



Solent Soundings

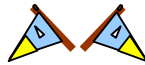


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Contributions to: Liz Baker, Westfield, Western Rd, Hailsham, E Sussex BN27 3EN

E-mail: lizbaker_sailing@yahoo.co.uk

Why not join the <http://groups.msn.com/MICROCRUISERSUK> website so you can share South Coast rally photos and general discussion?



Editorial

Apologies for producing this issue hot on the heels of the previous one, but a couple items

have been brought to my attention which need to be circulated now.

Dangerous Flares

David Sumner has drawn my attention to a notice about some dangerous white flares, one of which has caused serious injury, which are being recalled. I then remembered that Chichester Harbour Office had issued a Local Notice to Mariners about these, so I have dug it out as follows:

Chichester Harbour
Local Notice to Mariners No 5 of 2006
(dated 25 April 2006)

PAINS WESSEX PRODUCT RECALL

WHITE COLLISION WARNING (MK7)
HAND FLARE

1. Mariners are advised that a member of the public was injured using a Pains Wessex MK7 White Hand Flare on 5 April 2006.
2. Pains Wessex advise that flares of the same batch could malfunction with a risk of personal injury.
3. Pains Wessex are recalling White Collision Warning (MK7) Hand Flares. The Lot Numbers of the batches recalled are 2045 and 2046. This number can be found ink-jetted on the tube of the flare.
4. The Pains Wessex White Collision Warning (MK7) Hand Flare is sold on its own and is also contained as part of the Collision Warn-Off Kit and the ORC RORC Distress Kit.
5. Mariners are advised to check if they have a flare with either Lot Number. If so, do not use it but return it immediately to the place of purchase.





Ashlett Festival of Sail

David Sumner says members might not realise that the Ashlett Festival of Sail, being held on 14-16 July and which Cliff Martin is supporting, is the same festival which was held at Dell Quay last year. He considers this will be of great interest to the traditional sailors.

Apparently the Drascombe Association are heavily supporting this festival, but all types of boats will be welcome, and camping is available if wanted.



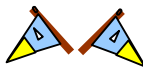
Rally Reports

River Piddle – 20/21 May – Chris Jenkins

In the days leading up to the rally the weather got steadily worse. By Friday night it was a force 9 with heavy rain and the forecast was for little better so I had no intention of taking a boat on the water. In case some brave soul decided to try it, I thought I would attend the rally by land and camped at Redcliffe Farm for the Saturday night. Saturday proved to be relatively dry with a westerly F8 in the morning dropping to a 5 in the afternoon. As expected nobody appeared for the rally

on Saturday evening but I did have a pleasant walk to the R Piddle and a cup of tea on the bank. Saturday night brought heavy rain and this continued into Sunday morning although the wind did drop to a mere F4. However, that was just a pause for breath as it was back to an 8 by the afternoon. I enjoyed my camp and was delighted that nobody braved the elements to try and sail to the rally. Maybe we can try again next year.

CJ



Oxey Lake - 3/4 June 2006 - David Sumner

Can I apologise that although host of the Oxey Lake rally I failed to get there due to rough seas. No one contacted me to say they were going, or phoned me to say "where are you?" So I don't even know to whom to apologise.

I started on Thursday and got to the Folly on Friday night. On Saturday the seas off Cowes were terribly rough, not helped by all the traffic for the Round-the-Island race - and I sought shelter in Southampton Water. I spent the night on the Ashlett club pontoon. The club were very friendly to me and invited me to their social gathering, and one member offered for me to sleep aboard his yacht, which was very

pleasant. They are hosting the Festival of Sail in mid July (previously held at Dell Quay).

On Sunday I had to motor all the way to Langstone as there was no wind at all, but at last I had a perfect sail across Hayling bay and into the Harbour. I have never used the engine for such a long distance, but it did 22 mpg at 3 knots! I also purchased petrol at a fuelling pontoon at Cowes, which was quite interesting for me.

