

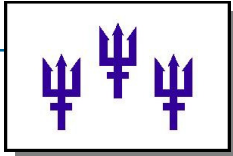


GANGPLANK

A UNIT OF CANADIAN POWER AND SAIL SQUADRONS

September 2008

Commander's Report



The Summer that was

Will the Summer of '08 be remembered fondly or filed away with those events we would rather not think about? Should we build a monument to the wettest summer since records have been kept? There is a precedent, but in reverse. A monument to the Summer of '57 stood in the grounds of Portmeirion Village, Wales, (locale for the TV series "The Prisoner"), celebrating somewhat tongue-in-cheek, a summer when the sun shone endlessly, a rare thing for North Wales. <http://www.portmeirion.com/>

Judging by the frequency and violence of the electrical storms that passed through Southern Ontario this summer, I suspect that experience and knowledge of safe boating proved essential for anyone boating on the big waters of our Great Lakes. CPS members have that knowledge and benefit from excellent advanced courses that provide the grounding that enable them to face severe conditions with confidence.

Share the message

Our task is to ensure that we share our knowledge and experience with as many boaters that we can reach. Your Bridge works hard to reach our training audience, those who have not yet taken the first step in attending a 12-week Boating course. Each of our members can help in this effort. Last month I sent a message with a PDF attachment that lists our course schedule for this Fall and Winter (that file is repeated in this issue and is available on the web site). If you are able to print off that flyer and post it where potential students might read it, we will be well on our way to filling our classrooms this coming season.

By the way, you only received the above information if we had your email address on record! Hint, hint. See the section on websites below.

Of course, we also have an existing audience – all of those members whose training activity stopped at the Boating level. This year we are offering two new courses: the short course **Navigating with GPS** and the advanced course, **Seamanship**, both of which would give you useful new knowledge and keep you in the boating frame of mind over the cold winter months.

Bridge developments

Following an illness that resulted in hospitalization, our Membership and Public Relations Officer, Barry McQuillan regretfully had to stand down. Barry is well, but has to curtail some of his extensive volunteer work.

As well, our Treasurer, Darren Payne, has stepped down for personal reasons. Bob Robertson, currently Administration Officer, has stepped back into the Treasurer position pro tem.

I hope that by the time this newsletter reaches you, that we have new volunteers appointed to fill some of these positions, as our list of Bridge officers continues to show significant gaps, throwing a heavy burden onto a few volunteers.

Events

We tried at short notice, to stage a Rendezvous in Georgian Bay. It didn't work out this time, but expect to hear about one for 2009, this time with lots of advanced notice!

(Continued on page 2)

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Another training year about to start, with your Squadron well set to provide a series of courses for the boating public.

There have been changes to the training staff this year. I am the new Squadron Training Officer. In my day job I am Senior Technical Writer/Trainer. I produce maintenance manuals, training course material and deliver the courses. I look forward to using my skills with TPS. It is a new challenge for me but I look to the other members of the bridge for advice as I find my way in this new position. I will also have the help of **Christine Biggs**, who is returning as an ASTO and to **Bryn Harris, John King, Peter Frost** and **Robert Ward**, the new ASTOs for the Squadron, as well as the instructors who teach the courses.

This fall we are offering our Boating Course, Navigating with GPS and 2 Sessions of the VHF Marine Radio Course. In the winter we will again be offering these courses in addition to Piloting (which has been renamed Seamanship), Extended Cruising, and Fundamentals of Weather and the PCOC Seminar.

Looking at the courses that are available to us I find there are a number of them that should be of interest to all boaters. I encourage you to check them out on the national website. If any are of interest contact me and if we get enough interest I will add them to our schedule. I would also encourage all of you to think about teaching some of the courses – even one lesson. I want the squadron to be in a position to offer all of the courses available and have instructors for them all.

James Lang
STO

(Continued from page 1)

National Conference

At the end of October, I shall be attending the National Conference in Windsor, accompanied by my wife Annie (who then wears her other hat as National Recording Secretary) P/Cdr Randall Boccia and Bob Robertson (in place of James Lang your Training Officer who will be away on business). Other bridge members have also been invited. While the Conference is a great social event and we get to renew friendships with colleagues from coast to coast, it is also a working conference with day-long meetings and seminars. I will report to you about the activities in the next Gangplank.

This is the 70th Anniversary of the founding of CPS in Windsor. By an odd quirk, Toronto Squadron holds the first charter awarded (1948). Windsor obtained their charter the following year. However, we promise not to steal Windsor's limelight! The Port Hole, now the CPS member publication, was originally the Toronto Squadron's newsletter. The Gangplank name was adopted when the national organization took over the Port Hole.

