



Sea Mercy Captains – Making a difference in the South Pacific

This news from Sea Mercy 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.

Volunteer Spotlight – *Dragonfly*

When we first proposed the Sea Mercy Captain program idea of 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



The 65-foot custom-built catamaran Dragonfly

willing to work with Sea Mercy. Al & Jill Wigginton, the owners of the custom-built 65-foot sailing catamaran *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.

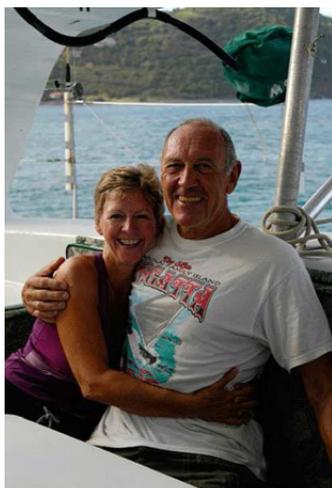
Dragonfly is fast, but was also built as a workhorse whose shallow draft allows her to access almost any remote lagoon or harbor. She has ample deck space for patient care, storage for medical supplies, and a perfect interior design for our health care volunteers to comfortably work and live on.

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.

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



Al & Jill Wigginton

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.

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. They will be stepping in to fill the need in Tonga until the arrival of *Dragonfly* 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 two-week volunteer rotation.

We are targeting the first week of August to begin six two-week rotations before batten 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.

The six two-week Floating Health Care Clinic (FHCC) rotations on *Rebelle* will take place 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.

For more information about this amazing program and its volunteers, visit: www.seamercy.org **MM**



Xavier & Amanda Zeitoun



Dragonfly



The 45-foot Lagoon Rebelle