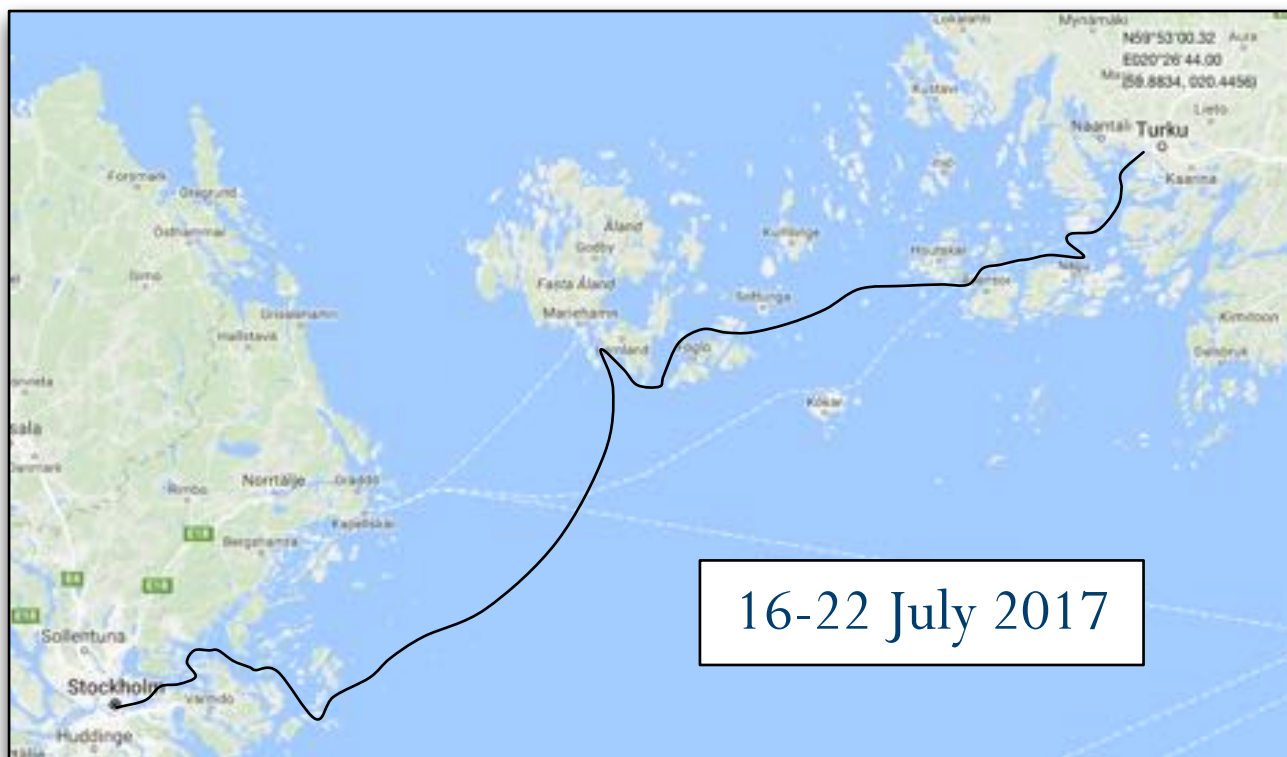




ARDINGLY OUTDOOR EDUCATION
College

Ardingly College Summer sailing trip. Expedition Report



Day 1 16 July 2017

0600 Expedition assembled at London Gatwick airport for Norwegian Air flight to Stockholm Arlanda Airport, arrived 1120.

Alejandra arrived at 1230 and the complete group transferred by pre-booked transport to the yacht Prolific located on the quayside in Stockholm centre.



Prolific alongside at Nybrokajen.

Expedition arrived at the yacht at 1400.

