



## **Commander's Report to the Cowichan Squadron AGM - 23 April 2014**

We have had a very good year. Wayne MacDonald has advised that our financials are sound and significantly improved over last year under our balanced budget practice. Ian de Verteuil has advised that our membership, while fluctuating throughout the year, is also steady, year on year.

Our training programs, so capably managed by Gary Cline, saw our class sizes improving and the on-the-dock seminars of the Boating courses grow to be tremendously popular; we graduated five new Registered Instructor's, one from another squadron; we also had four of our officers attend the Officer Training offered by our District. Thank you to our many ATO's, instructors, proctors, and student cruise skippers who offered their time this past year to make our training programs successful.

It was also a great year for other activities, with many hands participating, often guided by Colin Hall, and highlighted perhaps by the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flag Relay which featured both Mt Brenton and Saltspring Squadrons, but also our Mother's Day and Thanksgiving Rendezvous', and various special members' nights. We recall the marine lawyer, Darren Williams, popular speaker JD (Battery) Bailey, and guest speaker Randy Neufeldt from the Western Canada Response Corporation. Some of us even attended a Mt Brenton Squadron event to hear their Executive Officer, Dr. John Davis, speak on 'Pacific Salmon', and a few of us conquered the Cobble Hill Climb attending a Fundraiser for the Mill Bay Volunteer RCM SAR. Our Christmas Dinner / Dance was a great success, with the Crofton Ladies preparing dinner, lively music by Tropic Mayhem, and lots of seasonal cheer. Our squadron pennant has been redesigned and is in the process of being registered at National. We staffed promotional booths at both the Cowichan Exhibition and Cowichan Valley's 1st Outdoor Marine & Boat Show.

Thanks to all of you that pitched in to make all of our events possible and so enjoyable. We have an exceptional group of volunteers who strive to teach safe boating while having fun.

This past year we submitted the volunteer hours of 69 individuals for recognition toward Merit Marks. That is well over 25% of our current membership. Tonight, we are going to present 30 Merit Mark Awards to those individuals who served 20 or more hours on behalf of the organization. Two will receive their Senior Members Award, two will receive Life Membership, and one will be recognized for achieving a twenty-five (25) year threshold.

You have been a pleasure to work with. Thank you for all of your contributions and congratulations on your success.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Jenkins, Commander