



OCEAN CRUISING CLUB™

For Immediate Release

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## OCC Announces Azores Pursuit Rally in 2018



**Dartmouth, Devon, UK** – In 2018, Peter Café Sport will celebrate its centenary, and to mark this occasion the Ocean Cruising Club is proposing to hold a Pursuit Rally to Horta. Since 1977 the Club has held frequent rallies and Pursuit Races to the Azores and the 2018 event will be similar in nature to those of the 1980s and 1990s except that this one will be a rally and not a race.

From the founding of the Club in 1954 OCC members crossing the North Atlantic have been calling at Horta in the Azores. In the very early days, Humphrey Barton and other founder members formed a close relationship with “Peter” Azevedo, son of the original owner and the proprietor of Peter Café Sport on the waterfront. Peter Café Sport became the Club’s unofficial clubhouse in the mid-Atlantic, as well as “the place to call” for all transatlantic sailors. Peter Azevedo became OCC Port Officer in Horta and on his death was succeeded by his son José Henrique Azevedo.

Participants may start from anywhere, a minimum of 500 miles away, at any time, but the aim is to cross the finishing line as close as possible to 12 noon on 18 June 2018.

This will be a light-hearted and fun event, but a major one in the 2018 OCC calendar with many land based activities scheduled for the following six days, culminating in a formal dinner and prize-giving. Provision has been made for limited participation by members of other cruising clubs. Due to limited availability of space in the Horta marina, registration will be closed as soon as the maximum number of participants is reached.

A rally description is available from the organisers by email at: [AzoresRally2018@oceancruisingclub.org](mailto:AzoresRally2018@oceancruisingclub.org). Participants will be required to register, and a registration form will be available from the rally organisers, by mid-June 2017. A small rally fee will be charged.

**John Franklin & Tony Brighton**  
**Rally Organisers**

## About the Ocean Cruising Club



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 as measured by the shortest practical Great Circle route, as skipper or member of the crew in a vessel of not more than 70ft (21.36 m) LOA; associate members are committed to the achievement of that goal. This standard distinguishes the OCC from all other sailing clubs. It's not about what you are or who you know, but simply what you have done that matters. Our awards seek to bring to light the accomplishments of ordinary people doing extraordinary things on the world's oceans.

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. We bring the spirit of seafaring to our association by always being willing to assist any fellow sailor we meet, either afloat or ashore.

Though it has no physical clubhouse, the OCC is the “home port” for those who have sailed long distances across big oceans. With 48 nationalities, and Port Officers in as many countries, we have a more diverse membership and a more international reach than any other blue water sailing organisation. Our Board and Committee comprise 7 women and 7 men representing 9 countries in Europe, North American and Australia, reflecting our diverse membership. Our Port Officers, Regional Rear Commodores and Roving Rear Commodores represent the frontline interaction with our existing members and the recruitment of new members.

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