

*PRINCE RUPERT ROWING AND YACHT CLUB*  
*April 2009 Newsletter*

When is this winter weather ever going to end? Recent high winds and wave action caused both fingers at the end of Main dock to break away. Luckily, Colin Flaten was attending the Flying O at the time and raised the alarm, before any significant damage was done to either the fingers or any of the vessels. Since then, the damage has been repaired and substantial improvements made to the connections to reduce the chances of future problems.

This is the first year that our new club caretaker, Marjorie Rempel will lead the marina affairs. I am sure that you will find her very capable and a pleasure to deal with. We are looking for two seasonal dockhands to assist Marjorie during the busy visitor season. Please be patient with the new dockhands as they learn the ropes.

Once again, it has been another very busy year for your yacht club executive. Many of the major improvements and repairs that were agreed to at last years AGM have been completed or currently in progress. Many of you that frequently visit the docks will have seen those improvements. The new float system we purchased from a Campbell River has been temporarily docked to the foot of the ramp. Some sections of this float system will be used to improve our skiff storage, where we hope to incorporate a permanent home for the Rainbow Warrior canoe.

As many if you already know, our Stephens Islands operation failed to perform for us for most of last year. This was due to a fire that demolished the entire Hakki shack camp and partially damaged our existing floats. The directors have determined that is in the best interest of our club to terminate the agreement we had with the owner of Hakki shack. Subsequently, we have recently concluded an agreement with a new operator, who we believe will provide a more reliable and dedicated service to the club. Further, we have negotiated with the new operator, to build and install an expanded dock area that will increase the overall moorage capacity, which in turn will increase our revenue.

Unfortunately, there are a few software issues with the video cameras that are still very frustrating for us and are preventing the general membership from being able to view the club via Internet access. Additionally, it is a software issue that is slowing down our gate access control system installation. We are hopeful to have both issues resolved in the very near future.

As the boating season begins I take this opportunity to remind you and your guests about a couple of the rules of the club. As you are all well aware our available parking is extremely limited. Therefore please obey the rules of the club as it pertains to parking. When you access the floats with your dog – please be sure that your dogs are on a leash. If they soil the docks, clean up after them.

Over the winter months I have been questioned by a number of our members who believe their accounts were not properly credited during last years summer moorage credit program. This was discussed during our last directors meeting and I believe we have now resolved an internal control issue that will ensure that any future credits that are earned will be correctly applied to member accounts. However, the directors suggested I raise this issue in the Newsletter so that our members understand that we do need your cooperation and support to make the program work so that we can maximize our visitor revenue. To try and be clear, the program only applies during the months of June July and August, as these are the busiest months. The members are reminded that if you know you are going to leave the docks overnight, you **MUST** complete the sign out sheet beside the office. Last year we had to turn away a *significant* number of visitor vessels due to that fact that there was no available space, even though there were empty berth spots available. As you can easily see, this is lost revenue for us. Therefore this year, if we notice that members continually leave their yacht club moorage for overnight trips without completing the sign out sheet, we will have no choice but to penalize that member for a portion of the lost revenue.

Marjorie will take care to ensure that the power use is correctly applied to the visitors that use it and not the yacht club member. Finally the executive introduced this rebate incentive as a best effort to try and keep our fees and moorage at reasonable levels. We need your assistance to do that.

Lastly, after many hours of discussion and through the development a new grid use guidelines, the grid has been reopened for member only use. The cost for using the grid is \$100.00, which will be added to your account if you use the grid. Please ensure you get, and read a copy of the new rules whenever you sign up to use the grid. You must comply with the regulations; failure to comply with any of the rules will be your sole responsibility.

Members are reminded that overdue accounts are not going to be tolerated. Our rules and guidelines for the conduct of members and our constitution and bylaws are very clear. They state that the executive can remove any member who has failed to pay moorage, storage or other fee levied by the society, ninety days after which the semi annual payment is due.

The Board of Directors hopes that all the improvements and upgrades currently underway make both your boating and dockside experience more enjoyable.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognize the efforts of the directors of the club who have spent many hours of their personal free time dedicated to the club and its welfare.

Our AGM this year is slated for April 29, 2009 at 7:00PM – at the Crest Hotel, BC Room – You must be a member in good standing to be able to attend and vote. Refreshments will be available. There will be door prizes. On the agenda this year is the Commodore Report, receipt of our Financial Statements and election of officers. We hope to see you there.

Till then - Be safe on the water.  
Mark Newbery  
Commodore