



ISSUE

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# ROTAFLOAT

Official newsletter for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians

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.



IC Bill & Katia Robinson

## 2006 Pre Convention Event

### Rotary Mariners at Copenhagen

As *Pacific Mermaid* lay alongside the Queen's Berth in Copenhagen, her crew—Rotary Mariners Gary and Carol Ardern, David and Lorraine Geary, Peter and Margaret Johns, Luc and Faye Marie, Terry and Meryl Stretton (all from Auckland) and our wonderful hosts and vessel owners, PIC Ken and Bente Winter, plus their close friend Lisa, our fantastic cook—prepared this magnificent vessel for

the arrival of 85 people for an IYFR event the evening before the opening of the RI convention.

All dressed in whites, we welcomed guests aboard with a glass of champagne. We were very much the interest of passers-by on the promenade, as most folks arriving were also dressed in whites, including IYFR Bridge IC Bill Robinson and Katia, IVC Bryan Skinner and Chris, and IRC John Milne and Merrill. As the evening

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Auckland Fleet Commodore Terry Stretton and First Mate Meryl present the IYFR pennant to Rotary International President Bill Boyd.

progressed, with finger food and the specialty—Danish hotdogs—everyone had an opportunity to speak with our special guest, incoming RI President, Bill Boyd and Lorna. It was a great moment when IC Bill Robinson bestowed on Bill Boyd honorary membership in IYFR's Auckland Fleet. Auckland Commodore Terry Stretton and Meryl welcomed Bill Boyd to the Auckland Fleet and presented him with a pennant and lapel pin.

Then it was time for music, more drink and dancing to the favorite music of our host, Bente—ABBA—what else would you play in this lovely part of the world? Great fun and fellowship, food, drink, new friends and old—what a memorable party!

Many thanks to our wonderful hosts, PIC Ken and Bente Winter.

*-Terry and Meryl Stretton  
FC Auckland Fleet*



Top: Left to right: IC Bill Robinson, RIP Bill Boyd, IVC Bryan Skinner and IRC John Milne. Above: *Pacific Mermaid* at Queen's Berth. Left: Rotarian Crew on the M/V *Pacific Mermaid*.

# Post-Convention Cruise 2006



Above: IYFR Skaw Fleet sailboats and *Pacific Mermaid* at Marstrand.

The 2006 Post-Convention Cruise was organized by the Skaw Fleet of Europe North, and took place on the West Coast of Sweden. Headed by the Regional Commodore of Europe North Arne Magnusson and Margareta, as well as Skaw Fleet Commodore Tom Sellberg and Marianne, planners also included Skaw Fleet members Gunnar Jardelow and Gunilla, Marie Follin, P-O Lundberg and Ninnan, Anders Wigart and Annette, Hans Hollander and Anders Andren. Rotary Mariners of the Skaw Fleet on seventeen sailing yachts and one motor craft took between two and four visiting Rotary Mariners each on their boats for the 4 day/4 night cruise. PIC Ken and Bente Winter participated with their 105-ft M/V *Pacific Mermaid* with fourteen Rotary Mariners from New Zealand and England on board. Another nineteen members were aboard *Pacific Mermaid* for daytime activities, but spent nights in hotels.

In total, 123 Rotary Mariners from 13 different countries attended.

On 15 June after the Rotary Convention in Copenhagen/Malmö, the

members arrived by coach from Copenhagen to Gothenburg. The “meet and greet” gathering took place in the GKSS Marina (Gothenburg Royal Yacht Club) where the guests met their hosts. The weather was lovely and some decided to sail in the early evening to one of the many islands for dinner on board. Other hosts had dinner with their guests in their homes and some stayed in the marina for dinner. *Pacific Mermaid* with additional guests arrived at the marina in the evening.

The next day the yachts started from different places, sailing to the fishing village Skärhamn. This is a trip of about 25 nm through the archipelago north of Gothenburg. The weather was fantastic, and the boats took different routes to Skärhamn. Some stopped at the islands Klädesholmen and Åstol for lunch. At Skärhamn the Swedish Rescue Association demonstrated one of its modern rescue boats donated by Rotary. Dinner was served in the restaurant Kompassen at the seaside, and Skaw Fleet PC Gunnar Jardelöw was the toastmaster for the evening. IC Bill Robinson spoke about IYFR and RI Fellowships. Both

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# Post-Convention Cruise 2006

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Guards at their post- Carlsten Castle.

he and IVC Bryan Skinner thanked the PCC committee and congratulated them on the great start of the cruise.

Saturday 17 June was the day of the Volvo Ocean Race final in Gothenburg. All the boats started the 10 nm trip to Marstrand very early—some were under way at 6 o'clock in the morning. The boats were berthed in Marstrand and all attendees boarded *Pacific Mermaid* to go to the entrance of Gothenburg to see the final. We got a very good spot to see the arrival of the winner of the last leg, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, along with hundreds of pleasure boats.

*Pacific Mermaid* returned to Marstrand, and for the evening's Viking Party, we were accompanied by soldiers and drummers in historic costumes from the quay to the old Carlsten castle (dating from 1660). In the old knight's

room we were waited on by maids in medieval dresses serving food prepared using recipes from the same period. Skaw Fleet Commodore Tom Sellberg was the toastmaster, and there were many songs from different countries. The most spectacular were the Maori dance and songs from New Zealand.

On Sunday morning there was a city tour through old Marstrand and the guide told about the history of this old city and the wars between Denmark and Sweden—mostly during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Before lunch the boats left for the center of Gothenburg. We sailed into the Göta River through the new and old harbors. Many activities took place on this eventful day, including Volvo Ocean Race activities after the previous day's conclusion, the opening of a new tunnel for cars along the river, and a Marathon run through the tunnel and through the city. On the open space in front of the opera house there was a big amusement field with music and dancing.

