

Officer Reports – Bridge Meeting: Jan. 25, 2021

Commander's Report

AT THE SQUADRON LEVEL

The main activity that has continued since our last Bridge Meeting of November 23, 2020 has been the delivering of Blended Boating Courses. Blended Boating Course 2+3 by our XO and SAEO Nigel and Blended Boating Course 4 by our SEO Agathe. Both courses are coming to a close as I am writing this, except for the exams. I wish to thank Agathe and Nigel for their non-stop efforts in delivering these courses to some 19 students in total. Also thank you to other Bridge Members and Squadron members who have been helping out with these courses.

We have not had a “live” Christmas Party, nor have we had a “live” social event or an open-air event in a long time, and hopefully at some time in this year of hope 2021 will we be able to hold such events again in some format.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

CPS-ECP National now does have an agreement with Microsoft, whereby Microsoft 365 (previously named Office 365) is now available to Squadrons and their Officers. This includes an e-mail address (for example a specific CPS e-mail address for the Gabriola Squadron Membership Officer). It also includes free access to TEAMS, which is similar to ZOOM or GoToMeeting. Our Bridge will have to review if and how the CPS Microsoft 365 can be useful or not for our Squadron.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Van Praet, Cdr.

Communications, Privacy, Scuttlebutt Editor

Scuttlebutt: Plans are to publish the next edition at the end of February for March-April. I would love to have any reports – Agathe, Nigel, Jean-Pierre and anyone else who has inspiration to contribute. Sadly, we have lost a key member recently, Hugh Sproule. I will be reporting verbally at the meeting. Also, Rufus Churcher lost his wife Bee at the end of 2020.

Communications Committee: Bert has been busy with his presentations of his epic voyage, and there are more scheduled. He is presenting to a yacht club in the Seattle area soon.

Privacy: Nothing to report.
Respectfully submitted,

Don Butt

Membership Report

There are currently 61 members in the Gabriola Squadron. Fifty-nine are regular members. With the recent death of Hugh Sproule, there are only two life time members at this time.

I am in the process of reminding delinquent members to renew.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Pearce
Membership Officer

Education Officer Report

Since the last Bridge meeting, nearly two months ago, the Gabriola squadron Educational department has stayed active, in spite of the COVID pandemic. All courses are now offered using the CPS-ECP Moodle online learning platform and student meetings, whether this be for check-ins, review of material or Exams, are done using our GoToMeeting app and regular emails with Students.

•**Maritime radio (Roc-M):** I continue to administer exams to all the students who register in our Online Self-study course. We've been seeing a steady stream of registrants; mainly from Gabriola, some from other Coastal communities without Roc-M Examiners. All Exams administered online using our GoToMeeting video-conferencing app. The 4 students who participated in the Exam writing session on Monday the 30th of November passed. 1 of these was from Gabriola, 1 is a DFO employee from Nanaimo, one lives in Calgary and the other lives in Toronto. One student from Alberta/Nanaimo wrote, and passed, his Exam on Tuesday the 29th of December and another 3 students (2 Gabriola & 1 Duncan) wrote and passed their Exams on Saturday the 23rd of January. Presently, we have 3 students studying to write their Exams in February.

•**Boating 1 – PCOC:** This course is entirely Online and self-study now so we do not need to interact with the students anymore. Even the exams are done online.

•**Boating 4** course: All 6 students and their main instructor (Agathe) have settled into a routine of going online to read the Course notes and do the Homework exercises before the Wednesday evening **Go-to-Meeting** review session. Review sessions continued until December 16th at which time we took a two-week break for the Christmas season. Meetings resumed on January 6th

and continued until January 20th. All students finished the course and are presently writing the Moodle based exam and doing their Chart work to send in to the Examiner. The two sessions facilitated by John Bullis (Weather) and Sean Lewis (Heavy weather sailing & Buoyancy) were greatly appreciated by all students.

•**Boating 2-3** course: Nigel Wells continued to facilitate the Review sessions on Tuesdays for this class. He reports that 9 of 13 students have completed the course and will write the Exam. Review sessions ended on Tuesday the 19th of January and the online exam is being written by the students. So far 4 students have taken the exams and all have passed with an average percentage of 91%. 5 more students will probably take the exams this week.

In closing, I suggest that the Education department will take a few months break from offering courses. There might be some energy to organize an online Seminar or Presentation and the ROC-M exam sessions will continue but there is not much appetite for taking on another 14-week commitment to regular evening classes.

Respectfully submitted
Agathe Gaulin
Education Officer

Webmaster Report

The microsite is up to date and I am happy to report that working with HTML has definitely become an easier process as of late. Who says that you can't teach an old dog new tricks?!

As Jean mentioned, Microsoft 365 is now available for use by Squadrons and their Officers. This is probably not such an important thing as most of us already have our favourite word processing/office packages installed on our computers.

However, it does include free access to TEAMS, offered as an alternative to GoToMeeting or ZOOM as video conferencing options. At this point, reviews are mixed as to which option is best for most people.

Microsoft Teams seamlessly integrates with all of Microsoft's other office products (of course), including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and SharePoint. Integrations exist with other meeting platforms too, like Zoom and GoToMeeting, so you can start, schedule, and join those meetings without leaving Teams.

Audio and Video calling quality is top notch, and it is great for screen sharing. However, it doesn't work well with slow internet connections and call drops can be frequent. At this point in time, this may be its biggest deficiency for some of us on Gabriola.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Hunter