

Grapevine – No. 17, March 2006

Welcome

This is my first Grapevine and to get things kicked off I am going to follow the format set up by Steve when he first started the newsletter 17 issues ago. I've been quite busy over the past month or so trying to get my head around the website and Grapevine, though to be honest, Steve did such a good job setting them up, it hasn't been too difficult. Anyway, please forgive the brevity of this issue, I hope to have more to report once I get to know everyone.

I have created a new distribution list for the newsletter, if you have received this in error or don't want to get future copies please let me know. On the other hand if you know of anyone who hasn't received a copy and you feel they should please send me their e-mail address for future copies

Welcome also to the following new/renewed members;-

Eos, owner Bob Hocking, berthed at Esperance Bay YC.

Arwen, owner Guy Bessell – Browne

Camelot, owner Gerrard Hughes, currently in Busselton but soon to be coming to Perth

Deadline for the next issue of the S&S34 Grapevine is Sunday 23rd April 2006.

News - Western Australia

In case anyone is interested in sailing in company:

Aries departs very early 14/4 (Fri) for Abrolhos and return by 28/4 (Fri) with 2 days buffer (to 30/4) in case of delay. The plan (weather permitting) is a straight sail up, explore the 3 island groups (have been to only 2) and live on fish and crays! If interested suggest get copy of "Islands of Angry Ghosts" by Hugh Edwards re the Batavia mutiny. We will visit the sites. Are keen to go back there now as one of the islands is pegged (literally) for eco-tourism development. Would love to have anyone cruise in company. - Scott PS Essential on board equipment will be a lobster fork. Contact - Scott Lee 0418 164 797

Message from Andrew Waldby, **Swagman** - As of Saturday 25th March 2006, Swagman will be located permanently at Royal Perth Yacht Club. Swagman has enjoyed a long association with South Perth (of over 30 years since her launch in 1979) and it is with some sadness that we leave South Perth, but times and priorities are changing and our new permanent move to Royal Perth has been a couple of years coming. We are looking forward to our ongoing involvement with Royal Perth, but won't forget our friends across the stream at South Perth.

News - New South Wales

News - Queensland

News – Victoria

Sorry I haven't made contact with many folk outside of WA yet so no news to report. Any offerings would be greatly appreciated though.

News - Overseas

A Report from Morning Tide - Trinidad

The story begins at a New Year's Eve party in Trinidad on 31st December 2004 when the previous owner was speaking about a yacht he owned that he had been unable to sell for more than 3 years. The story sounded intriguing and it was suggested that an inspection of the yacht take place the following day.

What a surprise, as we arrived at the boatyard it was immediately apparent that this was one of the world famous Sparkman & Stephens 34 yachts that are one of the fastest boats in the world to windward (for their size) and the outside seemed in fair condition. However as we climbed aboard it was obvious that there were major problems, rotten timbers, corroded spars, non-functional electrics, broken winches and the like – it was reaching the point at which a decision to cut her up was not too far away.

After viewing some 30 used sails the owner was asked if he would consider a low offer for the yacht as it needed a great deal of work and he said he would consider anything. A price was suggested and immediately accepted and the renovation began.

The new owner, Peter Morris, and a local joiner called Victor Nicholas with his wife stripped out all the rotten timbers, corroded parts and the like and over a period of approximately 6 months the yacht was almost completely re-built.

The re-construction included a lot of new joinery, but because of budget considerations a lot of items were repaired or refurbished. The hydraulic backstay was non-functional and the manufacturer out of business many years previously but an old employee of the company was tracked down by email and the unit reconstructed so that it worked perfectly. A photo of the new interior is shown below:

The yacht was re-launched in May 2005 and everything seemed fine, but the next morning it was half full of water – a seacock having failed during the night. The boat was hauled out again and all of the underwater fittings replaced to avoid any further recurrence of such problems – to be re-launched again a few months later.

Next month – an account of Morning Tide at Grenada Race Week

Notes From Afar

REVELLE II

As you may be aware we left Bundaberg in Sept with the plan of returning to Perth (for a visit) via the south. I have been feeding Steve with some progress reports for Grapevine though have been a little slack since Christmas. The main excuse being a family drama that saw my wife having to return to Sydney and for a while we were uncertain about continuing on the trip. Anyhow all has been resolved and we are now back in WA!

We crossed the Bight from Streaky Bay making our landfall at Daw Island 4 1/2 days later. Not a fast trip for the 508 miles but a pleasant one. We had been waiting for a dominant high pressure system to enter the Bight - one that would hang around for a while. Well we got what we had been waiting for and the passage that we had been the most apprehensive about proved to be a non event! The wind started in the SW and gradually backed around to the NE over the next 4 days with nothing in excess of 20 knts. We ended up motoring for about 15 hrs to keep up the average as we didn't want to sit around waiting as we would normally have done.

From Daw Island and a good nights sleep, it was an easy 50 mile sail to Middle Island. We entered the anchorage there with the arrival of a "change", nothing strong but westerly quarter winds so we felt that our timing had been spot on !!

From Middle Island we have cruised slowly along to Esperance. We passed through these waters in 1987 on our way to the east and have always wanted to return. This is a great cruising ground. Hope to leave in the next few days and plan on being in Perth early April. Will continue north for the winter cruising season. Not sure what happens after that but will probably continue on over the top back to QLD.

Best wishes
Tony & Marj Clarke

The Racing Guys

I understand the Trade-a-Boat series is going well over East. Could someone send me the latest results for publication please.

