



2009 ROLEX BIG BOAT SERIES

The Event

The Rolex Big Boat Series – celebrating its 45th year in 2009 – annually attracts many world-caliber sailors, all of whom are eager to win one of the six specially engraved Rolex timepieces, given to the winners of the St. Francis Yacht Club's Perpetual Trophies.

In 2004, the St. Francis Yacht Club initiated the use of the IRC handicap formula for entries 40 feet or longer. Additionally, many popular one-design classes compete using their respective class rules. The 2009 regatta will double as the Rolex US-IRC National Championship, where the winning skipper will receive a specially engraved Rolex timepiece.

In 1964, young Bob 'RC' Keefe convinced Commodore Stan Natcher that the St. Francis YC should create a series to showcase big boat yachting talent from around the world. Jim Wilhite's S&S 63 yawl Athene won the St. Francis Perpetual Trophy in this first year, and when in 1968 another division was needed to accommodate the increase in participants, the newly created City of San Francisco Trophy was awarded to Theo Stephens' S&S 47 Alpha.

In 1972, another perpetual trophy – the Richard Rheem Trophy – was added to the competition, and was awarded to Bill Clute's yellow Ericson 39 Chiquita. The fourth perpetual, the Keefe-Kilborn Memorial Trophy, was added in 1976 and awarded to Lucian Taylor's Peterson 40 Racy. In 1978 (with a then-record 46 entries), the Atlantic Trophy was added and was won by Bill Sullivan's Peterson 43 Blue Norther. In 2004, the Commodore's Cup was added to the list of trophies and is now awarded to the largest one-design fleet in the Series. The inaugural trophy was won by Chris Perkins & Dave Wilson's J/105 Good Timin'.

Big Boat Series has witnessed the "glory days" of SORC and IOR; over the years, it has accommodated the inclusion of Maxis, Sleds, and the noted six-meter fleet. This event has marked the explosion of one-design classes. It survived the 80's ups and downs, and it soared in numbers of entries in the 90's to reach a record 115 entries in 2003. The series was shortened in 1990 from its previous weeklong format to its current schedule of seven races over four days.

Against the dramatic backdrop of the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz Island in picturesque San Francisco Bay, competition is guaranteed to be fierce and intense in pursuit of the champion's title.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 8

11.00-19.00 Merchandise Store – Ward Room

Wednesday, September 9

08.00-20.00 Merchandise Store – Ward Room
11.00-17.30 **Registration & Check-In** – Starting Line Room
11.45-02.00 WYL Buffet – Grill Room
12.00-02.00 Lunch – Main Dining Room
12.00-17.00 Media/Press/VIP Room – Clippership Room
12.00-21.00 Lunch & Dinner – Grill Room
17.30-18.00 **Meeting for Skippers & Tacticians** – Courtyard
18.00-19.30 **Rolex Commodore's Reception for Owners & Tacticians**
– Golden Gate/Northwest Room
18.00-19.30 **Rolex Crew Reception** – Starting Line Room
18.00-21.00 Dinner (Prime Rib Night) – Main Dining Room

Thursday, September 10

08.00-09.30 Breakfast
08.00-20.00 Merchandise Store – Ward Room
09.00-19.00 Media/Press/VIP Room – Clippership Room
11.00 **RACING BEGINS**
12.00-02.00 Lunch – Main Dining Room
12.00-21.00 Lunch & Dinner – Grill Room
17.00-20.00 **Rolex Party** – Starting Line Room & Courtyard
18.00-21.00 Dinner – Main Dining Room

Friday, September 11

08.00-09.30 Breakfast
08.00-20.00 Merchandise Store – Ward Room
09.00-19.00 Media/Press/VIP Room – Clippership Room
11.00 **RACING BEGINS**
12.00-02.00 Lunch – Main Dining Room
12.00-21.00 Lunch & Dinner – Grill Room
17.00-18.30 **Mount Gay Cocktail Party** – Starting Line Room
18.30-20.30 **Sonnen BMW Reception** – Northwest Room
18.00-21.00 Seafood Night Buffet – Main Dining Room



