



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

Winter 2009



The Mainsheet

Congratulations Fall Boating Course Graduates. We Welcome YOU as New Members



Tim Brenan



Donn Chalmers



Lynda Chalmers



Darryl Gordon



Dan Guest



Todd Koroll



Michael LeGresley



Fred Pedgerachny



Anna Smith



Mark Sobieski

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Corner.....	2
Boating Exam & Pizza Night.....	2
Volunteers Wanted	2
Calendar of Events	2
Recent Travels -Dubai/UAE.....	3
Bridge Officers.....	5
"Soggy Bottom Boy".....	5
Change of Watch Dinner.....	6
Member Kudos.....	6

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Do You
Remember this
past December?

How could
we forget?

EASILY!



Commander's Corner



Hello,

As I write this on February 4th the outside temperature is 12 degrees Celsius! Let's hope that this is a harbinger of Spring.... Wouldn't that be great!

That being said it's only a short while ago that there was over a foot of snow on our vessels. Not a good thing.

Rhys Davies the salvager, (presenter at our Oct. 20th Social), said that his firm attended nine sunk vessels at the dock after the last snow fall.

At my home port, I believe two vessels sank, and in a neighbouring marina two vessels also sank at their dock.

Sooo....if Old Man Winter decides to pay us yet another visit, please continue to check your boats frequently (details can be found in our Fall Mainsheet), so that your boat does not become a

statistic.

Most of the sunken vessels belonged to absentee owners!

I have always wanted to test the responsiveness and quality of service of our good friends the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. Well, on the night of December 5, 2008, in Ladner Harbour, I had my chance and I am pleased to report that the CCGA passed my test unequivocally!!

In closing, as the days lengthen, and if bad weather stays away, I would like to wish you happy puttering and re-commissioning of your vessels, and most of all, happy and safe boating.

*Keith Davies APS
Commander.*

PS: Regarding my CCGA "Test", there may be other reports in this newsletter that dispute my version of what happened.



Boating Course Exam & Pizza Celebration

Boating Course students, mark your calendars, Tuesday, April 7, 2009 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 and for people to fill 2009 Bridge positions. Training provided.

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

*Towing Company Sign:
"We don't charge an arm
and a leg! We want
TOWS!"*

Royal City Squadron 2009 Calendar of Events

March 1	Student Cruise	April 26	7th Annual Golf Tournament
April 7	Boating Exams & Pizza Night	May 29	Change of Watch Dinner
April 20	Annual General Meeting	June 12, 13 & 14	Pitt Lake Cruise



Recent Travels in Dubai and United Arab Emirates

Past Commander, John Neilson, resplendent in his dishdasha, was the guest presenter at the Annual December Social, Monday, December 15th in Century House's Oak Room. Here is a summary of the presentation in his own words.

Flying over the United Arab Emirates at night towards Dubai, I



Shows at the Dhow Wharfage (cargo wharves) in Dubai Creek.

looked down at the blackness of the desert and saw lines of light stretching apparently from one end of nowhere to the other, with no other signs of habitation in view. That changed immediately after landing. It was the first night of celebration after the month long fast of Ramadan and the joint was jumpin'. At 1:00 am the streets were crowded and traffic was heavy, but all I wanted was a



Butjal-Arab seven star hotel - Dubai.



John Neilson, bedecked in his Arabian garb for his presentation. The head scarf is called a gutra, the black head rope used to secure the gutra is called agal and the floor length shirt-dress goes by two different names, depending on which country you're in. In Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar it is called a thobe and in Kuwait, the UAE and Oman it is called a dishdasha.

comfortable bed.

The UAE came into existence when six Emirates united in 1971. A seventh joined the following year. Previous to that time the area had been under British rule and since the collapse of the pearling industry in the early 20th century, due to the market being flooded with cultured pearls, the area sank into poverty.

The first oil concession was

granted in 1939, but it was 1962 before the first cargo of crude was shipped from Abu Dhabi. Dubai had to wait until 1969 for its first crude export. Most of the buildings at that time were mud brick structures of one or two



View through a window of the Emariates Palace Hotel - Abu Dhabi

stories and the roads were tracks in the sand.

Today I find it hard to comprehend the progress that the country has made in such a short time, shorter in



Derelict Dhows - Dibba

fact than the time I've lived in Canada. Looking at many of the buildings, my impression was that the architects had been given a free hand to indulge their flights of fancy. You can't help noticing the unimaginable (to me) wealth in the country and you realise that

Continued on page 4.

Recent Travels in Dubai and United Arab Emirates

Continued from Page 3.

almost anything is possible with that much money. The multi billion dollar developments going on across the country would make Mr. Harper and friends turn green (with envy; not environmental zeal).

The highways are the best I have ever driven on. All are divided highways with two lanes in each direction, except for a few serving areas with very small populations. Between the two major cities, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, a distance of 150 km. there is a minimum of four lanes each way.

The roads are billiard table smooth and trucks are banned from the fast lanes. The posted speed limit is 120 k., but how are you going to blow the cobwebs out of your Ferrari if you're just idling along like that. No one seems to mind if you eradicate the arachnids.



Typical UAE highway across the desert sowing the light standards and a "no trucks in the fast lane" sign.

The signage could be better, but you do get to see more when you're driving those extra miles trying to figure out where you are. The worst part of driving was the many three lane roundabouts when someone would have to shoot across all three

lanes when they got to their exit. Roundabout roulette?

