

CANADIAN POWER AND SAIL SQUADRONS
Vancouver Island South District



District Commander's Report to the Governing Board
Toronto June 10, 2006

- A. Matters for the Governing Board:
- a. GB3-NM7 SN Celestial Requirements – It is the general consensus of VISD that as the old Navigator Course was pulled and replaced with the Celestial Navigation Course (CN) that individuals with JN had at least 3 years to complete the course with Navigator. After consulting with instructors and members who have completed the old course, compared it to the new course, it was noted that there are important differences in sight requirements, and reduction, and course content. This coupled with the lapse in time between taking JN and having not completed the old Navigation course, it would seem better for any JN student to take the new CN course. Completing the course would be more in keeping with the standards we have held for this high level of education. VISD will not support NM7 in reference to JN.
 - b. Canadian Safe Boating Awards – With our boating season off to a good start we are already seeing emergency incidents taking place at marinas and on open waters here on the Pacific Coast inland waters. I would like to know what changes have been made to the protocols for submissions for CASBA.
- B. General:
- a. At all of the Graduations I have attended, I have put forth the need for Administrators, and requested the students who have interest and skills to become active members. It is plain we have a “swinging door” with new members from the Boating Classes. They will sign up for one year and then opt out the following year. This along with attrition and disinterest by members at large, have led us to be on a decline in membership.
 - b. I also went to the AGM's of my Squadrons, save one. Here the problem of attendance of members at large is not good. The Squadron Bridge Officers appear to be the only ones attending.
 - c. This year is VISDs 10th Anniversary and C/C Serge St-Martin attended our AGM and one day Conference. The fifty people who attended agreed that it was an enjoyable AGM, and Serge spent a great deal of time in conversation with the Training Dept and the Squadron Commanders. We had invited guests to give presentations in the morning during a Coffee Social. District Environment Officer, Sara Steil, asked Bill Henwood of Parks Canada to give us an update on the progress of the Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve. The Southern Gulf Islands have been targeted for Environmental Protection. Dave Jackson of Canadian Hydrographic Services along with our District MAREP Officer, Len Burton, gave a very good presentation on MAREP. Len is a very enthusiastic and energetic proponent of the MAREP program and is working hard to revive local interest in it. Our COW provided a full slate of Officers, including an Executive Officer. We hope to find an Administrative Officer for next year, if not before.
 - d. C/C Serge, while attending our VISD AGM, made a special trip to the home of Agnes Simpson, Saanich Peninsula Squadron, to present her with her 20th Merit Mark, plaque, and flag. Agnes was 90 years of age and has supported both her Squadron and Brentwood Bay Sqn over the years. After the passing of her husband Jack Simpson, she managed to operate the boat on her own for a while until the responsibility was taken over by her family. Sadly, earlier this week, on June 3, 2006 she passed away at home.

- C. Training:
- a. I'm proud of the quality of instruction and the number of students who took courses this training year, which were up slightly from last year.
 - b. VISD statistical figures show that for Fall and Winter/Spring our totals were:
 - i. Boating, 363 Students; 310 Pass; 13 Fail; 40 DNW
 - ii. Piloting, 30 Students; 18 Pass; 1 Fail; 11 DNW
 - iii. AP, 3 Students; 2 Pass; 0 Fail; 1 DNW
 - iv. Fundamental Weather, 33 Students; 17 Pass; 1 Fail; 4 DNW
 - v. Global Weather, 19 Students; 14 Pass; 0 Fail; 1 DNW
 - vi. Marine Maintenance, 24 Students; 22 Pass; 1 Fail; 1 DNW
 - vii. GPS, 13 Students; 12 Pass; 1 Fail; 0 DNW
 - c. Our total Boating and Elective course student registration was 485
 - d. VHF, 248 Students; 244 Pass; 4 DNW
- D. Membership and Renewals:
- a. National stats are not favorable for VISD, and I am in the process of trying to find out if the process of Head Quarters sending out the billing, collecting the renewals, and the entire process of notifying Districts and Squadrons has taken away something of the Memberships Officers contact with the membership.
- E. Finances:
- a. Our financial picture is good and we came in under budget for our last fiscal year. However this year we will encounter a few more expenses for travel for our Executive Officer to come to GB in January 2007. District applied for some of the SHARE program funds to cover expenses paid on behalf of all of our squadrons.
- F. Public Relations:
- a. VISD has again completed it's entry in the 13th Annual Victoria Boat, Fishing, Outdoor Show and Sale, which took place February 24-26 at Pearks Recreation Ctr, Tillicum Mall in Victoria. I circulated the crowd with the CPS Public Survey 2006 and obtained 60 signed surveys.
 - b. Saanich Peninsula Squadron was at the gates for the Victoria Harbor Floating Boat Show in Victoria's Inner Harbor, but due to the numbers of volunteers required to do that, and the busy gate entrance, they did not use the survey there.
 - c. Victoria Squadron was invited to Ships Point in Victoria, to participate in a CFAX Radio live broadcast during the Swiftsure Race event held at May 26, 27, 28, 2006. Time was limited and broken, but they supported the District Squadrons by speaking about the course schedule for the coming year.
 - d. Safe Boating Week - I tried to find a newspaper that would give us a reasonable break on a sizeable ad. One local news group proposed a 30% discount on a 5x8 inch ad for just under \$2000.00. Needless to say I had no budget for that. As a District I could pay for a Business Card ad, which would not include a message. I heard nothing positive. There is the opinion that Squadron advertising for courses is beneficial, and some Squadrons do have funds that can and are spent on that type of advertising. However there are more Squadrons who feel they get their boating students through word of mouth, and don't wish to spend their money on advertising. This points to the fact that neither this District or its Squadrons supported Safe Boating Week with advertisement, but do support advertising for boating students at other advantageous times. If National wishes Districts to support the Canadian Safe Boating Council and Safe Boating Week, then perhaps it could consider giving Districts some financial help in doing this. What is left from the SHARE Program after Squadrons have used it will not cover even a portion of this Districts costs in support of CSBC and it's Safe Boating Week campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

D/C Shirley Hamilton, SN
VISD