

THE RNLI CHRISTMAS TABLE WILL BE AT THIS OCTOBER MEETING FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS AND OTHER GOODIES

Forthcoming Meeting

CAPTAIN WELLS

TRINITY HOUSE: 500 YEARS OF ROYAL CHARTER

Thursday October 9th

Captain William Wells, Master Mariner, is a former ship's captain and commercial marine pilot, whose career at sea lasted just short of 49 years

When still a schoolboy, he won a scholarship and, leaving his native New Zealand he travelled to the UK where he underwent his basic officer training before embarking on his career in the British



Merchant Navy and the Royal Navy Reserve. Promoted to Captain by the age of 28, he then became a Trinity House licensed pilot in the Port of London operating on the River Thames between Gravesend and London Bridge. He now speaks to a number of

different organisations and learned societies both in this country and abroad, as well as BBC radio and aboard cruise ships. He was chosen by the Cunard Line to be their Principal Guest Speaker for the final cruise aboard the QE2 and the maiden cruise of her replacement the new Queen Elizabeth.

Trinity House: 500 years of Royal Charter

In this specially prepared talk to celebrate 500 years of having been granted a Royal Charter by King Henry VIII in 1514, we look at the history of and the reasons why Trinity House, one of the world's renowned maritime organisations was formed in the late 15th century. The power of the House and its influence on the international maritime world throughout the centuries until major political changes were forced upon it in 1988 are discussed. We also look at the roles of Trinity House in today's international maritime world and take a pictorial tour through the House itself.

Visitors are welcome so please invite a guest or two to visit the club with you to enjoy the presentation from this professional speaker.

RNLI Christmas Corner

John Gardener will be bringing RNLI Cards and gifts to this month's meeting so don't forget your pennies.

**COMMODORE'S CHARITY
2014-15 : SAIL4CANCER**

COMMODORE'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,
I hope that you all enjoyed Tony Johns talk last month and are looking forward



to the return of

Captain William Wells at this month's meeting. He will be covering 500 years of Trinity House, which has the safety of shipping and the well-being of seafarers as its prime concern.

Recently Adam & I visited the National Maritime Museum to see their exhibition 'Ships, Clocks and Stars: The quest for Longitude' Covering the story of the race to find longitude at sea and the characters involved in this quest, the exhibits were excellent and included the 5 timepieces made by John Harrison. Whilst I'd read a short synopsis of the Harrison story, I didn't realise how complex and beautiful the pieces were. If you're interested in the Longitude story or clocks in general, this exhibition is well worth the £8.50 entry fee. I have some photos on my phone, so if you'd like a look, see me at the meeting.

Coming up soon is the December photo completion, so start getting your pictures together for this end of year social event.

See you all on the 9th October.

Dee Hilliard,
Commodore

**SOCA LAYING UP/EARLY CHRISTMAS DINNER
FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER 7:30pm FOR 8:00pm**

NEW VENUE: THE WHITE HORSE WELWYN - £27pp

WE NEED DEPOSITS TO SECURE OUR BOOKING ASAP

PLEASE BRING CASH TO THIS OCTOBER MEETING

FOR ONLINE PAYMENT DETAILS EMAIL:

TREASURER@SOCASAILING.ORG.UK

MENU ON PAGE 2 - £5 PER PERSON DEPOSIT REQUIRED

September 20-21

SOCA AUTUMN RALLY

SOCA's Autumn Rally Navigators Challenge took place on the Saturday. As usual the wind failed us, not enough of it this time.

Luckily, following the rules, engines were allowed so we headed out to the latitude of Armada, Where strangely enough we saw no other SOCA boats. Late September and Sunfleur reported later that they were further north of our position.

At the finish, 16:00 according to the two GPS and two iPhones onboard Wabbit, all three competitors failed to make the line by a few seconds and were therefore labelled DNF (Still under discussion).

The fourth boat, Baltic Cloud, had suffered alternator problems and did not leave their marina. The crew did take to the water on the Harwich ferry just as Wabbit was passing Felixstowe docks.

In answer to JR's comment below: the wind picked up as we headed in by the cranes but not enough to go anywhere against tide and head to wind.

