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If you're visiting, do let me know.

COMMODORE'S JOTTINGS

Hello Everybody,

I cannot believe it was 6 months ago that I last put together a newsletter, and I do apologise for not sending out one to include Christmas and New Year greetings. However, at that time our lives were in turmoil, the result of which is I must bring you very sad news. On 10th January Ron passed away having been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer 50 days previously. As you can imagine I am devastated. Obviously it would never be a good time for such a dreadful thing to happen, however it does seem all the more cruel when we were due to start our retirement at the end of January. Unfortunately it does seem it is not unusual for fate to use this timing, but it does make me a bit bitter. Thanks to the unfailing support from all our friends, I think I am coping relatively well, and must be grateful for the fantastic 30+ years we had together, plus we had the opportunity to open our hearts to each other after the diagnosis had been given. We achieved more in our years together than many do in a lifetime, a thought we both hung on to during those 50 days but, although priceless, memories just aren't enough.

The question everybody asks is "What about Timbo?". We did discuss this and my decision was wavering between keep it and take some lessons in parking, or sell it because it was such a Ronnie thing. Ron did understand the latter but was pleased I was considering the former. However given the current likelihood of selling, I am hoping to go for plan A, accompanied by my sister Sarah, so this is not just for information but a warning to all to give a wide berth if you see Timbo about!

Best wishes to you all for the 2009 season,

Nichola

ARE WE ADDRESSING YOU CORRECTLY?

Please let us know if any of your details contain any errors or need any changes. We sometimes get forgotten when members change address, particularly email ones.

2009 Rally

2009 will certainly make up for the 2008 lack of a rally as Tony and Helen Giblett are putting together a 'proper' one based around the Plymouth area. Details are given on pages 3 and 4. Please do try to fit this into your itinerary for 2009 - consider my circumstances and don't put off till tomorrow things you could do today - if you enjoy it you can do it again tomorrow.

Factory News

Geoff reports that the two 57' boats are close to launch after which he will start building a 48'. The 80' boat is being built within the main shop, the hull is complete, the engines have been installed and the superstructure is about to be fitted. A mock up of the joinery has been made for the owner's inspection.

The Aqua Star website has been revamped, with brochures now available on a click of the mouse. I will be working with Geoff to get a link to a Club web page so we can include more photos, articles and cruise experiences. Note Guernsey Boat Show is 23rd-25th April for those wanting a boat based spring outing.

The Font of All AQUA-STARs

Geoff has decided to standardise the font used for the written words AQUA-STAR. This is the nearest font I can find - CENTAUR in BOLD - a small type the font size - this is 12 point.

News from Rupert Kwisthout

Gunbuster is sold and has gone to Marken (near Volendam) in the IJsselmeer. Greetings and good sailing to everybody and when in trouble in Dutch waters like Richard and Jo Archer with Windcheater in Dordrecht, do not hesitate to ask us if any help or information is needed. We live in Capelle a/d IJssel, mooring harbour Zierikzee where we have our new boat bought to use on the canals.

Aqua-Star Rally 2009

As mentioned previously, this year Helen and Tony Giblett, with a bit of input from Nichola, are planning a rally to Plymouth between the weekends of 8/9 and 15/16 August. They are busy planning a week of activities which will include plenty of socialising. The rally will be hosted at Mayflower Marina, where berths will be available. As usual, this will be a relaxed event and to start it off a dinner will be arranged in Astra's Restaurant (on the marina) for the first Saturday night.

Helen and Tony have drafted the attached programme (subject to weather!) which might suit most but suggestions for alternatives are most welcome. Needless to say if you don't want to take part in any particular activity there will be no pressure to do so. Furthermore if you want to keep your boat in the marina throughout your stay please feel welcome to visit Tony and Helen on Fastflow (they might have to restrict numbers!). Nichola would like to say right up front Timbo will not be attending, although she will and that this is in keeping with a long standing arrangement between the Lanes and the Giblett, and not due to Nichola whimping out!

Very fortunately the timing is such that included in the programme is the **British National Firework Championship**. This is the major British firework event where the best of a series of regional finalists compete over two evenings for the championship. Huge crowds on Plymouth Hoe watch the 10 minute long displays which are set off from Mount Batten Pier. However by far the best place to watch is from the water, anchored about 100M south of the pier, where an armada of local boats will be watching the action and that is where we plan to be. Nichola and Ron were fortunate to be invited to this event by Tony and Helen for the last two years and Nichola thoroughly recommends it - the ooh and aaah rating is immense!

