

APRIL, 2012 – Our 53rd Edition



IN FOR THE KILL? But it sure looks that way when a skywriting aircraft from a recent air show at Ian Fleming Airport buzzed this motor yacht. Talk about being at the right place at the right time. The photo was taken by Dr. Vidal Smith, dental surgeon in Port Antonio, who has amassed an impressive collection of photos including the marina.

NAVY ISLAND CLEANUP CLICKS- After four weekends in March to “Nice Up De Place”, Navy Island, the marina’s 64-acre landmark, is now looking a lot different. As many as 50 volunteers joined the cleanup effort each weekend, armed with shovels, chain saws, rakes, hoes and brooms. The volunteers included yacht visitors to the marina, area residents, Peace Corps volunteers, Boy Scouts and even a number of overseas visitors to Portland Parish. The island had been a resort until the late 90’s when it went into receivership. Since that period, the property was stripped of all valuables including lumber, plumbing and electrical fixtures. The property was eventually turned over to the Jamaican Government. A new sign will be erected on the property, asking visitors to respect and protect the property; The sign is to read: “Welcome to Navy island – Take Only Photos, Leave Only Footprints.” Access to the island is presently limited to those who have some type of boat. The Port Authority of Jamaica, which has the island in their portfolio administers the property and is seeking serious developers/investors. For details, contact Marina General Manager Dale Westin at 1876-832-4765 or email at dwestin@portjam.com.

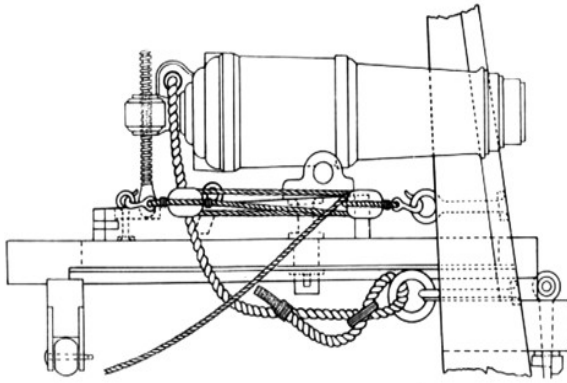


NAVY ISLAND GOT A NEW LOOK AFTER FOUR WEEKENDS OF CLEANUP –A 100 per cent volunteer effort gave the 64 acre historic site a new look over four separate weekends in March. As many as 50 workers showed up on the separate weekends to remove broken glass, plastic bottles and other debris from the island which was once owned by the Legendary Actor Errol Flynn. Seen above is the beach in front of the island's Great House. (Errol Flynn Marina Photo)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE- The Errol Flynn Marina has several facilities available for lease including one turnkey beach bar and restaurant, a small seaside facility suitable for a combination café-gourmet shop and a fully furnished boatyard. Details can be obtained from the marina general manager, Dale Westin by email at dwestin@portjam.com or by phoning 1-876-715-6044.

SCHEDULE YOUR EVENT AT THE MARINA- The Errol Flynn Marina offers several unique facilities for lease for both public and private events. These include the Ken Wright Cruise Pier and Terminal Building which is the scene of many wedding parties and special meetings. We also offer a smaller meeting room and several other open area spaces suitable for various types of outdoor expos. In addition, the Bound Brook Wharf can be made available for public events seating up to 1,000 persons. Contact Event Manager Christine Downer at 1/876-715-6044 or email to cdowner@portjam.com

NEW MOORING BUOY FIELD PLANNED- A new 25-buoy mooring field will become a reality for the marina's 2012-13 operating season. The installation, which will feature large stud-link anchor chain for outstanding holding, will principally be for yachts of up to 40 feet. It is expected that it will result in more orderly anchoring and reduce the likelihood of yachts hitting each other during fluky wind shifts, etc. The buoys will also be numbered and it is expected an access fairway will be created to provide some separation for boats coming to and from the marina docks and the marine police docks. The project is in response to the growing number of anchorage yachts coming to the West Harbour every year. Yachts that are larger than 40 feet will be directed to other areas of the harbour and use their own anchoring equipment. It is estimated as many as 100 yachts could anchor safely in the harbour which has depths in the anchorage area of from seven to ten metres.



Twenty-four pounder carronade of about 1820.
From a drawing by Ch. Dupin in Wm. Laird Clowes, "The Royal Navy", vol. V, p. 540.



THE ROYAL NAVY ILLUSTRATION confirms the type of cannon (actually a “carronade”) that was discovered during the March “Nice Up De Place” campaign on Navy Island. At right, a United States Peace Corps volunteer and a local helper check out the piece of armament, located on the shoreline near the island’s great house. (Errol Flynn Marina Photo)

“CLEANUP’ YIELDS ANCIENT CANNON- One of the joys of participating in the volunteer cleanup effort on Navy Island is the simple “discovery” of a variety of things from the past. This has included old bottles, pieces of silverware and even old military hardware. Most notable was the discovery of an 18th Century carronade found under a mass of bramble near the island’s great house. The carronade was a short [smoothbore](#), [cast iron cannon](#), developed for the [Royal Navy](#) by the [Carron Company](#), an [ironworks](#) in [Falkirk](#), [Scotland](#), [UK](#). It was used from the 1770s to the 1850s. Its main function was to serve as a powerful, short-range anti-ship and anti-crew weapon. While considered very successful early on, carronades eventually disappeared as long-range naval artillery led to fewer and fewer close-range engagements. The carronade will remain on Navy Island. It is believed the carronade was originally located at the seaward British Naval Battery on the island and dates from about 1790.

YES, BUT OF COURSE WE HAVE OUR OWN BEACH! We are among a minute number of the world’s marinas that have their very own beach. The beach is available at no charge to marina clients every day except when a cruise ship is in port. Yes, we also have a cruise ship pier! The beach is closed from dusk to dawn daily.

CRAFTS GALORE IN THE MARINA – We periodically take a stroll through our “Things Jamaican” gift shop in the main marina building and are always amazed at the ingenuity of our local artisans; especially how they keep coming up with something totally new. If you’re like this writer and take a totally “ho-hum” attitude about visiting gift shops, you’ll have a vastly different attitude after stopping at “Things Jamaican”. One hundred percent of their offerings originate in Jamaica, no exceptions! Believe me, even if there’s no intention to buy something, just have a look and tell us if you think we have the wrong impression or are just touting for a tenant. And, by the way, check out the carvings done in Lignum Vitae wood.

SURE WE CAN HANDLE THE BIG ONES! – We had the pleasure of hosting the M/S Deutschland for two days in late March. At 579 feet length overall, it was one of the larger cruise ships to grace our harbour. We also hosted the ship’s crew for a late night beach party complete with bonfire. The ship has a crew to passenger ratio of almost one to one. Our harbour can accommodate vessels of up to 660 feet (201 metres) and up to a 32 foot draft (10 metres) alongside and also turn the ship in our harbour.

M/S DEUTSCHLAND CUTS A WIDE PATH ENTERING THE MARINA’S CHANNEL to start a two day visit to Port Antonio. It



is one of the largest cruise ships to call at the marina’s West Harbour. (Errol Flynn Marina Photo)

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VHF Channel 16/9---18°11.65’N, 76°26.875’W – Use DMA Chart 26129 or Admiralty 458 (Recommended)

Opinions Expressed in this Publication are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Port Authority of Jamaica

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