



# Foghorn



[www.cps Halifax.ca](http://www.cps Halifax.ca) / 1-888-277-2381

September  
2011

*CPS is a volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing boating enjoyment and safety through training. The Foghorn is the newsletter of the Halifax Squadron, a unit of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons.*

## Commander's Corner



Summer has come and gone, we did get some boating in but not much. No one needs to be reminded that July was okay and August had too much rain and now September so far has had some nice days but on the cool side. Hopefully the nice fall weather will extend our boating season.

We have a new Squadron Training Officer at the helm this coming season. Adriana McCrea has worked with Norman Raine and is doing a great job. She along with her group have put together another season of training courses. Please check the website, [www.cps Halifax.ca](http://www.cps Halifax.ca) to check out what is being offered for courses and see if you are interest in taking one OR let your friends know what we are offering to see if they would like to share in your experience in taking CPS courses. Also during the season we will be offering the ROC-M (VHF) as need arises. Check the website for the dates or contact the STO.

As we do send out information via email so make sure we have your current email address on file so that you receive our notices.

This year the Atlantic District is hosting the **National Annual AGM here in Halifax**. It is being held at the Marriott Harbourfront on October 19-22, 2011. This is a great opportunity for all members to attend the conference even if it is just for the seminars or AGM. You can register at the desk for the day to attend the seminars or AGM and we encourage you to come and be part of the conference

of the organization of which you are a member. See the information included in this Foghorn.

At this time I want to thank the Bridge Members for their time and effort that they put into Halifax Squadron. Without this dedicated group we would not be able to provide the quality of service to the public in our mandate in Volunteers Teaching Safe Boating.

Safe Boating is Everyone's Concern – Take a Course to Improve Your Skills and Knowledge

Sarah-Jane Raine, Commander



Annual General Meeting 2011

# Safe Boating Is Everyone's Concern

Learn confident, enjoyable boating through education. Enrol in a CPS Boating Course.



## CPS Halifax Squadron

For further information and registration, please go to our website:

[www.cps Halifax.ca](http://www.cps Halifax.ca)

or contact: 1-888-277-2381

Course	Start Date	Duration	Instructor	Fee
Fundamentals of Weather	Tuesday, Oct. 4th, 2011	12 weeks	Rod Shaw	\$105 member \$130 non-member
Boat and Engine Maintenance	Monday, Nov. 7th, 2011	13 weeks	Norman Raine	\$140 member \$165 non-member
Seamanship	Tuesday, Nov. 8th, 2011	13 weeks	Terry Kelly	\$165 member \$190 non-member 2nd family member \$115 member \$140 non-member
Sailing	Wednesday, Nov. 9th, 2011	12 weeks	Luke Porter	\$140 member \$165 non-member 2nd family member \$90 member \$115 non-member
The CPS Boating Course Includes Pleasure Craft Operators Card	Wednesday, Nov. 9th, 2011	13 weeks	Angus McPherson	\$225 \$190 for 2nd family member *\$10 discount if registered before November 1st
Extended Cruising	Thursday, Nov. 10th, 2011	13 weeks	Coordinator Norman Raine	\$140 member \$165 non-member 2nd family member \$100 member \$125 non-member

**Take a Boating Course – Register Now**

**Location: All courses will be held at Captain William Spry Community Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Halifax**

## Surprise Guest

After being away for several weeks and not having visited *Rapparee* since before we went south March 30, David and I decided we should check on things.

First, some background. We purchased a new winter boat cover last fall from a friend, and it worked wonderfully well, covering the boat from stem to stern, enclosing the deck and cockpit completely, unlike the old awnings we used to use. Consequently, although hidden from view, the deck was clear and cosy any time I visited over the winter.

So, time to check the boat. I clambered on deck (It is a BIG step for me from the dock to the deck, David often gives me a push on the rump to help) and unzipped the entranceway in the cover. I immediately saw that someone had been on board. As some of you may have sensitive tummies I won't go into detail, but the evidence was right under my nose, and right where I was about to step onto the cockpit seat. Great! There had been a vagrant camping out on *Rapparee*! At least the camper had been thoughtful enough to leave deposits for his stay, and all in one place, unlike some avian visitors we had a few years ago.