Mayflower is a very friendly Marina and Charles Bush, The Managing Director, has kindly offered a discount to Aqua-Star Club members attending the rally. This is in the form of 50% discount for the first night's stay or 10% discount for the full rally (and up to a month), making this a very good rally opportunity to perhaps include within a tour of the West Country. Visitors berthing offer cards are available from Nichola

All of the planned boating activities are nice and easy and we plan to provide short briefings beforehand. Helen and Tony Giblett will be accompanying the fleet at all times and will be making arrangements etc. Please feel free to contact Helen or Tony with any queries or suggestions at t.giblett@btinternet.com. Everybody has received this newsletter by post to ensure you show it to your nearest and dearest, and keep it handy when planning your cruising.

Please register your interest with Nichola, preferably by Easter, to enable her to send you a card for the offer and so we can book the Marina berths.

Tides for Devonport (2009)			
Date	Time (local)	Height (m)	Planned Programme!!!! Wind and weather dependent!!
7 Aug Friday	01:29 07:27 13:41 19:37	1.19 5.08 1.23 5.37	Boats arrive at Mayflower Marina, greeted and shown to berths.
8 Aug Sat.	02:01 07:58 14:12 20:09	1.11 5.14 1.15 5.41	Boats arrive, greeted and shown to berths. 19:00 Welcome dinner in Astra's restaurant on the marina.
9 Aug Sun.	02:32 08:30 14:43 20:42	1.06 5.17 1.13 5.40	10:30 Walking tour past historic Royal Marines Barracks in Stonehouse then onto Royal William Victualling Yard. Impressive series of buildings built between 1826 and 1835 by Sir John Rennie and named for King William IV. Art galleries to see (and café). Water taxi to historic Barbican (pint in Dolphin followed by lunch at Barbican Kitchen/Platters). Shopping in city centre or visit National Marine Aquarium (http://www.national-aquarium.co.uk) afterwards. Pint in Royal Plymouth Corinthians YC on the way back!
10 Aug Mon.	03:03 09:01 15:14 21:14	1.09 5.15 1.20 5.30	10:00 Coastal cruise to Fowey (20M) Dinner in Sam's (good fish but you can't book so we need to be there by 18:00!) Pint in Fowey Gallants YC. Overnight in Fowey harbour (pontoons or buoys (there is a water taxi)).
11 Aug Tues.	03:33 09:32 15:14 21:14	1.20 5.05 1.36 5.14	Return Plymouth and anchor in Cawsand bay for lunch (good pubs ashore!). 19:00 British Firework Championship finals. 22:00 Return to marina.
12 Aug Wed.	04:03 10:02 16:15 22:13	1.39 4.90 1.58 4.93	11:00 Trip to River Yealm. Anchor in Cellar bay for BBQ on beach and visit to Newton Ferrers (by tender). 19:00 British Firework Championship finals. 22:00 Return to Marina.
13 Aug Thurs.	04:35 10:33 16:51 22:47	1.63 4.74 1.83 4.72	11:00 Visit to Plymouth Lifeboat station. 19.00 Theatre (programme tba).
14 Aug Fri.	05:17 11:16 17:44 23:42	1.87 4.59 2.06 4.51	10:00 Trip up the Tamar to see the RN Dockyards and warships before passing under IK Brunell's Royal Albert bridge and on to Cotehele, a National Trust Tudor house with superb collections of textiles, armour and furniture, set in extensive grounds. On the way back anchor overnight in Dandy Hole on the Lyhner river (dining on board). Dinghy up river to Quay sailing club at St Germans for pint.
15 Aug Sat.	06:18 12:30 19:00	2.10 4.48 2.21	Return to Marina or depart for home.
16 Aug Sun.	01:19 07:45 14:13 20:42	4.39 2.19 4.55 2.10	Start of Fowey Royal Regatta (for those who want to extend their cruise). www.foweyroyalregatta.co.uk

Although there is a timetable, this is going to be a relaxed event, so the above can be changed to suit the weather or maybe there will be other third party events which will make rescheduling sensible, particularly if anybody has something to celebrate. The only fixed events will be where bookings have to be made and, of course, the fireworks.