



ISSUE

65

September 2005



# 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.



Bill & Katia Robinson

## Message from the Commodore

I am honored to serve as International Commodore 2005-2007. I thank PIC Ferit Biren for all he has done for our fellowship during his term, and my wife Katia for her work and support for the past four years I have served on the International Bridge. I look forward to working with IVC Bryan Skinner and IRC John Milne.

At the AGM in Chicago, I said that I would continue PIC Ferit Biren's theme of "fellowship, service and fun." In addition to these objectives for our fellowship, I want to introduce an administrative theme of "transparency, sustainability and transferability," so that our efforts over the next two years may be of value to IVC Bryan Skinner and IRC John Milne during their terms at the helm. By transparency, I mean providing members with information on our fellowship's finances, and making certain that we have a budget based on current dues income. We will establish specifications and protocols for producing and distributing regalia, and ensure that software programs are owned by IYFR.

There have been changes in the way we communicate and distribute information so that our operating budget is sustainable from dues income alone. With that said, we can look at other potential revenue from commercial sources for other purposes,

an option raised by some of our members. However, we need to establish a policy as to whether and how IYFR may be involved in fundraising, or solicit advertising for publications and the website. This should include liability issues, use of funds, acceptability of copy, contract issues, and RI policy. I have appointed an Advisory Council comprised of Mariners who are not on the International Bridge, but who are active in their fleets and know the fellowship, who I can use as a sounding board on policy issues. Most Mariners I have talked with believe that fleets and IYFR are not for fundraising. Service projects on or off the water should be funded in the normal course through Rotary clubs. That position is not inconsistent with our focus on fun and fellowship; but service is part of what we do. There is so much we can do with our boats and members to support Rotary service committees and activities, without competing with Rotary by asking our members to contribute funds. If a fleet chooses to do a fund raising project, and other individuals and fleets wish to help, that is their choice. These and other issues can be sensitive, and the International Bridge needs to have a way to assess the diverse views of our members. We appreciate thoughtful

*-continued on page 2*

### Inside this issue

PIC George Kent 3

Charter of San Juans Island Fleet & Rendezvous 4

RI Convention 6

60 Years of IYFR 8

In Memoriam: Joseph Phillips 11

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 12

# Message from the Commodore

## *continued from page 1*

comments from the Advisory Council and all IYFR members to improve the fun and vitality of this great fellowship.

We are establishing banking relationships to accommodate e-commerce and our need to be able to accept dues and regalia payments by credit card. Just as we are developing a permanent website, IYFR will have bank accounts that can be easily transferred to successive IC's and provide continuity for administration of the fellowship. We are setting up IYFR accounts on commonly used software to better track revenue and expenses, support accountability, and allow electronic transfer of financial records to Bryan Skinner and his administration. Standardized accounting and banking is one of our goals for a sustainable and transferable IYFR.

We are also working to ensure that the new website that IYFR Webmaster Clint Collier is developing will be user friendly for our members, and will be the sole property of IYFR and easily transferable to the next administration. I have asked John Spencer, lawyer and FC of the Puget Sound Fleet, to be the Legal Officer for IYFR. John will work with Clint and me to ensure that IYFR domain addresses and all roster data, design and programming is secure property of IYFR.

The RI Board has adopted a new Code of Policies with regard to fellowships, and we need to become more sophisticated in the way we approach issues. RI recognizes the value of fellowships with respect to membership growth and retention, but want it both ways: on one hand fellowships are separate organizations and not part of RI, but we are required to follow RI policy. We went through quite an ordeal this past year when the RI Board adopted an amendment to the Code of Policies wherein the fellowships would have been required to have insurance or indemnify RI in the case of any losses. The financial burden would simply have destroyed the fellowships. We took the amendments on as a major policy issue, and the RI Board voted to rescind the policy prior to the convention in Chicago. However, the debate raised a number of serious issues that fellowships, and our executive committee need to deal with over the next months. The Policy is well thought out and provides more defined guidelines as to

how we deal with financial and other issues. We will need to accommodate those policies, and respond to issues that will ensure the long term viability of the fellowship, including incorporating the fellowship to provide additional protection for our membership.

With regard to regalia, we are developing written specifications for templates, size, color, material, trim, manufacturer, shipping and handling, etc. in order to standardize supply and quality from one administration to the next. This will allow for continuity in standard IYFR regalia, regardless of where it is produced. Regions and fleets will continue to produce customized regalia for their areas consistent with RI policy with respect to use of the Rotary logo.

When I was elected International Rear Commodore four years ago, I thought of service in the context of what I do. Most of my work is in the former Soviet Union, where I worked for five years before I became a Rotarian in 1994. One of my objectives then, as now, is to initiate fleets in underserved new Rotary areas of the world. PIC Ferit has done a wonderful job in doing that during his term at the helm, having chartered 11 new fleets, including in Bulgaria and Ukraine. I am pleased to report that, in addition to the newly chartered San Juan Islands Fleet in Washington State, USA, in August, we will be chartering three new fleets in November; one in French Polynesia and two in New Zealand. We are also working with interested Rotarians in Uruguay, South Florida USA and South Africa to develop new fleets, and have developed a new guide on "How to Form an IYFR Fleet." This document, along with the IYFR brochure and rules will be posted on the IYFR website for reference.

As IYFR enters its 60<sup>th</sup> year of fellowship, we are working to make the flagship of Rotary fellowships transparent, sustainable and transferable. I am pleased that IVC Bryan Skinner, IRC John Milne and I are of one mind on these matters and share the same principles and vision for IYFR. We will do our best to manage the organization with respect, integrity and financial soundness, and wish you all smooth sailing into the second century of Rotary.