All the boats were berthed in the Lilla Bommen Marina at the opera house, and a tour through the city center in specially rented ancient trams was arranged. The tram went close to Götaplatsen, and the last evening dinner took place at the Royal Bachelors Club in an old private villa once belonging to the most prominent shipping family of Gothenburg. Skaw Fleet PC Hans Holländer was the toastmaster for the evening, and jazz music welcomed the guests in the garden. IC Bill Robinson made a speech and thanked the organizing committee of the Skaw Fleet and all who had contributed to the arrangements. Regional Commodore Arne Magnusson welcomed all attendees to the West Coast of Sweden and also recommended visits to the beautiful archipelagoes of the East Coast of Sweden and in Finland.

After a long night of dancing all guests slept very well in the boats berthed in the center of Gothenburg. After breakfast it was time for the hosts to say goodbye to the guests. Most of them left Sweden by plane or train, some went to other places in Scandinavia and some stayed a few more days in Gothenburg.

-Arne Magnusson  
Regional Commodore, Europe North



# Memories from the Post-Convention Cruise 2006



Above: Final of the Volvo around the world race and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Right: Marching to Carlsten Castle.

Above: Viking dinner. Left: Carlsten Castle, Marstrand.

## IYFR ANNUAL

## GENERAL MEETING

Langelinie Pavillon  
Copenhagen, Denmark



June 13, 2006



International Commodore Bill Robinson welcomed the 105 IYFR members and mates to the AGM at Langelinie Pavillon. Apologies and greetings were received from PICs Arnold Verkade and Ferit Biren, COS George Futas, and RC John Mills. Bill welcomed PIC Ken and Bente Winter, Marda Phillips, PIC Andrew Mitchell, PRID Barry Thompson and recognized members of his bridge; IVC Bryan Skinner, IRC John Milne, AC Gary Bruner, Webmaster Clint Collier, Treasurer Ingrid Bruner, Rotafloat Publisher John Kilpatrick and Administrator Katia Robinson.

Moving on to business, IC Bill called for approval of the 2005 AGM Minutes. They were moved, seconded and approved.

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# IYFR Annual General Meeting

## **Commodore's Report:**

*International Commodore Bill Robinson*

IYFR had a busy year in terms of growth and challenges to our fellowship. The fun part was chartering four fleets; San Juan Islands Fleet in Washington State, the French Polynesia Fleet, and the Bay of Plenty and Bay of Islands fleets in New Zealand.

In 60 years, IYFR has become (in membership and structure) the equivalent of a Rotary District, or perhaps two Districts. Yet our administrative tasks are much more difficult because the IYFR district encompasses the world, with 90 fleets in 20 countries.

As with a District, there is structure to the organization, websites, committees and protocols which define what should be done by members of the IC's staff. IYFR, like a District, must have detailed procedures in order to function and have continuity from one administration to the next. It is difficult to recruit volunteers to staff Bridge positions without a point of reference and clearly articulated guidelines as to what is expected. Districts have 508 pages of the RI COP to guide them. We don't need 508 pages, but we do need a far better definition in the rules and working protocols of tasks that need to be accomplished, whether by the designated officer, or someone else appointed by the IC. Without this, the entire administrative burden falls on the IC, his wife and one or two individuals. We are working to change that. I thank our webmaster, Clint Collier, for sending me a copy of "The Burden of Being a Volunteer", a performance guide for us to take back to our clubs and fleets. It is worth reading. It is posted on the IYFR website under IYFR documents.

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Chicago, I noted three administrative themes for my term of office: transparency, sustainability and transferability. The overall objective is to provide more accountability to IYFR members, and to provide a consistent and stable basis for operations to pass on to IVC Bryan Skinner and IRC John Milne.

To implement these themes, we have taken the following actions:

- 1) *Adopted a budget policy that includes budgeting based on current dues income.*
- 2) *Purchased accounting software – commonly used internationally*
- 3) *Established a permanent global bank relationship that accommodates e-commerce – dues, events and regalia payment by credit card*

4) *Established a new website – (editorial note: see Clint's reports in the April Rotafloat and update in this issue) - appointed Assistant Webmaster, John Barnsley, who will serve as webmaster during Bryan's term.*

5) *Intellectual Property ownership - our name, domain, software, and other property will be owned by IYFR and not held in the name of any individual or company.*

6) *Developing written specifications and templates for regalia, so they may be produced with consistent quality anywhere in the world.*

7) *Reorganized staff and titles to more accurately reflect how business is done. These positions are generally stated in the rules, and in more detail in operational protocols to allow future IC's flexibility to make assignments and move tasks as necessary to make IYFR administration work.*

8) *Set standards for membership consistent with RI Code of Policies for Fellowships and IYFR Rules. RI permits only Rotarians, Spouses, and Rotaractors as members of RI Fellowships. We created a category for honorary members to accommodate retired Rotarians and others who have traditionally participated in fleet activities. (See the new IYFR Rules posted on the IYFR website and my report at the RI Fellowships AGM for additional information)*

9) *Liability concerns – We fought and won battles to repeal RI policies which would have required insurance and for IYFR officers to contractually agree to indemnify RI.*

10) *Executive Committee is assuming more financial responsibility.*

11) *Incorporated IYFR; the Executive Committee will serve as Directors; Bylaws are adopted by Directors and will incorporate IYFR rules adopted by the membership.*

12) *IYFR tax exemption is pending.*

The Executive Committee has reviewed the IYFR rules in the context of these objectives, and changes prompted by incorporation and the new RI Code of Policies, and proposed revisions for consideration by the membership.

Bryan, John and I share the conviction, and certainly the hope, that implementation of these themes will reduce the start-up costs, in terms of time and energy, of each new administration, and leave some time to enjoy the more rewarding IYFR themes of fellowship, service and fun.

