CARIBBEAN
COMPASS
JANUARY 2024 NO. 331
The Caribbean's Look at Sea & Shore

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— SEE ANNUAL CALENDAR ON PAGE 19

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When she's not busy helping Honduran Bay Island communities, JoAnne Harris of the trimaran s/v ULTRA *spends time diving. For another tale of* ULTRA*'s community projects, turn to page 26.*

BILL HARRIS

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An enthusiastic crew member tackles her trimming job aboard the schooner Columbia *during the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta, just one of many events that draw sailors and onlookers to the islands. For the Caribbean's most complete calendar of a year full of fun, turn to page 19.*

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Caribbean Compass

Caribbean Compass is published by Compass Publishing LLC of Connecticut, USA. www.caribbeancompass.com

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WELCOME HOME!

Caribbean Airlines Cargo

By Tad Richards



AUSTIN FRIEDLINE

Island Exodus

Happy New Year! If you're reading this hot off the presses, here's wishing you a wild and carefree celebration of the big night. If you're catching up to us the morning after, or a couple of mornings after, enjoy that cup of coffee, and if you're wishing "I wish it could be New Year's Eve every night," well … it can't.

Unless you're on or within striking distance of St. Croix, where things don't wind down all that quickly. The new year's celebrations continue through January 6, and include the **Crucian Carnival Food**, **Arts and Crafts Fair** in Frederiksted on January 3, **Reggae Night** on January 4. The next evening is a great time to bring the kiddies for the **Children's Parade**, and the following night, the grand finale, January 6, is a great night not to bring the kiddies. That would be the **Adult Parade**, folks.

And it's a good time to start making your plans for the rest of the month, where we've got plenty of music. Yep, plenty.

January 1: Some more New Year's Revels

The **Guloya Festival's** street parade in San Pedro de Macorís, Dominican Republic, is classified by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Patrimony of Humanity. The St. Kitts and Nevis monthlong carnival, otherwise known as **Sugar Mas**, winds up its festivities with its carnival parade that stretches into January 2. Puerto Rico says goodbye to the old year and hello to the new a little later, with the **Fiestas de da Calle San Sebastián**, January 13-16, in which historic Old San Juan is turned into a street festival of music, parades and artisanal stalls by day, parties and concerts by night.

caribbeansphere.com/en/whats-on/dominican-republic/guloya-festival and skncarnival.com

December 29-January 3: Mellow Island, St. Martin

Mellow Island is the Caribbean debut of a pop-up party concept curated by **Ramyen**, a producer/DJ based in Paris and St. Tropez who hosts these events throughout Europe. Featured on St. Martin will be an international lineup of DJs and music producers including **Dan Ghenacia**, **Carlita**, **Shimza**, and many more.

January 3: Zamna Festival, Fenix Beach, Cartagena, Colombia

"A unique concept that many still call 'rave,' " the organizers announce. Electronic music is the calling card for this rave/not rave "in the heart of the mystical jungle of Quintana Roo." *zamnafestival.com*

January 4-8: Ocaso Festival, Costa Rica

Featuring an international cross-section of some of the hottest DJs on the underground music scene. *ocasofestival.com*

January 9-13: Jam in the Sand, Runaway Bay, Jamaica

It's night of the living Dead, with some of the best-known Grateful Dead tribute bands, headlined by Dark Star Orchestra. *dsojaminthesand.com*

—Continued on next page



—*Continued from previous page*

January 10-15: Cayman Cookout, Grand Cayman
All-Star lineup of celebs of the foodie world including French chef **Eric Ripert**. For music fans, the **Goo Goo Dolls** will be performing January 13. *caymancookout.com*

January 13-14: Hot nights in San Juan
13: 1980s superstars **Culture Club** at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico José Miguel Agrelot. 14: **Ana Isabelle**, singer-actress who had a featured role in Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*. Centro de Bellas Artes Luis A. Ferré.

January 14-18: Gov't Mule's Island Exodus 14, Jamaica
The headline attraction is the Allman Brothers offshoot who have made this festival their home base. **Gov't Mule** is scheduled for three performances. Lead Mule **Warren Haynes** will also perform solo. Others on the four-day bill include the **Robert Randolph Band** of hard-driving funksters (two shows); blues goddess **Samantha Fish** with **Jesse Dayton**, whose guitar credits include Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Rob Zombie's horror films; and lots more. *islandexodus.com*


TAD RICHARDS

Jesse Dayton and Samantha Fish

January 15-21: St. Barths Music Festival
A week of "intimate events with celebrated artists in concert at the island's most exclusive and historical venues," featuring classical and jazz performances. For this year's schedule check the website, *stbartsmusicfestival.org/festival.*

January 16–20: Panama Jazz Festival
It seems most festivals these days are billed as jazz festivals, but for most of the presence of actual jazz is minimal. Panama is an exception. The 2024 festival is dedicated to drumming legend **Billy Cobham**, and will also feature an all-star lineup of contemporary jazz stars **Ron Savage, Alex Blake, Bill Pierce, Calixto Oviedo, Danilo Perez, The Global Jazz Womxn**, and many more. *panamajazzfestival.com*

January 16–21: Barbados Independent Film Festival
The festival is dedicated to films that "celebrate resilience and its


TAD RICHARDS

Billy Cobham

capacity to overcome adversity," and it is firmly rooted in the here and now—it only accepts films that are no more than a year old, and the selection of films to be shown is not made til late December, so we don't have a list as of press time. *barbadosfilmfest.org*

January 17 and 23: Luis Miguel, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico
Nicknamed *El Sol de Mexico*, this interpreter of Latin pop has sold over 60 million records worldwide. He'll be doing two arena shows — first at Feliz Sanchez Olympic Stadium, Santo Domingo, and then at Coliseo de Puerto Rico José Miguel Agrelot, San Juan.

January 19-20: Rebel Salute, Plantation Cove, Jamaica
No meat, no alcohol, no drugs, no weapons. But plenty of reggae in a festival dedicated to keeping alive the flame of Jamaica's most beloved musical export. r*ebelsalutejamaica.com*

January 21-29: Havana Jazz Festival, Havana, Cuba
The festival is known for its diverse lineup of renowned jazz musicians from around the world. This year's lineup still TBA as we went to press, but you can get on the mailing list to be informed at *jazzcuba.com/2023-havana-jazz-festival-musician-line-up.*

January 24-28: Bequia Music Fest
With three beachfront venues and a hospitable tiny island, this is bound to be a good time. The lineups had not yet been announced at press time, but if past Bequia fests are any indication, the music will be eclectic and interesting. Check the website, *bequiamusicfestival.com*, for updates.

January 24-February 7: Mustique Blues Festival
The island is tiny, part of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The venue, Basil's Bar, is outsized in reputation, watering hole of choice for fisherfolk, beachcombers and A-list celebrities. The blues festival will headline some A-list performers too, including **Joe Louis Walker, Ian Siegal, and Murali Coryell.** Check for full lineup at *basilsbar.com/whats-on.*

February 1-13: Bequia International Theater Festival
David Lyman has the lowdown on this in our companion column.

February 13-19: Dancehall Week, Jamaica
our.today/jamaica-introduces-dancehall-week-in-february-2024



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Theater on The Beach

Story and photos by David H. Lyman

"The Play's the Thing."*

Theater is coming to a beach near you—well, a beach in Bequia anyway.

Bequia residents John and Chrissy Burstein are holding the fifth Bequia International Theater Festival during the first two weeks in February. Five different productions, including comedy, drama, and musicals, each lasting two nights, will bring award-winning performers from the US, UK and Canada to the stage on the island.



The home of the festival is DeReef, a restaurant on Lower Bay (LoBay) at the southeast corner of Admiralty Bay. There's plenty of room to anchor off the Lower Bay Beach, and if the surf is down, you can run your dinghy right up on the beach.

The Bursteins, who retired to the island a decade ago, have turned one end of the restaurant into a stage, adding theatrical lighting and a sound system to compete with the sound of the surf. There are dressing rooms, a curtain, a proscenium, and plenty of seating — it's Bequia's version of a dinner-theater.

John Burstein has had a successful 40-year career as a stage and television actor, playwright, director, and producer. He created the children's television character Slim Goodbody, a character that continues today in books, television shows, and live on-stage productions. Chrissy has produced many of John's numerous offerings, and both have taken up permanent residency on Bequia. But retirement has not stopped the Bursteins from living their lives in theater.

In 2018, they co-produced *Darrow*, a one-man theatrical show on Bequia. The next year (2019), they staged three shows with actors from Maine and Florida performing *Gutenberg* and *Outside Mullingar* and one other drama. The second season's festival in 2020 featured David Troup, Hannah, Jen, and Paul Hodgson in *The Big Bang* and *Love Letters*. In 2021 and 2022, John performed in the one-man reading of Dickens' *Christmas Carol,* then added *Taptastic*, with four tap dancers from the UK, along with a dramatic *Weisenthal: Nazi Hunter.*

This year's schedule of performances begins on February 1 and 2, with *Sweet Dreams: The Music of Patsy Cline*, a musical created by Leisa Way, winner of the Toronto Musician of the Year Award in 2021–22 and featured on the cover of *International Musician* magazine in 2023.

Next, February 5 and 6, *Same Time Next Year,* a comedy by Bernard Slade, follows the story of Doris and George, who meet once a year for a romantic weekend at the same inn — despite being married to other people! Their relationship spans over two decades, and audiences witness the ups and downs of their love story. Jane Spence and Jeffrey Wetsch, both seasoned actors from Canada, star.

On February 7 and 8, John Burstein will bring back *Darrow*, his one-man presentation of David Rintel's thought-provoking depiction of the famous trial lawyer, Clarence Darrow. The show explores the life and career of one of America's most iconic legal minds.

February 9 and 10, it's the comedy *And the Winner Is!* Written by John Burstein, it tells the story of Marv Corbett, a gentleman locked into a dead-end job dreaming of hitting it big. He comes up with the idea of producing a TV bingo game show. This old-fashioned burlesque show includes singing, dancing cows, acting, goof-ball dialogue, and prizes.

The festival winds up on February 12 and 13, with *The Hunt for Milo Gatto*, a catch-me-if-you-can comedy-thriller. Detectives Lila Bockhorn and Harrison Locke discover the lifeless body of Countess Daphne Cabot, embark on the tail of the perpetrator, and enlist the audience to help the investigation by solving a variety of word games and puzzles.

Theater and The Caribbean

When I asked John and Chrissy if Bequia had a large enough audience to support live theater, they said yes. Most of the audience is made up of expats. Only about 10 percent were West Indians. But the expat community on the island has turned out to support the Bursteins with sponsorships to cover the construction of the stage, equipment, and performers' travel and accommodations.



John Burstein as Clarence Darrow



And the Winner Is!

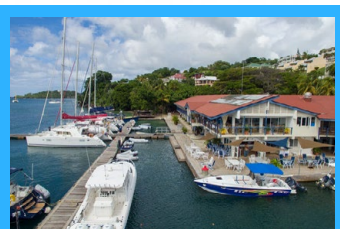
In many places, theater is a tradition. The Burstines have lived in Camden, Maine, for a generation, wintering in the Bequia, and even in their small coastal community, there are two theater groups with staged performances throughout the year. In England, there is a lively theater tradition in almost every village.

"We hope to build more interest in live theater here in Bequia," Chrissy added. Music is already a tradition on the Caribbean islands; Jamaican Reggie and mento; Afro-Caribbean; Trinidadian calypso; and many forms of Cuban jazz, including rhumba, Afro-Cuban jazz, salsa, and soukous. Music, like theater, tells stories and transports an audience outside of their routine lives to experience emotions only the arts can create.

One audience the Festival producers want to attract are cruisers living on their own boats who can come, drop the hook off the beach, and dinghy ashore to take in a couple of live performances.

* Shakespeare's Hamlet spoke those words first in 1600. Theater has always provided a metaphor to touch the conscience of the audience.

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Channel 16

New Service Connects Boat Owners and Charterers

Tyler Fields reports: The Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta Team is often contacted by racers interested in finding a boat to charter, so ACYRT has added a "Charter" tab to their website (antiguaclassics.com/charter). Yacht owners who want to charter may now use this site to announce the availability of their boats.



TYLER FIELDS

Yacht owners must first register for ACYRT on Yacht Scoring, then email antiguaclassicsregatta@gmail.com with the details that prospective charterers may need, such as: accommodations (stay aboard or day race only), who to contact, website. Pricing information will not be included — this is solely between yacht owners and charterers.

The regatta team and the Antigua Yacht Club will not be responsible for any charterers, owners or issues that could arise from your charter; this is intended to be another tool to help both the charterers and the yacht owners.

