



ROTAFLOAT

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.

ISSUE 76 APRIL 2009

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE



I can hardly believe that this is the last "Commodore's Message" from me. I did not realize when I accepted the job, either how much work was involved, or how much reward was to be gained from it. I feel that now we have friends all over the world. Many we have met in person, but also have come to know a great number through the Internet. For this I have to thank John Barnsley, our webmaster, without whom I probably would not even be connected yet !

In fact the whole two years have been a team job, starting with my wife Chris, to keep me on the straight and narrow. Annette Lewis and Rodney Davis together have sorted out all the many problems regarding banks, banking and incorporation. All the rest of my Bridge have been diligent in their work and loyal to me and to IYFR. I really feel that Britain has been in the hot seat for two years, not just me. Christopher Bishop has kept my nose to the grindstone and ensured the deadlines were all met. I cannot thank them all enough.

It has been a great joy to me to make up Charter Documents for so many new Fleets during my term of office. After this month there will be three more in Mobile USA, Sao Paulo Brazil, and Madrid in Spain. This makes a total of twelve new Fleets which either Terry, Clint or I have Chartered. I am sure the website helps us to spread the news. If only we could encourage ALL our members, who have the Internet, to use it. There has also been an increase in the number of active Regional Commodores. Any three Fleets or more may join together and become a Region. This is a means of easier communication, news travels more directly. In Italy and Germany each country now has its own National Bridge, thus joining Great Britain, Japan and Turkey.

The hot news, is of course, the appointment of the new International Rear Commodore Elect, Sergio Santi from Italy. The International Bridge are delighted to welcome him and his wife Laura. He is a highly gifted man who will, I am sure, be an inspiration to us all. Even before

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he takes office, he has obtained a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to support the Brigantine, 'Nave Italia' This vessel is run by the Italian Navy and dedicated to Rotary for the use of disabled and disadvantaged people. Now Sergio is organizing a meeting of Youth aged between 14 and 17 from each of the G 8 Countries. They will sail on 'Nave Italia,' have a conference of their own and present their ideas to the wives of the G 8 delegates. Whew - it makes us feel breathless!

Now we are preparing for the Birmingham Convention and PCC on the Clyde. I am pleased to say that our numbers are almost up to capacity - excellent, even in these trying times. The AGM is at a super venue and as long as the Clyde can produce the weather, success of the PCC is assured.

The Yachting fraternity of the world help each other when necessary. In times of hardship, we are fortunate to have an interest which lifts our spirits. How good it would be if we could all think of a friend or neighbour who needs cheering up and perhaps include them in one or two of our activities.

I have been greatly honoured to be your Commodore. Terry and Clint have been superb, very supportive and helpful to me. I now wish Terry and all the new Bridge every good fortune and success when they take over on July 1st. Chris and I are looking forward to meeting you all in Birmingham and to many more years of activity with the **International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians**.

Bryan Skinner International Commodore

COMMODORE'S DIARY

CONTENTS

	Commodore's Message	1	
20/05/09	Charter Madrid Fleet in Spain	Italy NW Fleet Commodore	
29/05/09	Visit Netherlands Fleets	Sergio Santi's CV	3
05/06/09	Visit Sorrento with Incoming I.C. Terry Stretton	New RC Gary Bruner USA NW	4
10/06/09	Visit Broads Fleet with Terry Stretton	Aussie NSW Fleet visits NZ	5
12/06/09	Visit Thames Fleet with Terry Stretton	Penbay Fleet Charter	6
18/06/09	Depart for Birmingham Convention with Strettons, Winters and Colliers	Birmingham Canals	7
23/06/09	International IYFR AGM and Handover to Terry Stretton	Proposed IYFR rule changes	8
25/06/09	Post Convention Cruise in Scotland	Meeting in Kiel	10
		New Philippine Fleet	12
		Trapani Rotary Cup Regatta	14
		Sergio Santi IRC Nominee	15
		Gold Coast & Queensland Fleet.	16
		2nd International IYFR meeting Sorrento	17

