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# C M P A S S

JANUARY 2019 NO. 280

The Caribbean's Monthly Look at Sea & Shore

## Women's Match Racing in St. Thomas

*See Regatta News on page 11*



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The Caribbean's Monthly Look at Sea & Shore

[www.caribbeancompass.com](http://www.caribbeancompass.com)

JANUARY 2019 • NUMBER 280



DEAN BARNES

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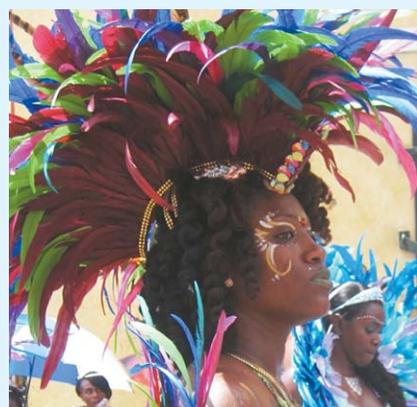
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GABY EMAN

## Of Course

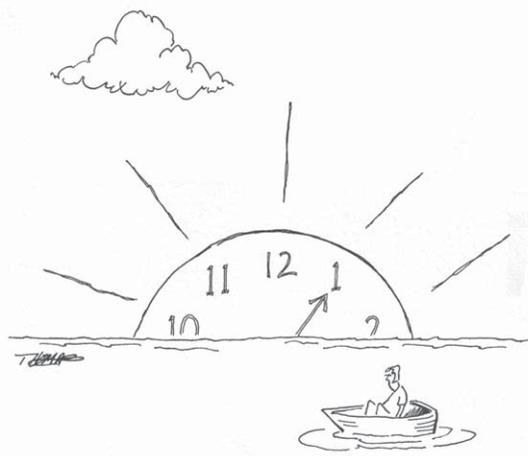
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On the cover: Swedish sailors Louise Wistrand, Emelie Byström and Päivi Sipilä, with JeNisha Herbert, a 7th grader at the Addelita Cancryne School, St. Thomas. On the Saturday of the WIM Series, students in the USVI's non-profit Marine Vocational Program sail with the match racers. Photo by Dean Barnes



Compass covers the Caribbean! From Cuba to Trinidad, from Panama to Barbuda, we've got the news and views that sailors can use. We're the Caribbean's monthly look at sea and shore.

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# Info & Updates

## Gone Cruising!

Donald Stollmeyer, long-time CEO of Power Boat Mutual Facilities Ltd. marina and boatyard in Chaguaramas, Trinidad, and his wife, Tessa, finally followed in the footsteps of so many of their clients and, on November 24th, cast off on the first leg of an extended westbound cruise.

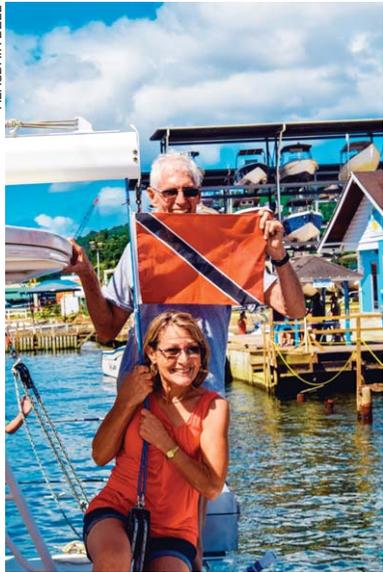
Don was a pioneer of Trinidad's yacht-service industry, having also served as chairman of the Trinidad & Tobago Government-appointed Yacht Services Committee, designed to oversee the national development of the yachting industry, and on the board of directors of the Yacht Services Association of Trinidad & Tobago.

The Stollmeyers' boat is the Trinidad-built 43-foot catamaran *Ballerina Girl*, which the family has cruised and raced in the Windward Islands and sailed as far as Guyana. Don and Tessa plan to call at the ABCs; Santa Marta, Colombia; and the San Blas islands before passing through the Panama Canal.

Don says, "This voyage (now ain't that a wonderful word?) has been a dream since Tessa and I met so many years ago and to think it is now really happening — WOW! When I was building *Ballerina Girl*, I kept the voyage in the back of my mind so I built her strongly but as light as possible and over the

past six years, with many trips to the Grenadines she's proven to be a very good sailing boat. During the past three months I've extensively refurbished her and I believe she is once again in great shape and ready for the type of weather we expect."

While Don and Tessa will be missed, they have left Trinidad's yachting sector quite a different place than when Don joined Power Boats almost four decades ago, and we wish them fair winds as they now take their turn to live the cruising dream.



ALASDAIR BELL

## Classic Boat Skipper Missing

Roy Broughton, owner of the classic yacht *Guiding Light*, and also of the more modern yacht *Apollo*, was last seen at around 10:00PM on November 15th, 2018, leaving Rodney Bay Marina, St. Lucia. He reportedly boarded his seven-foot wooden dinghy and headed to his yacht at anchor in the outer bay.

Police received a report on November 19th that the 72-year-old Englishman was missing. According to a report in the *St. Lucia Star* newspaper, both *Guiding Light* and *Apollo* were searched by police but no blood or signs of distress were found. Despite local maritime searches and numerous posts on social media asking vessels in the area to keep a watch for him, as of early December Roy hasn't been seen or heard from.

*Guiding Light*, a 1936 Gauntlet Class 12-ton cutter, has reportedly been taken into the care of St. Lucia's Marine Police at their base at Vigie until Roy's family members can take over.

Anyone with any information about Roy Broughton's whereabouts is asked to contact the St. Lucia Coastguard or the UK Foreign Office, or leave a message at <https://yachtguidinglight.blogspot.com>.



## ASA Helps Hands Across the Sea

The American Sailing Association (ASA) raised US\$41,379 in its most recent fundraising campaign to benefit Hands Across the Sea, a nonprofit organization working to raise literacy levels of children across the Eastern Caribbean.

Throughout September and October 2018, a one-minute video about Hands Across the Sea was available on ASA's website, and viewers were given the option to donate. Each donor was entered into the sweepstakes for a chance to win the grand prize of a weeklong sailing charter in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, courtesy of Horizon Yacht Charters, as well as chances to win a weeklong vacation at The Verandah Resort & Spa in Antigua or the St. James's Club Morgan Bay Resort & Spa in St. Lucia, courtesy of Elite Island Resorts.

Hands Across the Sea, to date, has raised funds to provide more than 464,000 books to 400-plus schools and libraries in the Eastern Caribbean. More than 100,000 students have benefited from the support of generous sailors and other donors.

"The Caribbean and its people are extremely important to us at the American Sailing Association," said Lenny Shabes, ASA's founder. "The majority of our members express an interest in sailing the waters that surround the islands that benefit from the work of Hands Across the Sea. Thus, it is our responsibility to help."

—Continued on next page

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\* Dacron and HydraNet only

—Continued from previous page

Hands Across the Sea, since its founding by cruisers Harriet and Tom Linskey 11 years ago, has expanded its services to also providing teacher professional development and student librarian training to Eastern Caribbean schools.

ASA has been the leader in US sailing education for 35 years and has grown to include an international network of more than 350 professionally accredited sailing schools. More than one million certifications have been awarded to 500,000-plus people who have been introduced to sailing through ASA schools, clubs and programs since 1983.

Visit [www.handsacrosstheocean.net](http://www.handsacrosstheocean.net) for more information about Hands Across the Sea.

Visit <https://asa.com> for more information about the American Sailing Association.

#### SSB Coconut Telegraph, New Frequency

The SSB (Single Side Band radio) Coconut Telegraph will move from 8170 to 8164 on December 5th. The Net serves all cruisers in the entire Caribbean Basin and can reach Florida, the Bahamas and Panama. Its main objective is to share active cruiser information in real time and be a means to communicate among cruisers.

It is a controlled net, and all are invited to join in — no need to be a member of any sailing or cruising organization. The Net operates in two parts, starting at 8:00AM-AST (-4GMT). The first part operates on 4.060 MHz and covers the Eastern Caribbean island chain. At approximately 8:10 it switches to 8.164 MHz to reach out to the western Caribbean, Bahamas and Florida. The net will operate six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

The use of split frequencies is due to the propagation conditions in this low sunspot activity period. Cruisers can call in on either frequency and wait to be recognized by Net Control. At this time, most Net Controllers will be the Eastern Caribbean area and so 4.060 would be the best frequency to call in. If you are in the Eastern Caribbean but hearing nothing, go to 8.164 MHz and try again.

#### Broadway to Bequia Theater Festival

From January 10th through 13th, John and Christine Burstein are presenting the Broadway to Bequia Theater Festival, which includes four award-winning plays featuring Equity actors. All profits will be donated to help provide the school children of Bequia with books and supplies.

"Darrow", January 10th: Originally performed on Broadway with Henry Fonda, it received an Emmy Award for best playwriting.

"Outside Mullingar", January 11th: This is a romantic comedy written by the author of "Moonstruck" and "Doubt" and was a Tony nominee for best play.

"Gutenberg! the Musical", January 12th: Who knew a musical about the inventor of the printing press could have so many laughs? A brilliant comedy.

"Art of Murder", January 13th: This play by Joe DiPetro was an Edgar award winner for best mystery play.

The performances will be held upstairs at the Gingerbread; seating is very limited, so book early.

Visit [www.BroadwaytoBequia.com](http://www.BroadwaytoBequia.com) for more information or to purchase tickets online. Tickets can also be purchased at Maranne's Ice Cream at the Gingerbread.

Check out the Broadway to Bequia Theater Festival on Facebook at Broadway to Bequia Theater Festival.

#### Ham Radio Testing in St Croix

Sarah Bucknell reports: We will be offering ham radio testing at noon at the Deep End Restaurant on February 23rd for those wanting to upgrade or acquire a new license. Transportation will be available. Reservations are required.

Contact Sarah at [djarrka@gmail.com](mailto:djarrka@gmail.com) for more information and reservations.

#### SSCA Gam in Dominica



ANN SMITH

Joan Conover reports: The following events in Dominica are open to Seven Seas Cruising Association (SSCA) members and non-member cruisers alike. If you are not a member, come and let us show you why you should be a part of our cruising family!

Registration will be on February 23rd and 24th from 10:00AM to 3:00PM at Smithy's, in Portsmouth. Smithy's is the bright yellow three-storey building at the head of Prince Rupert's Bay, on the east side. There is a new dinghy dock across the road, and the PAYS dock and facility is slightly to the north.

February 25th will see the Official Opening and Expo, at Smithy's, 11:00AM to 4:00PM. You'll be welcomed by Seven Seas Cruising Hosts Antoinette and Jeff Smith, and Government officials. Come see what the local businesses have to offer, with prizes and giveaways.

February 26th will feature a hike to the Emerald Pool, with lunch. February 27th is all about 'Rum and Rotis'. On the 28th, get to know each other at a Pot Luck. March 1st is Fish Friday.

During the morning of March 2nd, let's build a playground for St. John's Primary School! Their playground was destroyed during Hurricane Maria. (To get an idea of what you might donate, contact [growthtiger@gmn-net.com](mailto:growthtiger@gmn-net.com) or [annjeffsmith@gmail.com](mailto:annjeffsmith@gmail.com).) In the evening, unwind with a local Bar Hop.

—Continued on next page

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Finally, on March 3rd we bring the curtain down with a Texas-style Hoe Down. Various barbecue dishes, beers and cocktails will be served. There will be line dancing and live music with Julian Riviere - The Caribbean Cowboy.

Contact [growthtiger@gmn-net.com](mailto:growthtiger@gmn-net.com) or [annjeffsmith@gmail.com](mailto:annjeffsmith@gmail.com) for more information.

**Pacific Puddle Jump Seminar in Panama**

Andy Turpin reports: the Pacific Puddle Jump is a loosely formed rally of international cruisers that leaves from many ports along the West Coast of the Americas every year between February and May.

On March 1st there will be a South Pacific Bon Voyage Seminar at Shelter Bay Marina, Panama, from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. This is a free event open to Pacific Puddle Jumpers and all sailors who intend to cross the Pacific to French Polynesia and beyond. Seminars are hosted by Shelter Bay Marina in association with the South Pacific Sailing Association.

Contact [contact@southpacificsailing.org](mailto:contact@southpacificsailing.org) for more information and to reserve a place.

**Yachtie Appreciation Week in Dominica**

Hank Schmitt reports: The Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services (PAYS) listened to yachties from the Salty Dawg Rally and others who had trouble getting to Portsmouth, Dominica in time for Yachtie Appreciation Week in February last year; February is still a windy month. Therefore, the new dates for 2019 are from March 10th through 17th.

This will be the fourth annual Yachtie Appreciation Week, and it celebrates the completion of the new mooring field in Portsmouth. All 30 new moorings will be in place and will be free on a first come, first served basis, starting March 10th. I was able to get a friend who works for a shipping company to donate a 600-foot spool of line, 60 thimbles and some shackles to help finish the installation of the 30 Gillman Corporation moorings that we sent down late last season and that did not get installed at that time. This will be the first year the mooring field will be complete. I even gave them one of my gallons of bottom paint that I bought for my boat, so the mooring buoys in Portsmouth Dominica are painted the same color as the bottom of my boat: Seahawk Dark Blue!

Besides free moorings there will be discounted tours all week and the Saturday is the free party at Fort Shirley.

In the first year of Yachtie Appreciation Week, 25 boats showed up. The second year there were 102! Last year, hurricanes reduced the number to 72 boats. We expect to have a good turnout this year.

However, PAYS encourages boats to visit all year long and pick up a new mooring at a bargain price of US\$10 per night. The money goes to pay for a security boat to patrol at night. Dominica is a unique island that you'll want to explore. However boatowners and crew don't want to leave their boat if they think there is bad holding ground, the mooring is suspect, or there are security issues. With the new mooring field and security under the PAYS organization, you can feel comfortable taking a tour of the island, planning a dive through the local dive shop, or leaving the boat for the day to walk one of Dominica's many hiking trails.

We hope boats will be visiting Dominica all year long but especially for Yachtie Appreciation Week, March 10th through 17th.

For more information on Yachtie Appreciation Week see ad on page 9.



Yachtie appreciation! Fabien Honoré and Hank Schmitt with the new dive compressor that Hank delivered from the US to Portsmouth, Dominica





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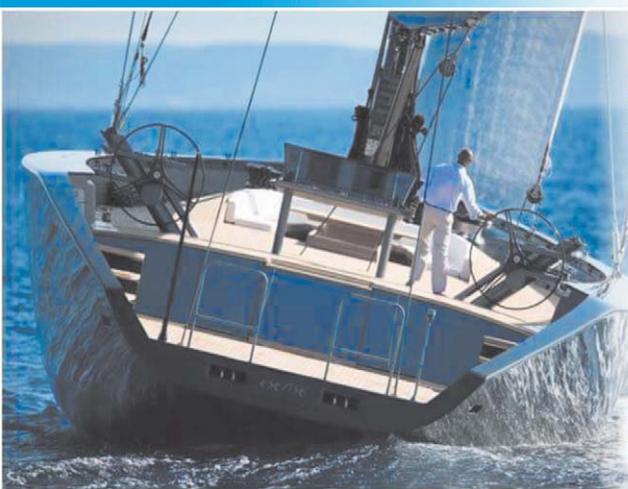


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# BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Nauti Solutions Grenada Update

Want your yacht delivered? Since Nauti Solutions sold its welding shop, Danny Gray has been doing lots of yacht deliveries, as well as mechanical and engineering work. Danny's recent deliveries include an Atlantic crossing to the Med, many to and from Newport, Rhode Island, to and from Florida's east and west coasts, plus Costa Rica with two Panama Canal transits, and many deliveries up and down the island chain. So if you are looking for a captain or crew to return or help you return your yacht back home or to other ports, give Danny a call. Nauti Solutions also offers guardianship on moorings in Prickly Bay, Grenada if you are leaving your yacht for the hurricane season. Contact Nauti Solutions on (473) 416-7127 or [svmagnum@hotmail.com](mailto:svmagnum@hotmail.com). For more information see ad in Market Place section, pages 42 and 43.

### BVI Charter Yacht Show Draws Increased Fleet

The 2018 BVI Charter Yacht Show, held November 6th through 9th at Nanny Cay on Tortola, attracted 45 boats this year, compared to the 20 that attended in 2017 shortly after Hurricane Irma hit the island. Past shows have boasted as many as 70 yachts. Nearly 120 charter brokers came to the event, many times 2017's attendance. The opening night Business Expo featured 30 local businesses. In addition to "Yacht Hop" boat viewings, the 2018 show also featured a vegan-dish culinary contest, a seminar for brokers, and a boat tour of North Sound. One of the most popular events was "Unveiling the Mysteries of the BVI", a talk by historian Dr. Mitch Kent. Visit [www.crewedyachtsbvi.com/boatshow](http://www.crewedyachtsbvi.com/boatshow) for more information.

### Sea Hawk Participates in Upcoming Caribbean Events

Sea Hawk Paints announces participation in ten major Caribbean boating events in 2019, supporting the sailing communities for participants, spectators and local economies. A long-time champion of Caribbean sailors, Sea Hawk provides boat-owners the highest quality, most pleasurable to use, application-specific solutions for protecting and enhancing the performance of their vessels. Because when it is all said and done, "yachtsmen just want to have fun." Look for Sea Hawk at these major events: Grenada Sailing Week, Jolly Harbour Valentine Regatta, St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, BVI Spring Sailing Regatta, Antigua Sailing Week. For more information on Sea Hawk Paints see ad on page 8.

### Budget Marine Trinidad Donates to Sailing Schools

Nicole Corvellec reports: In response to a request from Betty Suite of the Vessigny Viking Sailing School, Budget Marine Trinidad management was happy to donate two gallons of International antifouling for the yacht *McInvan*, a Pearson 30 that Betty has acquired and that is currently being refurbished at the headquarters of the Trinidad & Tobago Sailing Association (TSTA) at Chaguaramas. The purpose of this project is to provide young dinghy sailors with the opportunity to sail and race a bigger keelboat, as hopefully these young sailors are future boatowners and racing enthusiasts. The gallons of antifouling, together with a selection of Laser and Optimist parts for the repair and maintenance of the racing dinghy fleet, have a total value of TT\$7,000 (more than US\$1,000), and are being given for use at the TSTA and Vessigny sailing schools. Mark Loe, former president of the Trinidad & Tobago Sailing Association and a long-time driving force for youth sailing in T&T, says, "We are really trying to get the enthusiasm for racing sailboats back up, and these donations will certainly help us reach our goal." For more information on Budget Marine see ad on page 2.



