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# Catamaran Cruising Association

Formerly Bobcat & Catalac 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.

November 2008

Hi Members

We have our Winter midday "Meet & Eats" starting this month, the first will be on the  
**29<sup>th</sup> November, at midday**

To be held at

**'The Alverbank Hotel'**

Stokes Bay Rd. Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire.

For those new members, The Alverbank Hotel is situated about 100 metres off Stokes Bay Rd. adjacent to the Solent with views to the Isle of Wight. We have a room booked, the food is varied and should suit both members waistbands or pockets. I hope you can attend.

There are 24 places available and, as per usual, we do need to know the numbers in your party so **please**, if you are available, either email me or send a text to my mobile 07 971 808 777. Please do it **now** not on Saturday morning as we need to notify the hotel 3 days in advance.....

We have other dates provisionally booked at the Spinnaker PH, Swanwick on 7<sup>th</sup>. February and also at 'The Gun' Keyhaven, on 27 March, we hope you can attend.

The Southampton Boat Show now long gone this year had several new catamarans on display. I couldn't help noticing that they are becoming larger and larger in width and deck height above the water, this seems to be the trend of the builders. While bigger is better in rough weather, most will never be able to enjoy the delights of the French Canals, they being too wide. Another drawback is the cost of berthing these large cats along the South Coast of the UK. and in the med. It is now prohibitive to all but the wealthy. One of the advantages of our smaller cats, apart from the berthing cost being lower and the lack of deck height above the sea, enables one to pick

up a buoy or berth on a pontoon more safely and easier without having to jump down six or seven feet onto an often wobbly pontoon. At the various trade stands, there were definite deals to be done at the boat show this year, many stands reporting fewer buyers than usual, putting the blame firmly on the current financial situation, as the money becomes tighter. I am of the opinion that the awful Summer weather is far more to blame as most boaters will always find the cash if they have been fortunate to have an enjoyable season sailing on the water.

Just to make you all green with envy we will drift off to warmer climes as we catch up with Alan & Marilyn as "Rush" continues its circumnavigation:

'Hello from the beautiful islands in French Polynesia. I have heard some very mixed thoughts about the islands here. I looked through travel brochures before I left and showed my Dad, telling him, look at all the pretty pictures, it isn't really like that!! Well, I have been pleasantly surprised. It is beautiful. The weather has been very changeable since I have been here and apparently even before I came. We are not sure what is happening with these trade winds, as the wind chops and changes direction at a whim. Some days are overcast, some are lovely and sunny and often we get all kinds of weather in the one day, which is more often than not: wind, rain, sun, no sun, hot and cold. We often have little windy squalls with or without rain. We have been collecting little bits of water but the showers are often very short and over with in not time. I arrived in Tahiti on June 15 and stayed overnight in the airport, catching a flight to Bora Bora the next day. Alan met me at the airport with the dinghy and Rush was anchored nearby. We headed back to Rush and then sailed further around the island to a better anchorage. We only stayed there a day and then sailed over to Raiatea for a brief stop, Tahaa and then over here to Huahine. The sailing was going to be hard going against the wind so we thought we would get over here and then work our way back to Bora Bora as we have to pick up Delphine from there on July 14. Huahine is just lovely, very quiet and so laid back and relaxing. The islands are really quite big and here sitting in Rush now, we can see Raiatea and Tahaa in the distance. We have been here now for quite a few days, I am losing track of time. We sailed down to the south of Huahine and now hopefully the wind will be with us all the way now.

The amazing thing with the islands here are the reefs around the islands making a lovely little harbour around the islands to anchor in, in calm water varying so in colour from pale green to the deepest turquoise. There are lots of places with coral but that is ok. Plenty of room to anchor. Being a catamaran though we can anchor in the shallow waters more easily. There are quite a few boats wherever we go, a lot of cruisers crossing to New Zealand. Not many going to Australia. Maybe we will meet more as we get closer to Australia. The water is lovely, just the right temperature. At first it often seems cold when I go in the water but then it feels lovely and warm most of the time as I snorkel around. The fish are beautiful. The clarity of the water isn't quite clear enough to make really good photos of the corals and fish but I just love floating in the water watching the fish. We have found some places better than others and fish all different sizes. I haven't seen any sharks yet and that is ok by me. Sometimes I start thinking of sharks when I am snorkelling and it is deep water and it sort of takes the edge of it. Alan has a surf ski on board and I love going for a paddle on that too. Yesterday I took the dinghy for a sail, I really want to learn to sail this thing but the wind was so finicky yesterday I need some good steady breeze to really learn. This of course is the ideal place being inside the reef. Alan has his bike on board and we borrowed a bike from another cruiser a few days ago and went on a ride around Huahine Ite. There are good roads around the islands, sealed and flat most of the time. It was pleasant cycling around and it felt good to feel the breeze as we pedalled. We went for a long walk a week or so ago and it was very hot when the sun was out and there was only a little breeze. It hasn't taken me long to change from that white little bunny to a brown bunny. The salt water is very drying though on your skin and the moisturiser is being used heaps. It is lovely to have the solar bag out in the sun warming and when we return from a swim to have a lovely warm shower, even hot.

