



Around the World

The 22nd Annual Marlow Spring Rendezvous will be remembered for its global appeal.

By Steve Davis

One thing that Marlow yacht owners have is an understanding of travel. Most have been boaters and yacht owners for years and have experienced a world of adventure through their love of cruising. In fact, the Marlow Marine Cruising Club includes people from all over the world who share a unique camaraderie with fellow owners. As such, the 22nd Annual Marlow Spring Rendezvous was appropriately themed “Around the World.”

The Faro Blanco Resort & Yacht Club in Marathon played host for the three-day event. Faro Blanco offers an ideal setting just east of the Seven Mile Bridge in the Florida Keys, where yachts are secure in the protected marina marked by a landmark lighthouse. Facilities include 74 state-of-the-art slips each equipped with waste removal and water connection. The marina also offers onsite fuel, 24-hour security, Internet, a dockside ship’s store, onsite accommodations, and restaurant.

Always Learning

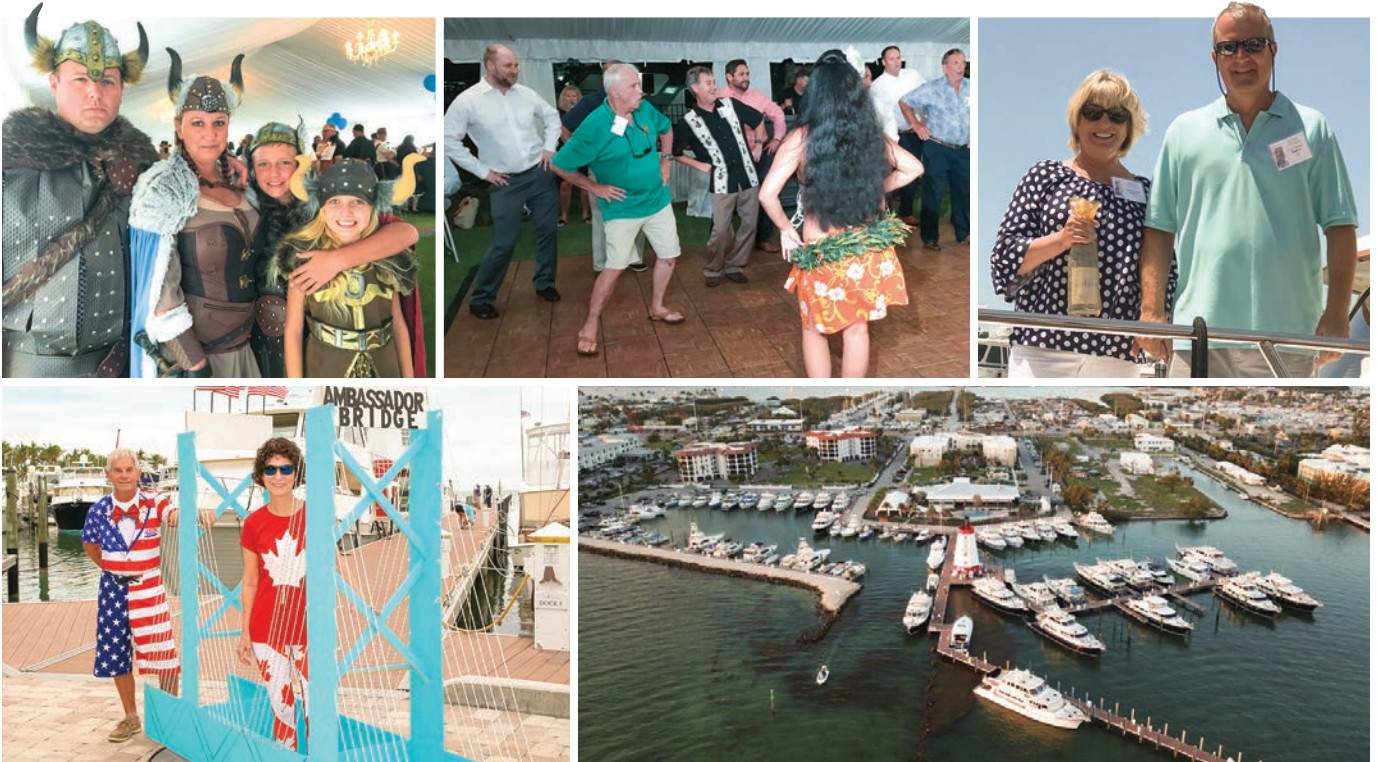
A rendezvous conjures up visions of celebration with plenty of food and drink, which definitely happened, but Marlow Marine is known for its personal touch and customer appreciation and made the extended weekend event much more.

