

Hair Raiser - 2016 Summer Cruise

Dublin to La Coruna & back.



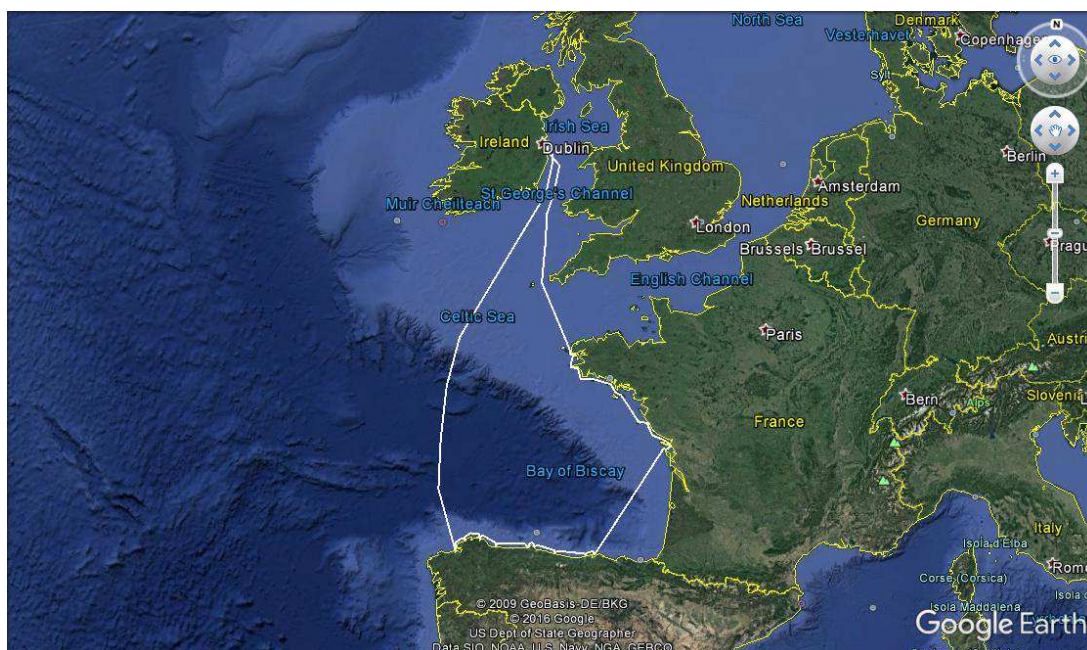
Hair Raiser - Hallberg Rassy 342

The Main Cruise for 2016 was again to be in company with Calimbo, a Bowman Ketch 36 from Rush Sailing Club owned and skippered by Jonathan Mason. The plan was to head for La Coruna on the North West Coast of Spain, Cruise the North Coast of Spain and then make our way back to Ireland via the West Coast of France. We had agreed that both boats would leave around 2000hrs on Thursday 16th June just before High Tide Howth.

A phone call from Aine Mid-Morning Thursday confirmed that Calimbo had 'jumped the gun' had departed with the favourable forecast and was barrelling down the Irish Sea with the wind and tide pushing . Brian Rafferty of RSC was Calimbo's crew for the trip to La Coruna – it was time for Hair Raiser to get going!

We put the last of the Fresh Food on board and departed Howth at 1500 hours – Destination La Coruna. The forecast for the next 4-5 days was to be North / North-westerly force 4-5 possible 6 with the Winds changing to South-westerly off Cape Finisterre in a few days' time.

Crew - Percy Boyle & Aine Carroll



2016 Route

Howth to La Coruna, Spain. – 610 NM.

Thursday 16th June. 1500 Hrs. Hair Raiser Departs Howth - Destination La Coruna.

Once clear of Howth Head we Goosewinged the Jib and set a course for the Tusker in a good Northwesterly F5. With Hair Raiser settled down we made very good progress towards our waypoint.

Friday 17th June. 0200 Hrs. After passing the Tusker Rock to Port we set a course of 200 degrees and with the F.5 Wind aft of the beam we had a very fast reach out away from the South of Ireland.

1500 hrs – 1st Day 24 Hour Run 173.4 NM.

1900 Hrs. Big Bang !!. While reaching along at 6.5-7 Knots we had a collision with a very large Tree Stump on the starboard side just below the waterline. – No Water coming in or any visible sign of damage.

