50TH ANNUAL ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES

SEPTEMBER 11-14, 2014
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
A GOLDEN JUBILEE OF WORLD-CLASS RACING

Widely regarded as the West Coast’s premier regatta, the Rolex Big Boat Series draws world-caliber competitors for four days of buoy and stadium-style racing on San Francisco Bay. This year, the event celebrates its 50th Anniversary, hosting handicap racing classes for ORR, HPR and BAMA (multihull) and multiple one-design classes, including the wildly popular J/70s and Farr 40s, the latter of which are preparing for their world championships, which follow in October (also at the St. Francis Yacht Club).

A REWARDING HISTORY

Founded in 1964, the inaugural Big Boat Series regatta attracted nine yachts, with Jim Wilhite’s Sparkman & Stephens 63’ yawl Athene claiming the St. Francis Perpetual Trophy after a narrow victory over Jim Kilroy’s Kialoa II.

In 1972, another perpetual trophy – the Richard Rheem Trophy – was added to the competition and awarded to Bill Clute’s yellow Ericson 39 Chiquita. The fourth perpetual, the Keefe-Kilborn Memorial Trophy, was added in 1976 and awarded to Lucian Taylor’s Peterson 40 Racy. In 1978 (with a then-record of 46 entries), the Atlantic Trophy was added and won by Bill Sullivan’s Peterson 43 Blue Norther. In 2004, the Commodore’s Cup was added to the list of trophies and is now awarded to the largest one-design fleet in the series. The inaugural trophy was won by Chris Perkins & Dave Wilson’s J/105 Good Timin’.

Shortened in 1990 from a week-long format to its current schedule of seven races over four days (Thursday through Sunday), the Big Boat Series has witnessed the “glory days” of IOR and IMS racing, and through the years, it has accommodated the inclusion of Maxis, Sleds and America’s Cup class boats as well as fiercely competitive one-design classes. The event survived the economic ups and downs of the 1980s, and it soared in numbers of entries in the late ’90s and early 2000s to reach a record 115 entries in ’03. In 2004, St. Francis Yacht Club initiated the use of the IRC handicap formula for entries 35 feet or longer, and in 2005, after three years as presenting sponsor, Rolex Watch U.S.A. became the regatta’s title sponsor. In 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively, the regatta doubled as the Rolex US-IRC National Championship and the pre-worlds for the Melges 32 Class, and the Farr 30 Worlds. In 2012, the regatta hosted the US-IRC North American Championship, and in 2013, it directly succeeded the 34th America’s Cup on San Francisco Bay, serving as the HPR National Championship, the J/120 North American Championship, the IRC West Coast Championship and the pre-worlds for the Melges 24 Class.
ORGANIZERS: ST. FRANCIS YACHT CLUB

Founded in 1927, the St. Francis Yacht Club is steeped in over 80 years of yachting and racing traditions. The area where the present-day clubhouse stands was marshland before 1927. It was also home to the Stone Boat Yard and the building of a schooner named Yankee. The earthquake of 1906 knocked Yankee off its cradle, but the boat was picked up and finished. Today, after repeated terms as a St. Francis flagship, the Yankee can still be seen here, its bow aimed at the Marina Green.

The yacht harbor was begun as part of the Panama Pacific Exposition of 1915, to mark the opening of the Panama Canal. The original St. Francis clubhouse was finished just barely ahead of the Depression and the lean years that came with it. St. Francis yachts stood patrol duty during World War II, and later they carried the burgee around the world. Today, hardly anything remains of the original Willis Polk structure. Fire and earthquake saw to that. But through the years, the club served the sport, and it anchored the international game of yachting on San Francisco Bay.

In 1958, the club initiated an annual cruise that led to the purchase of a Delta Station on the San Joaquin River, Tinsley Island, where members go now to work the summer fog bite out of their toes.

From the beginning, the St. Francis Yacht Club’s membership roster has included many of the Bay Area’s most prominent citizens and greatest sailors. Early racers for the St. Francis included such champions as L.A. Norris, Mark Fontana, Myron Spaulding, Arthur Rousseau, Painless Parker and Lester Stone. Today, it is names such as Paul Cayard, John Kostecki, John Bertrand, Stan Honey, Morgan Larson, and Russ Silvestri who continue to keep the St. Francis name in the forefront of world-class sailing.

