



Pin Mill Sailing Club



August 2007 Newsletter

For all the very latest information, visit the website at www.pmsc.org.uk

Commodore's Corner

I think that June this year has been one of the wettest since records began. If you started your sailing season early, then I suspect you have sprouted webbed feet!

We have been so lucky that the weather was good for both the Barge Match and the Smack Race. There were to have been 19 entrants for the Barge Match but, as ever, some fell by the wayside for one reason or another, and then the Friday before the match it was so very windy that four barges decided against making the journey. Nevertheless there were about 13 barges about and they looked splendid in the river and the club hosted the early supper, which looked like a banquet. My grateful thanks to Julian Ackland for the organization of the match and to all those involved as volunteers for Race Committee and Outer Mark and to Pat Dunnett and all her helpers for providing the wonderful reception and of course to Phil and Tanya for inviting us on board the "Adax" as Committee Boat for both races.

The following week of the Smack Race, we were rather down on numbers from last year, with a clash of dates when the classic boats were at the Backwaters for a rally and a number of the Smacks were racing elsewhere. Having said that we had 8 boats about and they had a good race, which Jon Humby arranged, and for the "Pioneer" to be chartered for the race as all those members who joined her said they had a wonderful time. Our Rear Commodore and his team provided an excellent quality and value for money BBQ and "High Water Mark" sang their hearts out during the evening. Jackie, Jo and Angela, as ever, provided a warm welcome behind the bar and Simon Everitt, our Bar Secretary, now has new cooling jackets on the beer, and all their efforts are really appreciated.

We are hopefully off to Gores this weekend, and watching the wind bend the trees over today makes me think, we may not have the best start for our journey!

There are slips for Regatta and the Laying Up Supper with this circular, so do remember to mark the dates down on your calendars, together with the Dinner Dance on the 10th November. The slips can be downloaded from our website should you misplace them.

I do hope to see as many of you as possible at anyone of these events, if not all three!

Do take care on the water.

Dilly Ridge

Diary



Saturday 18th August
Dinghy Races + BBQ

Saturday 25th August
Bank Holiday Mystery Cruise

Saturday 1st September
PMSC Annual Regatta and
Boat Jumble

Sunday 2nd September
RNLI and Autumn Race

Saturday 15th September
3CRS RHYC Host
and Prizegiving

Saturday 6th October
Laying Up Supper
And Rivers Rally Prizegiving

Saturday 20th October
Photographic Competition

Saturday 27th October
Wine Tasting

Saturday 10th November
Dinner Dance

*The next Newsletter will be in
October. Contributions please
by 27th September to:*

editor@pmsc.org.uk

*Or by post to: 14 The
Chestnuts, Wrentham, Beccles,
Suffolk, NR34 7EZ*

Sailing Report July 07

Despite the predicted thundery weather in the afternoon a good gathering of club boats and crew arrived at the Ness ready to BBQ. As predicted shortly after the first BBQ was lit along came the first black cloud and spot of rain. Not to be deterred a beer or two was consumed along with a burger and hot dog before the less hardy of us made our way back to our respective craft. This turned out to be a touch more difficult than first thought with a strong ebb tide running and an even stronger onshore breeze. Not good for the faint hearted or those of us with inflatables. Eventually all crews made it back safely although through sheer exhaustion from rowing some had to retire to their bunks for an afternoon snooze.

June 23rd – 3 Clubs Series, Race 2.

The second round of the 3 clubs series was held at the end of June, and after the days racing the PMSC are still in pole position thanks to the skippers and crew sailing Nellie Dean, St Anthony and Perfectionist. As in the first race PMSC had two yachts in the top three after corrected time and now lead the Orwell YC and RHYC by 15 points. Well done everyone and we look forward to finishing the season on a high in September with the ultimate round. All the results can be found on the club web site under the Sailing section

July 14th – Smacks Race and BBQ.

The second Smacks and Working boat race took place on July 14th and by some coincidence the exact same weather conditions prevailed for the second year running. Entries unfortunately were down this year due to a number of other events taking place along the east coast but we did have 5 Smacks and 1 Bawley cross the start line and in race 2 two classic Bermudans crossed the line.

After a breezy sail down the Orwell and up the Stour to No 1 buoy and back the smack Sunbeam from Tollsburly took line honours on corrected time and won the Joe Dunnett Trophy. Halloween WSOD finished 30 seconds behind and won class two. Second in

the Smacks class was the Pioneer from Brightlingsea, crewed by 12 members of the club who I understand had a great time. Third was the Ethel Alice from West Mersey. The afternoon and evening was spent enjoying a wonderful BBQ and listening to High Water Mark performing on the veranda. All in all a very successful day for the club and everyone involved.

July – Goes / Holland

As I pen this report the club cruise to Goes is only days away. We are hoping to have up to 5 craft making the trip and I believe some members arriving by ferry and rail. I know Cor, the Harbour Master in Goes, is very much looking forward to our arrival. Perhaps those not making the trip would spare a moment to say a short prayer to the weather gods regarding fair winds and sunshine!

Up and Coming events.

August 18 – Dinghy Regatta

This event is for all those members who have a sailing dinghy, whatever design and would like to race, or those of you who would like to sail / race a Topper Dinghy. The race committee hope to run two open handicap races near to high water, approx 16:00, and some fun sailing / racing in the Toppers – e.g. Mums race, Dads race, Parent and child ect. Watch the club sailing notice board for details of how to enter.

