

## News Letter, January 2008

Hi everyone.

Happy New Year. I can't believe another year has flown by. We've had a serious storm which took 18 hours to pass. Thank god I wasn't at sea. One of our boats sustained minor damage but easily repairable.

**Training.** We have had a number of enquiries from those of you who wish to polish up on boat handling in marinas under power. With this in mind we have decided to run courses of two days, concentrating on berthing, which after all is where a great days sailing can so easily turn into embarrassment at best and a costly accident at worst. So if you want to brush up on berthing, get in touch and we'll organise a course around those of you who are interested.

**Skipped Cruises and Mile builders.** As you will see from the details below these are very popular again. So if you want to join a mile builder call us soon.



**St. Kilda** The voyage this year now full and all are hoping for a weather window to allow us to achieve this trip out into the Atlantic. For those who have not been, you should visit [www.kilda.org.uk](http://www.kilda.org.uk). This a National Trust For Scotland site and has a wealth of information. St Kilda is one of those life experiences which never leaves you and stays fresh in your mind and vivid memories flood back anytime the island is mentioned.

### The 2008 Schedule as follows:

#### From the Clyde to the West Coast with Skipper

Boat		Depart	Arrive	Availability
Kalamazoo	Ardrossan – Via Northern Ireland Oban (7 Days)	13 <sup>th</sup> June	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Full
Christina	Ardrossan - Oban Via Crinnan Canal & Tobermory (5 Days)	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	27 <sup>th</sup> June	Full
Lady Q	Ardrossan – Oban Via Crinan Canal & Tobermory (5 Days)	29 <sup>th</sup> June	4 <sup>th</sup> July	Full

#### Cruises/Mile Builders With or without Skipper

Boat		Depart Oban	Arrive	Availability
Kalamazoo	(With Skipper) Oban - St Kilda (5 Days)	24 <sup>th</sup> August	29 <sup>th</sup> August	Full
Christina	Northern Ireland Antrim Coast. (5 Days)	15 <sup>th</sup> June	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Full
Jura Star	Ardrossan – Isle of Man (5 Days)	15 <sup>th</sup> June	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Full
Lady Q	Relaxing tour of the Clyde and Loch Fyne (5 Days)	20 <sup>th</sup> April	25 <sup>th</sup> April	Full

#### From the West Coast to the Clyde with Skipper

Boat		Depart	Arrive	Availability
Kalamazoo	Oban – Ardrossan Via Jura, Islay and Ballycastle (5 Days)	31 <sup>st</sup> August	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Full
Christina	Steady Eddie back to Ardrossan no Hurry No worry (5 Days)	24 <sup>th</sup> August	29 <sup>th</sup> August	Spaces
Jura Star	Oban via Ballycastle Ardrossan (5 Days)	24 <sup>th</sup> August	29 <sup>th</sup> August	Spaces
Lady Q	Oban – Ardrossan Via Islay (5 Days)	3 <sup>rd</sup> August	8 <sup>th</sup> August	Full

The price for these trips is £440. They include 5 Breakfasts & Lunches and two evening meals on board. They do not include any canal fees (Approx £130 per boat). Any of you wanting a berth or berths on any of these trips should call me soon as the cruises are popular and I don't like disappointing anyone.

## Red Diesel

The RYA has been fighting a long battle to allow UK leisure boaters to continue using lower duty red diesel. EU officials failed to accept the UK government's arguments and insist on full duty. We now have a grace period in force for the phasing out of red diesel in the UK. It will be illegally to use red diesel in leisure craft after 01/11/08. This whole issue is yet another stealth tax and will in fact raise very little additional revenue per capita but will sting boaters already stretched pockets. Effectively we will see an additional 50p or there about, per litre.

## How about Greece?

Our associate company Cheshire training & Leisure operate their beautiful Bavaria 40 out of Lavrion. We have a longstanding and excellent relationship with Cheshire Training & Leisure, who provide Shore-based courses in Cheshire and the Northwest. We regularly supply their practical training. Their Bavaria 40' is available for bareboat charter from Lavrion (Athens). This is ideally placed for both the Saronic Gulf or the Cyclades for the more experienced. Once you have your Dayskipper Certificate, you may wish to explore the warmer climates of Greece and the Mediterranean. Although a small and personal business, their yacht is regularly maintained by an international agent and available at a very competitive rate starting at £1100 per week. Summer and September weeks (best time in Greece) still available. Anyone interested in sailing in Greece give us a call and we can set it up.



## New Boats

I know that 2009 seems a long way away. As a charter company we have to plan ahead. With this in mind new boats are on the way, including two new Beneteau 40 with twin wheels. We have selected these as we were very impressed with her ability to get up wind and make great speed even in light airs. The new boats have three cabins and two heads and will be equipped to our usual high specification including heating, Spray-hood, auto-pilot, electric-windlass, etc etc.



Best Wishes to you all  
Colin Hamilton