IYFR ITALY NW FLEET COMMODORE SERGIO SANTI CURRICULUM VITAE

1942 born in Civitavecchia (Rome)
 1952 first 12' dinghy
 1961 entered the Naval Academy in Livorno Italy
 1963 skipper of Artica II
 1964 member of Captain Straulino's (Star class 1956 Olympic Gold Medal) Crew
 1965 Ensign.
 1966-67 Naval Aviator Flight Program, US Navy NAS Pensacola Fla. Qualifies as fixed wing and helicopter Pilot.
 1968 Combat Ready Pilot
 1968-72 Various assignments as Combat Ready Pilot on board of Italian Navy helicopter carrier Frigates and Cruisers
 1973-1991 Standard Italian Naval Aviator and Line Officer life.

Most important Commands/Assignments:

- MSC Faggio , MSC Noce, CO
- Helicopter Squadron 2 (Catania, Sicily) CO
- Frigate Maestrale (XO)
- Frigate Margottini CO
- Naval Air Station Catania CO
- Naval War College
- Naval Air Station Luni - Sarzana CO
- ITS Amerigo Vespucci CO
- Italian Navy Special Forces Naval Group Commodore
- Italian Navy Special Forces Chief of Staff



1991 Retires

Knight of Italian Republic, Knight of St Maurizio and Lazzaro Order, Flight Gold Medal, Navigation Bronze Medal

1991- 2007 Yacht Builder and Naval Yards Director in Santa Margherita Ligure and Chiavari (GE), Naval and Aeronautical Advisor for Intermarine, other Italian Naval Designers & Yards and RINa (Naval Italian Register)

1996 Member of RC Sarzana Lerici – yacht builder

2002-3 RC Sarzana Lerici President

2005-6 Member of RC Chiavari - Tigullio, District Secretary D2030 IT, DGSC.

2006-7 Assistant to the DG, DGSC, Commodore Italy NW Fleet

2007-8 Incoming President RC CHIAVARI-Tigullio, FC, DGSC

2008-9 RC Chiavari Tigullio President , DGSC.

PHF+4

Married to Laura Padoan

One Daughter, Simona, member of the Rotary Club Thonon Genevois International, PHF.

NEW REGIONAL COMMODORE APPOINTED FOR USA NORTHWEST REGION

It gives the Executive Board, with the recommendations of Area Commodore Gary Bruner and Rear Commodore Clint Collier, great pleasure to announce the appointment of Richard Jamison of the Puget Sound Fleet as the Regional Commodore for the USA Northwest Region.



Richard is a native of Washington State. He is active in his community and served town Councilman for Yarrow Point for two terms and has served with numerous civic organizations.

He joined the Rotary Club of Kirkland in 1990 and served as its president in 1996. He is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Tacoma #8. He joined IYFR in 2002 and served as Fleet commodore from 2006 through 2008. His fourth and current boat is a 37ft Egg Harbor double cabin cruiser. He is a charter member of the Carver Yacht Club and served as that yacht club's Com-

modore in 1979. He is also the past President of the Northwestern Boating Council that watches after the interests of twenty-one local yacht and boating clubs.

Today he is a member of the Tacoma Yacht Club. He resides in Tacoma with his wife, Trish. Between them they have three daughters, three sons and twelve grandchildren.

We wish Richard every success as he oversees and coordinates the efforts of the four fleets that make up this very active IYFR region.

Clint Collier International Rear Commodore

AUSSIE NSW FLEET VISIT NEW ZEALAND

Rotary's 104th Anniversary, 23rd February 2009 seemed a fitting date for the commencement of a seven day inaugural visit by the New South Wales Fleet (Australia) to the Fleets of New Zealand.

Our initial hosts, Auckland Fleet, under the command of Commodore Gary (Carol) Adern, welcomed us aboard the "*Pacific Mermaid*" a 105 ft luxury motor yacht owned and skippered by



RC (Australia) Rob & Marlene with Past RI President Bill & Lorna Boyd on board "*Pacific Mermaid*".

