



ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB



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"SOUNDINGS" NO: 13

Dear Members

November 2013

This will be my last 'Soundings' newsletter as my term as Commodore will end at the AGM next Monday 2nd December (as announced at the 2012 AGM)

As most of you are aware by now, I am moving the Sailing Academy to its own premises. It has now been in existence for three years, and whilst it is proving unbelievably successful in reaching out to schools (we are at capacity for the number of students we can teach weekly) it is more of a challenge to make it financially sustainable. Relying on the generosity of the yachting community has proved very successful initially, but it is getting ever harder to raise the level of funds required from charity alone so the move will give us the opportunity to create our own revenue from various activities.

The initial plan, which we will amend according to experience, and which is approved by the AYC Executive, is to work in co-operation with the Club for the benefit of both organizations. The Academy plans to commence operations as soon as all the necessary infrastructure is in place and our plan is to share resources for boats, equipment and instructors.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am listing here the boats owned by the Academy and those owned by the Yacht Club. Contrary to rumour, the Academy will not be removing all its dinghies from the Yacht Club and there will be no change to the Yacht Club's youth or adult sailing programmes.

Academy boats (currently at AYC)

*12 Optimists - all purchased new in 2011
9 Picos - all purchased new 2011/2012
2 Bics - donated.
2 Sea Cadet rowing boats - donated.
1 Cork 1720 keelboat - donated.*

AYC boats:

*5 Sport 16's
13 Lasers
5 Member's Lasers
11 Zoom 8's
2 Bytes
2 Carbon Fibre dinghies*

If any member would like more details of our plans, please feel free to ask in person, by phone or by email. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

A.Y.C. SAILING CENTRE

The building is now completed - it has taken just two and a half years (we started on 4th July 2011) and has been built from profits earned. Members are welcome to visit anytime to see the facilities. The upper floor - which is 1500sq.ft of air-conditioned space with a beautiful view of the harbour - will be available to members at reduced rates for private functions/parties/ etc. Those members who sponsored a 'Brick in the Wall' will be invited to view their 'bricks' - which are actually metal plaques - when they have been installed.



July 2011



July 2013

YOUTH SAILING:

THE PREMIER'S CUP YOUTH REGATTA HELD IN TORTOLA 13TH – 15TH JULY, WAS WON BY OUR TEAM FROM ANTIGUA. COMPETING WERE 10 TEAMS FROM NINE DIFFERENT ISLANDS - THE REGATTA IS FOR SAILORS AGED 10 – 18 YEARS.

THE TEAM MEMBERS WERE: JANIELD SMITH; STEPHON DUNDAS; DAVID JACKSON; LEWIS FITZGERALD; RHONE KIRBY & JULES MITCHELL. THE TEAM WERE SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL SAILING ACADEMY, THE ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB AND THE MINISTRY OF SPORT.

PICTURED ARE THE TEAM AT PRIZEGIVING WITH THEIR COACH, KARL JAMES AND DR. D. ORLANDO SMITH – PREMIER OF TORTOLA.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL

THE YACHT CLUB AND THE ACADEMY WORK TOGETHER TO PROMOTE YOUTH SAILING. IN THE PAST SEASON, THE FOLLOWING YOUNG SAILORS HAVE VISITED SEVERAL REGATTAS AND THEIR RESULTS ARE LISTED HERE. SOME OF THESE SAILORS WERE PART OF THE YACHT CLUB CADET SCHEME AND SOME STARTED SAILING THROUGH THE ACADEMY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME.

YOUTH REGATTA RESULTS FROM OCTOBER 2012 TO NOVEMBER 2013

NORTH AMERICAN OPTIMIST CHAMPIONSHIP - VALLE DE BRAVO, MEXICO OCTOBER 27TH

149 SAILORS. 16 COUNTRIES.
ROCCO FALCONE - 116TH OVERALL

GUADELOUPE OPTIMIST CHAMPIONSHIPS -NOV 1ST – 3RD

48 SAILORS LOUIS BAVAY - BLUE FLEET 4TH · OVERALL 8TH

ORANGE BOWL REGATTA, MIAMI DEC27/30 - 250 OPTIMIST SAILORS

ROCCO FALCONE - BLUE FLEET (90 SAILORS) 24TH OVERALL 72ND
LOUIS BAVAY - BLUE FLEET 41ST OVERALL 130TH



SAN JUAN INTERNATIONAL DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS JANUARY 2013.

