



Sea Mercy Captains - making a difference in the South Pacific

This month's newsletter is dedicated to the Sea Mercy Captain program and those individuals who have given of their time, vessels and careers to help make a difference in the South Pacific. Our first response to the idea of "sailing in the South Pacific" as a Sea Mercy Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) is that it is an easy, carefree, and low risk decision. But the truth of the matter is that at great financial and personal risk, they place their vessels and themselves in the center of a health care emergency.

Although the beauty of the South Pacific is incredible, the dangers are just as incredible, requiring them to navigate their priceless vessel through shallow, uncharted reefs to reach a remote inhabited island. They are required to navigate through open oceans during unannounced storms and foul weather. More importantly, they have taken on the responsibility of protecting, housing, feeding and delivering the Sea Mercy health care volunteers to those in need and insuring that they arrive back home at the end of their rotation.

Their jobs are not thankless, but they give and risk far more than is required of them in a challenging and unforgiving environment. Our leadership and volunteers are so grateful for them and all that they do to make Sea Mercy a success.

"With all the medical discoveries, new technologies, teachings and staff training now available, if we are unable to deliver them to 30-40% of a targeted community, can we call it a success?"

- Richard Hackett



One vessel can make a difference

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Porpoise in Tonga (photo courtesy of Jennifer Pountney)

Vessels answering the call

For those who prefer to "sail with a greater purpose", we created the **Sea Mercy Captain** program.

At Sea Mercy, our goal is to have a Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) operating in each of our targeted island nations at the earliest opportunity. By partnering with an existing vessel owner/captain, we can focus our resources on covering the costs of operating a FHCC, versus buying one for each location.

For more information on the **Sea Mercy Captain** program, please visit the Sea Mercy website.

Volunteer Spotlight - *Dragonfly*

When we first proposed the **Sea Mercy Captain** program idea, creating a fleet of volunteer vessels operating as Floating Health Care Clinic's (FHCC) in the South Pacific, the initial feedback we received was that our chances of finding someone in the sailing community willing to take on the same vision and heart were very remote. Yet in less than 60 days we had received multiple requests from vessels of all sizes and shapes willing to work with Sea Mercy. Al & Jill Wigginton, the owners of *Dragonfly*, are one of those special couples that raised their hands and opened their hearts to the needs in the South Pacific.

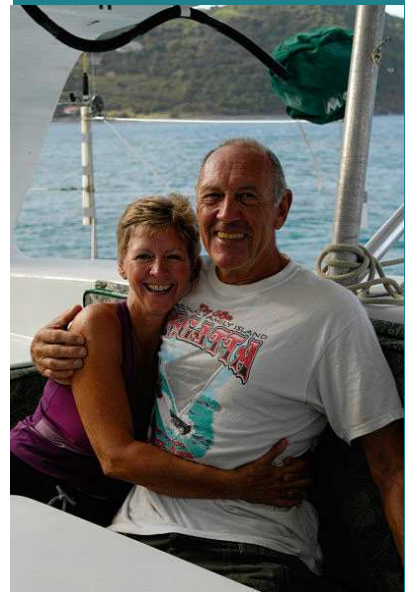
The Perfect Crew... The Perfect Vessel

Al and Jill bring over 14 years of charter experience navigating the waters of the Caribbean, over 70,000 sailing miles experience, a 100 ton Captain license, caring hearts and wonderful and charming personalities.

Dragonfly is fast, but was also built as a workhorse who's shallow draft allows her to access almost any remote lagoon or harbor. She has ample deck space for patient care, storage for medical supplies, and a perfect interior design for our health care volunteers to comfortably work and live on.

Come and Serve With Us

With room to comfortably carry 6-8 additional health care volunteers, local interns, and international aid workers, *Dragonfly* is the perfect service delivery platform for all of our programs and initiatives and provides the flexibility to deliver the much needed care and supplies to the remote islands of Tonga. Following the end of the 2013 charter season, Al & Jill will be relocating *Dragonfly* from the Caribbean to Tonga. With the Kingdom of Tonga FHCC now established, we will be looking to expand into our next Sea Mercy island nation.



Jill & Al Wigginton on Dragonfly

"There needs to be more to life than sailing from point a to point b. We have always wanted to do more than just existing in our own floating home."

Al & Jill Wigginton

Dragonfly

Dragonfly is a custom built 65 foot sailing catamaran.

