
The Shallow Water Sailor

This report is taken from SWS #189, August 2014

RAID Finland 2014

by Norm Wolfe

RAID Finland 2014 was held 6-13 July 2014. We began and ended in Dalsbruk (the Swedish name of the town in this Swedish speaking coastal of Finland), where John Zohlen and I also began 2005 RAID Finland. There was NO rain this time.

There were 7 boats plus the safety boat, which also carried our baggage. There were 19 participants from 7 countries: Australia, Estonia, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and US. Peter Lord, an Australian who worked many years in the US and now is retired and living in Sweden with his Swedish wife, was the primary organizer, assisted by Seppo Narinen, a Finnish sailor well known to Ed and Mary McGuire.

My crew was my good friend from Estonia and the one who arranged for the building of my boat, Andres Krigul. His son Ott (my godson) joined us for the 4 days in Skatafe which he could reach by car. Tom Hart, an

experienced small boat sailor from Portsmouth, England, was the other crew. Since neither Andres nor Ott are sailors, Tom's sailing and teaching ability was invaluable in easing my burden as captain and making my week a real joy.

We had wind each day, but no rain. We only needed one reef a few times. On Sunday we launched in Dalsbruk and sailed about 8 miles to Biskopso, which is the same first destination as in the 2005 raid. I stayed at the same "hotel" and even in the same room as 2005, but this time the hotel is under different management and there were alot fewer people.



Andres & Tom Rowing

On Monday we day-sailed in a big circle to three destinations, then back to Biskopso, planning the day to take best advantage of the wind. We sailed for about 90 minutes for each leg, first stopping to see and buy pickled fish, next to see a small scale vegetable and flower garden catering to the island residents, and finally see an amateur glass blower and buy some refreshments.

On Tuesday we sailed for about 13 miles east to Skatafe at the end of a peninsula. Although we left a little later than other boats, in true SWS fashion my boat avoided about 6 miles (over the bottom) of tacking by lowering the flagpole mast and rowing 1.5 miles against the wind through a very narrow passage, twice touching both sides of the passage with the oars. When we emerged and set sail, we found ourselves on a close reach at the front of the pack.

We stayed 4 nights in Skatafe and day-sailed each day to a different destination, again taking best advantage of winds and conditions.

On Saturday we returned to Biskopso for the final night, and so our return to the launch ramp in Dalsbruk would not be very long. It turned out not to be necessary since our course on Saturday was a broad reach all day before east



Tom, Norm, and Andres



The fastest boat, a traditional Finnish Hanko-jolle built 2002 in Finland for Yves, who lives in Switzerland

winds, but the prevailing summer winds are usually from the south west, so the east wind was an unexpected help.

On Sunday we hitched the boat and trailer again to Andres's car and towed it most of the way to Helsinki, stopping for the night at the summer home of Jarmo and Kielo Makela, where we enjoyed a sauna and beer and swimming in fresh water and a good rest. In the morning Jarmo prepared a delicious omelet for us before we departed for our

trip back to Tallinn. Tom took the tram from the Helsinki west harbor to the central train station, and then by bus to the airport.



Lunch Stop

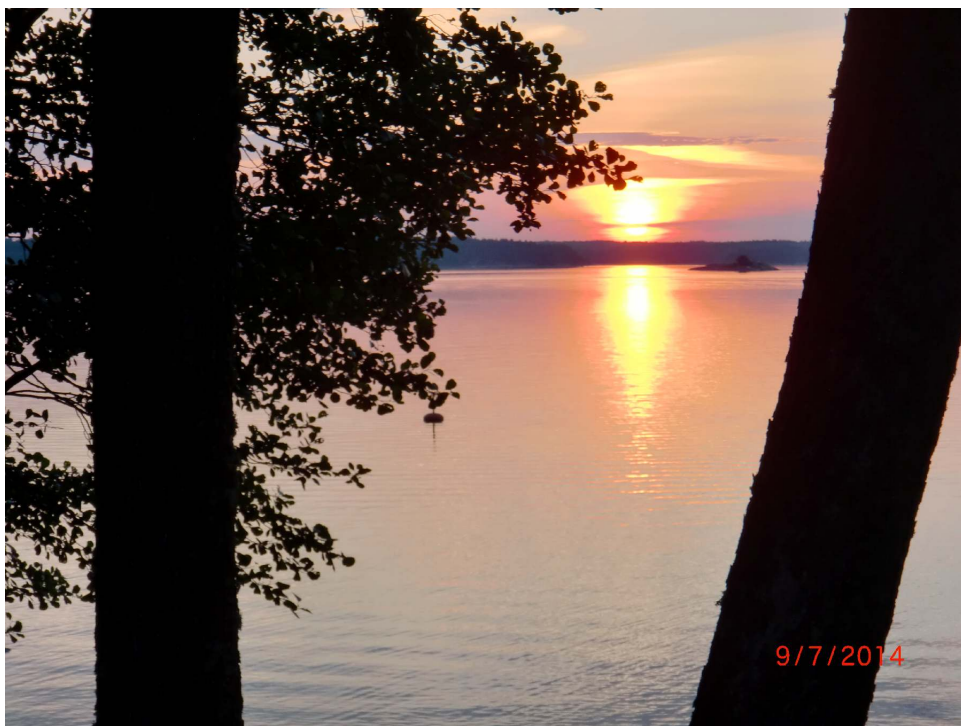
More information about RAID Finland and links to articles and boat details are found on the web page Ken maintains:

<http://shallowwatersailor.us/10-02/>

There are photos from the 2014 RAID as well as a Google Earth .kmz file which shows the route we took.



Gotland Snipa



Sunset