

2013

Fitting Out Supper

Saturday 16th February

Coordinators: Val & Geoff Lucas



Forty members of the Solent Branch met together at Portsmouth Harbour Yacht Club, Port Solent for an enjoyable evening. This was an opportunity to meet old and make new friends and discuss plans for the coming sailing season. Some hardy souls had even sailed their boats round to the venue.



There was time to chat over a drink before sitting down to a delicious three course meal. Kelly, our Branch Captain, talked about some of the important 2013 events, the Regatta at the end of May, the cross

Channel trip in mid-July and the proposed Jazz Evening at Gin's Farm in October. Sheena, followed this up with news about other events and a request for a coordinator for the Folly Bop in September.

Val Lucas

Easter Rally

March 29th - April 1st

Coordinators: Deborah & Gerry Fensome

In January of this year 2013, Gerry, Eleanor, Tony and I, sat in the relative comfort of the R.A.F. Yacht Club lounge planning the Easter rally. Gerry and I had agreed to be the organisers of this event and our coffee morning with T & E really helped us to put a plan down on paper, as we had not done a rally before. Little did we know that the Weather was going to be as chilly as it was.



Moored up on Dan Bran pontoon

up the drinks and food table with Tony's assistance and nibbles contributions, zippers on your cockpit tents were opened and all dressed up for the arctic conditions which greeted you on the pontoon, you all turned out. Hot mulled wine was on offer with the usual red and white selection as well. We had lots of nibbles but the Indian Samosas and Onion Bhajis were gobbled up. Thank you for your contributions.

Sat morning was again bitterly cold but a fast bumble up to the market took care of any frozen fingers and toes.



The boat race start

We set off on the Friday morning feeling rather pleased with ourselves that all T's were crossed and all I's were dotted. We were a little apprehensive that the weather would keep some members away. How wrong we were. We arrived at the Dan Bran pontoon a little after 12.30 and a slow trickle of yachts started to arrive. We were overwhelmed by the number of intrepid sailors who turned out, and those who couldn't come by boat arrived by car for the main event on Sat night.

18.00 arrived and having set



Pontoon party warms up

After lunch (14.00) paper boat making in earnest began and the boats were a hive of activity as all manner of boat designs began to take shape. The culmination of which was a boat race in a sort of natural pool on the western side of the Dan Bran pontoon. It was all rather exciting as there were 19 boats which had been built. Some only just made it off the start line but promptly sank while others made very good progress toward the marina wall much to the amusement and entertainment of the locals. The burger box did very well including three paper men. A tubular catamaran style boat, and of course

a reasonably traditional style sail boat all did rather well. Apologies I didn't make a written note of names on the night, although all did receive prizes. A special mention needs to go to the Holmes family as their boat, although didn't win the race, it most certainly travelled the furthest, last seen heading off towards the River entrance!!! The Young Crew from Ocean Strider were very fired up and recycled the remaining paper from Lady Panache and began a prototype of a new boat which was to be test sailed the next day.

18.00 Saw us ladies all scrubbed up and looking rather lovely, and gents togged out in their best land trousers and shirts. The Royal Lyminster Yacht Club did us proud. We had negotiated a rather lovely 3 course dinner with coffee and mints to finish. The food and the service were really rather good. I feel that we should definitely return there at a later date. Thank you all so much for your financial support in the raffle which Gerry and I organised. Our chosen charity, The Hamble Independent Lifeboat will benefit by an extra £90 towards their new boat house, to include showers with hot and cold running water.

We all trotted off back to our boats rather satisfied with the evening. We set our clocks forward by an hour as we welcomed the beginning of British Summer Time!!!! and were all up bright and early for our walk around the Salt Marshes. This part of



Raffle prizes

the weekend was organised by Tony and Eleanor. We had bright sunshine but a chilly wind. Eleanor was a wealth of information. The goal of stopping at The Chequers pub half way around the walk seemed to be a good incentive. We lunched at The Chequers, who welcomed us with a rather nice warm area to defrost ourselves while we ate lunch. We only had about a 45 minute walk back to the boats after lunch.



