

# THE BEACON



**SAANICH PENINSULA SQUADRON**



**"PROMOTING SAFE BOATING THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION"**

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2008**



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

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**"Voyager upon life's sea;  
To yourself be true,  
And what'er your lot may be,  
Paddle your own canoe."  
~ Dr. Edward P. Philpots 1844**



# THE BEACON



Volume 38 Number 6 October / November 2008  
**The Official Newsletter of the Saanich Peninsula Squadron**  
 A Unit of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons

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Chief Proctor	Tony Kluge	656-7032	
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Port Captain	P/Cdr Stephen Denroche	656-6177	<b>Portcaptain</b>
Special Events	Cynthia Funnell	655-4442	<b>Special Events</b>
Auditor	Tom Kiefer	655-3457	

**\*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](http://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](mailto:editor@sppss.org)

## COMMANDER'S CORNER:

The summer has been a quiet one in one sense but an agonizing one in another. The squadron participated in the sail past at Genoa Bay on July 5th and although the numbers of boats of members were small, we all had a great time on a wonderful day. Many thanks go out to those who attended and a special thanks to P/Cdr Gay Miller for here efforts and time in organizing this event. It wouldn't have happened without her.

The other activity was the simulated combined effort rescue exercise with the Coast Guard "coming to the rescue" off Land's End. It was very well executed both by the "victims" and the "rescuers". Many thanks go to Stephen Denroche for putting together, in cooperation with the CCG, this important event.



On a more depressing tone, we are losing two very dedicated Bridge members. For personal reasons, John Hudson has resigned from our squadron. He has given much time, effort and expertise to our squadron that can only be described as outstanding. We are sorry, John, that you are packing it in. Come back any time.

The other loss is our editor for the past year, Laura Parker who has done a superb job of putting together the Beacon. I do wish she would change her mind and stay with us. Thank you Laura for your dedication and hard work. You too can come back any time. Anybody interested in the job?

Some of you will certainly remember Ken Reeves, who was our commander during the years 1999 to 2001 and from 2002 to 2003. He was the best—calm, cool and generous as he paid for the post-bridge meeting drinks. He and Mary left Sidney at the end of September and moved to Toronto to be near their son and granddaughter. Good luck Colonel.

Good things have also occurred. Cynthia Funnell has agreed to take on the role of Communications Officer, replacing Laura. Tony Kluge has volunteered to fill the Chief Proctor's position, at least temporarily. Stephen Denroche has taken on the job of MAREP Officer. These are extra positions for all three and the Bridge and I are immensely grateful. I want to remind the membership that you are fortunate to have such a dedicated group. Besides the above, we have a new Auditor, Tom Kiefer, who joined us earlier this year. Thanks for coming on board Tom.



<http://www.cps-ecp.ca>

Lastly, there is a national AGM in Windsor from October 21st to October 25th. I will be the only Squadron Commander from the South District attending. One particular issue has encouraged me to be present at this meeting, and I will only briefly state my purpose. The rules at present give the Chief Commander the sole discretion in awarding Merit Marks. We feel that the CC still is the one to award Merit Marks, but the rule should change to read "solely on the recommendation and approval of the Squadron Commander and/or District Commander". This change should prevent any further consternation. I will report on the outcome in the next issue of The Beacon.

Ralph Hodd, Commander [commander@spps.org](mailto:commander@spps.org)



## CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:

October 28<sup>th</sup> - Briefing meeting of Skippers and Proctors volunteering for the Fall Boating Class Student Cruise. 1900hrs at Parklands Secondary School. If you are interested in lending a hand please contact Charles Erskin at 656-0429 or email [studentcruise@spps.org](mailto:studentcruise@spps.org).

