



# Dawg Tales Newsletter



SV Flora  
Codrington Lagoon, Barbuda

## Platinum



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## From the Helm

As of this writing, it is still chilly here in SE Virginia, but Seale and I have been out sailing already. Like a lot of SDSA Members back in the US and Canada, and I am sure in Europe and elsewhere, we are looking for warmer weather and more opportunities to go sailing. Some of our Members are fortunate enough to be in the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and other places with warmer conditions, and we hope to see them soon as well.



But we have some great SDSA opportunities around the corner! Participate in one of our coming rallies, like our **East Coast Rally from the Caribbean**, our **DelMarVa Rally** or our **Downeast Rally**, and don't forget about our **Caribbean Rally** in November. More details are in this issue and on our website. Or lookup in the Member Directory for a SDSA Member near you, and plan an informal gathering at an attractive anchorage.

We also hope to be able to hold some local **Rendezvous** at locations shown in this issue, of course following local Covid protocols. We will have these in Hampton, Annapolis, Newport and Rockland, ME if permitted by local restrictions. And, our annual Annapolis Rendezvous is set for Annapolis Yacht Club October 14<sup>th</sup> with a special guest speaker – look for more details in coming issues.

We have just completed our successful two-part Winter Webinar series. But there is more to come. We will also conduct a **two-part Summer Webinar Series**, in May and June. Look for notices on those soon, so you can register. Note that these webinars, and access to their recordings, are available to all SDSA Members at no charge, and for non-Members at a nominal fee.

Last, I am pleased to let you know of a recent donation made by the SDSA, thanks to donations by SDSA Members and Sponsors. The SDSA Board recently approved sending a check for \$2,000 to the Youth Sailing Foundation of Indian River County (FL) toward the purchase of a Club 420 to be named **Sapphire** in honor of **Linda Knowles**. Bill Knowles is active in this organization, which brings together youths of all economic and ethnic backgrounds to build friendships and learn the value of teamwork, through sailing.

Enjoy this issue of Dawg Tales!

Cheers,

*Hank J George, President, SDSA*



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## Cruising Articles

### Barbuda—Antigua's Pretty Little Sister

by Annemarie-Auer Frank, S/V escape, [www.sailingescape.blog](http://www.sailingescape.blog)

Antigua, the main destination of the 2020 Salty Dawg Fall Rally to the Caribbean has a lot to offer. Beautiful anchorages, more than 300 beaches, lush Caribbean vegetation and a great infrastructure for sailors. However, the full name of this Commonwealth country is "Antigua and Barbuda", and the latter is one of Antigua's best assets.

For me it was a revelation when we sailed "escape" towards Barbuda for the first time. You do not see the island until you are relatively close, because it is very flat. But then the color of the water changes to an intense turquoise and you see an endless stretch of pristine beach laying ahead of you. "Now we really have arrived in paradise" I said to myself.

On our first trip to Barbuda, we went to the northern anchorage at Low Bay. We anchored just off the beach in front of Codrington Lagoon. Except for our friends and fellow Salty Dawgs on SY Flora, there were no other boats. Due to the topography of the island, the anchorage is not overly protected but the holding is good and we were perfectly fine. We had some very pleasant days enjoying long walks on the beach, swimming and kayaking. While watching the sunset we occasionally could see wild donkeys or horses doing their evening walk on the beach.



A special highlight was our trip with a local guide to the frigatebird sanctuary. The frigatebird colony of Barbuda is one of the largest in the world. Approximately 10,000 birds live here. We were lucky that the birds were in mating season. We could watch the male birds inflating their red throat pouch and hearing the drumming noises they made to impress the females. Even if you are not particularly interested in birds this is an outstanding experience.

Barbuda was severely hit by hurricane "Irma" in September 2017. When anchored in Low Bay we saw the damages caused by this devastating storm. The former "Lighthouse Resort" has partially fallen into the sea. Before the hurricane the lagoon had no opening. Now, a lot of beach has been torn away. With a dinghy you can enter the Lagoon, although without local knowledge it can be tricky.

To be on the safe side we went in with our kayak. Inside the Lagoon there is Codrington, the capital and only real settlement of Barbuda. It had been totally destroyed by the hurricane. Although you can still see lots of ruins, the town is starting to function again. Most of the locals we saw seemed to be in good spirits.



