



# ROTA FLOAT

The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting yachting as an opportunity for fellowship and service. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.

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## COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

My new life as Commodore has begun with a bang and for me these months have been spent in the Northern Hemisphere.

Since I took office as World Commodore, in Salt Lake City USA, I have travelled to meet several Fleets. I visited the Skaw Fleet in Sweden and was made very welcome. We had wonderful



Past, Present and Future Commodores in Turkish waters with Sevinc Kuyas, yacht owner, and Bente Winter.

crises around the Swedish Islands and a fleet meeting in a large fisherman's boat house.

My next trip was to Turkey, where we spent two weeks on PLC Ken Winter's luxury yacht, from New Zealand. We had meetings with many members of the Turkish Fleets and also met PLC Ferit Biren, from Turkey.

Last month I had a wonderful experience in Italy. It was especially important, as I had the task of Chartering three new Italian Fleets in one long weekend. I was met at

the airport by Regional Commodore Francesco Clemente who accompanied me for the whole weekend.

The first Fleet was the Salerno Fleet which has over 30 enthusiastic members, and I presented the Charter at a special dinner. I then flew to Genoa and drove to La Spezia the headquarters of the Italian Navy and the home of the 4100 ton sail training vessel, the '**Amerigo Vespucci**'. In the hotel that evening the La Spezia Rotary Club held a District Meeting with four District Governors and four past DGs, I was the guest of honour. The next day they had arranged for the Chartering to take place on board the '**Amerigo Vespucci**' a great honour





Members of the Salerno Fleet with IC Bryan Skinner



The signing of the North West Italy Fleet's Charter.  
From left to right - FC Sergio Santi, IC Bryan Skinner  
and YCI President, Carlo Croce



NW Fleet members meet the "Vespucci"

## AN URGENT PLEA FROM WEB MASTER JOHN BARNESLEY Using the e-mail system on the IYFR web-site

### **Reply to the e-mail author.**

E-Mails transmitted in bulk using the e-mail button on the fleet rosters are despatched via the [webmaster@iyfr.net](mailto:webmaster@iyfr.net). Please be careful to reply to the **e-mail author**. Using the reply button on your e-mail browser will result in your reply being sent to the webmaster who may not be able to redirect it to its proper destination. This is particularly so if the e-mail content is not in English.

### **Please keep the record of your e-mail address up to date.**

The webmaster account is receiving an increasing number of undelivered e-mails, mainly because members are not updating or notifying their Commodore of a change of e-mail address. It is time consuming back-tracking these messages to make Fleet Commodores aware that their messages have not been received.

### **Authorise the receipt of e-mails from iyfr.net when using filter software.**

If you use e-mail filter software/service to refuse spam or undesirable e-mails, please make sure the software allows e-mails from iyfr.net. I do not respond to the automated replies generated by such software as it is often in a language I don't understand.

John Barnesley Web Master



## THE NEW NORTH WEST OF ITALY FLEET

At the D2030 IT Fellowships Conference held in Vicoforte in 2006, Rotarian Sergio Santi, a former Italian Navy Naval Aviator, noticed that the north of Italy was missing a Rotarian Fleet that could have gathered all the Fellow Mariners of at least three Italian Districts, living and operating in the area .

Having spent more than thirty years at sea as a Naval Officer, being born in a sea town and apart for a short time, having always lived in strict contact with the sea, Rotn. Captain Santi has enthusiastically answered to the Governor Gino Montalcini's request to try and get organized in a Fleet. Fellow Mariners were to be found among all those Rotarians living, or having a

floating device, or simply sea-lovers on that long coastal strip that, starting in proximity of Ventimiglia at the Italian/French border, arrives to Orbetello and to the Argentario Peninsula.

So, at the end of March 2007, in spite of an unusually busy Rotarian beginning of the Year, it has been possible to send to the always most cooperative friend Francesco Clemente the first list of the fifteen future Fellow Mariners that entitled to give birth, or better to re-give birth, to the Italy Fleet of the North West. The list, promptly forwarded to the incoming International Commodore, Bryan Skinner, led to the assurance that he would be present at the chartering ceremony provided that it would be held during the third October week end. In the roster, were many illustrious names to be pointed out: Raffaele Pallotta, Italian representative of the RI IP, the D2030 Governor, Marco Canepa, PDGs Luigi Salvati and Gino Montalcini, D1780 PDG Richard Schneider.