The islands are lush and green, the water colours just unreal. I love to watch the waves break on the reef and as it rolls over you can see the beautiful turquoise colour of the water. The sunset tonight was just lovely. This is the first sunset I have seen and I sat and watched the sun go down looking for that amazing 'green' flash. Unfortunately there was just a little too much cloud as it set but just the same, it was a beautiful sunset. There is plenty to do in these beautiful islands. I guess for me the highlight is the snorkelling. We have seen rays from off Rush, but not actually when swimming. There are very few tourists on this island and it is like our own little piece of paradise. It is very quiet. We had a pot luck

dinner on the beach the other night and it was fun to chat and catch up on the other cruisers news. The days go fast, certainly no time to sit and get bored. The shops are well stocked with nearly everything you could want, just a small problem with the price of everything. It is soooooo expensive but then I think it is so noticeable as well after spending a year in South America and being totally spoilt with the prices. Even Australia seems expensive so I guess it isn't too bad. The prices are probably good considering the cost of transporting things to the islands really. It is strange having to think 'French' again. I still want to speak in Spanish and my brain is rapidly trying to remember the French I learnt at school. I have my 'spanish' books with me to learn Spanish but no way can I even start till we have left here. The old brain just can't think it two different directions.

I have been working on my cross stich again in the evenings. It feels good to do some again. This must be taking me the longest time ever to do one. I am not sure when I started it, but it was before I left to go to England just over 2 years ago. I have packed so much into those two years, it is amazing. It seems like so much longer and yet only a short time.

We are rationed on the power so there won't be a lot of emails. Internet is not that easy to come by an when it is it is very expensive as well so I have started another email address just for contact with my friends. At times I will only have time to check one address so please use the new one till I return to Australia. No jokes to this email address either please. You are welcome to send them to my old address and I can read them in due course. The new address, which is this one is similar, just an extra 's' in it. This 's' will stand for sailing!!

I will look forward to hearing all your news when I am able to connect. It is a different world in a different way crossing the Pacific. More sailing this year than I have done so far. Just 3500 miles approx this year!! Alan will have done a total of about 7500, maybe a little more since leaving Ecuador by the time he reaches Australia. So many places out here to see but not possible to see them all. It is truly a beautiful part of the world.

July 10.....It is now nearly a month since I arrived here in Tahiti and her islands. We have been from Bora Bora, to Raiatea, Huahine, back to Raiatea, Tahaa and back here to Bora Bora. We have snorkelled heaps and it has been great. We have sailed the dinghy, paddled around on the surf ski and cycled around Huahine Iti and Bora Bora. Yesterday we took some bread with us when we went snorkelling and the fish just swarmed around us. It was brilliant. The fish don't mind coming up close when there is food around. The fish always seem so busy here, feeding and swimming quickly around. We saw stingrays and they are so graceful swimming around. There are so many varieties of coral around these islands. I have taken so many photos when snorkelling underwater, I have yet to sort some good ones and I think my stingrays were just photos of blue water!! The water here at Bora Bora is clearer and visibility is great. The weather is now sunnier most days, very few showers now. The dry season is starting. Great for the solar power!! It is hard to take photos here that really captures the scenery as it is. The islands are large and as one looks across the water and you see the islands in the distance, the beautiful rainbows and the brilliant blues of the water, these scenes are hard to capture and will stay in our memories for a long time. For me, I love the water activities, the serenity of hopping onto the surf ski and just paddling around. It is fun to sail the dinghy, We were pottering around some little motu's off the west side of Tahaa as the sun was setting last week and we could see across to Bora Bora and the rays of the sun were shining through the clouds. The clouds were becoming pink as the sun was setting and it was just a spectacular picture but unfortunately the camera was on Rush. We watched the sun set back on Rush and watched the green flash. We have seen it a couple of times as we sit outside with a sundowner. This life is very exhausting to say the least!! I find the swimming always tires me out. This life is like being on a health farm. Truly relaxing and re-energising. The days are warm, the water as well even if I do complain it is cold when I first get in is delightful. It would be quite hot most of the time if we didn't have that wonderful breeze. I go to sleep at night, listening to the wind and feeling the breeze on my face and it is like camping outdoors. It is an unreal feeling, gently rocking on the water and feeling the breeze, looking out through the hatch and seeing an amazing number of stars up there in the sky. Sometimes at night I wake up and just go and sit outside and enjoy the peace and watch the lights of the other boats and along the shore.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the papaya and especially the grapefruit here. They are huge here and soooo nice. In French they are called pamplemousse. I used to watch Alan eating these grapefruit and he would offer some to me and I wasn't that interested and wow, now I am hooked. They are quite sweet, sweeter than the oranges in South America. I hope we can get them on the other islands. Alan goes

