



OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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Weymouth Marina, Berth B34 - 'TIMBO'
If you're visiting, come and see if we're around.

COMMODORE'S JOTTINGS

Hi Everybody,

We hope you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to an enjoyable and exciting New Year. We decided not to send this newsletter prior to the festive season, as with so much other correspondence of varying sorts appearing on the doormat (or email), heaven forbid, you may have overlooked our offering. The Southampton Boat Show proved very successful for Aqua-Star. An order was taken for another 74 (number 6), which is destined for Greece. The 1st 65' is in build, due for launch mid-summer, along with 2 x 48's, one heading for Portugal, the other for Jersey. The order book is pretty full, so if you are contemplating a new Aqua-Star in the future, best get ordering now!

TOUCH and GO!!

Those of you who visited the Aqua-Star exhibits at the Southampton Boat Show will, no doubt, have been extremely impressed by the whizzy 'Touch Screen' electrical control system fitted on the 48S and the 74 Explorer. Pages 80 & 81 of the December 2004 edition of MBY praises the flexibility of the system offered by Axon Components. In simple terms, all the electrical switches normally scattered around the helm position are replaced by a touch screen which is menu driven. Additional screens can be conveniently sited throughout the boat, so you won't have to drip your way up to the helm position when you realise (too late) that you have forgotten to power up the extractor fans having soaked yourself in the shower. Security cameras can also be monitored, so you can lie in bed and see who is nicking your tender. All AC and DC functions are covered and adding additional 'virtual switches' when new bits of kit are fitted is a simple procedure. The amount of wiring is considerably reduced, as the system is controlled by a low current 2 wire digital 'ring main' loop which links circuit breaker boxes placed at appropriate places around the boat.

COMING EVENTS

Rally to Guernsey June 2005

In the last newsletter we announced our intention to arrange a rally in Guernsey commencing 9th June 2005 and asked anyone interested to let us know. We have been talking to the Guernsey Tourist Board who are keen to welcome us and arrange various events of interest.

To make this viable, we need sufficient interested people, say around 10 to 12 boats worth. Berthing is reserved for 10 boats, but so far we have only 2 definite and 3 possible boats interested, so around 4 to 10 people. If you intend to support the rally, please tell us soon so we can organise things. Any Guernsey based members who will be coming, please also let us know so we can include you in the numbers even though you will not require a berth.

It would also help if those who have already responded would reaffirm their interest.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome new members to the Club:

Joe and Anne Chester Sansu d'Or
Dave and Jenny Perry That's Amore

FACTORY NEWS

For the third time now, at the age of 83, Lloyd Richards has finally (we're told) retired from the stores after serving the company faithfully for 24 years. He has been replaced by Jan.

There was a hand over period during which Lloyd showed her his numerous hidey holes, from which he could extract the most unlikely of spares and goodies. Don't hesitate to contact Jan for all your Aqua-Star needs.

I'm sure you will join us in wishing Lloyd a long and happy retirement.

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.

From Roger & Stella Berkeley - "Ciel of Plym"

There we were in Cherbourg in the early summer of 2004 on a finger berth on the first visitors pontoon where "Timbo" lay alongside the pontoon on the opposite side. After we have put the stores aboard we shall speak, we said. As we disembarked to do this, she proceeded gently seawards!

So we only spoke to one Aquastar last season which for "Ciel of Plym" went like this: in mid-May we left Gosport for Newtown River, then Cherbourg and St Vaast. Here we heard that an old friend had died in Jersey so we backtracked to Cherbourg and then St Helier for the funeral. Afterwards it was again Cherbourg and St Vaast where we lingered while the posturing politicians and the exclusion zones were gone from the Seine Bay before going on to Carentan, whence, with hired car we visited several important D-day sites, Ouistreham and Caen. Continuing eastwards, we ducked into the remains of the Arromanches Mulberry harbour before going on to Deauville, bringing back fond memories of 1960's and 1970's Cowes - Deauville races under sail. Next were Honfleur, Le Havre, where we encountered the nastiest ever piece of marina officiousness and an extremely erratic electricity supply - we shall not go back, Fecamp, lively, with the JOG fleet in and en fete, and Boulougne where we were entertained aboard "Fortune's Star", a 118, by Paul and Beryl.

