



PRESS STORY LEADS 2017 ANTIGUA BERMUDA RACE



FACTS & STATS:

- 40ft - Smallest boats in the fleet, Pogo 12.50's - Hermes (CAN) and Talanta (SWE)
- 162ft (49.50m) - Largest boat – Eleonora – follows Westward's heritage of big schooner racing, but has all the character and style of a true classic with the advantages of being a modern yacht
- 21 entries from 9 different countries and crews from many more
- The Antigua Bermuda Race starts from Fort Charlotte, Antigua at midday Antigua on Friday 12th May, 2017
- With 21 entries including 17 over 50ft and seven Maxis and one SuperMaxi, the sight of the fleet departing for the 900 nautical mile race will be nothing short of spectacular
- The variety of the fleet shows the wide appeal of the offshore race, attracting ocean going cruisers, round the world racing yachts, high performance multihulls, as well as classic designs
- A fantastic welcome is awaiting the magnificent fleet taking part in the Antigua Bermuda Race. As host for the 35th America's Cup, Bermuda will be buzzing with excitement.
- The Antigua Bermuda Race starts on Friday 12th May 2017 and is supported by the Bermuda Tourism Authority and Goslings Rum
- The destination for the 935-mile offshore race will be one of the oldest yacht clubs in North America, the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, established in 1844, seven years before the America's Cup
- Goslings, the Official Rum of the America's Cup will be sponsoring the pre-race crew party on Wednesday, May 10 at the Copper & Lumber Hotel, Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua and the Prize Giving in Bermuda on May 20th. Royal Bermuda, with many years' experience hosting the Newport Bermuda Race arrivals, will guarantee a good party
- Antigua Bermuda Race, organised by the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club in association with Antigua Sailing Week. The inaugural race coincides with the finish of the 50th edition of Antigua Sailing Week and the 35th America's Cup event in Bermuda

FOLLOW THE RACE:

Website & social media: <https://www.antiguabermuda.com/Facebook>

<https://www.facebook.com/antiguabermudarace/>

#antiguabermuda YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqJXIVyaaPQhvcwkFXcytig>

ENTRIES – 2017 Antigua Bermuda Race

https://yachtscoring.com/administration/event_scratch_sheet.cfm

Sail Number	Yacht Name	Design	Owner's First	Owner's Last	City	State	Country
SUI 888	Allegra	Nigel Irens Catamaran		FastCat Ltd	Georgetown		CAY
USA 52906	Avanti	Hanse	Jeremi	Jablonski	Wilton	CT	USA
GBR 301	Challenger	Whitbread 60	Chris	Stanmore-Major	Mahone Bay	NS	GBR
GBR 2080L	El Oro (IRC)	Auzeppy-Brennuer 68	Tim	Wilson	Paddington	NSW	AUS
MLA 5	Eleonora (IRC)	Gaff schooner	Brendan	McCoy	St.Julians		MLA
CAN 76	Esprit de Corps IV	Volvo 60	Gilles	Barbot		Montreal	CAN
USA 9010	Freya (IRC)	Swan 90s	Don	Macpherson	Santa Monica	CA	USA
GBR 2228L	GAIA	Oyster 485/18	Andrew	Eddy	London		GBR
GBR 1424R	Heartbeat IV	Dufour 45E	Jason & Judy	Payne-James	Southminster	Essex	UK
CAN 1213	Hermes	Pogo 12.50	Morgen	Watson	Calgary	Alberta	CAN
IRL 7600	LILLA	CNB 76	Simon & Nancy	De Pietro	Buttevant	Cork	IRL
ANT 464	Mariella	Yawl	Carlo	Falcone	St. Pauls	Antigua	ANT
BER 88	Monterey	Farr PH 56	Les	Crane	Warwick		BDA
BER 67	Morning Star	Paradise 60	Carl	Soares	Smiths		BDA
GBR 65	Rock Oyster	Oyster 65	John	Marshall	Lytham	Lancashire	GBR
Usa 60601	Sapphire III	CNB76	John	O'Connor	Rye Brook	NY	USA
BER TS 688	Spirit of Bermuda	Ballyhoo Schooner	Paul	Bracken	Hamilton		BDA
ANT 6849	Spirit of Juno	Farr 65	Peter	Anthony	Falmouth	St. Pauls	ANT
GBR 8200R	Stay Calm	Swan 82	Stuart	Robinson	Hampshire		UK
SWE 95	Talanta	Pogo 40S2	Mikael	Ryking	Tyreso		SWE
USA 60063	Warrior (IRC)	Volvo 70 modified	Stephen	Murray		Metairie	USA

