Subject: VPS Masthead  October 2017
From: Vancouver Squadron <contact@vpsboat.org>
Date: 2017-11-15 8:32 PM
To: Peter B Bennett <peterbb@telus.net>
Greetings Boating Fans!

Well, I admit, it’s not the best cruising weather at the moment... at least not here. This leaves us to daydream about warmer places and sunny skies. Don’t get me wrong, I made my peace with the rain many years ago before coming to Vancouver, and it definitely has a certain beauty; I always find the low, misty clouds floating through the dense conifers – especially in a in a quiet anchorage – absolutely magical. We’ve had a mostly warm fall, though, and have had a few lovely days, so for that, we are thankful.

I am proud to report that Vancouver Squadron brought back some serious hardware from the National Conference in Charlottetown, PEI, so please come to the next social night to see the awards presented to our deserving volunteers. We may be straying from our usual format somewhat for the upcoming November Social Night, but it will fun with more time to mingle with your fellow boaters.

We still have room in the Boating Basics (Pleasure Craft Operator Course), starting on November 16 at Prince of Wales Secondary. If you know anyone who needs this
course, please direct them to vpsboat.org, boatingcourses.ca, or to a member of our Education Department.

Some of you will also be very pleased to know that a few of the seldom-offered courses will start to be offered as a National online gathering via GoToMeeting. Although I’ve used GoToMeeting before in a corporate boardroom setting, I had the pleasure of my first teleconference with National using this technology and it is indeed fluid and impressive. This may open some doors for some of the more advanced courses that often get cancelled due to lack of enrolment at the squadron level.

Visit http://boatingcourses.ca/provinces/online for more information and course offerings.

The new administration system (WBAS replacement) at the National office is coming along nicely. I am involved with the testing and debugging process, which is just starting now in earnest because of issues beyond the developers’ control. It has been a long time coming, but it’s really starting to take shape. You will find that it will be much simpler to do pretty much everything, on any device. There’s no set date yet, but I will let you know.

That’s about all for now. I hope to see you all soon.

Cheers,
Rog

Roger Middleton, AP
Commander, Vancouver Squadron

The Vancouver Boat Show takes place in January and there will be an opportunity for
people to purchase tickets in advance at a discount of up to 50%. A discount is available to anyone who joins the Skippers Club (free) and a special discount is available to Skippers Club members who purchase tickets online during the Black Friday to Cyber Monday sale, November 24 to 27!

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

http://www.vancouverboatshow.ca/show-info/newsletter/

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!

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**SQUADRON SOCIAL NIGHT**

**NOVEMBER SPEAKERS**

*Whale Watching, National Awards & Squadron Talks*

Nov 20th - 7:00 pm  
False Creek Yacht Club

This week, we have a different itinerary in mind. A little more casual, a little more variety and a little more food!

Commander Roger will be sharing a little bit of his story as a rookie whale watch captain,
along with showing off some of the pictures he captured this summer.

The National AGM in Charlottetown is now passed and Vancouver Squadron got a few Awards! Come see who earned recognition for the Squadron this year!

Last but not least - Squadron Talks! Share your ideas about improving the Squadron. Ask questions about what we've done lately. Or, just come for some good old-fashioned socializing! Don't forget, the Yacht Club has a bar!

**See you at the False Creek Yacht Club on Monday!!**

*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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**DECEMBER SPEAKER**

Our guest speaker in December will be Dominique Prinet.

Dominique has an engineering degree from UBC, and an MBA from McGill. He flew commercially along the BC coast in the mid-sixties, and continued in the Arctic for many years, on skis and floats. He holds an Airline Pilot license, and used an astro-compass to navigate in the High Arctic. He continued his aviation career as VP of Canadian Airlines in Vancouver, and went to Africa for five years, turning around and managing Air Tanzania.
Dominique is a sailing instructor for all levels at Sail Canada and ISPA, and an Instructor Evaluator for Sail Canada. He also holds a 60-ton Master’s ticket. He was teaching sailing in Vancouver, in class and on water, for 15 years, until 2015. He sailed in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, across the Atlantic with a sextant, in the Caribbean, and along the B.C. Coast. He has published four books: Celestial Navigation and Coastal Navigation (each with a “Course” and an “Exercises” book).

