

## *Captain's Briefing – March 2010*

The 2010 sailing season is rapidly approaching, and as I write this the sun is streaming through the office window. Apart from being a good omen, it is also an excuse for any typing errors as I can hardly see the screen and I am reluctant to shut out what has been a rare sight this winter. 2010 is a special year for the MOA, as it is our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and in every event we shall be celebrating this Silver Jubilee. We are now working on the details of the South West Branch summer programme, the bones of which were approved by the AGM that we held in late January. I have already sent you the outline of our summer events, and they are also on our web site, so I will not repeat them in any detail here. However, there has been one change, although not in the dates.

### **South West Branch Captain's Rally to Guernsey – its growing!**

You will recall that the Captain's Rally to Guernsey has been set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> September, and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to make it, but both the Solent Branch Captain and the Commodore have proposed that we could expand this event to include the Solent Captain's Rally and the Annual Commodore's Rally. I agreed that this would be a great idea as we could then make it a very special Moody Meet to celebrate our



Jubilee, hopefully catching some of the boats that are returning after the summer from Brittany and all ports south. We have yet to formalise this proposal, but for planning purposes I shall call this rally the South West, Solent and Commodore's Rally. Hopefully we would attract some 25 boats and Richard Hodder, the South West Branch Secretary, has kindly agreed to negotiate a deal with the Guernsey Harbour Master and also seek a suitable venue for a special social occasion. Of course, numbers will only be limited by space,

and at this time of the year Guernsey should have sufficient berths for all wanting to attend. In addition to a social evening, we hope to arrange some sailing events and one excellent idea that has been proposed is an instructional navigation cruise with an expert on the Guernsey channels and rocks. This cruise, which is held on a certified passenger craft, has been most successful in the past and those who are not regular sailors in these waters will find it most instructional and enjoyable. I will be working with Steve Westwood and Richard Beeson on the specifics and full details of the rally should be available in June or early July.

### **South West Branch AGM and Haul-out-Dinner**

The South West Branch AGM and Haul-out-Dinner was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January at the Battleborough Grange Hotel, near Burnham-on-Sea, and a good time was had by all. This year we were very pleased to host the Commodore of our Association, Neil Eccles and his

wife Bron, We called the event an AGM and Haul-out-Dinner as it was initially planned for October 2009, but as I reported in an earlier News Letter we delayed it as a result of feedback from members. However, the weather put the event at risk and some members had to cancel as the prospect of snow across Bodmin Moor and the South of England in general made the prospect of driving somewhat daunting. For 2010 I plan to hold this event in early to mid-October. However, if members have a firm idea when it should be held, or indeed have comments on the venue, I would be delighted to hear from them.

### **MCA Tamar Rescue Service**

I know that I can speak for you all when I say how much we as yachtsmen appreciate the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in keeping our shores safe, and for providing the comfort of knowing that there is a responsive and highly professional rescue service should any of us be unfortunate enough to need one. I am sure that most people would be amazed at the number of rescues that the RNLI and MCA undertake each year, so when it is proposed to reduce the service it is of major concern to us all. Clearly, I would not use this News Letter for any issue that has political overtones, but for reasons of cost the MCA is proposing to cut the service provided by the Tamar Coastguard Rescue Boat and is holding a Public Consultation meeting, hosted by the MCA, to discuss the proposed withdrawal at 19:30 on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** at the Sherwell Centre, University of Plymouth.



The area covered by the proposal includes the Coastguard Rescue Boats at Tamar and Hope Cove, Bigbury (which serves South West Devon), Plymouth and South East Cornwall coasts. If you feel you would like to support this initiative but are unable to attend the consultation meeting, there is provision to register your views on a petition via a web site: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/coastguardboats/>.

### **South West Port Officer wins two prizes**

I am pleased to announce that at the MOA National AGM, held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, our Dartmouth Port Officer, Mike Pearce, had won two awards. The first was *The Topsey and Geof Godfrey Trophy* for his article in Compass describing his voyage from the Great Lakes to Miami, and the other for *The Creative Picture Competition*. Although Mike spends the winter in the Caribbean on his Moody 42, he summers in Dartmouth and is a great supporter of the South West Branch.

Good Sailing,

***Paul A. Kennedy, Captain, South West Branch***

[paul.kennedy@moodyowners.net](mailto:paul.kennedy@moodyowners.net)

