



OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Nichola & Ron Lane Tel/Fax : 01305 772305
37 All Saints Road Mobile: 07802 739088
Weymouth DT4 9EZ

e-mail: aquastarclub@timbo.ltd.uk

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

COMMODORE'S JOTTINGS

Hi Everybody,

Gosh, where did the summer go? I know I asked the same question about the passing of winter in the May newsletter but that was a timescale thing, this is a weather thing. Hopefully we will have a good September as I know several members are looking forward to some Autumn cruising.

Having been hopeful in May that we would meet up with members this summer we have been really fortunate with a number of you visiting Weymouth. More details of one visit are given later, but we were pleased to catch up with Howard and Pauline Bond, Rob and Norma Thomas and Tony and Helen Gibblett.

As usual we've included a few hints and tips which we hope you will find useful. If anyone has experiences or tips from which we could all benefit, do let us know and we will circulate them appropriately.

Many thanks for the feedback on the last newsletter. The database has been extended to include more boat information – please check it is correct and let us know of any errors.

We hope to see some of you at the Boat Show, but if we don't get to speak to you there we hope you are able to enjoy the last of the 2006 season. Happy cruising in calm seas and do take care,

Nichola and Ron

ARE WE ADDRESSING YOU CORRECTLY?

Thank you to those members who have pointed out various errors in the Membership Network; hopefully we have incorporated all changes in the enclosed sheet. Please let us know if any of your details change or require correction.

Nichola has completed the new database and has kept it as a contacts sheet and a boat details sheet so the print is bigger, but all the names are on one side. Those with soft copies can sort the data to suit – we have boat details sorted by boat name, which she'll mail out with the next issue. Get back to her if you have any problems.

2007 Rally

We are still thinking about where and when to go on an annual rally. Our latest thoughts are that we might make planning easier for everybody if we set an annual weekend in early summer and make a regular trip to Guernsey. If there is sufficient interest, we could extend the rally to Jersey or France, particularly since we would have completed the difficult bit of getting across the Channel.

We understand that this idea will possibly not appeal to members who do not keep their boats along the South Coast, but you might like to consider including the rally as part of your annual holiday. For those who have not crossed the Channel, we hope the possibility of doing the passage, possibly in the company of others, will help boost your confidence.

Do let us have feedback or ideas for a get together – last year's was so good we are sorry we missed out this year.

Factory News

Geoff reports that Mr Carr has taken delivery of his new 74' Explorer, Miss Le Vack. His first one has been sold so do look out for Netty Elaine on the Hamble. In addition to the 3 x 48' boats being built over the winter, the factory will be busy building a 38', and a 55' as a sold order (check the design on the website - nice, might have trouble with Ron when he sees it has a walk in engine room), the plug for which is virtually finished. Dover Pilots ordered a 42' Aqua-Star hull which will be finished at Goodchild Marine in Great Yarmouth. Although the overall contract was subject to competitive tender, the hull type was not negotiable which speaks volumes for the excellence of the design. Finally something which might make some a little envious, an Ocean 62, a schooner (!), will be transferred from the factory to the Hamble for finishing. Geoff doesn't build these often, and, as anyone who has seen the model in his office will know, the lines are very elegant. But would we expect anything less to come out of the Aqua-Star factory - we think not. Finally Mr Vokos has spent 2 months cruising the Greek Islands in Alkione - although she is a 74' Explorer he did not refuel and when they were not moving, they were at anchor.

Southampton Boat Show

It must be the Boat Show again as 130,000 buckets of sand have been moved from Weymouth Beach to Southampton! Geoff is exhibiting Mr Carr's new 74' Explorer plus his 48S on stands 109 and 110 out on the pontoons. Ron and I will be there on preview day, then from Wednesday, at the latest, to the end. Do drop by and say hello, have a look around, put the world to rights, place an order.....

Guernsey News

Following our article about Nic's Mum, the Guernsey Press and Sir Fabian in the last issue, while on holiday in Guernsey, our friends went to the West Show, got interviewed and appeared in the paper. The copious amount of photos showed it to be a lovely old fashioned country show, with cows, goats, sheep, llamas, hens and their eggs, fruit, veg, flowers, cakes (and who entered a fatless sponge posing as a Victoria sandwich??), jams and children's competitions including some impressive edible jewelry. Our friends would thoroughly recommend it as a simple way to spend a day. Both the West and North Shows take place in July, and are easily accessible by bus.

