

LEAD AND LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NOAVI

<p>New medal for those who served on Arctic convoys</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p>	<p>Mr Quirks and Quarks waxes lyric about space and navigation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p>	<p>Laser weapons and the USN</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p>	<p>HMCS Winnipeg's refit comes to a nasty end</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p>
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NOAVI 27 May Luncheon

Guests - spouses, friends, family are most welcome at our luncheons

Lunches are at the Fireside Grill at 1130 for 1215 4509 West Saanich Road, Royal Oak, Saanich, cost \$25.

Our speaker will be Malcolm Barker, Vice President and General Manager of Seaspan, Victoria Shipyards, to give us an update on Seaspan's work on the Ship Building program.



[Reservations to Bud Rocheleau, 250-386-3209 or budrocheleau@shaw.ca](mailto:budrocheleau@shaw.ca) by noon on Thursday 23 May.

When making your reservation, please advise of any food allergies or sensitivities if you have not already done so.

High Adventure on the High Seas

HMCS Toronto intercepts 500 kilograms of heroin with a street value of \$100 million



Photo: Cpl Malcolm Byers

HMCS Toronto's boarding party approaches the suspect vessel in the Indian Ocean.

On 29 March, HMCS Toronto intercepted a dhow transporting about 500 kilograms of heroin with a street value of \$100-110 million; the largest seizure of heroin at sea.

For more see page 5

NOAVI LEAD AND LINE



President's Column May 2013



A nice sunny day - perhaps Spring really is here – a nice relief for those of us who did not make it away to sunnier climes over the Winter! Our program is slowly winding down. I hope all those who were there enjoyed Bob MacDonald's most interesting talk in April. Kathy has promised a stimulating maritime related speaker for this month – watch your email for details as they unfold or read the details in Lead and Line (if they are available by press time).

At the moment we have only 17 of our members signed up for the NAC National Conference, not counting those who have volunteered (Thanks!) so there is still room for more. It really would be nice to have a strong representation from the Host Branch. The Inn at Laurel Point is full, but we have made arrangements to provide the same rate at the Coast Harbourside, which is right next door, if you have friends coming from out of town or you just want to stay downtown for the occasion. **Registration has been extended to Wednesday May 15th, however the hotel rates still expire on Saturday May 4th!** Please also note that all NOAVI members are welcome to attend the NAC Dinner on Saturday evening June 8th, whether or not you are attending the conference, so this might be a neat opportunity to catch up with old friends from across the country. Just fill out

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NOAVI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Reserves/Cadets	Gerry Pash	gwpash@shaw.ca	Historian	Stan Parker	250-478-6555

SAILING TO MARS

Bob McDonald speaks to NOAVI

April's featured speaker was Bob McDonald of Quirks and Quarks fame, an avid sailor (with a Morgan 41 sailboat) and new resident of Victoria. He gave a lively talk focusing mostly on his fascination with space and our opportunities for getting out there and enjoying it. He described his job as asking people if he can do cool things with them and then getting paid for it.

Highlights have included experiencing zero gravity (see photo below) in "G Force One" a Boeing 727-227F (current cost of flight just under \$5,000. Stephen Hawking took a flight in 2007). The plane is designed to fly parabolic arcs similar to those in NASA's reduced gravity aircraft.

