Upcoming Events

**Monday, October 20 - Vancouver Aquarium: the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network (BCCSN)** - We’re excited to welcome the Vancouver Aquarium’s BC Cetacean Sightings Network. The topics they focus on are cetacean and sea turtle natural history, identification, threats to marine wildlife, and threat mitigation (including safe wildlife watching practices from marine vessels). Check out [wildwhales.org](http://wildwhales.org).

**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!!!

**Monday, December 8 - Squadron Night** - 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, and the cost is $5.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there!* 

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**From the Commander's Log....**

Fall has brought the long-awaited resolution to the education labour dispute, and our courses are now set to start. Boating Essentials has begun and we look forward to running Boating Basics course in both English and Chinese (Mandarin), Maritime Radio Operator’s Certificate (two convenient options: 3 evenings or 1 full weekend day), Sail and Seamanship. Be sure to tell a friend!
Executive Officer Roger Middleton and myself will be attending the CPS-ECP National Conference this month in Québec City. We look forward to the Change of Watch, and the birth of the brand new organization as directed by the new Not-For-Profit Act of Canada which will go into effect this month. The federal Not-for-Profit Act (the "Act") requires all federally constituted not-for-profit organizations and registered charities to comply with the Act by October 2014.

We have a tremendous lineup of speakers for the Squadron Social Nights this Fall. Be sure to mark your calendars: October 20, November 17 and December 8! If you haven’t made it down to the False Creek Yacht Club lately, we’d love to see you!

Volunteering is at the heart of our organization. The desire to give back to our organization shows pride in the work we do; teaching safe boating and promoting camaraderie with members and students. We do it because we care. We are passionate about safe boating. Safe boating education is the first step in enjoying recreation out on the water, and boating safety and education saves lives. Please consider giving us some of your time and energy. I would love to hear from you!

Jeff Booth
Commander
commander@vpsboat.org

Join Us for Squadron Nights!

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 20.
Join us in welcoming the Vancouver Aquarium: the B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network (BCCSN).

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!

September Squadron Night: UBC Sailbot Team
Training News

For the first time in Vancouver Squadron’s history, we are doing two exciting things:

1. We will be putting a one day Maritime Radio Course at the Jericho Sailing Centre On Saturday November 1.
   Our thanks go to Roger Middleton for spearheading this! If you know someone that is not compliant and needs to get a radio licence, please have them sign up at vpsboat.com

2. We are also putting on a Boating Basics Course in Mandarin. Murphy Ni has agreed to teach this course for us.

This year’s strike created a lot of consternation this summer. Not knowing when it would be over meant monitoring the situation closely and frequently. There were many discussions about moving our venue to a space not affected by the closure of the schools. Several locations were visited and considered, but it all came down to numbers. Had we had a larger enrollment, we very well may have moved and started the classes sooner, but with a small number of pre-registered, the only fiscally responsible thing to do was to wait it out. Fortunately we only lost three weeks and are now back on track.

Registration for our courses as of September 30 is as follows:
Boating Essentials: 11 students, classes start Tuesday, September 30 for 9 weeks (with class chairman Daniel Blackman)

Boating Basics (English): 10 students, classes start Thursday, November 20 for 4 weeks (with Glen Hodgkinson, Peter Girling, and Paul Heeney)

Boating Basics (Mandarin): 0 students, classes would also start Thursday, November 20 for 4 weeks (with Murphy Ni)

Maritime Radio (JSC): 14 students, class starts Saturday, November 1 for 1 day (with Roger Middleton)

Maritime Radio (PW): 3 students, classes start Thursday, October 9 for 3 weeks (with Peter Bennett)

Seamanship: 5 students, class started Tuesday, September 30 for 11 weeks (with Patrick Dickie)

Sail: 11 students, classes started Tuesday, September 30, and will switch to Thursdays for a total of 8 weeks (with Allan Strain & Glen Hodgkinson)

