



# ISSUE

# 66

## December 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

Holiday and New Years Greetings from Seattle!

We want to commend South Pacific Regional Commodore John Mills, charter Fleet Commodores Nicolas Spillmann (French Polynesia), John de Lautour (Bay of Plenty) and Doug Galbraith (Bay of Islands) and the sponsoring Auckland fleet, who in the short span of 3 months orchestrated the chartering of three new fleets in the South Pacific region. Their initiative, encouragement, enthusiasm and follow through were key to successful charters and a grand time had by all participants.

For Katia and me it was a real pleasure to participate and meet many Rotarians and mates involved with the three fleet charters, visit with the Auckland Fleet, and join in the charters of the Rotary Clubs of Moorea and Taravao-Tahiti Iti. It was a time of much fun, laughter, great fellowship and hospitality.

We hope that you can join us for the IYFR fellowship events planned for Denmark and Sweden in June 2006. We extend our thanks to PIC Ken and Bente Winter for offering to host pre and post convention events onboard their beautiful M/V Pacific Mermaid. A new addition to the post convention cruise will be the opportunity for participants to view the Final of the Volvo Round the World Ocean Race from the comfort of the Pacific Mermaid. This will be a

unique opportunity and a great time for fellowship! Please see the Pre and Post Convention Cruise articles in this issue for details.

The IYFR website has been moved to a new host facility and has a new look. You can access the website at [www.rotarymariners.org](http://www.rotarymariners.org). By mid January you will also be able to access the site at [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net). Issues of Rotafloat are under "Our Newsletter" on the home page. With the move of the website, the roster is currently in a read-only status as our Webmaster works to improve its functionality. We appreciate your patience during this time of transition. Check with your Fleet Commodore for username and password for the Members Only section of the website. I want to extend my thanks to our Webmaster Clint Collier who is valiantly working to upgrade the website and roster.

Best wishes for Mariner fellowship and fair seas in 2006!

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## Exchange Students Experience Lake Michigan

"This isn't a lake, it's an inland sea" commented one of the approximately 80 inbound exchange students from her vantage point about 3 miles offshore of downtown Chicago. The occasion was the annual Exchange Student Sail on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Chicago Fleet. The Rotary Mariners rounded up nine sailboats and two powerboats to take the students and their chaperones out for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Approximately 74 Rotarians attended, representing four of the Rotary districts surrounding Chicago.

The event started out on the dock of the Columbia Yacht Club where everyone was treated to an authentic

"Chicago Hot Dog" lunch. The sailboats took their groups out on Lake Michigan and some dropped anchor in Olive Park for swimming. Powerboats gave their guests a tour of the Chicago Locks and the features along the Chicago River.

A great time was had by all, especially the boat captains who were really impressed by the intelligence, talent and charm of this select group of young people. As usual, the weather was great and we look forward to organizing and hosting next year's event.

*-Phill Klein  
FC Chicago Fleet*

### *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)





# Rotary Mariners from Skaw Fleet sail along...



Kastellorizon harbor, with the three Swedish boats in the middle.

This year's IYFR sailing along the Turkish Riviera was unforgettable. The second week of September I sailed in our boat S/Y Surprise with family from Kos to Bodrum and further to Göcek. There we rented another boat and 15 Rotary Mariners with first mates—all from the Skaw Fleet (Sweden)—sailed to Kalkan, Kastellorizon (Greek), Kekova to Fineke. There some of the crew left and new members joined for sailing back to the Fethiye bay. In Fineke a third boat joined, the Swedish Tacoma with four Rotary Mariners on board. In total 29 people, Rotary Mariners with first mates from the Skaw Fleet sailed along the Turkish Riviera during one or two weeks.



Gathering at the farewell dinner at Port Göcek Marina. In the middle in white: Resit Cinarli, Commodore of the Göcek Fleet, beside Arne Magnusson, Regional Commodore Europe North and Rotary Mariners from Skaw and Göcek fleets with first mates.

From Kalkan we took a bus trip to ancient Xantos, the Lycian capital, and Patara, which was an important harbor in the Roman Empire. We also went to Myra, the home of St Nicolas or Santa Claus. We sailed

to Katellorizon, which is the most easterly of the Greek islands. We were very glad to see that it is now easier to sail between Turkish and Greek harbors and that there were regular trip boats between Kas on the Turkish side and Kastellorizon.

