

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

ROTAFLOAT

ISSUE 86 OCTOBR 2011



COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2011 ROTAFLOAT COMMODORE'S COLUMN

For this issue I am going to touch on a number of topics.

First I want to mention the fabulous time that Bev and I had in late August when we traveled up to Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands for the annual IYFR Hands Across the Border event. For us this event actually started early when Area 2 Commodore Guillermo Arteta and his first mate, Monica arrived here in the San Francisco area. They had come north for this event and took the opportunity to stop off and visit the Newport Fleet before coming up to spend a few days us before we all continued on to Seattle and, eventually, Friday Harbor. A great time for some IYFR fellowship! The events at the Hands Across the Boarder is always enjoyable. For those of you, which I assume is most, this event has been going on



Clint Collier and Guillermo Arteta at the "Rotary" grocery in Seattle.

in the San Juan Islands between our fleets in the US and Canada for over two decades now; alternating every year between location in the two countries. At times the focus has been on Rotary service but most often it is just a fun weekend on the water. The highlight of the weekend is the "horse races". I'm not sure I can adequately describe this event in the space I have available here. Take a look at the pictures and you start to get the idea.

position and speed based on the luck of the draw. I'm sorry to report that our entry, Pink Beauty, "ridden" by Bev did not win in the finals but at least did make the final race. The revitalization of the San Juan Fleet under their new commodore, Brenna Woods, was an added benefit to this year's events!

Next I want to talk a bit about Bangkok activities. As most of you, I hope, now know we have made a couple of changes this year. The Annual General Meeting has been split into two sections; the business meeting and the Fellowship gathering, which we are calling the Commodore's dinner. Additionally the Commodore's



The horse races... the riders line up with their "steeds"

reception, our meet & greet party has been "upgraded" to include a fantastic venue as well as Thai food to complement the evening. Read the article later in the newsletter for more information on our events. I hope a great number of you will be able to join us; I think you will find our activities unique and want to thank

Each boat enters their trusty steed as they vie for

Continued on page 3

our events coordinator Nick Tarlson and his secretary Jan for the work they have done for us in putting all of this together. It is not easy arranging activities at this distance and they have done a sterling job for us.



Fellowship and food on the docks at Friday Harbor, San Juan Island Hands Across the Border



New officers of the San Juan Fleet

Next month I will be at the Zone 25/26 Institute to promote IYFR and the Fellowship program and then Bev and I are preparing to head off to Switzerland for the Area 1 conference being held in Geneva under the sponsorship of our Swiss fleet.

Following that we will be going down to Lisbon to start looking at activities for the 2013 convention in that city. Mark your calendars to join us then... June

23rd through the 26th, 2013 with a PCC to immediately follow!

Oh yes, don't want to forget the last change! The early sign-up discounts are gone but the savings for signing up for multiple events is still there until the end of 2011 when we have to report our numbers, particularly for the post convention cruise, to the booking agents. After the end of the year events may still be available but it will be on a single event basis at the normal price for each event. All pricing information and the ability to purchase and book your events is available through the Ships Stone, online at www.iyfr.net in the members' area.



Our sommelier for the evening dinner! [you may not know him... this is past IC Bill Robinson]

Clint



Charter Presentation Silver Philippine Fleet in 2011

The RI District 3780 Quezon City celebrates this Rotary Year the 25th Silver Anniversary. In honour of this achievement all Presidents of the RI District 3780 are called Silver Presidents.

When FC Melandrew T. Velasco of the Cubao West Fleet as active Silver President of his District requested his Classmates to form an IYFR Fleet, his request was answered by his Classmates with the formation of the Silver Star Philippine Fleet.

There were 26 Silver Presidents, representing 26 Rotary Clubs of the RI District 3780 became the youngest of 6 IYFR Fleets in the Philippines.

Silver President Erilene (Eren) Noche Tumali of the Rotary Club of Roces was elected as Charter Commodore of the Silver Star Philippine Fleet by her Classmates.

FC Eren is from San Mateo Rizal. She studied at St. Josephs College Quezon City. Today she works as Assistant Vice President at Malayan Bank Savings

& Mortgage Bank and is married to Medel De Leon Tumali. She did represent the Philippines as Mrs. Universe this Year in Bulgaria and won the third Place.

