



Official Newsletter of the Tillsonburg Power & Sail Squadron

Commander's Report ~ Joe Haslinger

Spring is coming. It's only a few weeks away and we can start planning our summer cruises and putting the theory we learned over the winter months to work.

I would like to congratulate and welcome our newest members from our boating courses and look forward to meeting you at our Commander's Ball.

Our annual bus trip to the Toronto Boat Show was a success and I would like to thank Eric Hatzenbuehler for organizing the event and all of our members who attended.

We will have a booth at the Tillsonburg Kiwanis Home and Rec show Friday March 25th to Sunday March 27th. Please stop by and say hello. We would like to see some new faces staffing the booth this year...if you are interested in helping, please call Julie Ditmar at 519-467-5484.

Our AGM will be held March 28th at 19:30 hours at the Cornell Hall. We still have a few open positions on the bridge. If you would like to join our bridge please contact Julie Ditmar at 519-467-5484 for details.

The Western Ontario District AGM will be held April 8th to 10th in Windsor and is titled A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS. This event is always a lot of fun. For more info visit www.cps-ecp.ca/westernontario/

The 2011 Commander's Ball will be held on Saturday May 14th. We are finalizing details and entertainment and will be mailing out invitations in April so please mark this event on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there. This event is a great way to welcome our newest members and also meet up with old friends before boating season gets in full swing.

The Western Ontario District Rendezvous will be held June 17th to 19th in Sarnia. For more info visit the Western Ontario District website at www.cps-ecp.ca/westernontario/

PCOC (Operator's Card) is changing effective April 2011. Transport Canada has made major enhancements which requires an increased knowledge and also increases the number of questions on the exam. There is still time available to qualify before the tougher new requirements take effect and we will provide courses whenever required. For more information please call Larry Hicks 519-842-5618

We are always willing and happy to put on courses when requested so if you are looking for a VHF, GPS or Marine Maintenance course, etc. please call Larry Hicks 519-842-5618 and we will make it happen.

See you soon on the water.

CPS Canadian Safe Boating Awareness Week May 28—June 3, 2011

Celebrate 'Safety on the Water' during the CPS 2011 Safe Boating Awareness Week, held in partnership with Transport Canada. Watch for displays, newspaper articles, radio spots, and more in your community as CPS gears up to ensure recreational boaters are equipped with the information they need to enjoy their boating pursuits. In keeping with its educational goals, CPS strives to ensure that all Canadians who head out on the water do so well informed to have a safe day.

The five main components of CPS 2011 Canadian Safe Boating Awareness Week will focus on:

Wear Your Life Jacket

Don't Drink and Boat

Take a Boating Course

Be Prepared

Beware of Cold Water Risks



Be sure to come out and participate in events taking place in your area during the CPS 2011 Canadian Safe Boating Awareness week and make your boating experience a better one.

BRIDGE OFFICERS

2010/2011

Commander - Joe Haslinger 842-8708

Executive Officer - Alec Odabachian 875-4301

Training Officer - Larry Hicks 842-5618

Boat Pro Officer - Bob Older 485-3032

Treasurer - Marg Harris 425-5608

Secretary - Julie Ditmar 467-5484

Membership Officer - Penny Holmes 842-3972

Public Relations - Eric Hatzenbuehler 537-8945

Maritime Radio Officer - Harry Ditmar 467-5484

Supply Officer - Larry Georgeson 688-9687

Environment Officer - Doug Robinson 879-6474

MAREP Officer - Vacant

Newsletter Editor - Bill Jerry 456-5550

Webmaster - Brent Hicks 842-9291

Historian - Joan Hicks 842-5618

Youth Officer - Tammy Ayres 875-2328

Assistant Youth Officer - Kristen Jerry 456-5550

Port Captain - Mary Lou Krestel 586-2157

Social Officers - Doug & Sharon Shepherd

423-9917



COMING EVENTS

March 25-27	Tillsonburg Kiwanis Home and Rec Show-Tillsonburg Special Events Centre
March 28	Tillsonburg Squadron AGM-Cornell Hall 1930 hrs.
April 8-10	Western Ontario District AGM Weekend-Windsor Hilton- Meeting April 9 @ 13:00 hrs.
April 15	Online Exams for PCOC begins
May 14	TPSS Commander's Ball Location TBA, invitations will be mailed
June 17-19	Western Ontario District Rendezvous-Sarnia

Training Officer's Report ~ P/D/Cdr Larry Hicks

Happy Spring (just about anyway)! As I write this, the weatherman predicts wind chill tonight of -18. Not a promising outlook for an early launch. Oh well, I'm not ready anyway.

Meanwhile, in the warmth of the classrooms in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg, the boating students are about to hover over the final nights of classes and the final exams. Good Luck to them all and a big thank you to them for their time and effort to become safer boaters. If they are now safer boaters then so are we by association.

