

YMF INSTANT FINANCE AVAILABLE TODAY FROM YOUR LOCAL YAMAHA DEALER **Y-WAIT**

MARINE



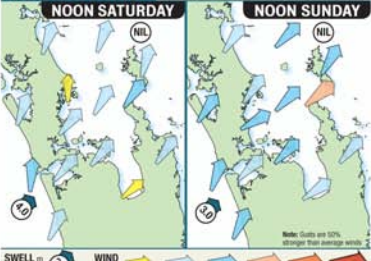
SATURDAY MARCH 13 2010 **C22**

MARINE FORECAST

Saturday, March 13, 2010

metservice.com These model forecasts are computer-generated and may differ from the local forecasts, marine forecasts and warnings. Local forecasts, marine forecasts and warnings take precedence over model forecasts if there is any conflict.

WIND AND SWELL



HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	
Mangonui	7:26am	7.43m	2.2	8:10am	8.29m
Kaipara Heads	9:52am	10.05m	2.9	10:27am	10.59m
Kohukohu	9:41am	10.04m	2.9	10:16am	10.59m
Russell	6:59am	7.16m	2.1	7:43am	8.02m
Whangarei	7:14am	7.31m	2.6	7:59am	8.17m
Auckland	8:44am	7.96m	2.9	7:29am	7.91m
Onewunga	10:09am	10.33m	3.7	10:49am	11.12m
Mamaku Beach	9:36am	10.02m	3.0	10:18am	10.41m
Marine Beach	9:26am	9.52m	2.8	10:09am	10.22m
Coromandel	8:23am	6.43m	2.6	7:08am	7.30m
Mercury Bay	8:23am	6.43m	1.8	7:10am	7.29m
Tauranga	8:25am	6.42m	1.6	7:12am	7.30m
Whakatane	8:03am	6.20m	1.8	6:50am	7.09m
Gisborne	5:02am	5.19m	1.8	5:50am	6.07m

FISHING WITH BRUCE DUNCAN

Snapper are still soft on the bite but are moving in numbers into the upper harbour. Good catches are being reported at Meola Reef and Kauri Pt. Soft and cut baits work sporadically.

WATERWATCH

Sat: Two Handed Around Rangitoto Island, Bucklands Beach Yacht Club; 2-Handed Race, Parnum Yacht & Boat Club; Mullet Boat/L Class Champs DL; Ponsobry Cruising Club; Passage Race Bottom End, Waiatema Yacht Squadron; Repco/New World Cruising Series, West Boating Club; Rocky Bay, Old Fox, Westhaven Yacht Club. **Sat & Sun:** Auckland Junior Sailing Championships (incl Starling Traveler), Howick Sailing Club; Rops 950 Nationals, Ponsobry Cruising Club; Harken New Zealand Schools Regatta, RNZYs. **Sun:** M Class Myln McCurdy Series, Squadron Picnic, RNZYs. **Mon:** Stewart 34 Hyundai Championship Series, RNZYs. **Tue:** Tuesday Night Racing, Bucklands Beach Yacht Club; Pisu 25 Sprints, Royal Akarana Yacht Club; Tuesday Ladies Series, RNZYs. **Wed:** Wednesday Night Racing, Bucklands Beach Yacht Club; War Paint Twilight Series, Gull Harbour Yacht Club; Wednesday Night Series, Richmond

TIDELINES

First winner
The smallest superyacht in the field, the 29m cruising yacht Celestine, won the first New Zealand Marine Cup, the Kiwi Kauai Challenge, on March 4.

Supercity regatta
A new Supercity Regatta for youth (16-18 years) will be held at Torbay Boating Club from April 8-10 and will incorporate the Starling Asia Pacific Championships.

Bold barge knows how to party

Mike Rose discovers the Party Barge is the ideal platform for family fun

WHEN it comes to our boating preferences, we Kiwis tend to be a fairly traditional lot. When it comes to our trailer boats, we generally choose outboards over stern drives, even though the latter are (and have been for a considerable time) far more popular overseas. When we buy our launches, most of us select to power them with a conventionally driven diesel or two, despite there now being a raft of alternatives.

The same applies when we choose the shape of our vessels: monohulls predominate over multihulls and the agreed shape is sharp at the front and blunt down the other end.

It was, therefore, something of a surprise to spend a day on a boat unashamedly shaped like a floating caravan. The vessel in question is the rather aptly named Party Barge 22. As you may already have guessed, it hails from the United States, a place where they generally don't bother too much with subtlety.

The boat is shaped like a barge, is designed for partying and is about 22ft (6.7m) long. Actually, it isn't. In a rare show of modesty, the Americans have understated their case: the boat measures 24ft 2in LOA and even the pontoons on which it rides stretch out to 22ft 1in.