Royal Lyminster Yacht Club

The afternoon was finished off with an Easter Bonnet Parade outside the R.L.Y.M.Y.C. We had a real struggle to make a judgement on who should win as there was so much enthusiasm put into all the bonnets. We enlisted the help of a family who were out cycling. It was such fun.



Easter bonnets



The walkers

The prototype boat was launched but possibly a bit more work is required on the design!!!
But thank you Ocean Strider for all your efforts.

We all went back to our boats and enjoyed the rest of the day chilling out and on Monday, the wind was not ideal, so we all made our way home the best way possible. Boy was it cold.

Thank you all so much for your support over the whole weekend and for all the enthusiasm you all injected into all the activities which we had organised. Without your participation none of it would have worked. Also thank you all for your very kind emails.

Cheers. Look forward to seeing you all at Yarmouth.

Debora, Gerry and Lady Panache

Isle of Wight Festival of Arts

20th April

Coordinator: Kelly Lehmann

The Isle of Wight Festival of Arts was the venue for the third Solent Branch Event of 2013. It took place in the sunshine over the weekend 19-21 April.

Though the sunshine was welcome, it was not accompanied by a particularly favourable wind and (having motored from Southampton) the first to arrive was Sudi - in time for pre-pre-dinner drinks in the newly refurbished Breeze Restaurant in the Island Marina at the head of the River Medina.

(If you want to stay in the area, the new management of the Restaurant and Marina are working hard to offer something a little different from the rustic charm of The Folly and kindly gave a 10% discount for a Society Booking).

Arriving through the lock with the Friday evening high tide were Sincerity and Galatea - the later of which had managed to sail from Gosport.

Once all were assembled, Roger and Diane Perry generously hosted the pre-dinner drinks aboard Sincerity. This was followed by a good and reasonably priced dinner in Breeze Restaurant.



Maggie May with Diane and Roger Perry aboard Sincerity



Roger with Geoff Eteson and Steve Barratt

After breakfast on Saturday, each party went in different directions - Geoff Eteson and Maggie May chose to walk from Blackgang Chine to Ventnor - meeting up with Roger and Diane in the evening to enjoy Alan Davies' risqué brand of comedy.



**Maggie working up an appetite
for Lunch at St Catherine's Head**



**St Catherine's from a different
angle to the usual one**

Prior to this Steve Barratt, Kelly Lehmann, Roger and Diane had attended various Blues, Jazz and Popular Musical performances. Whilst the quality was a little variable, there were some notable performances; offering something for everyone and making it worth considering the Festival in plans for 2014.

After an overnight frost it was an early start for Roger & Diane. It was very near neaps and 15 minutes after, an 08:25, high water there was 1.89m over the inner sill to the lock; As Sincerity draws 1.8m "It provided a little frisson of excitement/apprehension at 08.40". Once through the lock there was a reasonable wind to speed the homeward journeys.

Kelly Lehmann

Bank holiday cruise to Yarmouth

4th - 6th May

Coordinators: Sheena & Martin Boyce



After a breezy start to the weekend the sun came out and we enjoyed a lovely Bank Holiday break in Yarmouth. With an early High Water the majority of the MOA fleet arrived in time to moor alongside the Hayles walk ashore pontoon in time for lunch.



Teams met on the Yarmouth Green to compete for the Solent Branch Boules Cup and the team from At Last limber up for the first round of the competition.



Laurence Gandar (Mistral Dancer) shares his knowledge of the Boules rules with our youngest player - Jordan Bevington (Galatea).



After several rounds Big Bubble emerged as the winning team. Lorraine and Paul, had sailed from Eastbourne to participate in this, their first MOA event, and their reward was a photograph of the cup that they will be able to collect at the Solent AGM in November.

A break for tea followed before the “Dinner party” group of 17 headed off to the Royal Solent Yacht Club. We were blessed with a beautiful sunset, a table overlooking the Solent, good food and great company. The Club Secretary welcomed us and a group of Sweden Yacht Owners to the newly refurbished and extended clubhouse and encouraged us to visit whenever we return to Yarmouth.



On Sunday morning, the walkers headed off along the Western Yar Estuary before following the recently created Tapnell Trail (not yet on the OS maps). When we reached the base of the southern coast cliff the group split to offer “level” and “uphill” options before proceeding to Freshwater Bay and then heading back across Afton Marsh to the Red Lion. Both groups of walkers were joined by the strollers (who had opted to take a gentle walk from Yarmouth direct to pub) for lunch.



