

WORLD ARC 2016-17 RALLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 03: April 2015



CIRCUMNAVIGATION COUNTDOWN CONTINUES

Our World ARC 2016-17 planning continues to advance well. I hope it is the same for you. We currently have a good number of 28 yachts participating in the rally with roughly half of these planning to leave the rally in Australia and plan to take a 'year out' in Australasia and the western South Pacific before they join the rally for the following edition. In turn, there will be a similar number of yachts on the 2015-16 edition joining our fleet in Australia to continue their circumnavigation alongside you in 2016.

As you may have seen on our website, we are teaming up once again with leading bluewater yacht brokers Berthon and Yachting World magazine, to host a unique weekend rendezvous at Berthon's Lymington UK base on 17-18 May. Whilst the Bluewater Open Boat Weekend is primarily aimed at those still in the planning stage of their adventure, the weekend will provide plenty of practical tips for preparing your boat, and previous World ARC participants will be on hand to answer any questions you may have along with members of the World Cruising Club team. Visit www.worldcruising.com/training for more information.

During World ARC, we intend to organise fun competition with competitive legs between stopover ports. The way we manage this aspect of the Rally is described in this Newsletter and it is worth giving some thought now to which Division you want to participate in. Most crews opt for the Cruising Division and its important you tell us in advance about your boat's specifications so we can produce a cruiser rating for your boat.

Please also take note of the great offer for you to own your own YB tracker, yours to keep as part of your

rally entry fee. Please contact us to have yours delivered before the start of the rally which will mean your friends and family can track you on your route to the start of your World Cruising Club rally – if you want them to that is!

Also, in this newsletter we provide details of how to purchase courtesy and code flag sets through our online shop. These are small but essential things to make sure your boat looks the part in each country and port you visit. You'll probably not need them until the start of the Rally and so we have a good offer on the delivery cost, to collect at the start of the rally. Items from the Gill Clothing range, including polo shirts and shore jackets are also available embroidered with the World ARC logo and can be personalised with your boat name for a small extra charge.

The World Cruising Club team are working hard on World ARC to ensure a memorable event for you all. Please feel free to contact Martine, Sarah or Jeremy in our Cowes office by e-mail or phone for any help or advice you might need.

Andrew Bishop
Managing Director
World Cruising Club



In this Newsletter:

- **YB Tracking** Units available for dispatch from May 2015
- **Code flags, Courtesy Flags and Rally Clothing** Order online now at <http://shop.worldcruising.com>
- **Crew administration** Passports and Visa information
- **Vaccination advice**
- **Fun Competition** WCC rating system and choosing the right division
- **Advice from previous World ARC crews**
- **Travel Insurance** - make sure your crew are covered
- Share your adventure **with World ARC Logs and Photos**
- **Getting to the Caribbean** - Join a rally to the start

YB Tracking



World Cruising Club will be supplying each yacht owner with a YB3 Standard Tracking unit included in as part of your World ARC entry fee. The unit is yours to keep and will be available from May so yachts can enjoy using their YB tracking and mapping before the start, during extended breaks away, and after the finish of World ARC, should they so wish.

The unit will come with a carrying pouch used for external mounting, and is easily removable for charging with a standard USB cable. During the rally, and for those joining by the ARC or Caribbean 1500, credit will be applied to your YB account to cover the monthly line rental (currently £8) plus credits allowing for position polls once every four hours. Use of the unit for other services now available through them is the responsibility of the owner as well as polling costs outside of the rally duration. For yachts on a 16 month circumnavigation that fit their YB Tracker at the start of the World ARC (or ARC or Caribbean 1500) and stop using it at the end of the event, and only use it for polling at 4 hourly intervals, there will be nothing further to pay. The YB unit will be yours to keep, and use as you like in the future.

The YB Tracking units will be available for despatch from the end of May, initially for owners that have paid at least half the rally fee; please contact mail@worldcruising.com for further information if you'd like your unit before the start of the rally. Alternatively the unit will be supplied at the start of the ARC, ARC+, Caribbean 1500 or World ARC.

Read more about the YB3 units and their functions at www.ybtracking.com

Special Offer: Code and Courtesy Flags

Sets of code flags, and courtesy flags for each country to be visited with World ARC, are now available at a competitive price. For the courtesy flag set, a large number of the flags for the smaller countries on the route are being made specially. The 18 courtesy flags are sized 18" x 12" (45 x 30cms) and printed on woven polyester, with loops for hoisting. The set, presented in its own wallet, comprises: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Grenada, Indonesia, Mauritius, Niue, Panama, St. Helena, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Tonga, Vanuatu. You will find it hard to source all these courtesy flags elsewhere for such a competitive price. The courtesy flags are only available as a complete set, priced at £180, plus post and packing. Orders for flag sets must be placed by **31 May 2015**.

