

2000 Graduation Dinner / Change of Watch

This is our Social Event of the Year. This evening is multi-purpose:

- * We recognize our new graduates
- * We thank Squadron members who have donated their time during the past year - by awarding Merit Marks
- * We "swear in" next years Bridge.

Something New: This year we are holding our Graduation Dinner at the Yacht Club in Callander overlooking beautiful Callander Bay. Dinner will be catered by *Jen's Kitchen*. As usual it is on a Sunday night. This is planned so you can work on your boat all

weekend, and then treat yourself and your mate to a nice dinner out, as well as enjoy the fellowship of other C.P.S. members. Come and help welcome our new graduates into the Squadron.

DATE: Sunday MAY 07, 2000

TIME: Cocktails 1730 hours

Dinner 1830 hours

Cost: \$20.00 per person - taxes and gratuity are included in price.

To reserve, call Carol Gibson at 752-2223 🍀

Issue 2000 Volume 1

March, 2000

CROSSCHOP

The Official Newsletter of the



NORTH BAY ^{Power Sail} SQUADRON



Published Quarterly

Winter Session Boating Course in Full Swing

Although it looked like it was going to get canceled, we managed to get 6 people signed up for the Winter Session of the Boating Course.

The numbers in the Boating Course are becoming disappointing. In the past we have been able attract over 20 students in a session. We have facilitated courses with as few as 5 students..

The Boating Course Graduates are the only people who can gain membership into the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron. This course is the Life Blood of our squadron. If you know of anyone interested in taking the course, please encourage them to sign up for the fall session. Watch future issues of Crosschop for details of registration.

Thanks to everyone who is currently taking the course, and good luck with the upcoming exam. 🍀

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Don't Forget the Annual Meeting is May 3rd

The North Bay Power and Sail Squadron Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday May, 3rd, 2000 at the North Bay Yacht Club (Greenwood Road, Callander) at 19:00 - Please see insert in this newsletter. Following the Annual Meeting will be a presentation on Electronic navigation using electronic charting software and GPS positioning tools by our training officer Caven Ford. We are looking to borrow a video projector so if you or your workplace can offer to loan us one for the evening, please contact Caven directly at 752-4807. 🍀



Get Your Pleasure Craft Operator Card

Tell your boating friends (who don't have their boat licence) that they can challenge the exam at the following dates and locations:

April 3 - 7 6:30 - 8:30 Hunters Bay Marine display at New North Bay Mall
April 8 & 9 2 - 4 Hunters Bay Marine display at New North Bay Mall
April 15 10 - 3 H&S Marine - Hwy 11 North
April 29 10 - 3 Gieske Marine 299 Elm St Powassan


Also planning on being at Hunters Bay Marine show room in June

We have the same procedure as last year - write the exam for free, pay \$20. if you pass. For further info. call George at 752-3201 🌿

Joint Cruise w/ NBYC

Circle July 15 on your calendar NOW. Dinner at Keystone Yacht Club are having a French River cruise for the weekend and have invited us to join them at Keystone Sat for dinner. More details in next issue.

STORES

Is your flag  Tattered or Torn?

Supplies are available from our supply officer:
Carol Gibson

Get your orders in NOW

17051 752-2223

Introduction to GPS Seminar to be Offered April 29 & 30

Your Squadron is offering a 2 day Introduction to GPS course again this Spring. Course will be held at North Bay Yacht Club on Green Road Callander on Saturday April 29 and Sunday April 30.

The course will start at 9:00 each morning. Bring a lunch and we will supply coffee. The cost for the seminar is \$20.00.

The course presenter is Don Whyte. Anyone planning to participate in this two-way learning session is asked to bring their GPS unit and manual with them on both days. Day one will be general discussion on GPS units and day 2 will focus on attempting to answer questions specific to your unit.

