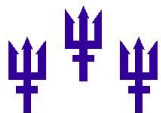




GANGPLANK

A UNIT OF CANADIAN POWER AND SAIL SQUADRONS

JANUARY 2010



Commander's Report

Volunteer recognition

This past month, I have reviewed the efforts contributed by members in order to recommend awarding Merit Marks – the only “pay” that volunteers receive and the only route to Senior Member and, eventually, Life Member status. Out of a Squadron membership of 647*, about 26 members will qualify for a Merit Mark for their efforts at the squadron level. A few more will qualify for their participation at the District and National levels. This provides clear evidence how the organization is actively supported by “the few”. Without these dedicated volunteers, TPS and CPS would founder and wither away. My thanks to each and every one of them. (*includes all membership categories).

Those who devote time and energy to the squadron's activities enjoy great satisfaction in their association with fellow members and students. Many others are content simply to support our aims with their membership dollars, and that represents an important and welcome contribution.

Squadrons across Canada, and indeed, across North America, have seen declining enrolment in courses over the past year. Toronto Squadron has been able to maintain reasonable numbers in the basic Boating course, but we were forced to postpone most elective and advanced courses from the Fall of 2009 to the Winter of 2010. As of the time of writing, several Advanced and Elective courses are scheduled for the Winter and Spring sessions.

Take a course – 50% discount to members

This is a good point at which to remind everyone of the **50% Discount** that is being extended to TPS members on all **elective and advanced courses**. If you have been putting off taking further courses, now is the best time. If you are looking to take higher level courses such as Coastal Navigation or Celestial Navigation, or perhaps one of the many Elective courses, contact **STO Wanita Gray**.

CPS Caribbean Cruise

Every few years, CPS National organizes a group deal on a “big-ship” cruise. In 2010, the cruise sets sail on February 7 for seven days in the Eastern Caribbean. I am happy to say that Annie and I will be on board for this one, as we enjoyed the last one so much. CPS members from across the country join the cruise and some of them even bring their sextants and navigation equipment just in case the cruise line crew need some help! Details of the cruise are on the national web site at www.cps-ecp.ca/public/public.aspWCE=C=56|K=228354|CAL=224335
My very best wishes for safe and happy boating in 2010

Tony Cook, Commander



The Weather Network Studio Tour

Port Credit Squadron has organized a tour of the Weather Network studios in Oakville on Wednesday February 10th at 1230. This is a one hour tour that will show you how the weather forecasts are developed and prepared for broadcast.

There are only 20 spaces available for this interesting tour.

Contact Lauren McIntosh at 905-820-5662 or email Pauline Wettlaufer at paulineuu@sympatico.ca if you are interested in attending.

Welcome new members

Graduating from the Fall 2009 Boating course and thus becoming new members of CPS are the following sixteen students:

Ian Ainsworth, Peter Mahut, Christina McMullen, Tien-Xi Huang, Cynthia Boudah, Chase Selznick, Tsarevna Gray, Shaun Carey, Arun Maini, Henry Rose, Glen George, Sandra Manson, Adam Scale, Andrew Paranczuk, Kitty Ki and Patty Anne Valenti

Welcome to TPS – we look forward to seeing each of you in further courses and perhaps becoming a Boating Proctor.

IMPORTANT DATES

Bridge Meetings are held the second Monday of each non-boating month. All members are welcome - contact a Bridge member to confirm location.

- Jan. 18 **Winter Courses** commence American Safe Boating Awareness Week
- Jan .18 **Seamanship** - Forest Hill Collegiate – 1900 website for all dates
- Jan .19 **Boating** – Forest Hill Collegiate – 1900 (view our website for all dates
- Apr .14 **Weather** 6 weeks—Forest Hill Collegiate – 1900
- Apr. 22 **York West District AGM** – 1900
- May. 4 **PCOC Course**—2 evenings **May 4 and May11**

FOR ALL IMPORTANT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES REFER TO THE WEBSITE www.torontopowersquadron.org

The Farthest East We've Ever Been: *Cruising from Toronto to the Thousand Islands*

Bryn Harris

When Sandor and I sailed out of Toronto in July of 2008, we had practically no sailing experience, and we'd acquired most of it a very long time ago. However, we both had Boating, Extended Cruising, and a smattering of mini-courses, and Sandor had a newly minted Piloting certificate. Not only did we learn a great deal while following the actual course work, but we also had a lot of opportunities to talk to instructors and fellow boaters, and in a few cases the instructors have continued to be in touch ever since, offering advice whether we want it or not!

