



Valley Power and Sail Squadron

Member of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons

Training in safe power and sail boating



Squadron Homepage: <http://www3.telus.net/valleysquadron/home.htm>



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Commander's Corner



Valley Squadron Members,

I would like to thank all the Valley bridge members for their dedication again this year. On that note I would like to put out an invitation to any members interested to be on the bridge this coming year, or in changing positions, if you are already on the bridge. A strong bridge makes for a greater pool of resources and ideas which creates a better squadron overall. New blood is always required to make things happen.

Boating and Boating Safety is a big part of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, but we also have fun on the water in the summer and socials in winter. If you missed the great Christmas party, come on down to our February Valentines pot luck and join new and long time members to yak and mingle.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Great New Year.

Front Cover: December Meeting,
Graduation Students' swearing in to
CPS/VPSS by Shirley Shea, Regional
Training Officer
Photo by: Larry Nielsen

Yours Truly,

Ray Salloway

VPS Commander

Editor's Notes

My apologies for omitting the credits for the photos included in the November GAM. Thank you to Ray Salloway and Charleen Gregorig for co-authoring the Desolation Cruise article. Thank you to Barb Marshall, Gary Clow and Charleen Gregorig for the pictures used in both Sailpast and Desolation Cruise articles.

Christmas Party, November 25, 2011 by Sandra Clow, pictures by Larry Nielsen



Our most recent social event was the annual Christmas Party at the Yarrow Hall on Friday Nov. 25th. A great evening with no snow meant a good turnout of 67 people to the party and our members generously brought many items for the food banks of Abbotsford and Chilliwack. We had a wonderful assortment of tasty dishes provided to go with the turkey as usual. John and Karen Laing entertained us with their slides and video of their summer long cruise to Alaska in Evita.

Many thanks to the crew who helped set up on Friday morning and the many hands that helped with cleanup at the end of the evening. Much appreciated!!



Valentine's Party, February 17, 2012

Our next social event will be the Valentine's Party on Friday, Feb.17th once again at Yarrow, 6:30pm. It will be BYOB (Bring Your Own Beverage). Call Sandra Clow for information on what else to bring.

Christmas Party, November 30, 2012

For those of us who like to plan in advance, we have confirmed for next year's Christmas party on Friday, Nov.30, 2012 at the Yarrow Hall.

Our website is full of valuable information for every boater. Check out the 'Links' page.

You will find links to the following:

- The GAM (in colour)
- More pictures of various events
- Training opportunities
- Canadian Power Squadron Web Site for information to members and also where to submit your Profile and/or Address Change used for the Roster in the Pacific Yachting magazine.

A Cruise to Remember

Story and pictures by Gary Clow

At Thanksgiving, a few of us decided we should have one more cruise before putting our boats to sleep for the winter. Cruise Master Tim suggested a few days in the San Juan Islands. With November 11 a holiday for some of us, we left the docks at Blaine at first light on Friday, November 11, headed for Rosario Resort on Orcas Island. We wouldn't be alone on the water because there was a lot of naval and coast guard activity on the water, some sort of joint Canada-USA military exercise in the area.

The day was cool and clear as we started out. Our group consisted of Tim and Barb on Tatika, Tony and Christina, on OH SEA DEE, Ted and Charleen on Abracadabra, Gary and Sandra on Descanso. With one trawler and one sailboat in our group we cruised at 6 knots through still, calm seas, the early morning sun dancing on the water. On the radio Tim joked with Ted about getting through border security with an Afghan hidden on board, referring to Flame, their beautiful Afghan dog. Ted replied that he was sure the Afghan would be a little mischievous during the next few days.

Our route to Rosario Resort took us south toward Lumi Island, past Lawrence Point on Orcas, west through Obstruction Pass and then north into East Sound to Rosario Resort. All went perfectly until we neared Lawrence Point where we were suddenly engulfed in fog which formed so fast we hardly knew what was happening. Descanso was the only boat with radar so moved to the front of the line. Everyone had GPS chart plotters so we knew where we were. Descanso could watch out for other boats around us.

