

**For Posterity's Sake**

**A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project**

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**HMCS YUKON 263**

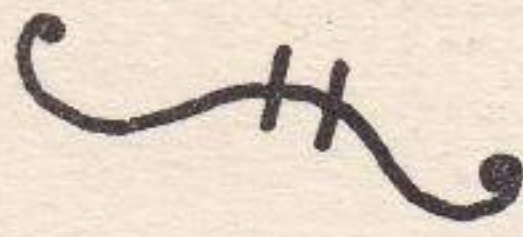
**Crossing the Line (Equator) Booklet – Sep 1982**

**Courtesy of**

**Michael Knott, AB NET(C)**

# CROSSING

## THE LINE



SEPT. 1982



"ONLY THE FIT SURVIVE"

Trous -82

The History Behind the  
"Crossing the Line Ceremony"

Way back in the Enlightened days of the World's History when the Greek Civilization was in its Prime...When Romulus and Remus were nothing more than twinkles in their father's eyes and Britons were even less civilized than they are today...There was a God, a Deity, called Poseidon. As the Books have it, "His Domain was of Hercules and he had some Authority". In other words he was "God of the Seas" and the ancient Greek Matelots were accustomed to burning incense, and singing "Eternal Father" and other odds and ends to intercede for his Good Offices. In fact, the Greeks went even further than we do today, by erecting statues of Atlas at seaports, and training special Priests to attend to the Rites and Rituals. It was an extremely highly organized business; unfortunately, history does not record whether or not Poseidon came through in the pinches.

Now Poseidon, by the simple expedient of Turning on a storm once in a while, to frighten the poor Greeks, did quite well for himself for several centuries and would have lived happily ever after if it hadn't been for the Romans. The Romans were not up to much in the ways of Seamanship, but they had all taken Leadership courses, and even in those days, this is what counted in the long run, for they finally succeeded in driving the Greeks from the seas. Even then however, Poseidon continued to whip up the odd storm at sea, and the Romans, although not particularly frightened, decided it was only logical to do something about the situation. The answer was of course, to obtain the services of a God who could effectively put Poseidon in the Shade, and the Romans, having no spare Gods around Olympus at that time had to borrow one from the Etruscans (History does not relate if he was ever returned). His name was Neptune, or Nethunus depending on which part of Etruscia you came from. But the Romans called him Neptunus for convenience. Poor old Poseidon, of course was left far behind because the Romans were fairly rich, and could erect more altars and sing more choruses of "Eternal Father" than the Greeks ever deemed necessary. In fact, to show you how far Neptunus did go, Poseidon had a wife called Amphitrite, who was incidentally the Daughter of Oceanus, a very big wheel in the Greek system, and he had gone to some trouble to marry this woman...She didn't particularly like the idea and had fled to Mount Atlas when she heard of it, but Poseidon had sent along one of his Dolphins to collect her...Neptunus actually adopted this woman, which made him Poseidon's Father-in-Law, and Poseidon, upon hearing this, committed suicide by taking a "Deep Six" in his own ocean, leaving Neptunus as the Supreme Power.

Well, to make a long story short, While we know all about Neptunus, his life and works, historians of a later date were not so close up as the Romans and Greeks, and they did not record how the "Crossing the Line Ceremony" came into being, so present day Scholars have to say that "It's origin is wrapt(or shrouded) in Mystery" and that we can only guess at its inception into the Maritime Services. Some fairly educated guesses have been made and the dates have been narrowed down to the half century between 1768 and 1818. One, Professor Callender, who's opinion we must admit, is rather biased in these matters, reckons that the Custom was brought into being in the Royal Navy's East Indian Command during Nelson's Day. Since most of the Navy's peculiar customs can be traced back to Dear Old Nelson, one way or the other, this may be considered not a bad guess.

Why they chose the Equator instead of the International Date Line or the Arctic Circle is another point altogether and your guess is as good as Professor Callender's.

