

Nuclear Claims records being archived

The Nuclear Claims Tribunal has received a grant award from the Elsevier Foundation for a records preservation project. The funding paid for a visit to Majuro last week by certified archivist Dr. Trudy Peterson for the purpose of conducting an initial assessment of the Tribunal records.

The grant will also purchase a new scanner and computer that will be used to create a digital archive. Many of the records constitute evidence in support of more than \$2.3 billion in unpaid compensation awards for personal injuries and property damage.

Peterson worked with Tribunal staff Cathy Wakefield and Emma Gulibert and retired Public Advocate Bill Graham to go through Tribunal documents.

Graham made the point that the Tribunal record is still open for people to file claims even if for the time being it has no funding to pay awards. "We want to keep the record open to contribute toward a full assessment of the (nuclear test) damages," he said.

The Elsevier Foundation noted that the Tribunal was established in 1987 as part of a settlement agreement be-

tween RMI and the US government. The Tribunal library contains unique holdings with hundreds of scientific and medical reports, papers, articles and other documents relating to the nuclear weapons testing program conducted in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958. The goals of the proposed project are to organize, stabilize, and digitize the library holdings and official files of the Tribunal in order to ensure that those records can be made available to future researchers, students, decision-makers, and other interested parties.



Dr. Trudy Peterson with Cathy Wakefield.



'A glorious day for sailing'

Former Waan Aelon in Majel trainee Junior Walden Jack at the helm of Seal with Turner Langinbelik and Dakyon Konen sailing a WAM canoe in the background. Main photo by the yacht Celsius: The yachts Seal, De La Mer, and French Kiss and one of the three WAM canoes cross the start line of Sunday's race. On board the canoe are Mentil Laik and Rambo Libokmeto.

French Kiss wins MBYC race

KAREN EARNSHAW

The fifth and last race in the Mico Beach Yacht Club's 2011-12 season was significant in that for the first time ever there were more Marshallese citizens on the course than non-citizens.

After a season of races with either no wind or far too much wind, Sunday's event was held in glorious conditions with 15 to 20 knots of wind and sunny skies.

On the canoes, Mentil Laik teamed up with Rambo Libokmeto, Turner Langinbelik with Dakyon Konen, and Linton Baso with Sylvester Clement. Prizes were given for the canoes' first lap of the course, which took all the vessels from the Marshall Islands Resort to a buoy off Marshall Islands High School,

around the big ships and back to the start line. And the winner was — ta-da — Linton and Sylvester.

In the yacht division, which was a two-lap race, the boats all finished within four minutes of each on corrected time. The crew of the committee boat Celsius recorded third place going to De La Mer, second to Seal, and first to French Kiss.

The club's next event will be its 'end of season' sponsors and members dinner at the Marshall Islands Resort on Saturday, March 24, from 5:30pm. All are welcome to attend, with dinner costing \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. A visual history of the club, which is nearing its 10th anniversary, will be shown at the bountiful bash.

Yachts boost RMI tourism

Over 100 people sailed into or were already in the Marshall Islands between January 1 to December 31, 2011, according to a report prepared by Mico Beach Yacht Club members at the request of the Marshall Islands Visitors Authority.

The report states that a total of 61 yachts with 117 people on board were in RMI during that period.

The majority of the yachts were US-flagged with other cruisers hailing from Japan, the Ukraine, New Zealand, France,

Germany, Canada and Switzerland.

Of this number, 13 yachts were in RMI for the whole 12 months, while 48 yachts spent an average of six months here.

A conservative estimate of each yacht's expenditure while in RMI is \$1,500 per month. Using the above data, this extrapolates to \$666,000 being spent in the local economy.

"This report shows how important the yachts are for RMI's tourism industry," said club Commodore Karen Earnshaw.



Yachts at Enemanet Island.

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