

Welcome to Our New President - Joan Basacoma



Sailing Schools Promotion has been my favourite passion for more than 25 years now. My first experience was impelling the existing sailing school at my club near Barcelona, then creating a cooperation method among several schools in the country, which was eventually adopted by the Catalan Federation. This led to me being

elected as President of our official Catalan School and Teaching Committee and later on to the Catalan Federation Vice-Presidency.

I have devoted many hours to sailing schools which I have tried to balance with my family life and business, but I have gained enormous satisfaction from this work, supported by an incredible team of professionals who have carried out their work with great skill.

But now is the time for me to focus my efforts into working at International level, bringing together all the valuable experience from ISSA members throughout the world to update our policies and procedures and increase the services that we offer

We also need to work together with all National and International groups and organisations who share our objectives in promoting sailing at the highest levels of standards and safety

Here at ISSA we have always worked together, shoulder to shoulder with all kinds of schools - Private, Public, Clubs and Federations in all areas of sailing such as Dinghies, Keelboats, Boards and Multihulls to provide sailing for everyone including disabled and disadvantaged people. This is our most important role as we represent the complete reality of the World's Sail Teaching scenario

Service is our greatest priority in this new period for ISSA. Thanks to the outstanding work done by Martin Pryor, the former President, and the Administrative Council, along with the executive management of Ralph Tingle, ISSA's finances are strong enough to proceed with new initiatives to **improve Services** to our school members, in the following areas:

- Problem-solving and trouble-shooting when members ask for help in running their school in areas such as, accounts, health and safety, teaching standards, organization, employment, equipment, quality control
- Group discounts for boats, sails, accessories and equipment from every important supplier. A staff exchange service where your team can learn from other ISSA members and bring those ideas back to your school.
- Sharing knowledge and experiences with other schools both in their own country and internationally. Promoting

teaching and cooperation between schools throughout the world which will provide our members with an International perspective when working with others, especially newcomers to sailing schools.

- Special emphasis will be given to **Safety** especially in relation to risk control, prevention and insurance. Understanding of legal responsibilities and environmental issues.
- **The ISSA Festival of Sail** will be a world wide event bringing all our members and their students together. The event will be celebrated every 2 years starting in August/September 2010 at Barcelona's new International Sailing Centre "J.A.SAMARANCH". **The ISSA Festival of Sail** is aimed at everyone in our large family of pupils, instructors, managers, parents, children, tutors, clubbers, etc to provide a real Festival of learning, exchanging experiences, technical workshops and **enjoying, playing, visiting, discovering**. There will be special accommodation prices starting from 30€/night and more details can be obtained from the event web site www.festivalofsail.info

To achieve all these objectives we need the **cooperation of every School Member**, to tell us about all of your experiences, whether it be working together in a local network or with National and Multi-national or Regional organisations

The pattern for a successful organisation must be to share common needs and objectives at a decentralised, regional/continental level where everyone is much closer to the issues. Regional delegates will be elected to represent their region/continent on the Administrative Council and bring priorities to the Administrative Council only when necessary.

To start this plan, can we please ask you to:

- **spend 10 minutes now** to give us a description of your school for the ISSA web site www.sailingschools.org and
- **spend 5 minutes every month** to tell us what you specifically need from ISSA at that time.

For only one hour per year, you will help ISSA to help you

We will send you emails to remind you how you can profit from ISSA services.

Wishing you the all best in these stormy times and I look forward to meeting you personally at our AGM in Phuket (Thailand) in September

Wishing you all the best,



Membership Fees 2009

Invoices have been sent out to all members on the database by email and by post to those who have not paid yet.

PLEASE NOTE: if you have not paid, *your details will be removed from the ISSA web site* until payment has been received.

A number of members have already been removed from the web site because they have not paid membership fees for the last two years.

Members who are still overdue by the AGM will cease to be members of ISSA

Administrative Council

President:

Joan Basacoma (Spain)

Vice President:

Martin Pryor (Australia)

Treasurer:

Jean-Yves Cotty (France)

Hon. Secretary:

Markus Griessler (Austria)

General Committee:

Raymond Chan (Hong Kong)

Yoshi Inoue (Japan)

Esa Kalervo (Finland)

Leif Lindberg (Sweden)

Tomasz Lipski (Poland)

Pierre Mahaut (France)

Terry Wise (Australia)

Auditors:

Leena Meisalo (Finland)

Bernard Torfou (France)

In Brief

Welcome to New Members

The following members were approved at the AGM

- Bellamer International Yacht School (Russia)
- Busan Sailing Federation (Korea)
- Club Nautique S'Arenal (Spain)
- Escuela De Vela Vientos De Montana (Columbia)
- Federacion De Vela De La Comunidad Valencia (Spain)
- Ultra Sailing School (Croatia)
- Nauticna Sola Dekleva (Croatia)

The following members have joined ISSA since the AGM

- Turkish Offshore Racing Club
- Sailing With Attitude
- Navigačka škola F. Arnuš

Applications are also being processed for schools in Brazil, Caribbean and Turkey

ISSA Web Site

Have you registered for the Members Room yet?

Even though you are already a member of ISSA, you still need to register for the new site

Council Members Wanted

Would you be prepared to give up some time to be a member of the Council? Most of the business is carried out by email so it is not too difficult. If you are interested please contact

President@sailingschools.org

Translators Needed

Can you help to translate this newsletter or the web site into your own language to help other members in your country?

[SPAM] Email

Spam email is a problem that we all suffer with. The ISSA email address has also been 'highjacked' to send spam email so my emails may be going straight to your spam folder.

