



2016/12

www.abclubhk.com

HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

ABC Now an RYA
Powerboat Training Centre

The All Souls Regatta: ABC
Sailors Chart New Courses

Previewing the Beneteau Four
Peaks Adventure Race 2017



SOUTHSIDE REGATTA

3 & 4 December 2016



**ENTRY DEADLINE: THURSDAY
1 DECEMBER 2016**

Notice of Race and Entry form:
www.abclubhk.com



HORIZONS ISSUE 2016/12

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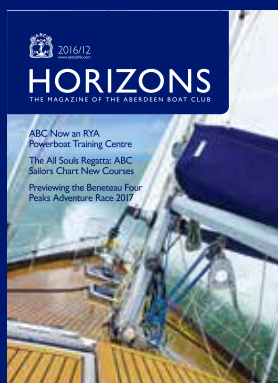
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Horizons welcomes ABC member contributions of articles and photos.
Please contact the editor at ann.white@ppp.com.hk



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Commodore's Letter

Can it really be a year since John Berry penned his farewell note in *Horizons* which heralded my move as his successor? It has gone all too quickly, enjoyably so far for me nonetheless and I hope as rewarding for members.

No point in dwelling on it; all events of note have already been recorded. So: looking ahead, the Town Hall Meeting (THM), updating members on progress with MI development, and the AGM that may bring some new names onto the General Committee, will have occurred by the time you read this. Not so the Southside Regatta, which takes place over the weekend of 3-4 December. Another strong showing is expected, with reports and photos to be presented in the January/February issue.

Then Commodore's Drinks await sailors and families on Middle Island on Sunday, 11 December following the Waglan race. Nothing like "drinks on the house" to draw a crowd, as a harbinger to the festive season. And on that subject, look up the cornucopia of fun F&B events laid on during the month: something for everyone.

Those who attended the THM will be up-to-date on progress. To summarise for those who missed, the Committee pushes on doggedly with its planning, dogged at seemingly every turn by new demands from various Government departments in line with the many regulatory changes of recent years.

That said, there is underlying support for our objectives, so the net effect is one of delay rather than a roadblock. Nonetheless, progress has been made so full marks to our in-house experts for their patient perseverance.

Brighter news: as described on page 10, the ABC is delighted to announce the establishment of our new RYA-approved Training Centre to teach Powerboat Levels 1 and 2 and Safety Boat courses, a first for the Club, commencing in the new year. Those interested in obtaining these globally recognised qualifications should contact Alex Johnston, whose efforts and contacts pulled this off.

Finally, two more items of news, one partially countering the other, depending on one's capacity: monthly



subscriptions are to increase by five percent from the new year. This modest inflationary adjustment is in line with an earlier decision to adopt an incremental approach to the inevitable rather than to shock members with a larger increase after a lull of several years. Some other charges increase in line.

... On the other hand beer prices were reduced by 10 percent from 16 November thanks to a masterly supplier renegotiation by the GM!

On that happier note, I wish all members a most enjoyable season at the Club over Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year to follow.

Chris Pooley
Commodore



Flag Officer's Report

We have had a good start to our sailing season with successful opening regattas for both dinghies and keelboats. Wind conditions over these two weekends were in total contrast, with barely enough wind to complete the first, and excellent winds for the second.

The first three races of the Waglan Series were successful, albeit with slightly lower turnout than in previous years, likely due to the very full autumn racing calendar with other regattas, the China Coast series and the Hainan Race. Many skippers report challenges with securing enough crew, so here is the chance to take part: seek out sailing opportunities by registering on our website.

Sailing is rarely without incidents although usually these can be resolved without assistance. However, soon after

the start of Waglan 3, two boats were forced to retire due to loss of steering, requiring towing back to their moorings. ABC marine staff handled the incidents with their usual professional aplomb, and no doubt detailed investigations will have identified the causes.

Coincidentally, recently I read of the loss of the yacht *Walawala 2* in the 2013 Vietnam Race, with the report stating that the yacht started taking on water after an incident resulting in loss of steering. This caused the crew to take to the life raft. Fellow competitor yacht *Krampus* picked them up and most were transferred to a marine rescue helicopter and flown back to Hong Kong. The report praises the skill of the helicopter crew and the excellent coordination with Race Control.

A key finding was the need for regular inspection of steering gear and



rudders and the need to check you can actually use the emergency tiller. Having personally experienced a loss of steering, I can verify that knowledge and practice are essential. Never assume things will work out as expected. The law of Sod dictates otherwise! This applies to all aspects of your boat.

Alan Child
Rear Commodore – Sailing

Organised by



BENETEAU

4 Peaks Race

FOUR 2017 ^{33rd}

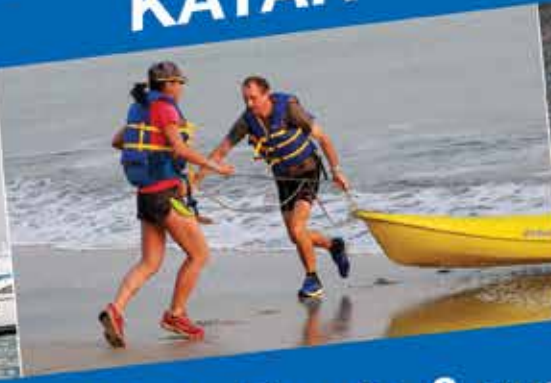
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RUN



21-22 January 2017

Boats & runners wanted!

For entry form and sailing instructions, download from www.abclubhk.com

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December F&B Promotions

Throughout the month, both the Four Peaks and the Galley will offer you a variety of festive offerings.

