

2014

Fitting Out Supper - 15th March 2014

Coordinators: Val and Geoff Lucas

This took place at Portsmouth Harbour Yacht Club, Port Solent during the evening after a beautiful day of sunshine and light breezes. Some members took the opportunity to sail to the event and berth in the marina for the night with another day of glorious weather to look forward to on Sunday.



As the date was close to St Patrick's Day, Green was the Theme, and everyone took this to heart with some splendid outfits. We had leprechauns, green bow ties, green from head to toe (literally in the case of Richard Beeson's shoes!) and much other evidence of green attire.



PHYC did us proud with excellent food and service. This was a chance for everyone to catch up (some have been sailing in the Mediterranean) and for new members to be welcomed into our friendly branch. A great social time was had by all and there was reluctance to leave at the end of the evening.

Val & Geoff Lucas

RYA First Aid Courses - 1st February and 8th March 2014

Coordinator: Sheena Boyce

During a break from manning the MOA Stand at the Southampton Boat Show in 2012 I visited the Hengistbury Outdoor Centre stand and discussed with Rob Howlett, the principal, the possibility of organising an RYA First Aid Course for MOA Solent members. A few weeks later we received sufficient support from members attending the Branch AGM to proceed.

On Saturday 1st February ten MOA Solent members convened at Collyers Barn near Petersfield, courtesy of Mark and Diana Glyde, to complete the RYA First Aid Course. We all enjoyed the day, including Arran who commented that such was the enthusiasm of the group that the day had simply flown by.

Interest had been sufficient to support a second course and, on this occasion I recruited one of the course participants to provide the event report that follows ...thank you Eleanor!

RYA 1st AID COURSE at Sarisbury Green, on 8th March 2014

We had an informative and fun day, under the tutelage of Arran Scott, who had come over from Poole, having already dealt with a motorcar accident on his way!



Nine MOA members took part, to learn about up to date methods of bandaging different types of wound, ('Medisave' online is a good bet for stocking up dressings and bandages), the treatment of burns, anaphylactic shock and Epi-pens, dealing with asthma, bad bleeds, head injuries, stroke and cardiac arrest - all 5 need a Mayday Call and a Lifeboat.

Did you know that there is new wording for making a Mayday request? There was great hilarity when Annie Gander, Richard Beeson and Neil O'Connor tried on various types of orange Thermal Protection Aids- 'suits' for hypothermia - they soon got hot, but only one allowed movement, to continue to control a yacht.



We all practised CPR on 'Bob', the dummy - again there are changes from when I did my last course.

Three particular points stuck in our minds...

firstly, when you do a briefing to new crew, beside running through safety points, it is a good idea to ask them if they are taking any medication and if they have any health issues about which you ought to know;

secondly, as a radio operator, we can request a helicopter evacuation, if the victim needs rapid assistance;

thirdly, having passed the course and got our certificate, we are obliged to offer First Aid at any accident that we come across!

Thank you to Sheena Boyce, for arranging a really useful day. I would recommend it to other MOA members....you never know when you might need this knowledge.

Eleanor Redshaw

Midweek visit to Mary Rose Exhibition

16th April 2014

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

The weather was set fair, so we left our berth at Chichester with Geoff and Val in Moon Shadow on the high tide on Tuesday afternoon. We made Premier Gosport Marina and took our reserved berths.

There we found Tony and Eleanor on Svecia and they joined us for Liz's afternoon tea Bakewell tart... and scones, jam and clotted cream - scrummy. Rob and Trish joined us, walking from Haslar Marina where they keep their boat, Broomstick. We then agreed to walk to 'The Bakery' in Royal Clarence Marina. We had enjoyed a lovely dinner in the original Naval Bakery, surrounded by the original ovens. When we arrived it had closed down, windows painted out. In fact the Marina buildings and shops looked unoccupied. We decided that a meal at 'The Castle' next door to Premier's Marina would be the closest alternative. Rob and Trish had not joined us so six of us enjoyed a generous meal in the pub, which lacked atmosphere. We then retired to Svecia for a night cap.

