



OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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Weymouth Marina, Berth B34 - 'TIMBO'
If you're visiting, do let us know.

COMMODORE'S JOTTINGS

Hi Everybody,

This newsletter is going out a bit sooner than expected, but we wanted to publicise the dates for the 2007 rally. Eyes right for the details!

With the glorious weather we have been enjoying, hopefully some of you have managed to go boating all through the winter. We did venture all of 50 metres to turn Timbo around so that the Christmas lights shone towards the town – always a risky move as Nichola is prone to try to step off the wrong side, even while sober. We are back the right way around now, and are making good use of the facilities while we do the rounds of local sailing club dinner dances.

Sadly we have recently heard from Mark Greenwood, our founding Commodore, that he is looking to sell his boat Salamander of Chambord. We have included brief details on the newsletter and a more comprehensive description by email. Please help spread the word around that there is a rare opportunity to buy a 34ft Aqua-Star.

All around us we seem to have friends eager to get their boats out for the annual scrub and anti-foul. We must be showing our age as we don't intend to do this until mid-May when the longer (and warmer) days mean we can get it done in a week. So if you happen to be down our way in the spring, do look out for us in the marina, we are always happy to be of help,

Nichola and Ron

2007 Rally to Guernsey

Plans for the rally to Guernsey are beginning to firm up. We are holding it on the weekend of 7th/8th July and already have 4 potential takers. Due to work commitments we may be able to get across on the 6th, but can only guarantee making the crossing on the 7th, weather willing. We intend to reserve berths for 4x38ft boats and 2x45/48 ft boats, but would really like to be in the position of having to increase the numbers. Hopefully the local owners will meet up with us.

As before, the aim is to keep the event as relaxed as possible, and we would hope to arrange a meal for the Saturday night. We did very well at Moores Hotel last time – if they'll have us back! If the weekend runs true to form, even without formal arrangements, much joint eating and drinking will take place, and we will be sorry to part company with newly found friends.

Please register your interest with us, preferably by Easter, to enable us to book the marina berths – the more boats the greater the clout for our own area.

Factory News

Geoff reports that the first 55' boat has grown a bit ("like they do") and is now 57'. The engines were going in as we spoke and it should be completed around about the time we are over in Guernsey for the rally - something to look forward to. The drawings for the 80' Explorer have been released and there is already a good response, and interest to the extent of discussing specifications. Four 48' boats are in build, plus the 38' ones being completed for the start of the season.

We reported in the last newsletter that the 65' Explorer had been nominated in the Custom Yacht category of the Motor Boat of the Year 2007 Awards. Unfortunately Geoff did not win, but with all the makes and designs available, being nominated is accolade in itself. The winner was the Mochi MaxiDolphin 74, which, to us, is not even in the same league as the Explorer range - it has those slanty eye windows like a Sunseeker. Looking at the nominees, it appears you have to go to 108' to get a custom built Sunseeker! Aqua-Star may not have won, but

**Congratulations Geoff from us all
for being nominated!**

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. Also some more **mobile phone numbers** would be welcomed as this could easily be the first line of contact when somebody spots you.

Thank you for the corrections sent after the last sheets went out. As you can see, the list is getting more comprehensive.

Hints, Tips and Info

I really should write these down as I think of them, but here's what I remember at the moment.

The cheap bottle bags you can get from the supermarkets and M&S make very good storage containers for breakable or scratchable items on the boat. The M&S (not just a bottle bag....) peculiar green cloth bags are a bit softer and therefore easier to scrunch down. The only thing to beware of is that the divisions do not go all the way to the bottom. We use one of these to store stainless steel mugs.

Having recommended the sandwich toasting bags last time, we found a suitable toaster for the boat - £4.50 at Wilkinsons. At that price it doesn't matter if it falls on the floor!

Lakeland Ltd are doing their 'Mega Pegs' again. They are designed for putting thick things like duvets on the washing line but the claws are the diameter of our stainless steel rails, so are ideal on boats. Mine have been much admired in various marinas, and they are easier to use than standard pegs. They are available online at www.lakeland.co.uk or by post, reference number 8827, at £2.99 for 4 they are not cheap, but worth the investment.

Salamander of Chambord

Aqua-Star semi-displacement offshore motor cruiser. Pt1 registered.

Built and equipped for serious cruising :

Iveco 240HP diesels, only 300 hrs. 18 knots cruise, 23 knots max.
2 double cabins, 2 toilets/showers, 2 helms. Autohelm a/pilot/plotter, VHF, radar, Navtex. central heating. Fully equipped galley, 4-burner cooker, oven.

Reluctant sale due to illness.
£125000, VAT paid.
Lying Southampton.
For information pack and viewing, please call (UK) 01428 727070

New Members

No new members to welcome to the Club this time, but several enquires are in the pipeline. George and Barbara Metcalfe have sold Madge de la Mer and now have Lisa, a Nimbus 380 Commander – look out for them in Plymouth Mayflower Marina.

Red Diesel

Following the bad news about the red diesel decision, things seem to have gone very quiet. If anybody does hear anything, please share it with us so we can keep you all informed. We doubt if no news is good news – surely the Government won't miss this opportunity to get more tax off us? Presumably implementation is the problem, and the longer they deliberate on that, the better.

New berths in Weymouth

Plans are being negotiated for a Dean and Reddyhoff 560 boat marina at the Sailing Academy on the west of Portland Harbour. A 150-350 boat marina is also proposed at the entrance of Weymouth Harbour as part of the Pavilion redevelopment. Don't hold your breath but they'll be no excuse not to visit us, just make sure you've fuelled up first, there may be a queue!

DON'T FORGET THE DISCOUNTS!!

Benefits to members are available from:

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Offer</u>
Aqua-Star	Geoff	Spares & construction parts at cost + 10% to Club members
GJW Direct	Jo Griffiths 0151 236 6848	10% additional discount from boat insurance
Euronav	Mark Day 01705 373855	20% off chart systems
Reed's Bookshop	Roger Hunter 0181 941 7878	Discuss direct
Marine Electronic	Nicholas Heyes 01179 830770	Various
Marlin Marine	Alan Soper 01703 231306 27.	5% off Iveco engine sales
Toomer & Hayter	Vivien West 01202 515789	Discounts on upholstery
Vetus Southern	Richard Yates 01703 672277	10% off Vetus equipment
Halyard	James Grazebrook 01722 710922	7.5% off exhausts etc.
Greenham Marine	Andy Haynes 01590 671144	Call for prices on autopilots etc.
CJR	Mark Russell 01703 639366	Call for special prices on props/sterngear
Liquid Engineering	Gerry Yeatman 01794 884963	15% off diesel bug treatment
Galleyslave	Birgit Morris 01527 592089	10% off unbreakable glasses and dinnerware