



# Fog Horn



December 2003

## Halifax Squadron ([www.cps Halifax.com](http://www.cps Halifax.com))

*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 the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons. Halifax Squadron serves Halifax, Bedford and the South Shore.*

### Upcoming Events

January 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 1900-2100h

#### Registration for CPS Classes

Halifax Grammar School, 5750 Atlantic St.  
& St. Margaret's Sailing Club

January 15 2000h

SMSC Seminar series  
*Waves for Sailors*

Fred Dobson

St. Margaret Sailing Club

Contact: [dnnlundy@navnet.net](mailto:dnnlundy@navnet.net)

January 20 1900h

#### Halifax Squadron General Meeting & Social

Video: "Cruising the Bahamas"  
Armdale Yacht Club

January 26 1930

Tour of Halifax Traffic

Watch the website for details

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

February 12-15

Halifax International Boat Show

February 16

Derek Hatfield – Around Alone

Watch the website for details

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

April 10 0900 1700h

GPS/Depthsounder seminar  
SMSC

8 May 0900-1200

Radar Seminar  
SMSC

### CPS TOUR

Have you wondered how all vessels travelling through Halifax Harbour are coordinated, or whom you speak to when you call Halifax Traffic on the radio? Now you can find out!

Join fellow members of Halifax Squadron for a tour of Halifax Traffic: Monday, January 26, 2004 at 1930. Halifax Traffic is located behind BIO, in the two-story building with slanted windows. Take the second driveway once you are on the BIO property. Watch the website [www.cps Halifax.com](http://www.cps Halifax.com) for updates!

### Tall Ships Challenge 2004 – A Salute to l'Acadie

What port city has consistently been voted the best by visiting crews in past years? What city will have three 350-seat tents plus numerous smaller tents set up on the waterfront to house a variety of entertainment next summer? What city will host at least 40 tall ships from July 29-Aug 2, 2004? The answer of course is Halifax, and you can be in the center of the activity! The sailing ships will race from New London, CT to Halifax to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in Nova Scotia. The race will feature at least 10 Class A vessels (the big ones!).



At the CPS Social on Thursday, Nov. 27th, at the King's Palace Restaurant, Mike Patrik, Project Manager for Tall ships 2004, explained how the Tall Ships events benefits our community. Volunteers are needed to act as liaison officers assigned to each boat, to help direct visitors, to match lost children with lost parents, and to escort the boats as they enter the harbour. After leaving Halifax the Tall Ships will visit other ports in the Maritimes and there is a possibility that people will be able to book passage on some of them.

In addition to the Tall Ships event, which will include a parade of sail on Natal Day, Halifax will host the Schooner Association races, Metro Area Race Week, a fleet of sailboats from Annapolis, Maryland, and a contingent of boats from New Brunswick coming for the Acadian Congress! It will be a feast for the eyes of local sailors!

If you would like to find out more or to volunteer, contact [Kathie.swenson@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Kathie.swenson@ns.sympatico.ca) or check the website [www.tallships2004.ca](http://www.tallships2004.ca). (Note that this website will be moving to [cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca) in mid-January.) Kathie travels quite a bit so you may not hear back from her right away.

Louise White

## Commander's Report

The wonderful summer weather lingered well into the fall but now the boating season is over and most of us have stored our boats for the winter. The season was abruptly interrupted by Hurricane Juan, which caused considerable damage to boats and marinas showing that many of us were simply not prepared for a storm of this magnitude.

The winter is a great time to improve your seamanship by taking a CPS course (see inside for schedule) provided by STO (Squadron Training Officer) Mannie Laufer. CPS has recently been awarded exclusive presence at the 2004 Halifax Boat Show to conduct PCOC examinations. We are looking for volunteers to help out at the CPS booth. If you are interested, contact Maureen McInerney at 463-2128.

In October of this year, CPS National held its AGM (Annual General Meeting) in Saint John, N.B. bringing together over 400 CPS members from across Canada.

Check out our new improved web page [www.cps Halifax.com](http://www.cps Halifax.com) for current events, boating news and interesting links to other websites. Now you can even register for CPS courses online. Special thanks go to Rich Knowles for his work on this.

We really need proctors to supervise exams, assist with chart work for Boating or Piloting classes occasionally, and substitute for instructors when needed. We have many loyal instructors who teach our classes but there is always a need for more. We would especially like to see more women get involved with teaching CPS courses. Are you interested?

Contact Mannie Laufer at 477-8770, or [eelaufer@eastlink.ca](mailto:eelaufer@eastlink.ca).