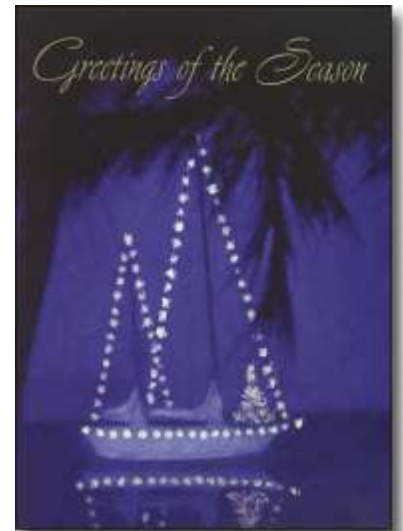
November 20<sup>th</sup> - Bridge meeting at Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club at 1900hrs. All are welcome.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 30<sup>th</sup> – Joint Speaker Series – Squadron member Cliff Cunningham about his cruise(ship) to the Antarctica! At Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club. The lectures usually begin at 1930. Please call the SNSYC at 656-4600 for more information.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fall Boating Class Student Cruise to Pender Island. See write-up on page 8

November 29<sup>th</sup> – Sidney Lighted Sailpast of Boats, 2008. ~1815hrs at foot of Beacon off Sidney dock. Fellow squadron member Roger Hind would like to remind members to light up their boat and participate in the Sailpast again this year!: “Once again the season's are changing and the thought of cruising becomes less enticing. What about a kick start to the Christmas season?! Get all the friends, family, grandkids onboard, use the fun of decorating the boat to pervade the local scene and show the other clubs up! Come join us at the Skipper's meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 1900hrs at Capital City Yacht Club and be part of the fun!” Roger is involved as a Rotarian and working with the Peninsula Celebrations Society. Contact him at [rghind@shaw.ca](mailto:rghind@shaw.ca) for more information.



December 11<sup>th</sup> – Annual Squadron Christmas Dinner at Dunsmuir Lodge! See invitation and menu on page 11. Please contact Cynthia Funnell, Special Events Officer, at 655-4442 or email her at [specialevents@spps.org](mailto:specialevents@spps.org). **PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>** to Judi Prewitt at 652-4182 or email her at [membership@spps.org](mailto:membership@spps.org)

## **CALL FOR SKIPPERS AND PROCTORS... FOR OUR FALL BOATING CLASS STUDENT CRUISE:**

Hello fellow boaters,

The Fall Boating Course Student cruise is fast approaching. We have a large class, so will be looking for a number of you to help make this cruise another successful venture. The dates are:

- Tuesday, October 28; 19h00 at Parklands Senior Secondary School - Briefing of skippers and proctors where they can meet their students and obtain important instructions.
- Sunday, November 2 - Cruise day

If you are available on these days, please contact me with the following information:

- Name and phone number
- Whether you are offering your boat or offering to proctor
- If skippering, name of boat and number of students and proctors you can host - usually 2 or 3 students and 1 proctor (or more if you have a big boat).

Thank you, in anticipation of your support!

Charles Erskine,

Student Cruisemaster: Email [studentcruise@sppss.org](mailto:studentcruise@sppss.org) or phone 656-0429



## **SERIOUS FUN!:**

On August 16th, Stuart and Leonora Casey anchored Nanika near the port-hand marker west of the ferry docks at Land's End where they were joined by Marjorie and Stephen Denroche in Magic Mist. At the appointed hour, they made a "training exercise" call for help on a designated channel saying that the two boats had collided and were taking on water. Oliver Brost had arranged that two vessels of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary would respond, crewed by members of Unit 36, one from Sidney under the command of Coxswain Bill Chapeskie, and the other from Brentwood under the command of Coxswain Karen Bigelow.

Both crews seemed happy with the event and I think we all learned something. They were well skilled in asking a series of questions which led to the successful determination of the professed injuries, a heart attack and concussion on Magic Mist and broken bones on Nanika. They effected a very difficult removal of the patient from the bridge deck of Nanika.

Commander Hodd came to view as an onlooker; unfortunately as this exercise unfolded, there was not much to be seen from a distance. We hope to improve on that in the future with different scenarios but there is no doubt that the very best way to learn from such an exercise is to be an active participant. This should be particularly valuable to newer members.

Many thanks again to all the members of Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit 36 for their enthusiastic cooperation and participation. It was great fun!



