



# 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>



## January 2008

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# The Gam

## Commander's Corner

Valley Squadron Members,



I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

C.P.S. has experienced some change in the last year starting with Harry Cole (residing in Abbotsford) taking over the reigns as Chief Commander. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating him and wishing him the best and smooth sailing during his term. We are using a new and updated version manual in Boating Course and in Piloting. There is a new edition of Boat Pro Handbook with which we will be offering seminars leading to the exam for Personal Craft Operators Card. This Squadron will not be conducting challenge only exams for this card.

You can see that my message is basically all about training. All members have passed the Boating Course and have joined, discovered, and enjoyed the fellowship of their fellow boaters and the many socials and cruises that our squadron offers. Without these courses we would not be furthering safety on the water and would not be attracting new members. Is it time that maybe you thought about what you could do for your Squadron in the way of saying thanks for the knowledge you have gained? We need helpers (Proctors) for the Boating Course put on twice a year in three different locations. I'm sure you can remember the help you received from this group when you took the course. If you feel you would like to help in some way, please contact myself, Gary Clow, Don Randall, Bill Hopkins or Larry Nielsen (for Boat Pro).

From these courses and membership, we do retain some of the money to operate our squadron and put on socials and other activities. This entails an Executive or Bridge officers, who meet once a month to oversee the running of the Squadron. Some of these officers have been "on the Bridge" for many years, and a healthy Bridge needs new ideas and faces from time to time. Meetings are open to any member and an invitation is always extended to

you to attend and observe what goes on. Elections for Bridge members is held prior to and during our A.G.M. on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Our March bulletin will have a list of Bridge positions to be filled. We need a full slate of officers to run an effective Bridge. Do consider how you could help and phone me if you have questions or concerns.

Commander,

*Bruce Matheson*

604-824-8616

[bdmatheson@shaw.ca](mailto:bdmatheson@shaw.ca)

*Cover picture:*

Abbotsford Class of Boating Course Students

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**CONGRATULATIONS BOATING COURSE GRADUATES!!  
VALLEY SQUADRON WELCOMES YOU AS NEW MEMBERS**

**John Derkson** of Chilliwack

**Norm Daher** of Chilliwack

**Peter Saunders** of Chilliwack

**Kevin Lamb** of Abbotsford

**Martina O'Hara-Miner** of Mission

**Victor Crendes** of Mission

**Kathleen Littler** of Mission

**Robert Littler** of Mission

**Don Vriend** of Abbotsford

**Dianne Liddle** of Abbotsford

**Lucas Liddle** of Abbotsford

**Steve Bergsma** of Agassiz

**Cliff Hiebert** of Abbotsford

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**Valley Squadron received an Honorable Mention Certificate from this year's National Convention at Ottawa for membership increase for 2006-2007. Thanks to P/Comm. Gus and Ursula for representing us.**

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Christmas Party



***Past Commanders who attended the Celebration***

On November 30<sup>th</sup> around 1800 hours, over 80 people gathered at Yarrow Community Hall for our annual Christmas Party along with a celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> year since the inception of Valley Squadron. All Past Commanders received a special invitation and Valley was pleased to see more than half of the Past Commanders attending.

After the open bar and a feast of turkey and pot luck dishes, Commander Bruce introduced PRO Bob Plumtree to commence the evening's events. Larry Nielson gave a Power Point presentation of the history of Valley Squadron. A lot of those old pictures seemed to have brought back some great memories. All Past Commanders were recognized and those present were brought forward and introduced.

In lieu of the usual Christmas gift exchange, members brought non-perishable food items for the Chilliwack Salvation Army and the Abbotsford Food Banks. In addition, a donation was made by cheque to both food banks and Roy Wright of the Chilliwack Salvation Army was able to attend to accept the presentation. Dave Murray of the Abbotsford Food Bank sent his regrets offering to meet with the Bridge at a later date to thank the Squadron.

Many thanks to Bob and his Committee for all their work in organizing this event.

# Christmas Cruise

by Gary Clow

Every summer, usually on a very hot day, the subject comes up of doing a Christmas Cruise. Someone says, "Why not go out for a cruise between Christmas and New Years. Every year it is discussed and every year the idea is discarded. Who wants a cruise at the coldest part of the year? Well, this year a few of us decided it was worth a try.

