

THE HELM



Ventura Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

Sail and Power Boating – District 13

*Dedicated to **SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION***

December 2011

Boating is Fun...Let Us Show You How!

Volume 54 No.11



Commander's Comments

Cdr Don Roy, AP

Commander's Squadron Review

As the end of the year nears and I review 2011's achievements of our Squadron, I must admit that I am truly proud of all our efforts. We have done a stellar job of building upon the traditions of education, fraternity and community.

Unless you were shipwrecked on a desert isle with Gilligan this past year, then you know we passed a great benchmark of 50 years. What a history and what an achievement. VPS can thank all the past Commanders and bridge members, instructors and its members for making the Ventura Squadron one of the most vibrant and active in the nation. **District Commander Mike Mann** informed me that we will be receiving our 50th Anniversary certificate at next spring's District 13 Conference.

Which brings me to fraternity: we started off the year with a resounding bang when we pulled off a fantastic Torres Straights Host Room at the Spring Conference. Everybody chipped in while **Janine Nesbit** took the lead in decorating, and believe me, we had so much spirit I couldn't believe it. Just seeing **Ev Ashworth** in a hula skirt was worth the price of admission.

We had exciting cruises, from the Frenchy's Shake-down Cruise to our Channel Islands Harbor Rendezvous. And

working on our upcoming Parade of Lights 1st Place Award Winning entry is lots of fun.

Our Squadron continues to volunteer around the community, with such honorable and satisfactory results. We can also thank the community for all their support of our squadron including Santa Barbara Business College, the Ventura Harbor District, the Ventura Yacht Club, Island Packers and many more by providing classrooms and donations to our educational efforts.

We owe **Susan Matthews** our thanks for keeping the finances in order, and we are honored to have an award winning Helm and website from the efforts of **Debbie Braun-Lawson** and **Don Shultz**, respectively.

As part of USPS outreach initiatives, we will begin offering our classes to the general public. The ExCom decided on the fee schedules and we will be marketing the Ventura Classes around the boating community and hope to add a few more bright sailors to our roster. In the long run, this will build relationships and build our ranks.

Finally, our educational efforts were outstanding with two ABC classes, Seamanship, Sail, Piloting, Engine Maintenance and Junior Navigation. **SEO Gary Hubler** and assistant **Fred DeLamarter** deserve lots of credit along with the instructors **Jan Lawson**, **Ron Dolbier**, **Earl Buck**, **Alan Gosselin** and all the ABC team. We are close to finalizing a 2012 Education Class schedule with the past year repeating and adding Cruise Planning, Advanced Piloting, Weather and hopefully Navigation as well as four seminars.

What an exciting year we have had, and as I look ahead, I look forward to seeing all of you join us for classes, cruises, meetings and definitely out on the water. Happy Holidays to all and Safe Boating.

MOU with USCG Auxiliary

The United States Power Squadron and the U.S.Coast Guard Auxiliary recently signed a Memorandum Of Understanding, or MOU. The goal of the MOU is to find areas of mutual benefit between the two leaders in boater education and devise cooperative plans to maximize our efforts. The belief is that as times change and the public turns to the internet for educational choices, the USPS and Auxiliary are a hands-on in-class choice that has value beyond online courses.

Captain Alan Carver, USCG Auxiliary, made a presentation at November's Executive Committee meeting to explain his district's Auxiliary's response. They hope to be able to share instructors, classes and are offering credits to their members for certain joint activities with the local Squadrons. The Executive Committee was very appreciative of Alan's remarks and voiced their positive commitment to begin a dialogue with the Auxiliary to explore future joint endeavors. You can read the MOU at the following link: http://www.sailangle.com/uploads/group/files/1675/e56cc934ba5b_usps%20uscgaux%20agreement.pdf.



Captain Alan Carver, USCG Auxiliary

COMING EVENTS

December 2011

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| 3 | Sat | Parade of Lights Work Party @1000 <i>3639 E. Harbor Blvd. #109, Ventura</i> |
| 5 | Mon | Executive Committee Meeting @ 1900 <i>Coast Guard Station Annex- Ch Isl. Harbor</i> |
| 10 | Sat | Parade of Lights Work Party @ 1000 <i>KISS @ Ventura West Marina, A-26</i> |
| 11 | Sun | Holiday Dinner Party @ 1400 <i>Crown Point Plaza Hotel</i> |
| 16-17 | Fri & Sat | Parade of Lights! @ 1900 <i>Ventura Harbor</i> |

January 2012

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---|
| 2 | Mon | Executive Committee Meeting @ 1900 <i>Coast Guard Station Annex- Ch Isl. Harbor</i> |
| 21 | Sat | Annual Meeting and Appetizer Competition <i>Channel Islands Yacht Club</i> |
| 25-29 | Wk | USPS National Convention <i>Jacksonville, FL</i> |

More information on each event can be found at www.usps.org/ventura and in The HELM 2 months prior to the event.



