

This is a scaled down “Training Issue” which is intended to keep members informed concerning Hamilton Power and Sail Squadron activities and boating related topics.

BOATING CLASS REGISTRATIONS will be held at Macassa Bay Yacht Club on September 15th 9am – 3pm and September 30th 9am – 3pm.

At this time a venue for the upcoming boating classes has not been finalized, so the actual start up dates and venue for classes is pending.

SOME PAPER CHARTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

After not boating on Lake Ontario for over 30 years, I decided that I needed to update my paper charts for the west end of the lake. There have been a few changes made in my absence while boating on Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

I was able to buy a new chart covering the western end of Lake Ontario from Hamilton to Toronto’s Western Gap. I was also able to buy the large scale charts for Port Credit Harbour, Toronto and Oakville Harbour. I was astonished to find out that the large scale harbour charts for Bronte, Mimico and Lakeview are no longer available. A check of my chart plotter shows it has fairly recent representations for these missing paper charts.

During my years of boating I have always put total trust in the paper charts and have adamantly urged their use as you cannot totally trust electronics. Murphy’s Law of boating states when something can go wrong at the worst possible time it invariably will! I have apprehensive memories from 1975 of approaching Oakville harbour at night in a rage with heavy seas running. We were relying on a paper chart which had been previously plotted with a safe bearing laid out from the light on the end of the pier. After a few hair raising minutes with a jib, engine and depth sounder we arrived safely inside the harbour. More recently, I have had my electronic charting fail while navigating in almost zero visibility in the Landsdown Channel, west of Killarney Ontario. The paper chart was right there as a trusted guide, as well as the skills learned at my CPS Boating Courses.

With all the government cut backs it makes one wonder about our safety on the water.

Mike Kott

Frank Hewett:

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Frank Hewett. Frank was a charter member of Hamilton Power Squadron (as it was known). It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Hewett at the Squadron’s 60th Anniversary celebration at RHYC in May of 2009. There is a charming picture of Frank Hewett along with our Past Commander Vicky Grimshaw and Past Commander Ralph Probert cutting the anniversary cake in the fall edition of ’09 Dry Rot.

BOAT EXPLODES IN OAKVILLE HARBOUR

On Saturday, July 21 a 32 foot Carver Cruiser blew up just after refuelling at the Oakville Power Boat Club gas dock. There were two men and a woman on board. One man was

not hurt too badly, but the other man landed on a dock. The woman was blown up into the air from the blast and fell into the water sustaining serious injuries. The quick thinking of an onlooker who dove into the water pulling the lady away from the burning wreckage to a swim platform probably saved her life. The injured were all air lifted to Hamilton General Hospital. That day I was at my dock at MBYC with visiting boats from Oakville Power Boat Club on either side of me. It was shocking to hear up to the minute reports from the nearby visitors of this terrible accident. The event was made even more dramatic as soon after the Ornge helicopters flew overhead to deliver the patients to the General Hospital.

The following 3 articles are from the Little Current Cruiser's Net newsletter. Permission to reprint these was kindly granted by Roy Eaton the convenor of the L.C. Cruiser's Net.

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THUNDER BAY COAST GUARD RADIO STATION

“On May 17th 2012 the Federal Government announced sweeping reforms to the Marine Communications and Traffic Services program (Coast Guard Radio) including the closure of 10 centres across Canada. One of the centres slated for closure is located in Thunder Bay. The government plans to shut down Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio on July 1st 2014. The entire area of radio coverage provided by Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio will be transferred to Sarnia Coast Guard Radio. The government does not plan to increase the staffing level at Sarnia Coast Guard Radio. This means that 2 radio operators will have the responsibility to listen for and respond to all calls for assistance from the Canadian waters of Lake Superior, St. Mary's River, the North Channel, Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and half of Lake Erie. Presently, for the most part, there are 5 radio operators (3 in Thunder Bay and 2 in Sarnia) on listening watch in this area. Furthermore, no operators from Thunder Bay are being transferred to Sarnia meaning that all the local knowledge accumulated by the radio operators in Thunder Bay over the years will be lost.

