

	<p style="text-align: center;">Official newsletter for the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians</p> <h1 style="text-align: center;">ROTAFLOAT</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting yachting opportunity for fellowship and service. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but it is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International</p>
<p>ISSUE 78 DECEMBER 2009</p>	



Message from the Commodore

Official Visit to two fleets in NSW, Australia – Hunter and Mid North Coast.

As our older daughter lives in Sydney and we were heading over to visit her, we thought it a good idea to incorporate a drive north to these two fleets who have not had a visit from the International Bridge before. NSW Regional Commodore, Robert Eaglesham was very helpful in making this happen. On Saturday 10th October, he and his lovely wife Marlene drove us up to Lake McQuarrie to the home of Phillip Kesterton and Sue whose home is right on the edge of the water and all we had to do was walk down their section to board their launch for a trip up to Rathmines where the Hunter fleet members had gathered for a picnic bbq under the trees.

Rain threatened, but held off 'til we were packing up to leave. Everyone made us really welcome and we enjoyed good food and fellowship. That evening we sat around Phillip and Sue's table, again sharing great food, wine and many good stories. Meryl and I stayed the night with these folk and all set off next morning for Port Stephens, a very picturesque spot, with a ferry ride across to Hawk's Nest to join members of the Mid North Coast fleet for lunch at Mumms Restaurant.

Many of these members had travelled over 100kms to join us which we really appreciated.

More great food and fellowship. Many thanks to Robert and Marlene, Phillip and Sue and all those who participated to make this a memorable occasion.



Fleet Commodore Wal Mursa welcomes International Commodore Terry to the Hunter Fleet.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas and all the very best for 2010.

Meryl and Terry Stretton

Commodore's Diary

2010

- **January 30th** visit by PIC Bryan Skinner and Chris, travel with them to Bay of Islands to board PIC Ken Winter and Bente's Pacific Mermaid, for a cruise there and down the coast to Auckland.
- **February 18th – 25th** Perth to charter a fleet in Mandurah 20th, to be called South West, Western Australia Fleet.
- **25th Feb – 3rd March** Hong Kong to visit the fleet there
- **3rd March – 11th March** Japan to visit Osaka, Kyoto lakes, Kobe Fleets
- **11th March – 16th March** Philippines to charter Cebu Mactan fleet.

Contents

Message from the Commodore	1
Commodore's Diary	2
Italy's New Regional Commodore	2
Charter of the Madrid Fleet	3
Visit to Turkey	4
News from Italy	5
Award by Italy's NW Fleet	6
Danke schön from Germany	7
Great Britain & Ireland Celebrate	8
Fleet-ing meeting / Ditty bag	9

Luigi Falanga Italy's New Regional Commodore

At this year's International Bridge meeting in Sorrento (in the legendary land of Sirens) outgoing International Commodore Bryan Skinner welcomed Luigi Falanga as Italy's Regional Commodore. "I am very excited about this adventure," says Luigi Falanga, "The fellowship is an extraordinary tool to promote and enhance the famous Rotarian friendship, the true essence of Rotary, and is essential for the development of our service activities. The experience will truly enrich my relationships nationally and internationally." IYFR has a strong presence in Italy, with 8 fleets.



From left to right Past International Commodore Bryan Skinner, outgoing Regional Commodore Franco Clement and Luigi Falanga

Charter of the Madrid Fleet of IYFR

On 21st May the Madrid Fleet, the only fleet in Spain, was chartered by our former International Commodore Bryan Skinner accompanied by his wife. It was a very special event with about two hundred participants including a member of the congress and many other authorities from Rotary. Right before the charter of the Madrid Fleet, which had 58 charter members from 14 Rotary Clubs in the Madrid area, a Rotary Club was chartered by the DG Dr. Diaz Torres: Rotary Club Las Rozas, a town of 65,000 inhabitants in the outskirts of Madrid. This new Club was the sponsor of the fleet. Moreover, the charter president of the RC was also the charter commodore of the Madrid Fleet. Commodore Carlos Junquera, who holds both a US and a Spanish boating licence, is fond of all maritime activities, but he specially enjoys scuba diving and sailing.

The Rear Commodore Javier Diaz de la Guardia, who holds a Captain's licence (the highest rank in Spanish recreational boating) was the president elect of RC of Las Rozas while the Vice Commodore Jose Fernandez was the president of RC of Pozuelo and is a current DGA. Luis Uribe is the Fleet Secretary. Of special interest was the achievement award given to Professor Dr. Bernardo Rabassa for participating in the first maritime event of IYFR Spain back in the nineties with his boat REL. Bernardo Rabassa, President of the Maritime Events Committee, is currently in charge of organizing, along with Captain Jesus de la Rocha (from Javea) and Juan Edo (from Ibiza), a five-day boating trip which started on 30th September and which departed the day after from Javea (Alicante), going to Ibiza, around the small island of Formentera and back to Ibiza and Javea.

