



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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SEPTEMBER 2008

The Gam

Commander's Corner



Valley Squadron Members,

Have you had a great summer on the water? Our family spent a lot of time on our boat both in Harrison Lake and the ocean. We spent three weeks poking around the San Juan Islands seeing the sights, crabbing and hiking with other Valley Squadron members. Another great cruise went to Octopus Islands north of Desolation.

Our Boating Courses begins in a few days time. Do you have friends who need to take the course? You know all about it, so are our best advertiser for the course. Let your friends know what they can learn in the Boating Course and the fun they can have by joining CPS. Courses will begin September 10 in Abbotsford and Harrison, September 11 in Chilliwack.

We have some great events coming up, including the Commander's Sailpast at Harrison Lake on September 9. You don't need to have a boat to take part in this event. You can hop on a boat with someone else for the sailpast. Afterwards we will have a Hawaiian Luau dinner with a barbecued pig. Don't miss it!

The boating season isn't over yet. Have fun on the water, and keep safe.

Yours truly,

Gary Clow
Commander

Cover: Deception Pass – San Juan Cruise
Picture by Gary Clow

CRUISES AND EVENTS

September 6th & 7th Valley Squadron Sail Past – Harrison Lake, Harrison Yacht Club – Theme is Hawaiian.

October 11th to 13th Thanksgiving Dinner Cruise – Long Island Bay, Harrison Lake
Dinner Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

November 28th Christmas Party – Yarrow Community Hall – 6:30 p.m.



**Come and Enjoy
the Valley Squadron Sail Past
HAWAIIAN STYLE
September 6th and 7th at Harrison Lake
Yacht Club**



The Sail Past is at 1:00 p.m.; wine and cheese to follow. You do not need a boat to attend. Others will be there to invite you on board. Come in your Hawaiian attire; bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to go along with the **whole barbecued pig** which will be prepared for the meal at 5:00 o'clock.

Come to the Commander's Breakfast Sunday 9:00 a.m.

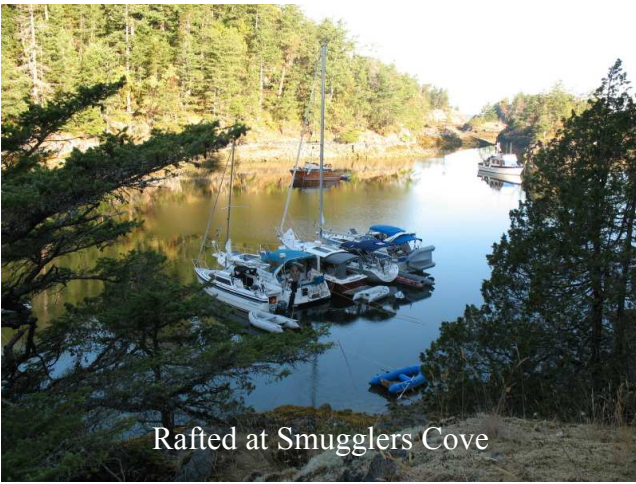
Fall Boating Course (13 weeks)

Wednesday, September 10th - Abbotsford and Harrison – 7:00 pm (1900 hrs)

Thursday, September 11th – Sardis – 7:00 pm (1900 hrs)

Tony Lamb will be instructing in Abbotsford. This being his first year at this, lets support him by coming out and helping his class by proctoring. We all have received help from Proctors when we took the course. It is a great way to review your own boating basics as well.

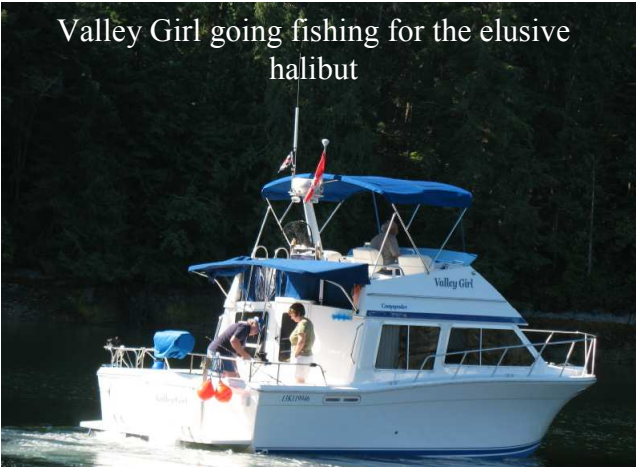
DESOLATION SOUND AND



Rafted at Smugglers Cove

On July 12th Rod and Laura Walker and Ted Blackall and Charleen Gregorig, Al and myself departed from McDonald Park around 2:30 in the afternoon. It was sunny and warm and the water had a mild chop. Rob and Gayle Turner and Mark and Ivy O'Riley and Mark's father Gill met us at Smugglers Cove. The next morning after breakfast we left for Pender Harbour. Rob and Gail stayed back and were going to meet friends they were travelling with.