Many thanks to John, Bryan, and my staff for their cooperation and support.

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# IYFR Annual General Meeting

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## **Area 1 Report**

*International Vice Commodore Bryan Skinner*

What we heard about all the changes and improvements from Bill may have sounded a bit formidable but all are essential – it will improve our fellowship to a great extent for the future.

It is my pleasure once again, to give the report for Area 1, Europe, Middle East and Africa.

My own country, Great Britain and Ireland is flourishing under their National Commodore, Regional Commodore Christopher Bishop. He has visited all of our 13 fleets, and reports on their activities. GB&I also have two National Fellowship weekends each year, at different places in the country. There are usually about 60 people attending, from 9 or 10 of the fleets, and we have a very good weekend of activities and friendship, this year in Scotland. Next year we will be celebrating 60 years of IYFR in Britain, with a weekend in Derbyshire.

Europe is also very active, and of course this year Scandinavia has been particularly so. We are very much indebted to Regional Commodore Arne Magnusson and the Skaw Fleet, who have worked tirelessly arranging our activities here, and the Post Convention Cruise. I am sure we will all have a wonderful time, with plenty of fellowships and sightseeing in this beautiful part of the world.

We are in the process of encouraging the formation of two new fleets in Area 1. South Germany fleet is formed, going for two years, and just needs to arrange their Charter presentation. In Johannesburg, there is a very keen group just wanting a few more members, and they will be up and away.

The fleet in Capetown, however, is struggling and is down to 10 members, although Ferit Biren and I continue to encourage them to develop enthusiastic leadership. The new Swiss fleet is flourishing, and I am visiting them in two weeks time, when we will be sailing on Lake Geneva, where the Swiss Americas Cup boat was built, and their team trained. I also hope to visit Turkey in July.

Area 1 is fortunate as they have Regional Commodores established. We want to encourage more cooperation with them, as they are a direct link between the regions and the International Bridge. The chain of

connection has now been simplified with the website – please use it and it will benefit the communication of our Fellowship.



## **Area 3 Report**

*International Rear Commodore John Milne*

2005 to 2006 has again been a time of growth and expansion in the Asia Pacific Region now covering French Polynesia, Australia, China, Japan and New Zealand. Three fleets were chartered by International Commodore Bill in November – French Polynesia in District 9920 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2005 and two new fleets in New Zealand – the Bay of Plenty and the Bay of Islands – within the following week. This now gives us 21 fleets in Region 3.

Regional Commodore John Mills has done a great job bringing about the chartering of these three new fleets. Congratulations John – well done and keep up the good work. And thank you to PIC Ken and Bente Winter for their continued support.

I would also like to pass on my thanks to all the Regional Commodores in Area 3 who have taken on the position of expanding the fellowship in their respective areas together with Past International Commodore Frank McDonald and Past International Rear Commodore Max Cribb.

In October, 2005 I had the privilege of visiting our Port Lincoln Fleet in South Australia, for their Change of Watch, and to enjoy their IYFR fellowship.

Our Australian fleets have still kept up their inter-fleet visits, which give one and all a chance to get to know other IYFR members and to pick up some new ideas for their activities. NSW Fleet is also hopeful of a fleet visit from the New Zealand Fleets – and/or them visiting New Zealand.

We look forward to establishing more new fleets in the future as work is already underway in Western Australia – with the assistance of Regional Commodore Reg Willis – in Mandurah South of Perth Western Australia, for which I have had the pleasure of also visiting in March of this year.

We are still working on the possibility of a new fleet in Darwin.

Japan and China are still working well. Thank you to Kozo Kajino for his continued help and communications.

We look forward to another year under the guidance of IC Bill Robinson and the great team he has backing him up, who have worked tirelessly on the affairs of the Fellowship – and a year when Bill can further enjoy the efforts of his team.

Happy sailing to all!

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# IYFR Annual General Meeting

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## **Area 2 Report**

*Area 2 Commodore Gary Bruner*

Area 2 is progressing; Argentina Regional Commodore Guillermo Arteta is doing a great job. We chartered a new fleet in San Juan Islands and have a potential fleet in Florida. We also have interest in a new fleet in Portland. Southern California is working to increase fleets, and revitalize existing fleets. The Chicago fleet continues with its handicap cruise and youth exchange. The six fleets in the Canadian and US Pacific Northwest are planning their annual rendezvous in August. Clint Collier, IYFR Webmaster and Commodore of the San Francisco Fleet, has done an outstanding job with the website. With the new website we are getting more membership inquiries and have better communications. IYFR is a great fellowship and I encourage you all to get the word out about fellowships.

## **Website**

Webmaster Clint Collier expressed his thanks for the appreciation he has received from members regarding the website. He said that the Internet is the path to the future and is changing the way we work, and Rotary recognizes it. We will have an assistant webmaster, whose term overlaps administrations. Due to the technical requirements of the website, this will help with continuity between administrations and provide better support for our members. Please visit the website at [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net). There is a lot of information and news posted on the website and most importantly we have a Membership database accessible with members' own email address. Members can log in to the roster and update their own information. Instructions are on the website for User ID and Password. The real value of the website is to disseminate news to our members. Clint appealed to everyone to let him know what fleet events are going to happen in the future so that we can post news about the event to encourage members outside the host fleet to participate. As your fleets schedule events, send the word into the webmaster so we can post on the site so people will know about it in advance. Make it a useful tool for all our members.

## **Finance Report**

IC Bill Robinson recognized IYFR Treasurer Ingrid Bruner as a person to whom we owe a great amount of gratitude for handling the financial details for the PCE, AGM and PCC, in addition to her regular year round duties.

