



Cruising Rally Association

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Bahamas Cruising Rally

Cruising Rally Association Announces New Rally to the Bahamas

HAMPTON, VA (October 5, 2009) - The Cruising Rally Association announced today that it is expanding its year-round calendar of offshore sailing rallies and seminars to include the Bahamas Cruising Rally. The new rally, opened to power and sail boaters, will leave Hampton VA on November 2 and cruise directly to Marsh Harbor in the Bahamas.

Ralliers who join the inaugural Bahamas event will enjoy the all of the pre-event social events, briefings, and inspections of the 20th Annual Caribbean 1500 which leaves Hampton VA for Tortola in the British Virgin Islands the same day. For first-time Bahamas cruisers, there will also be lectures about exploring the islands. The Bahamas fleet will include divisions for both racers and cruisers.

“We are very excited about offering an offshore rally to the Bahamas,” explained Founder and President Steve Black, “In five or six days, ralliers can round Hatteras and be in the Abacos, ready for a winter of cruising. No more worries about bridge openings, challenging inlets, and shallow water in the Intracoastal Waterway. Ralliers will have a great time mixing with the cruisers heading for the

Caribbean in Hampton. Offshore, they will receive weather updates, call in on daily chat hours, and carry satellite transponders to track their progress, just like the Caribbean 1500 participants.”

Black went on to say that the Bahamas Cruising Rally will make landfall at the Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour, a 190-slip marina in Marsh Harbor, the capital of the Abacos. Transportation to and from the States is easy with many commercial flights and carriers, Black explained.

Andy Schell, the “son” of “Father and Son Sailing,” will be the Group Leader for the Bahamas Cruising Rally. With his USCG Master Mariner license and MCA / RYA Yachtmaster Oceans license, Schell has been a professional skipper in Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S. most of his adult life.

As with the Caribbean 1500, the Bahamas Cruising Rally retains some of the competitive elements of traditional sailboat races, but offers social, educational and technological enhancements that broaden the appeal of the event to couples and families, as well as racers – both experienced and first-timers. The Cruising Rally Association maintains lists of qualified volunteer sailors, available to augment offshore crews for participating skippers.

Over 10,000 website visitors each day will monitor the progress of the boats in the two rallies. With wireless transponders on each yacht, positions will be broadcast via satellite six times each day. Each boat’s track will be displayed on the Cruising Rally Association website (www.carib1500.com) using software customized to incorporate features from Google Earth. The transponder program is sponsored by Davenport & Company, LLC.

The 2010 calendar of events for the Cruising Rally Association includes:

Sailing Rallies

* May 2 - The Atlantic Cup sails from Nanny Cay Resort and Marina on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands to the St George's Dinghy and Sports Club in Bermuda

* November 3 – The 21st Annual Caribbean 1500 sails from Bluewater Yachting Center in Hampton VA to Nanny Cay Resort and Marina on Tortola

* November 3 – The Bahamas Cruising Rally sails from Bluewater Yachting Center in Hampton VA to the Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour in Marsh Harbor in the Abacos.

Ocean Sailing Seminars

- * March 13-14 Newport RI
- * March 20-21 Annapolis MD
- * Sept. 18-19 Hampton VA

The Cruising Rally Association, founded by veteran solo sailor and sailing event organizer Steve Black, is widely supported by a number of leading companies. These include Davenport & Company, Nanny Cay Resort and Marina, LLC, West Marine, *Blue Water Sailing* Magazine, Switlik, OCENS, ICOM, and World Cruising Club.

For full information on future rallies and seminars, visit www.carib1500.com.

About Cruising Rally Association:

The Cruising Rally Association, founded in 1990 by Steve Black, manages a year-round calendar of offshore cruising rallies and Ocean Sailing Seminars. Over 750 cruisers and future cruisers attend the CRA events each year. Black has sailed in all parts of the Atlantic, including three solo transatlantic races and more than 40 rallies. He served as executive director of the US Sailing Association before founding the Cruising Rally Association which he has headed for the last 20 years.