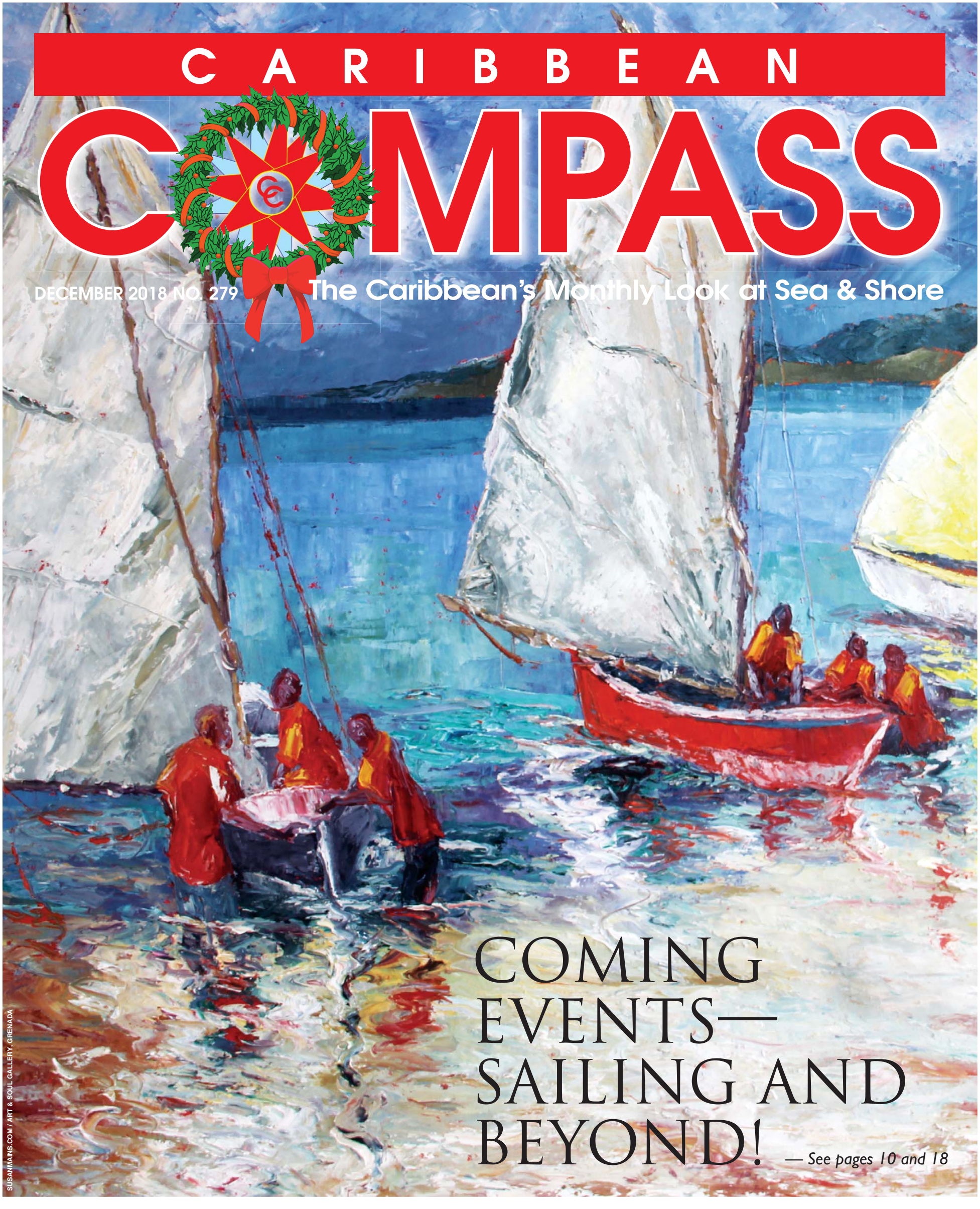
CARIBBEAN
COMPASS
DECEMBER 2018 NO. 279
The Caribbean's Monthly Look at Sea & Shore



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COMING EVENTS— SAILING AND BEYOND!

— *See pages 10 and 18*

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JOLLY II ROVER

The jolly crew of the 80-foot topmast schooner Jolly II Rover *in Christmas mode*

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Tel: (784) 457-3409, Fax: (784) 457-3410, compass@caribbeancompass.com, www.caribbeancompass.com

Publisher.....**Tom Hopman**
tom@caribbeancompass.com
Editor.....**Sally Erdle**
sally@caribbeancompass.com
Assistant Editor.....**Elaine Ollivierre**
jsprat@vincysurf.com
Art, Design & Production.....**Wilfred Dederer**
wide@caribbeancompass.com
Advertising & Administration...**Shellese Craigg**
shellese@caribbeancompass.com
Advertising
compass@caribbeancompass.com

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On the cover: There's so much to do in the Caribbean, both on the water and off, and Susan Mains' painting captures the spirit of the new season getting underway.

See Regatta News on page 10 and Coming Events on page 18



Info & Updates

Cruisers' Site-ings

New to the Caribbean? Here are just a few of the many websites that are excellent resources for sailors in the Caribbean and beyond:

• There is a wealth of first-hand information for cruisers about Caribbean countries and destinations worldwide at Noonsite — go to www.noonsite.com/Countries and click on the country of interest.

www.noonsite.com

• Chris Doyle's Guides are the most popular cruising guidebooks in the Eastern Caribbean, and his website keeps information up to date. Chris says, "We know things are always changing, so in an effort to make sure our readers always have current information we use this site to post updates to the Cruising Guide until the next edition is published.

"Since we can no longer fit everything in the Cruising Guide without mounting it on wheels, this is where you'll also find extras like detailed hikes and maps, GPS waypoints, info on customs and communications, and links to useful websites."

www.doyleguides.com

• There is a Cruisers' Facebook group for just about every destination in the Caribbean. Look for them on Facebook by name, e.g. Antigua Cruisers, Dominica Cruisers, St. Lucia Cruisers, Panama Cruisers, et al.

• The Caribbean Safety and Security Net's primary mission is the collection and dissemination of accurate information relating to crimes against yachts.

https://safetyandsecuritynet.org

• If you have lost track of loved ones at sea or you need to get an urgent message to them concerning a medical or family emergency, then International Boat Watch Network, operated as a public service of Maritime Mobile Service Network, Inc., can help.

www.boatwatchnet.org

• Need crew? Want to find new sailing buddies? Then visit Ocean Crew Link, the only crew-connect website specifically for ocean voyaging. Add your boat and opportunity and it will be e-mailed to over 5,000 sailors worldwide. If you want to find a boat, there are over 150 active sailing opportunities open all the time.

www.oceancrewlink.com

• In next month's *Compass*, we'll have a list of Caribbean cruisers' favorite online weather sources.

Boardings Addressed in Linton Bay, Panama

As reported on www.facebook.com/groups/kunayala: Following armed boardings and robberies in Linton Bay, Panama, involving three of the charterboats that shuttle backpackers between Panama and Colombia, stakeholders in the area attended a meeting on October 24th at Linton Bay Marina to create plans designed to help the sailing community protect itself from criminal activities. Attendees included private sailors, crew of a charter catamaran, Linton Bay Marina security personnel and staff, and representation from Aeronaval, a component of Panama's national security forces.

WWW.LINTONBAYMARINA.COM



Popular Linton Bay, Panama, where stakeholders have taken steps to address incidents

Responsive actions are reportedly now in play. Linton Bay Marina Security has four guards on watch every night: two roaming the docks and two patrolling the grounds. Linton Bay Marina Security will also be taking to the water at night; they will cruise the dock and anchorage area looking for suspicious and illegal activity.

Among the cruising community, plans and strategies are reportedly rapidly unfolding. Night watches have reportedly been organized, and cruisers encouraged to password protect their mobile technology (devices are useless to anyone who doesn't have the password and, just as importantly, your information's integrity is maintained); create relationships with their neighbours and communicate about those who have access and permission to board your boat, especially in your absence; and post facts about criminal activity to the Linton Bay Cruisers Facebook group.

The local daily VHF Radio Net is being restructured, adding to the spirit, safety and information about what's going on in the area.

Visit Linton Bay Cruisers Facebook group and Kunayala group for updates.

—Continued on next page



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DOYLE CARIBBEAN

—Continued from previous page

Eight Bells

• RAMIZ ABUHAYDAR

The Royal British Virgin Islands Yacht Club reports: Ramiz Abuhaydar, a friend to all who knew him, passed away peacefully on November 8th at his home with his wife, Françoise, by his side.

A longtime member of the Royal BVI Yacht Club, he embodied the true Corinthian spirit. For years as a sailor and racer on his boat *Wild Strawberries*, a C&C 44, and on *Tiburon*, his Grady White runabout, he and his friends enjoyed what the BVI are all about.

For over 20 years he was involved with the BVI Spring Regatta and Sailing Festival. Always there to help prepare the marks and race committee gear, he spent race days on the water to make sure the racers had perfect lay lines and marks to race around, coaching and inspiring volunteers both young and old.

In 2011, he was awarded the Guy Eldridge True Spirit and Enthusiasm award. The plaque reads, 'Volunteer Extraordinaire'. "When this award was created, Ramiz was the first person the regatta knew would be its recipient," said Robert Phillips, Regatta Chairman.

• SEAN MACMILLAN

Antigua Sailing Week reports: We announce the passing of our beloved friend and colleague Capt. Sean MacMillan on November 13th.

An integral part of Antigua Sailing Week for over 20 years, throughout the many transitions of our organization, Sean was that consistent anchor and trove of information. Extremely considerate, he was a friend to the sailors and a huge support to the committee both in his role on the water and socially.

We are sincerely at a loss to express how we feel about his departure from life as we know it. Our prayers and support are with his family during this trying time.

Cuban Yacht Club has New Contacts

Club Náutico Internacional Hemingway de Cuba, located at 5ta Avenida y 248, Santa Fe, Playa, La Habana, Cuba, welcomes visitors and now has even more ways for you to get in touch and stay up to date with the club's wide range of activities.

Contact CNIH by phone at 7204-66-53 or 7204-16-89, send an e-mail to yachtclub@cnih.mh.tur.cu, visit on Facebook at CNIH de Cuba, or check Twitter @CNIHdeCuba and check out the blog at cnihdecuba.blogspot.com.



SALLY ERDLE

Club Náutico Internacional Hemingway has forged ties with clubs from around the world, and welcomes numerous international events every year

Venezuela-to-Aruba Swim Raises Cancer Awareness

On November 11th at 6:00AM, five members of the Aruban Dolphins Swimming Club started swimming from Piedras Negras in Falcon State, Venezuela to Aruba — approximately 28.5 kilometres, or nearly 18 miles — to raise funds and generate awareness for Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds, a non-profit organization that offers support to cancer patients and works for the prevention of this disease.



Swimmers for Hope, left to right: Davy Bisslik, Deaxo Croes, Wendy Kock, Romar Arendsz, Stephan Thijsen, and Roly Bisslik

—Continued on next page

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—Continued from previous page

The team of five swimmers, Deaxo Croes, Gwendolin (Wendy) Kock, Romar Arendsz, Davy Bisslik and Stephan Thijsen, followed in the footsteps of the founder and coach of Aruba Dolphins Swimming organization, Roly Bisslik, who was the first person to swim from Venezuela to Aruba, exactly 30 years before.

The swimmers left Venezuela at high speed but as they approached Aruba the strong current slowed their pace. The first to complete the crossing, Davy Bisslik, arrived at Santo Largo but decided to swim to Zeerovers, arriving after swimming 36.06 kilometres (more than 22 miles) in just over eight hours.

The event was very successful in its aim, raising over 40,000 Aruban florins (approximately US$22,350) for the cancer foundation, with funds still coming in at press time.

Crossing for Hope thanks all the voluntary teams accompanying the swimmers to bring them back safely to Aruba. A big thank you also goes to Crossing for Hope Platinum Sponsors: Budget Marine, Elite Entertainment Group, Aruba Aloe, Digicel and InGenuity Creative Marketing; the Gold Sponsors: New India Assurance, CMB, Otis, Setar, Emco and Ministry of Tourism, Health & Sports; and the Bronze Sponsors: ASTEC, Century Group and Andmar Manpower Services; as well as all other sponsors that contributed to the event.

Sailors' & Landlubbers' Auction, Bequia

The Bequia Sunshine School is a non-profit organization for children with special needs. The annual Sailors' & Landlubbers' Auction has become a significant source of income for the school and a huge source of fun for all who attend. The 2019 auction will be held at The Fig Tree restaurant on the Admiralty Bay waterfront at the end of the Belmont Walkway, on Sunday, February 10th.

Viewing starts at 12:00 noon and the auction at 1:00PM sharp. Donated food and drink will be on sale, with all proceeds going directly to the school.

Lend your support by donating items for the auction such as boat gear, art and handicrafts, unwanted gifts, household goods, jewellery and other new or gently used items. Donations can be dropped off at the school during regular school hours, or at Dockside Marine next to the Porthole Restaurant in Port Elizabeth.

For more information visit www.bequiasunshineschool.org.

Don't Pack a Pest

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Inspection Service, the OECS Commission, and a number of Caribbean countries are working together to implement the "Don't Pack a Pest Outreach Programme". The programme aims to increase the traveling public's awareness of the risks associated with carrying fresh food and agricultural items throughout the region and is an essential component of safeguarding agriculture and natural resources.

It is suggested that 98 percent of the entry of pests results from passenger traffic, which has been on an upward trend over the years, given the growth of the tourism industry and an increase in regional travel. With increased activities in the trade and tourism sector in the region, the risk of introducing potential invasive species also remains a major concern.

If traveling through the islands by boat, despite our instinct not to throw anything at all into the sea, we can help reduce the spread of agricultural pests by throwing fruit and vegetable scraps overboard when as far downwind and downcurrent from land as possible, preferably in the channels between islands, rather than bringing them ashore where any plant diseases might be dispersed.

SUSAN YAMONACO



Don't 'pack a pest'! Help avoid inter-island transmission of agricultural diseases by not bringing fruit and vegetable scraps ashore

Department of Corrections

It came to our attention that there was a broken link in the url in our ad for The Nature Conservancy, which appeared on page 12 of last month's *Compass*. The link nature.org/DefendParadise has now been corrected, and should take you to The Nature Conservancy's current Caribbean donation form.

For information about The Nature Conservancy's work in the Caribbean visit www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/caribbean




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BUSINESS BRIEFS

What's New at St. Lucia's Rodney Bay Marina

Shane Macauldy reports: I'd like to introduce *Compass* readers to two new hotels adjacent to the Rodney Bay Marina that are geared towards sailors and their families. They are the Bay Gardens Marina Haven (formerly the Palm Haven Hotel) and the Harbor Club. Both hotels are Premium Partners in the IGY Rodney Bay Marina Preferred Vendors Directory. Plus, the marina has a new mini-mart. Here are the details:

• BAY GARDENS MARINA HAVEN

A warm island welcome awaits you at Bay Gardens Marina Haven. Journey into a paradise of complete relaxation tucked away in the heart of St. Lucia's entertainment capital of Rodney Bay. This enchanted 35-room tropical oasis is designed with you in mind, offering comfortable and affordable accommodations nestled in a beautiful botanical garden.

Visit www.baygardensresorts.com/marina-haven for more information on Bay Gardens Marina Haven.

• THE HARBOR CLUB

The all-new Harbor Club, Curio Collection by Hilton, situated on the shore of beautiful Rodney Bay, offers guests a Caribbean resort experience unlike any other. Indulge your appetite for paradise and enjoy a world of relaxation, celebration, and adventure. From five world-class dining outlets, four sparkling swimming pools, to our first-class service, Harbor Club offers guests a chance to kick back and experience the best of St. Lucia in stunning style.



Visit www.theharborclub.com for more information on the Harbor Club.

• THE MARKETPLACE

Last but not least, check out Rodney Bay Marina's new mini-mart, The Marketplace, which is now fully operational for the season.

Visit www.facebook.com/themarketplacestlucia for more information on The Marketplace.

For more information on Rodney Bay Marina, see ad on page 5.

Ecoworks Comes to Budget Marine

Nicole Corvellec reports: Taking care of the marine environment is on the agenda more than ever, especially in yachting, where the continuation of the industry relies heavily on healthy seas. As such, many yacht owners and crew are looking for ways to reduce the pollutant impact of their yachts, dinghies, watercraft and even their homes.

It's also on Budget Marine's agenda and stocking the Ecoworks Marine "Preserve the Living Seas" range is another step in the right direction. All Ecoworks Marine products are bio-renewable and sustainably formulated to minimize stress, acidity and impact on the marine environment.



The expectations of effectiveness of "eco" products are generally lower than their chemical competitors, but Ecoworks Marine have proven that the products they produce are bio-chemically formulated to ensure that their performance is as effective, and in some cases better, than the harsher, standard boat cleaning products. Ecoworks Marine is dedicated to replacing the undesirable chemicals found in such products with naturally derived ingredients that are safer, non-hazardous, have non-irritant profiles and are more favourable to the marine environment.

The testimonials they have received from some of the top yachts in the world are glowing. During the 2017-18 Volvo Ocean Race, Ecoworks Marine was chosen as the cleaning product of choice for Skipper Dee Caffari's competing yacht, *Turn The Tide On Plastic*. Dee Caffari stated, "Our team uses Ecoworks Marine cleaning products because ocean health is our major priority and they are all about preserving the living seas." 2018 has also seen Ecoworks Marine on the top level of Grand Prix yacht racing, by being selected as a sustainable partner for the 52 Super Series.

Budget Marine will carry an extensive range of Ecoworks Marine cleaners, ranging from all-surface cleaners to engine and bilge cleaners, which can satisfy all of your goals in terms of performance, price and a very much lower environmental footprint.

For more information on Budget Marine, see ad on page 2.

What's Happening at Grenada's Port Louis Marina

Laura Muirhead reports: From the arrival of the RORC Transatlantic Race, to the Old Year's Night party at the Victory Bar, to Grenada Sail Week 2019, there's always something happening at Grenada's Port Louis Marina.



For updates from Port Louis Marina — especially the calendar of events for 2018-2019 — please visit http://en.cnmarinas.com/news/kicking-of-the-caribbean-high-season-be-sure-not-to-miss-the-amazing-events-at-port-louis-marina

For more information on Port Louis Marina, see ad on page 47.

—Continued on next page

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New Multi-Biocide Antifouling for Caribbean and Beyond!



Islands 44 TF from Sea Hawk Paints is an advanced, tin-free, self-polishing, dual-biocide enhanced antifouling coating suitable for multi-season use in fresh, brackish and salt waters. Its low VOC formulation complies with rigid limits set by the California Air Quality Management Board and offers boatyards a slime-resistant yacht finish with California-compliant VOC emissions and low copper leach rate, while providing boat owners high performance antifouling that is compatible with virtually every solvent-based bottom paint, including those containing tin (TBT).

For more information on Sea Hawk Paints see ad on page 39.

New Laundry/Café in the Grenadines

Chris Doyle reports: Clearly quite a bit has been going on in Saltwhistle Bay, Mayreau since the Tobago Cays Marine Park took over management of the moorings. Nadica Bartholomew, a young entrepreneur from Mayreau, has recently opened a laundry and café. She had a successful opening and is looking forward to having visiting cruisers as customers. She also tells me there are now a supermarket, an ice and ice cream parlour, and Marine Park office, along with all the beachfront restaurants in Saltwhistle Bay. Good luck all you entrepreneurs!



Mac's Pizza & Kitchen - Bequia

Kevin Carr reports: Mac's has been known for its Lobster Pizza for 40 years. If you haven't visited lately, you will find a new waterfront bar and patio, expanded menu and a great drinks and wine list.

Highlights include awesome margaritas, tapas, Japanese-style seared tuna, grilled fish and chicken tacos, grilled fish and lobster, steak burgers, buffalo wings and super rich homemade ice cream and fruit pies.

Mac's has live music every Saturday and Monday night.

Kick back on the patio under the almond tree and watch the sun set over your boat in the harbor. Mac's is open every day at 11:00AM. The kitchen closes at 10:00PM. The bar stays open later.

For more information on Mac's Pizza & Kitchen see ad on page 43.

St. Vincent's Blue Lagoon to Welcome Two Rallies



Rhea Gooding reports: We are delighted to announce that Blue Lagoon Hotel & Marina and the St. Vincent Tourism Authority will be co-hosting two of the best Atlantic yacht rallies.

The World Cruising Club's ARC+St.Vincent participants will begin making landfall at Blue Lagoon Marina from December 2nd, 2018, and the Viking Explorers will start arriving from January 6th, 2019. We look forward to welcoming these hardy sailors to St. Vincent!

We also invite everyone to stay at Blue Lagoon this Christmas Season: Dock at Blue Lagoon Marina and get a free rum punch for everyone on board, ten percent off your final bill at the Loft Restaurant, and 20 percent off your hotel stay!

For more information on Blue Lagoon Hotel & Marina, see ad on page 22.

Antigua Charter Yacht Show

Antigua is synonymous with yachting and for the upcoming season the calendar line-up looks as exciting as ever. The official start to the season has long been the Antigua Charter Yacht Show and 2018 is no exception. Taking place from December 4th through 10th, the 57th show will provide a showcase for some of the world's finest yachts and crews to meet with brokers prior to the beginning of the Caribbean Season.

Antigua has some of the most extensive yacht service facilities in the Caribbean including marinas, boatyard and haulout facilities, training, sailmakers, riggers, and other marine expertise.

Visit www.antiguayachtshow.com for more information on the Antigua Charter Yacht Show.

Season's Greetings from Clarkes Court, Grenada!

Pearly Mitchell reports: Clarkes Court Boatyard & Marina in Grenada would like to express thanks to all our valuable customers who have patronized our yard and made 2018 so successful. We were privileged to have served you over the past year. Thanks again for considering CCBM and, as always, "You Are The Reason We Haul Boats".



We encourage all customers to book early for the 2019 season.

Season's Greetings from us to you.

For more information on Clarkes Court Boatyard & Marina, see ad on page 16.

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Sat. afternoon: Louis & Jan, Bequia Blues Band, Joshu, Infinity with Leisa Way, Lennox
Saturday evening: Silk, NJ30+ with Marius Charlemagne,
Erphaan Alves backed by Imij & Co, WCK
Sunday: Kids on Pan, NJ30+ Jam, Infinity with ABC Becket, Rodney Small d pan boss,
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REGATTA NEWS

Vincentian on the Podium in North American Event

Philip Barnard of St. Vincent served as tactician with Team Sail Caribbean aboard Mark Bremer's C&C 30, *City Girl*, at the C&C 30 East Coast Championship, held October 19th through 21st in Annapolis, Maryland. *City Girl* won second place among the six teams at the event. As the C&C 30s held no North American or World Championship this year, the East Coast Championship was this class's big 2018 event.



St. Vincent's Philip Barnard (holding trophy) with the crew of City Girl

Phil tells *Compass*, "Not a bad year for me. Line honors in the RORC Transatlantic Race to Grenada, a new around Barbados record for monohulls over 80 feet, a new Barbados-to-Antigua record for monohulls over 80 feet — all on *CQS* as a watch leader. And then this!"

Team Antigua Wins Caribbean Dinghy Championships

The Caribbean Sailing Association's Caribbean Dinghy Championships, October 27th and 28th, ended with a team victory for Antigua. Race manager Karl James says, "I was pleased and relieved that we managed to get so many races in, as the light airs on Saturday were extremely challenging. It was great to see such fierce competition between some of the Caribbean's top sailors."



CDC Champions, Antigua

Five teams raced, including Barbados, St. Maarten, St. Barths, Trinidad & Tobago and host team, Antigua. The CDC event is unique in that it provides the opportunity for teams of sailors to compete in a variety of one-design dinghy sailing classes. For 2018, these classes included the Optimist, the Laser (Radial and Standard) and a new class, the two-person RS Feva.

Three classes had outstanding performances from youths scoring eight straight bullets (excluding discard). They were 12-year-old Theodore Spencer of Antigua winning Junior Optimist, Lorenzo Meyer from St. Barths winning Optimist Youth, and 16-year-old Daniel Smit of Antigua winning Laser Radial.

In Laser Standard, Jules Mitchell of Antigua and Andrew Lewis of Trinidad & Tobago battled for first. Lewis placed first in four races with Mitchell placing first in only three races. However, Mitchell consistently achieved second in all the other races (after discard) resulting in a net point advantage and winning the Laser Standard Class. Bajan Jason Tindale held off Benoit Meesemaecker from St. Barths to win third place.

In the RS Feva class, the St. Barths Team of Antonin Sciou and Tristan Greaux walked away with the win. The battle for second and third place was hotly contested between Trinidad & Tobago and Antigua who both achieved the same net score. However, Trinidad won the second race, giving them second place overall.