Of the two main cities, Dubai is more glitzy, commercial, cosmopolitan, has more traffic and traffic jams and works at attracting visitors. Whereas Abu Dhabi leans more towards the cultural side, is



Ornate columns at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque - Abu Dhabi

more laid back, less traffic and traffic jams and is much easier to find your way around in and get around. Of the two, I preferred Abu Dhabi.

I visited museums in every town I was in and I could see that they're making a real effort to preserve and document their culture and history. It drove home to me how rapid the change has been from being a third world country to one of the wealthiest in the world.

The UAE is one of the safest Islamic countries for westerners to visit and indeed I felt extremely safe there, safer than in many parts of



Full size model of a Bedouin leading his camel - Dubai Museum.

Vancouver. I'd be very happy to go back again; I keep finding out about more things that I missed on that first visit.

Oh yes! Those lines of light across the desert. They were the highways. They're lit so brightly at night that you really don't need headlights. The lighting goes completely from one end to the other, even miles from anywhere in the middle of the desert.

Article & Photos by John Neilson



Bedouin campsite - Abu Dhabi Heritage Village



“Soggy Bottom Boy” - A True Tale

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have your attention please.

I know many of you already know about this incident because Commander Keith Davies has 'fessed up a few times, but the following is the TRUE tale.

On December 5th last year six of us boarded *Four Square* at Captain's Cove Marina for a wonderful dinner followed by motoring down river to the vicinity of Westham Island for the purpose of taking part in the *Christmas Ships Light Cruise* along the Ladner waterfront.

There were 15 or so boats all

lighted up and decorated and we had a nice tour of the Ladner waterfront. The procession ended just opposite the Ladner Harbour Park and the boats began to mill around a little. As we were close to the last boat in the procession we were opposite Port Guichon and Commander Davies decided to “scooch” off to port and take a channel between two islands to get into Rochon Passage and beat the crowd back to Deas Slough and Captain's Cove Marina.

Now, I don't know if that channel has a formal name but it COULDN'T be as colourful as the

name Keith called it as we slithered to a stop in the soggy bottom just inside the mouth.

We were not HARD aground in the ooze, but we weren't going anywhere either. Left to our own devices we would have probably been there until high tide, which MAY have floated us off. BUT, the Delta Coast Guard Auxiliary unit had been escorting the procession and came to the rescue. The four unit members were marvellous. They towed us off the mud, checked to ensure that everyone was safe, inspected the bilge for leaks and

Continued on Page 6

Bridge Officers 2008-2009

Commander	Keith Davies	604-540-0852	keithld@telus.net
Executive Officer	Chantal Hudspeth	604-522-3477	cjhudspeth@shaw.ca
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Communications Officer	John Roscoe	604-617-4285	jroscoe@dccnet.ca

Change of Watch 2009 - Friday, May 29th

Circle May 29th on your calendar and get ready for a great time. It's the 2009 Change of Watch Dinner celebrating the outgoing and incoming Bridges and presentation of certificates to Boating Course graduates.

Lyn Garland is chairing the planning committee.

Dress is the CPS uniform (blue blazer, grey slacks, white shirt & tie or business suit). For the ladies, a semi-formal outfit is suggested.

Location: Roma Hall, 940 Ewen Ave., Queensborough in the large room downstairs Ample, and free, on-site parking.

Dinner: The five course dinner includes appetizers, baron of beef, pasta, and choice of desserts.

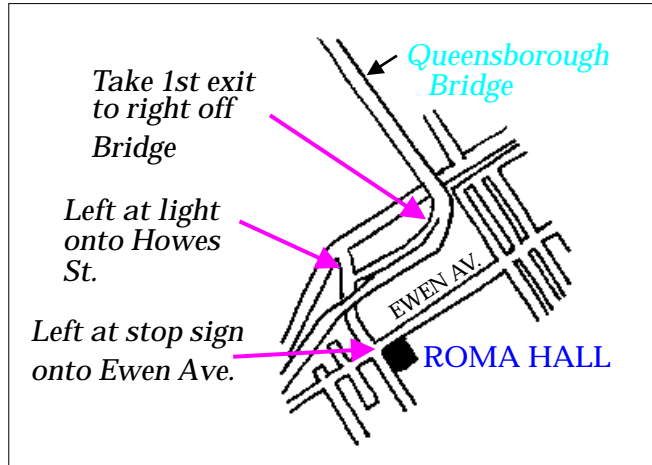
With the sit-down dinner, we all eat at the same time.

Eleanor at 604-522-3448
.Donations are gratefully accepted.

Regalia Sales: This is also the time to acquire Squadron regalia and clothing items from Regalia Officer, John Neilson.

Time: Cocktails begin at 1800 (6 PM), followed with dinner at 1900 (7 PM).

Ticket price to be announced. The hall capacity limits the number of tickets, so buy yours early - no tickets sold at the door. Tickets available March or April from some Bridge officers or contact Commander Keith Davies - 604-540-0852.



Door Prizes: The committee has been busy canvassing for door prize donations. If you would like to contribute a door prize, contact Mark or Lyn at 604-525-2724 or Keith at 604-540-0852 or



“Soggy Bottom Boy Saga” *Continued*

led us back to the mouth of Deas Slough, checking with Keith all the time to make sure that there was no bent shaft or damaged propeller. As a matter of fact the only damage sustained was to Commander Davies self-esteem and reputation.

I propose a nomination to the members of Royal City Chapter of the Canadian Power Squadron:

I nominate “SOGGY BOTTOM BOY” Commander Keith Davies, Skipper of Four Square for the “Bent Prop Award”!

Submitted by Dave Witham

Member Kudos



Commander Keith and Past Commander Eleanor volunteered for CPS info booth duty at the 2009 Vancouver International Boat Show.