Chartering and Induction of the Silver Star Philippine Fleet took place in the Sunset Room at the honourable Manila Yacht Club on October 8, 2011.

IRC Jesus "Jun" Avecilla inducted the Members of the Silver Star Philippine Fleet.

Guest of Honour and Guest Speaker was Dir. General Nicanor Bartolome, Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) a Silver President of the RI District 3780.

The Charter and Launching was witnessed by Members of the Philippine Fleet and the Philippine Coastal & River Guards Agrouing (PCRGA) led by National Commander RADM Chrisler Cabarrubias and Rotarians of RI District 3780 lead by Silver DG Jose Francisco "Jess" Q. Chifra.

Written by udo pelkowski



From Left, in the back RVC Mindanao Butch Madarang, IRC Jesus "Jun" Avecilla, FC Erilene (Eren) Noche Tumali, RC Udo Pelkowski and FC Melandrew T. Velasco.



From Left, IRC Jesus "Jun" Avecilla, in the back left, IPFC Cebu Fleet Sven- Olof Tengelin and in the back right RC Udo Pelkowski, Front from the Left FC Erilene (Eren) Noche Tumali, FVC Rommel Mina and FRC Regino "Jeng" Ronquillo.



Dir. General Nicamor Bartolome, Chief of the Philippine National Police



Members of the Silver Star Philippine Fleet.

Activities in Thailand

Hurry - time is of the essence! You don't want to miss out on all the excitement and fun we will have



next year at our annual Rotary International Convention in Bangkok.

We've reserved a block of rooms at the luxurious Marriott in downtown Bangkok and if you haven't reserved one yet we would highly recommend you do so now before they are all booked.

Speaking about the Marriott we are also having our Meet & Greet reception in the poolside area reserved especially for IYFR friends and family and it's sure to be an exciting evening to relax and catch up with old friends and get acquainted with new friends.



The Commodore's Dinner at the Blue Elephant is sure to be a wonderful tasting experience as well as a visual one at their daz-

zling century old mansion. We've reserved their entire 2nd floor just for the Rotarians so don't miss out on



what will be a culinary experience in Thai cuisine.

And then we're off to our Post Convention Cruise to tour some of the most scenic areas in South Thai-

land. The accommodations are sure to be a once in a lifetime experience as well as all the fun activities we have planned during the trip.

You can read much more about our Bangkok adventure in the Ships Store in the member's area of the web. You need to confirm quickly as the special pricing will soon go away.



Just in case you are concerned about the recent flooding in Thailand, we are too. By the time our event



kicks off in May 2012, this will not be a factor that will prevent any aspect of the convention activities.

Rotary Experience on the Sea III

I am pleased to refer you Deputy photos and Yolanda mine Andreoli and the text of our Rotary Experience Sea III, at the same time we announced the creation of the Third Fleet Rotary Spain, after Barcelona created on July 14, 2010 ROTARY MARINERS Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians LEVANTE. International - Lift Fleet, the work of Pascual Rosser Rotary RC Limiñana Alicante Port, who was accompanied by November 4 at the start of the Volvo Ocean Race in Alicante (organized honor our Commodore Jose Angel Mayayo). Who wants to come tell you this mail. We have organized a bus and hotels for days 4,5 and 6 November (Weekend). The Gala Dinner on 4 for all other clubs in Alicante and the start of the Volvo 5, accompanied by a Goleta and Back in Madrid on 6

Explanatory Note:

"IBIZA, which arrives in a boat amidst the most terrible" cold drop "of my life. More than an hour rain with gusty winds and zero visibility, Juan Luis Harriero soaked the owner of the Blues and I arranged for a few days of enjoyment for the Rotary Polio solidarity with another boat Carlo Judy Rose d'Amore with twelve companions / ae IYFR Fleet of Madrid.