Saturday, September 12

- 08.00-09.30 Breakfast
- 08.00-20.00 Merchandise Store – Ward Room
- 08.00-18.00 Media/Press/VIP Room – Clippership Room
- 11.00 **RACING BEGINS**
- 11.00-21.00 Big Boat Series Sailor's Buffet – Grill Room
- 16.30-17.30 No-Host Cocktails – Starting Line Room
- 19.30 **Crew Dinner** (Sign-up at Registration) – Main Dining Room

Sunday, September 13

- 08.00-09.30 Breakfast
- 08.00-20.00 Merchandise Store – Ward Room
- 09.00-19.00 Media/Press/VIP Room – Clippership Room
- 11.00 **RACING BEGINS**
- 11.00-02.30 Lunch – Main Dining Room
- 11.00-20.30 Lunch & Dinner – Grill Room
- 16.00 **Rolex Trophy Ceremony** – Golden Gate Room
- 17.30-20.30 Sunday Pasta Buffet – Main Dining Room



ABOUT ST. FRANCIS YACHT CLUB

Founded in 1927, the St. Francis Yacht Club is steeped in over 80 years of yachting and racing traditions. The area where the present-day clubhouse stands was marshland before 1927. It was also home to the Stone Boat Yard and the building of a schooner named *Yankee*. The earthquake of 1906 knocked *Yankee* off its cradle, but the boat was picked up and finished. Today, after repeated terms as a St. Francis flagship, the *Yankee* can still be seen here, its bow aimed at the Marina Green.

The yacht harbor was begun as part of the Panama Pacific Exposition of 1915, to mark the opening of the Panama Canal. The original St. Francis clubhouse was finished just barely ahead of the Depression and the lean years that came with it. St. Francis yachts stood patrol duty during World War II, and later they carried the burgee around the world. Today, hardly anything remains of the original Willis Polk structure. Fire and earthquake saw to that. But through the years, the club served the sport, and it anchored the international game of yachting on San Francisco Bay.

In 1958, the club initiated an annual cruise that led to the purchase of a Delta Station on the San Joaquin River, Tinsley Island, where members go now to work the summer fogbite out of their toes.

From the beginning, the St. Francis Yacht Club's membership roster has included many of the Bay Area's most prominent citizens and greatest sailors. Early racers for the St. Francis included such champions as L.A. Norris, Mark Fontana, Myron Spaulding, Arthur Rousseau, Painless Parker and Lester Stone. Today, it is names such as Paul Cayard, John Kostecki, John Bertrand, Stan Honey, Morgan Larson, and Russ Silvestri who continue to keep the St. Francis name in the forefront of world-class sailing.

The annual regatta schedule at the St. Francis is one of the most active regatta calendars in the world. Part of the attraction of racing at St. Francis Yacht Club is the excellent and challenging racing conditions unique to San Francisco Bay. Both physically beautiful and naturally demanding, the Bay provides a racer with the ultimate in wind, current and weather conditions for truly competitive, exciting sailing. With the skyline of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge as a backdrop, the St. Francis Yacht Club prides itself on being able to provide all visitors with every comfort and amenity while dazzling them with its surroundings.

The San Francisco clubhouse provides a boating and social venue for members and their guests. It features deep-water guest docks, outstanding dining, and incredible vistas of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Bay. The St. Francis Yacht Club's 2nd floor Race Deck is the premier location to view yacht racing on the renowned City Front.

St. Francis Yacht Club / Race Office

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ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is known by the sobriquet, 'The City by the Bay', and has long received well-deserved accolades as a discerning traveller's destination, brimming with culture, scenic beauty, award-winning cuisine and spectacular wines.

Yet it is San Francisco Bay that forms the centrepiece attraction. With the city surrounding the bay like a natural amphitheatre, draped over some 45 square-miles and some 40 hills, it presents plenty of opportunities to catch a glimpse of the water and a view of the myriad of sailing events held on the bay, including the pre-eminent Rolex Big Boat Series.

