

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

ROTAFLOAT

JUNE 2026 ISSUE N° 127





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About the cover

The **ARC Gloria** is the sail training ship and flagship of the Colombian Navy. Aboard this magnificent vessel, cadets from the **Admiral Padilla Naval Academy** undertake their training voyages as an essential part of their naval education. Beyond her educational mission, the *Gloria* proudly serves as Colombia's **Floating Ambassador**, representing the country in ports and on seas around the world.

Built in Spain in 1968, the *ARC Gloria* is the oldest of four sister ships, all barques built by the same shipyard to the same design. Her sister ships are:

- ARBV *Simón Bolívar* (Venezuela)
- BAE *Guayas* (Ecuador)
- ARM *Cuauhtémoc* (Mexico)
- *ARC Gloria* (Colombia)

Today, the *ARC Gloria* is regarded as one of the world's finest sail training ships, combining her role in the education of future naval officers with an important mission as an ambassador of goodwill for Colombia wherever she sails.

ROTA FLOAT'S CORRESPONDENTS

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

Sunny Akuopha
Olha Paliychuk
Daniel Ma
Joaquín Sanchis
Andre Hawryliw
Mariela Wilhelm
Tresor Chiu
Rosmarie Cammany
Ramon Vila

Sergio Santi
Amaury Benedetti
Osvaldo Galmozzi
Aris Zachos
Paul Yiu
Angelica Mesistrano
María da Graça Pinto
Marian Domenech

Marian Domenech, editor

INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

June 2026



Carlo d'Amore

INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE



From Taipei to New Horizons

Dear Fellow Members,

As we reflect on an incredible week at the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, I am reminded that the true strength of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) is not measured by the miles we sail, but by the friendships we build around the world.

Taipei provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with longtime friends, welcome new members into our fellowship, and celebrate the unique bond that unites Rotarians who share a passion for boating, service, and international goodwill. Whether attending fellowship events, exchanging Fleet Burgees, or simply sharing stories over a meal, we once again demonstrated that IYFR truly embodies Rotary's spirit of friendship across borders.

As we begin a new Rotary year, we also celebrate an important milestone—one successful year of growth, collaboration, and renewed momentum within IYFR. Together, we have strengthened communication, expanded fellowship opportunities, enhanced RotaFloat, and continued building bridges between fleets around the world.

This year has also brought several significant achievements. We successfully signed a cooperation agreement with the Rotary IT Fellowship, helping ensure that our information technology systems remain secure and compliant with evolving international legislation and best practices. We proudly welcomed three new IYFR Fleets into our growing family, further expanding our global reach and strengthening our international fellowship.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting calendar before us. Planning is well underway for next year's Annual General Meeting in Barcelona, hosted with the generous support of RC Iberia, Barcelona FC, and the incoming RC Iberia leadership. In addition, members will have the opportunity to gather in Naples, Italy, immediately preceding Barcelona, where we will enjoy fellowship while celebrating one of sailing's premier international events, the America's Cup. These events promise to showcase not only the beauty of the Mediterranean but also the enduring friendships that define IYFR.

Our goals for the coming year remain focused and inspiring:

- Continue strengthening connections among fleets across the globe.
- Welcome new members and support the formation of additional fleets.
- Expand cruising, rendezvous, and fellowship opportunities.
- Further enhance communication through RotaFloat and our digital platforms.
- Foster the next generation of IYFR members while honoring the traditions that have guided us for decades.
- Continue building strategic partnerships that support innovation, governance, and member engagement.

Every member has an important role in shaping our future. Whether you participate in local cruises, international bridge events, Rotary conventions, or simply share your stories and photographs, your involvement helps keep our fellowship vibrant, welcoming, and growing.

Thank you for your friendship, your service, and your commitment to IYFR. Together, we will continue navigating toward new adventures, stronger fellowship, and lasting international friendships.

May you enjoy fair winds, safe harbors, and many memorable voyages in the year ahead.

Fair winds,

Carlos d'Amore

Commodore, IYFR 2025–2027



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INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2025 - 2027

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Paul Yiu (Taiwan)
INTERNATIONAL VICE COMMODORE

Miriam Caudullo (Argentina)
INTERNATIONAL REAR COMMODORE & AREA 2 COMMODORE

Sergio Santi (Italy)
PIC & CHIEF OF STAFF, ACTING AREA 1 COMMODORE

Angélica Mesistrano (Argentina)
IMMEDIATE PAST INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE (IPIC) & GRANTS OFFICER

Edmond Aguilar (Philippines)
AREA 3 COMMODORE

Annette Lewis (Great Britain)
INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

Antonio Marchesi (Italy)
IYFR LEGAL OFFICER

Lorenzo Mazzeo (Italy)
INTERNATIONAL WEBMASTER

Jesus (Jun) Avecilla (Philippines)
PIC, IC SPECIAL ADVISOR

Gary Huang (Taiwan)
PRIP, INTERNATIONAL ENVOY WORLD AMBASSADOR

Marian Domenech (Spain)
ROTAFLOAT EDITOR

Stacie Thorlakson (USA)
PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER

Laura Padoan (Italy)
A1 REGALIA OFFICER

Andres Almansa (Uruguay)
A2 REGALIA OFFICER

Chia-Yu (jade) Kuo (Taiwan)
A3 REGALIA OFFICER

Hugo Klopstein (Ecuador)
A2 TREASURER

Yun-Chi (Kyra) Lee (Taiwan)
A3 TREASURER

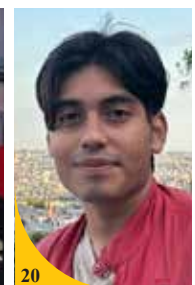
Bernardo Rabassa (Spain)
HISTORIAN

Gabriel Barreto (Italy)
INTERNATIONAL WEBMASTER ASSISTANT

Satotu (Butch) Watanabe (Japan)
IC SPECIAL ADVISOR

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2025 - 2027

- 1 Carlo d'Amore
- 2 Paul Yiu
- 3 Miriam Caudullo
- 4 Sergio Santi
- 5 Angélica Mesistrano
- 6 Edmond Aguilar
- 7 Annette Lewis
- 8 Antonio Marchesi
- 9 Lorenzo Mazzeo
- 10 Jesús (Jun) E. AVECILLA
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IN MEMORY PIC ROBERT BURNS

By Andre Hawryliw

The untimely death of Bob Burns was announced last month. Robert Burns was born in Sheffield, England, on 16th November 1945. Graduating from Leeds University his early passions were squash, rugby league, motorbikes, speedway, and climbing. After a spell in private industry working as a Development Chemist, he moved into medicine at the University College Hospital, London, where he gained his MSc. Later he moved to Glasgow Royal Hospital, which included secondments to Kuwait and The Netherlands. Subsequently he became a Consultant Clinical Scientist and Clinical lead for Biochemistry at the Inverclyde Royal Hospital.

This career progression brought him to Gourock on the Clyde estuary. Initially expressing no interest whatsoever in boats, he was eventually persuaded to attend a Friday social sailing night at the Royal Gourock Sailing Club and was instantly hooked. The rest as they say is history!

Meanwhile as an active member of the Greenock Rotary Club, where he served as President in 1998/99, he was intrigued to discover there was a sailing fellowship within Rotary. Thus he joined the IYFR Clyde Fleet, transitioning to their Rear Commodore and then Fleet Commodore.

In 2010 Bob took over as the GB&I Regional Commodore and started to regularly attend International Rotary Conventions, especially the IYFR events, and all Post Convention Cruises. IYFR Area Meetings commenced in Geneva in 2011, and were rolled out to Area 3, and then Area 2. Consequently Bob became Area 1 Commodore in 2013, standing in for the International Commodore at Fleet and Squadron Charters within Europe. Bob was keen to make these area meetings as accessible as possible for members and chose a range of venues including Istanbul, Naples, La Spezia, Varna, Naples, Potsdam, Alicante, Portsmouth and Athens.

In 2015 Bob was inducted as the International Rear Commodore in Sao Paulo, and then Vice Commodore in Atlanta in 2017. When Bob became International Commodore in 2019 his first task was to charter the first Ukrainian fleet in Cherkassy. A remarkable country whose people have proved so resilient and determined. Unfortunately Covid and then the war prevented a return to charter more Ukrainian fleets.

In all his endeavours Bob was ably assisted by his First Mate for over forty years, Ann, who was his I/C Logistics and kept his frenetic schedule sane and in good order. For example, no sooner had they returned from Ukraine



then they were off to Sweden to officiate at the Regional Commodore Handover with Hasse and Yvonne Alfredson. IYFR sailing events rapidly followed in the Ionian Sea (with Marko Murn of the Serbian Fleet) and then the Aegean Sea (after an Area 1 meeting in Athens).

