

North Star

Membership Publication by the
Vancouver Island North District
(a Unit of Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons)



Commander's Corner

CPS GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 24/25/26/27 2007
OTTAWA

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S REPORT

The District Commanders' meeting was held on the Wednesday evening and the first order of business was to review the District Commanders' reports which had previously been posted on the website.

Most Squadrons reported that registrations for Fall Boating courses were down somewhat, although Atlantic District reported a dramatic increase [20%], for an unaccountable reason.

A number of Squadrons have had a continuing decline in membership but the figures will show increases over the next few months, due to the "free" membership given to Boating Course students and successful PCOC students.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the CPS Branding Project - name change and I will comment on this topic later in the report. There was little discussion on the dues increase, which was approved. The new web-based Administration came in for discussion, with a number of Districts stating that their Squadrons were have difficulty with what was described as a user-unfriendly system.

My report for VIND was posted on the website and I added some verbal comments which arose from the subsequent Council Meeting. I reported that all Squadrons except one are holding Fall Boating Courses and that a few have reported a small increase in registrations. Overall our District registrations are down by 12% from last year.

The one Squadron which is unable to hold a Boating course, as reported by the Commander at the Council meeting, is Port Alberni. They do not have a Squadron Training Officer and although they have a full Bridge, including four Past Commanders, they cannot get any volunteer help.

I reported that District has offered to help and a meeting is scheduled for November 8 in Port Alberni, to see what can be done to increase participation by the Bridge and general members. We will assist in putting on a Spring Boating course.

The first of two GOVERNING BOARD meetings took place on Thursday, with all Districts being present, plus members of the Operating Committee and General Directors.

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North Star

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Commander's Corner

WEB-BASED ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

It was reported that the goal is to have the system totally up and running early in 2008. Administration, Membership and Training roles are functional.

CPS BRANDING PROJECT

As a result of a procedural issue, it was determined that the proposed vote of the membership, to be held at the AGM, could not proceed. The votes were cast outside the AGM to determine if there was a clear-cut choice. This turned out not to be the case, there being a total of 2,324 votes cast, of which 1,791 indicated no choice of any of the three names. The Brand Name issue has been passed back to the Operating Committee for further discussion and no change in name will be made at this time.

DUES INCREASE

As mentioned earlier, the vote on the question of the \$3 dues increase was carried unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP REWARDS - LONGEVITY PINS

It has been decided that members receiving their Life Membership or any other significant Merit Mark will receive, free of charge, a Longevity Pin, denoting the years of service they have achieved, as part of the new National Rewards Program. I will be sending Commanders a separate note on this topic shortly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NM1 - National Rewards Program

Motion carried

NM2 - Rename Operational Manual Committee

Motion carried

NM3 - SN requirements - motions were made to amend this Motion, the first being to amend Section [d] [i] to read "Seamanship Sail or the former Seamanship Power" this amendment was approved.

A further Motion was proposed by me, as directed at the last VIND Council, that Junior Navigator [JN] be deleted from the motion. After much discussion, this was defeated as it was stated that since 80% of the N course material is included in JN, it would be unfair to make a JN do the whole course again.

A further amendment was proposed that there be inserted after the words, "January 1, 2008" the words "or when all courses listed below are available in both English and French, whichever is later". Amendment carried

Motion carried

NM4 - Internal Audit Review Committee

Motion carried

NM5 - Sustaining Members

Motion carried

A Motion was proposed by D/C Ray Orr, and seconded by Joe Gatfield that the Governing Board request the surrender of the Warrant for Goletas Squadron to National, along with all financial records and any applicable funds currently held by the Squadron and distributed according to Governing Board Regulation 13.2.3 and Be It Further Resolved that all members of Goletas Squadron be reassigned to neighbouring Squadrons, or to National District as individual members, according to their preference.

Motion carried

A letter is being written by the CPS Legal Counsel to Michael Schnurr to advise him of the above and D/C Ray will write an individual letter to all Goletas members, advising them of this action and to offer them the choice for continued membership.

Commander's Corner

A motion was approved to hold the 2011 National Conference in Halifax NS in the week immediately following Thanksgiving.

The Nominating Committee report, previously tabled was approved with Harry Cole assuming the position of Chief Commander.

Commanders please note that Merit Marks must be submitted via the web-based Administration system by December 31 to National. Department heads must submit Merit Mark hours for their Departments, for District hours, to D/C Ray Orr by December 1. Please ensure that all submissions for Merit Marks include the members' membership number. *Let us be sure that no one is missed.*

The Membership Reward Program for increased membership between July 2006 and July 2007, which was funded by a grant from the CPS Foundation, resulted in 56 awards being presented. This included 31 banners for Squadrons that increased their membership by five percent or more and 25 Honourable Mention Certificates for other Squadrons that increased their membership but not by five percent.

Squadrons in VIND who were awarded banners were Cape Lazo, Nanoose and Powell River. Certificates were awarded to Gabriola and Cowichan. I was honoured to receive these awards on behalf of the Squadrons and will arrange for them to be presented as soon as possible. Congratulations to all.