The mix of ancient culture, marvelous sailing water and Turkish hospitality with delicious food is irresistible. We visited Ölu Deniz and a five-

star restaurant owned by Mr Bekir Yerguz, a Rotary Mariner of the Fethiye Fleet. The last night we had a delicious dinner at Port Göcek Marina together with Resit Cinarli, Commodore of the Göcek Fleet and some of his Rotary Mariners from the fleet. We thank our Turkish friends and look forward to coming back to the eastern Med and its wonderful sailing waters.

*-Arne Magnusson  
Regional Commodore Europe North*





# IYFR French Polynesia Fleet Charter

On Friday evening 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005, the Rotary Club of Moorea was chartered under the presidency of Yves Pasquier. Later in the evening the IYFR French Polynesia Fleet was chartered at their joint function at the Intercontinental Beachcomber Hotel of Moorea.

Beyond the formal aspect of charter ceremonies, both moving and delightful, ambiance was really friendly with flower shirts and dresses in true island style, and Polynesian band and dances.

The joint charter was attended by District 9920 Governor Colin and Judy Nicholas, IYFR International Commodore Bill and Katia Robinson of Seattle USA, Auckland NZ Fleet Commodore Terry and Meryl Stretton, Auckland NZ Past Fleet Commodore Roy and Barbara Budgen, Past District Governor Beryl and Colin Robinson, Past District 1740 Governor and Past Papeete Rotary Club President Emmanuel and Marie-Claude Porlier.

The formation of the French Polynesian Fleet was due to the initiative of Nicolas Spillmann, who recognized the opportunity to create an extended fleet encompassing the French Polynesia islands of Tahiti, Moorea, Raiatea and Tahaa. The fleet outpost on each island has a fleet captain for liaison and communication. Each outpost will host a visit from the fleet each year.

Nicolas learned about IYFR from Hermann Allerstorfer, Hawaii Fleet Past Commodore, whom he sailed with in



Above: French Polynesia Commodore Nicolas Spillmann accepts charter from IC Bill Robinson.

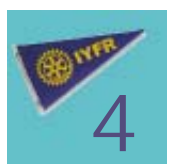
2003 and who enrolled him as an IYFR Independent Member. At the RI convention at Chicago, Nicolas took the first steps toward establishing the fleet by paying dues in advance for 150% of the minimum number of members necessary to start a fleet.

After accepting the fleet charter certificate from International Commodore Bill Robinson, Commodore Nicolas Spillmann introduced his bridge officers to the Rotary Club and IYFR fleet and their guests. The new flag officers are: Vice Commodore Pierre Dinard, Rotary Club of Raiatea-Tahaa, and Rear Commodore Francois Mattot, Rotary Club of Moorea. The fleet is fortunate to have several members of the Rotaract Club of Tahiti as new French Polynesia Rotary Mariners.

The combined charter evening was a wonderful and unforgettable event for the 100 guests, dignitaries, and charter members.



Three new Rotary Mariners from Rotaract club of Tahiti. From left to right : Christophe Siu, Isabelle Mautalent, Rotaract club President Bertrand Jaumotte.





# IYFR New Zealand Bay of Plenty Fleet Charter

The Bay of Plenty IYFR Fleet charter was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at Lake Taupo in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand. Hugh Corrigan, President of the Rotary Club of Taupo and his team hosted a wonderful charter event at the club's excellent new venue adjacent to the swift flowing Waikato River, which is fed by the waters of Lake Taupo. The Bay of Plenty covers three major boating region catchments: Lake Taupo, the Rotorua Lakes area and the coastal port area of Tauranga. John de Lautour, a well known identity in the Taupo region and spark plug for the Bay of Plenty fleet is charter Fleet Commodore, with Garth Wilson as Vice Commodore and District Governor-elect, Ron Finn, Rear Commodore. The Taupo Rotary Club feted our new IYFR fleet with warmth and Rotary camaraderie. South Pacific Regional Commodore John Mills was Master of Ceremonies; International Commodore Bill Robinson presented the charter to the Fleet Commodore and commissioned the Bridge. President Hugh presented IC Bill Robinson with a

book commemorating the 2000 Americas Cup Challenge, held on the glorious Hauraki Gulf, Auckland, New Zealand. International Rear Commodore John Milne presided over IYFR member burgee presentations assisted by Auckland Fleet Commodore Terry Stretton. District 9930 Governor Brian Revell addressed the present assembly and both he and club President Hugh were inducted into the BOP IYFR Fleet as honorary members.

