

—Continued from previous page

Kephra lives in Zetlands Estate, Nevis with "my mom, grandparents and great-grandma who is 92 this year. Bolt, my dog, lives with us too." In Grade 5 at the Montessori School, his favorite activities are football and sailing.

"My grandma told me about her father, my great-grandfather, who sailed lighters, traditional boats crafted in Anguilla. He sailed by the stars at night from Anguilla to Nevis, bringing livestock and other goods." When Kephra was little his mother took him sailing in Sunfish at Oualie Beach. In 2012, after a family friend e-mailed a St. Kitts Sailing School brochure (a private junior sailing program no longer operating), she signed him up for a summer activity not realizing that this would become a passion for her son.

"The most appealing aspects of sailing to me are being out at sea with the waves and enjoying harnessing the power of the wind to move me. (Participating in) the sailing club, I feel I have more confidence and have learned an important skill."

Summer camp includes informally racing Lasers, Optimists, Sunfish and Hobie Cats. Recently, Kephra skippered a Hobie Cat with adult crew in a local regatta and won. He was awarded the "Conch D' Or" (Golden Conch trophy).

Kephra says, "I would like to see more children participate in my sailing club. I try to contribute to its success by getting there on time, paying my dues and telling my friends about the club. I encourage my mom to join in. I volunteer my time at the club to help other kids get confident with different aspects. I help Nick, my teacher, set up at the beginning and pack up at the end of practice. I want to invent things that make the boat easier to sail. I love inventing things. I want to get a sailing scholarship at Yale (I saw they offered 'full scholarships' on the internet) so that I can become an engineer."

Y2A Featured Adult

Prince Alfred Mills, business owner, St. Kitts

Prince Alfred "Ali" Mills stands ashore on St. Kitts to have his picture taken for this series. In the bay behind him several of his yachts stand at attention representing part of his many life successes.

According to Philip Walwyn, SKNSA Vice President and SKYC Commodore, "When we started St. Kitts Boatbuilding Company in 1979, David Stanger found (as it turned out) an exceptional group of young men to build the boats. These men were not boatbuilders but became expert in wood epoxy construction. First off we built the 40-foot *Caona*, then the 45-foot *Skyjack* and the 66-foot *Eagle*. Then in 1983, I took a year off from my small hotel to build the 75-foot catamaran *Spirit of St. Christopher*. At the beginning of that job, I said to the team that the best of them would (if they wanted) sail north with me on *Spirit* for the Quebec/St. Malo (France) Race. Alfred Mills was chosen and did the trip. The rest, as they say, is history."

Peter Dupre, SKNSA secretary, continues, "After this, Alfred studied navigation at the Seamen's Church Institute of New York for two years, graduating as a second officer of unlimited tonnage. He gained a wealth of experience working for Ionian Transport in New York, which included some time on the Staten Island Ferry, as well as experience on various vessels throughout the Caribbean.

"In 1999 he set up his own company, M&M Transport, operating the *Carib Breeze* in competition with the government ferry that ran between St. Kitts and Nevis. Alfred's experience on the sea, business acumen and hard work made this a huge success, such that in 2002 he commissioned the building of second, much bigger

ferry, the *Carib Surf*. His business continues to thrive and has this year both expanded his scope of operations to include Montserrat and Antigua, and commissioned a third vessel, the *Carib Sun*."

Employing 12, his ferries serve transportation needs both nationally (between



Nevis and St. Kitts) as well as regionally (St. Kitts & Nevis/Montserrat/Antigua).

Alfred: "I'd like to see more youth getting into the marine industry. We don't have a lot of seafarers in our country right now. Young people can build a comfortable livelihood and at the same time serve their country."

Ellen Ebert Birrell attributes her opportunity to cruise the Caribbean aboard *Boldly Go* with partner Jim Hutchins to life skills built in childhood. Believing swimming and sailing are essentials for island youth, she serves as Sailing Development Chair on the Caribbean Sailing Association. Visit <http://caribbean-sailing.com/youth/youth-programs> for more information.



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