

THE WHALER

March 15, 2025

Message from the Commodore



I want to thank everyone for coming out to the Commodore's Luau last week. We have posted some photo's [here](#) and invite you to take a look. We took a bit of a spin on the traditional Commodore's Ball this year.

Our emcee for the evening, Kevin Greenwood, led us through toasts and recognition of special guests including representatives from Able Sail, Maple Bay Yacht Club, Capital City Yacht Club and Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club.

I had the great pleasure of toasting our CFSA women sailors as our event was held in conjunction with International Women's Day. Past Commodore David Mitchel helped with the traditional flag presentations, introducing our new flag officers. I also want to thank the CFSA executive team and volunteers. The heart of our club is those who step forward to rally the troops for a work party, bring us together to celebrate, tell our stories and share our successes. It is each of you who make this club what it is. To the members, who haven't reached out to volunteer or know where you can help, please reach out to your finger neighbour, executive member or another volunteer. This is our shared community and together we can move mountains (or clumps).

This will be my last message as CFSA's Commodore. It has been my privilege to lead the membership over the last 2 years and I look forward to continuing as a volunteer on the executive as past commodore and with the marina construction going forward.
Ben Sproule, CFSA Commodore (for two more weeks)

REMINDER

Membership Updates

Membership and yearly moorage invoices are being emailed to members in the first half of March. Please note that the invoice may end up in your junk mail so do check there. Invoice payment is due 1 April. Please note that those with moorage will incur extra fees if they pay late. Membership cards will be sent out starting 1 April for those who have paid. If you are not renewing, please let me know at membership@cfsaesq.ca.

As a member, I invite you to participate in the amazing community events, sailing opportunities and club perks you have access to as a club member, such as weekly keelboat racing. Don't have a boat? No problem Our club Sonars are ready to be sailed, or you can show up early at Baker dock and we'll find you a spot on another member's vessel. We're serious about our "no crew left behind".

If racing doesn't float your boat, join us for our Easter Cruise and other rendezvous to explore our beautiful backyard in the Southern Gulf Islands.

Join us for socializing, check out our upcoming events below, join a work party and every Sunday after racing we meet at the Fleet Club to gather and build community. Any questions regarding membership, please send me a note.

Ginette Gibeault, Membership Chair

**Welcome to new CFSA
members**

**Bradley Scott and Alex
Vanyo!**



CFSA AGM & Awards Night

CFSA's Annual General Meeting and Awards ceremony was held at the Chief and Petty Officers' Mess. This year the two events were held back-to-back. The double bill made for a full evening of thoughtful discussion and decision making regarding the future of our club. There was food, camaraderie, and the bar was open!

Some key takeaways from the AGM include an update that CFSA has signed an MOU with the George Wilkinson Lounge (Military Police Unit's Mess) and is working toward establishing regular bar hours. Pending this agreement, our community should soon have a place to gather and socialize throughout the year. Excitingly, a Capital Expenditure Request (CER) of up to \$150K was approved to support the lifecycle replacement of our marina fingers. As many of you know, some fingers are growing old. The club has procured a series of rugged steel units to replace older fingers. These will last many seasons and once sheathed in wood planking will look great and uniform. See photos below.

Membership dues and moorage rates remain unchanged for the upcoming year, you can expect an email from our Membership Chair regarding this soon. In addition to addressing old and new business, our Member-at-Large, Chris Maier, facilitated the election of officers for the new year. A huge thank you to those members who stepped up to support our club in these critical roles!

- Commodore – Mike Wills
- Vice-Commodore – Tom Eagle
- Rear Commodore – Bethany Devlin
- Past Commodore – Ben Sproule
- Treasurer – Brendan Carver
- Environment & Safety Chair – Doran Jones,
- Membership Chair – Ginette Gibeault
- Member at Large - Chris Maier,
- Fleet Captain – Leslie Basham,
- Racing Captain – Nigel Greenwood,
- Communications Officer – Shannon Jones
- Entertainment Chair - JenJen Good
- Cruising Captain – Marc Dumais



Awards Night Recap

Following the AGM, we rolled right into the Awards. The event honoured our club's exceptional members, racers, and crew, providing an opportunity for all to reflect on the year's accomplishments, share a salty yarn or two, and acknowledge individuals for their achievements and contributions to the club, both on and off the water.



Leslie Basham, Fleet Captain and Commodore Ben Sproule presided over the ceremony which featured presentations for Keelboat Racing, Club Awards, Sailing Committee Awards, and Special Awards. Pictures of the award presentations can be viewed on our club Flickr account [here](#)

