

Dawg Tales

Newsletter



Photo taken by s/v Aladdin
in Deshaies Guadeloupe

Major Sponsors



Three-Star Sponsors



NORTH SOUND, VIRGIN GORDA,
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



From the Helm

Greetings Salty Dawgs,

My message for this issue is on our Sponsors. We are fortunate to have many supportive sponsors, some who contribute significant dollars to help us cover expenses and keep fees low at all of our rallies, rendezvous and seminars, and others that offer discounts to Members. Our Sponsors offer products and services in areas of sails, safety equipment, marine hardware, electrical supplies, cruise guides, navigational equipment, electronics, dinghies & outboards, and on and on.

With the helpful support these sponsors offer to our organization, I'd like to ask all our Members and subscribers to patronize these Sponsors. Let's start thinking of our Sponsor group as the resource we go to when we have to replace some piece of gear, or it is time to upgrade to something newer or better. We have conveniently grouped our Sponsors under major marine categories in our Sponsor Directory to facilitate your shopping – click on [Sponsor Directory](#) to see this information. And, if you click through to one of the Sponsors directly from the Sponsor Directory, or from a link on our website, our sponsors are able to see the data on frequency of connections from a Salty Dawg listing. This helps us in retaining those sponsors. Thanks for doing this!

More information on our Sponsors and the Member and Rally participant discounts they offer can be found on our website at: [Member-Benefits](#), [Fall Rally Rewards](#), [Sponsor Page](#).

I hope to see you at one of our Rendezvous or Rallies this summer – there is a lot going on.



*Cheers - Hank George
President, SDSA*



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Para-Anchor.com

Cruising Articles

Cruising Martinique, A Gem in the Windward Islands

by Robert J. Osborn Jr., s/v Pandora

This year, when I decided to do the Salty Dawg Rally to Antigua I was particularly excited about exploring the Windward island chain south from there. A particular draw was the fact that my good friend and fellow Dawg, Bill from Kalunamoo, told me that "Antigua and south is where the REAL Caribbean begins." The short distances between islands, variety of cultures punctuated by the fabulous food of the French islands, illustrates why so many cruisers return year after year.

Along with visiting many of the islands between Antigua and Bequia, this season we spent a good deal of time in Martinique, visiting a number of harbors. In particular, we spent quite a bit of time in St Anne, near the southern end of Martinique. St Anne is a small coastal village that is very popular with cruisers and "oh so French," with quaint shops and restaurants as well as a busy bakery that churns out a dizzying selection of pastries and breads from sunrise to sunset.

Here a day isn't complete without a visit, or two, to enjoy something right out of the oven with the surf gently lapping at the back of the building where cruisers congregate for a morning espresso and croissant while using the free WiFi to catch up on what's going on back home. Fortunately, for all of us who are "addicted" to The Web, it's fairly easy to stay connected. However, when everyone is trying to get online, it will remind you of the "good old days" of CompuServe and dial-up.



Church at St. Anne



Parisian Library in Fort-de-France

Some 300 cruisers are anchored off of the beaches, some visiting for a day or two and the others staying for the entire winter season. Nearby Le Marin, home of the largest marina and mooring field in the Windward chain, has over 1,000 boats visiting or permanently ported there at any given time. A mooring for 47' Pandora was astonishingly inexpensive at about \$125/month about the same price as two days in Vineyard Haven, MA. As an added bonus, Norwegian Air flies from Martinique with direct flights to New York, Providence RI and other destinations for a very reasonable \$250 round trip. If you want to take a "break" from cruising to visit Family, or have them fly in to join you, Martinique is a great place to use as your cruising base.

Martinique is very mountainous with its highest peak over 4,000 feet, rising abruptly from waters nearly two miles deep close to shore. Mt Pelée, currently quiet, violently exploded in 1902 killing everyone in its path saving two, one a prisoner in a strong jail cell in the coastal city of St Pierre.

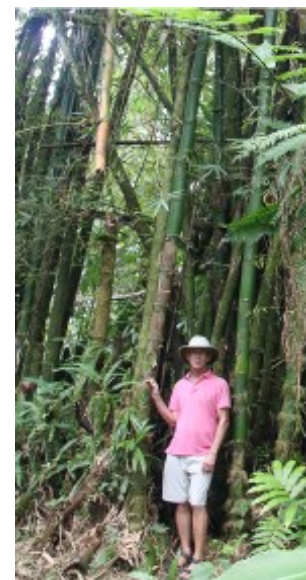
With near constant clouds on the tops of the mountains and strong moist trade winds blowing from the east, rainfall is abundant, feeding rivers, streams and lush rainforests. Agriculture has always been a big part of Martinique with the largest crop being sugarcane since the 17th century and unlike the English islands, nearly the entire production is still consumed in the making of Rhum Agricole, rum made from cane juice as opposed to molasses, the byproduct of sugar production, more typical of the English islands.

