

The Beacon



Saanich Peninsula Squadron



May 2004



P.O. Box 2122, Sidney, BC V8L 3S6
A Unit of Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons — Vancouver Island South District

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

When Bill and I passed the *Boating Course* in 1968, I had no idea that I would become so involved with CPS! It takes teamwork to make a successful squadron, and we have an exceptional group of members who have stepped up to the challenge of running our organization for the coming year. I would like to thank this past year's Bridge Officers for their time and efforts and encourage other members to consider taking a position on the Bridge in the future.



At our AGM, D/C Don Lassey presented our squadron with a 35-year "Letter of Appreciation" plaque from Chief Commander Tony Gardiner. It signifies **35 years of volunteers dedicated to safety and training in recreational boating**. That is a significant contribution by our members, and we thank all those members, past and present, at this time. We were also presented with the trophy for the **Highest Average** in the *Advanced Piloting Course*. Well done, students! This past year, the training department taught 56 students in the boating classes, 6- Seamanship Sail, 6-Advanced Piloting students, and many took the VHF radio course, too. Our squadron membership is over 300.

We welcome participation as proctors in the classes. We also would like to have a member take on organizing cruises for us. We need someone to look after the Socials, such as the Christmas Dinner. Anyone interested? Please contact me at ocean-time@telus.net or call me at 656-5190

Cdr Gay Miller

SQUADRON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 3, 2004

The Change of Watch has taken place with D/C Don Lassey pledging in the new Officers. There were 55 people from our squadron attending the AGM - we would like to thank you all for supporting the squadron.

The volunteer members who will be working for you and CPS this coming year are listed on the revised masthead of the *Beacon* (see page 1).

Thank you to these members for volunteering their time and skills to our squadron

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 20 **Bridge Meeting**, SNSYC at 1930 hours. All are welcome

Jun 3 **Dual Tour** - Canadian Hydrographic Service and Marine Communication and Traffic Services – (see article below)

June 17 **Bridge Meeting**, SNSYC at 19300 hours. All are welcome.

July 1 **Sidney July 1st parade**

July 15 **Bridge Meeting** SNSYC at 1930 hours. All re welcome.

August 6-8 **Vancouver Island South District Rendezvous**
Otter Bay on North Pender Island

Aug 28 **Vancouver Island North District Gathering**
Silva Bay on Gabriola Island

DUAL TOUR

MAREP Officer **Len Burton** is trying to organize a tour of the **Canadian Hydrographic Service** (CHS) facilities, located at the Institute of Ocean Sciences, as well as a tour of the **Marine Communications & Traffic Services** (MCTS) command centre.

Len has now been able to arrange a dual tour of both facilities - CHS & MCTS - on **Thursday, June 3**. The invitation is open to all Squadron members, and we would encourage everyone to take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Please note that two separate tours on a single night have never been done before! Len has put a lot into organizing this event and, if there is sufficient interest, we will plan more dual tours in the future.

In order to visit both MCTS and CHS, we would likely start the **tour at MCTS at 1800 and go until 1830**. Then we would walk up to IOS where we would start the **CHS tour between 1845 and 1900 and go until 2100**.

If you are interested in one or both of these tours please contact **Len Burton** 656-6450 or marep@saanichpeninsulasquadron.org

SURVEY OF MEMBERS

LIFE JACKET/PFD MANDATORY WEAR

For Small Vessels Under Six Metres

The Canadian Safe Boating Council is seeking opinions whether operators and passengers in all open recreational vessels less than six metres should be required to wear lifejackets/PFDs, while underway. It is intended to establish a CPS position statement on the issue; therefore squadron/district input is being sought.

It is hoped that all squadrons will put the question to as many members as possible and report to respective District Councils by October. District Commanders in turn are asked to include results in their report to the October Governing Board. This is a long-term project, so there is ample time to seek members' opinions.

At the February Governing Board most board members favoured the proposal. In order to establish consistency, you are asked to report in one of the following categories.

Do not support _____

Generally support _____

Strong support _____

Please forward your reply to:
Executive@saanichpeninsulasquadron.org
or telephone Doug Mitchell at 656-2959



Life jackets are not as confining as coffins.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Over the years, most Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons have consisted of men (usually older men) who made up the general membership and presided on the bridge. However, in recent years, women have appeared on the horizon, passed the courses and have become interested in and volunteered for squadron administration. Nobody "signs on" for the politics, it just comes with the territory.