We the headed back to Yarmouth in time for a short snooze to recharge our batteries in time for a pontoon party at 6pm.

On Bank Holiday Monday we awoke to the sound of the foghorn - thankfully the sun managed to burn off the dense fog before the tide turned to the East. After a relaxing morning we started to say our goodbyes and depart for our return trips home. Gentle southerly winds helped us on our way and hopefully some crews will have posted results for the Dixon 2 race.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Yarmouth for making it such a fun weekend.

Sheena and Martin Boyce (Imogen)

Midweek visit to Newtown River

21st May

Coordinators: Allan and Liz Howlett

The weather looked unpredictable with strong winds forecast for Thursday. Response had been poor, but how fortunes change.

We elected to arrive on Tuesday afternoon, arriving just after John and Hilary in Practica. We found them sharing a beer with a young lad who had helped them pick up a visitors buoy; He was rewarded with an offer of a beer and stayed for two.

We tied up alongside, had lunch and invited them all for tea and some of Liz's famous Chocolate Brownies and Squirry cream, and Almond Tart. David and Jennifer arrived on Callista followed by Tim Fryer and his crew Les, on Aruanda and joined us for tea.

We discussed the options. I had got my tides wrong and we would be unable to visit the bird hide and town hall as low tide was around lunchtime. We therefore agreed to make for the New Inn at Shalfleet for dinner on the Tuesday night. We were joined by colleagues of John and Hilary in their Gaffer a Cornish crabber called Beagle. Eight of us made our way by dinghy to Shalfleet quay and walked to the pub. The meal was enjoyable and we yarned the night away. We agreed that some of us would walk to the obelisk in the morning as most wanted to leave with the incoming evening tide to make our home ports safely before the anticipated strong winds arrived.



Dinner at the New Inn, Shalfleet

A late night walk back to the wharf and by dinghy back to our boats, a light wind, a smooth sea, and a moonlit cloudless sky.

John and Hilary whose home port is in Poole harbour returned with the favourable ebb tide mid-morning, and having bid them farewell were joined by Graham and Agnes on First Flight (the boat was previously owned by Neville Chute the test pilot, hence the boat name) They had arrived for lunch but the access at Shalfleet was limited. They opted for lunch and just made it back before the tide stranded them at Shalfleet.



Liz and Jennifer take time out

Meanwhile David Jennifer Liz and I went ashore to walk to the monument past the new Terns nest site. For years the Terns have nested on two islands outside the bird hide on the salt pans. However after a few years when they suffered losses from foxes, they moved elsewhere. They have now returned to the other side of the river estuary where they chase off any passing dinghies.

The nautical charts show an obelisk on the shore as you approach and makes a useful



At the obelisk

marker on your approach along the leading marks. However it is now obscured by bushes. We had an enjoyable walk along the shore, finding the monument which commemorates the drowning at sea of four young men. It does not relate how or why.

Returning to our dinghy we were spotted by Robert on Bounder who then joined us for lunch. David and Jennifer made their way to Callista and their way home, as did Graham and Agnes after their lunch made their way back to Lymington.

After lunch we both left for the Hamble. Light winds meant that we motor sailed back in a steadily increasing wind.

Although not as planned we all had an enjoyable midweek event with many new friends.

Our next midweek event is to Bosham with a walk to the Roman Villa planned for the Wednesday, put it in your diary for June 19th.

List of attendees:-

Allan and Liz on Halyards

John and Hilary on Practica

David and Jennifer on Callista

SailorTim and Les on Aruanda

Graham and Agnes on First Flight

Robert on Bounder

Guy and Lesley on Beagle the guest gaffer

Allan Howlett May 2013

Harken Cowes Regatta

25th to 27th May

Coordinators: Roger & Diane Perry



The summer arrived to greet the 22 yachts that berthed at Cowes Yacht Haven on Saturday 25th May. We met for the traditional pontoon party in late afternoon. This was enjoyed as usual, despite anxieties of the reduced “freeboard” of the pontoon as 50+ sailors swapped tales of adventures old and planned cruises to come.