The fantastic dinner catered by Rotary members included delicious smoked rainbow trout caught by charter member Arthur Gallichan. Arthur had earlier taken visiting IYFR bridge members fishing on Lake Taupo in a large catamaran.

We all felt very much at home, and sensed development of a bond between the fleet and the Taupo and Rotorua Rotary Clubs. The function had a wonderful atmosphere and was enjoyed by all present.

*-John Mills  
RC South Pacific*



The IYFR Bay of Plenty Charter Members.

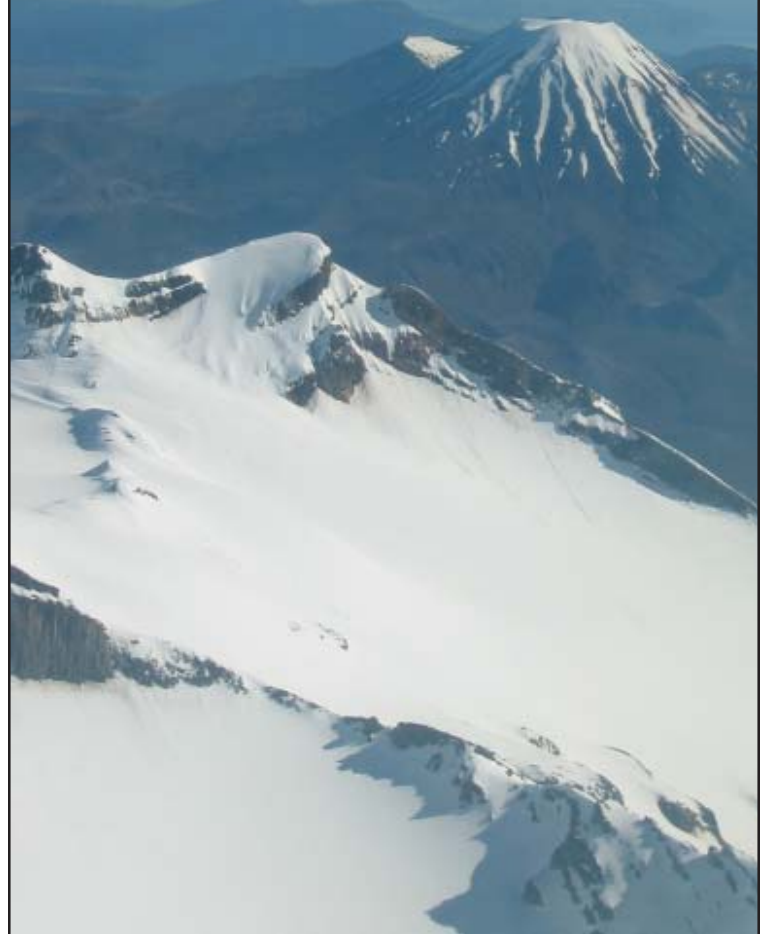


# IYFR and IFFR: New Zealand Encounter

Twelve hours after becoming a charter member of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians' "New Zealand Bay of Plenty" Fleet, veteran pilot and International Flying Fellowship Rotarian and IFFR World Secretary-elect, Roy Marsden, took off from Taupo airport climbing his Cessna 177 Cardinal into a brilliant, clear sky with three IYFR passengers on board.



The lake below was sparkling in the spring early morning sunlight as he flew IYFR International Commodore Bill and Katia Robinson and fellow charter member Arthur Gallichan (their Taupo home host) on a sightseeing flight around the beautiful pristine lake, then southwest 15 miles to the active volcanic mountains, Tongariro, Ngauruhoe, and Ruapehu, and the stark adjacent desert plateau.



The Robinsons, also veteran members of IFFR, fly widely throughout the US and Canada in their Cessna T210, and have done much demanding flying in the high Arctic, from the Bering Straits to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island at 83 degrees north.

The Robinsons enjoyed the beauty of the awe-inspiring Tongariro/Taupo scenery and the region's geysers and the similarities with the Washington State mountains near Seattle, and Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park, near where Bill grew up.

Bill and Katia thought the flight a wonderful gesture by Roy. The flight was the icing on a very fine cake.

*-John Mills  
IYFR South Pacific Regional Commodore*



Above: Tongariro National Park volcanoes. Left: Arthur Gallichan, Roy Marsden and Katia and Bill Robinson.

