

## FAROES SURFACE PLAN FOR ECLIPSE MORNING

For eclipse morning 2015 March 20 Friday, the plan we're submitting pending authorities' approval is that we will depart Billund, Denmark (BLL) about 0500 (local time = UT+1) in our MD-83 jetliner and arrive at Vágar, the Faroe Islands airport (FAE) at about 0615 (local time = UT) where, by prior appointment, the fuel truck will come refuel us as soon as possible.

Participants will disembark to the terminal and then will be able to decide, up until approx. 0815-0830, whether to reboard the aircraft for the eclipse leg or, in case weather is favorable, stay on the ground for the eclipse.

Most likely if good weather happens there will still be \*some\* cloudiness, so groundstayers should access vehicles pre-arranged for mobility on the good Faroese roads of Vágar island where totality will range between about 2m13s and 2m19s.

Even if weather is perfect, aircraft will still fly to airborne observation of the eclipse. At 0845 we expect to begin taxiing for planned takeoff 0855 for rendezvous with the lunar umbra 0940-0943 northwest of FAE, approx. 3m30s of totality at altitude 35,000+ feet. Then we'll either (a) return to FAE arriving about 1030 if indeed some participants have stayed earthbound so as to pick them up, then depart again about 1130 arriving back at Billund by about 1445, or otherwise (b) bypass FAE after totality and return directly to Billund arriving by about 1300.



Vágar Faroe Islands airport (FAE) in 2012? Google Maps image showing construction of new terminal, expected to be complete by late 2014

### GROUND AND BOAT MOBILITY

Good weather at Vágar is unlikely but it \*could\* happen – like El Calafate 2010 and Cape Lopez 2013! For instance here's what the three Vágar airport webcams showed at 9:41am, mid-totality time, on 2014 February 18...



Vágar Flughavn - [www.floghavn.fo](http://www.floghavn.fo) Vágar Flughavn - [www.floghavn.fo](http://www.floghavn.fo) Vágar Flughavn - [www.floghavn.fo](http://www.floghavn.fo)  
...evidencing considerable sunshine yet also, you-know-whats lurking nearby. So it will be \*most\* advisable, if remaining on terra firma, not to commit to one single stationary position such as in the airport parking lot but, rather, to have transportation lined up even if only comprising simple taxis such as the ones which ordinarily attend Vágar airport.

Then if indeed pressing wheels into service, you'll have access to 20+ kilometers of smooth, paved roads...



...for limb-corrected totality durations as shown here, with the sun at 19+ degrees elevation to the southeast at azimuth 132+ degrees.

To give you some idea of the excellent Faroese roads, here are two YouTube videos showing the drive from near the airport all the way to the tunnel entrance...

0:00-15:00 of <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4rbcPl2a-M> in bus, viewing out the side  
0:00-11:30 of <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPhQz9wpA> in car, viewing out the front

...and in fact it only takes about 3-1/2 minutes to go through the tunnel so you could even continue to the island of Streymoy en route to Tórshavn if skies beckon.

But what if weather looks pretty good at 0815-0830 so you decide to stay on the ground and the aircraft departs, but then more gray begins to move in? Addressing this concern we will be offering (at additional cost, to be determined) not only a motor vehicles option but a boat option as well, at a certain small marina located at 62.045n 7.183w about 10 minutes' drive from the airport...