—Continued on next page

ATLANTIC BACK CRUISING
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La transat retour / Transatlantic Return

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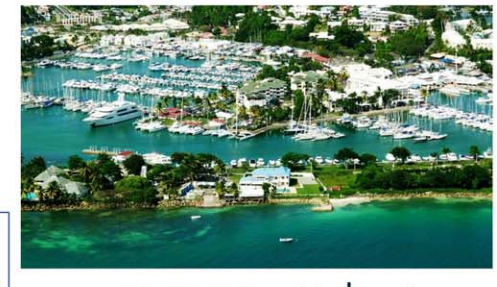
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Damoiseau

—Continued from previous page

CSA President Alison Sly-Adams said, "The event is a great opportunity for Caribbean sailors to compete with their regional counterparts and gain much needed experience before moving on to larger international events outside of the region. At the recent CSA Annual Conference, we agreed that for the 2019 edition there will be further changes made to the format to ensure we can include more nations in this great event."

See full results at caribbean-sailing.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/final-results-2018.pdf

SVG Independence Day Races

Bequia's famous local double-enders raced on October 27th, celebrating St. Vincent & the Grenadines' Independence Day.

The Independence Race was organized by Allick Daniel and the Bequia Traditional Sailing Academy. See Youth Sailing News for a report on the Independence races held for Bequia's junior sailors.

The SVG Independence Race winners were:

Class1 (14 feet)
1) *Never D*, Alphaeus Osborne
2) *My Way*, Yvad Joseph

Class 2 (16 feet)
1) *Y-Knot*, Drew Mitchell
2) *Ark Royal*, Reon Ollivierre

Class 3 (18 feet)
1) *Camille*, Jojo Adams
2) *Kiss*, Nigel Leslie
3) *More Worries*, Leron Hazell



NICOLA CORNWELL

Confusion *heading for a second place tie in Class 4*

Class 4 (28 feet)
1) *Slipaway*, Arnold Hazell
2 tie) *Confusion*, Wayne Gooding
No Offence, Andre Dewer

ON THE HORIZON

CSA Racing Calendar 2019-2023 Released

The Caribbean Racing Circuit for 2019 onwards has no fewer than 19 international events listed, including passage racing, offshore, round the rocks, round the cans, and of course around a number of different islands. Racing is served up for classic, superyacht, match racing and CSA classes, and for monohulls and multihulls.

The Caribbean Sailing Association issues a five-year calendar each summer to assist campaigning yachts with making their plans and to ensure that newcomers can see all of the options to race at an international level throughout the region. Peter Holmberg, past president of the CSA says, "The Caribbean region is unmatched in the wide range of options on offer and also in the cooperation of all events who work together to ensure minimal conflict of event dates."

Visit caribbean-sailing.com/caribbean-race-calendar/type/international-regattas to see the international regattas calendar listing.

Visit caribbean-sailing.com/caribbean-race-calendar/type/regional-regattas to see the regional regattas calendar listing.

Round Tortola Race Postponed

The 2018 Round Tortola Race scheduled for November 17th has been postponed to January 12th, 2019.

Contact admin@royalbviyc.org for more information.

Nelson's Pursuit on New Year's Eve

Antigua's first international racing event of the season takes place on New Year's Eve with a fun pursuit race designed to appeal to cruising boats (keep your dinghy on the davits and you'll get a better handicap!). The Nelson's Pursuit was conceived as a re-enactment of Lord Nelson's pursuit of the French fleet under the command of Admiral Pierre Villeneuve across the Atlantic in 1805, culminating in the battle of Trafalgar, Nelson's greatest victory, during which he was mortally wounded by a French sniper.

The slowest boat to enter the race starts first and carries the French flag, with the remainder of the fleet representing the British in hot pursuit, attempting to capture the French flag and claim victory for the Brits.

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Boats are assigned a start time based on the size of the boat and its anticipated speed around the course. The first boat to cross the finish line is declared the winner!



It's the perfect way to end the year and begin New Year's Eve celebrations in Nelson's Dockyard, which end in the early hours following a fantastic fireworks party.

Visit www.antiguayachtclub.com for more information.

January: Grenada Sailing Week 2019

Rosie Burr reports: As of this writing, with less than two months to go until the January 27th start of Island Water World Grenada Sailing Week, we are seeing numbers steadily grow, from the sporty J/24s in a class of their own to Racing Class with the likes of Rob Butler's Reflex 38, *Touch to Play Racing*, and Bernie Evan Wong's RP37, *Taz*. Racer/Cruiser is seeing a good mix including Peter Morris's Frers 43, *Jaguar*, and Bob Hillier's J/122, *El Ocaso*, to mention just a few.

Don't forget that participating in Grenada Sailing Week counts towards points for the Caribbean Sailing Association Travellers Trophy — an award for effort in travelling to "away regattas" and for doing well in Caribbean events. For more info check out the CSA website https://caribbean-sailing.com/caribb…/csa-travellers-trophy.

If you don't have your own boat, no problem. We have had several charter boats signed up to race. And if you check out our Charter Page, http://grenadasailingweek.com/charters — there are plenty more charter options available. Or if you would rather crew, sign up on our Crew Board https://yachtscoring.com/event_board.cfm?eID=5886

For more information, including NoR, visit www.grenadasailingweek.com and sign up for our newsletter. Find us on Facebook: GrenadaSailingWeek. Or at Twitter: @grenadasailweek

For more information on Grenada Sailing Week see ad on this page.



The Caribbean Multihull Challenge

In response to the remarkable growth in the multihull category, the Sint Maarten Yacht Club has designed an annual race series for the special attributes of multihulls.

Multihulls have always been a "sideshow" of a major regatta. No more. Things changed in high performance and cruising multihull design so the opportunity for exciting racing is now at hand. Many new designs accelerate quickly and can sail close to the wind. Talented professional racers are now eager to captain the high-tech multis of today in competitive settings.

The Sint Maarten Yacht Club, already enjoying the strongest multihull entry of all Caribbean regattas in its Heineken Regatta, promises great racing from February 8th through 10th, 2019.

Visit www.smyc.com/caribbean-multihull-challenge for more information.

The Round Martinique Regatta 2019

The Round Martinique Regatta will return for its 34th edition from February 8th through 10th, 2019. Open to sailing enthusiasts and professionals, this sporting event will also be a time of celebration and relaxation.

Day One will feature races in Fort-de-France Bay. Day Two sees a course from Fort-de-France down the leeward side of the island to Le Marin for the Cruising, Racing-Cruising and One Design classes, and a clockwise course around the island from Fort-de-France to Le Marin for the Racing and Multihull classes. Day Three features a course around Diamond Rock followed by a beach party at Grande Anse d'Arlet and a prizegiving ceremony in Fort-de-France.

The spirit of the regatta will coalesce at the Race Village installed on the Fort-de-France waterfront, with a unifying bar, screens, and useful information to follow the steps of the race. There will be sporting activities for children, games for older children and, of course, the awards ceremony will close the event.

Register before January 19th at www.theroundmartiniqueregatta.com.

2019 RORC Caribbean 600

The 2019 RORC Caribbean 600 is set to be a spectacular edition of the fantastic 600-nautical-mile race around 11 Caribbean islands. Of the early entries, the largest yacht competing will be the 203-foot schooner *Athos*, returning to the race after her round the world adventure. Three of the world's fastest multihulls will also be taking part.

Athos is the world's largest privately owned two-masted schooner. She competed in the RORC Caribbean 600 every year from 2013 to 2015 before setting off on a four-year round the world trip.

In 2015, Lloyd Thornburg's *Phaedo3* was the first MOD70 to take part in the RORC Caribbean 600, smashing the multihull race record by over six hours. The following year *Phaedo3* had an epic duel with Tony Lawson's *Concise10*, skippered by Ned Collier Wakefield. *Phaedo3* won the 2016 duel by less than 10 minutes, setting the current multihull race record (31 hours, 59 minutes and 4 seconds). In 2017 a battle between Giovanni Soldini's *Maserati Multi70* and *Phaedo3* resulted in another win for Thornburg, by just over 13 minutes.

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For the 2019 edition, for the first time in the 11-year history of the race, three of the world's fastest ocean-going trimarans will be competing: *Maserati* (ITA), *PowerPlay* (GBR) and *Argo* (USA). "Having three of us is only going to improve the racing," commented Ned Collier Wakefield, who will skipper *PowerPlay* (ex-*Concise10*). "We had three for a Round Ireland Race and it made for incredible action — a spectacle for anyone watching. It changes the dynamic from a match race to a fleet race, where all of us have different strengths. On a course like the RORC Caribbean 600 there are conditions and wind angles where we will all feel we have the upper hand. I anticipate the lead changing hands many times — it's going to be pretty damn exciting. The 2016 race with *Phaedo* was probably the best I have ever done, but the Trades were not fully in. If we get normal conditions, the record is definitely beatable."

Visit caribbean600.rorc.org for more information.

New Developments for Antigua Classics

Ginny Field reports: The new Steering Committee for the Antigua Classics, announced on November 13th, comprises Carlo Falcone, Chairman; Cameron Fraser, Vice-Chairman; Franklyn Braithwaite, Commodore of the Antigua Yacht Club; Tommy Paterson, Competitor Liaison Officer; Janie Easton, Treasurer; and Gilly Gobinet, Programme Editor, Social Media and Sponsor Liaison. Since this announcement, a new appointee to the Steering Committee is Don Ward, who joins us as Financial Advisor.

The main aim of this new Committee is to make sure all our competitors are happy. It is therefore focusing more on what happens on the water by introducing windward starts and new courses so that the racing is both safer and more challenging. The definition of classic boat eligibility for registration is also under review and meanwhile a new Dragon class will be included at the Regatta in 2019.

We will still be holding our very popular shore-based parties and social events, such as Music Night and the Sea Shanty Competition, and other traditional events that celebrate this unique and world-class event.

A number of yachts have already expressed interest in or registered for the 2019 Event; see the latest list at www.antiguaclassics.com/registration.

We are also delighted to announce a new partnership with *WoodenBoat Magazine*. Our mutual love of wooden boats, particularly the vintage and classic yachts, which in our case make up the majority of our participants, and our shared interest in promoting the design, building, restoration and conservation of these beautiful vessels makes this association a match made in heaven.

For more information on Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta see ad on page 11.



TIM WRIGHT / PHOTOACTION.COM

Stage Set for 48th BVI Spring Regatta & Sailing Festival

Judy Petz reports: The stage is set for the 48th edition of the BVI Spring Regatta & Sailing Festival, to be held March 25th through 31st, 2019. With the energy and spirit of sailing in the BVI, it takes more than Category Five hurricanes to keep people from coming back to sail and race. We are open, ready, and excited to welcome sailors from around the world to return or to come for the first time.

There will be many new additions, including two marinas at the host sponsor and venue, Nanny Cay Resort and Marina. The additional new docks will be available for more boats to stay at the marina. Race week will include the traditional Round Tortola Race for the Nanny Cay Cup on the Tuesday, followed by the Scrub Island Invitational as the second day of racing in the Sailing Festival.

Mount Gay Rum, our longest running sponsor, will have the first Mount Gay Day Race on Friday March 29th. The Moorings and Sunsail have fleets of new boats to charter for racing, or cruising for those who want to just join the party. Sunsail has supported the International Yacht Club Challenge for nine years and it is an opportunity for yacht clubs from around the world to send a team of their best sailors to compete. Winner takes all with a free Sunsail charter to use to come back and defend their championship.

Visit www.bvispringregatta.org for more information.

Third Annual Antigua-Bermuda Race

Louay Habib reports: The third edition of the Antigua Bermuda Race will start on May 8th, 2019 and will be part of the 2019 Atlantic Ocean Racing Series (AORS). The 2019 AORS will include five races: the RORC Caribbean 600, the Antigua Bermuda Race, the Transatlantic Race 2019, the Rolex Fastnet Race, and the Rolex Middle Sea Race. Three races, including the Transatlantic Race (weighted 1.5) will be required to qualify.

The 935-mile Antigua Bermuda Race is organized in association with Antigua Sailing Week and is supported by the Bermuda Tourism Authority. Yachts of 40 feet and over will be racing under the IRC Rating Rule, MOCRA and the CSA Racing Rule, with the latter amended to permit boats to use their engines, subject to a time penalty. The Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, with many years' experience hosting the Newport Bermuda Race, will guarantee a fantastic welcome.

The 2019 Antigua Bermuda Race will start five days after the 52nd edition of Antigua Sailing Week. There will be a crew party for all participants the day before departure and a Prize Giving at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club on May 16th, 2019.

Visit https://antiguabermuda.com for more information.

J/24 *Inner Freak* wins 'Verse Vis Race' in Curaçao

On November 11th the traditional two-legged "Piscadera Race" for sailing yachts, now renamed "Verse Vis Race", organized by the Curaçao Yachting Association, took place.

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The race started in Spanish Water in front of the clubhouse of the Sea Scouts, after which the yachts sailed the 9.6 nautical-mile course, passing the island's capital, Willemstad, to Piscadera Bay for the first finish.

After lunch, which was offered to the almost 60 participants by restaurant De Visserij, the boats started at the entrance of the bay and returned to Spanish Water sailing upwind, where they finished back in front of the Sea Scouts clubhouse.

Ratings enabled the different types of boats to compete fairly. Over the two legs, after a day of racing, the J/24 *Inner Freak*, skippered by 16-year-old Darius Bérénos, who's usually also a fierce competitor in the Laser and Sunfish class events, succeeded as a first-timer at the helm and won the overall first place. At the second finish the Swan 44IR *Curaçao Marine*, skippered by Edwin Versteeg, and the J/24 *Merlin*, skippered by Klaus Schneider, narrowly preceded *Inner Freak* with her relatively young crew. However the advantage that *Inner Freak* had built up during the morning leg was enough to win the main prize. *Curaçao Marine* was second overall and the J/24 *La Dolce Vita* of the Sea Scouts and the winner of the Bonaire Regatta in October, with Mitchel Amasia at the helm, third.

YOUTH SAILING NEWS

Antiguan Kiteboarder at Youth Olympics

As reported in the AntiguaNice Yachting Insider Newsletter, Tiger Tyson represented Antigua & Barbuda at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games, held October 6th through 18th in Buenos Aires. For the first time, Antigua & Barbuda had a stake in the Kiteboarding discipline, as Tiger competed in the IKA Twin Tip Racing class.

After holding bronze place for the week, one bad race unfortunately cost Tiger the medal position. A one-point difference followed by an attempted catch-up — just shy by a few metres — regrettably pushed Tiger off the podium. While Tiger was disappointed in the results, fans and onlookers in Antigua are immensely proud of Tiger's performance in the Youth Olympics.

Expect to see him representing Antigua & Barbuda in upcoming competitions. Tiger intends to start hydrofoil racing to try for the next Olympic Games.

Follow Tiger on Facebook and on Instagram @tiger__tyson.

Carriacou Mini Regatta

Sponsored by the Carriacou Regatta Festival, and with supposrt from the Grenada Tourism Authority and Glenelg Water, Carriacou's Mini Regatta was held on November 3rd. The Youth Sailors from Mayreau sailed to Carriacou to join the Boys of L'Esterre Junior Sailors for four well-charted courses. Keeping seafaring traditions alive on Carriacou!



Inner Freak *forges ahead of* Merlin *to take the win*



Carriacou's Mini Regatta Winners
Laser Class
1) John Forde
2) Adolphus Forde
3) Akim Clement
Optimist Class
1) Jay-Z Forde
2) Lesroy Ollivierre
3) Rakim Clement

Weech Wins Cecil G. Cooke Memorial Regatta

Robert Dunkley reports: On the weekend of November 3rd and 4th, Joshua Weech won the Cecil G. Cooke Memorial Regatta 2018 as he continues to dominate the Optimist Dinghy Class in The Bahamas. He is 13 years old, a race team member of Bahamas National Sailing School (BNSS) / Nassau Yacht Club and current Optimist national champion, having won this title in both 2017 and 2018.

This was the fifth year BNSS has hosted this event. Arranged by Sandra Cooke, this regatta honors her late father, Cecil Cooke, one of this country's great sailors, who competed with Sir Durward Knowles in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics when they won the first-ever gold medal for The Bahamas.

Sailing conditions for this seven-race regatta were perfect with a steady eight- to 12-knot breeze from the southeast on the Saturday and more challenging 16 to 18 knots from the east on the Sunday.

With 63 participants, from New Providence, Harbour Island and Long Island, the results showed just how competitive our young sailors are throughout the country. With junior sailing growing tremendously throughout The Bahamas, more and more girls are getting involved. Out of 63 participants, 22 were girls, which is most evident when viewing the results. Way to go girls!

These juniors raced in the Optimist Dinghy Class, for eight to 15 year olds, as well as Sunfish and Laser Radial Classes for older sailors.

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While there were winners of each class, the overall winner, whose name is inscribed on the Cecil G. Cooke perpetual trophy, is the first place finisher in the Optimist Dinghy Class — this year, Joshua Weech. Joshua won the Optimist Gold Fleet. Anton Gottberg from Lyford Cay Sailing Club was second and Kaeman Floyd from BNSS / NYC third.

Matthew Reid won the Optimist Green Fleet, with Cameron Eldon second and Scarlett McCarroll third; all from Royal Nassau Sailing Club. Congratulations to this team as they just started their junior program in June of this year. Lucas Kisalbach from Lyford Cay won the Optimist Silver Fleet with Patrick Tomlinson second and Ethan Butler third, all from Lyford Cay Sailing Club.

Melisha Higgins from Harbour Island took top honors in the Sunfish Fleet while Gabriel Newbold (BNSS) was second and Katelyn Cambridge (BNSS, formerly Harbour Island) was third. The Laser Radial Class was won by Tyler McSweeney. Robbie Carey and Morgan Grammatico were second and third respectively. All three were from BNSS/Nassau Yacht Club.

Spencer Tops Sol Optimist Championship

St. Maarten Yacht Club reports: Thirty-five Optimist sailors, from St. Maarten, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Barths, participated in the 13th Annual Sol St Maarten Optimist Championship, a record number of entrants for the event. Antiguan sailor Theodore Spencer excelled over the November 10th weekend and became the overall winner of this regional youth sailing event, sponsored by Sol Petroleum for all 13 years.



ROBERT DUNKLEY



GUINELL HAZELL

Above: Joshua Weech, age 13, dominates the Optimist Dinghy Class in The Bahamas

Right: Junior Sailing Bequia members had a ball in their new Laser Picos

The teams from Antigua and St. Barths showed excellent sailing skills and most of their sailors took home prizes. Nevertheless, St. Maarten and St. Kitts offered good competition and several sailors raced their way into the top ten. St, Maarten Sailing Coach Maxim van der Pol explains: "St. Kitts hasn't competed in regional sailing competitions for several years and for many of their sailors it was the first time they went off island and participate in a sailing event. They can be very proud of their team and we saw some great talent and competition.

"St Maarten has many sailors who recently started and are still learning to race. This was their first big racing event and the main goal was to have fun and learn," Van der Pol continued.

David Antrobus, General Manager of Sol, presented the trophies to the winners. "It is amazing to see such sailing talent in the region and to set a record number of entries for the Sol St Maarten Optimist Championship is wonderful. We are very pleased with the outcome of the event, especially as the children had such a good time out on the water."

Visit www.regattaguru.com for full results.

SVG Independence Day Junior Races

Bequia's young sailors were out in force for the youth division of St. Vincent & the Grenadines' Independence Day Races, October 28th. As well as sailing solo in the Optimist Class, the kids had a blast in Junior Sailing Bequia's latest vessels — double-handed Laser Picos.

Visit www.facebook.com/pg/juniorsailingbequia for more information.



Lead On, CSA & Antigua!

Youth to Adult — "Y2A" — is a series of articles celebrating sailing's role in youth development for Caribbean children.

Antigua has taken the lead in many ways within sailing development for the Caribbean this year, as they have done regularly for many years, such as propelling forward the Youth to Keel program during Antigua Sailing Week this spring. Then, as the year closes, they hosted the Caribbean Sailing Association's (CSA's) annual conference, followed by launching a pilot for the CSA's Resort Training Certification program, then hosted CSA's Annual Caribbean Dinghy Championship (CDC) later that same month of October, and finally, Antigua produced CSA's new president, Alison Sly-Adams.

2018 CSA Annual AGM & Conference Sailing Development Highlights

Rousing sailing development discussions took place during the Caribbean Sailing Association's AGM & Annual Conference recently. Individuals traveled in from Trinidad, Grenada, and Barbados up through the Windward and Leeward islands, and from the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico; even Brits came from across the Atlantic, all bringing a renewed sense of what can be done to keep Caribbean sailing alive and well for enthusiasts of all ages and abilities.

With an ongoing infusion of expertise and enthusiasm, they discussed the varied and unique Caribbean challenges, ranging from economic to cultural, that are faced up and down island. A uniting force at the conference is the shared love of the silent, engine-free marvel of slicing through ocean blue, fresh salt air and water all around, the serene even noble feeling one gets with one hand on the tiller, the other on the mainsheet, matching one's wits with whatever Mother Nature has in mind — an exhilaration that takes experiencing to understand.

The CSA, as an organization, understands the challenges and is focusing on long-term plans to avail more West Indians of Learn to Sail programs by developing an affordable sail-training certification as well as supporting youth access into the sport through programs such as Youth to Keel. The sail-training certification is still in its infancy but a resort certification program that was designed as a prequel had its pilot course following the conference and will be rolled out early in the new year.

Renewed and enriched at the conference, the CSA's 2018-19 Sailing Development Committee is chaired by Mark Theron out of St. Kitts & Nevis, who also serves on the CSA Board. Tamsin Rand of the Royal BVI Yacht Club remains on the committee, focused on scheduling and encouraging Caribbean organizations to join the CSA and have their events listed on the CSA website. Ellen Birrell remains on the committee in an advisory capacity. Elizabeth Jordan, founder and director of Antigua's National Sailing Academy, also continues on the committee, chiefly advising and developing the CSA's newly forming Sail Training Certification program. She has linked arms in recent years with Tim Cross of Crosswinds Sports related to this effort, for which Tim takes the reins of the Sail Training Development working group. Tim is known on several islands for setting up World Sailing Emerging Nation Coach-Training courses.

Dan Jaspers, representing RS Boats and other marine providers, becomes head of the Caribbean Dinghy Championship working group within the committee, which will be reviewing the CDC format to make it more inclusive across the islands.



Young sailors such as Jules Mitchell, above, have benefited greatly from Antigua's contributions to sail training

Faces not new to sailing but new to the committee include Nicholas Dupre of St. Kitts, Annette Hibbert of Anguilla, Leonde Vermuelen of St. Maarten, and Olivier Rene-Corail of Martinique.

What Attendees Had to Say

One conference participant had traveled up from Carriacou, a northern Grenada island, because in addition to running Carriacou's junior sailing club, she found herself in charge of the Eastern Caribbean's longest-running annual regatta. There to exchange ideas and learn from other regatta organizers, Allison Caton had this to say: "The Carriacou Regatta Committee needs to stay relevant and in order to do that we have to learn from others who are organizing successful regattas and emulate them."

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An added benefit she found: "Elizabeth Jordan of the National Sailing Association is wonderful and sincere in her efforts to teach the Antiguan children to sail and the children really appreciate her efforts."

Regatta Director Michele Korteweg of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta has been to a number of conferences over the years but still finds the event an important slot on her annual planning calendar. "It is refreshing to be in a room of people who get that although our events compete with each other to some extent, we know that if we can develop opportunities to work together, such as on promoting the Caribbean Calendar, this will bring more boats to the region and thus benefit us all. Discussing our challenges helps us rethink the way we do things and keeps all of the regattas on their toes in terms of reviewing event formats and ensuring they are still relevant. Team St. Maarten would not miss this event."

The October 27th and 28th CDC, and Antigua's Role

Karl James said this at the close of October when Antigua Yacht Club, with support from the National Sailing Academy and other Antiguan organizations, concluded hosting the CSA's Caribbean Dinghy Championship: "It was great to see such fierce competition between some of the Caribbean's top sailors." Whether one looks at it from the standpoint of people like Karl James, who went from top Antiguan racer to dedicated coach and race manager over many years, to the up-and-coming winning youth sailors such as Jules Mitchell, Antigua is willing to lead when it comes to sailing development.

The countless and usually nameless volunteers, in the case of October's CDC, were principally from Antigua Yacht Club. They give of their time and expertise to organize prior to the event and show up on the weekend of it to run the race committee and other support functions. Deserving mention are also the local companies such as Budget Marine who provide financial or in-kind support.

The next time we participate in or are spectators at youth sailing programs or regatta events, why not walk up to these volunteers and give them our hearty handshake and nod of thanks? Or, better yet, ask how each of us can play a support role. Building a heightened sense of community around sailing contributes to healthy island life. Whether someone is reading "Y2A" from an inland armchair or island beach, we can nod in agreement over the importance of building community as a way of ensuring a kinder, safer, more inclusive world.

CSA's New President

Alison Sly-Adams' reputation as an indefatigable advocate for the sport of sailing precedes her as she takes on the role of CSA President. Known for her marketing and management expertise, in her 15 years living in Antigua she's contributed to the success of the CSA, Antigua Sailing Week (for which she is also president), the Antigua & Barbuda Marine Association, and the 'Antigua Nice' on-island tourism and business guide, as well as website creation and management for other companies. Over the past several years, as a most active CSA board member, her willingness and ability to provide leadership to all CSA committees from membership to measurers, and regatta organizing to sailing development, have made her an invaluable resource to CSA members. Now at the helm, the CSA membership and the broader Caribbean community can look to joining arms with her and the CSA to take the sport of sailing in the Caribbean to higher levels of local participation.

