

Sail Caledonia 2019

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

Welcome to Sail Caledonia 2019. We are glad you are able to join us and hope that this will be an enjoyable and memorable week for all.

Below are listed the things you need to know prior to arriving with us – if we have forgotten anything, do not hesitate to ask!

JOINING THE EVENT

We will assemble and launch boats at Lochaber Yacht Club in Fort William on Saturday 25th May 2019. The yacht club is located just to the south of Fort William on the A82. Directions are attached.

We ask that you arrive at the club as soon as possible after 10:00 hours, and in any event no later than 14.30 hours. It would be helpful if you could advise us in advance of when you expect to arrive. We have a number of boats to get on the water so this will take some time!

When you arrive, we will ask you to complete the registration process (including signing our safety disclaimer form and exhibiting a copy of your insurance policy). Remember – **no insurance, no Sail Caledonia!** We will issue you with your boat number to apply to your boat and an information pack, which includes charts and Emergency Procedures. We'll also conduct a short safety induction briefing and equipment check before launching your boat.

Boats will be rigged and made ready for the event on shore, then launched down a slipway into the sea and taken out to moorings.

Once you have launched your boat, we suggest that you take your vehicle to Corpach (about 4 miles by road, see below for directions) and check in with your accommodation boat or set up camp. Please see the Programme for camping locations. Trailers can be parked up by the double lock at Corpach. We will be running Ros Crana's small minibus back from Corpach to the yacht club for the race start, but some help with vehicle shuttles may be required.

The first race is planned to start at 16:00 and will be from the yacht club to the entrance of the Caledonian Canal. Briefing will be at 15.30. During the skippers briefing the crews will be ferried out to the boats.

SATURDAY EVENING

Following the race on Saturday, the fleet will enter Corpach Basin via the sea lock where we will tie up for the night. We hope to be in the basin for around 18:00 hrs.

In the evening we will have the opening ceremony with a buffet supper at the Lochaber Rugby Club house. You will be given directions on how to get to the venue at registration. You will be responsible for making your own way there and back. During this we will introduce our team members and review the programme for the week.

TIDES AND WEATHER

The tide times at Corpach (BST) are as follows:

HW – 10:11 1.11m LW – 17:23 1.58m HW - 22:48 . 3.17 m

We will therefore be launching on a falling tide.

We will advise of the local weather forecast on arrival and keep crews updated through the week.

SAFETY

General

Safety is our highest priority with this event and to try to ensure risks are managed effectively, we have developed a detailed Health & Safety Plan. This includes emergency procedures and measures necessary for the mitigation of identified risks. You will be provided with a copy of the Emergency Procedures at Registration, copies of the full Health and Safety Plan are available on request.

We ask for all participants to co-operate fully in making this a safe event and take full account of all safety information provided. Finally, we remind everyone that they take part entirely at their own risk.

Risk Summary

The main risks associated with taking part in the event that we have identified are as follows:

