

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

# RYFR ROTAfloat

MARCH 2024 ISSUE N° 117





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# ROTAFLOAT

MARCH 2024 N° 117



#### About the cover

The 50 meter long schooner "Oosterschelde" left Plymouth on the South coast of the United Kingdom on August 15 for a two-year voyage of science and discovery. It is recreating Darwin's original route, as part of a conservation project called Darwin200.

#### ROTAFLOAT'S CORRESPONDENTS

Thanks to the collaboration of the RotaFloat's correspondents, this edition has been possible. Our public gratefulness.

*Marthe Rabbiosi*  
*Peter Gut*  
*Angélica Mesistrano*  
*Lil Torres*  
*Hugo Klopstein*  
*Nelia Sarcol*  
*Geraldine C. Repollo*

*Martin Hoff*  
*Edgardo Gargano*  
*Miriam Caudullo*  
*Ricardo Aguerre*  
*Nelson Scleidorovich*  
*Alessandro D'Onofrio*  
*Gareth Rowland*

*Silvia Callorda, editor*



**Angélica Mesistrano**

INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE



# INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

March 2024

Dear Commodores and Mariners

Ending March, it is a pleasure to send to all of you our Spring Rota-float for some and Autumn Rota-float for others. In the southern hemisphere they have enjoyed the best time for sailing. Although for those of us who like to sail, there is no cold, rain or wind that can stop us. We hope that all of you will share with us photos and articles about your activities.

We have had excellent events in the last three months. IYFR has a new website. It is a modern, intuitive website, with new sections, very simple to navigate and enjoy. We have kept the same domain [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net) We celebrate and welcome the new fleet of Cote D'Ivoire, a fleet and a new flag are added to our IYFR. Welcome dear friends!

And we continue adding mariner friends, we will have two new fleets in the next quarter.

We are preparing our booth at the House of Friendship for the Singapore convention. We have the collaboration of PIC Jun Avecilla, IRC Paul Yiu and A3C Edmond Aguilar who have formed the team in charge of organizing the activities during the convention. To all of them, thank you very much. We are waiting for you all in Singapore, at our booth No. 1409. It will be a pleasure to receive your visits!

After 4 years of non-face-to-face meetings, Area 2 has held its AGM. It was developed in the Mexican Caribbean. We have enjoyed a few days with wonderful sun, the warmth of our Mexican friends, an excellent organization and, very importantly, meeting again in person after several years. Congratulations to the Cancún Ocean and Sand fleet for their impeccable organization and thank you for the warm welcome.

Very interesting meeting programs are being organized in Area 1. The Area 1 AGM will take place in Belgrade, Serbia between June 7 and 9. They have also organized a cruise for June 9 and 10, sailing and touring archaeological sites with wonderful landscapes. The fleets of Italy have organized their AGM, it will take place in Brindisi between April 25 and 28, they have designed an excellent program.

Dear friends all, I am pleased to inform that our fellowship is very active, growing and preparing activities around the world. Along with this good news, I wish Mariners in the Northern Hemisphere a great summer, Mariners in the Southern Hemisphere enjoy winter sailing, and to everyone, I send my warm regards.



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# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2023 - 2025

**Angélica Mesistrano (Argentina)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE

**Carlo d'Amore (Spain)**

INTERNATIONAL VICE COMMODORE – A1C

**Paul Yiu (Taiwan)**

INTERNATIONAL REAR COMMODORE

**Sergio Santi (Italy)**

CHIEF OF STAFF

**Miriam Caudullo (Argentina)**

AREA 2 COMMODORE

**Edmond Aguilar (Phillipines)**

AREA 3 COMMODORE

**David Hansen (New Zealand)**

IMMEDIATE PAST INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE

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INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

**Hugo Klopstein (Ecuador)**

AREA 2 TREASURER

**Yun-Chi (Kyra) Lee (Taiwan)**

AREA 3 TREASURER

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**Oscar Fontalvo (Colombia)**

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

**Bernardo Rabassa (Spain)**

HISTORIAN OFFICER

**Laura Padoan (Italy)**

AREA 1 REGALIA OFFICER

**Edgardo Gargano (Uruguay)**

AREA 2 REGALIA OFFICER

**Chia-Yu (Jade) Kuo (Taiwan)**

AREA 3 REGALIA OFFICER

## INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2023 - 2025

- 1 Angélica Mesistrano
- 2 Carlo d'Amore
- 3 Paul Yiu
- 4 Sergio Santi
- 5 Miriam Caudullo
- 6 Edmond Aguilar
- 7 David Hansen
- 8 Annette Lewis
- 9 Hugo Klopstein
- 10 Yun- chi (Kyra) Lee
- 11 Lorenzo Mazzeo
- 12 Silvia Callorda
- 13 Antonio Marchesi
- 14 Anabela Aldaz
- 15 Jesus Avecilla
- 16 Gary Huang
- 17 Eduardo D'Alessio
- 18 Arturo Supangan
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# NEW WEBSITE



It is with great pleasure that we announce that our new website is online.

It took a while to design it because before starting it we spent time getting a backup of all the documents, photos, reports, etc. that were on the previous website. We have expanded the options menu. We have added a Brand Center, our website can be read in 8 languages, we organized a "Library" for documents from previous years, we controlled and updated all the documents and forms that were out of time. There is a full copy of the membership database and we have updated several website features.



Our website was designed to be intuitive and easy to navigate. I hope you all like it and enjoy it as much as those of us involved in the design and development of our website.

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# REGIONE ITALIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BRINDISI (PORTA D'ORIENTE) 25 – 28 APRILE 2024



Brindisi ospiterà il più importante evento annuale dell'IYFR, Regione Italia: l'incontro di tutte le Flotte dell'Area 1 con l'obiettivo di coinvolgere il maggior numero di mariner e rafforzare il loro spirito di appartenenza alla fellowship. Durante il Meeting si affronteranno temi riguardanti le problematiche determinate dalla normativa, anche di nuova emanazione, sulla navigazione da diporto e specificatamente sulla sicurezza e sulle responsabilità ad esse connesse. Notevole l'importanza che, durante il Meeting, assumerà il dialogo ed il confronto tra i componenti delle marinerie convenute. Dialogo quanto mai opportuno per l'analisi di problematiche comuni e di proposte e soluzioni da adottare per migliorarne la gestione.

## PROGRAMMA

### ■ GIOVEDÌ 25 APRILE

- 16,00 arrivo partecipanti: accoglienza  
Hotel Orientale, corso G. Garibaldi n. 40  
20,30 cena di benvenuto:  
Ristorante "da Giubilo" via Pozzo Traiano, 7

### ■ VENERDÌ 26 APRILE

- 10,00 visita al Castello Svevo sede del Comando della Marina Militare Italiana  
12,30 aperitivo rinforzato - Circolo Ufficiali della Marina Militare  
17,00-19,00 visita del centro storico della città guidati dal Prof. Giacomo Carito, Presidente Sezione di Brindisi della Società di Storia Patria per la Puglia  
20,30 cena ristorante "la pescheria del porto", lungomare Regina Margherita

### ■ SABATO 27 APRILE

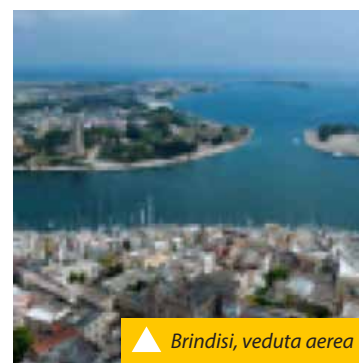
- 10,00 imbarco per minicrociera nel porto e visita della cripta - sacrario del Monumento Nazionale al Marinaio d'Italia  
13,00 aperitivo rinforzato presso ristorante "da Giubilo"  
16,00-19,00 conferenza  
20,30 cena di gala, "Café ristorante Betty", Lungomare Regina Margherita

### ■ DOMENICA 28 APRILE

Arrivederci al prossimo AGM

### ■ CONFERENZA

- 16,30-16,50 Introduzione del Commodoro della Regione Italia: Giuseppe Garrisi  
16,50-17,10: "Sicurezza nel diporto", Marco Tommasi, Presidente Lega Navale Cesenatico  
17,10-17,30 "Il quadro normativo della nautica da diporto e le nuove ipotesi di omicidio e lesioni nautiche, implicazioni giuridiche e responsabilità" Roberto Sammarchi, coordinatore GTS AIAS Mare  
17,30-17,50 "Il diporto nautico: modelli a confronto. Mitigazione dei pericoli da reti di pesca perse o abbandonate" Alessandro D'Onofrio, Commodoro Flotta Italia Sud-Est  
a seguire:  
interventi dei Commodori presenti per illustrare le attività della propria Flotta



▲ Brindisi, veduta aerea



## COSTI CONVENUTI

### Hotel Orientale \*\*\*\*

Camera DUS standard (1 pax) € 95

Matrimoniale standard (2 pax) € 119

Matrimoniale superior (2 pax) € 129

Suite con balcone (2 pax) € 149

Garage € 10 a notte

Tassa di soggiorno € 3 a pax/day

Le prenotazioni devono essere fatte singolarmente alla seguente e-mail: [info@hotelorientale.it](mailto:info@hotelorientale.it) utilizzando il codice riservato "Rotary Club 2024" e telefonando al +390831568451.