Rotarian H.E. Marquess of San Fernando was made an Honorary member of the Madrid Fleet for his countless merits in the naval arena. Among others, he was a charter member of the Royal Navy League of Spain, and his father was the admiral who chartered it. The Madrid Fleet holds its ordinary meetings at the Spanish Army Officer's restaurant. The fleet is young, very active and has planned many events. Already in July it has held a light sailing training event, led by the Madrid Fleet Regatta's Director Alex Gomez Collins.



Left to right: Bryan Skinner and Carlos Junquera, Commodore of the Madrid Fleet.



L to R: Miguel Angel Taus DGA, Charter Member of the Madrid Fleet; Bernardo Rabassa, President of the Maritime Events Committee of the Madrid Fleet and Past President RC Madrid Puerta de Hierro; Bryan Skinner; José Luis Perona, Past DG, Charter Member of the Madrid Fleet

If you need to contact the Madrid Fleet please do so at commodore@rotarymarinersmadrid.org or (+34) 649-052-052

Visit to Turkey

Due to Chris' accident on the Queen Mary in 2008 we had to postpone our promised visit to Turkey. However, Past International Commodore Ferit Biren insisted that we should visit him in Bodrum this year, which we did in September.

What a wonderful host he was, we saw as much of Bodrum and the peninsula as he could cram into the program. The highlights for us included a visit to Bodrum Castle, as special guests of the director, Rotarian Yasan Yildiz. We were privileged to have as our guide, a local prominent archeologist, who told us about all the incredible finds and interesting history of the area. The Knights of St. John, well known in England, have a tower in the castle where they meet, and there are remains and reconstructions of ships from as far back as the fourteenth century. Also on display were the remains of a queen who lived 2000 years before Christ.



President and Commodore Zeki Caner with PIC Bryan Skinner

Our meeting with the Bodrum Fleet took place in the evening, in the beautiful garden of a hotel near the sea. It was a combined meeting with Bodrum Rotary Club, and we were hosted by the President and Commodore, Zeki Caner and his charming wife. We learnt there of the wonderful project the Clubs have, to build an occupational work centre for handicapped people, where they will make plaques and other items for sale. The Clubs are intending to raise \$300,000 for this worthy and ambitious project.

Ferit took us out on his beautiful boat for a three day cruise, with friends, around the peninsula. What a lovely trip, with good company, and wonderful swimming in the clear warm waters. Chris and I thank him most sincerely, for a wonderful holiday.

Bryan Skinner



Bodrum Fleet combined meeting with Bodrum Rotary Club

PIC Ferit Biren

News from Italy

"Dear Sergio Santi,
Please excuse the delayed response of this letter for I have been swallowed by school work and extracurricular activities since the school year started. I would like to thank you for the opportunity that you presented me and my fellow YPG8 participants. The experiences had on Nave Italia are ones that I will remember forever and the lessons that I learned will surely keep me on track the rest of my life. I also had the pleasure of meeting some amazing people from the crew on the boat to the educators and my peers from around the world (several of which I still keep in contact with today). Last month I gave a talk to the Rotary in my area about the experiences I had in hopes of creating more interest in the program because I believe if every adult had an experience like I did the world would have a very bright future.
Thanks again,



These words show the very meaning and essence of rotary: friendship. Alex Nielsen is one of the teens from the USA who had the chance to live the Young People G8 experience on board the Brigantine ITALIA, the flagship of the Italian Fleets. Fourteen young people (some of them disabled) were cared for by the dedicated crew and educators who organised unforgettable events such as the treasure hunt on Montecristo Island, one of the Mediterranean's last natural paradises.

These boys and girls come from G8 countries all over the world, selected by IYFR Commodores via the Tender to Nave Italia foundation. They live and sail together, discuss the same topics as G8 plus other important matters such as diversity, discrimination and environment. At the conclusion of the course they produce a summary document given to the Premier's First Mates. A very touching moment was when the seven teens from the areas ravaged by the earthquake in Abruzzo were hosted on Board ITALIA.-



Sergio Santi IRC

Award By Italy's N.W. Fleet

A special function was organised by Italy's N.W. Fleet Commodore Alberto Bagnasco on October 31 on board the IYFR Italy Flagship ITALIA, moored in the Genova Old harbour. Present were two Iforian past district Governors, Marco Canepa and Ermanno Bassi, Iforian Carlo Croce, Italy Sail Federation FIV President, Matteo Bruzzo, STAI President, the Italian commodores and their families.

The occasion was the award of a Paul Harris Fellow to ITALIA's Captain, Italian navy Commander Giovanni Tedeschini to recognise his dedication and accomplishment in the Nave ITALIA programme. The award was made by IRC Sergio Santi on behalf of Clint Collier. Captain Tedeschini acknowledged his wonderful crew.