Featured wines for December:

Louis Michel Petit Chablis 2014
Jean Loron Fleurie Château de Fleurie 2014

By the glass, \$62, by the bottle \$300

Featured beer of the month from Australia

Moa IPA, \$38

Featured cocktails

Christmas Holiday Punch, \$68 per glass, \$230 per jar and \$500 per bowl
BH vodka, vanilla liqueur, pineapple and guava soda

Christmas Holiday non-alcoholic punch
\$48 per glass, \$158 per jar and \$330 per bowl

Hot drinks:

Gingerbread Chocolate, \$62
Vodka and dark chocolate liqueur

Gingerbread Latte with Dark Chocolate (non-alcoholic), \$42

Christmas Mulled Wine
\$48 per glass and \$780 per bowl
Red wine, cinnamon, clove, ginger, nutmeg, orange and brandy

Some of the dates on page four of our Christmas brochure, in the section on ABC seasonal events, have been revised.

Please accept our apologies and find below the link to the revised version of the ABC brochure on Festive Season events and offerings for 2016-2017.

www.abclubhk.com/upload/FnB/2016/Dec16/Christmas-Brochure-REV.pdf



December Events

Santa Visits the ABC

Saturday, 10 December
The Harbour Room and Bridge
11 am-3:30 pm
\$148 for children under the age of five, \$158 for children ages six-12 and \$188 per adult

Santa's visit will include lunch, a magic show and a clown show, face-painting, games, a bouncy castle in the playground, and Santa's appearance, at 2 pm, with Christmas goodies.

Parents are asked to deliver a small gift intended for their child, value not to exceed \$150, wrapped and labelled, to ABC Reception no later than Friday, 9 December.

Please ensure your child's name is on the gift – remember, Santa is not getting any younger and needs your help to remember all the children who have been good this year.

Special extra treats for Mum and Dad:
Mulled wine, gammon ham on toast, warm roasted chestnuts and mince pies.

Commodore's Christmas Cocktails

Sunday, 11 December
Middle Island
3-6 pm
Complimentary
To be held immediately following Race 6 of the ABC Waglan Series, our yearly gathering around a glass, or two of mulled wine and Christmas nibbles is a unique opportunity to wish fellow Club members and friends a merry Christmas.

All Club members and families are invited to mix and mingle with our Commodore and ABC General Committee members, who will be on deck to share their vision for the Club with you, but most importantly to share a very special Christmas moment.

Warm roasted chestnuts, Christmas fare and drinks will be served. Booking is required, with a maximum attendance of 180.

To reserve for your family and friends, call Reception at 2552 8182
or email booking@abclubhk.com



December and January Club Seasonal Events

Sailors' Quiz Night

The Waglan Bar, Saturday, 17 December
7 pm onward
The Waglan Bar
\$118 per person, including a standard drink,
canapés and prizes for the winners

Children's Christmas Picnic

Round Island Beach
Sunday, 18 December
10:30 am
Adults \$180 per person
Children \$120
We will have a barbecue, hot dogs, burgers, and
more. There will be a treasure hunt and a fancy-
dress competition. Attractive prizes for the children.

Christmas Eve Dinner

The Four Peaks
Saturday, 24 December
7 pm onwards
\$599 per adult, including a five-course dinner and
unlimited Champagne, \$499 for children under age
18 for a five-course dinner and a soft drink, \$349 for
children under age five for a three-course dinner.

Live entertainment from a classical pianist.

Christmas Day Buffet Lunch

Middle Island
Sunday, 25 December
12:30–3 pm
\$299 for adults, \$199 for children ages 3-12.

Christmas Day Celebration at the Main Clubhouse

The Four Peaks and the Deck
Sunday, 25 December
12 noon–3 pm
\$379 for adults, \$229 for children under 12 (without
a first course).
At The Galley and Patio, \$369 for adults, \$229 for
children under 12 (without a first course).

Live band performance on the Patio.

Boxing Day Brunch at the Galley and Patio

Monday, 26 December
8:30 am–3 pm
Early-bird breakfast, \$82 for adults and \$68 for
children under 12 years (8 am – 10:30 am).
\$279 for adults including one glass of sparkling wine.
\$128 for children ages three–12.

New Year's Eve Party at the Galley and Patio

"Havana Club, a Cuban Salsa Night"
Saturday, 31 December
8 pm 'til late
\$888 per adult, \$288 per child aged under 12.
All-inclusive of canapés, your selections from the
buffet, listed standard drinks on the night and
Champagne for toasting at midnight.

You and your guests are invited to the Havana-
themed New Year's Eve party at the ABC.
The evening offers a free flow of drinks and a
sophisticated evening of dancing. The DJ will be the
same as last year, "El Señor David".

New Year's Day Brunch Extravaganza

The Galley and Patio
Sunday, 1 January
Breakfast from 8–10:30 am
Brunch from 10:30 am–4 pm
Early-bird breakfast: \$82 for adults and \$68 for
children under age 12.
Brunch: \$309 for adults, \$359 with sparkling wine,
\$189 for children under age 12.

Members' Day on the Junk

The Club Junk
Sunday, 8 January
11 am to 5 pm
\$310 for adults, with unlimited Prosecco and a
simple curry on board. \$85 for a packed lunch for
children under 12.
The Club has booked the junk for you and your
family and guests to enjoy this first Sunday of the
New Year on a free cruise around Hong Kong Island.

Space is limited to 38 passengers, therefore please
book quickly so as not to be disappointed.

To reserve for your family and friends, call Reception at 2552 8182
or email booking@abclubhk.com



Quiz: Sailing Knowledge for Skippers

See page 13 for answers

Contributed by Stephen Hilton, ABC member



1. Who is the patron saint of ships and sailors?
2. Who discovered Christmas Island, and when?
3. How much of the earth's surface is covered by oceans?
4. What type of boat has twin hulls?
5. What fictional vessel did Captain Nemo command?
6. What is a ship's diary called?
7. What famous sailing race starts at Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day, 26 December 2017?
8. You are in charge of a vessel sailing due south, 180°, and directly ahead you see an eastern cardinal buoy. Do you pass the buoy to port or starboard?

“
The cabin of a small yacht is truly a wonderful thing; not only will it shelter you from a tempest, but from the other troubles in life, it is a safe retreat.”

