



LITTLE SHIP CLUB

OCEAN CRUISING CLUB

HONORARY PORT OFFICERS: AREA QUESTIONNAIRE Version 10.

6 April 2015.

PORT/AREA: **Paroikia // PAROS / Cyclades /Greece.....**

CO-ORDINATES Bay waypoint: N37 5.05', E25 8.00' Harbour: N37 8.00', E25 9.10'

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(With additional notes by Jacobus Lubsen.)

PREAMBLE addressed to yachtsmen and predatory lawyers.

Note that this document is of a purely advisory nature, written *pro bono publico* to aid yachtsmen in visiting the Paros area, and in pointing out some of the less obvious hazards to navigation. No claim or representation is made that the list of these hazards is exhaustive. Every care has been taken that coordinates were correct at the time they were made according to GPS and Navionics Charts. However bear in mind that channel depths alter with time and currents. The safety of any vessel is at all times the responsibility of the captain.

WINDS IN THE PAROS AND NAXOS AREA.

The Central Aegean is notoriously windy in the July and August period, with the Meltemi from NW to NE generally F5 to F6 on the open sea in the early afternoon. A particular effect in the Naxos-Paros Strait, and to a lesser extent in the Paros-Antiparos Strait, is of Acceleration Zones. The mountains and hills along the shores constrict the prevailing winds and act like a venturi nozzle. At the downwind end - usually the south end of the straits - the wind directions diverge and the wind speed increases by about two beaufort forces. Under the lee of the south of Naxos there is local shelter from waves near the coast, but you may be subject to very strong Katabatic Gusts from the high hills. Around capes, the wind may suddenly come from all directions. During a passage, stay away at least 3 n.m. from the nearest coast. Generally the Meltemi decreases around sunset. If the wind increases again after sunset, it will often blow strongly the next day.

It is worth considering making exposed passages from say the Dodecanese or the Southern Peloponese areas overnight, provided that you have GPS charts and radar or AIS available. (Note: it is advisable not to take the SW entrance to Parikia except in daylight.)

PORT HAZARDS.

PAROIKIA. (THE MAIN PORT OF PAROS)

Local yacht / Fishing harbour : the internal harbour wall is overcrowded – mostly by the charter fleet. **Do not use anchors in the inner port, fixed mooring lines are laid.** Mooring on the outside wall is generally available midweek, but it is crowded at weekends. However this is very uncomfortable in W 4 or N 5, and can become untenable in higher winds. A better solution is to anchor preferably in Livadia or alternatively in Krios bays. (See below) **NB a sunken mole** projects 300m southwards from the little blue roofed church on the Krotiri promontory between the two bays on the Livadia side; **the depth 200 m from shore is only 1.5 m.** (2014. The outer end of this mole is marked by an informal white plastic float with a rapid flashing red light at night.)

Approach : from open sea N of Portes rocks - **be aware of a variable 2 knot or more S going current** which runs during and after a strong Northerly Meltemi in this area. Stay at least ¼ NM off the Paros coast N of Aghios Fokas headland and light. **Allow 300 metres minimum clearance from the headland,** and do not cut inside port side harbour buoy, the reef is quite close.

It is prudent to **avoid the area between Portes and the Aghia Spiridones** islets: midway there are two outcrops of the Vouves reefs just breaking the surface; these are unmarked, and sometimes in breaking seas and in evening sunshine they can be unrecognised.

From the Sifnos (SW) direction pass N of Tourlos Kokkinos and Tourlos Mavros and S of the Aghia Spiridones islets, be aware of an outlying islet 500m towards the Paroikia harbour. Watch out for **Kakhi Scala** - a low reef to south of this approach; and closer to the harbour for **Pepponas** - a higher reef of orange coloured rock. (The channel between Pepponas and the land is navigable by yachts.) By day this presents no particular problems, but at night use radar and /or a GPS plotter - there are no lights on the obstacles.

A mid-harbour light beacon is in fact 200m further into the harbour than the position given on Navionics charts, but the shallow it marks is only a consideration for ships.

Ferry traffic. Paros has a number of large and fast ships calling, especially during the holiday season. The heaviest traffic is from 10.15 to 1300, and from 17.00 to 19.30 . The larger ferries pass on the North side of the central beacon both entering and leaving the harbour. Their usual course is to approach the town quay close to the town waterfront (S side), then to turn sharply N and go astern. On leaving they turn W to pass on the N side of the central beacon. Ferries create a moderate amount of wash in the port.

