



# Foghorn



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

February  
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*CPS-ECP 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.*

## **Congratulations are in order**

Adriana McCrea started on the Executive Committee in 2009 as Assistant Training Officer, moved up to be the Educational Officer, and has done a great job. She is one of the hardest working officers on our Board. In the past year, we had some 176 registered students in our courses, which is outstanding. She along with her two Assistant



Educational Officers do all the work involved from putting up the courses on the website, getting the rooms reserved, seeing that all the instructors are in place and with the latest updates required for them to teach the courses. Adriana does all the computer work involved and sees that all students are recognized at graduation. This is a busy position as well as attending all the meetings it sure keeps her occupied and always with a smile. This award is well deserved. Congratulations!

*Commander Catherine Lunn presents Adriana McCrea with Officer of the Year Award*

Luke Porter started out teaching with our squadron in 2005 as a volunteer instructor. He taught the Piloting course for 2 years and then the Sailing course, which he still teaches. He is a dynamic teacher and has a wealth of knowledge regarding the subject through his own personal experience as a boater/sailor. He supplements the course material with lots of extras and draws on his own experience to impart the course material to the students. He has had over 70 students go through his Sailing course and all have advised that they received excellent knowledge from his teachings. We are proud to have an instructor of Luke's calibre with the Halifax Squadron.



*Luke Porter receives Instructor of the Year Award from Commander, Catherine Lunn*

## Halifax Squadron Volunteers Win Awards

Dedicated volunteers are what makes our Squadron work so well. The Executive Committee members, formerly known as officers of the Squadron Bridge, are all volunteers who organize courses, connections with the national office, and local activities such as the flare disposal day. Usually the only time you see the Executive Committee is at the AGM. You may be interested to know that over the past five years or so, five Halifax Squadron members have been awarded the title of “Officer of the Year.” These volunteers are Ron Hoffman, Adriana McCrea, Rozanne Raine, Sarah Jane Raine and Kellie Skellhorn.

For many years, the Halifax Squadron of CPS-ECP has provided a full range of courses from Boating 1 (Boating Basics; the PCOC seminar), to Boating 7, Offshore Marine Navigation Level 2 (the senior Navigator Course); various electronic courses; and a variety of boating maintenance and weather courses. The courses require competent and dedicated instructors. Our volunteer instructors put their hearts and souls into these courses to infuse their enthusiasm into the class. The Squadron is proud to have had many excellent instructors over the years. And we still do!

Some of our instructors have been recognized nationally for their teaching ability. The G. William Bowman Instructor of the Year Award has been given to Terry Carter, Mannie Laufer, Luke Porter, and Alan Uren. The electrical Instructor’s Award has been given to Dave Hackett, Alan Uren and Dan White.

The Halifax Squadron of CPS-ECP is blessed with good instructors who are recognized nationally. Why not sign up for a course? See our offering at the Squadron’s website: [www.cps Halifax.ca](http://www.cps Halifax.ca)

Howard Donohoe, AP Instructor, Social and Public Affairs Officer



*Award winners for teaching. From left: Dave Hackett, Alan Uren, Terry Carter, Norm Raine*

*Editor’s Note: most of our instructors have begun as students who have wanted to give back to the organization. If you feel you can contribute to the squadron in any way, please contact Catherine Lunn, [CPS\\_Commander@cps.ca](mailto:CPS_Commander@cps.ca)*

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## Joint CPS-ECP and AYC Educational Seminars

For the past several years, the Halifax Squadron and Armdale Yacht Club have collaborated on educational seminars. We have had talks about search and rescue, cruising on the north shore of Quebec and taking off on an ocean cruise aboard a sail training vessel. Last year we had a talk about apps for Android devices and engine maintenance.

Look for announcements by ‘flash e-mails’ alerting you to the events. We plan three for this season: getting ready to charter next year in the Caribbean, cruising adventures in far-away places and diesel engine maintenance.

Howard Donohoe, AP, Course Instructor, Social and Public Affairs Officer

## One Foggy Night

More than a year ago, David, my good friend and fellow sailor, invited me to cruise with him down to Rogues Roost, near Prospect. The story is quite fascinating.

The moon's light at 0100 gave some definition to the puffy clouds across the sky at the Roost. We were observing a quiet moment with a rum and coke as we looked over the four sail boats on moorings in the northern part of Rogues Roost. We had had quite a trip. David and I agreed that having been to the Roost at least 20 times allowed us to have a somewhat relaxed yet watchful cruise from Halifax to the Roost. We reflected on the thought that someone without experience might have been in serious trouble.