For more information please visit www.antiguaclassics.com
Email regatta coordinator at antiguaclassicsregatta@gmail.com



COURTESY VIKING EXPLORERS

Welcome to Grenada

Mount Cinnamon Resort Signs on with the Viking Explorers Rally

Mount Cinnamon Resort, located on Grenada's southwestern coast and Grand Anse Beach, will be the event's headquarters for the next three editions of the rally. Mount Cinnamon, in coordination with the Port Louis Marina, will be responsible for a smooth and safe arrival for the fleet.

"Having local companies supporting the rally helps also to promote directly the island of Grenada; these companies serve in many cases as ambassadors for the destination," says Oliver Solanas Heinrichs, managing director of the rally.

For the seventh consecutive year, the rally will set sail on January 6, 2024, toward Grenada with an intermediate stop at Mindelo at the Cape Verde Islands.

Sailing Course Lays Groundwork to Get More Women Sailing

A three-day coaching & mentoring women's sailing course at the St. Thomas Yacht Club (STYC) focused on getting more women and girls in the territory out sailing. World Sailing Coach developer Rebecca Ellis led the course, which featured a combination of hands-on sailing in IC24s and onshore discussions and networking opportunities. Discussion topics included how to attract more women and girls to try sailing, the difference between instructing and coaching, how to develop coaching skills, and how to meet the needs of the female athlete.

The participants were seven women each from St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John and one from the British Virgin Islands, a mix of professional sailors, coaches, and recreational enthusiasts. All felt that the networking aspect was invaluable. "Many of the women, even from the same island, had never met one another before. It often takes an event like this to bring like-minded women together. As a result, the discussion was excellent and the learning from one another was invaluable," said Ellis.

—Continued on next page





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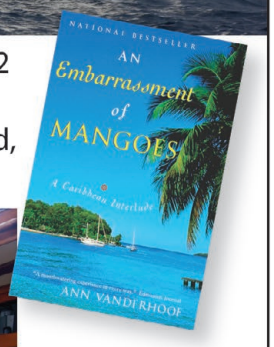
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—*Continued from previous page*

VISA/DEAN BARNES



Meg Deegan, Maya Craig, Marguerite Burke and Erin Durell attended the course and took to the water for hands-on instruction.

"What could be better than to be around other women who are passionate about sailing, be part of that community, and of course get out on the water each day," said Michelle Peterson, an assistant professor of biology at the University of the Virgin Islands St. Croix campus, St Croix Yacht Club member and avid Sunfish sailor. "I think we all have a better understanding of ways to get more women sailing by supporting competitive racing or working on the organizational side of events."

For more information, contact julie@teamsanmartin.com. You can also visit virginislandssailingassociation.com, or Virgin Islands Sailing Association on Facebook(facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551668560067)



A hit with brokers: USVI charter yacht show

USVI Charter Yacht Show

Over 70 boutique-style charter yachts were displayed at the 2023 USVI Charter Yacht Show, held at Yacht Haven Grande St. Thomas, to a crowd of 140 charter yacht brokers hailing from the Caribbean, U.S., and Europe.

Koru, a Bali 4.8, helmed by Captain Findlay Mack, won Best in Class for yachts under 50'. *Emysa*, a Leopard 58 crewed by Captain Bastian Tromp and Chef Sarai Ben Ari, earned Best in Class for yachts 51' to 60'.

The winner of Best in Class for yachts 61'-plus was *Xandros*, a Lagoon 65'.

Best Crew went to Captain Josh Ryan and Chef Gustavo Ryan, aboard the 62' Lagoon, *Valentina*.

Boat and crew awards and prizes included Virgin Islands-styled timepieces donated by Cardow Jewelers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

New Rope at Better Prices from Budget Marine

Budget Marine offers economical mooring, anchor and utility rope to the Caribbean market for this season. Some are already in all Budget Marine outlets and some are still to come. Budget Marine has tested all these ropes for the past two years and has found them to be at least as good as the stock carried for the last 20 years but available from more economical sources, particularly for black nylon rope, now only slightly more expensive than the white nylon. Black has the advantage of not showing dirt as easily as white.



COURTESY BUDGET MARINE

Twisted rope, polyprop 1" yellow Perfect for tender mooring and towing needs

TradeWinds Introduces Sustainable Yacht

TradeWinds Experience will showcase its new Fontaine Pajot 59-foot TWe6 electric catamaran *Aurora* at the Sint Maarten Yacht Club's Caribbean Multihull Challenge Race & Rally, February 1-4. *Aurora* represents TradeWinds' initiative toward creating advanced sustainability, powered by hydro, solar, and wind. Currently *Aurora* is available only to TradeWinds Experience club members and their guests.

Tradewinds is supporting the marine environmental work of both the Caribbean Cetacean Society and CLEAR Caribbean, and during the CMC, all sailors, guests, and visitors will be able to see *Aurora* and meet with CSCS, CLEAR, and TradeWinds representatives to learn more about each one's actions to maintain the health of our oceans.



COURTESY TRADEWINDS

Artist's rendering of Aurora

Northern Lights Sponsors Events

Northern Lights Generators and Lugger Marine Diesel Engines recently sponsored three events in the Virgin Islands: the BVI Charter Yacht Society crew party and annual general meeting on November 6, BVI Vendor night on November 7, and the VIPCA Marine Expo on November 10.

Picton Castle to Return to Caribbean

The three-masted sail training barque *Picton Castle* is over halfway through her eighth world circumnavigation voyage and will be sailing for the Caribbean soon. Captain Daniel Moreland expects to be island-hopping in the Windward and Leeward Islands for most of May and June, along with his crew of professionals and sail trainees. While aboard, trainees participate in standing watches, maintaining the ship, and learning to sail a square rigger.



COURTESY PICTON CASTLE

Picton Castle under full sail

Trainee berths are still available for the fourth and final leg of the voyage, which starts February 22 in Cape Town, South Africa, and ends July 13 in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada. *If interested, contact info@picton-castle.com or 902-634-9984.*

A New Year's Greeting from Clarke's Court Marina

As we welcome 2024, management and staff of Clarkes Court Boatyard and Marina expresses heartfelt gratitude for client support and trust throughout 2023. Customer presence has made the journey truly special. The Boatyard welcomes new and returning clients. May 2024 bring all safe and memorable journeys.

Clarke's Court Boatyard & Marina; 473-439-3939; info@clarkescourtmarina.com

Bequia Threadworks Launches 2024 Collection

Bequia Threadworks, a nonprofit in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, launches its latest collection under the NOYO label, the ethical and sustainable fashion brand. "The Way Home," launching on December 9, 2023, featured new silhouettes, sustainable fabrics and color palettes.

Bequia Threadworks was founded in 2018 with a mission to promote economic freedom and women's empowerment through ethical employment and training in fashion and manufacturing. Each collection is made inhouse by an all-woman team of designers, pattern makers and artisan seamstresses.

Visit the Bequia Threadworks Boutique in Port Elizabeth, Bequia, to shop "The Way Home" for men, women and children. Open daily from 8 AM. For online shopping, visit www.noyobequia.com





RACE







Caribbean MULTIHULL Challenge VI

1,2,3,4 February 2024

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www.CaribbeanMultihullChallenge.com

RALLY







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27 Mile SXM Circle Race



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Sailing photos by Laurens Morel, Salty Colours, Peter Gunn Productions

Start & Finish Simpson Bay Thur / Sun



Rally to Tintemarre Thursday



Rally to Anse Marcel Friday



Rally to St. Barth's Saturday





Antigua's Carrack Jones Sets Record *100 miles, 31 hours in an Opti*

By Michelle Slade

Sailing in his 7-foot, 9-inch Optimist dinghy, Carrack Jones, 14, set off on November 22, 2023, at 4:30 pm, from Falmouth Harbor, Antigua, making it into Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten, just before midnight on November 23, after a mostly downwind sail with a reach for the final 20 miles or so. Conditions were light the entire way, never breaking 10 knots and often much less. Nonetheless, Jones cracked his remarkable goal — to set a world record for sailing 100 nautical miles across open ocean unassisted in an Opti.



COURTESY TANNER JONES

Carrack ready to go, with coach Karl James

Jones was inspired to make the crossing after learning of 13-year-old Lolie Osswald's success sailing 80 nautical miles from Antigua to St Barts in June 2022. Even though his dad, Tanner Jones, tried to talk him out of it, citing concern over the youngster's safety over such a long distance, young Jones was determined. He even made a bet with his sailing mate Henry that if he made the crossing, Henry owed him a McFlurry on arrival at Sint Maarten (there are no McDonalds on Antigua!).

Jones's biggest concern, unsurprisingly, was falling asleep on the job. He prepared for the epic crossing by endurance training — spending hours at a time in the boat after dark.

"I practiced staying up late sailing on the boat over long distances. After sail training, I made trips in the dark of five to eight hours, in Falmouth Harbor home to Jolly Harbor where I live," he noted.

Safety being the foremost priority, Jones carried a tracker, EPIRB, radio, GPS, and a compass. Three support boats, two with ABSAR (Antigua Barbuda Search and Rescue) crew on board, included a catamaran, monohull and a 20-foot RIB for medical emergencies. The boats followed Jones for the duration of the crossing: "The more support, the better," acknowledged his dad. Nutrition was all-important and Jones carried plenty of energy drinks and sugary foods on board.

Jones felt excited as he left the dock in Falmouth Harbour, and confident, but some 11 hours into the trip — around 4 am — he capsized.

"The wind came in from a weird direction and I was sitting in the wrong position when the boom came across and I wasn't ready," Jones recalled. "I had to swim around in the dark for all of the stuff that came out of my boat. There are still about 50 granola bars floating out there right now!" he added, laughing.

Fortunately, Jones had another dry bag of food, but exhaustion really began to set in around 5 am.

"As the sun came up, I did think to myself, 'This is a really dumb idea, and why am I right next to St. Kitts?' "Jones said.

—Continued on next page

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA YACHTING & MARINE ASSOCIATION

ANTIGUA YACHTING AND EVENTS CALENDAR.

FALMOUTH HARBOUR MARINA

2023

4 - 9 DEC
Antigua Charter Yacht Show

12 DEC
World's Toughest Row

16 - 17 DEC
Jolyon Byerley Series

25 DEC
Nelson's Dockyard Christmas Day Champagne Party

26 DEC
Boxing Day Barrel

31 DEC
Nelson's Pursuit Race
Nelson's Dockyard Old Year's Night Party

2024

14 JAN
Oyster World Rally

20 JAN
Antigua Yacht Club Round The Island Race

9 - 11 FEB
Jolly Harbour Valentines's Regatta

13 - 16 FEB
RORC Inshore Races & Antigua 360

19 - 23 FEB
RORC Caribbean 600

11 - 17 MAR
Superyacht Challenge Antigua

23 - 24 MAR
Antigua Yacht Club Annual Laser Open

17 - 22 APR
Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta

27 APR
Peters & May Round Antigua Race

28 APR - 3 MAY
Antigua Sailing Week

4 MAY
Dockyard Day

16 - 19 MAY
Antigua & Barbuda Sport Fishing Tournament

17 MAY
Mikie Pigott Jr. Memorial Classic

27 - 28 SEP
Francis Nunes Jr. Fishing Tournament

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

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Photo: patricsikes.com

EVERY WEEK YEAR ROUND

Seafood Friday, Nelson's Dockyard **Saturday Sailing** Jolly Harbour Yacht Club Antigua Yacht Club **Sunday Sunset Party** Shirley Heights Lookout
For more information visit **www. Abyma.ag**

—Continued from previous page

His GPS had filled with water when he capsized, and while he could see all the islands before the capsize, by the time he got back in the boat he had lost them in his vision, conditions had become cloudy and he had sailed farther down than he intended to.

"Going the wrong way really got me and it probably put 30-60 minutes on the trip. I was going in and out of sleep; I felt like I was hallucinating and seeing things."

His dad and his mom, Shari Potts, watched as he started heading toward Eustatia and were worried he wouldn't turn back.



COURTESY TANNER JONES

Fifty miles in

"Near St. Barts we tried to convince him to quit and he said 'Okay,' and sailed toward us but about 10-15 feet away, he started sailing away again," Tanner said. "It was hard to watch him struggle and not being able to assist; the last ten miles into Sint Maarten felt longer than the 90 before."

Jones finally arrived at Simpson Bay after 31 hours in his boat to a crowd cheering on the docks. He was completely spent, and sleep deprivation had taken its toll.

"I was feeling pretty bad, I was exhausted. When I got off the boat, my feet were moving but my body wasn't," he said, smiling at the painful memory.

Nonetheless, barely caught up on sleep let alone full recovery, the very next day Jones jumped into the 18th Annual Optimist Regatta hosted in Sint Maarten. He placed sixth overall and was awarded a sportsman trophy for an outstanding accomplishment — his epic crossing and rolling immediately into a three-day regatta.

Karl James, MBE and two-time Olympian, has been Jones's sailing coach at the Antigua Yacht Club for many years and knows the young sailor well.