Looking for another spot to place my foot, it suddenly occurred to me that maybe I should look before I leapt in case the camper was still on board! I scrunched down and stuck my head under the cover, and yes, my gaze was returned by a couple of very sleepy eyes and a shake of the head! Well, well. who have we here I wondered. Evidently the camper must have had a wild night on the town the Friday night before (usual in Halifax!) and only wanted to sleep, so moved further forward under the cover and curled back up. I could be wrong, but I think I heard snoring resume.

David decided that maybe a poke would wake the camper up. After all, we had a few questions to ask. RNSYS is supposed to have 24 hour security, so how did he get into the club? And as he was shorter than I, how on earth did he climb from the dock to the deck? So David walked to the other side of the boat and gave him a couple of pokes through the outside of the cover. We didn't want to get too close in case the camper was armed and dangerous. However, it seemed that sleep was still the priority, so there was nothing left but for us to remove the cover, and let him know enough was enough, and that RNSYS has strict rules about who can and can't visit members' boats, and that he did not have our permission. This took a few minutes, as there were many ropes to untie, but finally we pulled the cover to the side of the boat. Well, the camper woke up alright, a bit bleary eyed and maybe with a big head after the night before. He looked at us, didn't say a word, walked around in a circle to get his bearings, jumped down onto the deck from the cabin top, then onto the dock, jumped in the water and swam to shore. What a way to wake up!!

Maybe he hoped he'd be invited to crew for the summer, or maybe he was looking after things during our absence. He tried very hard to get into the cabin, judging by the ripped screens, but he must not have known we take all liquor off for the winter!

He shredded some of our new main halyard to make his bed, but was kind enough to use only the tail end, leaving us enough length that we don't have to buy a replacement. Unfortunately he must have been hungry, and tried eating some of the treadmaster on the deck, so there are a few gaping holes in that.

Anyway, you will be glad to know that *Rapparee* received thorough scrubbing Topside as a result. Campers can be quite messy at times, and I guess this one hadn't heard of leaving no trace.



Boat and Engine Maintenance Graduates 2011

## Rocna Anchor Quality Issue

A notice has been released through West Marine regarding Rocna anchors. The New Zealand based company manufactures its anchors in China. In 2010, the manufacturer substituted a lower quality steel than what Rocna had contracted for. There is some dispute as to how many anchors are affected.

If you have purchased a Rocna anchor, you should check out the following web links:

West Marine

<http://content.westmarine.com/documents/pdfs/RECALLS/PRODUCT%20SPECIFICATION%20NOTICE%20FOR%20WEBSITE%20-%208%2001.pdf>

Yachting Monthly

<http://www.yachtingmonthly.com/news/529434/american-chandlery-offers-rocna-refund>

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### Note from the Training department

A full slate of courses is being offered this fall, and many offer a second family member discount!

For a complete description of the courses, their dates, instructors, cost, etc., and to register on-line, please check out our updated [2011-12 Course Calendar!](#)

We are excited to be offering 2 courses with brand new material: **Boat & Engine Maintenance**, and **Extended Cruising**. Co-author of the new B&E Maintenance is our own Norman Raine, who teaches the course and is an invaluable member of our Training department, always available for advice and encouragement. Even if you took the old Marine Maintenance course, you are sure to learn from the new material and format of the new course....

Please register early! This allows us to order adequate quantities of course materials and reserve classrooms of appropriate size.

Also, don't forget to check (and check back on) the News section of our [Squadron's web site](#) for updates on course offerings and other information. Updates take place at regular intervals...

