

# Arctic News

Bloody cold

February 2010

Voted Jan Mayen "Newspaper of the Year" 2010

## Attempt on Beerenberg summit to go ahead

### Our Mountaineering Correspondent

Despite all sound advice an attempt on the summit will go ahead in the summer of 2011. Beerenberg is a 2277m high active volcano covered with glaciers situated on the island of Jan Mayen 600 miles into the Arctic. John Halsall and Charlotte Wilkinson have signed up for the ascent. The two essentials for a successful climb are stamina and climbing skills which is a shame, but we are working on it.

The plan so far is as follows: John joins Sumara in the Faeroes (Johns favourite Islands). Hopefully there will be another crew member joining to guard the yacht at anchor. We then sail 600 miles north and find an anchorage at Jan Mayen. Runar an Icelandic mountain guide will sail out from Iceland in an expedition yacht with Charlotte and about five others. We will all set up base camp on the Island and Runar will help guide us up. After a hopefully successful climb our boat minder (any volunteers?) will sail back to Iceland with Runar while John, Charlotte and myself will attempt to make landfall in Greenland if the ice conditions permit. Gulp.



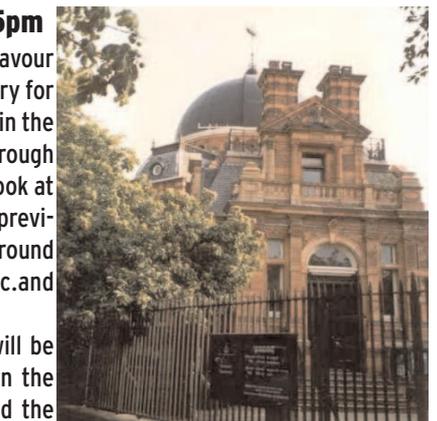
The Mighty Beerenberg from the sea

## Expedition Briefing

**Saturday 13th March 2pm till 5pm**

We have managed to secure the Endeavour Room in the Greenwich Royal Observatory for our briefing session. Anyone interested in the trip should come along. We will run through the various legs of the journey, have a look at some charts see a few slides of some previous trips. We can discuss the boat, ground tackle, clothing, food, schedules etc. and answer any questions.

Why not make a whole day of it? We will be running around the Park a few times in the morning or you can have a look around the museum or Observatory. In the evening we will take on board a few beers in a riverside pub and round off with a meal in a local restaurant. Once you are suitably oiled



I'll be able to get you to sign up. Anyone needing accommodation can bring a sleeping bag and floor space will be found or I can send out a list of local hotels. Please email or phone me if you can make it so I can get things booked up. I will send you an agenda and map etc nearer the time.



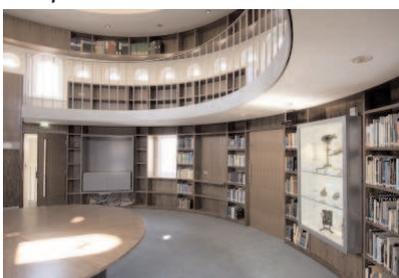
### Sumara Refit

Sumara is now out of the water in South Dock, Deptford. New stainless steel locker lid drains are being fitted, the self steering gear is having all the nylon bearings replaced, the exhaust is being reinforced and electro plated,

a small chart plotter is being fitted. There's a long list of work and of course the annual varnishing, antifouling etc.

### Needles XC Half Marathon

As part of our "rigorous?" training regime Charlotte and myself have signed up for this hilly half marathon. Hopefully John and Peter will join us too. It's on Sunday 30th May - why not sign up? .....Fair point.



## The more the merrier-

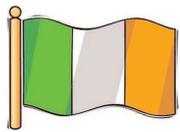
I am very keen that as many people as possible are involved in this adventure. Obviously with a 26ft yacht there's only room for three at a time but there are lots of legs and some of them are suitable for people new to sailing. We will need people to help on shore to keep an eye on the weather and to forward emails and letters and we are desperate for advice and guidance for climbing. In honour of The Ascent of Rum Doodle the aim is to involve 153 people!



