

News Letter November 2007

Hi everyone.

What a fantastic season. We had much better weather than the Solent and no accidents or un-planned groundings. The boats all come out the water for a month of TLC in November and then back in just in case anyone wants a winter sail. Big thanks to all who took good care of the yachts whilst in their care.

Training. Training has been down on last year with 44 new students and 18 people upgrading. Well done to all those who got their tickets this year. The pass rate has dropped somewhat this year. Some from a lack of pre course preparation and others unfortunately losing out to a lack of wind and having to return next year to complete. Nevertheless we had many letters of thanks, which would indicate that the training is still at a high standard and also there is still a lot of fun aboard. The Coastal and Yachtmaster candidates gave a good showing at assessment and 66% were successful. Prices for courses in 2008 will be held at £440 and will still be restricted to 4 skippers per course. This will ensure more instructional time for each individual skipper.



Skipped Cruises and Mile builders. This year some of the mile builders had a lot of wind. One in particular was memorable for the wrong reasons. A passage with a weather forecast of fresh to occasional strong winds ended up with a night passage in a gale in relatively shallow waters. An experience to reflect on. The trips to Ireland great fun with lots of wind and good passage experience for those on board I have put some the pictures on the web site. Click here [rogues gallery](#)

St. Kilda is back on this year as trips were cancelled in 2007 due to the Pub being shut. It's possible that it will be open again for 2008. The passage to this remote island is for those with a reasonable amount of sea time wanting to build some serious passages. Any of you wishing to do the St Kilda experience will have to appreciate that one out of three of the attempts to get to St. Kilda are unsuccessful due to adverse weather.

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 th June	19 th June	Full
Jura Star	Ardrossan – Oban, Via Northern Ireland	15 th June	20 th June	Spaces
Christina	Ardrossan - Oban Via Crinnan Canal & Tobermory (5 Days)	22 nd June	27 th June	Spaces
Lady Q	Ardrossan – Oban Via Crinan Canal & Tobermory (5 Days)	29 th June	4 th July	Full

Cruises/Mile Builders With or without Skipper

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

From the West Coast to the Clyde with Skipper

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

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.

Portavadie Marina. There is a new marina in Loch Fyne just opposite Tarbert at Portavadie. The Marina cost overnight is £1.60 per metre. For more information click the link. [Marina and boat Moorings at Portavadie](#) Excellent pontoons and quality facilities. BBQ facilities on request.

The Fleet. The fleet has weathered well this year and no changes will be made. Control and Click to follow the link to the web page for each yacht

'Kalamazoo' [Clyde Yachts Kalamazoo](#)
Beneteau 411, 41 foot of super cruising yacht getting another new mainsail for 2008. 2007's new sail had a few issues and the supplier has agreed to replace with another up to standard.

'Jura Star' Bavaria 38 New 2005 [Clyde Yachts Jura Star](#)
Three reliable seasons and competitive pricing. She is still in great order..

'Christina' Beneteau 381 [Clyde Yachts Christina](#)
2007's most popular boat. Strong and manoeuvrable.



'Lady – Q' Beneteau 423 [Clyde Yachts Lady-Q](#)
Brand new. Will be available for 10 weeks charter only. Four have gone already and a sixth is being confirmed this week. So, if you want this brand new boat. Book soon.

'To Infinity' Beneteau 473 [Clyde Yachts To Infinity](#)
Skippered charter only. Huge accommodation, LCD telly and PS2 for the kids. Great for family.

Anyone wanting to have a mention or comments in the next news letter (Late January) please advise before end of December

Best Wishes to you all
Colin Hamilton