



Autumn News

October 2018



Photo: Ed Gudenas

The 2019 St Barths Bucket fleet is already shaping up to be a very special one. The largest annual gathering of racing superyachts makes for a spectacular sight, whether racing around the island of St Barthélemy or moored in Gustavia Harbor.

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The Starting Line

Much has transpired on the superyacht racing scene since the inaugural SYRA newsletter last July.

There have been four regattas featuring superyacht racing, all highlighted in this edition with links to the respective event web sites. There has also been meaningful activity by our committees. Afterguard members will be pleased to see the Superyacht Racing Rules Committee tackling issues concerning Rule 17, 'proper course' (Appendix SY 2.8) and 'continuing obstructions'. These two areas always seem to generate dialogue but often with little in the way of consensus among tacticians. Please check out the 'Rules Corner' section below for details.

With fingers crossed regarding hurricane activity in the islands and nothing but good news to this point, it appears that a great number of sailing superyachts will be cruising and racing in the islands this winter. Antigua and St Barths are both expecting strong turnouts, which will surely translate into

outstanding competition.

As always, we encourage participation by members in our SYRA committees. As described below in the 'Committees' section, there are good opportunities for you to play a role and influence superyacht racing. If you have any questions or areas of interest, please feel free to email me peter@superyra.org.

It is important that we keep the **SYRA's Mission and Goals** in mind given that the superyacht owner's enjoyment is what it's all about.

We look forward to seeing many of you during the upcoming winter circuit. A reminder to all that the SYRA Annual General Meeting will take place just prior to the Bucket in St Barths on 20 March at 1700.



Peter
Peter Craig
SYRA Executive Director

Learn more about the SuperYacht Racing Association

Coming Soon to a Regatta Near You

SY AQUARIUS - "The owner's brief was for a stunning looking yacht for family enjoyment and world cruising," says Thys Nikkels of Dykstra Naval Architects of this graceful 56m / 184ft classic ketch. "The result is a slender hull with long overhangs for a classically elegant appearance with performance and seakeeping characteristics that will ensure she will be eye-catching wherever she goes, be it at popular destinations, in remote anchorages or at the superyacht regatta."



Naval architect: Dykstra Naval Architects
Interior design: Mark Whiteley
Builder: Royal Huisman
Project management: Godfrey Cray Maritime Ltd
Length: 56 m / 184 ft
Length waterline: 41 m / 135 ft
Beam: 9.5 m / 31 ft
Draft: 4.8 m / 16 ft
Displacement: 280 tons / 617,294 lbs
Hull speed: 16 knots

SY Aquarius will participate in the 2019 St Barths Bucket Regatta

Photo: Courtesy Royal Huisman

Fleet Building **The SYRA 90' Class Initiative**

A 30-meter LOA eligibility criteria has been in play at some superyacht regattas. While event organizers would like to be inclusive and allow somewhat smaller yachts to compete, this can lead to classes comprised of yachts with extremely disparate sailing characteristics as well as excessively wide rating bands. Given some of the inherent tactical advantages of smaller, more nimble yachts, this can also put large cruising superyachts at a competitive disadvantage.



Photo: Photoaction.com/ Tim Wright

The Sw an 90 *Freya* on the wind at the St Barths Bucket with her crew in full hiking mode.

To achieve as much inclusivity as possible without negatively impacting true superyachts, the SYRA has introduced a 90' Class initiative for consideration by the event organizers. Performance-oriented sloops in this class would have a fleet start and race under the conventional Racing Rules of Sailing. By establishing a relatively narrow rating band, race managers can minimize mixing with the superyacht fleet racing with the staggered or pursuit racing format.

The eligibility criteria for these performance-oriented sloops includes length and rating bands. An overview of the 90' Class initiative can be found on the SYRA website ([Overview pdf](#)).

Superyacht News

Winning Ways in Porto Cervo and Palma



Photo: Loro Piana/Carlo Borlingi

The Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta's overall winner *My Song* powers over *Ohana* during a spectacular day for racing on the Costa Smeralda's archipelago. For results, photos and video... [loro_piana_superyacht_regatta](#)



Photo: Claire Matches

Close, competitive class racing was the story of the 22nd Superyacht Cup Palma (19-23 June). The venerable J Class yacht *Velsheda* edged superketch *Mari-Cha III* (shown here) on a tie breaker for the Class B win and the Overall trophy. It was a showcase regatta for the ORCsy handicap rule. [thesuperyachtcup.com](#)



Photo: ROLEX/Carlo Borlingi

The five "supermaxis" sailing in the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup at the YCCS last month raced under the ORCsy handicap rule. The J Class yacht *Topaz* prevailed, one point clear of *Velsheda*, in a series that featured 5 coastal races. [maxi_yacht_rolex_cup](#).



Photo: Perini Navi Cup / Studio Borlingi

The 2018 Perini Navi Cup produced a wide range of challenging conditions with wind speeds from 6 to 26 knots. The 50 metre ketch *Silencio* prevailed in the Cruiser Racer class with finishes of 1-1-2 while the *Maltese Falcon* won the 8-yacht Corinthian Spirit Class. For regatta photos, news and results go to [perini-navi-cup-2018](#).