*-Bill Robinson*

*International Commodore 2005-2007*

### *IYFR Contact Information*

General Information: [info@rotarymariners.net](mailto:info@rotarymariners.net)

Registration for IYFR June 2006 events in Denmark/Sweden: [treasurer@rotarymariners.net](mailto:treasurer@rotarymariners.net)

Regalia orders: [regalia@rotarymariners.net](mailto:regalia@rotarymariners.net)

Send Rotafloat articles and photos to: [rotafloat@rotarymariners.net](mailto:rotafloat@rotarymariners.net) | Website: [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net)



# PIC George Kent



*50 years  
of  
service  
above  
self!*

PIC George Kent and PIC Jack Keyzer.

Two thousand five is a milestone year for PIC George Kent of the Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Rotary Club and Vancouver Island IYFR Fleet. George, Past President of the Victoria Club, celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> year with Rotary. When he was International Commodore (1989-1991), George and his wife Gwen traveled extensively visiting IYFR fleets around the world. They were a wonderful, likeable cheerleader team for IYFR fellowship and Rotary. George has also been a great fund raiser for Rotary; George organized and led a number of major fundraisers for his club by putting together men's and mixed choirs. His efforts raised more than \$100,000 over the years to support Polio Plus and cancer research.

George and a group of IYFR members from the Vancouver Island Fleet (Victoria B.C. area) began a wonderful tradition in 1983, when they decided to replace the dinghy dock at English Camp on San Juan Island, located on the US side of Haro Strait. A large powerboat had tied up to the dock, destroying the dinghy dock in the process. Vancouver Island Rotary

Mariners came to the rescue. They built a replacement dock, towed it some distance across Haro Strait, and installed it at English Camp. The call was put out to the Seattle Rotary Mariners (Seattle #4) to join in on the dedication ceremony. That meeting resulted in a 23 year tradition of annual rendezvous, hosted in alternate years by the Canadian and American fleets. This year's annual rendezvous had 35 boats and 86 Mariners, with an expansion from the original Seattle #4 and Vancouver Island fleets, to include Puget Sound, Vancouver (city), Cascade and San Juan Islands fleets. What a great international fellowship!

PIC George expresses total commitment to IYFR, all the way to his license plate "IYFR." When George gave up driving last year, he offered his special car license plates to his long-time friend PIC (1993-1995) Jack Keyzer, who gladly accepted.

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, George celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in the company of IYFR members committed to continuing his legacy of friendship and service in Rotary.





Above: Many of the 23 new fleet members are not pictured because they were out doing what good Mariners do in August in the Pacific Northwest- boating.

## **6 fleets join annual rendezvous**

Six fleets joined in the 23rd annual rendezvous of the Canadian Vancouver Island and US Seattle Rotary Mariners fleets. The rendezvous, hosted in alternate years by the Canadian and American fleets, was held in Friday Harbor, Washington on San Juan Island. This year's rendezvous, held August 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, marks the largest gathering of Rotary Mariners from Washington State and British Columbia. 86 plus attendees from five Rotary Districts onboard over 35 boats, enjoyed a weekend to celebrate fellowship, boating, Rotary and to help charter the new San Juan Islands Fleet.

The rendezvous began Friday August, 19<sup>th</sup> with a fellowship potluck on the dock at the Port of Friday Harbor. It was a relaxing way to meet new Mariners and renew old friendships.

Saturday evening, the San Juan Islands Fleet charter ceremony and dinner were held at the San Juan Vineyards Winery. Mariners enjoyed wonderful fellowship, sunny skies, warm temperatures, and as if on cue, a fly by of Canadian geese in perfect V formation precisely at the conclusion of the fleet chartering. The opportunity to sample local vineyard wines and enjoy a delicious salmon and chicken barbeque dinner in the garden setting of the vineyard was very special. Many thanks to Vineyard owner, Rotarian and new San Juan Islands fleet member Yvonne Swanberg, who graciously opened her beautiful venue for the event, and donated the wine tasting proceeds to the San Juan Rotary Club Foundation.

The San Juan Islands, located in northwest Washington State, are a beautiful area for boating, especially with their close proximity to the equally beautiful neighboring Canadian Gulf Islands. This area draws Mariners from far and wide, many

*-continued on page 5*



*continued from page 4*

who keep their boats in the islands. Hence, the new fleet not only has members from the local area, but from as far away as the state of Colorado.

International Commodore Bill Robinson officiated and presented the IYFR Charter to San Juan Islands Commodore Jack McKenna. The Seattle, Cascade, Puget

Sound, Vancouver Island, and Vancouver fleets welcomed the new San Juan Islands fleet into the oldest fellowship in Rotary, and presented the fleet with a ship's bell for fleet meetings, flags and burgees and a specially designed fleet life ring. Welcome the San Juan Islands Fleet as the 89<sup>th</sup> fleet in IYFR!

Left: Vancouver Island FC Dan Kelly, San Juan Islands FC Jack McKenna and IC Bill Robinson.  
Below: 6 fleets rendezvous.



## August 2006 Rendezvous Invitation

The great tradition between the Canadian and US

Pacific Northwest fleets will continue with next year's August rendezvous, hosted by the Vancouver Island Fleet, scheduled for the Butchart Gardens area near Victoria, B.C. All IYFR Mariners are invited to attend. If you are looking for a great cruising adventure, and would like to participate in next years rendezvous, contact International Public Relations Officer Brody Kunz at [kunzba@comcast.net](mailto:kunzba@comcast.net). British

Columbia cruising is world class!



