

Sailing: Asia welcomes cruisers with open arms...

Friday, 02 August 2013

This month the highly competitive Indonesian Race/Rally Season moves into full swing. Several private companies and yacht clubs are offering alternative routes from East to West, through the archipelago, with a variety of island stopovers and cultural entertainment along the way. Only a few days ago, 86 boats departed from Darwin, North Australia on Sail Indonesia. which is slightly down on numbers from past years and is the longest running and most successful event in the region. Thanks to the modern marvels of communications, you can now check their progress, receive Indo sailing tips and news on Sam's Blog.

On July 25th The Route to Sail Maluku kicked off in Cairns, Queensland for yachts not wanting to go to Darwin for the official start on 10th August. They will meet up at Saumlaki, Banda or in Ambon before the main event Spice Island Rally gets underway. The traditional Darwin to Ambon Race/Rally starts in Darwin Harbour on 17th August and is for the more sporting sailors, prepared to tackle 600nm downwind sailing in the tradewinds.

Sailors that like to stay off the beaten tourist path, can find some very unique events further afield. After Sail Maluku make their way round to the west coast of Sulawesi for the "World's fastest, longest and hardest race for traditional fishing vessels". The 300 nautical mile Sandeq Race has turned into one of Indonesia's best nautical events held each year! The Sandeq Race has also embraced 21st century technology by having a Facebook page these days.

The only significant big boat regatta this month in SE Asian waters, is the Western Circuit held over two weekends (Aug 17,18 & 24) at Raffles Marina on Singapore's west coast. This event is co-organised by Raffles Marina and Singapore Management University (SMU) has turned into the premier keelboat regatta on the Singapore racing scene. Don't worry, AY will be there generating daily Race Reports and connect to their Facebook site for on the water updates and photos.

The northern summer has brought with it a multitude of World, National and Youth titles for ISAF dinghy, catamaran and Olympic classes. Serious National Sailing Associations in Asia, have sent their best sailors and success has come in the form of Singapore Sailing young Optimist sailors, under Coach of the Year Fernando Alegre, have defended all 4 World Opti Titles at stake and bring home a timely birthday gift for Singapore's 48th birthday. A couple days latter fellow Singaporean's, Griselda Khng and Sara Tan claimed the prestigious silver medal at the end of the hard fought 49er FX Youth World Championships in Gdynia, Poland.

Not to be outdone, the Philippine Team of Ridgely Balladares & Rommel Chavez won the Irish Mirror National Championship in Lugh Derg and together with Gabriel Fetizanan & Richly Magsanay are expecting podium places at the Mirror World Championship held this week.

The next pointscoreing event on the 2013-14 AsianYachting Grand Prix (AYGP) is not till the China Coast Regatta (Oct 12th - 22nd) and the biennial 656nm downwind sleigh ride on the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race (Oct 17th start). In preparation for next years 25th anniversary, the Raja Muda Selangor Int Regatta organisers have been busy planning new courses and venues in advance. They have announced new marina berthing at Pulau Indah Marina and starting Leg 1 from the Southern entrance to Port Klang in the Malacca Strait. Meanwhile the final stop in Langkawi is returning to the original finish line, to the South of Rebak Island and the yachts will end up in Telaga Harbour for the gala prize presentation and closing party. The NOR, Early-bird Entry Forms and much more can be found [Here](#)...

Relive the excitement at Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek in the AY Photo Gallery Online Now! While we were basking in the Phuket sunshine, Patinyakorn "Ging" Buranrom became the first Thai sailor to co-skipper a yacht in a major international ocean yacht race. Patinyakorn together with Michael Spies, guided the Tripp 40 Sansiri across the 2,250 nautical mile (4,100km) course from Los Angeles to Honolulu. After an exciting downwind ride they picked up 3rd place in Class 7 of the TRANSPAC 2013, In doing so they have written a new chapter in the country's history book.

Despite the rocky start to the 34th America's Cup, it is all about to change with Sweden's Artemis launching their AC 72 and tuning up for the best of seven race Louis Vuitton Semi-Final series on August 6-15 with Italy's Luna Rossa. The Kiwi's ETNZ chose to go straight to the LV final and take on the winning semi finalist, which will ultimately determine the team that goes on to be the challenger. The defender Oracle Team USA have been two boat testing and pacing each other under the guidance of Sir Ben Ainslie and Aussie James Spithill. Fleet racing returns with the Red Bull Youth America's Cup on AC 45's between the LVC and AC, which is bound to be a rip snorter especialy in windy San Fran and a great experience for future champions.

The racing bonanza in Europe continues as the Extreme Sailing Series fleet is headed for Act 6 - Cardiff, UK (August 23rd - 26th). The World Match Racing Tour moves onto the Chicago Match Cup (Aug 06 - 11th) and the 52 Super Series are presently contesting the Copa del Rey Mapfre in Spain. Also on this month is Cowes Week and the notoriously famous Fastnet Race.

For your convenience, news on all the above events, along with other major yachting news can be found in the Austral Asian News. International Roundup and World Speed Records sections, along with the "Unluckiest sailors of the month" awards can be found in the August 2013 Web Edition and regularly updated on the AsianYachting website.

Wishing you blue sky, fair winds when ever you sail.

Capt Marty Rijkuris

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