

INTERNATIONAL WAYFARER RALLY

KRAGENÆS 2007

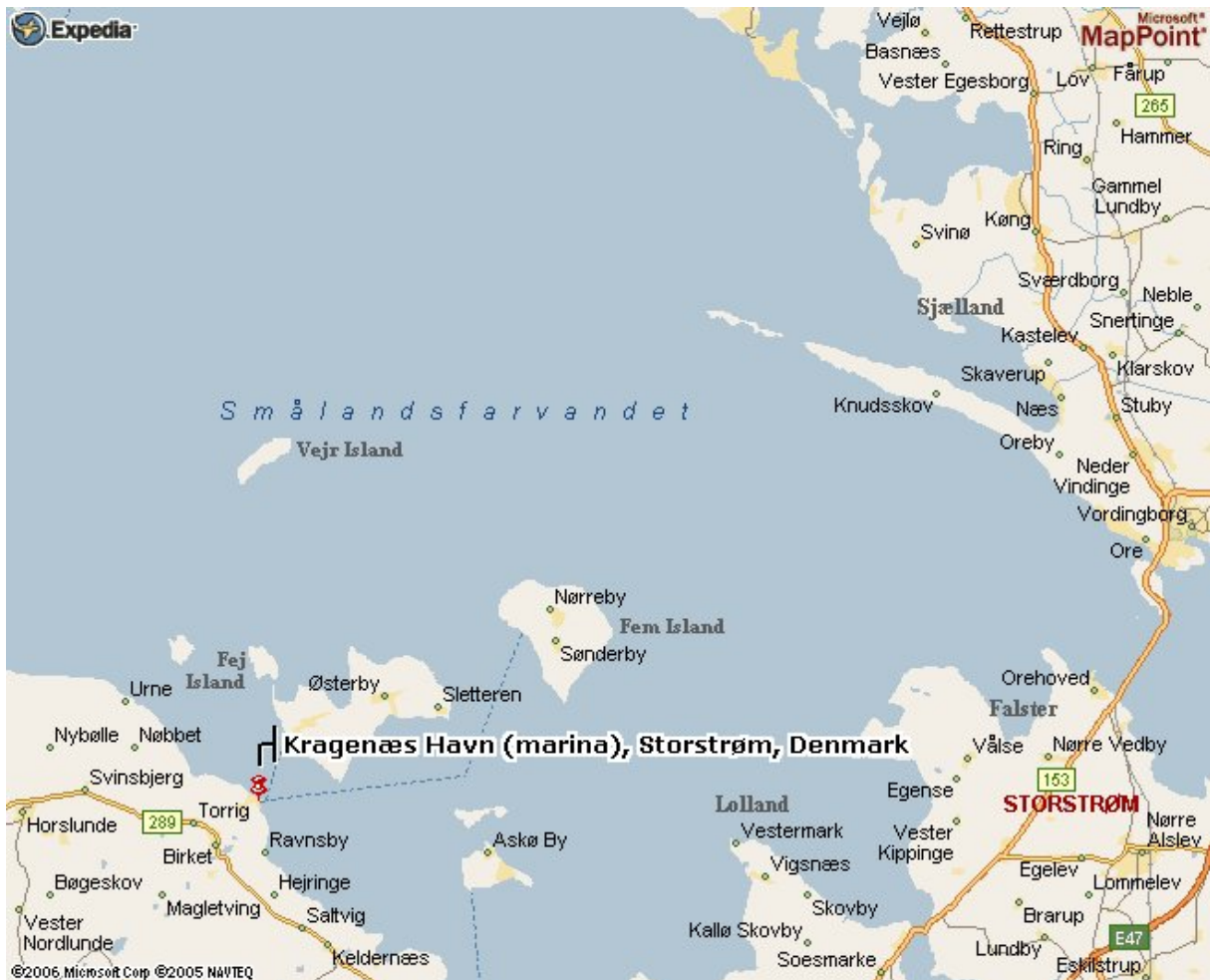
From Fie Goltermann's Diary

Saturday, August 11th

Today is overcast with showers mixed in. All week, John has been getting the boat ready and shopping, so all we have to do is pack our clothing and provisions. We're supposed to catch the 2 p.m. Spodsbjerg-Tårs ferry.

