

Beaulieu Cream Tea & BBQ

Saturday 14th May

Coordinators: Joy & Richard Beeson

HW early morning provided favourable tides and enough water over the bar to allow most of the boats to be berthed by 14.00. Well what a turn out. 24 boats and some 65 crew! The event was closed at these numbers, as we couldn't accommodate any more. This is indeed a rare occurrence and so this was not to be a quiet weekend - we were not disappointed. The weather, watched by all failed to provide the promised showers! A NW wind with a little chill was mostly swamped by sunshine and good humour.



So what of the cream tea? Joy and her helpers, Linda, Annie and Val baked some 8 dozen scones, whipped gallons of cream and used 5 jars of jam! - which at 3.15pm were cut



'jammed and creamed', plated and laid out on tables on the pontoons, complete with table clothes and potted plants - a truly amazing spectacle!! A blast of the air horn brought out the crews who swarmed to the 'scone end' of the pontoon armed with their own mugs of tea to enjoy the formal opening of the weekend.

In the spirit of friendship a small rally from Marchwood and a couple of others also enjoyed the cream tea!



After a short vote of thanks to Joy and the team and to all for the attendance from Richard, the party subsided until 5.30pm when there was the migration to the BBQ area where the booked 50 gallon BBQ was soon smoking merrily, as was the Harbour Master's personal gas BBQ (many thanks) and the four or so other BBQ's brought along.



Food, drinks, some excellent ale from the Master Builders and much conversation, all helped to make for a memorable social evening. The young entertained themselves on

the lawns and by 8.30 the wind got chilly, and within 20 minutes the BBQ's were packed away, the rubbish binned and everyone was on their way back to the boats. Coffee and 'night caps' were served on a number of boats and the day was finally over.



Thanks to all who came and supported the event, helped especially by the weather which exceeded expectations and remained dry all day. Sunday dawned sunny with a good breeze and a passage race from Raymarine to E.Bramble was undertaken by many. Thanks Sally for co-ordinating that one.

Thanks again to Joy and her team for the cream tea and all the work in the galley beforehand - good job!

See you all at the regatta.

Richard
Solent Hack

Weymouth & Beyond

Early June

Coordinators: Mervyn & Amanda Cully

As we were unable to make the Moody Rally at Cowes, we sailed to Weymouth on Tuesday after staying overnight at Yarmouth.

The sail up to Weymouth could not have been better! The wind and tide were perfect and we arrived in early evening, joining our hosts Mervyn & Amanda Cully on Watchdog.



On the second day our hosts had planned for us a tour of Portland on which we would visit the National Sailing Academy, get to go on a small tour of a lighthouse and a long, very long walk to the quarry!



So we headed off by bus for the National Sailing Academy where we saw many teams of young sailors from around the world.



Then it was off to Portland Lighthouse, where the keeper told us many useful (if we where to ever want to be a lighthouse keeper ourselves) facts about how they run and work the lighthouses. It was all very intriguing, even though the stairs were not only tedious but very VERY hard to walk up.



At the very top the group was told about using the lens and how it all works.



After the lighthouse we no longer had the pleasure of the bus, so it was a long walk along the western side of Portland to Tout Quarry, stopping along the way to visit the volunteers at the National Coastwatch Lookout station.

allowed to have a go with the



The quarry is used as a Sculpture Park, and after a short tour, we children were art group that was there.



Then back to the boat prior to a delicious meal at Perrys restaurant (where we were joined by Mike and Nina on 'Moody Blue').

For some of us it was a couple more days of enjoyment and get together at Weymouth, while others had to get off sooner. It was truly a spectacular trip that we will cherish for years to come.

The Alexander Family
ALCEDO

Lymington Rally

Saturday 11th June

Coordinators: Mike & Jeanne O'Connor

In a mixture of blue skies, sunshine and squally showers a successful MOA Solent Branch Rally was held over the weekend of 11th & 12th of June at the West Solent Port of Lymington.