### Music + Matchless Menu at Mac's, Bequia

Kevin Carr reports: Mac's Pizza & Kitchen, a waterfront fixture on Bequia for 40 years, will have live music on Saturdays and Mondays throughout the season. In addition to our famous pizza, grilled fish and salads, our Japanese-style seared tuna has become an island favorite along with our great margaritas made from fresh Bequia limes. Kitchen open 11:00AM to 10:00PM daily. Bar till late. Join us for great music and food on the Bequia waterfront! For more information on Mac's Pizza & Kitchen see ad in the Market Place section, pages 42 and 43.



### New Art Centre in Grenada

Susan Mains Gallery at Spiceland Mall in Grenada has been providing an exclamation point of colour in Grenada for the past 17 years. Now, with bigger dreams in tow, Susan and her artist son Asher have undertaken their biggest project yet.

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Art House 473, opened in December 2018, will be a multi-purpose art centre in the village of Calliste. Close to Prickly Bay, it is also just a short taxi ride from the other anchorages and marinas on the island.

Art House 473 will house Susan Mains Gallery, The Sugar Apple Gallery, studio and workshop space. It will be an incubator space for Contemporary Caribbean art, and a point of contact for artists from Grenada to international art events. Small events, like acoustic music concerts and theatre in the round are on the drawing board. Visitors may even like to participate in the creative process — brush in hand.

A self-taught artist, Susan has been painting her love of the Caribbean for more than 35 years, and her work is collected worldwide. In the collections of Queen Elizabeth, the Pope, and President Raul Castro, her work portrays bright Caribbean colors and contrasts, and the traditional way of life that is fast disappearing.

Traditional wooden sailboats and the regattas in Grenada, Carriacou and the Grenadines have been a favourite. One of Susan's local regatta paintings graced the cover of the December 2018 issue of *Compass*

Asher Mains studied art in the United States and Europe for many years before returning to settle in Grenada. He directs Art School Greenz and teaches art at St. George's University. His contemporary, young aesthetic is a breath of fresh air.

Both Susan and Asher have exhibited their work at the Grenada National Pavilion at the Biennale di Venezia. This is the highest achievement an artist can wish for.

Susan Mains Gallery at Spiceland Mall will continue as the boutique gallery, and will be the gateway to Art House 473. That's where you can get a foretaste of the art, and book your appointment. The mall location is open 10:00AM to 5:00PM daily.

For more information about the Susan Mains Gallery see ad in the Market Place section, pages 42 and 43.



#### Ti'Ponton Boating Directory



The 14th edition of this boating directory is now available!

*Ti'Ponton* is the most comprehensive information resource of the boating business in Martinique, Guadeloupe and St. Lucia and is packed with practical information, useful addresses, the right contacts and all the things that help yachtsmen and their crew make the most of their Caribbean cruise.

*Ti'Ponton* is a free publication and can be picked up all year round in Martinique, Guadeloupe and St. Lucia.

#### Wave Upon Wave: History of the ARC

Created to celebrate 30 years of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers, *Wave Upon Wave* — a new book covering the fascinating history of the ARC — is now in print. Included as an appendix is a glossary of all the yachts that took part in the first 30 events, plus a summary of data for each year.

Within 264 pages of the book, you'll read of challenges and achievements, joy and despair, triumph and tragedy, over three decades of transatlantic sailing. How did it all start? Why Las Palmas? Why November? Which boats take part? These are just some of the essential elements of the ARC described in detail.

*Wave Upon Wave* will make a great present for those who have taken part in the ARC, or those contemplating participating in the future.

Visit [http://shop.worldcruising.com/book\\_waveuponwave.html](http://shop.worldcruising.com/book_waveuponwave.html) to order.

#### Floating Trash Collector Available

Seaclean is the sole distributor in the Caribbean of the new floating trash collector, Dauphin.

The Dauphin is built in France by Espace Urbain and floats on Candock, the leading manufacturer of modular pontoons.

Contact [clean.ocean.trading@gmail.com](mailto:clean.ocean.trading@gmail.com) for more information.

#### New Boat Service in Haiti

Reinhilde van der Kroef reports: Since 2013 I have been connected to Ile-à-Vache, on the southwest coast of Haiti. At first sight I fell in love with the people and the place, and I have stayed connected ever since.

It is one of the only safe places in Haiti for cruisers, since a part of the population depends on them, so the inhabitants will protect the cruisers to promote their bay as a safe destination.

We are now able to announce a new service for cruisers that will help you to make your stay in Ile-à-Vache even more comfortable.



The St. Firmin family house is on the beach in Kay-Kok directly next to the old (ruined) church. To make your preparations easy you can contact them by e-mail or WhatsApp, to ask everything you want to know in advance, and to help you during your stay with everything you might need.

Edisson St. Firmin speaks and writes fluent English and French. He helps you to get good quality veggies and fruits for reasonable prices, delivers diesel on demand, can provide you with a Digicel SIM card and change money, plus he can do all cleaning and polishing jobs on your boat. He or his brother can guide you to the weekly market and to the city of Les Cayes on the mainland. Their mother and sisters are ready to serve you a traditional Haitian dinner. The family also offers a guarded dinghy landing on the beach for only US\$1 per day.

Edisson and his family are waiting to welcome you and to make your stay at Ile-à-Vache an unforgettable experience.

Contact Edisson St. Firmin, tel/WhatsApp (509) 48226358,

or e-mail [stfirmin\\_e@yahoo.com](mailto:stfirmin_e@yahoo.com)

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### EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Welcome Barbecue and Rum Punch
- Sporting activities: soccer and cricket
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- Lion Fish cookout
- President's dinner at the Fort
- Experience Dominica's hot natural sulphur springs.



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**Contact Hank Schmitt at [offshorepassage@sprintmail.com](mailto:offshorepassage@sprintmail.com) to learn more**

Nearly 60 multihulls, monohulls and motoryachts lined the docks at IGY's Yacht Haven Grande on St. Thomas for the USVI Charter Yacht Show, held November 10th through 13th, 2018, and hosted by the VI Professional Charter Association (VIPCA). Over a hundred brokers from the Caribbean, US and Europe toured the boats in the fleet, which ranged from 45 to 111 feet in length. This made the 2018 show the largest in well over two decades in terms of the number of yachts showing, brokers in attendance and yacht size combined. This striking fact shows that the US territory's charter industry is booming. The boutique nature of the industry, the USVI's attractive cruising grounds and the territory's public and private sector investments all play a role in assuring the success of the marine tourism industry.

"Marine tourism is on the increase in the US Virgin Islands," says Joyce Dore-Griffin, assistant commissioner of the Department of Tourism. "We are proud to have crewed yacht charters as part of our accommodations segment and the Department of Tourism is delighted to partner with the industry in promoting our spectacular cruising grounds."

**A Boutique Industry with Something for Everyone**

The boutique nature of the USVI's crewed charter industry is its prime selling point. Since every yacht has developed its own niche, standards across the board are high.

"What we offer is the experience of a European-style hotel on the sea, with an emphasis on high-quality service," says chef Daniela Drescher. She and Capt. Bernd Forstner are medical doctors from Austria who sold their flotilla of sailboats, purchased a brand-new Lagoon 52 they named *Shangri La*, and sailed from Bordeaux, France to the Caribbean in 2016. Starting this season, the couple will offer an optional health-and-wellness program that spans everything from morning yoga and meditation to healthful meals with culinary instruction and medical monitoring such as blood-pressure checks.

On another tack, captain-only charters are the niche aboard the Lagoon 44 *Altitude Adjustment*, with retired California police sergeant Brian Saupe at the helm and in the kitchen.

"I cater to middle-incomers by chartering at bareboat or captain-only rates, yet I do everything: drive the boat, cook, and tend bar," says Saupe, a lifelong sailor who since childhood dreamed of living and working on a yacht. Now in his fourth charter season, Saupe purchased his current vessel in the aftermath of 2017's Hurricane Irma and subsequently completed 20 weeks of charter from January to June this year.

Multihulls dominated the USVI Charter Yacht Show fleet. However, the opportunity to charter a monohull was represented by *Ocean Star*, a Beneteau Oceanis 60 run by Hugh O'Brien and Ellen Davern.

"Our guests are sailors. They enjoy heeling over and going fast. Let's just say we can make it up to Anegada for lunch while the cats won't arrive there until dinner," says O'Brien, a former yacht racer who underscores that *Ocean Star* isn't without its luxuries such as an icemaker, surround-sound system and multiple paddleboards.

The *Lady Sharon Gale*, a 111-foot Broward that underwent a \$1.5 million refit in the last year, was the largest motoryacht on display. "We're a bit of a dinosaur, as a monohull, as a large percent of the charter fleet today is catamarans, but I think the world needs dinosaurs," says Keith Hyatt, captain of the *Lady Sharon Gale*, which is based in St. Maarten, will relocate to Grenada for the next hurricane season, and spend much of this winter season chartering in the Virgin Islands.

**More of What You Want, Less of What You Don't**

The USVI offers advantages to charter crews and clients alike that aren't found in other destinations.

"It's easy to fly into St. Thomas, plus there are many places to provision, obtain parts and complete repairs," says *Shangri La's* Drescher.

This full-service destination is one reason Jon and Kaitlyn Bellemare have based their 83-foot Prout catamaran, *Blue Gryphon*, in the USVI, specifically at Yacht Haven Grande this season. The couple and their crew cast off from the yard in Belfast, Maine, at the end of October to sail south to be part of the USVI Charter Yacht Show.

Additionally, anchorages in the USVI can be truly virgin.

"Everyone wants to make a beeline to other islands, but that means missing so much in the US Virgins. For example, I had a couple for a five-night charter who wanted seclusion. We went to Magens Bay the first night, then over to St. John's Lameshur, Leinster and Hawksnest Bays, and back to St. Thomas' Frenchman's Bay for the final night. They got their wish. We were the only boat every night in each of these anchorages," says *Altitude Adjustment's* Saupe.

The Spanish Virgin Islands, including Culebra and Vieques, are located a little over 20 miles to the west of St. Thomas. "Unspoiled, uncrowded, natural. These are good

ways to describe the anchorages and beautiful beaches on Puerto Rico's offshore islands," says *Lady Sharon Gale's* Hyatt. VIPCA has been working in partnership with the US Customs & Border Patrol agency to enable approximately 45 of its members, who have applied, to have the freedom to charter with passengers in the Spanish Virgins. The ruling is expected shortly.

**Moorings & Manpower Investments**

Public and private sector partnerships are fueling investments in the USVI's infrastructure that will bolster the marine tourism industry. For one, the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority is working with VIPCA on a proposal for 100 new transient moorings and restoration of another 100 day-charter moorings territory wide. The first 35 of these moorings will be available in 2019. Second is an improvement in Customs facilities. Third, VIPCA's Marine Apprentice on-the-water scholarship program, through the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands' Marine Rebuild Fund, aims to bring more VI captains in the industry, and the My Brother's Workshop marine on-shore program educates VI youths about careers in marine maintenance, repair and fiberglassing.

"This past year there has been a shift, not only in international recognition of this gem of a charter destination, but also in the US Virgin Islands' own recognition of its marine industry and its combination of resiliency, expansion possibilities, and scope for employment. The recent growth spurt in the yacht show represents just that!" says Oriel Blake, executive director of VIPCA.

**Mark Your Calendar for 2019**

The USVI Charter Show is now one of the biggest in the Caribbean. One reason is that the territory currently has some of the strongest infrastructure in the region for charter yachts.

"The infrastructure and facilities at IGY's Yacht Haven Grande are world class," says Dare Blankenhorn, co-founder and director of St. Thomas-based Charter Caribe. "In addition, the current organization and leadership of VIPCA gives a renewed sense of inspiration and motivation."

Said another way, and from a broker standpoint, "This year's show is definitely the best in over a decade," says Trish Cronan, president of the Caribbean Yacht Brokers Association and president of Denaud, Florida-based Ocean Getaways

# USVI CHARTER SHOW LARGEST IN OVER TWO DECADES

by Carol Bareuther

Yacht Charters.

The next USVI Charter Yacht Show will take place November 9th through 13th, 2019. Visit [www.vipca.org](http://www.vipca.org) for more information.



Public and private interests in the USVI have been working hard to build the territory's marine tourism industry, and the turnout at the most recent charter show demonstrated the positive results

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# REGATTA NEWS

## Haiti Sailing Cup Races Postponed

Races for the third edition of the Haiti Sailing Cup Regatta for local fishing boats, scheduled to take place at Cap Haitien, Haiti, from November 14th through 18th, were postponed owing to a nationwide general strike.

Organizer Patrick Beliard tells *Compass*, "We managed to have the Welcome Cocktail Party, and the Parade on the Friday afternoon." The sailboat races are rescheduled to be held this month.



HAITI SAILING CUP

Through the support of sponsors, this annual event provides sails and supplies to local fishermen, who then race their craft. The fishermen benefit by receiving new equipment, and the sponsors benefit by having their logos displayed on the boats' sails as they go about their fishing activities all year long.

Visit <http://haitisailingcup.net> for more information.

## Belgians' Surprise Victory in St. Barth Cata Cup

The fourth and final day of the 11th St. Barth Cata Cup saw a huge upset when the current F18 catamaran world champions, Greek sailors Iordanis Paschalidis and Konstantinos Trigonis — well on their way to a fifth straight race win, and in first place overall — took a marker going in the wrong direction, demoting them to fourth place.



MICHAEL GRAMM/SANT-BARTH CATA-CUP 2018

This error worked to the advantage of Enrique Figueroa and Ruben Booth, winners of the "Marche U" Grand Prize, and especially for Belgians Patrick Demesmaeker and Olivier Gagliani, who shot to the top step of the podium, repeating their 2015

victory. They have now joined Misha Heemskerck and Eduard Zanen in the very small circle of two-time winners for this event.

The Argentinians Pablo Volker and Sergio Mehl were also less than satisfied after this last race, around the island, in which they finished in 11th place, their worst score for the week. "We finished second in four races and really hoped to finish in second place overall. But hey, we'll admit that for a first participation in this event, and in light of the level of the competition, third place isn't so bad!"

Visit [www.stbarthcatacup.com](http://www.stbarthcatacup.com) for more information.

## France's Courtois Wins 2018 WIM Series Finale

Carol Bareuther reports: The 2018 Women's International Match Racing Series (WIM Series) finale was held during the Carlos Aguilar Match Race, in St. Thomas, USVI, from November 29th through December 2nd. Twelve teams — from France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden and the USA — participated.

The event is sailed in IC24s, an adaptation of a J/24. Race officials included the USA's Darcy Cook as Principal Race Officer; Finland's Chief Umpire Mats Bjorklund; and umpires Sweden's Tina Ortendahl; the USA's Kathy Lindgren, Christine Accettella and Charlie Arms; and the USVI's Ruth Miller.



DEAN BARNES

The WIM Series is the first and only professional sailing series for women, hosted by the Women's International Match Racing Association (WIMRA) and joined by the world's leading women match racing sailors.

Maintaining control, rather than having to regain control, is a strategy that earned France's Pauline Courtois and her Match in Pink by Normandy Elite Team of Maëllenn Lemaître, Louise Acker and Sophie Faguet first place at the 2018 WIM Series Finale. This spirit of determination was evident during the first two days of the event, when Courtois's team went nearly undefeated in the round robin right through the last race in the finals when Courtois led the start to triumph 3-1 over Sweden's Anna Östling.

"We won all of our first matches in the round robin except two," say Courtois, whose losses were to round robin winner, Sweden's Johanna Bergqvist and France's Margot Riou. "Both of those were very close matches with just a small mistake. After that, we were determined to put everything we had into the knock-out rounds to win."

In addition to Courtois' championing the WIM Series Finale at the CAMR, her Match in Pink by Normandy Elite team also won this year's five-race WIM Series. This makes Courtois's the only team to win two back-to-back WIM Series titles, in 2017 and now in 2018.

Visit [www.wimseries.com](http://www.wimseries.com) for more information about the Women's International Match Racing Series.

Visit [www.carlosmatchrace.com](http://www.carlosmatchrace.com) for more information about the Carlos Aguilar Match Race.

## Line Honors for Maserati in RORC Transat

On December 1st, 2018 at 06:54:34 UTC, Giovanni Soldini's Italian Multi 70, *Maserati*, was the first boat to cross the line in Grenada, taking multihull line honours in the fifth edition of the RORC Transatlantic Race.

—Continued on next page

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—Continued from previous page

After an Atlantic duel between two mighty trimarans, *Maserati* was closely fol-



ARTHUR DANIEL

lowed by Peter Cunningham's *MOD70, PowerPlay*, which crossed the finish line off Port Louis Marina at 07:40:12.

Visit [rorctransatlantic.rorc.org](http://rorctransatlantic.rorc.org) for full results and more information.

#### ON THE HORIZON

#### The Party Soon Starts: Grenada Sailing Week 2019!

Rosie Hoggarth reports: The countdown is finally over and Grenada Sailing Week will start with a bang with the Island Water World Welcome Party at Camper & Nicholson's Port Louis Marina in St. George's on January 27th.

This will be followed by daily awards, prizes and parties every night presented by each Race Day Sponsor: the Pure Grenada "Welcome to Grenada" Party on January 28th, Secret Harbour Marina's "Pirate Party" on the 29th, various activities on Lay Day January 30th, the Sea Hawk Paint Party on the 31st, and the famous Mount Gay Red Cap Grand Finale Party at Secret Harbour Marina in Mount Hartman Bay on February 1st.

Everyone is welcome; come along and join the fun!

Visit [www.grenadasailingweek.com](http://www.grenadasailingweek.com) for more information.

#### Superyachts Set for Antigua

The ninth edition of the Superyacht Challenge Antigua will take place from January 30th through February 3rd, featuring daily pursuit races held over four days. Designed solely for the pleasure of superyacht owners, their guests and crew, the Superyacht Challenge Antigua is the first superyacht regatta for the 2019 season.

The 148-foot (45-metre) Dubois ketch *Catalina*, formerly *Timoneer*, is the heart and soul of the regatta. The only trophy awarded at the Superyacht Challenge is the Gosnell Trophy, which is the bell of *Timoneer*, donated by the previous owners of the yacht. The Gosnell Trophy is awarded after a vote by the competitors and the race committee, as having competed in the Spirit of the Regatta, both afloat and ashore. The current holder of the Gosnell Trophy is the 112-foot (34-metre) German Frers designed sloop, *Spiip*, which will be back to defend its win in the 2018 Corsairs Class.



