

The Venturer

North West Venturers Yacht Club



Issue 189. March 2020



START OF SEASON WORKING PARTY & SOCIAL. Saturday 14th March 2020

START OF SEASON WORKING PARTY

Organised by Richard Adams, House Officer

Saturday 14th March is our start of season working party, plan on getting going about 10.00 am. We're doing the following things so if you are able to bring appropriate tools to add to what I'll bring, that would be great.

- Grounds tidy up (petrol strimmers would be great if you can)
- Flag pole lowering, sanding and cleaning ready to repaint
- Replacing flag halyards
- Dinghy store clear and tidy (see below)
- Clean out our store - if you have unused oars please could you take them away?

Dinghy Store: the committee believes there are some cuckoos in the nest! If you have a dinghy and/or outboard in there please can you get it clearly labelled on or before 14th March. We think there are one or two still in there belonging to people who haven't paid for a while, and we'll need to remove their dinghies and/or motors.

Looking forward to seeing whoever can make it - thanks in advance for a good turnout, the last couple of times have gone really well.



START OF SEASON EVENING SOCIAL

Organised by Liz Andrews, Rear Commodore.

First of all, can I please say a huge thank you to everyone who has stepped into my shoes while Reece and I were away on our South America Venture from December to February. It meant so much to me to know that there is a great team working together at NWVYC supported by so many willing members. Congratulations to all those who made the events such a success. I was able to keep up to date with what was happening via our Facebook page and also with committee updates via WhatsApp and email. It was really lovely to find the latest edition of The Venturer amongst our huge pile of mail when we returned, and we both made time to read it as soon as we could.

We will be spending time now getting CloeJo ready to sell as we are looking for a slightly smaller boat, most likely a bilge keel, in the hope that our younger grandchildren will take to sailing.

I am looking forward to catching up with you all soon and if you have any suggestions for socials and menus I would love to hear from you.



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What's on!

14 March 2020

Working Party | End of Season Party

03 May 2020

Straits Raft Race 13:00 Menai Bridge

29-30 May 2020

All Wales Boat Show - Anglesey Showground

14 June 2020

Three Peaks Race - Caernarfon

25 July 2020

Lifeboat Day. 11:00 Beaumaris

Commodore's Corner

The start of the season is almost upon us with the first planned weekend cruise on the 4th April 2020 to that old favourite Moelfre, then to blow the cobwebs away a brisk walk to Lligwy beach.

The Honorary sailing captain Jerry Jago has prepared the 2020 sailing programme and as well as our usual destinations has slipped in a couple of less used ones to challenge your navigation skills and have you reaching for your Cruising Anglesey book.

The winter storms have prevented many of those winter jobs from being completed so now it's a mad rush to finish them and get the yachts into the water as soon as possible. For those of you that have been working on your boats at the point, apologies for the disruption the work to the new galley has caused. We have endeavoured to ensure that cooking facilities were made available throughout the work, although it may have felt like you were in the middle of a building site. The galley is now 99% complete and I think we can proudly boast that together with the recently refurbished heads we probably have the best facilities of any yacht club in the area.
If Carling did yacht clubs.....

The start of season party is on the Saturday 14th March 2020 but before that there is the working party starting about 10am. The Honorary house officer Richard Adams is preparing a list of jobs for us to complete so I hope as many of you as possible will turn up and lend a hand.

Going forward, the next big challenge for the management committee is preparing for the change of status of the club to a company limited by guarantee and also negotiating a

Andy Stevenson Commodore

new lease. I will keep everyone updated with the progress made in due course.

Last but not least, Jan Lomas is standing down as editor of the Venturer and we need someone to take over the role. If you think you could help out your club by taking over as editor please get in touch. Help and advice will be provided.

I hope to see as many of you as possible out on the water joining in with club activities and spreading the word about what a great club we are.

Fair winds and flat seas everyone!



South American Ventures- Just a snapshot

Liz Andrews
Rear Commodore

This is not an article about sailing, but it is about what it means to me to be a 'Venturer'.

The definition of 'to venture' is to undertake a risky or daring journey or course of action. Now I'm not suggesting for one minute that our trip to South America was risky or daring, but it certainly took a great deal of passage planning, being prepared for diverse weather conditions, ensuring good communication was in place, and being able to think and act quickly when circumstances change. Does any of this sound familiar as sailors?

The planning for our trip to Argentina and Chile began last May when we started looking at flights, places to stay and how to travel around. Since we were away from early December until mid-February, we mostly booked self-catering via Airbnb. There were also a few nights sleeping in airports, and three nights in hotels.

Since my Spanish is virtually non-existent, I had to learn some basics before we went. Thank goodness I did as I found my 'Spanglish' was needed the moment we landed in Buenos Aires and needed every day (with some back up from Google translate) throughout our trip. The Argentinian and Chilean folk were very patient though.



