

LONDONLINE



NEWS & VIEWS OF THE
LONDON POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON

Ride on the wild side *Kiwi Style* *Extreme Boating not for the faint of heart*

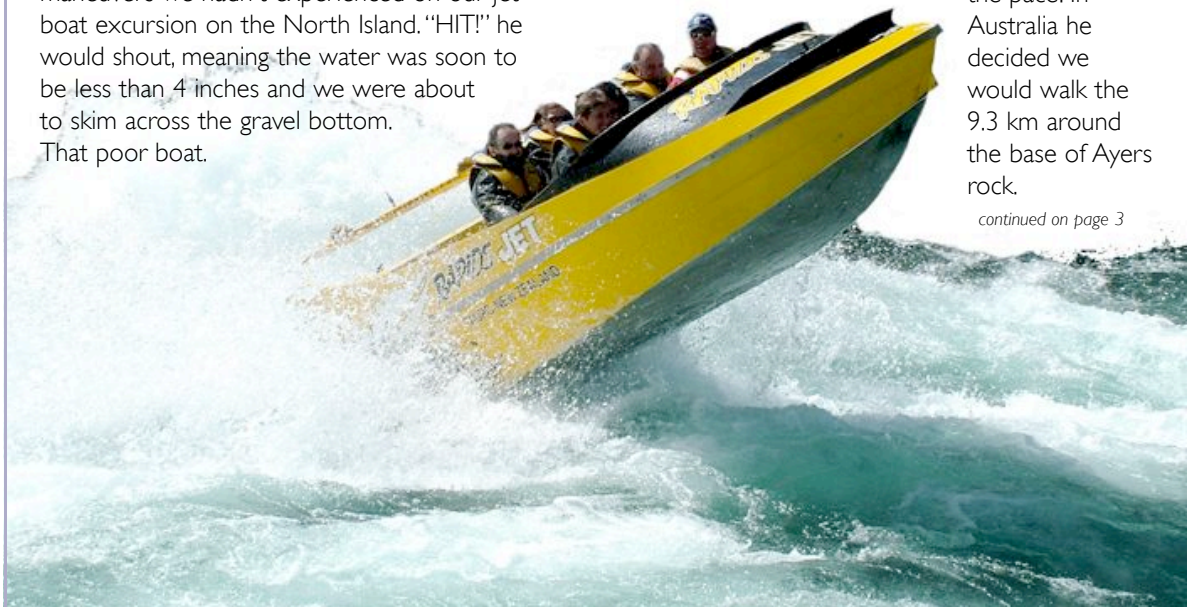
On the South Island of New Zealand, the overzealous driver of our Dart River Safaris jet boat hot-dogged a 180 degree turn at full speed to give the seniors in the other boat a photo opportunity they wouldn't forget. The turn was so violent we skimmed sideways and everyone slid to my side of the boat, giving me sore ribs that I wouldn't forget for the rest of the day.

Otherwise, and to his credit or perhaps to make amends, our driver was good about calling out in advance some of the more unusual maneuvers we hadn't experienced on our jet boat excursion on the North Island. "HIT!" he would shout, meaning the water was soon to be less than 4 inches and we were about to skim across the gravel bottom. That poor boat.

And this was the more relaxing tour, a one and a half hour ride through some of the most scenic parts of New Zealand. Our driver stopped several times along the way to point out the local features and talk about where particular scenes were shot for the movie, *The Lord of the Rings*.

Along with my brother Robert, only a week out of surgery, and our wives, we ended up in New Zealand last fall after taking the long way around by way of Italy, Singapore and Australia. It was the trip of a lifetime with my brother setting the pace. In Australia he decided we would walk the 9.3 km around the base of Ayers rock.

continued on page 3



JUNE
2008

Coming Events

JUNE

20th - 22nd 36th Western Ontario District Rendezvous, Leamington Municipal Marina. District Meeting on 21st @ 1000.

12th - Squadron Bridge meeting @ 1900, HMCS Prevost, London
21st - Barbecue and Pre-registration for Fall Courses ,HMCS Prevost, 1730 to 1930.

JULY

1st - Canada Day Celebration, HMCS Prevost, London @ 1900. Details Pg.5

SEPTEMBER

4th - Fall courses begin
9th - Squadron Bridge meeting at 1900. HMCS Prevost, London

AUGUST

1st - Submission deadline for August edition of London Line

FOR THE LOCATION OF HMCS PREVOST SEE MAP ON PAGE 4.