Whilst completely becalmed on a glassy sea off Lee-on-Solent I was hit by two precipitous and huge waves – presumably



from a distant ship. I just rounded up in time. The boat went up the second one at

what felt like 45 degrees and then fell off the top with a tremendous crash. DS

However . . . David Jones was there . . .

This was a rally in the manner expected of a South Coast Area Rally - superb weather, boats arriving and not arriving from various launching places, and sailing in company or not in company as suited the individuals concerned. Such diversity is awkward to report in a clear way but I'll begin with the boat that set-out first - the nominated Host, David Sumner in his Mirror "Curlew". David launched at Itchenor on Thursday, sailed to East Head and spent the night there. On Friday he made the long passage to the River Medina, IOW and spent the night up the river near the Folly Inn. Saturday morning was the start of The Round the Island Race when 1600 yachts were milling about near the mouth of the Medina as David was exiting with the intention of sailing west towards our rally venue. The close quarters commotion and rough water was very unpleasant but David managed to get clear of the trouble, sailed to Southampton Water and spent the night on the Ashlett Creek Sailing Club's pontoon, He was impressed by the club's hospitable welcome. He returned to Itchenor on Sunday.

Chris Jenkins in West Wight Potter *Gispay* launched from Bucklers Hard, Beaulieu River on Friday and sailed across to Newtown Harbour, IOW for the night. On Saturday morning he sailed west with the tide to Alum Bay before returning to be the first into Oxey Lake.

I launched *Speedy* from Northney Marina, Chichester Harbour on Friday afternoon and reached Calshot as the sun set. On Saturday morning, being on the mainland side, I was clear of the race start and had a good passage west, finishing via Pylewell Lake, where I waited for a wait for the tide to rise, to Oxey Lake.

Steve Bradwell in Enterprise launched from the north slip at Calshot on Saturday and was the third and last to arrive in Oxey Lake in the afternoon.

We settled in, and by about 8:30pm, with no sight of any little red sails, we decided our host was not coming so we went to the pub for a pint. Sunday morning required an early start to get clear of Oxey Lake before the tide dropped. We rowed and motored through to Pylewell Lake to anchor until the east going stream started. Chris then headed for Cowes and spent the night up the River Medina, a mile short of Newport. On Monday he sailed back to Beaulieu River to recover his boat at Bucklers Hard.

Steve and I sailed to Newtown but decided not to stop since, with the wind light, we wanted to get most out of the east going stream. We sailed to Calshot and then to Ashlett Creek where Steve led me to a pleasant overnight anchorage in the saltings at about NGR466039, before returning to Calshot for his recovery. With the neap tides and heavier boat, I chose deeper water just inside the saltings, at about 470040, for the night. On Monday with an easterly wind I had an easy sail to Bembridge and spent the night there. Tuesday brought a southeasterly so another easy two-hour sail brought me back to Chichester Harbour where he met Len Wingfield on East Head beach with his Gull! Near teatime we both sailed north, Len to recover his boat at Warblington Rd, Emsworth and myself at Northney Marina.

The weather throughout this period was dry, hot and sunny, and the winds were easy so we were all puzzled why so few boats came out to play.

DJ



BEALE PARK BOAT SHOW



John Barney on the DCA Jetty at Beale Park

This show ran from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 June. John Barney had bravely volunteered to run the the stand this year, and sensibly asked for a site in the shade of overhanging trees. This was welcome as it was a very hot week-end. I drove up on the Saturday for what was my first visit to this exhibition and found John doing a splendid job. He was well supported by members, some of whom had travelled a considerable distance with their boats to help. Eight DCA boats were afloat by the pontoon or sailing on the lake, and David Sumner's Mirror, rigged with tent, was parked on the bank. Bob Measures had brought his Cormorant all

the way from Yorkshire, and also provided the gazebo which housed the display of photos and information. I had known that the site was adjacent to the Thames, but hadn't realised the lake was accessible from the river through a swing bridge. Paul Constantine took advantage of this facility after "sailing" his Torch dinghy down from Lechlade. "There wasn't a breath of wind – I had to row all the way", he told me. The stand was attracting a healthy interest from prospective members. The whole show was pleasantly quiet and informal, with all the stands laid out on the grass around the lake in beautiful, rural surroundings.