Cena di benvenuto del 25 aprile € 30 cad.

Cena conviviale del 26 aprile € 30 cad.

Aperitivo rinforzato del 27 aprile € 20 cad.

Cena di gala del 27 aprile € 50 cad.

Minicrociera nel porto del 27 aprile € 20 cad.



▲ Colonne romane

L'adesione ai singoli eventi: minicrociera, aperitivi, cena, deve essere comunicata al comitato organizzatore entro e non oltre il 31 marzo 2024, allegando la copia del bonifico bancario sul c/c IT 18A030 7502200 CC8500491082 - SWIFT BGENIT2T intestato a Giuseppe Garrisi, riportante la causale "AGM Brindisi" ed i nominativi dei fruitori.

### Comitato organizzatore

Giuseppe Garrisi, +393487322130 email: [giuseppegarrisi47@gmail.com](mailto:giuseppegarrisi47@gmail.com)

Giuseppina Scarano, +393927774327 email: [giuseppina.scarano@libero.it](mailto:giuseppina.scarano@libero.it)

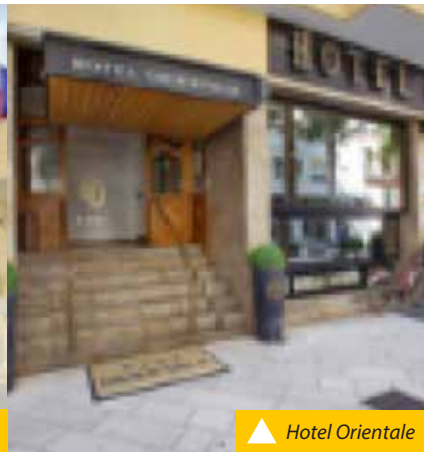
Francesco Lisco, +393294810203 email: [liscof@inwind.it](mailto:liscof@inwind.it)



▲ Monumento al Marinaio d'Italia



▲ Castello Svevo



▲ Hotel Orientale



▲ Tempio di San Giovanni al Sepolcro



▲ Castello Alfonso

# ITALIA REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Brindisi will host the most important annual event of the IYFR, Italian Region: the meeting of all the Fleets of Area 1 with the aim of involving the greatest number of mariners and strengthening their spirit of belonging to the fellowship.

## PROGRAM

### ■ THURSDAY 25 APRIL

**4.00 pm** arrival of participants: welcome Hotel Orientale, Corso G. Garibaldi n. 40

**8.30 pm** welcome dinner: "da Giubilo" restaurant via Pozzo Traiano, 7

### ■ FRIDAY 26 APRIL

**10.00** visit to the Svevo Castle, headquarters of the Italian Navy Command

**12.30** reinforced aperitif - Navy Officers' Club

**5.00pm - 7.00pm** visit to the historic center of the city led by Prof. Giacomo Carito, President of the Brindisi Section of the Homeland History Society for Puglia

**8.30pm** dinner at "la pescheria del porto" restaurant, Regina Margherita seafront Saturday

### ■ SATURDAY 27 APRIL

**10.00** embarkation for mini-cruise in the port and visit to the crypt - shrine of the National Monument to the Sailor of Italy

**1.00pm** reinforced aperitif at the "da Giubilo" restaurant

**4.00pm - 7.00pm** conference

**8.30pm** gala dinner, "Café Betty restaurant", Lungomare Regina Margherita

### ■ SUNDAY 28 APRIL

See you at the next AGM

## CONFERENCE

**4.30pm-4.50pm** Introduction by the Commodore of the Italian Region: Giuseppe Garrisi

**4.50pm-5.10pm** "Safety in pleasure boating", Marco Tommasi, President of the Cesenatico Naval League

**5.10pm-5.30pm** "The regulatory framework of pleasure boating and the new hypotheses of homicide and nautical injuries, legal implications and liability" Roberto Sammarchi, GTS AIAS Mare coordinator

**5.30pm-5.50pm** "Nautical pleasure: models compared. Mitigation of dangers from lost or abandoned fishing nets" Alessandro D'Onofrio, Commodore of the South-East Italy Fleet

Following: interventions by the Commodores present to illustrate the activities of their Fleet.

## ORGANIZER COMMITTEE

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Giuseppina Scarano, +393927774327 email: [giuseppina.scarano@libero.it](mailto:giuseppina.scarano@libero.it)

Francesco Lisco, +393294810203 email: [liscof@inwind.it](mailto:liscof@inwind.it)

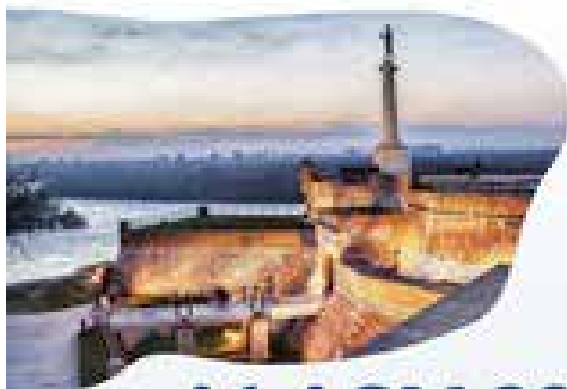
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**Rotary**



**IYFR**

**INTERNATIONAL YACHTING  
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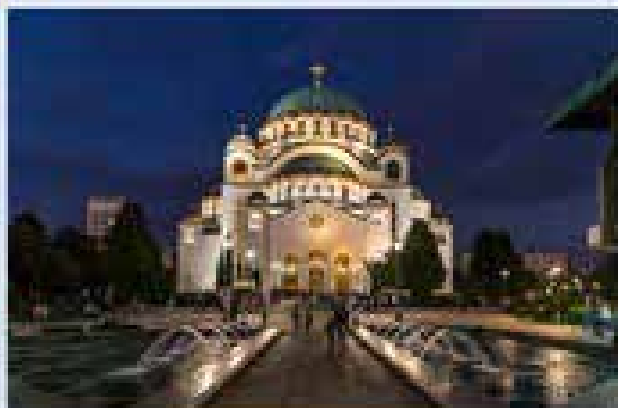
## **A1 AGM 2024 INVITATION**

**INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS**

**AGM Serbia, Belgrade, 7- 9. June 2024.**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Let's show the unity of IYFORIANS**



[iyfr.serbia@gmail.com](mailto:iyfr.serbia@gmail.com)



# AREA 1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM BELGRADE, SERBIA: JUN 7TH – 9TH, 2024

Dear IYFoRian friends,

we invite you to Belgrade, to the heart of Balkans, where major European navigable rivers meet, where our Serbian fleet of river sailors has prepared wonderful program for our annual meeting. There are many historical points, specifics in river navigation, tasteful culinary and kind hosts awaiting us.

To keep the costs of the event as low as possible, Rotary club Novi Sad Neoplanta had opened special bank account for our event and excluded the cost of organising agency. We, the participants, will pay the AGM Program Costs as Donation to this account, to be in line with European money laundry policies and without causing any taxes for organizers.

