The year 2013 was a year of change for all Squadrons of CPS, right across Canada. Student enrollment in most of the courses had a big drop and some Squadrons even had to cancel their main boating courses. Was it the economic slowdown finally taking its toll? Did boat ownership decrease? Internet technology has supplied some solutions and a few courses are starting to go online.

We were pleased to have some twenty-three students registered in our Fall Boating Basics course where they got excellent classroom instruction as opposed to going online. Is the trend reversing already?

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 20 - European Canal Cruising with Michael Walsh - To date, our adventures with Michael and Edi have taken us to the stormy, southernmost tip of South America and up the east coasts to Florida. We’re now joining them in calmer waters aboard their century-old barge, the Zonder Zorg.

Monday, February 17 - TBA

Saturday, April 5 - Bilgewater Bash! - The VPSS Commander’s Bilgewater Bash Dinner Dance will be held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver.

Tickets: $75.00 per person (Ticket price 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 (Monday to Friday 08:30hrs to 17:00hrs) Only 120 tickets are available, so call Ruth ASAP so as not to be disappointed!

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, and the cost is $5.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there!
Our Training Officer and proctors will start the spring classes on January 14 with the Boating Essentials Course. PRO John Cartmel has a lot of lawn signs out, and Exec Officer Jeff Booth has done a big job in getting our name and courses listed on several websites such as Facebook, Kijiji, Craigslist. We will all be very excited to see the results.

Eardley Beaton
Commander, VPSS

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**JOIN US FOR SQUADRON NIGHTS!**

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!

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Join us January 20
at False Creek Yacht Club!
Do you know what a **skûtsje** is? Michael Walsh will tell us all about cruising in one!
Steveston Marine Night

The crew at Steveston Marine did a phenomenal job of supporting Vancouver Power & Sail Squadron at our final members’ meeting night on December 9 at ‘Studio 1398’ on Granville Island, and at the Wine and Cheese Reception three nights later at Steveston Marine’s 5th Avenue location.

Great turnout in the temporary meeting space at Granville Island!

Good-natured participation! Some members volunteered to walk the catwalk and model some of the fashions.
While Steveston Marine Night at Granville Island was in full swing, Salim stepped up to the mic and warmly thanked the local squadrons for their support of Steveston Marine. He credited Doug Sutherland and Kits Marine for launching the original event, and impressed everyone with his enthusiasm for bringing it back.

His remarks reminded us of what a special community local boaters are part of and were very well-received. Salim wrapped up his presentation with a generous invitation for everyone to attend a Wine and Cheese Reception and private shopping event later in the week.

With Christmas fast approaching, and with advance notice of the incredible discounts that Steveston Marine was offering, his invitation was met with much enthusiasm!

Special thanks to Salim and his staff for such outstanding patronage of the event, and to the VPSS volunteer corps, led by John Steede and Barbara Constantine, who helped make Steveston Marine Night an outstanding success!

At the Thursday Wine and Cheese event, Steveston Marine organized some great sausage & cheese platters along with all the wine we could drink. They had many fantastic prizes that many of us went home with.

Many of the members I spoke with all had a good time filling up their baskets. Some even made more than one trip to their car, then came back to do more shopping.

I followed up with Salim, Iqbal, and Robin, and they were all pleased with the way that the event went and suggested that they would be interested in doing it again next year.

Hopefully this first event is the beginning of a long and productive relationship for both Vancouver Power & Sail Squadron and Steveston Marine.

John Steede
**Training News**

**Boating Essentials** class starts January 14.

**Fundamentals of Weather** course starts January 21.
**Maritime Radio (VHF)** course starts February 13.

**Electronic Navigation** is a new CPS course. It combines the previous two courses, **Navigating with GPS** and **Electronic Charting**, into one more succinct manual. The course begins with an overview of the basic GPS system and moves on to a discussion of chartplotters and touches on the use of laptop computers for navigation. The two CD’s that come with the course include a Chartplotter Simulator and the somewhat dated Chart Navigator by Maptech. The appendices include some worthwhile references and a list of features to consider when purchasing a GPS or chartplotter.

Are you interested? The course is about six weeks long and could start on April 1 or 8. Send Peter Girling an email at prg@telus.net

See all our courses and register online at [Boatingcourses.ca](http://Boatingcourses.ca)
New ‘election-style’ road signs now up around Vancouver!

CPS’ webpage, Boatingcourses.ca, is the main focus for letting people know of boating courses in their area. If you haven’t checked it out, be sure to click here. The 24” x 18” signs have been placed around the Vancouver area on members’ property, community centres, high schools and marinas.

Special thanks to PRO John Cartmel for his efforts in researching locations and putting them up!

We have more than doubled the number of signs we put up last year!

Sneak Peek for January’s Meeting!

From 2009 to 2012, Michael and Edi sailed their cutter-rigged sloop, Sequitur, over 20,000 nautical miles down the west coasts of the Americas, around Cape Horn and up the east coasts. Their journey continues, in a gentler style, on the canals of Europe in a century-old ‘skûtsje’ named Zonder Zorg. Follow their adventures as they find and purchase the barge, do a major refit and cruise from northern Friesland to southern France.
Pacific Mainland District (PMD) will be organizing the CPS Booth once again and they are putting the word out for members to volunteer a shift. We want to show a good image of CPS and speak with all the people that call and ask questions about courses, how to get replacement cards, etc. They would like a good mix of members from training and other aspects of the squadrons. More recent grads may be able to share their experiences in taking the Basic Boating and/or Boating Essentials courses. 
PMD will ask volunteers to attend a briefing session before attending the show. Shifts are generally three or four hours between 10 am and 9 pm. 

Please contact Lynn Meisl, Asst PRO, at lmeisl@telus.net or 604-516-6072 to volunteer and see what shifts may be available.

**We have some gaps to fill, so please let us know if you can join us.**

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**Other shifts may also be available; please give Lynn a call to find out.**

The CPS-ECP booth number is 203. Stop by and say hello!
VPS in the Media

Executive Officer Jeff Booth has done a fantastic job of getting VPS’ name out on the internet, particularly using social media. Check us out and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

facebook.com/VPSBoat

twitter.com/VPSBoat

The PMD radio campaign began December 27, and ran through January 6. The stations in Vancouver included: **CKWX, CKNW, CFMI, CHQM, CKLG, CISL, CJJR** and **CKPK**.

The two spots were 30-second calls to action to enroll in the Boating Basics and Boating Essentials courses by visiting [boatingcourses.ca](http://boatingcourses.ca).
The ads shown below are now running on Facebook. According to Facebook’s Ad Campaign Manager, there are 11,800 Vancouver residents with an interest in **boating** on Facebook. These ads will link directly to [boatingcourses.ca/cities/Vancouver](http://boatingcourses.ca/cities/Vancouver), and will run from December 20 to January 20.
NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Our VPSS Committee members Bill Stewart, Don Mercer and Eardley Beaton will be examining the Bridge structure to determine what positions will be needed to run our Squadron for the 2014/2015 term. Some Officers may wish to have a break so we will be open to any enquiries from members, new and old.

Please e-mail to: beatonsbeat@shaw.ca or telephone 604-734-4900