

CREW INFORMATION



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Registered as a Charity. No. SC029531



THE

big commute

20th to 29th
August 2010

TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE TO WORK!

“It was harder than climbing Kilimanjaro.”

Jim Durie, Participant in OYTS 2009 Challenge



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

THE bigcommute

10 reasons to take part

It's the adventure of a lifetime

Realise your own potential

Build your confidence

Race a fantastic well-found ocean-going racing yacht with experienced crew

Meet new people and make new friends

Help a worthwhile charity

**Sail to somewhere you've never been before
or wouldn't sail to on your own boat**

Step up to an exciting and genuine challenge

Gain or build your off-shore sailing experience & sea miles

Work towards RYA sailing qualifications



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

THE bigcommute

Many thanks for your interest in The Big Commute. It's going to be amazing and we hope you can be part of it.

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland inspires positive change in young people through the challenge of adventure under sail. But why should the opportunity stop when you're older?

This race between two of OYT Scotland's 72ft Challenge yachts has been designed to provide a home-grown challenge right on Scotland's doorstep and with its short 9 day duration, is a unique alternative to commercially run ocean sailing. It's the only off-shore charity challenge that we know of and because you're sailing, it's eco-friendly too.

Who else is taking part?

There are only 24 crew places available: 12 on each vessel. They will be taken by people of all ages (min. 18 years), backgrounds and levels of sailing ability. It's ok if you've never sailed before.

Who is leading the trip?

OYT Scotland staff skippers Dougie Walker and Dan Russell are leading the race. They and the First Mates are commercially endorsed Yachtmasters with around 200,000 miles between them and have sailed from the Arctic to the Tropics. The rest of the sea staff (2nd & 3rd mates, watchleader and bosun) will be chosen from our trained volunteers.



What is the itinerary?

PLANNING

To help you plan the trip and everything you might need to take part, participants are invited to join us for a session on Tuesday 17th March.

TRAINING

Off-shore racing 24/7 is tough. To ensure you're prepared, you can join the on-board training from on 30th April to 2nd May or 30th July to 1st August. You'll be able to meet the sea staff, fellow crew and your boat. Participation is not dependant on completing the training but we recommend it

OYT Scotland is a recognised Royal Yachting Association Training Centre. Please let us know on the booking form if you'd like to use the Big Commute to complete the following RYA Certificates: Start Yachting or Competent Crew. If you have one, we can sign off the mileage on your RYA Logbook.

THE RACE

Starting from Leith on Friday 20th August, in the right conditions you'll fly on these fast boats the 275 nautical miles up to Lerwick, Shetland, arriving on Tuesday 24th August. Now that you have your sea legs, you'll be ready for the longer Leg 2, leaving Shetland on Tuesday 24th August and heading for the Clyde.

It's approximately 500 nautical miles and will take you through one of the world's most spectacular sailing grounds; passing Cape Wrath, south through The Minch between the outer Hebrides and Skye, leaving Coll to starboard, around the Mull of Kintyre then Arran and finally the home straight up to Gourock and the finish line. To avoid a tie-break we'll 'Let the Clyde Decide' in a short race around the cans. To complete the Big Commute 'across' Scotland's central belt, there will be a triumphant cruise in company up the Clyde to bring you in to Glasgow on Sunday 29th August, in time for work on Monday morning!



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

THE bigcommute



A TYPICAL DAY

This race will be very hands on – sailing, cooking, eating, sleeping and cleaning, along with 17 other people. You'll be split into two watches to rotate the duties. The on-watch will steer the boat, navigate, change sails and keep a lookout. Off-watch, you'll have time to sleep, read, chat, write up your personal log-book and post your blog from the on-board pc. With the light nights at this time of year, you can make the most of sightseeing when the boat is underway.

SOCIAL ASPECTS & PRIZEGIVING

On Thursday evening/Friday afternoon, you'll be able to invite your friends and families to see your boat. There will be a welcome reception in Lerwick, and at the end of this exciting trip, to mark your great sailing and fundraising efforts, is the prize-giving party on 29th August. Prizes will be awarded to the winning boat and the top-fundraiser and all will receive an OYT Scotland certificate and relevant RYA certificates.

What else do I need?

KIT

Space is limited so we recommend you travel light. A kit list will be provided in due course that includes warm clothes, sleeping bag and wellies but nothing out of the ordinary.

INSURANCE

You should take out appropriate travel/ cancellation insurance to cover your personal effects, travel to and from the vessel and cancellation.

Will I be safe?

OYT Scotland has an excellent safety record and places the utmost priority on the safety of crewmembers and staff. Our boats are fully inspected and coded by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and are carefully maintained throughout the year.

