

THE BEACON



SAANICH PENINSULA SQUADRON



"PROMOTING SAFE BOATING THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION"

JANUARY 2008



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



HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2008!

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THE BEACON



Volume 38 Number 1 January 2008

The Official Newsletter of the Saanich Peninsula Squadron

A Unit of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons

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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.

The contents of this magazine reflect the opinions of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Editor, Canadian Power Squadron, or Saanich Peninsula Squadron.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

I would like to wish all members and their families, a healthy and prosperous New Year with calm seas for power boaters and fair winds for sailors.

Our squadron was pleasantly recognized at the CPS National AGM in Ottawa last October. District Commander Bev Gerry brought back 4 awards for our squadron, which she presented to me at the November VISD meeting. The first two were our 8th and 9th year recognition for our contribution to the CPS Foundation. This body does not spend its financial principle, just the investment interest on such things as the dummy flares provided to each squadron that are used in teaching the Boating class. The third award was a CPS Honourable Mention for increasing membership in 2006 close to the 5% national target. The last award was the Canadian Hydrographics Award for Best Squadron effort for participation in the MAREP program (reporting of any discrepancies on nautical charts with respect to the existence of man-made structures and the positions of aids to navigation).

It was a delight to see many members at the squadron's annual dinner at Dunsmuir Lodge on December 6th. A good time was had by all. Great thanks go to the volunteers who worked so hard to make the event the success it was. (Alphabetically: Chris & Lauri Barker, Cynthia & Richard Funnell, Carolyn Hole, Anne McKinnell, Bill & Gay Miller, and Laura Parker).

With under a week to go for registration for the winter Boating class at the time of writing this article, we are seeing record low interest. This I feel is attributable to the substantial course cost increase caused by the national policy that membership fees be included in the Boating Course charge. Piloting registrations are also down and only one person showed interest in the Celestial Navigation course resulting in its cancellation.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Hudson', followed by a simple line drawing of a sailboat on the water.

John Hudson
Commander, commander@sppss.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 8th - Boating course begins

January 9th - Celestial Navigation course begins

January 10th - Speaker Series – At Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
Loren Hagerty, Executive Director – South Pacific S.A.L.T.S. Sail and Life Training Society, Dinner at 1800hrs. Talk begins at 1930hrs
(Note: this is a change in date and time from last Beacon)

January 14th - Fall Boating Class graduation - At 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

January 15th - Piloting Course begins

January 24th - Speaker Series – At Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
'Tombs, Temples and Hieroglyphs - Travels in Egypt' - with Lesley Nicholls
Middle Eastern Dinner at 1800hrs. Talk starts at 1930hrs.

February 7th - Speaker Series – At Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
Maggie and Morris Thompson, “Five Years Sailing in the Mediterranean”
Dinner at 1800hrs. Talk begins at 1930hrs

April 22nd - Marine Radio Telephone course begins

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 1700-1900 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 1900hrs. To avoid disappointment, always check with the club or watch your email for changes or further information.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:

January 14th – Fall Boating Class Graduation

January 17th – Bridge meeting at SNSYC at 1900hrs. All are welcome.

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



TRAINING REPORT:



The Boating class of September 2007 was one of the largest yet, with 31 students enrolled. After a couple dropped out due to conflicts, and two others completed the course but have yet to write, we passed a total of 26 students. All of the passing students become CPS members automatically under the new scheme, so we hope they will stay involved and become active. Several of the Boating students also wrote the exam for their PCOC, and all passed. We also ran a Marine Radio course, and all of those students passed as well.

By the time you read this we will have started the Spring Boating class on January 8. We expect a small class this time so if you know anyone who missed registration, there's a good chance we can squeeze them in if they contact us very soon. If you have friends or family who spend much time on your boat, consider recommending this course to them. In addition to giving them the knowledge to participate in operating the boat, especially in an emergency, it will also enable them to acquire a 'Pleasure Craft Operator Card' (PCOC).