Due to its size and the late effects of the hurricane, Codrington is not a great place for provisioning. In the three mini markets you can get some fresh produce and everything to cover your basic needs. Of course, the locals are happy if you frequent their stores, but if you want a greater choice you have to go back to Antigua. So, it was common among the Salty Dawg boats anchored in Barbuda, that after some time they went back to Antigua and then later they returned for some more time at Barbuda's beautiful beaches.

We did the same. After a week in Barbuda, we went to Jolly Harbour to hit the supermarket. Then we returned to Barbuda to celebrate Christmas with some other Salty Dawgs.



This time we anchored near Cocoa point at the Southwestern part of the island. Here is a cute little beach bar owned by Barbudan Inoch. On Christmas eve we met there for sundowners. Then Inoch grilled freshly caught Lobsters for our Christmas dinner. Every boat brought some delicious side dishes. While the sun was going down, we had a truly festive dinner at this spectacular stretch of sand. The next day we met again for sundowners followed by a bonfire on the beach. All of us enjoyed this very special Christmas with fellow sailors on a tiny island in the Caribbean Sea.



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## Pics & Fun



For someone who wants a more upscale place to eat, the NOBU-group has just opened a new restaurant in Barbuda. One might question if this is what Barbuda needs. The future of the island is controversially discussed. Some want to convert the whole island into a big luxury resort with a superyacht Marina and golf course. Others, including the majority of the locals, want to take a more careful approach to preserve its natural beauty. If you would like to visit Barbuda it might be a good idea to do this soon. Then you will be able to see it in the unspoiled state, in which it is now. In ten years, this may look very different.



## Messing About in Boats in Bequia

by Bob Osborn, S/V Pandora

When Brenda and I were planning our first season of cruising the SE Caribbean, I asked around for advice from friends about the “must see” places and events. At the top of the list for many I spoke to was Bequia, part of St Vincent and the Grenadines. While visiting this friendly island is always a treat, it’s particularly fun during the Easter Regatta, three days of racing and special events. While the regatta is canceled for this spring, there is hope that it will resume in 2022.



It’s a very popular event, held in the main harbor in Bequia, Admiralty Bay, with locals and visitors from all over joining in the fun. There are lots of shoreside events as well as three days of racing. Some came under their own power and some came on the decks of freighters.

This regatta draws many boats from nearby islands, including a number of beach built Carriacou sloops, like Exodus, the most recent boat of her type, launched in 2013. It’s quite a sight to see these beautiful traditional boats racing around the course. Exodus was the

subject of a full-length movie about her building and the history of the design.

There are some good sized one design fleets in the regatta, including vintage J24 sloops. And, of course, there are the local Bequia sloops, built and raced on the island. You don’t have to be there during the regatta to enjoy the fun as they tack around the harbor. The local youth are out sailing these boats nearly every day, regatta or not. In addition to a long history of boat building on the island there is a rich tradition of model boat building.



There’s plenty to do ashore during the regatta including all manner of competitions. Everything from musical chairs on stage to threading the needle, yes threading sewing needles. Brenda competed and won, with a little help from a local and no doubt mortified, young man. They were both good sports.



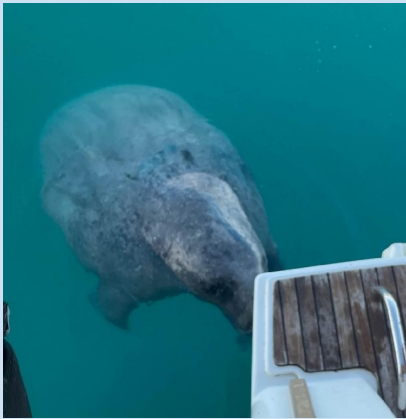
There is an excellent public landing at the head of the harbor and it can be quite busy during the regatta. The harbor is large with many moorings but, even during the regatta, there’s plenty of space to anchor. The harbor is well protected from any surge except in the outermost area. Everything about the harbor is colorful including the ferry boats from nearby St Vincent. We enjoy checking out local eateries and there are plenty to choose from, conveniently located along the stone walkway ringing the southern side of the harbor.