Submitted by,  
P/Cdr Stephen Denroche, Port Captain

For you fare-weather sailors, Fall/Winter marks the end of boating season. Here are a few tips for those of you who are feeling nostalgic about those great times at sea...



- Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Six hours after you go to sleep, have your spouse whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble "Sorry, wrong rack".
- Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of your bathtub and move the shower head down to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you shut off the water while soaping up.
- Buy a rubbish compactor and only use it once a week. Store up garbage in the other side of your bathtub.
- Leave the lawnmower running in your living room six hours a day for proper noise level.
- Set your alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. When it goes off, jump out of bed and get dressed as fast as you can, then run out into your yard and break out the garden hose.
- Once a month take every major appliance completely apart and then put them back together.
- Have a fluorescent lamp installed on the bottom of your coffee table and lie under it to read books.
- Raise the thresholds and lower the top sills on your front and back doors so that you either trip over the threshold or hit your head on the sill every time you pass through one of them.
- Every so often, throw your cat into the swimming pool, shout "Man overboard, ship recovery!", run into the kitchen and sweep all the pots/pans/dishes off of the counter onto the floor, then yell at your spouse for not having the place "stowed for sea".

credit: [http://www.calormarineshop.co.uk/boat\\_humour/missing\\_the\\_sea.htm](http://www.calormarineshop.co.uk/boat_humour/missing_the_sea.htm)

cartoon credit: "Must I Go Down to the Sea Again", Lesley Black, 1983, Adlard Coles Ltd.

Submitted by,  
Laura Parker... just because it's fun to make fun of us sailors!





# You're Invited Holiday Dinner

**Saanich Peninsula  
Power & Sail Squadron**



Thursday, December 11, 2008

Dunsmuir Lodge

1515 McTavish, Sidney

Cocktail Reception 1730 - 1900 Lounge

Dinner 1900 Arbutus Hall

\$43.00 Per Person

(Pay at Reception - Cheque or Cash Only)

Cash Bar

RSVP: 250-852-4182 or email

membership@sppss.org



Join us for a  
delicious buffet  
dinner and lots of  
fun including  
exciting raffles, live  
auction, door prizes,  
boating stories,  
holiday cheer and  
more.

**Season's  
Greetings!**

## Holiday Dinner Menu



Assorted Bread Rolls

Grilled Vegetable Platter

Sweet Potato Salad, Green and Red Spiced Cabbage Salad  
Greek Salad, Carrot-Raisin-Ginger Salad, Pasta Salad

Basket of Crisp Garden Vegetables with Dip

Sliced Tomato, Cucumber and Boccasonini Cheese Platter

Mushrooms Marinated in Balsamic and Honey

Sliced Dills, Olives, Gherkins, Pickled Onions

European Mustards and Horseradish

A Selection of Cold Sliced Deli Meats:

Turkey, Black Forest Ham, Salami, Corned Beef

Roast Turkey with Stuffing Carved by an Attending Chef  
Roasted Vegetable Lasagna

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables, Roast Potatoes, Wild Rice Pilaf

Our Pastry Chef's Dessert Buffet:

Mince Tarts, Christmas Cake, French Pastries  
Chocolate Yule Log, Apple Pie, Crème Caramel

Coffee and Tea

\$43.00 Per Person



Saanich Peninsula  
Power & Sail  
Squadron

## **TALL SHIP SAILING OPPORTUNITIES:**

The first time the tall ships visited Victoria, I went to see the magnificent Russian ship, Pallada. Visiting Pallada was my only goal during the Tall Ships Festival that year because I knew, based on other local events, that mobs of people would attend despite the modest size of the city. Line-ups are no fun, particularly poorly organized line-ups in the sun, so I arrived at 6am and saw only the one ship. And I left feeling satisfied - elated in fact.

Three years later, in 2008, the tall ships visited again and I thought about ways that I could see the ships and interact with their crews without dealing with all the people and line-ups.

The answer - volunteer! Perhaps there was a way that I could help out with much needed organization to assist the festival and see the ships at the same time. The challenge for me was to find a way to find the perfect volunteer position. Many different positions are available to suit a variety of interests. Since my interest lies with the ships and the crew, I did not want to work with the public. Some of the jobs were too physically demanding, such as berthing and logistics, which includes things like building the ramps to the ships and assisting with docking. And, I don't want to be inside! Rule out communications and transportation.