- ❑ Falling in locks – the locks can be turbulent and water temperature are very low. Recovery of a man-overboard can be difficult, especially in a crowded situation.
- ❑ Crushing between boats/locks/jetties – a common source of injuries. Keep limbs and bodies out of danger!
- ❑ Hypothermia & sun-stroke – prolonged sailing in cold or bright conditions can result in over-exposure to the elements. Ensure that all crew are adequately equipped and take sensible precautions.
- ❑ Prolonged immersion – water temperatures in the lochs is still very low in May/June and survival periods are short. Avoidance of immersion is a priority and suitable clothing essential.
- ❑ Delay in recovery of serious injury – crews should consider how to deal with a serious injury aboard (e.g. head injury or serious cut), bearing in mind the likely delay in recovery of a casualty.
- ❑ Difficulty of landfall (Loch Ness) – Large sections of the banks of Loch Ness are very steep and landfall may be impossible for several miles. This can exacerbate other difficulties in the event of injury to a crew-member, swamping or capsizing.
- ❑ Collision with other craft – both on the canal reaches and when racing on the lochs. Be aware that there are numerous motor cruisers whose skippers may have little or no boating experience or knowledge of the 'rules of the road'.
- ❑ Alcohol/drug abuse – sadly many drownings at sea and on the canal can be attributed to alcohol or drug abuse.
- ❑ Fire on board – may not be relevant to most boats, but take care if appropriate.
- ❑ Capsize and/or swamping – should be regarded as 'not an option' unless you are well drilled in capsize drill, confident of recovery and suitably equipped.
- ❑ Accidents associated with boat launching (slippery surfaces, heavy lifts, crushing, unexpected vehicle/trailer movements, etc.) – please proceed sensibly and carefully.
- ❑ Trailer/parking problem induced road traffic accident – the section of road outside LYC is busy, please take care and avoid parking on the main road.
- ❑ Weil's disease. In the UK there are very rare cases of people becoming infected following immersion in water. It is extremely unlikely in the waters of the Great Glen but it would be wise to cover any cuts with a waterproof plaster. Anyone suffering symptoms similar to flu following the event should inform their doctor that they have taken part in watersports.
- ❑ Lyme's disease. This can be contracted from ticks which live in undergrowth and can attach themselves to people. It is not uncommon to get a tick if you camp or hillwalk in the Highlands. However it is rare for a tick carry the disease and even less likely for it to transfer the disease to humans. The best guard against ticks is to wear long boots in tall grass or tuck trousers into socks. Have a good look for them when settling into the tent at night and if one is found have it removed as soon as possible using a special tick remover. These are carried on board 'Ros Crana'; just ask one of the crew for help if required. Anyone suffering symptoms similar to flu following the event should inform their doctor if they have had a tick. This is then treated easily if caught at an early stage.
- ❑ Cyanobacteria. Blue-Green Algae blooms are occasionally found on the waters of the Great Glen. Participants should avoid ingesting the canal and loch waters.

We ask that all skippers and crew take note of the identified risks (and any others they foresee) and devise suitable strategies for minimising the risks during their participation in the event.

Emergency Procedures

All participants will be briefed on the emergency procedures during the registration process. Printed and laminated versions of the procedures will be issued as well as posted in the Race Office (motor cruiser 'Lochnagar') and aboard the accommodation vessels.

Communications

We will tell you about additional safety information at the scheduled briefings or at special briefings as required. A special briefing will be signalled by five or more short blasts on a fog-horn at the required location.

Participants can contact the event management team by mobile telephone on: 07721 407919 or by VHF radio on channel 69. Otherwise, please approach any member of the management team with comments or questions.

A full contact list is attached to these instructions and this includes contact numbers for the coastguard and other services.

Equipment

We strongly recommend that all vessels carry equipment as listed on Appendix B of the Sailing Instructions. Most of this list is mandatory and we reserve the right to refuse a vessel to participate in the event that this equipment is not available.

If you require any specific items of equipment they may be purchased from the Inverness chandlers Caley Marina if arranged in advance. As a member of the Great Glen Boating Club you are entitled to a 10% discount on shop or mail order sales. If you order well in advance they will quote you for the items and we will get them to Lochaber Yacht Club for you at the start of the event. Please e-mail info@caleymarina.com. We will have a small selection of useful chandlery items for sale, but these will be available on a first come first served basis.

Please note that maps or charts suitable for navigating and racing are provided at registration as well as the Scottish Canals publication 'Skippers Guide to the Caledonian Canal'.

Crew Training

We strongly recommend that each crew member is familiar with the boat being sailed (applies to core-crew for larger boats) and that appropriate safety drills such as man-overboard recovery and capsize have been practiced.

Crews should also be familiar with the basic seamanship techniques necessary for the passage of locks, including heaving lines, securing the vessel & making fast, shipping/unshipping oars safely, etc. Efficiency avoids accidents and the wrath of lock-keepers!

