



Baltimore Rally - August 12 - 16; 2020

We are offering a sailing rally from August 12 to 16th while respecting the HSE NPHET guidelines by forgoing the indoor social aspects of the event as has been the tradition, and restricting ourselves to outdoor activities and limiting close contact with local people and with each other. Many of our regular participants will be absent and we send warm wishes to each one, looking forward to a fully open event in 2022. At time of writing we expect 18 boats to participate so we should have a lot of fun.

Programme

Wednesday 12th

Launch (High Tide is at 11:43)

18:00 to 19:00 - Members of the organising team will be available at the Baltimore Sailing club front car park to answer questions, offer advice and give any assistance that does not involve hard labour or close contact.

Thursday 16th to Sunday 16th - Sailing Programme

Due to our measure to control risks arising from the Coronavirus pandemic we will not be proposing indoor events as part of our 2020 rally. The daily programme will commence with a briefing delivered at 09:30 from the front of BSC. The briefing will be transmitted on **VHF Ch 77**.

The sailing programme will consist of picnic outings with a possibility of an overnight camping or live on board on Friday or Saturday night at a destination that provides an option to return to Baltimore by alternative transport - for example Cape Clear or Barlogue. The day trips will require that participants each bring their own provisions sufficient for the day.

The destinations we have identified are

Ballydehob	Possibility of local catering
Schull Harbour	Possibility of local catering
East Skeam	Beach games
Calf Island east	Beach games
Sherkin Is	(Foul weather) hike to North Shore (Catering)
Hare Island	Beach games, "Pizzhareia" option
Cape Clear South Hbr	Possible Overnight
Barlogue Creek	Possible Overnight, bioluminescence excursion to Lough Hyne
Ilen River	Landing and woodland walking in Inisbeg - (Foul weather option)
Castletownsend	Possible Overnight

Above are a sample of the options. There may be more than one destination on any day.

Moorings

Participants who seek a quiet anchorage are recommended to choose Church Bay. Any participant seeking a mooring please contact the harbourmaster, Diarmuid Minihane, at +353 87 2351485 who can offer moorings and a ferry service. VHF ch9
High tide will be in the mid day time and are neaps so there may be very limited drying out anchorage in the Cove.
Trailers may be stored at Castle end.

Sailing Instructions

Sailing Area

Preview Baltimore Bay on Google Earth at 51 deg 29 N and 9 deg 22.5 W.
The Admiralty chart for the area is No 2129

Communication

Information will be given:

- + At the Briefing at 09:30 at Baltimore Sailing Club on each day except Wednesday
- + By messages to "ALL DRASCOMBES" on **VHF Channel 77**
- + By SMS messages to participants' mobile phones using a group text. Please include your mobile phone number in your registration for participation in the SMS messaging system.

Safety

Each skipper is responsible for the safety of their boat and crew. If conditions are such that you are uncomfortable then decision to sail or not rests solely with you. The rally organizers do not intend to encourage avoidable discomfort by sailing in unsuitable conditions, rather to organize alternative entertainment ashore for participants in the case of inclement weather.

Participants are advised to use the "SafeTRX" phone app and be familiar with its tracking function. On the day of the Cape Clear trip and at the discretion of the organiser, you will be asked to share your track with jack.okeeffe@gmail.com.

If you find you cannot use SafeTRX please use google maps to share your location with jack.okeeffe@gmail.com for the duration of the days sailing.

If you are separated from the fleet or observe a vessel in difficulty, please inform Jack O'Keeffe by SMS at +353 87 2663588 or on the VHF working channel, **CH 77**.

Tides

Lowest Neap tides will occur on August 14th. Times of High water at Baltimore are:

Date	Morning	Evening
Wednesday 12	11:43	-
Thursday 13	0:16	12:50
Friday 14	01:29	14:02
Saturday 15	02:40	15:08
Sunday 16	03:40	16:04

Ashore

Activity ashore on the mainland or in any normally inhabited island will respect the guidance for COVID 19 risk control current at the time and location. Participants are advised to be independent in terms of equipment and provisions, and avoid close interaction with where possible and to especially respect the wishes of islanders regarding contact. The hotel on Sherkin is closed, as will be many of our usual haunts. We look forward to entertaining ourselves and each other in the open air.

You have options for breakfast outdoors at Rolf's or at "The Jolie Brieze"

On Arrival

Launch on arrival. The organising team will be available for consultation at BSC from 1800 to 1900 on Wednesday or on VHF ch 77:

Zita O'Reilly	087 794 4804
Mike Stephenson	0044 7388 446361
Jack O'Keefe	087 2663588

Launch places

There are launching options as follows;

- At the new RoRo slipway near the old Baltimore railway Station subject to ferry activity
- In Baltimore Harbour beside BSC, East of the lifeboat station on the beach (within 2 hours of HW)
- In "The Cove" on the beach (within 2 hours of HW)

Daily catering and provisioning

Each Day's sailing will include at least one break ashore for a picnic/cookout and for activities and socialising within COVID 19 guidance. Bring the food and cooking equipment you need in your boat each day.

Have at least 8 lr total of petrol and 3 lr of drinking water per person aboard at the start of each outing.

Registration

Many have submitted intention to participate at www.drascombe.ie (upcoming events). If you cannot successfully do this, then email me the details including your mobile phone number.

Each participating skipper is required to complete and sign a Rally Application form. Please understand this minor bureaucratic request. Please download the form from the site, complete it photograph it and email or message the photo to jack.okeefe@gmail.com

Merchandise

There will be a limited number of commemorative burgees (€15) available for purchase. This year we are not offering event sweatshirts.

Camping & Motorhomes

There is a motorhome / camping site in Skibereen. Motorhomes and trailers are tolerated on the roadside near the old railway station Wild camping is tolerated, in particular near the Beacon and near the lifeboat station. Showers at €3 each use are available in the toilet block (behind the Harbour Office) (open 07:30 hrs to 21:30 hrs).

Charter

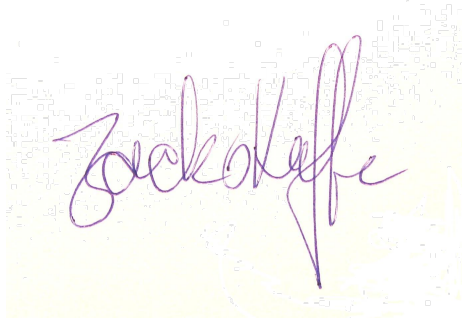
You can charter Drascombe Luggers locally from Ilen Yachts or from Baltimore Yacht Charters.

Thanks

Thanks to Bush's Bar, Baltimore SC, for sponsorship and support, to Mike Stephenson, and to Zita O'Reilly for juggling and organisation.

OK – let's enjoy safely!

Jack O'Keefe

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jack O'Keefe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a yellow background that features a faint, repeating pattern of a small boat.