Hip, hip hooray for Alison!

As 2018 closes and we look back over our shoulders at youth sailing in the Caribbean, there are many reasons to be enthusiastic. Not without disappointment and ongoing challenges, such as painstaking recovery from the 2017 "Ir-Maria" hurricane catastrophe, losing the likes of Bequia's Eddie Brown, and the many "usual" challenges that youth programs face up and down the island chain, we go forward with renewed belief that, as Max van der Pol of St. Martin says, "Sailing is a sport of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship. It creates situations that provide opportunities to learn lessons for life, about desirable and undesirable conduct. This moral and educational aspect contributes to the positive development of individuals and, in turn, to the development of society. Central to this process are the values of sportsmanship and fair play. These involve much more than just playing within the rules. They are a way of behaving and thinking which incorporate friendship, respect for others on the water, maintaining self-control, dignity and integrity, and always competing in the right spirit." While Max is referring to sailboat racing, I think this "right spirit" is also realized when one participates in Learn to Sail. Coming to have a deeper understanding of Nature and Nature's forces while learning basic sailing and seamanship instills self-respect and respect for the marine environment, tools from which all humankind can benefit.



KEMOIR MARTIN / CSA

Jules won first place in the Laser Standard class at the 2018 Caribbean Dinghy Championship

So, as we commend Antigua for an enormous contribution in 2018, we also applaud their commitment and preparation to host, along with Barbuda, the Optimist Worlds in 2019. Antiguans and Barbudans, you go!

Ellen Birrell attributes her opportunity to cruise the Caribbean aboard S/V Boldly Go *to life skills built in childhood. Believing swimming and sailing are essentials for island youth, she supports Learn to Sail and competitive junior sailing, and serves on sailing development for Caribbean Sailing Association. See: https://caribbean-sailing.com/sailing-development/the-future-of-caribbean-sailing*

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Caribbean Coming Events: More Than Just Yacht Races!

Sure, the Caribbean region is replete with yacht regattas and crammed with Carnivals — but there's so much more!

December is a busy month, with events such as lighted boat parades, Christmas concerts, and of course fireworks.

Music is, naturally, a major force in the region, and you'll hear it on the street, in the buses, at the beach bars — just about wherever you go. But don't miss the region's music festivals, offering a variety of genres ranging from blues and jazz to classic and parang.

And there's more: kite flying, horse racing — even a celebration of chocolate making. The region truly offers as much to do ashore as on the water, and something for everyone.

Catch up with the Caribbean's regattas, sailboat races and rallies every month in our Regatta News department. See our comprehensive 2019 Calendar of Events, and a list of Caribbean Carnivals in next month's Compass.

Here we present a selection of the region's fun and unusual events, listed month by month through May, and geographically north to south. Enjoy!

December 2018

St Croix

• DECEMBER 8TH - ST. CROIX CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

This year is the 20th Anniversary St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade, featuring illuminated boats playing cheerful music in historic Christiansted Harbor. There is no entry fee for boaters and no charge to view the parade and enjoy the entertainment. The St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade is a non-profit organization, and solicits donations from local Crucian and family businesses. After all parade and fireworks expenses are paid, any remaining monies are used to help fund local children's charities and orphanages on the island.


STCROIXCHRISTMASBOATPARADE.COM

Every day for a week before the St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade 2018 there will be a dinner or other event as part of Christmas Festival Week, beginning on December 1st with a family fun day at Leatherback Brewing Co. from 12:00 noon to 7:00PM, followed by a Latin night of food and dancing hosted by Maria's Cantina.

Boat Parade volunteers are welcome! Contact Sal Sanpere at (340) 690-0006 or stxboatparade@hotmail.com for information.

For parade route questions or to register your boat for the parade contact Jeff Rudolph at (214) 675-6562 or jeffatds9@aol.com.

Visit www.stcroixchristmasboatparade.com and www.facebook.com/STXBoatParade for more information.

Antigua

• DECEMBER 13TH - CAROLS BY THE SEA & CRAFT FAIR

Find unique gifts at the Christmas Craft Fair at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina, Falmouth Harbour, followed by Carols by the Sea, featuring Island Academy's Chamber Choir, at 6:00PM at Club Sushi (If you'd like to make dinner reservations, call [268] 562-8512).

Contact events@yachtclub.ag for more information.

• DECEMBER 25TH - CHAMPAGNE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas Day is celebrated in Nelson's Dockyard, English Harbour to the sounds of reggae and calypso as the Champagne Christmas Party begins at 12:00 noon. Named in the *New York Times* as "one of the five best Christmas events in the world," it has become a major annual tradition.

The Hourglass Foundation has been organizing the "Round the Capstans" Christmas Day Champagne Party for over 25 years. Approximately 500 bottles of sparkling wine and champagne are served out of a lovely old wooden dinghy filled with ice. Prices range from EC$40 to $280 and all proceeds are given to charity.

Visit http://home.earthlink.net/~hourglassfoundation/champagne.html for more information.

Martinique

• DECEMBER 30TH - BOUCANS DE LA BAIE

Vive la difference! Martinique has fireworks on December 30th, not on the 31st. On December 30th, Fort de France welcomes its guests to celebrate Boucans de la Baie along the waterfront and the Savannah. Enjoy evening shopping, late hours at the museums, gourmet menus, entertainment, and boat parties.

Then, for 20 minutes of pure wonder, fireworks will be launched from the ramparts of historic Fort Saint-Louis, during which music and lights will intertwine in harmony.

Young and old, night owls, music lovers, gourmands and gourmets — all are invited to the countdown to 2019, Martinique style.

Visit www.martinique.org for more information.

St. Vincent

• DECEMBER 15TH TO 24TH – NINE MORNINGS

For nine mornings before Christmas, Vincentians awake in the early hours and participate in a range of activities, among them sea baths, dances, bicycle riding and street concerts. In the rural areas, the final morning of the festivity usually ends with a steel band "jump-up". Tradition relates Nine Mornings to the novena of the Catholic Church on the nine days before Christmas, and typical things people might have enjoyed after attending early-morning church services.

Visit http://discoversvg.com for more information.

Carriacou

• DECEMBER 14 - CARRIACOU PARANG FESTIVAL

The Carriacou Parang Festival is a unique event rich with the island's traditional culture, which includes Big Drum, Quadrille Dancing, and Shakespeare Mas. The Parang Festival incorporates some of these elements along with traditional Christmas carols; parang is a style of folk music originating in South America that is popular in the southern Caribbean at Christmas time. One of the special features of the event is parang bands competing for prizes and bragging rights by singing humorous songs on the happenings on the island over the past year.


GRENADA TOURISM AUTHORITY

Visit www.grenadagrenadines.com/plan/events/carriacou-parang-festival for more information.

Grenada

• DECEMBER 2ND - 10TH ANNUAL CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Enjoy your favorite Christmas carols under the starry night sky with your family and friends at this annual event put on by the Rotary Club of Grenada at Rotary Park, Quarantine Point, Morne Rouge, St. George's. Gates open at 3:00PM.

Visit http://rotarygrenada.org/cbc for more information.

• DECEMBER 9TH - CHRISTMAS BRASS X

Christmas Brass X will be the tenth annual holiday concert by the Royal Grenada Police Force Band, at 5:00PM at the Grenada Trade Centre. Tickets EC$45, children under 12 EC$20.

Tobago

• DECEMBER 30th – TOBAGO KITE FESTIVAL

Tobago's Annual Flying Colours Kite Festival is held at the Plymouth Recreation Ground, Plymouth. Kite flying and kite building have a long tradition in the windy Caribbean, with competitions held usually around holiday times such as Christmas and Easter. Handmade kites are judged on design, theme, duration and height of flight, as well as size, in different age groups.


UNCOMMONCARIBBEAN.COM

Trinidad

Trinidad is awash in concerts this month. To arrange transportation for groups from the marinas at Chaguaramas to an event, "Ask Jesse!" jessejamesmembersonly@yahoo.com

• DECEMBER 2ND - CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT


MEMBERSONLYMAXITAXI.COM

Carols by Candlelight is a free concert put on by many of Trinidad's famous local artistes, on President's Grounds, Port of Spain.

• DECEMBER 2ND – IF THERE IS MUSIC THERE

The Trinidad & Tobago Youth Philharmonic Orchestra offers a concert celebrating the popular music of the 80s and 90s, at 5:30PM at the National Academy for the Performing Arts, Port of Spain. Tickets TT$150

Visit www.facebook.com/1TTYP for more information.

• DECEMBER 6TH THROUGH 9TH - THE MARIONETTES CHORALE

The Marionettes Chorale, one of the top choirs in Trinidad, will give a Someday at Christmas concert at 7:30PM at Queen's Hall in Port of Spain. Tickets TT$200 - TT$300.

Visit www.marionetteschorale.com for more information.

• DECEMBER 8TH, 15TH, AND 22ND - SILVER STARS PARANG & STEEL

Combining Trinidad's Spanish Christmas music (parang) with steel pan music, at The Panyard, 56 Tragete Road, Newtown, Port of Spain. Admission TT$100.

Visit www.facebook.com/pg/SilverStarsSteel for more information

• DECEMBER 13TH-16TH – 'THE GIFT' BY LYDIANS CHORALE

Another of Trinidad's top choirs performs their annual Christmas concert at Queen's Hall Auditorium, St. Ann's Road, Port of Spain, at 7:30PM (6:30 on the 16th). Tickets TT$150 - TT$250

Visit www.facebook.com/TheLydiansTT for more information.

Belize

• CULMINATING ON DECEMBER 25TH AND 26TH – THE BRAM

The Bram is a jubilant mobile party held at the Christmas season. Accompanied by lively "Brokdong" music, singing, and dancing, the Bram goes from house to house through a village, where the merry-makers are offered food and drink, celebrating until participants can no longer carry on. The instruments to accompany the singing and dancing are whatever is available, such as goombay (two-sided) drums, forks and graters, and just about anything that can make tune or rhythm.

Myrna Manzanares writes, "As urban Belize City embraced less traditional Christmas celebrations, the Bram became relegated to the countryside where it still relishes a critical presence. Today, if you want to get a good dose of the Bram — the way it used to be — the place to visit is the village of Gales Point, Manatee. The narrow, roughly two-mile stretch juts out into the Southern Lagoon bordering the Caribbean Sea at the base of the Belize District,...

—Continued on next page


HORSERACINGBELIZE.COM

Horse races are big in Belize

—Continued from previous page
...about 40 miles away from Dangriga through the Coastal Road."
Visit www.belizeanjourneys.com/features/brokdong/newsletter.html for more information.

• DECEMBER 26TH – HORSE RACE DAY

St. Stephen's Day (or Boxing Day), December 26th, is race day in Belize. Horse races are held at courses in Burrell Boom and Crooked Tree in the Belize District and in Santa Elena in Cayo throughout the year, but the Christmas Races are the biggest and most fun. The December 26th races at Castleton Race Track draw great crowds of spectators who really get into the Belizean groove.

Visit horseracingbelize.com for more information.

January 2019

St. Barts

• JANUARY 4TH THROUGH 20TH - ST. BARTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

As their website says, "Each year during January we offer more than a dozen nights of the finest live music and dance performances in an informal, island setting. Audiences are treated to intimate concerts by some of the world's most prominent classical, opera, ballet, and jazz stars. The Festival performances are not held in grandiose halls filled with stuffed shirts and bejeweled dowagers. Instead, islanders and tourists alike sit side-by-side and enjoy our peerless performers in several of the quaint, local historic churches."

Visit www.stbartsmusicfestival.org/festival.html for more information.

Barbados

• JANUARY 11TH THROUGH 20TH - BARBADOS FILM FESTIVAL

The Barbados Independent Film Festival highlights the work of filmmakers, producers and actors from around the world. The Festival will feature films and shorts that celebrate the power of resilience and humankind's ability to overcome adversity. An entire week of film and fun, including special events that highlight elements of each screening.

Visit www.visitbarbados.org/the-barbados-film-festival for more information.

Mustique

• JANUARY 23RD THROUGH FEBRUARY 6TH - MUSTIQUE BLUES FESTIVAL

This year, celebrating Women in Music and Blues: Nancy Wright is one of the most highly respected and in-demand sax players on today's scene, Wendy DeWitt (with Kirk Harwood) plays boogie-woogie and blues that is garnering international attention, Eliza Neals was dubbed 2018 Detroit Black Music Award "Blues Artist of the Year", and Amalia Rubin is a musician and singer who sings in 15 different languages.

Visit https://basilsbar.com/blues-festival-2019 for more information.


Debbie Reifer

Bequia

• JANUARY 30TH THROUGH FEBRUARY 3RD - BEQUIA MUSIC FEST

The Bequia Mount Gay Music Fest is a yearly event at the end of January. Caribbean and international musicians of many different musical genres take the stage for a five-day festival at three different venues.

New for 2019 is the Jazz Concert & Candlelight Dinner at De Reef in Lower Bay on January 30th, from 7:00PM, with Hector Belda Om, the Barbados Jazz Trio & Debbie Reifer, the RS Band with Rodney Small, and GBK from Martinique playing Caribbean Créole Jazz. Dinner & Jazz tickets and Concert-only tickets, go on sale December 1st at the Bequia Tourism Association office.

Visit www.bequiamusicfestival.com for the schedule and full line-up.

Trinidad

• JANUARY 1ST - SSCA'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR GAM & POTLUCK

The first Seven Seas Cruising Association "Gam" of the New Year will be held at the Trinidad & Tobago Sailing Association compound in Chaguaramas, from 12:00 noon till 3:00PM. To book a spot, call Jesse James on the morning cruisers net at 8:00AM on VHF CH68, stop by his office at Power Boats Marina, e-mail jessejamesmembersonly@yahoo.com, book at www.membersonlymaxitaxi.com, or call (868) 683-5202.

February 2019

Grenada

• FEBRUARY 2ND - GRENADA SAILING FESTIVAL WORK BOAT REGATTA

We'll make an exception and include this regatta, as most visitors will enjoy this event as spectators rather than participants. And what a spectacle it is! The annual Grenada Sailing Festival Work Boat Regatta attracts sailors from various communities throughout Grenada, plus the Sister Islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique — communities with a strong sailing and boatbuilding heritage. Traditionally the boats raced were the working fishing boats of the community. Today, boats are built specifically for racing and are carefully stored and maintained to be ready for competition.


ARTHUR DANIEL

During the weekend of the Work Boat Regatta, communities race within their own classes such as the Gouyave Sloop, Gouyave Canoe, Sauteurs, Woburn, Petite Martinique and Carriacou. On the final day, winners of the community classes' races compete against each other using the fleet of boats that Grenada Sailing Festival had built specifically for match racing.

While watching the races, enjoy a day of food, music and more on splendid Grand Anse Beach.

Visit www.grenadasailingfestival.com for more information.

March 2019

Jost Van Dyke, BVI

• MARCH 16TH - FOXY'S MUSIC FEST

In 2016, Foxy launched a programme to begin "Foxy's School of Music". With support from philanthropist Tony Martin of Just Right Records and an eclectic group of musicians now known as "Foxy's Funky Friends", the programme will be breaking ground on a new school in early 2019. Local island students will be able to receive musical education after school and on weekends.

The Music Fest is held to celebrate the school and serve as a fundraiser. In 2018, Foxy recorded a new CD with the Funky Friends who will return to perform their new songs live on Jost Van Dyke for the first time in March 2019.

Visit https://foxysbvi.com/music-fest for more information.

Carriacou

• MARCH 4TH - CARRIACOU CARNIVAL

Another exception. We'll list Caribbean Carnivals next month, but Carriacou's Carnival is unique. It not only encompasses wonderfully expressive street dances, soca frenzy, a parade of the bands and a calypso competition, as others do, but it features the unique highlight of the Shakespeare Mas.

There is no place else in the world where you can witness the open-air recitation of so many lines from some of William Shakespeare's plays. Men dressed in bright colours and wearing masks and protective headgear engage in a battle of words, hoping not to fumble their lines and receive a stroke of their opponent's stick.

Visit www.grenadagrenadines.com/plan/events/carriacou-carnival for more information.

Dominica

• MARCH 10TH THROUGH 17TH - DOMINICA YACHTIE APPRECIATION WEEK

Created to promote awareness of Dominica's yachting sector and to express Dominica's appreciation of its yachting visitors, this now-annual week of fun is hosted by the Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services (PAYS) at Portsmouth.

Contact offshorepassage@sprintmail.com or dominicapays@gmail.com for more information.

April 2019

Guyana

• APRIL 19th THROUGH 22ND - RUPUNUNI RODEO

Cowboys in the jungle? Easter weekend annually in Guyana sees the hosting of the Rupununi Rodeo at Lethem, the Guyana-Brazil border town in *vaquero* country where competition for cowboy supremacy runs high among the various ranches of the Rupununi region. Now a popular national event, the rodeo brings thousands by bus, SUVs, and even motorbikes thronging through the road corridor leading from Linden to Lethem, or by plane from Georgetown. From savannah country to jungle, the trip to the border community also promises to be a scenic and exhilarating experience. The rodeo begins on the Saturday before Easter and continues until Easter Monday, with daytime activities like wild bull riding, horse racing, wild cow milking, wild horse riding, a barrel race, and steer roping.


WWW.GUYANAPREMIER.COM

Visit www.visitrupununi.com/event/rupununi-rodeo for more information.

Carriacou

• APRIL 26TH THROUGH 28TH - CARRIACOU MAROON & STRING BAND FESTIVAL

For those of you who have always wanted a pure and culturally untamed experience, then the 2019 Carriacou Maroon and String Band Music Festival is the event for you!

Maroon culture is all about thanksgiving and prayers to the source of all life, production and prosperity. Its African origins are authentically depicted through string band music, drumming, singing, the eating of "smoke food" and other rituals practiced on Grenada's sister isle. Enjoy performances from various Caribbean islands and string band music from Carriacou's popular musicians.

Visit www.carriacoumaroon.com for more information.

Tobago

• APRIL 25TH TO 28TH - THE TOBAGO JAZZ EXPERIENCE

Live jazz performances at Speyside, Signal Hill, Scarborough, Castara and the Pigeon Point Heritage Park.

Visit www.carnifest.com/tobago-jazz-experience-tje-2019 for more information.

May 2019

Dominica

• MAY 3RD THROUGH 5TH - JAZZ 'N CREOLE FESTIVAL

Dominica's Jazz 'n Creole Festival is a festive fusion of jazz music with Creole music, food, and culture, set at historic Fort Shirley in Cabrits National Park, Portsmouth.

Visit http://dominicafestivals.com/jazz-creole for more information.

Grenada

• MAY 31ST THROUGH JUNE 7TH - GRENADA CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

Celebrate chocolate Grenadian style with the 6th Annual Grenada Chocolate Festival.

In addition to being known as the 'Spice Island of the Caribbean', Grenada now has four local companies producing organic chocolate and tailored "bean to bar" tours.

Festival activities include tours of local cocoa farms for the chance to "dance the cocoa", or be a farmer for a day, learning chocolate tempering, moulding and truffle making as well as hands-on lessons from Grenadian artisans on how hand-made, small batch, ethically produced "tree-to-bar" chocolate is made.

Celebrating its sixth year in 2019, the festival is the perfect opportunity for dark-chocolate lovers to have a "sweet" time in the Spice Island.

Visit grenadachocolatefest.com for more information.

Trinidad

• MAY 5TH THROUGH 7TH - POINT FORTIN BOROUGH DAY

Point Fortin Borough Day is touted as the "second carnival" of Trinidad. It takes place during the first week of May. Running from about two weeks to a month before the day, a variety of related events take place. The Point Fortin Borough Day Regatta is scheduled to take place on the 7th, at Guapo Beach Facility, Clifton Hill, Point Fortin.

And that's not all! We'll give you a round-up of the summer's special events in the June 2019 issue of Compass.

ALL ASHORE...

HASHING IN PARADISE

by Erin Carey





Drinkers with a running problem — could there be a better catchphrase to attract adventurous yachties? Sure, the word "running" might put you off, but don't let it. Being a good runner is not a prerequisite for the hash and you don't have to be exceedingly fit either. Plus, who doesn't like the idea of having fun with a group of like-minded individuals? The only side effect is that you may accidentally get into shape doing it.

So what is a "hash" and how did they begin? The Hash House Harriers is a running club that was originally formed in Malaysia back in 1938. Hashes were created as a way for the British colonial officers to cleanse themselves of their excessive boozing. Every Monday, the officers would follow a trail through the countryside of Malaysia, an idea devised from a game they would play as children called Hare and Hound.

—Continued on next page



Clockwise from above: Taking a moment for the view over Hog Island and Clarkes Court Bay

'Have some fruit!' The author's son accepts

Imbibing from a brand-new shoe, a 'hash virgin' is inaugurated into the club

ANNEXES ET SEMI-RIGIDES: COQUES ALUMINIUM - HYPALON - PVC

HIGHFIELD aluminium RIBs





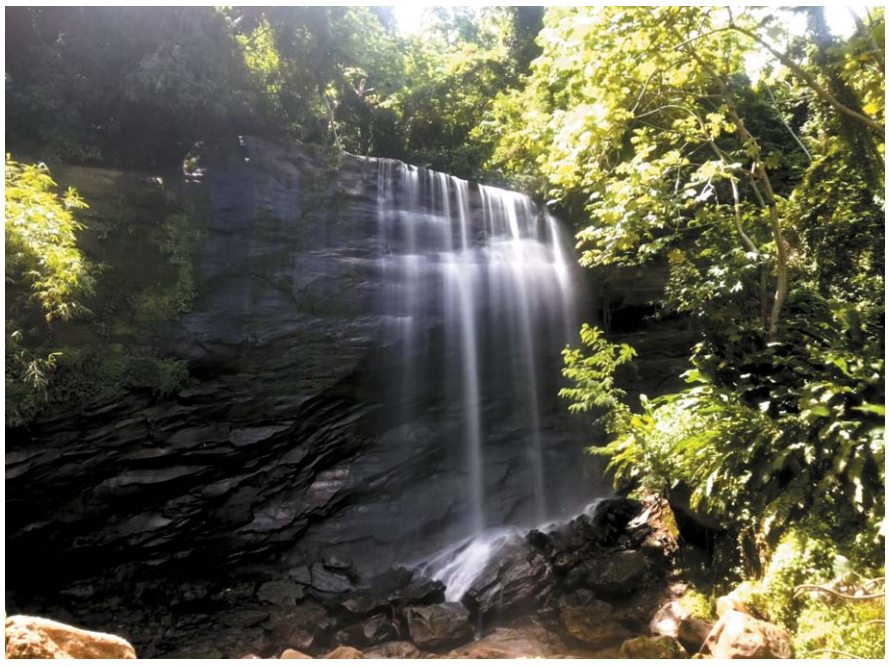
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—*Continued from previous page*

The officers would regularly drink at a local bar called the Hash House, which is where they took inspiration for their club name, The Hash House Harriers (HHH). Although two of the original founders were killed during World War II, the remaining members continued the hashing tradition, eventually opening a second chapter in Singapore in 1962. In the 1970s, the idea spread throughout almost every continent, and today there are almost 2,000 Hash House Harrier chapters all around the world. I was fortunate to discover a very large and active chapter on the Caribbean island of Grenada where we were cruising and had to check it out for myself.



Traveling to the predetermined hash location by way of a local bus was an adventure in itself. It gave me a taste of the countryside I was about to traverse; cocoa plantations, sugar cane crops and mountainous rainforests all flashed past my window as we weaved along the narrow roads.

As we arrived, it was clear that the crowd was as diverse as the countryside. Students, locals and expats all converged in the designated parking lot for an afternoon of fun in the sun. After a quick welcoming ceremony (that oddly involved another "hash virgin" drinking beer out of his brand new sneakers), we were off to follow a trail marked by small piles of shredded paper. The experienced hashers took off at a cracking pace, but there were plenty of us who left in a more leisurely fashion. Even at a slower pace, I found myself quickly wondering what I'd gotten into.

I found myself enjoying the camaraderie of hundreds of other enthusiasts as we hiked along the narrow goat trail. Early in the hike, we traversed a river by hopping from one river stone to the next. Fellow hashers banded together to help one another across. The sound of the rushing water in the distance alerted me to our proximity to a cascading waterfall. I was excited to get my first glimpse. The waterfall didn't disappoint, but there was no time to stand around and enjoy the tranquility. There was a mountain to conquer.

