



DISCOVERY BAY YACHT CLUB

www.dbyc.net

Welcome back to the Discovery Bay Yacht Club (www.dbyc.net), a virtual club based in Discovery Bay. We are a community of yacht owners and crew who enjoy fun and friendly regattas, cruises and races.

The 9th DBYC **Middle Island Regatta** was held over the weekend of 27 & 28th September and, despite forecast light winds, we had a fleet of 19 cruisers/racers ranging from *Sunshine*, a Swan 55 to the Cape Cod Catboat, *Yankee*.

The crews of *Sunshine*, *Andiamo*, *Legs 11*, *Wicked*, *Aegean*, *Sula*, *Zhulu*, *Allegro*, *Xakanaxa*, *Santorini*, *Sex Drive*, *No One Else*, *GA*, *Swan*, *Illusion*, *Square Bear*, *Rising Sun*, *Koala* and *Yankee* gathered for drinks on the Friday evening in the Bilge Bar and for the skippers briefing on Saturday at the Discovery Bay Marina Club, our generous host for the DBYC events.

The big challenge this year was a distinct lack of wind. So, rather than playing pied piper (as last year when we followed the committee boat around the ocean looking for a breeze) it was decided to set a much shortened course for Race 1. The start was adjacent to Lamma Power station wave measuring buoys, with a finish at Wong Chuk Kok light on South Lamma.

Race officer's luck held and both divisions got away in a gentle 6 to 7-knot southeasterly beating to the south of Lamma Island. Those staying close inshore (*GA*, *Legs 11* and a handful of others) held a distinct advantage to those sailing via the Lima's. For *Santorini* and *Square Bear*, perhaps the one-tack strategy gave more time for sunbathing and socializing under the clear blue skies!

As it turned out, the short course did provide for some good racing between individual boats. At the front of the fleet were *Legs 11* (line honours) with *GA*, *No One Else* and *Wicked* in hot pursuit. The duel in Division B was between the two Dufour 38s, *Illusion* beating *Rising Sun* on the water by 15 seconds. *Rising Sun* won on handicap.

Our evening party was a great success, hosted once again by ABC at their Middle Island clubhouse. The theme was Parisienne

Bistro and many 'Frenchies' appeared to enjoy a superb French buffet with music from Edith Piaf and Vanessa Paradis.

Sunday and Race 2 back to DB again via South Lamma and also again a very light wind day for the pursuit race home, but more blue skies and calm seas, so a shortened course from Yuen Kok Light with Cut-off 1 at the Wave Measuring buoys at 1330 and a finish between Datum Rock and the 'other' wave measuring buoys off Sunshine Island. The course and timings worked well with a pretty steady light breeze, which kept *Yankee* cruising just out of reach. Closely astern were *GA*, *Sex Drive* and *No One Else*.

Overall for the weekend, the victor was *GA*. Well done to Arthur and his visiting crew, followed by *No One Else* and *Sex Drive*.

Division A for the weekend: 1st *GA*; 2nd *No One Else*; 3rd *Sex Drive*. Division B for the weekend: 1st *Yankee*; 2nd *Rising Sun*; joint 3rd *Square Bear* and *Illusion*.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors, especially Discovery Bay Marina Club, and to Aberdeen Boat Club for allowing us the use of their fabulous Middle Island facilities, and Carlsberg for the refreshments.

Soko Under Under the Stars. The skies were blue, seas green, stars a-twinkling and moon beckoned. So, on 25th October, we gathered the kids, spouses, crinklies, dogs, guitars and dusted off our anchors for our annual weekend in the Soko Islands.

Many thanks to Richard & Isabel Winter who organized the event and bought *Soko* back from the Philippines to join the 26 boats at anchor in the beautiful bay of Tai A Chau (below), South Sokos, including visitors from the ABC, RHKYC and 16 young people on *Spirit of Outward Bound*, *Hong Kong*.

We set off with a pursuit rally from Nim Shue Wan, with most of the fleet following the leaders through the gap between Sunshine and Hei Ling Chau where the winds become fluke (and a stray rock waits

for unwary sailors). *Swan* bore away to round *Sunshine* to starboard and *Dolphin Six* took Hei Ling Chau to port, proving a sound tactic. Once past Cheung Chau, the spinnakers came out with mixed benefit. *Zhulu* hoisted her new spinnaker, and nearly caught *Dolphin Six* only to be beaten by a few minutes cruising past *Lady Soko* at the finish right inside the island archipelago.

The results were: 1st *Dolphin Six*; 2nd *Zhulu*; 3rd *Illusion*.



The traditional collection of driftwood made for a splendid campfire. As the tents were pitched and the sundowners downed, we were entertained by old movies of these amazing islands in previous iterations — fishing and

pig farming, war years, smugglers retreat and refugee camp — shown on a sheet in a tree where a rather scary green arrow headed viper was found to be lurking. http://youtube/gd6b26lifUg?list=PL_WHvXk56FOO77rIM5LMTIn796kBufYp. Mike Huggins came up trumps once again with the light show in the trees behind the camp, all in all, a perfect evening.

Folks gathered round to share the beach BBQs and sing songs. After a peaceful night, we had a yoga session at the pavilion to Salute the Sun, before the traditional 'take only photographs, leave only footprints' clean-up and island tour around the reservoir to the beach on the southeast side. The route was more difficult this year owing to vast quantities of an insidious creeper. The last scramble of the tour split into Jugs Thornton leading the rock climbers, Graham Boyd leading the panga party, and more sensible rambles cautiously retracing their steps to the pond and boats.

More on our up and coming events can be found on our website www.dbyc.net, together with membership details. We work on emails to contact people for updates, changes and informal events.

— Lindsay Pickles, *Commodore*

