



# A.B.S.A.R.

Antigua & Barbuda Search and Rescue  
Antigua Yacht Club Marina – Falmouth Harbour  
E-mail: [info@absar.org](mailto:info@absar.org) Website: [www.absar.org](http://www.absar.org)  
Medic Station Phone: (268) 720-3992 VHF: Channel 16  
Emergency Phone ONLY: (268) 562-1234

## May 2022 Newsletter

### LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reflecting on ABSAR's first twenty five years, we cannot forget those who helped establish ABSAR and thank those who continue to ensure its success. First and foremost we want to thank our volunteers who are the cornerstone of our organization. They continue to sacrifice time away from their families and careers to ensure the safety of others. Words can never express our gratitude to them.

ABSAR would also like to say thank you to Michael Kirk who has been a volunteer with ABSAR since 2104 and has served as a member of our Board of Directors since 2020. We greatly appreciate his contributions over the years and although he will be leaving our board, we look forward to his continuing serve with us a valuable volunteer. Thank you Michael for your dedication and commitment to ABSAR.

ABSAR maintains a state of readiness of its rescue boats, vehicles and associated equipment. This is a time consuming and expensive undertaking. Because ABSAR receives no government funding and relies entirely on donations for our existence, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors and our annual members.

We consider it a privilege and an honor to serve our community and are grateful to all our volunteers for their sacrifice, and to our members and corporate sponsors for their continued financial support. Your generosity makes it possible for ABSAR to continue its mission..... "So that Others may Live". Thank you for everything.

**ABSAR Board of Directors**

### ANTIGUA REGATTAS RETURNED TO THE ISLAND

The regattas were a welcome sight back to Antigua after what had been a difficult two years and ABSAR volunteers were ready to meet the challenge. This was the first season with our new Jolly Harbour volunteers and both crews were ready to work as a cohesive team to ensure safety on the water and first aid in the medic station. To keep our crew in tip top shape, two of our restaurant supporters, Cloggy's and Catherine's Café, provided volunteers with delicious sandwiches daily and our team leaders held daily debriefings at the close of each race so crew could reflect on the day's events and offer feedback for improvements.

The season kicked off with the RORC and its seventy-four competitors. This event was followed by the ever popular Super Yacht Challenge with Antigua Classics and their thirty-four vessels following next. Lastly was Antigua Sailing Week.... our largest regatta of the season. This week long event, which had a total eighty-eight vessels competing, kept our two ABSAR rescue boat crew busy all day, and although the regattas were exciting, after one fatality during a practice run in the Super Yacht Challenge, everyone was sadly reminded that ABSAR's mission to ensure safety in the waters of Antigua and Barbuda is vital to a our marine community.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF A.B.S.A.R. (ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SEARCH AND RESCUE)

The creation of Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue (ABSAR) occurred as a result of an unsuccessful search and rescue in June, 1997. Antigua Olympian Inigo Ross and international triathlete and adventurer Dina Bilbao were sailing a Hobie Cat from Grenada back to Antigua when they experienced equipment failure in between St Vincent and St Lucia. They were able to call 911 on their cell phone and a maritime search was initiated that afternoon. After four days, the search was called off and all assets returned to base.

After this very disappointing search and a long flight back to Antigua, pilot, Julie Harvey came to the realization that a proper search and rescue organization was much needed, and she decided to pursue this idea. She found there was a great deal of community support for this project. Funds were raised and meetings held to begin organizing the considerable number of interested volunteers who utilized their substantial maritime and aerial assets positioned here in Antigua. Lawyer, John Fuller, agreed to take on all of the legal aspects of the organization, while doctor Nick Fuller and others donated a dinghy and engine to be used for our first raffle to raise funds.

One of the most dedicated volunteers during ABSAR's first year was paramedic, Jonathan Cornelius. Jonathan had been instrumental in creating the Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Medical Services department. He also had initiated the on-the-water presence of medical personnel during Antigua Sailing Week and the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. When Julie decided to return to the United States to continue her education in 2000, she turned the operations of ABSAR over to Jonathan to continue ABSAR's development. Although in the United States since 2020, Jonathan Cornelius is still an integral part of ABSAR, serving on the Board of Directors, offering ABSAR volunteers remote training sessions and serving as crew for regattas when able.

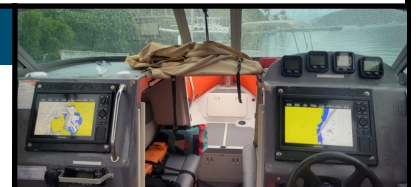
### ABSAR Timeline:

- 1997 Unsuccessful search and rescue leading to ABSAR's creation
- 1998 Legal documentation created and ABSAR holds its first fundraiser
- 2000 Jonathan Cornelius takes over leadership of the organization
- 2003 Alex Portman donates ABSAR's first rescue vehicle, our 27' Revenger RIB (R1)
- 2006 Carlo Falcone offers discounted rent for our current Medic Station/office
- 2008 Private donation of our modified Land Rover Discovery ambulance vehicle (ERV)
- 2010 Antigua Yacht Club offers space for our current storage shed
- 2012 Through numerous donors, we acquired our 28' Protector RIB (R2) after the London Olympics
- 2013 North Sound Marina offers space to base R1 for operations on the north side and around Barbuda
- 2015 Premier Motors and others donate our Fire Rescue Vehicle (FRV)
- 2016 Mill Reef Fund donates our second Land Rover response vehicle (PRV)
- 2017 Jumby Bay Fund agrees to donate funds to cover all of our fuel expenses on an annual basis.
- 2017 ABSAR coordinates over US\$492,000.00 in donations for hurricane relief efforts for Barbuda and Dominica.
- 2021 ABSAR opens its new Jolly Harbour base and welcomes a team of new volunteers
- 2021 Mill Reef donates fund for brand new navigational equipment for both rescue boats.
- 2022 R1 was relocated to our new Jolly Harbour base.