On Wednesday we were joined by Stephen, Eleanor's brother and his wife Kim, as well as my daughter Julia, and my grandchildren Amber and Max. We all took the ferry across to Portsmouth and walked to the Naval Dockyard. There was a short queue which included many children as it was the school half term. The weather was perfect, clear blue skies, bright sunshine with a cool wind. We all decided that the Mary Rose Museum should be our first attraction before it got too crowded. My Grandson saw the Victory and wanted to go on the 'Pirate Ship'. Promising we would go on later. The New Museum, opened late last year was a delight, nicely laid out, walking through the lengths of the four decks, with the Mary Rose hull on one side and the recovered artefacts on the other. It is the largest collection of Tudor Artefacts, well presented in large walk round enclosures. There was a video depiction of the ship going down, my grandson was intrigued by the ship's dog's skeleton, I had to explain that his pet dog 'Buster' had a skeleton like that. Two hours flew by, but little bodies need feeding and rest so we retired to the café and enjoyed a tasty sandwich sitting in the sunshine. Fortunately the entrance tickets for the complete Naval Dockyard are valid for a year, and now include the Submarine Museum in Gosport, the Explosives Museum on Priddy's Hard and the courtesy ferry between attractions. We shall return for another visit.



Mary Rose decks showing dehumidifying tubes

After lunch we visited HMS Victory, it is continually being maintained whilst being kept open to the public. At present all the top spars and yards have been removed, but her cabins are well presented. It really is wonderful part of our heritage. Standing on the spot where Nelson was shot and explaining to the grandchildren what had happened. We briefly met up with the others for a photo, and then retired to our boat.

In the early evening my daughter left with the grandchildren and Liz got ready for dinner. She had prepared a chicken casserole, followed by Apple Crumble and more cream, and then a cheese platter.

As the MOA had organised an Easter weekend in Bembridge we stayed in the Gosport Marina on the Thursday. Geoff helped me sort out my Jabsco. We then we had dinner on Moon Shadow, where Val had prepared a Lasagne, Eleanor had brought along a Cherry pie and Val provided a summer fruits crumble, and so ended a memorable Midweek. The Mary Rose Museum was a revelation, worth the visit. Some things we need to preserve, and some things we do well, the Mary Rose Museum is one of the best.

Allan and Liz Howlett
Halyards



**Max, Amber, Val and Geoff, Liz and Allan
in front of HMS Victory**

Head East at Easter to Bembridge

18th - 21st April 2014

Coordinators: Sheena & Martin Boyce

With fair weather forecast we headed to Bembridge a day early to make sure we would be waiting to welcome everyone as they arrived on Good Friday. Boats started to join us around lunchtime and the marina team kept us together with some of us tucked away on the inside of the pontoon. Early evening we headed ashore for a BBQ and were grateful (as the sun dropped) for the shelter offered by a newly erected marquee. It was then back to our boats for nightcaps, coffee and more catch up chats.



Those of us lucky enough to have secured a place for a tour of RNLI Bembridge met by the water taxi at 9am sharp to shorten the walk to the Lifeboat Station. We were split into two groups of 10 to complete tours of both the station building and the offshore lifeboat. A big vote of thanks was given to the RNLI team (of three) who gave so generously of their time and patiently answered all our questions.



After lunch we headed across to the Duver for kite flying. Every boat had been provided with a kite kit and were keen to launch their newly constructed kites. Alexander (Moody Blue) and Zoe (Empty Sky) came equipped with acrobatic kites and were soon showing the rest of us what they could achieve. A special mention must be made for the Sage family who managed to keep their kites aloft for the whole session. Easter egg themed prizes were subsequently awarded in classes that included "Best Easter themed flight", "Most impressive kite flight" and "Best effort with the box kite".



On Sunday morning and despite a dubious weather forecast, a group of intrepid walkers headed off towards Culver Down. We managed to pose for a group photo in front of the Yarborough Monument and make it into the nearby pub just before the heavens opened. With the rain setting in the group split - a hardy cohort headed back on foot (and proceeded to get very wet) and a group of eight opted to take an easier route and returned by minibus.

Thankfully the sun came out in time for our walk to Brading Haven Yacht Club for an evening carvery - put on especially for us! The team at BHYC extended a warm welcome, provided fabulous food and encouraged us all to make return visits....which we feel sure we shall. A sunny morning on Easter Monday provided an opportunity to show off our Easter bonnets - and to award more prizes and the Sage family staged a duck race in the harbour. The money raised has since been donated to RNLI Bembridge.