Diversity is a word that cropped up throughout our trip. We flew from a hot and sunny Buenos Aires to Trelew, part of Welsh speaking Patagonia with some Spanish/Welsh bilingual schools. We were delighted to be greeted at the airport by the Welsh dragon emblem on a Croeso (welcome) sign. Next stop was a flight to Ushuaia, the Southernmost city in the world and a chilly 6 degrees and coats on – as you can see in the photo. From there we visited the Torres Del Paine National Park, with mountains seven times the height of Snowdon, and the silently stunning 2-mile-wide turquoise glacier. We were lucky enough to see a condor circling gracefully above us.

Some internal flights posed a challenge too, as we were only allowed 14kg of checked in baggage and 8kg carry on. Luckily, we are so used to packing for changeable conditions when we are on the boat so no problem there. In fact, when

we left home, my neighbour asked me where the rest of our luggage was and looked horrified when she realised how little we had with us!

The border crossings from Argentina to Chile were 'interesting' to say the least. Plenty of queuing, form filling, stamping of passports, sniffer dogs and bag scanning. We opted to travel by bus most of the time which was cheap, efficient and extremely comfortable with reclining seats, foot rests, USB charging points and some with Wi-Fi, (and a clean loo.) Crossing the jagged mountains of the Andes, was stunning, and enjoyed by both of us thanks to the bus option.

We spent most of our time in Chile as we found the changing landscape more compelling. We had only pre planned our trip until January 4th to enable flexibility in choosing our destinations. This is where the need for good communication was vital to book our onward travel and accommodation. My Spanglish was improving so booking buses and using taxis was much easier. Airbnb uses Google translate and I had a Chilean sim card with free WhatsApp. Sorted! Luckily, we met an American couple who were travelling in the opposite direction to us and were able to recommend several 'must-see' places

On to San Pedro and the Atacama Desert – the driest desert on earth. We hired a car for two days which was the only way to make the most of travelling through the arid landscape. This region only has 5mm rainfall per year and of course it rained while we were there. With the extreme heat and altitude of 2,500m some of the trails in Moon Valley and Death Valley were challenging. The latter is aptly named as its stark terrain has no life there.

Easter Island, a tiny volcanic triangle, steeped in mystery and legend, is the most isolated and remote inhabited island on earth. We needed a letter of invitation from a resident and permission from the Chilean Police Department of Investigation prior to travel. After the hot and dusty San Pedro, it was welcome relief to see lush greenery again upon landing on the one runway with a straw roofed airport terminal. The island is home to 900 Moai, mystical, carved giant monuments, standing watchfully over the land.



Continued overleaf

South American Ventures- Just a snapshot continued

Liz Andrews
Rear Commodore

Whilst travelling, we were told to beware of huge potholes and wild horses and cattle roaming freely on the roads.

Finally, we spent three days in busy Santiago which is home to one-third of Chile's population, before flying home via Barcelona.



In summary: -

21 destinations (including a world heritage city - Valpariso and a world heritage island – Chiloe)

11 flights, 30 bus journeys (longest 10 hours), 3 hire cars, 1 bike hire, 3 ferries (including the Magellan Straits), numerous taxis and many miles walked.

I knew there would be challenges along the way, but it is how you face and deal with any challenge that is important. I am thankful for being given eyes to appreciate the beauty and diversity, and thankful for having the spirit to travel. This is what being a Venturer has taught me.



In Memory of Joan Hughston

It is with sadness that we have learned of the passing of Joan Hughston, following a long illness, on Sunday 1st March.

Joan and Roy, honorary members, were always active club members attending functions until Joan's illness prevented her. They contributed much to the club, working together to upgrade the heads and install the heating as examples. Joan ran the lifeboat shop in Beaumaris, so successfully that she was invited to Buckingham Palace to receive an award.

Our thoughts are with Roy at this time.

The funeral is next Monday, 16th March at St. Mary and St. Nicholas Church, Beaumaris at 12:00 noon, followed by interment at Bangor Crematorium. No flowers, but contributions to the upkeep of the church would be welcome.



Venturers Clothes2Order

Graham Jones
Bosun

Graham Jones our Bosun has now got the online clothing store up and running. Clothes2Order can be reached via the link on our web site - main menu/Bosun/nwvyc clothing store. Graham has uploaded a few basic clothing lines to start with but will add more in due course. If there is a specific item of clothing you would like that's not on the site yet, get in touch with Graham and he will endeavour to upload it.

Ordering couldn't be easier. There are detailed photographs of the items and drop down boxes to enable you to choose colour, size and quantity. All of the items will come embroidered with the club logo. Payment is made online and the items are delivered to your home or alternative address within a few days. Check it out and get some new clothes in time for the new season.