



USSA Supports the Superyacht Industry in St. Maarten, Miami, Seattle and Fort Lauderdale 2009 events promote U.S. businesses through networking and advocacy.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – April 20, 2009 – The United States Superyacht Association (USSA) coordinated four successful networking events during the first months of 2009: St. Maarten (N.A.), Miami, Seattle, and Fort Lauderdale.

The annual **Captains Briefing & Reception, held in St. Maarten in January**, gathered nearly 100 industry captains (who were berthed there) to discuss such issues as visas & immigration, foreign-flagged vessel entry into U.S. waters, doing business with U.S. refit yards and piracy. A delegation of over 20 member companies traveled for a mini-trade show and two days of networking with the attending senior officers and the many vessels in port.

Six USSA members shared a large booth at the **Yacht & Brokerage Show in Miami Beach in February**. On two evenings during the show, there were member-sponsored events in the USSA booth, providing opportunities for both business-to-crew and business-to-business networking.

Members of the USSA, including several of the Board of Directors, went to **Seattle in late February to support the North West Captain's Association and the Pacific NW Yachting Association for a monthly captains meeting**. They toured several local shipyards, learned about the local (Pacific NW) issues affecting the superyacht industry and set groundwork for future cooperative projects. Dan Wood, President of the North West Captain's Association, commented, "The USSA's presence was responsible for the event's largest gathering on record, as well as the largest contribution to our chosen charity, The Forgotten Children's Fund. We work all year long to raise money to purchase, wrap and deliver Christmas gifts to the needy children of Washington State."

In April, Lauderdale Marine Center hosted a 2nd Thursday USSA Networking Event in Fort Lauderdale, where the newly-elected mayor of Fort Lauderdale, Jack Seiler, addressed a group of nearly 150 superyacht industry leaders, stakeholders and advocates. His continued support for the dredging of the ICW and the New River were complemented by his commitment to help facilitate the upgrade and expansion of the boat show facilities at Bahia Mar in order to accommodate large yachts. "The mayor's remarks were heartening in his acknowledgment of the issues and his support of local initiatives affecting superyachts," commented John Mann, chair of USSA's Advocacy Committee.

The next **Captains Briefing & Reception is June 22, in Newport (RI)**, an annual event scheduled every year to coincide with the opening of the Spring Charter Show. "We will promote, through networking and advocacy, to the charter fleet of large vessels that go to the northeast at this time of year," commented Julie Lynn, Administrator of the USSA.

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The U.S. Superyacht Association (USSA) is a non-profit trade association, whose stated mission is to protect and promote the superyacht industry of the United States. Membership is open to businesses and individuals having a bona fide U.S. presence and activity in the U.S. superyacht industry.