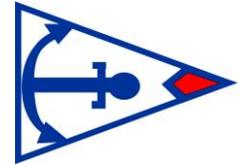




# The Bitter End

Editor: Bill Reynolds AP



December 2014

**Newmarket Power & Sail Squadron**  
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## From the Bridge...

Winter has arrived early this year. There was twelve inches of snow on the drive this morning and the plows had filled in the end of the drive with almost two feet of heavy white stuff. I hope this is not a portent of things to come. Memories of last year's record snow are still floating in my consciousness.

Happily the boat has been put to bed and awaits the budding of trees and twitter of robins. At our Club, the last lift-out occurs after Thanksgiving. I had plans to sail through to the end but high winds, rain and waves in October put that idea to rest. I did get all the maintenance jobs done though so now we wait for the Boat Show and dream of warmer days.

I spent a few days in Quebec City attending the Canadian Power Squadron's Annual General Meeting. The event was memorable for the food, historic surroundings and great people from across Canada who share a love of boating. My wife, Gale, and I sat with a group of Newfoundlanders from the Avalon area. It turns out that their home town is right across the bay from Gale's family home. We shared many laughs and tales of 'The Rock.'

The Squadron Commander workshop was an important session where I heard ideas from other squadrons from Nanaimo to St John's. The breadth of knowledge within our organization is astounding. We met the new Chief Commander and many of the National Directors. They are a keen group and will provide CPS with leadership for the next year.

Our squadron continues to promote safe boating by offering courses at Dr. Denison HS on Tuesday evenings. Course offerings are listed in this edition of The Bitter End and at [boatingcourses.ca](http://boatingcourses.ca). If you know someone who is getting into boating or wants to upgrade skills, let them know what we can provide.

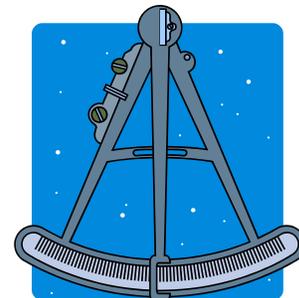
Finally, I want to thank everyone in the Squadron for your ongoing support. Membership is a start. We need members to keep our squadron going. Participation in courses takes you to a higher level. We love students! Then there are folks who do the work: teachers, mentors and Bridge Officers. Your efforts help everyone on the water by raising levels of knowledge and skills. Canadian Power & Sail Squadron, members, students, teachers, and officers all work together to make boating a safe pastime.

Merry Christmas to all. See you at the Boat Show.

*On behalf of the Bridge:*  
*Bill Reynolds, AP*  
*Squadron Commander*

# Course Offerings for Novice and Experienced Boaters

This year we are offering a variety of courses that we hope will interest boaters of all abilities. For first time boaters there is Boating Basics through which you can receive your Pleasure Craft Operator's Certificate (PCOC). The next step is Boating Essentials which expands on the Basics program and introduces charting, the use of marine charts for navigation. Seamanship, one of our advanced courses, will be run in the winter and VHF Radio will be offered in April. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about boating, check out our website and enroll in the program that meets your needs. All of our courses are run at Dr. Denison High School, 135 Bristol Rd, Newmarket.



**Starting January 20, 2015:**

- Boating Basics
- Seamanship

**Starting February 24, 2015:**

- Boating Essentials

**Starting April 28, 2015:**

- VHF Radio

For information about these and other courses, costs, and registration, contact Ian Ferguson, Training Officer at [npsinfo@mailonly.ca](mailto:npsinfo@mailonly.ca) or refer to our website [www.cps-ecp.ca/newmarket](http://www.cps-ecp.ca/newmarket) or [www.boatingcourses.ca](http://www.boatingcourses.ca)

The Bridge of the Newmarket Power and Sail Squadron meets at 8:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month (September through June) at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive, in downtown Newmarket. All members are welcome to attend.

Bridge Officers 2014-15

Commander	Bill Reynolds, AP	Secretary	Ian Ferguson, AP
Treasurer	Barbara Dodds	Training Officer	Ian Ferguson, AP
Asst. Training Officer	Stuart Denny	Membership Officer	Scott Gibson, AP
Administration Officer	Bill Forbes, AP	Public Relations Officer	Marilyn Ellison, AP
MAREP	Gerry Duffy, S	Editor	Bill Reynolds, AP
Flag Officer	Dixon Hunt	Historian	Herb Rufft, SN
Social Officer	Janet Heard, AP	Webmaster	Alan MacDonald, S
Quartermaster	Teresa Hunt	Immediate Past Commander	David Puttock, AP

## Classified Ads

**Boat for Sale:** 28 ft 1985 Carver Riviera with hard top (limited edition) - 305 Crusader twin engines with low hours; front cabin with galley; rear cabin with double and single bunk. Asking \$12K OBO.

