



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>



November 2007

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Commander's Corner

Valley Squadron Members,

I will have to assume that most of you have now got your boats out of the water for another season. Thanks to Brian Hanneson (truck) and Gary Clow (helper) Mary Jean is out of Delta and back in Yarrow for the winter.

Attended the District Bridge meeting on November 5th and do not have much to report from the Annual Change of Watch held in Ottawa.

- The motion to change the logo did not really materialize with majority of votes not cast for any of the 3 choices. I hope that

shows we like what we have.

- Under a recent agreement our Boat Pro Manual is now going to be offered for sale in most Canadian Tire Stores and Staples. If you happen to hear of someone wanting to write the exam to attain their Personal Craft Operators Card, please have them contact our Squadron Training Officer Gary Clow at 604-792-9373
- There will be a \$3 increase in National Dues starting January 2008.
- Received a copy of a suggested letter that could be sent to your M.L.A. with regards to lack of pump-out facilities on our coast. I feel that it is timely since the Provincial Government just announced funding for Green Projects. Contact me if you wish a copy.

It would be great to have a record attendance for our 30th Anniversary and Pot Luck Xmas Party. I know the committee has been working hard on this. Please try and bring a few items for the Abbotsford and Chilliwack Food Banks as well.

See you at the Party November 30th.

Your Commander,

Bruce Matheson
604-824-8616
bdmatheson@shaw.ca

Cover picture (by Larry Nielsen):
"Miss Emily", owned by Herman & Irene Raabe

Valley Squadron 30th Anniversary & Christmas Party



Date: Friday, November 30th
Place: Yarrow Community Hall
Time: 1800 hours



This will be a potluck but the squadron will provide the turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and stuffing. Please bring a salad and/or dessert course to go with our dinner. There will be entertainment and dancing following dinner. In lieu of a gift exchange this year, we will be filling hampers for the food banks of Chilliwack and Abbotsford. Please bring a generous donation of food stuffs and make us proud! We are inviting representatives of the food banks to be present to receive our donations.

Directions to Yarrow Community Hall (detour around construction on No. 3 Road which is closed at the Canal until December 21st):

From the west take the No. 3 Rd. exit and immediately turn to the right at the end of the off ramp onto South Parallel Road. Turn left at the first corner (Dixon Rd.) and go south on Dixon to No. 4 Rd. Turn left onto No. 4 Rd. to the next crossroad which is Inter-Provincial. Turn left onto Inter-Provincial to get back to No. 3 Rd. Turn right onto No. 3 Rd. and proceed to Yarrow Central Rd. Turn left onto Yarrow Central Road into Yarrow and continue to Community St. Turn left onto Community Street. Yarrow Hall is at 4670 Community Street on your right.

Or

Stay on No. 4 Rd. to Boundary Rd. Turn left onto Boundary Rd. to Yarrow Central Rd. Turn right onto Yarrow Central Rd. and proceed into Yarrow and continue on Yarrow Central Rd. Turn left onto Community St. Yarrow Hall is at 4670 Community Street on your right.



When the Dinghy Has His Day



When we decided to replace our 32 foot C&C's dinghy last summer with a brand new inflatable, choosing a name was a no-brainer. Our sailboat Evita, being the strong Spanish lady she is, needed a little man to tow around, so his name must be Juan. And because he's bright yellow in colour, he became Jaune Juan, or JJ for short.

JJ has served us well for two summers, faithfully riding the waves at the end of his towline, taking us for spins into myriad bays and coves, and protecting Evita's open forward hatch when we're back in port. Powered by a 2.5 HP Suzuki outboard, he's reliable and fun. And yet he always takes a back seat to the Grand Dame, and we have felt a bit sad for him.

All that changed on August 8, the last day of our two week trip to Desolation Sound. We had spent the last 10 days with our friends Frank and Pauline Havelock, and we had left False Bay in the early dawn to catch the northwest wind that was forecast to peter out by the afternoon. We were just off Roberts Creek when the wind died, and Evita's

Yanmar came to life.