Liz Baker

FOR SALE

So far as Liz is aware, these two boats are still for sale:

Anyone want a Potter AX06 . . . ?

I haven't sailed at all this year & not much in the last two owing to mobility problems. I am considering changing Potter AX06 URSA MINOR for something in the 15 ft range without a cabin.

Guide price, if 4hp Mercury outboard & SNIPE trailer are included, is around £5,000.00.

Bruce Longstaff





Drascombe Peterboat: LOA 16 ft (4.9m), beam 6 ft, designed by the late John Watkinson. Constructed of clinker marine ply glued with SP Systems epoxy.. Received an amateur boatbuilding award in 1999. Gunter lug sloop rig. Floorboards can be raised to rest on thwarts where an inflatable mattress provides a comfortable night under a boom-up cover. Can be rowed by one person, or sculled with a rowlock set on the sternpost. An outboard can be mounted on the port quarter, or within the inboard trunking. Recently refurbished trailer, two tents and an inflatable dinghy are also available. £3,500. Tel: Gillian Strube - 01293 612900

REMAINING RALLIES 2006

June 24/25 **Bembridge** OS ref 196/ 641 887 (sandy beach, to port just inside harbour entrance.) David Jones Home 01403 266800 Mobile 0781 884 5618 Sat HW Portsmouth 11.21 BST

July 8/9 **Beaulieu River** OS ref 196/ 408 002 (Buckler's Hard pontoons) - Steve Bradwell Home) 01252 724854. Sat HW Portsmouth 10.06 BST

July 15/16 **Ashlett Festival of Sail.** OS ref 196/ 468 033. Events for boats under about 20feet. Details www.ashlettsc.com. Ashlett Sailing Club organiser Dawn Minard Tel 02380 899437. Our 'Cruise with Cliff' week follows:

July 16/22 **DCA Cruise with Cliff.** Cliff Martin intends stay on after the Ashlett Festival until the Newtown rally the following weekend. Why not join him for a day or for all week? Venues are to be agreed by those taking part, so please phone him beforehand. Cliff Martin, Tel (home) 01420 476 608, (mobile) 07724 108 672. or dreamingdotcom@talk21.com.

July 22/23 **Newtown Harbour** (just above Shalfleet Quay, OS ref 196/ 415 903) David Jones Home 01403 266 800 mobile 0781 8845613. Sat HW Portsmouth 10.12 BST

Aug 5/6 **Sinah Warren (The Kench).** OS ref 197/ 694 999. David Sumner Home 01403 730152 Mobile 0781 880 1657. HW Portsmouth 08.19 BST Discreet camping ashore is possible.

Aug 19/20 **Wootton Creek** (Wootton Bridge) OS ref 196/ 547 921. Liz Baker Home 01323 842124 Mobiles 07957 945523 or 07584 652554 HW Portsmouth 08.59 BST

Sept 2/3 **River Medina** (Folly Inn) OS ref 196/507 930. Liz Baker Home 01323 842 124 Mobiles 07957 945523 or 07854 652554 HW Portsmouth 06.10 BST

Sept 16/17 **Ashlett Creek** OS ref 196/ 468 033. HW Portsmouth 07.20 With sail up to Marchwood or Eling on the Sunday morning? - Chris Jenkins home 02392 601779; mobile 07766 733517.

Oct 7/8 **Fowley Island** (OS ref 744 044) **lunchtime meet** (Island accessible only within 2 hours of HW) with optional sail down to East Head. (Could overnight there or return to Emsworth pub and overnight on Fowley Island). Len Wingfield Home 01483 563422, mobile 077486 70155. HW Portsmouth 12.04 BST

