

Northampton Off-Shore Cruising Association



NEWSLETTER

February 2010

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Visit the NOSCA website: www.nosca.co.uk

Please note the updated venue for the radar course as shown inside this copy and on the back page where I have again reproduced the application form for any further takers.

For your Diary:

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| February 2 | 'Brisbane to Cairns via the Whitsunday Islands', Presented by Doug Forrester. |
| March 2 | TBA |
| March 6 | RYA Radar Course at Isham Village Hall. |
| April 13 | Fitting-out Dinner at <i>The Red Lion</i> , East Haddon. |
| May 1-3 | South Coast Spring Rally |

Also, please note that we have, at very short notice, had to change the meeting next week, February 2, to bring Doug's presentation forward a month. The March meeting is now under review so 'watch this space' as they say.

Commodore's Column

Ahoy All!

Brrrr!! All this snowy freezing stuff reminds me o' when I were a lad, knee-high to a grasshopper. Frozen waste pipes unblocked with a kettle of boiling water poured over them, huge icicles appearing overnight to dangle from gutters, scraping ice off the bedrooms window to peer outside. No central heating or duvets, one coal fire to stoke up in the morning. Walking through knee-high snow to the frozen-over river Wensum and later right across Wroxham Broad, dodging the ice-yachts knocked up from 2x4s. No pre-dawn scraping ice off car windows – we didn't have one then! Curious thing though – I don't remember being cold.

The world has moved on since then – haven't we all! There are now twice as many humans on the planet, marinas are packed with PWBs (except when we want to go sailing in the Solent, when it seems everyone has the same idea), oil and gas, copper and iron are finite resources. We have got used to demanding immediate service from white-box slaves

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Editorial

I have taken the liberty of reproducing some of the info on the forthcoming events that I included last month. Where relevant, these will have been updated in this issue.

Membership renewals being due on January 1, at the moment in late January, I am finding that renewals have dried up. Hopefully I will receive those outstanding from all or virtually all of last year's membership - ASAP please!

doing the washing up and demanding more and more power to do it. We expect to be whisked from home to shops to work without effort or delay. All this, until nature intervenes. There is too much carbon-dioxide, and polar bears struggle to find enough ice. The Times they have been changing

Yet, some things manage to endure. I have been looking at the website of 'Square Sail' (http://www.square-sail.com/seamanship_training/index.html) who operate a fleet of three square-riggers out of Charlestown, Cornwall (I remember seeing one, *Kaskelot*, moored in Weymouth one day as we sailed past it on *Carrig Hannah*). They boast that their fleet is 'the only one remaining in the world that earns its keep by trade alone'. Part of their operation is to train square-rig sailors in all aspects of their trade of 'seamanship' – reading their syllabus is a revelation in regard to how much knowledge was needed by the common sailor 100 years ago and how much we have lost while we trundle our modern bermuda-rig sloops or ketches from marina to marina. If you get a chance, have a look at it – and marvel!

And picking up that theme of training, we have another NOSCA course in the offing – on Radar (see back page of this newsletter). I organised this following my own experience and prompted by a few of you who wanted the same. So, I leave you with a question; what other training or course(s) do you want? These need not be NOSCA organised but we should be able to point you in the right direction and perhaps negotiate a discount for members. Let me, or any committee member, know what you want.

For now, fair winds and warmer breezes for you all.

Maurice Chittock

' Brisbane to Cairns via the 100 Magic Miles of the Whitsunday Islands', February 2

Doug and Janice spent the month of September 2009 in Australia, flying out via Hong Kong where they spent a few days. They will be talking about their trip with the benefit of photos. Hong Kong, Brisbane, Noosa and Cairns will all feature and of course, the week spent with the family, and friends on a 43 ft yacht in the Whitsunday Islands.

Doug always produces a really good presentation and is an excellent presenter. Another to brighten the winter's evenings!

