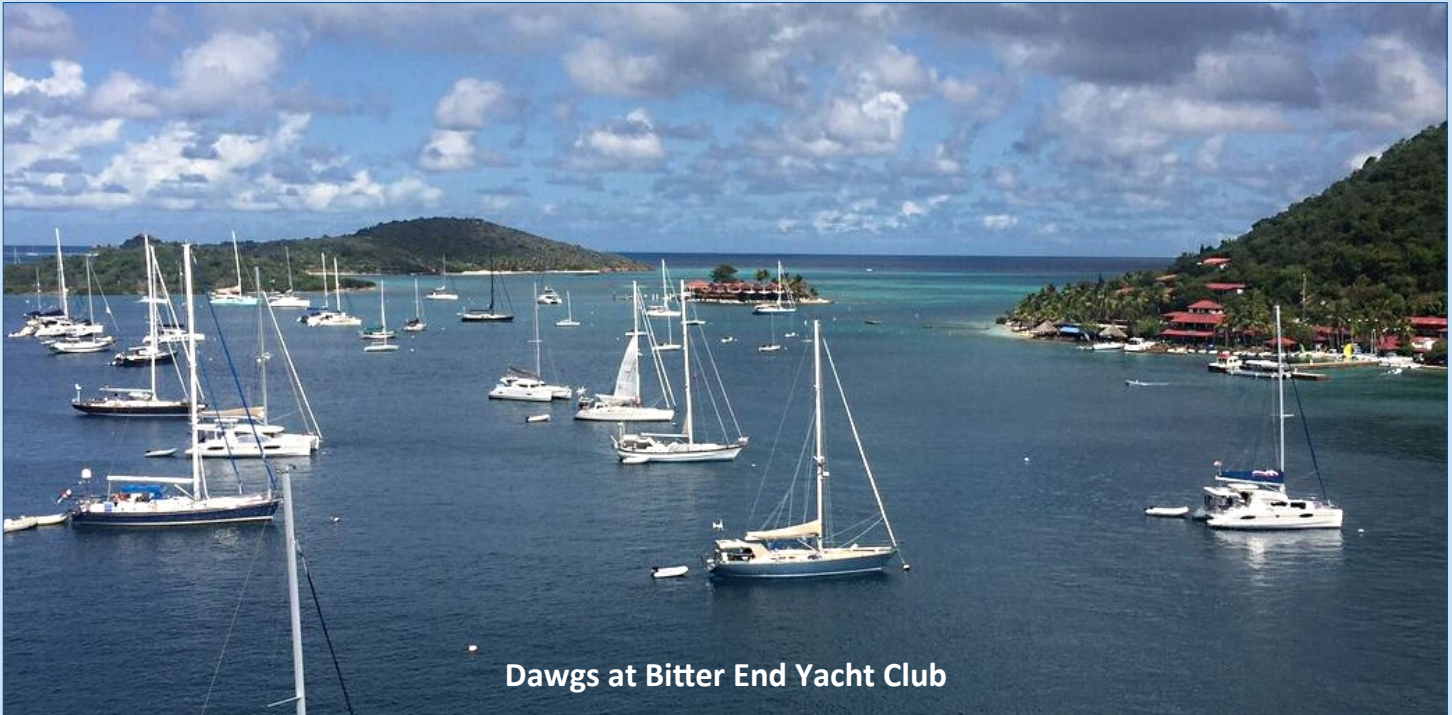


Dawg Tales

Newsletter



Dawgs at Bitter End Yacht Club

Founding Sponsors



**BITTER END
YACHT CLUB**
NORTH SOUND, VIRGIN GORDA,
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Words from the Helm

With the arrival of spring, for those of us lucky enough to have spent the winter in the warm turquoise waters of the Caribbean, our thoughts turn to the return trip to the US for the summer season.