# Celebrating Rotary's Centennial



IYFR members attending the RI convention in Chicago in June 2005 enjoyed several great IYFR fellowship events. A pre-convention sail and barbeque organized by Chicago FC Phill Klein on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup>, was a resounding success. Chicago fleet members took IYFR members out sailing on Lake Michigan. This was followed by a delightful barbeque dinner held at the Burnham Park Yacht Club. The pre-convention event was so popular that it appears that it has started a tradition for future conventions.

The Rotary Centennial Parade on Saturday was a lot of fun! Those of us in the parade wondered, with so many Rotarians participating in the parade, whether there would be anyone left to observe the parade. To our delight, the parade streets were lined with thousands of cheering Rotarians. Many thanks to John De Keyzer, of the Chicago fleet, for arranging the IYFR float and coordinating Mariner participation.

The Annual General Meeting and luncheon was held on Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> at Fulton's on the River, a lovely setting with great views and a delicious meal.

The IYFR booth in the RI House of Friendship gave us all an anchor during the convention and was a great meeting place to rekindle friendships, make new friends and grow IYFR.

The Post Convention Cruise for Rotary's 100<sup>th</sup> birth-



Top: Sailing and the Chicago skyline. Above: The IYFR float.

day convention was a two day Celebration of Chicago's Waterfront. During the two days we had seven exciting events with some free time in between for all of us to enjoy the fantastic Chicago downtown and waterfront.

Both days began with a breakfast at the *Chicago Athletic Association*. This is where Rotary One meets and where it has met for almost its entire life. The building faces Chicago's new *Millennium Park* which is fantastic in its own right.

-continued on page 7



*continued from page 6*

After breakfast, we embarked on the day's adventures. The first day, we boarded the tall ship *Windy* for a three hour sail on Lake Michigan out in front of Chicago's dramatic skyline.

After coming in from our sail, we walked across Navy Pier for a lovely dinner at the *Riva* restaurant. A great end to a grand day.

On Friday, after breakfast at the *Chicago Athletic Association*, we walked up Michigan Avenue to join the *Chicago Architecture Association* cruise and architecture tour on the Chicago River. This was a fascinating tour of the architecture of the city and of the river that established

the location for Chicago.

The afternoon was spent at the *Shedd Aquarium* on the waterfront. The *Shedd* is one of the world's great aquariums where we enjoyed the Pacific White Sided Dolphin show, as well as displays of fish from around the world.

Finally, we finished the cruise with a lovely dinner at *Harry Caray's* famous restaurant. Harry Caray was a long time baseball broadcaster in Chicago and his restaurant is one of the most popular attractions in Chicago. We said our goodbyes and celebrated the change of command as Commodore Bill Robinson relieved Commodore Ferit Biren of the responsibility for our fellowship. Thanks to Ferit and Bill for all their hard work, and fair winds and following seas to both of them.



Top: Parade Lead. Above: Left to right- Ingrid Bruner (USA), Otto Rieve (Canada), Tine and Evert van der Stroom (Netherlands), Katia Robinson (USA) and Sevinc Kuyas (Turkey). Right: Dolphins jumping. Bottom: Mariners on the tall ship 'Windy.'



# Celebrate 60 Years of IYFR

**PRE-CONVENTION EVENT** Saturday June 10, 2006



Above: Pacific Mermaid

Past International Commodore Ken and Bente Winter, from New Zealand, will have their beautiful 105 foot M/V Pacific Mermaid in Copenhagen during the RI convention in June 2006. They have graciously offered to host a pre-convention event (PCE) onboard. It was obvious from the rousing success of the PCE in Chicago, that a pre-convention meet and greet event is most welcome.

Watch for more details in the December issue of Rotafloat. The event will be held from about 6pm until 9pm on Saturday June 10, 2006. Space is limited. Sign-up by sending your reservation to: [treasurer@rotarymariners.net](mailto:treasurer@rotarymariners.net)

Cost will be 30 USD per person.

## Post Convention Cruise Sweden June 15-19, 2006

The PCC 2006 will take place along the Swedish West Coast sailing on board boats of Rotary Mariners of the Skaw Fleet in the beautiful archipelago north of Gothenburg. The route is in sheltered waters and should accommodate all, even the less pruned sailors.

### 15 June

The group goes by train from Copenhagen to Gothenburg, 3 1/2 hours, and is received by their hosting families. This evening is based on home hospitality with accommodation at respective hosts home/yacht.

### 16 June [Total distance about 30 Nm]

Breakfast at hosts homes. Leave respective departure marinas for arrival at the island Klädesholmen, a typical fisherman's village. En route each crew will have lunch on board or in a chosen harbor en route. Upon arrival at final destination, we will spend some time together walking the islands and view the nature and tell about the historical events in less friendly days.

Evening will include full famous west coast meal at the equivalent of a local tavern, where we might be joined by more Rotarians eager to party.

Sleeping will be on board (or similar arrangements).

### 17 June [Total distance about 25 Nm]

Breakfast on board respective yacht, then we head a bit further north to Skärhamn where we will visit the local village, and the very famous and the one and only Nordic Water Color Museum. After the museum visit and tour of the village, we will eat on board the yachts, and then slowly drift south through an area of natural beauty. After about two hours at sail, we will reach a fortified island that once was a quarantine camp and this will be the destination for the day.

After a welcome drink in the harbor we will dress for the real treat, "The Viking party".

In the cellars of the fortress we will experience the real life of festive Viking teams, as long as

-continued on page 9



# Celebrate 60 Years of IYFR

*continued from page 8*

you can muster it! The night is ours.

Most likely we will have more, non sailing Rotarians, participating in this party since it is a rather unique festivity.

## **18 June [Total distance about 20 Nm]**

We will head further south towards our homeport, Gothenburg, after a long breakfast suitable to smooth the soul after the Viking party the night before.

Leaving the fortress silhouette behind, we will head for the northern archipelago of Gothenburg where we will enter one of the many small harbors for a walk in the unique environment and have lunch onboard.

