

SEA CLOUD NEWS UPDATE

OFFICIAL CREW NEWSLETTER FROM
UNICREW MANAGEMENT LTD.



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Foreword

We are entering a new phase of the lockdown, perhaps a more relaxed and confident period during which we will see international air and sea travel restrictions being gradually lifted. Otherwise, the economic costs of the lockdown may be harder to bear than the pandemic's human cost. Yes, the world will have to learn to live with the virus and adopt a set of protocols that minimize the risk of transmission.

A global shutdown is unlikely to return anytime soon. But that doesn't mean we can start sailing in full capacity now. Air traffic is still mired in restrictions and social distancing squabbles. Tourist traffic is not a priority for the airlines right now. A new set of regulations will have to be adopted before we can raise our sails again.

Sea Cloud Hamburg just announced that all cruises for Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II will remain suspended till the end of September 2020. For Sea Cloud this means cancellation till 8th October; both vessels will remain moored at Las Palmas. Meanwhile, we will keep up our spirits and eagerly wait for news from Sea Cloud Spirit, on which work is going at full speed. Pictures of the outfitting are there for all to see. Sea Cloud Spirit promises to be a one-of-a-kind vessel in its class.



Crew Change June 2020

Sea Cloud II

Captain Pfenninger, **Joining 17th June**

Chief Engineer Rajkovic, **Joining 17th June**

Electrician Ianculescu, **Joining 17th June**

Chief Engineer Buleandra, **Leaving 18th June**

Electrician Bacaoanu, **Leaving 18th June**

Captain Whittaker, **Leaving 20th June**

AB Felric Lasay, **Leaving 6th July**

Rigger Clyde Taypa, **Leaving 6th July**

DH John Lorono, **Leaving 6th July**

Fitter Wilfred Sumayod, **Leaving 6th July**

Head Laundryman Albert Sales, **Leaving 6th July**

Laundryman Sandy Domingo, **Leaving 6th July**

Sea Cloud

Chief Engineer Subotic, **Joining 3rd July**

Captain Svdensen, **Joining 12th July**

Chief Engineer Konchak, **Leaving 4th July**

Bosun Mamikon Akopyan, **Leaving 3rd July**

Rigger Bernard Capacio, **Leaving 6th July**

Oiler Nelson De Lara, **Leaving 6th July**

Oiler Floriano Gara, **Leaving 6th July**

Head Laundry Rachelle Cano, **Leaving 6th July**

Cabin Stwd Milan Soriano, **Leaving 6th July**

Captain Komakin, **Leaving 15th July**



The View from Sea Cloud

We asked Masters Komakin and Whittaker on their thoughts and experiences of these past 3-4 months. Here's what they had to say.

Q: As the Coronavirus lockdown took effect everywhere, how do you remember the disembarkation of passengers before the vessel went on lay-up? Any notable incidents?

A: No incidents. I just remember that all disembarking passengers wanted to shake hands as it was in the past, and to say thank you for the good time and their stay on the ship, but at the last moment they would remove their hand in fear when they remembered the health warning.

Q: What do you think is going to happen in the coming months? Is Sea Cloud ready for full capacity sailing by late summer?

A: Yes, we are ready, but it depends on the new (safety and health) regulations expected to come because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It's the same like on shore when restaurants are allowed to re-open.

Q: Would you say that July-August 2020 would be a pragmatic timeframe for Sea Cloud to resume sailing?

A: Based on all the information we have right

now, and the new regulations and restrictions that are expected to come, I would say October-November 2020 is a more likely date.

Q: What special measures would be (and should be) taken to protect the lives and health of crew and passengers when the Sea Cloud returns to regular sailing?

A: COVID-19 test before joining the ship, thorough disinfection, and observing protection measures during travel and before boarding ship.

Q: What changes in the passenger's on-board experience can we expect when the Sea Cloud finally resumes its normal sailing schedule?

A: I don't think that will change. I bet that all our passengers will love to come back and resume sailing with us and they do miss Sea Cloud, its crew, and sailing.

Q: Similarly, will the crew work-life experience change in any significant way when the Sea Cloud finally resumes its normal sailing schedule?

A: After a long time, the crew were waiting to start work. They are "hungry for work" and I think that the crew will start working with enthusiasm and full energy. They will be happy to sail again and to meet all their friends.



Letter from Sea Cloud II

Hi Everyone!

I'm disembarking the Sea Cloud II today and taking a little time to reflect on the past few months during this unprecedented time.

What a wild ride it has been!! None of us would have predicted such an abrupt halt to our Caribbean sailing season. But that is exactly what happened as COVID-19 spread around the world.

The first task took a few days with careful planning (and a lot of phone calls!), but we managed to safely assist our passengers to reach their final flights home.

What followed? A great evening for the crew to unwind, days of cleaning and inventories, a couple of swim calls, crazy card games and... plenty of wondering what was next.