"I am a true believer that people are inspired in many different ways," James said. "I would say to the kids, 'This side of the course is favored which would be the side closest to shore,' and it fascinated me that Carrack would go off on his own on a long tack offshore — it's like it is in his DNA that he needs to explore."

Jones's world record for sailing the longest distance unassisted in an Opti has been validated by both the Antigua Yacht Club and the Sint Maarten Yacht Club, as well as the St Barth Yacht Club and the Caribbean Sailing Association. A perpetual trophy is being established by Caribbean clubs which will recognize not just distance racing but exceptional sailing accomplishments, with the hope of inspiring more young sailors to follow their dreams.

While he never considered himself in danger, Jones good-humoredly noted his advice to other kids wanting to break his record.

"Do not do it, it's a terrible idea!" he joked, before continuing on a more solemn note.

"Seriously, make sure you do a lot of endurance training before the attempt. You need to be able to stay up at night and keep yourself awake."



REGATTAS & RALLIES

Nanny Cay Round Tortola Race

The 2023 Nanny Cay Round Tortola Race took place in November 2023, with plenty of south in the wind offering up a potential record-breaking day.

The first away at 09:35 was the 40-foot Beneteau *Libertas*, skippered by Pat Nolan, the only boat in the fleet that made it to the start line. Sailing with just two crew, *Libertas* made great time, completing the circumnavigation in 3 hours, 47 minutes, and 52 seconds.





© RBVIYC/T

The Libertas and Flying Pig crews

Next away was Kelsall 47 trimaran *Triple Jack* skippered by Richard Wooldridge, attempting the Nanny Cay Challenge (NCC). At 10:26 they crossed the line. Clocking speeds in the mid to high teens, and having completed just one tack and one jibe through the whole route, they finished with a time of 2 hours, 40 minutes, and 4 seconds, just 6 minutes and 37 seconds shy of their own record, set in 2015.



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Triple Jack



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The Flying Pig

When entering the NCC, all boats must make a donation to a charity of their choice and the *Triple Jack* team selected the Humane Society of the BVI.

The last fleet to start were the Corsair trimarans, *The Flying Pig, Trike* and *Ting a Ling*, who crossed the line at 10:35. As per the race instructions, competitors can choose to take the same route as the Nanny Cay Challenge or take a shorter route inside Scrub, Great Camanoe and Guana islands.

Sam Talbot's 31-foot *Trike* opted for the outside route, while the two 27s, *Ting a Ling* and *The Flying Pig*, came through the gap to leave Monkey Point on Guana Island to starboard. The north shore offered up challenging conditions with lighter winds but very strong gusts and a big swell. The waters off Brewers Bay were the end of the day for Chris Haycraft's *Ting a Ling*, as a broken rudder forced him to retire from the race. Gilbo Simpson and Tim Parson's *The Flying Pig,* with crew members Nelson Ray-Boothe and Katherine Wilson, almost found themselves a casualty when a massive gust caused a near capsize and blew out their spinnaker, but they were able to continue.

First home was *Trike* with an elapsed time of 2 hours, 42 minutes, and 36 seconds. *The Flying Pig* finished in 3 hours, 1 minute, and 45 seconds and took the win with corrected time.

SMYC Competitions

The Sint Maarten Yacht Club hosted the SMYC Grand Prix in November 2023, featuring six Diam 24 trimarans: *Cry Baby, Karibuni, Merlin, Anomaly, Air-nest,* and *AS MDA*, on the waters of Great Bay in Philipsburg. This was the first Diam race of the 2024 season and is part of the race schedule of the World Diam Tour Caribbean.

Wind speeds ranged between 18 to 19 knots and gusts reached 25 knots; big waves were a result of the unusual wind direction. The crew of all the Diam 24s had to reef their sails for the entire race.

—Continued on next page





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The day consisted of six races. *Cry Baby* took an early lead after the first two, but *Karibuni* secured first place in the four remaining races. In the final standings, *Karibuni* claimed first place, followed by *Cry Baby* and *AS MDA*. *Air-nest* came in fourth, while *Anomaly* and *Merlin* claimed the fifth and sixth positions.

In other racing, 41 youth sailors from five different countries competed in the 18th annual St. Maarten Budget Marine Optimist Championship in three competitions in late November 2023.

The Sailqube fleet, the youngest group, was won by Axel le Calvex from Saint Martin Voile pour Tous, with 10 points out of six races. Samuel Ricour, from the same fleet, came in second. Axel Vanden Eynde, representing the Sint Maarten Yacht Club, finished third.



EDWARD PENAGOS

The Orange Fleet, representing intermediate sailors, saw Ruben van Hest, representing Antigua Yacht Club, taking first place with 12 points out of 11 races. A close battle for second and third between Antigua Yacht Club sailors saw Mia Duce ahead of Lluc Agusti at the end of the first day, but the positions reversed as the competition came to a close.

Thomas Magras, from the Saint Barths Yacht Club, dominated the Blue Fleet event for experienced sailors with a total of 13 points out of 11 races sailed. Two more Saint Barths members battled it out for second and third, with Tao Carmona claiming a narrow advantage over Lourenco Rolo Couto Jorge. Thomas Magras was named the overall winner of the 18th St. Maarten Optimist Championship.

The Race Organization rewarded Elliot Balland, who had joined the Saint Barths Yacht Club Orange Fleet a few weeks prior, as Best Newcomer. Carrack Jones was rewarded with the Sportsmanship award. The 14-year-old, having sailed his Optimist over 100 nautical miles from Antigua to Sint Maarten, then participated in the Blue Fleet, finishing sixth.

Hard-Fought Victory at 15th St. Barth Cata Cup

This year's St.Barth Cata Cup, held November 15-19, 2023, featured one of the closest and most thrilling competitions on record. Gurvan Bontemps and Benjamin Amiot, from France, aboard *Pixail*, were initially announced as the winners, but by the end of the day, Americans Ravi Parent and Nicolas Lovisa, aboard *Maxwell & Co*, had prevailed by a single point. Argentina's Agustn Krevisky and Nicolas Aragones aboard *Design Affairs OO1* completed the podium in third place.

Defending IMOCA Champs Win Transat Jacques Vabre

Thomas Ruyant and Morgan Lagravière on *For People* took first place in the IMOCA class of the 2023 Transat Jacques Vabre Normandie Le Havre, after a tough race for a record 40-boat fleet.

Fort de France, the capital of Martinique, welcomed a stream of racers round the clock over a hectic weekend. The jubilant duo, who'd previously teamed up on *LinkedOut* in The Ocean Race Europe in 2021, appeared out of the humid Caribbean darkness after finishing at 0202hrs local time in Martinique Sunday morning November 19, 2023. They arrived some 4 hours, 8 minutes ahead of Yoann Richomme and Yann Eliès aboard *Paprec Arkéa,* an identical sistership of the new Antoine Koch/Finot Conq designed foiler. Both proved quicker, more easily driven and more sea-kindly in the fast downwind racing than their preceding design generation. The top seven IMOCAs finished within a total 11hrs 28 mins — the top three within 4 hours 20 minutes and fourth to seventh within 34 minutes of each other.

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PIERRE BOURAS

Ruyant and Lagravière sailed the 5,425-mile race from Le Havre, France, to Martinique at an average speed of 19 knots.

This year's race stood out for the size of the fleet, delays, and offshore tactics. The fleet was held ashore for eight days after a series of low-pressure systems swept the North Atlantic when the race was due to start, finally setting off from Le Havre on Tuesday, November 7. A tactical split came after four days, when a breakaway group opted for a more direct northerly route to Martinique, while the rest of the leading pack went south to get into tradewinds sooner, sailing some 400 miles farther. The winning double-handed crew relied in the second half of the race on hand-steering for hours at a time.

A delighted Ruyant admitted that he remains focused on global racing. "That's the goal and the whole group is working towards it," he said. "In the back of our minds, we're making our boat more reliable for the Vendée Globe. You can't write the history of the Vendée Globe in advance, but that's our goal."

And on the Horizon...

Caribbean Multihull Challenge Race & Rally

For the 6th Caribbean Multihull Challenge Race & Rally, February 1-4, CMC organizers are introducing a hybrid competition for cruising multihulls. For those who want the fun of a rally but also a chance to compete, the Time Trial feature allows those with a CSA rating (or a Simplified Rating provided onsite) to get in on the act.

The timed start to the event, similar to that used in Les Voiles de St. Barth, means no chance of a collision at a starting line, so expensive special racing insurance may not be needed. The CMC hopes that this feature will draw new mid and top-level boats to the rally.

Registration for racing and for the rally begins at 1400 on January 31 at the Sint Maarten Yacht Club in Simpson Bay, and closes at 1800. After the close, there will be a skipper's briefing and a welcome party at 1900. Rally courses to Tintemare & Great Bay, Anse Marcel, and Gustavia will ensue.

Information on the CMC is at www.CaribbeanMultihullChallenge.com Enter at www.yachtscoring.com/event_registration_email.cfm


LAURENS MOREL, SALTY COLORS


© CARLO BORLENGHI/ROLEX

Left: Leopard 50 La Novia *skippered by Georges Coutu of the Dominican Republic, at CMC Right: Wendy Schmidt's Botin 85* Deep Blue

RORC Caribbean 600 and Nelson's Cup

The 15th anniversary edition of the RORC Caribbean 600 starts in Antigua on February 19, 2024, preceded by RORC's newest event, the Nelson's Cup Series, starting February 13, 2024

The RORC Nelson's Cup Series is a full racing program of inshore and round Antigua racing, open to teams that are not entered for the 600-mile offshore. This year's entries include Wendy Schmidt's Botin 85 *Deep Blue* (USA), the Askew brothers with their Botin 52 *Wizard* (USA), and RORC Commodore James Neville's Carkeek 45 *Ino Noir* (GBR). Neville will defend his overall win under IRC for the Antigua 360.

RORC Caribbean 600 entries are approaching 50 teams. Contending 70-foot trimarans include Jason Carroll's *Argo* (USA), which holds the race record of 29 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds, and last year's winner Gunboat 68 *TOSCA* (USA), co-skippered by Alex Thomson.

Early entry for the 2024 RORC Caribbean 600 closes on January 22, 2024, after which a late entry fee may apply. For the Notice of Race and more information about the RORC Caribbean 600 and RORC Nelson's Cup Series please go to: caribbean600.rorc.org



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CARIBBEAN COMPASS

CALENDAR OF CARIBBEAN EVENTS 2024

Pull out and pin up the paper version, and use the version with live links at caribbeancompass.com/caribbean-events-calendar

Plans change, so check with event organizers and see the updated calendar in each new issue of Compass.

JANUARY

1 Public holiday or 'recovery day' in many places (New Year's Day)
1 Annual Festival Parade in Montserrat. Visitmontserrat.com/festivals
1 Guloya Festival, San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic
1 Sandz Caribbean Music Festival, Jamaica
1-2 Sugar Mas 52 Festival, St. Kitts and Nevis. Skncarnival.com
1-2 Conclusion of Montserrat Carnival
3 St. Croix Crucian Carnival Food, Arts and Crafts Fair. stcroixtourism.com › christmas_festival
3-4 Zamna Festival, Fenix Beach, Cartagena, Colombia. zamnafestival.com
5 St. Croix Crucian Carnival Children's Parade
6 St. Croix Crucian Carnival Adult Parade
6 Public holiday in some places (Three Kings Day/Epiphany)
6 Viking Explorers rally departs from Canary Islands. vikingexplorersrally.com
7 RORC Transatlantic Race departs Canary Islands bound for Grenada. rorctransatlantic.rorc.org
7 Keelboat Season Championship, Race Day Two, St. Maarten. smyc.com/keelboat-season-championship
8 International Women's Day
10–15 Cayman Cookout. Goo Goo Dolls concert 13 Jan. caymancookout.com
13 Start of World ARC, St. Lucia – Colombia leg. worldcruising.com
13 Latitude 18 Halyard Challenge Race, Tortola. royalbviyc.org/calendar.html
13-16 Fiestas de da Calle San Sebastián, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico
13–22 Barbados Sailing Week. roundbarbados.com
14 Oyster World Rally, Antigua. abyma.ag/events-calendar
14–15 Martin Luther King Regatta, St. Thomas. stthomasyachtclub.org/sailing/regattas/mlk-regatta
14-18 Gov't Mule's Island Exodus 14, Runaway Bay, Jamaica. islandexodus.com/event.html
15 Public holiday in Puerto Rico & USVI (Martin Luther King Day)
15-21 St. Barts Music Festival. stbartsmusicfestival.org/festival
16–20 Panama Jazz Festival. panamajazzfestival.com
16–21 Barbados Independent Film Festival. barbadosfilmfest.org
19-20 Rebel Salute, Plantation Cove, Jamaica. rebelsalutejamaica.com
20 Club De Pesca Cartagena + Panama Posse
Sailors and Cruisers Networking Party, Cartagena, Colombia. oceanposse.com/events/fiesta-nautica-club-de-pesca-cartagena-%F0%9F%87%A8%F0%9F%87%B4-panama-posse-january-20th-2024
20 Painkiller Cup, Tortola, BVI. painkillercupbvi.com
20 Sandy Island Race, Antigua. antiguayachtclub.com/calendar
20–22 Caribbean Midwinter Laser Regatta, Cabarete, Dominican Republic. caribwind.com
20-21 Multiclass Dinghy Regatta, St. Maarten. smyc.com
21 Public holiday in the Dominican Republic (Our Lady of Altagracia)
21 Mount Gay Round Barbados Race. roundbarbados.com/round-barbados
21–27 Martinique Cata Raid (F16 and F18). martiniquecataraid.com
21-29 Havana Jazz Festival, Havana, Cuba. jazzcuba.com
22 Public holiday in Barbados (Errol Barrow Day)
24–28 Bequia Music Fest. bequiamusicfestival.com
24–7 Feb Mustique Blues Festival. basilsbar.com/whats-on
25 FULL MOON (Full Wolf Moon)
25 Public holiday in Aruba (GF Croes Day), in Cuba (Birthday of José Martí) and in Cayman Islands (National Heroes Day)
26 Public holiday in Dominican Republic (Duarte Day)
27–3 Feb Manhattan Caribbean Week, BVI. myc.org/cruising/caribbean-week
28–2 Feb Grenada Sailing Week. grenadasailingweek.com