During the past three years, our squadron has nominated two women who have reached the rank of Commander and both quit in frustration. Both of these Commanders have been capable, diligent and hard working women.

The first of these noteworthy Commanders was **Diana McBratney**, who was so conscientious in her role that she worked herself into a "burnout" situation and resigned in self-defense. The second was Commander **Lesley Head** who dared to suggest and make changes in the structure and operation of the squadron, was perhaps too conscientious and also resigned out of frustration.

We lost two good Commanders, each after one year, and that is a shame! There is no question that these two Commanders made some errors while trying to acclimatize to a new job but such is the lot of every new Commander who takes on the job. I do believe however, that given a second year at the helm, both of these ladies would have been unbeatable and the entire squadron would have benefited from their efforts. Between these two Commanders, Past Commander **Ken Reeves** jumped into the breach.

On behalf of the entire membership, I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our Commanders for their extreme efforts and hours of time spent working for the squadron. Let us remember that all bridge positions are volunteer positions regardless how many hours or demands the position puts on a person. However, the person "at the helm" has the most responsibility.

We now have a new Commander. To Commander **Gay Miller** we extend our congratulations and sincerest best wishes. Good Luck!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of Colonel (Ret.) David Struthers on 19 May 2004. David was a gentleman of wide experience which included service in the Canadian Army in war and peace followed by service with Emergency Preparedness Canada, including a tour with the Canadian Delegation to NATO Headquarters in Brussels. During his retirement years, he followed many interests including service with SPS, culminating as the Squadron Commander in 1994-5.

The SPS Bridge and Squadron members extend their deepest sympathy to Edith, his wife of 62 years.

A memorial service will be held at First Memorial Garden, 4725 Falaise Drive, Victoria on Thursday, 27 May at 1400.

Contributed by Ken Reeves

KUDOS TO ANOTHER SQUADRON WINNER!

The *Commanders Challenge Award*, presented each year to the Commander who can correctly fill out a 200 point fact finding report concerning squadron and personal performance, was won this year by **Commander Lesley Head**. (Some say the report is the biggest challenge of the year!)

This award is donated by **P/D/C Bill Hennis** of Victoria Squadron. Points are accumulated by the Commander for such things as teaching a class, attending the National AGM, attending all Squadron and District functions, working on other committees, etc. Points are also added for maintaining squadron numbers, signing up new members and many other Squadron activities.

This is the second time a Commander from our squadron has won the award since its inception in 1996. The other was **Commander Helen Louwerse** who won it in 1997-98.

CAVEAT EMPTOR—BUYER BEWARE

The buyer of a sailboat thought the seller was kidding when he told him he was buying a "holy boat". His instruction to the buyer was, "If you yell *PRAISE THE LORD* the wind will fill your sails! The louder you yell the greater the wind. To stop the wind yell *THE DEVIL IS DEAD*".

During his first trip out and feeling a little silly, he, in a modest tone, uttered, "Praise the Lord". Poof! The sails billowed and moved the boat through the water at a nice clip.

Was it a coincidence?

A little louder he yelled *PRAISE THE LORD*, and the boat lurched forward doing 30 knots!

Now excited and drunk with his newfound power he yelled, *PRAISE THE LORD* three times in a row!

Suddenly the new sailor realized what he had done! Winds of hurricane proportion started beating his boat! How to make it stop? He could not remember the words!

With his sails now in tatters, and in fear of losing his boat, the sailor suddenly remembered, *THE DEVIL IS DEAD*, he roared!

There was suddenly calm.

Shaken beyond belief the sailor fell on his back, and looking to heavens, and in the loudest voice he could muster, roared with relief,

***PRAISE THE
LOOOORRRD!!!***



AGM, MEETING REPORT - MAY 3, 2004

Richard Mackenzie of the Maritime Museum of BC - Guest Speaker

Ahoy, Squadron Members

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 3, was not only a gathering for Saanich Peninsula Squadron members to capture a snapshot of the events of the previous year, it was much more. Apart from the usual happenings at an AMG, we had the pleasure of a visit from **Richard Mackenzie** of the **Maritime Museum of BC** (MMBC).

Richard was kind enough to lug a picture board and a few artifacts (just what would fit in his compact car) for our perusal.