Later in the evening we will stay in one of the major city yacht harbors where we will have easy access to the evening dinner. We have ordered nice weather and a long night never to forget. We can either sleep on board or at the homes of the host families whichever turns out to be most convenient.

## **19 June**

Post Convention Cruise 2006 concludes and it is time to say farewell.

Cost: 700 USD per person Email reservation request to: [treasurer@rotarymariners.net](mailto:treasurer@rotarymariners.net)

Please register early to assist with planning. (Thanks to Arne Magnusson and his team for planning the 2006 PCC!)

## **IYFR Hotel – Copenhagen, Denmark**

### **RI Convention June 11-14, 2006**

Hotel du Nord Copenhagen  
Colbjornsensgade, 14  
1652 Copenhagen, Denmark  
(+45) 33 22 44 33

IYFR has made arrangements for a block of 20 double rooms June 8 to 15, 2006 at the Hotel du Nord Copenhagen for the RI Convention. The Hotel du Nord is located in the heart of Copenhagen, only a few minutes walk from the Tivoli Gardens.

Reservations, on a first come first served basis, may be made up until **December 1, 2005**, by contacting Gill Nissen of Delta of Scandinavia via email or fax. Please ensure that your message references: "IYFR – June 2006" and includes your name(s), room type, arrival and departure dates.

Gill Nissen  
Delta of Scandinavia A/S  
[gill@delta-scandinavia.com](mailto:gill@delta-scandinavia.com)  
Tel: (+45) 33 31 12 01 Fax: (+45) 33 25 16 37

Rates per day, per double room, including breakfast, service and taxes are: DKK 1600 (approximately 260 USD). A few rooms at du Nord can be singles, for which the price is DKK 1110 per night including breakfast.



Gill Nissen will confirm your reservations and send a voucher confirming the registered booking. Reservations must be made by December 1, 2005. There is no deposit required at time of reservation, however full payment is due no later than February 1, 2006.

*-continued on page 10*

## **Annual General Meeting and Luncheon Copenhagen, Denmark**

**I  
Y  
F  
R**

The IYFR AGM and luncheon will be held in Copenhagen at the Royal Danish Yacht Club (RDYC) on Tuesday June 13, 2006. Fellowship will begin at noon, with luncheon and meeting to follow. Cost will be 45 USD per person. Send your reservation request to:

[treasurer@rotarymariners.net](mailto:treasurer@rotarymariners.net).

**Here are terms from Delta of Scandinavia:**

Payment can be made by SWIFT transfer (DABADKKK, IBAN DK1430003198040266), or by TRAVELEX or Ruesch International. For payment by SWIFT, please add DKK 50 per payment for bank costs. We also accept American Express, Mastercard and Visa, but if you choose to pay by credit card, you must add 5.5% to the total to cover the fees to the credit card companies.

Our address is: Delta of Scandinavia A/S, Vesterbrogade 35, DK-1620 Copenhagen V, Denmark. Our bank: Danske Bank, Copenhagen Account name: Delta of Scandinavia A/S

**Cancellation and/or changes:**

After 01 FEB 2006 any changes ( new dates, cancellation etc.) are subject to a handling fee of DKK 200.

Cancellation received by us not later than 01FEB 2006 will result in a full refund less DKK 200.

Cancellations received by us after 01FEB, but before 31MAR 2006 will refund 75% of the paid amount less DKK 200.

Cancellations received by us after 31MAR, but before 01MAY 2006 will refund 50% of the paid amount less DKK 200.

There will be no refund in the event of cancellation after 01MAY 2006.

**International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians**



**THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS**  
**INCOME & FUNDS / EXPENDITURE SUMMARY**  
 For The Period From 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2005 (closing date: 31.Aug.2005)

TABLE 2

	INCOME & FUNDS / EXPENDITURES				
	IN TRL	IN EURO (1)	converted to USD (2)	IN USD	TOTAL (USD)
<b>I. FUNDS (BEGINNING BALANCE)</b>					<b>31.781,67</b>
Transferred from Ex IC			-	31.000,00	<b>31.000,00</b>
Bank account closing balances transferred			-	781,67	<b>781,67</b>
<b>II. INCOME</b>					<b>111.942,66</b>
Other Income (Payments made to US Account)				28.783,05	<b>28.783,05</b>
Dues - 2001/2002	-		-	10,00	<b>10,00</b>
Dues - 2002/2003	-	-	-	2.080,00	<b>2.080,00</b>
Dues - 2003/2004	-	-	-	23.380,00	<b>23.380,00</b>
Dues - 2004/2005	-	-	-	22.619,31	<b>22.619,31</b>
Payer not determined				840,00	<b>840,00</b>
Regalia pre-paid shipping income				374,00	<b>374,00</b>
Sponsor Income	-	-	-	1.000,00	<b>1.000,00</b>
Interest Income (Turkey + USA) (including 17 USD paid by IC Biren)*	-	-	-	612,49	<b>612,49</b>
Foreign exchange difference income				14,81	<b>14,81</b>
Regalia Sales	-	-	-	32.229,00	<b>32.229,00</b>
Total Regalia Sales (Net)	-	-	-	35.470,08	<b>35.470,08</b>
Regalia Receivables	-	-	-	3.241,09	<b>3.241,09</b>
<b>III. TOTAL INCOME &amp; FUNDS (I+II)</b>				<b>143.709,52</b>	<b>143.724,33</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
IC Allowance				10.000,00	<b>10.000,00</b>
Bank Fees / Transfer Charges (NET) Turkey & USA	626,00	15,25	466,43	571,60	<b>1.038,03</b>
Rotafloat publishing & posting expenses	13.092,52	-	9.469,47	-	<b>9.469,47</b>
Gifts	94,40	-	904,09	-	<b>904,09</b>
Payments made for AGM	-	-	-	26.221,20	<b>26.221,20</b>
Additional Chicago Expenses				1.447,32	<b>1.447,32</b>
Web Design	8.273,40	-	5.935,23	-	<b>5.935,23</b>
Regalia Purchases of Turkey & USA	17.180,16	-	16.357,94	-	<b>16.357,94</b>
Expenses made by new treasury of IC Bill Robinson				288,25	<b>288,25</b>
Other Regalia Sales Expenses (3)	5.323,60	-	3.858,49	-	<b>3.858,49</b>
Other Expenses (printing postcards, tickets, receipts, office supplies, etc.)	1.267,00	-	867,65	-	<b>867,65</b>
<b>IV. TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>45.857,08</b>	<b>15,25</b>	<b>37.859,28</b>	<b>28.528,37</b>	<b>76.387,65</b>
<b>V. NET INCOME &amp; FUNDS OVER EXPENSES (III-IV)</b>					<b>67.336,67</b>