– Francis Herreshoff, boat designer

9. If you were to see the eastern cardinal mentioned above at night, what light signal would you see?
10. What four peaks will be included in the route for runners competing in the 2017 Beneteau Four Peaks Race?



ABC Junk for Hire Available weekdays

for Parties, Day Trips and Water Sports

Pick-up at ABC, Central pier, Causeway Bay or TST public pier.

The ABC can provide food and beverages including a range of hot and cold dishes, desserts and drinks. ABC chef and waiters are available. Email fnb@abclubhk.com

Rental of speedboats, banana boats and waterskis may be arranged via ABC's Marine Services at 9276 2932.

Night-time: 6 pm – 11 pm

Daytime: 9 am – 5 pm

Monday – Friday: \$4,600

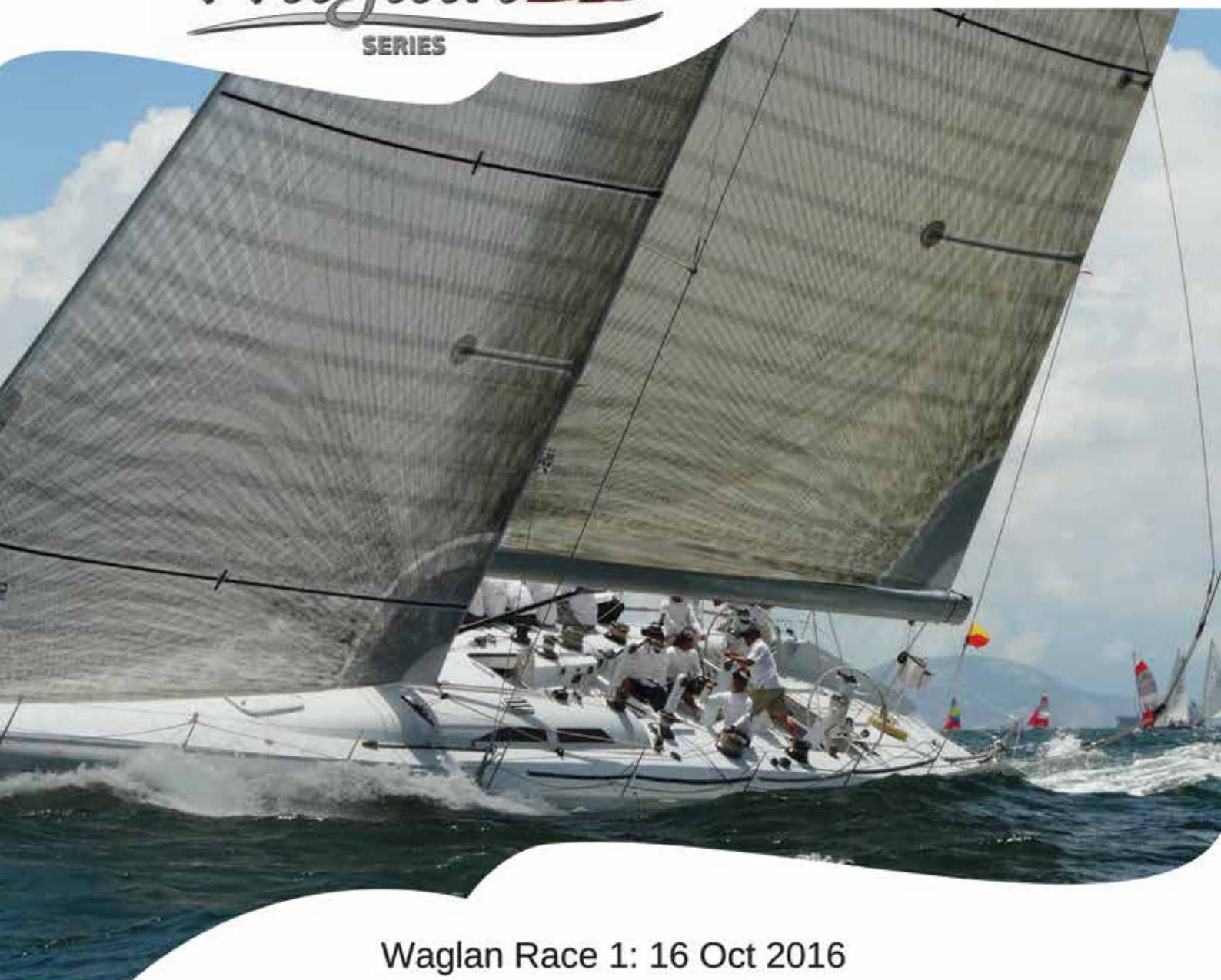
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: \$5,300

Maximum passengers: 42

For details, please contact ABC membership services manager Cobo Liu at 2553 3032 or mbs@abclubhk.com

Waglan

SERIES



Waglan Race 1: 16 Oct 2016
Waglan Race 2 & 3: 30 Oct 2016
Waglan Race 4: 6 Nov 2016
Waglan Race 5: 20 Nov 2016
Waglan Race 6: 11 Dec 2016
Waglan Race 7: 8 Jan 2017
Waglan Race 8 & 9: 19 Feb 2017
Waglan Race 10: 19 Mar 2017
Waglan Re-sail: 26 Mar 2017

Supported By:





December 2016 Youth Sailing Programme

Application Deadline Friday 9 December

The Christmas holidays can provide some of the best times to sail; normally we can expect great conditions with good wind, making this time of the year ideal for our more advanced courses. Naturally, it's cooler and we remind students and parents of the need to wear appropriate warm clothes. However, often we have lovely sunny weather, so December sailing can be very rewarding!

Our Level 4 course is offered once a year – so don't miss this timely opportunity! Full details are available at www.abclubhk.com and also from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com.


Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
Mon 19-Fri 23 Dec AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7-11, can swim with water confidence	1,080/1,990
Mon 19-Fri 23 Dec PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7-11, passed Optimist Stage 1	1,080/1,990
Mon 19-Fri 23 Dec PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7-11, passed Optimist Stage 2	1,080/1,990
Mon 19-Fri 23 Dec	✓	HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11-18, can swim with water confidence	2,650/3,980
Wed 21-Fri 23 Dec		Three-day Supervised Practice	Age 12-18, HKSF L2 or equivalent experience	1,590/2,388
Mon 19-Fri 23 Dec		High Performance Advanced Skills, HKSF Level 4	Age 12-18. Advanced skills course including spinnaker trapeze, boat-handling, anchoring, introduction to navigation and meteorology. (Applicants must hold Improvers HKSF Level 3 and have one season of sailing since.)	2,650/3,980
Tues 27-Sat 31 Dec AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7-11, can swim with water confidence	1,080/1,990
Tues 27-Sat 31 Dec PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7-11, passed Optimist Stage 1	1,080/1,990
Tues 27-Sat 31 Dec PM	✓	Optimist Stage 4	Age 7-11, passed Optimist Stage 3	1,080/1,990
Tues 27-Sat 31 Dec		HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 12-18, passed HKSF L2, with one year of sailing since	2,650/3,980
Tues 27-Thurs 29 Dec		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12-18, passed HKSF L2	1,590/2,388

Please note course timings:

AM course: 9 am – 12:30 pm (meet at 8:45 at main Clubhouse)

PM course: 1:30 pm – 5 pm (1 pm ferry from main Clubhouse)

Whole-day course: 9 am – 4:30 pm (meet at 8:45 at main Clubhouse)




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- Close to Transport
- 3 C/p

ref~SK967

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- Tree & Sea Views, 2 C/p
- 2100+ Terrace + Roof Gdn
- Open Kitchen CWB036





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- Modern Decor
- HQ, C/p

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The Hebe Haven 24-hour Charity Race

By Maggie Bradley, Photos by Raymond Kwong


The 14th annual Hebe Haven 24-Hour Charity Dinghy Race took place in Sai Kung's Hebe Haven over the weekend of 5 and 6 November, hosted by the Hebe Haven Yacht Club.

The event has run with the same basic format since its inception in 2002. This year, the organisers tried out some new initiatives, with great success. The race village had children's activities across both the Saturday and Sunday.

In the main event, 28 teams raced throughout the night despite very light winds.

Those who were scheduled to compete on the Sunday morning enjoyed a better breeze. The winning team was one from the ESF's King George V secondary school, which had a total of 48 pupils taking part.

For more details on the racing and the fundraising goals, please see www.hebehaven24hour.com.

The race is organised every autumn, so please pencil in late next year for a great activity that raises money for charities! 



Member News

The following membership, subscription and car park fee changes will take effect from 1 January 2017:

Associate & Sailing \$72,500

Short-term \$36,000

Young Associate \$36,000

Weekday \$22,000

Legacy \$15,000

Corporate Membership

Nominee \$250,000

Transfer fee of Nominee \$50,000

Debenture \$800,000

Transfer fee of Debenture \$80,000

Re-nomination fees \$22,000

Car Park Label \$1,900

Weekday Car Park Label \$950

Monthly Subscription

Associate, Sailing, Short-term, Nominee and Debenture Subscribers \$1,350

Weekday \$820

Young Associate \$820

Cadet Member \$200



ABC Serves as New RYA Powerboat Training Centre



By Alex Johnston, ABC Marine Services Manager

The Royal Yachting Association has officially recognised the ABC as an RYA Powerboat Training Centre, with the ABC earning RYA approval after extensive training and preparation this autumn here in Hong Kong.

Major thanks go to Sport Scotland National Centre Cumbrae and David Frame and Rod Smith, who provided the excellent instructor training and inspected the ABC facilities in order for us to qualify as an RYA Training Centre.

The ABC, of course, is a powerboat and sailing club, making this is a great opportunity for Members and the local community to learn how to drive and operate a small powerboat or rib efficiently and safely. As we all know, many small powerboats and tenders operate in and around Aberdeen harbour!

To legally drive a pleasure vessel in Hong Kong waters, first you must obtain a Pleasure Vessel License 2, for licensed vessels with an engine up to 15m. There is also a Pleasure Vessel License 1 for vessels over 15m, if required.

These licenses are required by law by the Hong Kong Marine Department in order to operate a pleasure vessel in Hong Kong waters. Previously, these

qualifications were known as the Masters and Engineer certificates.

To attend an ABC RYA powerboat course, initially you will not need to hold a Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel License. However, the Hong Kong Marine Department eventually will require that you hold a valid Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel License before you can be legally on your own in Hong Kong waters. As this is a Marine Department regulation, there is no short cut or workaround at all. The good news, however, is that the RYA Powerboat Level 2 Certificate is internationally recognised, whilst the Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Certificate is not.

In future, for operational reasons, the ABC Marine and Sailing Committee will also require any Member or part-time instructor wishing to work for our Sail Training Dinghy School or the ABC's Aberdeen Racing Academy, or drive a rib for the Club as a volunteer for an ABC race or regatta, to hold an RYA Powerboat Level 2 and/or an RYA Powerboat Safety Course Certificate in addition to the required Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Certificate. This requirement will not be immediate,

rather it will be phased in to allow Members and staff to take the course.

For members who are already experienced powerboaters, a Direct Assessment RYA Level 2 test is available and can be conducted by an instructor. Please be aware this test is considered to be quite demanding and is pass/fail similar to a car-driving test. Many choose to do the full course as it is possible to continue learning many good tips and techniques.

The ABC's plan is to create a pool of members who are suitably trained and qualified in order to effectively provide a high standard of safety, mark-laying and boat handling whilst running ABC sailing and marine events in future.

Starting in January 2017, the ABC RYA Powerboat School will offer these courses:

RYA Powerboat Handling Level 2

This two-day entry-level course provides the skills and background knowledge needed to drive a powerboat. It is the basis of the International Certificate of Competence. (RYA Level 1 is also available but is taught less frequently as most people first go to RYA Level 2.)

