy of Isaak Hammers

The 2025 Bremerton Air Show was a well-attended, regional event that captured audiences from around Washington and beyond (including a few Canadian guests!). The entire air show team is incredibly grateful for the participation of local agencies, including JBLM, the Port Angeles Coast Guard Station, and the Washington State Patrol. Together, we were able to entertain and educate thousands of people through aviation.

If you missed out on the third annual event, make sure you stay tuned into our Port of Bremerton channels for the announcement of our next event!

This event was supported by nearly 9,000 attendees, 250 volunteers, over a dozen vendors, and nearly 30 different aircraft types.



Photo Courtesy of Isaak Hammers

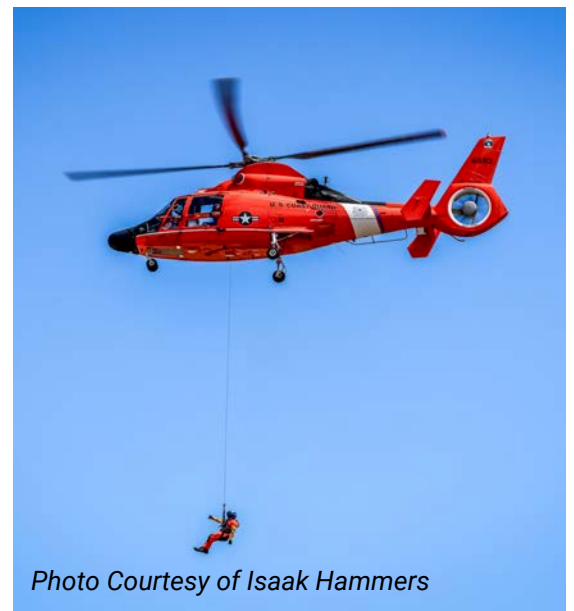


Photo Courtesy of Isaak Hammers

Meet Our Accounting Team

Our Port of Bremerton accounting team consists of five people:

- **Aaron Schielke, CFO**
- **Kristie Miller, Accounting Manager**
- **Kristina Hedrick, Accounts Payable**
- **Jenifer Zuweni, Staff Accountant - Receivables**
- **Connie Daggett, Staff Accountant Payroll & AP**

Together, they help create budgets, assist our team leadership, and ensure timely payments. Now that Summer is nearing an end, many of our team members are putting additional focus on crafting our 2026 budget! Stay tuned for updates by keeping an eye on our commission meetings, social medias, and website.

<https://www.portofbremerton.org/financials>



Photo Courtesy of Isaak Hammers

Supporting Wildfire Response

Bremerton National Airport has been proudly serving as a temporary base for various aircraft in aid of the wildfires occurring around our region. As a public airport, we are proud to support these vital efforts and appreciate our tenants' flexibility with this additional presence.

To note, Bremerton National Airport has seen Skycrane helicopters (pictured above), water bombers, and an array of additional, smaller helicopters, primarily in support of the still ongoing Bear Gulch Fire.





Boater's Corner



Resources from Northwest Maritime

Tides & Currents in the Salish Sea - Online Class



Date: October 07 - 08, 2025



6:30-8 PM



**Northwest
Maritime**

Learn the essentials of safe and confident boating in the Salish Sea. Tides and currents affect every vessel, and this class will give you the knowledge, resources, and skills to navigate local waters. <https://nwmaritime.org/events/tides-currents-in-the-salish-sea-online-class/>

Radar & Collision Avoidance & Night Navigation - In-Person



Date: October 18, 2025



10 AM - 1 PM

Sharpen your radar skills with hands-on exercises in Northwest Maritime's Simulator Chart Room. Learn the basics of motion, range, and bearing, and apply them to real-world navigation. Practice making targets, tracking vessels, and navigating collision avoidance scenarios. <https://nwmaritime.org/events/radar-night-navigation-2025/>

Notice of Suquamish Tribe Fishing at Port Orchard Marina

The Suquamish Tribe's commercial Chinook salmon season began in July and may continue throughout September. Many fishing vessels are moored in Port Orchard Marina's guest moorage during this time.

Nets are most often set at night and can be identified by small white corks on the surface, marked at either end with larger orange or red buoys. Boaters are asked to remain alert and exercise caution when navigating local waters throughout this season.