"The facts ma'am, just the facts". We first learned that the MMBC contains:

- 35,000 3-D artifacts
- 1,000 fine art pieces – framed and unframed
- 30,000 sheets of ship drawings representing over 900 vessels
- 5,000 charts including a number of early admiralty charts
- 40,000 photographic images
- 1,000 naval uniform clothing items
- 10,000 archival documents, including
 - o Journals, logs, letters and other ephemera

A research library of 5,000 volumes+ of journals and periodicals

It is with these pieces of history that the MMBC is able to interpret the maritime history and heritage of BC's navigable waters. But that's not all! The MMBC continues to collect and preserve artifacts, the MMBC continues to study and decipher the artifacts and, the MMBC continues to add finite detail to our BC maritime history.

Richard believes that "museums are basically story tellers with every artifact, chart or photo; each telling many stories at one time." Furthermore, "people will often see themselves reflected in a particular story. This recognition aids to explain who they are and their purpose."

A ship-in-a-bottle anecdote was used to illustrate how just one artifact could tell the story of life at sea, the sailor arts, a glimpse of sailors, and the supernatural. The ship was the Australian immigrant clipper, Melanope. Find out more about Melanope in *The Ghost Ships of Royston*. This book, by Rick James, recently arrived at MMBC and can be purchased for \$13.00 plus tax.

There is so much to learn about the history of the BC coastal waters. It all starts at the Maritime Museum of BC!

An annual membership to the MMBC makes a great Father's Day gift!

Membership prices are as follows:

Senior / Student \$25.00

Individual \$30.00

Couple \$35.00

Family \$45.00



Your membership includes:

- . Annual FREE pass to the Museum and special events
- . 10% discount on gift shop purchases
- . Complimentary subscription to MMBC journal and newsletter *The Resolution and Waterlines*
- . Use of the MMBC Research Library
- . FREE admission to the Vancouver Maritime Museum the sister institution to MMBC

Janice Hayward - PRO

WHAT HAPPENED!?

A small child slipped and fell overboard. A body hurled over the rail of the liner and saved the child. Coming back on board, the man who had swum to the child was cheered by the other passengers. The captain asked the man, "What can we do for you?"

The man said, "You can tell me who pushed me?!"

EASTER CRUISE REPORT—APRIL 9-12, 2004

What a glorious weekend! The weather couldn't have been better. Our Squadron carried on the tradition of the Easter Cruise, heading up to Maple Bay Marina on Good Friday. After visiting on the dock, and enjoying the sunshine, some dined at the Shipyard Pub, while others had dinner on their boats. As "Charlotte Time" was heading into Maple Bay, she passed "Dawna 2" on her way home from a day visit. It was nice to see them on the water.

The next morning, after a lazy start, we followed the other boats to Telegraph Harbour Marina. "Onaway 1" headed back to Sidney, due to other commitments. Saturday evening we started with *Happy Hour* on the dock, where **P/C John & P/C Barb King** ("Discovery 1") joined us. It was good to see them again. While there, we had a contest to see who could tie the fastest bowline. Of course, all boaters can tie bowlines! With no practice allowed, **Ken Clarke** tied one in 3.5 seconds! But then it was challenged as to whether it was a correct bowline. **Don Armstrong** won the prize when he tied the knot in 4 seconds, with the bitter end lying on the inside of the loop. This is the correct way to tie a bowline. We always learn something on these cruises.



The Parry's three grandchildren were asked to tie a reef knot. **Jim Forsyth** showed them how, they practiced for about 15 minutes, and then tied their knot in less than 15 seconds to win a small Easter treat. Don won the 1 night's moorage at Telegraph Harbour Marina, as well as free ice cream cones donated by the Marina.



Charlotte Time with Veleda V

Boats that attended:

Dawna 2-----Len & Dawna Burton - day visit Friday
Onaway 1-----Dick & Donna Cotton - 1 night
Mer Blue-----Jim & Dodie Forsyth
Veleda V-----Don & Cheryl Armstrong
Legasea -----Ken & Joan Clarke
Panache-----Ray & Joyce Berry
Walkabout-----Jack & Linda Parry with Meagan, Angelica & Ryan
Et Tu-----Bill & Joyce Morrow
Patriot-----Ray Scott
Charlotte Time--Gay & Bill Miller

It was a good turnout for our first cruise of the year. 3 others cancelled due to boat problems or other commitments, but we hope to see them for the next cruise.

Our squadron needs someone to take over the Cruisemaster Duties. There are lots of members who will help, but we need a leader, with fresh ideas. Overnights, daytrips, picnics, mid-week cruises? Anyone interested? Please call me at 656-5190

Cdr Gay Miller

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**Saanich Peninsula Squadron CPS
PO Box 2122
Sidney, BC V8L 3S6**

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