

FORUM FEAR: IT'S EASIER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK!

Simon Currin, Moderator, OCC Forum

The OCC Forum is now five years old and, thanks to the enthusiastic and informed posts of our members, has become a treasure trove of information. There's a vast and growing amount of pilotage and technical information in there, all of which can be searched using the search tab within the Forum.


This spring a new group of users were tempted to post for the first time when the Forum was used to host the election platform for our two candidates for Commodore. Some needed a little hand-holding as they were nervous about making their first post, but they very soon got the hang of things and it was great to convert self-confessed technophobes into confident contributors. Their hesitancy has prompted this brief introduction to the Forum in the hope that we can tempt more users to contribute their knowledge and experience to the many discussions within it. For it is the abundance of experience within our ranks that makes the Forum such a valuable resource.

Some people condemn the Forum as Facebook's poor imitation. It is, in fact, a very different animal, designed to complement Facebook and not compete with it. The Forum provides a permanent and searchable record of discussions, whereas Facebook lives in the present and, however interesting the thread, it gets lost in time. Also, the Forum has some basic architecture which makes it possible to navigate to information nuggets, whereas Facebook is delightfully random. Both have their place, and both are invaluable resources for our members.

Here are some facts and hints to help you join in the discussions:

1. Have no fear. There is nothing that you can do to screw it all up. In case of doubt just drop me a line at simon@medex.org.uk and I can move, edit or delete your post. I really am very keen to help!
2. Choose a topic or discussion you would like to contribute to. If you want to start a new topic then e-mail me and I'll add it.
3. The Forum is fully integrated with the rest of the OCC website so you can browse your way to it using the navigation menus on the Club's Homepage, www.oceancruisingclub.org. Click on **OCC Forum** in the list on the left.
4. Use the tabs to navigate and search. At the top of the Forum there are self-explanatory tabs – for instance, the **Recent Topics** tab will bring up the most recent discussions (spelling errors and all!) – see screen-grabs opposite. Other tabs will display the structure of the Forum.
5. Enter your website log-in details. Most of the Forum can be read without logging in, but some crucial bits require it, and to make a post you must be logged in. If you don't have a username or password then e-mail Club Secretary Rachelle Turk on secretary@oceancruisingclub.org for assistance. The log-in details you need are the same as those required to access the rest of the website – see opposite.





Index
Recent Topics
New Topic
No Replies
My Topics
Profile
Rules
Help
Search


Welcome, **simoncurrin**
Last Visit Date: Today
Logout

Forum
Recent Topics

73 Topics
Month
Board Categories
Go
P:


Recent Discussions

0 Replies		Grenada via ABC, San Blas, Cartegna ...to Mexico Category: Passage Planning Advice Topic started 11 hours 6 minutes ago by Russ.Altendorff	4 Views		Last F Russ.. 11 ho
0 Replies		Bill Hatfield, OCC Category: Antarctic, Patagonia & South America Topic started 3 days 19 hours ago by alshaheen	6 Views		Last F 3 days

- Drill down. Within each topic you can, by clicking, drill down to read the discussions within it.
- Post away without a care. Once you have found a discussion you would like to contribute to then just hit the **Reply** button at bottom right. A new window will

TOPIC: Bill Hatfield, OCC

Bill Hatfield, OCC 3 days 19 hours ago
#3061

alshaheen

OFFLINE
Posts: 94
Thank you received: 21
Karma: 9

BILL HATFIELD, OCC

Bill Hatfield is an Australian member who only joined the Club in July 2015 but has a lifetime of ocean sailing experience behind him. Bill is 77 years old and is currently making a record attempt to sail around the world Sydney to Sydney, solo, unassisted, non-stop and westabout in a 10m (33ft) boat, Katherine Ann.

In order to qualify for a record, Bill had to round an anti-nodal point diametrically opposite to Sydney, which took him to the north end of Faial in the Azores. He set off from Sydney on 10 September 2015, rounded the Cape of Good Hope on 29 November and reached the Azores on 17 January.

At about that time some of us in the OCC became aware of this challenging voyage and, assisted by Simon Currin, Bill entered Katherine Ann into the OCC Fleet Map. Since then we have followed his track southwards towards Cape Horn, which he reached on 23 March. This was his last blog entry.

Bill had been communicating using Iridium Go and had been writing a very interesting blog on: www.sailblogs.com/member/whattfield1/?xjMsgID=372609

On 25 March his daughter Helen wrote on his blogsite as follows:

"Dad has had a serious knockdown, 2 windows smashed, solar panels destroyed, however boat is sound. Position 25 March at 1130 AEST was 56.6532S 70.6312W. (SW Cape Horn) Dad has insufficient battery power to start the motor to get to Ushuaia, so he has decided to continue on to Sydney at this stage. Dad has sufficient food and the water generator is working. As it is dark, he doesn't know if the wind generator is working. If he can sort something out with the solar panels he may be able to occasionally update his position. Current battery power is very low and he may run out of power soon."

There has been no blog entry since then (a week ago) and Bill has not updated his position on Marine Traffic since 24 March.

John Franklin
1 April 2016

Commodore
s/v Al Shaheen

Report to moderator
IP: 109.153.7.54

QUICK REPLY
REPLY
QUOTE
EDIT
MODERATE
DELETE

THANK YOU

REPLY TOPIC
SUBSCRIBE
FAVORITE

DELETE TOPIC
MODERATE TOPIC
STICKY
LOCK

Page: 1

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open, into which you can type your reply. There are all manner of formatting buttons within that window, but save these for when you are an enthusiast! Alternatively create your post in your normal text program and then paste it into the window.

8. Save what you have done. At the bottom of the window you will see the all-important **Submit** button. Hit that and you have made your first post.
9. Start a new discussion. If you have some nugget you want to share, or a question to which you want an answer, but you can't find where to put it, then hit the **New Topic** discussion and away you go. Don't be alarmed if I move it later to a more appropriate place to fit it within the overall structure.

10. **Attachments and pictures:** When creating your post you will see the **Add File** button which enables you to insert attachments. The size of each attachment is limited to 10MB, and documents should be in PDF format. One of the commonest queries I get arises from people trying to attach a Word or Excel document. These formats are not allowed as they can be edited.

11. Read the full discussion. The number of posts displayed at any one time is limited, so use the **Page** button at bottom right to browse through a topic with scores of responses.

12. The sky's the limit. There are many functions within the Forum that you will never need to use, but don't hesitate to ask if you are struggling.

13. **Housekeeping:** Keeping the content fresh is the hardest task, and I need your help with this. Send me a link when you find something that needs to be deleted and I will do the deed. For instance, if you've advertised something as **For Sale**, please let me know when it is sold.

The Forum really is very easy to use and every new post adds to the archive of useful information at our finger tips, so please take the plunge and get posting. Every corner of the OCC world is in there, whether it's sharing information about a favourite anchorage, selling your superyacht, solving a technical problem, or a visa issue in Vanuatu. Please add your experience to the mix for everyone's benefit. Thank you, and welcome to the OCC Forum! 🤗

The screenshot shows the 'Reply Topic' form for the topic 'Bill Hatfield, OCC'. The form includes a 'Subject' field with the topic name, a 'Topic icon' field with a selection of icons, a 'Boardcode' field with a selection of emojis, and a 'Message' field with a text area and a 'bbCode Help' link. Below the message field is an 'Attachments' section with a file input field and an 'Add File' button. At the bottom, there is a 'Subscribe' checkbox with the text 'Check this box to be notified of replies to this topic.' and three buttons: 'Submit', 'Preview', and 'Cancel'.