

THE NEPTUNE PILOT

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FROM THE PILOTHOUSE | NAUTICAL TRIVIA | NEWS FROM THE FLEET | IN THE SPOTLIGHT | DESTINATION | YACHT ETIQUETTE

FROM THE PILOTHOUSE

Off to a Soggy Start, 'FLIBS' Ends Up a Success

By DJ Parker

AS LATE-SEASON TROPICAL STORM (later Hurricane) Sandy gained strength just a short distance offshore, exhibitors at the recent Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (FLIBS) rallied, "The show must go on!" Tents went up and everyone tried to put on a brave face in spite of the sparse foot traffic on opening day – generally reserved for VIPs – due to gale-force winds and showers. Friday's traffic was little better as dire forecasts and radar images on TV kept many potential showgoers at home. The news improved over the weekend, however, as the sun came out and coaxed the yacht-loving crowds out of hiding.

"After being down thirty percent during the first two days because of Hurricane Sandy, attendance was very strong the last three days and finished down just two percent over last year for the show overall," said Efrem 'Skip' Zimbalist III, CEO of Show Management, the company that produces FLIBS.

From a luxury charter yacht industry perspective, the show ended up a success despite Sandy, with a steady stream of qualified clients requesting additional information and a chance to view the lovely yachts at the show docks. Crews were relaxed and gracious when meeting the guests, escorting them through their yachts, and answering a myriad of questions. More than one plate of gourmet cookies was passed around to smiling visitors, thanks to yacht chefs "putting their best foot forward."



Left to right: Jessie Baker, DJ Parker, Jeff Shaffer, Ali Kaufmann, Julie Haiko, Julie Haines-LaPenta, Jennifer Lipton and Emily Holmes.

The sheer size of the show, reportedly over three million square feet – and representing in excess of three billion dollars' worth of yachts, engines and gear – still challenges visitors when it comes to seeing the whole thing. For many, it presents a rare opportunity to view such huge yachts such as the 200-foot Benetti DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER towering above the main face dock at the Bahia Mar.

Although comments about rescheduling the show beyond hurricane season and grumpy comments about the weather in general prevailed, the clientele appeared to be of a serious nature and in a cautious buying mood. One exhibitor summed up, "Boating is, after all, about weather." **Coming next – the Antigua Charter Yacht Show in the Caribbean.**

NAUTICAL TRIVIA

Show Your True Colors

IN THE DAYS WHEN SHIPS were the main form of transit from one continent to another, the crew would indicate their national origin by displaying their "colours" or ensign. The phrase "flying colours" comes



from the practice of sailing into port with your ensign proudly flying to announce a victory in sea. Later, it came to mean any kind of victory. A related phrase, "going down with flying colors" meant the crew would remain resolute, even if the ship were sinking.

A common ploy on pirate ships when another vessel came into view was to fly the colours of a friendly nation. After lulling the other crew into a false sense of security, the pirates or sailors would "strike" the false flag and fly their own ensign, "showing their true colours."

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Holiday Greetings from Neptune Group Yachting!

WELCOME TO THE FLEET



THE FIRST YACHT TO launch in Pacific Northwest builder Nordhavn's 86-foot Series, VIVIERAE was built for long-range adventure. She combines a rugged, seaworthy hull with a luxurious interior, thanks to her generous 24-foot beam. Guests who have experienced her superb accommodations agree that VIVIERAE feels like a much larger yacht.

Served by a crew of four, she sleeps six guests in three suites, including a full-beam, main-deck master with his and her heads and a Jacuzzi tub. On the guest deck are two king-berth staterooms that can be converted to twins. A fourth twin cabin is available for children or a personal staff member.

VIVIERAE features a 41-foot HydraSports fish boat, a 16-foot Zodiac, two SeaBob underwater scooters and inflatable kayaks. There also is DirecTV in all the staterooms, and a Nintendo Wii system.

VIVIERAE is based in Tortola, BVI, this winter. Her charter rate is \$35,000/week plus expenses, and her holiday rate is \$40,000/week plus expenses. **For more information, click here or email info@NGYI.com.**



IN THE SPOTLIGHT **SHEER BLISS**

HER NAME SAYS IT ALL. A charter vacation onboard this attractive 75-foot, 25-knot Hatteras motor yacht is...well...you get the idea!

SHEER BLISS accommodates six guests in three suites, including a master stateroom with king berth and a VIP stateroom with queen berth – both of which feature ensuite bathrooms with Jacuzzi tub and shower. The third guest stateroom also has a queen berth and ensuite bathroom. This yacht just underwent a major refit this year that updated her interior appointments, carpeting and wallcoverings. Her entertainment system includes satellite TV, a large library of DVDs and iPod docks. She also comes with a new, 14-foot Novurania tender and a new WaveRunner.