For those skippers and crews that have not had the chance to practice capsize and to see how their boat handles being swamped, we will be offering the opportunity at Laggan! This is an optional activity but we want as many of you as possible to take part, particularly if you haven't swamped your boat before. Please bring wetsuits if you have your own, otherwise we will organise the loan of wetsuits for the occasion from Ros Crana.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Detailed sailing instructions have been provided as well as these Joining Instructions. For those not familiar with racing rules, they have been summarised in Appendix A, but the basic rules of the road will keep you right (starboard tack has priority, windward boat keeps clear and overtaking boat keeps clear. Keep to starboard on canal reaches and pass port-to port). The starting procedure for races is noted in the Sailing Instructions.

Please note the rules regarding notification of crew numbers and the safety equipment list and make sure you bring everything.

Races, sailing & rowing

Please refer to the Sailing Instructions for details of the racing.

Participants intending to enter in the Loch Ness Challenge or the Highlander Trophy should notify the organisers as soon as possible, to be confirmed at Registration. Please refer to the sailing instructions for details of these trophies.

We are still finalising the racing classes, whether to run a 'development' class 4 and whether to amend the rules for this class to allow equipment not normally accepted. This refers to the following paragraph of the Sailing Instructions:

“Boats are permitted only to use their normal cruising or working sails. Specialised racing sails, including spinnakers and other similar sails are not permitted.

Trapezes, outriggers and sliding seats are also not permitted.”

Please let us know if you would be interested in racing in a class which allows for this equipment.

DAILY PROGRAMME

The daily programme will generally be:

- ☐ From 07.30 breakfast;
- ☐ 08:45 Skippers briefing
- ☐ 09:00 Boats on water for 09:30 / 10:00 start.
- ☐ Lunch times and places will vary each day and will be notified at the morning skippers briefing.
- ☐ 17:00 We intend to finish formal racing by 17:00 whenever possible
- ☐ 18:00 Event management meeting;
- ☐ 19:00 Briefing for all skippers and crew – results declared, safety issues covered, programme for following day previewed.
- ☐ 19:30 Supper

PROGRAMME

The programme is as follows:

Day	Period	Racing (see Sailing Instructions for details)	Logistics, other boat movements, social, etc
Sat 25th May	Morning		10:00 - Registrations, safety checks and launching at Lochaber Yacht Club. Lunch available at their 'galley' prices.
	Afternoon	16:00 hrs approx. Opening race, Loch Linnhe, with Lochaber Yacht Club.	From 13:00, Check in to accommodation boats, pitch tents etc. Cars & trailers to be taken to Corpach From 14:00.Ros Crana shuttle bus available to return drivers to Yacht Club. Race finishes at Corpach Basin to Lock in at approximately 17:00.
	Evening		19:30 Opening Ceremony with Buffet Supper provide at Lochaber Yacht Club. There is no bar at the Yacht club, so please BYOB. Please use your own cars or taxis (see joining information for taxi phone number).
	Overnight berthing & camping		Corpach Basin Camping on the seaward side of Corpach Basin (BW toilet/shower at the sea lock)

Day	Period	Racing (see Sailing Instructions for details)	Logistics, other boat movements, social, etc
Sun 26th May	Morning		08:15 Support boats plus Highlander Trophy participants up Corpach & Neptune's Staircase. Tie up at top. 0845 Other participant boats Ascend Corpach Locks 09:15 Drivers depart with cars and trailers to meet at Dochgarroch 11:00 for lift back to Banavie. 09:30 approx - fleet cruise Corpach Reach to Neptune's & up.
	Afternoon	14:15 Banavie to Gairloch Canal section. Rowing Race.	13:00 Lunch from Ros Crana in Neptune's Staircase 14:00 – Ros Crana passes fleet & on to Gairloch Top Lock through to Gairloch Top
	Evening		Hot supper at Gairloch.
	Overnight berthing & camping		Gairloch Top pontoons Camping to north of top lock, opposite side from BW toilet/shower.
Mon 27th May	Morning	0930 Loch Lochy Race, Gairloch to Laggan	
	Afternoon	"Round the Cans" sailing and rowing race on the Cean Loch	
	Evening		Hot supper at Laggan. Floating Bar, the Eagle, is moored at the locks.
	Overnight berthing & camping		Berthing Laggan Locks. Camping close to the lock.
Tues 28th May	Morning	0930 Rally down Laggan Avenue to Loch Oich, followed immediately by Loch Oich race finishing before Aberchalder Bridge.	Lunch at Aberchalder or Culloch as appropriate. During lunch dress boats overall for Best Dressed Boat Competition.
	Afternoon	Rowing pursuit race from Kytra, finishing in Fort Augustus.	Rallying leg to Kytra. Descend Fort Augustus locks. Best Dressed Boat will be judged by the lock keepers.
	Evening		Supper is not provided and we invite participants to use the local bars and restaurants in Fort Augustus. A list with contact numbers is provided to participants. We will arrive at around 16:00 hours to give time for booking tables etc whilst we descend the locks.
	Overnight berthing & camping		Berthing at Fort Augustus bottom Inveroich pier & pontoons. Camping at Cumberland's Camp Site.