Ingrid stated that IYFR is solvent and that funds are managed appropriately to account for dues collected in Areas 1, 2 and 3, regalia sales and events. To continue with IC Bill's theme of transparency, sustainability and transferability, Ingrid noted that the IYFR records are maintained on Quick Books software which generates reports which can be sent electronically to the Finance Committee, and allow for electronic transmission of records to the next Administration. To that end, Ingrid has met with Annette Lewis who will be the Treasurer during Bryan Skinner's term. Also, a financial report for the 2005-2006 Rotary year will be reported in Rotafloat and posted in the Members section of the website (editorial note: please see report in this issue of Rotafloat). Please feel free to contact Ingrid if you have any questions regarding IYFR finances.

## **IYFR Rule Amendments**

IC Bill Robinson noted that RI President Carl-Wilhelm's speech during the Opening Session of the RI convention raised many of the same issues as IYFR is considering in adoption of these new rules.

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Chicago, IC Bill noted three administrative themes for his term of office: transparency, sustainability and transferability. The overall objective is to provide more accountability to IYFR members, and to provide a consistent and stable basis for operations to pass on to IVC Bryan Skinner and IRC John Milne. The Executive Committee has reviewed the IYFR rules in the context of these objectives and proposed revisions for consideration by the membership.

*A number of issues have driven amendments to the proposed rules, including:*

*Changes in the RI Code of Policies (COP) with regard to fellowships adopted by the RI Board in 2005;*

*Incorporation of IYFR in 2006 and our pending application for tax exemption;*

*Placing more financial responsibility in the hands of the Executive Committee, rather than on the International Commodore alone;*

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# IYFR Annual General Meeting

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*Operational realities prompted by increased use of the internet for communications, including event registration, regalia purchases and roster maintenance;*

*Reorganization of international bridge staff positions and titles to more accurately reflect how business is done and the duties of those bridge officers;*

*Need for clarification of eligibility for membership under the RI Code of Policies and IYFR Rules;*

*Written specifications and templates for IYFR regalia to allow future bridges to maintain uniform standards and have regalia produced around the world;*

*General revisions as necessary to reduce ambiguity and duplication;*

*Appointment of a Finance Committee to annually examine IYFR financial records and provide an independent report of its findings to the Executive Committee.*

*All Intellectual Property and internet rights and bank accounts to be owned in the name of IYFR.*

These amendments have been published in Rotafloat and have been on the website for review and comment. In response to comments from members and Rodney Davis, Bryan's legal advisor and the Executive Committee's further review, we have made minor edits to specifically note that IYFR is an independent not for profit corporation, that bank accounts be held in the name of IYFR, and made corrections for consistency and internal references.

John Milne moved adoption of the amended rules with edits, and it was seconded.

Marda Phillips, representing the Hawaii fleet, stated that they found that one month notice for proposing changes to the rules is not sufficient time for their fleet. They asked to amend section 12.2 of the Rules so that fleet members wishing to propose alterations, additions, or deletions from the Rules may do so by gaining a majority decision from a meeting of the originator's own fleet, whereupon the Fleet Secretary should submit proposals to the Chief of Staff not later than six months prior to an AGM in any year.

After discussion the amendment was approved.

The February 2006 revised RI Code of Policies states that "only Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors may be members of the Fellowships". In view of the RI COP, Brian Slater, GB&I, raised the question as to whether the proposed

amendments to the IYFR membership rules would allow longtime members of the fellowship, now retired, to stay members of IYFR. After much discussion, and confirmation by many that our fleets do not want to lose longtime fleet members because they have retired, it was agreed that the proposed rule amendments regarding designating former Rotary members, their spouses and spouses of deceased Rotarians as honorary (a RI term) members of IYFR or a specific fleet would allow us to retain our identity as IYFR, while adhering to RI guidelines and thereby not jeopardize our Rotary affiliation.

Clint Collier called for the question on the proposed amendments. They were approved.

## **Other Business**

In other Business, PIC Andrew Mitchell presented Ken Winter with a belated Past Commodores Ribbon. RC Arne Magnusson summarized the upcoming 2006 PCC events in Goteborg, Skarhamn and Marstrand, Sweden. IC Bill announced plans for the 2007 PCC to be held in the Washington State San Juan Islands after the RI convention in Salt Lake City.

In closing, IC Bill thanked the many IYFR members for their contributions and efforts to improve IYFR, and stated that it was a real pleasure for Katia and him to enjoy the friendships that they have made through the fellowship. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm

## 2007 PCE, AGM and PCC

Registration information for the following events will be posted in early October on the IYFR website at [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net) under "Fellowship News":

- Salt Lake City Pre Convention Event – Saturday evening June 16, 2007
- Salt Lake City Annual General Meeting Luncheon – Tuesday June 19, 2007
- Washington State San Juan Islands Post Convention Cruise – June 21-25, 2007





Cleeve Lock

They came, they saw and they conquered. When IC Bill Robinson and Katia came to visit Great Britain they won the hearts of all they met. IVC Bryan Skinner met them at Heathrow, and took them to his home, where after a short rest they received about 35 IYFR members from the Suffolk, Fenland and Broads Fleets, and even one couple from Auckland New Zealand. We had a most enjoyable BBQ supper, and Bill and Katia talked to everyone.

Following a good night's sleep recovering from the flight, they were taken to meet Rodney Davis, Commodore of the Thames Fleet and National Bridge Secretary, where they boarded Rodney's boat for a trip down the Thames. They went through Cleeve lock where three more boats from the Thames Fleet greeted them with horns sounding and ensigns dipped.