Anchoring. There is better shelter from the Meltemi in Livadia (NE Bay) than in Krios (NW Bay). In Livadia go as close to the shore as you reasonably can. Further out in the centre of the bay the holding is less good: Bruce anchors have trouble with weed. For a forecast F7 or more use an oversize bower anchor, or consider deploying two anchors. Do not approach close to the Headland between Krios and Livadia on either side, there are rock shelves. Between the yacht port and the adjacent beach the water is very shallow, with sunken walls. Keep 200m out! Almost all the buoys in

the harbour are private, and some are only for light boats. (Afros Yacht Services, see below, own several buoys near the head of Livadia bay which may be rented.) In Krios bay anchor anywhere in sand, holding generally good. The NE portion of the beach is closed even to dinghies by rock shelves. When exploring, remember that the reef extends 300m SE of Aghios Fokas headland – this can be dangerous.

Sirocco. A local katabatic windstorm produced by southerly gales, generally in November or March-April, **this wind can reach 55+ knots in the harbour. The holding is not sufficient for any anchor.** This katabatic wind is sometimes very localised to Livadia bay: in this case sufficient shelter may be found by moving either to the area by the SW end of the town beach or in the lee of the cliffs beyond the town. Alternatively anchor to the west of the Krotiri headland between Livadia and Krios. In the case of a really strong or generalised Sirocco windstorm go bows-on to the outside of the harbour wall (laying a kedge for alignment), and tie on with your strongest warps. Failing that, leave the port and head out to sea a few miles. The wind falls rapidly away from the mountains in the middle of the island. Alternatively, anchor in the shallow waters on the E side of the Remnatonisi island in the passage between Paros and Antiparos (see below). Very good holding in sand. The sirocco can also affect Naoussa bay, but is generally less violent than in Paroikia.

Meteo Forecasts. The shipping forecast from the Hellenic National Meteorological Service is broadcast in Greek and English on VHF channel 16 at 0600 – 1000 – 1600 – 2200 UTC, and is also available by Navtex. For the forecast and further details, go to the working channels: in the Milos-Paros-Naxos-Santorini area, it's either Syros (ch 04), Astypaleia (ch 23) or Kythera (ch 85). See <http://www.hnms.gr/hnms/english/navigation/navigation.html>. Detailed and often accurate wind forecast maps can be found on this site for up to 48 hours ahead. A very useful site for a long range forecast is **www.poseidon.hcmr.gr**. Poseidon does detailed windmaps for the Cyclades at 3 hour intervals over 24 hours, and 6 hours over 5 days. Alternatively **<http://cirrus.meteo.noa.gr/forecast>** (>southwest aegean), or from **www.weatheronline.co.uk** (Europe>Greece > Paros >wind), or **www.passageweather.com**. The Windfinder Pro smartphone app allows access to easy-to-read forecast windmaps for up to 7 days ahead. Even in remote spots or quite far out at sea your smartphone may find the local GSM network (but beware of roaming charges!). If you don't have your own computer on board go to The Marina Café immediately opposite the yacht harbour.

SERVICES (efficient, inexpensive, out-of-hours help?):

Yacht Services: Afros Yacht Services (<http://www.islandsailing.gr/english/afros.asp>; office +30 22840 23 625, mobile +30 694 420 9624 Georgos Kastanas, email: office@islandsailing.gr) offers a variety of services to visiting yachts, and also acts as agent for charter companies. Their office is through a passage beside The Marina Café opposite the yacht section of the harbour – turn right then upstairs. They also have some basic chandlery and electronics in stock. They can supply most equipment and spares on order from Athens, usually in 24 –48 hours. In case of serious trouble Afros can do diving and underwater repairs. Afros also have a number of buoys in Livadhia bay, and during the summer can supervise yachts left in care. Fees are 120 – 150 euros /month.

For basic chandlery, warps and chains etc see also Fishermans House – 50m up the road on right of Bidalis supermarket opposite the port.....

Sail repairs: Graeme at AFROS:

Engine repairs: See Afros, or George Detsis./ Konstantinos Kronis. Local call mobile: 0030 698174 6231 They service diesels all makes: Also many outboards. NB injectors and fuel pumps have to be sent to Athens; 72 hours minimum turnaround.