The best viewpoint though is, arguably, the St. Francis Yacht Club. Perched on the waterfront next to the Presidio, an historic, former military post, the Spanish-style yacht club affords an unparalleled panorama out to the iconic "international orange"-hued span of the Golden Gate Bridge, the 700-acre Angel Island, and the infamous former prison on Alcatraz Island. If that is not enough, imagine sipping a cocktail on the Race Deck with that backdrop as the day's racing finishes within a boat length of the shore.

With a Mediterranean climate and an ethnically diverse population, San Francisco offers serious competition to Capri in the culinary stakes. No other city in the USA brings to mind food and wine so readily. For the past 30 years, restaurants such as Berkeley's Chez Panisse have been preparing cuisine from organically grown local produce, a trend now popularized as the 'locavore' movement.

San Francisco is another one of those places that effortlessly plays on the senses, drawing one into its captivating charms.

FACT BOX

The cable cars are the world's last permanently operational manually-operated cable car system.

The land area of San Francisco is 46.7 square miles and it has 29.5 miles of shoreline.

The city is built on 43 official hills.

San Francisco was named the #1 U.S. City in the Conde Nast Traveler Reader's Choice Awards for 2008 – making for an unprecedented 16 years in a row.

The Golden Gate Bridge was the world's longest span when it opened in 1937. Seventeen ironworkers and 38 painters constantly fight rust and renew the international orange paint on its 1.7-mile span.

Alcatraz Island or "The Rock" was first a lighthouse, then a military fortification (1850-1934), a federal prison from 1934-1963, and since 1972 it has been a national recreation area, operated by the National Park Service.

San Francisco has 215 historic landmark buildings, ten historical districts, 14,000 Victorian homes and 5,369 restaurants.



2008 PERPETUAL TROPHY WINNERS

Commodore's Cup – J/105 class

Created in 2004 to encourage competition in one-design racing on San Francisco Bay and awarded to the largest one-design fleet. Donkey Jack, owned by Scott Sellers (San Francisco) won the J/105 class.

Richard Rheem Perpetual Trophy – Melges 32 class

Established in 1972 in memory of Richard Rheem, whose famous yacht Morning Star was the elapsed time winner in the 1949 and 1955 Transpac races to Honolulu. The winner was John Porter (Lake Geneva, WI) and his Melges 32 Full Throttle.

Keefe-Kilborn Memorial Trophy – IRC C class

Established in 1976 to honor Harold Keefe and Ray Kilborn. Won by Dave Kirby (Manhattan Beach, Calif.) on his J/122 TKO for the second year in a row.

Atlantic Perpetual Trophy – IRC D class

Established in 1978 and features the ship's bell of the yacht Atlantic, long-time TransAtlantic Ocean record holder (1905). The bell was donated by John C. "Jack" Morris, and the trophy by Jack H. Feller Jr. It was won by White Dove, owned by Mike Garl (San Francisco).

St. Francis Perpetual Trophy – IRC A class

Established to stimulate and encourage competition among large ocean racing yachts. The trophy has been awarded annually since the inception of the Big Boat Series 42 years ago to yachts invited to a race or series of races that are measured and handicapped in accordance with the current measurement rule and rate 40 feet or more. This trophy was donated in 1964 by Commodore A. L. Sandy McCormick. Won by John Kilroy (Los Angeles, Calif.) on his TP52 Samba Pa Ti for the second year in a row.

City of San Francisco Trophy – IRC B class

One of the two golden spades used to break ground for the Golden Gate Bridge in 1933. Won by Brad Copper (Point Richmond, CA) and his Custom Tripp 43 TNT.



ROLEX AND SPORTS

Precise, waterproof and robust, at its launch in 1926 the Oyster was already synonymous with a pioneering spirit. Adapted to the lifestyle of a rapidly evolving society in which leisure played a more and more prominent role, this wristwatch was destined to little by little replace the traditional pocket watch.