For me, spending time in Bequia embodies the quote from the much loved classic book, *The Wind in the Willows*, when Ratty famously says, “*Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.*”

While there have been reports of theft in Admiralty Bay and elsewhere in St Vincent and the Grenadines, as long as you’re vigilant, Bequia is friendly and safe. It’s always a good idea to keep your dink locked and best to pull it out of the water at night. Good advice anywhere in the Caribbean.

Well, there you have it, Bequia, one of our favorite harbors and the Easter Regatta, one of our favorite events. This a place that you should include on your itinerary if you’re headed to the Caribbean. You won’t be disappointed. *Bob is Port Captain in Antigua for the Salty Dawg Rally to the Caribbean, so if you have questions, contact him at [bob@saltydawgsailing.org](mailto:bob@saltydawgsailing.org).*





## Great Experiences, Great Friends and Great Fun!

by Jim & Arden Bradley, S/V Kalli

Land ho! We rounded Barbuda early in the morning of our 10<sup>th</sup> day of sailing from Hampton, VA to English Harbour, Antigua with great help from our crew Mark Scott. The wind was delightfully from the beam after days and days of close reaching. We had been sailing within eyesight of Salty Dawg boats Flora and Tropicool for days. The catamaran Tropicool liked the beam reach conditions and quickly pulled away from us.



A feeling of accomplishment settled over us as we furled the sails outside Fort Berkeley and dropped anchor in Freemans Bay. After clearing customs, we med moored Kalli at Nelsons Dockyard without mayhem. Salty Dawgs Escape and Fatjax had arrived days before us. Tradition dictates that the first boat in host a party – and Iain on Fatjax did not disappoint – he introduced us to Antigua rum punch with generous (very generous) servings! We spent the next several days exploring English Harbor and comparing stories of our passage with our new Salty Dawg friends.

With a brief lull in the trade winds, we left English Harbor to begin exploring. We motor sailed to Nonsuch Bay and Green Island in very light 5-10 kt winds with Bruce and Cindy on their Shannon 43 Shamrock (our buddy boat for the journey to Antigua) and were joined by Michael and Jill on their Allures Gerty. After several days of swimming and snorkeling we sailed to Barbuda in a near perfect 15 kt breeze and anchored in clear water off the sugar sand beaches of Cocoa Point. Flying the Salty Dawg rally flag from our port spreader led to new encounters and new friends – we met Jon and Marcia on TikitiBoo who had sailed in last year's Salty Dawg rally.



Kalli, Sweet Caroline, Perfect View & Endeavor

Soon we were eating Inoch's grilled lobsters at his rustic beach bar called Snack AKA with a multinational group of new friends from the UK, Germany, France and US.

The sail back to Antigua was not as idyllic with frequent squalls – since when do the trade winds switch to the south?! We spent the next week exploring the lee side of Antigua with overnight stops in Dickenson Bay, Deep Bay, 5 Islands Harbour, and eventually Jolly Harbour for groceries and diesel. We anchored in Carlisle Bay on our

way to Falmouth Harbour and were so content we found that a week had flown by. We were joined by Salty Dawgs Perfect View, Endeavor, and Sweet Caroline and had several delightful dinners at the restaurants of the Carlisle Bay Hotel before Antigua reinitiated their curfew and quarantine restrictions on restaurants. We were introduced to the game of Mexican Train Dominoes and the quirky rules of our group – if you fail to make a “whooh -whooh” train sound when moving your locomotive, you will be held accountable with a shot of alcohol!

We left for an overnight sail to Dominica and were reminded of our Antigua passage conditions with 26 kt of close reaching and white water over the deck between the islands of Guadeloupe and Dominica - this only lasted a few hours and we are writing this from anchor in Prince Rupert Bay. We were joined by Salty Dawgs Tim and Diane on Skylark and Brian and Helen on Helacious. We have been exploring the wonders of hiking and waterfalls of the Nature Island.



Kalli, Skylark, Helacious in Dominica

The local Saturday morning market is filled with vendors selling papayas, passionfruit, mangos, bananas, plantains, ginger, spices and some vegetables that are new to us like dashine and tannia. The often steep and muddy Waitukubuli trail runs the length of Dominica and leads through



Kalli, Skylark & Helacious at the Boiling Lake

rainforests into the mountains – hiking boots are essential. Flowering plants are everywhere and we had sightings of wild parrots with fluorescent green wings and red necks on our hike to the Syndicate waterfall. We swam in the 30 ft deep pool fed by a waterfall at Chaudiere in cool fresh water. The island still has lasting effects from hurricane Maria in 2017 and some of the trail is overgrown – check with local guides before venturing out. Some of the more difficult hikes require a guide such as the quintessential 8-9 hour hike to Boiling Lake that boils and steams. Our guide, Sea Cat, entertained us with his stories and





JOIN THE FUN

high energy personality.