Also recommended is Adonis Barbaris, mobile 0693 975 1240

Electronics: See Afros. They can quickly get spares from Athens in 24 hours. For computer equipment try Computer House, at the far end of the 'periferiako' bypass behind the town.

Shipwrights Petros and Stathis Aliprantis at Aghios Ioannis. Their shipyard is under the lee of the western lighthouse on Naoussa bay on the North of Paros. They can slip boats and caiquis up to 100 tons, including keels up to 2m50. Mobile 0030 6973 235 708 They also have winter storage for about 50 vessels.. Book in good time. They have limited staff, but can help you find specialist workers.....

Slip and Crane Aliprantis also have a small yard and a slip for craft under about 35 feet beside the Paros yacht harbour, but they are limited by town regulations in using it.

REFUELLING (best place for fuel and water): ...Fuel is available from mini-tanker Cyclon or ELIN on the dock at Paroikia and Naoussa. (Check the price! – but the fuel is good). Water is available from metered electrical/water supply standards along the yacht harbour Mole. Cards are necessary to obtain electricity and water: for these enquire at the Liminarcho / Harbour Police above the Vidalis supermarket, or ask Afros.

MOORING & LAYING-UP FACILITIES (safest/cheapest: any foreign regulations re winter or long period lay-up): Mooring : see comments above. Laying up : Aliprantis at Aghios Ioannis. Cost about 10 euros /metre length/ calendar month. Note: European boats normally have no problems **except** on returning from Turkey. Non-European (inc Channel Island) boats have limited period stays in Greece. Get specialist advice.

CARETAKING: During the summer, AFROS can supervise yachts on mooring buoys. They have a number of private buoys in Livadia bay. Enquire at their office (see above) **DO NOT leave a yacht unattended at anchor or on the outside harbour wall for more than daylight hours.** The wind can get up rapidly, there can be holding problems, and a panicky neighbour can uproot your anchor. Inside the harbour wall your yacht should be safe. Note that in strong winds the yachts double up in two rows inside the harbour.

LOCAL YACHT CLUBS (willing to make members welcome): None. There is a dinghy sailing club with an excellent taverna and school at Livadhia beach, but they do not interact with visiting yachts except for the Cyclades rally.

SHOWERS AND TOILETS: Clean public toilet on the nearby 'square' (but it's triangular!) opposite the Public Hospital.. The Hotel Arianne will let yachts-people use a bath or shower for a

modest fee. Go up the road to the right of Bidalis supermarket, then take the second small road to the left; the hotel is 40m along on the right.

LOCAL RESTAURANTS (Specialities, value for money, late opening, informality)

Many! The yachtie meeting place is at The **Marina Café** opposite the port, which has free WiFi and cheap internet as well. They also do hot breakfasts, and hot snacks all day. Value and good Greek cuisine – **Katerina’s** (500m left), **Eoli** (300m left), **Hibiscus** (900m right on the main waterfront). Best Fish and mezzes **Albatros** (500m right near beginning of waterfront) Best roasts and grills, specially Kokoretsi and Kontosouvli, at the **Paros** (below the bypass (Periferiako): at the inland point of the Main ‘Square’ take the lane on the right of the Exhibition Hall, go about 800 m (just beyond the car park.). Elegant dining at **Apollon Garden** Restaurant (follow the main ‘Agora’/ Market Street up then downhill, past the fork, it’s on the left. Snacks: try the traditional greek Gyros in a pitta roll from **Pepe’s**, just 100m left from the harbour.- excellent value. Exotic cuisine: **Cactus**, just beyond the bridge 800m left, does very tasty authentic Mexican and Thai cuisine, and Margheritas to die for!

PUBS/BARS/TAVERNAS/LOCANTAS: ...Many bars and lounges on the main waterfront – take your pick. For the young and headbangers: **The Irish Bar** (at the far end of the waterfront, down left to a lower level and follow the wider road 50m away from the sea to a fork. Doesn’t get serious till after midnight.....

SHOP & BANK OPENING HOURS (Early closing?): Banks and Post Mon – Fri 0800 – 1400. Closed on Saturday. There are ATMs outside the banks. Shops generally 0800 to 1400, then 1730 till 20.00 or later. Supermarkets stay open 0800 – 2100 or later.

SIGHTSEEING (Tourist offices? Interesting places to visit ashore):

For all *air and ferry tickets* see Polos or Santorinios Agencies (opposite the port West end); or Bizzas Travel by the Oasis Hotel. Note that air tickets are gold dust in summer. Take the High Speed Cat if you are in a hurry - Piraeus in 3h40.

