



Royal City Squadron
Volunteers proudly providing safe boating education for over 50 years

Fall 2008

The Mainsheet



Winner of the
BEST
NEWSLETTER 2008
CPS Pacific
Mainland District
Competition



June Pitt Lake Cruise



Photo: Eleanor Hashimoto

Photos and article on Page 8

“ From a distance the world looks blue and green and the snow-capped mountains white.

From a distance the ocean meets the stream and the eagle takes flight.”

Julie Gold, composer, 1985 Sung by Bette Midler

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September Fish Fry



Photo: Mark Garland, AP

Photos and article on Page 4

Commander's Corner



Hello all.

I hope that you had a great boating summer!

When we are "out there" on those gorgeous warm and sunny days, memories of previous bad weather, boat repairs, and the general high expense of boating, quickly fade away...

After a prolonged period of inactivity with our own boat due to having both fuel tanks replaced, and with the necessary task of removing the salon and the engines to get at the tanks, we were finally able to spend more quality time on the water.

We did not go too far afield, Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island, Vancouver Harbour and Indian Arm etc. but we loved every minute of it. It was great to bump into some fellow Squadron members (not literally, thank goodness), out there too!

Earlier this year, after almost 23 years at Delta Marina in the Fraser Middle Arm, we moved "Four Square" to Captains Cove Marina in Ladner. After a few months we were fortunate to obtain an outside slip, and we love it! We are able to see

down the channel out to the South Arm, great view!

What we also see though are many, many boats going by, in some cases probably overloaded, alcohol in view, and NO LIFE JACKETS WORN. To our members and everyone out there, don't become a negative statistic, please wear and have all on board, wear flotation devices, certainly while under way!

In closing, my usual plea, please refer people to our various boating classes, details can also be found on our website. Over time we have found that word of mouth referrals still work best to bring in new students.

Also as the time approaches please refer to the various references that will help you successfully lay up your boat for winter. More on that subject in our October Social Report.

Early though it may seem, I would like to wish you and yours a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR! May you all receive that which you wish for.



*Keith Davies, APS
Commander*

Command(er) Performance

Congratulations to our present Commander, Keith Davies, and our Past Commander, Eleanor Hashimoto, on their marriage in July of this year.

Eleanor's son Rusty acted as Keith's best man and son Stuart as her "person of honour".

It was a great wedding which turned out to be everything they planned and hoped it would be ~ elegant, simple, fun, with lots of good food and good drink.



Heartiest congratulations you two and we wish you a long and happy marriage



October Social - What Goes Down, Must Come Up



Rhys Davies of Blue Flasher Marine is a man that has seen ups and downs - literally. Rhys' job is to raise sunken boats.

At the October 20th RCS Social, Rhys asked the RCS members present what was the riskiest place where a boat was in danger of sinking. "Sandheads" came one reply. "In the Strait" and "Porlier Pass" were other suggestions. "In actuality" said Rhys, "the most likely place for a boat to sink is at the dock!". Nine out of ten sinkings occur at a dock.

For the next hour, Rhys showed us photos of all kinds of boats - new, old, wooden, fibreglass. Most were unknown - some owners pride and joy; some known - like the Robertson, and unsalvageable. Some deliberately sunk to get rid of them or to collect the insurance money; most were unfortunate accidents.

Rhys stated that the automatic bilge pump was the greatest cause - indirectly - of sunken boats. Automatic bilge pumps come on when water fills to a certain level in the bilge. A casual check of the bilge

could probably reveal no significant water levels. However, with a persistent leak the continuous cycling of the pump runs the battery down until it is no longer capable of supporting the pump operation. Then the persistent leak will eventually sink the boat. A one inch hole below the water line will let in water at the rate of 5-6 tonnes of water per hour!

The second most common occurrences of sinking happen at night. Hitting light structures, either floating or fixed, is the most common. "Moths to a flame or something like that".

Insurance stats for sinking are:

- 50% below water line - most common leak sources are stuffing boxes, shift bellows, sea water strainers and hose clamp failures.
- 32% of sinkings are caused by rain and snow pushing the boat down into the water until an opening in the hull (like a discharge outflow) is pushed under the water.
- 9% of sinkings occur when a below-the-water fitting, like a seacock, fails.

Leaks in open water caused by structural damage (hitting logs or submerged objects) are not

uncommon. There is no perfect solution to stem the flow. Rhys advised that the technique of running a tarp or canvas under the hull and allowing the water pressure to push the material into the damaged area does not work - at least in his decades of experience he hasn't been able to make it work. He suggested that foam from mattresses are the best material to wedge into cracks and small holes to slow the leaking. Squishy foam balls (Nurf® balls) are better than wooden plugs for sealing seacocks that have failed.

