

the crew

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REPORT



Crew Newsdesk: Key stories reported from around the crew world

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Marshall Islands flag changes

International Registries, Inc. (IRI), the Marshall Islands maritime and corporate administrator, has announced the introduction of an updated Commercial Yacht Code (CYC).

According to the flag registry, the CYC was updated in response to the yachting industry's need for easily understandable, user-friendly regulations that readily addresses current issues relevant to the yacht owner/operator. The changes reportedly provide a "practical approach to evolving safety and technical issues".

The CYC replaces the Marshall Islands Safety Codes of Practice for Large Yachts MI-103A and Small Yachts MI-103B.

Specific changes include:

1. Revised manning requirements: Annex 4, including the introduction of a new Master of Yachts, up to 350GT license.
2. Acceptance of existing MCA LY2-certified yacht for transfer to the Marshall Islands flag.
3. Updated general guidance to privately registered yachts and streamlined procedures for owners wishing to utilise the Marshall Islands' annual 84-day chartering privilege for private yachts exceeding 18m in length.

For more information visit

www.register-iri.com.

Maldives offsets carbon

The Maldives' President has announced the government's intention for the republic to become the world's first carbon neutral country within a decade. The government has been working with international climate energy experts to draw up an eco-plan for going carbon neutral. Lying at the heart of this plan is a radical shift from fossil fuel usage to renewable energy production. By becoming the world's most eco-friendly country, the Maldives hopes that the tourists and yachts it attracts will become more environmentally conscious.

Responding swiftly to express support for the President's initiative, an anonymous 74-m superyacht has turned to carbon offsetting. The yacht's owners have, through Yacht Carbon Offset, balanced the greenhouse gas emissions from the vessel's engines for the duration of her stay in the region. Mark Robinson, Yacht Carbon Offset's managing director, commented: "For owners, charterers or captains cruising in the islands, carbon offsetting is the clearest possible way to show recognition of this new policy objective. The action may be equally well received in other cruising destinations that welcome best environmental practices by visiting yachts."

According to the company, Yacht Carbon Offset carefully selects independently approved emission reduction projects that save greenhouse gases, balancing those emitted by a yacht's engines to provide an offset and thereby lessening the environmental impact of the yachting lifestyle.

www.yachtcarbonoffset.com



Mohamed Abdulla Shafeeg

Cuba access for US citizens

A bipartisan group of senators has recently called for Congress to end restrictions that have prevented US citizens from visiting Cuba for over 50 years.

Lawmakers have been backed by business and farm groups that recognise the opportunity Cuba represents and have been attempting to lift the trade and travel bans that were imposed after Fidel Castro took power in Havana in 1959. They have met with strong political resistance from Florida's influential Cuban-American community.

However, with the ailing President handing control over to his brother Raul, and the election of President Barack Obama, the situation has recently changed as the Obama administration has backed changes making it easier for

Cuban-Americans to visit and send remittances to their relatives on the island. At time of going to press, it is also thought the administration will take other steps, such as revising rules that have impeded farm and medical sales to Cuba, before a summit of Latin American countries in Trinidad in April.

Should the ban be lifted Cuba will undoubtedly become a more desirable location for superyachts with great potential for industry growth. At present the only marina on the island with the capacity for superyachts is Port Marina Hemingway, 15km west of Havana, with 170 25–30m metre berths.

Source: Associated Press

Antibes Yacht Show



The Antibes Yacht Show is one of the first European yacht shows of the year, and for some it heralds the beginning of the Mediterranean season – gearing up for charters and the summer cruising months. In its third year, the show has built upon its previous experience and matured in terms of the organisation of the event. From 2–5 April the Port Vauban welcomed yachts, exhibitors and guests to the charter and broker show.

