

NEWS UPDATE

June 2013

By the Commodore 20th June 2013

On the 18th June the weather experts gathered at Met Office HQ in Exeter to discuss the extreme weather conditions that have blessed us in recent years. They generated enough hot air to give us a warm balmy day on the 19th, but concluded that our lousy summers would continue for at least a few years yet. Taking a contrary view, this must be good news.

Thanks to suitable contingency arrangements being in place, the weather has failed to disrupt our plans so far this year and we have had a series of successful events described later. The 10 British Kiel YC yachts booked for our Baltic trip in August have all been fully subscribed, but other commercial charters are still available. With two members' yachts and two as shore party, we currently have 58 attending including 15 serving RNR.

Other 2013 sailing events which we hope members will sign up for are the Sailing Weekend to the Folly Inn on 20/21 July. Also James's luxurious visit to St Vaast plus the option of Deauville in early September. There is also a planned Autumn Meet to Chichester harbour on 12/13 October and the Laying Up at Portsmouth on 3 November.

In addition to the Caribbean cruise in February your planning for 2014 should allow for the rally to Normandy which focuses on the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy landings on 6 June (NL70). A trip probably taking in St Vaast, Grandcamp Maisy, Ouistreham and Honfleur is being planned to integrate with the official programme.

The planning for the new yacht is to have it in place to enable inclusion in both our own and Vortec's programme for the 2014 season. Our commercial partner is integral to our plans both for the management of the yacht itself, and also to ensure correct procedures are used in chartering her out. The search for a suitable yacht is expected to be focussed around October, and we expect to see *Volunteer* at our events in 2014.

David Whitby – Commodore

Current Programme

2013

- 15-16 Jun East Coast Meet with RNSA
8 Jul RNSA CTP—*HMS Eaglet*
20/21 Jul Sailing weekend—Folly Inn
9-19 Aug Baltic—British Kiel YC
2-6 Sep Baie de Seine—St Vaast and Deauville
21-22 Sep Club Sailing weekend Bradwell (River Blackwater)
12-13 Oct Autumn Meet -Chichester Hbr
3 Nov Laying-up party-Royal Naval And Royal Albert Yacht Club
15 Nov Annual Dinner - RAF Club
9 Dec Christmas Party
HMS President

2014

- 15 Jan AGM - The Naval Club
20 Feb-2 Mar Caribbean Cruise –Antigua
22 Mar SW Dinner-Berry Head Hotel
6 Apr Fitting Out Lunch
Royal Southampton YC
<6> Jun Annual Cruise -with RNSA
Normandy Landings 70th Anniversary (Ouistreham)

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following who have joined in the last 6 months:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Marcus Ware | List 2 |
| Richard Scurrey | List 1 2 nd Officer RFA |
| Greg Spencer | List 1 Captain RFA
Lt Cdr RNR |
| Chloe Willis | List 1 NE RNR |
| Stan Jacob | List 2 |
| Andy Witham | List 1 Lt Cdr RNR |
| Richard Spencer | List 1 exPO FAA RN |
| Russell Cherry | List 2 |
| Martyn Barklem | List 1 Sub Lt RN |
| Linda Tibbitts | List 2 |
| Gillie Holden | List 2 |
| Emma Weekes | List 1 exAB RNR |
| Janet Safarovic | List 1 exWRO RNR |
| Dr Geoff Welch | List 2 |
| Jonty Howard | List 1 Cdr RNR Rtd |
| Tom Bucknill | List 1 SurgCdrRNR Rtd |

Also the following rejoining members:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Mel Petrie | List 1 Lt Cdr RN/RNR |
| Tim Elsworth | List 1 Sub Lt RNR |

Hot Scoop

Distribution of News Updates

With the ever-increasing costs of postage, the Committee are considering the distribution of News Updates by e-bulletin. The Spring and Autumn Newsletters will continue to be printed and mailed to all

members. According to the Membership Secretary, there are still 32 members for whom we do not hold a valid email address. Whilst it is understood that there are members who are either unable or do not wish to embrace new technology, if you do have an email address and do not currently receive any e-bulletins from the club, please let us know by emailing : membership@rnvryc.org.