We had a fine drive across Fyn (Fynen). As we got close to Spodsbjerg (with time to spare), we were a bit annoyed at the gloomy weather. It was quite misty - impossible to really see much. Really not much wind, so the crossing was quiet. The trip across takes about 45 minutes. We arrived at the Kragenes (Crow Foreland) campground at 4 p.m. You can drive the car and boat right up to our rented cabin which is right next to the tenting area where the rest of the Wayfarer sailors are located.

We emptied our gear from car and boat, and soon afterwards, the boat was rigged so that we could launch. We found space at the dock to moor the boat for the whole week. Greetings from some of the other sailors who have already arrived - Arne and Vibse, Elof and Karen. They are part of the arranging Rally committee and they handed us our Rally package, a



large brown envelope stuffed with goodies - T-shirts, laminated chart of the area, as well as a lovely bottle opener that Lars Vibskov made of wood from W950 (the Wayfarer donated to the Danish Museum for Yachts). With help from Arne and Vibse, we got the boat ready for sailing and moored at the dock. It was getting on for 8 p.m. by the time we got the BBQ going. We enjoyed a delicious steak. Well fed and thoroughly tired, we headed for bed around 11 o'clock - eager to find out what the week would bring.

Sunday, August 12th

Today we woke up to dimness. Total cloud cover - no sign of the sun. A bit on the chilly side - in contrast to yesterday when it was quite hot and muggy. We met with the other sailors and agreed to sail over to Dybvig (Deep Creek) Harbour on Fejø (Fej-Island. About 11 o'clock, we were off, i.e. *Kantarellen* (Karen & Elof), *Wave Dancer* (Vibse & Arne) and ourselves in *Den blå Hawkat*. (Freely translated to "The blue Catfish", however Haw should have been Hav = Sea but spelled with the W due to W in Wayfarer)

A fresh westerly breeze, and we get under way with jib and a reefed main. We found room at the harbour in Dybvig (Deep Creek). The harbour has tables and benches where we had our lunch. The sun had come out just as we were leaving Kragenæs (Crow Foreland). I was dressed far too warmly, had never dreamed it was going to get this warm! After lunch and coffee, we sailed back home, this time under full sail.

The Rally Committee needed to be back home in time to provide "welcome drinks" around 5 o'clock. While we were out cruising, a bunch more boats showed up.



Karen Andersen serves up the welcome drinks

The Rally Committee offered a glass of rosé to all Rally participants, and people greeted each other. The weather remained delightful - a really beautiful summer evening.

Monday, August 13th

9 a.m.: the first of our morning meetings, under sunny skies. Bo introduced the Rally Committee that would be running the skippers meetings: Bo and Anja, Arne and Vibse, Elof and Karen. After that, it was time to go around the circle and introduce ourselves. As always, it was fun and pleasant - all done in English.

The day's sailing destination that we decided on was Skalø (Shell Island), which is actually connected to Fejø (Fej-Island). John and I were the first to arrive. This was a reach and hence "relaxed" sheets in glorious sunshine. All of us - 17-18 Wayfarers - sailed into the little harbour as a delightful fleet. Only Kantarellen chose to land on the beach in this on-shore breeze.

Just beside the harbour, there is a lawn with a gorgeous view of the harbour. Here we all enjoyed our packed lunches. Some lay back and let themselves be baked by the sun. Others took off on a hike around the island.

After our hike, we enjoyed a cup of coffee, and there were even a few of us who had a little swim before we got back into the boats and got ready to sail back home.



Wayfarers in Skalø (Shell Island) harbour

One by one, we left the island - and what a beautiful sight that was! Some elected to sail around Rågø (Rook Island) before heading back to Kragenes. (to make the cruise just that little bit longer); others sailed straight back.

We were back in our home harbour at Kragenes around 1630 hours. I have promised to help out in the kitchen - we're having herring. The Rally Committee is in charge of the evening meal today. We have borrowed the clubhouse of Kragenes sailing club for the event, since

the weather looks a little treacherous. While we were in the kitchen, it suddenly began to pour, but it was over in half an hour. The menu was marinated herring with onions, marinated herring with apple salad, marinated herring with curry dressing, tuna salad, salami, cheese and grapes (not to forget various kinds of schnaps : Linie Aquavit from Norway (have passed Equator twice), Bog myrtle Aquavit and Crown Aquavit the two last from Denmark. All this followed by coffee with chocolate.

