

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Training

The spring programme of Boating courses is now completed. All courses are held in the Gabriola Recreation Society premises at the Elementary School on Wednesday evenings. An update of the programme follows.

Boating Basics: This four week course leads to the Pleasure Craft Operator Certificate for successful candidates. This is the certification required by Transport Canada for all operators of a powered vessel. The content covers safety and legal issues pertaining to boating. This course commenced Jan 15 and continued on Jan, 22, and 29 with the exam on Feb 5. Congratulations to the twelve students who successfully completed this course.

Boating Essentials: This course follows on from Boating Basics and introduces the fundamentals of navigation and boat handling.

This commenced on Feb 12 and ran through to Apr 9 and ended with writing the exam on Apr 12. Ten students had worked hard on the content of this course and the results were outstanding. It was a truly outstanding class.

Seamanship: Having successfully completed the Boating Essentials course, Seamanship is a natural next step in building confidence for safe and enjoyable boating on the water by offering a more extensive study of seamanship and boat handling. This course was to commence on February 4, 2014 and continue until May 13, 2014, unfortunately this was cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. We hope to run it in the future as there is some interest.

Maritime Radio: Successful completion of this course leads to the Restricted Operator Certificate (Maritime). ROC(M). This is the certification required to legally operate a VHF radio on the channels dedicated to maritime use. This once again was offered in a one day format and was held Mar 15 with excellent results.

In addition to these courses a one day seminar on Electronic Charting is planned for May 31 2014. This will cover the options available and use of chart plotters and charting software. Plans remain in the works for a Weather course when sufficient interest is shown.

Members can now register and pay for these courses online at the squadron website, and this has proven a success with most students registering this way. It has opened the doors for a wider exposure with students attending from well off the island. The one-day course is appealing to many who do not have the time to attend more than once.

On a final note any experienced boater with good presentation skills who would like to participate in instructing parts of these courses please contact the Training Officer.

In conclusion I must here express my thanks to all who helped make the year a success.

Respectfully submitted
Oliver Woolcock STO

Membership

Currently there are 82 members in the Gabriola Power & Sail Squadron. The breakdown is as follows: 62 Regular, 2 Lifetime and 18 Associates. The membership is down from 117 at this time last year. The reasons for the decrease are varied.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Pearce
Membership Officer

Scuttlebutt Editor/Communications

The usual bimonthly editions of Scuttlebutt have been published online and to the members, and by email during the past year. District Executive, Bridge, and other Squadron Commanders and the respective newsletter editors have also been circulated. All editions are promptly posted on the Squadron's website. I want to thank all those who contributed with articles and photos of events.

Respectfully submitted
Don Butt, AP

Privacy

There have been no individuals' privacy issues during the year. As a reminder, it is important to be aware of the guidelines communicated by the National Privacy Officer: that successful exam candidates each be offered the year free membership in CPS and if accepted, permission be obtained in writing to use their personal information in accordance with the CPS established guidelines. The Squadron's Privacy Policy can be viewed at our website ("Google Gabriola Power Squadron")

Respectfully submitted
Don Butt, AP

Public Relations/Marketing

There was the annual activity in 2013 during April–May of raising contributions to the squadron for inserting advertisements in the VIN District 2013 Roster. The campaign to obtain funded advertisements in the 2013 VIN District Roster was successful in that 19 advertisers contributed \$1270, a title of which came to Gabriola Island Squadron. There are approximately 20 organizations on the island from which advertising may be sought. However the present business climate, while lively, is not easy, and I foresee us gaining fewer supporters and possibly reduced income for the 2014 Roster.

During the rest of the calendar year there was little activity. The forms, etc., for the 2014 Roster's advertising funding requests have been recently received and I shall be starting my visits in the week of April 21st.

Respectfully submitted
Rufus Churcher, AP

MAREP

MAREP is an acronym for Maritime Information Reporting. The purpose of the MAREP program is to ensure that hazards to navigation that are not shown on charts are promptly reported to the Canadian Hydrographic Services and to allow proper promulgation through Notices to Mariners (NOTMAR) and to update charts, as necessary. Reportable items include things like uncharted rocks, a buoy out of position, a lighted aid not functioning, a recent wreck that poses a hazard to navigation, etc. No reportable items have been submitted by me or to me by Squadron members this year.

