

# May 2020 Newsletter

*"So That Others May Live"*



# A.B.S.A.R.

**Antigua Barbuda Search and Rescue**

Antigua Yacht Club Marina – Falmouth Harbour, Antigua

E-mail: [info@absar.org](mailto:info@absar.org) Website: [www.absar.org](http://www.absar.org)

Medic Station Phone: (268) 720-3992

Emergency Phone ONLY: (268) 562-1234 VHF: Channel 16

## Letter from the Board of Directors

Through these difficult times we continue to support the community through our 24 X 7 emergency phone line. Considering the COVID19 crisis we are accepting non-emergency patients into the medic station on an appointment only basis. We are still managing emergency situations as first responders and, if needed, are relying on local 911 services for hospital transport. Phone screening allows us to divert anyone with COVID symptoms to the local COVID response team.

Community events that we supported in the spring included the Superyacht Challenge, which took place in March 11-15. This friendly event saw a record entry of fifteen superyachts and four J-class taking part. One major accident occurred during the Superyacht Challenge and ABSAR was on the spot with emergency medical care, transport to shore, and shore transport for medical care. Prior to the Superyacht event, we offered support for the Rohrman Triathlon which took place on March 7th. Participants competed in a 1.5K swim, 40K bike and 10K run to take home the top prize. Prior to the triathlon, we assisted the RORC 600 which brought seventy-three teams with 700 sailors from 37 countries to our island. Both races were hampered by weak winds, which extended race (and support) times. Jonathan Cornelius continues to provide daily support and guidance from his home away from home in North Carolina and plans to return through much of the upcoming 2021 yachting season.

**Michael Kirk—Director, ABSAR**

## COVID RESPONSE FOOD DONATIONS

ABSAR and friends are continuing to do their part to support our community. Most recently we've noticed there is a need to provide food to local families and workers who would normally be employed in the yachting industry and support businesses. A group of yacht skippers put forth the idea of aiding the community by contributing cash donations to grocery stores and allowing the store's management to use discretion in disbursing funds to families in need. One of our ABSAR volunteers, Leigh Townsend, is also conducting an on-line yoga breathing class with funds going to this project. ABSAR will help by apportioning funds to buy food gift packages, which will be delivered to homes in need. If you wish to support this cause, please stop by the ABSAR Medic Station in Falmouth Harbor to make a donation, or you can contribute through our ABSAR GoFundMe page. Write the word "COVID RESPONSE" with your GoFundMe donation to ensure it gets to the correct relief fund.

## From Jonathan Cornelius

COVID 19 has impacted us all in many different ways. It has forced us all to re-evaluate many aspects of our lives and has changed the way we all have been living for the past few months.

ABSAR began training and planning for the possible spread of the virus in February. We reviewed CDC and WHO guidelines and implemented procedures to protect our crew, while allowing us to continue to our mission. As the virus spread into a pandemic, ABSAR implemented additional procedures as well as coordinated our shore based responses and treatments with Antigua and Barbuda EMS. The yachting community responded to the pandemic by cancelling all future regattas in the Caribbean. Antigua & Barbuda kept its borders open long enough to provide additional safe harbour for many displaced vessels in the Eastern Caribbean. Many opted to shelter in place aboard their vessels, while others stored their vessels and returned to their respective homes.

It soon became apparent that most borders around the world would close, quickly followed by airline travel being suspended. Those who needed to travel in the near future were forced to change their plans, if they were to travel at all. My initial plans to head home to my family mid-May quickly changed to the latter part of March. I remain in constant contact with the ABSAR Team in Antigua, as they continue to do an outstanding job.

Please continue to stay safe and take care of each other.

**Jonathan Cornelius—Director, ABSAR**



## Superyacht Challenge Antigua-March 12-15, 2020

Disaster struck during the J Class competition during the start of Race 1. The collision occurred between S/Y Svea and S/Y Topaz and both boats sustained damage which required them to immediately retire from racing. ABSAR assisted two crew requiring medical attention. One was assisted in the Medic Station while the other was transported via Rescue 1 to Urlings Fuel Dock where the patient was then taken via our emergency response vehicle to Medical Surgical Associates for treatment. Both crew are recovering well.

## Thank You to Our Blood Donors

We would like to give a huge shout out to all our amazing blood donor volunteers who have offered to donate during these uncertain days. We appreciate their continued dedication to serving our community.

If you are interested in joining our blood donor list, please email us at karenabsar@gmail.com and include your name, phone number, email address and your blood type.



In February, ABSAR received a call that S/Y Bliss, located in English Harbour, was on fire and in need of assistance. Our team quickly gathered together to prep Rescue 2 to assist the Antigua & Barbuda Fire Department where needed. The ambulance was also dispatched to standby at the scene to survey for any possible patients. Thankfully, no one was injured.

**Great Job ABSAR Crew**



## ABSAR 2020 Corporate 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



Photo from Observer Newspaper April 4, 2020 Pg. 8

## THANK YOU MEMBERS AND DONORS

ABSAR would like to thank our many members and donors for their continued support of us, especially during these uncertain times. Your financial support allows us to continue our work in serving the community.

## 2020 Statistics to Date

Medical Cases	250+
Emergency Response Vehicle Calls	21
Miscellaneous Walk-Ins	300+
Search and Rescue Assists	4
Rescue Boat Launches	6
Emergency Beacon Activations	2
Regattas/Events Supported	3
Fire Assistance	1

**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.