

## "See you in Antigua! You will absolutely love it, too!"

Our Fall Rally participants have greeted the announcement that Antigua will be our destination this year with enthusiasm, tempered by lots of questions that we will begin to answer with this email.

When we first announced our plans to change the rally destination to Antigua, it was a reaction to the devastation caused by the hurricanes in other Caribbean islands. But as the program has come together, we are increasingly excited about what we think you will like about Antigua ... whether you are a first-time Caribbean cruisers or a veteran of many seasons in the tropics.

- It's not that much farther ----An approximate rhumb line distance to Antigua from the Chesapeake Bay is 1450 miles, less than a day longer than the passage to the BVI (1360 miles)
- The extensive and protected anchoring area in Falmouth Harbour is a short walk from the Historic Nelson's Dockyard, extensive boat services, and delightful restaurants.
- You will begin your winter cruising in Antigua and enjoy day sails from island to island up and down the Leeward and Windward Island chain ... no waiting for a weather window to bash to windward from the BVI to St. Martin.
- And, if you choose to cruise the BVI later in the season, it's an easy downwind sail north.
- Circumnavigating Antigua brings you to pristine anchorages, white beaches, and superb snorkeling ... a perfect week's cruise for visiting family and friends.
- International racing regattas and other special events keep the harbor bustling with amazing mega-yachts and world-renowned sailors.
- The V.C Bird International Airport, one of the busiest airports in the Caribbean, offers convenient and affordable options for the arrival and departure of your crew and guests.

Our thanks to Bob Osborn, our Antigua Fleet Captain and SDSA Board Member, who has designed a terrific program to greet you when you arrive in Antigua. Contact him directly at [robertosbornjr@gmail.com](mailto:robertosbornjr@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Bob will return to Antigua (one of his favorite islands) in the the rally this year on *SV Pandora*, his Aerodyne 46, and adds, "See you in Antigua! You will absolutely love it, too!"

### CLEARING IN:

Since the destination of the rally is Falmouth Harbour, many will elect to clear in after anchoring here. The Customs Office is a short walk away at English Harbour.

Cruisers traveling with pets on board will find it easier to clear in at Jolly Harbour before joining the fleet in Falmouth Harbour.

If you submit your profile on [www.eseaclear.com](http://www.eseaclear.com) prior to your arrival, clearing-in procedures will go more quickly.

## BOAT SERVICES

After a long passage, you may have some boat repairs that need to be made. Antigua is a great place to have work done on your boat with skilled craftsman available to do whatever repairs or upgrades that you may require during your stay in Antigua. The [Antigua Marine Guide](#) is a great source for all types of services.

Commodore Franklyn Braithwaite of the [Antigua Yacht Club](#) is planning a “meet and greet” happy hour social at the club with local businesses such as marine electronics, engine repair, sail repair, canvas shops.

## FALMOUTH HARBOUR/ENGLISH HARBOUR

These two harbours are very close. It takes just a few minutes to walk between the two. They both offer many services and dining opportunities.

The signature event following the fleet's arrival will be a "Safe Arrival" poolside barbeque dinner at [Boom Restaurant and pool](#), a wonderful venue overlooking historic Nelson's Dockyard in English Harbour. The harbor will be bustling as yachts from all over will be arriving for the [Charter Yacht Show](#) held in early December.

Should a long hot shower and a night's sleep in a stationary bed be on your arrival wish list, you will enjoy a room at the beautiful [Admiral's Inn](#), on the grounds of Nelson's Dockyard in historic English Harbour. Take advantage of special Salty Dawg discounts through the month of November... and later in the season as well. You can contact the inn directly at [info@AdmiralsInnAntigua.com](mailto:info@AdmiralsInnAntigua.com).

For those that arrive before the "safe arrival" party, we will all enjoy a special wine tasting event in Falmouth where we will sample selected French wines and light hors d'oeuvres while enjoying views of the nearby mega yachts.

[Nelson's dockyard](#) is extending a special welcome of one free night of dockage, stern to, upon arrival with metered water and electric to allow you to get your boat back into cruising mode. Contact the dockyard directly for more information on additional nights at [info@nelsonsdockyardmarina.com](mailto:info@nelsonsdockyardmarina.com) or call the officer administrator, Jolene Jacobs – [1-268-481-5031](tel:1-268-481-5031)

## JOLLY HARBOUR

Should you choose to clear in at Jolly Harbour, there will also be special pricing at [Jolly Harbour Marina](#). Those wishing to clear in there or return for an extended period over the holidays (or later in the season) or perhaps for summer storage, will receive an additional 15% off [published rates](#). Contact Jo Lucas, General Manager Jolly Harbour Marina directly to make arrangements or your stay. Phone: 268-462-6041 or [jo@jhmarina.com](mailto:jo@jhmarina.com) . This link will take you to an [overview of Jolly Harbour](#).

Please remember to update your destination for your rally paperwork on our website by using the [Quick Update link](#). Let us know where you are making landfall (Antigua, Bahamas etc.) and confirm your participation in the Fall 2017 Rally.

More details will follow as they become available.