What made this trip unique and different with a serious overtone? Fog. It was 'pea-soup' thick, drippy cool, and impenetrably white. Leaving Halifax on a warm sunny afternoon suggested good weather into the evening and night. As we motored down Sambro channel there was no fog bank sitting off the islands and we enjoyed the setting sun and landmarks of Sambro while munching sandwiches. We were buckled-in with safety harnesses and wearing appropriate clothes and flotation devices. By the time, we reached Pennant Point bell buoy dusk was closing in and we had a 3 mile run to Grampus buoy south of Mars Head. At the elapsed time, we slowed and let the motor idle believing that we would see the flashing red light. The ground swell was not large but we might be able to hear the bell. Neither registered. Therefore, we did a circle in the gloom and I finally called out "There she is on the port bow." The buoy was there without a light. At least we had a reference point. Darkness seemed to come at once, which was certainly unusual. Then it dawned on us: fog!

From Grampus, the run north to the green buoy opposite the entrance of Rogues roost is about three miles. Of course, it is not a straight run nor is all good water. Therefore, the first two miles were on a course of ~325T to the north end of Betty Island. As we motored north, we did not feel much of a swell. Clearing the north end of Betty Island we became aware of a confused sea that quickly had us feeling somewhat unsettled. Our situation now had greatly increased in challenge: we felt seasick, the boat's motion was erratic, the fog appeared to be thicker than ever, David was not happy going below to read the GPS and there was a rock ahead at the south end of Burnt Island.

Our speed was now a slow 2 knots, which did nothing for the boat's motion. It was still terrible! Somewhere along this stretch, we both made the trip to the rail and allowed as how we felt somewhat better. It is an odd experience to be in blackness and whiteness at the same time. We inched forward to the vicinity of that annoying rock and turned east and then northerly once again. As we made our way through the fog, we closed with the east shore of Burnt Island and followed it north to Hearn Island. The land began to appear as a whiter shade of black with a band of yellow on the water. We passed the sandy beach on Hearn Island and knew the green can would appear about 0.2 miles north. On the first try with the spotlight, we found it! Then it was easy to slide into the Roost, anchor and wind-down with a rum and coke.

During the night thunderstorms wandered by on either side of the Roost. A 0500 pee break allowed me to glimpse towering thunderheads to the west and east lit by the moon and the cloud's own lightning. It was quite a site.



*The cruise ship Maasdam overtakes us as it stands out into the Atlantic. The end of the day was bright, warm and sunny with no indication of what was to come*

The next morning we had a stimulating dip, great breakfast and strong black coffee. So fortified we headed back to Halifax in fog but this part of the voyage was relatively easy. We made our marks in the elapsed time and broke into brighter fog at Duncan's Cove that scaled up to reveal the outer harbour. We were home safe with some great experiences.



*At 0700 the fog in the north end of the Roost was thick. With daylight we felt very comfortable going back to Halifax.*

David and I thought about our voyage and considered the many learning points. We thought the following were some of the more important points.

- Cruising along the coast of Nova Scotia assume that you will see or be in fog. Prepare accordingly.
- Knowing the 'way' to the Roost from Grampus bell buoy certainly relieved stress. Each of us was 'running' the chart in our head. Because of this, we had no extreme stress or panic, just a careful watchfulness.
- Betty Island blocked the SW ground swell until we reached the north end. Then the SW swell crossed the swell running up the channel to create crossing wave trains with constructive and destructive interference patterns. No wonder the motion was awful. Burnt and Hearn islands blocked the SW swell once again.
- The land can be perceived in 'pea-soup' fog as a shade of black-grey; the yellow sea-weed really stands out. We had no trouble moving up the channel to the green can.
- For us, at this time of night, the bigger problem than sea-sickness was fatigue. All I wanted to do was sleep. So being at the helm, I would stand, sit, move, stand, etc.
- Use a handheld GPS on deck to con the vessel. David had one fastened to the bulkhead below. I have now programmed my GPS with buoys, rocks and turning points.
- Motoring back in the daylight, in fog was easy. We called into Halifax Traffic as we came out of Sambro Channel. Now people in Dartmouth would watch our progress.



*By the time we reached Neverfail Shoal, the fog had scaled up and we had clear visibility as I took the boat home.*

This cruise to Rogues Roost was really unusual, had many challenges and yet was very ‘familiar.’ The most important issues that we reflected on was the need for mariners to be trained and vigilant and to use safe practices. You must always be aware of your surroundings and be ready for change. We were prepared and we had a voyage to remember!

Howard Donohoe, AP, Course Instructor, Social and Public Affairs Officer

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A promotional graphic for the Halifax International Boat Show. On the left, a red rectangular box contains the text "HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW" in large, bold, blue letters, and "FEBRUARY 9 - 12, 2017" in white letters below it. To the right of the red box is a photograph of a white speedboat moving quickly across the water, creating a large splash. Below the boat photo are two logos: the AMTA (Atlantic Marine Trades Association) logo on the left and the HALIFAX EXHIBITION CENTRE logo on the right.