WATCH THE START:

- Spectators will enjoy the spectacular start from the iconic Pillars of Hercules outside Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua. The race starts off Fort Charlotte at midday on Friday 12th May
- The yachts will enjoy a windward start along the spectacular south coast, before cracking sheets and hoisting spinnakers for a downwind blast into the Atlantic Ocean. Ocean currents and local weather effects will keep the tacticians on their toes for the 900 mile race and the magical island of Bermuda will deliver a fantastic welcome for the competitors on yachts from nine different countries
- Whilst class winners of the Antigua Bermuda Race will be awarded prizes, there will also be some fascinating duels within the fleet

RACE SPONSORS:

- Bermuda Tourism Authority
- Goslings Rum

"We are thankful for the support of the Bermuda Tourism Authority and Goslings in helping make this a great race and a great party," said Race Chair/Past Commodore, Les Crane who has brought his boat, Monterey from Greece to participate and witness the America's Cup racing.

COURSE:

Start at midday off Fort Charlotte, Antigua on Friday May 12, 2017
Antigua to port, Bermuda to Port, finish off St David's Light Bermuda.
Approx. distance 935 nm.
Prizegiving Royal Bermuda Yacht Club Saturday May 20

MEDIA TEAM CONTACTS:

For further information, high res images, interviews in Antigua and Bermuda

Trish Jenkins – Antigua Bermuda Race Press Officer

E: trish@j2pr.co.uk

Mb: +44 (0)7880 518689

T: +44 (0)1983 292576

Antigua local cell: + 1 268 725 9651

Race Reporter: Louay Habib - louayhabib@gmail.com

Antigua - Video: Roddy Grimes Graeme – Aqua Films - roddy@acquafilms.com

Antigua - Photography: Ted Martin

BACKGROUND NOTES ON SOME OF THE ENTRIES

TALANTA, Pogo 40,S2, Mikael Ryking (SWE)

40ft Pogo battle. Two of the smallest yachts competing will most certainly be locked in a close battle on the water: Morgen Watson's Canadian yacht, Hermes and Mikael Ryking's Swedish entry, Talanta are both Pogo40s.

"This will be the first time I have been to Bermuda and I am really excited by the race," says Talanta's Mikael Ryking. "We will be a crew of five and although we will be one of the smaller boats, if we have good conditions, we will have a fast ride to Bermuda. In 20 knots of wind on a reach, Talanta will be surfing at 15 knots, so we can manage 250 miles a day. We estimate that we can complete the race in about four days and we should be as fast as the 60 footers in the race. I hope to stay in Bermuda for the America's Cup and I will be cheering for the Artemis Team of course!"

HERMES, Pogo 12.50, Morgen Watson -Director/Skipper – Canadian Ocean Racing (CAN)

Royal Canadian YC (Calgary, Alberta, CAN)

Founded by Morgen Watson (27, Canada) and Meg Reilly (27, USA) originally as "Canadian Ocean Racing" (COR) following their Clipper Round the World 2013-14 Race Win. Mission was to build the sport of offshore racing in Canada by providing a pathway for aspiring offshore sailors while campaigning for ocean races like the Vendee Globe. Canadian Ocean Racing partnered with the charity Wind Athletes Canada and leased the vessel O Canada to achieve their mission. Ocean Racers now provides a platform for anyone to get into offshore sailing and racing. The team's new performance-cruiser offers racing speeds with cruising comforts. Ocean Racers' programming reflects this hybrid vessel's vast opportunities, with everything from offshore training passages to ocean crossings and races. Pogo 12.50, Hermes: Class 40 hull with cruising interior. Built by Pogo Structures in 2012, capable of 20+ knot boat speed, averages 10 knots. 40 foot LOA, 15 ft beam, planing hull,

