

December 2011



AHOY SA !

Yachting South Australia's Newsletter

Keep up to date by watching the YSA web page every week !

<http://www.sa.yachting.org.au/>

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The YSA Board and office wishes all members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The YSA Office will be closed from 23 Dec 2011 and re-open on Monday 9th January 2012. If you are trying to find your YA number, look on the right hand side of the YSA website <http://www.sa.yachting.org.au/> for a search engine. You need to know your first name, surname (that should be easy) and the postcode of your address as it appears in the YA database. If you have moved recently, that may not have been update by your club.

NATIONALS

Many sailors are competing in Nationals and we wish them all the success in their events.

A contingent of youth sailors is travelling to Queensland for the Australian Youth Championships commencing 6th January. Keep an eye on their progress at <http://www.youthchamps.org.au/>

BE WEATHER WISE

How to “check the weather before you go out” on the water.

As you prepare to head out on the water this summer, the Bureau of Meteorology is emphasising the need to be aware of weather conditions on the water with its “check the weather before you go out” campaign. The Bureau provides a round-the-clock forecast service for all Australian coastal waters.

There are three things to take note of when checking the weather to plan your boating trip:

1. Are warnings current for the area you are going boating?
2. Will weather conditions affect the safe navigation of your boat?
3. Will wind and wave conditions affect the comfort of your passengers or your boat's fuel economy?

Warnings

Warnings are the highest priority forecasts issued by the Bureau for coastal waters and warn of extreme wind conditions expected during the next 24 hours.

- A *strong wind warning* is for wind speeds of 26 knots or greater, indicating rough conditions for small boats;
- A *gale warning* is for wind speeds of 34 knots or greater;
- A *storm force wind warning* is for wind speeds of 48 knots or greater;
- A *hurricane force wind warning* is for wind speeds of 64 knots or greater.

To check for weather warnings, go to the Bureau of Meteorology Marine Services website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/marine>, select your state and click on the warnings links to obtain details. Warnings are issued up to 24 hours in advance and updated every six hours until conditions moderate.

Winds

To plan your trip for the best conditions, look for trends in *wind speeds* and shifts in *wind direction* over the day. Forecast winds are the average winds you can expect and does not indicate the strength of wind gusts which can be up to 40% stronger.

Wind conditions for the next three or four days can also be found in coastal or local waters forecasts, or from wind forecast maps. Three-hourly graphical marine forecasts are also available from the Bureau's new Marine Forecast Explorer tool available in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. These forecasts are all accessible from the Marine Services website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/marine>.

Waves

You should also take note of the *swell* and *wind wave (seas)* conditions for the area.

Swell waves are not able to penetrate enclosed waterways but will have a dramatic effect on entrances to these areas. Enclosed waterways are affected by waves produced by the wind blowing across the region, called *sea waves*. A sea height of 1 metre could create enough chop to swamp a small boat.

For coastal waters, you need to consider both the *sea* and the *swell* and just how your vessel reacts to short sharp sea waves against longer, flatter but more powerful swell waves. Swell waves can be of considerable danger near reefs and breakwaters.

The combination of the sea and swell heights is indicative of the wave conditions that you will experience on your boat. It is not a simple case of adding the sea to the swell. The calculation method is detailed at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/about/combinedseaswell.shtml>. For example, a 2.5 metre swell combined with 2 metre seas results in actual wave conditions of over 3.2 metres. You can also expect peak waves up to 50% higher than the average.

Weather

Coastal waters forecasts include information about phenomena resulting in heightened risk such as reduced visibility from fog and rain. These forecasts also describe conditions that might affect safety and comfort levels, such as thunderstorms causing squally winds and lightning dangers. Some forecasts also include information about UV levels and the times of the day to use sun protection measures. Coastal waters forecasts include limited information about the expected general weather conditions so it is worthwhile checking adjoining land area forecasts.

Where to access weather forecasts

The Bureau's Marine Services website has a range of forecast products and maps to help you plan your trip up to 7 days in advance. The site also contains information about how to access these services when away from a computer. Descriptive forecasts for the next 3 to 4 days are available

for all coastal areas of Australia. The information is updated twice a day or more frequently if conditions deteriorate, so it is important to stay updated with the latest forecasts.

To help anticipate likely conditions, three-hourly forecast maps, prepared by forecasters, of wind, waves and weather for coastal waters locations are also available from the Bureau's new Marine Forecast Explorer tool. This tool is available in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania and will extended nationally over the next few years.

Forecasts on the water

3G mobile coverage provides phone or wireless card access to the Bureau's marine website whilst close to the coast. If you are unable to access forecasts via computer or smartphone, forecast information can be accessed by VHF and HF radio broadcasts. The Bureau's radio schedule is available at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/radio-sat/marine-radio-sat.shtml>. Depending on local arrangements, warnings are generally broadcast every hour whilst forecasts are generally broadcast every few hours.

AROUND THE CLUBS & CLASSES

New free online training course up and running

The new *Play by the Rules* free online training course is now live and open for registrations. The course features two new modules – 'Child Protection' and 'Harassment and Discrimination' – which replace all of the previous online training courses.

The modules provide information for coaches, administrators, officials, players, parents and spectators on their rights and responsibilities under discrimination and child protection laws. They are succinct, user-friendly and feature the latest interactive technology, including case studies, practical scenarios and quizzes.

To enrol go to: www.playbytherules.net.au/online-learning

YSA FACEBOOK

YSA has a Facebook Fan Page. Look for the one with the YSA



YSA MEETING NEWS

YSA Council

Next Council Meeting -- Tuesday 21st February 2012 Venue: SportSA Adelaide Shores

OFFICE TALK

OFFICE CLOSURE

The YSA Office will be closed from 23 Dec 2011 and re-open on Monday 9th January 2012. Messages left on the answering machine will be checked and responded to if possible.

YSA FEES

The final instalment for the club fees is due by 31st December. As the office will not open until 9th Jan 2012, any payments made up to that date will be deemed to be paid before the due date.

A reminder that the Board has instituted a late payment fee of \$200.

YSA SINGLET

Great value at \$33.00.....**Only a few left**



Clubs & Associations : Please update your email addresses with us!

If you are a club or class association, please check that your email address is current. Members regularly change email addresses and now, with the new Constitution, formal notice of meetings and other business can now be sent to the last email address we have on file for you.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Grants are available through the Office of Recreation & Sport

- Funding for Coaches, Officials and Volunteers - Closes 3rd Feb 2012

<http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au/funding-scholarships/coach-official-volunteer.html>