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### Vignette: Rules of the road vs sailing etiquette

On Wednesday August 31, 2011, the weather was just too good to pass on an afternoon sail on St. Margaret's Bay. At 3pm, when we arrived at the marina, nor'westerlies were blowing. They gave us an excellent take off; and with such winds we could just point on and raise the mainsail without any extra manoeuver required. With a tack to port

we unfurled the jib: engine off and swish; we were under sail in no time. Our intended route was the Hubbards buoy (DY52) and back, a round trip of about 15 nm.

A bit of a lull as we passed in the lee of Clam Island and then again passing Croucher, but we were on a fine starboard tack, heading right towards our intended destination. It was surprisingly warm, considering the direction of the wind, and in the distance we could see many little triangles, indicating the number of sailboats enjoying the afternoon. St. Margaret Sailing Club was hosting the CYA Canadian Youth Championships, so that accounted for the many little "clumps" of sails visible in the middle of the Bay. They were in the midst of competition and it appeared that we would not come close to them.

After about 40 minutes, that was no longer so clear. We could see the escort boats darting this way and that, and what we presumed were their judging stations were looming ahead. Pinching, we were able to maintain our course and steer clear. Most of the groups ahead were turning back downwind, but the further we went, the closer we were getting to one group that was still going upwind, all on a port tack. When would they turn? We came closer, their escorts buzzed around out in front, and the competitors held their course, though still a safe distance from us. When will we hear a bull-horn telling us off, or a voice on Channel 16 publicly berating us - the (only) sailing vessel approaching them?

Now, we've all learned from the Boating course the "rules of the road" and right of way on the sea. We had the right of way, according to the rules. And lasers and other boats of the competition have greater manoeuvrability than a sailing cruiser like ours. But we could hardly expect these hardy youngsters, all vying for a national championship, to veer off for our benefit; much less had we the right to plough through them. And, of course, the ultimate rule is to take evasive action well before any disaster befalls. In his History of the Peloponnesian War, Thucydides wrote, "A collision at sea can ruin your entire day" - an observation that, to my knowledge, has never been challenged!

So we veered off to get a bit of extra speed, getting closer to the racers as we did. Then it was helm's alee and we turned toward Queensland. In the event, we got a good run in that direction and were able to tack once, and once more, to reach our destination, circumnavigating our target and getting back to our dock with the winds still favourable. I suppose all boaters know the rules and the etiquette of sailing. This is just a little reminder, if needed. Plus, it felt very noble to practise this little piece of common sense and have a great sail in the process.

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**SOME COURSES IN ACTION**  
May, 2011



Below: Seamanship students, with instructor Terry Kelly, calculating tides.



Below: Jn. Navigator, class discussion with instructor Mannie Laufer.



Above: Boating Class, instructor, Terry Carter, reviewing and practicing chart work.

## My Summer Adventure in India - Part 1

This is not a sailing story, but rather an account of why I WASN'T sailing for half the summer! As I write this, I am listening to soothing Tibetan chant music. That is your first clue! No, I wasn't in Tibet, but close to it. Early in the summer I had the good fortune to be a member of the Ladakh Himalayan Expedition 2011 - a nine person trekking expedition to the Ladakh region of northern India, that little tab of India that sticks up between Pakistan and Tibet. The culture of the area is more similar to that of Tibet than to the rest of India. Many Tibetans have sought refuge in the region as they don't want to live in their homeland now controlled by China. Our expedition leader, who resides in Nova Scotia, grew up in northern India and has led countless groups through the mountains over the years.

Late on a Sunday in June, I arrived amid the heat and humidity of pre-monsoon Delhi. The sights, smells and sounds of India all came flooding back to me, reminding me of my previous visit in 2005. Horns honking, auto-rickshaws darting among the cars and trucks, street sellers hawking their wares, dogs everywhere, but wait, something was missing. Where were the cows? Apparently all the cows that normally roam the streets were cleared out for the Commonwealth Games last year! Over the next couple of days, the other members of our group arrived, and we adjusted to the 8.5 hour time difference from home. We walked around Delhi, escaping back to the air conditioning in our hotel every couple of hours. I visited the Jantar Mantar (translated means Instrument Calculation). This is especially interesting for navigators as it is an astronomical observatory consisting of large structures built in a park setting in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to educate the people about astronomy. The huge instruments, some as large as a two story house, offer an accurate measurement of time, the declination of the sun, the attitude and azimuth, the position of constellations in the sky for the day, and so on. Picture a sun dial 27 meters high with a precision of 2 seconds!

