

Scottish S*IB Gathering 2015

Note: *As with all RIBnet coordinated cruises, RIBnet takes no official role in the organization or coordination of this 'event'. **ALL skippers are responsible for their vessel's safe navigation and the well being of those aboard.***

At this stage we are really getting a date in your diary – many details are to be agreed nearer the time, but here is the current thinking?

- What:** A group of like minded small boat users cruising on Scotland's West Coast. There will be no formal program or course to follow but a suggested passage will be proposed for each day.
- Why:** Cruising in company is sociable but also brings some relative comfort that if something does go wrong, or you forget the bottle opener there will be someone around who can lend a hand.
- When:** 13 – 14th June 2015
- Start time:** TBC – but assume 10am (Sat)... so some people may wish to come up the night before, or add on some cruising on the Friday.
- Recovery time:** TBC – but assume 3pm Sun... so those with long drives may wish to stay longer / tag on an extra day.
- Where:** TBC, nr Oban,
possible cruising areas Oban/Easdale/Loch Etive/Loch Linnhe
- Passage plan:** TBC – each boat will be responsible for its own detailed planning and navigation. Skippers should ensure they have the capability and equipment to navigate to a place of safety if they become separated from others in the group (e.g. by fog).
- Weather:** It is impossible to guarantee the weather (this is Scotland). It is entirely possible that at any time, including after you arrive, the gathering could be abandoned by some or all craft due to the weather. This is the reality of cruising on the exposed West Coast of Scotland and you are solely responsible for assessing your capabilities and the suitability of your boat. The weather is beyond anyone's control, and participants realize that they may incur travel, accommodation and other costs in the event of cancellation.
- Accommodation:** Most participants will wild camp.
Alternative options may be identified once the destination is announced.
Depending on the number of participants multiple camp sites maybe used to minimize the impact on the area.
- Food:** At this stage it has been assumed people will carry and cook their own. Other events provide BBQs, or book tables in pubs – but this adds significantly to organization and management of last minute additions/dropouts.

- Alcohol:** Drinking and safe boating don't mix! Make sure you are sober when at the helm. Anyone thinking of a quick pint after they finish on the Sunday before they drive home should also remember that Scotland now has tougher drink-driving standards than the rest of the UK. 1 drink *could* put you over the limit.
- Children and Dogs:** You'll know them better than we do and how well they will fair on the boat for several hours and sleeping in a tent around some beered up snoring old men!
- Cruising speed:** Probably less than 14 knots, certainly no more than 20!
- Who:** All responsible skippers welcome, but this is specifically planned around boats that wouldn't normally participate in a "RIBnet cruise" due to their size / speed.
- Organizers:** There are no official organizers – this is just a group of people who share a similar interest arriving in the same place at the same time. However it was all Poly's idea, and he'll make suggestions around organization to make the gathering better for all as things go on. Nearer the time people who have expressed interest will be given contact numbers etc.
- Minimum qualification:** None – but if you don't have most of the skills in the RYA Powerboat Level 2 syllabus (<http://www.rya.org.uk/coursestraining/courses/powerboat/Pages/Level2.aspx>) you should ask yourself if you will be able to be self sufficient.
- Minimum boat / engine size:** This event is being coordinated around smaller slower boats than normally participate in "RIBnet cruises" Responsible skippers are expected to be able to assess if there boat is suitable for any given trip and the conditions on the day – taking into account local knowledge.
- Cost:** This isn't an organized event – this is a group of like minded people agreeing to turn up in the same place at the same time – so there is no cost. Depending on the final camping and launching arrangements there may be small costs you incur for these.
- Recommended kit list:** There are several threads on RIBnet discussing the type of kit required for SIB cruising (e.g. <http://www.rib.net/forum/f50/what-kit-do-you-carry-on-your-sib-42712.html>). Responsible skippers are likely to have a good idea of the kit they need – but feel free to ask for advice before hand (or seek advice from your local RNLI sea safety advisor (<http://rnli.org/safety/respect-the-water/face-to-face-advice/Pages/Advice-on-board.aspx>)). If you breakdown and don't have a suitable tow rope – expect looks of derision from your fellow boaters. If you run into trouble and don't have a suitable anchor expect looks of derision from the Coastguard. If you have problems and don't have a VHF don't expect anyone to know – mobile phone signal is likely to be non existent!
- Life jackets and Kill cords:** This is not an organized event – but if you don't normally wear a kill cord or buoyancy aid / life jacket on a small

SIB in the relatively exposed waters of Scotland – you need to ask yourself if you are “like minded”!

Fuel: There are few places to refuel petrol outboards on the West of Scotland. You should assume you need to carry sufficient for the whole trip. The likely trip length (and the closest petrol station to the launch point) will be clarified once some passage plans have been sketched out.

Registration: This isn't an organized event – this is a group of like minded people agreeing to turn up in the same place at the same time – so there is no official requirement to register – HOWEVER it would be appreciated if you could indicate your participation on this thread (including number of people) so we can help identify the space required for camping, trailers etc. Likewise let us know if you change your mind.

Access law: Scotland's right to roam legislation is some of the most welcoming in the world, but there is no automatic right to roam (or wild camp) with motorized transport. Any rights are based on responsible access and we would hope everyone wants to treat this spectacular landscape with the respect it deserves.
<http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/out-and-about/recreation-activities/wild-camping/> Take home all your rubbish, don't disturb the locals, and don't cut wood from trees and we should be off to a good start.

VHF Channel: TBC – a working channel will be agreed for coordination of the boats.

Coastguard: Assuming there are more than half a dozen boats participating we will let the CG know in advance. The expectation is that at the start and end of each day there will be one coordinated “traffic report” to Stornoway Coastguard covering all the boats involved - you'll be asked therefore to “sign on” and “sign off” each day to coordinate this. You may want to “buddy up” with a similar sized boat.

Rescue: We obviously hope not to need help (and there could be quite a delay if you do). Many issues the group will be able to sort amongst themselves, but IF YOUR BOAT OR ITS CREW ARE IN ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER DO NOT HESITATE TO BROADCAST A MAYDAY MESSAGE.

S*IB – should be interpreted to include SIBs, Small RIBs, and Small Rigid Boats of similar design. Larger boats are welcome to join in or say “hello” but bear in mind – we are expecting a slow cruising speed AND many of the SIBbers are looking forward to the self sufficiency of this trip.