



NEWSLETTER – OCT 2019

TRAINING - Thanks to the support of the Mill Reef Foundation, we have been able, this summer, to send students to the UKSA in Cowes, UK. They are all qualified Dinghy Sailing Instructors and -Thanks to Ondeck



Maritime Training - have all passed the Day Skipper Theory course after which they all qualified as Day Skippers on the practical training course in the UK. Over the coming weeks, they will all complete the STCW course which is a pre-requisite for anyone wishing to work on a commercial yacht.

These qualifications will enable them to apply for positions on charter yachts and superyachts if they wish.

We are now identifying the next tranche of our students who are interested in gaining professional qualifications when they leave school in the next year or two – and hope to facilitate a Dinghy Sailing Instructors course next summer for 8/12 students aged 16 plus.

Our Sailing Manager – Sylvester Thomas – has now returned from the UK where he completed a 7 week Sailing Centre Management course and will now take over more responsibility for the day to day management of the sailing programmes at the Academy.

Joshua Daniels, who gained his Day Skipper qualification last year, went back to UK in July and is now a Senior Dinghy Instructor as well as a qualified Coastal Skipper. He will be working full time at the Academy as the Deputy Sailing Manager.

‘ADONDE’ – Is our newest acquisition - a 38ft catamaran - which has been donated by The Maria Holder Memorial Trust. We aim to have ‘Adonde’ in service after hurricane season . She will be multifunctional - as a stable platform with a large safe cockpit, we will be able to expand our ‘Sailability’ programme to more disabled children & adults. She has 3 cabins which will be available as short term accommodation rentals.



Adonde will also be used for the students mentioned above who, although they have the qualifications, do not have time at sea as captains. In that role, they will learn to be responsible for passage planning, navigation and safety of their crew and vessel.

ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK – A fantastic performance by our youth team on 'NSA Spirit' saw them take first place in their racing class and their division. The boat was skippered by Jules Mitchell with crew – Rocco Falcone; Louis Bavay, Maurice Valentine, Ryan Tonge and Tyrique Adams. Our second boat 'Valiant' skippered by Joshua Daniels was laying 4th in class on the penultimate day of racing when she was dismantled. That was not the end of the story, however, and the ASW Press Release below tells what happened next.

PRESS RELEASE: May 2, 2019



**Antigua Sailing Week
Spirited Youth - KPMG Y2K Race Day 4**

Despite losing their rudder, Jules Mitchell's young team on Cork 1720 NSA Spirit won the last race of the day at
KPMG Y2K (Youth to Keelboat) Race Day 4 - Antigua Sailing Week © Paul Wyeth/pwictures.com



Big breeze and huge Caribbean surf spiced up the action for KPMG Y2K (Youth to Keelboat) Race Day, the penultimate day of racing at Antigua Sailing Week. Y2K is all about getting young Antiguan sailors into the yachting industry. Aptly two youth teams showed tremendous camaraderie and quick thinking in the face of adversity. The dismantled NSA Valiant gave their rudder to replace the broken one on NSA Spirit, keeping the young National Sailing Academy (NSA) team in with a chance of lifting the Lord Nelson Trophy. NSA Spirit is one of several teams still in contention for the overall win at the 52nd edition of Antigua Sailing Week.

"That was our race, we were flying, but a big gust blasted into the spinnaker and the top of the rig snapped off," explained NSA Valiant skipper Joshua Daniels. "We were gutted and then it just got insane when we saw Spirit had lost their rudder. We gave them our rudder and they won the next race, so a piece of us won that race with them," continued Joshua.

"Just crazy, what a wild day," commented NSA skipper Jules Mitchell. "Our rudder came fully off but we managed to steer the boat just using the sails. Rocco Falcone's father was watching from his motor boat and had the tools to fix the other rudder on. A big thank you to the Race Committee for giving us a bit of time to get into the last race. If the Valiant team had not helped us, we would have been out of contention for the class, so big respect and thank you to Valiant."



Showing great sportsmanship and camaraderie: Joshua Daniels, Keelboat instructor at the National Sailing Academy with his young crew on NSA Valiant © Tim Wright/Photoaction.com

NEW BUILDINGS – A Work in Progress. This project is to provide a wheelchair accessible toilet as well as a new sailing centre which includes a Watersports Reception, an Instructor's Office and a new sail locker. We Thank our sponsors – the Jumby Bay Homeowners Fund – for the support for the new sailing centre and the Peter Harrison Foundation for support towards the new toilet facility We also have smart new furniture in the Watersports Reception Office, Thanks to support from Mr. Treverton-Jones





SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Now that a new school year has started, we have lots of beginners – particularly from Primary Schools. The young ladies pictured (Joy-Anna, Deree’ah, Kellisa, Teandra & Rayanna) are part of the class of 12 students from Liberta Primary.

We continue to have over 100 students each week and have a waiting list of schools wishing to join, but do not have the capacity.

SWIMMING - We are continuing the ‘Water Confidence’ programme on Saturdays, and, Thanks to the support from the Mill Reef Foundation, we can now offer to re-imburse volunteers for their expenses. If you can spare 2 -3 hours on a Saturday, please contact us for details. You do not need to be a swim instructor, - we will train anybody who volunteers to help.

SAILABILITY – Sailing for the disabled adults and children of Antigua continues to be fully subscribed – operating five mornings per week. In March, we had the ‘Sailability Super Sunday’ which saw approx: 320 persons attending the Charity Walk. Our Patron, Sir Rodney Williams took part as well as various Government Agencies We are also concentrating on training specifically for Parasailing competitions and now have 5 disabled people who are sailing single handed.

New for this season - we also now offer a sailing excursion opportunity specifically for the disabled passengers on Caribbean Cruise Lines and P & O Cruise Lines.



Super Sunday Charity Walk



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams were among the over 300 residents of all ages and from all walks of life who took part in the fourth Sailability Super Sunday event yesterday. Together they marched in support of the physically and mentally handicapped of Antigua and Sailability – an organization that gets the handicapped sailing and is run by the National Sailing Academy. One of the day's events included a fun walk from the Academy to Nelson's Dockyard. (Photo courtesy Ed Gifford)





BARBUDA CAMP – In August, Thanks to the support of the Halo Foundation, Sylvester (Sailing Manager) and Tony (Instructor) ran a very successful ‘Learn to Sail’ camp in Barbuda. There were 55 students who wanted to join the programme &, amazingly, only one of them could not swim. We are currently seeking sponsorship to continue the programme in the school holidays.

CARIBBEAN DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS – This event took place over the weekend of 18th – 20th October. Not only did the Antigua Team win the Nations Trophy but the Sailing Academy had a great success as 3 of the 4 classes were won by Academy sailors – see below.

OPTIMIST CLASS – 1ST Place went to Ozani Lafond, aged 14, who learned to sail at the Academy when he was a pupil at Liberta, and is now at All Saints Secondary school. When he showed talent at racing the Antigua Yacht Club awarded him a scholarship and he now trains under Karl James.



FEVA CLASS (2 handed) this was won by Academy Instructor Maurice Valentine and an Academy student, Nario James. They were also awarded the trophy by RS Boats as the Regional Caribbean Feva Champions.

LASER STANDARD – Jules Mitchell, (on left) who is also an Academy Instructor took 1st Place in this class.

FUTURE EVENTS: Sunday 1st December - OPEN DAY, REGATTA & DOCK PARTY BBQ.

Sunday 1st March - ANNUAL ‘SAILABILITY’ CHARITY WALK

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