



For immediate release  
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**Sailonline.org partners with Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club  
to bring the virtual Rolex China Sea Race 2016  
to armchair sailing enthusiasts around the world.  
Race start time: Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 1320 HKT (0520 UTC)**

**Sailonline.org** is pleased to announce that it is partnering with **Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club** for the second time to bring the virtual version of the 565 nautical mile Rolex China Sea Race 2016 right to your fingertips (or mouse!).

The virtual race on Sailonline will run at the same time as the real race allowing armchair navigators to sail against the actual boats in the race with weather downloaded from NOAA being as close as possible to that experienced by the real fleet.



Originally created in the Naval Architecture Department of KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden - Sailonline.org today is probably the most realistic sailing navigation simulation on the internet, providing a realistic, entertaining and educational platform for those who love the sea and sailing, wherever they may be around the globe.

As a strategy simulator for ocean navigation, Sailonline is free to play and yet challenges both the novice and the expert, letting you sail your boat over oceans around the globe easier than you can imagine. But, as in real life, in order to sail fast and to ultimately win races, it requires full dedication, extensive practice, knowledge and working skills. There is a full and complete manual on how to sail on Sailonline to guide you, and its community of SOLers (one who sails on Sailonline.org) are always willing to advise and offer assistance.

Luckily, there are autopilots installed in all virtual boats so that you do not need to steer manually all the time. However, just as in reality, the more attention you pay to adjusting your course, the better you will do. You are in full sight of the entire virtual fleet, hence, Sailonline lets you race the boats you would otherwise just see from a distance or not at all.

Also, once again for the Rolex China Sea Race 2016, Sailonline is using the polar of a TP52 and will race against the local Hong Kong TP52 '*FreeFire*' and '*Standard Insurance Centennial*' from the Philippines.

At the time of writing, 33 yachts had entered the race ranging in size from the Swan 82 '*UBOX*' to the Jeanneau SunFast 3600 '*Ymir*'.

In cooperation with the Race's tracker provider, YB Tracking, Sailonline will be displaying IRC 0 and IRC 1 yachts on its virtual racing screen so armchair navigators can see how they are faring against the real fleet and in particular the two TP52s.

This dramatically enhances the interactive experience and is a great way for family and friends of crew members to be involved while following the yacht.

The virtual Rolex China Sea Race on Sailonline.org will open for practice soon. Between now and the start, Sailonline has other races scheduled and everyone is invited to come and join in so that they will gain the most fun out of the virtual Rolex China Sea Race 2016.

**To race, armchair navigators should head to [www.sailonline.org](http://www.sailonline.org) - it's all free.**

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### **About the Rolex China Sea Race**

On 7 April 1962, three yachts from RHKYC, one from Manila and one from Japan crossed the line at the start of the first China Sea Race. The yachts were escorted over the first 100 miles of their 600 mile journey by two minesweepers of the Hong Kong Royal Naval Reserve.

The finish was off Corregidor Island, crossing a line formed by vessels of the Philippines Navy, to be met by members of the Manila Yacht Club who had co-operated most generously with the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club in all the arrangements. Due to no radios being on board the yachts, Chris von Sydow's '*Reverie*' crossed the finish line after six days racing to find out that they were in first place.

The China Sea Race was subsequently held as a biennial event. In 1964 it attracted 12 entries and in 1966, 13, including the famous ketch '*Stormvogel*'. With each successive race, the event grew bigger. In 1968, it was included for the first time in the newly organised World Ocean Racing Championships and in 1972 it was officially recognised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club.

Since then it has continued to attract interest and, as an undisputed Asian blue-water classic, has served to draw the attention of the international yachting fraternity to Hong Kong and Southeast Asia.

**Official Race website: <http://www.rhkyc.org.hk/rolexchinasearace.aspx>**

**Follow the action on the race Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/RolexChinaSeaRace](http://www.facebook.com/RolexChinaSeaRace)**

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