Welcome to January and the start of the Boat Show season!

FROM OUR COMMANDER’S LOG......

Happy New Year Everyone!

Although we weren’t around for much of it, it was lovely to see many more boats lit up this past holiday season than the same time as last year. A sincere thank-you to those of you who did. As a recent newspaper article stated, it truly is one holiday tradition that Vancouverites really look forward to. It’s up to us boaters to keep this one alive.

It’s also nice (for me anyway) to notice that the days are getting longer again. With it, comes a new season of BOAT SHOWS! The Vancouver and Seattle shows are coming up fast, and should be lots of fun. I hope to organize a small Vancouver contingent to head down to Seattle by car and rendezvous with our USPS friends. If you’re interested, please contact me. We had a lot of fun last year.

Speaking of boat shows, on the bucket list for me is to one day attend Boot Dusseldorf, one of the largest shows in the world. Pretty much every major brand from Europe has some form of representation there, and it’s when big reveals of the new models often happen, along with big parties! Maybe next year. Instead, I’m thinking of taking a winter break and attending the Miami show in February. Anyone want to come?

With the new season, also comes a new semester of courses. Many of you recently received an email with the full listing of courses, so I hope you either consider taking one or two, or letting your friends know about them. We’ve got a really great offering on Tuesdays and
Thursday, but they are coming up soon, so don’t delay if you would like to attend:

Boat and Engine Maintenance
Electrical System Maintenance
Boating 1 – PCOC
Boating 2 & 3 Combined
Boating 4 (Seamanship) – Near Shore Navigation Level I

Plus Maritime Radio one day Saturday courses.

There are also now some courses available online.

Speaking of courses, I’d like to congratulate our recent grads! Well done! Please come celebrate their success with us and welcome them to the Squadron at the next Social Night on the 15th.

National IT System Update – Chuck Beall, our new Chief Commander, sent out a memo the other day explaining some of the challenges they are having with getting the new system working the way we need it to. It’s no easy task, for sure, but it’s definitely coming along. He described it like trying to pull only the red M&M’s out of a one-ton pile without missing any. Realistically, I think it might be summer before it’s ready for everyday use.

With all the system transitions, Headquarters asked us to hold off on entering new data in the old system. However, it is once again time to submit merit marks. Please, if you have done 20 or more hours of work for CPS-ECP at any level this past year, please let me know before January 30. The Education Department has already submitted the hours of instructors to me. Thank-you.

I’m excited for this month’s social on January 15th where we get to hear all about the Jericho Pier replacement. As some of you know, I sat on the Board of Directors for the Jericho Sailing Centre until just recently, and getting the pier refurbished alone was a big deal, but winning the Parks Board over on making the water more accessible for disabled sailors was a huge win for everyone: the city, the JSCA, disabled sailors, Jericho Rescue, fishers, and the general public. I hope you can attend… a pair of tickets to the boat show are up for grabs!

As most of you know, Vancouver Squadron has a long-standing tradition of holding an annual formal to celebrate the friendships, the past year and of course, to declare the boat season officially open. This year’s Bilgewater Bash at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club will be on Saturday, April 7. Cost is $85 per person. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

I’d like to close with a story of adventure, as I often do, but this time, not aboard Wings. After a visit to a friend’s place for Christmas dinner, Amanda unfortunately picked up the nasty cold that’s been going around, right after I finally got over it. We were both not really feeling like celebrating by the time New Year’s Eve rolled around, right after I finally got over it. We were both not really feeling like celebrating by the time New Year’s Eve rolled around, so we found ourselves at home on the couch watching Netflix. I’d resigned myself to spending it there, until I received a message from my friend Tristan from Seattle who happened to be in town visiting, and asked if we wanted to come out to watch the fireworks from his boat. We had lots of time to finish our movie and make our way over to Lynnwood Marina, so that’s what we did. Wings was on the hard there for the first 10 months of me owning her, so I got to know the staff there pretty well. It was fun to run into the same security guard, Randy, and chat while we waited for Tristan to arrive. I’m glad we’d done that too, because it stopped me worrying about what security must think about us being there so late at night.