The obvious place for our cruise was Harrison Lake, since all of us who were taking part know the lake well. The date was set for Boxing Day through New Years Eve. If it got too cold, we could always come back early. It's not like you're going to be at the ends of the earth.

Boxing Day morning dawned a bit cool. Well, to be honest, it dawned really cool. It was snowing lightly at Harrison and there was ice around the shoreline in a few places. Not at all daunted, Charlene and Ted on Broke N' Hooked (last trip before switching boats), Bonnie and Tony on Ranger, Dorothy and Bruce on Mary-Jean, George and Elaine on Serene and Sandra and Gary on Descanso set off down Harrison Lake. Our first leg was to Long Island Bay on Long Island, where we spend many of our summer weekends. Summer is hot; this December 26 was definitely not.



We made it safely to the bay and all tied up at the small dock in front of George and Elaine's cabin. We had to raft side by side to get all the boats on the dock, but all went smoothly. Why the cabin? It was so cold we wanted to get inside somewhere with a nice wood stove. The cabin was already winterized so we didn't have running water or a refrigerator, but we had heat. And we certainly didn't need a refrigerator! Elaine worked like a slave to cook a nice dinner for us and afterwards we sat around and talked until it was time to make our way back to our frigid boats for the night. George and Elaine stayed in their nice, heated cabin.

We awoke in the morning to about 10 cm of fresh snow. The temperature was well below freezing but the sun was coming out. We swept the snow off our boats and after a nice breakfast in the cabin decided it was time to set out

down the lake. Our destination for the night was a small cove behind a tiny island on the east side of the lake.

We were in no real hurry to get anywhere, so set off at a leisurely 5 knots. Even at that speed we were approaching the cove before noon.



Thankfully the lake was as calm as a millpond as the sky slowly cleared to a bright, crystalline blue. The nice thing about a dark, navy blue top on a boat is that bright sunshine quickly heats the air under the top to summer like temperatures. Sandra and I were warm and happy as long as we didn't go down below deck where the cold lake water kept things almost icy.

We were concerned about ice as we neared the cove, but were surprised to see that although most of the shore was ice bound, one part of the cove was completely free of ice and even steaming a bit in the cold air. We managed to squeeze all our boats into that spot, rafted side by side, and noticed that our boats began to warm up. Cruise Master Ted let out a surprised yell and informed us that the thermometer in his transducer was reporting a water temperature of 74 degrees Fahrenheit or 23 Celsius. What a shock. The water temperature in most of the lake

was just a bit above freezing. The cove must be home to an underwater hot spring.

We had a fabulous afternoon. The hot lake water warmed our boat hulls and the insides of our boats were soon a comfortable 23 degrees. Most of us had bathing suits on board that never got taken home from the summer so several people even went swimming in the nice warm water. I stayed on board; 23 degree water still isn't warm enough for me. We had a potluck dinner on Descanso (it was a bit crowded) and spent the evening talking about the great luck of stumbling on a hot spring. We figured that no one realized it was there because in the summer the water would only be slightly warmer than the main lake.

We awoke the next morning to another blue-sky day, but the temperature had plummeted during the night. Our boats were nice and warm inside, due to the warm water we were in, but outside it was -16C. We were floating in a pool of warm water surrounded by fairly thick ice which had formed overnight. As we ate breakfast we pondered our options and decided we would try and cut our way out of the cove using the axes two of us had on board. We only had to cut about 60 feet to get to open water. It was really pretty easy to do. Two of us

stood on Descanso's swim platform, chopped up the ice, pushed it out of the way and eased the boat backwards. The other boats followed behind us. In less than 40 minutes we were into the open water, our steamy cove behind us.

The destination for today was Doctor's Bay, if it was ice free. At slow speed it was about an hour away, but as we approached it was soon evident that the bay was frozen solid. On the VHF radio we had a conference and decided to head further down the lake to Five Mile Bay. The lake was totally calm, and forecast to stay that way for a couple of days, so travel was easy. We were warm in the sunshine, but below decks temperatures were once again getting very cold in the near freezing lake water.