Dressing overall (flying a full set of code flags from stem to masthead to stern) is



a requirement of the rally yachts when in official stop over ports as it adds considerably to the unique atmosphere created by the World ARC fleet. A full 1/2 yard code flag set (with all 40 numbers, letters and special flags) is available as a set of printed woven polyester flags, in a pocketed wallet. The code flag set is priced at £150 plus post and packing.

Both sets together are available for the discount price of £300 plus postage. Orders should be made online via the shop pages at <http://shop.worldcruising.com/>

World ARC Clothing

Official World ARC 2016 poloshirts and other clothing items are now available to order. Made by Gill, the poloshirts are made from 100% cotton and embroidered with the World ARC logo. They are available in a range of sizes and colours and can also be personalised with your yacht name for a small extra charge. Orders can be delivered worldwide by post, or collected in Saint Lucia on your arrival for the rally start. These shirts are the best way to make sure that your crew are noticed whilst on the rally.



If you want to complete that smart crew look, why not include a shore jacket? Also available with the rally logo, as a fleece lined or light weight jacket, they are ideal for cool evenings ashore, or shower proof sailing wear afloat.

You can order your World ARC polo shirts, and other items from the Gill clothing range online at <http://shop.worldcruising.com>

Used Boat Equipment

On the [Forum](#) pages of the World Cruising Club website, one of the 'topics' of discussion is titled 'Cockpit Locker'. This is where members can advertise and browse a number of different and unwanted second hand items, and the site may be of use to you in your preparations.

Passports

During the rally crews will visit numerous countries which will result in lots of immigration stamps in passports. Participants are advised to ensure their passports are valid for at least six months after the finish of the Rally (i.e. October 2017) and that they have sufficient room for immigration stamps. **When adding names to your crew list, please ensure that the name is the same as is shown on each crew's passport.**

Passport Copies

To help us manage the rally and to facilitate clearances in various countries, but particularly Panama and Galapagos, we require copies of crew passports in advance. These should be electronic colour scans of the details pages showing passport number, expiry date and place of issue, holder's photograph. Black and white copies or faxes are not acceptable.

Please send to mail@worldcruising.com and include your boat name. The copies will be deleted after the finish of the rally. It is a good idea to keep copies of your passport and other important documents in case of theft or loss. Photocopies and scans on a memory stick are ideal.



Visas

For most EU citizens, Norwegians and Swiss, the only current visa requirement on the route of World ARC, which cannot be applied for at the point of entry, is for Australia. All other countries that we will visit either don't have a visa requirement for nationalities on our current entry list, or appropriate visas can be gained or purchased at the point of entry.

For entry into Australia it is easiest to apply for a visa online using the Australian immigration service's 'Visa Wizard' at www.immi.gov.au/visawizard. You will require a multiple entry visa for cruising between Mackay and Darwin, and visiting Cocos Keeling. You should apply for this from October onwards.

Visa requirements for citizens of different countries vary and it would always be best to check for your own circumstances. Immigration laws and rules also change at short notice.

For example, US citizens require an advance visa for Brazil and Russians require a visa for South Africa in advance. The relevant country pages of www.noonsite.com are a good guide to current immigration regulations.

Vaccinations

To avoid interruptions to your cruising, we recommended that you take measures to protect yourself and your crew against the diseases that still exist in some of the places we will be visiting. Most vaccines are effective for three years, so it is worth getting vaccinations done in advance before you leave home, which ensures that they have reached full efficacy. Always ask for vaccination certificates from your doctor. Update your Tetanus and Polio vaccinations as necessary. You should consider vaccinations for Diphtheria, Hepatitis A & B; Meningitis A, B, C; Typhoid; Rabies and Japanese Encephalitis.

Simple precautions can help to maintain health:

- Prevent mosquito bites by fitting screens to hatches; burn coils at night, and use repellent sprays in the evening. Light clothing covering the skin will also help.
- In the tropics food spoils quickly, so to avoid stomach upsets, practice good food hygiene.
- Whilst being safe, some water sources may be of disagreeable taste and quality. A watermaker can guarantee the quality and supply of water (and the independence which that brings).



Malaria

Malaria is a problem in some counties on the rally route, particularly in inland areas. Detailed advice should be sought from your pharmacist or doctor as country-specific malaria prophylaxis advice changes frequently. Currently Vanuatu is the only country where precautions are deemed essential, the mosquitoes are chloroquine resistant; plus Panama by some health practitioners especially if traveling inland.

Yellow Fever

This mainly occurs in tropical rainforest areas of South America and Africa, so it is unlikely that sailors would encounter it. However, vaccination certificates may be asked for in Panama and Brazil if arriving from an at risk country. The vaccination is highly effective and gives protection for ten years.

