

Phantom yacht sightings turn out to be mistaken

Staff Reporter

THE aptly-named yacht Phantom, missing from Simon's Town yacht basin since May 26, has not been found — in spite of a R10 000 reward being offered for its return.

Insurance investigator Mr Matthew Whiting said he had two calls after a report appeared in The Argus on Friday detailing the disappearance of the R300 000 yacht.

“One reported sighting the yacht on the Breede River, another at Port Owen, but we checked them both out and found the boats were similar but not Phantom,” he said.

The 13m ketch was tied up at an open swing mooring about

one kilometre from the False Bay Yacht Club when owner Mr James King last saw her on April 28. When he returned to the yacht basin on May 26 the boat was gone.

Mr King last night refused to discuss the yacht's disappearance with The Argus and put down the telephone when contacted.

● The yacht and three crew were rescued by a police patrol boat off Robben Island in April last year after being blown 300km out to sea. The steering system broke in Force Eight winds after rounding Cape Point on a shake-down cruise to Saldanha in preparation for a transatlantic crossing.