After only 48 hours at home Bob and Ann were away to Pelotas in Brazil to charter a new fleet. This included a meeting with the local Mayor whence they were extremely surprised to find they were front page news. No wonder the hotel staff were so attentive, which was great as they then had to drive down to Punta Del Este in Uruguay to charter the Montevideo Fleet before taking a ferry across to Tigre in Argentina to visit the fleets there. Their onward plans to Chile were scuppered when riots broke out in Chile and the hotel they were to stay in was petrol bombed!

After a quick return to the UK they set off for Macau and an Area 2 Meeting This was supposed to be held in Hong Kong but riots had also broken out there too. Bob and Ann were starting to get a bit of a complex about riots, so then it was back to Europe and a trip to Slovenia to charter a fleet there, as well as planning activities for an Area 1 meeting in 2020. That year started with a memorial event for PIC Ferit Berin in Istanbul.

Then as everyone knows, Covid struck. The world went into lockdown and charters and meetings went online. They had to cancel flights to Taiwan, Japan, Honolulu and Ukraine. Hotel cancellations were easier and Ann even made a £4 profit with currency fluctuations from hotels booked in Japan.



Although Covid brought his travels to an abrupt halt Bob was acutely aware that he had to create IYFR activities for the Rotary International Convention in Taipei. In particular he had to scope out hotels and venues for the Post Convention Cruise. Spotting a window of opportunity between two UK lockdowns, Bob and Ann managed to travel to Taiwan on business visas. However, in an irrefutable demonstration of their total commitment to IYFR, they had to spend two weeks of total isolation in a special quarantine hotel upon arrival in Taipei.

Their quarantine isolation was eased by special food parcels from local Rotarians, and once complete they could participate in normal life in Taiwan which avoided the pandemic due to this rigid Covid policy. The charter of this first Taiwanese Fleet was outstanding and has led to an increase in IYFR membership and fleets in that country. As the world slowly returned to normality they attended a German Regional Meeting in 2021, staying with Eckhardt and Ingrid Fisher and sailing on the Baltic. Finally in 2022 they travelled to New Zealand to hand over the International Commodore Chain of Office to David Hansen, diverting to Perth, Australia, to visit Roger and Glenda Lingard. Their last official action for IYFR was in 2024 to attend an Area 1 Meeting in Belgrade, Serbia.

Unfortunately Bob's health deteriorated and in January 2023 he was diagnosed with Stage 4 renal cancer. His mobility was already decreasing due to Sporadic Inclusion Body Myositis (SIBM), and sadly his cancer treatment compounded this condition. Thus after three years the cancer treatment stopped working and Bob passed away on 22nd March 2026.

Bob Burns was a true gentleman who instinctively put people at ease with his winning smile and impeccable manners. A team player he always listened to everyone to understand their different viewpoints and to arrive at a consensus. He was a great friend and mentor to many and will be sorely missed by all who were lucky enough to have known him. A Paul Harris Fellow, Bob always embodied the Rotary principle of service above self.

On Bob's behalf Ann would like to thank all within IYFR for giving them so many happy memories. The fellowship and friendship they experienced during his time on the International Bridge was especially wonderful.

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AFRICA IYFR MOBILIZES AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

By Sunny Akuopha

A collective commitment from Abidjan toward a sustainable future

In a global context marked by climate urgency, the city of Abidjan became, on April 20, 2026, the epicenter of a major environmental initiative for the African continent. It hosted the first African summit of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR), an organization long committed to ocean protection.

Under the theme "Preserving our waters, reducing our plastics: local solutions for a global impact," the event brought together representatives from several African countries with a shared goal: tackling the growing threat of plastic pollution in aquatic ecosystems.

An urgent challenge

Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of the 21st century. Rivers, lakes, and oceans across Africa are increasingly affected by inadequate waste management. In response, the summit highlighted the urgent need for coordinated and immediate action.



Participants analyzed the root causes of the issue and reviewed existing solutions implemented across the continent. Beyond discussion, the message was clear: it is time to move from words to action.

Local solutions, global impact

A key pillar of the summit was the promotion of innovative local initiatives. From community recycling projects to educational programs, participants demonstrated that grassroots solutions can lead to meaningful large-scale change.

The event also emphasized the importance of transforming waste into resources, encouraging a circular economy approach that reduces environmental impact while creating economic opportunities.

Education and civic engagement

Beyond institutions, the summit underscored the crucial role of citizens. The involvement of schools, families, and communities was identified as essential for achieving lasting change.

In a particularly symbolic moment, students actively participated in the event, reminding attendees that environmental protection is also an intergenerational responsibility.

Toward stronger African cooperation

The Abidjan summit served not only as a platform for dialogue but also as a starting point for stronger collaboration among African nations. Representatives from countries such as Mali, Senegal, and Burkina Faso shared experiences and reaffirmed their commitment to joint action.

This collective effort aims to build a more resilient Africa, capable of protecting its natural resources and ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.

Looking ahead

The success of the summit lays the groundwork for future initiatives and gatherings. The next meeting is already scheduled to take place in Dakar in 2027, where participants are expected to build on progress and continue advancing concrete solutions.

A clear message

The IYFR Africa Summit 2026 delivers a powerful message: the fight against plastic pollution cannot wait.

Only through collective action, civic commitment, and international cooperation can Africa preserve its waters and build a sustainable future.



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A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE SOUTH AEGEAN

By Olha Paliychuk

During the recent Rotary District 2475 Conference on the beautiful island of Rhodes, a meaningful and memorable milestone was celebrated — the official chartering of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Hellenic South Aegean Fleet.

This is far more than the creation of a new organizational branch. It is the continuation of a proud tradition that began in 1947, when Rotarians united through their shared passion for the sea, friendship, and the spirit of adventure. From those early beginnings, one of Rotary's first fellowships emerged — proving that lasting connections are formed not only in meeting halls, but also beneath open skies and under sail.



Today, International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians has grown into a worldwide network of sailing friends who connect across continents, share experiences, travel together, and strengthen the bonds of international Rotary fellowship.

What makes this moment especially significant is that this story now continues in the South Aegean.



On Rhodes, a group of passionate individuals came together — people united by their love of the sea, sailing, shared journeys, and authentic human connection. People who understand that yachting is not only about wind and waves, but also about trust, support, and friendship without borders.

The ceremony was honored by the participation of representatives from the Israel–Greece Region, including RC Aris Zachos, Founder Fleet Commodore Kyriakos Salachouris, and AC1 Olha Paliychuk, representing IC Carlo d'Amore. The presence of members of the IYFR Ukraine Region added further international significance to the occasion.



At the same time, an important step in strengthening international Rotary cooperation was marked with the signing of the ICC agreement between Greece and Ukraine during the District 2475 Conference in Rhodes.

The establishment of the IYFR Hellenic South Aegean Fleet marks an exciting new chapter for our community, opening the way to new gatherings, new voyages, and new international friendships.

And perhaps this reflects the true spirit of Rotary itself: bringing like-minded people together through shared values, meaningful fellowship, and the courage to explore new horizons side by side.



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SALIDA AL MAR EN CONMEMORACIÓN DE LOS DOS AÑOS DE CONSTITUCIÓN DE LA FLOTA DE BARCELONA

by Rosmarie Cammany and Ramon Vila

Salida al mar en conmemoración de los 2 años de constitución de la Flota de Barcelona e incorporación de dos nuevos miembros...

La Flota crece, cualitativamente y cuantitativamente...



SAILING DEPARTURE TO COMMEMORATE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARCELONA FLEET

Sailing departure to commemorate the second anniversary of the Barcelona Fleet and the addition of two new members... The Fleet is growing, both qualitatively and quantitatively...