FEBRUARY

1-2 Bequia International Theater Festival: Sweet Dreams — the Music of Patsy Cline. tickettailor.com/events/slimgoodbodycorp/904770
1-4 Caribbean Multihull Challenge. caribbeanmultihullchallenge.com
4 Carnaval Dominicano, Dominican Republic (every Sunday in February)
2 World Wetlands Day. ramsar.org/activity/world-wetlands-day
5-6 Bequia International Theater Festival: Same Time Next Year. tickettailor.com/events/slimgoodbodycorp/904770
7 Public holiday in Grenada (Independence Day — celebrating Grenada's 50th anniversary)
7-8 Bequia International Theater Festival: Darrow. tickettailor.com/events/slimgoodbodycorp/904770
7-13 Trinidad Carnival week. caribbeanevents.com/event/trinidad-carnival
9-11 Jolly Harbour Valentine's Regatta, Antigua. jhycantigua.com
9-13 Semaine Nautique Internationale de Schoelcher, Martinique. cnschoelcher.net
11-14 Carnival in Trinidad, Martinique, Ponce (Puerto Rico), Barranquilla (Colombia), Aruba, Carriacou, Curaçao, Dominica, Haiti and St. Barts
11 Grand Carnival Parade, Oranjestad, Aruba. visitaruba.com/things-to-do/carnival/aruba-carnival-schedule
11-18 Holetown Festival, Barbados. visitbarbados.org/the-holetown-festival
12 Mas Domnik, Dominica. avirtualdominica.com/project/carnival-in-dominica
12-14 Carriacou Carnival "Kayak Mas." ourcarriacou.com/carriacou-carnival-kayak-mas
13-19 Dancehall Week, Jamaica. our.today/jamaica-introduces-dancehall-week-in-february-2024
13 – 24 RORC Nelson's Cup Series, Antigua. caribbean600.rorc.org
14 Public holiday in many places (Ash Wednesday)
14 Valentine's Day Jump-Up, St. Croix
16 Antigua 360 RTI Race, Antigua Yacht Club. antigua360race.com/
17 Dinghy Championship Hoedemaker Series Day 1, St. Maarten. smyc.com/dinghy-season-championship/
18 Public holiday in Aruba (Flag Day)
18-23 ProCigar Festival, Dominican Republic
19-23 RORC Caribbean 600 race, Antigua. caribbean600.rorc.org
20 Public holiday in Puerto Rico & USVI (Presidents Day)
22 Public holiday in St. Lucia (Independence Day)
23 Public holiday in Guyana (Mashramani Carnival)
23-25 Union Island Conch Festival, St. Vincent & Grenadines. caribbeanevents.com/event/union-island-conch-festival
24 FULL MOON (Full Snow Moon)
25 Public holiday in Suriname (Liberation Day)
25 Keelboat Season Championship, Heineken Regatta Warmup, St. Maarten. smyc.com/keelboat-season-championship
27 Public holiday in Dominican Republic (Independence Day)
29-Mar 3 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. heinekenregatta.com
Puerto Plata Carnival, Dominican Republic, the whole month of February

ARTHUR DANIEL RORC



RORC Transatlantic winner Teasing Machine

MARCH

1-3 ACT (Arts, Culture, Technology) Festival, Barbados. visitbarbados.org
3 Carnaval Dominicano grand finale, Dominican Republic
4 Public holiday in BVI (HL Stoutt's Birthday)
5-10 Drum Fest – Fiesta del Tambor, Havana, Cuba. Fiestadeltambor.cult.cu
7 Taste of Rum, Puerto Rico's International Rum Festival. Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan
7-9 Virgin Islands Jam Fest, St. John. vijamfest.com
8 International Women's Day
9 Isle of Light Music Festival, Dominican Republic. isleoflight.com
9-18 St. Patrick's Festival, Montserrat
11 Public holiday in Belize (National Heroes Day)
11 Public holiday in some places (Commonwealth Day)
11-17 Superyacht Challenge Antigua. Superyachtchallengeantigua.com
11-18 SXM electronic music festival, St. Maarten. sxmfestival.com
14 Public holiday in in St. Vincent & the Grenadines (National Heroes Day)
16 Taste of Virgin Gorda, BVI. Bvifoodfete.com
16 Dinghy Championship Hoedemaker Series Day 2, St. Maarten. smyc.com/dinghy-season-championship
17 Public holiday in Montserrat (St. Patrick's Day). St. Patrick's Day Festival, Grenada
18 Public holiday in Aruba (Flag Day)
20 Vernal Equinox
21-24 St. Barths Bucket Regatta, St. Barths. BucketRegatta.com
22 Public holiday in Puerto Rico (Emancipation Day)
22-24 Moonsplash Festival, Anguilla. www.bankiebanx.net
23 Crab Festival, Martinique. azmartinique.com/en/events/crab-fair
23-24 Antigua Laser Open. Antiguayachtclub.com/calendar
24-1 Apr Easterval on Union Island, SVG. caribbeanevents.com/event/easterval-on-union-island
25 FULL MOON (Full Worm Moon)
28 Round the Rocks Race, St. John, USVI. stthomasyachtclub.org
28-31 Bequia Easter Regatta. bequiaregatta.com
29 Good Friday
29-31 St. Thomas International Regatta. stthomasyachtclub.org
29-31 Festival del Mar, Anguilla. anguilla-beaches.com/festival-del-mar-anguilla.html
29-1 Apr Oistin's Fish Festival, Christ Church, Barbados
29-8 Apr Afro-Cuban Dance Festival, Havana. afrocubandancefestival.com
30 Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Spiritual Baptist 'Shouter' Liberation Day)
31 Easter Sunday

APRIL

1 Easter Monday. Public holiday in some places.
1-7 BVI Spring Regatta and Sailing Festival. bvispringregatta.org
2 Round Tortola race for the Nanny Cay Cup. yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16228
6 Panama Posse Belize Yacht Fest, Placencia Yacht Club, Belize. oceanposse.com/events/belize-placencia-yacht-fest
10 Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Eid ul-Fitr, end of Ramadan)
12–14 St. Croix International Regatta. Stcroixyc.com
13 Dinghy Championship Hope Ross Series Day 1, St. Maarten. smyc.com/dinghy-season-championship
14–20 Les Voiles de St Barth. lesvoilesdestbarthrichardmille.com
15-21 British Virgin Islands Food and Wine Festival. bvifoodandwine.com
16 Public holiday in Puerto Rico (Birthday of José de Diego)
18 St. Maarten Carnival. www.carnivaland.net/st-maarten-carnival
17-22 Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. antiguaclassics.com
18-22 Tobago Jazz Experience. tobagofestivalscommission.com
20 Governor's Cup Race, BVI. royalbviyc.org
20-21 Coffee & Chocolate Expo, Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan
22 Earth Day
23 FULL MOON (Full Pink Moon)
23-30 St. Thomas Carnival
26-27 Aruba Food Truck Festival
27 Public holiday in St. Maarten and Bonaire (King's Day)
27 Peters and May Round Antigua Race. sailingweek.com
27 Capella Music Festival, Grand Cayman. capellamusicfestival.com
27–3 May Antigua Sailing Week. sailingweek.com
28 Public holiday in Barbados (National Heroes Day)
30 Public holiday in Bonaire (Rincon Day)
30-4 May Vallenato Festival, Valledupar, Colombia. festivalnexus.com/vallenato-legend-festival-festival-de-la-leyenda-vallenata
30-10 May Cayman Islands Carnival (Batabano)
30-12 May St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival. stlucia.org/en/jazz

CARIBBEAN COMPASS

CALENDAR OF CARIBBEAN EVENTS 2024

MAY

1 Public holiday in many places (Labour Day)
1-27 U.S. Virgin Islands Caribbean Music Festival. visitusvi.com/us-virgin-islands-caribbean-music-festival
1-31 Mai de Saint-Pierre, Martinique, month-long celebration azmartinique.com/en/events/mai-de-saint-pierre
4 Dockyard Day, Antigua. Antiguanice.com
4 Dinghy Championship Hope Ross Series Day 2, St. Maarten. smyc.com/dinghy-season-championship
3-8 Romerias de Mayo, Holguin, Cuba. rove.me/to/cuba/romerias-de-mayo
5 Jazz'n'Creole event, Dominica. dominicafestivals.com
7 Antigua to Bermuda Race. www.antiguabermuda.com
8 Public holiday in Saint-Barthélémy (Victory Day)
8-13 Hi-Winds Amateur World Challenge, Aruba. arubahiwinds.com
9 Public holiday in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saint-Barthélémy and St. Maarten (Ascension Day)
9-10 BVI Spring Charter Yacht Show, Tortola. crewedyachtsbvi.com/charter-yacht-shows
10-12 Virgin Islands Boating Expo (VIBE). vibe.vi
11 Start of ARC Europe rally from St. Maarten (or East Coast USA) to Portugal via Bermuda. worldcruising.com/arc_europe
11 Buenaventura Marina Yacht Fest & Panama Posse Award Ceremony, Panama. oceanposse.com/events/buenaventura-marina-yacht-vest-and-panama-posse-award-ceremony-buenaventura-marina-yacht-fest-%f0%9f%87%b5%f0%9f%87%a6-panama-posse-award-ceremony-may-11-2024
14 Windward 500. caribbean-sailing.com
14 Belize Cashew Festival & Agriculture Show, Crooked Tree Village. belizing.com/Cashew-Festival-and-Agriculture-Show-Belize
16-19 Antigua and Barbuda Sport Fishing Tournament. abyma.ag/events-calendar
16-19 Barbados Celtic Festival. facebook.com/bcmfestival
17-19 STYC Invitational Regatta, St. Thomas. Stthomasyachtclub.org
17-21 Grenada Chocolate Festival
20 Public holiday in the Cayman Islands (Discovery Day)
23 ARC Europe rally leaves Bermuda. worldcruising.com/arc_europe
23 FULL MOON (Full Flower Moon)
23-26 Anguilla Culinary Experience. anguillaculinaryexperience.com
23-27 Aruba Soul Beach Music Festival, Harbor Arena, Oranjestad
23-28 FesTopia Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. festopia.com
24-1 Jun International Theater Festival for Children and Young People, Havana, Cuba
27 Public holiday in Puerto Rico and USVI (Memorial Day)
28 Beach-to-Beach Power Swim. visitusvi.com/beach-beach-power-swim
20 Public holiday in some places (Whit Monday)
30 Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Indian Arrival Day) and in Anguilla (Anguilla Day). In some places, Corpus Christi.

