



ANCHOR WATCH



The official newsletter of Norvan Power & Sail Squadron

EDITOR: TOM SYMONS

Call Norvan at 904-6780, visit us at www.norvan-cps.org

OCTOBER 2006

Better Not Give A

OTTAWA FLUSHES BOATERS

[Yes, folks, a real editorial]

The customs station for boaters in Bedwell Harbour (South Pender Island) is closed from October 1 to May 1. Some years ago, a call was placed to the Gods in Ottawa for an explanation. The Ontario bred response: "everyone knows that it is iced in during this period". Well, this system of Eastern blinkers has hit B. C. again, and with a vengeance.

The September edition of Pacific Yachting contained a great article by P/C/C **Norm Dyck** entitled "Don't Pump That Head" [see Currents], which nicely summarizes this atrocity. In short, regulations are being proposed that apparently would forbid flushing your head, or emptying your holding tank, within one mile of land for treated sewage and three miles for untreated sewage.

Overlooked by these boffins was the recommendation from the local Committee that considered the proposed regulations, that "the



B.C. Boater, Ottawa

availability of approved reception facilities [pump-out stations] be a prerequisite for the designation of areas". The present proposal also has a much farther permissible range and an area definition which apparently outlawed all of Georgia Strait; still, once you clear Lund you are out of luck. Compliance is being assured through an elaborate system of record keeping which becomes the boater's responsibility.

A meeting to consider the regulations was held in North Vancouver on September 13. While those present recognized the need to protect the atmosphere, the great majority attempted to point out that, with the limited supply of pump-out stations (one presenter said only 4 in the lower mainland, and only 1 available to the general public), the regulations were not "sustainable, enforceable and will make criminals out of pleasure craft owners". Of course, there are no stations, or places to dump, in Desolation Sound or North of Campbell River.

Norm is of the view that these presentations will be ignored, that the changes "will likely go ahead unless stopped by political intervention". He urges letters to Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, and your MP, both c/o the House of Commons. Please send one.

[The views expressed above are not necessarily those of the management]

Feast and Foist

Our annual **Crab Feast and Auction** is scheduled for **November 18** at the Lynn Valley RecCentre, corner of Mountain Highway and Frederick. Join us for Happy Hour at 1830 and Dinner at 1900. Due to an increase in the price of crab, the tickets are now \$25 (still a bargain).

If you have any items from your boat or elsewhere that you wish to have in the auction, the doors to the Nighthawk Room (adjacent to the main hall) will be open from 1430 to 1630 to receive them. Remember, your junk may be someone's treasure, but not too junky please!

Like last year there must be a bundling (not bungling) approach to small items. Rather than treat a fishing weight as a single item, it must be combined with other items so

that the selling price should be at least \$1.00. Through this system, the auction time should be somewhat shorter and your return (and Norvan's 20% commission) should be somewhat larger. And like last year, the auctioneer will be the great **Brian Smith**, assisted by the lovely **Lindsay**.

This year promises to have lots of bargains, so don't miss this great event, the biggest and wildest of our parties! Even if you are not buying or selling, the auction is hilarious, and almost worth the price of admission by itself. Bring a friend, form a party, for a great evening. Don't wait, get your tickets now by calling **Lillian Hickman** at **980-4472** or **Marsha Cullimore** at **987-5601**. We look forward to seeing you (and your treasures) there.

Norvan's Executive

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P/Cdr Sally Skelton	986-0313

[unless otherwise indicated, all telephone numbers are area code 604]

FREE MOORAGE (if you take the Students for a cruise)
FREE BOAT RIDE (if you proctor)
FREE HAMBURGERS AND HOT DOGS
 (if you take the Students for a cruise, proctor, or simply show up)
SUCH A DEAL!
Norvan's Student Cruise
 Sunday, October 29, Deep Cove
 For details call **Frank Poratto**, 913-9092

Its time to

CRAB AND GRAB

November 18
 Lynn Valley RecCentre

Auction Check in 1430 - 1630
 Happy Hour 1830, Dinner 1900

YOUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO



Consume this, then



convert this



into this!

Come one, come all to Norvan's world famous

CRAB FEAST & AUCTION

Eat 'til you bust, unload your precious junk
 and shop 'til you drop

Now only \$25 per person (shopping expenses extra)
 Tickets: **LILLIAN** (980-4472) or **MARSHA** (987-5601)

**THE KEY TO BOATING ENJOYMENT IS SAFETY
 ACQUIRED THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**



COMMANDER'S CORNER



After such a wonderful summer our boating season is extended by a bright and sunny fall. I hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy our fine weather.

