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**Pacific  
Yachting**  
WEST COAST POWER & SAIL

CURRENTS



**RACING**

## The 50th Anniversary of the RNSA Regatta

The weekend of June 1 will mark the 50th anniversary of the RNSA Regatta in British Columbia. For 50 years, this Royal Naval Sailing Association two-day regatta has been the test for sailors who enjoy the challenge of sailing solo across the Strait of Georgia. And now there is a doublehand division for couples and twosomes too—today’s way of developing tomorrow’s solo sailor. Organized by the West Vancouver Yacht Club, the first day of racing ends at the Nanaimo Yacht

Club with a scrumptious dinner, interim prizes and presentations.

The concept has evolved over the years since it was first launched in the 1970s by Captain John Horton of the RNSA in Vancouver. Now in its 50th edition, this regatta’s Ancient Mariners (75+) and Old Salts (65–74) divisions remind and inspire the rest of us that one of the milestones of a keelboat sailor is the test of a solo crossing. A glance of the winners’ names engraved on the coveted Janet Stamper Memorial tro-

phy for the fastest overall singlehand racer reminds us of those who have gone on to make further impacts in the sailing world. Tradition is made as the seasoned sailors shepherd the younger ones, inspiring the inspired. Last year’s regatta saw old salt, Grahame Shannon, create a trophy out of an engraved winch handle that was awarded to recognize the youngest skipper in the solo fleet, then 31-year-old Brian Tait.

Even Captain Horton, a distinguished and celebrated marine artist,

donates one of his own paintings to the winner of the best predicted time crossing on the first day of racing, which is presented at the regatta dinner. Now almost 90 years old, Horton still actively presides over the race weekend with his crewmen, along with the race committee, aboard the 52-foot Delta Lifeboat, which was once used as an admiral’s transport boat at Pearl Harbour during the Second World War. His wish is “50 for 50” as he hopes to see 50 boats racing on the ocean for this special 50th edition. A special engraved boatswain’s call will be given to each skipper for this commemorative regatta, courtesy of RNSA member Paul Wagner, himself a participant in the solo division aboard his 34-foot Dufour, *Blue Monday*.

The numerous trophies associated with this long-standing regatta are presented at an awards night at WVYC in the fall. The diversity of the participating fleet is reflected in the many categories, including this magazine’s own representation with the *Pacific Yachting* White Ensign trophy for the third place overall corrected soloist.

Recognition to long standing RNSA regatta organizer, Court Touwslager, and his wife Susan, who have organized and run at least 25 of the regattas, exemplifying the amount of dedication that has helped foster the regatta’s longevity.

It all adds up to a memorable regatta you won’t want to miss.

—Bernie Yau, RNSA Regatta Chair



The Delta Lifeboat is back again this year to act as the committee boat.

14 - MAY 2024

### RNSA single handed race



On Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> the Delta Lifeboat with 6 crewmembers departed Ladner Lifeboat Station at 1800 hr. for the transition to the West Vancouver Yacht Club at Fishermen’s Cove Marina. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Naval Sailing Association two-day regatta. It is the test for all those sailors that enjoy the challenge of sailing solo across the Strait of Georgia to Nanaimo on Saturday, returning the next day. And now there is a doublehanded division for couples and twosomes too. The weather was cloudy, with 8 knots wind and a visibility of 10 nm. The journey was uneventful and the Delta arrived and secured at 2100 hr.

The following morning the crew got up early to prepare a hearty breakfast (Andy was the short order cook on both days and did an excellent job) so they were ready to receive the racing committee. Keith joined the crew too for this trip. At 0800 the Delta departed for its anchoring location south of the bell buoy (Q62) at the starting line. At 0930 hr. starting flags were hoisted and the airhorn sounded





to start the first regatta. In total more than 50 vessels entered the race. The wind was south/east which meant that all the sailing vessels could use their spinnaker all the way to Nanaimo. It was only a 7-knot wind but the view of all the colourful spinnakers was spectacular. At 1300 hr. the Delta anchored two cables south of Snake Island buoy to form the finish line of today's race. Only one catamaran



sailing vessel arrived ahead of the Delta. At 1630 hr. the last sailing vessel passed the finish line and the Delta weighed anchor to proceed to the Nanaimo Yacht Club. The RHIB was



sent ahead to check the mooring location and be there to receive the Delta. The Delta secured at the dock at 1709 hr. Mary Horton joined the crew for the dinner at the Nanaimo Yacht Club.