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ENTREGA DEL PRIMER JOHN G. BARRETT HONOR POR PARTE DE LAS FLOTAS DE IBERIA A D. BERNARDO RABASSA ASENJO LA PRIMERA DISTINCIÓN EN MEMORIA DEL FUNDADOR DE MARINERS EL AÑO 1947

By Rosmarie Cammany - Comodora Fundadora y Ramon Vila - Vicecomodoro

El viernes 5 de Junio en la sede para eventos de la Flota de Barcelona del IYFR tuvo lugar la entrega de la distinción **John G. Barrett Honor**, en reconocimiento del Fundador de la Fellowship de Mariners el año 1947. La distinción creada por Dr. Francesc Xavier Altarriba fundador de la Flota de Barcelona en recuerdo del Fundador de la International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians el año 1947, que supo combinar los principios Rotarios con todo lo desarrollado en la Mar y para la Mar, permitiendo desarrollar las cualidades humanas en beneficio de la sociedad y de la amistad. La distinción ha tenido el soporte de las flotas de Madrid y Sureste de España y el Escuadrón de Valencia de la Región de Iberia que por unánime decisión se ha destinado este primer reconocimiento al impulsor de la Fellowship en Iberia y rotario refundador del primer Rotary Club Madrid en España, a D. Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo, Miembro de Honor de la Flota de Barcelona, por sus muchas cualidades, su incansable trabajo en el mundo de Rotary, y su destacada actividad profesional y de servicio a la comunidad, vinculada al agua en general y a la mar en particular.



- Refundador del 1er Rotary Club en España (1977) Club Madrid
- Presidente 1989, 2008, 2015, 2020 Club Rotario Madrid Puerta de Hierro.
- 9 veces Paul Harris Fellow (Socio Paul Harris)
- Historian Officer del International Bridge (Puente de Mando Internacional) de la World IYFR (International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians) periodo 2023 a 2025 Honorary member of Barcelona Fleet of IYFR

La entrega de la Distinción la realizó la Region Comodoro Dña. Marian Domènech y la entrega de Diploma por parte de la Flota de Barcelona, la Comodoro fundadora Dra. Rosmarie Cammany.

El Puente de Mando Internacional recogió la antorcha de la iniciativa, convirtiéndose en el primer Puente de Mando que tras 79 años tiene el propósito de crear el **John G. Barrett Award**.





Estuvieron presentes en el acto, la familia de D. Bernardo Rabassa, Mariners de la Flota de Barcelona, el Presidente del Rotary Club Barcelona Mar, padrino de la Flota de Barcelona D. Ramon Vila, Commodore de la Flota de Madrid D. Luis Fernando Calvarro, Sureste de España representados por Dña. Marian Doménech y la Capitana del Escuadrón de Valencia Dña. Maria Veiga y personalidades del ámbito náutico.

Previo al acto de entrega tuvo lugar la reunión ordinaria de la Flota de Barcelona, en la que se expusieron los proyectos en marcha así como la propuesta de actividades para el

AGM 2027 en Barcelona, y una conferencia a cargo del Dr. Miquel Canals, Catedrático de la Universitat de Barcelona, Director de la Cátedra de Economía Azul Sostenible de dicha Universidad, con el título: El Mediterráneo, del esplendor natural al estrés infinito.

Una cena de amistad cerró el acto en el Restaurante del Real Club Náutico de Barcelona.

DELIVERY OF THE FIRST JOHN G. BARRETT HONOR ON THE PART OF IBERIA'S FLEETS TO MR. BERNARDO RABASSA ASENJO

THE FIRST DISTINCTION IN MEMORY OF THE FOUNDER OF MARINERS IN 1947

By Rosmarie Cammany - Comodora Fundadora
y Ramon Vila - Vicecomodoro

*On Friday, June 5, at the IYFR Barcelona Fleet event venue, the **John G. Barrett Honor** was awarded, in recognition of the Founder of the Mariners Fellowship in 1947. The distinction created by Dr. Francesc Xavier Altarriba, founder of the Barcelona Fleet, in memory of the Founder of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians in 1947, who knew how to combine Rotary principles with everything developed at Sea and for the Sea, allowing the development of human qualities for the benefit of society and friendship.*





The distinction has had the support of the fleets of Madrid and Southeast Spain and the Valencia Squadron of the Iberia Region, which by unanimous decision has been destined this first recognition to the promoter of the Fellowship in Iberia and Rotary refounder of the first Rotary Club Madrid in Spain, to Mr. Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo, Honorary Member of the Barcelona Fleet, for his many qualities, his tireless work in the world of Rotary, and his outstanding professional activity and service to the community, linked to water in general and the sea in particular.

- Refounder of the 1st Rotary Club in Spain (1977) Club Madrid
- President 1989, 2008, 2015, 2020 Rotary Club Madrid Puerta de Hierro.
- 9x Paul Harris Fellow
- Historian Officer of the International Bridge of the World IYFR (International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians) period 2023 to 2025 Honorary member of Barcelona Fleet of IYFR

The Distinction was presented by the Commodore Region Mrs. Marian Domènech and the Diploma was presented by the Fleet of Barcelona, the founding Commodore Dr. Rosmarie Cammany.

*The International Bridge of Command picked up the torch of the initiative, becoming the first Bridge of Command in 79 years to have the purpose of creating the **John G. Barrett Award**.*

Present at the event were the family of Mr. Bernardo Rabassa, Mariners of the Barcelona Fleet, the President of the Rotary Club Barcelona Mar, godfather of the Barcelona Fleet Mr. Ramon Vila, Commodore of the Madrid Fleet Mr. Luis Fernan-

do Calvarro, Southeast of Spain represented by Mrs. Marian Domènech and the Captain of the Valencia Squadron Mrs. Maria Veiga and personalities from the nautical field.

Prior to the award ceremony, the ordinary meeting of the Barcelona Fleet took place, in which the projects underway were presented as well as the proposal of activities for the AGM 2027 in Barcelona, and a conference by Dr. Miquel Canals, Professor at the University of Barcelona, Director of the Chair of Sustainable Blue Economy of said University, with the title: The Mediterranean, from natural splendor to infinite stress.



A friendly dinner concluded the event at the restaurant of the Royal Nautical Club of Barcelona.

*<https://youtu.be/9ysyaTOdMWs> (hauria d'estar penjat al You Tube de la web de Mariners)
Rotary Mariners Barcelona*

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INICIA EL AÑO 2026 LA FLOTA DE BARCELONA DEL IYFR CON NUEVOS PROYECTOS SOLIDARIOS

By Rosmarie Cammany- Comodora Fundadora / Ramon Vila- Vicecomodoro

El Viernes 6 de Marzo tuvo lugar en el Salón de Metopas del Real Club Náutico Barcelona, la Reunión de Rotary Mariners Barcelona, en la que se expusieron entre otros temas la situación de los proyectos iniciados junto al Reial Club Marítim Barcelona sobre Salud, Mar y Deporte y la propuesta de los nuevos, iniciados en este 2026 dando soporte junto a la Fundación Philippe Cousteau, el Rotary Club Barcelona Mar, e instituciones públicas, a la Cofradía de Pescadores de Barcelona para presentar Proyecto a la EU - MISSION CALL "RESTORE OCEAN and WATERS". Nuestro Mariner D. Jesús Carbajosa se encontraba en Bruselas en la semana de exposición de posibles proyectos, explorando la viabilidad de los mismos. A continuación, tuvo lugar la conferencia impartida por D. José Manuel Juárez, Patrón Mayor de la Cofradía de Pescadores de Barcelona, quién expuso la situación evolutiva que había tenido la Cofradía desde que asumió el cargo en 2008, así como su visión prospectiva de la pesca con las nuevas regulaciones de la Administración europea. Aprovechó la situación para presentar un abstract de los proyectos elaborados conjuntamente,

sobre restauración del fondo litoral y de la desembocadura del río Besós, junto a la cría de calamar y sepia en zonas protegidas del litoral del Puerto de Barcelona. En señal de agradecimiento a su exposición, el Rotary Mariners Barcelona y el Rotary Club Barcelona Mar le obsequiaron con una "campana marinera", firmando en el Libro de Honor de la Flota. El Fundador del Rotary Mariners Barcelona y Rotary Club Barcelona Mar Dr. Francesc Xavier Altarriba obsequió al Patrón Mayor con una publicación de 1936, que trataba sobre la "Cocina de Pescados". Un detalle que recogió con reconocimiento y afecto, ya que coincidía la fecha de publicación con el año de nacimiento de su padre.

Nos acompañaron en el acto la Dra. Claudia Parera, Directora del Cluster Náutico de Barcelona y D. Youssef Abdelouahed, recién licenciado en Ingeniería de Tecnología Marina de la Facultad de Náutica de Barcelona. El acto finalizó con una cena en el reservado del Real Club Náutico de Barcelona, lo que posibilitó compartir experiencias, afecto y amistad entre todos los asistentes. Velada entrañable.



