



SCANNER

NEWSLETTER of the SOLENT MARITIME SOCIETY

No. 673

August 2025

Hon. Secretary: Adam Ratcliffe - Mob: 07771693424, email: adam.ratcliffe007@gmail.com.

Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088504665729>

Future Meetings;

September 30th - Adam Ratcliffe - *Cruise Ships through the generations - part 2.*

October 28th - **Guest Speaker:** Peter Lamb - *No more for the Skylark!*

November 25th - Mike Lennon - *Eastern Mediterranean Shipping.*

December 16th - A.G.M & Andy Skarstein - *Solent Shipping Review 2025.*

2026

January 27th - Martyn Davies - *Continued views from the Ferry*

February 23rd - Mervyn Rowlinson - *life of U-Boat Commander, Julius Fritz Lemp.*

March 31st - **Members Evening; Alternative Transport, Trains, Planes & More!**

Society News;

DECEMBER - Decembers meeting will be on the 16th not the 30th as previously shown.

PHOTO OF THE YEAR - It's been agreed that we will have a special new trophy to present at this years A.G.M & Solent Shipping Review. The award will be for best photograph, and will be judged on the night at the December annual meeting. The award will be similar to the one WSS awards annually at their meeting. The Trophy is to be named by the members.



ANJI COMMONALITY - the brand new June 2025 built ship, leaving for Algeciras 22nd. Photo: Chris Brooks.

SOLENT SHIPPING NEWS - AUGUST

- **UNITED STATES** - Both the forward and back funnels have been removed and are now on a barge, along with the bridge mast, that will eventually be towed to their resting place to become a museum and dive centre. The ship itself is still being stripped of hazardous materials ready for its deliberate sinking. Still a sad end for one of the greatest if not the greatest liner ever built!
- **ANJI COMMONALITY** - Another new ro-ro to sail into the port on the 20th August. One in a series of LNG car carriers being built.
- **VENTURA** - Poor Ventura, on Saturday 9th August, police were called to the Mayflower Cruise Terminal after a man was suspected of having explosive devices. It soon proved to be nothing of interest. **And then in Rotterdam.....** As Richard Jolliffe reports: *On Sunday 24th August, Extinction Rebellion tried to stop P&O's Ventura docking at the Rotterdam Cruise Terminal. She tried to dock at the Rotterdam Cruise terminal at 1700. It took 1.5 hours to dock, much longer than the press said. The Dutch press said 15 Extinction Rebellion activists tried to stop the 2008 built ship from docking with about 3,000 passengers onboard. The activists used boats and canoes to try and prevent the ship from reaching the quay. The action of the police boats slowly allowed the cruise ship to move forward which spent about 1.5 hours inching alongside the terminal for a movement that should have been over in less than half an hour. The activists want to stop cruise ships visiting the Netherlands saying the Ventura is a floating environmental disaster. From my experience the ship has numerous anti pollution policies in use everywhere and lots of recycling. How much fuel was wasted in the delayed docking? Luckily it hardly affected the passengers.*



Extinction Rebellion activists delaying the arrival of VENTURA into Rotterdam 24th.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe.



ANJI SOUNDNESS - another ANJI Logistics car carrier berthed at 105 in from Antwerp. Photo: Richard Jolliffe.



YACHT EXPRESS - outward bound from 46 berth for Fos-Sur-Mer on 22nd.

Photo: Chris Brooks.



HÖEGH SUNRISE - another 2025 ship, outbound from 40 berth on route to Oman.

Photo: Chris Brooks.



TØNSBERG - seen at 38 berth on dock head on the 10th August.

Photo: Adam Ratcliffe.

CRUISE SHIP NEWS - AUGUST

EXPLORA III & EXPLORA IV - both new build ships in 2026 & 2027 will offer a few cruises from Southampton in their respective years.

MAJESTIC PRINCESS - which called at Southampton on the 18th of July, will be based in the port for the summer of 2026 & 2027. Majestic will be the fourth ship of this class to call at Southampton after; *Royal Princess (ii)*, *Regal Princess (ii)*, *Sky Princess (ii)*, and *Enchanted Princess*. To my knowledge, I think *Discovery Princess* is the last of this class to not visit the port, although I do recall maybe a one-off visit. Maybe someone can confirm for next month??