We motored slowly around the huge cliffs at the north end of Doctor's Bay and continued north, however before getting to Five Mile Bay we saw more steam rising from the water in a tiny indentation near shore. Eager for another warm night we gently cut our way into the small cove, really only a cleft in a cliff, once again using



our axes. The water was warm, this time 83 degrees Fahrenheit, 28 Celsius. The only way we could all get in the small space was to slide the smallest boat, Mary-Jean, close in to shore. Mary Jean was parallel to shore and had both bow and stern almost touching shore in the narrow cleft. One by one we rafted to her, smallest to largest, with Descanso the final boat on the outside. It was tight, but we were all in the warm water and soon the hulls and inside of the boats were toasty warm. It was fantastic.



The water was so warm that even I went swimming. I put on a diving mask and fins and was surprised to see huge fresh water crayfish on the bottom clustered around the hot spring

vent. A few dives and I had enough crayfish for everyone. Crayfish are just fresh water lobsters, and when they weigh 2 pounds each they taste just like lobster. What a feast we had as we eagerly barbecued our catch. Thankfully Charleen had some garlic on board (their boat should be called “Costco Special” because they have so much extra food from Costco on board!) so we were able to have garlic butter on our lobster.

We spent two incredible days in our tiny hot spring cove swimming, eating lobster, laughing and talking. The air was frigid except right in this tiny little spot of lake warmed by the hot spring. On all our summer trips up and down the lake none of us had ever even noticed this tiny, nondescript cleft in the rocks. Now its location is memorized.

We were planning on spending two more nights on the lake, but the VHF radio informed us that the weather was about to change. A very strong low was bearing down on us and would bring ferocious winds and heavy snow. None of us wanted to face that prospect so two days early we decided to head back to the south end of the lake. It took us almost three hours to cut our way through the ice to get into the open lake, and we only had to cut 55 feet! The ice around our pool of hot water was much thicker than we had realized. As we broke the ice, we used an inflatable to push it out of the way and create a narrow channel for the boats to use to get to the open water. Once in the clear we headed down the lake at 24 knots, eager to beat the storm. The blue sky we had enjoyed was already a solid grey and the temperature had risen to only a few degrees below freezing. As we passed Echo Island snow began to gently fall from the leaden sky.

We were thinking about how we were going cut our way through the ice to the boat launch when we saw a huge boat moving truck hauling out the 55 foot Harrison tour boat. What a miracle. We were overjoyed that this was the day Steve had decided to take his boat out of the lake. The boat movers had broken the ice for us, so the way was clear to get to shore. With the temperature now close to freezing, the water around the launch stayed ice free while we pulled out our boats. Our incredible Christmas cruise was over . . . for this year.



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**Moved?? Changed your telephone number or  
purchased a new boat ??**

**Please inform membership so that up-to-date information can be forwarded for  
the new 2008 Roster. Any change can mean you are not receiving the  
magazines you are entitled to receive, so please notify Membership.**

**George Stevens – [geores@dowco.com](mailto:geores@dowco.com) or 604 585-9936**



**EVENTS**

- Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** Bridge Meeting with Fall Boating Class Graduation. Blues/Grays not required.
- Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** Valentine's Party 1800 hours (6:00 pm) at Yarrow Community Hall. This is a potluck so please bring a main course of salad or desert. Wear red and bring your favourite Valentine sweetie.
- Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** Bridge Meeting and Annual General Meeting
- Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** Change of Watch at the Rancho

**CRUISES**


Cruise Master Ted is preparing cruises for the upcoming season and would like to hear from you with suggestions you may have regarding this season's cruise schedule. He is tentatively planning the two-week Desolation Sound Cruise for mid-July. [ctcharted@shaw.ca](mailto:ctcharted@shaw.ca)

**Cruise Master Ted & Flame  
Searching for the anchor?**



“I think I see it, Dad!!”

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Check out Grog's Animated Knots – new this month**

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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 the Best Western ABC Restaurant (corner of Clearbrook Road & Marshall Road).

**January 8<sup>th</sup> (and Fall Boating Students' Grad @1930 hrs.)**  
**February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Valley Squadron Bridge Officers**

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