

## Minutes of the Bridge Meeting of June 18, 19:00 at Robert's

The meeting was **called to order** by Commander Ralph Hagen at 19:00.

**Present:** Ralph Hagen, Don Butt, Rufus Churcher, Steve Kitchen, Jude Briscoe, Elaine Pearce, Jean van Praet, Bill Kalbfleisch, Bob Derksen

**Regrets:** Christine Purfield, Bob Weenk

**Minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting:** The secretary noted a discrepancy between the motion regarding the Seamanship fee and what was listed on the web site and on the online registration form. MOTION: Don Butt, Bill Kalbfleisch - to restate the May 14 motion by stating that the course fee is \$195 and for CPS members \$175. Carried unanimously.

**Old business:** At the May 14 meeting we had decided to postpone the discussion regarding the Squadron's participation in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup which will be held in the week of September 20. While several Executive members expressed an interest in helping out, no one was able to take on the task of taking charge of the event. Accordingly, we will pass on participating as an organization. Don suggested that if someone in the Squadron will come forward to take on the organizing of this, we might wish to revisit the issue.

**The Kurt Kukla Memorial Award** is given annually to the VIND squadron with the highest average mark in the Boating course exam. Gabriola Island Squadron obtained an average mark of 95.7 in 2013-14 but the award was given to Nanaimo Squadron which had an average mark of 94.8.

MOTION: Bill Kalbfleisch, Don Butt - that the Secretary draft and send a letter to VIND on behalf of the Squadron protesting VIND's decision and to ask that the Award be presented to Gabriola Island Squadron. Carried unanimously.

**The Wilf Souther Memorial Award** is awarded annually to the VIND squadron with the highest average mark in the Seamanship course. Gabriola Island Squadron was presented with this award at the VIND AGM on May 31 last. It was noted that we did not run a Seamanship course in 2013-14 and that therefore our Squadron does not deserve the award.

MOTION: Jean van Praet, Don Butt - that the Award be returned to VIND with an explanatory letter written by the Secretary. Carried with one abstention.

**Mission statement:** On behalf of the Communications Committee, Don Butt presented a draft Squadron mission statement, viz., ***Our prime purpose is educating the public in safe boating, stressing its importance, and to support this by encouraging fellowship among our members, and liaising and partnering with others who have common boating interests.***

MOTION: Rufus Churcher, Jean van Praet - that the Squadron adopt the Communications Committee's draft mission statement. Carried unanimously.

**Upcoming courses:** The offering of a Maritime Radio course in the fall will be discussed at the next Executive meeting. Commander Ralph mentioned the possibility of offering our PCOC course to the Gabriola Fire Department at a reduced rate, given the valuable work that it does.

**Summer events:** Our squadron participates in a variety of summer events to help raise and maintain our profile in the Gabriola community. This year, it was noted, we will be attending, with Li'l Gabe in tow, World Oceans Day, the Salish Sea Islander Festival, the Concert on the Green, the Salmon Barbecue and the Gabriola Theatre Festival.

**PRO report:** Rufus Churcher informed us that he was able to raise \$850 this year in advertising for the VIND *Roster*, which will mean that the Squadron will get \$85 in its coffers. While this was not as much as last year, economic times have been difficult, and it was recognized that once again Rufus has made an outstanding contribution to us and to VIND. It was suggested that we recognize the advertisers on our web site and that will be done.

**Social events:** Don Butt proposed a cruise to Vancouver to attend the Honda Celebration of Light on July 30, when France puts on its spectacle. The cruise would be an informal one and not a squadron-organized event. Don proposed crossing over on July 29 and returning on July 31, with a two-night stay in False Creek. Don invites any Squadron member who would like to go over with their boat to contact him.

While the meeting was adjourned at 20:12 by Commander Hagen, no one left, as Rufus Churcher announced that he was leaving the Bridge because he was moving to Victoria. We all wished him well and thanked him for his many years of service.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 27, upstairs at Robert's