



# **The Deck Log**

**Newsletter of the Master Mariners of  
Canada (MMC)**

**NL Division**

**January – March 2020**

## Wednesday January 1, 2020

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Here in Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador brought in the New Year First.



We hope 2020 will prove to be a very good year for everyone. Some changes, some improvements and some advancement may be in store for some people.

We hope you will take on 2020 with courage and enthusiasm. We wish you, all the best.

## Thursday January 9, 2020

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Division took place at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club. There were seventeen in attendance.



Seated L-R: Shawn Kirby, Maria Halfyard, Eben March, Jennifer Howell and Ed Turner.

Standing L-R: Ed Anthony, Drew McNeill, Keith Stone, Sean Quinlan, John Ennis, Jamie White, Chris Hearn, Glenn Fiander, Paul Kean, Richard Edwards and Zaki (missing in the picture – Jim Parsons).

The Divisional Master Capt. Eben March presented his report and gave some additional remarks. The report was accepted by the attendees. Following that the Treasurer Capt. Paul Kean presented his report. The Treasurer's report also was accepted by those present. Capt. Drew McNeill and Capt. John Ennis volunteered to audit the Treasurer's Ledger.

One member of the Divisional Council resigned (Councillor for Membership). There were four names proposed for this position. A secret ballot was conducted and Capt. Richard Edwards was elected to this position. Capt. John Ennis and Mr. Shawn Kirby were the vote counters.

The Divisional Council for 2020 – 2021 consists of the following:

**Divisional Master: Capt. Eben March**

**Deputy Div. Master: Capt. John Ennis**

**Treasurer: Capt. Paul Kean**

**Assistant Div. Master – Membership:**

**Capt. Richard Edwards**

**Assistant Div. Master – Special Events:**

**Capt. Jim Parsons**

**Secretary: Capt. Zaki**



## Wednesday January 15, 2020

A special meeting took place this evening at 7 pm. The meeting was to conduct a final discussion before the January 25<sup>th</sup> Nautical Skills Competition (NSC).

There are 57 students registered for the NSC. There are ten high school students taking part and one of them from Fogo Island and one from Ontario. Seven companies will be attending the gala dinner and awards ceremony. It was agreed if Capt. Jim Parsons agrees he will be the MC at the awards ceremony.



Front L-R: Maria Halfyard, John Ennis, Drew McNeill and Jamie White. Middle L-R: Glenn Finder and Victor March. Standing L-R: Eben March, Richard Edwards, Chris Hearn, Jennifer Howell and Tony Patterson.

The Exercise Leads are: Offshore Operations – Capt. Eben March; Dynamic Positioning (DP) – Capt. Glenn Fiander; Ship Maneuvering – Capt. Jamie White; Seamanship – Capt. John Ennis; Stability and Emergency Management – Capt. Victor March and Fast Rescue Craft (FRC) – Capt. Tony Patterson.

## Friday January 17, 2020

The morning started decently however that did not last very long before the forecasted one of a kind winter (SNOW) storm started to become a reality. This Friday everything was closed and shutdown. That meant the

provincial government, businesses and schools (and everything). St. John's and surrounding communities declared an emergency for the first time as far as people can remember.



Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday everything remained closed. However Monday some pharmacies were allowed to open for limited number of hours ONLY for medication and requirements for babies. At the same time gas stations also opened for limited number of hours so people can purchase gas and or diesel.

Tuesday the City allowed the grocery shops to open for a limited number of hours. The roads were still in bad shape as some of the roads had only one cut made by the snowplough. The City continuously advised the public not to venture out of their property to allow snow clearing.



Today it was announced that almost everything such as university, colleges and schools will remain closed the rest of the week to allow snow clearing.

Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> the emergency was lifted at 6 am. It will take time for the City to operate normally. Some schools will remain closed even on the 27<sup>th</sup>.