ISSA is a world-wide organisation which means that I can receive up to 400 spam emails a day. Because some member emails are not getting past my spam filters, I need to check every email in the spam folder ☹

To help with this problem, please add the ISSA email address and 'ISSA' to your approved list. When sending an email, please include 'ISSA' and your school name in the title of the email to help me identify valid emails.

If you send an email and do not get an answer within seven days, please send it again.

Important Email Addresses

Emails from the President (Joan) and Exec Director (Ralph) are not always getting through

Please check your email system to make sure that the following email addresses are not blocked as spam

President@sailingschools.org

ISSA@sailingschools.org

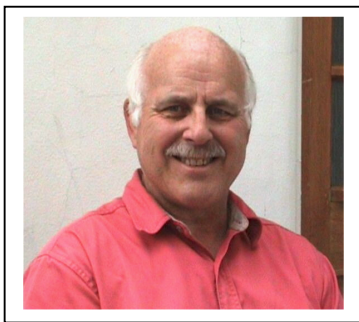
.. and finally

Best wishes to AC member Markus Griessler and his partner who had a baby girl Pia-Kathrin in November 2008.

Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press

Joan and Ralph have held an introductory meeting with ISAF to see how our the two organisations can work together to develop the new LSTP initiative (see next page for details).

Updates From the Executive Director



Whilst I am sitting at my computer writing this article, I have just realised that I have just celebrated my "ISSA birthday" – it is two years since I joined ISSA! At the time, it was obvious that there was lots of work to do to get ISSA back on an even keel so I really ought to take the opportunity of reviewing what has been achieved to date.

Membership Database

The database was one of my biggest problem areas, because without an accurate list of members, it is impossible to communicate with everyone. I had inherited three different versions of the database which included some members who had already resigned and did not list some new members.

My hope had been that as soon as I sent out membership invoices, everyone would pay their fees and send me lots of emails with the correct information. Sadly many schools on the database did not pay their membership fees!

Over the last two years, contacts with members along with much searching of web sites etc have produced correct information and I am now confident that we have a true list of schools & organisations who wish to be members of ISSA

Overdue Membership Fees

Despite better contact, there are still a number of members who have not paid membership fees for the last two years

In 2007/08, the Council agreed that we would put a deadline on paying annual fees and anyone who was overdue after June 30th 2009 would be removed from the web site and their membership withdrawn. This action resulted in a number of schools paying overdue fees.

Unfortunately, this still left a number of schools who had not responded to emails for overdue fees. I was not happy to delete members from the web site, just in case it was my fault because I was not sending the invoices to the correct address.

2008/09 Membership Fees

At the 2008 AGM in Vienna, the Council decided that we should give everyone a final chance to pay outstanding fees. You will have now received your invoice for 2008/2009 membership fees, along with any fees owing from previous years.

I am afraid that now is the time to be firm with members who do not pay their fees as it is not fair to members who have paid. Member who has not paid any fees since 2006/07 have been removed from the web site. Most remaining members have paid their fees this year. Members who have been paying annual fees will be given until 30th April, before they are removed from the web site

New ISSA Web Site

When I joined ISSA, the web site was in the process of being transferred to a different server in the USA. This transfer meant that we could also make the change to a CMS based site which is easier to update information to the web site.

This change has certainly made my job easier but it has taken some considerable time to learn how to update information and create new pages etc.

New Web Site Pages

The **Latest News** page has been added this year but I have to say that providing regular news to put on this page is a problem. This page is not just for ISSA to make announcements to our members, but also for any member who wishes to promote their school.

If your school has received any awards or has done something special which you would like to tell everyone about - *please tell me and I will put it on the Latest News page*

The **Where to Sail** page has always been, a good site to promote your school. If your school logo or information about your school is not displayed - **why not?** The schools who have used this opportunity look so much better against those that just show a name and address.

Free Advertising

Don't forget, our web site is free advertising for you. I receive many requests from people who ask me to recommend a sailing school in a particular county. If there is lots of information about your school, it is much easier for me to recommend your school to potential customers.

Members Room

A priority this year is bringing the Members Room up to date. The information in this section is only available to ISSA members and will include archive information about ISSA - minutes, accounts, standards etc

Our intention to also include information which will help members to improve their schools. It may be that you have organised a particularly successful special event or promotion or have run a trade/boat show stand.

New Pages for the Members Room

Would you be interested in a member to member discount scheme? If you are an Industry Member or know of companies that offer special discounts to ISSA members – let me know & I will put details in the Members Page.

I would really like to see a page for the exchange of instructors. Would you be interested in sending one of your instructors to another country to gain experience or take someone for a few weeks to give them experience? If so, let me know & I will add a page in the Members Room

ISSA Certificates

This year, you will have received your new ISSA membership certificate and free student certificate which covers levels 1 - 3. New certificates will be issued on receipt of your annual membership fees.

Looking Into The Future.....

The one major objective that is high on our list is that all schools should have access to an accreditation scheme. This is a major problem for countries that do not have a national scheme. We have made considerable efforts to find solutions to this problem, one option has been to help schools in Poland to set up their own accreditation scheme.

In November 2008, ISAF launched the Learn To Sail Training Program (LSTP) which provides templates for countries to set up a national accreditation scheme which in itself is accredited to ISAF. See www.sailing.org/learntosail.php

This is a major step towards improving standards of sail training and we are looking forward to supporting ISAF in the promotion, installation and development of national LSTPs in the near future.

...and finally

I will be going into hospital on 4th April for a hip replacement. Please accept my apologies if I am slow in replying to emails