During our nearly one month stay on the island we visited a number of other distilleries, enjoying what might be called the "Martinique rum



Rums of Martinique

crawl." It's worth the effort since there is so much fascinating history to enjoy as you make your way from estate to estate.



Bob & Giant Bamboo

Most distilleries include beautifully restored historic plantations, and to visit any of them is to glimpse a way of life that produced unimaginable wealth for a lucky few.



Contributing Sponsors

Winslow Life Raft
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English Harbour
Catamaran Marina, Antigua
Antigua Yacht Club & Resort
Gill North America
Jolly Harbor Marina
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Mazu
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New England Ropes
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Edson International
Crowne Plaza Hampton-Marina
Sport-A-Seat
Trader Joe's – Newport News VA

Pics & Fun



St. Vincent Sunset



Bequia Dinghy Drift



s/v Parallax at Anchor in DR

Gone are the days when wind and water powered the equipment. Today's operations are modern and highly automated, but adjacent there is often a beautifully restored manor house which was once home to the owner and his family. Oh yeah, and all have a tasting room where you can try any and all of the wares at no charge.



Estate Home



Plantation Gardens

No visit to Martinique is complete without a drive through the rainforest with its crystal clear, cool streams and nearly impenetrable forest. There are a number of fabulous botanical gardens and national parks with miles of perfectly manicured pathways winding through tropical forest, with tree ferns towering 40' overhead and orchids, bromeliads and ferns clinging to every branch.

I plan on bringing Pandora north to New England this spring with a stop in Bermuda. Many of the boats in the rally to Antigua last fall stopped there and offered enthusiastic reports.

Pandora will likely be on the Salty Dawg Fall Rally to Antigua next fall and I sure hope to see you there. If you missed the 2017 rally, you missed an amazing arrival in Antigua complete with more than a week of events for the 55 boats that joined us in Falmouth Harbour.

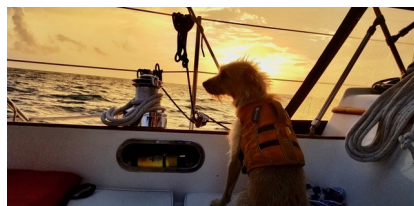
Downwind Sail Brings Spring Rally Fleet Back to the U.S.

by Julie Palm, s/v Arrow

Another successful Salty Dawg Rally is complete. Boats returning from Antigua and the Virgin Islands enjoyed a downwind sail back to the East Coast of the United States. Taking advantage of an unusually favorable weather pattern for this time of year, all except one boat sailed directly to the U.S.. *Lady Jane*, a UK-flagged vessel, skippered by Allen and Maria Wadsworth, stopped in Bermuda to enjoy one last island experience before coming to the States.



"Conditions were right in sweet spot of our 35 year old boat... which was designed to optimally race offshore from West Coast to Hawaii." said Doug Mann on s/v *Zipporah* who sailed his E37 under the spinnaker during the day and wing-on-wing at night.



"This was our first long passage without crew and I don't think we would have attempted it without the support of the Salty Dawgs", said Pam Mellon on *Stealin' Time*. *"We were blessed with good wind, little rain and a view of Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Neptune every night."* Pam sails a Mason 44 with partner Tom Watters and a very happy four-legged Salty Dawg named MacDuff.

As always, Salty Dawg rallies are successful because of the contributions of our sponsors and volunteers. The Spring Rally was no exception. SPECIAL THANKS go to sponsors:

[OCENS](#) - Jeff Thomassen manages our "Follow the Fleet" tracking map that allows friends and family to monitor the progress of the boats during the rally.



[Marine Weather Center](#) - Chris Parker is our weather forecaster and router. He provides daily updates for the fleet.



And volunteers:

Pam Mellon - Our SSB Net Moderator

Peter Burch - Our Shoreside Coordinator

Tim Metcalf - Our Tracking Coordinator

"Doing the Dawg!"

