

SOUNDINGS

Newsletter for the
Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre
January 2014



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The President's Message



Thanks to all members for making me a Director, and thanks to my fellow Directors who elected me President. Please take a look at the website <http://www.classicboats.org/directors.html> to see the Directors and their areas of responsibility.

I echo the thoughts of our Board when I confidently state that whatever direction we take, the interests of the Cowichan Wooden Boat Society remain paramount. We hope that this Board's ambitious and exciting plans, will make members and the community proud and enthusiastic supporters of the Society and its facilities.

New Roofs

Thanks to grants, sponsors and donations, the museum display pods on the pier have been re-roofed. The pavilion roof will be completed in the next few weeks but will require help installing a new staircase to the second floor library. So, if you have carpentry skills and can help, please contact cwbs@classicboats.org with **Library Stairs** in the subject line. The pod interiors will be refurbished in the next two months.

New Dinghy Dock

Early in the year, we will re-deck the foreshore on the near side of the pier. We will then build and install a shallow water dock for our rowboats and planned-for sailing dinghies. This is an ambitious undertaking and we will need both skilled and unskilled labour with this project. If you can help in March and April, please email cwbs@classicboats.org with **Dinghy Dock** in the subject line.

Small Boat Festival

The Society's Annual Marine Festival will be held on the weekend of July 5th and 6th, but this year it will be a Marine and Small Boat Festival. We don't have moorage for large boats, nor can most people afford the upkeep or moorage on a large wooden boat, but increasingly people dedicate their time and energy to small and trailerable wooden boats. We therefore feel a small boat festival is timely.

We will need members to help organize this Small Boat Festival and sit on the committee, so if you

are interested, please let us know. Email cwbs@classicboats.org with **Small Boat Festival** in the subject line.

Dinghy Building and Courses

When I re-read the Society's constitution I am struck by how easily we can more completely fulfill our mandate. The Cowichan Wooden Boat Society/Cowichan Maritime Centre operates a maritime museum that celebrates and displays the local maritime heritage. It runs an environmentally safe and historic marine ways, a full boat-building workshop, and a marine research library. It also maintains a small fleet of pulling and sailing vessels for demonstration and use by members and their families. Our Society needs to host more marine courses and particularly boat building courses. Tony Owen, our shop supervisor, has demonstrated the comparative ease with which a modern stitch and glue dinghy can be built. This year the Society will build two fifteen foot **Skerry** dinghies, one in a boat building class and one to be constructed by the Wednesday Knighters. The Skerry can be purchased as a kit from [Cheseapeake Light Craft](#) but plans are available and we will work from these. These Skerry dinghies will be used in the Society's rowing program, but as they are also traditional sailboats we hope to hold sailing courses in late summer.

The New Building

We are unhappy with the mezzanine in the new building, particularly with the way the stairs divide the upstairs meeting space, so we are looking to bridge the divide. We want to ensure that the stairs remain usable because the costs involved to relocate the staircase are prohibitive, but if any member has expertise in structural engineering and has advice, we'd love to hear from you. Please email us at cwbs@classicboats.org with **Mezzanine Bridge** in the subject line.

Website

The Society's web site will be commercially re-designed. It can be far more informative about the Society's activities and we have to maximize our exposure to potential members and to visitors. We consider it a long overdue task. We want members, potential members and visitors to be aware of the Society's activities.

We want to thank David Knott, past president of the Society, who has agreed to format and design the newsletter each month. If you have items you would like to see mentioned, please email cwbs@classicboats.org with **Newsletter** in the subject line.

Ways and Workshop Costs

Apart from these positive and exciting proposals, we

also have to mention some cost changes we have implemented. We have increased the Ways charge by 10% (from \$200 to \$220) and increased the daily storage fee on the Ways to \$72.00. This is still a bargain compared to commercial operators, but we risk our non-profit status if we maintain an uncompetitive commercial advantage, so a price increase was inevitable.