From here we crossed to Ramsgate where we found a Force 10 due to arrive so, next day, in lovely conditions we sped round to Chatham, which I had last entered in 1958 at the end of my last passage with the Grey Funnel line, where we were safely tucked up when it started to blow. Then, after a night at Rochester, it was up the Thames to Limehouse Basin. Here we lay for a month while we attended to shoreside matters.

Early in the morning when we left the basin we first turned up stream to see again from the water Westminster and, for the first time, The Eye. As we went downstream our daughter had arrived for work in the Ernst Young building, just upstream of HMS Belfast, and she and some of her colleagues waved to us as we passed.

After the Thames, Burnham Yacht Harbour, Bradwell and Tichmarsh Marinas, and Ipswich were our next ports of call. Then it was to Woodbridge, with its very hospitable marina and excellent "Captain's Table" restaurant, and Lowestoft where, alas, we were at the receiving end of the worst piece of ill manners, from a fellow motor yachtsman, experienced in more than forty years going offshore in small boats.

We then headed back southwards to Southwold; great fun with its minute traditional cinema, summer season theatre with Dr (honoris causa) Lady Freud, wife of Clement, selling us the last two seats and then, on stage, doing an extremely good Lady Bracknell. Next we went into the Ore/Alde but did not stay as it was regatta week and there were no moorings or convenient anchorages to be had. So it was on to Shotley where the museum gives a whiff of life for the boys of the now paid off HMS Ganges. Then it was back to Burnham where we waited while another Force 10 brewed up and blew over, eating one evening at the "Contented Sole", which although it is not in the Good Food Guide, should be, especially since we found the catering at the two "Royal" yacht clubs to be non-existent or estigial and shambolic - in August!

Finally it was across the Thames estuary and round to Dover and Brighton, where we delayed for some days while strong westerlies blew before we got back to Gosport after some two and a half months afloat (retirement has its advantages), over a thousand miles and 24 ports of call, 19 of which we had not before entered in our own boat, in the log.

With best wishes for the New Year and for next season,

Roger

P.S. Could you print a version of the member's list arranged in alphabetical order of boat name? It would make identification of club members much, much faster.

[Ed note: Anyone receiving the Membership Network (Xcel Spreadsheet) by email, can sort the spreadsheet in any way they wish to give the best usable format for them.]

West Coast Cruising

Hazel & David Lewis "Tiggy Of The Towy" have offered their two article published in Motor Boats Monthly: June, 2002 "Bristol Rovers" Cruising the North Devon and South Wales Coasts and July, 2003 "Haven Calling" - South Wales coast and Milford Haven, for publication in our Newsletter. The articles are quite lengthy and contain any impressive photographs. Copyright restrictions prevent us from including these articles as they appeared in MBM, but David & Hazel are happy to provide anyone with original scripts & photos. Please contact them on 01792 361091 or email <mailto:h.lewis@swansea.ac.uk> if you would like further details.

Lost Your Suck??

The 'Vetus' extractor fans fitted in many Aquastar bathrooms have been known to fail. Before you spend £40+ on a new unit, nip along to your local computer shop and buy a 12 volt 80mm cooling fan, as used in the tower units of PC's. Four small screws and a couple of wires later you should be up and running again. They cost around £4.00 if you're lucky, or about £12.00 for a really whizzy one that has built in coloured LED's to light up your loo!

The Great 'RED' Debate - Your Help Is Needed NOW!!