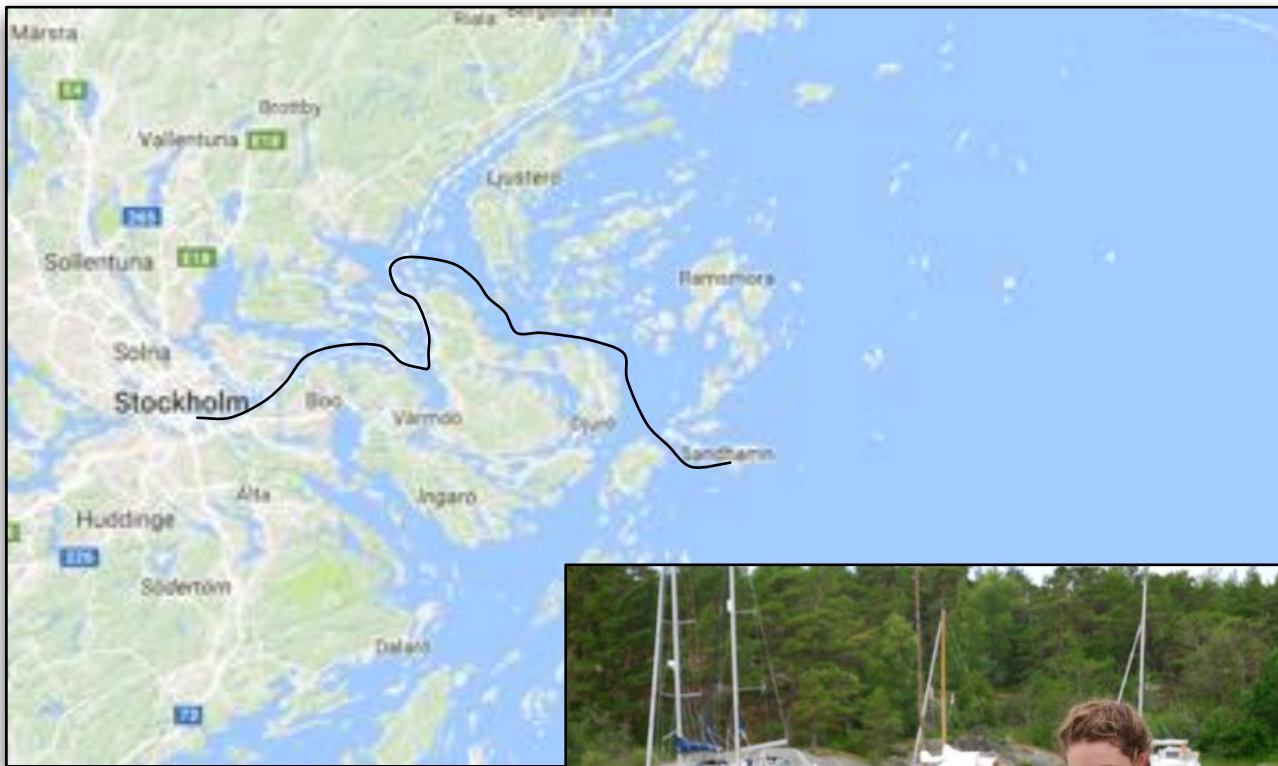
Expedition members were assigned their bunks and were then given all necessary safety briefings. Drills were conducted for Fire, Flood and Man Overboard.

Crew were then divided into two 6 man watches with shifts written up including cooking rotas for all meals.

After issuing of waterproofs and lifejackets the yacht was prepared for departure and lines slipped at 1700 heading out into the Stockholm archipelago.



Robbie at the Chart Table



We found a sheltered anchorage near Sandhamn.



Will, Louis and Jack ashore.



Space was tight so we rigged up a stern line to the shore to prevent swinging in the night.

Day 2 17 July 2017

0700 Breakfast ready for a long day. Destination the Åland Islands which are a Swedish speaking autonomous region of Finland.

Force 4 WSW breeze and no tides created gentle sailing conditions.



Although Deiniol had to stay close to his bucket!

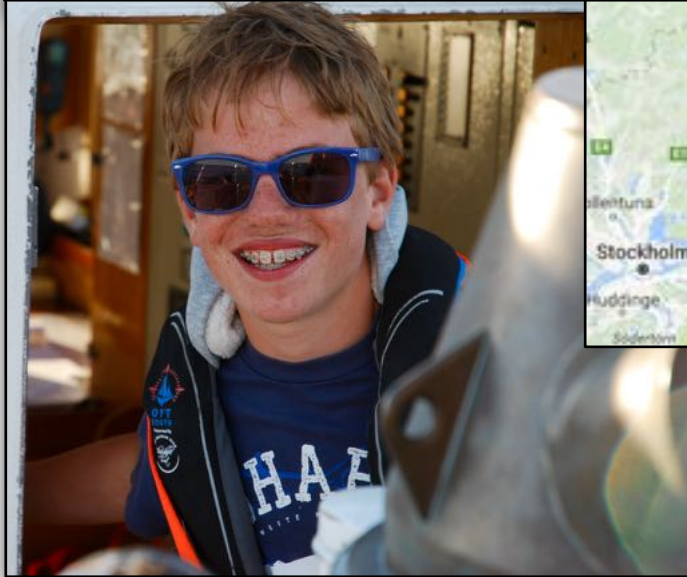
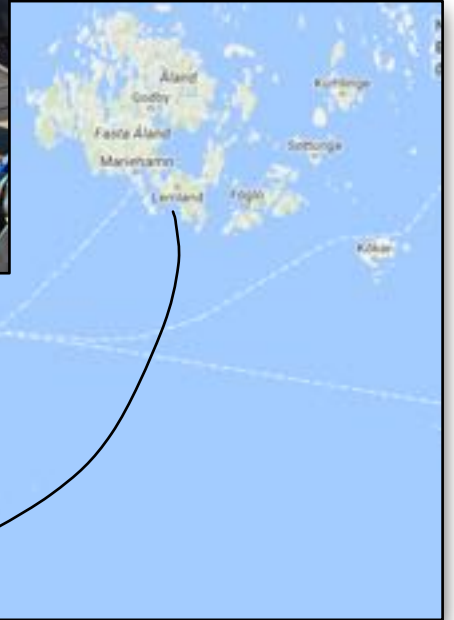


No seasickness at the bow.