Day	Period	Racing (see Sailing Instructions for details)	Logistics, other boat movements, social, etc
Weds 29th May	Morning	Loch Ness Race 1. 2 Courses on Loch Ness, Fort Augustus to Foyers. 'Loch Ness Challenge' entrants via Lochend or Dores 56km. Others direct 17km	
	Afternoon	Finish at Foyers	
	Evening		Hot supper and overnight in Foyers.
	Overnight berthing & camping		Berthing at Foyers Pier and/or Foyers shoreline or river. Camping at Loch Ness Shores Campsite, a short walk from the pier.
Thurs 30th May	Morning	Loch Ness Race 2. Foyers to Dochgarroch	
	Afternoon	Race finish at Aldourie or Lochend	Boats gather in Loch Dochfour before proceeding through to Dochgarroch.
	Evening		Hot supper provided.
	Overnight berthing & camping		Berthing at Dochgarroch, Camping on north and east side of canal lock, between car park and boat park, using BW toilets.
Fri 31st May	Morning	Dochgarroch to Tomnahurich Bridge, Canal section. Rally	Drivers leave at Tomnahurich to return to Dochgarroch in mini-bus, collect cars & trailers & take to North Kessock, then mini-bus to Muirtown.
	Afternoon	Beauly / Moray Firth Race Finish at North Kessock.	Late afternoon slipway recovery, North Kessock
	Evening		Supper and closing party in canal-side marquee Prize-giving & ceilidh
	Overnight berthing & camping		Overnight at Dochgarroch again (see Thursday)
Sat 1st June	Morning		Departure Day. Ros Crana to be vacated by 09.00.

Please advise us as soon as possible if you have any special dietary requirements or medical conditions we should be aware of.

Logistics

We will be moving all vehicles and trailers from Corpach to Dochgarroch on the Sunday whilst the fleet travels from Corpach to Banavie and ascends Neptune's Staircase. We then provide transport for your driver to return to Banavie in time for lunch and the afternoon rowing race. Each boat will be allocated only one place on the bus. Please let us know if this is not required so we can make the appropriate transport arrangements. If you have to drive and leave the boat in the hands of inexperienced crew we can help keep an eye on them. This is not a racing leg and many crews partner up to share a tow or swap crews to help each other. If you are single handed and entering the Highlander trophy we will try to come up with a plan to let you do this within the rules. Directions to Dochgarroch are attached.

The final shuttle to the finish point at North Kessock slipway will again be made while the fleet negotiates a staircase of locks. Drivers will be taken from Tomnahurich Bridge after the canal section, back to their vehicles at Dochgarroch. They will then make their own way to North Kessock slipway (directions attached) before being collected by our transport for the return journey to Muirtown.

ROS CRANA ACCOMMODATION

Our lovely twin berth en-suite cabins with hot showers aboard Ros Crana are now all fully booked. This is the way to do the event in style and where the craic is best (and you'd have access to our drying room too!). Book early for the next event and we'll add more similar accommodation as best we can to meet demand.

Joining Ros Crana

If you are booked on Ros Crana then your cabin will be ready for you any time after 1pm on Saturday in Corpach Basin.

