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Catamaran Cruising Association

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Disclaimer

Neither the CCA nor Committee will accept any liability for personal injury arising out of participating in any event, rally or race organized by or through the CCA whether sustained by members, guests, or visitors, or caused by the said members, guests or visitors whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the officers, committees or servants of the CCA.

Boat Owners Third Party Insurance

It is the responsibility of all boat owners to have adequate third party insurance in respect of him/herself, vessel, his/her crew for the time being & his/her visitors.

Hello fellow Bobcat and Catamaran sailors everywhere.

December 2008

Dear Fellow Members, How the time flies even in winter.

The committee and I

Wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

When you receive your 2009 diaries don't forget, our first event of the season.
The venue will be on the south coast in the form of the ever popular,

"Meet and Eat"

at lunch time (noon) on Saturday the 7th of February

at the Spinnaker PH, Swanwick situated opposite Moody's Boatyard, Hampshire.

The AGM to be held on Saturday, 28th March at the Gun PH. Keyhaven

We look forward to seeing you.

Earlier this year our rally on the May Bank Holiday at Bembridge, IOW. was cut short by bad weather and those members having to travel from outside the Solent area, who managed to attend, headed back to their home-port for shelter there. We didn't manage to leave our home port of Cherbourg as we were blockaded in by the local fishermen and therefore unable to attend. The weather set the pattern for last season with strong winds that seemed, unlike previous years, to last for weeks at a time rather than two or three days. During the sailing season we were fortunate to have had several good sails and met up with other members and also made several new friends while cruising the Channel

Islands and the beautiful Cote de Granite Rose of Brittany. This is a fantastic sailing area. The tides are high and the currents caused by them run fast, this can help to enable you to average 7 to 8 knots while sailing without much wind in good sea conditions. The area which is rock strewn needs to be treated with respect as the currents can all too easily carry you into danger and any wind over tide conditions will cause the sea and waves to pick up and be at best uncomfortable.

The admiral cracked one of her rear teeth before we left UK. at the beginning of the season necessitating a quick trip to the dentist for treatment before we set off to France and our summer cruise. We motored into a f3 westerly just enough wind to cause breaking seas over the deck and occasionally over the dog house at Cap de la Hauge, once past the Cap, we headed South into smooth seas, hoisted the sails and shut the engines off. Two other boats that left Cherbourg the same time continued on into the wind, either to Alderney or Guernsey but our first port of call would be Port Bail, 5 miles south of Carteret, where we intended to dry-out on the sand and scrub the bottom. After a leisurly scrub we antifowled and waited for another cat from Christchurch to join us, they however telephoned us to say that they would be delayed for a week. Although Port Bail is perfect for safe anchoring the 5 day forecast of predicted strong winds from the West means we would be on a lee shore should we wish to leave. With a reasonable forecast from Jersey Coastguard for the following morning we headed for St Aubins on Jersey. St Aubins is a small drying harbour with fore and aft moorings for local boats, the wall to the right is for refueling and visitors, where subject to room, one can tie on the wall. The wall is for visitors however, some local boats feel that it is their right to ignore the rules and leave their boat on the wall. If the wall is full there is plenty of room just outside the inner harbour behind the fort. We arrived with just enough water to allow us to enter, the first space was occupied by an Athena 38, that just left us enough room to pass it and the other boats on their moorings, and we found space on the wall behind another cat an 8M catalac Gail O. The Royal Jersey Sailing Club at St Aubins has excellent hospitality and showers, views over the bay and all visiting yachtsmen are welcome. There is no berthing fee at St Aubins, good toilets are within 100yds. As is the local supermarket and also the garage will supply fuel and sell you a card should you require electric. St Hellier is 5miles round the bay and should you have bikes the Jersey cycle routes are excellent.

Members are asked to suggest venues for the 2009 bank holiday rally and our annual cruise to follow on from the second bank holiday in May.

Let's all hope the weather in 2009 is more favorable for our events than this year.

