



Dawg Tales Newsletter



SV Mai Tai

Platinum Sponsors



THE WORLD LEADER



YOUR CHOICE FOR BLUE WATER BOATS





CRUISING GUIDE
PUBLICATIONS



Gold Sponsors



BOAT & YACHT INSURANCE





TO THE NEXT CHALLENGE.




BLUE POWER

From the Helm

Greetings fellow Salty Dawgs. I hope you are enjoying summer, and getting some nice sailing in. We have been able to find a few days of sailing with friends, and that is always special.



Our largest fleet ever, 32 boats, is completing the Downeast Rally, and to undertake the mini-cruise around Penobscot Bay in Maine after a rally passage that had a fair share of fog – but boats teamed up and helped each other and all made it safely as I write this. By the time you receive this we will have completed our summer line-up of two summer Rallies. The DelMarVa Rally (first time for us staging that) – thank you Sheldon and volunteers for a job well done. And, the 6th Downeast Rally that goes from the Chesapeake and Newport to Maine – with thanks to Bob Osborn, Bennett Kashdan and volunteers for another job well done.

We are now looking ahead to our fall Caribbean Rally, with Antigua and the Bahamas as destinations once again. We are already making arrangements for activities in Hampton, VA, Antigua and the Bahamas. We will be regularly updating information on the website as details firm up. So, check that often www.saltydawgsailing.org/caribbean-rally/.

I also want to point you to our upgraded Ship's Store. The shelves are full of great new offerings – like cool men's and ladies tee shirts with great sailing artwork, tank tops, wind-breaker/raingear, tote bags, sweat-shirts, a Yeti-like vacuum insulated Salty Dawg water bottle/coffee flask, SD caps and burgees, and coffee mugs. And, for you catamaran sailors, check out the new design men's and ladies tee shirts with neat graphic and slogan – "Salty Dawgs & Sailing Cats." Shop here and help the SDSA.

[Products – Salty Dawgs' Ship Store \(saltydawgsailing.org\)](http://Products - Salty Dawgs' Ship Store (saltydawgsailing.org))

Stay safe, get in some sailing, and let's make plans for our next big cruise .

Cheers, *Hank J George, President, SDSA*



Silver Sponsors



STEERING THE DREAM



UNDERWATER LIFT BAGS
ENGINEERED FROM THE BOTTOM UP!



Para-Anchor.com

Bronze Sponsors



Contributing Sponsors

[Nanny Cay Marina](#)

[Antigua National Park Service/](#)

[Nelson's Dockyard](#)

[A&F Sail and Canvas](#)

[Admiral's Inn](#)

[ATN Tacker](#)

[Antigua Yacht Club Marina](#)

[Blue Water Divers](#)

[Club Sushi, Antigua](#)

[Covent Gardens](#)

[Enterprise Car Rental](#)

[Golden Hind Chandlery](#)

[DAN-Boater](#)

[Jolly Harbour Marina](#)

[Mantus Anchor](#)

[Mazu](#)

Cruising Articles

A Walk in the Woods, Dominica Style

by Bob Osborn, SV Pandora

For those joining the Salty Dawg Rally to Antigua, making landfall at this wonderful island is just the beginning as there are other islands nearby that are worth a visit. Following nearly two weeks of arrival events, Dawgs begin to focus on other areas to visit to the south, the most common direction to head.

These islands are close, with all runs between islands under 50 miles, and many islands offer a terrific mix of culture and magnificent landscapes that make the eastern Caribbean such a great cruising ground.

One of the most popular islands is Dominica with its lush landscape, towering peaks, and beautiful rainforests. While the islands north of Antigua are fairly arid, many islands to the south tower nearly 4,000 feet with their peaks shrouded in near perpetual fog.

If you have never visited Dominica, you are in for a real treat. This island, often referred to as "The Nature Island," is unique in the eastern Caribbean as the most undeveloped of any that you will visit.