CAMPING ARRANGEMENTS

We have arranged campsites for every stop-over and these are as close to the accommodation boats as possible. See the Programme (above) for campsite locations but details will be advised as we go along.

Toilets

Scottish Canals toilet blocks with showers are available at Corpach (Saturday), Gairloch (Sunday) Laggan (Monday) and Dochgarroch (Thursday and Friday).

At Fort Augustus (Tuesday) and Foyers (Wednesday) there are commercial serviced camp sites.

Note that campers can use the heads (toilets) on Ros Crana but NOT the showers or drying room.

These are for the use of the residents who have paid extra for such comfort & facilities, please respect this!

Transport of gear

Part of the camping fee goes to provide a van and driver for the transport of your camping equipment and luggage between each stop-over. Please ensure that you load your own equipment into the van before you set off to sail for the day. The van will be locked or attended until you arrive back off the water.

Please do not ask the accommodation boats to transport or dry your clothing or equipment.

Fires

Please do not light open camp-fires without specific permission from the event management.

Breakfast and packed lunches

These can be provided from 'Ros Crana' and are available by prior arrangement. Bookings for these have been organised already, but if you require breakfast or lunch and you haven't booked, please let us know as soon as possible so we can buy enough supplies!

AND FINALLY . . .

Sail Caledonia is all about having fun and sharing the sport we love whilst in the spectacular scenery of the Scottish Highlands. We will have a range of participants from both the UK and abroad – each with something to bring to the event. We hope that this will be a welcoming and inclusive event, so please join in with this spirit, get to know everyone and above all enjoy yourselves.

If there is anything at any time which could be improved or which is spoiling your enjoyment, please let us know.

The event team is looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday 25th May, we're looking forward to a fun time with lots of great sailing and the usual conviviality!

Martin Balcombe
Safety and General Manager
March 2019

CONTACT DETAILS

Emergency Services including Coastguard 999

Non Emergency Coast Guard Details – Stornoway Coastguard 01851 702013
Aberdeen Coastguard 01224 592 334

VHF - Canal operating channel 74
VHF Sail Caledonia operating channel 69

Sail Caledonia Management (Great Glen Boating Club Committee)

Martin Balcombe – Event & Safety Manager 07721 407 919
John Macpherson – Race Officer 07977 851 423
Norna Hall – Logistics 07789 311 269
Ishbel Eunson – Secretary and Data Protection 07756 664 810
Dave Roberts – Support Fleet Management & Logistics 07584 430 225

Sail Caledonia Event Team

Jean Lonsdale – Driver & Camp manager 07970 155630
Ros Crana catering 07502 161 805

Sail Caledonia Support Vessels

“Lochnagar” John Macpherson 07977 851 423
“Ros Crana” Dave Roberts 07502 161 805
“Loch Ness” Nicky Gear & Adrian Farrow 07847 630 464

Scottish Canals

West District Supervisor 07909 926 752
East District Supervisor 07711 796 304
Middle District Supervisor 07789 278 961
Inverness Office 01463 725 500

Other Useful Numbers

Ros Crana 07502 161 805
Caley Cruisers 01463 236 328
West Highland Sailing 01809 501 234
Great Glen Travel 01809 501 222
Fort William Taxis 01397 706 070
Inverness Taxis 01463 222 222

Canal Locations:

Corpach Sea Lock 01397 772 249

FORT AUGUSTUS DINING OPTIONS. Tuesday 31st May

Please remember that we are not feeding you on Tuesday evening! This gives you the opportunity to sample the local hostelrys. Be aware that these places have limited spaces so it is wise to phone ahead.

Canal side chip shop	Chippy inc. haggis suppers	Closes 9pm	Phone ahead large orders	01320 366439
The Lock Inn	Pub Food	Last food orders 9pm	Phone to arrange	01320 366302
The Bothy	Traditional food	Last food orders 9pm	Phone to arrange	01320 366710
The Poachers (Richmond Hotel)	Pub food		Nip in to arrange	01320 366719
Caledonian Hotel	3 course meal / a la carte	Sit down meal at 7pm	Phone to arrange	01320 366256
The Lovat	3 course meal / a la carte		Phone to arrange	01456490000
The Moorings	Café style restaurant	Last food orders 8.30pm	Phone to arrange	01320 366484

All these places except the chip shop sell alcohol, the barge bar will be closing at 6.45pm on this night as the crew need to head into town and get fed too.

