

Gabriola Island Power and Sail Squadron
Commanders' Report
VIND Council Meeting, September 27th, 2015

The summer was busy with our promotional boat "Lil Gabe", RVCC's , a mid-summer survey concerning Districts for the National Boundaries Committee, and the VIND Rendezvous held at Rath Trevor Provincial Park in Parksville. Fall classes include Boating Basics and Essentials and ROC (M).

The Squadron currently has 76 members: 64 Regular, 2 Regular Lifetime, and 10 Associate. Our finances are healthy.

Lil Gabe attended four events on Gabriola this summer: Oceans Day on June 7th, Concert on the Green on August 6th, Salmon Barbeque on August 8th, and the Street Art/Theatre Festival on August 16th. She was enthusiastically received at all events especially by the children. Promotional pamphlets were onboard for each of the events and many were distributed. Lil Gabe is one of our best marketing tools for promoting our courses and the Squadron.

On July 4th, the Squadron conducted a RVCC day with inspectors at Silva Bay Inn Marina, Silva Bay Resort Marina, Page's Marina and Degnen Bay Marina. We completed 15 boat checks with only 1 failing. Many of the Silva Bay Yacht Club and Squadron vessels were away on a cruise so we have scheduled our next RVCC days on April 22nd - 23rd next year prior to the Sail Past. We will also devote our April 10th social meeting to a presentation by Bob Wood on the RVCC Program and boating safety equipment.

In mid-July, the Squadron was tasked with completing a survey from the National "Boundaries" committee concerning the current and future benefit of the "Districts" in the administration of the organization. As no Bridge meeting was to be held, I sent the survey to the Bridge members by email and asked for input. Once I had these back, I collated the answers and used the "majority" answer to each question as our Squadron answer. Where there was no majority, I biased our answer towards the answers from the most experienced Bridge Officers (who were mostly always in agreement). This survey went in on July 30th to the Committee Chair.

On August 28th – 30th, I attended the VIND Rendezvous at Rath Trevor Provincial Park in Parksville. This was a social weekend, but afforded the opportunity to meet several of the other Squadron Commanders and VIND Staff Officers. It was very informative. We had an excellent dinner on the Saturday evening hosted by the Ballenas Squadron who did an outstanding job with the barbecues, and all of the side dishes provided "pot luck" by other attendees were excellent. We have some very good cooks in VIND! The cloudy/rainy weather hampered things a little but enjoyable none the less. The presentation on Saturday evening by Dr. William Weller about astronomy and asteroids was very good. He has now agreed to join us at our social meeting on October 25th to give a presentation on the navigation techniques of the early mariners.

We started our Fall Courses on September 9th with 4 students for the Boating Basics, 2 of which will be continuing on with Boating Essentials which starts the first week in October. We held our one day ROC(M) course on September 19th with 3 students, all passed. We also opened the course to our membership to audit and had two members attend.

The Squadron will conduct a beach clean-up followed by a bar-be-cue on October 17th at Gabriola Sands Provincial Park (locally known as Twin Beaches Park). We have social nights scheduled on October 25th, November 22nd, January 17th, February 21st, March 20th, and April 10th. Dr. William Weller will be the guest presenter on October 25th on Ancient Navigation; Mr. Doug Harrison will attend the November 22nd meeting with a presentation on working off the West coast of Vancouver; Mr Bon Van Hardenberg will give a presentation on working onboard icebreakers in the Arctic Ocean at the January 17th meeting. We are awaiting confirmation of Mr. Quill Goldman for either the February March social for a presentation on the R2AK race in which he participated. April 10th will be a presentation on the RVCC program by Mr. Bob Wood as a prelude to checks to be conducted on April 22nd and 23rd.

The Squadron will also be conducting seminars on Electronic Navigation, Docking and Anchoring and is planning a flare demonstration. We have also mapped out a “Walking Navigation” exercise for the Essentials Course to be held at Drumbeg Provincial Park where in the students “walk a course” taking handheld bearings and plotting them on a chartlet.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Hoeinghaus
Squadron Commander