I personally have a wish, that this time we gather again in big numbers as we had been used years before pandemia, looking for meeting you all,

Carlo d'Amore  
IYFR  
International Vice Commodore  
2023-2025 Area-1 Commodore

Jovan Velja  
IYFR Serbia  
Fleet Commodore 2023-25

## ■ Friday, 07.06.2024

- 16,00 Welcome and registration of participants at the reception of Hotel Yugoslavia and distribution of printed material and accreditation.
- 18,00 Welcome drink
- 19,00 Departure for dinner on the "Otard" raft.

## ■ Saturday, 08.06.2024

- Breakfast,
- 09,00 Bus departure for a tour of the Kalemegdan fortress and important historical buildings in the vicinity. During the walk, a break in one of the cafes with refreshments (coffee, juice, cakes).
- 13,30 Return to the hotel.  
Participants could take lunch for extra cost of 12-15 € (not include in the program).
- 15,30 Start of AGM. Welcome address and introductory lecture on river navigation.  
Announced presentations of the participants.  
Estimated duration of the meeting, including a coffee break: 2.5-3 hours.  
Dress code: white pants and IYFR shirt.

18,30 Departure to the ship "Kay" where will be a Gala dinner.  
During the dinner, joint photography.  
Dress code: IYFR Service formal blue dress.

### ■ Sunday, 09.06.2024

Joint breakfast at the hotel, farewell and departures

Registration fee, paid as donation, will be **227€** for the AGM participants and **200€** for the companions (meeting room expenses are excluded) payable in 2 installments: 150€ at booking and the rest (77€ or 50€, respectively) in cash upon registering on the arrival at the AGM venue. It covers the listed program except the optional Thursday's dinner, Saturday's lunch and Post-AGM Cruising along Danube river.

Useful information for contacts with the organizer and the hotel:

- IYFR Serbia Fleet Commodore: Jovan Velja, tel.+381 606 405 802, jovan.velja@gmail.com
- IYFR Serbia Imm. Past Commodore, PDG: Dragan Brajer, tel. +381 632 004 44, brajer@brajer.net
- Hotel Jugoslavija: reception +381 11 40 22 222, reception@hoteljugoslavija.rs
- Timely registration is required for each optional offer/program iyfr.serbia@gmail.com

## OPTIONAL PROGRAM: FOR THOSE WHO WOULD COME ON THURSDAY.

### ■ Thursday: 6.6.24.

- Fish dinner on the raft "Scorpion" with an acoustic guitar, along with transport fees - €40, or in the Ethno Club "Gradi-mir" with transport fees and live music - €30



In addition to the successful work of the AGM, it is our great desire that the participants get to know the beauties and important places of Belgrade, to feel the spirit of the rich history, and also to get to know the skills of our master chefs. Not to mention the array of drinks (which should, of course, be consumed in moderation).

That is why it is important for us that the participants get involved in all optional offers - with full confidence in us as organizers.



## Sailing on the Danube to Kladovo and visiting historical sights

- The program can be implemented if at least 45 people apply –

A wonderful and detailed program has been prepared for those who would like to sail the Danube to Kladovo route. It is presented in the appendix of the basic program.

The organization was completed with the necessary known number of participants - due to the hiring of a ship, accommodation and later on, buses.

### ■ First day

**Belgrade - Smederevo - Ram - Veliko Gradište - Golubac - Đerdapska Klisura - Donji Milanovac - Tekija - Kladovo (240km):**

The passenger meeting is at the Belgrade pier (Karađorđeva street, next to the Branko bridge) at 7:30 am. Boarding of the ship lasts until 7:40 a.m., with the departure of the Aquastar Maxim ship at 7:50 a.m.

We start our cruise at the Belgrade Fortress towards Kladovo. You pass by the Smederevo Fortress, then by the confluence of the Morava River with the Danube, the medieval Ram Fortress, in the part where the Danube is the widest in Serbia. The Ram Fortress was built at the end of the 15th century at a place from which later it was safe to enter and exit occupied Serbia.



Continuation of sailing past Silver Lake and Veliko Gradište. Passing by the Golubac fortress, you enter the area of the Djerdap National Park, also known as the Iron Gate. It sails through the longest and deepest European gorge, where the Danube is also the most beautiful. The area of unique flora and fauna bears witness to the remains of one of the oldest settlements in Europe. Passing by Donji Milanovac, then through Veliki and Mali Kazan, past the statue of the last Dacian king Decebalus, followed by a tour of the place where the Roman emperor Trajan stamped his indelible mark on the rock, leaving the famous Trajan's tablet on it.

Arrival in Tekija after 9.5 hours of sailing. Shorter bus transfer to Kladovo. Accommodation in the "Aquastar Danube" hotel. Dinner. Overnight stay.

## ■ Second day

### **Kladovo – Lepenski Vir–Kapetan Mišin Breg – Smederevska Tvrđava - Beograd (240 Km)**

The breakfast. Bus departure at 09:30. Bus ride by the Danube, photo stop at the viewpoint above Kazan. Arrival at the archaeological site of Lepenski vir, one of the oldest urban settlements in Europe and the world and represents the largest the reach of the Middle Stone Age culture (6,500 BC). After the tour follows lunch break at the ethno restaurant Captain Mishin Breg. Continuation of the journey and a break for viewing the Smederevo fortress built in the 15th century, restored and built as the capital of medieval Serbia and a border fortification between Serbia, Hungary and Turkey. Planned arrival in Belgrade in the evening.



On this cruise, you will Explore part of Eastern Europe and the wonderful landscapes along the Danube, and visit the most exciting part of the Danube in the Djerdap Gorge National Park. It is certainly a tour worth seeing if you love nature: birds of all types, unique plants, and a mysterious and wild landscape all around. Experience wonderful landscapes along the Danube with many exciting sights. You should be part of this story.

**Notes:** The program is subject to changes and additions in case of unforeseen circumstances. The program may change slightly until the beginning of the tourist season. Estimated cruise time from Belgrade to Tekija depends on sailing conditions.

**Price:** 200 € per person

#### **THE ARRANGEMENT INCLUDES:**

Cruise according to the program from Belgrade to Tekija on the first day; Transfer by bus (Tekija - Kladovo on the first day and Kladovo - Belgrade on the second day); Breakfast and lunch on board during sailing; Accommodation in the Aquastar Danube 4\* hotel on the basis of 1 half board (dinner and breakfast - buffet); Use of the facilities of the Spa and Wellness Center in the hotel (swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, massage chairs, fitness cabinet); Tourist taxes and guest insurance on the ship and in the hotel; Lunch on the way back on the second day of the trip; Tickets for the locations of Lepenski Vir and Smederva fortress; Tourist guide and local guide services; Travel organization costs.

#### **THE ARRANGEMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

Consumption of drinks during navigation and in the hotel; Other individual passenger expenses (mini bar, hand massage services, use of jacuzzi tub, laundry and ironing services...).

Individual passenger expenses

Surcharge for 1/1 (single-room) - 40 e

Applying and all information for additional programs:

e-mail: [iyfr.serbia@gmail.com](mailto:iyfr.serbia@gmail.com)

Commodore of the Serbian fleet Jovan Velja,

[jovan.velja@gmail.com](mailto:jovan.velja@gmail.com) mobil. phone: +381 60 640 5802

Imm Past Commodore, PDG Dragan Brajer [brajer@brajer.net](mailto:brajer@brajer.net)

mobil.phone: +381 63 200 444

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# IN MEMORIAN PAST REGIONAL COMMODORE RODNEY DAVIS

Rtn Rodney Davis, a Past Regional Commodore of the Great Britain & Ireland region passed to higher service on 25 February 2024 after a long illness.

Rodney joined IYFR in January 2006 and kept his boat "The Rodders" on the River Thames, moored at the bottom of his garden opposite Benson Lock. He was also a member of the Upper Thames Motor Yacht Club and his Rotary club was originally Sinodon and then Henley Bridge.

By profession Rodney was a solicitor, spending most of his professional career with Clifford Chance in London.

He was Regional Commodore, Great Britain & Ireland 2014 – 2016 and also held the position of International Legal Advisor to the International and GB&I Bridge.