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Foghorn and look forward to see you at our upcoming course registration in early January or at our social events. I'll take this opportunity as well to wish you and your family a very happy and safe Holiday Season!

*R/C Carl Kumpic  
Commander Halifax Squadron*

## CPS Annual General Meeting

Mannie Laufer, STO, Maureen McInerney, PRO, Rich Knowles, ECO, Mary Ridgewell, District Training Officer and Louise White, National Secretary, attended "Tall Tides", the CPS National AGM in Saint John, NB, Oct 23-25, 2003. While there we were treated to a tour of the yards of the local yacht clubs, rode the Kennebecasis River ferries to the Kingston Peninsula, sauntered down the public wharves to watch some new boat construction and haul outs, and enjoyed an informative and nostalgic meander with gracious host

Mac Estey through the archives of the historic sail loft "Holder's Custom Canvas". In the evening we were swept back to the days of Prohibition of the Roaring 1920's and were carried along the shores of the St. Croix River and Passamaquoddy Bay with the recounting of a yarn of daring and night time stealth (Pre-GPS) navigating by infamous rum runners. With boa feathers littering the floor we danced the Charleston, and fox trot, while the lights flickered on the message bottle table centrepieces created by Scouts of the Halifax Dartmouth area.



Maureen McInerney and Mannie Laufer enjoying the AGM dinner

There was a series of informative seminars on topics such as creating and critiquing multimedia-training aids, developing learning objectives and exam questions, and enhancing communications within CPS. (Many of these practical ideas are already being implemented within Halifax Squadron). Individual CPS members provided a cross-country "Show and Tell" of photographs and paintings, sculptures and carvings, scrapbooks, training aids, navigational aids, stories and poems. Discerning judges created an honour list of Top Twenty Submissions (see CPS website). Bill Raitt from CPS Edmonton inspired us with a story of Edmonton boaters who donate PFD's to kids in Yellowknife in an attempt to reduce the number of boating-related drownings in the Northwest Territories.

Representatives at the CIL-Orion booths discussed the pros and cons of public and private-sector flare disposal program, and boaters viewed the electronic charting products that NDI provides in special agreements with CPS. Mary and Louise facilitated committee meetings and Mannie, Maureen and Rich provided local perspectives to the planning sessions of the Electronic Communications, Marketing and Public Relations committees. Representatives of the USPS and United Safe Boating Institute introduced information on [www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org), pointed out that USCGA is now involved in homeland defence and warned boaters to stay at least 100 yards away from any US naval ship. (Links describing similar Exclusion Zones for HM warships and installations will soon be posted on our website.)

The host committee and citizens of Saint John worked night and day to provide a gracious atmosphere for CPS members across Canada to get acquainted and share our watery passion and commitment to safe boating.

Maureen McInerney

## Hurricane Juan

The numerous photographs of the devastation and the descriptions of miraculous close calls could not capture the atmosphere of the local boating community as our moorings, marinas, and boatyards were raked by the comb fingers of the Class II hurricane, Juan. While some skippers and crews slept soundly through the night, many dedicated boaters and boat yard workers prudently battened down to prepare for the anticipated "visit". Fenders were adjusted, wandering boats were fended off, and lines were untied and retied as the winds, which gusted over 100 knots, shifted and veered, assaulting our prized possessions from new directions.

The weekend before the hurricane, a high-pressure system brought warm temperatures and bright sunny skies - the perfect weather sailors dream of lulling many of us into a false feeling of security. The skipper of a resurrected J boat bragged about his brisk downwind run from the wharf at the Dartmouth ferry terminal to the sheltered finger of Long Cove in the Bedford Basin.... then grumbled that it didn't really seem necessary. After all, none of the Bedford boats had moved to Long Cove as they usually do for storms!

During the storm many took extra precautions. One cautious Armdale sailor dropped an extra anchor over the bow of his fractional rig at his mooring... would he need it? Well, it wouldn't be too much work to haul it back in on Monday. In a flurry of activity extra lines were tied and boats were moved to safer positions. The more cautious removed genoas from roller furlers and folded sails safely away.

Many of us decided to stay on board for the night and the two hours we watched over our boats was a blur of activity filled with a cacophony of sounds, some of them strange and some familiar. The crackle of the VHF as we listened to the Marine Weather



RNSYS during the peak of the storm, photographed by Hal Davies (*Third Wave*)

forecast on the boat, that old familiar voice claiming "Hurricane force winds! Storm surge-Landfall expected!" Waves sloshing up against creaking marinas, vinyl fenders squeaking as they rubbed between gelcoat and marina slips and mysterious scraping sounds as floating marinas rose up the piers. The spreaders of one boat connected with those of an adjacent boat while the wind gusts hit the boats broad side and toppled them one after the other like

dominoes and then, relenting, let them rise back up again.