(1) € parity used: \$1 = € 1,1763 as of 10.10.2003

(2) All items have been translated by using historical exchange rates

(3) Regalia Sales Expenses include: Postage, custom duty etc.

**Note:**

\*US\$ 17 interest has been paid by IC Ferit Biren on March 26, 2004

Submitted by Ertan Ozdemir, IYFR Treasurer 2003-2005



# In Memoriam

## IYFR Past International Commodore Joseph Warren Phillips Junior 1935-2005



From left to right: PIC Frank McDonald, PIC Joe Phillips, PIRC Max Cribb, PIC Ken Winter, IPIC Ferit Biren, IC Bill Robinson and PIC Andrew Mitchell.

Joe enjoyed a good life and excelled in whatever endeavor with which he chose to get involved. He grew up in Hawaii and became an Eagle Scout; scouting is where Joe and I met and became life long friends. After receiving a high school diploma from Roosevelt High School in Honolulu, Joe went on to the University of Illinois graduating in 1957 as a distinguished military graduate with a degree in Business Marketing. Joe then served his country as a B-47 Air Force bomber pilot. Upon returning home to Hawaii he met, romanced and married Marda Kay Heffner in 1963. Joe and Marda have three daughters and six grandchildren.

**Rotary:** Joe was a Rotarian for the last quarter century. During the first 17 years he was a member of the Rotary Club of Waikiki, where in 1994-95 he was a director and was voted Rotarian of the Year. During this period he was also district 5000 Fellowship Chairman for four years. Late in 1995 he recruited some 20 of 44 members (myself included) and became charter president of The Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunset, Hawaii's first dinner club. With only 3½ months remaining in the judging year for Hawaii District 5000, the new Sunset club won a 1<sup>st</sup> place award for Youth Service and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Vocational Service. Later Joe went on to be a Charter Member and assist in the formation of The Diamond

Head Rotary Club, the second dinner club in Honolulu.

**The International Fellowship of Bridge Playing Rotarians [ IFBPR ]:** After playing bridge informally with other yachting Rotarians for several years following boating events, Joe started the Hawaii Bridge Playing Rotarians in 1993. In 1996, with some 18 Hawaii members, he got approval from RI to activate the world bridge playing fellowship and was elected Charter President. By July 1999, over 100 members were enjoying International Rotary "fun bridge" in their communities. Since then the Fellowship has expanded to include international tournaments via the internet.

**The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians [ IYFR ]:** Joe was asked to join IYFR in 1985. He became the Hawaii Fleet Commodore in 1988, increased local fleet activities, started annual fleet exchanges, and recruited over 40 new members. He was appointed International Regional Rear Commodore for Hawaii/California.

In 1995 he was elected to the International bridge of IYFR as Rear Commodore of the fellowship. In June 1999 Joe was elected to a two-year term as International Commodore. During his six years on the International Bridge Joe made a point of visiting every fleet he could, which was all but a few. In addition he home hosted and / or took many, many IYFRians on an afternoon sail off sunny Waikiki.

As one can see Joe had a full plate during the last ten years of his life, but not so full that he couldn't find time to sail on Saturdays and assist me during the last 5 years with Hawaii Fleet matters. Joe lived a full speed ahead life doing the things he liked best — Rotary, Sailing, playing Bridge and traveling. That is why he went to the Rotary Convention in Chicago, even though he was weak and knew he might not make it home. He had jobs to do for the IYFR meeting and booth and friends to see one more time. Aloha my good friend until we meet again.

-Alan T. Sanborn  
Commodore Hawaii Fleet



# MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting

**21 June 2005**  
**Fulton's on the River**  
**315 N. La Salle St.**  
**Chicago, Illinois USA**

## Welcome:

A wonderful hour of fellowship was enjoyed prior to the welcome by Master of Ceremonies and International Vice Commodore Elect, Bryan Skinner at 12:50pm. Bryan welcomed 160 IYFR members and mates, and congratulated them for coming all the way to Chicago to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary and 59 years of IYFR. Bryan welcomed Past International Commodores, Joe Phillips, (Hawaii, USA), Bob Stuart (Florida, USA) and Andrew Mitchell, (England).

Jim White, Past Fleet Commodore of the Chicago Fleet welcomed attendees to Chicago, a great place for Mariners, and presented the invocation.

Past International Commodore, Bob Stuart, 1958-59, gave a brief history of IYFR, from its start in 1947 in Great Britain, to IYFR being the first of over 80 fellowships now recognized by RI, and to the expansion of IYFR fleets in more than 20 countries.

IC Ferit Biren then led a toast to Rotary International, for 100 years of Rotary, and for all members of IYFR.