Places: the whole island is beautiful. You can hire a car: **Iria** beside the Marina Café are friendly and reliable. **Kondilis** next door rent scooters. Visit **Lefkes** in the centre of the island. Dine at **Agnantino**, a lovely mezzes meal can be made from their starters menu. **Ports:** **Naoussa** big, picturesque, very popular in high season. Supper at **Naftikos** beside the little inner harbour for fish. **Pisso Livadhi** on E coast opposite Naxos, and **Aliki** on the SW corner are also picturesque.(The **Apoplous** restaurant in Aliki has very good seafood in imaginative recipes). You can of course visit all these places by yacht. **Pisso Livadhi** has a good harbour with space for a few yachts, but it is a wind-funnel in a Meltemi. Aliki is shallow, you must anchor and go ashore by dinghy. Just outside Aliki on the eastern beach is a new restaurant **Thalassa Mou** (My Sea) , which is friendly and prepares food with exquisite care.

Other inland sites are **1. the Valley of Butterflies** – a beautiful mulberry garden inland from the main coast road south of Paroikia. (Get an Island map). **2. The ancient marble mines** for the famous Paros Lychnitis translucent marble – material for many famous statues –esp Aphrodite – and the equally famous Parian Chronicals (the Rosetta Stone of Greek earliest written history).. The Quarries are two steep shafts beyond Marathi, at a bend in the road to Lefkes. **NB** If you explore these shafts 1. Entrance is officially forbidden 2. Everyone should have a torch with at least one hour’s battery life. 3. The rocks underfoot are often slippery; wear shoes with grippy soles. Those unsteady on their feet or unable to face a steep 300m scramble uphill should abstain, as should those afraid of caves and the dark. All that said, this can be a fascinating visit for the fit and nimble.

3. Finally, and very close to the port, there is the **Ekatondapiliani** – **one of the very oldest churches in Christendom**, and a very beautiful place. It is at the back of the ‘Square/triangle’. There is a fascinating story to this church – too long to repeat here. The Church dates back to the early 300’s, and was rebuilt first by St Helena – mother of the Emperor Constantine. Buy the guide book. (It was written by a friend of mine!) **4** While here go up the marble lane beside the church to the **Museum**. They have finally put on display the rich findings of excavations on the island – including a frightening Gorgon found only about 100m from the museum. This is really good quality for a provincial museum.

TRAVEL (Local buses & taxis, airports): The bus station is on the waterfront by the west end of the port. Buses run around the island hourly to most places, and more frequently to Naoussa in the high season. Buy tickets from the kiosk before boarding – it’s cheaper.

COMMUNICATIONS (Post office, telephones): The Post office is 100m left from the port. (Opening hours 0800 – 1400 Mon – Fr). The Telephone office OTE is at the beginning of the waterfront. Generally though you are more flexible with a mobile **phone cleared for international roaming in Europe**.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The Paros Public Hospital Is in The Square / Triangle 200m right from the yacht harbour; first low building on the left. This is more in the nature of an accident /first aid station, but it is publicly funded and free (in principle!) . Like all Greece, it is underfunded.

Private Medical Clinic. This is one road back from the port area, up the little road behind the public hospital. This is staffed 24 hrs, and has specialists available. The services are paid for.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION:

Naoussa Bay and Harbour. This is a large rather shallow bay at the North end of Paros Island . Its entrance is open to the N, and in certain areas quite a lot of swell builds up during Meltemi N winds in the summer. Nonetheless, there are many anchorages providing shelter even during strong Northerlies.

A small newly built yacht harbour lies in front of the popular tourist resort of Naoussa, on the south side of the bay. During the Meltemi, there may be considerable swell in the entrance, and inside the

harbour along the town quay. The only safe place to moor is stern-to along the inside of the pier that ends at the green harbour light. The demand for places often considerably outruns availability.

Many sheltered anchorages exist on both sides of the entrance to Naoussa bay. The best is under the western headland at Aghios Ioannis. There is good shelter and very good holding under the lee of the mountain. A modest beach bar is available by an open-air theatre. Taxi boats run throughout the day to Naoussa marina. The shipyard of Petros Aliprandis is close by.