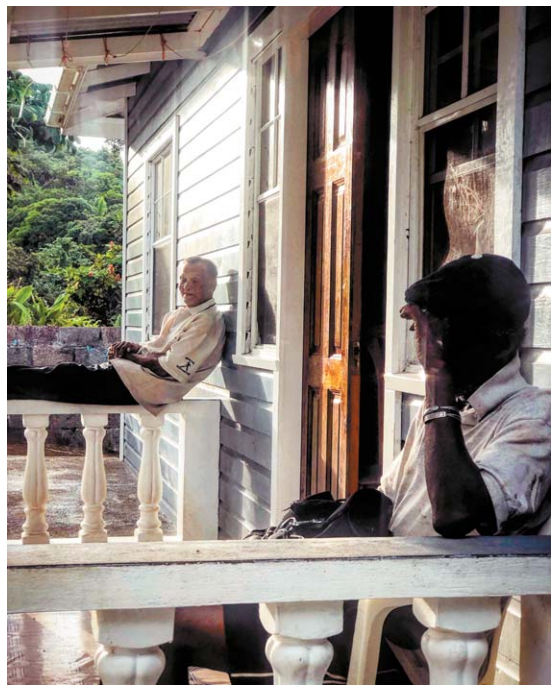
Before long, I found myself scrambling up a near-vertical trail, grabbing vines, Tarzan style, to avoid slipping in the mud. After reaching the summit, I was greeted with a view so spectacular that the effort of the climb was quickly forgotten. Continuing on, I passed goats quietly grazing and mango trees absolutely dripping with fruit. I passed ramshackle cottages where locals gathered on their porches and children smiled and waved as I strode on by. A roaming pack of dogs loyally accompanied me for part of the trail before happily sending me on my way.

Before I knew it, I was back in a residential area and was treated with a fascinating glimpse into how Grenadians live. Children played happily among themselves, not an electronic device to be seen. Neighbors gathered on the curb, enjoying one another's company and watching the world go by. The smell of their dinners on the stove wafted out their open doors. Walking on concrete roads was a pleasant change of pace, and I was hoping it indicated we were coming close to the finish line.

Unfortunately, it was only a brief intermission. We were quickly back among the scrub, so thick and dense it was hard to believe we had been in a residential area only moments ago. The terrain changed rapidly, the path now leading us through a bamboo jungle. Tall and imposing, the stalks rose all around, forming a shade canopy that shielded me from the hot Grenadian sun. It was dark and cool, and the silence was cathartic. The pack had thinned out and I found myself admiring the scenery, thinking how fortunate I was to be having this experience. I was totally out of my comfort zone, yet exhilarated at the same time, happy to be encountering people and places I would never have otherwise seen. I could faintly hear soca music playing in the distance. Fellow hashers reveled in the fact that the music was coming from the hash afterparty. A sure sign we were nearing the finish line.

After an hour and a half of some serious endorphin-pumping exercise, I found myself back to where I had started. Given that I was toward the end of the pack, the afterparty was already in full swing and everyone appeared to be having a good time. In true Grenadian style, the beer was cold and the music was loud. After a few drinks I was drawn to the dance floor. Everyone was in high spirits from the hike. I had definitely worked up a hunger and the jerk chicken was calling my name. After a grueling afternoon, I don't think a beer and barbecue had ever tasted so good.

It's little wonder this local chapter gathers up to 400 participants for each event and has recently completed its 1,050th hash! Each week the trail is set by a different "hash hare" so no two hashes are ever the same. Whether you are four years old or 84 (yes, they are the respective ages of Grenada's youngest and oldest HHHs), there's a trail for all levels of fitness and stamina. All you really need are a good sense of humor and a thirst for adventure... and beer. Whether you decide to take the short, medium or long trail, the lure of a cold beer at the end is enough to get you across that finish line.



Left: 'The waterfall didn't disappoint, but there was no time to stand around...'

Right: Trackside seats for watching the runners go by

Since this first hash, I have participated in ten more hashes and hashing is definitely the highlight of my week. My fitness and stamina have improved and the island of Grenada continues to impress me each and every week. While the drinking, dancing and barbecue are loads of fun, it is the gorgeous island of Grenada and its beautiful people that make the Grenadian hash a truly memorable experience.

So, if you're in Grenada on a Saturday afternoon and feel like getting your blood pumping, head along to one of their gatherings. The EC$3 admission fee is so affordable, even the most budget-conscious sailors can afford to attend, and public transport is often available to and from each location. If you prefer the comfort and convenience of a taxi, there are plenty of reliable drivers to choose from and plenty of people to share the cost. One thing is for sure, the hash ticks all the boxes when it comes to having a seriously good time — fun, fitness, friends, frivolity and food. Sounds like the perfect Saturday afternoon to me!

If you're interested in hashing your way around the Caribbean, then be sure to also check out the HHHs on St. Kitts, Barbados and Antigua.

For more information visit www.grenadahashouseharriers.com

Erin lives aboard a Moody 47 in the Caribbean with her husband, Dave, and their three young sons. They decided to quit the rat race and buy a yacht on the other side of the world after watching a documentary that inspired them to live life differently. They weren't sailors and they had never before owned a boat. Follow their adventures on their Facebook and Instagram pages Sailing to Roam, where Erin shares the trials and tribulations of living on a boat with three kids.

Sailing to Roam is proudly supported by Far East Sailmakers, Red Paddle Co, PredictWind, Little Urchin, Sharkbanz, Bedhead Hats, Platypus Australia, Sandy Feet Australia, Panda Sunglasses, Sport-a-Seat, Dinga Fishing, The Dive Shack and Tesalate Towels.



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BRUCE AMLICKE (ALL)

A TASTE OF TRINIDAD

by Evelyn Miller

If you are looking for a treat to enjoy for a day, and want to experience the diverse cuisine of Trinidad, then take a ride with Jesse James as he hosts his 'Taste of Trini' tour in his maxi-taxi van. You'll sample the local



food and culture from the morning into the evening as you drive along with Jesse in a loop around the island.

A history of different waves of immigration over the years has brought a fusion of tastes to Trinidad. After the original Amerindians, there were British, Spanish and Dutch colonists, and African slaves were followed by Indian and Chinese workers after Emancipation. All contributed to the multi-cultural flavor reflected in the foods unique to Trinidad. While curry is ubiquitous, the different flavors of pepper and other sauces and seasonings are unique, even among different villages of east and west, north and south.

On a recent tour, our group of sailors starts in the morning in Chaguaramas, in the extreme northwest corner of Trinidad. Jesse caters to cruisers, and the morning starts early when he picks folks up at their boatyard entrances to begin the journey. Jesse is accompanied by a guest host in the passenger seat to lend a hand in food presentation. It's best if you don't eat breakfast prior to this tour!

The maxi taxi now transforms into a gourmet array of foods on wheels, served while traveling the countryside with stops along the way at a variety of restaurants, fruit-and-vegetable stands, and take-out delights by the roadside.

Clockwise from top:
Fresh, homegrown produce at a roadside stand

Jesse showing the inside of a Brazil-nut pod

Lunch plate: Potato-chana curry, pumpkin, chicken curry, fried shark, stewed chicken, roti, dhal puri and chutney

As the tour begins, breakfast starts off with some smoked herring, saltfish, soft cheese paste, and a nice little roast bake, which is like a bread roll. We hang on to our plates, as they will be in our laps during most of the journey as we try samples at every stop along the way.

While enroute we are served with Bean Bodi, complimented with some corned beef and a fried bake. Bean Bodi is made from cut string beans cooked in spices with a bit of curry and pepper flavor to it. A fried bake is a flat, disc-shaped bread that is fried in oil to a golden brown. It can be cut in half to put your Bodi inside, kind of like a sandwich if you wish, or served on the side.

As we travel along in the maxi-taxi van, the first stop is in Carenage. Carenage, a town adjacent to Chaguaramas, offers many conveniences, such as a health center, supermarket, stores, restaurants, ATM banking, gas, and shops, all close to cruisers in the Chaguaramas area. Here we step out of the van to find a vendor on the roadside with an umbrella and containers of the famous "doubles". If you've never had doubles you're in for a treat. One doubles consists of two warm, soft bread rounds holding a chickpea filling and flavored with cucumber sweet sauce and cilantro (also known as shadow beni), and pepper sauce if you so desire. They're served wrapped in paper and placed in a small brown bag to go. It's finger-licking time with doubles, as holding them can be saucy.

As we head south on the Western Main road, our next stop is Port of Spain. Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad, bustles with highways, shopping malls, businesses, buses, and busy people. It's the main port for the coming and going of vessels, and the hub of transportation. At our next food stop, we enjoy some saheena. Saheena is made with split pea powder and flour combined with chopped dasheen leaves (also known as callaloo), turmeric (locally called saffron) and other spices (every cook has their own recipe), rolled into a ball and then fried. Delicious with all the spices, saheena can be complimented with condiments such as tamarind sauce or pepper sauce to add even more flavor. Callaloo can be found in farmers' markets and in the produce section of the grocery store.

Moving on, we're driving across the island from west to east, bordering the mountains of the northern region, to the other side where lunch is planned. But Jesse has more food for us in mind before lunch. Along our way we stop in the towns of Valencia and Sangre Grande. We learn the history of Sangre Grande, named after the river of blood seen in the streets when Spanish soldiers slaughtered the village of Amerindians long ago. There, we sample sada roti, baigan choka, potato pie, cow-heel soup, coconut pie and little fruits called genips. Sada roti is a plain soft flatbread or chapati, made of white flour. Because it is the simplest roti to make, it is the most commonly consumed roti in Trinidad. Baigan choka, made from eggplant, is a robust-flavored side dish or vegetarian spread for flat-



breads. As we travel, we stop by a fruit-and-vegetable stand where we sample custard apple and three types of bananas, and see the strange looking shell that houses Brazil nuts. Driving along, Jesse is speaking the whole time about the culture, the food, the history of the towns, and the people. So informative and a pleasure to listen to.

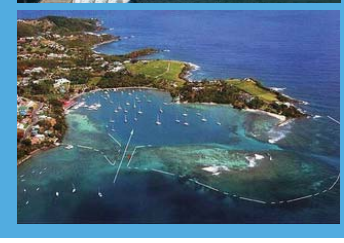
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Arriving at our destination for lunch, we disembark the van at the beautiful beach of Manzanilla, on the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by stately waving palm trees and the soothing sound of the ocean waves. Lunch is pilau, macaroni pie, and dasheen with stewed pork. Most of us on the tour are pretty much full by now. Enjoying the beach and the facilities there is lovely.

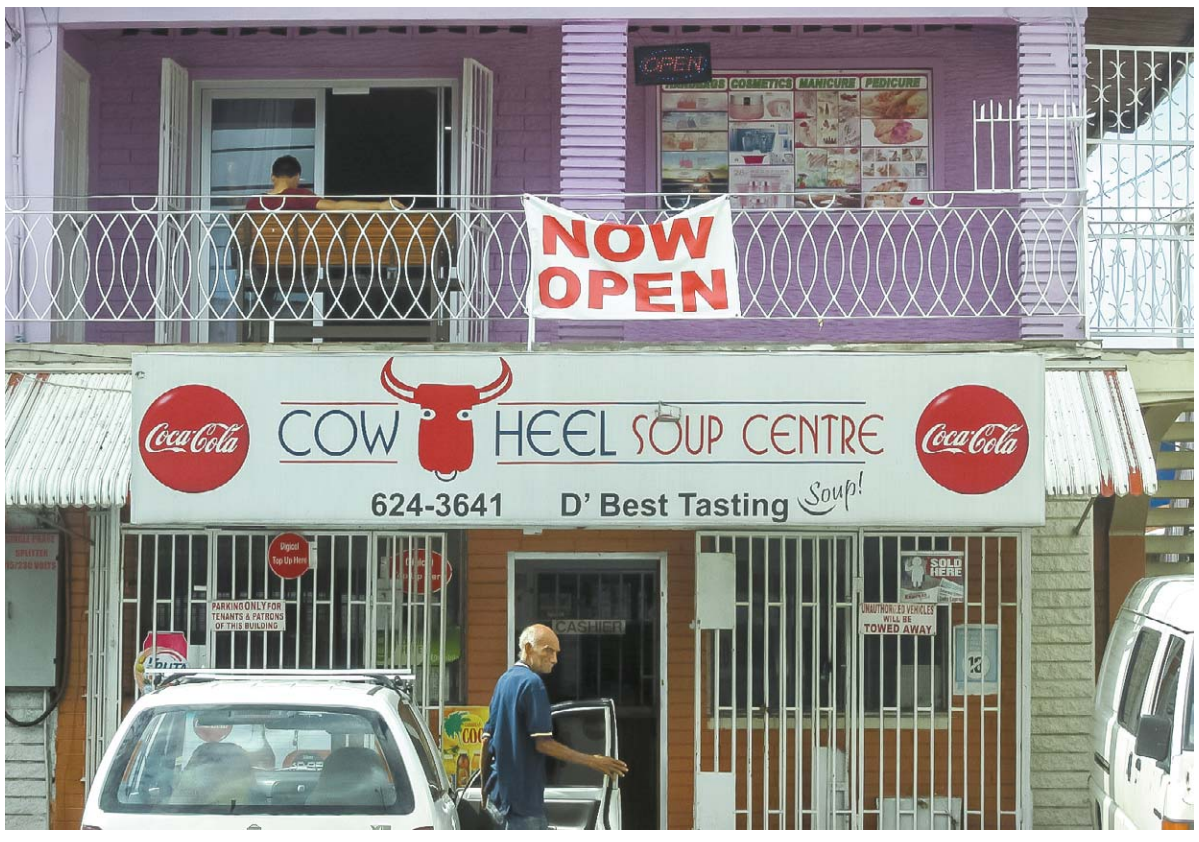
With our group hopping back into the maxi-taxi van, we start driving on down the east coast of Trinidad, headed south. We enter an area called the Nariva Swamp. The swamp river meets the Atlantic Ocean and the area is pristine. Mangrove trees are rooted well into the riverside before the river winds into the ocean. This area is in its natural state, without any commercial or residential buildings along the oceanfront — just a few watermelon stands for folks driving through this pretty area. The area is known for growing watermelons, so we have to make room in our bellies for watermelon as we stop at a stand that Jesse knows.

Jesse knows many of the folks we visit along the way, as he grew up in one of the small towns of Trinidad and he's been here all his life. People along the way all look for Jesse, because they know him and he knows them. This makes the trip a very personal and friendly experience.

Leaving the watermelon stand, we then drive on south through Mayaro, where we turn west from the Atlantic side along the southern mountain areas. Sampling beverages, we try mauby drink, made from the bark of a tree, and sorrel (related to hibiscus) drink with ginger. Refreshing and delicious, these drinks are found in the coolers of restaurants and shops and are made commercially here in the region. Another delightfully flavored drink is creamy peanut punch.

Moving into the courses for dinner, we stop in Rio Claro for fried chicken with a flavor so addictive we can't stop at one piece. In Tabaquite there's Harry's Water Park, a lovely area well suited to stretch our legs and enjoy the beverages of our own choice at the bar there. The park area was closed at the time, however the park seemed delightful for any child and family for entertainment activity.





Above: 'The area is known for growing watermelons, so we have to make room in our bellies…'
Left: A Caribbean favorite, cow heel soup is just what it says, slowly simmered with split peas, vegetables and spices

Getting back into the van, headed west, our group travels on to Grand Couva. There is more flavorful fried chicken, made a bit differently than at Rio Claro but equally delicious.

Of course we can't have a multi-course feast without something sweet. Our next visit is at a bakery in Presal, where we have mouth-watering Ballerina Slippers, coconut cake, and the layered sweetness of pastries.

By now the day is turning to dusk as we drive down to the main highway to the west side of Trinidad and begin our journey back to the marinas at Chaguaramas. Of course we can't end the evening without ice cream. Completing the loop, we end our Taste of Trini tour with a variety of uniquely flavored ice creams that leave us full and satisfied after a long day.

Definitely a Taste of Trini is a trip to remember, meeting new friends, and experiencing the culture and the tremendous variety of Trinidad Tastes. Jesse is a wonderful host, offering a friendly, relaxed and informative loop around Trinidad. If you're in Chaguaramas and you've never been on this tour, it's highly recommended.

Check out these websites to find out more about Jesse James and the Taste of Trini tour: www.membersonly-maxitaxi.com and www.trinidad-cruisers.com. These websites also provide a wealth of information about things to do, places to see, cruisers' resources, and more.

Evelyn Miller, from Sodus Bay, New York, USA, recently purchased S/V Fleetwing, is currently on the hard at Power Boats yard in Chaguaramas Trinidad, and is preparing for a voyage this coming spring.

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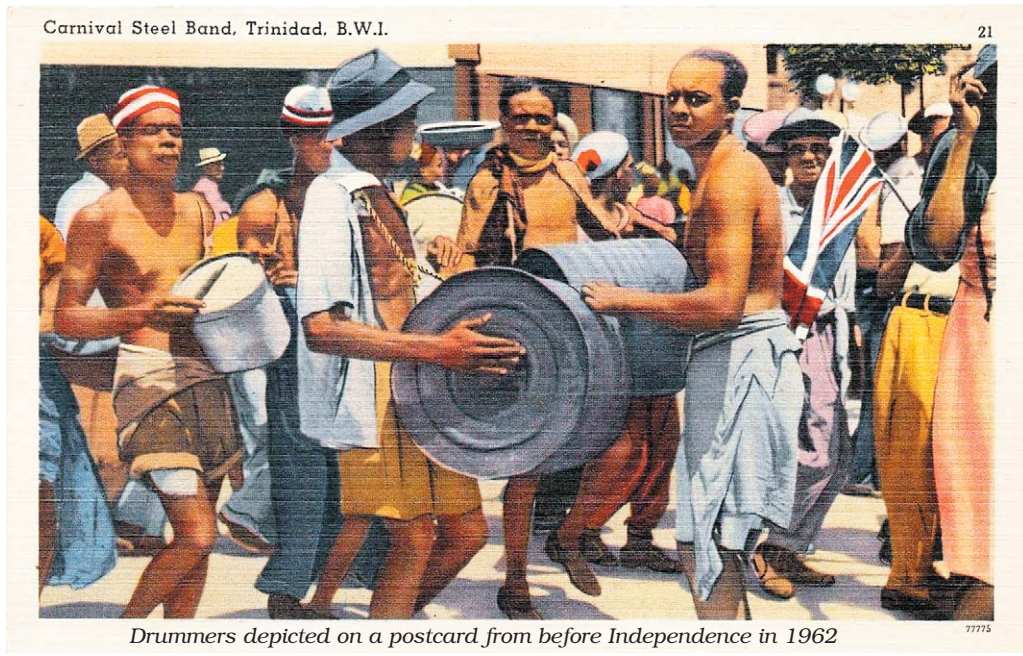
REVEL WITHOUT A PAUSE — TRINIDAD CARNIVAL

Part Two: The Music

by Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal

Last month we looked at the costumes that make up the visual spectacle of Trinidad Carnival — but there is also the sound!

Many genres of music make Trinidad Carnival a rich aural experience. First, there was Kaiso, which evolved into Calypso, and then into Soca (soul-calypso, with its energetic beat) and its variants. "Extempo" (i.e. extemporaneous), in which calypsonians are given a topic and they have to compose and perform a song on the spot, is close to the original Kaiso.



Drummers depicted on a postcard from before Independence in 1962

Calypso

Calypso lyrics often comment on events in history, or on current social or political issues. Now known worldwide, Calypso was exported when US soldiers were based in Trinidad during the Second World War and "Matilda", sung by Harry Belafonte, and "Rum & Coca-Cola" by the Andrew Sisters were popular. Trinidadian Calypso legends include Kitchener, the Mighty Sparrow and David Rudder.

The annual Carnival-time Calypso competitions begin in the "tents", so called because they started out as tents, with an admission fee in the early days of a penny. Popular Calypso tents today include Kaiso House and Kalypso Revue in Port-of-Spain, and Kaiso Showcase in San Fernando in the south of the island. It's fun to go and listen to the Calypso competition warm-ups and choose your favorite songs. Carnival tents open around January, and a list of tents and their addresses can be found at www.tntisland.com/tents. Rides to the tents for groups of yachting visitors can be arranged from Chaguaramas.

Over the years Calypso has morphed and blended with other genres, such as with East Indian "Chutney" music to form Chutney Soca, and with street poetry to form Rapso. Different musical forms have their own competitions, held in Queen's Park Savannah in Trinidad's capital city of Port-of-Spain, or at Skinner's Park in San Fernando. Cash prizes can be as high as one million Trinidad & Tobago dollars (about US$143,000).

The Calypso highlight of Trinidad Carnival is at the Dimanche Gras show, which takes place at Queen's Park Savannah on Carnival Sunday night (March 3rd, 2019) from 8:00PM to 2:00AM. It is during this show that the Kings and Queens of Carnival and the Calypso Monarch are crowned. The singers' title was changed from "Calypso King" to "Calypso Monarch" when female calypsonian Calypso Rose won the title.

Also, during Carnival Monday and Tuesday (March 4th and 5th, 2019), the musician who will receive the "Road March King" (or Queen) title is determined by the number of times their song is played by the DJ trucks accompanying the costumed bands parading through the streets. These DJ trucks are quite something in themselves. Often, they are 18-wheelers, with the DJ positioned in the centre, surrounded by a low wall of giant speakers. Each truck carries its own generator to power the amount of equipment it is carrying. Earplugs are recommended!

Steel Bands

Trinidad is also known for its invention of the steelpan (steel drum), thought to be the only acoustic musical instrument invented in the 20th century. So, it is safe to say it forms a big part of Carnival! The drums, called "pans", are organized into steel bands, with different types of steelpans producing different ranges of tones. Like the costumed Carnival mas bands we discussed last month, steel bands are also placed into small, medium and large categories, with the largest bands — large enough to be properly called orchestras — having more than a hundred musicians. At Carnival, steel bands compete against each other in the annual event called Panorama.

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The preliminary round is judged at each steelband's own panyard — the place where the band practises. This round of judging draws crowds of spectators that follow the judges as they move from panyard to panyard, and lasts for a period of about 24 hours spread over three nights. The number of large bands has decreased over the years, so in the Large Bands category almost every band qualifies for the semi-finals. Therefore the players rely on the preliminary judges' comments to improve their performance for the semi-finals and finals, which take place in Queen's Park Savannah.



JEAN-PIERRE JEANNIN



SHANEL

The finals of Panorama are held on Carnival Saturday night (March 2nd, 2019), starting from around 7:00PM. The Medium Bands play first, followed by the Large Bands, so this show can end as late as 2:00AM. Tickets cost TT$200 to $350 (US$25.50 to US$50) and can be purchased from Pan Trinbago on Park Street in Port-of-Spain. The Small Bands category for Panorama takes place at Skinner Park, in San Fernando. Again, rides to the panyards and to Panorama for yachting visitors can be arranged from Chaguaramas.

Often the songs played by the bands for Panorama are the most popular Socas for that year's Carnival season. This means that Soca songs are released quite early, often the previous October, in order to give pan arrangers time to arrange the music for the bands to practise. The songs played by the steelpans for Panorama are not simply covers of the original songs, however. The job of the pan arrangers is to display the band's diversity. So, the piece played by the band will include highs and lows, as well as snippets of other songs, all to show the range of tones and versatility of the instrument while keeping as true as possible to the original song. Additionally, some of the tunes played for Panorama are called "pan songs", specifically written to be played on the steelpan.



JEAN-MARC

Clockwise from upper left:
Calypso Rose, the first Calypso Monarch
Carnival music trucks are massive — earplugs recommended!
The steel pan, invented here, is an integral part of Trinidad Carnival

What used to be a highlight of Panorama were the "flag women", often the girlfriends of the male musicians. These ladies would be "wining" and waving a huge flag, walking up and down in front of the band as they performed. Over the years Panorama has become more theatrical, with bandmembers attire evolving from matching T-shirts to fancy costumes. There are now props, special stage lighting and effects such as fireworks.

Another type of steel band competition is called the "J'ouvert Bomb Song" competition. This is held at Victoria Square in Port-of-Spain on Carnival Monday morning and it is free for everyone. Often the songs selected by the bands to play for this competition are not a Calypso or Soca, but may be a Pop song, a TV theme song, or a tune from a movie soundtrack. Again, the objective is to showcase the band's versatility. It is called the "bomb song" because in the past, the bands would practise the songs they were going to play for this contest in secret so other bands would not steal them. Competition day would be the first time the song would be performed in public, so they would "drop the bomb" on their competitors.

Tickets for most of these Carnival events are easily obtainable at any National Lottery booth in Trinidad & Tobago.

Next month: Unique smaller festivals that take place as part of the Carnival season.