To bring this Short History up to date: it should be mentioned that certain Sects or Cults, such as the Ocean Side of the Canadian Forces, still practice this Ancient Ritual of "Crossing the Line" although in a lighter form and on the following pages will be found the complete details of the latest "Ceremony carried out in Her Majesty's Canadian Ship YUKON when she Crossed the Equator in September, 1982 in company with her sisters QU'APPELLE, SASKATCHEWAN and MACKENZIE enroute from Pearl Harbour to Tonga.

The enlightened ceremony takes three phases: First, the Herald of His Oceanic Majesty comes on board the night before the actual crossing in order to inspect the ship and decide upon it's worthiness to receive on board, Neptunus Rex in all his glory. His opinion favourable, Neptune himself comes on board the following day with all his Court and presents Orders and Awards to those SHELLBACKS\* who have proven themselves worthy thereof. The third and final phase takes place when King Neptune supervises the initiation of all TADPOLES\* (POLLYWOGS).

Note: \* A SHELLBACK is one who has been initiated into the Ancient Order of the Mysteries of the Deep.

\*\* A TADPOLE (POLLYWOG) is one who has not yet had this privilege.

KING NEPTUNES ROYAL COURT

NEPTUNE	C2 Campbell-Hope	
AMPHITRITE	Lt(N) Saladana	
HERALD	P2 Stuppiello	
SECRETARY	MS Hleuka	
DAVEY JONES	P2 Dunn	
SCRIBE	LS Cooper	
JUDGE	Lt(N) Osborne	
Doctor No. 1	P1 Moore	
Doctor No. 2	P2 Roberge	
BARBER NO. 1	P2 McNeill	
BARBER NO. 2	LS Essex	
TRIDENT STAMPERS 1.	LS Oyler	
2.		
Mermaid	P2 Becevel & LS Weibe	
Chief of POLICE	P2 Eatmon	
Bugler	P2 Gallacher	
Deputy Chief of POLICE	P1 Dennet	
PROPS	P1 Sterling	- Policeman
	MS Trudel	- Bear
	P2 Gouk	- Bear
Chief BEAR	C1 Deen	
Deputy Chief BEAR	Cdr Crow	

Police

P1 Windle  
 LCdr Gostlow  
 P1 Radmore  
 LS Vegh  
 P1 McBean  
 C2 Koss  
 P1 Stott  
 P2 Jefferies  
 AB Kemp  
 C1 Cappell  
 C2 Topping  
 P1 Butler  
 P1 Davies  
 P2 Pyrczak  
 P2 Smith  
 LCDR Montgomery

Bears

LS Hodges-Whittaker  
 Lt(N) McCormick  
 Lt(N) Long  
 SLt Butcher  
 P2 Walsh  
 LCdr Redmond  
 MS Idington  
 C2 McIntyre  
 MS Dupuis  
 P2 Waetzold  
 AB Burrige  
 MS Carnall  
 LS Warren  
 Capt(N) Draper  
 Lt(N) Rauw  
 MS White

TADPOLES

OCDT CLARK  
 OCDT GARRY  
 A/SLT LAPORTE  
 OCDT MCAFARLIN  
 OCDT SHERRITT  
 A/SLT NADEAU  
 OS DESNOYERS  
 SEA CADET HODGSON  
 OS YACKS

OCDT COOKE  
 OCDT HANN  
 OCDT LAGALLIC  
 OCDT RCBITAILLE  
 OCDT KAVANAGH  
 A/SLT STANLEY  
 OS GUILLET  
 OS MCPHERSON