I hope that many of you were able to attend either the Toronto or London Boat Shows. CPS had booths at both and answered a lot of questions from those visitors to the shows. Many of the questions were focused on the new requirements being implemented by Transport Canada on April 15th, 2011. This of course refers to the new format for Online Testing, which will be comprised of several modules which the student will have to peruse in order to progress to the exam. Each module will be a lesson in itself complete with a quiz which must be successfully answered in order to advance to the following lessons. Once all the modules have been answered with a minimum 80% average, the student will then be able to proceed with the exam portions which will be an open book test but restricted by a time element - too slow - sorry...try again. Note that the exam portion is administered by Transport Canada. As of April 15th we have a level playing field because Transport Canada has required every provider of Pleasure Craft Operators Cards (note every provider) now has a 50 question exam and the same protocol leading up to the exam - eg. Module, Quiz, Module, Quiz etc to the exam. The exception is that our card will be the only card that is recognized by NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) and the United States Coast Guard. This is a very expensive upgrade for every provider, costing big money to adapt to the new regs. The end result is well worth it though, because everybody now will have some education, which is a good thing for sure. But fear not, those who would rather have personal instruction in a classroom need only call or email me to sign up. Transport Canada are compiling questions and issuing exams through the various course providers with changes approximately every six months. I'm focusing on the PCOC course because of the changes but don't forget the full boating course, all of our other advanced courses and the elective courses which are open not only to members but also the interested public.

CPS is also reaching out to the associate members by making them eligible for positions on the Bridge. This amendment was passed at the Governing Board meeting in February. The best way to enjoy being a squadron member is to "participate". Watch our events calendar and join in - you're most welcome.

In closing, I wish you all fair winds, calm seas and a safe voyage until the June newsletter.

Maritime Radio Officer's Report ~ P/Cdr Harry Ditmar

It's coming fast! Spring is just around the bend. Are you ready? Do you have a radio on board? Did you know you need your ROC-M to operate your radio? It is the law!

We held a very successful radio course in January with 20 students, all of whom passed. Slowly people are realizing that they do need their ROC-M to operate the radio. If you are one of them, please contact me or Larry Hicks to register for our next class. Get ready for the boating season. Get your ROC-M, and be legal.

Secretary's Report ~ P/Cdr Julie Ditmar

Hasn't this been a wonderful winter. Lots of snow, wind and cold temperatures. Spring is just around the corner, at least that's what they say. We have just returned from Costa Rica and had a lay-over in North Carolina, where the flowers are blooming and the trees are in bud, so it can't be too far off.

As most of you know, our AGM is fast approaching and we are looking for volunteers to step forward and keep the Bridge alive and well. If you have one Monday a month to spare, please give Joe, Ted or myself a call and we will be glad to tell you what positions are available. Our AGM will be held on March 28th, 2011 at Cornell Hall.

We would also like to ask for volunteers for our booth at the Tillsonburg Home and Rec. Show being held March 25th to 27th, 2011. Please call Harry or myself at 519-467-5484 if you can help with a shift.

Membership Officer's Report ~ Penny Holmes

Not much has changed as no-one is thinking of boating yet, roll on Spring! Our total membership is 380. This is made up of Regular Members at 223, Life Members still at 10, Junior Associates are 12 and Lady Associates stay at 5. As expected the Associates, which includes the PCOC Students who get the 1st year free, sadly do not renew and are down to 130. Some PCOC students do go on to take the Boating Course. We need more of you to volunteer for the Bridge. Come out and support this worth while organization and help us get all boaters on our waterways driving safe and knowing the rules of the water!

Youth Officer's Report ~ Tammy Ayres

Spring Launch is getting closer and I cannot wait. A great time was had by all those that went to the Toronto Boat Show. I sure did enjoy winning the draw on the bus.

The Youth Note Card Contest is upon us once again. It is time for the creative little artists to come up with a Note Card to reflect this year's theme "KEEP IT CLEAN, GO GREEN." The entry form and instructions are included in this newsletter.

Boat Pro Officer's Report ~ Bob Older

It was another successful year here in Ingersoll for the Basic Boating students. Everyone will receive their Operator's Card and the sought after CPS flag. It was trying sometimes, with snow days, people on holidays and some called away to meetings etc. We even had a fire call near the end of exam night! (3 Firemen writing) Whew! It was difficult to maintain the agenda at times but they prevailed and showed their ability through perseverance. I stand and salute them all.

On the Boat Pro scene, it has been pretty quite here although Spring is around the corner so things should pick up. I can't wait for warmer weather, so bring it on. See you in the sunshine.

The Last Word ~ Bill Jerry ~ Editor

Well, the time has come. After 13 years at the helm of the "49NEWS", your squadron newsletter, I'm stepping down and making room for a new face on the bridge. I hope that this creates an opportunity for someone to step forward with some new ideas and a fresh perspective. CPS is a great organization with a strong mandate and some good and knowledgeable people. Our Tillsonburg Squadron has grown and evolved significantly during my time on the bridge and I hope that this continues well into the future. I've been proud to be involved in many of our successes over the years including many Commander's Balls, summer Poker Runs, various parades, purchase of our 'show piece' trailer and of course, the Dan Nichols marathon swim across Lake Erie that raised over \$27,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. I also enjoyed the opportunity and experience to serve as Treasurer for Western Ontario District for 2 years. As society evolves and communication methods change to a world of internet and social networking, I believe that it is vital for organizations like ours to utilize these tools to not only keep our members informed instantly but also as a way to reach out to the next generation of boaters who are "plugged in" to these modes of communication. I am most grateful for the many good people I've met and friendships that I've made during my time on the bridge. As this will be my final "Last Word", I wish you all continued success in the future and hope to see you on the water soon.

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