

Yaringa Mariners Club

Cruising Division

Newsletter 19 July 2009

Weekend Sail

The weekend of July 29 and 30 has been tentatively set aside for a weekend sail, possibly to Rhyll. The tides are good for the weekend with a high tide at Yaringa at about 7:30am on the Saturday. With an early start we could 'ride the tide' past Tortoise Head Bluff and have time to investigate Blake's and Gardner's channels before arriving at Rhyll late afternoon. For the return trip, the high tide at Rhyll is at about 8.00am on the Sunday, and we could again 'ride the tide' back to Cowes for lunch, then return up the North Arm 'riding the tide' again, to return the Yaringa late afternoon. Before any further planning is done, I need to know how many boats are likely to participate. Please reply by email if you are considering this weekend sail. If there are insufficient numbers, a Sunday only sail will be planned. In both case, of course, the event will be weather dependent, and the way the winds have been lately, we stand a fair chance of being disappointed.

IMPORTANT - please email if you are considering attending the weekend sail!

Fire Aboard

Have you considered what you would do if you had a fire on board your boat? The most likely source would be a faulty methylated spirit stove, but other possibilities must be considered. If the preheating annular trough on a methylated spirit stove is overfilled, it will flare up and may cause you to worry. (In the next newsletter I will detail a theory about the mystery of the Mary Celeste, which involves a substance like methylated spirits.) In fact, the temperature of the flame is not high, and provided the flame can't reach anything combustible, it will die down in time. If, however, there is an excessive quantity of methylated spirits burning, some urgent action will be required. One good first action is to use a wet blanket. This will temporarily smother the flames and will stop them escaping from the stove, and will allow you time to find and prepare your fire extinguisher. If you have been prudent, the fire extinguisher will be close at hand and ready for action.

There is at least one brand of methylated spirit stove that is immune from overflowing. You guessed it, it costs about double the normal methylated spirit stove, but with Fathers' Day coming up, you might be lucky. Don't forget, there is a safety factor here!

Wind Speed Units

The Bureau of Meteorology uses both knots and kilometres an hour in forecasting wind speeds. As a rough guide, divide km per hour by two to get the knot equivalent. To convert exactly from one to the other, there is a web site that offers a simple conversion facility. It is ...

http://www.british-weather.com/wind_converter.htm

A Common Source of Amusement

Watching a boat ramp while boats are being launched can be an interesting time. On the one hand it is great to see a competent person backing a trailer down a ramp and launching or retrieving a boat. Alternatively, it can be entertaining to see the trouble some people can get into. For example the bloke who forgot that the boat goes into the water BEFORE the vehicle.



State Government Initiative on Jetty and Pier Safety Signage

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings recently announced a major safety initiative for Port Phillip and Westernport's 38 piers and jetties managed by Parks Victoria. Old signage will be replaced with safety focused signage.

Further details may be found at the Parks Victoria web site.

New Member to the Cruising Group

An offer has been made for the Jemma yacht with a BMW diesel motor that has been in the Yaringa Boat Sales yard. The prospective owners, who were previously dinghy sailors, have made initial contact with the Cruising Group and are enthusiastic about joining the group and using the boat.

Cleaning Recommendation

An experienced club member has recently had success cleaning a fibreglass hull using the domestic cleaner Jif. It has only a light cutting effect and appears effective on a variety of stains and dirt, including pelican droppings! To complete the job a marine polish is recommended.