

The Cayman Islands Shipping Registry Continues 100 yrs Celebrations in the Brac

The Cayman Islands Shipping Registry continued its 100th year celebrations at the seafarers' centre in Cayman Brac this Saturday (December 17, 2005). The event was held in conjunction with the Veterans & Seaman's Society to mark the islands' seafarers' contributions to maritime history. Previous celebrations also took place in Grand Cayman over two weeks ago.

The festivity's theme, "Changing of the Watch", makes reference to a time during which a seafarer would relinquish his "watch" or shift to the next seafarer, usually at dusk and at dawn. Today, it is said that a metaphorical transition has taken place as the organisation, the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry, has evolved into the new Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands. An even more similar move is occurring as the young people of today are invited by the organisation to take the helm and explore new career and educational pursuits in the areas of maritime administration, naval architecture, marine engineering and nautical studies.

During Saturday's celebrations, the Honourable D. Kurt Tibbetts, Leader of Government Business, announced that two post-secondary maritime-related scholarships will be made available to eligible Caymanian recipients each year, beginning September 2006.

The Leader of Government Business also expressed optimism at the possibility of an "emergence of a thriving maritime sector that may become the third pillar of the Caymanian Economy."

Other speakers included Joel Walton, CEO of the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands, and Vice President of the Veterans & Seaman's Society, Roy Walton. The event was also attended by His Excellency the Governor Stuart Jack and the Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac, Moses Kirkconnell.

During the celebrations, the public enjoyed a commemorative video, a maritime exhibition, story-telling and musical entertainment by seafarers, including Piercy Whorms and members of the public.

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Members of the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry
L-R: Alfred Powery, Kenrick Ebanks (Finance Portfolio),
Melanie McField (Investment Bureau), John Aune,
Joel Walton, John Reynolds, Capt. Barrie Rial
and Sandra Tomlinson.



His Excellency the Governor Stuart Jack
mingles with members of the Veterans
& Seaman Society before the
celebrations begin.



Joel Walton, CEO of Cayman Islands Shipping
Registry/Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands
& Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, Leader of Government
Business.



Piercy Whorms & company entertain
the crowd at the maritime celebrations.

History of the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry, a division of the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands Shipping Registry began primarily as a Ship Register in 1903. The physical Register itself is an important set of documents which have been preserved until present day, showing a record of all vessels registered in the Cayman Islands since that time.

Many of these registered vessels were used in the export of Cayman's famous turtle trade, the first real means of commerce beginning in the 1930's.

Under the UK's assignment of "Categories" to its overseas territories and their Shipping Registries (for the purpose of standard rules and regulations), the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry achieved "Category 1" British Status in 1991, which has since made it possible to register any size and type of vessel.

More recently, as of July 1st 2005, the organization has also transitioned into the new Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands.

Today the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry has become the leading super yacht register in the world, with its own survey and inspection capabilities, and branch offices in the UK, Holland, Greece and Japan, in order to satisfy its clientele world-wide.

The Cayman Islands Flag is flown on vessels in waters from the French Riviera to the marinas of the Florida coast of the United States.

In total, the Cayman Islands register is comprised of 3.2 million tons in pleasure yachts and commercial vessels as of the year 2003.