



No 10 May 2010

The Yardarm

**Buy your VHF
Radio now!!**

Another Season over!

Some great racing, some great lessons learnt! Spectacular starts, exciting finishes, retirements, calms, blows, we had the lot!

Towing

On the subject of retirements, sometimes yachts need a tow, and on those that do not have a sampson post to hitch the towline to, such as most trailer sailers, J24's, Etchells etc., it is not always obvious where to do this. The best method is to take one turn around the bow cleat with the towline, then go aft to the mast, take a couple of turns around it at deck level and then hold onto the fall. Don't hitch it in case something goes wrong! This even works with deck mounted masts as they are always firmly attached to the deck and a strongpoint. Not a bad idea to always use your own towline too, so a bush lawyer mate of mine told me!

Reaching.

So many of our courses include a long reach where it is a bit too tight to fly a spinnaker (unless you are on Saga!) In these cases, it is worth while attaching a downhaul line to the jib or genoa sheet and taking it to the gunnel about level with the mast. This enables you to control the upper third of the jib. Often we see jibs well trimmed in the lower part with the upper section flagging. It can make quite a difference. Good idea to put a block on it where it attaches to the sheet, a snatch block is a good idea.

Wednesday BBQ's

I am repeating myself here but we would like the crew of the first yacht back to the Clubhouse to put the BBQ out on its rubber mat, get the onions from the freezer behind the bar and the sausages from the cool-room from the bar staff, light the BBQ and commence cooking! We will institute a cooking roster to take over from you if no-one volunteers! It is important to get the food cooking as soon as possible after the race.

The key for the BBQ room is behind the bar!

Radio Changes

We are creating a problem for ourselves safety-wise with our present system of permitting two different radio frequencies in our racing fleets. VHF and 27 meg simply

do not mix! If we were to have a serious incident and it was found that a yacht was close to the stricken vessel yet could not be made aware of a problem because it was using a different frequency sanctioned by our sailing instructions, we could have a real problem. OH and S and so forth.

Accordingly we will cease monitoring and even using Channel 94, 27 megs as a starting and communication channel and will only use VHF channel 77 starting with the coming Spring Season Sailing Instructions.

I managed to pick up a re-manufactured Uniden 5 watt hand held transceiver on Ebay last week. Landed it home for \$90. If anyone is interested, or would like to know how to do this, let me know!

Incidentally, Cat 4 and above Equipment Audits require a fixed 25 watt transceiver for yachts racing offshore but lesser Categories are OK with handheld 5 watt sets if they are attached to the yacht with a lanyard.

Licensing is required for VHF radio operation. We will try and arrange a group course for this, if you do not have license and need one, let me know.

Another Saga

Peg-hip-hop Pat Hurley is back in town after having most of his undercarriage replaced with a mix of stainless steel and plastic. May interfere with his GPS! Good to see him back though. He will be at presentation night in the hope of picking up a trophy or two!

Bus trip to Sydney Boat Show

Taking place on Sunday 1st August...I believe that some liquid refreshments will be available on the return journey, courtesy of David Bray Yachts...Details and booking list is on the bar. Places are filling quickly.

Flag Fix

We need a few hands to sew wire frames onto our new starters flags..Not a big deal but Brian Shaw thought we could have a Barbecue at the Clubhouse one Sunday lunchtime. Bring your own meat, salad to share, sail needle and some thread and a few yarns to share Looking at Sunday 20th June at this stage. Confirmation will follow in the next few weeks.

Sailing Committee Meeting, at the Clubhouse 5.00 on Monday 31st May. See your nearest committee member if you have any matters that you would like raised.

See you in the Bar (and at Presentation Night!)

John Way
Commodore