MIEN SCHIFF RELAX - is another maiden call scheduled for next year. Built this year the *Mein Schiff Relax* is part of TUI Cruises InTuition class of ship, the first new design for them since the arrival of Mien Schiff 3 in 2014. In 2026 she will arrive on Tuesday 27th September and again on Tuesday 3rd November. Let's hope the weather is good in September!

SHIP IN FOCUS - STOCKHOLM (iv) of Swedish America Line.

In June it was announced that one of the world oldest passenger ships the **ASTORIA** was sold for scrap. She had an interesting and eventful career! She left Rotterdam on Thursday 3rd July for her last trip to the scrappers in Ghent, Belgium. Lots of you will know all about her history, but details of the ship's history have are listed below. She is most notably know for the sinking of the Italian State liner **ANDREA DORIAN** in 1956. She also arrived in Southampton under a few names; **VÖLKERFRUNDSHAFT**, **VÖLKER & ITALIA PRIMA**.

<i>Names</i>	<i>Company / Operator</i>	<i>In Service</i>	<i>Notes</i>
STOCKHOLM (iv)	Swedish America Line	(1948-1960)	Fourth ship of SAL to bear the name. she was famous for sinking the ANDREA DORIAN in 1956.
VÖLKERFRUNDSHAFT	VEB Deutsche Seereederei Rostock (DSR) VEB Deutfracht/Seereederei Rostock	(1960-1985)	Replaced in 1985 by the 1981 built as ASTOR and renamed ARKONA which would also sail under the name ASTORIA for TransOcean Tours of Germany.
	<i>(Charter) Stena Line</i>	<i>(1967-1985)</i>	Chartered during the winter months, where she made cruises from Gothenburg to the Caribbean. Also to the North Cape.
VÖLKER	Neptunas Rex Enterprises	(1985-1986)	Laid up in Southampton for a time under this name from December 85 until moved to Oslo, Norway.
FRIDTJOF NANSEN		(1986-1989)	Used as an asylum seekers ship in Oslo.
ITALIA 1	StarLauro S.p.A.- Napoli (now MSC Cruises)	(1989-1992)	Was to be rebuilt/refurbished for StarLauro under the name SURRENTIO (II) which then was announced as POSITANO she remained laid up.
ITALIA PRIMA	Nina Compagnia di Navigazione S.p.A.	(1992-2005)	1992 purchased from StarLauro for conversion. She called into Southampton in 1994 when "new".
	<i>(Charter) Neckermann Seereisen</i>	<i>(1995-1998)</i>	
VULTUR PRIMA	<i>(Charter) Vultur Touristik</i>	<i>(1998-2002)</i>	
CARIBE	<i>(Charter) Festival Cruises</i>	<i>(2002-2004)</i>	Used for Cuba Cruises it is unknown how many cruises the ship actually operated during this time.
ATHENA	Classic International Cruises	(2005-2012)	Chartered out to many different operators (listed below) during her time as well as cruises for her owners Classic International Cruises.
	<i>(Charter) TravelSphere</i>	<i>(2005-2007)</i>	
	<i>(Charter) TravelScope</i>	<i>(2007-2008)</i>	Winter charter October 2007 - January 2008 TravelScope declares bankruptcy in January 2008.
	<i>(Charter) Vision Cruises</i>	<i>(2008-2009)</i>	A Spanish Cruise Line, chartered both ATHENA and ARION from Classic International until they went bankrupt in 2009
	<i>(Charter) Phoenix Reisen</i>	<i>(2009)</i>	May - October, used as an interim vessel.
	<i>(Charter) Page & Moy Cruises</i>	<i>(2010)</i>	Replaced the OCEAN MAJESTY during 2010 this was the company's last season fully charting a ship.
AZORES	Portuscale Cruises	(2013-2015)	Chartered out to many different operators (listed below) during her time as well as cruises for her owners Portuscale Cruises.
	<i>(Charter) Ambiente Kreuzfahrten</i>	<i>(2014)</i>	May-September, poor passenger numbers put stop to the charter.
	<i>(Charter) Cruise & Maritime Voyages</i>	<i>(2014-2015)</i>	Originally chartered as a replacement for DISCOVERY .
ASTORIA	Banco Montepio - Transportes Marítimos	(2016-2021)	Banco Montepio, a Lisbon-based bank through, Island Cruises Transportes Marítimos Unipessoal
	<i>(Charter) Cruise & Maritime Voyages</i>	<i>(2016-2020)</i>	Laid up in 2020 due to COVID but then the bankruptcy of Cruise and Maritime. Mover to Rotterdam in November 2020
	<i>(Charter) Rivers du Monge</i>	<i>(2016-2019)</i>	Summer charter starting May-September
	The Roundtable LLC	(2021-2022)	Owned by Brock Pierce a U.S. entrepreneur that also once owned the FUNCHAL .
	Galloo, Ghent.	(2025)	Left Rotterdam 3rd July, arrived in Ghent on the 9th July. SCRAPPED 2025