## Latest Charts

I'm a great believer in keeping my charts up to date. This beautiful 17th century Blaeu Chart with original colouring will be on

show at the briefing together with a fine chart of the Faeroes, Iceland and Greenland by Emanuel Bowen and coloured by Darby Hawker. We will also have Admiralty Charts of the Arctic and Norwegian Charts of Jan Mayen and the coast of Norway around Bergen. There may be a small model of the volcano available but its not been built yet!



## West Coast of Ireland

Sumara sailed down the West Coast of Ireland a few years ago and we had a great time until we got storm bound in the Arran Islands. We tried to escape but the weather was too fierce and we ran back into the harbour to watch the lifeboat and rescue helicopters busy at work. I'm not sure if Peter will sign up for this leg again! Luckily James Garner has signed up to join Sumara in 2012 and we hope to visit Tory Island and apparently we will climb Mount Errigal. Anyone else fancy Ireland to the Scillies?

## Arctic Library News

The latest purchase is a splendid book by Louise A Boyd called "The Coast of North East Greenland". Louise A Boyd was known as the Ice Women and seems to have done some major research. If you look at maps and charts of the area several places are named after her. You are welcome to borrow any of these books, just ask, but I do need them as reference so please return them as soon as you have finished reading them. The Arctic Library list is as follows:

"A Yacht Voyage: Letters From High Latitudes, Being Some Account Of A Voyage In 1856 In The Schooner Yacht Foam To Iceland, Jan Mayen And Spitzbergen" by Lord Dufferin

The Arctic Pilot - Den Norsk Los

Vertue 35

Peter Woolas Blue Vertue Book

The Ascent of Rum Doodle - essential technical reading.

Scoresby Log Book

Scoresby - a biography

Complete Tilman - Poor Tilman lost his yacht at Jan Mayen.

Den Norsk Los Pilots for Bergen area.

Plus loads more.



## Boat Minder Needed

This is a tall order but we really need someone who fancies a sail from the Faeroes to Jan Mayen and is then willing to stay onboard Sumara to safeguard the yacht at the anchorage while we climb Beerenberg. As you can see the anchorage can be challenging! They can then take a lift in the Icelandic boat back to Iceland. The boat minder would need to be competent enough to take the yacht out to sea in the unlikely event a surprise gale arrives while we are climbing. We are going to upgrade all the ground tackle.

## Greenwich to Bergen almost fully crewed



It's really great that the first part of this great adventure is now almost booked up. Terry Newman who built the good ship is going to join Sumara on the trip down the Thames to Harwich. There's some East Coast cruising to be had before Hannah joins in Shotley for the long leg north to Stonehaven. There's room for one more on this leg. In Stonehaven we will meet up with Wendy and her daughter Emily who may treat us to a slap up meal (hint hint). Ray Hain will join us in Stonehaven for the crossing to Norway. Hannah may come to. In Norway we will take the train across the mountains to Oslo where we will meet up with Vidar and Anette and visit the Maritime Museum. Ray will fly home and I'll return to the boat. Fortune Alexander will join for a few days cruising the local fjords.

## and from Bergen to Oban

I still need crew from Bergen to the Shetlands, Fair Isle and Ullapool which could be a great trip for an experienced sailor. Simon and Anna are joining for the trip from Ullapool down the West Coast to Oban. Dunstaffnage Marina have found space for Sumara to winter plus room in the warehouse for varnishing etc.



## Lovely New Sails

Andy Castle from Ratsey and Lapthorn has made a fantastic set of bullet proof cruising sails. They are all triple stitched in dark thread with leather and webbing reinforcements. The Yankee and Staysail have brass Wichard quick snaps for really fast sail changes. Can't wait to try them out!

