

The 2017 Overnight Cruise

Friday 25th to Sunday 27th August 2017



Background

The first recorded Seafarers' overnight cruise was to Bembridge in 1977. Overnight cruises first appeared in the Club annual programme in 1999. On Saturday 17th July that year, 4 Wayfarers sailed to Bembridge. The 14 crew had a barbecue dinner followed by drinks at Bembridge Sailing Club before sleeping in their tents erected, with some difficulty, on the sand spit. On their way home on Sunday, the overnighers stopped at Woodside where they rendezvoused with 6 other dinghies and a RIB from the Club.

Exactly one year later, 4 Wayfarers and a Wanderer sailed to Newtown Creek and pulled up on the edge of Shalfleet Lake. The 13 crew put up their tents at Corf (Scout) campsite. The 6 cadets found lots of mud to amuse themselves. The adults enjoyed a walk to the New Inn and all enjoyed the glow worm display on the way back. The return journey on Sunday began with no wind and looked like a scene from "African Queen"; 5 dinghies being "walked" along the beach toward Gurnard. Eventually the wind appeared and the overnighers reached Hill Head at about 4pm.

There were trips to Newtown in 2001, Bembridge in 2002 and Newtown in 2003. In 2004 weather reduced the planned visit to Bembridge to a day trip. This ended with 3 Wayfarers paddling across the Solent from Woodside. An ad hoc overnight cruise to Newtown was fitted in a month later. Since 2005 many of those taking part have elected to go for two nights. There were two overnight cruises in 2006, both windy!

Since 1999 there have been a total 18 overnight cruises, 13 to Corf campsite, 2 to Bembridge, 1 to Island Harbour Marina in the Medina River (2011) and 2 to Lymington (2014 and 2015).

In 2016 the then new Cruise Secretary, Chad Kelly, decided to return to Corf campsite. This was a success (see separate report) so 2017 was "more of the same".

Approximate Times

Friday 25th August

11:00	Group 1 sail from Hill Head
14.30	Group 1 land Corf campsite (shore of Shalfleet Lake)
15.45	Group 2 sail from Hill Head
18.00	Group 2 land Corf campsite (jetty)

Sunday 27th August

11.30	Group 2 sail from Corf campsite
14.30	Group 1 sail from Corf campsite
14.45	Group 2 land Hill Head
20.00	Group 1 land Hill Head

Boat and Crew List

Outward Journey			
Boat	Helm	Crew 1	Crew 2/3
Group 1			
WF 3282 "Golden Eye"	Tim Wadham	Damian Hayward	Lucia Hayward
WF 7553	Phill Borham	Martin Pines	Toby Pines (Cadet)
WF 10151 "Il Venticello"	Andy Borham	Mike Couzens	
Group 2			
Laser Stratos 467	Chad Kelly	Justin Churcher	
Laser Stratos 574	Chad Kelly Jr (Cadet)	Lottie Churcher (Cadet)	
RS Venture	Nathan Stanier	Mary Collins	
Car			
	Nissan X-Trail		
	Andrea Pines	Karolina Pines (Cadet)	Reuben (Cadet)
Return Journey			
As above except:			
Laser Stratos 574	Chad Kelly Jr (Cadet)	Lottie Churcher (Cadet)	Lucia Hayward

Totals: 6 Dinghies, 1 car, 16 members plus 1 guest of which 5 were Cadets

Individual Memories

Chad (Cruise Secretary) in Stratos 467

Out of bed and walking the dog along the shore at 07.30 I decided to cross with the second group of dinghies. This would ensure an even spread and maintain the *buddy boat* system. It also gave me the chance to enjoy the monthly coffee morning, say hello to the cruisers departing first, hand out the campsite arm bands, get all the names on the signing-on sheet, hand the club's VHF to Tim and help move the boats to the low water line.

With the sun shining and the occasional light breeze visible out on the Solent, I waved goodbye and watched the three boats make their way slowly out to sea as I walked back to our clubhouse for a well-deserved coffee.

Time flew by as the monthly coffee folk chatted and the afternoon was soon upon me.

I made a start getting my boat uncovered and my crew ready. We then started getting the RS Venture sorted to allow Nathan to jump aboard as soon as he turned up.

All three boats were ready on the beach by 15.10. We cast off at 15.45 just 15 minutes later than planned.

With the afternoon sea breeze not disappointing and the tide pushing us along, we headed straight across the Solent and our destination. We tacked just east of Cowes and again just west of Calshot. As we enjoyed the sun and the cruise, my crew and I thought it best we quench our thirst with a small cup of red wine thus saving our water for emergencies.

With Nathan opting to stay Island-side, he arrived at the entrance to Newton Creek ahead of us. (*It's not a Race, don't cha know?*) We both fired up the outboards. I threw a tow line to the other Stratos and began punching the tidal water exiting the river.

High tide three hours prior meant we slowed down and had our crews at the bows guiding us along the narrow channels of the mud banks in the river. After a few minutes the camp site's pontoon came into sight and we were greeted by the Seafarers from the mornings cruise. Before I could say "Thanks", my engine had been taken to the camp pitch and our boats had been made secure, with feeders and an anchor line rowed across the river by Damian in his mini inflatable dingy.

The camp site pitch was perfect. With a hand from Tim my tent was quickly erected. Then we were off to the supermarket where Andrea told Tim and me what food we needed!

The rest of the weekend flew by with sunshine by day and a large, well supplied fire in the evenings. Another memory of the weekend was an open top bus trip along the shore at Ryde to count the scooters.

The return on Sunday was windless and saw the pontoon boats (myself included) casting off and under engine power all the way home. As we chugged along in the sunshine it was time once again for a cheeky drink afloat. Rummaging around in the locker I found a Pimms and a Malibu ready made up in cans. Down the hatch before we had even reached Cowes! All three boats opted to hug the coast as a large container ship made its way into Southampton. We then crossed the shipping channel and made a direct line toward the clubhouse (allowing for the sideways tidal push). Just over halfway across, we topped up the engine.

As we approached the shore we powered slowly through a very large racing fleet of small keel boats that were going nowhere fast. The beach was covered in day trippers enjoying the sun and the water and the slipway was almost covered in beach towels. With a friendly wave to the children swimming around us we made our way towards Bob Glen who had spotted us from afar. With Dave Grout on the tractor we were towed up the slip and drinking tea within five minutes.

With talk of a return to the IoW next year - possibly a visit to Nodes Point near Bembridge - or a mainland venue, I am already looking forward to 2018.

Photographs

An edited selection of the photographs taken over the weekend are available at the Club website's Gallery (<http://www.seafarers-sailing-club.org.uk/FlickrGallery.php>).

Chad Kelly

Cruise Secretary

5th September 2017