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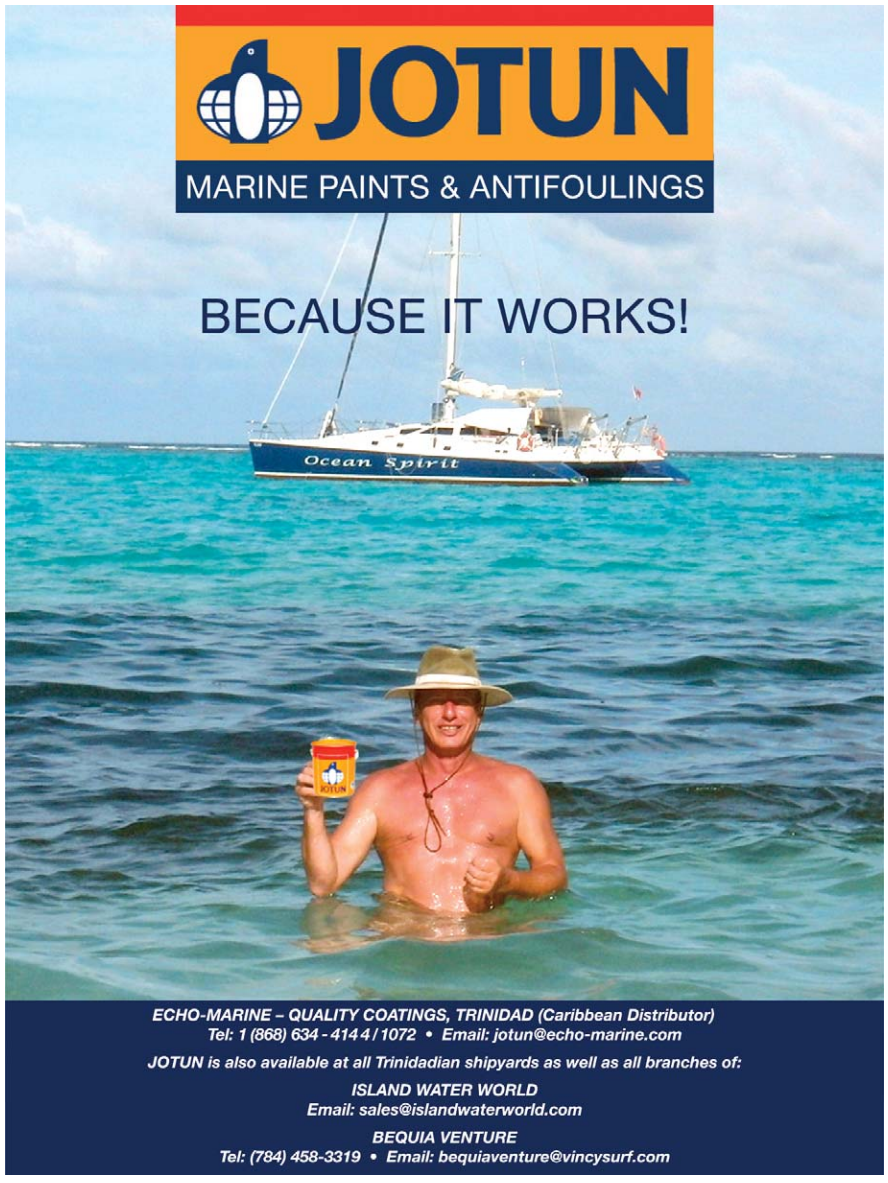
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THE BIG HORSERACE IN TORTOLA

by David Barton

IT was a typical quiet morning in Sea Cows Bay, and I was sitting in the cockpit having my second cup of coffee watching two seagulls on the dock, when the guy on the yacht next to me asked, "You ever been up to the racetrack?"

"No. Is it a big deal?"

"It could be this Sunday. There's a five thousand dollar match race between the favorite Tortola horse and a horse from St. Thomas. Last time they raced, the finish was a tie; they ran side by side the whole race. I'm going to miss it because I have people to take sailing Sunday, but you ought to go."

I thought, *yeah, sure; me and a bunch of local gamblers watching a couple of nags run around a path of some kind*, but said nothing.

During the afternoon on Sunday, with laptop on the little table in the cockpit, I was editing and trying to make interesting one of my sailing tall tales, when the bay's tranquility was shattered by the arrival of a flotilla of muscle boats roaring in from St. Thomas. Briefly, the dock was full of sporty people dressed in let's-look-good-at-the-track clothes.

Someone had recently called me a boat hermit, which probably had something to do with my deciding, *what the hell, I could use the exercise; I'll walk around the bay to the track.*

There was a lot of traffic, and there were long stretches along the road where I had to crowd into the bushes to avoid being run over. About halfway there I began to hear murmurs coming from the direction of the track, and wondered what kind of race schedule they had, how many races there might be before the big one.

I asked the two policemen on the corner at the beginning of the road everyone was taking up to the track, "What time is the big race?" One looked at me as if he didn't understand, and the other said, "Five." There were many well-dressed people unhurriedly and quietly walking up the hill to the track. Three young ladies in front of me made the trip visually interesting. Near the gate was a fellow taking people's money through a hole in the fence and putting white plastic bracelets on their wrists. Everyone seemed to be stopping and when I got to him I asked, "What does it cost?"

"Ten dollar."

I stuck my hand, with a twenty in it, through the fence; he replaced the twenty with a ten and clasped the plastic bracelet around my wrist. A police officer in full dress uniform was passing out programs at the gate. The girls got one without asking — I had to ask.

I was surprised at the size and extent of the bleachers; under them were stands selling food, sunglasses, and drinks. The place was organized like Road Town: no traffic pattern and parked people filling the walkways. No one seemed to be in a hurry to go anywhere. I bought a beer so I wouldn't look so alone.

With bottle in hand, I made it through the crowd to the area in front of the bleachers, and was amazed: I didn't know there were that many people on Tortola that weren't in church on Sunday. Feeling really out of place, I looked for someone I knew in the sea of faces. The obvious occurred to me — if I walked along in front of the bleachers maybe one of the few Tortolans I knew would see my shining white face and say hello. It was a slow walk, with, and through, polite people who didn't seem to be anxious about anything.

There was absolutely nothing happening out on the track; but I was impressed with what I saw. It was a proper track, starting gate and all, and everything looked well ordered and maintained.

My stroll along the front of the full length of the bleachers got not one hello. Toward the end of my slow walk I took an end seat on the front row bench near an old man in a brightly colored sport shirt. He had a round candy-ball sucker in his mouth; I sat beside him, slowly sipping my beer trying to make it last at least through the next race — whenever that was going to be.

In silence we watched the parade of people passing immediately in front of us, some brushing our knees. The faces of the children, their young mothers, and grandmothers were the only animated faces I saw. There was not a single smile on a male face, young or old. It was amazingly quiet considering the hundreds of people that were there. Few were involved in more than brief conversations. Several passing males reached out and touched the old man's shoulder, or arm, and made eye contact. Two spoke a word or two. Women smiled and nodded. No one seemed to notice me.

Finally, from far down at the north end of the track, four horses, with riders up, were being led toward the entrance to the track itself. People watched their progress to the track and then around it to the starting gate on the far side; but there was not much change in the background noise level, and no apparent excitement.

The horses got off to a good start, ran in a pack around the first turn and came pounding past the grandstands and on around the turn. As the four horses went down the backstretch they spread out a little, and one pulled well ahead of the rest. In the curve, and going for the finish line, distance opened between the horses and there was an obvious winner. Only at the very end did I hear people yelling for their horse, and there were a few moans. And then, all was back to a murmur that seemed more subdued than had been before the horses ran.

Boring — and I was out of beer. Not in a hurry, I made my way to the back of the bleachers and stood in a very long line at the first stand selling beer.

My seat next to the old guy was still there; sitting down I noticed just the stick from the candy sucker was in his mouth. I wondered if it was a cigarette or booze substitute. With expressionless faces our eyes briefly met.

A few of the children that had been quiet and unbelievably well behaved before, were acting up a little. There were only short conversations going on between a few of the people around me. The pace of the people passing by in front of the old man and me was a little quicker, and the women and girls were more animated. More men were talking but they were not smiling or laughing even when they were speaking to girls and women. Tortola men are a sober lot.

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The noise level rose a little when two horses, with riders up, were seen coming down the lane to the track. As they approached the opening to the track all eyes were on them and I heard excited conversations around me about how the horses looked and learned the small horse was from Tortola. The starting gate had been moved and was setting on the track in front of the left end of the bleachers, almost in front of me, but the horses went away from the gate, at slow and prancing paces, the wrong way around the track. Soon, the St. Thomas horse moved back in the direction of the gate; two men came to it and the jockey dismounted. There was conversation and a little arm waving between the jockey and the guy who was making a great effort tightening the saddle cinch while the horse was moving and jumping sidewise in resistance to his effort.

When the St. Thomas jockey got back up, the horse was obviously harder to handle. It pranced off toward the Tortola horse down in the middle of the turn, and when they were close together they turned and headed in the direction of the gate, prancing but under control. The noise level of the crowd grew higher with each yard the horses came closer to the starting gate. As they came side by side it was obvious to me that the St. Thomas horse was a lot bigger, stronger, and better formed; and I wondered how the little Tortola horse had managed in their previous race to run a dead heat. And this one was going to be a longer race — a mile and a sixteenth. I figured that if the St. Thomas jockey hadn't made the cinch so tight his horse couldn't breathe, he was sure to win.

By the time the horses were being led to enter the starting gate the entire crowd was on their feet with some standing on their seats. A large group of people had gotten past the two police officers guarding the gate to the bridge that crossed the little creek between the bleachers and the track, and they were standing along the fence that was at the very edge of the track itself.

And they were off! The noise that rose from the crowd was a primal exhalation. It was a perfect start and the horses were side by side to the first turn. The sound of the crowd continued at a steady, thunderous level.

The Tortola horse, Actspectation, was on the outside and had a longer distance to run to get around the turn. The St. Thomas horse, Hezacatseye, was holding close to the rail and stretching its strides. They came out of the turn with Actspectation a half a length behind and shouts of encouragement could be heard in bass and soprano.

Down the backstretch Actspectation pulled up and again it was a neck-and-neck race. Around the second turn the little horse, still on the outside, almost stayed even. As they passed by the grandstands, on their way around the track one more time, they were still neck and neck. The crowd was going wild, and I found myself standing on my seat screaming at the top of my lungs.

'I found myself standing on my seat screaming at the top of my lungs'

In the turn the little horse held its position and came into the backstretch nose and nose. It had taken three turns on the outside, which meant if it had been a straightaway race it would be several lengths ahead. Down the backstretch for the second and last time both horses looked like the jockeys were pushing them to their limit. Actspectation slowly pulled ahead. Going into the last turn it was still on the outside but obviously a length ahead and gaining ground all the way around the turn. Out of the turn and into the straightaway it was a short dash to the finish line and the little horse sprinted to four lengths ahead. No dead heat this time!

There was total bedlam in the stands, below on the grounds in front of the grandstands, and across the creek next to the track fence. Everyone was screaming and shouting to each other. People were hugging, dancing, spinning, jumping; it was a total release of glee. Grandmothers were whirling with babies. Men were clasping each other, hugging women and smiling, beaming, whooping and laughing loudly.

A woman wearing a strange blonde wig turned from the railing in front of where I was standing on my seat, came to me, clasped her arms firmly around my thighs, squeezed her ample breasts to my knees and moved me with rhythm from side to side as she squealed for joy. Before she toppled me over, she let go and vanished into the mass of moving people. I saw her later, leaving with her husband and two kids.

I stepped down from the bench, found the old man standing in front of me, and, for the first time, we looked steadily and long into each other's eyes. His face broke into a huge toothless smile, and I realized I had been beaming at him. We both broke into laughter, and tears came to my eyes — it must have been the beer.

There was no rush to leave; none of the mad crush North Americans would create in a stampede to be somewhere else. On my way toward the gate, probably smiling like everyone else, I passed a young man standing with his wallet in one hand and a few bills in the other. I asked, "You a winner?"

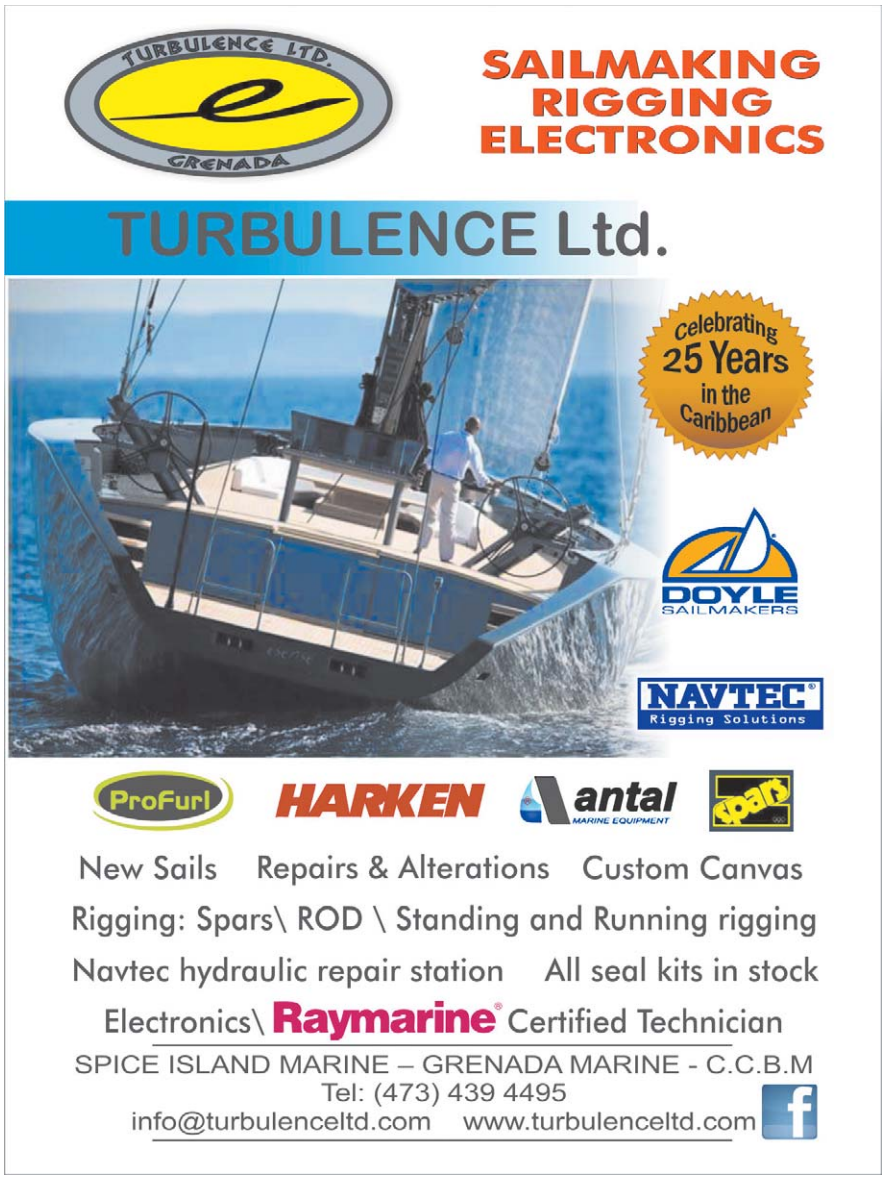
He grinned back at me, and said, "Think I spend myself broke."

Back at the marina dock St. Thomas boats were already roaring their way out of the bay. On the dock, I passed one group of sober-faced people getting into their boat, and couldn't resist: with a smile too big, I said, "Better luck next time!" and I felt like a Tortolan.

David Barton is the author of the novels My Journey to Murder *and* Shaman Bay, *and the memoir* Waterman, *all available at Amazon.com*

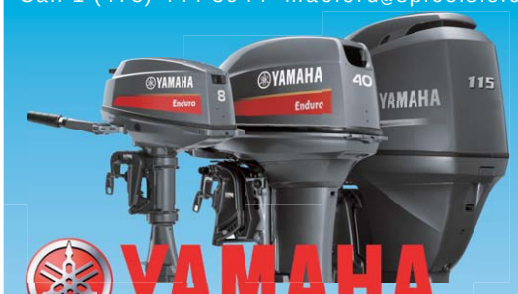
The Ellis Thomas Downs Horse Racing Arena is located at Sea Cows Bay, Tortola. Traditionally, the BVI Horse Owners' Association holds its big annual Boxing Day (December 26th) and other horse racing events here. It is not certain that there will be Boxing Day races this year however, owing to severe damage to the track and stands caused by last year's Hurricane Irma.
Visit www.facebook.com/BVIHorseOwnersAssociation for updates.

Horse racing is also popular in Guadeloupe, Barbados, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Belize.



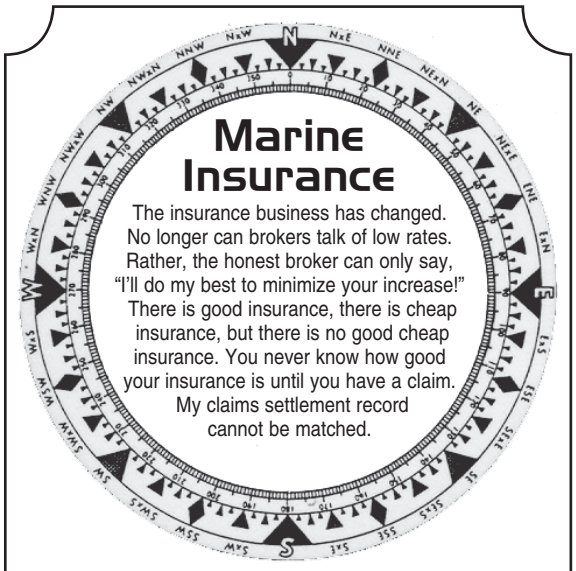


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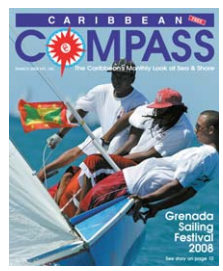
I have been connected with the marine insurance business for 47 years. I have developed a rapport with brokers and underwriters at Lloyds and am able to introduce boat owners to specialist brokers in the Lloyds market.

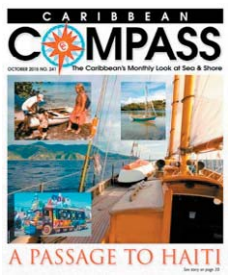
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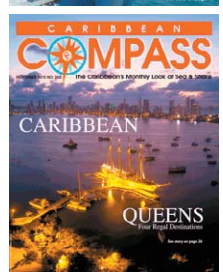
HEY, READERS!

If you'd like to receive notification by e-mail when each month's new *Compass* is available free online, just drop a note to sally@caribbeancompass.com and we'll put you on the list — it's as easy as that!









Opportunities to Help

Whether you think of it as giving back, paying it forward, or just plain lending a helping hand, the sailing community has long been a source of both financial aid and personal assistance to communities, institutions, families and individuals in the Caribbean. (We even listed some places where you can help island animals on page 29 of the November issue of Compass, *and also see this month's Readers' Forum on page 38.) We are often asked, "How can we visiting sailors help?" Here are just a few ideas.*

MAKING DONATIONS

• Hands Across the Sea

Hands Across the Sea is a nonprofit organization with a proven track record in raising the literacy levels of children in the Eastern Caribbean. Hands Across the Sea was founded by cruisers Harriet and Tom Linskey, who say, "We seek nothing less than the transformation of the child literacy landscape in the Eastern Caribbean. Every year, we send thousands of great new books that have been requested by educators via our Hands Wish Lists. We help schools (from pre-school to high school), reading programs, and community libraries — that's 330 projects to date — create or rejuvenate lending libraries."

Visit handsacrossthesea.net for more information and to make a donation.

• Macario Advantage

Clair & Magoe Menning report: Now in our fifth year of working in the Eastern Caribbean, Macario Advantage continues to serve the youth and elderly of the poorest islands. In 2019, we will continue to upgrade elementary schools and shelters for youth and homeless.

Note that 95 percent of funds raised by Macario Advantage go directly into purchasing materials and services to complete our selected projects. We have no paid staff, rents or other overhead expenses.

Visit www.MacarioAdvantage.org for more information and how you can donate.

• Elen Schwartz Teachers' Education Fund

The Sunshine School for Children with Special Needs in Bequia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines (http://bequiasunshineschool.org), is a privately funded, not-for-profit, institution. It provides a nurturing learning environment where students can develop academic learning skills, plus work-related and life skills allows opportunities for students to contribute to their homes and communities.

Training is crucial for special needs teachers, and the Elen Schwartz Teachers' Education Fund has recently been set up to provide for that purpose at the Sunshine School.

Make checks payable to "The Sunshine School" and mail to:
The Sunshine School, c/o Suzanne Gabriel
Elen Schwartz Teachers' Education Fund
PO BOX 109 BQ, Bequia. VC0400
St Vincent & the Grenadines

• Pass It On Guatemala

Pass It On Guatemala is a non-profit charity started by former cruiser Julia Bartlett. It is run by cruisers and 95-percent funded by boaters' donations. Julia says, "Our main project is putting solar electrical systems in community buildings, mainly schools and clinics, in villages outside the grid. The solar panels are used ones, contributed from the boats, and so are the deep-cycle batteries. We do many other things now, too.

"Our web page Pass It On Guatemala – Our Mission: To Fight Poverty Through Light (https://passitonguatemala.org) is way out of date (voluntary help!) but it'll give you an idea, and you can donate there. We also have a Facebook page: Pass It On Rio Dulce."

HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES

• Mount Airy Young Readers Program

In a small hillside village in Grenada, the Mount Airy Young Readers Program attracts local school children and cruisers willing to volunteer time to assist students who need extra attention to improve their literacy, social and life skills.

Each Saturday morning, typically 25 or more children gather at the home of Jeanne and Everest Pascal from 10:00AM until 1:00PM. While Mrs. Pascal leads the program and is assisted by other local volunteers, the program is also reliant on volunteers from the Grenada cruising community.

Volunteers normally sit with from one to three children who are at the same reading level. Under the volunteer's tutelage, the children take turns reading, are given words to spell and math problems to solve, and are provided with a snack after every session. Cruisers from all over the world expose the children to the world outside Grenada.

Transportation is provided from most bays and is only EC$15 round trip. Pickup on Saturday mornings must be arranged at least a day ahead with Sandra on *Ngoma*, (473) 459-5234, or VHF Channel 68.

To volunteer when in Grenada, ask about the program on the daily Grenada Cruisers' Net or contact Sandra on Ngoma *on VHF channel 68 for more information.*

• Bequia Children's Reading Club

A similar program is the Bequia Children's Reading Club, which meets at the Fig Tree restaurant on Belmont Walkway on Saturdays at 2:00PM. Come and read to and with Bequia children who love to read and want to improve their reading skills. Participation is free, and after the reading sessions the kids have a snack and the chance to play board and card games. Cruising volunteers, and their own children if any, are always welcome!

Contact Cheryl Johnson at cheripot@hotmail.com, call "Fig Tree" on VHF68 after the Bequia morning cruisers' VHF net, or just drop by the Fig Tree and talk to Cheryl or Lafayette for more information.

*** Team SOS Dominica**

Team SOS Dominica serves the Feed My Sheep Community Center in Mahaut, Dominica. Tutors, counselors, nurse's aides, gardeners, geriatric specialists, food service workers, carpenters, plumbers and tradesmen would be welcomed helping hands.

Message Team SOS Dominica Facebook page, e-mail teamsosdominica@icloud.com, or WhatsApp at (340) 626-6306 for more information.

• Carriacou Children's Education Fund

A fun way to help deserving students in Carriacou with their educational expenses will be to attend CCEF's fundraising events in 2019. On July 31st, there will be a Pot Luck at Tante Lizzy's restaurant, and on August 1st, a Fleamarket and Sale, and the Annual Auction at L'Esterre Rosary School.

Visit www.carriacouchildrenseducationfund.org for more information.

BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

• The Birding Aboard Project

BirdLife International estimates that one-third of seabirds are vulnerable or globally endangered. But birds that spend their lives at sea are thinly documented. Yet there is a huge untapped resource of watchkeepers already at sea: You on your cruising vessel!

The Birding Aboard project was created to raise awareness among long-distance boaters from around the world to record their seabird observations. Data goes to Cornell University's eBird database (www.ebird.org), where boaters' sightings become a resource for scientists and conservation groups worldwide.

You don't need to be an expert to participate. Simply take multiple digital photos of birds seen en route — offshore or coastal — followed by a photograph of your chartplotter showing latitude/longitude.

For information on how you can be "eyes on the water" for seabird conservation, see www.birdingaboard.org or join www.facebook.com/groups/BirdingAboard

• CARIB Tails for Whales

CARIB Tails is enlisting cruisers to help track the movements of humpback whales between their North Atlantic feeding grounds and their breeding grounds in the Wider Caribbean Region. Your contributions of tail fluke photographs of humpback whales from the Caribbean region are critical for conservation efforts.

Flukeprints are the "fingerprints" of whale identification. Individual humpback whales are identified by the black and white patterns on the underside of their (tail) flukes. Natural markings on the flukes captured through photography have allowed researchers to monitor the movements, health and behavior of individual humpbacks since this research began in the 1970s.

Visit www.caribtails.org/home.html for more information.

• Report Seaweed Sightings

Since 2011 massive quantities of pelagic Sargassum seaweed have appeared throughout the Caribbean, impacting aquatic resources, fisheries, shorelines, waterways, and tourism.

In the effort to better understand this phenomenon, the website http://gcrl.usm.edu/sargassum/index.php serves as a data-collection center to accommodate reports of large quantities of pelagic sargassum observed within the region during 2018. The website provides easy access for data entry. Data provided to this site will be used by Gulf Coast Research Laboratory scientists and colleagues throughout the region to identify the source and examine the movements and causes of this extraordinary event. Your participation is essential to this work.