ANTIPAROS CHANNEL. This is very picturesque North-South passage that should be navigated with extreme caution. About 500m north of the Pounda – Antiparos ferry route the channel becomes seriously shallow. Use detailed charts such as the Southeastern Cyclades Pilot Chart PC5, or Imray chart G33; or alternatively use Navionics electronic charts on zoom.

West Passage. The easiest passage is to the West of Salangko and Remnatonisi. The minimum charted depth in the western channel is 3.5 metres. (Most of the small ferries between Paroikia and Antiparos take this channel.) Coming from Paroikia cross north of Salangko, then head south keeping at least 40 metres west of Salangko and Remnatonisi. Keep closer to Remnatonisi than to Antiparos. Maintain a heading to the centre of the distant channel between the Trianisia and the South point of Antiparos. (*Nisis Salangko is the private islet directly N of Remnatonisi, where many of the Cycladic idols now in the Goulandris museum in Athens were found.*)

East Passage. There is also a passage East of Remnatonisi islet which runs diagonally from *approximately* 27 deg (Mag) to 207 deg (Mag), passing about 50m only from the SE tip of the islet by the landing stage. **Waypoints coming from the north:**

1. N 37 22.5' E 25 05.80'
2. N 37 04.37' E 25 05.78'
3. N 37 02.2' E 25 05.6'
4. N 37 02 E 25 05.5'

These are almost in a straight line. **NB The most critical is the northernmost, as shallows rise to less than 2m on both sides; the navigable channel is probably less than 30m wide.** This route carries a depth of 3.5 to 3.9m minimum. *Do this with a working GPS chart plotter, or a detailed chart. An echo sounder is essential as there are patches adjacent to the channel with less than 2 m depths.*

On taking either the east or west passages, avoid the shallow bank 0.4 NM SSW of Remnatonisi. Further south in the strait, depths are greater on the Antiparos than on the Paros side of the channel.

Warning to yachts going south around the southern point of Antiparos; about ½ NM north of the point on the (E) side of Antiparos is a small islet. About 120m off the NE side of this islet is a **just-submerged rock** which is almost invisible both to the naked eye and even on the Navionics charts (at certain levels of zoom). **Stay at least 200m E off the islet, or alternatively choose the inshore passage.** Once around the headland and going up the western side of Antiparos, there is a reef *about* 200m offshore and *about* 800m north of the point. This is clearly visible in daylight, but

vessels heading for Ormos Despotiko at night should be aware of it.

Despotiko and Strongylo. Ormos Despotiko is a large, mostly shallow and very attractive bay (called Aghios Georghios by the locals) between the SW side of Antiparos and Despotiko. The bay is almost completely closed to the NW by sand-bars, accounting for the good protection from waves during the Meltemi, but it is open to the SE. The gusts coming down from the mountains of Antiparos can be strong, in particular during the afternoon. Holding is good if your anchor is in the sand, but can be poor in places with weed on the bottom (check how your anchor has dug in during a swim). During the summer there are often many yachts, but there is always room.

Both of the small boat jetties on the Antiparos shore in front of the tavernas are very shallow indeed: tilt your outboards, and beware of the many rocks that are waiting to puncture your dinghy!

There is a small cay in the middle of the passage westwards between Antiparos and Despotiko. On the NE side the channel is closed by a sand bar, with a depth of 1.2 metres. On the SW side the channel is navigable with care, having a minimum depth of 2.2 metres. From the south, follow the Despotiko shore at a distance of 40 metres; when level with the dinghy dock on the Despotiko shore where the channel narrows, head out and stay in the middle of the channel, favouring the side nearer to the little cay. This passage is practicable for catamarans or small keel yachts drawing up to 1.7 metres. (Remember to correct your clearance for the depth of waves!)

A very small inlet in the south coast of Despotiko has good shelter, is almost invisible from the open sea, and has swinging space for maybe two cruising yachts. It used to be a pirate refuge, and it lies about halfway along the south coast. Entrance waypoint N 36 57.3' E 25 00.6'

For prudent yachtsmen, the channel between Despotiko and Strongylo has a depth of more than 20m throughout.

DISCLAIMER: Information given in good faith: the captain is solely responsible for the safety of his vessel.

SIGNATURE Robin Brown..... (Honorary Port Officer)

DATE 7 April 2015....(Revised Version 10).....

Acknowledgement: I am grateful to the very experienced local navigator Jacobus (Koos) Lubsen for his revision and contributions to this guide.