retractable bowsprit. Skipper Morgen Watson: From Calgary, Alberta. Sailed tallships around Atlantic (2008/09) and then circumnavigated in the Clipper Round the World Race (2013/14). Co-skipper for O Canada 2015-2016 and co-skipper on Transat Jacques Vabre Race. Over 80,000 NM, 8 Atlantic crossings, 1 Pacific crossing and 1 Southern Ocean passage. Co-skipper Meg Reilly: From Scotch Plains, NJ. Marketing executive and entrepreneur, circumnavigated in Clipper Round the World Race (2013/14) and visited schools in ports to promote young athleticism and global studies. Co-founder and Events & Communications Manager for Canadian Ocean Racing, also founder and manager of North Cove Sailing in NYC. Over 50,000 NM, 5 Atlantic crossings, 1 Pacific crossing, 1 Southern Ocean Passage. Youngest American female to win an around the world race. Ocean Racers still welcomes Aspiring Offshore Athletes aboard with scholarships and has most recently raced the Caribbean 600 with Emily Nagel (BERMUDA, TEAMBDA & SoftBank Team Japan) and Sean O'Halloran (USA, Oakcliff Class 40).

Ocean Racers is an international sailing team and network. With each new event, we connect more sailors to develop a community of Ocean Racers worldwide. We have our eyes set on a Volvo Ocean Race campaign and will tap all of our AOAs and the Ocean Racers network to build that team.

<https://web.facebook.com/oceanracers/>

<https://www.instagram.com/oceanracers/>

www.oceanracers.net

@OceanRacers

SPIRIT OF BERMUDA, Ballyhoo schooner, Bermuda Sloop Foundation (BER)

Spirit of Bermuda, the 112ft three-masted tall ship is owned by the Bermuda Sloop Foundation; the brain child of founder Malcolm Kirkland, with co-founders Jay Kempe and Alan Burland. Since her launch in 2006, 4,000 Bermudian teenagers have sailed on her, free of charge. Charter guests at events like Antigua Classics contribute to the cost of running the boat, and this summer Spirit of Bermuda will proudly serve VIP guests, watching the 35th America's Cup. Spirit of Bermuda - Bermuda's 112ft sail training ship is a replica of the fast Bermuda Sloops of the 19th century that brought first news of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar.

"It has been an ambitious project to say the least." commented foundation founder, Jay Kempe. "Malcolm Kirkland engaged the Bermudian Government and set about establishing educational programmes. As a lawyer I handled all of the contractual obligations and obtaining mortgages, and as a building contractor, Alan Burland would over-see the build project. It was incredibly complex, it took five years just to design the boat and the whole project was like building an airline business from scratch. It would never of happened without the tremendous support from right across the Bermudian Community."

Spirit of Bermuda was designed by Bill Langan, Chief Designer at Sparkman Stephens, the highly acclaimed naval architect produced the designs for Nirvana, Sagamore and Eos. The concept of the design for Spirit of Bermuda was a picture from the 1830s, as Jay Kempe explains.

"The picture is hanging in the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London entitled Emancipation Day 1834. It shows a Royal Navy Man-of-War and depicts slaves catching a turtle, which was illegal at that time. What is significant about the painting to us is that the goal with Spirit of Bermuda is to bring a multiracial community together and back in the 1830s things were a lot more equal at sea then they were ashore."

Spirit of Bermuda is built in wood, cold molded construction with an 80 ton bilge keel and has three semi free standing carbon masts. Below deck are 23 berths and a large galley. Spirit of Bermuda is purpose built as a training ship. With little weight aloft, the vessel is incredibly stable and the configuration below can

accommodate children and double up as a classroom, even in the stormiest seas. Spirit of Bermuda has an amazing turn of speed, especially in heavy weather, as she can remain under control with a huge amount of sail area aloft, including the distinctive spinnaker, donated by Goslings Rum.

“The ingenuity that Bermudians have shown over the years in so many fields has been extra-ordinary. Back when Bermuda came to be, their forefathers were skilled, excellent shipwrights, riggers, boat builders and sailors. Helping young Bermudians to understand their heritage and how and why Bermuda has been so successful gives them enriching educational benefits. When young children understand how resourceful and resilient their families have been, they will try to be the same, ” commented Jay Kempe.