off and buys his baguettes on a regular basis. Reminds us of when we were in France and baguettes were an important part of Alan's diet. Fresh baguettes are sooo yummy. I have managed to keep my yoghurt culture alive, the yoghurt is going down really well. Our life is very simple and yet so full.

We will be leaving here next Wednesday we think, July 16. We have filled our tanks and gerry cans with water. Most of the provisioning is done, last minute fruit and veges to get on Tuesday. Monday is Bastille Day so we can't get the last things till Tuesday. The Gendarmie are open, we can do the exit papers and that is all. Delphine arrives back on Monday and then we will be going. We are going to sail around to the other side of Bora Bora tomorrow and spend the last few days in the 'most beautiful lagoon in the world'. I don't know if it is, it is all so pretty here but it will be a lovely place to stay the last few days. From here we are heading to Aitutaki Island in the Cook Islands. We may spend a few days at Maupiti, a days sail from here but the entrance is shallow and if there is a swell it could be a difficult place to get into or out of so it is a wait and see basis. From the Cook Islands, we are hoping to go to Palmerston Island, Nui and then onto Tonga to Vava'u. All this is dependant on the weather and exactly where in the Vava'u group we are not sure. I doubt we will have internet now till we reach Tonga in about a month.

July 11.....Woken to an overcast day with hardly a ripple on the water. The light breeze is just coming and soon I expect the sun to shine through the clouds. We took the dinghy across the bay last night to a dancing festival. It was really good. It has been going for a week or so and now the better dancers are left. It was very professional but then we didn't stay for the whole show, there are only so many drums and dancing you can watch. The dancers certainly are very striking in their costumes. It was a great chance to have a last minute catch up with other cruisers as we are all heading out over the next few days, similar directions and we will chat on the radio each morning. A lot of the monos are limited to where they can go before they reach Tonga due to the draft of their boats. We are lucky in that regard, but don't have the engine power if the current and seas are strong. The monos stock up on mega amounts of fuel while we rely on the sails. So much more peaceful for us I think. There is a magic, raising the sails and sailing off from where we are anchored, rather than using the motor. Even if we use the motor it is only for a very short time.

I thought I would be smart and start a new email address for just emails but it hasn't worked out. I have to confirm the account for every 10 emails I send, only can send a limited number in a day – all until I have proved I am not sending spam. I will go back to my original address, the one this is sent from. Don't worry about the other new address I sent out. I will look forward to hearing how everyone is when I get to Tonga.

Love  
**Marilyn**

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Toni and Elma, whose adventures we have been enjoying have sailed back to UK. waters for the winter months, to enable them to catch up with family and friends. The next episode of their adventure follows them from day: 52 to day: 63 where they exit the French Canals.

