

Official newsletter for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians



ROTAFLOAT

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

ISSUE 83 April 2011



Message from the Commodore

Meryl and I have just returned from our last official fleet visits in Area 3, with the first stop in Melbourne to visit the Victoria Fleet. We were kindly home hosted by Bill and Barbara Chapman who took us sailing on their yacht 'Puccini' out in the harbour to meet up with other Fleet members for a barbecue lunch and visit to Alma Doepel restoration project. See *article on page 4.*

From there we flew to Philippines to charter the Mabuhay Rotonda Fleet, the fifth fleet there in two years: what an incredible achievement for Regional Commodore/International Rear Commodore Elect, Jun Avecilla who has been the driving force in getting these fleets up and running. See *article page 7.*

We were kindly home hosted by Max and Shirley Tan and Jun and Lil Avecilla. Once again, we went sailing in Jun's yacht, "Purpose Driven", in a rather exhilarating race with 22 knots of wind and full sails, crossing the finish line first again, but second on handicap. On the way back to New Zealand we took a few flights to get to Port Lincoln, South Australia to visit the fleet where we were kindly home hosted by Pat and Marie Gallachan who showed us around the area. We met fleet members and partners at a vineyard where we dined and wine well, and were entertained by the guest speaker, Steve Kemp, who was the navigator of the winning yacht in the last Sydney to Hobart race. We had a very interesting trip out in Fleet member Bill Stenson's oyster boat to witness some oyster farming activities, an all year round enterprise and labour intensive. Our visit ended with a sail out on Fleet member, David and Sandra Forbes' 40ft yacht, accompanied by Mike Leech in his catamaran and several other members of the fleet, with picnic lunch and fishing for whiting, ending up with enough for dinner. The fellowship as you can see is continuing to prosper and grow, with another fleet to be chartered this month in France, Riviera Cote D'Azur Fleet, by International Rear Commodore, Sergio Santi. *Cont'd page 2*

IMPORTANT ITEMS

1. IYFR AGM & Dinner invite & Registration form can be found on page 15
2. NOTE: The Rule changes proposed this year are more extensive than for many previous years. Accordingly all members are urged to take an interest (even if rules can be pretty boring!) and understand what is proposed, as it is **YOUR** fellowship.
3. Explanation of proposed Rules Changes can be found on pages 16-19
4. Open Forum Monday 23rd May Information can be found on page 9

Cont'd from page 1

On a sad note, I regret to advise that Ken Ball, a member of the Solent Fleet died suddenly whilst on his yearly holiday with his wife Merle, in New Zealand in February. Ken made many friends whilst holidaying here and his funeral in New Zealand was attended by many, including PIC Ken Winter and Bente and myself and Meryl.

It is hard to believe that my term as International Commodore is coming to an end soon. It has been an incredible journey, both exciting and challenging and one I would not have been able to traverse without the able assistance and support of the current bridge, who are both friends and fellow Rotarians. A special thanks to my first mate Meryl. To them all I offer my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for a job well done.

We have enjoyed travelling around the world visiting fleets, (40) meeting great friendly Rotarians who are interested in many types of boating. It is good to see that many of the fleets are helping their Rotary Clubs with different projects and making use of our new grants programme with sailability and other activities, making our fellowship recognisable among Rotary Groups and the general public. As we prepare to hand over the helm to Clint, we would like to thank all those we have met and made us welcome, either on their boats, in their homes or on our fleet visits. We hope that you will offer the same courtesies and support to Clint, Sergio and Jun as you have to us. We wish them well for their terms of office. We are hoping to see many of our members in New Orleans at our Meet and Greet evening, (article in this Rotafloat) and at the IYFR AGM. An update and registration forms are on page 15 and on our website. Please call by the Yachting Fellowship booth in the House of Friendship and make yourselves known to us. 'Let the Good Times Keep Rolling'.

-Terry

Commodore's Diary

2011

- **May** Argentina Fleet visits
- **May** Brazil Fleet visit
- **May 18th - 25th** New Orleans RI Convention
- **May 24th** IYFR AGM
- **May 26th- 29th** Post Convention Cruise
-

From the Editor

This is our seventh and final Rotafloat. We thank the many Fleet members worldwide who have sent articles and photos – all interesting and informative. The range of activities, achievements, social and community efforts shows a great Rotary spirit and a true love of the sea.

We greatly appreciate the support and encouragement from Terry & Meryl and all the members of the International Bridge.

Please forward future items to the incoming editor Mary Azevedo, San Francisco Fleet. .