Friday and Saturday morning began with a series of

sponsored seminars that covered a variety of topics: how to get the most out of your yacht through engine maintenance; desalination and water makers; satellite technology, and new products to make cruising easier. David Marlow himself concluded the series by sharing new ideas and projects he and the company have been developing.

One of particular interest was the concept of a remote heat exchanger for the air conditioners. “Today’s systems are really good but can be improved,” says Marlow, who explained that because “critters” can come up inside the onboard systems through the seawater intake, the entire chiller system requires dismantling to clean out the seawater animals. “Instead of running the seawater through the very expensive chiller system, we ran it through a remote heat exchanger with simple end plates on it that you could pull out and take an ordinary brass rod or wooden dowel and run it down through the tubes and knock the little barnacles out.” The idea is to have cleaner water enter the chiller system and reduce maintenance time. With the exchanger and chiller as one unit, it takes days to dismantle and clean the system; the remote exchanger takes only about an hour. The setup is still being tested, but plans are to incorporate the system aboard Marlow yachts in the near future.

PHOTOS: (TOP LEFT) COURTESY OF THE DRINKING AROUND THE WORLD GANG; STEVE DAVIS



Clockwise from opposite page: The “Drinking Around the World” gang; Vicki and Greg Koch of Miss Vickie; the Gervais “Viking” family; learning the hula; Tom and Jackie Schanz of Perfect 10; Faro Blanco Resort & Yacht Club; John and Judy Slocum of Loveshack 3; Steven and Susan Kelly of SagaBoy

Now, to Celebrate

Although most of the afternoon activities on the first day were rained out, the clouds cleared way for the “It’s an Around-the-World Adventure” party. Owners and guests dressed up to represent all corners of the globe. From riding camels to Russian oligarchs to Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty, party-goers enjoyed an evening of cocktails, delicious food and live music. There was stiff competition for best costume, but the award went to John and Judy Slocum of *Loveshack 3* for bridging their Canadian and American nationalities.

Each year, it’s a joyous occasion to welcome new owners to the Marlow family, and nothing says “We’re glad you’re with us” and “Congratulations” more than a yacht christening. This time-honored tradition celebrated 10 yachts, some for their first Marlow and others for their new second or third, such as Cliff and Georganne Williams of *Exitus*, Ray Rosenberg and Linda Spell Merlynn of *Irish Mist*, Kristen and Bob Ward of *Tide the Knot*, and Tom and Jackie Schanz of *Perfect 10*. There was nothing but sunshine this Saturday afternoon as champagne brought smiling faces, good luck and wishes for safe travels to all.

As the sun worked its way down for another day, the smartly dressed guests came together one last time for the Marlow Marine Cruising Club Awards Dinner. The Caribbean islands played in guests’ imaginations as the sound of steel drums welcomed them to cocktails, and

then the sounds of the Hawaiian Islands set the mood for dinner. The party really heated up when Polynesian dancers entertained with the traditional hula along with the fire dance, but laughter broke out when the men and ladies took turns learning to sway their hips and wave their arms. It was a sight to behold.

The True Meaning

“Around the World” may have been this year’s theme, but the impression that stood out the most this weekend was the enthusiasm for and trust these owners have in their yachts along with a zest for the boating lifestyle. “I was always impressed with the way Marlow did things and just the way they treated you when you were there,” says Greg Koch of *Miss Vickie*. “The quality and finish of the boats and the knowledge of the people that took you through, I feel privileged to own a Marlow. It’s safe, smart, well-built—and the engine room!”

Tom Noble of *Nobility* is equally impressed and conveyed his appreciation for the detail and how the yacht is built. “The people are really good, and the boat really runs well,” says Noble. “And I like the idea I can get up to 27 knots.”

As the yachts departed from the marina just after sunrise Sunday morning, the words of John Slocum of *Loveshack 3* rang in my ear. “It’s just absolutely done right.” I wasn’t sure if he meant the yachts or the event and surmised that it was probably both. 🐡