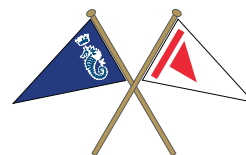
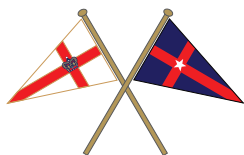


COMMODORES' WELCOME



To Competitors in the Transatlantic Race 2011:

The Transatlantic Race 2011 and the Atlantic Ocean Racing Series are the result of a partnership of the Royal Yacht Squadron (founded in 1815), the New York Yacht Club (1844), the Royal Ocean Racing Club (1925) and the Storm Trysail Club (1938).

Those in particular whose efforts have enabled us to stage this race are David Aisher, Rear Commodore Yachting - Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS); A. Rives Potts Jr., Rear Commodore - New York Yacht Club (NYYC); Andrew McIrvine, Commodore, and Eddie Warden Owen, Chief Executive Officer - Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) and Rich du Moulin, Past Commodore - Storm Trysail Club (STC) and Rear Commodore of the RORC. The TR 2011 steering committee is co-chaired by George A. L. David and Stephan A. Frank, both members of the NYYC. Working with them were a host of volunteers and other professionals from these clubs; they are both too numerous to mention here and too important to overlook.

The partnership of these four yacht clubs has been greatly enhanced by the support of our sponsors: Rolex, Thomson Reuters, Newport Shipyard, Perini Navi, and Peters & May.

A number of competitors in the fleet have arrived at the Newport starting line by competing in the first three regattas of the companion Atlantic Ocean Racing Series: the Pineapple Cup - Montego Bay Race (Jamaica Yachting Association), RORC Caribbean 600 and Annapolis Newport Race (Annapolis Y.C., Ida Lewis Y.C. and NYYC). Once on the other side of the Atlantic there will be the Rolex Fastnet Race (RORC) followed by the inaugural Biscay Race (RYS) from the Solent in England to Sanxenxo, Spain. The series will culminate with the Rolex Middle Sea Race (Royal Malta Y.C.).

This year's race -- the twenty-ninth such north transatlantic crossing -- will author another chapter in the annals of Atlantic Ocean racing, begun in 1866. The course is a new one: Newport to Lizard Point, and will establish a new benchmark under the auspices of the World Sailing Speed Record Council (WSSRC).

Transatlantic racing is both new and old, as a look at this diverse fleet will attest. That is part of its appeal. Commented A. Robert Towbin, a prior transatlantic competitor, "You have such a sense of history when you're out there, and for a couple weeks you get to feel, in effect, the same way Columbus felt." Towbin's *Sumurun*, built in 1914, won the Classic Division in the 2005 Rolex Transatlantic Challenge and the overall prize in the 1997 Atlantic Challenge Cup.

While the script for TR 2011 has yet to be written, we know that the boats and crews will earn the highest sailing distinction: that of transoceanic ocean racers. We wish all of you safe passage, smooth sailing, and the best of luck.

Sincerely,

M D C C Campbell Esq MBE DL
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Commodore
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