## **Saturday February 1, 2020**

**The Nautical Skills Competition (NSC) that was scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> was postponed to today as St. John's NL had one of a kind very sever snow storm.**

The NSC started at 7:30 am and went on till 5 pm. It was a very successful competition. At this competition for the first time a new exercise (Search and Rescue – SAR) was introduced. This exercise was provided by Virtual Marine Technology (VMT) of which Captain Tony Patterson (Member MMC) is

the CEO. This exercise proved to be a great success.

There were the following exercises:

- 1- Shiphandling / Navigation
- 2- Dynamic Positioning
- 3- Offshore Operations
- 4- Seamanship
- 5- Cargo Work
- 6- SAR

At the end of the day there was a banquet and awards presentations. For further information a dedicated NSC Newsletter will be out shortly.



Ms Maria Halfyard has been volunteering as the NSC Coordinator from the very beginning. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> NSC and Maria is doing a fantastic job at this. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts.

## **Monday February 10, 2020**

**Captain James Robert Ewart, MM  
June 7, 1958 – February 10, 2020  
OBITUARY**

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of “Capt. Jim”. We are only now beginning to realize the immense impact he had on so many right across this country and

beyond. We were fortunate to know him as: a loving husband, an amazing dad, and a cherished brother, uncle and cousin. He also always had a very special spot for great-nephew, Mr. E. For others, he was a loyal colleague, a trusted mentor and a treasured friend. He had a very generous heart and a belief in never taking more than you can give – and give, he did. As he would say, he “loved fiercely” and first and foremost was the love he had for his two beautiful daughters, Adrienne and Samantha. He was immensely proud of the women they have become and the lives they have begun with their partners.

A sense of duty and service ran throughout his life and, in particular, his 38 years with the Canadian Coast Guard where he has maintained many solid lifelong friendships. He also had a deep conviction to giving the disadvantaged a fighting chance which was evident through a variety of causes he supported such as his long-standing commitment to World Vision and his assistance for Champ, a sweet disabled pup from Iqaluit.

Jim forged a new life partnership with his wife, Robbin, with whom he ran SILA North, and together they proudly served interests in Canada’s eastern Arctic. His other much-loved role was leading an expanding husky pack with whom he was known for his secret recipe cookies and bacon Sundays. Jim was also a strong voice encouraging inclusion and diversity in the maritime industry through the Company of Master Mariners of Canada (MMC) of which he was a proud member, Divisional Master of the Vancouver Island Division and National Board member.

His sudden and unexpected departure has left all of us completely devastated. We please ask for understanding as his family navigates this difficult time. We wish to reflect on how best to honour this great man

who has been a huge part of our lives and find the appropriate way to show our respect and undying love. Celebrations of life will take place in the months ahead as we try to find our strength and our way forward without him at our side, cheering us on as he always did. We loved him as did so many and know that our lives will never be the same without him but consider ourselves fortunate for every moment spent in his company.

Jim is survived by his wife Robbin; daughters: Adrienne (Matthew) and Samantha (Evan); sisters: Susan, Janet (Richard); brother Barry and former wife Lori (Wayne).

We hope to join you in celebration later but for those who wish to express their thoughts and support now, please note a few of Jim’s favoured charities (below). As well, his Facebook page will be opened to accept tributes, grand stories and great yarns of his adventures that have touched many.



Captain Jim Ewart

Details of arrangements made to celebrate his life will be posted here once known and on his Facebook page.

With love and much gratitude, Capt. Jim’s family  
Favoured charities: MMC  
Foundation, Iqaluit Humane Society, World Vision

## Thursday February 13, 2020

MMC NL Division regular monthly meeting took place at the Crow's Nest Officers' Club. Capt. Eben March conveyed the shocking news of the sudden passing of Capt. Jim Ewart, Divisional Master of Vancouver Island Division. Capt. Eben March expressed our heartfelt condolences to Robbin Sinclair and their family. Capt. Ewart passed away only on the 12<sup>th</sup> and we have no further information he said.

Capt. March showed a short video of the NSC. He said CBC did an interview with him which was pod cast. He said Capt. Chris Hall, President of MMC was at the NSC as one of the judges.

Capt. March said Skills Canada has invited the MMC NL Division to operate a booth at their March 2020 event at the College of North Atlantic.