E-mail : rotafloat@iyfr.net

- Brian Couldrey (Editor)
Helen Parkes (Publisher)

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Istanbul Fleet Learns About Ottoman Sailing Ships



At a dinner meeting of the Istanbul Fleet in early March in Casa d'Italia, members were treated to a wonderful speech by Mr Mustafa Gurbuz Beydiz about the ships of the Ottoman Empire. He covered the history of shipping in the Anatolian region until the Ottoman time and then described all the different types of Ottoman sailing ships with the names, flags, sails, etc. He emphasized the importance of shipping for the Ottomans and how their art, such as miniatures, paintings, etchings, ceramics, elaborate writings, and even the tombstones, were influenced by it.

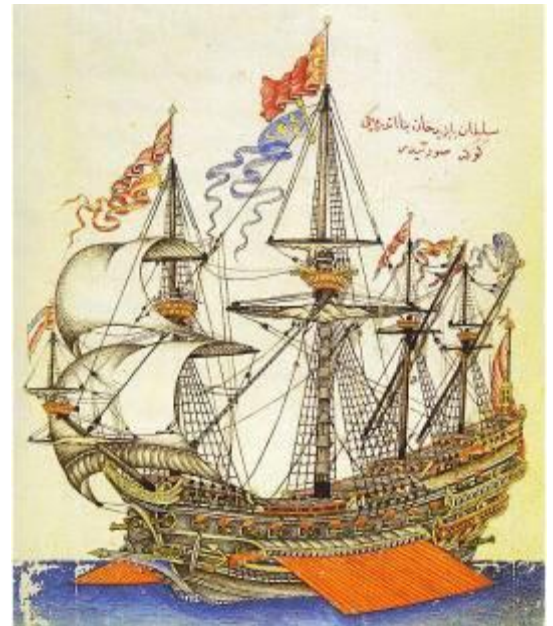
The examples of artwork shown in the slides presented during his speech enlightened and impressed us a great deal as a sea and sailing-loving crowd. You may contact Mr. Beydiz directly if you're curious and want to learn more about his studies of the Ottoman sail ships from

beydizg@gmail.com.

The evening was organized by RC Haldun Orgut and Commodore Selda Gerson with contributions from PIC Ferit Biren.

Our best to all the IYFRians around the world from the Istanbul fleet.

-Arzu Biren



"Fundraiser for Polio Plus".

Robert Pennicott will circumnavigate Australia in a Rigid Inflatable to raise funds for Polio Plus, by auctioning positions in the boat for various legs of his journey. Refer to website www.pennicottjourneys.com.au .

Fleet Supports Schooner Restoration in Australia



20 March 2011. Today members of the Rotary Yachting Fellowship visited the *Alma Doepel* in Melbourne to check on progress of the restoration project. The visit coincided with a visit to Melbourne by Commodore Terry Stretton and his wife Meryl. Melbourne turned on a beautiful Autumn day and a 15 strong group enjoyed a bbq and a tour of the ship and the restoration project shed.

The restoration project is well underway with the rig, machinery and ballast removed and being restored in the workshop next to the ship. The next stage is to dock or lift the hull (190 tonnes) out of the water for at least a year for repairs to the planking and other structural works.

Alma Doepel, now in her 107th year, is a three-masted topsail schooner originally built as a shallow drafted coastal trader in Bellingen on the NSW North coast. She served in New Britain during the Second World War but spent most of her years transporting a variety of goods between Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney.

Alma, as she is affectionately known, was converted into a sail training ship running youth development and adventure programs during the 1980s and 90s. The current restoration project is well underway with the goal to be a sail training ship once more.



-Tony Spencer



For more information visit the website www.almadoepel.com.au or contact Tony Spencer to arrange a tour for your group
Ph: 0418 313 816

Donation Reflects Ship's Training Role

At the Fleet' AGM held at Sandringham Yacht Club in September it was resolved to make a contribution of \$1500 to the "Alma Doepel" rebuilding fund in view of a number of children of Fleet Members who had undertaken sail training on the vessel before she went to northern NSW about 10 years ago. Bosun Peter Schoner's daughter and Frank Fleming's son are just two of the many thousands of teenagers from across Australia who gained invaluable experience on the vessel.

- Bill Chapman

Yachting trip on the Waitemata Harbour for Rotary Exchange Students, Sunday 27 March, 2011



This trip, originally scheduled for Sunday 6 March, was cancelled due to a wind warning in place that correctly predicted the wind would be 35 knots – too strong for a picnic and swim on Motuihe Island plus concerns of safety as some students would not be familiar with yachting. In contrast to 6 March, the wind on 27 March only briefly reached 9 knots and most of the day was 5 knots or less, not enough to give the students a great experience of sailing. But the fellowship was great, the walk ashore was great and plunging into the sea off the bow of a yacht at anchor was clearly an entirely new experience.