ASTORIA - seen departing Portsmouth in 2018, sadly now gone but won't be forgotten! Photo: Adam Ratcliffe.

Southampton AUGUST Visitors;

REGAL PRINCESS [1, 13, 25], BRITANNIA [1, 15, 29], ARCADIA [1, 22], VENTURA [2, 9, 23, 27], IONA [2, 30], SKY PRINCESS [2, 9, 23, 30], INDEPENDENCE OF THE SEAS [3, 12, 17, 24], NORWEGIAN PRIMA [3, 24], ARVIA [3, 17, 31], QUEEN ANNE [3, 17, 31], BOREALIS [4, 13, 21, 26], VISTA [4, 15, 25], AIDA PERLA [4, 18], DISNEY FANTASY [5, 10, 18, 22, 25, 29], AURORA [7, 14, 30], CELEBRITY APEX [7, 21, 25], SEVEN SEAS VOYAGER [7], NORWEGIAN DAWN [8, 19, 29], IONA [9, 16], MSC VIRTUOSA [9, 21, 23, 30], SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR [14], QUEEN MARY 2 [15, 27], EMERALD PRINCESS [16], MARINA [24], BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS [30].

CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS

Watch out for in SEPTEMBER ;
NORWEGIAN JEWEL [14]**

Portsmouth AUGUST Visitors;

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE [7], SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY [14], SCARLET LADY [17, 30], **BRILLIANT LADY** [18, 19, 20, 21]**, HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS [18, 19, 26, 27], HEBRIDEAN SKY [22], ISLAND SKY [30]

Watch out for in SEPTEMBER;

AZAMARA JOURNEY [6], VIKING SKY [15], HAMBURG [19], VIKING SATURN [30].**

****Maiden Call**



BRILLIANT LADY - seen departing Portsmouth for New York, 21st August.

Photo: Adam Ratcliffe.



DISNEY FANTASY - Outbound 10th August in beautiful conditions on her second visit. Photo: Chris Brooks.



DISNEY FANTASY - so nice you see it twice! Outbound Calshot 10th August.

Photo: Mike Lennon.



VISTA - departing in near perfect conditions on the 24th soon to be renamed.

Photo: Adam Ratcliffe.



SFL HAWAII - arriving on 22nd from Miami on the AL4 Service.

Photo: Chris Brooks.



KAREWOOD PRIDE - unloading or loading, at 108 berth on the 12th.

Photo: Richard Jolliffe.



SAN RAPHAEL MAERSK - looking un-full departing on 21st for Rotterdam.

Photo: Chris Brooks.



CAESAREA TRADER - ex Commodore Goodwill arrives in Portsmouth on the 10th. Photo: Mike Lennon.



ENERGY AFRODITE - passing Calshot bound for Fawley 23rd. Photo: Richard Jolliffe.



HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS - departing Portsmouth on the 19th on a rare visit. Photo: Mike Lennon.



YACHT EXPRESS - moored in the Ocean Terminal just after arriving from Rotterdam. Photo: David Hornsby.



SKYLIFT 'TYPHOON & LADY SARA' - arriving Portsmouth from Portland 19th. Photo: Mike Lennon.



SVENDBORG - inbound Southampton water passing Hamble on the 23rd. Photo: Richard Jolliffe.