



Letter to the IYFR Balkans Region

October 2016

CHANGE OF FLEET COMMODORES IN IYFR SLOVENIA

Former Slovenian Fleet Commodore, Erik Mlinar has given over the fleet's command whistle to Matjaž Loborec, who took over his chair on the head of Slovenian Bridge for next two years. Other members of the Slovenian Bridge has not changed: Emil Marinšek (fleet secretary), France Vehovec (fleet treasurer), Erik Mlinar in Aleš Musič (past fleet commodores), Marko Murn (regional commodore for Balkans).

Matjaž has promised to send his program for the fleet to all members till end of month. I will forward it to you, too. Maybe we can start to interact between fleets more and align our calendars better.

NEW ISSUE OF ROTAFLOAT

Last September Issue of **ROTAFLOAT** brought many interesting articles. Look at http://www.iyfr.net/new/sites/default/files/newsletter/Rotafloat%20Issue%20103%20September%202016_0.pdf

There are some articles from Slovenian Fleet, but I do miss news from other fleets in our region. Let me encourage fleet commodores and fleet secretaries to drop at least few lines about your activities to Zeev Matar (zmatar.rotafloat@gmail.com), the editor of Rotafloat. He will issue next Rotafloat in December, so you have time to report about the Rotary regatta Zadar (ICFR Croatia), Bulgarian translation of the Sailing Skills movie (IYFR Varna), students sailing introduction (IYFR Mangalia). Let you know others about your activities.

IYFR communicate with the members through next channels:

- a) web pages: <http://www.iyfr.net/new/>
- b) facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AREA1IYFR/?fref=ts>

and Luigi Norsa promised to start also with massive mailing directly to all members in the Roster about the International News.

IYFR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of AREA-1 AT POTSDAM, 7.-9. October 2016

At the annual meeting of European IYFoRians there was 120 participants from 11 countries. Since the meeting took place at Potsdam (German State Brandenburg) near Berlin, there was the biggest representative group from Germany and neighboring Poland, but also members from 20 Spain. We had also all international IYFR officers there.

AGM-1 meetings give the opportunity to meet in person IYFoRians from other fleets. It is typical Rotary networking of sailors with the exchange of ideas and deep discussions on sailing topics.

Boat owners discussed maintenance and berths, others focused on sport sailing on regattas, while cruising sailors talked about their navigation to various seas. The organizers of the German fleet North-East have invited us to a ride on a river boat on the lakes around Potsdam and Berlin for the first evening. The next day we had a guided tour to the beautiful baroque palaces and parks of Potsdam, where the history of Zepellin construction was shaped during the First World War and the signing of the World Peace Agreement among Big Three (Churchill, Truman and Stalin) was signed at the end of the Second WW. The last day we visited Berlin, returned to the time of 30-years long city separation with Berlin Wall and visited one of the most modern buildings in the city, the German parliament Reichstag. North German relatively cold climate was thoroughly warmed up by IYFR friends from Spain. There were 20 Spanish that invited us to the next meeting, which will be at Alicante, Spain on October 12th, 2017. Anyone who was not convinced of their program (visit the preparation campus for the Volvo Ocean Race around the world, see the very start of the regatta next day, sail to the nearby island Tabarca and enjoy evening flamenco at domestic Yacht Club), was for sure convinced by their wives who danced temperamental Spanish dances every night. All participants we promised to come to Alicante - and I will try to convince also you, the members of the Balkans IYFR to join us with your wives - you will not regret! So, do plan, next year October 12th to come to next IYFR AGM-1 at Alicante.

INFORMATION FROM IYFR AGM-1 MEETING

Each Region Commodore reported the news from his region. Herewith are the news from other fleets:

EUROPE EAST region was quite active this year. POMERANIA, Poland organized its regatta and sailing camp for youth under ISSA organization. GIZYCKO, Poland was active on the lake Masurian with regattas and plan to charter additional fleet. CZECH AND SLOVAK ROTARY FLEET had Rotary Sailing Week in Croatia. While there was no information from CRIMEA, Ukraine, the Polish fleets already plan to organize Rotary International Sailing Training Center with the support of ISSA Sailing Association and GIZYCKO fleet.

EUROPE NORTH region keeps gathering of all fleets on the first Saturday in August on the island between Sweden and Finland.

GERMANY (see their web site IYFR.DE) has 180 members in 5 fleets. North fleets meet for a week-end once in February-March each year, having fun and sight seeing and a Summer meeting with boats on the Baltic or North Sea. South fleets have monthly meetings and they sail on lake Constance and Chiemsee in Summer. They are already preparing to organize the RI Convention at Hamburg 2019.

GB&I region has 250 members in 15 fleets, but they are all facing the downsizing of their fleets due to the aging of their members.

IBERIA region has two fleets, as the Barcelona fleet was closed last year. In MADRID they have recently dismissed the former and first Fleet Commodore and installed the new, younger one. Very active is ALICANTE fleet with planning even two new squadrons (Marina QUANTA and VALENCIA). They have a week-end retreat at island Tabacca and open sea regatta from Altea. They also organized swimming marathon.

ITALY with 500 members in 8 fleets is the strongest IYFR region in Area-1. And the Sicily fleet of 167 members is the biggest IYFR fleet worldwide. They have quite many activities to service, like: a boat for handicapped on the regatta Barcolana, collecting and exporting 4000 life-jackets for African fishermen and for the school on Marafiki island in Kenya. Due to the problems of Customs in Kenya they have launched the project to establish the company for life-jacket production in Kenya, together with District 9212, RC Watamu and IYFR Kenya fleet. They plan to collect 5000\$ from IYFR Italy, 5000\$ from Rotary District Italy and 7000\$ from IYFR Grant.

NETHERLANDS region with two fleets has also a downsizing issue due to aging members and as many members sold out their boats. They have just recruited 4 new female members who organized a small dinghy regatta. Once a year they have a rally for motor boats. They leave the service to Rotary clubs, while the fleet mission is just fun.

SWITZERLAND region has meetings on the lake Thun. Once a year they meet at La Trinite sur Mer. This year all fleet had sailed in Croatia, while last year they participated on the Atlantic crossing ARC-2015 Rally.

TURKEY region has 7 fleets in Turkey, 2 fleets in Greece and 1 in Israel with 76 members all together. They try to collect money for scholarship in sailing schools. Next year they plan to organize Turkish national regatta and maybe a year later the International regatta.

At the end of the official meeting, there were also reports from the Area-1 Bridge and our International Commodore, Jun AVECILA who gave us quite a motivating speech about his activities in Philippines and Asia.

Next IYFR AGM-1 at ALICANTE, Spain:

Date is planned for October 12th, 2017, but could be changed if Volvo Ocean Race will change the start of the regatta. We will receive the official invitation in the beginning of the year.

THE PROGRAM:

Thursday: first arrivals, dinner at Alicante Yacht Club

Friday: visit of Volvo Ocean village, sight seeing of Alicante, business meeting, dinner at Cruise Terminal with Flamenco Show

Saturday: start of Volvo Ocean Race, cruise to Tabarca Island, dinner at Santa Barbara Castle

Sunday: free or be hosted by Spanish IYFoRians

All IYFoRians from Balkans are invited to Alicante !