We recommend that you have a good level of fitness eg you'll need to be able to go up and down the companionway ladders and have upper body strength to operate winches and haul ropes. We are sorry that due to the nature of our fleet, we cannot accept participants with limited mobility.

WHAT IF I FALL ILL?

OYT Scotland skippers and first mates hold Ships Captain Medical Certificates and will help to look after you. Even if you're a salty sea-dog, sea sickness is the most likely illness for which the only sure cure is to be back on land. So we recommend that you ask your pharmacist for a suitable remedy beforehand. If you have an existing medical condition, we may need to seek advice from your doctor.

Tell me more about Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Residential voyages aboard our fleet of purpose built vessels provide a uniquely powerful and extremely effective environment for young people's personal development. Sail training voyages present a genuinely demanding and often unpredictable challenge requiring a high degree of interaction, team work and mental and physical commitment. Tasks involved in the smooth running of the vessel create almost unlimited opportunities for achievement. People come away having increased their self-confidence,



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

THE bigcommute

responsibility and respect, their ability to learn from experience and to work with others. OYT Scotland was formed in 1999, though its roots go back to the 1960s. We operate 3 sail training vessels on which 1100 young people sail annually, led by 125 active volunteers. We were named International Sail Training Organisation 2007 for our excellence in youth work at sea and volunteer training.

Our voyages take place from March to November around the beautiful Scottish coastline, though we often venture further afield to Ireland, England, Wales, The Faroes and Norway.

How will young people benefit from The Big Commute?

Proceeds from the Big Commute will help to provide adventure under sail for more young people. Demand for our voyages is high but not all young people who want to sail with us can afford to do so. Your participation helps to keep our costs as low as possible. Last year's adult fundraising voyage, the Arctic Challenge, raised almost £40,000

OYT Scotland is seeking event sponsors to help cover all costs. This means that more of the money you raise will go directly towards helping young people to experience adventure under sail. From experience, we know that the Big Commute will attract publicity. We hope that you will take part in any related activities.



What kind of boats are we sailing on?

Alba Explorer and Alba Endeavour are Challenge 72' Class yachts: exceptionally strong, steel-hulled ocean-racing yachts with a Bermudan cutter-rig. They were originally built for the BT Global Challenge, racing around the world against prevailing wind and currents, where they proved their ability to sail to windward across the Southern Ocean. Since then they have enjoyed fast wins in the Tall Ships Race 2008 and Small Ships Race 2009 and a swift challenge voyage to the Arctic Circle and back – well placed to take you around the top of Scotland.

We will allocate the 24 crew, 12 to each boat, so that overall crew abilities are matched.



What is the timescale?

Fri 30th Apr - Sun 2nd May

Training session, Greenock

BIG COMMUTE LEG 1:

Fri 20th Aug

Leith to Lerwick

BIG COMMUTE LEG 2:

Tue 24th Aug

Lerwick to Clyde

Sun 29th Aug

Let the Clyde Decide
& cruise upriver to Glasgow

September

Get-together to share stories
and pictures



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

THE bigcommute

What does it all cost?

To take part in this adventure of a lifetime, you need to raise a minimum of £2,000, though don't stop there. This is a fundraising challenge that will provide amazing adventures for young people. Therefore, the more you raise, the more young people can benefit.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Weekend race-training session; 9-day Big Commute; all food and soft drinks; wet weather gear and safety gear (life-jacket & harness); shared cabin with bunk and one storage drawer; crew clothing; leadership by OYT Scotland's experienced and qualified sea-staff; welcome reception in Lerwick; prize-giving ceremony in Glasgow.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

£299 is paid as a deposit to secure your place. 80% of the minimum pledged 10 wks pre-voyage ie £1600 by 11th June. The full amount, a minimum of £1,701 should be paid 2 weeks before departure ie 6th Aug.

How do I go about fundraising?

Get your friends, family, colleagues or employer to sponsor you: set up a page on www.justgiving.com or use the sponsorship form that we can provide. Offer to wash your neighbours' cars; hold a fundraising event in your house – dinner for friends? Dress-down day at work? Or like the folks from last year's Arctic Challenge: organise a concert, pub quiz, golf tournament or art show; grow a beard and shave it off or climb Ben Nevis. You could contact your local newspaper, ask it to do a story about you and ask local companies to support you.

For advice and support, please contact helen@oytscotland.org.uk.

As an incentive, we are offering a prize to the participant who raises the most.

So, how do I get involved?

If you have any questions, call Helen McMeekin on 01475 722 722 or email helen@oytscotland.org.uk. To reserve your place, fill in the booking form and return with your deposit asap.



Picture by Marc Turner



OCEAN YOUTH TRUST SCOTLAND: adventure under sail – inspiring young people

REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND AS A CHARITY SC029531

Production of these marketing materials was provided as a donation and exercised no charge upon OYTS and THE BIG COMMUTE