

Dear Friends of Randi (who I think may have some interest in the sailing regatta)

The 2008 Milina Full Moon Regatta took place yesterday, it's 14th year and the first one organised by Liv and Tony from Pelion Sail and Cycle. It was our third go and our second year with Kaliope.

Our 3rd crew member this year was Daisy, who had only once been on Kaliope before. We had a one hour race practice in challenging conditions the day before and then we were ready (more or less) for the race.

To understand the main idea behind this race, just remember we are in Greece. Rules are applied only vaguely and the briefing made it clear no protests would be entertained but that for the sake of safety be careful out there. It was a very windy start with strong gusts off the surrounding hills and sudden changes of direction.

At the finish great interest is shown in the first 3, maybe five places, after that the race committee retire to the bar and let everyone else sort themselves out. So we don't know how we finished but our friends on the shore think we were about 10th in the yacht class. Out of maybe 16 or so. Our race towards the back was with a 21' yacht 'Kali' sailed by international rock star Joe... ??and a beautifully restored Corribee (as in Ellen McArthurs first proper boat) We pipped them both to the post this time but we hope to persuade the organisers to split the big yachts into over and under 8 meter classes to give us a chance to have some decent competition and actually be counted in at the finish... Enough said but it was fantastic. We were about the only boat to put in a main sail reef for the first upwind leg and boy did we need it at times. Kaliope was well pressed but excellently crewed by the slick team of Katerina and Daisy. On the shore we even had the Kaliope fan club, Laura and Emma Voice with mum dad and grand parents cheering us on. Some fairly scary close encounters were had with wooden boats which sailed a shorter course than us, and even scarier moments were had with enthusiastic crews that have no idea of racing rules....



We had our side bet on again with Stuart sailing the lovely clinker dinghy 'Grace'. He did the short course we the long course, first home wins... We won, but hats off to Stuart and Caroline his crew, the boat has a leak and the conditions for them were severe. I couldn't quite work out why Caroline said it wasn't windy enough but then they were having fun. In fact they got back so late I thought they might have gone round twice if not stopped for a picnic somewhere!!



Later we rocked the night away with Tony's internationally assembled rock band.....
Fantastic...

Do come and join in
next year if you can...

Ready about ???

Chris and Kathryn, crew
and fan club!!