Rally to Cuba:

Our first Rally this spring is our Rally to Cuba with 24 boats currently headed to Marina Hemingway in Havana, Cuba for two weeks. While in Cuba, the Salty Dawgs will gather educational material on a variety of topics which will be posted on the Salty Dawg Sailing Association website. Although there is much work to be done, the Dawgs will enjoy tours of the island, meet the people and learn the culture. Look for the information to be posted to our website in the future for all those who are interested in going to Cuba or those who just want to learn about the Cuban people and their traditions.




Spring Rally:

Our Spring Rally departs the BVI on May 15 and is now open for registration. Whether you are a US sailor returning home or a European sailor wanting to cruise the US East Coast this summer, this Rally is for you. Meet cruisers from all over who will share their adventures, offer cruising advice and make lifelong friends. Spend time in North Sound at Leverick Bay and the Bitter End Yacht Club where we will enjoy a departure dinner and scavenger hunt before heading to Nanny Cay for final preparations and weather briefings before departure.

Want to become part of the Salty Dawg family? It's easy! Just go to our website and [join](#) as a SDSA member. Receive discounts on Rallies, Rendezvous, Seminars and more. HAPPY CRUISING!

Cheers - Linda, Bill and Zoe





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Cruising Articles

Dominica Rendezvous

by Rick & Brenda Langille, s/v AMARA

[See More Dominica Photos](#)

In support of the Portsmouth Authority Yacht Security (PAYS) group located in Portsmouth, Dominica, the Salty Dawg's gathered to explore Dominica from February 11th-18th. There were 23 vessels carrying the SDSA burgee with crew of approximately 52. A superb Dawg gathering for sure.



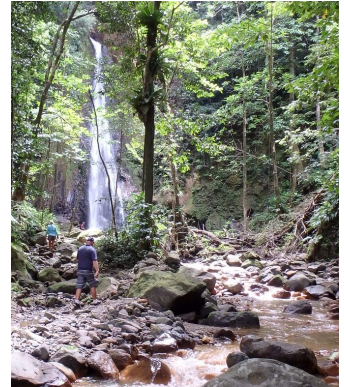
Dominica is a special place. Unlike other Caribbean islands, it is mostly rain forest. The amount of fresh water dropped on the island in some areas get up to 400" annually, allowing for the growth of vegetation far beyond what you see on other islands. Rich in every imaginable tropical plant, Dominica is a wonder to walk around. Combine that with the people and you have a magical spot to drop anchor and stay for a while.



"Yachtie Appreciation Week" is sponsored by PAYS, along with Dominica's government, to show their respect to the many cruisers that pass through each year. Events during the week were focused on helping us get to know Dominica and the folks who live there. Many officials from different departments of government attended the welcome dinner on Saturday Feb 11th as well as attending the magnificent evening at Fort Shirley which closed out the week on Saturday Feb 18th.

What a great week it was! Working with PAYS, we joined in on all of the events scheduled for the week. Many Dawgs participated in a great boat tour of "Indian River" that featured the location of Calypso's lair from Pirates of the Caribbean 2. There were luscious trees, shrubs, flowers and beautiful birds to view along the route as our guides paddled one mile up river to an eco bar. The Rum Punch was great and carried a PUNCH for sure.

A full day tour was enjoyed by many; this marathon day was packed with treks to water falls, bird sanctuaries, botanic gardens and soaking in hot sulfur springs. Along the way we also enjoyed lunch overlooking the busy waterfront of Roseau.



We did have a couple of brave Dawgs tackle the "Boiling Lake" hike. The round trip of 14 miles was completed by Peter from "Onapua" and Tom of "Courage". Good work you guys! I must say you both looked pretty spent after that trek!

Our week went very quickly and the weather combined with the exceptional conditions in the anchorage made it a highlight week of the sailing season for all! To complete our "Dawg" gatherings, on Friday we were treated to a dinner of Lion Fish combined with local side dishes. The dinner was superb, the evening sky was starlit and again Dominica did not disappoint. This evening was enjoyed by almost 40 members!

