



"the oRAnge box"



## 2005 Archive

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### 2005 "Ships" Log

#### May 2005

During holidays in May 05 we managed various trips in a variety of weather.

Most memorable was a trip in tandem with "Orca" from Cumbrae (via fuel bay at Largs Marina) over to Arran.

Initially calling at Sannox where the incoming tide and gently sloping sand/shingle beach allowed us to beach the boats and enjoy a *very* pleasant lunch at the [Sannox Bay Hotel Restaurant](#) (can recommend it!) we then set off for Corrie, tying up in the old harbour before having a walk to the nearby craft shops.

Then off northwards to Lochranza for a short stop in the bay before heading NE heading between Ardlamont Point & north end of Inchmarnock to the East Kyle cruising up past Kames & Tighnabruich round thru the narrows passing Colintriaive and thru Kames & Rothesay Bays heading back to Largs Marina to round off an excellent day.

Weather & Conditions: Hot, sunny (all day!), flat calm water.

Distance covered c 60nm, fuel approx 20litres, cruising speed around 22kts

Pics: Nos 1-6 and 19-23 above

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During various days in May, we managed trips to Rothesay (pics 12,13 & 14), Kilchattan and Kerrycroy (pic 18).

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May 16th, "Predator"s adventure ! No further detail will be disclosed.....to protect the innocent!  
Eh, Scott!!

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## JULY 2005

### 25th July

Weather: Sunny intervals (Twice, each about 8 mins!)

Sea: Flat (incoming tide)

Depart: Cumbrae Slip 1230hrs, returning 2030hrs

Picked up skipper of "Predator" (still in dry dock re previous entry 16 May!) at Kip and headed round Toward into East Kyle, cruising up past Colintriaive, Burnt Islands, Tighnabruich to Kames Hotel. Ribs, dinghys and small boats can beach to the right hand side of the remaining stone pier in front of the Kames Hotel there. Handy post to tie onto on the beach there and headed up to the Kames Hotel for a refreshment (unfortunately had missed lunch serving time....it is summer in Scotland ...you have to be quick!). After an hour or so, headed back round, noticing new floating landing jetty in front of Royal Hotel, Tighnabruich (...very handy!), round via Caladh Harbour , a beautiful spot and onwards to Port Bannatyne. Landing at stone jetty, Port Bannatyne, introduced Predators skipper to the delights of the Anchor Tavern where mine host, Charles McCusker Esq extends a warm welcome and provides humerous insight to life there!!!?? Charlie himself no stranger to steaming round the Clyde can provide useful information about spots to visit and venues to avoid ! After a short stop there, onwards to Rothesay and the renowned Black Bull for a cracking meal and a couple of orange juices at the Golfers! Time to head back to Kip and Cumbrae. Despite Predators skippers dedicated observations on the water hoping to spot porpoise, no luck until he disembarked at Kip and Orange Box headed back to Cumbrae. Then , of course, the sun came out and 4 pairs of porpoise spotted from the Orange Box between Kip and Cumbrae !!! Nae luck Scottie!!-next time!

### July 26th

Weather: Very sunny, warm

Sea: Slight chop (outgoing tide) Wind: Can't remember!

Vessel: The Orange Box

During the afternoon, some required maintenance on trailer.

About 1720hrs, left Cumbrae with the skipper of (the mighty) Endeavour and NBTNC Photiegraffer, down Largs channel, thru the Tan and over to St Blanes Hotel, Kilchattan, Bute ( [www.stblaneshotel.com](http://www.stblaneshotel.com)). As usual, David extends a warm welcome and provides good food . Visitors here can enjoy their fare indoors or alfresco, with a beautiful view of Kilchattan Bay and

northwards to Cumbrae and the mainland.

Locals here have made superb efforts to landscape and decorate the area around the small stone jetty, there are even picnic tables so you can enjoy your own picnic if you are a yachtie and don't want to trek into a hotel with your yellow wellies (Stevie). There are moorings in the bay in front of the hotel for tying onto .

After an good meal, headed off northwards up the Bute coastline (east side), circling round the north end of Cumbrae prior to returning and retiring to the Newton Bar, Millport (for excellent Stoli & rum <not in same glass>). Here, we were able to restore the Endeavour Skippers' vertebrae back to their normal location (he's more used to a sedate sail!)

## July 27th

Weather: Sunny intervals (some as long as 24mins!)