As Commander, I have the responsibility to carry the wishes of the membership to the national body. At the special Commanders' meeting, squadron representatives have the opportunity to express concerns and extend wish lists. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please email me and I will bring those items to the attention of the meeting or to the national department best able to address them.

Websites

Following a fairly eventful introduction (eventful in geekspeak = problematic), the national website www.cps-ecp.ca or perhaps better, www.cpsboat.ca has settled into an excellent and informative resource. For new students, the online registration and payment functions are a breeze and also give your squadron officers a better handle on class size development and cash flow.

For you the member, the site can provide extensive information about CPS – not just in the public area of the site, but also in the restricted member area. If you have not done so, I urge you to visit the site, log in to the member area (your email address and your own password) and discover what's going on at the national level with training and all national departments, such as public relations, and take part in the CPS Forums where members express their views or seek information on boating topics.

Once you log in to the national site, your email address becomes part of the squadron membership record, which means we can contact you directly. As we send out several "eNewsletters" during the year, you are missing out if we don't have your address.

Your squadron website continues to provide information on our squadron activities and has direct links to course registration. Past Commander Randall Boccia will be looking after the site once again, now that we have acquired web software for his use.

How Can Anyone Go Boating Without the CPS Boating Course?

By Brian Gibson

Terry MacPhee and I came to boating late in life. Having never owned a boat, we somehow decided to purchase a new Chaparral SSi215 “Cuddy Cabin” boat last fall. We just could not resist a bargain - the Canadian dollar was trading at US\$1.05, and the boat manufacturers were extremely anxious to get a sale. As with a lot of seemingly foolish things in life, “it seemed like a good idea at the time”!

A bit like the dog that chases cars and finally catches on, we had to learn how to operate a boat! We decided to sign up for the twelve week Boating Course offered by The Toronto Power and Sail Squadron. Many snow blizzards later, we had graduated and were looking forward to our first boating season.

Terry and I have been out several times on Lake Simcoe, sometimes for extended overnight trips. The lake would make a perfect teaching example for the CPS Boating Course. There is almost every type of navigation buoy (lit and un-lit), a weather buoy, natural and manmade ranges, shoals, underwater cables, various types of bottom for anchoring, etc. There is also river navigation because we keep our boat at the Holland River Marina.

Since the lake is notoriously dangerous in bad weather, we have been forced to pay close attention to the weather by monitoring weather broadcasts, etc. We have even heard a few serious May Days. (We were prepared for these because we also took the CPS VHF Course.) It has proven to be a good lake to put into practice almost all of the knowledge that we gained in the Boating Course.

We just spent a week cruising the Rideau Canal and the Thousand Islands, so we have dealt with transiting crowded locks and complicated navigation. There are lots of shoals in the Thousand Islands – all of which we deftly avoided! For each trip, we manually plot our intended course. We then plot the same course on a laptop computer and transfer that route information to the GPS/plotter on our boat. This may seem like a belt-and-suspenders approach, but it avoids any errors with electronic plotting. We can also check for errors in our manual position calculations.

We find that the paper chart is the best way to get an overview of the intended cruising area without losing any detail – it is hard to do this using the electronic charts because the chart detail is lost when you “zoom out”. We keep the paper chart at the helm for reference while underway. We have found that it is really helpful to choose waypoints that are near clearly identifiable objects. Old fashioned conning skills are surprisingly handy, even with modern electronics. Conning is still the only way to be sure where you are! We are gradually getting to know the main features of the lake.

As new boaters, our biggest shock and disappointment has been the lack of skill and etiquette of so many boaters. There can be a lot of boat traffic in parts of the lake, so we really have to keep focused to avoid potential problems. Other than ourselves, we did not see anyone wearing life jackets early in the season when the lake temperature was barely 50 degrees. If you knew anything about cold water survival, you would realize the extreme danger of not wearing a life jacket.

We have seen everything from a boat towing a water skier through a crowded, speed restricted area, to a 35 foot cruiser proceeding full throttle up a busy river with a posted 10mph speed limit, to a large cruiser filled with beer drinking buddies who blissfully charged through a group of boats – in spite of being the give way vessel. We continue to be shocked by the needless danger created by careless and untrained boaters.

We are extremely glad that we took the CPS Boating Course. Some of our friends thought that taking the course was “over kill”, but we now know how important this knowledge can be to a safe boating experience. So far, our boating has been fun and uneventful. We have really enjoyed the beautiful scenery and the “boating lifestyle”.