The answer for me was the position of "Ship's Liaison Officer". Each ship is assigned an SLO who helps out with whatever the captain and crew need during the festival. If they need parts, or to pump black water, or to get groceries, you help them figure out the where and the how. The SLO's also ensure the captain and crew are aware of any events they need to attend.

The hours were long since the SLO must be available to the ship throughout the festival. In exchange, I received two very large rewards. First, I got to work with the captain and crew. Not only did they take me on the parade of sail, but with my boating experience I was asked to assist the captain navigate into the inner harbour. A few nights later, after the canon battle, the captain asked me to take the helm and I took the tall ship "Rejoice" into the inner harbour myself. At the end of the festival, I was given the gift of a crew shirt.

The second reward was that I, along with the crew from my ship "Rejoice", got private tours of all the other ships. I simply arranged a tour on behalf of my crew, who happened to be very keen sea-scouts, either before or after the festival was open to the public. This was ideal since the ships were empty of everyone but crew, and since they were off-duty and having down-time, we really got to see what life on board is like.

Our tour of "Adventuress" stands out in my mind. Below deck, the crew was huddled around the table in the galley, all playing instruments. There were two ukuleles, one guitar, one violin, and a flute. One crew member even played bagpipes, but he was restricted to outside where he played for the whole harbour.

During the festival I learned that there are actually many different ways that a person cannot only tour a tall ship, but sail on one too. You won't be sent to the brig for relaxing and enjoying the scenery, but if you do want to be more involved the captain may put you to work raising and lowering sails.

- Charter: Search the internet for tall ships available for charter on the Pacific coast. These include "Amazing Grace", (photo right) an 83' topsail schooner which was part of the 2008 Tall Ships Fleet.
- Volunteer as crew: Many of the crew members I spoke to during the festival claimed they simply asked the captain at a previous festival if they needed any volunteer crew. It seems many of them did!
- Paid crew: If you have experience, you might even get paid for your adventure!
- Take a workshop: Zodiac, the largest working schooner on the West Coast, offers a wide variety of workshops including watercolour cruises, wine tours, and writer's workshops in addition to races and regular cruises.
- 3 hour tour: the tall ship Thane, a gaff rigged ketch, offers three hour tours leaving from the Victoria inner harbour.
- Volunteer at the next tall ship festival (but you'll have to wait another three years)



Submitted by,

Anne McKinnell

Anne is our Webmaster who gets out on the water on MV Snoopy, whenever she can.

## **SALISH SEA ARMADA REPORT:**

My eyes are still closed, but my mind has remained awake as I listen to the wind and the rain, and finally the silence. Sleep has eluded me in anticipation of the great day. The day I would gather all my courage, hold my head high in front of my peers, and attempt a daredevil feat. No, I am not going to walk the tightrope over Niagara Falls. I am going to cross what was once known as the Salish Sea in a 17 foot boat named Snoopy.

Now, I don't want to encourage anyone to do anything foolhardy. One must have a healthy respect for Mother Nature. But my adventure proves that these things are very feasible provided you have the knowledge, experience, the current local information, and most importantly, the advice, assistance and camaraderie of your fellow squadron boaters.

This is the third joint-squadron armada, including participants from the Saanich Peninsula (SP) and Brentwood Bay (BB) Squadrons. Even members of the Pender Harbour Squadron came out to meet us, share some local knowledge, and in turn received information about the MAREP program.

I open my eyes and everything is still. I peek out the curtain in my "stateroom" aboard the Dawna 2 . We are in Silva Bay, at Gabriola Island, the gateway to crossing Georgia Strait, and the bay is glassy calm. It is 5am. Len and Peter go out in the dinghy to check out conditions outside the bay. "It's a go Snoopy, we're on," they announce upon their return.