OCDT DOWD  
 OCDT KILEY  
 OCDT MASSE  
 OCDT SAUVAGEAU  
 A/SLT MCDOUGALL  
 OS BATTEN  
 SEA CADET HAIP  
 OS WINTER

TADPOLES

A/Slt Hache  
LCdr Montgomery  
Lt Polson  
A/Slt Leak  
A/Slt Elderfield  
OS AUGUSTYNEK  
OS BELL  
AB DWYER  
MS HASLAM  
MS HUTCHINGS  
OS LAMB  
OS LINNEN  
OS MURRAY  
OS PANKHURST  
OS PINEAULT  
OS SCHEIDL  
OS SKINNER  
OS TAYLOR S  
OS WATTS  
OS ADAMS  
AB MACKINNON  
OS BOSLEY  
OS TURCOTTE  
OS CHABOT  
OS CLARK  
MS DOYLE  
SC MCGRATH  
OS BURNS  
OS KENNEY  
OS WEISS  
OS WILLIAMS  
LS COOKE  
AB CURRIE  
OS NIELSEN  
OS JACKSON  
LS HOLLETT  
OS JOHNSON  
OS TRIPPLE  
P2 EWING  
P2 FOBERT  
P2 MAILLOUX  
P2(R) NOORMOHAMED  
P2 ROBERGE  
P1 MCGINLEY  
C2 MURPHY  
P1 MULVEY  
A/SLT DAVIES  
A/SLT HENDRY  
A/SLT WHEELER  
A/SLT WARD  
OS MUNROE  
LS CASELTON  
LS CLAYTON  
OS STOYLES  
OS KOSTELLO  
OS MACKINNON  
LS MASON  
A/SLT BOOT

Slt Garon  
Lt(N) Pinnel  
Slt Clark  
A/Slt Hurd  
LCdr May  
OS BAGSHAW  
OS CHAPAGNE  
OS FULLER  
AB HICKMAN  
OS JOINER  
OS LESLIE  
OS MAXIM  
OS MURPHY  
AB PETERS  
AB RANDAZZO  
LS SHANK  
OS STEWART  
OS TAYLOR V  
OS WILLIAMS  
OS MCINTYRE  
OS BONDE  
OS TREPANIER  
OS BUSCH  
LS WAUN  
MS CONNOLLY  
MS KING  
LS ALLEN  
MS UPSHAW  
AB UTAS  
OS CAROZZA  
LS CHUCKERY  
LS LESIUK  
LS MAYER  
OS CAWLEY  
AB HEBERT  
OS SADLER  
AB SIMPSON  
P2 BARNES  
P2 FLARROW  
P2 HAWKINS  
P2 MARKIN  
P2 SMITH  
P1 GIRARD  
C2 FERRIE  
P1 PUFF  
C2 SMILEY  
A/SLT BERKLEY  
A/SLT JUSTICE  
A/SLT STEVENS  
MCPL MCCOMB  
MS BEDIANT  
LS PRICE  
OS ROBERTSON  
LS VALENCOURT  
AB KNOTT  
OS MALIC  
A/SLT BALLARD  
OCDT STOVEL

LCdr McCallum  
LCdr Gracie  
Lt(N) Carle  
A/Slt Isnor  
OS Argue  
MS BAKKER  
OS SZERWINSKI  
OS GLYNN  
OS HUET  
OS LALANDE  
LS LEBLANC  
AB MCNIECE  
MS NOBLE  
LS PICARD  
OS ROBBINS  
OS SIMARD  
OS STRICKLAND  
OS VEILLEUX  
MS WRIGHT  
AB BENNETT  
LS ROBERTSON  
OS BRAZEAU  
OS ULLOCK  
LS CHUNG  
LS SUMMINGS  
OS LEMIEUX  
MS TURCOTTE  
MS BEYGER  
MS(R) KING  
OS LEROUX  
OSBN LEROUX  
OS VERMETTE  
OS FOSTER  
OS GALARNEAU  
OS POOLE  
OS JORDAN  
OS HOULE  
P2 DUNN  
P2 FORSYTH  
P2 HORNBLLOWER  
P2 MOGER  
P2 THORSEN  
P1 MACBEAN  
C2 HORNING  
P1 LENAHAH  
A/SLT COOPER  
A/SLT DUNLOP  
A/SLT KOK  
A/SLT PESKETT  
LS ALLAN  
OS PIKE  
CPL GREGOIRE  
AB STONE  
OS IRONS  
MS LEE  
OS MACMULLEN  
OCDT SIMPSON  
A/SLT CAPRINI

CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONYAct 1

Scene 1           The Bridge. As if by accident, the whole Scene is enacted over the Ship's Broadcast. (Someone left a mike open).

Time             Around 2030. The night before crossing the Equator.

S.C.R.            "Bridge - S.C.R. Unidentified Underwater Noises, Bearing Green 20, Range 2200 Yards, Classified Non-Sub, Appear to be Surfacing Sir".