Dominica features mile upon mile of well maintained trails with the longest, Waitukubuli, that runs the length of the island in 14 segments that would take 11 to 14 days to complete. Some trails are an easy "walk in the woods" and others are quite strenuous, requiring stamina and specialized equipment. There are many resources that describe what these trails are all about, and AllTrails is a good place to start. <https://www.alltrails.com/dominica>



Brenda and I have visited Dominica a number of times and have been struck by the remarkable beauty. Unlike many of its neighbors, Dominica is very rural. Portsmouth Harbor, at the northern end of the island, is the most popular place to visit with cruisers. Its large anchorage is well protected with plenty of room to anchor.

The anchorage is safe and managed by an informal group of stewards, PAYS, the Portsmouth

Association of Yacht Services and Security. As you approach the harbor, you will be greeted by one of their members as they zoom out to greet you in an outboard powered island-built skiff.

In addition to helping you become oriented to the island, your PAYS guide can get most anything you might need, fresh fruit and vegetables, a ride to customs, arrange a tour of the island or transport to a favorite hiking trail. PAYS also hosts weekly barbeque events with all the rum punch you can drink. Also, they organize a Yachtie Appreciation Week every February, which is a week-long festival including parties, tours, diving trips and just about anything you might want to do to enjoy your time on the island. Watch our Calendar for [Rendezvous](#) updates.



Bob & Brenda Osborn



Contributing Sponsors

[Medjet](#)

[North Sails Antigua](#)

[Spinlock](#)

[Vacay](#)

[White Sound Press](#)

[New England Ropes](#)

[Hydro-Shield](#)

[Winslow Life Raft](#)

[Hampton Marina Hotel](#)

[Weems & Plath](#)

[Smart-Plug](#)

[Latitudes & Attitudes Magazine](#)

[Cruising Solutions](#)

[Clamp-Tite](#)

[Marina Puerto Bahia, Samana, DR](#)

Pics & Fun



Cruising Articles (continued)

On our first visit to Dominica we decided, along with a number of other cruisers, to opt for a rainforest tour and hired a PAYS member to arrange all of the details. As planned, we were picked up at our boats by our guide at precisely 08:00 and brought to the fisherman dock where we joined a van to take us up to the rainforest, a long and winding trek up into the mountains at the center of the island. As we made our way toward the trail entrance, we could feel the air cooling as we rose in altitude on roads that were barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass.

Commercial farming has not found its way to this island and the locals still practice "slash and burn" agriculture where a small plot of land is cleared in the forest and planted with a crop such as yams, coffee or perhaps bananas. This "plot" is farmed for several years until yields decrease and then it is abandoned to be reclaimed by the forest. This approach to farming is very gentle on the environment and can go on for hundreds or even thousands of years without destroying the forest.

Along with bananas, yams and other crops, coffee is grown up in the mountains and each ripe berry is plucked by hand as it turns red.

We spotted many beautiful flowers growing on the side of the road, both huge and showy and some not much larger than a fingertip and easily missed.



The vegetation becomes more interesting the higher the elevation and none can rival tree ferns, many growing to more than 40' tall. As we hiked into the rainforest it was hard to take in the scale of the trees and their massive roots.

We hiked up the stream bed crossing first to one side and then the other as we made our way toward the falls. The trees towered over us. Our destination for the day, an amazing waterfall cascading hundreds of feet to the forest floor. There was even a sturdy vine if you wanted to do a "Tarzan glide" over the river.



We also saw an African Tulip tree, with magnificent flame orange flowers, and it was stunning. Each flower was perhaps 6" wide, very showy and a stunning blaze of color in a sea of green.

Others have told us that Dominica is their favorite island for hiking and enjoying the natural wonders of a tropical paradise and if our experience is any indication, they are right.

The opportunity to see such natural beauty, go for a walk in the woods and do so without seeing another soul all day long is one of the things that makes Dominica a real treasure and a destination that you should not miss.





