



OCEAN CRUISING CLUB®

For Immediate Release

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## **More than 50 Yachts Registered for the OCC Pursuit Rally to the Azores**



**Dartmouth, Devon, UK, 14 May 2018** – Registration for the Rally has closed and more than 50 yachts, mostly OCC members, are now preparing their vessels and planning their routes to the Azores. Strategically placed yachts will be wagering on the weather, the currents, and other factors to time their arrival in Horta as close as possible to the time and date set by the Organising Committee – noon (1200 Z) on June 18.

In a pursuit rally, skippers choose where they will depart from in order to arrive at the destination at a designated time, as long as it is at least 500 miles from the finish. Each skipper takes into account the yacht's hull speed, the prevailing conditions along its chosen route, and the abilities of the crew and gear to time their arrival precisely. Use of engine is allowed but will be penalized.

Horta is preparing for the simultaneous arrival of 52 yachts for the event. "The Harbourmaster has assured us that space will be made available in the marina for all participants," announced John Franklin, former Commodore of the OCC and lead organiser of the event. "Preparations have been underway for more than a year, and the time is now upon us to put on the finishing touches to the many activities planned ashore."

Jose Azevedo, proprietor of Peter Café Sport, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, has been working tirelessly to coordinate the efforts of multiple organisations supporting the event. Shore-based activities for the week-long celebration of the Peter Café Sport Centenary include a welcome reception at Peter Café Sport, BBQ dinner at Forte de Sao Sebastiao, Porto Pim,, tour of Pico, visit to the caldera and Museum, whale watching excursion, closing dinner at Amor de Patria and much more. This is the largest single event ever hosted by the port of Horta on the island of Faial.

The event concludes on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, with several yachts planning to sail to other islands in the Azores archipelago, others returning to the Americas, and the remainder sailing on to Europe. As this is a busy season for the Azores in any case, it is expected that the week will be memorable on many fronts.

## About the Ocean Cruising Club



Though it has no physical clubhouse, the OCC is the "home port" for those who have sailed long distances across big oceans. With 41 nationalities represented among more than 2500 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. 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 current and prospective members around the world.

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.

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

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

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