



# RYFR TA FLOAT

Flying in close formation...

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS  
Issue 92: October-December 2013

Maintaining  
course and speed





## THE COMMODORE'S LETTER

*My dear Fellow Commodores and Mariners,*

While on January the 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 the first ideal buoy has just passed alongside, two Area AGMs being successfully completed, while some of you are still enjoying a summer or winter vacation period, it is my desire to make a fix and draw an initial balance of these first six months of the "New Administration".

I am glad, really glad, to say that thanks to a perfect Team work, sailing united has been a real pleasure. The weather and the seas have not been always calm of course, and we had to experience some wind gusts and choppy seas but we have beautifully maintained rudder amidship. Very good!

As promised the new website platform has been adopted and is working smoothly. The system is working also if not as perfectly as we would, and no more traumas will be experienced in the handing over to the "New Administrations" moments simply because our Webmaster has now not one but two Assistant-Webmaster in the other two Areas, already conceived to work with her for their Area matters and who will eventually become Webmaster. It is a sort of the Columbus' egg.

Activity, as well outlined in the two AGMs is satisfactory and things are generally going on beautifully. There are of course some "brown zones" where actually there is a pre-stall situation, but I am confident that also those Fleets will eventually sail smoothly as the 98.9% of the rest of the Fellowship is. The absence of invoices covering the annual fees has been understood by the greatest majority of the Fleet Commodores as it was the shift in responsibility for complying with this annual necessity. Thanks to the International Treasurer's ability, dedication, and perseverance, the Area and Region Commodores' positive engagement, the situation appears to be under control and satisfactory.

There is no such a procedure at the moment but, according to me, a sort of "fine" for the late payers, should be applied. Not that much for the delay in itself, but for the loss of time to which they compel their Fellow Area/Region Commodores and the In-



ternational Treasurer. A good Rotarian should be mindful of others' work.

Having never switched off our Rotarian heart, our Services have gone on as scheduled and with good success. Our money and efforts have not been in vain. At almost two months since Yolanda devastated the Philippines, causing thousands of victims and untold sufferings to the poor population of those Islands, I am proud to report you that the Fellowship "stepped up to the challenge" as written by the RI Programs Coordinator Jesse Davis. IVC Jun will better describe and give all of us a complete report on this humanitarian effort of ours but I desire to thank All of you first of all, and confirm that more than 61,000 USD coming partially from this year's IYFR GRANTS (30.000,00) and the remaining part from Region/Fleet/ Mariners individual donations have reached the Philippines. This action, my dear Commodores and Mariners, is something that we can go proud of and speaks loud our compassion, good will natural attitude and our never silenced Rotarian heart. Thanks again to all of you who have positively contributed to this IYFR effort.

Talking about success, I desire to report you that 2.875 life jackets, gathered by the Italian Fleets, have already reached the fishermen of Kenya, Uganda and Ivory Coast, and some 100 kids from the villages close to Watamu (Kenya) who have to use canoes to go to school. This success is also due to our CoS Luigi Norsa and to our raising the new East of Africa Region and her 3 Fleets.

And since I started talking about new Fleets... this is THE really good news!

As you remember, on September 21, IVC/A3 Commodore Jun Avecilla chartered the ninth fleet in the Philippines, the Subic Bay Fleet being the first Fleet



to be chartered by the new Administration. One week later on September the 28<sup>th</sup>, Area 1 Commodore Bob Burns chartered the second, the South West Fleet in GB&I. On January the 27<sup>th</sup> I will have the pleasure to charter the Kenya Fleet Commodore Simone Avola and his Fleet in Watamu and give the Fleet Commodores' Certificate to Masterjerb Birungi Paul of the Rwanda Fleet and to Jeff David Kayongo of the Uganda Fleet. A new Region will thus be born and the first Region Commodore will be Bill Kosar, the former East of Africa Squadron Captain. These Fleets are the first Fleets I have the honor and the pleasure to charter as IC. It could not have been a better occasion and a better event!

The excellent news by itself is still better when considering that thanks to our RC Selda Gerson commitment, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, IYFR will have a new Fleet in Israel and I will charter Jury Schnabel as the Fleet Founding Commodore.

Then, on June the 14<sup>th</sup>, the sixth Japanese Fleet raised by our great RC Kozo dedication is set for Charter. Commodore of the new Shimanami Fleet will be Masatoshi Udaka while Kenichiro Mori, both of them from the Kita RC, will be the new Secretary. As this is right after the RI Convention, I am hoping to pass by Japan on the way home to Charter the Fleet or IVC Jun to do it for me. We will see how our schedules will work out.

There are more than rumors for the birth of a Russian-Siberian Fleet being raised by a new great Italy NW Mariner, Richard E. Walton, from Reading, Pennsylvania USA who is in contact with his Russian Friends scattered along a 10 Time Zones long territory. The bet is to have something going on in Sydney!!!

The Malta Fleet, an off spring of the Italian Sicily Fleet, the greatest Fleet in the world with her 186 Members, is about ready to be chartered and the Area 1 Commodore Bob Burns will be the in charge with that Charter Ceremony.

Last but not least of these excellent news: our great Fellow RCs Lachezar Bratoev and Piotr Pajdowski

are raising the first Fleets in Rumania and Czech Republic!!!

This gives you the sight on the overall activity going on in the world. And this is the reason of the smiling face of the above picture that speaks loud and clear about the excellent state and the growth of our Fellowship. Seven sure new Fleets, plus 2 - 4 to follow, in one year, well ... it is quite an achievement!

I want also to report the two new entries in our really international IB: George Futas PFC of the Seattle Mariners (USA) and Corrado Perrone PFC of the Roma Fleet (Italy).

George Futas whom I met in writing and on the telephone only a few days ago, (the same type of acquaintance I had the pleasure to do with the future Russian-Siberian Commodore Robert E. Walton) is a most senior Officer in IYFR and was one of the main Advisors with PIC Bill Robinson. He has proved to be of invaluable help in patiently telling me a part of the IYFR history I was missing, having joined this pleasant "Senior Service" only in 2007 thanks to Corrado Perrone who, at that time, was the Italian "Commodoro Anziano" (Senior Commodore). He gave such a nice lecture about IYFR during a RI District 2030 Meeting that I could not do anything but to raise a new Fleet .... in 6 months.

PFC George, who is also an experienced professional pilot used to quick responses and decisions, accepted to be the "memory of the past" I was missing and the IB Advisor and special Assistant for the North of America; the EC and the IB are sure that his experience and personal attitude to fly high, will be of invaluable help for the whole Fellowship. The two Pilots of us will be count on an excellent Navigator's experience in the person of Remsen Barnard who is also the past CoS and Legal Advisor.

PFC Corrado Perrone, thanks to his absolute ignorance of the English Language and to his knowledge of South America and of the Spanish language, will be Guillermo's Italian interface for the Sao Paulo Convention and PCC. So, on behalf of the entire IB, welcome George and welcome Corrado.



Continuation...

*And this is all for this first 2014 edition my dear Fellow Commodores and Mariners; the seas are following and the wind is a fair stern wind for the whole Fellowship.*

*So, let us maintain course and speed as appropriately depicted in the cover of our newsletter!*

*Thanks, deep thanks to all of you for your commitment and enthusiasm. Happy, peaceful and prosperous new year to all.*

*Your delighted IC,*




The cover portrays the EC and the entire IB depicted by the geese "Flying in close formation" and sailing with unity the "IYFR Ship of State" symbolized by the famed tall ship Amerigo Vespucci that was once Commanded by IC Sergio Santi, in full sails "Maintaining course and speed" to her glorious destiny...Buon Navigazione... Ed.



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## International Bridge's New Members



**George Futas**  
**Special Assistant**  
**Rotary Club of Seattle**

George Futas has been a Rotarian and IYFR member since 1989. He has been active in boating throughout his adult life in a variety of sail and power boats. He was navigator and tactician on an ocean racing 72 ft. cutter rigged sailboat for five years in California. Since 1998 he has skippered his 45' twin diesel motoryacht throughout Northwest US and Canadian waters.

In addition he has been an aviator over 50 years, and is still an active flight instructor. George served as FC of the Seattle Rotary Mariners, has been fleet Secretary for several years, and was IYFR Chief of Staff 2005-07. As a member of the Rotary Club of Seattle for over 24 years his leadership positions include Chairman of both the Seattle Rotary and District 5030 International Committees, and was a member of the Seattle Rotary Board of Directors.

George spent half of his professional career in computer and technology related industries, starting as a design engineer and progressing in leadership positions, including CEO with companies doing business internationally. He has been an investor and financial advisor to early stage companies for many years. During the past 20 years George was a principal and Managing Director merger and acquisition firms doing business internationally. In semi-retirement George divides his time between advising corporation boards and volunteer activity with Rotary and aviation organizations.



**Corrado Perrone**  
**Special Assistant**  
**Rotary Club of Roma**  
**Campidoglio**

Corrado Perrone, Past Fleet Commodore of IYFR Rome – Central Italy Fleet, was born in Rome in 1955, and is married to Carla. They have a son, Jacopo, of 16, and a daughter, Alessandra, of 18, both founder members of the Roma Appia Antica-Palatino Interact Club.

Corrado is a building contractor, chairman of four companies engaged in both public and private works. Cor-

rado joined the - Lavinium Rotary Club in the year 2000 - Pomezia is located in the suburbia of Rome - and in 2001-2002 served as a Counsellor in his Club. In the years 2002-2004 was Treasurer of the Club, and has been awarded the Rotary Foundation District Service Award and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He has been member of the GSE and Rotary Foundation District Committee, and Past President of the Rome Campidoglio Rotary Club.

### **ERRATUM:**

***Commodore Robert Burns was cited as the Area 2 Commodore in the previous issue, wherein he is from Great Britain & Ireland. We have published his bio herewith together with the revisions on the CV of Commodore Guillermo Arteta.***



**Robert (Bob) Burns**  
**Area 1 Commodore**

Bob is a retired Clinical Biochemist, having worked most of his life in hospitals in the west of Scotland. He started sailing in 1981, when he moved to Gourock on the River Clyde and has since sailed throughout the West Coast of Scotland and Northern Ireland. He joined Rotary in 1985 and, after holding a number of offices, became President of the Rotary Club of Greenock in 1998/99. He joined IYFR in 1994 and became Commodore of the Clyde Fleet in 1997/9 and then Regional Commodore of GB & I in 2010/12.