Dinner in solidarity with the Rotary Club of Ibiza with over three hundred participants led by Yolanda Andreoli Marin said in promoting fleet magnificent Levante and then lunch and dinner, beaches and coves of dream of an island that has changed in the last 50 years, from my youth, to be the paradise of fun in their clubs craziest mass: Amnesia, Blu, Bora Bora, Circoloco, Eden, El Divino, Es Paradis, Martina, Pacha,

Privilege, Space, The Zoo Project, Theatre Pereira and so on. Impressive queues to enter thousands of watts of syncopated music and even being sold out early October. In Ibiza, although I speak of the crisis, the truth is that they have forgotten.

The mayor, whose health is the PP and the Ibizan Rotary and although I imagine that takes care of the 20 N. Foreigners, absolute majority who come to the island, go around in a mad race for fun, full unconsciousness, including drugs and alcohol, "The Last Days of Pompeii" as we painted them in old movies wearing Roman orgies to moralize the population and the Spanish prudish then, we felt we would go straight to hell.

The Drag Queens gay, splendid in their attire, are responsible for making new angels to believers the fleeting happiness of oblivion of Lethe. (In Greek mythology, Lethe or Lethe is one of the rivers of Hades. Drink of its waters caused a complete forgetfulness of life and its dramas), while offering their lives to the god Bes Ebessos or Phoenician, fond of human sacrifice and the source of the name of the island, depicted as a deformed dwarf, short, bowed legs, bearded grotesque attitude with a skirt and a tuft of feathers on the head in his right hand a serpent."

For us Rotary / Mariners unforgettable days of camaraderie and stop rotating. Bernardo Rabassa. Madrid Commodore Fleet of IYFR

Bernardo Rabassa has invited you to view a photo of your photo album: 110929 BACK TO IBIZA MADRID III FLEET MARINERS. *Written by Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo*

The 4 Way Test.... for IYFR

Is it TRUE or magnetically deviated?
Is it bringing a FAIR wind for all aboard?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER SHIPMATES?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to the entire crew?

Hal Barstow



IYFR Grants, the First Time

The 2010/2011 has been also characterized by the coming into effect of the new Rules regarding the possibility of receiving an IYFR Grant , almost a RF MG type of financial help, that the IYFR gives to the Fleets or Region in order to allow them to complete a Service in the Nautical Field. This Year a total of 14.000 dollars were granted to Area 1 and a Committee composed by the IPIC Bryan Skinner, Commodore Bernardo Rabassa and the Fellow Mariner Franco Cavagnaro proposed to subdivide the total allotted sum between 4 Services:

#001 A desalinator (cost 28.000 \$) for Nave Italia , granting 10.000 \$

#002 Disabled at sea (cost 5.000 \$) for the Rome Fleet action granting 1.000 \$

#003 A special sailing boat for blind people (co- sponsored action) granting 1.600 \$

#005 Care of abandoned Seamen (STELLA MARIS non profit organization, co-sponsoring) granting 1.400 \$

The Turkish project , Grant # 004, a most ambitious project of building a new training vessel, was not accepted because the amount required, to be somehow visible, was judged to be far too high for any contribution IYFR could ever give and also because it was not completely clear, at the moment of forwarding the application form, who would own the vessel, the actual use of the said ship and under which Flag and Rules, she was to operate.

SERVICE #001 has been recently completed and the result reported worldwide: a lucky chance allowed the Area 1 Commodore to illustrate the project in Assisi directly to the RI President Ray Klinginsmith, to all the 10 Italian DGs, to almost 20 PDGs and around 1500 Rotarians there convened from every part of the world for the meeting entitled to San Francesco's *SORELLA ACQUA* (our sister water).



#002 has been successfully and satisfactorily completed on June the 25th in the Tyrrhenian waters in front of Civitavecchia , attended by the Fleet Commodore, the Roman Rotaractians and the local Authorities.

#003 has been completed recently thanks to an auction that has been held in Madrid, where the Fleet succeeded in raising a considerable sum in order to complete the outfitting of the special boat.

The boat manned by the IYFR sponsored young couple Xavier and Amparo participated to two special regattas, under IYFR Flag, naturally.

