From the Commander’s Log
By Commander Bill Stewart

On January 16, we celebrated our students’ graduation at the False Creek Yacht Club. With us to welcome the new graduates and speak to our membership was Nancy Gibson, Pacific Mainland District (PMD) Commander.

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Upcoming Events

- **Monday, February 20 - Marine Equipment and Gear - What’s New and What’s Hot, or Not** - Robert Buller

  As Pacific Yachting’s Equipment Editor and Canadian Yachting’s Technical Editor, Robert is the perfect person to update us on products, trends and developments for power and sail.

- **Monday, March 19 - Whales, Dolphins, Porpoises and Sea Turtles**

  Heather Lord, from the Vancouver Aquarium’s cetacean sighting network, gives us tips on identifying and helping protect and conserve BC’s marine mammals.

- **Saturday, March 31 - Bilgewater Bash**

  Kick up your heels at the Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron’s Annual Dinner and Dance at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. (See page 4 for details.)

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 $5.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there!
I would like to thank our membership for turning out to support the grads. Glen Hodgkinson gave a training report to inform the membership of the good work our volunteers are doing to keep our training department running smoothly.

Past Commander Dave Atchison reminded everyone of the upcoming Bilgewater Bash taking place at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on March 31. This is our squadron’s biggest social event of the year, and if you are planning to attend, see page 4 for more details.

Every year we ask for door prizes, so if you wish to help out this year, please let Dave and me know. We now have a fixed date for the student cruise - Saturday, March 3. This outing is always a highlight for the students taking the boating course.

The boating season will soon be upon us as we work to prepare our vessels for the water. Lois MacDonald has some cruising ideas coming up for us, so please check out Lois’s “Cruisemaster’s Corner” in the next Masthead.

See you out on the water and at our lively and stimulating social events!

Bill Stewart
bstewart@frontierpower.com

Volunteers are seldom paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS! Author Unknown
From the Training Department...

The Boating course is cruising right along at this point. We have about 50 people in our Spring 2012 course and have just enough proctors to meet the requirements. We are always looking for keen boaters to come and join the fun of proctoring on Tuesday and Thursday nights. It looks like we are shooting for a March 3 "Student Cruise" up Indian Arm - always a great Saturday on the water for students and members.

Our Seamanship and Advanced Navigation courses are up and running as well. We had a last minute surge of interest in both courses. It looked like we would have too many people for the Seamanship course, but numbers finalized to a full class.

Advanced Navigation looked like it wasn't going to run, but a grassroots push at the last minute got us enough students to make it go. We are looking ahead in hopes of seeing similar enthusiasm in the Fall 2012 Advanced courses such as Seamanship, Boat and Engine Maintenance, Weather, and possibly Junior Navigator.

Looking forward to the Spring 2012 Boat Show and a wonderful 2012 boating season!

Glen Hodgkinson
Training Officer

Other Mentionables...

Lawn Sign Thank You’s

We thank the following families for allowing us to install our Spring Boating course signs on their lawns for some thirty days: Bear, Bridge, Brown, Cameron, Forbes, Good, James, Mccardle, Madigan, Marzolf, Menzies, Mulcaster, Petersen, Stewart and White.

In addition, we put up signs or notices at Burrard Civic, False Creek Yacht Club, Heather Marina, and West and Steveston Marine, as well as at several community centres.

Thank you from Eardley Beaton, John Cartmel and Terry Friesen.

Student Survey

We asked our students what prompted them to sign up for this session, and they said:

- Family/Friends: 28
- Websites: 23
- Pacific Yachting and Newspapers: 11
- Lawn Signs: 8
- Boat Shows: 2
- Radio: 2

Boat Show Volunteers

The big Vancouver Boat Show is Feb 8 - 12 at the new BC Place Stadium. We have nine members volunteering at the CPS booth. They are Beaton, Blancard, Cartmel, Constantine, Graeme, Kirkpatrick, O’Leary, Steede, and Waunch.

“Boating North”

We have been asked by a senior member if we ever hear of other VPS/CPS members cruising north “beyond Desolation.” Some boaters, either new to boating or more experienced ones, would feel more comfortable if they knew there were other members in the area who they could contact for support. They are not asking to be part of a scheduled cruise, however they would appreciate talking to a fellow boater.

If interested, please give us your name, your boat name, telephone numbers, and your cruise plans for 2012. We will then attempt to match you up, so you can make your own plans.

Eardley Beaton
Public Relations Officer
604-734-4900
beatonsbeat@shaw.ca
Sequitur has rounded the corner at Cape Horn! Past VPS Commander Michael Walsh and Edi Gelin left False Creek in September 2009 and have been pushing their way south ever since on Sequitur, a Hunter 49’ yacht. They are in rough seas, high winds and cold temperatures as they make their way. Anyone can follow their blog at http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sequitur/.

We put a message in a bottle and launched it. The message was simple: 02 Feb 2012. Cape Horn. Michael & Edi. Yacht Sequitur. Email: xxx@gmail.com. (From Michael and Edi’s blog.)
Bilgewater Bash

**Only 120 Tickets Available**

Call now to reserve your ticket and avoid disappointment!

The Event: The Annual Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron’s Bilgewater Bash

The Date: Saturday March 31, 2012

The Place: The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver

The Times:
- Doors open: 17:45hrs
- Bilgewater at: 18:00hrs
- Famous RVYC Buffet dinner at: 19:00hrs
- Doors close at: 12:00hrs

After the Buffet: Door Prizes and Dancing to the DJ

Ticket Prices:
- $70.00/person before February 15th
- $80.00/person after February 15th

To order your tickets: please call Ruth Cuddeford at 604-294-5310
(Monday-Friday 08:30hrs—17:00hrs)

The Reality: **We must have a significant number of tickets sold by February 15th or this wonderful event will be cancelled!**

A Donation: If you are able to provide a door prize, please contact P/C Dave Atchison at 604-263-7883

Graphic by Catharin Vanderpant
False Creek Yacht Club

Membership at FCYC  Good Friends! Good Times!

The View Is Amazing Up Here!

To learn more (604) 682-3292 or
e-mail: manager@fcyc.com

10 Reasons on being a social member:
1. Convenient downtown waterfront location
2. Privilege of belonging to long standing club
3. Access to private clubhouse
4. Use of club for private events
5. Use club for private meetings – full service boardroom
6. Network with other club members
7. Participate in social events
8. Free parking for member and guest
9. Club open for lunch 12:00 to 3:00 and dinner from 5:00 to 9:00 Wednesday to Fridays and Sunday dinner
10. Access to latest boating information from seasoned members

Additional benefits on being an active member:
1. All the benefits of a social member
2. Access to temporary moorage or long term moorage at special members rate
3. Privilege access to 3 outstations (Ganges in Salt Spring Island, Silva Bay in Gabriola Island and Union Steamship in Bowen Island)
4. Access to moorage at reciprocal clubs
5. Eligible to directorship and committees
6. Free boat safety inspection conducted once a year by Coast Guards