

THE

# FAIRLEAD

NEWS FROM  
FRASER SQUADRON



JUNE 1987

Vol. 13

No. 2

## FROM THE BRIDGE

No doubt some of you will be reading this while swinging gently on the hook, cool libation in hand, one eye on the eagles soaring just above the trees. That's what it's all about, this business of pleasure boating. I wish you all the most pleasant of summers and hope that I might meet with some of you on the water over the next few months.

We have reached the time of year when thoughts of classrooms and meetings are far from our minds as we enjoy summer, which is as it should be. There are, however, things to be done and plans to be made so that when fall comes, we are in gear and ready to go again. Please consider this when your reveries are interrupted by that call from one of the bridge officers asking you to volunteer some of your time to the squadron.

Smooth sailing and good fellowship!

Cliff Cunningham  
Commander

(continued)

## TRAINING DEPT. NEWS

I wish to congratulate and welcome all new members who chose to join the Squadron from last season's Boating courses. It was most gratifying to see so many of you at the Grad Banquet. We hope you will all become active members as I am sure you will find that ours is a worthwhile organization, with lots of good fellowship, dedicated to a worthwhile cause.

I think we can now report that the Training season is over and we look forward to a summer of boating pleasure and, in the case of our Boating students, a chance to use the knowledge acquired in all those long hours of classes and study over the winter months. We hope you will gain the satisfaction of plotting a course to Active Pass or up Howe Sound, following range markers up the Fraser and what to do if a sudden fog rolls in. We hope as well that you will consider taking another course in the near future to obtain even more skills in navigation and consider sharing what you have already learned by instructing or proctoring future students as they come along.

Latest result update: - JN - 2 wrote, 2 passed.

16 Boating students re-wrote and 14 passed!

\*I want to thank you all for working so hard and restoring your Training Officer's faith. Deserving of the credit for this are: Randy Lutman, Reg Chase, Dave Reed, Alan Black, Brian Smith and David Bauer for their additional instruction.

The tentative Training Program being scheduled and registration dates for the coming season will be:

Boating Course - Accelerated - Tues. Sept. 8 - Ladner, Richmond.  
- Regular - Mon. & Wed. Sept. 14 & 16 - Ladner and Richmond.

Advanced and Elective Courses: Seamanship Sail  
Seamanship Power  
Advanced Piloting  
Marine Maintenance  
Marine Electronics

These courses will be registered - Sept. 21-23.

Jr. Navigation - Sept. 8

Navigation - Sept. 9

Weather - Oct. 19

Let's Be Boatwise - for youngsters 7-13 - Mid Jan. - 4 sessions

VHF Restricted Radio Operators - Oct. - 4 sessions

Instructor - Proctor Training - Sept. - 4 sessions

( more information on these courses will be published in the Sept. Fairlead )

There will be an Instructor/Proctor get together on Aug. 28. You will be notified of time and place.

Safe Boating Seminar) - These courses will be offered in the spring and are  
Local Knowledge ) open to the public.

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## TRAINING DEPT. NEWS (continued)

Also: Anyone planning to take an advanced or elective course in the fall must present a current membership card and, if applicable, proof of course prerequisites at registration.

For more information on any of the above, please call me at 946-2749,  
Karen at 536-4464 or Diane at 274-0208.

Linda Gisborne

## BARGAINS

C & B Batteries of 210 East 4th Ave., Vancouver will offer a 30% discount to CPS members on presentation of membership cards.

## FOR SALE

29 ft. Mariner (Yahtze III) with boathouse, twin engines (50 hours) VHF, depth sounder, shower, oven, frig., furnace, electric anchor winch and tape deck with twin speakers. Bristol condition. \$35,000 Please call 277-8732.

## RIDINGS ROOSTER

This is a bronze Rooster which is auctioned off every year with the proceeds going to National CPS Training Dept. This fall at the National Conference in Montreal all the districts will be bidding for this Rooster. Ridings Rooster had originated from Pacific Mainland District, therefore Fraser Squadron is going to donate at least \$1.00 per squadron member as of June 1st, 1987 towards getting Ridings Rooster back home to the Pacific Mainland District. Last year a United States Power Squadron district from Texas came up to the National Conference meeting, went all out on the bidding for the Rooster and took Ridings Rooster south with them.

Let's bring the Bird back home to Canada and particularly back to Pacific Mainland District!

Ben Wong

## PROPWASH ROSTER

Cut off date for changes to the 1987 roster occurred before boating classes wrote exams. Since that time we have had many new members join Fraser Squadron. So that they too can be included in the roster, we have printed the list in this month's Fairlead. May we suggest that you tear off the list and tape it into your copy of Propwash Roster. There is also an updated list of your Executive.