To report your observations use the form at http://gcrl.usm.edu/sargassum/sargassum.observation.form.php

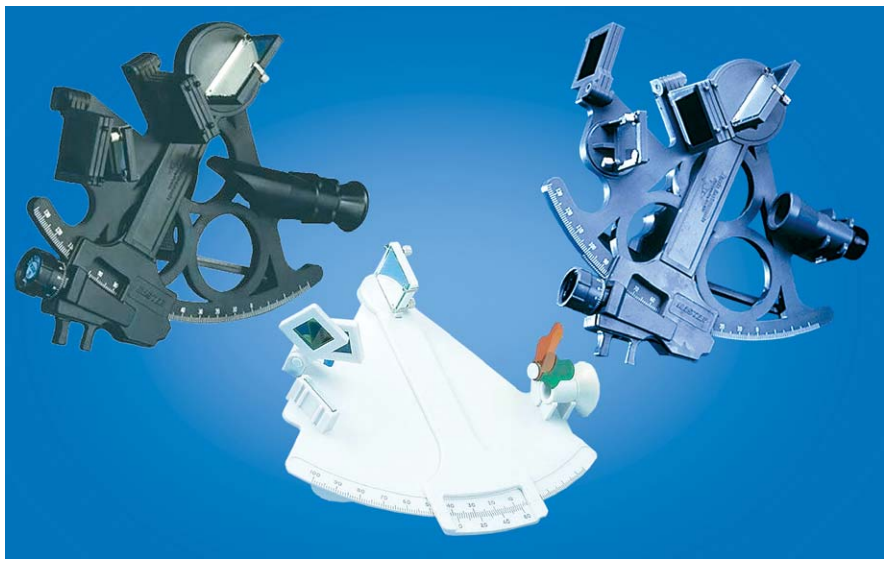
Holiday Gifts for Liveaboard Sailors

Browse the local chandleries, shops and markets for special gifts for your favorite sailor. Still looking for something useful — and maybe even surprising — to make boat life safer and more enjoyable? Here are a few cruiserly gift ideas that will keep on giving, and that landlubbers just won't understand!

The Sextant: A Wise Decision for Anyone Offshore

The US Navy reinstituted training in celestial navigation and sextant use owing, in part, to concerns over intentionally jammed GPS satellite signals. More likely, professional mariners and recreational passagemakers could find themselves lost at sea owing to electrical or equipment failure.

As a navigation backup, nothing beats a sextant. Combined with a wristwatch, a copy of *The Nautical Almanac* and nautical chart, anyone can find their way home using the sun and stars.



Whether for the student or the experienced navigator, Davis Instruments offers three sextant models to fit any skill level. No one will say mastering celestial navigation is easy, but learning is a fun and rewarding pastime. Every Davis sextant comes with a detailed instruction booklet.

Built from rugged, corrosion-proof and dimensionally stable polymer, Davis Instruments Sextants are highly accurate. They're commonly used by circumnavigators.

The affordable, yet full-sized Mark 3 Sextant is ideal for the beginner. Lightweight with a comfortable grip, it has an adjustable half mirror and four sunshades. Rather than optics, it uses an effective sighting tube. With practice, it makes moving on to a more advanced model a breeze.

The Mark 15 Sextant boasts features common in versions costing four times as much. It has a half-silvered mirror, adjustable index mirror, seven large sunshades and a 3mm by 27mm star scope. An easy-to-read micrometer drum vernier scale reads down to 2/10 of a minute of arc and its 18cm frame radius is graduated from 120° to -5°.

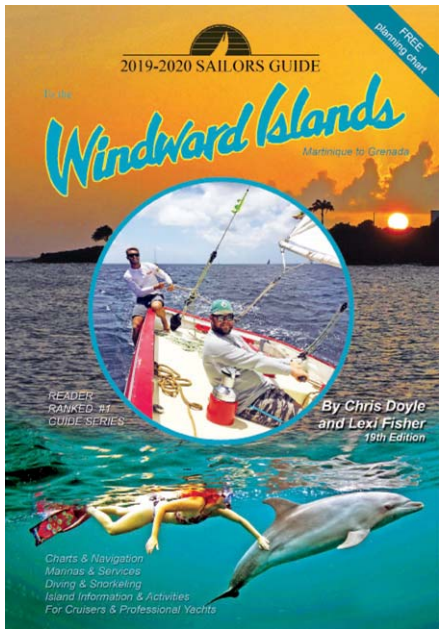
Davis Instruments' premier Mark 25 Sextant is an equal match to any high-end model on the market. In addition to all the features of the Mark 15, it features a Beam Converger full horizon mirror, LED illumination and coated optics for superior low light transmission. It's built from upgraded materials throughout.

For land-based practice or foggy mornings, Davis Instruments offers an Artificial Horizon. It's used to take sun or moon shots without observing a horizon.

An additional teaching tool is the Davis Quick Reference Celestial Navigation card, printed on waterproof plastic and loaded with useful information. 22cm by 28cm with standard three-hole punches, it has instructions for sextant use and corrections, a finder for 18 stars, data entry form, and step-by-step sight reduction and plotting procedures.

Visit www.davisnet.com for more information.

Chris Doyle's 2019-2020 Windward Islands Guide



Speaking of finding your way around, the latest edition of Chris Doyle and Lexi Fisher's *Sailors Guide to the Windward Islands* is revised and updated for 2019-2020 and picks up where Chris's *Cruising Guide to the Southern Leeward Islands* ends. After 36 years in print, this book continues to be the best-selling cruising guide to the Windward Islands. The guide covers the four main Windward Islands including Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Grenada. Features include aerial color photos, full-color sketch charts, GPS waypoints and some of the best local information available.

A wide range of topics are covered in this 2019-2020 edition, including the latest information on marinas, marine services, water sports, area sights, regulations affecting the yachtsman and helpful navigational directions, as well as a guide to shops, restaurants, and local recipes. Most importantly, color aerial photography is included to further assist in navigation and provide invaluable information on anchorages.

A popular feature is the directory, which gives the names, phone numbers, e-mail and website addresses of most yacht-related businesses. It is organized island by island to make finding the services effortless.

Additionally, the guide includes a free color 27" by 17" planning chart covering the Windward Islands.

Chris Doyle's cruising guides are among the most popular in the Eastern Caribbean. Chris attributes this to listening to his customers when they tell him what they would like to see in a guide, and following their ideas when it makes sense. In this way his guides have always been highly innovative, leading the way in color sketch charts, then computerized color sketch charts, GPS waypoints, star charts and a guide-linked website where people can find corrections, download town maps, download GPS waypoints, access navigational advisories, and get links to down island businesses.

The Sailors Guide to the Windward Islands *is available from www.cruisingguides.com/products/2019-2020-sailors-guide-windward-islands and at chandleries and bookstores.*

Visit www.doyleguides.com/windward-updated-guides for ongoing updates.

Ahhh — The Gift of Hot Water

Even in the tropics, having a source of abundant hot water aboard improves the quality of life. Whether for washing dishes, laundry, children, pets or yourself — sometimes that solar bag just isn't enough! It's a different story when a 1700 Series Water Heater from Raritan Engineering is on board. Its proven design combines extreme efficiency with a compact size, and is glass-lined for a long, corrosion-free service life providing clean, fresh water.

1700 Series Water Heaters are built for the long haul. Glass-lined tanks are actually more durable than those made with stainless steel, when used with the included replaceable magnesium anode. They boast high-density non-CFC foam insulation with a high R-value for maximum heat retention and non-corrosive polymer jackets for robustness. Available in 22.7-, 45.5- and 75.7-litre sizes, in 120V or 220V AC, they come with an easy-to-use adjustable ignition-protected thermostat.

Raritan engineered the 1700 Series from the ground up to perform in a marine environment. The dockside water recovery rate is 49.2 litres per hour. With a 240V heating element, it can go as high as 68 litres. Because it can accommodate extreme temperatures — up to 71°C — and is mixed with cold water, the usable delivery capacity is much higher.

A popular available configuration is a heat exchanger. Connected to the engine's cooling system, it produces hot water when disconnected from shore and generator power. Over seven feet in length, it's evenly coiled throughout the tank for rapid and efficient heating, and has a recovery rate of 49 litres per hour.

Raritan's water heaters are cylindrical. This shape enables it to withstand far greater pressure — an important safety consideration when it's attached to a heat exchanger. 1700 Series Water Heaters feature an ignition-protected thermostat that's adjustable from 43° to 71°C, with a safety shutdown limit of 87°. The temperature and pressure valve is rated at 517 kPa at 98°C, instead of the typical 1,034 kPa, to protect the boat's plumbing.

Installation of 1700 Series Water Heaters is simple and straightforward, with all plumbing connections on one side. It retrofits without difficulty to most onboard pressure systems. Hot and cold water fittings are standard 19mm male, and the heat exchanger's is 19mm female. Compact and lightweight, the 22.7-litre model is 36.9cm in diameter by 41.9cm high and weighs 16 kilos; the 45.5-litre is 47.6cm in diameter by 41.9cm high at 28 kilos; and the 75.7-litre is 47.6cm in diameter by 60.6cm high at 37 kilos.

Each 1700 Series Water Heater is hand-assembled and individually tested. They're backed by Raritan's five-year warranty on the tank and two-year warranty on the unit.

Visit www.raritaneng.com for more information.

Air-Dryr Protects Valuables from Rust, Mold & Mildew

If you've ever stored your boat in the tropics for the summer and come back to find a mess of rust, mold and mildew, you might ask Santa to bring you this.



Air-Dryr from Davis Instruments is an effective and inexpensive way to stave off damaging humidity. Air-Dryr is engineered to operate 24/7. Plugged into a 110/120V outlet and placed as low as possible, it warms the damp air to above the dew point. As the dry air is released through the top vents, cool, damp air is drawn into the device and processed. For safety, a thermal cutoff turns off the device in the event that something falls on top of it and blocks the airflow.

Without any moving parts, Air-Dryr is completely silent. Its durable polycarbonate housing is built to withstand years of use. UL Listed, it's completely safe to handle when plugged in.

Two sizes are offered. Air-Dryr 500 has a 70-watt heating element and handles up to 500 cubic feet, yet draws only 0.6 amps. It measures 36cm long by 13cm wide by 11cm high. With a 130-watt heating element, Air-Dryr 1000 takes care of up to 1,000 cubic feet of space. Drawing only 1.1 amps, it is 34cm in diameter by 11cm high.

Visit www.davisinstruments.com for more information.

A Strong, Floating, Telescoping Boathook

You could hold up Santa's sleigh with this thing! It's unlikely anyone would ever dangle 408 kilos from a Davis Instruments Telescoping Team Boat Hook, but if they ever do, it won't be the Lexan hook end that fails. During independent testing, it was the staking that held the hook in the shaft that eventually failed. Competing brands bent, snapped and even exploded under forces far less than 408 kilos. Guaranteed for life, a Davis hook end is simply unbreakable.

The hook end of a Davis Team Boat Hook is made from lightweight Lexan polycarbonate, a material often used as bulletproof glass. Its multi-purpose design allows it to nimbly place and retrieve line — even when it's lying flat on the dock or deck. It accommodates brushes and other tools on its 19mm Acme thread. A durable, bright orange cap protects gelcoat, paint and brightwork when fending off.

The head of the Team Boat Hook doesn't get all the glory, however. The anodized aluminum shaft features the strongest twist-lock mechanism available. It has a clear hardcote for maximum corrosion resistance. Easy and fast to open, it even floats if dropped in water — sometimes up to two weeks.

Team Boat Hooks are available in three sizes: a two-section version that adjusts from 140cm to 240cm, and two three-section models that expand from 100cm to 240cm and 140cm to 370cm. The unbreakable hook end is available separately — just right to fit in a stocking!

Visit www.davisinstruments.com for more information.

Island Poets

Holidays bring out a certain... shall we say "poetic creativity"? So, as a gift to our readers, here's a selection of favorite Caribbean sailors' Christmas poems we've published over the years — featuring, naturally, nautical twists on The Night Before Christmas. What's your boat's version?

A Cruiser's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the boat,
The bilge pumps were hustling to keep us afloat,
The children were nestled all snug in their berths
(We have seven bunks to get our money's worth).

As Ma read Jackie Collins and I guzzled beer,
She said "You've had enough. Now come to bed, Dear."
Then out on the dock there arose an uproar
As I reached in the Igloo to get just one more.

So up went my head out of the hatch.
(Though I should have thought first to undo the latch.)
I saw stars for a moment, and as quick as a blink
My wife yelled, "See, you've had too much to drink!"

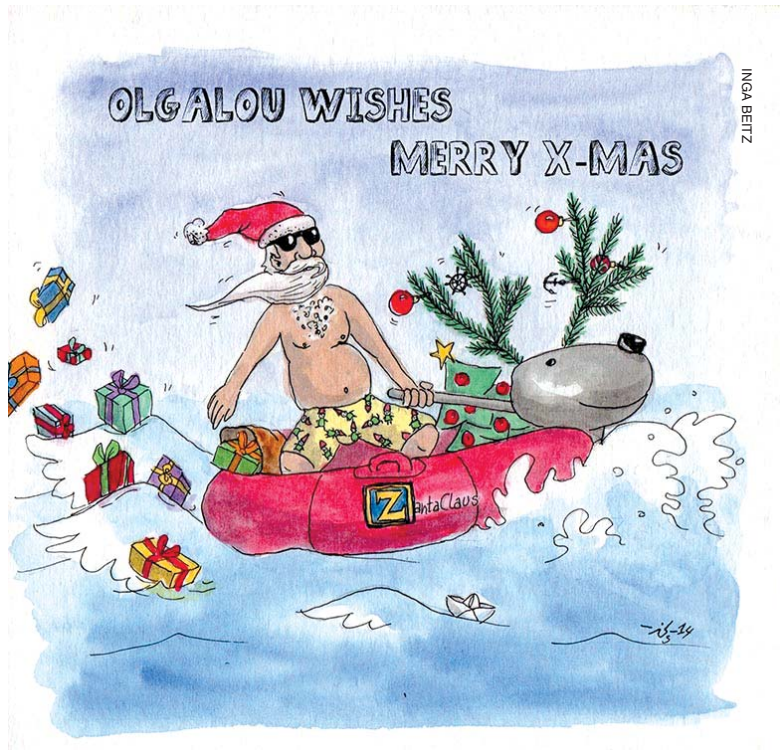
The moon on the water lit the marina up bright
(Which was good, since the kids had lost my flashlight).
Then what with my wondering eyes should I see
But a fat, fuzzy old guy in a Bayliner Capri.

Instead of an outboard hung on the rear,
Tied to the bow were eight tiny reindeer.
More rapid than Reggie, these coursers they flew,
And on each of their hoofs was a Topsider shoe.

With crashing and bashing and banging and knocking,
I knew in an instant that they must be docking,
"No Dasher! Hold Dancer!
Damn you, Prancer and Vixen.
Stop, Comet! Grab a line, Cupid!
Get bumpers, Donner and Blitzen!
Look out for that boat! Hey, watch that seawall!
Now fend off, fend off, fend off them all!"

He was dressed in a red cap ringed with fur trim
And a Speedo that covered a bare fraction of him.
I was shocked and astonished, but what could I say?
I also go boating dressed exactly that way.

He then grabbed a bag, a bulging huge sack,
And hoisted it mightily up onto his back,
He also had sponges and a mop in his grip
As he waddled his way o'er to my slip.



INGA BEITZ

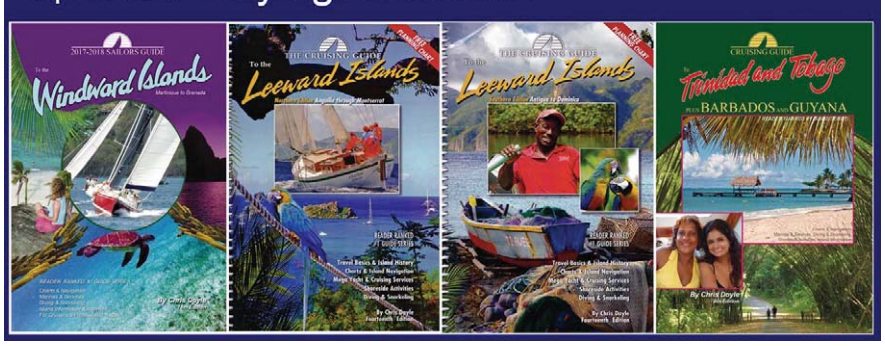
He said, "My name's Nick, and my friend, I can tell
That your gel coat needs buffing
and your teak looks like hell.
Your vinyl needs cleaning, your lockers arranging,
Your holding tank pumping, and your oil needs a-changing.
You've put these jobs off for too long and you know it.
So here's all that you need. This time don't you blow it!"

Then as quick as he came, he was back on his boat,
His reindeer revving and eager to tote.
"Merry Christmas!" he called
as they cruised through the night.
"And regarding the beer, Joe, your wife — she is right."

— Anonymous, 2001

—Continued on next page

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Other guides are best for shore-side information & are provided to the charter fleets so what harbours & anchorages they do include are more crowded.

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CARIBBEAN Street CRUISING GUIDES

Christmas in St. John

'Twas the night before Christmas and throughout Francis Bay
The boats at their moorings to and fro did sway
The boaters were quiet, passed out in their berths
Their heads were swirling from cocktails and mirth

The thongs were all hung on the mast winch with care
In hope that without them someone would dare,
While I in my Speedos and my wife in her T
Had just settled in for a short nap at sea

When up on the foredeck there arose such a thud
I thought for a moment, "The keel's in the mud!"
I leaped through an opening to see what had hatched
Cracked my head hard; the damned thing was latched

I tore back the screen and threw open the dog
Thrust my head out; 'twas maybe a log
The wind was a-howling, Christmas Winds you see
And the rigging was singing, like angels, with glee

The halyards were flapping, keeping time with the song
My wife then inquired, "Will this take long?"
I ignored her question, as I usually do
And leaped out on deck as any sailor would do

And what did my bloodshot eyeballs relay
To my rum-soaked brain without delay
But a boatboy's skiff with a small man at the bow
He'd rowed through the night and reached here somehow

He was dressed all in red with a big straw hat
With his painter in hand, he's on the boat like that
He said not a word, nor did I to distract him —
What was it about my boat that did so attract him?

He went right to work and paid me no heed
Rebuilt my windlass — my God, what a deed!
From one job to the next he went like a flash
I was starting to worry, "Do I have enough cash?"

He moved so quickly from the bow to the stern
I was so amazed, "What does this guy earn?"
With everything fixed and the boat shipshape
I wondered, "Should I let this guy escape?"

Then just as fast as the blink of an eye
He's over the side and waving goodbye
"Can't stay," he said, "I've more work you see!"
So he let go the painter and drifted alee

He laid four fingers aside of his jaw
The outboard started ('twas a Yamaha)
As the motor took life he tilted his head
Looked straight at me, and then he said



"On to *Cotorra*, *Mandara*, and *Carpe Diem*,
Dreamcatcher and *Seanote*; don't worry, I'll see 'em
Then to *Mystique* and *Kiwa* and *True Gravity* —
All the boats will be fixed by little old me!

"The work, you see, is good for life
The parts I've fixed will give you no strife
I ask for no payment just a promise from you
To help other cruisers, as I helped you."

Then he turned his head up and looked at the stars
Found Venus, Orion and finally Mars
He wetted his finger and stuck it in the air
Then putted out of sight like he didn't have a care

Phosphorescence glowed in the bubbles of his prop,
Went right over the reef and didn't even stop.
In the wake of his dinghy I heard him say
"Merry Christmas to all in Francis Bay!"

— Tom Barkdull, 2002

Island Poets



Easy Listening's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas aboard *Easy Listening*;
the hull had been waxed, our stainless was glistening.
Santa came early, brought the captain some rum;
he couldn't have known we already had some.

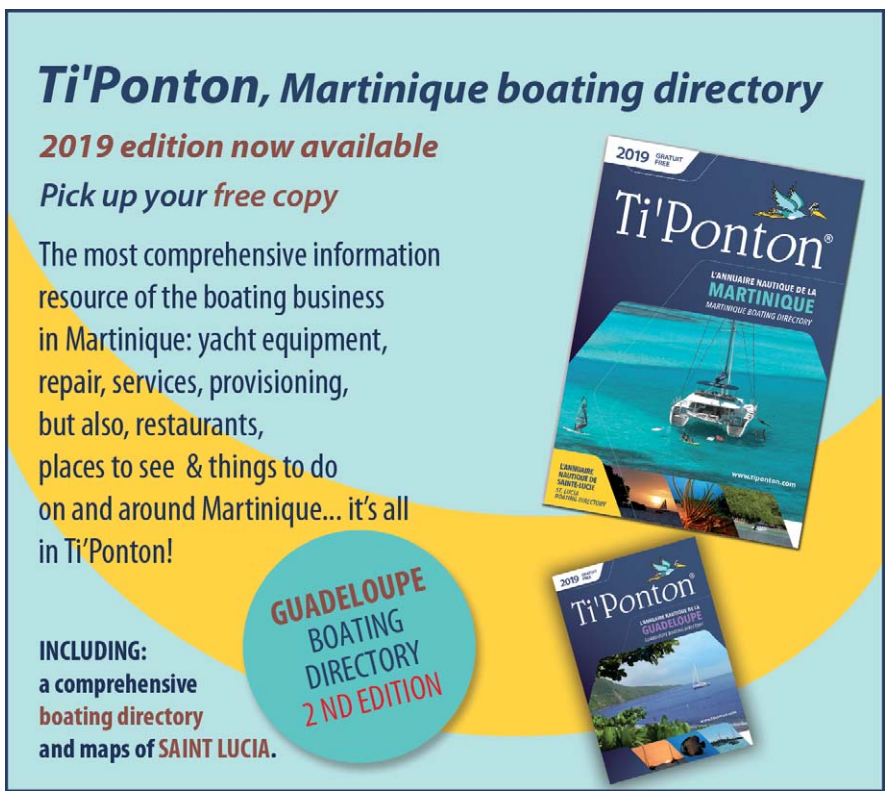
Our stockings were hung on the lifelines to dry,
along with our undies, some shirts and a tie;
for some unknown reason (I'm still in a quandary)
my wife seems to love doing the laundry.
We're clean-living cruisers — not cheap or kinky —
and the truth is my shorts were getting quite stinky.

We'd sailed north from Antigua on an overnight passage;
stopped in St. Barts for some French cheese and sausage;
the sky overhead exploded with stars:
Southern Cross, Venus, Big Dipper and Mars.
In town there was holly — and even fir trees;
it all seemed strange at 80 degrees.
Sailors were strolling, finding cheap beer,
or a Budget Marine store for new sailing gear.

One night in our rigging we heard such a clatter,
we sprang from our bunk to see what was the matter.
Reindeer poop confirmed our worst fear:
Santa must've got caught in our gear!
Our spreaders were bent — the forestay was slack —
(on our boat there's no place to put a huge sack).

We pondered and puzzled — and it's tragic or comic —
but we think the Big Guy tried to sleep in our hammock!

— Al Mosher and Michele Stevens, 2016



PICK UP!

Ahoy, *Compass* Readers! When in St. Lucia, pick up your free monthly copy of the *Caribbean Compass* at any of these locations (advertisers in this issue appear in **bold**):



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- **Island Water World**
- **Johnson's Hardware**
- Port Authority / Customs office
- **Rodney Bay Boatyard Bistro & office**
- **Rodney Bay Marina office**
- St. Lucia Yacht Club
- The Moorings office

CASTRIES
- Captain Mike's

MARIGOT BAY
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The Sky from Mid-December 2018 to Mid-January 2019

by Jim Ulik

What will be the new incident manifesting itself over the next few months? Will it happen this December, in 2019, or farther in the future? Astronomically speaking there are at least ten stars that could go supernova at any time. These explosions may be seen from Earth without binoculars or a telescope. Of that number, four well-known stars used in celestial navigation could blow. The notable stars approaching their end are Spica, Betelgeuse, Antares and Rigel. The most powerful supernova ever seen (ASASSN-15lh) occurred in 2015. The star from another galaxy exploded almost 600 billion times brighter than the sun.

It may not be as famous as Halley's Comet or as bright as the Great Comet of 1881 but a comet makes a close approach to Earth on December 16th. Comet 46P/Wirtanen ranks as the tenth closest comet to encounter Earth since 1950. See its position on December 16th and January 1st in Figure 2. Observations have shown that the comet is ejecting large amounts of water and ice.

Sunday, December 16th

This morning marks the peak of the Comae Berenicids meteor shower. Originally the source of this shower was from the constellation Coma Berenices or Berenice's Hair, named after Queen Berenice II of Egypt. The radiant has shifted and the shooting stars are now coming from the tail of Leo.

In the east before sunrise, Venus is rising. A few minutes later Mercury and Jupiter will break the horizon positioned in the constellation Scorpius. These celestial bodies will reach their closest proximity on December 21st near Antares.

Thursday, December 20th

There is a conjunction between the Moon and Aldebaran this evening. Throughout the night the Moon gradually moves in closer to Aldebaran.

Just before midnight, as Leo Minor is rising in the northeast sky, a few shooting stars will begin to appear. The December Leonis Minorids reaches its peak tonight. This shower is active December 5th through February 4th. The best time to see any meteors is around 0500 hours, as the Moon is setting.

Friday, December 21st

Today is the shortest day for us in the northern hemisphere. Another Winter Solstice has arrived. The Sun reached its most southerly declination and will be directly over the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.44 degrees south latitude. The Tropic of Capricorn was named over 2,000 years ago when the Sun was positioned in the constellation Capricornus during the winter solstice. Currently the Sun passed from Ophiuchus entering Sagittarius. Need to find your bearings? Maybe it will help knowing that the Sun rises at 114 degrees, east-southeast, and will set this evening at 246 degrees, west-southwest. At 1204 the Sun will be over 180 degrees, south, at an altitude of 55 degrees.