The friendships and camaraderie we have found has made us happy we joined the Salty Dawg Rally. Like many cruisers, the worldwide COVID crisis has led to a change of plans. Our dream of crossing the Pacific to New Zealand has been placed on hold – so we plan to explore the coast of Maine this summer. Which means you will likely see us next November traveling with the Salty Dawgs back to the Caribbean. Look for us on Kalli and come over to say hello – we are the blue Shannon flying the Salty Dawg burgee.

## Technical Article

### TOP FIVE WINDVANE INSTALLATION SELF STEERING QUESTIONS

by Sarah Curry, [Hydrovane International Marine](#)

March 2021



STEERING THE DREAM

Once upon a time, our tight quartered boat show booth was jammed full of sailors holding painkiller cocktails, regaling us with exciting past and future sailing plans as we answered installation questions in person. Until we meet again, here is a run down of the common Q's we are asked at shows!

I will preface the installation questions with the obvious: **“What is a windvane self steering system?”**

- A mechanical autopilot (requires no power)
- Steers a wind based course (an angle to the wind), rather than a compass based course
- This is achieved by setting your course, ie, setting the Vane directly into the wind. As the boat falls off this course, the wind acts on either side of the Vane, pushing it over, and transferring this action through the mechanism below to (most commonly) either 1) an auxiliary rudder or 2) a servo pendulum which acts on the main rudder, to bring boat back on course.



The Hydrovane Family

For a clearer overview of these concepts, please connect with my husband Will and I “in-zoom-person” at our SDSA Self Steering Windvane webinar and demonstration this spring! Now, back to our run down of the common Q's we are asked at shows:

#### 1) My boat has dinghy davits. Can I keep them and install a windvane?



Yes. Davits might just be our favorite addition to our boat, Kaiquest, a Jeanneau SO 43. Will and I are now cruising with twin toddler boys in Mexico, and any gear that makes life easier is cheered at every single use!

As long as the Vane can pivot above the dinghy and the auxiliary rudder can turn below, there is no problem to use both at the same time. In fact, the Hydrovane becomes a good lashing point for helping stabilize the dinghy. Like us, you will probably hoist the dinghy onto the foredeck for long passages.

Traditional servo pendulum systems will not work with your davits but other types, like the direct connect servo style windvane, potentially make it possible to have both.

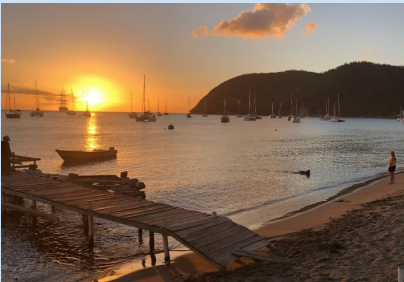
#### 2) Can I install the windvane off center on the transom?

With boat design moving to swim steps and now dropdown transoms, this is an obvious question for many. The answer is a definitive YES for auxiliary rudder type systems.

Unsure about the concept? It goes way back... The word starboard is historically derived from terms meaning “Steer” and “Side of the boat” – and was the side of the boat steering oars were placed because most sailors were right handed. Whether you mount an auxiliary rudder windvane to port or starboard, you'll find performance does not change.

A centerline installation is most esthetically pleasing for some boats. Servo pendulum style windvane are only suited to a centerline installation.





### 3) I just installed an arch. Can I still fit a windvane?

Yes. Arches are common on cruising boats.

Servo pendulum type windvanes are usually lower profile and can fit easily under an arch.

The Hydrovane has a larger Vane than servo systems as that is where it derives its power. We simply configure your unit with a wide, rather than tall, Vane and use a shorter Shaft to ensure there is air-space for the Vane to move freely underneath the arch. Alternatively, we can configure the unit with the Vane above the arch.



Arch Installation

### 4) Can I install and use a windvane on my multihull?



Yes. The reality is that many cruising cats are more about comfort than maximizing speed. What is her displacement? What boat speed is she sailing (relative to wind strength)?