Sea: Moderate. Wind: NW fresh turning E later 3 or 4

Depart: 1200hrs Return 2100hrs

Vessel: (the Mighty) "Endeavour"

Crew: Skipper & 4 comics (5 comics in total )

Motley crew departed Millport Pier aboard the (mighty) Endeavour, sailing westwards thru the Tan, round Garrioch Head and up the west side of Bute between Bute and Inchmarnock, passing Ardlamont Point to Kames.

Unable to land at Kames (nae dinghy), onwards to the floating pontoon in front of the Royal Hotel, Tighnabruich where skipper was able to expertly manoeuvre the 27' Endeavour alongside. In view of the slightly larger build of this crew we were able to carefully negotiate the rather ancient ricketty walkway attached to the nice new pontoon without collapse! Into the Shinty Bar at the Royal for a pint (you've guessed it...we missed lunch serving time) before setting off to Rothesay, passing Caladh, Colintrave, Ardmaleish, Kames Bay.

Visits to the Black Bull (light bite also), Argyll (aka The Glue Pot), the Galitea, Brandane, Grapes, The Boat and The Robert Burns successfully concluded with a visit to the West End Cafe for seagull bait!

Set off about 2000hrs into a fresh easterly for Millport followed by the ubiquitous Bute Seagull Squadron where once again retired to the Newton Bar for the remainder of the evening and crew debrief.

Good company, great scenery, an excellent day!



Jetty, Royal Hotel

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## August 14th

Weather: Very sunny, warm (all day!.....like Summer!!!!)

Sea: Flat calm, later slight: Incoming tide. Wind : W

Vessel: The Orange Box

Depart Millport Pier 1140hrs

Setting off with the "S.G" (Orange Box co-owner), headed to Largs for fuel (petrol, caffeine & burger) then headed up the Kyles to Tighnabruich. Plenty of yachts motoring up the East Kyle.

Into the jetty in front of the Royal Hotel and in to the Royal for coffees. A pleasant seat in the sun before setting off down the West Kyle, past Inchmarnock, round Garrioch Head to Kilchattan. One PS Waverley, three pairs porpoise sighted, nae basking sharks yet though!

Landed at auld pier Kilchattan , sat in the sun, learning "Yachtie Etiquette" (YE) used when barbecuing ashore.

Apparently, the following are prerequisites of YE...As well as plenty Pinot Grigio, one must have Quorn sausages, M & S picnic baps, knives & fawrks and give a commentary loud enough so that everyone in earshot (as far away as Ardrossan)can hear every step of the barbecuing process. The gentlemen of course were the cooks, while the ladies instructed from the sidelines prior to stuffing their faces. Nae cans of Coke, packet of crisps and Lidl burgers eaten wi yer hauns here you know!!

In the absence of an invite, sorry , invitation to sample the aforementioned provisions, we went to the St Blanes!

Set off for the return journey back to Cumbrae feeling educated and warmed by the daily Scottish summer sun!





Approach Tighnabruich famous PS Waverley in West Kyle

Approach Tighnabruich 2

Tighnabruich Pier

Arran from water

World

## Aug 31 2005

Weather: Dry, overcast, no wind

Sea: Flat calm

Vessel: The (mighty) Endeavour

Depart Millport Pier 1100hrs

Destination: Corrie, Isle of Arran

Crew: Skipper + 5 comics (6 comics in total)

Departed Millport pier and headed over to Corrie Hotel having 'phoned in advance regarding the likely availability of food on arrival ! Successful trip, food was obtained (not like the last time, least said the better!). A surprising menu that had starters called "Appetisers" and main courses called "Lights".....a bit disconcerting for the substantially-built in the crew, however, a pleasant lunch was enjoyed by all ! This was the last voyage for the Endeavours non-multimedia in-built 8-track entertainment system as the vessel now enjoys having joined the 20th century. Passengers can now enjoy full solid state stereo compact cassettes and tune into Argyll FM. (The sane can tune into Radio 2).



We're Spotted!



Corrie Pier



Corrie Hotel

## 4,5 & 6 Sept 2005

Weather: Very sunny, warm

Sea: Generally flat calm, no wind (except 6th, variable Force 3/4)

Vessel: The Orange Box

Included trip to Kilchattan on the 5th, liquid refreshment only due to quickly disappearing tide, then round Wee Cumbrae looking for basking sharks (none sighted). Plenty of seals on/around the Trail Islands (see photos below). Later, in the Largs channel, porpoise galore, some caught on camera (see video clip below).

Cracking sunsets on 4 & 5th



Seals at Sunset



Curious Seals



September Sunset



Video Clip of Porpoise  
in Largs Channel

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