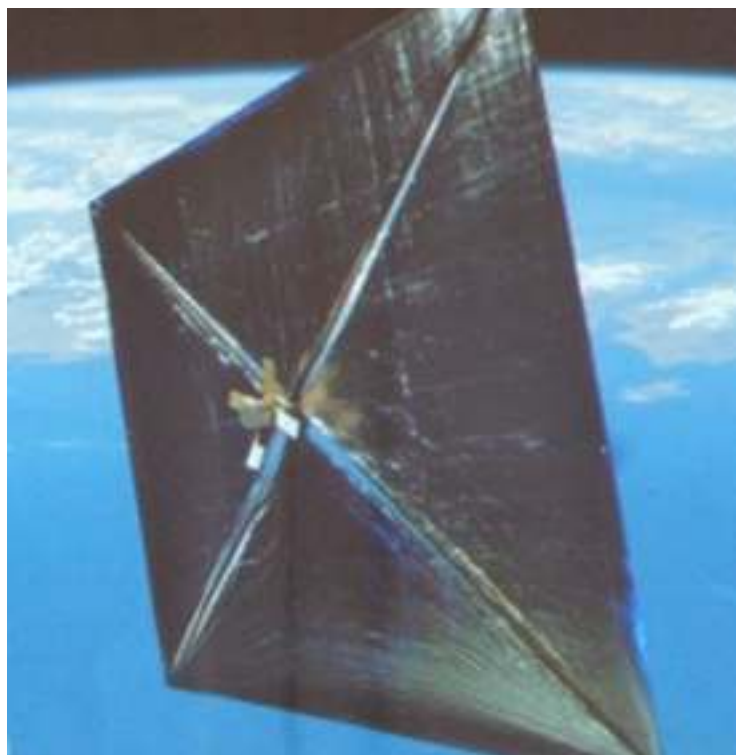
He seems fascinated by the possibilities and believes a Solar Sail (measuring 1200 square meters) could well be the solution to navigation in space. The basic concept is that the Sun will reflect off aluminized plastic, pushing it around the earth and eventually out into space. With the ability to tack, it would behave much like a sailboat at sea and could propel us into a new Age of Sail.

He feels privileged to have been able to watch the start of Space Exploration develop over his lifetime and is quick to



point out how lucky we are to have such a beautiful planet. "All the other planets we know will kill you!"

He is currently at work on a new book entitled "Skywalkers" about three Canadian astronauts who have stepped outside of a space craft, held on with one hand and surveyed earth on one side and deep space on the other.



NOAVI LEAD AND LINE

New Arctic Medal: **The Arctic Star**

The Arctic Star is granted for operational service of any length north of the Arctic Circle (66 degrees, 32'N) from the 3rd September, 1939, to the 8th May, 1945, inclusive. The Arctic Star is intended to commemorate the Arctic Convoys and is designed primarily for the ships of the convoys to North Russia and their Escorts. Eligibility is as follows:

- Navy and Merchant Navy – Naval and Merchant Navy service anywhere at sea north of the Arctic Circle to include, but not limited exclusively to, those ships participating in, and in support of, Convoys to North Russia. Fleet Air Arm Personnel, not qualified by sea service may qualify under the conditions applying to the Royal Air Force.
- Air Force – Aircrew of the Royal Air Force will be eligible if they landed north of the Arctic Circle or served in the air over this area. Non aircrew on operational service in the area, for example ground crew or those sailing with CAM ships (Catapult Aircraft Merchant Ships), are also eligible.
- Army – Army personnel serving in His Majesty's ships or in defensively equipped Merchant ships qualify under the rules applying to the Navy or Merchant Navy. In addition, personnel taking part in land operations north of the Arctic Circle will also be eligible.
- Civilians serving with the Forces – Members of the few approved categories of civilians who qualify for Campaign Stars will be eligible if, in support of military operations, they meet any of the above qualifying criteria.
- **Foreign nationals commissioned or enlisted into British or, the then, Dominion Forces (e.g.**



Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Australian Navy) are eligible provided the individuals did not receive a similar award from their own Government.

- General – Eligibility to the Arctic Star has no effect upon eligibility for World War Two recognition

previously awarded and does not suggest automatic eligibility for any further awards.

PS You can apply posthumously for the medal.

Applications for the medal can be made via www.veterans-uk.info/arctic_star_index.htm or write to:

The Arctic Star, MOD Medal Office, Imjin Barracks, Innsworth, Gloucester, U.K. GL3 1HW.

• Contributions to The Lead & Line costs gratefully received from Associate Member David Nicholson



David has been providing trusted investment advice for over a quarter of a century!

