



## Editorial

A lot of people have a new computer and so do I, I do!  
My new computer isn't new.

It is really 'second hand'.  
but it will do.

It's not so very old,  
or so I'm told.

Others here are very young  
but I can't see their song.

So all you new computers  
when all your email sent and  
done,  
only pictures in attachments  
please.



bkesby@toucansurf.com

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**Deadline for March  
is February 20th**

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# TellTale

## Future Events

**RYA Training Courses:**

**RYA Day Skipper Theory**



**Race Rules and OOD Quiz night  
19th March**



**Powerboat Level 1 and 2  
Saturday and Sunday 21. and 22nd March**



**Fitting out Supper Sat. 28th March**



**Junior Learn to Sail  
two last weekends end of April**



**Adult Learn to Sail  
Three Weekends in May**



**Frostbite Shield Sunday 29th March**



**Every Thursday the Thursday Gang will continue to  
come out to play. There will always be plenty to  
do as long as the wine lasts.**



Photo by Keith Falconer



## Commodores Corner

Happy New Year.

I hear that three boats were out on the loch on New Years Day – two Toppers and a Kestrel – although there was no wind so maybe it was a pleasant drift along to clear the head rather than a bracing sail. Nice to see two of our newest members out and two juniors on the water so a good start to the year. Joe arrived at the clubhouse in his kilt but declined to start a tradition of sailing in Highland dress: maybe next year. The commodore had escaped once again for a landlocked celebration in Edinburgh. On New Year's day I checked out the east coast sailors at sunny North Berwick. They are not so hardy as our selves as they wait until the 2nd January for their first sail. Thursday club stalwarts are busy working on the two newest Wayfarers and these should be ready for the Spring adult training sessions so make sure to spread the word about this great opportunity to learn the skills and techniques of sailing. It is a quiet time of the year but the sailing season will soon be upon us so now is the time to check your boat, organise crew, plan your summer cruise and, last but not least, pay your subs if you haven't already done so. Regards

Jim

**As you may have heard**, the Cadet Centre suffered a burst water pipe during the Christmas holidays and the committee were very kind in letting us use the yacht club for cadet and staff training during the short period we were rendered homeless. We'd all like to thank everyone who helped out by letting us use the clubhouse and getting it ready at such short (less than 24hrs) notice. While we expected the situation to last some weeks the Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association worked hard with local contractors to get the water and electricity back on in a few days. Consequently, we're still drying out the building, but at least we are back in again.

Thank you again

Derrick Warner  
Commanding Officer  
TS St Christopher



## LYC 2008/2009 Training Programme

We are now well into the training programme with the RYA Diesel Engine course for 7 trainees completed in December. This was run by Pat MacLean with the aid of a demonstration diesel engine so now we know our con-rods from our gudgeon pins. In January 10 trainees completed the **RYA VHF course** run by Sally Thompson from Blue Fin Sailing in Oban. She came very well equipped with special training radios to ensure the rescue services weren't called out. Both courses were well received. Thanks to Maurin, Colin, Beryl, Rebecca and Abigail for taking care of the catering.

Coming up is the **RYA Day Skipper Shore Based** course over three weekends in March run by Alec Blanc from Lochaber Watersports with more than half the available places booked so hurry if you want a place. Then we have plans for an **RYA Powerboat Level 2 course** in April with a demonstration of flares and lifejackets by the RNLI on Thursday Club Nights in May. There will also be a **quiz night for Racing Rules** and OOD and the **Junior and Adult Learn to Sail** courses in April and May so look out for details and dates on the website.

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Lochaber Yacht Club  
Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 3 February 7.00pm



**Wanted**

Dinghy for kids to sail eg Topper  
Please contact Peter Lawson on  
07798504434

**Wanted**

Launching Trolley and Towing Trailer  
suitable for Mirror Dinghy.  
Contact John Dougan 01397 701 071

**Please let the editor know  
when something is sold.**

**For Sale**

505 Sailing Dinghy  
Combi Trailer, Cover, GRP with Wooden Deck  
£500 ono  
Kim Cameron 01397 703 766

**For Sale**

**Kestrel Sailing Dinghy**  
The club Kestrel is for sale  
Available for inspection  
in the dinghy park  
Price £250 ono.  
Contact Hamish Loudon  
0787 9651851 FW 702370



**FOR SALE**

**Laser Pico Sailing Dinghy**  
Virtually brand new and only  
sailed a handful of times:  
Yellow Hull,  
Cover, Trolley, Jib kit,  
bags for everything!  
Cost over 3,500 new  
£1500 or near offer  
Contact Gary MacLennan  
07759 881311

**For Sale**

One wet suit about age 10 £5  
Dinghy Smock age 8/9 - as new £5  
wet suit shoes 24 cm long size 1 £2

Keith Falconer 01397 705176  
[kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk](mailto:kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk)