[Spring Rally Video](#)





S/V Kerpa



Ana at Pusser's Bar Soper's Hole



Josh at Michael Bean's Pirate Show



Salty Dawg at Norman Island

Sailing in Fog

by Capt. Henry E. Marx, USMM Ret., President - [Landfall](#)

This article should be of interest to Salty Dawgs cruising the eastern coast of the United States and of particular interest to those participating in the Salty Dawg Rally to Maine and Rally to Nova Scotia this summer.

For those of you who have spent your time on Western Long Island Sound and points South and West - you are about to have a "New" Experience - New England Fog! This fog condition is caused by water temperatures in the 40-50 degree Fahrenheit and the heat from the summer sun. It usually dissipates during the day but comes back during the night. In the old days - before Radar and AIS - we frequently had "Lay Days" - where the Skipper decided the fog was too thick for safe navigation and we all went back to bed.



When you wake up in the morning and discover that you cannot see the boat on the next mooring - never mind the Dinghy Dock - you will realize you are in a new world! I remember leaving St. John's New Brunswick in mid July on 47 Ft Ketch - and barely being able to see the running lights on the bow pulpit from the cockpit! This fog is thick.

Fog creates some hazards to your cruising:

Navigation

When you cannot see the Marks until you almost hit them, combined with the rock studded New England Coast and fairly strong Tidal Currents - your job as navigator just became more difficult. GPS Chart Plotters make the task easier, but remember, you are one lightning strike away from going back to the basics - and we do have frequent thunderstorms in the summer!

You need to carefully plot your courses, watch your ETAs, watch your steering and allow for current set.

There are some Books we recommend:

[Eldridge Tide & Pilot Book](#) - Listing of Tides and Current on Northeast Coasts of US and Canada.

[Canadian Tidal Current Atlas](#) - Tidal Current Charts of the Bay of Fundy & Gulf of Maine

[Canadian Tide & Current Tables Vol. 1](#) - East Coast of Canada



Fog Can Make Bridges Disappear!

Collision Avoidance

- 1) For me, Number one is putting out a Security Call on Channels 13/16 about every 20 minutes for a 6-8 knot boat. You merely say: "Yacht "XX" @ Lat/Long steering Degrees Magnetic @ 7 Knots." Anyone in the neighborhood will, probably call you to confirm you know where they are.
- 2) Radar Reflector: You cannot sail these waters without one in the rigging. A 40' yacht is mostly invisible to a Merchant Ship's Radar, being confused in the sea clutter and the general inattention of today's undermanned Bridge Watches. You are simply "not there" until the crash.
[Radar Reflector: Echo Max RM 250](#)
- 3) Have your Compass Swung (adjusted) by a Professional Compass Adjustor. You will really have to pay attention to your steering and remember a 5 Degree steering error over 11.5 Nautical Miles travelled - puts you a Mile off the Destination!

BECOME A MEMBER HERE





"The Baths" Virgin Gorda



Anguilla Yoga



Lost at Sea Solved



s/v Sablier



4) AIS - the Automatic Identification System: This is an indispensable Electronic Device that transmits your identity, position, speed and heading. Install the class B AIS transponder that transmits both Send & Receive Information. It is nice to know about the other boat - but it might be more important that she knows about you - especially if it is a large or fast vessel. This system also enables you to identify your Radar Contacts "out there" and call them by name on your VHF - Channels 16/13.



Installation Tips:

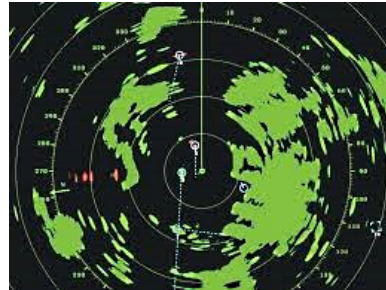
- You want your Antenna as high as possible - which means the Masthead - so as to get the maximum Range for your signal
- Install the Vesper Power Assisted Amplifier on your Antenna which enables you to share the Antenna with your VHF and not lose signals.

AIS Recommendation:

- [Ship AIS System - Vesper XB-6000 Class B AIS Transponder](#)
- [VHF Antenna Splitter - Vesper AIS Antenna Splitter](#)

Radar

I consider Radar indispensable today. But you have to remember that this is not a Simulator, but just white dots on a screen! I strongly suggest that you take a Radar Course or at least some professional instruction from an experienced Navigator or Electronics Tech if you are unfamiliar with your set and its capabilities.



You should find the coasts of Maine and Nova Scotia a fascinating and wonderful cruising experience. Just do not forget your winter clothes: In Mid July coming down the Grand Manan Channel I was wearing Long Underwear, a quilted jacket and foul weather gear with gloves, scarf and watch cap - and I was none too warm!

