



OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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If you're visiting, do let us know.

COMMODORE'S JOTTINGS

Hi Everybody,

It does seem amazing that it is time for the Southampton Boat Show again, and it is late this year! We are still listing all the things we are going to do in the summer of 2005 and here it is – gone. We have been busy with work, race committee boat duties and helping to organise the J24 Class World Sailing Championships which are taking place in Weymouth Bay as I type. To organise this it has taken over 160 willing volunteers all being managed through the Yacht Clubs of Weymouth. All is going well so far, so we hope this will be a good local advert on the run up to the Olympics in 2012 – I am not going to volunteer as event secretary for that though!

Many thanks to Richard and Jo Archer for their article, just the sort of thing we need to encourage us to take a few different trips.

We hope to see you all at the Boat Show,

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.

The Red Diesel Debate

A recent RYA article asks us, if we have not already done so, to contact our local MPs regarding the derogation of red diesel. We stated several reasons in previous newsletters for leisure users to continue to use red diesel. Please feel free to repeat these, but do help to get the message across. With present fuel price rises we stand to see prohibitive prices in 2007 if we lose the red diesel concession.

A Word of Caution – PLEASE DO NOTE

In a very timely fashion we have just received an email from Keith Chapman (Snowstorm). He suggests we alert other Aqua-Star owners of a recent experience he had with the East Coast Customs and Excise officials.

Having returned from Holland, he was rudely awakened at 09.30 by a knock on the cabin window. Standing before him were two reps from HM Customs, (Quote “one I might add was a very attractive young lady.”) The purpose of the visit was to ascertain the VAT status of the craft. It had been noted that Snowstorm had been built in Guernsey, so the plaque stated. He had bought Snowstorm from the original owner some five years ago. Any of us can understand the panic which set in. Fortunately, among the boat's papers he came across a letter with a photocopy of the cheque made payable to Customs. Interestingly, the couple visited two other Aqua Stars in the marina.

It would therefore appear that the East Coast Customs have embarked on a campaign to find those who have escaped/avoided VAT.

We have always been aware of problems which can be encountered in France – some friends were charged £100 for not being able to produce the **original** VAT certificate for their yacht. A copy is not acceptable. Given the poor quality of the receipt issued by Customs and Excise, it would seem the obvious best practice to copy the original and keep it safely at home, but do not be tempted.

One conclusion which can be drawn from this is that the VAT office are not sufficiently organised to maintain records of VAT paid – we must assume we are on our own when it comes to proving VAT payments. A further conclusion must be that as a potential buyer, reference to the VAT office to establish the VAT status could be a non-starter. Not a very satisfactory situation considering the amount we have to pay – in fact it was the second biggest cheque our local chap had ever received. He had a coughing fit when told the amount we were going to pay him, then he got quite excited!

Rally to Guernsey June 2005

Well we went, and what a lovely weekend it turned out to be. Ron and I arrived as planned late Thursday evening and rafted up on Gryphon II so immediately met up with Howard and Pauline Bond! Also in the vicinity we found Richard and Stella Berkley on Ciel of Plym, although we did not make contact with us until the Bonds and us had decamped to a different pontoon. Friday night saw drinks onboard Timbo, where we were joined by "the locals" - Geoff, Christina with Jade and Max, Ed and Jenny Duncan and Chris and Maggie Spencer. A group of us went for dinner at Valentinos, except for Ron who had a funny tummy for no apparent reason. Saturday morning Ed and Geoff came up trumps by giving us all a lift to the factory where we saw a 65' and a 48' in build. It is fascinating seeing the process from start to finish, and the size of the moulds never ceases to amaze us. We finished by seeing the new 74' (Alkione) on the water in QEII. The rest of the day was for sightseeing and visiting the floral show, which although small was interesting, and riding on the bus is always exciting. Early evening we were made very welcome at the Royal Channel Island Yacht Club, courtesy of Ed and Geoff. We then all went to dinner at Moores Hotel for an excellent meal. Photos of this are available and may one day appear on a web page! On Sunday it was a quiet day for people to do what they wished. Geoff appeared at the Marina again, and if you ever get the chance, ask Richard and Stella about their champagne locker! We all in fact inspected it on Sunday evening when they hosted us for early evening drinks.

One thing which became the talking, and demonstration, point of the rally was Brompton bikes. Ron and I have had ours for years now and Howard and Pauline were interested in them. We looked up on the internet for stockists in Guernsey and there is one on the road to St Sampsons, but we also found two which fitted the bill with about 1 day to go on two separate eBay auctions but from the same vendor. Sunday morning came and through the galley port, Nichola spots two people from the adjacent yacht struggling to erect a couple of Bromptons so she offered help, only to find these were the last two from the local stockist - he had sold 6 that day. So eBay it had to be, but unfortunately the Victoria Marina link failed so one deal was done standing outside the Riva bar and the other by the Ann Summers shop! What would we do without wireless routers? We were able to arrive at Ciel of Plym complete with a bottle of bubbly which was the signal of our success. The story didn't stop then though as Pauline and Howard were at the start of a holiday so there was the question of delivery. The bikes were sent to us in Weymouth from where Howard and Pauline collected them on their way from Salcombe to Winchester.

After an excellent weekend we all dispersed in our own time to go on holiday or back to work. The weather and the locals had done us proud, and our thanks went to Ed and Jenny, and Geoff and his family for making us so welcome. We would hope to repeat this event and perhaps after the success of this one more might be encouraged to join us. We should finish by saying that we would have been a bigger group but for unfortunate circumstances which several couples found themselves in immediately before the weekend. We do hope these are now well on the way to being resolved.

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