

GABRIOLA POWER and SAIL SQUADRON

Minutes of the Bridge Meeting

Held on January 27, 2024.

The Meeting was held at the Commander's residence on Gabriola and on-line via GoToMeeting.

Call to Order: 15h08 by Commander Nigel Wells.

Present: On-line: Don Butt and Bob Wood; at Commander's home: Nigel Wells, Agathe Gaulin, Li deCosas, Paul O'Sullivan, Jude Briscoe, John Bullas, Sean Lewis, Jean-Pierre (John) Van Praet

Minutes of the previous meeting of October 25, 2023. Agathe moved to approve these minutes. Jean-Pierre seconded, all in favour. Minutes approved.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The Meeting Agenda was approved.

Correspondence

- **Expired flares.** Nigel had been contacted by Betty Lou Archibald who was wondering how to get rid of her expired flares. A discussion about expired flares followed. In the past, *Cabelas* in Nanaimo accepted specific expired flares on one particular day. It is expected that *Cabelas* will do this again this year. Apparently, there was also a place in Port Alberni where expired flares were accepted. (Nigel offered to investigate this). Sean said that he too will check whether there are other places that accept expired flares. One of the problems is whether they are "dangerous cargo" and whether it is OK to take them on the ferry, and if so, under what conditions. CPS-ECP National used to have a program for returning expired flares but no funding has been received for this project this year. The discussion was concluded with the suggestion that we take no pro-active steps now and limit ourselves to obtaining information. Nigel said he will investigate whether BC Ferries can arrange a dangerous goods sailing that can be used for getting a large quantity of expired flares to Nanaimo.
- **The Rudy and Frieda Bohm family.** Jude reported that the Bohm family has sent us a Christmas card and a cheque for \$ 100 for the Squadron. (The Rudy and Frieda Bohm award is awarded to the member(s) of the Gabriola Island Squadron in recognition of exemplary performance in boating embodying the principles of CPS. The award dates from 1997 and is presented at the Squadron's AGM)
- **VIND Meeting.** Nigel reported that he had been unable to attend the last VIND (Vancouver Island North District) meeting. Don Butt also could not attend. Nigel is still waiting for the VIND's report of meeting.

Officers' Reports:

Nigel's Commander Report has been on the website since this morning.

For **Agathe's Educational Officer's Report** please refer to **Educational** (below).

For **Jude's Financial Officer's report**, please refer to **Financial** (below)

Li said she wants authorization to contact or re-contact our **sponsors**. Two years ago, we had 29 sponsors. Today 18. We lost a few because some businesses are not doing well, others have new owners. Li also noted that the SBYC receives "big bucks" from their sponsors, while we only ask for \$50. Li also asked whether we know of new potential sponsors that may be approached and requested that if we do, we let her know. Li also advised that we should arrange for **e-transfer for payment** of sponsorships. All agree and Jude will work with Li and others to make this happen. All those present agreed that Li can re-contact our existing sponsors and approach new potential sponsors. A discussion followed about the **pamphlet and the directory**. Li wants the directory to be in **alphabetical order**. Reprinting the pamphlet and the cost of it also needs to be considered. The Chamber of Commerce apparently ran out of copies of the pamphlet, as well as the Silva Bay Marina. The whole **pamphlet needs to be reviewed**, including the educational section, which Agathe agreed to work on with Deb Erdos (she has final formatted draft of this leaflet). Sean suggested to get **pdf copies of the pamphlet to our sponsors**. Nigel likes this idea and will work at making this feasible. Finally, it was suggested to put a copy of the **pamphlet on our microsite**, if possible. All agree.

Don Butt as Communications Officer had nothing to report but said that our newsletter, *Scuttlebutt*, should be published soon with some articles. He mentioned as potential subjects: the Service Guide for Boaters, the Hakai Light Trap project, the Swap Meet, the regular articles by the Commander and the Educational Officer.

Don Butt as Privacy Officer had nothing to report.

Financials

Jude reported that her report will be online shortly. She reported a discrepancy of \$ 500 between her own notes and the bank's (her own books show \$ 500 less than the bank's).

At the date of the meeting, the Squadron has \$ 3000 on its account. We still owe nearly \$1000 to Agathe for her attendance at the National CPS-ECP AGM in 2023. Li'l Gabe also will need some work, and there will be a cost to that.

