



Blinkin' Buoy



Issue 29

Guelph Power and Sail Squadron

Fall 2011



Commander's Report

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The leaves are falling, the skies are gray, the temperatures are dropping and the boat has been put away for the Winter. Well, it is fall and this is Canada. I must confess, I do enjoy the four distinct seasons.

Fall is also the beginning of our annual training year and this year we are experiencing a renewed interest in the CPS Boating Course, with a total of 23 students. We must be doing something right.

On the weekend of October 27th, it was my pleasure to represent the Squadron at the National Annual Conference and AGM in Halifax. Declining course enrollment in the CPS Courses and dropping membership numbers seemed to be the overriding concern. CPS membership is now around 30,000.

On the social scene, the Squadron is planning a Christmas Party on Friday, December 9th. Heather and her team are hard at work making the final preparations for what is expected to be a fun evening. The Christmas party will be a great opportunity to socialize with your fellow members as well as an opportunity to meet our new students.

For more information on upcoming events, please visit; <http://www.guelph-power-sail.ca/>

Since this is the last issue before the Christmas season, Linda and I would like to extend our best wishes to all and only the best in 2012.

Wayne Young
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Training Report

The Boating Course, the flagship of our "training" fleet, has once again cast off the dock lines. 23 hearty souls (students) are onboard, including three teenagers. Nick Wenzler, course coordinator, is guiding the ship out through the outer markers, aided by an experienced and willing crew of volunteer instructors.

To all of our new Boating students, welcome aboard! We are glad you have chosen the Guelph Squadron to meet your boating education needs. We will do our best to help you along the way. And, we hope that you will continue on with our Squadron following your successful completion of the Boating Course. For example, a logical follow-on course is Maritime Radio which we offer over three Wednesday nights in April. We'll keep you posted.

I am also very pleased we are once again running Seamanship under the instruction of Randy Litchfield. We have five enrolled in this course, which is a robust sequel to the Boating Course, and a prequel to Advanced Piloting, then Celestial Navigation. If you are interested in learning traditional navigation, new age electronic navigation and taking your studies to a

deeper level (while keeping your boat afloat), the Guelph Squadron provides the opportunity. Our current plan is to offer Seamanship every training season, then offer Advanced Piloting and Celestial Navigation every other season as numbers warrant. Keep this in mind when you look beyond the course you are currently taking.

We are running a small Fundamentals of Weather course this fall, which will be followed by Global Weather in the winter session. GPS & Chart Plotting will also be offered in the winter, and we will assess other possibilities based on student demand and the availability of instructors. Keep an eye on our website for details as they are firmed up for the winter session.

As your Training Officer, I would like to hear from you. Your feedback is important. Please let me know if you have any issues or concerns with our course delivery. Let me know what other courses you are interested in so we can plan for the future. A complete list of courses can be found on the national website www.cpsboat.ca. And, if you are interested in volunteering to help me with some of the training activities, or to become an instructor for one of our courses, I would welcome your involvement with enthusiasm!

Dave Williams
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Are you interested in helping your Squadron?

The telephone Committee is currently looking for volunteers. Duties involve telephoning members to inform them of upcoming events throughout the year. The time commitment is approximately 20 hours per year.

If you are interested, please contact Cathy Aldersley at 519-763-7640 or chall@ca.inter.ca.

SAILING IN THE CYCLADES



Santorini from Space



As a child, growing up on the coast of Newfoundland, I often wondered what it might be like to sail the seven seas. One evening last winter, Linda and I decided that we should chase the dream and we had no trouble convincing some long time friends to join us. The planning began immediately. The result was a 2 week bare boat vacation to a group of Greek Islands known as the Cyclades. Because the Meltemi winds blow their strongest in the summer months, we thought we might avoid them by scheduling our vacation in mid-September. Following much research and “googling”, we booked a 39 foot Bavaria out of Athens. We arrived in Athens on the morning of September 17th. Next morning, as we cast off, the weather was pleasant and sunny with light winds. Over the next week, we made our way South into the Aegean Sea. We anchored at Sand Bar Bay on Kithnos, did a Mediterranean mooring (for the first time) at Milos, anchored in a quiet bay on Foligandros before sailing into the caldera on the island of Santorini on Thursday.

Santorini, officially known as Thira, is the jewel of the Cyclades. The island is essentially the remains of a volcanic caldera. We were able to sail into and out of the mouth of the volcano, enjoying the most awesome panoramic view. The edge of the caldera is crowded with white-washed houses and sprinkled with the bright blue domes of the many Greek churches.

After several most enjoyable days on Santorini, the Meltemi began to blow out of the North. During the next 6 days, as we beat our way North, we visited the islands of Ios, Paros, Mikonos, Seros and Kithnos, before anchoring at Cape Sounion, back on the mainland. Somewhere near Paros, we blew out our mainsail. As we settled in for the night under the Ancient Greek Temple of Poseidon, the Meltemi continued to blow at 30 knots.

By morning, the winds had subsided. After a most wonderful and memorable 2 weeks, we arrived back in Athens under the lonely jib.

Wayne, Linda, Art and Beth, (September 2011)

Rendezvous 2012

Our annual Rendezvous will be held at Beacon Bay Marina on Saturday, July 14th and Sunday, July 15th, 2012.

For more information, please contact Wayne Young at 519-767-0132 or young.ferraro@deja-vu.ca



Upcoming Events

- December 9th, 2011 - Christmas Party
- Early January - Winter Courses begin
- Late January - Student Night
- Early April - CPS Boating Exam
- Early April - Maritime Radio Course
- Mid April - Squadron Annual General Meeting
- Early May - Student Graduation

For more information, please visit our web site at; <http://www.guelph-power-sail.ca/>

In Memorium

In Loving Memory
Vladeslof (Don Sr.) Balanoff

March 4, 1922 - September 27, 2011

Beloved husband of Julia (nee Kucher) for 67 years. Father of Georgina Flannery (Raymond) of Newton, MA and Don Jr (Connie) of Waterloo, ON. Dear eldest brother of Francis (predeceased), Elaine Betchtold (Iro), Boris (Phyllis), Josephine Hubbard and James and many loved nieces and nephews. Predeceased by parents Metody and Branislawa. In addition, Don will be sadly missed by his wide circle of friends.



Don was an active member of the Guelph Power and Sail Squadron since 1992.