



Welcome to the first edition of what will be a regular newsletter intended to keep our Owners, Managers, Seafarers & business associates updated about what is new at SKANReg and in St. Kitts & Nevis. If you would like to make any comments or have any contributions for future newsletters contact Jas Virdi at SKANReg

Firstly an introduction to the nation of St. Kitts & Nevis

Situated in the northern section of the Eastern Caribbean it is approximately 1,300 miles southeast of Miami, Florida. The name St. Kitts is a shortened form of its official name, St. Christopher, given to it by Christopher Columbus when he first landed there in 1493. The inhabitants call themselves Kittitians. Nevis is named after the Spanish word for snow—not because there is any but because of a white cloud surrounding the islands single peak. The inhabitants are known as Nevisians. St. Kitts became Britain's first colony in the West Indies with the founding of a settlement in 1623. In 1983, the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis gained independence as a two-island nation within the British Commonwealth. It is a Parliamentary democracy. Today, St. Kitts & Nevis is developing a distinct style and culture of its own. The official language is English.

Now the Ship Registry

Since our inception in early 2005, we have registered nearly 300 ships with a total deadweight approaching 900,000 dwt. We hope to break the 1 million mark within early 2007. Our aim is to increase this to 1.5M dwt within 2007. Our fleet has ranged from non-propelled barges, through a range of cargo ships, tankers, passenger ships, yachts and also an oil rig. Ages are again a range from newbuilding yachts, bunker barges and small craft to some elderly ladies of good vintage. We have addressed many issues in our growth, one of the most important of which was ISO Quality Assurance accreditation attained, with the assistance of ABS, in August 2006. Our High Commissioner to the UK, Dr. James Williams received the certificate on behalf of the Government in a ceremony on World Maritime Day 28th September. Our network of regional Maritime Registrars continues to grow and numbers nearly 30. Our policy is to have a local contact for owners to deal with, so avoiding both time-zone difficulties, but allowing them to have a local support and information centre for when Head Office is not open.

Our website www.StKittsNevisRegistry.net is also a valuable source of information.

We have just signed a contract with Diletta Systems of Germany for the supply of software and equipment to process applications for seafarers documents and produce Seafarer's Books and Certificates with enhanced security features. Diletta are a leading supplier of equipment for producing identity documents with enhanced security features.

St. Kitts Financial Services

St. Kitts, one of the more recent international financial centres to emerge in the world, can offer every investor what he or she is looking for. It is the home of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange, which are two important pillars of the Regional Financial Sector. St. Kitts has more than 50 Attorneys at Law practising which is more than one lawyer per thousand persons. Therefore legal services that are always required in an investment environment are not in short supply. Being a relatively new international financial centre, St. Kitts has had the benefit of working through and observing the international initiatives against money laundering and terrorism. They also have the flexibility to respond to market needs and demand to ensure that they are in a position to accommodate customers' requirements.

Nevis Financial Services

The Nevis International Financial Services sector was launched in 1984 with the enactment of the Nevis Business Corporation Ordinance. In recognition of the benefits that could accrue to the economy of Nevis and its citizens, the administration enacted a series of legislation from 1994 to 1996 which was specifically tailored to meet the needs of trusts, limited liability companies and offshore banks and provide a wide range of other financial services aimed at the enhancement of the facilities of our international financial services industry. The Nevis Island Administration recognises the need to be increasingly vigilant to maintain the island's high degree of integrity. In pursuit of this goal, Government has made significant efforts in restructuring its legislation to ensure that there are no loop-holes which would encourage illegal activity.





Tourism

Under the slogan – *The Next Caribbean Adventure* – efforts to promote & encourage tourism continue to grow. The nation is already home to 5* Marriott & Four Seasons resorts. Oceans Edge is a US\$ 100M construction of residential property in the North Frigate Bay Area. St. Kitts could soon be the home of a Ritz-Carlton Hotel – one of the grand hotels and resort companies of the world. The multi-million dollar project, will see the construction of a hotel resorts, marina, golf course & villas. Heritage Plantation & Kittian heights will also see hotel & residential developments, including marinas for up to 400 yachts. At a recent National Economic Council meeting the Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas told the 200 participants that despite the challenges, St. Kitts and Nevis continues to see on a daily basis the confidence that domestic and foreign investors have in the potential of St. Kitts and Nevis by the high level of investment taking place.

Cricket World Cup 2007

St. Kitts will host the World Champions Australia plus South Africa, Holland and Scotland for the “Orange Group” of matches to be played between 14 & 24th March 2007 in the newly refurbished Warner Park National Stadium. Warner Park opened successfully in May 2006 with its first ever One-Day International followed by its maiden Test match in June 2006. This stadium continues to undergo fine-tuning and when outfitted with tournament overlay will have a seating capacity to 12,000. CWC is the 5th largest audience participation event in world sport. Over 6,000 visitors are expected during this event, including 4,000 alone from Australia.



Latest News & Developments at St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry
First Biennial Seminar for Maritime Registrars

The Institute of Marine Engineers Conference Centre in London was the venue for 1st Biennial Seminar for our Maritime Registrars. 24 came from around the world, plus representatives of our business & technical consultants. They were given a presentation by the International Registrar, Mr Nigel E Smith, about St. Kitts & Nevis, future developments of SKANReg & a talk by the High Commissioner, about the changes from an agricultural sugar-dominated economy to the service-orientated employment opportunities. Over 100 business associates, including owners, lawyers, bank & Class representatives then joined them for a buffet reception.

Marine Accident Investigators International Forum

St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry has been accepted for membership of the “Marine Accident Investigators International Forum”. The objectives of MAIIF are:

- *To foster, develop and sustain a co-operative relationship among national marine investigators for the purpose of improving and sharing of knowledge in an international forum.*
- *To improve maritime safety and the prevention of pollution through the dissemination of information gained in the investigative process.*
- *To encourage through co-operation the development, recognition, implementation and improvement of related international instruments, where appropriate.*



SKANReg praised for assistance when a ship was hijacked by pirates

St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry has been praised by the Dr Abbas H.Ahmed of the Dubai-based Owners of “Veesham 1” for the prompt assistance & intervention when “Veesham 1” was recently hijacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia. The Anti-Piracy unit of the IMB was contacted by SKANReg, who then arranged for US Navy force representatives to visit Veesham Shipping and liaised with France Telecom and Somalian authorities to bring about an end to the hijacking.

New initiatives to encourage Pleasure Yacht registrations

St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry has re-vamped its fees & procedures for the registration of Pleasure Vessels to make it more attractive to Owners of these craft. The initiatives include development of National Regulations; a simpler application process; allowances for when Pleasure Vessels are laid-up and an overhaul of registration fees. Discussions are also underway with representatives of the developers of marinas (see above) to encourage boat users of such marinas to flag with SKANReg. A National Code for Commercial Yachts is also under development.



Technical Office relocated to Basseterre, St. Kitts

St. Kitts & Nevis International Ship Registry has relocated its Technical Office to St. Kitts. Alan Crass, Technical & Survey Manager, has since September been giving assistance on technical and survey matters to the Department of Maritime Affairs and locally based owners.



Finally, at this time of year, we would like to send Seasons Greetings to all our Shipowners, Shipmanagers, friends, colleagues and shipping associates, thank them for their support and wish all our readers a Merry Christmas & a Happy and Prosperous 2007.

In accordance with our custom, we will not be sending out greetings cards at this time of year, but making a contribution to the “Mercy Ships” shipping charity.