**Christie's
Corner**
Lt/C Christie Yeager, S

I hope you all enjoyed a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner and holiday with family and friends. Here in Yeagerville, we had thirty-two family members requiring a full length buffet table of ninety-two inches of delicious food, (wow, cannot believe we pulled that off) it was amazing. All of Tracey's eight siblings attended honoring his mom who took a fall the day before and required 8 staples in her head, ouch. Hopefully your weekend was just as fun, albeit, less eventful.

Earlier last month we participated in the *Bill of Rights* sail out of Channel Island Harbor. The *Bill of Rights* is a 136 foot wooden sailing vessel; the last ship built by Harvey Gamage in Bristol Maine. Commencing his life's work it is truly a masterpiece and just being aboard her is an incredible pleasure. The *Bill of Rights* also participated in the bicentennial celebration of the United States back in 1976.

Captain, owner and founder of the American Tall Ships institute, Steve Taylor is a generous man and let Tracey take the helm for a bit; his joyful face showed what an awesome experience he was having although my cell phone photo does not do it justice. I just get a thrill being involved in heaving the lines to pull up the sails reaching over one hundred feet up in the air on a one piece wooden mast.

We didn't have great winds but she sailed beautifully just the same and I enjoyed every minute. This is an amazing experience you must try, just go to Island Packers on nearly any weekend to purchase a ticket for an afternoon sail. Weekdays, disadvantaged youths get hands on understanding of team work and a lifetime of experience and life lessons to make a memorable week; I'm certain many lives are changed aboard the *Bill of Rights* so let us continue to support Captain Steve and be a part of the bigger picture of the work being done on the *Bill of Rights*.

Finally, Tracey and I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Holiday Celebration which is quickly approaching

December 11th, don't forget to bring a white elephant gift to exchange valued at \$10 or more. Personally, after having a very challenging 2011, I look forward to experiencing a healthy and fun 2012, so if you are unable to attend the holiday party, I'll see you in the New Year!



The second **America's Boating Course** of 2011 was successfully completed this fall, with 17 students taking the final exam and graduating.

The graduates are: **Mark Abel, Gretchen Becker, Carolyn Cahn, Dan Cahn, Tracy Carlton, Ryan Carmody, Gareth Dodd, Larry Ehrhardt, Joyce Glantz, Tom Lange, Markus McDowell, Todd Mitchell, Brant Phalen, John Quick, Stephen Wright, Stephen Youngblood and Wendi Youngblood.** Another student, **David Zeman**, completed the on-line version of America's Boating Course also successfully passed the proctored examination. Congratulations to each of you and welcome to the Ventura Power Squadron!

Each of these students have been given their free 6-month memberships in USPS and the Ventura Power Squadron and are now eligible to take additional boating courses. We look forward to meeting the new members during our Squadron courses and activities in 2012.

A special thanks to Assistant SEO 1/Lt **Fred DeLamarter, P** for a great job managing the public boating courses this year. I also thank our fall Boating Course Proctors: **Greg Kircher, Craig Watkins, Kimberly Morris, Richard Cudworth, AP** and **Gary Wolfe, P** and our instructors: **P/Lt/C Alan Gosselin, AP, Cdr Don Roy, AP, Lt/C Ev Ashworth, AP, Lt Deborah Braun-Lawson, P** and **P/C Janet Lawson, S** for the great job they did with this class. Thank you all for the great job teaching and representing the Ventura Power Squadron.

Ten intrepid students started **Junior Navigation** this fall and are working diligently through this first course in off-shore navigation. Students have been working dutifully to learn the sextant and are beginning to do sight reductions using the Law of Cosines. A couple students have successfully plotted estimated positions that look pretty darn good. Thank you to **P/C David Williams, SN** for mentoring the group through this course. The group will take a short break during the second half of December, resuming in January with a goal of completing the course in February.