Call Carol Gibson at 752 2223 to register. 🌿



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Boat Show Trip 2000

By Terry Lang

Even though the winter wasn't one of the harder winters that we've ever had, the little "time-out" in January to start looking at boats and thinking about summer again sure made it even shorter. If you missed out you missed an excellent trip. I'd highly recommend planning on attending next year.

Your bridge organized and ran a "not for profit" bus trip to the 2000 Toronto International Boat show. This year 54 people took the journey. We extended an invitation to the Yacht club membership as well to round out the larger bus. Thank you to all who attended and made the trip possible, and thank you to all who helped organize the trip, in particular to Carol Gibson for coordinating the effort. As always, a job well done.

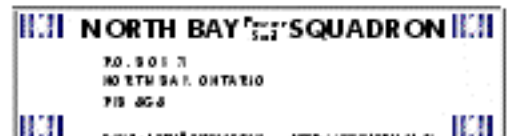
Although the show wasn't as good/big as it has been in the past (especially for sailors) it was still a great exhibition for many other things. Lots of products, lots of accessories, and lots of toys. Yes, that's what it's all about now isn't it? I certainly don't mean to challenge the old Chief's slogan "the most fun you can have on a boat going nowhere..." But I sure had a lot of fun sitting at the helm of some of those 50 foot cruisers and pretending that I'd be able to afford one myself some day.

Some of us left behind a few dollars and brought back Bar-BQ's, Chamois, paint, electronic charts, GPS's and other "necessary" boating accessories. Others of us made new contacts and ended up purchasing new boats. I must say that for what I was looking for it was a great venue for talking to the different manufactures, seeing the different boats, and making an informed decision on what to buy. I'm done buying boats for awhile, but I will be on the bus next year looking for accessories! Hope to see you there. 🌿

USPS Celebrates 85th Anniversary.

The "Voyage of the Ensign" started at the June 1999 USPS national meeting in Puerto Rico and ended in a celebration in Orlando, Florida at the AGM in January 2000. The specially designed flag and log book traveled to all Power Squadrons across Canada, the United States, Puerto Rico, The American Virgin Islands, Hawaii and Japan. The year long voyage symbolizes the journey from our beginnings 85 years ago through the new millennium and into the 21st century.

The North Bay Squadron (along with all other squadrons in the Voyageur district) did their part to facilitate this journey. We were presented with a booklet of the log that pertained to our district. Ivan Gough, Squadron Historian holds this booklet and it will be brought to the AGM and Grad Dinner for viewing. 🌿



Commanders Message:

By George Graham

It looks like spring has arrived and our thoughts are turning to the upcoming boating season. Soon we will be completing those last minute repairs and preparing the boat for the water. Hopefully we will have some water to put them in this year. The forecast is for better conditions than last year, at least in lake Nipissing. There is a warning for low water levels again this year in the Great Lakes. The Coast Guard is advising boaters to watch the Notice to Mariners for changes to the Navigational Aids in these waters.

You will notice that there is information regarding the upcoming Annual General Meeting and the Graduation Dinner. We are hopeful to have as many members as possible attend these functions. This is your chance to see how the organization works. The more members that take part in Squadron events, the stronger the Squadron will be.

I hope you have a great boating season and may the sun always shine when you are on the water.

Commander George Graham AP 🍀

Thank You BROOKS OK TIRE!

The Bridge would like to send a special thank you to BROOKS TIRE. Brooks Tire, Located on Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, posts all our notices about upcoming registrations and exam challenges on the sign in front of their store, for FREE. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their interest in the community. 🍀

Dues Due

Yup...it's that time again. Annual dues notifications are going out from National and most of you should have received yours by the time you are reading this. If by some remote chance that you do not within a short time, please contact our membership officer, Grant Churcher. If you have received your notice, don't forget to pay early and take advantage of the early payment discounts. 🍀

HUNTERS BAY MARINE



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Training Officer's Notes

By Caven Ford

I am sure, with the recent weather conditions, everyone is thinking and maybe even gearing up for the next boating season. The winter training season is in full swing with five people enrolled in the Boating Course. A number of BoatPRO courses and exam challenge sessions are planned for later this spring. As always, we are looking for excuses to put on other courses. A recent offering of both the Seamanship Power and Sail courses fell through because of instructor availability and numbers; we could not find an instructor for the Seamanship Power course and there wasn't enough interest in the Seamanship Sail course to make it go. If you were on a list for any of these courses, please be patient, we are always willing to add to the list and if we get enough names, we will make the arrangements to put it on.