Please be sure to stop by the CPS-ECP booth at the boat show. You can check out the “Boating Skills Virtual Trainer” It is a simulator, which allows boaters to practise the basics of recreational small boat handling. Come try it out.

Show hours are:

Thursday, Feb 9	12 Noon – 8:00 pm
Friday Feb 10	10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Saturday, Feb 11	9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sunday, Feb 12	10:00 am – 5:00 pm

## Commander's Corner



This cold and icy winter does not lend itself to boating except for those who are fortunate enough to head south for a little shot of sunshine and boating. A few more months of this, however, and we will be back in the boat yard, getting those boats ready for the water.

We are experiencing a good winter with our education classes. In February we have courses starting in Boating Basics (PCOC seminar), Beyond Boating Basics, and Introduction to Marine Navigation. Also, starting February: The RADAR course. Check our website to read about all of our courses and to register on-line.

CPS has a booth at the Halifax Boat Show, February 9 – 12 and we hope you will drop by to say hello and try out our simulator, which is quite popular with attendees at the show.

Watch the website and your email for upcoming Social Events. Remember to let us know if your email address has changed.

We are very pleased to be holding a Flare Disposal Day on Saturday, June 3, 2017, at the Yacht Shop (North Sails) , on Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year for this very successful venture, partnered with & CIL Orion & Transport Canada for participating CPS-ECP Squadrons across the country.

Our AGM and Student Graduation will be late May or early June this year (TBA); so watch for further information to come on this and mark your calendar to attend.

Catherine Lunn, Commander

### CPS-ECP Halifax Squadron Executive Committee 2016-2017

Position	Email Address	Officer's Name
Commander	<a href="mailto:CPS_Commander@cps.ca">CPS_Commander@cps.ca</a>	Catherine Lunn
Executive Officer	<a href="mailto:CPS_ExecutiveOfficer@cpshalifax.ca">CPS_ExecutiveOfficer@cpshalifax.ca</a>	Sarah-Jane Raine
Secretary	<a href="mailto:CPS_Secretary@cpshalifax.ca">CPS_Secretary@cpshalifax.ca</a>	Rich Knowles
Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:CPS_Treasurer@cpshalifax.ca">CPS_Treasurer@cpshalifax.ca</a>	Alfred MacPherson
Educational Officer	<a href="mailto:TrainingOfficer@cpshalifax.ca">TrainingOfficer@cpshalifax.ca</a>	Adriana McCrea
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Asst. Educational Officer	<a href="mailto:Assistant_TO2@cpshalifax.ca">Assistant_TO2@cpshalifax.ca</a>	Joshua Bearden
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Communications Officer		Dave Hackett
Public Relations	<a href="mailto:PublicRelations@cpshalifax.ca">PublicRelations@cpshalifax.ca</a>	Howard Donohoe

# Boating Courses

## Safe Boating Is Everyone's Concern

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



### Halifax Power and Sail Squadron

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

#### WINTER 2016-2017 SCHEDULE OF COUSES

Course	Start Date	Duration	Instructor	Fee*
The Sail Course	Mon, Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> 2017	12 weeks	Luke Porter	Course in underway Registration is closed
Boat & Engine Maintenance	Mon, Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> 2017	13 weeks	Norman Raine	Course in underway Registration is closed
Boating 1: PCOC Seminar	Fri, Feb 17, 2017 And Sun, Feb 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	8 hours total	Norman Raine	\$100** Refresher rate available
Boating 2: Beyond the PCOC**	Wed, Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> 2017	6 weeks	Dennis Mansour	\$155** 2 <sup>nd</sup> family member rate available
Boating 3: Intro to Navigation**	Wed, Mar 29 <sup>th</sup> 2017	7 weeks	Dennis Mansour	\$175** 2 <sup>nd</sup> family member rate available
RADAR	Thurs, Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> 2017	5 weeks	Dave Hackett	\$110 member \$120 non-member Refresher rate available

\*\* Discounted price when registering for the Intro Boating package (Boating 1, 2 and 3)

\*\* Discounted price when registering for Boating 2 and 3 combo

ROC (M) – VHF radio course	Friday, Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> and Sunday Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	8 hours total	Chris Connor	\$90 member \$100 non-member
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NB: Keep up-to-date by checking the News section of our [Squadron Web Site](#)

All classes are held at the [Cpt. Wm. Spry Centre](#)

To register for any course, please go to [the Squadron's 2016-17 Course Calendar](#)



Click on the picture to see all CPS-ECP courses, together with Table on Contents for each...