CAW Local 2182 believes that the closure of Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio puts mariner's safety and the safety of the marine environment at risk. As such, we are asking for the support of all mariners and marine interests on the waters covered by Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio as we rally to get this decision reversed”.

COLD WATER SHOCK

Watch out for cold water shock. When a person falls into the water they often gasp. This takes in the colder water which may hit the back of the throat or mouth. If so, a reflex goes into play that stops respiration. The victim can't breathe and subsequently dies. If supported the breath reflex will kick in and the victim can breathe. If the reflex doesn't kick in, then mouth to mouth resuscitation should happen to save the victim. Prevention of this type of drowning is simple. Keep your mouth closed deliberately when you fall into the water. When your head and mouth come up clear of the water, breathe.

Annie Westlund. S.V. Rascal

DROWNING DOES NOT LOOK LIKE DROWNING

This is a reprint which appeared in the July 6, 2010 edition of H2O Notes.

The new captain jumped from the cockpit and sprinted through the water. A former life guard, he kept his eyes on his victim as he headed straight for the owners who were swimming between their anchored sportfisher and the beach. "I think he thinks you are drowning" the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other and she had screamed but now they were just standing neck deep on the sand bar. "We are fine, what is he doing?" she asked, a little annoyed. "We are fine!" the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard. "Move!" he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them not ten feet away, their nine year old daughter was drowning. Safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears, "Daddy!"

How did the captain know from fifty feet away what the father could not recognize from just ten feet? Drowning is not the violent splashing call for help that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father on the other hand had learned what drowning looked like by watching television. If you spend time on or near the water (that's all of us), then you should make sure that you and your crew know what to look for whenever people enter the water. Until she cried a tearful "Daddy", the girl had not made a sound. As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer I was not at all by this story. Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) prepares us to look for is rarely seen in real life.

The Instinctive Drowning Response so named by Francesco A. Pia Ph.D. is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. It does not look like most people expect. There is very little splashing, no waving, and no calls for help of any kind. To get an idea of just how quiet and undramatic drowning can be, consider this: It is the number two cause of accidental death in children age 15 and under (just behind vehicle accidents). Of the approximately 750 children who will drown next year about 375 of them will do so within 25 yards of a parent or other adult. In ten percent of these drownings, the adult will actually watch them do it, having no idea what is happening. Drowning does not look like drowning. Dr. Pia describes the Instinctive Drowning Response like this:

1. Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is the secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled before speech occurs.
2. Drowning people's mouths alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water. The mouths of drowning people are not above the surface of the water long enough for them to exhale, inhale and call for help. When drowning people's mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly as their mouths start to sink below the surface of the water.
3. Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water's surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so can lift their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.
4. Throughout the Instinctive Drowning Response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.

5. From beginning to end of Instinctive Drowning Response people's bodies remain upright in the water with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard these people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs.

This does not mean that a person yelling for help and thrashing isn't in real trouble; they are experiencing aquatic distress - not always present before the Instinctive Drowning Response. Aquatic distress does not last long, but unlike true drowning these victims can assist in their own rescue by grabbing lifelines, throw rings etc. Look for these other signs of drowning when persons are in the water:

- * Head low in water, mouth at water level.
- * Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus.
- * Eyes closed.
- * Hair over forehead or eyes.
- * Not using legs.
- * Hyperventilating or gasping.
- * Trying to swim in a particular direction, but not making headway.
- * Trying to roll onto back.
- * "Ladder climb", rarely out of the water.

So if a crew member falls overboard and everything looks OK, do not be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they do not look like they are drowning. They may look like they are treading water and looking up at the deck. One way to be sure is to ask if they are alright. If they can answer at all they probably are. If they return a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them. Parents: Children playing in the water make noise. When they get quiet, get to them immediately and find out why!

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