From the Commander’s Log
By Commander Bill Stewart

Our boating classes are running well and we just had our student cruise up Indian Arm. Thank you to all the skippers who volunteered their vessels and to the proctors who ran the cruise. I would particularly like to thank Dave Atchison and John Steede for organizing this rewarding event.

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Upcoming Events

• 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 5 for details.)

• Monday, 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.

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!
The Bilgewater Bash, once again to be held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, is fast approaching, but you still have a chance to buy tickets to this popular event. As an added incentive for those who still haven’t taken the plunge, the Executive has voted to have all tickets remain at $70.00 per person, the “early bird” rate. The deadline for purchasing tickets is March 24, so be sure to order yours soon by calling Ruth Cuddeford at 604-294-5310 (Monday to Friday, 08:30 – 17:00). Anyone who would like to donate a door prize (no doors please) should contact Dave Atchison at 604-261-3111 (office).

The Boating exam starts the third week of April, and then we will be preparing for the graduation ceremony coming up in June.

Two long-time squadron members Karen Lubin and Robert Buller will be leaving our squadron and moving to Vancouver Island. Karen has had many postings in our squadron: training officer, teacher for parts of the boating course, and proctor. Robert has been teaching our boating course for a number of years as well as proctoring and volunteering, and their boat Nirvana has taken the Boating class out on student cruises. Both Robert and Karen have been tremendous supporters of our squadron and bring great enthusiasm to the classes each week. We shall miss them both and wish them all the best with their new adventures on Vancouver Island.

Please see the Upcoming Events section and mark your calendars! Also, our Cruisemaster Lois MacDonald will be organizing some cruises for us in the near future.

Bill Stewart
Commander, VPS

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**Students Cruising (and having a good time!)**

The Boating class Student Cruise was held on Saturday, March 3, and the day started out overcast but dry. We had 36 students in attendance with 10 proctors and eight skippers and vessels. The rain held off while the students completed the cruise exercise which started “close aboard” the Burnaby Shoal marker in Vancouver Harbour and ended in Bedwell Bay. The students had a chance to take bearings, plot, and calculate timed runs and ETA’s to various points along the cruise route. They also had to obtain a fix when the skipper stopped the vessel in the area between Roche Point in Cates Park and Admiralty Point near Belcarra Park. Everyone did an outstanding job obtaining very accurate fixes. All fixes were then compared to the actual GPS reading and were virtually “bang on.”

The vessels then made their way to Bedwell Bay and formed an eight-vessel raft in time for lunch.

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As the boats were rafting up, a rain squall came down from Indian Arm and dampened things for about 30-45 minutes. The squall then continued south, and we were once again dry.

After lunch, everyone had a chance to visit all of the vessels to see how they were equipped and to check out the different layouts.

Another successful cruise!

Dave Atchison
Officer-at-Large, VPS

The Burgees Are Here!

To order yours, contact Don Zarowny at donzar@shaw.ca.
Cruisemaster’s Corner

by Cruisemaster Lois MacDonald at cruisemaster@vpsboat.com

Seeking suggestions for summer events!

In addition to the annual weekends to Snug Cove and Keats Island, we are looking for suggestions for further cruising outings this summer – raft-ups, weekends, BBQs, etc. Please send your ideas to Lois MacDonald at cruisemaster@vpsboat.com.

Are you interested in joining your Bridge (the executive) to help in the running of your squadron?

The Nominating Committee has held its first meeting to discuss next year’s Bridge (May 2012 – May 2013). If you are interested in coming on board with the squadron executive and enjoying the satisfaction of working with a stimulating and diverse group of people, or for information on any of the positions on the Bridge, please contact: Bill Stewart (bstewart@frontierpower.com), Dave Atchison (dave.atchison@cansupply.com), Don Mercer (donmercer@shaw.ca), or Don Zarowny (donzar@shaw.ca).

Vancouver Boat Show

The CPS booth at the Vancouver Boat Show was operated under the PMD’s mandate and, as such, they asked all the various squadrons to supply volunteers to run the booth and answer queries about our various programs. VPS supplied the following volunteers: Eardley Beaton, Bill Blancard, John Cartmel, Barbara Constantine, Peter Graeme, Twyla Graeme, Dan O’Leary, John Steede, Dennis Waunch, and Eddy Wong.

Thank you to all,

Eardley Beaton
Public Relations Officer, VPS
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 - deadline March 24th

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

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