We sang Happy Birthday to Will on the foredeck.

The youngest crew member turned 15.



After lunch and supper there was still a long way to go.

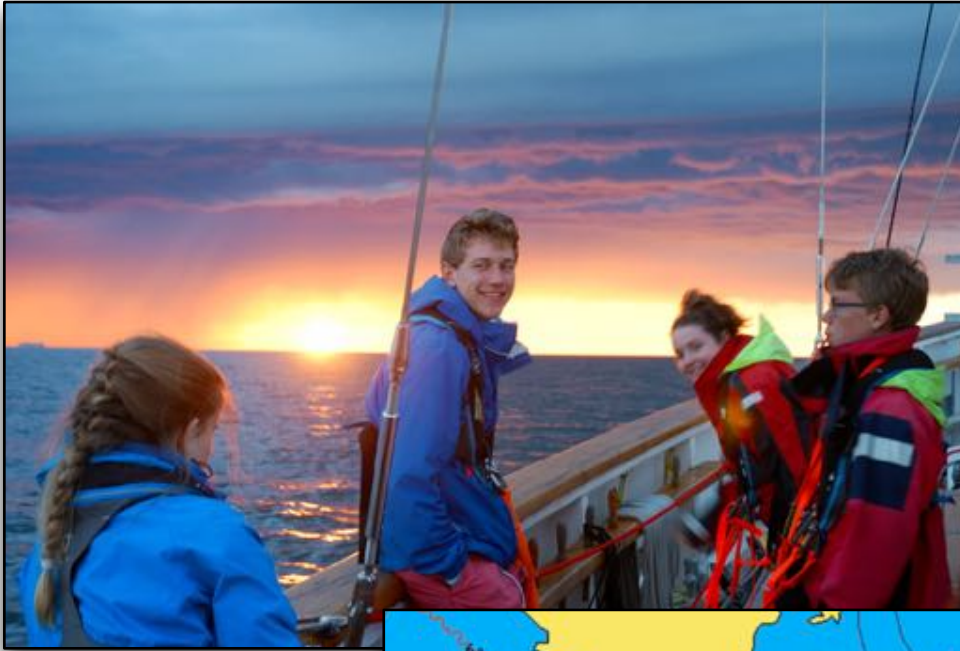




Storm clouds gathered, sails were reefed. Lightning and thunder menacing from skies evoking Norse gods.

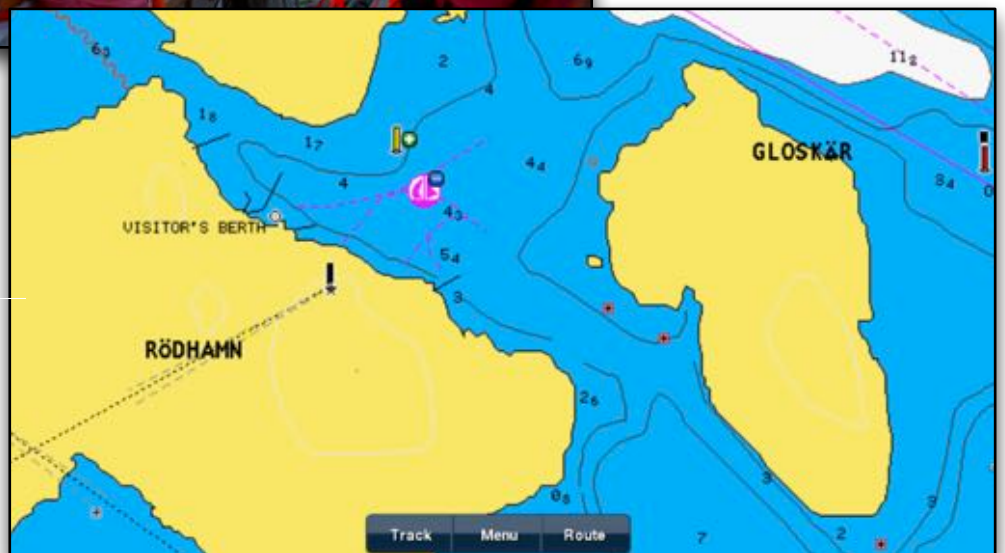


Universally agreed amongst the crew as the best cloud formations ever seen!