We are also planning to run Piloting and have enough students pre-registered to proceed with the class. There's still room to add your name, and that class starts on January 15. You can sign up for all courses online at www.sppss.org/registration.htm or by calling the Course Registrar, Bryan Atkinson at 483-6844 (registrar@sppss.org).

In closing, I'd like to offer a heartfelt thanks to the many people who help put on these courses, including instructors, proctors, and many other members who keep the squadron running. These people are giving their most important commodity, time, and they are all greatly appreciated.

Richard Funnell, Training Officer
training@sppss.org

SIDNEY SAILPAST OF LIGHTED BOATS WAS NOVEMBER 24TH, 2007:

What a beautiful night it was!! It was a clear, cold, crisp night – perfect for the Lighted Santa Parade down Beacon... people were four deep down both sides of our main street. Then everyone carried on down to the end of Beacon and either dispersed down to the end of the pier or either side along the waterfront or got in the warmth of their cars to line Lochside Drive to await the Sailpast of lighted boats! I dare say that some probably ducked into the pubs and restaurants on the waterfront for warmth and a view from inside! Rotary put on hot drinks by donation and our Town Crier, Ken Podmore, made the announcements about the boats as the procession made its way right past the end of the pier and went further on to the Anacortes ferry terminal or even further so more people could see.

The entry fee per boat was only \$10, which included a post-sailpast party spread for skippers and crew. What a deal!!!... and the proceeds were forwarded to the Coast Guard! How great is that!? Squadron member Roger Hind was involved through Peninsula Celebrations Society and Rotary and was enthusiastic to spread the word to our Squadron through information he submitted to me to get out to our membership.

Saanich Peninsula Squadron had four entries this year and each was a winner:



“Best First Entry” went to John Hudson & Carolyn Hole, for their boat Stealth.

“2nd Place Sail” went to Kathy McDougall, for her boat Traa Dy Liouuar

“3rd Place Power” went to Warren & Norah Franklin, for their boat Merlin

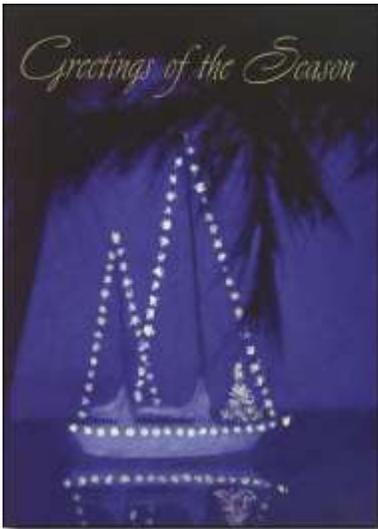
“Best Under 8 metres” went to Dawna & Len Burton, for their boat Dawna II

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!!

Merlin in background, Dawna II in foreground
Photo credit: Cat George/ Peninsula News Review

Submitted by Laura Parker

SAILPAST - NOTES ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE:



For those who have not entered the parade yet, a few words on the technical side. We did not go in the parade previously, as we do not have a generator on board for incandescent lights. We bought a 150 watt inverter for just over \$40 and each string of LED lights of 24 and 33 feet were a mere 4 watts each. Our total power consumption was only 32 watts, which did not even tax the inverter, which plugged into the cigar lighter type plug on the boat. As soon as the parade was over I switched off the decorative lights (not the nav lights) to make the piloting easier & safer. It was easier to see the nav aids of Tsehum Harbour without the decorative lights on. I noticed many boats leaving their lights on right back into harbour. This was not an issue going out to the parade as it was dusk as opposed to dark.

To pull the lights to the masthead we did not like the idea of relying on the electric cabling of the lights alone (fear of having halyards at the top of the mast and no easy or cheap way of getting them down) so we used 1/8" SC5 rope and attached the lights every 6 bulbs with small plastic ties. To get the lights down after the parade I heaved on the rope and not the electrical cable. This appeared to be a good plan as one of our strings of lights did pull apart just in the handling of rigging and had to be replaced at noon of the parade day. We will leave the SC5 rope attached for next year and put the lights on the house over Christmas, again using the rope and not the electrical cable on the hooks.