From Boating, we knew the rudiments of navigation and the aids to navigation. We knew some excellent techniques for docking in different wind conditions. Sandor was quite keen on methods such as keeping a line on the stern to help turn the boat in a tight space. He enjoys trying out docking techniques on *Spartina*, the boat on which we live and cruise.

We used quite a number of recommended methods (as well as some non-recommended methods) for getting afloat when you have gone aground. Shifting weight to the bow helped us get afloat in Whitby. We managed to go aground an impressive number of times, especially in our first few days when we visited virtually every port east of Toronto. Leaving Bluffers Park, we visited Frenchman's Bay, Whitby, and Port Darlington, even checking in for lunch at the old derelict port of Oshawa . . . We can tell our instructors they gave us a good "grounding" for cruising.

We did a lot of conning in Lake Ontario and the Thousand Islands, especially in the area of beautiful Prince Edward County, where I grew up, and to which I now travelled by boat for the first time -- as well as the Thousand Islands, which was mostly new territory. Being becalmed a few times, we got to know certain landmarks extremely well. The twin towers of the Lennox and Addington power plant come to mind, as does the wind turbine outside Pickering Harbour. We stared at these for hours.

Sandor in particular loves ranges. "Hey -- there's a range!" was a common shout as we'd be steering toward a port. Another phrase heard commonly on our first cruise, starting on only the second day out: "This is the farthest east we've ever been!" Perhaps too commonly. We were thrilled to be able to convert anchoring theory into practice as we found delightful anchorages on the north shore of the lake, all around Prince Edward County (which we effectively circumnavigated), and at Beaurivage, Endymion, Mulcaster, and Leek Islands. We took pride in anchoring under sail, and sailing away from anchor. We combined "anchoring practice" with "grounding practice" in Main Duck Island, where we kedged off in tiny Schoolhouse Bay after spending a night grazing the gravel.

One thing that unexpectedly enriched the cruise for me was my self-study of Piloting . Even though part of me wanted to just be on holiday, it was quite motivating to learn, say, techniques for finding distance off when we could put them into use right away. Actually I ended up using double the angle on the bow *before* I had learned what it was about, because Sandor had already taken the course and was my chief mentor. He also taught me whipping and splicing as we cruised, as well as those useful knots. By the way, our anchoring skills were put to the test in Cobourg at the very end of the trip.

With a gale warning in effect, we were the only boat anchored in the harbour, and for good reason. We watched the wind speeds go up to 35 knots and beyond, and even in the sheltered harbour I saw the gray spray flying off the peaks of the waves as I went out after dark to put fenders out. This was in case we needed to do an emergency docking in the night,

(Continued from page 3)

although the thought was not a pleasant one. You know, if the anchor should drag or something. As I stood on deck, I was caught in the steady beam of a Coast Guard search light, although whether they were trying to signal us or just checking that we were all right was unclear. I waved at them feebly. (Were we all right?) But the anchor held!

So those courses do offer an excellent grounding for cruising. The classroom may not be a substitute for experience; but the experience you get after taking CPS courses is probably much richer and more useful (not to mention safer) than unschooled experience. And the courses don't just give you information. They also suggest creativity, keeping your mind open to different solutions to new problems. Clearly boating is one of those activities in which you can't possibly anticipate all of the possible equipment failures or the configurations of wind and waves that might make or break a trip, so the ability to think creatively is well worth cultivating.

And those knots! Never mind the fact that I use a round turn and two half hitches for almost every application. You never know when someone is going to ask for a bowline, and every self-respecting bar-attending sailor should be able to pull one off at a moment's notice, when someone at the harbour bar wants a demo!