Capt. Eben March showing NSC video

## Thursday February 13, 2020

**Virtual Marine Technology (VMT) receives provincial funding.**

*“Innovation and Business Development Fund Supports Marine Simulation Training Technology.”*



*Captain Tony Patterson, CEO, VMT*

*The Honourable Siobhan Coady, Minister of Natural Resources, and the Honourable Bernard Davis, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, today announced \$524,000 through the Innovation and Business Development Fund for a*

*project led by Virtual Marine Technology Incorporated.*

*The project involves an opportunity for market growth for Virtual Marine, resulting in the company securing 20 new high-skilled positions locally – with the capability of bringing cutting-edge technologies to export markets. Over a three-year period, Virtual Marine will build three life boat simulators, which bring together the realism of being in a lifeboat cabin, with the sensation of movement replicating a lifeboat in emergency scenario sea states. These simulators will be built and shipped using local Newfoundland and Labrador suppliers that are part of Virtual Marine’s supply chain.*

*The company will install these offshore training simulators in three locations globally (Scotland, Qatar and Trinidad). This project will allow for an inflow of capital to Newfoundland and Labrador from Virtual Marine’s training sales abroad, and result in increased opportunities for additional research with Newfoundland and Labrador post-secondary institutions. The three simulators will also be satellites to the main hub in St. John’s, allowing the new data from the simulators to be used to create customized training – ultimately enhancing available offshore emergency training for the oil and gas and other marine sectors locally and globally.”*

## **Saturday February 15, 2020**

**This is the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the Ocean Ranger, taking 84 lives with**

**it in 1982.** This of course happened on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.



The Ocean Ranger was the world’s largest semi-submersible drilling rig. (picture from internet).

The Memorial Service organized by Gonzaga High School was held at St. Pius X church in St. John’s, NL.

## **Wednesday February 19, 2020**

Regular meeting of the Nautical Skills Competition (NSC) Committee took place at the Marine Institute (MI).

It was observed that the students were more engaged at this NSC. The students also liked the early introduction to various instruments. It was felt that the cargo work needs to be changed for the next competition. It was very good that the National President of the MMC, Capt. Chris Hall was able to attend as one of the judges. There was an expression that it would be a good idea to have two high school students per team.

It was felt that late January would be the best time for NSC. This year it was postponed to first of February due to the extra ordinary snow storm here in St. John’s, NL. Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) also has a NSC. However there they also include engineering students.

## Thursday March 12, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Division took place at the Crow's Nest at 7 pm. This evening we had a speaker. Ms Charlene Johnson, CEO of Newfoundland Oil and Gas Industries Association (NOIA).

She gave a very interesting presentation including some most eye opening numbers.

She said offshore resource assessments of NL indicate that we have 52 billion barrels of oil and 199 trillion cubic feet of gas. She said we have well trained people in NL. She indicated we have had 50 / 55 exploration wells and expect 100 wells during the next 10 years.

Ms Johnson indicated that 36% of GDP of Newfoundland and Labrador comes from oil and gas. She also indicated that this sector provides about \$2 billion in labour income; about \$100 billion in royalties and taxes; about \$4.6 billion in labour income; about \$3.5 billion in consumer spending.



This picture shows you Ms Charlene Johnson at the end of the table with computer giving the presentation.



Captain Eben March presented a small gift to Ms Charlene Johnson in appreciation for taking time to come and give this most interesting presentation.

## **COVID-19**

As of today, Thursday March 19, 2020 NL has one positive case of Covid-19 and two suspected, related to the first one.

THE FOLLOWING FROM VOCCM News:



L-R: Dr. John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services, Premier, Hon. Dwight Ball and Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

The province of Newfoundland and Labrador has declared a Public Health Emergency in Newfoundland and Labrador (18 March 2020).

That means anyone not in compliance could be subject to a \$500 to \$2,500 fine or even prison time. Corporations face more significant penalties—such as \$5,000 to \$50,000 fines—and directors of corporations can be held personally liable. Each day individuals or corporations are not in compliance will result in another layer of penalties.