The Coast Guard Auxiliaries from Sidney and Brentwood Bay provided great assistance to all those who did not have plotters or were uncomfortable navigating at night. They light up Graham Rock for instance and led the parade well clear of obstacles. From past experience of coming in at night I am aware that there is more than enough ambient light at Westport to make a night docking, even without a flashlight. This may be true of other marinas. Carolyn used a flashlight on the bow throughout the parade, shining the beam down (& away from other skippers eyes) looking for crab pot floats of which we had several to avoid. She hand-signalled any abrupt course changes we had to make. Naturally we both wore our life jackets and both were fitted with strobe lights visible at up to 2 miles. The strobes fit to the manual inflation pipe of the Mustang inflatable PFD and are completely contained in the PFD's outer cover when not in use.

Submitted by John Hudson

PARTICIPANTS DAWNA & LEN BURTON COMMENT:

“Dawna got a few good on the water shots. I was surprised to be on the front cover of the Peninsula Review with Kathy McDougal. It was a lot of fun and more boaters should participate. Along with Ron & Janice, our Great Niece Danny was with us for the weekend. She is the next generation boater.” Cheers, Dawna & Len Burton



Photo credit: Dawna Burton

"FUN" AND "EASY TO DO" PART OF THE SIDNEY SAILPAST:

This year proved to be an absolute winner as far as weather was concerned, even though we usually wait until the morning of the evening to ensure things will be favourable. This year was no exception as the forecast was a bit iffy but as we made our way down to the boat with boxes of lights, rolls of clear duct tape, bags of zap straps, power bars (not the edible ones!) and a fairly good idea of what we wanted to do, the sun actually came out and warmed us up as we attacked the boat. It only took us a couple of hours to finish the “big” boat and this time, we decorated BOTH sides as we learned from our previous outing. We never really have an actual plan, we just put all the assorted bits together and see what we come up with and it seems that the more lights, the better the effect. The LED lights are great power savers, but are not quite as bright as the incandescent ones, so more is usually better. The only real theme we used as our working model was based on the carol song of “I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In” complete with a CD copy of 37 tracks of an English boys’ choir singing it. It only took a couple of hours to string lights up and down and around on the Grampian, complete with four angels suspended in the shrouds!

The next project we attacked, after a quick bite of lunch, was how to rig the dinghies. We actually used aluminium poles, broomsticks, yellow poly cord and generous amounts of silver duct tape. The idea was to make frames to run the rope lights on similar to the outline of sails and masts and then use the rest of the rope lights around the gunwales. We toyed with the idea of using the net lighting for the sails, but decided it would be too top heavy. The next problem was how to mount the “masts” in the dinghies, so the patio umbrella stands were just the thing. They were heavy enough to stay put and give some stability to the dinghy but not so big that they would overbalance the whole rig. We managed to get one stand into the lapstrake dinghy while it was in the water, but the other one would have to wait till we got the inflatable over to the fuel dock. We did a trial light-up with everything to make sure the generator set could handle the load, and everything looked good to go!

By now it was approaching 4:00 and we were supposed to be assembling out around Graham Rock around 5:30, so we made our way over to the fuel dock at Van Isle to put the finishing touches to our two little “ships”. We managed to get both dinghies streamed including painters with electrical cords securely fastened and only then discovered that one string of the green LED lights had quit working. Too bad, too late to replace it—we would just have to go with what we had.

This time when we fired everything up, the effect was absolutely magic—the soft velvety blackness of dusk made the glow of the lights and the reflection in the absolutely flat water all that much more “all is calm, all is bright.” We admired all the other boats that were now gathering, and everyone was feeling very buoyant and excited. The full moon appeared as if on cue with just a few clouds to make a contrast between water and sky.