Our squadron is off to a fine start with the Boating class well underway and the Marine Maintenance Course approaching completion. Our STO, **Keith O'Connor**, has an update on the new courses being offered to you. To date, feedback from our students has been very positive and encouraging, so to all keep up the excellent work. Our tradition continues.

On the social front our Crab Feast and Auction planning is being fine tuned with the event classified in the not to be missed category thanks to the hard work from **Marsha Cullimore** and **Lillian Hickman**. Be sure to mark November 18 on your calendar.

In September a forum was held at PMTI to present the new sewage regulations and their impact upon the pleasure boating community. In attendance were federal government administrators, yacht clubs, shipping agents and members of the boating community. These new regulations will have a profound effect upon us all. Please read the summary in this issue of the Anchor Watch.

As I indicated in a previous report, the CPS Governing Board has released the results of their Image and Awareness survey. Like all organizations, CPS has suffered declining membership and the recommendations from this survey are intended to reverse this slide.

Among the recommendations to be discussed at the October Governing Board are that the present

standards for full membership be retained, but that upon successful completion of a CPS PCOC course an associate membership in the organization be offered. The rationale is that should we capture one percent of the half million successful PCOCs our numbers would increase significantly. As well, we would encourage associates to take more courses which could provide full membership.

At Norvan, our successful training program would definitely attract further course enrollment and encourage full membership. At present the Privacy Act will not allow us to solicit these PCOC holders to take any of the additional programs that we offer, however, should these holders become associate members we now have the opportunity to approach them to take additional training that may

(Continued on page 4, see Commander)

TRAINING TOPICS



Everything's on Course

Hi Everyone! It has been a very interesting training time in Norvan. It is unbelievable how much time and energy the proctors and instructors put into teaching the Boating course and the Marine Maintenance Course. Because of their efforts, the Boating Course has 33 students starting plotting and the Maintenance Course has 10 students starting engine tear down and soon there will be 11 students taking the VHF Mayday Radio course.

And in the Future

In January and February Norvan is planning another Boating Course, Marine Maintenance Course, VHF Course and a Weather Course. The Boating Course starts on January 9th, Maintenance on January 16th, VHF on February 15th and Weather on January 17th, 2007. More information will follow.

Party, Party

Don't forget the Student Cruise on October 29. If you can bring your boat, call **Frank** at 913-9092. If you want to proctor, call me at 980-3034. If you just want to meet the students, see old friends and have a free lunch, come to the Deep Cove BBQ area around 1200. I hope to see you there.

On Another Note

For you boaters who can't attend a course, I suggest picking up the book '1421 The Year China Discovered the World' by Gavin Menzies. It is very well written and provides evidence that China visited every continent in the world prior to the 'European Voyages of Discovery'. The Chinese were excellent navigators and produced very accurate charts of the areas they visited and studied botany around the world. It is highly recommended.

Keith O'Connor, STO



Social Notes

Mark your calendars for the finest in functions at the finest of Squadrons:

November 18

Crab Feast and Auction

Lynn Valley RecCentre

December ?

Carol Ship Watching

Hollyburn Sailing Club

2007

January 27

Bellevue's Crab Feed

VFW Hall, Mercer Island

February 10

Wine & Cheese Party

Lynn Valley RecCentre

March 14

Social Night

Hollyburn Sailing Club

April 18

Annual General Meeting

Hollyburn Sailing Club

May 12

Change of Watch Party

Cheers Restaurant

These are great opportunities to meet and greet your fellow Norvanners. We look forward to seeing **you** there!

(Commander, continued from page 3)

give them full membership. This objective still allows us to retain our high educational standards and also significantly increase our enrollment.

Other considerations include uniforms and military like titles. Those who choose to wear blues and grays may continue to do so while the option is open for regular members to wear dress slacks and a casual shirt with a CPS logo attached. The rationale is that uniforms appear to be related to the military, have no place in a recreational organization and that a more casual uniform that is recognized as both professional and social in nature is needed to represent an organization that teaches safe boating.

Virtually the same argument is offered in regard to military titles. From the responses received military titles are regarded as unwanted and unnecessary.