PIC Ken (Bente) Winter, to enjoy a cocktail party and dinner cruise as we cruised across the harbour to view (alongside) the ocean liner Queen Mary 2 before dropping anchor nearby to enjoy dinner and fellowship. Also attending were Past Rotary Intl. President Bill (Lorna) Boyd, a representative of the US Navy and a delegate from Rotary in the South Americas.

The following day we boarded a cruise boat to sail to picturesque Waiheke Island (known as the Island of Wine) to enjoy a gourmet lunch-

eon and wines at the Mudbrick Vineyard and Restaurant which overlooked the coastal islands and the outer Waitemata harbour.

Wednesday was a sailing day with the more adventuresome sailing the beautiful outer harbour onboard CDRE Gary's 47 ft yacht 'Roam' and FM Colin (Pat) Reids' 32 ft yacht 'Peer Gynt'.



"Peer Gynt" under full sail



NSW & Auckland Fleet members at lunch at the Mudbrick vineyard

After a raft-up lunch, it was a race home under sail, at one stage against America's Cup yachts.

That evening, a "Fish & Chips" cocktail party, hosted by IVC Terry & Meryl, was held at their home to say goodbye to our fleet contingent.

On Thursday, with RC (NZ) Roy Budgen as the guide, we left Auckland by coach for the Bay-of-Islands travelling via the scenic routes

and both coastlines where possible. On arrival at Kerikeri we were met by our hosts and

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conveyed to their homes, in the case of RC Robert & Marlene, to the island of Motorua.

Friday was to be a 'R&R' day, either sailing and/or touring locally with a Welcome Dinner at the Kerikeri Cruising Club that evening. However, due to a cyclone in the Tasman approaching us, sailing was cancelled and RC Robert & Marlene, joined by their host, Fleet Commodore Ian (Eunice) Faulkner, transferred from the island to another Rotarian's home on the mainland. The extreme weather would have prevented them attending the onshore activities by boat from the island that night.

On Saturday, due to the inclement weather and flooding, it was decided to cancel sailing and put 'plan B' into operation. We were treated to a tour of the various scenic locations along the NE coast with lunch at the famous Mangonui Bay 'Fish & Chips' restaurant before returning via the Puketi Forest to enjoy a Kauri Forest Tree Walk.

Sunday morning we said goodbye to our hosts with the main party returning home. RC Robert & Marlene enjoyed a lovely river and island cruise onboard CDRE Ian's 28ft motor cruiser 'T'ien Hou' before joining the visit co-ordinator, RC Roy (Barbara) Budgen at Russell for lunch.

All-in-all, it was credit to those who organised everything, a wonderful fellowship and fun experience which all participants enjoyed and one which appeared to re-kindle interest in IYFR for many NZ members and their desire to visit/host other fleets in the future.

Robert Eaglesham—Regional Commodore (Tour Leader) NSW & SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PENBAY FLEET CHARTERED BY IRC CLINT COLLIER

The fellowship welcomed its newest fleet to the Fellowship on the last day of February when IRC Clint Collier left his sunny sailing on San Francisco Bay to dodge winter storms at both ends of his visit to Camden Maine to make sure that the International Bridge was properly represented at their ceremony. Maine is not known for its sailing in the middle of winter, in fact most of the ships were still laid up looking like cocoons awaiting the promise of spring to break free and spread their wings once again.

However the warmth of Fellowship at new FVC Bowditch's home more than compensated for any chill in the air outside. Fifty members and their spouses gathered for the ceremony and to participate in a chow'dah dinner party. The festivities started the evening before the charter with a small dinner party for Clint and the new officers of the fleet as well as plenty of time for some sea yarns.



The Maine Windjammer fleet of Camden in winter.

By the way Jim Bowditch is the great great grandson of Nathaniel Bowditch author of *The American Practical Navigator* first published in 1802.

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The ceremony started with a few words from their new Fleet Commodore, Willard Wight who introduced IRC Clint. The Fleet Officers received their epaulets and the charter acceptance documents were signed.

