

Officer Reports – 2021-11-15

Commander:

Here is my report for the last four weeks. In short: we are doing quite well when it comes to our boating courses, our “Guide to Boaters Services” committee has done great work so far; and the problems with the CPS-ECP National website continue.

A little bit more detail:

EDUCATIONAL

I have been helping out Agathe (our Squadron Educational Officer) a bit with the weekly review meetings of the B2+3 course while Nigel was away in the UK. This is a large group of now 15 students. Nigel has returned and is now in full charge again of this course.

Agathe has led the first two review meetings of the B4 course, which now has 5 students.

Agathe certainly will provide the Squadron with much more detailed information about the Educational Department’s activities.

Regarding the plan to provide some type of boating education to the GES older children in May and June of 2022, the school principal and I have been playing phone tag during the last few weeks and have not been able to talk yet. We do need a Bridge person to lead the planning for this effort during the late fall and winter months. We will also need other Bridge members to participate. Thanks for considering helping!

We should not underestimate the amount of work involved for Agathe and Nigel. Beyond the preparation of the review meetings and the review meetings themselves, there is the organizing of tutors, the adaptation of the courses to students’ requests, the assistance to students with enrollment and getting into the courses online (because of the problems with the CPS website), the obtaining of materials for the students (charts etc.), it does not end. Thank you Agathe and Nigel, and thanks you Sean, John B, Gary, and Don for helping.

GUIDE TO BOATERS’ SERVICES

The Committee set up during our last Bridge Meeting, at the initiative of Bob Derksen, has done good work and has presented its report. The committee included Don Butt, Ivan Bullic, Bob Derksen, Gary Small and John Bullas). The basic idea is to create a three-fold handout using a standard size that can be easily printed and/or photocopied, and then distributed to Squadron members and the boating public. This is great work already which will require more work to bring it to the “ready for distribution” stage. We will need a person to take on this work.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Our Squadron has now been operating without a PRO for almost a full year. We really do need somebody to come forward and offer some of his time to this very social position. The PRO is one of the most popular people in a Squadron. So, if you know somebody who would like to take this on, please let me know.

Similarly, the Squadron does need somebody to take on the development, distribution, and update of the "Guide to Boaters' Services", which will involve regular contact with people and companies providing services. Again, if you do know somebody who might help, please let me know.

CPS-ECP National

The people at CPS-ECP National are of great help. The serious problems with the CPS-ECP National website however continue, especially when it come to the membership section (unreliable info) and Course advertisement and registration. Let's hope that they can be overcome soon.

Waiting for the next pineapple express to bless us with more rain and snow,

Respectfully submitted,
Jean-Pierre Van Praet, Cdr.

Communications, Privacy, Scuttlebutt Editor:

Scuttlebutt: Scuttlebutt was just published a week ago. There was not a lot of material to talk about but I managed to get in nearly the full complement of pages. Special thanks to John Bullas for his timely article on the weather bombs. Good feedback on that, John.

Communications: We are in the process of developing a system that will give us information on the members, their needs to ensure proper maintenance of their boats with the loss of the shipyard.

I wonder if it's time to think of asking for an assistant in Scuttlebutt, etc. – in a year I'll be 90 years old and maybe time to think mentoring. It has been more than 22 years on the job. (Just a reminder)

Privacy: Nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Butt, AP

Education:

Though I did take a month off my duties from mid-September to mid-October, I have quickly caught up on my responsibilities.

•**Maritime radio (Roc-M) & PCOC (Boating 1):** With more changes to the CPS-ECP national website at the end of the Summer, we have not been able to set up Gabriola specific registrations for these online courses, as we did in the past year. Instead, when a student contacts me for one of those courses, I sell them a manual, support them with studying the material, then let them contact me when they are ready to write the Exam. Most exams now are done via GoToMeeting. Another “hiccup” of the new system is that I cannot recover lists of Students who have not completed their studies and Exams. More website exploring to do!

•**Boating Tips column for the Sounder:** The first set of 6 articles sent in late June have finally been published. Others are being published sporadically. A recent visit with Sarah & Derrick allowed us to come to the agreement that we would pay \$100 per month for the CPS banner published with our website address. This set up was first published in the November 10th Sounder and we should now see regular columns every two weeks, as per the original agreement. I will continue to send 2 columns every 2 weeks so members are encouraged to continue writing and submitting these. Most potential students are coming to us via this promotion in the Sounder AND of course the sandwich boards on the roadside.

•**Boating 2-3** course: This online, blended course started in October with the first GoToMeeting session facilitated by Agathe on the 18th. Nigel Wells was supposed to facilitate and organize presenters for the 15 students (5 from Gabriola) but an ailing parent in the UK called him home. Agathe got things going and now that Nigel is back, he will be facilitating this course starting on November 15th. Presently, Jean-Pierre VanPraet, John Bullis and Sean Lewis are all scheduled to present specific topics, according to their interests. This course continues to mid-December, takes a break for the Holidays, re-starts in early January & exams will be held at the end of January.

•**Boating 4** course: We have 5 students registered for this course including one from Gabriola. Weekly check in and review sessions are facilitated by Agathe on Wednesday evenings via our Squadron’s subscription to **Go-to-Meeting**. Presently, Jean-Pierre VanPraet, John Bullis and Sean Lewis are all scheduled to present specific topics, according to their interests. The course continues to mid- December, takes a break for the Holidays, then starts up in early January. Exams will be held at the end of January, like the Boating 2&3 Course.

•Finally, Sean Lewis and I have planned an in-person workshop dealing with Collision Regulations, Navigational Aids and Maneuvering. This 2-hour workshop would be held on a Friday morning and end with lunch at Robert’s for those who want to join us. It is proposed that we rent the Hall so the space is large enough to distance and we would follow all pandemic protocols. Workshop to be opened to all Gabriola boaters; with registering priority given to CPS members. All input appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,
Agathe Gaulin, Education Officer

Membership:

There are currently 44 members in the Gabriola squadron. Of this number, two are life members and 42 are regular members. There is an increase of three members since the last bridge meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Pearce

Financial:

Gabriola Power Squadron Financial Report – October 31, 2021

October 2021 Opening Balance **\$7154.68**

Expenses: (-)

Sounder-Advert for courses - \$206.64

Agathe Gaulin-Digital meeting app (year subscription) - \$185.64

John VanPraet-Lil Gabe insurance - \$130.12

Total Expenses: (-) **-\$522.40**

Deposits: (+)

CPS-ECP +153.60

CPS-ECP +\$38.40 (?deposited in October)

Total Deposits: **+\$192.00**

November 2021 Opening Balance **\$6824.28**

Respectfully submitted,
Jude Briscoe

Webmaster:

Updates have been made to the microsite regarding Officer Reports, Minutes, Scuttlebutt & several housekeeping items. Once the “Guide to Boaters’ Services” has been finalized, I will look forward to adding it to our site.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Hunter