Classes are running smoothly and exam time will soon be upon us, with Grad taking place June 18 at the False Creek Yacht Club.

We have just had our squadron’s biggest annual social event, “The Bilgewater Bash,” held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club.

Upcoming Events

- **April 16** - “That Sinking Feeling”
  Past Commander Ian Campbell will discuss the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and other collision issues related to cruise ships.

- **May 14** - Annual General Meeting, Change of Watch (see page 10)

- **June 2** - Cruise to Bowen Island (see page 7)

- **June 9 & 10** - Stag Cruise (see page 12)

- **June 18** - Student Graduation (with special guest presentation)

Past, current and incoming Power Squadron members are all welcome at Squadron Nights, held at the False Creek Yacht Club on the north shore of False Creek under the Granville Street Bridge. The doors open at 7:00 pm, the event begins at 7:30 pm, and the cost is only $5.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there!
Attending were 70 members and their guests, with fine food and drinks, lots of social discussions, door prizes, and dancing till midnight (see photos on pages 4-6).

Over 50 door prizes were drawn, and thank-you letters will be sent out to the suppliers of prizes for their contribution in making our evening a roaring success.

Thank you to the Bilgewater Committee, Dave Atchison, Marilyn Atchison, Don Mercer, Ruth Cuddeford, Twyla Graeme, and Craig McKeen for organizing and coordinating our event. A special thank you to Dave Atchison for gathering excellent door prizes.

As part of my duty as Commander at the dinner, “I do so declare the boating season is now open.”

Lois MacDonald, our Cruisemaster, is lining up squadron cruises, so please see our calendar in the Masthead or check our website for details.

I look forward to seeing you at our next social event at the False Creek Yacht Club.

Bill Stewart
Commander, VPS

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**A Great Volunteer Opportunity with YOUR Squadron...**

Maureen Phillips is retiring as editor of the Masthead after the June 2012 issue, and your squadron is looking for someone to take over this creative and rewarding opportunity.

The position requires:

• strong editing skills
• familiarity with graphics design
• ability to work with Pages or other word processing software
• some knowledge of web-based publishing

Maureen will be available to offer advice and assistance to the new editor.

If this sounds like it would be of interest to you, or if you would like additional information, please contact Dave Atchison at 604-263-7883 or Maureen Phillips at moley500@gmail.com.
Everyone waited patiently while pre-presentation technical difficulties were being worked out, and Heather Lord’s talk was well worth the wait.

Vancouver Aquarium guest speaker Heather Lord’s fascinating presentation included useful information on how to identify your sightings.

Shortly after Robert Buller’s knowledgeable presentation on hot new boating gear and electronics on February 20, he and Karen cast off for their new home on Vancouver Island.

March 16, Whales, Dolphins, Porpoises and Sea Turtles...
When Barbara Constantine invited everyone to talk about their own cetacean sightings, people shared some great stories.

If you missed the talk on the Cetacean Sightings Network, please visit the website for information.

**Bilgewater Bash at the RVYC!**

*Photos courtesy of Dennis Steeves*
And there’s more...
A big thank you to the following who generously contributed prizes to the event:

North Pacific Yachts
Mustang Survival
Appleton Galleries
Sewell’s Marina
Chyna Sea Ventures
RPP Benefits Inc.
Dolphin Insurance
West Marine Canada
Tilley Endurables
Make (formally Justin Stitches)
The Vancouver Maritime Museum
RCMP Coastal Watch
Steveston Marine
The Vancouver Courier
iCom Canada
Lions Gate Marina
Bridgeview Marine
Richmond Lexus
DBC Marine Safety Systems
Pacific Yacht Systems
Gibsons Marina
Oceanos Marine Solutions
Skookum Yacht Services
Roton Industries on Granville Island
Union Steamship Marina, Bowen Island
P/Cdr Don Zarowny
Nadean Downie
Gerry & Dorothy Mude
Cruisemaster’s Corner
by Cruisemaster Lois MacDonal at cruisemaster@vpsboat.com

Cruise Schedule
Cruise Weekend: June 2-3 – Snug Cove, Bowen Island

Must reserve space by May 18; please phone the Marina directly at 604-947-0707 (and say you are with the Vancouver Power & Sail Squadron group).

If you want to go over on Friday, you can book depending on availability.

Please arrive by 1:00 pm.

Non boat-owners are very welcome – come on over by ferry and meet us at the dock!

Potluck dinner on Saturday evening.

**

Monday, July 16: Raft & Potluck

Raft-up in False Creek near Spruce Harbour Marina

Informal – meet around 5:30-6:00ish pm with your favourite appy.

***

Rendez-vous Weekend: August 18-19 – Plumper Cover, Keats Island

Please watch for further details in upcoming Mastheads.

