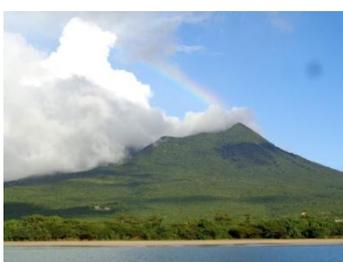




JHYC "The Really Rolly Rally" to Nevis 16-18/19 January, 2023 by Alison King

Whilst I got to Nevis on the recent Club Rally, I sadly didn't get to Sunshine's Beach Bar for a "Killer Bee" rum punch or get the t-shirt!

An early push off the dock at Jolly started out well. About 3 hrs in Jon C put out the fishing rod and within 20 mins landed a "Cero mackerel". A god send as it did us proud for two delicious meals on board. We had a mesmerising calm 9hr trip with floppy main sail and engine due to lack of wind. Four other Jolly boats had already picked up a buoy or dropped anchor off Pinneys Beach when we arrived. There are now only eight buoys available. We clambered on board the dinghy and even though the swells were up made it to "Heart of the Dolphin" with our drinks, a total of twelve jolly sailors sitting up and swilling back the beers and wine. Jimbo and Sherrill, having arrived first and already checked-in, decided to try Sunshines..... unfortunately the surprisingly choppy waters almost flipped their dinghy over on the return and Sherrill had to go back to the bar to get help from a German and a Scots. It took Jimbo almost an hour to clean out the sand the next day.



Waking up the next morning to this lovely view was just as well as it took Jon C an hour on his phone filling out the Immigration and Customs form "knavelform.kn". Each person on board has to have a section completed. The next challenge of the day was how to tie up to the so called "dock". The swells were well up and it looked pretty unsafe. A couple of dinghies made for the beach further up, braving the waves. One had issues resulting in wet items and shocked people. Having short legs myself it was difficult climbing up onto the dock as there are no steps and lot of puddles to sit in. A

back anchor was needed. Port Authority took about 1 hr. Cash only by the way! Open until 4.00pm, but shut on Saturday and Sunday. By this time beer and lunch was necessary. The "PAS" bar under the Welcome to Nevis sign turned out nice cold Caribs and not bad grub. A wander around Charlestown (in the rain) and a trip to the supermarket before braving the journey back to Imagine of Falmouth. The waves were still crashing on the beach so it was agreed there was no point in going ashore.



Wednesday morning John's Taxi Tours was booked for 11 of us (after check-out that is).... and here we go again with the almost impossible dinghy dock..... The first stop was a paddle in the hot springs followed by a viewpoint from The Bath Hotel, one of the oldest hotels in the Caribbean (built 1778); onward to the Hermitage Hotel (very nice indeed). We bypassed the Botanical Gardens and went straight to Golden Rock Inn that had its own lush tropical gardens.



Hermitage Inn:

Golden Rock Inn:





Lunch was at a colourful local restaurant called "Passion" with a whistle stop look in at Montpelier Plantation where Lady Di had stayed. We passed by old churches (1685), lots of sheep along the roadside, donkeys and just one monkey was spotted in the tree tops.



So at the end of the delightful tour we only had the precarious journey off the dock back to our vessels. A brief Carib stop was necessary for fortification before it was time to get ship shape for the early return journey first thing in the morning.



One boat had returned earlier. Three boats went through the narrows around the north of Nevis. "Imagine" went south towards Redonda. The wind was easterly about 21-22 kts. A decision was made to anchor overnight at Rendezvous Bay, Montserrat, after a 9hr journey. It was another really rolly night with crashing waves - but beautiful star viewing.



Off the next morning with 22-23 kts and a 6 hr plus trip, making customs at Jolly before it closed.

Whilst undeniably Nevis has its charms and character, to get to the "Killer Bee" cocktail and food at Pinneys Beach you need calm water, blue skies and no swells on shore. The dinghy dock in Charlestown is quite something else! The trip had its more than adventurous moments and we did all get our passports stamped..... Thanks to all the participants for taking part and to Rear Commodore for arranging.