



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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January 2007

The Gam

Commander's Corner

Valley Squadron Members,



1793 hrs this number, dear members, is not a new way of calculating the time on the existing 24 hrs time clock. It should be far from me to add or leave anything away from that item. Just trying that would not make any sense.

Those are the hours volunteered from our members to improve boating safety. Be it through teaching, attending meetings or helping in administration, or time spent repairing unsafe conditions on a mooring dock, or time invested on any of those other things making our organization function properly, one thing is clear to me; your time spent most likely has saved some lives and with that prevented hardship to others.

The above numbers do not include the time some of our members spent working at the National level. The numbers also do not reflect the much support we got from our inactive members and from our supporters from the boating industry, beyond from the whole of the boating community.

Some of our members are too modest and do not report their time invested. Perhaps they consider their time spent was not a big step towards improving quality of boating life. Reminding you, as this squadron developed over a period of 30 years in 2007, every little step is what made it what it is today.

A Squadron I'm proud to belong to. Happy holidays to all of you.

Gus Binkle
Commander

On the cover: Feeding "Popeye", Friday Harbor's resident seal



Cruises and Events



- Tuesday, January 9th** **Fall Boating Course Graduation** at Smitty's in Abbotsford. Coffee & cake and a chance to meet the Bridge members. Time – 1930 hours
- Saturday, March 17th** **St. Patrick's Day potluck supper and AGM** with a special speaker - Yarrow Community Hall. Please bring a main course dish, dessert or salad. Time – 1800 hours.
- Saturday, March 31st** **Shakedown Cruise** at Harrison Lake
- Saturday, April 14th** **Students' Cruise** at Harrison Lake – details to follow in March GAM
- Thursday, April 26th** **Change of Watch and Spring Boating Course Graduation.** A beautiful banquet at the Rancho in Abbotsford. Tickets will be available from Bridge members in March.
- May 19th, 20th, 21st** **Long Weekend Cruise** to either False Creek or North Arm of the Fraser River to River Rock Casino – Give Ted your feedback.
- August 4th to 19th** Two week **Desolation Sound Cruise**

*For information on a social event, call Sandra Clow 792-9373
For information on a cruise call Ted Blackall 859-6102*



“A walk on the Wet Side”

Congratulations to Gloria Caplette - first place in Visual Art - Photography at CPS National Competition

Our First Weekend Onboard



For 2 years we had wanted a boat, dreamed of a boat, and saved for a boat..... Last year I ended up spending 3 days on a friend's 26ft. boat fishing down in the San Juan Islands. Not only did we fish, but we lazed about in the sun, had Killer Whales swim right beside the boat, and ate freshly caught salmon!

I had left on this trip 50 % sure that we would be getting a boat in the near future.... At the conclusion of my trip I was 99% sure! Darlene (the Admiral) also wanted a boat, so all we had to do was find the right one.

It took a good 7 months, but we finally got the boat we wanted. It is a 24 ft. Bayliner Ciera Express..... Now all we had to do was learn about boating!!!

My friend had about 30 years of practical experience around boats, and the CPS Course taught me far more than I hoped..... With the internet, my friend, and the CPS knowledge we spent about a month getting the boat ready for the salt water, as I dearly wanted to re-experience the happiness and freedom last summer's trip had given me.

We had installed house batteries, a battery switch, fresh-water cooling and a GPS/depth Sounder on our boat and had done 2 practice runs in lakes and were thinking we were ready for the ocean.

It was Friday, the 12th May and we trailered our boat..... perhaps I should mention that her name is "At Last" (she was a long time in coming)... we trailered our boat across the border at Sumas and met our friend with his boat and wife at one of the gas stations before heading down to Bellingham to launch our boats.

Bellingham, in case you haven't been there, has an excellent ramp and wharf, regardless of how low the tide is. It costs \$5.00 US to launch your boat and that also entitles you to leave your vehicle and trailer parked there for up to 5 days.

Anyway, after launching we headed out towards the San Juan Islands a little behind our experienced friend (Kelly)..... It was around 5:00 PM by the time we got out of the harbour and up on plane. As we were motoring along, it dawned upon me that this was not as much fun as I had anticipated. I had all these different waves and wakes and washes to watch out for, in addition to logs, kelp, and other boats!!! Heh heh.

After we left Bellingham Bay the water became very smooth, and the sun turned a beautiful orange colour as it slowly began to sink..... I began to relax a bit and enjoy myself..... until the depth sounder sounded an alarm and was showing a mere 3 ft. under us!



I immediately powered down, mortified at what I might have done, or what might be coming. All of a sudden the Depth Sounder showed there was a couple of hundred feet of water under us. My friend pointed out that there was probably some kelp that had managed to get tangled up in my sending unit, or the sending unit had moved up from the speed and needed to be tightened. Not to worry, as it was working again. (The sending unit needed to be tightened a bit).