Show time!! We sailed past the viewing dock at the end of Beacon Avenue and even managed to execute not one but two pirouettes without running over any painters or electrical cords!

After running down to approximately the end of Tulista Park we ran back to Graham Rock as we felt more comfortable going back to home dock than trying to enter Port of Sidney in the dark. We decided to stop at the fuel dock and take advantage of a stable platform and abundant lighting and dismantled the dinghies and secured the gen. set, headed back to the dock at Westport and proceeded to the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club for the festivities.

Dawna II in background

Traa Dy Liooar in foreground

Photo credit: Cat George/ Peninsula News Review

We were VERY pleased and excited to get 2nd place Sail this year, even though everyone says they just enter it for fun, we really appreciated the popular vote for 2nd place. However, we really DID have a lot of fun, all the boats really did put a lot of effort into decorating and the weather was picture perfect.

Hopefully next year a few (a lot?) more boats from the Squadron will enter. We had a fairly respectable turnout this year, at least four boats out of 13 or 14. So get out there when the lights are on sale after Christmas or recycle the old incandescent lights from the house, get a couple of friends together and make your boat a thing of beauty on the water at night for next year's Sailpast! We are aiming for 1st place next year, but we really do just do it for the fun of it and to get into the spirit of doing something a little different with the boat!! See you next year!

Season's Greetings: The Holly Jolly Christmas Crew of Traa Dy Liooar
(Tom and Brenda Ackerly, Lisa Dighton, Stuart Briscoe, Kathy McDougall)

Submitted by Kathy McDougall

* * * * *

NAUTICAL HUMOUR:

"Single young lady seeks older boat owning gentleman. Send picture of boat."

"Man invented the slowest form of transportation - the sailboat - then decided to race them."

Credit: http://www.calormarineshop.co.uk/boat_humour/missing_the_sea.htm

* * * * *



image credit:
<http://www.service-board.de/ascobans>

A research group captured an odd porpoise--it had feet. After it had been photographed and measured, the poor thing was prepared for release. Asked one of the researchers, "Wouldn't it be a kindness if our ship's doctor amputated the feet so it would be like other porpoises?" "Not on your life," exclaimed the doctor. "That would be defeeting the porpoise."

Submitted by Joyce Hodd

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER: PUBLIC RELATIONS/ SPECIAL EVENTS OFFICER REPORT:

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 favourite 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.

Cynthia Funnell
Public Relations and Special Events Officer



VISD D/C Bev Gerry
enjoying the evening
photo credit: Cynthia Funnell



Carolyn & John
photo credit: Cynthia Funnell



Catching up with old friends
photo credit: Laura Parker



Colin wins a draw
(he'll give it to Loraine!)
photo credit: Richard Funnell

THE MAKING OF AN ATLANTIC VOYAGE - PART 2:

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

The master plan was to sail the Beneteau 393 to Anacortes in the San Juan Islands, decommission her ready for trucking to Norfolk, Virginia. Norfolk was chosen as the weather for a May departure was better than, say, Halifax and closer than, say, trucking to Florida and having to sail a longer distance to Europe. The journey began on February 24th, 2007 in periodic driving rain. Crossing Haro Strait the wind was just under gale force on the beam and we were doing 8 knots with no genoa and a triple reefed main. The skipper decided that this was a good time for each crewmember to practise going to double reef and then back to triple reefed main. Doing this while tied on takes the logistics of every body movement to a higher level of awareness.

At Friday Harbor, the skipper had us move the 400 feet of anchor chain amidships to lighten the bow and decrease the pounding that the fin keeled and relatively flat bottomed vessel would do in steep seas.



In Anacortes we took the sails off and stowed them below deck as well as the boom, the dodger and bimini fabric and frames. With the assistance of the boat yard, the mast was un-stepped. Metal parts including the mast were wrapped in split retired 2" and 4" fire hose for protection from scrapes and bangs in shipping.

Before wrapping, all parts were inspected and a few that we were not happy with were identified for replacement when the vessel was commissioned in Norfolk. I believe we used 20 rolls of duct tape in the process as well as sealing all crack, accesses, etc.