JUNE

1 World Reef Awareness Day
1 Virgin Islands Salsa Festival
1-2 KLM Aruba Marathon. klmarubamarathon.com/en
4-30 ICC Men's T20 World Cup (Cricket), Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago
5 World Environment Day
7-9 Festival del Jíbaro Comerieño, Comerio, Puerto Rico
8 World Oceans Day
8 King of the Wing Festival, St. Thomas. kowvi.com
8 Mango Fest, Hopkins, Belize. belizing.com/Hopkins-Mango-Fest
10–16 International Optimist Regatta, St. Thomas. stthomasyachtclub.org
15-16 St. Maarten National Dinghy Championship. smyc.com
19 Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Labour Day)
19-22 International Choral Festival for Peace, Costa Rica. choralfestcostarica.org
20-24 Love Fest, Costa Rica. lovefestcostarica.com
21 Summer Solstice
21 FULL MOON (Full Strawberry Moon)
21 Fête de la Musique, all French West Indies
22 Summer Sailstice summersailstice.com
27-29 St. Kitts Music Festival. stkittstourism.kn/music-festival
28-29 Aruba Summer Music Festival. arubasmf.com
28-12 Jul St. Vincent Carnival "Vincy Mas." carnivaland.net/vincy-mas-st-vincent
29 Taste of Tortola, BVI. bvifoodfete.com
29 Fisherman's Birthday (International Fisherman Day), local boat racing in many coastal communities
29 CayMAS Carnival, Caymans. Caymas.ky
29-4 Jul St. John Celebration. visitusvi.com/st-john-celebration
30–6 Jul Fiesta del Fuego (Fire Festival), Santiago de Cuba



Howard Zimmerman, International Optimist winner

JULY

1 Public holiday in BVI (Virgin Islands Day) and in Suriname (Emancipation Day)
1 CARICOM Day, public holiday in 20 countries
1 International Reggae Day
2 Public holiday in Curaçao (Flag Day)
4 Public holiday in and Puerto Rico and USVI (Independence Day), and in Cayman Islands (Constitution Day)
8-15 Mi Habana Baila Festival, Havana. mihabanabaila.com/en
9 Mango Melee and Tropical Fruit Festival, St. Croix. visitusvi.com/mango-melee-and-tropical-fruit-festival
10 Piña Colada Day, Puerto Rico
10-17 St. Lucia Carnival. carnivalsaintlucia.com
14 Public holiday in French islands (Bastille Day)
14–20 Reggae Sumfest, Jamaica. reggaesumfest.com
21 FULL MOON (Full Buck Moon)
25 Public holiday in Puerto Rico (Constitution of Puerto Rico Day)
25 Public holiday in Cuba (National Revolutionary Festival)
25-6 Aug Antigua and Barbuda Carnival
26 International Mangrove Conservation Day
27-28 AnimeCom Fest 2024, Kingston, Jamaica. animecomfest.com
30-6 Aug Anguilla Summer Festival
31-6 Aug Barbados Crop Over Festival. socaislands.com/barbados-cropover-2024
Fort de France Cultural Festival, Martinique, month-long celebration. azmartinique.com/en/events/fort-de-france-cultural-festival

AUGUST

1 Public holiday in many places (Emancipation Day)
1-5 St. John Festival, St. John, USVI
1-13 Grenada Carnival, 'SpiceMas.' spicemasgrenada.com
2-6 Dream Weekend, Negril, Jamaica. instagram.com/dreamwknd
5–7 BVI Emancipation Festival
5-8 Anguilla Summer Festival
6 Barbados Grand Kadooment. socaislands.com/barbados-cropover-2024
6 St. Kitts and Nevis Culturama Day.
11 World Steelpan Day. thereisadayforthat.com/holidays/various/world-steelpan-day
19 FULL MOON (Super Surgeon Moon)
15 Feast of the Assumption, Saint-Bartelemy. publicholidays.la/saint-barthelemy/fr/assumption-day
30 La Rose Flower Festival, St. Lucia
31 Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Independence Day)

SEPTEMBER

2 Public holiday in Puerto Rico and USVI (Labor Day)
6 Public holiday in Bonaire (National Day)
16 Public holiday in St. Kitts & Nevis (National Heroes' Day)
17 FULL MOON (Super Harvest Moon)
19 Public holiday in St. Kitts & Nevis (Independence Day)
22 Autumnal Equinox
24 Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Republic Day)



COURTESY ROYAL NAVY

Royal Navy saves turtles on Curaçao

OCTOBER

3 FULL MOON (Super Hunter's Moon)
14 Public holiday in St. Lucia (Thanksgiving Day); in Puerto Rico and USVI (Indigenous Peoples' Day); in the Bahamas (National Heroes' Day)
17 La Marguerite Flower Festival, St. Lucia
17-20 Barbados Food and Rum Festival, Bridgetown. foodandrum.com
21 Willy T Virgin's Cup Race, BVI. Royalbviyc.org
24 Grenada Film Festival. 1261filmfestival.com
25 Public holiday in Grenada (Thanksgiving Day)
25 Creole Day (Jounen Kwéyòl), culmination of Creole Heritage Month, Dominica
25–27 World Creole Music Festival, Dominica, including fringe events. discoverdominica.com
26-2 Nov Havana Ballet Festival
27 Public holiday in St. Vincent & the Grenadines (Independence Day)
27 Creole Day (Jounen Kwéyòl), culmination of Creole Heritage Month, St. Lucia
28 Foxy's Cat Fight, Jost Van Dyke, BVI. westendyachtclubbvi.com
31 Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Divali)
31-4 Nov St. Barth Rum Festival. caribbeanrumawards.com

NOVEMBER

1 Public holiday in Antigua (Independence Day), including the Antigua and Barbuda Independence Food Fair
1 Public Holiday in several places (All Saints' Day)
3 Public holiday in Dominica (Independence Day)
10 ARC+ leaves Las Palmas de Gran Canaria for St Georges, Grenada.
13-17 St. Barth Cata Cup. stbarthcatacup.com
15 FULL MOON (Full Beaver Moon)
22-24 Imagine Weekend, Barbados. visitbarbados.org
23-25 Jolly Harbour Yacht Club Annual Regatta, Antigua. jhycantigua.com
24 ARC departs Las Palmas de Gran Canaria for Saint Lucia
30 Public holiday in Barbados (Independence Day)

DECEMBER

1 Cayman Islands Marathon. caymanislandsmarathon.com
11 ARC+ prize giving in Port Louis Marina, Grenada
12 Parade of Lanterns, Castries, St. Lucia
13 Public holiday in St. Lucia (National Day – Festival of Lights and Renewal)
15 FULL MOON (Full Cold Moon)
15 Kingdom Day. Legal holiday, Bonaire
16-24 Nine Mornings Festival, St. Vincent. discoversvg.com
21 Winter Solstice
21 ARC prize giving in IGY Rodney Bay Marina, St. Lucia
25 Public holiday in many places (Christmas Day)
26 Public holiday in many places (Boxing Day)
26 Maskanoo, Turks and Caicos. turksandcaicostourism.com
26-4 Jan Crucian Christmas Carnival, St. Croix, USVI
31 Nelson's Pursuit Race, Antigua. antiguayachtclub.com
31 Festival Day, Montserrat. holidayscalendar.com/event/festival-day-in-montserrat
31 New Year's Eve/Old Year's Night: Fireworks in many places.



JAMES MITCHELL

ARC rally 2023 departs from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on the 2,700-mile bluewater passage to St. Lucia.

NOTES

••Contact event organizers directly for confirmation. Please let us know, too, if there are any changes! editor@caribbeancompass.com

• If you organize a sailing or boating event not listed here that you'd like to have included in our monthly calendars, please send information two months before the event date(s) to editor@caribbeancompass.com

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Cost Control While You Cruise, Part 3

Story and photos by Lin Pardey

This is the third of a four-part Caribbean Compass *series by Lin Pardey, adapting and updating material from her book,* Cost Conscious Cruiser. *Check out the first two parts in previous 2023 issues (August-September and October-November).*

Things to do...And not to do.



The more time you save to get to know local people, the more likely you are to enjoy homemade meals and homemade entertainment.

Think Carefully about Onboard Communication

Sat phones, Starlink, VHF radios, SSB, Ham, onboard communications options have multiplied over the years. Tempting as it may be to have easy communication with folks on shore, there are several drawbacks. First and foremost, there is the initial cost. Then there is the ongoing maintenance. Once you head offshore, they seem to be among the most frequent items on the "repair or upgrade" list.

Once again, radios and overly easy internet access can cut you off from the very reasons you set off cruising – having time out from the hustle of modern life, time to get to know other countries, other cultures, time to meet local people. Your spare time can be easily filled with internet communications with folks back home, and it is tempting and enjoyable to accept dates with other international cruising friends you met in previous ports even as you arrive in a new place. It is so easy to give a call on the VHF when you spot a sail you recognize and say, "Let's meet for dinner as soon as you get in; let's rent a car together." The more time you reserve to get to know local people, the more likely you are to exchange homemade meals, homemade entertainment. These onshore acquaintances can lead you to special, lesser-known anchorages and destinations.

Balance Cruising Time



One of the highlights of cruising (for me), and a real cost saving, is spending time in beautiful, isolated anchorages.

If you make occasional two- or three-day passages instead of trying to harbor-hop around the world, you'll save money because you'll have more time in each port you visit to explore and find what you need at reduced prices. Balancing your time between major ports and visits to isolated anchorages or tiny villages means you'll save money and broaden your chances for memorable experiences. During the three fun-filled weeks we spent in the very comfortable marina right in the center of Noumea, New Caledonia, within a few hundred yards of the excellent open market, we spent seven times more just on entertainment than we did when we sailed 140 miles north to the small villages and quiet, out-of-the way anchorages along the northwest of the island then on to the isolated reef anchorages north of there.

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Away from the bright lights, we still went ashore for occasional meals, but we stopped being tempted by mouthwatering French pâtés, daily doses of fresh breads and cheeses, and twice-a-day gatherings with fellow sailors at the café at the entrance to the marina. And, as mentioned previously, away from other cruising sailors, we had the time (and the need) to meet local folks. That has really spiced up our time in this oft overlooked cruising area.



By setting sail away from the general cruising route, we were able to meet local folks who often guided us to far less costly ways to live.

Stock Up

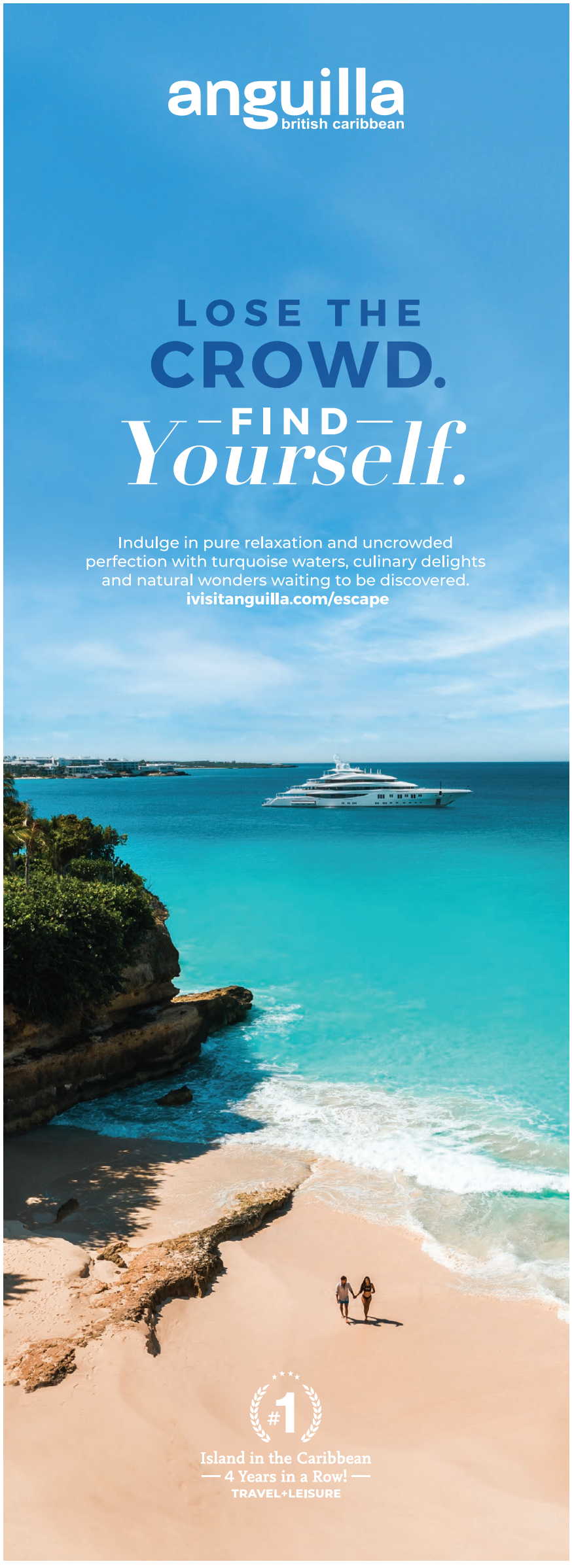
Use your boat as a miniature warehouse and buy extras whenever you see low prices on your favorite nonperishable goods. In most island areas, items you see one day may be gone the next. In others, prices may be double. The corollary to this is to find local substitutes for provisions that must be imported, and which therefore could be costly.