All four boat crews got together for a meal at Woolverstone where we were well looked after. On Sunday the wind was up and we had a fabulous sail.



I've attached a couple of photos of the rally. If you enlarge the first one enough, you can just make out "Wabbit". You may need to crop off the other boat with his sails up though ;-)
The other photo is the "Baltic Cloud" skipper and crew, about to drown our sorrows for not being able to join you. JR

the white horse | pub, restaurant & garden

SOCA LAYING UP / EARLY CHRISTMAS DINNER FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER 7:30pm FOR 8:00pm NEW VENUE: THE WHITE HORSE WELWYN - £27pp

To Start

Spiced Root Vegetable Soup with a Parsnip Crisp, Home Baked Bread & a Cumin-Butter Florette (v)

Confit Pulled Duck & Blackcurrant Terrine with a Sage Crisp, Doom Bar Ale Chutney & Pistachio Crumbs

Handpicked Cromer Crab, Rocket & Grapefruit Salad with a Lemon & Smoked Paprika Aioli & a Scottish Oat Biscuit

Warm Roasted Roots & Goats Cheese Salad with Red Wine Syrup & a Black Pepper Croute (v)

Main Course

Roast Norfolk Bronze Turkey Breast with a Butchers Chipolata, Goose Fat Roasted Potatoes, Chorizo & Sage Stuffing, Stock Gravy & Cranberry Jus

Grilled 'Old Spot' Gammon Steak on a Grain-Mustard & Thyme Mash, with Apple & Cider Sauce & Pork Crackling

Chestnut & Tarragon-stuffed Field Mushroom with Roasted Sweet Potatoes & a Dolcelatté Cream Sauce (v)

Beetroot-cured 'Loch Duart' Salmon Fillet with Roasted Baby Potatoes & Candy Beetroot, Garlic & Herb Oil

All served with Christmas Vegetables to the table

Dessert

Christmas Pudding with a Brandy Chantilly Cream & Winter Berries

Mint Chocolate Cheesecake with a Black Forest Fruit Coulis

Cinnamon-Apple Bread & Butter Pudding with Butterscotch & Dairy Ice Cream

White Horse Cheeseboard with Biscuits & Candied Celery (£2 supp.)

Please let us know if any of your party have and special dietary requirements. A 12.5% discretionary service charge will be added to tables of 6 or more. Nuts & other common allergens are used in our kitchen

the white horse, 30 mill lane, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 9ET.

Tel: 01438 714366, www.thewhitehorse-welwyn.co.uk, VAT reg: 987 6885 25, Company reg: 7166758

Christmas Party Menu

Recent Meeting

TONY'S STORY:

Tony Johns from NOSCA, Northampton Off-Shore Cruising Association, was our guest speaker at the September meeting.

Starting with tales of his father's sail cruiser, converted from an old lifeboat, (possibly from the Mauretania) and childhood memories of the Mumbles lifeboat, including the 1947 SS Samtamper disaster, Tony then told us about his life in the marine trade.

Tony talked about the Thomas Walker & Son Ltd log company, and the history of ship's logs - trailing, pitot, impellas and the ancient paddle wheel log of Vitruvius.

Next Tony discussed the Transit satellite system, progressing to SatNav, GPS and iPad plotters. In 1980, over a few G&Ts Tony came up with the word SatNav prior to it's launch at the Boat Show, he was also involved in the Tomorrow's World exclusive on the SatNav (he pressed the button) and was interviewed in live broadcast for Pebble Mill at One.

To conclude we were told tales about some of the big ships, sea trials and cruising experiences Tony has undertaken and his love of his own Cornish Crabber and Shrimper.

Thanks to Tony for visiting and sharing his story.

ARTICLES, PHOTOS AND SNIPPETS FOR SOCA TIMES WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED

Log of Wabbit GBR4604

TEDDINGTON TO CALAIS SWIM 2013

...continued

Ramsgate to Ipswich

Saturday 27th July we awoke a bit late and finally left Ramsgate at 05:15 with Wildlife ahead of us, we waved them off and headed north, with a thunder storm in the air.