WWW.CLAIREMATCHES.COM

The 2017 Buccaneers Class winner returns to the regatta, the 112-foot (34-metre) Sparkman & Stephens sloop *Kawil*.

The 140-foot (42-metre) German Frers ketch *Rebecca* first raced in the Superyacht Challenge Antigua in 2012, taking first place, and this will be her fifth appearance. The 112-foot (34-metre) sloop *Nilaya*, designed by Reichel Pugh, will be taking part in her third Superyacht Challenge Antigua, including a class win in 2016.

Visit [www.superyachtchallengeantigua.com](http://www.superyachtchallengeantigua.com) for more information.

—Continued on next page



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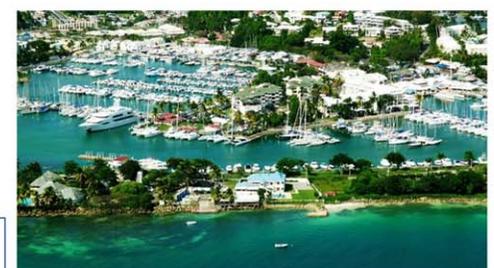
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[www.marinaguadeloupe.com](http://www.marinaguadeloupe.com)



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### New Two-Handed Class for St. Maarten Heineken

This year there will be a new class specifically for boats crewed by two people at the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, running February 28th through March 3rd. Racing Director Paul Miller says, "We are introducing racing tailored for two-handed crews by offering courses with reaching starts on a separate, uncongested start line and incorporating longer legs with fewer mark roundings. This 'mini Fastnet' style racing is better for two-handed crews than the windward-leeward short-course racing enjoyed by fully crewed boats. We are confident that this new addition will appeal to a growing segment of the sailing community."



ST. MAARTEN HEINEKEN REGATTA

Double-handed racing is an opportunity to increase sailing skills that can then be used when racing on fully crewed boats, and a smaller crew means fewer people to manage and fewer logistics to organize. It's also a way to hone skills, as double-handed sailors have to understand what is required in all the different race positions.

Now in its 39th year, the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is run by an experienced and friendly race team. Over the four days, thousands of sailors from 35 countries come to compete in world-class racing, ranging from Olympic medalists and World Champion Maxis to holidaymakers on chartered bareboats and live-aboard families cruising the Caribbean.

Submit entries at <https://regattaguru.com/heineken/100268>

Visit [www.heinekenregatta.com](http://www.heinekenregatta.com) for more information.

### All-Star Committee for Caribbean Multihull Challenge

The inaugural Caribbean Multihull Challenge will take place February 8th through 10th in St. Maarten, organized by the Sint Maarten Yacht Club. Catamarans such as Greg Slyngstad's Paul Bieker designed 53-foot *Fujin* and the 1968-built trimaran *Tryst*, now owned by Appie Stoutenbeek, have registered. Based on more early registrations, look for multiple classes at the starting lines!

As a pure multihull regatta, the racing will be unique. Catering to the strengths of these fast boats, race starts, depending on winds, will be reaches or runs. With multihulls excelling at straight-line speed, courses will avoid focusing on windward-leeward action in favor of long off-the-wind legs. The chairman of the race committee is

Robbie Ferron, the founder of the Heineken regatta and longest-serving president of the Caribbean Sailing Association. International Judge David de Vries — the only Caribbean racing judge to have been invited to serve at two Olympic Games — will chair the Jury. The Principal Race Officer will be Andrew Rapley, who has run all on-the-water components of the Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta.

Yacht Club Port De Plaisance will offer reduced transient and lower seasonal rates for registered racers, as well as a trophy to be presented for the Friday's racing at their party at the SMYC that night. Mount Gay Rum will crown this a 'Red Cap' event and will present their trophy to Saturday's racing winner at their after-race festivities at Buccaneer Beach Bar. HH Catamaran's builder — the Hudson Group — is working to create a special HH event offering a new trophy called the 'Hudson Cup' to be presented to the winner of their own HH division at an after-race party at the SMYC on the Sunday.

During the three-day multihull festival, other sponsors will exhibit new and brokered yachts at the SMYC docks, including multihull brokers and Balance Catamaran builders The Multihull Company.

Bobby's Megayard and yacht-measuring organization Deep Blue Marine are offering a free IMHHR rating based on free weighing of entered boats at Bobby's yard. Weighing is by appointment only on the 2nd and 3rd of February before the Challenge's first gun on the 8th.

Visit [www.smyc.com/caribbean-multihull-challenge](http://www.smyc.com/caribbean-multihull-challenge) for more information.

### Bequia's Easter Regatta Offers Fee Waiver

The annual Bequia Sparrow's Premium Rum Easter Regatta, organized by the Bequia Sailing Club, is slated to run from April 18th to 22nd.

—Continued on next page



CLOUD ISLAND MEDIA

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**Saturday evening:** Silc, NJ30+ with Marius Charlemagne,

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**Sunday:** Kids on Pan, NJ30+ Jam, Infinity with ABC Becket, Rodney Small, Kyron Baptiste,

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[www.bequiamusicfestival.com](http://www.bequiamusicfestival.com)

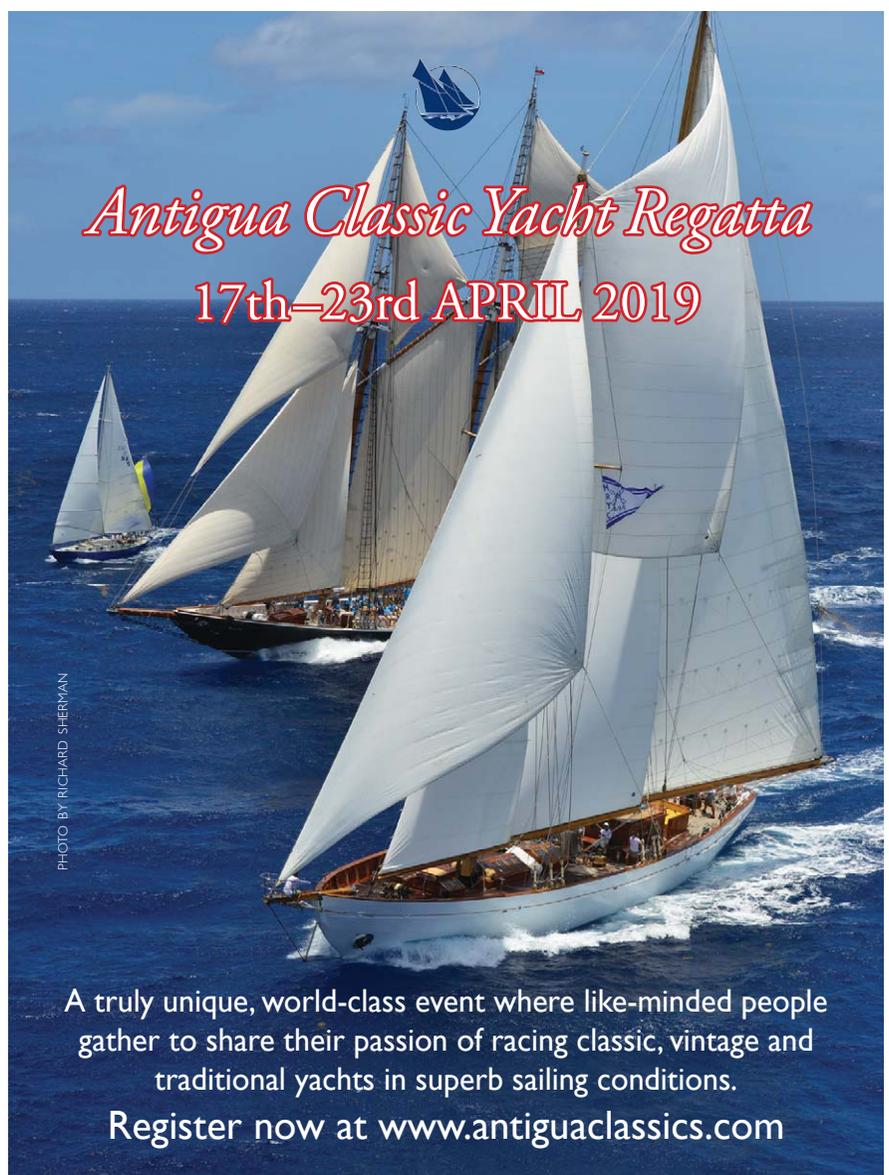


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Register now at [www.antiguaclassics.com](http://www.antiguaclassics.com)

—Continued from previous page

All overseas vessels participating and pre-registering for the regatta will be granted a waiver of Import Duty, Excise Duty, VAT and Customs Service Charge when entering St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Participants must pre-register before midnight on April 11th; instructions and forms for doing so are on the regatta website, [www.bequiaregatta.com](http://www.bequiaregatta.com).

The following classes of yachts are open: J/24, Cruising I, Cruising II, Racing, Surprise, and Windward Sloops.

Bequia Sailing Club reports that, following problems with the scoring system last year, this year's event will use the internationally recognized "Halsail" results system ([www.halsail.com](http://www.halsail.com)). Hal's strength is its ease of use and rapidity in getting results out to competitors. It is widely used for national and international championships, is fully compatible with the Racing Rules of Sailing, and supports the RYA National Handicap Scheme for Cruisers. "Halsail" runs and is accessed on-line but to protect against unexpected internet outages, a separate non-connected Hal results system will also be maintained by the Race Committee.

Visit [www.bequiaregatta.com](http://www.bequiaregatta.com) for more information.

#### Preparing for BVI Spring Regatta

Nanny Cay Resort & Marina has been host sponsor of the BVI Spring Regatta since 2002, and the crew is already working hard to prepare for the 48th edition, to be held March 25th through 31st.

The Regatta Village will boast 100 slips, along with ice, water, power and fuel, and the inner marina is expected to be complete with 200 slips. This will give room for all boats coming to race or for spectators to be part of the event. The Regatta Village will be filled with food vendors, live entertainment each night and, of course, a very large bar.

The Sailing Festival begins with the Round Tortola Race on March 26th, when racers vie for the Nanny Cay Cup and honours in the Nanny Cay Challenge. The Nanny Cay Challenge was launched in 2010 when yachts visiting the BVI were invited to try to beat the latest Round Tortola Records.

The current outright and multihull record of 2 hours, 33 minutes and 40 seconds was set in 2015 by BVI trimaran *Triple Jack*. Stephen and Heidi Benjamin's TP52, *Spookie*, holds the monohull record of 3 hours, 8 minutes & 43 seconds, which they won at the 2016 BVI Spring Regatta.

Record breakers will receive a free dinner for up to 15 crew members and a jeroam of Drappier Champagne at Peg Legs, compliments of Nanny Cay. They will also have their names added to the perpetual trophy, and a \$250 donation made to a BVI charity of their choice.

The BVI Spring Regatta race series will compete from the Friday through the Sunday for the overall awards on March 31st at Nanny Cay.

Visit [BVIspringregatta.org](http://BVIspringregatta.org) for more information.

CHRISTOPHE JOUANY



#### New Entries For Antigua Classics

The Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta 2019 will take place from April 17th through 23rd, welcoming back among the many entries so far the beautiful 67-foot topsail schooner *Marie Des Isles*. Designed by French naval architect and artist Daniel Bombigher and inspired by the American schooners of the 19th century, she was intended as a home for long sea voyages. Built in France 1973, she first took part in the Antigua Classics in 2011 and will participate again this year under new ownership.

Elaine Bunting, editor of *Yachting World* magazine, says, "If you put only one international regatta on your bucket list, make it this one."

For more information on the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta see ad on page 13.

#### IRC Rule for Maxis at Les Voiles de St. Barth

From April 14th through 20th, St. Barth's will host the 10th edition of Les Voiles de St. Barth Richard Mille. New in 2019 will be a switch to the IRC rule for the Maxis and Maxi 72s.

The IRC rule is used in regattas around the world, and Les Voiles de St. Barth will use IRC for the Maxis and Maxi 72s to help create consistency across the circuits.

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—Continued from previous page

The 2019 fleet will be further bolstered by boats that participated in the Route du Rhum, which will be keen to round off their singlehanded transatlantic passages with some crewed races.

Visit [www.lesvoilesdesaintbarth.com](http://www.lesvoilesdesaintbarth.com) for more information.

#### YOUTH SAILING NEWS

#### KPMG to Sponsor ASW Youth to Keel

Leading professional services company KPMG has renewed its commitment to Antigua Sailing Week for 2019. A key part of its 2019 agreement is sponsorship of the Youth to Keel Programme (Y2K), which will be celebrated on the KPMG Race Day on May 2nd. The Youth to Keel Programme allows aspiring youth sailors who have previous dinghy training to gain keelboat experience during Antigua Sailing Week.



Youth team on NSA Spirit during Antigua Sailing Week 2018

ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK

Y2K was piloted during ASW 2018 when 15 Antiguan youths were individually placed aboard keelboats racing across the classes. The Programme provides a structured pathway allowing youth dinghy sailors to gain valuable keelboat experience. In addition, two youth teams raced head-to-head in CSA Class 7, with the Antiguan team winning their class overall.

Antigua Sailing Week is held annually at the end of April and the 52nd edition will commence with the Peters & May Round Antigua Race on April 27th. Following that will be five days of competitive racing, which will wrap up on May 3rd.

Visit [www.sailingweek.com/y2k](http://www.sailingweek.com/y2k) for more information on the Youth to Keel Programme.

Visit [www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com) for more information on Antigua Sailing Week.

#### Antigua to Host World's Largest Youth Sailing Competition

From July 6th through 16th, Antigua & Barbuda will host the 2019 International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) Optimist World Championship, a youth sailing event that will see almost 300 young sailors from over 50 countries compete to win the title of IODA Optimist World Champion. Antigua & Barbuda bid for the 2019 event against China, Sri Lanka and Tunisia, and was awarded it by the members of



An Optimist sailor in action

MATIAS CAPIZZANO

IODA. This is a huge success for such small islands, especially after the devastating effects of the 2017 hurricanes.

An Optimist is a small, single-handed sailing dinghy that is seen as the foundation of sailboat racing training. The Optimist is the biggest youth (eight to 15 years old) racing class in the world. It is also one of the few sports where boys and girls compete equally and with no gender discrimination.

Youth sailing has never been more important as we become more aware of the issues and effects of ocean pollution. Young sailors throughout the world have a raised awareness of ocean conservation and are often active and vocal advocates for reducing plastic pollution.

Antigua is preparing not only for the sailors and their teams but also for the spectators who will bring valuable income to the island in a traditionally quiet period of the year.

Visit [2019worlds.optiworld.org](http://2019worlds.optiworld.org) for more information.

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# SMYC Introduces Primary School Sailing Program

*Youth to Adult — “Y2A” — is a series of articles celebrating sailing’s role in youth development for Caribbean children.*

Max van der Pol did his homework while employed by St. Maarten Yacht Club (SMYC) since 2017, when he first interviewed me and others about youth sailing in the Caribbean. It was actually part of his post-doctorate work. He reached out to find out what was working locally and elsewhere to gain insights into youth sailing in the Eastern Caribbean.

In 2018, SMYC Board Member Joris van der Eynde came up with the idea to col-

laborate with a local school to launch a Primary School Sailing Program on St. Maarten. They worked together. It was dedication, research and collaboration that brought this fine idea to fruition. After more than a year’s efforts, St. Maarten children will benefit.

SMYC joined forces with the Sister Regina Primary School to introduce 12 students to sailing, beginning in October 2018. These students will sail once a week for two hours during the entire school year.

Max is also sailing instructor for SMYC. He 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 incorporates friendship, respect for others on the water, maintaining self-control, dignity and integrity and always competing in the right spirit.”

SMYC General Manager Michele Korteweg says, “The Sailing Program of the Sint Maarten Yacht Club relies heavily on sponsorships. It is wonderful to see such an interest in our new Primary School Program. This enthusiasm will allow for us to expand the program to other local primary schools sooner rather than later.” The program is sponsored by Windward Island Bank, ICE, Alite, Atlas Construction, Liccom, Arena Base Café, BZSE Law and others.

She continues, “The program does not just focus on sailing. Together with workshops from partners in the marine industry, students will be introduced to the maritime community, which, after tourism, is the second biggest sector on the island. Those who show interest in sailing will potentially be provided the opportunity to continue into the club’s regular youth sailing program through individual sponsorships. This will result in further development in the sport as youngsters can continue to learn how to race and start competing in local and regional events.”

The late November update from Max van der Pol: “The 12 children are by now starting to become independent sailors and really enjoy their time on the water. We get lots of compliments from parents about how excited they are!”

For more information about SMYC’s Primary School Sailing Program or how you can contribute, contact manager@smyc.com.

*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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# Joyon Sets New Record in Route du Rhum

A new Route du Rhum course record of 7 days, 14 hours, 21 minutes and 47 seconds was set on November 11th, 2018 by famous solo French sailor Francis Joyon aboard the maxi-trimaran *IDEC Sport*.

In his seventh participation in the Route du Rhum, Joyon won first place in the Ultimate class, beating François Gabart by 7 minutes and 8 seconds, to set a new race record and win the event overall.

Whether sailing solo or with crew, Joyon is a record-breaking sailor. In 2013, he became the first, and so far only, sailor to take the Ultimate Trophy, honouring the skipper who holds the four major solo sailing records: the round the world record, the Atlantic crossing record, the 24-hour distance record, and the Columbus Route record between Cadiz, Spain and San Salvador, Bahamas.

After his win in the Route du Rhum, Joyon was nominated along with seven other sailors for the title of French Sailor of the Year 2018.

The VPLP-designed 31.5-metre (103-foot) *IDEC Sport* (formerly *Groupama 3*, *Banque Populaire VII*, *Lending Club 2*, and *IDEC 3*) is a record-breaker, too. She was launched in 2006, and in November 2010, as *Groupama 3*, she won the Route du Rhum in 9 days and 14 hours, with Frank Cammas at the helm. In November 2014, as *Banque Populaire VII*, she won the Route du Rhum again, skippered by Loïck Peyron, in 7 days and 15 hours, beating the record by 2 hours and 10 minutes. In September 2015 the boat was handed over to the IDEC Sport team who set a new circumnavigation record in 2017.

The Route du Rhum - Destination Guadeloupe is a singlehanded transatlantic race that takes place every four years in November. The course runs 3,510 miles (5,650 kilometres) on a great circle route between Saint-Malo, France and Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe.