2012 Education Plan

The Executive Committee has approved the 2012 Education Plan and we will be offering fourteen courses/seminars to USPS members and to the local boating community. Please see the Table below for the complete course listing and preliminary schedule. We should have the final schedule on the USPS and VPS websites by the end of the year, and we will also publish it in the January, 2012 **Helm.**

Please note that we will be offering the **Instructor Development Course** in 2012, which is the course required to become a USPS Certified Instructor. If you think you may want to be an instructor at some time in the future, I recommend that you take this course, as it is not offered every year. The certification is good for a four-year period, and is renewed by taking the **Instructor Recertification Seminar**. This seminar is a three-hour, one-time program, and will be offered in 2013 as several instructors will be due for recertification at that time.

Contacts for Local Mariners

24-Hour Emergency Telephone Numbers

- U.S. Coast Guard Search & Rescue (805)985-9822
- Channel Islands Harbor Patrol..... (805)382-3000
- Ventura Harbor Patrol..... (805)642-8618
- Port Hueneme (805)982-4571
- Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol..... (805)564-5530

Harbormasters – Administrative

- Channel Islands.....(805)382-6864
- Channel Islands Harbor Patrol..... (805)382-3007
- Ventura Port District..... (805)642-8538
- Port Hueneme Public Affairs..... (805)982-4493
- Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol..... (805)564-5520

National Weather Service

- Oxnard..... (805)988-6610
- Web site <http://www.nwsla.noaa.gov>

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Education Station Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP</p> |
|--|--|

The Ventura Power Squadron education program is almost complete for the year, with Junior Navigation being the last active course. Several students from JN and from the fall America's Boating Course took advantage of the opportunity to sail on the Bill of Rights tall ship. The JN students got in some sextant practice before the clouds obscured the sun and the ABC students had a course review to help prepare them for their final exam. Overall, it was a beautiful day on the water and great fun. Thanks to the captain and crew for an outstanding job!

Current Educational Activities

| Ventura Power Squadron Education Program 2012 | |
|---|---|
| Course | Preliminary Schedule |
| Public Boating Courses | |
| America's Boating Course-8 Hours | Ventura Yacht Club Tuesdays, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM February 21 thru April 24 |
| America's Boating Course-8 Hour | Ventura Yacht Club Tuesdays, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM September 18 thru November 20 |
| Advanced Grade Courses | |
| Advanced Piloting | Ventura Yacht Club Mondays, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM Starting Mid-February |
| Seamanship | Santa Barbara Business College, Ventura Campus Wednesdays, 7:00 PM-9:00PM May 2 thru June 20 |
| Piloting | Ventura Harbor Patrol Offices Thursdays, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM Sept. 20 th thru November 8 th |
| Elective Courses | |
| Cruise Planning | Ventura Yacht Club Mondays, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM February 13 thru April 2 |
| Engine Maintenance | Location TBD Thursdays, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM February 16 thru April 5 |
| Sail | Location TBD Tuesdays, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM September 4 thru October 23 |
| Weather | Location TBD Fall, 2012 |
| Seminars (2-Hour, 1-time programs) | |
| Basic Weather and Forecasting | Location TBD Saturday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM April 28 |
| How to Use a Chart | Location TBD Q2 2012 |
| Knots, Bends and Hitches | Location TBD Q2 2012 |
| Marine Radar | Location TBD Q3 2012 |

| Instructor Certification | |
|--|---|
| Instructor Development Course (Initial instructor certification) | Ashworth Leininger Group Offices Day TBD, 7:00 PM-9:00 Pm Late April |

Quarter 1, 2012 Courses

Now is the time to begin thinking about courses that will be offered early next year, as we have three great ones for members plus our *America's Boating Course* for new boaters to start our 2012 VPS education year.

America's Boating Course

First up this fall is America's Boating Course, which is our introductory course offered to the public. This eight-week course will begin on Tuesday, February 21st and will be conducted at the Ventura Yacht Club. If you are interesting in being a proctor or instructor for ABC-8, please contact Assistant SEO **Fred Delamarter, P.**

Advanced Piloting



We will be offering **Advance Piloting** beginning in mid-February at the Ventura Yacht Club. **Rick Metheny, AP** will teach this advanced grade course. Ask anyone who has taken Advanced Piloting, and they will tell you that you could not have a better instructor than Rick and that the added navigation skills are definitely worth the effort. If you have completed Piloting, now is the time to think about taking your training to the next level.

