

# MEMBERS AFLOAT

THE CENTRE OF SAILING IN THE  
CARIBBEAN

[WEBSITE HERE](#)



**VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**



# DECEMBER AT THE AYC

## YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Antigua Yacht Club sailors proudly represented Antigua and Barbuda at the World Sailing Youth Championships 2025 in Vilamoura, Portugal, with Emily Gaillard and Shanoy Malone competing in the highly competitive ILCA 6 class under the guidance of coach Karl James. Leading the opening ceremony procession, the Antiguan team carried the national flag before more than 500 sailors from 67 countries. Their participation at this prestigious event highlights the strength of the AYC youth programme and the growing presence of Caribbean sailors on the world stage.

water!



## HOLIDAY RACING

Congratulations to Rear Commodore Sandy Mair for delivering an impressively action-packed month of racing at the Antigua Yacht Club. From the High Tide Series before Christmas, which kept crews sharp through the festive season, to the ever-popular Sandy Island Race on January 24th, the calendar has been relentless—in the best possible way. Dinghies, keelboats, seasoned campaigners and enthusiastic newcomers alike were kept busy, proving once again that there's no such thing as an "off-season" at AYC. Sandy's well-paced programme struck the perfect balance between competition and camaraderie, reminding us that great racing—and good fun—are very much alive on these waters. The commodore's bar opened after every race and provided a space for sailors to tell everyone why they nearly won but ...

[Results are posted on the AYC website.](#)



PHOTO ED GIFFORD

## PARTY TIME

Local and international sailors came together on January 25th to celebrate and welcome the RORC Transatlantic sailors and Sandy Island racers. Drinks were raised, stories were swapped, and sailing talk flowed effortlessly as Sai, Ora Forma, and Round the World crews shared a drink—and a few unforgettable tales from the sea.



PHOTO ARTHUR DANIEL, RORC

# NEW YEAR RACING

## NELSON PURSUIT

The Nelson Pursuit New Year's Eve Race once again delivered spectacle and suspense, with an eclectic fleet of 24 racers, cruisers, classics—and even four ghost ships—setting off in staggered starts. Carriacou sloop Summer Cloud led away early, but all eyes were on the finish. Starting over an hour later, the Mills 72 Maxi Balthazar, unmistakable with her black sails, stormed through the fleet to claim line honours, capping off one of the most dramatic finishes in recent memory.



PHOTO ED GIFFORD

## RS ELITE

The 2026 sailing calendar launched in style at Antigua Yacht Club with the first-ever RS Elite Cup. Credit goes to AYC Rear Commodore Sandy Mair for a well-run and good-humoured event that united the island's RS Elite fleet and set the stage for future racing and growing class momentum. Congratulations to the overall winners, Geoffrey Perini and family. [See Caribbean Compass here.](#)



PHOTO ED GIFFORD

PHOTO JO ANN

## YOUTH SAILING

The Antigua Yacht Club continues its strong commitment to youth sailing with regular Youth Mini Regattas. These events combine skills development with fun, accessible competition. The next regatta takes place on Sunday, 8 February 2026, with morning registration, a briefing, and racing to follow.



PHOTO GIGI DIRENZO

# SETTING SAILS

## RORC CARIBBEAN 600

With preparations underway for the 2026 RORC Caribbean 600, volunteers are once again being invited to join the much-loved Meet & Greet team. This Please respond to [helenmspooner@gmail.com](mailto:helenmspooner@gmail.com) or WhatsApp: [+1 268 726 7518](tel:+12687267518)



PHOTO RORC, ARTHUR DANIEL

## ANTIGUA CLASSIC REGATTA

Interest in this year's Classics season is already running high, with 18 boats officially registered and many more expected, making January shaping up to be one of the busiest yet. With racing and social events filling the calendar, the full schedule is available on the [Antigua Classics website](#).



## ANTIGUA SAILING MONTH

The 57th [Antigua Sailing Week](#) will take place from April 22–26, 2026, featuring a new, shorter 4-day format that emphasizes a "point-to-point" cruising rally experience, returning to its historical roots. The event includes daily races ending at different coastal locations, designed for both competitive racers and cruisers.



# SOCIAL SCENE

With preparations underway for the 2026 RORC Caribbean 600, volunteers are once again being invited to join the much-loved Meet & Greet team. This iconic role sees teams of two welcoming finishing yachts at their berths—day or night—with an ice-cold case of Carib Beer and a finish-line photo. Watches run in four-hour shifts from



# MUSICAL INTERLUDE

**PIANOCEAN**  
• LIVE CONCERT •

**ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB**  
**February 28 & MARCH 1st - 7PM**

AYC



# THE ISLAND GIRLS

The rowing may have stopped, but Antigua Island Girls are still raising money for the Disadvantaged and vulnerable girls in Antigua. Join them for an evening for a dramatisation of their Pacific Row and an opportunity to meet them and experience some of what they went through, including sampling the “delicious” food they had to eat!



**TEAM ANTIGUA  
ISLAND GIRLS**

JOIN  
**Team Antigua  
Island Girls**

FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT OF  
COURAGE AND CREATIVITY!

**UNCHARTERED  
WATERS**

**FUNDRAISER**

SUPPORTING SECOND CHANCES FOR GIRLS IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

**March 3rd**  
NOV 25

**7PM** VENUE: ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB  
MEMBERS XCD 90, NON-MEMBERS XCD 140  
TICKETS FROM AYC OFFICE & AT THE DOOR