The racing skippers and crews then visited Island Sailing Club for a briefing and a visit to ISC starting box before joining the non-racers for a slightly rowdy dinner at China China.

Sunday brought blue skies and a distinct absence of wind. However, the experience of the ISC showed itself and they postponed the racing till a brisk westerly had set in. Three exciting races took place with eight yachts thoroughly enjoying themselves. Special mention must go to the smallest of the fleet, White Horse, a M31 MkII, sailed by the Cook family, sailing against the other boats, all 38 to 44 foot with exception of JJ, the Brethertons M54.

The racing was won by JJ, with Argo second and Time Out third.



In the evening we adjourned to ISC for a prize giving dinner, during which the Arun Trophy was presented to Derek and Leslie Bretherton.

Monday morning again brought fine weather for a leisurely departure to home ports, with a number of yachts completing a Dixon 3 race on the way.

Thanks must go to Harken for sponsoring the regatta, to Island Sailing Club for the great race organization and hospitality, to Arun Sails for the trophy and their ongoing support of the MOA, to the weather gods and to all the attendees that made it a great weekend.

Roger Perry

Captain's Supper

Saturday June 8th

Coordinator: Kelly Lehmann

Captain's Supper this year was held at Mercury Yacht Harbour, on the River Hamble, on 8th June.

It was felt that this venue would offer our many members, who are moored on the Hamble, the opportunity to potter along in their dinghies.

As it happened most attendees arrived by car with only one couple arriving by dinghy and four others arriving on a single yacht.

This reduction in planned attendees caused us to modify our intention to take over the whole restaurant and also stopped the planned screening of the film "Wind"; though it remains available if anyone else wishes to borrow it.

Nevertheless, 22 persons enjoyed a very good - and reasonably priced - dinner that gives cause to consider this venue again for the future.

However as we also have a Fitting Out Supper, Laying Up Supper (AGM and Prize giving) in the calendar maybe we need a better 'excuse' for holding the Captain's Supper; in order that more people will attend.

There will be a special prize for the best reason (serious or jocular) received by the Captain before the Solent Branch AGM.

Kelly



Midweek visit to Chichester

19th June

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

Attendees:

Allan and Liz on Halyards

Geoff and Val on Moon Shadow

Following a weeks delay because of poor weather we made Chichester marina for Tuesday evening, light winds and a fair tide meant we motor sailed in a calm sea into Chichester. A lovely estuary: we arrived at the marina, checked in and waited for the lock gates. We picked a berth close to Moon Shadow.

We enjoyed a meal in the conservatory of the yacht club. Bathed in sunshine overlooking Chichester lake. The following morning we walked to Itchenor to see if any other Moody yachts had arrived. No one evident, so we took the river taxi across to the Bosham shore and walked along the shore to Bosham.

A lovely unspoilt village, we had an ice cream as we wandered through the church yard and along the mill path, eventually arriving at the Anchor Bleu where we enjoyed a Bacon and Brie baguette before returning to the ferry. The ferry man waited for us and as we chatted we asked if any Moody yachts were on the visitors buoys. He offered to run us up the trots. No MOA boats. He asked where our boats were and when we told him that we were in Chichester Marina he offered to run us up river. Very kind of him and worth a name check, 'Thanks to Andy'.

A pleasant evening after a hot shower in the new facilities at the Premier Marina. Yarning the night away on board Moon Shadow enjoying helpings of Eton Mess, strawberries, cream and marshmallow, delicious, and eventually to bed. The weather forecast was for a wet, thundery windy night. We awoke to a dry windless overcast sky.

After breakfast we walked to the Roman Villa at Fishbourne on the outskirts of Chichester. An early Roman Palace only the floors remain but some spectacular mosaics. All nearly lost when developers reduced the burnt out remains to ground level and built houses on half the palace area. Excellent tour guides, and lots of children.

Liz treated us to an almond cake tea and then we had a curry in in the new marina restaurant, whilst we discussed the options of going to Beaulieu River for scones at the weekend. The weather forecast was dire but unpredictable. We decided to get back to Swanwick, Geoff and Val with family due down for the weekend decided to stay in Chichester.

The following morning we made it home to Swanwick, sailing most of the way.