THE IYFR BARCELONA FLEET KICKS OFF 2026 WITH NEW SOLIDARITY PROJECTS

On Friday, March 6, the Meeting of Rotary Mariners Barcelona took place in the Metope Hall of the Real Club Náutico Barcelona, in which the situation of the projects initiated together with the Reial Club Marítim Barcelona on Health, Sea and Sport and the proposal of the new ones, initiated in 2026 providing support together with the Philippe Cousteau Foundation, the Rotary Club Barcelona Mar, and public institutions, to the Fishermen's Guild of Barcelona to present a Project to the EU - MISSION CALL "RESTORE OCEAN and WATERS". Our Mariner Mr. Jesús Carbajosa was in Brussels in the week of exhibition of possible projects, exploring their viability. This was followed by a lecture given by Mr. José Manuel Juárez, Senior Patron of the Barcelona Fishermen's Association, who explained the evolving situation that the Brotherhood had had since he took office in 2008, as well as his prospective vision of fishing

with the new regulations of the European Administration. He took advantage of the situation to present an abstract of the projects prepared jointly, on the restoration of the coastal bottom and the mouth of the Besós river, together with squid and cuttlefish farming in protected areas of the coast of the Port of Barcelona. As a sign of gratitude for his exhibition, the Rotary Mariners Barcelona and the Rotary Club Barcelona Mar presented him with a "sailor's bell", signing in the Book of Honor of the Fleet. The Founder of the Rotary Mariners Barcelona and Rotary Club Barcelona Mar, Dr. Francesc Xavier Altarriba, presented the Patron Major with a publication from 1936, which dealt with "Fish Cuisine". A detail that he picked up with recognition and affection, since the date of publication coincided with the year of his father's birth.

We were accompanied at the event by Dr. Claudia Parera, Director of the Barcelona Nautical Cluster and Mr. Youssef Abdelouahed, recent graduate in Marine Technology Engineering from the Faculty of Nautical of Barcelona.

The event ended with a dinner in the reserved area of the Real Club Náutico de Barcelona, which made it possible to share experiences, affection and friendship among all the attendees. An endearing evening.



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REGIONAL GREECE & ISRAEL AGM AND FLEETS' FELLOWSHIP EXCHANGE (Preveza, Greece / 18 – 20 September)

By Aris Zachos

About the event

Following the guidance of **Area 1 Commodore Olha Paliychuk**, the **Hellenic Ionian Fleet** and its **Commodore Dimitris Pitsinikos** – together with the **Rotary Club of Preveza** – is organizing the **2026 AGM for the Region of Greece & Israel** (SE Mediterranean). At the same time, we are running a **Fellowship Exchange Program** for the Fleets, plus offering the chance to enjoy a **sailing week in the Ionian Sea**. The event is also an action of **ICC Greece – Ukraine**.

Who is organizing this

The Hellenic Ionian Fleet was the first Fellowship of its kind in Greece, founded back in May 2015. Today, it operates with 18 active members. Its Founding Commodore was PDG Vissarion (Aris) Zachos, who now serves as Regional Commodore. The Fleet has built a lasting partnership with the Rotary Club of Preveza (1989, 19 members), which is co-organizing all these events.

Where it takes place

Preveza is one of Greece's main Ionian Sea ports, located at the entrance to the Amvrakikos Gulf – a true environmental treasure. This town of about 30,000 people has a deep connection with the sea. Yachting tourism is one of its most dynamic sectors, with four modern marinas operating in the area.

The **Aktio – Preveza International Airport (PVK)** offers regular flights from April to October to 50+ destinations across Europe, including Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Another big plus: the port of **Igoumenitsa (the main entry point to Greece by boat from Europe)** is **q 100 km away – about an hour's drive**. Preveza is also well connected to national highways, just an hour from the cities of Ioannina (north) and Patras (south), and about **3.5 hours (350 km) by car from Athens or Thessaloniki**.

When it will happen

The official events run **from Friday, September 18th to Sunday, September 20th**. After that, we have set aside an extra informal week for sailing in the Amvrakikos Gulf, the Ionian Sea, and its seven islands. We chose this period

carefully: the weather is still great, and the atmosphere is wonderful – the summer crowds have already thinned out. The main day of our all gettogether will be **Saturday, September 19th, 2026**.

What you can expect

Our team is working hard to give you amazing experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. So, besides the formal AGM activities, we have planned:

- A guided walking tour of the old town
- A half-day cruise in the Amvrakikos Gulf (dolphins, swimming, and more)
- A half-day guided excursion to famous local attractions (Ancient Nikopolis, the Acheron River, Parga town, etc.)
- Casual dinner and the official Commodores' Dinner

How to join and register

Four separate committees are making sure everything runs smoothly and everyone has a great time. In **early July 2026, we will send out a simple Registration Form** along with all the instructions and extra details. Please **return it to us by the first week of August**.

Registration fees:

- **Fellowship members: €150**
- **Spouses, family members, and other Rotarians: €100**
- **Rotaractors: €75**

These fees cover everything mentioned above (AGM activities, tours, cruise, dinners).

Accommodation and any yacht rental are up to each participant – but don't worry: we will provide a list of at least three recommended hotels and rental agents to help you navigate the many options.

Get in touch

Feel free to contact us anytime – either directly at **zachosv1@gmail.com** or through the Rotary Club of Preveza at **rotarypreveza@gmail.com**. We're always here for any extra information you may need.

IYFR
INTERNATIONAL YACHTING
FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

IYFR

Area 1 IYFR

Preveza

GREECE

IYFR

**Regional
Greece & Israel AGM**

Fleet's Fellowship Exchange

- Unique images*
- Once in life experiences*
- Life lasting memories*
- Friendship & Service combination*

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Preveza, Greece

**POSSIBILITY FOR
1 WEEK SAILING TRIP
AFTER THE EVENT!**

ORGANIZED BY

Hellenic Ionian Fleet
since 2015

Rotary
R.C. PREVEZA

AMVRAKIKOS GULF

Stay tuned for more info!

**We can't wait to welcome you all to
beautiful Preveza in mid-September!**

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INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE OF IYFR VISITS THE AMERIGO VESPUCCI, THE ITALIAN FLAGSHIP IN NEW YORK

By Marian Domenech

New York, July 7, 2026. The International Commodore of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR), Carlo d'Amore and his wife, Judyrose Rozmus, visited the Italian Navy Flagship, Amerigo Vespucci, which was in New York for America's 250th anniversary. During the visit they were received by Commander Nicasio Falica, an IYFR member of the Italy North West Fleet. The Commodore also visited the Capitan Miranda, the Uruguayan Flag Ship and the HMS Gladan, the Swedish Flagship.



EL COMMODORE INTERNACIONAL DE LA IYFR VISITA EL AMERIGO VESPUCCI, EL BUQUE INSIGNIA ITALIANO EN NUEVA YORK

Nueva York, el 7 de julio de 2026. El Comodoro Internacional de la International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR), Carlo d'Amore, y su esposa, Judyrose Rozmus, visitaron el buque insignia de la Marina italiana, Amerigo Vespucci, que se encontraba en Nueva York con motivo del 250º aniversario de Estados Unidos. Durante la visita se reunieron con su comandante, Nicasio Falica, miembro de la IYFR de la Flota del Noroeste de Italia. El comodoro también visitó el Capitán Miranda, el buque insignia uruguayo, y el HMS Gladan, el buque insignia sueco.



L' INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE DELL'YFR VISITA L'AMERIGO VESPUCCI, LA NAVE PIÙ BELLE DEL MONDO A NEW YORK

New York, 7 luglio 2026. Il Commodoro Internazionale della International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR), Carlo d'Amore, e sua moglie, Judyrose Rozmus, visitarono la "La Nave più bella de mondo", Amerigo Vespucci, che si trovava a New York in occasione del 250° anniversario degli Stati Uniti. Durante la visita incontrarono il loro comandante, C.V. Nicasio Falica, membro dell'IYFR della Flotta del Nord-Ovest Italia. Il Commodoro visitò anche il Capitano Miranda, nave ammiraglia uruguaiana, e la HMS Gladan, l'ammiraglia svedese.





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FLOTA CANCÚN OCEAN AND SAND MÉXICO SIGUE NAVEGANDO CON RUMBO FIRME

By Joaquin Sanchis

El pasado lunes 11 llevamos a cabo nuestra reunión ordinaria de la Flota Cancún, en la que contamos con la participación de la mayoría de nuestros mariners. Fue un encuentro muy productivo, lleno de entusiasmo, ideas y compromiso por seguir fortaleciendo nuestras actividades.

Durante la reunión, nos dedicamos a planificar los próximos meses, acordando diversas iniciativas que nos permitirán seguir creciendo como comunidad. Entre ellas, destaca la organización de una próxima navegación, así como una visita muy especial al buque escuela Simón Bolívar de Venezuela, que estará arribando a Cozumel como parte de su recorrido internacional. Sin duda, será una experiencia enriquecedora y memorable para todos.

