

Paper Birds For Peace



A great time to catch up socially and do some good at the same time. This group on one of Bangkok's back roads had all the ingredients; food, plenty of paper and friends around to help out.

The Prime Minister's call on November 17th for all Thais to make paper cranes for distribution in the South on December 5th in an effort to bring peace to the region was initially met with some scepticism.

But it seems that Thai people everywhere have taken it on board to show their countrymen in the south that they are also feeling their pain.

The Prime Minister wants 62 million of them made and they will be dropped by Air Force planes on the King's birthday.

The custom is a Japanese one where origami paper cranes are made if someone is taken ill or injured and you wish for their recovery.

The Prime Minister made one to start the ball rolling and even signed it saying the person who found that particular will be offered work or schooling if required.

Whether it works or not remains to be seen, but if it doesn't, it won't due to the crane makers lack of effort.

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Andaman Sea Rally 2005

ENTRIES REACHING
RECORD LEVEL

The 2005 Andaman Sea Rally is making its mark in the region with many yachts showing interest in taking part in this offshore Rally from Phuket to the Andaman Islands, India.

Established in 2003 by YSMO Events, the Rally has grown from strength to strength. The inaugural year saw five vessels take to the water, followed by nine in 2004.

To date, according to Gareth Twist, Director of YSMO Events, more than 20 boats have shown interest in joining the Rally this year

"More than 10 have entered online and many more have expressed interest in taking part. We are receiving emails almost on a daily basis from boats wishing to know more about the Rally," added Twist.

The Rally is open to both power and sail boats, and a recent addition to Phuket's waters, the 68ft Ferretti Double Issue, has confirmed it will be joining the Rally.

"It's great to see both power and sail out on the water enjoying the same event.

The Andaman Sea Rally is open to all types and all sizes of vessel, and offers a great way to visit the Andaman Islands - flotilla-style," said Twist.

The Andaman Sea Rally will take place from 4 - 20 January 2005.

For more details, visit www.andamansearally.com.

Motorcycle Helmets



Wearing a helmet when riding a motorbike is required by law in Thailand. As is an International license for the class of vehicle you are driving.

If you are renting a motorbike and plan to carry a pillion passenger make sure you get two helmets.

It is also a requirement to have the headlight on while riding.

Lost or Stolen Phones

Lost your phone but still need your number?

- (A) Make a police report about the stolen or lost phone.
(B) You can fax their Head Office with the details of the numbers and put a temporary hold on the SIM cards.
Take the police report to the office of whoever your carrier is AIS (Phuket City office only - 23-27 Chana Charoen Rd), Tell them what happened and they will replace the SIM card with a new one. For pre-paid cards, take a copy of your passport also.
It will, however, set you back 300 Baht (AIS), but if you have a bunch of business cards made up or advertising using the number, it is a small price to pay.