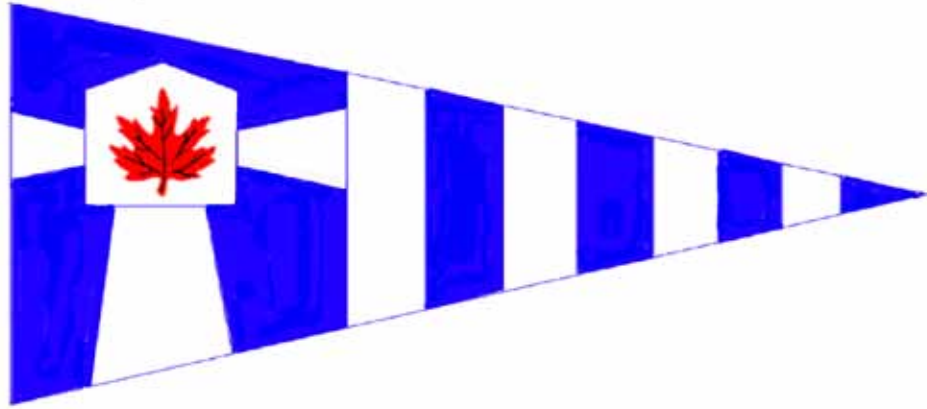


SCUTTLEBUTT



Gabriola Island Squadron

Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons

PO Box 71
Gabriola BC V0R 1X0

<http://powersquadron.gabriola.org/>

January - February 2009

*Wishing you all the best
for the New Year*



The Squadron Bridge 2008 - 2009

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
Past Commander	Leonard Sutherland	247-8301
Commander	Bob Weenk	247-0267
Executive Officer	Walter Berry	247-8651
Training Officer	Ralph Hagen, <u>AP</u>	247-8491
Secretary	Carole Lemieux, P	247-9889
Treasurer	Judy Weenk	247-0267
Membership Officer	Elaine Pearce	247-7538
Public Relations Officer	Rufus Churcher, <u>AP</u>	247-8779
MAREP/Weather	Russell Pearce, P	247-7538
Assistant Training Officer	Digby Jones	247-9150
Environment Officer	Mike Richards	247-8938
Cruisemaster	Ian Waymark	247-7883
Port Captain	Russell Pearce, P	247-7538
Supply Officer	Patrick Griffin	247-8897
Webmaster	Robert Derksen	247-9792
Social Officer	Walter Berry	247-8651
Historian/Archives Officer	Lawerence Spero	247-0261
Communications Officer	Don Butt, <u>AP</u>	247-7804
Scuttlebutt Editor	Don Butt, <u>AP</u>	247-7804
Privacy Officer	Don Butt, <u>AP</u>	247-7804



SQUADRON EVENT CALENDAR

- Winter Boating - starts Jan 7 2009 Future plans include VHF, GPS, and possibly Seamanship (formerly Piloting) & PCOC
- Social Night at the Haven, Feb 21 at 1900. Mike Richards presenting.
- Student Cruise in local waters - March 7
- Graduation Cruise to Dinghy Dock - TBA, date after AGM May 2
- Overnight to Cowichan Bay for wine tour and dinner - June 20 weekend
- AGM - May 2, 2009, Gabriola Golf Club

It was an Eventful Student Cruise

photo, Leonard Sutherland



Remember this? Not quite the perfect storm, but at least eventful. Here is the account of the cruise as submitted by the cruisemaster..

Student Cruise, Oct. 26, 2008

This fall's student cruise departed Silva Bay at 1200 hours. The late start was to take advantage of the higher tides and slower currents not available to us in the AM. Four boats "Owikeno", skipper Ralph Hagen, "Grafitti", skipper Richard de Lisa, "Delphin", skipper Ted Johnson and "Jakerokaa", skipper Ian Waymark took part. Instructors Digby Jones and Len Sutherland took part in the cruise and Richard and Ian acted as skipper/instructors on their respective vessels.

At 1230 hours the course of the cruise was changed as "Owikeno" and "Grafitti" encountered very heavy swells of Carlos Island. The course reversal into Commodore Passage brought to light radio problems with "Delphin" and "Jakerokaa". "Jakerokaa" was soon back in radio contact via a handheld VHF unit but "Delphin" was not in radio contact throughout the cruise. The heavy swells also gave an "on the water" lesson to the students on how boating situations can quickly change and how prudent skippers handle the changes.