Then onward to the Swan Hotel at Streatley where everyone moored up for a lunch attended by 32 members of the fleet and their guests, including the District Governor of District 1090, David Buckland. A very enjoyable meal followed, greetings and kind words were exchanged and

Bill accepted a gift of a book of aerial photographs of the Thames from Rodney Davis, Fleet Commodore. Bill and Katia then left with Christopher Bishop and his wife Jane to stay with them for the night.

On the way, they stopped at the Royal Horticultural Gardens at Wisley and enjoyed walking in the extensive grounds and admiring the flowers. After a light supper Bill & Katia went with Christopher to the local pub where they sampled some English beers and had a quick lesson from the landlord on the main differences between them.

After an early start to get to the river Hamble on time, Bill and Katia were taken by a 50-ft motor yacht through the Solent, to Beaulieu River, mooring for lunch at the Master Builder Hotel in historic Bucklers Hard. The return journey went via Cowes, where they moored in the private marina of the Royal Yacht Squadron. They were met by a member of the Squadron and taken on a private tour of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

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In the evening a celebratory dinner was held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, where the Solent Fleet was joined by members of the Sussex Fleet. Solent Fleet Commodore Frank Chalstrey welcomed guests including GB & I Commodore Christopher Bishop and his imminent successor GB & I Vice Commodore Jenie Pressdee. A very welcome guest was Clint Collier, Commodore of the San Francisco Fleet and IYFR Webmaster.

Following Robinson's overnight stay with Geoff and Mollie Shaw, Christopher & Jane escorted them to Gravesend Rotary Club to meet members of the Medway Fleet. Bill gave a very interesting talk on IYFR and the importance of fellowships to Rotary International, and on his involvement with Rotary in Russia. They were joined by Bryan Skinner and, Bryan took them home for a quiet dinner and a restful evening. On the final morning, they had a speedy journey half way up the M1 motorway to meet their friend and President of RI's Flying Fellowship.

Of course it was not "goodbye" as we all met again in Copenhagen at the RI Convention and afterwards on the Post-Convention Cruise.

As the GB & I Commodore has changed we look forward to welcoming Bill and Katia back to England to meet the new Commodore.

*-Christopher Bishop, GB&I Commodore 2004-2006*



IYFR members at Royal Southern Yacht Club.



BBQ at Skinners.

## 2005-2007 International Bridge

**IYFR Executive Committee:** IC Bill Robinson | IVC Bryan Skinner | IRC John Milne

### **International Bridge Staff:**

Chief of Staff: George Futas

Administrator: Katia Robinson

Executive Secretary: Tom Kuhn

Webmaster: Clint Collier

Treasurer: Ingrid Bruner

Regalia: Roger Martindill

Public Relations: Brody Kunz

Rotafloat Editor: Sandy Anderson

Rotafloat Publisher: John Kilpatrick

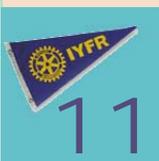
Legal Officer: John Spencer

Historian: Andrew Mitchell

Area 1 Commodore (Europe, Middle East, Africa): Bryan Skinner

Area 2 Commodore (The Americas): Gary Bruner

Area 3 Commodore (Asia, Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific): John Milne



# Rotary International Fellowship Committee AGM

June 13, 2006  
Copenhagen, Denmark

Excerpts from comments by:

Bill Robinson, International Commodore 2005-2007  
International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR)

*(Editorial Comment: PRIP's Cliff Dochterman, Frank Devlyn and Rick King, and IYFR IC Bill Robinson were asked to address the RI Fellowships AGM on issues of concern to RI Fellowships)*

Tin Tin Raschid asked me to comment on what makes for a successful fellowship. Although IYFR is the oldest and largest fellowship in Rotary, our fellowship is going through a time of transition. I just came from our IYFR AGM, where we had a very spirited discussion over adoption of new rules for the fellowship. We made very significant changes, in part due to the new RI Code of Policy for Fellowships, but also to deal with institutional issues that are necessary for any non-profit organization to function efficiently and protect its members. I will share some of the lessons we have learned, but I also want to briefly address what RI should and should not do with respect to the fellowships.

We can live with neglect, but we can not live with perceived hostility. The RI Board's adoption of policies requiring fellowships to have insurance or contractually agree to indemnify RI created an enormous amount of tension among the fellowships. Although those policies were repealed, the policy restricting membership to Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians and Rotaractors remains in effect, causing continuing concern about the relationship between the fellowships and Rotary, and requiring the fellowships to find creative ways to include retired Rotarians and others who have traditionally been a part of fellowship activities. RI wants to have it both ways – to deny that fellowships are part of Rotary, and require us to say so in our publications; and yet control our membership and enforce policies that are sometimes at odds with the inclusiveness and outreach of the fellowships.

The debate over liability and policy issues caused us to focus on legal and organizational issues. In 60 years, IYFR has become (in membership and structure) the equivalent of a Rotary District, yet far more diverse, with

90 fleets in 20 countries. As with a District, there is a structure to fellowship organization, websites, committees and protocols in order for the fellowship to function and have continuity from one administration to the next.

At our 2005 AGM in Chicago, I noted three administrative themes for my term of office: transparency, sustainability and transferability. The overall objective is to provide more accountability to fellowship members, and to provide a consistent and stable basis for operations to pass on to future leadership.

To implement these themes, we have taken the following actions:

1) *Adopted a sound budget policy and accounting software that is commonly used internationally, so that financial information can be easily shared and transferred.*

2) *Established a permanent global bank relationship that accommodates e-commerce – dues, events and regalia payment by credit card.*

3) *Built a new, powerful open source website that will meet fellowship needs and be easily maintainable by future administrations.*

4) *Required that all intellectual property ownership, e.g. name, website domain and software, be held in the name of IYFR, and not in the name of any individual or company.*

5) *Developed written specifications and templates for regalia so that it may be produced anywhere with consistent quality.*

6) *Set standards for membership consistent with RI Code and IYFR Rules.*

7) *In response to liability concerns, incorporated the fellowship.*

8) *Applied for tax exemption.*

At our AGM earlier this afternoon, we adopted rules implementing these and other actions. Those rules are posted on the IYFR website at: [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net)

With regard to the relationship between the fellowships and RI, we would first ask RI not to make it more difficult or impossible for the fellowships to function. I already mentioned the liability and insurance issues, and provisions in the Code of Policies that makes it difficult to include or work with people who do not fit the mold.