Cruise Planning

Regarding elective courses, we will offer **Cruise Planning** starting on February 13th. **Pat Metheny, AP** will be teaching this course. Pat has extensive boating experience as well as both local and long-distance cruise planning experience, and we are indeed fortunate to have Pat as the instructor for this valuable course.

This course is eight weeks in duration and covers: cruise preparation and planning, chartering, anchors and anchoring, security, boats and equipment, cruising outside of the United States, crew and provisioning, voyage management, communications, navigation, weather and emergencies.

Pat has requested that anyone interested in taking this course contact her by telephone to determine your specific cruising interests and experience so that she might individualize the course for this particular group of students. Pat can be reached at: 805- 646-7675 after 5:30 PM or via email at rmetheny@aol.com.

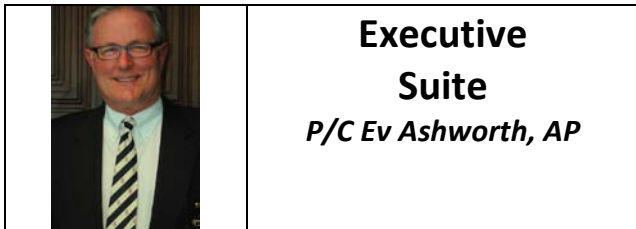
Engine Maintenance

A second elective course starting in early 2012 is Engine Maintenance, skillfully taught by **Alan Gosselin, AP**. En-

gine Maintenance begins on Thursday, February 16th at the Ventura campus of Santa Barbara Business College.

The Engine Maintenance course covers gasoline inboards, outboards, and diesel engines in a way that reinforces the common aspects of how engines work. Modern engines offer high reliability and good performance through the use of computerized systems for fuel delivery and engine timing. Most of these systems are “black boxes” that can no longer be serviced by weekend mechanics with ordinary tools. The EM course covers those repairs that do-it-yourselfers can still perform, teaches how to diagnose problems that might be beyond your ability to fix, and how to share information with your mechanic so the right repairs get performed. The course also covers basic mechanical systems such as drive systems (propellers), steering systems, and engine controls. The last chapter discusses solutions you might apply to problems that occur while afloat and away from a repair facility.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions regarding the Ventura Power Squadron education program.



Safe Boating Data

As a technical-type, I spend a fair amount of my time with statistical analyses to confirm the likelihood of an event taking place, be it the failure of a component, or an exposure to a harmful compound that is present in exhaust. As fellow VPS members know, I’m also a poster boy for wearing PDFs, and all things safe-boating related. It’s therefore with some interest that I reviewed the 2010 Safe Boating Report issued by the US Coast Guard late last month. These data are instructive on several levels; some significant datum:

- The USCG reports that some 4600 accidents took place in 2010, which resulted in 672 deaths and over \$35 million in property damage. Expressed another way, there were about 5 ½ deaths per 100,000 registered boats, a metric that the USCG uses to reflect these casualties relative to the amount of actual boating activity in a given year. Using this metric, the there was a ~7% decrease in casualties between 2009 and 2010.
- Of the fatalities, over 75% were due to drowning. Of those who drowned, roughly 9 out of 10 were NOT wearing life jackets. This single data

point confirms and underscores the VPS safety motto: Just wear it.

- The likelihood of having a horrible day on the water diminishes significantly for those who received safe boating instruction. Only six percent of the fatalities occurred to individuals who received NASBLA-approved safety courses, such as the USPS Safe Boating Class. That statistic is truly impressive, and underscores the core value of the Squadron: Safe Boating Through Education
- The most common causes of maritime casualties: Operator inattention; failure to post a lookout; operator inexperience; excessive speed; and alcohol. Our suite of safe boating classes and seminars thus properly focus attention on these key contributors to the potential of having a good day on the Channel going horribly wrong.
- The most common types of vessels to have a marine casualty: open motor boats (46%), personal water craft (20%) and cabin motor boats (14%). Eight out of 10 boaters who drowned were on a boat less than 21 feet in length.

My review of these data confirms my view that what we do as members of the Squadron is important, relevant, and critical. Separately, I was impressed to hear **Lt. Fred DeLamarter’s** report that all of the 2011 Fall Boating Class members passed their proficiency exams (hazahhhh!). Taken together, these two reports reminded me of how grateful I am to be part of the Squadron, and how proud I am of our Squadron’s role in our boating fraternity.