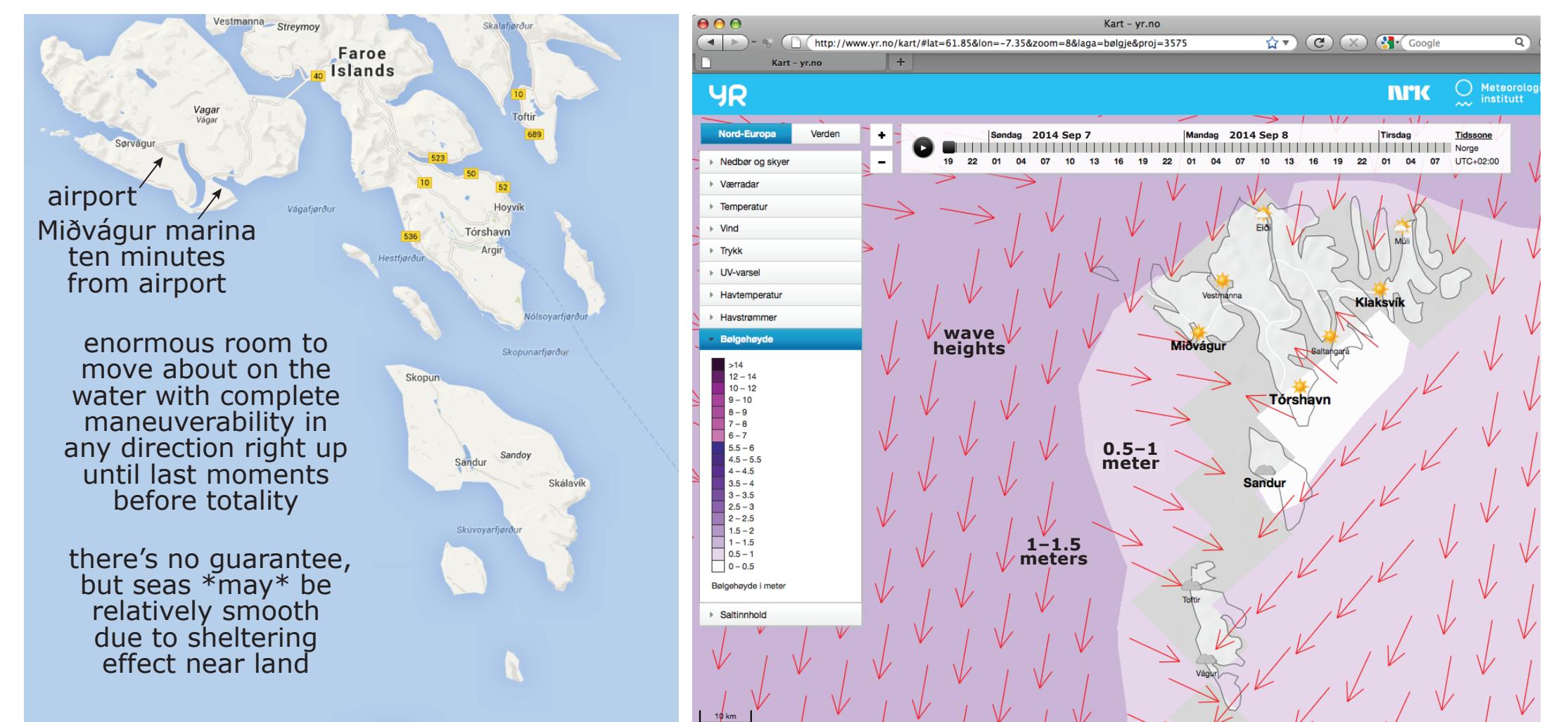


...for complete two-dimensional highly-maneuverable water-based mobility.

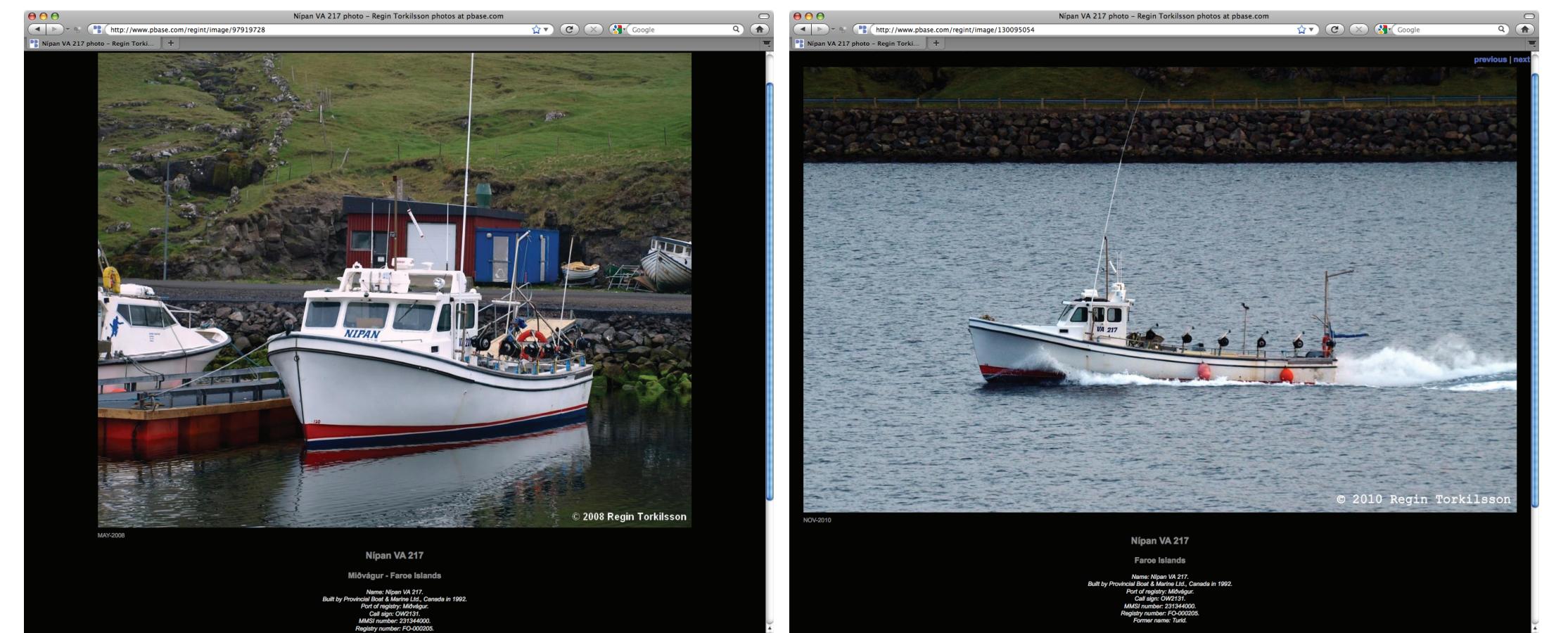
In fact, even if weather is continuing to look good just as you're exiting into the airport parking lot by around 0830, you shouldn't stay at the airport or near there, you should go immediately in the vehicles to the marina and locate \*there\*. Because at the marina you will still have the same chance the weather will remain good as you would have had at or near the airport, and you'll still have the same vehicles waiting to provide ground mobility if you need it; but unlike at the airport, at the marina you'll have both those things PLUS you'll also have boats waiting to provide outstanding wide-area on-water mobility if you need it, 25-30-35 knots and possibility of sharp, cloud-dodging turns you can't do in larger vessels and which also you can't do in land vehicles which have to stay on existing roads.