While these are only a few of the proposed changes nothing will happen until the proposals are passed at the AGM. The intent, however, is to modernize CPS and make it more attractive for membership. You can be assured that all proposed changes will be discussed in detail and decisions made after very careful deliberation. *Jim [This breaks my heart, as I gaze longingly at my full dress uniform hanging expensively in my closet. Perhaps good for Hallowe'en? Ed.]*

Puddlers Almost Skunked: Les Johnson

The 5th annual “Puddle Dumpers” fishing (boating) trip was held from September 13th to 17th in Bamfield. We did catch enough fish to fill out **Sheryl Lowden**’s homemade seafood chowder (yum) plus bring home enough for a group meal. Other than that, it was slim pickings for the 5 days. Warm weather over the summer and lack of rain kept the fish off shore, so only boats going out 20 miles or more came home with their limits. That’s our story and we’re sticking to it.

Cameron Cairncross gets the prize for most hours on the water but even he woke up in the night hollering about the one that got away. Fortunately, he was easy to console with chocolate. **Joe Inkster** landed a nice one but later took on some seawater during a shore excursion. A mysterious Oyster Lady appeared and offered to let him use her dryer but he declined.

Bob Lowden brought in several cod and then had a near death experience in a leaky dinghy. While floundering with the oars, he surprised a sea lion and scared it so badly it didn’t resurface until it was about 300 yards away. He too was “rescued” by the mysterious Oyster Lady and we can’t explain why the dingy doesn’t leak anymore. **Bill**

Alcock also landed a nice fish, although he waited until the very last minute so he couldn’t be upstaged. Those of us who didn’t catch anything are really put out by that.

Eric Worthy caught four lingcod of a size that if you stapled them together end to end would almost qualify for a legal fish. They have been instructed to eat a lot before next year. **Keith Harrison**, one of our chief cooks, has developed his own catch and release program for fishing lures. It’s handy because it saves all that trouble of fixing them to your line. **Les Johnson**, while explaining one of the finer points of fishing, turned and deftly inserted his line into the kicker motor prop. No wait, I mean one of those rogue swells pushed the prop on to the line. Although skillfully recovered, the flasher is now bent in such a way as to accommodate only left handed fish.

We caught more laughs than fish but I’m sure that is enough to send us all out again next year. Pray for rain.

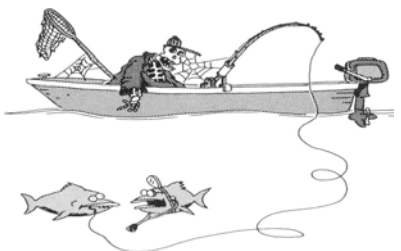
Raj Vyas
103-1075 Marine Drive
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3T6
604.985.0154 Tel
604.985.0940 Fax
store118@theupsstore.ca
theupsstore.ca/118
The UPS Store

FLOTSAM

(n.: wreckage found floating on the surface of the sea; The Editor’s Column)

Well, no HA candidates this month, and the previous promised report seems to be falling away, so: ☼ **Twofootitis, Anyone?:** *The Vancouver Province* reports that Seattle’s **Paul Allen**’s 416 foot *Octopus* cost more than \$200 million US and “boasts a permanent crew of 60 (including several former Navy Seals), dual stealth helicopters”, a tender larger than most yachts, “seven boats, a 10 person submarine capable of remaining underwater for 2 weeks, a swimming pool and music studio“, while Russian billionaire **Roman Abramovich**’s 377 foot *Pelorus* costs \$12 million US a year to operate, has “a permanent crew of 40, bulletproof glass, missile and mine detection systems, 2 helicopters, a submarine and special lights to discourage the paparazzi”. These little tubs only rank fourth and tenth in the world, the first being the 525 foot *Platinum-Golden Star* owned by the Sheik of Dubai. Let’s see, if I win the 649 a hundred times, ... ☼ **Back To Law School:** how about **Greer’s Third Law:** “a computer program does what you tell it to do, not what you want it to do”, **Leo Beiser’s First Computer Axiom:** “when putting it into memory, remember where you put it”, the **Fifth Law of Unreliability:** “to err is human, to really foul things up requires a computer” and **Berman’s Corrolary to Robert’s Axiom** [“only errors exist”]: “one man’s error is another man’s data“☼ **And Once Again:** thanks to Gary Larson for having unknowingly contributed this column’s art work. Buy his Far Side books. Just unbelievably great stuff ☼

PUDDLER’S PROGRESS



“Well, first the bad news-you’re definitely hooked!”