Heading for
Rodhamn.

Very tricky navigation
threading through rocks to
find a sheltered anchorage in
the midnight twilight.

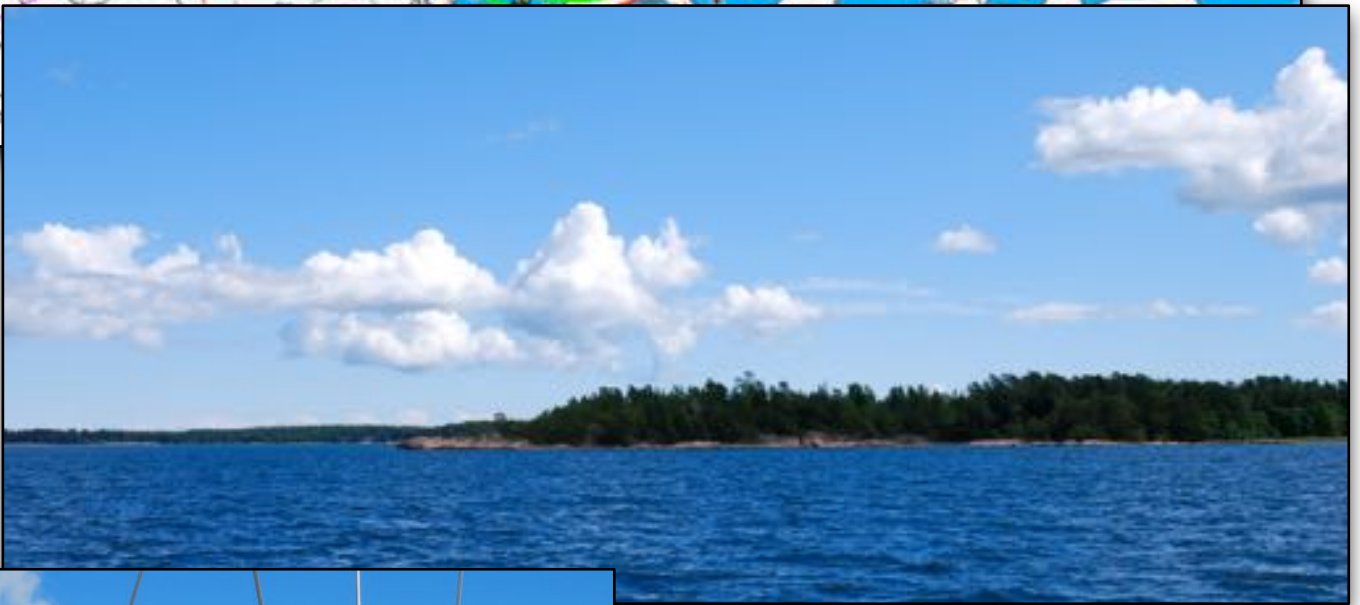
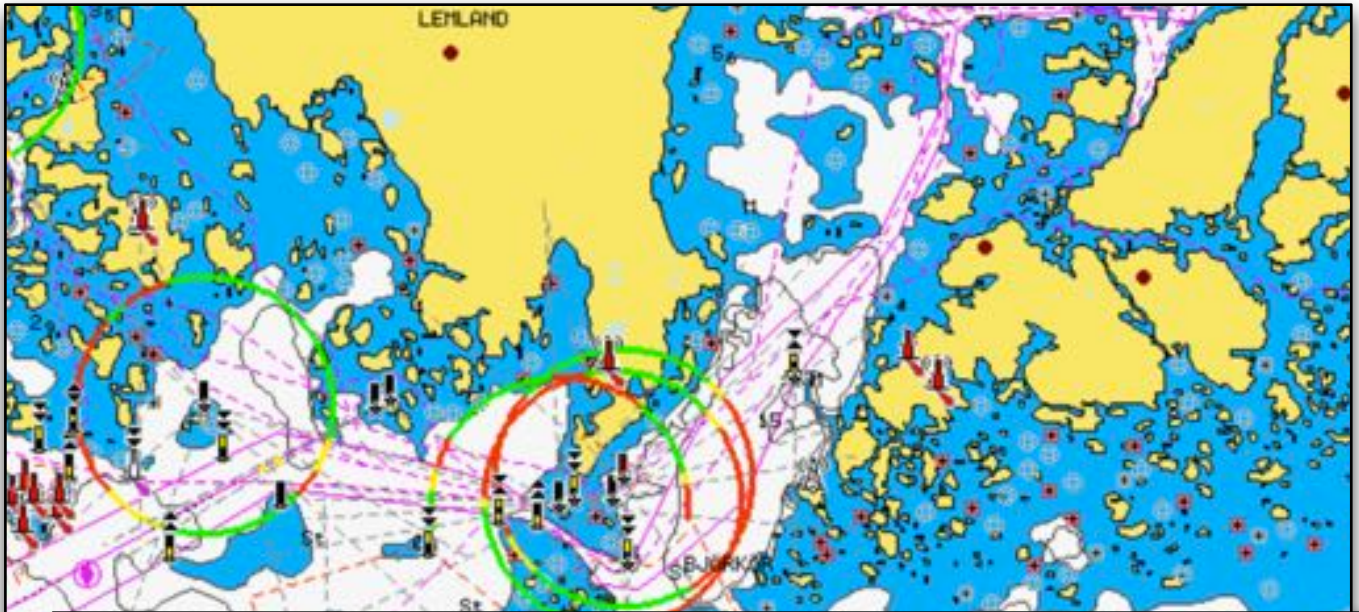


