



Commander's Report to the Bridge – 8 April 2015

Felled by the flu last month, I wish to thank Training Officer Bob Wheadon for so capably chairing the March Bridge Meeting in my stead.

Our training programs are nearly complete for the Spring sessions. We reported on Boating Basics and Maritime Radio previously. The Boating Essentials course of 13 students writes their final exam tomorrow. The Advanced Piloting course of 7 students turned in their Exam Part I, a simulated Cruise that takes two weeks to complete, and wrote the Part II final last night. We still have the possibility of running Boating Basics and Maritime Radio courses in May and June as advertised by the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

The bug also caused me to miss some of my instructor obligations. My thanks are also extended to Jim Peakman for taking the Boating Essentials class to do with the Student Cruise and Tom Hart for standing in on two AP classes to do with Tides and Currents.

Our Treasurer reports that our finances are well balanced now so we are proceeding with the Boat Ramp Signage project and perhaps others.

Recent membership statistics as of yearend 31 March 2015, as issued by National and forwarded by the VIND, show some interesting numbers. Overall CPS-ECP membership is 22,071. The VIND has 1430 members, placing 6th out of the 17 Districts. Cowichan Squadron was shown as having 251 members, second only to the Nanaimo Squadron in the VIND and 16th overall in membership among the 148 squadrons recorded. Our squadron posted 46 new members during the year, leading our District, and we were 12th in the nation.

These excellent results are the compilation of the efforts of both our Membership Officer, Ian de Verteuil, and all of those volunteers, in all roles, at all levels, that make our squadron a vibrant and rewarding experience for all of its members. Well done.

The AGM notice has been distributed to the membership, as prescribed, along with the AGM Agenda and the Nominating Committee Report. We hope to see you there on the 22nd of April.

Respectfully submitted,
Russ Jenkins,
Commander