Last month's meet and eat per usual, a good time had by all, but time yet again passed too quickly.. It's that time again when **subscriptions** are due and we would like to receive the subs by the end of January so we can budget for the coming year. So please can we ask you to check your payments, whether by Standing order / Direct debit / or Cheque. If you want to receive a newsletter for the coming 12 months, then please let us have the correct amount **now**.

The correct amount remains at **£25** for Postal delivery and **£20** by Email. It's that time of year when I try to update the members register so please inform me of any boat or address changes.

If you require a new 2008 C.C.A. Register of Owners please send **£7.00** or a new BCCA burgee to smarten up your cat send **£12.50** to cover the cost of posting and printing. The winter months are also a good time for you to get your fingers out onto the keys or put pen to paper and send us your stories or mods, queries etc.

The newsletter is only as good as the info you give us and your efforts are very much appreciated by all.

Talking about experiences:-

In the coming months newsletters, we intend to show and discuss owners mods in the form of cockpit covers, Many thanks. ED.

Hi Members

Dagnall And Cathy Clutterbuck were busy last winter.

This has been a very strange winter for Cathy and I, as we managed to get to two boat shows within two weeks of each other. No, not Earls Court and Excel, but Excel and “The Florida Boat Show” in Orlando!. The reason for this happy circumstance was that my work took me to Orlando for a week, and I was able to take Cathy for a winter break after the work finished. It was Cathy, who surfing the web for things to do whilst I was working found the “largest boat show in Florida”.... Well, we just had to see what Excel might be up against!, and I thought it might make an interesting “filler” for the magazine, so made sure I took some photos.

The event was easy enough to find, the location was vast, which looked like good news, but actually, the boat show only filled the “north” hall of the center. The car park was the first thing that showed the difference from the London Events: Quite apart from the sunshine, there was hardly anyone in the car park, and it was VAST.

We paid our \$8 admission, and entered thehall. Second difference from London, - Virtually no chandlery stands, no big name electronics, and no SAILS!. It was all powerboats, and all petrol engines. Anyway, having got in we decided to at least see what was there, and found that all the stand helpers were exceptionally friendly. We were able to look in detail at even the most expensive boats on show, and had some great chats. It turned out that this was the third day (Monday) of a normally two day event, and most Floridians had attended on the earlier days. There were probably only about 200 visitors whilst we were there and the staff were glad of any attention!. – But were still happy to let us wander over their boats without “hovering”. I’m afraid that at this point I must admit that did nearly get seduced away from the true CATALAC path, by some amazing interiors:

This was a 30 ft power boat, brand new and about £100,000. It had three air conditioning units, (with their own silent generator), as well as the obligatory massive petrol engines to actually power the beast. I think that there were two TV’s, a Microwave, cooker fridge etc... all electric and run from the generator. One difference that was very noticeable was that the “Cookers” on all the boats were single ring Electric units, often set in beautiful solid “corian” work surfaces like the one in



the photo. We talked to the guys on the stand about this and it seems that in the USA, if a boat has "cooking" facilities, then it is classed as a second home, and you can claim the interest back against tax!!! - But eating out is so inexpensive that most boat owners never cook on their boats and eat out in restaurants... Hence the single electric hob!



We did actually find a lot of catamarans at the show, they were these "pontoon" boats.

These are effectively Aluminium tubes with a solid deck, sun shade, motor and lots of seats.

They looked great for the sun and fishing, but I could not imagine what a slight sea chop would do to them!.

Nevertheless, some were able to do up to 50mph, by having massive motors and planing surfaces on the bottom of the tubes: Which brings me to my final picture....

I wonder what I would need to do to put these on the back of SCUBACAT?

All the best,

Dagnall and Cathy.

I think if you had those on the back of SCUBACAT with all that power the standard props would work ok. However you may need to beg your boss not to let you have so much time off work and ask him to let you do longer hours, as having recently spoken to an owner of a 30ft. cabin cruiser with a single diesel engine who is very pleased with the fuel consumption of his present boat, he continued to tell me that he gets 2.5 miles to the gallon. (he is pleased with 2.5 mpg little wonder most gin palaces don't venture too far from their home port)

I think you would be lucky if those two engines on the rear of SCUBACAT did one mile per gallon and with petrol still a lot dearer to buy than marine diesel, you will need very deep pockets. ED.