Some courses in which interest has been mentioned, in addition to the above, are the GPS Seminar, Weather and the VHF operator's course. The regulations have changed and for most of us, a station license is no longer required for the VHF radio on our craft, but the operator still needs to be licensed. If any member is interested in offering your services as an instructor in any of the courses we offer, please let me know as our supply of instructors is low. Currently, besides myself doing various BoatPRO courses and challenges, we have your Commander, George Graham who is doing a great job instructing the Boating course and BoatPRO courses and challenges. Instructing a course is a great way to help out the Squadron and brush up on little used skills and knowledge. Please call me at 752-4807 for more information.

Caven Ford - Training Officer (P) 🍀

District Conference May 12, 13, 14,

This year the district conference will be a joint conference of the Georgian-Trent and the Voyageur Districts. Held at the Muskoka Riverside Inn, in Bracebridge Ontario, May 12, 13, 14 2000.

Reservation deadline is April 30, 2000.

Anyone looking for more information, please contact the bridge or Gilbert Desjardins, Voyageur Conference 2000 Coordinator (705) 645-4217

The Lighter Side

Once upon a time there was a famous sea captain. This captain was very successful at what he did; for years he guided merchant ships all over the world. Never did stormy seas or pirates get the best of him. He was admired by his crew and fellow captains.

However, there was one thing different about this captain. Every morning he went through a strange ritual. He would lock himself in his captain's quarters and open a small safe. In the safe was an envelope with a piece of paper inside. He would stare at the paper for a minute, then lock it back up. After, he would go about his daily duties.

For years this went on, and his crew became very curious. Was it a treasure map? Was it a letter from a long lost love? Everyone speculated about the contents of the strange envelope.

One day the captain died at sea. After laying the captain's body to rest, the first mate led the entire crew into the captain's quarters. He opened the safe, got the envelope, opened it and...

The first mate turned pale and showed the paper to the others. Four words were on the paper, two on two lines:

*"Port Left,
Starboard Right"*

Great Lakes Water Levels

March 1st and no snow left! Again this year they are predicting that the water levels on the Great Lakes will be low. The Canadian Coast Guard has warned that they may have to relocate aids to navigation on very short notice this year and to be careful. I have discovered a great web site that monitors hourly water levels from different stations around the great lakes:
<http://chswww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/hourly.html>

A notice from the CCG highlights the following:

The Canadian Coast Guard is reviewing the various Aids to Navigation systems to develop contingency plans should water levels in Lake Superior, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay significantly drop below chart datum. Changes to the Aids to Navigation in both small craft and commercial channels may be necessary. The changes may incorporate one or more of the following: Temporary repositioning of buoys, temporary addition of buoys, temporary removal of ranges, temporary narrowing of channels, and temporary re-routing of channels and removal of buoys. Necessary changes to the Aids to Navigation will take place at or as near to the opening of the 2000 navigation season as possible. All changes will be broadcast through Notices to Shipping.

Mariners are invited to voice any concerns through their nearest Coast Guard Radio Station or directly to:

Randy Childerhose or Mike Phillips - Pary sound (705) 748-2196
Steve Lear or Chuck Lemaire - Prescott (613) 925-2865
Al Dion - Regional Superintendent - Sarnia (519) 383-1859

Our new Web Address
<http://www.nbpss.on.ca>



1999-2000 Squadron Bridge

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