Watch Leaders on board Spirit of Bermuda for the Antigua Bermuda Race will be three young Bermudians, who have learnt their skills on board; Dkembe Outerbridge-Dill, Patrick Perret and Lamar Samuels.

“Glory,” commented Dkembe when asked to describe the race in one word. “We are racing to win and come home to Bermuda having sailed thousand of miles since we left will be glorious.”

For more information about Spirit of Bermuda: <http://www.bermudasloop.org/>

MARIELLA, Alfred-Mylne-designed yawl, 1938, Carlo Falcone (ANT) Italian team on Antigua-based classic
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The beautiful classic Bermudian yawl, Mariella, skippered by owner, Carlo Falcone who will be flying the flag for Antigua where he lives. His crew are all from Italy, although there may be one Antiguan sailor on board too. This will be the classic yawl's first offshore race for around 11 years as the last long race was in 2005 in the Transatlantic race from New York to Cowes.

Carlo owner of Antigua Yacht Club Marina & Hotel was overall winner at Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta this year with his classic yacht Mariella. He has also raced successfully at Antigua Sailing week with his 1978 one-off, *Caccia alla Volpe*. Carlo is the father of America's Cup Sailor, Shannon Falcone who was on the winning team Oracle Team USA. His younger son, Rocco is also a talented young sailor. His other passion is motor racing and he will be missing out on competing in the Trans Am Motor Speedway Series in Indianapolis while he is taking part in the Antigua Bermuda Race. Mariella will head up to the East Coast of the US to compete in some classic yacht regattas.

Mariella is a 80ft (24m) Alfred Mylne-designed ketch, built entirely from wood by the legendary William Fife & Son yard in Scotland in 1938 and lovingly restored by Carlo after being badly damaged by Hurricane Gonzalo when she ripped through the Caribbean and she was shipped to Genoa, Italy, for a huge restoration project. Mariella is now in fantastic condition and on top form having secured overall victory in the recent Panerai Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta.

ELEONORA, Gaff rigged schooner, 162ft schooner

Captain, Brendan McCoy, Skipper Jason Beken (GBR) (replica of 1910 Westward)

Eleonora is an exact replica of the famous schooner Westward (one of the most famous and best known racing schooners in the world), designed and built in 1910 by N.G. Herreshoff. Westward was undoubtedly the fastest schooner in the world in 1910 and in the following years, with Charlie Barr at her helm. Eleonora follows Westward's heritage of big schooners racing and since her launch in 2000, she has successfully participated in a

number of classic regattas. "The Antigua Bermuda Race is an event that the crew has been looking forward to ever since we decided to take part," commented Brendan McCoy, Captain of Eleonora.

Eleonora's owner is looking forward to competing in the race to Bermuda: "This is a unique and challenging offshore race ending in the venue for the most prestigious sailing event in the world. For a sailor, this is simply the best way to get from Antigua to Bermuda to join the America's Cup events."

"It is also a great way to deliver the yacht from Antigua where she has spent the winter season cruising and racing," continues the owner. "Offshore cruising and racing can be quite rewarding and spectacular. Sailing on a reach in good breeze in a calm sea, down the moonbeam of a bright full moon is an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience. We have a great crew who help us to also deal with the challenges of offshore sailing, and who also share with us those spectacular moments." A team of 22 will be on board for the race which is much less than they usually have for regattas.

El Oro, Auzeppey-Brenner 68, Tim Wilson (AUS) 1973 classic ketch

YC: Royal Yacht Squadron

"El Oro is a very special boat, once owned by Baron Marcel Bich of America's Cup fame (co-founder of Bic pens). The boat is a cruising version of Kriter, his Whitbread Round the World Race yacht," says Kent King, the Kiwi skipper of the 1973 classic ketch El Oro. The current owner is Australian, Tim Wilson, a retired endoscopic surgeon and a real yachting enthusiast who has several other race boats in Sydney, including Cordelia, a Ben Lexon-designed Maxi and a new Rindle 39. Tim bought *El Oro* in 2008 and sailed to Burma where its seven layers of cold-moulded mahogany hull and its recycled teak decking were made from old houses that were pulled down in Burma. The boat underwent a two-year restoration in Rangoon before being shipped to Europe where she cruised the Baltic prior to joining the ARC in Las Palmas and has since competed in several Caribbean regattas, including the 2017 RORC Caribbean 600. The crew, mainly from Australia, also includes a St Lucian sailor who has been on board since their first ARC.

