

Gabriola Squadron Officer Reports: 2021-06-28

Commander:

The month since our last Bridge Meeting has been occupied with a VIND AGM meeting (online) on June 2nd, advertising for RVCC boat checks, and arriving at an agreement with The Sounder for a bi-weekly write-up by our Squadron in the Sounder.

RVCCs or Boat Checks and advertising for same

Advertising for the boat checks has occurred twice in The Sounder this month, as well as on Sandwich Boards, on our Face Book page, on our micro-site and via e-mails to our membership. The RVCCs have started under the leadership of Bob Wood.

A big thank you to Bob and to his team members Don, Bob Derksen, Ivan, John Bullas, and past Commander Mike. A big thank you as well to those who worked on the advertising as well:

Elaine, Jude, Mike, Nigel, Andy, Don, Ivan, Bob Wood, and Li.

It is to be noted that COVID 19 protocols were followed.

Agreement with Sarah Holmes of The Sounder for bi-weekly write-ups by the Squadron

At the previous Bridge Meeting, Agathe had suggested 'did you know' snippets in the local paper which could be used to advertise. Subsequently Agathe and I did have a meeting with Sarah Holmes, Publisher of The Sounder. Sarah agreed to bi-weekly write-ups by the Squadron but demanded that six write-ups be delivered to her prior to The Sounder publishing any of them. This to ensure that The Sounder does not have to chase us The Squadron every two weeks for our article. Agathe has agreed to oversee this ongoing effort. Various writers have already contributed articles.

Here is a great opportunity to increase our Squadron's visibility on Gabriola. Thank you Agathe for taking this on and thank you writers for your efforts and enthusiasm! The first article was published in The Sounder just recently.

VIND AGM of Sunday June 6th. (online)

I attended that AGM of the VIND on June 6th. Some of the important items during the meeting prior to the AGM were:

1. We were advised that "*It is up to hosting Squadrons to make sure that Squadrons providing tutors for online students be paid what they are owed.*" Our Squadron hosted Boating 2+3 and Boating 4 courses. Several tutors were involved. Our Squadron will now have to pay the non-Gabriola Squadrons that provided us with tutors.

1. Information by the VIND membership officer:

•“The new IT system produces a rather complicated series of membership files. They are not user friendly. I have tried to keep the Squadron Membership Officers up to date with any information received from National.”

•“There are continuing problems with member renewals. Because of problems with membership-staffing at National, membership enquiries have been backlogged. Everyone is asked to be patient.”

•“VIND Membership as of June 4th, 2021

Total Membership 1,169

Of this total, 559 (48%) are shown as unpaid and 176 are “inactive” which means that they have never logged into the new IT system, so CPS has no current email address for them.”

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Van Praet, Cdr.

Communications, Privacy, Scuttlebutt Editor:

Scuttlebutt: Next edition will be end of August. I'd like to include topics on:

- ☐ our Educational activities planned
- ☐ our RVCC results
- ☐ plans for any social events
- ☐ articles on “my summer holidays”
- ☐ John B – something on our summer weather and climate implications?

Communications: I had an email from Rob Brockley, his sailboat moored beside A Cappella, asking me to participate in a petition to keep the shipyard alive. The owners of the property have plans that may or may not include renewing the lease for the shipyard. While it is not the Squadron's role to participate in anything “political” there may be environmental and safety issues for our boaters in need of urgent service. I may not be able to attend this meeting due to an obligation in Nanaimo but Ivan Bulic is aware of the details. I felt it is a topic that we should discuss.

Privacy: Nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Butt, AP

Membership:

As of this date there are 40 members of our squadron that I know have renewed their memberships before they lapsed. There are around 30 people who have been members in the past. I have no idea whether or not they have renewed their memberships before they became delinquent.

I have brought to the attention of Sheila Boucher, VIND Membership Officer, the problems I have encountered with the National website. I don't know what she has done with this information. The main issue is that the various reports have not been updated as members renew.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Pearce

Webmaster:

Nothing to report other than that the Microsite is up to date.

However, just a reminder from the VIND meeting minutes that the Nanaimo Squadron has organized a Flare Return Day which will be on Saturday, September 18 at Cabela's Store (across from Woodgrove Mall).

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Hunter