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On the positive side, there are actions that RI can and should take:

1) Give more than lip service to how fellowships benefit Rotary in membership growth and retention.

2) Promote fellowships at Zone and District conferences, assemblies and PETS. There should be no excuse for Presidents and DGs to not know of the existence of fellowships. There is one page in the RI Fellowships Handbook with regard to promotion of fellowships, which makes reference to a brochure on recreational and vocational fellowships for use at conferences. However, I know of no one who has seen the brochure at a District conference, or whether it is supported by RI.

3) Provide adequate space at RI conventions, including meeting rooms and spaces for fellowship board meetings.

4) Treat us fairly – It has been reported that 80% of the attendees at RI conventions go for fellowship. We pay our own way, including jacked up registration fees and hotels to subsidize other RI operations, yet young people (e.g. Scouts) and local Rotarians are not permitted into the fellowship area to visit without paying full RI registration fees, or even staff booths without paying a non-Rotarian exhibitor registration fee.

5) Give us an opportunity to be heard. Chairs of fellowships are ex-officio members of the Fellowships Committee, but if there are meetings or issues that concern us, we hear nothing of them until after the fact. Our only shot has been to attend this meeting once a year, listen to what has been done to us, or perhaps get a pat on the head, but seldom have time for open dialog.

Fellowships are important to Rotary, and everyone seems to recognize it. But we need to see a more cooperative outreach from Evanston that will enhance the visibility of fellowships in the Rotary World at the District level in the ways I mentioned, and in response to the suggestions that many of you have made.



## IYFR Income & Expense July 2005 through June 2006

	Jul '05 - Jun 06
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
AGM	3,995.00
Dues	
Fleet Dues 05/06	20,343.00
IM Dues 05/06	330.00
IM Dues 06-07	200.00
Total Dues	20,873.00
PCC	41,873.50
PCE	2,045.00
Regalia	6,127.61
Total Income	74,914.11
Gross Profit	74,914.11
Expense	
AGM 2006 expense	5,067.03
Bank Service Charges	
Bank Fees	14.00
Bankcard discount fee	695.70
Credit Card	1,131.92
Wire Transfer Fees	340.00
Total Bank Service Charges	2,181.62
Convention Booth 2006	197.68
Convention General 2006	1,234.30
Office Supplies	
Check Supply	86.49
Software	345.97
Office Supplies - Other	43.25
Total Office Supplies	475.71
PCC 2006 Expense	39,868.71
PCE 2006 Expense	1,916.35
Postage and Delivery	234.37
Public Relations	195.84
Regalia Purchase Expense	8,502.03
Web Site	751.00
Total Expense	60,624.64
Net Ordinary Income	14,289.47
Net Income	14,289.47

## IYFR Summary Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2006

	Jun 30, 06
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	81,229.91
Total Current Assets	81,229.91
TOTAL ASSETS	81,229.91
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	81,229.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	81,229.91

# EXPANDING THE FABRIC OF GOODWILL THAT SPANS AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER

What do the USA and Canada have in common, besides the world's longest undefended border? They have their National Holidays, only 4 days apart, celebrating their countries' creation. And, on the west coast of North America, they also share the wonderful cruising grounds of the San Juan Islands (US) and the Gulf Islands (Canada).

Last September, our International Commodore Bill Robinson, from Seattle, Washington (US), and Patrick Hunt, the Commodore of the Vancouver Island fleet, BC (Canada), were both by chance anchored in Winter Cove, Saturna Island. Wouldn't it be wonderful, they later thought, if the Pacific Northwest Region IYFR members from both countries could meet informally each year, not by chance but by design, to celebrate with each other their national holidays. So the plan was hatched to gather members of the fleets in Winter Cove in the Canadian Gulf Islands to celebrate Canada Day on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and then meet up in Friday Harbor in the US San Juan Islands to celebrate the American Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Winter Cove is home of the Saturna Island Canada Day Lamb BBQ which attracts hundreds of boats and their crews to this annual feast. The fun and fellowship was shared by 11 IYFR boats and their crews. Friday Harbor is home of the July 4<sup>th</sup> "Rotary Rock the Dock Party", organized and



Rafting up with fellow Rotarians in Winter Cove.

sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Juan Island. We danced and sang along with the "oldies but goodies music" then watched in awe the incredible fireworks display over the harbor.

Fantastic food, fellowship, fun, fabulous music, and fireworks expanded the Fabric of Goodwill between two countries. IYFR at its best.

Below is a picture essay of the fun and fellowship experienced at the first annual informal joint national holiday celebrations.

*-Patrick Hunt, FC Vancouver Island*

Below: The Dinghy dock. Right: Fellowship onboard.



# the IYFR WEBSITE



We continue our efforts to make the IYFR web site ([www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net)) a useful tool for fellowship members. Several significant improvements to our database functionality have been put in place since the Copenhagen convention and the last issue of *Rotafloat*, which highlighted the working of our web site.

■ The fellowship now has two web masters. In the future, each will serve four years, to ensure continuity and smooth transition of the website from the term of one IC to the next. The reason for this difference is the technical requirements of this position. The plan is for the IC to appoint an assistant web master, nominated by the IVC, halfway through the term of the current IC. This assistant web master will then take over as the web master when the IVC assumes the IC position. The old web master then remains “on board” as the assistant for one more year, at which point the then IVC nominates a new assistant. Thus, we will always have overlap on the web master position with the most experienced person staying available as the new web master learns the system.