The first Route du Rhum was held in 1978. It was stunningly won by Canadian Michael Birch in his 30-foot trimaran *Olympus Photo* by just 98 seconds over Michel Malinovsky in the 21-metre (69-foot) monohull sloop *Kriter V*, after *Olympus Photo* overtook *Kriter V* just a few miles from the finish. The first edition was also marked by the disappearance during that crossing of Alain Colas, who had won the 1972 Single-Handed Trans-Atlantic Race and was the first to complete a singlehanded round-the-world race in a multihull. Neither Colas nor his trimaran *Manureva* (originally *Pen Duick IV*) were ever found.

Route du Rhum 2018 was the 11th edition. Organized by Pen Duick SAS, it started from Saint-Malo on November 4th. The 123-boat fleet was divided into six classes:

Ultimate: multihulls 60 feet and over (six registered);



Solo sailor Francis Joyon says, "The future belongs to flying boats", and in this photo it looks as though he himself has sprouted wings!

IMOCA: open monohulls 60 feet (20 registered). The winner, Paul Meilhat, pocketed Euro 23,000;

Class40: monohulls 40 feet (53 registered). The winner, Yoann Richomme, earned Euro 15,000;

Multi: multihulls between 39 feet and 59 feet that cannot enter a class defined above (21 registered). The winner Pierre Antoine won Euro 8,500;

Mono: monohulls greater than 39 feet that cannot enter a class defined above (17 registered). The winner Sidney Gavignet was awarded Euro 8,000;

Multi50: 50-foot multihulls (6 registered). The winner, Armel Triopn, took home Euro 4,500;

The overall winner wins Euro 50,000; the second overall takes Euro 25,000 and the third Euro 15,000.

For various reasons, there were several retirements during the 2018 race, but perhaps the biggest disappointment was when, just 50 miles from the Pointe-à-Pitre finish line, IMOCA class frontrunner Alex Thomson, aboard the UK-based *Hugo Boss*, ran aground on the north end of Grande Terre. Thomson, who had dominated the class until then, was able to motor off and still cross the finish line first in class, but the 24-hour penalty incurred for motoring snatched away the victory.

After the race, the overall winner, Joyon, told his part-

ners, Group IDEC, "In the beginning, this race was seen as Mission Impossible. Only Sébastien Picault, who prepared the boat, believed in it and imagined what would happen at the finish. He told me when he found out that *Macif* was having problems that I would catch him to the north of Guadeloupe, and would overtake him at the finish. It's still hard to believe what happened. I'm pleased to have made those who support me so happy, starting with [Group IDEC's] Patrice Lafargue. The future belongs to flying boats. I'm convinced of that. But we still have to work on the shape of these boats and personally, I'm keen on looking towards boats that have less of an impact on the environment, using materials that respect the planet and its resources more, and are more accessible to a greater number of sailors."

Visit [www.routedurhum.com](http://www.routedurhum.com) for full results and more information.

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GABY EMAN

## Trimaran *Tryst* Triumphant in Tri-Island Regatta

by Chelsea Pyne

They said it was the fastest-growing regatta in the world. I'm not certain that's 100-percent true, but I'm inclined to believe we're making history. Last year's Course de L'Alliance — in the wake of Hurricane Irma — only had four boats join. This year there were 14, up 250 percent.

What better way to end the hurricane season than by racing against sailors from your neighboring islands? The annual Course de L'Alliance is the season opener for the Leeward Islands. Sailors from around the area come for a celebratory competition among our shared rocks. The camaraderie felt among the boats' crews, the ideal racing weather, and the excitement leading into high season all add up to something special.

The 15th annual Course de L'Alliance took place from November 30th through December 2nd, 2018, with Racing, Cruising and Multihull Classes.

Race Officer Paul Miller of Regatta Guru explained that in this race, numbers aren't important. It's all about quality. "We usually have around 15 boats race. As long as our core sailors show up and we round out the local competition, then it's going to be great."

I was in the multihull class aboard *Tryst*, captained by Appie Stoutenbeek, who actually spent his childhood admiring this iconic little boat. We set off in the oldest, most tried and tested vessel in the regatta. Starting in Simpson Bay, St. Maarten, we headed out to Gustavia, St. Barths. While some of the fleet drifted south towards Saba and Statia, our trimaran played it close to the coast, crossing the finish line 52 minutes ahead of the second multihull. The wind diminished as we approached Gustavia, but we still finished with a fast time of 3 hours and 45 minutes.

*Tryst* is a story of her own. Designed by Dick Newick and built in 1968, she's been upside-down three times in the last few decades. Hurricanes Luis, Gonzalo, and Irma gave their worst, but somehow, the little (non)engine that could, flipped right back up. Her history is displayed on her deck, where dark gray patches give her a Dalmatian coat, and "Irma Survivor" Band-Aids are stuck on her topsides. She wears her scars well, and races like they've only made her stronger. Seeing many of the other boats in pristine condition made me doubt *Tryst* when I first boarded her. Silly me.

Team *Tryst* went into the regatta with no pressure, playing it safe, enjoying the smooth water, the gentle winds, and learning how to handle a trimaran. But what we realized during La Course de L'Alliance is that you only have to give *Tryst* a little push, and you'll see where she takes you. *Tryst* handled herself so well that everyone was surprised to see our cruising speed. Several times 16 knots appeared on the GPS. As the most basic, banged-up boat in the regatta, we proudly surfed into St. Barths.

—Continued on next page

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—Continued from previous page

The first day was excellent, with no noticeable damage or accidents. Everyone met at the St. Barths' sailing school for dinner and celebration. Our crew giddily enjoyed the yacht club's dinner for US\$30 compared to the \$250 you'd expect to pay. (Just kidding, St. Barths' — but you are bloody expensive.) We accepted our bottle of rum, chatted with other crews, and prepared for another day on the water.

Since *Tryst* comes with no engine or dinghy, it was a pleasure to have our competitors give us lifts to and fro. *Nix*, an X-612 that finished second in the cruising



Above, left to right: *Tryst* crew Michel Soons, Kippy Gilders, Appie Stoutenbeek, Andy G., Chelsea Pyne and Paul Miller

Right: "The conditions were absolutely sublime"

class, even provided us with a V-berth and breakfast in St. Barths. The small regatta community is exceptional. Everyone looks out for each other and doesn't take themselves too seriously. It was the right way to start off the season.

The next leg, from St. Barths to Anguilla, was the longest. Several boats went above St. Martin while the smaller ones, who didn't want to be overpowered by the wind, went under towards Saba. Captain Appie decided on the smoother route — we had nothing to prove. In the end, we still made great time and arrived second across the finish line into Road Bay.

At that point, I could count five boats with broken something or other — the price of racing. We noticed (a little too late for comfort) that our gooseneck's pin had broken, and the boom was dangling off the hinge. Every time we tacked and the boom swung, my stomach knotted. Appie, skilled in the fine martial art of boom dodging, seemed unmoved by this inconvenience. Not long after, the crew managed to jam things back into place and we all breathed easier. A few other boats had rigging problems as well. Team FKG in the racing class took their mast down and stepped it again the next morning, minutes before the final race.

Again, all the crews met, hung out, and received our prizes for the leg. This time *Tryst* accepted the second place bottle of wine, and the rum went to *Enola*, the smallest catamaran, which made it to Anguilla in the blink of an eye. Still amazed at our own run, Appie explained his technique to me. "I've sailed against her quite often, but

now that I'm on *Tryst*, I'm pushing it and learning her boundaries. We've been reading the lifts and headers and she's responded well. Sometimes you just go with the flow and she does the rest." Whatever feelings Appie channeled — be it from childhood, racing against her, racing with her — he figured out how to make *Tryst* fly.

After two days in the sun and scooting around the boat, I was spent. It looked as if the rum had gone straight to my head, but, in fact, I hadn't sailed for so long that I had forgotten how to transition between land and sea legs. Our last race wasn't scheduled to start until late morning, and I was looking forward to sleeping late. The Anguillian roosters had something else in mind. We spent that night in a cabin between two trees that became inhabited by noisy roosters from midnight on. By 6:00AM I was sadly strolling along the beach, trying to get out of earshot of their crowing. But on *Tryst*, excuses are slapped out of you. So, after several coffees, we rolled up to the starting line with a secured boom and prepared the spinnaker for flight.

We had a slow start, per usual, but soon shot through between the two Leopards. The waves were bigger and the wind stronger than the last two days. Nevertheless, *Tryst* held her own and we tacked around St. Martin's coast. Our extra hull once again came in handy, and we were first to cross the finish line in Simpson Bay to capture first overall in the Multihull Class.



HAN DE BRUYN KOPES

Eventually, all crews washed up at the Sint Maarten Yacht Club to congratulate and celebrate. Not often do weekends come together in such a manner. Paul Miller added, "The conditions were absolutely sublime, you couldn't ask for it better. The wind strength was just right. The level of competition across all three classes was great. One of the highlights was in the Racing Class grudge match between two Melges 24s — the last-minute capsizing of Team FKG metres from the finish line as Team Island Water World slipped by."

Even within a compact regatta, the action doesn't cease — whether on the water or at the bar afterward.

It was a perfect three days of social sailing. In the end, everyone was in good spirits, already speaking highly of the next Course de L'Alliance. As boats reenter Caribbean waters every November, there's no better reason to stretch out your sails.

For full 2018 results and information on the next Course de L'Alliance, visit [smyc.com](http://smyc.com) or [regattaguru.com](http://regattaguru.com)

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## Selected On-Line Weather Sources

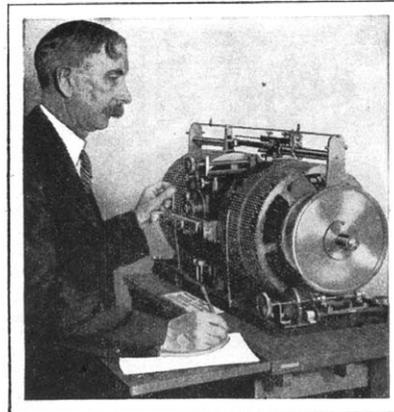
"Red sky at night..." When was the last time you really looked at the sky during happy hour? For that matter, when was the last time you even tapped the barometer? Yet weather prediction occupies a large part of sailors' attention.

Although it's been a very long time since people tried to predict the weather by examining onion skins or seeing whether or not the groundhog went back in his hole, it has also been a while since mariners routinely listened to WWV radio for marine storm warnings. The use of weatherfax has been replaced by GRIB.

Although SSB radio is still an excellent resource for marine weather information (see page 27), today, with WiFi so widely available in the Caribbean, increasing numbers of sailors get their weather information from on-line sources. Here we present a selection that various Caribbean cruisers have recommended, tested PC and Android tablet compatible.

*Is your favorite not listed here? Let us know at [sally@caribbeancompass.com](mailto:sally@caribbeancompass.com)*

### Long Distance Weather Forecasts Now Made By Machine



COMPLICATED weather forecasting computations can now be calculated automatically on the marvelously intricate machine shown at the left, the invention of Dr. Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. With it he expects to calculate such things as variations in solar radiation to determine if they occur in cycles, and thus to lay the foundation for predicting what our weather will be ten or twenty years ahead. The new invention is similar to conventional calculating machines, except that it is designed for a particular use.

*An article from  
Modern Mechanics magazine, 1932*

This intricate mathematical calculating machine shown in photo above was designed for studying facts of solar radiation which may lead to long distance weather forecasts.

#### Caribbean National, Regional and Island Weather Websites

- ABCs Weather: [www.meteo.cw/rad\\_loop.php](http://www.meteo.cw/rad_loop.php)
- Barbados Satellite: [www.barbadosweather.org/GOES16/Jiren\\_Satellite\\_Products.php](http://www.barbadosweather.org/GOES16/Jiren_Satellite_Products.php)
- Cuba Met Institute: [www.met.inf.cu](http://www.met.inf.cu) (in Spanish)
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- French West Indies Weather: <http://outremer.meteofrance.com> (in French)
- Martinique Weather Radar:  
[www.meteofrance.gp/previsions-meteo-antilles-guyane/animation/radar/antilles](http://www.meteofrance.gp/previsions-meteo-antilles-guyane/animation/radar/antilles) (in French)
- NOAA NationalWeatherService-Caribbean:  
[www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/zone/off/offnt3cmz.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/zone/off/offnt3cmz.htm)
- SXM Cyclone/St. Martin: [www.sxmcyclone.com](http://www.sxmcyclone.com) (in French)
- Trinidad & Tobago Weather Radar: [www.metoffice.gov.tt/radar](http://www.metoffice.gov.tt/radar)
- US National Weather Service (for USVI and Puerto Rico): [www.srh.noaa.gov/sju](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju)

#### General Weather Websites

- Mike's Weather Page: [www.spaghettimodels.com](http://www.spaghettimodels.com)
- ON Board ON Line: [www.onboardonline.com/weathertools](http://www.onboardonline.com/weathertools)
- PassageWeather: [passageweather.com](http://passageweather.com) (provides seven-day wind, wave and weather forecasts to help sailors with passage planning and weather routing)
- Weather Underground: [www.wunderground.com/hurricane](http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane)
- WINDfinder: [www.windfinder.com](http://www.windfinder.com)
- [www.windyty.com](http://www.windyty.com) (windspeed and direction for 2 weeks in 3-hr increments)
- Ventusky: [www.ventusky.com](http://www.ventusky.com)

#### Commercial Marine Weather Service Websites

- Buoyweather: [www.buoyweather.com](http://www.buoyweather.com) (free two-day forecasts plus paid-for custom forecasts)
- Caribbean Weather: [weather.org/caribbean.htm](http://weather.org/caribbean.htm)
- Chris Parker's Marine Weather Center: [mwxc.com](http://mwxc.com) (see page 27 for free SSB nets or subscribe for daily e-mails for your area)
- Crown Weather Services: [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com) (provides a good Tropical Weather page in addition to paid-for custom forecasts)
- Storm Pulse: [stormpulse.com/atlantic](http://stormpulse.com/atlantic) (paid subscription)

#### Hurricane Information Websites

- \* Accuweather: [sirocco.accuweather.com/sat\\_mosaic\\_640x480-public/IR/isahatl.gif](http://sirocco.accuweather.com/sat_mosaic_640x480-public/IR/isahatl.gif)
- Atlantic Hurricane Tracking Chart (print out for offline reference): [www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/tracking\\_chart\\_atlantic.pdf](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/tracking_chart_atlantic.pdf)
- Caribbean Hurricane Network: [www.stormcarib.com](http://www.stormcarib.com)
- \* NHC Marine Graphiccast:  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov/Marine/graphiccast.php?basin+at#contentw.nes.noaa](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/Marine/graphiccast.php?basin+at#contentw.nes.noaa)
- NHC Offshore Reports: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/offshores.php](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/offshores.php)
- \* NOAA Climate Discussion: [www.climate.gov/news-features](http://www.climate.gov/news-features)
- Offshore Waters Forecast (Carib/SW Atlan):  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/MIAOFFNT3.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/MIAOFFNT3.shtml)
- US National Hurricane Center: [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

**Weather Conversions:** [weather.org/conversion.htm](http://weather.org/conversion.htm)

**Happy weather windows!**

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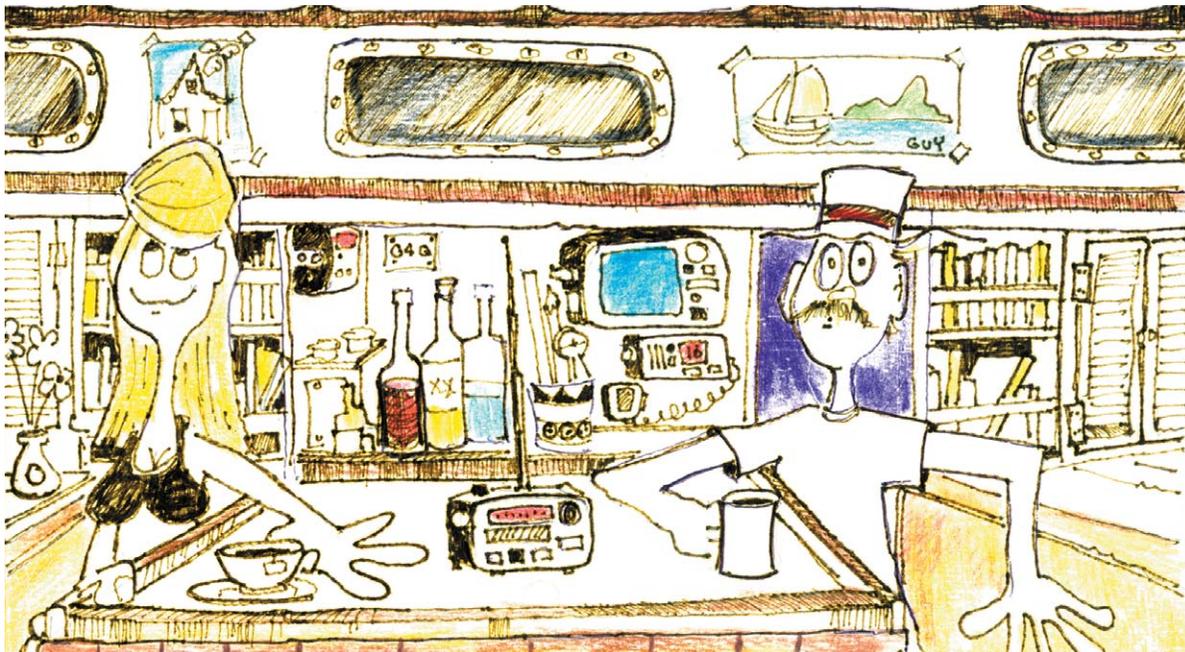
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## Selected Caribbean Shortwave Weather Reports Winter 2019

UTC	AST*	STATION & REPORT DESCRIPTION	FREQ**	TYPE	MODE
0915	0515	NOAA Daily Offshore Forecast	A	Voice	
0930	0530	NOAA Daily Offshore Forecast	A	Voice	USB
1000	0600	Daily Caribbean Weather	6215 (uncontrolled)		1000-1200) USB
1030	0630	Trinidad Emergency Net	3855	Voice	LSB/Ham
1030	0630	Carib. Emergency & Weather Net	3815	Voice	LSB/Ham
1100	0700	Caribbean Net	7250		LSB/Ham
1100	0700	E. Caribbean Weather (Chris)	4045 & 8137		USB (Note 1)
1130	0730	Bahamas Weather (Chris)	4045 & 8137		USB (Note 1)
1200	0800	Coconut Telegraph	8170 switching to 4060		USB
1215	0815	KPK Cruising Safety (sponsor SSCA)	8104		USB
1220	0820	Bahamas Weather (C6AGG C Wardle)	7096 & 3696		LSB/Ham
1230	0830	US E Coast, W Atl N&W of Bermuda (Chris)	8137 & 12350		USB (Note 1)
1245	0845	Waterway Cruising Club	7268		LSB
1330	0930	W. Caribbean Weather (Chris)	8137 & 12350	Voice	USB (Note 1)
1330	0930	Pnama Connection Net	8107 & 8167		USB
1330	0930	Cruizheimers Net	8152		USB
1400	1000	Northwest Caribbean Net	6209		USB
1530	1130	NOAA Offshore Forecast	A	Voice	USB
2130	1730	Caribbean Cocktain & Weather	7086		LSB/Ham
2130	1730	NOAA Offshore Forecast	A	Voice	USB
2130	1730	Transatlantic Cruisers Net (KPK/SSCA)	12350		USB (Note 3)
2200	1800	Carib and Atl Weather (Chris)	8137 & 12350	Voice	USB (Notes 1 and 2)
2230	1830	Carib Emergency & Weather	3815	Voice	LSB/Ham
0330	2330	NOAA Offshore Forecast	A	Voice	USB
24/7/365		Maritime Mobile Net (Emergency, Weather & Assistance)	14300		USB/Ham

\* Atlantic Standard Time (AST) does not shift to DST in the summer in Caribbean waters.