When into Commodore Passage the cruise resumed the normal course through Gabriola Passage, False Narrows, Dodd's Narrows and Ruxton Passage to Pirates Cove. "Grafitti" completed the anchoring exercise, but due to swells in Pirates Cove the other boats did not complete the exercise.

Student comments were positive as usual and skippers Ian and Richard enjoyed a glass of ale with the compliments of their students.

It has been suggested that all boats involved in the cruise have a skipper or instructor on board with their radio operator's card and a radio check be completed prior to departure. It has also been suggested that slower boats have an earlier departure and all boats then rendezvous at Pirates Cove. These suggestion will be discussed at the next Bridge meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Waymark,

Cruise Master

Gabriola Island Power and Sail Squadron

Social Happenings

Walter Berry, Social Officer

Our Spring talk is on Feb. 21 at the Haven from 7-9:30 PM. Mike Richards, our environment officer for Gabriola Island Squadron, as well as the program coordinator for Georgia Strait Alliance's Green Boating and Clean Marine BC programs will be our speaker. His topic will be environmental initiatives and other environmental issues pertinent to boaters in these waters.

Chuckles

These are headlines from newspapers around the world.

Does anyone proof-read this stuff and if so, is the brain in gear?

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
They put in a correction the next day.

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
No, really?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Now that's taking things a bit far!

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
What a guy!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death
No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
See if that works any better than a fair trial!

War Dims Hope for Peace
I can see where it might have that effect!

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Ya think?!

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
Who would have thought!

Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
They may be on to something!

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?!

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
He probably IS the battery charge!

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Weren't they fat enough?!

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
That's what he gets for eating those beans!

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half!
Chainsaw Massacre all over again!

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
Boy, are they tall!

And the winner is...
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
Did I read that right?

Environmental Issues

Winter, Water, Wonder and Wishing.

Ever noticed how, when the snow comes, everything seems white, pure and clean? Sounds are softer and the world seems a more gentle and peaceful place (as long as you don't have to drive anywhere). When I first spent a winter in Canada after growing up in Australia I was totally awestruck by this amazingly beautiful phenomenon.

For me, whose attention is sometimes brought, though my work, to the less than beautiful aspects of Beautiful BC, the snow is a time of hope. Hope that as the pollution and habitat destruction is covered by the snow it will somehow magically disappear and when the snow melts the wonderful marine ecosystem that we all regard so highly will be recovered and again have the richness and healthiness it did before the pressures of recent human population growth and development robbed it.

Alas, to date this has not been the case! We are still seeing slicks in parking lots and in the water. Species are still threatened and endangered. There is still habitat destruction in our watersheds and on our foreshores. Some people still treat the environment as theirs to exploit and pollute. Human induced climate change is real and we are already feeling the effects here where we live.

Still, I have hope. I have hope because more and more people and boaters in particular, are expressing their concern to me and taking real steps toward making their impact on our ocean planet home as small as it can be. The hope enables me to still wonder at the snow and what a purely amazing sight and energy it gives our watery surrounds. If I could wish for anything, again I would wish the snow will make the problems disappear and our habitat (and habits) sustainable. Will you wish (and maybe make some resolutions) with me? Happy New Year all!

Mike Richards
Squadron Environmental Officer
and
Operations Director
Georgia Strait Alliance
www.GeorgiaStrait.org

An update on Supplies for the Boating Course

Two things of some significance have taken place in the last few months.

1. Up till recently Squadrons have been able to order the individual components of the student kit for the Boating Course (through the Supply Officer at our District, Vancouver Island North). This has now changed at National level so that only kits are available still at VIND: full Boating kit, a Boating kit with an additional discounted kit for a partner, and a full kit without a CPS plotter. This is a National decision and is related to the automatic first year membership.
2. We have just recently learned the government is now supplying a CD for Chart 1 (Symbols and Abbreviations) rather than the familiar book. We are not happy with this policy because if you want to use Chart 1 for reference when at sea, you will need a computer, not what many of us carry aboard. We in CPS are attempting to change this to make the books again available. This was apparently a Government decision.