- Two significant features have been added to the membership database functionality:
  - For all members, when you drill down to any fleet in the fellowship you will be offered the ability to view and print a complete roster of that fleet. The on-screen fleet display shows only basic information about the members of the fleet, giving the user a way to print a hard copy of the roster. When using this feature, set your printer to print in landscape mode, and, if the option is available, to print the page to “fit the page size.”
  - Those members with write access to a fleet (officers of the fleet as well as bridge officers with oversight responsibility for the fleet) will see the option to download the fleet’s records. This download produces a comma-delimited file (csv) that can either be saved on the user’s computer or opened directly by MS Excel, allowing these officers to use the database information for mailing labels or other local requirements.

These options are shown here for a person who has write access to the selected fleet.  
 -Clint Collier, Web Master

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "IYFR Membership - Netscape". The page header reads "International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians System Editing". Below the header are dropdown menus for "Area 2: The Americas", "USA California", and "San Francisco", along with a "Close Window" button and a "SOS" logo.

A section titled "You have authority to edit these staff positions" contains several "Edit Assignment" buttons for the following roles: Fleet Commodore (Clint COLLIER), Fleet Vice Commodore (Mark ROGERS), Fleet Rear Commodore (Remsen BARNARD), Fleet Secretary (Carole ROGERS), and Fleet Treasurer (Carole ROGERS). There is also an "Add New Member(s)" button.

To the right, under "Available Fleet Options", there are buttons for "Printable Fleet Roster" and "Download Fleet Roster".

At the bottom, a table lists members with columns for DELETE, Last Name, First Name, Rotary Club, City, e-Mail Address, Home Phone, Gender, and Position.

DELETE	Last Name	First Name	Rotary Club	City	e-Mail Address	Home Phone	Gender	Position
<input type="checkbox"/>	ALLEN	Jeffrey	San Rafael	San Rafael	<a href="mailto:jeff@mintowilkie.com">jeff@mintowilkie.com</a>	415 433 3485	M	FM
<input type="checkbox"/>	ANDERSON	Dave	Tahoe Douglas	Stateline	<a href="mailto:dander1013@msn.com">dander1013@msn.com</a>	755 558 1993	M	FM
<input type="checkbox"/>	AUGER	Phil	Santa Clara	Santa Clara	<a href="mailto:brdolbec@aol.com">brdolbec@aol.com</a>	408 243 2011	M	RC
<input type="checkbox"/>	BAKER	Charles	San Carlos	Los Altos	none	650 9688417	M	FM
<input type="checkbox"/>	BARNARD	Remsen	Walnut Creek	Walnut Creek	<a href="mailto:rcommodore5160@iyfrsf.org">rcommodore5160@iyfrsf.org</a>	925 939 6209	M	FRC
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRENINGER	Davis	Auburn	Roseville	<a href="mailto:dbreninger@pcwa.net">dbreninger@pcwa.net</a>	916 771 5685	M	FM
<input type="checkbox"/>	CASEY	Thomas	Martinez	Martinez	<a href="mailto:caseytravel@sbcglobal.net">caseytravel@sbcglobal.net</a>	925 228 7592	M	FM
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHUTE	Dianne	Marin Sunrise	Sausalito	<a href="mailto:dchute@marinmarket.net">dchute@marinmarket.net</a>	515 332 6086	F	FM

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual International Rendezvous of US and Canadian Fleets

2006

Vancouver Island,  
Canada



Sidney Group

It has become the largest gathering of IYFR members outside of Rotary's International Conference. Held annually the third weekend in August and alternating between locations in Canada and the United States, this year's rendezvous in Sidney, British Columbia had 95 attendees from eight fleets within six Rotary Districts. First started in 1983 as a goodwill gathering between the Seattle Rotary Mariners (USA) and Vancouver Island (Canada) fleets, it has expanded to encompass the Vancouver (City), Puget Sound, Cascade and San Juan Islands fleets.

The rendezvous was spearheaded by Patrick Hunt, Commodore of the Vancouver Island Fleet and newly appointed Regional Commodore of Canada West. He, along with fellow fleet members, flawlessly organized the three-day event handling reservations, coordinating moorage for 26 vessels, transportation, the caterer and events. On Friday, August 18, Rotarians began arriving in Sidney, a seaside town 25 km northeast of Victoria. The first evening featured a potluck social under a large tent on the docks. The next evening Rotarians boarded double decker buses bound for Capital City Yacht Club for dinner catered by Rotarian John Southwell. Afterward, we reboarded the buses for a trip to the world famous Butchart Gardens for their weekly fireworks extravaganza. The gardens were stunning. With hundreds of thousands of flowers in bloom and warm summer weather, the venue was a photographic paradise. The 30-minute fireworks show at twilight was spectacular. Orchestrated to music, it consisted of both land- and air-launched fireworks. For anyone visiting the gardens in the summer, the Saturday-night fireworks show is not to be missed! Sunday morning,

the Canadians sponsored a continental breakfast under the tent back on the docks.

Of the 95 attendees, several deserve extra recognition. IC Bill Robinson and Administrator/First Mate Katia attended, as well as other members of the International Bridge: George Futas, Brody Kunz, Ingrid Bruner, Roger Martindill and John Spencer, Area 2 Commodore Gary Bruner and US Pacific Northwest RC Dave Kelly. Other special guests included RC Guillermo and Monica Arteta and PIC's George Kent and Jack Keyzer. Guillermo is Commodore of the Rio de la Plata Fleet and Regional Commodore for South America. He and his wife were very impressed with the event and hope to duplicate it back home. We also had the Secretary of the Hawaii Fleet, Christel Yount, fly in for the weekend rendezvous.

