

COMMANDER ' S REPORT

AUGUST 31, 2012

August started, for a few of us, tied to the dock at False Creek Marina as the Squadron ' s Celebration of Light Cruise drew to a close. We enjoyed kind winds, fair seas, great company and a terrific fireworks show.

The first August weekend saw Li ' l Gabe in her usual spot at the Village as we started the promotion of our fall classes and one day workshops. We had good interest shown for our courses and at this time it looks like we are in good shape to offer Boating Basics, Boating Essentials, Marine Radio, Seamanship, Weather and a number of workshops such as Knot Tying and Splicing.

It is always tricky to try to mention the names of all the Squadron members who helped out with Li ' l Gabe as there is a chance I might forget somebody. However, I will do my best to include everyone. Thank you to David Andrews who stores Li ' l Gabe for us, most often has her ready to go and usually comes down to the village to be on site. Thank you to Cec Ashley, Dawn Reeves, Douglass Legg, Ralph Hagen, Don Hutton, Madeleine Ani & Bob Wood. On one morning we could almost hold a Bridge meeting. Thank you also to Don Butt who kept us supplied with brochures. If I have missed anyone, please let me know.

We continued with our Courtesy Boat Checks and I believe we finished up with 31 or 32 completed checks. I know each of us who took part in the boat checks will have a story or two to tell. I will tell only one story, with no names. In checking two PFD ' s I noted they had received a lot of use and were therefore worn a lot when the boat was underway. In opening the PFD cartridge compartment I noticed the Co2 cartridge was lying loose in its pocket. I showed it to the owner who could only wonder how long he had worn that PFD thinking it would keep him afloat if he fell overboard. He now knew the PFD was only a dead weight around his neck. The cartridge was refitted, and the owner stated he was off to Harbour Chandler ' s for replacement kits for both PFD ' s. His boat did pass and did receive a sticker. Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to go down to the docks and check boats. A special thank you to Safety Officer Bob Wood who got us all motivated.

I also sent written thank you letters to our sponsors who were so supportive during the Rendezvous. Thanks went to Harbour Chandler, Coast Realty, The Village Market, Page ' s Marina and also to the Lions for the use of their grill.

August saw three of our members with some health difficulties and Get Well cards were sent to Rose & Digby Jones, Carol & Fred Withey and Oliver Woolcock & Lynn Coleman.

Last week I registered to attend the National CPS AGM in Edmonton on Oct. 18-20. I hope to have a full report for you in my October Commander's report.

A final thank you must go to our Web Master, Bob Derksen , who has kept the Squadron web site up to date. If you have not been to our web site for a couple of weeks, I invite you to peruse it.

I think that concludes the busy and fruitful month of August.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Waymark
Commander
Gabriola Island Squadron