A keen proponent of youth sailing he encouraged the North Wales Fleet to support a fleet of Optimist dinghies to give local children their first taste of sailing, some of whom we subsequently took on the Royal Yacht Association training scheme.

Rodney's funeral was held on 21 March at his local church in Warborough, near Oxford. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Jeanne and his family.



▲ Rodney and local Rotarian Patrick Tyrrell, the current Regional Commodore of IYFR.



▲ The Optimist dinghy named after him.

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## SAILING ON ICE

By Gareth Rowland, Fleet Member of Humber squadron, Fenland fleet

Imagine minus 10c, being flat on your back hurtling along at 60mph, inches from the ice in a 50-kilo open top "coffin" made of wood epoxy resin and stainless steel...on ice! Add a World Championship, 18 Nations, 180 other competitors and the sound is like that of a 747 jumbo jet taking off ... that's ice sailing, or hard water sailing as some know it.

Now spring is here and the ice melted, Gareth is preparing for the World Sand Yacht Championships held in France June 2024 sailing the largest class of sand yacht, Class 2 , sheer power of a 7.2 meter wing mast with 11sq meters of sail makes speeds of 70mph possible



Gareth Rowland, member of what was the Humber Fleet now a Squadron of the Fenland Fleet does not sail on soft water, but goes sand sailing for nine months of the year, competing in British, European and World Championships, with a Class 2 that can be converted to class 3 a 6.1 wing mast with a limited 7.35 sq meter sail. Gareth also has fun in a mini yacht, pole mast five sq meter sail, one that can go in the boot of a car. The beaches of Dingle Bay, Ireland are calling this May, Guinness supplied!

The other three winter months ice sailing is possible, but only traveling with K11 a DN iceboat to Scandinavia or further to Lake Baikal Siberia where the second DN ice boat lives. Again at Championship level

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# GERMANY NORTH FLEET ACTIVITIES

By Fleet Secretary Martin Hoff, IYFR Germany North Fleet

Günter Staib, Commodore of the IYFR Germany Fleet North, organized an unforgettable winter meeting with more than 70 participants in Stade on the weekend from February 16th to 18th, 2024. As a former manager of The Dow Chemical Company, he gave us access to the extensive production facilities. We were able to visit the research laboratories of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, the world's leading applied research organization. Finally an impressive shanty choir performed at the festive gala dinner.



▲ Günter Staib

Die Flottenmitglieder trafen sich zum Sektempfang auf der Dachterrasse. Dort deutete sich bereits an, dass dieses Wintermeeting mit 70 Teilnehmern ein Erfolg werden wird. Alle Anwesenden waren ausgesprochen gut gelaunt. Anschließend ging es zur Stadtführung, die im Ratskeller endete.

Nach dem Essen berichtete Deutschland-Commodore Martin Doller von der Deutschlandbrücke.

Dann zog Günter seine erste Überraschung aus dem Ärmel: Brigadegeneral a.D. Rainer Meyer zum Felde referierte zur Sicherheitslage in Europa. Alle Anwesenden waren vollkommen fasziniert von den Ausführungen.



▲ Ratskeller

Und gleichzeitig erschreckt über die Offenheit, mit der er die Fakten ansprach. Kaum jemand im Raum hatte die Dinge bisher so gesehen. Die gute Stimmung wandelte sich in Betroffenheit. Die ursprünglich geplante Zeit wurde dreifach überzogen. Aber irgendwann sah man an allen Tischen wieder fröhliche Gesichter.

So verging der Freitagabend wie im Flug. Später machten sich die IYForians in kleinen Grüppchen auf den Weg zum Hotel, die letzten Nachtschwärmer kamen erst sehr spät in der Nacht dort an.

Der Samstag begann im historischen Rathaus, in dem wir vom Bürgermeister begrüßt wurden. Eine kurze Rathausführung klang im Festsaal aus.

Dann ging es mit zwei Reisebussen in das Chemiewerk Stade. An der Epoxidharz-Produktionsanlage stiegen wir aus, und erhielten dort Einblicke in den Chemiestandort mit über 2.500 Mitarbeitern. Wir waren geflasht. Anschließend fuhren wir in das Forschungszentrum CFK-Nord, wo wir



▲ Townhall

weitere Einblicke in die Forschungsaktivitäten der DLR und vom Fraunhofer Institut erhielten.

Um 18:00 Uhr begann das Flottenmeeting. Das haben alle gut durchgehalten, freuten sich die IYForians doch auf die Kür: Den Galaabend mit den First Mates!

Nach dem Sektempfang ging es in den Festsaal. Hier kam die zweite Überraschung in den Raum: Der Shanty-Chor „Altes Land“ baute sich auf und erfreute uns mit einem Auftritt. Die Stimmung kochte spürbar hoch. Dann verkündete Günter die Buffeteröffnung.



Super lecker, wie soll man es sonst beschreiben? Nebenbei stattete Kateryna von der Kharkiv Ukrainian Fleet Günter mit Mütze und Schal aus. Puh, es war nicht kalt im Saal, Günters Betriebstemperatur stieg weiter an. Irgendwann versuchte Günter zu einer Rede anzusetzen. Dies wurde ihm aber zunächst durch das von den begeisterten Gästen gesungene „For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow“ verwehrt. Doch irgendwann kam er zu Wort.

Er bedankte er sich bei den Helfern und Akteuren des Meetings. Im Anschluss hielt die Präsidentin vom RC Stade eine kurzweilige Rede. Auch das Küchenteam bekam einen kräftigen Applaus.

Es wurde spät. Interessanterweise waren die Nachtschwärmer wieder die Unentwegten vom Vortag. Am Sonntag gab es noch was auf die Ohren. In der St. Wilhadi-Kirche wurde die Gesellschaft vom Jugendblasorchester Niedersachsen mit Blasmusik begrüßt. Anschließend demonstrierte Kirchenmusikdirektor Hauke Ramm die Möglichkeiten und Stimmenvielfalt der großen und der kleinen Orgel.

Beim Farewell waren wir uns alle einig: Das war wahrlich ein tolles Meeting!



▲ Shanty Chor



▲ Dinner

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# NEWS FROM THE REGION AFRICA

## THE BIRTH OF A NEW IYFR FLEET IN COTE D'IVOIRE

By Marthe Rabbiosi Fleet Commodore of Cote D'Ivoire Fleet



The new Fleet was created by 25 Rotarians and Rotaractors sharing the same vision of Fellowship and well-being within the community, at the Constitutive General Assembly held in Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire) on November 06 2023, by the Commodore Marthe Rabbiosi, a devoted member of the Rotarian community in Côte d'Ivoire, inspired by the success of the Mali Fleet, established by Past District Governor Sunny AKUOPHA, presently Commodore of the IYFR Region AFRICA.



The CGA elected Marthe RABBIOSI "FOUNDING COMMODORE OF THE IYFR CHARTERED COTE D'IVOIRE FLEET " as well as the members of the Bridge for a period of two years as per the GENERAL RULES. The Fleet of Côte d'Ivoire will be a catalyst for social and humanitarian projects adapted to the specific coastal features of the region.

The founding members have already begun planning activities and projects that will highlight the importance of preserving the marine environment, providing access to education for coastal communities and supporting local fishermen. The IYFR Fleet of Côte d'Ivoire is also committed to working in collaboration with other local organisations to maximise its social impact.



The official ceremony to launch the Yachting Fellowship and hand over the charter is planned for the coming month of April.

In addition, the Fleet will:

- organise beach clean-up days involving community members, schools where awareness-raising workshops are being created.
- Coordinate plastic collection expeditions at sea with boats equipped with nets to collect the floating waste.
- Online awareness campaigns.

These are just some of the projects that the Ivory Coast Fleet will be initiating over the coming months, focusing on the members well-being and through relaxing seagoing opportunities.