After the ceremonies it was time for dessert! A wonderful cake decorated with the distinctive burgee that the Penbay fleet had designed to represent them.



The IRC performs surgery on the cake!



And then there was the biggest surprise for me.

The fleet presented me with two marvelous books, Taft's, *Cruising Guide to the Maine Coast* and *Carry on Mr. Bowditch* a fiction account of Nathaniel Bowditch's early life. But the best remembrance of all was a map of Penobscot Bay inscribed to me, that every member of the new fleet signed.



Commodore Wight receives his

I know everyone in the Fellowship joins me in welcoming this new fleet and wishing them every success with their program. If your wanderings take you to the upper northeast of the United States look them up. Maine hospitality is fantastic!

Clint Collier—International Rear Commodore

BIRMINGHAM CANALS NEAR THE CONVENTION CEN-

The Worcester and Birmingham canal terminates at the Gas Street Basin at the famous Worcester Bar. Goods had to be transferred to another barge at the Bar.



The Millennium Suspension Footbridge crosses the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal below Lock No 6 of the Farmer's Bridge flight..



PROPOSED IYFR RULE CHANGES

In addition to the Rule Changes mentioned in *Rotafloat* (April, 2008 edition) the following further changes are also proposed:

1. Election of International Rear Commodore

It has transpired that there may be some misunderstanding about the role of Past International Commodores in the event that there needs to be an election for the post of International Rear Commodore. It is proposed to amend the rules to clarify the position and establish the following procedure:

- The conduct of any election will be in the hands of the Immediate Past International Commodore (or if he is unavailable, the next available PIC)
- He/she will establish a timetable based on the date of the next RI Convention (I.e. to allow enough time for the various procedures to be gone through so that the successful candidate can book for the RI Convention before the prices go up!)
- All PICs (provided that they remain a member of IYFR) will be consulted for their views (if any) on the candidates

The choice of candidate will thereafter be vested in the Executive Committee + the last four PICs available. In the event of an equality of votes, the current IC will have a casting vote.

2. Regional Commodores, etc.

The Rules are somewhat deficient in the provisions relating to Regional Commodores and Regional Fleets. The power to appoint a Regional Commodore is vested in the IC but there are no criteria to establish how a Region can be established, whether it can have its own Bridge, Rules, etc. It is therefore proposed:

- That a Region can be established by the IC to cover a minimum of three Fleets in either a country, several countries or part of a country. A group of Fleets may apply to the IC for them to be formed into a Region.
- The IC will appoint Regional Commodores (an 'RC') for a term of 2 years which may be renewed.
- The RC can establish a Regional Bridge which can draw up local rules (which must not conflict with the International Rules) to govern the Region in the future. A Region will have the right to propose a person for appointment as their Regional Commodore to the IC (the IC is not bound to agree)
- Any Regional Commodores currently in post can remain but on their retirement these new provisions will apply (I.e. there must be at least 3 fleets in the Region)

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3. Travelling Expenses

At present, only the IC, on completion of his/her time on the International Bridge (i.e. as a member of the Executive Committee), is entitled to claim reimbursement of travelling expenses for that period. It is proposed that for their two years of office:

- The IC be entitled to claim up to US\$ 10,000
- The IVC be entitled to claim up to US\$ 3,000
- The IRC be entitled to claim up to US\$ 2,000

in each case, in respect of travelling expenses. It is not proposed that this amendment be retrospective.

4. Amendments to the Rules

At present, the Rules require that any proposed changes should “be circulated to the membership and ...presented for approval at the AGM”. It is proposed to clarify this provision by making it clear that such circulation may be effected by publishing a summary of the proposed changes in *Rotafloat* and publishing the changes in their entirety on the web-site.