The next issue....

Contributions are invited for the next issue which we hope to put out mid-November. We would especially like to hear about your holiday and marina experiences for those of us who do not get to venture far, either due to time or confidence. Any format will do, and it would help fill the fourth side I always seem to get left with. Fortunately this time we have a plea from the RYA, as I would hate to send out a blank sheet!

Hints, Tips and Info

Does the wood trim on your hull need a bit of TLC? Having consulted with a local Nelson owner and a boat owning paint dealer, we decided to sand the varnish off right back to bare wood, then use a microporous finish. This has the advantage that it soaks in and does not peel if the surface gets damaged, where the fenders rub for example, therefore avoiding greying of the wood. We use Dulux Woodsheen in Pine which is for interior or exterior use. The pigment does allow the colour of the wood to show through. You may have to get it through a paint dealership rather than a DIY store.

We spend quite a lot of time on Timbo on our berth, but we are shielded from the local TV mast by a gasometer, so we decided to try a 'Free to Air' satellite system. We did not want one of these swish things in a white dome (we don't watch TV that much!) so bought a caravan kit – the COMAG Porty 2 system available at Lidl and through ebay as a 'Buy It Now'. The case contains everything but the TV – the dish with several mounting methods, leads, the Free to Air box. We use the suction mount on a hatch, or leave the dish in its stowage position in the box lid and stand it on a table. We bought an extra device with an audible signal to help finely position the dish, but once set up the system will withstand a reasonable amount of motion. The system is 12v or 240v and at around £80 is a bargain. Being portable you can use it at home too! Contact us if you want further details.

How not to get so messy tip from Nichola: why is it the smell of bacon cooking in the morning is so delicious? But how many have suffered from dripping sauce from our bacon butties over our nice clean clothes? To help avoid this, only butter one slice of bread, put the sauce on the other piece so it can soak in and not go runny when it gets warmed by the bacon. Chaps, this can literally save your bacon.

Quick and easy starter, particularly if you are visiting the Channel Islands in the tomato season. Place cherry tomatoes, on or off the vine in a roasting tin, , sprinkle with olive oil, dried herbs unless you have fresh basil, and a good shaking of salt. Shake the tin then roast in a fairly hot oven for about 20 minutes. Just before the end of cooking, scatter over fresh basil if using and shake again. Serve with the juices and fresh bread. Delicious and summery.

A Sorry Tale

We are very pleased to welcome Tony and Helen Giblett, and Fast Flow, to the Club. Nic remembers talking to Tony about the Ocean Ranger 38 at the 2005 Southampton Boat Show, and now, nearly a year on, he and Helen have taken delivery of Fast Flow. Their maiden voyage was from Lymington to Weymouth, and we were fortunate to be able to celebrate their new acquisition with them, particularly as they were justifiably ecstatic with their purchase. We reciprocated with a 'you've shown us yours so come and see ours' on the following evening, and the next morning Tony and Helen set off on the next leg of their journey, visiting friends in Salcombe before heading for home – Mayflower Marina in Plymouth.

During our chat, Tony admitted that Fast Flow had been refuelled in Lymington Yacht Haven, hearing which Ron had a sharp intake of breath. Friends of ours who took delivery of a brand new Nimbus from Offshore Power at Lymington had the fuel bug from the outset, so we are very wary of filling up there. Well the dreaded thing did happen. Ron took a call from Tony late morning because both engines had failed off Portland Bill, and although he had changed the fuel filters, all was not well. The conditions off the Bill were not good, and we all know how the boats will lay across the waves making it very uncomfortable. They tried their utmost to get back to Weymouth unaided, but when we visited Timbo in the afternoon, we happened to hear the Coastguard answering Tony's call. To cut a long story short, very fortunately, a 42' Nelson diverted from its passage to Poole and towed Fast Flow into Weymouth. Tony and Helen were devastated and our hearts went out to them. Our local fuel supplier – Quayside Fuels – sorted out a mechanic to come down in the morning and over a very good meal, Tony brightened slightly. The upshot was that there was a blockage which was cleared, and by using his engineering skills, Tony coaxed Fast Flow back to Plymouth, and is now awaiting a tank clean out.