Next issue: In 2009, armed with Advanced Piloting, Sandor and Bryn set sail for Halifax.

DID YOU KNOW ?

SALUS Marine Wear Announces Partnership with CPS

Kitchener, Ontario – SALUS Marine Wear – a Canadian based manufacturer of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) – announced today that they have partnered with Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons (CPS) in their efforts towards educating and promoting boating safety across Canada.

CPS will have 150 volunteers conducting Recreational Vessel Courtesy Checks across Canada while wearing Salus Comfort Fit PFDs.

Other marketing efforts will be realized in cross-promotional advertising between CPS and Salus.

“This is a great partnership with lots of synergy” says Steve Wagner, President of Salus. “CPS offers quality teaching and training while Salus makes quality PFDs. Both organizations have the similar purpose of making boating safe and enjoyable”.

“Another great advantage to this partnership” says Wagner “is that CPS has been in existence for over 70 years and Salus only 9 years. Salus will benefit from CPS’s strong National exposure and long standing association with the marine industry while Salus bring a fresh and cool factor into the mix.”

“As a promoter of safe boating practices and education in Canada” says Alain Brière, Executive Director of CPS, “it is only natural to partner with SALUS Marine Wear, a creative Canadian PFD manufacturer that develops award winning safety wear solutions adapted to all types of boating activities”

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

I would like to start out by thanking all those who stepped up to the plate to help out with this educational season. I am new, not only to the Toronto Squadron Bridge but as a Squadron Training Officer as well. As a member of Ajax Squadron, I proctored the Boating course for several years while also instructing the Extended Cruising Course for Toronto Squadron. Getting to know the various people that make up the bulk of Toronto's volunteers was difficult as I do not have the knack for remembering names. Tony Cook, Commander, is a wealth of information and always keeps me on my toes as to what I need to do next. James Lang, Randy Boccia, Tanya Abolins, Bob Robertson, Peter Frost, Humphrey Carter and Joni Alexander have been there to instruct, mark exams and generally lend support in a big way – thank you. Working full time, doing shift work at a hospital, shows that volunteering can happen at any age no matter how busy. A little bit from everyone helps keep this squadron going.

In our Fall Boating course, we had 22 students, a full class. There were several new assistants to help out each evening who were students last year. Charles Beall, Stephen Selznick (whose son was in this class), Dan Douglas and Emi Jiwan. It was great to have so many 'step up' Thank you. Larry Gaum from the Richmond Hill Squadron, had moved into the city and called me out of the blue to ask if he could be of assistance. He is a wealth of knowledge and is an excellent instructor who comes with his own slides! Since we do a 12 week course instead of the 20 week course, we have to keep him to the clock!

The Boat Pro `course had 9 students who all passed their PCOC exam and will be one of the first card holders to have the National State Boating Law Administration NASBLA (USA) approval on the back.. We were the first squadron to use the online result entry for PCOC marks and did away with the paper forms. The next Boat Pro course will be in May 2010. The Marine Radio/VHF course ran in December and with 7 students and another session is scheduled for April. The Seamanship course was delayed until January 2010 and attracted 17 students – a record! Bob Roberston is working hard at bringing Electronic Charting to the Squadron and is poised to run it in February 2010.

The current Winter Boating course is full, with 24 students. As the Fall was a season of sickness, we will have a few students from the Fall class in to review the charting sections and write the exam. Fundamentals of Weather will be given by Joni Alexander in April with 5 students already signed up. With no one signed up for Extended Cruising we may have to cancel it for this year.

Training News;

The new Web-based Administration System (WBAS) was not as hard to grasp as I thought it would be. Tony gave me a quick intro last May and gave a seminar to the District STOs at a training session in August. This system allows the student to register online and all their registration information is there for the squadron officers to see. They don't get lost in the 'system', as their profile follows them through all future courses and any positions they may take with the organization.

I was excited to be able to attend the national Sherbrooke Convention in October. I did not lose any time or money by attending the many meetings and in fact tried to do two meetings at once. The new or continued initiatives of CPS were exciting to me. What is available to us through the website is valued and the MAP² is ready to be implemented with its passport, flag, and decals to be distributed.

