



2017 RORC Caribbean 600
Antigua, W.I.

FACTS & STATS – 2017 RORC CARIBBEAN 600 FOR MEDIA

As at: 20 January 2017

600 Nautical Miles - 64 Boats - 15 Nations (crew from 24) - 11 Caribbean Islands - 9th Edition
1 Amazing Race

RACE RECORDS:

Multihull record (2016) - 31 hours, 59 minutes, 04 seconds – Lloyd Thornburg, MOD70, Phaedo3 (USA)

Monohull record (2011) - 40 hours 20 mins 02 secs - George David's Rambler 100

RORC CARIBBEAN 600 TROPHY - IRC OVERALL WINNERS

2016 – George Sakellaris, Proteus Maxi 72 (USA)
2015 - Hap Fauth, Bella Mente, JV72 (USA)
2014 - George Sakellaris, RP72, Shockwave (USA)
2013 - Ron O'Hanley, Privateer, Cookson 50 (USA)
2012 - Niklas Zennström's JV72, Rán (GBR)
2011 - George David, Rambler 100, JK 100 (USA)
2010 - Karl C L Kwok, Beau Geste, Farr 80 (HKG)
2009 - Adrian Lee, Lee Overlay Partners, Cookson 50 (IRL)

ABOUT THE RACE:

- 2017 will see a record number of entries in the 9th edition of the RORC Caribbean 600, with 70 boats
- Start: Monday 20th February 2017, Antigua
- Organised by The Royal Ocean Racing in association with Antigua Yacht Club
- The 600nm course circumnavigates 11 Caribbean Islands starting from Fort Charlotte, English Harbour, Antigua and heads north as far as St Martin and south to Les Saintes off Guadeloupe taking in Barbuda, Nevis, St Kitts, Saba and St Barth's
- The RORC Caribbean 600 Trophy is awarded to the monohull with the best corrected time under the IRC rating rule. George Sakellaris's Maxi 72, Proteus (USA) was last year's winner
- Yachts and crews converge on Antigua from all over the world to take part in this classic 600 mile race and an astounding collection of the world's finest offshore racing yachts will be on the start line
- Yachts from the USA have won five out of eight editions of race, securing the overall winners trophy
- This year, there are 16 entries from USA, with Great Britain still topping the list of nationalities
- Largest will be the Adela, the twin-masted schooner at 182ft (55m), closely followed by the Westward exact replica, the 162ft (49m) Eleonora
- Other classic yachts include 1930 Alfred Mylne-designed, The Blue Peter and more modern classics: Kialoa III, the 1970s Maxi classic which held onto the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race record for 21 years and the 1974 El Oro, whose design was based on the 1973 Whitbread Round the World Race yacht, Kriter, Modified Whitbread 60, Challenger
- Superyachts racing in the fleet include the latest Swan 115, Shamanna (115ft, 35m), Dixon 100, Danneskjold and Farr 100, Leopard
- 15 Maxis have already entered including two of the fastest ocean going yachts; George David's American Maxi Rambler 88 and Mike Slade's British Maxi, Leopard 3. Both have taken monohull line honours in the race on two occasions
- 4 x Class40s, 8 x Swan yachts, Volvo 70, 3 x Oyster yachts, 5 x First 40/40.7s, 2 x Grand Soleil 43, 5 x J Boats (J120/122/44, 133 and J-46) as well as Customs yachts such as the Racoupeau 72 Louise (with RORC Admiral on board, Andrew McIrvine); Frers Custom 88, Tulip; Andrews 70, Runaway
- The 'Caribbean Fastnet' as it has become known, attracts many sailors who are at the top echelon of

the sport, and include America's Cup, Volvo Ocean Race and round the world record-holders, as well as regular RORC racers and passionate Corinthian crews looking for a challenge, too

- Antigua Yacht Club will host the race and supporters include: Antigua and Barbuda Tourism, Sevenstar Yacht Transport
- The first warning signal for the start is at 1050. The 'P' Flag will be hoisted on Fort Charlotte, high above Antigua's iconic Pillars of Hercules. There will be five different starts
- Thousands of spectators will gather at Shirley Heights and on the water to watch the magnificent fleet set off
- Yachts will be flying the flags many different countries including: Antigua & Barbuda; Australia, BVI; Belize; Cayman; Spain; France; Great Britain; Germany; Sweden, Italy; Ireland; The Netherlands; Poland; Russia and the USA
- Several Caribbean and Antiguan crews will also compete, including Bernie-Evan Wong on TAZ, who has raced every year
- Over 800 crew members from many other countries
- Some yachts will race with 30+ crew on board, and others with just two!
- RORC members, John Burnie and Stan Pearson (Antigua Rigging) are co-founders of the race and the first edition was in 2009
- Seven multihulls will be racing, including the two foiling MOD70 trimarans: Phaedo3 and Maserati. Phaedo3 broke the race multihull record in 2016: 31 hours, 59 minutes, 04 seconds
- The race will see some newcomers to the event this year as well as those who have raced it in many times

There's always an intense battle for overall honours, as well as record attempts for both monohull and multihull race records

PROGRAMME, ANTIGUA:

17 Feb - Boats are in Antigua: English & Falmouth Harbour

18 Feb - 1800 Skipper's Briefing, Antigua YC, followed by the Welcome party

Mon 20 Feb – Start of the 9th edition - 1050 First warning signal

Fri 24 Feb - 1800 RORC Caribbean 600 Prizegiving, AYC

HOW TO FOLLOW THE RACE:

ONLINE: RACE WEBSITE:

Follow the race website: <http://caribbean600.rorc.org>

There will be news stories, blogs from the race course, images, video and daily race reports. Follow all the action as it unfolds on the RORC Caribbean 600 website

Watch the race unfold via social media, video, photographs, daily race reports and web updates, plus blogs from the boats (if the crews have time and depending on the weather!)