\*\* NOAA frequencies (in kHz):  
NMN, Chesapeake, 4426, 6501, 8764, 13089. NMG, New Orleans, 4316, 8502, 12788

**Note 1:** Unless severe weather threatens, this net is not conducted on Sundays. When there are active Tropical systems in the Atlantic, Marine Weather Center (Chris) runs a net at 2300 UTC/1900 AST on 8137 USB.

**Note 2:** Please hail Marine Weather Center 15 minutes before the net so that Chris knows where to aim his antenna to reach you. This net is geared primarily to offshore Atlantic and Pacific passagemakers. For schedule updates see [www.mwxc.com](http://www.mwxc.com)

**Note 3:** The Transatlantic Cruisers Net is held only during passagemaking periods to and from the Caribbean and Europe/North America. KPK is assisted by WCY, KNC and KJM.

### TIPS

- WWV has World Marine Storm Warnings (Voice) at 8 minutes after each hour and Solar Flux information at 18 minutes after each hour on 2500, 5000, 10000, 15000 & 20000 (Switch to AM mode)
- During severe Tropical Storm or hurricane activity, information can be found continuously on the Hurricane Watch Net on 14325 USB/Ham and 3950 LSB/Ham.
- Anyone, licensed or not, may legally operate on Ham or any other frequencies in the event of life-threatening or DISTRESS situations.
- Also of interest, with weather, security and general info, are the Panama Connection Net at 1330 UTC on 8107/8167 USB, and the Northwest Caribbean Net at 1400 UTC on 6209 USB.
- A more complete schedule of eastern North Atlantic and Caribbean cruising nets is available at [www.docksideradio.com/east\\_coast.htm](http://www.docksideradio.com/east_coast.htm)

### CRUISERS' VHF NETS

We'll have a list of selected cruisers' VHF Nets in next month's *Compass*!

Corrections and comments are welcome. Please send them to [sally@caribbeancompass.com](mailto:sally@caribbeancompass.com)

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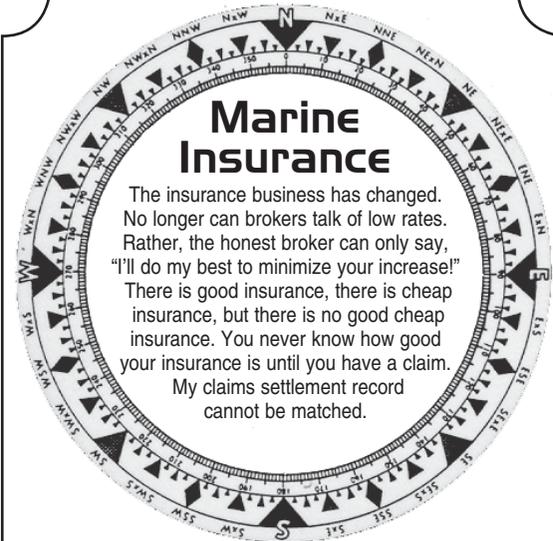


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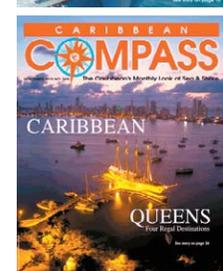
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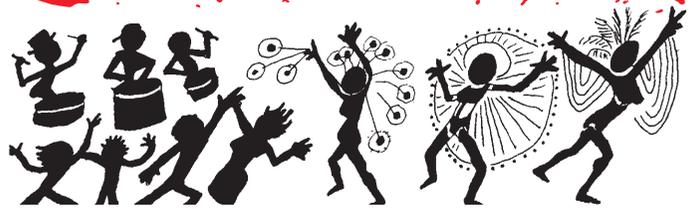
## HEY, READERS!

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](mailto:sally@caribbeancompass.com) and we'll put you on the list — it's as easy as that!



Take It In — or Take Part!

# CARIBBEAN CARNIVALS 2019



MONICA PISANI

being a spectator; notably in Trinidad and Grenada, for example, groups of cruisers have joined a band for the parade.

As it was traditionally held on the days leading up to Lent, Carnival participants often indulge in behavior that will (supposedly) be forgone during upcoming Lent. The masquerade aspect allows revelers to not only misbehave somewhat in disguise but also fosters a sense of unity within the costumed bands. Festivities often begin with a dawn J'ouvert parade on Carnival Monday and include a street parade with colorful costumes, floats, and live bands and/or amplified music on the Tuesday, and sometimes end with the burning of an effigy of the Carnival character King Momo on Ash Wednesday. But, just like the different Caribbean islands and nations, each Caribbean Carnival has a flavor of its own.

In recent times, Carnival dates in different Caribbean countries have been spread out to coincide with other, fixed local holidays or to extend the tourist season.

Dates given below are for Carnival Monday and Tuesday, or for other days as appropriate for the climax of the festivities. Dates are correct to the best of our knowledge as this issue of Compass goes to press, but double-check to avoid disappointment.

There are more Carnivals later in the year, so stay tuned. And this is by no means a comprehensive listing — wherever you go, ask about the local Carnival!

## JANUARY

- 1 Montserrat Festival  
[www.facebook.com/MontserratAnnualFestival](http://www.facebook.com/MontserratAnnualFestival)
- 1 - 2 St. Kitts "Sugar Mas" [www.facebook.com/SKNCarnival](http://www.facebook.com/SKNCarnival)
- 4 - 5 St. Croix "Crucian Carnival"  
[www.stcroixtourism.com/christmas\\_festival.htm](http://www.stcroixtourism.com/christmas_festival.htm)

## FEBRUARY

- 3 - 3 March (every Sunday) Dominican Republic Carnival  
[godominicanrepublic.com/about-dr/carnival](http://godominicanrepublic.com/about-dr/carnival)
- 8 - 9 Carnaval de Punta Cana, Dominican Republic  
[puntacanavillage.com/lifestyle/carnaval](http://puntacanavillage.com/lifestyle/carnaval)
- 23 "Mashramani" ("Mash"), Guyana. An annual Carnival that celebrates Guyana becoming a Republic. [exploreguyana.org/event/mashramani](http://exploreguyana.org/event/mashramani)



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## MARCH

- 2 - 5 Aruba Carnival  
[www.visitaruba.com/things-to-do/carnival/aruba-carnival-schedule](http://www.visitaruba.com/things-to-do/carnival/aruba-carnival-schedule)
- 2 - 5 Bonaire Karnaval  
[www.infobonaire.com/annual-events/bonaire-karnaval-carnival-celebration](http://www.infobonaire.com/annual-events/bonaire-karnaval-carnival-celebration)
- 2 - 5 Carnaval de Barranquilla, Colombia. A six-day non-stop festival, beginning the Wednesday prior to Ash Wednesday and ending Tuesday midnight, is now recognized as one of the UNESCO Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. [www.carnavaldebarraquilla.org](http://www.carnavaldebarraquilla.org)
- 4 - 5 Carriacou Carnival  
[www.facebook.com/carriacoucarnival](http://www.facebook.com/carriacoucarnival)
- 4 - 5 Curaçao Carnival  
[www.curacao.com/en/directory/plan/curacao-carnival](http://www.curacao.com/en/directory/plan/curacao-carnival)
- 4 - 5 Dominica Carnival  
[www.avirtualdominica.com/project/carnival-in-dominica](http://www.avirtualdominica.com/project/carnival-in-dominica)

—Continued on next page

Is it true what some say, that you haven't been to the Caribbean until you've been to Carnival? If you think that could be the case, fear not — there are Carnivals throughout the Caribbean and throughout the year, so you have a good chance of catching one, or maybe more.

If you've just sailed down from the East Coast of North America, you might be in St. Croix, USVI in time for Crucian Carnival early this month, or in the Dominican Republic for Carnival celebrations every Sunday throughout February. If you're heading for the Western Caribbean or en route to the Panama Canal, March 2019 hosts Carnivals in Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba and Barranquilla, Colombia.

At the end of the season, hit St. Thomas Carnival in early May before casting off for the East Coast or Europe. Many sailors jump into Grenada's Spicemas Carnival, conveniently set just after Carriacou Regatta and before the summer lay-up.

Carnival season everywhere can last for over a month prior to the concluding festivities — more opportunities to catch the carnival vibe with Calypso, Soca and steel band competitions; beauty pageants; kiddie carnivals; and more. It's not only worth



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—Continued from previous page

- 4 – 5 Carnaval Ponceño, Ponce, Puerto Rico. One of the oldest carnivals in the Western Hemisphere
- 4 – 5 Mardi Gras, St. Barth. Celebrations include a children's costume parade, a pajama parade, a Mardi Gras parade in Gustavia, and ends with the burning of (Vaval) the king of Carnival at Shell Beach on Ash Wednesday.  
[www.saintbarth-tourisme.com/en/agenda/mardi-gras.html](http://www.saintbarth-tourisme.com/en/agenda/mardi-gras.html)
- 4 – 5 Trinidad Carnival. See the following pages.  
[www.ncctt.org](http://www.ncctt.org)
- 4 – 6 Guadeloupe Carnaval [www.guadeloupe-info.com/carnaval-2019.htm](http://www.guadeloupe-info.com/carnaval-2019.htm)
- 4 – 6 Martinique Carnival [martinicaonline.com/carnival-martinique](http://martinicaonline.com/carnival-martinique)

#### APRIL

- 21 – 22 Virgin Gorda Easter Festival. "At Easter Festival time, it feels like the entire island is having a party." [www.facebook.com/VirginGordaEasterFestival](http://www.facebook.com/VirginGordaEasterFestival)
- 28 "Bacchanal", Jamaica [www.bacchanaljamaica.com](http://www.bacchanaljamaica.com)



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## Cruisers at Carnival

See more about Trinidad Carnival on the following pages, and check out these sailors' first-hand reports on more Caribbean Carnival fun:

- "Chipping Down the Road in Trinidad's Carnival" by Devi Sharp on page 26 at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/march08compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/march08compass_online.pdf)
- "Carnival Time on St. Thomas" by Jacqueline Milman on page 27 [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/july08compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/july08compass_online.pdf)
- "What to Do in Grenada in Summer? Participate in Carnival!" by Lucie Rolland on page 13 at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/october09compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/october09compass_online.pdf)
- "Born to Jump Up! A Sea-Traveler at Dominica Carnival" by Davina Menduno on page 26 at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/may10compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/may10compass_online.pdf)
- "Participate in Trinidad Carnival" by J. Wynner on page 33 at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/january11compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/january11compass_online.pdf)

#### MAY

- 3 – 5 Bahamas "Junkanoo" [bahamascarnival.com](http://bahamascarnival.com)
- 4 – 5 Virgin Islands Carnival, St. Thomas [www.vicarnival.com](http://www.vicarnival.com)
- 4 – 5 "Batabano", Cayman Islands [www.caymancarnival.com](http://www.caymancarnival.com)
- 5 – 7 Point Fortin Borough Day, Trinidad. Known as "Trinidad's second Carnival".
- 6 – 7 St. Maarten Carnival. This year will be the gala 50th Anniversary celebration. [www.facebook.com/sxmcarnival](http://www.facebook.com/sxmcarnival)
- 16 – 20 "CayMas", Cayman Islands [www.caymas.ky](http://www.caymas.ky)
- 17 – 27 Guyana Carnival [www.guyanacarnival592.com](http://www.guyanacarnival592.com)

#### JUNE

- 6 – 9 "Caribana", Barbuda. Back in 2019 after being canceled last year owing to hurricane recovery.

#### JULY

- 3 – 4 St. John Festival, St John, USVI. A merry mash-up of Carnival, USVI Emancipation Day and US Independence Day. [www.stjohnfestival.org](http://www.stjohnfestival.org)
- 8 – 9 "Vincy Mas", St. Vincent [www.carnivalsvg.com](http://www.carnivalsvg.com)
- 15 – 16 St. Lucia Carnival  
[www.stlucia.org/summerfestival/saint-lucia-carnival](http://www.stlucia.org/summerfestival/saint-lucia-carnival)
- 22 – 28 Statia Carnival, St. Eustatius
- 26 – 27 Carnival of Santiago de Cuba. The largest, most famous, and most traditional carnival in all of Cuba.

#### AUGUST

- 5 "Crop Over/Grand Kadooment", Barbados  
[www.visitbarbados.org/crop-over-festival](http://www.visitbarbados.org/crop-over-festival)
- 5 – 6 Antigua Carnival [www.antiguacarnival.com](http://www.antiguacarnival.com)
- 5 – 7 BVI Emancipation Festival, Tortola
- 5 – 9 Anguilla Summer Festival, This Carnival even features boat races!  
[www.anguillasummerfestival.com](http://www.anguillasummerfestival.com)
- 6 "Culturama", Nevis [www.culturamanevis.com](http://www.culturamanevis.com)
- 12 – 13 "Spicemas", Grenada [spicemasgrenada.com](http://spicemasgrenada.com)



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- "Put Trinidad Carnival on Your Bucket List" by Ralph Trout on page 40 at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/january14compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/january14compass_online.pdf)
- "Barranquilla Carnival, We Love You" by Bill and JoAnne Harris on page 16 at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/july15compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/july15compass_online.pdf)
- "St. Thomas with Feathers" by Monica Pisani on page 18 at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/july15compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/july15compass_online.pdf)



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# REVEL WITHOUT A PAUSE — TRINIDAD CARNIVAL

## Part Three: Traditions are Alive

by Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS 1888



Carnival in Frederick Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, in 1888

In parts One and Two of this three-part introduction to Carnival, Trinidadian Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal gave us an inside look at the customs, costumes and music of Trinidad's "Mas". In this final part, she fills us in on some of Carnival's lesser-known traditional aspects.

See Part One at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/november18compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/november18compass_online.pdf) and Part Two at [www.caribbeancompass.com/online/december18compass\\_online.pdf](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/online/december18compass_online.pdf)

Carnival in Trinidad is much more than music and a display of extravagant, colourful costumes that lasts just two days a year. There are events that take place months before the climax of the Carnival season, which ends on Carnival Tuesday (March 5th, 2019). Here are just some of the popular ones.

### Stick-Fighting Competition

One such event is the Stick-Fighting Competition. This annual competition starts around January at different parts of the island, and the finals are held in the early hours of Carnival Friday morning (March 1st, 2019).

Stick fighting, also referred to as Calinda or Kalenda, is a "dance-like" form of martial arts based on traditions in Central and West Africa brought over during the times of slavery, originating as far back as the late 1700s. Calinda is often mistaken for a hybrid of African stick fighting and European fencing. Training styles vary from community to community and are passed on from generation to generation.

However, Calinda does not refer to the stick fighting itself but is the mixture of the stick fight, songs and dance. A dance called the "carray" accompanies the fight. The stick fighting is also accompanied by drumming and singing, often in patois. The lead singer is called a Chantuelle or Chanteuse (male or female respectively), also called chantwells. Their job is to either cheer on or to deride the competitors. Singing consists of a "call and response" led by a chantwell. Every village has its own chantwell who sings the praises of their champion stick fighter. These are actually the forerunners of the calypsonians.

There is a circular arena called a "gayelle" where two competitors carry out mock combat. Each opponent is armed with a stick about three and a half feet long and three inches in diameter. Although it is mock combat, it can get quite bloody and the first competitor to draw blood is declared the winner.

### Camboulay Riots Re-Enactment

Also on Carnival Friday morning, starting at 5:00AM and lasting for about an hour, the re-enactment of the Camboulay Riots takes place.

The name Camboulay is a corruption of the words "cannes brulees" which means "burning cane", and refers to how the freed slaves would light cane stalks and parade through the city streets drumming and singing, basically holding their own party while the upper class held their own in their homes. These cane stalks were later replaced with flambeaux (bottles filled with alcohol with a cloth for a wick) to parade through the streets.

—Continued on next page

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—Continued from previous page

This was met with opposition by the police, who viewed this as a fire hazard that could easily burn down the now capital city, owing to the closely spaced wooden structures that were found at the time. Police at that time were also viewed as



SHIRLEY BAHUR/TRINIDAD GUARDIAN

oppressors doing the slave owners' bidding, so they were met with great resistance. Although the Camboulay Riots that took place in Port of Spain at Carnival 1881 are recognized, they were minor compared to the bloody clashes that took place in southern towns like San Fernando and Princes Town during the past century. The re-enactment of the Camboulay Riots is included in Carnival celebrations to provide a link to the past.

**Old-Time Carnival Characters**

The traditional "mas" parade or Nostalgia Parade, affectionately called "D Real Mas", with old-time Carnival characters, is usually held on Carnival Sunday night but was moved to Carnival Monday last year in an attempt to expose it to a wider audience. (Carnival Monday 2019 is March 4th.)

It starts at Piccadilly Greens and goes to Adam Smith Square, where judging takes place. Some of the traditional mas (masquerade) characters include those that play "Devil Mas", or Jab Jab (a corruption of the French *diable*), where masqueraders covered in black paint, wearing horns and holding pitch forks, parade in the streets and threaten to dirty the clothes of onlookers if they are not given a little money. Members of the band also put a strap at ends of large biscuit tins and use them as drums, as well as beat on car-tire rims and blow whistles to the chant of "Pay the Devil", so you can hear them coming and avoid getting dirty!