The number of yachts exhibiting at the Antibes Yacht Show was slightly down on last year's numbers, the feel of the show was that the average LOA of exhibiting vessels was reduced and one of the pontoons from last year was absent. However, this was not to say that there was a lack of active buyers perusing the yachts on the market. There were more exhibitors at the show this year, but some of the most recognisable brands of superyachting were conspicuous in their absence. Marketing budgets are certainly tighter this year, given the current economic climate, and there will inevitably be times when companies simply cannot commit to attending every show on the circuit.

There were many new additions to the Antibes Yacht Show programme, including a fashion show and a new larger version of the Crew Show, which puts crewmembers and service providers together. The Captains' Dinner was held within the confines of the show this year, as opposed to a few miles from the centre of town in previous years. This certainly improved the ease of attendance and the evening fashion show, including clothing lines from local businesses, changed up the format of the formal dinner. Due to unfortunate weather conditions the crew barbecue, which was originally to be held on the Thursday evening, was postponed to the Saturday night and then reinstated to its original time when the rain subsided. Many crew did not receive the updated information and attendance appeared down on last year's BBQ, although jovial spirits prevailed (see our gallery of the barbecue on page 62).

Image by Roland Archdall

Dovaston news

Crew agency Dovaston has announced a company rebranding with a new-look logo (pictured). Following the sad loss of founder Fred Dovaston last year, new managing director and ex-captain Philip Edwards (centre left) has been working with Dovaston's wife Karen (left) to continue the company's growth. The company has also revealed two new concepts in its recruitment portfolio: the Dovaston Alliance and the Self Service Selection. The former is a scheme whereby yacht agencies outside of Spain, handpicked and monitored by Dovaston, are able to work with the company to provide its services overseas. For its first partnership Dovaston has entered into an agreement with the Antibes service provider Riviera Yacht Support to represent the company in France. According to Edwards, Dovaston is "looking forward to working with Ulf Sydbeck (centre right) and his fantastic team at Riviera Yacht Support". The Self Service Selection is aimed at reducing time and cost for captains – particularly of larger superyachts – in the protracted vetting of entry-level and junior staff. Captains will be able to contact candidates directly working with Dovaston's crew database.

According to Edwards, "Our new products reflect [the] listening process [we have with our clients] and over the next year we hope to introduce more exciting innovations".

www.dovaston.com



The end for luxury Sardinian tax?

Sardinia's Governor Cappellacci seems determined to cancel the Sardinian Regional Tax for luxury yachts visiting Sardinia, implemented by the previous administration. According to Renato Azara, director of Sardinia Yacht Services, following the recent election of the new regional government the decision has been made to cancel and reverse the "luxury tax". Azara commented that the government has proposed (but not yet passed) a new financial law with a section dealing with the "luxury tax", officially cancelling it by the end of April.

Implemented in 2006, the tax sought to charge luxury yachts using the island. Following opposition from various local business and organisations, a pro-rata, weekly rate replaced the initial yearly tax in 2007.

Crew BBQ from Northrop and Johnson Placement

The crew placement division of Northrop and Johnson hosted a crew get-together on Friday 3 April for a barbecue and pig roast. Alison Overington and Marcy Williams (pictured) invited captains and crew to join them at the beachside event, and over 100 crewmembers were in attendance.

The sunny afternoon was dedicated to encouraging the crew to "hang in there" during these difficult times. Food, fun and games gave everyone a chance to catch up with friends. "This event was a wonderful opportunity for our crewmembers to connect with new and old colleagues," remarked Marcy Williams.

www.njyachts.com



Fire at Seven Seas Health



Yachting industry veteran Anita Warwick is recovering from second-degree burns after a recent fire completely destroyed her home in Fort Lauderdale. Warwick lost everything in the fire, as nothing was salvageable. Unfortunately the client database for her company Seven Seas Health was also lost and she is appealing to any crewmembers and existing clients to email their details to anita@sevenseashealth.com. Warwick set up the crew health insurance agency Seven Seas Health after a devastating car accident in Jamaica in 1996 made her seriously consider her own health insurance options as she was forced to stop working as a crewmember. Having experienced first hand the repercussions of not having an international health plan Warwick worked with several companies developing health plans for mariners and bringing the information to the yachting industry. Seven Seas Health is operating business as usual. Anita Warwick can be reached by the email above or on +1 954 763 9787.

