

SOCA Sailing Times

ISSUE 344 July 2014

www.socasailing.org.uk

Forthcoming Meeting

PS WAVERLEY: VOYAGE ON THE CLYDE

Thursday 10th July

PS Waverley is the last seagoing passenger-carrying paddle steamer in the world. Bought by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society for £1, she has been restored to her 1947 appearance and now operates passenger excursions around the British coast.

Liz and Dave Arnold joined her as passengers for a trip down the Clyde from Glasgow to Girvan via Greenock, Largs, Ayr with a circumnavigation of Ailsa Craig. Their voyage 'doon the watter' included shoreline views, scenery and seabirds of the Clyde aboard this beautifully preserved historic ship with its fascinating history and engineering.

Come along to the July meeting



to hear Dave recount his Waverley experience, perhaps you will be inspired to book a trip of your own.

Visitors are welcome. See you at the meeting.



MEMBERS BBQ - BOOK NOW RAIN OR SHINE

Thursday August 14th

Once again Dave and Liz Arnold have very kindly offered the use of their delightful garden for the annual SOCA BBQ.

The committee are planning a few games and activities for SOCA members, not to mention some excellent food so a good time awaits us all. We are hoping for a glorious summers evening but come rain or shine the bangers will be browning.

Tickets for food are £7.00 and any profits will go to this years commodores charity. Please bring your own drinks and a garden chair if you have one.

Please book and pay for this event asap and discuss any special diets.

Time: 19:00 **Cost:** £7.00

Parking: There is off road parking at the house for around ten cars but be warned the first to arrive will be blocked in so are likely to be the last to leave.

Venue: Details to members on request
commodore@socasailing.org.uk

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Hello Everyone

How time flies, we're now into the 2nd half of 2014 and I've yet to realise my resolution of doing some sailing; but I hope to hear that everyone else has managed to get out on the water during the relatively good weather we've been having. Although as I write, the heavens opened and it's now pouring with rain!!

If anyone has succeeded in sailing to parts near or far, a short article for SOCA Times would be nice, with photos even better; or may-be you'd like to make an evening of it and wow us with photos and yarns of your travels. We have a few slots available so contact us either at one of the meetings, on the website or mail commodore@socasailing.org.uk

A big thank-you to Tanya and Stewart for last month's talk on the wrecks and reefs of the Red Sea. I understand the photos were outstanding, so I was really sorry to miss this great talk (work in Toulouse France & Turin Italy the culprits this time).

This month we have Dave and Liz Arnold regaling us with tales of the PS Waverley and their journey down the Clyde aboard this 1940's paddle steamer. Always good narrators this should not only be entertaining, but informative as well. I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday.

Following on from their July talk, >



> next month Liz and Dave will be hosting the annual SOCA BBQ in their lovely garden in Datchworth, so get your party gear out (wellies and raincoat optional) ready for one of our most enjoyable events of the year.

Dee Hilliard,
Commodore

George Whitchurch writes: DEBEN ENTRANCE

There is a strong south west going cross tide when entering this year which is putting many people on the shingle to port. It is important to keep on the exact transit because the channel is narrow between the Red and green marks..

Jon White has put a new chart out for July It is on debenestuarypilot.co.uk

October 7th 2014 TOM CUNLIFFE TALK AT NOSCA

NOSCA (Northampton Off-Shore Cruising Association) has invited Tom Cunliffe to present his talk entitled "Ice with Everything" about his trip to Greenland.

This recounts a trip Tom made recently in a friend's boat that he bought for £14,000 on the internet. Back in the early 1980s before electronics he made a pass at Greenland in his 1911 pilot cutter, following the route of the Vikings and became deeply interested in their westward voyaging. This lecture combines all three expeditions in a rollicking tale.

This is a super slide show and it will be held in the Cripps Centre within the Northampton General Hospital grounds. Tickets available NOW at £10 for non-members. Limited to 80 tickets so it's highly recommended that you get yours early as we fully expect a sell-out.

Tony Johns

Membership sec and
editor for NOSCA

contact details from:

news@socasailing.org.uk

Log of Wabbit GBR4604

TEDDINGTON TO CALAIS SWIM 2013

...continued

Thurrock to Queenborough

Tuesday 23rd July was another hot sunny day in paradise! Thurrock is right next to Tilbury Docks which was a busy spot at high tide and listening to the port radio they had lots of ship movements around Andy's swim time. As we were confirming plans and estimating the distance to Southend to be 32km the PLA launch Kew came close to our mooring to say they would accompany the swim past Tilbury and further, as their time allowed.