The annual regatta schedule at the St. Francis is one of the most active regatta calendars in the world. Part of the attraction of racing at St. Francis Yacht Club is the excellent and challenging racing conditions unique to San Francisco Bay. Both physically beautiful and naturally demanding, the Bay provides a racer with the ultimate in wind, current and weather conditions for truly competitive, exciting sailing. With the skyline of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge as a backdrop, the St. Francis Yacht Club prides itself on being able to provide all visitors with every comfort and amenity while dazzling them with its surroundings.
The San Francisco clubhouse provides a boating and social venue for members and their guests. It features deep-water guest docks, outstanding dining, and incredible vistas of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Bay. The St. Francis Yacht Club’s 2nd floor Race Deck is the premier location to view yacht racing on the renowned City Front.

**St. Francis Yacht Club / Race Office**

On the Marina  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
Tel: +1 415 655 7756  
www.stfyc.com  
www.rolexbigboatseries.com

### EVENT PROGRAMME

#### Wednesday, September 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00-20:00</td>
<td>Regatta Store</td>
<td>Domino Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-19:00</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Check In</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-14:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Main Dining Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-17:00</td>
<td>Media / Press</td>
<td>Ward Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-21:00</td>
<td>All Day Dining</td>
<td>Grill Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00-19:30</td>
<td>Skippers &amp; Navigator’s Briefing</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00-21:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Main Dining Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30-19:30</td>
<td>Rolex Commodore’s Reception</td>
<td>Starting Line Room</td>
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#### Thursday, September 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00-20:00</td>
<td>Regatta Store</td>
<td>Domino Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00-18:00</td>
<td>Media/Press</td>
<td>Ward Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>RACING BEGINS</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-14:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Main Dining Room &amp; Clippership Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-21:00</td>
<td>All Day Dining</td>
<td>Grill Room (a la carte menu)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00-20:00</td>
<td>Rolex Party</td>
<td>Starting Line Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00-21:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Main Dining Room</td>
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Friday, September 12
08:00 - 20:00 Regatta Store Domino Room
09:00 - 18:00 Media / Press Ward Room
11:00 RACING BEGINS
12:00 - 14:30 Lunch Main Dining Room
12:00 - 21:00 All Day Dining Grill Room (à la carte menu)
17:00-18:30 Mount Gay Rum / Food Truck Party – Starting Line Room
18:00 - 21:00 Seafood Night Buffet Main Dining Room

Saturday, September 13
08:00 - 20:00 Regatta Store Domino Room
09:00 - 18:00 Media / Press Ward Room
11:00 RACING BEGINS
12:00 - 14:30 Lunch Main Dining Room
11:00 - 21:00 All Day Dining Grill Room
16:30 - 17:30 No-Host Cocktails Starting Line Room
19:00 - 21:00 Crew Dinner Main Dining Room

Sunday, September 14
08:00 - 20:00 Regatta Store Domino Room
09:00 - 16:00 Media / Press Ward Room
11:00 RACING BEGINS
12:00 - 14:30 Brunch/Lunch Main Dining Room
11:00 - 21:00 All Day Dining Grill Room
16:30 Rolex Trophy Ceremony
18:00 - 21:00 Sunday Pasta Buffet Main Dining Room
ROLEX AND YACHTING

As the crown in sailing for over 50 years, Rolex is proud to be a major force at play behind yachting’s finest events, players and organizations. Whether supporting extreme challenges such as the ultra-competitive Rolex Sydney Hobart or maintaining tradition with the glamorous Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, Rolex has cultivated a privileged relationship with the elite world of yachting.

HISTORY

The roots of Rolex’s affinity for sports and human achievement can be traced back to the pioneering origins of the company. When founder Hans Wilsdorf set up his watchmaking firm, he was influenced by the swift changes sweeping through society at the beginning of the 20th century. In an era when wristwatches were still regarded as fragile items of apparel, he was determined to create a wristwatch that would be robust, precise and reliable, adapted to ever more active lifestyles.

In 1910, a Rolex wristwatch obtained the first certificate ever granted to such a watch by the Official Watch Rating Centre in Bienne, Switzerland. In 1926, Rolex invented the Rolex Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch in the world, thanks to a case equipped with an ingenious patented system consisting of a screw-down bezel, case back and winding crown. To prove his invention, Hans Wilsdorf equipped Mercedes Gleitze with an Oyster when she swam the English Channel a year later. The Rolex
watch emerged from more than 10 hours in the water in perfect working condition, and the young Englishwoman effectively became the brand’s first Testimonee – a witness to the watch’s uncompromised performance.

In 1931, Rolex invented the first wristwatch self-winding system with a free rotor, called the Perpetual rotor, the precursor of contemporary self-winding systems.

With Hans Wilsdorf at the helm, Rolex continued to use the world as a real-life proving ground for the Oyster, demonstrating time and again its reliability in the most extreme conditions, on land, in the air, in the depths of the ocean or on the tallest peaks. By being associated with so many achievements, Rolex became the trusted reference for chronometric precision, robustness and reliability around the world.