Leave your Cash, Credit Cards Aboard

Impulse buying will destroy your cruising finances. We find it hard to resist spending money like ... well, like a drunken sailor, on our first few days in port. This is especially true after a long ocean passage or after being in areas with no major shops or ice cream stores for three or four months. So we carry only enough cash to buy us one nice restaurant meal and if we see something we think we really need, we are forced to wait until we can go back to the boat for money or our credit card. By that time, we often have talked ourselves out of the item or thought of a more affordable way to solve the problem.

We also have found having access to internet shopping can break the budget. Our solution: keep two lists, one is items we actually need, a replacement for spare parts we have used up, lines that are chafed. The second list is items that we might like to have. All items on the might like list have to be researched for a minimum of a month before we push the buy button. Amazing how many seem less important when the month is up.

Cost Conscious Cruiser *is available from Amazon (amzn.to/3o7CuGn), or ask for it at your local bookstore. Lin will wrap up her cost-conscious philosophy in an upcoming issue. Check out her blog at pardeytime.blogspot.com.*



A Tale of Four Dinghies and Saved Lives

Story and photos by JoAnne & Bill Harris

For several months, we had been messaging with a couple requesting assistance on a variety of cruising and travel-related matters. They were also interested in a dinghy we had for sale. However, we explained we were on the lookout for a longer dinghy and needed to locate it first.

Originally this was going to be a humorous story about how, after searching for one dinghy for over a year, we ended up with four dinghies within a month and a half. But the story would take an abrupt twist and become a matter of life and death.



Dinghies 2 and 3

Motherlode of Dinghies

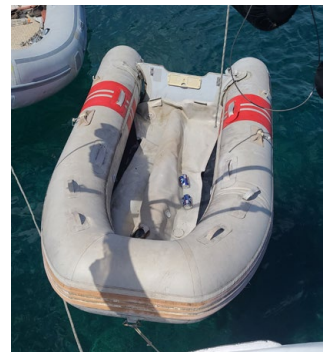
After waiting so long, we were thrilled when friends called to say they had a longer used dinghy available for us. Even with much needed repairs, it was love at first sight. To our surprise, there was an additional used dinghy available. It also had repair issues, but we purchased that dinghy, too. Whichever dinghy fit best into our dinghy davits, we would keep. We knew of a longtime friend who would want the other.

Like Cinderella's shoe, the longest dinghy fit perfectly inside our dinghy davits.

We still had two dinghies on deck, but upon arrival at our next port, our friend took the shorter, used dinghy. Then we were back to just two.



This dinghy saved the lives of the couple who bought it.



This dinghy was donated to ULTRA *Community Projects.*

Hugs, Water and Cold Drinks

We finally met the couple we had been messaging with. They had gotten their boat and picked up a mooring ball one morning near *ULTRA* at the beautiful West End on the island of Roatán, off the mainland of Honduras. We dinghied over to greet them while towing the smaller dinghy they had been waiting to purchase. They reiterated how happy they were that we had saved our dinghy for them. To that, we said a *promise is a promise.* They purchased it and also gave a generous donation to our ULTRA Community Projects to help local families in need.

—Continued on next page





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A boat is a boat, and there is always something to be repaired or replaced. Our new friends' boat was no different; the freshwater pump and refrigerator had packed up. We went back to *ULTRA* and returned with 40 gallons of drinking water we had made with our watermaker and some cold drinks for them.



These Hola water filters were purchased with donations to ULTRA *Community Projects.*

Exhausted after their passage, the couple was ready for a rest and we told them we would see them later. We were tired, too, since we had gotten home from a West Bay dinner party around midnight, then arisen at 5 a.m. to play pickleball with the locals.

It was a hot morning and time to take a dip in the sea, which was relaxing until we saw their old dinghy floating by us and out to sea. We jumped in our new dinghy to retrieve it and deliver it back to their boat. Afterwards, we took a nap, since a planned dinner party aboard *ULTRA* meant another late night. We woke up to find the couple's dinghy tied to *ULTRA's* stern with 2 Salva Vida beers on the floor. On top of their monetary donation, they had also generously donated their old dinghy to our ULTRA Community Projects.

We invited the couple to our dinner party, but they were tired and needed a quiet night. Soon *ULTRA* was full of people, old friends, fellow cruisers and pickleballers, with drinks and stories flowing. The girls made up a care package for the couple with homemade Pad Thai, dessert, and cold drinks, and the boys delivered it to them. After a full day and night, we were in bed well past the cruisers' midnight (9 p.m.)



The Roatan pickleball crew

The next day, JoAnne took the wife to town in our new dinghy while the husband stayed onboard repairing the broken freshwater pump. We invited them to go and hear live music with us, but they stayed onboard for another quiet night.

Saying Goodbye and Giving Back

Then it was time for us to sail on to the Bay island of Guanaja to continue our ULTRA Community Projects there for the families who lost their homes in the devastating fire of October 2021. We said our goodbyes to the couple and everyone else. We dropped the hook at almost sunset and had a joyous reunion with cruisers and fellow members of OCC and SSCA that we had not seen in several years.

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The following day, we met with Mayor Spurgeon, Vice Mayor Sheray, Mr. Wendall and other members of the municipality to see how ULTRA Community Projects could help further. We worked hard with cruiser volunteers to transport and distribute all of the generous donations of building materials, bedding, and more, then did Art/Cake Day with the kindergarteners. We sincerely appreciate s/v *Deep Blue*, s/v *UJamN* and s/v *Wild Iris* for their help in this endeavor.

It was time to assess what the families needed to move forward. Building materials, tools and house paint are most urgent, so we are working hard to raise money to purchase these items. Together with our volunteer team, it will be amazing to return soon and work hard to rebuild this area as it was before.

The Couple Are Rescued

A few days after our departure from Roatán, we received a message in the wee hours of the morning that there was a sailboat aground: We suspected it was the same couple. We quickly got in touch with our local contacts and the authorities and tried several times to reach the couple by phone, WhatsApp, and VHF radio, but without success. We posted to see if anyone else had seen the couple and if they were safe. After what seemed like an eternity, the couple contacted us and confirmed in fact that it was their boat aground and that they had been rescued and were safely onshore.

They explained that bad weather combined with fuel problems had led to their boat's demise. It went hard aground on the rocks and took on water. During the night, the bilge pumps were still keeping up, but they waited until daylight to safely depart. It was a harrowing story of how the inflatable dinghy we had sold them just days before safely carried them over the jaggedy rocks with a tiny outboard motor. Once ashore, they were taken in by a friendly island family. Unfortunately, the dinghy that saved their lives floated out to sea and has not yet been located.



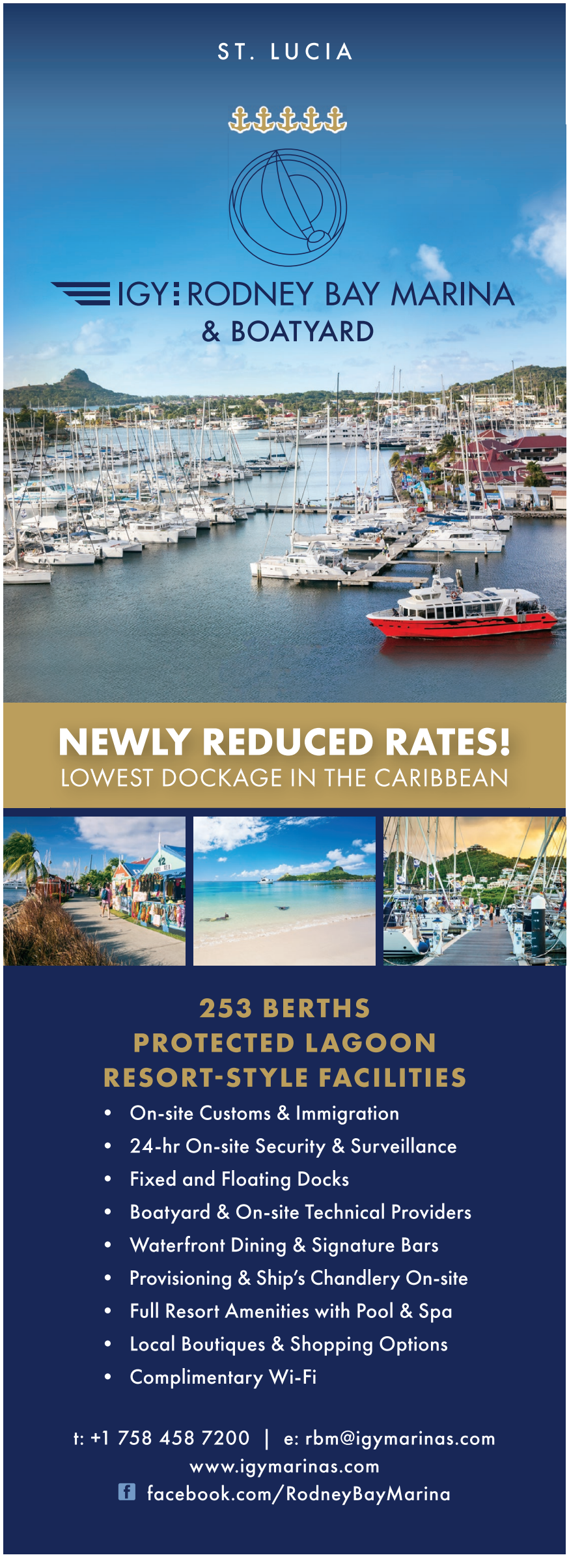
ULTRA *moored at West End, Roatán, one of the Bay Islands of Honduras*

We never know who we will meet next in this life and what stories will come out of it. This story ended with the couple safe and a wonderful community coming together to help them. To the families who helped in the rescue of the couple and opened up their hearts and their homes to them, we and the couple are truly grateful. To all of those who messaged us about this emergency and then quickly assembled and assisted, we are truly grateful. This love and compassion for others makes the world go around. Feel The Love!

They say it takes a *village*, however, in this case it was an island. This is not the first time we have assisted with an incident like this and we ourselves have had close calls. It could happen to anyone, at any time, and anywhere. The wonderful couple wished for us to thank everyone who helped them but asked us to kindly not publish their names. We respectfully granted their wishes.

Note: The dinghy the couple donated to us, the fourth dinghy, we donated to another local friend who is always volunteering to help us within the cruising community and is also in need. *ULTRA* is now back to just one dinghy onboard.

Bill and JoAnne Harris cruise aboard their homebuilt trimaran sailboat, ULTRA*, along with their Siamese kitty, Sailor. The couple are the Ocean Cruising Club port officers and the Seven Seas Cruising Association cruising hosts for Honduras including the Bay Islands. Through their* ULTRA *Community Projects and their SSCA Clean Wake Projects, they along with their volunteer team give back to local families in need as well as the environment. If you wish to donate, please visit: www.paypal.me/svultraharris or contact them to volunteer.*



Eight Bells: Bequia's Nolly Simmons 1946-2023

By Sally Erdle



HYACINTH SIMMONS

Nolly Simmons had a passion for many things, including Bequia's boatbuilding tradition.

Lincoln Nolbert Simmons, widely known as Nolly, died in Bequia on August 13, 2023, at age 77. He was one of what might be the last generation of builders of large traditional wooden sailing vessels on this northern Grenadine island.

Bequia has long been famous for its wooden boats of all sizes. According to the Bequia Heritage Museum, shipping records document vessels as having been built on Bequia as early as 1799. They were built "by hand and eye" on beaches around the island throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th — in the period from 1923 to 1990 alone, 71 registered vessels were built by 37 of the island's shipwrights.

Keeled vessels built at Friendship Bay on the southern side of the island included the gaff schooner *Friendship Rose*, approximately 75 feet on deck and 100 overall. Built in 1968, reportedly using only hand tools, she was launched in 1969 and is still sailing today. Others were the 45-foot inter-island cargo sloop Skywave, launched in 1971; the 80-plus foot *Wave Dancer*, launched in 1981 (never rigged); and the 55-foot sloop *Five Nails*, launched in 1985. Admiralty Bay, on the west side of Bequia, saw the construction of oceangoing craft ranging from the *Gloria Colita* — launched in 1939, and, at 165 feet overall with three masts, the largest schooner ever built in the Lesser Antilles — to the 35-foot "cowhorn" style double-ended schooner *At Last*, launched in 1979; and the 29'9" LOA double-ended gaff cutter *Plumbelly*, launched in 1965 and the first Bequia-built boat to sail around the world.

Nolly was born in 1946 to Miriam and Lincoln "Bluesy" Simmons. His father was one of Bequia's most highly regarded traditional sailmakers. After graduating from secondary school on Bequia, Nolly taught school there until it was time for him to further his own education. He travelled to Canada, where he studied architectural drafting at Humber College in Ontario. He returned home to Bequia with new skills, a lot of passion, and a great deal of imagination. He became a keen amateur archeologist and island historian, and was renowned as a creative storyteller (listeners learned to watch for a mischievous twinkle in his eye!) with a regular seat at the Frangipani Hotel bar. After building his own house, Nolly become a much sought-after contractor, designing and constructing several beautiful homes throughout Bequia.