While at Pender we picked up John and Carol Davy. The weather was wonderful. Al and I went for a dinghy ride. When we got back to Hardship, while Al was clipping the davits to the tender, the dinghy tipped and dumped me out into the water. Wow!! My first taste of salt!! Under I went; camera, chair, hand-held and me!! The face of my watch broke, the camera was not water proof and the chair was not a floater! The good thing was the water was 68 degrees F and I can swim.



Valley Girl going fishing for the elusive halibut

We proceeded on to Melanie Cove. John and Carol, Rod and Laura went fishing to catch the great halibut that Bonnie Arnett had left behind a few years ago. Better luck next year!!! Of course Melanie Cove was great for swimming. We had a relaxing day, after Ted's small engine died, poked a hole in his tender and Al deep-sixed his brand new gas cap!!! Five boats rafted in Melanie Cove. John and Carol (Valley Girl), Ted and Charleen (Abracadabra), Rod and Laura (Runaway), Mark, Ivy and Gill (Cassiopea) and Al and Deanna (Hardship). We then picked up a few goodies while gassing up in Refuge Cove.

Mark & Gill on Ballet Bay at Nelson Island



We met Gus Binkle and his children for a few hours in Von Donup and shared Ursula's

OCTOPUS ISLAND CRUISE

by Deanna Collier

chocolate chip cookies. In the evening Carol brought out cupcakes. After supper we set out some dog fish and were entertained by turkey vultures, ravens, an eagle and seagulls and one lone little bird that dared to swoop and snatch. The water was a comfortable 70 degrees F. The next day we were off to Rebecca spit and it was windier, warm and sunny all day.

July 19th Valley Girl and Hardship headed out early charge up the batteries and avoid rough water. We were heading for Campbell River for showers, power and shopping. In Seymour Narrows dolphins were jumping alongside our boat. We stayed for two days instead of the planned three days. The bay was beautiful but the water was too cold to swim, so Valley Girl cranked up the music and we had a few hot chocolates with mint flavoured schnapps, compliments of Charleen. Was that tasty! Thank you Charleen!

In Lewis Channel we pulled up beside Ron and Karen Grierson on the sail boat Double Deuce. We had a nice chat and were a little envious in that theirs plans were to stay in the water until September. We were a little envious. They will attempt to get to some of our winter get togethers. Squirrel Cove John took a turn stern tying. His turn was a rock cliff with no trees.

On July 24th Rod and Ted picked up the infamous sticky buns and then we headed onto Ballet Bay. From there we were on our last leg of the trip to Gibson for our last night. The next day we stopped at the River Rock Casino, had a burger at the White Spot and loaded the boat and said our farewells.

The weather was great for the full two weeks and the boys didn't need to pull a wrench once. What a holiday!!!

Pictures - Charleen Gregorig



Octopus Islands

to



Making a "Dog Run" to shore

In



Rebecca Spit

Poking around the



Don on 62 Navigator at Roche



Swinomish Channel



Emily D dinner

The San Juan Islands in Washington state are a wonderful place to cruise and spend a vacation. That's where we headed for this year and were joined by several other Valley Squadron members and friends. The cruise was planned to take advantage of the Washington State Marine Park network so most of our nights were spent either on mooring buoys or at park docks. It was the first extended cruise I had ever taken where I have not had our anchor in the water!

Our cruise officially began on Saturday, July 26th. Sandra, Christy and I were on "Descanso". The first boat to join us was "Emily D" with Herman and Irene on board. We met at Clark Island where we spent an absolutely horrendous night on mooring buoys, tossed and buffeted by wind and waves; probably the worst night I have ever had on a buoy! The next morning it took 15 minutes to untangle my line and get off the buoy! The following day we made the short hop to Sucia Island where we were joined by "Coastal Drifter", our lone sailboat, crewed by Ron and Elizabeth, and "At Last" with Don and Darlene. Friends from Sumas also joined us, Kelly and Debbie on "Chicoutimi". No, they were not

from Quebec and they don't speak French. We spent two lovely days hiking and enjoying the natural beauty of Sucia Island.

"Emily D" quickly became our gathering place. With a huge rear deck all of us could sit and talk, sit and dine, sit and play cards. We are really thankful to Herman and Irene for letting us take over their boat at every port.

San Juan Islands

by Gary Clow

From Sucia we cruised to Prevost Harbour on Stuart Island where we spent a rainy day, then continued on to Roche Harbour where we enjoyed all the facilities of this beautiful marina. We took a close look at two new yachts for sale, a Navigator 62 and a Californian 55, but no one was in the buying mood. Our friends, Kelly and Debbie, had to return home so our group dropped to 4 boats. Before going home they went fishing with Herman and Irene and "Emily D". They didn't come back with any fish but were treated to a spectacular acrobatic display of 40 orcas.

