

OCC - A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

PURPOSE and PRINCIPLES

The Ocean Cruising Club exists to encourage long-distance sailing in small boats and is the true 'Home Port' for the ocean-going sailor.

Members understand what it means to be at sea, to be completely reliant on our own skills, to be subject to the whims of Mother Nature, to be humbled and empowered at one and the same time.

This is what sets us apart from other organisations, even as it draws us together as a group. We bring the spirit of seafaring to our association by always being willing to assist any fellow sailor we meet, either afloat or ashore.

VALUES and CULTURE

Every full member has made a 1,000-nautical mile offshore passage in a vessel of 70 feet or less; associate members are committed to the achievement of that goal. This standard distinguishes us from all other sailing clubs.

While this defines who can join the OCC, it is more than a collection of people who have made a long, offshore passage. In sharing their feelings about the OCC, our members try to describe something elusive and intangible. They use words like camaraderie, like-minded, experience, accomplishment, non-elitist, adventurous, giving.

The OCC offers us a place to be together, to share our experiences, to enjoy one another's company. Though it has no physical clubhouse, it is, in a way, the "home port" for all of us who have sailed long distances across big oceans.

STANDARDS OF THE OCEAN CRUISING CLUB SAILOR

- The requirement to complete a 1,000 nautical mile offshore passage creates an objective standard for membership and promotes an egalitarian atmosphere within the Club. It's not about what you are or who you know, but simply *what you have done*, that matters.
- Our membership as a whole has more experience offshore than any other sailing organisation – in the number of circumnavigators in the Club, in the range of extraordinary voyages members have completed, in the number of solo sailors, and female sailors among our ranks.
- We have unique expertise in, among other things, heavy weather management, voyage planning, short-handed sail handling, and watch-keeping. We also have first-hand knowledge of the health of the world's oceans and the challenges faced by offshore sailors around the globe. By drawing on the experiences of all of our members and sharing the lessons they have learned the hard way, we have built a body of knowledge that will help future generations of offshore sailors.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

- As members, we fly the “Flying Fish” burgee to celebrate our own accomplishment and level of experience.
- As an organisation, we promote the achievements of our overall membership so that the Club will be recognised as the pre-eminent offshore sailing organisation in the world, with a unique body of knowledge, experience and expertise.
- We publish a record of member’s voyages in the “Flying Fish” magazine to commemorate their achievements and to provide information to all who are interested in voyages in small craft over the navigable waters of the world.
- Through our Annual Awards, we recognise exceptional sailing achievement wherever we find it, inside and outside the Club.

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

- With 48 nationalities and Port Officers in as many countries, we have a more diverse membership and a more international reach than any other sailing organisation.
- Our Port Officers and Regional Rear Commodores represent the frontline interaction with our existing members and the recruitment of new members. They are the key to building vibrant “home ports” around the world, by establishing a wide range of social activities and communications in their local area.
- Anywhere sailors meet, members will make a particular effort to welcome and support each other - when they see the OCC “Flying Fish” burgee.
- In turn, when OCC members return to their own home port, they offer friendship and assistance to any member who arrives there as a visitor.
- When we return from offshore cruising, we are part of a community of sailors who value our accomplishments, have followed our voyaging, and want to learn about our experiences.
- We connect online through the OCC’s website, Facebook, message boards, and knowledge centres. We use electronic communications to keep us in touch with our pelagic community, build a network that supports members and facilitates our social gatherings.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- Membership is an honour and a privilege, and we bring to membership the seafarer’s sense of responsibility for those around us; to other members, to the Club, and to the wider sailing community.
- The health of the Club depends upon the willingness of members to give something back, to contribute to the organisation and support its activities.
- We work on issues of specific concern to offshore sailors, for example the health of the world’s oceans and the ability to navigate freely between countries
- We share our experiences and extend the body of knowledge on topics which are critical and of value to all offshore sailors.
- We offer advice and encouragement to those taking concrete steps toward a first offshore passage.

- We volunteer time and expertise to strengthen the Club's management and infrastructure.
- We support new members and keep older members involved and active within the Club.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Become a valued member of a unique community, built on the spirit of seafaring where your sailing accomplishments will be recognised and celebrated.
- Contribute to the body of knowledge on offshore sailing and the state of our world's oceans.
- Meet and connect with like-minded people in ports all over the world through face-to-face interactions, electronic networking, and world class publications.
- Participate in social events in your home area that will keep you connected to the offshore sailing community even if you no longer venture offshore.
- Gain access to people who can help you realise your dreams and to a wealth of knowledge about offshore sailing unequalled by any other organisation in the world.
- Through meeting and connecting with like-minded people you will become inspired to seek out new adventures.
- Benefit from the knowledge, hospitality and assistance of our Port Officers and the use of other members' moorings and dock space.

Strategy team
7 November 2012