



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,

Well what a funny summer it's proving to be. We hope you have managed to have the holidays you planned in spite of the weather - we have only had to cancel one. We were due to go to the Channel Islands last week, but with strong wind forecasts and not good weather forecasts in general, we decided to give it a miss. We have seen a few Aqua-Stars in Weymouth, but not members of the Club unfortunately.

We did have an excellent holiday, details overleaf. It culminated in a super time in Cowes, due to us joining an RNSA rally. This really proved to us how good it is to meet up with fellow boaters with a common interest. Consequently we would like to be a bit more adventurous next year with an Aqua-Star rally - please do consider joining in, it could be great fun.

COMING EVENTS

Southampton Boat Show

10th - 19th September 2004

Aqua-Star will be showing the latest 74' Explorer

"Ruby Sunday",

which is fine proof of a boat built to the owner's specifications. There will also be a Mark 2 48S and a 38' Aft Cabin on display.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome new members to the Club:

John and Elizabeth Eaves The Graduate

Rally to Guernsey June 2005

We are thinking of what to do next year, instead of the late May Bank Holiday rally to Cowes. Listening to members' comments, it would seem a trip to Guernsey would be welcomed. How about a trip to St Peter Port from 9th June 2005? Geoff is very keen for us to go over as a group, and we are happy for people who are perhaps a little apprehensive about the crossing to congregate in Weymouth and come across with us. If we want to do this, we do need to plan early to get the Marina space. Other owners' clubs are often seen over there - surely we should go and support local industry! **Please respond to this newsletter to let us know if you are interested.**

New Products etc.

Those little coloured plastic lugs you see for marking anchor chain lengths really do work!

ANYTHING WORTH SHARING?

After all this wind, here are a couple of hints to stop ropes creaking. Washing your lines in a pillow case, and adding fabric softener to the final rinse does make them easy to handle and keeps them quiet for a while. When they get salty again, you can stop rubbing against the cleats by putting a supermarket bag between the rope and the metal so the layers of the bag slide against themselves.

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.

DON'T FORGET THE DISCOUNTS!!

Benefits to members are available from:

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Offer</u>
Aqua-Star	Geoff or Lloyd	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

Timbo's Travels

This year has not seen us travelling outside Weymouth on many occasions, but in spite of that we have covered some miles. On hearing of the cancellation of the rally to Cowes, our first trip was by invitation of the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, to join them on their rally to St Vaast as part of the D Day commemorations. This proved to be both enjoyable and educational, it being run by a retired army officer who was well supported by a few retired naval ones. Having stocked up for the weekend, by calling into Cherbourg, we set off for St Vaast into a fairly confused swell. We did have to throttle back, but this put us exactly in time for the opening of the lock gate. Of course we told everyone we had calculated the currents and tides to be spot on, but we did have our fingers crossed behind our backs! Nine boats made it over from Weymouth, but it appears that only the organiser didn't have a rotten trip as they came a little later. One very small boat crossed the Channel and proceeded to approach the D Day beaches from just off Alderney, plus many good sailors did a lot of talking to Hughie. The tales were really flowing at the meal held in the Channel Bar. However, the day of the coach trip dawned bright and it was off to the sights while watching "The Longest Day" on the video. We visited Point du Hoc, Chaos Battery, a British cemetery outside Ryes, several beaches and Arromanche and were treated to talks by the aforementioned ex-officers. The following day most yachts left for the journey home. We stayed on a wet extra day, but set about planning our summer holiday back to the D Day beaches.

Our second trip was all the way to Poole, to sample the new Dolphin Marina. Usually a trip to Poole has meant a quick run over in the car, whizz around the shops and then home again, so it was a real treat to amble around the old harbour area, and watch all the activity in the harbour.

Our main holiday resulted in us getting a whole fortnight plus a weekend away. In our 25+ years together, this was the first time we had ever managed more than a week in the summer - wonderful. Our original plans were to go west of Cherbourg to Tréguier, but we decided this was the year to do more of the D Day sights. After the usual couple of nights in Cherbourg, we set off for Ouistreham where we met up with friends who had already been away for 6 weeks. We stayed there for two nights, and managed a cycle ride to Courseulles, where our friends had just sailed from! 22 miles seemingly always into the wind was really hard work, but it worked off the gallettes and the gauffres. We went up the canal to Caen on a really grey day, which made the Pegasus Bridge area very sombre. We didn't stop as that was to be visited on a bike ride from Caen. Caen Marina has just been revamped and is excellent, ~£10 a day if you stay a week. We hired a car whilst there and visited the American Cemetery, the British Cemetery and Bayeaux Tapestry, Omaha Beach and Suisse Normandy. We also saw the Bastille Day fireworks and the gathering of the yachts for the Figaro Race. From Caen we went to Portsmouth/Haslar then on to East Cowes to join up with an RNSA rally which included 'Last Night of the Proms' with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Osborne House. This proved to be a super end to our holiday, even though the trip back from the Solent was dreadful, into a long established south westerly. We met many fascinating people, not least of whom was a long suffering Irish chap on Lady Breda, an Aqua-Star Nelson. Long suffering as he had been storm bound in Cherbourg for a week with his wife and two sisters in law who firmly believed in when the going gets rough the girls go shopping!

So where have you all been then - it would be nice to hear from at least one of you - please!