**Marthe Rabbiosi**  
Fleet Commodore of Cote D'Ivoire Fleet

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# SWISS FLEET ANNUAL CRUISE 2023 IN THE BALTICS

By Peter Gut , Fleet Commodore Swiss Fleet 2023 - 2025

The IYFR Swiss Fleet's annual cruise did not head south this year, but north to the Baltic Sea. 19 sailing friends met on September 1st in Heiligenhafen (Fehmarn) for a first dinner together in the harbour hotel Meereszeiten. On Saturday, we took over our boats Bruno (skipper Peter Gut), Foxi (skipper Felix Scherrer) and Jumbo (skipper Pitch Eggenberger) and set off towards the Fehmarn Bridge, passed it and then proceeded to Grossenbrode - a really nice warm-up.

We spent the following days cruising the Bay of Mecklenburg, visiting Denmark (Nysted), Kühlungsborn, Warnemünde, Wismar and finally Burgtiefe (Fehmarn). We travelled around 180 nautical miles in good weather and equally good winds. All the boats returned to the port of

departure, Heiligenhafen, on Friday September 8 without any accidents or damage.

On Friday evening we met the German IYFR Fleet North for dinner in the "Alter Salzspeicher" - a friendly and lively Rotarian meeting. The German National Fleet was represented by the National Commodore Martin Doller and the National Vice Commodore Peter Schneider, the German Northern Fleet by its Commodore Günter Staib, almost the entire bridge and a total of 19 German sailing friends.

The trip was an impressive experience in terms of sailing and camaraderie - we will remember it for a long time to come.



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# FLOTTA ITALIA SUD-EST

## Regata velica Rotary-IYFR

By Alessandro D'Onofrio, Fleet Commodore of Italy South East fleet



### XITROFEO ROTARY-IYFR

dedicato a



Il Rotary e l'eradicazione della polio nel mondo



Domenica 17 marzo si è svolta la 11<sup>a</sup> edizione del Trofeo Rotary-IYFR, quest'anno con percorso di 30 miglia nautiche, lungo la costa adriatica dell'Italia meridionale. La regata è parte del Programma Gargano Winter Race, di Manfredonia.

La partenza da Manfredonia - The Start from Manfredonia ▼



Questa edizione era dedicata alla Operazione "END POLIO NOW", mentre negli anni scorsi recenti era stata dedicata alla Operazione IYFR "PLASTIC FREE WATERS". Con la nostra Flotta Italia Sud-Est, oltre alla Lega Navale Italiana, erano parte della manifestazione due Rotary Club: Manfredonia e Trani. E abbiamo avuto l'onore di avere con noi il Commodoro della Regione Italia Giuseppe Garrisi.

La premiazione ha avuto luogo la sera stessa nella sede della sezione di Trani della Lega Navale Italiana.



▲ Un piatto caldo per i regatanti, dopo 10 ore in mare  
A good hot dish for the crews, tired and hungry after 10 hours at sea



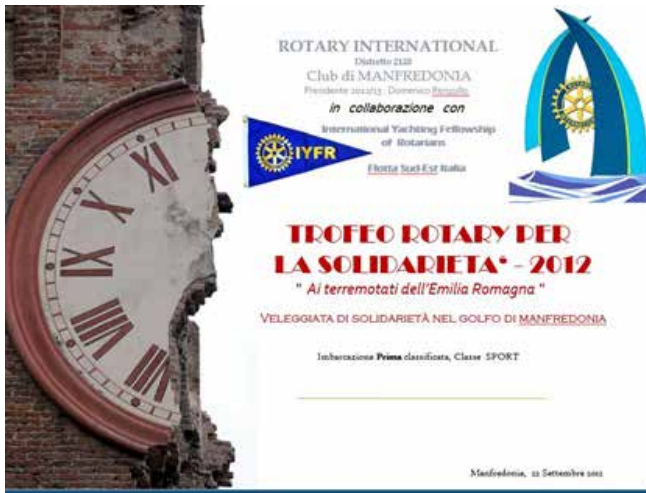
▲ Il Fleet Commodore Sandro D'Onofrio e il Region Italy Commodore Giuseppe Garrisi salutano equipaggi ed ospiti – FC Sandro D'Onofrio and Region Italy Commodore welcome crews, authorities and guests.



▲ Consegna Trofei agli equipaggi premiati  
▼ Awarding trophies to the winning crews.



Quella di questo Trofeo è una piccola storia iniziata appunto 12 anni fa a Manfredonia, da me e un amico rotariano, appassionati di yachting. L'idea era di organizzare un evento velico, con lo scopo di propagandare la conoscenza del Rotary e delle sue iniziative. Un amico suggerì di coinvolgere anche la IYFR, che io non conoscevo! La prime edizioni furono delle semplici veleggiare di poche miglia nautiche, ed ebbero una ottima accoglienza fra i velisti e fra i rotariani. Siamo anche riusciti a raccogliere un piccolo contributo, inviato a un Rotary Club della zona di un terremoto nella regione italiana dell'Emilia, mentre tre anni dopo il contributo raccolto fu inviato al Rotary del Nepal, per la ricostruzione dopo un devastante terremoto.



▲ La prima edizione, con l'immagine del campanile distrutto dal terremoto in Emilia - The first edition, with the bell tower heavily damaged by the earthquake in the region Emilia



▲ Premiazione 2012 in una sala della Biblioteca Comunale di Manfredonia, con il Fleet Commodore Garrisi - Prize giving in a hall of the Town Library, with G. Garrisi, at the time a FC

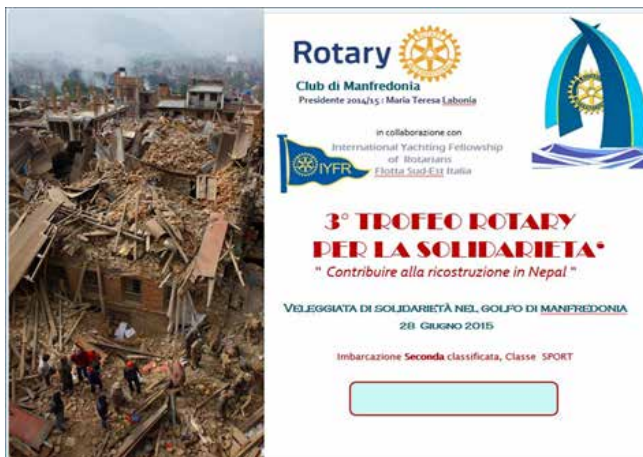


▲ Edizione 2014



La Presidente ed il Segretario del Club, e, in uniforme IYFR, il Commodoro ed il Segretario della Flotta Italia Sud Est

▲ Premiazione della edizione 2014 – Prize giving 2014



▲ Edizione 2015 – Terremoto in Nepal – Edition 2015, Our contribution went to Rotary Nepal



▲ Edizione 2016



Con la sinergica collaborazione del Rotary Club Manfredonia, della Flotta Italia Sud-Est, e della Lega Navale Italiana, negli anni successivi il nostro Trofeo è poi diventato una vera e propria Regata, con tutte le regole della Federazione Italiana Vela.



▲ Edizione 2019



▲ Edizione 2021, con il Governatore del Distretto 2120 Gianvito Giannelli  
Edition 2021, with the District 2120 Governor Gianvito Giannelli



▲ Edizione 2022, con il Governatore del Distretto 2120 Nicola Auciello.  
2022, with the District 2120 Governor Nicola Auciello.



▲ Edizione 2022, con la Guardia Costiera, sempre presente alle nostre manifestazioni – With the prized guest from the Coast Guard, always present at our events, at sea and on land.

### ROTARY-IYFR Sailing Regatta

The 11th edition of the Rotary-IYFR Trophy took place on Sunday 17 March, this year on a distance of 30 nautical miles, along the Adriatic coast of southern Italy.

Together with our South-East Italy Fleet, and the Italian Naval League, two Rotary Clubs were part of the event: Manfredonia and Trani. And we had the honor of having the Commodore of the Italian Region Giuseppe Garrisi with us. The awards ceremony took place the same evening in the headquarters of the Trani section of the Italian Naval League. This edition was dedicated to "END POLIO NOW", and this, as well as Rotary and IYFR were illustrated to the crews and the many guests.