Bridge            "Roger"

Ops.             "Bridge-Ops, New Contact Bearing Green 20, One mile."

O.O.W.            "Roger-Report"

Ops.             "Bridge-Ops, Contact at Green 20, Stationary By Plot".

Captain          "Very Good - That will be King Neptunes Herald. Alter course towards and Clear Lower Decks to the fo'c's'le. Muster the Junior Officers Guard."

Bos'ns Mate      "Clear Lower Decks to the fo'c's'le, Junior Officers Guard to muster".

The Ship alters course toward the alleged contact for about five minutes without further patter, to enable the Ships Company time to assemble on the fo'c's'le.

Scene II

Both Captain and Herald speak through loud hailers. The Herald on the Foc's'le and the Captain on the Bridge.

Herald (From behind the Spray) "Ship Ahoy"

Captain "YUKON"

Herald "I've heard your ship's around,  
Now tell me, whither bound?"

Captain "We sailed away from Ole Pearl H.  
Bound for Tonga TABU  
So come aboard, I've stopped my Ship,  
and state your case with no more lip."

The Herald accompanied by Davy Jones, The Secretary, Two Bears and a Piper, advance through the spray while the Piper Pipes the Still.

Herald "I'm no stranger and uphold the right  
To board your ship this very night,  
As Neptune's Herald, I am most keen  
To ascertain if this ship is clean."

Captain "You'll find it clean, I have no doubt  
We are ship-shape, both in and out.  
And now Sir Herald, Without Further ado,  
Inspect the Guard I've mustered for you."

Herald "Very well Captain, I'll do your will,  
Faithful Piper sound the Still,  
Davy Jones -- Inspect the Guard."

Davy Jones receives the report of the Guard Officer and proceeds to inspect the Guard with a great deal of Pomp and Flourish and some very dead fish which appear to be used to CLEAN UP THE MOTLEY GROUP.

Davey Jones "So this is the Guard you've mustered for me,  
A more horrible sight I never did see.  
I've inspected many, and I can tell,  
They look unclean and smell like Hell."

The Bears and Mermaid shriek "Unclean - Unclean."

Herald "Keep silence in the Bears."

"If you are a Shellback  
And you're papers are in order,  
King Neptune will be glad  
To have you cross his border."



Captain

"A harder Shellback never lived  
Or walked the Ocean floor,  
So tell King Neptune that I've crossed  
His bloody line before.

However there are among my crew,  
Somewhere around one eighty two,  
Tadpoles all, who need the potion  
That is dispensed from your mighty ocean."

The Bears shout "Blood-Blood-Blood."

Herald

"When at Esquimalt, this ship did lie  
A messenger of Neptune was sent to spy,  
He scanned the records and papers galore,  
To find the number who'd been here before  
To our surprise, and not to our sorrow,  
Many a tadpole becomes a Shellback tomorrow."

Secretary

"I was the spy who scanned the papers,  
To learn all I could of the numerous capers  
That have been pulled by this ship's crew.  
So listen closely while I tell you  
From this Unclean rabble, this motley mess,  
Two hundred bodies more or less,  
Tomorrow will learn of their horrible fate  
Dispensed by the Court of Neptune the Great.  
And furthermore, I must report,  
I plead no mercy, from the Court."

Bears shout "Unclean."

Herald

"By nine o'clock from the Ship's time check,  
the Court will Muster upon the Quarterdeck.  
His Majesty, King Neptune, will in state, appear.  
By ancient laws, well steeped in beer.  
And there he shall, with iron hand,  
Initiate the Tadpoles of your band."

Secretary

"All hail King Neptune."

The bears shout and shriek "Blood - Blood"

Herald

"Silence the Bears."

Captain

"We shall be ready for your King,  
And only too glad to meet his Queen.  
Will she bring her daughters fair  
To cast their beauty upon the scene?"

Bears emit Wolf Calls.

Herald

"Alas, It cannot be; a sea nymph's form  
 Would take each Sailors heart by storm.  
 The Good Queen spares them from such woes,  
 Those lovely beauties have no clothes."

