

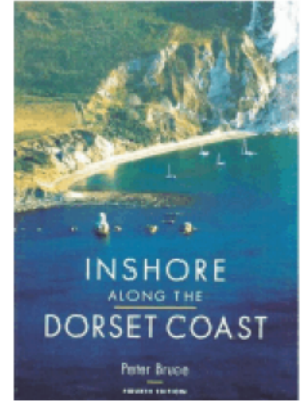
## Reading Offshore Club

invite you to the forthcoming talks

Mon 01 February 2010 – **PETER BRUCE**

After many years in the Royal Navy Peter continues to spend much of his time either racing, cruising or researching his pilotage books from his home in Lymington. He has achieved a string of victories in his own yachts making him one of the top Corinthian skippers in the world. He has twice been in Britain's winning Admirals Cup team and taken part with distinction in most of the Fastnet races since his first in 1961.

Peter is perhaps most well known for the books he has written, especially his update of Adlard Coles' "Heavy Weather Sailing". His book is different in many ways from the original and includes contributions from several famous sailors and is considered to be essential reading for any offshore yachtsman. Many of us will be familiar with his books on Solent Hazards and Solent Tides.



His talk about the exceptionally beautiful and interesting East Dorset coast from Christchurch Bay to Portland Bay will cover in detail the nautical lore, delights and history of the area.

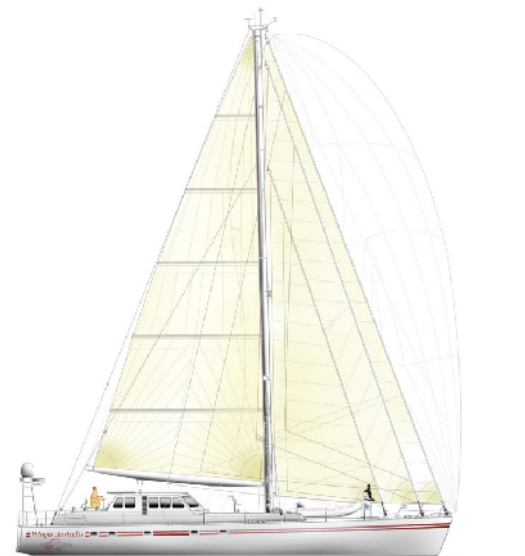


Mon 01 March – **RICHARD STEELE**

Encouraged by his son to take part in last year's Fastnet Race, Richard embarked on the intensive programme of 3 RORC cross channel races on the boat *Venomous*, skippered by Derek Saunders, and attended the requisite safety courses. He finished 20th overall out of a fleet of 267 and 2nd in his class. His talk will chart the events, lessons learned, skills and insights, leading up to and including the race itself.

Mon 12 April 2010 – **MARK RITCHIE**

In February 2007, *Pelagic Australis*, with Mark Ritchie on board, found shelter in the lee of the Woollaston Islands as another Force 10 gale flung itself around Cape Horn. Three weeks later, *Pelagic* was back in the same spot with another gale having chased the boat back across the Drake Passage. In the intervening days, *Pelagic* and her crew had enjoyed a superb cruise down the Antarctic Peninsula as far as 66.33 degrees South. Mark has kindly agreed to come and give an illustrated talk to the Club about the voyage.



Mark's sailing life began when he taught himself to sail a Vaurien dinghy on the Lake of Geneva, which, he reports, is bloody cold even in summer. This led to a spell, before children, uncompetitively racing GP14s on reservoirs in the Midlands. But, as the waistline expanded, larger boats beckoned, and since the early 90s he has cruised and raced in a variety of boats, participating in cross-channel races and two Fastnets. Chartering and cruising has been mainly confined to the Channel Islands, Brittany, Mediterranean, Caribbean and Canaries. His current folly is to dream about studying the ecology and culture of (politically stable) countries that border the Caribbean Sea from the command of a Swan 60!

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All the above meetings will be at 2000 hrs at the Upper Thames Motor Yacht Club in Sonning.  
Directions and maps are available on our website.

**Bar available.**

[www.readingoffshore.org.uk](http://www.readingoffshore.org.uk)

Admission for non-members £3, redeemable against subscription if you choose to join ROC