

St. Ayles Skiffs

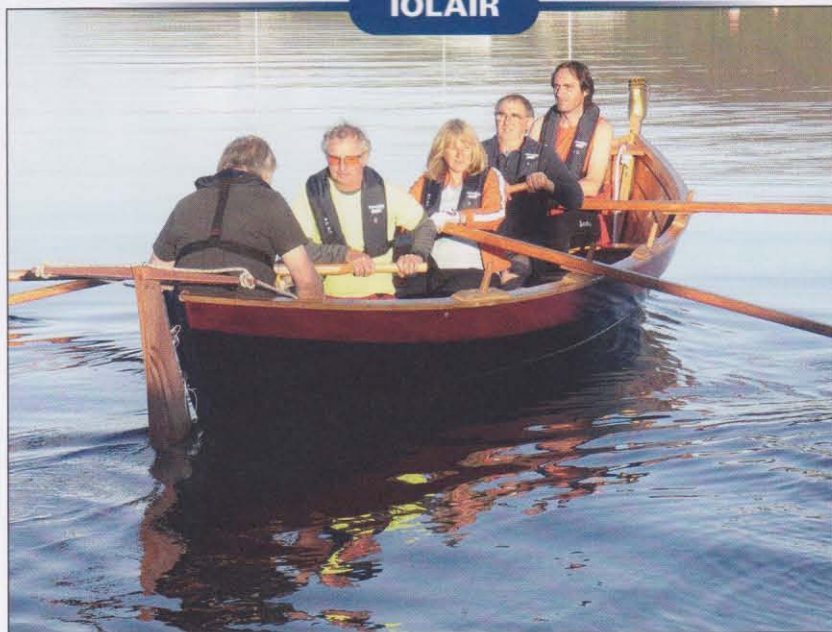
IOLAIR

Since the first St. Ayles skiff was launched at the Scottish Fisheries Museum in 2009, about 140 boats have been built, with nearly 100 more under construction. Boat-kit manufacturer Alec Jordan and the museum started the Scottish Coastal Rowing Project as a way to revive interest in community rowing, a pastime that was quite popular in the U.K. until the 1950s.

They asked Iain Oughtred to design a 22' plywood-and-epoxy glued-lap skiff that would be easy to build. These skiffs are offered as CNC-cut plywood kits from Jordan Boats (www.jordanboats.co.uk) in the U.K., Stray Dog Boatworks (www.straydogboatworks.com) in Australia, and Michael Hewes & Co. (www.hewesco.com) in the U.S.

The Scottish Coastal Rowing Association, www.scottishcoastalrowing.org, serves as the home organization of the fleet, with about 60 clubs started in the last five years. We reviewed this design in *Small Boats 2012*.

—Eds.



GEORGE NORRIS

In November 2014, Angus Campbell and Rory Cowan started the Arran Coastal Rowing Club on the Isle of Arran in Scotland. A couple of months later, Rory, teacher Steve Garaway, and three students from the Arran High School started building the St. Ayles kit. The Arran Coastal Rowing Club launched IOLAIR (Gaelic for “sea eagle”) in September 2015 at Lamlash on Arran. Another skiff is in the works.

SEA SHADOW & SEA SPIRIT



CHRIS IRELAND

Two years ago, a group of friends in Picton, Ontario, built Canada's first St. Ayles skiff, which they named SEA SHADOW. That launching led to the creation of the Ayle of Quinte Skiff Club, and the construction of Canada's second St. Ayles skiff, SEA SPIRIT. Launched in May this year at Waupoos Marina, she is seen here with her sistership SEA SHADOW and most of her builders. From left to right: Duncan Payne, Tony Dean, Don Farrington, Doug Macpherson, Peter Bell, Brian Wheatley, John Fricker, Bob McKittrick, Sandy Pratt, Jim Vince, Gary Osborne. Missing is Chris Ireland, who took the picture.



BILLIE



BOB HAWKINS

In July 2014, the Living Boat Trust was awarded a grant that covered much of the cost of building a St. Ayles skiff. Pete Heading supervised the group of eager volunteers who worked on the boat. At her June launching, they named her BILLIE, after a beloved dog mascot of the Trust. A blog of the construction is available on their website, lbt.rforster.org.

Under direction from their wood arts teacher, Jim Dumser, a dozen students at the Community School of Davidson built SEA SPARTAN in just four months. They launched her on Lake Norman in Davidson, North Carolina, in May 2015. Seated from left to right are Jim Dumser, Kevin Harris, Austin Talbert, Connor Collop, and Michael Simon.

SEA SPARTAN



SARAH DUMSER

On another island in Scotland, the Isle of Lewis, the An Eather Rowing Club built YACKYDOOLA and launched her in July on Loch a' Bhaile amid much fanfare and celebration. The builders from left to right: Ian Mackay, Ian Hunter, team leader Charlie Green, Rhys Howell, and John Mitchell.

YACKYDOOLA



NIALL GIDHAR

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TROIKA



DAVE PICKERING

Ali Grant, who had previously been involved in building two other St. Ayles skiffs, now works as a youth worker at Muirhouse Youth Development Group in Edinburgh, Scotland. She and boatbuilder Nik Savage supported three young men in the construction of a St. Ayles skiff. The trio spent two afternoons a week working with Ali and Nik to build their own skiff, TROIKA, which means three people working together. The photo shows Nik Savage, Figo El Sherif, Francisc Dorot, trainee rower Stanley McKay, and Ali Grant.