

THE BEACON



SAANICH PENINSULA SQUADRON



"PROMOTING SAFE BOATING THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION"

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2008



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

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THE BEACON



Volume 38 Number 2 February / March 2008

The Official Newsletter of the Saanich Peninsula Squadron

A Unit of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons

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*All email addresses are @sppss.org

Meetings of the Squadron Executive Committee (the Bridge) are normally held on the **third THURSDAY** of each month at 1900 in the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club, except in July, August, and December. All members of the Squadron are welcome to attend.

The Beacon is our official newsletter. We also maintain a website www.sppss.org. We suggest you check the site regularly for notices of upcoming events, stories, classified ads, etc. or to download **The Beacon** electronically. If you would prefer to receive notice of when this newsletter is available on our website and wish to be taken off our postal mailing list, please contact the editor, editor@sppss.org

COMMANDER'S CORNER

In my last article I was commiserating on the low number of students showing interest in our Boating and Piloting courses. While the numbers are lower than historical numbers, I am pleased to say that about a dozen for the former became 17 and the 5 for the latter became 9 students.



At this time the Nominating Committee of Past Commanders Ken Clarke and Gay Miller and me are trying to fill all the positions to take office at the May 5th AGM. At the moment we have vacancies of Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, MAREP, Supply and Environment due to officers taking senior positions, having served several years and wanting a break or moving from the area. If you feel you can serve in any of these positions, please would you contact me by phone or e-mail. I will gladly describe position duties if necessary.

It is the squadron's turn this year to host the District AGM May 2nd and 3rd at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. While the jobs to put this function on are steadily being filled, there is always the need for more help. Again, would those interested please contact me.

As this will be my second last Beacon writing as Commander (and the next one will have little room due to Squadron and District AGM notices, I would like to thank all squadron Bridge members, particularly outgoing ones, for their hard work and support over the last two years. The same thank you goes to instructors, proctors, and squadron members at large who helped to make the squadron function.

As I say in all these issues, please hoist the CPS flag.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Hudson'. To the right of the signature is a small, simple line drawing of a sailboat.

John Hudson
Commander, commander@spps.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 6th - John Phillion - “Sailing the Inside Passages to the Queen Charlotte Islands”
Join “Backabeyond John” on his Excellent Adventure as he sails up the fjords and across to the Queen Charlotte Islands – and back. Buffet at 1800 (\$18.95); Reservations Please (656 4600) Talk starts at 1930

March 27th - Joint Speakers Series - Dr. Chris Barnes, “Transforming ocean science: the NEPTUNE Canada cabled ocean observatory”

April 10th - Joint Speakers Series - Ron Glendinning and Joan Richardt, “Cruising the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica”

April 22nd - Marine Radio Telephone course begins

April 24th - Joint Speakers Series - Lesley Nichols, "Italy through the Back Door; a Rick Steves Tour"

May 2nd & 3rd - District Conference & Annual General Meeting – Saanich Peninsula Squadron is hosting this event at Mary Winspear Centre

May 5th - Spring Boating Class Graduation and SPS Annual General Meeting
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club. Social gathering with no-host bar starts at 1900 (finger food, coffee and tea will be served). Programme commences at 1930

PLEASE NOTE: JOINT SPEAKER SERIES:

At Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club – Their members and our members presenting interesting, informative, and exciting topics!! The club usually offers a delicious, special discounted dinner between 1800-1900 for each speaker series event! If you would like to attend the dinner, please call the SNSYC at 656-4600 to make a reservation. The lectures usually begin at 1930. To avoid disappointment though, always check with the club or watch your email for changes or further information.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:

March 20th - Bridge meeting at SNSYC at 1900hrs. All are welcome.

April 17th - Bridge meeting at SNSYC at 1900hrs. All are welcome.

April 22 – Marine radio course

May 2nd & 3rd - District Annual General Meeting – Saanich Peninsula Squadron is hosting this event at Mary Winspear Centre

May 5th - Spring Boating Class Graduation and SPS Annual General Meeting

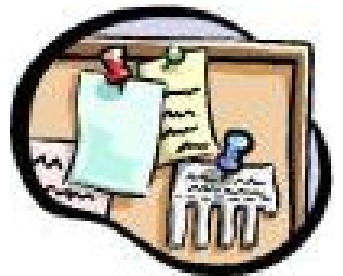
May 15th - Bridge meeting at SNSYC at 1900hrs. All are welcome.

June 19th - Bridge meeting at SNSYC at 1900hrs. All are welcome.



