

Commanders Report June 28, 2010

As we move into July and the upcoming Pig War at Port Browning on July 9, 10 and 11th I want to reflect back on the last month and a half. Our Armada Cruise to Victoria was well attended by our squadron members that made the attempt to take in the early cruise in May.

This year we were two weeks earlier than our previous cruises. Our cruise departed at 07:30 from Tsehum Hbr to catch the slack at Trial Island around 12:00.

We had some new boats this time from various Squadrons in VISD.

Jack and Diane Lowe Victoria Squadron on Gilboa. Jiri and Ewa Kotler Saan Penn Squadron on Captain Morgan 111.

Ron Harris and Janice Hayward Brentwood Bay Squadron brought their boat TaDaa to Sidney from Victoria to cruise with us to Victoria. Ken & Penny Carpenter Brentwood Bay Squadron on their newly acquired boat Kalea, Randy and Cathy Garon Brentwood Bay Squadron on The Plan. Dawna and I, on our boat DAWNA 2.

Glen Curry Brentwood Bay Squadron on Grand Marnier joined us later in the day. Keith and Sun Pon Rosene from Oak Bay Squadron made the long and arduous cruise down the Gorge water way to join us at the inner harbor.

We have a new Squadron Member, Bill Ellis that made it to the inner hbr. by bus to join us on the dock. He also took the bus to come to our Squadron Picnic at the Air Port Museum. It's not that bill doesn't have a boat, it's moored in Oak Bay. He just couldn't see the point in taking it around the corner to Victoria. It's not that Bill is a novice. He spent his life in the merchant service. It's not because he is too young. He's eighty something give or take a few years. Bill was just resting up for his summer cruise in his 26 ft Albin with his cruising buddies. By now they are well on their way to Alaska and will return in September.

Our cruise to Victoria was interesting to say the least. All of our boats made it



without incident. Unfortunately I cannot say the same for the sailing vessel Katie G bound for Hawaii. In all of the years that I have gone to sea I have never actually witnessed a boat go aground. It was a clear sunny day. No wind. The tide was falling with a predicted minus tide at low water. Ron and Janice, Randy and Cathy, Jack and Diane had decided to go between Zero Rock and little Zero Rock.

Ken and I had chosen to go out and around Zero Rock. We were about two cable lengths out and off the north shoal before you reach Zero Rock. Both the shoal and Zero rock are well charted. When I first noticed the Katie G she was overtaking me on my starboard side and heading directly for the kelp bed marking the shoal. I looked at my GPS for a speed. We were doing 8.5 knots. The Katie G going with the ebb probably picked up an extra three knots. I had just started to say to Dawna, she's going to then she hit the shoal. Ten knots to zero in an instant. The bow and stern both came out of the water about a foot, then she settled back down.

I was amazed at what I had just seen. Ken and Penny in Kalea stood off at a considerable distance. My first thought was perhaps someone had gone overboard, so Dawna and I worked our way in and around the Katie G. We counted five people onboard. By now the Katie G had called CCG. They confirmed five people onboard. No water coming in. That was the good news. The not so good news was at the time of the grounding 09:24 another sailboat grounded in the vicinity of Canoe Cove. CCG and vessel assist were fifty minutes away and it was an ebb tide.

I called CCG on 83Alpha and informed them we would stand by to assist until CCG or Vessel assist arrived, Kalea and DAWNA 2 were the only boats out there at the time.

Within minutes the Katie G started listing. It just got worse. By the time Vessel assist and CCG arrived the gunnels were underwater the Katie G was not looking too good.

I called CCG informing them we were continuing on and they thanked us for rendering assistance and standing by.

We were now over an hour behind the Armada. It didn't take long once on plane to arrive at Chatham and Discovery Islands. The tide had already started to turn in Baynes Channel with a tide rip forming at the entrance. Once through Mayor Channel, we rounded Gonzales Pt. and Mouat Reef. We entered Enterprise

Channel and once through I throttled back to enjoy the rest of our cruise to Victoria.

With all boats secured our dock party/pot luck started. It was a great party, we had new boaters join us from other squadrons. We had new Squadron members that just came to the party regardless if they had a boat or not. Peter and Margaret Simpson joined us, David Gay District PRO joined us. That's what makes putting on a cruise like this all worth it. It's called getting involved with your Squadron. If you have a boat hoist your Brentwood Bay Burgee and get out on the water and use it. You have members travelling with you that have years of experience on the water. Cruise with them. Put into practice what you learn and instruct.

Our Squadron Picnic was held June 6th. The weather was inclement but we didn't melt. It's just like boating, weather happens so you make the best of it. I want to thank the 25 members that did make the effort and did attend. It rained outside so we moved inside the new aircraft hanger at the Air Museum. I really want to thank Peter Simpson.



Peter brought the barbecue in his trailer, suited up in his foul weather gear then cooked up the hot dogs. That's dedication and it's dedication to our Squadron. Peter is in between boats at the present but it doesn't stop him from enjoying the comraderie of being involved in our Squadron.

With the Pig War approaching us I encourage you to join us at Port Browning. Get involved in your Squadron, it's time to bring the trophy back to Canada. If you don't have a boat bring your car and a tent. It's a great weekend event.

So hoist your colors and your Brentwood Bay Burgee. I hope to see you on the water this summer.

At our Spring Grad/AGM Ron Harris and Janice Hayward presented their dream of circumnavigating Vancouver Island. At the present time they are in Hot Springs cove in Clayoquot Sound, coming down the West Coast of Vancouver Island. They are living their dream and enjoying their boat to the max.

Len Burton
Commander.