In the meanwhile another important event was taking shape: the 2005-6 Italian PDGs meeting in La Spezia held by D2030 PDG Luigi Salvati, 2005-6 Governor. The fusion of the two events obtained by the Italian Navy the distinguished honour to meet on board the worldwide known sailing training vessel ITS '**Amerigo Vespucci**', and be chartered in the Captain's wardroom of this Vessel that is considered the most beautiful Ship in the World. All the lyforians on board have been really impressed by the beauty of the Ship that, in spite being at the end of a long cruise and about to undergo the annual maintenance, could not look more perfectly shining and "ship's shape". The ceremony has been short but most significant. But for sure the most moved was the brand new Commodore Sergio Santi, who had had the privilege to serve on board the Amerigo Vespucci as a Naval Academy First Class Cadet in 1962, as an Officer and finally Captain, some twenty eight years later.

But this is not all: some components of the new Fleet's bridge had just had the lucky chance to be on board of the Brigantine "**Italia**" during the last Tall Ship Race. The Vessel's main mission is very much similar to one of Rotary's main targets: to help needy people suffering from uneasiness, discomfort, physical and psychophysical problems, by letting them and their families live an experience at sea, that never could be done otherwise. Things are now in progress and the dream is to get together with all the other Italian Fleets in order to help this beautiful Brigantine to perform her precious mission at her best.

Least but not last: the Ship, showing the IYFR Pennant, would find in any port in the world, new, situation conscious, cooperative friends, ready to serve: all the Rotarian Mariners and their Clubs all around the world; is it not this one of our primary functions? If all the Italian Mariners should succeed in leading their respective Clubs in this unusual way of creating fellowship and goodwill, well, the dream would really have come true.

**Three cheers and fair winds to the IYFR and to the new Fleet!**

Sergio Santi, Commodore Italy NW Fleet



Decorative features on the *'Amerigo Vespucci'*,

## NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Four couples from the Auckland Fleet, New Zealand enjoyed marvellous hospitality by the NSW Fleet in Sydney Australia. The Auckland party were International Vice-Commodore Terry & Meryl Stretton, Roy & Barbara Budgen, Colin & Pat Reid and Adrian & Jan Rhodes. We were hosted in the homes of Cliff & Edith Felton, Robert & Marlene Eaglesham, Richard & Lesley Hardman and John & Merrill Milne. A lovely welcome dinner at the Royal Oak Hotel, Balmain, gave the Auckland fleet a glimpse of the hospitality we were to receive over the week end.



The visiting party from Auckland all own yachts in New Zealand so it was most interesting to see how quickly they adapted to the comfort and luxury of motor-boats. Members of the Auckland fleet are already making suggestions to entertain our Sydney friends when they visit Auckland in early 2009.

Terry Stretton International Vice Commodore.

## IYFR POST CONVENTION CRUISE 19th to 23rd JUNE 2008 HAVE YOU RESERVED YOUR CABIN

The '*Queen Mary*' was built for Cunard by John Brown & Co. Ltd, Clydebank, Scotland. Work started in 1931, but due to the world-wide slump, the building was stopped for a period and the workforce laid off. However she was launched on 26th September 1934 by Queen Mary the wife of King George V. Her maiden voyage with two thousand passengers commenced on 27th May 1936. She was awarded the 'Blue Ribbon' for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic with a speed of over 30 knots on the Southampton-Cherbourg-New York route.

During WW2 she was used as a troopship, but returned to the Atlantic route when hostilities ceased. The development of the passenger aircraft caused many of her important guests to choose the even quicker method of travel. However she retained her popularity as a Cruise Ship until 1967 when she was finally withdrawn from sea service. **IYFR members may now experience the luxury that made her such a famous ship.**



Cunard Ship Images from Hall Genealogy Website

R.M.S. Queen Mary leaving Southampton on her final voyage in 1967

## G.B. & I FELLOWSHIP WEEK AND EXECUTIVE MEETING 2nd—4th NOVEMBER 2007

Sixty-four members from nine Fleets, Broads, Clyde, East Coast, Fenland, GB, Solent, Suffolk, Sussex, & Thames enjoyed a well organised and interesting weekend with lots of fellowship. The Pomme D'Or Hotel in St Helier, Jersey was the delightful venue with a view over to the harbour. The hotel was the HQ of the German navy during the war.