The sports world offered an extraordinary field of validation and expansion for this timepiece of unprecedented quality. Hans Wilsdorf, founder of Rolex, achieved a master stroke in 1927 by equipping Mercedes Gleitze, a young Englishwoman, with a Rolex Oyster when she swam the English Channel. He reserved the front page of the *Daily Mail* to announce the event to the public at large. Even though the watch had remained immersed for over 10 hours in the seawater, it continued to keep accurate time, proof of its undeniable waterproofness and robustness. The young entrepreneur had just created the "Testimonee" campaign.

From then on, the advances of the Oyster would be inextricably linked to sportsmen and women excelling in disciplines that were new at the time, like aviation, automobile racing or mountaineering: in 1933 Stewart Blacker flew over Everest; in 1947, pilot Chuck Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier; in 1935, Sir Malcolm Campbell broke the land speed record in his bolide *Bluebird*, attaining 301 mph (484 km/h). In 1953, the expedition led by Sir John Hunt, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay was the first to conquer Everest. Through their achievements, these highly visible personalities underscore the technical qualities of the Oyster.

Over the years, new sports disciplines would be added. Today, Rolex is involved in five major sports: golf, sailing, tennis, equestrian sports and automobile sports. All of these disciplines combine precision and endurance, and call on participants to push themselves ever beyond their limits.

ROLEX AND SAILING

Rolex has always enjoyed a privileged relationship with the sea, the world of sailing and the call of the deep. Among the sports that Rolex has been sponsoring for many years, sailing undoubtedly holds a special place. The spirit and philosophy of the sport are in perfect harmony with values that Rolex holds dear: excellence, precision and team spirit.

The partnership between Rolex and sailing dates back to the late 1950s. The close ties that bind the company to the world of sailing have grown stronger ever since. Today, Rolex is the Title Sponsor of some 20 major international events in three distinct categories:

- classic offshore races, such as the **Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race** and the **Rolex Fastnet Race**;
- high-prestige regattas, such as the **Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup**, which takes place every year in Porto Cervo, Sardinia (Italy), the **Rolex Swan Cup** and the **Giraglia Rolex Cup**;
- the most prestigious world championships, like the **Rolex Farr 40 World Championship**.



Through its support of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF), the world reference in sailing, Rolex participates in the development of this spectacular and exciting sport. Since 2001, the company has been sponsoring the **ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Awards**, honorary prizes that celebrate men and women sailors who have particularly distinguished themselves in the course of the past year. The winners are selected by their peers.

Over the years, Rolex has also cultivated close associations with the best-known yacht clubs and the organisers of major events in the world of sailing. To name but a few:

- The **New York Yacht Club** (United States)
- The **Yacht Club Costa Smeralda** (Porto Cervo, Italy)
- The **Royal Yacht Squadron** (Cowes, United Kingdom)
- The **Yacht Club Italiano** (Genoa, Italy)
- The **Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club** (China)

Among its Testimonees, Rolex counts a number of exemplary sailors:

- Denmark's **Paul Elvström**, legendary regatta winner with four Olympic gold medals and 19 medals in world championships, who is today considered an icon;
- **Paul Cayard** from the United States is an accomplished sailor, as he has participated six times in the America's Cup, twice in the Olympic Games and has won seven medals in various world championships. He has also participated in two Round the World Races, winning in 1998;
- **Sofia Bekatorou**, from Greece, a 470 gold medallist in the Olympic Games in Athens, who has twice received the ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Award in the women's category;
- American sailor **Gary Jobson**, Ted Turner's tactician when Courageous won the America's Cup in 1977, is now a sports journalist. He was inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 1992, a new watch intended for professional navigators was created in the Oyster Perpetual collection. Named Yacht-Master, this officially certified Swiss chronometer is immediately recognisable by its bi-directional graduated rotatable bezel with raised markers.

