



Report to the VIND Council Meeting 20 October 2013

The Cowichan Squadron is pleased to report that our membership stands at 245.

Our financials remain sound. For the month ended, August 31st, we show a year to date deficit of over \$2,000.00, largely related to expenditures on course materials prior to running the courses. We had total available cash resources of \$13,000, or about 75% of annual turnover. We have developed and approved a break even budget for 2013/2014.

Our fall curriculum has come to life. Our boating courses, Boating Basics, followed by Boating Essentials, got underway with an interesting twist; Training Officer Gary Cline arranged for on-the-dock seminars during each of these. We have scheduled three Maritime Radio courses this fall. We have also scheduled an Instructor Development course in late November to qualify additional members. Plus, we had four officers attend the VIND Officer Training sessions in Nanaimo on the 22 September.

Administration Officer Colin Hall arranged for our participation in the Cowichan Exhibition with our promotional booth from Sep 6th to 8th. We had lots of folks drop by to discuss our programs and a number indicated their interest in enrolling in our fall programs.

On the July 1st long weekend, some of our members met for rendezvous at Princess Cove on Wallace Island, while others were at Telegraph Harbour Marina on Thetis Island. We also had a number of members attend the VIND rendezvous at Maple Bay 27 July. A few of our seasoned cruisers attended a rendezvous at Shelby Bay on Provost Island for the Labour Day weekend. Our Thanksgiving Rendezvous at Tod Inlet is next, showing great promise with at least 13 vessels and their crews registered to attend.

We are very pleased to announce that Cowichan Squadron members have been offered an excellent discount at two local marine supply retailers. Details appear in the Seabreeze.

We supported the Mill Bay Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue Conquer Cobble Hill Hike and BBQ on June 29, 2013 which succeeded in raising funds for our local Marine SAR group.

Our reception for the 75th Anniversary Flag at the Maple Bay Yacht Club on Monday, 30 September, was a resounding success. The Mount Brenton crew outdid our expectations with their delivery of the Flag via the *Saravan*, the 75 year old tug that is

the flagship of the Ladysmith Maritime Society. Thank you to PRO Emily Mikulski, *Saravan* Skipper Rob Pinkerton and his wife Trish, Jack Bennett, Marg Dash, and Jay Page.

Piper Frank Nichol from the Cowichan Pipe and Drum Band added considerably to the pomp of the ceremony, piping the flag escort up from the dock face to the Club. Honoured guests included VIND Executive Officer Barry Ensign, and VIND PRO Cecil Ashley. We had notes of congratulations from a number of local politicians that were unable to attend, primarily due a scheduling conflict with the Canadian Cancer Society Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock. Our Membership Officer Ian de Verteuil was photographer on the day for both occasions. You can look on the website for a pictorial record of the events.

On the following day, 2 October, four of our Bridge members carried the Flag to the Salt Spring Island Squadron of the VISD via the Crofton to Vesuvius Ferry and joined in the celebrations there. BC Ferries was kind enough to fly the CPS Flag for the round trip and while our members attended the festivities at the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club. SSIS were gracious hosts.

In a more somber vein, we note the passing of Dave Knapton, 8 year member and student cruise skipper, in a tragic accident and that of Bob Lyons, recent graduate and new member, after a brief illness; both in August. Condolences were extended to both families.

On the horizon, we have rescheduled guest speaker, Darren Williams, Barrister & Solicitor, who will address Marine Law and Insurance for the small boater on Tuesday 5th November 2013 at the Travelodge Silver Bridge Inn. CPS members and the public are invited to attend. Invitations have been sent to the Nanaimo, Gabriola, and Mount Brenton Squadrons, all the local insurance agents, and other local organizations interested in boating. Details are on our website.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Jenkins, AP
Commander, Cowichan Squadron