Professionally staffed by Capt. Chad Wright and Chef Victoria Spaniol, SHEER BLISS is available for charter in Florida and the Bahamas for the highly competitive rate of \$18,000/week, plus expenses. Her rate for the 2012/2013 holidays is \$20,000/week, plus expenses. **For more information, click here or email info@NGYI.com.**

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!

KALEEN's Crew Steps Up at FLIBS

AT THE RECENT Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, the 110-foot Broward KALEEN was docked at the Neptune Group Yachting display in Las Olas Marina. NGY President DJ Parker reports, "It did not escape my attention how the crew of this terrific charter yacht rallied during the boat show, despite the less than perfect weather conditions caused by Hurricane Sandy. They showed every visitor through the yacht with personal attention and tireless enthusiasm. The chef also brought out freshly baked treats every afternoon." **For more information, click here or email info@NGYI.com.**



KALEEN's Capt. Andre, Chief Stew Bea, First Mate Conrad, Deck/Engineer Jacques and Chef Jeff.

DESTINATION

The Windward Islands

ALREADY BEEN TO THE BVI, St. Barts and Antigua? This winter, try heading farther south on your yacht charter vacation. St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines offer a wealth of activities and adventures that make it well worth venturing "off the beaten path." Here's a sample itinerary that includes a several of the most beautiful Windward Isles.

DAY 1: Meet your yacht at Rodney Bay Marina on St. Lucia. Under the management of Island Global Yachting (IGY), this has become one of the Caribbean's premier superyacht ports. Cast off and head to Marigot Bay, an idyllic little anchorage that author James Michener once described as, "The most beautiful bay in the Caribbean."

DAY 2: Head to Soufriere at the base of St. Lucia's soaring Pitons. Spend the day at the beach or, if you're feeling energetic, hike one of the green peaks. Afterward, take a taxi to the Diamond Baths, built by Louis XVI, for a relaxing soak.

DAY 3: Wake up in Kingston on the island of St. Vincent, where your yacht will clear



customs. Visit the Botanical Gardens, said to be the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. Then head south to beautiful Bequia.

DAYS 4-5: You don't want to rush your stay in Bequia's Admiralty Bay, with its spectacular vistas. This island is a well-kept secret among celebrities who find even St. Barts too public. One afternoon, head to Petit Nevis for a delicious picnic on the beach.

DAY 6: Spend the day on Mustique, an island owned by the Mustique Company, which has carefully managed – and limited – growth here for decades, creating a private paradise. Explore the island on horseback or hike the well-groomed nature trails. Snorkelers will love the coral gardens offshore.

DAY 7: It's a short cruise back to St. Vincent, where you can fly home from the international airport.

PIRATE HISTORY



Peg Leg and Pigeon Island

AN EYEPATCH and a wooden leg are favorite accessories worn by film and TV pirates to give them a higher "Arrrr" quotient. But one real-life pirate actually did have a wooden prosthesis – François Le Clerc, a 16th Century French privateer. Famous for always being the first to board an enemy vessel, he lost a leg in an attack in 1549. This only seemed to make him bolder, however, and he soon earned the nickname "Pie de Palo" (Peg Leg) from the Spanish sailors he terrorized.

Sailing south to the Caribbean with seven pirate ships and three French royal vessels, he raided Puerto Rico and one of the Greater Antilles (known today as Cuba) before making St. Lucia in the Windward Islands his pirates' lair. He and his crew of 330 men are reputed to be the first European settlers of the lush, green isle. Le Clerc and his cutthroat crew took over Pigeon Island off St. Lucia, and used it as a vantage point for spotting Spanish sails on the horizon. Today, Pigeon Island is a national park – which is reputed to be full of holes from people digging for Peg Leg's buried treasure!

YACHT ETIQUETTE

Playing with Toys

MOST CHARTER YACHTS are equipped with a "fleet" of tenders and water toys that can provide you with hours of fun in the sun. When the yacht is at anchor, you may find the toys are already launched and waiting in the water when you wake up. But before you jump onto that Jet Ski and take off, be sure to ask the captain if it's okay. And, if you are unfamiliar with the craft, have a crew member give you a thorough orientation first. In some areas, such as Florida waters, local regulations may require a boating safety session for everyone before they can use the tenders and toys. For those who wish to pursue U.S. personal watercraft licenses in advance, check out boat-ed.com.

It's important to be aware that different ports around the world have different rules governing watercraft. Jet Skis are not allowed in many places, and there are even spots where water-skiing is prohibited. Don't blame the crew if they have to keep the toys stowed in those ports. There are always plenty of other things to do and see!