**Guillermo Arteta**  
**International Rear Commodore**  
**Area 2 Commodore**  
**Sao Paulo Convention Manager**

He was approached in 2000 by IC Joe Philips about forming an IYFR Fleet in Argentina. This was chartered during the subsequent convention in Buenos Aires taking the name Rio de la Plata Fleet. He was its first FC. He chartered a second Fleet in Argentina in 2004 and a third one in Brazil's most populous city Sao Paulo in 2009. In 2012 he put together two more fleets: one in Punta del Este, Uruguay and another one in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Guillermo is married to Monica Renaud and they have four children and two grandchildren. Apart from sailing a special interest in English and French literature.



## Bridge Directory



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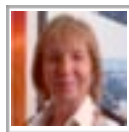
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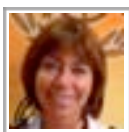
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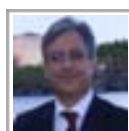
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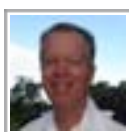
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# AREA 1 NEWS

## SAILING IN THE CANARIES 2013



*By: Christina Kuenzle  
Commodore IYFR, Swiss Fleet*

### Why the 4-Question test doesn't work for whales and dolphins...



*Lanzarote, Friday 4th October, 2013*

The 14 sea-hardened and passionate rotarian sailors of the IYFR-SF (International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians, Swiss Fleet), the crews of the three beautiful Yachts awaiting them at Puerto Calero on Lanzarote, arrived in the course of the day on various flights ready to meet up together and enjoy the Fleet's annual cruise. Pierre Wüthrich and Frédéric Bonhôte had done some first class organisation and planning in advance, to ensure that this year's trip would once again be a success. A particularly sensitive feeling is needed to assemble each crew and to allot them to the ideal boat. Insider information and rotarian fairness help too, because inevitably one boat is the fastest, one crew the strongest, one bunk the most convenient and one skipper the best for the job..... On this occasion, our two experienced rotarians without any doubt hit the bullseye dead centre! Each yacht had the crew that fitted it best– the right one!



On this first evening contacts were quickly made and re-made during a delicious meal at the restaurant of the local fishermen's co-operative in Puerto de Carmen. The meal, accompanied by some excellent Canary wine and the gloriously warm evening undoubtedly accelerated the "Romats" (the rotarian matelots/sailors). The sheer space

in the 5-Star Hotel booked for the first night was in great contrast with the cramped bunks awaiting us on the boats, as was the formal impression made by the noble establishment with the extreme informality of life on a sailing boat and the generosity of the breakfast buffet with the simple meals possible in a small yacht's galley. At midday was the first meeting with our local Skipper,



*Puerto Calero, Saturday 5th October 2013*

who was to lead the flotilla. Thereafter crews went aboard their yachts. The three boats were a Dufour 455, a Bavaria 46, almost, but not quite the same size, and a Dufour 365, which was of course definitely much smaller. With these differences, regattas were not worth even a vague consideration, but maritime friendships do not demand competition to flourish. From this point onwards the Romats would only spend time together when all went ashore for the evening in a harbour to sample the recommended local restaurants. In daytime one would scarcely see the others as much more than distant white triangles towards the horizon. Thoughts of the complexities, and time-pressures of business life retreated rapidly, shrinking to almost nothing. All that counts at sea is the water beneath the keel, the wind in the sails and the friendship on board, be it with rotarians or with non-rotarians, because many partners are there too. Soon the





crew members start to help and support each other and the inner peace further generates a totally relaxed atmosphere on board. Even when there might be something to complain about, nobody is interested. It is much more important to watch the course and see that the sails are properly trimmed. The local skipper – an exceptionally capable, supportive and charming man – keeps the flotilla together by radio. As a side hobby, he fishes tuna for his crew using a rod fixed on the stern rail. He turns out to be also a skilled cook, producing a number of delicacies, including Sushi. The beauty of the volcanic islands Lanzarote, La Graciosa und Fuertaventura leave a profound impression on all visitors, but this time especially on the sailors. There are few experiences that can compete with watching the sunset in a quiet, remote and sheltered bay. The simple, relaxed life on board a boat is more than good for the stressed managerial soul, visibly



shedding the stress and the years! On the last day of the trip we did not manage to meet any local rotarians, who, if indeed extant, seem to have been in hiding, but we did find a large group of striped dolphins energetically fishing and several pilot whales. The dolphins were unfortunately so busy fishing and eating that they had no time to play with us.

But they did show how winning food is definitely more effective in a group than alone and that it can be fun. Dolphins and whales have no need of a 4 Question Test, because life in the ocean is rather basic. The marine mammals don't seek to impress. They are just as they are. As social creatures they are very caring and fair with their neighbours, otherwise they would be ejected from the society. They seek and offer company and friendship with each other and do nobody any harm – although the tuna would not agree with this. Thus the 4 Question Test becomes quite naturally irrelevant. People at sea become rather similar to the marine mammals in this respect than do the average landlubbers: The sayings of the old men of the sea, the ancient mariners, are really – with just a



little less drama - absolutely true. As a rule, fairness is an essential feature, since without fairness, friendship, mutual caring and support in the rather cramped living conditions on board cannot possibly develop. In addition, friendship is stimulated above all by shared experiences and sailing anyway – especially on this trip – is always to the benefit to all participants.



At the end of a week our “Aficionados del Mar” return to base: happy, all safe and well, bronzed, visibly de-stressed and healthier – although perhaps not any slimmer and lighter. The final communal dinner served also to forge the outline of plans for the next Trip of the Swiss Fleet. For anyone who is interested, we can now reveal that it will take place in the summer of next year (2014) in Sweden in the Eastern Archipelago.





## AREA 1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

### Annual General Meeting 2013 La Spezia 3-7 Ottobre 2013



**By: PFC Alberto Bagnasco**  
*Administrative Officer*

Primo International Commodore Italiano dal 1947, anno di nascita della Fellowship, Sergio Santi ha ricevuto il collare di International Commodore dalle mani del suo predecessore Clinton Collier e fin dall'inizio del suo mandato ha voluto mantenere all'Associazione quella tradizionale vivacità propria di una Fellowship rotariana, convocando per il mese di Ottobre l'Annual General Meeting dell'Area 1 nella città di La Spezia.

L'occasione era unica perché proprio in Ottobre la città italiana era deputata ad ospitare l'arrivo della grande regata delle Tall Ships che partendo da Barcellona, con tappa intermedia a Tolone avrebbero concluso i primi di



Ottobre la "Mediterranean Regatta" proprio a La Spezia.

La città ha quindi accolto i Rotary Mariners dell'Area 1 dal 3 al 7 Ottobre con un susseguirsi di incontri e manifestazioni concentrati nell'area del porto commerciale dove le Tall Ships erano pronte a ricevere l'ammirato saluto di tanti visitatori.

Numerosa è stata la partecipazione con folte delegazioni di Spagna, UK, della Turchia, Bulgaria, Svizzera e naturalmente delle Flotte italiane.



### Area 1 AGM La Spezia, Italy October 3-7, 2013



**By: Sergio Santi**  
*International Commodore*



After Lisbon the first important meeting for the "New Administration" has been the Area 1 General Meeting in La Spezia attended by a number of Commodores, Rotary Mariners and Rotarians that it is possible to be seen only sometimes during the RI Convention connected AGMs.



The occasion was really unique because in October, this small Italian city, one of the 3 main Bases of the Italian Navy, a beautiful touristic port, was chosen to host the arrival of the Tall Ships which, starting from Barcelona, after an intermediate stop in Toulon, concluded the "2013 Mediterranean Regatta" just in La Spezia.

The city and the local Rotary welcomed the Area 1 IYFORIANS from October 3 to 7 with a series of meetings and events mainly concentrated in the commercial port where the Tall Ships were ready to receive thousands of admired and most interested visitors coming from all Europe.



Simpatica, graditissima e particolarmente apprezzata anche in considerazione delle 30 ore di viaggio da Manila a Milano, la presenza del Vice International Commodore, il Filippino Jun Avecilla con la moglie Lilia.

Inizio dell'incontro Giovedì 3 Ottobre con una affollata conviviale organizzata dai Rotary Club di La Spezia e Sarzana-Lerici, di Milano SW cui è seguita il giorno seguente la visita allo storico Museo Navale ed un "pizza party" al Circolo Sottufficiali della Marina Militare Italiana.

La visita alle Tall Ships, ormai tutte arrivate a destinazione, ha occupato la prima parte della giornata del Sabato, giornata fissata per lo svolgimento del Meeting annuale dei Commodori e Mariners intervenuti che ha avuto svolgimento sul brigantino "Italia" per l'occasione interamente riservato all'I.Y.F.R.



Lunch a bordo e quindi nel pomeriggio si sono susseguiti gli interventi dei vari Commodori Regionali con relazioni e proiezioni power point, confermando a pieno titolo l'efficienza e l'operosità delle varie Flotte dell'Area 1.

In serata la cena di gala nella sede del prestigioso Circolo Ufficiali di Marina con numerosa partecipazione di Autorità civili e militari intervenute per salutare la nutrita schiera di mariner di tante nazionalità e per rendere omaggio alla presidenza italiana dell'I.Y.F.R.

Il Comandante in Capo della Squadra Navale della Marina Italiana, Ammiraglio di Squadra Filippo Maria Foffi è entrato nel IYFR come Socio Onorario e come Commodoro Onorario delle Flotte Italiane mentre l'Ammiraglio di Squadra Andrea Toscano Comandante in Capo del Dipartimento Militare Marittimo dell'Alto Tirreno, esattamente il territorio della Flotta Italia del NW, è stato nominato Commodoro Onorario della Flotta Italia NW.

The AGM was attended by the PICs Ferit and Bryan, IC Sergio, IVC Jun (having flown with Lil from the Philippines for 30 hours!), most of the European International Bridge Officers, Regional and Fleet Commodores/ Mariners and their spouses in large delegations coming from UK, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria and Switzerland.



The welcome to the convened Commodores and Mariners was given by the RC La Spezia and Sarzana-Lerici that were hosting at dinner a delegation of the RC of Toulon (France) and one of the RC of Milano Sud Ovest. Some 150 Rotarian and their Partners attended the really international event and the excellent dinner.

A visit to the Navy Museum, with the IC Sergio as a guide, and to the Tall Ships in the morning and a very Italian Pizza party at night at the NCO Mess, characterized the next day, Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>.

By Saturday morning all the Ships had arrived, the visits continued till lunch time. The Brigantine Italia, the IYFR Flagship and her Captain, the Honorary Mariner Andrea Barbalonga, were waiting for the Iyforians attending the AGM. After tasting a good lunch and the great wines from the Ships' cellar, all the Region/Fleet Commodores gave their reports on their Region/Fleet Status that, with the exception of a very limited number of Fleets was quite positive.

