

Hampstead and Yalding Cruising Club

Newsletter–August 2009

Web site: www.hycc.org.uk

Commodores Column

Dear fellow members

Your Commodore narrowly avoided a rubber duck last weekend when I tried to leap aboard at Sluice Weir lock on the return from the Tonbridge Cruise (which went very well, see elsewhere in the newsletter) and missed my footing, only to drop about 8 feet to the deck. At the time of going to press I have been diagnosed with a hairline fracture to my upper left arm. It could have been very much worse!

I should have listened to my wife who said the drop in water level made it a step too far, she was right, I will listen next time!

Bob Harvey – Commodore

Editorial

I am still looking for a newsletter editor!

Please don't forget to send your contributions direct to me (Bob Harvey)

at 39, Rochester Drive, Westcliff - on - Sea, Essex SS0 0NJ, email me at

robert.c.harvey@blueyonder.co.uk or if you do not have email, telephone me on 01702 332032

Lynda Burton

Sadly Lynda Burton succumbed to a reoccurrence of an illness last Monday - 24th August. Lynda and Tony, who Mo and I have known for many years, initially joined the club in 1988 with a boat called Winkie II, and have for a few years, owned "White Star", moored at Bow Bridge Marina. Lynda has always been a staunch supporter of the club with husband Tony and will be missed on the river. Our thoughts are with Tony, children Tammy and Rob and family at this time. The funeral will be on the 14th September at Hither Green Crematorium, South London. SE6 1TP at 1.45 pm.

Bryan Clayton, President HYCC

Tidal Medway — safety first & boating for beginners

Going out onto the tidal Medway for the first time can be a bit nerve-racking for the first timer, knowing how to work out tides and the time it takes to get from one stretch of the river to another. There are many things to take into consideration and here is a list of some....

Is the boat capable of such a trip?

Is it seaworthy?

Is the engine man enough to cope with the tide?

Has the boat enough life jackets for all those onboard the craft?

Has it got an anchor and warp/chain the right length for anchoring?

Does it have an echo sounder, so you know the depth of water beneath the craft?

Has the craft got a VHF/DSC ships radio and does anyone know how to operate it in an emergency?

Do you have a chart of the area where you will be cruising and can you understand it?

There are so many things to consider before cruising out into the tidal stretch of the

river/estuary. The best thing is to do is to ask someone who has done it before and knows what they are doing. Many people go out and just take a chance, which can be very dangerous indeed. We, as a club, will have someone who can advise, or even take novices out so they can gain experience, once you have done it, you have so much more to do and locations to explore.

Below are useful telephone numbers and places to stop off or to get provisions as you venture down the river to the much bigger stretch of the mouth of the river which ends up at Sheerness, where the Medway joins the river Thames and finally the SEA. Also below you can find websites for tidal predictions and other information to help you.

From leaving Allington lock.	01622 752864		
Elmhaven Marina	01634 240489.	Cuxton Marina	01634 721941
Medway Bridge Marina	01634 843576.	Rochester Cruising Club	01634 841350
Rochester Pier floating pontoon	01634 338106.	Strood Yacht Club	01634 718261
Port Medway	01634 720033	Strood Pier	01975 596596
Sun Pier	01634 338106	Medway Yacht Club	01634 718399
Chatham Maritime Marina	01634 899200.	Hoo Marina	01634 250311
Gillingham Marina.	01634 280022	Queenborough Yacht Club	01795 663955
Queenborough Harbour controller	01795 721941		

A couple of tide prediction programmes, **Easy Tide** on www.easytide.ukho.gov.uk, you pay a small fee every time you log on, and **Neptune Tides**. Neptune Tides is a programme you can purchase with predictions up to 2060. Most chandleries also sell tide table of our area such as Sheerness and Dover, also charts.

When cruising up or down a tidal creek, keep to the outside of the bends to look for deeper water as the water swirling round the bends cuts away the silt etc and normally provides a greater depth of water than will be found on the inside of the bend. Make sure you know where you will be at certain times of the tide so you can be sure you have enough water underneath you to stay afloat and also not to damage any part of the boat under the water. You may also find it difficult to come alongside tidal pontoons for mooring up, always come into the mooring against the tide or wind, whichever is strongest. To find this hang off before going in and see which way you float - and not with the tide behind you or you may lose control of the boat. Take it easy going in and make sure no one jumps off, until the boat has come to a halt and ask the person leaping off to make sure they take a warp (rope), which should be fastened to the boat, with them and make fast to a cleat or bollard. Always make fast the rear (stern) of the boat first if the tide is behind you as the front (bow) will make its own way in, if you tie the bow first the water will push the boat round and could possibly end up causing damage to your boat and someone else's craft. Obviously, if going in bow first against the strongest element, tie the bow first. Get someone to show you how and where you can anchor the boat, it's no good throwing out the anchor, if when the tide goes out, you are high and dry on the mud/rocks/piles or whatever. Always make sure there is enough water to stay afloat when the tide is low.

Don't forget, please ask any experienced club member, they will always help, have fun.

Bryan Clayton

Cruise to Tonbridge

We normally at this time of year have a Mayor of Tonbridge Cruise, but as there is a recession, the Council felt that should be cancelled this year. However, it was decided that the HYCC would invite the Mayor out for the day at no cost to the Council. The Mayor graciously accepted the invitation and arrived minus regalia etc. The cannon was not fired and all was kept very informal.

A fine day was enjoyed by all.

Bob Harvey - Commodore

Future Events

2009

6 th – 7 th September	Strood Regatta (not an HYCC event)
12 th September	Working party on the land, followed by BBQ on the land bring own Food & Drink & Fishing Competition with games in the afternoon.
4 th October	MG Owners Club Treasurer Hunt to which HYCC members are welcome to join – more details later

2010

6 th February	HYCC AGM East Farleigh Social Club at 19:30 hrs
3 rd April	Spring event “Get together” at Teston Village Hall
1 st - 3 rd May	Sweeps weekend Cruise to Strood
Dates tba	Taster cruises for those who would like to learn more.
10 th July	Mayor of Maidstone & SwanMaster Cruise
11 th July	Auction & RNLi demo/stall - other clubs are invited
31 st July – 2 nd August	Cruise to Tonbridge or weekend on Golden Meadow
Date tba	Wateringbury Fun weekend on the land
Date tba	Mayor of Tonbridge & Cruise the SwanMaster may also attend.
28/29/30 th August	Bank holiday Cruise to Strood
Date tba	Strood Regatta (not an HYCC event)

PLEASE NOTE THESE NEXT YEARS DATES IN YOUR DIARIES- PERHAPS WE CAN MEET UP!

(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Management Committee)