07:15 found us entering the Tongue deep water anchorage, wind was 0 so we motored with the tide pushing us up towards the London Array wind farm. By 08:00 all we could see was turbines and we had a plan to try something different and pass to the east of them and then head across to Harwich, however our paper charts of that area suddenly seemed to hide from us and, um, had not been updated with the London Array, so where did it end? [Should have downloaded Roger Gaspar's latest chartlets: <http://www.crossingthethamesestuary.com>]. Fog was coming in, perhaps we should head for the Fisherman's Gat passage? Or... The wind farm has been operating for a number of years and as far as I was aware you can motor through the turbines with no hindrance from the operators. Seems I was wrong, an orange catamaran came up to us with the crew asking if we had talked to any one before entering the farm. We replied that we had not, they then asked us to call Mary Ann 1 and talk to them. This we did and were told to reverse our course and keep 200 meters from any vessel and 50 meters from any structure, this we complied with. On exiting the farm we headed for the fisherman gat with the vis getting worse, luckily we had raised the echo max, radar reflector, before we set off so as to be seen and we kept to the shallows of the channel.

10:30 we were 51°35.16 N 01°27.68 E the fog lifted and it was raining now.

11:00 the rain stopped and we had progressed to 51°34.5 N 01°23.2 E.

12:00 dolphins were spotted and we



had to strip off as the temperature was rising.

14:10 black deep no3, sun bathing with vis of a mile. I spotted black deep no1 a way off then, as suddenly as it came into view, it was swallowed up by more fog. Vis was now less than half a mile.

14:30 51°44.6N 01°28.6 E we turned for South Cork. 15:00 we crossed East Swim in thick fog, using the hand-pump air horn for fog signals.

By 16:00 Wabbit was closing on armada 51°53.5 N 01°20.8E. It was getting cold, cloudy and still foggy and we could not see the cranes of Felixstowe.

16:30 we came to Languard and Cliff Foot. Visibility was poor and we could barely see Languard Fort on shore and the radar tower there. We called Harwich VTS to check on traffic.

17:15 tide was against us, it was nice to see the cranes coming out of the fog.

17:30 Shotley Spit was reached, time for tea and crumpets. While Tanya popped below to the galley my eyes shut for a moment, I was pulling the tiller toward me and the boat headed for the sand bank. (Beware of over-tiredness!). Becoming suddenly alert I turned back on course and stood up. Steering for the shallower slower tide to pick up the speed we made good time in the shallows, heading up river. Calling for a lock-in at 19:30, we were finally at our mooring by 20:00.

Steak pie was in the oven and the forecast over the radio had changed to gales and high seas so it was lucky we did not stay another day in Ramsgate

14.5hrs distance 68 nautical miles.

Sunday 28th July was a boat cleaning and tidying day, washing down every

thing. Thames water is not nice so everything had to be disinfected, floors washed decks scrubbed, charts put away. Surprisingly the passage chart showed up today that would have taken us around Kentish Knock safely and saved us at least two hours and kept us from Mary Ann 1 in the London Array.

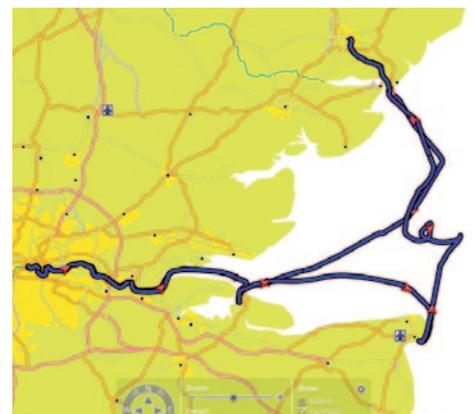
George Whitchurch rang and asked if we could assist him in taking his crew man, John Summerton, back with us to Hertfordshire. Unfortunately we were in the two seater so replied that we could not, but were happy to drop him at the station, so George made his way up river to the Haven Marina, apparently cheaper than Neptune, for mooring overnight.

We took John to the station and later showed George a good time out, eating at the Italian, then a real ale after at the Dove pub. George said that he had also encountered Mary Ann 1 in the past and was telling of the fun he had in the wind farm too, so we felt better knowing that a salty sea dog like George can fluster a guard vessel just like us.