After the Reports the International Bridge Officers gathered around the huge saloon honor table and had







Domenica destinata alla visita dei velieri, con l'esclusività di poter salire a bordo di "Nave Amerigo Vespucci" riservata in mattina ai soli rotariani.



Alternativa per alcuni è stato l'interessante trasferimento nella vicina città di Carrara con la visita di un'importante cava del marmo famoso nel mondo e ciò grazie all'intervento e la guida di rotariani del Club di Massa, Riviera Apuana del Centenario.



Gran finale il Lunedì 7 per quanti hanno potuto ancora sostare a La Spezia con l'imbarco su "Nave Italia" ed uscita in mare assieme a tutte le Tall Ships per il tradizionale defilamento di fine raduno.

the possibility to examine all the issue in agenda. IC Sergio and AC Bob were quite satisfied with the financial report made by IT André and by the legal matters examined and reported by the LO Rodney. It was asked to IVC Jun to continue the exam of some issues during the Area 3 AGM to be held in less than 2 months in Boracay.

Just the time to change in the more formal attire for the gala dinner hold in the prestigious Officer Club of the Italian Navy, an old building going back to the mid 60ties of two centuries ago. The Italy NW Commodore Federico Solari a past Italian Navy Admiral had arranged this par-



ticular event aimed to celebrate the AGM and the first Italian IYFR Commodoreship since 1947.

120 Guests attended this great gala dinner to celebrate IYFR; among them the highest Government, Civil, Military Authorities of the Italy NW Area, PDGs and the already mentioned Rotary Club Presidents.



After the handover of the 3 Stars Fleet Commodore Burgee between Luigi Norsa and Federico Solari, IC had the pleasure to appoint Admiral Filippo Maria Foffi Commander in Chief of the Italian Naval and Air Forces as the Italy Fleets Honorary Commodore and Admiral Andrea Toscano, Commander in Chief of the Italy NW Navy De-



Mare calmo e vento fresco favorevole hanno consentito una splendida veleggiata davanti al golfo spezzino ed alla costa delle Cinque Terre.



Una chiusura del Meeting quindi gratificante, di grande soddisfazione e di buon auspicio per ogni ulteriore manifestazione della Fellowship.



partment, as Italy NW Honorary Fleet Commodore. This was a really nice and friendly ceremony, being both Admiral Foffi and Toscano very good and old Friends of FC Federico and IC Sergio.



The next day Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> the AGM participants, in spite of the long queue waiting to visit the most beautiful Ship in the World, the Italian 3 masts full square rigged



Sailing Training Ship Amerigo Vespucci, in company of the local Rotarians and their families had the chance to be received on board by her Captain who also offered them a cup of wine of welcome.

Unfortunately a sudden and unexpected commitment of the Ship with a foreign Government Officials, did not allow the Rotarian Group to extend the duration of the





visit and see the internal accommodation and the precious furniture and oil paintings by Rod Claudus, dating 1931, the year of her launch.

Alternatively, thanks to the intervention of the RC of Massa and its President, a group had the chance to be picked up at the hotel and to be driven to Carrara to visit the most ancient of the marble quarries.

The Carrara basin is where the Roman Emperors and the Popes discovered the right stone for their statues and noble buildings.



Michelangelo was also among the customers of that quarry. And of course they had the chance to taste the famous "lardo di Colonnata" one of the Italian most renowned Delicacies.



But the Gran- Finale of this beautiful week end was on

Monday when after the light morning drizzle had left space to a clear also if cloudy sky, the lucky ones who had remained in La Spezia, could embark on the Brigantine Italia, IYFR Flag Ship, who set sails and went out to participate to the Tall Ships Parade.

Many mouths open in admiration of the most beautiful sight of the Ships underway on their sails. A good lunch on board and underway and the Amerigo Vespucci saluting whistles, as in the old times, where the great and glorious conclusion of this most friendly, beautiful and unforgettable Area 1 Annual General Meeting.

A huge and sincere thanks to those Fellow Commodores and Mariners who took part to this event, to the Italian Navy Headquarters in La Spezia, to the Navy Captains of all the Vessels which hosted us, to STA-I, to the Presidents and RC of La Spezia, Sarzana-Lerici, D2032, Massa Riviera Apuana del Centenario D2071, Toulon D1730, Milano Sud Est D 2041, Pallanza-Stresa D2031, the Italy NW Fleet.



And finally, a great thanks to the Fellow Commodores Alberto, Luigi, Federico, Salvatore and the Staff who organized the event and a special one to the Lady Mariners who took care of the registration and for the accounting.



## DON RUSSEL IN ROME: Arrivederci Roma



**By: Sergio Santi**  
**International Commodore**

When Commodore Luigi Apuzzo, of the Roma Fleet, first told me that there was an American Past Fleet Commodore that would be passing from Roma and would have liked to tell the Rotarians of Roman

Laura's Friends, Anna, Daide, Clelia and Jusy, the last one a noted Architect and Art Teacher.



Clubs about a voyage he had done on his motor yacht, I first remained impressed by the number of miles this brave Fellow Mariner had sailed, than I was sincerely astonished by the thoroughness of his trip planning. Thus the desire to meet him and make his acquaintance. I got in contact with Don who was already cruising in the Mediterranean in company of Pat, his wife and her sister Margaret.



What a great day! We separated with difficulty and only because we had to change in a more formal attire to attend to the interclub meeting in a Via Veneto Hotel once one of the way-points of the "Dolce Vita".



We established as a meeting point a well-known Bar in the NW corner of Piazza del Popolo (see the red arrow) the 26<sup>th</sup> of November at 0930 and that was the beginning of a most nice day in Rome spent in Fellowship admiring a few nearby monuments, talking about history, art and... IYFR.

We were joined after a while by my sister in law Alba living in Rome, a former Teacher of Latin and antique Greek, Member of the Ciceronian Society and 4 of



3 PDGs, 3 Roman RCs and their Presidents, the Roma Commodore Luigi Apuzzo and his Family, PFC Corrado





Perrone and her Rotaractian and Mariner daughter Alessandra gathered there to welcome us. A really impressive and nice venue.

I just gave a rapid briefing on IYFR, then after the dinner in which I had the pleasure to be seated between Pat and Don, he had all the time to tell us, mainly with his pictures, of the beautiful 2500 miles round robin from Seattle to the borders of Alaska.

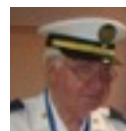


At the end a heartily burst of applause greeted Don, pennants and fannions were duly exchanged. A doubt remained; is Don a better Sailor than a Photographer or it is the other way around?

What a great occasion! Thanks Don, thanks Luigi.



## Noel Gala Dinner Mariners Madrid Fleet of IYFR



*By: Bernardo Rabassa  
Regional Commodore  
of Iberia*

Me complace adjuntaros las fotos de nuestros últimos años, de los eventos con Mariners ,que se pasaron sin cesar, en la Cena de Gala de Navidad, que tanto éxito tuvo, con 60 Asistentes en el Convento de Boadilla, donde nos lo pasamos en grande, recaudando mas de 1500€ para nuestros Grants: Polio, Filipinas, ciegos navegantes etc. Felicito a los que ganaron los dos Jamones de Jabugo y a los cerca de 30 regalos, buena parte de los que me tocaron a mi. Bernardo Rabassa. Regional Commodore of Iberia of IYFR PD. Para conseguir semejante recaudación se vendieron papeletas de la rifa a 5 € y se añadió al coste de la cena de la cena 5€, como se había decidido por el Bridge Command, lo que era de obligado cumplimiento para todos los mariners y asistentes. No existe otro modo de recaudar fondos y se seguirá aplicando en próximos eventos que organicemos, una vez pagados los gastos a partes iguales. Agradezco a la generosidad de la inmensa mayoría este apoyo, absolutamente necesario y de obligado cumplimiento.





## End Polio Now Campaign

The Pacific Discovery Expedition Land Team  
[www.PacificDiscoveryExpedition.com](http://www.PacificDiscoveryExpedition.com)



Alvaro de Marichalar who is spearheading the campaign was born in Pamplona, Navarra Kingdom of Spain. A Sailor, Adventurer, Entrepreneur and Lecturer. "We will fight in the Ocean, we will fight inland; because we are extremely motivated and encouraged by one of our main Expedition task: Help the Worldwide END POLIO NOW International Campaign."



## Lifesaving Jackets for Lifesaving in East



By: **Bill Kosar**  
*Commodore  
NW Italy Fleet*

**Rtn. Bill Kosar, Commodore** of the **East African Squadron** of **NW Italy Fleet**, a soon to be chartered IYFR Fleet based in Kenya will be distributing direly need lifejackets to the local fisher folks in Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake and also the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest inland freshwater

drowning of two (2) school children on their way to school on-board a dug-out canoe late last year.



body in the world.

Seriously concerned with the recorded drowning incidents listed at over 5,000 in the lake and also on the countless drowning in Kenya's Indian Ocean Coast side, **Rtn. Bill Kosar** came up with the germ of the idea to provide Kenyan fishermen with lifejackets in their daily quest to scour the vast lake for their means of livelihood and much needed sustenance. Benefitting also from this worthy project of the Squadron are 40 children prompted by the



The squadron's mother IYFR Fleet, NW Italy donated the life-saving marine jackets. During the scheduled formal handover ceremony, the **District Governor** of **D9212** will grace the event officially. Also expected to attend the historical affair are official representatives from the **Kenyan Maritime Authority** who have been instrumental in getting the **Kenyan Revenue Authority** to release the life-jackets without the regular taxes and levies. Likewise, the Squadron is most thankful and deeply gratified to the **Kenyan Airways** for waiving all their storage charges at the **Jomo Kenyatta Airport** in Nairobi, although said airport was heavily gutted and damaged by fire a few months ago.



## AREA 2 NEWS



### The Lady is a Daredevil with a Compassionate Heart



**By: Jun Avecilla,**  
*International Vice Commodore  
Area 3 Commodore*



Uruguay Punta del Este Fleet Commodore Angelica Mesistrano unbeknownst to many used to be a daring athlete and fierce competitor as a pilot of "motonautica racer" who has won several championships and a best Athlete of the Year award in the dangerous sport. She has also run several times in the "24 Hours of Rouen" (France) with many happy memories and when not toying with danger she also loves to leisurely sail and knows how to party with her very active fleet..