We have also altered the structure and pricing for the workshop. It was not economical to bill members for just 15 minutes of use, so we have abolished workshop charges to members who need to use the drill press for ten minutes, or need a saw or planer for half an hour. The workshop will still charge project fees and any use of the shop over 4 hours in any week will be considered as a project. Project fees will be based upon the length of the boat in the shop and a reasonable time for the completion of the work times \$15.00 a foot per month.

For example, building an eighteen-foot kayak might be expected to take two months, and the owner will be charged \$270 per month. At the end of the two-month period, the shop rate will increase to \$20 per foot per month. This is to ensure that projects do not linger but are in and out of the shop in a reasonable time period. Rebuilding cabinets for a boat's interior will be negotiated on a project rate with Tony Owen, the shop supervisor; it will be based upon the square footage the project occupies and the time expected for its completion. Needless to say, marine projects will take preference over building items for home. Incidental use of the shop and its equipment will be subject to availability. Those paying for and completing projects in the workshop will have priority. We believe this is fair and equitable but if any member

has ideas or recommendations on how we can control shop costs but at the same time impart a feeling of generosity to members, please let us know. Email cwbs@classicboats.org and put **Workshop Fees** in the subject line.

Family Membership

This is a small matter but the website states a 'Family Membership' is limited to four individuals. This unfairly penalises those who have more than two children. Therefore, the Board passed the motion that "family membership means all members of an immediate family."

Office Manager

The office is closed until we find a new office manager as Kate Rosetto resigned because of health reasons. We need an office manager who is not only competent in office protocols but has previous experience in the non-profit sector and can record and verify the Society's finances through Quickbooks. We consider the control of finances vital to the health of the Society. We already have a few CVs on hand, but we are posting the position on relevant job sites and hope to have the position filled shortly. However, if you know anyone who would like to be considered, please email cwbs@classicboats.org with **Office Manager** in the subject line or ask them to forward their CV to us. I and other Board members want to hear about your positive contributions and ideas to help nurture the Cowichan Wooden Boat Society, so please do not hesitate to email us. Contact cwbs@classicboats.org with **Ideas** in the subject line.

Thanks for reading this,
Chris Banner - *President*.

Executive and Directors 2013/14

President - Chris Banner

Treasurer - Tim Doyle

Secretary - Lori Fasullo

Directors:

Victor Lironi

Jorg Langewitz

Bob Down

Bob Weinberg

Len Mayea

Past President - Gloria Craig - Facility Manager: Tony Owen

For information call: **250-746-4955**

or cwbs@classicboats.org

Newsletter: Dave Knott

Pod interior renovations



The Board has approved pod renovations following the re-roofing of the pods and the end pavilion. Tony Owen heads the work over the next few months but needs volunteer help to ensure that all the work is complete before Spring. Please contact him if you can spare some hours. Send to cwbs@classicboats.org with **Pod Help** in the subject line.

The smooth walls are from a material called *creozone* plywood – a weatherproof building board that when installed, conceals the wiring and basic framing. The recessed portions of the pods have selected materials, in the example shown cedar strips look good, but weathered barn board, log facings and simulated diamond board will be used in other pods. The paint tint is called *Spinnaker blue* and there are other shades in the family that the rest of the pods will follow. This is a concrete paint that is mildew and rot proof.

Photo courtesy Tony Owen

Renovations for Roche Cove



The *Roche Cove*, a 1938 built in Esquimalt former Canadian Navy tug, is receiving tender loving care from Ashley James, her new proud owner. He is replacing some planks, parts of the garboard and sprucing her up generally.

The *Roche Cove* will be a fixture on the Centre's Marine Ways for the next two months as work progresses.

She was extremely sturdily built; you can see from the plank-fastening pattern that the *Roche Cove* has frames every ten inches, but her original fir planking is still in superb shape. She spent much of her life on the West Coast and was based in Sooke.

She will look healthy once Ashley has completed his work on her.