# IYFR New Zealand Bay of Islands

On Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2005 a very special occasion took place in a special part of New Zealand—the Bay of Islands.

The Charter Lunch Cruise took place on the 105-ft luxury motor yacht “Pacific Mermaid,” owned by Past International Commodore Ken Winter and Auckland Past Fleet Commodore Bente Winter. We cruised in the Bay of Islands, dropped anchor in tranquil Puhutakawa Bay, Moturoa Island—then held the charter

ceremony, followed by a luncheon and social afternoon. The fleet was chartered with 34 members and their spouses and partners. Sixty-eight people were on board. International Commodore Bill Robinson officiated at the charter presentation. Adding to the occasion were IC Bill’s wife Katia, International Rear Commodore John Milne and his wife Merrill from Australia, and South Pacific Regional Commodore John Mills and his wife Marcia. Among other members of the Auckland Fleet in attendance were Commodore Terry Stretton and his wife Meryl. This was of special significance to new BOI Commodore Doug Galbraith, as their association goes back to school days.

Left to right: RC South Pacific John Mills, BOI FC Doug Galbraith, IC Bill Robinson, BOI FVC Murray Wilderson, IRC John Milne, BOI S/T David Welch and Auckland FC Terry Stretton.



Charter at Sea.

IC Bill said that the BOI’s fleet was the first charter ceremony to take place on the “high seas,” making it a new first for IYFR. All those present shared his sentiments and expressed a sincere thanks to the Winters for making it possible. The new fleet is based in a lovely part of our country. We have enthusiastic, active members who are looking forward to hosting IYFR members from other countries when they travel our way.

## **Contact details:**

Commodore:  
Doug Galbraith  
Kerikeri Northland, NZ  
Email:  
[dg.Galbraith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dg.Galbraith@xtra.co.nz)

Secretary/Treasurer:  
David Welch  
Kerikeri, Northland, NZ  
Email:  
[david@davidwelch.co.nz](mailto:david@davidwelch.co.nz)





# Celebrate 60 Years of IYFR

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



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.

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

**SPECIAL NOTE: On June 17 we added the opportunity to view the Final of the Volvo (formerly Whitbread) Round the World Ocean Race from the comfort of the luxurious M/V Pacific Mermaid! The schedule posted in the September issue of Rotafloat has been adjusted to accommodate this unique opportunity.**

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: Bus from Copenhagen to Gothenburg**

The group goes by comfortable bus from Copenhagen to Gothenburg, 3 1/2 hours, and is greeted by their hosting families. This evening is based on home hospitality with accommodation at respective host's home/yacht.

### **16 June: Sailing to Skarhamn, total distance about 35 Nm.**

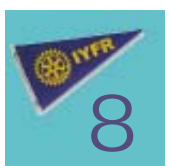
Breakfast at hosts' homes. Leave respective marinas for arrival at Skarhamn, a typical fisherman's village. En route each crew will have lunch on board or in a chosen harbor en route. Upon arrival at final destination, we will spend

some time together walking, viewing the nature and learning about local 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: Marstrand and Final of Volvo Ocean Race**

Breakfast on board respective yachts and then sailing to Marstrand about 10 Nm. The boats will be berthed in Marstrand and all participants will go on board the M/V Pacific Mermaid. She takes us to Gothenburg harbor for watching the Final of the Volvo Ocean Race around the world. Lunch on board.

We have been promised a good spot for Pacific Mermaid to be able to see the final of the race. The winning boat, and we hope there will be several competing boats at the same time, are planned to arrive about 14.00. The sailing distance for this final leg will be adjusted so that the competing boats arrive about this time.



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# Celebrate 60 Years of IYFR

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We will be back in Marstrand about 18.00. After a welcome drink in the harbor we will dress for dinner in the old castle. Most likely we will have more, non sailing Rotarians, participating in this party since it is a rather unique festivity.

**18 June: Guided walk in Marstrand and sailing to Gothenburg, about 20 Nm.**

Marstrand is a fortified island that once was a quarantine camp and has a very interesting history. We will have a guided walk in the town and lunch before we embark our boats and head for our home port.

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.

Later in the evening we will stay in one of the major city yacht harbors. There will be a farewell dinner in a seaside restaurant. We will have more non-sailing Rotarians participating in the party. We have ordered nice weather and a long night never to forget.

We will 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 after breakfast and it is time to say farewell.** There is no group transportation planned from Gothenburg after the PCC as members all have varied plans and schedules. See: [www.goteborg.com](http://www.goteborg.com) and [www.sj.se](http://www.sj.se) for Gothenburg and transportation information.