Sadly SoPYC's inshore race due at the beginning of March was cancelled at the last minute due to lack of race officer and support boat crew. Apologies to those who wanted to come along

Quite a few WA members went down to Geographe Bay for Race Week this month, we hope to have a full report in next months Grapevine (can someone write one?)

Advertisement Andrew Waldby on Swagman is looking for experienced crew for Saturday racing on the Swan River out of RPYC. Other races are likely. Contact Andrew on 0414 636372

Advertisement: Downwind Helm Wanted – Sailing on SuperStar every Saturday from SoPYC and occasionally inshore/offshore racing. Contact Timbo 0400 238 968

Wot's On

All S&S34 Assoc. members are invited to attend the following events.

8th April 2006 - Cruise in company Short cruise to destination downwind, weather gods to decide!!! This is the usual pre-Commodores Cup get together and all skippers are encouraged to come along

9th April 2006 - Commodores Race Start at the FSC club house 11.30 AM for welcome and pre-lunch drinks (best way I've ever known to start a race) followed by a draw for Commodores to skipper each boat. The race will be JAM only and around the cans in Owen Anchorage just off Fremantle.

We need 14 starters and if anyone can let Dick Newnham (newnham@inet.net.au) know they will be a starter

This year will see the introduction of a very special trophy for the winning S&S 34 Yacht and it's owner **THE DAVID & KATHLEEN WALTERS MEMORIAL TROPHY** on which the name of the winning yacht will be engraved each year. This is in addition to the Commodores Cup

2nd August, 2006, the **Castine Yacht Club** and Sparkman & Stephens will host a gala 70th Birthday Celebration for the New York 32 Class (1936 New York Yacht Club One Design Racing Yachts). The Celebration will include a Symposium led by Olin Stephens focusing on Rod Stephens own NY32, Mustang and the early days of New York 32 racing; NY32 and classic yacht racing in and around Castine Harbor; and of course a fabulous dinner party. We expect at least five NY32's to be in Castine and hope that present and former NY32 owners and their crew, NY32 and classic yacht enthusiasts will join us to share reminiscences and good cheer. Preliminary programs for this Celebration and the Notice of Race for the seventh annual Castine Classic Yacht Race to Camden on August 3 can be obtained from Tim Dallas in PDF format. This race kicks off three days of classic yacht racing, culminating in the 2006 Eggemoggin Reach Regatta.

Joke of the Week

The cook was yelling in the galley as the first mate came in. "What's wrong cook?" said the first mate. The cook explained that the ship's mascot, a dog, had eaten one of his chicken pot pies. "That's serious", said the first mate, "but don't worry, we can get another dog!"

Definition of the Week

Berth 1) Any horizontal surface whose total area does not exceed one half of the surface area of an average man at rest, onto which at least one liter of some liquid seeps during any 12-hour period and above which there are not less than 10 kilograms of improperly secured objects.

2) Little newborn addition to the crew.

3) Sometimes the result of removing the last article of clothing.

Readers Mart

Stephen Owen-Conway is considering selling **Delphis**, his comments about her recent refit follow.....

I have gutted her and completely refitted her throughout and added a new roller headsail and new furlex furler, new instruments, new stereo system and speakers, new rigging, rewiring; all teak taken back to original condition and varnished with 4 coats of single pack varnish, new interior fabrics, new headliner, new head, new hatch, new sailbag and lazy jacks and lots of other work Generally I have brought her up to a very good standard of fit out and presentation. I have spent 20 k on the refurbishment and the work has been carried out professionally.

Interested parties can contact Stephen for an inspection - stephen.owen-conway@sljc.com

Photo's of the refit are available on the [website](#)

Annual Subscription to the S&S34 Association

You are invited to join/rejoin the S&S 34 ASSOCIATION.

You don't have to be a paid up member but it sure helps! Both the Association and yourselves are advantaged by the continuous flow of information and being a member assures that you will continue to receive relevant information and stories of interest. Go for it!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is only \$25.00

Post a cheque or money order payable to S&S 34 ASSOCIATION OF W A
to Jim Putt
165 Jersey St
Wembley WA 6014

OR by direct bank transfer to Bank West account; S & S 34 Association of W A, BSB 306 050 Account 418 7992.

Please make your deposit notation reference code your SURNAME.

If you or your boat details have changed (or you are a new member) please forward the following information to the above address (or return email)

Owners names, Address, Yacht name, Yacht Club, Sail Number, Boat Name, Racing or Cruising?, Phone Numbers (Home, Work, Mobile, Fax) and email address

The Legal Stuff

S&S34 Grapevine is an opt-in, privately maintained e-newsletter in association with the S&S34 Association of WA.

Submissions gratefully received, Please send to: timbo@iinet.net.au with "S&S34 Grapevine Article" in the subject line

If you wish to subscribe to this newsletter please email: timbo@iinet.net.au . Type "S&S34 Grapevine SUBSCRIBE yacht name" in the subject line and I shall add you to any further mail outs.

It is not necessary to join the Assoc. to receive the Grapevine emails. Although, it would be appreciated if you could also include the following details so that the S&S34 Association "List of Yachts" can be updated: Sail Number, Yacht Club, Boat Name, Owners names, Phone Numbers (Home, Work, Mobile, Fax) and Address.

If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter please email: timbo@iinet.net.au . Type "S&S34 Grapevine UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line and I shall remove you from any further mail outs.

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