The course focusses on low-speed close-quarters handling, man overboard recovery, an introduction to driving at planing speed, and collision regulations. The course can be taken inland or on the coast and your certificate will be endorsed accordingly.

Assumed knowledge:	None. May be preceded by Level 1 Start Powerboating, also offered by ABC RYA Powerboating Training Centre.
Minimum duration:	Two days.
Minimum age:	Age 12. Successful candidates under the age of 16 will be issued with an endorsed certificate.
Course content:	Launching and recovery, boat handling, securing to a buoy, anchoring, leaving and coming alongside, man overboard.
Instructor/Student Ratio:	One instructor to three students.
Ability after the course:	Self-sufficient powerboater in the right conditions, aware of own limitations and those of craft.

RYA Safety Boat Course:

This two-day course provides the skills required to act as an escort craft, safety boat or coach boat for a fleet of dinghies, windsurfers or canoes, or in racing or training activities. It includes rescue techniques and elements of race management and mark-laying.

Assumed knowledge:	Basic understanding of sailing boats and windsurfers. RYA Powerboat Level 2 Powerboat Handling certificate must be held prior to this course.
Minimum duration:	Two days.
Minimum age:	Age 16.
Course content:	Preparation, boat handling, dinghy rescue, windsurfer rescue, kayak or canoe rescue (may be covered as theory), towing, end-of-day procedures, safety, suitability of craft, local factors, communication, rescuing other water users.
Instructor/Student Ratio:	One instructor to six students.
Ability after the course:	Able to provide safety or support cover to a range of craft, particularly sailing or windsurfing.



copyright RYA

Once the ABC/RYA Powerboat Training Centre is up and running, the ABC's aim is to offer the whole scheme in future, including the intermediate and advanced courses. Some ABC marine staff already hold the RYA Level 2 Instructor and Advanced Certificates, the prerequisite to becoming an advanced instructor. We also now have six recently trained ABC full and part-time staff/ instructors to provide the three new entry courses.



copyright RYA



copyright RYA

The full RYA powerboat scheme is outlined below, courtesy of the RYA:





POWERBOAT COURSES



The RYA powerboat courses are primarily for those using open powered craft such as RIBs and sportsboats, and also for the professional open boat skipper who is required to prove their competence or provide certification for work.

Course	Assumed knowledge	Course content	Ability after the course	Minimum duration	Minimum age
Level 1	None	Boating safety, boat handling and basic theory	A basic understanding of powerboating	1 day	8
Level 2	None	Close quarters boat handling, planing speed manoeuvres, man overboard recovery and collision regulations	Able to handle a powerboat in familiar waters by day	2 days	12
Intermediate	Boat handling to Level 2 standard. Navigation to Day Skipper shorebased standard recommended	Daytime navigation skills, passage planning, use of plotting instruments, GPS and electronic navigation	Able to navigate a powerboat on coastal passages by day	2 days	16
Advanced	Boat handling to Intermediate standard. Navigation to Coastal Skipper/ Yachtmaster™ Offshore	Skippering techniques for coastal passages including night pilotage	Able to navigate a powerboat on coastal passages by day and night	2 days	17
Safety Boat	Powerboat Level 2 certificate required	Recovery techniques for various craft and fleet management	Able to provide safety cover in a racing or training environment	2 days	16
Tender Operator	Powerboat Level 2 certificate required with coastal endorsement	Passenger safety and comfort, basic day and night pilotage, emergency situations	Able to carry out short ship to shore transfers by day and night	2 days	17

RYA training is also available for:







Recommended books


Start Powerboating Powerboat Handbook Advanced Powerboat Handbook

www.rya.org.uk





POWERBOAT COURSES



Start your training with a course appropriate to your experience - you don't have to start at the beginning. Our recommended path through the courses is shown below.

Powerboat Courses
Afloat

Level 1

↓

Essential Navigation & Seamanship

Level 2

↓

Day Skipper

Intermediate

↓

Coastal Skipper/ Yachtmaster™ Offshore

Safety Boat

↓

RYA Advanced Powerboat

Tender Operator

↓

RYA Yachtmaster™ Coastal

Advanced

↓

RYA Yachtmaster™ Offshore

Certificates of Competence

- RYA Advanced Powerboat
- Other Certificates of Competence
- RYA Yachtmaster™ Coastal
- RYA Yachtmaster™ Offshore
- RYA Yachtmaster™ Ocean

Refer to the Certificates of Competence leaflet for details

KEY

Afloat	Ashore	Online	Necessary completion of preceding course.	Recommended progression.	Practical exam afloat.	Oral exam ashore.
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www.rya.org.uk

These new courses present an exciting opportunity for ABC members to learn and enjoy powerboating. The ABC website will soon show the full course schedule and prices, so please check in on a regular basis and sign up. First, we will train key members and staff who regularly work or assist the Club on the water, so please be patient if you do not immediately get a place on a course. If you have any further questions about the courses, please contact Alex Johnston in the Marine and Sailing Office. Happy powerboating!