More wolf calls from the bears.

The company starts to retire through the spray, The  
 Herald goes last and pauses to say in a loud clear  
 voice:

Herald

"I command you all to rest with sorrow,  
 Only the fittest will survive tomorrow."

	PRIORITY	042101Z SEPT 82
FROM	NEPTUNUS REX	
TO	YUKON FOR CO, XO AND SHIP'S COMPANY	
INFO	CANCOMTRAINRON	
	UNCLAS	
	MY SPIES HAVE JUST REPORTED TO ME THAT IN YOUR WARDROOM THERE ARE MANY WHO SAIL UPON MY OCEANS' BLUE THAT ARE NOT SHELLBACKS TRIED AND TRUE.	
	ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER ELEVEN AROUND THE HOUR OF TWENTY THIRTY UPON THE FOC'STLE IN A CLUSTER A GUARD, I BID YOU MUSTER.	
	IT SHALL CONSIST OF SUBS BOTH II & V AND LED BY ONE WHO BEST BE MEEK I DO BELIEVE HIS NAME IS LEAK.	
	ALSO ATTIIRED IN SUITABLE DUDS SHALL BE ELEVEN OF THE GRUBBY SUBS I'LL SEE THEM ALL FOR THATS MY CHORE SAVE THOSE WHO ENTERED MY REALM BEFORE.	
	AND ON THE RIGHT AS MARKER BRIGHT WILL BE MOUTHY MOGER CLOSE UP TIGHT. FAIL YE NOT AT THIS SIMPLE TASK LEST IN MY WRATH YOUR SHIP WILL BASK.	
		NEPTUNUS REX

## SCENE III

The scene shifts to the Quarterdeck the following morning. Lower decks have been cleared to the Quarterdeck. King Neptune's Court in full regalia has been assembled in the Weapons Workshop. The bears and Police have placed themselves around the Royal Throne awaiting the grand entrance.

The Herald and the Piper come onto the Quarterdeck.

Bugler

Sounds the Still

HERALD

"Hear ye, hear ye, make way for His Glorious Oceanic Majesty Neptunus Rex, Ruler of all who sail upon the sea on their lawful occasions, hear ye, hear ye."

King Neptune enters, followed by the Queen and the remainder of the Court.

HERALD

"All hail King Neptune"

BEARS & POLICE  
REPORT

"All hail King Neptune"

After the Court has taken up their positions on the stage.

HERALD

"Captain! Call your crew to attention for the Oceanic Anthem."

CAPTAIN

"YUKON's Attention"

Led by the Herald, the complete ensemble of Shellbacks sing in delorous tones the Oceanic Anthem.

(sung to the tune of All Hail Methusalem)

All hail His Majesty,  
The ruler of the raging sea,  
All hail Queen Amphritrite  
Her gorgeous beauty - what a sight?

CAPTAIN

YUKON's - Stand at ease.

"In humblest duty sire, I bring to you our Oceanic King that all here onboard YUKON may submit to what in ancient laws is writ."

NEPTUNE

"Good morning YUKON. You've come a long way, I've waited months for this glorious day. You know full well what I've come to do For I hear there are Tadpoles amond your crew."

HERALD

"My barbers are good, and widely renowned -

(Barbers step forward gesturating sadistically)

Their razors are sharper than has ever been ground,  
My Doctors are butchers, and as for their pills,  
They're better than Ex-lax for curing your ills."

CAPTAIN "Ere you punish our crimes with that terrible fork  
I present for your favour - my crew to your court."

NEPTUNE "From my courtly Herald I've heard it told  
that there's some in your crew so brave and bold  
As to warrant my favour...There may be some missed  
So worthy Herald, bring forth my Honour list."

SCRIBE: "Commander Crowe - Scourge of Mars Vs, Ex-submariner and Keeper of Yukon."

The CO mounts the stage and gets down on one knee.

HERALD: "Captain, my Captain, you've been across this line before.

Over, under and over again is in the lore.

Your record is long with successes many.

The skills you have are considered uncanny.

But good man, be most wary,

Boatwork at night can be scary.