Hope you enjoy wherever you choose to dine, we have a few of the place's menus to view on Ros Crana if that helps you decide.

DIRECTIONS TO LOCHABER YACHT CLUB

General

Lochaber Yacht Club is located on the south-east shore of Loch Linnhe just south of the town of Fort William. The grid reference is NN 094 732 (OS sheet 41) or 56°48.7'N, 5°07.4'W.

The club is the only building between the A82 main road and the loch and is located approximately 500m south-west of the roundabout at the southern end of the dual-carriageway section of the Fort William bypass.

By road From the South (Glasgow, Edinburgh)

- 1 Take the motorway towards Stirling which is (or joins) the M9.
- 2 Leave M9 motorway at Junction 10 signposted for Crianlarich
- 3 A84 to Crianlarich, passing through Doune, Callandar, Strathyre, Lochearnhead
- 4 Continue through Crianlarich (Signs for Fort William) road becomes A82.
- 5 A82 to Fort William, passing through Tyndrum, Bridge of Orchy, Glencoe.
- 6 At roundabout junction with A828 take first exit A82 to Fort William
- 7 A82 to Fort William, passing through Onich.
- 8 Watch for yacht club on left soon after start of 30MPH speed limit.
- 9 If you miss the yacht club, go right round the roundabout at the end of the bypass and go back 500m or so.

By road from the North (Spean Bridge, Fort Augustus, Inverness, Wick, Thurso)

- 1 A9 south to Inverness, then follow signs to Fort William and pick up the A82 south.
- 2 A82 to Fort William via Drumnadrochit, Invermoriston, Fort Augustus and Spean Bridge.

- ☐ At junction with A830 (lights) go straight on for 'Town Centre' and 'Crianlarich'.
- ☐ Continue 2m to Fort William bypass, following any signs for A82 & Crianlarich.
- ☐ Dual carriageway section along seafront.
- ☐ 3rd exit from roundabout (A82, Crianlarich).
- ☐ Yacht club is 500m on Right.

DIRECTIONS TO CORPACH BASIN

General

Corpach is located on the north shore of Loch Linnhe west of Fort William. The grid reference is NN 097 767 (OS sheet 41) or 56°50.5'N, 5°07.3'W.

The basin is just past the railway station near the shops at Corpach and is the south-western entrance to the Caledonian Canal from the sea.

By road from Lochaber Yacht Club & Fort William

- ☐ Turn Left out of yacht club towards town.
- ☐ At the roundabout take the dual carriageway section along seafront (A82, Inverness).
- ☐ At the next roundabout take the 2nd exit (A82, Inverness).
- ☐ Continue past Belford Hospital and Lochaber Leisure Centre
- ☐ 1 mile to mini roundabout, 1st exit (A82, Inverness).
- ☐ 1 mile to traffic lights. Go left (A830, Mallaig)
- ☐ 2 miles to Corpach, turn left just before shops (Railway Station, Corpach Basin).