With a fast boat at your disposal, if you see a patch of blue sky across the water, say, ten minutes before totality you can dash directly to it in a straight line whereas if limited to land transportation you might be out of luck!

We will have checked in advance that the waters are relatively smooth – see for example wave heights as of any particular day and hour at <http://www.yr.no/kart/#lat=62&lon=-7&zoom=8&lags=b%28lge&proj=3575> – as below right for 2014 Sep 06 at 1900. It's highly variable, but there's a notable tendency for waters to be smoother adjacent to the Faroes due to the islands' sheltering effect as you would expect. Many of the fishing, etc. videos you can see online show waters that are surprisingly smooth even though it's North Atlantic. And don't forget...if waters are rough on eclipse morning, that will likely mean the weather isn't good so we'll all have chosen to fly anyway!



The Faroe Islands economy is primarily fishing so a wide variety of small vessels will be available. Tech planner John Beattie will arrive in the Faroes four days in advance, on March 16, to scout out boats such as these which are shown at <http://www.pbase.com/regint/image/97919728> and <http://www.pbase.com/regint/image/130095054...>



...comparable to boats we organized in Hao, French Polynesia for TSE 2010 July 11 and Port Gentil, Gabon for TSE 2013 November 3.

This marina, located at Miðvágur which is pronounced approximately "meower" as in kitty kat :), is seen from a distance in the first of the two YouTube videos listed above with road turnoff to the marina visible at 5:23, then the marina itself comes into view across the water at 6:05, and then beginning at 6:15 there's a pretty good view of the marina, also some larger boats and expanses of water through about 8:30 of the video. Note how smooth the water was on the day this particular video was shot! If weather on eclipse morning is relatively good but substantial clouds swoop in just as the moon's shadow is approaching...like Hao 2010...if water is anywhere near this calm it will be great for mobility in a small fast boat like the one pictured.

If you go onto the water you'll give up the finest photographic opportunities of course – but on the other hand you'll keep the chances very good that you'll \*still\* successfully observe the eclipse\*, at least part of it and maybe all of it, maybe requiring the boat to keep moving during totality instead of stopping because the holes in the clouds move along constantly at a fast speed – but better than missing parts of totality under those clouds, no?

Plus from a boat you'll have the complete, unforgettable, magical full-sky view just as you would on land.

So in turn, knowing you have this very powerful boat capability up your sleeve, you can be more confident about staying on the ground for totality and not flying – so in fact maybe you \*really will\* get to observe, and photograph, the eclipse from the ground, because you won't have had to be nearly so concerned about completely missing any view of totality whatsoever if the weather turns less favorable after the MD-83 takes off. last update © 2014 September 7