



# ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB



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## "SOUNDINGS" NO: 11

***"All paid jobs degrade the mind" - Aristotle***

I suppose I should be thankful, therefore, that Commodore is a voluntary post as, following the AGM on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, I am the Commodore for the fifth consecutive year. Dave Fitzmaurice is again the Vice Commodore & Franklyn Braithwaite is the Rear Commodore. The other members of the Committee can be found on our website. New committee members are Brad Esty, Paul Smith and Jonty Layfield and we are looking forward to their input in 2012. Our Thanks to the retiring committee members: Sandy Mair (who is acting as Fleet Captain until Jonty Layfield is on Island), Jonny Tubbs and Alex Portman.

There were no resolutions at the AGM other than election of the executive, approval of the accounts and appointment of the auditors. The club had another excellent financial result for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August with growth in all areas. Membership is growing year by year, more people are learning to sail, and plenty of people are enjoying our restaurant - Cloggys. Copies of the latest accounts are always available in the AYC office and we welcome your interest.

### **SAILING CENTRE CONSTRUCTION**

July 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 saw the start of the new Sailing Centre construction – all went exceedingly well for the first week, we cleared the site and dug out the hill in a few days and then it started to rain, and rain, and rain – for four weeks. Below is a photo record of our progress and Phase 1 – construction of the ground floor - of the project is now complete. We are behind time but still on budget and Phase 2 – fitting out of the ground floor - is now underway. If we have another good financial year we hope to build the first floor in the summer of 2012. Once complete, we can apply for our RYA accreditation and thus provide a whole new income stream for the club. The plan is to offer RYA dinghy sailing courses, particularly during the summer. Since the closure of Sunsail Club Colonna there are no facilities for RYA dinghy sailing courses on Antigua.



## BRICK IN THE WALL

We are offering members the opportunity to support this project by pledging to purchase (by the end of the season) a Bronze Brick for U\$100, a Silver Brick for U\$300 or a Gold Brick for US500. All sponsored bricks will have the appropriate colour plaque attached to them and will be permanently displayed in the Sailing Centre. Your plaque can be engraved with the wording of your choice, e.g. person's name, boat name, dogs name etc.etc. I am pleased to say that at the recent Christmas Party, we raised U\$9,000 from the sale of bricks and our grateful thanks go to those who purchased a brick. A list of names will be displayed in the AYC office.

## CARIBBEAN DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS



In August we hosted a very enjoyable 3 days with competitors from several other islands. We are pleased to say that Antigua won the Team Championship and that we have been asked to host this event for the next 3 years. Our team consisted of: Shawn Malone (Laser Std) Omari Scott (Laser Radial) Aldrick Meade & Tyvone Richardson (Sport 16) Rocco Falcone (Optimist) & Hosea Williams (Zoom 8). Hosea was the only team member to win his class but our team was placed consistently high enough to take the team trophy.

## MASTERS SPORT 16 REGATTA

In October, on a glorious sunny day with 12/14 kts breeze, the perfect conditions saw a fleet of 6 boats with 2 man crews take to the water. Amongst the 12 sailors were 4 Olympians so competition was expected to be keen. All sailors had to be 50+ years of age.

After three races in the morning session the leader was Carlo Falcone and his partner Paola Vittoria - both Olympians. A convivial picnic lunch was enjoyed by all on the AYC lawn followed by three more races in the afternoon session. Carlo & Paola managed to hold onto their lead to receive the champion boat trophy. In second place were Karen Portch & Julian Gildersleeve, ahead of Franklyn Braithwaite & Chris Martin in third.

The consensus was that this was great fun and that we should repeat it in the not too distant future.



## OPTIMIST REGATTA

In November a team of young Antiguan Sailors went to the St.Martin Optimist Regatta. Out of 29 entrants they placed: **2<sup>nd</sup>** Hosea Williams (15). **7<sup>th</sup>** Rocco Falcone (10) **8<sup>th</sup>** Louis Bavay (10) **9<sup>th</sup>** Rhone Kirby (13)

## THE HIHO FUN CUP

This took place on the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> November. The event was sponsored by HIHO clothing of Tortola, B.V.I.'s and we thank Mr. Andy Morrell of HIHO for providing the t-shirts and trophies for the regatta.