Gyms and other fitness facilities, bars and arenas must close, and there can be no gatherings of over 50 people. Restaurants which can maintain proper social distancing can remain open.

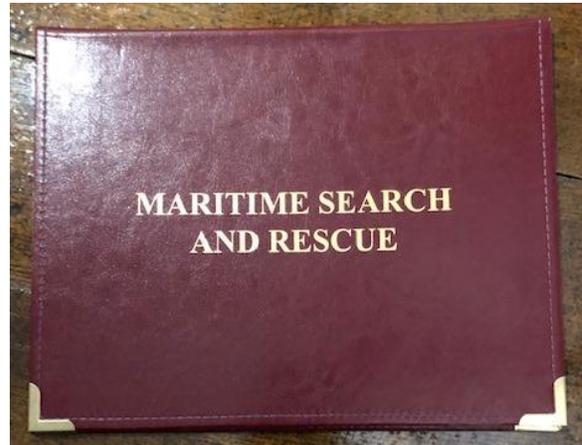
## Supply Vessel BURIN SEA

The Captain of the supply vessel Burin Sea was Captain Eben March. When the vessel was sold the company retrieved from the vessel a very important certificate. This certificate was presented to Captain and Crew of the Burin Sea in recognition of the great job they did in rescuing the crew of the vessel Marine Clipper II when it caught fire. Capt. Ray Dalton brought with him this

certificate. He spoke about this and presented it to Capt. Eben March.



L-R: Capt. Ray Dalton and Capt. Eben March



The following from CBC news:

CBC News · Posted: May 04, 2010 10:27 AM NT | Last Updated: May 4, 2010

Five fishermen who escaped from a burning fishing boat northeast of St. John's early Tuesday credited safety training for saving their lives.

The skipper and crew of the Marine Clipper II leapt from the boat into a life-raft after noticing fire. Other fishing vessels in the area responded quickly.

"Nobody understands how fast it actually happened," one of the crewmembers told CBC News after he and his crew arrived in

St. John's aboard the **supply vessel Burin Sea**.

"Within minutes from the time we [saw] the fire and smoke till we were in the life-raft ... we didn't have time to check. It was really quick," said the crewmember, who would not identify himself.

The fisherman and his co-workers said they survived the ordeal because they had been diligent in their training, particularly in how to don survival suits.

All but one of the crew was able to put on survival suits before they escaped from the burning boat.



This photograph, taken by a Canadian Forces Cormorant, shows how quickly fire consumed the Marine Clipper II on Tuesday morning. ((DND)).

### **The following contributed by Captain Eben March – related to m/v Burin Sea:**

*On May 4, 2010, the Burin Sea was on route to St. John's 14 miles east of the harbour entrance. At 09:12, a mayday call came in on channel 16 VHF. The only*

*information relayed was the position of the vessel. Sea conditions were 3 - 3.5 meter seas and 28-33 knots of wind. Water temperature was 3 degrees Celsius. Visibility was reduced to less than three miles with some rain.*

*The Chief Mate on watch immediately copied the position and determined the vessel was 15 miles north of the Burin Sea. This position was then confirmed with Coast Guard Radio and Vessel Traffic Services both out of St. John's. There was no further radio traffic from the mayday vessel. After several unsuccessful contact attempts by Coast Guard Radio, the mayday position was confirmed through recorded tapes of all radio communications.*

*The Coast Guard requested the Burin Sea to proceed to the position of the mayday to investigate. The Burin Sea altered course towards the mayday position given at 09:12 and the estimated ETA was approximately sixty minutes.*

*Crew on watch was instructed to prepare for the possibility of rescued individuals coming on board. The Port FRC prepared for launch. The Chief Mate retrieved and entered the mayday position in the GPS to be used by both FRCs.*

*When the Burin Sea was six miles from the location of the mayday vessel, a second vessel, the fishing vessel Goldorak, reported it was close to the position and could see a life raft in the water. The Goldorak could not confirm if persons were in the life raft. The decision was made to launch the Port FRC with three Burin Sea crew members onboard. The burning fishing vessel was then confirmed to be the Marine Clipper II.*