After a few minutes passed, Tristan arrived with a friend. We made our way down one of the steepest gangways ever. When those king tides are at their lows, wow, are they ever low! While we were carefully navigating the frost-covered docks, Tristan was telling me all about his new ultra-light racing rudder, and how eager he was to try it out, in between his worries about depth under the keel. When we arrived at the dock for the night. I’d bought this bottle of Trinidadian rum last year for a special occasion, and hadn’t opened it, and thought tonight was the night!

I informed our skipper of the changing weather situation, as we slipped our lines and proceeded dead slow ahead, with two sets of eyes continuously scanning and nervously looking down at the depth sounder. We both felt a lot more comfortable when it started reading double digits again as we exited the marina. Phew! Obstacle 1 successfully overcome.

We carefully navigated the narrow breakwater of the marina, and turned to starboard for Canada Place. That fog which was reported at First Narrows was a thickening wall which engulfed us within a minute or so. We decided to carry on and payed close attention to the plotter and AIS. Fortunately, SAIL LA VIE has an AIS transponder, so we felt fairly safe we’d be seen by passing ships. After a few minutes of silence, Tristan warned everyone that he was going to try out the new racing rudder with some sharp manoeuvres. With the crew braced, the wheel turned hard to starboard, and we were both significantly impressed.
with her new agility. The wheel then turned hard to port. This time, however, there was a horrible crash and hissing noise from down below! OH NO! Although I couldn’t see it, I instantly knew what must have happened. Secure Sea we were not. Whoops. Sigh. Being both ex-Navy boys, we jokingly ordered a damage report. Amanda, always being a great sport, went down below to survey it. She came back up through the dark companionway and said, “It’s bad.” I went down and couldn’t believe it. The rum bottle must have fallen off the counter first and shattered, the coke bottle was scored by the broken glass and cut open like the hull of Titanic hitting the iceberg. EVERYTHING not immediately shielded by the galley’s bar was covered in Coke! Pretty much the entire saloon! It was dripping from the deckhead (ceiling), all the way from the nav station to the forward bulkhead.

What a mess! I took the helm and sent the skipper down to survey it himself. If she wasn’t christened properly, she sure was now.

As quickly as the fog had appeared, it opened up in front of us as we approached Centerm near Canada Place. Wow, was I ever glad we decided to be spontaneous and go on this last-minute adventure! The fireworks were surprisingly spectacular and it was certainly one of the most memorable New Year’s Eves of my life. I think we were probably the only crazy pleasure craft on the water amidst the flotilla of dinner cruise boats, police, and RCMSAR, but it was well worth it. It was made even more memorable with “Happy New Year” exclaimed on channel 12 in about a dozen different languages by crews still on watch on the bridges of their ships in the harbour! Very cool!

We safely made it back to the dock (obviously), and contemplated starting the Bilgewater Bash early with some sponged shots from below the deck plates. We decided against it, but that’s definitely where the bulk of the sacrificed liquid ended up!

Until next time, folks!

Rog

Roger Middleton, Commander
Vancouver Squadron
Squadron
SQUADRON SOCIAL NIGHT

Monday January 15th
Doors open at 7:00
Guest Speaker at 7:30

Jericho Pier Renewal Project
http://vancouver.ca/jericho-pier

The pier is a popular destination for locals and visitors as well as for fishing and crabbing. The ramp and float on the east side of the pier are used for emergency boat landing.
The reconstructed pier will:

- Provide an accessible floating dock to provide for users of all ages and levels of mobility, accommodating up to 15 sailboats for the Disabled Sailing Association’s adaptive sailing program
- Provide seating and views of Burrard Inlet and English Bay
- Offer recreational fishing and crabbing opportunities
- Accommodate future sea level rise

Join us for a presentation by Ali Nayeri, Project Manager, Board of Parks & Recreation to learn more.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER
Supporting Conservation and Research:
Diving and Boating Field Operations at the Ocean Wise Vancouver Aquarium

Jeremy Heywood is the Diving and Boating Safety Officer at the Ocean Wise Vancouver Aquarium. He has been a diving and boating safety professional since the 1990s, both in Vancouver and in the Exuma Keys in the Bahamas. His experience ranges from safety instruction to program administration to expedition logistics, and recently co-lead a scientific diving project in Cambridge Bay Nunavut. He has been at the Vancouver Aquarium since 2009, and previously from 1995-2000.