### CONTINUED TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS



ABSAR volunteers have continued their training both on the water and in the classroom with man-over-board, rescue boat coxswain training and ZOOM sessions. As well as training in house, our ABSAR volunteers have been able to participate in outside training opportunities. Several volunteers took courses at the American University of Antigua in Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS). These volunteers were able to receive their certification of completion once they passed the written and practical exams. Several volunteers were offered additional courses at OnDeck which included an STCW and Power Boat Level 2 training. Thank you to Steff and his team at OnDeck for donating these courses to our volunteers.



#### Thank You Mill Reef Fund

They funded our new navigational equipment for Rescue 1 and 2.

This equipment included:

- 4 Garmin Navigational Displays
- 1 Garmin Radar
- 2 Live Scope Transducers
- 2 Garmin Base Radios
- 2 Garmin AIS Transceivers

# A LOOK AT OUR PAST AND PRESENT



## 2022 ABSAR CORPORATE SPONSORS



We are excited to welcome several new corporate sponsors this year and look forward to working with them in conjunction with our long standing sponsors. As we celebrate our 25th year of service we again want to thank the businesses and organizations that have made it possible for ABSAR to continue to serve our community with search and rescue and first responder capabilities. The equipment we have purchased over the past years with sponsor funding has include a paramedic response vehicle, a thermal imaging viewer for night rescues, a new lift and tubing for our rescue boats, updated navigational equipment, and a permanent first aid station serving nationals and tourists alike. Without the funding from our incredible sponsors these items, as well as the services we offer, would be impossible. So as we thank our past sponsors we are privileged to have these businesses in 2022.

### ABSAR UPDATE IN SERVICES

- Please remember that our emergency phone is manned by volunteers who give freely of their time. You should call this number only if you have a Search and Rescue or Life Threatening Emergency. All other calls concerning accidents or inquiries should go to our Medic Station during normal office hours.
- Medic Station Office Hours 9am - 5pm Monday thru Friday (seasonal hours may vary)
- If your accident is after office hours please call the Emergency Phone and a volunteer will direct you to the nearest medical facility or doctor or ask you to visit the Medic Station the following day.
- As we do not have a medical doctor on staff, ABSAR cannot provide prescription medications or refill existing prescriptions. Please visit the Dockyard Pharmacy for your prescription needs.



### ABSAR

Antigua & Barbuda Search and Rescue



**Mission:** Antigua & Barbuda Search and Rescue is a team of skilled volunteers dedicated to providing free search and rescue services as well as first responder services to our local community.

**Motto:** So That Others May Live

**Vision:** Continue to improve our services and technical skills - set and build meaningful partnerships with our maritime community

**Values:** What we expect of ourselves and our team of volunteers:

- **Service to Others:** Serve our local community by helping those in need
- **Integrity:** Be honest - treat others with respect and serve with honor
- **Personal and Professional Excellence:** Continue to better ourselves and our skills for our team and those we serve
- **Sense of Team:** A passion to succeed together - we trust each other to make the right decisions and are committed to work as a team
- **Effective Communication:** Communication is key to a successful team - we value open lines of communication with each other and the community and appreciate appropriate feedback

### 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A&B Sport Fishing Tournament .....	June 2-5
Francis Nunes Jr Fishing Tournament ...	September 24
Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Race .....	December 12
Nelson's Pursuit Race .....	December 26

### 2022 STATISTICS TO DATE

Medical Cases .....	85
Miscellaneous Walk-Ins .....	210
Emergency Response Vehicle Calls .....	24
Search and Rescue Assists .....	9
Rescue Boat Launches .....	6
Regattas/Events Supported .....	6

### TO OUR ABSAR BLOOD DONORS



Your continued commitment to be being a donor saves lives. Join our donor team by visiting your local lab to request your blood type, then call ABSAR to get on our donor list. Another person's life may depend on it.

### BECOME A MEMBER



Congratulations to Edward Beckley from the United Kingdom for being the first ABSAR Membership Donor for 2022.

**About A.B.S.A.R.** A.B.S.A.R. is a registered non-profit organization that has been in existences since 1998. Our organization is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready to assist with medical emergencies, marine and aerial search and rescues, as well as with marine based fires. We have a base at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina in Falmouth Harbour and our medic station is open 5 days a week. Our ambulance is used to transport patients to the hospital and to various doctors on island. Our two Rescue RIBs can be launched within minutes in the event of a callout. Our organization is run by a group of dedicated volunteers. ABSAR is funded through donations and through their annual membership program. Copies of our Antigua registration and our latest financial report may be obtained from our office.

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