If the bilge pumps cannot keep up with the water intake, disconnect the raw water hose from the strainer and use the engine to pump out the water. Monitor engine temperature to ensure that enough water is being circulated to keep the operating temperature within safe limits.

Some of the Blue Flasher Marine salvages are refurbished but most are demolished and destined for the dump.

After this excellent presentation, many of us went the next day to check our boats. "The good news" Rhys said "is that if the boat sinks, most of us are likely NOT to be on it". Comforting thought.



Reported by Robert Ascroft, AP



"Should you find yourself in a chronically leaking boat, energy devoted to changing vessels is likely to be more productive than energy devoted to patching leaks"

Warren Buffet

September's Fish Fry



"No good fish goes anywhere without a porpoise"
Old French Proverb



On sunny, Sunday, September 21st, fifty five hungry souls converged on the #1 picnic shelter in Queens Park for a wonderful meal of ling cod and fries, coleslaw, soft drinks and fixings.

Again we lucked out with the weather, and as usual the fish and chips were delicious. It was great to have many turn out again, and everyone had plenty of mingling time, followed by an all you could eat meal.

Draws took place for some bottles of wine and miscellaneous prizes.

Thanks to the donors of the prizes, to members Brian Sproule for donating the table wrap, and Ray Manseau for supplying the fish at a great price to us.

Labour intensive events such as this could never be made possible without the hard work and

commitment of our Squadron fish fry committee.

To the supplies procurers, fish and fries preparers, the cookers, and the cleanup crew, heartiest thanks and congratulations on another successful event!

*Submitted by
Keith Davies, APS*



Photos: Mark Garland, AP

Kudos to Our Members

Congratulations

Congratulations to Robert Ascroft for successfully completing the Advanced Piloting course.



*Happy
New
Year*

*“ The wind and the sea are
always on the side of the
ablest navigator ”*

Edmund Gibbon



Pacific Mainland District PRO Officer Eleanor Hashimoto presenting the *Chuck Farrand Memorial Award for the Best Newsletter 2008* to Newsletter Editor Georgina Ascroft, and her assistant, Robert Ascroft, with RCS Commander Keith Davies.

Bridge Officers 2008-2009

Commander	Keith Davies	604-540-0852	keithld@telus.net
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Course Schedule: Winter/Spring 2009

Boating

The Boating Course is the first in a series of courses to help you become a better and safe boater. The course includes the exam for the Canadian Coast Guard Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC).

Prerequisite:

NONE. Open to the general public.

Start:

January 6, 2009

Location:

Justice Institute

Cost:

\$275 Single person
\$425 Family of two

To Register and Pre-register for courses contact:

Al Cumiford:
604-299-1532
acumiford@telus.net

Don Hudspeth:
604-522-3477
donhudspeth@shaw.ca

For more, or the latest, information on courses, please check out the Royal City Squadron website.



Maritime Radio (VHF)

Passing this course will enable you to receive the Industry Canada's Radiotelephone Restricted Operator's Certificate Marine - ROC (M).

Prerequisite:

NONE. Open to the general public.

Start:

April 7, 2009

Location:

Justice Institute

Cost:

\$50 for CPS members
\$60 for non-CPS members

Advanced Piloting

Expands on previous courses. Chart work skills will be developed to standards recognized in the maritime industry.

Prerequisite:

Piloting Course and CPS Membership

* Depends on interest. Please pre-register to show interest.

Start:

January 6, 2009

Location:

Justice Institute

Cost:

\$130

Navigating with GPS

Simple explanation of the system which makes GPS so effective as a navigation and location aid. Covers methods of extracting the maximum navigational and safety information from this equipment.

Prerequisite:

CPS Membership

* Depends on interest. Please pre-register to show interest.

Start:

March 7, 2009

Location:

Justice Institute

Cost:

\$50

"A lot of people ask me if I were shipwrecked, and could only have one book, what would it be? I always say 'How to Build a Boat'."
Stephen Wright, Writer, 1955



Royal City Squadron Calendar of Events

	2008	February 4-8	Vancouver Boat Show
December 9	Boating Exams & Pizza Night	February 16	February Social - TBA
December 15	Christmas Social and Food Bank Drive	March TBA	Student Cruise
	2009	April 7	Boating Exams & Pizza Night
January 6	Boating Courses begin	April 20	Annual General Meeting

Boating Course Exam & Pizza Celebration



Boating Course students, mark your calendars, Tuesday, December 9th, is the course exam night.