Nolly had another passion: the building of wooden boats. On the shore of Admiralty Bay, across from St. Mary's church, he built a 30-foot double-ended sloop called *Romanux* for himself. In 1975 and 1976 he helped an American friend, Chris Bowman, build *Just Now*, a 40-foot gaff sloop based on the design of traditional inter-island cargo vessels. Sadly, *Romanux* was destroyed in a fire, but Just Now was sold, renamed *Bequia*, and is now sailing on the US west coast.

In 1977, Nolly partnered with Chris as contractors for the building of what is, to date, the last large traditional wooden gaff schooner to be launched on the island. (Some motor vessels and smaller open boats such as speedboats and sprit-rigged racing double-enders are still being built.) The 68-foot, two-masted *Water Pearl*, commissioned by Bob Dylan, was a scaled-down version of a B.B. Crowninshield design. She was built not just for Dylan, but for the whole island, a showcase of what Bequia craftsmen could do.

"We hired some of the best shipwrights in Bequia — Albert Crosby, Lincoln Ollivierre, Lanceford Hazell, Herbert Ollivierre, Gilbert Hazell," Nolly said. "She was handmade with pride." Nolly's father, Bluesy, made the sails. Launched into Admiralty Bay in December 1979, *Water Pearl* sailed the Eastern Caribbean until 1988, when she grounded and sank near the entrance to the Panama Canal, en route to the Pacific. Some Bequians claimed, "She didn't want to leave the Caribbean!"*

Later in life, Nolly joined up with three friends to form the Sandpiper Company, a successful inter-island tug and barge operation.

Nolly lived a full, interesting and productive life and will be missed by his partner, surviving siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, as well as many friends around the world. His passing on August 13th was a fitting date for a weather-conscious Caribbean islander who always said, "Boy, when it's August month, best tie up!"

** See www.caribbeancompass.com/waterpearl_review.html*



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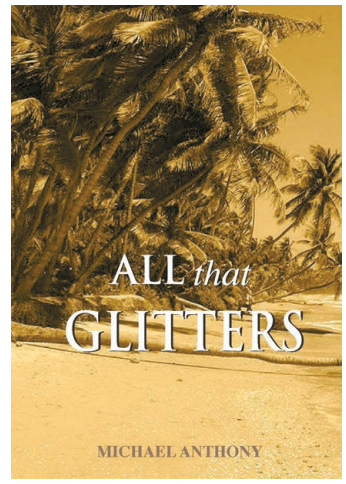
We look forward to meeting you.

Michael Anthony, Trinidadian Legend

Book Reviews by Caitlin Richards

The Year in San Fernando, *Michael Anthony, Andre Deutsch, London, 1965, 156 pages*

All that Glitters, *Michael Anthony, Andre Deustch, London, 1981, 208 pages*



Michael Anthony, the renowned West Indian author, died August 24, 2023, at the age of 93. His career spanned five decades, and ran to over 30 titles, which included novels, short story collections, travelogues and histories, the theme of most being daily life in his homeland of Trinidad. His strong voice and sparse, elegant prose made his writing accessible to everyone.

One of his major themes was coming of age stories about young Trinidadian men, stories told in twelve-year-old voices without ever making them sound childish or false, and without imbuing them with the nostalgic hindsight of the adults they will become.

The Year in San Fernando, generally regarded as Anthony's best-known novel, is a semi-autobiographical story about Francis, a twelve-year-old boy who leaves his impoverished family in Mayoro to work as a servant and companion for Mrs. Chandles, a wealthy widow in San Fernando. Francis is a smart young man, eager to please the often-bitter Mrs. Chandles and her pompous, bullying son, Mr. Chandles, and worrying about disappointing his mother, who has sent him to San Fernando for the year strictly to have one less mouth to feed. Francis is "too surprised to speak." He'd "thought of everything, but not this...It seemed as though I was suddenly changed without and within. I could not be the same because I was going to San Fernando."

Francis's first weeks in San Fernando are marked with loneliness, despair, and homesickness. Most of the time not spent doing chores is spent under the house or on the back steps, both places where he can eavesdrop on Mrs. Chandles and her son and learn to stay out of their path when they are angry, which is often.

All that Glitters (1981), cited as Anthony's favorite, follows thirteen-year-old Horace as he tries to determine who stole his Aunt Roomeen's gold necklace the night she arrived back in his small hometown village from Panama, where she had been living for the past five years. His suspects are a small pool: his uncle and another aunt, for surely his mother wouldn't have been the culprit. He also spends his time trying to understand adult relationships and misinterpreting almost everything.

Often sent outside when the grownups are talking, Horace spends much of his time on the back steps or under the window, eavesdropping to gather information and solve the mystery of the missing necklace.

There are many common themes in these two novels: the eavesdropping, crushes on older women, jealousy when another man is interested in a woman the boy considers his — whether it be his auntie, schoolteacher, or Mr. Chandles's lady friend who "was little more than a girl. You could see she could not have left school a long time."

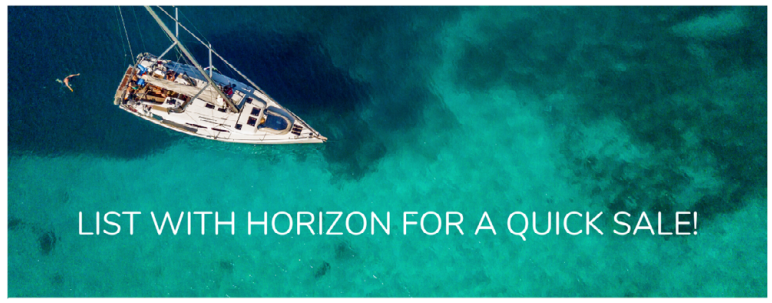
The possessiveness Francis and Horace feel about these women comes across so clearly through Anthony's words, always in the voice of the young man who doesn't realize himself what his emotions are. Horace on seeing his aunt flirting: "I knew he was being forward. I hoped Auntie would tell Uncle Braffie about him — but I did not have much confidence in that. Because when she said she would tell she didn't look it. In fact she wasn't angry at all, and I felt it was simply because it was her first day back, and because they had been childhood friends, and — well, because she wanted to be easy going."

Anthony's journeys for these young men from utterly naïve to a greater maturity and understanding of the world, and, indeed themselves, is so subtle and natural. Neither of these boys ever has a great epiphany and changes his view – they both evolve slowly and naturally.

Anthony's writing has a great presence of place; his characters are so real. The judgment of Francis and Horace at the start of the novels, the transformation to their seeing the flawed adults with greater understanding at the end, is so beautifully constructed. Reading these two books that were written sixteen years apart together, one is aware of the commonalities, but also the difference in Anthony's voice as he himself matured. Anthony's is a voice that will be missed.

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January Sky

By Jim Ulik

"Might as well purchase another one." A comment made by me on numerous occasions. Have you ever misplaced, couldn't find or lost an item overboard? Well, sometimes it may be easier to just purchase a new one than spend time trying to find what has gone astray. An hour traveling to a store takes less time than two hours searching.

That applies to Earth-based activities, but is impossible when orbiting along with the International Space Station. A Crew Lock Bag containing tools got away from an astronaut during a spacewalk. The white tool bag reflects enough sunlight to be seen with binoculars orbiting about four minutes ahead of the ISS. The toolbox began its movement through space at 28,000 kilometers per hour (17,400 mph). With no way to maintain that speed, the toolbox will gradually lose altitude and begin burning up in the atmosphere sometime during March 2024. Maybe it will pass over your night sky.

Monday, January 01

In the twilight hours before sunrise, Venus, Mars and Mercury can be seen in the eastern sky in January. The trio will continue to close in upon each other over the next few weeks.

As the Moon rises, appearing close to the horizon, it will look quite large. This is known as the *Moon Illusion*. As it continues to rise higher in the sky it will appear much smaller than other times this month. The Moon has reached apogee, or its farthest orbital point from Earth. That increased distance reduces the lunar tidal force and range between high and low tides over the next few days.

Tuesday, January 02

Another variable that influences tides is caused by the gravitational pull of the Sun. Today the Earth reaches perihelion, or its closest approach to the Sun, producing a slight increased tidal effect. Look for conditions to change again when the Moon lines up with the Sun on January 11.

Wednesday, January 03

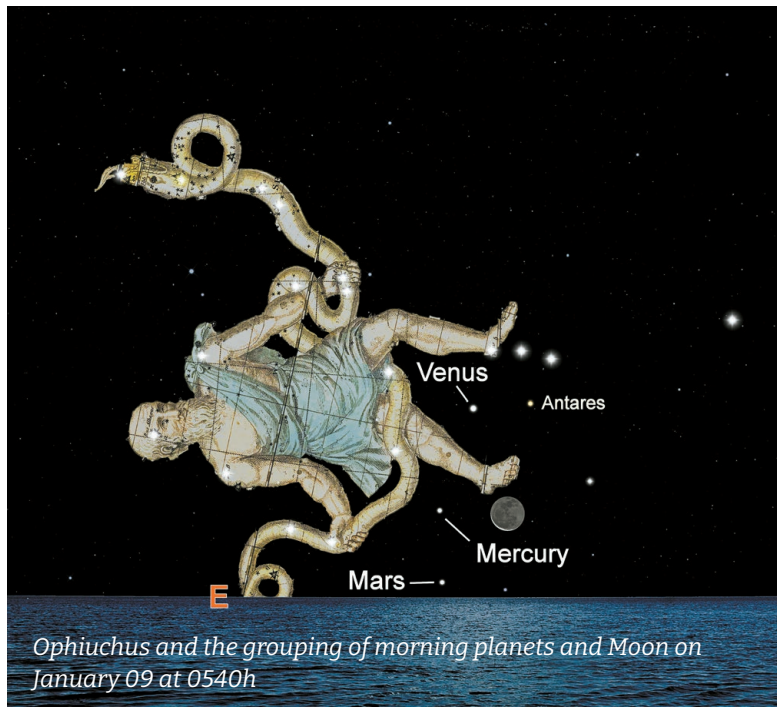
The Moon reaches third phase just below the eastern horizon at 2230h. The Moon will rise due east at 95 degrees after midnight. It is riding the sky in the constellation Virgo, the goddess of fertility and harvest.

Thursday, January 04

The Quadrantids, an above average meteor shower, is active December 26 – January 12. This variable shower can produce from 60 – 200 meteors per hour. Some shooting stars will begin radiating out of the northeastern sky at (you guessed it) 0200h*. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes, but can appear anywhere in the sky. The volume will increase as the hours pass, reaching a potential maximum of 60 per hour below 23 degrees latitude. The increasing number of viewable meteors will progress until the sky turns to dawn.

Monday, January 08

The celestial events remain in the pre-dawn sky this month. The Moon is making its way toward the Sun as it becomes captured in the claws of Scorpio. It is positioned just west or above Antares. The Moon has also made its monthly close approach to Venus.



JIM ULIK

Ophiuchus and the grouping of morning planets and Moon on January 09 at 0540h

Tuesday, January 09

This morning the Moon has shifted east away from Venus. It can be seen making a close approach to Mercury. The Moon and Mercury are in the constellation Ophiuchus, the unofficial 13th constellation of the zodiac. The Sun passes through Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer, for almost two weeks every December.

Wednesday, January 10

A clear view of the horizon is required at dawn to see the close approach of the Moon and Mars. The Moon, rising at 119 degrees, is barely a sliver this morning. The Sun's reflected light off Earth will illuminate the rest of the Moon's surface. Mars is located about three degrees north of the Moon.

Thursday, January 11

The lineup of morning planets continues to be Venus rising first, followed by Mercury, then Mars. The Moon rises next, almost in line with the Sun. The New Moon is, of course, the best time of the month to observe faint objects in tonight's sky — like a speeding toolbox.

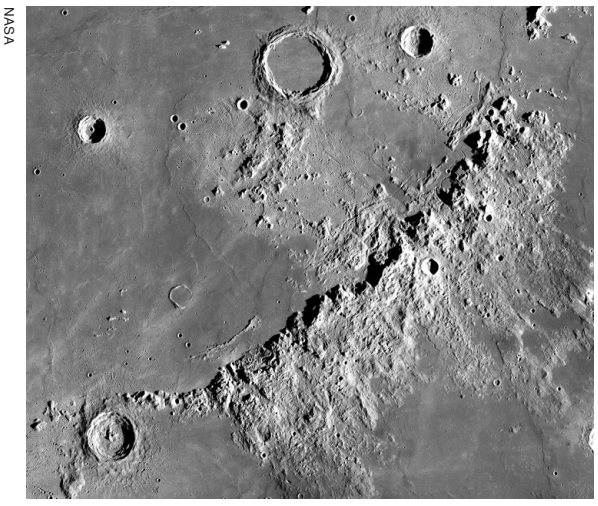
Sunday, January 14

The waxing crescent Moon makes a close approach to Saturn. As an aid to navigation, extending an imaginary line that connects the illuminated crescent points of the Moon will roughly point to north or south. Both objects are positioned in Aquarius.