One of the goals I set myself as an STO, was to get an Instructor Development course going. Well, one opens one's mouth and one volunteers, right! Along with Carolyn Reid and Pauline Wettlaufer, we have organized two sessions; one in November and one in February 2010. Little did I know that CPS is looking towards Professional Development for increased recognition from professional and government bodies.

I am glad I stepped up to the plate. Though it is time consuming for me, it does not have to be for you. A little bit helps. So email me if you think you can spare a bit of yourself for a rewarding experience to benefit a good cause.

Wanita Gray, STO wanitagr@rogers.com



**A “SAFETY AT SEA” SEMINAR
(For Power and Sail Boaters in compliance with US SAILING requirements)**

**Sponsored by The Royal Canadian Yacht Club
APRIL 10, 2010**

Are you prepared for an on the water crisis, medical emergency, man over board situation, gear failure or collision? Do you know what to do to help yourself or others in an emergency? RCYC is offering a Safety at Sea seminar to provide information on these and other aspect of safety. The “Safety at Sea” Seminar sponsored by RCYC on April 10th, 2010, and is sanctioned by US Sailing. This will allow attendees to obtain a Safety Certificate that may be required for offshore racing.

The full day “Safety at Sea” Seminar is modeled after the US Naval Academy Midshipman training course. A US Sailing approved moderator and other expert speakers will instruct on practical ways to enjoy a safe boating season on the Great Lakes.

RCYC is the only Canadian location for the event this year. Pre-registrations indicate that attendees are coming from all around Lake Ontario. The event will be of special interest to participants in the Lake Ontario 300 race and the Lake Ontario Short Handed Series as well as club racers and recreational boaters.

Distinguished keynote speakers include John Rousmaniere, who has logged over 35,000 miles sailing long passages, cruises, and ocean races. His book, Annapolis Book of Seamanship has been one of America’s standard sailing manuals for 25 years. John Rousmaniere will be talking about the latest developments in crew overboard prevention and recovery, heavy weather sailing, life on board during long passages, and disaster avoidance. Joining John is former Commodore Naval Academy Sailing Squadron, Capt. John Bonds, USN (Ret.) also Past Chairman of US Sailing. Captain Bonds will cover water survival and flotation, boat and crew prep for offshore boating, abandon ship procedures, calling for help, damage control and repair, and giving and receiving aid.

Other specialists will provide information on how to prepare a medical kit and offer medical assistance in the event of an on-board injury, explain the latest weather service resources for boaters, and advise on commercial rights-of-ways and how to share the waterways safely with big ships. The Coast Guard and the Metro Marine Police Services will provide information on their activities and the assistance that they provide to boaters.

The seminar is a full day event running from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2010. The presentations will be held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) Auditorium which is located at 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1V6 just near the St. George St. subway station (and next door to the RCYC clubhouse).

All boaters are encouraged to attend this event, but attendance is limited to 225 attendees so early registration is recommended.

Visit www.safetyatsea.ca for information on the program, seminar fees and to register. Questions can be directed to TPS Past Commander Carson Woods cwoods@cwal.ca



News from York West District

National CPS Conference coming to Toronto

2013 seems a long way in the future, but CPS National has asked the local Districts of York West, York East and Quinte, to stage the national conference that year in downtown Toronto. Past District Commander Annie Cook (currently serving as both TPS Secretary and National Recording Secretary) is to reprise the role of Conference Chair that she so effectively managed in 2004 when the conference was last held in our city. Over the coming months, squadrons and districts will be asked to provide support for the conference organization. 2013 marks the 75th Anniversary of the founding of CPS, and a great deal of the early history of CPS is bound up with your squadron.

Recreational Vessel Courtesy Check program (RVCC)

CPS has been tasked by Transport Canada with operating this service for recreational boaters across the country. Essentially, volunteer CPS members will be trained to perform Courtesy Safety Checks on vessels in their local marinas and yacht clubs. The volunteer will spend a little time with the boat operator to review the presence and condition of the equipment mandated by federal boating safety regulations (as listed in the Safe Boating Guide). Volunteers are **not** asked to perform technical checks on vessels, however.