# The Planned Voyage

There are still lots of opportunities to join the good ship over the next three years. I do need to sort out the return trip from Bergen to Shetlands, Fair Isle and on to Ullapool fairly quickly. It will need an experienced sailor as the return trips from Norway have a bit of a reputation! Last year the five day trip took ten days!

## Starting Spring this year

- Greenwich to Queenborough - Terry
- Queenborough to Harwich - Terry
- Toddling around the east coast - anyone
- Shotley to Stonehaven - Hannah plus one?
- Stonehaven to Bergen - Ray and maybe Hannah too
- Cruise around Bergen - Fortune plus one
- Bergen to Shetland - Any takers, experienced sailor needed
- Shetland to Fair Isle the Ullapool - Any takers?
- Ullapool to Oban - Anna and Simon
- Winter refit in Dunstaffnage

## Starting Spring 2011

- Oban to Ullapool - any takers?
- Ullapool to Faeroes - And takers?
- Faeroes to Jan Mayen - John plus boat minder?
- Jan Mayen climb - Charlotte and John
- Jan Mayen to Greenland - Charlotte and John
- Greenland to Iceland - Charlotte and John
- Iceland to St Kilda to Oban - Ray? Charlotte?
- Winter Refit in Dunstaffnage

## Starting Spring 2012

- Oban to Colonsay -
- Colonsay to Tory Island - James Garner
- Tory Island to Arran Islands - James Garner
- Arran Islands and South Coast of Ireland - any takers?
- Ireland to Scillies - ?
- Scillies to Falmouth - ?
- Falmouth along the South Coast - ?
- South Coast to France - ?
- France to Dover -?
- Dover to Queenborough - ?
- Queenborough to Greenwich - ?



## Second Attempt at St Kilda

Occasionally Sumara fails to achieve her planned destinations. On a return trip from Iceland with Ray Hain we tried to reach St Kilda. Ray was really keen

to get there and we gave it a good try but constant near gale force head winds which would have made the anchorage untenable meant we had to give up and run off to Stornaway in the Hebrides. As a consolation, we had boisterous cruise to the lovely Isle Rona and then on to Skye and Mull. This time we will get there!



# Help!

This climbing lark looks decidedly hairy! Here is a picture of the ridge of the volcano taken from Borea Adventures website. Now I don't mind big waves but this does look a bit scary.

Martin Jackson, who is an expert climber, has already been kind enough to take me to the Alpine Club to trawl through their library. Tim Loftus is also a highly experienced climber and sailor so I am hoping to tap into their knowledge as much as I can.

Maybe we can persuade Tim and Alex to rendezvous with Sumara in their lovely Ed Burnett designed wooden yacht which Tim built! The last time our yachts met was in the Faeroes when Tim and Alex sailed there in their engineless folkboat.

## About Sumara

Sumara is a Vertue designed by Jack Laurent Giles in 1936. She was beautifully built by Terry Newman and launched in 1990. Made from one log of varnished iroko on oak frames and with a lead keel, Sumara is heavy at 5 tons but that makes for an easy motion in big seas. She's crossed the Atlantic twice, sailed to Iceland and to Norway five times including a trip to the Lofotens and Spitzbergen. Sailing on Sumara



## WWW.....

Coming soon thanks to the skills of Gerry Jeatt.

## Insurance

Amazingly Pat Ward has once again offered to help with providing insurance for the trip. On our Spitzbergen venture Pat came up with the clever idea of providing search and rescue insurance by using individual adventure insurance while the yacht was insured as a separate item. Once Pat reads more about the trip he may well want to pull out!

**"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go"**

**Henrik Ibsen**

I'm pretty sure there are no rocks about but could you just have a quick look under the Yankee?



isn't like sailing on very large yachts, you get a real feeling of the the sea, sometimes a bit more than just a feeling.

At 26ft long, Sumara is very small by modern standards and sailing her can be great fun!