

Skagerack Run&Fun 19-22 July 2006

After eight years in the Stockholm archipelago, we decided to move the event to the Swedish west coast, or to the “front side” of Sweden as the locals say. Our west coast members Yngve Nygren and Nils Forsberg created the program for us, without any experience from Riva meetings before! We were off course a bit nervous due to that, but it also allowed the rest of us to explore the higher dimensions of Riva logistics, or in other words –how to get our boats out there. Only that could be worth a special report, but I will just give you a short briefing:

-Up north we usually have our boats in the water at the same place the whole season, no need to move them. To get somewhere else this year became a logistic challenge that started already in January. Olle (our I´l Capo d´web) started up by designing and building one light weight aluminium trailer suitable for twin engine Rivas. Single engine boats can be carried on modified standard trailers, but will still be considered as a heavy trailer, and calls for an extended driving license in Sweden. Only problem was that almost no one had such a license! And although good spirit, no more licenses had been achieved one week before the meeting...

It all ended up with me taking Bengts Tritone on Tobbes bus, while Olle took my Ariston on a trailer. Olles Aquarama was loaded on his truck and had to be driven by a good friend, luckily with truck license. As usual Lasse Andersson had no problem to move his Tritone on his famous red Riva Bus.

Finally also the weather became more like sun & fun - a perfect timing of weather and logistics started this meeting.



19 July –Arrival and warming up day

After launching the boats, having a lunch at “Smokey Pelles” (restaurant with smoked seafood as speciality) in a nearby village, followed by a successful Seal Safari in the outer archipelago, we finally got what we deserved, a nice Welcoming drink at the Pier of Gullmarstrand Conference hotel, our base Camp.



To meet so many old friend, as well as some new, made it worth all our efforts to get there.

The usual never ending (more or less) party started as it should do.

The evening ended with a short but wonderful trip with the Rivas to a tiny island for our “Sunset Seafood Picnic”. Fresh boiled shrimps (directly from the local fishermen) completed a perfect day for everybody- except for the Tritone that burned a gearbox on its way out...

Thursday 20 July –The Offshore day that became the Grand Sightseeing day (45Nm)

The day began with a short skippers meeting followed by a cruise northward through the fascinating and overwhelming archipelago to the small village Smögen. Short after take off one boat with a leaking fuel tank had to be returned to harbour, afterwards renamed as “La Bomba”. Lunch at the “Sea Lodge” in Smögen.

A local pilot from the village accompanied us on the way thru the “Sotenkanalen”. The offshore trip was cancelled by the pilot due to rough water outside. As compensation he took us to a natural Laguna to take a swim and sunbath for some hours.

The day was ended with drinks and chilling in the sea pavilion before having a traditional BBQ on the nearby beach.

21 July -Boat loving/competition day

Warm but cloudy weather accompanied our trip around the island "Skafto", passing the fjord "Gullmaren" and the "Nordstrommarna", on our way to the Picnic place and the return back thru "Malo strommar". The picnic lunch at "Bassholmen" was combined with a guided tour at the local nautical museum (created and driven by a non profit organization) for traditional working boats from the golden fishing period of herring. I don't think anybody was interested in wearing the traditional "oilcloth" used in those times.

After arrival back, many was asked- but only a few selected - It was time for Skippers Thrill Competition!



All skippers showed a good fighting spirit, trying to follow the word of Coubertin: It's not important to win... but it was for almost everyone!

Gala Dinner and a regular prize giving ceremony ended up this meeting.

Prizes (regularly):

Carlo Riva Cup: Olle Erlandsson in Aquarama #26 (Nina).

Skippers Thrill:

Twin engine : Olle Erlandsson

Single engine: Per Wadstrom

Ship Bell "Courage": Yngve Nygren & Nils Forsberg

Bottom Price: Michael Thaysen

Prizes (irregularly):

Skipper hats: Captains presens without their boats (5)

Longest trip on own keel : Torbjorn Skjoren, Erik Grondal (Norway)

Outstanding Seamanship: Andrea Doeden



"Le Petite" boat: Jan Diegelman

Youngest participant: Kalle Tamm

All kids was given a special prize by the German Riva Club, handed over by president Hanne Skrodski and "Oberkapitän" Börries.



Statement:

To those who have complained that they did not have to refuel the boat during the meeting due to short trips: -Keep the petrol for next year- It will change !

Finally:

I want to thank Mariella d'Vito, Anne Stranne, Nina Crafoord, Ewa Sollenberg and many others ladies that always contribute to our meetings with a personal character that "no men" can do.

Per Wadström

Il presidente Club Riva Sweden