But the loving and tender side is that not only is she a doting mother and grandmother who spends some time with grandchildren in the snow in winter, she is a true blue hard working Rotarian and IYFoRian who has a soft heart for children, giving scholarship to those from low income schools and teaching them how to sail. She has undertaken leadership

courses and imparts the gained knowledge to Rotarians in the district working closely with the District Governor. On the other hand, she is finishing a study on technology with electronic payments fraud and how to prevent them with different encryptions.



When she has learned of the tragic news about the destruction of the super typhoon in central Philippines with the appeal of IC Sergio to members for additional aid for the victims during the critical moments in the aftermath of the storm, she immediately responded and said, "I want to extend my solidarity and my company at the distance. Against natural disasters is nothing we can do, just get together, gather strength and rebuild. I have experienced the 2010 earthquake in Chile where we had grade 8.8 that was the third strongest earthquake in history. As I can be helpful at this particular time, you have no more to say". But of course words cannot express the extreme gratitude of a humble fleet, people and nation for the kindness of FC Angelica, a real Angel not just by her name, and her Punta del Este Fleet for their help in our hour of need.

A big big Thank You indeed from the bottom of our hearts.



## AREA 3 NEWS

IYFR 2014 Events - Sydney, Australia - December 2013 Update



**Sydney** + **PCC**  
Australia 1-4 June 2014 5-8 June 2014

### **GENERAL:**

Registration for the 2014 Sydney events is proceeding well but at a slower pace.

I am surprised at the lower number of members registered for the AGM-Gala Dinner (34) as opposed to 44 for the PCC. As we have based our costing on attendance of 70 at the Gala Dinner, I do hope more registrations will appear.

Ideally, 44 persons on the PCC would suit me fine as if we have over 46, we then really need 70 to balance the cost out due to coach and vessel capacity limited to 46 pers.

The cost for registering for the PCC (**double room**) has now increased to **AUD \$1300 per person** and an amended PCC Registration form is being issued to replace those currently listed on the IYFR Website and in the "RotaFloat".

### **IYFR 2014 PCC:**

I have been pleased to advise that to date, 44 attendees have registered and paid.

All double rooms at the RACA (Royal Automobile Club of Australia) are now fully allocated. I still have some single rooms left at AUD\$1200 each.

All new double registrants will now be accommodated in the 5 star "overflow" hotel nearby however, the registration costs will now increase to AUD\$1300 per person to help cover the additional costs.

I will also need to book numbers on the Sydney Showboat next month to guarantee our booking date.

### **"MEET and GREET" function:**

To be held in the Club Lounge of the 'New South Wales Masonic Club' in Sydney on Saturday afternoon 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 between 1600-1800 hrs. This function is free to members. Drinks are at own expense.

### **"IYFR AGM & Commodores Gala Dinner"**

We have 36 members registered and paid for this function, which will be held in the "Cello's Grand Dining Room" of the NSW Masonic Club on Tuesday evening 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014. Menu yet to arranged

### **IYFR Hotel Accommodation during RI Conference:**

There are 5 Queen room's at AUD \$165 pn available at the Park Regis Hotel with 11 rooms already booked.

We still have 11 of the 12 rooms allocated to me by The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel from \$189 pn. As agreed with the manager, rooms not allocated by November may be released back to the hotel.

Robert Eaglesham  
**Host Regional Commodore  
Sydney NSW - Australia**







## フリートがつなぐ支援の輪

神戸フリートJAPAN  
コモドア 森村 安史(西宮 RC  
RI2680)

フィリピンでの台風被害については皆様もすでにご存じのことと思います。11月8日の台風30号(ハイヤン)は死者が5,500人を超える被害をもたらしました。日本ではこの台風被害を伝える報道があまりなく、関心が高いとはいえません。しかしIYFR国際コモドア セルジオ・サンティはただちにIYFRより被災地に3万ドルの義援金を送り、世界中のフリートにも支援を求めました。その求めに応じて神戸フリートは役員会で500ドルの支援を決定し、11月29日にIYFRを通じて、現地に送金いたしました。

さっそく、フィリピンのジュン・アベシラIYFR国際副コモドアからは被災地の復興に役立てたいという礼状が届きました。また現地のロータリアンがいち早く被災地支援に乗り出した様子も、フィリピンの主要紙「フィリピン・スター」から知ることができました。礼状には、この記事を読んだ日本のロータリアンにも、ぜひ伝えて欲しいとの思いも添えられています。災害の現状を伝えることによって、少しでも支援の輪が広がって行くことを期待しています。私達は災害多発国に住んでいます。そしてこれまで阪神淡路大震災や東日本大震災の時に世界中の国々から沢山の温かい手を差し伸べてもらった事が忘れられません。今度は私たちが少しでもフィリピンの被災者の力になれることができればと思っています。

## Rotary Spirit Delivered by Fleets



**By: Yasushi Morimura**  
**Commodore, Kobe Fleet Japan**  
**Nishinomiya Rotary Club, RI 2680**

As you have already known, Haiyan or Yolanda killed over 5,500 people in the Philippines on November 8. Unfortunately I have to say public concern on the event was not enough in Japan. However IYFR invited our attention to help the devastating country. Then we sent \$500 to the Philippines through IYFR. Most of the members of Kobe Fleet are the victims of the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, and many are still suffering from Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. We cannot forget the hospitality around the world. Then this is our turn to support.



*Photo: Autumn Lunch Party on the Luminous Kobe-2  
October 20, 2013*



## Subic Bay Fellowship



**By: Joycelin Antolin Torres**  
**Fleet Commodore, Subic Bay Fleet**



International Vice Commodore Jun Avecilla gave a briefing to District 3790 Governor Elect Rtn Dennis Norman Go (Subic Fleet Vice Commodore) and Past District Governor Jaypee Cadaing (Honorary Member) of what the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) is all about. DGE Go was overwhelmed with the \$30,000 IYFR support to the Yolanda typhoon victims coursed through our rotary districts in Southern Philippines, the prompt response during the Odette flooding in Olongapo and the extended arm of facilitating wheelchair distribution among others. Governor Linda Winter may not be present but she is very supportive of Fleet Commodore Joyce Antolin Torres' endeavor of sharing projects thru IYFR in the rotary clubs of cluster 4C, she was represented by AG Imelda Ramos. Rear Commodore Mark Thomas and spouse Jerly Thomas was there to chronicle the event as well as entertain regional commodores and spouses present. Glad to

see my fleet members Dr. Yang and Rotarian Best friend PP Gian Marie Castellvi gracing the IYFR Regional Commodores Subic Bay Fellowship at The Lighthouse Marina Resort Garden last November 26, 2013.



## A3 AGM Affairs to Remember Boracay Island, Philippines Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2013



**By: Jun Avecilla,  
International Vice Commodore  
Area 3 Commodore**



Following last year's successful A3 AGM in Bali Indonesia, Rc's, PFC's and their mates representing all the regions in the area in New Zealand and South Pacific, Australia, Japan and the Philippines came in full force in the beautiful and pristine Island of Boracay for a week of fun, enjoyment camaraderie and fellowship aside from tackling business in a fruitful annual general meeting. Apologies from the Hongkong Fleet FC Joann Tse and IPFC Douglas Hsia who could not make it and RC Kerran and Carol Campbell, the only RC who could not make it but ably represented by IPFC Roger Lingard. Last year's AGM Secreatry PFC Murray McNally and lovely mate Marlies were also missed. Those who made it are PIC Terry and Meryl Stretton, RC David and Liz Hansen of NZ and South Pacific, RC Grahame and Liz Werrell of Australia Queensland and North Territory, RC Bill and Barbara Chapman of Australia Victoria and Tasmania, Robert and Marlene Eaglesham of Australia New South Wales and South Australia. IPFC Roger and Glenda Lingard (representing Kerran Campbell as above) and Kozo and Kayoko Kajino of Japan. IVC Jun and Lilia Avecilla and RC Udo Pelkowski led the Philippine Fleet along with RVCs Oyie Valarao, Joe and Judith Ragos and Joel Guillermo, FCs Josie Garcia, Bernie Florece, Eren and Medel Tumali and son Christian, CA Max Tan, FS Obet del Rosario, FT Alex Bernales, FLA Ping and Josie Sison, PFC Joel Sarmiento and FMs Jaime and Claudette Baniqued, Elvira Bautista, Mel Waje, Butch Bautista, Voltaire Garcia, Clary Tan, Dalia Puzon, Ayie Gonzales, Bruce Hall, Clyde Chua, Jeannette Chua and Onnie Ngo.

Organizing team of Nesa Mae Casaba, Zedrik Avecilla and Cris Dumlao headed by Jozen Curva have done a great and wonderful job of putting together all the activities of the event including the flight and booking ar-

rangements of the participants especially those from foreign.

The Boracay Regency Resort Hotel and Spa proved to be a perfect chosen venue for its five star accommodation and facilities. The 15 minute boat ride from their main terminal in the mainland to the island was a unique experience enjoyed by everyone. The Meet and Greet at the



Crown Regency Hotel themed in the 60's was most fun and enjoyable as we saw Terry and David in Beatles garb, Bob in Elvis and the rest in old 60's fashion. Singing rendition of the old tunes led by Obet and Ayie brought down the house and parlour games and dancing led by Josie Sison capped an unforgettable night. Every afternoon at 5pm to watch the beautiful sunset at Charlh's Beach Bar is always a relaxing mood over a glass of wine or a bottle of beer or two and a perfect time to exchange pleasantries and fellowship with one another.



The AGM ably chaired by Graham that covers had all the Regional Commodores rendering their reports and IVC Jun discussed topics ranging from GR Changes adopted at 2013 Lisbon, Area 1 AGM La Spezia, IYFR Financial Status, Annual International Dues/Deletion of Delinquent Fleet, Grants Program 2013 viz-a-viz the super typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda calamity disaster relief contribution,





Sydney 2014 RI Convention Booth and Manning volunteers, Post Post Convention Cruise, Area 3 Regatta and Distribution, New Website/Virtual POS, New Rotafloat, IYFR Incorporation. Questions were raised in open forum such as Quo Vadis A3?, the Regional Commodore Assignments in collection of dues of their respective regions, the next A3AGM and the 1014 AGM and PCC. The meeting proceedings were recorded and the minutes are being prepared and reported in separate.



The AGM Dinner at Estacio Uno in a pool garden and beach setting over sumptuous grill and overflowing wines and beers was a winner and IVC Jun gave Philippine Fleet mementos and proper rank regalia were donned on IPFC Roger and Bob.