Meanwhile, Rolex evolved, as did its product, in a constant pursuit of perfection. As part of this evolution, Rolex watches – made from only the highest quality materials and designed by the industry’s best – became symbols of elegance and prestige.

Rolex sought to associate with activities that, like itself, were motivated by passion, excellence, precision and team spirit. Naturally, Rolex gravitated toward the elite world of sailing, forming an alliance that dates back to the late 1950s. Since then, the relationship between Rolex and sailing has grown and prospered.

EVENTS

Today, Rolex is Title Sponsor of some 15 major international events in distinct categories. The Rolex Sydney Hobart and the biennial Rolex Fastnet Race are at the forefront of the leading offshore races. Fiercely challenging and frequently subject to extreme weather conditions, these regattas are often referred to interchangeably as the Mount Everest of sailing. In a similar vein, the Rolex Farr 40 World Championship attracts the best sailors from around the world in the highest-level one-design competition organized for boat owners and their teams.

The Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup is one of the highlights of the Mediterranean yachting season. Against the backdrop of the luxurious Costa Smeralda, a sizeable fleet of top-quality, technologically advanced yachts gather each September in Porto Cervo, Italy for intense competition. Porto Cervo is also the home port for the prestigious Rolex Swan Cup, a favourite among those looking for an exciting contest among worthy opponents.
OFF THE WATER

Off the water, Rolex participates in the development of yachting through its support of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF), the sport’s governing body, and the annual ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Awards, recognizing male and female sailors who have distinguished themselves over the course of a year.

Rolex has also cultivated close relationships with the most prestigious yacht clubs around the world, including the New York Yacht Club (US), the Royal Yacht Squadron (Cowes, UK), the Yacht Club Italiano (Genoa, Italy), the Yacht Club de Monaco (Monte-Carlo) and the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (Porto Cervo, Italy), among others.

TESTIMONEES

In patronage of yachting’s exceptional individuals, Rolex counts among its Testimonees Danish legend Paul Elvstrøm, a four-time Olympic gold medallist; American yachtsman Gary Jobson, Vice President of the ISAF and the America’s Cup’s Winning Tactician in 1977; and Brazilian sailor Robert Scheidt, a two-time Olympic gold medallist who was twice named the ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year.

Driven by a passion for excellence and a great appreciation for yachting, Rolex, the world’s leading Swiss watchmaker, is committed to furthering the strong ties that bind these two prestigious worlds in their shared pursuit of perfection.
PR SERVICES FOR ROLEX IN YACHTING

INTERNATIONAL
Key Partners (KPMS)
20, Avenue Edouard-Dubois
2000 Neuchâtel | Switzerland
T. +41 32 724 28 29
E. info@regattanews.com
www.regattanews.com

UK & IRELAND
Giles Pearman
Key Partners (KPMS)
20, Avenue Edouard-Dubois
2000 Neuchâtel | Switzerland
M. +41 79 348 00 23
E. giles@kpms.com

SPAIN
Javier Sobrino
Key Partners (KPMS)
C/ María Auxiliadora, 4
36202 Vigo
T. +34 986441001
M. +34 629893637
E. javier@kpms.com

ITALY
antonella asnaghi & associati
Via Giacomo Leopardi 14
20123 Milano
T. +39 02 48008294
E. sinergie@asnaghiassociati.it

GERMANY
Andreas Kling
Föhrdener Strasse 6 | 25563 Wrist
T. +49 (0)482 236 0900
M. +49 (0)172 257 8817
E. andreas@kpms.com

FRANCE
Thomas Campion – Olivia Payerne
Agence olivia payerne
1, boulevard Jean-Jaurès
92100 Boulogne Billancourt
T. +33 (0)1 46 04 08 62
E. thomas@agence-op.fr
E. olivia@agence-op.fr

USA
Susan Maffei Plowden
Key Partners (KPMS)
45 Calvert Place | Jamestown | RI 02835
M. +1 401 855 0234
E. suma@kpms.com

Barby MacGowan (US Events)
Media Pro International
41 Memorial Blvd. | Newport | RI 02840
T. +1 401 849 0220
M. +1 401 225 0249
E. barby.macgowan@mediapronewport.com

RUSSIA
Anastasiya Zaytseva
Akademika Millionshikova St., 15-187
115487 Moscow
M. +7 910 484 46 27 (Russia)
M. +39 32 730 63045 (Italy)
E. zajanastasiya@yandex.ru

OFFICIAL WEBSITES
www.rolexbigboatseries.com
www.stfyc.com
www.rolex.com

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