



4th November 2022

REVIEW OF ROYAL CARGO ALL SOULS REGATTA 2022

The weather gods conspired with PAGASA and Philippine Coast Guard ("PCG") to interfere with the Royal Cargo All Souls Regatta 2022 and the concurrent children's SBP Optimist All Souls Regatta, but one way or another we overcame the challenges and the events were actually held on 30 & 31 October instead of the intended 29-31 October.

Of the 31 yachts that had registered for the Regatta, 25 had arrived in Puerto Galera's typhoon anchorage before the waters were closed to sailing by PCG on Friday and Saturday. That in itself was already a success in view of the challenges. One other disappointment was the withdrawal of Hong Kong racing yacht *Ffreefire*, which could not arrive due to gale-force winds between Hong Kong and Luzon. Nevertheless arrived-crews descended on the yacht club for the Meet & Greet and dinner on Friday, and most returned to enjoy the camaraderie (and a few beers) on the rain-filled Saturday.

Visiting yachts came from Australia and Malaysia for the event and crew members flew in from Hong Kong, Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Germany, Dubai, Japan, the United Kingdom and the USA.

One highlight at the Meet & Greet on Friday evening was the traditional exchange of yacht club burgees with the Albay Yacht Club, commemorating their first visit to the Puerto Galera Yacht Club.

There was no scheduled sailing on Saturday because the wind and rain interfered with such. But, on Sunday, the children in the Optimist regatta were first to take to the water with a fleet of ten Optimist dinghies/sailors, a host of spectators and including a drone photographer. The Storm Signal 1 was still hoisted so the big boats could not venture out to race in the morning – although a few did go for a test-sail, to check rigging & equipment - to ensure safety during the event proper.

It was soon all action with the big-boats racing for trophies in the All Souls Regatta in three racing classes (IRC, Racer-cruiser and Cruiser) – the Multihull-class was removed because only one catamaran had been able to arrive and sail, but the owner went out to "race" anyway . . . such is the spirit of companionship in Puerto Galera events.

In finality of course there are the winners and the losers and so it was that the children from Puerto Galera and Albay yacht clubs came together to celebrate the winners in the Optimist Regatta (unfortunately the trophy places all went to PGYC girls and boys) and then the big boats celebrated their three class and overall winners.



The big-boat top-spot went to David Wheeler from Manila Yacht Club, who masterfully steered his yacht *Freewheeler* to a resounding victory in the Cruising class, ending with such a commanding lead over his rivals that he was accorded the Overall regatta champion's trophy for 2022. In 2nd place Overall was *Bellatrix* from Punta Fuego Yacht Club, in the IRC-Racing class.

The Halloween Party on Sunday evening was a great success with many turning up in costume to the delight of all.

The Auction raised significant cash for the Small Boat Program to support the free sailing lessons that local children may avail of – one highlight was a case of Colt 45 beer attracting a winning bid of Php45,000 from a phone-in bidder (from Australia) much to the surprise of many, especially as the case of beer was immediately donated back to the club for auction at next year's event. Such is the support that the yacht club's sailing school for kids has among the extended club membership and friends.

All regatta sponsors were accorded prime display space at the PGYC Clubhouse and around the grounds (reaching approximately 520 visitors - based on food and beverage chit sales) and mentioned in every speech given over the four event days, plus they were acknowledged in every Facebook and Instagram post made by the club (reaching more than 16,000 people) and reaching countless thousands more who have seen the posters sent to all PGYC reciprocal clubs around the Philippines and abroad.

Despite the interference of Tropical Storm Paeng, the Royal Cargo All Souls Regatta 2022 was a success for the children of Puerto Galera and the sport of sailing in the Philippines.

The next significant PGYC sailing event will be the PGYC Easter Regatta to be held 7-9 April, 2023. We hope to see you there . . .

A selection of ASR2022 photographs are available on Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/37jy6r27lnu6amf/AADT30YnF9PN6Cwbfg14KFkra?dl=0>

The Royal Cargo All Souls Regatta 2022 is endorsed by the Philippine Sailing Association, recognized by the Department of Tourism, supported by Puerto Galera Municipality, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine Maritime Police and acknowledged by World Sailing.

The Royal Cargo All Souls Regatta 2022 is sponsored by: Royal Cargo, Wireless-link Technologies, Tricom Projects, Lane Moving & Storage, Philippine Retirement Authority, Magwai Reef Safe Sunscreen, Nature's Spring water, Broadwater Marine, Asian Yachting, Semper Green Energy, Lane Archive Technologies, Wisdom and RDH Marine Subic.