Our Race Officer had provided a route for the first Dixon race of the season that could be completed en-route to or from Bembridge. Some skippers, having completed the course during their outward journey were hoping to improve on their time as they made their way home.

A great start to the sailing season - thank you to everyone who took up our invitation to "Head East at Easter".

Sheena and Martin Boyce

Yarmouth Rally 24th - 26th May 2014

Coordinators: Neil & Elaine O'Connor

I think it was the film "*Jason and the Argonauts*" that had the gods playing chess to determine the fate of Jason and his crew. We had Argo and her crew on the rally, and it sometimes felt as if the weather gods were playing a similar game with us.

Elaine and I set out about lunchtime on Friday to get down to Yarmouth the night before the rally proper. It wasn't long before we were stuck on the M3 in a traffic jam with low cloud and driving rain - not a promising start. However, by the time we got down to our boat Sea'Scape on the Hamble the rain had stopped but it was still windy. We set out with two reefs in the main tacking in a SW breeze to get past Lepe Spit before laying our course for Yarmouth. The weather improved, we shook out the reefs. Just about to tack onto our course for Yarmouth when the wind backed S and died, and the sun came out - so we had a pleasant motor sail to Yarmouth arriving Friday evening to be joined by two more boats: White Whisper and Calista.



We woke at 5am on Saturday morning to the sound of torrential rain hammering on deck. I pulled the duvet over my head thinking that nobody else would turn up and it would be a small party for the evening meal. Eventually, however, the weather improved and the boats started arriving - first those that had overnighted en route and then those that had come from further afield. By the end of the afternoon we had 16 boats on the Harold Hayles pontoon and two boats in the harbour that we couldn't fit on.

The pontoon party was scheduled for five o'clock and as the time approach the sky darkened ... but

the rain held off until six and we settled into two groups strategically placed so that the pontoon didn't submerge under the weight of more than forty people - thanks by the way to whoever adjusted my fenders! About six the heavens opened and we scurried back to our boats offering shelter to those that had walked over from the harbour.

It was a wet walk over to the Royal Solent Yacht Club where we were given a warm welcome and served an excellent dinner with splendid views of the clearing rain over toward Lymington.

Sunday started breezy but sunny, and we were organised into the 40 strong shore party for the walk to the Red Lion Inn at Freshwater at 1100 - the departure timed to coincide with the opening times of the pub. After an hour's gentle walk along the former railway line alongside the river we arrived at Freshwater in warm sunshine to enjoy the beer, the pub's wonderful garden with



surrounding vegetable plot, and lunch for those that wanted it. The shore party was allowed to stand down and return to their boats at their leisure.

The climax of the weekend was the Annual Solent Boules tournament and barbecue on the dunes on the W side of the harbour. Jordan Bevington did an excellent job of organising the competition and was proposed and seconded as Branch Vice Captain in a field (well beach) promotion. The tournament was won by Laurie and Charlie Giles the Halyards B Team. Prizes were handed out on the night and the Solent Boules Trophy will be awarded at the Laying Up Supper.



Barbecues were then lit and all had a pleasant time eating, drinking and chatting in the evening sunshine, followed by invitations to drinks on various boats. This was when I had my first bout of boat envy seeing the fit out of the saloon in Calista!

Monday was wet and windy with an E'ly wind. Most delayed their departure until 1400 to catch the tide back. In the event it was quite a pleasant sail back to the Hamble in light rain patches and a N'ly wind. Geoff and Val Lucas motored past us with a cheery wave tucked into the warm deck saloon of their Eclipse 33 Moon Shadow - my second instance of boat envy that weekend!

So the gods had the last laugh with heavy rain as we returned from our home pontoon to the shore - but we managed to make the best of the good weather we had over the weekend and had a really enjoyable time.

Thanks to all who came to Yarmouth and made it such a fun weekend.

Neil & Elaine O'Connor

NAB TOWER and THORNEY ISLAND RALLY

31st May 2014

Coordinators: Eleanor and Tony Redshaw

6 yachts attended the Solent Rally held on May31st- 1st June. On the Saturday morning, as we assembled for The Nab Tower Race, off Gilkicker Point the weather was fair, but the sea was glassy....at 10am, 'White Whisper', with Ian and Sue Fellowes-Freeman in charge of the race, was on station,



marking the start line. However, when we



all positioned for the 5, 1 minute and start hooters, there was no wind! We drifted over the line, with the tide, but it was obvious that there would be no race round the Nab Tower....see photo of our wind instrument.