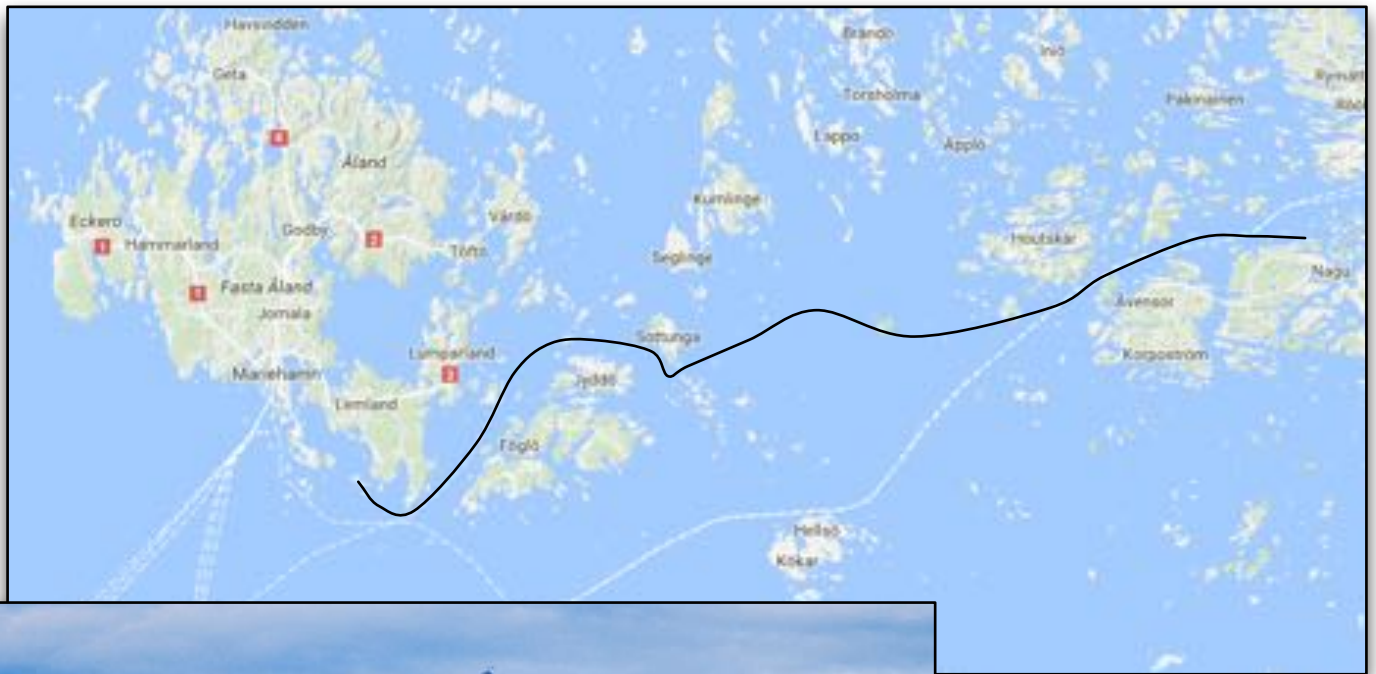
Almost
never
ending
sunset.



Day 3 18 July 2017

Another early start, light winds so mainsail only and engine to undertake an intense pilotage from Åland to the Finnish Archipelago.





At anchor off Nagu
just inside the
Finnish Archipelago.



Over 50 hours since
last stepping on dry
land the crew heads
ashore.

Day 4 19 July 2017

At last a lie in. Some time for some boat admin and some land based fun.



Standard sports.....

.... swimming...



.... beach volleybal...



And the less
conventional....

...home made
obstacle course.....



Followed by giant pizzas. A welcome break from cooking on board.