For your craft, which is on the sea,

And we can hope it will always be,

We award you this prestigious Order

Knight, Keeper of the Royal Screw and Shaft."

NEPTUNE: "Arise Sir Knight - Keeper of the Royal Screw and Shaft."

SCRIBE: "Next comes a man of some repute whose guns almost always go pop. Sir David of Windle, approach and be recognized."

HERALD: "The talents of this man are varied and many.

From fixing cars to saving a penny.

He often even finds the time

To fire guns of ships of the line.

Occasionally though, even for this old rake,

His guns won't work, they even break.

To commemorate these breaks as are his lot,

We award you keeper of the Recoilless Slingshot."

NEPTUNE: "Arise Sir David of Windle and Keep with pride, this Recoilless Royal Sling Shot."

SCRIBE: "This next award could go to many. The choice was tough but finally made from a standard short list of course! Come forth Sgt. Jeffries."

HERALD: "Before you kneels a man of fame,  
Who should really bow his head in shame.  
For he does nothing but complain,  
From dawn to dusk, through sun and rain,  
The food's cold, the watches too long,  
No matter what, its always wrong.  
The time is therefore ripe,  
to award you the Royal Order of the Biggest Gripe."

NEPTUNE: "Rise Sgt. Jeffries, holder of the Dubious Honor of the Biggest Gripe."

SCRIBE: "Captain Draper, Custodian of the YAG's, Oriole and others of the Grey Funnel Line."

HERALD: "For one so senior I've seen you but once,  
But by your rank you've proven no dunce.  
Over a maple leaf you created a turmoil,  
FMG was even brought to a boil.  
For your attention to detail and your brain,  
I award you the Royal Order of Anchor and Chain."

NEPTUNE: "Arise, Knight, Holder of the the Royal Order of Anchor  
and Chain."

SCRIBE: "Kneel, Ye Balding, Fungus Faced Cook-Moore by name."

HERALD: "Before you kneels, oh! Neptune the Great,  
One in a slump, a posting of late.  
Not to say he pays no heed,  
But Dennis has allowed a deed,  
That cannot go unrewarded.  
T'was in May 82 that he afforded  
His chocolate pie to stand too long,  
And it turned green before this throng.  
Therefore its only fitting that this guy,  
Be awarded the Order of Green Chocolate Pie."

NEPTUNE: "Rise and wear with pride this slice of Old Chocolate Pie."

SCRIBE: "Next comes onw whose athletic prowess is famed,  
He dives, skis and climbs steep mountains.  
Approach the throne No. 1 Engineer, Redmond by name."

HERALD: "This young man has been here before,  
But somehow has failed to learn the score.  
He skied in March, placed last I think,  
But t'was in June to escape the drink,  
On the day of Roses he scaled Mt. Hood,  
and returned to the ship as Mister Good.  
No sins had he save but one,  
Too much time out in the sun.  
For this reason we upon you place,  
The Royal Order of the Ugly Face."

NEPTUNE: "Rise, young Knight, Wearer of the Ugly Face."

SCRIBE: "Lt. Saladana - Captain of Cash, all wares, hard &  
soft and Blusterer First Class."

HERALD: "Though you're new to this ship,  
Your attitude seems quite flip.  
Cash flow to the old Ship's Fund,  
Has sure been lean, and we are stunned.  
Prices rise and that's no surprise,  
But all we hear is compromise.  
Do your best to clear up this mess  
Stay on the problem, this I stress.  
From your course do not careen.  
You are now the Overseer of the Broke Canteen."

NEPTUNE: "Arise New Overseer of theBroke Canteen."

SCRIBE: "Petty Officer McNeil, approach and kneel before his Majesty."

HERALD: "Before you now appears a man,  
Whose jobs are many within this can,  
From managing bar for Chuffs and Puffs,  
To paying cash just for laffs.  
  
He has however earned his fame,  
Not by doing up your claim,  
You sure can hear this crew holler,  
For he has managed to shrink the dollar."

NEPTUNE: "Rise my Barber, New Owner of the Royal Order of the 75¢ Dollar."

SCRIBE: "I now call upon that bender of hulls, noon napper and  
procrastinator supreme - Sterling, Petty Officer, Hull Tech."

