

STRAWBERRY ISLE MARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

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Scuttle Butt – May 2009 By Rod Palm

Well this isn't your regular sort of Scuttle Butt but it's one that is of interest and, in my estimation, worth relaying on to you.

We're calling it, "There just happened to be." (TJHTB)

On May 12, Dominique Dupuis (Pipot) captaining the Hot Springs Cove shuttle vessel "Close Encounters II" dropped his guests off on the float in the cove. TJHTB the HMS sail training ship "Oriole" also pulling into the cove being operated by, of all folks, a Royal Canadian Air Force crew. True to form, Pipot chatted it up with the "Oriole's" officers and ended up taking them out fishing while his guests enjoyed the springs. To the officer's delight, they jigged up a couple of rock fish in very short order.

Meanwhile back at the cove, the guest have made the 30 minute hike out to the hot springs and are enjoying their soak when 50+ year old Tom Lornie from Ucluelet starts feeling considerable discomfort and passes out slamming his head on the rocks. TJHTB a Doctor (Judith) also at the springs, who leaps to assist, no pulse, cardiac arrest! Judith gets him back to conscious and TJHTB a dozen or so of the air force crew also at the springs with a hand-held radio. A call is made to the "Oriole" for oxygen and assistance; there is already a stretcher on site. The oxygen is very quickly thrown into a small inflatable boat and delivered to the springs. TJHTB, also at the springs, a nurse with advanced training in oxygen therapy.

Meanwhile, Pipot also got the call, reeled in the fishing gear and sped back to the dock with the officers. Word needs to get out to Tofino to get a plane up for evacuation. The problem here is, radio and cel phone communication doesn't work from in the cove. But, you guessed it TJHTB Bruce Adams on the "Leviathan II" watching whales off Cleland Island and he is able to catch bits and pieces of Ike Campbell's transmission from the "Miss Behaven." Bruce in turn relayed the situation to dispatcher Ocean Giesbrecht at the Ocean Outfitters base in Tofino. Ocean immediately contacted Coast Guard who contacted Tofino air who's Beaver JHTB available and was summarily dispatched.

Ninety plus kilo Tom was loaded onto the stretcher and the overland trek back to the dock quickly got underway. The shore line at this location is much too surf swept for transfer to a small boat. You have to appreciate that this is a roughly planked trail winding its way up, down, over and under through about 2 kilometres of ancient rainforest. The strapping air force crew rotated their duties lugging the stretcher and made it out and onto the waiting plane in about 45 minutes.

I'm pleased to say that focus of all this astounding effort was loaded into the waiting ambulance, rushed to the Tofino hospital where he soon became stable and was released the following day.

Tom is taking it easy at home for now and still can't believe his fortune and the good will of so many folks that came together to help him out. He feels both extremely grateful and fortunate.

Tom's daughter Colleen was with him at the springs and remains understandable shook up by the whole incident but very thankful.

This event is a good example of the cohesiveness of folks who work the some times challenging waters of our rugged West Coast. There was no hesitation at all by any of the people involved. A job just needed to be done.