Este tipo de actividades no solo fortalecen nuestro espíritu marinero, sino que también fomentan la convivencia, el aprendizaje y el intercambio cultural entre quienes compartimos la pasión por el mar



Además, tuvimos el honor de contar con la presencia de nuestra fundadora, Mabel García Mattos, cuya participación hizo de este encuentro un momento aún más significativo y especial para todos los asistentes.



CANCÚN OCEAN AND SAND FLEET MOVING FORWARD WITH A STEADY COURSE

By Joaquin Sanchis

This past Monday the 11th, we held our regular meeting of the Cancún Fleet, with the participation of most of our mariners. It was a very productive gathering, full of enthusiasm, ideas, and a shared commitment to strengthening our activities.

During the meeting, we focused on planning the coming months and agreed on several initiatives that will help us continue growing as a community. Among them, we are organizing an upcoming navigation, as well as a very special visit to the Venezuelan training ship Simón Bolívar, which will be arriving in Cozumel as part of its international voyage. This will undoubtedly be an enriching and memorable experience for everyone.



These activities not only strengthen our maritime spirit, but also encourage fellowship, learning, and cultural exchange among those of us who share a passion for the sea

We were also honored to have the presence of our founder, Mabel García Mattos, which made this meeting even more meaningful and special for all attendees



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FLOTA MAR DE PLATA

By Mariela Wilhelm

La Flota Mar del Plata participó activamente de la VII Conferencia del Distrito 4921 realizada en la ciudad de Tandil, Provincia de Buenos Aires Argentina compartiendo jornadas de compañerismo, capacitación e intercambio junto a representantes rotarios de distintos puntos del distrito.

Durante el encuentro, el Comodoro de la Flota, Eduardo Gudiño, realizó una destacada exposición donde presentó las acciones, proyectos y el trabajo solidario que la Agrupación viene desarrollando en distintas áreas de servicio. Asimismo, se instaló un stand institucional de la Flota Mar del Plata, acompañado por un grupo de rotanautas, generando un espacio de encuentro y difusión de las actividades.

Estuvieron presentes la Contracomodoro Mariela Wilhelm, el Tesorero Ricardo Santa y un grupo de rotanautas quienes representaron con entusiasmo y compromiso a la Agrupación fortaleciendo los lazos de amistad y servicio que identifican a las Agrupaciones Rotarias



FLOTA MAR DE PLATA

By Mariela Wilhelm

The Mar del Plata Fleet actively participated in the VII Conference of District 4921 held in the city of Tandil, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, sharing days of fellowship, training, and exchange with Rotary representatives from different parts of the district.

During the meeting, the Fleet Commodore, Eduardo Gudino, gave a prominent presentation where he showcased the actions, projects, and charitable work that the Group has been developing in various service areas. Additionally, an institutional booth of the Mar del Plata Fleet was set up, accompanied by a group of Rotanauts, creating a space for gathering and dissemination of activities.

Present were Vice Commodore Mariela Wilhelm, Treasurer Ricardo Santa, and a group of Rotanauts who enthusiastically and committedly represented the Group, strengthening the bonds of friendship and service that identify the Rotary Groups.



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FLOTA CARTAGENA DE INDIAS

BUQUE ARC GLORIA

By Amaury Benedetti

El Crucero del **ARC Gloria**, buque escuela de la Armada Colombiana para la formación de los cadetes de la Escuela Naval, inició en el mes de mayo la primera etapa de su recorrido internacional.

A la fecha, el velero ha visitado **Curazao, Nueva Orleans, Norfolk** y actualmente se encuentra en **Baltimore**. Su próxima derrota lo llevará a **Nueva York, Boston y Quebec**, antes de continuar su travesía rumbo a Europa.

Desde hace más de **35 años**, el **ARC Gloria** ha mantenido una estrecha relación con el movimiento rotario, invitando a los rotarios de los puertos que visita alrededor del mundo a conocer el buque, compartir con su tripulación e intercambiar banderines como símbolo de amistad y fraternidad. Estas visitas fortalecen los lazos entre nuestros clubes y proyectan la imagen de Rotary a nivel internacional.





En 2018 fue fundada la **Flota Cartagena de Indias**, con el patrocinio de Angie Mesistrano y Walter Eaglehurt, consolidando este valioso vínculo entre el ARC Gloria y la familia rotaria.

Continuaremos informando sobre los avances de este importante crucero y las actividades que se desarrollen en cada uno de los puertos visitados.

CARTAGENA OF THE INDIES FLEET SHIP ARC GLORIA

By Amaury Benedetti

The cruise of the ARC Gloria, the Colombian Navy's training ship for Naval School cadets, began its first stage of international travel in May. To date, the sailing ship has visited Curaçao, New Orleans, Norfolk, and is currently in Baltimore. Its next route will take it to New York, Boston, and Quebec before continuing its journey toward Europe. For more than 35 years, the ARC Gloria has maintained a close relationship with the Rotary movement, inviting Rotarians from the ports it visits around the world to tour the ship, spend time with its crew, and exchange pennants as a symbol of friendship and fellowship. These visits strengthen the bonds between our clubs and promote Rotary's image internationally. In 2018, the Cartagena de Indias Fleet was founded, sponsored by Angie Mesistrano and Walter Eaglehurt, consolidating this valuable link between the ARC Gloria and the Rotary family. We will continue reporting on the progress of this important cruise and the activities that take place in each of the ports visited

No. PTO	PUERTO DE ZARPE	PUERTO DE DESTINO	DÍAS DE NAVEGACIÓN		DÍAS DE PUERTO	
1	Cartagena (Colombia)	Willemstad (Curazao)	28/04/2026	01/05/2026	02/05/2026	05/05/2026
2	Willemstad (Curazao)	Puertio Rico	06/05/2026	09/05/2026	10/05/2026	12/05/2026
3	Puerto Rico	New Orleans (EE.UU)	13/05/2026	27/05/2026	28/05/2026	01/06/2026
4	New Orleans (EE.UU)	Norfolk (EE.UU)	02/06/2026	18/06/2026	19/06/2026	23/06/2026
5	Norfolk (EE.UU)	Baltimore (EE.UU)	24/06/2026	24/06/2026	25/06/2026	30/06/2026
6	Baltimore (EE.UU)	New York (EE.UU)	01/07/2026	03/07/2026	04/07/2026	08/07/2026
7	New York (EE.UU)	Boston (EE.UU)	09/07/2026	10/07/2026	11/07/2026	14/07/2026
8	Boston (EE.UU)	Quebec (Canadá)	15/07/2026	22/07/2026	23/07/2026	26/07/2026
9	Quebec (Canadá)	Reykjavik (Islandia)	27/07/2026	15/08/2026	16/08/2026	19/08/2026
10	Reykjavik (Islandia)	Amsterdam (Países Bajos)	20/08/2026	02/09/2026	03/09/2026	07/09/2026
11	Amsterdam (Países Bajos)	Oslo (Noruega)	08/09/2026	11/09/2026	12/09/2026	14/09/2026
12	Oslo (Noruega)	Hamburgo (Alemania)	15/09/2026	18/09/2026	19/09/2026	21/09/2026
13	Hamburgo (Alemania)	El Havre (Francia)	22/09/2026	24/09/2026	25/09/2026	28/09/2026
14	El Havre (Francia)	Dublin (Irlanda)	29/09/2026	02/10/2026	03/10/2026	06/10/2026
15	Dublin (Irlanda)	Bilbao (España)	07/10/2026	10/10/2026	11/10/2026	14/10/2026
16	Bilbao (España)	Oporto (Portugal)	15/10/2026	17/10/2026	18/10/2026	22/10/2026
17	Oporto (Portugal)	Casa Blanca (Marruecos)	23/10/2026	26/10/2026	27/10/2026	29/10/2026
18	Casa Blanca (Marruecos)	Santa Cruz de Tenerife (España)	30/10/2026	02/11/2026	03/11/2026	06/11/2026
19	Santa Cruz de Tenerife (España)	Cartagena (Colombia)	07/11/2026	01/12/2026		



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FLOTA DELTA

By Osvaldo Galmozzi

El pasado 26 de junio Flota Delta realizo su segunda reunión anual, en esta reunión se realizo la celebración del día de la Prefectura Naval Argentina, institución nacida en 1810 y que se destaca por el control de puertos, buques que ingresan y egresan al país, como así también el control de las embarcaciones deportivas y la expedición de las licencias para los náuticos. En la reunión estuvieron presentes el Jefe de Prefectura Zona Delta, Jefes de Prefectura Olivos, San Isidro, Tigre, Dique Lujan. Fue una cena de total camaradería y amistad nautica rotaria donde el Jefe de Prefectura Zona Delta nos brindó información sobre nuevas disposiciones. Al finalizar la cena se le entregaron a los distintos jefes y a nuestro Past Comodoro Carlos Barrios Cardozo, por ser el también miembro de la institución, certificados por la conmemoración de la fecha



FLOTA DELTA

By Osvaldo Galmozzi

On June 26, the Delta Fleet gathered for its second annual meeting, a special occasion marked by the celebration of the Day of the Argentine Naval Prefecture.