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NOAVI LEAD AND LINE



“The Royal Canadian Navy excels in operations, both at home and abroad, because we train as we fight. You should take great pride not only in how diligently you prepared for this mission, but also for the manner in which you're executing it with skill and tenacity, making a difference for Canada and Canadians. You have made your Navy proud! BZ”

—CDR RCN, Bravo Zulu message to HMCS Toronto

HMCS Toronto is in the Indian Ocean as part of Operation Artemis whose goal is combatting terrorism. They seized 500 bags of illegal drugs after a week of preparation, primarily with the

Australians. The drugs were probably of Afghan origin and destined for Africa.



NOAVI LEAD AND LINE

Naval Cadets meet PM

DG Naval Personnel recently hosted and briefed naval cadets from RMC and accidentally supplied a celebrity visitor.

The annual event, which consists of a graduating class mess dinner, all-class reception and weekend briefing program, informs the cadets on developments in the Navy at a level which will be helpful in preparing them to join the fleet and be useful

Guest speakers included recently graduated RMC offi-



cers who have spent between one and two years in the fleet and who have already experienced deployments to Antarctica, Operation ARTEMIS in the Arabian Sea, in submarines and major engineering projects, in Operation CARIBBE and to French Polynesia aboard a French frigate.

The program culminated with a happenstance meeting between some of the naval cadets and the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, who had arrived at the RMC gymnasium to watch his son play volleyball.

MARITIME MUSEUM NEWS

Canadian SEA KING Helicopters Celebrate Their Golden Anniversary This Year

The rugged SEA KINGS have been flying from Canadian warships and ashore since 1963.

Retired Colonel John Orr, who has extensive experience in Maritime Helicopter operations, will give a talk entitled "PERSEVERANCE: Some Reflections on 50 Years of the Canadian SEA KING" in the museum courtroom 12 Noon, Wed, 8 May 2013.

Colonel Orr has written the history of the 'first' 50 years of the Canadian Sea King drawing on official documents and published material as well as more than 70 oral history interviews with those who have supported, maintained and flown this capable helicopter. Admission by donation.

PERSEVERANCE: SOME REFLECTIONS ON FIFTY YEARS OF THE CANADIAN SEA KING HELICOPTER



FROST FLOWERS



Gun Lake in British Columbia , Canada - frost flowers.

When these photographs were taken "the air was extremely cold and extremely dry, colder than the ocean surface. When the air gets that different from the sea, the dryness pulls moisture off little bumps in the ice, bits of ice vaporize, the air gets humid - but only for a while. The cold makes water vapor heavy. The air wants to release that excess weight, so crystal by crystal, air turns back into ice, creating delicate, feathery tendrils that reach sometimes two, three inches high, like giant snowflakes. The sea, literally, blossoms."

WHERE THE SHIPS ARE



Patrol Craft Training vessels, along with USS *Lake Champlain* berthed at Burrard Pier, North Vancouver.

Approximately 1,000 Canadian and American sailors were in Vancouver to meet with members of the public (and possibly sampled the pubs).

The event took place from April 25 – 28, 2013 at Canada Place in Vancouver and Burrard Pier in North Vancouver.

RCN Shows up to Vancouver Port Visit

The Destroyer HMCS *Algonquin* and the West Coast based Submarine HMCS *Victoria* docked at Canada Place last weekend, while two Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels, HMCS *Saskatoon* and HMCS *Nanaimo*, four ORCA

President's message

Continued from page 2
across the country. Just fill out the reservation form (at www.noavi.ca or in this month's Lead and Line) and remit the appropriate amount (\$100 per person or \$175 per couple). Hope to see you there!

Your Executive has been at it for quite a few years and we need new blood – please think about volunteering for any of the positions on the Executive, or just as a Director at Large. It's a 2 year term. There will be more on this in the June Issue of Lead and Line – please keep the day clear for the AGM following our lunch on June 17th (the day following your return from the NAC/NOAVI Alaska Cruise) at the Fireside Grill as usual.