To celebrate your achievement, join us for a post-exam tradition at Me-n-Ed's, PIZZA PARLOR, 7110 Hall Ave., Burnaby (Kingsway at Hall)

No-host, get-together for munchies and drinks from 2100 (9 PM) on, so please join us after your exam and unwind.

Volunteers Wanted

Commander Keith is seeking volunteers to become part-time instructors. Training provided.

Please call him at (604) 540-0852 or email keithld@telus.net.

We're also seeking for a Squadron Secretary. This is an easy way to become involved with your Bridge.

Again, contact Keith.

FOR SALE

Commander Keith has an authentic Vancouver Canucks #1 LUONGO jersey for sale @\$150.00. Another great gift idea for the hard-to-buy-for person.

Contact Keith at (604) 540-0852.

Stocking Stuffers!



An assortment of regalia and CPS Christmas cards will be on sale at our December 15th annual Wine & Cheese social. Great gift and stocking stuffers.

Christmas Social Special Presentation

Wine & Cheese/Food Bank Donations Evening

Visit with your fellow Royal City Squadron members at the Annual December Social Monday, December 15th in the Oak Room of Century House at 1930 (7:30 PM).



As a special presentation, our well travelled former Commander, John Neilson, will share with us his

"Recent Travels in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates". You are sure to find John's presentation informative, humorous and eye opening!

Please remember those less fortunate than us at this festive season and bring some non-perishable food donations for the Food Bank.

Receive the Mainsheet Electronically!

Do you have email? Are you receiving this newsletter by mail in black & white? Help us reduce printing and mailing costs by requesting email delivery for the award-winning *Mainsheet*.

Contact Membership Officer, Robert Blake at (604) 444-2684 or email robert.blake@telus.net to receive your copy electronically, in full colour!

Fall Student Cruise



Sincere thanks is extended to Harold Wright (*NO HURRY*), Patrick Sweetnam and Marie Lortie (*EXODUS*), for the use of their vessels to take the fall Boating Course students on an instructional cruise.

In spite of poor weather predictions, they had fair winds for this popular educational outing.

Submitted by
Keith Davies, APS

Cruise photos courtesy
of Mark Garland, AP

June 2008 Cruise to Pitt Lake's Red Brick Cove

On a nice Friday in June, six intrepid skippers navigated their vessels up the Pitt and Fraser rivers to Red Brick Cove (previously known as Christian Cove). The boats were: *No Hurry*, (and he didn't!), Harold Wright; *Grand Pause*, Don & Chantal Hudspeth; *Exodus*, Patrick Sweetnam & Marie Lortie; *Kirei*, Iz Goto & Sharon Allman; *Pacific Blue*, John & Lyn Roscoe; *Four Square*, Keith Davies

on Saturday, first the now hotly contested Bocce Balla Internazionale, (more on that later). The Saturday night barbecue feast of steak and salmon and fixings was again superb, and enjoyed by all, what more can be said?



scores being too great!

Congratulations, Don and John.

On Sunday morning the usual weenie roast around the beach fire took place and again enjoyed by all to bring to a conclusion a lovely and successful weekend.

Thanks and congratulations to Harold Wright for organizing this event again, well done Harold!

*Submitted by
Keith Davies, APS*



We later enjoyed conviviality around the beach fire. Back to the bocce, all teams were high quality performers, culminating in the final two teams of

& Eleanor Hashimoto.

Again this year some earlier concern had been expressed about the condition of the Fraser due to possible freshet conditions, however it was smooth sailing all the way. In fact at one point the police boat scooted by us, and just waved, which I believe was an OK. Even the Pitt River Bridge Keeper was nice and cooperative, maybe he's a CPS member!

Once everyone was safely moored and mingling took place, the usual delicious pot luck supper of delicious appetizers was set up, and heartily enjoyed right at the end of the dock, virtually on the water! There were at least two highlights

The Real Deal, George Hunter and Keith Davies, and *The Terminators*, Don Hudspeth and John Roscoe. The *Terminators* promptly did terminate the *Real Deal* by a big margin! Sorry I let you down, George. Being a sore loser, I launched an appeal for recount, but was turned down due to the gap in



Photos: Eleanor Hashimoto

*"The sea finds out everything you did wrong."
Francis Stokes*