We left Delhi in three jeep-like trucks in the wee hours one morning to avoid the heat of the day and the rush hour traffic. Our drivers were pros, way better than any you see on TV's truck driver shows! We headed north for an 18 hour drive to Manali, our base to start acclimatizing for our trek. Given that we all live close to sea level, we had to allow our bodies to adjust to the high elevations. This is done by walking up about 1000 feet and then descending for the night. Some became acclimatized more easily than others. We spent several days in Manali, going for daily hikes. On July 1, we entertained friends of our expedition leader and his wife along with members of our expedition support staff at our Canada Day party, complete with Canadian flags, pins and other maple-leaf flag adorned decorations. Flashing wands were a hit with the kids! I was thrilled to meet one of our guests, the first woman to climb to the top of Mt. Everest.

After a few days it was time to start our trek. At the beginning, we had the trucks to transport us between campsites - a good thing, as we were travelling along the highest road in the world at elevations over 14,000 feet. The road was narrow, twisty, with no guardrails, and drivers honked at every blind curve and when passing another vehicle. We hoped the oncoming drivers heard our honks!! A landslide held us up one day, as workers were clearing rocks and mud in between letting traffic through. What a mess! Those of us who ski were tickled to see roadside stalls that rent one-piece ski suits and straight skis. We couldn't see any ski hills, and then learned that people rent the outfits to go and stand on the snow and have their picture taken. What a hoot!!



What was a day on the trek like? Our morning started early, especially if we had far to go that day. A member of the "kitchen" staff would come to our tents and offer us lemon tea in bed. This was a nice way to ensure we were awake! Once we had packed our belongings in our duffle bags, we'd meet at the dining tent for a breakfast of cereal or porridge, eggs and toast. We had a creative cook who produced a variety of meals from a tent using a kerosene stove. While we still had the trucks,

we would start out walking, and once the camp was packed up by the support staff, the drivers would pick us up along the road and off we'd go. We carried box lunches in our daypacks so could eat snacks whenever we were hungry, and of course we all carried two bottles of water. We drank bottled water until the trucks left us part way through the trek, after which we filled our water bottles with filtered water. When we arrived at a new campsite, the staff pitched our tents while we went for an acclimatization hike. Back at our tents, we were given basins of hot water to freshen up with, then after a bit of downtime, we had dinner – soup, several Indian main dishes and dessert. Even with no refrigeration we were able to have fresh chicken for dinner. Really fresh! Our equipment truck carried crates containing live chickens. The chickens were let out of the crates when we arrived at our campsites, but they always hung around the kitchen tent. Silly birds! Each day the number of chickens dwindled! (The staff was considerate and waited until we were on our daily hike before beheading a chicken for dinner.) Once there were no more chickens, we ate canned meat or fish. It is amazing how good a Canadian tinned ham tastes when prepared with Indian spices. Most evenings we were in our sleeping bags by 8:00, exhausted from the day's activities and the altitude. For the most part, I slept pretty well. One night a herd of yaks wandered through our camp and I never heard a thing! We had the luxury of a toilet tent, and a portable shower was set up for us a couple of times. We even had a generator for lights in the evening, but it died part way through the trip.

Adventures by Louise White, Membership Officer  
**To be continued in the next edition of the Foghorn**

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#### Halifax Squadron Bridge 2011-2012

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#### Some interesting websites to check out

<http://www.animatedknots.com>

<http://coldwaterbootcamp.com>



## CPS-ECP HALIFAX 2011 AGM INVITE



October 19 – 23, 2011



### The 2011 Conference committee invites **YOU** to Halifax

[Visit our website](#) to find all the information you need to register for the event, find your way here, and experience our true maritime hospitality!