In addition to the membership awards, I was pleased to accept CPS Foundation 100% Honour Roll certificates on behalf of Port Alberni - 10th award and Nanaimo - 13th and 14th awards. I also received a certificate for VIND - 10th award. These certificates will also be presented at an appropriate time.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted

D/C Ray Orr

Roster Updates

Ballenas Bridge:

Phone Chair	Allen Carpenter	nexusus@eng2.com
Editor Bowline	Dionne Hurd	cohostudio@gmail.com

Cape Lazo Bridge:

Training Officer	Charles Hawkswell V9N 9N3	chawkswell@hotmail.com
Executive Officer	Larry Clay	barbnlarryclay@shaw.ca
Public Relations	Barb Clay	barbnlarryclay@shaw.ca
Supply Officer	Larry Clay	barbnlarryclay@shaw.ca
Administration	Dave & Larin Benoit	Phone # 897-3598
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Stokmo	spentland@shaw.ca
Port Captain North	Jack Cryderman	Phone # 339-4014 jjcryder@telus.net

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Principal Changes 2007

The following is a brief review of the changes made during 2007.

VIND approved by Governing Board as the host for the 2010 National Conference. This will be held in Nanaimo on October 27 to 30th.

Dress - Blazer and greys are the official formal dress. A casual outfit consisting of CPS shirt with logo, slacks or skirt is the other option. Changes to be effective October 27, 2007.

Ranks - With the exception of Chief commander, District Commander, Squadron Commander and Past Commanders, CPS dispenses with the use of all ranks when referring to the offices held by respective Bridges and Committees. Effective January 14, 2007.

New web- based Administration system progressing and ready for membership renewal process in April 2007.

In August P/D/C Phil Devitt, Cowichan Squadron attended a session in Toronto and returned with information which was sent out to all pass it on to their Squadrons. At a later date, all such persons will be asked to attend a face-to-face meeting to discuss the system in detail.

Strategic Plan - Branding Project – See Commander’s Corner for details.

National dues Increase - The proposed \$3 increase for 2008 was approved at the Governing Board meeting in October.

Membership Rewards Program - See Commander’s Corner for details.

Membership [Boating] - The resolution to award a one year CPS membership to each student who takes the Boating course and achieves the required passing mark was approved at the June Governing Board meeting.

Similarly, a motion was also approved to award a CPS Associate membership to each person who successfully completes a CPS PCOC Exam, for their first year at no cost to the Associate member from National, District or Squadron. The cost of the PCOC exam was increased by Five dollars.

D/C Ray Orr

Roster Updates continued

Mount Brenton Bridge:

Treasurer	Marion Rodall	Phone # 245-4337 jmrodall@shaw.ca
Entertainment	P/Cdr Rod McLachlan	Phone # 245-7600 rodmlachlan@shaw.ca
Meetings	Linda Reed	Phone # 245-7692 vanreed@shaw.ca

National Conference

CPS National Conference 2007

VIND was well represented with four members attending: D/C Ray Orr and Barb Hoffstrom attended the Governing Board Meetings, while Barb, Sheila Boutcher, and Clifford Miller took part in the Training meetings. Unfortunately DTO Nick Boutcher was not able to be there because of health problems.

There was a good turnout for the conference, with over 400 members taking part, and the usual partying on Friday and Saturday evenings. However, there was also a lot of work done at the various meetings.

Governing Board approved new criteria for the Senior Navigator Grade, as suggested by the Training Department. For long-term members, the Senior Member designation has replaced the former "Full Certificate" grade. Your Squadron Training Officer has the details of the new requirements. Anyone who has previously gained the "Full Certificate" or Senior Members designation naturally retains the grade.

At the AGM it was announced that CPS members will now get a 25% discount from Weems and Plath, if orders are placed directly with the company in the States. This company makes a wide range of navigational and plotting instruments, as well as nautical giftware such as clocks, barometers etc. You can see their products at www.weems-plath.com. They are also sponsoring a new award for "Instructor of the Year", with three prizes to be awarded annually, one to the three major regions of Canada.

CPS and ICOM Canada have also entered into a partnership to promote safe boating, foster the proper use of marine electronics and communication equipment and encourage boaters to seek appropriate instruction in the use of such equipment. They are sponsoring an award to the three top Electronic Course Instructors (based on region). The first awards (beautiful radios) were presented this year, with the instructor from Pender Island Squadron, Vancouver Island South District, taking the west.

The new National Bridge was also elected at the AGM. The west is well represented, with the Chief Commander, Harry Cole, from Vancouver, and the National Executive Officer, Mel Blann, now living in Parksville!

On Friday afternoon Executive Director Alain Briere gave an in-depth presentation on the new web-based computer system that has been installed at HQ. Members can now access their own membership profile for changing mailing information, telephone, etc. through the "My Profile" tab. Please follow the steps indicated to set up your password. For Squadron Officers, more and more features are being added particularly for Commanders, Training, Membership, Treasurer and Communications Officers. Commanders will be pleased to know that they will be able to complete their merit marks for the squadron level on-line NOW.

If you would like any information about the training meetings, please contact your Squadron Training Officer who has received a full report.

All in all, it was a successful conference with many new ideas and initiatives being presented, and well worth attending. We had a great time.

Sheila Boutcher & Barb Hoffstrom