

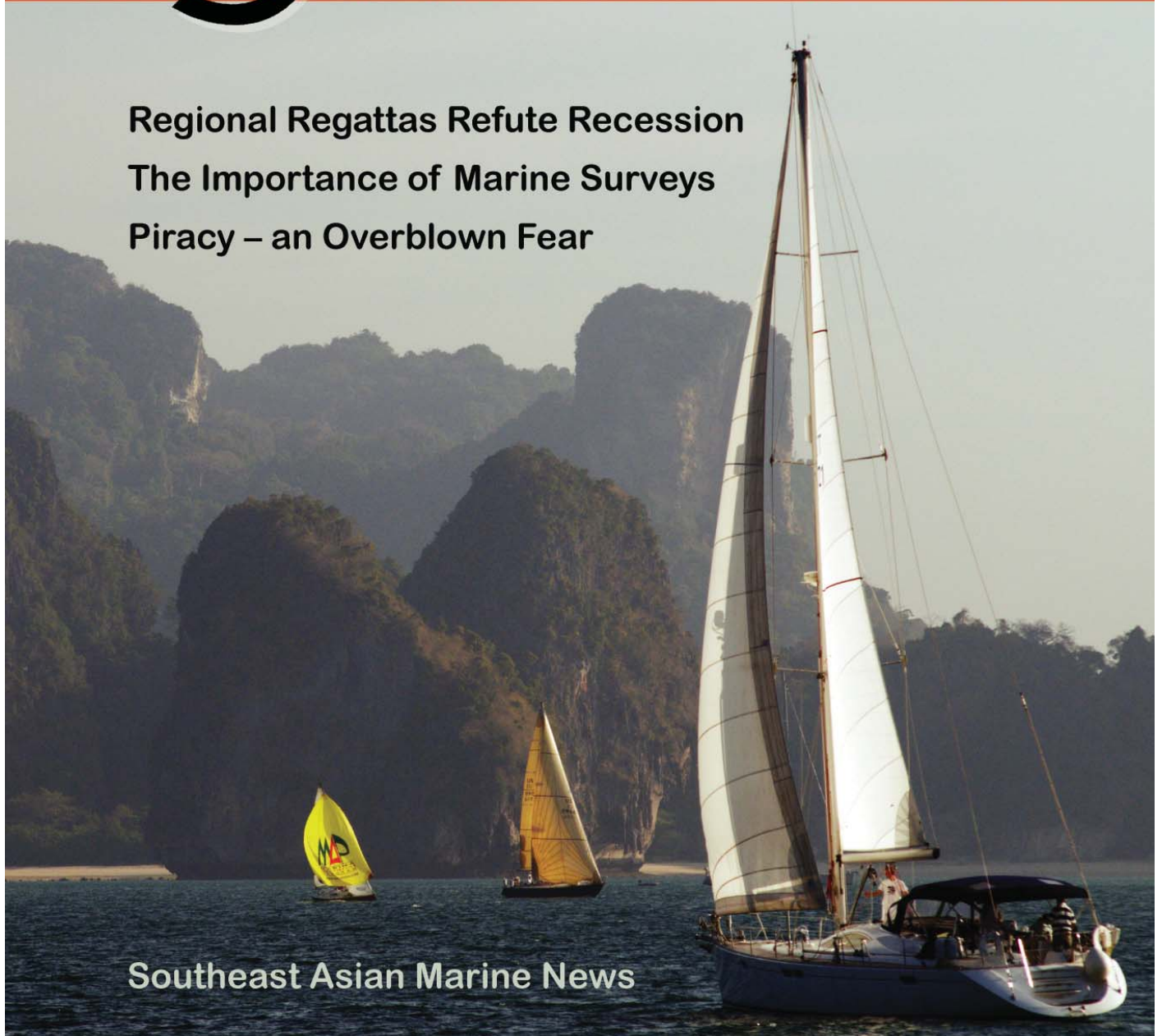
SEA

# Yachting

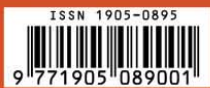
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in 6 classes in this  
regatta: Racing  
(5 boats), Cruising A  
(9 boats), Cruising B  
(17 boats), Darwin  
Sunsail One Design  
(6 boats), Fireflies  
(5 boats), &  
Multihulls (8 boats).

