

'Latest Sail Technology for Cruising'
by James Merrington

Andrew Parkes and Alby Prat from North Sails addressed the Cruising Division on 26 February 2020.

Norths have pioneered the development of racing sails made without seams on a 3D mould that incorporates all the necessary reinforcing in the manufacturing process. Each sail is individually designed and manufactured according to requirements.

This process has now been extended to cruising sail applications, utilizing fibres such as Dacron, Spectra/Dyneema, Kevlar, Carbon Fibre and Nylon. There are three offerings (depending upon needs and price point.) *3Di Ocean* is constructed from Dyneema and Aramid fibres; next is *3Di Endurance*, also constructed from Dyneema and Aramid fibres; and then there is *3Di Nordac*, constructed from Dacron. This range of cruising sails is different in design to racing sails, with the shape more directed to off wind sailing.



The presentation then focused on sail handling systems, including furling jibs. For mainsails, either single rope reefing, in-mast furling or boom furling systems. For Spinnakers, choices include snuffers (where a collar attached to a sock is pulled down over the spinnaker) or the recently developed 'top down' furling system. Andrew and Alby then demonstrated these on a specially designed mast and sail system.



This was a very informative talk with 43 attendees and 35 booking for dinner in the Careening Cove afterwards.



Next event Wednesday 25 March

'Living Seawalls in Sydney Harbour' with The Sydney Institute of Marine Science

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