Sue and Poul played the guitar and sang, Elof joined in with his clarinet, and the rest of us sang and we all had a terrific time. A dance or two was also added. We packed it in about 2300 hours and each went to find the tent or cabin for a good nights sleep. The evening was still mild, so John and I sat outside and enjoyed it before we turned in too.



Between Esbjerg and Fanø: "But the skipper "Las" never saw land again"

Tuesday, August 14th

We awoke to sunshine around 7 o'clock. We could tell by the voices that a lot of singing had been done the night before. The skippers meeting was at 0900; a few new arrivals from England introduced themselves. Today's suggested destination is Femø (Fem Island) (about 6 nautical miles away). We get set to sail and pack our meal bags.

The sun is baking us and there is next to no wind. It took us three hours to reach Femø; and we set our spinnaker for the first time!

We reached Femø at 1330. The general store was closed from 1200 to 1500, but the ice cream place was open. We put this to good use. We then went for a little swim while getting ready to set sail for home again. The wind had increased and become a bit more easterly, so that we could lay Kragenes on one tack. Towards the end, the wind is giving us a lift so we can ease the sheets!

It only took us an hour to get back. Sunshine for the most part, 12-knot winds from the SE - magnificent.



Egon and Merete drift gently towards Fem Island

Back in Kragenes, we went for a walk around the campground. Jesper Friis and Aida have arrived. Jesper has just won bronze at the Wayfarer Worlds in Hellerup - well done, well done!

We shopped a bit, and then got our supper made before the aftersailing beer with the rest of the gang. The evening was cold and windy, and we were good and tired. We could hear the sound of guitars and singing over at the campground but we were too tired to go over and join in. We were in bed by 2300.

Wednesday, August 15th

Woke up at 0730. Mostly cloudy and a bit of rain. We were invited to go down to the clubhouse for our skippers meeting so that we could sit where it was dry. It was blowing quite hard - Omø (Om Island) reporting 24 knots. And Roesnes 28!! The cruise suggestion for the day was sightseeing on the island - by car! During the meeting, Simon McEvoy got up and told us about his trip over here. His intention had been to sail across from England to Denmark with his crew, Jim. 30 n. miles out of Lowestoft, they capsized in a fresh breeze and waves of two metres. Once they got the boat back up, it turned out that the mast was broken. After a lot of hard work, they got the mast jury rigged well enough to be able to set their jib as a trysail, and began to sail back home. It was quite a frightening account of how big ships ignored their distress flares and went on by - sigh! But they were at last seen and

taken aboard a big Gas freighter, so it all ended well. After that, they decided to drive over here instead. Yesterday John made schnaps with spiced with beach wormwood . Kis, Steen and Karen came by and had a test sip. They said it was good. We also thought it tasted good but weren't sure if the taste was just right.

The rain is supposed to let up and skies are to clear later in the day. Let's hope the forecast is right, because the group BBQ is scheduled for tonight. Well, right now, the rain is increasing again - it's 12 noon.

After lunch John and I headed over to Nysted (Newplace small town) where we wanted to visit the Ålholm (a manor) Car Museum. We arrived around 1400. A few Wayfarers were there already, sitting down to a cafeteria lunch. What a lot of elegant, old cars they have there! Although the buildings themselves are a bit dilapidated. Because of the rain there were buckets everywhere to catch the drips coming through the roof. After an hour we had been through the whole thing, and went for a drive down to Nysted Harbour where John met Claus, an old sailing buddy. We drove over to Saksøbing (a town), found a Supermarket and laid in supplies for the next few days. Suddenly we discovered that it was getting late. We had been told that we should meet at 1830 and we still had to prepare the supper. Got back at 1715 and went straight into meal preparation mode. At 1830, Jesper Friis rang his glass for attention. He served champagne and goodies to all of us, to celebrate his and the other Danes' fine results at the Wayfarer Worlds. The sun was now shining and the wind had died down quite a bit. The Rally Committee had gone to a near-by butcher's, and bought tenderloin steaks for all - which we each barbecued to our own taste. We all sat indoors to eat, the weather still looking quite changeable. Fie: I know the next bit starts with "The talk/conversation" goes on and the atmosphere is very cheerful. Sue, Poul and Elof got a few tunes underway, and we all sang along.