Leaving Silva Bay at 6am while the sun rose, a strange sepia tone glowing in the morning sky, our armada putted out into the strait. Knowing that the conditions on the strait can change quickly, and being only 17 feet, I decided the best plan for me was to get across fast, leaving my group to catch up. I get about one third the way across when I hear on the radio one of our boaters has gotten caught up in crab gear just outside of Silva Bay, thanks to polypro rather than proper lead line used for crab traps. They need to dive down to free themselves from the line, but the current was pushing them towards the rocks.

Being fast and maneuverable in my little Snoopy, I return to assist them by towing them away from the rocks. Once freed and the "trophy" crab float claimed, we were on our way again at 7am. Still calm, it doesn't take long for Snoopy to catch up to the rest of the armada, now half way across. Before I know it, I can see the high-rises of downtown Vancouver. Then, over "the bar" into Gibsons and the magnificent Howe Sound.

After visiting Gibsons Landing, we traveled farther north up the sunshine coast to Pender Harbour and explored there before our return across the strait.

Again it was up by 5am and push off at 6am. Beautifully calm again, I take the opportunity go ahead of the group to explore Texada, the intriguing Jedediah, and Lesquiti Islands. For this crossing, the wind was forecast to increase, and our course took us near Whiskey Golf while it was active. For this, I would stay with the group rather than venturing ahead on my own. When they caught up to me at Lesquiti, I joined them for a slow journey across the strait. Sticking with the group turned out to be a good decision as we were soon in 20 knot winds and 6 foot waves. That is one third the size of my boat and when the waves are that high, it just isn't fun anymore. I knew Snoopy would make it, but I was starting to feel green.

By the time we turned south at Ballenas Island, the sea was following and the ride much smoother. We surfed our way past Hammond Bay and the quaint Shack Islands, into Departure Bay and the Nanaimo boat basin.

On our final day of the armada, we cruised through Dodd's Narrows and Sansum Narrows to Cowichan Bay. We had a party on the dock while sea lions slapped in the distance. We patted each other on the back and mused about how this is the best part of being a squadron member. What an accomplishment!



*“... a strange sepia tone glowing in the morning sky, our armada putted out into the strait... “*

Photo credit: Anne McKinnell

Submitted by,  
Anne McKinnell... aboard MV Snoopy

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS:



This is my last writing of The Beacon, as I am stepping down after 1-1/2 years. Thank you to those who took the time and interest to submit information and articles while I was Editor.

If you enjoy working on the computer, writing, and being creative, and want to be more involved with your squadron and meet new people... then this volunteer bridge position of Beacon Editor is for you! It is the squadron's mandate to produce 6 issues a year. Please email Ralph Hodd, our Commander, or phone him 652-1715, if you are interested or have any questions.

So Long and Safe boating! Laura Parker



"On a breathless, motionless summer afternoon the boat stood still, dreaming on the sea's glazed surface. A passing motorboater called across to me, 'Hey, you're not getting anywhere!' I answered – but I doubt that he heard me – '**Here** is a place. I am somewhere!'"  
~Philip Teece~

Photo credits: Laura Parker



## CLASSIFIED:

<p>No Pics</p> 	<p><b>FOR SALE: SAN JUAN 24 sailboat.</b> <b>PRICE REDUCED!</b> Thorough re-fit, 4 sails (2 new), Bruce anchor with chain &amp; line, DS, VHF, battery, compass, Evinrude Yachtwin OB, dinette, Porta potti, sleeps 5, moorage available. Lovely condition, fun to sail! <del>\$8,800</del> \$7900. 250 656-2489</p>
	<p><b>FOR SALE: NEW PRICE!</b> Resembling a Chris Craft boat... <b>1965 26ft. Brandlmayer Express Cruiser, \$7,000 OBO.</b> Ford 390 – shaft drive, FWC, keel cooler, natural gas stove, holding tank, good 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 him <a href="mailto:scottre@shaw.ca">scottre@shaw.ca</a></p>

## GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIED ADS:

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](mailto: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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Website: [www.yacht-insurance.ca](http://www.yacht-insurance.ca); Email: [cruise@yacht-insurance.ca](mailto:cruise@yacht-insurance.ca)

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