This Trophy has a small story that began 12 years ago in Manfredonia, by me and a Rotarian friend, yachting enthusiasts. The idea was to organize a sailing event, with the aim of promoting awareness of Rotary and its initiatives. Another friend suggested we also involve IYFR, which I didn't know about! The first editions were simple sailings of a few nautical miles, but had an excellent reception among sailors and Rotarians. We also managed to collect a small contribution, sent to a Rotary Club in the area of an earthquake in the Italian region of Emilia, while three years later the collected contribution was sent to the Rotary of Nepal, also there for the reconstruction after a devastating earthquake.

With the synergistic collaboration of the Manfredonia Rotary Club, the South-East Italy Fleet, and the Italian Naval League, in the following years our Trophy then became a fully fledged Regatta, under the rules of the Italian Sailing Federation.

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# AREA 2 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

By Angie Mesistrano, International Commodore

After 4 years of waiting, made impossible before by the pandemic, the lyforian friends of Area 2 have met again. We have greatly missed the shared moments, the toasts, the camaraderie and the joy of the postponed meeting. We have celebrated the Area2 Annual General Meeting 2024 with success and in great spirits.

It is said that images are worth more than words. So... why describe what we can see. Dear friends all, below we will share the photos of the Meet and Greet, the naviga-

tion from the city of Cancún to Isla Mujeres, the visit to the Pediatric Oncology Hospital where Dr. Teresa Ramos, who carries out a wonderful task. She is also a Rotarian and belongs to the Cancún Ocean and Sand fleet. We will share photos from the AGM celebration and the Gala Dinner which was very fun.

I hope you enjoy them as much as those of us who attended this AGM.





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# NAVEGACIÓN A ISLA MUJERES AGM 2024 AREA 2

By Lil Torres, Rear Commodore Montevideo fleet

Cumplidas las formalidades del AGM 2024, como es de costumbre, disfrutamos de un día de navegación extraordinario.

Temprano en la mañana zarpamos en un catamarán hacia Isla Mujeres, distante 6 kilómetros de Cancún, surcando las aguas turquesas y cristalinas del mar Caribe, deleitándonos con un paisaje que ha quedado grabado en nuestras retinas.

A bordo del catamarán reinó la alegría.

Entre la música, los coros improvisados, el festejo de cumpleaños a bordo, los más intrépidos disfrutaron de las aguas del Caribe, el cual fue difícil de abandonar. Prevalció el espíritu Rotanauta, con su amor por el mar, pero sobre todo, el compañerismo que caracteriza a toda "tripulación" que integra IYFR.

Buenos vientos para todos.

## SAILING TO ISLA MUJERES

*With the formalities of AGM 2024 completed, as usual, we enjoyed an extraordinary day of sailing. Early in the morning we set sail on a catamaran to Isla Mujeres, 6 kilometers from Cancun, sailing through the turquoise and crystalline waters of the Caribbean Sea, delighting in a landscape that has remained engraved in our retinas. Joy reigned on board the catamaran. Between the music, the improvised choirs, the birthday celebration on board, the most intrepid enjoyed the waters of the Caribbean, which was difficult to leave. The lyforian spirit prevailed, with their love for the sea, but the most important, the camaraderie that characterizes every "crew" that makes up IYFR.*

*Good winds to all*





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# VISITA AL HOSPITAL ONCOLÓGICO INFANTIL

By Miriam Caudullo, Area 2 Commodore

## A2 AGM, CANCÚN. NO TODO ES DIVERSIÓN, TAMBIÉN ES EMOCIÓN Y ACCIÓN.

La AGM del Área 2 fue muy especial, después de cuatro años nos volvimos a encontrar personalmente; nos divertimos muchísimo, nos extrañábamos y vernos se manifestó en alegría, en canciones, en risas, en "fun, fun, fun". Pero también nos emocionamos, nos conmovimos hasta las lágrimas y nos quedamos con la satisfacción de haber hecho el bien por el prójimo. Desde 2018 acostumbramos a realizar una acción solidaria, esta vez llevamos juguetes sin batería y libros para niños y jóvenes hasta 18 años para el servicio de oncología pediátrica del Hospital de Cancún. Su directora es la Dra. Teresa Ramos, rotaria y rotanauta, ella nos recibió en el hospital llena de alegría y pasión por su trabajo y nos condujo hacia el área, nos emocionó contándonos cómo se originó la sala de oncología pediátrica, pintada con murales de muchos colores, algunos espacios están dedicados al mar, otros al cielo, hay animalitos pintados. Y ¿por qué? Porque los niños que padecen una enfermedad como el cáncer y deben transitar su tratamiento no tienen por qué vivir en una atmosfera blanca, triste, sin motivaciones, todo lo contrario, necesitan el color que los anime, necesitan un ambiente de calidez y alegre. Algunos pudimos entrar a las salas de internación para entregar los regalos a los niños, no fue fácil, todos nos llevamos una historia

guardada en el corazón, pudimos conversar con algunos de los niños, eligieron sus regalitos; nos emocionamos y nos conmovimos, nos divertimos, pero también nos pusimos en acción y eso nos dio una caricia al alma, haber cumplido con nuestra misión rotaria de hacer el bien en el Mundo; no importa lo grande o lo pequeño de la acción, basta con llegar a quien nos necesita.



### **A2 AGM, CANCUN. NOT EVERYTHING IS FUN, IT IS ALSO EMOTION AND ACTION.**

The Area 2 AGM was very special, after four years we met again in person; we had a lot of fun, we missed each other and being together again turned in songs, in laughter, in "fun, fun, fun." But we were also moved, we were moved to tears and we were left with the satisfaction of having done good for our neighbors. Since 2018 we carried out a solidarity action, this time we brought battery-free toys and books for children and young people up to 18 years old for the pediatric oncology service of the Cancún Hospital. Its director is Dr. Teresa Ramos, Rotarian and iyforian, she welcomed us to the hospital full of joy and passion for her work and led us to the area, she excited us by telling us how the pedia-

tric oncology room was transformed, painted with murals of many colors, some spaces are dedicated to the sea, others to the sky, there are little painted animals. And why? Because children who suffer from a disease like cancer and must undergo treatment do not have to live in a white, sad atmosphere, without motivation, on the contrary, they need color that encourages them, they need a warm and happy atmosphere. Some of us were able to enter the hospitalization rooms to give the gifts to the children, it was not easy, we all carried a story kept in our hearts, we were able to talk with some of the children, they chose their gifts; we were emotioned and moved. We had fun, but we also took action and that gave us a caress to our soul, having fulfilled our Rotary mission of doing good in the World; no matter how big or small the action is, it is enough to reach those who need us.



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# SESIÓN DEL AREA 2 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

By Area 2 Treasurer Hugo Klopstein, Flota Guayaquil - Ecuador

En la tarde del Viernes 8 de Marzo se realizó la presentación de actividades de las flotas presentes, con todos los mariners debidamente uniformados, ante una mesa de honor presidida por nuestra IC Angie Mesistrano, junto a ella la A2C Miriam Caudullo, A2VC Alfonso Bolio y FC de la Flota Cancún Ocean & Sand.

En una reunión formal y amena, cada flota tuvo la oportunidad de presentar durante diez minutos, las acciones resaltantes realizadas desde la anterior AGM 2020 en Cartagena.

Luego de escuchar las intervenciones de nuestras flotas hermanas, felicitamos a todos los miembros de las mismas, por su factor motivador que nos impulsará a reproducir algunas actividades.

Sin embargo, debemos comentar que fue notable la ausencia de algunas flotas de Sud América y de los Estados Unidos. Esta ha sido la primera reunión internacional presencial después de la pandemia, confiamos en que gradualmente recuperaremos la presencia de todas las flotas de nuestra Área 2.

Expresamos nuestro especial agradecimiento a Alfonso Bolio, Mauricio Gayol y a toda la Flota Cancún Ocean & Sand por la impecable organización del evento y su gran hospitalidad.







## AREA 2 AGM SESSION 2024

On the afternoon of Friday, March 8, the presentation of the activities of the fleets present took place, with all the mariners properly uniformed, before a table of honor chaired by our IC Angie Mesistrano, along with her the A2C Miriam Caudullo, A2VC Alfonso Bolio and FC of the Cancún Ocean & Sand Fleet.