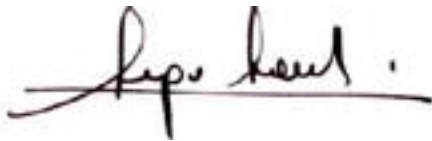


In particular they participated to the *City Hall of Guardamar Regatta* with the *Todos a Vela*

Boat, IYFR sponsored; despite 2 boats had broken the mast and other abandoned, they made it to the finish line.

#005 is still underway and augmenting the level of the service day after day. Awaking the public opinion on the problem of the modern piracy is another action that is being taken by the same Fellow Mariners involved in this service.

The allotted funds have reached the Fleet successfully and perfectly on time. Despite a slow start, the mechanism of these Grants is now fully known in the Area and the most active Fleets are looking forward for the IB assessments for the coming year. This is an invaluable mean of putting Mariners together so that they have fun and, at the same time, help with the Rotary projects.



Area 1 Commodore



Bankok Package Deals

Commodore's Reception and Dinner
Regular Pricing \$110

Commodore's Reception/Dinner and PCC (add \$250 for PCC - single supplement)
Regular Pricing \$1200

Also for your convenience we offer a 3 tiered payment plan as follows:

Due December 15, 2011: \$500
Due January, 2012: \$375
Due March, 2012: \$340

Purchases can be made on the web site Ships Store (the preferred method) or payments can be made via credit card, check (drawn on a US bank), or wire transfer. Questions? Send an e-mail to events@iyfr.net.

NEWS FROM EUROPE



The very first day of the new Rotarian year with a Swiss rather than an Italian precision, an important and unique ceremony took place in the perfect scenario of the Vis A Vis Roof Garden overlooking the Tigullio Gulf, with the Portofino Lighthouse well in sight and the magnificent Rapallo fireworks that added a further welcoming element.

The same evening it has been celebrated:

- The President change in the RC Chiavari-Tigullio between the Iyforian Beppe Sortino and the Iyforian Mario Cappetti, incoming,
- The Change in command in the IYFR Italy NW Fleet Bridge between Commodore Alberto Bagnasco (RC Genova NW) and Luigi Norsa (RC Chiavari Tigullio) and the step up of all the other components of the Bridge.
- Admission of RI# 8330643 Member, ADM IT Navy Federico Solari, entered in the RC Chiavari Tigullio on July 1st.
- His admission at the same time, as Member # 3000 in the IYFR having joined the Italy NW Fleet,
- His nomination as Italy SW Fleet Rear Commodore, post that with the stepping up to Fleet Vice Commodore of Salvatore Sarpero, was vacant.

A certain number of circumstances have also to be outlined:

- four years ago the Italy NW fleet did not even exist: infact the Fleet was chartered by Bryan Skinner in the Amerigo Vespucci Captain's wardroom on October the 27th. Founding Commodore was Sergio Santi and the Founding Members 38 that were almost doubled in the following 20 months.

- In July 2009 Alberto Bagnasco got the wheel and under his most efficient hands in the following two years the Fleet, now on a steady course and continuously increasing in speed, has attained the fantastic number of 130 Members. For his meritorious service as Commodore, he has been awarded by the Fleet with his 3 rubies PHF.



During the past four years the Italy NW Fleet has thus evolved from a most beautiful idea of "Serve while enjoying" to the reality of being the most numerous and one of the most active IYFR Fleet in the World.

At the same time the RC Chiavari-Tigullio, the home RC of the Founding Commodore has become the most represented RC in the IYFR World: 12 Mariners, enough to constitute a very small Fleet, out of the 130 Fleet Members, serve in the Chiavari-Tigullio RC.

One more peculiarity: the Fleet is proud and honoured to host the 2030 District Governor, Iyforian Antonio Strumia, the immediate PDG Gianni Montalenti, 6 more D2030 PDG's and the DGE Fabio Rossello. All of them have sponsored and sus-

Continued on page 10

tained the Fleet having fully realized, since the very beginning what a formidable task force can be a group of enthusiastic Fellow Mariners like this.