And it went on like that all evening long. There was also a bit of dancing mixed in. Unfortunately, Gill from England slipped and broke her wrist in the fall. Aida called 112 (911) and the ambulance arrived shortly afterwards. The socializing continued however, and it was a little after midnight before the party ended. By now there was a beautiful starry sky, but we were in fact a bit too tired to enjoy it. We hurried off to bed instead.

Thursday, August 16th

While the coffee water was heating up, we washed the dishes, something we didn't bother with the night before. The forecast called for 16 to 26 knots between SW and NW, decreasing to 10 - 20 knots later in the day.

Skippers' meeting at 9 as always. Many had no desire to sail in this much wind. The day's suggested destination is Fejø. Those of us intending to sail will arrange to sail three per boat. John is sailing with Anthony Patterson and his daughter, Emma (12), and Ralph Roberts.

I'm sailing with Bo and Anja. We're off at about 11 in a fairly fresh SW breeze – on a broad reach, and that the trip over is a really fine and easy sail. We get together on the grass beside the harbour where we have our lunch. A few elect to eat in the harbour cafeteria. The sun has come out; it comes and goes all the time. After coffee, we headed over to Kernel Farm which has a farm shop.

We bought apple cider and honey. They also had lamb and goat meat for sale. After that, we hiked back towards the harbour, stopping off at an old restored mill, which has been converted to a restaurant.

Went back to the harbour - a few boats had already left. The wind hadn't died down at all. On the contrary, a violent thunder squall hit us as we got ready to leave.

Carl and Laila had just left the harbour when the squall came - a squall with a ton of wind.

We waited and waited to see if the wind wasn't going to die down a bit, but that never really happened. The boat that John was sailing on had left an hour before the rest of us.



Emma Patterson from Holland has the helm in a fresh breeze while England's Ralph Roberts crews

There were still some big, black clouds - I was thinking that they should have waited a bit longer.

At about 1730 we were at last ready to leave. In front of us were Poul and Irene, and Mette, Claus and Bent Holvert. The weather didn't feel as bad as we had expected, but still the going was hard enough.

Meanwhile, we had to hike harder than the others with Bo doing a fine job steering - and had a delightful sail in spite of the weather and sea spray.

By about 1840, we were safely back in our harbour.

John greeted me with a mug of beer and warm soup, which went down well. We hung our

wet clothes out to dry and drove over to Tårs to book a spot on Sunday's ferry. Then it was on to Nakskov (a town) (- to find a pizzeria so that we could still our hunger pains. A simple meal. Around 10, we were back in our cabin. Fatigue was making its presence known, and it wouldn't be long before we would be snug in our beds.



Wet Wayfarers wait for the rains to stop.

Friday, August 17th

We awoke to sunshine. Almost as much wind as yesterday, but everything looked completely different in sunshine. For today, Bo did not suggest a sailing destination but rather that we hike along a path beside the coast past a burial mound, and a ruin of an old castle a walk of about 10 km. Departure 11 a.m. John and I opted for a drive to the Knuthenborg Animal Park. We took off around 11 - delightful in the dry weather. We started out by having a look at all the beautiful birds in the aviary. Then on to the grasslands where there were giraffes, gnus, rhinoceros, zebras and more. In the monkey area, you could take a trip in a tractor-drawn carriage, but we were content just to look from outside the fence. After two and a half hours we had gone through the park, including the Tiger-woods, and we drove on to Bandholm (small harbour). Just outside the town at a campground, we found a bench with a view of the water where we had our lunch. We had brought our swimming clothes but felt that the weather was too cool for a swim. After lunch we continued on to Horslunde (a village) where another small Supermarket provided more supplies for the next few days. Got back around 1530. Oddly enough, we were both tired and grabbed a quick afternoon nap. We got ourselves a cup of coffee and were ready for the aftersailing beer by 1800. The socializing lasted to nearly 7. Those who were so inclined ate out at the Café "Udsigten" (Cafe with the View) - about half our number. John and I decided to make our meal at the campground, but first we just wanted to go for the walk the others had completed this morning. We got to the top of Granhøj (Spruce Hill - with several old Viking graves on the top) and agreed to go back, or we would be almost too late to have supper. Shortly after we had got the barbecue going, there was a violent rain squall which made the BBQ belch lots of smoke. By 2100 the meal was ready - we stayed at our cabin for the evening. The wind had died down a bit, so it was a cosy evening outdoors - though a bit on the cool side. We could hear the sounds of music and singing from the English camp.