#### ***Day 52 Les Roches de Condrieu – La Roche de Glun***

*BLUE MOON left before us, so we had the river to ourselves. Very nice journey with only two locks, one 16m drop & the other only 12m. We had the video running as we rolled into the first lock, so it's all on record.*

*Very few places to stop on this stretch. We had a look at Tournon but decided against it as it was next to a really busy road. We thought therefore we'd try the pontoon indicated in the chart book located in the old disused part of the river. Disused 'cos they've built a detour round it.*

*We are so pleased we did, it was delightful – one large pontoon which could take three boats & three finger pontoons, & all free. But there are no facilities. The peniche as they go passed the entrance have little effect on any boats moored there.*

*The best bit about this place is the wildlife which swims passed the pontoons every night at 9pm. At first we thought they were a couple of Coypu, but they're actually Beavers! You can see their paddle tails quite clearly as they swim close to your boat.*

*We stayed for a while in Glun, it was quiet & peaceful until that is the thunderstorms struck. Luckily though most of them rumbled over Lyon behind the hills, away from us.*

*Internet access can be found at the Mayors office again free of charge.*

*On a wander one night we stood & watched the antics of the some of the local kids practising 'La Joute'. This was in preparation for their jousting tournament to be held soon. But this isn't jousting as we know it; this is jousting on a boat on a lake!*

*The person with the stick (pole) is on a platform at the back of the boat; others in the boat are there to assist in the stability of the boat, but mostly to help the poor unfortunate who ends up in the water.*

*The idea we think is to get as low as you can with the stick held in a holder worn under the trousers & the cup of your hand. The boats are then driven by outboard, very slowly towards each other. The engines are then cut & the momentum carries them forward, gliding towards battle. The jousters lower their poles & aim them at the wooden blocks worn over the left shoulder. These blocks have indentations in them to accept the tip of the pole. The jousters, when contact is made, then push as hard as they can until either they or their opponent is in the water. The part which amazed us in the whole spectacle was that in order to get as low as possible these men are actually doing the splits!*

*Another strange phenomenon we encountered here was the time we were out for a cycle ride. There we were legs & wheels going round when I realised that we should actually have been free wheeling as I could see the road went downhill. So why did it feel that we were going up hill? We turned round and started going back the other way. This time we could see the road going uphill & we were now free wheeling! Very weird.*

### ***Day 53 La Roche de Glun - Valence***

*rained off & on , mostly on. The lock at Bourg Les Valence took two hours & twenty minutes to get through. Although the scenery here outside the marina is lovely, (there is a ruined castle up on the hill), it does not justify the cost of one nights mooring --- 20.30€!!!! I must admit though the nearby bridge looks stunning when lit, almost as though it's made of glass.*

*Met Dutch boat by name of KOBOL crewed by Rob & Fini.*

### ***Day 54 Valence – Viviers***

*in convoy with KOBOLD & no problems.*

*Viviers mooring a bit strange as the pontoons & quay are very high up.*

*We met another couple who are doing something similar to us but on the road in a campervan.*

### **Day 55 Viviers - Avignon**

*we went through the large lock which has a drop of 23 metres! The other two were only 10 metres each. The pontoons indicated in the chart book are missing, as they were washed away nearly three years ago & have not been replaced. This meant we had to moor alongside the quay, right next to the busy road.*

*Our first impression of Avignon was not good; the city itself is behind a huge wall & access is through a few 'gates', which are just gaps every so often in this wall. I think we must have picked the cheaper end of the city - --- it seemed very dirty with lots of posters & graffiti everywhere. The following day we saw a different side, the side the tourists see. The difference was very marked, clean & quite pretty.*

*We had a ride round the town in the street train, only cost 7€ each.*

### **Day 56 Avignon – Bank on the Canal de Rhone au Sete**

*we'd intended to leave early but due to heavy rain, thunder & lightening we stayed where we were.*

*Toni sent a text to his sister to wish her a happy birthday, also to Ray & Mags, (boat name SALLY BETH) the couple Toni had met in Jassons Roitier, to advise them we would be delayed in arriving in Beaucaire where they were waiting for us.*

*Eventually left at nearly 1130 in beautiful weather; bit scary on the river as there were big peniche causing us all sorts of problems due to their wash. At one point the mast was moving & we were in dread of losing it!*

*So we were relieved when we turned off the Rhone onto the Petit Rhone as there were no peniche, or so we thought.*

*The Petit Rhone has to be treated with care as there are massive branches poking into the channel, which isn't that wide anyway. It was along one particular narrow part that we met the peniche. It didn't really cause too much problem as he was having to go quite slowly any way, but it did give us a bit of a heart flutter when we first saw him.*

*St Gilles lock is very easy to negotiate, it only has a variable of about a metre.*