Andy and Bob2 left the mooring to start the swim on the opposite side of the river on the south bank, Wabbit cast off at 15:05 and keeping well in shore we passed tilbury with no problems though there were lots of shipping movements. Passing Gravesend sailing club at 15:42 Wabbit finally caught up with Bob2, Andy was making good time and Kew had now departed. The swim passed the Milton firing range as the red flags were taken down at 15:55.

At 16:20 we were in the Mucking Channel, this is not a nice place to be and was quite turbulent and cold, as I remember, with quite a wind was blowing while ferries and tankers were passing in the deep channel. We were finding it hard to tick over slowly enough to stay close to Bob2 and we had moved quite a long way ahead of the swimmer by 16:20. As the conditions were quite horrid Tanya and I decided to go back to see how things were in a small rib in a big river. Bob2 reached mucking No7 Alpha jetty by 16:30 then



Lower Hope red can by 16:40 where the waters were a bit calmer. Wabbit noticed that the tide speed had dropped off quite alarmingly on this stretch, on the inshore side of a line of floating weed and muck the flow was significantly slower than that on the other side of the weed, at least a knot or two. Bob2 guided Andy into the faster flow and by 17:30 Wabbit was at mid Blythe doing 4.7knts, the swimmer reached the same mark by 17:40 after three hours of swimming.

18:10 saw us at the Yantlet small ship anchorage, where Wabbit motored on to find our overnight buoy before it got dark at Queenborough. We reciprocated our course into Queenborough following the previous GPS route from the Thames to the Medway, this time there was a little more water than we had previously.

At 20:10 Wabbit was moored up and dinner was cooking. Bob2 reported that the swimmer got out of the water near the mid swatch green buoy at 20:15 and they motored to find us. There was a very nice sunset as seen in the photos and Lieva joined us too after running round trying to find tokens for the gate on the pontoon.

A pasta dinner fit for a king was produced by Tanya, two pans of pasta were cooked, mixed with carbonara sauce, dutch sausage and peas then emptied into two grill pans, lashings of cheese was added and then baked in the oven along with part cooked bread to accompany, we named the dish sausage carbonara bake and it was enjoyed by all.

Today it was calculated that Andy had swam 32.6 km some 20.26 miles.

*Swim: 5hr 35mins 20.26 miles
lat/long 051 25.250N 000 44.050E*



MEMBERS: PLEASE SIGN UP TO THE SOCA WEBSITE - WWW.SOCASAILING.ORG.UK



Queenborough to Herne Bay

Wednesday 24th July. The previous night after dinner the team had an in-depth discussion on what to do for the best for today's swim. The waters around Herne Bay are too shallow for us to navigate at low water and the original plan had been for Wabbit to anchor well off shore to be joined by Bob2 after they had escorted Andy to Herne Bay where he had a bed for the night with the local 41club. Alternative options were to sail off to Ramsgate or stay at Queenborough and wait for the rib to return.

Peter made the decision that Wabbit should remain at Queenborough and Bob2 would motor back to us for the night, at 20 knots on the plane this should take less than an hour.

Lieva and Nick went shopping for diesel and food and when we were provisioned Lieva left us to drive to Herne Bay where she would meet Andy later. Bob2 and Andy left in good time to get to the dropping off point and the swimmer entered the water at 14:30, passing West Cant, Tripod, Spiel, Four Fathoms and south of Kentish flats wind farm. The wind and the waves coming from the side had made controlling the boat and swimming very difficult but at 1900 Andy was north of Herne Bay after some 14 nautical miles or 16.11 km. The



swimmer was recovered to the Rib and Bob2 navigated to the slip way at Herne Bay town. When the bottom was in easy reach Andy got out and walked to the shore for a good nights sleep while Bob2 returned at speed to the mother ship Wabbit.

While this was going on Tanya and I were working hard on our tans and drinking beer while watching the locals and a film crew who were filming the life of Turner with Timothy Spall in the starring role. Lots of boats and equipment were unloaded onto the waiting pontoon then a quick bit of action followed by what seemed like a long lunch. Later the ribs and actors were towed past us filming out into the Medway and not returning until nearly dark.

More boats were taking shelter in Queenborough for the night, lone sailors and some foreign visitors so we had a few hours of fun watching them try to snare buoys mostly without success. We offered help to those who were willing to take it and eventually everyone was moored, bbqs were lit, smoke filled the air and another perfect day was coming to an end. Bob2 however was still not back, I was concerned but a call up on the radio found them not too far off and they were soon enjoying pies and mash onboard.



Pioneer Sailing Trust

LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Commodore

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and your club members for your very generous donation of £350 from your members to the Pioneer Sailing Trust This was presented to me following the presentation that I delivered to your members on the 8th May.