About 20 minutes later I was attracted to the companionway stairs by the strong smell of antifreeze. I removed the stairs to be greeted by plumes of steam and litres of hot fresh water flowing into the bilge. The survey when we bought Evita mentioned that the hot water tank was on its last legs, and those last legs were now gone – along with all our fresh water and most of the Yanmar's coolant. It didn't take long for the engine overheat siren to start to scream, so there we were, bobbing around in Georgia Strait with no engine and no wind. The time was about 15:30.

Using bottled drinking water to refill the heat exchanger I found that I could run the Yanmar for maybe 15 minutes at low rpm before it would overheat. I would then let things cool for ½ hour and repeat. This process, coupled with a little 5 knot breeze from the southwest, got us to Roger Curtis just as the sun was going down. Get around Roger Curtis, we thought, and we'll be on a reach all the way home.

WRONG! After maybe an hour of dead calm, the wind sprang up right on our nose out of the east. Over the next several hours we took full advantage, and three tacks brought us to windward of Passage Island, well northwest of Point Grey, with one more tack to get us into Fisherman's Cove. And then the wind died. The time was now 00:30.

With no more cooling water, no wind and an ebb tide taking us away from our destination, drastic action was necessary. And that's when Jaune Juan came into service. I climbed into him with my heart in my

mouth, taking time to notice that he was a little bit deflated – a natural condition, I thought, considering the circumstances. It took only a minute to realize the futility of trying to tow Evita with him – he was a butterfly trying to drag an elephant - so in desperation I brought him to Evita's stern and started to push. I filled his tank with the last of our gasoline – 0.7 litres – aimed us to the west of Point Atkinson, and prayed we had enough fuel to get us home.

For the next two hours JJ performed magnificently, guiding Evita towards Thunderbird at a consistent 1.7 knots. His engine died just past the fuel dock in Fisherman's Cove, allowing us to idle the Yanmar long enough to bring us to our slip. We tied up at 04:15 – 13 hours after our ordeal began.

As I hoisted JJ up onto Evita's foredeck, I noticed the changes in him. Gone was his deflated look and feel, replaced by a quiet pride that was unmistakable, even after my nearly 24 hours without sleep. Have you ever wanted to put your arms around your dinghy and give him a hug? That was the time, and ever since he has enjoyed a new stature in our eyes. And I think that even Evita, for all her dignity, feels the same way.

Submitted by John Laing

If you have any stories or incidents you would like to share about your boat or your boating experiences please submit to the GAM at (604)824-8616 or dorothymatheson@shaw.ca

Piloting Course in January!

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Course Cost \$95

Contact Gary Clow for details: Gary.Clow@worldteam.org or 604-792-9393

Visit our Website at valleysquadron/home.htm

Thanksgiving in Paradise



Thanksgiving! Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, Brussel sprouts, carrots and yams, pumpkin pie, home made cranberry sauce and chocolate fudge brownies - all served at Long Island Bay on Harrison Lake. Did you miss it? If so you missed a spectacular event.

Friday of the Thanksgiving weekend was sunny and warm. Descanso, carrying Gary was the first boat to arrive at the docks at Long Island Bay. Following soon afterward were Bonnie and Tony on Ranger, Gus and Ursula on No Name and Rick and Gloria on Capt' Crunch. We had a beautiful afternoon talking on the dock and a wonderful evening around the campfire.

Saturday brought cloudy skies, cooler temperatures, but more boats. Norm and Adrian

arrived on Integrity, Ted and Charleen (and the turkey!) on Broke 'N Hooked and Rod and Laura on Runaway. Our group now consisted of 13 people and 4 excited dogs. The day remained mainly dry and we talked on the dock and up around the fire on shore. Some of us went for a hike in the morning and in the afternoon we went for a raft ride around the bay searching for dry firewood and a wayward 12 foot steel tank. The tank was part of the dock in front of Rick and Gloria's cabin and had blown away in a storm the week before. We were successful on all counts, finding lots of dry firewood as well as the huge tank which we towed back to the cabin.

