

Tillsonburg Squadron Bridge

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Webmaster	Brent Hicks	842-9291
Historian	Joan Hicks	842-5618
Social Officer	Betsy VanStevendaal	842-3257
RVCC	Peter Barbour	765-3793



UPCOMING EVENTS

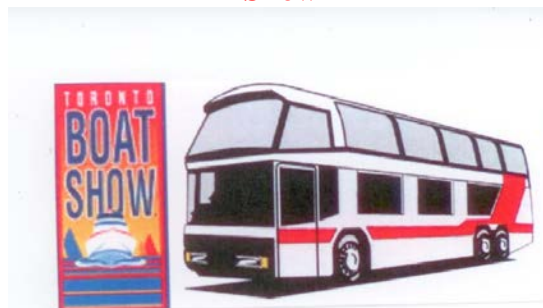
Classes in Boating Basics (for the card) and Maritime Radio, and Boating Essentials (Boating) will begin in the fall. If you are interested in any courses please call Larry at the phone or email below.

An early indicator to our education officer around early fall on any other courses that you would like to take, would allow us ample time for arrangements. Let us know and we will attempt to provide you with what you would like. A list of courses is provided on our website.

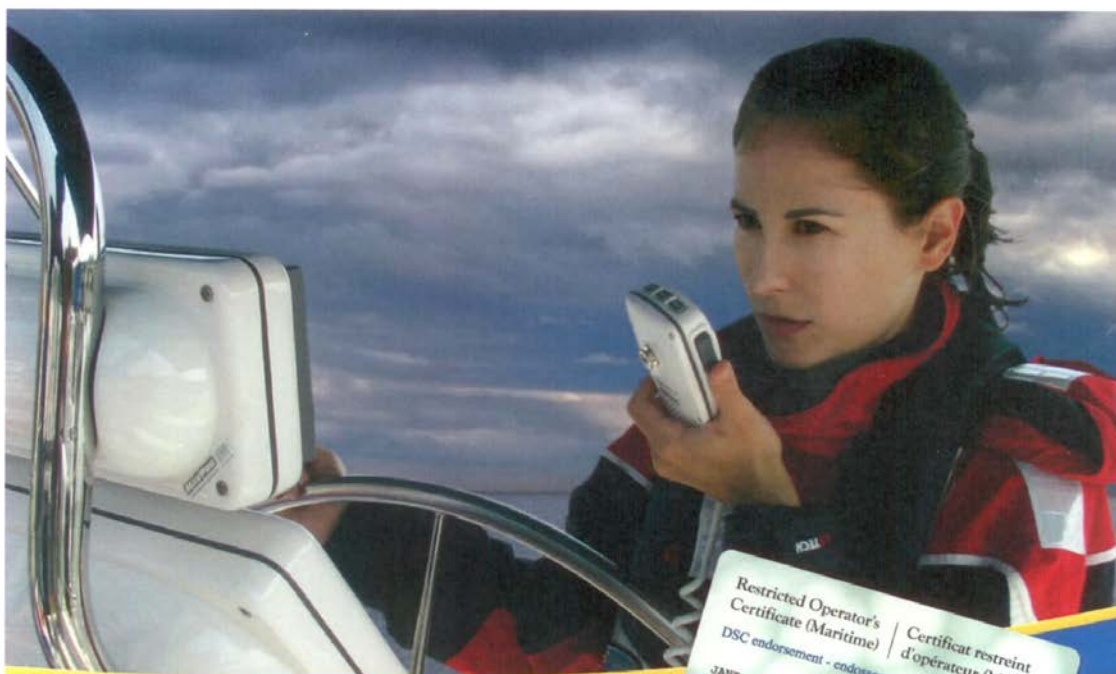
To register for these courses call our Education Officer, Larry Hicks at 519-842-5618 or email at

canest@oxford.net

Annual Bus Trip to the Toronto Boat Show



Our Annual Bus Trip to the Toronto Boat Show will be on Saturday, January 16, 2016. The price for the day is \$35.00 per person and this gets you to the Show and back in a highway coach with washroom facilities and it includes your ticket into the show. Pickup is in Ingersoll at the parking lot at Highway 401 at 9:00 A.M. and in Woodstock at the Quality Inn at 9:30 A.M. For tickets call Eric at 519-536-5245 or Joan at 519-842-5618. Call early to reserve your tickets as we will be opening it up to the general public in December. We will be stopping at the Mandarin Restaurant for supper, at your expense.