KPWT Times | Issue 008

Behind the Hangar Doors

Rebecca Raney is a woman of many talents: a successful businesswoman who spent twenty years as the owner of Port Orchard's beloved *Yes Please Coffee*, a Certified Flight Instructor at Avian Flight Center, and soon-to-be commercial pilot for Horizon Air. While her coffee business was a long-standing labor of love, her flight experience has been nothing short of remarkable: a second career that began less than three years ago.

Meet Rebecca Raney

Rebecca grew up in Gig Harbor and built deep ties to the Kitsap community. Together with her husband, she invested in commercial property and built *Yes Please Coffee* from the ground up, turning it into a cornerstone of Port Orchard. For two decades, she poured her energy into community partnerships, mentoring employees, and keeping a bustling small business running. As her daughter prepared for college, though, Rebecca and her husband knew it was time for a change. Selling the property gave them financial flexibility and opened the door to new dreams.

Taking the Sky by Storm

Rebecca had always been curious about aviation, especially after seeing former employees pursue careers with the airlines. With encouragement from friends, she signed up for a Discovery Flight at KPWT's Avian Flight Center in January of 2022. That short flight over the Puget Sound left her exhilarated.



Multi-Engine Commercial Add-On.



Greater Seattle Ninety-Nines Social.

Photo-op on Embraer 175.



“I came down feeling true adrenaline,” Rebecca recalled. “It didn’t scare me, it just recharged me.”

What began as a personal challenge quickly grew into a new career path. She enrolled in ground school that Spring, balancing her final year as a business owner with flight training. By early 2023, she had earned her private pilot’s license, followed by her instrument rating, commercial license, CFI, and multi-engine training. She describes it as an “all-in” commitment, one that demanded the same discipline, maintenance mindset, and attention to detail she had honed as a business owner, but in an entirely new arena.

Beyond her training, Rebecca also immersed herself in aviation’s supportive community. Early on she joined the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots, on the search to find camaraderie and mentorship. What started as being “the mentee” soon turned into her mentoring others, from Avian students to scholarship applicants. She also takes pride in inspiring young women: one of her most memorable discovery flights she lead was with a 13-year-old girl whose grandmother was moved to tears watching her granddaughter take the controls for the first time. Rebecca says these moments reaffirm her belief that “we are raising young women to believe they can do anything.”

Soaring Beyond

Rebecca’s dedication and persistence recently paid off when she was accepted into the Horizon Air Pilot Development Program. The program provides mentorship, company training connections, and a direct path to the flight deck once she builds the 1,500 flight hours required for her Airline Transport Pilot Certificate. Her dream is to fly for Horizon Air out of SeaTac to Paine Field, operating the Embraer 175 jet she already admires.

While Rebecca is excited for the airline career ahead, she remains grateful for her time teaching and working at Avian, where her journey began. Her story reflects not only the courage to make a bold midlife career change, but also the importance of community, mentorship, and saying ‘yes’ to new possibilities.

As Rebecca puts it, the philosophy behind her coffee shop name still guides her: “Yes Please.”

Rebecca flying her daughter for the first time.



Rebecca with her daughter & husband.

Meet the Commissioners



Cary Bozeman
Vice President

Term: Jan. 1, 2022 -
Dec. 31, 2027

District 1: West Bremerton, portions of
East Bremerton, Kitsap Lake, Chico



Gary Anderson
President

Term: Jan. 1, 2020 -
Dec. 31, 2025

District 2: Downtown Port Orchard, portions
of Eastern South Kitsap



Axel Strakeljahn
Secretary

Term: Jan. 1, 2024 -
Dec. 31, 2029

District 3: Portions of South Kitsap, Southwest
Bremerton, Seabeck/Holly/Crosby

**Did you know that you can attend commission meetings? Head to
portofbremerton.org/commission-meetings for dates & meeting links!**



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E: jimr@portofbremerton.org

We Want to Hear From You!

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Be featured in a Port newsletter! Particularly if you are a tenant of one of our Port of Bremerton Facilities (or work at one!), we would love to feature your story. Not sure if it's a perfect fit? Reach out to us to find out! Email ericaf@portofbremerton.org for more information.