Don Butt, D/C VIND

Pictures say it all

photos by Mike Richards



There was a request sent out for snow stories. I received these pictures from Mike Richards. This is shaping up to be a memorable winter for snow. I consider it appropriate that what was termed "global warming" is now called "climate change", with one exception. We should be calling it "climate exchange", whereas we seem to be exchanging our traditionally moderate winter with that somewhere north of Yellowknife!

Don Butt, editor



Did you know?

If you are cruising in Nanaimo Harbour, at the breakwater with the pump-out is located, at the entrance for the float planes there is a white strobe light that sometimes flashes. This is a light activated by the float planes (three quick presses on their radio button) when they are about to land (really, land on water?) or take off. If you see this, look skyward or on the water for a float plane approaching. I witnessed boaters literally speeding out of the yacht basin, oblivious to the fact there is a float plane about to engage in a nasty encounter unless the pilot of the plane made a precipitous maneuver to climb out of the way. There is one report I know of where a boat lost its radio antenna, clipped off by a wing of a deHavilland Beaver that was unable to alter course quickly enough during take-off.

Remember to look for that white flashing strobe light when you are in the Nanaimo Harbour.

Don

From the Wheelhouse Bob Weenk- Commander

By the time you read this, it will be 2009 and the revels of New Year's Eve (or Amateur Night, as the more experienced drinkers call it) will have ended for another turn of the wheel. Many people start the New Year with resolutions; not me. I won't keep them, so why begin the cycle with a load of guilt. Better to start with jokes.

First: For the intellectuals among us.

Rene Descartes, the Philosopher was sitting in a bar, nursing a beer. The bartender, seeing an almost empty glass came over and said " M. Descartes, would you like another beer?" Descartes replied "I think not"and disappeared.

Second: the lowest form of humour, a pun and a seasonal one.

NEWS FLASH

In an unprecedented display of cooperation, the Israeli Government, the Catholic Church, through the Monks at Oka, Quebec and the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank have signed an agreement to set up a cheese factory on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

The Monks, famous for their cheese making will provide the technology; the Israelis, the raw milk and the buildings; and the Palestinians, the labour and the marketing.

The new factory is to be called "Cheeses of Nazareth".

Finally, a wish for the best to all of you in the new year.

Bob Weenk
Respectfully submitted,
Bob Weenk
Ed. Note - Contents of reports are those of the submission to editor and not altered.



From the Cruising Department Ian Waymark Training Officer

Cruising plans for 2009:



Our first cruise is set for March 7. This will be our spring student cruise and details of boats and skippers are yet to be worked out.

The second cruise will be the graduation cruise. The date is not yet set but it usually follows the AGM and will be held at Dingy Dock Pub as we were so well received last year.

The third cruise is tentative but in the works. It will be an overnight cruise to Cowichan Bay and will be billed as a marine wine tour. The planned date is for the weekend of the summer solstice. If all goes well we will arrive on Friday the 19th for a Happy Hour, on Saturday we will be picked up by a limo company and given a tour of four wineries and served a three course lunch at a local hotel. We will be returned to our boats for our own happy hour (we should all be quite happy by then).

We then return home on Sunday the 21st.

Happy New Year
Ian Waymark

Cruisemaster

(Ian and Paddy are on the road and considering trading a 5th wheel for a sleigh!)

Challenges to those learning the English Language

Lovers of the English language may enjoy this. It is yet another example of why people learning English have trouble with the language. Learning the nuances of English makes it a difficult language.

There is a two-letter word in English that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as being used as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends and we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has a real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.
And this up is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it wets UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on & on, but I'll wrap it UP, for nowmy time is UP, so I'll shut UP!

From the Training Department Ralph Hagen, AP, Training Officer

2009 starts off with the Boating Course commencing 7 January. Registration should be done as soon as possible as space is limited. Course fee is \$205.00

Marine Radio course will be held later winter and anyone interested should enroll now. Course fee \$75.00

Navigating GPS/Electronic Charting will be held later winter. This is the previous GPS course together with the new Electronic Charting added to get you into the realm of Chart Plotters. Those who have taken the GPS can take the Electronic Charting portion. Course fees - Nav GPS + Elec Chart - \$130.00, Electronic Charting only \$65.00

For anyone wanting a Pleasure Craft Operator's Card without taking the Boating Course we will be presenting a Saturday morning course for PCOC with exam. Fee \$55.00

To enrol or for further enquiries call Ralph Hagen 250 247 8491

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Hagen, STO