As the fog rolled over us Tony radioed Ted, "Your Afghan is going to be able to sneak into Rosario under the blanket of fog!" That brought lots of chuckles and a few more Afghan jokes which served to break the tension of motoring through the thickest fog any of us had ever seen. We continued slowly on, radar reflectors up and hopefully announcing our presence to other boats. It was good we had them because the water around us was, for some reason unknown to us, becoming really congested with other boats, a fact known only to Gary and Sandra on Descanso with radar. Some of the boats were small, others huge, probably tankers heading south.



Abracadabra

We slowed as we made the turn into Obstruction Pass to head west. On the radio I asked everyone to tighten up our formation because of the narrow channel and all the other boats around us. We still couldn't see them in the thick fog, but there were dozens of them. Maybe there was a salmon run or something.

Following up on Tony's earlier broadcast about sneaking into Rosario, Tim radioed, "That's good guys, a nice tight grouping for the assault." That brought more laughs and more comments from the rest of the group as we slowly motored through the thick grey blanket of fog. None of us were very comfortable in the fog as we cruised between islands and rocks which we could not see. My biggest

concern was the incredible number of vessels around us that only I could see on our radar. Finally I radioed to the rest of our group, "Valley Squadron, be really careful and keep a sharp lookout. There are dozens of vessels around us in the fog."

Totally blind in the fog, except for our instruments, we finally were out of the narrow, rock choked Obstruction Pass and rounded north into East Sound and towards Rosario, now only four miles away. Our way was fairly clear now.



Suddenly, a gasp. Collective gasps on every one of our boats. Our GPS systems went down. What a time for a GPS glitch. I radioed everyone, “Valley Squadron, I can lead us, but pull ahead so you can see the stern of the boat ahead of you. I guided each one until we were like a tight string of pearls moving up the sound. It wasn’t bad for me, but it was very spooky for everyone else who had to trust me to keep them off the rocks. The crowd of boats around us, still out of sight, was moving with us and if anything, growing in size. Really bizarre, and scary since they too were now without GPS. Once again I reminded everyone to keep a good lookout. Again, one of our group joked that “Maybe the Americans don’t like Afghans!” That broke the tension a bit.

As we cruised through thick fog Descanso’s radar showed an abrupt change in the pattern of the dozens of boats around us. The outer ones formed a double ring around our boats about a third of a mile out from us. Then about a dozen smaller vessels picked up speed and headed straight towards us, three boats coming at each of our boats.

“Valley Squadron, watch out, something strange is happening. Lots of boats are cruising straight at us,” I radioed. Suddenly one of the small radar images ahead of us seemingly morphed into a large island right ahead of us. This time I radioed with a bit more authority, “Valley Squadron, Valley Squadron, Valley Squadron. Everyone stop. Everyone stop.” On the radar I saw a 500 foot island ahead of us where there should be nothing but a tiny blip on the radar. “A huge object just appeared out of nowhere right ahead of us.”



As Descanso slowed, two more huge objects appeared on the radar screen, both behind us but one to port and one to starboard. At the same moment I saw them, the island in front of Descanso materialized out of the fog. Descanso coasted to a stop with an immense submarine conning tower rising heavenward above it. Small navy vessels, the radar dots, zoomed in on us. On both the VHF radio and on loud speakers we heard, “Come to a complete stop. Prepare to be boarded. Move away from the helm and raise your hands.”



Utter terror as each of our group, unseen by the others in the fog, looked at 50 mm machine guns, automatic weapons, rocket launchers and navy SEALs in full combat gear appearing out of the fog. Only Sandra and I could see the immense submarine looming out of the fog. What was happening? What was going on? What had we done?

That’s all the time we had even to think before we had a boat alongside and six SEALs on board. “Don’t move a muscle” they ordered. My knees were shaking so badly that was impossible. In an instant they were below, searched everything, looked in the engine compartment and then radioed to someone, “Alpha team, we’re clean.”

Then the question, “What is Valley Squadron?” I shakily explained who we were and where we were going. As I was finishing one of the SEALS, evidently listening to his radio, began to laugh. He looked at the others and said, “Relax, they found the Afghan.” Everyone looked at the NCO and he continued, “It’s an Afghan dog. These guys really are boaters out for the weekend.” Everyone relaxed, guns descended and we were told what happened. The US President and Canadian Prime Minister were having a secret meeting on Orcas Island. The military exercises were actually guarding the leaders. The military overheard our VHF transmissions about the Afghan sneaking into Rosario. That and our other jokes had set in motion a huge operation to contain the threat to the leaders.