The students were Mathias & Jacob from Denmark, Lolo & Oriane from Belgium, Kirsten from Canada, Solene & Robin from France, Lawrence & Thomas from Austria and Kirsten from Canada. Gary Ardern provided his yacht "Roam" and Colin Reid, "Fine Line111".



The party assembled at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, Westhaven at 9am and were soon motoring down harbour with the students enjoying steering the yachts. We had a short sail and anchored in Islington Bay for lunch. The continuous rain on the previous day threatened all Sunday but fortunately we experienced only a light brief sprinkle of rain.

It was great to see the students enjoying a day on the harbour as, if you come to the "City of Sails" from the other side of the world you simply must experience the best cruising in the world.

- Colin Reid, Auckland Fleet

Ditty Box

I Met My Match !

After the boat was pulled into the dock, a stunningly beautiful woman disembarked with a parrot on her shoulder.

"Where did you get that?" asked one of the dock hands.

"Met her online," replied the parrot.

Great Britain & Ireland AGM Held in North Wales

In mid-March, over 60 members, spouses, partners and friends attended the GB & I AGM, which, this year, was held in Deganwy, North Wales, location of our newest fleet. Eleven out of 14 fleets were represented and good fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Friday evening took the form of an informal dinner, where old friendships were renewed and new members were welcomed, with plenty of time to chat over a leisurely meal.

On Saturday morning the AGM sadly started with a moment's silence to mark the recent passing of two of our members, one of whom had spent a number of years on the GB & I Bridge. The meeting was then conducted in a good-humoured and light-hearted manner, luckily with no major controversial issues coming to light. In spite of the mist and light rain, most of those present then went on to explore the surrounding countryside, which contains some spectacular mountain scenery. However, some just relaxed in the hotel spa.

The evening brought a more formal meal, with one of our members, from the Thames Fleet, Mike Lakey, recounting his summer sail, circumnavigating Great Britain in his 29 foot sailing yacht, 'Melody'. He made a serious sailing venture sound laid back and enjoyable. It remains to be seen if he has spurred others on to even greater things.

Sunday, after breakfast and fond farewells, most members made their way home having experienced a most enjoyable weekend and looking forward to the next weekend in Edinburgh in November.



Commodore Bob Burns serves Welsh Water to Doreen Brown and Bryan Skinner

Breaking News: New Fleet in France

IYFR's French Fleets welcome their newest member: Riviera Cote d'Azur. This is the result of extraordinary enthusiasm from Humbert Deribacourt with Jean-Philippe Lenoir, Patricia Porcher, Thierry Tesseron, Nicolas Otto and others, whose friendship and passion for the sea guided the new fleet. Help provided by the I.Y.F.R. Gulf of St. Tropez was also paramount and invaluable, with special thanks given also to Daniel Mustel and Humbert Deribacourt.

The Riviera Cote d'Azur Fleet had an illustrious Christener: the Past District Governor Chantal Pasqualini and special honours were accorded Francois Kester as Founder and Honorary Member. He was the very pioneer of this Fellowship.

Another fact that makes this new Fleet unique in the world: the pleasure and the honour to number among fellow mariners the most senior IYFR member to join a Fleet as a Founding Member - Einar Thrap Olsen who at 90 years of age (yes you read right: Ninety), has a juvenile heart and spirit and is a beacon for all of us!



- Sergio Santi

Mabuhay Rotonda: The Fifth Fleet to be Chartered in the Philippines in Two Years

With International Rear Commodore Elect Jun Avecilla's encouragement, Rotarian Galdys Villar gathered together 36 Rotarians to form the Mabuhay Rotonda Fleet which I had the privilege to charter on 25th March. The morning started early at 6am with Rotarians, Rotary mariners and many other groups(500 people in total) taking part in a beach clean-up in lovely Subic bay, everyone collecting rubbish sacks full of plastic, etc. This culminated in a competition of junk turned into art-form, by local alternative artists. The charter started at 10am, attended by members from all the other four fleets and included brunch.



It is a mark of the Philippines' energy and drive that five fleets have been established there in only two years. The fleets do not just confine their activities to fellowship: they actively participate in environmental matters, especially those related to marine life, habitats and the overall marine ecosystem

- Terry Stretton

The IYFR Has Lost a Dedicated Leader and Friend



Past International Commodore Jacques C.L. (Jack) Keyzer, has died after a lengthy illness, on January 27, 2011, in his adopted hometown of Victoria, BC, Canada. However, he was still full of grit and charm right to the end. He will be sorrowfully missed by his beloved wife, Kay, his family, and everyone else who had the privilege to know him.