MARCH 2 Meeting

Due to McMurdo Ltd having just been bought up by Kannard, another company very well known in the same product field, Steve has just emailed me to say he is forced to cancel his visit that was scheduled for February 2. He has to be in Scotland and cannot escape for that date. We hope to see him either later in the year or early next year. Meanwhile, Doug has kindly brought his presentation about the Whitsunday Islands off the east coast of Australia forward to fill the gap. We may at this point have something totally different for March so please watch this space and I will keep you all up to speed on the changes thrust upon us.

RYA Radar Course at the Isham Village Hall, March 6 10 am to 4 pm

As you will see, the venue is Isham Village Hall and NOT the Northampton & County Club as we were previously told and as published in the January Newsletter.

The details of this one-day course are shown again on the back page for anyone who has not yet booked but would like to do the course. Those who may be interested, please read carefully and contact Maurice if of interest.

The Village Hall is just behind the Church in Church Street, Isham. If those attending the course need to, search under post code NN14 1 HF and zoom in as necessary. Directions: Isham is on the A509 between Wellingborough and Kettering, 1 mile South of the A14 junction with the A509. The Church is on the A509 coming from Wellingborough and Church St is the turn on the right immediately after the Church (immediately before the Church coming from Kettering or A14). A sandwich and chips type lunch will be provided in the Lilacs Pub at a cost of £5pp approx.

All people attending the 1st Aid Course will be sent joining instructions in due course.

Fitting-our Dinner at the Red Lion, East Haddon on April 13, 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Those of you who came to the 2009 Fitting-out Dinner at this venue will remember what a really good night it was - both from the camaraderie angle as well as the very good food. Organised by Adrienne on that occasion, she has kindly offered to repeat the exercise.

By popular demand, we have booked our Fitting-Out Supper at *The Red Lion*. They are able to offer us a very good deal by holding the cost the same as last year at £15 per person for two courses.

The menu has yet to be finalised and will be sent out to you nearer the time, however, it is important to get a commitment on numbers by the beginning of March.

Please let Adrienne know how many tickets you would like by 2nd March. Telephone her on the number shown in the membership list or email her, also shown in that list. If you are attending the March meeting, let her know then.

Next month or in the April copy, I will publish a map and directions to get there for those who don't know or who were unable to come last year.

Spring Rally in the Solent, May 1 - 3

As a traditional and annual event in the NOSCA calendar, the final details are still being 'set in concrete'. For a change, it is likely that the Saturday afternoon, evening and dinner will be at Gosport, followed on the Sunday as usual at *The Folly* up the Medina. Monday will be totally flexible before departing to all points E, S or W, north being a bit unlikely unless one's home port just happens to be in Southampton Water.

Firefighters' Charity - Sail Challenge, June 12 - 19

This is a long way off and therefore an advance notice of the happening. Allan Henson says:

In response to popular demand we will be returning to Scotland this year. Those who have sailed in this area before or came with us previously will be well aware what a great sailing area it is. There is still much for us to explore so, linked with the usual Fire Fighters Charity camaraderie, we are in for yet another great time.

Because we don't have a matched fleet the price will vary from yacht to yacht but we are talking about £250 - £300. This might sound like a big increase on previous years but this year, it is a seven day trip instead of the usual five and we have changed the funding mechanism to avoid the constant topping up of boat kitties that have been a big feature of previous Challenges. This year almost everything will be included in the basic price such as travel to Scotland, mooring fees, boat fuel, out-board engine and food. Beer and some meals ashore (if you don't eat on the boat) will be the only extras. As usual these calculations are based on a crew of six per boat so if we finish up with higher numbers an appropriate adjustment will be made.

In the mean time we need your deposit of £50.00 as soon as possible. This should be sent to Maurice who is organising the NOSCA yacht. Balances (Maurice will tell you exactly how much in due course) should be paid direct to him by 1 May 2009. As usual, if you drop out it will be your responsibility to find your replacement or all monies paid will be forfeit.