Within these limitations the benefits of a windvane can definitely be enjoyed by a cruising multihull.

The best position for most types of windvane is at end of a pontoon/hull. This is particularly important for the Hydrovane for optimal rudder leverage.

### 5) I like the idea of steering redundancy, but why wouldn't I install a second autopilot instead?

Hey, we love our below deck autopilot; it's great for motoring and short hops, but that comfort changes when a few hours of usage becomes 24 x 7. The power consumption of an electronic autopilot in big seas compounded over days can be astronomical. This is when mechanical self-steering proves so valuable – it requires no power and the windier it gets the better it steers.

Even if the autopilot itself never fails OR if you have a second one, failures of many other systems can stop the flow of electricity and, in turn, render an autopilot useless.

Windvanes are very reliable and steering a wind based course means your sails are always trimmed. With an auxiliary rudder type windvane, you are also gaining a completely separate emergency steering system/rudder, which every offshore boat should have on their priority list.

### BONUS: So, can I install one of these things on my powerboat?

Lol. We get this one at every boat show... the answer is NO.

For more info, contact Sarah or Will. Don't forget to mention that you are a Salty Dawg Member!

Sarah Curry: [Sarah@hydrovane.com](mailto:Sarah@hydrovane.com) Will Curry: [will@hydrovane.com](mailto:will@hydrovane.com)  
Website: [www.hydrovane.com](http://www.hydrovane.com) Instagram: [@hydrovane](https://www.instagram.com/hydrovane)  
Set Up Video: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CGqGLqJg0Pu/>

## Coming Events

### Salty Dawg Rallies

Come along with us on 5 exciting rallies in 2021!... Yes, we said 5 Rallies!

It starts with our [East Coast Rally](#) from the Caribbean departing St. John USVI on May 1st, with a farewell dinner on April 23rd at the Boom restaurant in Antigua.

Next up is our [DelMarVa Rally](#) beginning on June 1st and is a pleasant circumnavigation around the Delaware, Maryland and Virginia peninsula.

Our [Downeast Rally](#) is a great way to savor the coasts, villages and lobster of Maine, with two departure points from the Chesapeake, Hampton, VA and Annapolis, MD, July 8th and one from RI, July 13th.

Come along on the [Maritime Rally](#) departing from Rockland, ME and Provincetown, MA to discover Nova Scotia and the Bras d'Or Lake, July 13 - August 11th.

End the year by participating in our flagship [Caribbean Rally](#) to Antigua or the Bahamas beginning with events on October 28th in Hampton, VA.

Register Now for lots of sailing fun in 2021! [About Rallies](#). [Rally FAQs](#). [Questions](#).





## Rendezvous

We are finalizing our schedule for these great Rendezvous events:



### Southern Chesapeake Rendezvous - Hampton, VA, July 7th

A great gathering of Salty Dawgs, friends, and interested sailors. Sailors trade sea stories and talk about their upcoming cruising adventures. Downeast Rally participants will be there as well.

### Newport Rendezvous - Dutch Harbor, RI, July 12th

Newport area Salty Dawgs gather for the annual *Newport Rendezvous*. Dawgs come by land and sea to enjoy a seafood fest and the camaraderie of like-minded cruisers. Members in the Downeast Rally will join us here before departing for Cuttyhunk on their way to Maine.



### Downeast Rendezvous - The Apprenticeshop, Rockland, ME, July 16th

Cruisers gather at The Apprenticeshop, 655 Main Street, for the *Downeast Rendezvous*. All SDSA Members are invited. Downeast Rally participants will be in attendance as well. Tie up dinghies at The Apprenticeshop, long pier. Share stories with sailors, talk about cruising plans, enjoy a tour of the impressive shops and boatbuilding projects at the Apprenticeshop.

### Annapolis Rendezvous by Hylas- October 14th

#### Annapolis Yacht Club Clubhouse, 2 Compromise Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Our 9th annual event is open to all those interested in blue water sailing and will begin at 1700 hours. Join us for a Happy Hour, buffet dinner, speaker, and lots of fun with the Dawgs. This year the speaker will be the engaging Bobby White of *Sailing Doodles*. You won't want to miss this event.