A good mid-week option but the weather forecast kept many away.

Next month is our midweek visit to Keyhaven, watch for details.

Allan and Liz Howlett

Halyards

Bucklers Hard Cream Tea and BBQ

Saturday 22nd June

Coordinators: John & Tricia Eveson

When the cream was likely to fly off the top of the jam on the scone,
When the tea decides to blow out of the top of the cuppa,
When the likelihood of setting fire to Bucklers Hard is possible,
Or in any case the barbecues would just incinerate the outer layers of the meat,
Or our dinghies would not be able to get to shore,
And the predicted rain did its level best,
Then
It is time to call it a day on an event.

A few hardy souls did gather at the hospitable location of Haslar Marina at Gosport.
We found a somewhat sheltered area and by strapping down the tables managed to serve a
passable Cream Tea, a warm cup of tea was welcome.

Those who could stay repaired to Moody Blue where we were warmed by a few bevvies.

John & Tricia Eveson

Surf and Turf Bembridge Style

6th July

Coordinators: Mark & Diana Glyde

21 boats and 59 people turned up to enjoy a sizzling weekend at Bembridge Harbour. We transferred to the beach on the other side of the harbour looking towards Portsmouth and Chichester where a gentle breeze kept the top of the heat at bay.

Alan Howlett of 'Halyards' designed a fantastic treasure hunt which sent young and old looking for all sorts of items. Woodlice at one extreme and a bottle top (easy) at the other.



Searching for Treasure Hunt items

This was followed by a team water bomb competition which did result in none left by the end, and a lot of wet participants!



Water bomb competition

A match of rounder's was enjoyed by the young but was cut short by the seafood arrival which as always was superb, supplied by the "Best dressed Crab in Town".

There were 4 entrants for the sandcastle competition, Roger and Diane from 'Sincerity' had the difficult task of judging, all were outstanding in their own way, each winning a prize.



The grand finale was the tug of war, girls versus boys. It was a very close competition and after 2 rounds it was neck and neck but the 3rd round was just won by the boys team.



Mark Glyde
"Argo"

Midweek visit to Keyhaven and Hurst Castle

10th July

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

A summer heatwave and a good turnout. The problem with Keyhaven is that there is a small window around high tide to get in, and it is the wrong end of the Solent to take advantage of the tides. Most of the boats arrived Tuesday around the high tide at mid-day. I then found that I had sprung a seam on my dinghy which limited the time I had to welcome members. We had picked up one of the many vacant buoys on the first bend, and soon after were joined by Helen and Tony on their new Moody Eclipse 33, Bokhara Dream, and shortly after by Bernadette and David on Every Cloud II, then Jean and Peter on Moonbeam. Finally Heather and Trevor arrived in Ossian and joined us. I managed a quick trip on my leaky dinghy to invite everyone to tea and cakes on board Halyards.



Moored in the river

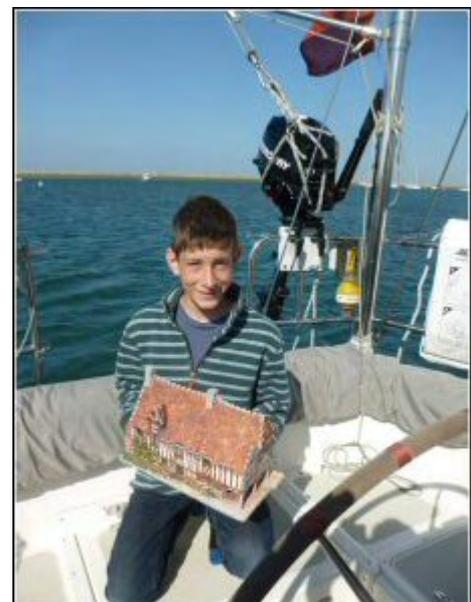


Talking sailing

We exchanged tales and enjoyed the sunset and falling tide as the estuary came alive with wading birds rummaging in the mud for tasty morsels. The Harbour Master collected £10 per boat for an overnight, probably the best value in the Solent. He told us that the marshes will only last about another 35 years as erosion is eating into the marshes and silting up the channels.