Passage Planning for the DelMarVa Rally



Checking Safety Equipment



Medical Care



JOIN THE FUN

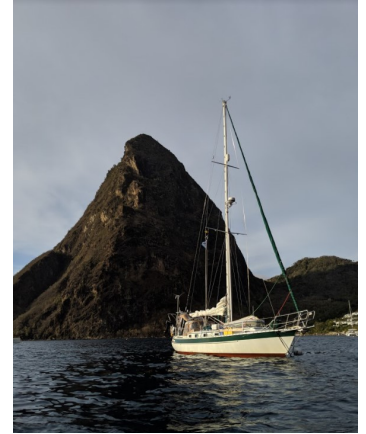
Passage Prep, Part II

by Ed & Jodi Chamberlain, SV Contigo

So Captain, you have spared no expense to prepare your sailboat for a blue water passage...good job! Now comes the fun part - planning for and making the voyage.

Weather:

Modern marine weather forecasting is excellent and there are many sources available. At sea, it is now possible to receive the current weather forecast for a reasonable price. I like to use a satellite device to download GRIB files when at sea. I use Predictwind and LuckGrib but many others are available. A weather router is another way to stay aware of weather. For a modest fee, they communicate to you via Single Side Band radio, email or webcasts. We have used Chris Parker and were happy with the service provided.



SV Contigo at the Pitons

Safety:

The Captain is responsible for the safety of vessel and crew. He or she should preplan responses to possible emergencies and assign individual tasks during the safety briefing to improve crew performance during an emergency such as man overboard, fire, water ingress, life raft deployment and ditch procedures. Also, procedures for Mayday calls, EPIRB activation etc. should be posted and understood. Crew should be capable of operating all communications equipment. A ditch bag, packed and ready for abandoning ship is crucial: a spare EPIRB, food such as MRE's, fishing gear, a small water maker, a spare VHF radio, batteries, knife....the list goes on. Crew should be equipped with a harness and tether that can be clipped to jacklines when going forward or pad eyes while in the cockpit. We use Personal Locator Beacons that activate when in the water. These show MOB location on the chart plotter to improve the chance of rescue. Lights, whistles, mirrors and dye markers are all good additions to crew safety kit. We use harnesses in heavy weather and always at night. A complete first aid kit should be aboard. Watch schedules should be determined and posted.

Navigation:

Electronic navigation has made paper charts seem unnecessary, but in the case of loss of electronics, they can be crucial. I like to plot my position on a paper chart every few hours to show progress and to have a fix if dead reckoning becomes necessary. A hand-held GPS or a sextant as a back-up means of finding your position should be available. A deck log should be kept that shows position, speed, course, weather, barometer reading, sea conditions and sail plan. This gives the needed information to dead reckon from a previous position if electronics fail.

Provisioning:

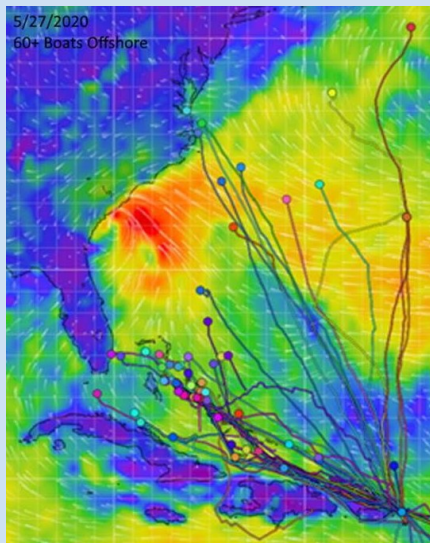
Books have been written about provisioning and details are beyond the scope of this article but a few high points: We like to prepare a few meals ahead then vacuum pack and freeze them. We reheat the bag in a pot of hot water, then use that water for washing dishes. We eat these for the first few days or when its too rough to cook. If crew don't feel like cooking, snacks keep us going. It's also important to stay hydrated. We carry about 100 gallons of water in tanks and have a water maker. I still like to carry a few gallons per person of bottled drinking water. The same bottled water goes with us in an abandon ship situation.

