

## *Captain's Briefing – August 2010*

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Moody Owners Association is certainly turning out to be one that we will remember. In the South West and Wales area we have now completed two rallies (well actually three as one was cancelled due to the weather) and I am now very much looking forward to our final sailing event which is the Combined Commodore's and South West and Solent Captain's rally to Guernsey. I shall be saying more on this at the end of this news letter.

The first rally of the season was to Cardiff and expertly arranged by Peter Satchel; who is our Cardiff Port officer. You will recall that due to the geographical spread of the South West and Wales area we had arranged four rallies so that all our members would be able to get to at least one; even if only by road. The second rally was arranged in association with the Mylor Yacht Club to the Isles of Scilly, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to the weather. However, as we had to travel back from Cardiff to Weymouth I sent an e-mail to all members cancelling the rally to the Isles of Scilly and suggested that if we could get together with other boats we could have an ad-hoc rally as we sailed back to our home port. Some members were sheltering in Falmouth, others in Fowey and some in Plymouth. After a head wind all the way down the Bristol Channel, we stopped in Newlyn so we picked on Plymouth as a likely spot and after a super cruising shute run from Start Point into Plymouth we met up with the boats that were there. I will include a full report on our South West Branch Jubilee Rallies in the next issue of Compass, so for this news letter I will only briefly outline the events that we have held to date.



### **South West Branch and Wales Jubilee Rally to Cardiff**

This rally was held at Cardiff Marina between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Boats came from Swansea, Burham-on-Sea, Weymouth and Cardiff Bay. The rally was held over the week-end of the Cardiff Marina open day and we were invited to take advantage of its suburb hospitality.



Cardiff Marina is still under development and plans are in hand to build a hotel as part of the complex with modern facilities and a large underground car park. When it is completed this will be an impressive facility with modern facilities and good local shopping. The owners were very generous in giving the MOA boats a very special rate for mooring over the period, which was extended for *Eleanora* as we left the boat in Cardiff until we set sail for the Isles of Scilly 10 days or so later.

For the rally Peter Satchel arranged a number of events, including the Jubilee Dinner at the Custom House on Penarth Harbour, a cruise across Cardiff Bay for breakfast, and a bar-b-q at the marina. There were also a number of impromptu

gatherings on the boats and I am sure that Eleanora's stern was frequently lower in the water than Bill Dixon had envisaged when he designed her. We had intended to arrange a cruise around Flat Holm and Steep Holm, but the weather and tides were against this. However, most people who were not based in Cardiff Bay had sailed quite a distance to get to the rally and were content to get together socially and discuss boating, and other matters, as well as sorting out some long standing maintenance issues.

### **Jubilee rally to the Isles of Scilly**

This was to be the second event of the year and arranged for the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. This event was arranged in conjunction with the Mylor Yacht Club (MYC), which is always very hospitable to MOA members. Those who planned to join last year's rally will recall that the weather was not very kind and few boats made it. Despite the "sea weed" (maritime version of tea leaves) suggesting that it would be better this year, in practice we had to cancel the rally once again. Perhaps the Isles of Scilly is a step too far for a South West rally, since unless one keeps their boat in Falmouth, or close by, so that a quick dash is possible it can be a problem to get there. We must look at this for next year, but whether or not it is placed on our schedule I know that members will be welcome to join the MYC event.

### **Jubilee rally to Plymouth and the fireworks competition**

The third event in the South West Branch calendar was the Silver Jubilee Rally to Plymouth, which was timed to start with the Plymouth Fireworks Competition which was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August. For the fireworks we joined in with the MYC and once again viewed the finals day from the comfort of the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club – the best seat in town. To return its hospitality, MYC members were invited to join in the MOA events later in the week which began on Thursday with a three hour river cruise to view the warships and tour the higher reaches of the Tamar. We hired a tour boat and had some 50 MOA and MYC guests on board.



We boarded the boat at the Mount Batten ferry terminal and arranged the pick-up for 1400, which, as it transpired, was the same time that the Ferry left for the Barbican. Two of our



guests sat alone and after a while it was clear that they were not part of our party. As the ferry trip across the bay to the Barbican takes 10 minutes, and our trip took three hours, these guests must have been either unfamiliar with the territory or simply felt that Christmas had come early as no mention was made of the detour and they appeared to enjoy the tea and coffee from the bar. We did extract a small gratuity for the crew. All guests found the cruise very enjoyable and the weather was generally fine so people could sit on the deck and take in the views. On Friday we moved from

Plymouth Yacht Haven to Mayflower Marina, which was where we were to have our Jubilee Dinner. In the evening Peter and Cynthia Griffiths arranged a bar-b-q at the Marina and a good time was had by all.

On the Saturday the “Rally” took the opportunity to visit Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, a large estate with formal gardens, a bat house and many other interests, for a walk around the grounds and lunch. In the evening we had our Silver Jubilee Dinner. This was arranged by Cynthia and Peter at Jolly Jacks, the Mayflower Marina Restaurant, and the setting and the meal could not have been better. The event was supported by Pantaenius Marine Insurance, which provided the pre-dinner drinks and wine for the meal as well as making a most generous donation to this year’s Jubilee events. Pantaenius is also supporting the MOA through the South West Branch for the Guernsey Rally and we are most grateful to John McCurdy for his company’s contribution. For the dinner we took over the whole restaurant and had two long tables, with people either-side, and a top table of nine (the picture shows one of the long tables). From comments received there is no doubt that everyone enjoyed the evening and the staff of Jolly Jacks excelled themselves in making sure a variety of meals were delivered on time and to the highest quality. All credit must go to Peter and Cynthia for their attention to detail and hard work in making the evening so successful.



After what many people said was one of the most successful and enjoyable events that the MOA has arranged, people began to disperse on Sunday.

### **Still to come – Guernsey and the South Branch AGM and Dinner**

The next event is the South West Captain’s rally to Guernsey, which has been combined to form **The Commodore’s and South West and Solent Captain’s Rally to Guernsey**. This is next week; beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Full details are on the MOA web site and I have already issued a full programme. This is the final Cruising event in the South West Branch Calendar, and I say Cruising event as most South West boats have a significant amount of sailing to attend any of our events.



The final South West Branch event of the season will be our **AGM and Haul-out-Dinner** which will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Battleborough Grange Hotel where accommodation is available. We have brought this event forward so that we can accommodate those owners who

emigrate to sunnier climes for the winter and to avoid the weather that caused so much chaos last year. This will be a very special event as it is our Jubilee year and to celebrate this all those attending will take away one of our Jubilee Whisky tumblers. I hope that as many of you as possible will make this event.

Good Sailing,

**Paul A. Kennedy, Captain, South West Branch**  
[paul.kennedy@moodowners.net](mailto:paul.kennedy@moodowners.net)