It is a very sorry tale as the edge was really taken off Tony and Helen's euphoria. If any other members have information about places to avoid to minimise the chances of problems, do let us know. We would not want to put anybody out of business, but bad fuel could lead to a disaster. Perhaps the best indicator of a supplier with a problem is a preponderance of fuel additives on display. If we end up paying road fuel prices in 2008 the quality of the product had better be excellent!

POSH SOX AND CLOTHING!

A reminder in case you see posh embroidered fender socks on boats at the Boat Show. If any Club members wish to have ones with the Aqua-Star logo, they can be ordered from Nicholas Bray & Sons Ltd, The Old Yarn Mills, Sherbourne, Dorset, DT9 3RQ e-mail sales@fendasox.co.uk The set up cost has already been paid, so you would only have to pay for the embroidery and the fenda-sox. Aqua-Star have thoughtfully supplied this information to us in case anyone asks where they had them done.

Ocean World clothing, who have the Aqua-Star Owners Club logo, will be at Southampton Boat Show on stand J380, and can do a while you wait embroidery service. They usually have some good clothing deals too. If there is something you would specifically like it might be worth calling them first, so you can collect the goods at the Show. Their number is 01983 219744 or go to their website www.oceanworld.co.uk

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

Incidents arising from fishing gear - appeal for help

You may have already been made aware of this through the RYA or your local clubs. It came to me via the RNSA, both last year and this, and knowing that just the number on incidents we get to hear about is definitely on the increase, we thought we should pass the appeal on. Having had a 2" diameter mooring rope with a sliced eye in it around our prop, we would not limit incidents to fishing gear. Sorry about the grammar below, but I think the meaning comes across.

From the Royal Naval Sailing Association:

Will you please ask your clubs and associations to publicise this appeal from Hugh Morrison, Chairman of the RYA Cruising Committee, and make all efforts to encourage members to respond.

The risks for all yachts and small craft from fishing gear appear to us to be on the increase and it can only be a matter of time before serious accidents, perhaps including loss of life, become common. Already, we can see that power boats and others under engine are avoiding night passages due the risks of entanglement. Alan MacNaughton (RNSA) has led the debate at the CYCC Annual Meeting for a number of years and our conclusion has become clear that no effective action by UK authorities is likely in the absence of sufficient incident statistics. Last January, we agreed that CYCC should support the RYA in a campaign of awareness, particularly recognising that Stuart Carruthers, RYA's cruising manager, sits on the advisory board of CHIRP, the Confidential Hazardous Incident Reporting System, which is the natural address for reports.

This is Hugh's request:

"As you know the above problem still exists and we all get reports of incidents but most of these incidents do not seem to be reported to either the MCA or the RYA. We still have problems with Chirp and the MCA as accidents do not appear to be reported and as long as the authorities have no reports then as far as they are concerned there is no problem.

This is an appeal for help.

Can you please circulate to all your clubs and friends the need for up to date reports on any incidents regarding problems with fishing gear. I myself have seen two reports in the local paper of boats being rescued as a result of getting tied up with fishing gear.

Any reports in any newspaper please cut them out and send to the cruising department and also any other reports send as many details as possible again to the cruising department. You can also fill in a Chirp or RYA form which can be found on the Webb Site.

Without the evidence we can proceed no further on your or our members behalf and I appeal to you to send in as much information as possible.

Please send in as much information now and during the remainder of the season. This information will hopefully enable us to tackle the problem on behalf of the membership."

Hugh is giving all of us an important and practical opportunity to work for the safety of all our friends and fellow yachtsmen. Please respond to his call for help and encourage feedback to

<http://www.chirp.co.uk/new/Maritime>, stuart.carruthers@rya.org.uk or to me at hon.sec@cycc.org.uk.

DAVID DARBYSHIRE

*Confrence of Yacht Cruising Clubs
David Darbyshire, Hon. Secretary*