Jack was born in Brussels, Belgium on October 15, 1926, and immigrated with his family to South Africa when he was 13 years old. He had a very successful business career there in the soft drink industry. He eventually sold his company, Sparletta, after which he and Kay immigrated to Canada in 1985. Jack said they chose Victoria because the boating was terrific in the area!

Jack was a Rotarian for 50 years, first in Johannesburg, South Africa and then in Victoria, Canada. In Victoria he became very active in the Vancouver Island Fleet of the Rotary Mariners, and subsequently became the International Commodore of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians, 1993-95. Jack left his imprint on IYFR in many ways, but especially because of his self-taught computer skills which he put to good use. While on the International Bridge, he was the first to create and use a computer database program to track international members and create mailing lists, he used computer word processing to layout and edit the Rotafloat, and used spreadsheets to insure the finances were always in the black. Even while he was International Commodore, he continued on as Secretary/Treasurer of the Vancouver Island Fleet, a job he took on most willingly, and did most faithfully and efficiently, for over 20 years.

Jack and Kay chartered and visited many fleets around the world during their time at the head of IYFR. In his Victoria home office, Jack had a display containing a small flag from every country that he and Kay had visited. Jack was especially honoured to have chartered the first fleet in Japan, and further expand IYFR into Asia.

Jack and Kay made many long lasting friends with Rotary Mariners throughout the world. They enjoyed the fellowship, internationally and locally, aboard their power boats, the 48' "Rhapsody II", and the 38' "Sparletta". They participated in many of the "Hand Across the Border" annual rendezvous of the Canadian and United States Rotary Mariners from British Columbia, Canada and Washington State, USA, as well as the "no boat regatta" pot-luck dinners within their own Vancouver Island Fleet. Jack was 'one of the boys', as evidenced by his planning and participating in the many fishing derbies he organized for the Vancouver Island Fleet over the years.



In the summer of 2008, Jack and Kay hosted the International Bridge and other international members who were in Victoria for the Tall Ships Festival as part of the "Post" Post Convention Cruise after the International Convention and Post Convention Cruise in Los

Angeles. Brian Skinner, who was International Commodore at the time, commented on hearing of Jack's death, *"I have happy memories of chats with him and his wife, and will always remember the good work he did for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians. Thank you Jack for all your life in Rotary."*

Those who met Jack know that he was a thinker, a doer, and a man who brought out the best in those around him.

When I think of Jack I am reminded of John Masefield's poem "Sea Fever":
*"I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
 To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;
 And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover
 And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over."*

Farwell my friend, your long trick's over.

- Patrick Hunt
 Regional Commodore, Canada West, IYFR
 Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

OPEN FORUM

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**Monday 23 May, 1600 – 1800, Room 383
 Morial Convention Centre**

Ahoy fellow mariners, lend me your ears!

There are no Gladiators or Senators at this event, but it is a chance for all members to talk to the Executive Committee about any issue to do with IYFR.

This year a significant number of Rules changes have been proposed and together with the 'Change of Command' ceremony this makes for an extremely full AGM Agenda.

At the Open Forum there will be an explanation/discussion about all the Rules changes proposed. All members and particularly those going to the AGM are strongly encouraged to attend, hear what is said and contribute. It is hoped that this will expedite the Rules changes part of the AGM Agenda.

The International Bridge look forward to seeing you there.

- David Hansen, Chief Administration Officer

Operation "Fresh Water for the Brigantine Italia"

In Assisi, the town of San Francesco, between April the 14th and the 16th there will be held a major international event based on the WATER THEME to which thousands of Rotarians from all over the world including the RI President will attend. The 10 Italian Districts have prepared 60 huge banners to illustrate their water related services.

Here is the unique banner that our Iyforian Governor Gianni Montalenti has authorized us to exhibit and its text translation:

The mission that the NPO Fondazione Tender to Nave ITALIA, established by the Italian Navy, and the Italian Yacht Club, assigned to the Brigantine "ITALIA" shares the aims and the Rotary philosophy and can be perfectly summarized in our motto 'Serve Above Self'.

The IYFR Italian fleets and the IYFR itself have recognized this since the very outset, sponsored the highly humanitarian ideals and mission of Nave ITALIA and declared her as their Flagship. The IYFR pennant has been flying along with the Foundation's and the Italian Yacht Club pennant since 2008.

Annually more than 450 disadvantaged people, young and old, with mental, physical, and social problems, get on board the Solidarity Brigantine and complete a comprehensive recovery and rehabilitation program, thanks to the efforts and assistance of the Foundation Educators and the Navy Crew. The special environment of the sea helps those participating not to feel excluded but facilitates their integration into society.

