



# OCEAN CRUISING CLUB®

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Pulling together in the pandemic world**

**Devon, UK, 5 May 2020** – The cruising community at large is an extraordinarily supportive community at the best of times, and the Ocean Cruising Club (OCC) represents some of the most experienced and helpful members of that cruising community. But it is in the worst of times that the fellowship of cruisers shines the brightest.

The OCC would like to recognise all the people who have gone out of their way to help fellow cruisers facing challenging situations and difficult decisions when they found themselves in places they didn't expect to be as borders closed around the world. This Covid-19 pandemic was like nothing previously experienced, yet OCC members, Roving Rear Commodores, Regional Rear Commodores, Port Officers & PO Representatives and volunteers around the world pulled together to assist all cruisers regardless of affiliation or membership in the OCC. Non-members chipped in, too, helping with various functions from setting up communications channels to sharing verified information.

The Board and General Committee have approved issuing Ocean Cruising Club commendations to all those we have identified as of 1 May 2020 as having dedicated extraordinary effort in this trying time. Commodore Simon Currin remarked, "The COVID-19 crisis has created unprecedented difficulties for the entire cruising community. I am delighted that the Ocean Cruising Club has been able to deploy its formidable global support network in order to assist all stranded sailors find safe havens."

Our thanks to all of you and our best wishes for your continued safety. As this pandemic will be with us and things will not be 'normal' for some time, the OCC intends to continue to recognise those who go beyond the ordinary to assist others in need. If you hear of someone who is helping cruisers on the front lines, please bring their efforts to our attention.

Ocean Cruising Club Certificates of Appreciation were issued to the following:

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Addison Chan      |
| Asadhulla Mohamed |
| Brian Murray      |
| Daria Blackwell   |
| Frances Rennie    |
| Gordon Nicholl    |

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Graham Gower             |
| Grahame L. Brookes       |
| Guy Chester              |
| Hank George              |
| Jenny Crickmore-Thompson |
| Jerome Belheurne         |
| Jose Azevedo             |
| Juan Boschetti           |
| Julia Torres             |
| Linda Lane Thornton      |
| Liz & Steve Davis        |
| Mindy Piuk               |
| Peter Whatley            |
| PredictWind              |
| Rick Palm                |
| Russ Owen                |
| Silvio Ramos             |
| Steve Kerswill           |
| Sue Richards             |
| Thomas Nicolaisen        |
| Tim Goodyear             |
| Victor Langerwerf        |
| Steven Kirk              |

Additions as of 05-05-2020:

|              |
|--------------|
| Joan Conover |
| Fiona Jones  |

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## About the Ocean Cruising Club



### ***The Worldwide Community for Adventure Sailing Since 1954***

The OCC is the “home port” for those who have sailed long distances across big oceans. With 45 nationalities represented among more than 3100 members, and Port Officers around the world, we

have a more diverse membership and a more international reach than any other blue water sailing organisation.

The Ocean Cruising Club exists to encourage long-distance sailing in small boats. A Full Member of the OCC must have completed a qualifying voyage of a non-stop port-to-port ocean passage, where the distance between the two ports is not less than 1,000 nautical miles, in a vessel of not more than 70ft (21.36m) LOA; associate members are committed to achieving that goal. This standard distinguishes the OCC from all other sailing clubs.

Our membership as a whole has more experience offshore than any other sailing organisation – in the number of circumnavigators, in the range of extraordinary voyages members have completed, and in the number of solo sailors and female sailors among our ranks. This is what sets us apart from other organisations, even as it draws us together as a group.

Web: [www.oceancruisingclub.org](http://www.oceancruisingclub.org)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OceanCruisingClub/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/oceancruisingclub/>

Twitter: @OCC\_org