GREEN FLEET 22 SAILORS

DANIEL SMIT 1ST
MARIA ELDRIDGE 6TH
RIVER ANDREWS 7TH
JALISE GORDON 9TH

BLUE FLEET 18 SAILORS

ROCCO FALCONE 1ST
LOUIS BAVAY 2ND

ALL FLEETS:

ROCCO FALCONE 5TH OVERALL
LOUIS BAVAY 6TH OVERALL

OPTIMIST MEETING RIVA DEL GARDA, ITALY, MARCH 27 2013 - 852 SAILORS

ROCCO FALCONE 391 OVERALL
LOUIS BAVAY 465TH
VINCENT ANFI 834

BRONZE FLEET 171 SAILORS

ROCCO FALCONE 48

WHITE FLEET 166 SAILORS

VINCENT ANFI 148TH

BVI INTERNATIONAL DINGHY CHAMPIOSHIP MAY 4TH & 5TH 2013

RADIAL LASER

LEWIS FITZGERALD 3RD
JULES MITCHELL 4TH
RHONE KIRBY 6TH
VINCENT ANFI 7TH

OPTIMIST GREEN FLEET 18 sailors

JALISE GORDON 5th
MARIA ELDRIGE 7th

ADVANCED FLEET 25 SAILORS

LOUIS BAVAY 11TH
ROCCO FALCONE 12TH

BLUE FLEET

LOUIS BAVAY 4TH

ROCCO FALCONE 5TH
WHITE FLEET DANIEL SMIT 10TH

JUNE 21-23 INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST REGATTA IN ST THOMAS 80 SAILORS

OVERALL
ROCCO 23RD
LOUIS 35TH
IN CLASS
35 SAILORS
ROCCO 9TH
LOUIS 15TH

JULY 15-26 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN LAKE GARDA 258 SAILORS

LOUIS 193RD
ROCCO 203RD
BEST RACE FOR LOUIS WAS 15TH
BEST RACE FOR ROCCO WAS 16TH

FESTIVOILES NOV 1-3RD GUADELOUPE

ROCCO 2ND
LOUIS 5TH
JALESE 19TH
RIVER 21ST
DANIEL 22ND
BENIAMIN CLASS - MARIA 3RD

A.Y.C. REGATTAS:

ANNUAL ROUND THE ISLAND RACE SATURDAY, 19 JANUARY 2013.

With blue skies, fresh tradewinds, and much enthusiasm, 19 yachts entered this year's Round The Island Race. With yachts ranging in size from 100ft (Marama) to 26ft (Digicel Challenger) the fleet was, indeed, varied. An 8am start saw the small boats set off on the 51 mile course sailing anticlockwise around Antigua.

The Volvo Open 70, 'True North' screamed around the course and broke the record by over 35 min. and was awarded the 'Sizzling Bacon Trophy' for her achievement

The overall winner was Carlo Falcone with 'Caccia Alla Volpe' who won the overall prize of the skipper's weight in rum - in Carlo's case, this amounted to 96 bottles of rum!!



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The smallest boat in the fleet "Digicel Challenger" at 26 feet was crewed by the teenage team from the National Sailing Academy. This was by far their most ambitious effort to date as they had previously only raced 'around the cans'. Their elapsed time was over seven hours and, on corrected time, they were placed second behind 'Caccia Alla Volpe' by just 3 minutes. In third place - only 10 seconds behind 'Digicel Challenger' - was last year's winner- racing yacht 'Whisper' skippered by Mark Dicker.

In racer cruiser class Tanner Jones with his yacht 'Blue Peter' came first with Geoffrey Pidducks' 'Biwi Magic' second and Rick Gormley's 'Elethea' third. In cruising class Tommy Patterson with 'Gypsy' was first with Don Ward's 'Frolic' in second place.

THE LASER OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS TOOK PLACE IN MARCH AND KARL JAMES REGAINED HIS PLACE AS WINNER. LAST YEAR HE WAS PLACED SECOND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS BUT IS PLEASED TO BE 'BACK ON TOP' IN 2013. HE HAS NOW WON THIS EVENT 11 OF THE LAST 12 YEARS.

FOLLOWING ARE REPORTS FROM THE THREE MAJOR INTERNAL REGATTAS:

RORC Caribbean 600

The fifth RORC Caribbean 600 took place in February this year – yes, the fifth! This regatta is now established firmly on the calendar – not just for Caribbean regattas but also as a world class international long offshore yacht race. As heard around the dock, this race rivals both The Fastnet and the Sydney to Hobart as an extremely challenging offshore race.

This year saw a big jump in the number of participants – up from 35 yachts in 2012 to 53 starters in 2013. This, of course, represents a huge increase in crew numbers, which along with the boats, has a really positive economic impact on the Antigua Yacht Club, English Harbour area and Antigua in general.

As ever, the success of the regatta largely relies on you, the volunteers, who make up all the supporting teams for the start/finishes, the registration, meet & greet teams, the 24/7 bar, etc.etc. This year, with so many yachts finishing within minutes of each other, we had to double up on our meet & greet teams in order to ensure no yacht was missed with our ever alert teams were going between any of the 4 marinas in the area. Special Thanks are due to Helen Spooner and Dave Fitzmaurice for ensuring that, together with the RORC team, this regatta is such a success. This year's winner was Ron O'Hanley's Cookson 50 'Privateer'



All in all it is a superb example of a great team effort to enable this fabulous race to occur in our wonderful Island of Antigua.

