

Happy New Year Everyone!

What a great year it's been. We've been fortunate to have an active and busy squadron. Thank you to everyone who attended our annual holiday celebration at the Dunsmuir Lodge. Everyone was in a festive mood. Our cocktail reception in the Peninsula Lounge was lovely. The fire was roaring and everyone had lots of smiles and shared their festive spirit. The view was magnificent and sparkly from the outdoor balconies. Our dinner buffet was splendid as was our delicious dessert buffet.

We kept the speeches to a minimum and partook in some nautical laughs instead. We were delighted to share the evening with a squadron special guest; Vancouver Island's South District Commander, Bev Gerry. We were honoured to have her with us at our party.

Our raffle draws were a lot of fun. We offered a variety of marine items, restaurant, clothing and equipment certificates. For those of you who attended our summer BBQ/Swap Meet may recall we tried out our first mini auction and it was just so much fun we decided to do a full live action at our holiday party. It certainly was a big hit. Our auctioneer, Bill Miller did an outstanding job and made it loads of fun once again. We were able to offer for bid terrific items at exceptionally good prices. All of the money raised from the auction and raffle tickets goes toward the squadron to support safe boating and to put on more events for you!

New this year was a slideshow which showcased many of our members in action. I think it demonstrated all of the activities and work the squadron does. And good work it is! For those of you who missed it, we sure hope you'll attend next year.

While this is one of my favorite events to orchestrate, it wouldn't come together without the hard working efforts of our volunteer team. A very special thank you goes out to Lauri Barker for all the wonderful raffle and auction items she raised for us, Bill Miller who graciously agreed to be our auctioneer, Laura Parker for all her emails, communications and enthusiasm, Anne McKinnell for all the tireless web work before and after all our events, and of course Gay Miller for helping us with reception and a host of other things, Richard Funnell for his music entertainment all evening and to John Hudson and Carolyn Hole for always being there for us.

Do watch for our upcoming courses, if there are some you haven't taken and have been thinking about it, 2008 is the year to take part! Happy New Year and good health to everyone. Be sure to visit our website often www.sppss.org and read your Beacon newsletter for upcoming events.

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