In succeeding days members either joined an Island hopping and snorkelling expeditions in outrigger banca or remained shopping at D' Mall, enjoy fresh seafood at D' Talipapa, played golf at the Fairways and Bluewater Golf and Country Club, indulged in lavish spa and massage in Mandala Spa or simply or lazily lied down or swim on the beach or pool, or just wandered around. There has never been a dull moment or things not to do in the amazing island.

Highlighting the post AGM is a unique Paraw race manned by four crew each "Lemans Start" from the beach around a buoy on the northern tip of the Island by the Shangri-La Hotel down to round a moored ship ferry at the crossing channel and back to the start line for the fin-

ish. To make it fair a draw was held for the composition of each team and the three boats that they are going to race. Specially made trophies, replica of the outrigger were awarded to the participants with the Team of IVC Jun, RC's David and Bill and FM Bruce coming in first. The Team of Grahame, Bob, Zed and Marlene on Austin came second while the Team of Terry, Robert, Roger and Kozo came in 3rd and last but not the least on Emman.



The group's special buffet dinner at the Soleil Hotel beachfront held on November 30 was graced by RI District 3850 Mark Ortiz along with the Rotary Club of Boracay President Douglas Abelane, PP Girlie Tuitico and members Del Nano, Nieva Mendoza, Christofer Mendoza, Howell Amariloo and Mario and Madel. IVC Jun briefed them on the disaster relief program of the IYFR and expressed to support the District in the livelihood of the displaced fishermen in the coastal areas of Panay. FM Bruce is from Iloilo and has made the suggestion after seeing himself the hardship of the fisherfolks in the affected areas. The Governor was very happy and readily accepted to be an Honorary Commodore of the Philippine Fleet as our ambassador of goodwill that we may come to see a new fleet in the region with the enthusiastic support of the Boracay Rotary Club in coordination with Bruce.



The Farewell Dinner at the Astoria Hotel was held in absolute splendour, Grecian motif amidst fire dancers astonishing performance and sing along with the band that surprised and delighted everyone with IVC Jun's crooning "You look wonderful tonight" for lovely mate Lil. The 'Auld



Lang Syne" finale never fails to put mist in one's eye as everyone hand in hand bid each other so long or good bye.



November 25-26 before proceeding to Boracay on November 28 and those who did had a trip to Subic and stayed at the Lighthouse Marina Resort, experienced a Tree Top Adventure, sight visit to Anvaya Cove and around the Freeport Zone including the malls and duty free shops, afternoon sailing on Selma Star around the bay and an evening of fellowship dinner with the Subic Bay Fleet led by FC Joycelin Torres, FRC Mark and spouse Jerly Thomas with District Governor Elect and FVC Dennis Go, Past District Governor Jaypee Cadaing (Honorary Member), PP Gian Castellvi, AG Imelda Ramos, Pres Virgilio D. Suniga Jr, Pres Baby Sagun Enad, Rtn. Jho Floresca and Dr. Johnson Yang

Several foreign delegates for the AGM arrived early on A Manila Bay Sunset cocktails and cruise was held for the returnees from Subic Bay and those who arrived on November 27 on board the MY Shanti. Thereafter a welcome dinner was also tendered by the rest of the Philippine Fleet at the Piano Bar of Rembrandt Hotel where RC Koza handed over his Kajino Clinic's contribution of Yen100,000 to the disaster relief fund.



Cong. Arthur Yap of the Province of Bohol made a presentation of a sustainable housing made of local materials



that would cost only about P32,000 and that would bring livelihood to some people of the province in its construction. RVC Oyie Valarao immediately committed to provide for 10 houses amounting to P320,000 to the delight of Congressman Yap and everyone.

The unity and solidarity of Area 3 was exhibited in the historic gathering and exemplified a great fellowship spirit. I thank everyone for coming and It is hoped that everyone had fun fun fun and fond memories brought home. Kudos and big big thanks to the Organizing Team. I look forward to the 2014 AGM where the intention is an 8 night cruise on the Royal Caribbean "Mariner of the Seas" from Shanghai calling at Xiamen, Hong Kong, Saigon ending in Singapore. More on this later from our able 2014 A3 AGM Charima IPIC Roger Lingard who assured us that the budget is the same as what you have allotted in Boracay. Until then and when we all meet.







## Hong Kong Fleet Grows in Numbers



*By: Douglas Hsia  
Immediate Pass  
Fleet Commodore*

The Hong Kong Fleet is thriving under the leadership of dedicated and hardworking FC Joann Tse who beefed up her Fleet from a squadron fleet of 10 last year to a full fleet of 23 members. IVC Jun Avecilla dropped into the territory to observe the 19th Flying Fifteen World Champions on November 8 and The Hong Kong Fleet took the opportunity to host a reception for IVC Jun at the regular meeting of Fleet Commodore Joann's home club Peninsula Sunrise followed by dinner at the Police Officers Club in Kellet Island Causeway Bay. It was a great evening of exchanges of ideas and future activities of the Fleet with Pres. Rosemary Byrnes delighted of IVC Jun's informative talk about the IYFR readily joined the Fellowship thereafter. Members of the Fleet namely, Eric SK

Chin, Man Ching Hung, Charlie Yip, Jones Wong, PFC Cassidy Lam, IPFC Douglas Sia, Chris Fung, David Cheng, Veronica Dekrey, John Wan, Eddy Wong, Bonnie Wong, Ricky Chan and Alex Leung have collectively given donations to the Philippine Yolanda Typhoon victims to which FC Joann Tse generously matched the donations and sent the same to the Philippine Fleet totaling US\$3,100.

From the Hong Kong China Fleet, on behalf of our Commodore Joann, we would like to send our prayers to those who suffered from the Typhoon Haiyan. We trust people of Philippines will show their resilience by bouncing back in no time.







## IYFR Queensland Fleet Update

### THE LOG

Issue 6 – December 2013

International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians  
Queensland Fleet Inc.  
Organisation Number IA 15861  
5 Parklane Place Bulimba, QLD 4171 Australia

**By: Bob Grenelsh**  
**Fleet Secretary**

#### **Christmas Party – 15 December, 2013** **Held at the residence of PC David & Margaret Cameron**

**Commodore Russell Harrop** welcomed 19 members and first mates. First mates were represented by Joan Bailey, Jacky Burkett, Margaret Cameron, Joanne Dore, Narelle Fox, Wendy Morrish, Sue and David Richards and Margaret Rickuss. Apologies were received from Albert Benfer, Keith Cogzell, Bruce Douglas, Jim Fern, Peter Heathwood, Bill Heymink, Don Nixon, Graeme Ry-lance, Erwin Spork and Greg Windsor. The Commodores present were RC Pat Galligan, PC David Cameron, PC John Burkett and PC Bruce Dore.

**Commodore Russell Harrop** began his welcome with the comment "It is all about enjoyment" and concluded by wished all members and first mates a merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Special thanks are due to PC David and Margaret Cameron whose home was an ideal location to hold the

Fleet's Christmas Party. Perfect weather including the sea breeze, great friends, fine food and cold drinks all combined to make it a wonderful event.

In short, a great finish to another enjoyable IYFR year.



**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 5 February: Colmslie Hotel Motel. Please reserve the date.



*Jacky Brukett, Joanne Dore, Narelle Fox & Joan Bailey*



*PC David Cameron, PC John Burkett & Margaret Cameron*



*PC Bruce Dore & Commodore Russell*



## The Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race Gets Underway

#### **Arguably the Strongest Fleet in recent history.**

94 Yachts, including 22 international entrants, 5-100-foot Maxis, 7 former winners and the current race record holder. The race - as is tradition commences on Boxing day. Wild Oats XI set the bench mark for the 2012 Sydney to Hobart with the record time of 1 Day, 18 hours, 23 minutes and 12 seconds. The race has come far since 1947, where the race took 6 days 14 hours, 22 minutes.





SUPPLEMENT:

# TYPHOON YOLANDA AFTERMATH







## IYFR Disaster Relief Funds Turnover to RD 3860 in Cebu



**By: Jun Avecilla,**  
**International Vice Commodore**  
**Area 3 Commodore**  
**Rotafloat Editor and Publisher**

### ATTENDEES:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. DG Francis Rivera        | RC Timog, D3780          |
| 2. DG Ed Chiongbian         | RC Cebu, D3860           |
| 3. DS Philip Tan            | RC Cebu West, D3860      |
| 4. PP Wilton Uykungtian     | RC Cebu West, D3780      |
| 5. IVC Jun Avecilla         | RC Cubao West, D3780     |
| 6. RC Udo Pelkowski         | RC Mactan, D3860         |
| 7. RVC Sven-olof Tengelin   | RC Mactan, D 3860        |
| 8. VC Joel Guillermo        | RC Cubao West, D3780     |
| 9. CA Max Tan               | RC Cubao West, D3780     |
| 10. FC/FCP Josie Garcia     | RC Cubao West, D3780     |
| 11. FC/FCP Neil Valenton    | RC Broadway, D3780,      |
| 12. FC Pros Schlackmuylders | RC Mactan, D3860         |
| 13. FS Melchor Waje         | RC Cubao West, D3780,    |
| 14. FS/FCP Cecile Rodriguez | RC West Triangle, D3780  |
| 15. FCP Eui Bong Jung       | RC Holy Spirit, D3780    |
| 16. FCP Rene Cantos         | RC Timog, D3780          |
| 17. FCP Boy Andal           | RC Cubao Central, D3780  |
| 18. FCP Amy Robles          | RC Roxas District, D3780 |
| 19. FCP Marlon Rivera       | RC West Triangle, D3780  |
| 20. FCP Mario Marfal        | RC Roces, D3780          |
| 21. FCP Dorie Abela Jose    | RC Roosevelt, D3780      |



*The signing of the Memorandum Agreement. (l-r) FC Neil Valenton, FC Josie Garcia, IVC Jun Avecilla, HCDG Francis Rivera, HCDG Ed Chiongbian, VC Joel Guillermo, DS Philip Tan)*

Honorary Commodore District Governor (HCDG) Ed Chiongbian welcomed thanked everyone for the visit and the good tidings and disaster relief aid that they are bringing. He explained that the province of Cebu had an unlucky spell having encountered three successive natural disasters in a span of a month. Cebu and Bohol are still reeling from the October 15 7.2 magnitude deadly earthquakes that damaged over 70,000 buildings, infrastructures and centuries old churches of which 14,500 totally destroyed. Over 250 people were reported dead and missing while about 1,000 were injured. On November 5, a Tornado ripped through three Iloilo towns and two cities in Cebu that caused further havoc and destruction. Haiyan or Yolanda that crossed through the central Philippine provinces of Samar, Leyte, northern Cebu, Panay Island and northern Palawan on November 8 is the last of the three disasters but one of the worst storms ever recorded, affected more than 5 million people in 270 towns and cities, with death toll officially at over 5,000 but expected to rise with thousands still missing. Hundreds of thousands more people have been displaced. In Northern Cebu, hardest hit towns were: Sogod, Borbon, Tabogon, Bogo City, Medellin, San Remigio, Daanbantayan, Poro, Pilar, Tudela and San Francisco in the Camotes group of islands and Madridejos and Bantayan where nearly all the houses, schools, hospitals, infrastructure, poultry, piggery farms and the biggest feed mill and agricultural crops were destroyed. The towns also suffered large casualties.



