

Martha Cove 12-14 Feb 2016 Trip Report

Attendees:

- Renato & Domenica Greco - The Boss - Cr 2800
- John & Jane, Matilda & Fletcher Archibald - Archie - Cr 2600
- Jay & Leanne Davis - Serenity - Cruisemaster 700
- Tony & Gemma Dickson - G&T - Cruisemaster 700
- Tony & Diane Marshall - Serenity Too - Cr 2380
- Tony & Shirleen Le Cluse - Le Cruise - Cr 2600 (day trip & visits)
- Peter & Caroline Holyoake - Black Sheep - Cr 2600

Friday the 12th saw 3 cruisers launch for the night, with Renato and Domenica Greco, John & Jane Archibald, with twins Fletcher and Matilda, and Gemma and Tony Dickson. It was a little windy, but all in all a beautiful warm night to catch up and talk boats! We were unsure who was going to be within our final numbers, expecting anything between 6 and 10 boats.

Gemma had towed G&T down to Martha Cove during the day, and within an hour of arriving, two cars came to grief in the last round about before the boat ramp. Not too sure how, but one car ended up on its roof. Help had well and truly arrived though, and thankfully no one appeared too seriously hurt. Strange that this happened within 100m's of where I was, and yet Tony heard about it in the traffic report before I knew about it!

Saturday's forecast always promised a strengthening sea breeze, so it was decided to be as quick as possible to get out there to swim and snorkel down towards Sorrento. Peter and Caroline Holyoake were on their way, as was Tony & Diane Marshall. Jay was right on the dot of 9am having already seen to early morning fridge repairs, and now just awaited Leanne to recover from her nursing nightshift. We were unlucky in meeting Gary Moreland with his very new boat, having just had handover on Friday, though Peter Holyoake did meet him briefly at the ramp. (We are very excited for you Gary and Kerry!)

The cruise down to our chosen destination of Rye was lovely. There were no boating issues, and we enjoyed a gentle breeze, warm weather and occasional bursts of sunshine. Once anchored and rafted together, Tony D, Matilda and Fletcher were the first to go snorkelling. Gemma was not far behind, though regretted the sunblock that kept her face mask and flippers slipping. The intrepid snorkelers found lots of fish, a sting ray and squid which was all a lot of fun, and Renato was quick to get the rod in and catch the squid, so well done you!

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch, with Tony and Diane finding us towards the end of lunch. Jay was enjoying fishing off in the distance, and Peter and Caroline were enjoying boating closer to Martha Cove.

There was a yachting event or two over the weekend, as many large boats had arrived at the marina Friday evening and departed Saturday morning like cows going off to milking, in that they were all within metres of each other and off with a purpose. Now during the day, we could see hundreds of sails, of all sizes, with their spinnakers and jibs at full flight. Some of the more colourful sails were captured by Tony D on camera with one right behind Renato then Jay underway, making their Cruiser's appear to have morphed into a sailing cruiser!

After one last snorkel around the boat, Matilda and Fletcher were off to fish with John and Jane elsewhere, and Renato and Domenica, with Jay and Leanne, headed off to try their luck at fishing. But the wind was picking up, and by the time we returned to the marina, the thought of fishing was overpowered by the thought of a quiet ale or G&T! So within half an hour, we had all moored in our berths and enjoyed a long Happy Hour!!

Tony and Shirleen returned their boat to their own mooring, and later dropped by, but in full happy hour missed their calls. To our surprise we did meet up with John Mather though, having moored right beside his very new and beautiful sky blue Cr 2600. He joined us for Happy Hour, and stayed for long enough to eat all his left over snacks and for Tony to check out his boat. Dream on Tony!

Dinner was had by all and a few more chats, glasses of wine, and another late night!

Sunday brought a lot more wind, and sadly we had to abandon the Bay, particularly given Jay's crew had given it the thumbs down! But Tony and Shirleen came back for a visit, as did Paul and Marielle Van Pampus, though poor Marielle was in a bad way with her back giving her grief!

So out came the ropes and some knot skills. First Gemma showed what she had done with making G&T's tow bridle, splicing a 3ply rope to suit, and using a 2200kg capacity pulley. Also with a 30m tow rope, using a stainless steel rated D Shackle or similar to fix to the eyebolt at the bow, and then using velcro to hold the rope tightly to the rail to the side of the anchor, then neatly stowed, again using Velcro to keep the rope neat and ready to deploy in an emergency.

We looked at effective rope use on a marina cleat, then the Clove Hitch and Bowline knots. There were a few different methods of remembering the clove hitch for fixing fenders to the boat railing, and lots of loop attempts until the bowline became a simple and easy knot for towing and fixing to bollards etc. John Archibald then added a new knot he finds useful as a professional fire fighter, with the figure 8 knot.... with several applications and variations of its use in boating.

All in all it was a great session, with some excitement to improve the set up on some boats.

The wind was not going to ease, and so Gemma and Tony were first to pull out to attend an 18th birthday for a niece and nephew which was a great bonus! Others were not far behind in pulling out, and even though a little short, it was a lovely weekend with all our members and friends!

To master your ropes check the following links from Animated Knots.com

- [Cleat Hitch](#)
- [Clove Hitch](#)
- [Bowline](#)
- [Figure 8](#)
- [Splicing 3 ply rope](#)
- and try the [Truckers Hitch](#)

Happy Boating,

Written by Gemma Dickson