Saturday, December 22nd

The Moon is now on the opposite side of planet Earth from the Sun. In other words, today is the Full Moon.

Sunday, December 23nd

Pivoting around the North Star, Polaris, is the constellation Ursa Minor a.k.a. the Little Dipper. Tonight falling stars will pour out of the Dipper's cup. The Ursids meteor shower is a variable shower that can produce ten to 50 meteors per hour. The shower is active December 17th through 26th.

Wednesday, December 26th

Venus is shining brightly in the eastern sky. It has now reached its closest orbital point to the Sun. The detection of carbon dioxide in Venus' atmosphere led German immigrant Rupert Wildt, Ph.D. to hypothesize the greenhouse effect back in the 1930s. The greenhouse effect was first described by Joseph Fourier, a French mathematician and physicist, in 1824. Because of the cloud cover, only ten percent of solar radiation reaches Venus' surface. That radiation is trapped by carbon dioxide, allowing Venus' average temperatures to be 864 degrees Fahrenheit (462 degrees Celsius). As a comparison, 22.5 percent of solar radiation makes it to Earth's surface.

—Continued on next page

FIGURE 1



ÉTIENNE LÉOPOLD TROUVELOT

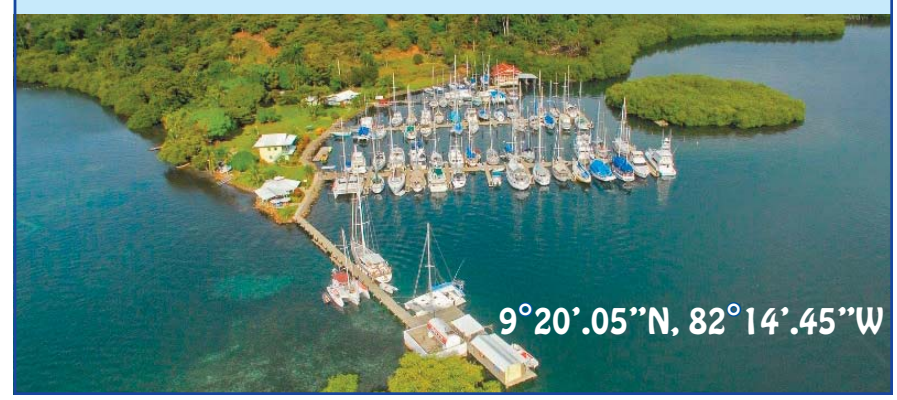
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—*Continued from previous page*

January 2019

Two Soviet Union probes studying the atmosphere of Venus have 50th anniversaries (1969) this month. *Venera 5* was launched on January 5th and *Venera 6* was launched on January 10th. Each probe lasted less than one hour in the Venusian atmosphere.

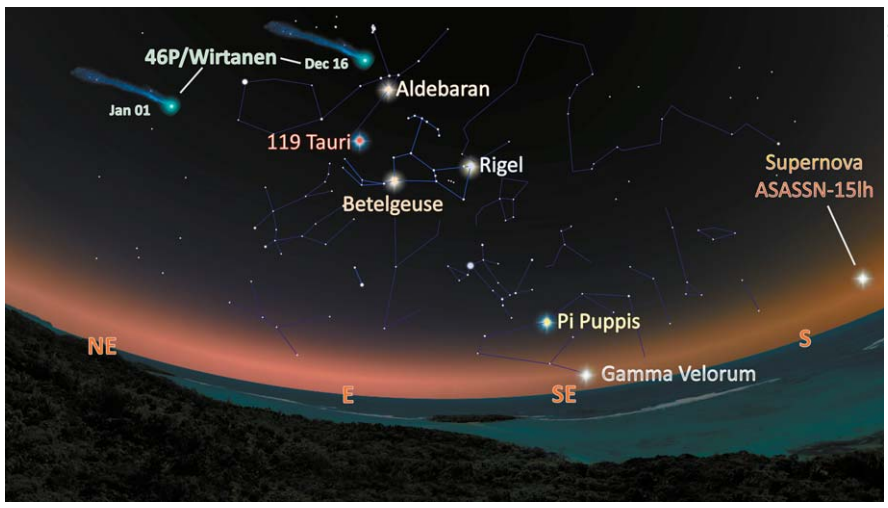


FIGURE 2

Tuesday, January 1st

Ushering in the New Year is a lineup of five bright celestial objects in this morning's sky. Ascending from the horizon in the eastern sky, Mercury, Jupiter, Antares, Venus and the Moon are brightly displayed.

It has been about two years since NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft left Pluto. The mission was expanded to include a New Year's Day flyby of asteroid 2014 MU69, nicknamed Ultima Thule after a distant place located beyond the "borders of the known world", shown in Figure 3. Any data sent back towards Earth will take almost 260 days to get here.

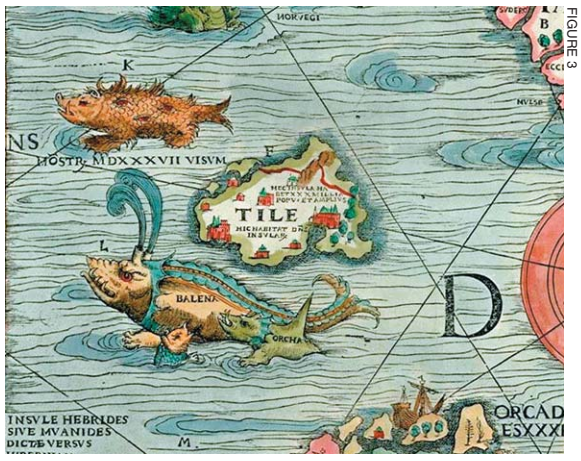


FIGURE 3

Looking for some fireworks on New Year's Eve? There are six stars in the east that could explode into a supernova any day. That will most assuredly occur in the distant future, but it doesn't hurt to check for an outburst once and a while.

Thursday, January 3rd

Early this morning there is a conjunction between the sliver Moon and Jupiter. Towards the south you will find Antares close by. The Earth reaches its closest point to the Sun, heating up the planet in the southern hemisphere.

Friday, January 4th

Look for another early-morning astronomical event today. Pre-dawn brings the peak of the Quadrantids meteor shower. While the shower is active December 28th through January 12th, it will reach peak today. There is little interference from the Moon, so seeing a few meteors shouldn't be too much of a problem. The Quadrantids can produce from 60 to 200 meteors per hour radiating out of the northeast sky.

Saturday, January 5th

There is a New Moon today. The Sun and Moon are nearly in line, so you may read about a partial solar eclipse taking place today — but that won't happen in the Caribbean. The solar eclipse passes from Russia into Alaska.

Sunday, January 6th

From our vantage point on Earth, Venus has reached its greatest separation from the Sun or its greatest elongation. Even though the planet is only 50 percent illuminated it remains very bright in the morning sky.

Saturday, January 12th

It shouldn't be difficult to recognize Mars but you can spot it tonight by following the "terminator". That is the line of termination between dark and light on the Moon. Extend that line towards the northeast and there will be Mars, less than five degrees away.

Tuesday, January 15th

A triangle of celestial bodies will be visible in the pre-dawn sky. Jupiter has maintained its position throughout this period near Antares (Anti-Ares), the heart of Scorpius. Ares is the Greek god of war, called Mars by the Romans. The star is associated with Mars because they both appear the same color and brightness in the night sky.

Clockwise from left:
The positions of Comet 46P/Wirtanen and six stars ready to go supernova on December 31st at 2100 hours

NASA's High Altitude Venus Operational Concept (HAVOC) manned airship

Surrounded by monsters is the mythical island of Thule (Tile). This image is a segment from the Carta Marina, the first map of the Nordic countries, created by Olaus Magnus in 1539



FIGURE 4

In the News

"As different as Venus is, data returned from this bizarre planet — as well as from other planets — may well help us understand our own atmosphere. An understanding of the runaway greenhouse effect, and of the role of aerosols like sulfuric acid, may help us prevent the Earth from eventually becoming another Venus," says a NASA mission statement. Below are three examples of future missions to Venus.

• High Altitude Venus Operational Concept (HAVOC) led to the development of an evolutionary program for the exploration of Venus, with focus on the mission architecture and vehicle concept for a 30-day crewed mission into Venus's atmosphere at 50 kilometers.

• Russian Venus research community are working together to identify and prioritize the scientific objectives of a joint Venera-D mission concept. The mission's goal is the advanced study of Venus' atmospheric dynamics as well as its surface geology and chemistry.

• Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) announced plans for the Venus Orbiter to explore and study the planet's climate. The proposed Venus mission targets a 2020 launch date.

All times are given as Atlantic Standard Time (AST) unless otherwise noted. The times are based on a viewing position in Grenada and may vary by only a few minutes in different Caribbean locations.

Jim Ulik of S/V Merengue *is a photographer and cruiser.*

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The White-Rumped SANDPIPER



Barefooted and with camera in hand, I arrived at the beach just as the rising sun washed the marine landscape with a golden glow. Two people walked slowly ahead; near them a large, athletic dog ran back and forth, fetching a stick which the humans kept throwing into the path ahead. Each of the dog's galloping sprints caused a wave of flustered winged shapes to flush out from the carpet of brown, stranded seaweed — their musical voices pierced the silky morning silence as they took to the wing, circled the dog widely and stubbornly returned, as their need for food overruled the need for safety.

At this time of year, Grenada's La Sagesse, like many Caribbean beaches, is visited by the greatest long-distance flyers on Earth — shorebirds — these ravenous little birds that forage along the beaches, mostly ignored by everyone, except enthusiast birders, like myself.



Above: During courtship, the males chase after females with open wings, unabashedly flashing their white rumps
Left: The White-Rumped Sandpiper can be seen refuelling in the Caribbean

The breeding season has come to an end and, thanks to our location between the North and South American continents, during September and October, we in the Caribbean see a spike in shorebird numbers as they fly through the region on their way south from their arctic breeding grounds.

Such is the case of the White-Rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*), which, at this time of year, can be seen refuelling in the Caribbean, albeit in small numbers.

This little brownish sandpiper is a 14 to 19 centimetres (5 1/2 to 7 1/2 inches) long, tough little cookie of inconspicuous appearance and one of the world's most extreme long-distance fliers — it travels more than 10,000 miles each year, from its high-arctic breeding grounds in Northern Canada and Alaska to wintering grounds in Tierra del Fuego and back.

Although some winter in southern Brazil, the most common wintering area for White-Rumps is Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia. Large numbers are also seen in the South Atlantic Islands, such as the Falkland Islands and Inaccessible Island, a small volcanic island part of the archipelago of Tristan da Cunha.

—Continued on next page



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In warmer years, small groups set off from Cape Horn, across Drake's passage to the South Shetland Islands in western Antarctica. In fact, a study made from 1986 to 2013 shows that of a total of five vagrant species found at Elephant Island, the White-Rumped Sandpiper was the species with the most recorded individuals, followed by the Cattle Egret. The species is also a vagrant to Europe, especially the British Isles, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

During the southbound migration, in late August-September, large numbers of hungry White-Rumps stop at both Hudson Bay and the Bay of Fundy in Canada, to feed and build up enough fat stores to fuel uninterrupted high-altitude flights over the Atlantic lasting up to 60 hours and covering up to 2,500 miles.

Once they reach the southeastern Caribbean, some will hop shorter distances with low altitude flights from the southern Windward Islands to the Guyana and Suriname coasts, but most will only rest when they reach Guyana. From Suriname onwards, little is known about the next portion of their journey, as they seem to simply disappear. Based on the two to four weeks that they take to reappear in the south coast of Brazil, scientists believe that the species enters a Trans-Amazonian flyway, which begins in Suriname and follows the major river valleys all the way into Uruguay. There's little question that they stop to refuel on the sand banks and mud flats typical of these rivers during October and November, when the water levels are still low. The northbound migration is faster, as they are in a hurry to breed, and it is preceded by a dramatic increase in fat stores. The distance between Southern Brazil and the Arctic is covered in several rapid nonstop flights, flown over non-marine habitat and in a direct line, as a result they are rarely seen in the Caribbean during this time.

Both males and females arrive synchronously at the breeding grounds, around late May and early June, both with their breeding plumage of rusty tinges on ears, crown and flanks. As soon as they arrive, males begin their aerial displays to establish territory, the quality of which will determine the number of females available to each of them. During the breeding season, the males have highly inflated throats with which they emit buzzing notes, rattling sounds and low grunts similar to those of a small pig. White-rumped males are polygynous, forming simultaneous pair-bonds with as many females as they can possibly charm, including, on occasions, females from other Sandpiper species, such as the Dunlin. During courtship, they chase after females with open wings, wingtips facing down; elevated, somewhat forward leaning tails; unabashedly flashing their white rumps — the patch of special white feathers at the base of the tail, for which the species was named. Although, during the egg-laying period they each defend a territory, they take no part in nest building, incubation or chick rearing and by the 20th of June, when most females are incubating, they abandon their territory and are not seen again.

Females provide sole parental care to both the eggs and chicks. They build the nests in densely vegetated hummocky ground, with good feeding grounds nearby, to minimize time spent away from the eggs. The nest cups are well concealed deep depressions in the hummocks, sheltered from the wind, where the females incubate four eggs for 21 days, balancing their own metabolic needs with the eggs' requirement for warmth — these small-bodied incubators are already affected by the energy deficit incurred during migration as well as egg laying, and must feed frequently to maintain the body condition necessary for chick raising and fall migration. Thus, contrary to bi-parental arctic shorebirds, who spend more than 95 percent of the day incubating and adjust their nest vigilance in relation to predator threat, White-Rumps spend 83 percent of the day incubating and adjust their nest vigilance in relation to weather conditions, foraging mainly during the warmer hours and on colder days foraging more frequently, but for shorter periods.

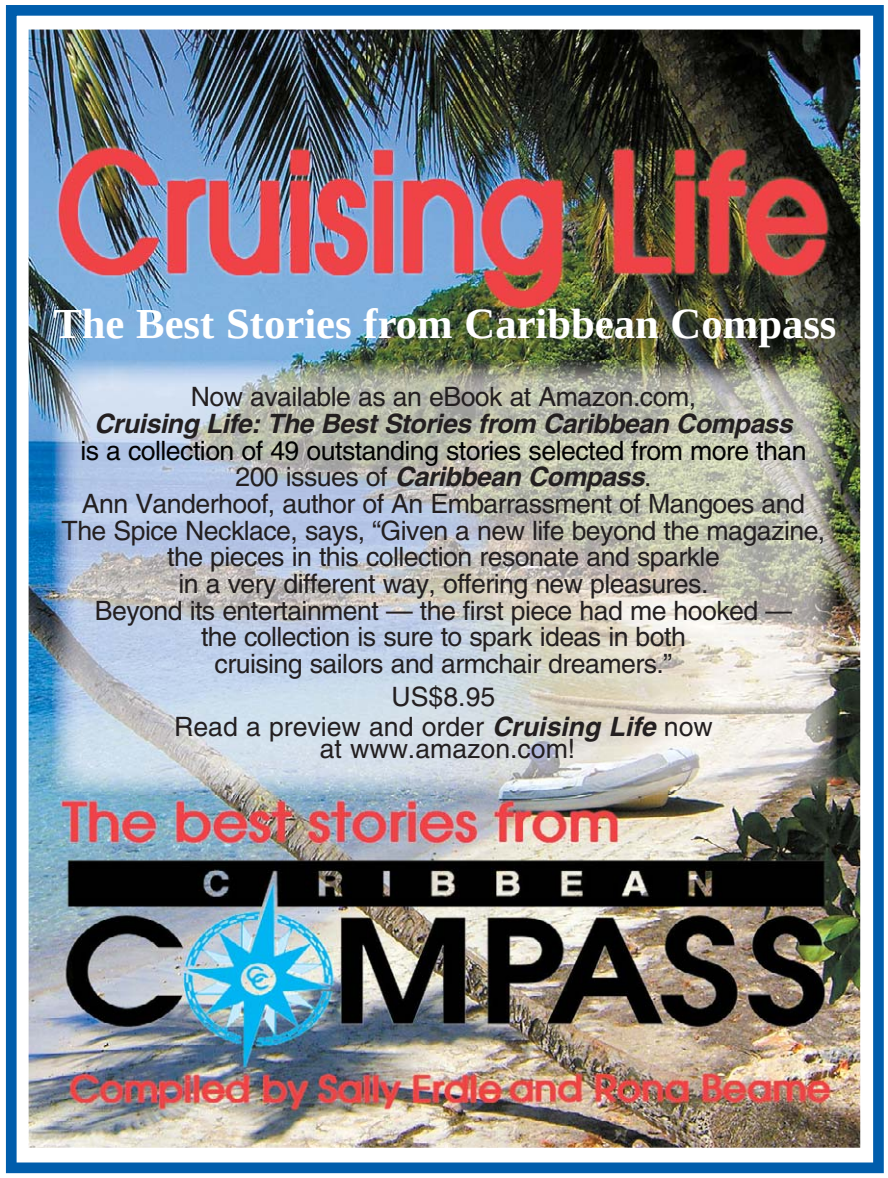
Once the chicks break out of their shelled cocoons and the female sees the first empty half shells, she quickly grasps the broken pieces in her bill and flies them away from the nest one by one — this is vitally important to shorebirds, as these shells advertise the presence of vulnerable chicks to predators. The little ones leave the nest within 24 hours of hatching; some, with tentative small steps, may take up to 17 hours to leave, others are bolder and leave as soon as they are born, never to look back. The females stay with them until fledging at 18 days of age — soon the adults will fly south and the hatchlings will follow in late August-early September.

We may see these inexperienced birds passing through the Caribbean as late as October and November; they are usually seen in groups of mixed shorebirds and may be difficult to distinguish from other similar-looking sandpipers found in the region, such as the Semipalmated, the Western and the Least Sandpipers. Nevertheless, if you are close enough, look out for a pale area at the base of the bill that is unique to the species, otherwise, you may be able to single them out based on size, as White-Rumps are larger and longer bodied, with wings so long that the tips cross when folded, projecting beyond the tail feathers.

Indeed, these plain looking shorebirds, these long distance fliers so often overlooked due to their unremarkable appearance, are the superheroes of this world.







MERIDIAN PASSAGE OF THE MOON

DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

Crossing the channels between Caribbean islands with a favorable tide will make your passage faster and more comfortable. The table below, courtesy Don Street, author of Street's Guides and compiler of Imray-Iolaire charts, which shows the time of the meridian passage (or zenith) of the moon for this AND next month, will help you calculate the tides.

Water, Don explains, generally tries to run toward the moon. The tide starts running to the east soon after moonrise, continues to run east until about an hour after the moon reaches its zenith (see TIME below) and then runs 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; i.e. the tide floods from west to east. Times given are local.

Note: the maximum tide is 3 or 4 days after the new and full moons.

For more information, see "Tides and Currents" on the back of all Imray Iolaire charts. Fair tides!

December 2018					
DATE	TIME	21	2313	10	1531
1	0719	22	0000 FULL MOON	11	1614
2	0759	23	0015	12	1656
3	0847	24	0117	13	1739
4	0935	25	0219	14	1823
5	1023	26	0319	15	1910
6	1113	27	0415	16	2000
7	1202	28	0508	17	2059
8	1253	29	0558	18	2153
9	1323	30	0646	19	2255
10	1430	31	0733	20	2358
11	1520			21	0000 FULL MOON
12	1607	**January 2019**		22	0101
13	1651	1	0821	23	0201
14	1735	2	0969	24	0257
15	1818	3	0998	25	0350
16	1901	4	1047	26	0441
17	1945	5	1137	27	0530
18	2012	6	1227	28	0618
19	2123	7	1315	29	0706
20	2216	8	1402	30	0755
		9	1448	31	0844

LOOK OUT FOR...

THE TROPICAL CHRISTMAS BLOOM

by Lynn Kaak

As you travel through the Caribbean, every month there's something special to look out for.

It is fairly safe to say that almost all cultures represented in the cruising community are familiar with the Poinsettia, especially around the Christmas season. Whether in stores, on Christmas cards, in houses, or in some select areas where they are planted outside in the Caribbean, *Euphorbia pulcherrima* is as synonymous with this season as Christmas trees, parties, and some form of fruit cake (Caribbean "black cake" being the best of the bunch).



A native of Mexico, the Poinsettia has a history that stretches back to the Aztecs, and probably well before them. It was used for medicinal purposes to fight fevers, and also as a dye. Montezuma was so fond of them that he had them brought to his high-altitude home, where it was too cold for them to flourish for long. They were originally found in the mid-altitude deciduous forests down the Pacific coast as far south as Guatemala.

It is said that the connection with Christmas was because of a young Mexican peasant girl. She had no money to present a gift to her Saviour on his birthday, but a vision encouraged her to gather the weeds and offer them as her gift. The green leaves turned red at the altar, and a legend was begun. The previous name that referred to the plant as "grower in soil" was changed to the "flower of the Holy Night."

The "discovery" of the plant in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico, and his introduction of it to his fellow Americans is what gave it the name in English. It wasn't until Paul Ecke, a German immigrant to the United States, began cultivating them in California in 1909 that the plant started to become popular.

The poinsettia is now the best-selling plant in Canada and the United States, with the vast majority of the sales made in the three months leading up to Christmas, to the tune of $250 million. Half of the plants come from the Paul Ecke Ranch, as, until 1991, they were the only growers who knew the secret of creating the fuller blooming plants. Before that, they were the only producers of note.

As is common with many tropical flowers, the showiest part isn't the actual flower. The flowers are small yellow *cyathias* that reside in the middle of the much more noticeable red leaves, which are bracts. During most of the year, these leaves are green, however, once the amount of daylight starts decreasing as the Winter Solstice approaches, those specialized leaves turn red. The plant needs absolute darkness for 15 hours for this to occur. The brighter the sunlight, the brighter the colour of the bracts. While red is the main colour, manipulation has created a plethora of hues from a white through the pinks and reds and into some oranges. Red is still the most popular commercially, as well. After the flowers drop off, the bracts are soon to follow.

The leaves are large, and have noticeable veins running through them. While we tend to see the Poinsettia as a short-term houseplant, they can, in fact grow up to four metres (15 feet) tall, making a good-sized bush.

As is quite typical for many tropical plants, *E. pulcherrima* loves warm weather and has no tolerance for frost. Coming from a reasonably dry area, it also likes good drainage and will wilt and die if it is left in wet soil for long.

While not extremely common in the wild in the more popular cruising areas, sometimes one can find a Poinsettia while hiking. While walking in residential areas, you'll notice them brightening gardens at this time of year. And of course, in the stores you might spot some blooming in pots, as we hear the Soca Parang mixed in with versions of "White Christmas".



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Tide's Table

BY ROSS MAVIS

Holiday Party Teasers and Tempters

It is that time of year where good food, beverages and friends can be both teasers and tempters! That being said, good friends old and new, and good food, go hand in hand when it comes to merriment and festivities.

My wife Willa and I enjoy entertaining at any time of the year, but the Christmas season is especially notable for celebration. I can remember as a child becoming so excited as the holiday season approached, I would literally have difficulty sleeping. Now, I sometimes have difficulty remaining awake.

All it takes is word that friends are coming aboard for a visit, and my creative entertainment juices start flowing. At times like this, Willa needs to hold me back from going overboard (not literally) with food and beverage preparations. I can't get over the importance of food and its preparation for guests. This apparently still remains in my makeup from my many years as a maritime chef and as owner of a country inn and spa. Old habits don't die easily.

Here are a couple of recipes I enjoy preparing for visiting friends, and I'm pleased to share them with you and your guests.

Bacon-Nut Spread

These appetizers are a wonderful beginning to a meal as they whet, and not dull, the appetite.

4 slices bacon
1/4 Cup almonds, toasted and chopped
8 ounces (225 g) cream cheese, softened
3/4 Cup (175 ml) sour cream
1/4 Cup (50 ml) onion, minced
1/4 Cup (50 ml) red pepper and/ or fresh parsley, minced
1/4 teaspoon (1 ml) salt
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Fry bacon slices until nicely browned and crisp. Cool, crumble and reserve. Drain off excess fat and then, in the same frying pan, toss almonds over medium heat until lightly toasted. Remove from heat, cool and chop finely.

Mix cream cheese and sour cream in a glass (or other non-reactive) bowl. Add crumbled bacon, almonds, onion, red pepper and/or parsley, salt and pepper. Stir well. Place in a suitable serving dish, cover and refrigerate.

Remove from fridge about 15 minutes before serving. Remove crusts from small slices of rye bread or select your favourite crackers and serve with the spread.

Mini Drumsticks

2 pounds (1 kg) chicken wings
1/4 Cup (50 ml) maple syrup (or honey)
1/4 Cup (50 ml) sherry
1/4 Cup (50 ml) lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 Tablespoon (15 ml) paprika
1 teaspoon (5 ml) lemon rind (zest), finely grated
Pinch of cayenne pepper

A favorite at our cockpit get-togethers, these little drumsticks take a bit of time to prepare but are well received by guests.