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Three cheers to the first IYFR Fleet in the World!!!
The proud Founding Commodore

Chiavari July the 9th 2011

Madrid Fleet of IYFR in a catamaran for 100 People



After the start line with the presence of the Madrid Fleet of IYFR in a big catamaran for 100 people, after a Gala Dinnner with the Admiral of Sud Est Region of Spain, the Naval Commandant of Alicante Harbour, Rotarian clubs of Alicante, and Royal National Assambly of Yacht Captains, Mariners off the Madrid Fleet of IYFR(46) and Promotor off the Alicante Fleet Mr. Pascual Rossser Limiñana with RC Alicante Puerto, A Gourmet Dinner(fruits de mer) and final closing visit to Alicante and Sta Barbara Castle.

The ‘Camper’ leads a dramatic Volvo Ocean Race. The second one is “Telefonica” soponsored a littel bit by our fleet .The first day of sailing left out of the race breakdowns, the ‘Abu Dhabi’ and ‘Sanya’ Chinese.

Mobile Bay Compass Rose Fleet of the IYFR Entertain five clubs and their DG

On September 8th on Mobile Bay, located along the Central Gulf Coast of the United States, the Mobile Bay Compass Rose Fleet of the IYFR and the Fairhope Sunset Rotary Club joined forces to host a first-ever District 6880 Governor visit "On The Water". DG Tom Man (himself a fleet member but who lives three hours north) delivered his DG's address casually dressed from the stern of one of four vessels which were rafted up. It was a great afternoon for enjoying beautiful weather and a gorgeous sunset.

The IYFR pennant was raised proudly while 40 Rotarians and guests enjoyed this historic event.

Contributing to the enjoyable nature of the event were delightful food choices and an abundant choice of beverages. Following the DG's presentation, fellowship, food and drink, everyone aboard elected to await the absolutely phenomenal sunset. It framed several sailboats which were out for a fun race from

the Fairhope Yacht Club (the meeting location of the Fairhope Sunset Rotary Club).

Rotarians from five clubs were present and a young lady named Ms. Sujin Kim (originally from Korea) who had been a member of the Rotary Club of Mobile for only five hours (inducted at lunch that same day) also joined the event on the water and was very enthusiastic about it. She got to know 40 Rotarians in just a few hours...something that would be difficult to do in a club with 300 members! Clearly, a great advantage of Rotary Fellowships!

Without exception, each person cheered the plans to do this once again next year, if not before. Thanks to DG Tom Mann and Lynn, to Fairhope Sunset Rotary Club President Stephen Davis and the many fleet members who brought their vessels and shared the joy of boating and the joy of Rotary fellowship.

Written by Gary Moore, Fleet Commodore

San Francisco IYFR Visits the Esmeralda

The IYFR held three wonderful events this summer starting with a spectacular event aboard the Chilean Navy's 113m (~370ft) sail ship Esmeralda, also known as La Dama Blanca (White Lady), in San Francisco on July 19-22, 2011. The Esmeralda is one the world's largest and most beautiful sail ships with a crew of over 300. On July 20, 2011 IYFR's members were obtained a private tour of the ship.

The following afternoon of July 21, 2011 IYFR members escorted part of the crew's to the Sausalito Jazz Festival. That evening the Commanding Officer, Captain William Corthom, held an amazing cocktail reception aboard the ship where IYFR members enjoyed Chilean wine, delicious food, and dance to the tune of the ship's band.

The events continued, Saturday July 23, with our 2nd Annual Cruise Inn and BBQ at the Emeryville Yacht Club. With beautiful weather and gorgeous scenery members enjoyed smoked ribs, chicken and many delicious trimmings prepared by Chef Lee

Seacrist. We enjoyed the outstanding sunset with great company from EYC. The event was a great success with an attendance of 40 people and the IYFR is planning to repeat this event next year.

The last event of the summer was the Sail Out on the Seaward held Aug 28, 2011. We had the participation of 40 IYFR member, family and friends. We had drinks and lunch aboard the Majestic Seaward. A typical San Francisco bay morning transformed into a beautiful day to be on the water.

We enjoyed each other's company along with the Seaward's crew which was very welcoming and informative to our members. The kids that attended had a great time and want to do it again.