DIRECTIONS TO DOCHGARROCH LOCK

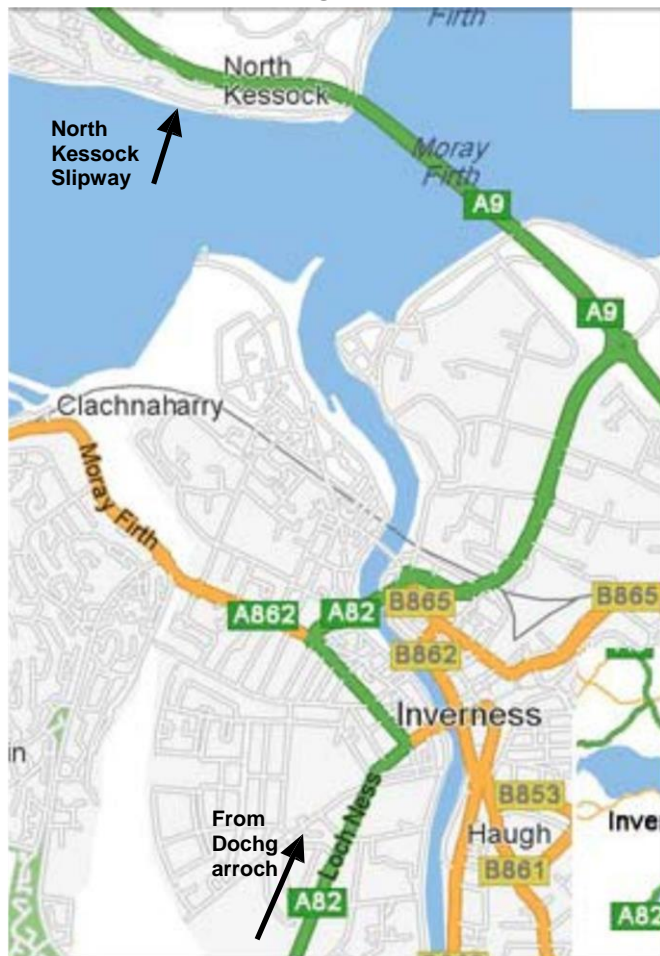
General

Dochgarroch is located just off the A82 Fort William to Inverness road. just beyond Loch Ness and Loch Dochfour before the last canal reach into Inverness. The grid reference is NH 618 404 (OS sheet 26) or 57°26.2'N, 4°18.8'W.

By road from Corpach

- 1 Go out of Corpach basin up to A830 near Corpach shops.
- 2 Turn right onto A830 and follow for 2 miles.
- 3 At Traffic lights and T junction with A82 turn left towards Inverness.
- 4 Follow the A82 through Laggan, Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit for about 60 miles.
- 5 Pass the end of Loch Ness and on to the end of Loch Dochfour on your right. Look for boat pontoon moorings and the start of the canal on your right.
- 6 At Dochgarroch look for Oakwood Antiques and turn right here towards the village hall and the lock. At the village hall turn left along the track and look for the car & trailer parking area by the canal. If in doubt ask the lock keeper.
- 7 Be ready to depart on our transport back to Banavie at 1100hrs.

Directions - Dochgarroch to North Kessock.



General

North Kessock slipway is located on the North shore of the Beaulie Firth. Grid ref. NH 653 479 (OS sheet 26) or 57°30.2'N, 4°15.2'W.

By road from Dochgarroch.

- 1 From Dochgarroch head towards Inverness on the A82.
- 2 After about 4 miles you cross the canal at Tomnahurich Bridge and continue into town.
- 3 Look for Traffic Lights and a Left turn to stay on the A82 towards the A9 and the North
- 4 At a roundabout take the right turn exit staying on the A82 & the bridge over the river.
- 5 At the next roundabout take the 3rd exit straight over on A82
- 6 Next roundabout 1st Exit Left on A82
- 7 Next Roundabout (nr Halfords) 2nd exit straight over on A82
- 8 At roundabout take 1st exit left onto A9 north for 2 miles, over Kessock Bridge take the exit for North Kessock.
- 9 Follow the signs and look for the big slipway near the hotel. Park nearby without obstructing the slipway.

SAIL CALEDONIA MANAGEMENT TEAM

Martin Balcombe – Safety & General Manager – 07721 407 919

Martin is owner of Fingal of Caledonia, a 128' motor barge which has, since 1996, been running cruises with outdoor activities in the Great Glen. He was involved in all 3 Great Glen Raids and has been on the management team of all the previous Sail Caledonia events since the first one in 2003. He has lost count of how many times he might have been through the Great Glen by barge, sailboat & canoe. Martin's experience includes: Head of Sailing for Outward Bound Scotland, including directing 'Viking Wayfarer' expeditions of 28' open cutters (14 days west coast sailing with wild camping ashore!); Skipper of Lorne Leader, an 80' gaff ketch on holiday charter in the Hebrides and Manager of The Manor House activity holiday centre near Padstow, Cornwall. His RYA qualifications include Yachtmaster Instructor, Dinghy Senior Instructor, Powerboat Instructor, Sea Survival Instructor and VHF radio Instructor. He holds other outdoor qualifications from the Scottish Canoe Association and Scottish Mountain Leader Training Board. He is the author of The Outward Bound Sailing Handbook. Martin has played in and around boats since a tender age and owns Spylgarn, a 16' ketch. She now works for a living on Fingal but started life firing Martin's passion for open boat cruising by sail & oar in Cornwall and around the Hebrides.

