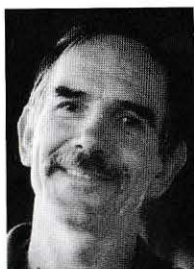


The Squadron Cruising Committee

Cruising folk and their varied activities, in both power and sailing boats, are representative of the diversity of membership that characterises the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron. Who are these people who prefer the cruising life to the 'thrills and spills of racing'?

Curiously enough many have come from a dinghy racing background but have graduated to the adventures and enjoyment that cruising offers.



Cruising Committee Chairman **Mike Fowler** is as keen a cruiser as they come, but his sailing beginnings were in racing International Cadet Dinghies and 14ft Skiffs. Mike quickly moved into race officialdom as OOD, Sailing Committee

Chairman and Flag Officer for Henley Sailing Club. He is now a life member of Henley and a Past President of Yachting South Australia. Helen and Mike Fowler's yacht *Piping Shrike* is easy to find, for it is large and heavy and therefore to be missed at all costs. Decorated in the State colours (often mistaken by cretins for the Crow's colours) *Piping Shrike* is guarded by Helen's dog Pita and has a colourful crew, who are often decked out in Fisher & Paykel T-shirts.

Members of the Squadron for six years, the Fowlers have had *Piping Shrike* for seven years, and during that time have made many improvements to her. They have sailed extensively in the two gulfs and KI waters.

Mike is currently on the Racing Rules Committee of Yachting South Australia. During the week he is part of the pre-press production team at Finsbury Press.

John Deniet, known to his Squadron friends as Mr. Magic, has a wonderful attitude to life. Just ask him - it's magic!

Building house extensions keeps John's body fed and watered, building and sailing boats



feeds his soul. Coming from a long line of Dutch seafarers, John has been a member of the Squadron, with his wife Pam, for about 11 years. A keen cruiser, this is his third year as a member of the Cruising Committee.

Deniet boats have included a Gwen 12, an Arafura 11 ft catamaran, a 30 ft Sparta built by John from scratch in plywood, and their most recent boat, a Lexcen 9.5 called *Maybe*. Currently, the 11 metre *Magical* is under construction at the Deniet's home in Warradale. John and Pam's popularity as crew on other boats, such as Marlene Jay's *Crusader*, Bernie and Carmon Matzat's *Camelot*, and David Rawnsley's *Irene's Endeavour*, means Mr. Magic will have to perform some special tricks to get *Magical* finished! Unfortunately for the Cruising Committee, John is retiring to concentrate on getting their new boat finished.



After an overseas career as a Chemical Engineer in research and production of photographic films, **Bernie Matzat** settled in Australia. When he had to give up his pastime of flying light aircraft, he turned to boating. Now motor vessel *Camelot* suits him and his wife Carmon just fine.

After five years on a steep learning curve, including a lot of work refitting the boat, they now feel confident fully to explore the magic of cruising South Australian waters. *Camelot* is the Matzat's first boat and this summer they cruised to Wirrina and Kangaroo Island at Christmas, catching up with other Squadron boats in American River and Bay of Shoals. Later and for the first time, they ventured to Port Lincoln and the marvellous waters of southern Spencer's Gulf.

Bernie always has the right technical gadget for the moment: when *Pied Piper* brought engineless *Limoca* into Wirrina, the first entry for both, it was Bernie, using a hand-held VHF radio who directed them into just the right pen. The gadget that really impressed the crew though was Carmon's breadmaker, which helps to attract welcome visitors on board *Camelot*!

Besides being an enthusiastic member of the Squadron's Cruising Committee, Bernie is an accomplished amateur film maker and computer enthusiast.



When **Ian Sando** turned 50, his wife and long-time love Joan, brought him his first Squadron Membership for his birthday present. He was delighted and brought their boat *Chardonnay* from the Port Adelaide Sailing Club to the Squadron

pool. That was about five years ago, and the Sandos have since explored the waters of St. Vincent's Gulf and the north coast of Kangaroo Island many times.

Ian and Joan previously had the Top Hat 25 *Lady Alice*, now also moored at the Squadron.

Ian spent his working life with international company Dunlop, at one time managing the plant at Windsor Gardens which produced 1200 retread tyres per day.

The Sando family have been keen water skiers on the River Murray. Now retired and with four adult children, Ian has more freedom than he has ever had, and time to plan for the next cruising challenge; participation in the cruising division of the 1999 Adelaide to Port Lincoln Blue Water Classic.

John Wickham started sailing at the Squadron at the age of thirteen (37 years ago) in Yachting World Cadet Dinghies. By age 15 he was sailing with Tom Flint in Tom's Dragon, having the time of his life and establishing a love of many things maritime.

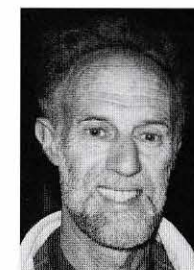


After a break from sailing, John and Veronica returned to sailing in trailer-yachts *D Talia* (an Ultimate 18 and still in the Squadron) and then *Leda* (a Cole23). However their hearts were set on a keel boat. The 30 foot Cole *Shalamar* was built by the Wickhams in their

back yard and launched in 1984. John and Veronica have spent the last 15 years cruising SA waters.

It was with mixed feelings that the Wickhams passed *Shalamar* to its new owners last month, however their sights are set on bigger things.

John and Veronica have joined Roger and Marian Holden on a few cruises in Queensland over the past three years and are looking forward to another cruise soon. No doubt they will be keeping their eyes open for a new dream machine.



Alan Duncan is representative of those many Squadron members who enjoy cruising as well as racing and whose boats are fitted out for both. Alan and Fay Duncan's *Amarina* is a worthy contender in the Division 2 Twilight

Series and Alan is a valued crew on other racing boats, including *Amourette*, in the Adelaide to Port Lincoln Blue Water Classic. Since retiring in 1993, Alan has also crewed several times delivering yachts between Adelaide and Sydney. Alan sailed his first boat, an 11 ft. Heron, out of the Port River Sailing Club, before taking up the faster 16 ft. Fireball Class. Alan's working life was spent in a variety of positions with British Tube Mills, which became Tubemakers and finally in a division of Tubemakers called Bundy Tubing. Alan and Fay have been Members of the Squadron for about 12 years, enjoying social aspects as well as sailing.

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