

Due to the enormous success, the Forum will be held again in February, 2011.

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More participation for offshore racing sailors - an International Forum is being firmly established

The first International Yacht Forum was launched in Hamburg at the Chamber of Commerce in February 2010, attracting well over 220 participants from Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, the US, Spain, the

The offshore racing scene in Northern Europe is acting primarily at regional level. Despite the short distances very little of the teams are sailing outside their country borders. Even more, no global rating system has yet been established. ORC and IRC are competing in Germany, the Netherlands, France and Great Britain. Denmark, Norway and Sweden are dealing with their own rating systems such as Dansk HandiCap, LYS and SRS. Racing your boat in all northern countries requires up to five rating certificates - it is not surprising that there is very little international exchange between northern european racers.

One world - one Rule!

This will be the key issue of the 2nd International Yacht Forum on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at the Chamber of Commerce in Hamburg. The International Yacht Forum of the German Owners Association is providing a platform for the exchange of information on this subject for owners as well as for the yacht industry, where new trends will be presented as well as important topics discussed.

Best of all: Yacht owners will be able to directly influence the development by participating in the discussion panels. At the first Yacht forum held back in February 2010, more than 200 yacht owners expressed their demand for a simplified, transparent global rating system from IRC and ORC. Now, in a joint press release two weeks ago at hanseboot International Boat Show Hamburg, ORC and IRC announced their engagement in future co-operation in order to unite the best of both formulas. An outcome of the International Yacht Forum discussion?

"This Forum allows basis democracy for offshore racing for the very first time", says Volker Andrae, chairman of the German Offshore Owners Association. "After each discussion, the participants can show approval or denial openly by raising their hands." The results will be published via internet, and also sent as an open letter to the associations.

Securing investments, successful sailing

Well-known constructors, ship builders and yachting industry professionals will present new trends, provide competent background know-how and announce latest technology development in the second part of the Forum. These presentations will aim at enabling yacht owners to put their ships and their crews on a competitive basis.

The Forum date was publicly announced just two weeks ago by release of the Forum website. Nevertheless, four important speakers already confirmed their participation: Mark Mills, Irish constructor (famous for DK 46 and MiniMaxi Alegre) and Torsten Conradi (partner of judel/vrolijk & co and president of the DBSV, the German Boat and Shipbuilding Association), Simon Rogers (yacht designer, Great Britain) und Macolm Runalls (yacht designer, Australia). North Sails, world leader in sailmaking, will fly in a specialist, a

MUSTO representative will explain the right choice and the correct use of sailing wear. Insurance Broker Pantaenius will present the results of Pantaenis Rund Skagen Regatta in the course of Nordseewoche 2010 as well as solutions to keep racers from retiring. International suppliers will display the latest developments in the racing industry on the venue's exhibition area. Thus, yacht owners will learn in condensed terms all they need to know about securing their investments and speeding up their boats to successful sailing.

To make the investment of the participation in the Forum even more attractive, there will be held a sailor's party following the Forum at the Chamber of Commerce. The night before the opening of the Forum, the German Offshore Award and the Hanseboot prize for the winner of the Hanseboot Baltic-IRC-series will be awarded at the town hall in the course of a ceremonial act of the Senate of the Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

Admission fee for Forum and Party is EUR 65. The reasonable price is made possible by sponsorship of AlexSeal Yachtlacke, MUSTO sailing clothes, Yacht insurance broker Pantaenius and many other supporters. First Swedish and Finnish yacht owners have already signed up, the Forum is expecting up to one thousand participants in all.

Find more information and admission package under www.iyfh.org

Hans Genthe

The German Offshore Owners Association promotes international regatta sailing in Germany and will represent the interests of offshore owners to the Deutscher Segler Verband (DSV) and race organizers. GER-OO's major emphasis is placed on middle- and long-distance races and in assisting German owners in the Mediterranean. Membership of GER-OO is open to German owners and skippers of offshore yachts.

More information: www.ger-oo.org.

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