

## ICCY 2009 Mariehamn

The 28<sup>th</sup> ICCY meeting in Mariehamn in the end of July collected 45 boats from eight countries with 120 sailors. The organizing committee had reserved whole pontoon from Ålandska Segelsällskapet (ÅSS) in the western harbor where all yachts could easily be moored. Few bigger motorboats were put alongside at the quay. Flags could be recognized from United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia and besides local Åland also some Finnish separate yacht clubs.



**On Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** after registration each boat received a good info-package for the whole week. Most of the boats hoisted the flag of ICCY 2009 Rally among the previous rally flags and of course with the decoration of ceremony flags. After ceremony speeches eight national flags and a big ICCY flag was hoisted to the flagpoles of ÅSS pier, assisted by junior members. In the sunny afternoon the whole harbor glistened in carnival colors.

“Get-together party” was taken place at the museum ship s/y Pommern, where a versatile and delicious Scandinavian buffet setting was served by mr. Michael Björklund, familiar master cook also from Finnish TV. Shanty singers “Rolling Home” played nice songs and cheerful association lasted long to the evening.

On **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** the self-government of Åland was introduced and in the lectern was seen parliamentarian Elisabeth Neucler, Roger Jansson and Sirpa Askö-Seljavaara. During a couple hours interesting information was heard from the history of Åland and their unique autonomy. After lunch two very professional and language skilled guides walked around our two big groups through the narrow seaside town telling stories of buildings, statues and sightseeing. Later on in the evening crews shuttled self-acting from boat to boat fulfilling the ICCY motto “The Sea and the Friends we make from it”.



On **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>** Council had its summer meeting, where among the other topics the coming meetings in Gdansk 2011 and Tallinn 2012 were introduced. After free forenoon for other participants, museum ship Pommern was visited again and our guides told many interesting stories of the last golden ages of the windjammers. In warm sunshine a walking took place to Gustaf Eriksson’s museum villa where the staff of the Mayor of Town served a nice cocktail-party. After a short walking also treasures in Maritime museum of Åland



was discovered. Special interest to the offerings on museum was shown by our British guest Mr. Edvard Noyce who sat himself in front of the painting of the famous four-masted bark ship Herzogin Cecilie. He told to be owner of the shipwreck in the painting. Herzogin Cecilie was crashed on coast of Devon 1930. He even showed us the notes of purchase, inherited from his grandparents. After a very long and maritime historical day we got tuned to a real sea atmosphere with enjoying a dinner in Restaurant Nautical, served at sturdy tables with white tablecloths, just above Maritime museum.

On **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>** two big busses took us from harbor and on our way to Bomarsund's fortress and further to Kastelholm's castle we received good local information both on German and English languages. Our golf enthusiasts could admire from Kastelholm's high walls the nearby greens while I myself could tell how we were able in 70's to moor with small wooden sailing boats to the small jetty, just under the wall. In the nearby Jan Karlsgård open air museum a lunch of local fish soup and pancake was served. After our sightseeing all participants prepared and dressed for the closing dinner. Bus tours were arranged to Hotel Arkipelag where a whole private hall was organized for the gala dinner. During the dinner of three courses we heard many warm ceremony speeches of the national teams and a lot of nice gifts were delivered. The order of speeches was in French alphabetic as in the ICCY flag. During coffee 'avec' the doors were opened to the big hall and dance floor which was eagerly used during the long evening.



**Friday 31<sup>st</sup>** started with Michael Björklund's brunch at ÅSS terrace. In closing ceremony all flags were taken down and the big ICCY flag was carefully folded and handed over to Netherlands. Mr. Peter Paternotte will organize the next year meeting in Veerhaven, Rotterdam 19-23.7.2010. In the harbor longing farewells took a while but little by little boats started to take off for their long ways back to home.

Mariehamn 2009 seemed to be a successful rally favored by excellent weather we had ordered for it. Publicity was gained in the two local newspapers, radio and TV. In harbor hundreds of people admired fluttering of ceremony flags and international atmosphere.

Next summer meeting will give a special opportunity for motorboats, when Kungliga Motorbåt Klubben from Sweden will arrange a interesting transfer convoy via European channels to Rotterdam. They hope to get also Finnish boats to join them.

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