"At Last" resting in Friday Harbor

We continued once again and pulled into Friday Harbour around 7:00 PM. There was lots of room at the outside dock but we went to the inside of the outside guest moorage and tied up there. (I didn't know it, but there are ferries there, and it gets pretty rough on the outside of the guest dock – This is where "experience" really helps). I was pretty darn high from the journey and feeling quite a bit of an adrenalin rush so we walked up town and had beer and pizza before going back to the boats and turning in for the night.

Is it ever neat to sleep on the boat!! It was wonderful! Our little dog woke me in the morning to let me know that he needed to mark some territory so I left my bride sleeping and went for an early morning tour of the dock and downtown Friday Harbour. The ferries start running @ 6:30, and the town doesn't really wake up until 7:30. They have some neat stores and reasonable prices on most everything, as there are a lot of locals and they have to compete with the mainland.

After I got back we had our first breakfast on board (ok, ok, so what if it was cold cereal and coffee supplied by our friends) we wandered for a walk up town so the ladies could check out the stores. When we got back to the boats the decision was made to stay for the day and another evening so we contacted the harbour master and got a couple of more protected slips..... It was WKT (White Knuckle Time) as I moved At Last in amongst some very expensive looking yachts to find our slip. As we were getting ready to back it in my friend Kelly suggested we point it in as the afternoon wind usually comes from that direction and it would be best to have the boat pointed at it to be more comfy aft.... Experience once again.



We were sitting on the boats in the afternoon, enjoying the sun, when suddenly we spotted a seal swimming among the boats with no fear whatsoever. It turns out that this particular seal was pretty special.

The seal is called "Popeye", who has only one eye and is the mascot of Friday Harbour. He swims around the boats a couple of+ times a day looking for handouts. He will use one of his flippers to splash water in order to get your attention. He will only eat fish. We tried to give him some crackers at first but he wouldn't touch them. They also have a statue of Popeye on shore, which has only one eye as well. We had some herring which we hand fed Popeye. (This was a big thrill for all of us).



Statue of Popeye at Friday Harbor

Sunday morning we woke up to another beautiful day and decided to just laze about until the afternoon before heading back..... It was around 10:30 when our friend Kelly pointed out that the wind was picking up and that we should consider heading home.... We did, and was he right!!

Just before Blakely Island we had so slow right down as we were encountering 3 to 4 ft. waves and neither the Admiral nor I were very comfortable at that time. We felt better once we slowed down and our friend waited for us at the Blakely Island Marina. After we made it through the narrow passage there the water calmed down quite a bit and the rest of the journey back was without incident.

This was our first (of many) weekends on the boat this summer. We learned, and learned and learned some more, each time we went out. This particular weekend taught us a couple of valuable lessons.

- 1) Where you dock makes a lot of difference
- 2) Know where you are at all times, so you don't have any surprises
- 3) Watch the weather for any telltale signs that it may be getting worse.

Don Randall

Boat Owners' Section for Valley Website

Webmaster Cliff Kiyooka is requesting that members with boats forward to him at ckiyooka@shaw.ca a picture of their boat with owners' names and boat name.

BOOKS

On January 24th, 2007 19:30 hrs, in conjunction with their AGM, Burnaby Power and Sail Squadron are hosting a book signing and slideshow by Martin Vennesland with his book "Nine Years on the Seven Seas" on their sailing boat "Nor Siglar". Their amazing adventure took them to 76 countries and island colonies. Check out their website at www.norsiglar.com for a preview.

Valley Squadron Past Commander Ray Bonn has generously donated 10 books to Valley to be used as door prizes for Squadron events. Our thanks go out to PC Bonn.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY at YARROW COMMUNITY HALL

by Bruce & Dorothy Matheson



T'was 23 nights before Christmas while down at the hall
66 people were gathering to have a ball.

The place was all decorated in bright red and green.
Surely it was a pretty sight to be seen.

The oven was full with turkeys' a-cook'n,
And the tree in the corner was pretty good look'n.

Fred Walker tended the bar in his inimitable style,
Always ready to help and ready to smile.

Al Collier and Larry Nielsen carved up the birds
In their yellow & blue aprons, looking too cute for words.

The tables were groaning with all sorts of dishes,
And all kinds of food your little heart wishes.

We sat at our places while Gary Clow said Grace,
Then we took off for the tables like we were in a great race.



The meal was delicious. The turkey was hot.
The veggies were perfect. Salads hit the spot.

But wait, someone spied the desserts over there.
"You know how quickly they go. You'd better beware!"

We finished our meal and sat back for a rest,
But no, now it's time to put our minds to the test.





