

Oceanswatch North America Update: After Dorian. Welcome to the Bahamas!

As cruisers start to arrive in the Abacos, the land-based organizations are discovering the incredible resource in this amazing community. I have had very positive response meeting with those organizing efforts on all the Abaco out islands, MOW, GTC, Guana Cay, Spanish...including Grand Cay the nearest Cay to the east FL coast. I am in contact with those in Cooperstown on Abaco Island. All are very excited to welcome cruisers who wish to volunteer their skills and resources. Please feel free to share your itinerary and we can help coordinate volunteer efforts with you.

If you are heading to Hopetown first, Elbow Cay is happy to have cruisers arrive and check-in at the command center as they arrive. (For more ways to help in Elbow Cay, use this [link](#).) Yet, it would be great to give them an idea of the skilled volunteers planning to arrive. Island organizers may not realize the depth of cruisers' skills to make key repairs to needed systems; desalination, generators, and electrical. Those organizing really do not know the breadth of the ability of cruisers. Any opportunity to plan allows for last minute needs for supply or part transport to be met. Most of the supplies for roof repair, and the key needs of the community are coming on barges from staging areas in Pt Canaveral, Ft Pierce, Stuart, WPB, and Ft Lauderdale. The key need is for skilled workers, and those who can be hands for direction.

I am getting information on schools. Most of the island children are not on island, but there are students on Cooperstown, GTC, and Elbow Cay. Any supplies or assistance is appreciated.

Global Empowerment Mission is assisting with Cooperstown recovery and are in process of doing repairs to the school building. They have a great need for skilled and directable labor so they can begin to help the elderly community with roofs and needs. They have limited gas reserves, but water and food. They request bicycles. Given Cooperstown is not as tourism driven, the efforts there are lagging in some ways; the need great.

Abaco Heath Services is organizing a regular schedule of services in each island. MDs and nurses are needed to help expand the availability of services and expertise. They welcome volunteers for whatever period of time available (a week or more).

All of the organizations now have accommodation and 2 meals a day except Cooperstown and Grand Cay. But there are anchorages and access to docks.

Several Volunteers are using the OWNA App allowing updated information to be centralized as they assess and fill out surveys. Please feel free to contact me to learn how to download our app and get on board 'Cruising with a Cause'... "Where Smiles greet you... and the sense of Satisfaction follows in your wake."

Thank You,

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FB PM Donna Lange (picture on my boat in Haiti)