Fiji September 2008

Fiji is truly another brilliant part of the paradise of the Pacific. We had a brilliant 3 day sail to Savusavu, having left Nueifa in Tonga on Sept 6. The winds were great and we were sailing along at a really good pace. It isn't easy calculating the timing to arrive during the day and unsure whether the winds will ease, get stronger etc. Alan decided to slow the boat down so in the end we arrived early in the morning. Savusavu is on Vanua Levu (Big Island), the second largest island to the mainland Vitu Levu. The landscape was brimming with rainforests, coconut palms and beautiful clear varying shades of blue water. As well as native forest, there are lots of sugar-cane and commercial pine plantations on the northern coast near Labasa. The coastline of this island is very irregular and deeply indented making it a great cruising ground and lots of beautiful beaches, and of course lots of coral! We spent a week there in Savusavu, taking the bus across to Labasa, up the coast a short way and just pottering around in general. Fiji has rules where you have to get a permit to go everywhere so we had to wait to have that arranged. It was simple in the end, we were expecting lots of hassles but Dolly, in the office at the marina does it all for us at a huge cost of \$5 I think it was. We gave her an itinerary of where we would

like to go and she just filled out all the places in between Savusavu and Lautoka we planned to visit. Fiji is full of little villages with a chief and if you want to wander around the villages you have to go to the chief and ask permission and take some Kava as a gift. This is for 'sevusevu', requesting permission to visit the village. We are then bombarded with questions etc and it really did put us off going to many of the villages as we had to sit around for so long and the day would be fast disappearing. You are not supposed to wear hats or sunglasses in the villages either. The Fijians are so friendly though, big smiles and chat away to us. Very polite introducing themselves to us and shaking hands. There are still so many bure's (thatched dwellings) in the villages as well as brick little houses. Their culture seems to be well preserved and it is a pleasure to see. The villages had 'village boats' to take them to the mainland or to other villages. We were constantly amazed though how little or rarely you would see them in a boat rowing. We didn't once see them using a sail but going everywhere with outboard motors.

We have only tipped the iceberg in regard to visiting islands here in Fiji. We often met cruisers who have spent a few seasons up here and one can truly see how easy it would be. We headed west along the coast Vanua-Levu, doing day sails around the bays to the western side and then sailed to Yadua Island, about half way between Vanua-Levu and the Yasawa Islands. There are so many reefs here amongst the Fijian islands we had to time our sails with the sun in the right direction and constantly looking out for reefs. Not all reefs are charted on the maps we have and this area is not well charted in the first place. We arrived at Yasawa Island, the northern most island of this chain of islands only to have the winds really pick up and we spent 3 days there. The good part was all the walks we were able to do there while waiting for the wind to abate. We could so easily climb onto the ridges of the hills where we would get spectacular views of the bays and to other islands. The walking was easy, the island was so dry there was little greenery on the island. The winds were a good 30 knots so at times we would have to just about hang on as the wind gusts blew over the hills. Sitting here on Rush, feeling her surge as the anchor rope would ease and then tighten with the gusts was not the most thrilling experience. I was cross stitching one evening and I felt decidedly sea sick so had to go off to bed. The wind was howling and we really just wanted the wind to stop. It was very isolated out on these islands. There were resorts scattered around, not posh like Tahiti but small and very Fijian. We were surprised the villages wouldn't want to sell veges or fruit so we were getting rather low on supplies by the time we arrived in Lautoka. The tins got a good workout. Alan was hanging out for bread so pancakes were a pretty frequent part of the diet. We worked our way down the islands and snorkelled and swam, some beautiful coral in Fiji and did lots of walking. We struggled through bush one day, Alan and I and decided it was a once only event. As I was climbing higher and higher on one particular day, not wanting to give in and miss the view I was thinking how hard it was going to be coming back down. Well it was an unnecessary worry, we virtually slid our way down!! My legs are now covered in scratches and bruises from the slips and slides we have had on our little jaunts but I did make it to the top and the views were truly worth it. We were surprised how few cruisers there were there amongst the islands. The Yasawa's are still very natural with little development. We were totally out of contact for nearly 2 weeks, no phones or internet available. The islands are easy to reach as there are regular ferries going from the mainland across to the islands but really these islands are best seen by being on a yacht. They are so unspoilt my modern civilization they are a pleasure to visit. Fiji has done us proud in the fishing department. We have caught several fish even to the extent we shared some with another yachting.