Now we are preparing for a week in the Trent-Severn Canal system...

Brian Gibson is a graduate of the Winter 2008 Boating course



70th Anniversary
OF CANADIAN POWER & SAIL SQUADRONS
Windsor, Ontario • October 22 – 25, 2008

Register online at www.cps-ecp.ca

Office of the Chief Coroner

In May 2008, the Canadian Safe Boating Council (as well as Waterski/Wakeboard Canada, the Life Saving Society and the Office of Boating Safety) was contacted by NMMA Canada regarding a letter received from the Office of the Chief Coroner relating to an incident which took place August 14, 2007.

Excerpt from letter: *On August 14, 2007, an Ontario family rented a boat from a marina for a day of tubing. The boat had a tripod style tow bar with the centre pole mounted to the floor of the boat and two braces mounted to the rear corners of the boat. The tow bar was not new having been removed from another boat and installed in the rental boat. There were no warnings or labels affixed to the tow bar that could be determined. At the time of the incident, there were three children on the tube when the tow bar became detached from the floor mount striking a child who was sitting in the starboard rear seat of the boat causing a fatal head injury. Investigation revealed that this type of towing apparatus is not recommended for use with inflatable water toys.*

As a result of the investigation, the following recommendation is being forwarded to you for consideration.

All boat manufacturers, marinas, water toy manufacturers and their distributorships, rental outlets, and the boating public should be advised of the circumstances surrounding this death. Inherent in this recommendation is the need to ensure that appropriate, safe and approved water sport towing devices are utilized by the boating public.

The Canadian Safe Boating Council was copied on NMMA Canada's response to the Chief Coroner for On-

tario. The letter noted that the recreational boating industry closely liaises with the Office of Boating Safety within Transport Canada and has had discussions at the bi-annual Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC) meeting about strengthening the rental boat checklist. NMMA's letter further noted there are Regional Boating Advisory Councils (RBAC) run by CMAC and NMMA has recommend the Office of Boating Safety review--with all the RBACs--this critical issue and come back with suggestions on how and what to communicate to businesses and stakeholders mentioned in the coroner's letter.

NMMA's letter further pointed out that Transport Canada publishes an annual Safe Boating Guide for the general public that includes a section outlining a checklist for inspecting a boat. At the bottom it mentions: "Planning on renting out your vessel for the season? You may be required to have a rental boat safety checklist on board." NMMA's letter suggested there might be an opportunity to review the info in this section.

As the Canadian Safe Boating Council and Lifeguarding Canada are engaged in educating the public about safe boating, each organization will be reviewing the coroner's letter with their respective Boards; and the Executive Director of the Waterski/Wakeboard Association of Canada has advised that he would communicate to his membership any messaging which would help educate the public.

For further information on the coroner's letter or the actions of the Canadian Safe Boating Council, contact CSBC Vice Chair,

[Michael Vollmer](mailto:vicechair@csbc.ca). vicechair@csbc.ca

WEB WATCH

Listed here are sites from our members new and old. Well worth a visit

The photo site of s/v Asseance, sailed by TPS members Don Mockford and Heather Mackey

[flickr.com/photos/asseance](https://www.flickr.com/photos/asseance)

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

pilgrimagepassages.com/

Liveaboard articles by Ken Goodings and Lynn Kaak (cruising in the south on Silverheels III).

searoom.com/silverheels

Bryn Harris' summer cruise on Lake Ontario; Bryn is one of our new ASTOs

[picasaweb.google.ca/brynharr/SpartinaCruise](https://www.picasaweb.google.ca/brynharr/SpartinaCruise)

By far the longest series of cruising logs from Aubrey and Judy Millard on Valeda IV at:

searoom.com/veleda

Members are encouraged to send us links to their cruising photo albums or websites

Cold Water Boot Camp

If Darcy St. Laurent can drown in cold water, so can you.



Meet Darcy.

- He is a highly decorated veteran of the Canadian Military (Star of Courage and Medal of Bravery).
- He has been a combat engineer, combat diver, army parachutist, explosive ordnance disposal technician and a UN Peace Keeper in Cambodia and Bosnia.
- He is currently a Search and Rescue technician and a key team member for the North Pole leg of Save the Poles 2010.

Darcy was just one of 9 Canadians who volunteered for a very special mission--to swim the cold waters of Lake Simcoe in late April, just after the ice melted.

The project was **Cold Water Boot Camp**. Its goal was to help educate the public to the fact that when it comes to cold water, the best way to survive is to have your lifejacket on.