Past Events in brief:

The Northern Dinner

On Friday 22 March and to a new venue, thanks to Mike Tomkinson, where he is a member, the 2013 dinner was staged at the Artists Club in Liverpool. Organised by Sue Walker and Cedric Loughran the main account and gallery may be viewed on the website. A select few photographs will be included in the Autumn Newsletter along with details of the 'Three Commodores Chorale'!

Royal Yacht Clubs Golf Day Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club

Thursday 18 April saw 40 sailor-golfers from 8 Royal yacht clubs drawn-up to do battle on the links followed by an excellent St George's Day dinner and prize giving at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club. The Royal Thames team were the winners and the RNVR Yacht Club was ably represented by Nicholas Kerr (captain), Simon Kearns, Ian Shipway and Anthony McLelland. (For photos and the definitive account please consult the website)

The Fitting-Out Lunch The RAF Yacht Club, Hamble Sunday 14 April

The Fitting-out Lunch is the traditional start to the sailing season. It can and should be an occasion to meet one's shipping mates, swap exaggerated yarns and plan the season ahead with talk of cutlass bearings, leaking heads and sacrificial anodes. The lunch usually falls on a rare sailing day causing a degree of frustration at being stuck ashore in a blazer and tie. This tradition was continued this year as on a sunny Sunday in April, 50 of us assembled in the RAF Club at Hamble for lunch. The Commodore was able to deliver an informative description of the plans for the sailing season ranging from the Baltic to Piccadilly. However, there was little time to seek out the company of

‘luncheon serial’ and most members had to beat a hasty retreat ahead of the inevitable motorway chaos caused by the sun-burnt from Bournemouth’s beaches, bars and bailiffs. On reflection there could be (reduced!) mileage in considering a venue which would avoid the log-jam of Hamble and the M27. (The Bat and Ball at Hambledon springs to mind.) That said, there was a most encouraging turn-out for the first event of the Open Season and as with ‘Reconnaissance’, time spent in the good company and fellowship of members of the RNVR Yacht Club is ‘seldom wasted’!

Your Local Correspondent

Five Rivers Cruise –Solent and Chichester—28 May –1 June

It all began and ended in a blaze of sunshine which must be a record for an RNVRYC cruise, although in between there were some (very) damp moments. A record turnout of 15 boats and 51 members took part in some or all of the events which started out at the head of the Beaulieu River with a barbecue on a beautiful, sunny but cold evening. There followed a lazy day for many before the boats drifted down to Gin’s Farm for supper and a view of an astonishing sunset and moonrise. Around midnight *Alana III* slipped away silently to her second home in St Vaast, whilst at a more gentlemanly hour most of the rest took the short passage to Newton Creek to anchor or hang off buoys. Come sundowner time all made their way to the mother ships, *Susan Aya* and *Spirit of Avalon* that had rafted-up. Dinghy drills completed safely, *Bouzy* then exercised ‘grounding drills’ at LW whilst hanging off the Harbourmasters ‘designated’ buoy.

Tuesday morning dawned with more typical RNVRYC rally weather, cold and damp and the sound of Eberspacher heaters punctuating the silence of Newtown harbour. The fleet then made a wet passage to East Cowes where miraculously the rain hauled off as we assembled in a marquee for the Caribbean Cocktail competition and pontoon party. Many enterprising and colourful cocktails were tasted by our judge Rear Commodore Peter Costalas appropriately dressed for the occasion before Enigma’s entry was declared the winner and as a rum fuelled haze descended, the rotating dinner commenced. There followed gastronomic delights, banter and humour and a very late night for most.