To commemorate the 50-year anniversary a pin, designed by John Horton with help from Ron van der Zwan, was handed out to all participants. On top of that, all the captains received a bosuns call with RNSA's 50-year inscription. John Horton demonstrated how to use the bosuns call to "start" the buffet. The crewmembers enjoyed the dinner very much.

Sunday's weather forecast was winds rising to 28 knots, heavy rain and the crew prepared the Delta by stowing everything that was able to move around and bringing the RHIB inboard on the upper deck. At 0855 hr. the Delta anchored again at Snake Island to form the starting line. It was still a south/easterly of 8 knots which meant that the spinnakers could not be used and the sailing vessels had to tack to the finish line. During the race the wind increased maximum 21 knots but overall it was not as bad as predicted. At 1332 hr. the Delta anchored at the bell buoy to form the finish line. At 1657 hr. the last boat crossed the finish line at which time the Delta weighed anchor and proceeded to Fisherman's Cove marina Eagle Harbour fuel dock to disembark the racing committee and Keith. At 1753 hr. the Delta departed the fuel dock for Ladner station. As of note, on both days whales (Minke or humpback) were spotted. At 2100 hr. Delta secured at Ladner station after a successful 50-years RNSA celebration and sailing weekend.





## Blessing of the fleet

On Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> the Delta Lifeboat departed at 0700 hr. to arrive on time at False Creek for the yearly blessing of the fleet. Lookouts had to be extra alert when the LB entered Burrard Inlet as there were many freighters at anchor. When nearing English Bay the Delta was “attacked” by Boat for Hope “pirate” boats. Every summer since 1999, BC's kids with special needs and their families are treated to a day of pirate-themed adventure on the high seas at Boat for Hope, a fundraiser in support of Variety - the Children's Charity. Together the local boating and business



community create an unforgettable experience for 400+ children, their families and caregivers totalling as many as 900 participants. For the hundreds of kids who participate every year, the day is a fun-filled opportunity to get out on the water with marauding pirates never far away and enjoy a barbecue in the park with outdoor activities, games and entertainment.

At 1000 hr. the Delta came alongside the fisherman's dock at False Creek. Brian was already there giving the crew a hand. After cleaning up the Delta an RCMP RHIB came alongside the Delta in preparation for the blessing. More fishing vessels and a sailboat lined up facing the dock. At around 1130 hr. the padre blessed the fleet, followed by an excellent seafood lunch which was enjoyed by the crew. Visitors were welcomed on the Delta in the afternoon. At 1500 hr. Delta departed for Ladner. Burrard Inlet was now crowded with sailing vessels so the crew needed all their wits to anticipate and navigate the waters. After an uneventful voyage the Delta secured 1821 hr. at the LB station.

While being at the Blessing of the fleet an accident happened at Coal Harbour where a Harbour Air float plane collided with a recreational boat at 1251 hr. Two of the four people on the boat were seriously injured in the collision. The five people on board the float plane were not injured.

The Coast Guard alerted the port authority and other first responders about the incident. A port authority harbour patrol vessel and other emergency response vessels responded to the incident immediately.



The same day just before midnight an old dockside storage shed on the Ladner waterfront went up in flames.



As per Dep. Chief Dave Wood in the Delta Optimist, “Due to the access to the shed, it did take our crews a little longer to extinguish the fire, just due to the limited access to it on all sides”

Although the Delta was available to assist no call from the fire department was received. A missed opportunity for the fire department, City of Delta and the CLI.

## Thank you cruise by John Horton

CLI's very generous supporter Anne Mathieson was the successful bidder at the Christmas dinner for a cruise aboard the Delta Lifeboat. On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> June, Delta sailed over to the Gulf Islands on a perfect calm sunny day with 6 guests aboard.

A picturesque route down through Active Pass, up through the central islands to Porlier pass and back to Ladner gave CLI supporters a wonderful day out. A lovely lunch was served with our chief steward John More performing his usual hospitable wonders and keeping everybody amused.



## Krista Kienapfel

I am a Richmond resident whose formative years were spent in South Delta and Richmond. My main experience on the water is through recreational kayaking. I really value helping people, our community and the precious waterways that provide so much for us, so I am very grateful to be graciously welcomed by this amazing group of people who are dedicated to SAR and marine safety.