BULLETIN BOARD:

- The VISD ROSTER, published in print by Vancouver Island South District, (VISD), is an annual directory of information for each of the VISD squadrons. Due out in time for the boating season, the 2008 issue is being worked on right now! Tony Kluge, Membership Officer and Shirley Hamilton, Past District Commander are hard at work editing and updating this years roster. Please send any changes in your address, phone number, email address, name of boat, type of boat, etc., to Tony by phone 656-7302 or email membership@sppss.org ASAP.



- VICTORIA ARMADA – MAY 31ST - Boating season is just around the corner - it's time to replace old lines, swab the decks, polish the fibreglass, start the Spring maintenance on your engines, and so on and so on. Your “Armada Hosts” are organizing an overnight trip to Victoria’s Inner Harbour! To reserve your spot or to ask any questions, please call Len / Dawna at 656-6450 or Ron / Janice at 384-6588. SEE PAGE 16 for more information!

- BOATING TIP: A great tip from a fellow sailor about auxiliary heating of the cabin: Invert a clay flower pot on the burner, heat it, then turn the stove off and it radiates the heat as a heat sink! What a great idea. Thanks to member John Tapio. Note: use caution handling the hot pot. See page 17 for what not to do ;-)

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT:

Current Squadron Membership Statistics:

Regular Members	208
Family Members	59
Junior Members	1
Associate Members	30
Sub-total	298 paying members
Lady Associates	12
Dual Members	2
Life Members	6
Sub-total	20 non-paying members
TOTAL	318 MEMBERS

Tony Kluge, Membership Officer
membership@sppss.org

FALL BOATING CLASS GRADUATION – JANUARY 24 - It was a full house on Graduation night! The group was so large (27!) that we couldn't get all the students in the same photo. It was a great night for everyone!



District Commander Bev Gerry joined us to congratulate our students and welcome them as new members to our squadron. Peter Vivian, a Coast Pilot in British Columbia for 20 years, gave a most interesting talk on “Interaction between vessels large and small in the confines of coastal waterways” and provided a DVD presentation on Piloting.

Many thanks to the Instructors: Murray Crosbie, Roger Hind, Ted Meadley, Richard Funnell, Graig Lessels, Paul Smith, and Richard Ludwig.... as well as the Proctors: Bryan Atkinson, Charles Erskine, Marg Griffin, Peter Bey, Richard Flader, Jack Henzie, Murray Crosbie, and Phillip Morris. Without such a team of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, these classes can not be put on.

Laura Parker, Communications Officer/Beacon Editor, communications@sppss.org

BOATING CLASS OF FALL 2007 ~ VALEDICTORY ADDRESS ~



It is my honour to have been selected to say a few words on behalf of the Boating Class of Fall 2007.

My family is fortunate to have a lengthy boating history in BC. In 1928, for instance, when my father was just finishing high-school, my grandfather decided it was time to give my dad some 'life experiences', so my grandfather, my father & one of his pals set out to and did successfully sail around Vancouver Island in my grandfathers sailboat.

They had no engine, no electricity, & of course no electronics ... what they did have were some charts, a compass & a sextant ... their Aids to Navigation were pretty much only a few lighthouses along the way.

An extraordinary accomplishment by any standards ... but how much more complicated it is now. Now we have heaps of rules & regulations ... we have charts that have an enormous amount of detail on them (and, as we learned, behind them) ... and in case we can't read them properly we have literally thousands of Aids to Navigation scattered around our waters & shores.

Thank goodness we have the Canadian Power Squadron to help us save us from ourselves & teach us the myriad of details & skills that we should know as we venture out on to the sea.

Our class assembled in September ... what I'm sure is a fairly typical group – a mix of experiences and ages. Most of us a little apprehensive and wondering just what we'd gotten ourselves into. We quickly discovered that it had been quite a while since we were in Middle School and that we had 'grown' somewhat ... we found out that we no longer fit comfortably on hard-topped laboratory stools built for 10 year-olds. Most of us also realized that something had happened to our eyesight over the years, and out came the magnifying glasses so we could read the detail on the charts.



Nevertheless... All of us who wrote the exam passed, much to our relief! But successfully conducting a Boating Class takes a remarkable number of devoted and enthusiastic volunteers.