Further advice: www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Fun Competition in World ARC

Rating System

To allow yachts of different hull shapes, rigs and specification to join in with the competition during World ARC, a handicap (or rating) will be calculated for each yacht. The rating is a number that is multiplied to the yacht's elapsed time for a leg to give a corrected finishing time. Technically faster boats will have a higher rating, so on corrected time different types of yachts can enjoy friendly and fair competition.

The ratings will be independently calculated and published in advance of the start. To allow the rating to be calculated, we require your online boat information to be accurate and complete. Missing data can be entered online by logging into the World Cruising Club Members Area, clicking on Boat Details then Edit Boat Specification. Please supply the missing data by the **30 September**. A reminder about the measurements and how to use the Members Area can be found on pages **02/4-7** of the Preparations chapter of your Rally Handbook.

To keep your rating accurate, you need to let us know if you buy a new downwind sail, install in-mast reefing or make other changes. Ratings will be published in advance of the start and skippers will have the opportunity to request a redress of the rating. There will be reviews of the ratings during the rally, but unless new equipment is purchased, we don't expect changes to the ratings after the start.



Which Division is Right for You?

World ARC yachts will always depart port as a fleet, except during free cruising periods. Having a massed start keeps the fleet together, which is important for security, it gives skippers and crews a departure date to aim for, and it is great spectacle for our host ports. Starts are always weather-dependent.

Although everyone starts together, the World ARC fleet is divided into divisions. These allow skippers and crews to choose their level of competition, and how they would like to sail. The different divisions are described below and you can decide which best suits you and your crew.

The monohulls in the fleet are divided into two divisions:

Cruising Division The emphasis of the Cruising Division is on 'fun competition' and it is expected that this will be chosen by the majority of the fleet. Motoring will be permitted and the number of propulsion engine hours will be declared on arrival. The corrected time will be adjusted for the amount of motoring hours, rewarding those boats that motor least. Positions and engine hours use will be reported on the daily radio net so everyone gets a feel for where the better winds are. There will be no overall results but prizes (and not necessarily 1st, 2nd, 3rd!) will be awarded at each leg prize giving. The competition will be managed by World Cruising Club to ensure the rally ethos of fun competition and camaraderie.

Open Division This division is available for any yachts that do not want to be involved in the competitive side of the rally. The yachts are expected to cross the start line around the same time as the other

divisions but no finish time or engine hours will be recorded. Crews in this division will only be eligible for the fun (non-competitive) prizes for each leg.

The multihulls in the fleet will either be able to join the Multihull Division, which has the same features as the monohull Cruising Division or the Open Division.

In addition to the position awards at the prizegivings, mentions and prizes will also be given for other competitions such as the nearest guess on your ETA in the next port and the best photographs taken or logs submitted during a particular leg. In fact, the prizes could be awarded for anything! And all suggestions will be welcome.

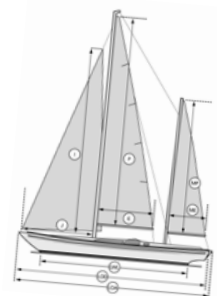


Boat Data

The deadline for submitting your boat data is 30 September.

All skippers are asked to check that their Boat Data page on in the online [Members Area](#) is filled out accurately and completely.

At the same time, please also check and supply details of your EPIRB, liferaft, communications equipment etc. We'd prefer to collect this well in advance to pass on better information to our local agents and avoid unnecessary paperwork in Saint Lucia.



Advice from World ARC Crews

World ARC 2014-15 recently concluded in Saint Lucia, and we wanted to share with you some tips and advice to help with your preparations following their feedback.

New Equipment

During their planning and preparations, captains felt the urge to fit new equipment. Most boats started the rally with generators, watermakers and AIS equipment, and generally at least one of these items was fitted specifically with the circumnavigation in mind. Many captains who had these fitted thought they were essential pieces of equipment. The captains stressed the importance that each new item is fully tested and sufficient spares are gathered, the same being true for all equipment. It is surprising how expensive or difficult (or both!) it can be to obtain spares around the world. Also, it is useful to watch a tradesman repairing or servicing equipment in your home port (or language) so you know what should be done.

Scheduling Maintenance

There were fairly unanimous responses as to where the best places are for maintenance. The Caribbean and South Africa were universally judged to be the best places for repairs, both in terms of value for money and quality of work. The same places came out on top for equipment spares too, in terms of choice, ease, value for money and import restrictions. Looking at the early part of the route, French Polynesia, Fiji and Australia were also recommended and its useful that these are visited during the free cruising periods of the rally, when there is far more flexibility to schedule work. They are also good places for joining crew to bring spares.

