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MY Fastflow, Berth B36, Mayflower Marina, Plymouth.

FROM THE COMMODORE

Well we are back from our travels having crossed to Guernsey (and refuelling) before visiting Cherbourg, Honfleur and Rouen then on to Paris and back. I think we could call it an interesting trip as the course computer gave up on the approach to Rouen giving us an anxious moment as it pushed the helm hard to starboard as we were travelling on that side of the river at about 12 knots. Anyway we came to no harm and having shut the navigation system down we tied up in Rouen and I then disconnected the power from the steering pump which enabled us to use the rest of the instruments without the self steering.



We put into a riverside halt at the Yacht Club at Vernon where we saw something familiar! It was Richard and Pauline Tostevin's Aquastar 33, Abalone, tied up on the pontoon. They had already been to Paris and various other places and were on their way downstream. These Aquastars get about! Anyway we had a drink together before parting to go our separate ways.

Pauline's account of their trip (or rather their boat's account) is reproduced below.

A couple of days later our starboard engine lost power and I discovered the turbocharger had failed. Now I have a bit of a reputation for turbo failures on boats but we decided to carry on with one engine and reached Paris a few days later. I arranged with the agent in Plymouth to send me a new turbo out, which to their credit they did immediately and on a wet Parisian Thursday I changed it.

They say things come in threes and on the way downstream the bilge alarm went off. It turned out that we weren't taking on water but the diesel fuel return pipe on the port engine had split, flooding the bilge. Would you believe it I had a spare so whilst Helen drove on the starboard engine I replaced the pipe and got us going on both engines.

Despite the setbacks we had a thoroughly good time, even managing a trip back to Blighty on the Eurostar for an RNLI event in Poole before returning to Paris to collect our boat. We got a new course computer fitted in Guernsey and have finished up at home none the worse for wear.

The Adventures of an Aquastar – by Pauline Tostevin

Looks like they are getting me ready for a trip. They have already dried me out, and have given my bottom lots of tender loving care, well he has. She has been painting me inside and has taken the carpets out and cleaned and shampooed them. Wow, the cupboards are full of food, and the cabin shelves are well stocked with warm clothing - they're going to need them if we leave soon.

And we're off! Coo this trip round Cap de la Hague reminds me more of the wild trips to the Hanois lighthouse, than a holiday for the missus. This tide is chucking me all over the place, I now understand why surfing is so popular (though I think it is usually enjoyed by younger people than these!) Cherbourg is cool - well actually it is very cold, but the rain is washing off a good deal of the sea salt. It's

been nice to have a couple of days rest, and the weather has improved. Great, we're off again. Honfleur is a very pretty place, and the weather is really nice here, so, we've stayed a couple of days.

Off again in the rock and roll. This is the river Seine, we are having to fight against the outflowing tide for a little while in order to be well underway before the tide catches us up, and then we won't have to work so hard with the tide carrying us up the river. We have to make it to Rouen before the tide makes life difficult. The boss and the missus like it here and have to get a Vignette before going further. Missus tried to get it on the Internet before leaving but had so much bother that she decided it would be easier in Rouen. Trouble is that the office is closed for a week. They have tried the Information department, but they can't get it for us on the Internet. Everyone tells them to wait till Paris.

Paris here we come, we are making slower progress than usual because of the strong current against us. I was dumped in Paris, with their kids, whilst they went off to Switzerland. All right for some! Anyway they are back again and we are off to the Marne River, Wow! this one is lively, has a mind of its own and tells us where we can go. Even to the point of being directed outside the lock gates and between them and the weir - now that was interesting. At another lock we were waiting to go in when the water decided that we should take a whirl towards the barrage. I knew the Boss would sort it out with his Lighthouse experience, but again it was interesting to see who would win.

The Oise and the Aisne were quite tame after all this fun, but the current was still against us. Eventually we were back on the Seine with the current behind us. Now we were flying and having great fun. Guernsey here we come.

Abalone of Guernsey – 33ft Aquastar – 33 years old

I'm always happy to include articles from members in the newsletter. If you have anything of interest please do let me have it.

