



BC Nautical Residents Association

www.bcnr.org

Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring 2011

BCNR Mission Statement

1. To preserve & support the tradition of living aboard one's vessel
2. To promote environmental awareness among liveaboards
3. To establish effective ongoing communications and resolve issues of concern to liveaboards
4. To serve as a voice for liveaboards regarding activities that affect BC waterways

With a mandate to liaise with community and government groups regarding development and activities that affect BC waterways and the people who live upon them.

Welcome to our first BCNR newsletter! We know you've been waiting to hear from us. So here's a synopsis of what your Nautical Residents Association has been doing this past year.

2010—2011

Board of Directors

Eric Eder Tim Finlay
Bob Goth Bill Sassaman
Rick Schnurr

Assisted by: Judy Brooks, Denise
Finlay, Rina Goth, and
Donna Sassaman

BCNR—Activities to Date

The BCNR was incorporated on June 4, 2010 under the BC Society Act, and currently has approximately 50 members from Victoria to Prince Rupert. Members are the eyes and ears of the Association, so if you have an issue—or kudos—to report, please email directors@bcnr.org with the specifics.

The following are just some of the issues the Association is working on or monitoring:

- **VANCOUVER:** The City of Vancouver restricts anchoring in False Creek to 2 weeks at a time in the summer and 3 in the winter. The City requires boaters to complete and sign an anchoring permit that allows authorities to seize a vessel if it overstays the permitted time. If you are planning to spend any time anchored in False Creek, email directors@bcnr.org for information on how boaters have dealt successfully with this restriction.
- **NANAIMO:** The Nanaimo Port Authority restricts anchoring to 2 weeks. It may allow longer term anchoring at its discretion, and requires a monthly anchoring fee. The Port Authority also requires a boater to post every time they visit their vessel and dates when the holding tank has been pumped and the amount pumped. Recently, the City of Nanaimo, the local First Nation, and Provincial Parks collaborated to install 42 mooring buoys, for boats 40' and under, within the Newcastle Island Provincial Park boundaries, thus effectively reducing the area in which boaters can safely anchor.
- **OAK BAY:** The municipality recently posted notices on dinghies that the dinghies would be confiscated if not removed from the beach. BCNR directors contacted municipal staff. We're pleased to report that as a result of these consultations, municipal staff are aware that as long as the dinghies are *below* the high water mark, the municipality will not remove them.
- **OAK BAY MARINA:** Recently, Oak Bay Marina staff confiscated some dinghies anchored near the shore in an area the Marina claims is part of their water lease. The Marina stated that in order to get their dinghies back, owners would have to pay a fine of \$1.50/foot/day. The police were called and the dinghies were returned. Police indicated that if owners wanted to take the issue further, it would be a civil matter. Two of the BCNR directors approached Oak Bay Marina management about the incident and were told that the Marina would continue to take dinghies in the disputed area. On consultation with the municipal engineer, it was confirmed that the area in question is *not* part of Oak Bay Marina's lease. If anyone has a problem with the Oak Bay Marina taking their dinghies, phone the Oak Bay Police and email BCNR, directors@bcnr.org.
- **GOVERNMENT DOCKS:** Sidney, Vancouver, French Creek, and Sechelt—there may be others—have placed a moratorium on liveaboards at their government docks. Harbour Authority staff at French Creek informed us that the Board of Directors had voted to prohibit liveaboards due to the actions of a few irresponsible boaters. This unfortunate situation highlights that nautical residents have to exercise responsibility as well as protecting their rights.
- **HST AND MOORAGE:** One of our up-island members reported that moorage might be exempt from HST. We were excited for a few hours before making contact with a Canada Revenue agent. The CRA staff person reported that the only 'floating homes' that are exempt are buildings on floats that have no means of self-propulsion. Therefore, only residents of float homes are exempt from HST. We are continuing to work on this issue.
- **BUILDING NETWORKS:** BCNR directors are building relationships with Transport Canada staff, municipal authorities, and marina staff, and have had positive feedback from nearly all of them. We'll report on interactions with federal and local authorities in future newsletters.



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Director Profile

Name	Bill Sassaman
Partner	Donna Sassaman
Boat	Alia , customized Spencer 44 sloop
How many years as a liveaboard?	24 years this coming July 1st. Donna and I moved aboard Emrys , a 34' steel ketch, in preparation to cruise offshore. Initially we didn't think we'd live aboard 'forever', but by the time we returned to BC from the South Pacific, we were hooked. Alia is our 3rd liveaboard boat.
What inspired you to help establish BCNR?	We moved to Vancouver from Victoria in 2000 because of Donna's job and at the time, we were living on a 52' boat. We couldn't find liveaboard moorage—affordable or otherwise—anywhere in the Lower Mainland, so ended up anchored in False Creek. The attitudes and actions of the police and onshore neighbours made me realize that boaters, especially liveaboards, need to band together if our choices for how we live are to be protected.
Best things about living aboard?	Both of us are explorers at heart. We love the freedom of travelling with our home, living 'green', and having a community all along the coast. When we were cruising last summer, in every anchorage we met at least one boat we knew!
Biggest challenges to living aboard?	Other than the 'political' hassles? Keeping 'stuff' to a minimum, and having it all stowed properly—so we know where to find it—is still a challenge.
Anything else you want BCNR members to know about you?	I'm an analyzer, so do a lot of research when faced with an issue. I like to work as part of a team, which is why being on the BCNR Board is a great opportunity for putting my analyzing and communication interests to work. On the family front, I'm the father of three adult children and grandfather of five teenagers.



Victoria Floating Boat Show, April 28—May 1

The BCNR has secured a spot at the 2011 Victoria Floating Boat Show in Victoria, BC. We'll be near the main entrance so please come say hello and check out this fun and interesting event. Visit www.floatingboatshows.com for more information.

A heartfelt thank you to the British Columbia Yacht Brokers Association and especially Kathy Harvey for their generous invitation. Without this kind of valuable support, we could not survive as an credible organization.

Mooring Buoys and Your Boat Insurance

The Newcastle Island mooring buoys are rated to 30 knots, and are reported to be of the same standard as mooring buoys in all provincial marine parks. One of our directors reported that his insurance company informed him that his insurance would be null and void if he were on a mooring buoy in winds exceeding 30 knots. Check with your insurance agent regarding your policy before trusting your boat to a marine park mooring buoy—you may decide to anchor instead.

Thank you for your patience as we've worked to get the BCNR up and running. We would like to hear from you with any news, tips, issues, etc. Email feedback@bcnr.org. We'll get the next newsletter out to you in the next few months. Fair winds and warm breezes.