As the Captain you have a lot of responsibilities but with a systematic approach, passage making is a breeze.

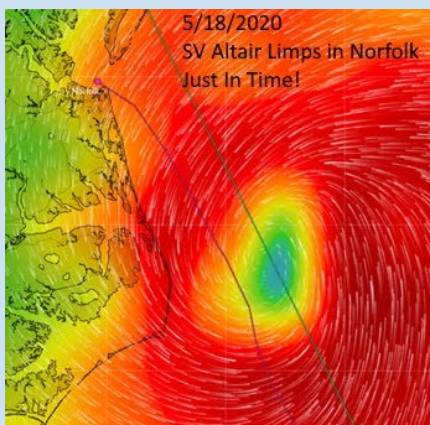
For Members Only: be sure to check out the [Salty Dawg "Comprehensive Pre-Offshore Checklist"](#) for further suggestions in this area.



Shoreside Coordinator Screen Shots



60 Boats Offshore



Tracking Storms



Offshore Communications



Technical Article

What do the Shoreside Coordinators do?

by Mindy Piuk, SV Rockhopper in Belgium

If you've participated in a Salty Dawg Rally, you may remember being asked to alert the Shoreside Coordinator of your departure and arrival. The email address is given in the Rally Handbook, and you are also encouraged to share it with your shore-based support team. The Shoreside Coordinator team falls under the Manager of Safety, Communications, and Tracking. The Shoreside Coordinators, along with the Tracking Coordinator and the Emergency Response Team, are part of a group supporting you for the safest passage possible.



One of the Shoreside Coordinator's primary roles is to monitor vessel tracking. We look at the PredictWind Tracking Page multiple times a day to ensure the offshore vessels are updating. Yes, the team absolutely wants to know when you are departing, so we can check to make sure you are tracking properly and to add you to our list of offshore boats. If you stop tracking along the way, we work together with the Tracking Coordinator to see if there is a technical problem which can be addressed. If you aren't tracking and don't respond to communications for more than a day, we'll start to check other resources, such as neighboring vessels and SSB nets, to figure out if you need aid. We'd also like to know when you arrive at your destination, so we can forward along any pertinent information provided by vessels who arrived earlier or the port captain.

Another major role of the Shoreside Coordinator is to communicate with any boats requiring help. We'd like you to contact us at shoresidecoordinator@sdsa.org if you have any questions or need assistance offshore. If you would like to know the last location of the closest rally vessel, we can provide that to you. If you are having minor boat issues, we can provide advice, or relay another member's advice to you. If you are having a serious issue, we will alert the Emergency Response Team, who will work with you to organize whatever response you require.

You should contact us if you foresee a change in destination or have to divert along the way. We'll alert the Rally Support Team, who are standing by to provide guidance. We can pass along piloting and customs information, get you in touch with tow operations, boatyards, sailmakers, or give you information on fuel docks. The Shoreside Coordinator provides a report to the whole Rally Support Team every evening updating the team on departures, arrivals, and any boats with concerns or issues. Often this report stimulates troubleshooting discussions, which provides further help to captains. We don't typically initiate correspondence with rally vessels, but if we need to, we use your offshore email to get vital information to you.

Being part of the Shoreside Coordinator Team is one of the many SDSA volunteer positions available. We typically have 1-2 Coordinators for a near shore rally, 3 Coordinators for a large offshore rally, and the expansive 2020 Homeward Bound rally required 6 of us. The experience always comes with a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment. Another nice thing about being one of the Shoreside Coordinators is that it is an occasional position, just lasting a few days to a few weeks, that can be done from anywhere in the world. You can be part of the team once, or for the same rally every year, or for any offshore or nearshore rallies as your time permits. If you are interested in joining the team, send us a message; we'd love to have you!