For further information, please contact Lois MacDonald at cruisemaster@vpsboat.com
Call for Dragon Boat Volunteers

Once again we are at that time of year when I make my annual plea for volunteers, hoping that the Boat Drivers are still interested in our Festival if their schedule allows.

The race dates and volunteer shifts are as follows:

REGATTA DATES:

**Dragon Zone Spring Sprint** - **Saturday, May 12, 2012**
- 8:00am - 5:00pm - 1 shift

**Dragon Zone Junior Regatta** - **Tentative date: Saturday May 5 OR Sunday, May 13, 2012 - to be confirmed**
- 8:30am - 2:00pm - 1 shift

**Dragon Zone 500M Regatta** - **June 2 - 3, 2012**
- 8:30am - 1:30pm 1:00pm - 6:00pm - 2 shifts per day

**RIO Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival** - **June 15 - 17, 2012**
- Festival Friday, June 15, 2012 - 12noon - 6:00pm - 1 shift
- Saturday & Sunday - 7:30am - 1:30pm / 1:00pm - 7:00pm - 2 shifts per day

**Steveston Last Gasp Regatta, Steveston** - **Saturday, August 25, 2012**

The races will be held at Dragon Zone once again.

Regarding the DRAGON ZONE JUNIOR REGATTA, the date is in question because the Festival organizers wish to coordinate the event with the City of Vancouver Youth Day which is being held on May 5th. We are waiting for confirmation from the Parks Board next week.

The very best part of my job is being able to renew friendships. Whether you are able to help out this year or not I am always happy to hear from you or visit with you if you drop by the race site. Please let me know if you wish to have your name removed from my address list, I understand all of you have outside commitments and very busy lives on the water. If you know of any other colleagues interested in participating please do not hesitate in forwarding this message to them.

If you wish to volunteer the website address for registration is as follows: [http://dragonboathc.ca/volunteer/race-volunteer-signup/](http://dragonboathc.ca/volunteer/race-volunteer-signup/).

I want to thank you for receiving my appeal and giving it consideration.

Wendy Eng
Race Site Volunteer Coordinator
2012 Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival
What I Enjoy About Squadron

by Marion Pearson

Despite the fact that my husband, Jim, and I are non-boaters, we enjoy much of what Squadron has to offer. We have attended cruises by tagging along with family who are boaters or by hopping on a ferry when the destination is accessible that way; have eaten excellent potluck and barbecue dinners at the dock and ashore; have learned the finer points of navigating by compass and sextant and interpreting the tides, currents and weather through coursework; have heard many informative speakers at meetings; and have taken satisfaction from volunteering by serving on the Bridge, helping out at events and at the school, picking up litter during the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup and so on. In short, we enjoy the social connections and the opportunity to learn from and contribute to a worthwhile organization. And Jim rather likes to drool over the boat ads in the Pacific Yachting that we get as a member benefit!

Marion Pearson
Secretary, VPS

We encourage you to contribute to this new column in the Masthead. Please send your articles to the editor at moley500@gmail.com and tell us why you like your squadron.

A reminder that the burgees are here!

To order yours, contact Don Zarowny at donzar@shaw.ca.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. ~ Mark Twain
BBQ at the AGM and COW

Join us at the Annual BBQ at our Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron AGM on May 14th

Yes, the ever-popular AGM BBQ will be held on Monday, May 14th in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Still only a flat $20.00 per person including the usual $5.00 Squadron Night room rental fee. Doors open at 6:00 pm to get this event off to a timely start.

Sign-up in advance on the sign-in sheet at the April 16th Squadron Night (when you come to hear Past Commander Ian Campbell talk about “That Sinking Feeling,” and discussing the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and other collision issues related to cruise ships), OR email Past Commander Don Mercer at donmercer@shaw.ca, indicating names of attendees and their choice of vegetarian, beef or salmon burger.

The menu: Assorted salads; hamburgers including beef, vegetarian and salmon burger with buns, sauces, sliced tomato, onions, pickles; assorted fruits and desserts; coffee and tea.

Please note that, in fairness to everyone, once you have made a commitment by signing up, you will be expected to pay for the BBQ whether you attend or not.

If you do not wish to attend the BBQ but wish only to attend the AGM following the BBQ, only the usual $5.00 room rental fee will apply.

Photo Op

Luckily, I had my camera with me when I walked along Jericho Beach a couple of weeks ago. The sky changed within minutes, but I managed to catch this shot.

Maureen Phillips
Editor

If you have any photos you’d like to see share, please send them along to me at moley500@gmail.com.
An End-of-Winter Cruise to Squamish

Sometimes the best boating cruises are impromptu. The weather was bearable, the wave action in English Bay a bit uncomfortable, but the forecast indicated that Howe Sound would be just right for a cruise in terms of wave height and direction. So, Susan and I rethought our planned day cruise about 1030 and headed towards Atkinson Lighthouse for the turn up into Queen Charlotte Channel and Howe Sound, en route to our new destination, Squamish.