The partially submerged tank could have been a bit of a navigation hazard!



Gary and Sandra Clow



Charleen making the gravy

Sunday was overcast with showers on and off during the morning. The lake was totally calm until just after lunch which allowed Rick to run to Harrison Hot Springs for Ricky and Rochelle. At about 1:15 pm Gary and Ted left in Descanso to pick up Sandra in Harrison, but their trip was a bit different. As they ran down Towboat Strait on

glass smooth water, they could see something strange ahead of them on the lake. It looked like a massive wall of white on the water. It was. Ninety seconds later Gary and Ted drove into a wall of wind and waves pushed straight at them by 50 knot winds. They had one of the wildest 40 minutes either had ever had on a boat. The wind was so powerful it began to pull up the zippers on the sides of Descanso's convertible top. Ted had to go aft and pull them back down. It was an unbelievable trip through a maelstrom. Descanso arrived at the dock just as Sandra arrived, pulled her aboard and made the return down the lake, thankfully on calmer water as the squall was moving north east ahead of them.

At 4:30 pm 16 people sat down to a sumptuous Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings. Bonnie's home made cranberry sauce was the perfect touch to bring it all together. We ate, and ate, and ate. When we were finished, we waddled to the campfire where we sat and talked. The wonderful meal left everyone sleepy, and before 9:00 pm everyone was on their boats for the night. So much for wild parties!

Monday dawned a much nicer day, making perfect weather to cruise back home down the lake. It was a beautiful end to a wonderful weekend as one by one the boats departed.

If you couldn't join us this year, don't miss the Thanksgiving Cruise next year. Long Island Bay has space for cruising boats and room for those with smaller boats who want to camp. There are two docks, a picnic shelter with lots of tables, two pit toilets, a fire pit surrounded by benches and room for several tents. Bring your horseshoes and use the horseshoe pits. Check out Long Island Bay next summer, then join us for Thanksgiving 2008.



Around the Fire Pit



Tony Arnett, Gus Binkle, Gary Clow, Rick Pemble
Bonnie Arnett & Ursula Binkle

*Article by Gary Clow
(Pictures - Gloria Caplette)*

Boat Trailer Lights Tips:

It is crucial that water drains out freely from trailer lights. If there aren't openings for the water to drain, drill a hole at the lowest and highest points on the light enclosure. These holes will also improve air circulation to help drying.

Fill the bulb sockets with grease by removing the bulbs. If the discs in the sockets cannot be removed without breaking, use a syringe or your fingers to pack the sockets from top to bottom with dielectric grease or Vaseline. It repels water to deter corrosion. Never use bearing greases in the sockets.

Some Cleaning Tips:

Use a mild solution of water and hydrogen peroxide to spray on cloth headliner to remove mildew. Wipe with a damp clean cloth.


Liquid cleaner wax is great for removing stains from gel coat, polishing and protecting chrome rails, removing water spots from exterior windows and cleaning fenders. It stays on your boat and will not wash away.

Remove new rust stains on fiberglass with a mixture of cola and salt, and then rinse with clean water.

**Please Note
Valley Squadron Bridge
Meetings venue has
changed. Meetings are
now held at the Best
Western ABC Restaurant
(corner of Clearbrook and
Marshall Roads)**

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EVENTS - 2008

Tuesday, January 8th
Bridge Meeting with Fall Boating
Class Graduation

Saturday, February 9th
St. Valentine Party

Tuesday, April 8th
Bridge Meeting and Annual
General Meeting

Thursday, April 24th
Change of Watch



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Valley Squadron Bridge Meetings
All Members are Welcome!

Bridge meetings are open to all Valley Squadron members. Join us at 1900 hours at Best Western ABC Restaurant (corner Clearbrook Road & Marshal Road).

December 11th
January 8th (and Fall Boating Students Grad)

Valley Squadron Bridge Officers

Commander	Bruce Matheson	824-8616	bdmatheson@shaw.ca
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