Aquastar Week, 10 – 17 August 2013

It's definitely decision time. We now have 8 boats signed up for the Rally and I need to know how many more will be attending so that I can get the arrangements made. From what I can gather the pundits are suggesting that the weather will be better this August (don't skin me if I'm wrong!). in any event there is excellent shelter around this coast and we have lots of places to hide away from any strong winds. This is your opportunity to join us in what promises to be another successful event. I can't quite remember how many of us got onto Ingvar's boat one evening for drinks but I recall it being well down on its marks!

I have attached a slightly modified programme and have included suggestions made by a couple of attendees. If you have any suggestions or comments please do let me know and I will do my best to include them. Also if you do decide to come (and you don't have to join us for the whole event if you don't want to) please let me know using the form attached and email it back to me.

News from the Yard

The next Aquastar 42' is in build for an owner who is replacing his Dale Nelson 38 for a more up-to-date design. The outstanding inherent seaworthiness and style of the Aquastar 42' with its twin Yanmars will be complimented by the fitting of stabilizer fins. "Why not indeed" the new owners say 'we can continue boating comfortably in higher wind strengths than other boats'.

I had a look recently at the new Aquastar 49' which is in build and looking superb and is due for launch at the September Boat Show. It incorporates many new design features and is well worth a look when you visit the show.

Following on from the 49 is a new Aquastar 55' which has been ordered by a long standing customer, his 4th Aquastar to be commissioned. The new 55' will have twin MAN 800hp engines and will be along the design and performance lines of the 49'. Launch date is Spring 2014.

The Maltese pilot boat is nearing completion. Again Aquastar have been able to incorporate design and safety features into the boat which will make it a sound workboat in the Maltese harbours. There is talk of a second boat.



A Different Aquastar

Whilst in Guernsey last week I saw the brand new Aquastar 'Cocos' which had been built to a very high standard by Island Marine Craft in St Sampsons onto a hull supplied by Aquastar. The aft cockpit 38ft boat features a Portuguese style wheelhouse and has been built to the specifications members, of Simon and Joss Craven-Wilkinson. An interesting and very attractive concept for the 38 designed to make cruising for 2 people very comfortable.

We look forward to seeing the boat out and about soon.

The Southampton Boat Show

We will be manning the Aquastar stand again at the Southampton Boat Show between the 13th and the 22nd of September. Geoff will be showing the new 49 along with the 42 which had its debut last year.

This year we are holding a reception for Aquastar Club Members on Saturday 21 September from 5pm until the show closes at 6.30. I do hope you can make it for the reception but whatever day you visit we will look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Please let me know if you are intending to join us at the reception (so I can order an extra bag of crisps).

Membership News

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the club:

Les & Karen Whitton, Sea Ranger 32, *Blue Echo*.

As usual I have attached an up to date membership list. Please check your own entry and let me have any amendments.

Regalia

If your tired burgee needs replacing I've had some more made. Send me a cheque (payable to the Aquastar Club) for £15 for the small ones and £20 for the larger ones. We can also let you have an Aquastar tie for £5 (you will need one for the rally!).

Yours Aye

Tony

ARE WE ADDRESSING YOU CORRECTLY?

Email is our preferred means of contacting you, it significantly reduces our costs and minimises the work required of your lazy Commodore to put the newsletter together and to provide attachments and it saves trees! So if you've received this newsletter through the post it means that **we don't have your up to date email address**. If that is the case we would be grateful if you would kindly let us have it (send it by email!).

Data Protection Act 1998

We hold information on our members in electronic form in compliance with the Data Protection Act for the purpose of running the club. To help us comply please check your details and let us know of any errors or changes required (including if you wish to be deleted from the register of members). Information we hold is shared with other members of the club but will not be disclosed to parties outside the club except with the express permission of members affected.