Yours aye, Mike

Canada's longest performing male choir, the Arion Male Voice Choir, presents Something To Sing About

A tribute to iconic Canadian songs



*featuring music by Ian Tyson, 54-40,
Gordon Lightfoot, Oscar Brand, Gene
MacLellan, Carl Tapscott & more...*

Special Guests:

*Viva Youth Choir - New Young Men's Ensemble
May 10, 730 pm, at Centennial United Church, Victoria.
Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door*

*Email: paraje@shaw.ca or visit: arionchoir.ca, or
call: John at 250-656-2734 to arrange advance tickets.*

WHERE THE SHIPS ARE

Six injured as American Dynasty plows into HMCS Winnipeg

An engine room blackout last week caused the 272 foot Seattle-based fishing trawler to crash into HMCS Winnipeg, sending 6 civilian employees to hospital with bruises and sprains.

The vessel was being towed into dry-dock in Victoria harbour by two tugs, both of which were nearly swamped in the process.

The Transportation Safety Board has started an investigation, as has the Navy. Damage occurred to six civilians, the two vessels and the jetty at CFB Esquimalt and interest in the investigations is likely to be lively.

The American Dynasty was on its way to the federal graving dock for routine maintenance and is now moored at Victoria Shipyards with a great gash in the prow.

Winnipeg shows a compressed section to the top, port side of the reinforced bow which is sad news indeed when you consider she had almost completed an extensive refit.

The tug on the stern was dragged under by the towline and had to abort. The one on the bow broke his bridles getting out of the way.

It is too early to say exactly what the investigations will conclude but it does make one grateful they were not the engineer in charge.

Ed.



NOAVI Sword presented to Best Officer at Malahat

Lt(N) Kay van Akker of HMCS Malahat presented with the NOAVI sword for Best Officer in the Training Year 2012-13 by LCdr (ret'd) Gerry Pash on behalf of NOAVI. Please note that Lt van Akker will be attending our May luncheon.



NOAVI NAVAL LIVES

May 8th - Unveiling Ceremony - Commonwealth War Graves

A special ceremony will be held on Wed 8 May, 2013 at Royal Oak Burial Park, 4673 Falaise Drive, Victoria to commemorate the unveiling of a new memorial in remembrance of Victoria's only VC winner.

LCdr. Rowland Bourke is one of only 96 people in Canada who have ever been awarded the VC. As befits this prestigious award, the Commonwealth War Graves has commissioned a new memorial marker to recognize LCdr. Bourke's acts of bravery in World War 1.

The following story is taken from the CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum website

At the start of World War One, few people might have guessed that a quiet, introverted rancher from the interior of British Columbia (BC) would soon become one of only four Canadian naval Victoria Cross winners. Ironically, the late Victoria, BC resident, Commander Rowland Bourke, almost never made it to active duty.

Commander Bourke was born in London, England in 1885. At 17, he came with his family to Nelson, BC. When World War One broke out, he left the family fruit farm and volunteered to enlist in the Canadian forces, but was rejected in all three arms of service because of defective eyesight. Undaunted, he returned to England at his own expense and successfully joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve to serve on the motor launches.

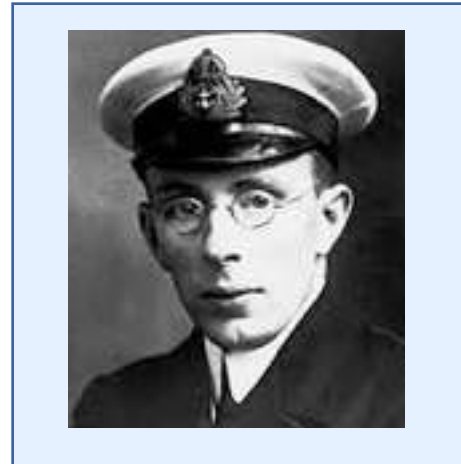
In April 1918, raids were arranged to block the Belgian harbour of Zeebrugge-Ostend, most heavily defended of all the German U-boat bases. Bourke, a Lieutenant at the time, immediately volunteered his vessel for the rescue of crews whose ships were sunk in the blockade effort. He was again rejected due to his poor eyesight. De-

spite being told most of the men would not make it back, Bourke persisted in offering his motor launch (ML) as a standby in case one of the chosen rescue motor launches was disabled.