As this is our last epistle for 2011, I also want to take this opportunity to send a special, heart-felt thank you to all of the members who made this year a success. In particular, my thanks go to **Cdr. Don Roy**, who made this 50th Anniversary Year something special on many levels. An extra ration of rum and extra hugs for our fine commander. Huzzahhh!



Our 2010-2011 Bridge

Commander (818) 439-3211
 Lt/C, Don Roy AP donroy@gmail.com

Executive Officer (805) 643-7446
 Lt/C, Ev Ashworth AP eashworth@algorcorp.com

Administrative Officer

SEO (805) 306-9027
 Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP ghubler@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer (805) 707-2804
 Lt/C Sue Matthews, P matsus3619@sbcglobal.net

Secretary (661) 623-0800
 Lt/C Tracey Yeager, S Sailboy854@gmail.com

The Helm Editor (805) 407-4777
 Lt Debbie Braun-Lawson, P debbiebraunlawson@gmail.com

December Birthdays

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Ann Wolfe |
| 11 | Richard Jeffery |
| 12 | Nola Harding |
| 22 | Ron Dolbier |
| 28 | Rick Metheny |
| 31 | Mark Scott |

The best birthday wishes to everyone this month!

***FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR
BOATING CONCERNS AND
QUESTIONS
CRUISE PLANNING
COURSE.....Coming Soon***

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

The Annual Change of Watch is quickly approaching. This event is a time to thank the outgoing Bridge for their tireless work last year and to install and welcome Bridge for 2012...

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012
Place: Ventura Yacht Club-upstairs dining room (remember there is an elevator so you don't have to trudge upstairs)
Time: No host Bar get together 4:00-5:00
Dinner: 5:30
Installation and Activities to follow

Check your email for "Change of Watch" information in a week or so. The menu cost and RSVP information will be posted. This is a great time to include your spouse, significant other or friends.

***START 2012 WITH THE
POWER SQUADRON***

Join in the Squadron's first event of 2012. On Saturday, January 21 we will elect our new Bridge and have an Appetizer Contest
When: Saturday, January 21
Time: 1:00-3:00
Place: Channel Islands Yacht Club
1400 Harbor Blvd. (down from Whale's Tail Restaurant)

Cost: No cost, VPS will provide soft drinks and water
Members are encouraged to bring an appetizer to share. Each member will be able to vote for their favorite entry and prizes will be awarded

HOT SPICY EXOTIC SWEET AND CRUNCHY

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR YOUR IMAGINATIVE ENTRY

Have you ever:

- ❖ Questioned if your vessel is equipped so you could function well in an emergency?
- ❖ Wondered how to plan tasty, healthy meals if you cruise for more than a weekend?
- ❖ Worried if you have enough chain and line to hold your boat fast in an anchorage?
- ❖ Hoped you'll never have to communicate a "pan pan, securite or mayday" call?

Upcoming VPS Cruise Planning Course will address these concerns as well as many additional issues. Now is the time to sign up for the class. The Instructor is **Pat Metheny** a long time member with many years experience (since 1970's) cruising the Channel Islands, to Catalina and south to Ensenada, 14 months twice in the last three years in Alaska and British Columbia and well as many weeks on smaller boats in the California Delta, Lake Powell etc.

The wonderful thing about this class is that it is a place where people share knowledge and are free to ask questions. **Rick Metheny**, a licensed Coast Guard Captain will teach the "Anchors and Anchoring" and "Emergencies at Sea" sections.

Dates: Mondays beginning February 13, 2012 and ending in early April

Time: 7:00 pm sharp-9:00

Place: Ventura Yacht Club-downstairs patio (bring a jacket)

Cost: of materials about \$55 payable first class session
Sign Up Today: call Pat at 805 646 7675 or email rmetheny@aol.com (be sure to include your full name and telephone number and E-number if you have one)

Please sign up as soon as possible so materials can be ordered and on hand for the first class.