So, we entered Chichester Harbour, motored up the Thorney Channel and found the nearest allocated buoy to the

slip. Dick Brodie, MOA and known to many of you, is also Commodore of the Thorney Island Sailing Club and had organised for us to have the use of 6 TISC buoys (although he is currently cruising in Croatia).

At 4pm, we went ashore by rubber dinghy and gave out the Treasure Hunt Quiz sheets, which we had researched a month previously....it is a pretty, quiet setting, with a lovely Norman Church and War Cemetery (because it is MOD land...it was an RAF Station and air field until 1976, but is now used by the Army).

The prize was won by the Lucas family - Val, Geoff, Paul, Emma and Sophie...Well done! The TISC club house was open, so we could use the facilities. Then, at 6pm we lit our charcoal in their club BBQ and enjoyed drinks and dips while the food cooked and everyone chatted / mingled. It was BYO grub and drink, so an easy night for us. There was a nice sunset, with views over to Bosham church and Chichester Cathedral...and a very calm, peaceful and free night followed, as the Thorney Channel leads nowhere! The location was a real treat, even for us, who have sailed in Chichester Harbour for 45 years. Sunday dawned sunny and with wind...ideal for the Dixon 4 Race back to Portsmouth.



Eleanor and Tony Redshaw

Midweek to Newtown Creek

17th June 2014

Coordinators: Allan and Liz Howlett

Sunny and warm forecast with light winds as we set out for our passage to Newtown River from our Marina at Chichester on Tuesday afternoon. The Marina was not busy, as was the Solent. The wind was so light that we had to motor all the way through the submarine gap, past Gillkicker, prince Consort, arriving mid-afternoon. We picked up a visitors buoy. We had a cup of tea and cakes and waited for other members. Interest had been slight but some members had said they would try and make it.

We sat in the shade and read our books, after supper we listened to the birds quarrelling over the best roosts as we read ourselves to sleep.

After a cloudy start the sun broke through, no sign of any other members so we decided to take the tide back to Chichester after lunch. We left Newtown and made our way back home under motor and sharing the Solent with a couple of Container ships. In Chichester harbour we unintentionally joined a dinghy race that was using our starboard mark as a racing mark we were all rounding it together. Hasty avoiding action eventually saw us clear. Not a boat to be seen all the way home and then a swarm.

Perhaps our next midweek will attract a few more mid-weekers. That will be Keyhaven on the 23rd July. Including a Visit to Hurst Castle and crab sandwiches on offer.

Allan and Liz Howlett
Halyards

Lymington Safari Supper

14th June

Coordinators: Annie & Laurence Gandar



MOA fleet on Dan Bran pontoon

For future reference a Pimm's bucket (courtesy of Fly Orchid) will hold 2 litres of Pimm's, 6 litres of lemonade, plenty of fruit and 3 bags of ice (courtesy of Lucinda of Lymington). This is enough for 20 people for an hour!

After a short break to enable the various chefs to complete preparations the supper was started with a blast from Mistral Dancer's fog horn. This was then used as the evening progressed to signal the change of crews and venues for the various courses as the meal progressed.

Saturday saw 8 MOA yachts on the Dan Bran pontoon. It was great to welcome some members who had not taken part in any MOA event before and this was to be a great way to meet up with everyone. As it turned out we were able to include a new Moody 41AC who although not members were able to make use of a spare berth (bringing the total to 9) and enjoy the company of other members who of course gave encouragement to join!

The proceedings started with Pimm's on the pontoon. For



Pimms on the pontoon



Crew transfer between courses

A considerable amount of planning and preparation had been required to sort out which yachts hosted which crews for starters, mains and desserts, but by the end of the meal everyone had met everyone else and dined on several different Moodys.

The evening completed with the cheese course hosted on At Last which was conveniently alongside the M46 Lucinda who were able to provide comfortable viewing of The England - Italy football match for those interested in football.

Sunday morning saw the fleet depart into a rather dull NE which made departure a bit of a challenge for those without bow thrusters.

Thanks to all for making the effort to produce all the food and for making this such a fun event.