### Halloween Rendezvous & Pig Roast - Bluewater Yachting Center, Hampton, VA, October 31st

Come to our Annual Halloween Costume Party, sponsored by the Hampton Convention and Tourist Bureau. Come in fancy dress or not. A scrumptious Pig Roast dinner will follow the costume judging. And don't miss the silent auction of valuable marine products donated by our sponsors! And, we usually find some rum laying around. Open to all SDSA Members, Caribbean Rally participants and their guests.



**Registration information will be forthcoming as we finalize event scheduling. Please also check our [website](#) for updates.**

## Education

For 2021 we have planned an exciting and informative **webinar series**, with great speakers, new topics, and a perfect mix of technical webinars by industry experts, as well as informative webinars by seasoned sailors. We have just completed our Winter Webinar Series and our Summer Webinar Series will be starting soon.



All webinars are free for Salty Dawg Members, but you must register. Non-members can register for a nominal fee. Join as a Member for \$75 and get all webinars and recordings for free, along with many other Salty Dawg Member Benefits!

[Information & Registration](#)

[Join as a Member](#)

## The Tale End

### Announcing Our New Website!

We are pleased to announce that we have released our new website and Members now maintain access to their own personal Salty Dawg account. Use our website to access your Member Benefits, renew your Membership, register for rallies, events and seminars, review and edit your profile, connect with fellow Dawgs and much more. Check out our new website at [www.saltydawgsailing.org](http://www.saltydawgsailing.org). Members may access their account by utilizing the Member Login section on any website page.



### Crew Service

Salty Dawg Member captains may now use our Crew Service at any time for any sailing requirement. Utilize the crew service for all of our upcoming rallies or your personal cruising needs. The service is free to Members who may access the Crew List by logging in to their Salty Dawg account. Crew may also log in to join or indicate availability and review/update their resume and Profile. Contact our [Crew Service](#) for assistance if required.





**Salty Dawg Ship's Store**  
 SDSA Members receive 20% off!  
 Clothes, Caps, Coffee Mugs, Totes and Bungees  
 All with the Salty Dawg logo  
 www.SaltyDawgSailing.org/ships-store

[Ships Store](#)



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## Port Captain Program

We are pleased to announce that we have implemented a Port Captain Program to assist Members in obtaining information about their destination ports. Salty Dawg Members may now reach out to a Port Captain for information about navigation, marinas, anchorages, provisions, island culture, tow boat services and more. Please contact [Member Services](#) for more information.



## Special Thanks

Special thanks to Tim Handley for his generous work during the COVID Pandemic for arranging meals and brews to be delivered to Salty Dawgs awaiting departure from St. John USVI in 2020. Pictured in center is Tim receiving Honorary Mention from Salty Dawg Members Sheldon Stuchell and Kathy Kubic. Thanks much Tim



## Volunteers are our Success!

Did you know that the Salty Dawg Sailing Association is a non-profit charitable/educational organization managed by volunteers?! From our shoreside communications team, to our rally coordinators, Ships Store, Board of Directors and much more, we are all volunteers. Our success in supporting fellow cruisers is directly related to the dedication and passion of our volunteers. We are grateful to have such a fine team. **Thank you very much Volunteers!!**

WE LOVE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

To join our great team of volunteers, contact [info@saltydawgsailing.org](mailto:info@saltydawgsailing.org).

## The Value of Membership

We've been working hard to provide more membership value and your family membership for only \$75 provides many benefits. The most valuable of these are the lifetime friendships and camaraderie shared among a group of people who maintain a passion for sailing. Other key benefits include numerous educational and support resources to assist you in realizing your sailing dream. Please [Click Here](#) to explore and utilize your Member Benefits. It is also a great time to join if you want to jumpstart your education and broaden your sailing network.

Benefits

## Our Sponsor Highlight

**Hylas Yachts** Have you seen the new [Hylas 57](#), their newest blue-water sailing vessel? From world class designer Bill Dixon the Hylas H57 is a perfect blend of classic Hylas, contemporary good looks and an embracing of the latest technology in construction and design.



**David Walters Yachts** David Walters Yachts is the leading brokerage in the US, specializing in high-quality bluewater cruising yachts. As a buyer, you need the best working for you! And, if you're a seller, David Walters Yachts is actively seeking your quality boat. Because of high demand, now is the best time in 10 years to sell. Contact David Walters Yachts, proud sponsors of the SDSA!

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