Drawing on ancestral know-how, Rolex continually expands the limits of technology, and in 2007 it launched the Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II featuring a countdown with a programmable memory. This unprecedented watchmaking complication constitutes an indispensable tool for experienced skippers and yachting-lovers alike.



PRESENTATION OF ROLEX

Rolex is recognised the world over as the leader in the Swiss watchmaking industry and enjoys an unparalleled reputation for quality and know-how.

The birth of Rolex

The origins of Rolex date back to the beginning of the 20th century. At a time when pocket watches were still the order of the day, Hans Wilsdorf, a young Bavarian just 24 years old, wagered on the future of the wristwatch. The pioneering spirit of the founder is the subject of some of the finest chapters in the history of contemporary watchmaking and was the source of two major innovations. In 1926, Rolex invented the Oyster, the first waterproof and dustproof watch, and, in 1931, the first self-winding mechanism equipped with a Perpetual rotor. Over the years, Rolex created a full line of Oyster watches, with a strong identity and intrinsic features. Recognisable at a glance, this collection includes over 170 models available in 3,200 possible combinations. The Cellini collection later enhanced the choice offered to consumers loyal to the legendary Rolex quality. The reliability and performance of the product have built the worldwide reputation of Rolex.

An international company

Today Rolex is established in some one hundred countries. The company ensures the distribution of its watches and the quality of their maintenance through a network of 28 affiliates and several thousand official Rolex jewellers.

A Rolex watch is made to last. Assembled by hand, it benefits from the company's know-how and decades of cumulative expertise. An after-sales service, unique in its genre, ensures the proper functioning of the watches over time. It is based on the competence of nearly

4,000 watchmakers, trained by Rolex, who work for the affiliates or for jewellers of the Group worldwide. A universal and timeless brand, Rolex continues to conquer new markets and expand its presence worldwide.

State-of-the-art technology

Responding to growing demand while integrating the latest technologies requires constant evolution of the means of production. In the mid-1990s, Rolex opted for a vertical integration of its production facilities, thus ensuring its control over the manufacture of all its watch components and guaranteeing its autonomy. In the interest of consistency and efficiency, the company consolidated all its activities in Switzerland at four sites.



In Geneva

The Rolex headquarters is home to all the administrative activities of the company, to those related to the final assembly and sales of the watches, as well as to the after-sales service.

The Chêne-Bourg site brings together all the activities related to the development and manufacture of the dial and gem-set elements.

The Plan-les-Ouates site groups all the activities related to the development, manufacture and quality control of the case and bracelet.

In Bienne

The Bienne site is the location of all activities related to the manufacture and assembly of Rolex watch movements.

An image of excellence

The name Rolex is synonymous with performance. In 1927, Mercedes Gleitze, a young English woman, swam the English Channel in a time of over 10 hours wearing an Oyster. Upon arrival, the watch was still in perfect working order. The company immediately placed an advertisement in the *Daily Mail* proclaiming the success of the waterproof watch and the beginning of "the triumphant march of the Rolex Oyster around the world." This event also marked the start of a long association between Rolex and exceptional personalities who bear witness to the excellence of the product and are Testimonees of the brand. These associations give rise to numerous partnerships and sponsoring activities in fields as varied as art and culture, tennis, golf, sailing, and equestrian and automobile sports.

Perpetuating the spirit of enterprise

While committed to the principles that are the foundation of the brand, the company is still capable of breaking with tradition in order to respond to changes in an ever-evolving world. Rolex's position as a leader in the watchmaking industry has been further reinforced through the conquering of new markets and the enhancement of the brand's image.

Taking over from Patrick Heiniger, Bruno Meier was named the Directive President of the company in January 2009.

Official website: www.rolex.com



OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER II

A regatta chronograph, the **Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II** is the first watch to have a programmable countdown feature with a mechanical memory. This unprecedented horological complication gives the wearer the advantage of being able to programme the countdown from 0 to 10 minutes according to the countdown time of each regatta.

During the starting sequences, the countdown can be synchronised with the official count-down.

