

Jolly Harbour Yacht Club Newsletter # 6 of 2015 05/04/2015

ExecCom. Your Commodore **Grahame Williams** is pleased to announce that the Executive Committee of the Club has been expanded by the addition of **John King** as Budget Director, and **Sally Davies** as Social Secretary.

Valentine's Regatta 2016 Organisation. At the ExecCom meeting on Friday 3 April much time was spent on ways to improve the already brilliant Valentines Regatta. Suggestions include the addition of an extra day of racing, prizes for each day of racing so that those who cannot for one reason or another do the whole Regatta still have a chance at some silverware, and a passage /pursuit race day perhaps round Redonda and back for the larger yachts, and a shorter passage race for the smaller/slower yachts. All boat owners in Antigua and neighbouring islands are to be canvassed by Regatta Director Rear Commodore **Gordon Cossar** (gordoncossar8@gmail.com) on what they would most like to see in both the shoreside and on the water organization. Feb 2016 seems far distant but with the increasing numbers of Regattas throughout the Caribbean, posters, publicity, sponsors and entertainers have to be organized well in advance.

Let us have your suggestions asap to jollycommodore1@gmail.com .

Annual JHYC Club Regatta. Provisionally scheduled for the weekend 21/22 November 2015, we will welcome all Antigua and visiting yachts to this friendly event. As in previous years, Registration will be on the Friday, there will be three races on each of the next two days. We will trial the "Day Prize" concept as well as overall regatta prizes. Racing will be under CSA, but we may have a Club class for unrated yachts ("why should I pay a lot of money for a rating in order to sail a couple of days") with its own prizes, to encourage the occasional racer to join in.

Saturday Sailing. We are the only Club in the Caribbean which offers a form of competitive sailing every week of the year. It is our signature activity, and will continue during the Summer, organized by Vice Commodore **JoAnn Redick** and her faithful band of helpers. Plans are for a single start at 1405 each Saturday from the club line, all boats to sail the course to be posted at the start line. Entry will be EC\$20 per yacht, Rum Rations to the winners! Results will be calculated on CSA and on Club handicap for those without a CSA Rating. *More below.*

The intention of Saturday Sailing has always been to encourage boat owners to improve their sailing skills. Aggressive sailing is discouraged. We want to see cruisers, live-aboards, and fun boats on the courses we set. Downwind starts in the harbour reduce the risk of contacts, the marvelous sailing waters of Five Islands Bay give every opportunity for exciting sailing with enough marks to be rounded to keep a whole crew, or a husband and wife team, busy for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon. And the subsequent socializing in the West Point Marina Bar (Home of the Jolly Harbour Yacht Club) makes the effort worthwhile! *More below!*

Winter Series. Within the regular Saturday Sailing some days are designated as races for the Winter Series. This winter, nine races were completed, two discards were allowed. **Blue Peter** (Tanner Jones) won the Division 1 CSA handicap, **Elethea** (Rick Gormley) gained the Club handicap prize, and **Yesss** (Budgie Burge) won both on CSA and Club handicaps in Div 2.

Social activities. The Treasure Hunt/Car Rally/Beach BBQ on Sunday 8 March saw fourteen cars and golf carts with over 40 passengers careering all over Jolly Harbour and neighbouring Tranquillity Bay Apartments/Jolly Beach Hotel in search of obscure clues devised by **Budgie's** devious mind. In a close finish, **Sailability Bob** won by one point the Annual Car Rally Trophy and a dinner for two donated by **Melinis** restaurant. Over **EC\$1300** was raised for **Yacht Club Charities**.

A South Finger barbecue with beach games and wonderful salads organized and provided by Social Secretary **Sally Davies** was well attended and much enjoyed on a beautiful Antigua afternoon of sunshine and cool breeze on Sunday last - it is amazing how the rules of volleyball have changed since I was young enough to play!

The Club barbecue, as a result of honesty box payments and contributions from the various events at which it has featured (Barbuda, Green Island, Carlisle Bay, several South Beach events) has now paid for itself and is now a revenue earner for the Club. A bag of charcoal and some starter fuel is all that is needed to provide cooking for seventy or more people (if patient!) The (dismantleable) BBQ can be hired for private parties, contact Budgie on budgie.burge@gmail.com for more info.

Commodore's Comments. GW writes: *"Well the winter season is coming to close and a number of members will be returning to different locations.*

But I think they will be thinking what a glorious season we have had in Antigua. The Club has grown in stature and strength and has had the best season in terms of regattas and a wonderful social programme. I would like to thank all the executive and supporting members for their hard work and dedication in making the Jolly Harbour Yavht Club the place to be in the Caribbean."

Budgie's Burlblings. "I'm a cruiser, not a racer". "I'm not insured for racing". "My boat is too heavy". "I don't want to risk any damage". "The same people always win so why bother?" "I can't get any crew". "I don't know the courses". "What are the rules?"

How many times have you heard the above, or variations, at the bar?

Most of the JHYC yachts that sail in Saturday Sailing would be described as cruisers, with facilities which would allow extended live-aboard periods (yes, even little **Yesss!**). Not everyone has racing risks additions to their insurances (how many are insured at all?). Heavy? **Yesss** carries sixty feet of chain! No-one wants to see damage to their own or other people's boats, a careful lookout and early evasive action makes damaging collisions unheard-of in Saturday Sailing. The real racing boats are heavily handicapped, a quick look at the results on the Club notice board shows the spread of winners. A better and more progressive Club Handicap System to run alongside the CSA handicap to maybe accommodate unrated boats will be worked out this Summer and published for Members' comments.

A Crew Register is a priority for your ExecCom, and will be instituted as soon as the winter season starts in October. In the meantime, how about going to Club Nights on Thursdays at West Point Bar (Home of the JHYC etc etc) and putting up a notice (to say you are looking for crew, or are available to crew?) or just shouting loudly?

The courses are on the Club Website www.JHYCantigua.com. Communication is on VHF CH12 to the Race officer in the half hour or so before the start at 1405.

The rules? Find them on the Web, or ask **Rick the Skip!**

Fair winds! **Budgie**