Joan Hunter  
Membership



### YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BACK ON TIME

You don't have to be back on time from a boating outing! Many accidents have occurred by boaters attempting to return on time to satisfy family and employers when conditions are not favourable for the success of the voyage. Is your life, or the lives of those with you, worth the risk just because you think that you must return by a certain time? Be very careful of wishful thinking that conditions will not get worse or will even improve. Rely on sound judgement of the situation and not on emotional feelings or the pleading of your companions who might not have the experience to assess the chances of success. It takes courage to resist the temptation to start back and even more to turn back after once having started. Don't start the usual chain of errors preceding most disasters.

John Moran

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### FRASER'S CANADA DAY CRUISE

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| June 30th/July 1st, 1987 | - Winter Cove on Saturna Island and attend the Lamb Bar B.Q. |
| July 2nd                 | - Princess Margaret Marine Park                              |
| July 3rd                 | - Maple Bay  |
| July 4th                 | - Maple Bay or Thetis Island                                 |
| July 5th                 | - return home  |

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### CRUISE TO DESOLATION SOUND

Fraser members can remain in contact with each other by monitoring Channel 16 from 0900 to 0915 and/or 2100 to 2115 from July 17th to August 16th. The following boats will be heading north starting on the week end of July 17th, Khenipsen, Fairtide II, Lisa, Stray Cats and Aventurin.

Cruisemaster Brian Payne (946-9692) would be pleased to hear from any members planning to be in the Desolation Sound area from mid July to mid August. Those wishing to travel with a "buddy" boat should contact Brian Payne.

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### FRASER'S LABOUR DAY CRUISE

- |                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sept. 4th, 1987 | - Montague Harbour on Galiano Island  |
| Sept. 5th       | - Prevost Island                      |
| Sept. 6th       | - Ganges Harbour on Saltspring Island |
| Sept. 7th       | - return home                         |

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HELP WANTED - John Steede of the Vancouver Squadron (274-0087) would like help and participation in the Sea Festival Parade to be held on July 18, 1987.

## WEAVER CREEK SPAWNING CHANNEL



Want to know what life is about? Want to get close to nature? Take a drive to a salmon spawning grounds. The one we visited, Weaver Creek, is about eighty miles east of Vancouver, past Whonnock, Mission and past picturesque farm lands near the municipality of Kent, in the DOUGLAS PROVINCIAL FOREST.

The sight of salmon struggling to go even further up the stream, the wonder of this creature's urge is awe inspiring, this must be an integral part of our own life.

The year 1885 doesn't mean anything to most of us, however this was the first year salmon eggs for cultural purpose were used in British Columbia and they come from Weaver Creek. For years eight million eggs were shipped annually to other areas.

But rainfall variations and extensive logging contributed to unstable spawning grounds. In the 1952 to 1959 years one hundred nine thousand fish were the average catches, but decline to twelve thousand average in the 1960 to 1964 years. A decision was made to improve conditions.

In 1965 the WEAVER CREEK SPAWNING CHANNEL was constructed, ready for that year's salmon run. The channel is nine thousand six hundred and fourteen feet long, twenty feet wide and can hold twenty six thousand salmon. Sixteen inches of half to four inch gravel is evenly spread over the floor. Ten inches of water is maintained at all times with the water temperature almost the same as in the nearby creek.

Weaver Lake drains into Weaver Creek and is the main source for the channel. Water can also be taken from Sakwi Creek. All the water first passes through large ponds where silt and fine materials settle thus preventing the gravel from clogging, that would eventually suffocate the eggs. Every eight years the gravel is cleaned using a machine developed specially for this job.

Sockeye salmon from the Pacific enter the Fraser River and arrive at Weaver Creek between October 5 and November 5 of each year, (some chum and pink salmon also use the channel), with the peak numbers October 15 when the water temperature is fifty to fifty-five degrees fahrenheit. Not all the salmon are allowed into the channel, only a portion. The rest spawn in Weaver Creek.

Green Head, Jaw Deformed, Red Body, Humpback. The sockeye salmon returns to its birthplace, after spawning to die....Life's cycle to start anew. All Pacific salmon die after spawning, ending their life of four years.

Between April 5 and May 10 fry about one inch long emerge only at night to lessen predation. Down the creek to Morris Lake and then to Harrison River the fry migrate and then up to Harrison Lake where they live for a year. As smolts they then leave the lake to the Fraser River and to the Pacific where they remain for two and a half years, three months for travel each way.

Statistically, eggs fare better in the spawning channel than in the creeks. At Weaver Creek eight fry per hundred eggs is the creek average compared to eighty-one per hundred in the channel.