Interaction between the movement, case and bezel

A new-generation watch, the **Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II** features interaction between the movement and the case and bezel through the Ring Command bezel. It is equipped with the calibre 4160, entirely designed and manufactured by Rolex and consisting of some 360 components.

Self-winding, equipped with a Perpetual rotor and certified by the Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute (COSC), the **Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II** is guaranteed waterproof to a depth of 100 metres (330 feet).

It is available in 18 ct yellow gold featuring a bezel with a blue ceramic disc, and in 18 ct whitegold featuring a solid platinum bezel with raised numerals.

The **Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II** is equipped with an Oyster bracelet with an Oysterlock clasp and an Easylink comfort extension link.



2009 ROLEX YACHTING EVENTS CALENDAR

Circuito Atlántico Sur Rolex Cup

16-25 January 2009

Buenos Aires, Argentina – Punta del Este, Uruguay

The Circuito Atlántico Sur Rolex Cup organized by the Yacht Club Argentino, offers a competitive challenge of both offshore and inshore handicap racing. The offshore race, for boats 26 feet and longer, takes the fleet from Olivos/Buenos Aires to Punta del Este; following this race come two days of inshore windward/leeward racing off Punta del Este - Circuito la Barra day race - followed by a race around Isla Gorriti. Once again, the event will host the first leg of the ORC International and ORC Club South American Championship.

International Rolex Regatta

27-29 March 2009

St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Highlighting the Caribbean racing calendar with its unique blend of island-style hospitality, competition and camaraderie, the St. Thomas Yacht Club's International Rolex Regatta celebrates its 36th year in 2009, and, remarkably, Rolex has been a partner since the very beginning. The event features competitive IRC and CSA handicap fleets as well as one-design racing in a beautiful setting, with professional race management and dependable Caribbean trade winds.

Portofino Rolex Trophy

7-10 May 2009

Portofino, Italy

The 2009 Portofino Rolex Trophy is the inaugural edition of a regatta dedicated by Rolex and the Yacht Club Italiano to classic yachts that are part of the long history of sailing. The regatta is by invitation only for wooden yachts in the J-Class, 12 and 8-Metre Classes. In addition to the yachts in the water, there will be an exhibition ashore of some wooden one-design and former Olympic classes.

Rolex Capri Sailing Week

19-23 May 2009

Capri, Italy

First held in 2005, the Rolex Capri Sailing Week offers spirited competition at the start of the Mediterranean racing season. Hosted by the Yacht Club Capri, the 2009 regatta provides a week of highly competitive racing for the Swan 45, Swan 42 and Farr 40 one-designs, and, Comet yachts. The event is an official leg of the 2009 Farr 40 European Circuit and forms the 2009 Swan 45 Italian National Championship. The strikingly picturesque island provides a stunning backdrop to the on-the-water racing action in the Bay of Naples.



Giraglia Rolex Cup

14-20 June 2009

Saint-Tropez, France – Genoa, Italy

One of the most renowned distance races in the Mediterranean, the Giraglia Rolex Cup has been a tradition for over fifty years. From the race start off the chic port of Saint-Tropez, the fleet heads through the idyllic Iles d'Hyères and across the sea to round the Giraglia, a rocky islet off northern Corsica, before racing to the finish off Genoa, a total distance of 243 nautical miles. Tactics and weather play a key part in this classic race.

Rolex Farr 40 World Championship

24-27 June 2009

Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy

This year the Rolex Farr 40 Worlds returns to Porto Cervo for the second time and upwards of forty racing sailboats – all 40-feet long and identical in design – will compete over four days in ten challenging races for the World Championship. The Farr 40 class is one of the most competitive and exciting one-design fleets, and each crew is made up of a maximum of four professional and five to six amateur sailors. Each yacht must be driven by its amateur owner/helmsman. Racing is precise, tactical and intense. With all other factors equal, skill and timing are crucial.