Maurice's contact details are again as shown in the membership list. As is his postal address.

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us again this year.

Sail in Company and Ferry Trip to Honfleur

Last month I published a summary of Maurice's overview of Honfleur with some pics. All very photogenic and the inner harbour definitely 'oldie'.

More info and progress on this combined rally and ferry trip next month.



CORRECT ATTIRE?

During our recent slide presentation about the Caledonian Canal I showed a drawing which was completed too late to be included as a slide. Several people have asked to see it again so here it is and the reason for this short article.

I encourage everyone visiting the Great Glen to go for a meal or tea at Glengarry Castle Hotel at Invergarry. It can be reached by road or water and has lovely grounds to wander through. You can see from my illustration that dress code is informal. We

moored up on their jetty and dripped our way through the grounds into the hallway, where we were welcomed with open arms and given VIP treatment. They even appreciated that Graham had his socks on the wrong feet! It was painful dragging ourselves away from the roaring fire back to our soggy floating matchbox. But it had to be done.
Sian Brown

Disposal of out of date pyrotechnics

The MCA has agreed to continue to accept TEPs (Time Expired Pyrotechnics) from the public but the collection and disposal services will no longer be undertaken by the MoD with effect from March 31, 2010. The MCA has awarded a new contract to undertake their collection and disposal and is being phased in now.

The following MRCC (Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre) sites have been identified at:

Shetland, Stornaway, Belfast Liverpool, Holyhead-Milford, Falmouth, Brixham, Solent, Dover Thames, Humber, Forth, Inverness Sector Base Cruden Bay CG Rescue Office, Girvan CG Rescue Office and finally a location in Poole.

Site may not be manned 24/7 but details can be found on the MCA website (www.mcga.gov.uk) as the service is rolled out. DO NOT TAKE TEPs to the police as they have no storage facilities for such things.

This up to date guidance has been extracted from a British Marine Federation document.
Tony

I thought this was a really nasty lee shore. Taken by me while on the sea front next to the harbour in Morecombe a few months ago - Tony



Radar Course – RYA Certificate

To obtain the RYA Radar Certificate, using the latest simulator software.

Venue – Isham Village Hall (see item in this Newsletter for directions)

Date – 6th March, time - 10am to 4pm. Light buffet lunch included.

Cost – to be confirmed and dependent on numbers attending. For guidance; £70 - £95 pp.

Note that the reason for this is the cost of the simulation software being used.

Course objectives

At the end of the course you will have a good working knowledge of radar operations and be able to apply it to collision avoidance and navigation.

Course contents

The small boat Radar system

Radar principles; limitations of small craft radar; primary controls and adjustments.

Understanding the Radar picture

Radar screen presentation; sea and rain clutter controls, interference; false images - causes and effects; north up, head up & course up; the accuracy and inaccuracies of radar.

Collision avoidance

Relative and True Motion; case studies - Wahkuna/Vespucci and Ouzo; the Collision Regulations and the application of the rules in restricted visibility; radar plotting techniques, finding the Closest Point of Approach; worked examples and exercises; the use of a Mini-Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (MARPA); AIS (Automatic Identification System - not part of the RYA syllabus, but we cover it).

Use of Radar as a navigation and pilotage aid

Fixes by range and bearing; parallel indexing.

Radar reflectors

Radar cross section; passive and active radar reflectors and their limitations

Please bring plotter and dividers, and your radar manufacturer's manual if you wish.

The RYA Radar Certificate, Course Handbook and Question & Answer book are provided, together with laminated Radar Controls chart and Plotting sheet.

NOTE: You need to provide a laptop, at least one for every 2 students, with XP or Vista, to run the latest simulator software.

For further details and/or to log your interest, contact Maurice Chittock commodore@nosca.co.uk

Deadline for the March Newsletter = Sunday night, February 14 please to give me time to get it out to members before the (next month) early evening on March 2nd.