Answers: Sailing Knowledge for Skippers

See page 6 for questions



1. Saint Nicholas, long associated with Christmas and gift-giving, is also the patron saint of ships and sailors praying for safe voyages and protection from storms.
2. The small, barren and inhospitable atoll named Kiritimati was discovered by Captain James Cook on Christmas Eve 1777, and so earned its nickname of Christmas Island.
3. Some 71 percent of the earth's surface is covered by oceans. Seven percent of oceans are covered by sea ice. The oceans contain 97 percent of the earth's water. Only five percent of the ocean's floors have ever been mapped.
4. Cataraman.
5. Nautilus.
6. A log. When writing intended destinations in a sailing boat's log, tradition is to prefix the intended destination with the word "towards", as the vagaries of wind and tide make a defined destination less predictable or achievable.
7. Since its inception in 1945, the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race (RSHYR) has become one of the biggest events in the world sailing calendar. The 628-mile sprint from Sydney to Hobart crosses one of the world's most treacherous stretches of water and often is accompanied by strong winds.
8. The mark would be left to starboard if heading south, as clear water lies to the east.
9. The light signal for an eastern cardinal is three white flashes. It is shown on charts as either Q(3) 10s or VQ(3) 5s.
10. The Four Peaks NOR lists the four peaks in order of running for the Division A boats as:
 - Mount Stenhouse
 - Lantau Peak
 - Violet Hill
 - Ma On Shan (Division B boats will substitute Ma On Shan with Tung Lung Chau)

Volunteers Wanted:

The Beneteau Four Peaks Race 2017

Supported by Simpson Marine

The Beneteau Four Peaks Race 2017, supported by Simpson Marine, will take place over 21-22 January, just less than two months away. In order to run the race, the Club relies considerably on a team of enthusiastic volunteers to run the hill check points, help race control at the Main Clubhouse in the Bridge Room and be out on the water with safety boats.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance. You will be placed in the race support team according to your experience and abilities and your availability over the race weekend. You do not have to commit to the duration of the race's two whole days, as the race support team works in shifts.

If you are interested in assisting with the race as part of the support team, please contact either Alex Johnston or Jennifer Li in the ABC Marine and Sailing Office. Alex can be reached via marine.services@abclubhk.com and Jennifer may be reached at marinecoord@abclubhk.com and 2518-9523.



Puerto Galera Yacht Club's 25th Anniversary and the All Souls Regatta

By Chris Pooley and Alan Solley, photos by Alan Solley



Once again, a crew of largely ABC members chartered Puerto Galera Yacht Club's local *Rags* to compete in the annual, but this year 25th-anniversary special, three-day All Souls Regatta. On arrival for PGYC's 13th annual All Souls Regatta we were given a splendid welcome by PGYC Director Alan Solley and Commodore Bob Johnson on the lawn of Solley's villa in PG. This special function was a thank-you to John Berry and me for our help in charting a new series of courses for this and future regattas.

The PGYC official race report on the regatta by a member from his perspective onboard the sports boat *Redshift* follows. It will not escape readers' attention that *Rags* does not feature in any way at all in the report! This is a fair reflection of our achievement; or, as someone remarked, in comparing the win at Easter, from hero to zero in just seven months! Nonetheless we raced, and finished in all three events, with never a dull moment. But a couple of tense ones: read on.

As described below, the Verde Island race with optional clockwise or anti-clockwise equidistant roundings (an ABC-inspired innovation) proved particularly interesting. Lest the story leak out at the bar, best to come clean here: having been advised to avoid the hole at the north

end on a starboard rounding, we opted for port and set off east for the southern headland. Well, did we have fun! Very light fickle easterlies, a fierce riptide "agin" us and jagged rocks extending above water to the east of the headland.

Result: three tacks out to escape the lee shore and 90 minutes later finally clear of the rocks, for only a five-cable advance! Only later did we discover that no one locally had ever cruised off the south end, hence the lack of warning. Thereafter gentle zephyrs, ample coldies, superb scenery and the eventual reward of a spirited spinnaker dash home after the wind kicked in. Looking forward to giving it another crack with the benefit of newly acquired local knowledge.

In keeping with PGYC tradition, all racing was done on a pursuit basis, with slowest boats starting first, and cruiser/multi-hull courses selected with the aim of coincident finishes with the racing class. This worked on the whole as intended, with the bulk of the two fleets finishing within a time frame of 30 minutes with some exciting dashes to the line as the wind invariably picks up on the beam for the final leg. It was good to catch up with Jerry Rollin, well known to ABC members, who was the RO for the series.

The event was not just about racing, with the club in full-on party mode every

night. Entertainment included live music, traditional Filipino folk-dancing courtesy of the local high school, and the inevitable karaoke. Generous allocations of fine rum and complimentary beer helped the post-race functions go with a swing. Not least on Halloween night, celebrated with crews competing for prizes by dressing in ghostly and in some cases totally outrageous costumes.

The ABC Challenge Cup

Prizes were awarded nightly with beautifully carved marble trophies and other specials for the overall winners. Amongst them a new award; the ABC Challenge Cup presented to our reciprocal club in recognition of their 25th Anniversary. It was left to PGYC to determine the nature of the new award: the decision being to recognise the person, ashore or afloat, who had done most to foster the spirit of racing in each regatta. The first time winner? Trish Healy, the PGYC's behind-the-scenes administrator who masterminded this biggest-ever regatta.

And so, with thanks to PGYC for their warm hospitality and a superb regatta and particular thanks to Alan Solley for his hospitality and help in compiling this report ...

ON to Easter.



Alan Solley's lawn



Trish Healy and the ABC Challenge Cup



The Royal Cargo All Souls Regatta 2016

By Martyn Willes, photos by Terry Duckham/Asiapix

The Royal Cargo All Souls Regatta 2016, hosted by the Puerto Galera Yacht Club, was a superb, competitive sailing opportunity for both local and international yacht racing crews and cruising sailors. Under partly cloudy skies, and with breezes generally in the range of eight-12 knots for much of the three-day regatta, 29 yachts in three classes competed for honours on the water and bottles of rum at the evening awards.

The three classes were racing keelboats, cruising multihulls and cruising keelboats. The largest yacht in the fleet was the elegant, 70-foot, Andrews 70, *Bella Uno*, while the smallest was the exciting, Steiner 29 (like a Laser with a bulb-keel and wings)

Redshift, both of which came head-to-head in the racing division.

The All Souls Regatta is a truly international yachting event and the largest of its kind in the Philippines. International crews that chartered local yachts for the event came from Hong Kong and Japan whilst cruising yachts came from as far away as Australia and Germany.

