

Hampstead and Yalding Cruising Club

Newsletter – January 2009

Web site: www.hycc.org.uk

Commodores Column

G'day Folks

I am writing these few lines the morning after the "HYCC Xmas Party" - 6/12/08. It turned out to be a great night with excellent food, music and some great raffle prizes. Thanks to all those who gave their support and attended; and also to the committee members who worked hard organizing a truly great event. I will be standing down at the next AGM, but hope to remain on the committee as Vice Commodore, supporting the next Commodore. Thanks to all of you that gave me their help and support over the last couple of years, PLEASE come along to the AGM which is to be held on 7th February, 2009. There is a space on the committee after June Greener retired in November, why not put yourself up for it. Finally I hope you all had VERY MERRY XMAS & that you have A PROSPEROUS 2009. (Let's hope the weather is kinder to us next year)

Regards for now,

Jim Clarke – Commodore

Editorial

Please put this date in your diary

7th February 2009 AGM & Winter Get-together (FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!)

**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 Articles not printed will be go in the next issue unless time dependent.**

Christmas Event 2008

It's that time of year again, and once more we all gathered at Nettlestead Village Hall for the annual Christmas gathering. The committee had obviously worked hard, as when we walked in we were immediately struck by the lovely decorations which gave the hall a warm glow. The tables looked really inviting and we soon settled down with friends for a great evening.

As we all received a complimentary drink on arrival, the festive chatter soon got going!! We had not seen some people for a while, so there was plenty of news to catch up on. By the time the food arrived we were all pretty hungry, and it was just as well, for the plates of delicious and varied food were piled high!! We soon did justice to that, and the committee are again to be thanked for employing caterers to prepare and plate the food, so that we didn't have to wait in line too long!! After all, we are all getting older!!

The disco was good, and got a lot of the lively ladies especially up on the floor. Keith and I would have liked a few slower ones, so we could have had a good smooch!! The raffle was good, loads of prizes, and for once we won something!!! There was the usual mirth while the draw was going on, cries of "Draw it again" and "Shake 'em up a bit!!!" (The last from me, I must admit!!)

This event was a brilliant start to the festivities, and those of you who missed it should try to make it next year, as **it was "jolly good fun!!!"**

Thank you HYCC Committee and helpers, it was great!!

Shirley A. Bray

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

Committee members are still required and we would like volunteers to be ready to sign up at the AGM. The big advantage in having more volunteers is that we can also create sub committees for all sorts of activity, so even if administration is not your scene we are sure that you will have skill sets which we can use to the club's benefit. So come on don't be shy!

BOATCALL - Marine Radio Courses 2009



The RYA SRC (Short Range Certificate) course is a one day course with a requirement for 8 hours training, covering the use of VHF/DSC (Digital Selective Calling) Radio under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, which on completion you will obtain the Short Range Certificate which entitles you to operate a VHF/DSC Radio as a competent radio operator, safe in the knowledge you know the correct procedure for making distress, urgency and safety messages by the means of marine VHF/DSC Radio.

VHF/DSC MARINE RADIO SHORT RANGE CERTIFICATE
ONE-DAY COURSE (8 HOURS) £80 (including light refreshments)
AND pre-course study material. PLUS £25 RYA licence fee.
• Special Course Price 25% discount for HYCC Members.



Other Courses: • Boat Handling • Navigation
Plus UK Boat Delivery at special prices
For further information contact Bob Tuthill
114 Avenue Road Beckenham Kent BR3 4SA
Tel: 020 8659 9860 Fax: 020 8778 2672
e-mail: info@boatcall.co.uk www.boatcall.co.uk

Please note that all HYCC members get a discount of 25% on the VHF/DSC Marine Short Range Certificate course i.e. costs £60 instead of the usual £80.

Notice to Mariners

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Environment Agency will be lowering the water level in the following lengths of the River Medway. This is to allow for the annual inspection and clearing operations to be carried out. Therefore the following lengths of the river will be closed to Navigation for the period shown:-

- Anchor 26 January to 2 February 2009
- Sluice Weir 2 to 9 February 2009
- Oak Weir 9 to 16 February 2009
- East Lock 16 to 23 February 2009
- Porters Lock 23 February to 2 March 2009
- Eldridges Lock 2 to 9 March 2009
- Town Lock 9 to 13 March 2009

Water levels will be raised earlier than the date shown if the inspection and clearing operations have been completed. Hampstead Lock will be closed for refurbishment until April 2009. There will be a boom in place just upstream at the lock to ensure craft do not enter the works area and the tail of the lock will be dammed off.

In the event of high flows Eldridges Pen will be lowered and the lock gates will be locked open. This action will be taken to allow the flood flows to pass through the lock, minimising the chances of debris causing blockages on the lock gates and sluices. For further information please contact the Allington office on 01622 765129.

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