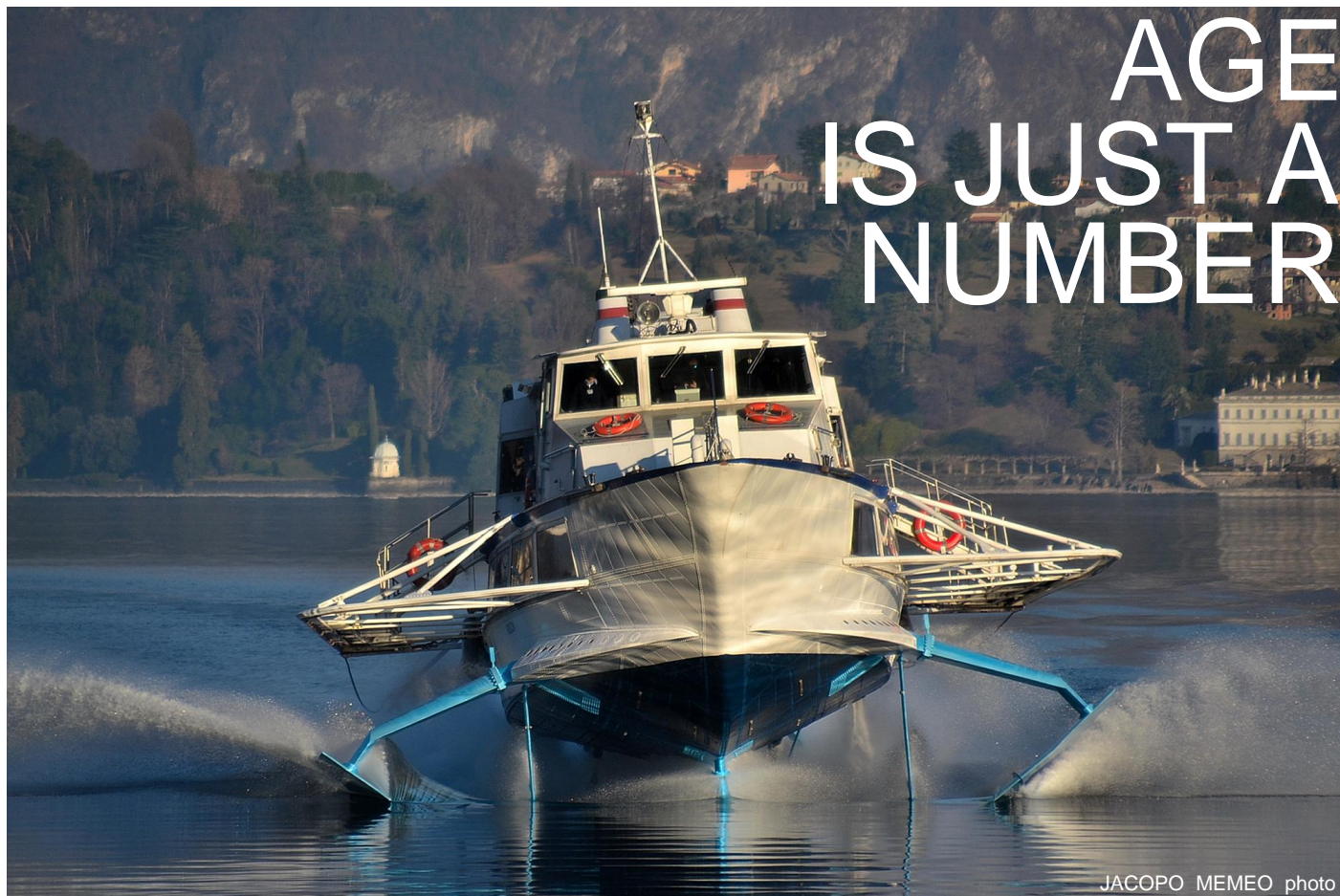


AGE IS JUST A NUMBER



JACOPO MEMEO photo

Happy 40th Birthday, *Freccia delle Valli*!

Delivered to Navigazione Lago di Como in 1979, this RHS 150SL is currently the oldest active hydrofoil in Italy. And it is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future as it had new engines installed only a couple of years back.