Saturday, August 18th



Happy sailors on the Northern beach of Little Island.

Today started out sunny. A new weather system has come in and the temperature has gone down. 15-20 degrees promised for the day. The upper air levels are constantly moving so that we are getting variable cloud cover. The morning meeting comes up with Little Island as the suggested destination, where we can land on the beach at the north end. From here, one can walk across a causeway to Ask Island. Departure time: 1100 hours. 14 boats came along. It took us an hour's time to get there - we were skimming right along on a broad reach in winds of about 12-14 knots. It doesn't get much better than this. At the north end of Little Island the water is quite shallow so the last part of our journey is completed with board and rudder up.

We had lunch on the beach, where we also exchanged tastes of various types of homespiced schnapps. Most of us then went on to hike across to Ask Island. The wind had died down a bit, and the sun was baking us - lovely!

We found a store that was about to close for the season, but he was still able to conjure up some ice creams for us all. We went on a bit further and visited the little church. The island boasts 65 inhabitants, so there was certainly enough seating room for all. The cemetery is lovely and well kept. We finished things up with a visit to the island's little museum. A lovely little museum filled with pictures, home equipment and other old things. We wandered on back to the beach - past the many fruit trees on Little Island.

Soon we were ready to set sail. It was getting on for 1530 and the winds had died down a fair bit. John replaced the jib with a genoa. The consensus of opinion was that we should go east around Ask Island and then south around Lindholm (a small Island). It was a beat all the way to Lindholm. After that, peacefully and quietly back to Kragenes. There were big differences in what winds people got, depending on where they were.



The wreck of the sloop John B with gestures

It was starting to get late. We were to meet for our aftersailing beer at 6 p.m. - a time limit that was missed. 7 p.m. was the announced time for the BBQ where we all would eat together.

That deadline was missed as well. By 1915 most of us were in the harbour. Around 8 p.m., we met for the aftersailing beer - everyone were back by now - and the BBQ got started at 2030. John and I rushed to row our boat to the haul-out ramp to get it on the trailer and de-rig for the trip back home. There were willing hands to help so that things went quickly. By 2030, we were all set and we all barbecued together outside the clubhouse before going inside to eat.

After supper it was music time -



Elof jazzes it up on the clarinette.

Sue had brought along her songbooks, and we sang all the songs we love so well until Poul and Sue brought things to a close around midnight with "We'll meet again".

Sunday, August 19th

In contrast to the other days, our morning meeting wasn't til 10 a.m. Bo asked if anyone had any comments to make. And this was indeed the case. All the participants had participated in a gift to the Rally Committee members, as thanks for a very well organized event.

A well-kept secret surprise, bottles of Sloe Gin were presented to Bo and Anja, Arne and Vibse, and Karen and Elof. Sue had created the artwork on the labels. There was also a little something for the children and the young people.



The well-kept secret surprise, bottles of Sloe Gin to the Rally Committee



A little something for the young people

After which Bo brought us the weather forecast:

"It will be sunny, it will rain, it will blow, winds will be calm, we will get sleet and snow and frost - before we meet again. (lots of laughter)



More little something for the young people

One last time, we sang the Wayfarer Song while the Wayfarer burgee was lowered.

Wayfarer, Wayfarer, finest dinghy ever seen!
Wayfarer, weather fair, really makes me feel so keen,
Do wake up from your lazy sleep,
Sail your Wayfarer out on the deep.
Wayfarer, Wayfarer, finest dinghy ever seen!

John and I went back to the cabin to pack up the last of our gear, and then made the rounds to say farewell. At noon, we rolled on out carrying tons of great experiences as our luggage.

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