

Crom Rally, 12th -14th September 2014

Introduction

The Drascombe Association will be holding a rally near the Crom Estate, Newtownbutler, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland from 12th -14th September 2014

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Location

OSNI 1:50,000 Discoverer Series Sheet 27 Grid Reference H 385 252

The rally will be based at Doohat House, a farmhouse set in 4 acres of grounds on the shore of Upper Lough Erne. There is ample parking for cars & trailers and an area set aside for camping and for motor homes. Participants will have the use of the ground floor “wet room” with a shower and toilet, and for those younger members a games room with table tennis. WiFi is available but should be used responsibly as there is limited bandwidth due to the distance from the local BT exchange.

Boats arriving by trailer will launch at the public slipway at Bun Jetty, and should tie up at Bun Jetty overnight. There is no charge for either launching or mooring.



Directions

By Boat:

From Enniskillen head for the Upper Lough and then South East to Gad Island **Marker 23C**, passing under the Lady Craigavon Bridge on the way. This will necessitate lowering the mast.

From the Shannon – Erne Waterway approach Gad Island **Marker 23D**, from the South West.

Continue past Gad Island into the channel leaving the Old Crom Castle ruins to port, and on to the public jetty at Crom. Leaving Crom Jetty to port, head North into the next channel and on to Bun Jetty, taking care at the ford **Marker 24**.

By Land Rover or Car:

Within Northern Ireland via the M1, including Drascombers from Great Britain or Europe arriving by ferry into Larne or Belfast:

Take M1 out of Belfast to Dungannon and on to the Ballygawley Bypass. Continue on the A4 through Augher, Clogher, Fivemiletown, were left passing Maguiresbridge, then through Lisnaskea and on to Newtownbutler via the A34.

From the North West go via Enniskillen, then on to Maguiresbridge & Lisnaskea.

From Eire:

Make your way to either Monaghan or Cavan depending on your start point. From the Cavan bypass head North for Belturbet / Enniskillen on the N3, before turning right onto the N54 Cavan / Monaghan concession road at Butlersbridge. At Wattlebridge turn left (or right if coming from Monaghan) on to the B533 and proceed to Newtownbutler.

From Newtownbutler:

At Newtownbutler, turn right (or left if coming from the South) at the mini roundabout, signposted **Bun Jetty** and **Crom Estate**. Continue on this road for approx 2 miles, crossing a road junction after about 1 mile, until Lough Erne is seen on the left hand side. Bun Jetty is just before a narrow bridge, and Doohat House is the first house on the left after the bridge.

On arrival, please launch your boat at the slipway at Bun Jetty before bringing the empty trailer to the house / campsite, although there is space to turn about 1 mile further up the Bun Road past the house if anyone needs to unload tents etc before launching.

The first gate gives access to the House and campsite, the third gives access to the “trailer park”.

To minimise congestion, it is better if trailers are not brought in the first gate.

Launching at Bun Jetty

Bun Jetty is a free of charge public slipway and is used by fishermen & sometimes waterskiers, especially on Sundays. It is in everyone's interests to clear cars & trailers quickly. The jetty is "L" shaped with the short leg parallel to the slipway. This makes even single-handed launching very easy and there is ample room for mooring either side of the long leg away from the actual slipway.

Boats can be left tied to the jetty (at your own risk of course) or left at anchor between the jetty & Doochat House.

There will be one Coaster at the Doochat Jetty along with several canoes – these can be used with parental supervision (again at your own risk of course) in the immediate surroundings and may appeal to the younger sailors, but personal lifejackets must be brought and worn.

Sailing Plan for the Rally

Boats should aim to assemble on Friday afternoon, although anyone arriving earlier, for instance those travelling by water from the Lough Derg Rally, will be most welcome.

There will be no catering provided on Friday night but there are various hotels / carry-outs etc in Newtownbutler and Lisnaskea. We will organise a lift if necessary for those arriving by boat who have no road transport.

On Saturday we plan to sail to Inish Rath to visit the Hare Khrishna Temple, with stopovers at Crom Estate & Gad Island on the return.

We will have a BBQ on Saturday night, bring your own food and drink.

Plan for Sunday is to head for Quivvy Lough and Belturbet, stopping at the Bloody Pass for a Drascombe first – an international raft across the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic, so courtesy flags and ensigns will be required !

The lough upstream of Lady Craigavon Bridge is a series of islands and open water linked by narrow twisting channels and will provide very technical sailing challenges. Depending on wind strength and direction, rowing, sculling or use of outboards may be necessary in the channels where these are sheltered by trees and vegetation.

Lough Erne is generally hazard free, however care must be taken in the vicinity of hire cruisers, as they do not usually understand rights of way, sailing boats tacking etc in the narrow channels. Water levels on the lough have been low this summer, hence the warning reference the ford to Galloon Island, but the marker posts here are being replaced this August so there should not be any issue identifying the passage.

There are a number of power lines across the lough which Drascombes can sail under without dropping their masts, although we recommend that the mainsail is lowered level with the top of the mast in case the lines have sagged. If traversing Foley's Cut or Galloon Bridge masts must be lowered – but alternate routes are available.

There are no Admiralty charts of Lough Erne. The OSNI 1:25,000 Activity Map covers both Upper & Lower Lough Erne including depth soundings and Marker Posts. For support parties on shore we suggest the larger scale OSNI 1:50,000 Sheet 27.

Communications and Safety

Please note, that when in the Republic of Ireland, life jackets must be worn by all participants.

We will use Channel 72 for flotilla communications. There is limited coastguard cover this far West of Lough Navar.

The nearest RNLI station is at Carrybridge approximately 15 miles from the sailing area.

Met Eireann Inland Lakes Weather Forecast can be heard on Channel 61 (Lough Derg) and Channel 62 (Lough Ree).

Lough Derg, Ch 61 07:20, 09:20, 16:20, 18:20 hours

Lough Ree, Ch 62 07:15, 09:15, 16:15, 18:15 hours

Miscellaneous Information

The Hare Krishna adherents are vegetarian and they have requested that we do not bring meat products to the island – leave the ham sandwiches in the boat !

As this is an International Rally you will need Sterling on Saturday and Euros if you want an ice-cream or a pint on Sunday when in Belturbet.