Thursday, January 18

One day past first quarter phase, the Moon moves in close to Jupiter. Tonight the Apennine Mountain Region starts to come into view along the terminator. The side lighting along the line that divides the light and dark side of the Moon brings out the features and texture of the surface. This would be a good time to get on deck with your binoculars to get a closer look. The mountain range is 600 km (373 miles) long. The highest peak is 5,000 meters (16,400 feet).

NASA



The Apennine Mountains (Montes Apenninus). Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO).

Friday, January 19 – Saturday, January 20

Taurus is the background over the next two nights for the meeting of the Moon and the Seven Sisters. On January 19 the Seven Sisters are positioned off the dark side of the Moon. The Moon will switch sides on January 20.

Thursday, January 25

The Moon is located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. The Moon rises above 66 degrees in the Crab constellation Cancer.

Saturday, January 27

Mars and Mercury will appear as one object in the low eastern sky this morning. They can be seen about 10 degrees below Venus. The best way to view the pair separated will be with binoculars.

In the News

Reliance on GPS is commonplace. In reality, two receivers side by side may give different routing or readings depending upon age of the unit, software or satellite input. That may be an oversimplification, but in any case, the user must remain attentive. Also, GPS satellites can be intentionally disabled or hacked. Spoofing signals can hide the location of ships.

Equipment manufacturers along with the Department of Homeland Security and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency have set up equipment testing in 2024. The tests include intentional attempts to hack or spoof GPS and AIS signals. The results of these tests will provide for future improvements in hardware and software.

**All times are given as Atlantic Standard Time (AST) unless otherwise noted.*

Jim Ulik sails aboard s/v Merengue.

Cleaner Shrimps: Reef Tiny Clean-up Crew

Story and Photos by Darelle Snyman

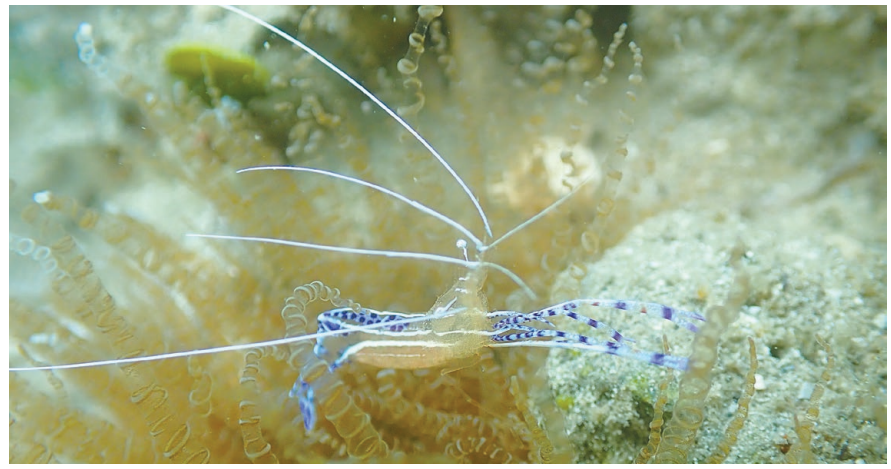
There are many wonderful species interactions that happen on a busy reef, but for me none are more interesting than the interactions between the hosts of cleaning stations and their often much larger clients that would normally make a meal of them. The tiniest of these industrious critters are probably the delicately designed cleaner shrimps. These barely visible little crustaceans help keep fish and other marine life healthy by freeing them of dead skin, bacteria, and pesky parasites. Their small size, however, makes them frustratingly difficult to spot, especially if you are half blind like me. Since I upgraded to a prescription mask a whole new world has literally opened up for me, and I can again seek out and enjoy the smaller reef inhabitants.



Hiding among the tentacles of a sun anemone, the spotted cleaner shrimp

One such delightful find, hiding among the tentacles of a sun anemone *(Stichodactyla helianthus)*, was the stunning spotted cleaner shrimp *(Periclimenes yucatanicus)*. The poor thing is probably still recovering from my attempts to get photos of it that were not blurred. This tiny Caribbean Sea resident, which rarely exceeds one inch, is truly gorgeous with its transparent body decorated with distinctive saddle shaped markings, rounded off with purple spots on the head. Its delicate pincers and legs attract further attention by being boldly banded in red, purple, and white. Like many cleaner shrimps, the spotted cleaner is endowed with two pairs of long antennae — a necessity for a hungry cleaner that relies on these appendages to attract clients. By swaying its body and waving antennae around, it signals to passing fish that it is open for business. An approaching fish will typically turn a darker color to indicate its willingness to be cleaned, a wonderful truce between different species where one would normally have been the prey.

These tiny cleaners often join forces with other cleaners such as gobies and wrasses at larger cleaning stations to provide a full service clean. Spotted cleaner shrimps are known for the symbiotic associations they form with a variety of sea anemone species, but they seem to prefer sun anemones and the beautiful giant anemone *(Condylactis gigantea)*. Because of their habit of hiding among the tentacles of sun anemones, they might be confused with the sun anemone shrimp *(Periclimenes rathbunae)*, but once you know what each species looks like, it is unlikely that you will confuse the reddish to brown spotted sun anemone shrimp with the strikingly patterned spotted cleaner shrimp. I actually searched for these little critters while snorkeling across a seagrass bed in Bocas del Toro that was littered with sun anemones, but this time "usually associated" did not work out for me. At least I was rewarded with delights such as the spotted cleaner shrimp and our next candidate, the wispy looking Pederson's cleaner shrimp *(Ancylomenes pedersoni)*.



The wispy-looking Pederson's cleaner shrimp prefers to associate with the corkscrew anemone.

This sea anemone resident prefers to associate with the corkscrew anemone *(Bartholomea annulata)*, and in this case "usually associated" did work out for me. The translucent bodies of these aesthetically pleasing shrimps are adorned with subtle bluish and lavender markings.

—Continued on next page

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Crossing the channels between Eastern Caribbean islands, an ebb tide carries you off to leeward and a strong flood tide creates lumpy seas, so crossing with a favorable tide is faster and more comfortable. The table below, showing the local time of the meridian passage (or zenith) of the moon for this month, will help you calculate the tides.

Water generally tries to run toward the moon. The flood tide starts running eastward soon after moonrise, continues to run east until about an hour after the moon reaches its zenith (see TIME below) and then ebbs westward. From just after the moon's setting to just after its nadir, the tide runs eastward; and from just after its nadir to soon after its rising, the tide runs westward.

The first hour after moonrise, the westerly current is barely negated. The second hour the flood tide is stronger, the third and fourth hour it's strongest, then it eases off in the fifth and sixth hours. The maximum tide is three or four days after the new and full moons.

January 2024		21	1935	10	1108
DATE	**TIME**	22	2024	11	1212
1	0306	23	2125	12	1314
2	0356	24	2208	13	1412
3	0443	25	2304	14	1506
4	0526	26	0000 FULL MOON	15	1557
5	0607	27	0000	16	1645
6	0647	28	0055	17	1733
7	0726	29	0147	18	1821
8	0807	30	0236	19	1911
9	0850	31	0321	20	2003
10	0836			21	2058
11	1027	**February 2024**		22	2153
12	1123	1	0403	23	2248
13	1224	2	0442	24	2341
14	1327	3	0521	25	0000 FULL MOON
15	1429	4	0601	26	0030
16	1527	5	0642	27	0116
17	1622	6	0726	28	0159
18	1713	7	0814	29	0240
19	1801	8	0907	30	0319
20	1848	9	1005	31	0358

—Continued from previous page

Like all shrimps that associate with anemones, they acquire immunity from the anemone's stinging cells, or nematocysts, through acclimation. In this process the shrimp gradually interacts with the anemones tentacles to diminish its capture behavior; it does not get stung because it does not trigger the stinging cells. As the shrimp roams among the tentacles, it attains additional protection by becoming covered with mucus secreted by the anemone. Observations have shown that the shrimps' protection is probably closely related to their constant interaction with the anemone, and they lose that protection when separated from their host for an extended period of time. Pederson's shrimps rarely venture far from the protective tentacles of their sea anemone host, where they feed on the tiny organisms and detritus that get caught in the anemone's mucus, thereby keeping it clean and healthy. These tiny crustaceans are also prolific cleaners of fish: their tiny pincers are ideal for cleaning those delicate areas such as around the eyes and gills.



The Caribbean squat anemone shrimp is named after sex symbol Leonardo DiCaprio.

Another charming character seeks refuge among the tentacles of sea anemones: the Caribbean's own unique version of the sexy shrimp, or Caribbean squat anemone shrimp *(Thor dicaprio).* This little shrimp was originally thought to be the better-known sexy shrimp, *Thor amboinensis,* a species whose distribution across the world's oceans was so widespread that scientists began to question whether the species, originally described in 1888, is actually a complex of different, closely related species. As a result, the Caribbean has attained a new sexy shrimp species, whose name pays homage to the actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Although this identification involved much genetic analysis, there is one external feature that clearly sets the Dicaprio sexy shrimp apart from its widely distributed counterpart in that its antennae is striped and not solidly colored. These oddly shaped shrimps are uniquely beautiful with their reddish bodies adorned with white spots edged in blue. They enjoy a wide distribution across the Caribbean and will happily share a host with the above-mentioned cleaner shrimp species.

Not all cleaner shrimps form associations with sea anemones. Some, like banded coral shrimps *(Stenopus hispidus)*, prefer to hide under ledges, in crevices, and inside vase sponges. There is nothing subtle about these cleaners. They stand out with their striking red-and-white banded bodies and extra-long, white antennae. Their pincers, compared to those of their anemone-dwelling counterparts, are fairly outsized, allowing them to tackle tougher cleaning jobs. Their prominent antennae allow for very visible advertising, and this is needed as they tend to advertise their cleaning services from the underside of a ledge where they often perch upside down with their bodies mostly hidden. They prefer to stay hidden during the day and use their magnificent antennae to draw a passing fish closer for a spa treatment. It is at night that they boldly venture into the open to provide cleaning services to an array of clients such as morays, tangs, grunts, and groupers.

They can become territorial and end up in fights when there are too many of them congregating in a small area. Sometimes limbs are lost during these altercations, but are grown back during their next molt.

When it comes to breeding, banded coral shrimp are unique among invertebrates as they mate for life, which in shrimp years is typically two to three years. It is therefore not uncommon to encounter these shrimps in pairs, with the male usually smaller than the female. Studies have shown that when pairs are separated they are able to recognize each other when reunited in the presence of their own kind. This ability to distinguish between individuals of one's own species is another rare trait of invertebrates and probably relies on chemical signals. During courtship the male entices the female with a dance before transferring a sperm sack to the freshly molted female. She carries the inseminated blue-green eggs until they hatch, approximately sixteen days later. Once settled, the young will start their all-important task of keeping their fishy clients healthy while keeping themselves well fed in the process.

There are so many of these wonderful little creatures to discover, each providing an invaluable service to keep the reef residents they tend to healthy. If you have good eyesight and the patience it might be well worth your time to inspect some of these host anemones to seek out some of these tiny, industrious cleaners.

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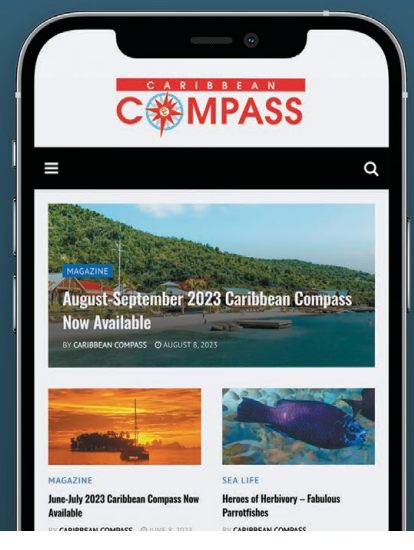


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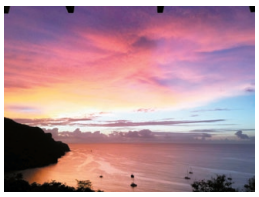
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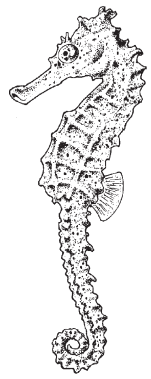
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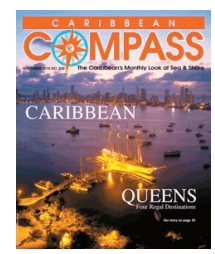
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MP = Market Place pages 37 - 38
C/W = Caribbean-wide
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