The San Francisco IYFR Fleet is already planning for fall activities, including one cruise out in October and a general meeting in November. Invitations to these events will be sent out separately with attached description of the mentioned events. *Written by Lorenzo Rios, SF Fleet Commodore*

BOOK A HOTEL AND BUS FOR THE VOLVO RACE

The Volvo Ocean Race is about to leave the next day Alicante November 5. Our Honorary Commodore, Jose Angel Mayayo is responsible for organizing the Spanish side of the ship "Telefónica" Pedro Campos team, yesterday the Prince of Asturias godparents.

We organized the bus trip will leave at 13 hours Bernabeu on 4th November, Friday.

Travel by bus from Alsa, which has put at our disposal Rafael Gonzalez Director General and current president of Rotary Club Madrid Pt^a Iron, its cost if we 20 will be 60 € person round trip, the hotel has sought Pascual Rosser Limiñana, the Rotary Club of Alicante Port, organizer of the Rotary Mariners Lift and soul of the event.

The Hotel "House" has reserved Pascual is the "Hostal Les Monges Palace", in Plaza Santa Faz, behind the Town Hall of Alicante, in the old part of town. Walking time is about five minutes from the port. www.lesmonges.es

- Room reservations at this hotel based on availability, is the following:

- 1.- Nov. 4 Entering and exiting the November 6 (Friday to Sunday), I have reserved seven double rooms (14 people) it can be for individual use

- 2.- Going on 4 November and departing on November 5 (Friday to Saturday), a double room (2 persons)

- The room price is 45 € / day, whether dual-use (two people) as if it is for individual use. Breakfast is separate and notifies the reception if you will. 6.- eu costs and buffet.

- If there are more rooms in a possibility of Hotel Playa de San Juan (Alicante hotels are not and are much more expensive).

On arrival (4) we Gala Dinner, with all the Rotary Clubs of Alicante and one from outside and the team of "Telephone" by Pedro Campos in the Porta Maris hotel in the port of Alicante at 30 € person, on (5) Saturday we will have an accompanying schooner or catamaran out of the Volvo Ocean Race with lunch included for a maximum of 50 to 70 € (Pascual under negotiation), Mariner fellowship dinner where we decide the day (6) Sunday, free lunch or afternoon community and return to Madrid by bus.

Total: 230 € + dinner and a free meal

Reservations as soon as this mail. For now they come, Charo Cases and Abelard (thank God, and me-



dium replacement), Carlo D'Amore, Ubeda Clemente, Antonio Bugallo and Anna and myself.

For the final organization and as a mariner of the month Dinner at the Golden on Thursday October 27 at 21. Lucio Gomez Reserve lucio.gomez@aimi.es 609 856 400. *Written by Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo*



TRAVERSATA MONACO – PORTOFINO – RAPALLO

Promossa da Amitié Gênes Monaco e International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians

Organizzata dal Circolo Nautico Rapallo in collaborazione con Yacht Club Monaco

IYFR AND FIRST SAIL-CROSSING MONACO

Big success by now for the applications to the Monaco-Portofino-Rapallo sail-crossing, a non-competitive boat race which is organized by the Rapallo Yacht Club, with the collaboration of the Monaco Yacht Club.

Big success, in particular, for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians, which with its 8 crews is leader among the ones which will sail from Monaco to Rapallo on the 27th and 28th August next.

Such event, which is promoted by Amitié Gênes Monaco and by the IYFR, will take place twice a year and will be identified under the name of "Sailing in friendship".

Bavaria 44, belonging to the Nautical Technical Institute Andrea Doria of Imperia, with its crew of students, will also participate to the sail-crossing.

The largest group of boats (considering overall lengths) is the one including those with a length between 11,5 mt and 12,5 mt; IYFR participates to the event with 8 crews, when the Rapallo Yacht Club lines up 6 crews. French participants belong to the Monaco Yacht Club and to the Antibes Yacht Club.