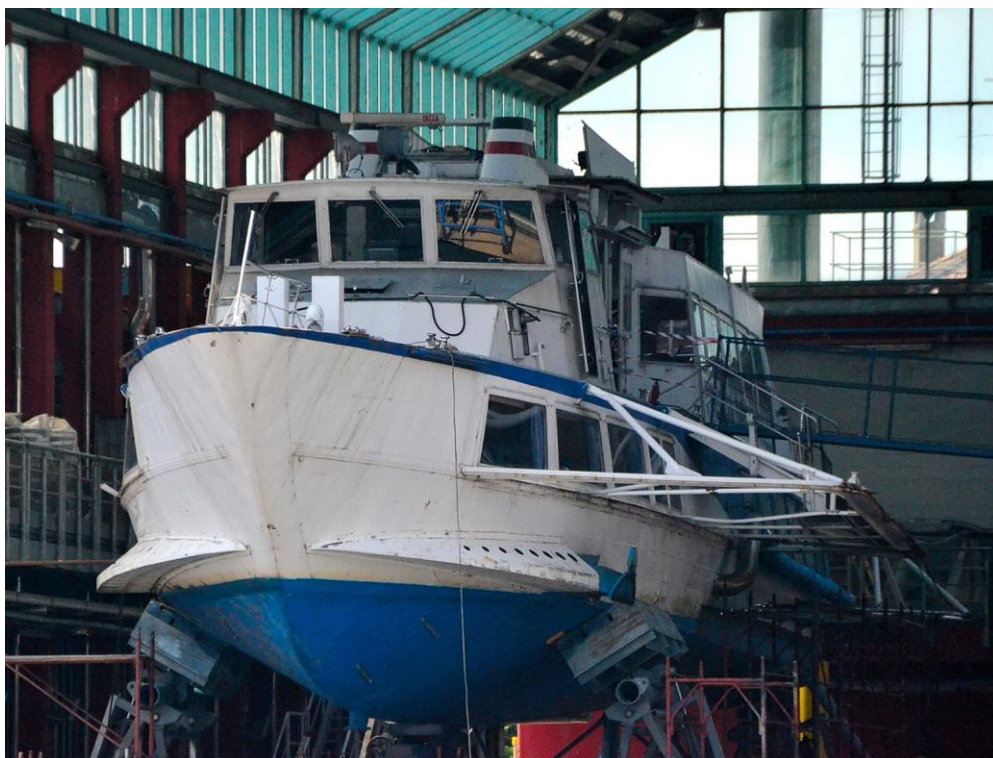
But it could have come to a premature end six years ago when in the early spring of 2013 the hydrofoil was involved in a collision with another vessel with the result that the bow foil was pushed slightly backwards and the starboard fender damaged. Following evaluation by the operator and Rodriguez experts it was decided to repair the hydrofoil. It re-entered service in early January 2015.

Thus, all the more reason to congratulate *Freccia delle Valli* and be delighted about it still going strong.

There is however another hydrofoil two years its senior on Lago di Como.

Delivered in 1977, RHS 70 *Freccia dei Gerani* originally entered service on Lago di Garda but was moved to Como in 1993. It was withdrawn from service some time back but remains intact.

In addition to these two, the Lago di Como hydrofoil fleet comprises another, likewise newly re-engined, RHS 150SL, *Guglielmo Marconi*, built in 1983,



Right : RHS 150SL *Freccia delle Valli* undergoing repairs to the forward foil at Dervio in July 2014
/ JACOPO MEMEO photo

and a pair of RHS 150FLs, *Volpire* and *Lord Byron*, delivered in 1989. The latter of these, as earlier reported on in CFF, was transferred from Lago Maggiore last June. Another recent, albeit smaller, development is the application of the new, simpler livery on *Guglielmo Marconi* similar to that introduced on *Lord Byron* in June.

MORE CLASSICS

Runner ups to the above vessels include RHS 150SL *Freccia dei Giardini* on Lago Maggiore, delivered in 1980, RHS 150SLs *Freccia delle Riviere* and *Galileo Galilei* on Lago di Garda, delivered in 1981 and 1982, and the sole RHS 200 *Superjumbo* which entered service with Aliscafi SNAV in 1981.

But there are hydrofoils older than *Freccia delle Valli* still in existence in Italy. Not having seen service for several years in most cases these include PT.50 *Nilo* (ex-*Freccia Adriatica*, 1969), RHS 140s *Spargi* (ex-*Curt Curt*, 1972), *Ducio* (ex-*Fabrizia*, 1977) and *Albino* (1977), and RHS 160s *Dionideia* (1975) and *Algol* (1978). **CFF**

RHS 150SL *Freccia delle Valli* and *Guglielmo Marconi* have just departed Bellagio in April this year. Both hydrofoils have been re-engined with MTU 2000 M72 V12 diesels in recent times
/ JACOPO MEMEO photo

