

CROSSING BISCAY

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

Saturday 8th February 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 during summer than other seasons, careful planning will increase the chances of a successful and more comfortable passage. The seminar will cover the resources available to help you plan your Biscay crossing together with presentations from fellow CA Members on their experiences from undertaking their own Biscay crossings.

The presenters and our section secretaries will be available to answer any questions you may have throughout the seminar.

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. 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.

John Burbeck Orca Interactions .The presentation will provide the latest knowledge and tips.

John sold his Moody 43 Eclipse early in 2022 having spent the previous 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 2022 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.

13.00- 14.00 Lunch

Jim Everson - Crossing Biscay - The good, the bad and the lumpy

Jim and his wife Angela cruise around NW Europe on their Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 439. In 2023 they headed down to Northern Spain again from their winter base in Chatham Kent. The presentation covers their planning and decision making process for crossing Biscay, some observations not found in the pilot guide, a few highlights of their trip, and one or two lowlights!

Nick Sexton - Across Biscay to explore the Rias Baixas

Nick and his wife Deborah own a Nicholson 476, berthed in southern Brittany on the Vilaine River. In 2024 they visited northern Spain and the Rias of Galicia. The presentation will cover the process of passage planning for the crossing, visiting ports along the coast and the highlights from their cruise.

1630 / 1700 - Review and Any questions

The cost of the seminar includes a buffet lunch and tea/coffee etc.

Publishers Imray will also be attending the Seminar, along with a selection of their latest publications. The galley bar will be open after the close of the seminar. Why not stay on for a drink and a chat?