



Guelph Power and Sail Squadron



BLINKIN' BUOY

***** Quick Flash Edition *****

January 2005 Edition

Inside this issue:

- ***Student Night Invitation***
- ***Upcoming Events***

POWER or SAIL

Guelph Squadron has a very interesting and informative Guest Speaker for all CPS members and guests at our annual

**Guelph PS Student Night
Wed, Feb 2nd, 2005
Trinity United Church,
400 Stevenson St. North, Guelph**

“VAX498 South Bound II”
with
Herb Hilgenberg

Herb's private navigational advice is so trusted that Canadian and American Search & Rescue Agencies call upon him to find boats missing offshore. He claims it is a hobby, but for 18 years, he has spent seven days a week, 51 weeks a year at his broadcast station providing personalized marine weather forecasts free of charge.

“I have been out there. I know what it is like to be beaten up. I can feel for the person sitting on their boat.”

During peak periods, more than 70 ocean-going yachts and commercial vessels check in with him every day. Hundreds of others listen in to the HF SSB reports. Each logged-in vessel receives daily an extended four or five

day route forecast, including way points to assist in avoiding potentially unfavourable conditions.

“I don't want anyone to get into the situation where he has to get rescued.”

Individual vessel forecasts are prepared in advance of air time, utilizing and editing numerical forecast models, other available data and feedback from logged vessels.

“Until one stumbles into a life-or-death experience, one never appreciates the limitations on weather and sea state information available to the modern mariner.”

Herb and his family, en route to the Virgin Islands in their sloop, South Bound II, battled a series of un-forecasted storms and seas greater than 30 feet. Frustrated by the lack of reliable data available to small cruisers in the 30 to 45 foot range, Herb started a spare-time forecasting service in 1987 while living in Bermuda. Participating in the Hurricane Watch Network, an organization of ham radio operators, Herb represented the Radio Society in the Emergency Measures Organization coordinated by the Chief of Police in Bermuda. In 1992, he was invited by the Fleet Navigator of the US Naval Academy to share his ship reports with the US Navy and NWS/NOAA. In return, he was allowed access to the Navy's NOGAP numerical weather forecasting model. While operating out of Bermuda, Herb routinely exchanged weather and sea state information with the National Hurricane Center and NOAA.

Since returning to Ontario in 1994, Herb has devoted part of each day to his forecasting hobby. In 2000, he was invited by the US Navy's Chief of Staff to discuss ship tracking

procedures and forecasting techniques at the Naval Atlantic Meteorology & Oceanography Center in Norfolk, Virginia. He is a vital asset to the Coast Guard, assisting with numerous Search & Rescue missions.

Herb Hilgenberg is a legend to sailors and a recipient of citations from cruising associations, the Canadian and US Coast Guard. As well, he was honoured with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his volunteer service.

Come out Wed, Feb 2nd, 2005 ... ask him how many lives he has saved, or any other question.

Refreshments will be served at Student Night, and the Squadron Training Committee will have information on various courses being offered, and planned for by Guelph PS.

Take this opportunity to meet up with other squadron members, swap stories, and most importantly, learn more about safe boating.

Commander's Corner

Fuel efficiency question

The cruise liner, QE2 moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel fuel that it burns. How many gallons would it use to cross Georgian Bay? Say from entrance to Tobermory harbour to Kilbear point?

Meanwhile down at the dock...

A sailor and a pirate are regaling each other with their adventures on the high seas. The sailor notes that the pirate has a peg leg, a hook and an eye patch.

Curious, the sailor asks, "So how did you end up with the peg leg?" The pirate replies, "I was swept overboard, and a shark bit me leg off."

What about the hook?" Boarding an enemy ship,"says the pirate. " one of their men cut me hand clean off."

"Incredible" says the sailor. "And how did you get the eye patch?" "A seagull dropping fell into me eye," replies the pirate. "You lost your eye because of the seagull?"

"Well," says the pirate, "it was me first day with the hook"

Guelph PS Courses in early 2005

Boat Pro (for PCOC certification)

Sign up evening - Wed. Feb. 9, 2005
First Class - Wed. Feb. 16, 2005

VHF "Radio Talk"

Sign up evening - Wed. Mar 30, 2005
First Class - Wed. Apr 6, 2005

Introduction to GPS

Sign up evening - Wed. Mar 30, 2005
First class - Wed. Apr 20, 2005

All sign up and classes at Centennial High School, College Ave, Guelph

Contact Squadron Training Officer
Nick Wenzler for further details at
519-837-1517 / email nwenzler@hillson.ca

Guelph PS Boating Course Exam Day

Sun. April 3, 2005

Guelph PS Annual General Meeting

Mon. April 11, 2005

Guelph PS Graduation Dinner

Wed. May 4, 2005