Undeterred by the inclement weather forecast, by late Saturday afternoon 5 yachts were safely moored up against the DAN BRAN pontoon run by Lymington's Harbour Master.

At 1830 the 'Sundowners bar' was open onboard 'Athena' where Jeanne and Mike played host to pre dinner drinks and canapés for the 16 rally attendees.

At 1930 the party moved onto the Royal Lymington Yacht Club for more aperitifs prior to sitting down for a 3 course dinner at the Yacht Club's upper restaurant at 2000.

A strategic table and seating arrangement allowed all to take advantage of the panoramic view and to survey the beauty of the Lymington port as the sun slowly went down majestically over the river.

A very warm welcome was provided to Duncan and Diana Macalister of 'Olana', a Moody 31 to their first Moody Owner's gathering.

On Sunday the decision to cancel the planned Dixon Race was unanimous as the SW low had taken hold and the Solent was awash with white horses, driving rain and strong winds of 25 to 30 knts in stature! The only sailors that seemed to be enjoying the testing conditions were the RLYC's Cadet and Optimist squad as they beat up and ran down the river in a foray of spray!



Mike O'Connor

Newtown Creek Midweek Meet

15th June



Sailing without the crowds, or cost.

Newtown Creek was quiet, maybe because of the weather; The 5 day forecast was fair light winds no rain. But it did not look right

3 boats took the mid day ebb on the Tuesday to find a buoy in the main channel. Joy and Richard on their way to the West country on Time Out, Geoff and Val on Moon Shadow, and Allan and Liz on Halyards. As Halyards entered the Creek last to arrive, some nifty work by Richard securing his dinghy to a vacant buoy saw us all together.

All aboard Time Out to catch up, take tea, and agree a programme for the Wednesday. Liz had prepared a casserole for dinner with a summer fruit crumble and custard for desert.

So the day continued on Halyards until late, agreeing to start at 9.30am for the bird hide and then on to lunch

Dawn on Wednesday blowing and cloudy with rain forecast. We made the boathouse and walked through the ancient salt lakes to the bird hide passing the ancient meadow with swallows swooping low picking off tasty snacks.



We made the bird hide but it was locked, soon after a warden arrived opened the hide and then gave us

an interesting update. The two Gull Islands were deserted; apparently rats had got on the island and eaten all the eggs.



We watched some lazy Oyster Catchers, obviously full up. A sole egret was being bullied by a lone gull. Some buntings flew past as the rain started; light drizzle at first and progressively heavier.



Time for lunch and it was still raining. Apparently we were told the Roman Town Hall was closed until after lunch so we made our way to the dinghy's and got wet, in the dinghy's we got more wet, we arrived at Shalfleet Quay and walked to the pub and got more wet. The pub was not busy and we took of our soaking wet weather gear and spread it round the pub sitting down to enjoy a tasty lunch.

The rain eased up as we walked back to the boats. We joined Geoff and Val for afternoon tea and cake.

And all agreed rather than stay another night with strong winds and more rain forecast we would all return to our home ports. The sail back on a rising tide was enjoyable.



Allan Howlett
Halyards
June 2011

Bembridge BBQ

2nd July

Coordinators: Mark & Diana Glyde

With everyone arriving at the Duver pontoon for the Bembridge beach BBQ, things could really get underway.



By evening the atmosphere was buzzing, everyone was gathering on the east beach by dinghy, the smell of BBQ and crab platters filling the air (not to mention the smoke!).



After everyone's appetite was fully satisfied the games could begin. There was a scavenger hunt (with a few rather unusual items on the list), a tug-of-war



and a rather interesting throwing game involving fenders!

And to top it all, we were treated to an amazing fireworks display, courtesy of the couple getting married at the sailing club!

The BBQ was a great success and I don't think that anyone left without a smile on their face!

