We just completed our student cruise on Saturday, October 29th, starting at the light at Burnaby Shoal, cruising through Second Narrows, and finally anchoring in Bedwell Bay for lunch. Forty-two students attended out of a class of 54. This outing is a highlight for the students who enjoy getting out on the water and putting into practice what they’ve learned in the classroom. (continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

• Monday, November 21st - Crime Afloat, David Williams

The Vancouver-based bootleggers, booze and boats of the Prohibition Era (1920 – 1933) come to life in this fascinating presentation. You’ll learn how many cases of “hooch” could be stashed in a hold and on deck and what kind of profits could be made. You’ll find out which of the lingering urban legends from those colourful days are true. And you’ll meet vivid characters like the dashing ladies man and decorated war hero, Captain Charles Hudson, who invented a short-wave system for rum-running and concealed it in a room at his Locarno Beach house.

• Monday, December 12th - Good friends, good fun, good food

Our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner is an enjoyable opportunity to celebrate the festive season and socialize with old and new friends. Bring your favourite appetizer, entrée or dessert…and your appetite. The cost is $5 per person, the doors open at 6 pm, and the meal begins at 7 pm.

• Monday, January 16, 2012 - Whale Tales

Stay tuned!

Past, current and incoming 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!
Commander’s Report  
(continued from page 1)

Seven boats participated in all, including mine, and I would like to thank our skippers once again for their continued support in making this day happen. There is no cost to the students, and the skippers volunteer their vessels and time. I would like to thank the skippers - Bill Botham, Robbie Hausch, Dave Dorman, John Steede, Ron Jupp, and Mike Michalson.

Thank you also to the proctors, who every week work in our classrooms and who then took extra time to be with the students on Saturday, volunteering to run the cruise - Syvia Steede, Rob Murray, Nicole Sides, John Cartmel, Doug Johnson, Peter Bennett, Paul Heeney, Peter Mokkonen, Don Mercer, Michael MacLeod, Eardley Beaton, and Bruce Buchanan. And a special thank you to Dave Atchison, Past Commander, for his help organizing the cruise and producing the material.

We had a great turnout at our last social event when radio broadcaster and author Grant Lawrence read from his book on Desolation Sound. Barbara Constantine has more engaging speakers coming up for us. Please watch your Masthead and mark your calendars for our fun and entertaining Squadron Nights.

Bill Stewart  
Commander  
VPSS

Student Cruise  
October 29, 2011

More student cruise photos...
Squadron Night
October 17, 2011

Radio broadcaster and author Grant Lawrence gave a spirited reading from his funny, insightful best-seller, *Desolation Sound - Adventures in Solitude*, at the October Power Squadron evening.

Almost all the event attendees had boated in Desolation Sound, and when the presentation ended, many made their way to the book sale table to purchase autographed copies of Grant’s pivotal west coast book.

Programs Officer Barbara Constantine engaged author Grant Lawrence in an impromptu interview before his presentation.

Photos courtesy of Dennis Steeves
The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup 2011

On September 17th, 2011, eleven volunteers participated in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Jericho Beach East, despite unpredictable weather conditions. At 9:30 am, the volunteers began to arrive and assembled around a table which had been set up with all the cleaning supplies, posters and refreshments. After signing a waiver and receiving instructions and cleaning supplies with Individual Data Cards handed out, four teams started out to clean up our designated area of Jericho Beach East, starting from the Jericho Park Sailing School to Alma Street.

Our volunteers managed to pick up nine garbage bags with an estimated weight of 115 kgs! The most common item collected again tops the list, as it has done every year - cigarettes/cigarette filters. We managed to pick up 996 of them. Not a surprise, yet I thought smoking wasn't allowed on the beach. The second most common item was caps/lids at 189, and the third, beverage cans at 99. A few of the most unusual items to be collected were: one rock covered with a crocheted bag, 26 tea light candles, silverware consisting of knives and forks, some nails, and a piece of particle board with a sign on it.

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After the cleanup was done, all of the garbage bags were weighed, everything was placed in front of our table, and a group photo was taken. Everyone had a great time and, while enjoying some Tim Horton's coffee and donuts and juice, chatted about some of the items they found. I would like to thank the following people who volunteered, because without you this cleanup would not have taken place: Robert Buller, Karen Lubin, Eardley and Ethleen Beaton, Barbara Constantine and Richard Mcdonald. Much appreciation goes to my brother Cliff and wife Nasarin, and to my nephew Chris Blancard and his girlfriend Samantha Walsh for helping me bring over the coffee/supplies and setting up. I know as a squadron we are doing our part in keeping our beaches clean. See you all again at next year’s cleanup.

Bill Blancard
Environment Officer
VPPS

Some unsung heroes...
To see an incredibly uplifting, unpublished, little-known story of 9/11 — the dramatic sea rescues of survivors on lower Manhattan Island — follow this link:

Thanks goes to Dennis Steeves for bringing this amazing story to our attention.

Lawn Signs
We will schedule the next Lawn Signs program to be installed December 15th for one month before our Spring Boating course. If you or your friends have a good location where we could put up our signs, please call me at 604-734-4900.

Eardley Beaton
Public Relations Officer
VPSS