Our schedule took us to Friday Harbour where we shopped, did laundry, did more shopping and generally enjoyed ourselves. Christy left us here and headed home leaving just Sandra and I on "Descanso".

Our next stop was two days at Spencer Spit, swinging on mooring buoys. Don and Darlene had to leave us here and return home, leaving just three boats, but Bryan and Vivianne joined us for one night, so we were temporarily up to 4 boats again. We spent one day fishing, all of us on Emily D, but had nothing to show for it but a tiny dogfish. Next we moved to James Island where we hiked and took lots of pictures of early morning fog and evening sunsets. We all got some beautiful pictures of Mt. Baker, with the red glow of the setting sun illuminating it across Rosario Strait.



Sandra & Irene at James Island



Herman & Irene at Eagle Harbor



Ron & Elizabeth at Spencer Spit

After a beautiful stay at James Island it was off through Deception Pass. Some of our boaters were a bit apprehensive of the passage through Deception, having seen there tidal rapids at full flood, but when we entered at slack current it was as flat as glass. We had an easy passage and tied up at the dock in the marine park in Cornet Bay. We travelled next up through the narrow Swinomish Channel to La Conner where we celebrated Irene's birthday with a party at a wonderful restaurant. If you like tourist shops, this is the place to visit. We continued north up the Swinomish Channel to Anacortes for another nice sunny day of relaxation and wandering around town. Unfortunately Ron and Elizabeth had engine problems on "Coastal Drifter" so had to leave us at this point. Down to just two power boats.

We spent a nice day and night at Eagle Harbour on Cypress Island. This is a beautiful tranquil bay where you can anchor or hang on a mooring buoy. The views across the water, through small islands in front of the bay, are wonderful and there are lots of crabs to be caught. We were finally getting used to the US crabbing regulations in the San Juan Islands which permit crabbing only on Wednesday through Saturday.

Our final destination of the cruise was Montague Harbour on Galiano Island. We cruised to Bedwell Bay, South Pender Island, to clear Canadian Customs, then proceeded on to Montague Harbour where we spent two days relaxing, sitting on the beach, hiking and having fun. It was a perfect place to end our vacation.

We had a great time with great people. We cruised, made new friends, ate lots of crab and just enjoyed being on the water.

If you have a boat big enough to get away on a cruise (that means a porta-potty and a place to make sandwiches) come join a Valley Squadron cruise. You'll have the time of your life.



Dinner at Prevost Harbor



Swinomish Channel



I thought you said it was windy every day!



Compliments of Bob Plumtree

How many Commanders does it take to tie up a dinghy???

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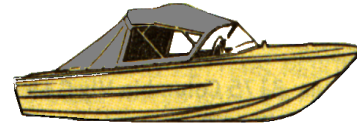
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TRAINING OFFICER REPORT:-August 2008

Our Fall Boating Course is set for Wednesday, September 10th @ 7.00 P.M. in Abbotsford- (W.J. Mouat School) - Harrison in Harrison Yacht Club.

Thursday, September 11th @ 7.00 P.M. in Chilliwack - (Sardis Senior School) .

If you are looking for a refresher or wish to help the instructors, please consider coming out if only for a few lessons.

PILOTING COURSE has been changed to SEAMANSHIP **Seamanship Course**

The Seamanship Course builds on some of the techniques introduced in the Boating Course.....

Seamanship uses traditional navigation, GPS fixes, Way Points, along with the introduction of Deviation, in the three homework cruises, and the examination take home cruises.

This course offers: interpretation of charts; the DR plot; bearings, fixes, running fixes, and Collision Regulations; and the exciting concept of plotting and labeling in True and Magnetic, adopted by the Training Department.(NEW)

Seamanship, explains the skills needed to understand the hazards of weather, wind, waves, tides, and tidal currents and how to deal with them.

When unforeseen circumstances arise such as man-overboard, and medical emergencies, the seamanship course counsels the student, as to where and how to acquire the skills to deal with potentially life-threatening situations, and of course you can “learn the ropes”, from knots, hitches, bends, and splices.

Anyone having passed the Boating Course is able to “take it to the next level”
Please let me know if there is enough interest to put this course on as it sounds quite interesting- I will obtain a copy of this for the “library”.

Bruce Matheson
Squadron Training

Visit our Website at valleysquadron/home.htm

Valley Squadron Bridge Meetings

All Members are Welcome!

Bridge meetings are open to all Valley Squadron members. Join us at 1900 hours at our new meeting place – **Cross Roads Family Restaurant, 1821 Sumas Way, Abbotsford, BC.**

**September 9th
October 14th**

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