I want to make sure that we pay particular attention to the PAYS organization. This group has made it their mission to make us feel welcome and safe in Portsmouth. In the past this was not known as a safe spot to drop anchor and explore. Today, under the watchful eye of PAYS, cruisers enjoy services in the anchorage like new moorings, a fresh water buoy where you can fill up your tanks, security patrols during the evenings and taxi rides back and forth so your dingy is not subjected to the swell at the dock. A hardy shout out of thanks to "Providence", "Seabird" and "Cobra" to mention only a few. Keep up the good work!



One other worthy outreach for the week was the Dawgs support for local schools by gathering up supplies for students and teachers. Thanks to Joan and Greg on s/v Growltiger for heading up this effort and making sure the kids get more of what they need to continue their studies.

It is clear that "Yachtie Appreciation Week" will be an annual event and I would encourage you to put this on your schedule as you sail up and down the islands. Dominica is an easy island to get to from either direction. It's a special place for the SDSA to gather!

Fair winds!



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Culebra, Puerto Rico

by Arlene & Glenn Huber, s/v Wahoo

[See More Culebra Photos](#)

Culebra is only a 20-mile downwind sail from St. Thomas but a world of difference. The first thing you'll notice is how laidback everyone is on the island and it is very safe. Most people we met had been going to the island for 20+ years or had bought vacation homes there. You can rent a golf cart to tour around or just walk on the small island. Most places have local maps to grab so you can find your way around. Ensenada Honda is the main harbor where everyone anchors and it's wide open. You can clear in by phone with Culebra Customs at (787) 742-3531. If it's after hours or if they don't answer you can clear in by calling the San Juan airport at (787) 729-6840. You can drop anchor way up inside the harbor and tie your dinghy to the town dock while you go exploring.



BEACHES - Flamenco Beach is the most famous. It's been rated as the 3rd best beach in the world by Trip Advisor and the 2nd best beach in the world by Discover Channel and other magazines. It's quite gorgeous and is the only beach with food and drink concessions. But the back-story is far different from the tranquil turquoise waters you see today. From 1939-1975 Culebra and Vieques were used by the



U.S. Navy as a gunnery and bombing practice site. This was done initially in preparation for our involvement in World War II. We left behind a couple of tanks on Flamenco Beach and an awful lot of unexploded ordinance around the islands. You can hike out to Carlos Rosario Beach which is supposed to be one of the better snorkeling spots. To get there you have to slip through a locked gate (on the far west side of the parking lot) where a sign warns you not to trespass because of the danger of unexploded ordinance. Yet they leave the chain loose enough so that you "can" slip through it and everybody does. Zoni Beach on the NE side is the longest white beach on the island. We stumbled across an art installation of stick people in various poses that someone created out of tree branches, palm fronds and coconuts.

BARS/RESTAURANTS - The most popular by far is the Dinghy Dock restaurant. All the expats and many locals turn out every day for happy hour and some drummers provide entertainment on Saturday nights. Mamacita's, which is on the canal, is another large restaurant open daily. Pan Deli serves a nice breakfast and Zako's Tacos has great atmosphere as well as being inexpensive. Most of the fine dining places are only open Wed-Sun evenings.

PROVISIONS - Colmado Milka, on the same side of the canal as the Dinghy Dock, is the main grocery store and they have great meats. On Tuesday and Friday mornings there is a farmer's market in town where you can get fresh fruits and vegetables you don't normally find in the grocery stores. The town of Dewey is mainly a one-street town leading down to the ferry dock where you can catch a ferry to Puerto Rico for a mere \$2.25 and avoid the usual beat back.

They show movies every Tuesday and Friday night at the library. The theatre is actually inside a large container. There are 5 seats in a row and only 5 ½ rows. Yet they have your standard movie-theatre type seats, decent sound and a 70" screen. You order your popcorn when you get there and a half hour later the woman walks around asking who ordered the popcorn and drinks. You raise your hand like when you were in school. It's a unique island experience! There's a second container that houses all the books for the library but that's only open from 10-2.