HERALD: "This man's a worker, there is no doubt,  
And he's seldom ever in a pout.  
He finely even earned his pay,  
By working hard for this day.  
  
If perchance you have work for him,  
It might get done but the chance is slim,  
You'll talk to the leader of the band,  
He'll give you the sign, the job's in-hand."

NEPTUNE: "Rise HT and wear this award, The Royal Order Of The Job-in-Hand."

SCRIBE: "Come forth, Chief of all ER's, dumper of water, CPO Cappell."

Herald: "Though this man is new to the crew,  
He's made his mark with his brew.  
August 17th was the day,  
We were to have sailed away.  
  
The water went white,  
It was quite a fright.  
He dumped it all on the harbor wall,  
Thirty two tons, he had a ball.  
  
For day One, he had no fun,  
Things must get better or he'd run.  
For perservering and having trust,  
We're now at sea only slightly bust."

NEPTUNE: "Rise God of the ER's, you who plays it nice - no head in vise.  
We award you Holder of the Royal Glass of Clouded Water."

SCRIBE: "It has become the custom of this court,  
To reward a man who has become real smart.  
The choice was easy for he has a brain,  
Come forth Coxn, you were easy to train.

HERALD: "There was a time when you sailed the sea,  
Not o'er the waves out in the sun,  
But 'neath the surface deep in the lee,  
Were 'twas calm and too quiet for fun.  
Undersea craft are considered sneaky,  
And are frequently leaky.  
But you old son did see fit,  
To climb from that smelly pit.  
And join the world of challenges untold  
For this good move and others so bold  
You've proven yourself to be a Knight,  
We hereby award you the Order of the Bright Light."

NEPTUNE: "Arise, Sir Norman! Deen of right, Royal Order of the  
Brightest Light."

HERALD: (Addressing His Majesty)  
"If Your Majesty finds it convenient,  
We've had enough time to be lenient,  
It's about time for that tank of brine,  
To make them all Shellbacks for 'Crossing the Line.'  
And if you will see the defaulters first,  
We'll save till the last, the best of the worst."

NEPTUNE: "So be it."

HERALD: "Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Circuit Shellback  
Court of His Majesty, Neptune Rex, is now in session.  
Judge Samuel Seaweed Presiding."

NEPTUNE: "King Neptune I, Lord of the Sea,  
Welcome you all, who ere you be,  
I am the Lord of the Oceans wide,  
Lord of the Rivers...Lord of the Tide.  
My laws are strict, but do not fear,  
If only you will perservere,  
To keep the freedom of the Seas  
As recognized by our degrees.  
Here are the Bears, suds and bath,  
They are the only certain path,  
For all who wish to Cross the Line-  
And be enrolled as sons of mine.  
In order then as we command,  
Before us let each tadpole stand.  
Who has his freedom yet to win...  
Enough...my trusty men...Begin."

HERALD: "Bears...into the Brine."

JUDGE: "Bring me No. 1 (The X.O.)"



HERALD: "No wrong you have done but a promise we ask,  
Its really quite simple and hardly a task,  
A free beer all round is easily done,  
To round out this day of mischief and fun.  
What say you?"

Assuming XO agrees, Judge decrees

"Double away smartly and organize the beer."

JUDGE: (Rapping gavel) "First Case"

HERALD: "Police - bring before us MCpl Connelly."

"Across this Royal Domain he did waltz,  
Armed with papers thoroughly false.  
T'was no ship of the line he did steer  
But some terrible type of flying gear."

JUDGE: "Judgement comes to many this day,  
And for your crime you must pay.  
For taking part in such a flip,  
We sentence you to take a dip."

SCRIBE: "Second case, bring us the one called Long,  
He's done ever so much wrong."

HERALD: "This man we're told rates a salute,  
Somehow we think its with a boot.  
He gave his jobs of training and deck,  
To one so old, he's truly a wreck.  
However when the Nips were with us,  
You liased fine and with little fuss."

JUDGE: "You may be tall, a man of state,  
But before this court of late.  
Too many men of your ilk did appear,  
So into the chair, then the pool, then have a beer."