5. Proposals for the AGM

It is intended that a resolution should be proposed at the forthcoming AGM to approve these various changes together with a number of minor amendments which are designed to take the Rules forward along with developments in IYFR generally. They have been considered in detail by the three members of the Executive Committee and the other members of the International Bridge. The full text of the new draft Rules is available on the IYFR web-site. However, it will be impracticable to discuss all the changes at the AGM. Any member wishing to discuss the proposals in detail is therefore asked to contact the Hon. Legal Adviser, Rodney Davis, in good time beforehand, either by telephone on + 44 (0)1491 838494 or by e-mail at randj@rodneydavis.plus.com

The IYFR AGM & Luncheon at the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham Tuesday 23 June. 11:30 for 12:15 to 15:00 hours

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses where the AGM takes place were designed by J. C. Loudon, a leading garden planner, horticultural journalist and publisher. They were opened to subscribers in 1832. They contain 15 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, walkabout trails and exotic birds to mention a few of the outside attractions. There are also four glasshouses allowing visitors to roam through tropical rainforest to arid desert conditions.

IYFR - DEUTSCHLAND - MEETING IN KIEL

German Regional Commodore Eckhardt Fischer and his first mate Ingrid invited the six German fleets to attend the first national meeting in his “home harbour” of Kiel from 27th Feb. – 1st March 2009. He and his North Fleet played host to International Commodore Bryan Skinner and his wife Chris along with 100 Iyforians and first mates. The evening was highly entertaining with a focus on sailing virtuosity, albeit from the comfort of our chairs.



German Regional Commodore Eckhardt Fischer
his wife Ingrid

The highlight for all of us who were present was, of course, the opportunity to meet our International Commodore. Bryan Skinner who not only braved the hurdles of the German language, but put us all to task at polishing up our English (British English, that is!).

Grey drizzly weather did not dampen the spirits of the five attending fleets, who were heartily welcomed in Kiel, the sailing city. As we gathered together on Friday evening in the Maritim Hotel Bellvue greetings echoed around the room. What a pleasure to meet new fleet members and enjoy a reunion with sailing friends from all over the country, the farthest coming all the way from Brandenburg in the southeast. Jens Brendel’s film on the 2009 Olympic regatta of the “49 ers” showed the “wettest” variety of athletic prowess in a boat. Whereas Ulrich Muenker’s talk on “sand sailing” gave us the “dry” version. Both require a great amount of skill, as well as energy. The speed of the sand sailor can be faster than the speed of the wind. We all won an entirely new perspective on what sailing can mean. As the saying goes: “No guts, no glory!”

Our program on Saturday morning began in Kiel-Holtenau at the locks of the Kiel Canal, which joins the North Sea to the Baltic Sea. Sönke Meesenburg, head of the planning group at the WSA for the extension of the Kiel Canal, described the origins of the canal and explained how it works. The canal is controlled at both ends of its 98 km by locks, which regulate the water level changes caused by tides and winds.



Kiel Canal

Kaiser Wilhelm II. laid the cornerstone in 1887 and eight years later the canal was opened to shipping. In 2008 a total of 42,611 ships travelled the distance between Kiel and Brunsbüttel, a number higher than the total of passages through the Panama and Suez canals together.

A lunchtime interval on the Firth of Kiel gave the fleets a chance to hold their individual biannual meetings and plan further sailing activities. On Saturday afternoon we continued our tour with a visit to the Laboe Naval Memorial. We concluded the visit by going on board the submarine situated at the foot of the monument. Saturday evening found us in Holtenau again for a festive dinner in a wonderfully renovated restaurant on the canal, where ships navigating the waters could be seen passing by. Regional Commodore Eckhardt welcomed us with an especially created IYFR cocktail in blue and yellow. The Commodores of the five fleets present reported on their members and activities and received I.C. Bryan's pennant – a special treat.

In his turn IC Bryan praised the worldwide net of the international fleets and expressed his thanks at being so warmly welcomed everywhere he and Chris have been, but especially here in Kiel at our first-ever, "all-German" meeting. It was a pleasure for him to be present as new members received their pins.