ALLEGRA, Nigel Irens APC 78 Multihull, Skipper Adrian Keller/Boat Captain Rob Grimm

Paul Larsen - World's fastest man on board foiling multihull. Hoping for a fast race is the private custom built one-off multihull which has been built for speed and comfort. Designed by Nigel Irens and built by Green Marine, Allegra is certainly a boat with wow factor. She has been designed specifically to end the multihull myth between 'strictly racing' and 'strictly cruising' and the result is a catamaran that can genuinely out-perform more refined and longer single-hulled boats on all points of sail, while retaining the comfort of a cruising catamaran with luxurious living space. Her crew for Antigua Bermuda Race includes world speed sailing record holders Paul Larsen and Helena Darvelid from Vesta Sailrocket.

WARRIOR, Volvo 70 (Botin), modified 2017, US Merchant Marine Academy/Warrior Sailing

YC: Southern Yacht Club, New York Yacht Club.

First race for US Merchant Marina Academy's Volvo 70. Stephen Murray Jr, Skipper is looking forward to: "Great venues and a challenging course. We are very excited for the first Antigua to Bermuda Race to be Warrior's first race." Donated by the Murray Family (owners of the DECISION program) to the USMMA to promote Warrior Sailing, a program to assist wounded veterans in their recovery through the sport of sailing, WARRIOR (Ex-CAMPER) was second overall in the 2011-2012 Volvo Around the World Race. Antigua to Bermuda will be her first ocean race as WARRIOR.

Skipper/Sponsor Stephen Murray Jr.'s Decision program: 1st in Class, Newport-Bermuda 2012, Overall winner 2012 Onion Patch, Overall 2016 Nassau Cup, Overall winner 2016 SORC Islands in the Stream Series, 1st Overall, HPR division, 2013 Key West Race Week, 1st in Class 2015 Annapolis to Newport Race, Overall Performance 2016 NYYC Race Week.

Top 'pro' crew on the 2011 Volvo 70 (Botin) modified 2017:

- Will Oxley – Navigator/main trim – Australia (North Qld). Has competed in 4 x Volvo Ocean Races and was navigator aboard CAMPER in 2011-2012 Volvo Race (2nd overall)
- Chris Welch – headsail trim – USA
Morning Light project (Walt Disney) and 52 Super Series winner with Quantum Racing. Raced on George David's Maxi, Rambler
- Jesse Fielding – pit – Newport, RI, USA. Morning Light project (film by Walt Disney). On board Team Alvimedica in last Volvo Ocean Race 2014-2015 + sailed on Rambler
- Chris Welch, sailed on George David's Maxi, Rambler and was part of the Morning Light team featured in the 2007 Disney film of that name
- Jackson Benvenuti – tactics – New Orleans, LA, USA. Head racing Coach at the San Francisco Yacht Club
- Ben Lynch – mid-bow – IRE (Dublin) - Laser and 49-er sailor
- Ben Bardwell, bow on several maxi programs – (Rhode Island), USA
- Chris Lewis winning navigator Pacific Cup
- Jan Majer – main trim – Newport, RI, USA
- Tony Pearce from Newport, RI is a US Marine Corp combat veteran. He is head grinder and has raced on Rambler
- Ralf Steitz – runner – Kings Point, NY, USA - multiple AC campaigns
- Dann Cahoon – grinder – New Orleans, LA, USA
- Chris Lewis – main caddy – San Francisco, USA
- Ben Bardwell –bow 1 – USA
- Karl Funk – bow 2 -USA

NB: A full media pack available for this boat on request.