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Commanders Report

Good Day everyone, well the boating season is over for most of us, we all have our vessels put away for the winter months that are coming. Since the last time we sent out our newsletter we had our annual poker run, which was fun for all who attended, once again weather was not the greatest, very windy day and we could have used a few more bodies.

With the fall here now we have boating courses starting with registration on October 27th, and classes beginning sometime in November. If you know someone that might be interested please pass their name along to Joan or Larry Hicks.

We are planning our Boat Show Bus Trip on Saturday, January 16, 2016. The last few years have not been well attended and we have lost considerable amounts of money. We are going to try it one more time if it's not successful then we will probably drop it from our agenda for a few years and see what happens at that point. We are putting this out to our membership first so if interested please contact and commit. In the first part of December we will offer these tickets to the public and other squadrons in order not to lose again. You can't beat the price \$35.00 per ticket gets you a ride down and back and into the show as well. We will be stopping at the Mandarin Restaurant on our way back for supper. Supper is at your cost. So consider joining us for a fun day in January.

Well we are almost into November which means Remembrance Day on November 11th and then into the Christmas Season with all the hustle and bustle, I would like to wish all of you and your families a wonderful Christmas Season and hopefully we will see each other sometime soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Cdr. Eric Hatzenbuhler, Tillsonburg Squadron



Leon's proudly supporting non-profit organizations.

2015 RVCC Update: Tillsonburg Squadron was second again nationally in performing 151 RVCC (recreational vessel courtesy checks) this year. Vancouver was first with 160, Windsor third with 60, Western Ontario District was also second with 224, PMD (West Coast) was first with 239. The total in Canada was 1353. Ontario performed almost 60% (57.78%) of Canada's total, 64% of those checks were first time recipients which were the prime target group.

As far as length goes the target group was in the less than six meter vessel and 28.51% of the checks were of that size, the largest group was for the next size up being six to nine meters. PCOC cards were carried by 98.31% of the boaters, a similar number 98.61% had proper life jackets, 80.22% of the boats were compliant meaning 19.78% of boaters out there did not have the proper equipment on board!

The RVCC program is our opportunity to directly interact with the boaters in our area. The voluntary checks help ensure that boaters have the basic safety equipment with them and we get an opportunity to "pitch" our training and educational courses. The RVCC program is also a member benefit as our members have an opportunity to know when the program is coming to a marina near them. Help us get that message out next season

Respectfully submitted, Pete Barber

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Canada

Prince Henry the Navigator.

In the early 15th century Prince Henry started a school of navigation in Sagres, Portugal to advance the science of navigation. Prince Henry, like other European Mariners, wanted to find an alternative to the passage to the lucrative trade in the Orient. The obvious passage was through the Mediterranean, but hostile Islamic powers and the equally hostile Venetian Empire made it difficult to follow this route. So Henry proposed to go south around Africa to reach the Orient. A minor problem however was that in those days the coast of Africa had not be charted and no one knew how far south the African continent extended. Unlike other navigators of the day, such as the Vikings and Spaniards that basically sailed east and west, the Portuguese needed to sail south if they were to round the tip of Africa. To do this they needed to be able to find their position through Celestial Navigation. As a result much advancement in Celestial Navigation took place. Henry began to send Portuguese sailors south to chart the coast of Africa. These sailors came back to Portugal and increased the data base at the Prince Henry School of Navigation. Henry did not live long enough to see his dream accomplished. He died in 1468 and the Portuguese did not reach the tip of Africa until 1488.