Eckhardt Fischer, Peter Rehfuß, H.E. Kaufmann,
IC Bryan, Redelf Habben, K.-S. Bickel

One of these new Iyforians is Herwig Paretzke of Fleet Weser Jade, who will soon be flying the IYFR banner around the world on his 14 metre Catamaran, 'Jonathan', when he undertakes his planned 2-4 year global voyage. He intends to sail from port to port visiting friends and sightseeing with a few days at home (Munich) once a month. He has extended an invitation to Rotarians who would like to share his adventure anywhere along the route. We can all at least follow along by reading his reports in Rotafloat. IC Bryan emphasized the importance of keeping in touch with each other especially through the IYFR website. The evening ended as it had begun with jovial conversations in which we often found out that we had mutual friends in far-flung ports. The German language has a wonderful word to describe the evening: gemütlich! "Comfortable". Indeed, we did feel comfortable and at ease with each other.

On Sunday morning it was time for goodbyes and hopes of getting together soon again as we brunched in the Maritim Hotel Bellvue dining room overlooking the foggy Firth. I say foggy only to describe the weather because our hearts were warm and sunny with the pleasure of this encounter in Kiel. And we are grateful to Eckhardt and Ingrid Fischer for making the first national Germany meeting such a memorable and heartfelt occasion. As I sat down to write this, the words of an Iyforian from Lake Constance were ever present in my mind, "I was sceptical about coming all this way, since I didn't know anyone. What I have found here is like a family."

Yes, we are a family, a family of sailors with stories to tell and adventures to share. We might not see each other very often, but when we do it's easy to pick up the threads of our last conversation, whether a month, a year or even longer ago.

For my part, I really appreciated meeting Chris, the "first lady" of the first mates and her IC husband .

Thank you Ingrid and Eckhardt for your hospitality and the opportunity to report on such a grand occasion.

Phyllis Åhrberg - first mate of Björn Åhrberg, Vice Commodore Fleet Northwest,

THE NEW PHILIPPINE FLEET



(L-R) The Fleet Bridge led by Commodore Jun AVECILLA, Vice Commodore Max Tan, Rear Commodore Joe RAGOS, Secretary Obet Del Rosario, PRO Mel Velasco, Legal Officer Ping Sison, Treasurer Alex Bernales and Fleet Member Mar Cancio pose onboard MY 'Selina' owned by Fleet Member Butch Francisco

The Philippine Fleet was chartered by IVC Terry Stretton accompanied by First Mate Meryl on Wednesday 18th March 2009 at the Manila Yacht Club. The Fleet shared the occasion with many Rotarians and a GSE Team from District 6950 Tampa Bay Area and West Florida.

In an effort to make an indelible mark on its Chartering and Induction Day, the Philippine Fleet undertook a Vaccination Mission when tetanus, diphtheria and anti-flu vaccines were made available to employees of the Yacht Club and their families.



Commodore Jun Avecilla signs the chartering document under International Vice Commodore Terry Stretton guidance.

MESSAGE FROM THE PHILIPPINE FLEET COMMODORE

We've made a lasting imprint in the annals of Philippine Rotary, particularly District 3780 with the founding and chartering of the Cubao West IYFR Philippine Fleet. I wish to acknowledge and thank our District Governor Alex Cureg and our Club President Norman Verzosa for their encouragement and active assistance in making this pioneering feat possible. I thank my Fleet Bridge, Max, Joe, Obet, Alex, Ping, Mel and Joel for their full support and all the members of my Rotary Club of Cubao West for their great help.

With the ending of the ceremonies and formalities for its official existence, our Yachting Fellowship's job though has just begun. Our thrust would be to get involved in the advocacy, education and implementation of a moral code and commitment against marine pollution and ultimate destruction of the environment. To do this by making people aware of the magnitude, impact and horrible effects on marine life and all life because of wanton disposal of non biodegradable garbage such as plastics into our waterways system, specifically the 'esteros' and creeks inhabited by non-concerned dwellers in the depressed areas of our community.

I hope that my PE classmates in the 93 Rotary clubs in our District 3780 with the leadership of DGE Dulce Coyuqiat will include this project in their service program to help address this problem in whatever way we can do to deliver our message across to begin with.