WE EMBARK DIFFICULTIES AND LAND SMILES
WE EMBARK A PACK AND LAND A TEAM

To live on board, far from the coast, our "sailors" especially need water. The fresh water tanks onboard are designed for less heavy and much shorter missions forcing the Command to ration the water when underway, thus adding inconvenience to inconveniences.

The Italian Fleets, the District 2030 IT and the IYFR Executive Committee in agreement with the Foundation and the Italian Navy will soon solve this problem providing the Brigantine ITALIA with a modern seawater desalination plant capable of a 600 litres / hour production.

PROUD AND SATISFIED TO HAVE DONE OUR SHARE



- IRC Sergio Santi

Hunter Fleet (Australia) Observation Trial



Members of the Hunter Fleet (NSW Australia) 'Class of 2011' Observation Trial.

It may have been a little overcast on the 6th April but that did not lessen the atmosphere as five vessels of the Hunter Fleet (Australia) with their crew headed down beautiful Lake Macquarie (north of Sydney - New South Wales) in search of the answers to the questions posed on the examination sheets provided to test their navigational and observation skills.

Some two and a half hours later, all vessels returned safely and moored off Murray's Beach and with most of the answers completed satisfactorily proving that Hunter Fleet really do have some of the smartest sailors on the Lake.

The 'first mates' (ladies) served lunch whilst the test papers were examined and marked by the executive committee. Prizes were presented to the boat with the highest score and the boat with the lowest score but in fact, they were only a few points apart.

All together we had 30 participants (including a few visitors) in what was a fun and most enjoyable day and I think all agreed we should conduct another trial, perhaps in the spring.

-Phillip Kesterton
Commodore Hunter Fleet Australia

Istanbul Clarification

In the December 2010 Rotafloat on the Capistanbul Regatta, it implied that a welcoming dinner was held in Greece. The dinner was actually in Istanbul after the final leg of the race. Skipper "Loupi" was welcomed by PIC Ferit Biren, RI Haldun Orgut and Selda Gerson and hosted at the dinner party by Commodore of Madrid fleet Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo, his spouse and three couples from Spanish IYFR Fleets.

- Editor

“Jonathon’s” Progress



In the December Rotafloat we reported on IYForian Herzwig Paretzke’s ambitious plans to circumnavigate the world. He left from the North of Germany in July, touching French and English ports, reaching Cadiz in Spain in October. The story continues....

There, Herwig’s wife got off and he went on through ports of Africa before crossing the Atlantic, always accompanied by friends. In December, he left the boat in Río Grande, Brazil, in order to come back home and spend Christmas and New Year with his family –his wife, mother and mother in law. On January 9, he had lunch in Buenos Aires with the Artetas – Guillermo and Mónica to arrange for their participation in this journey.

After a plane took him back to Rio Grande, he sailed out to touch various Argentine ports down to Ushuaia, on the Beagle canal. After going round the Cape Horn he started going all the way up the Chilean Patagonia, full of fiords and glaciers, coming down to the sea, seals and of course, many seagulls....Guillermo and Monica got on in Puerto Natales and sailed with Herwig up to Puerto Montt –with a total of 14 days on board.

After that, Herwig, along with his only remaining companion, Manfred Schridde (Manni), took the Jonathan to Valdivia (March 5th), where the boat is to spend the next couple of months so that Herwig can attend his obligations in Europe.

After he comes back to fetch “Jonathan”, what is his next stop going to be? Well, Tahiti. He expects to be in New Zealand to visit Terry and Meryl next December. If you need an example of a Rotarian mariner full of love for the sea and friendship, there you’ve got one!

- Guillermo Arteta



Herzwig Paretzke’s Special Rotary Club

Herwig Paretzke is a Rotarian from Baviera, Germany. His club in Munich is very special. It has an international vocation. The club’s official language is English as well as the secretary’s reports and the language that is spoken at the tables. If and only if all of those participants sitting at a table are German, then they may speak German. He is a physic and a professor specializing in atomic energy. Two or three years ago, he came up with the idea of going all the way around the world with his boat “Jonathan”.

GRANTS APPROVED, 2010 – 2011

This is the first year that IYFR Grants have been made, following approval of the necessary Rule changes at the 2010 AGM. Overall the new process has worked well, proceeded largely on time. Some small lessons have been learned. As the summary below shows only Area 1 allocated the full amount of its grant budget. It is anticipated that this will change as the IYFR Grants become more widely known.

A big thank you to all those that contributed to successfully rolling out this programme.

