

CROSSING BISCAY A full day seminar at CA House, EC14 8BT Limehouse London

Saturday March 18th 2023 11.00- 17.00

10.30 -11.00 Coffee and Registration

For many mariners, crossing the Bay of Biscay requires a longer passage than they have previously taken and although conditions in the Biscay are kinder than during summer than other seasons, careful planning will increase the chances of a successful and more comfortable passage.

11.00 Welcome and Introduction followed by

Dr. Andrew Eccleston Sourcing and Using Weather Information

Andrew Eccleston is a Chartered Meteorologist and RYA Yachtmaster Offshore, sailing a Dufour 36 out of Plymouth. Crossing Biscay is a serious endeavour and getting a detailed picture of the weather to be expected on passage is essential. Andrew will explain the modern approach to weather forecasting and show how to make the best use of the data that is freely available to help you plan a safe voyage.

Nick Sexton Across Biscay to explore the Basque Country

Nick and his wife Deborah own a Nicholson 476, berthed in southern Brittany on the Vilaine River. In 2022 they visited northern Spain and the Basque country, a trip they had been planning to undertake for several years. The presentation will cover the process of passage planning for the crossing, visiting ports along the coast and the highlights from their cruise.

13.00- 14.00 Lunch

Andrea Watson and Will Levett Our First Biscay Crossing

Bill and Andrea set sail in their newly bought 1997 Moody 36 from Preveza (Greece) in 2019, the start of a four year live-aboard cruise back to the UK. The 2022 season saw them leaving Portimao (Algarve) to explore the Atlantic Coast of Portugal and Northern Spain before crossing Biscay. Their presentation focuses on their crossing from Viveiro (Northern Spain) to Bénodet (Southern Brittany) covering their preparations and planning, how they managed the crossing itself and some reflections on the experience.

John Burbeck Orca Interactions. Will it work if I..... ?” .The presentation will provide the latest knowledge and tips.

John sold his Moody 43 Eclipse earlier this year having spent the past 6 years almost full time cruising. He sailed back from the Med through Orca Alley in 2021 without incident, although a yacht a few hours behind was not so lucky. Since the beginning of last year he has led a RATS based CA team trying to help develop advice to help yacht crews avoid interactions with the orca, and to reduce the damage if one occurs. The presentation will provide the latest knowledge and tips.

The cost of the seminar includes a buffet lunch and refreshments.

Members Early Booking £29.00 per person After Feb 28th £39.00 per person

Non-members Early Booking £39.00 per person After Feb 28th £49.00. Non-members who join the CA at the Seminar with a Direct Debit, will have their first year’s membership discounted by £10.00. The bar will be open after the close of the seminar. Why not stay for a drink perhaps followed by dinner?