Weekly and monthly NOTMARs for changes to charts in our local area are available via email notification from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans / Coast Guard. It is highly recommended that all boaters sign up for this service to be aware of changes to charts in areas in which they operate. Anyone can sign up to receive these reports through DFO at: <http://www.notmar.gc.ca/>

There are no other significant MAREP issues to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Kalbfleisch

Webmaster

The Squadron was very active this year and that was reflected in the content of the web site, which was often updated by me several times a week. The content added consisted of photos of our classes and activities, news about our upcoming events and our socials, newsletters, awards, minutes and reports of our meetings, and most important of all, information about our course offerings. As in other years, much of the content was provided by Don Butt, Ralph Hagen and by all the officers in their reports and communications about their specific tasks.

We have had course information on our web site for many years and also information about the course schedule for the year. As of last summer, however, we were able to link into the Canadian Power Squadron's course registration system. In our advertising of our courses to our members and the public, we encourage them to visit the web site where they can view our offerings and information about them such as content, times offered, venue and course fee. I then provide them the option to call the Training Officer, the Commander or to go online to register and pay. The majority of students do the latter. The new system is quick, efficient and safe. It benefits our Training Department members as well, since it means a reduced paperwork load for them. The bottom line is that the web site was able to be part of a team effort in attracting a large number of students to our course offerings this year.

The Squadron has a policy against paid advertising on its web site, but we do wish to thank the individuals and businesses that sponsor some of our activities. This last year I added a Sponsors page to the web site.

I have been doing this job for nine years now and it is time to start thinking what would happen if I was no longer able or willing to carry on. I announced last summer that I would like to train one or more persons in the craft of web design and maintenance. Thankfully our Safety and MAREP Officer, Bill Kalbfleisch, indicated he was interested. We spent quite a few Friday mornings through the fall of 2013 learning the languages of web site design. If the Nominating Committee's Report is accepted by the membership, Bill and I will be sharing the duties of presiding over the maintenance and further evolution of the web site in 2014-15.

On behalf of the Squadron I wish to thank once again Andre Lemieux for giving our web site space on his server, free of charge. As in so many other years, there wasn't a single glitch over the last twelve months.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Derksen,

Secretary

As Squadron Secretary, I have produced agenda for the Executive's meetings, recorded the deliberations of its meetings, published them as minutes and collated officers' reports and handed all of this over for online publication to the Squadron's webmaster, myself. It has been a pleasure

working with Commander Ralph Hagen and the Executive officers in collating, publishing and posting the documents and information needed to supply the data for informed Executive meetings this year. I thank the Executive for the positive responses to my minutes of meetings.

I am appreciative for the reception by the Executive of my digital approach to information. Agenda, minutes and officers' reports are now published online through my co-operation with the Squadron webmaster (myself). At Executive meetings, I display whatever information the Executive needs on a projector screen. We save on paper and we have instant access to the information that the Executive needs.

As the keeper of the Squadron's records, I came into possession of the Squadron Historian's albums, which covered the history of the Squadron from its founding in 1996 to 2008. I assessed the ephemeral nature of the documents and concluded that they were at risk. Communications Officer Don Butt digitized the records, which will be placed on the Squadron web site in the coming months by the webmaster. The original hard copy albums will be handed over into the care of the Gabriola Island Historical and Museum Society.

As the Squadron's record keeper and information provider, I am proud of what we have achieved this year. I've had the privilege of working with a great group to promote boating safety through education.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Derksen, Secretary

Commander

Having completed a year as commander of this squadron I have concluded that we have had what I would call a good year.

Observing our primary mandate – to teach safe boating – we have had three classes in the primary courses totalling 34 students, all of whom attained good grades with relatively high class averages and two perfect scores.

Statistically our membership has declined but upon review I find that our core group has remained and that the changes are a result of normal attrition and non-renewal of the initial complementary offering.

We commenced our operational year with a report from the ad hoc committee tasked to define our role or purpose and they reported that we are not a service club, a fraternity nor a yacht club but an educational organization with a mandate to teach safe boating to those who wish to engage in recreational or pleasure boating. We adopted this report as our mission statement and endeavoured to put our focus on that mandate and I feel that we have achieved this goal.

