



A.B.S.A.R.

Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue

Antigua Yacht Club Marina
Falmouth Harbour, Antigua
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"So that others may live"



December 2015 Newsletter

Letter from the Director

As 2015 draws to a close, we continue to remain busy in all aspects of our operations. We have seen a significant increase in the number of medical cases, both in our medic station and those requiring our emergency response vehicle. We are working more closely with the Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Medical Services department and are now assisting them with many callouts within our local area.

We continue to pursue our plan of building a new headquarters here in Falmouth Harbour. We are currently pursuing new avenues in order to obtain final permission to break ground and we remain optimistic that we will achieve our goal in 2016. Once this happens, we will be trying to raise a significant amount of money in order to build our new home.

As we receive no government funding, fundraising continues to be a critical part of our organization. Kay Anthony has generously offered to take over this role for us and has a great number of new and innovative ideas that we're all looking forward to. We thank all of you who continue to support us year after year. Keeping our operations going is certainly a community effort. From our volunteers to our service providers and our financial supporters, it truly is a team effort. Thank you for your ongoing support.

"So that others may live"

All the best to you and your families during this holiday season.

Jonathan Cornelius
ABSAR Director

ABSAR Receives New Fire Response Truck

Donated by Premier Motors and other members of our local community, our new truck will enable us to work in coordination with the Antigua and Barbuda Fire Service. The vehicle can go off-road and is able to pump and roll, making it a very effective tool against our common brush fires here on the south side of the island. The vehicle's small size enables it to reach most places, including the Dockyard and down most of our marina docks. It will also be equipped with a variety of technical rescue tools and equipment.



New Fire Truck in Action

Sound Citizens Playing at Abracadabras for ABSAR



Mark your calendars! The hugely popular local band, Sound Citizens will be performing for an ABSAR fundraiser to be held on Wednesday, January 27th at Abracadabras. With their new CD arriving soon, the band will certainly be getting us all out on the dance floor. DJ Torsten Stenzel will then be continuing into the early hours of the morning. Tickets will be on sale before the event in our medic station and at Abras.



2015 Statistics to Date

Medical Cases	505
Emergency Response Vehicle Calls	85
Miscellaneous Walk-Ins	500+
Search and Rescue Assists	15
Rescue Boat Launches	5
Emergency Beacon Activations	4
Regattas/Events Supported	7

ABSAR's Safety Corner – 2015 Search and Rescues

On February 26th, 2015, ABSAR was notified that a barge carrying sand and one person on board, had capsized in between Antigua and Barbuda. It appears that the barge was overloaded with sand and was operating in rougher than normal conditions. Unfortunately, after many hours of searching, the crew member was never found.

On August 4th, ABSAR received a "Mayday" call at approximately 2000 local time from a French fishing vessel about 10 miles south of Cades Reef. On a very dark night, the vessel had sunk with four persons on board. The crew members were able to transmit their "Mayday" call over the VHF and they all successfully deployed and entered their life raft. As we were approaching the area, two flares were fired off, leading the Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard and ABSAR directly to the life raft. Basic safety equipment such as a VHF, a life raft and flares, not only ensured their rescue, but also made ABSAR's job a lot easier in some very difficult conditions.



Capsized Barge off of Barbuda



2015 Wobbly Sailors Still Afloat

2016 Wobbly Club BYOB Regatta – February 5th, 2016

Last year's Wobbly Regatta was a huge success, with 17 teams entered and a large turnout of spectators. Despite a couple of ABSAR rescues, Fenix/Cygnus Montanus crossed the finish line first, retaining their title from last year. Given two pieces of plywood and just under 3 hours, teams are to construct their boats and sail/swim/push them around the race course. Held at the Catamaran Marina, it certainly is a fun day for the whole family. This year's regatta will be a "Hollywood" theme and will be held on February 5th from 1-6 pm. Fancy dress and cheating encouraged!

Got Expired Meds?

ABSAR can most likely put them to good use! Instead of throwing them out, please drop them off at our Medic Station at the AYC Marina.

2016 ABSAR Wish List

- 1 2005 Land Rover Discovery 3
- 8 Icom Handheld VHF radios
- 1 4-Gas Monitor
- Various Fire Fighting Equipment for our new Fire Response Truck

ABSAR 2015 Sponsors

Platinum – The Mill Reef Fund

Gold – Antigua Yacht Club Marina, Premier Motors

Silver – Antigua Computer Technology, Antigua Marine Services, Digicel, & St. James's Club

Calendar of Events

Christmas Carols at the AYC	December 4
Antigua Charter Yacht Show	December 4-10
AYC High Tide Series	December 20, 23, 26
Dockyard Christmas Day	December 25
Nelson's Pursuit Race	December 31
Dockyard New Year's Eve	December 31
2016	
AYC Round the Island Race	January 16
Sound Citizens @Abrs for ABSAR	January 27
Superyacht Challenge	Jan. 28-31
ABSAR's Wobbly Regatta	February 5
Jolly Harbour Valentine's Regatta	February 12-14
RORC Caribbean 600 Race	February 22-26
Windies Legends Charity Cricket	February 28
AYC Annual Laser Open	March 12-13
Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta	April 13-19
Guadeloupe to Antigua Race	April 21
Round Antigua Race	April 22
Antigua Sailing Week	April 23-29
Dockyard Day	April 30
A & B Sport Fishing Tourney	May 14-15

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 2 Rescue RIB's 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, Julie Esty, Max Freling, Tracey Meagher and Charles Shawcroft.