# PNB Regatta Blows Economic Gloom Away

Story by Scott Murray   Photos by John Everingham

“What happened to the world economic crisis?” co-founder John Everingham hollered as he addressed the participants on the first night of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Phang Nga Bay Regatta, which featured a record 50 entrants and 232 registered sailors.

Simon Grant, the manager of Ao Por Grand Marina, which hosted the opening night’s festivities, addressed the crowd after John and thanked all the sailors, mentioning the marina was building a big protective wall to help fight the cursed northeasterlies and noted the beauty of Ao Po was its proximity to Phang Nga Bay. Simon also noted the passing of long-time regatta participant John Hamilton

Bill O’Leary, the “King of Raunch”, then took the stage and mesmerized the audience with lyrics we can’t repeat here. The first night celebrated both the start of the Chinese New Year and Australia Day.

Held from Jan 26-30, 51 boats competed in 6 classes in this regatta: Racing (5 boats), Cruising A (9 boats), Cruising B (17 boats), Darwin Sunsail One Design (6 boats), Fireflies (5 boats), & Multihulls (8 boats). This was the second year that the folks from Darwin had made their way up to compete in the regatta and they promised to come back again.

Patty Seery, as always, took the regatta to another level allowing *Silolona* to be used as a committee boat. Spend any time on the 49m Indonesian *phinisi* and you can’t put fall in love with the vessel. Other committee vessels included the 103-year-old 60-ft classic schooner *Seraph*, Sean Getchell’s moto-cat *Escape Artist*, Roger Foley’s *Tradition*, Lee Marine’s *Merry Fisher* and *Moonbeam*.

Departing from Ao Po Grand Marina at the northeastern end of Phuket Island the regatta then sailed to the new pier facility on Laem Sak in the far north on day 1, south to the Paradise Resort



*Patti Seery's phinisi Silolona and Tom Howard's 103-year-old schooner Seraph added a touch of class to this year's regatta both graciously serving as committee boats.*

on Koh Yao Noi on day 2, then across to Railay Beach in Krabi on day 3 before heading back to Phuket and Ao Chalong on day 4.

The regatta prides itself on its parties and going to an unusual place every night. This year was no different. The opening party was sponsored by Ao Por Grand Marina ([www.aopograndmarina.com](http://www.aopograndmarina.com)). The second night, a Raimon Land sponsored event, saw the Regatta pull into the Laem Sak Seafood Restaurant in

Chong Lat. The third night's festivities were hosted by Kingfisher (catering by Kargo) at the Khao Yao Noi Paradise Resort ([www.theparadisebiz.com](http://www.theparadisebiz.com)), while the fourth night saw QBE sponsor the party and presentations at the Sand Sea Resort ([www.krabisandandsea.com](http://www.krabisandandsea.com)) in Railay Beach, Krabi. The regatta closed out with the grand finale held at and sponsored by Outrigger Serenity Terraces Resort in Rawai ([www.outrigger.com/hotels-resorts](http://www.outrigger.com/hotels-resorts)).

Firefly *Voodoo Child* was the talk of the regatta, winning line honours on the final day, crossing ahead of the racing boats. Skipped by owner Hans Rahmann, the twin-hulled Firefly finished 3,1,1 and a 2 over the four days of competition. Hans' performance was even more impressive when you consider he bought *Voodoo Child*, just before the 2008 King's Cup Regatta.

The wind didn't always blow true, but the beauty of Phang Nga Bay and its stunning karst topography makes any old sea dog a little less fierce as they gaze out to the stunning limestone cliffs surrounding them. This year's regatta took in Koh Phanak, the Koh Hong group of islands and James Bond Island.

Peter Ahern and his crew from Downunder put on a stunning show on



YO!2 in the racing class, win three of the four races. The boat, a Farr 40, was built by DK Yachts of Malacca, and calls Port Dickson home. Local favourite, *Katsu*, a Club Swan 42, which moors off Panwa Bali in Ao Chalong, took second place in the Racing Class.