Rolex Ilhabela Sailing Week

5-11 July 2009

Ilhabela, São Paulo, Brazil

The beautiful island of Ilhabela provides a stunning setting and a variety of challenging sailing conditions. The event, first held in 1973, has been a tradition for Brazilian sailors throughout the years and lately the blend of steady trade winds, testing offshore and inshore handicap racing and onshore camaraderie has attracted sailors from all over the world. Organized by the Yacht Club de Ilhabela, this year's event will be the second and final leg of the ORC International and ORC Club South American Championship.

Rolex Fastnet Race

9-14 August 2009

Cowes – Plymouth, United Kingdom

The biennial Rolex Fastnet Race has been an established fixture on the ocean racing circuit since 1926 and attracts a diverse entry list capped at 300 yachts. The 608 nautical mile race is a test of strategy and skill with challenging tidal currents and changeable weather. The fleet starts from the renowned Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes, races out of the Solent down the English Channel to Land's End and across the often tempestuous Celtic Sea to the Fastnet Rock, and returns on a reciprocal course to the finish off Plymouth.



Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup

6-12 September 2009

Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy

The Costa Smeralda provides a stunning setting and a variety of challenging conditions for the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, one of the highlights at the end of the Mediterranean yachting season. The first Maxi World Championship took place in 1980, created by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda in Sardinia and its president, the Aga Khan. The regatta is now an eagerly anticipated annual event and attracts a sizeable fleet of forty of these majestic yachts to Porto Cervo each September.

Rolex Big Boat Series

10-13 September 2009

San Francisco, CA, United States

Established in 1964, the Rolex Big Boat Series takes place annually on San Francisco Bay. In 2005, Rolex became title sponsor of this prestigious regatta which includes very competitive one-design and handicap racing. Widely recognized as one of the most important sailing events on the West Coast, this grand-prix regatta attracts top competitors and boats from across the United States. The 2009 Rolex Big Boat Series will incorporate the Rolex US-IRC National Championship.

Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez

27 September – 4 October 2009

Saint-Tropez, France

Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez is an amazing rendezvous of extraordinary yachts. First held twenty-seven years ago as La Nioulargue, the regatta is famous for gathering technologically advanced, modern sailing boats alongside stylish and elegant, traditional yachts. A host of racers and sailing enthusiasts come from all the corners of the globe to do battle in the bay of Saint Tropez. The Trophée Rolex is awarded to the winner of the Classic Division with a length overall in excess of 16 metres.

Rolex Middle Sea Race

14-24 October 2009

Valletta, Malta

The Rolex Middle Sea Race takes place in the heart of the Mediterranean and covers one of the most beautiful courses in the world. Unique for an offshore race in that it starts and finishes at the same point, the 606 nautical mile route includes the deep azure waters of Sicily and the Strait of Messina, the islands of Pantelleria and Lampedusa, and even features Stromboli's active volcano as a course mark. The race is marked by hugely varied conditions and, in 2007, on the back of a ferocious storm the American maxi yacht Rambler, set a new course record of 47 hours, 55 minutes and 3 seconds.



ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Awards

10 November 2009

Busan, Korea

Launched in 1994, the International Sailing Federation's (ISAF) World Sailor of the Year Awards are recognised as the pinnacle award a sailor can receive in recognition of his/her outstanding achievements by the world of sailing. Rolex has sponsored the Awards since 2001. The winners are selected by the 125 ISAF Member National Authorities from an impressive shortlist of nominees. Over the years, winners have topped their fields from one-design dinghies to offshore yacht racing.

Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

26 December 2009 – 1 January 2010

Sydney – Hobart, Australia

Mention the leading ocean races in the world, and the Rolex Sydney Hobart is certainly in the top three. This 628-nautical mile offshore race organised by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia provides a tough test for skippers, tacticians and crews alike. The 2009 race will be the 65th annual edition of this time-honoured event. With a course encompassing the spectacular Sydney Harbour, the infamous Bass Strait and the technically demanding Derwent River, this is a yachting classic that attracts a well-seasoned fleet ready to face the challenge.



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To learn more about Rolex and its involvement with sports in general visit **www.rolex.com**.