

## SWAP MEET AND SAFETY DAY...

# YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE

*article by Jonathan Chilvers, photos by Colleen Shantz*

Now we are really getting into the swing of the sailing season! The day before Sail Past was the annual Swap Meet and Safety Day, which all seems to suggest that many more members are getting ready for a summer afloat.

Swap meet is about money -- the chance to trade some of your unwanted bits and bobs for cash. More importantly it is about raising a little money for the Junior programmes, through donations or through commissions on stuff you sold. Barry MacDonald did the pre-organization; Arlene and Don Dashwood were the ringmasters on Saturday and, kudos to them all, they netted \$340 for the Juniors.



The Sunday Sail Past you must surely know about, but here are some of the highlights of Saturday's Safety Day in case you were not fortunate enough to be an active learner. The whole event was under the direction of Trevor Bishop. We don't want this report to read like a telephone directory but there were many people in the organizing crew and they all deserve a salute. After all, it is potentially your life that they were helping to save so say thank you.

Hull inspections were coordinated by Julian Clark and John Binsted. For the modest cost of \$25 diver Chris West would take a fish's eye view of your hull and report on what work needed to be done...a whole lot cheaper than a haul out. If the boat owner

decided to hire Chris to do the recommended work even that \$25 fee would be refunded. Nine members took advantage of this check-up opportunity.

On board your boat, RCM SAR (Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue) were available to check your fire extinguishers, flares, first aid kit, life ring and other key safety equipment as well as to provide precautionary advice. Tom McKeachie performed six inspections.

Dr. David Butcher showed how to save a life with the club's AED (Automated External Defibrillator) with prompt and informed action. Would you have known what to do? Do you now?

The Salt Spring Fire Department was on hand to demonstrate how knowing the effective use of a fire extinguisher could save your boat and your life. Larry Melious arranged it and audience members (like Norbert Schlenker below) even got to grab the gear and douse a real fire. Fires are fun in very controlled conditions on a sunny Saturday morning in the club driveway. Just think how different they could be if you were alone out on the water on your boat. Be prepared!



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Heather Sloat had some entertaining quizzes and games to test the audience safety awareness and sometimes remind us of important things we might have forgotten.



Derek Barrio demonstrated the use of the club's dockside fire pump and everybody (e.g. Ben Sutton) who took a turn at dousing an imaginary fire showed great restraint by not also dousing the spectators.



Nic Futter, another RCM SAR volunteer, showed us how to deploy a life ring and a throw bag (and Rory the Wonder Dog was, with a little difficulty, restrained in his eagerness to retrieve them from the water). Nic also showed how to get a person out of the water to safety ... well, not a real person but a full size dummy.



Many club members and other volunteers went to a lot of trouble to stage all these demonstrations. It was surprising to some to see how relatively few members came to watch and learn ... maybe thirty at a rough, entirely informal count. True, we have many skilled, experienced and safety-savvy mariners in the club, but when it possibly comes to a question of life and death for you, your family or friends, is there any such thing as too many refresher courses? Safety Day will doubtless be repeated next year. Think about it.



And do check out more photos on our Flickr page (access through Club Photos on the website.)