CHALLENGER, Modified Whitbread 60, Chris Stanmore-Major, Nova Scotia, Canada

Spartan Ocean Racing is based in Nova Scotia, Canada and offers professional offshore sailing development. Challenger is a modified Whitbread 60 and was built in 1997 for the America's Challenge team for the Whitbread Round the World Race. Among the many 60ft yachts taking part is likely to be an interesting contest between two equally matched Canadian yachts; from Nova Scotia, Chris Stanmore Major's Whitbread 60, Challenger (Spartan Ocean racing) and from Quebec, Maxime Grimard's Volvo 60, Esprit de Corps IV. Chris Stanmore-Major is an extremely experienced sailor and sail training instructor. As of 2015 he has sailed approximately 240,000Nm (the distance to the moon) in yachts ranging from 45' - 150'. This mileage includes two races around the world - once as the skipper of 'Qingdao' the Chinese entry in the 2009/10 Clipper Round the World Race and once solo in 2010/11 in the Velux 5 Oceans Race sailing Spartan an IMOCA Open 60.

**Esprit de CORPS IV, Gilles Barbot (Owner and skipper), Volvo 60, Canada
Maxime Grimard, First Mate and Watch Captain**

As a sailing team, ATLAS Ocean Racing strives to develop and promote Quebec sailing aboard. The ATLAS Ocean Racing team brings together sailing enthusiasts whose goal is to develop and promote Quebec sailing aboard. The team's activity also involves raising awareness about sailing and the connection

that exists between sailing and entrepreneurship. The team was created by three passionate sailors: skipper Georges, entrepreneurs Gilles Barbot and Maxime Grimard. The ATLAS team crossed the Atlantic on multiple occasions with its four VOR60 sailing boats (category of sailing boats that race in the Volvo Ocean Race). The team also took part in numerous sailing races and, amongst other victories, won the Route Halifax Saint Pierre in 2016. Groupe Esprit de Corps is ATLAS sailing team's main partner.

Learn more about ATLAS Ocean Racing: www.equipeatlas.com

Most of the crew are coming from Canada. One crew member is preparing to race round the world with the Clipper Race so is using the 900 miler to get more offshore experience. He is coming with his Father who will also be on board for the crossing to Bermuda. Other crew includes a fitness trainer, a journalist writing for La Presse (Quebec) and there will be 10 crew in total.

LILLA, CNB 76, Simon & Nancy De Pietro (IRL)

Simon De Pietro (Lilla) – originally from Cork but now lives in USA. Husband and wife team.

There will be close battles between the two CNB 76s; the Irish flagged Lilla owned by Nancy and Simon De Pietro and the American flagged Sapphire, owned by John O'Connor. "It should be a really interesting race and it will be fun to race against another CNB 76," explains Simon De Pietro, co-owner of Lilla. "I don't know too much about Sapphire except that she is a much newer boat and made from composite, so she should be lighter than Lilla and from what I can gather, will go to windward better than us. However, the normal weather pattern would give us plenty of reaching and that will make it a race for drivers. Sail selection, especially at night will also be a big factor. We look forward to racing against Sapphire, as well as everybody in the race."

SAPPHIRE III, CNB76, John O'Connor –Irish (New York Yacht Club). Flag - Newport, USA

The National Yacht Club, Ireland and NYYC

Sapphire III was launched in 2015 and Irish owner John O'Connor lives in New York and this is his third boat. She is skippered by Mike Teuteberg and this season the Philippe Briand-designed 76-footer has sailed in the Heineken Regatta, Les Voile de St Barth and Antigua Sailing Week. "We are looking forward to starting this race from Sapphire's winter 'home,'" said O'Connor. Met them on Sapphire II in world ARC and when they bought the new boat they asked if I was available. George Cox (GBR) is the bowman from Newport and first mate. Was working on a lot of 12 meters in Newport. Patricia (Australian born, Itlain) O'Connor, John's wife enjoys sailing and did the trip down with us. Robbie Fabre is the owner of Vagabundo and won Classics in his division. He is one of their regular sailors. Five crew on board, racing a little bit light for this race.

FREYA, Swan 90, USA

American Swan 90, Freya and British Swan 82, Stay Calm should have a close battle during the race

The magnificent Swan 90, Freya was launched in 2013 and since has been bluewater cruising and racing at high profile inshore regattas ever since. Her skipper has been around boats from a young age and has a lifetime's experience on the water. Jonathan Carter (also known as Joph) is from Bermuda and comes from a family steeped in sailing. He will be joined by an extremely experienced international crew, with sailors from premier round the world races in key positions, but the Antigua Bermuda Race will be a first for Freya.