Tension gone, the SEALS were great. The fog began to lift and we saw the fleet of submarines, destroyers and smaller craft around us. The jamming of our GPS signal ended and once again we had navigation systems. Two navy patrol boats escorted us the last two miles into Rosario, waving and laughing as they left us at the docks.

What can you say? We were all pretty shaken but had lots to talk about. And talk we did until dinner time. We had reservations at the resort dining room and at 6:30 pm but our group of 8 arrived to find a huge sign saying, “Sorry, but we are closed tonight.” As we stared in dismay at the sign a woman who looked more like Secret Service than a waitress asked if we were the Valley Squadron group. Finding we were, she told us we would have our meal, a very special meal, with some very special hosts who had heard

about our interesting military reception and wanted to make amends. We were ushered into the dining room, seated, and introduced to our dinner hosts, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama.



Cruising

Contact Cruise Master: Tim Marshall

604-820-6810 or timmarshall@shaw.ca



2012 Cruise to Princess Louisa Inlet August 4-18, 2012

With the 2011 Boating Season drawing to a close it is time to start looking forward to next summer’s adventures. Some of you will have to book your vacation time soon - so this will be the official launch of the 2012 Cruise Preparation.....

There are only a few days in the summer where slack tide at Malibu Rapids will work for a group of both fast and slow boats to get through on the same day. The cruise to Princess Louisa Inlet and the Sunshine Coast will be August 4-18, 2012.

There is a holiday weekend at the beginning of the cruise - there could be an extra day added for those poor souls that have to go back to work.

Ocean CRUISING

Join us for Ocean Cruising Adventures 2012, a series of presentations coordinated by circumnavigator and author Anne Brevig.

Skippers share their exciting experiences and practical advice about offshore sailing aboard small boats.

Adventures



PHOTO: ALISON STRECHER/MUSEUM OF COASTS

JAN 20... After seven years of ocean voyaging, with two kids born along the way, Bruce and Tiffany Halabisky will tell their story of sailing around the world on an old 34' wooden sailboat.

JAN 27... Rick LeBlanc and Carol-Ann Giroday explore BC's remote Gardner Canal where glacier-fed waterfalls and rivers feed jade green waterways.

FEB 3... Life's lessons learned. Jeananne Kirwin shares her young crew's adventures along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard to Cuba and the Bahamas.

FEB 10... Racing single-handed around the world is an incredible feat. Hear Derek Hatfield's truly inspiring story of how anything is possible if you Never Give Up!

FEB 17... Sweden to Syria and More Brian Anderson and Barbara Robertson share highlights from their Sweden-Syria-Mediterranean adventure.

WHERE H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Aud., 1100 Chestnut, Van. **WHEN** Lectures begin at 8 pm (doors open 7 pm). **COST** \$13 per lecture or \$50 for series. Seniors, Museum members and Pacific Yachting subscribers: \$11 per lecture or \$40 for series. All prices include tax.

ADVANCE TICKETS call 604 257-8300 or purchase at Maritime Museum. Also at the door on evening of event.





LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



The Boating Course: Cost: 275\$ for 1 person, and 175\$ for a second person living at the same address as the first person. Anyone interested should contact Gary Clow at Gary_Clow@telus.net or (604) 792-9373.

Chilliwack: Thursday's from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM starting **January 5th** at Sardis Senior Secondary - Geography Room C111 for 13 weeks.

Harrison: Wednesday's from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM starting **January 11th** at Harrison Yacht Club for 13 weeks.

VHF Radio Course: April 17th, 24th and May 1st at 7 pm at Sardis Secondary. To Register please contact Bryan Stolee at bjstolee@telus.net

Good Boating Weather Ahead

Do you do a lot of cruising on your boat and feel the need to be more weather Savvy? Sign up for the Fundamentals of Weather course.

This course covers many aspects of the formation and behavior of the weather around us. Meteorology is quite technical in nature, whereas Fundamentals of Weather is presented in a clear, straightforward manner that eliminates much of the jargon and takes some of the mystery out of weather.

The study of weather is both fascinating and satisfying. The skills you will develop from this course will serve you for a lifetime. With practice, you will be able to make short term forecasts - challenge the professionals as to who better predicts the weather in your local area. With Fundamentals of Weather, you will forecast the weather beyond 'red sky at night'.