Saturday 18th June. 1500 Hrs. Position 48°32.8N - 08°09.5W. Wind WNW F4. We have altered course to 180 degrees and are now heading straight for La Coruna. Log – 327 NM
DTW – 302 NM.

1500 Hrs – 2nd Days 24 hour Run – 167.6 NM.

Sunday 19th June. 1500 Hrs . Wind WSW 3 – 4. Log 490 NM. Distance to La Coruna 143 NM

1500 HRS – 3rd Day 24 Hour Run – 149 NM.

Monday 20th June. 0600 HRS. DTW 49 NM. With the wind having swung into a WSW Direction we were fetching along on course at 5 – 6 knots , later in the morning the Winds faded away altogether

and we were left motoring for the last twenty miles towards La Coruna in brilliant sunshine on a flat blue sea.

1455 HRS – we are tied up in the Inner Harbour in La Coruna. – A Very Enjoyable Passage.

Some Notes on the passage.

- We ended up sailing the passage on 'One Tack'
- We ran the engine twice daily to charge batteries
- All systems worked well
- We did Watches of 4hrs On / 4hrs Off
- We eat very well.
- Ships Log – 635 NM
- VMG to La Coruna 6.4 NM.

We had a very enjoyable week in La Coruna before myself & Aine would leave and fly home to Dublin for some domestic duties.

North Coast of Spain

On the 15th July Aine flew back down to La Coruna and I followed on the 16th. Calimbo was back in La Coruna after spending the last two weeks exploring the Ria's further south and on the 17th with both boats restocked we started our daily hops along the North Coast of Spain.

Always a bit of fun - While motoring out of La Coruna the engine revs started to fade and eventually the engine stopped. It immediately restarted but again after a few minutes at higher revs it faded and stopped again – we had this issue last year but we had thought it had been fixed.

14.50 we dropped anchor in the Ria de Cedeira. Log 24.7 NM. While at anchor we again gave the engine a good look over, changed the Fuel Filter & the Fuel Lifting pump that I had bought last year as a backup - This seems to have fixed the issue. The following morning while lifting the anchor to leave we realised that we had snagged an underwater cable – more fun to get unstuck !



Out & about – Cuevona's Cave in Ribadesella



Three Ladies - Aine, Hair Raiser & Calimbo

Over the next eight days we continued our daily hops east along this dramatic coast and visited Viveiro, Ribadeo, Aviles, Ribadesella, Ria de Suances & Santander – all very interesting places with plenty to see & do.



Snow Capped Mountains – Picos de Europa in Asturias.

We were welcomed in most of the ports we visited, we found the marinas to be very reasonable, facilities were good and eating out to be very affordable and the locals were accommodating – while anchored in the middle of the narrow Ria de Suances we were politely awakened by the Captain of a Dredger who came to us in a dinghy to advise that he would be heading out and would need the room to manoeuvre – another early start !.

Shortly after arriving in Santander we picked up a Yacht Club Mooring Buoy of which there were many – a few minutes later a launch came out to us from the club and as politely as he could he advised that we were 'not welcome'. We carried on pass the Club and its moorings and dropped the hook – it was a very busy area with ferries bring people to & fro to the local beaches but in the evening it quietened down.

We had three good days in Santander, restocked the boats, fuelled up and re-anchored off a beach near the entrance for a planned early start the following morning.

The weather for the next few days was reasonably good but after that we were going to get a stretch of Northerlies and because we had crew changes in La Rochelle in about a weeks' time we thought it prudent to make the 200NM trip before the northerlies set in.



Cabo Mayor – Entrance to Santander

Santander (Spain) to La Rochelle (France) – 200 NM

Wednesday 27th July. – We awoke to discover that Calimbo had again got the start on us so we quickly upped the anchor and had the breakfast on the way. It was pleasant trip, at times we were blasting along under reefed sails and at other times the wind would go and we would have to motor for a while. It was a warm night and between the patches of cloud one could see beautiful bright stars shining in full glory – we also had the pleasure of seeing a Whale 'Blowing' near us.

We arrived and anchored off a beach at St.Denis-d'O Leron, France at 1650 hrs on the 28th July. Calimbo arrived and anchored beside us. We spent two nights at anchor and during the day visited and travelled the island by bikes – The island itself is flat and I suppose a bit featureless compared to the North Coast of Spain which has by comparison very dramatic large mountain ranges which seem to be stacked in rows as you see them from the sea with the ones further inland still covered in snow.

