

Racing and a Delivery, South East Asia: Gatesy and Ali



With the sale of their trusty vessel Legs Eleven, Anthony and Ali Gates are open to different adventures. This is Gatesy's most recent instalment of their adventures in South East Asia.

Hi Guys,

Lots of news, since it has been a while since the last letter.

Legs Eleven has been sold!! Lucky there is no lack of good rides.

Ali and I sailed on *Somtarn Express* a Phuket 8 Sportsboat in Phang Nga Bay Regatta, Phuket, Thailand with our lightest crew ever. Three couples raced and we cleaned up in Div 1 in the light and shifty conditions. Go the Cowgirls and boys!

I sailed on *Moto Inzi* a Firefly 8.5 Sports Cat in the Royal Langkawi International Regatta, Malaysia. We ended up winning both divisions. Phuket 8's and Firefly 8.5's can be found at www.sea-phuket.com then go to new boats or visit regatta sites for photos.

Delivery of *Maddelena* a Beneteau, Oceanus 390 - Langkawi to Bali

The first leg was Langkawi to Sebaná Cove (still in Malaysia but east of Singapore).

I had never met the crew member organized to help me for the first leg to Sebaná and then on to Bali. Daz (of course his missus is Kaz, I kid you not) turned out to be a gem. Willing to tackle any job, with a great attitude, he was worth his weight in gold, which was vital as the boat was ex charter and not set up for long passages.

Daz re-invented the wheel, or actually the Autopilot and the boat went well. Then all we had to do was point her in the right direction and avoid fishing floats or nets and not get run down by a ship, barge or unlit fishing boat in the busy and hence stressful Malacca/Singapore Straits. We motored or motor sailed the 450nm in calm conditions with the odd thunderstorm and squall thrown in at night to make it interesting.

The owner joined us in Sebaná for the next leg, 950 nm to Bali. Crossing Singapore Strait was easier than I remembered. Just look left and then right as you cross the traffic separation lanes and you should be OK. It was a Friday so maybe most of the boats where at the Mosque. We had light conditions until 135nm NNW of Pulau Bawean where the motor abruptly stopped at 0400 on my watch.

I assumed a fuel problem, so replaced the filter and bleed system but I couldn't get fuel to the injectors.

I then assumed the injector pump was at fault but I knew nothing of its workings. Time to phone a friend. David Henshall agreed that the problem was with the pump, and as I couldn't fix it with the tools onboard I set course for Surabaya. By sun up the wind became sailable and, covered in diesel, we set sail for Surabaya, 195nm south. The weather held and we sailed right into the inner port where we were towed to anchor.

With our CAIT (cruising permit for Indonesia) awaiting us in Bali but not finalised, and not being cleared into Indonesia, we could have been classed as illegals. I headed to the Harbour Master. Mr Rocky was pleasant and

... the whale saw us, 'relieved itself' all over us and tried to smash us with his tail. the rest of the trip was a bit uneventful.

accepting, asking after he had received the ship's papers, for a written letter explaining our circumstances, and suggesting that I see Immigration in the morning. He then organised a mechanic.

Immigration agents wanted US\$750 but after four hours I offered them US\$25. They gave up, and stamped us in as crew for 60 days free.

It took three days to repair and clean the injector pump which, due to a design fault with Yanmar 3GM30's, meant taking the front of the engine off including fresh and salt water cooling pumps.

With no wind we then motored on to Bali.

On the north coast of Bali we spotted a whale. On closer inspection, We pottered over to inspect and when it didn't move I decided it was a great time for a swim. Only after looking in to its eye at less than 5m did I determine that it wasn't a friendly hump back but an upset sperm whale in distress. At this time the +18m whale saw us, 'relieved itself' all over us and tried to smash us with its tail. It did miss us by a bit but the wash from the tail and the 'sudden outburst' was enough for us to backpedal pretty fast. I would not recommend anyone at home try this stunt!

After that the rest of the trip was a bit uneventful.

Ali who was now on holidays, flew down and we hired a jeep for 3 days to drive around the east and north coast before heading to the active Volcano Batur, Candikuning Lakes and Ubud.