Dragon or Beast Mas evolved from Jab Jab or Devil Mas. The King Beast or Dragon is a metaphor representing the forces of nature, and has come to destroy everything in its path. The costume resembles a dragon, complete with a dragon head with a moveable tongue, long tail, scales and large, elaborate wire-framed wings. Sometimes the Dragon is restrained by chains that are held by imps. It is said that the Dragon cannot cross holy water to continue his path of destruction. His frustration on not being able to continue farther is expressed in a dance accompanied by the imps, led by the King Imp, who all tease the Dragon as they restrain him.

Devil Mas also produces another well-known character, called the Bookman, Ruler or Gownman. Dressed in a satin or velvet gown covered in rich embroidery or Tudor-style pants, a large flowing cape decorated with Biblical scenes, and a ruffled shirt, he wears an oversized headpiece that resembles the devil. The large book and pen he carries are to write down the names of prospective souls for the devil. His dance includes much bowing and waltz-like movements.

Another example of the traditional Carnival characters you may see is the Midnight Robber, who is often dressed all in black with a large flowing cape with a "skull and crossbones" painted on it, as well as a huge fringed broad-brimmed hat. Some of his attire is influenced by the cowboys of North America, such as the shirt and pants.

Blue Devils (left) and stick fighters (right) are traditional elements that live on in Trinidad & Tobago's annual pre-Lenten Carnival



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loons. Besides their extravagant costume, these characters are known for their "Robber Talk", in which they boast of their exploits, bravery, ancestry and invincibility. They carry either a sword or gun, a wooden money box in the shape of a coffin, and wear a whistle on a lanyard around their necks, which they blow after each of their recitations as a means of indicating the end of one and start of another.

Finally, there is Dimanche Gras, which usually starts around 8:00PM on Carnival Sunday (March 3rd, 2019) on the stage at the Queen's Park Savannah and has evolved over the decades to involve all three major components of Carnival; "mas" costumes, calypso and steelpan. Here the large and elaborate "King" and "Queen" costumes of the carnival bands in the Large Band category parade on the stage. Also, the Calypso Monarch is crowned at Dimanche Gras. The event ends in the early hours of Carnival Monday, giving revellers just a few hours to sleep and get ready for J'ouvert.

I hope that you have enjoyed this journey to Trinidad Carnival. Hope to see you there!

For a full and current listing of Carnival events in Trinidad, check the online calendar posted on the National Carnival Commission of Trinidad & Tobago website, [www.ncctt.org](http://www.ncctt.org)



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# Sailing Santa Delivers Smiles

by Erin Carey

*We whistled and waved our arms from the dinghy, hoping someone would hear our calls. A man paddled out on his board and we explained why we were there. He wasted no time in rallying the troops. As fast as we were unloading hammers and tarpaulins from our sailboat, guys were on their roofs nailing them into place. The roads were closed because of the burst riverbank; boulders blocked the streets. Mud engulfed the town, causing the residents to flee to homes with an upper story. It was almost impossible to get ashore. The waters were dangerous to navigate and we were nervous about hitting something below the surface, but we knew we had to help.*

— Mark and Tracey Duckett, 2017



Children at the Feed My Sheep Centre and in the village of Dublanc in hurricane-battered Dominica received Christmas gifts last month, thanks to British sailors Mark and Tracey Duckett and funds from generous donors

It was clear that Lena and Deborah were doing their best to provide love and friendship, not only to each of their occupants but the entire community. Despite this, their living conditions were poor. Most of the rooms lacked power and the plumbing was damaged. The bedrooms were cramped and mattresses lined the floors. The couch was threadbare and torn and the roof still bore the scars of Hurricane Maria, with a gaping hole allowing light into the otherwise gloomy building. With a policy of never turning away someone in need, the shelter is often overflowing. The four employees work in the shelter for so little, their services are practically voluntary. While it's obvious the building is in need of repair, the organization prioritizes the rebuilding of damaged lives, leaving little resources for anything else.

So what does Sailing Santa mean to FMS? The campaign is about more than gifts; it's about raising morale and creating awareness. It's about hope, joy and kindness at a time when it's needed most. While the shelter ensures to host a Christmas party for the children every year, Sailing Santa means the children can receive gifts that would otherwise be unattainable. For one day, the children are able to forget about their displaced families or problems at home. They forget about their cramped rooms and lack of privacy. Instead, they simply get to enjoy being a child at Christmas time.

Part Two of their 2018 plan saw Mark and Tracey sail 20 nautical miles north to the village of Dublanc, the village the pair had delivered aid to 15 months prior. Santa and his helpers walked the streets to distribute gifts to the children. "This is my favorite part," exclaimed Mark, "this is what it's all about!"

It was here that I said my goodbyes to this fun-loving couple and wished them well on their overnight sail to Antigua, where they would buy another round of presents to do it all again in the BVI.

Once they had left, I reflected on the last couple of days. It's true, not all heroes wear capes — this one wears a red suit.



If you would like to pay a visit to the Feed My Sheep organization or donate your time, skills or funds, contact Deborah on [d.a@rogers.com](mailto:d.a@rogers.com), (767) 449-0178, WhatsApp (767) 275-9941, visit [www.fmsdominica.org](http://www.fmsdominica.org) or donate directly via [www.paypal.me/FMSdominica](http://www.paypal.me/FMSdominica)

If Santa is more your calling, the Sailing Santa Campaign is looking for monetary donations, gifts and a coordinator on each Caribbean island. If you think you can help, contact Mark on [lavezzi40@icloud.com](mailto:lavezzi40@icloud.com) or visit [www.sailingsanta.com](http://www.sailingsanta.com)

The Sailing Santa – Kids of the Caribbean Campaign gives special thanks to Robin Hobson, many of the cruisers in the 2018 ARC, Access Bay Walk Mall St. Lucia, John Punderson, Wiley Sharp, Brian Dean, Sheron Wahl and the crews aboard S/V Exile and S/V ROAM.

Erin Carey 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 opposite side of the world, after watching a documentary that inspired them to live life differently. At the time they weren't sailors and had never owned a boat. Follow their adventures on their Facebook and Instagram pages Sailing to Roam, where Erin shares the trials and tribulations of living aboard with three kids.

Among the first cruisers to arrive on the island of Dominica after the Category 5 Hurricane Maria struck on September 19th, 2017, Mark and Tracey Duckett of the catamaran *Charter the Dream* had their work cut out for them. Delivering relief supplies they had brought from Martinique, they distributed them among those in need before reloading in Guadeloupe and returning three more times.

"The island looked like a brown rock, the town looked as though it had been flattened by a bomb; it was devastating," explained Tracey.

Proceeding to the British Virgin Islands, the British cruising couple were faced with equal desolation from powerful Hurricane Irma, which had hit those islands a couple of weeks earlier. Knowing they wanted to do more to help the ravaged islands, where more than 90 percent of homes were damaged, the couple founded the Sailing Santa – Kids of the Caribbean Campaign, managing to raise US\$1,500 in 2017 and provide Christmas gifts for over 200 children.

In 2018 Mark was determined for the Sailing Santa Campaign to be bigger and better. Engaging the help of cruisers and businesses alike, he was able to raise just over US\$3,500 and purchase 600 gifts. It was evident why this cheeky Englishman with "the gift of the gab" was so successful at raising funds. His tactic was straightforward: "simply ask".

Unsure of how to best deliver the Christmas presents in Dominica this year, Mark was put in touch with the Feed My Sheep (FMS) Youth & Crisis Centre. Run by Pastor Lena Augustine and her daughter Deborah Augustine, FMS is responsible for providing food, counselling and crisis shelter to over 3,000 people annually and is home to eight orphans. "Our building was in poor condition prior to the hurricane; afterwards it became a shanty town of cots, rubble, crying children and adults in shock. We had to provide shelter to 100 people for six months after that night. It was the greatest stress on resources our organization had ever faced," said Deborah.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to the shelter to see firsthand where the Sailing Santa's gifts were delivered in mid-December. I expected the visit to be a sad and somber experience. Instead, I was met with the faces of smiling children and a feeling of hope. With several groups of children arriving from the town of Mahaut and four nearby villages, the shelter provided party food and a packed lunch for 250 children. We danced to reggae versions of Christmas carols and laughed uproariously at Santa's antics. Mark was dressed in a Santa suit and hat, with a beard and belly to match. His jolly laugh and bright eyes almost made me believe he was the real deal. Mrs. Claus worked behind the scenes, personally picking a present for every child, depending on their age and sex. The children were overwhelmed with happiness, and soon the shelter was teeming with toy cars and dolls, hula-hoops and puzzles.

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 And aimed at every sailor's ear.  
 "Mariner! Come forth, come forth,  
 Point your bow out to the north.  
 The sea is calm, the swells not high  
 (The lady has been known to lie!).  
 Come sail to where the seas are blue  
 And dolphins play and leap... come through.  
 Why do you linger? Come! Push on,  
 And find the islands in the dawn."

Your Siren call is loud and clear,  
 But Spirit, not today! I fear  
 That though your call is like a dart,  
 Piercing my soul, my will, my heart,  
 The mooring waits there in the bay  
 I must go back, I cannot stray,  
 I have landlubber things to do,  
 So I must turn my back on you,  
 But Boca Spirit, you must know  
 My resistance is very low,  
 My will is weak, my resolve feeble,  
 I hear your song, and when I'm able  
 To the north I'll point the bow,  
 And answer, Spirit —  
 But not now.

— Nan Hatch



## Egret Traffic in the Anchorage

White wings flashing in the evening light  
 Like the sun on moving water.

In eye holding motion, homeward to windward,  
 Flowing patterns ever changing.

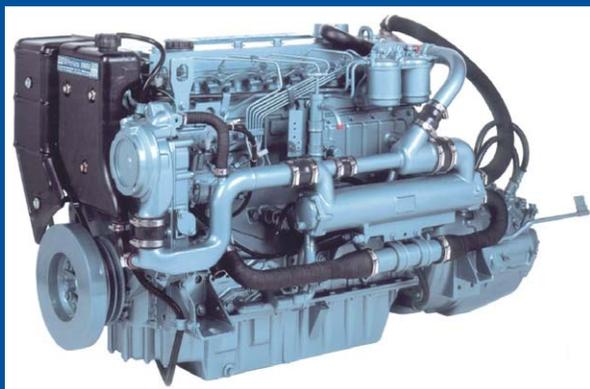
One group one leader, then two groups  
 Parting around masts in their path.

Joining again, intertwining with new points,  
 New leaders, going away flapping and flashing.

— David Barton



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BOOK REVIEW BY J. WYNNER

# THE LAND OF SWEETNESS

*Chalo Chinidad - Let's Go Trinidad*, by Jang B. Bhagirathee, ©2003. Published by JB Publications, Trinidad. 220 pages.

Trinidadian author Jang B. Bhagirathee has upended convention in his *Chalo Chinidad - Let's Go Trinidad*, which reads more like a fairy tale than the hardship narratives usually associated with the experience of Indian indentureship in the Caribbean.

In his foreword to the book, Dr. Ashford Maharaj gives a brief insight to the causes that led Indians to emigrate to the West Indies as indentured labourers between the years 1838 and 1917, and the conditions they experienced when they arrived here.

Bhagirathee's simple writing (with a couple of clichéd segments) provides us with a quick and easy read, detailing the life of his central character, Mohan, from his impoverished boyhood days in India to the lavish wedding of his son, Suresh, a doctor in Trinidad.

Promoted as a historical novel, *Chalo Chinidad* tells the tale of Mohan's indenture experience. His story comes across quite differently from many accounts of indentureship: it in no way gets close to the magnitude of the wretchedness of those who endured a similar existence.

Though Mohan's dilemmas are internal and self-inflicted, he is a solid character. The strong family values he inherited from his parents hold him in good stead all his life. No matter what the situation, he always makes the right moves and comes out on top. He deals effectively with the two vile characters he encounters.

In India, when his friend Ramu suggested going to a meeting to hear Bihari, an indenture recruiter speak, Mohan had no hesitation. He was immediately captivated by what Bihari had to say about "Chinidad" and invited him to his home to speak to his parents, and "about finalizing his plan with the new deal".

Mohan's heartache stemmed from his decision to leave his idyllic home village of Basti; to leave Sumintra, the first and only love of his life; and to leave his close-knit and loving family, whom he deeply loved, to go to Chinidad to work on a sugarcane plantation.

His father came close to targeting Mohan's predicament when he asked him, "but why are you making this hasty decision? Has someone disturbed your soul's tranquility?" Mohan's reply: *My voice choked as I attempted to provide an answer. To speak the truth about the sordid tale of my heart would not be acceptable to him. I had to control my head. In due time I would let you know, but please, father, you have to release me if you love me and care for my well-being.*

The first few pages of *Chalo Chinidad* remind readers what India was like in the past, beginning with the spirituality of India when the principles of right action and devotion ruled the earth and everything flowed in unison. And Mohan certainly did have the right action and mindset, which he takes with him to the New World. *My inner-self told me that sifting sugar in Chinidad would not be as sweet as it sounded but I had decided to face the challenges that lay ahead in the new land.*

So, Mohan, with his moral compass directed southwards and with his parents' blessing, but after much sadness and tears at his parting, leaves his family and Sumintra and travels to Calcutta where he boards the ship taking him on the harrowing, three-month sea voyage to Chinidad.

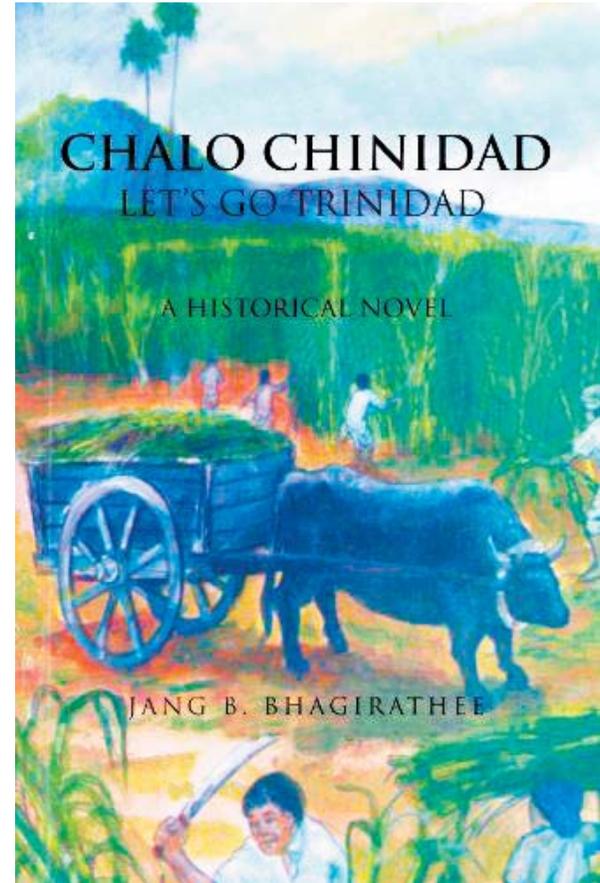
Just before boarding, he meets Dookhie and his wife, Rajwantie, who are going to the same plantation. Dookhie and Mohan become boat-brothers and a lifelong friendship begins.

When they arrive in Chinidad they are met at the port by Mr. Brooks, the manager of his uncle's Picton Estate, and his assistant Sukhram, who greets them warmly and takes them to the plantation.

After a long, hectic ride they arrive at the plantation and are delighted that they are placed in huts next to each other, but, just as Mohan expected, the first day's work was not as easy as it was made out to be. However, he had made up his mind

to face the challenge.

One day Mohan asked his fellow workers, who had been on the plantation long before him, "So how do you people feel about Chinidad?" They laughed and replied, "Who told you it is Chinidad? ...It is not Chinidad but Trinidad. Some smart agents have dismantled the word Trinidad and restructured it to read as Chinidad, because it sounds more alluring... the agents are paid by commission. Each recruit brings in



one shilling, and the more one recruits, higher will be the pay; and Chinidad sounds sweet, and of course Chini means sugar, suggesting that Chinidad is the land of sweetness."

This set Mohan thinking about Bihari, and he "searched for answers relating to Bihari's selling points." But Bihari, some time after, surprised Mohan by sending Sumintra to Chinidad. Mohan and Sumintra married and had a son, Suresh, whom they were able to educate and send to medical school in England, mainly by Mohan's hard work and rise in status.

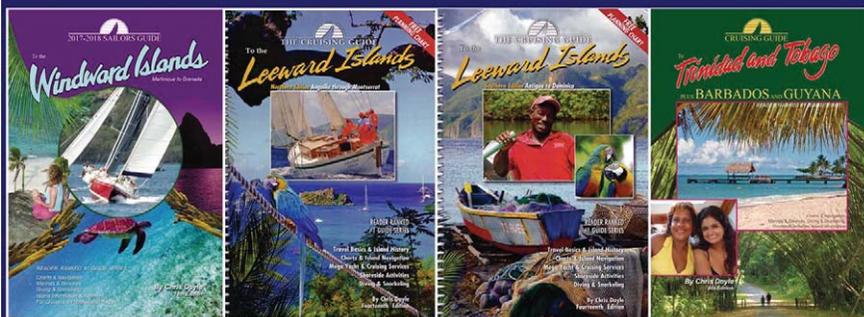
After serving his Indentureship period, Mohan was eventually able to purchase and cultivate his own land, and build a house. He became a well-known and respected member of the community, but he always had thoughts of home, and regularly sent parts of his pay back to his family in India.

Dookhie, however, passed away after an accident on the job. Mr. Brooks began paying attention to Rajwantie and they fall in love. Rajwantie becomes pregnant, Mr. Brooks marries her and their daughter, Shobha, is born. Years later, Shobha and Suresh fall in love. The story ends with their lavish wedding, further strengthening the bonds between their two families.

*Chalo Chinidad* is a book well worth reading. It is the flip side of the Indian Indentureship experience that most readers are familiar with. The author has certainly given an unusual perspective of the Indentureship experience.

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LOOK OUT FOR...

# THE NIGHTLY CARIBBEAN SOUNDTRACK

by Lynn Kaak

As you travel through the Caribbean, every month there's something special to look out for — or, in this case, listen out for!

This isn't about soca, zouk or reggae. This is about the musicians known as tree frogs, night frogs, or coquis — the music of the night that doesn't need a DJ or speakers, digitized sound effects, or a driving rhythm. The only "off" button is sunrise or dryness.