As a result, on the night of April 23, Bourke's launch picked up 38 sailors from the sinking blockship HMS *Brilliant* and towed the crippled ML 532 out of the harbour. For this latter achievement Bourke was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

When the second operation against Zeebrugge-Ostend was called, Bourke's motor launch was found to be too damaged for the work. But Bourke was so eager to take part that he offered to give up his command in order to participate in the operation on another vessel, ML 254. Finally, however, his own ML was accepted as a standby. Bourke had just 24 hours to completely re-fit his vessel and find a new volunteer crew.

He succeeded, and on May 9-10, Bourke's ML followed the blockship HMS *Vindictive* back into the Belgian harbour. While backing out after the raid, he heard cries from the water. Bourke made a prolonged search of the area amid very heavy gunfire at close



range. He found a Lieutenant and two ratings from the RN ship badly wounded in the water. Bourke's own launch was hit 55 times and two of the crew were killed. Nevertheless, he managed to bring out his vessel in one piece.

For this action, King George V decorated Bourke with the Victoria Cross. He was also presented with the French Legion of Honour. With characteristic modesty, Bourke asked his family not to inform the press of his achievements.

After the war the reluctant hero returned to Nelson, BC and married. In 1932 he and his wife moved to Victoria and Bourke started work at HMC Dockyard in Esquimalt as a civilian clerk.

In 1941 he joined the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve. He served as Commander at HMCS *Givenchy*, Esquimalt, and Burrard, Vancouver.

In 1950 Bourke ended his long and dedicated career with the navy, retiring as supervisor of civilian guards. He died in August 1958 and was buried with full military honours.

AROUND THE WORLD



Elsewhere in the World

For the first time ever, the United States is deploying a solid-state laser weapon. The Laser Weapon System (LaWS) successfully destroyed a drone in flight during a test run and will head to the Persian Gulf aboard the USS *Ponce*.

The Navy released a video of the weapon system during a test aboard the USS *Dewey* in San Diego. The Navy shows a laser beam hitting an unmanned aircraft and after about four seconds, it catches fire and crashes into the ocean.

[The New York Times reports](#) that deploying the laser aboard the *Ponce* "seemed meant as a warning to Iran not to step up activity in the gulf in the next few months if tensions increase because of sanctions and the impasse in negotiations over the Iranian nuclear program."



The laser, the Navy said, will be capable of anything from non-lethal disabling to the total destruction of a vessel.

Chief of Naval Research Rear Admiral Matthew Klunder said one of the big advantages is that a laser shot costs about a dollar.

"Compare that to the hundreds of thousands of dollars it costs to fire a missile, and you begin to see the merits,"

Another big advantage: A laser moves at the speed of light and in the future it may be able to disable an incoming missile.

The laser also promises to be an excellent weapon to use against drones which are proliferating at a mad rate and posing new challenges to national security

NOAVI LEAD AND LINE



Mari-Tech 2013 - Canada's National Marine Exhibition & Conference is being held at the classic Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia from June 25-27, 2013.

Confirmed speakers include John Clark-son of the Transportation Safety Board, Jason Organ of Lloyd's Register, Hannes Bogaert of Marin Netherlands and many more. View the complete program online at Mari-Tech 2013.

The deadline for Early Bird Registration is **April 30**. Registration is available online and you can reserve a room at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel - by calling 1.888.627.8553 - for the special conference rate of \$189 per night.

NOAVI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting the President has issued the Annual Call for volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee and for proposed resolutions to be tabled at the next NOAVI AGM. Please forward any nominations and/or resolutions to the Secretary - Bud Rocheleau at 250-386-3209 or "bnhrocheleau@shaw.ca".

NOTICE OF NOAVI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 66th Annual General Meeting will take place at the Fireside Grill 4509 West Saanich Road, Royal Oak, Saanich, BC on Monday, 24 June, 2013 on completion of the Luncheon.