In a formal and enjoyable meeting, each fleet had the opportunity to present for ten minutes the notable actions carried out since the previous AGM 2020 in Cartagena.



After listening to the interventions of our sister fleets, we congratulate all their members for their motivating factor that will encourage us to reproduce some activities. However, we must comment that the absence of some fleets from South America and the United States was notable. This has been the first in-person international meeting after the pandemic, we trust that we will gradually recover the presence of all the fleets of our Area 2. We express our special thanks to Alfonso Bolio, Mauricio Gayol and the entire Cancún Ocean & Sand Fleet for the impeccable organization of the event and their great hospitality.

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# AREA 2 AGM GALA DINNER & RECOGNITIONS



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# VISITA AL AMERIGO VESPUCCI EL BUQUE ESCUELA MÁS LINDO DEL MUNDO

By Nelson Scleidorovich, Past Fleet Commodore Punta de Este fleet



Fuimos informados por el PIC Sergio Santi, del arribo de la Nave Escuela Italiana a Montevideo. Gracias a sus gestiones, y las de nuestra querida IC Angie Mesistrano, organizamos la visita.

El 15 de marzo, una delegación de la Flota Punta del Este, viajó en dirección al puerto de Montevideo. Una tormenta en ciernes nos preocupaba, pero con optimismo comenzamos el viaje de todas maneras.

Finalmente llegamos al puerto de Montevideo. Allí nos reunimos con nuestros compañeros de la Flota Montevideo, y las dos flotas fuimos al encuentro de la famosa nave.

Caminamos un corto trecho y nos encontramos con él. Ahí estaba, majestuoso, iluminado por el sol, el hermoso Amerigo Vespucci.

La nave más antigua de la Armada Italiana. Desplaza 4150 toneladas. Tiene 100,5 metros de eslora, 15,5 metros de manga y 7 metros de calado. En él viajan y entrenan habitualmente 16 oficiales, 70 suboficiales y 200 marineros.

Diseñado por Francesco Rotundi, fue botado en 1931. Tiene, como es lógico, esa belleza tan característica que los italianos, que saben plasmar en todas sus creaciones. Invitados a subir a bordo, recorrimos la nave guiados por su tripulación, con la simpatía y esmero, que los hace verdaderos embajadores de su país.

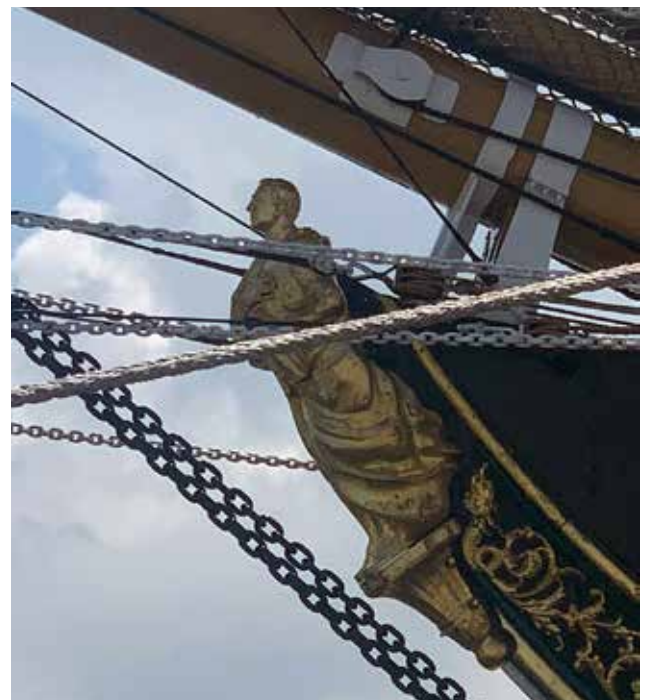
Tomamos fotos, intercambiamos banderines, generamos amistad.

Fue una bella jornada de paseo, conocimiento y compañerismo. El sol se sumó.

El Amerigo Vespucci superó nuestras expectativas.

Gracias Italia por mantenerlo así, para que el mundo lo disfrute.

Les comparto un consejo: si esta maravillosa nave pasa por sus costas, no dejen de visitarlo. Tendrán una experiencia inolvidable.





*We were informed by PIC Sergio Santi, of the arrival of the Italian School Ship to Montevideo. Thanks to his efforts, and those of our beloved IC Angie Mesistrano, we organized the visit.*

*On March 15, a delegation from the Punta del Este Fleet traveled towards the port of Montevideo. A brewing storm worried us, but we optimistically began the trip anyway.*

*Finally we arrived at the port of Montevideo. There we met with our colleagues from the Montevideo Fleet, and the two fleets went to meet the famous nave.*

*We walked a short distance and met it. There it was, majestic, illuminated by the sun, the beautiful Amerigo Vespucci.*

*The oldest ship in the Italian Navy. She displaces 4150 tons. She is 100.5 meters long, 15.5 meters wide and 7 meters deep. 16 officers, 70 non-commissioned officers and 200 sailors usually travel and train there.*

*Designed by Francesco Rotundi, she was launched in 1931. She has, logically, that characteristic beauty that the Italians know how to capture in all their creations.*

*Invited to come aboard, we toured the ship guided by its crew, with the friendliness and care that makes them true ambassadors of their country.*

*We take photos, we exchange pennants, we generate friendship.*

*It was a beautiful day of walking, knowledge and camaraderie. The sun joined.*

*The Amerigo Vespucci exceeded our expectations.*

*Thank you Italy for keeping it like this, so that the world can enjoy it.*

*I share some advice with you: if this wonderful ship passes by your coast, be sure to visit it. They will have an unforgettable experience.*



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# NAUTICO TERAPIA FLOTA PUNTA DEL ESTE

By Edgardo Gargano, Past Fleet Commodore & Area 2 Regalia Officer



Durante cada verano, los amigos de la flota Punta del Este realizan náutico terapia. Es una tarea excelente. La realizamos con la ayuda de Prefectura Nacional Naval y la colaboración de la Intendencia de nuestra ciudad. Hemos acordado con Prefectura para que nos envíen dos veces por semana, dos oficiales con botes de goma y chalecos salvavidas. También la Intendencia pone a disposición nuestra el transporte para los niños y adultos de capacidades diferentes, para que disfruten de nuestra náutico terapia. Comenzamos con esta tarea hace doce años.



La hemos llevado a cabo todos los veranos, salvo dos temporadas en que era riesgoso por la pandemia de Covid. Todos disfrutaban mucho con esta actividad. Esto se puede advertir en sus semblantes de felicidad y asombro cuando descubren el placer de navegar. Pero esta terapia no solo es beneficiosa para los interesados. Nosotros también terminamos el día reconfortados después de haber dado momentos felices y distendidos a los niños y adultos que de otra forma no podrían experimentar esta sensación maravillosa que nos regala el mar.



Cuando sus supervisores nos cuentan sobre los comentarios y dibujos que ellos hacen evocando la navegación, nos sentimos felices y satisfechos de dar nuestro tiempo y afecto a quienes lo disfrutaban especialmente. Y lo seguiremos llevando a cabo cada verano, dando de nosotros lo mejor posible para llevar una mejor calidad de vida a los integrantes de nuestra comunidad.



## NAUTICAL THERAPY PUNTA DEL ESTE FLEET

*During each summer, friends of the Punta del Este fleet perform nautical therapy. It is an excellent task. We carried it out with the help of the National Naval Prefecture and the collaboration of the Municipality of our city. We have agreed with the Prefecture to send us two officers with rubber boats and life jackets twice a week. The Municipality also makes transportation available to us for children and adults with different abilities, so that they can enjoy our nautical therapy.*



*We started with this task twelve years ago. We have carried it out every summer, except for two seasons when it was risky due to the Covid pandemic. Everyone really enjoys this activity. This can be seen in their faces of happiness and amazement when they discover the pleasure of sailing. But this therapy is not only beneficial for those interested. We also ended the day comforted after having given happy and relaxed moments to children and adults who otherwise would not be able to experience this wonderful sensation that the sea gives us. When their supervisors tell us about the comments and drawings they make evoking navigation, we feel happy and satisfied to give our time and affection to those who especially enjoy it. And we will continue to do so every summer, giving our best to bring a better quality of life to the members of our community.*



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# VISITA A LA GOLETA OOSTERSCHELDE EN PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY

By Ricardo Aguerre, Fleet Officer, Punta del Este Fleet



Una delegación de la Flota de Punta del Este de IYFR, encabezada por la Comodoro Internacional Angélica Mesistrano, e integrada por el Past Comodoro Edgardo Gargano y otros oficiales de la tripulación visitó la goleta de tres mástiles «Oosterschelde», fondeada en el puerto de Punta del Este.