"We have completed this race course on delivery several times, but have yet to race to Bermuda, or race as a team offshore," explains Carter. "While having some success with inshore racing, we want to use this as another challenge and experience for the owner and crew. Hailing from Bermuda, I have a lot of drive and motivation to bring home the silverware, plus it's probably the fastest way to get a real Dark and Stormy!"

"It could be a relatively straightforward race or full of traps. The defining moment of the race will be how strong the Bermuda-Azores High is, and what weather system is coming off the East Coast. There is potential for it to be a 900-mile reach, starting in the trade winds and being lifted into the Bermuda-Azores High towards the end of the race. However, depending on what system is coming off the East Coast will be the determining factor of the race, and that could leave either no wind, or a long beat with wind out of the north.

"It should be a fantastic race on Freya," continues Carter. "We are looking at racing with 12 crew, a mixture of guests and professional crew. Being a Swan, Freya is a proven boat on the ocean and after eight Atlantic crossings we are fairly confident racing her out there. The Antigua Bermuda Race is a great way to coax yachts in the Caribbean for the winter to get up to Bermuda to see the America's Cup. To say I am looking forward to it would be a massive understatement!"

STAY CALM, Swan 82, Stuart Robinson (GBR)

YCCS, Royal Thames YC

The luxury Swan 82's race programme has included the RORC Transatlantic Race 2016, RORC Caribbean 600 in February 2017 and the more recent Antigua Sailing Week. The Palma Superyacht Cup was the first regatta in the boat for the British owner, Stuart Robinson. For the crossing to Bermuda, there will be a mix of crew and guests on board. Skipper, Lloyd Kyte has never raced to the Bermuda. 17 times across the Atlantic, 2 Pacific's. Looking forward to getting offshore. I love it and it's the right amount of offshore. Hop-skip-jump to Bermuda. Weather looking slightly funny. Light for the start of the race. Hoping for 10-15 knots for the start. April been on the boat for 18 months, 5 ½ years together. First mate Catherine been on a year. Aussie girl Bell Henry is a great sailor. She does all the deliveries and races. ASW was crew boss and managing the foredeck. First came up with the idea to the owner a year ago and thought it seemed like a good idea. It made sense to do it.

AVANTI, Hanse 43, Jeremi Jablonski (Wilton, CT, USA) Cedar Point Yacht Club

Avanti, the 2007 Hanse 43 skippered by Jeremi Jablonski (USA) will be racing with just 3 crew to Bermuda. Avanti has sailed from her Cedar Point YC home in Long Island Sound for the last five seasons to winter in Tortola where she is based at Nanny Cay Marina. She has recently competed in the Caribbean 1500, ARC and BVI Spring Regatta where she took 1st in Jib and Main. "We sailed in a pretty large division with great sailors and super friendly competition," said Jablonski.

Avanti's success didn't happen overnight. It took rigging changes, sail changes, life changes (sailing up and back delivering *Avanti* to the Caribbean each year), ocean-whirlpools, broken rudders mid-ocean, and more. But most of all, it took dedication to a racing program and perseverance – which Jeremi personifies. This is what racing is about.

Avanti have been perennial entrants in the ARC Caribbean 1500 and ARC USA going back to 2012. Last year in the Caribbean 1500 they diverted to Bermuda with rudder problems that were resolved relatively quickly. In 2012 they were awarded the Tempest Trophy for guiding another rally boat through a night of squalls on their way to Tortola.

HEARTBEAT IV, Jason & Judy Payne-James, Dufour 45E

Southminster, Essex UK. Judy is the President of the Royal Burnham YC

Heartbeat IV is a Dufour 45e. Her owners are Jason & Judy Payne-James from Southminster, Essex, UK.