I am pleased to announce that the Fleet Bridge has concluded that our Yachting Fellowship Headquarters will be located at The Lighthouse Marina Resort, Moon Bay Marina, Subic Bay Free Port Zone. The Lighthouse management are delighted to be the venue headquarters of the Philippine Fleet and look forward to working hand in hand with the fleet in its noble objectives and campaign. A grand fellowship in Subic Bay at the end of April or early May is in the works to give us an opportunity to visit and meet our venue host. We shall keep everyone informed. Sail on to new horizon! Jun Avecilla Commodore Philippine Fleet

TRAPANI ROTARY CUP INTERNATIONAL REGATTA In SICILY 12th/13th JUNE 2009

We, the Rotafloat editors, have been asked by Luigi Falanga, the Commodore of the Sicily Fleet to bring IYFR members' attention to this notice about the Trapani Rotary Cup International Regatta to be held in June. We have checked on the internet which has many pages on the Trapani Louis Vuitton Cup including some splendid photographs of the America's Cup final.

Should you wish to take this further Luigi says that Trapani has a small airport catering for low cost flights including Ryanair. Luigi's email address is luigifalanga@falanga.eu and more details can be found on the IYFR website - Sicily Fleet.

TRAPANI ROTARY CUP INTERNATIONAL REGATTA IN SICILY 12/13TH JUNE

(in Luigi's own words)

Trapani has been acclaimed not only by prominent journalists, all the director of Sailing Channel Bontempelli of the report by the international newspapers, but also by important institutional figure. All agree in pointing out the wonderful and incomparable beauty of the race, all in agreement Trapani worthy of hosting major sailing events, the America Cup final, nothing comes by chance, and meanwhile you can ride the long wave of emotions of extreme positivity with which the capital took part in the event that gave unforgettable races. Without resorting to grade numbers that have characterized the Trapani Louis Vuitton seems legitimate to say that the sea has few equals and should be kept in high consideration to host events of high thickness. It deserves our sea, the true protagonist of the great and Trapani Louis Vuitton Cup

The desire to share with you this environment is the reason that prompted us to organize the ROTARY CUP TRAPANI included in FIV (Italian Federation Sail) for 13 and 14 June. The association will make available directly to Trapani No 6 boats (ZIP 25) that can accommodate n.5 racers each. The event, which includes for elimination match, also represents an opportunity to meet the sailors / Rotarians who have already expressed interest from all parts of the world.

MEET SERGIO SANTI INTERNATIONAL REAR COMMODORE NOMINEE

At the end of December International Commodore Bryan Skinner announced the naming of Sergio Santi, Commodore of the North West Italy Fleet as the International Rear Commodore nominee for the Fellowship following the voting of the Executive Committee.

Born in Civitavecchia (Rome), Sergio is a retired Captain of the Italian Navy. He started his career when he entered their Naval Academy in 1961 and was appointed Ensign in the Italian Navy in 1965. During his time at the Academy he had an intense sailing activity and the honor to be in the crew of the legendary Captain Straulino, National, European, Olympic and World Champion.

He spent the next 30 years serving in the Italian Navy and held numerous sea commands as well as naval air billets and commands having graduated Naval Aviator in Pensacola Fla. Perhaps most notable from the Fellowship's perspective, he was the Captain of the Italian Training Ship '*Amerigo Vespucci*'. He holds numerous awards and recognitions for his service to his country: Knight of the Italian Republic, Knight of St. Maurizio and Lazzaro Order and navigation bronze medal just to name a few. Following his retirement in 1991 he worked as the yacht building and naval yards director in Santa Margherita Ligure and Chiavari as well as being an aeronautical advisor for Intermarine.

In 2002-03 he was president of the Rotary Club of Sarzana Lerici. He went on to serve as secretary of District Governor 2030 and in 2005-06 became a member of the Rotary Club of Chiavari-Tigullio and the assistant to the District Governor as well as the position he holds in the Fellowship, Commodore of the Italy NW Fleet.