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 FalseCreek 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!

The Vancouver Boat Show IS COMING!! Are you ready?

Consider volunteering at the District Booth - contact Cdr Roger for more details

To sign up for the Skippers Club and get Boat Show tickets at discount prices, go to:

http://www.vancouverboatshow.ca/show-info/newsletter/
'AUSTRALIS' is a steel hulled, fully rigged motor sailer registered as a commercial – Category 0 (zero – Unrestricted) vessel. She carries a comprehensive range of safety, operational and navigational equipment. A 180hp Gardner diesel engine powers the vessel and she is equipped with 2 zodiac tenders. She sails beautifully and has a powerful engine to push her along at 8+ knots when needed. She is based in the Southern hemisphere is set up for both hard working commercial projects and laid-back luxury cruising. She is fully equipped to support expeditions, film crews, scientists, photographers, mountaineers, skiers, snowboarders, artists, bird watchers, divers, sightseers and adventurers of all descriptions. In addition to all the luxuries of a well appointed cruising vessel, she has large storage areas for equipment and a workshop. She carries 9 passengers and the crew.

Explore the world of boating at the Seattle Boat Show, spanning nine days and three acres at CenturyLink Field, South Lake Union, and an all-new location at Bell Harbor Marina, from January 26 through February 3, 2018, [https://seattleboatshow.com/](https://seattleboatshow.com/)
December Social Night
Photo Gallery
Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron's 46th Annual Commander's Bilgewater Bash Dinner Dance is a fun and formal gala event where we celebrate the past year of teaching safe boating. Join us and be prepared for a delicious RVYC buffet dinner, door prize draws and dancing!

Have you heard of our famous Bilgewater Punch? It's a long standing delicious tradition for Vancouver Squadron to mix our own brew - just don't ask us what's in it!

What's the refund policy?
No refunds for cancellations after March 31, 2017.

We'll see you there!
We are still looking for an Executive Officer, a Secretary and a Financial Officer!

Can you keep legible notes? Want to add up the numbers for the Squadron? Know someone who does??

In order to keep the Squadron alive and kicking, we need more support for our Bridge.

Contact our Commander Roger Middleton or our Past Commander Jeff Booth to get more information!

It is time to start thinking of our Spring Courses starting January 23, 2018

- Boating 4 Near Shore Marine Navigation, level 1 (Seamanship) 11 weeks - Jan 23, 2018
- Boating 2 (Beyond the PCOC) & 3 (Introduction to Navigation), 12 weeks - Jan 23, 2018
- Boat & Engine Maintenance, 10 weeks - Jan 23, 2018
- Marine Electrical Systems, 8 weeks - Jan 25, 2018
- Boating 1 (Boating Basics - PCOC) 4 weeks - April 05, 2018
- Maritime Radio, 1 day - Saturday Feb 03, 2018
- Maritime Radio, 1 day - Saturday March 03, 2018
- Maritime Radio, 1 day - Saturday April 07, 2018
- Maritime Radio, 1 day - Saturday May 05, 2018

Registration beyond the cut-off date (14 days prior to the start of course) may result in a delay of course materials & there will be an additional shipping cost of $20.00.
Bent Prop Award

We would love to resurrect the Bent Prop Award at the Bilgewater Bash!

Most of you have a story or two, cringe worthy but laughable, entertaining and embarrassing. Stories you tell at the dock, at the pub and at the Squadron Nights. Maybe it’s something you did, something your dock neighbour forgot to do or something you saw come undone!

We’d like to hear them too! Share your stories with us. We’ll post them here. Add a picture if you have them. The best one will be up for our Broken Prop Award at the Bilgewater Bash next spring!

Email them to editor@vpsboat.org

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Click the button to renew