On Saturday 30th we took the short hop over to La Rochelle from where I had a flight booked for Monday 1st August. Aine was also expecting some friends of ours to join her for a week – Brid, Colman and baby Dylan Grimes.

La Rochelle – Le Pouliguen 2nd – 15th August.

While I was gone Aine took a short hop to Ile de Re and while picking up a Visitors Buoy she managed 'to do her back in'. She was in pain, could not move and it was two days before she could muster up the strength to get back to La Rochelle to see a doctor – with facial expressions & some sign language being the only way to communicate the doctor eventually prescribed her some Magic Bullets.

Brid, Colman & Dylan Grimes arrived on the 5th August and would be with Hair Raiser until the 9th. While they were on board they visited St Denis on Ile d'O'leron, Saint Martin-de-Re, Saint-Gilles-Croix-de Vie & the beautiful Port Joinville on Ile De Yeu.



Brid, Colman & 5 month old Dylan Grimes

While Brid, Colman & Dylan got the ferry back to Saint Gilles to catch a train Aine sailed the 32nm up to Pornichet and stayed there in company with Calimbo for two days and on the 13th with no wind they motored the short distance up to Le Pouliguen.

On Sunday 14th August myself & George Forde flew down to France and met up with Hair Raiser & Calimbo in Le Pouligan – George is Calimbo's crew for the trip back to Ireland and as they were running a bit short on time they decided that they would leave for Ireland the following morning. We had meal in town and the customary few bottles of vino (and more) to set them on their way.

Dining out in France is totally different than Spain – not only is it a lot more expensive than Spain but the hours for eating are a lot earlier and places seem to close a lot earlier. On the plus side – the weather is still fantastic.

Monday 15th – Sunday 21st 2016 LePouligan to Camaret – France.

On Monday we departed and headed up to Ile Houet and after several unsuccessful attempts we eventually managed to anchor just off a beach with several other boats. It was a lovely night and a very relaxing evening after the over indulgence of the night before.

On Tuesday we and several other boats heading our direction had a spinnaker run / race all the way up to Ile de Groix where we pick up a fore and aft mooring which was shared with several other boats.

On Wednesday there wasn't a breath of wind and we ended up motoring the 51 NM up past the Isles de Glenans to Audierne where we picked up a visitors buoy and ordered some fresh croissants for the next morning from the boatman while he was collecting the mooring fees – great service.

On Thursday ourselves and the other boats heading North departed and made the short trip to the Raz De Sein and awaited for the appropriate time to pass through - once through we had a fantastic sail up to Camaret where we planned to stay for a few days while the newly forecast gale went through.

In Camaret we prepared Hair Raiser for the trip home – the dinghy was stored below, the outboard was put away, several trips were made to the supermarket to replenish the cellar, we filled up the tanks and checked the engine etc. The forecast for the next few days was not good.

Sunday 21st – Wednesday 24th August. Camaret to Howth

While the forecast wasn't great in that it was still blowing but not as hard as it had been and the fact that it was forecast to get worse as the week went on we decided that we would stick our nose out and try to mooch North a bit - maybe as far as L'Aberwrach. Several boats including ourselves left with the idea of getting the tide at the Chenal De Four – they were all heading up the English Channel.

While passing through the Chenal De Four we reassessed the situation and decided to make a break for it. We broke off through the Chenal De Le Helle and then headed North across the English Channel and left the Scilly Isles to port.

We were making good progress and managed to log 160 NM in the first 24 hours. Thereafter things went downhill a bit in that the wind almost disappeared and swung further to the South, this left us motoring in a very confused sloppy sea with drizzling rain and heavy fog patches – We ended up motoring the last 90 miles to Greystones in very

foggy conditions and arrived there at 12.30 on Tuesday 23rd. We had a pleasant evening there and an enjoyable short hop up to Howth the following morning.

Log – Since Leaving Howth 1675 NM.



Calimbo – Sailing to Weather



Baby Dylan – All Tied In.



Ria de Cedeira – We snagged the anchor here on an Underwater Cable – great fun !!!



Picoes de Europa in Asturias,

Hair Raiser Out