Watch future editions of Rotafloat for pictures and articles about the Grants.

Area 1

Region Italy	Desalinators for Nav Italia	10,000	
Rome Fleet	Disabled at sea	1,000	
Madrid Fleet	Boat for disabled	1,600	
Italy North West Fleet	Care for abandoned seamen	<u>1,400</u>	
			\$14,000

Area 2

Newport Harbour Fleet	Sail training experience	1,500	
San Francisco Fleet	Youth sailing & supplies for Mexican fishing villages	<u>1,800</u>	
			\$3,300

Area 3

Gippsland Lakes Fleet	Sailing, disabled children		\$1,250
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Notes:

1. All figures in US\$
2. Approved budgets were Area 1=\$14,000, Area 2=\$8,000, Area 3=\$8,000

- David Hansen, Chief Administrator

Fleet Updates

Europe North Fleets

The Mid Baltic and South Baltic fleets have been closed and all members have been transferred to North Baltic Fleet which has now had a name change to West Baltic Fleet. The Sound Fleet has been closed and all members transferred to Skaw Fleet.

- Terry Stretton

Join us in New Orleans in May 2011

For Fun and Fellowship



The 2011 International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians AGM Dinner Tuesday 24th May 2011

A wonderful opportunity to celebrate International Commodore Terry's term in office, and to welcome Vice Commodore Clint to his new role as International Commodore 2011 – 2013.

The AGM and Dinner will be held at the Southern Yacht Club, the second oldest Yacht Club in the U.S.

Transport to and from the venue will be provided. The pick-up points will be advised later.

Please complete the AGM Registration form included in this issue of Rotafloat, without delay. Cost \$90.00 per person (including taxes, gratuities and transport).

Meet and Greet on Saturday 21st May 2011

An informal get-together is planned for Saturday 21st May from 5.00pm – 7.00pm, at Hampton Inn and Suites, across the road from the Morial Convention Centre. Meet in the lobby bar.

Dress: Smart Casual. A Cash Bar will operate.

Would you please be kind enough to indicate whether you are able to join us at the Meet and Greet, by email to <logeary@gmail.com> to enable us to have an idea of numbers.

-Lorraine Geary
International Events Secretary

IYFR AGM & Dinner Registration Form

Please register the following Members/Guests for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians AGM Dinner to be held at The Southern Yacht Club, New Orleans, commencing at 6.00pm on 24th May 2011.

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Credit Card Details

Please charge my () VISA CARD () MASTERCARD

Card Holder Name _____
 (As it appears on the credit card)

Card Number _____

Expiry Date Mth ___ / Yr ___ Security Code _____

In submitting this Registration Form, I authorize payment of US\$90.00 **per person**.
 (Cost includes transport, dinner and taxes).

Details of transport pick-up points and times will be sent to you on receipt of your registration.
 Email contact address _____

Email logeary@gmail.com

Facsimile + 64 9 480-6491

Mail Address 122 Exmouth Road, Northcote, Auckland, 0627 New Zealand

Proposed changes to the General Rules of IYFR

Report of the Rules Committee

Section 13.1 of the current General Rules of the Fellowship require that the incoming International Commodore (International Vice Commodore) shall chair a review committee to propose any changes desired or needed to the Fellowships General Rules. The core of this committee is specified to be the Executive Committee (although there was some differing opinions on what that means which were addressed by the committee in drafting these recommendations) augmented with additional individuals they approve. The committee for these recommendations was: IVC Clint Collier (chair), IC Terry Stretton, IRC Sergio Santi, IRC designate Jesus Avecilla, and Chief of Staff designate Remsen Barnard.

The committee has formalized the following changes that I am summarizing and including in this article and which it recommends. The full text of the new General Rules document is available for download (MS Word format) on our web site, www.iyfr.net, under the menu item Document. Textual changes are highlighted in either blue or red, the color signifying only the revision version where the change was proposed and made. Interested parties can also download the current version for a detailed comparison between the two documents.

The most sweeping change, but the one with the least impact was a general reformatting of the rules to take advantage of Microsoft Word's formatting and section numbering capabilities. This is strictly a technical change although it resulted in some of the sections or subsections being renumbered where they were incorrectly numbered manually). This reformatting included:

- Removing all manual number to allow Microsoft bullets and numbering to manage this automatically as new sections and sub sections are added or removed.
- Defining discrete sections of the rules
 - Title page
 - Table of contents
 - Rules themselves
 - Appendices
- Define uniform spacing between sections and subsections removing unnecessary white space using Word's style and formatting options.
- Remove subsections where there is only one subsection in the parent section.