*The Canal de Rhone au Sete is one of my favourites. Beautiful wooded sides with bamboo growing quite thickly along the banks, which cut down the amount of noise & wind. We couldn't make Beaucaire as the lock just before it closes at 7pm. So we pulled alongside the bank.*

*KOBOL carried on towards Beaucaire.*

*The spot we chose was lovely & allowed the boys to get off to explore, play in the grass & chase bugs of which there were plenty.*

#### ***Day 57 Canal de Rhone au Sete - Beaucaire***

*we saw a purple heron on the way, up till now all we'd seen were the more common grey ones.*

*The lock is all automatic, but you have to start the process by pushing a button. This meant that Toni dropped me off, I then walked up to the lock & applied my digit to the said button.*

*We poodled along at about 2 knots. We'd already contacted the marina to organise a time for the bridge lift to allow us into the inner marina.*

*After tying up I met Ray & Mags & liked them immediately.*

*Toni & I went for a wander later & met John, moored on the other side, he has an 8m Catalac. He invited us on for a beer & a natter.*

*We'd gone into Beaucaire to allow me to go back to the UK for yet another hospital appointment.*

#### ***Day 58 Beaucaire – Our spot on canal***

*we paid just 120€ for 21 days at Beaucaire. Saw another purple heron & a spotted woodpecker.*

#### ***Day 59 our spot on canal – Aigues Mortes***

*nice journey, saw lots of wildlife; kingfishers, egrets, purple heron, huge mallard duck and miniature red hot pokers*

#### ***Day 60 Aigues Mortes – Port Camargue***

*this was our first attempt to leave to go to Port Camargue, but we couldn't make it as there was a huge swell at the entrance, so had to turn back & return to Aigues Mortes. Very frustrating as the journey over to Port Camargue only takes about 15 minutes. But we couldn't risk it, as at the harbour entrance we saw some very large white horses.*

*On the way back there was aloud bang from the port engine, all the alarms screamed at us. We'd either hit something or something was caught around the prop.*

*We phoned Port Camargue to re arrange our lift out, made arrangements to have the mast re stepped at Aigues Mortes & proceeded to find out what was wrong with the engine.*

*Toni leant over with the boat hook to try to determine what had happened & came up with a lump of plastic attached to the hook. By strapping a knife to the other end of the hook, Toni managed to slice through the plastic & with me gently tugging on it we soon had it removed. It had been a large plastic sheet, now in ribbons.*

*As the weather seemed to be bad for the next few days & we were loath to part with any cash, we moved PIPERS DREAM alongside the canal again.*

*The spot we picked this time was almost perfect; nearby were the Camargue bulls & horses, both of which posed politely for my camera; but, & there's almost always a but, the peniche going by were a real pain in the butt!*

*That's why we moved back up to our spot where there were no peniche.*

*Just before we left, Toni decided to wash the decks down a bit as they were a bit grubby. One minute he was leaning over & the next he'd slid down a hole with one foot in the canal; he managed to prevent himself from going under completely by grabbing hold of the guardrail, which now has a gentle curve as he bent it. I don't know.....a gay guardrail, what next?*

### ***Day 61 canal bank – Aigues Mortes***

*moved back down to the marina as mast being done following day. It means we then have to stay in the marina as France will more or less close for the weekend due to Bastille Day.*

### ***Aigues Mortes***

*mast up with no probs, 'cept I was stung yet again when we moved the solar panel.*

*We sat up on deck to watch the firework displays that were going on all around us. We put the foresail up as well on the Friday & the main on the Saturday.*

*With the dinghy pumped up & once more in commission, Toni used it to go to the supermarket & get some shopping!*

### ***Day 62 Aigues Mortes – Grau Roi***

*moved down today as it would be easier then for the trip to Port Camargue.*

*Saw lots of flamingos & yes they really are pink. We went through the first bridge & stopped for the night alongside a pontoon. We had a wander through the town & came to the conclusion that it's just a Mediterranean version of Southend on Sea.....minus the Kiss Me Quick Hats!*

### ***Day 63 Grau Roi – Port Camargue***

*at 1157hrs we left the canals & once more put to sea. We had a little sail around simply because we couldn't resist it.*

*we had booked our lift out for 1500, we were actually lifted out at 1600.*

***END OF CANAL JOURNEY, GPS TRIP 1075nm.***



## 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 the hall. 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 I 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 planning 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 to 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.*

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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