Founded in 1810, this institution has long safeguarded our ports, monitored vessels entering and leaving the country, and overseen recreational boating while issuing nautical licenses.



The evening was enriched by the presence of distinguished guests: the Chief of the Delta Zone Prefecture, together with the Chiefs of Prefecture Olivos, San Isidro, Tigre, and Dique Luján. What unfolded was not just a formal dinner, but a true Rotary nautical fellowship—an atmosphere of camaraderie, friendship, and shared passion for life on the water. The Chief of the Delta Zone Prefecture kindly shared updates on new regulations, adding depth and relevance to the gathering. As the evening drew to a close, commemorative certificates were presented to the attending chiefs and to our Past Commodore, Carlos Barrios Cardozo, himself a proud member of the institution. It was a heartfelt gesture that honored both tradition and the enduring bonds between Rotary and the Argentine Naval Prefecture.



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FLOTA BRASIL SUR

By María da Graça Pinto

En junio se presentó el nuevo puente de la Frota Brasil Sur. En la ciudad de Pelotas, durante un encuentro, se entregaron insignias a los rotanautas: comodoro Nivio Tonial, vicecomodoro Flavio Tröger, contracomodoro Guy Barcellos, secretaria Maria da Graça Pinto Ferreira, tesorera Maisa Graeff y director de Relaciones Públicas Luiz Fernando Parada.

En esa ocasión, se formó una alianza entre Frota Brasil Sur y la ONG "Otroporto" para implementar el programa "Vela Popular y Mentalidad Marítima" para jóvenes vulnerables de la ciudad de Pelotas y la región aledaña, además de otros potenciales proyectos.



BRAZIL SOUTH FLEET

By María da Graça Pinto

In June, the new bridge of the Frota Brasil Sur (South Brazil Sailing Federation) was unveiled. In the city of Pelotas, during a meeting, badges were presented to the Rotanauts: Commodore Nivio Tonial, Vice Commodore Flavio Tröger, Rear Commodore Guy Barcellos, Secretary Maria da Graça Pinto Ferreira, Treasurer Maisa Graeff, and Director of Public Relations Luiz Fernando Parada.

On that occasion, an alliance was formed between Frota Brasil Sur and the NGO "Otroporto" to implement the "Popular Sailing and Maritime Mindset" program for vulnerable youth in the city of Pelotas and the surrounding region, in addition to other potential projects.



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FLOTA PUNTA DEL ESTE. NUEVO PUENTE

2026 – 2028

By IPIC Angie Mesistrano

Como cada dos años, nuestra flota Punta del Este ha cambiado su Comodoro y los demás integrantes de su Puente.

Hemos disfrutado de diferentes proyectos a través de la náutica y de reuniones de camaradería y compañerismo durante el período 2024 – 2026 en que ha llevado el rumbo de la flota el Past Comodoro Rafael Lazo. Le agradecemos a Rafael por su gestión y su dedicación.

Ahora, como cada dos años, un nuevo Puente nos lidera. El nuevo Comodoro Ricardo Aguerre ha asumido su responsabilidad en una hermosa reunión de rotanautas donde recibimos varias visitas. Compartieron con nosotros la ceremonia y la fiesta, la IRC & A2C Miriam Caudullo, el RC Osvaldo Galmozzi, representantes y Comodoros de las flotas Montevideo y Ciudad de la Costa, representantes de la Prefectura Nacional Naval, de la prensa y de la Intendencia.

El nuevo Comodoro Ricardo Aguerre, en su alocución, nos informó de su plan de acción para los próximos dos años. Tendremos proyectos de servicio, reuniones entretenidas, oradores y momentos de diversión, además de navegar. Nos esperan dos años muy activos y divertidos. Además, el Comodoro Ricardo y la flota Punta del Este tendrán a su cargo la organización del Area 2 AGM 2027 en Punta del Este.

Le deseamos al nuevo Comodoro y a su Puente una magnífica gestión, buenos vientos y un mar calmo.



PUNTA DEL ESTE FLEET. NEW BRIDGE 2026-2028

By IPIC Angie Mesistrano

As it does every two years, our Punta del Este Fleet has changed its Commodore and the other members of its Bridge. We have enjoyed different projects through sailing and camaraderie gatherings during the 2024-2026 period, when Past Commodore Rafael Lazo led the fleet. We thank Rafael for his management and dedication.

Now, as it does every two years, a new Bridge leads us. The new Commodore Ricardo Aguerre assumed his responsibility at a wonderful meeting of IYForians where we received several visitors. Sharing the ceremony and celebration with us were IRC & A2C Miriam Caudullo, RC Osvaldo Galmozzi, representatives and Commodores from the Montevideo and Ciudad de la Costa fleets, representatives from the National Naval Prefecture, the press, and the Municipality.



In his address, the new Commodore Ricardo Aguerre informed us of his action plan for the next two years. We will have service projects, engaging meetings, speakers, and fun activities, in addition to sailing. We have two very active and enjoyable years ahead of us. Furthermore, Commodore Ricardo and the Punta del Este fleet will be in charge of organizing Area 2 AGM 2027 in Punta del Este. We wish the new Commodore and his team a magnificent tenure, fair winds, and calm seas.



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IYFR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2026 – TAIWAN

By Paul You

The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) International Convention was held in Taiwan*from June 13 to 17, 2026, bringing together Rotarian sailors from every continent to share a week of friendship, fellowship, cultural exchange, and the strengthening of the bonds that unite the worldwide IYFR family.

The Convention was presided over by International Commodore Carlo D'Amore and superbly organized by International Rear Commodore Paul Yiu, the Convention host, who prepared an outstanding program combining sailing activities, official meetings, and social events.

On June 12 and 13, the traditional IYFR Friendship Regattas were held in Tainan, with crews from several countries participating. Conducted in a spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie, these races marked the beginning of a memorable week dedicated to strengthening friendships among IYFR members through their shared passion for sailing and the sea.

On June 13, the IYFR booth officially opened at the House of Friendship during the Rotary International Convention, where Rotarians from around the world learned about the Fellowship's activities and projects. The exhibition generated considerable interest among Rotarians wishing to become part of this international fellowship.





Later that day, the IYFR Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held under the chairmanship of International Commodore Carlo D'Amore. During the meeting, Area Commodores presented reports on the activities carried out throughout the past year, highlighting the growth of new Fleets, service projects, international cruises, and initiatives aimed at expanding the IYFR's presence in additional countries.

On June 15, International Rear Commodore Paul Yiu introduced the Coral Restoration – IYFR Free Water project, an international initiative focused on coral reef restoration, the protection of marine ecosystems, and promoting greater environmental awareness among Rotarian sailors. The presentation received enthusiastic support from attendees, who expressed their commitment to future marine conservation efforts.

The traditional Meet & Greet took place on June 16 at Le Ble Dor – City Link Nongan, providing an enjoyable evening of friendship and fellowship. Participants shared sailing experiences, service projects, and stories from their respective Fleets. As is customary within the IYFR, the exchange of Fleet pennants, souvenirs, and gifts further strengthened the bonds of friendship among members from around the world.

The Convention concluded on June 17 with an elegant Gala Dinner at the Caesar Metro Taipei Ballroom. During this memorable evening, the outstanding work of the host Fleet and the many volunteers who made the Convention such a success was recognized.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Charter Certificate for the newly established Taiwan Uranus Fleet. International Commodore Carlo D'Amore officially presented the Charter to the Fleet, marking an important milestone in the continued growth and expansion of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians.

Another special highlight of the Convention was the participation of Rotary International President Gary Huang, whose inspiration and support for Project Coral—an initiative originally developed by the Taiwan Light-Up Fleet—were instrumental in its success. President Huang attended the Annual General Meeting and served as the keynote speaker during the inauguration ceremony of the new Taiwan Fleet at the Gala Dinner. His inspiring address and unwavering support for the IYFR's environmental initiatives added great significance to the Convention and contributed to the remarkable success of the Taipei AGM.