*Lesser Antillean Whistling Frogs (Eleutherodactylus johnstonei) are about 20 millimetres or less than an inch long, but make a big noise*



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There are numerous types of coquis. There also seem to be a number of different names for them. The Lesser Antillean Whistling Frog (*Eleutherodactylus johnstonei*) seems to be one of the more prolific ones in the Eastern Caribbean, whereas *Eleutherodactylus coqui*, the Caribbean Tree Frog, is the more common example of these little, but loud, amphibians in the Greater Antilles. While there are some size and sound differences, they share far more similarities.

Tree frogs are pretty much everywhere in the tropics, and beyond, even into the southern part of Alaska, and there are multitudes of species, with more being discovered. Seven new species were identified within the last two months alone. They can live in the dead leaves and foliage on the forest floor, or up in the highest branches of trees. They seem to handle coexisting with humans with little trouble, whether the hacienda is on a beach or a mountaintop. As long as they have somewhere to hide, and moisture, you will find them — or at least hear them.

Unlike most frogs, the female doesn't just lay her eggs in a body of water and hop or swim away. After a male has seduced his mate with his singing skills, while deterring other males, he will stay with the egg mass and protect it from other coquis, anole lizards, salamanders, or anyone else looking for a meal. Unfortunately, he may resort to snacking on a few of his charges as well, since they could guard the nest for about two and a half to three and a half weeks; they also devour huge quantities of insects, and smaller amounts of other amphibians that they can overcome.

The hatched tree frogs have an important advantage over their water-born cousins, as they go through their tadpole stage in the egg and are born with legs. The hatchlings do have a vestigial tail, but it drops off quite quickly.

With many nocturnal frogs, the more mature ones will go higher into the trees at night, leaving the kids on the ground to fend for themselves. Coquis have a pad at the end of each toe that is used for sticking to surfaces. During the day, everyone goes back to ground. This is not definitive of all tree frogs, as with every type of animal with multiple species within it, adaptations can occur. Like most amphibians, tree frogs require moisture to keep their skins damp, and to live. This is why we hear them at night, when it tends to be damper, and when it is raining or has recently rained.

Their piercing song has a double use. The first part, which is not the same note as the second, is used as a warning to the other males to stay away; interestingly, the females are not able to hear in that register. The second part of the call is for the ladies, inviting them to join the male. The Spanish *coquí* and the English/French *coquille* reflect the "ko-kee" call. The coqui's mating call can attain nearly 100 decibels at a distance of half a metre.

These little choir members range in size from about the size of the nail on your pinky to about half the length of a finger. The male is usually the larger.

With as many as 20,000 coquis per hectare, there is no concern for them disappearing, and their consumption of pests is of huge benefit to humans. Plus, that is one heck of a choir!

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# The Semipalmated Sandpiper

The Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla* moves along the mangrove-lined beach like a fleeting shadow, its grey-brown plumage chiming with the misty shades of the brooding sky.

Named for its partially webbed toes, which allow it to walk on mud flats and salt ponds without sinking, this shorebird is the archetypical sandpiper, often used as an illustrative example when discussing sandpipers in general. Its genus *Calidris* derives from the Greek word *skaladris* used by Aristotle to describe a grey, speckled shorebird. The word *pusilla* derives from the Latin *pusillus* meaning tiny. Indeed, at only 13 to 15 centimetres in length (five to six inches), the semipalmated sandpiper is one of the smallest shorebirds in the world and one of the five smallest North American sandpipers, commonly known as "peeps" for their sweet piping calls.

Four species of peeps are found in the Caribbean: the Least, Semipalmated and Western Sandpiper winter in the region, while the White-Rumped Sandpiper passes through during its south-bound migration. The peeps are extremely difficult to tell apart, yet the Semipalmated can be identified by the slightly shorter bill, the compact body and the nicely centred black legs giving it perfectly even proportions.

Watching their social interactions can also help with identification, as the semipalmated is often the most aggressive of the peeps. Indeed, after many hours watching the interactions between White-Rumps, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, I found the latter to be continually bickering with each other, with some defending small feeding territories, sometimes quite aggressively. I watched two neighbouring individuals assigning a grey-white, round sea-shell as the line between their territories, so that each time one approached the shell, both birds would face each other with open wings, wingtips facing down, bodies held horizontally and bills menacingly thrusting forward. This territorial behaviour on wintering grounds usually happens when there isn't quite enough food to go around. Yet, I wonder how much more these two individuals benefit from defending territories, as they seem to spend large amounts of energy and time fighting.

Also known as sand ox-eye, sand peep and black-legged peep, this handsome bird, like all arctic shorebirds, is a long-distance migrant that travels from its breeding grounds in the North American Arctic to wintering grounds in the Caribbean and both coasts of South America, as far south as Uruguay and Peru. During the south-bound migration, spectacular flocks of up to 300,000 individuals gather at key feeding stations, such as the Bay of Fundy in Canada, where they feed on a shrimp-like invertebrate called Chorophium, and Delaware Bay in New Jersey, where they eat the nutritious eggs of horseshoe crabs, which enables them to accumulate enough fat to fuel nonstop transoceanic flights. Some birds get so fat they have difficulty taking off!

—Continued on next page



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—Continued from previous page

Although couples do not spend the winter together, once back in the Arctic, Semipalmated Sandpipers are highly monogamous birds and very faithful to their old territories. During courtship the male performs flight displays by hovering over the female, while uttering sharp cries. Once the pair has bonded, the female chooses one of the many nests that the male prepared for her, just big enough to accommodate four large eggs, which together weigh almost as much as the female. Both male and female take turns at incubating the eggs for 18 or 19 days and at brooding the newly hatched chicks until they are about ten days old, when the female, whose body takes a heavy toll during egg laying, begins her southbound migration. Males migrate a couple of weeks later, soon after fledging takes place, and finally the juveniles follow several weeks later.

But not all of the eggs hatch, and many are lost during the incubation period to predators that may be playing a part in the Semipalmated Sandpiper's mysterious population decline. Although historically this tiny peep was one of the most widespread and abundant shorebirds in the western hemisphere, its population has been declining since the 1970s at a rate of five percent per year, with some major wintering grounds, such as Suriname, seeing a large decline from 2.5 million in the 1980s to 400,000 in recent years.

According to scientists, there are various factors that could be contributing towards its population decline. One is nest predation — historically the Arctic has always been a relatively safe, predator-free place, where shorebirds such as the Semipalmated Sandpiper could safely nest and raise their young. Sadly, this is no longer the case; a recent study conducted by an international team of researchers, found that daily nest predation in the Arctic has tripled in the last 70 years. The reason for this reversed pattern is not yet clear, but data suggests that it's linked to climate change driving shifts in the diet and distribution of nest predators, as well as alterations in vegetation and snow cover. Other contributing factors are the decline of horseshoe crabs at Delaware Bay where the Semipalmated goes to refuel, and the unregulated hunting taking place on some of the Caribbean islands, such as Guadeloupe, Martinique and Barbados, and particularly in French Guiana where the



Semipalmated Sandpiper is hunted for subsistence practices, sport, commercial use and cultural traditions. Many are also killed by stray bullets aimed at the lesser Yellow Legs, a larger shorebird whose numbers are also falling alarmingly.

To be able to help these tiny peeps, conservationists are trying to understand their migratory pathways and to determine whether they are in fact surviving their overwintering period. Individuals have been tagged with tiny light-level geolocators, enabling scientists to map an entire year in the life of a male Semipalmated Sandpiper — one particular individual flew a total distance of over 10,000 miles with an incredible six day, nonstop transoceanic flight, covering 3,300 miles from Hudson Bay in Canada to the Orinoco delta on the Venezuela-Guyana border. From here he continued at a leisurely pace all the way down to Brazil where he overwintered. He left Brazil on May 3rd, 2018 for a series of northbound flights, taking exactly one month to reach Hudson Bay, with stops in Cuba, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Delaware Bay.

It is a truly remarkable feat for such a tiny creature — so let's stop for a second and marvel at the mesmerizing odyssey of this remarkable navigator whose migratory flyway ties us all together despite the walls we build.

## MERIDIAN PASSAGE OF THE MOON



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 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!

January 2019				
DATE	TIME			
1	0821	20	2358	8
2	0969	21	0000 FULL MOON	9
3	0998	22	0101	10
4	1047	23	0201	11
5	1137	24	0257	12
6	1227	25	0350	13
7	1315	26	0441	14
8	1402	27	0530	15
9	1448	28	0618	16
10	1531	29	0706	17
11	1614	30	0755	18
12	1656	31	0844	19
13	1739			20
14	1823			21
15	1910			22
16	2000			23
17	2059			24
18	2153			25
19	2255			26
				27
				28
				29
				30
				31
				0000 FULL MOON
				0049
				0135
				0229
				0320
				0411
				0501
				0550
				0640
				0730

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# The Sky from Mid-January to Mid-February

by Jim Ulik

*Well I wonder why it is that we  
have rascals, rogues and losers;  
We've got roustabouts, rapscallions  
and a bucketload of boozers;  
We've got balladeers  
and blowhards of all sorts;  
We've got poets, priests and pirates,  
but we have no astronauts.  
They say there was a space race —  
if there was I think I missed it —  
From the earth up to the moon and back;  
doesn't that take the biscuit?  
Well, I wouldn't mind a little ride  
in zero gravity,  
as long as they could promise  
I'd be home in time for tea.*

— Gaelic Storm, 'Space Race'

Home for tea? Not likely. Especially when you are traveling through deep space. Ancient seafarers navigated by the stars to make a passage. Want to get to the planets that orbit nearby stars such as Proxima Centauri, Alpha Centauri or Barnard's Star? The future astronauts will use both stars and pulsars. Spacecraft will determine their positions in the universe by taking sights on distant pulsars. See Figure 2 on page 39.

The first optical pulsar was discovered 50 years ago on January 16th, 1969 in the Crab Nebula. China is pioneering the way into pulsar navigation with its launch of the world's first X-ray pulsar navigation satellite. The satellite will detect the details of X-ray signals from 26 nearby pulsars to create a pulsar navigation database.

### Wednesday, January 16th

This may be a good night to find the constellation Crater (the Cup). With all the bright lights from a pub, restaurant, boatyard or anchor lights flooding the night sky it is usually hard to identify. It is a dim constellation located south of Virgo. If you spot any shooting stars this evening they will be radiating out of Crater. Tonight is the peak of the ECR Craterids meteor shower. As usual, they are best seen after midnight.

### Thursday, January 17th

In the eastern sky at around 2000 hours the constellation Cancer is situated just below or east of Gemini. This evening the Moon is near Aldebaran and brightly illuminating the night sky. This also happens to be the peak of the DCA Cancrids meteor shower. This event is active from December 14th through February 14th. The best time for viewing shooting stars is a couple of hours past midnight as the Moon begins to set.

### Sunday and Monday, January 20th and 21st

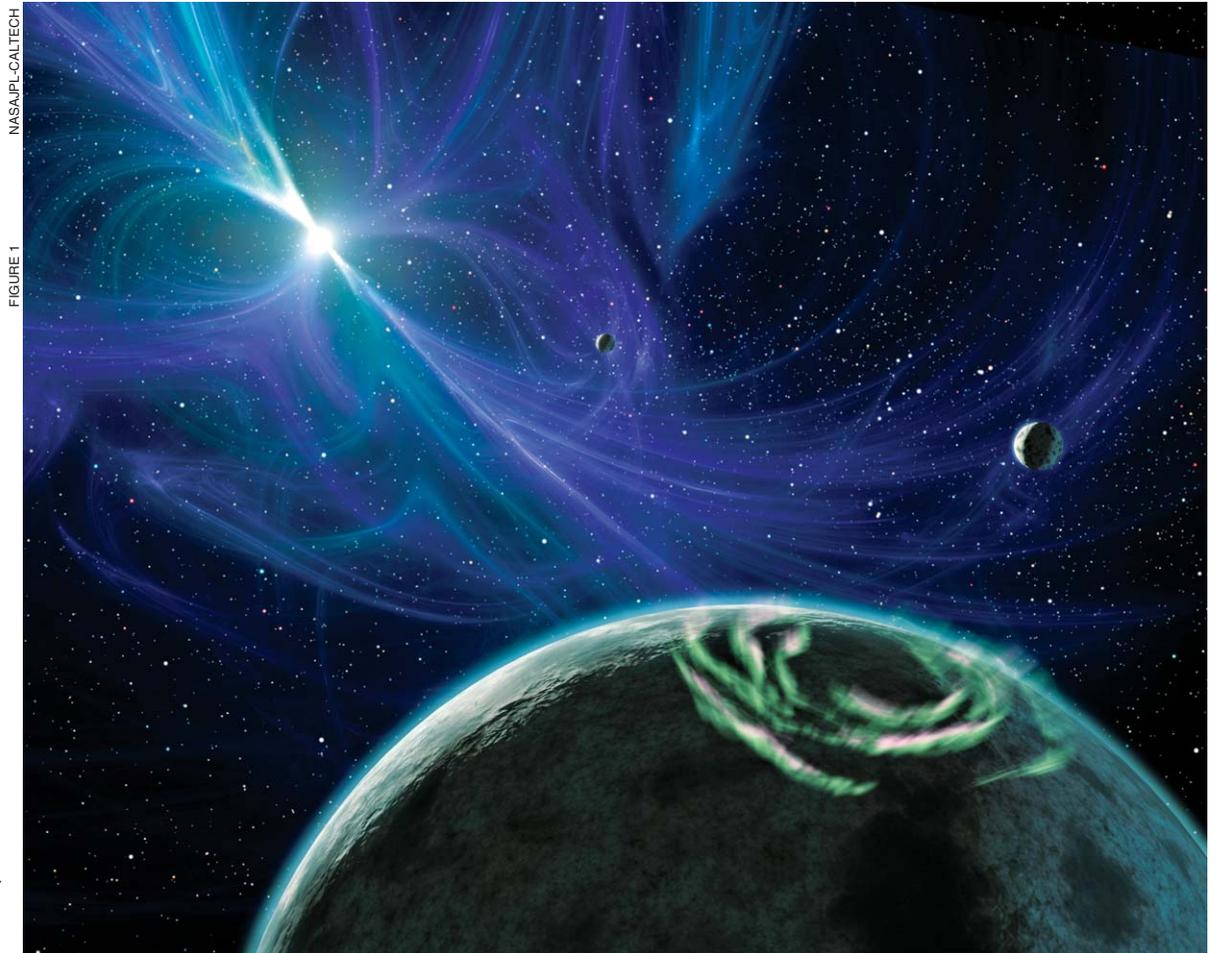
Keep your eye on the sky as midnight approaches. About one half hour before midnight the Earth's shadow will begin to mask the lunar surface. In a few minutes the Blood Moon will glow high overhead. All of the eclipse phases combined will last about five hours while the Total "crimson" Eclipse phase will last for one hour. Use a pair of binoculars to see the M44 star cluster just east of the Moon as it begins to turn red.

Luckily the Moon is one day away from its closest approach to Earth. The super-sized Full Moon takes place in addition to this morning's Total Eclipse. Prior to the eclipse the Super Full Moon will look about 16 percent brighter than an average Full Moon because it is so close to Earth.

### Tuesday, January 22nd

Jupiter and Venus will appear next to each other in the dawn sky. Venus is only half illuminated but appears much brighter than Jupiter. Antares will be a few degrees south of the planet pairing.

—Continued on next page



Artist's rendition of three planets orbiting a pulsar

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—Continued from previous page

The difference between the size of the Moon last night and tonight shouldn't be noticeable, but the actual Supermoon is tonight. As you see it rise you may notice a star just south of the Moon. That star is Regulus, the Heart of Leo.

**Sunday, January 27th**

It is the third and last quarter for the Moon today. On the day of Third Quarter, the Moon rises approximately in the middle of the night and sets in the middle of the day.

**Thursday, January 31st**

A trio of celestial bodies will be visible this morning in the eastern sky. The crescent Moon will be positioned in between Jupiter and Venus. If you are up early enough, follow the line that runs through the Moon and Venus towards the horizon. There you will find Saturn breaking the horizon around 0500.

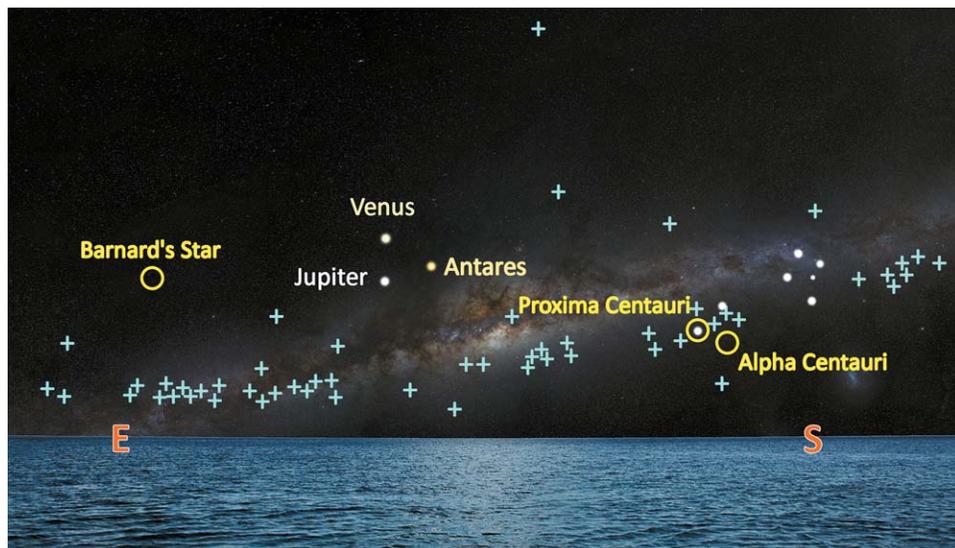


FIGURE 2

Left: Navigating deep space using pulsars. A few pulsars are depicted by blue crosses as viewed on January 16th at 0530

Below: The Gegenschein above European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT)

**Friday, February 1st**

You'll have to wait until the midnight hour. That's when the stars begin to shine. Those are not quite the lyrics of Wilson Pickett's song but the words will hold true over the next few nights. As the skies continue to darken, as the midnight hour approaches look directly overhead towards the faint constellation Cancer. There you will see the Gegenschein. Pronounced *GAY-gen-shine*, it's the German word for "counter-shine". This glow lies along the ecliptic directly opposite the Sun. What you're seeing is sunlight reflecting off the gas and dust ejected by comets and the debris of disintegrating asteroids circling Earth.