Contact Gerry at 905-939-7307

**MARINE PARTS FOR SALE:** Danforth Anchor 8-S, 9.2 lbs; Anchor Rode 50 ft. x 5/8 " w/eye splice; Boat hook - antique mahogany 8ft x 1 1/4"; Carburetors GM Quadra Jet (2); Curtains 24" high; Weaver Davits for hard dinghy; Windline FNT 3 Fender bracket incl. hardware, holds 3- 9" to 11" diam. (new); Assorted Onan Generator parts (new); Life jackets assorted; Manifold exhaust, small block GM w/centre riser; Hand held 40 channel CB Radio (new) w/acc.; Steering gears & cables (used); Jabsco spot light w/remote & cable; Jabsco Marine Head (hand pump); 2- Borg Warner Velvet Drive Transmissions, 1.52-1 reduction; New water pump kits, for Chrysler IB engines; CHARTS & CHART BOOKS numerous, inquire for list; Sextent; Antique brass ship's clock

Contact George van Nostrand at (905) 476-2521

## Zen and the Art of Sailing

By Bill Reynolds

Robert Pirsig describes in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, the disconnect between the mechanic and the motorcycle. This disengagement he attributed to scientific objectivity. This, he said, is based on a doctrine that there is a divide between subject and object – the observer and the observed.

*“You are the mechanic. There is the motorcycle. You are forever apart from one another. You do this to it. You do that to it. These will be the results.”*

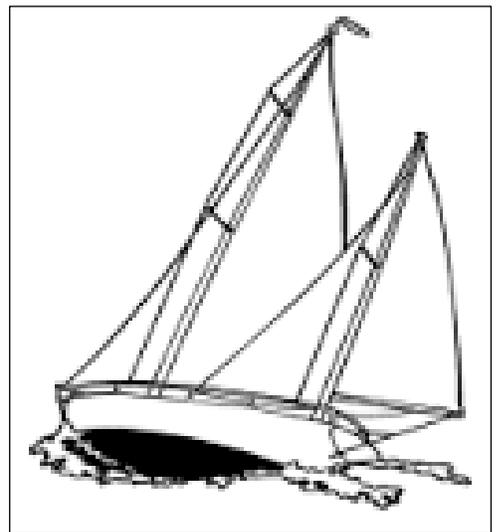
This, he claims, is an artificial interpretation superimposed on reality. When this interpretation is accepted “the craftsmanlike feeling for the work is destroyed”.

You have to have some feeling for the quality of the work in order to see the dynamic reality of the relationship between the work and the worker. This is more than intuition, skill or talent. The mechanic needs to look at the relationship between the parts and their purpose. He needs to know how the parts interact and open his mind to the machine, the tools and the techniques that are possible to make the machine work well.

*The root word of technology, techne, originally meant “art”*

To sail a boat requires technical skills. Often we learn these skills as separate actions that are employed when specific conditions present themselves. Let the wind out of the sail when gusts cause excessive heeling. Adjust the helm to keep the tell tails flowing on the head sail. Move the Genoa cars when the wind picks up. The vast number of adjustments and possible results fill books for racers and cruisers alike.

When we accept the notion that sailing is more than a set of technical skills that are applied by a skipper to the boat, we understand that there is some art to the act; we begin to see there is a dynamic interaction between the boat, its systems, the environment, and the sailor. The boat, *talks* to the skipper just as the wind and water *talk* to the boat. The skilled skipper must recognize the interaction of the wind, sails, helm, hull, waves, and current. It is not a static set of actions and reactions. The conditions change continuously. As the boat accelerates, the action between the wind and the sails changes. The skipper needs to make adjustments to the headsail, the main, the position of the boom, each change causing subsequent alterations in the actions between the wind and sails. We are constantly tested by the vagaries of the wind and weather. It is only through the dynamic interaction of the sailor with the boat that the feeling of being “in the groove” can be approached.



Technology is not an exploitation of nature. It is a fusion of nature and the human spirit. It is transcendent. This runs counter to the arguments of Hannah Arendt who claims in *The Human Condition* that the work of Homo Faber, man the maker, or the technology of tools and processes, results in the conquest of nature and replacement of the natural world through the creation of worldly things that supplant older notions of harmony and simplicity. Pirsig’s view, on the other hand, is that technology allows us to better engage the natural world.

When we move away from “step by step” instruction and approach a more holistic interaction between the boat, the weather, the water and the sailor, we develop the ability to see what looks good and move towards the beauty of being at one with the universe. This creates inner peace which is the focus of Zen. The skilled sailor has patience, care, and attentiveness to what he/she is doing which results in a harmony between the person, the boat and the environment. It is spiritual.

*Peace of mind produces right values, right values produce right thoughts. Right thoughts produce right actions and right actions will produce work which will be a material reflection for others to see the serenity at the centre of it all.*

Zen stresses the appreciation of what is happening at the given moment and, as no moment is exactly the same, each can be savored for what occurs at that precise time. It involves noticing the way the wind blows across a field of grass or watching someone's face light up as they smile. We recognize that reality is wondrously beautiful. Sailing is a form of meditation in which we engage all the minutia of the environment that surrounds us and sense the joy of existence.

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### Volunteers needed for the Boat Show!

Once again we are looking for members to man the CPS booth at the Toronto Boat Show (January 10 – 18). If you are interested in helping out sign up on the website: [cpssignup.com](http://cpssignup.com)

***Wishing you and your family***

***The Joys of the Season***



***From the  
Newmarket Power & Sail Squadron***