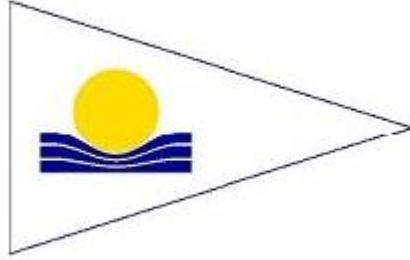


PORT OWEN YACHT CLUB



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Sailing news letter, January 2019.

The 2018 West Coast Cruise was a very successful event in many aspects, but I believe the most important one was the fact that this event was organised by both Saldanha Bay Yacht Club and Port Owen Yacht Club. Both clubs really put in a great effort in their own rights, with their own specialities' coming to the fore. Joan and her team of ladies are really something special, even catering at SBYC. The meals were superb, thank you. SBYC went out of their way to accommodate the POYC entries, some of the six POYC entries spent a week on moorings before the start of the event. The visit to Kraalbay was a high light, as was the visit to Dassen. A big positive for POYC was the trip across the bay on the morning of the 31st, the conditions were perfect, as described below.

A very big thank you to all the hard working POYC members who put in so much time and effort and to SBYC for joining us in organising this event. Naturally we must not forget the event sponsors being Seaport Supplies, Glen Carlou South Africa, Darling Wines and Laaiplek Spar.

Catering.

Catering for the hungry sailors was fun: the teams of collaborators enjoyed each others' company and laughed a lot. On Thursday we served a hot meal to over 60 people – from SBYC's kitchen which has a small domestic stove! So our mince and noodle dish came out of POYC's oven at 17:30, into Sid's bakkie, and whizzed to Saldanha with the salads and rolls. Thursday was easy: only garlic breads and salads. New Year's Eve catering was also easy, with braai packs, salads and dessert served here: the atmosphere was chilled, with happy people braaing and enjoying the live music. The last party-goers left after 01:00. New Year's Day saw cooks dragging themselves out of bed awfully early to serve a full breakfast: we were rewarded by the appreciation of friendly sailors who praised our catering.

Regards
Joan.

Return from Dassen to Saldanha Bay Yacht Club – Bicardi Breeze.

One of the things that stood out for me , we had a duel with two bulk ore carriers. Aboard Bicardi Breeze ,John and I had our eye on a bulk carrier ,which at the time was still very much on the horizon. It really caught our attention when the ship started turning towards us and made its way towards the port of Saldanha to where we also were heading. What struck me was how fast those ships move.

At the time we were several miles out but as we were approaching the entrance to Saldanha it became apparent that a race was on ,one of us would have to capitulate.

To top it off, over the radio we heard another carrier was about to leave , and at some stage we will have to cross the channel to enter Saldanha .

It was rather exciting and eye opening and a little scary when one considers the size and speed of these behemoths ,it was great that visibility was good .

As for the cruise in general , it could not have been better , sure some would have loved to be able to have sailed a bit more as the wind was mostly very light .

Overall it was fantastic ,we got to go places we haven't been and met people we've never before seen ,and with a fleet ,a great way to meet and greet.

Thanks to all the organizers and the participants. (And the Gods)

Paul and Rene

Berthing of Vessels in the Marina.

The first boat to arrive at the holding jetty on Monday 31 December was Wild Rose, she followed Gunar's RIB up the river carefully recording a GPS track so she could back-track down a safe route on her way out.

Wild Rose was followed closely by the rest of the fleet, with a few of the larger boats gently touching the muddy bottom in places. All the skippers were obviously competent at helming their boats as they berthed gracefully without any raised voices.

An hour after the first boat arrived all the boats and their crews were safely tied up and enjoying a relaxing cold drink in the comfort of Port Owen Marina.

Ian Smith.

Reflexion.

Our trip across the bay to Laaipek and the river mouth was idyllic. The bay was so calm it was like a mirror. It was slightly hazy so we could not see the mountains. The Cormorants were flying in Vee formations just above the water, heading out to sea. It was so peaceful after the 35 knot winds the night before.

Entering the river brought home the beauty of our home port. All the fishing boats tied up, families along the quay fishing, lazy cormorants perched on the break water, the odd seal waiting for a chance meal, no wind, we really do live in a little heaven of our own. This must surely have left a lasting impression on the visiting boats.

Sharyn Robinson.

Point Blank.

" The West Coast Cruise Experience "

What a great way to start the New Year. The 2018 West Coast Cruise was one of the best if not the best WCC I have ever had the good fortune to take part in. This time around with our beloved Windward on the hard in the Caribbean I was invited to crew on board the good ship

Point Blank along with a great bunch of people. Combining this year's event with Saldanha Bay Yacht Club was a brilliant idea and hopefully this will become a feature in future WCC. It gave us the opportunity to overnight in two of the nicest anchorages in Langebaan Lagoon, namely Oude Post and Kraal Bay.

This event apart from the fun and social aspect of introducing local and "foreign" sailors to each other, is a wonderful opportunity for boat owners to experience arguably the finest sailing waters that South Africa has to offer while being introduced at the same time to a wide range of overnight anchorages in the company of a fleet of yachts under the command of a jacked up group of individuals making sure that the entire event from catering to communications to the arranging of berths runs smoothly right up to the customary breakfast and prize-giving on the final day, leaving the participants the simple task of enjoying the sailing and camaraderie of being on the water with their mates and enjoying their boats.

On a final note, some food for thought seeing that these sailing waters are available to us for most of the year, sometime ago my wife and I sailed out of Port Owen for a period of eleven days and apart from two nights in Simon's Town, every other night was spent in a different anchorage or marina. The West Coast has a lot to offer when it comes to being a boat owner, head out and enjoy yourselves.

Allan Ward . S/V : Windward . www.windwardvoyage.blogspot.com

Foot Loose

The West Coast presents some of the best sailing waters, the most beautiful small bays, Kraal bay, Oudepos, whales, dolphins, sunfish, different species of birds. This is what makes the WCC unique.

The success of the 2018 WCC can be accredited to the good communication and management upheld by Derek and his Cruise Committee. We always knew what was to happen next, communication was excellent and although you were free to start and finish at your own leisure you knew that you were always covered by the bigger safety net. Excellent!!

Footloose will be back next year!

Blokkies Loubser