Specs

Builder: AJ Marine
Construction: Vacuum bagged Hulls of Corecell, Epoxy, Triaxial Glass
Length: 65'
Beam: 31'
Draft: 2' 6" to keel
Fuel Capacity: 400 gallons
Sailing Speeds: Up to 21 knots
Fuel Consumption: 3 gallons/hr
Water Capacity: 200 gallons

Equipment:

Engines: Twin Yanmar Engines
Electronics: Nexus wind, speed, depth, compass, Autopilot remote control and display in captains qtrs.
Communications: VHF, Ham Radio with Sailmail connection Air Conditioning

Accommodations:

4 queen size staterooms
4 single births
3 Heads & Showers

For a full list of specs on Dragonfly, visit our website.



Dragonfly - Sea Mercy's Flagship FHCC for the Kingdom of Tonga

Dragonfly - Flagship for Tonga

In Tonga, there are 400 miles of open ocean that separates the 170+ islands in the north from the main island of Tongatapu in the south. On one hand the distance and remoteness of these islands has left them relatively untouched and beautiful, but on the other it has left them without access to even the most basic health services.

Dragonfly, operating as a Floating Health Care Clinic, will take on the important role of delivering health care volunteers and medical supplies to these disadvantaged remote islanders. With our storage and resupply facility located in the Vava'u island group, *Dragonfly* will operate for 2-3 weeks, traveling to remote inhabited islands, before returning to base for re-supply and to transition newly arriving or departing volunteer staff.

Dragonfly and Sea Mercy Volunteers

Operating as a Sea Mercy FHCC, *Dragonfly* will carry the FHCC Captain and crew (Jill and Al), the FHCC Program Director, at least one local health care intern, and 2-4 Sea Mercy health care volunteers and/or staff from our international partner organizations working on complimentary initiatives.

Although *Dragonfly* is a beautiful vessel, and she will take our volunteers to and through some of the most beautiful waters and islands in the world, her purpose, and those traveling on her, is to serve those in need.





Tongan traveling between islands (photo courtesy of Jennifer Pountney)

New Sponsors Spotlight!

Ronin Technology Group

Ronin Technology Group was born out of a desire to fully help people with their Information and Technology needs.

Their team of IT professionals are committed to fully helping your organization achieve your Information Technology goals. For over 7 years they have built a reputation on being honest, innovative, and professional.

Services include:

- Virus and Malware Removal
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- 24/7 NOC monitoring
- Absolute Protection
- Absolute Control
- Emergency IT response
- Disaster Recovery Planning

www.ronintechgroup.com

In-kind Sponsors

At Sea Mercy, every relationship matters and makes a difference. We have been incredibly blessed this year with outstanding in-kind sponsors that help us offset the operating costs of a Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC). Every in-kind sponsor donation allows us to free up our financial resources to meet other operational needs. Here are a few examples:

Ronin Technology Group

Ronin Technology Group helped our organization add CiviCRM software for our organization. CiviCRM is a web-based, open source, Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) software geared toward meeting the needs of non-profit and other civic-sector organizations. Their help and expertise was invaluable.

Key Sponsors

MedShare - Our partnership with MedShare has reduced our yearly medical supplies costs from over \$200,000 to under \$30,000.

Affiniscape - Our partnership with Affiniscape and their nationwide network of 300+ state and local health care associations has allowed us to build a deep and talented pool of health care volunteers.

In-kind Advertisers

We have an ever growing number of advertising partners (*SuperYachtTimes.com*, *CruisersForum.com*, *Multihulls Magazine*, etc.) who have taken on the same heart and spirit to help us reach their readership and members who can contribute their talents, their goods, or their financial resources to meet the incredible needs in the South Pacific.



The South Pacific is calling!

Rebelle

Volunteering has never been this much fun!

Sea Mercy is proud to announce that **Rebelle** a 45 foot Lagoon sailing catamaran owned by Xavier & Amanda Zeitoun, will be Sea Mercy's 2013 Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) for the Kingdom of Tonga. Xavier, Amanda and their beautiful vessel **Rebelle** will be stepping in the fill the need in Tonga until the arrival of Dragonfly in 2014, then she will be the lead vessel for our next island nation Sea Mercy partner in 2014.

Rebelle will be arriving in June to guide us through the waters of the remote islands of Tonga as we establish our service routes for Vava'u and Ha'apai island groups, develop the patient care demographics and needs, and establish our medical resupply base after each 2 week volunteer rotation. We are targeting the first week of August to begin six 2 week rotations before battening down for the cyclone season. We will begin full operations again on **Rebelle** starting in April of 2014 until Dragonfly arrives in June. **Rebelle** will then transition to our next island nation partner in the South Pacific.



