



A.B.S.A.R.

Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue

Antigua Yacht Club Marina
Falmouth Harbour, Antigua
E-mail: info@absar.org Website: www.absar.org
Medic Station Phone: (268) 720-3992
Emergency Phone ONLY: (268) 562-1234 VHF: Channel 16



December 2019 Newsletter

Letter from the Director

The new season is upon us and the Medic Station has returned to our normal hours Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Our new Medic Station phone is 268-720-3992 and is available during normal office hours. Please use our emergency number for search and rescue or life threatening emergencies only.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Many of ABSAR's core volunteers have relocated from Antigua and we now find ourselves in dire need of new volunteers. For the upcoming season will be in need of people who can assist in the following ways:

- Emergency Medical Response/ Ambulance Drivers
- Maintaining and Cleaning Rescue Boats/ERV/PVR
- Maintaining our Communication Equipment/IT Support

If you're interested in volunteering, email us or stop by the medic station for orientation information. Happy Holidays to the entire ABSAR community and Best Wishes for a lovely new year.

Karen Mothersill
ABSAR Administrative Director

Letter from Jonathan Cornelius

Rumors and innuendos surrounding my departure from ABSAR have been going around for the past several years. Let me set the record straight...I started most of those rumors.

A good friend of mine kindly pointed out to me that I have been on call 24x7 for the past two and a half decades. Although I feel it hasn't been twenty years, I've realized that it has taken a toll on me and I am in need of a break. Starting May 2020, I will be shifting most of my responsibilities to several other ABSAR team members. These members are capable and dependable in fulfilling our goal of service to the community. With this said, we still need your help in recruiting additional volunteers, so please consider becoming a volunteer yourself. Again, I am not abandoning ABSAR and all of you my friends. I will remain on the Board of Directors with ABSAR and will return to Antigua regularly to assist during major events.

Jonathan Cornelius- ABSAR Director of Operations

"So that others may live"



Optimist World Championships

The Optimist World Championships were held in Antigua from July 6-16th and 262 enthusiastic junior competitors from 64 countries competed in the week-long, single-class regatta. ABSAR volunteers were in the water daily to ensure the safety of all the young participants, as well as to assist the Red Cross with a land-based station.



Big Thank You to our Largest Supporters

The **Jumby Bay Fund Ltd.** has once again paid the fuel costs for all our rescue vehicles as well as maintaining their Platinum membership status. Thank you to all the members for this continued assistance.

The **Mill Reef Fund** assisted us greatly this year in donating US\$25,000 to replace the tubes on our two rescue boats and continued their support by renewing their Platinum membership status.

Additional ABSAR Supporters

A big thank you to Angie and the team from **Club House Restaurant** for their continued support with Wednesday night Quiz Night donations. For \$10ec a team can participate in the fun and receive free drinks if they win. Enjoy a fun evening and support ABSAR at the same time.

Thank you to Vanessa Smit, from **Cloggy's Restaurant**, as she again participated in the world's largest marching event in the Netherlands to raise money for ABSAR. Thank you to all that sponsored her.

A thank you to **Dive Carib** for collecting donations and hosting a raffle for ABSAR at their Woman's Dive Day event in July and to the **Life on the Corner Bar and Grill** for hosting a trivia night where a portion of proceeds went to ABSAR. We'd also like to thank all the doctors and community volunteers who offered their time this year in the Medic Station, as well as working as our water-based crew during events. Without them, ABSAR could not be possible.



ABSAR's Wish List In an effort to increase our Search and Rescue capabilities, ABSAR is looking for funding to purchase a waterproof drone which is specifically designed for Search and Rescue operations. This drone would significantly increase the area we are able to search in time-critical situations. The SARAH2O "search and rescue assistant" drone is the latest in the range of waterproof drones .

2019 Statistics to Date

Medical Cases	400+
Emergency Response Vehicle Calls	41
Miscellaneous Walk-Ins	700+
Search and Rescue Assists	3
Rescue Boat Launches	5
Emergency Beacon Activations	2
Regattas/Events Supported	12
Transatlantic Rowers Met	28
Fire Assistance	1

Calendar of Events

AYC Marina Dock Party	December 3
Antigua Charter Yacht Show	December 4-9
Talisker Whisky Race Start	December 12
Budget Marine High Tide Series	December 22, 26
Dockyard Christmas Day	December 25
Nelson's Pursuit Race	December 31
Dockyard New Year's Eve	December 31

2020

AYC Round the Island Race	January 19
Jolly Harbour Valentine's Regatta	February 14-16
RORC Caribbean 600 Race	February 24-28
AYC Laser and Optimist Regatta	February 23-24
Superyacht Challenge Antigua	March 11-15
Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta	April 1-7
Antigua Sailing Week	April 25-May 1
Dockyard Day	May 2
Antigua to Bermuda Race	May 6
Mike Piggott Memorial Fish Tourney	May 29
A & B Sport Fishing Tourney	May 30-31

ABSAR 2019 Sponsors

Diamond: Jumby Bay Fund, Mill Reef Fund

Ruby: Antigua Yacht Club Marina

Emerald: Antigua Marine Services, Digicel, Premier Motors

Sapphire: Club House Restaurant, Axxess Marine, Cloggy's Restaurant, Antigua Computer Technology

About ABSAR A.B.S.A.R. is a registered non-profit organization that has been in existences since 1998. Our 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 5 days a week. Our ambulance is used to transport patients to the hospital and to various doctors on island. Our two Rescue RIB's can be launched within minutes in the event of a callout. Our organization is run by a group of dedicated volunteers. ABSAR is funded through donations and through their annual membership program. Copies of our Antigua registration and our latest financial report may be obtained from our office.

Directors: Jonathan Cornelius, Julie Esty, Michael Kirk, Dave Martin, and Tracey Meagher.