*The Burin Sea was approximately four miles from mayday location. The Stbd FRC was ready to launch with another three Burin Sea crew members onboard. The Stbd FRC*

*was launched and preceded in the direction of the Port FRC. The Port FRC was heading towards the life raft and the Goldorak.*

*When the Port FRC was approximately three miles from the life raft, the Goldorak reported that all five individuals from the mayday vessel were in the life raft. It was reported that one person was not wearing an immersion suit and appeared to be extremely cold. The decision was made to transport individuals from the life raft to the Burin Sea using two FRCs.*

*The Port FRC returned to the Stbd side of the Burin Sea with three individuals and was recovered. The individual with no immersion suit was quickly wrapped in additional blankets and was assisted to the ships hospital for assessment. The other two individuals appeared to be in good condition and were assisted in entering the ships accommodations. The Stbd FRC returned to the Port Side of the Burin Sea with the two remaining individuals and was recovered. These individuals appeared to be in good condition and were assisted in entering the ships accommodations.*

*All recovered individuals were wet and given dry clothing and blankets.*

*The Burin Sea was instructed by the Coast Guard to return to port. Other vessels would recover the life raft, EPIRB and attend to the Marine Clipper II.*



*Port FRC returning to the Stbd side of the Burin Sea with first three persons from the Marine Clipper II*



*Marine Clipper II approx. 50 Minutes after mayday call received*



**CAPTAIN ANGUS MCDONALD**  
(1926 – 2020)

Capt. Angus McDonald passed away on the night of March 23, 2020.

The following from Ms Alison McDonald (daughter):

*It is with an extremely heavy heart that I am writing to let you know that Angus died last night (night of March 23, 2020). It was*

*quick and he didn't suffer, and I was with him. Angus didn't complain and persevered through discomfort and decreasing mobility. And he missed Mary so much.*

*You are all such great friends of his. He was humbled that you had nominated him for the **Sovereign's Medal and the UK Medal for Meritorious Service** - and that he was awarded those medals. He really appreciated your friendship and the great times you, he and Mary shared over the many years of your friendship. Lindsay and I are also grateful for your friendship with our father and what you have done for him. It means a lot to us.*

*Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Angus' funeral service will be held later. We will let you know as soon as we have an idea of when.*

*Alison*

*Angus was 93 (would have been 94 this June 27<sup>th</sup>). As you know, he was passionate about nautical matters and loved helping to organize conferences and promoting safer conditions for seafarers. He appreciated the enthusiasm of those he worked with on those endeavours. Angus was always interested in learning, and teaching and swapping ideas with others who were too.*

*We are happy that he, only a few weeks ago, was **presented with the UK Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service** for service to the safety of seafarers and to the maritime industry; and in 2018, he was awarded **"The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers"** by the **Governor General for Canada** in recognition of his volunteer services with numerous community organizations. He was humbled by these awards; as a family, we were delighted in this recognition.*

*We appreciate hearing from you and your memories and thoughts about our father. It is lovely to know that he will be remembered so well.*

*Thank you. Zaki*

*Alison, Lindsay and Alan*

**The following is a short piece from the "Newfoundland Report" that was published in the Company of Master Mariners of Canada newsletter "From the Bridge", October / December 1991.**

*There is no doubt that the Marine Conference jointly sponsored by the Nautical Institute Newfoundland Branch and The Company of Master Mariners of Canada was a very successful one indeed. A big THANK YOU to the Marine Institute for hosting the conference.*

*It was well organized and all the arrangements were excellent. Special thanks to Captain A. McDonald who worked hard in attracting the participants, and putting together the lovely leaflet for distribution.*

*This was a first for The Company of Master Mariners of Canada and a very good beginning. The tremendous success of this conference is proof that we should seriously consider having a conference every year in conjunction with the AGM. It is most appropriate that an agreement was reached in principle to hold a conference (in conjunction with the AGM) in Montreal next year with Canadian Marine Law Association as partner. I am confident that it will prove to be another success.*

*Capt. A. Zaki, Divisional Master  
Newfoundland Division*