THE ANTIGUA CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA



The 26th edition of the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta was another great success. A record number of entries turned out to sail in what turned out to be the windiest classic regatta in many years. Strong winds and big seas prevailed on Friday and Saturday and moderated for the cannon race on Sunday and were near perfect for the last race on Monday.

Despite the rain the Concours d'Elegance was difficult to judge with so many near perfect boats, however the recently rebuilt Gaff Schooner *Adventuress* won the overall prize. Later that day the Single Handed Race took place and *Saphaetra* and *Aquila*, one of the 3 Herreshoff S boats shipped down for the occasion, won their classes.

In the fleet standings *Genesis* won the Traditional Class, *Petrana* took the Classic GRP class trophies, and *Wild Horses* came out on top of the Spirit of Tradition Class. *Juno* out sailed the rest of the schooners for the schooner class trophy. *Stormvogel* dominated the Classics Class as did *Sumurun* in the Vintage class.

The Panerai Prize was won by *Sumurun* for the best total corrected time, which makes this the 7th year for our major sponsor with many more years to go in the future. Thanks to all of our sponsors, and our numerous volunteers who continue to make the Classic Regatta a success.

Please visit our website for the complete results and day to day reports and photos.

www.antiquaclassics.com

ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK – REPORT BY KATHY LAMMERS.



Antigua Sailing Week 2013 welcomed yacht crews representing 26 different nations on over 100 boats. By Antiguan standards wind conditions were lighter than usual with full trade winds kicking in on only one day.

With ten boats over 60 feet racing, the week featured one of the largest big boat fleets for many years including high performance racing yachts crewed by professional sailors from the America's Cup, the Olympics, the Volvo Ocean Race and the Vendée Globe. One such entry was 78-foot *Whisper*, skippered by His Majesty,

King Harald V of Norway which finished in second place in its class.

There was once again a large number of high performance yachts ranging in size from 40-footers to 94-foot Bristolian. Competition was tight in many classes and particularly in CSA 3 which was won this year by *Arethusa*, closely beating last year's Lord Nelson Trophy winner, *El Ocaso*, to take home this year's Lord Nelson Trophy. Also providing tough competition in that class was the National Sailing Academy's *Digicel Challenger* which missed a podium place by only seconds.

As always, Antiguan boats were very successful with Carlo Falcone on *Caccia alla Volpe*, Geoffrey Pidduck on *Biwi Magic*, and Sir Hugh Baily on *Ugo* all taking home class wins along with several other trophies. Other Antiguan boats took podium positions once again this year including *Sandy Mair* on *Cricket* and *Stephen Carson* on *Hightide*.

Organisers, the Race Committee and competitors alike were all once again delighted with the opportunity to call Antigua Yacht Club home for the week. The post-race social events on the Yacht Club lawn were much improved this year and much better attended making the daily prize-givings an even greater success than last year, now that the concept is catching on.

Lay Day on Pigeon Beach featured a new invitational one-design racing event known as the Nonsuch Bay RS Elite Challenge which was very well attended and received. The organisers hope to expand this event for next year and continue to make the Lay Day beach party bigger and better. Hopefully Mother Nature will hold back the rain for another day next year!

Thanks to everyone for their support, assistance and patience throughout Antigua Sailing Week. With ongoing efforts to continue to improve the event, Antigua Sailing Week looks forward to an even bigger and more successful event in 2014.

THE GREEN ISLAND WEEKEND AT THE END OF MAY SAW A SMALLER FLEET THAN HOPED FOR BUT, FOR THOSE OF US THAT WERE THERE, IT WAS A VERY ENJOYABLE 3 DAYS WITH FINE WEATHER AND GOOD COMPANY.

OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMME CONSISTED OF REGULAR MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHTS – ALL BAR ONE OF THESE WERE WELL ATTENDED AND ENJOYED BY ALL THE PARTICIPANTS. THIS POPULAR EVENT WILL START AGAIN AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT SEASON.

OUR SUMMER CAMPS WERE A GREAT SUCCESS AND MANY WEEKS WERE OVER SUBSCRIBED.

THE FINAL EVENT ‘ON MY WATCH’ WAS THE CARIBBEAN DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD OVER THE WEEKEND 15TH – 17TH NOVEMBER. THE RACING WAS EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE WITH, FINALLY, THE TROPHY GOING TO THE BVI TEAM. ANTIGUA WAS PLACED SECOND WITH BARBADOS THIRD.



It was with deep regret that we announced the passing of Kenny Coombs in October. The loss of Kenny as a person, as a sailor, and as the chairman of Classic Yacht Regatta is incalculable.

Elizabeth Jordan - Commodore 2008 - 2013