



Extras in Ganges Harbor

Three Amateur Radio Extra Class operators met on *Cassis* in Ganges Harbor to compare summer cruising notes and participate on the BC Boaters' Net (pictured are Chuck Steward, *Alert*, AI7V, Dwight Shaw, *Cassis*, WA7DS, and Day Chapin, *Oceana*, W7HDC). The BC Boaters' Net operates on the Vancouver Island Two Meter trunk system with coverage from the Gulf Islands through to Port Hardy. Amateur Extra class is the highest Amateur Radio grade and we are fortunate to have a number of Amateur Extra class members in the club – many are qualified FCC examiners and are active in radio education helping members obtain their licenses.



VE7GBT

Although I did not spend much time on the nets, I was fortunate this summer to stop by and visit several Amateur Radio cruising friends. If you have listened to the BC Boaters' Net – both Les and Ernie have been frequent contributors. Les Saul, VE7GBT (Great Brown Tiger) is tucked away in Telegraph Harbor and is well known for weather reports. He



was one of the founders of the BC Boaters' Net in 1984. My last visit in person was August 17th, 1992. Les also inventories the BC Boater's Net flag – so I was able to pick up a less threadbare flag. Les is a frequent contributor on the NW Boaters Net and

has assisted many boaters over the years. Les owns a small powerboat called (you guessed it) *Great Brown Tiger* – which (at 81) he still uses to explore around Thetis Island. He spends winters in Victoria – where you can QSO with him on the Victoria repeater or on the NW Boaters Net (3865KHz @ 0830 local time).

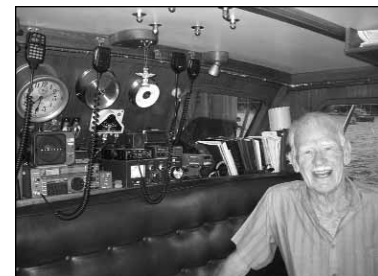
VE0DX / VE7GDX

Ernie Harding, VE0DX / VE7GDX, cruises on *DX* – a beautifully maintained 37' Pacific Trawler. He is a frequent contributor on the nets and is a member of the Nanaimo

Yacht Club. He usually has an outstanding signal and enjoys meeting other boating hams.

VE7GML / W7OQY

Another summer visit was to a local ham on Cortes. We are fortunate to have Bruce Jacobs as a neighbor at Cortes. His dock is notable due to antennas, e.g., a 5/8 wave 20 meter vertical on the most northern section of dock in Cortes Bay. An avid organist and audiophile he illustrated the utility of the 5/8 wave vertical by placing a CQ on 20 meters using PSK31. PSK31 is similar to Internet chat – you interface with other Amateur Radio operators using a computer keyboard. During my visit with Bruce, we were conversing with a station in Russia, UA0ZGX on only 40 watts.



Bruce also has other antennas, but he likes the ability of the vertical to send signals over the horizon. Bruce has been active in planning an emergency communications system for Cortes.

Radio Class – January 6th

Heather Ballaine (AB7JT) will be leading the Amateur Radio class this year with assistance from our growing committee of FCC qualified Amateur Radio examiners. The one-day class/exam will be on Saturday, January 6th, at the Mainstation. There will be a class for the Technician License and FCC testing for all levels – register at the Front Desk and send Heather an email.

The Radio Committee meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month in the Commodores Room, e.g., October 11th, at 6pm. All SYC members and guests are welcome at all meetings and events. Meetings are informal and usually cover a variety of subjects including communications, VHF & SSB radios, antennas, and electronics.

W7SYC - For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee: send an email to chapin@activesoft.net, 73s – W7HDC, OCEANA, Day Chapin, Chair