Also Commodore Sergio Santi received two PHF Rubies for his services.

A significant donation was made by Iforian PDG Ermanno Bassi to the "Operation Nave ITALIA" account, concluding a memorable day.



Paul Harris Award bestowed on Giovanni Maria Tedeschini, Commander Italian Navy, Captain of the Brigantine ITALIA, by Clint Collier, IYFR International Vice Commodore, with the following statement of reasons:

Navy Captain, worthy heir of the Italian tall ships Masters, attentive and generous custodian of the best seamanship traditions.

Thanks to him and his wonderful Crew, the Brigantine ITALIA, the Ship of solidarity, has been able to truly transform into smiles the anxieties and discomfort of our less lucky brothers, who have always found aboard the Ship the most warm and affectionate welcome and, at the same time, the highest professionalism.

Perfect example of our Rotarian ideals and spirit that have in the motto "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" their highest expression.

*Sergio Santi
International Rear Commodore
On behalf of Clint Collier IVC
Genova October 31 2009*

Danke schön from Germany

YPG8 (Young People G8) is a meeting of young people from the G8-states. This year it took place in Italy and Janneke Leng and I, Clara-Maria Wadephul, were asked by our principal Hans-Michael Kiefmann and Region Commodore Eckhardt A. Fischer –both members of Rotary Club of Kieler Förde, Germany- if we were interested in joining it and luckily we were accepted.

Altogether we were 20 teenagers (some even with disabilities) from 9 different countries and were supposed to think about the G8-Summit-topics and to finally write a declaration while on our two-week's sailing trip. We started on the 30th of June in Civitavecchia, the port of Rome, then sailed to Elba, Monte Cristo and back, and made trips to Tarquinia and Rome itself to finish on the 11th of July.

Before starting the trip we got to know each other by playing some games together. This was very helpful for working together, so we continued doing this during the whole time. Everyday we had workshops on our four topics "discrimination", "environment", "economy" and "global solutions for global problems".



To understand these big and complex subjects better, our educators let us do various activities like discussions, roll plays and statues. At the end of every workshop we wrote a part of our declaration, which we finally signed in Rome.

We were fortunate to meet with the Unicef Junior 8 Summit in Rome, where we presented our resolutions and talked to each other to exchange our views on the G8-topics. Yet we didn't only work, but also had fun with swimming in the sea, free diving and just talking to each other. Besides this we had to do our daily errands on the ship like cleaning it, doing the washing up, sailing and writing a blog.



All this let us grow as a very good team, so that we made friends from all over the world. It was an unforgettable experience and I think we all have learned from it very much. So thank you, IYFR and Rotary, for having the chance to be part of it!!!

With great wishes
Clara Wadephul and Janneke Leng

IYFR Great Britain and Ireland Fleets celebrate anniversaries.

So far this year I have visited four fleets as IYFR GB & I Commodore. First, I enjoyed a pig roast at the IYFR Thames Fleet's 30th anniversary at the Danesfield RAF Water Sports club. They were joined by the Upper Thames Motor Yacht club and the Phyllis Court Boat Owner's club. Another trip was to the IYFR Broads Fleet where a rather alcoholic rally and raft up on the South Walsham Broads was enjoyed by all, followed the next day by a 25th anniversary celebration dinner held at the Norfolk Broads Yacht club. I have also attended two handovers, The East Coast fleet at St Katherine's Dock, London and the Fenland fleet on the river Ouse. All great fellowship.

Michael Pooley
IYFR GB & I Commodore



Commodore Mike Pooley with Thames Fleet Commodore Brian Franklin cutting the cake.

Boating on the Norfolk Broads

IYFR Regalia

Questions and orders should be sent to our Regalia Officer, Meryl Stretton. The list of Regalia is on the website:. Click on Members only – enter your username and password. Click on Order Regalia – the prices do not include postage. To order – go into Bridge Officers and click on [email the Regalia Officer.](#)

Fleet-ing meeting creates partnership.

In late 2005 the IYFR Hunter Fleet held a special day at Grahamstown Dam to introduce young people to sailing. This was done with the kind assistance of other IYFR members very involved with Sailability.

Whilst on the wharf Commodore Phillip Kesterton helped a wet Rotarian, Suzanne Moore from Salamander Bay club, out of her dinghy. A few months later they met again at a Rotary Conference at Nelson Bay.

On November 6th 2009 Suzanne became Sue Kesterton, First Mate to IPC Phillip Kesterton.

Rotary IYFR fellowship at its best.



Phillip & Sue Kesterton

Ditty Bag



CANNON BALLS! DID YOU KNOW THIS?

- It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass - hence, *Brass Monkeys*.
- Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.
- Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, folks thought that was just a vulgar expression?