

MANCA 2015 LEG 5 MOON GAZING, BIRD WATCHING, BEACH STROLLING, SOME GREAT SAILING PLUS A MYSTERY PHOTO CONTEST

THE MYSTERY PHOTO CONTEST

You can skip to the end if you like where you will find the MYSTERY PHOTO. The contest is to correctly identify and describe the mystery photo. Hint: there are two parts to your answer an easy part and a very mysterious part. You must get both correct to win: free beer, wine or a non-alcoholic drink with your skipper! There is no limit to the number of winners.

LEG 5 NOTE

This is really a medley of photos. The sailing route has been described in previous blogs. In this one I have included some moon shots, beach walking, birds, super sailing experiences and a few photos from Chefchouan and Tetouan where it is so hard to resist the shutter button.

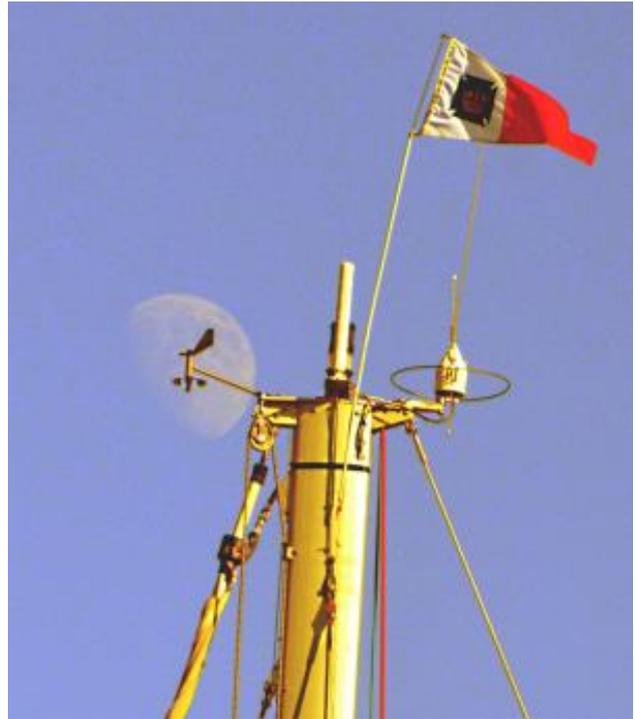
MOON SHOTS

The following photos are from around the Costa del Sol. The end of September bought the moon closest to earth in the last 60 or so years. Some call it the “blood moon” since she takes on a redness not normally seen. On the night of the fullest moon she did her best to hide behind some dark mysterious clouds. The night before full moon I caught one sailor trying his best to climb over the moon; possibly too much moonshine!



This sailor appears to attempting to climb onto the moon. Hope those shoes don't slip on the cheese.

Sailors are always watching for the direction of the wind. Here it seems the wind is blowing from the moon. I once sailed with an ancient German mariner who claimed the weather always changes with the moon cycles.



She was very big the night before full moon and quite red.

A Spanish family head out for a moonlight putter.



The night of the full blood moon she was partly covered with some dark spooky clouds.

BEACH STROLLING

Most of these photos are taken on random walks near Benalmadena. On some days a big surf rolls in; other days the Western Med can be very calm and still.

Benalmadena looking east to the Marina. On this occasion I was parked behind the palm trees.



MY FAVOURITE PARAKEETS

Just after sunrise one morning I was awakened by the busy chirping of a flock of green parakeets. They first fly into the palm trees and then, with look outs posted, they drop down to the lawn to feed. I was able to wander around the flock of two dozen or more within about 4-5 metres without disturbing them.



Early breakfast for the parakeet family!

A green parakeet makes a dramatic landing!



Usually a little doggie comes along and the flock scatters at great speed. Here I caught nearly 21 in mid flight. Can you spot 21?

BACK TO THE BEACH STROLLING

The colors of the sea are always changing.



The brick red building is a restored Arabic or Moorish castle called Bil Bil. The beaches are well looked after. Very clean and always lots of toys for the kids. Lots of free clean toilets and showers. Great cafes and bars.

Lifeguard station.





Often an easterly swell is generated a great distance away. The beach can be lovely then with surf but no wind.

I was happy to catch the shadow as well as the action of this young fellow.



Not a tsunami but there can be some pretty steep waves along the coast.

Sunset Beach: a great venue for outdoor weddings. Rain is seldom an issue on the Costa del Sol.



Creative sand castles earn the "buskers" a few Euros for a photo. Buena Suerte! Good Luck!

GREAT SAILING!

The route taken has been described in earlier blogs for 2015. This time we sailed 173 miles crossing The Strait of Gibraltar and return. This included some tricky navigation around large, fast moving freighters. On average over a hundred freighters transit the Strait every day. Sometimes 3-4 attacking Manca at the same time. The dolphins always put in an appearance; the trick is to photograph them while they are moving so fast. Plus the great winds that blow across the Strait usually guarantee super sailing. Manca enjoys this route very much. It is quite often a beam reach to The Rock and then a broad reach into Estepona.