We agreed a morning visit to the Castle. As the evening wore on we were invited aboard Ossian to help William with his three dimensional jig saw puzzle. A novel way to spend an evening, five pairs of hands trying to fit pieces and only one picture.

We were all up and as we watched the first ferry arrive at the fort we made our way up to the fort entrance by dinghy. Trevor kindly dropped Liz and myself ashore for a walk along the beach to the castle entrance. Concessionary entrance fee was a reasonable £4.



3D jigsaw complete



At the Castle

gun emplacements, a mini theatre for troop entertainment, a video of the forts recent history and a photoboard display of the damage done by the severe storm that washed away the shingle bank and flooded the marshes some 20 years ago (I think).



Tea at the castle

A rich and fascinating history, the original fort of Henry the VIII is surrounded by later Napoleonic and WWI and WWII additions. Two original 10ton guns have been reset in their casements having been recovered from the Solent together with many other armaments. There is a history of Trinity house set out in some of the



The view towards the marshes

As we sat in the sunshine having tea we all agreed that we would forego the crab sandwiches and escape with the mid-day high tide.

We left for Lymington with Heather and Trevor and waited for the tide to turn. As the wind increased we eased ourself off the Dan Brown pontoon and made our way back to Swanwick. I had forgotten how difficult it is to pick up marks amongst the background of the shore lights on a moonless night. We arrived back at Swanwick just after midnight. And so to bed.

An enjoyable meeting with great weather and a great location. A must for next year. There will not be a midweek event next month, but watch out for details of our Beaulieu River lunch on 11th September.

List of attendees:-

Allan and Liz on Halyards

Bernadette and David on Every Cloud II

Helen and Tony and Gypsy on Bokhara Dream

Jean and Peter on Moonbeam

Heather and Trevor, with William on Ossian

Allan Howlett

July 2013

Cross Channel Cruise in Company

July 13th to 20th

Coordinators: Tony & Eleanor Redshaw

Cherbourg Alderney and beyond

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Get up at 4.30 and off at 5 am as the sun rises; meet at Bembridge Ledge buoy at 6.30. Those were the instructions for the Virgin Cross Channel skippers. Argo and Mistral Dancer had left the day before - the Vanguard, and Aruanda left from Yarmouth. We, in Svecia, Calista, Sea'Scape and Liberty of Chichester all arrived on time. We motored in easy conditions on the course of 200° bound for Cherbourg. Calista was transmitting AIS, and we kept in contact by radio on

channel 77.



Bembridge sunrise



Calista



Sea'Scape



Pimms on the pontoon

Cherbourg was chaos! A race was starting on the Monday with 120 yachts taking up one whole visitors' pontoon; but Laurence and Annie Gandar had made contact with the Capitanerie and we were all accommodated. Mistral Dancer, Aruanda and Calista on Pontoon 'Q', the rest on pontoon 'A' - at the other end of the marina, a twenty minute walk away. On Svecia we found a berth next to Argo, but the 'lad' had other ideas, and moved us to the other side, with a magnificent finger 6 feet wide, ideal for the Pimms welcome party at noon, on Sunday followed by an excellent extended lunch in Le Club Nautique de Cherbourg.



Lunch at Le Club Nautique

Being Bastille Day, the kindly French laid on a magnificent firework display for us in the evening!

On Monday, Calista and Aruanda returned to the UK, while Argo and Mistral Dancer went straight on to Guernsey. After shopping we, Sea'Scape and Liberty motored to Alderney

passing the 120 odd racing yachts drifting on the inshore back eddy to Cap de la Hague.



Liberty

All the yellow buoys in Braye Harbour were taken, but Seascape called the harbourmaster and was told to take one of the orange local buoys. We did the same at the East side of the bay, as did Liberty with a little help from the harbour launch (there was only a piece of string on the buoy!).



Liberty mooring at Braye

Tuesday saw varied activities; having bought our VAT free RNLI Christmas cards, we walked west along the coast, past the Crabbie Harbour (to order duty free booze) and views of the Swinge and Fort Clonque to gain the Zig Zag path and a view of the gannets - thousands of them!



Gannet Rocks



To "The Gannets"

That evening food was a typical Alderney affair. Rea's Bistro stopped taking orders at 7.30 (only one cook was on, and a booked table of 14 had arrived), and the alternative, Diver's, had run out of gas!