Cut off wing tips and reserve these for stock at a later time. Using a sharp knife, remove the small bone from wing segments. Cut meat around joint to allow meat to be pulled down like a stocking into a knob shape around the bone at the end. This leaves bone sticking out to be used as a handle. Place these mini drumsticks in a glass bowl.

Mix maple syrup (or honey), sherry, lemon juice, minced garlic, paprika and lemon zest in a small saucepan. Place over medium heat and bring to the boil. Pour marinade over drumsticks and let stand several hours or overnight in the fridge, turning once or twice to coat wings thoroughly,

Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Bake wings with marinade in a well-greased baking pan for about 40 minutes, turning frequently. Serve warm or cold along with many paper napkins for sticky fingers. The raves make this slightly fussy appetizer well worth the effort.

Happy Holidays to you and your guests!







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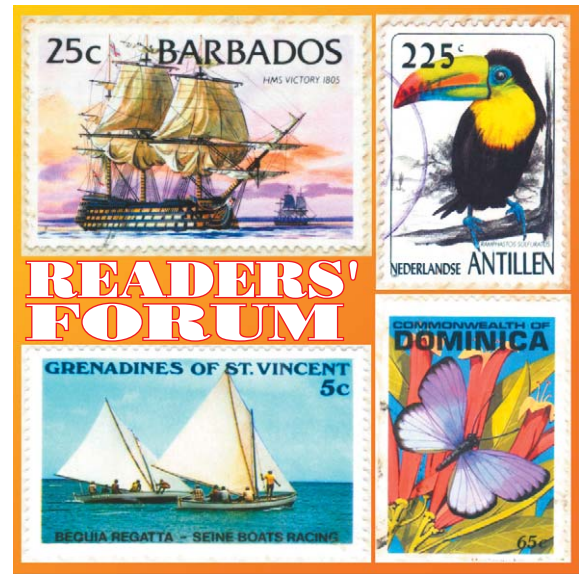
Read in Next Month's *Compass*:

Calendar of Caribbean Events 2019

SSB Radio and Online Weather Sources

USVI Charter Show a Success

... and much, much more!



'SOUFRIERE HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER'

Dear *Compass*,

Regarding 'More Progress in Soufriere, St. Lucia' in the Info & Updates department in last month's *Compass*: Kudos to James Crockett, and to the youth and citizenry of Soufriere, St. Lucia, for their undertakings regarding clean-up, training and certifications related to care for the marine environment as well as for their safety, wellbeing and betterment related to providing marine services. This will certainly be attractive to those cruising up and down island. Soufriere has so much to offer, especially as a stepping-off point for great hikes and island adventures. How wonderful that there is an even greater sense of civic pride in their marine community!

Ellen Birrell
S/V Boldly Go

CUBA TO HONOR PATRON SAINT OF MARINERS

Dear *Compass* Readers,

I am pleased to greet you very warmly on behalf of the Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba and on my own, as well as to update you on a change of date in one of the activities that our Yacht Club will carry out in greeting the 500th Anniversary of the Founding of Havana, as announced in 'Celebrate



Havana's 500th Anniversary – All Year!' in the Info & Updates department of last month's *Compass*:

The change is in the International Colloquium 'The Maritime History of Havana — Facts and Events That We Must Not Forget', organized by Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba. The dates for this conference will be September 4th through 7th, 2019.

Also, the following activity is added to the calendar: Maritime Procession in Tribute to the Virgin of Regla Village in Havana Bay. This event is also organized by Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba, and will take place at 5:00PM on September 7th.

The last maritime procession in tribute to the Virgin of Regla was held in 1961. Our Yacht Club will revive it on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of Havana's founding. The Virgin of Regla is the patron saint of Cuban mariners and of the bayside town that bears her name. Like the Virgin Mary, she dresses in blue, but she is depicted with a black face. At the time of the Spanish colonization in Cuba, when the slave owners tried to impose Catholicism on their slaves, an ongoing process of syncretizing Catholic saints with African gods and goddesses began. The Virgin of Regla is syncretized with the Virgin Mary and with the Orisha Yemayá, owner of the moon, the seas and everything that lives there.

The help of the Virgin of Regla is invoked by seafarers, especially for aid in the event of storms. In the stories of Cuban navigators there are many stories that speak of people saved thanks to some miracle wrought by the Virgin of Regla.

Thank you very much for the support that *Caribbean Compass* offers to us so that the members of the international nautical community who sail through the Caribbean can join us in the activities for the 500th Anniversary of the founding of Havana.

Best regards,
Commodore Escrich
Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba
Marina Hemingway
Havana, Cuba

MORE LUCKY DOGS!

Dear *Compass*,

I read JoAnne and Bill Harris's lovely article "One Lucky Dog" on page 29 of the November issue of *Compass*. I believe you are not aware of the animal shelter here on Union Island, called Southern Grenadines Animal Kindness", SGAK for short. A friend and I started it a few years ago to address the neglect, abuse and cruelty to animals here.

We have a property in Clifton, Union Island, about half an acre, with a small house, kennels and runs. Our caregiver lives on the property. Every few months a vet from St. Vincent comes down to handle spays and castrations, mostly of dogs and cats, as well as treating other health issues such as skin diseases, and giving chemotherapy to animals with cancer, vaccinations, etcetera.

We generally have 25 to 30 dogs in residence, most looking for adoptive families. Some of our dogs have been adopted in Canada, the US, Netherlands and the UK.

Our next free animal clinic will be held on December 6th, 7th and 8th, and will be carried out by volunteer vets from the US.

My partner and I fund the operation, with a few donations from kind strangers. We are always looking for more donations! And volunteers of all ages are welcome.

Visit www.animalkindness.net for more information.

Heather Grant
Union Island

CALENDAR OF CARIBBEAN EVENTS FOR 2019

Hi, *Caribbean Compass*,

We are just planning our stay in the Caribbean during the first half of 2019. Will there be a calendar of events for 2019 just as for 2018? If so, when can I expect to find it online?

Thanks in advance,
Lisa Gugala

Hi Lisa,

Yes, our 2019 Calendar of Caribbean Events will be in the January issue of Caribbean Compass, *available online from January 1st and also as a pull-out in the January print edition. We know you'll find it useful!*

CC

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Dear* Compass *Readers,

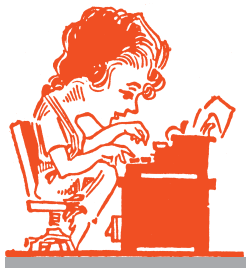
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Send your letters to sally@caribbeancompass.com.





Letter of the Month

THE SEA CALLS THE TUNE

Dear *Compass*,

I read with interest Lexi Fisher's article 'Shaping Our Coastlines' in the October issue of *Compass*, in which she tackles the issue of coastal erosion in the Caribbean.

The northerly ground swell that occurs in this region in the winter, any time from late October into early April, and occasionally even in early May, has nothing to do with weather in the Caribbean. It is caused by bad storms in the North Atlantic. Its effect is more noticeable in the northern Caribbean than in the southern Caribbean. In the northern Caribbean, where you find a steep, soft sandy beach you know it is an anchorage open to the ground swell.

In fact, anywhere in the Caribbean where you see a nice sandy beach, you know that at times it will be a rocky and rolly anchorage. What puts the nice white sand on shore? A swell.

The ground swell effect is felt in some harbors even on the south coasts of islands, for example, in Prickly Bay, Grenada, which at times is rolly, as is illustrated by the following story.

In the early years of yachting in Grenada, the late Bill Stevens started the Spice Island boatyard at what is now Waterside Marina. In order to attract customers he offered stern-to dockage at a price considerably below what Grenada Yacht Services at St. George's lagoon was charging. However, as one boatowner pointed out, when you added up the total yearly costs of dockage at GYS versus Spice Island, the totals were the same. Spice Island dockage was cheaper, but because of the surge, you had to buy three sets of dock lines a year compared to one set every other year at GYS!

In early December 1963 I was finishing a delivery from the States to St. Thomas. The morning of our landfall I took an early morning sun sight to obtain longitude. It was obvious that we had just the normal tradewind swell of about six feet, no more. As we approached the island I realized the swell had become larger and changed direction, coming more from the north than from the east. Standing on the boom, looking to windward, I was losing the horizon in the trough of the waves. Standing on the winches mounted above the boom, I was still losing the horizon.

A ground swell, caused by severe storms in the North Atlantic, was building up. We passed around the east end of St. Thomas, down the south coast, into St. Thomas Harbour, and alongside the Yacht Haven dock. Here, I luckily met the late Dick Avery, for whom I was delivering the boat, and started turning the boat over to him.

Soon after we arrived, a friend came down the dock and announced that another friend had chartered a plane to fly to Barbados. They had an extra seat, so if I could be ready quickly I could get a free ride; then it was only a short LIAT flight to Grenada and *Iolaire*. I made the plane, arrived in Barbados, and found an affordable room in a small hotel on the beach. About 0100 I was awakened by the sound of heavy surf on the beach — the same ground swell had arrived. It had travelled 400 miles in about 12 hours.

By morning most of the beach in front of the hotel had disappeared. The surf was washing against the foundations of the hotel. I flew to Grenada and discovered *Iolaire* and the few boats anchored in the lagoon were rolling in a swell that came in over the barrier reef. The few boats alongside the GYS pier were surging back and forth, popping dock lines and yanking out cleats.

On the south coast of Grenada, there was an island on the reef 500 yards to the east of what is now Tara Island. What is now Tara Island was a reef, but the ground swell moved the island 500 yards to the west, where it still is today, 55 years after the ground swell. On the Venezuelan coast, the breakwater and harbour of the private club Puerto Azul were completely demolished. At the big port of La Guaira, the massive breakwater was breached completely in two places.

Luckily, since the 1963 ground swell, no other ground swell has been big enough to cause serious damage to the southern Caribbean. But things do get rearranged.

In the Tobago Cays, the southern entrance range (shown on Imray Iolaire charts B31 and B311, with the middle hill of Palm Island under High North, Carriacou) leads between two reefs that have only a foot or so of water over them. These reefs are marked by disappearing sand islands. In the early 1990s the manager of PSV resort told me to alter the Imray Iolaire chart note, as the disappearing sand islands had disappeared three years before and had never reappeared. However, two weeks later, when heading north on *Iolaire*, using the southern entrance to the Tobago Cays, I discovered the disappeared sand islands had reappeared, standing a good foot or more above the surf line.

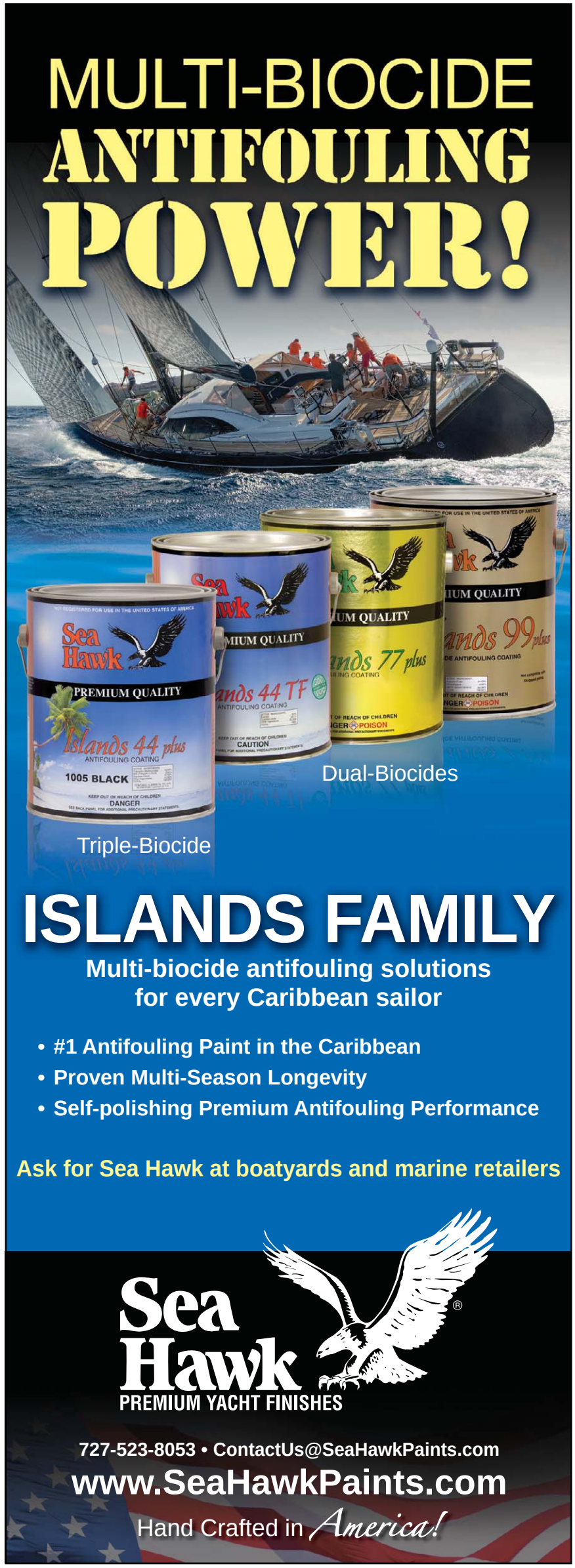
On the east coast of Carriacou, south of St. Hilaire point, the graveyard established in the 19th century is in danger of falling into the sea. The shoreline has moved westward a good 100 yards in the past 150 or so years. Grand Bay is well protected by a barrier reef, but the sea calls the tune.

Finally, Lexi's article mentions Barbuda's Lighthouse Bay Resort Hotel. On the southwest corner of the island there is a spot known as The Canal, as this is where hurricane surges break through from the sea into Codrington Lagoon. However, usually within six months or so the sea closes off the canal again.

When the Lighthouse Bay Hotel was being built, they were warned that the construction of their dock would disturb the shoreline. It changed things in the area. The sea began eroding the beach, slowly putting Lighthouse Hotel closer and closer to the water. In 2017, Hurricane Maria broke through to Codrington Lagoon, just south of Lighthouse Bay Hotel. But this time, one year later there was still no indication of the land filling in.

The sea calls the tune!

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Editor's note: *Going back as far as a letter in the April 2016 issue and beyond,* Compass *readers from time to time have asked about the legality of the common practice of "yellow flagging it" through the islands — that is, dropping anchor in the waters of a country where you have not cleared Customs and Immigration, spending the night aboard with the yellow "Q" flag raised without going ashore, and then sailing out of that country's waters without clearing in. As one correspondent wrote:*

"Let's imagine that I've checked out of Customs and Immigration in Bequia (part of St. Vincent & the Grenadines) and am setting off at first light the following day for the French island of Martinique. An average boat speed of six knots or so sees me off the northern end of St. Lucia at dusk. With just two of us aboard (my wife and myself), it would seem seamanlike to drop the hook in Rodney Bay, St. Lucia to get a good night's sleep before setting off early the following morning for Martinique. I've no wish to go ashore, so that's what I do, making sure that I fly the Q flag under the starboard spreaders.

"The question is, am I operating in accordance with International Maritime Law?"

We've always answered this question to the best of our ability, but we aren't "sea lawyers", so we're glad to now be able to share this response from Mr. Chevanev Charles, a maritime lawyer at Temple Stoke (www.templestoke.com), a ship-owners' and seafarers' legal consultancy service based in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

'Yellow Flagging It' is Ill-Advised

by Chevanev Charles

Compass readers ask, "Is it legal for a foreign-flagged yacht to arrive in another country's waters and spend the night at anchor with the Q flag up, and then sail out of that country's waters without ever clearing in and out?"

Simple answer: It is ill-advised to make a habit of slipping in and out of a country's territorial waters without clearing.

From a historical perspective, the "Q" or Quarantine flag was the shipping sector's preventative measure against the spread of infectious diseases. The principles of contagion were understood and with few effective technological and medical standards, the Quarantine flag was one of a variety of measures to separate clearly or suspected sick individuals or disease carriers from uninfected people.

In a modern context, the purpose of the Q flag is slightly different. It is a declaration that your ship is free from diseases that may require confinement and it is a signal to Port State Control that you would like to be boarded and inspected requesting "free pratique", or it signals the intention to disembark, usually via dinghy or water taxi, and pass through Customs and Immigration ashore. "Free pratique" is essentially the license for a ship to enter a port on the assurance that she is free from contagious diseases.

If you aren't asking to be boarded and inspected, or aren't signalling your intention to go ashore and clear Customs and Immigration, you shouldn't be flying the Q flag.

It is useful to consider that flag etiquette is actually a (sometimes indecipherable) combination of law and maritime tradition. Because most countries have slight differences and requirements in their law, and some actually have vague or no law on the subject, it is best to go with tradition and when in doubt, please contact the authorities of that nation on VHF. Being non-conversant of your obligations could lead you to cause unnecessary insult by giving mixed signals or could lead you to a fine for breaking the law.

Not all countries are bothered with the use of the flag but theoretically the Q flag should be flown as soon as the yacht has entered territorial waters of a country. In the case of Antigua, for example, the Q flag is flown before clearing in (i.e. going through Customs) and the courtesy flag is flown only after Customs is cleared.

Territorial water limits are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOSC, Art. 3) to which the majority of Caribbean islands have acceded. In essence, the territorial water limits are 12 nautical miles from the shoreline. For countries that are archipelagoes, like St. Vincent & the Grenadines, this limit starts from invisible lines that envelop all the islands under their jurisdiction.

While some countries are lax on their enforcement, one must be mindful that not all are lax and it is against port regulations and policy in many Caribbean islands to slip in and out unnoticed.

Based on several conversations with port officials in Antigua & Barbuda as well as St. Vincent & the Grenadines, it is best to contact the authorities of the country you are approaching on VHF radio to avoid misunderstandings.

On approach hoist your Q flag, even if you arrive outside working hours and have to anchor; you must wait until the next working day with the Q flag up to clear in. You should come ashore in your dinghy or take a water taxi in. Then you clear Customs and Immigration. The documentation you are given will be useful in avoiding increasingly hefty fines levied on those intercepted leaving the island without clearing in. When you have cleared Customs and Immigration you can head back to your yacht. You should then lower the Q flag and the hoist the courtesy flag of that nation. In most islands of the southern Caribbean port officials will likely be checking to see if all yachts have cleared in, as this is a source of revenue, and will remind you if your Q flag is left up.

It is useful to note that some islands' ports can be very particular about the courtesy flag. For example, in Barbuda a clean and appropriately sized courtesy flag is expected to be flying after you have cleared Customs. The courtesy flag should be flown from the starboard spreader in a position above any other flag. The courtesy flag should be, ideally, without imperfection as many take offence to torn or disproportionately sized flags.

It is also acceptable to fly both the courtesy flag and Q flag before clearing Customs. However flying only the courtesy flag before clearing is not advisable and also against maritime tradition, and in many jurisdictions is against the law.

Being a legal mind, Mr. Charles adds: This article is legal information *and should not be seen as legal* advice. *You should consult with an attorney or appropriate port officials before you rely on this information.*

For more information, Mr. Charles can be contacted at templestoke@gmail.com



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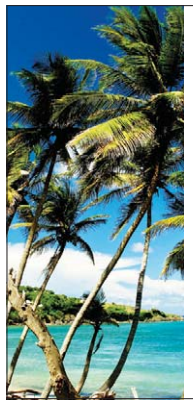
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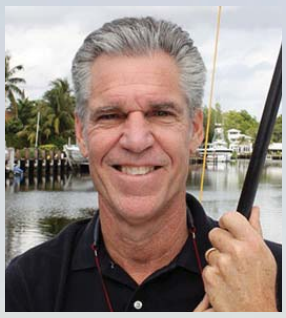
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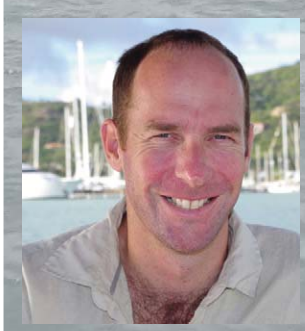
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4 - 10	Antigua Charter Yacht Show. www.antiguayachtshow.com
8	St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade. www.christmasparadestcroix.com
13	Public holiday in St. Lucia (National Day)
14	Carriacou Parang Festival. (473) 443-7647, carriacouparang@gmail.com
16 - 24	Nine Mornings Festival, St. Vincent. http://discoversvg.com
19	Public holiday in Anguilla (Separation Day)
21	Winter Solstice
22	FULL MOON
25	Public holiday in many places (Christmas Day)
26	Public holiday in many places (Boxing Day)
28	Positive Vibes Festival, Bequia. www.facebook.com/thehubcollective
30	Fireworks in Fort-de-France, Martinique. www.tourismefdf.com
31	New Year's Eve/Old Year's Night, fireworks in many places. Public holiday in Cuba (Year End Celebration).
31	Nelson's Pursuit Race, Antigua. www.antiguayachtclub.com



ANNA LANDRY

JANUARY 2019

1	Public holiday or "recovery day" in many places (New Year's Day); Junkanoo parades in The Bahamas
1	Annual Festival Parade in Montserrat. www.visitmontserrat.com/festivals
1	SSCA Gam, TTSA headquarters, Chaguaramas, Trinidad. jessejamesmembersonly@yahoo.com
4 – 20	St. Barts Music Festival. www.stbartsmusicfestival.org/festival.html
6	Public holiday in some places (Three Kings Day/Epiphany)
10	Public holiday in the Bahamas (Majority Rule Day)
10-13	Bequia Theater Festival. www.broadwaytobequia.com
11 – 20	Barbados Film Festival. www.visitbarbados.org/the-barbados-film-festival
16 – 24	Barbados Sailing Week. www.barbadossailingweek.com
18 – 20	Caribbean Laser Midwinter Regatta. Cabarete, Dominican Republic. www.caribwind.com
19	Round the Island Race. Antigua. www.antiguayachtclub.com
21	Public holiday in Puerto Rico and USVI (Martin Luther King Day), in Barbados (Errol Barrow Day), and in the Dominican Republic (Our Lady of Altagracia)
21 – 26	50th Spice Island Billfish Tournament, Grenada. www.sibt.gd/sibt.html
23 – 6 Feb	Mustique Blues Festival. https://basilsbar.com/blues-festival-2019
25	Public holiday in Aruba (GF Croes Day)
26	Public holiday in Dominican Republic (Duarte Day)
27 – 1 Feb	Grenada Sailing Week. www.grenadasailingweek.com
28	Public holiday in Cayman Islands (National Heroes' Day) and in Cuba (Birthday of José Martí)
30 – 3 Feb	Bequia Music Fest. www.bequiamusicfestival.com
31 – 3 Feb	Superyacht Challenge Antigua. www.superyachtchallengeantigua.com
TBA	Start of World ARC 2018-19, St. Lucia. World Cruising Club. www.worldcruising.com
TBA	St. Lucia Food & Rum Festival. www.stlucia.org/food-rum-festival

All information was correct to the best of our knowledge at the time this issue of Compass *went to press — but plans change, so please contact event organizers directly for confirmation. If you would like a nautical or tourism event listed FREE in our monthly calendar,please send the name and date(s) of the event and the name and contact information of the organizing body to* sally@caribbeancompass.com

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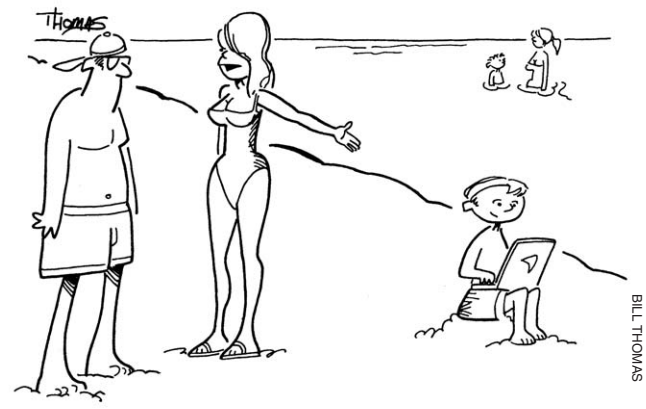
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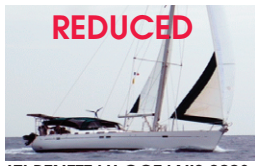


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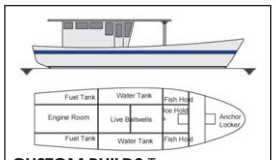
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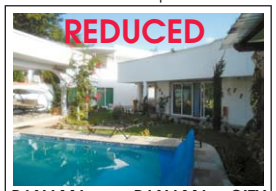


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Happy Holidays and a Bright New Year to all from the Caribbean Compass Crew!

COMPASS CARTOONS



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MP = Market Place pages 42 - 43
C/W = Caribbean-wide



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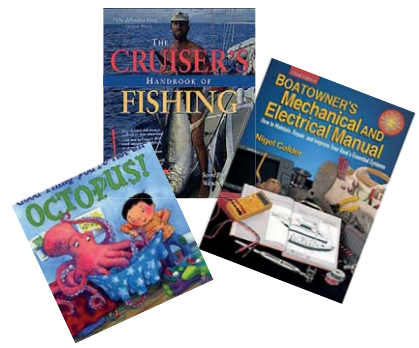
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