

Superyachts and Croissants in St. Barths

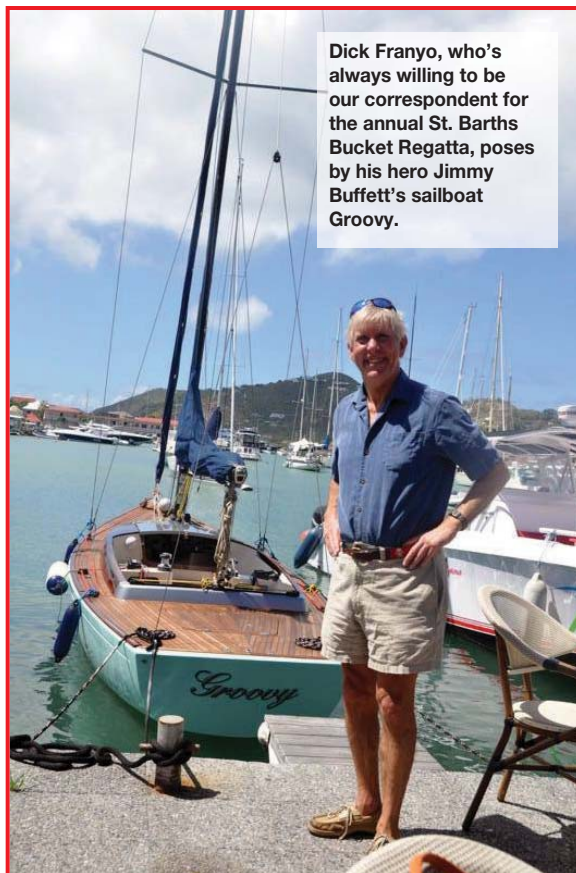
by Dick Franyo

The St. Barths Bucket Regatta (March 24 to 27) celebrated its 25th anniversary with 40 gorgeous yachts ranging in size from *White Wings* at 76 feet (grandfathered because she was in the first Bucket) to the largest sloop, *Mirabella* at 247 feet, and of course, the *Maltese Falcon* at 289 feet. Under the new management of Peter Craig and Premiere Racing, the event provided three days of perfect weather and great sailing in what has become the world's leading superyacht regatta where "fun is first." Hank Halsted, who ran it for a decade, is still around as a Bucket director and keeper of the Bucket spirit. Sponsorship comes from the superyacht builders.

Part of Craig's race committee this year was Solomons sailor Herb Reese, who has volunteered for Premiere Racing for 10 years. He and Don Behrens (PRO for the Screwpile Regatta and other events) got "drafted" and toughed it out in St. Barths for the week. "Don and I know that being part of the team means taking on the tough assignments without complaint," says Reese.

Well I, having been done in by the after-parties and chocolate croissants, left too early. ("I must have missed the chocolate croissants," says Reese.) Jimmy Buffett, who sailed a couple days before leaving for rehearsals for this summer's tour, was seen in the Baz Bar the day following my departure. Timing is everything. Oh well, next year. Yes SpinSheet, I will accept the assignment again—just for you.

About the Author: Dick Franyo is the owner of the Boatyard Bar & Grill in the Eastport section of Annapolis.



Dick Franyo, who's always willing to be our correspondent for the annual St. Barths Bucket Regatta, poses by his hero Jimmy Buffett's sailboat Groovy.



The ultra modern 289-foot clipper sailing yacht, the Maltese Falcon by night in St. Barths.



Yeah, we're jealous. The yachts in the St. Barths Bucket ranged from 76 feet to 247 feet long.