### Halifax Welcomes You!

So much to do, so much to discover in Halifax, the historic city by the sea. Founded in 1739, Halifax now has a population of close to 396,000 and offers a dynamic and intriguing mix of heritage and culture. Stroll along our magnificent harbourfront; visit unique shops on Spring Garden Road which is known as the retail heart of Halifax; discover entertainment and fabulous restaurants within walking distance of your conference home, the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel.

All **Conference Events** will take place at the beautiful Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, conveniently located within walking distance from downtown attractions. Follow the link below to learn more about the venue and to reserve a place to stay.

Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel  
1919 Upper Water Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

#### [Marriott Harbourfront Hotel Home Page](#)

For Reservations by phone call 1-800-228-9290.  
Single/double rooms are priced at \$165 + tax per night.  
For on-line or phone reservations use the code CPSCPSA

### Tours and Activities

#### Guided Waterfront History Walking Tour

\$35.00 per person

Thursday, October 20th, 9:30am to 5:00pm

Total walking time is 45 minutes. Return from Pier 21 by shuttle bus. Tour price includes entrance to the two museums and the brewery tour. Lunch price is not included in tour price.





## CPS-ECP HALIFAX 2011 AGM INVITE



October 19 – 23, 2011

### Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC)/Halifax Traffic Bus Tour\*

\$25.00 per person

Thursday October 20th – 9:00am to 12:45pm

Have you ever wondered what happens if you send a DISTRESS message, or don't show up when expected at your cruising destination? Come and learn from the experts who coordinate the Search and Rescue (SAR) response to air and marine incidents within the Halifax Search and Rescue Region.

\*Note: The deadline for registering for this excursion is September 25th, 2011, as all participants must have a security check completed to gain entrance to the Naval Base.

### Peggy's Cove/Lunenburg Bus Tour

\$75.00 per person

Friday, October 21st, 8:30am to 5:00pm

Travel with us by motor coach to two popular locations in "Canada's Ocean Playground".

### Halifax Harbour Cruise

\$25.00 per person

Saturday October 22nd, 1:30pm departure, returning 4:00pm

Ahoy mates!! Join us for a two hour cruise of historic Halifax Harbour.

## Entertainment

**Friday's entertainment** is a wonderful and exciting Halifax group: **The Gig Dogs**. This group has played together for many years in venues from pubs to the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium with the Symphony Orchestra. You will have a terrific time dancing and listening to the best of East Coast music covering everything from well known popular classics to Celtic reels. **This will be a kitchen party to remember!**

What does one wear to a kitchen party? – Comfy jeans, shoes for dancing and stomping, maybe a bit of plaid (as you are coming to a kitchen party in Nova Scotia) and leave your headwear to us!

**Saturday's entertainment** is another fabulous local Halifax group: **Miles from Nowhere**. This group has been playing as a team for more than 15 years. They have a passion for music and having fun. Dance tunes from the Eagles, the Doobie brothers, A Foot in Cold Water, Del Shannon and many many more fun sing along dance tunes. **An evening not to be missed!**



## CPS-ECP HALIFAX 2011 AGM INVITE



October 19 – 23, 2011

### Mini-trade Show

We are organizing a mini-trade show to be held during the conference. Stay tuned to our website as we update final details.

### Competitions and Prizes

And don't forget the competitions!

The "Competitions Room" will be an area open to all attendees - whether you will be competing or just viewing. But don't just view; we all have hobbies that we excel at: fill in the entry form and show us your strengths!

### AGM Competitions Entry Form (Adobe PDF Document)

We have a thrilling inventory of **prizes** already! Acknowledgements to our generous sponsors are being updated weekly as we gather more and more.

### Seminars

Final details on the seminars will be published soon. Another reason to watch the website with anticipation!

### Contact Us

Check out our website regularly at <http://www.cps Halifax.ca/AGM2011/> as we provide more details as they become finalized. Register soon to secure your spot.