Heartbeat IV and her predecessors have raced regularly with an amateur crew in the East Anglian Offshore Racing Association Series, RORC series and Rolex Fastnet races. Heartbeat IV did the Rolex Middle Sea Race in

2011, the ARC in 2012, the RORC Caribbean 600 in 2013, the Newport-Bermuda Race in 2014, the RORC Caribbean 600 in 2016, and are excited to race in the Antigua-Bermuda Race. A berth has been reserved at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club from arrival after the race until June 30th and the team will be cheering on Sir Ben Ainslie! <http://www.heartbeatoffshore.com/>

MORNING STAR, Paradise 60, Carl & Sandra Soares (BER)

Yacht Club: RHADC

"I come from a family of seafarers," says Skipper of Morning Star, Carl M Soares Sr. "Whalers, Sea Captains and Boat builders. I have spent a lifetime in the boating community. I have participated in international powerboat racing and sailing events, both local and international. Tornado Cat class as crew with Paul Elvstrom. Paul had competed in six Olympic Games prior to me crewing with him! Navigator in Newport to Bermuda Race. Navigator Marion to Bermuda Celestial. I have sailed over 60,000 miles 2,000 single handed."

In 2004 I had a yard in the Netherlands build the hull and deck of aluminum. I then completely fitted out Morning Star by my self it took 10 years. Launched in May 2015. Currently I am retired, living on Morning Star full time. I was planning on heading home from Antigua after spending the winter in the Caribbean, so for me it is a great opportunity to compete in a homemade boat. I am hoping for winds 25-30 knots so that it would be a fast race home.

Marty Loftus, Watch Captain on Morning Star, Cape Cod, Massachusetts USA

"I have sailed as Captain on five ocean races headed south for Bermuda. I am looking forward to my first North bound sprint. In addition to racing, Carl and I have spent a lot of time in a lot of different places having a great time sailing over more than two decades. When sailing on my own I am usually sailing a precise copy of Nathaniel Herreshoff's Alerion as a Past Commodore of the Menuhant Yacht Club in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

My daughter Kelly and my son Ryan will join us for this race. I have sailed Marion to Bermuda with Kelly four times; the first when she was 16 years old. This is the first ocean race with Ryan, even though he has been at sea more than on land in the last 5 years and I first took him sailing at 6 months old! I am excited to have two of my children showing me and teaching me all they have learned about sailing all their lives."

ROCK OYSTER, Oyster 65, John Marshall , Lytham, Lancashire, UK (RTYC)

TBC

GAIA, Andrew Eddy, Oyster 485, London/Bembridge Isle of Wight, UK (Royal yacht Squadron)

Built in 1996, GAIA the Oyster 485 was purchased by Andrew Eddy in 2008 and sailed across the Atlantic in 2012. Since then the boat has been sailed up to Natucket, twice to Cuba and down to Grenada. "For the Antigua Bermuda race there will be six of us on board. As well as myself and my wife Sabrina, their niece Phoebe Cochran who is possibly one of the youngest crew in the race at 19 and lives in Mauritius and will be studying biology at Uni in the UK later this year and three others: Michel McKinnis who sailed across the Atlantic with us, Mark Horton who sailed around Cuba with us for a couple of years and Tim Noyoustick who has come from Auckland, New Zealand to take part.

We have never been to Bermuda before and we are going to be berthed at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club until the end of June and going to watch the America's Cup. We wanted to go to the America's Cup and when we heard about this race we thought this is a nice way of getting

there with some nice people and some organisation behind it. We have just spent three weeks cruising around Barbuda, Nevis, Dominica and the Saints and came back just before Antigua Sailing Week. We would have liked to have done that but to do everything would have been difficult so we have just spent the last 10 days preparing. We just got some new sails because the old ones have come to the end of their lives and the boat is in good shape.

At home, we spend most of our time on the Isle of Wight and have a Bembridge Redwing, 28ft sailing boat and we are looking forward to sailing at Cowes Week once home.

SPIRIT OF JUNO, Farr 65, Peter Anthony, ONDECK (Antigua)

Ondeck Antigua's well-travelled Farr 65, Sprit of Juno will be racing with a mixed group of individuals on board under the guidance of Skipper, Paul Jackson who has competed in many Sydney Hobart races and is an experienced offshore racer. Ondeck's owner, Peter Anthony, based in Antigua says the race is a great way to build miles when qualifying for Ocean Yachtmaster certificates and such like. it also teaches crew how to prepare for an offshore race and he expects the interest in the race to build quickly.