Braye Sunset

Another amazing sunset.

Sea'Scape returned to England, Liberty stayed an extra day, while we eased down to St Peter Port catching 6 mackerel, for dinner, on the way.



6 Fresh Mackerel

So, there were four Moody Owners in Guernsey - and drinks were on the Vice Commodore!

So, there were four Moody Owners in Guernsey - and drinks were on the Vice Commodore!



Bikes to Port Blanc

Finally, we and Argo headed south to Treguier where we celebrated one birthday and a wedding anniversary together. We also enjoyed a bike

ride to Port Blanc and the circus.

Then a passage through the rock gardens (Pass de la Gaine, Moisie Channel, Brehat and finally Chenal du Denou) led us to the delights of Palmpol, including a steam train to Pontrieux. There our party separated, us to St Cast, Argo to Saint Quay.



Circus Camels

So we started on the 13th July with 7 MOA yachts, three in Alderney, 4 in St Peter port, 2 in Treguier and Paimpol, and finally there was just us over a week later.

It was great fun with sunny weather and we hope the MOA repeats the experience.

Tony & Eleanor Redshaw

Participants:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Svecia | Tony, Eleanor and Peter Redshaw |
| Liberty of Chichester | Graham and Pauline Marsh, Chris Kelly |
| Sea'Scape | Neil and Elaine O'Connor |
| Aruanda | Tim and Sue Price, Martin and Susan Spooner |
| Calista | David and Jennifer Shepperd, Robert + |
| Mistral Dancer | Laurence and Annie Gander |
| Argo | Mark and Diana Glyde, Henry and Emily |

Nab Tower race and Chichester harbour cruise

August 24th - 26th

Coordinators: Roger & Diane Perry

On Saturday 24th August seven boats gathered in the mid Solent to commence this annual race. Sincerity acted as start boat, flying the appropriate flags and making sound signals. Unfortunately several yachts did not start as expeditiously as they could have done as they were expecting a count-down to the start over the radio! (Learning point noted for future events).

The wind was WNW F3 - 4 giving a dead run to the Nab tower. The benefit of poles to goosewing the genoa became obvious with those yachts so equipped pulling away from the fleet. At the Nab tower we were surprised to see workmen apparently dismantling the outer sections of the tower. The leg to West Pole at Chichester entrance tested our upwind skills.

The competitors then cruised to Northney Marina to meet those MOA members that had gathered despite a poor weather forecast. However the clouds cleared and we enjoyed a communal BBQ in a bright but cool evening.

Sunday saw most attendees meandering gently through the dinghy racing fleets up to Chichester Marina. After a walk in the afternoon, we gathered for dinner in Chichester YC for more convivial chat.

On Monday, after overcoming the challenge of locking out of Chichester, we all returned to our respective home berths. The planned Dixon race was again thwarted by there being little more than a zephyr of breeze that hardly filled the lightest of sails.

Overall a most enjoyable weekend, combining some good sailing and great socializing

And the winner of the Nab Tower race was Mark and Diana Glyde and the A Team on Argo

Midweek visit to Beaulieu

September 11th

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

After a brilliant summer, the weather began to change with nights drawing in, perhaps a last opportunity to enjoy our boats. Initial strong interest waned as the weather forecast worsened.

However four boats and 8 members made it.

Initially Tim the Sailor on 'Aruanda' was due to join us on the Wednesday, but because of the poor weather decided to go on the Tuesday, he visited the Motor Museum and had a good day out.

We arrived just after 'Moon Shadow' on the Wednesday and berthed on the pontoon just after 11. The forecast Force 4 was an over estimate as we had a comfortable sail with the ebbing tide. Colin and Jennifer on 'At Last' had phoned the Marina at Beaulieu to inform us that traffic on the A3 had delayed his departure from Swanwick, but he was on his way.

Lunch at the Montague Arms beckoned, a cloudy start with rain threatening made us hurry along the woodland path from Bucklers Hard up to Beaulieu a lovely 2.5 mile walk through the forest, not much nature to see but we talked a good walk. The only wild life we saw was a tramp and his overflowing supermarket trolley wearing a brand new pair of boots with the price label still attached (the tramp not the trolley) who was with two New Forest donkeys in the village.