With the morning's light we were amazed to see entire mooring fields moved in formation two kms away, boats sunk, capsized and left high and dry above the highest high water mark ever recorded in Halifax. Some with their boats already ashore for the winter were dismayed to find they had toppled or slid from their cradles.



A tattered, unfurled genoa relocates mooring across the Arm

The sounds of gas and diesel power generators have disappeared and the roar of chain saws become less common but two months later we still cringe as that sound reduces trees and decking to manageable chunks. Most recreational boats have now been hauled for the winter and members of local clubs are discussing the issues of future emergency preparedness. Were we prepared for the unexpected ferocity of this storm? The excessive damage experienced by boats and marinas in the storm's path suggests that, lulled in the false security that "it couldn't happen here!", many of us were not! Boaters should be particularly interested in the 72 page publication; "Mariner's guide" which has been prepared by the US National Hurricane Center at NOAA. It includes topics like: "To sea or not to sea?" a choice of potential ports depending on landfall predictions, interpreting forecasts and radar and satellite imagery, etc. Residents of coastal communities could find some interesting suggestions in a companion publication: "Marine Safety Awareness" which describes how to prepare for the effects of storm surges and how to interpret storm tracks. Information on hurricane preparedness as well as both of these publications is available online at the NOAA site: [http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/marine\\_safety.html](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/marine_safety.html). Bookmark the website of the Canadian Hurricane Centre <http://www.atl.c.ec.gc.ca/weather/hurricane/> and the Weather Warnings webpage of Environment Canada's Meteorological Service: [http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/marine/marine\\_e.html?C-SWS](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/marine/marine_e.html?C-SWS)

Maureen McInerney

Editor's note: This has been adapted for this newsletter from a story on the "Sounds of a Hurricane" written by Maureen McInerney which you will find on our web site at [www.cps Halifax.com](http://www.cps Halifax.com). You will also find some interesting links to sites where you can find out more information about hurricanes and preparing for storms.

## CPS Winter Schedule 2004

The winter is a good time to take a CPS training course and brush up on skills for the boating season. Registration will be Jan. 5 & 6 at Halifax Grammar School and St. Margaret's Bay Sailing Club!

Course	Place	Day	Time	Instructor	Cost	Date	Length
Boating	Hfx West	TBA	TBA	Archie Thibault	\$175	23-Feb-04	16 weeks
Boating	Hfx West	Tue	1900	Angus MacPherson	\$175	19-Jan-04	16 weeks
Boating	SMSC	Mon	1900	George Adams	\$175	19-Jan-04	16 weeks
Piloting	HGS	Tue	1900	Dan White	\$100	19-Jan-04	16 weeks
Piloting	SMSC	Mon	1900	Ron Hatcher	\$100	19-Jan-04	16 weeks
AP	HGS	Wed	1900	Emanuel Laufer	\$125	19-Jan-04	15 weeks
Marine Maintenance	HGS	Tue	1900	Norm Raine	\$100	19-Jan-04	14 weeks
Extended Cruising	RNSYS	Thurs	1900	Maureen McInerney	\$100	19-Jan-04	11 weeks

### Short courses and seminars

Boat Pro	TBA	Fri/Sat	TBA	Angus MacPherson	\$60	27/28 Feb 04	8 hours
Boat Pro	TBA	Fri/Sat	TBA	Angus MacPherson	\$60	16/17 Apr 04	8 hours
GPS/Depthsounder seminar	SMSC		900	Rich Knowles	\$40/\$50	10 Apr 04	8 hours
Radar Seminar	SMSC		900	Rich Knowles	\$30/\$40	08 May 04	4 hours
First Aid	see <a href="http://www.cps Halifax.com">www.cps Halifax.com</a>				\$220, (\$200 if registered by 1 April, 2004)		

## Halifax Squadron Bridge

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All members are requested to update addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Visit [www.cps Halifax.com](http://www.cps Halifax.com) to keep up to date on what is happening in Halifax Squadron, and to find out about upcoming seminars and courses. Please send your particulars to Sarah-Jane Raine at [rosali@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:rosali@ns.sympatico.ca) or call 477-410



Merry Christmas!!

Halifax Squadron's revised website is up and running! CPS Members are urged to visit [www.cps Halifax.com](http://www.cps Halifax.com) for news about upcoming social events, photos, general information and even register online for CPS courses. There are also links to other sites of interest to mariners. We welcome your suggestions! Contact us through the web site.