In the early 1960's the government of Portugal, at the embassy in Washington D.C., discussed creating an award in honour of Prince Henry the Navigator commemorating the 500th year of his death. Ultimately the U.S.P.S. received awards for Districts that gave the District the authority to establish its own criteria for earning the award. This award is an alabaster replica of Prince Henry.

This award was received by Birmingham Squadron in District 9 U.S.P.S. this year. This award is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the District. The inscription on this reads

"Prince Henry the Navigator Trophy the Republic of Portugal, 5 March 1966" This award is presented to the Squadron with the best percentage improvement in the number of students achieving the grade of Navigator in the preceding educational year who were taught by the squadron. Congratulations Birmingham.

Reprinted from the Birmingham Squadron, Bilge Chatter Newsletter.

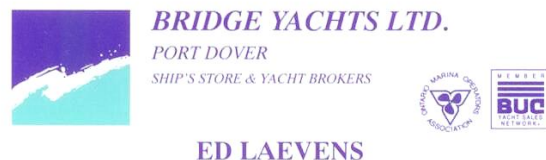
P.S. I realize the forgoing is a recognition of the U.S.P.S. efforts to hone the navigational skills of their members in District No 9. Western Ontario District is also No. 9 across the river from Michigan from whence our CPS-ECP started in 1938. Our District No 9 interacts frequently with their District No. 9. The early achievement of navigational skills is an interesting study.



YOUR SUMMER PLACE TO BE

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See you on the bus to the Boat Show.

RVCC continued

Tillsonburg's own Pete Barbour received an award from National Office at this year's AGM in Niagara Falls. He won the award for having done the most RVCC checks by an individual from across Canada. Congratulations Pete

Also Tillsonburg was given a certificate at the AGM in Niagara Falls from the CPS Foundation for their 22nd Honour Roll Award. The Honour Roll is a program where each squadron that wants to has made a donation to the Foundation each year in the amount of \$1.00 per year for each member in our squadron. One certificate is awarded for each year we have donated \$1.00 per member, Tillsonburg has donated 22 years.



Joan receiving this award from the CPS
Foundation



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Affinity Pins: Something special happens when a group of boating enthusiasts get together and it is hard to define what it is exactly. Webster defines affinity as a force that draws people with common interests together and holds them together almost indefinitely.

This magnetic attraction may be just as powerful as the benign magnetic force we rely on to steer our vessels and the smart thing to do may be to soak all of it up! We know the energy of the group is greater than the sum of its individual energies, so we suggest you join our foundation group and see how effective you can make it

Our pin, the symbol for infinity, typifies the "forever" aspect of the Foundations Mission. We would like you to wear one. Without one, we would consider you almost naked. For a gift of \$50.00, no tax receipt, we'll fix your lapel and complete your wardrobe.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you and a great way to thank a colleague.

The Annual Poker Run held at Port docks



Betsy and Joan shucking corn.



Ted and Doug taking it easy before the crowd arrives.



Howard and Larry tasting their wares.



This year's winners at the Annual Poker Run
1st prize Norine McCoppen with 4 tens, 2nd Prize Sheri Andrews with 3 kings and 2 fours, 3rd prize Carol Dunn with 3 tens. The Boner Prize Brad Andrews with the lowest score. Door prizes 1st Iris Welhelm, 2nd Ted VanStevendaal and 3rd Brad Andrews.

The Annual Poker Run held at Port Rowan Docks
The weather was a challenge but the food and friendships were great. Everyone ate too many cobs of corn and too many hot dogs and we all had a great time.



Ted & Howard calculating the best hand



Howard won the First Place Door Prize.



Don't forget to wear a poppy. Your members will be at three cenotaphs laying wreaths for Remembrance Day. See you there.