This map shows the Århus Archipelago (Århusøerne) in Denmark. Key islands labeled include Rødt, Arnisø, Åstølø, and Havnø. A black line is drawn on the map, starting from the bottom left and curving upwards towards the center, highlighting a specific area of interest.



Day 5 20 July 2017

Up early to get into Turku for the Tall Ships festival. Incredible display of vessels making their way into port.



The Norwegian ship *Sørlandet*.

It is the world's oldest fully rigged sailing ship.



We watched as the Czech brig *La Grace* opened fire on the Russian 4 masted barque *Kruzenshtern*. (with blank firing cannons!!)



And a less elegantly named Finnish tug boat!



Scrubbing the decks,
flaking the sails and
clambering on the
bowsprit.



Finding our way up the river
Aura thronging with Tall Ships.



Day 6 21 July 2017

The day of the Tall Ships Festival. Competitions, parades and parties.

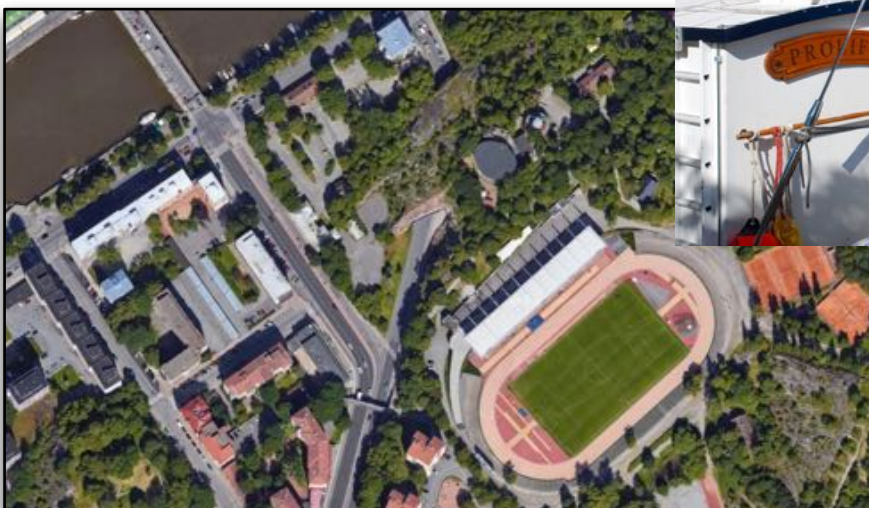


Starting with an on deck aerobic warm up lead by Jack.

All ready for the fierce competitions to follow.



Prolific all ready for visitors.



While the crew head off to the Paavo Nurmi stadium.



First event..... darts!



We weren't very good.



So we challenged some Russian Naval cadets from the *Sedov* to some races.



Race 1 goes to *Prolific*.

Race 2 goes to *Sedov*.

And then onto wheelbarrow and piggy back races.





Then mixed doubles fireman's carries. One from *Sedov* and one from *Prolific*.



Confusion over finishing line and dramatic tumbles makes everyone a winner



A rosy future for East-West relations!

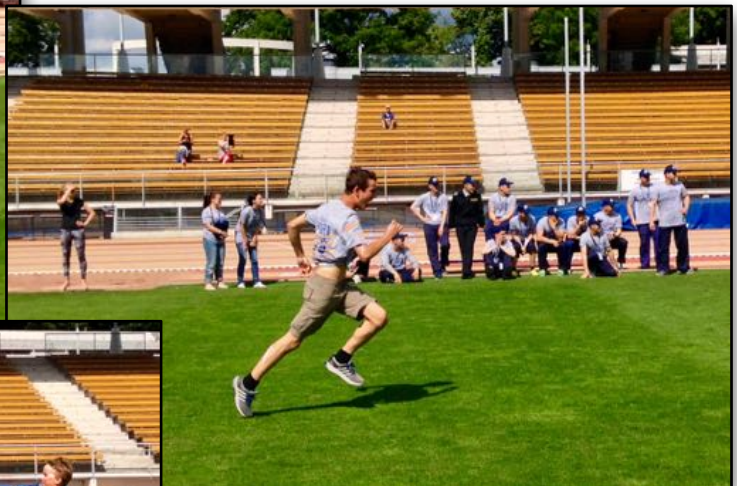


Final warm up for the 10 x 50m relay race,



Henry goes first for *Prolific*.





And Chris runs the Anchor Leg
and brings us in 5th overall.

Great Effort by the whole team!