## Annual General Meeting:

The business meeting got underway at 2:15pm.

Apologies and greetings were received from PICs George Kent, Frank McDonald, Ken Winter and Bert Collins, and from Richard Hughes and Chris Bishop, Commodore of GB&I.

John Milne, International Rear Commodore Elect, called for the approval of the minutes of the last AGM in Osaka, in June 2004. The minutes were accepted as written.

## Commodore's Report:

IC Ferit Biren saluted the attending Past International Commodores, Joe Phillips, Andrew Mitchell, Bob Stuart, and all other current and past fleet commodores, club presidents, District Governors and mates of the IYFR flagship of fellowships.

IC Ferit reviewed the objectives of Rotary: encourage and foster the ideal of service; encourage and foster the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; encourage and foster the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service; all objectives for which IYFR is a wonderful medium.

Summarizing accomplishments during his two years at the helm of IYFR, IC Biren reported that IYFR has 11

new fleets, for a total now of 88 fleets around world. IC Biren recognized members in attendance at the AGM who were representing some of the new fleets. They included representatives from the Cascade Fleet (USA), Delta Fleet (Argentina), Gocek Fleet (Turkey), Rome Fleet (Italy), Varna Fleet (Bulgaria), Crimea Fleet (Ukraine), and the Swiss Fleet.

IC Biren thanked the IYFR Regalia Officer, Sevinc Kuyas and the IYFR Treasurer, Ertan Ozdemir for their good job in sales of regalia and collection of dues.

IC Biren commented on the Rotary code of policies, which states that fellowships may use electronic means instead of conventional printing to issue their newsletters, which for IYFR is Rotafloat. The past two years have been a transitional period from printing to making publications available via email. Regalia items were held in supply throughout the year. There have been problems with the website, for which he apologized for the inconvenience, but assured members that the website is being improved and will become a very friendly website.

IC Biren extended his best wishes for our fellowship for many years to come, with more friendship connections, and further expansion of IYFR around the world.

## Area II Report:

IVC Bill Robinson reported on Area 2, North and South America, with 20 active fleets. We have had quite a time of transition, particularly over the past 18 months. We are implementing IC Ferit's plan for a "distributed management system." What this means as a practical matter, is that individual Areas of the world have had to take on responsibilities that were formally centralized and handled by the International Bridge. I think with the growth of the Fellowship, this was a good move, but it does shift responsibility to the regions and to the fleets and Areas. This includes responsibility for dues billing and collection, management and maintenance of the roster, and many of the other things that have to do with the day to day functions of the Fellowship. We have had issues, particularly in the Americas, where we have large numbers of Independent Members who were "orphaned," and we have not had an easy way of managing them as a group, or in maintaining communications. We are looking forward to having a modernized system on the website, and distribution lists for better communications with Independent Members. The problem with the website is going to take some time to recover; we ask for your patience, and thank you for the extra efforts that are going to be needed to rebuild the roster data.

Because of this shift in management responsibility, we have gone to a system of appointing Area Commodores. Each of the three International Bridge Officers has oversight responsibility for his area of the world. It is difficult for International Bridge officers, particularly the IC, to fulfill their international

*-continued on page 13*



## *-continued from page 12*

responsibilities, under the new management system and at the same time take care of the day to day issues. Gary Bruner of the Cascade Fleet, and mate Ingrid, have been terrific supporters of IYFR, and very responsive to member needs. I have appointed Gary as my Area 2 Commodore. Those of you from the Americas will be working with Gary directly in terms of maintaining communication with fleets and dealing with administrative matters.

When IYFR adopted new rules in Osaka in 2004, the rules provided for terms for Regional Commodores, and those terms are up. I ask that Fleet Commodores provide me with nominations of active members you think would be suitable Regional Commodores for your respective regions, and who will be responsive and take on these new administrative responsibilities. The recent Area 2 charters that Ferit mentioned, the Delta fleet, formed by RC Guillermo Arteta, and the Cascade Fleet that Brody Kunz put together with 55 members from 17 clubs, are great examples of what can be done when one person decides to make it happen.

Fleet activities, on and off the water, have continued to grow. I am pleased to see more service activities. Newport Harbor and Texas Fleets do waterway clean-ups; the Chicago Fleet takes out youth exchange students; San Francisco has a project with the Tall Ships and youth training; Lake Ontario Fleet with Easter Seals support for kids; and Tampa Bay with gifts for needy children and a raffle to benefit children. My home fleet in Seattle, has been involved with Seattle's 100 year old tradition of Opening Day of Boating Season. This year, in addition to the Seattle Rotary Mariners, we had boats from the Puget Sound and Cascade Fleets join us in representing Rotary among 380 boats in the Opening Day parade. The parade course is lined by thousands of boats and 250,000 people. This has been a terrific opportunity to publicize Rotary and the Polio Plus program with banners on our boats. If you have Opening Day events in your areas, I would certainly encourage you to find a way for your fleet to participate.

The next major Pacific Northwest event will be a 5 fleet US and Canada rendezvous, at which we will charter a 6th Pacific Northwest fleet, the San Juan Islands Fleet. The San Juan Islans Rotary Club was chartered 2 years ago, and now that new Rotary Club will provide the core of the newest fleet in Area 2. It is going to be a great spot to do make-ups, and we look forward to the event.

### **Area III Report:**

This report is presented by IRC elect John Milne on behalf of IRC Max Cribb, who unfortunately had to withdraw his position on the international bridge due to health reasons.

The 2004-05 year has been one of growth and expansion for Area 3.

We now have 7 Regions containing 18 Fleets covering the four countries of Australia, China, Japan and New Zealand, with nearly 600 members.