Annie & Laurence
Mistral Dancer

Bembridge Surf & Turf

28th June 2014

Coordinators: Allan & Liz Howlett

Watching the weather forecast gave little hint to what weather could be expected. Forecasts were inaccurate, and varied. Consequently booking had been slow with only 10 boats confirming a booking and ordering crab and lobster.

In the end we had some fun games and enjoyed our crab and lobster in fair weather, if not brilliant sunshine. On the mainland isolated rain storms blew through, some of us had rain on the crossing to Bembridge, we had a short dry trip from Chichester with unfavourable winds. Arriving at high tide the Marina was not busy, and we were rafted out three deep helped by the efficient berthing masters. Light cloud gave ways to spells of sunshine, in a chilly wind.

We made our way to the beach choosing the lee side of the east dunes. The children started their sand sculptures/castles. Whilst each boat crew was given a chocolate quiz. Target bowls was first with Sam and grandad Peter from Dulcibella showing how it was done, followed by a Frizbee throwing competition. Competition was keen for target boules, but the wind played havoc with the Frizbee throwing.



Crab and Lobster platters

and prawns.

After our BBQ it was time for the prize giving. Five



**Dave and Ashleigh,
winners of the chocolate Quiz**

At 5pm the crab and lobster arrived and we started the BBQs. The rain kept off, the sunshine broke through. The crab and lobster was nicely prepared I individual portions dressed with salad



Sand sculptures winners

children had completed their sand sculptures and prizes of punch balloons, medals and jelly babies, were awarded to Amy, Micheael, Sam, Amber and Max, for enthusiastic efforts given the limited amount of beach available.

The chocolate quiz was won by White Horse with a credible 29 out of 40, they received a M&S voucher. The target boules was won by who also received an

M&S Voucher and a cup from, and the Frizbee was won by Paul from Eauzone, with a throw of 19m 190mm. Michael from Eauzone also won the children's Frizbee competition with a throw of 8.5m and received a cup for the win.

Finally we had a children's tug of war won by Max, Amber and Sam. But lack of numbers meant that Michael and Amy were one man short. However more sweets helped to overcome the disappointment.

As we cleared up from the beach a light shower followed us back to our boats, with Paul and family game fully rowing back to their boat, declining a tow from our dinghy.

Although we had some rain overnight, Sunday was fair and some had a walk for papers before catching the mid-day high tide home. Some boats then opted for the Dixon Race on their way home.

Unfortunately the course would take us in the wrong direction so we headed home to catch the lock at Chichester, our two grandchildren exhausted, slept all the way home.

Thanks for all those who joined us in Bembridge and your enthusiastic support of the activities.



Children's Tug of War

Allan and Liz Howlett
Halyards

Folly Bop

6th September 2014

Coordinators: Mark & Diana Glyde

Sunny, warm but windless weather didn't deter 20 Boats from joining in a fun filled evening at the Folly Inn on the River Medina. It was great to see some new boats join in the fun on the rally;

'Sugar Wings', a Moody 42 with Susannah, Georgina and Richard Hales with some guests on board as well;

'Salute', a Moody 42 with Gavin, Catherine with Mum and Dad;

'Wizard', a Moody 346 with the Mortimer family.



60 gathered for Pimms or a fruit punch on the pontoon (which started to sink!) to get everybody in the mood and catch up on cruising yarns from the summer.

Surprisingly all the Pimms went but there was plenty of fruit punch left.

We then travelled over to Folly Inn by taxi or dinghy for Supper. We were lucky and had the new 'inside out' room all to ourselves and a glorious supper was served.



As the evening wore on many of the 'Moody' gang managed to show their dancing skills and bang heads on the ceiling while jumping up and down on the tables. I think this could be why there were so many sore heads on Sunday Morning!

Mark & Diana Glyde

Argo

Midweek visit to Beaulieu

15th October 2014

Coordinators: Allan and Liz Howlett

As a result of a poor weather forecast our trip to Beaulieu was cancelled and transferred to Chichester. Thursday was forecast as a brighter day, so Geoff and Val on Moon Shadow hosted morning coffee. Annie our Commodore with Laurence joined us first thing and kept us fascinated with tales of their rally to Monte Carlo in their Mini. Apparently 57 Minis took part departing Ashford and finishing in Monte Carlo. Laurence called in as he was in the area checking on our Moody spares and archives which are in the Arun Sails workshop. Before they left we were joined by Richard and Catherine and discussed Moody matters. As the clouds had vanished and the sun was out we walked to the Crown and Anchor at Dell Quay, a very popular lunch time spot. After lunch we returned to Chichester Marina as clouds threatened, and enjoyed a cream sponge and afternoon tea.