The Hamble River beckoned, and the next serial was a Chinese banquet at the Riverside Restaurant at Bursledon which ensured that any hollow legs remaining from the night before were well and truly stuffed. The Chef at the Jolly Sailor had gone AWOL the previous week-end so we switched the Thursday lunchtime

event to the Old Ship at Swanwick. They ensured the calorie count was topped before an intrepid few took to the Flying Pig (Boston Whaler – no grunts) and a couple of dinghies to ride the tide to the head of the river at the Horse and Jockey at Curbridge. This was the “African Queen” experience as Freyja’s dinghy topped up with leaves and branches from the overhanging trees as the river became a narrow muddy creek. A “swift half” was in order before we hastened back before the creek emptied.

A reduced fleet then took passage in perfect conditions to Chichester but on the way, Alouette and MonArk witnessed HMS Edinburgh, the last Type 42 destroyer making her final entry into Portsmouth to pay off. As she passed the Round Tower escorted by the new Type 45 destroyer HMS Defender, the vintage Sea Fury from the FAA Historic Flight did a series of low passes before HMS Edinburgh fired her final 7 gun salute. Chichester Marina was our home for the remaining programme events which started with the final cruise dinner at the Itchenor Sailing Club which did not disappoint. The final day was spent relaxing in the sunshine before the last event, a performance of “Pajama Game” at the Chichester Festival Theatre. A magnificent performance by the energetic cast was a very fitting finale to the cruise. High pressure on the Sunday morning depressing the morning tide prompted hasty departures from Chichester marina somewhat earlier than planned but another fine sunny day and ideal conditions made the passage back to Gosport a real delight. Only 74 nm covered but five rivers conquered in the week with Club Spirit much in evidence -a good time having been had by all.

Mike Morgan

RoundThe Island Race-2013

Many congratulations indeed to Rear Commodore Peter in securing the Elizabeth Trophy for a second year on the trot.

Club results were as follows:

Peter Costalas			
	<i>Susan Ayu</i>	08:01	477th
David Murch			
	<i>Myst</i>	08:31	743rd
Simon Lamb			
	<i>Victoria Star</i>	09:12	1015th
Ian Allix			
	<i>Kotys</i>	09:41	1104th

An extract from Peter’s report for the website:

Wind was forecast at NW 12-14 kts reducing as the day progressed. So into the start sequence we went at 0600 picking up the South end of the line. As we had put an electronic marker into our

chart plotters which we had pinged the day before and generally recce’d the line we were confident about our start position. However the main advantage was that most of the other yachts had gone to the North end of the line, which gave us clear air to the South and consequently we crossed the line no more than a few seconds after the gun. We then had a great run down to Hurst on a close reach in a better tide than those to the North, which meant that by Hurst we had overhauled many of the yachts from the previous class and beaten every other boat in our start group.

No doubt an illustrated account will be available for publication in the Autumn News Letter...meanwhile **Bravo Zulu to Peter and the Susan Ayu crew.**
Scribes

Anymoose ‘St Vaastic Verses’

T’was a bright moonlit night around May
When *Alana* from Gin’s slipped away
To the port of St Vaast
(Her favourite by far)
Mission: To recce this Summer’s foray.

Berthing stern-to when inside the pond
‘Skipper’s quirk’ - of which he was fond
Then three men from the sea
Called on Mme Isobel Brix
At Fuchsias to strengthen the bond.

Next to Barfleur in wind and the rain
With no bus for return—what a pain
Whence Serbian Bebe
Drove us home as a freeby
Considerably relieving the strain

The last trip was to Ste Mere Eglise
Musee Airborne for 2 hours –great wheeze!
It gave one a feel
For brave ‘trooper John Steele
Strung high up on a finial in the breeze.

Final serial was the dread RTB
With call-the-hands zero three fifty three
Back to Hamble we flew
(Great relief for the crew)
Recce Endex –good game - you agree??

Currently there are about a dozen members signed-on for the Baie de Seine cruise, starting in St Vaast with hints above of delights to come! It is hoped to hire a minibus for the duration of the visit which should ease the TPT & MOV (transport and movement) requirements when ashore. Deauville as ever promises to provide an attractive destination with out-of-town visits to Rouen and Lisieux by train a very practical option.

Please consult the website for more detailed information covering all future events. Good sailing!
Scribes