On behalf of my classmates, may I recognize and acknowledge some of these folks:

- To the Canadian Power Squadron system for their support of safe boating in general and for our learning materials,
- To Commander John and your Bridge Officers for your commitment & your dedication to the success of CPS and of our unit in particular,
- To Training Officer Richard and your fellow instructors for not only capably teaching the curriculum ... but for adding your own personal experiences (which were instrumental in helping us relate theory to practice),
- To Chief Proctor Gay and your team of proctors ... you kept us on track with our homework, & made yourselves incredibly available to answer all our questions. Your subtle “perhaps a quick review of that chapter...” was appreciated.
- To Student Cruise Master Carolyn for your ability to convince a dozen members to donate their weekend time and their boats for our student cruise. The logistics of that alone is admirable ... but to also coordinate with the Ferries, with the Saanich Marine Rescue Group, with Otter Bay Marina, and with the Pender Island Fire Rescue – just amazing. The feedback I heard from the cruise was all extremely positive – all those bearings & fixes & plots actually made sense!
- I would also like to recognize Craig from the Institute of Ocean Sciences for his energetic explanations of ‘vertical tides & horizontal currents’ and also for touring us ‘behind the scenes’ at IOS in Pat Bay.

And so ... on behalf of the Boating Class of Fall 2007 ... to all of those I mentioned (and also to any I’ve inadvertently missed) for your support to our class, for your patience when we struggled, and most importantly for instilling in us your knowledge and your passion for boating safely...

Our sincere “Thank You”.

Submitted by Brian Genge



FIRE SAFETY AT NORTH SAANICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

The fire safety and fire extinguisher practice for boating students has been revamped. After many years of service to the squadron, Pender Island Fire Rescue was having trouble meeting our needs while meeting their own training needs. North Saanich Fire Department was approached about providing a similar session for boating students and kindly agreed to do this.

On February 2nd, the first set of boating students experienced a 1-½ hour, in-depth, fire safety education session:

- in-depth talk on different types of fire extinguishers and what they are used for,
- training video showing, among other demonstrations, the results of using the wrong extinguisher for the purpose,
- question and answer session, and, of course,
- practice with fire extinguishers.
-

Most of the boating students and some of the proctors attended. Everyone found it extremely educational and useful. As the department does these public education sessions on a regular basis, there will be the opportunity for squadron members to attend with the fall boating students. Watch your calendars!

Carolyn Hole, Student Cruise Master
studentcruise@sppss.org



photo credit: Carolyn Hole

OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT... YOUR CHANCE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK

After two years as your Environment Officer of the SPPSS , I think the time is right for me to pass the role on to someone new. It's a wonderful opportunity to help educate boaters to maintain & develop a healthy marine environment in & around our beautiful Gulf Islands.



You won't be starting from scratch as there is an existing Environment Communication Plan outlining the objectives, strategies and tactics that is waiting to be worked and adapted. With the help of our webmaster Anne Mckinnell, and our Beacon Editor Laura Parker, we started up an environment section which needs to be developed and updated as news items break.

It was a pleasure working with various members of the SPPSS Bridge, VISD & National. Most helpful were people from Environment Canada, Parks Canada, Georgia Strait Alliance, local Federal Government offices and Pacific Yachting Magazine.

A special thanks to Sara Steil, Environment Officer for VISD, for her help and here unrelenting energy in trying to keep our marine environment healthy.

If you would like to find out more about the role, please feel free to call myself 655 0149 or John Hudson 655 3653.

Warren Franklin, Environment Officer
environment@sppss.org



Georgia Strait Alliance
Caring for our coastal waters

Georgia Strait Alliance's (GSA) innovative GREEN BOATING PROGRAMME was honoured with the Canadian Safe Boating Council "Safeguarding the Environment' Award at the recent Canadian Safe Boating Award (CASBA) ceremony held on January 13, 2008 in Toronto. Through this programme, GSA helps the B.C.'s boating community reconnect with the waters and help to keep these waters clean for generations to come. Georgia Strait Alliance has been supporting boaters with the Green Boating programme since 2000 when it launched its popular "Guide to Green Boating" and since its inception generously supplies these guides to CPS VISD for all new boating students.

<http://www.georgiastrait.org>



THE MAKING OF AN ATLANTIC VOYAGE PART 3:

This article is the third in a series giving an account of the preparation and making of a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in May 2007.

By noon on May 1st all was ready. After fuelling up, we motored out to the south sea lane designated for small vessels in Chesapeake Bay where we cut the engine and started sailing. Everything did work, so we started the passage. We had an excellent view of the 13.5 NM long Chesapeake Bridge and Tunnel. At 1622 hours I took our departure close aboard buoy “2C” and we set course to cross the shipping lanes briskly with Cape Henry and the community of Virginia Beach slipping below the horizon.