**Books for Sale.**

Donated by a Vintage Member

|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Yachting World Handbook</b> by  | Peter Johnson |
| <b>ICE</b> by                      | Tristan Jones |
| <b>The Incredible Voyage.</b>      |               |
| <b>A personal Odyssey</b> by       | Tristan Jones |
| <b>Saga of a Wayward Sailor</b> by | Tristan Jones |
| <b>ADRIFT</b> by                   | Tristan Jones |
| <b>Weekend Navigation</b> by       | Bruce Fraser  |

and  
good for all the basics before electronics took over

**The Ashley Book of Knots**  
(Some things never change)  
**Survive the Savage Seas** by Dougal Robertson  
(37 days adrift in the Pacific-incredible survival tale)  
**Fasnet** a history of the race until 1979  
(the year of the storm)

All books £2 each ono. Contact Hamish on  
0787 9651851 or e-mail

[hamloud@hamloud.plus.com](mailto:hamloud@hamloud.plus.com)

**SOLING FOR SALE**

Trilleachan GBR 59  
27 feet overall length, 4 feet 3 draft., 2 Main sails, 1 x A1  
jib, 1 x V1 jib, 1 x V1X jib, 1 Spinnaker, all North Sails.  
Harken jib track and car (self tacking), Harken main  
track, Barton sliding shroud cars and tracks. Most  
blocks by  
Harken, Folding anchor, Over boom cover, bilge pump,  
buckets etc. Ready to race.  
Good road trailer. Lying at Fort William

Reasonable price

for further details and to view,  
Tel: 01687 470 266 or 07824 633 130



Photo by Keith Falconer

**LYC caps available**

Similar to the sought after 2005  
50th anniversary caps in 100% cotton- £10 each.  
Allways available Contact Keith Falconer to order.

01397 7051776 or at  
[kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk](mailto:kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk)

**(For Sale continued)****4sail**

Merrydancer GBR32

27'6" Soling conversion. Rigged for single handed sailing, but sails really well with two. Lots of sails. Compass. Outboard bracket fitted. 4 hp Johnson outboard (needs attention) with 10 litre fuel tank. Anchor. Two berths. Lockers port and starboard. Fitted carpet. Single burner cooker. Clock and Barometer. Movable helmsman's seat. Launching trolley.

This boat has been beautifully converted into a well balanced, fast yacht and cherished by the present owner for the past twelve years. She has been raced very successfully at Arisaig Regatta for the past eight years, winning every year except once when she came a close second, having retired due to weather conditions. Merrydancer is much admired with very pleasing lines, easy to sail and gives tremendous performance. She has a fascinating history, and is the only soling to circumnavigate Rockall, and single handed at that! New boat necessitates sale.

£3,250 ono for quick sale  
(A lot of boat for the money!)

Contact Simon Macdonald  
tel 01687 470 266,  
mobile 07824 633 130  
Email:  
smokehouse@glenug51.freemove.co.uk

**"Oban Visitor Moorings"**

now available on  
[www.obanbayberthing.co.uk](http://www.obanbayberthing.co.uk)  
email <[obanbayberthing@gmail.com](mailto:obanbayberthing@gmail.com)>

**Thursday Club Reports****Thursday 1st January 2009**

Not an official muster of the "Thursday Club" more an informal gathering to sail into the New Year. A club tradition going back to the dim and distant 1985 or thereabouts when one member sailed a Lark dinghy on a beautiful sunny New Years Day. The process has been repeated on nearly every year since. The non sailing members gather to wish each other a Happy New Year and to eat drink and be merry!

This year there was a suspicion of a breeze and the Kestrel (Martin Wolfenden & Lisa Diggins) plus two Toppers (Euan & Alexander Wilkie) went afloat. Many of us watched with interest from the warmth of the clubhouse. Photographic evidence on the website.

&lt;--ooolllloo--&gt;

**Thursday 8th January, week Two.**

This was the first proper muster of the year and nearly all the usual suspects eventually turned up. El Comode was reported NOT to be at a distillery but using his roping skills in a tunnel. The full story next week? Brian Fallows, Adrian Hope, Joe Willetts, Brian Holgate, Hamish Loudon, mustered for coffee at the appointed hour of 1000. After much New Year pleasantries the team headed for the old fire station where the two Wayfarer dinghies are stored and undergoing a mammoth restoration. We were joined there by Martin Wolfenden and Robbie Robertson (Club Truck still undergoing major surgery) Initially, progress was a bit like "The Last of the Summer Wine) but the team soon settled down to a very productive forenoon. Meanwhile Paul Biggin had kept the stove fully stoked and produced a rather splendid wooden collar for the mast. This fitting is designed to hold the belaying pins. (consult an Ancient Mariner to find out more) Come lunchtime the galley team were ready for the workers, Beryl Austin, Peter Lister and Cheryl MacIntosh MBE, provided the usual excellent fare. The pate and wine were particularly good as was the first fruit cake of the season. Secretary Chris got wind of this and joined for lunch. Post lunch a smaller team returned to the Wayfarers and laboured until the call for afternoon tea. Adrian and Brian F had homework in the shape of various wooden parts. Next week, come and join in, am or pm, overalls would be useful.