CULEBRITA - You can't visit Culebra and not sail over to the uninhabited island of Culebrita. There are mooring balls inside the northern bay or you can anchor on the west side if the north side is rough or difficult to traverse. Paths lead to various beaches. If you hike over the rocks to the northern tip, you'll find the tide pools they call The Jacuzzis. When the waves come in, you stand near the edge, grab some handholds in the rocks and wait for the wave to come in and shower you. It's a rush! Then head up the cliffs over the eastern side on goat trails and down to the beach near the lighthouse. You can hike around the whole island and snorkel in the calm bay on the west side.

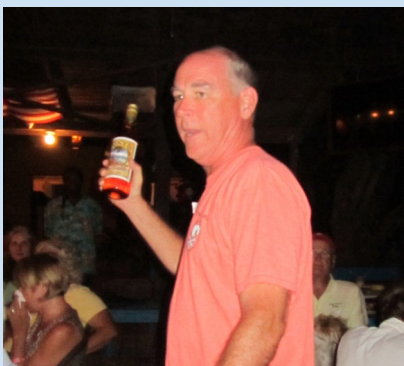


We found Culebra to be very charming, the people are very friendly and it is so safe. It's like the rest of the Caribbean used to be. But visit soon as progress is coming. They are installing power hook-ups at the town dock and mooring buoys are planned.





Flash Under Spinnaker



Foxy's Auctioneer—Jeff Tyndall



Dominica



Rendezvous at Foxy's

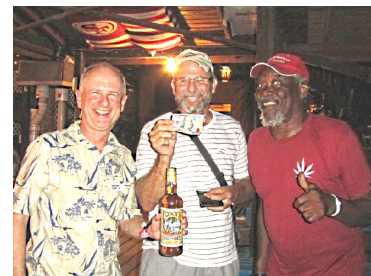
Dawgs Turn Rum Into Dollars

by Seale George, s/v Flash



Foxy's hosted the second annual Foxy/Salty Dawg Rendezvous on Feb 2 with 46 cruisers on 20 boats. It was fun to catch up with many of the Dawgs and we gladly welcomed some stray Dawgs to our party. We hope Allegro, Wind Pony, Whereabouts Unknown, Solace and Bermuda High will join us as members at our future events.

A visit to Foxy's is always fun, but when Dawgs and guests gather for dinner and drinks there, magic happens. After enjoying libations from the bar and an excellent buffet, a routine drawing of tickets for door prizes, donated by Foxy's, was held. The coveted prize of the evening was a bottle of Foxy's Firewater Rum and the winning ticket was held by Jeff Tyndall's shipmate, Steve.



Winners Steve & Kurt

In conversations about the rum, a few Dawgs started to brainstorm ways to use the bottle of rum to raise money for Foxy's passion, The Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society. Well, how much money could a single bottle of Foxy's Rum bring? Although a fine product, it was not unique or rare and could be purchased in his store for under \$15. Sharon Dow (Charmed Life) a whiz at raising money, suggested auctioning off individual shots of rum. The stage was set and Jeff



Tyndall (our own Scooby Doo) opened the bidding for the "first pour." "Do I have \$10?" he asked. Kurt Flock (Myananda) raised his hand. "Thank you, Kurt for your opening bid of \$20." And so the next few minutes of bidding went, with Kurt eventually winning the first pour for \$100, and downing it with great flourish. More pours were auctioned with intentional hearing problems on Jeff's part. Ten dollars was heard as \$15, \$15 as \$20 and bidders laughingly accepted their shots at prices greater than the value of a full bottle. When most of the bottle was empty, anyone with \$5 got a pour until all was gone.

