

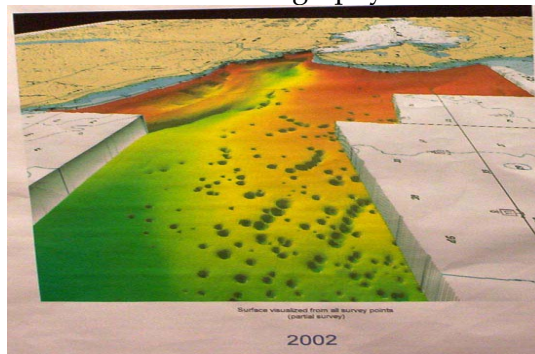
The Fall Boating Course 2004

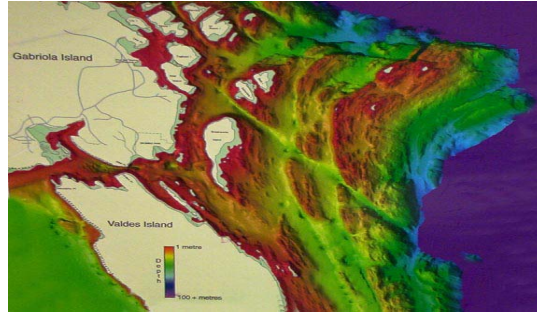
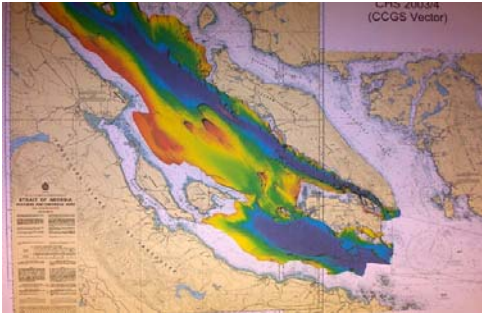
On Tuesday, September 14, 2004 the fall **Boating Course** commenced at Sidney North Saanich Middle School.

Since becoming a member of Saanich Peninsula Power Squadron I have been involved in many facets of the Saanich Peninsula Squadron. The *MAREP & Port Captain* barely covers what I enjoy doing – “Boating Safely”. Proctoring in a boating class is not only a reward in itself but, one gets to observe the students evolve into more safety conscious boaters. At the end of the **Boating Course** one would hope the students would also become members and pass on their newly acquired knowledge to a future class.



The Fall Boating Class 2004, like in all previous Boating Classes, appeared quite overpowered on that first night. You had your course introduction and then ended the night with the all-time favorite - tying knots. You progressed through *Mandatory Equipment, Collision Regulations* and homework, homework, homework! Then you were introduced to charting which, at first, can seem as overpowering as tying knots did on your first night. Through the **Institute of Ocean Sciences** you had an introduction into how the charts that you were working on, were produced. Your tour guides **Dave Jackson** and **Craig Lessels** introduced you to their world of Oceanography.





You saw how charts are produced and hopefully you came away with an appreciation of how involved and complex the process of making a chart is. The following Sunday you had the opportunity to go on a Student Cruise to Otter Bay. This was not only a chance to apply your newly acquired skills from class, but also to apply them by charting your course to Otter Bay. Your skippers and proctors had been on this training exercise many times before. They are **ALL** past **Boating Course** graduates. You had an opportunity to learn their skills from years on the water.



We had sailboats and we had powerboats. We ranged in size from 24 feet to 50 feet. We all have one thing in common - no matter the size of our boat - we all believe in boating safety and boating safely.

We fought fires!



We learned how to dock and undock and how to anchor with the right amount of scope. The Coast Guard answered our questions.



Then before we knew it, we are on our way again for a bow and beam bearing for Shute Reef and the final leg of our cruise.



The Student Cruise ended as it began. The water was calm throughout the Cruise, and with the sun setting in the west we headed home. What a Great Student Cruise!



The Student Cruise was reviewed in class the following week.



Then it was back to the night's course instruction.



Saanich Peninsula Power and Sail Squadron have one of the best qualified and dedicated groups of instructors to be found. They come from diverse backgrounds and are former students who have taken advanced courses and instructor training. One is a past Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. The class Proctors are all past graduates of the **Boating Course** and **Advanced CPS Courses**. They have one goal - to teach safe boating. Hopefully, students come away with a different perspective on boating safely. The students most definitely will come away from the **Boating Course** with a competent level of understanding of charting and the buoyage system.



After successfully writing and passing the **Boating Course**, the graduate class will have a graduation ceremony at the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club. This night is for the boating class that has worked so hard to attain an extremely high level of competence in boating. By then they will also realize that the minimum PCO card is just an entry level that does not even come close to the **Boating Course** standards. They will be encouraged to join CPS and the Saanich Peninsula Power Squadron. After all the long hours of study one would think "Why would I want to join CPS" ?



Reflect back on that first night when you approached the registration desk to take this course. Some of you were a little apprehensive, some confident in the skills that you already had from years on the water. Each and every one of you now will have the knowledge to apply what you have learned in this class for your future

boating endeavors. You will look at boating from a different perspective from now on. Now that you are reflecting on the course, think about all the hours that went into preparing each and every facet of the course from which you just graduated. From your instructors to the class proctors, each and every one of them gave up their evenings and a Sunday for you to apply what you had learned through on-the-water training using their boats. And let's not forget the other skippers who volunteered their boats, their time and fuel expenses for you to learn from them.

It is an important and fulfilling part of being a CPS Member for them to pass on their knowledge to you. They received absolutely no remuneration for teaching this and other classes. They take pride in teaching boating safety and teaching it to the highest standards of CPS.

Len Burton. MAREP