John Steede
Training Officer

From Assistant Training Officer, Glen Hodgkinson:
Hello from the Advanced Courses!
Well this fall we have had a pretty good turn-out of people who are looking to advance their knowledge on the water!
We have nearly a dozen folks who have joined us to learn more about Sailing. This 8 week course provides the practical and theoretical basics of sailing and sailing techniques. The range of topics is broad:

- Understanding different sail boat rigs, sail plans, hull types
- Rigging, stability, balance, and the physics of sailing
- Sailing at different points of sail, handling heavy weather and storm conditions
- Spinnaker handling, reefing, leaving the dock to mooring and anchoring
- Sailing safety, navigation rules, and sailing tactics.

We also have a good number of people taking part in our Seamanship course. This course provides more in-depth understanding of navigation, as well as many other aspects of boating, such as relative bearings, knots and splicing, medical emergencies, coping with adverse weather, and much more.
We are looking forward to a great fall season of learning in the Advanced Courses! Make sure you have a look at what is being offered in Spring 2015 as we have some great courses coming then as well!

Glen Hodgkinson
Advanced Courses
Environment Officer, Bill Blancard:

2014 Great Canadian Shoreline Beach Cleanup, Jericho Beach East

On September 20, 2014, 31 volunteers, including adults and children, participated in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. We had volunteers from our squadron, a local Cub Scout group, and one family of three who were meant to participate in another cleanup, but couldn't locate it so they joined ours! PR Officer Don White and I set up two tables for clean-up supplies, Tim Horton coffee and doughnuts, a McDonald's cooler of orange drink, and CPS course information brochures. After a brief orientation at 0945, 7 teams were formed, supplies were handed out and the cleanup began. Weather conditions were sunny and warm, just perfect for a beach cleanup. During the day, volunteers would drop by for refreshments and weigh their garbage bags, then continue on with more cleaning. At 1230 our cleanup was finished, garbage bags were weighed, and data recording cards completed. Our volunteers collected a total of 9 garbage bags with a total weight of 102.5kg (222.5lbs).

The 3 most collected items were:

1. 615 cigarette butts
2. 82 plastic pieces
3. 80 glass pieces

The 3 most unusual items collected were:

1. A burnt umbrella
2. A Coleman freezer bag
3. Flip flops

Over 50,000 Canadians participate in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup every year, making it one of the largest volunteer cleanup efforts in the world. The highway from Vancouver, BC, to Thunder Bay, Ontario (3,102km) is roughly equivalent to the total length of shorelines cleaned every year by volunteers. Did you also know that shoreline litter is a clear risk to our environment? For example, a plastic bottle left on the shoreline may take up to 450 years to break down!

Thank you to the following people for helping me transport and set up our supplies: Cliff Blancard, Chris Blancard and Samantha Walsh, and our PR Officer Don White for attending and setting up his table with the CPS brochures. Also, I send a special thanks to the City of Vancouver's "Keep Vancouver Spectacular" team for supplying us with the pick-up tongs and garbage bags. Finally, thanks to all of the volunteers to participated, because without you, this beach cleanup could not take place; because of you, our beach is much cleaner.

See you at next year's beach cleanup in 2015!
Lessons Learned from a Fireworks Night Gone Wrong

Vancouver's annual Celebration of Light attracts hundreds of thousands of people to the beaches surrounding English Bay, but more significantly to us, hundreds of boaters as well. The "gong show" afterwards is notoriously known to everyone, and incidents are expected... It's just a matter of what, where, and when. The night of July 26 this year was one of the busiest I’ve seen.

Every rescue, coast guard, police, and fire asset available from the Vancouver area was out in English Bay or in the air that night. No less than 10 vessels manned by both professionals and auxiliary, trained to assist others in various capacities, were out there.