In the end, the Salty Dawgs raised \$340 that was handed over directly to Foxy. Did I mention that the Dawgs had turned rum into dollars? But it didn't end there. We saw Foxy visibly moved by our gesture and we all felt proud of turning our silliness and games into a worthwhile donation. Foxy then presented Steve, the holder of the now empty bottle of rum, a Foxy CD, appropriately titled "Such is Life" that he autographed right there. This was an evening well spent in so many ways with Salty Dawgs just being Dawgs – priceless!

Sponsor Articles

Satellite Technology

by Jeff Thomassen, CTO at OCENS

You have dreamed of sailing to exotic places. You purchased the boat and did a bit of sailing with it. Now you have joined the Salty Dawg Sailing Association in anticipation of heading out on the big blue. Wait.... Why did you join the Salty Dawg Sailing Association? Because the Salty Dawg community has a wealth of knowledge that can help make your dreams come true!

So, true to form - here we will try to help you understand a little more about satellite phones. As you start thinking about the communications options you will want/need out there, having some basic understanding of how the satellite network operates and what to expect in the real world, will help you make the best choice for your needs, and hopefully dispel some of those slight advertising misrepresentations.



The first thing we need to understand about satellite technology is that it depends on line-of-sight. As in, your satellite phones antenna must be able to "see" directly to the satellite with no obstructions like buildings, mountains, solar panels, carbon fiber sails, hard biminis, decks, etc. Think of your satellite phone's antenna as a flashlight and the antenna on the satellite being a flashlight as well. They need to be able to see each others light to complete a call. Lets take a look at the Iridium system for now.

The Iridium network is comprised of 66 LEO (low Earth orbit) satellites and some ground stations. The

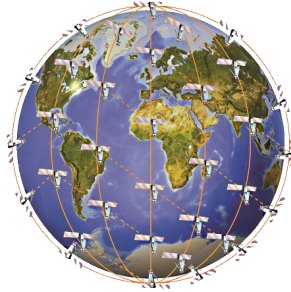




Rick & Julie in Dominica



Iridium satellites are in a polar orbit (North/South) at an altitude of approximately 483 miles above earth and travel at approximately 16,689 mph resulting in a complete orbit of earth approximately every 100 minutes, or about 12 minutes to traverse overhead at your location assuming they are moving directly overhead. Another key feature with Iridium is that they can transfer your call from satellite to satellite till it reaches the nearest ground station. This is what enables Iridium to provide 100% global coverage.



What does this mean for you on your boat with an Iridium phone? Well it means that when you are near the poles you will have access to many satellites as they are all converging at the pole, and they will be much higher in the sky - resulting in great signal strength and longer call durations with less interruptions or dropped calls. As you move towards the equator the satellites get a little more spread out resulting in less satellites in view at any given time and they will be lower to the horizon in general. Because of this you will see lower average signal strength and may experience more call interruptions as a result.

The current satellites and user hardware (Iridium GO!, 9575, 9555 phones included) allow for voice and data, however the data via the handheld phone or the newer GO! device is only about 2400 baud (15KB per minute). It is key that you also look into services that optimize this connection or provide data that is packaged in a way as to minimize the file sizes so that you can download that data. You will not be surfing the web or doing any banking at 2400 baud. You will need to focus on basic email services and dedicated weather solutions to make the most of this.

Iridium's satellites have been in orbit since the mid 1990s and are way beyond their initial projected lifespan. But have no fear! On January 14th they successfully launched the first 10 of their second generation satellites. These launches will continue over the next year and a half. As the new satellites get into orbit they will begin to replace the older ones, gradually improving the reliability of the service and call quality. These new satellites will also allow Iridium to roll out some new services and faster data speeds once there are enough new satellites up. We expect to see this all happen no sooner than mid 2018 or so, even though you will certainly be hearing a lot of hype around this in months to come.