Incidentally this boat was offered to the society as a donation last year, but after an inspection at her Sooke mooring it was deemed an unpractical project for the CWBS. We are very happy to see her on the ways and her future far brighter than a chainsaws teeth.

Photo courtesy Chris Banner

Easy make Dinghy



The Maritime Centre sells boat kits. The pictured dinghy is available as a kit for just \$775. That means it's cut out and ready to assemble. Or a better option is to build the kit in the Wooden Boat Society workshop and it will cost you merely \$875. Or you can ask Tony to build you one and it will cost \$875 and he will paint it!

There is the option of making a sailing dinghy out of this boat, but it will cost more in time and money as the mast, dagger board and lifting rudder also have to be built.

Tony Owen estimates that the basic dinghy can be built in 30 hours, so if you want a boat for the summer, let him know now!

Fabricating a mast



A fifty five feet mast building project has dominated the shop and showroom during December. The hollow mast is for Jorg Langewitz's double-ended Atkin designed wooden sailing vessel which is on our dock and which he is renovating.

Built by Jorg and Eric Sandilands, who lent expertise and experience to the project and with the willing assistance from Ian Murray.

On Saturday January 4th nearly thirty members responded to a call for help in removing the mast from the shop and by noon, after a window had been removed from the showroom, the mast was in a storage place outside the building. Everyone present lent a hand as the mast weighed 600 lbs!

Thanks to all those who helped. . . Jorg is extremely grateful!

Photo courtesy Tony Owen & John O'Malley



Mast Moving Volunteers and right, the mast being glued up in the shop - never enough clamps



Major Generosity

On November 28th Captain Terry Stuart, the president of BC SUPERCARGOES ASSOCIATION, presented a cheque for \$20,000 to the Cowichan Maritime Centre.

"We were concerned that your valuable artifacts in the pods and pavilion might be jeopardized, so this donation is towards your roofing fund," Captain Stuart said. The "pods" are the enclosed exhibit areas on the pier and the two-storey pavilion at the end of the pier houses the library and model ship collection.

"This generosity is totally unexpected," said Bob Weinberg, a former forty five year employee of BC

Supercargoes and a Society Director, "but it will protect our collection of over 1500 valuable books, our extensive library of magazines and our priceless collection of model ships and boats."

The new roof is being installed by a local company, Golden Rule Roofing. The tiles are re-cycled rubber tires, yet look like regular roof shingles and will last far longer than either a metal roof or traditional cedar shakes, especially in the marine environment.

Photo: L to R: Captain Terry Stuart, Chris Banner, the Cowichan Maritime Centre's newly elected president and Bob Weinberg, Centre Director – peeking over the large cheque.

Photo courtesy Gloria Craig

Wednesday Knights

2013 saw the restoration of two Snipe sailing dinghys, the first, *Knightmare* was originally built for the 1980's CANAM games and was one of six. She is fast and fun, especially with the new sails donated by Jerry Cross. To make a race another Snipe (yet to be named) was "found" and presented to us by Ken Slade of Drillwell fame. This is an older version but still basically the same, it has received new decks and should be ready by months end. Will be interesting to compare the two sailing against each other. The Snipe is an International class and although fast with two people it is large enough to take four and with the boom nice and high it is not a headbanger. Hopefully they will be used by those with a bit of experience in our sailing program.

The group is looking forward to its next project and that is building the Skerry from scratch, it should prove be a fun for all involved.



Knightmare after restoration by the Wednesday Knights.



New Wednesday Knight recruit Arlene gets the sticky jobs



Dave, wishing Arlene was doing this job



Fellowship at its best - Alister and Colin - Celebrating Colins Birthday



Pete and Steve in deep discussion



Ian and Walter looking busy for the camera



Hammers and crowbars fix anything - Peter and Pete



Chesapeake Light Craft - Skerry - next building project for the Wednesday Knights - if anyone would like to be involved in this project then please turn up on a wednesday evening or contact dtknott@shaw.ca, no experience needed - laughs guaranteed and are free.