John Macpherson – Race Officer - 07977 851 423

John was involved in the 2002 Great Glen Raid and his motor cruiser 'Lochnagar' has become a familiar site as the committee boat for all of the Sail Caledonia events. He describes his most embarrassing moment as being towed away from Foyers in 2005 but no Sail Caledonia would be complete without him bouncing around in 'Lochnagar' on at least one windy finish line! Lochnagar comes equipped with new engine and onboard computer for printing out those all important race results. John also takes many event photos and his excellent albums can be found from a link on our website.

Norna Hall – Logistics– 07789 311 269

Norna started sailing in one of the first ever Mirror dinghies. Since then she has had many years of just "messing about" in boats big and small. She joined Sail Caledonia in 2007 as Pressgang and enjoyed it so much that she can't keep away. As Pressgang she has sailed with a number of very patient and forgiving skippers in some fantastic boats.

Her most embarrassing moment was capsizing her wee traditional Cornish Cove Boat in front of several thousand spectators at the Portsoy festival.

Dave Roberts- Logistics

It wouldn't be Sail Caledonia without "Swampy" Dave at the helm of Fingal. Few folks are aware of all the work that he does quietly in the background, smoothing the way for the fleet as it makes its way down the canal. He is an independent skipper on the canal and when not on the barge he can be found taking tourists down the loch at stupid speeds in a fast rib, or at a more sedate pace on the Royal Scot. When the winter comes you will find him praying for snow as a member of the ski patrol at Nevis Range.

Ishbel Eunson - Secretary

Ishbel works and lives in Shetland. She has competed in Sail Caledonia since 2005. She crews with her Dad on the lovely Auk and has won the Highlander Trophy more times than is healthy.

Mike Tatham - Treasurer

Mike has been involved with the sea since leaving school, making his living in the merchant navy and the oil industry, but only started sailing in 2009 when his friend built him a boat. He came on his first raid in 2011 and, despite capsizing twice (once without any sails up!) was hooked to such an extent that it rapidly became an all consuming passion. In 2015 he did the Clipper Round the World yacht race

<https://www.clipperroundtheworld.com> on the Great Britain yacht which attained a podium finish coming in third overall. He also does volunteer sailing for the Helen MacArthur Cancer Trust

<https://www.ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org> taking young people sailing after recovering from cancer.

Fleet Numbers to Date

Participant Boat List			
Boat Name	Boat Type	Length Loa (m)	Name
Wren	Stir Ven 19	5.7	Graham Files
Craic	Swallow Sea Raider	6.7	Andrew Peers
Jack	Swampscott Dory	6.1	Jim Wise
Two Brothers	Drascombe Lugger	5.7	Jim Black Mijndert
Ganilly	Drascombe Lugger	5.7	Wiesenekker
Odin's Eye	Faering	5.4	Dan Harvey
Toraidean	Caledonia Yawl		Mike Tatham
Curlew (1)	Bayraider Expedition	6.7	Stephen Jury
Auk	Westray Skiff	5.0	Paul Eunson
HoneyBee	Sailfish 18	5.5	Jon Lee
Celandine	Rebel 17	5.0	John Dalby
Skylark	Bayraider Expedition	6.7	Helen Ash
Curlew (2)	Drascombe Coaster	6.6	Nigel Maddocks
Feadhanach	Islay Skiff		Stef Vandenhoeck

Participant, Staff & Crew Numbers

We currently have a total of 61 people made up of participants and support boat crew / event staff