On the Friday we met old friends and made new during the odd glass of wine. Some also managed to walk round the corner to many shops and stores for a bit of retail therapy. As the only big town on the island all the well know stores were there. The Friday night informal meal was a great fish buffet with a scrumptious variety of fish dishes.

On the Saturday we formed into four groups and visited the extraordinary Maritime Museum on the harbour. Next we visited the Coastguard station and were shown their advanced equipment and told how they work with their French counterparts in rescuing or assisting boats in trouble at sea. We were also entertained by the local RNLI who gave us a tour of their station, finishing up on board their lifeboat, on the water but not at sea.

To complete a fascinating and busy morning we went to the local yacht club for a very good lunch. There were burgees from many clubs on display so our GB & I Commodore, Jeni Pressdee, officially presented an IYFR burgee. We received an open invitation to come back again in the future.

Back at the hotel at 16.00 we had our well attended Executive meeting with lots of discussion. After pre-dinner drinks we enjoyed a tasty dinner followed by an interesting talk given by Doug Ford about the Maritime Museum, his thoughts on how it should attract the public and how he collected the Items for display.

It was a great Fellowship Weekend, many thanks to Rodney and Jeanne who organised it like clockwork, they even organised good weather.

Michael Pooley

Vice Commodore G.B. & I



Statue 'Rising The Flag' in Liberation Square, Jersey to commemorate the end of Occupation 1945.

## THE 2007 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SWISS FLEET

Three Events were the 2007 highlights of a very active Swiss Fleet.

In April we visited the docks of the Lucerne Navigation Company. The Lucerne Navigation Company, founded in 1835, is the largest one in Switzerland. Among many newer ships they still operate with five Vessels Europe's largest fleet of more than 100 years old steam ships. Lake Lucerne is one of the most attractive lakes, situated in the heart of Switzerland. If you visit Switzerland, Lucerne and a boat trip with one of the old steam ships is a must. [www.lakelucerne.ch](http://www.lakelucerne.ch).



Interested Swiss Fleet members visiting the steam engine

The second highlight was the general assembly in June at Murten. Murten, situated at a small



lake, is one of the most famous historic small towns in Switzerland. At this occasion our founder fleet commodore Dieter Pfaffinger gave the responsibility to our new fleet commodore Patrice Obrecht. We all thank Dieter for his initiative to establish the Swiss Fleet, his friendship and his leadership.

Patrice Obrecht, the new fleet commodore of the Swiss Fleet on the left donates a present to our leaving commodore Dieter Pfaffinger.

In August we met again at the lake Lucerne. This time we visited the Swiss Navy Centre (no joke – it really exists) and spent a wonderful time ashore lake Lucerne.



Part of the Swiss Fleet members on board the “BOA VIDA” on their way

Kurt Sigl

## ST TROPAZ FLEET'S REUNION ON 30/11/07 AT THE YACHTING CLUB DE CAVALAIRE

*This report was in French and we give below an outline of its contents*

Humbert de Ribaucourt reports that nineteen members attended the reunion and welcomed six new members. The Fleet now has fourteen boats varying in size from 5 m to 16 m. He said that there were two new fleets in Italy, but not yet an official fleet on the Atlantic coast, although a Lake Geneva fleet was being considered. Four quarterly meetings had been held and it was concluded that the formula ‘with wives’ was the more appreciated.

The Vice Commodore remarked that only one boat had participated in the Road 2007, but what ambience on board!

A cruise, St. Tropez to St. Rafael, is planned for the Spring taking three days and two nights.

Humbert de Ribaucourt will continue as Commodore for 2008/2009.



## PAST INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE GEORGE KENT

My first contact with George Kent was way back in 1983 when PIC Bert Collins (Australia) was handing over the helm of our Fellowship to Ken Warr (South Africa). As George and myself had both served as Air Navigators in the R A F and Canadian Air Forces we had so much in common that it was natural for us to become very close buddies, and so a wonderful friendship was formed.

