



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 2012 Newsletter

Letter from the Director

2012 has certainly been busy for ABSAR so far. The number of major and minor medical cases has increased dramatically. On many days, there is a constant flow of people coming into the medic station with a wide range of medical issues. We've been focusing on increasing the depth of our volunteer base and have a number of new ERV and RIB drivers who have recently completed their training. Our RIB continues to be busy supporting regattas and other events, as well as assisting vessels who've run aground or who need towing assistance. With recent substantial donations from the donors listed below, our marine rescue capabilities will strengthen significantly, improving our ability to assist those in need. Many thanks go out to all of our volunteers, supporters and donors who continue to keep ABSAR in operation! Here's to a safe Classic Yacht Regatta, Antigua Sailing Week and upcoming ocean voyages!

Charles Shawcroft – ABSAR Director

2012 Statistics to date

Medical Cases	191
Emergency Response Vehicle Calls	31
Miscellaneous Walk-Ins	300+
Search and Rescue Assists	6
Rescue Boat Launches	5
Regattas/Events Supported	5

2012 ABSAR Dinner

Our annual fundraising dinner was a big success, raising over EC\$64,000 this year! Cloggy's donated all of the food and service this year and did an amazing job serving 120 ABSAR supporters. Thank you Vanessa and Ton for your huge contribution! With live music playing on the lawn, Premier Beverage offered a wine tasting and Sunseakers provided a wonderful fashion show. Thank you to all contributors!



Jonathan and Charles wearing our new vests in our new jet RIB

ABSAR Receives Significant Donations

1. The Mill Reef Fund – US\$21,000 to be used for a thermal imaging viewer for night rescues and for fire fighting, a new GPS for our RIB and 6 sets of foul weather gear.
2. Brian and Jude Harrison – M/V Dione Sky – A used 24' Novurania jet RIB with Yanmar diesel engine and Hamilton jet drive.
3. Six Spinlock deckvest low profile life jackets – Spinlock

2012 Wobbly B.Y.O.B. Regatta

This year's Wobbly (Build Your Own Boat) regatta, sponsored by AYSS, the Catamaran Marina and Newport Shipyard, was a huge success, generating EC\$12,314 for ABSAR's operating fund. Twelve teams had 2 hours and 45 minutes to build their boats using two sheets of plywood, sail them around a course, pick up a mermaid and cross the finish line. Team Fenix, skippered by Shelly Chadburn, with her very own mermaid Ms. Sasha, won top honors. Cheating was encouraged (Cambusa's team certainly won in that department!) Participants and spectators all had a great day and agree that we should definitely make it an annual event!



Kenny and his mermaids



ABSAR Safety Corner – Dinghy Safety Emphasized

ABSAR has responded to two separate accidents involving dinghies in Falmouth Harbour this season. In one incident a small dinghy was struck by a larger dinghy resulting in a serious knee injury to one of the occupants in the small dinghy. The second more serious accident involved a dinghy running over a snorkeler, resulting in a very serious injury which was nearly fatal for the victim. Please keep the 5 knot speed limit in mind when maneuvering through the harbour and anchorages, ensure you have working navigation lights on while maneuvering after dark, and keep a watchful eye for obstacles.

Portuguese Man-of- War in Antigua

On April 1st, ABSAR was called out for a man-of-war sting victim at the St. James’s Club. The guest was snorkeling when he swam into the tentacles which then attached themselves to his back. A guest heard his yells and managed to scrape the tentacles off his back. In tremendous pain, he was administered antihistamines, cortisone and a muscle relaxant.



Photo: www.surfsports-gps.com

Man-of-War tentacles can reach lengths of over 50 meters. As they are technically not jellyfish, treatment is different than the normal vinegar and/or alcohol treatment used for jellyfish stings.

After scraping the tentacles off the skin, the area should be flushed with salt water, not fresh, as fresh water can make the pain worse. The most effective pain relief method has been to soak the area in hot water, which acts to denature the toxins. Vinegar should not be used on Man-of War stings as it has been shown to increase toxin delivery and to increase pain levels.

Calendar of Events

Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta	April 19-24
Antigua Sailing Week	April 29-May 4
Wadadli Music Festival	April 28
Antigua and Barbuda Sport Fishing Tournament	May 25-28
Longo Mai Golf Tournament	June 2 or 3
Antigua Carnival	July 28-Aug. 7
Mango and Pineapple Festival	August
Frankie Nunes Memorial Fishing Tournament and Seafood Fest	September 29
International Cricket Festival	November 13-18
Antigua Charter Yacht Show	December 2-8

ABSAR 2012 Sponsors

Platinum – The Mill Reef Fund

Gold – Antigua Yacht Club Marina

Silver – Antigua Computer Technology, Antigua Marine Services, Caribbean Helicopters, Digicel, Premier Motors, & St. James’s Club

Bronze – Marine Power Services & Woodstock Boat Builders

Upcoming Golf Tournament to Benefit ABSAR

Anne Carson and Fiona Dennen are currently organizing a charity golf tournament tentatively scheduled for January 20th, 2013 at Cedar Valley Golf Club. The first, of what will hopefully become an annual event, will benefit ABSAR! Thank you Anne and Fiona!



New ABSAR T-shirts for sale, only US\$20!

One of 3 fish hooks this year.

Donating to ABSAR

ABSAR relies entirely on donations and is appreciative of all contributions, both big and small. In 2010 we initiated our dockage donation program encouraging all yachts on the dock to donate 5 cents US per foot per day to ABSAR. We gladly accept financial donations, medical supplies for our medic station, as well as supplies and equipment for our marine operations with the rescue boat.

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 27' 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, Caroline Blatter, Julie Esty, and Charles Shawcroft.