Mindy Piuk

SDSA Lead Shore Coordinator

shoresidecoordinator@saltydawgsailing.org



Hampton Festivities



Downeast Festivities



Summer Rally Update

2021 Inaugural DelMarVa Rally

Captains and crew gathered over Memorial weekend in Hampton, VA to review plans, share experiences and build camaraderie. Thanks to the SDSA Hampton VA, Port Captain Bill Wheary, each pre-rally event was a success. Most Rally Captains had little to no bluewater sailing experience prior to the rally and were looking forward to the adventure in the safety and comfort of other sailors. The Rally, spanning 7 days and consisting of 11 boats, left Hampton, June 1st, to begin their circumnavigation of the Delaware Maryland Virginia (DelMarVa) Peninsula sailing nonstop overnight to Cape May, NJ. Sailing out of Hampton, the Salty Dawgs saw pods of dolphin and schools of skates! Although the fleet faced several challenges – including loss of VHF communication, insufficient charts, engine failure and of course a lack of wind after midnight—during the overnight passage, all arrived in Cape May excited to have completed the ocean passage.



After several fun days in Cape May, including dinner at the Lobster House, rally participants departed for the C&D Canal. The final leg up the Delaware Bay and River, through the C&D Canal with arrival in Annapolis, was completed by all boats but one, who was forced to end their voyage in the C&D Canal due to engine problems. A small celebration hosted by Denise Hanna and assisted by Jo Barnes, both SDSA Annapolis Port Captains, at Atlantic Cruising Yachts culminated the week. The SDSA DelMarVa Rally is designed to provide an introduction to bluewater sailing to experienced and inexperienced River, Bay and Lake sailors.

What a great first DelMarVa Rally it was!!!! Click [HERE](#) to see more pics.

2021 DownEast Rally

Wow, that was fun! The 2021 Salty Dawg Down East Rally had a record crowd, nearly double the size of our largest fleet yet with over 30 boats. The first landfall was in Historic Newport where others joined the fleet before heading to Cuttyhunk in the Elizabeth



Islands for a lobster bake and then through the Cape Cod Canal and on to Rockland. Following three days at the Rockland City Dock, the fleet enjoyed a three day mini-cruise in Penobscot Bay before heading off to other favorite harbors.

The view of the full docks was impressive and this view only captures about half of the fleet. All of the captains and crew were thrilled to be part of the fun, as you can see from this group shot. To see so many enjoying the result of the work that went into the rally by so many volunteers was very rewarding.

The final mini-cruise stop was Belfast where we were treated to a tour of Front Street Shipyard, one of the most high-tech yacht repair yards in Maine. Remarkably, they have a travel lift that can hoist nearly one million pounds.

Being in Maine again was such a treat, particularly enjoying the company of so many enthusiastic Dawgs! Click [HERE](#) to see more pics.





Morning Coffee on Gypsy Soul



Cruiser Tools

North East US SSB Net

If you have ever participated in an SSB net you know how much fun it can be as a way to stay in touch with other cruisers. There are a number of nets available to cruisers including KPK Safety and Security on 8104 at 08:15, Cruisehiemers on 8152 at 08:30, the DoDa on 8152 at 17:00, as well as the Coconut Telegraph in the Caribbean each winter. There is also a net in the North East during the summer and all Dawgs are invited to participate sponsored by the Ocean Cruising Club, the OCC NE US SSB net. Russell and Lynn aboard SV Blue Highway have invite all Dawgs to participate in the net this summer. This is a control net and it's always fun to be a part of the SSB net Community. If you have never participated in an SSB net I encourage you to do so as it's a great way to stay in touch with fellow cruisers and deepen your participation in the cruising community.

Net times and frequencies follow: 07:00 eastern us time 4006.0 usb
07:15 we switch to 6227.0 usb 07:30 we switch to 8152.0 usb

For more information feel free to reach out to Russell or Lynn of SV Blue Highway for more information. svbluehwy@gmail.com

Coming Events

Salty Dawg Fall Rally to the Caribbean!!!

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



Antigua



Hope Town, Bahamas

[About Rallies.](#) [Rally FAQs.](#) [Questions.](#)

Rendezvous

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 Bobby White of *Sailing Doodles*, and lots of fun with the Dawgs.

