

Real Life Skills - Build a Yacht and Learn to Sail!



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Portuguese Gypsies building a FireBug at the Nautico Clube Boa Esperanca in Lisbon. They're enjoying the experience so much they don't want it to finish! Learn to sail next?



Antonio Reports from Lisbon
 Hello Peter, the building with the gypsies is going well. I enjoy the teaching. It takes me back to the time when they were nomads and selling carved clothes pegs at fairs. They call their place 'The Farm' but live in apartments and their kids go to school!
 The guy in dark overalls is Carlos, father of Rubén the horse rider and Carlos jnr with a beard and black shirt who is unemployed with a daughter, three sons and two nephews all living together. The boy with the hat, Joaquim, built a FireBug model and the man wearing the jeans jacket was a sailor who travelled the world but lives in poverty now because he never paid contributions for social security. They loved doing the FireBug building! Best, Antonio

Ruben arrives for 'Bug building!



Eight Footer Regatta at Concord Ryde in Sydney

CRSC held a regatta in March to find the best eight foot club racer for adults and kids. Unfortunately the weather didn't come to the party with very light airs and even after a lot of promises on the internet only FireBugs and Optimists turned up. The weather was exactly forecast - no wind for the first race which was cancelled and a mere zephyr for the afternoon race. Ross Venner's White Dwarf found a breath at the start and got away. Phil Sullivan in Gum Leaf dived with the leading Optimist. Another fortunate breath at the leeward mark enabled White Dwarf to gain more distance and win by over 4 minutes. Gum Leaf lost its duel with Smiley Express, Sachi Clapham's Optimist, by a mere 28 seconds. 'Bugs also took 4th and 6th positions. After the racing top Opti sailor Sachi Clapham (and I like this bit), commented.. 'Next season I want a FireBug!'



Max Gluskie going for it and on his way to win the Tassie Champs which were held at the Bellerive Yacht Club. Max Cooper was second, Adele Aucherlone third. Team Boss Des says 'A great effort by all the competitors in strong winds.'



Joao Jnr in Lisbon pushing his luck!



WANTED! - Fast sailing photos like this old shot. FireBugs plane like no other!



From Mike in South Africa..

Mike Harrison writes: 'I've been a bit quiet on the sailing front. I wanted to enter that big inland 2 day race back in February but got tick-bite fever just before it. As it turns out, it was windless and very hot over the days the race was held, so wasn't such a good one this year anyway.'



Mike's boat, looking good on the roof.

FireBug Sails in Fabo Shark Bay

Patric Walsh from Perth writes: 'We have had some amazing adventures already on the FireBug. The photo is one that I really love - no smiling faces, but it embodies that anticipation of jumping in and just sailing off. I understand that this is the first sail in the Shark Bay World Heritage area, ever, for a Firebug. Perfect in and around the bay for this fantastic little boat.'



Pat Walsh in Paradise at Shark Bay WA.

Sometimes it's easier with a REEF!!

When I was a boy an old fella told me 'The time to reef is when you first think about it.' And it's more than true in a 'Bug. It's easier and you will probably go faster! A lot of young sailors don't weigh much yet and the boat is a handfull when it blows or is gusty. Good on you Archer, right decision! See below..



Archer Mackay with a reef in during the windy Tasmania Champs at Bellrive.

New Boats and Launchings etc..



Campbell rigging 'Tigris'.

Campbell Sharp writes from Palmerston North: 'Ten years after my father and I started we launched 'Tigris' and I got to sail for the second time in my life. Very rewarding!'



Drew with 'Mega' in Central Victoria.

'Hi Peter, we launched at Lake Eppalock near Bendigo. Light winds were perfect for the first sail and it performed really well. I was surprised that 2 adults could fit in without too much trouble. My kids both loved it and I look forward to them learning to sail solo. Thanks I have loved the journey, it's been a great build.' Drew Roberts.

Mini Scow Designers on to It..



Here's the UltraBug? The latest Mini Transat 6.5m scow. Wouldn't that would be fun to sail! Plane right across the Atlantic!

The 6.5m (21.3 feet) Mini Transat scows are experiencing mad speed and great results as the design evolves. But as the Sailing Anarchy website says.. 'Thanks to aesthetics and fear, the hull form is outlawed in other major design classes - the Open 60, TP52, Class 40 - so this is the only place to find ocean racing scows - at least until someone has the balls to go break Sydney-Hobart records in a 100 foot version... We dig it; not only do we love scows, but we also like disruptive designs and the guys who put their finger up to the establishment!' - Sailing Anarchy

And more new Boats..



'Hi Pete, All four of our grandchildren sailed single handed on recent Waiheke holiday. This is Alex. Cheers, Ken Hulls.



David coming and/or going all at once!

'Hello Pete, I'm on a 2 day learn to sail course in Sydney. All the instructors seem to be from England. I think they are England Cricket Team supporters who have bailed out after the third test! Best Regards, David'



Ian Warren's son Jamie is already excited about going sailing on the estuary in Christchurch

'BugNews gets Better and Better!

Thanks for the great photos and news: Des Clark, Mike Gluskie, Antonio Cabrita, Ray O'Brien, Mike Harrison, Joao Macedo, Ian Warren, Campbell Sharp, David Hogan, Ken Hulls, Ross Venner and Drew Roberts.



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