Crew

Some captains suggested they should have considered their crewing options more carefully, even before they left home. Having alternative crew available if people's plans change is a good idea. They recommend asking around family and friends whilst at home to see who is interested and available should circumstances change. Do not forget that there are potential crew advertising on World Cruising Club's OceanCrewLink.com website. Why not place your own advert or take a look - it might help you to meet crew before you actually need them!

Money

Most skippers estimated their monthly budget (including crew flights, subsistence, entertainment and communications) was around US \$2,000 per month. This is an average which masks boat size, crew numbers and the relative cost of living in different locations. Most participants had an average monthly communications budget, at sea and ashore, of \$50-150.

Top Tips

Looking through the surveys there are many little 'top tips' too, such as:

- Download e-versions of equipment instruction and installation manuals (whilst you have good wifi)
- Knowing how to properly use an electrical multimeter
- Equipment choices – Keep It Simple
- Replace old gas cylinders before leaving
- Use external hard drives to back up data – On average, owners 'went through' 2-4 laptops!
- Plan how to manage your finances, mail and other domestic issues
- Always carry extra spares – especially impellers

Highlights

When asked about their highlights of the trip the responses included stopover locations such as the San Blas Islands, the Panama Canal Transit and Tanna in Vanuatu as well as the sense of camaraderie which developed through the shared experience of visiting these places as a group.



Travel Insurance

It is essential that the skipper and all members of the crew should have a minimum level of travel insurance to at least provide basic medical cover for emergency treatment ashore in the ports of call during World ARC. Some places to be visited are outposts of European Countries and EU citizens should be able to obtain reciprocal health care free of charge, although it may be necessary to pay and claim back. Ensure you have obtained your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before travelling [EU citizens only].

When taking out an insurance policy, pay particular attention to the conditions of treatment and repatriation. There are a number of excellent bespoke policies that provide extra cover in case the owner of the yacht has to be repatriated through ill health providing cover for you to pay for a delivery crew to return your boat home. Specialist brokers tend to offer more helpful advice than High Street travel agents. If buying an off the shelf travel policy check that sailing is not specifically excluded as a "dangerous sport". When contacting specialist companies, mention that you will be sailing with World ARC as they may be able to tailor the policy to cover the 15 month rally.

For UK based participants, Pantaenius Mariner's Travel Insurance is a specialist policy created for sailors. Visit www.marinerstravel.co.uk or contact Felix Evans at Felix@pantaenius.co.uk for more information about the policy.

Topsail Insurance Ltd also offer both annual and single Yachtsman's Travel Insurance products and are available for a wide range of nationalities. Visit www.topsailinsurance.com or contact enquiries@topsailinsurance.com for full details and to obtain a quote.

World ARC Logs & Photos

By browsing the World ARC website you will see that participants upload their logs and photos to show others what they are up to. It's a great place to read about what adventures may be in store for you.

Visit www.worldcruising.com/dailylogs to read the latest blogs.

The facility is administered by the World ARC team and all it requires crews to do is to send email logs and attach photographs to a unique email address. Further details will be given prior to the start of your rally, when the next World ARC web pages go live for you to share your adventures too.



Swimming with whale sharks in St. Helena - sent in by American Spirit II

You can also visit and 'Like' the World ARC Facebook Page for regular photo and news updates.



www.facebook.com/worldarc

Getting to the Caribbean

For those participants whose boats are still in Europe and want to cruise in a rally before the start of World ARC, World Cruising Club also runs ARC Portugal and the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC). This year ARC Portugal departs from Plymouth on Sunday 31 May and after making landfall in Bayona spends two weeks cruising down the coast of Portugal, ending at Marina de Lagos on 24 June.

ARC 2015 leaves Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on Sunday 22 November and ends with the prize giving on Saint Lucia on 19 December. ARC+, featuring a stopover in the Cape Verdes, departs Gran Canaria two weeks ahead of the ARC fleet, on Sunday 8 November. Further details can be found at www.worldcruising.com.

For boats currently based on the eastern seaboard of North America, why not head south with like-minded sailors in ARC Caribbean 1500? This long established rally leaves from Portsmouth, VA at the beginning of November, arriving in the BVIs in the middle of the month. It's a great way to get into the rally spirit before meeting up in Saint Lucia for the World ARC. Further details can be found at www.worldcruising.com/Carib1500/

Contacting Us

We are always happy to talk about any aspect of the rally. Our office hours are 0900 to 1730 (local time) Monday to Friday.

UK Tel: +44 (0)1983 296060 email mail@worldcruising.com or Skype: [wccmail](https://www.skype.com/user/wccmail)

USA Tel: +1 757 788 8872 email carib1500@worldcruising.com or Skype [wcc.usa](https://www.skype.com/user/wcc.usa)

Germany Tel: +49 (9533) 8733 email buero-deutschland@worldcruising.com

Netherlands Tel: +31 614023357 email dutchsupport@worldcruising.com