In their closing remarks, International Commodore Carlo D'Amore and International Rear Commodore Paul Yiu expressed their sincere appreciation to all the international delegations for their participation and emphasized the spirit of friendship, service, and fellowship that has defined the IYFR since its foundation.





As an optional post-convention activity, participants had the opportunity on June 18 to visit Turtle Island Landing, where many Mariners enjoyed Taiwan's spectacular coastal scenery and coral-rich marine environment while spending additional time together before returning to their respective countries.

The IYFR International Convention 2026 proved to be an outstanding success. Beyond strengthening friendships among Fleets from around the world, it provided an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences, present new international projects, and reaffirm the IYFR's commitment to the ideals of Rotary International by promoting service, international understanding, environmental stewardship, ocean conservation, and sailing as a means of building lasting bridges of friendship.

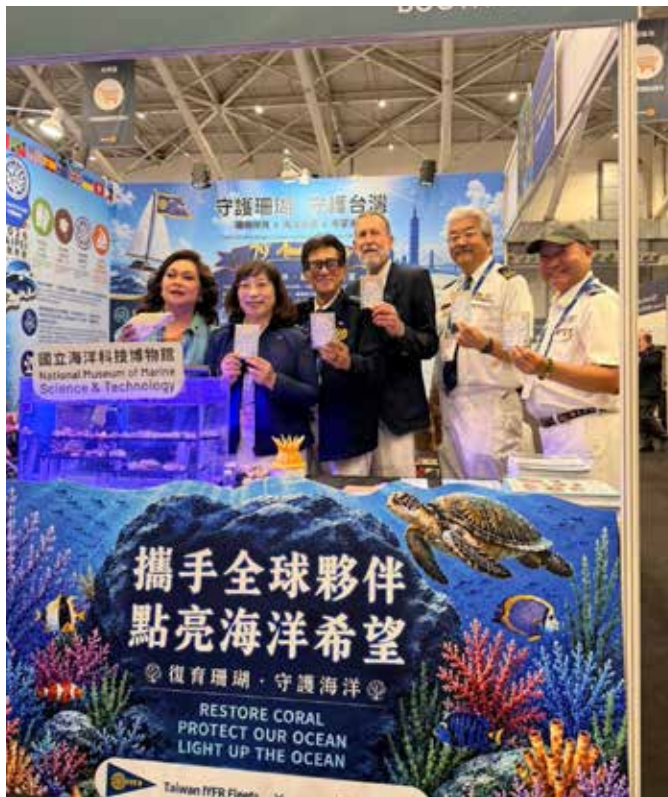
Once again, the IYFR motto, "Mates Helping Mates," was vividly demonstrated throughout this extraordinary Convention, where friendship, fellowship, and the spirit of service sailed together during an unforgettable week in Taiwan.

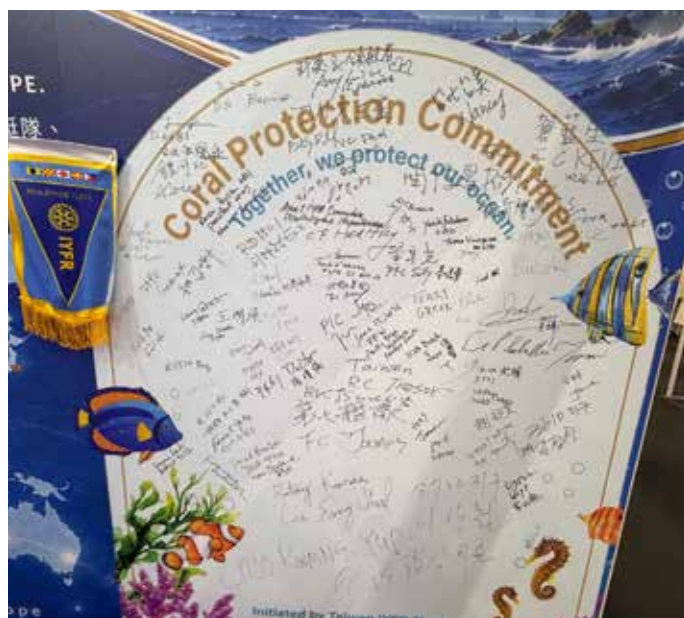
MARINA'S YACHT CLUB WELCOME PARTY AND PRESENTATION OF NEW FLEETS





PLASTIC FREE WATER ON HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIPS





MEET & GREET





GALA DINNER





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IYFR OPERATION PLASTIC FREE WATERS “CREATE AWARENESS”

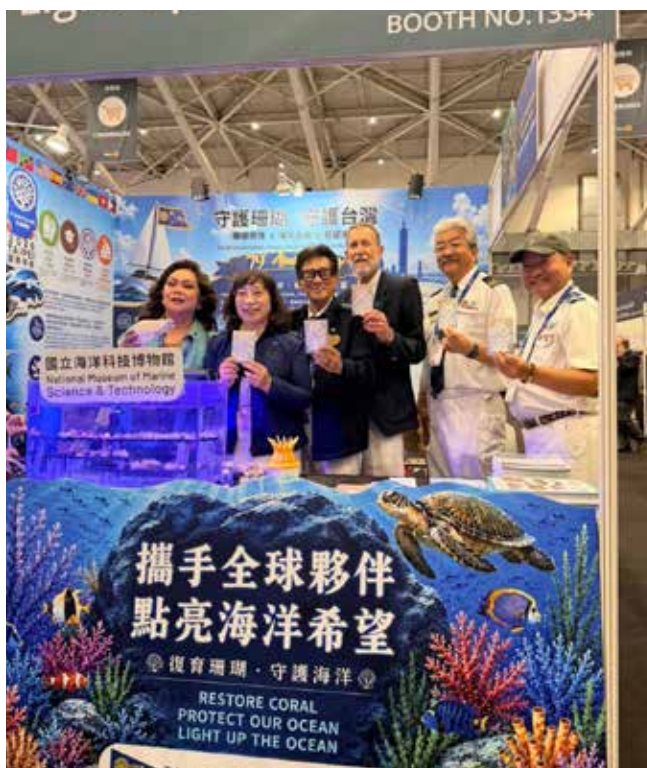
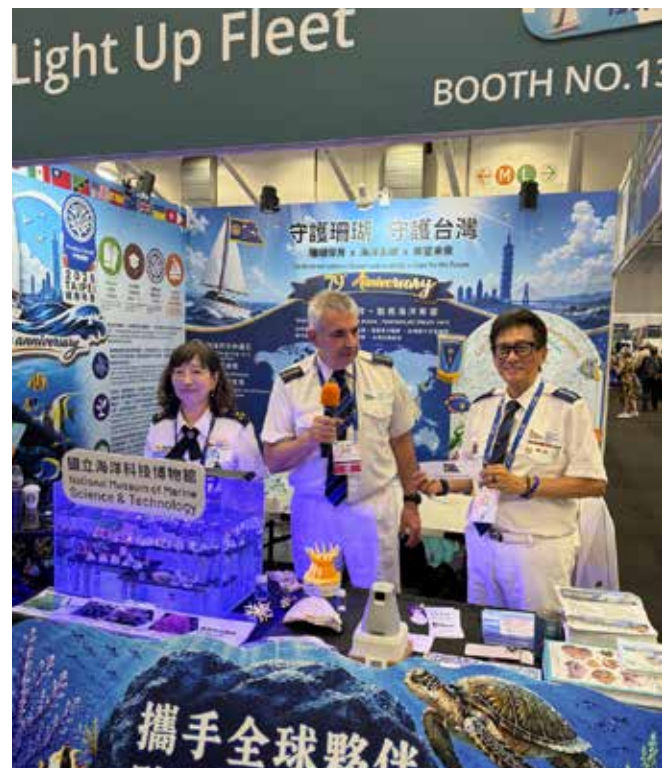
By Sergio Santi



Not all the People understand and realize that the plastic garbage circulating in the Oceans, Seas or in large bodies of waters, in the long run dissolves in microplastic, which, if not stopped, will suffocate the bottom of the seas, the coral reefs and the algae who, together with the man endangered forests, are the main producers of oxygen in the world.

The only way to counter-react this impending planetary disaster would be: NOT TO PRODUCE PLASTIC. This is of course pure UTOPIA since some plastic devices are absolutely necessary; what it is instead possible is to use it with extreme care as if it was a venom. And finally dispose of it accordingly, exactly in the way civilized people dispose of extremely dangerous substances.

