Upcoming Events

**Monday, February 16 - Graham Cole of Cole Maritime** - Graham Cole will be joining us for our February meeting, and his topic will be: “Before you leave the dock to embark on your 3 weeks in Desolation”. Come out and get some inspiration for this summer's cruising!

**Saturday, April 11 - Bilgewater Bash!** - Get ready to party on April 11 at The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. Read on for additional event information and ticket details below in this Masthead.

*Past, current and incoming Power Squadron members are all welcome at Squadron Nights, held on the third Monday of each month. We meet 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. We look forward to seeing you there!*

From the Commander's Log....
A recent survey of this year's Boating Essentials class very clearly indicated the way in which students hear about our courses: all identified word-of-mouth as the primary way they heard about the course, with very few indicating radio ads or road signs. This is not surprising, as CPS-ECP has recognized word-of-mouth as the primary way our reputation is spread to others. It is worth noting, however, that this does not negate the benefit of the cumulative effect of advertising CPS-ECP through all available channels.

We held our Student Graduation Night on January 26, and D/C Shirley Shea was on hand to administer the oath to those grads who attended. We celebrated with delicious mini cupcakes and a fascinating presentation from Bluefin Electric Marine on the real world benefit of converting your sailboat or power boat to an electric motor. Add up your total fuel costs and maintenance expenses such as oil changes and you more than cover the cost of replacing a battery bank every 5 years!

Public Relations Officer Don White and myself setup the CPS-ECP booth at the Vancouver International Boat Show (thanks, Don!) where we had, on display, the Virtual Trainer from HQ: The first boating simulator in Canada from CPS-ECP. It generated a lot of interest from the show attendees, as it offers about 10 or so exercises that test your boat handling skills, both at the dock and on the water. This year's Boat Show saw 29,665 people who visited both venues, a 5% decrease from 2014.
I am very excited to note that we have secured the date for this year’s Commander’s Bilgewater Bash Dinner Dance at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club at Jericho. Be sure to check the details below for all the information. I urge you to get your tickets soon—this event will sell out! Students welcome!

We are now looking for applicants to join our bridge for the upcoming Change of Watch in May. This is a great way to influence the future direction of our squadron, and to give back to the organization that taught you how to boat safely. Why not consider volunteering? Talents, big or small, have a place with us. Send me an email or give me a call at 778-386-5828, I’d love to hear from you!

Jeff Booth
Commander
commander@vpsboat.org

JOIN US FOR SQUADRON NIGHTS!

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 16.

Graham Cole, from Cole Maritime, will be joining us for our January meeting, and his topic will be: “Before you leave the dock to embark on your 3 weeks in Desolation”.
Squadron Nights provide a great opportunity to socialize with fellow boaters, find out what’s happening in the squadron, and experience fun and fascinating guest speakers. If you haven’t attended before, we meet in the False Creek Yacht Club pub. Guests are welcome! Be sure to mark your calendar for the third Monday evening of each month. We look forward to seeing you!

Spring 2015 Course Schedule

Note: Course fees include all necessary course materials.

**Boating Basics**
Mar 24 - Apr 14, 2015, 4 weeks, fee $90
This course will also be offered in Chinese (Mandarin) (Mar 24 - Apr 14)

**Maritime Radio Operator**
* Three Thursday evenings: Feb 12, 19, 26, 2015
* One day course (0900 - 1600) at Jericho Sailing Center: Saturday, Mar 7, 2015
Fee: Non-members: $120, CPS Members: $100

More information can be found at BoatingCourses.ca

The **Marine Radio Operator** course is the official Transport Canada course that gets you an official government identification card authorizing you to use maritime VHF radio out on the water, for life.

Maritime Radio Operator Course
Don't miss this **one-day** course at the Jericho Sailing Centre on Saturday, March 7
Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron Presents

APRIL 11

2015 COMMANDER’S BILGEWATER BASH DINNER DANCE

Sign up quick before the class is full!
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
6pm - 12am

All Squadrons welcome! The Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron’s 2015 Commander’s Bilgewater Bash Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, April 11th at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver, BC.

Doors open: 17:45, Bilgewater at: 18:00, Dinner at: 19:00, Doors close at: 12:00

Tickets: $80.00 per person (includes the ‘famous’ Bilgewater punch). Door prize draws and dancing to the DJ will follow the delicious RVYC buffet dinner. To reserve your tickets please call Ruth Cuddeford at 604-294-5310 (Mon-Fri 08:30hrs to 17:00hrs). Only 120 tickets are available, so call Ruth ASAP so as not to be disappointed!

January's Meeting Night & Grad
Photos courtesy of Dennis Steeves

Volunteers Needed!

BC Boat & Sportsmen's Show
TRADEX Abbotsford
March 6 - 7 - 8

A link will provided soon listing available volunteer timeslots.
Please consider helping out at this fun event!
NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2015/16 BRIDGE

SHIPS ARE OPERATED FROM THE BRIDGE..... OUR SQUADRON IS NO DIFFERENT.

WE ELECT OUR BRIDGE AT OUR AGM IN MAY.

This early appeal is to all members to consider stepping up to get involved. Despite having some really good bridge members this current term, lead by Commander Jeff Booth, we still expect that some positions will need to be filled come spring.

PLEASE CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND INDICATE WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO TO HELP OUT.

- Chair: EARDLEY BEATON, P/Cdr
  Phone 604-734-4900 or Email beatonsbeat@shaw.ca
- BILL STEWART, P/Cdr
- JEFF BOOTH, Cdr

HELP WANTED

VPSS has an amazing history, and some of that history has been captured in photos over the years. The bridge would like to digitize these photos in order to create digital albums of all the great
activities we have enjoyed over the years; to remember members, past and present.

Therefore, we are looking for some volunteers who would be willing to take on this project. If you are interested in helping our squadron to honour those memories, and have some thoughts about how it could be done, please reach out to Commander Jeff Booth or Historian Dennis Steeves, either by phone or email, and let them know.

Be part of a fantastic legacy project honouring Vancouver Squadron’s 60 years of service!

Are you flying your flag?

I don't know about you, but when we were out cruising this past season it seemed as though there were fewer boats flying their Power Squadron flag. When checking the PMD roster, quite often the boat name was not listed for Lower Mainland boats. I would like to see that we all do what we can to promote CPS and all our squadrons.

We are well known, for generations, and it is common to find out from course students that they were told by their parent or grandparent to "take that power squadron course." (Even when we have been known for many years as Power and Sail Squadrons).

New members who are on the water feel much more secure when they see a
CPS flag flying.

So remember to fly your flag proudly, and make sure your boat is listed in the roster!

Eardley Beaton, P/Cdr