*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.

A few rooms are still available. Reservations, on a first come first served basis, may be made 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

*-continued on page 10*

### Annual General Meeting and Luncheon Copenhagen, Denmark

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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)

## **IYFR Hotel – Copenhagen, Denmark** *continued from page 9*

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.

### **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**



### **Rotafloat readers and Rotary Mariners everywhere:**

**Please become part of Rotafloat's worldwide "press corps" of correspondents!**

**We would love to publish articles and pictures about your fleet activities, coming events, individual service honors, projects, and other items that would be of interest to fellow Rotary Mariners.**

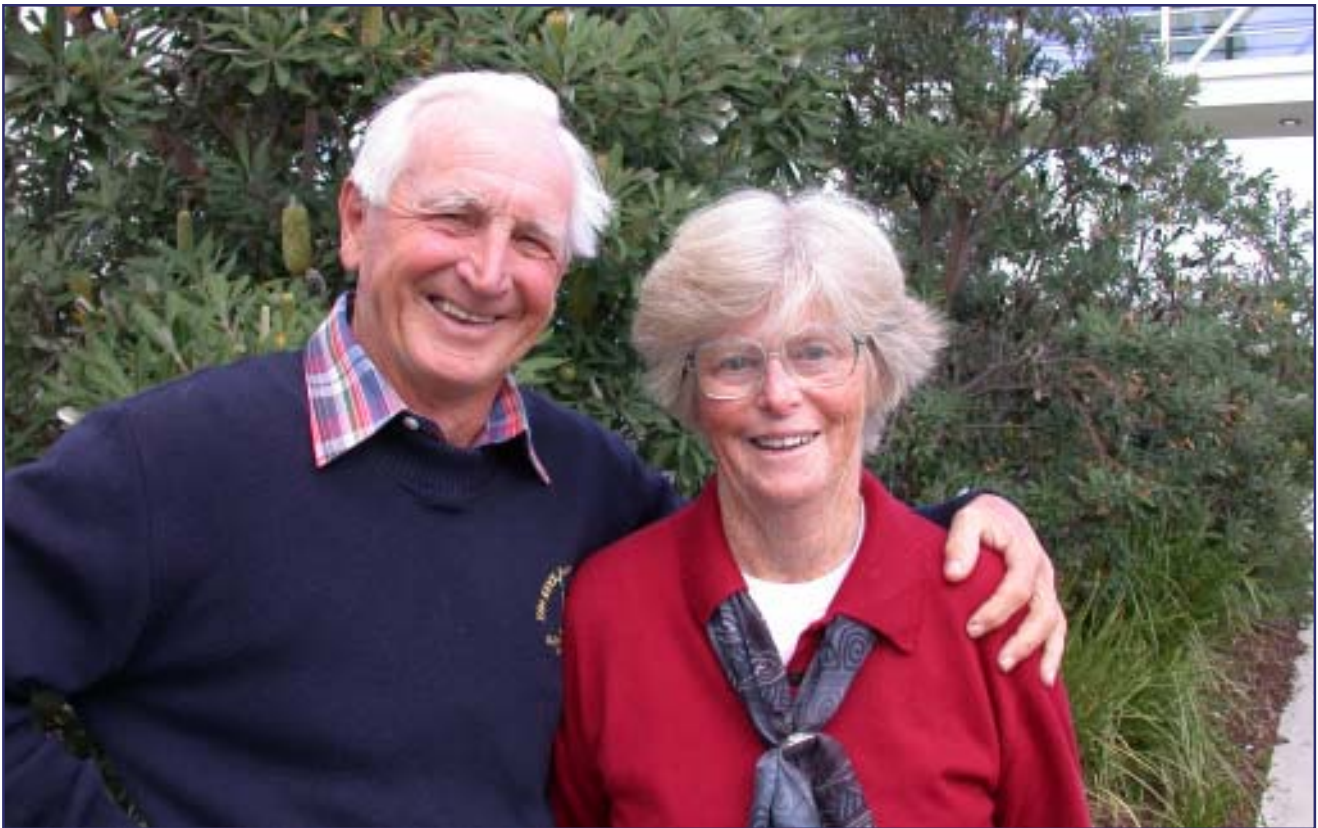
### **Here's how you can help:**

- **Write the article**
- **You may email it directly to: [rotafloat@rotarymariners.net](mailto:rotafloat@rotarymariners.net)**
- **Or use Microsoft "Word" and attach the saved document to your email**
- **Be sure to write "Rotafloat" in the email subject line (so your message doesn't get tossed out with the junk mail)**
- **Include your name and fleet name in your article, along with your email address so the editors can contact you if needed**
- **Photos should be in .JPG format and emailed as separate files rather than embedded in the story. Be sure to include the full names of individuals in photos, and it would help to have the dates and locations of the photos too**
- **Rotafloat is issued quarterly—March, June, September, and December**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**