**Sunday, February 3rd**

Apothis is making another close approach to Earth. The asteroid Apophis is about 370 metres in diameter. Original calculations determined that Apophis had the potential to impact Earth on either Friday the 13th, April 2029 or on Easter Sunday, April 13th, 2036. Recent observations by astronomers have recalculated its orbit, reducing the possibility of impact on these days. But constant monitoring of the asteroid's orbit is necessary because it is constantly influenced by other celestial bodies. Apophis is positioned west of Mars this evening. Do you believe in science?

**Monday, February 4th**

Rising and setting along with the Sun today is the Moon. The New Moon moment occurs this afternoon.

**Sunday, February 10th**

In the western sky is a conjunction between the Moon and Mars. At around 1900 hours, follow the line between the light and dark sides of the Moon towards the northwest to spot Mars. If you continue that line another 30 degrees farther you will find the location of the Andromeda Galaxy. As seen from Earth it will appear as a small fuzzy disk, but it is actually three times the diameter of the Moon.



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FIGURE 3

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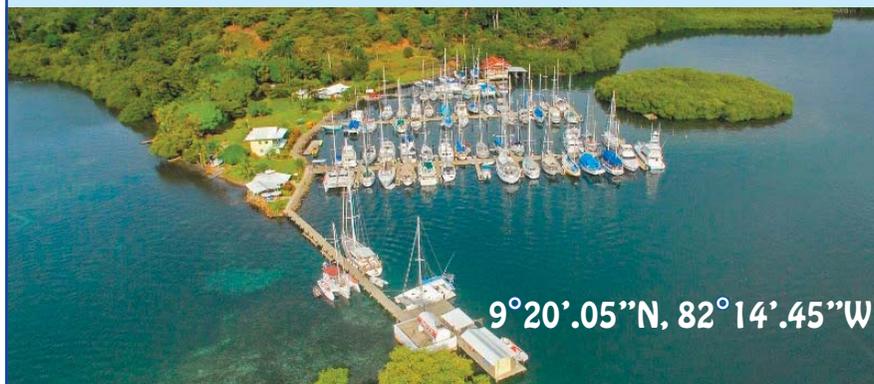
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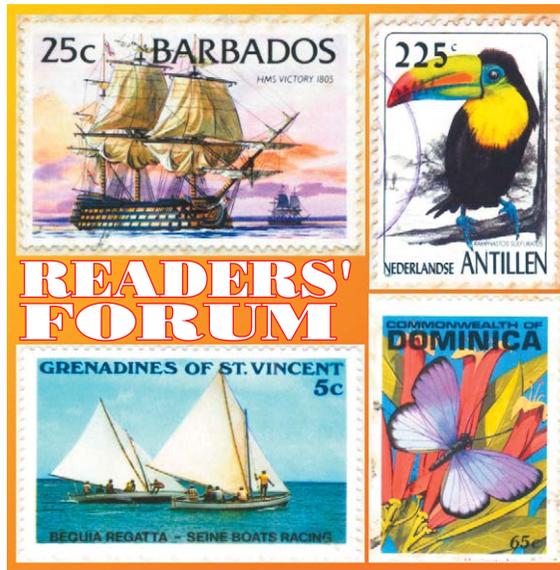
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### A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

#### Dear Compass Readers,

The Yacht Services Association of Trinidad & Tobago (YSATT) wishes to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to making our 2018 Cookout a success. YSATT's 2018 Cookout was held on November 16th, 2018 at the Power Boats Marina. Funds from this event were raised in aid of medical expenses for Mr. and Mrs. Jesse James, who are long-time friends and advocates of the visiting sailing community in Trinidad. Since May 2018, Sharon Rose James has been battling with breast cancer. She continues to remain grateful and appreciative to you, our loyal YSATT members, supporters and wonderful cruisers.

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Boater's Shop, Budget Marine, Celerity Private Yacht Charters, Craftline Woodworking, Electropics Marine Services Ltd., Grace Roti Shop, Jonathan's Outboard Shoppe, Kay's Canvas, Members Only Maxi Taxi and Tour Services, Peake Yacht Services, Power Boats, Rick's Dive World, Sweet Water Marina and Upper Crust Patisserie Ltd.

**Gabriella Seepersad**  
**Yacht Services Association of Trinidad & Tobago**

#### HELP FOR DOMINICA

#### Dear Compass Readers,

The resilience of Dominica and of her people is everywhere evident on this beautiful island. Dominica is green again! And the "Nature Island" is now hosting the new wave of tourists who come to explore the beauty of her rainforests, volcanic wonders, waterfalls and snorkeling sites. But as we celebrate her wonders, let us not forget about the people who were profoundly damaged by Hurricane Maria.

The Feed My Sheep Community Center, located in the town of Mahaut, feeds the hungry, offers care for those who cannot care for themselves, and is a learning center for young and old. Only four full-time volunteer women do the work of keeping that place going.

But this extraordinary Community Center also suffered severe hurricane damage in 2017. Significant repairs are being made by two international NGOs but much more is needed. They have no computers, no professional kitchen equipment, no grass trimmer and no PA system for big events. They always need long-life

foodstuffs; laundry, kitchen and bathroom supplies; first aid kits, towels, bedding, air mattresses and much more.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause. You can donate on Facebook at Team SOS Dominica or at Go Get Funding. Call us at WhatsApp (340) 626-6306 or e-mail us at teamsosdominica@icloud.com.

**Sheron Wahl**  
**S/V Ballerina**

#### VISIT ILE-À-VACHE, AND ASSIST

#### Dear Compass Readers,

The Compass has kindly allowed us to ask for your help again this sailing season!

Good Samaritan Foundation of Haiti, based in the USVI, is seeking any yacht interested in visiting Ile-à-Vache, southwest Haiti, this sailing season. It's beautiful and the safest part of Haiti.

If you can deliver a few items of cargo for us — computers, small machinery, school equipment, books in French, etcetera — we have local contacts, can help with security, official clearances, and local knowledge. Air shipments are rare and costly for small non-profits and some donations are too good to waste but have been piling up at our base in St. Croix, where we can also make you feel at home, when anchoring off Frederiksted in particular.

Currently we have a yacht in transit from Florida going southeast with sails, small machinery, musical instruments and computers. (That vessel will bring crafts made on Ile-à-Vache to the BVI this month, providing a small market for artisans we help make a living, and some publicity at the concerts of our founder, Michael Beans Gardner, at Leverick Bay Resort in Virgin Gorda.)

Then there are boxes of Kindergarten equipment, snorkel gear for local fishermen, books and posters for the schools — waiting to go west from St. Croix.

Have skills to volunteer? We have a school, vocational training, micro-loan program and more — so if you are good at solar electrics, any aspect of the building trades, have medical skills, or like to teach any subject or age-group (in English, French, or Spanish) see [www.goodsamaritanofhaiti.com](http://www.goodsamaritanofhaiti.com), contact Mandy at (340) 513-2022 or on Facebook at the Good Samaritan of Haiti page.

Even if you are not passing St. Croix or Virgin Gorda we may be able to get items to you in St. Thomas, Tortola or Puerto Rico, and we always welcome donations of sails, rope, boat parts, hand-tools, safety equipment such as life-jackets, solar panels, books, etcetera.

Once on Ile-à-Vache our projects can supply eggs, chicken, vegetables, dried fruit and nuts, and more!

Thanks so much!

**Mandy Thody**  
**Good Samaritan Foundation of Haiti**  
**[www.goodsamaritanofhaiti.com](http://www.goodsamaritanofhaiti.com)**

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# Letter of the Month

of a cruising rally with roughly 70 boats. This fleet effectively doubled or tripled the usual number of vessels in the anchorages — and consequently ballooned the number of dinghies pressuring existing facilities.

To reduce pressure on existing dinghy dock facilities, rally organizers established a rally-oriented dinghy dock in Anchorage C, having security guards and lighting at night. On December 4th, the Dutch language newspaper *Amigoe Curaçao* reported that the temporary dinghy dock in Anchorage C organized for the rally participants will remain for a while longer, with nighttime lighting, even though it is remote from public transport and the area has historically experienced security issues.

Nevertheless, access to shore is still seriously limited. According to VHF net reports, some local business interests and other individuals are lobbying the Port Authority and other agencies to provide dinghy landing options, since so many previous options for dinghy landing have been removed.

On December 3rd talks reportedly began among relevant government agencies and the Curaçao Marine Trades Association to address some of the issues faced by cruisers unable to get to shore. The following day it was reported that temporarily (until the end of February) use of the dinghy dock in the Fishing Harbor in Spanish Water is restored, but there may be rules, or time-sensitive passes issued, or other considerations enacted. It was not clear if the restoration is immediate.

The search for a long-term solution to the lack of dinghy dock facilities continues among the various stakeholders, so consider checking local information sources and cruiser-related businesses to see if dinghy dock facilities become available. Tensions may be reduced once the anchorage's population returns to normal.

Even with the challenges to get ashore at Spanish Water, Curaçao is a good stop on your way west. It is a good place for parts, repairs, and haul-outs. It is a good place to temporarily store your boat. It is safe from storms. There are few reports of crimes against yachts. There are good opportunities for enjoyable activities ashore.

**Mary Stone**  
M/V *Ms Astor*

## DINGHY DOCK WOES IN CURAÇAO

### Dear Compass Readers,

Curaçao is generally a nice place for cruisers to visit — although lately (late 2018) you may have had serious challenges getting ashore.

As recently reported on the local VHF net, the Curaçao Port Authority and other related agencies had forbidden tying dinghies at public facilities (e.g. the fishing harbor in Spanish Water) when going ashore. In the past, tensions have resulted from overcrowding, high marina traffic, limited car parking, trash disposal issues, water theft, lack of monetary support, and wakes.

Additionally, nearby businesses and charterboat operators have forbidden dinghies from tying up on their docks unless doing business with them directly. Reportedly, businesses have become unwelcoming after incidents of theft of water, public showering on the docks, and long-term dinghy storage at their docks, which reduces the docks' holding capacity for their customers.

The shore access issue was recently heightened with the arrival in Spanish Water

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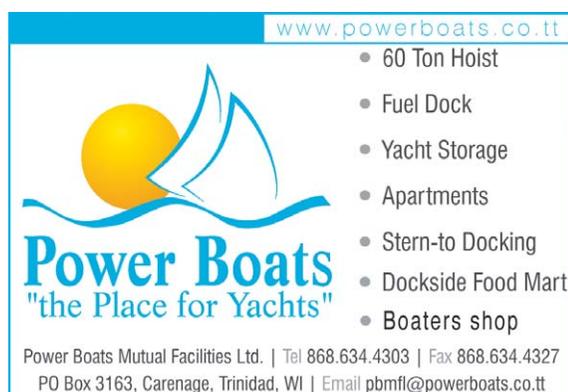
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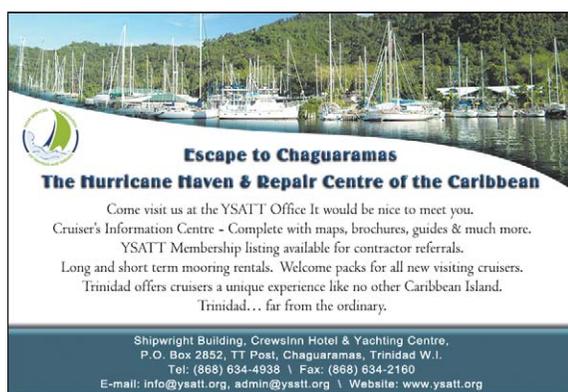


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continued on page 46 →

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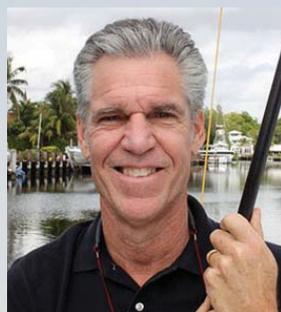
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## CALENDAR

# JANUARY

- 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.facebook.com/MontserratAnnualFestival](http://www.facebook.com/MontserratAnnualFestival)  
 1 SSCA Gam, TISA headquarters, Chaguaramas, Trinidad. [jessejamesmembersonly@yahoo.com](mailto:jessejamesmembersonly@yahoo.com)  
 1 - 2 St. Kitts "Sugar Mas". [www.facebook.com/SKNCarnival](http://www.facebook.com/SKNCarnival)  
 4 - 5 St. Croix "Crucian Carnival". [www.stcroixtourism.com/christmas\\_festival.htm](http://www.stcroixtourism.com/christmas_festival.htm)  
 4 - 20 St. Barts Music Festival. [www.stbartsmusicfestival.org/festival.html](http://www.stbartsmusicfestival.org/festival.html)  
 6 Public holiday in some places (Three Kings Day/Epiphany)  
 10 Public holiday in the Bahamas (Majority Rule Day)  
 11 - 20 Barbados Film Festival. [www.visitbarbados.org](http://www.visitbarbados.org)  
 12 World ARC 2019-20 departs Rodney Bay, St. Lucia. [www.worldcruising.com](http://www.worldcruising.com)  
 12 "2018" Nanny Cay Round Tortola Race. RBVIYC, [admin@royalbvicyc.org](mailto:admin@royalbvicyc.org)  
 12 Island Water World Cruiser Seminar, Cole Bay, St. Maarten. [www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld](http://www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld)  
 16 - 22 Barbados Sailing Week. [www.barbadosailingweek.com](http://www.barbadosailingweek.com)  
 18 - 20 Caribbean Laser Midwinter Regatta. Cabarete, Dominican Republic. [www.caribwind.com](http://www.caribwind.com)  
 19 Round the Island Race. Antigua. [www.antiguayachtclub.com](http://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 Altigracia)  
 21 FULL MOON  
 21 - 26 50th Spice Island Billfish Tournament, Grenada. [www.sibt.gd/sibt.html](http://www.sibt.gd/sibt.html)  
 23 World ARC 2019-20 departs Santa Marta, Colombia. [www.worldcruising.com](http://www.worldcruising.com)  
 23 - 6 Feb Mustique Blues Festival. <https://basilsbar.com>  
 24 Barbados to Antigua Ocean Race. [www.barbadosailingweek.com](http://www.barbadosailingweek.com)  
 25 Public holiday in Aruba (GF Croes Day)  
 26 Public holiday in Dominican Republic (Duarte Day)  
 26 Island Water World Cruiser Seminar, Cole Bay, St. Maarten. [www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld](http://www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld)  
 27 Sail for the Roses, Curaçao. CYA  
 27 - 1 Feb Grenada Sailing Week. [www.grenadasailingweek.com](http://www.grenadasailingweek.com)  
 28 Public holiday in Cayman Islands (National Heroes' Day) and in Cuba (Birthday of José Martí)  
 30 - 3 Feb Superyacht Challenge Antigua. [www.superyachtchallengeantigua.com](http://www.superyachtchallengeantigua.com)  
 30 - 3 Feb Bequia Music Fest. [www.bequiamusicfestival.com](http://www.bequiamusicfestival.com)

# FEBRUARY

- 2 Manhattan Yacht Club Trophy, BVI. RBVIYC, [admin@royalbvicyc.org](mailto:admin@royalbvicyc.org)  
 2 World Wetlands Day. [www.ramsar.org/activity/world-wetlands-day](http://www.ramsar.org/activity/world-wetlands-day)  
 2 Island Water World Cruiser Seminar, Cole Bay, St. Maarten. [www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld](http://www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld)  
 2 - 3 Grenada Sailing Festival Workboat Regatta. [www.grenadasailingfestival.com](http://www.grenadasailingfestival.com)  
 2 - 3 Crucian Open Regatta, St. Croix. STYC, [www.stcroixyc.com/Cruzan-Open](http://www.stcroixyc.com/Cruzan-Open)  
 3 - 3 March (every Sunday) Dominican Republic Carnival. [godominicanrepublic.com/about-dr/carnival](http://godominicanrepublic.com/about-dr/carnival)  
 7 Public holiday in Grenada (Independence Day)  
 8 - 9 Carnaval de Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. [puncacanavillage.com/lifestyle/carnaval](http://puncacanavillage.com/lifestyle/carnaval)  
 8 - 10 Caribbean Multihull Challenge, SMYC, [www.smyc.com/caribbean-multihull-challenge](http://www.smyc.com/caribbean-multihull-challenge)  
 8 - 10 Round Martinique Regatta. [www.theroundmartinique.com](http://www.theroundmartinique.com)  
 10 Sail Adventure Sunfish Championship, Curaçao. [tiki-mas@hotmail.com](mailto:tiki-mas@hotmail.com)  
 10 Jolly Harbour Valentine's Regatta, Antigua. JHYC, [www.jhycantigua.com](http://www.jhycantigua.com)  
 12 Round Redonda Race. JHYC, [www.jhycantigua.com](http://www.jhycantigua.com)  
 15 Antigua 360° Race. AYC, [www.antiguayachtclub.com](http://www.antiguayachtclub.com)  
 16 Island Water World Cruiser Seminar, Cole Bay, St. Maarten. [www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld](http://www.facebook.com/Islandwaterworld)  
 18 Start of RORC Caribbean 600 race, Antigua, <http://caribbean600.rorc.org>  
 18 Public holiday in Puerto Rico and USVI (Presidents' Day)  
 19 FULL MOON  
 20 - 10 March Oyster World Rally arrives at Port Louis Marina, Grenada  
 22 Public holiday in St. Lucia (Independence Day)  
 23 Ham radio testing, St. Croix. Reservation required: [djarrka@gmail.com](mailto:djarrka@gmail.com)  
 23 Governor's Cup Race, BVI. RBVIYC, [admin@royalbvicyc.org](mailto:admin@royalbvicyc.org)  
 23 Public holiday in Guyana (Mashramani)  
 23 - 3 March SSCA Dominica Gam, Portsmouth, Dominica. [growthtiger@gmn-usa.com](mailto:growthtiger@gmn-usa.com)  
 24 Piet Dijk Race, Curaçao. WSV Jan Sofat, [jcpvanzon@gmail.com](mailto:jcpvanzon@gmail.com)  
 25 Public holiday in Suriname (Liberation Day)  
 27 Public holiday in Dominican Republic (Independence Day)  
 28 - 3 March St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, SMYC, [info@heinekenregatta.com](mailto:info@heinekenregatta.com)  
 TBA Grenada Charter Yacht Show

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](mailto:sally@caribbeancompass.com)

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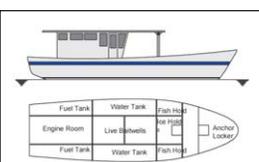
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