Our dear Socials lady, our Sandra, our gal
Had everything organized especially well.

No time to get bored. You can't go home yet.
There are games to be played and some answers to get.

There were door prizes too - some very good books,
And other nice gifts for the luckiest folks.



And then it was time to go up to the tree
To each pick a gift; one for you, one for me.



"What did you get?" we asked in accord.
I got a nice sign that says "Welcome Aboard".

The party was ending; our energy low
And so we decided it was time to go.

Our thanks to the people who helped make this event,
And all who attended.
T'was an evening well spent.



National Competition Awards to Valley

Commander Gus was pleased to report, on his return from National AGM in Vancouver, that Valley Squadron received considerable recognition. Secretary Gloria Caplette received 3rd place in the “New Media, Digital Presentation”. In the “Visual Art, Photography” competition Gloria Caplette received 1st place for her photo “Walk on the Wet Side”. Bulletin Editors Dorothy Matheson & Gary Clow received 3rd place in “Publications, Newsletters” for the past year’s GAM. Valley Squadron participated in the 20/20 event, dealing with how we present ourselves to the public and placed 3rd with its newspaper picture display. Valley was also 2nd runner-up in Membership - Most Improved Squadrons.



Commander Gus presents National Competition awards to Gloria Caplette (Charlene Gregorig standing in for Gloria) and Dorothy Matheson & Gary Clow (Gary not present).

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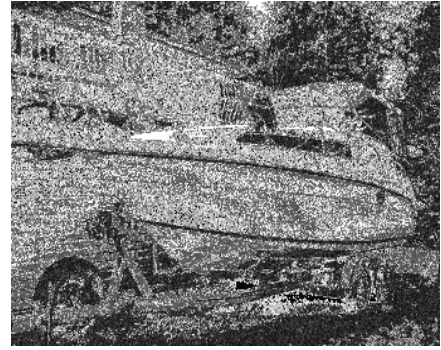
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Valley Squadron Bridge Officers

Commander	Gus Binkle	826-8793	gus.u.sail@telus.net
Lr./C Executive	Bruce Matheson	824-8616	bdmatheson@shaw.ca
Lt./C Training Officer	Gary Clow	792-9373	Gary_Clow@telus.net
1 st Lt. Secretary	Gloria Caplette	852-3578	gcaplette@shaw.ca
1 st Lt. Treasurer	Al Collier	824-1983	collier6@telus.net
1 st Lt. PRO	Ron Grierson	854-5211	sail4@telus.net
1 st Lt. Supply	Brian Hanneson	854-1649	bvhanneson@telus.net
1 st Lt. Membership	George Stevens	858-9936	georges@dowco.com
1 st Lt. Editor	Dorothy Matheson	824-8616	dorothymatheson@shaw.ca
1 st Lt. Marep/Environmental	Raymond Salloway	852-8700	salloway@telus.net
1 st Lt. Cruise Master	Ted Blackall	859-6102	ctcharted@shaw.ca
1 st Lt. Socials	Sandra Clow	792-9373	smclow@telus.net
1 st Lt. Historian	E. Harvey Cooke	859-5757	
Lt. Auditor	Ursula Binkle	826-8793	gus.u.sail@telus.net
Lt. Training VHF	Bryan Stolee	858-4848	bjstolee@dowco.com
Lt. Training VHF	John Tymoschuk	858-4634	jltymo@yahoo.com
Lt. Webmaster	Cliff Kiyooka	864-0344	ckiyooka@shaw.ca
Lts. At Large	Charleen Gregorig	859-6102	ctcharted@shaw.ca
	Carol Lyle	852-2805	smith852@telus.net
	Rob Turner	853-7800	4turners@telus.net
	Fred Walker	850-2447	seldomwet@shaw.ca
Port Capt- Fraser R/Mission	Bill Hopkins	796-0144	wjhopkins@hotmail.com
Port Capt- Cultus/Harrison	Dave Hampson	858-4397	
Past Commander	Ron Grierson	824-1983	sail4@telus.net

Valley Squadron Bridge Meetings

Bridge meetings are open to all Valley Squadron members. Join us at 1900 hours at Smitty's Restaurant, 1965 Sumas Way, Abbotsford.

January 9 - (Blues & Greys)
FALL BOATING CLASS GRAD

February 13

March 12

April 9

Everyone is Welcome!

Boating Classes Begin Again in the New Year

Tell all your friends who are interested in safe boating.

January 10th, 2007 - Abbotsford and Harrison

January 11th, 2007 - Chilliwack

Valley Squadron Welcomes Our New Members

Bill Lepart – Mission
Adriaan Windt – Abbotsford
Verner Poulsen – Chilliwack
Miriam Cavenaile – Chilliwack
Gary & Carol Hayton - Chilliwack

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