## **IYFR Past Regional Commodore Arthur Hodge wins 2005 Australian Yachting Federation's race administration award**

Dubbed as "Mr Excellence on the water," for more than 30 years Arthur Hodge has built an enviable reputation as one of Australia's most respected, accurate and sought after on water racing managers for some of the country's top sailing events, including world titles, international regattas, Port Phillip Bay racing and club events at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria.

In Melbourne on 6 August, Arthur who is a Past Commodore of the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, IYFR Past Regional Commodore for Queensland and Northern Territory, and Past Commodore of the IYFR Queensland Fleet, was guest of the Australian Yachting Federation at their annual glittering national yachtsperson of the year night.

A former communications engineer with Telstra, Arthur who turned 73 this year, was presented with the services to yachting award for his outstanding and quite remarkable on-water race management spanning thirty years.

Some of the major regattas he has organized include the World 2004 International Etchells Class Titles at Mooloolaba in Queensland, 18 consecutive years as Principal Race officer at Hamilton Island Race Week, the annual Australian Winter Championship for Etchells and numerous National and State titles. He was also part of the team who conducted the 1983 Americas Cup Trials on Port Phillip and the 1999 World 49er Titles.

A very delighted Arthur Hodge said after receiving his Award, "this recognition couldn't have happened without the support of my very loyal wife Val who through most of the regattas I've run has been out on the water with me as my flag girl, boat driver, finishing time caller and signing-in officer."

Reviewing the most significant change in yacht racing Arthur says, "In the last thirty years the single most important development in managing races has been the professional approach to managing the needs of competitors including the ability to have the results available and on a website when the sailors step ashore." After retiring and cruising the east coast of Australia for five years with his wife Val, they settled at Buderim in Queensland where he is an active member of the local Rotary Club.

His boating these days is focused on sailing his half-tonne 30-foot Defiance class yacht from the Mooloolaba Yacht Club, and this year he navigated the very competitive "Ticket of Leave" in the Sydney – Mooloolaba and Brisbane – Gladstone ocean races. After gaining his Yachtmaster and AYF Instructor (offshore) certificates he has conducted local training courses for skippers and race officials. Well done Arthur!

*-Excerpt from "Yachting Australia"  
submitted by PIRC Max Cribb*



# Great Britain Celebrates 200<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and Lord Nelson-

*“SPlice THE MAINBRACE!”*

This year was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar where Admiral Nelson defeated the French Fleet. The actual sea battle took place on 21 October 1805. In June 2005, IVC Bryan Skinner, GB&I Commodore Christopher Bishop and other IYFR members from the Solent and East Coast fleets watched the International Fleet Review and reported that the celebration ended dramatically with a mock sea battle. A dozen tall ships took part, with cannon fire and fireworks illuminating the evening sky. Many Rotary Clubs and IYFR members also celebrated the anniversary on October 21<sup>st</sup> with a remembrance dinner, and requested IC Bill Robinson's permission to Splice the Mainbrace on that occasion. IC Bill's reply: "By all means, as representatives of IYFR, please Splice the Mainbrace with the assembled company. I would expect that our members of the Yachting Fellowship will dutifully hold up this seafaring tradition, or hold up each other afterwards, depending on the grog percentages."

The following account of the International Fleet Review was contributed by Brian Ollington, who won his place in the sail past as a prize. An additional article by Bryan Skinner is a backgrounder on the Splice the Mainbrace tradition.

## **INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW—PORTSMOUTH 28 JUNE 2005**

Earlier this year there was a quiz in the magazine *Sailing Today* about Nelson. The prizes to be won were places in the sail past at the International Fleet Review in the Solent. Naturally I filled in the quiz sheet, which contained one question that seemed to be a bit tricky: "What was Nelson's favorite ship?" I went into the Norwich museum and found that Nelson's first command, *Agamemnon*, was his favorite. Having made up my mind that sailing to Portsmouth was a must, I made arrangements for the voyage. Imagine my surprise when a letter came telling me that I was one of the lucky winners.