I am pleased to say that I was made most welcome, and it was great to hear that so many of the club members were familiar with Pioneer, seeing her out on the water when sailing off the East coast. As I mentioned to them during my presentation, you are all very welcome to visit us at Harkers Yard in order that they can see more of our work. You are very welcome and all you need do is call our operations manager beforehand. This will ensure that someone is available to show you around. SOCA will of course be welcome to come for a sail on Pioneer herself. We can take groups of up to 12 adults.

As a charity we do of course rely on the generosity of individuals, clubs and funding bodies to support our work. Due to your generosity, we have decided to purchase a new data projector for use in the yard and to support more presentations in the future. Our current projector is on its last legs and we desperately need a replacement to help with training delivery for our 10 apprentices. I hope you will agree that this is a good use of your donation.

Please pass on our thanks and kind regards to all of the SOCA members. We look forward to meeting you all again. David Tournay

www.pioneersailingtrust.org.uk



SOCA BOAT OWNERS: PLEASE EDIT YOUR DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE PRIVATE AREA



AUNTY'S COLUMN

News, hints, tips and oddities from the web and undercover reporters

www.sailingscuttlebutt.com

SAILORS STRIP FOR OLYMPIC GLORY

Two Spanish Olympic sailing hopefuls have thrown caution to the wind by posing nude to raise their profile in the lead-up to the 2016 Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro.

"If we get to 1,500 likes on our Facebook page we will pose nude on our boat and post the picture," the pair wrote.



A little over a week later, the goal was reached and the two took to their boat in the nude. As promised, they posted a picture on their site.

www.bartsbash.co.uk

WHAT IS BARTS BASH?

The inaugural Bart's Bash is a sailing race that will be run by sailing clubs all around the world on behalf of the charity, the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation. Each sailing club will sail an individual Bart's Bash race at their location on Sunday 21 September 2014. It is the major fundraising event for the Foundation and we are asking people to raise money to support our charitable work.



Picture by: RNLI/Gavin Antliff

rnli.harwich.org.uk

RNLI HARWICH MEDEVAC FROM CRUISE LINER

The Harwich RNLI all weather lifeboat was launched shortly after 7.30am on Monday 23rd June to carry out a medevac.

The lifeboat proceeded to the Sunk TSS to meet the Cunard Queen Victoria Cruise Liner.

Crew members were transferred to the Queen Victoria with a stretcher and prepared an unwell passenger for transfer to the lifeboat. The ship's Doctor provided a thorough handover to the lifeboat crew before the stretcher transfer was safely completed.

While returning to Harwich harbour, the volunteer lifeboat crew went through their casualty care procedures, continuing to monitor the individual in order to provide a handover to paramedics ashore.

At approximately 11am, the person was passed in to the care of an Ambulance crew at the Port of Felixstowe for transfer to Hospital.

Log in to the SOCA website for the latest events information

SOCA DIARY

JULY MEETING: Thurs 10

THE CLYDE ON PS WAVERLEY
Dave Arnold will talk about his trip onboard the paddle steamer in 2013.
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AUGUST MEETING: Thurs 14

SOCA BBQ
hosted by Dave and Liz Arnold.
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SEPTEMBER MEETING: Thurs 11

SOCA RALLY REPORT
Members tell us about this seasons sailing

OCTOBER MEETING: Thurs 9

TRINITY HOUSE:
500 YEARS OF ROYAL CHARTER
Captain William Wells, Master Mariner is our guest speaker.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Thurs 13

TBA

DECEMBER MEETING: Thurs 11

Photo Competition and Christmas Social with raffle

SOCA RALLIES 2014

MID-SEASON RALLY

July
TBA check website for details

BELAYING PIN CHALLENGE

Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st
September 2014 East Coast Rally

BART'S BASH

Sunday 21st September 2014 check website for details

SHOTLEY POINT YACHT CLUB

This season SOCA Members have been invited to join in with some of the Shotley Point Yacht Club events. The SOCA website has a list of all upcoming events for the next couple of months. If you wish to attend any of these events, please talk to Richard White at the SOCA meeting or go to: <http://www.shotleypyc.co.uk>

SOCA - Where & When?

WHERE Stevenage CIU (Please use the front entrance and ring the intercom).

LOCATION 31 High Street, Old Stevenage, Herts SG1 3AU – next to the Standing Order

WHEN The second Thursday of every month. **TIME** 7.45pm doors open.

IDEAS OR VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS FOR SOCA CLUB TALKS WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE CLUB AND COMMITTEE

THE COPY DEADLINE

For the next SOCA Sailing Times is **31st July** please send photos and general contributions to:

news@socasailing.org.uk

Any comments made by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Association, who can not be held responsible for them. The Editor reserves the right to shorten and edit contributions where necessary.