

# NEWSLETTER

Feb/March

2009



## AYSS Gathering in New Zealand



## Millennium Cup Party – Auckland

We had a great turn out of around 70-80 people with the crews off *Mystere*, *Thalia*, *Silvertip*, *Naos*, *Tigriador*, *Endeavour*, *Maricha III* and *Nelson*. Also AYSS members 37 South, *Tahiti Ocean*, *Major Yacht Services*, *Carter Marine* and *Integrated Marine*. Charter brokers *Fraser Yachts* and *Sail connections*. Boat International deputy editor *Tim Thomas* and NZ rep *Pippa Johnson* were also on hand to enjoy the fun. *Refit Australia* (co sponsor) was represented by *Superyacht Solution's Peter Luke* and there was a good contingent of local suppliers and yard reps.

Things got going at 17:30 with everyone arriving after work. The HQ Bar supplied Pizza nibbles and the fun carried on until 20:30 when the Bar finally dried up and we all went off for a big dinner with about 20 of the above revellers some of which wound up the night in the wee hours of the morning (no names of course but I can say a few of our members showed remarkable stamina and commitment in supporting this event to the very end).

Write up by **David Jamieson**  
*Yacht Help Fiji and Tonga*

\*\*\*\*\***News Flash**\*\*\*\*\*

**AYSS at Seatrade Miami March**  
**16-19 Booth C-2314 Hall C.**

Contact Jenny on

[jenny@ayss.org](mailto:jenny@ayss.org) for more information.

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## New Waterfront Facility – Fifth Avenue Landing

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – The yachting's premier West Coast destination has been enhanced with the opening of Fifth Avenue Landing, an elite, stylish superyacht facility that now welcomes the world's largest and luxurious megayachts. This 12-slip facility instantly ranks among the world's finest. The new facility can accommodate yachts as large as 300 feet.

**News Release from Kate Pearson**  
**Knight and Carver Yacht Center**

## As Good As It Gets – The RORC Caribbean 600 – Some Good News from Antigua.....

A new exciting offshore race is born, the inaugural RORC Caribbean 600 kicked off on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 1100 local time. Solid breeze from the east nudging 20 knots rising to over 25 knots in the squalls was the order of the day but the big factor was the sea state; long rollers some as high as four metres tested the driving skills to the maximum.



Mike Slade's 100ft Maxi, *ICAP Leopard*, led the monohulls by over 70 miles on the water, *ICAP Leopard* looked untouchable, as the powerful speed machine left them far behind within hours of the start. Slade and his crew extended virtually the whole way around the course.

In Mike Slades blog from *ICAP Leopard*, he describes his thoughts on the race so far. *"Any ideas that this race was a holiday jaunt out of Antigua have now been binned! A cracking start into heavy seas soon dispelled any thoughts of an easy trip."...and later.. Flat water and 20 knots plus boat speed was as good as it ever gets and the reason why we were keen to support this RORC initiative, around what is undoubtedly one of the best yacht race tracks in the world."*

All the boats and crew enjoyed their time in Antigua and look forward to next year.

## New AYSS Members

**A warm welcome to the following:-**  
Mathez Monaco International SAM  
19 Avenue des Castelans  
Stade louis II  
MC 98000  
Monaco

Contact: Michael Allaire

[mallaire@mmci.mc](mailto:mallaire@mmci.mc)

Tel : 377 93 101 330

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## Gino Yachting Branches at

Anatalya  
Gocek/Fethiye  
Kuşadası and  
Bodrum  
Turkey

Contact: Charlie Topal

[info@ginogroup.com](mailto:info@ginogroup.com)

Tel: 90 532 232 16 17

## Simon Alexander reflects on the retirement of AYSS Member Jean-Pierre Blanc – Somodipe, Monaco

Philippe Giraud introduced me to Jean Pierre many years ago and, whenever I was in Monaco, the three of us enjoyed convivial times together. I was Chairman of AYSS when I first met Jean-Pierre and I did not miss the opportunity to persuade him that Somodipe should become a member.

Jean Pierre is not an English speaker but the two of us got on extremely well and Anglo-French relations must have hit new highs in Monaco on many occasions. We managed to communicate very well, often with Philippe Giraud in the middle, and on one occasion Jean-Pierre presented me with a bottle of what looks suspiciously like clear alcohol. I am still keeping it for the right occasion!

Jean-Pierre and Somodipe were more than just nominal AYSS members. He came to our annual general meetings in the Tulip Hotel in Monaco though how much he understood what was going on I cannot tell.....but he came, and that was the point.

AYSS had a couple of social occasions on the fuel dock in the middle of Monaco Harbour and these were brilliant occasions for bringing together people from all over the world to talk about superyachting. I mean, what better place than Port Hercule to cement relationships with people and companies whose business was, and is, that of service to the Superyachts of the world.

Jean-Pierre was to me a splendid example of how French-Monegasque-Anglo relationships can prosper. The name of Somodipe went all around the Superyachting world in the AYSS handbook.

AYSS will miss Jean-Pierre but I will miss him more. AYSS wishes Jean-Pierre a happy retirement.

## New AYSS Associate Member

AYSS welcomes

**Ironside Associates Limited** as new Associate Members. Keith Simpson based in the UK, can be contacted regarding any security requirements on [info@ironsideassociates.co.uk](mailto:info@ironsideassociates.co.uk)