The Adventurous Metheny's

Chapter 4—Rick and Pat Metheny's 2011 voyage to Alaska and British Columbia on the Tenacious a 43 foot Grand Banks Classic Trawler

On our way back through Wrangell we stayed at the new Heritage Docks that were about 2 miles from town. Launched our dinghy, pack up our grocery carry bags and water proof tarps and ventured out for this "new to us" harbor in the pouring rain to get fresh veggies. It was a hoot and we laughed as our faces were pelted with rain. By the time we returned with our dinghy loaded with fresh food, the weather had cleared but the tide was running against our bow. Sometimes our 30 horsepower Honda engine is really nice. In front of us in the open channel was a 35 foot open fishing boat with a guy and a 12 year old girl paddling madly with one oar trying to go against the current and back to where Tenacious was docked. They had no lines and no lifejackets (Alaskans are pretty fearless). We used our bow line to side tie their boat to our dinghy and then I became a human fender so not to ruin our dinghy with their vessel. The next day we took a jet boat up the Stikine River to Anan Bear Observation laboratory. A fancy name for a place that all the kinds of bears in southeast Alaska come to at the same time to feed on the fish (and guide and ranger with bear guns) This time we spent many hours watching mother black bears and their cubs venture from the river side caves where they hid; "teenage" males trying to woo females and the food chain example of the ravens and Bald Eagles finishing up the parts of the salmon the bears found too much effort to clean off. Then there is bear pee. If you even have a bear pee on your head know you will need a bottle of water to wash off the horrible odor.

Leaving Wrangell at the crack of dawn we headed south in dense low fog. Binoculars were useless and really were needed to dodge the massive amounts of logs and the seiner floats and nets. We worked as a team and stared through the 1.5 mile visibility. First we located the boat, then the float (some were as small as a plastic milk jug), then followed the direction of the seiner in relation to the first float, and then watched close by water patterns to pick out the end float in between, submerged nets that we needed to avoid. Our plan for an anchorage for the night changed with the wind. We tucked into Santa Anna Inlet about 2 pm and the rain really began. Salmon were jumping all around the Tenacious, but not one was interested in Rick's hook. This husband of mine, who is usually cold, was happy as lark fishing in the cold pouring rain. Go figure!

Moving south became very linked with the 4 am weather reports. Yes we were up and ready to leave at 3:30-4:00 many dark mornings. When it is light enough to see the inlet entrance we often were easing our way out into the channel. We tied up to the government dock in Myers Chuck, a small settlement of maybe 20 people. Artists, lumbermen and fishermen live here. A REAL TREAT IS TO WAKE

UP TO A KNOCK ON THE SIDE OF THE BOAT TO BE GREETED BY A LOCAL WITH A STRAW BASKET FILLED WITH HOMEMADE STICKY BUNS. WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE. WE PLANNED TO LEAVE TO MEET A CURRENT FROM THE NORTH, BUT THE WIND WAS BLOWING 30 KNOTS AND THERE WERE 5-7 FOOT SWELLS IN ERNEST SOUND OUTSIDE OF THE MYERS CHUCK HARBOR (SORRY ABOUT THE CHANGE IN CAPITALS, THIS IS A NEW COMPUTER AND I'VE HIT A MYSTERIOUS KEY THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO UNDO-OH WELL ITS MY INTERACTION WITH TECHNOLOGY.) A 50 FOOT OCEAN LINER ALEXANDER, A LARGE POWERFUL POWER BOAT, LEFT BUT MANAGED TO GET BACK INTO THE HARBOR. IT WAS SO ROLLY IN THE CHANNEL THE WIFE WOULDN'T GO ANY FARTHER. TENACIOUS STAYED AT THE DOCK. ALASKA CHANGES QUICKLY AND THE NEXT DAY WAS SUNNY AND CALM AND WE MADE OUR WAY TO KETCHICAN. GETTING FUEL IN THE CITIES IS A PROCESS. FIRST, IS THE FUEL DOCK OPEN OR IS IT WAITING FOR A FUEL BARGE TO COME AND REFILL ITS TANKS. SECOND, THE QUESTION IS HOW LONG WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR A TUG BOAT, FISHING BOAT OR DELIVERY VESSEL TO FUEL BEFORE US. OUR LEARNING CURVE, DON'T WAIT AN HOUR BOUNCING AROUND BY THE FUEL DOCK BREATHING IF DIESEL FUMES AND SMOKE---USE THE VHF TO CALL THE TUG AND SEE HOW LONG IT PLANS TO BE TAKING ON FUEL. WHEN IT WAS OUR TURN, I'D HAVE TO GET THE LINES TO THE DOCK AND TIE OFF QUICKLY BECAUSE WE USUALLY SHARED THE DOCK WITH TWO OR THREE OTHER BOATS. YEAH, LONG BIG DOCKS, 4-5 INCH HEAVY, OILY FUEL HOSES AND ARE DESIGNED TO FILL LARGE B OATS QUICKLY AND TEND TO SPURT WHEN PUTTING FUEL IN SMALLER TANK OPENINGS. A COUPLE OF TIMES RICK HAD TO WASH AND THEN LIGHTLY SAND OUR TEAK DECKS WHEN THE FUEL ESCAPED