Although 32 yachts had registered in advance for the regatta, due to various mishaps along the way, there were only 29 starters. For the 2016 regatta. During the first day of racing, two more yachts were to drop out with mainsails in need of repair. Other yachts had jibs to be repaired or replaced at various points; Hyde Sail of Cebu were opportune

sponsors of the event and on hand to offer instant estimates.

New regatta courses

The main feature of the 2016 regatta was a new set of courses for skippers (and organisers) to learn. Of course the tidal flow and currents do not change (except by the hour of the moon), but the length of time a yacht is in them, and the opportunities to avoid the most negative effects, add a new dimension to the competition.

The new courses had been plotted in conjunction with visiting members of the Aberdeen Boat Club of Hong Kong, with the intent to add some excitement on the water to match the revelry of the parties every evening.





Redshift

We aboard *Redshift*, starting almost last under the pursuit race-handicap system, had the spectacle of the entire fleet ahead of us as they sped (or in some cases slogged) to the first mark, some seven miles distant, off the south coast of Maricaban Island. There was just sufficient wind angle for us to use our spinnaker and so we flew towards our quarry with a speed over ground of 13 knots at times.

The nine-mile hike from the first to the second mark was a very different story. We now had wind and tide on the nose as the racing and multihull fleets headed for the lighthouse, to the west of the Ilijan

natural gas power station. The cruising fleet had less than half that distance to sail before turning for the finish.

Missing marks

As in previous years, when inflatable buoy marks have been laid along the Batangas coast, by the time the yachts arrive the marks have disappeared and skippers must navigate to the published GPS positions before turning for the finish. During our approach to the published GPS position it became apparent that some skippers did not have crew aboard who knew how to read a GPS – protests would be heard later.

Once clear of the gaggle of racers and multihulls at the lighthouse mark, there were four racing class yachts between *Redshift* and the finish, a misty nine miles away to the southwest: *Selma Star* (Beneteau Oceanis 36.7), *Hana Fe* (Hanse 445), *Emocean* (Beneteau 47) and *Bella Uno*. The drag race that followed allowed *Redshift* to touch 15.1 knots over the ground but it was not as simple as it may sound – the choppy conditions, through the various tide-rips, combined with the wind-generated wave sets, meant that *Redshift's* modest freeboard was breached many times.

We slipped past the first yacht at speed but had no time for pleasantries, as the chop was severe just there and all were focussed on keeping *Redshift* level and looking least like a wind-powered submarine. The three in the distance were more of a challenge, but plane by plane, we reeled them ever closer. Finally there was only *Bella Uno* to beat but she was just too far ahead and the finish line simply too close.

An exciting second place and a bonding for *Redshift* crew, who were sailing as a team for the first time. Unfortunately, *Redshift's* only serviceable jib was de-bonding, so our shore-crew would have to be up early, sweating over a hot sewing machine to get us racing the following day ... go girlie!

Unfortunately, for some of the multihulls also, they were unable to finish in the allotted time and scored a DNF. Perhaps the Club will not be using that course with that particular wind angle in future.

Skipper's choice

The second day for the racing class was to be somewhat of a gamble inasmuch as the only mark of the course was Verde Island and it was skipper's choice as to which way around to sail. It has been 15 years since this course was last used in a regatta so there was no residual knowledge in the Club as to the best way around ... it was down to calculation, with

a smattering of speculation concerning tidal flows and variable winds.

Redshift was set for a starboard rounding and exceeded expectations in the choppy conditions by closing in on the first two competitors before halfway along the north side of Verde Island. The northeast side of the island proved more challenging than expected as the wind unexpectedly dropped to barely three knots and the tidal flows made for some exciting moments close to rocky outcrops.

As we approached the halfway point, three of the yachts that had chosen the port rounding had already crossed us, but they would now have to struggle with softening breezes along the north shore whereas we would, in theory, have stronger breeze and positive tidal flow in our favour along the southern shore.

Redshift was ahead of the starboard-rounding group soon after hoisting our spinnaker. Gliding towards Escarceo Point we had only *Hana Fe* in serious pursuit ... but we could not yet see any of the port-rounding group.

Eventually, the port-rounding group came into view, predictably struggling with light winds and still six miles or more from the finish, all except one ... the distinctly elegant classic eight-metre *Anthea* was on a converging course with *Redshift*, and ahead. The fluky breezes and tidal flows along Puerto Galera's peninsular beaches did not provide sufficient speed to catch *Anthea* but

there was also a chance that *Bella Uno*, powered by her enormous spinnaker and long waterline length, would get ahead of us as well. Come the finish *Redshift* scored another second place, just ahead of *Bella Uno* and *Emocean*.

The third and final day of racing saw all classes sailing the same, relatively short course: east along the peninsular beaches, south to an inflatable-buoy mark off the Mindoro coast, in the vicinity of San Teodoro, and back to the traditional finish off Haligi Beach.

Starting near the back of the fleet, *Redshift* had the unique appreciation for where the breeze was strongest and where the tide-on-the-turn might have been affecting yachts ahead. We chose a tack that gave us some advantage en route to Escarceo Point and more when we headed for the upwind mark.

With most of the fleet still ahead of us we hoisted the spinnaker early after the mark-rounding and powered up for our run for home, knowing we had to finish ahead of *Bella Uno* to win the racing class or at least ahead of *Emocean* to be sure of a podium finish and the all-important bottle of rum.

About halfway to Escarceo Point the angle of breeze prevented us from climbing above the metallic bulk of the 60-foot Van Dam ketch, *Aragorn*, and so a course to leeward of her was the only option. There was a perception that our 12-plus knots of boat speed would allow

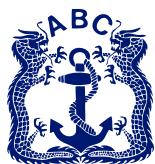


us to pass close and pop out ahead of *Aragorn*, unscathed. A valuable lesson was about to be learned: no matter your speed, a large-enough wind shadow can bring you to a halt. And so we sat in *Aragorn's* shadow for 10 minutes before finally escaping. There was now no chance to catch *Bella Uno*, nor *Emocean*, nor almost any of the racing class fleet before the finish. That's yacht racing.