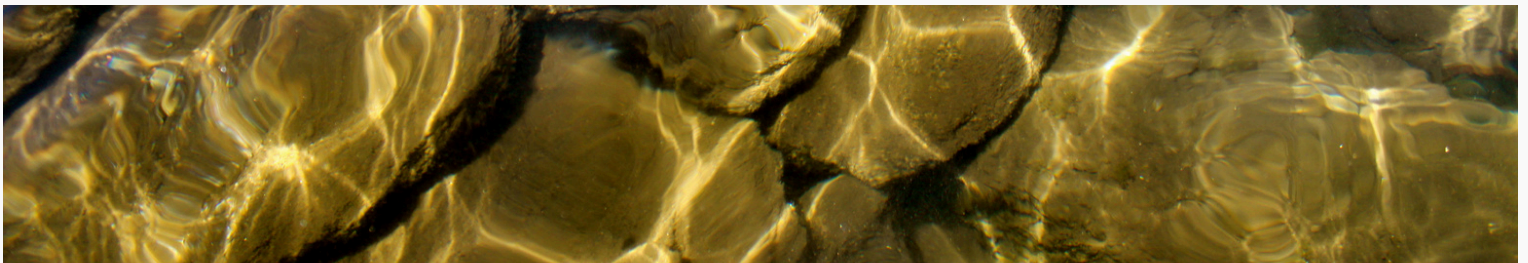


The Shifting Rock Award: A Tale of Nautical Woe

Of note was The Shifting Rock Award (described as a chunk of petrified wood on a sheet of plexiglass, mounted on rocks atop a mahogany base). This award is traditionally awarded to a club member who "runs aground or afoul in some manner." There were a handful of contenders this year for this most infelicitous of prizes.

Leslie Basham shared a tale of losing power in Cordova Bay during a calm and having to be rescued by the Commodore of RVC. Previous Shifting Rock awardee and longtime member Dana Govang was nominated in absentia for hitting a rock while snowplowing his driveway. Members Tom Eagle and Ellery Down recounted their epic tale of the "Shifting Dock" of Lang Cove. During a bomb cyclone back in November, D Dock began "drawing left" after being unfastened by strong winds, carrying away the boats Merriweather, Sundowner, and Ellery, who, risking all, decided to remain with his vessel. The notorious storm caused havoc at the club, chafing many a mooring line and sinking CFSA 4 at Baker Dock.

But the yarn of the year, by popular vote came from our Commodore Ben Sproule. He told of wrapping the propeller on SV EAGLE with a spinnaker sheet in 25-30 knots of wind with the main halfway up while conducting sail training near Jedidiah Island. The crew pulled together and only just managed to weather the nearby rocks in time to avert disaster. Ben commended the resolve of his crew for their successful efforts in unfouling the propeller; diving without wetsuits in frigid waters with up to three knots of current. No mean feat. But that wasn't all, he also recounted a tale of running out of fuel in Esquimalt Harbour, in his own vessel Pampero! It was this personal tale of mechanical calamity and rescue that seemed to pique the interest of the voters of this year's award. Congratulations Ben Sproule!



Upcoming events and activities

- April 4-5, 2025 Trotac will be accepting expired flares for disposal
- April 12, 2025 CFSA Ukelele Jam and Kitchen Party
- April 18-20, 2025 CFSA Easter Cruise
- April 27, 2025 Opening Day
- August 15-17, 2025 CFSA Rendezvous
- Every Sunday
 - Sunday Racing: 'Round the Buoys' race at 1200 and long distance races at 1000. Check out the calendar for more information.
<https://theclubspot.com/regatta/NhQWAtXDsx>
 - Social Sundays at the Fleet club 1430-1730 *This is an informal meet up scheduled after racing for all CFSA members. Bring your spouse, family, friends or come on your own.

CFSA Entertainment

I'm excited to be your new Entertainment Chair! - Jenjen Good, Entertainment Chair, SV Nepenthe

Starting in April, I'll organize a monthly event starting with a Ukelele Jam and Kitchen Party. Please send me any suggestions for events or activities. So far, members have requested karaoke night and music bingo. Stay tuned for dates!

CFSA Ukelele Jam and Kitchen Party

Join us on April 12 at 1900 at the Rainbow Room in the Chief and Petty Officer's Mess for a Ukelele Jam and Kitchen Party. All musicians and singers are welcome, and all instruments are accepted. Please send your song requests, including the song title, artist, and preferred key, to jenjengood@hotmail.com or message me at Jenjen Good on Facebook Messenger.

CFSA Easter Cruise at the Victoria Causeway

Join us from April 18-20 at the Victoria Causeway in the Inner Harbour. Enjoy a TGIF dock party on Friday evening, followed by a pub outing. On Saturday, explore your town like a tourist, then head to happy hour for an East Coast style PAC (Pre Action Calibration) before more pub action. Boats need to book moorage at <https://gvha.ca/marinas-facilities/reservations/>. Any questions, please reach out to Marc Dumais - Cruising Captain

CFSA Racing

Congratulations to Pauline Haines and Feisty as the winner of the Fred Douglas trophy for overall performance for the 2024 racing season



CFSA Racing Calendar (March 16 – April 13)

- March 16, Round the Buoys Series B-2
- March 23, Round the Buoys Series B-3
- March 30, Turkish Triangle
- April 6, Round the Buoys Series B-4
- April 13, Round the Buoys Series B-5

Upcoming Races of note

- Patos Island Race, March 28 - 29
- Southern Straights Race, April 18 - 19
- 80th Anniversary of the Swiftsure International Race, May 24 – 25
- 50th Anniversary of the Round Saltspring Race, May 16 - 17

If you are interested in joining a crew, please see our racing fleet Facebook page and make yourself known or email fleetcaptain@cfesaesq.ca

Leslie Basham, Fleet Captain