&lt;--ooolllloo--&gt;



**Thursday 15th January**

The early arrival, Brian H had the stove well alight and was restocking the ready use log pile by the time Adrian and Hamish arrived followed by Joe who was still in advance of the official muster time of 1000, such enthusiasm! Brian F also joined for coffee and foul weather soon dampened the enthusiasm for the great outdoors. Roll Call revealed Paul was in Austria, Martin W was working, Commode was still in his tunnel, and Robbie, like the Club Truck was indisposed. So, the four stalwarts headed for the old fire station where the endless task of Wayfarer refurbishment awaited. Adrian and Brian H had done their homework on the various wooden components ( note incorrect report last week Brian F was not the one given homework) Hamish had made some progress on GRP repairs so it was a satisfied team who continued the work. Joe was painting floorboards, Adrian and Brian were woodworking and Hamish was hidden in the aft tank of "Jura" The other Wayfarer has been Christened "Islay" Joe also has homework on another club Wayfarer, "Arisaig" Lunch called but Adrian had another offer (note, not "better") Joe was homeward bound and Brian & Hamish headed for the clubhouse. Here there was serious disappointment! Stove low on fuel and soup not even in the pan. It was known that Beryl was in the Channel Islands and Liz was not available but had sent the venison broth in advance. No one had warned our wine master of this unfortunate development. AND he had been delayed on horticultural endeavours so, no wine uncorked?????????!!!!!!! The Commode knows when to absent. However, order was restored when Peter arrived although the small number did not justify opening a bottle. Telltale editor Britt joined us in time to sample the usual excellent fruitcake with the coffee. NOTE both Beryl and Liz will be away next week. Adrian rejoined Hamish and Brian at the Wayfarer rendezvous after lunch where progress continued until after tea time. Tea was cancelled.





There are still two remaining places on this course which is „half cost” due to a 50% grant from RYA Scotland. This will reduce even further if we get eight trainees, so grab a bargain while you can.

### **RYA Marine Radio Short Range Certificate (VHF/SRC) Course**

The club is running the RYA Marine Radio Short Range Certificate (VHF/SRC) Course, at the clubhouse on Saturday 24th January 2009. The course will be presented by Sally Thompson of Blue Fin Sailing. Sally uses real training radios, adapted for training purposes to avoid calling out the rescue services!

The course is a mix of practical and theoretical work, with at least one radio per two trainees and will equip trainees with the knowledge and skills to call out the emergency services and use a marine VHF for more mundane uses. The course includes a short exam which for a licence fee of £25 for the RYA Maritime Radio Operator Certificate of Competence gives the „Authority to Operate” a marine VHF and GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) equipment. This includes DSC VHF, EPIRB, Radar, Active Radar Reflectors, Homing Beacons etc. The course should be of interest to anyone cruising or motor boating who is likely to use a VHF and to existing VHF radio licence holders who need to update their licence to GMDSS/DSC in order to operate GMDSS equipment.

Due to a grant from RYA Scotland the course fee is a bargain at £34 per trainee. I paid £75 for the same course last August L. This cost is based on 6 trainees and will reduce further up to 8 trainees, the maximum of for the course. There is an additional fee of £25 per trainee for the RYA VHF/DSC licence for „Authority to Operate” a DSC VHF and other GMDSS equipment. Trainees will require a recent passport size 

 photograph for the licence.

Payment should be made on the day as the cost is dependant on the final numbers and will reduce if we have more than six trainees. Once confirmed you are committed to pay if you cannot attend unless the course is oversubscribed in which case a cancellation can be substituted or you can send a substitute. Lunch is provided and will less than £3.00 for soup, pie and beans, tea, coffee, biscuits and if we are lucky cake.

To reserve a place on the course contact me by email, phone or post (see below) or the Training Coordinator, Abigail Wineberg at [abigailw@vodafone.co.uk](mailto:abigailw@vodafone.co.uk) .

### **RYA Marine Radio (VHF) Short Range Certificate Course**, see also

<http://www.ryatraining.org/leisure/specialist/Pages/SRC.aspx>

**Description** This radio operator qualification authorises the holder to operate a VHF radio fitted with Digital Selective Calling on board any British vessel which is voluntarily fitted with radio equipment.

**Pre-course experience** None

**Assumed Knowledge** None

**Course content** Use of marine radios including GMDSS. Routine, distress, urgency and safety procedures

**Ability after course** Can use a marine VHF radio.

**Duration** 1 day

All the best for 2009,  
Martin Basil

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