



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"

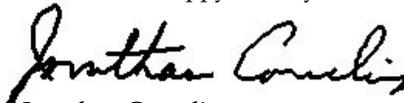


December 2011 Newsletter

Letter from the Executive Director

As 2011 comes to a close, ABSAR is once again seeing an increase in nearly all aspects of operations over the previous year. Medical cases in our medic station, as well as emergency response vehicle callouts, more than doubled from 2009 to 2010. Rescue boat launches have also increased significantly so far in 2011. With our 17 year old rib, we are currently looking for a new vessel to accommodate these increasing numbers. With the Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard in a constant flux with the availability of their response vessels, it is extremely important that we continue to provide an option for marine search and rescues. Our medic station plays an integral role in the English Harbour and Falmouth Harbour area, with a large number of walk-ins throughout the year. Our emergency response vehicle significantly decreases the response time on this side of the island, providing residents and visiting yachtsman an increased level of care 24/7. Many thanks to all of the businesses and individuals who continue to support us...we would not be here without you!

Have a safe and happy holiday season!


Jonathan Cornelius

2011 Statistics

Medical Cases	300
Emergency Response Vehicle Calls	51
Search and Rescue Assists	12
Rescue Boat Launches	15
Aerial Rescues	1
Vessel Fires	1
Regattas Supported	5
Total Calls to Date	383



ABSAR RIB During the Classic Yacht Regatta

Volunteers Needed

- Emergency Medical Response
- Maritime Search and Rescue
- Marine Fire Fighting
- Fundraising



Preparing for Medivac

ABSAR Assists Local Dive Operator

At 1306 on January 27, 2011, ABSAR received a call from a local dive operator's boat, 15 miles to the south, notifying us that a diver had returned to the surface exhibiting signs of the bends, with both chest and joint pain. The diver had been down to 97 meters for about 20 minutes. On the way back to the surface, he had run out of air at approximately 20 meters and executed an emergency ascent. ABSAR immediately contacted the MRCC in Fort de France and initiated a helicopter rescue to bring him to the hyperbaric chamber in Guadeloupe. ABSAR rendezvoused with the dive boat, transferred the patient to our rib, administered oxygen and coordinated the aerial helicopter rescue. The diver is currently in Canada undergoing rehabilitation and is now able to walk with assistance.

ABSAR Announces the 2012 Wobbly B.Y.O.B. Regatta

For those of you not familiar with this world-famous event, that's Build Your Own Boat! Teams are given 2 sheets of plywood and two hours to build the ultimate vessel to compete in the regatta. In addition to racing, teams must also rescue their own mermaid or merman. This year's event will take place on Friday February 17, 2010 from 1-5pm. Lots of great prizes and a bbq after the event. US\$100 entry fee.



2005 B.Y.O.B. Winners "Darkwood"

Titan XV's Race Week Fire

During this past Antigua Sailing Week, on April 25, 2011 at 1946 local, ABSAR received a call reporting that the 75' Reichel/Pugh raceboat, Titan XV, was on fire at the dock at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina. Within 4 minutes, ABSAR volunteers had deployed our fire pump and were on the way to join the yacht crews already battling the fire. Within 9 minutes two 1.5 inch lines were operating, one utilizing our Stix foam nozzle. The fire was promptly extinguished and the boat was secured for the night. The cause of the fire was believed to have been a short in the battery bank on board. The vessel was substantially damaged, yet no injuries were reported.



De-watering Operations

Note: ABSAR recently acquired a brand new 1" First Attack piercing high fog nozzle. Due to the fact that we are responding to increasing numbers of fires onboard boats, this nozzle was acquired to increase our effectiveness, minimize danger to responders, and decrease damage to the vessels involved.

ABSAR Director Caroline Blatter and Family Return to England



After more than 6 years of dedicated service to ABSAR, Caroline and Andrew and their family returned to England to enroll their children in the UK school system. Caroline served as a search and rescue responder for the first few years, then became our call coordinator. She has been on the ABSAR Board of Directors for 5 years and has been instrumental in all fundraising aspects of our organization. She will continue to assist from afar, but she will be greatly missed in our day to day operations here at ABSAR. We wish her and her family all the best!

Calendar of Events

2011

Antigua Yacht Club AGM	December 1
Antigua Charter Yacht Show	December 4-10
Antigua Yacht Club Christmas Dinner	December 17
Nelson's Pursuit Race	December 31

2012

Round the Island Race	January 21
Superyacht Challenge	January 27-29
Jolly Harbour Valentines Regatta	February 11-12
Wobbly BYOB Regatta	February 17
RORC Caribbean 600	February 20-24
Annual Hare and Tortoise Swim	February 26
West Indies Sail Regatta	March 3-4
Antigua Laser Open	March 11-12
ABSAR Fundraising Dinner	April 2
Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta	April 19-24
Antigua Sailing Week	April 29-May 4

"Night at the Races" a Huge Success

On April 3, 2011 we held our annual fundraising dinner at Abracadabra's. With the help of numerous volunteers and supporters, we were able to raise over EC \$65,000.00. After a wonderful meal from Finella, Sandy and company, everyone was chomping at the bit for the main event to begin. Thank you to all who attended and donated your time and services. This year's dinner will take place at Cloggy's on April 2nd... mark your calendars!

ABSAR 2011-2012 Sponsors

Gold – Antigua Yacht Club Marina

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

Bronze – Marine Power Services & Woodstock Boat Builders

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.