Emily Alexander - 14

ALCEDO

Folly Bop

16th July

Coordinators: Val & Geoff Lucas

What a hardy lot these MOA sailors are. Despite the forecast of F5-7 with heavy rain for the weekend seven boats came up to the Folly making a total of 18 for dinner. We have to confess that some of us sailed over to Cowes on Friday in sunshine leaving only a short hop on Saturday in very unpleasant weather.

On arrival all crews were given a quiz relating to TV Shows and after spending an afternoon puzzling over it the winners were the crews of Imogen and Calima.

Amazingly the rain stopped early afternoon and there was even sunshine although the wind still gusted very strongly. This seemed to bode well so we handed out Peter Williams' Treasure Hunt but no-one felt like going ashore after a tiring sail so we hoped for clement weather on Sunday morning. Alas this was not to be so the Treasure Hunt still remains to take place.



The pontoon party went ahead with the table of nibbles and drinks trying to take off but Mary stepped into the breach and anchored it down. Somehow during the party one section of pontoon came away on one side from the next section. Not our fault!! Honest!!





The Folly came up to our usual high expectations. Good food, brilliant company and energetic dancing on the tables.

Val & Geoff Lucas

Curry Night at Southsea

1st October

Coordinators: Mark & Diana Glyde

We were blessed with the most fantastic weather of the year for our weekend to Southsea. 8 yachts made the journey and managed to navigate the channel, the 7 metre wide entrance and tie up inside the Marina all without incidence. We had all been given berthing details in advance by Rupert from Southsea marina which made the job much easier.

We were able to stroll along the beach in 28 degrees. Diane and Roger off 'Sincerity', made an unexpected discovery of a nudist beach in front of the old fort!

We all met in the marina bar at 7.00pm and managed to enjoy a few pints of 'London Pride' straight from the barrel before going up to the restaurant.



21 adults and children sat down for supper and a good time was had by all. The choice on the fixed price menu was vast and the quality of the food was excellent.



On the Sunday morning the sill dropped at about 1230hrs and the first boats ventured out to start the last Dixon of the season. Unfortunately winds were very light and most were unable to sail the distance.

Mark Glyde

New Years Eve at The Folly

Saturday 31st December



Coordinators:
Kevin Morgan & Mary Allen

The end of the year 2011 was accompanied by a weather forecast which showed winds of over 30 knots for each day of the week except Friday 30th. So it was. Friday dawned dark and heavily



clouded but with forecast light winds. Time Out and Dreamcatcher 2 enjoyed a quiet sail in dying winds and increasing rain to Cowes and the Medina. They joined Melos II and Pampero of Down who were berthed at the Folly. Ocean Strider arrived in heavy persistent rain and berthed with minimal help from Time Out. So started the NYE celebrations.

Saturday saw a total of nine boats and some 40 souls moored at The Folly in mainly dry weather. Newport was visited, news was exchanged and a relaxed atmosphere abounded. Darren and Claire and family on Orenda, new members, were made welcome.



At 18.30 hrs crews dressed in 60's & 70's gear boarded Dreamcatcher for drinks and introductions. Among the many hippies were a US detachment from Vietnam complete with a box of spare eyeballs! Austin Powers made an appearance, as did Goldfinger, a Spiv, a Maharishi/car salesman, all hosted by Sergeant Pepper and his Bunny Girl Wife.





Dinner commenced at 20.00 with Elvis Presley (Andy) and his team putting on the usual fine spread. Balloons, party poppers, hats, crackers and the rock and roll provided the evenings entertainment until midnight when the countdown to another year took us into 2012.





No acquaintances were forgotten, much dancing was had and we retired at 1.00am to our boats, a final night cap was had by some and great memories recounted of another brilliant end to the Solent MOA year.





New Years day was damp!!! Some made for home others stopped at Shepards Wharf for coffee with Bambola and Bugsy, who had been resident overnight, so that they could sail back to Portsmouth in the pouring rain!!!

The weather had been threatening but we were not put off! And in the end it didn't dampen our spirits.

Thanks to Kevin and Mary for coordinating a great event. Next year the theme is "Cowboys and Cowgirls".

Richard