Each year the rendezvous brings more people. It has become one of the highlights of the summer boating season for the Pacific Northwest Rotarians, bringing together old friends and allowing us to make new friends. For an event that has occurred annually for 24 years, it speaks volumes to how goodwill and camaraderie extend across borders. If you are interested in participating in next year's rendezvous—tentatively planned for Fisherman's Bay on Lopez Island (USA)—contact International Public Relations Chair, Brody Kunz at [kunzba@comcast.net](mailto:kunzba@comcast.net). You will be made most welcome, and that's a promise.

*-Brody & Chanda Kunz  
International Public Relations Chair*





The 2007 IYFR Post Convention Cruise, following the Rotary International convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, will take place in the Washington State San Juan Islands, with day cruises onboard boats of Rotary Mariners from the six US and Canadian Pacific Northwest IYFR fleets and overnight accommodations at resorts on shore for those without boats. The San Juan Islands, located in the northwestern most part of the United States, are part of a beautiful archipelago that includes the Canadian Gulf Islands. Cruising among the islands is in sheltered waters, with views of snow capped mountains, pastoral landscapes, wooded forests and an abundance of wildlife - bald eagles, deer, seals, otters and Orca whales.

The San Juan Islands comprise 172 named islands with fewer than 15,000 people. The San Juans enjoy an average of 247 annual days with sunshine and an average of 29 inches of rain per year, half the amount that Seattle gets. Temperatures rarely drop below 30 degrees Fahrenheit and rarely above 80 degrees. However, sunshine can be elusive in June, so we encourage everyone to bring rain gear and warm clothing. While the boating waters are 49 degrees (9 Celsius) year around, island hotels do have swimming pools, so pack your swimming suit.



Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>: Members should make travel arrangements to arrive in Seattle on Thursday June 21. An early arrival will allow for independent sightseeing. Night on your own in Seattle.

Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup>: The group will travel by the Victoria Clipper catamaran from Seattle to the Port of Friday Harbor, on the eastern side of San Juan Island, arriving before noon, allowing time for lunch and sightseeing prior to late afternoon fellowship on the docks, followed by dinner with boat hosts.

Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>: After breakfast with boat hosts, the fleet will depart Friday Harbor for a day of cruising and gunkholing among the islands. Lunch will be onboard or in an anchorage (skipper's choice). Boats will rendezvous at the Islander Resort on Lopez Island for more shoreside fellowship and dinner.

Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>: Following breakfast at the Lopez Islander Resort, the fleet will depart for Roche Harbor Resort on the northwestern side of San Juan Island. Lunch will be onboard or in a chosen anchorage en route. Roche Harbor, established in 1886, will be the venue for evening festivities with dockside fellowship, dinner ashore and ending with the famous Roche Harbor flag ceremony.

Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>: After breakfast at the resort, visitors may either return to Friday Harbor and on to Seattle on the afternoon sailing of the Victoria Clipper, or continue on their own to explore sights of the US and Canadian Pacific Northwest.

*-continued on page 18*

## *continued from page 17*

The registration form for the PCC and hotel and transportation booking information will be posted in early October on the IYFR website at [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net) under "Fellowship News." IYFR Treasurer Ingrid Bruner will be the events registrar, assisted by Great Getaway Travel in Friday Harbor, which will coordinate hotel and transportation bookings.

The San Juan Islands are surrounded by a multitude of travel opportunities and sightseeing: Seattle, the Olympic Mountains, Victoria and Vancouver Island, the beautiful Canadian Gulf Islands, the city of Vancouver, the Cascade Mountains and Mt. Rainier. For those able to extend their trip after the PCC, Great Getaway Travel will be able to assist you with your travel alternatives. Washington State and British Columbia ferries connect Friday Harbor with Seattle, Victoria and Vancouver, and there is regular seaplane service to popular destinations.

**International Luggage:** For those returning to Seattle immediately after the PCC, please arrange to leave international luggage at your hotel in Seattle prior to departure for Friday Harbor, and bring only a soft sided bag for the PCC. Dress is very casual in the islands, jeans are the norm day and evening. Pack your IYFR shirts, but leave jackets and ties. Be prepared for cold and warm weather; rain jacket, sweater, shorts and swimsuit. For members not returning to Seattle, arrangements may be made to store luggage in Friday Harbor.

For more information, the following websites will be helpful with your planning:

### General:

[www.experiencewashington.com](http://www.experiencewashington.com)  
[www.seattleattractions.com](http://www.seattleattractions.com)  
[www.visitsanjuans.com](http://www.visitsanjuans.com)  
[www.fridayharbor.com](http://www.fridayharbor.com)  
[www.lopezislander.com](http://www.lopezislander.com)  
[www.rocheharbor.com](http://www.rocheharbor.com)  
[www.anacortes.org](http://www.anacortes.org)  
[www.nwboat.com](http://www.nwboat.com)

### Transportation:

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries)  
[www.clippervacations.com](http://www.clippervacations.com)  
[www.kenmoreair.com](http://www.kenmoreair.com)  
[www.islandairporter.com](http://www.islandairporter.com)  
[www.susiesmopeds.com](http://www.susiesmopeds.com)

### Boat Chartering:

[www.anacortesyachtcharters.com](http://www.anacortesyachtcharters.com)  
[www.ABCYachtCharters.com](http://www.ABCYachtCharters.com)  
[www.nwexplorations.com](http://www.nwexplorations.com)

### Canada:

[www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com)  
[www.gulfislands.net](http://www.gulfislands.net)  
[www.victoriavisitorschoice.com](http://www.victoriavisitorschoice.com)  
[www.vancouver.com](http://www.vancouver.com)