On Monday, Dec 11, his presentation will be: Concepts of Celestial Navigation.

The one-hour presentation explains the basic concepts of Celestial Navigation: determination of latitude from a noon site and Polaris; determination of longitude with a precise time-piece; general case where the boat is on a circle of position centered on the Geographic Position of the sun; introduction to the Almanac, the Sight Reduction Tables, and the Marc St Hilaire method.

Education Officer Report
written by John Steede

Boating 2 & 3

Classes are well underway with the Boating 2 exam to be written on November 14. We should encourage everyone to join Vancouver Squadron on that night, with means to collect their money.

The Student Cruise is being organized now for November 18. We have 4 boats at the ready and 16 students have signed up. Proctors and Assistants are in place.

Boating 1 (Boating Basics)

Course is set to commence on Thursday November 16 and finish on Dec 07. Presently there are 7 signed up, but I expect more to register before the 16th as I have already spoken to two others that tell me that their intention is to sign-up on-line.
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

On a beautiful October morning, I sat on the back deck with our toddler in my
lap, as we cruised up Burrard Inlet. I marveled at the clear, blue sky, and the glossy water, and the colours of the trees along shore: burnt orange, golds, and autumn reds. I thought about how lucky we are to live here and boat here, and be surrounded by all this beauty.

My peaceful reverie was interrupted by a shout from my lap, "I WANT DADDY!!"

Yup, that's boating for us now. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

We were headed to Bedwell Bay, to meet up with our family, on what was shaping up to be a beautiful fall weekend, before the rain set in as a permanent winter backdrop. My sister and her family aboard their boat, Aloha Kai, and my parents aboard Daruma, were already anchored and rafted in Bedwell when we arrived in the early afternoon, and we were soon tied alongside.

I was surprised about how few cruising boats were there in the bay, assuming that everyone would be taking advantage of the weather for a weekend away, but at least there were still a few of us.

Sitting on the deck in the sun, it might have been 18 degrees and t-shirt weather, but as soon as the boats swung and shade filled the back cockpit, it was down right frigid.

Music and laughter filled the evening, and the kids (aged nearly 2, and nearly 4) danced to classic hits. The dinner table is more crowded these days, with six adults and two kids, and the conversation is a little different, filled with lots of "don't throw that," and "eat one more piece of chicken," but it's fun and heart-warming.

This is our boating life now… what was once quiet and tranquil, is now frenetic and near-chaos, as our family grows and our kids enjoy the lifestyle my sister and I were lucky enough to grow up with.

The next day, I watched my husband and son head off in the dinghy to check the crab trap, and went back to marveling again about how lucky we were to be there in that moment. Even better, they came back with one crab!

We stayed until late in the afternoon, waiting for the current to shift in our favour, and then headed home before an early sunset.
Just one night away is enough to fill the soul and prepare for another week of work, but I already can't wait to be out there again.

“No wonder why our computer is slow. You have 17,987,623 photos of you on your boat on it.”
A Perfect Christmas Present!!

Vancouver Squadron has lots of types of courses starting in January. One of our most popular courses is the One Day Marine Radio Course. Give the gift of safe boating education.

Just click on the schedule below for more details.

Makes a great stocking stuffer!
Keats Island Cruise (Plumper Cove)
Sept/Oct 2017

It was a rainy, cold weekend for our Plumper Cove cruise in late September but three boats still turned up (Dennis & Shelia on Wanderer, Eardley & Ethlene on Waterfront Condo and Deano & I on Let's Go). Despite the weather, we squeezed in a hike and later the sun came out long enough for us to have our salmon BBQ on the dock. Otherwise, we spent most of our time cozily hanging out in our boats, chatting and enjoying each other's company.
HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?
### VPS Bridge 2017-2018

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>Roger Middleton</td>
<td>604-354-3210</td>
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<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<td>Educational Officer</td>
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<td>Asst Educational Officer</td>
<td>Elizabeth Zygmunt</td>
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