Prior to, and during the show, it was fairly quiet except for the usual suspects, which were all dealt with by the appropriate authorities. Approximately 15 minutes after the show, a call went out on channel 16 from Victoria Coast Guard Radio about a 32’ Bayliner in distress “…somewhere in the vicinity of English Bay.” With that, the search for the needle in the haystack began.
I volunteer with Jericho Rescue and was on duty that night with a teammate, so we began looking. Victoria Radio added further information, “…vessel in distress is continuously sounding an air horn.” Great. Lots of yahoos out here were also doing that just for fun.

Calls from other rescue vessels starting coming across: “This is [rescue vessel], we are [at location], and don’t hear an air horn.” This went on for nearly 20 minutes. Eventually, I heard something faint, but lost it among the background noise, so we kept going in that general direction. A few minutes later I saw a Type B flare. I called it in, knowing it might be some drunken fool, but it was a lead. I’d asked my partner, who was at the helm, if he’d seen it.

“See what?” he said. Sigh.

Nevertheless, we brought up our speed a little as we’d passed through most of the congestion of the inbound flotilla and anchored vessels. I knew what a 32’ Bayliner should look like, and figured we’d be looking for such a silhouette of, which is pretty hard to find in the dark of night. A few minutes later, a second set of Type B flares went up. This time we both saw it, were able to pinpoint their location, and brought the boat up to full speed. The air horn became louder, and within a few moments we were the first rescue vessel on scene. We gave Victoria Radio a lat/long, vessel name, and general update with persons on board, etc. Within three minutes of us giving the actual coordinates, many other assets were on scene and able to assist. Coast Guard 506 (the in-shore rescue boat based out of HMCS Discovery) was next, and was amazingly able to pump out the vessel. All aboard were safe, but I fear that two of the family members, including a young child, may be traumatized for life.

Lessons Learned:

- If there is any sign of water ingress, have everyone put on their life jackets immediately. It’s amazing how people become so preoccupied with fixing the leak that they forget this important task.

- Make sure you have bungs on board and know where they are. Tying appropriate sizes to through-hulls might be something to consider.

- ALWAYS carry a handheld radio on your person when on larger vessels, especially at night; the fixed radio ceases to be useful once the vessel’s batteries are submerged. Batteries are usually located very close to the bilge and are one of the first things to go under. After this incident, I’m going to get two smaller batteries for emergency radio use only and will place them higher up in my boat.

- Having at least one handheld radio that displays latitude and longitude is worth the extra money. Even if you possess the skill to describe your position fairly accurately, valuable time is wasted by rescuers searching an area, especially at night. Not including the hundreds of nearby pleasure craft, it took ten dedicated boats, intentionally looking for the vessel in distress, nearly 20 minutes to find it. Compare this to the five rescue assets on scene within 2-3 minutes after the lat/long was known. That’s a big difference.

- Type B multi-star flares are not as useful as you might think. Unless the rescue
vessel is looking directly at you (which we so happened to be), they won’t be seen, Even if they are seen, they don’t burn quite long enough – only 4 to 5 seconds – to fully coordinate sky/water positions from a distance. Type A are so much better for this purpose.

Roger Middleton
Executive Officer

Public Relations Officer, Don White:

Wow, what an incredible summer we all enjoyed this year. I hope you were all able to get out on
the water and experience the fantastic opportunities and extensive coastline, islands, and cozy coves that this beautiful province of British Columbia has to offer.

It will be hard to start thinking of winterizing the boat soon, as we have had such wonderful weather this fall. However, don’t be lulled into thinking it will last forever, as it won’t be long before our temperatures start to fall below freezing in the evening hours. For those of you who are still getting out on the water, be careful when docking your boats as the docks are getting slippery. As of yesterday I can attest that the water is getting chillier when I had an unexpected plunge into the waters of Indian arm.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces and sharing summer cruising stories at our monthly meetings this fall and winter.

Kind Regards
Don White

Keats Island Cruise 2014
BRIDGE
2014-2015

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

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