Questions regarding satellite communications and services may be directed to Jeff Thomassen at OCENS. jeff@ocens.com, www.ocens.com

Sponsor Spotlight



BITTER END YACHT CLUB

We'd like to thank our Founding Level sponsor Bitter End Yacht Club (BEYC) for their participation and service with the Salty Dawg Sailing Association. Not only is the BEYC the preferred landing pad and Caribbean home for the Salty Dawg Fall Rally, but it is also where many Dawgs share many happy times and happy hours. Dawgs have enjoyed an array of fine services including the marina, slips, moorings, restaurants, Crawl Pub, recreation activities and of course the fantastic Fall Rally Arrival Dinner. It is always a relief to know that the BEYC is waiting with a warm welcome after a long passage. It really is a home away from home. Thank you [Bitter End Yacht Club](#)!! We are grateful for the relationship!



NANTUCKET BAGG COMPANY

We are proud to announce Nantucket Bagg Company as a new sponsor to our Salty Dawg family. Nantucket Bagg is located in Nantucket, MA USA and has been designing/developing quality canvas and leather bags for 15 years. The bags are designed to safely store and transport numerous tools and accessories serving many industries. The bags are very versatile and may be customized to fit your needs. These bags would be a good addition for managing a Salty Dawg tool collection. Welcome aboard Nantucket Bagg! To learn more about Nantucket Bagg, please visit nantucketbagg.com.



LEVERICK BAY RESORT & MARINA

We'd like to acknowledge our Admiral Level sponsor Leverick Bay Resort & Marina for their association with the Salty Dawg organization. Many Dawgs have enjoyed their marina, restaurant and amenities along with many laughs at the [Michael Bean's Happy Arrr!](#) Salty Dawg members receive various benefits from Leverick Bay including discounts on moorings, slips, meals, drinks and provisioning. For more info about Member benefits, visit the Salty Dawg [website](#). For more info about Leverick Bay, visit leverickbay.com. Thank you Leverick Bay!



Coming Events

CHECK OUR
Event
Calendar



Rally To Cuba

The Rally to Cuba will depart Virgin Gorda in the BVI in late March and will be in Cuba April 5 – 20, 2017. While most vessels will be cruising to Cuba from the BVI, others will cruise from the US East Coast and the Bahamas. The 14 day visit will support an educational-based, people-to-people exchange. The Rally complies with OFAC and US Coast Guard regulations.

This new Rally is a natural, downwind passage from the Caribbean back to the US, via Cuba. In order to conduct the proper research in support of this educational activity, and with the time constraint from various regulations and American insurance companies, the Rally will make landfall in Havana and conduct its research activities in Northwest Cuba. This is a large area to visit including Havana, villages and countryside on the north and south shores.

With the structured nature of the visit, in order to properly manage the activity, the Rally is being limited to 24 boats. With the strong interest in this rally, there could have easily been more than 75 vessels. All participants will be busy conducting our planned research, which will be designed to develop reference material that hopefully will be of interest to all US cruisers with future plans to visit Cuba.



Spring Rally to the U.S.

Registration is now open for the 2017 Spring Rally from the British Virgin Islands to the USA. The rally will depart the British Virgin Islands on May 15 after several days of social activities, weather briefings, and boat preparations.

The Spring Rally from the BVI to the cruiser's US port of choice is a popular event that attracts veteran Salty Dawgs who have completed the rally south in the fall and other sailors wishing to cruise-in-company to the States.

We also welcome cruisers from Europe who have enjoyed the Caribbean this winter and look forward to cruising the East Coast of the US and Canada next summer. Some rally participants are planning a stop in Bermuda to witness the Louis Vuitton America's Cup Qualifiers & Challenger playoffs.



Spring Rally participants are invited to gather in Virgin Gorda Sound on May 3 to enjoy the final Michael Beans' pirate show of the season and the Jumbies at the Leverick Bay Resort before a departure dinner at the Bitter End Yacht Club. Then the fleet will move on to Nanny Cay Marina on Tortola for fun events like a beach BBQ and a lasagna dinner. Pre-departure activities focus on weather briefings and final preparations before departure on May 15.