*Lawana Escape* in the Racing Class featured an all-Thai crew, while *Thalassa* in Cruising A featured an all-Russian crew. Rumour has it that the Russian skipper was so frustrated with one of his crew's behaviour that he threw him overboard (the report was yet to be confirmed as we went to press).

On the last day of racing course designer Andy Dowden hit a rock with his boat, *AMC Intan*. Then for an encore he hit a reef. And on the first day a couple of the boats from Darwin got their backstays tangled in

the bowsprit of *Seraph*, the start boat. *Moto Inzi* missed a gate on the first day of racing turning it's first-place finish that day into a RTD. But for the most part the regatta was incident free, with all performers claiming a great time and a wonderful respite from the world's economic woes.

The idea for the regatta was concocted by Andy Stephens, John Everingham and Chris Schaefer (who made an appearance at this year's regatta) on a weekend sailing rally to Chong Lat. Then, as in now, the Ao Chalong Yacht Club, played a huge role in the formation and running of the regatta. The ACYC has just moved to new premises (a half-mile north of the old clubhouse with 50m of beachfront), and though it has finished phase one of its development, it's still looking for sponsorship and membership

to help finish phase two, which includes a floating jetty and an open-air restaurant ([info@phuketboatshow.com](mailto:info@phuketboatshow.com)). The yacht club has truly been the backbone of keelboat racing in Phuket.

Special thanks needs to go out to Regatta President Carolyn Payen, Event Organizer Vicki Gregory and Principal Race Officer Simon James for all their hard work in the regatta. And also kudos to Khun Worapot of Oriental Events for a wonderful job staging the festivities and catering on the opening night.

After the final prizes were given out, and everything was all sailed and done, John Everingham was seen marveling at the number of entries, wondering about next year's sponsorship and chasing his three-year-old son Zen across the stage at the Outrigger Serenity Terraces.

# PARTY ON AT THE ksnPHANG NGA BAY REGATTA '09



Competitors from the Darwin Sunsail Class (top row), Thai officials attend party at Laem Sak Seafood Restaurant (2<sup>nd</sup> row, left), the crew from Silolona regale crowd (2<sup>nd</sup> row, right). Bill O'Leary (left, 3<sup>rd</sup> row), Khun Rose, Chris Schaefer & Lies Sol (2<sup>nd</sup> from left, 3<sup>rd</sup> row). Vikki Gregory, Patti Seery & Roger Foley celebrate at the Outrigger Serenity Terraces (2<sup>nd</sup> from right, 3<sup>rd</sup> row), Tony Knight, skipper of Seraph & friends (far right, 3<sup>rd</sup> row), Jade Everingham celebrates with Jim Ellis & crew from Remington (bottom row, left), Colin Illy Hill Band featuring Harry K performs (bottom right, top right), Olivier Payen of Asia Marine presents honour to David Hery of Tuay Lek (bottom row, bottom right).



# FINAL RESULTS

## Racing

- Yo!2 (Peter Ahern)
- Katsu (Ben Copley)
- Wings (Fredrick Roswold)

## Cruising A

- Phoenix (Niels HS Degenkowl)
- Minx (Mick Keeley)
- Tua Lek (David Hery)

## Cruising B

- Remington (Jim Ellis)
- Thalassa (Russian Sailing Club)
- Cunning Plan (Rob Azzopardi)

## Darwin One Design

- Sunsail Princess Sharda (Luke Mills)
- Sunsail Princess Athena (Mike Savage)
- Sunsail Princess Arieta (Michael Bates)

## Firefly 850

- Voodoo Child (Hans Rahmann)
- Twin Sharks (Bill Phelps)
- Moto Inzi (Roger Kingdon)

## Multihull

- The Sting (Dave Wales)
- Summersalt (Mark Pescott)
- Pimalai Charm (Bob Garner)



12<sup>th</sup> Phang Nga Bay Regatta  
26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009



Escape Artist