We did pretty well the first day stopping at one black beach covered in outriggers for lunch where we had an

excellent Ikan Bakar with my favorite sambal and not a rubberneck in sight.

We then headed north to the anchorage we used overnight on the way in to check it out in daylight. Uncharted reef blocks stick out to the north of where we anchored and it was one of these I took to be a jetty and to the south is an oil unloading facility.

That night we stayed at a great place owned by a pom who calls himself an Ozzie. John is a retired stone mason who has worked all around the world including Venice, Florence and in the Rocks in Sydney. He married a local girl Wayan, who runs an excellent place overlooking Lombok Strait. They rent out two cottages on the block and run an open house for all. This includes a local dance school started with the villagers whom they sponsor and train. Their place is called Kebun Impian and is at Dusun Merajan, Seraya Barat, Karangsem, Bali. You won't find it on the map. Just email joway_bali@yahoo.com for bookings and directions.

We are now both happily at home in Penang chilling out until Ali starts school next week.

Coming Events:

22nd-23rd July: Naga Cup (Phuket)
Somtam Express, Phuket 8
Sportsboat

27th-30th July: Phuket Race Week,
Somtam Express, Phuket 8
Sportsboat

If anyone would like a ride in any of these regattas drop me a line. Details about the regattas can be found just by doing a search.
Keep in touch

Luv
Ali & Gatesy

P.S. Don't forget we have a spare room.



Seaweed Garden Group

Volunteers on the last Sunday morning of the month are always welcome.

Beach Party after the Inkster Memorial Race

Sue Warneford



'What sort of function do we need to get every one to party?' was the question posed on a quiet evening when nothing much was happening. 'We need to organise a night where everyone can party and have a good time what ever their age'.

'What about a beach party?' someone suggested.

End result was this year's Inkster Memorial After Race Party. It started over a cup of coffee one evening a couple of months ago and snowballed into one of the best evenings I have been involved in at the Squadron.

The ideas rolled in: we need sand, surf boards, fish and chips, rum & coke, music, The Beach Boys, wet T-shirts, sombreros, bikinis, board shorts, sarongs, wind surfers and hey, what about a spa? Not all ideas were practical, some were expanded on, some were discarded but a dedicated group from the House & Social and Racing Committees, plus the Squadron catering staff, spent many hours working out how to make it work.

It started quietly and I remember clearly standing at the door of Jimmy's Bar thinking "I hope this works, where is everyone?" The spa is here and bubbling, the band playing, the beer's cold, the BBQ is hot." However the weather had been so bad for the last week everyone was enjoying the sunshine on the back of their boat after the race, and were slow to move onto the Quarterdeck. An hour later and I stopped worrying. NE2, our band for the night, stepped up the tempo, and a couple of people were coerced into dancing, thank you Alan Duncan for your co-operation! The party really kicked off.

Malibu, our sponsors for the evening, provided samples and prizes, the queues started to form for the fantastic burgers that Amanda, our chef

was creating on the BBQ and the spa was a great hit. Heated to 40deg, it was just the thing on a slightly cool but fine evening

Initially only the younger party animals made use of the spa, but as the night wore on more sailors 'dived' in. It came with a surround sound system, which we never got to work very well, and DVD player, which we did eventually get to work. The best comment was 'Wait till the boys round the corner hear about this, they will be so.o.o.o jealous! We'll make this a regular thing after regattas!'

Great idea Caillin!

Although the night was cool and beachwear was probably not the most practical thing to wear, except in the heated spa, a great night was had by all. The mix of people was quite surprising, from Keith Flint, a member for over 60 years, to Albert Mead, Nick Wilkins and Patrick McKenzie pictured above here enjoying the spa, and all enjoying the fellowship of the Squadron.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made such a great success, and yes we will do it again and better next year, and yes the band will be playing later and we will party so hard that we will all need breakfast and spa the next morning. I'm definitely looking forward to it!



To receive the Squadron
Quarterly Newsetter

Middle Watch

confirm that your email
address is correct
at the office

member.services@squadron.asn.au