Our boat is the Regency variation Reef, Rangitoto Channel (especially at the light-house end), Motuhare and Sergeant's channels and the Noises. ■ Tips by Bruce Duncan of Spot X.

Best spots: Baywater moorings; Meola Reef; Rangitoto Channel (especially at the light-house end); Motuhare and Sergeant's channels and the Noises. ■ Tips by Bruce Duncan of Spot X.

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ALTERNATIVE: Heather and Bruce Long (below) are keen to show sceptical boaters the advantages of the Party Barge.

REGENCY PARTY BARGE 22

- LOA: 7.37m
- Pontoon Length: 6.99m
- Beam: 2.59m
- Max weight: 810.57kg
- Max Horsepower: 123hp
- Price: From \$59,884

off with a minimum of fuss. In fact, the width of the door and the near-perfect height means there would be absolutely no issue getting a wheelchair or stroller on or off.

The Longs stress this is the important point: the boat is aimed at families and older, possibly retired, couples. These people don't want, and possibly are not able, to clamber over the high coamings of a traditional powerboat.

Getting on the plane is as smooth and as effortless as it would be on a monohull runabout.

The advantage of this design comes once we reach the beach, the Party Barge is simply driven into the sand, we hop off and simply secure the boat to a tree.

Lunch is then served. A large chilly bin, part of the standard package, emerges from its purpose-built cubby-hole under the helm, food containers and utensils appear from the ship's

and around the drink-holder recesses; a comprehensive set of covers that protect those on board from cool winds; lockable rod stowage; a stylish helm station; child-proof access doors at the bow, stern and amidships; a large aft platform, with drop-down ladder; a stereo complete with MP3 jack and four waterproof speakers.

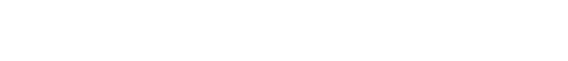
However, the Longs save one of their most compelling arguments to last. Adding top Rotofiti fishing guide Glen Skinner to our crew, they proceed to demonstrate what a great fishing platform this is.

Under Skinner's expert direction, the boat is perfectly positioned over a likely underwater structure and, while the Longs target one area from the bow, I do the same from the stern.

"This is such a great boat for fishing," enthuses Skinner. "Normally I would have to reposition the boat several times to target this structure. However, because we can fish from the front, back and middle, we can literally cover 7m of water without moving. I love it."

The proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating: we caught two nice rainbows from the stern and two even nicer ones from the bow. For families and couples living in a place like Lake Rotofiti, the Party Barge 22 is hard to beat. And that, frankly, is quite a surprise.

■ Contact Marine editor Mike Rose on (09) 483 8284; 021 735 015 or email: mrose@xtra.co.nz



HEATHER AND BRUCE LONG

'We can literally cover 7m of water without moving. I love it.'

GLEN SKINNER
ROTOFITI FISHING GUIDE

Now, many people invite strange dogs on their boats, especially when those boats are demonstrators and packed with luxurious appointments. "What about the fiberglass?" I asked. "Not much fiberglass on this boat," Heather replied.

She was right: the floor is carpeted with washable marine carpet and the seating is covered by sturdy, double-stitched marine vinyl. The latter not only looks superb, it is also exceptionally comfortable and most of the seats come with lumbar supports.

Another thing the Longs are keen to point out is the ease of access. The cockpit door and centrally positioned sliding door are positioned at exactly the right height so one can step on and

Extensive overhaul to raise Endeavour's profile

BY MIKE ROSE
The classic 40m J Class sloop, Endeavour, literally swam into town last week being hoisted high out of the water in the Viaduct Harbour en route to her new temporary home at Yachting Developments in Hobsonville.

Endeavour, often considered one of the top 10 vessels of all time, is heading to Yachting Developments for a major refit. The on-board systems will also get a major upgrade, the crew accommodation will be reconfigured and the

Yacht Club. **Thurs:** Mariner Twilight Series, Pine Harbour Cruising Club; Liquor King Rum Race, Ponsobry Cruising Club; Young 88 Sprint Series, RNZYs. **Fri:** Half Moon Bay Marina Rum Race, Bucklands Beach Yacht Club; Collinson/Fox Friday Night Summer Series, Lindauer Cruising Series, Ponsobry Cruising Club; Destination Series, Waikaka Challenge, Richmond Yacht Club; BMW Auckland Regatta, RNZYs & BBYC.

Notice to Mariners: Viaduct Harbour, Closure
The Viaduct Harbour will be closed to the public until March 22. Two temporary pedestrian pontoon bridges will close the Viaduct Harbour between the hours 0800 hours to 2000 hours. Vessels should not enter the area. Vessels berthing within the Viaduct are to contact Viaduct Control on VHF 73 before entering.

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ENDING TO THE CHALLENGE: Endeavour's refurbishment is expected to take 16 months.