www.sevenseashealth.com

Next level in ISO compliance for Pinmar

Palma-based Pinmar Yacht Painting Systems has announced the completion of its ISO 9001:2008 certification, which pertains to quality management systems. Managing Director of the company Remy Millott commented, "This is a major achievement for Pinmar – not only in view of the complexity of our activities but also the scale of our international operations. It is a significant addition to our already completed ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001 qualifications and we believe that it is further assurance to our clients of our commitment to Pinmar's quality and continuing improvement in all our services."

Captains' & Engineers' Updates

For full listings of both captains and engineers go to yotcru.com.
To update a listing please contact juliet@thecrewreport.com.

Captains' List

Ambrosia III Jo Bartholomeus
Azzura 2 William Keiser
Battered Bull Len Beck
Como Mark Smith
Deep Blue Meo Palmieri
Eminence Chris Waine
Felicita West Christopher Callahan
Giorgia Ben Baylis
Gran Finale Glenn Gorman
Helios David Baharell
Huntress Paul Knox
Lady Joy Michael Lovely
Lady M Duncan Hazell
Lady Nag Nag Paul Humphreys & Paul Bessant
Lauren L Leonid Matkovsky
Martha Ann Zak Matten
My Colors Alex Greenson
Nirvana Henk Hankart
Ocean Victory II Steve Marsh

Savannah Alvin Burkett
Serenity Ben Schmidt
Shogun Eric Yeager
Tajin Peter Nord
Time for Us Ben Turner
Utopia Paul March

Engineers' List

Allegro Travis Ludbrook
Ambrosia III Yuriy Grechkosiy
Battered Bull Travis Edney
Giorgia Christian Lawson-Mckittrick
Helios Per Erik Kallstrom
Huntress Kevin Rooney
Lady Joy Duncan Olds
My Colors Byron Hissey
Platinum Herve Niacayie
Silver Markus Maksimainen & Lars Klinkby
Time for Us Hedley Pearce
Utopia Martyn Rummy

Cowes Superyacht Cup set for 2012



The Superyacht Cup organisers, in conjunction with the Royal Yacht Squadron, have announced plans to hold a 2012 Superyacht Cup regatta in Cowes, the Isle of Wight, prior to the start of London's 2012 London Olympics. The four-day regatta will take place 22–25 July and is open to superyachts over 24m.

The Royal Yacht Squadron will be the organising authority responsible for providing the race management and course setting for the event. With the Superyacht Cup team managing the overall event, including the social programme.

"The summer of 2012 in the UK is going to be the focus of many sporting, cultural and business activities, and with the help of the Royal Yacht Squadron we plan to host a very special event for superyachts from all over the world to join in the Olympic excitement. Cowes and the Solent are a world famous sailing venue and the perfect location for such a prestigious event," commented James Pleasance, SYC Marketing Director.

Full details of the racing and social schedule will be announced at a later date. Owners wishing to register their interest in competing can contact the Superyacht Cup at +34 971 70 87 95 or by email to

info@thesuperyachtcup.com.

OceAnco vessel one step closer to completion

OceAnco's 86-m steel hull Y706, scheduled for delivery at the end of 2010, recently arrived at its shipyard in Alblasterdam, Netherlands. The yacht was transported by barge the short distance from oceAnco's exclusive hull builder Zwijnenburg BV. Upon arrival, the hull was joined with her two-part tri-deck aluminium superstructure; following an inclination test the complete structure was loaded in her finishing bay.

The Nuvolari & Lenard-designed superyacht features some of the latest audiovisual gadgetry and the vast open area on the aft main deck also hosts a 6.5m x 3.5m swimming pool that, at the touch of a button, transforms into a helipad or an entertainment area – a feature first perfected on the oceAnco's *Alfa Nero*.

www.oceancoyacht.com