And then bubble football
where we spent most of the
time

either upside down

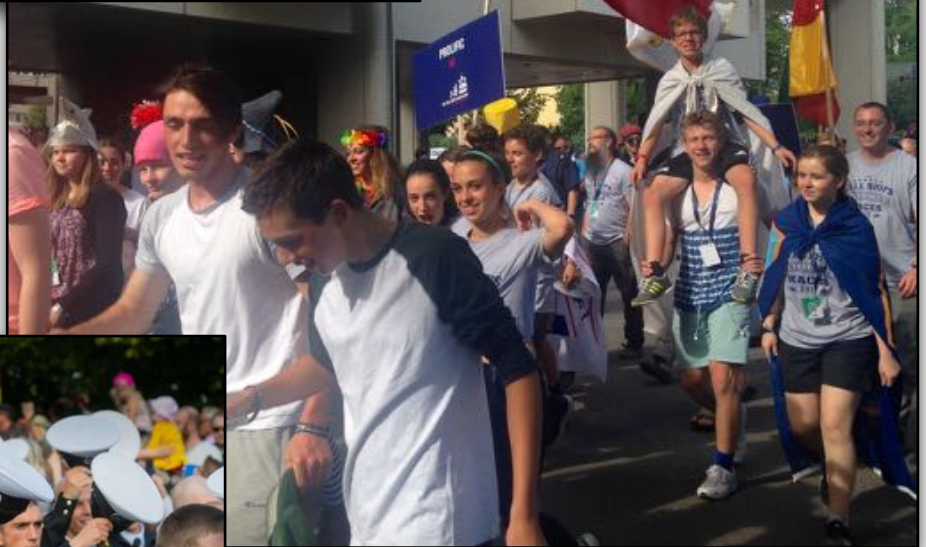
....or dizzy.





Then on to the
parade along the
Quay.

Some of the other
ships a little smarter
than us.



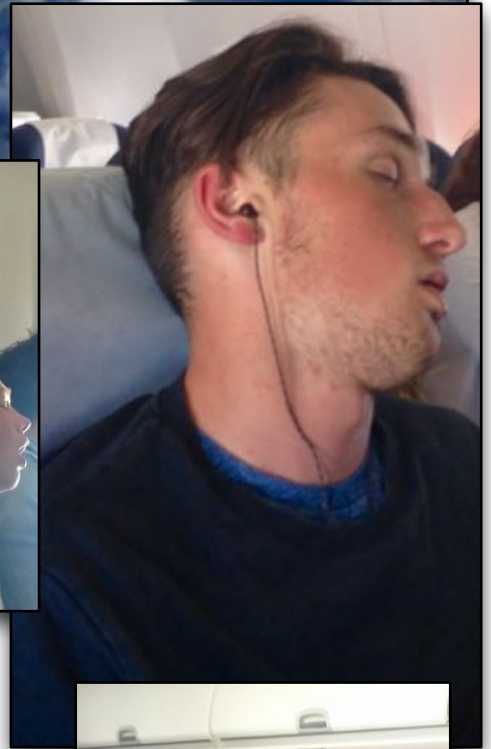
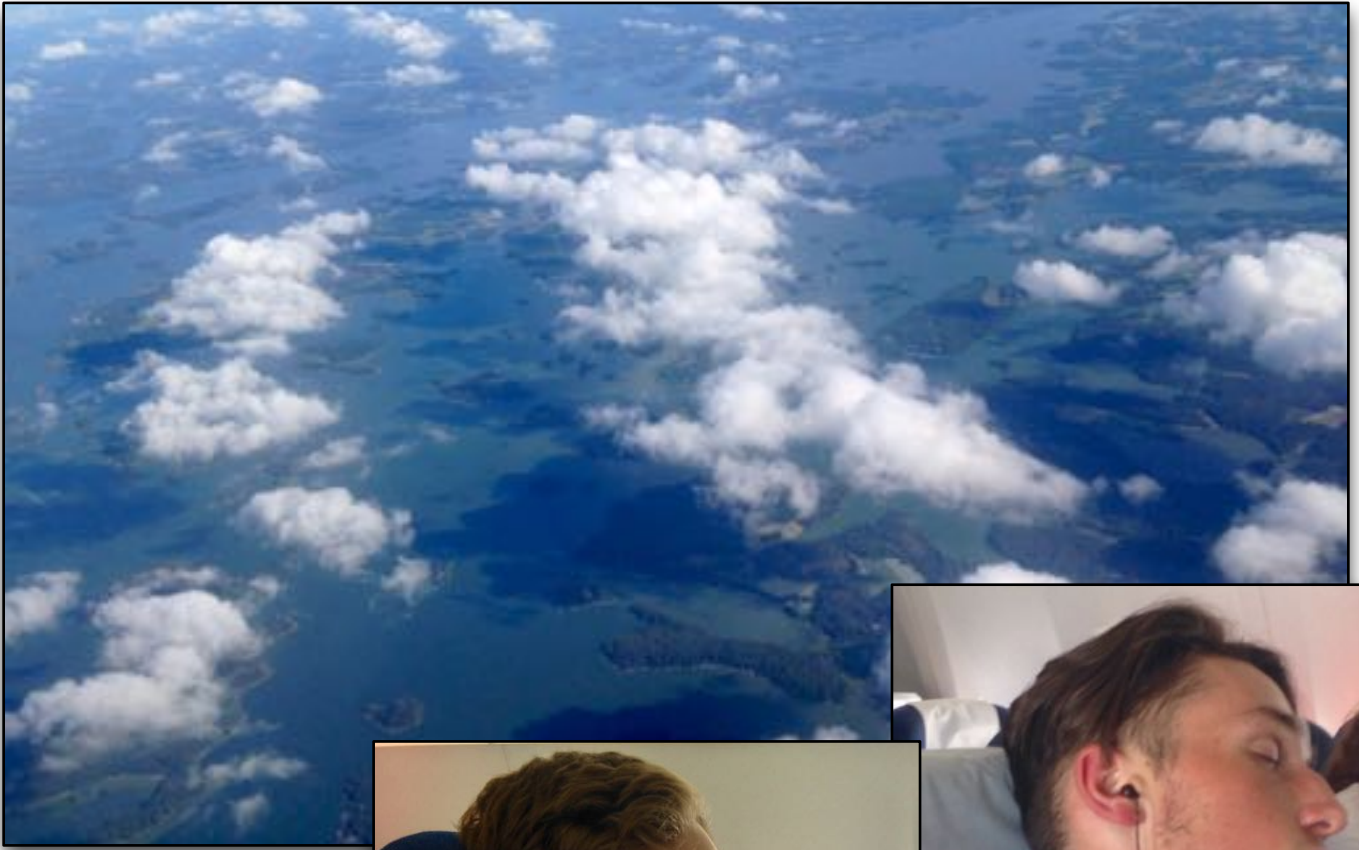
And on to the Crew Party.