George took over the helm of our great Fellowship in 1989 and I served under his leadership as his Vice Commodore. He truly was a wonderful character, full of life and enthusiasm for any task he undertook and he led our Fellowship with great gusto and style. It was through him that IYFR enjoyed our first Post Convention Cruise together which today is a yearly event. I recall how proud he was when Gwen (his 1st Mate) presented him with IYFR Number plates for his car. When he had to stop driving he passed them on to our other comrade in arms Jack Keyser, who proudly showed them to me whilst I was with George Kent in Victoria this year.

George also had a wonderful Tenor voice and was a great lover of Opera. In Victoria he organised and planned many choir concerts and raised hundreds and thousands of dollars for local charities. He was a wonderful organiser and was loved by all those who knew him.

I remember some years ago he stayed with me in London and he arranged for us to attend an Opera in which one of his budding stars was singing. Our seats were four rows from the front and George was absolutely furious that we were not in the front row. However just before the show commenced Princess Diana came and sat right in front of him and after the show we were all introduced to her. That really made George's evening

My last visit to George was in July this year following the R I Convention. When we met as we always did we enjoyed quite a few wee drams together. I cannot adequately express in words just how much his loss will be felt by all those who had the privilege of knowing him as he was greatly loved by so many people. I shall always remember his catch phrase which always appeared at the end of the letters he wrote me—"Don't let the buggers get you down".

Thanks for all the wonderful memories George. Rest in peace we shall always remember you.

**Andrew C Mitchell** Past International Commodore.

**IRC Clint Collier** also sent in an obituary cutting from the Victoria Times Colonist stating that: 'A Celebration of Life is planned for Sunday, January 13th at 1 pm at The Royal Victoria Yacht Club. In lieu of flowers, friends may donate to The Rotary Club of Victoria Foundation, 805 Gordon St. Victoria BC, V8W 1Z6, or the Salvation Army, 4030 Douglas St. Victoria BC V8X 5J6. Condolences may be offered to the family at [ww.mocallbros.com](http://ww.mocallbros.com). Keep the faith!'

## A NEW FLEET IN BRAZIL

Thanks to the enthusiasm and spirit of Independent Member Ricardo Miranda de Carvalho of the Rotary Club of Santos, Brazil we are looking forward to chartering a new Fleet in that country within the coming months. Ricardo originally contacted us and discussed the desire for a fleet in this area at last year's Salt Lake City Convention.

Since then he has signed up 15 fellow Rotarians with an interest in boating. At the end of 2007 he and Roldano Guerra, Commodore of the San Francisco Fleet, who was visiting family in Brazil had several meetings regarding the formation of this fleet and Roldano will be bringing their paperwork back home for me when he returns. Personal mail service... it doesn't get any better than this!

Although the name for the new fleet has yet to be chosen all concerned are working towards a charter ceremony sometime in March. We look forward to welcoming this new group to the Fellowship and should have full details for the next issue of Rotafloat! As soon as the date is set we will post details on the ceremony on the web page.

Clint Collier International Rear Commodore

## THE CHARTER OF THE SICILY FLEET LA CHARTA DELLA 'FLOTTA SICILIANA' DELL' IYFR

The new Sicily East Fleet was chartered on Sunday 21st October 2007 by the IYFR International Commodore Bryan Skinner. The ceremony, organized by the Fleet Commodore Luigi Falanga, was held in Catania at the Circolo Canottieri Jonica, with the participation of Francesco Clemente, IYFR regional commodore for Italy, and Salvatore Sarpietro, District 2110 Governor, together with many guests and local authorities. Among the future projects of the Fleet, will be the support of the "Brigantino Italia" foundation.



## I Y F R NO BOAT REGATTA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Vancouver Island Fleet 'No Boat Regatta Christmas Party' was held on 8th December at Spencer Castle, a condominium residence where my wife Deborah and I live in Victoria, B.C.



Regional Commodore, Canada West, Patrick Hunt and his wife Deborah

We provided the location, but the host was our Vancouver Island Fleet Commodore, Vance Horne and his wife Vera. Thirty-nine IYFR members and guests attended.

This annual event brings our fleet together in the middle of winter for some fellowship when the weather makes it tough to get together on the water. Because our Fleet has members over a wide geographical area (Vancouver Island is the size of England!) the seven bed-

rooms in Spencer Castle accommodated members who live outside of Victoria.

