



Raid Finland

Inspired by the Raids in Portugal and Scotland, Mike Hanyi organised his own competitive cruise-in-company under sail and oar.



Over the years, *Water Craft's* extensive coverage of the Raids set me toying with the idea of a Raid in Finland. Every year my wife Susa and I go cruising in *Coquina II* and I was sure that others would appreciate Finland's incredible waters, though at that stage Dierk Kuhn of my local club *Klassiska Båtar* was the only one to share my enthusiasm. So we were surprised at the 4 responses I received from a brief mention of the planned Raid in W30. Encouraged, I spent all of January on promotion and by springtime, I had enough applications to ensure that I would break-even financially. .

Susa had her own thoughts about how much time I was investing – wasting! – on the planning. I wanted to create an event which was both competitive and family-friendly – but I was to discover that even planned relaxation requires organizing. However, when Raid Finland finally came together without a hitch on 13 July, it seemed my over-planning paid off – though I still spent the first two nights sleepless, worrying if everything would be OK.

We had gathered 19 boats from 12 countries, 61 participants in all, 10 of them children, to enjoy what turned out to be one rainless week of T-shirt weather. Most crews consisted of couples and families; the List family from Germany even brought their 1 and 3 year olds. Swimming was the favourite non-racing pastime, followed every night by what else, sauna! Early Thursday morning,

boats started arriving in Helsinki by land and sea; 2nd *Luv* from Estonia, a Daniel Bombigher-designed Miss Simplette home-built – beautifully – by Flemming Sorensen, had sailed the 50 nm across the Gulf of Finland. From the UK, Terry Newell and Mike Jarvi car-topped their *Ply-Viking*, a modified Bolger design started only a week prior to the Raid and even after we all got underway, they were busy every spare minute completing the boat.

By the end of the Raid, it was very clear that the group had a good time – in fact, many of them did not appear to want to go home; 3 days after the finish, 18 'raiders' from 5 countries were still there for a great party thrown in the home of Johan Fransson, for the birthday of Stephan Rudolph, one of the German participants.

For next year, we are planning a Raid on Finland's West Coast, visiting the beautiful islands in the Åland Archipelago and finishing in the town of Naantali for their small boat festival. We have decided to limit the entries to 25 boats to keep the group manageable and happy and already 3 applications have appeared!

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Left: Hilding, one of two German owned Norwegian Arendals Sjektes on the Raid. **Above:** The Finnish Signe was built by the Kuggam Skolan to celebrate 80 years of boatbuilding training. **Below:** The French 17'9" (5.4m) Seil, a lug-rigged GRP camping skiff inspired by Scandinavian praams, sailed by the Rafflegeau family.



Inset & right: Time & Tide, entered by the Wybenga family from the Netherlands, was described in W25. In the foreground is another Finnish entry, this one the Joel White designed Haven 12½ – see W16 – which was beautifully built by her owner Seppo Narinen.



Left & inset:
Organiser Mike Hanyi's Coquina II, a Finnish replica of Nat Herreshoff's own boat, was featured in W30.

Below: *As well as offering boat trips, Esko Härö's steam launch Kirvesniemi towed several of the fleet into the old town of Porvoo.*

