



MARCH, 2012 – Our 52nd Edition



NAVY ISLAND, SO NEAR, YET SO FAR- will be the scene of a volunteer cleanup campaign on four separate Saturdays starting March 10. The island, once owned by Errol Flynn, fell into receivership many years ago and is now the property of the Jamaican government. (Errol Flynn Marina Photo)

JOIN US ON NAVY ISLAND- A community volunteer campaign to clean up Navy Island will get underway on Saturday, March 10, and continue through each of the following Saturdays in the month. Dubbed “Nice Up De Place” by its sponsor, The Ignite Portland committee, the event will start at 8:30 a.m. each Saturday boarding boats at Errol Flynn Marina which are being provided by Lady G Diver and Somerset Falls. Volunteers are being asked to wear jeans and shoes (no flip flops) , bring a hat and gloves, plus some appropriate tools for cleaning and brush removal. Suggested items include machetes, shovels, rakes and brooms. Volunteers will be treated to a lunch at the Great House on the island prepared by the Errol Flynn Marina Dock Boys. Lunch food is being donated by both Kamal’s and Ramtulla’s supermarkets and the Coronation Bakery. Navy Island has been abandoned for many years since the former resort went into receivership and the island became the property of the Jamaican Government. The buildings are all in great disrepair and all have been stripped of everything of value. The Great House, made largely of concrete, remains pretty much intact. The island has great historical significance. Originally known as Lynch’s Island, it became Navy Island when the Royal Navy turned it into a defensive location to protect the entrance to Port Antonio’s two harbours. It further went down on the pages of history when Capt. William Bligh landed in Port Antonio with breadfruit from Tahiti. In the 1940’s it became the property of Actor-Womanizer Errol Flynn who developed it as his personal hangout. Flynn was followed by a succession of developers that turned it into a pristine resort location. Flynn’s plantings of numerous majestic Royal Palms remain as his signature on the island. There is presently no access to the island so the volunteers will be getting a rare opportunity to view where a lot of our country’s history occurred and also make a contribution toward preserving that heritage. Persons wishing to volunteer for one or more of the Saturday workdays should call 876-477-6914 to register.

'FLOATING DOCTORS' GET CNN HEROES NOMINATION - Recently nominated for CNN's Heroes of the Year were the "Floating Doctors" which visited Port Antonio twice in the past few years. Headed by Dr. Benjamin Labrot and sister "Sky", the team brings needed medical care to remote coastal communities in the Caribbean. In recent years they have provided medical care to more than 13,000 patients in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and Panama. We are of course very pleased to call them our "friends" and hope to see them get the coveted CNN Heroes of the Year Award.

THE OLD CUBA WATCHER- While the Draconian travel ban for American citizens wanting to visit Cuba remains, the U.S. Congress has at least had the foresight to eliminate all funding for the enforcement of the ban. Here at Errol Flynn Marina, we get a barrage of questions from both US Citizens and others contemplating a trip to the Forbidden Island. US law does not prohibit its citizens from visiting Cuba. The law however does prohibit them from spending any money in Cuba. No one has been prosecuted for visiting Cuba as a tourist. No yacht has been seized for simply visiting Cuba. In some instances in the past the US Treasury Department's Bureau of Assets Control has attempted to mail out letters to Cuba visitors and has assessed a fine of US\$1,000.00 for visiting Cuba and violating the "Trading with the Enemies Act". Of course the letter circumvents basic Due Process and has no legal standing. The US government takes the position that if you visit Cuba, you have to spend some money. This writer, a US citizen, managed for several years marine services at Marina Hemingway in Havana, Cuba, and even had Cuban work permits in his USA passport. While these stamps raised a few eyebrows when reentering the USA, then never resulted in so much as a threatening letter from the authorities. In mid-May, a collection of folks with Caribbean marina interests will congregate at Marina Hemingway to discuss the possible impact of President Obama relaxing the USA travel ban on Cuba. Studies indicate that some 65,000 boats will attempt to visit the island in the first year the travel ban ends. The May event will also mark the 20th Anniversary of the Club Nautico International Hemingway which is based at Marina Hemingway. Cuba is also seeking investors in their marina infrastructure and several USA interests are reported to be exploring the possibilities with the idea in mind the travel ban will end soon. The travel ban is a separate issue from the embargo. No action on the embargo is expected as long as South Florida Republican Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen chairs the powerful Foreign Relations Committee.

BOAT SHOW VIGNETTES- Every time we exhibit at a international boat show, our associates seem to think we are getting a free ticket to a week in paradise. No so! Boat shows are essentially missionary work toward getting boat owners to visit our facility some day in the future. Each show is six or more days of fighting traffic, getting to the show site several hours early to get a parking spot in some proximity to the show, battling with the show suppliers because the electricity is not connected or the carpeting

hasn't arrived. Then the show opens and the barrage begins. One guy comes by and asks a long series of questions about our facility, including details about rates, security, haul out facilities, amenities and all. The conversation goes on for about 15 minutes. When he asks how big a boat we can handle, I reply that anything up to 660 feet long and 32 foot draft is okay. Then I ask what type of yacht he has and he replies that he doesn't have one but someday if he does, he will be certain to visit Errol Flynn Marina! Then there's the boat salesman you run into during a quick lunch break. You overhear him wearing down a possible sales client by asking him if he knows the difference between the other brand he is considering and herpes. "Herpes is much easier to get rid of", he explains." Such is life in the boat show fast lane!

OUR STAFF: THE BEST ADVERTISING- We don't have big budgets for advertising so we have to be certain to give the best possible impression to every potential client. It's not the size of the yacht that makes any difference in the level of service you get at Errol Flynn Marina. Our mission is simple – make EVERY visitor feel they are genuinely welcome and do everything possible to make their visit a memorable one! We are very pleased to note that more than 80 per cent of our arriving customers indicate their primary reason for visiting is because of a prior client's recommendation!

DON'T MISS OUR "AVATAR TREE" – If you've seen the movie "Avatar" with the amazing tree of life, then you won't want to miss seeing our very own "Avatar Tree", located at the north end of the marina just beyond the beach. The tree is estimated to be several hundred years old and most likely witnessed such things as the arrival of Capt. William Bligh from Tahiti with the Breadfruit seedlings, the US Navy Fleet in the twin harbours during the blockade of Cuba during the Spanish-American War, and the follies of our very own marina's namesake, Errol Flynn, among others. Our landscaper tells us it's a Guango tree, but it is so laden with numerous varieties of vines and ferns that it's hard to tell. And Oh yes, don't forget the camera!

MARCH SPECIALS AT "THINGS JAMAICAN"- Where everything is made in Jamaica...guaranteed! Check them out this month for special promotions, discounts and some promised "surprises". The shop is located opposite the marina office.

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