It was a potluck evening with lots of merriment, sharing of drinks, and an exchange of gifts – recycled or home-made. The hit of the gift giving was the "Horse". It had been used in the hilarious horse race at our last Regatta held in September 2007. The horse race pitted boat against boat in a fast paced on the dock board game. The Horse was made by our Fleet Treasurer, Janette Chudleigh and was won by Cynthia Nicholl of Victoria.



Rotary Exchange Student, Daniel Schifferli, 17 from Bern, Switzerland, was made an honorary IYFR member of the Vancouver Island Fleet, and was presented with a IYFR Pin and Pennant by Commodore Vance Horn.

Patrick Hunt Regional Commodore  
Canada West

## THAMES FLEET SUMMER CRUISE

Little did the Vice-Commodore (and resident meteorologist) know when he was planning our Summer Cruise for 2007 that he was choosing the week of Summer Monsoon!

The cruise got off to a good, if wet, start on the 16<sup>th</sup> July with a barbecue and then proceeded upstream in pouring rain to a local boat club's moorings. The almost traditional visit in the evening to a nearby theatre was to see backstage and a play by Alan Ayckbourn – not only were there mixed views about the quality of the play but also many differing opinions as to the meaning of the last 15 minutes!

Wednesday, weather wise, was reasonable and twelve boats in all were moored for a Pot Luck Supper. We were very pleased to welcome to the evening a potential new member of the Fleet, David Beal from Bangor Rotary Club and his wife Sue, who, in a nearby Lock, had spotted the rather splendid burgee being flown by one of our members who is on the International Bridge.

Thursday brought dire warnings from our resident weatherman of impending heavy rain for the following day. The monsoon duly arrived! Three boats stayed put at the overnight mooring and six retreated to a local Fleet Member's river frontage. The river slowly rose and rose and rose. It finally peaked a week later and was basically not open to navigation for over two weeks. Something resembling normal summer conditions returned in the week beginning the 6<sup>th</sup> August and boats have now finally returned to base.

Records are now being claimed for the longest duration of a cruise, the greatest number of Happy Hours and the fullest set of holding tanks! Rodney Davis



The Thames Fleet's securely moored on the flooded River Thames

# I Y F R REGALIA



Member Pennant  
(12"x18")  
\$35.00



Burgees  
Fleet Commodore Burgee  
(3 Balls) \$45.00  
Vice Commodore Burgee  
(2 Balls) \$45.00  
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IYFR Screen printed  
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White Epaulette Shirt  
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IYFR Emblem Cap  
(navy) \$15.00



IYFR Window Decal  
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IYFR Tie  
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IYFR Ladies  
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## Prices shown do not reflect shipping charges

Questions and orders for regalia should be sent to our Regalia Officer Pat Thomson.  
To do this go into [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net) with your user name and password.  
Go into **BRIDGE OFFICERS** and click [e-mail the Regalia Officer](#)



More photographs from  
St. Tropaz Fleet.



## IYFR POST CONVENTION CRUISE 19th to 23rd JUNE 2008

At the end of January the IC Bryan Skinner is going to begin his tour of Australasia and Japan, by visiting Los Angeles for two days. In this time he will check all the arrangements for the events at the Convention and visit the Queen Mary. **It would be very helpful if all those contemplating joining us for the PCC could contact Janet Slater, the Events Secretary, as early as possible so we have an idea of numbers.**

- All events, transport, breakfast and one main meal a day are included in the cost of \$750 per person.
- Transport on 19th June from Los Angeles to the 1930's luxury world of first-class cabins and surroundings.
- On the first evening the Commodore invites you to a 'welcome aboard' reception.
- There will be a Harbour Cruise and a dockside BBQ supper at the Long Beach Y.C. on Friday 20th organised by the Rotary Club of Long Beach's Boating Committee.
- Saturday 21st will be spent on one of the Los Angeles Institute's twin Brigantines, the '*Irving Johnson*' or the '*Exy Johnson*' for a day's sail with onboard lunch and drinks.
- Free time on Sunday 22nd until the evening's onboard cocktail reception and Closing Banquet.
- Monday 23rd departure at your leisure.

## EDITORS' NOTICE

**In the Spring we will be producing an information newsletter in hard copy for the benefit of those members who do not have website access.** This means that it will be delivered to the address as given in the **World Roster on the Web Site**. Please check your address on the IYFR website and correct it as necessary. Commodores, please check the addresses of those fellow Iyforians who do not have web access.