We are now in Lautoka and the holiday is over. We don't have time to explore the main island here. We have had 3 brilliant weeks in Fiji, very impressed and can recommend Fiji as a 'must see' destination. I had been in Fiji 20 years ago, only to the main island though and realise how much I missed on that short trip. I would love to come back here and spend a lot more time here. It is cheap, the weather is lovely and warm, there are beautiful beaches, lots of hiking and swimming. The local boats would go very fast amongst the rocks and reefs and we would watch and think wow, they must know the waters well. I was paddling around an island back in the Yasawas, took on a little too much and was walking along towing the surf ski thinking this is hard going, the tide was rising and I was on the rough side of the island. A local guy offered to give me a ride to the top of the island. He loaded the surf ski onboard and off we went, at a great rate of knots. The spray was covering me as he powered along, this long tin boat with an outboard way more powerful than what we use on Rush. It was exhilarating though and as

I paddled in to the shore the waves were coming behind me and before I knew it I was surfing the waves and off I came. I had to rescue my snorkel, flippers and sunglasses and luckily had my crocs on so was able to make them work as a break before the next wave knocked me off. It is these fun moments that make memories fun to look back on. Of all the places in the Pacific I have visited, I would have to say Tonga was my least favourite. The islands were beautiful there, I am glad I visited but not a place I want to return to in a hurry. We did only see one group of islands there of course, the Haa'api group we missed are supposed to be beautiful as well. Maybe another time.

Alan is planning on leaving Fiji on Saturday and heading towards Noumea (New Caledonia) then onto Bundaberg as quickly as the weather allows.. He is hoping to be back in Australia in approximately 3 weeks all being well. He has about 4 to 5 days sailing to Noumea, recheck the weather, restock, a final scrub of the boat and about a 6 day sail to Bundaberg all being well. I have been to New Caledonia and I think I have been feeding the fish more than I have liked since leaving Tahiti so I am going to fly back to Sydney and the plan is to rejoin Alan in Bundaberg at the beginning of November. Delphine is still on board so he has crew to get home. This will give me a chance to touch base with the things I need to do at home, catch up with friends and the one dreadful thought of working for a few weeks to support this life style which I have become so accustomed!! I would love to spend some days down at Nadi before I leave or even out at Musket Cove but the timing doesn't really work with arriving back in Aus. It is the long weekend this coming weekend at home and I get a chance to spend time with my friends and family. I will just have to save some of these places and plan to revisit at a later date.

I have spent 3 ½ months cruising French Polynesia, Aitutaki in the Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga (Va'vau Group) and now Fiji. The time has flown by, it feels as if we have had only a passing glimpse of the wonderful world of the Pacific. I have never tired of gazing at the beautiful waters, corals, fish and endless sunsets. We have had rain, wind, overcast days and even a fairly rough sail, just like you would at home. Of course we have had loads of brilliant warm and sunny days, even hot! When we nestle into some of these little bays, so protected from the prevailing winds, we sort of make it worse for ourselves in the sense that often there is no breeze to help keep us cool. Most of the time though there is a lovely airflow and it is very refreshing. I have read lots of books, met lots of wonderful people and even watched some movies when we had the power thanks to the strong winds and sunny days. It is raining of course, just lightly at the moment. Alan has gone up on the beach today in a good little sandy spot to dry out and scrub the bottom of the boat. It is all done now basically, he is just going to do a final scrape and wipe over the hull with bleach to help kill the weed and then it is only a matter of waiting for the tide to come in and float back off. I wouldn't mind if the light drizzle stopped now so I can walk and get a bus back to Lautoka, 6 klms to walk in the drizzle is a little too far! I need to book an airfare and get sorted. I don't feel ready to leave Fiji yet, I would so love to hang around here for a bit longer but then I can always come back! Fiji is very poor but everyone has been so friendly. The fruit and vege market here is something to die for. One drools just looking at what is available. Sometimes if I closed my eyes I could imagine I was back in South America, the rickety old buses, no windows and just canvas to hang down if it rains. People piling on and off with all their wares. Buses to absolutely every little nook and cranny. We just have a slight difference in the colour of the skin of the Fijian people. I had a chuckle today as I walked down the street, this Fijian asked me if I was from New Zealand or Spain. I laughed, I don't think I could pass for a Spanish person.