The 13th All Souls Regatta closed out with an awards ceremony and much merriment among the assembled crews and friends. The new yachts that were competing for the first time made promises to return. The new crews racing were smiling into their beer and sausages and would almost certainly return. The photographers and videographers would make sure the memories would live on until new ones are made during the 14th All Souls Regatta in October 2017.

Book your place now for the largest yachting event in the Philippines: the All Souls Regatta 2017.

Full racing results can be found at: www.allsoulsregatta.com/nor-si/



Welcome new members

April 2016

Chan Fong Ieng
Poon Chung Mo, Michael
Wong Kwok Yeung, Timothy
Ryan Kilpatrick
Lee King Yuen, Jonathan
Stanley Tok
Paul Tao
Au Pak Hang, Abba

May 2016

Patrick Delph
Lee Lung Chi
Lam Pok To, Anthony
Shing Mui, Phoebe
Elise Cachard
James Smith
Ma FE Fermin
Lau Han Shing

June 2016

Geraint Hughes
Michael Chin
Chan Yiu Wing
Steven Manning
Lee Tin Yee, Margaret
Ian Hui
Cheung Pui Keung

July 2016

Peter Pollard
Don Chow
Lam Loh Pui
Frank Kasala
Rohit Honawar
Leung Yat Pang
Shek Marcus Yu Hin
Jun-Maurice Dodel
Catheline-Maleine Dodel

August 2016

Wong Kam Piu, Johnson
Samuel Badenach
Julienne Lin
Pihla Antila
Pilvi Antila
Baris Unal
Lucy Sutro

September 2016

Remy Woo
Kenneth Cheng
Grances Gairns
Geoffrey King
Winnie Lo
Ian Menear
Elizabeth Nye
Philippe Zurcher
Mark Yeadon
Pang Chung Ping, Paul

October 2016

Hoffman Chong
Betsy Haynes
Dean Lea
Candice Lui
Cheryl Lui
Anthony Tsui
Ricky Chung
Carsten Brenker
Marston Wong
Gregory Paull
Urs Kraft
Wayne Sze
Eric Wong



Beneteau Four Peaks Race 2016: The Ultimate Team Adventure Race for Sailors and Runners

By Stuart Moran

The Beneteau Four Peaks Race 2017 is our Club's creation; a unique challenge widely renowned as one of the toughest sporting events in the region. This annual overnight multi-sport race has been organised by the Aberdeen Boat Club since 1985 and the Club is delighted to announce the 33rd running of the race in 2017.

An exciting and demanding event, the Four Peaks Race tests all manner

of equipment, sailing skills, and cross-country running prowess. Stamina and tactics play a significant role and it is only those who can pull everything together on the day that prevail.

The Four Peaks Race is about peak performance. With the average boat taking 24 hours last year, the race requires landings by transfer craft or swimming, speed and strategy on land over rough terrain, and fine seamanship and sailing

skills on the water. Tactics, practice and stamina play a big part, and rewards for all bring competitors back again and again for both the excitement and the camaraderie.

Sail, kayak and run

The 4P race, as it is affectionately known, is a gruelling overnight competition that will celebrate its 33rd anniversary in January 2017 when this year's running of the iconic race will take place



BENETEAU



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21-22 January. With the winter weather's expected cooler temperatures and more consistent winds, the Club hopes to attract over 30 boats and over 200 individual participants.

This year, the adventure race first will involve sailing from Deep Water Bay to Lamma, where the runners from each yacht kayak ashore to climb up Mount Stenhouse. Once crews return to their yachts, they will sail to Lantau to climb Lantau Peak. This will be followed by an ascent of Violet Hill from the landing area in Repulse Bay. And then, finally, to Tung Lung Chau, off the tip of Clear Water Bay peninsula, to run up Ma On Shan (Division B boats will substitute Ma On Shan with Tung Lung Chau).

Test your fitness

The 4PR is certainly not for the faint-

hearted: it's an event that requires the highest levels of hill-running fitness and sailing aptitude and the very best of race management and stewarding. The "army" of volunteers who give their time to help with scrutineering, safety boats, tracking and communications all help make sure that we always run a safe event.

We're proud to have initiated this event and to have successfully run it since 1985. Now in its 33st year, the Club wishes to raise the regional profile of 4PR, to draw in more international competitors, and to secure broad media coverage throughout the region.

With these goals in mind, we have secured title sponsorship from Beneteau, builders of high-performance sailing and

motor yachts.

Our long-standing 4PR sponsor, Simpson Marine, has secured the supporting sponsor position.

We are fortunate to have attracted robust sponsorship from Carlsberg, Peroni, Northeast, and Jenfaith, and also from our regional media partners at Action Asia, *Fragrant Harbour*, *Yacht Style* and Asia Yacht Press.

So, please come and help make the Beneteau Four Peaks Race 2017 a terrific success!

If you wish to compete as a sailor or runner or – also important – help as a volunteer, please check out the dedicated area on the Club's website at www.abclubhk.com/Four_Peaks_Race_2017



Vega, by Eileen Sze



Div. B start by Eileen Sze



Paddling in



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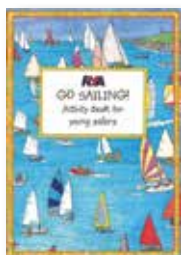
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\$960

SLAM's skiff buoyancy aid is lightweight and flexible, and has two front pockets. Comes in grey and white or black. Used by the ABC High-Performance Sailing Team.



Available now at the ABC Club Shop



HAVANA CLUB

A Saucy Salsa Night in Cuba New Year's Eve at the ABC

You and your guests are invited to the ABC's 2016 New Year's Eve, in our very own Havana Club, with DJ El Señor David. Todos son bienvenidos to usher in 2017 with a Commotion by the Ocean.

\$888 per adult, all-inclusive of canapés, buffet selections, listed standard drinks on the night and Champagne for your midnight toast.

\$288 for children aged 12 and under.

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