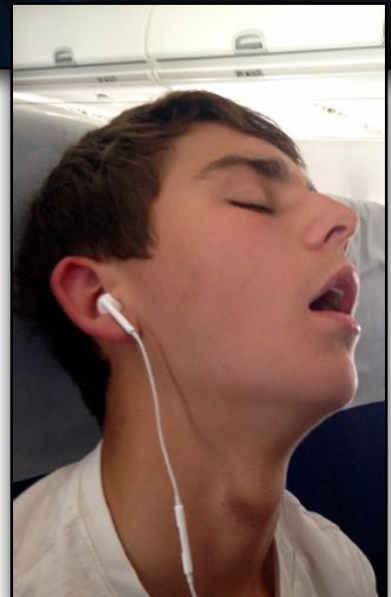
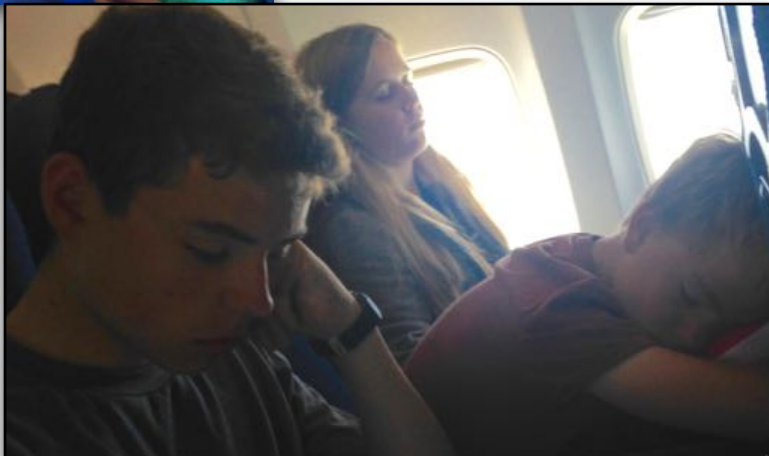
A fabulous end to an
amazing week.

Day 7 22 July 2017

Up at the crack of dawn to fly back home over the Archipelago.



Everyone might be a little tired.



The expedition was challenging in many ways. The crew came together and became a really well bonded team. The passage from Sweden over to Finland involved each crew member in each watch having to pull their weight, take turns in cooking and cleaning and being on deck promptly to relieve the off going watch even after many, many hours at sea. Their youthful eyesight was a definite bonus in spotting unlit markers in the gloomy twilight. Not running aground in such island and rock infested waters is a wonder of navigation.

The team spirit was on full show on the competition day of the festival as the whole crew threw themselves with smiles and enthusiasm into every event.

They were a credit to the OYT Yacht ***Prolific*** and their school Ardingly College.

They were impeccably behaved at all times and I was very proud of them for their effort from start to finish.

Tim Sayers
Expedition Leader
OC CCF
Head of Outdoor Education
Ardingly College