Those who state that the garbage soup is recoverable contribute to give the false illusion that the problem is easily solvable. The plastic garbage, with the exception of the abandoned fishing nets, the ghost nets, is not sustainably retrievable. But the plastic producers and profiteers will never confess it. Thus, the plastic production can go on.



2026 Rotary International Convention Taipei
Coral Restoration & Ocean Guardian Ceremony

為海洋種下希望

Planting Coral, Planting Hope for Our Ocean

在2026國際扶輪台北年會期間，
來自世界各地的扶輪領袖、國際扶輪帆船聯誼會 (IYFR) 代表、
海洋保育專家與永續倡議者，
將共同參與一場具有歷史意義的海洋守護行動。

60株珊瑚 • 60份希望 • 60份承諾
60 Leaders • 60 Corals • 60 Promises

國際領袖將親手種下 60 株珊瑚，
象徵來自全球的 60 份承諾，
以實際行動守護海洋，守護下一代的藍色未來。

珊瑚的重要性 Why Coral Matters

- 孕育超過 25% 的海洋生物
Home to over 25% of marine life
- 保護海岸線，減緩強勁風浪
Protect coastlines from erosion and waves
- 維持漁業資源與在地經濟
Support fisheries and local economies
- 維護海洋生態平衡與生物多樣性
Maintain ocean balance and biodiversity

然而，珊瑚正面臨嚴峻挑戰 However, Corals Are Under Threat

- 全球暖化
Global Warming
- 海洋酸化
Ocean Acidification
- 塑膠污染
Plastic Pollution
- 人類活動
Human Activities

若不立即行動，我們將失去這片美麗的海洋森林。
Without action, we may lose our ocean forests forever.

珊瑚近距離特寫
Coral Close-up

LED 珊瑚培育系統
LED Coral Nursery System

珊瑚復育過程中
Coral Cultivation Process

追蹤你的珊瑚 Track Your Coral

每一位珊瑚領養者，均可透過專屬
QR Code 長期追蹤珊瑚的成長歷程，
一起見證希望的力量！
Every coral adopter can scan the
exclusive QR Code to track the growth
of their coral and witness hope in action!

海洋守護紀念禮 Ocean Guardian Gift

- 珊瑚造型擴香石
Coral Aroma Stone
- 海洋香氛精油
Ocean Essential Oil
- 海洋守護紀念卡
Ocean Guardian Card

一份紀念，一份承諾。
一份對海洋永續的支持。
A gift. A promise.
A commitment to our ocean.

One Ocean • One Coral • One Hope

IYFR has also created an experimental App to be easily used by any smart phone owner in the world that happens to spot a ghost net, be it submerged or floating. To be effective worldwide, this App is to be linked and preceded by an agreement between the Rotarians/IYFORIANS and the relevant Coast Guard/Maritime Authority, that will dispose for the eventual retrieval of the spotted and signalled net. Another way to link People of any Country.



Next IYFORIAN year reorganization of PLASTIC FREE WATERS, that can now count on more than 8 years of experience, will contribute to reach the desired target.

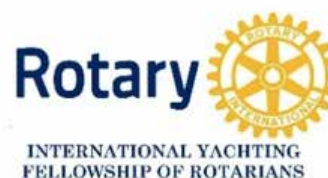


The IYFR PFW Coordinator
PIC and CoS Sergio Santi

Rapallo (Italy) 06/05/2026

Rotary International, IYFR and other similar Associations can be the World Leader in creating the missing awareness about the impending global disaster. Primary schools should take precedence in that the kids in their turn can bring home what the teacher/IYFR Instructor told them and educate their non educated parents.

PLASTIC FREE WATERS, a World Service by IYFR since 2018, has been carrying on this form of instruction/lecturing not only in the schools but also in any occasion in which it has been possible to address to an attentive and qualified audience. Beach cleaning, river bench and sea/lake bottom cleaning events have been created in many Regions of the 3 IYFR Area and beautifully contributed to CREATE AWARENESS.



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PRE-CONVENTION REGATTE 2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FLEET SAILING FRIENDSHIP REGATTA IN TAINAN, TAIWAN

By Tresor Chiu

The 2026 Rotary International Fleet Sailing Friendship Regatta was successfully held on 12 June at Anping Yacht Marina in Tainan, Taiwan. Marking the first international sailing regatta hosted by the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) in Taiwan, the event brought together Rotary sailors from Japan, Ukraine, and across Taiwan for a memorable celebration of sailing, fellowship, and international friendship.

Hosted by IYFR Taiwan and organized by the Southern Cross Fleet, the regatta featured five competing teams: Tokyo Fleet (Japan), Ukraine Fleet, Glory Taiwan Fleet, Kaohsiung Fleet Seven, and the host team, Southern Cross Fleet. Over the course of five races, participants demonstrated exceptional sailing skills, teamwork, and strategic decision-making on the waters of Anping.

While competition on the water was spirited and closely contested, the atmosphere ashore reflected the true spirit of IYFR—building friendship through a shared passion for sailing.



Sailors from different countries exchanged experiences, strengthened friendships, and celebrated the values of international fellowship that unite Rotarians around the world.





Commodore Hu Tai-Chiang of the Southern Cross Fleet (2025–2026) welcomed participants to Tainan and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to host sailors from around the globe. He noted that sailing is more than a competitive sport; it is a platform for cooperation, trust, mutual respect, and meaningful cultural exchange. Through events such as this regatta, IYFR continues to promote friendship and maritime culture across national boundaries.

To welcome international participants, the Southern Cross Fleet hosted a Welcome Night on 11 June. Guests enjoyed

warm fellowship and received locally inspired souvenirs and commemorative sailing gift bags that highlighted the cultural heritage and hospitality of Tainan.

IYFR Taiwan Commodore RC Tresor Chiu emphasized that hosting an international sailing event in Taiwan not only strengthens friendship and cooperation among sailors from different countries, but also provides an opportunity to introduce Taiwan, Tainan, and the historic district of Anping to the international community. Through this event, Taiwan proudly showcased its hospitality, vitality, and commitment to international engagement.



Following five rounds of competition, the final results were as follows:

Champion

Tokyo Fleet, Japan

Runner-up

Glory Taiwan Fleet

Third Place

Kaohsiung Fleet Seven

Fourth Place

Southern Cross Fleet

Fifth Place

Ukraine Fleet

Best Team Award

Glory Taiwan Fleet

Best Friendship Award

Kaohsiung Fleet Seven

The regatta concluded with an awards ceremony where participants gathered to celebrate their achievements and share the joy of a successful event.

During the closing ceremony, Event Director and Southern Cross Fleet Commodore Arthur Hu expressed his sincere gratitude to the organizing committee, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters whose dedication made the event possible.

"On behalf of the organizing team, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every volunteer and supporter who contributed to the success of this historic event. As the first IYFR

International Sailing Friendship Regatta ever held in Taiwan, this achievement belongs to everyone involved. We look forward to continuing our efforts to promote sailing and maritime culture while welcoming more IYFR members from around the world to Taiwan in the years ahead."

More than a sailing competition, the 2026 Rotary International Fleet Sailing Friendship Regatta served as a meaningful platform for international friendship and cultural exchange. Through the spirit of sailing, Rotary friends from different countries came together to celebrate the core values of IYFR—Fun, Friendship, and Fellowship.



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JOINT VISIT OF THE IYFR HONG KONG FLEET AND THE DBS SAILING TEAM TO A HISTORIC SHIPYARD

By Daniel Ma

The joint visit by the IYFR Hong Kong Fleet and the DBS Sailing Team to the historic Cheoy Lee Shipyards was a memorable experience that brought together maritime tradition, shipbuilding excellence, and a valuable social exchange between two groups deeply passionate about sailing and the nautical world.

Founded in 1870 by the Lo family, Cheoy Lee Shipyards is internationally recognized for its exceptional craftsmanship and long-standing tradition of building high-quality vessels. Now managed by the fourth and fifth generations of the family, the shipyard continues to produce commercial and recreational boats for the international market while preserving its legacy of innovation and excellence.





During the visit, participants had the opportunity to discover the shipyard's rich history, explore its facilities, and gain firsthand insight into the design and construction processes that have established its global reputation. The occasion also encouraged meaningful social interaction between the fleet and the DBS Sailing Team, strengthening ties between both communities through their shared passion for the sea, sailing, and maritime tradition.

This special event not only celebrated the remarkable heritage of Cheoy Lee but also highlighted the spirit of camaraderie, leadership, and love for navigation that connects generations of sailors and shipbuilders.



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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 September 2026!*




ROTAFLOAT