For the record we sailed from Benalmadena to: Fuengirola, Estepona, Gibraltar Ceuta, Smir, Estepona and return to Benalmadena. A great two week sailing adventure!

This inbound ship had a go at us on our sail west and then about a week later there it was again outbound attacking us again from starboard on its way to the Atlantic! Loaded or not, its speed is well over 20k. I did like the container colours.



We almost always see some dolphins when crossing Gibraltar Strait.

Manca loves a stiff breeze. Here she is romping back to Estepona after a fast crossing of the Strait.





I finally got a photo of the Northern Gannet. They stay well away from the yacht flying away fast as you approach. I hope I have correctly identified it.

This fellow was easy to shoot. He is just tied to a buoy; taking a break from fishing having a beer and a sandwich.



CHEFCHOUAN AND TETOUAN REVISITED



Love the colors in Morocco



High above the "centre de ville" in Chefchouan is the Aladdin Cafe. From there you can watch the locals and get some great photos.

Chefchouan town centre.



Monday is market day in Chefchouan.

Chefchouan bags of many colours.



You can just see the Riff Mountains above the street.

Hand loom with natural fibers. Behind the weaver you can see many of his beautiful fabrics.





Blue lane with fall vine leaves. There are no cars within the ancient walls of the old medina. Strolling around is very pleasant.

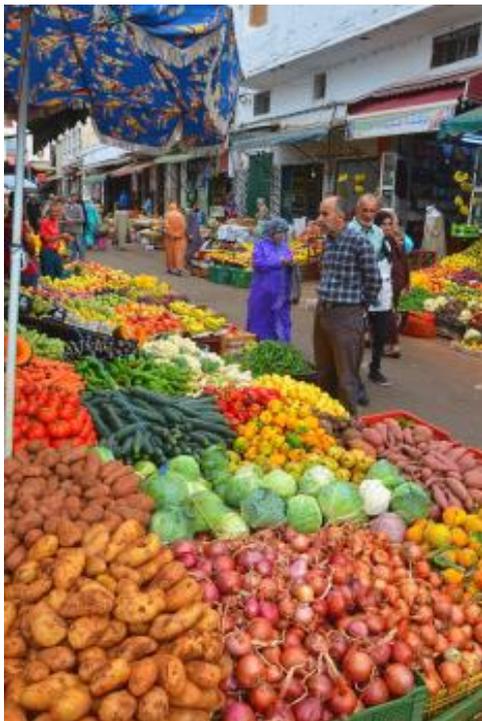
Berber woman with cell phone.



Berber woman, boy and sheep.

TETOUAN

Market day in Tetouan .The town is just 20 minute from the yacht. The taxi ride about 2 dollars so it is a great market to provision.



Colorful Tetouan market. Morocco grows almost everything you need.

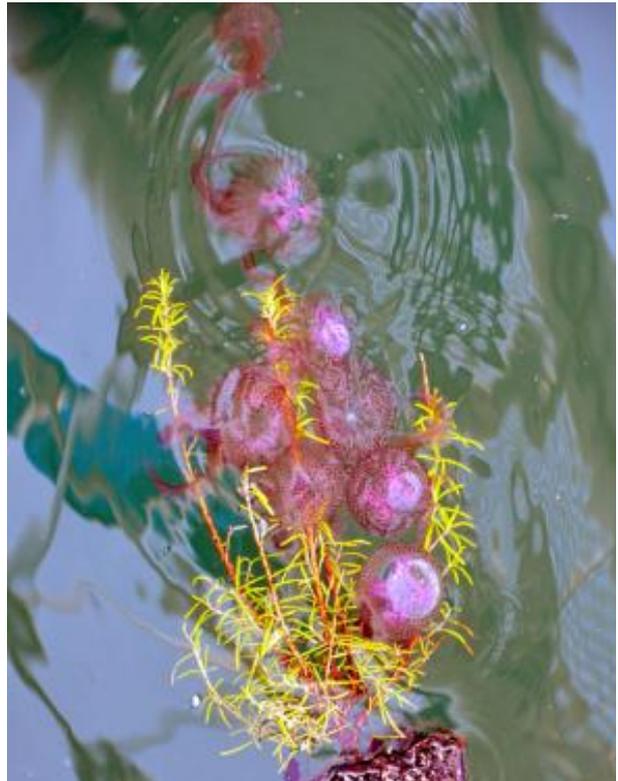
I think I read that Morocco now has the biggest sardine catch in the world. Popular with the dolphins too!



Centre de Ville Tetouan.

AND NOW FOR THE MYSTERY PHOTO CONTEST...

MYSTERY PHOTO BUENA SUERTE. GOOD LUCK!



All entries will be replied to. Partially correct answers may get a “Consolation Prize”!

I’m off for a stroll along the beach!

tgeastmanterry@gmail.com

Completed this fine and sunny day October 14, 2015 with a gentle wind blowing from the west!

Terry and s/y Manca, Benalmadena Cost del sol, Spain.

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