Our U.K. members will be only too aware that at the end of 2006 there is a real threat that the use of 'red' diesel in pleasure boats will become a thing of the past. We will be faced with fuel costs roughly trebling! The RYA in conjunction with the British Marine Federation and the Inland Waterways Association intend to lobby the UK Government and the European Union to accept a continuation to the derogation. The RYA's website www.rya.org.uk contains their briefing document for consideration by government. They are urging boaters to lobby their MP's on this subject. As Commodores of the Aqua-Star Owners' Club we have done just that and have added the following points to the RYA's submission:

- a) The inevitable reduction in the use of leisure craft due to the vastly increased cost of fuel will have a direct impact on the demands placed on the rescue services. The number of incidents will increase due to owners' inability to afford to carry out many routine essential maintenance tasks. Currently, many incidents are dealt with as a result of HM Coastguard calling upon any vessels in an area to respond and offer assistance. The absence of available vessels, or the forced reticence of motor boat owners to make large detours, will stretch the already meagre rescue resources and could easily result in loss of life.
- b) It is unfortunate that the assumption made by many members of the general public that boat owners are financially well off is, in the main, untrue. Agreed, such boats do not come cheap, but having made the purchase, one's disposable income is severely diminished. The argument that one should not have something which one cannot afford to run is unfair considering the situation will arise from the goal posts being moved.
- c) Although sail is cheaper than power as far as apparent operating costs per mile are concerned, the age group hit hardest by this action will be those approaching seniority who are likely to be on an essentially fixed income and perhaps do not still have the physical capability to safely operate a sailing craft. In order to 'keep afloat' in their later years these sailors inevitably move to a powered craft. Aqua-Star owners are a good example of this.

Amazingly our pleas have been heard. We received an immediate response from our M.P. (for Dorset South, Jim Knight, Lab.), who forwarded our email to HM Treasury. They in turn have responded through the minister responsible (John Healey MP), and whilst he did not state categorically that an extension to the derogation would be sought, he is well aware that one can be applied for. Coincidentally, on a business footing we recently attended a breakfast meeting with the aforementioned Jim Knight MP and the Minister for small business, Nigel Griffiths MP. We were able to raise the issue there and hence highlight to the assembled small business fraternity the real threat to small (and large) businesses should there be a downturn in the marine industry both locally and nationally. In reporting this meeting, our local newspaper has picked up on the subject and Nichola has been appointed '**Nic The Red**' by our local Yacht Clubs of Weymouth Committee, on which she represents the local branch of the Royal Naval Sailing Association. A further opportunity to rattle some cages will come our way soon at another meeting to be held in our area at which the Treasury Minister himself (John Healey MP) will be in the firing line.

One point we did not have to raise was whether there is a compromise position. Our M.P. and Motor Boats and Yachting, February 2005, have flagged this, but it is worth mentioning in case you want to join in the debate. The Government may choose not to seek an extension to derogation and so would presumably increase the price of diesel for marine pleasure users to road diesel prices. As we understand it the EEC reason for stopping such anomalies was to stop road users crossing borders in Europe to take advantage of cheap fuel. Thinking this through, the price of marine diesel for pleasure therefore need only be raised to the minimum diesel price in the EEC, which is significantly less than our road diesel price. This could be the compromise position to protect our marine industry but increase the revenue to the Treasury.

Again our M.P. was also aware of the arguments regarding the logistics of providing two types of marine diesel, and the policing of fishing and charter boats which are used partly for business and partly for pleasure.

Please add your fuel to the fire in any way you can, even M.P.s in non-coastal constituencies should be made aware of the threat to the marine industry as many boats are built inland, but please act soon because **Governmental representations to the EEC to extend the derogation must be made by mid 2005, so time is of the essence.**

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



LONDON 2012

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Were you pleased by the performance of our on the water competitors last year? Would like to do your bit to try and make it so they can compete in their own country in 2012?

If your answer is "Yes" then register your support by logging on to

www.london2012.com or text London to 82012

If you do not have internet facilities, most libraries should be able to help. Showing your support counts considerably towards our bid marking.

Aqua-Data and you

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