*A symbolic turnover of the IYFR donation of P1,300,000 (\$29,992) for the Typhoon Disaster Relief from HCDG Francis Rivera to HCDG Ed Chiongbian amidst the delegation from RD3780.*

**VENUE:** Casino Espanol, El Comedor

**TIME:** 12 Noon - November 19, 2013

District Secretary welcomed everyone opened the meeting and immediately passed the floor to DG Ed Chiongbian after a brief introduction.

Because of these series of unfortunate natural disasters, District Chairman for Relief Operations PP William





Uykungtian explained that the Rotary District were already in relief operations affected by the earthquake and tornado. Thus they were able to despatch the first loads of relief goods airlifted as early in the morning of November 10 to the badly hit City of Tacloban and trucked to northern towns of Cebu. He prides that the District was the first to have sent the disaster relief to the neediest stricken towns. The District has been constantly sending relief goods and Shelter Boxes to support thousands of people daily which were never enough with increasing number of desperate mouths to feed and are homeless and without shelter. Cebu has become the centre of distribution of international relief goods to stricken areas because of its adequate airport facilities. As more and more emergency relief supplies and medicines from international sources land in Cebu the District's thrust will eventually shift to rebuilding and reconstruction of the affected communities. Carpentry tools and materials such as hammers, saws, planes, chisels and nails, roofing materials, lumber and cement are to be distributed to town Barangays to help the community rebuild their homes, schools, hospitals and public halls where our funds will also be utilized.

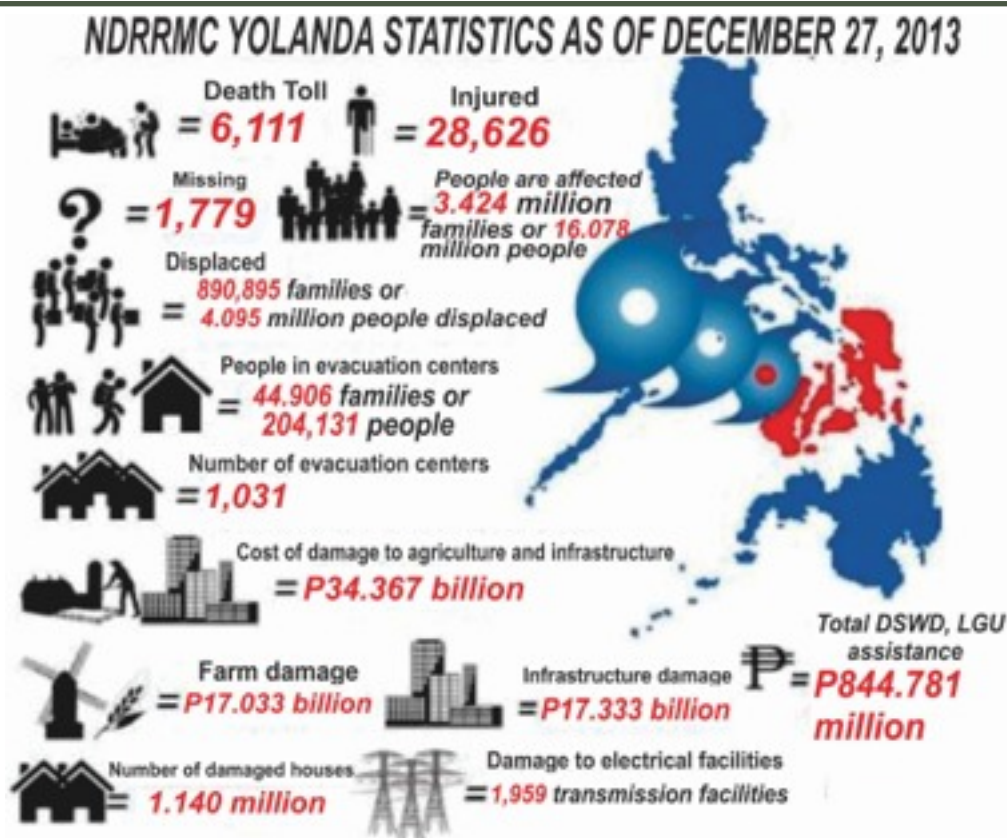
HCDC Ed Chiongbian on behalf of the entire District 3860 acknowledged and thanked the International Yacht-

ing Fellowship of Rotarians and the conduits of the funds, HCDC Francis Rivera of Rotary District 3780, the Philippine Fleets of Cubao West and Cebu for its donation of P1,300,000 (US\$29,992) and for the separate check in the amount of P100,000 raised by the First Class Presidents headed by FC Josie Garcia Cubao West Fleet and FC Neil Valenton of The First Class Fleet for the disaster relief of the typhoon victims. A Memorandum of Agreement was forged and signed covering the donation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1pm and lunch and fellowship followed.



*IVC Jun Avecilla on behalf of the IYFR presents the check for P1,300,000 to HCDC Ed Chiongbian*





## SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN (A.K.A. YOLANDA)

### ...LEAVES A TRAIL OF DEVASTATION BEHIND



**By: Udo Pelkowski**  
**Regional Commodore,**  
**Philippine Fleet**



Ground Zero in large parts of the Central Visayas in the Philippines are the result of the devastating trail left behind by Super typhoon Haiyan, local Name (Yolanda), which stroke the Philippines last November 08, 2013.

One month after the most destructive Super typhoon in recorded history, with strongest winds ever recorded to make landfall 315 km (195 miles) per hour hit the Country, 5796 people are reported killed and 1779 people are still missing.

Walls of Water up to two storeys' high have been even more devastating than the wind wiping out dozens of mostly poor coastal communities on Samar and neighboring Leyte Island.

More than a Million Homes where damaged or destroyed. To rebuild the Infrastructure and Communities will need Years and Billions of US\$.

Many NGO's like Rotary International gave immediate Disaster Reliefs. IC Sergio Santi of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians IYFR took also immediate action. A Disaster Relief of 30,000.00 US\$ (1.3 Million Phil. Pesos) has been released to give help to the victims of Super typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

On November 19, 2013 in behalf of IC Sergio Santi, IVC Jesus "Jun" Avecilla together with Rotary International DG Francis Rivera of RI D-3780 two checks, with a total amount of 1.4 Million Phil. Pesos, have been presented to Rotary International DG Ed Chongbian of RI D-3860, the RI District where the Cebu Fleet of IYFR is located.



President FC Josie Garcia of the Cubao West Fleet and the Rotary Club of Cubao West, together with her classmates of RI D-3780 donated 100,000.00 Phil. Pesos.

The handover of the donations took place at Casino Espanol in Cebu City, witnessed by members of both Rotary Districts and members of the Philippine Fleet of IYFR. A Memorandum of Agreement MOA was signed between the parties. The donations will be used to purchase of supplies and medicines as relief aid to the residents of Bogo City in Cebu, which had been as badly hit as Tacloban City in Leyte and Trinidad in Bohol, which recently hit by a powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.2 that knocked off power and electricity in the community and province where Cebu FC Pros Slachmuylders lives. The Cebu Fleet of IYFR is coordinating the relief funds with RI District 3860.

A report of the use of funds is going to be submitted soon.

More donations from various Fleets from all over the world have been given to the Philippine Fleet Disaster Relief Program to help the most needed people in the devastated areas.



I like to express in behalf of the Philippine Fleet and most of all, of the Cebu Fleet where I am a member of, gratitude to IC Sergio Santi, his bridge members and all Rotary Mariners of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians IYFR for this generous, most welcomed disaster relief funds presented to the needed people in the Philippines.

This hearth warming exemplary action from all members of IYFR brings this world closer together. On November 28 to December 3, 2013, during the very successful Area 3 AGM in Boracay Aklan, a tropical island paradise which was also hit by Super typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) IYFR delegates from Japan, Australia, New Zealand South Pacific and Philippines received an update presented by IVC Jesus "Jun" Avecilla about the devastation left behind by Super typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

For more direct help to the People here in the Philippines, Rotary Clubs from RI District 3860 and RI District 3850 are looking for International Partners. Please feel free to contact me at: [udopelkowski@hotmail.com](mailto:udopelkowski@hotmail.com)

I gladly will forward your contact address to Rotary Clubs in both RI Districts.





## Helping Quietly



**By: Atty. Jose C. Sison**  
**Legal Advisor, Philippine Fleet**

The terrible natural disasters recently hitting our country are indeed unprecedented. Cebu and Bohol are still reeling from the Oct. 15, deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake, when a tornado ripped through its two cities as well as three towns in Iloilo on Nov. 5, that caused further havoc and destruction. In that deadly earthquake 250 people were reported dead and missing while about 1,000 injured with 70,000 buildings, infrastructure and centuries old churches damaged of which 14,500 were totally destroyed.

Then on Nov. 8, Haiyan or Yolanda, the last of the three disasters but one of the worst storms ever recorded, crossed through the central Philippine provinces of Samar, Leyte, northern Cebu, Panay Island and northern Palawan. Yolanda affected more than 5 million people in 270 towns and cities, with death toll officially at over 5,500 but expected to rise because thousands are still missing.

But more unprecedented and so heartwarming are the worldwide disaster relief and assistance poured into our country and to the victims of the disasters. This is the first time in memory indeed when I have seen such spontaneous and earnest outpouring of love and concern shown by men and women all over the world to their fellow human being stricken by deadly and devastating natural catastrophes.

Somehow, the tri-media's coverage of these relief and recovery efforts as well as the rebuilding operations, also created some sort of a "bandwagon" effect that attracted more volunteers offering their services and their help in cash or in kind. Various events and campaigns soliciting or raising funds and relief goods for the victims were also undertaken or are still going on. Media coverage has indeed given rise to more volunteerism.