Commander		
Mark Hunsberger	AP	453-4717
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Deb Hughes		667-0749
Training Officer		
Steve Waite	AP	473-0517
Bursar/ ATO Boating		
John Manvell		455-3627
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ATO Marine Radio		
Guy McLean		434-5491
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Larry Monger		685-4159
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Community Liaison/ Ass't Treasurer		
John McKay		666-1605

from the helm



COMMANDER
MARK HUNSBERGER

Two years ago, as London Squadron's 57th Commander and having had such a good time meeting so many great people who gave so graciously of their time to ensure that the ship maintained course for that year, I am thrilled to have been accepted to return and man the helm for our Squadron's 59th year. Sincere thanks for the vote of confidence that has allowed me this unique return as your Squadron's Commander.

Our Squadron goals for this year are equally aggressive to what we accomplished in years gone by and my sincere thanks to P/Cdr Larry Monger and his executive for handing over a ship that is indeed, both seaworthy and in fine shape.

I welcome several new faces on board our executive team this year and am both excited and pleased to see the enthusiasm and caliber of Officers that have accepted their respective roles to ensure our goals are achieved.

I would like to congratulate our very deserving "Instructor of the Year" award winner, P/Cdr John Kabel, who handled four courses for us over the past year, with a student success rate that was second to none. John has been handling

all of our Electronics and Weather courses.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for being named "Volunteer of the Year." Personally, I can think of several who are equally deserving of this award and please know the value I have for all volunteers within this great organization. If it were not for each one of you, where do you think we would be?

Well, now that your vessels are back in the water for the summer, please be sure to take stock of courses that you may decide would be beneficial for you to upgrade your skills on, come the fall. Watch our website for course details that will be commencing on September 2nd, at C.C.H. high school and September 4th, at HMCS Prevost. We will be holding a registration / barbecue event on the 14th of August, also at HMCS Prevost. So come on out, sign up for a course and enjoy some food.

Finally, if any of you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns that you would like to discuss with me, please know that I am always available to air your thoughts.

Appointed Officers

LPSS Web Site		
Shawn Billingsley		474-3432
Certificates		
P/ CDR Horst Ammann	AP	672-5745
Historian		
John G. Hamilton, SN		438-9468
Electronic Training Aids		
Dave Corke, AP		720-9367
Auditor		
Tony Pritchard, SN		432-9446
Regalia Officer		
Lorna Jeffrey		777-9065
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When both side lights you see ahead,
Port your helm and show your red;
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LONDONLINE

London Line is the official publication of the London Power and Sail Squadron (a unit of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons) to inform and advise members and students.

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LONDON POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON.

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“Caution: Don’t go jet boating without understanding the dangers. One mistake by the operator and you can be seriously injured if ejected from the boat.”

continued from page 1

In New Zealand he booked us to go jet boating - twice.

On the North Island we took a bumpy ride along the Waiakato River with Rapids Jet tour. It was 35 minutes of sheer terror and a lot more fun. They equipped us with raincoats and personal floatation devices. In retrospect, I'd recommend helmets as well to their safety gear, especially after another operator crashed earlier in the season.

After a brief set of hand signal instructions and a warning to never let go of the handrail, our driver throttled up and we were on plane in a few seconds, skimming across the water dodging rocks,

logs, and shallows. After a jaunt upstream the driver raised his hand in the air and pointed in the direction he was going to turn. Bracing ourselves, we snapped 90 degrees. Just Inches away from the dam spill way, the boat lost all speed as the driver explained to us that the spill way was open only at certain times of the day.

Turning the boat around on a dime we sped downstream, throttling up to maximum speed until the rapids appeared. In no time we were hanging on for dear life, willing the boat to miss the barely submerged rocks as our driver expertly coursed our way through the rapids. Then we turned around and did it a few more times.

And yes, the boat does go airborne but we didn't notice until seeing the photos later - long after wondering why we got in the boat in the first place.

The views from a small plane we took through the mountains to get to Milford Sound for a relaxing cruise were spectacular; but we'll never forget the experience of extreme boating in the land of the Kiwis.

Steve Baldock



They used to just play **croquet** for fun ...

New Zealanders are great inventors of extreme sports. Below is the author's short list:

BUNGEE JUMPING Jumping off bridges with some chords attached to your feet. We weren't that crazy - maybe next time.

ZORBING Take a ball that is suspended inside a bigger ball, throw in a bucket of water, throw in a person or two and then roll down a hill. We had a lot of fun doing this one.

JET BOATING Screaming down a river at 45 mph with a big V8 pumping a jet stream of water out the back while skimming the water at depths of only 4 inches. We did this twice, once each on the north and south islands.

Calling All Members: We Need Your Help!