Wish I was coming with you.

Sponsor Spotlight

Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau

We would like to thank our special sponsor [Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) for providing various services to our Members and guests visiting the Hampton Virginia area. If you are traveling to Hampton during any time of year, please contact the [Hampton Visitors Bureau](#) for your information requirements.



Landfall Navigation

We are proud to have [Landfall Navigation](#) as a Salty Dawg sponsor.

Landfall Navigation focuses in marine safety and other survival gear and has been providing top quality equipment to boaters since 1997. For the best in marine equipment, see [Landfall Navigation](#). Thank you Landfall for our relationship!



Sailing Key– Does sail technology matter in a cruising boat?

As sails age and get stressed from cruising, as we use a head-sail in a partially furled mode, as we try to sail with a heavily loaded cruising boat, and many other factors, our sails stretch. And when they stretch we lose ability to sail to windward, we lose boat speed, and we reduce life of the sail. But, newer technology gives us effective ways to fight stretch, and have sails for powerful cruising many more years than with old technology Dacron panel sails. The answer is composite sails – yes for cruising, not just for racing. [Read More](#) on this article by Dave Flynn of Quantum, and on other subjects from the library of [Preparing for Offshore](#) articles.



Coming Events



Rendezvous Updates

Don't miss a summer full of Salty Dawg Rendezvous Events!
SAVE THESE DATES!

July 7th

Two Midsummer Rendezvous Events: Annapolis, MD & Indian Creek, VA

July 12th

Newport Rendezvous, Dutch Island, RI

July 18th

Downeast Rendezvous, Rockland, ME

August 25th

Bodkin Creek Rendezvous, Pasadena, MD

October 4th

Salty Dawg Reunion Rendezvous, Annapolis, MD

October 31st

Halloween Rendezvous, Hampton, VA



All sailors — Salty Dawgs or not — are invited to attend our SDSA rendezvous events. Each event is a great time to share sea stories and learn from others — to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit our web site for more information. If you would like to attend any of these events, please let us know at Dutch@saltydawgsailing.org.

Rally Updates

Half the fun (of a Salty Dawg Rally) is Getting There!
[Sign Up](#) for one of our three upcoming rallies NOW!

The Salty Dawg Rally to Maine

July 8th

Join us for "A Downeast Adventure" of fun, camaraderie, and safety!



Enjoy a Downeast Adventure to "chill" in the cool weather, coastal beauty, and culinary delights of Maine. Join the Rally to Maine from either of two departure points in the Chesapeake Bay ... or any stop along the way:

Annapolis, MD - with a float plan to travel through the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal and down the Delaware River before continuing to Dutch Harbor, RI and on to Maine.

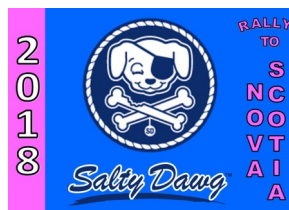
Hampton, VA - with a float plan to exit the Chesapeake Bay through the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel and continue directly to Dutch Harbor, RI and on to Maine.

For more information and to sign up now, visit our website [HERE](#).

The Salty Dawg Rally to Nova Scotia

August 7th

Introduce yourself to "Maritime Magic!" of the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia!



Sail on to witness Maritime Magic in the land of Celtic music on Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. Some cruisers will join the SDSA fleet in the Chesapeake Bay and follow the route of both rallies to the Maritime Province. Others will join along the way. All are welcome.

With stops in Shelburne, Halifax, St. Peters before arriving in Baddeck in the Bras d'Or Lakes, the rally promises to be a gateway to an unforgettable mix of history, beauty, music, and fun.

For more information and to sign up now, visit our website [HERE](#).



BECOME A SPONSOR





The Salty Dawg Fall Rally to the Caribbean

November 3rd

Customize your Float Plan with a choice of two departure points and Three Destinations!

Two starts ... three destinations fun, camaraderie, and the unbeatable support of Salty Dawgs who have decades of offshore sailing experience to share.

Two Starts, both including pre-departure activities including seminars, weather briefings, preparation assistance, and social gatherings:

- **Hampton VA** - departing November 3 (weather permitting)
- **Essex CT** - departing October 31 (weather permitting) with a stop planned in Bermuda

Three Destinations:

- **North Sound, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands**
- **Falmouth Harbour, Antigua**
- **Green Turtle Key, Abacos, Bahamas**

For more information and to sign up now, visit our website [HERE](#).