Darcy was joined by other volunteers **Mike Brako**, (marine enforcement officer, Winnipeg), **Alice Musto** (Desolation Sound Yacht Charters), **Ryan Lewis** (police officer, Sydney), **Eric Cartlidge** (Ontario Sailing), **Chris Berneche** (Canadian Coast Guard rescue specialist), **Antoine Ouellon** (Lifesaving Society), **Ginette Traversy** (firefighter, Edmonton) and **Krista deShane** (Canadian Coast Guard, Sarnia).

The water temperature for Cold Water Boot Camp was a balmy 7 degrees and over 2 days, the Boot Campers got wet and cold as they demonstrated what happens to smart, fit individuals if they find themselves in cold water.

Exercises included a swim 'until you fail', cold incapacitation tests, and comparative swimming between individuals (with and without lifejackets). Two of the boot campers, Eric and Antoine, stayed in the icy water for almost an hour to experience and demonstrate mild hypothermia.

At the center of the boot camp activities was Dr. Gordon Giesbrecht, (**aka Professor Popsicle**), Doctor of Thermo Physiology at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Giesbrecht is a world renowned expert in cold water immersion and provided valuable information and insights into the effects of cold water as the boot campers experienced it first hand.

Cold Water Boot Camp will be packaged into a half-hour television special that can best be described as *Fear Factor meets Myth Busters*.

In addition to the 30-minute version, a shorter classroom DVD, 4 PSA's and a website (www.coldwaterbootcamp.com) with lots of streaming video will also be available in the fall.

Cold Water Boot Camp is part of the National Search and Rescue Secretariat's New Initiatives program and was created in partnership with **Transport Canada, Office of Boating Safety, Canadian Safe Boating Council, Play Safe Productions** and a variety of others, including the **Canadian Coast Guard, the Ontario Provincial Police, Helly Hansen, Rescue 7, York Region Police Marine Unit, Georgina Fire and Rescue** and **York Region's EMS** to mention just a few.

Of particular note is one partner's contribution--the **Lifesaving Society**. In conjunction with their agency, Draft FCB and Pattison Outdoor, a cold water poster was created and has been placed in malls, transit shelters and other outdoor media venues across the province of Ontario.

A full presentation of **Cold Water Boot Camp** will be part of the [CBSC Annual Symposium](#) at Viamede Conference Resort and Spa this coming September.

Bridge 2008–2009

Commander:	Tony Cook
Training Officer :	James Lang
Secretary	Annie Cook
Assist. Training Officers:	Christine Biggs , Bryn Harris, John King, Peter Frost and Robert Ward
Administration Officer:	Bob Robertson
Treasurer:	Bob Robertson
Public Relations:	Vacant
Membership:	Vacant
Social:	Vacant
Past Commander:	Randall Boccia
Squadron Information Line 416 486-9819 (days) www.torontopowersquadron.org	

MEMBERS

WE'RE LONELY AND COULD USE THE COMPANY.

Old Man Winter is about to visit us again and one sure way to endure his stay is to remain active and involved in the one thing we share and love—Boating

Whether it is taking a new course, teaching or getting into the Squadron social scene it can be very rewarding. Being involved in our organization has the added benefit of staying current in new technology and safe boating practices that will enhance your own boating experience.

The new progressive direction of CPS is encouraging broader membership and new course relevance than ever before. Volunteering a little time goes a long way in staying up to date on the activities of the Toronto Squadron and CPS in general. I encourage you to simply join in on a Squadron meeting to see what is happening or come and join us at any one of the social events we may plan for the coming year.

As you can see by our Bridge listing we are looking to fill some positions currently available. We welcome you to enquire further with us to learn how to become involved and look forward to your company and contribution to this important teaching organization.

The editor

CPS-ECP CARIBBEAN CRUISE



7-Day Western Caribbean Cruise
on the Veendam - February 7-14, 2010



Join us on this Caribbean cruise vacation. Embark on this journey to tropical islands where you will explore sunny beaches, shop at charming boutiques and bask in the warm sun.....

Set your watch to island time and prepare to experience the uncommon Caribbean of Holland America Line. On the horizon: classic ports of call such as Key West, Puerto Cortes, Santo Tomas De Castilla and Costa Maya. Onboard find yourself enjoying each moment to the fullest with the outstanding service, food and entertainment on the VEENDAM.

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.

- Sept. 16 Courses commence – Boating, Electronic GPS, VHF Forest Hill Collegiate,
- Oct. 22 - 25 National Conference and AGM - Windsor Ontario 70th Anniversary

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

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