The skipper had set up a 3 hour watch system which initially appeared long but had the advantage that one got 9 hours off; long enough to brief the next watch, be briefed by the previous watch, eat a snack and get a decent sleep. Standing orders were given including the helmsman was to be tied on at all times, no one was to leave the cockpit unless another crew member was also on deck and the log was to be completed at each watch change, course change, etc., a full horizon scan at least every 10 minutes and we would use UTC time. As plotting on a 1:6,000,000 chart was too poor a scale to show a detailed course plot, as navigator I started plotting on VP-OS Universal Plotting Sheets. I make a copy of the log for myself and started keeping a diary.



We quickly fell into the routine of waking the next watch, taking turns at cooking dinner, started sewing dozens of cloth cones on a long rope that would be our drogue which fortunately was not needed, and the multitude of other things that were necessary to maintain a vessel at sea including some sail repair. Initially cooking was a challenge, one first had to find where ingredients were stored, then coral them near the stove till they were needed. When our Norfolk bread got mouldy, we baked more. Funny instances occurred like when the previous watch could not wake me thinking I had locked my cabin door to avoid my watch when in fact the door had jammed.

On May 3rd & 4th we were sailing triple reefed heading SE against an east wind. By evening of May 4th we were 110 NM south of our rhumb line. My preconceived idea of ocean voyages was that the winds would be more constant and the swell/waves long pitched. Both these ideas proved false; the winds varied frequently in strength and direction in the short time of a watch and our seas were relatively short pitched which caused a lot of pounding (wind against Gulf Stream). We generally set the sails rounded to give us acceleration after being slowed down pounding off each wave top as opposed to flat in order to point higher.



On May 6th motoring in very calm water we observed a thunderhead off to our north and later a couple of water spouts developing. We got out of their path as fast as we could. This was the precursor of the next storm with winds over 40 knots.

Because of the pounding we were receiving we headed NNE, the bad news was that we were making no forward progress; the good news was that we returned to our rhumb line. We recorded the water temperature regularly to stay as far as possible in the Gulf Stream. On 2 occasions it was an unreal 28.7°C.

On the evening of May 11th the wind-vane steering broke and it was hand steering for the rest of the voyage. Using the Autohelm all the time took too much battery power. With the worst of the voyage behind us we made slow progress towards Horta in the Azores.

On May 23rd we woke to the sun rising over the 2352m volcano on neighbouring Pico Island. Tying up at the customs dock in a full gale proved tricky, the skipper had to use two-thirds throttle just to stand still while several local residents willingly took our lines. We had covered 2563NM.



According to the May Pilot chart we should have expected head winds from NE, E and SE accumulatively only about 15% of the time. We in fact experienced head winds 85% of the time, resulting in the passage to Horta being 6 days longer than estimated. While the skipper on a previous passage to Hawaii and return saw only a couple of vessels, hardly a day went by without seeing several freighters, deep sea fishing vessels, US navy ships etc. We almost ran into a float and marker 800 miles out from Norfolk, presumably the end of a drift net. Thank goodness it was day time and we saw it. It disappointed me to see how much plastic garbage was floating in the North Atlantic; we kept all ours for disposal in port

Coming in the next issue of the Beacon, Part 4: The final part of the voyage.

Submitted by John Hudson

“A ship in port is safe. But that is not what ships are for... Sail out to sea and do new things”. ~ *Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, Computer Pioneer*

VICTORIA INNER HARBOUR, HERE WE COME!



The 2007 1st Armada trip to Nanaimo was a great success. Sure we had to deviate because of weather, but that is what boating is all about! This educational cruise brought Squadron members together as a team to undock and dock in high winds; led Squadron members through Dodd Narrows and to venture where some Squadron members had never been before; all this and more in the name of SAFE BOATING.

The enthusiasm for another trip has prompted your Squadron Hosts, Len and Dawna Burton, Ron Harris and Janice Hayward to organize an overnight trip to Victoria's Inner Harbour. You will be amazed at how you can feel like a welcomed tourist in your very own City of Victoria! It is beautiful, it is eclectic, it is there for you to explore by boat.

I know you have heard about the float planes, the Coho Ferry, the Clipper, other boats, the whale watchers, barges and kayaks littering the passage way into the harbour. Have no fear. We will have a pre-cruise meeting to reduce your Inner Harbour anxiety.

You will leave Tsehum Harbour on Saturday, May 31, 2008, overnight in Victoria and depart the next day. We will catch the tail end of the winter rates – yahoo!

You will be traveling with experienced boaters to guide you past infamous Zero Rock, through Oak Bay and Enterprise Channel then into the harbour. An evening event will be arranged – maybe dinner at Milestones or a potluck on the dock or ??????. Ideas will be accepted.