I am now at the internet café, the tide was out, so I was able to just jump off the back of Rush and race up the beach to catch the bus into Lautoka. The bay Alan has dried out in is about 6 klms up the road from here but it took me an hour to get here. We drove uphill and down dale to get here, winding through lots of little villages, going the opposite direction at times but a really great little tour. It made me want to stay on and just enjoy Fiji a little longer. The fields are being harvested of the sugar cane, there is sugar cane all around us. The mountains in the distance are covered by low cloud today, giving them that sense of mystery, that need to be explored look.

The world is full of so many wonderful places to see and visit. I have been so lucky to have glimpsed this small portion I have seen over the last 2 and a bit years. It seems a long time since I set out for

England back in May 2006. I guess this is sort of the end of 3 seasons of travel really in 3 very different places. The journey still feels like it is only beginning.

Bye now, love Marilyn

Hi Peter and Sue,

I guess it is time to snuggle down again and look forward to winter in your part of the world. Me-and-er will be all tucked away now for the winter. You are right, the days do just seem to flow into one. Another Christmas is on its way. I am back here in Gosford, working and catching up with friends and it is great. So good to be home again. Alan should be arriving in Bundaberg anytime now and the plan is for me to join him up there and sail back to Sydney with him and thereby finishing his circumnavigation. It will be great sailing into Sydney harbour. Not sure when I will be meeting up with him, he is going to haul the boat but not sure where yet. Delphine will be leaving so it will just be the two of us sailing back down the coast and that will be good. Give us some time together without a 3rd person. Not sure what next year will bring but I do intend to have some travelling in there somewhere. Alan hasn't decided what he will want to do apart from get a job to save for another adventure. He will be tired and may not decide to go anywhere for a year or 18 months at the earliest. I have lots of ideas of what I would like to do. I guess all this depends on what is going to happen out there in this big world of ours. The economy doesn't look too good and our \$ is falling through the floor boards. I do hope that depression they are forecasting doesn't happen, the world seems so full of doom and gloom when you read the papers. The old brain is enjoying the challenge of thinking again so that is a plus I expect.

Hope all is going well for you guys, love to hear from you now you are home and you might have time for your lowly Australian friends!!! love Marilyn

The questions members have asked about this month are too numerous to be dealt with in this months newsletter, they include rubbing strake replacement, Davits, Cockpit covers and

Should any member have advice or pictures of cockpit covers, or davits please e.mail them to me so we can share your experiences and please give us an idea of the costs that you incurred.

It was agreed that a rally should be held at Bembridge commencing on 22 May (HW 13.55 hrs) to 25 May. Those who wished could stay on over the Bank Holiday.

It was agreed that there should be a rally at Poole from Friday, 5 September to Sunday, 7 September with a lunch party at the RNLI College.

Peter Gimson advised the meeting of a MOCRA rally at Brest to which we had been invited. A local French Club had also invited us to join their cruise from Brest exploring some of the Islands further down Biscay. The details of which he would provide in due course via The Newsletter.

Rush update from Marilyn who is fortunate to be enjoying better weather than us Europeans as she continues her adventure of a lifetime that most of us can only dream about.

whether it be after work on Friday evening for a week-end cruise or the annual sailing holiday on and off with all the usual must have provisions