Well, the next step was that the most of our SCII crew were flown to their home countries. Another adventurous ride. Some made it straight home where they were isolated with family while others were sent to 14 or 28-day government quarantines first. While our Filipino crew got stuck in Manila for several months before they got to their home provinces and yet another quarantine.

On board the SCII, we remained at anchor for a few weeks in our own isolation, not allowed ashore. Then we met up with SC and lazily made our way across the Atlantic Ocean with the most fantastic crossing weather ever!! (Sorry if you missed it!!) A few movie nights, Karaoke night and a mid-ocean photo safari!

Now, 2+ months in Las Palmas — a quiet place to be with warm weather and plenty of sunshine. We keep working to prepare the ship for our return to normal service one job at a time. The ship is quiet and empty — she longs for her crew and passengers to come back on board.

We are optimistic that we will set sail again in the near future, perhaps with some new procedures to follow and definitely a new awareness by all of us.

We will continue to move forward, looking towards that day we all get back on board to welcome our guests to go sailing again!

In the meantime, stay rested, be well and keep smiling!!

See you soon!!

Kathryn Whittaker



C.E. Florin Ene, R.I.P.

June was a sad month for Sea Cloud and Unicrew with the passing of CE Florin Ene, a long-time colleague and friend. He was 46 years old and suffering from a lung disease.

Florin had been working with us since 2008, when he started as 2nd Engineer and was quickly promoted to Chief Engineer. Such was his professionalism and ability that he was assigned as Superintendent for the Hansa Office and the China New Building team. Florin's last assignment at sea was onboard the Sea Cloud II, where he disembarked November 2019.

Florin was a gentleman and a true professional. He will be dearly missed and our condolences are with his family at this sad time. Onboard Sea Cloud II, in Florin's memory, the Skysail yard was scandalized, a tall ship tradition when someone from the sailing community passes.

Fairwinds, our friend.





From Jason's Desk

Dear Crew,

Congratulations and warm wishes to all seafarers worldwide for the 10th anniversary of the Day of the Seafarer, which was observed on 25th June this year. Somehow, this year, it seems the world has finally woken up to the challenges and hurdles that seafarers face in their line of duty. The lack of crew change opportunities amid the COVID-19 pandemic was one disaster that could have been avoided had governments and political leaders showed some sensitivity to the plight of seafarers trapped on vessels because of the lockdown.

Undoubtedly, seafarers have emerged as the silent heroes of the global fight against Coronavirus, suffering untold indignities and uncertainty to maintain the flow of essential goods such as food, fuel, medicines and medical supplies. This year in particular, the IMO has earmarked 25th June to highlight the sacrifices our seafarers are making every day under difficult work conditions, unable to go home because of travel restrictions.

The IMO wants to raise awareness on the plight of seafarers and campaign to designate seafarers as key workers so that they are provided the support, assistance and travel options open to all key workers. We fully support the IMO in taking this initiative forward and hope seafarers worldwide will receive the recognition they deserve as indispensable drivers of the global economic engine. We also plead with governments everywhere to facilitate crew change and repatriation in a dignified and orderly manner.

On the occasion, IMO secretary-general Mr. Kitack Lim said: "Just like other key workers, seafarers are on the front line in this global fight. They deserve our thanks. But they also need — and deserve — quick and decisive humanitarian action from governments everywhere, not just during the pandemic, but at all times."

A lot has happened in the last four weeks since our inaugural newsletter. We have seen our first crew changes onboard the Sea Cloud II and we



have several yet planned for the upcoming weeks, subject to flight restrictions (see Page 2).

We welcome the joiners and bid good-bye to those going home after a long absence. Hope you have a wonderful shore leave and get to spend quality time with your family and loved ones. Take care! Stay safe!

Reports from the Philippines say incoming flights to Manila are being reduced to contain the risk of fresh transmission. Upon return, overseas workers are immediately tested for COVID-19 and sent to quarantine till the test results are available.

We have added extra procedures for our joining crew, including the need for COVID-19 tests and temperature recording for some 14 days prior to joining, all aimed at effecting a "safe crew change" and reducing the risk of infection.

For our crew ashore, we must wait a little longer until it is safe for both passengers and crew to start sailing again, we are all eagerly waiting for the opportunity to welcome you back onboard and we will keep you updated.

Photo Captions:

Page 1, Floor outfitting on Sea Cloud Spirit at the Vigo Shipyard in Spain; Page 2, Martin and Ritz celebrate their birthday on Sea Cloud II with special cakes to mark the occasion; Page 3, Sea Cloud crew take a break to keep the spirits high; Page 4, Captain Whittaker and Third Officer of Sea Cloud II making pancakes for a change; Page 5, Pictures of Sea Cloud Spirit getting outfitted for its scheduled launch in November 2020; Page 6 (top and middle), Crew on Sea Cloud II enjoying lay-up at Las Palmas, (bottom) Sea Cloud II crew in black pay solemn tribute to Florin Ene; Page 7, Sea Cloud family scandalized the sky-sail yard for Florin Ene.