Prior to departure date, you will be invited to a pre-cruise meeting where you will be introduced to the Inner Harbour by PowerPoint slide show, a handout of the traffic scheme for the harbour, a sharing of experiences and a “Q & A” period.

To reserve your spot or to ask any questions, please call Len / Dawna at 656-6450 or Ron / Janice at 384-6588. We are looking forward to hearing from you, so call now.

new friends new experiences new skills



image credit: http://www.victoriabc.ca/inner_harbour/

Alcohol Stove:
Wintertime Operation







Have no fear fair-weather sailors... Spring is just around the corner! Dust out the cobwebs, come on out for a lecture, share boating stories over dinner at the yacht club, join up for the Armada cruise, volunteer on your squadron's bridge, get involved... the possibilities are endless!

Cartoon credit: p8, "sailing A Sailor's Dictionary". By Henry Beard & Roy McKie

sail • ing, 1. n. the fine art of getting wet and becoming ill while slowly going nowhere at great expense.

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

Joint Lecture Series - I was trying to book a time for one of our members to speak and found that Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club (SNSYC) is booked until the end of October (so we got the 30th date)! How wonderful that there are so many interested and appreciative people out there attending these lectures! (see report on our Joint Lecture Series in the Nov/Dec issue of the Beacon)



We are very fortunate to have a connection with SNSYC as a facility to hold our Bridge Meetings, Graduation ceremonies, Annual General Meetings and Joint lecture series. It is a lovely old building with lots of character and a charming spot for dinner out as well. Adrian Kershaw, Vice Commodore of SNSYC, would like our members to know that we are welcome to use their bar and restaurant facilities at any time. He reports that their "... bi-weekly Sunday brunches are now a regular feature and good value. Our new chef is really, really good [too]!"

Club hours:

- Wednesday to Thursday 1600 to 2200
- Friday 1600 to 2200
- Saturday 1300 to 2200
- Sunday 1300 to 2100

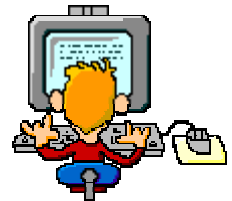
Dinner is available daily Wednesday through Sunday

The Bar is open Wednesday through Sunday and holiday Mondays from 1400 to 2000

Please call the club to make a reservation and please sign in their guest book as a Saanich Peninsula Squadron member.

Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
1949 Marina Way, Sidney
656-4600

Safe boating! Laura Parker, Editor, editor@sppss.org



CLASSIFIED:

WANTED: Looking to borrow, rent or purchase recent Canadian charts from north end Vancouver Island to Prince Rupert. Needed mid May to end of July. Please call John Hudson 250-655-3653

WANTED: Old sails or material to use for artistic purposes. Please call Laura at 656-8646

FOR RENT at Van Isle Marina 28' x 14'6" Boat shed. Great location. Available immediately. Please call for details. 250 655 1090

FOR SALE: Standard Horizon CP170C plotter with manual and C-Map M-NA-C604.05 chip (covers Puget Sound to just east of Nanoose Bay, Sechelt and half way down Juan de Fuca Strait); asking \$150 for both. Please call John Hudson 250-655-3653.

FOR SALE: GlasPly 28ft twin 350 Chevy's on v-drives. Professionally maintained with many updates including complete interior, electronics, and mechanical systems. This boat is in excellent condition, no damage history, no blisters. Complete with Glasply dinghy, 4hp kicker, Penn downriggers, spare props. GlasPly built a very safe, robust, seaworthy boat. There is no wood below decks, all stringers/structure is fiberglass.



There are very few boats built to these construction standards. Asking 34,900 c/w moorage in Sidney. all 250-661-8002 to view or email gtweiss@telus.net for info/pics.

FOR SALE: Starter – Dynamo for VOLVO MD1 or MD2B. Reconditioned (minus external regulator). Offers. 655-1839

FOR SALE: 1965 26ft. Brandlmayer Express Cruiser, \$10,000 OBO. Resembling a Chris Craft boat is Fiberglas over ply, Ford 390 – shaft drive, FWC, keel cooler, natural gas stove, holding tank, god Furuno D/S, new GPS chart-plotter including Achilles w/3.3 mariner. All safety equipment, dishes, pots and pans, etc. Discounted moorage available. Call Ray Scott 656-4828 or email scottre@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Boat House - \$8500 + moorage. 26'X12', raised roof and loft, new floatation and walk ways, south end of "C" Dock at Van Isle Marina. Please call Dave Kerr 656-3583 or email dc.kerr@shaw.ca

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