In Australia there are 4 Regions, with 10 Fleets in excellent shape. For a country of just 20 million people, we are very proud of our relatively high per capita

membership. The highlight of the past year was the formation of the Victoria Fleet with 38 new members flying the flag of friendship. We look forward to future expansion into Darwin in the Northern Territory, and Hobart in Tasmania.

The regions of Japan, New Zealand and China have been sailing their own course, at their own speed. Hopefully we will be able to increase the number of Fleets in the SE Asia Region, particularly in the Philippines and Indonesia where there are currently a number of members-at-large. I issue a challenge to our New Zealand friends to look at the possibility of another Fleet in that wonderful sea-faring nation.

It has been a pleasure working with IC Ferit for the past two years and I thank him for all he has done to lift the profile of IYFR, to bring us into the modern age of electronic communication, and generally holding a steady helm of this great organization. I congratulate him and commend him on a most excellent job.

It was with a heavy heart and much regret that I tendered my resignation to the International Bridge last April, and wish IVC Nominee Bryan Skinner and the new IRC Nominee my warmest congratulations. May the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians continue to grow and strengthen, and may the fun and friendship which started 58 years ago in England, continue to grow from strength to strength all over the world. Happy sailing in the spirit of Rotary Fellowship - Max Cribb

### **Area I Report:**

IC Biren asked Bryan Skinner to give the report for Area I.

Bryan stated that this is only the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM that he has attended, but each time he has been quite overwhelmed by the hospitality of the host Fleets, and the international friendships which have been made possible.

Area 1 makes up more than 54 percent of total membership of IYFR; GB&I alone being almost 15 percent of the total. However, with 13 countries, 3 of them new - Bulgaria, Ukraine and Switzerland - divided into 9 regions, including the new Balkans region, and with 46 fleets, there is great variation in all their activities and nationalities. In the two years that Ferit Biren as been at the helm, Ferit has visited almost every country, and created 8 new fleets in Europe alone: Rome, Gocek, Mudanya, Burgaz, Varna, Crimea, Switzerland, and Lake Constance. What a fantastic effort by IC Biren. This has resulted in there now being more than 1330 members in Area 1.

Many of the activities in our region have been reported in Rotafloat, including visits by members to other Fleets, with Fellowship as our main priority. The increase in contacts has been helped enormously by the roster on our website. This is demonstrated by the hospitality shown to visitors by many Fleets, especially those in Turkey.

However, as we are also Rotarians, there are other activities of service, involving handicapped people, disabled children, and retired seafarers. In Great Britain, a large group of handicapped people spent the day on an old Thames Sailing Barge, being entertained by 3 lifeboats, a rescue helicopter, 2 fireboats and a tug, all tremendously rewarding for all those who were involved..

*-continued on page 14*



# MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting

*-continued from page 13*

With natural attrition from our ageing membership, we cannot let up on the membership drive to keep our numbers up. This is demonstrated by the fact that, even with 8 new Fleets, our numbers in Area 1 have remained fairly static. Some Fleets need an increase in numbers of members, to remain viable.

With our Commodore Ferit's high profile and record of service, he is going to be a hard act to follow. We in Area 1 wish Bill the best of luck, and hope he will enjoy his two years as Commodore, and perhaps fit in some visits to Fleets in our Area. He and Katia will be very welcome.

## Finance Report:

Marda Phillips, Auditor for IYFR, presented the IYFR finance report on behalf of Ertan Ozdemir, IYFR Treasurer: Ertan is a CPA and was not able to attend the AGM because of his responsibilities with the Turkish Ministry of Finance.

Marda reported that: At the beginning of Ferit's 2 year term, he asked Janet Slater, past Treasurer of GB&I and myself as a past International Treasurer to do a continuing audit of the books. At the end of PIC Ken Winter's term, he turned over a total of \$31,781 to Ferit's administration. During Ferit's two year term \$43,765 was collected in dues. At the current time there are 2,541 members in 88 fleets and another 303 Independent Members for a total of 2,844 members. Ferit's administration has had income from sponsors, and regalia sales, with a substantial profit of nearly \$15,000. This is only an interim report through the 31<sup>st</sup> of May; we will have a final report, that will be presented in the Rotafloat in the Fall. The good news is that there will be approximately \$50,000 to pass on to Bill to start his administration and that is good news.

Bryan Skinner thanked Marda for the Treasurer's report and acknowledged that the full report, will include the costs for this convention and other June expenditures.

## Independent Members Dues Increase:

Bryan Skinner raised the next issue on the agenda, a proposed increase in Independent Member dues as published in the March 2005 issue of Rotafloat. The Executive Committee unanimously recommended increasing dues to 30 USD per year, effective July 1, 2005, for Independent Members to recognize the administrative burden of accounting for them individually, rather than dealing with a fleet, and having the fleet responsible for collecting dues and maintaining a current roster of members. This will help defray administrative costs, and encourage Independent Members to either join a fleet or work with other Independent Members to create new fleets. Dues for fleet members will remain at 10 USD at this time. If a Rotarian joins IYFR as an Independent Member during a Rotary year, and later joins a fleet in that same

year, the fleet should credit the member for 10 USD of fleet dues payable to IYFR.

After discussion, PIC Andrew Mitchell moved that the dues for Independent Members be increased to USD 30 per year, seconded by PIC and IM Bob Stuart. The motion was passed, with all but one yes vote.

## Chicago Events:

Phill Klein, Fleet Commodore of the Chicago Fleet, said that it was the privilege and pleasure of the Chicago fleet to be involved in the planning and organization of IYFR activities in Chicago. And, like PIC Bob Stuart 50 years earlier, the Chicago Fleet was pleased that at this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Rotary, they were able take members out sailing during the IYFR pre convention event. Phill extended invitations to members to enjoy additional sailing after the AGM.