This change is recommended because it creates a much cleaner document, one that is uniform in format and will be much easier to maintain for future changes.

Section 2.2 was added to cover the use of masculine (vs feminine) pronouns, similar to the clause in 2.3 about plural words. This is a change recommended to insure our rules follow Rotary's non-discriminatory policy and recognition of our valuable female members.

Section 7.1 changes are recommended to more accurately define our membership and their qualifications in line with Rotary International Policies and to insure that the ability they have granted us to have "Honorary Members" is not abused.

- Section 7.1.1 Reposition the word Rotaractors so that membership would include Rotaractor spouses (if any) as well as spouses of Rotarians.
- Section 7.1.2 reorder one of the paragraphs, re-title the paragraphs and add a limit on honorary membership.

Although we believe all fleets and the Fellowship are in compliance with the letter and spirit of Rotary's requirements, we recommend this change to remove any ambiguity.

Section 7.3 (and appropriate portion of Section 8.3.7.3) is to be amended to allow online voting in order to allow members unable or unwilling to attend a convention and AGM to right to vote on General Rules amendments. This item submitted by the Seattle Mariner's

Fleet and in their words "The electronic age and IYFR website allow IYFR to reach out to all members and give them the opportunity to become more involved in IYFR activities and administration. However, involvement in administrative issues is limited by the fact that the current IYFR Rules do not allow members to vote on IYFR issues unless they attend the IYFR Annual General Meeting (AGM). While fleets are allowed to propose amendments, per Section 14 of the Rules, members are not allowed to vote on those amendments unless they attend the AGM. Members should not be required to spend thousands of dollars to travel to the IYFR AGM in order to cast their vote. This is an outdated and restrictive rule, and prohibits participation of all IYFR members."

Parts of Section 7.6 were modified to reflect the realities of our online database of members and the way it operates, removing in some cases, requirements left over from the "paper" world we have left behind.

- Section 7.6 we replaced "requested" with required. We cannot build a individual's record without the added fields!
- Remove mate's name. There is no requirement that a member have or register a mate/partner and these fields may be left blank on a membership record.
- Add both Club Name and District Number. These two fields are required to enter a new record into the database and serve to meet Rotary's requirement that we induct only Rotarians.

These changes simply reflect the realities of how our system works and are recommended to insure we accurately describe its requirements.

Section 8.2 had words added to reflect the addition of new section 11 (described below) and to clarify the fact that a member of the International Bridge (not including the Executive Committee) may be reappointed at the pleasure of a new International Commodore.

In all sections of Section 8.3 we removed the word "the <position> shall". This verbiage was felt to be superfluous and unnecessary; it remains clear that each section is describing the job of the position referenced.

A small wording change in Section 10.1 and the removal of the final sentence is the start of the most sweeping change the committee recommends. The reader is referred to the newly created section 11 for the explanation of this modification.

The committee has drafted and recommends the inclusion of a new section titled "Succession of Command" to cover the change in the Fellowship's leadership that occurs every two years. This may be the most controversial change recommended and should be read carefully in reviewing these changes.

The committee has numerous reasons for recommending this and believes it clearly defines this "change of command" in a way that is best for the individuals involved as well as the Fellowship.

In the briefest of terms it states that the Change of Command will take place at the AGM (although it covers the contingency that there might not be one at some future time) not at the arbitrary date of July 1st. Some of the reasons we recommend this are:

- The changing of command should be a distinct event, not a procedure drawn out over days or weeks. In the words of PIC Bill Robinson, this "Succession of Command... logically help[s] resolve long standing, awkward Change of Command issues" by establishing just that, a true Change of Command event.
- Passing the mantel of all of the International Bridge offices is an important ceremony for the Fellowship, perhaps the most important one we have. It should be done at a venue that offers the potential for the most possible members to attend and witness the event and the AGM is just such an event. This concept of the change of command as an event, not a process, is a normally accepted ceremony in both naval and yachting organizations. The committee recognizes this and the impracticality of tying

the event to a date rather than an occasion such as the AGM and Rotary convention, especially since Rotary sets, and moves around, the dates of those conventions.

