

ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB

THE CENTRE OF SAILING IN THE
CARIBBEAN

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VIEW FROM THE COMMODORE

Dear Members and Friends

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this new edition of the Antigua Yacht Club Magazine. This publication reflects the spirit of our Club—dynamic, resilient, and forward-looking. It celebrates our achievements, highlights the talent within our sailing community, and showcases the continued growth and modernization of the AYC.

As we chart our course for the season ahead, I extend sincere thanks to our dedicated teams, volunteers, partners, and supporters whose hard work keeps the Club vibrant and moving confidently toward the future. Your commitment ensures that AYC remains a place where excellence in sailing, camaraderie, and community thrive. I invite you to enjoy this edition, share in our successes, and stay inspired as we continue building a stronger Antigua Yacht Club together.

Warm regards,
Dr Clarence E Pilgrim
Commodore



THE AYC BOARD

The AYC Board provides strategic leadership and responsible stewardship for the Club on behalf of its members. As an elected group of volunteer members, the Board oversees the long-term vision, financial health, and operational policies of the yacht club, ensuring that activities, facilities, and programs support a safe, inclusive, and vibrant boating community. The Board works collaboratively with committees, staff, and membership to set priorities, uphold the Club's values, and guide decisions that sustain AYC's mission and traditions for the future.

The AYC Board, 2025/2026 comprises:

- Commodore: Dr. Clarence Pilgrim
- Vice-Commodore: Cdr Richard Fear
- Rear-Commodore: Sandy Mair
- House & Grounds Director: John Gaillard
- Honorary reasurer: Lorraine Gaillard
- Fleet Captain: Tommy Patterson
- Classics Fleet Captain: Robin Stout
- Director-at-Large: Jeff Hadeed
- Social Director: Gina di Renzo (newly appointed)
- Dinghy Captain: Sophie Brookes (newly appointed)
- The AYC is still seeking appropriate candidates for Honorary Secretary and Younger Members' Captain

To support the board, a members' advisory committee was established at the AGM to research and advise on mutually agreed upon topics concerning the club. Members are encouraged to engage with and support the committee as they undertake their work.



Commodore Dr Clarence Pilgrim,
Vice Commodore Cdr Richard Fear,
Rear Commodore Sandy Mair

DECEMBER RACING AT THE AYC

BOXING DAY BARREL

AYC invites you to the 10th Annual Boxing Day Race – The Barrel on 26th December 2025. This standalone race to Curtain Bluff and back is perfect for spinnaker enthusiasts, with a competitive non-spinnaker class too. Current trophy holder Josh Bailey on Gypsy challenges all sailors to take the win. Join us for a day of great sailing, camaraderie, and a post-race gathering at AYC. Don't miss it—blow the Christmas cobwebs away on the water!



JOL BYERLEY HIGH TIDE SERIES

Antigua Yacht Club is gearing up for an exciting Jol Byerley Hightide Series this December. The action begins with Warm-Up races on 13 and 17 December, followed by the main 7-race series on 20–21 December, expected to attract a strong fleet from around the island. New race courses, a dedicated start boat, and improved race management promise competitive, fast-paced sailing. Onshore, sailors can enjoy skippers' briefings and drinks at the Commodore's Bar and a bit of a bash on Sunday night. AYC organisers say they're ready for a fantastic turnout and memorable racing. The Commodore's Bar will be open every day.



**AYC Welcomes
Caribbean Alliance
and Antigua
Distilleries, new
sponsors for the
Jol Byerley High
Tide Racing Series**

NELSON PURSUIT

A brilliant day of history, charity and camaraderie, the Nelson Pursuit Race ends the year with panache, proving that even centuries-old rivalries can have a bit of modern flair.

New Year's Eve sees the annual Nelson Pursuit race, Can you catch Villeneuve as you race?



DECEMBER GOINGS-ON

COMMODORE'S BAR

The Commodore's Bar is open on Saturdays from 5:00 (17:00 hours, for the more military-minded among us). It will be open after every race day. Swing by after racing to recount the heroic tale of how your boat almost clinched victory, and how you tacked or gybed with unrivalled elegance (as you'll no doubt remind us). It's not just for sailors—members and guests of every persuasion are warmly welcomed. Prices range from EC\$5 for beer and mixers to EC\$10-15 for the fancier concoctions. The bartender has even fielded a few cocktail requests... so who knows; "Gybing Now spritz" anyone? Cheers to that!



We will be open throughout the HIGH TIDE racing series. You don't have to race, just race to the bar!

COFFEE TIME

The AYC monthly coffee mornings have become a runaway success—helped in no small part by Barbie's legendary muffins and the occasional culinary masterpiece from Tommy & Peter. Through the off-season, they gave us the perfect excuse to gather (in addition to the Commodore's bar, naturally). Now that we're in full swing again, we kick off with a Christmas Special on December 12th on the AYC Deck at 10.00. Any bakers eager to contribute a dose of delicious decadence are wholeheartedly welcome—Barbie will, as ever, be leading the charge. Come and support your club and enjoy conversations drifting from the inevitable topics of sailing and the state of the, ahem, wind, to weightier matters such as fashion, flair, and whatever else tickles our collective fancy.



MORE GOINGS-ON

YOGA ON THE LAWN

You don't need to hoist a sail to enjoy the Antigua Yacht Club—just a mat and a willingness to greet the morning. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Salty Dawgs transform the AYC lawn into a peaceful, sun-kissed studio as members and visitors gather for yoga under the palms. Stretching, breathing, and occasionally wobbling in unison, it's a reminder that the Club offers more than racing and rum punches. Whether you sail or simply seek serenity, the lawn is open, the breeze is gentle, and yoga awaits.



HOISTING SAILS

The AYC lawn isn't just for quiet moments—it's also the perfect place to hoist sails, launch dreams, and unleash youthful energy. Every Saturday (and most sailing days), the lawn comes alive with dinghies being rigged, juniors dashing about with expert seriousness, and coaches shouting cheerful encouragement into the breeze. By afternoon, the tempo shifts as Saturday racing kicks in, with boats, banter, and competitive spirit filling the waterfront. It's sailing at its most vibrant—right from the lawn.



CHRISTMAS



KIDS Christmas
sailing camp
at Antigua Yacht Club

Christmas Fun Camp
16th - 19th December
9:30am until 2:00pm
for ages 8 - 16
EC\$200*
contact 460-1799 to book

* 17% tax added for students who do not attend school in Antigua.
Please provide 2025 school report, school ID, or acceptance letter.



Antigua Yacht Club
Annual Christmas Banquet

Exquisitely Elegant
Friday, 19 December

18:00 Canapes & Cocktail Hour on the deck
19:00 Christmas Banquet with all the trimmings

EC\$150 Members * EC\$180 Non Members

Reserve your seat today at AYC office or call 460-1799



ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB

merry Christmas
Last coffee before Christmas

May your coffee be warm, your holidays joyful,
your New Year full of promise.
AYC Event Centre December 12th, 10.00