We looked beyond the traditional CPS courses for other topics that could be of interest not only to our members but to the public and identified three which we presented as the Sunday Series. Two of these events were conducted as fund raisers for other groups one was designated for youth programs.

This squadron, as with any good organization, functions well as a result of a balanced and cohesive group which I feel we have had this past year. I have endeavoured to listen to and to heed the views of each of the officers with the objective of building and maintaining a healthy organization engaged in the conduct of our mandate. My sincere thanks hereby go to each and every member of the executive for the past year. Without you it would not have happened.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Hagen

Nominations Committee Report – April 27, 2014

To: The Members of the GABRIOLA ISLAND SQUADRON.

1. The Squadron Nominating committee nominates the following Members for election as Squadron Officers for 2013/2014. Past Commander's position, Robert Derksen is non-elected and will serve as Chair of the Nominations Committee

POSITION	NAME, ADDRESS	PHONE
Commander	Ralph Hagen, <u>AP</u> 1185 McGillvary Ave, Gabriola BC V0R 1X2	250 247-8491
Past Commander	Robert Derksen 1150 Berry Point Rd. Gabriola BC V0R 1X1	250 247-9792
Executive Officer	Mike Hoeinghaus 685 Crestwood Rd Gabriola BC V0R 1X4	250 247-8799
Training Officer	Bob Weenk Box 242, Gabriola BC V0R 1X0	250 247-0267
Secretary	Robert Derksen 1150 Berry Point Rd. Gabriola BC V0R 1X1	250 247-9792
Treasurer	Christine Purfield 340 Larch Rd. Gabriola BC V0R 1X1	250 247-8659
Membership Officer	Elaine Pearce 3465 South Rd. Gabriola BC V0R 1X7	250 247-7538
PRO	Rufus Churcher, <u>AP</u> 2230 Windecker Dr. Gabriola BC V0R 1X7	250 247-8779
MAREP Officer	Bill Kalbfleisch 1560 Wild Cherry Terrace, Gabriola BC V0R 1X5	250 247-8027

2. The Squadron Nominating Committee also nominates the following Members for election as Squadron Officers, with the rank of First Lieutenant who if elected, will have the duties indicated next to their names assigned to them by the Squadron Executive Committee pursuant to Squadron Regulation 6.2.1(d):

POSITION	NAME, ADDRESS	PHONE
Webmasters	Robert Derksen 1150 Berry Point Rd. Gabriola BC V0R 1X1	250 247-9792
	Bill Kalbfleisch 1560 Wild Cherry Terrace, Gabriola BC V0R 1X5	250 247-8027
Communications Officer (Scuttlebutt Ed, Privacy)	Don Butt, <u>AP</u> 1160 Ritchie Rd. Gabriola BC V0R 1X3	250 247-7804
Member at Large	Jude Briscoe 3121 Coast Rd. Gabriola BC V0R 1X7	250 247-8600
Member at Large	Steve Kitchen PO Box 118, Gabriola BC V0R 1X0	250 247-9240
Member at Large	Bert Terhart 1637 Perry Road Gabriola BC V0R 1X0	250 247-9301
Member at Large	Jean-Pierre van Praet 150 Rosislos Blvd Gabriola BC V0R 1X1	250 325-3064

PLEDGES

SQUADRON COMMANDER'S PLEDGE

"I do solemnly promise:
to serve loyally and diligently as Commander of the Gabriola Island Squadron;
to carry out the duties and responsibilities of my office to the best of my ability;
to promote the best interests of my Squadron and its members;
to study and abide by the By-Laws and Regulations of the Corporation,
and to assist and support the District Officers in the performance of their duties."

SQUADRON OFFICERS' PLEDGE

"I do solemnly promise:
to serve loyally and diligently as an officer of the Gabriola Island Squadron;
to advance the interests of my Squadron and its members, and
to faithfully discharge the duties entrusted to me."

MEMBER'S PLEDGE (optional)

"I solemnly pledge
to loyally support Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons,
to promote high standards of navigation and seamanship,
to operate all boats in a legal and environmentally friendly manner,
to render assistance whenever possible, and
to conduct myself in a manner that will add prestige and respect to the
organization whose flag I am now privileged to fly."