All of the competing yachts will be fitted with YB Trackers so anyone can follow a particular boat or the whole fleet.

FLEET TRACKER:

All yachts will be fitted with a race tracker for the duration of the race and their progress can be followed at:

<http://caribbean600.rorc.org/Race-Information/Tracking/>

VIRTUAL RACE:

If you can't sail in the race, you can still join in. There's a Virtual Race for the 2017 RORC Caribbean 600 (link will be online soon). Over 16,000 [check] 'armchair sailors' entered the 2016 RORC Caribbean 600 Virtual Regatta.

<http://click.virtualregatta.com/?li=4559>

RACE WEBSITE:

Follow the RORC Caribbean 600 on the dedicated minisite: <http://caribbean600.rorc.org>

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Twitter: Follow @rorcracing

Hashtag: #rorrc600

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rorcracing/>

Facebook:

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

START:

The start takes place on Monday 20th February off Fort Charlotte and spectators will witness boats from around the world gather on the start line ready for their 600 mile non-stop race

Spectators can get a great view from Fort Charlotte or from Shirley Heights. There's also a chance to catch a glimpse of the boats leaving Falmouth Harbour or from English Harbour and Galleon Beach as they make their way to the start line

ORGANISERS: The Royal Ocean Racing Club:

- Established in 1925, The Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) became famous for the biennial Rolex Fastnet Race and the international team event, the Admiral's Cup. It organises an annual series of domestic offshore races from its base in Cowes as well as inshore regattas including the RORC Easter Challenge and IRC National Championship in the Solent
- The RORC works with other yacht clubs to promote their offshore races and provides marketing and organisational support. The RORC Caribbean 600, based in Antigua and the first offshore race in the Caribbean, has been an instant success and the RORC has extended its organisational expertise by creating the Transatlantic Race from Lanzarote to Grenada, the first of which was in November 2014
- The club is based in St James' Place, London, but after the merger with The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club Cowes, now boasts a superb clubhouse facility at the entrance to Cowes Harbour and a

membership of over 4,000

- The RORC has also been a leader in yacht handicap systems and in co-operation with the French offshore racing club, UNCL, created IRC; the principal yacht measurement system for the rating of racing yachts worldwide. The Spinlock IRC rating rule is administered jointly by the RORC Rating Office in Lymington, UK and UNCL Centre de Calcul in Paris, France. The RORC Rating Office is the technical hub of the Royal Ocean Racing Club and recognised globally as a centre of excellence for measurement. For Spinlock IRC rating information in the UK please see: www.rorcrating.com.

HOSTED BY ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB:

"The support of the members of the Antigua Yacht Club plays a vital part in the success of the RORC Caribbean 600. The fact that we see so many familiar faces helping us each year, with their vast experience of the local area and conditions, gives the RORC the confidence to be able to organise this demanding offshore race with a small RORC team from the UK," says RORC Racing Manager, Nick Elliott.

A.B.S.A.R:

ABSAR, the Antigua Barbuda Search and Rescue team will be on hand to help with the many aspects of safety and fleet management required to run an offshore race. ABSAR's highly trained team and safety network throughout the islands on the Caribbean 600 course is vital to the safe running of the race. ABSAR will also be on hand to help identify any boats finishing in the hours of darkness.

AYC VOLUNTEERS:

RORC Racing Manager, Nick Elliott, summed up the importance of their contribution: "Many of the volunteers have helped the race since the beginning and their contribution is very important. Each yacht is met at the dock with a case of beer and a smile; it's part of the character of the race and we couldn't achieve this wonderful welcome without the help of the volunteers."

RACE SUPPORTERS:

MUSTO:

RORC has teamed up with Musto to provide a range of technical race gear, polo and rugby shirts as the official merchandise for the RORC Caribbean 600. During the event the Musto Store will be open for purchases. <http://caribbean600.rorc.org/Race-Information/clothing-and-event-logo.html>

SEVENSTAR RACING YACHT LOGISTICS

Sevenstar is the world leader in the transport of yachts and equipment all around the world, and added the Racing Yacht Logistics division to specifically cater for the yacht racing community.

Although Sevenstar operate worldwide, much of its business involves shipping to and from the Caribbean and Sevenstar Racing Yacht Logistics will offer competitors a team of experts to advise on race yacht transport. The new division will also ship other essential racing equipment, including spares, masts and RIBs, making sure that teams are fully race-ready by the time the start gun goes off. <http://www.sevenstar-yacht-transport.com/racing-logistics.aspx>

RORC MEDIA CONTACTS:

Trish Jenkins
RORC Press Officer
2016 RORC Caribbean 600
E: trish@j2pr.co.uk
Mb: +44 (0)7880 518689
T: +44 (0)1983 292576
From 14th Feb on site in Antigua

Race Reporter: Louay Habib - louayhabib@gmail.com
Video: Roddy Grimes Graeme – Acqua Films - roddy@acquafilms.com
Photography: Tim Wright – Photoaction.com
Ted Martin - Photofantasy
ELWJ Photography.com – Emma Louise Wyn Jones

RACE ENQUIRIES:

Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC)
E: racing@rorc.org
T: +44 (0)20 7518 3131 /020 7493 2248
W: <http://rorc.org>
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalOceanRacingClub>

Twitter: RORC@OffshoreOne - #rorcrc600

Race Team on site at Antigua Yacht Club from Monday 13th February 2017