The author of the event and Vice-president of A.G.M., who is also a big friend of the IYFR - Mr. Andrea Solimano - says: *«I'm really satisfied by the large number of applicants and I wish to underline the positive atmosphere among all those people who are working in order to guarantee the success of such important charity and sporting event. Starting from the presentation ceremony held on the 3rd of June last in Portofino, big engagement and the enthusiasm have characterized the organization of the event. The acknowledgements and the national and international media echo, encourage us to continue working on the same "course"».*

The event will start at 10 am in the waters in front of the Principals of Monaco on the 27th of August. The arrival will take place in Rapallo and Portofino on the 28th of August.

The participants will be celebrated at the Monaco Yacht Club on Friday 26th. The charity gala and the prize-giving ceremony will take place at the Grand Hotel Excelsior of Rapallo on Sunday 28th.

This year the beneficiary of event will be F.A.R.I.T.M.O. (foundation for the research on bone marrow graft), headed by Dr. Andrea Bacigalupo, head of the haematology and bone marrow graft department of the San Martino Hospital of Genoa.



Comunicazione office Monaco-Portofino-Rapallo
Mauro Rattone

Uff. comunicazione

Tel. +39 3270957988

www.monaco-rapallo.org

<mailto:monaco.rapallo@gmail.com>

Coordinamento Organizzativo Traversata

Amedeo Solimano

amedeosolimano@gmail.com

Mudanya IYFR Governor Salute Ceremony

The yearly traditional Governor Salute Ceremony has taken place in Mudanya on Sunday July 10, 2011.



In attendance were Istanbul FC Selda Gerson, Mudanya FC Erkut Varol and fleet members and also Rotarians from Bursa Rotary Club.



The event hosted by Mudanya Fleet started from Guzelyali Yachting Marina by going out sailing by boats and saluting the D-2420 G Fatih Saracoglu, D-2440 G Ahmet Gurmeric, Past D-2420 G Ahmet Kara, Past D-2430 G Kemalettin Bilgin, PIC Ferit



Biren and RC Haldun Orgut. After this ceremony the boats sailed to Mudanya and the event continued by an enjoyable dinner.



Turkish RC Haldun Orgut presented the pillows to Past District Governors for resting after the busy Rotary year and the compasses to District Governors for find their way easily in currently Rotary year and the International IPC Ferit Biren IYFR burgee to Mudanya Fleet. *Written by Zulal Uslu*

First IYFR Area 1 Meeting

At the beginning of July it had started the planning of the First IYFR Area 1 Meeting that had to be held somewhere in Europe in a central place that had to be easily accessible to all the Mariners coming from all Europe and Middle East. Since no more than a week end time was foreseen to be possibly spared by the majority of our always busy Commodores and Mariners and since the place was to be reached flying a max of two hours the ideal place seemed to be the Switzer-



land. The organization started immediately with the Swiss Fleet in the role of the major organizer expecting anything between 130 to 150 attendants during the first November week end. Immediately the problem arose since both G&B and Turkish Fellow Mariners had previous national commitments set on that time.

Next chose was the first December week end even if the close proximity to the Xmas period was not easing the things off. Nevertheless we were still shooting for 100-130 attendants.



Waiting for the final costs to arrive, but having in mind that Switzerland is much more expensive than the rest of Europe, the first attendants started booking their flight and to make plans; some of them were most illustrious representative of the actual or past IBs, namely the Colliers, the Skinner and Ferit Biren plus some Regional Commodores and many Fleet Commodores apart from several Fellow Mariners willing to join the party anyway.

Then an ice-cold shower arrived when our Fellow Swiss Fleet Commodore Frederic Bonhote communicated the cost per person of this December General Meeting: it was more or less the same as to go to the Bangkok Convention and the PCC!!!

Nobody was prepared to such prices and these could not be lowered unless we were willing to accept an unacceptable level of the venue and what was connected with that. Cancellations started hailing the

organizers who were so far from the break even point that the event had to be sadly cancelled.

But the will to meet and somebody's commitment was so high that a new approach was investigated: forget about Lausanne and her lakeside romantic and splendid venues, and search for a more convenient place.