Simbuyo, recently out of the yard after wintering there during our SE Asia trip, performed beautifully, with a warm, toasty cabin heated by the diesel-fuelled furnace. The refrigerator was stocked for the start of our boating season, so we were able to have some great food on board. We motored at 6.0 – 7.5 knots and arrived in the Squamish River (actually Mamquam Blind Channel, as it is now called) about 1420. Carefully following the electronic chart and the “pink marker,” we were able to easily avoid the shifting sandbar at the mouth of the Stawamus River that runs into Mamquam Blind Channel south of the Squamish Yacht Club (SYC).

About two hours before arriving at the Club, we reached the secretary of the Club and arranged for a Reciprocal Visit (our home False Creek Yacht Club has a reciprocal with Squamish and many other clubs worldwide). She arranged for her husband to bring down a key for access and to take the electricity connection fee (of only $2.50!), so that we could get back into the SYC marina and have shore electricity overnight. And Club members on the dock readily helped us to dock! We also were able to access a clean and warm toilet and shower room on the water side of the SYC Clubhouse. So we were all set to explore Squamish.

Walking straight out from the Club gate and skipping the first street, one arrives at Cleveland Avenue. Turning right onto Cleveland Avenue, after a ten-minute walk, we arrived in downtown Squamish and also easily walked to two nearby shopping centres. Right opposite the Club entrance is a new hotel and restaurant/pub with what we are told has great food. There are many thrift stores for bargain shoppers, some really fine restaurants, and of course full service drug/pharmacy and supermarkets. We shopped for some food, with Susan exploring the thrift shops. We had dinner back onboard Simbuyo and observed an incredible late winter sunset.

The return trip the next day, following a hearty breakfast onboard, was pleasurable and, with currents in our favour, we used considerably less fuel than the trip up, even though that was a fairly modest amount in itself. And there was virtually zero wave action until we arrived in English Bay and encountered merely a one-foot chop or less.

All in all a great outing, for a short overnight, stress free voyage. A trip to Squamish is highly recommended. If your yacht club does not have a reciprocal with the SYC or if you are not a yacht club member, there is the public dock and marina (Squamish Port Authority) just to the south of the SYC, with reasonable rates and just as accessible to town. There is much to see and do in Squamish, in terms of spectacular scenery, shopping, eating out and historical sights, so well worth the trip, and Howe Sound itself is always worthwhile. One can, after all, stop in at Snug Cove, Horseshoe Bay, many spots on Gambier Island and other points north, or on a longer trip, do a side cruise over to Plumper Cove on Keats Island or go further to Gibsons.

So why not give Howe Sound and Squamish a yachting visit?

Don Mercer
Past Commander, VPS
The Vancouver Stag Cruise

Will be held on June 9 & 10, 2012
Up Indian Arm

Hone the skills that you learned in the Power Squadron classes

Try participating in a predicted log race or a sailing competition

Please talk to other members of your Squadron and make them aware of this popular event and encourage your male friends to attend.

Put a crew together today!!

Registration form on the following page

Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron Stag Cruise Committee
REGISTRATION FORM
VANCOUVER POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON
STAG CRUISE
JUNE 9 & 10, 2012
RENNDEZVOUS (0900 TO 1200) BEDWELL BAY, INDIAN ARM
COMMITTEE BOAT “DARUMA” --- Communication Channel 68

Destination for the week end: Lat 49 degrees 23.728’N, Long 122 degrees 53.159’W
( Please arrive for tie up after 1345)

SATURDAY:
Predicted Log
Sailing Competition
Draws & Prizes
Steak Dinner

SUNDAY:
Sausage & Pancake Breakfast
Trophies
Sailpast – Salute to Cdr.

Fee ONLY $60 PER PERSON (ALL-INCLUSIVE)
$50 WITH PRE-REGISTRATION BY JUNE 01, 2012

NOTE: To ensure that a steak and space is reserved for you and your party please complete and mail the following registration form no later than June 01 (Please provide your own dishes and eating utensils.)

REGISTRATION FORM ... PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

SEND TO: John Steede
7191 Anvil Crescent
Richmond, BC V7C 4E7
Phone: 604-230-0848
E-Mail: sjsteede@shaw.ca

Skipper’s Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________________
Squadron: ___________ Telephone: ________ E-Mail: ____________
If bringing boat, Boat Name: ______________________
Power: _______ Sail: _______ Length: _______ Beam: _______ Draft: _______

Crew Members’ Names: ______________________________________

I would like to enter: The Predicted Log Competition Yes ___ No ___
Sailing Competition Yes ___ No ___
I would like to be an observer in: The Predicted Log Competition Yes ___ No ___
Sailing Competition Yes ___ No ___

OUR REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED: ___________________________ X $50.00 = TOTAL: __________

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO “VANCOUVER POWER & SAIL SQUADRON”
Cash Preferred