1. To consider, and subject to any necessary amendments, approve the minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting held on Mon 25 June 2012;
2. To receive the report of the President;
3. To consider and approve the financial statements for the year ending 31 March, 2013;
4. To appoint auditors for the year ending 2013;
5. To ratify and confirm the actions of the Executive Committee and Officers for the year 2012/2013 and to authorize the Executive Committee to take action on behalf of the Organization for the year 2013/2014; and
6. To transact such business as may be properly brought before this meeting.

Service Officer's report

Mrs. Margaret Bartlett,
Mount St Mary's Hospital,
861 Fairfield Rd.

LCdr. Ted Clayyards
Palm South Broadmead Lodge

Lt. Sheila Davis
Oak Bay Lodge, 2251 Cadboro Bay
Rd. V8R 5H3 Ph: 250-595-4844
tinda@shaw.ca

Cdr. Rusty MacKay also Liz
4619 Elk Lake Dr.
Ph 250-727-7460

Capt(N) Brant (P) Fotheringham
10225 Resthaven Dr.
Ph 250-656-0132

Cdr. Ted and Addie Semmens
Broadmead Rm A430,
Ph 250-592-2345

LCdr Bill Creighton
Daffodil Lodge, Sunridge Lodge,
361 Bundock Pl. Duncan B.C,
Behind Dairy Queen

Lt Tom Arkell
602 Ross Place Retirement Home
2638 Ross Lane. Ph 250-385-2638

LCdr. Ward Palmer 3101 Dolphin
Dr .Nanoose Bay B.C. V9B 9J2
Ph 250-468-7101

LCdr. W. Walker and
Nursing Sister Catherine Walker
3225 Exeter Victoria
Ph 250-592-0769

Please phone prior to visiting

The visitation committee will be carrying out a mini blitz of members by telephone in the next month` If you are called you will be asked a few simple questions regarding your welfare and well being as well as to answer to any queries of NOAVI you may have. If you wish a personal visit or you are willing to help with our phoning ,please call Irvine Hare 250 592-2268 or Elizabeth or Peter Campbell 250-478-7351

NAC NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Asia Pacific - Its Impact on Canada and the RCN

NAC Conference and AGM 2013

Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria, British Columbia

Hosted by the Naval Officers Association of Vancouver Island

REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Information

First Name

.....

Last Name

.....

NAC Branch

.....

Address

.....

City

.....

Province

Postal Code

Phone Number

.....

Email

.....

Conference Registration – please check and enter the indicated amount. Please note that, where a member and partner are attending, a separate registration form is required for each person.

- Member (\$100) – or - – Non-Member (\$200) \$.....
- Partner Program (\$50) \$.....

Please continue on reverse side of form

NAC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Optional Activities

NAC Dinner (Registrants and their guests only)

– Single ticket (\$100) – or - – Couple (\$175) \$.....

UNTD Functions (All registrants are welcome to participate in the UNTD functions)

Weepers - – Single ticket (\$15) – or - – Couple (\$30) \$.....

UNTD Dinner - - – Single ticket (\$50) – or - – Couple (\$100) \$.....

Alaska Cruise

Are you planning to participate in the Alaska cruise? – Yes – or - – No
(Please note that the cruise question is for our information only and does not represent a commitment on your part)

Payment Information

Please enter the total of all the dollar amounts you have entered above \$.....

Please send this form, together with your cheque, payable to **NOAVI (NAC AGM 2013)**, for the total cost, to:

NAC Registration
Naval Officers Association of Vancouver Island
PO Box 5221
Victoria, BC V8R 6N4

Other Information

- We regret that payment at the door cannot be accepted
- If you need to cancel your reservation, refunds (less a \$25 cancellation fee) will be available until May 3, 2013. After that date, we regret that no refunds can be made.
- You may transfer your registration to another person at any time provided that you inform Eric Griffiths by writing to the above address or by phoning (250) 858-3114
- This reservation is for the conference and related events only. You must make hotel and/or cruise reservations yourself if you wish them