- A "passing of regalia" is a poor attempt at a Change of Command ceremony in that it lacks any finality and, for that matter, much true ceremonial value. It reminds us of a coronation where, at the point they would place the crown upon the new monarch they instead hand it to him saying "take this home with you... you can wear it starting next month." It also leaves in question exactly what should be presented to the outgoing commodore. There is no Past International Commodore insignia to pass down; it is a final and permanent honor for this individual. Presenting it when it isn't yet a fact seems counter intuitive.
- Because the officer regalia (including burgees, epaulets, chain of office etc.) exist in only one copy which is presented by the outgoing officer to the incoming officer the old arbitrary date of July 1st leaves the outgoing commodore without the appropriate appurtenances of the office in the time frame between the AGM and the July 1st date. When Rotary sets the date of a convention close to July 1st this is perhaps not that much of a problem but, as we are seeing, Rotary can vary their convention date considerably, leaving this "dead zone" where there is one commodore with the regalia of office and another without to span weeks, not days.
- There should be one and only one person holding each office at any given point in time.
- Having the change of command at the AGM gives the members of the Fellowship the opportunity to meet and talk with the new commodore as the International Commodore, not as a "soon to be commodore" during the Post Convention Cruise. Likewise it offers the opportunity to honor the now Immediate Past International Commodore appropriately for his service.
- The July 1st date is arbitrary, capricious and somewhat undefined. We are a worldwide organization; does July 1st refer to that date at Rotary headquarters, or the date in the outgoing officer's home area, or the incoming officer's home area or the prime meridian? It isn't defined. The advantage of tying our change of command to an actual physical event at the AGM makes far more sense.
- This addresses in more exact terms the control of funds the incoming IC will need to properly manage their term and to allow them to set up events for the following convention (including the pcc). It lays the foundation for better cooperation on financial matters by the entire Executive Committee that it is becoming apparent we need.
- We are currently planning a total review of how the fellowship manages its funds. We now live in an entirely different world than we did 10 years ago. Stricter banking laws, fees involved in transferring funds between countries, governmental concerns for potential money laundering schemes all point to a need of an integrated plan to handle our funds, pay our debts and collect our dues. And, most importantly to share and transfer control of the funds between the members of the Executive Committee. This is felt to be a first step in that direction by eliminating the dead period between our AGM and a date based turn over for control of our Fellowship.

Note that the addition of this new section pushes all of the following sections down in number when comparing the new GR to the existing ones.

fleets wish to establish their own general rules similar to the Fellowship's and what is allowed for Regions. This wording basically recognizes what is already taking place while not requiring any fleets to actually take this step.

Section 12.4 (old 11.4) reworded to reflect how the online database works. Old wording was left over from a previous paper based era. There doesn't seem to be the need for the fleet secretary to forward the International Bridge a list of names when it is there online for both the fleet and the International Bridge's use. Subsection 6 of this section adds important

protection for our individual members when it is found that the fleet's officers are not fulfilling their responsibilities with respect to their dues payment. If it is found necessary to revoke a fleet's charter it is serious business and every member of that fleet deserves to know of the situation.

Section 12.5 increase the number of members required to form a fleet squadron from 10 to 15; it has been shown that this number is much more like in having the squadron remain active. This would not apply to squadrons already in existence, only to forming new squadrons.

Section 13 (old 12) is the second major rewrite recommended. The entire section has been updated and replaced, with illustrations. This was brought about by the use of balls or pips to indicated Fleet officer positions. These emblems are no longer readily available on the open market and need to be custom produced for us. Combined with the fact that the majority of the fleets chose not to use them, preferring stars to indicate rank initiated our concerns in this area.

The problem we faced, however was there simply were too many positions when you start at the bottom, fleet rear commodore, and work your way up adding one star with each step. Because of our international character there are a total of nine levels of "command" in the fellowship. The solution was to specify that going forward the color of the epaulets for International Officers (of which there are the fewest) would be blue. The current rules actually already specify these as being Rotary Blue but none of the international officers have been using this color as it is considered to bright. A compromise was reached by specifying that they should be "Navy" blue. Fleet Officer epaulets remain as they were, black.

This change will allow fleets, universally, to use stars both for officer epaulets and burgees. The ability to wear regalia customary in a fleet's country remains, while encouraging the use of our system.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, there was some disagreement on what constituted the "Executive Committee" referred to in Section 14.1 (old section 13.1). The section specifically tasks the IVC, not the IC, the normal head of the EC with chairing the committee in anticipation of his coming term as IC and it would seem to make more sense to consider the EC in the same manner. The single word "incoming" has been added before "Executive Committee" to remove this ambiguity. This is perhaps a small point since the committee can add additional members for this review process, which is what we did this time, but it would be nice to remove that ambiguity.

The change to Section 15 (old 14) is a technical change needed to reflect the anticipated approval and subsequent certification of these General Rules and needs to be updated anytime a change is approved to the General Rules.

The last change was another technical change; updating of the Past International Commodore list to reflect the addition of the present IC who will become the next Immediate Past Commodore and the passing of Jack Keyzer in 2011.

Respectfully submitted

- Clint Collier
International Vice Commodore
Rules Committee Chair