The regatta was to be sailed in pairs – one adult one junior. As we had several juniors looking for an adult partner, we introduced the 'Rent-A-Brat' scheme and are pleased to say that all the available spaces were taken by members who chose their 'Brat' from the pool. The winners of the pairs' class were Paola & Rocco Falcone. In the junior single handed class there was a tie on points between Rocco Falcone & Sam Morrell of BVI'S with Rocco winning on placings.

The new Laser Pico dinghies used for the regatta were donated to the Sailing Academy by various sponsors – see [www.nationalsailingacademy.org](http://www.nationalsailingacademy.org) for details.



## TORTOLA PREMIERS CUP YOUTH REGATTA

In July we sent a team of young sailors (age 12 - 18) to Tortola. The team were selected for their sailing ability and enthusiasm for the sport. They had no previous competition experience and have never been away to any regatta before. Our most important instruction to them was that they were, at all times, to act as good sportsmen and that their behaviour should reflect well on Antigua. Although they had several good results from the 18 races over the weekend - several 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places - their lack of experience, and nerves, showed at other times and they finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place overall. They are all keen to learn from their experiences and train hard for the future.



It was very pleasing, after their return, to have received an email from the Regatta organisers saying: "They represented Antigua very well and we were all impressed by them"

## THE HIGH TIDE RACE SERIES

These four races, over 3 days, took place during the Christmas period in good racing conditions with 13 boats racing. The racing class was won by Lost Horizon and the cruising class by Seal. Thanks to Sandy Mair who was acting as Fleet Captain.

## THE 'RED' CHRISTMAS PARTY



This took place Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December and was over-subscribed. We managed to seat 150 people and served a traditional roast turkey Christmas dinner. There was a wonderful atmosphere right from the start when members congregated in the Upper



Deck lounge enjoying their complimentary Sorrel and Champagn Cocktails - served by Santas Helpers – Thanks to Julie & Kaaren for their help. After dinner the dancing went on til the early hours to the music of 'Itchy Feet'.

## THE NELSON'S PURSUIT RACE



As popular as ever, thanks to the efforts of Stan Pearson and Tommy Paterson, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 41 boats entered ranging from the 26ft Digicel Challenger to Elena at 180ft. Proceeds from the race are being donated to the St Johns Hospice. With winds well over 20kts & seas over 10ft made for some challenging racing with the overall winner being Safara (72 feet) which was on charter to Pete Townsend (left).

Second was Aiyana (82 feet) and in third place was Greg Athill in the 32 foot Driftwood (pictured right). Next time you visit the AYC office checkout the picture on the wall of the 1993 Youth Sailing programme kids – Greg is 4<sup>th</sup> from the right.



Below are some great shots by Tim Wright of Photoaction.com



## **SAILING ACADEMY**

I should like to, again, clarify the relationship between the Academy & the Yacht Club as I understand some people are unclear how they relate financially and operationally.

The Academy is a separate non-profit organization with its own funding from charitable donations. It does not receive any financial support from the Government at this time, but they do support in various other ways – the use of school buses, duty free concessions etc. The donations are used to pay the AYC for the sailing lessons – which are free to the children - on a per child per lesson basis. A record is kept of every child attending each week and the AYC raises an invoice monthly to the Academy. In the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 the income to AYC was EC\$30,000. Additionally, the Academy has purchased 12 new Optimists and 10 new Laser Pico's which are used by the AYC for both its own youth programme (weekends & school holidays) and the Academy lessons. The AYC pays the insurance on the boats and the maintenance costs – which, as they are all new boats, is minimal .

