

WICORMARINE NEWSLETTER

2010 FITTING-OUT

Dear Owners

May I wish you all a very Happy New Year and may I extend a sincere thank you to those of you who very kindly donated gifts and contributions to the staff Christmas box, your appreciation does not go unnoticed and the team are very grateful.

As the snow and ice begins to thaw our minds turn to fitting-out and the coming sailing season. Please take a moment to read the following important notices. A copy of this newsletter will be available from the website.

Antifouling - Special fitting-out prices.

Get your antifouling from us this year, benefit from special prices and have the paint ready and waiting for when you come to start fitting-out. See the attached flyer which details the range we are able to supply along with special fitting-out prices valid until 30th April 2010.

Online forms - going green.

We have listened to your suggestions and are pleased to announce a new facility for online form submission. You will now be able to access a secure member's area from our main website where you will be able to submit your hauling-out and launching instructions. You will soon receive an email with login details which you will need to access the service.

Annual Fun Day

This year we are going to hold our fun day a little earlier in the hope that more people will be able to make it. We plan to make it bigger and better this year and hope you will support us by joining in and making it a day to remember.

The date we have chosen is the **Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 31st May 2010**. We normally kick-off at around Midday but exact timing and itinerary will be confirmed in due course; the tide is at 14:30hrs which will be just right for the dinghy racing.

If you're planning to be away sailing that weekend, why not try to plan your return an hour or two earlier and join in.

There will be fun and games for everyone, especially the youngsters. We'll have the BBQs laid out as normal and we may even try and organise some live music. Helpers and donations would be welcome this year so if you are going to be around, please put your name forward now.

2010 Tide Tables

Don't forget to come into the chandlery when you are next in the yard and pickup your free copy of the 2010 tide table for Portsmouth.

Water Taxi Service – fare increases

We have been running the water taxi for three years now ferrying owners, kit and crew to and from their yachts. The service has been very popular and used extensively. We are fortunate to have staff who are prepared to give up their weekends to operate the service, but this comes at a cost. We have also noticed a significant increase in running costs for the launch itself and the need to keep the dinghy channel clear throughout the season has had its challenges.

Sadly, we are not covering all these costs with the fares we receive at the moment and we need to introduce the following increases:

One way to or from moorings opposite - £2.50 per passenger for the first two passengers going to the same boat. Additional passengers on the same taxi trip going to the same boat go free.

One way to or from moorings downstream - £4.00 per passenger for the first two passengers going to the same boat. Additional passengers on the same taxi trip going to the same boat go free.

The ferry service will re-commence on 27th March and the new pricing will be effective from that date.

Security

Last year we experienced unprecedented levels of crime out on the moorings with several serious break-ins affecting a number of our owners. A great deal has been done by the police to try and bring the culprits to justice and investigations are ongoing. We have invested in new security measures ourselves which we hope will restrict and deter unwanted visitors to the yard. We are currently seeking advice regarding CCTV and when we have found a practical, affordable solution we will waste no time in implementing it.

At the security meeting we held in the boatshed last year we discussed the possibility of a night-watch scheme. The idea was well-received and the number of owners who volunteered their time and support was encouraging. We have looked very closely at the logistics of setting-up and operating the scheme ourselves and have worked out the costs of supplying and maintaining a dedicated patrol boat as well as the considerable health & safety implications.

We have reached the conclusion that it is simply not feasible to implement and coordinate such a scheme ourselves. However, the general consensus is that a random patrol of the moorings at certain times of the night and early morning during the season would prove effective in deterring would-be criminals and if any owners are prepared to devote one or two nights throughout the season to sit onboard with a decent flashlight or better still to patrol the moorings in their dinghy every now and then, this would be a huge benefit.

I would be happy to share contact details of any interested owners and would ask for a show of hands to get the ball rolling.

At the security meeting, we had a presentation from a company called SmartWater who provide a recognised property marking and recovery service. I had hoped that we could negotiate an attractive discount with them to pass onto you. Unfortunately, they have not seen it the same way that I have and have not come back with anything resembling a fair deal.

However, the service still has its benefits and a good number of our owners have subscribed to it already. SmartWater is perceived as a very real threat in the criminal fraternity and the police have given it their seal of approval and actively support the initiative.

There are other marking products on the market and I would urge you to consider these along with other security measures.

Important – PLEASE READ

Please take the opportunity during this fitting-out period to review the security on your boats and upgrade any padlocks or latches that you suspect may be lacking. Consider marking property on the boat and work out ways in which you can remove valuables – especially Raymarine and other market-leading navigational instruments. Make it clear to thieves that the boat is alarmed or property has been removed or at least security marked. Put notices on all hatches, doors and washboards. It may not look pretty but it may deter anyone on the lookout for an easy target.

On behalf of the management and staff here at Wicormarine wish you all a very pleasant sailing season this year.

Please join us on 31st May for our Annual Fun Day – get it in the diary now and listen out for updates.

A copy of this newsletter will be available on the website.