Accompanied by a Rotarian friend, I left the River Orwell in my 32-foot sailing cruiser *Shamrock*. Our voyage took us outside the many sandbanks of the Thames Estuary, as from a previous experience cutting through these I found very confused seas although the weather proved very calm and warm. After 10 ½ hours, we stopped for an overnight stay in a busy Ramsgate marina. On another night we tied up in Rye with the help of the harbour master, and by morning there was no water under the boat! Eastbourne's brand new marina was our next stop, before finally meeting our wives at Brighton. They joined us aboard and we sailed on to Chichester for a spot of Retail Therapy! The day before the review, a full dress rehearsal was conducted off Portsmouth. For this we were provided with a special Gold Area Flag, which was our pass for the security sail past area. It was an

*-continued on page 13*



This scene was no surprise when we awoke the morning after tying up in Rye.





*continued from page 12*

Above: The 'Grand Turk' and the 'Normandy Express' in the distance. Inset: The 'Royalist' leaving Portsmouth.

amazing sight with a wide variety of craft, from small sailing cruisers, like ours, to very large powerboats. The rehearsal went well except when a local fishing boat appeared from behind the Endurance (the Queen's ship). The fishing boat's crew were mystified by this crowd of vessels and continued right through our convoy at right angles.

We were surprised to see Sir Robin Knox-Johnson on Suhali right alongside at one point. After the sail past we had to return to our anchorage area through the submarine barrier off Portsmouth. Security was very apparent with many high-speed RIBs carrying armed soldiers, and a great variety of ships and spectator craft, but all went very smoothly. The culmination was the evening spectacular "Son et Lumiere" involving tall ships and fireworks.

We stayed for the "Festival of the Sea" in Portsmouth and returned to Brighton just as the weather changed for the worse. Arrangements were made to leave Shamrock until we returned a week later and then we had a very good three-day trip home. It was a privilege to enjoy a once in a lifetime experience and be part of history where the Queen reviewed one hundred and sixty-seven ships from thirty-five countries watched by a crowd of two hundred and fifty thousand.

*-Brian Ollington  
Broads Fleet IYFR GB&I*

## "SPlice the MAINBRACE"

The term Splice the Mainbrace originates from the reward given in the days of sail to men who carried out their task of repairing the mainbrace rope—one of the most important elements of the ship's rigging.

This work had to be done in haste as the braces kept yards (cross beams which carried the sails on the masts) in position in relation to the wind, vital in manoeuvring the battleship and under considerable strain.

If the job was completed successfully, an extra issue of one-eighth of a pint of rum was made to each officer and man aged over 20, who wanted it.

The rum ration was introduced for sailors in Jamaica in 1655, and in 1731 a half-pint of rum was officially sanctioned as a daily ration to the Fleet; however, within a few years it was mixed with water to reduce incidences of drunkenness.

This move was ordered by Admiral Vernon, who was famous for his Grogam cloak—hence the term "grog" for the rum and water mixture, and the consequent sensation of grogginess.

Sadly the daily rum ration was abolished in 1970, but commanding officers of ships and naval officers can still order "Splice the Mainbrace"—as can the Queen.

The Queen Mother was also known to order the toast—as she did in November 2003 when she visited HMS Ark Royal in Portsmouth.

*-IVC Bryan Skinner*



	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")	\$ 35.00	
	5 IYFR Tie (navy/blue diagonal stripe/pennant)	\$ 30.00	
	6 IYFR Ladies Crosstie	\$ 7.00	
	7 White Epaulette Shirt <i>-currently unavailable</i>		
	8 IYFR Emblem Cap (navy)	\$ 15.00	
	9 IYFR Window Decal	\$ 1.00	
	10 IYFR Screenprinted blazer emblem (sew on)	\$ 10.00	

Our stock of White Epaulette Shirts and Polo Shirts has been depleted; we are sourcing a supplier and will restock as soon as possible. Check the IYFR website for regalia supply updates.

(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

Assistant Treasurer: Ingrid Bruner

Regalia: Roger Martindill

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Rotafloat Editor: Dorm Anderson

Rotafloat Publisher: John Kilpatrick

Legal Officer: John Spencer

Historian: Andrew Mitchell

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

Area 2 Commodore (The Americas): Gary Bruner

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