The trucking of the Beneteau took just over a week on a trailer designed for boat carrying. This was fortunate. If a low-boy trailer had been used, the stanchions and winches would also have had to be removed from the cabin top.

With the vessel at arm's length it was time to get into detailed planning. As the navigator I ordered relevant coastal and harbour charts and researched information pertaining to our voyage from the May Pilot chart. It was at this time that I discovered that the Azores were out of position on CHS chart 4090 and made a MAREP report (July/Aug 2007 Beacon & September 2007 Canadian Yachting), which I discovered was accepted after the voyage.

The meal plan was that everyone took care of their own breakfast and lunch. Dinner would be cooked by all crew in rotation. Each crewmember had to submit the ingredients and quantities for 4 dinners they were prepared to cook twice. This provided 32 meals. I tabulated the quantities on a spreadsheet that became the shopping list and later a record of which locker the item was stored in. As time ran short, the skipper relented; dinners were reduced to 3 and the 4th made up from Costco frozen dinners. We found shopping in Norfolk a problem as we could not get bulk cereals to make our own granola and it was not possible to find a supermarket that sold frozen meat. It took a week of the refrigeration unit on the vessel running none-stop to get all our meat frozen.

On April 24th we assembled in Norfolk. Putting the vessel back together took more effort than taking it apart. It was easy putting messenger lines in the mast when it was vertical in Anacortes; it was another matter threading the running rigging back into the mast when it was horizontal. By noon on May 1st we had brought order out of chaos. After refuelling, the plan was to sail out into Norfolk harbour; if everything worked, start the passage; if it did not, return to the marina and fix it.

Coming in the next issue of the Beacon, Part 3: The first part of the voyage

Submitted by John Hudson

VERY IMPORTANT CALCULATION:



"Inasmuch as three-quarters of the earth's surface is covered with water, and only one-fourth is land, it seems to me the good Lord's intentions are clear. We should be boating 75% of the time, and working 25% of the time!"

~ Author Unknown

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



NEW YEAR'S TRIVIA QUESTION: "According to tradition, what would you expect to hear from a ship's bell at the stroke of midnight each New Year's Eve?"

ANSWER: "16 bells ... 8 given for the old year and 8 sounded to bring in the new year.

Sounding of the ship's bell is a powerful reminder of the traditions rooted in long held maritime tradition."

http://boatingsailing.suite101.com/article.cfm/ship_watches_and_bells

Wishing you and yours a new year full of peace, joy, and meaning.
"We can't change the direction of the wind...
but we can adjust our sails" ~Author Unknown



Safe boating!

Laura Parker

Editor, editor@sppss.org

A few more festive images from our Annual Christmas dinner...



Ewa & Jiri enjoy the ambience
photo credit: Laura Parker



The Hultsches and Wolfes
photo credit: Cynthia Funnell



Joyce, Ralph, and Lesley
looking very festive!
photo credit: Laura Parker



I won, I won!
photo credit: Richard Funnell

CLASSIFIED:

FOR SALE: Boat House at Van Isle Marina 'C' Dock. 28' X 14'6" (inside water space approx. 10' between docks). Very good condition. \$14,000. plus paid moorage until Mar 31/08. Please call Terry McFall 655-7035 or email exmet@telus.net.

FOR SALE: 1996 Bayliner 2859. Excellent Condition! Many recent updates and improvements! Assumable Moorage in Sidney! Call for details: 544-1723



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 Fiberglass 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' X 12', 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

GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

At no charge, Saanich Peninsula Squadron will accept personal advertisements from Squadron members for publication in The Beacon and/or on the Squadron website, in the following categories:

- 1) Boats for sale or wanted;
- 2) Marine related items for sale or wanted;
- 3) Assistance required (marine related only).

Please advise editor@sppss.org if wanting to place an ad and also when your article has sold or been taken off the market.



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(F)250-655-7197;
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