Weather forecasts and routing guidance from Marine Weather Service's chief forecaster Chris Parker begin prior to departure and continue throughout the passage. On-line tracking, shoreside coordinator services and offshore communication nets are available for all participating vessels, regardless of final port selection. [Click here](#) to learn more or register for the Spring Rally.



Recipes

Pork Tenderloin Under Pressure!

By Joan E. Conover, s/v Growltiger

Take two pork tenderloins(3 lbs) and rub with your favorite spice rub. Let sit for an hour or so. Or use already marinated Smithfield Pork Loins, they are good too.

In pressure cooker, put in a little oil, and brown the loins on all sides for about 5 minutes for color. Add 1/2 cup liquid, I use apple cider, throw in some raw chopped apples and a few cranberries. You don't have to add the fruit, but it makes a great sauce.



Photo by Sur la table

Bring pressure cooker to pressure. Let it cook for two minutes at pressure. TURN OFF HEAT and let the cooker cool on it own for `15 minutes. Yes, I know... but it really works! Do not do a fast release as that makes the meat tough. You can use the same technique for other types of meats, just be sure they are in similar size to a pork tenderloin, not too thick.





Leverick Bay, North Sound



Announcements

SDSA Member Drawing

Mark your calendar for the kick-off of the SDSA Member Drawing!

To acknowledge your Membership and participation as a Salty Dawg, we are beginning a bi-monthly Drawing in conjunction with our Dawg Tales Newsletter in which a lucky Member will be drawn from the pool of Salty Dawg memberships to receive a gift donated by our wonderful sponsors. If you are a Salty Dawg Member, you will be automatically entered to win a gift. If you would like to become a Salty Dawg Member please [join here](#).

Our first prize is donated by Chris Parker and will be a free full year subscription to his [Marine Weather Center](#) service. Wow! Thank you Chris. The drawing will occur on May 15th and the lucky winner will be notified and published in the May/June Dawg Tales newsletter. Also in the May/June newsletter will be an announcement of the next prize to be awarded on July 15th. Keep your eyes posted on our newsletter for the name of the lucky winner.

This bi-monthly Drawing is conducted in appreciation of our members and sponsors for making this organization a success. Thank you!



Coconut Telegraph Reminder

Remember to check-in on Mondays on the Coconut Telegraph via SSB – it is Salty Dawg Monday. At 8:00 AM AST (7:00 EST) on 8170 kHz, USB. If you don't hear anything, be patient – the net controller's ground waves could be blocked by hills from where you are located - stay on frequency for a relay net controller. Find out where other Salty Dawgs are located.

Dawg Tales Newsletter

Introduce your sailing friends to the camaraderie of the Salty Dawg Sailing Association by signing them up to receive the Dawg Tales Newsletter. [Sign Me Up!](#)



Change to Salty Dawg Pricing Structure

The Board of Directors of the Salty Dawg Sailing Association has approved a change to the pricing structure for SDSA events. In brief we're moving to a flat rate fee for rallies, inclusive of rally preparation and offshore support, rally registration, full benefits and rally flag. This will make things easier both for participants and rally management. This change will be effective by the Fall Rally and we will be close to it for the Spring Rally and the Rally to Cuba. Additionally, any fees that are due for rallies, rendezvous, seminars, merchandise, and crew service will be substantially lower for SDSA Members as for non-Members. These price savings, as well as the intangible benefits of being part of the Salty Dawg family and the camaraderie it fosters, further demonstrate the value of being a SDSA Member. Specific pricing for 2017 events will be posted shortly on the website.



Thank You!

Thank you for making the Salty Dawg Sailing Association a success. Thank you Members, Sponsors and Volunteers. It is your participation and contribution that makes this possible. Let's keep it going!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and we welcome your contributions and suggestions. We especially appreciate your photo contributions. Please feel free to send your contributions to [newsletter](#).

This issue was prepared by Hank George and Ken Gelao.

Contact Salty Dawg Sailing Association

