Upcoming Events

Monday, November 17 - Steveston Marine Night - Join us at False Creek Yacht Club on our regular monthly meeting night of Monday, November 17 for Steveston Marine Night, followed by a wine and cheese reception at Steveston Marine’s 5th Ave location on November 28. This year should be better than last!!! Details below, purchase your tickets in advance here.

Monday, December 8 - Christmas Potluck - December’s Squadron Night will be our Christmas Potluck! We will also enjoy a presentation from Peter Heiberg, winner of the Jack London trophy for First to Finish on the Singlehanded TransPac Race to Hawaii, 2014. Stay tuned for details.

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....

Having just returned from the CPS-ECP National Conference and AGM, I thought a brief overview would be in order.

We arrived in Québec City late Thursday evening. We were staying at the Chateau Laurier, on the opposite side of the Plains of Abraham from the Hotel Frontenac.

The Marketing meeting was earlier that evening, and Vanessa Schmidt presented best practices in
advertising using Social Media, particularly Facebook. In her presentation, VPS was cited as an example in quite a few instances, showing how well we have been using Facebook and Twitter to advertise our fall course offerings. She was encouraging of all squadrons to begin leveraging the power and reach of social media in their areas.

Friday was spent in the Squadron Commander’s meeting in the morning, with the Squadron/District Commander's meeting following in the afternoon. Quite good commentary came out of the presentation, including some clarification around the membership classes we currently have, and (given that the age of majority is 19) how to recognize those younger members who participate in their squadrons and districts. Younger members may continue to volunteer for their squadrons, and will be recognized as Associates. Upon turning 19, they will be invited to become a full member, where Merit Marks can be awarded retroactively. All other classes of members are now full members, some with a 100% discount on their annual membership fee (e.g., Life members, Lady Associates, etc.)

Friday evening was a costumed affair, including dinner. P/Cdr Peter Girling was in fine form with his costume, while Executive Officer Roger Middleton and myself maintained a modest business casual attire for this event.

Saturday was the Annual General Meeting and Change of Watch. This was an historical event, as the articles of continuance came into full effect, as the corporation’s amendments were accepted by the CRA, and fully comply with the new Not-for-Profit Act. The biggest change here is that all members now have a vote on matters, whereas before, each squadron could vote based on the number of members they had.

Dave Peebles, Chair of the Committee on Rules, announced that they had managed to eliminate over 100 pages of regulations and amended or modified many others to complete the main task at hand. An example of some of the regulations that were deleted include such items as uniforms and dress code for events. They are no longer part of our regulations.

VPS was given some attention at this AGM as well. We were provided with our 4th 100% Honour Roll certificate from the CPS Foundation. Thanks to the hard work of Jerry Powers and the Recreational Vessel Courtesy Check program (RVCC), Vancouver was recognized as the top producing squadron in Canada. A Vancouver squadron member, Jim White, was also recognized as the Top Checker in Canada. These are honours we should be proud of! A special thanks to the excellent work of Jerry Powers.

Finally, Vancouver was awarded the Marketing Award for our efforts in recreating the road/lawn signs to focus exclusively on BoatingCourses.ca. This sign has been made available as an artwork template on WBAS for all squadrons in Canada. The MC of the Squadron Commander's meeting, Cdr. Louise Lockerton from Oakville squadron, highlighted this sign as one of the ways they have
marketed their courses at marinas in their area to great success. Again, Vancouver should feel proud of the work we are doing, and the impact that we’re making throughout the organization. The award included a brand new pop-up banner that we can use alongside our other marketing materials when engaging with the general public at boating events.

Saturday evening was the Chief Commander’s Ball, and Chief Joe Gatfield was sworn in.

The event was more positive than last year, with about half the number of attendees as last year (approximately 230). CPS-ECP also managed to come away with a small surplus this year, thanks to cost-cutting methods such as the use of Go To Meeting video conferencing software rather than incurring travel expenses for bridge and committee meetings.

This event continues to be a valuable exercise; it allows rapid communication of important messages, camaraderie of attendees, and the sharing of best practices with each other. I am looking forward to the year ahead to meet our challenges head on!

Jeff Booth
Commander
commander@vpsboat.org

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Join Us for Squadron Nights!

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 17.
Join us for Steveston Marine Night! A fashion show, prizes, and tons of great ideas for Christmas!
Tickets available here.

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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October Squadron Night: Vancouver Aquarium - B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network (BCCSN)
On November 1, we held a one-day Maritime Radio course at the Jericho Sailing Centre. All 18 students in attendance passed, and with high marks too!

In a one-day version of the course (versus the usual three-day course), students need to have the material in advance, study, and come on the day with a good understanding already. It was the first time that P/Cdr Peter Girling heard a student give him a perfect safety call on the verbal part of the exam!

With this course, we celebrate two firsts:

- A new venue, the Jericho Sailing Centre, was great. It had large windows looking out on the basin, the SAR boat at the end of the dock, a restaurant next door available for lunch, and free parking.
- A successful one-day course
Perhaps something to consider repeating in the future!

Photos courtesy of Roger Middleton

Steveston Marine Night
Monday, November 17, 2014 from 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

All Pacific Mainland District members and guests are invited to join Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron for Steveston Marine Night!

This special event is presented by Steveston Marine & Hardware, who will be showcasing some of the finest marine products they offer with representatives from leading manufacturers, including:

- Helly Hansen Fashion Show
- Sneak Peak at the upcoming 2015 Vancouver International Boat Show
- Complimentary Dessert
- Door Prizes
- *PLUS, receive a separate ticket for prize draws at the Steveston Marine VIP Wine & Cheese Event on November 28th!*

Limited space available. Reserve your ticket now by purchasing early bird tickets online! Any remaining tickets will be available at the door for $10, but it is first come, first served, and we cannot guarantee tickets will be available at the door. This event will sell out.

*Purchase your tickets in advance here.*

Steveston Marine VIP Wine & Cheese Event - November 28th

Steveston Marine will be hosting a VIP wine and cheese event after-hours in their Vancouver store location on November 28th, offering special discounts to all PMD members and guests. Enjoy special pricing just for us (over 25,000 items in stock) and on-hand factory specialist demos. There will be prize draws for eligible ticket holders who attended the November 17th Steveston Marine Night event.

You must RSVP to attend the November 28th VIP event — RSVP by contacting Rahim at: rahim@stevestonmarine.com

Can't make it in person? RSVP and receive special pricing when ordering
CPS-ECP National Conference 2014 - Quebec City
BRIDGE
2014-2015

(Abbreviated List—Full List on our website) www.vpsboat.com

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