Jude and Nigel are considering the possibility of approaching the Lions and/or the Recreation Society for funding to get Lil'Gabe set up as a proper teaching tool. Our Squadron's programmes do benefit the community. Nigel advised that the deadline for applying for a grant with the Recreation Society was today, January 27, and that we backed off from applying now, as the Youth Camp will not take place this year. However, there is a

second tranche of funding in the fall that we can apply for, and GRS would probably look at our request favourably.

A discussion followed about places for Squadron meetings. Jude mentioned the Golf Club **as** a location that is quite cheap, and a nice place for socializing. The Gabriola Recreation Society classroom/office is a bit cheaper than the Community Hall. John Bullas mentioned Christ Church Gabriola: there is a small kitchen there and it is inexpensive.

Educational

Agathe reported that the courses currently underway and planned are as follows:

- **The PCOC**, through National, at a cost of \$ 50 for the students, a very good deal
- **The ROC(M)**, through our Squadron, on-line with the exam in person
- **The BNBH**, starting February 6, with on-line study and weekly review meetings. **BNBH means Basic Navigation and Boat Handling. It replaces the previous B2+3 course.** Right now, two students are registered, one on Gabriola and one in Robert's Creek. We have done no advertising yet; we will do this now and try to get more students, with a focus on our local clientele. We all agree that there are several people on Gabriola who do want in-person courses.
- Agathe is now planning 4 to 7 **in-person workshops**. The date of Easter (March 31) causes a bit of a difficulty: during the period prior to Easter from March 11 to 27 people take breaks and go on vacation. Agathe is thinking about 4 workshops in April. It is agreed that we do want those workshops to be taught in person. Possibly Saturdays and Sundays could also be considered. Agathe is very interested in which seminars we want to be organized. Li proposed Docking and Undocking. Jean-Pierre proposed Anchoring (and leaving the anchorage).
- **Marine Swap Meet & CPS Open House.** The Swap Meet that we organized last October was a success and there were requests to do this again. Discussion about whether this should be on a Saturday or a Sunday. We should start organizing it and have it in the Spring.

Li'l Gabe- Renovation and improvement

Agathe proposes to organize a small committee to plan the refurbishing of Li'l Gabe and adding all the safety gear that it should have. Li said she will talk to Gary about this. Nigel will coordinate the work; whoever is interested are requested to contact Nigel.

Future of "Anderida", currently being stored at Jude's.

This 18' teak built daysailer, on a trailer, is now parked in Jude's carport.

Nigel said he is not sensing much enthusiasm for restoring Anderida and we simply do not have the resources to carry this restoration out. Jude is prepared to keep storing Anderida on her property but not under her carport. In that case we would have to purchase a tent of some \$600.

Nigel thinks that we should disengage. Li agrees and is of the opinion that some work on Li'l Gabe will be much more productive.

We can approach owners about the situation and steer them in the direction of SALTS.

HAKAI Light Trap at Silva Bay Project 2024.

Jean-Pierre advises that this Light Trap at Silva Bay has been monitored during the last two years, from April 15 to September 1st by a group of 12 to 15 people. Jean-Pierre has been doing the coordination and scheduling, Nigel has been doing regular repair work, and Don Butt has been a regular volunteer. Few Squadron members are participating. Most of the volunteers are non-members and very dedicated to the environment. It had been mentioned by some a couple of years ago that this project should not be a Squadron project as it does not fit with our terms of reference. Jean-Pierre is asking that the Squadron decide whether we want to coordinate this project again or not. Jean-Pierre is willing to coordinate this project again if we decide that we want to continue.

Western Maritime Institute Simulator

Sean reported that the Western Maritime Institute in Ladysmith have a full-size commercial simulator that is run by professional mariners training students. They are considering using the simulator for recreational boaters as well. It is proposed that Sean, Nigel and Agathe take a trip to the WMI to discuss the possibilities of how this could possibly work. All agree. Sean will organize the trip. One of the questions is whether the Nanaimo Squadron should be approached as well.

Marketing Change – Adoption of New “Labels” for Officers and Committees.

Agathe talked about the rebranding of CPS-ECP and advised that a new marketing name will be decided upon shortly. Agathe is a member of the National CPS-ECP marketing committee. This makes it easier for us to know what the committee is thinking.

The official name for CPS-ECP will continue as before. Concurrently, we are encouraged to “demilitarize” the designations used in the organization. If we want, we can stop using the words “Commander” and “Bridge” right now. That is up to us. Nigel said that we will start with the things that we can easily do.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is planned for Thursday February 29.

The meeting ended at 16h50.