Superyacht afterguard member Bouwe Bekking (*Nilaya* and *Lionheart*) has returned to the circuit after a one-year absence. The VOR legend was fully occupied completing his 8th lap around the planet, skippering *Team Brunel* to a podium finish in the closest VOR finish ever. The top three places were decided in the final hours of the last leg after 45,000 offshore miles. Bouwe will re-join the *Nilaya* team at the St Barths Bucket.



Committees at Work SYRA Members Making a Difference

As the SYRA strives to ensure that superyacht racing offers what the yacht owner is *really* looking for, there is an increasing need for participation by SYRA members - experts in their respective fields. To that end, our [four active committees](#) have plenty to do going forward. The Executive Committee continues to provide direction, with many of these individuals also playing roles on other committees.

New since the last issue is the increasingly important '[Fleet Building Committee](#)'. For all the obvious reasons, we are keen to retain those yachts who are currently racing while attracting others who have yet to experience a superyacht regatta. Our Corinthian Spirit Class initiative, now in its second year, is gaining momentum with six yachts having raced in St Barths and eight at the recently concluded Perini Navi Cup.

There is information on the Superyacht Racing Rules Committee and Fair Sailing / Handicapping in this newsletter. We welcome participation from any members and encourage yacht Captains to get involved in any of our committees. Current composition of all four committees can be found on the [SYRA website](#).



Upcoming Shows

2018

Ft Lauderdale Int. Boat Show: 31 Oct-4 Nov

METS (Amsterdam): 13 - 15 Nov

2019

Miami International Boat Show: 14 - 18 Feb

Dubai Int. Boat Show: 26 Feb - 2 Mar

Palm Beach Int. Yacht Show: 28-31 March

Monaco Yacht Show: 28 Sept - 1 Oct



2019 Upcoming Regattas

Millenium Cup: 30 Jan - 2 Feb

SY Challenge Antigua: 31 Jan - 3 Feb

St Barths Bucket: 21 - 24 March

Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta: 3-8 June

Superyacht Cup Palma: 19-22 June

The Candy Store Cup: tba July

Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup: 1 - 7 September

2018 and 2019 Calendar

Calendar graphic Freepix.com

Fair Racing 2019 ORCsy Rule and VPP – Better Yet



The handicap rule used by nearly all of event organizers for the past 4 years is the ORC Superyacht Rule (ORCs_y). This came about 4 years ago through a SuperYacht Racing Association initiative in response to feedback from superyacht owners who sought to have a fully transparent rule. The resulting collaboration between the ORC, the worldwide leader in rating technologies, and the SYRA has been recognized by yacht owners and crews as a great success to this point.

At the conclusion of racing every autumn the ORC, with input from SYRA technical representatives, compiles a list of superyacht handicap rule and Velocity Prediction Program (VPP) issues to be researched further and tested in order to continue with refinement and improvement of the rule in the interest of fair racing.

The first test run of the 2019 is expected later this month for evaluation by the ORC and SYRA. The features and areas being researched for the 2019 ORCs_y VPP include keel resistance and stability. The current research list is posted [on the SYRA website](#).

Rules Corner

Appendix SY - Continuous Improvement

Over seven years ago and with the approval of World Sailing, the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) Appendix SY made its debut at the 2011 St Barths Bucket. At that time, there was apprehension on how the 40 metre addition to keeping clear or giving room, and the restrictive overtaking provisions would work on the race course.

Fortunately for superyacht racing, the fundamentals of Appendix SY have stood the test of time. In subsequent years, there have been a number of minor changes and improvements made to the appendix. Review and refinements to the Superyacht rules continue.

Recently, four members of the SYRA's Superyacht Racing Rules Committee met in Porto Cervo during the Rolex Swan Cup. They addressed two issues that have been raised in recent years: 'overtaking' and 'continuing obstructions'. Three International Judges, Jim Capron, Gordon Stedwick and Willii Gohl, were joined by experienced superyacht navigator Nacho Postigo to tackle these important topics. [Read more on the SYRA website](#)

Company Spotlight



Pantaenius is a leading superyacht insurer who joined the SYRA in its first year. Their advocacy and support of the SYRA and safety initiatives has been consistent and significant. The funding of the association's laser range finders - issued to all racing superyachts - is a prime example of this company's above and beyond commitment to superyacht owners and safe racing.

Pulling Together

Let's work together to develop a stronger, more robust superyacht racing community and enhance the enjoyment of all owners.



Members are invited to join our committees and working parties. Updates on those groups that are active are in process this spring.

If you have interest in actively participating, please contact peter@superyra.org

Information on SYRA membership is [posted here](#). Please consider joining and supporting our mission and goals. Contact jeanne@superyra.org

Photo: Claire Matches

Welcome New SYRA Member!

SY SILENCIO has joined the SuperYacht Racing Association.
The complete list of members can be found on the [SYRA Members page](#).

SYRA Executive Committee

Toby Allies
Pendennis Shipyard Ltd.

Kate Branagh
(Chairperson)
The Superyacht Cup

Peter S. Craig
(Executive Director)
SuperYacht Racing
Association, Inc.

Robbie Doyle
Doyle Sailmakers, Inc.

Ruurt Meulemans
Hoek Design Naval
Architects

Bill Tripp
Tripp Design Naval
Architecture



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