WE SPENT A COUPLE OF SUNNY RELAXING DAYS IN KETCHICAN. WE WALKED AND RODE THE PUBLIC BUS EVERYWHERE. WE LOADED OUR DOLLY CART WITH 8 BAGS OF LAUNDRY. WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY SINCE JUNEAU. WE PUSHED AND BUMPED OVER THE UNEVEN SIDE WALKS TO THE CLOSEST LAUNDRY. I'VE WORKED OUT A SYSTEM WHERE I STAGGER THE START TIMES AND THE ITEMS THAT DRY QUICKLY AND THE BLUE JEANS THAT TAKE FOREVER. USUALLY THE LAUNDRY PROCESS TAKES ABOUT TWO AND HALF HOURS AND IS ABOUT \$20 FOR WASHING AND DRYING. I DON'T PLAN TO DO LAUNDRY UNTIL WE GET BACK DOWN SOUTH, HAVING PACKED ENOUGH UNDERWEAR AND ESSENTIAL SHIRTS FOR 5 WEEKS AT A TIME.

NEXT STOP IS PRINCE RUPERT BRITISH COLUMBIA. HERE WE NEED TO RECHECK INTO CANADIAN CUSTOMS AND GET A NEW CUSTOMS NUMBER FOR THIS PART OF THE TRIP. THIS NUMBER MUST BE POSTED IN A WINDOW AND LOGGED INTO THE LOG BOOK.

FOR THE NEXT LEG OF THE TRIP AGAIN WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF FISHING BOATS. THIS PART OF THE JOURNEY IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES. HIGH MOUNTAINS, WATERFALLS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CHANNEL SPILLING FROM SKY TO THE SEA; BRANCHING OUT INTO MULTIPLE RIBBONS OF WATER RUSHING OVER THE BLACK SLATE ROCKS. IT IS AMAZING AND SOMETIMES YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN.

We stopped at a new to us anchorage klewnuggit. To get into the anchorage we had to go up an inlet for about

15 minutes and then we tucked into a long arm and anchored in 30 foot of water. There were no other boats anywhere around us. We had complete silence except for the calling of the birds and the splash of the fish. Loons called in the distance; this is my idea of perfect. But then the rain started again. Wow this is really a heavy downpour. We were tucked into Tenacious since the water was very calm we had a gentle afternoon. I had bought a couple of jigsaw puzzles—a great activity for a rainy day. I spent time writing poetry.

Still heading south... It's August 2 and we need to be in lower British Columbia by August 20th at the latest. Now the issue of a load date for Tenacious on a Yacht Path freighter looms large. Our experience with shipping the boat south tells us that we need to be a day away from Victoria when the projected load date comes around. Currently we have no cell phone or internet access. Heck, much of the time we don't get VHF or satellite phone in the anchorages because of the high mountains surrounding the inlets, anchorages, and main channels south. It's sad to be leaving this area, but we must move on.

Next Chapter: Pat wraps a line around a prop in the middle of nowhere, the August Broughton resorts are alive with boats and someone questionable captains, a wonderful visit to Namu (an abandoned but rising again fish canning station; time in the Gulf Islands (here I did it again-yikes) on the east coast of Vancouver Island, escape to America—Anacortes and the finally loading Tenacious on the freighter just about a month after we thought we'd load and our Ensenada to Ventura leg.

Editor's Note: Now they're home!

Parade of Lights work parties continue each Saturday until the parade on December 16th and 17th. Plan to come help us!



**Cdr. Don and Donna Hendricks
Work on the Parade of Lights Decorations!**



Christie Yeager works on POL Decorations!



Gary Wolfe Works on the Dark Side;)



Happy Holidays to All!

Ventura Power Squadron

Lt. Debbie Braun-Lawson, Editor

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

December 2011