Aquastar Rally 2013

Date	Usual caveats over weather apply!
9 Aug Friday	Boats arrive at Dartmouth, the jewel in the crown of the South Hams. A truly historic port with a long Naval history. The Royal Naval College overlooks the Harbour which is deep and safe to enter at all states of the tide. The Dart Harbour Authority have reserved us spaces on the pontoons (we were lucky to get in) in the river. There is a good water taxi service and plenty to do ashore. See http://www.dartharbour.org/
10 Aug Sat.	Boats arrive. Take a trip on the Dart Valley steam railway, trips up the river to Dittisham, Stoke Gabriel and Totnes. See http://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk/ 19:00 Welcome drinks and dinner at Dartmouth Yacht Club.
11 Aug Sun.	Cruise around Start Point to Salcombe (15NM) and pick up a visitors buoy or alongside a moored pontoon. Those of you who do not know Salcombe will like this attractive harbour and town with good pubs and restaurants.
12 Aug Mon.	Second day in Salcombe. Trip up river to Kingsbridge. Alternative is River Yealm for a visit to Newton Ferrers where there are waterside pubs and a pleasant yacht club set in a beautiful valley.
13 Aug Tues.	To Plymouth Mayflower Marina (about 20NM) (Fastflow's home berth). http://www.mayflowermarina.co.uk/ Charles Bush, the MD has kindly offered half price berthing to Aquastar Club members attending the rally. Lots to do and see in Plymouth. The British Fireworks Championships are held on 13 th and 14 th of August. We plan to dine at Jolly Jack's, the Marina Restaurant then watch the fireworks from the water, anchored about 200m from the Mountbatten Pier.
14 Aug Wed.	Cycling in Plymouth. Those of you without cycles can hire one from Plymouth Bike Hire (yes he's a friend of mine). http://www.plymouthbikehire.co.uk/ There are lots of safe cycleways and interesting parts of the city to visit. We can also introduce you to some of the secluded anchorages in the Tamar and its tributaries. There are many shoreside activities including visits to the historic parts of Plymouth, Royal Marines Barracks, Aquarium and many other sites (including the gin distillery!). Anyone fancying a sail can borrow a Laser Pico sailing boat from Horizons, the local Children's charity (a small fee is involved) if enough are interested we can organise a 'Round the (Drakes) island race'. Weather permitting a barbecue at the Marina that evening.
15 Aug Thurs.	Fowey (20NM), with perhaps a lunch stop at Polperro or Looe on the way. Fowey is a great favourite in the Westcountry and is a delightful port, steeped in history. Excellent food and pleasant harbour staff makes this one of our favourites. The Gallants Sailing club offer a warm welcome to visitors and there are nice trips up river to be had along with coastal walks. Good fish restaurant here (Sam's).
16 Aug Fri.	For those who wish to venture further, a trip on to Falmouth or the Helford River (23NM). Falmouth is a bustling seaside town. Alternatively the Helford river is a tranquil place and Frenchman's Creek (immortalised by Daphne Du Maurier) can be reached by tender.
17 Aug Sat.	Free time ashore in the morning. In the afternoon judging for the best kept Aquastar. Judging will take account of the vessels age. Awards will also be made for the boat which has travelled furthest to join us and the oldest Aquastar attending. In the evening we hold our final supper together with prize giving and farewells
18 Aug Sun.	Depart. For those extending their cruise the Fowey Regatta runs from the 18 th to the 24 th August and the Dartmouth Royal Regatta is from the 28 th to the 31 st . Both events feature all manner of activities, music and shows (including the Red Arrows) and are well worth staying around for.

Aquastar Rally August 10th to 17th 2013.

We are planning to join the Aquastar Club Westcountry Rally

Names	Boat Name	LOA (M)	Draft (M)	Number on board
Tony & Helen Giblett	Fastflow	12	1.1	2
Gavin & Caroline Crick	Patience	15	1.2	4
Roo & Kath Redwood	Water Bear	10	1	2
John & Anne Le Masurier	Kaan	12	1.1	2
Ingvar and Anna Svenson	Perroquet	10	1	2
Ray & Maureen Grimwood	Gallant Lady	12	1.1	4
Philip and Jean Whitaker	Lynne 1V	12	1.1	2
Ray Barton	Jessica Kate	15	1.2	2

Please also let us have any comments or suggestions for the Rally

I think that you should finish in Tresco and spend a little time touring the islands-Philip Whittaker

We have no preference for ending the rally at either Fowey or Falmouth-Ray Grimwood

When completed please Email this form back to tony@giblett.co.uk