Construida en 1918 como carguero a vela, la Oosterschelde, de bandera holandesa, fue reconvertida posteriormente a buque con motores Diesel.

Actualmente está realizando un viaje de 2 años, reproduciendo el trayecto que realizara el buque inglés HMS Beagle de 1831 a 1835, para reconocimiento hidrográfico en el hemisferio sur. En ese viaje participó el naturalista inglés Charles Darwin (1809-1882), quien realizó un extenso relevamiento de la fauna y flora de todas las áreas visitadas por el Beagle.

Fuimos recibidos por el Líder del proyecto Darwin200 Stewart McPherson y el Capitán de la nave, quienes amablemente nos mostraron el barco y sus instalaciones.



Esta goleta es el vehículo para el proyecto global DARWIN200 que tiene por objetivo general el promover la conservación y el respeto por el medio ambiente en todo el mundo.

### Los objetivos particulares son:

- empoderar: identificar líderes que dirijan los esfuerzos globales para la conservación del medio ambiente.
- inspirar: conectar audiencias globales en los temas de conservación de la naturaleza.
- resolver: implementar proyectos específicos de protección de especies en peligro.

Es evidente la coincidencia de estos objetivos con las áreas de interés, de Rotary Internacional en general, y de la IYFR en particular, respecto al respeto y cuidado del medio ambiente, especialmente el marino. Por esa causa entendimos pertinente visitar la goleta fondeada en nuestro puerto.

Fue una visita muy interesante e instructiva, y también útil para establecer contacto con este proyecto que permita, en un futuro, enfocar actividades de interés común.

Puede verse más información sobre este proyecto en su sitio web <https://darwin200.com/>







### Visiting the Oosterschelde Tall Ship

A delegation of the IYFR Punta del Este Fleet, led by IYFR International Commodore Mrs. Angelica Mesistrano and integrated by Past Commodore Edgardo Gargano and other crew members, visited the Dutch Oosterschelde Tall Ship, docked in Punta del Este port, Uruguay.

As part of the Darwin200 Project for environment care and preservation (see <https://darwin200.com/>), this ship is currently reproducing the journey made by the English ship HMS Beagle from 1831 to 1835 for hydrographic reconnaissance of the southern hemisphere. The English naturalist Charles Darwin carried out an extensive survey of the local fauna and flora of all the areas visited by the Beagle.

The project objectives coincide with the areas of interest of Rotary International and the IYFR regarding environment protection, especially the marine. The visit opened a door for future potential collaboration in activities of common interest.

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# SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER A LOOK BACK AT THE IYFR PHILIPPINES CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

By Regional Vice Commodore Nelia Sarcol



The holidays came early for IYFR Philippines who celebrated the fabulous Christmas Party in November 29, 2023, at the Seafoods Restaurant Century Park Hotel. The festive spirit was already brewing in October 2023 when, on the IYFR Philippines Region Officers' online group chat, Regional Commodore Arturo "Al" Supangan ignited the Christmas spark. With a call for volunteers to host the 2023 IYFR Christmas party, a heartwarming response broke the silence. Stepping up to the plate was Regional Vice Commodore and IYFR Circle of Friends Fleet Founder, Nelia Cruz Sarcol. In a gesture of unwavering support and respect for RC Al Supangan, RVC Nelia Cruz Sarcol volunteered her IYFR Circle of Friends fleet to take the reins of the holiday celebration.





The IYFR Circle of Friends Fleet, led by Fleet Commodore Ella Rodriguez and the Board of Directors, were thrilled to be chosen as the hosts for the Christmas party. Recognizing it as the first in-person IYFR Christmas celebration since the pandemic, RVC Nelia and FC Ella were determined to make it an unforgettable event. However, due to FC Ella's upcoming departure to Australia, the reins of the organization were handed over to RVC Nelia, ably supported by IYFR Circle of Friends Vice Fleet Commodore, Dallaz Eure.

The party was an absolute blast! The festive atmosphere was electric, filled with Christmas cheer and the joy of being together again. The delicious food fueled the fun, and the company was simply amazing.



## AREA 3 NEWS

Area 3 Commodore of the Asia Pacific – Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Edmond Aguilar took the stage to deliver an interesting speech. He provided a captivating overview of upcoming activities and developments under his command that IYFR Philippine Area 3 members can look forward to. This glimpse into the future surely left everyone feeling excited and engaged. It was a night filled with music and unleashed talent. From singing performances to show-stopping dance routines, each fleet brought their A-game in impromptu presentations that had everyone cheering.





The grand raffle prizes were truly spectacular! Nora Albawardy scored a top-of-the-line Samsung Sound Bar. John Christian Reyes went home happy with a brand new 55" Samsung Smart TV. Nim Rod Mariano also struck gold, winning a fantastic trip to Cebu for two with accommodations for 4 days and 3 nights. But the winner of a dream getaway to Bali for two, complete with luxurious accommodations for 4 days and 3 nights, was the ever-so-lucky Fleet Commodore Jonathan Diaz of Genuine Service Presidents Sea Fleet!

On top of that, the Genuine Service Presidents Sea Fleet earned a well-deserved round of applause as they received the coveted Biggest Fleet Award! Special tokens were presented to their members in recognition of their outstanding achievement.

But the highlight of the evening was definitely the NCS Fabulous Bingo Game! With over PHP76,000 in cold cash up for grabs (literally!), the energy in the room was electric as colleagues playfully battled for bingo glory. It was a night of laughter, friendly competition, and making memories that will last a lifetime.



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# IYFR PHILIPPINES BOATING FELLOWSHIP

By Regional Secretary Geraldine C. Repollo



The stunning coastal views, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant marine life of Subic Bay in Zambales, Philippines which is known for being the safest and deepest bay in the whole Pacific Isle provided a picturesque voyage of the IYFR Philippines Region on its boating fellowship organized by Regional Commodore Arturo "Al" Supangan on February 3, 2024. The historical Subic Bay was a major ship-repair, supply, and rest and recreation facility of the Spanish Navy and subsequently the United States Navy

until its closure in 1992. It was then transformed into the Subic Bay Freeport Zone by the Philippine government. The bay offers top-of-the-line security and an environmentally friendly system. The berths, equipped with the Marina Floatation System and the Triton Service Pedestal cater to yacht owners' needs. The sheltered waters of Subic Bay provided a secure environment of the three yachts used by the IYFR members during the leisurely cruise.



The three yachts which carried seven fleets set sail on a sunny Saturday afternoon around the scenic Subic Bay. The boating fellowship fostered camaraderie and friendship among IYFR members of the Region. The World Class Fleet, Cubao West Fleet, Inspiring Fleet, Circle of Friends Fleet, All Star Fleet, Imaginative Amazing Treasure Fleet and Dragon Fleet members participated on the boating fellowship.





After the delightful sailing adventure, the fellowship was capped off with a sumptuous barbecue dinner at the Subic Bay Yacht Club. The Regional Officers also prepared birthday cakes for the February birthday celebrants which included Regielyn Supangan of the Circle of Friends Fleet (the spouse of Regional Commodore Arturo Supangan), James Tan, Past Fleet Commodore of All Star Fleet and Bam Alarilla the spouse of Fleet Commodore Jeffrey Alarilla of Cubao West Fleet.

Past International Commodore Jesus Avecilla of Cubao West Fleet joined the fellowship dinner. He invited members to join the Rotary Convention in Singapore and to participate in manning the IYFR booth for the promotion of IYFR to Rotarians attending the convention.



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*We look forward to your submissions of  
articles, comments, photos and anecdotes.  
It will be a pleasure to meet again  
on June 2024!*



**ROTAFLOAT**