Mike O'Byrne, Past Fleet Commodore of the Seattle Rotary Mariners and coordinator of the Post Convention Cruise, reviewed plans for how IYFR members would enjoy Chicago's waterfront during the Post Convention Cruise.

## Installation of Officers:

With PIC Andrew Mitchell presiding, IRC John Milne (Australia), IVC Bryan Skinner (England) and IC Bill Robinson (USA) were installed as Bridge Officers for 2005-2007.

## Incoming Commodore's Report:

Incoming International Commodore Bill Robinson recognized Ferit Biren for the example he set for future International Commodores, for moving IYFR into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and for his dedication, service and support for IYFR.

Bill thanked Phill Klein and Mike O'Byrne for their help with organization of the pre-convention and post-convention events, and Gary and Ingrid Bruner for their help with the AGM and at the fellowship booth.

Ferit's theme as International Commodore was "fellowship, service and fun." Bill said that the best tribute that he could pay to Ferit was to continue his theme. In addition to the IYFR theme of fellowship and fun, Bill said he would introduce a new administrative theme; "transparency, sustainability and transferability"

The first set of themes is why we are here. Many of us were asked at the IYFR booth at the RI convention, what are you all about, what is your objective? It is the same as Rotary. As Ferit said, it is service, international goodwill and understanding. Fellowships simply make us better and more effective Rotarians, and our partners and mates involvement in the fellowship encourage our participation in Club and District service activities.

*-continued on page 15*



*-continued from page 14*

Bill then elaborated on his second theme; we need to know what it costs to operate the organization in every respect, including finances, regalia, website, and other operational issues, and ensure that our operating budget is based on current dues income. This, along with detailed operating protocols, will ensure that the fellowship is sustainable and transferable to successive administrations. Bill thanked Ferit for the great progress that his team has made in leading us to a new and more professional way of dealing with these issues, and thanked Marda Phillips and Janet Slater for their vigilance on financial issues.

Bill reviewed the new RI fellowships policy, and how IYFR needs to approach financial and liability issues to accommodate the changes.

Bill introduced members of his bridge, and advised that he has appointed an Advisory Council for assistance as a sounding board on policy issues, to complement IYFR's College of Past International Commodores. Members of the Advisory Council include Evert van der Stroom (Netherlands); Kozo Kajino (Japan), Guillermo Arteta (Argentina), Otto Rieve (Canada), Arne Magunuson (Sweden), Max Cribb (Australia), Mark Moore (Hawaii, USA); and Mike O'Byrne, Dave Kelly and Paul McTaggart (Washington, USA).

Bill gave a preview of IYFR events planned in conjunction with the RI convention in Copenhagen in June 2006. PIC Ken and Bente Winter (New Zealand) will have their beautiful 105 foot M/V Pacific Mermaid in Denmark, and have offered it for a pre convention event on June 10, 2006. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled at the Royal Dutch Yacht Club in Copenhagen for Tuesday June 13th. The post convention cruise will take place June 15-19, 2006 along the Swedish west coast sailing on board boats of Rotary Mariners of the Skaw Fleet in the beautiful archipelago north of Gothenburg.

Bill closed by thanking all those who have served IYFR, and said that he and Katia are looking forward to the next two years working with IYFR members.

#### Closing:

Ferit Biren thanked all for attending the AGM. He gave special thanks to Jean De Keyzer, Chicago Fleet, for his help with the IYFR float for the parade, and for all the others who have helped to make our events successful, including setting up and manning the booth in the Fellowship Hall at the RI convention. IC Ferit closed by extending thanks to the Japanese fleet and Commodore of Osaka fleet, Kozo Kajino, for the wonderful AGM, cooperation and hospitality last year in Osaka.

Bryan Skinner adjourned the 2005 IYFR AGM at 3:35pm.



Left to right:  
IC Bill Robinson,  
IVC Bryan Skinner,  
IPIC Ferit Biren and  
IRC John Milne



- 1 Blue Pennant Lapel Pins \$ 5.00
- 2 Fleet Officers Insignia (Pair of Epaulets with stars, etc - by request) \$ 30.00
- 3 Burgees  
Fleet Commodore Burgee (3 balls) \$ 35.00  
Vice Commodore Burgee (2 balls) \$ 35.00  
Rear Commodore Burgee (1 ball) \$ 35.00
- 4 Member Pennant (12"x18") \$ 19.00
- 5 IYFR Tie (navy/blue diagonal stripe/pennant) \$ 25.00
- 6 IYFR Ladies Crosstie \$ 7.00
- 7 White Epaulette Shirt (S, M, L, XL, XXL) \$ 40.00
- 8 a) T-Shirt/white embroidered (S, M, L, XL, XXL) \$ 15.00
- 8 b) Polo-Shirt/white embroidered (S, M, L, XL, XXL) \$ 15.00
- 9 IYFR Emblem Cap (gold leaves on bill) \$ 20.00
- 10 Captains casket white top, blue visor \$ 12.00
- 11 IYFR Emblem Cap (navy) \$ 15.00
- 12 IYFR Window Decal \$ 1.00
- 13 IYFR Screenprinted blazer emblem (sew on) \$ 10.00



(Shipping charges are additional)  
For further information, please email: [regalia@rotarymariners.net](mailto:regalia@rotarymariners.net)



# 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: Gregg Jordshaugen

Legal Officer: John Spencer  
 Historian: Andrew Mitchell

Assistant Treasurer: Ingrid Bruner  
 Regalia: Roger Martindill  
 Public Relations: Brody Kunz  
 Rotafloat Editor: Dorm Anderson  
 Rotafloat Publisher: John Kilpatrick

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