Recipe

Olive Tapenade

by Gwen Wagschal, s/v Blue Sky

I'm always looking for different appetizers to share with friends aboard Blue Sky. This recipe is simple enough to make ahead and keep on hand in a jar in the fridge for up to 10 days. It goes well on toasted baguette slices or crackers. Don't expect it to last long, it is delicious.

Ingredients:

- 1 (5 ounce) jar pitted black olives
- 1 (7 ounce) jar green pimento olives
- 2 ½ TBSP Olive Oil
- 1-2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 5/8 cup white onion, chopped
- 1 tsp capers
- Ground black pepper (several shakes)

Directions:

- 1 – Drain liquid from both olive containers
- 2 – Finely chop garlic and onion
- 3 – Put all ingredients into a food processor and pulse 5-10 times. You want little chunks, not mush.
- 4 – Refrigerate until ready to serve. Place on toasted baguette slices just before you serve so the bread doesn't get too wet. Or allow guests to top their cracker of choice.



The Tale End

Member Drawing Winner!



*"So glad we won the Sport-a-Seat
-as you can see we have to stand.
Many thanks!!!"*

Congratulations to Lucky Dawg Members Bruce and Rhonda Hoglund aboard s/v The Norm who have won a free [Sport-a-Seat](#) in our bi-monthly Member Drawing provided by our generous sponsor Sport-a-Seat. Sport-a-Seat is the ultimate in portable seating. It's a cushion, a seat and a recliner, all in one. [Get a Sport-a-Seat Now!](#) Thank you Sport-a-Seat for your contribution!



Our Member Drawing Prize for next month will be a [Breeze Bandit](#) from [Cruising Solutions](#). This unit has a unique four-chamber design so that it catches wind from any direction and directs it down in to the cabin – very clever! The winning Member will have their choice of a [Breeze Bandit](#) in Tan or Navy.

[Cruising Solutions](#) offers a range of useful products for cruisers, from people who have cruised for many years, including Blue-Tooth Headsets, a wide range of LED lights and bulbs, and useful products like *Savon de Mer* body soap and shampoo that lathers in salt water. Go to the [Cruising Solutions Website](#) for more products and information.



SDSA Sponsor Directory
Click Here





S/V Pu'uhonua



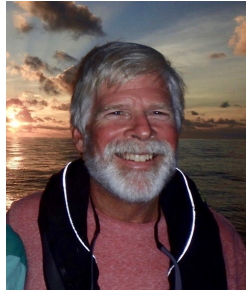
s/v Lolair



Announcements

Experienced "Dawgs" Join Salty Dawg Sailing Association Board of Directors

Meet Russ Owen and Vic Gyan



Russ Owen, a circumnavigator and career IT executive, combines his diverse talents and passion for long-distance sailing to lead our Education program.

"I am looking forward to expanding in-person and on-line programs to support our educational mission as a nonprofit organization," said Russ. "I am excited to help sailors realize their long-distance cruising dreams...safely."

Welcome Russ at russ@saltydawgsailing.org



Vic Gyan brings his combined project management talents and off-shore sailing experience to help broaden our Development program.

"To support our goal to organize the highest quality rallies, rendezvous, and seminars offered at the lowest possible cost to our event participants, it is crucial that we continue to develop valuable two-way partnerships with industry leaders and Salty Dawg friends," said Vic.

Welcome Vic at vic@saltydawgsailing.org

SDSA Members Only Benefits

Please check the [Members Only](#) section on our website to see a list of SDSA sponsors and vendors who provide product discounts to Members. You will also find a Member Directory to keep in touch with your fellow Salty Dawgs. Feel free to [Contact Membership](#) if you have not received the Login password.



SDSA Crew List Service

Do you need additional crew to assist you in passaging during a Salty Dawg Rally? If so, we can assist. If you are registered for a rally and have paid the rally fee, you are entitled to use our Crew List Service. Are you a crew candidate who would like to crew? We are accepting candidates for all rallies now. Contact crew@saltydawgsailing.org for more information.

Please Submit Articles, Photos and Videos

We want you to share your Salty Dawg experiences with your fellow Dawgs. Do you have a memorable moment you would like to put in words or would you like to summarize your experiences by writing an article for our newsletter? Would you like to share your great photos and videos? If interested, please contact or send your information to newsletter@saltydawgsailing.org.

Thank You!

Thank you for making the Salty Dawg Sailing Association a success.