**The real success is that so many more Antiguan children are now learning to sail.**

## **A LOOK TO THE FUTURE**

**AYC ROUND THE ISLAND RACE – 21st JANUARY.** Our traditional race – all the way round – unless there is less than 12kts in which case we will stop over at Jolly Harbour. The usual prize of the Skippers weight in rum!

**SUPERYACHT CHALLENGE – 27th-29th JANUARY.** This now has 11 confirmed entries and will provide some spectacular sights on the water with yachts ranging from Nefertiti at 80 feet to Felidis at 188 feet. The yachts will all be in Nelsons Dockyard for the duration of the event.

**JOLLY HARBOUR VALENTINE'S REGATTA – 11th-12th FEBRUARY.** Please contact [www.jhycantigua.com](http://www.jhycantigua.com) for more details.

**RORC CARIBBEAN 600 – 20th – 24th FEBRUARY.** We already have a high class fleet entered and hope for more entries to come. Once again, we are appealing for your help as volunteers for the racing and the social aspects of the regatta. Please let Helen know if you can help – [helenspooner1@hotmail.com](mailto:helenspooner1@hotmail.com) , Tel: 726 7518

**WEST INDIES REGATTA – 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> MARCH** – details to follow.

**ANTIGUA LASER OPEN – 10th & 11th MARCH.** Karl James took second last year and will be keen to get back the first place he has held for nine consecutive years so competition will be hot. We have so many Laser sailors now that we shall be running heats before the final event.

**CLASSIC REGATTA – 19th-24th APRIL.** from Kenny Coombs – Chaiman, Classic Regatta

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta is less than 4 months away. Preparations are being made to ensure that this year's regatta is the best one ever. Several new sponsors including San Pellegrino have come onboard with Panerai, Mount Gay Rum, Ondeck, Portland Yacht Services, Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance and our local partners. The Sail Maine party sponsored by several businesses from Maine will be a highlight, as well as the Singlehanded Race, and the Concours d Elegance sponsored by the Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance.

The feature event will be the return of "Eilean" the William Fife Ketch that resided here in Antigua for many years, and has been rebuilt by Panerai, in Italy and she will make her homecoming soon and will be featured with welcome party as well as displays and exhibits in and around the dockyard and Marina before and during the regatta.

There are quite a few schooners in port this year, and we could be looking at a great schooner race taking place. Many of the yachts are returning and we will see a few new ones as well.

We hope to see you all there, and if you are entering a boat please enter early as the free dockage is limited to those boats that are paid up entries before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Enjoy fair winds and smooth seas in 2012.

### **GUADELOPE TO ANTIGUA RACE – 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

See: [www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com)

### **YACHTING WORLD ROUND ANTIGUA RACE – 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

See: [www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com)

**ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK – 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL – 4<sup>th</sup> MAY.** The committee desk, registration, and other administrative functions will now be at the Yacht Club. The big parties and prizegiving will remain in the Dockyard.

**FALMOUTH, ANTIGUA TO FALMOUTH CORNWALL, UK RUM RACE – 7<sup>th</sup> MAY**  
Details to follow asap.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **QUIZ NIGHTS**

We will be holding regular Quiz nights which are always popular & good fun. The first of these will be on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> January. Paddy Prendagarst will be Quiz Master.

### **GREEN ISLAND WEEKEND: 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> MAY**

We hope to have more boats & more people this year and will arrange a really good party with **♪LIVE MUSIC♪** and complimentary "Green Island Cocktails"

### **UPPERDECK MEMBERS LOUNGE**

We recently sent an email to all members asking you to volunteer for one evening during the season to act as a 'meeter / greeter' for visitors. Sadly only three people responded. We are working on the assumption that members wish to have their own bar and in order make this effective we do need your help. Please do volunteer **one evening between now and May** (6pm-9pm) of your time– we will reward you with credit at the bar during your evening.

*Finally, all at AYC would like to wish everybody Health, Wealth and Happiness for the New Year*

*Elizabeth Jordan*  
*Commodore*

*January 2012*