

CONVOY CUP

North Sea Race

Welcome to Skudeneshavn

Skudeneshavn is located on the southern part of the island of Karmoy, with the North Sea right outside the door. It is an old maritime port, one of the great maritime ports in Norway, during the sailing ships age. Most of the old wooden houses are still remaining, and Skudeneshavn some years ago won the prize as the town with the second best preserved wooden houses in Norway. It is also proclaimed as the Norwegian "Summer Town". Every summer, in the first week of July, the "Skudefestival" take place. The Skudefestival is one of Norway's coast culture festivals, with 35.000 visitors and 600 visiting boats.

Through the history, a major part of the population in Skudeneshavn has got their outcome from fishing and marine activities. That was also the situation when World War II started. A considerable number of the town's population, served in the Norwegian Merchant Marine, when the war started. After the war, Skudenes Seaman's Association, have put great effort in giving the war sailors the honor they deserve. Among other things, a "wall of honour" is put up in Skudenes Seaman's Association's club house in Skudeneshavn, with pictures of all the war sailors and their medals in war.

In 2005, the Norwegian Consul in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mr. Steinar Engeset, visited Skudenes Seaman's Association. He told us about an honoring arrangement that have been performed in Halifax since 2002 (Convoy Cup) and later on also in Risør, Norway. The Convoy Cup is a sailing race in remembrance of the great contribution to the victory in WW2, performed by the Norwegian Merchant Marine. Mr. Engeset invited us to establish a similar event here in Skudeneshavn. We took the challenge, established a very useful cooperation with "Karmoy Sailing Club" and the first race took place in 2006. Since then, Convoy Cup Race is an annual event here in Skudeneshavn.

We have every year, had great support of local sponsors, with Solstad Shipping as our main sponsor. Also the The Royal Norwegian Navy, have giving us great support. The Navy is participating with at least one vessel every year, taking the war veterans on a cruise at the race location, during the race. In the evening, we have a memorial gathering, where the war veterans are our honoured guests, and where we have well known historicans and also war veterans, as lecturers. The feed back from the old veterans is very positive. They express gratefulness for that finally there is somebody that give them honour for the war effort they contributed with, during WW2.

This year, we will extend The Convoy Cup event further, by arranging a race from Skudeneshavn to Kirkwall, Orkney Island, **CONVOY CUP NORTH SEA RACE**. To be able to perform this, we have involved two more associates, **Stord Sailing Club** and **Orkney Sailing Club**. This new race starts in Skudeneshavn 5th of July. During the stay in Skudeneshavn, there will be different social activities for the race participants, and we

are sure that the participants will be given the greatest welcome, at arrival in Kirkwall. All that are interested in participating in this race, are most welcome to Skudeneshavn, in the first week-end of July 2009.

Convoy Cup Committee Karmoy
Per K. Vik
Chairman