Xavier & Amanda Zeitoun



Rebelle - a 44 foot Lagoon catamaran

2013 Volunteer Assignments

We will be operating six 2 week Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) rotations on the luxury 44 foot Lagoon catamaran **Rebelle** from August 10th thru November 2nd. Due to accommodation limits and sleeping arrangement challenges (2 queen cabins), we are seeking a minimum of 2 health care volunteers based on targeted medical specialty of the rotation (i.e. one doctor and one nurse/physician assistant) to staff the FHCC and to work with our local onboard Tongan health care professional (FHCC Director). The FHCC Director will schedule and oversee each remote island stop of the FHCC program, acting as the liaison when needed between the volunteer staff and the local island patients. Be sure to visit the website for more details on the 2013 FHCC Program itinerary, costs, and to register for a rotation. Don't forget to visit the image gallery for **Rebelle** and to learn more about this incredible opportunity.

2 Week Rotation Schedule

Day of Week	Goals/Activities
Day 0 (Saturday)	Volunteers arrive in Tonga (Tongatapu) and make connecting flights to Neiafu (Vava'u island group)
Day 1 (Sunday)	Board Rebelle with introductions to crew, FHCC Director, and other volunteer staff
Day 2-6 (Monday - Friday)	Sail to 3-7 remote islands in the Vava'u and Ha'apai island groups for patient evaluation and care
Day 7-8 (Saturday & Sunday)	Sail to uninhabited islands to allow 2 days rest and relaxation for volunteers
Days 9-12 (Monday - Thursday)	Sail to 3-5 remote islands in the Vava'u and Ha'apai island groups for patient evaluation and care.
Day 13 (Friday)	After morning patient evaluation and care, sail to Vava'u (Neiafu) area for debriefing
Day 14 (Saturday)	Deliver volunteers to the airport for connecting flights to Tongatapu and home

Sponsorship & Fundraising

With a goal to provide a FHCC for each island nation partner in the South Pacific at the earliest opportunity, we are reaching out to foundations and corporations to help support the fleet of Sea Mercy Floating Health Care Clinics (FHCC).

Operating a floating health clinic in the South Pacific for a year is not an easy or inexpensive endeavor. A 2-week FHCC rotation of 5 volunteers costs on average \$3,020 per volunteer to operate (see below). This includes the volunteers food and housing, and all costs of medical supplies and operational expenses of the FHCC. Although our goal is to gain enough support from corporate and foundation sponsors to cover the operational costs of every FHCC vessel in our growing fleet, it is the sacrifice of our FHCC vessel owners and volunteers that allows Sea Mercy to meet the needs of these remote island citizens.

	<u>2 week</u>	<u>4 weeks*</u>	<u>12 weeks</u>
Food	\$ 550	\$1,100	\$3,300
Fuel	\$ 195	\$ 390	\$1,170
Medical Supplies	\$ 400	\$ 800	\$2,400
Captain/Crew	\$1,135	\$2,270	\$6,810
Miscellaneous	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$1,500
FHCC Costs**	<u>\$ 490</u>	<u>\$ 980</u>	<u>\$2,940</u>
Total	\$3,020	\$6,040	\$18,120

* Volunteers who are committing to 4+ week assignments can schedule in advance additional 2+ week rotations on other FHCC vessels

** FHCC insurance, moorage, repairs, maintenance, local storage facilities for medical supplies

FHCC Vessels

Understanding the urgency and needs of the remote islanders, each Sea Mercy FHCC owner left behind successful charter businesses to partner with Sea Mercy and "sail with a greater purpose". This partnership eliminates the need for Sea Mercy to purchase an FHCC and focus instead on covering operational costs.

Volunteers

To be clear to our Sea Mercy health care volunteers, your 2 week rotation is not a vacation. In addition to treating patients, you will be helping sail and anchor the vessel, loading and unloading supplies, preparing for and cleaning up after each visit, and helping with meals. So if you enjoy serving people and applying your talents and skills, then consider this the most incredible "working vacation" of a lifetime that also allows you to visit the beautiful South Pacific islands and interact with their people.

Join Us in Making a Difference

If you are willing to participate in personal fundraising efforts (or pay your own way) to help offset operational costs, we will move you to the top of the volunteer assignment list and provide you with first choice of location, length of service and even your preferred vessel assignment. Whether you're shooting to raise enough funds for a 2 week rotation, or multiple rotations with multiple island nation partners, we can help you succeed in reaching your dreams. Contact us about the available tools and rewards we have waiting for you on the next page.

Contact Us

Send us an email for more information about our programs

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info@seamercy.org

Visit us on the web at
www.seamercy.org

Volunteer

To be a Sea Mercy Volunteer, visit our website and click on the button link



Donate

To donate to Sea Mercy visit our website and click on the button link

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