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## WEAVER CREEK SPAWNING CHANNEL (Cont'd)

Also hatchery sockeye fry are poorer physically than channel fry due to the channel fry hatching in tune with the surroundings.

Take this short trip, about twelve miles east of Deroche on Highway 7, turn north onto Morris Valley Rd. (Hwy. 7 goes right by the Sasquatch Inn and Morris Valley Rd. is next to it). Then follow the sign to what looks like the end of the road, in fact it is the end of the good paved road.

Dress warmly, bring a light snack and a warm drink. Sit by the creek and take in deep breaths of crisp mountain air. Then take a few moments, look and listen and contemplate your own life cycle.

Vic Ramos

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BOOK NOTE - Oceanography of the British Columbia Coast - by Richard E. Thomson, published by the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, is available from bookstores for about \$21.00. This is a technical book, written in simple language for the general public, to explain many of the natural phenomena that we boaters regularly encounter. It covers the general features common to all regions as well as details of the Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait, Johnstone Strait and the northern coast. This is also good reference material for CPS Seamanship and Weather courses.

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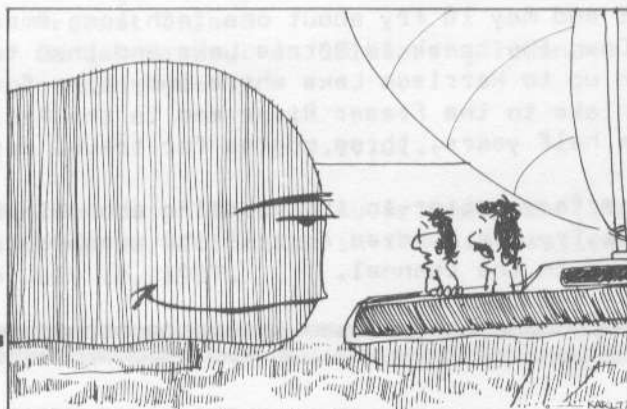
### QUOTATIONS APPROPRIATE TO BOATING

"There is no expedient to which man will not resort to avoid real labour of thinking."

Sir Joshua Reynolds

"If instead of sending the observations of able seamen to able mathematicians on land, the land would send able mathematicians to sea, it would signify much more to the improvement of the safety of men's lives on that element."

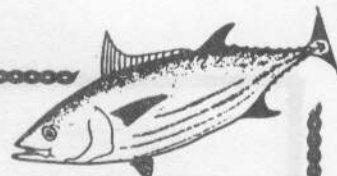
Sir Isaac Newton



Uh! Don't say anything that might upset him.



## THE MAY CRUISE



The smart ones crossed the Straits early Friday to rendezvous at the Secretary Islands. Smart because a Saturday a.m. crossing was definitely a white knuckle trip.

All was well until the wind came up. The anchorage became very uncomfortable. Sleep was hard to come by for most and at first light boats started moving to Thetis. Just off Norway Island beacon, Kochana III hit something (rock, reef, deadhead?). Other than the shock of the boat coming to a jarring stop, no damage was done. Kochana III continued on to the Marina. What a way to start the day!

In all 19 boats joined our cruise. Also at Telegraph Harbour Marina were members of Airport Y.C., R.C.Y.C. and Burnaby P.S. The marina was full.

A steak barbecue on shore was followed by boat to boat socializing before settling down for the night.

Sunday the group toured Chemainus, a short ferry ride from Thetis Island. The famous murals are not the only attraction to Chemainus. There are many stores, craft shops, art galleries and eateries to explore. Not to mention ice cream. Yummy ice cream. Everyone you see is eating ice cream!

Back at the marina, happy hour was enthusiastically welcomed by these thirsty travellers.

Monday a.m. Decision time for all who, no matter what, have to get home. Blowing 20 or better in the Straits. Not good. Plan A for many was to go to Otter Bay on Pender Island and catch the ferry home. By late afternoon the sea conditions had improved and so on arriving at Otter Bay, the flotilla turned around and headed home. Let's hope the seas are calm for the next cruise!

Linda Nixon

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NOTICE - The next issue of FAIRLEAD will be mailed in mid-September. The FAIRLEAD committee members have all volunteered to serve another term. They are: Cheryl Gaudet, Diane Grabher, Freda and John Moran, Linda Nixon, Alare and Victor Ramos.

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### STORIES WANTED

Fairlead needs cruising stories, helpful hints etc. for our fall issues. Surely, someone will have an interesting experience this coming boating season so let's share it. Even one-liners are useful!

No, the other person won't be doing it; we get only one or two items per year unless we twist arms.