

## MANCA 2015 LEG 6

### A SHORT COSTA DEL SOL CRUISE TO THE END OF A FANTASTIC SAILING SEASON

This last cruise ended with a bang and a whimper. After a slow start we made it to Gibraltar and then were holed up during a ferocious levanter that brought torrential rains and wrecked a number of beach facilities along the coast. Safely sheltered in Queensway Quay Marina, Manca was well protected.

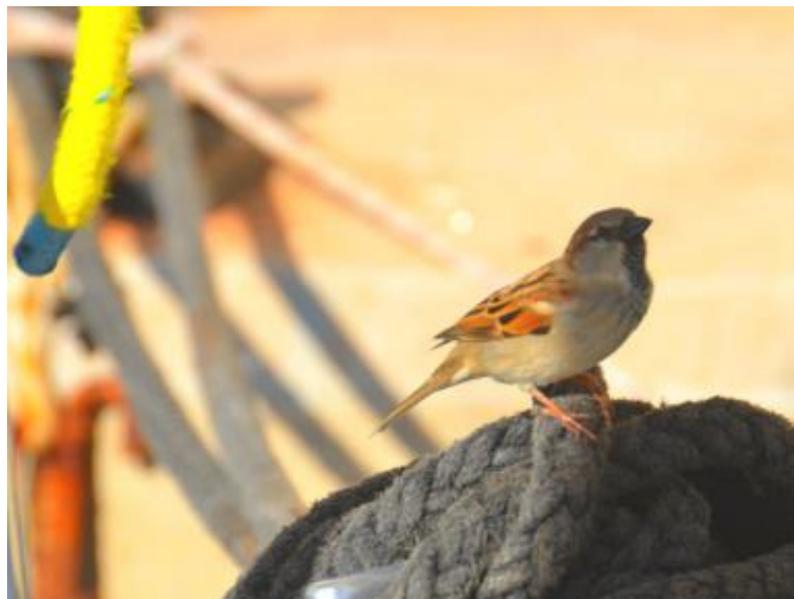
Before and after the storm I managed a few nice photos along the way. There are some fun dolphins shots as they played with us for 2-3 hours as we approached The Rock. A short photo blog follows: birds- including a mystery bird I call "UFB"- dolphins, sunrise, a drone, some strange fishing craft, a fair weather cloud, an Optimist Regatta and Captain America.

#### BIRDS



Probably a white ibis or egret on a grey morning.

These wee sparrows often visit Manca. There are number of different sparrows in the Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe. I think this is a Spanish Sparrow! Surprise!





Hard to get close to The Northern Gannet. I was happy to catch the blue green eye and the long powerful blue grey beak.

Here is the beautiful powerful Northern Gannet with the distinctive brown - black wing tips. They plummet from the sky so fast impossible to catch!



Here is my UFB. Free beer to the first 5 to correctly identify this one! Hint: Beyond a shadow of a doubt!

The Peterson Guide did not identify these with their red buttons under the eyes. A diving bird with hooked beak; cormorant?



## DOLPHINS PLAY IN THE GIBRALTAR STRAIGHT



Busy fishing but dolphins always they have time to say: Hello!

Near the beach off La Linea east side.





Happy to catch the dolphin with German yacht behind. You can just see the bottlenose.

Sky mountains seashore an ancient "torre" blue sea and a dolphin! The "torres" or stone watch towers are line-of-sight all along the coast. They are about 11th century and used for watching for many years of pirates and invaders.



The great leaping bottle nose and baby!

Beach behind!



The Gibraltar airport and La Linea in distance.

Gibraltar Rock and Sunset Beach on the left.



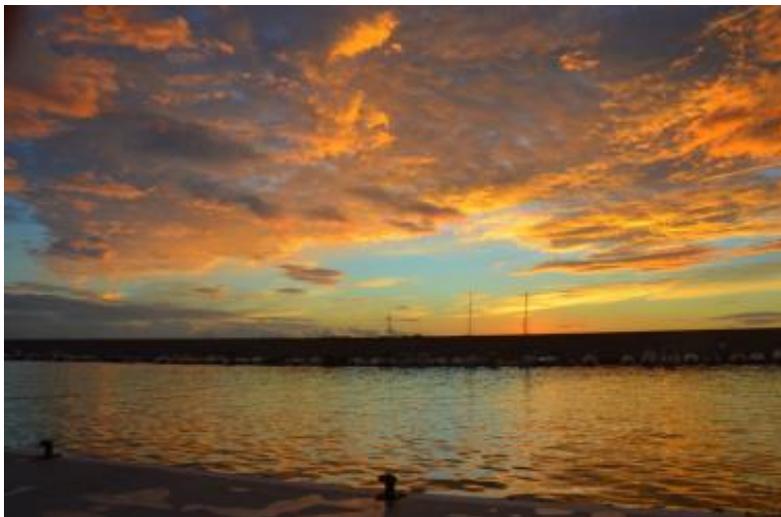


Dolphins just under the sail. The Rock of Gibraltar is behind. If you look closely you can see small black patches in the cliffs. These are ancient canon placements. The Rock has 22 miles of tunnels.

Dolphins fishing off Catalan Bay Gibraltar



## SUNRISE OVER FUENGIROLA



I don't usually rise with the sun. Did plenty of that before retirement! But I was lucky to be up this beautiful morning. This view is looking East over the Fuengirola Marina wall.

My Nikon 18-200mm is great for bring the shot almost overhead.  
Small fishing boat heads out at sunrise.



Sunrise looking WNW over Fuengirola.  
A storm is getting organized to attack in  
a few days. We scurry off to Gibraltar  
before it hits the Coast. "Red sky in the  
morning sailors take warning!"

## THE DRONES ARE HERE

A wedding photo shoot using a drone right off the end of our dock!



I guess they are now selling thousands of these per year now. This one was fast with 4 motors.

## FISHERS AND THEIR STRANGE CRAFT

Great to see no fossil fuels required!



Low tech high tech. Fisher adjusts his electronic fish finder!

Night fishing boat returns with catch.  
The skiff is equipped with bright lights  
to attract squid... I think!



## AN OPTIMIST REGATTA



There are many sailing schools along the coast. Here in Fuengirola many young girls and boys are learning their sailing and racing skills at an early age. Great to see! Good job Spain!

Optimists and Lasers ready for Sunday regatta Fuengirola.



Heading out to the regatta into some very sloppy seas!

The storm is over but the swells from the east can stay for a few days afterwards. Fuengirola beach has been swept clean.



**FAIR-WEATHER COMING SOON**



Finally fair-weather is on the way. Ten days of sunshine and no rain forecast. Near La Duquesa.

## AND CAPTAIN AMERICA (SPAIN?) HEADS OUT TO SEA!

The Spanish love their coast and the sea! Captain America heads out to sea!



## THE END OF A FANTASTIC SUMMER SAILING MAY TO NOVEMBER 10 2015



Another fantastic year sailing Manca.  
Wonderful crew wonderful times!

Completed on a warm sunny day as two mechanics clamber over Manca for end of season service and preparations for 2016! Coming soon!

Terry and Barco Manca,

Benalmadena, Spain

November 11, 2015

PS - remember to enter the free beer contest!