

R300 000 'Phantom' yacht disappears from mooring



VANISHED: The yacht Phantom

Staff Reporter

A LARGE False Bay-based yacht named Phantom has become just that: it has vanished from its mooring in the Simon's Town yacht basin.

A reward of R10 000 has been offered by the insurers for the return of the 13 m boat or information on its whereabouts.

Mr Matthew Whiting, acting for the insurers, said owner Mr J King had last seen the R300 000 yacht on April 28. When he returned to the yacht basin on May 26 she was gone.

Inquiries at all yacht basins and harbours in South Africa have yielded nothing. The 15-

year-old yacht has steering problems and could not be sailed overseas.

When it disappeared there was water and diesel on board but no provisions.

Phantom is an unusually designed ketch with several distinguishing features. It has a prominent poopdeck and doghouse and has radar and a winged generator mounted on the mizzen mast.

Mr Whiting said the mooring had been detached "in a very unusual manner".

False Bay Yacht Club manager Mr Allan Walter said it was his guess that "someone took it and went sailing, nobody knows where".

He said Phantom was tied up at an open swing mooring about 1 km from the yacht club.

"Anyone could get there, from the beach, the navy side or the open jetty; they wouldn't have to go through the yacht club," he said.

The yacht had recently been on the slip for renovations and repairs.

"It looks like somebody waited until it was fixed up and then took off," he said.

The yacht's registration is STY 813 and her sail number is SA 365.

Anyone with information can call Mr Whiting on ☎ 462 1144/5.