If you would like to be considered for a chance to take part in this program, please contact the District coordinator, **P/C Keith Nettleton** (Etobicoke Squadron) keith.nettleton@sympatico.ca

District Merger Review

Over the past few years, the Districts of York West (our district) and York East have seen a shrinkage in the number of Squadrons. Several Squadrons have ceased to exist and others have merged, most recently Centennial Park and Humber Valley merging into Etobicoke Squadron.

If we go back 30 years or so, the two Districts were one – York District. Now the wheel seems to come full circle and the Districts are discussing the potential for a merger.

Your input on this topic is welcomed.

Please address any comments you might have to Cdr. Tony Cook, skipper@searoom.com and he will include them in his summary report to the District Council.

Flare disposal

Last August, the Ontario Provincial Police extended a one-week campaign during which they accepted expired flares for disposal. There is no word on whether this will be repeated, since the OPP found the effort to be expensive in terms of cost and staff.

However, CPS is actively pressing Transport Canada for a resolution to this problem and Past Chief Commander Doreen Hinksman (Brampton Squadron) is also the chief thorn in the government agency's side as she continues to work strenuously on a boating committee that is addressing the problem. Working with government agencies is often a time-consuming and frustrating experience. We are fortunate to have someone as dedicated and experienced as Doreen working on our behalf.

A sidelight on this issue: Coast Guard reported a total of only 35 instances of flare usage in marine emergency events during 2009. The question being asked in boating circles is whether new technology might be introduced to replace these dangerous and toxic incendiary devices. High-powered LEDs; low-cost EPIRBs or SPOT devices, for instance?

Bridge 2009–2010

Commander:	Tony Cook
Training Officer :	Wanita Gray
Secretary:	Annie Cook
Assist. Training Officers:	
Administration:	Christine Biggs
Boating	Peter Frost
Radio	James Lang
Administration Officer:	Bob Robertson
Treasurer:	Bob Robertson
Public Relations:	Vacant
Membership:	Christine Biggs
Social:	Vacant
Past Commander:	Randall Boccia
Squadron Information Line	905-619-8967
www.torontopowersquadron.org	

Pumpkin Soup



The following recipe was one that a New Zealander made for our Christmas meal. There were 3 boats, a German, New Zealand and Canadian boat anchored in an island's bay off of the coast of Brazil. I serve this cold on a nice hot day.

1 kg peeled pumpkin (or ?gourd)	juice of 1 lemon
4 ½ cups chicken stock	1 tsp curry powder
1 medium onion chopped	1 tsp brown sugar
6 spring onions chopped	salt & pepper
4 tomatoes peeled and chopped	
garnish: whipped cream	
300 ml cream & chopped chives	

Simmer until tender the pumpkin, chicken stock, onion, spring onion, and tomatoes. Blend in food processor and return puree to saucepan. Add the cream, lemon juice, curry powder and brown sugar and season to taste. Re-heat to blend but DO NOT boil. Serve hot or chilled with a blob of whipped cream and a sprinkle of chives in each bowl. (I like it chilled on a hot summers day)

Wanita Gray
Toronto Squadron Training Officer

WEB WATCH

When was the last time you visited the national site? You can participate. Just clicking onto the Boating Resources tab alone brings up some articles and links that boaters enjoy when not on the water. Logging onto Members Moorings allows you to update your profile, view the current events and news and participate in the Boating Forums.

Listed here are sites from our members new and old.

- Brian Stewart and Jane Witherspoon are both long time members - Brian is a Past Commander. Their web-site is complete with logs and numerous photos www.pilgrimspassages.com/
- Liveaboard articles by Ken Goodings and Lynn Kaak - Cruising on Silverheels III www.searoom.com/silverheels
- Bryn Harris' summer cruise on Lake Ontario; www.picasaweb.google.ca/brynharr
- By far the longest series of cruising logs from Aubrey and Judy Millard on Velda IV at: www.searoom.com/

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