August 25/26/27. – East Coast Mystery Tour.

As the title of this event suggests any destination remains a mystery until the evening before or even on the day of departure. This is not designed to discourage members from participating but to hopefully gain the advantage of a fair wind on the day to the chosen place or places to visit during the tour. This event last season was great fun and members attending look forward to seeing some new faces this year.

Again watch the club notice board or contact Val Stone our news letter Ed.

Sept 1/2 - PMSC Regatta.

Enclosed in this news letter you will find an entry form for the annual Regatta and Rowing races on Saturday the 1st and the RNLI race

on Sunday 2nd. Please make an effort to enter an event this year, entries can be made at any time leading up to the weekend or pop into the club on the Friday evening before. The rowing / sculling events are for everybody to take part in so put away those outboard motors and get practicing.

Jon Humby
Vice Commodore

Erwarton Ness BBQ

On Saturday 16th June, the intrepid crews of 7 boats, Celtic Explorer, Jenni Ann, Gamine, Silver Wain, Jade, Lodestar and Aurora, set off for the lonely promontory of Erwarton Ness on the Suffolk side of the River Stour. Against a background of grey cloudy skies and threatening rain, and armed only with self erecting barbecues, raw meat and a few cans to sustain us we managed to drop anchor within a short dinghy ride of the shore.

It was anticipated that some club members would arrive by foot / car but, as the first gallant seafarers set foot ashore, we realised that nobody else had turned up – we were.....alone.

Undeterred, we set to erecting windshields and collecting firewood – how many of us had read “Scouting for Boys” in years gone by? Lord Baden Powell would have been proud of the way we used the umbrella to shield barbecues from both rain and wind. With one eye on the barbecues and one eye on the moorings, a constant watch was kept on the craft – worried that, with an ebb tide and an increasingly strong westerly wind, the anchors may not hold?

The collective standard of seamanship was matched by the collective standard of cooking – no anchors dragged and no burgers were cremated. A sinister dark cloud was spotted on the horizon, heading our way, heralding a squall and persisting rain. The Ness was hurriedly cleared, dinghies were laden with spent barbecues and sated crew and a frantic rush for the still moored yachts ensued. Too late, the tide and the wind proved more than a match for rowers who had just over-indulged.

The dinghies were pushed back on shore under the relentless pressure of wind and tide. In the excitement of the moment, one crew member found the seat of her jeans soaked through. To save her blushes, Romy has asked that she remain anonymous – your secret is safe with me.

A very fast return to Shotley Point, with following wind and ebb tide, was followed by a more traditional slog back up to Pin Mill, under increasingly threatening clouds. At the end of the day I think we were all glad of a hot bath and a rest.

Andrew Milligan

Flying The Flag for PMSC

Richard Fawcett of PMSC has teamed up with ‘Fat Boys’ running club in Derbyshire to take part in this year’s Barmouth to Fort William Yacht Race. Team Fat Boys are competing in Richard’s Beneteau First 325 ‘Valencia’. The team will be drawing heavily on the sailing skills of fellow yachtsman Will Taylor-Jones, Technical Director of Oyster Marine.

Teams comprise 5 people, and their aim is to sail from Barmouth on the Welsh coast, to Fort William in Scotland, via Caernarfon and Whitehaven, climbing to the summits of Snowden, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis on the way. In total this is 389 miles of difficult coastal sailing, 30 miles of cycling and 72 miles of running, with 14,000 feet of ascent to reach the highest points in Wales, England and Scotland.

This year’s race starts on 23rd June and you can chart the progress of the Fat Boys at www.sleepmonsters.co.uk/site_3peaks. As a warm up to the Three Peaks Richard will also be competing in this year’s North Sea Race as well as EAORA’s Ralph Herring and Pattinson Cups.

Jon Humby
Vice Commodore

Nautical Photograph Competition

A reminder that this year's Competition will be held on Saturday October 22nd. 'Nautical' is interpreted loosely, to cover any watery theme, with or without boats, so you may just as likely find the perfect picture along the shores of Alton Reservoir as you might sailing in the IJsselmeer. Remember that, as Matt Brooke told us last year, 'the secret is in the seeing', and consider the effects of light, colour and texture as elements in creating a successful composition.

This year we are fortunate in having two judges. Matt Brooke will be joined by Anthony Cullen, who is also a professional photographer, and they will not only select the prize-winning photos but also discuss all the entries, so we should all gain some useful hints in the art of photography. The winner of the Competition will receive the Cleyndert Trophy - will another competitor be able to remove it from Simon Everitt's mantelpiece this year?

The photograph selected for the cover of next year's Almanac will, however, be chosen by YOU. Everyone present at the prize giving in the evening of October 22nd, also any member who comes into the Clubhouse on Sunday 23rd, will be entitled to vote for the photo they think is most appropriate for this purpose.

So, take your camera wherever you go and be ready to take that 'perfect shot' to enter in the Competition. Just remember that your submissions should be no larger than 8" x 6" (20 x 15 cm), preferably unmounted, but smaller sizes are very welcome. Entries should arrive at the Clubhouse no later than 12 noon on October 22nd.

Marjorie Carter

BOAT JUMBLE

**PMSC Annual Regatta
September 1st 2007**

14.00 to 17.00

Stalls £3.00 (To Cutty Sark Trust)

If you are interested in this event please help us to plan by filling in the downloadable form.