Want more information? Contact Rob Turner at: 4turners@telus.net



Graduation December 2011 pictures by Larry Nielsen

This year there was some interesting times spent a different classroom atmosphere due to last minute cancellation of the school classrooms. Thank you to Darren & Lorna Jansen for opening their home to accommodate the class.



Congratulations to all our graduates who persevered; Tanya Marusech, Cheryl Dodd, Darren & Lorna Jansen.

Boat and Engine Maintenance Course

The Boat and Engine Maintenance Course will begin on January 11, 2012. The course is filling fast and space is limited. If you want to take this course please PRE-REGISTER by [clicking here](#) and completing the registration form.

Jan 11 to
Feb 29



Boat & Engine Maintenance

Mouat Senior Secondary
Room 216
Abbotsford, British Columbia

Begins: Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Place: Mouat Secondary School, Abbotsford, BC

Price: \$125.00 CPS Member \$150.00 Non-Member

The enjoyment of boating includes both the pleasure of using the boat and the satisfaction of properly maintaining it. To many boaters, working on their boat is part of the fun, to say nothing of the savings in costs. All boats need maintenance to correct for the gradual deterioration from wear and tear, and exposure to the elements. A boater should be on the alert for signs of vessel degradation, and make repairs while the problem is minor.

From spark plugs to bottom paint, the Marine Maintenance course covers all the basics for Do It Yourself boaters.

Register Now. Class size is limited.

Use the following link to register:

http://www.cps-ecp.ca/public.asp?C=39&K=225480&ListingByCategory=323&ListingBySubCategory=B%26EM&ListingByMonth=*ALL*&ListingByEventType=&ListingByProvince=&ListingByCity=

Contact Tony Lamb for information at hyperlambs@telus.net



1987 Model 2850 Bayliner Command Bridge
 Powered by two 305 V8 engines with Cobra outdrives. Vessel is equipped with 2 compasses, GPS plotter, 2 VHF radios on separate antennas, 2 windshield wipers, double horns, electric and alcohol stove, electric fridge, 12 volt and 120 volt services through an inverter, separate head with sink, shower and toilet, 2 holding tanks, sink in kitchen area, loads of storage and dry storage under large birth, custom music system large seating area with table and separate sleeping area under for two more people, table and seating area also makes a sleeping area for two more. Pictures available. All repairs by "Steve"s Repair" – records available. Asking \$22,000.00. 32 ft. boat trailer also available. March 2010 survey available. OFFERS !
 Email - egstevens@shaw.ca
 Phone – 604-858-9936

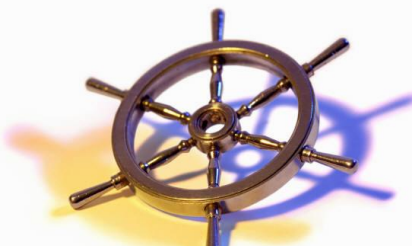
This spot is reserved for members of Valley Power & Sail Squadron for the sale of personal marine items.

Please contact Joanne Lillos at djsailing@shaw.ca with your picture of item and write-up.




Commercial advertising space is available at a cost. Please contact Gary Clow for pricing information at

Gary_Clow@telus.net



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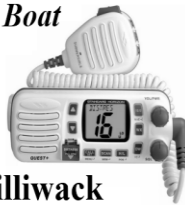


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All Members are Welcome!

Bridge meetings are open to all Valley Squadron members, every 2nd Tuesday of the Month
Join us at 19:00 hours, (7:00pm) sharp at

Crossroads Restaurant, Sumas Exit at Hwy#1, Abbotsford, BC.

Please come and join us for our next meetings:
January 10th and February 14th

Valley Squadron Bridge Officers 2011-2012

Commander	Ray Salloway	852-8700	salloway@telus.net
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Sq. Training Officer	Gary Clow	792-9373	Gary_Clow@telus.net
Sq. Assistant Training Officer	Tony Lamb	853-8832	hyperlamb@telus.net
Sq. Secretary	Elaine Stevens	858-9936	egstevens@shaw.ca
Sq. Treasurer	Colyn Welsh	309-9210	ckwelsh@shaw.ca
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Port Capt- Cultus/Harrison	Dave Hampson	819-4275	corahenderson@shaw.ca
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