

Reflections.

The Spring Boating Course, January 10th to April 11th 2006.

With course registration behind them, the Spring Boating Course and students proceeded full speed ahead.

After a brief introduction the class progressed onto the Characteristics of Boats, Licensing and Registration, and Ropes, lines and knots.



With the assistance of our great niece [Danyelle](#), everyone learned to tie a single handed bowline.

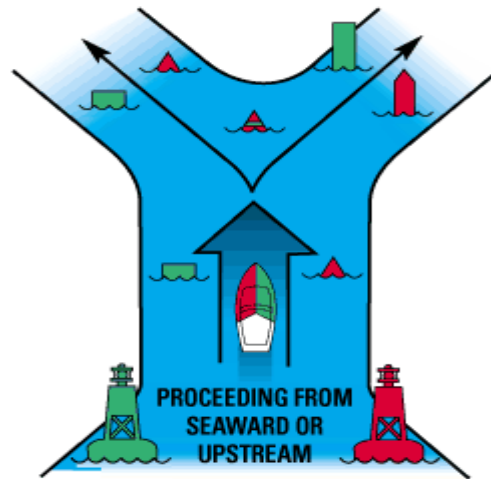
The first knot I learned in the  CCG and a must to know, when you fall overboard.



Mark and Heather had a slightly different twist on Knots and lines.



The boating course progressed along. Paul Smith introduced the class to Aids to Navigation.



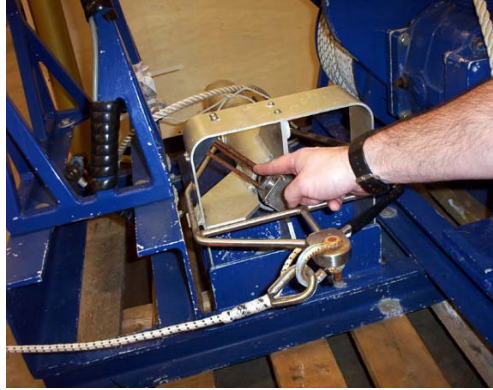
Roger Hind introduced the class to CHS Charts, Charting and the CPS Chart plotter.



February 23rd, Saanich Peninsulas Boating Course Instructor and



*“Multidisciplinary Hydrographer” **Craig Lessels**, and **Dave Jackson** Supervisor of Nautical Publications, once again opened the doors at CHS to our Boating Class.*



This was a different tour; Craig had the opportunity to show the class various instruments for taking tide and current readings.

Before we knew it was time for the student cruise.





*Although the Student Cruise is what finally brings the whole course together for the students. Months of pre planning by the training department and **every single Saanich Peninsula member** that **volunteers his or her** time and boat is what really makes it all work in the end.*

Now lets go back again to registration night again.

Prior to registration, tables are set up in the hall. Where did all of those people come from? Sign this form, sign that form. Boxes of course material are brought in to the registration desk. Enough material to fill my 4x4 Blazer.

Registration starts at 18:15. The Boating Course commences at 19:00.

After a brief introduction you begin three months of intense study.

*This year we had **more than one instructor** presenting various lessons each week. Each and every instructor gave 100% of themselves to each and every lesson. For most this was their first time instructing. If you thought it was intense learning each lesson, each instructor spent long hours the prior week preparing the lessons you learned.*

*The truly unsung heroes of the Boating Course are the **Proctors**.*

*I'll start with my wife **Dawna**, the **Chief Proctor**. I'll bet you thought she was just there to make coffee and supply donuts each week.*



*Dawna is also Saanich Peninsula Squadrons **Supply Officer**. She orders supplies for the Squadron including everything in your kit from the Chart plotter to the Charts. She arranges your seating plans. She makes sure all the instructors know your names. Each and every week Dawna and I arrived at the school at 18:00 to set up the computer. At 18:15 **Paul** and*

Ruth Smith arrived to set up all the chairs in the class room. By 18:30 all of the class proctors had arrived. Without all of these members giving so freely of their time, it would be impossible to present the course that Saanich Peninsula Squadron puts on.

*The student cruise was now beginning to fade and you concentrated on your upcoming exam; take a moment to remember all of the **Skippers** and **Proctors** that gave up more than just the Sunday that you went out on. All of the skippers have to double check their vessels prior to the student cruise. Its part of boating safely and your safety is their priority.*

The big night has now arrived, you are all nervous, everyone is, all students are. You write your exam and pass with flying colours. It's hard to believe three months have passed and you've had so much fun. Someone approaches you in the hall. Would you like to join the Power Squadron? You are thinking why would I? It's been three long hard months.

I guess there are various reasons we join the Saanich Peninsula Squadron. There are advanced and elective courses, but there is more to it than just taking more courses. It's about meeting other boaters that share the same interests that you do. It's all about giving something back, giving something of yourself to make another boater safe on the water. That's what it really boils down to in the end. Volunteering your time to keep others safe on the water.

Now think about your instructors, proctors and everyone else that has given their evenings or weekend of their time to keep you safe on the water.

*This includes our 14 year old great niece **Danyelle** that came in from Langford for the first night to teach knots.*

*When our fall **Boating Course** starts and someone asks for **volunteers**, proctors especially, think about **giving something back** and helping the next group of student's progress to responsible and safe boaters. Better still, **don't wait** until someone approaches you, **approach Dawna**, and ask to **proctor** in the next **Boating Class**.*

Len Burton, MAREP.