SCRIBE: "Next Case," "Bring us PO Ferrie."

HERALD: "Bruce the 250lb Ferrie,  
Sometime regulator, all time grimey.  
Did attempt to supstage this royal court,  
By dressing in the clothes of a real sport."

JUDGE: "On your behalf, I must admit,  
The sight of you causes me a fit.  
Do you have anything to say in your defense  
Before upon you, I pass sentence?"

PO Ferrie speaks on his own behalf.

JUDGE: "Enough! Enough! Barbers, doctors and bears  
so rough, a double dose should be enough."

SCRIBE: "Next case. Pte Sran Bagshaw."

HERALD: "Soap and water, bleach and lye,  
Clippers, combs and even white dye,  
Can't clean his bod or do his laundry,  
This wierd young lad is surely a quandry."

JUDGE: "We'll try once more to clean this lad,  
Into the chair, pill, shave then bathe this tad."

SCRIBE: "Bring before the court Tadpole Upshaw."

HERALD: "Before us stands a tad called Upshaw,  
We're not sure he's broken the law.  
Except that no one who lives in a can  
Should have that great of a suntan."

JUDGE: "Wash him clean, pill him well,  
Shave him bald, then dunk him like hell."

SCRIBE: "Bring before this court of law, that cute little  
guy - MacKinnon."

HERALD: "His crimes are many , we'll blame his youth,  
He's from Cape Breton and has no couth.  
He tried being Captain for a day,  
The cap didn't fit in any way.  
Had his hair curled for fifty bills,  
This horrible sight gave us all the chills,  
He works planned maintenance now and then,  
The only questions are how and when?  
To cap it all off he thought to go east,  
But this request to say the least  
Was turned off, quicker than a wink,  
It makes one wonder, what does he think.?"

JUDGE: "For one so short of time in service,  
You're crimes accumulated make me nervous.  
Into the chair and then the pool,  
Clean up your act you smerf sized fool."

SCRIBE: "Bring before us the mouth called Moger."

HERALD: "This tadpole to say the least is surely fleet,  
He opens his mouth but to change his feet.  
As far back as early June,  
He incited others to rack and ruin.  
By calling names and shouting defame  
Upon this court and regal terrain.  
He even had the almighty gall  
To pinch the Coxn's sweets but thats not all,  
He squealed loud and clear in said COXN's ear,  
Poor Arnold ziffle did it - no fear! "

JUDGE: "For this and crimes too numerous to mention,  
Rinse his mouth, cleanse his soul, give him full attention."

SCRIBE: "Now last but surely not the least,  
A man whose face is really quite creased.  
Topping by name,  
Chief Bos'n his game.

HERALD: "We remember you, you hoary old goat,  
You're well known to our court and this boat.  
For you, oh! short tub of lard,  
We're late showing my rep. your card.  
Remember this day forever more,  
And a shellback be to the core."

JUDGE: "Cut his hair, shave him clean, dunk him  
once, He's been here before."

After he's been in the pool

HERALD: "Return this man for we're not through,  
We have something memorable here for you!"

HERALD: "'Tis time to honor this athlete of note,  
He's not young, but seen often afloat.  
Thru the years he's played the game,  
But that's not why he's come to fame.  
He golfs and fishes and he's a bit lame,  
And trophies now do bear his name.  
Remember time passes, you can't turn back the clock,  
So we hereby award you the Worn-out Jock."

NEPTUNE: "Rise old crock, noble holder of the Royal Order of  
the Worn out Jock."

The Royal Barbers, Doctors, Bears and Police carry  
on initiating the remaining tadpoles, missing not  
a one. The Scribe will check them off.

#### CONCLUSION

When all or almost all have been through the initiation, the Herald  
calls for attention for King Neptune's farewell.

HERALD: "Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Silence for his Oceanic  
Majesty - King Neptune.

NEPTUNE: "I command you go now your many ways,  
Take what you have learned to future days.  
Teach others the mysteries of the Mighty Deep,  
For we go now, our vigil to keep.  
  
Farewell Yukon's"

The King and Court retire, the way is cleared by the police.