Hampton Pig Roast - Bluewater Yachting Center, Hampton, VA, October 30th

Come to our Annual Pig Roast, sponsored by the Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau. A scrumptious Pig Roast dinner will follow costume judging. Open to SDSA Members, Caribbean Rally participants and their guests. Tickets will be sold on-line.

Dawg Deals

Visit the Accessing Member Benefits page for details.

[Aqua Maps](#) produces an amazingly clear nautical chart app taking advantage of the full power of the Retina display, using realistic symbols and colors. Route planning and navigation are simple and intuitive. Aqua Maps will provide 30% off bundles for SDSA members.

Explorer Charts now offers a 10% discount to members, through November 1.



Member Boats & Gear for Sale

*Oyster 46 for sale - WILLOW [Full Details](#)

*Some great salty gear for sale from Hank: www.captainharrysboatshed.com

Our Sponsor Highlight



YACHT SERVICES

M Yachts:

Two Annapolis based businesses in one, M Yacht Services provides quality workmanship and attention to detail for all your Electrical, Electronics, Plumbing, Carpentry, Fiberglass & Paint, and Systems Projects. M Rigging is your expert source for Boom Furlers, Architectural Fabrication, Rigging & Spars.



Fiorentino Para Anchor:

Established in 1958 on the US West Coast, Fiorentino has become a world leading authority and U.S. manufacturer for underwater parachute sea anchors and storm drogues as well as other safety products and accessories.



Para-Anchor.com



STEERING THE DREAM

Hydrovane:

Hydrovane has been steering dreams for over 50 years. Whether it's ten miles or thousands of miles, Hydrovane will steer you safely. For ease of use, versatility, and reliability, Hydrovane surpasses all other systems.

Introducing our Newest Sponsor...ugo!!!



We love water. We play on it and we live on it. But we were tired of trying to keep our electronics dry which was a huge takeaway from the joy we get from our time on the water, so we set out to solve a really big problem. How could we carry and keep our electronic items above water and safe from getting wet? And not only wet, but protected from sand and dirt? ugo™. We are two women, one of whom has overcome the odds having survived two bouts of breast cancer and the naysayers who have told us 100% waterproof the way we wanted to do it couldn't be done. Three years later we are excited to share that we've sold thousands of ugo™'s and have had zero customer phone fails. Check us out! <https://youtu.be/w9ugUVXmUrs>



The SDSA is excited to announce that Quantum Sails is "The Official Sailmaker of the Salty Dawg Sailing Association." Quantum is your "go-to" place for all new sails, repairs, resources, and expertise. SDSA Members receive free sail inspections and 15% off any Quantum new sail or repair at Quantum lofts. These benefits are just some of the many reasons to become an SDSA member. And anyone can take advantage of Quantum's new [SDSA Collection](#) of content on the Quantum website. Contact Dave Flynn (dflynn@quantumsails.com) for all your sail related questions, including getting a referral to the Quantum loft nearest you. Contact Dave with proof of your active membership. Go to the "Accessing Member Benefits" section of the SDSA Website for more detailed instructions.



JOIN

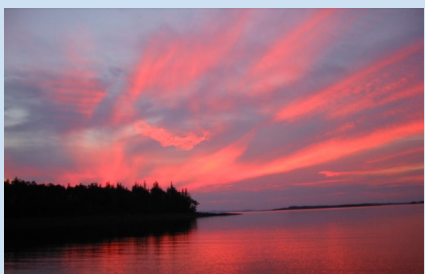
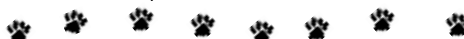
Thank You for Your Participation!



Instagram



The Salty Dawg Sailing Association is a non-profit charitable and educational organization made possible by Volunteers, Members, Contributors and Sponsors. To make a charitable Contribution, please [Click Here](#).



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

[Please Support our Non-Profit Organization.](#)
Your Donation is Tax Deductible