

It's been a while since our last newsletter but there has been so much going on over the past 3 months that we hope you will feel, as we do, that it is "better late than never!"



THE Wedding!

At the end of March Brian & Pippa's wedding went off without a hitch. You may recall we expected 12 people to arrive in Antigua from the UK and Malta just for the occasion. We were amazed when a total of 15 actually took the trouble, not to mention the expense, and duly arrived for the ceremony and the partying. All our visitors and guests deserve a special mention but one in particular, Steve Jenks, was remarkable because he arrived from the UK on Friday, attended the wedding on the Saturday, and then flew back on Tuesday! Steve made a fantastic effort for which we shall always be grateful.

Needless to say, after the ceremony everyone partied over brunch at Al Porto's and then well into the night to live music at the Foredeck Bar. Gradually our overseas visitors departed over the following fortnight during which the celebrations continued relentlessly. We were sorry to see them go, but appreciated the opportunity to take a break after a fantastic couple of weeks.

Antigua Classic Regatta

Once again we were honoured to be invited to join the crew of "Old Bob" for the 2010 edition of the Antigua Classic Regatta in April. We were all keen to improve on our Class win in the Sint Maarten Classic earlier this year in January. We were not disappointed. "Old Bob" and her crew of 16, worked hard over the 4 days of racing to come away with 3 trophies for Class Winner, Best Performance by a Gaff Rigged Boat and Best Dressed Crew! Oh dear! More celebrations!!



Classic Rum Cruise 2010

This was Brian & Pippa's first year of leading the Classic Rum Cruise and unfortunately, because of the late decision to take it on, we were unable to attract many boats in time for our departure on May 3rd. Nevertheless, we set off in company with Stu & Helen on "Iguana" and Charlie & Maureen on "Revenge". This year the cruise lasted for a full four weeks during which we visited every island between Antigua and Union Island except Mustique and Canuan! There were almost as many highlights as there were rum sundowners but the most memorable were our visit to the Depaz Distillery in St. Pierre, Martinique, where our great friend Christine Ozer gave us a wonderful tour of the Chateau and the distillery and some very generous complimentary bottles of the distilleries' superb product range.

In St. Lucia, a collective decision to pass on visiting the distillery in favour of watching England in the Twenty/20 cricket final was celebrated by all as we watched a fantastic England side beat the Australians convincingly. It is not often we get the chance to celebrate an England cricket victory so this was much enjoyed.



We had never been to Tobago Cays before and this collection of small islands surrounded by superb coral reef was an absolute delight. The snorkelling spots are fantastic and there is one bay specifically for watching turtles in their natural environment and photo opportunities abound. Many of you may recall that Brian "does not do snorkelling!" Well, with a little help from a buoyancy vest kindly given by Pippa, and an underwater camera, Brian actually went in the water and managed to capture a shot of a turtle! It was a great moment and one he will remember for some time to come.



We also cannot forget “Happy Island” off Union Island. A man named Janty has created “Happy Island” from scratch having originally tidied up the coastline by moving all the discarded conch shells to a single spot on the reef. There were so many shells that an island began to grow and after 7 years, “Happy Island” has become a superb offshore bar and Janty’s home. The island is an amazing feat of ingenuity, hard work and perseverance and Janty is a really nice guy to boot!

With our companions heading south for the relative hurricane safety of Grenada, “Miramar” headed back north and home. En route, we dallied in Bequia for a few days while our new spray hood was designed, manufactured and fitted. Admiralty Bay is a delightful anchorage in Bequia and we were happy to just sit for a while and enjoy it. With our superb (and we have now realised, essential) spray hood in place we headed back.



“Miramar” Sailing Holidays.

The month of June was spent refitting “Miramar” with lots of new “goodies” aimed at making her a true Holiday Charter yacht. Not only is the cockpit now fully covered with spray hood and bimini, but she now has much enlarged battery capacity, a new wind turbine to keep the batteries topped up and a new power generator in case the wind fails to blow! The next stage is a solar panel, and division of the refrigerator to incorporate a freezer, and finally, a water maker”. “Miramar” is now ready to cruise and anchor for extended periods giving “Miramar Sailing” far greater flexibility in the cruise options we offer our guests.

Our first charter since the refit was a “Learn to Sail” Holiday with two young Canadians, Ian & Mackenzie. They, and the yacht, performed very well throughout the cruise and we are very much looking forward to our next opportunity to go sailing with guests.

“Cool Cat” Day Sailing



We could not possibly put together this newsletter without mentioning what a fantastic start our franchisees Wayne & Lara on “Cool Cat” have made to their new careers. We knew they were good (which is why we agreed to them taking the franchise) but did not realise just how good! They have worked hard in their first 4 months with some fantastic reviews from all their guests and have already had several return customers. Records are being broken all the time, they have easily retained “Miramar Sailing’s” top spot on www.tripadvisor.com and, as Wayne would say, “it’s all good!” We urge you to check out their hospitality next time you visit Antigua. You will not regret it!

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