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The 50th Anniversary of the Tillsonburg Power & Sail Squadron is next year. A lot of activities are going on for the auspicious occasion so hopefully you can attend a bunch of our parties. A dinner and party will be held at the Legion in Tillsonburg on May 7, 2016. So hold that date. Further information to follow. Marg Harris has made us a quilt to sell tickets on to help offset the cost of the Anniversary, tickets will be available soon.

See you at the Boat Show in Toronto, the bus will get you there, and bring you home, and stop for supper at the Mandarin for a great meal. Reserve your tickets early.

Facts & Myths about Anchors

Myth: The heavier the anchor, the better

Fact: Modern designs and state of the art engineering have made anchors not only better, but lighter, too! In several real world tests, including one conducted by the U.S. Navy, the best holding anchors were actually among the lightest! Anchor design has more effect on holding power than weight.

Myth: All anchors perform the same way.

Fact: Not so! Different designs and different materials make anchors perform very differently. When you consider the value of the boat an anchor is protecting (your boat) an anchor is no place to economize. It pays to get the best performing anchor you can.

Myth: Anchors that look alike, are alike.

Fact: Looks can be deceiving. Technical designs, manufacturing processes and metal alloys go through varying degrees of quality control and some are just plain better. Be sure to look for independent testing of holding power and approval from standards organizations, indicated by “ABS type certification” (ABS is the American Bureau of Shipping) or similar.

Myth: Steel is the strongest material for anchors.

Fact: Not anymore! Many materials are now stronger than steel. For example, high tensile aluminum- magnesium alloy is well suited for anchors and is pound for pound more than twice as strong as steel.

Myth: Just toss and anchor overboard, and you’re anchored.

Fact: It’s not that simple, your anchor is just one part of a total anchoring system. It’s made up of the anchor, chain, rope, shackles, deck gear and --- your own anchoring skill and knowledge!

Determine your holding requirements

Be sure that your anchor can give the performance you need. A “Lunch Hook” should be able to hold your boat in a 15 knot breeze. A main or “Working Anchor” should hold in up to 30 knots of wind. A “Storm Anchor” is for winds up to 42 knots. Remember that as the wind speed doubles, the holding requirement quadruples.

Use Adequate Scope

Scope is the length of anchor line relative to the distance from your boat’s deck to the sea bottom. We recommend at least 5:1 scope

Anchor Retrieval

Slowly move the boat to a position directly over the anchor, pulling in the line as you go. Then snub the line on a cleat and power backwards slowly to pull the anchor out of the bottom. Do not power forward because that will require more energy and put very heavy loads on the anchor and your boat.

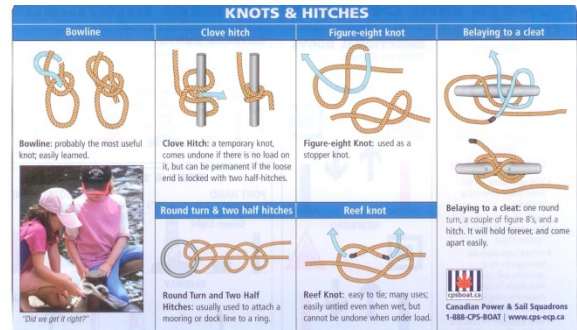
At the National Annual General Conference in Niagara Falls we elected a new Chief Commander Robert Pepin.



Above is your National Executive Committee

Front Row: Don Griffin, AP National Educational Officer, Robert Pepin, AP Chief Commander, Cathie Johnstone, National Executive Officer, Back Row: Charles Beall, National Law Officer, Nancy Richards, S National Secretary, Doug Stewart, AP National Financial Officer, Sarah-Jane Raine, S National Administrative Officer, Joseph Gatfield, JN Immediate P/C/C and chair Nominating Committee.

Get in touch with Eric or Joan and reserve your ticket for the Bus Trip to the Toronto Boat Show. This is a great day with our dreams and good friends to share these dreams with.



Merry Christmas to All

And

A Happy & Prosperous New Year