But there are also some organizations which are extending their humanitarian services and assistance away from the limelight. They immediately work behind the scenes and come to the aid of the victims even without any media people around. I am referring to the worldwide service organization founded more than 100 years ago that continues to have a vision undistracted by politics and carries out its mission with positive outlook and buoyant spirit. This is the Rotary International whose members, more commonly known as "Rotarians," perform their tasks by immediately taking concrete actions in the fulfillment of their ideal of "service above self."

So Rotarians especially in the disaster areas immediately organized themselves to carry out relief operations. Their center of operation and distribution of international relief goods is Cebu because of its adequate airport facilities. Rotarians in this zone which is under District 3860 acted right away to ensure that donations in cash or kind reach the victims faster and more efficiently.

Fully supporting the Rotarians in these disaster hit provinces is a worldwide association of Rotarians which has been primarily organized to advance "international understanding, goodwill and peace through world fellowship." This is the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR), the oldest and the largest Rotary Fellowship first formed in England in 1947 and now composed of about more than 90 fleets with about 3,000 members in 21 countries.

While its name sounds elitist and connotes an expensive hobby of owning a yacht, IYFR is actually more about having a common vision and passion for humanitarian and community service with emphasis on the sea, other waterways and its environs. So when its present International Commodore, (IC) Sergio Santi of Italy first heard of this devastation, immediately contacted International Vice Commodore (IVC), and Area 3 Commodore Jun Avecilla of the Philippines, the Area 2 Commodore Guillermo Arteta (Argentina), the Area 1 Commodore Robert Burns (Scotland) and the Grants Committee Chair PIC Bryan Skinner (UK). Having received a unanimous "GO", the International Commodore could commit IYFR with an initial amount of P1.3 million (\$29,992). Transfers from individual fleet members of other countries were still being received by IC Santi from other fleets in Australia, Poland, Ukraine Belarus, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, UK, Uruguay and Argentina.

Upon receipt of the initial amount, IVC Jun Avecilla, the past president of the Rotary Club of Cubao West in the Quezon City District 3780, who organized the first Philippine Fleet of IYFR on March 18, 2009, informed District 3780 Governor and Honorary Commodore Francis Rivera of such donation so that it could be turned over to his fellow District Governor in Cebu who is also an Honorary Commodore of the Cebu Fleet, Ed Chiongbian.

The symbolic turn-over of the amount was thus held in Casino Espanol Cebu City on November 20, 2013. Governor Ed Chiongbian on behalf of the entire District 3860 acknowledged and thanked the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) represented by IVC and



Area 3 Commodore Jun Avecilla and the conduits of the funds, Governor Francis Rivera of Rotary District 3780, for their donation of P1,300,000 (\$29,992) and for the separate check in the amount of P103,000 raised by the First Class Presidents headed by FC Josie Garcia Cubao West Fleet and FC Neil Valenton of The First Class Fleet of Broadway. Also present were Wilton Uykungtian, chairman of the relief operations, Past President Joel Guillermo and CA Max Tan of RC of Cubao West, Sven Olof Tengelin who formed the first IYFR fleet in Mactan Cebu together with Udo Pelowski, and Philip Tan of RC Cebu. A memorandum of agreement was forged and signed covering the donation.

Rotary District 3860 was able to dispatch the first loads of relief goods airlifted as early in the morning of November 10 to the badly hit Tacloban City and trucked to the neediest stricken towns in northern Cebu, particularly Bantayan Island. As more and more emergency relief supplies, medicines and shelter boxes from international sources land in Cebu, the Rotarians there continue to distribute them daily to thousands of hungry and homeless people in the Central Philippine Provinces badly hit by the three disasters. Eventually, the District's thrust will shift to rebuilding and reconstruction of the affected communities. Carpentry tools and materials such as

hammers, saws, planes, chisels and nails, roofing materials, lumber and cement are to be distributed to help rebuild homes, schools, hospitals and public halls.

Bruce Hall of the Cebu Fleet who is from Panay also reported that relief aid has reached the poor folks and fishermen in the coastal areas of the province that were devastated. They are helping the people there to rebuild their fishing boats, nets gears and motors so that they can start their livelihood again.

On November 28 to December 3, 2013, the IYFR in Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Rim and Asia or Area 3 headed by Jun Avecilla will hold its General Meeting (AGM) in Boracay where the next fleet of the fellowship is expected to be established. Attending this AGM are delegates for the Philippines, Japan, Australia, China, French Polynesia and New Zealand.

IYFR has thus gained a great mileage, a lot of goodwill and friendship reaching far and wide to the Rotary Community.



*A Law Each Day  
(Keep Troubles Away)*

**"Time to get to know the Filipino people ... unbelievably resilient, long suffering, good natured, uber friendly, loyal, ingenious, and a bunch of survivors.**

**At the end of the day, the Filipinos will just shake off the dirt from their clothes and go about their business ... and SMILE. They do not complain much, they will bear as long as they can.**

**Maybe this is why they were given the "privilege" of bearing the burden of the strongest typhoon ever recorded.**

**The indomitable human spirit at its finest."**







## Philippines Disaster Relief Contributions

### Philippines Donations

		Italy Account		Philippine Account	
		Euro	US\$	US\$	Peso
IYFR				30,000.00	P1,300,000.00
Gold Coast	19.11		586.53		
Swiss fleet	19.11	190.55			
	21.11	600.00			
	21.11	230.54			
	22.11	100.00	1,121.09		
Total \$			1,707.62		
North West Italy	25.11		3,000.00		
Western Australia	3.12		458.49		
Kobe fleet	4.12		500.00		
Total \$			3,958.49		
IVC Jun	24.11	770.00			
Swiss fleet	18.11	192.00			
	20.11	192.00			
Total €\$		1154.00	1,498.70		
Madrid fleet	19.11	1,700.00			
	27.11	290.83			
	27.11	356.76			
Total €\$		2,347.59	3,048.82		
Sozialfonds Rotary Club München-Martinsried/Geroge Hagermayer	6.12	250.00			
FC Peter Rehlfuss/Lake of Constance Fleet	6.12	200.00			
Axel Theuer/German Fleet North	6.12	50.00			
GB fleet	11.12	1,200.42			
Total €\$		4,432.01	5,755.86		
Hongkong Fleet	12.12			3,062.50	
FC Angie Mesistrano/Punta del Este	27.11			968.50	
RC Robert Eadlesham	1.12	P 10,000.00		226.78	
RVC Oyle Valarao	18.11	P320,000.00		7,272.72	P 320,000.00
Cubao West/First Class Fleet	18.11	P103,000.00		2,367.81	P 103,000.00
FM Clyde Chua	15/12	P 40000.00		996.26	40,000.00
RC Kozo Kajino	11.27	Y100,000.00		971.67	
Total \$			15,969.48	45,866.24	
Grand Total US\$				61,835.72	

### Notes

1. Turned over to RD3860 Gov Ed Chiongblan on 18.11
2. Turned over to Rebuild Bohol Foundation Inc./Cong. Arthur Yap for 10 Core Shelters
3. Turned over to RD3860 in Cebu on 18.11
4. Truck Freight Cost 20ft Container to Cebu for Bantayan



## Ground Zero...40 Days Later



**By: RVC Joel Guillermo,  
Special projects,  
Philippine Fleet**

### Ormoc City

As we toured the city, most of the damages were roofs of houses, school buildings, commercial buildings, and public utility terminals. The houses located beside the sea suffered heavier damages and they are mostly the fisher folks whose bancas were also damaged.



Linau School, where the Rotary Cares/Command Center/Soup Kitchen is located, is facing the sea shore; thus, most of its roofs were torn and blown away. Daily, our District 3780 is cooking food for 1,000 students for two schools (chosen according to their economic standing in the community - the poorest of the poor). They bring their own plates where we loaded their rice and soup. Hence, only those pre-chosen are fed daily for 40 days.

We had the privilege and opportunity to prepare and cook the food; and serve these to the children. We also played and sang with the kids as a way of letting them forget their tragic experience. FC/President Josie, Sec Mel and Rotarian Brian from California brought children's books and did Story Telling / Book Reading to the delight of the grade school students.



The city is now back on its feet with most establishments already open, internet now available, and electricity restored, either thru the use of gensets nor by their electric cooperative.

Since there is now normalcy in the city, most if not all of those rendering voluntary works in Tacloban City go home to Ormoc City in the afternoon (travel time is 2 hours) as it is the only place where Hotels and Restaurants are open. This is also where the regular ferry to Cebu has regular trips at intervals of 30 minutes.



In Summary, the city on its own, is now moving forward.

### LEGACY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CUBAO WEST FLEET

We visited the Gawad Kalinga/Rotary Housing Project in Ormoc, most of the houses were damaged, its roofs were gone; including their day care center which is now also being used as storage for relief goods.

Our Hon. Commodore/District Governor Francis, together with our FC/President Josie, Sec. Mel and the under-signed made a quick decision and immediately snapped the cost of repairing the roofs of their Day Care Center where the kids are being taught basic education.





schools, among others were heavily damaged beyond recognition. The strength of the typhoon was so strong that it uprooted and torn coconut trees, a tree that is known for its stability and flexibility.

When we reached Palo, Leyte, a town adjoining Tacloban City and is also along the Pacific Ocean coast, almost all the houses, business establishments, and other structures were totally damaged; beyond repair. Most of the vehicles along the area were damaged and non-functional. This is the area where most people died because of the storm surge. The area is also along side the Tacloban Airport facing the Pacific Ocean where thousands of people were swept away.

After a careful analysis of their cost estimates, we donated **P41,000** which is more than enough to replace their torn out roofs that is presently covered only by tarpaulins made with light sack materials provided by the Rotary Club of Ormoc City. The amount came from the donation of the US Wheelchair Team from the North Carolina, namely: IPP Bill Biddle, PDG Hamp Shuford, PP Everett Stiles, PN Peggy Wike and Rtn Ross Sloan and family. They facilitated the donation of Wheel Chairs from their District to our Club last September. The \$1,000 donation was intended for the Yolanda victims, in honor of the late PDG Bobby Viray.



On our way to the Airport, we opened the window of our cars and we experienced the bad smell of those who passed away coupled with debris still scattered in the area.

There is still no order and safety in the area that is why most of the volunteers and foreigners extending aid in the area have to go back to Ormoc in the afternoon where the living conditions are back to normal.

#### **TACLOBAN CITY, PALO, LEYTE and adjoining towns**

We left Ormoc City at 4:30 a.m. to Tacloban City but our trip was delayed as we had to scamper for available Diesel along the way. It was good that thru our appeal, we siphoned 10 liters of Diesel from the truck of a gasoline station owner who's establishment was heavily damaged by the Super Typhoon.

