

THE WHALER

April 12, 2025

Message from the Commodore



Ahoy CFSA members! For those who I have not met, I am Mike Wills your new Commodore. This is yet another milestone in my journey as a sailor which started as a junior at the Deep Cove Yacht Club when I was seven years old. Since then I have kept busy with family cruising, dingy instructing, time on HMCS Oriole, and marine surveying. In my professional life I work at Joint Task Force Pacific planning domestic operations for the Navy.

It is no surprise to anyone that the club continues to be in a state of transition as we work towards shore access and services on the docks. While it may look like not much is changing, there is a lot of work that is happening in the background to build the new marina. This week we expect to see the new fingers arrive on Tuesday to D Jetty, which will mark the start of what will be a busy summer with planned work parties every Saturday. We will post volunteer opportunities as they come up, but will be looking for everything from divers, general labour, cleaning and prepping food. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

I hope to engage with you all over the coming months about the present and the future of the club. As part of this, the executive is instituting Commodore's hour, an opportunity for all club members to engage with the Commodore and/or other members of the executive.

I want to finish by thanking all of the hard work our volunteers do to make this club possible. It is no secret that our community has and will be built on the backs of volunteers past and present volunteers. I want to give a heartfelt thanks for all who have and continue to contribute. I look forward to speaking to you all so we can continue to recognize and celebrate our club members. I encourage everyone to come out to the CFSA's Opening Day on April 27, it will be a great kick off to the boating season. See you soon on the docks!

Mike Wills, CFSA Commodore

Communications

Over the past few months, we have been working on improving communications at the club, this is an ongoing effort to reach club members both online and in person. Over the coming months, there will be many updates on the marina and fun activities for club members.

We want to ensure you have the information you need to participate, volunteer and come together in the true spirit of CFSA and encourage you to keep up to date through:

- **The Whaler:** newsletter will come out mid-month to capture all club activities, provide an update on the progress of the marina, celebrate members and share general information.
- **CFSA Esquimalt Community Group** (on Facebook): CFSA Cruising Facebook group has been renamed to the CFSA Esquimalt Community group. The intent is to use this group to share information on events and activities outside of racing. We will also be posting events and ask that you respond if you are attending to help our planning .
- **Commodore's Hour:** Starting in May, we will host a monthly chat with the Commodore to provide an opportunity to ask questions and share information.

If you have ideas or would like to volunteer to help with communications please reach out to Shannon Jones at communications@cfesaesq.ca. Volunteer opportunities include: writing, editing, social media, and IT as we begin to develop the new website.

Membership

Thank you to everyone who paid their membership and moorage invoices promptly!



During April, welcome letters and membership cards are being emailed to members who have paid. If you'd also like a laminated membership card, or if you didn't get your emailed card, email membership@cfesaesq.ca

I will send laminated cards by mail for those who request it, so make sure your address is correct on your invoice.

Ginette Gibeault, Membership Chair

Dave Gasser, Celebration of Life

Mary Gasser has extended an invitation to all CFSA members to Dave's Celebration of Life.

Together, Dave and Mary welcomed many members into CFSA becoming mentors, friends and volunteers of the club. Please pass this along to other friends and former CFSA members.

- Date: Friday, July 26, 2025
- Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Location: Chief and Petty Officers Mess, 1575 Lyall Street, Esquimalt, BC

Opening Day

Join us on April 27 for CFSA's Opening Day and Sail Past. This fun event marks the official start to boating and cruising season. The day will start at Fleet Club with light snacks before the procession to the boats for the official sail past where club boats will sail past and salute the Commodore. It's a great day to see all the boats out on the water and meet other members. Rain or shine!

- 1200 informal meet and greet (Fleet Club)
- 1300 procession to the boats
- 1400 sail past

After the sail past, we reconvene at the mess and hand out awards

- Best dressed boat
- Best dressed crew
- Best sail past

Participants are encouraged to dress up in navy blazers or sweaters and white or khaki pants, but it's not mandatory.



Upcoming events and activities

CFSA Club Socials

Location: Rainbow Room at the Chief and Petty Officer's Mess

Time: 1900 - 2200

- April 12, 2025 Ukelele Jam and Kitchen party! We will have a projector with lyrics and chords so everyone can join in! (Kitchen Party is a southern and east coast phrase meaning a party in the kitchen with anything you can turn into an instrument- pots, pans, spoons, upturned washtub).
- May 10, 2025 (7:00-10:00 pm) Music Bingo

Easter Cruise to the Causeway

- April 18 – 20, 2025: There is still space! Come out and join in for the first cruise of the year. Book your moorage [here](#).

Commodore's Hour

- May 7, 2024, one hour prior to the start of racing. Watch for an email with more info.

Racing Update

The days are getting longer, the flowers are in bloom, sun, wind, rain and no wind are part of our sailing challenges. We will be starting Wednesday Night Racing on April 22 and the Pacific Fleet Club is available to us.

Please note that Long Distance and Special races will still be held on Sundays.

While some boats were at home sailing the Turkish Triangle race four club boats participated in the 42nd running of Patos Island (Spanish for seal if you didn't know).

Patos Island is the first race in the Vancouver Island Racing Series. Goldcrest, Osprey and Eagle challenged the Long-Distance course but were defeated by the lack of wind and strong currents. Tom Eagle and his boat Shenanigans entered the Short Course finished in 3rd place. Congratulations!

The Turkish Triangle Race fared better in our home waters with Hessian, Bigfoot, Dark Star and Wave Reviews participating and Wave Reviews coming in first place. Congratulations!

Pursuit races use the race distance and the boats' PHRF to determine a start time for each competitor with the slowest boat starting first. The concept is like horse racing with the idea that weighting the start time means that all boats should end up at the finish at the same time. Unfortunately we all know that wind and current are not constant and thus greatly change the performance on course (if you watch racing live or replays you will hear about losers or winners winds).

Sometimes boats in the lead become becalmed and a wind fills in at the back of the fleet bringing boats who were far behind up to or passing the leading fleet. Other variations such as a lead boat getting and staying in good wind to clench line honours while the wind dies for those at the back with no chance of catching up.

Upcoming CFSA races

- April 13 B5
- April 18 Southern Straits Race at West Vancouver Yacht club.
- April 23 C1 starts at 1830

Club distance and special races are on Sundays as per the calendar on Facebook

Fair Winds,
Leslie Basham, Fleet Captain



Other information

No wake zone – Members transiting from STC to the marina are reminded to go slow as the harbour east of Duntze Head is a no wake zone.

Harbour communications – Radio communications required for members transiting from STC to the marina, please note all that are needed is to call KHM and indicate you are transiting “STC to CFSA”.

Patos Island Race, Vancouver Island Racing Series

