

Captain's Briefing - August 2009

It is already mid August and we are approaching the end of the 2009 sailing season, but in the SW Branch we still have three events to go. The next event is The Captain's Rally to St. Malo, which is being held between the 27th August and the 1st September. We have also added a special event in mid September for those who are berthed in the Bristol Channel and Wales. I am very conscious that our members who live on the North Coasts of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, in Wales and above the Severn Bridge have a long way to go to attend our events, so our Cardiff Port Officer is arranging a special rally to Cardiff between the 11th and the 14th September. This will be a fun event and I have already circulated the details for this, and the St. Malo rally, via e-mail. If you have not received this information please reply to this posting and I will send you a copy. Our last event of the year will be our Annual General Meeting, which once again will be held at The Battleborough Grange Hotel. To avoid conflicts with other clubs and associations the AGM will be held on Saturday 10th October (earlier than in 2008). The hotel has accommodation available. Please note this event in your diaries.

2009 Events so far

For our first two events in 2009 we were invited to join up with the Mylor Yacht Club (MYC):

Isles of Scilly - Like some other Moody owners we set off for the Scillies (in our case from Weymouth) on the 26th July and immediately began fighting a 6 to 7 right on the nose. The forecast was not good so we put into Dartmouth to wait for the wind to drop: it didn't. By the time the weather moderated people who had reached the Scillies were leaving as anchoring in a gusting 7 was not comfortable and by the time we, and some other boats, would have arrived all the others would have gone; so we aimed for Cherbourg. However, this was frustrated by a forecast 7 to 8 which could have left us stranded and with work pressing we headed back for Weymouth. We, nevertheless, had some good sailing.

Fal Week and Plymouth Fireworks Competition and Gin Run – This event, again with the MYC, was arranged so that we would be in Plymouth for the return of the Fastnet boats, the two days of fireworks that formed the Annual National Fireworks Competition and a visit to the Plymouth Gin Factory. There were a number of MOA members present, some with boats from the MYC and some local to the area. For the final day of the competition Dennis Barber, *Fair Zephyr*, arranged for the Rally to view the fireworks from the terrace of the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club. This was an excellent venue with a superb view of the fireworks, good company and food and we were made most welcome. Dennis also arranged for the Ferry to divert to



and from the Yacht Marina so crossing the harbour was no problem. I know that we all thank Dennis for his foresight, arrangements and hospitality and for his suggestion that we make



this arrangement a feature for 2010. The fireworks were exceptional and being a competition we were asked to score each 10 minute long exhibit. This was very difficult, although the first show tended to gain the most praise.

I am sure that I reflect the sentiments of all MOA members when I thank the Commodore of the MYC, Tony Coley and John Fisher for allowing us to take advantage of their arrangements and, of course, all members of the MYC have an open invitation to attend all of our SW

Branch events.

2010 is a 'Red Letter Year' for the MOA

In my last news letter I reported that the National Committee were working on a special event for 2010 to mark the 25th Jubilee of the MOA. One option that was being considered was to hold a rally in Port Solent and, along with other branch captains, I asked for your views and intentions. Port Solent was not the ideal venue and in the event the planning has been shelved. It is not clear that a single MOA event is the best way to proceed as wherever it is held it will not be accessible to many. One idea is to hold a series of branch events. Perhaps for us the Plymouth Fireworks Festival week might be a good venue and catalyst. However, I am keen to ensure that we do not cut across any national arrangements so I will leave any specific suggestions until after the September meeting of the National Committee. It will be an item on our AGM agenda at the Battleborough Grange Hotel.

South West Branch - future Events and your feedback

I am now turning my mind to the 2010 season and would very much appreciate your feedback. I understand that some members are deeply into their local clubs and have no time for our events, and that some others are happy to simply receive a copy of Compass. Despite much encouragement the take-up of events this year has been fairly low and, although I appreciate that I was a little late in the details and the weather has been frustrating, perhaps members would have liked something different. As arrangements have to be made well in advance I urgently need your advice on the way ahead. I will, therefore, be sending out a small questionnaire inviting you to suggest future events and to say whether or not you would be in a position to support them. I would ask that you do respond to the questionnaire and ensure that spam filters do not "delete-before-read" as I need to ensure that we tailor our programme to your needs.

South West Branch Secretary

Finally, in my last news letter I informed you that after six years David Somers has requested to stand down as our Branch Secretary. One of his main activities is the circulation of members sailing plans so that people can meet up as desired, but this is relatively low level activity. This News Letter is, therefore, a formal invitation to members to submit their name to me as a candidate for the important post.

Paul A. Kennedy, Captain, South West Branch
paul.kennedy@moodyowners.net