As we are nearing Tacloban City, we have seen the "Wrath of Super Typhoon Yolanda". Houses, churches,



It will take years to rehabilitate Tacloban City and its adjoining towns. Thus, most of the foreign aid are now





focused in the area. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was in Tacloban City when we were there. Today, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon is also on his way to Tacloban City.

We were privileged to be one of those who started the Soup Kitchen of our Rotary Cares Project at the Sacred Heart School in Tacloban together with District Governor Francis Rivera, PDG Danny Fausto, LG Chito Borromeo, First Class Presidents/FC Josie Garcia, Cecille Rodriguez and Amy Robles, who are all IYFR Members of the First Class Fleet, Sec. Mel Waje, Rotarian Brian Rocha of RC Goleta, along with the officers and members of the Rotary Clubs of Tacloban City and Ormoc City.

Rotary Cares Project in Ormoc is now on its 3rd Phase which is Livelihood. However, in Tacloban City, the Soup Kitchen will run from December 18 till January 4. On this day, the city is targeting to open their schools (which is still doubtful, considering the present situation of the city).



#### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

While awaiting the report from District 3860 Governor Ed Chiongbian on how our donation of P1.4 million was used or allocated, any unused funds should now be utilized in rehabilitation efforts and livelihood programs. While there is a lesser sense of urgency on food and relief efforts at present, there is also a claim by First Class President Joel Caminade of RC Tacloban that no funds were allocated to them yet from the District. On the other hand, the priority for immediate funding was for the relief operations of the northern provinces of Cebu that were also severely affected.

Succeeding IYFR donations should be focused on Livelihood Projects such as donating Bancas so that the Fishermen can again go back to the ocean to catch fish and

earn a living. A well made Banca can last over 20 years; thus, it is something that the fishermen can leave to their next generation.

So much relief goods have already been sent to Tacloban and other parts of Leyte and, some of the goods are reportedly just kept in warehouses and other storage facilities by people with no conscience.

The construction of bunk houses also ongoing; thus, in a short period of time, those misplaced will now have a shelter.



However, basing on our experience in Ormoc City where our District Governor decided that we donate directly to the affected people, we made them happier and we are also more confident that the money we gave really went to the intended beneficiaries.

Hence, if we are to donate again the funds recently raised from generous members of our organization, we recommend that we buy the bancas from fabricators in Cebu or nearby provinces and donate it directly to the poorest of the poor in Tacloban, Palo and other coastal towns.

We can partner with the local Rotary Clubs there who will choose the intended recipients.

We should be guided by Steven Cove's Principle:  
*"If we give a man a fish today, we feed him for the day.  
Teach him how to fish and we feed him for a lifetime".*







**By: FM Zedrik Avecilla**  
**IYFR Philippines**



The recent Super Typhoon Haiyan known locally as Yolanda caused massive destruction and devastation in the central Philippine islands last November 8, 2013. This is considered one of the worst natural disasters in the country and possibly in the world. It has displaced over three million people, damaging over a million homes and the loss of more than six thousand lives.

The temporary tent city in Pasay is fast being congested with the volume of evacuees coming from the affected areas, hence the dire need to put up other evacuation places in other areas. Project H.O.P.E aims to set up a resettlement area in Zambales in order to help decongest the evacuation center in Pasay City. The Vice Governor of Zambales province, Ramon Lacbain has committed an area along San Marcelino town that can serve as the site for this resettlement area. The objective is not just for initial relief but rehabilitation involving: Medical Assistance, Education, Stress Debriefing, Spiritual Enlightenment and Livelihood. The livelihood program can be a ready source of skilled manpower support for the current booming tourism industry in the region. Likewise, Project H.O.P.E can be utilized as an apt exemplar that can help us better prepare for future disasters of this magnitude.

### Climate Change

According to Climate Change Commission vice chairperson Lucille Sering, greenhouse gas emissions greatly contribute to global warming. The Philippine delegation during the 19th Conference of Parties UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19) in Warsaw, Poland has been pushing for the establishment of a "loss and damage" mechanism that tackles measures that will help prevent further loss and damage as a result of disasters and calamities, or help mitigate their effects. Sering noted that the loss and damage is "imperative" especially because industrialized countries display a lack of commitment in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. However Mrs. Sering stressed, "Relief is only temporary. Prevention is more necessary." She also urged countries to provide \$100 billion by 2020 for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to be co-chaired by Albay Governor Joey Salceda, to extend developing countries financial support for their mitigation and adaptation activities. Yolanda is the new benchmark for disaster prevention. As long as the problem with our environment exists, natural disasters will get worst. We have to be prepared. Funding such as the GCF can help us develop Zambales into a "Disaster Relief Hub" that can serve as the Center for Disaster Management Services in the Philippines.

Subic Bay Freeport is equipped to handle such calamity and can serve as base camp or command center. Strategically, it is

accessible by land, air and sea that can serve as the hub for all relief aids coming from anywhere in the world. Its terrain is ideal for training disaster response teams that can easily be deployed. This will provide the country a successful disaster recovery program which can be aligned to the current House Bill 3351 proposed by Rep Weslie Gatchalian which institutes a National Disaster Rehabilitation Program and the establishment of the Philippine Disaster Rehabilitation Commission (PDRC) which aims to speed up the recovery and the return to normalcy of the affected areas.

The project will not only help the victims of the typhoon Yolanda and prepare us for the next disaster, but at the same time encourage people to recognize that the root of this problem is also related to the way how humans have exploited and abuse the planet. We hope to be able to change the way people see nature and encourage them to live a more eco-friendly life. Zambales is an ideal location and has first-hand experience in handling large-scale disaster operations akin to the Mount Pinatubo Eruption in 1991. It also reinforces the moral awakening and national consciousness on human values that are unique, genuine and positively Filipino, such as compassion, generosity, hospitality, tenacity, patience, hard work and resourcefulness. It is these values and other Filipino traits that have allowed us to weather many storms and we can also use these to move forward from Yolanda. We recognize the large scope of this project, but if not us, then who? If not now, then when? We appeal for your support in this project.

The Lighthouse Marina Resort in partnership with the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) Subic Bay Fleet and Malachi Consultancy with the cooperation of the Vice Governor's Office in Zambales are spearheading the project and are seeking partners for assistance and support for planned long-term rehabilitation. For questions or inquiries e-mail: [zedavecilla@lighthousesubic.com](mailto:zedavecilla@lighthousesubic.com) or contact me directly via mobile at **0918.893.3745** (Smart) or **0917.893.3745** (Globe).





## Editor's Note



**By: Jun Avecilla,  
International Vice Commodore  
Area 3 Commodore  
Rotafloat Editor and Publisher**

### So much for the Rules

CNN's renowned news anchor Anderson Cooper was almost immediately at ground zero following the wake of super typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda to give on the spot live coverage of the catastrophe. Mr. Cooper brought to the eyes of the world aired internationally via CNN the horrific and pitiful sight of the aftermath of the destructive event... no food, no water, no power...no government in hard hit towns or cities particularly Tacloban City, the capital town of the island of Leyte, that got the brunt and fury of the mega storm, the biggest ever recorded as dubbed by Discovery Channel. Civic and professional organizations, police, military and governmental agencies were overwhelmed and immobilized. Hospitals, schools, evacuation centers and communications facilities were wiped out. Chaos loomed the city and desperate people were looting everywhere. Dead bodies lined up the streets and under rubbles uncollected for days. IYFR Cebu Fleet and a number of its Mariners were directly affected including Iloilo in the island of Panay. FC Proper Shlachmuylders and his family who live in Bohol and still reeling from the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the province were un-contactable and feared missing initially for a few days but were safely located later.

The most powerful, freak-of-nature and most-devastating-howler directly rammed through the defenceless islands of the eastern seaboard of the Philippines, facing the wide expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Strong winds more than 325 km/hr slammed hard, ripping and blowing off rooftops and man made structures like match boxes and card board edifices in ruinous heaps and devastation. But the powerful winds was not enough, it spawned up a tidal surge of sea water more than 15 feet and over in the seaside communities overwhelming and drowning in its wake thousands of people and properties. The death and destruction statistics are just staggering.

Infrastructure and environmental experts from foreign governments who immediately came to extend help estimated the rehabilitation efforts to last for 5 to 10 years. United Nations' Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon and Secretary of State, John Kerry of the USA who visited the devastated areas a couple of weeks after said..."you'll never be abandoned and forgotten." Immediately, UN's ILO gave work to more than 2.90 million or 50% of the total labor force displaced for rehabilitation work. The US government sent more troops to assist the government in its rehabilitation, medical and rescue efforts.

The swift, decisive and firm action by the leadership and international bridge at the time when it was needed most and without being asked for help demonstrates the spirit of

compassion of our fellowship especially when its members are affected. Having said that, let me take out from my chest a matter of contention which have been raised in a flurry of emails and lectures by a couple of our past leaders, and echoed by a few on the propriety of giving financial aid out of the coffers of the fellowship to the helpless victims of devastating typhoon in the Philippines. While I respect their opinions, social beings as we are, we can do more if we are one in fraternal fellowship and IYFR mariners foremost are still Rotarians bounded by our commitment to serve humanity as needed. There comes a time when we have to shun away with legalities and formalities when the dire need to help those in need is the prime consideration. Let me just share with you and quote a heart warming email from a Commodore in the Pacific Northwest.

***"...Frankly, I am sure that I do not understand all the legal and procedural aspects of the matter. I do not know who is right in the legal interpretations, and actually that is not really important to me. What is important to me is this: I firmly believe that all Rotarians involved acted out of the goodness of their hearts and with a true desire to assist fellow human beings struck by that disaster. Further, I am confident that the funds donated will make a real difference to a number of desperate people in the Philippines. As a Rotarian I am delighted that excess funds not needed for the administration of the IYFR have been used to alleviate human suffering."***

It is noteworthy that a great majority of our members share the above view as shown by the outpouring concerns and additional voluntary contributions coming from all over our members and fleets, doubling the amount of our original donation. Our endless gratitude to the men and women and Fleets of IYFR for their kindness and unselfish support. The people greatly affected by the calamity will bounce back and with deep gratitude will never forget the help and kindness extended to them when it mattered and needed most. On the other hand the IYFR with its noble gesture certainly has gained lots of goodwill and better friendship and endearment by the Filipino people who it helped. The additional funds no matter how much will go a long way towards alleviating their hardships and unimaginable loss. A very Happy and Prosperous New Year to all and God Bless everyone.

*"Sailing into a year of new possibilities."*



*The Editorial Team*