The executive and the members on the Events Committee have identified increased membership involvement as one of our goals for this year. It is critical therefore, to achieve greater communication with our Squadron members. For several years the six issues of London Line, access to our web site, and word of mouth have been our primary means of communication. Now we would like to be in contact with the membership directly by e-mail to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and course updates. Throughout the year contacts will be few and only when necessary. **But here's the problem.** Out of nearly **680** members we only have **294** e-mail addresses! So we are asking if you would kindly provide us with this essential bit of information. It is important and a key link in the continued success of our organisation.

Please contact our membership officer Bernie Weis at:

b.weis@sympatico.ca

You can also check your current info on file by going to:

www.cps-ecp.ca

Fall Course Pre-registration

Will kick off with a free BBQ at HMCS Prevost on Thursday August 21st.

Come on down, and munch on a burger or hotdog anytime between 5:30 and 8:00pm (1730 to 2000, if you've taken the course).

Boating, Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses will be offered on Thursdays. PCOC, GPS, Chartplotters, RADAR, Weather and Maritime Radio courses will be offered on Tuesday evenings.

We hope to offer some of the "neglected" courses, subject to interest, so if Marine Maintenance, Electronic Maintenance, Seamanship Sail, and Extended Cruising have long been on your to-do list, let us know. There are a couple of one-evening seminars, on Depth Sounders and Distress Signalling we'd like to mix in.

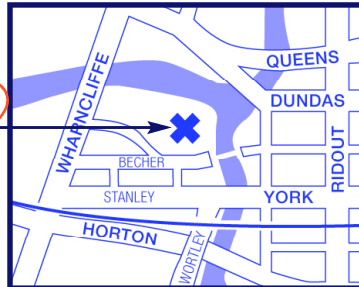
Course details are all available on-line at www.cps-ecp.ca under "Courses". Look to courses offered in London, and check back often as details are fleshed out for date and location.

We look forward to seeing you on August 21.

Remember, 2009 September is the deadline for a Pleasure Craft Operator Card. You, your spouse, and the kids too will need a card if they operate any sort of motorized vessel.

HMCS Prevost

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Been there? Done that?

TELL US ABOUT IT!

Yes! London Line welcomes submissions from all members. Have a question? A safety tip? Had a close call or interesting adventure?

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PREVOST
map on page 4

And while we're talking about fireworks ...

HOW SHOULD BOATERS PROPERLY DISPOSE OF OUTDATED FLARES?

COMMANDER MARK HUNSBERGER: "One of my students called the fire department and was told that they will not deal with them. The same response was given from the Coast Guard and the O.P.P. Eventually the student contacted the local Police department and was given the "No, we don't want them" speech. With persistence however, pointing out the danger these items pose to both vessel and home, the possibility of them falling into the hands of a felon or even, God forbid, a child, not to mention the firehazard they pose, the unit agreed to sending out the 'Bomb Squad' to dispose of them.

Knowledgeable boaters know that firing off flares other than in a distress situation is illegal. **This rules out firing them off on specific holidays.** Holding a "Flare Training Session", at a specific location, with due notice given to both C.C.G., the Fire department and the Police, can benefit all concerned. It alleviates the need for the unwanted collection of these expired flares, gives interested parties the opportunity to actually experience what happens when you fire off a flare during the training session and most importantly, gets rid of the outdated collection of flares your club may have on hand. Just make sure you check with your insurance provider that you are covered during this event."

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at the Grand Bend Yacht Club clubhouse on Victoria Day Weekend was celebrated on the occasion of the club's 50th anniversary, with a representative from LPSS to field any boating questions.

"Around 50 years ago a small group of boaters with a common passion for the sport of sailing got together and decided to form a club," said 2008 Commodore, Deb Hughes. "Today, the members share a continued camaraderie in power and sail, a solid racing program, a dedication to youth in the sport, and an iconic clubhouse."

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On the weekend of the 24th & 25th, The Fanshawe Yacht Club held it's annual Open House. Originally intended as an event to promote the club and attract new members, the event also recruits new students for our top-notch sailing school as well as paddlers for our two resident Dragon Boat teams. Part sales pitch and part outreach, the Open House provides information and sailboat rides for the general public as well as clients of Community Living and the Woodedden Easter Seals Camp. Seeing the smiles on these developmentally or physically challenged kids and adults as they go for their first sailboat ride is hard to describe.

London's own Power & Sail Squadron was also on hand in the clubhouse to promote the array of courses available. Their presence certainly was appreciated, especially when asked about the dream of retiring and sailing around the world.

"Start at the Sailing School," I replied, "then take Power Squadron courses over the winters as you progress. All you need to know is in the clubhouse!"

Mark Anderson, AP,
Vice- Commodore, FYC 2007-2008




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