



A.B.S.A.R.

Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue

Antigua Yacht Club Marina
Falmouth Harbour , Antigua
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Telephone: (268) 562-1234 VHF: Channel 16
"So that others may live"



April 2013 Newsletter

Letter from the Director

The 2013 yachting season has so far been extremely busy for ABSAR volunteers. Our medic station continues to see increased numbers of walk-ins and fundraising has been a top priority in order to replenish the funds required to purchase our new rescue boat. The first annual Antigua Charity Golf Day in January, which benefited ABSAR this year, and our growing Wobbly Regatta in February, both proved to be huge successes. With the support of 34 yachts and businesses, we've printed our biennial t-shirts again with an all new design that we hope will be popular. Due to the recent support of so many yachts, businesses and individuals, we've decided to postpone our annual ABSAR dinner this year and are looking to hold it in November of this year. Our main focus for the summer months will be to launch our ABSAR Auxiliary program which will help us to better coordinate larger scale search and rescues like the one we had in November (see article on page 2). We are also in pursuit of finding a permanent home for ABSAR, that can accommodate all of our assets in a single location. We'll keep you posted.

Thank you for your continued support and have a safe and relaxing summer!

Max Freling – ABSAR Director

ABSAR Launches New Protector RIB

On January 27th, ABSAR launched our new 28' Protector rescue boat! Purchased with donations made by a number of generous ABSAR supporters, the vessel used in the London Olympics, was shipped from England to Antigua. Equipped with state-of-the-art Simrad electronics donated by Sven and Tim Ryder and Navico Electronics, our new vessel represents a significant improvement over our Rescue 1 boat in that it provides patients with a covered cabin and provides crewmembers with protection from the elements. In its first 11 weeks online, the boat has been operational for over 60 hours and has put on over 570 miles. A new lift has been ordered and will be installed at the Antigua Yacht Club dock in the next few weeks. Rescue 1 will continue to be used as a secondary vessel and will now be based at Crabbs Marina, offering ABSAR a much needed base of operations on the north side of the island. Thank you to all donors who made this acquisition possible!



ABSAR's New 8.5 Meter Protector



Over US\$20,000 Raised for ABSAR at Golf Tournament!

Thanks to the efforts of Anne Carson and Fiona Dennen, the first annual Antigua Charity Golf Day was a tremendous success! With a full turnout of 18 teams, yacht captains, crewmembers, and Cedar Valley Golf Club members enjoyed a fun day of golf and a wonderful sit down lunch afterwards. The winning team was headed up by none other than our world-famous cricket batsman, Richie Richardson. In addition to sponsorship monies and entry fees, a live auction, a silent auction and a well-supported raffle all helped to generate over US\$20K for ABSAR. A big thank you to all participants and to all sponsors, especially YCO, who helped to generate an additional anonymous donation of US\$61,000 to ABSAR!!

2013 Statistics to date

Medical Cases	171
Emergency Response Vehicle Calls	17
Miscellaneous Walk-Ins	261
Search and Rescue Assists	5
Rescue Boat Launches	5
Regattas/Events Supported	6

ABSAR's Safety Corner - Local Family Rescued Leading to ABSAR's Auxiliary Fleet

At 1317 on November 25th, 2012, ABSAR was notified that a man had received a call from his brother who was fishing on his 25' Wellcraft vessel, along with his two young boys and an adult male friend. They stated that they required assistance, as the vessel was taking on water east of Antigua. The call was made using a cell phone and was abruptly terminated as the phone entered the water. With this limited information, ABSAR launched their rescue boat and initiated search procedures off of the eastern banks of Antigua. The helicopter from Guadeloupe was dispatched, along with a Caribbean Helicopters aircraft, but by sunset, there were still no signs of either the vessel or the survivors. At least two vessels remained searching the area overnight. At sunrise the following morning, over 25 boats headed out to the search area, alongside a C-26 aircraft that had been dispatched from Barbados. At 0739, the aircraft spotted the overturned vessel. The four were rescued shortly thereafter, with the youngest boy in a state of unconsciousness due to severe hypothermia. All survivors have since recovered fully. This incident not only highlights the need for all mariners to be fully prepared when leaving the dock, but it also demonstrates the local community's extensive assets and ability to rally together in a time of need. One of ABSAR's main priorities is to coordinate these assets into a group called the ABSAR Auxiliary which will improve communication, coordination and effectiveness of all available assets in future large scale search and rescue operations. Please contact ABSAR if you are interested in joining!

2013 Wobbly Club BYOB Regatta Raises over EC\$17,000

On February 8th, 20 teams of all shapes and colors competed in grand style to somehow manage to get their homemade boats around a short race course off of the Catamaran Marina dock. Needless to say there were quite a few amusing casualties along the way! This year's winner was proudly from Chippy's Woodwork! Thank you to all sponsors, especially AYSS, Newport Shipyard, Catamaran Marina and Cambusa Restaurant and to all participants and spectators. See you again next year!



On the Wobbly Race Course

Goat Paahy!!

A special thank you to Steve and Jessica from the S/Y Seljm who raised US\$1848.07 for ABSAR!

ABSAR Merchandise for Sale

New "Marine Rescue" and 2013 ABSAR T-shirts and hats now available at the medic station. US\$20 Donation

ABSAR 2013 Sponsors

Platinum – Sven and Tim Ryder & Navico Electronics
Gold – Antigua Yacht Club Marina & Mill Reef Fund
Silver – Antigua Computer Technology, Antigua Marine Services, Digicel, Premier Motors, & St. James's Club
Bronze – Cloggy's Restaurant, Marine Power Services & Woodstock Boat Builders

Calendar of Events – 2013

Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta	April 18-23
Guadeloupe to Antigua Race	April 26
Antigua Sailing Week	April 27-May 3
Labour Day – public holiday	May 6
A and B Marlin Classic	May 17
A and B Sports Fishing Tourney	May 18-19
Whit Monday - public holiday	May 20
Antigua Carnival	July 27-August 6
J'ouvert Monday	August 5
Mango Festival	August
Frankie Nunes Fishing Tourney	September 27-28
Tinman Triathlon	October 20
Caribbean Dinghy Championship	November 15-17
ABSAR Dinner	November – TBA
Antigua Charter Yacht Show	December 6-12
Christmas Day in Dockyard	December 25
Jolly Harbour Regatta	December
Nelson's Pursuit Race	December 31

About ABSAR

A.B.S.A.R. is a registered non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1998. The organization is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready to assist with medical emergencies, marine and aerial search and rescues, as well as with marine based fires. We have a base at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina in Falmouth Harbour and our medic station is open 6 days a week. Our ambulance is used to transport patients to the hospital and to various doctors on island. Our 28' RIB, which is based at the Antigua Yacht Club, can be launched within minutes in the event of a callout. The organization is run by a group of volunteers. ABSAR is funded through donations and fundraising events. Copies of our Antigua registration and our latest financial report may be obtained from our office. **Directors:** Jonathan Cornelius, Julie Esty, Max Freling and Charles Shawcroft.