He currently is serving as the president of his Rotary Club as well as Fleet Commodore. He is married to Laura Padoan and they have one daughter, Simona, who is a member of the Rotary Club Thonon Genevois International. Both Sergio and Simona are Paul Harris Fellows; truly a Rotary Family!

The executive committee of the Fellowship congratulates Sergio on his appointment and look forward to working with him as our newest International Rear Commodore when he assumes office at the installation ceremonies at the AGM in Birmingham this summer!



The future is in their hands!

Clint Collier

International Rear Commodore

VISIT TO GOLD COAST AND QUEENSLAND FLEETS

The Gold Coast and Queensland fleets are obviously in good heart with lots of fun and fellowship events, as shown to Meryl and myself over the four days of our visit there. Regional Commodore, Keith Cogzell, met us at the airport, even though it was 4 a.m. and drove us for 45 minutes to our hosts Nancy and Hugh Smith. They took us on a canal and river cruise, a beach walk and hosted a dinner party where we met some Gold Coast Fleet members. There was beautiful warm sunny weather for a combined Gold Coast and Queensland Fleets' boating trip to Couran Point where we sat under umbrellas in a lovely park with restaurant and swimming pool, for our lunch. Fifty plus members and partners and many boats turned out for this weekday event which we thought impressive. We were hosted aboard Trevor and Robyn Holzapfel's *'Montego Bay'* along with several other members.

Commodore Bryce Wilson and Jenny entertained us for a day with a drive up Mt. Tamborine for lunch and later we met Keith Cogzell who took us for a tour of Gold Coast City Marina and Shipyard, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, before heading up to Brisbane. We were hosted here by Queensland Fleet Commodore John Burkett and Jacky who that night took us to the Rotary Club of Fortitude Valley progressive dinner, where fifty members and partners enjoyed good food and fellowship. The next day we lunched with members of the Queensland Fleet at Royal Queensland Yacht Club.

We really appreciated the kind, thoughtful, hospitable IYFR members on this lovely coast of Australia.

Terry Stretton—International Vice Commodore



Queensland FC John Burkett, Gold Coast FC Bryce Wilson, IVC Terry Stretton
RC Keith Cogzell

SORRENTO, ITALY, 5 - 7 JUNE 2009 The Second International IYFR meeting 'Siren Land'

To find out more about this splendid meeting visit the IYFR web site www.iyfr.net for more photographs and full explanation of the events and booking form

ACCOMMODATION AT THE HOTEL TRAMONTANO



THE LOUNGE AREA



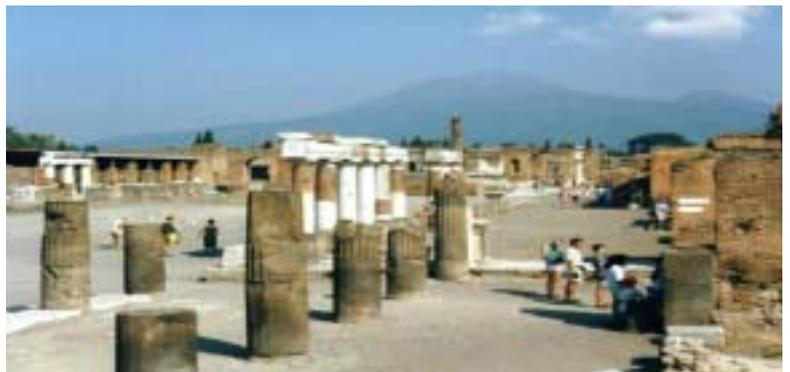
A VIEW FROM THE TERRACE

FRIDAY DINNER AT THE RELAIS BLU



SATURDAY A SHORT CRUISE ON NAVE ITALIA

SUNDAY GUIDED TOUR OF POMPEII



THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

After four years editing Rotafleet (GB & I) and two years editing Rotafloat we thank all our contributors over these years for the interesting articles that they have sent us. Without these there would have been no magazines. Please continue to contact the new Editors in New Zealand **Brian and Zelma Couldrey** via the IYFR website, or through your Fleet Commodore.

Best wishes to all

Ian and Norm a Hornsby