

A.B.S.A.R.

December 2023 Newsletter

"So that others may live"

Antigua & Barbuda Search And Rescue
Antigua Yacht Club Marina—Falmouth Harbour
Medic Station: (268) 720-3992 VHF: Channel 16
Emergency Phone ONLY: (268) 562-1234
info@absar.org www.absar.org

From the Board of Directors — ABSAR would like to welcome our supporters to the 2023-2024 season. We were happy to see the harbour busy once again with a big turnout at the Antigua Charter Yacht Show and we look forward to the coming new year. Our team has been actively preparing for the upcoming season as we worked on improving our repeater system in Barbuda and Monks Hill, which assists the range and clarity of our emergency calls and we have continued to offer team training in collaboration with our Corporate Sponsor, ONDECK. This partnership enhances our teams' overall capabilities and skills, which we believe will continue to improve our ongoing efforts in serving our community.

ABSAR has always been a volunteer organization, and as such, we rely entirely on the generosity of our community members donating their time and energy to remain operational. If you have any interest in being a part of ABSAR, we would love to hear from you and find ways to get you involved.

ABSAR receives no government funding and relies entirely on our Corporate Sponsors, Membership Donors, and our local community for their continued financial commitment in ensuring the longevity of ABSAR. Please know that your donations make a difference.

Wishing you All a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Director—Marco Bava

2023 Corporate Sponsors

We are privileged to have the following businesses as our Corporate Sponsors. These sponsors are vital to our operations and without them we could no longer provide services to our community.

DIAMOND

Jumby Bay Fund
 Mill Reef Fund

RUBY

Antigua Yacht Club Marina & Resort
 Antigua Yacht Club
 Jolly Harbour Marina
 OnDeck Maritime Training

























EMERALD

Digicel
 Premier Motors
 St. James's Club Resort
 Caribbean Alliance

SAPPHIRE

Access Marine
 Club House Restaurant
 Haas Racing Team
 Indigo Divers
 Lucky Eddi's Restaurant

Update on ABSAR Services

 ABSAR Medic Station Hours 9-5 / 720-3992	 See A Doctor	 Emergency 911 ABSAR Emergency 562-1234
 MINOR BURN	 MODERATE BURN	 SEVERE BURN
 SPRAINS & BRUISES	 MINOR FRACTURES	 MAJOR FRACTURES / ACCIDENTS
 COLD & COUGH	 FEVER/CHILLS	 DISORIENTATION/ LETHARGY
 SEASONAL ALLERGIES	 MILD ASTHMA	 SHORT OF BREATH / CHEST PAIN
 MILD SKIN RASH	 ALL OVER BODY RASH	 RASH WITH ANAPHYLAXIS (NEEDS EPI-PEN)
 FEELING UNWELL	 DIZZINESS/WEAKNESS	 LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS/SEIZURES
 NAUSEA/MILD DIARRHEA	 FOOD POISONING	 SEVERE VOMITING /DIARRHEA

During the season our Medic Station hours will be 9am-5pm Monday through Friday and our emergency phone will be manned 24/7.

As a reminder, the Medic Station staffs no doctors who can prescribe medications that are not over-the-counter. Therefore we have no oral or topical antibiotics that can be distributed without a doctor's prescription. We have volunteers and staff capable of assisting patients with minor burns, jelly fish stings, minor rashes and minor suturing.

ABSAR has developed a relationship with Heritage Medical, above Budget Marine. Dr. Sean Blackburn is available during office hours as well as via WhatsApp. His number is 268-773-8789.

2023 Optimist North American Championships

The North American Optimist Championship returned to Antigua in July for five fabulous days of sailing. One hundred and twenty-three young sailors from thirteen different countries in the Americas (ten from North America & three from South America) traveled to Antigua to test their skills against the top sailors in the region. ABSAR offered on-the-water support to the competitors throughout the competition.



Join ABSAR as a Corporate Sponsor Today and Receive:

1. Your company name recognized on our Corporate Sponsor boards at our English and Jolly Harbour offices
2. Your company name/logo displayed on our ABSAR website along with a link to your website or other social media accounts
3. Complementary Platinum Membership
4. Recognition in our bi-annual newsletter which is distributed to our donors

NODS Disaster Management Exhibition



On October 13th, our team participated in the Disaster Management Exhibition held by NODS at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre. This event showcased the services and equipment of many groups that play a role in the management of disasters in Antigua and Barbuda.

ABSAR WISH LIST

(10) NEW Inflatable Life Jackets
 (2) NEW Igloo Coolers Marine Ultra 72 QT Cooler for Rescue 1 and 2
 A sponsor for our 2024 TEAM T-shirts

2024 MEMBERSHIPS ON SALE



Since its inception in 2016, our Membership Program has helped ABSAR offer our marine and local community services such as Search and Rescue operations and a staffed Medic Station. We are forever grateful to the donors who have participated in this program year after year and hope to welcome new members in 2024.

