

**Minutes of the Gabriola Island Squadron Executive Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 20, 2015 at 1900**  
**Gabriola Rec Centre**

Commander Ralph Hagen called the meeting to order at 1902.

**Present** were Ralph Hagen, Don Butt, Bob Weenk, Elaine Pearce, Bert terHart, Bill Kalbfleisch, Jude Briscoe. **Regrets** were previously expressed by Mike Hoeinghaus, John van Praet and Steve Kitchen.

**The minutes of November 24, 2014** were accepted as posted online.

The following **officers reports** were posted on the web site and in some cases at this meeting briefly summarized by the following officers: Commander, Executive Officer, Education Officer, Financial Officer, Membership Officer, MAREP Officer, Webmasters, Communications and Privacy Officer, Past Commander for the Nominating Committee, and the Treasurer for the Social Committee.

Commander Ralph Hagen expanded on his written report with a summary of some of the matters of interest he observed at the VIND Council meeting on January 17, 2015. He was particularly impressed with the renewed sense of purpose as evidenced by activities that the various squadrons in the District are engaged in, such as workshops and seminars in addition to their standard CPS – ECP course offerings, novel ways of advertising and a systematic and personalized initiative to retain current members.

SEO Bob Weenk added to his report by informing us of a new instructor, Agathe Gaulin, who will be involved in teaching a part of the Boating Basics course. Bob suggested that we add a second Maritime Radio course offering on March 21, keeping the April 11 date as well. This met with general approval.

Communications Officer Don Butt extended a Squadron welcome to this month's new students by sending them a copy of the January – February issue of *Scuttlebutt* and inviting them to explore the Squadron's web site.

Treasurer Jude Briscoe added to her report by disclosing that the Social Committee has obtained a presenter, namely, Bon van Hardenberg, for the third planned social. The date of the meeting has not been finalized as yet, but will be in mid-April.

There were no reports from the Secretary, Public Relations Officer, RVCC Committee, Boat Launch Ramp Committee, or the Squadron Regulations Committee.

### **Old business**

Ralph Hagen informed the Executive that he and Mike Hoeinghaus had fulfilled the task, given them at the last meeting, of obtaining a date for our AGM of either May 24 or May 31. The AGM for 2015 will be held on May 31.

### **New Business**

In years past, **advertising for the Roster**, the publication of VIND, had been carried out diligently by PRO Rufus Churcher. The question was raised whether we should continue the practice. It was observed that our local merchants seemed quite happy with the manner in which their advertising investment was put to use in the *Roster*. It was also observed that these same supporters also receive recognition for their contributions on the web site's Sponsors page. It was suggested that something similar could be done in *Scuttlebutt* and perhaps on our course flyers. The consensus was that this initiative gives the Squadron a bond with Gabriola businesses and therefore helps our profile in the community, an essential aspect of fulfilling our primary objective of teaching safe and responsible boating. PRO Bert terHart will

take up the task at hand where Rufus Churcher left off.

Secretary Bob Derksen reminded the gathering that a knowledge of the **new membership rules** was more important than in the past, since the new membership regulations are less exacting and therefore many more people qualify for membership in CPS – ECP and we have an opportunity to increase our membership. In order to persuade the new eligibles to take out membership, a knowledge of the rules and benefits of membership is a must. The best source on the new membership rules is found at <http://www.cps-ecp.ca/> followed by selecting “Membership.”

Secretary Bob Derksen presented his observations and conclusions on features of **the e-book version of the Boating Essentials student textbook**. He pointed out that e-books have come a long way and are more user-friendly than ever. His conclusions were as follows:

- 1) the Essentials e-book is user friendly. It is easy to “page” through, search through, cross-reference, annotate, bookmark, highlight. There is no appreciable lag in opening the book or going through it. Graphics and text are clear and easy to read. The text and graphics can be copied and pasted into other contexts such as study notes or presentations by both students and teachers. It integrates with online information.
- 2) eBooks are here to stay, so we better get used to them.
- 3) eBooks offer greater flexibility for accessing materials and doing so more cheaply.
- 4) This Squadron’s Education Department will need to assess the place of ebooks in its curriculum sooner rather than later.
- 5) This Squadron should address the marketing implications of ebooks sooner rather than later.

The ensuing discussion raised some of the difficulties that would have to be kept in mind or overcome in the adoption of e-books as well as the time frame needed to make changes to our education programme.

PRO Bert terHart and Commander Ralph Hagen informed the gathering that renewed **advertising for Boating Essentials**, which will start on February 4, will commence about ten days before that date.

SEO Bob Weenk raised concerns about **accessibility to the Gabriola Recreation Society projector**. It is in the custody of Ralph Hagen and by default, therefore, in the possession of the Squadron. However, when another group needs it, it is freely given to it on the understanding of a prompt, next-day return. Twice now it has happened that the same organization has failed to return the projector within the agreed-on time period and as a result has caused inconvenience for our instructors, as the projector is used in every session. While the idea was floated that perhaps the Squadron should buy its own projector, it was generally felt that this was not the time to do so. Instead, Ralph will explore limiting the lending of the projector to organizations that can be relied on to return it in the agreed-on time frame.

It was decided by consensus that the Commander, rather than the Executive, will set the date of the **next meeting**.

The meeting adjourned at 2050.