We arrived at The Montague Arms and were joined soon after by Colin and Jennifer who had taken a taxi to the restaurant from Bucklers Hard. We all enjoyed a sociable, well prepared meal, including copious amounts of Garlic bread and crusty Bloomer bread with a Balsamic dip. My real beef-burger was delicious. We decided not to have desert but opted for an ice cream from the chocolate shop in the high street.

On the way back we were caught in the start of the rain. Colin had to leave early so when he



Colin and Jennifer share the umbrella



Val and Jenny enjoy an ice cream

left, we all decamped to Halyards for the afternoon where we had a lovely afternoon eating Liz's lemon tart and squirry cream.

Darkness fell early and as Geoff and Val with their two guests Ian and Jenny had to get to Chichester on the Thursday morning, we turned in as darkness fell.

The sail back turned out to be a motor home as the forecast Force 6 did not arrive, and there was insufficient wind to lift the Genoa.

A fun day out, but I have still to visit the motor museum, after 40 years trying, perhaps next year.

Finally put October the 16th in your diary for our next midweek even. We plan to take a trip on the Isle of Wight steam train, berthing at East Cowes Marina. Please let me know if you are interested.

Allan and Liz Howlett
Halyards

Folly Bop

21st September 2013

Coordinators: The Sage Machine

Well Friday was a super day of sunshine so the Indian Summer forecast for the Folly Bop weekend was a dead cert. Saturday morning dawned, light winds, spectacular Spring Tide one of the biggest of the year and where was that sun? As dead as the dead cert! So in the 10 10ths cloud cover we felt our way up to the Folly reach and our reserved moorings. Time Out was directed alongside our very own MOA floating herb garden, yes Claire and Williams - Melos II. By late morning we were established with rafting 5 out into that tide. A 6th boat visiting was directed alongside as 'they were only staying for lunch' oh that's alright then as the headlines hit top 'G'!

At 4 o'clock we gathered under a boom tent strung between Ocean Strider and JJ (Derek and Lesley) making a large space for our usual bring your own bottle and glasses 'pontoon' party, where of course, if we hadn't been gassing all afternoon already we talked some more, met some new-comers to the Solent MOA (welcome) and met up with old friends.

Suddenly there was a rumour that we had an early sitting in the Folly and there was an instantaneous 'Le Mans' start. Never has the MOA moved so fast. When Time Out arrived in the folly it was 18.05 and one family with children had almost finished their meal. In fact I think we were all done by 19.30. With so much time on our hands we were forced again to talk and imbibe, whilst waiting for the singing and dancing to commence. Mary led the way and we were soon all bopping to the traditional Folly Bop music and generally having a good time. Sadly the music finished and we returned to our boats with some nightcaps being consumed and a quiet night commenced.

Sunday dawned cloudy with no wind so 'iron topl's' were deployed and we headed back to our home ports. The sun made a brief appearance later - typical.

A big thank you to Kim and Joseph for their efforts and to all those who participated and made it fun.

See you all soon.

Richard

Solent Hack

AGM AND LAYING UP DINNER

Saturday 16th November

Coordinators: Val & Geoff Lucas

The annual AGM for the MOA Solent Branch took place on Saturday 16th November at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club. There were 49 attendees. Prizes were awarded for racing and photography and gifts of appreciation given for organising events. Elections were carried out with some members of the committee standing for re-election and others resigning. We have been left with just one vacancy, that of Vice Captain. At the end of the meeting there was a very interesting talk given by Malcolm Thorpe, owner of Bembridge Harbour.

Once the formalities were over everyone repaired to the bar to socialise and much arm twisting was done to sell raffle tickets. There were many prizes and all proceeds are being donated to the RNLI at Bembridge, with £92 being raised.

Dinner was enjoyed and much lively chatter went on. We also had to exercise our brains in order to do Tony & Eleanor Redshaw's fiendish quiz. All questions had a nautical flavour. The table with the highest score was disregarded after it was found that they had had electronic help!!! The second highest scoring table enjoyed a box of chocolates to go with their coffee. The evening finished just after 10.30pm.

Val & Geoff Lucas