Please note our new Membership prices for 2024

Platinum	\$ 1600.00 USD - \$ 4200.00 EC
Gold	\$ 550.00 USD - \$ 1430.00 EC
Silver	\$ 225.00 USD - \$ 575.00 EC
Bronze	\$ 110.00 USD - \$ 285.00 EC

2023 Volunteer of the Year

* **Andrew Morris** *



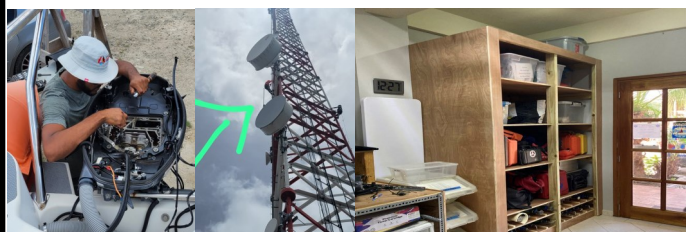
ABSAR is proud to announce the selection of **Andrew Morris** as our 2023 volunteer of the year. Andrew, or Andy as we like to call him, joined our team in 2021 when we added our new ABSAR base at the Jolly Harbour Marina and relocated Rescue 1 to that location.

Since Andy's start with ABSAR, he has shown dedication in all aspects of our operations. He regularly attends our weekly volunteer training sessions, is a consistent crew member for our regatta events, is readily available for any SAR call outs, and is always willing to assist with Rescue 1, including maintenance and hurricane prep.

ABSAR is lucky to have Andy as a volunteer and we greatly appreciate his contributions to our organization. Please take the time to offer your congratulations to Andy on this much deserved recognition.

SHOUT OUTS

Thank you to **Mike Wetheridge** who gratuitously used his free time to build our Medic Station's new cabinets and shelving at cost. All of our rescue and medical equipment now can be easily located for quick access. We would also like to acknowledge **Aubuto Moses** who has devoted many hours of his time to assist us in maintenance work for both R1 and R2 and was instrumental in the installation of our Barbuda repeater stem and AIS antenna. A special thank you also goes to **OnDeck** for their continued commitment in offering training for our team members. Their courses are vital in ensuring our volunteers obtain the skills needed when an emergency arises.



BECOME A BLOOD DONOR

Contact our office at 268-720-3992 to get on our donor list



ABSAR Dispatchers Needed

Persons needed for 2-4 days a month. After training, you will work as an ABSAR emergency phone dispatcher. Position includes: relaying information to senior ABSAR volunteers, medical and/or SAR coordinators, and to offer general information on medical providers.

Medical Data

Medical Cases	150
Miscellaneous Walk-Ins	555
Emergency Response Calls.....	51
Search and Rescue Assists	8
Rescue Boat Launches	7
Emergency Beacon	0
Regattas/Events Supported	7
Blood Donor Requests	9

Donor Data

Corporate Sponsors	13
Platinum Member Donors	12
Gold Member Donors	34
Silver Member Donors	32
Bronze Member Donors	20

With an annual budget of over \$100,000.00 USD, our corporate sponsors and membership donors have assisted ABSAR in continuing to provide search and rescue assistance to our community

2023 YEARLY DATA

Antigua Charter Yacht Show	Dec 4-9
World's Toughest Row	Dec 12
Jolyon Byerley Series	Dec 16-17
Nelson's Dockyard Christmas Day Party	Dec 25
Boxing Day Barrel	Dec 26
Nelson's Pursuit Race	Dec 31
Oyster World Rally.....	Jan 14
Antigua Yacht Club Round the Island Race.....	Jan 20
Jolly Harbour Valentine's Regatta	Jan 9-11
RORC Inshore Races / Antigua 360	Feb 13-16
RORC Caribbean 600	Feb 19-23
Superyacht Challenge Antigua.....	Mar 11-17
Antigua Yacht Club Annual Laser Open	Mar 23-24
Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta	Apr 17-22
Peter and May Round Antigua Race.....	Apr 27
Antigua Sailing Week	Apr 28 - May 3
Dockyard Day.....	May 4
AB Sportfishing Tournament	May 16-19
Mike Pigott Jr. Memorial Classic	May 17

2023 - 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

About ABSAR A.B.S.A.R. is a registered non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1998. Our organization is on call to assist with medical emergencies, marine and aerial search and rescues, as well as with marine based fires. Our two rescue RIBs, located in both English and Jolly Harbours, can be launched within minutes in the event of a callout and our Medic Station in English Harbour is open five days a week to offer medical assistance to the local community. Our organization is run by a group of dedicated volunteers and is funded through donations, corporate Sponsors and our annual membership program. Copies of our Antigua registration and our latest financial report may be obtained from our office.

Directors: Jonathan Cornelius, Carol Archer, Marco Bava, Richard Fear and Dave Martin