

THE WELCOME

GUIDE TO THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Dinghy Poker Run

destructive fish are caught in nets or by the use of spear guns. There will be trophies and prizes (including cash) awarded to the winners.”

On shore there will be lots of food and drinks, hermit crab racing and a DJ to keep the party atmosphere alive so head down to Long Bay on Territory Day and support this important tradition.

For further information, contact the Department of Conservation and Fisheries on 494-3429.

DINGHY POKER RUN SHENANIGANS

Be sure to join in the fun on July 3rd for the 5th Annual Dinghy Poker Run. This fun event was the brainchild of Leverick Bay Resort's, Nick and Monica Willis and was born out of the excitement that the big Poker Run generates. An average of 30-40 dinghies take part and race from Leverick Bay to various stops around the North Sound to collect the cards, then it's back to Leverick Bay to see who has the winning hand. All competitors are

dressed in pirate costumes and expect to get very wet with every boat having water cannons on board! After the prize giving, which includes a prize for the best dressed, dance the night away to the sounds of a live band. Pig roast and BBQ will be served right through the shenanigans!

Great prizes are awarded to the winning teams. Each hand is bought with ALL monies going to charity – this year to Animal Rescue and Control. For more information contact Nick at nick@surfbvi.com or (284) 495-7421.

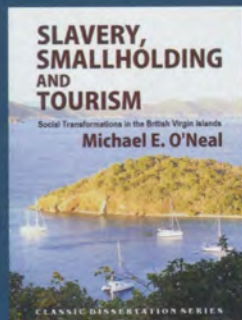
CRACKING RACE & CHILI COOK-OFF

Don't miss the "Loyal" West End Yacht Club's 21st annual Firecracker 500 Race and the Great Chili Cook-off on Saturday, July 7th with registration on Friday the 6th at the Jolly Roger. However, as this race is part of the Goslings series you can be sure there will be plenty of Dark and Stormys to cool you down. The Firecracker 500 race sets sail from Soper's Hole with a chili cook-off in the afternoon following the completion of the race. The event raises funds for KATS (Kids and the Sea Program). For more information contact Martin Van Houten at (284) 496-8685.

– Jan Critchley

SLAVERY, SMALL HOLDINGS AND TOURISM

A new book by Michael O'Neal explores the BVI in a new way



The BVI has experienced many significant transformations. It has gone from successful sugar and rum producing islands through much of the 18th and early 19th centuries to a subsistence economy of small farmers and fishermen – a period that lasted until the mid-20th century. With the development of vibrant tourism and off-shore banking industries over the last several decades the islands have gone through their greatest metamorphosis yet.

Michael O'Neal in his newly published book, *Slavery, Smallholding and Tourism: Social Transformations in the British Virgin Islands* examines this history through the lens of an accomplished anthropologist. In this academic work, Dr. O'Neal explores the politics and economics of development in the BVI. Following the end of the plantation era, the outside world paid little attention to these small and rural islands, and it was only in the latter part of the 20th century when it became a popular tourist destination and sailing Mecca that this changed.

Dr. O'Neal credits the passing of the BVI's 1953 Hotel Ordinance Act as the early beginning of a policy to encourage tourism here. Dr. O'Neal writes that, "...circumstances external to the BVI would ultimately lead to tourism becoming the development strategy of 'choice.'" Financial Services were later added as a second economic pillar to the BVI economy, and the book explores the industry's impact on the islands in an afterword by Bill Mauer, Professor of Anthropology and Law at the University of California at Irvine.

Dr. O'Neal was Vice President and President of the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College on Tortola from 1993 to 2008. Currently he is Senior Research Fellow at Island Resources Foundation, an environmental organization specializing in research on island systems which has offices in both Washington, DC and Road Town. He is also a director of JOMA Ltd, a family-owned real estate management and development company.

Part of Quid Pro Books' Classic Dissertation Series, *Slavery, Small Holdings and Tourism*, can be found on amazon.com in e-book, paperback and hardcover form. It is also available in shops locally.

– C. Colli