We left the boat next day, happy knowing she was back in shape ready for the next adventure.

In the two weeks we were away I have never motored so much or used so much diesel. The log shows that Wabbit sailed and motored some 252 nautical miles on her round trip. Andy had swum some 125miles down from Teddington to Dover all that was left for him to do was swim the channel some mere 21 miles plus tide!

We were both planning to be with him on this part of the challenge too...



COMMITTEE MEETINGS: TUESDAY AFTER THE MONTHLY MEETING AT RNC WGC



AUNTY'S COLUMN

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

www.nci.org.uk

NATIONAL COASTWATCH NEW VHF CHANNEL

The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) has been allocated a national licence by OFCOM for the use of VHF Channel 65. This dedicated channel has been granted to NCI with strong support from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Channel 65 will facilitate communications between NCI lookouts and seafarers on a variety of routine matters. Stations will be able to respond to requests from passing, as well as local sailing craft and fishing vessels for radio checks as well as actual weather and sea state conditions. They will also be able to provide on request information on a range of local facilities including, for example, local moorings, chartered anchorages, water taxi contact details and local hazards

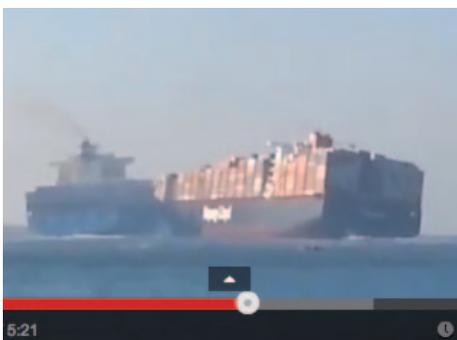
This facility was scheduled to become operational on 1 October 2014 when National Coastwatch stations went live for the first time on Channel 65.

Commenting on the allocation, Alan Richards, Chairman of the National Coastwatch said: "NCI has long aspired to have the use of a dedicated national marine VHF channel to facilitate radio communications between stations and seafarers. This is a major milestone for us, not least as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the start of our organisation".

RNLI News

ONLINE MAGAZINE

A new RNLI website magazine for everyone launches in October alongside a refreshed Lifeboat (the exclusive printed magazine for RNLI members). Published every 2 months, the web magazine will celebrate the RNLI, their people and the lives they save.



sailinganarchy.com

RULE OF TONNAGE

You thought rudder problems were an issue in your wee yacht? Well, when it hits one of the world's largest container ships as she enters Suez Canal, it's a whole different ballgame. Check out the Colombo Express taking a chunk (and some containers) off the Tanjong in the spectator video; the canal was shut down for about half a day with minimal pollution issues and no injuries; a lucky end to a collision that could have been a hell of a lot worse. Thanks to SA'er 'pipe dream' for the heads up.

Log in to the SOCA website for the latest events information

SOCA DIARY

OCTOBER MEETING: Thurs 9

TRINITY HOUSE:
500 YEARS OF ROYAL CHARTER
Captain William Wells, Master Mariner is our guest speaker
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NOVEMBER MEETING: Thurs 13

THE RNLI FLEET:
200 YEARS IN THE MAKING
Paul Gillions, RNLI Coastal Safety

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENT

LAYING UP SUPPER / CHRISTMAS DINNER watch this space for details

DECEMBER MEETING: Thurs 11

PHOTO COMPETITION and Christmas Social with raffle

JANUARY MEETING: Thurs 8

Stuart Carruthers, RYA Cruising Manager and Gus Lewis, RYA Head of Legal and Government Affairs tell us how the RYA is representing our interests on a range of issues

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thurs 12

ANNELIEKE VISITS THE SOMME: SOCA members Alex Nicholas and Andrew Davison recount their recent sailing adventures

MARCH MEETING: Thurs 12

COMMODORES REPORT AND AGM

RALLIES 2014

SHOTLEY POINT YACHT CLUB

This season SOCA Members have been invited to join in with some of the Shotley Point Yacht Club events. 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>

WINTER

Some soca boats remain afloat over the winter - watch the website/Facebook for crewing opportunities

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 **25th October** 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.