Thanks to our ITALY NW Fleet Fellow Mariner Simona Santi and her deep knowledge of Geneva where she works for ESM, a possible and acceptable solution



was found so the original Area General Meeting was rapidly transformed in a new opportunity to meet and renamed IYFR Christmas Meeting in Geneva that is expected will be attended "only" by 40-50 Fellow Mariners (more than a standard PCC), coming from USA, Europe and Middle East; the International Commodore and his wife Bev will attend as it will be done by the PIC Bryan Skinner and Chris, and PIC Ferit Biren, various Regional Commodores and Fleet Commodores and ordinary Fellow Mariners.

The program of these Fellowship two days Meeting will be almost the same as initially stated: we will be staying at the luxurious Intercontinental Geneva <http://www.intercontinental-geneva.ch/#/hotel> have a Meet & Greet on Friday afternoon followed by an informal dinner in a nearby typical Restaurant, a full meeting and discussion morning on Saturday, meeting and/or sightseeing/shopping in the afternoon and a gala dinner at night. Sunday is free for Holy Mess, Service or/and sightseeing. A lot depends on the weather that in wintertime in Geneva can be really chilly.



But let us hope for the best for this missed debacle transformed into a nice IYFR event!



Regional Gathering at Friday Harbor, San Juan Islands

On August 19, the NW region and Western Canada region gathered for the 29th Exchange of the Wheel in Friday Harbor.

The Seattle Mariners Fleet, with the aid of the San Juan Island Fleet, under the guidance and leadership of PIC Bill Robinson and personal Chief of Staff, Katia Robinson, organized a wonderful time for friendship and fellowship between the US and Canadian fleets. Many guests and prospective fleet members were in attendance, including IC Clint Collier and Bev, and A2C Guillermo Arteta and Monica.

Bill and Katia organized all the events from wine tasting, horse racing on the docks (you must see it to believe it), pot luck gathering on Friday night, music on Friday and Saturday night by Vance Horn, (PFC of the Vancouver Island Fleet) to breakfasts and a pastry boat in the mornings.

Approximately 35 boats and 100 members were in attendance. On the formal gathering on Saturday Night, the summer dress of whites was breath taking. A great job on the dinner was done by the staff of the Friday Harbor Yacht Club. Prime rib and fresh salmon, who could ask for more.

Speakers from all the fleets did a great job, with several fleets doing a change of watch and presentation of new pennants to the incoming officers. The enter group presented a well deserved thank you to PIC Bill and Katia Robinson a great job.

IC Clint presented a up date of the New Orleans gathering and look into the plans for Bangkok next year. There were several important changes ac-

complished at the AGM in New Orleans, including a change in voting on issues. The change will have email/electronic vote process so that all members of IFYR can become involved in IYFR. We have PIC Bill Robinson to thank for helping move IYFR further into the new electronic age of communication.

The Area 2 Commodore, Guillermo Arteta, commented on his plans for growing IYFR in Area 2 and noted some of the items here that need to be overcome.

Then the final chapter of the evening, the exchange of the Wheel. it was noted that with the history and time involved the Wheel is running out of room for the annual plaques commemorating the exchange. But not worry, plans are under way to make sure there will continue to be room with the wheel for this great and important cross border gathering. The Seattle Mariners passed the Wheel to the Vancouver Fleet in fine style.

The Vancouver Fleet announced the gathering will take place at Otter Bay on North Pender Island, BC in August of next year. It should be another great time for the two regions and IYFR.

The evening end on a high note, with the spectacular sunset, warm winds, clear skies and good fellowship.

The bon voyage breakfast on Sunday was always sad but everyone is looking forward to next year and to continue the summer cruising. So smooth seas to all with fair winds, *Written by Gary Bruner, Public Relations Officer.*

Letter from the Editor....

After reading and seeing pictures of the places that the IYFR are visiting, I feel like chucking my PC and heading out to sea. It's getting a bit cold in the Bay Area, maybe I will wait until next spring. Well, I did swim in the Antarctic Ocean this year. I need pictures for the front cover; you need to use a camera that takes pictures of at least 14 megapixels. This megapixels lets you know that if you make a BIG picture from a small photo, it will not lose its sharpness. This information is probably on the outside of your camera. Please send along anything with a nautical flavor. Clint has a prize in mind for the winning entry. The next deadline for articles is January 15.

Mary Azevedo, Roafloat Editor