## AGM by Evan Klegeris

Thursday June 20. This year, the AGM moved East to the Murakami Boatworks Building. Ahead of the meeting, attendees enjoyed pizza and conversation with members whom they may not have otherwise seen. The meeting itself was dominated by two topics: the steps being taken to reinstate the CLI as a registered charity, and the appointment of directors. Since the number of nominees exceeded the number of vacant seats, a proposal was made to expand the board - AGM Minutes are posted on the public site, all minutes from AGMs and Board meetings are being posted to a restricted page: <https://canadianlifeboatinstitution.org/board-minutes-restricted/> Password: CREW01



The AGM concluded with many thanks being said to the individuals who contribute their skills to the Institution beyond crewing the lifeboats - whether helping with administration, engineering and repair, or expanding CLI's local and online presence. All are greatly appreciated by your fellow members.



## Hospital charity sailing by Pat Nevraumont

Saturday June 22. CLI donated the cruise in support of the Delta Hospital and were successful in earning about \$1200 for the hospital with this cruise donation. Delta CLI took a group of 12, who bid on our donation, on a 4-hour cruise on the Fraser River. The day was partially cloudy and calm. A perfect day for the trip. We sailed out of Ladner Harbour down Sea Reach to Gary Point where we reversed direction and sailed up river towards New Westminster. On the return we went into Shelter Island and Captains Cove to show them more of the river. They had heard of Gilligan's Island so we made a detour coming in to show them the party place. The group was extremely pleased with the whole day being entertained by our Steward John More and safely looked after by the 6 crew members on board.





## Sea Sunday by John Horton



Sea Sunday was commemorated at St. David's Church in Tsawwassen on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This service gives thanks to mariners worldwide who maintain the global supply chain and those in allied navies who protect them in areas of danger.

CLI crew members performed a wonderful job of decorating the church in a nautical theme and are truly thanked for a job well done. 9 CLI members attended the very moving service. Also present was Mayor George Harvie and Ken Harvey, past president of the Tsawwassen Legion. The service ended with a tradition sunset ceremony performed to the recorded music of the Royal Marine Band. During the playing of sunset the naval ensign was lowered.

Following the service a wreath was carried out onto the River where it was committed to the sound of John More playing a salute on his trumpet. The wreath was laid by Rev Simbarashe Basvi, Ken Harvey and John Horton. Many who attended sea Sunday found the service very moving and thought provoking.

## CARE cards By David Acton

Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>, Fraser Lifeboat conducted training using our new casualty CARE cards. This is very much a work in progress, and is our first run through while we fine tune procedures. In essence, the cards take away the guess work in a stressful situation detailing the important requirements. This follows a successful model the RNLI uses in UK (CARE cards can be found on our restricted website at Files / First Aid).



Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons / Escadrilles canadiennes de plaisance (CPS-ECP) rebrands to **CanBoat / NautiSavoir**



| CONTENTS                     |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| EMERGENCY EVENTS             |                                       |
| CARD 1                       | CPR                                   |
| CARD 2                       | SHOCK                                 |
| CARD 3                       | UNCONSCIOUSNESS                       |
| CARD 4                       | EXTERNAL BLEEDING                     |
| CARD 5                       | STROKE                                |
| CARD 6                       | CHEST INJURIES                        |
| CARD 7                       | CHEST PAIN                            |
| CARD 8                       | RESPIRATORY AND BREATHING EMERGENCIES |
| CARD 9                       | HEAD, SPINAL AND PELVIC INJURIES      |
| CARD 10                      | COLD WATER IMMERSION                  |
| CARD 11                      | INTERNAL BLEEDING                     |
| CARD 12                      | VENOUS BLEEDING                       |
| URGENT AND NON URGENT EVENTS |                                       |
| CARD 13                      | WOUND CARE AND BANDAGING              |
| CARD 14                      | PAIN MANAGEMENT                       |
| CARD 15                      | FRACTURES AND SPRAINS                 |
| CARD 16                      | ELECTRICAL BURNS                      |
| CARD 17                      | CHEMICAL BURNS                        |
| CARD 18                      | HEAT RELATED AND THERMAL BURNS        |
| CARD 19                      | HEAT STROKE AND HEAT EXHAUSTION       |
| CARD 20                      | SEIZURES                              |
| CARD 21                      | DIVING RELATED EMERGENCIES            |
| CARD 22                      | EYE INJURIES 203 AND 206              |
| CARD 23                      | NOSE BLEEDS                           |
| CARD 24                      | BROWNING OR COLD WATER SUMMER BURN    |
| CARD 25                      | DIABETIC EMERGENCIES                  |