In the evening we booked tickets to watch 'Gypsy' at the refurbished Chichester Theatre. An enthusiastic troop with some enticing burlesque dancing and memorable songs, made for an enjoyable evening. We returned to our boats as the heavens opened.

This was the last midweek event of 2014, another quiet year disrupted by bad weather. The highlight of 2014 being the visit to the new Mary Rose exhibition in Portsmouth in April. Looking much better in its new exhibition hall, with displays of artefacts found in the Mary Rose, well worth a visit.

Allan Howlett

Newtown Dash 27th October 2014



**Coordinators:
Joseph & Kim
Sage**

11 boats met in Newtown creek and enjoyed a peaceful morning with most boats picking up buoys and Calista and Time Out at



anchor.

We had a pleasant walk along with Harry & Jody (two of our 4 legged MOA members) to the New Inn where we joined by Argo via taxi from Cowes. There was plenty of banter and laughter and a very satisfying lunch was



enjoyed by all. Joseph (assisted by Elizabeth and Victoria) handed out a quiz based around cheese! This was part 1 of the cheese challenge set for the weekend's entertainment.



At around 14:30hrs the more sensible folk amongst us made their way back to the quayside in warm sunshine to ensure they did not get muddy feet. A handful stayed for another cup of coffee though made it back to the dinghies before the water had

gone out with the tide.

Part 2 of the cheese challenge was a cheese taste test delivered to the boats after lunch. A little later Ocean Strider was joined by White Satin, White Whisper, Calista, Moody Blue, Imogen and Kairos II for the iconic hot chocolate and rum Second Affaire popped over in the dinghy with their taste test answers and Wizzard sent theirs by MOA message (today's technology is amazing).

We were pleased to welcome David, Vicki and guests from White Satin on their first Moody event taking the lead after part 1 of the cheese challenge though they were pipped to the post overall by Rob and Sue from Second Affaire who clearly have a good palate for cheese.



A cheese selection for the taste challenge.

Second Affaire awarded a prize for winning the fun quiz, showing their cheese



expertise.

All aboard Oceans Strider for a Hot Chocolate and a little something to mix with it.

As the Wind forecast looked promising for Sunday a number of boats took part in the Dixon 8 which Ian Fellows-Freeman had prepared (a straight forward course that would suit most Moodys

on the return passage home) whilst a handful of boats decided to make the most of the lovely weather by sailing down to Yarmouth on the afternoon tide to return home on the Monday.



2014 AGM and Laying Up Supper

15th November 2014

Coordinators: Val and Geoff Lucas



The AGM for MOA Solent Branch took place on Saturday 15th November at the Portsmouth Harbour Yacht Club.

Prizes were awarded for racing and photography and gifts of appreciation given to everyone who had coordinated an event. Committee elections were held with some members of the committee standing for re-election and Val and Geoff Lucas, our Joint Secretaries, retiring at the end of their three year term. Our Captain, John Eveson thanked Val and Geoff for their contribution to the Branch and made a

presentation (see photo to left). John was delighted to have a full committee in place at the end of the proceedings.

With the formalities over there was time to buy raffle tickets, check out the draft calendar of events for 2015, reflect on the sailing events of 2014 (a special thank you to Kim Sage for mounting a display of the event reports and photographs) and to socialise in the bar with Solent members old and new.

A generous donation from Rob and Trish Calmels (Broomstick S31) provided two star prizes to complement a fine array of gifts amassed by Tricia Eveson. The raffle raised £170 for the RNLI - a brilliant result from the gathering for a charity close to all our hearts.



Dinner was enjoyed with lots of lively conversation and helped along by a Dingbats Quiz, provided by Allan Howlett. Once Allan had explained what a Dingbats is each table tackled the quiz enthusiastically and the winners enjoyed a box of chocolates alongside their coffees.

The evening finished just after 10.30pm.

Sheena Boyce

Solent Branch Committee