



# Dawg Tales Newsletter



*SV Zephyr*

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### From the Helm

Sailors helping Sailors



As I write this, I am aboard Pandora tied up in Nelson’s Dockyard, Antigua along with dozens of other rally boats.

While the rally departed much later than in prior years, nothing diminished the enthusiasm of skippers and crew as they made their way south to arrive in Antigua. In spite of most of the fleet making landfall two weeks later than planned, we still managed to have more than a week of great events ranging from simple happy hour gatherings, formal dinners complete with live entertainment and even two ladies lunch/pool days.

It was rewarding to see the enthusiasm in Hampton and how everyone rallied together to make the best out of the weather delays. Volunteers in both Annapolis and Hampton numbered in the dozens and SDSA would not be the vibrant group it is without the dedication of the many that give freely of their time.

When Bill and Linda Knowles founded the SDSA more than a decade ago, they envisioned a group of sailors that would pull together and help one another. This vision of “sailors helping sailors” endures and continues to be the driving force behind SDSA.

It is in this spirit that I am proud to announce the “Founder’s Award” that will recognize a member or group of members that have gone above and beyond and best exemplify the spirit of what it is to be a Salty Dawg. This recognition will be awarded annually as appropriate, selected from nominations by members. The award will be a curved crystal plaque engraved with the recipient’s name to be presented either at the October Annapolis rendezvous or in Hampton, prior to the departure of the fleet.

In the coming weeks the nomination committee will be formed and a more detailed description of the award posted on our website. I encourage each of you to nominate whomever you feel is worthy of this recognition with a brief description of why you feel that they best embody the goal of “sailors helping sailors.” Nominations should be sent to [nominations@saltydawsailing.org](mailto:nominations@saltydawsailing.org).

*Bob Osborn, SDSA President*



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## Caribbean Rally 2022



## Bronze Sponsors



The Salty Dawg Sailing Association enjoyed its biggest rally ever to the Caribbean this year with approximately 115 boats entering the rally. The majority of the fleet departed from Hampton, VA or the surrounding area, and a few others joined from Newport, RI and points further south on the East Coast. Rally participants enjoyed numerous social and educational events while waiting for a weather window in Hampton. Most members of the fleet left on November 12th and enjoyed great winds for most of the sail to Antigua. Once in Antigua, the social events continued daily...

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71 Monohulls



44 Catamarans



430 Sailors



61% 1st Time Participants



13 Foreign Flagged  
Vessels



9 Pet Boats



4 Kid Boats



# Contributing Sponsors

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## Pics!



# Caribbean Rally 2022 — Hampton Pics



# Pics !



# Caribbean Rally 2022—Passage Pics



Get this image or your boat's path [here](#).



Pics !

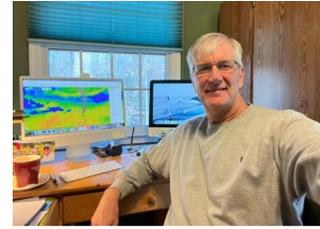


Caribbean Rally 2022—Antigua Pics



## Shoreside Coordinator 2022: Observations from a First-Timer

**By Matt Brennan**



The 2022 Caribbean rally was fast approaching for destinations that are the stuff of dreams, when a call for Shoreside Coordinators was placed in the Salty Dawg Newsletter like bait on a hook. While there was no promise of pay either expressed or implied, “rewards” were held out as a takeaway. Since I was not able to join in this year’s rally due to workforce membership, enough interest was sparked by this call to lure me. I was in.

As a Salty Dawg member of just two years (Sheldon and Susan Stuchell introduced me), and a rising blue water sailor that has not made a large offshore passage, I am always on the lookout for opportunities to gain knowledge and perspective. Webinars are one such source, crew opportunities another. This call to become a member of the Shoreside Coordinators looked unique. It did not disappoint. Here are some observations from a first-time Shoreside Coordinator.

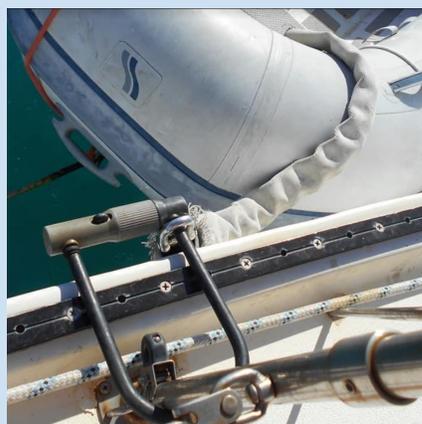
In any examination of a world-class organization, one looks for certain hallmarks. One such hallmark is ownership. A subgroup within an organization should be led by people that “own” it. The Shoreside Coordinator team was led by people who could collaborate in a healthy way but were trusted so well as to own their processes in their respective areas. Mindy Piuk and Tatja Hopman are two seasoned leaders with a healthy balance of diplomacy and passion. As a new Shoreside Coordinator, I worked closely with both of these leaders and asked questions of them directly. They were respectful, professional, and quite personable. Mindy wrote an article for the newsletter on “What do the Shoreside Coordinators do?” Issue No. 38, Jul-Aug 2021.

Great organizations also feature technical excellence. In working as a Shoreside Coordinator, it quickly became apparent to me that this is a team sport. I saw that there were many people that had high levels of expertise in specific areas. For example, I worked with Kevin Ferrie on producing support for a vessel with propulsion issues, Allen Roberts on tracking issues, and Tim Metcalf on several issues to include consistency in our approach to supporting vessels. I also noticed that while I was on a defined watch with a specific start and finish, these individuals seemed to always be alert and available. Another individual that displayed impressive competence and commitment was Chris Parker. While technically not a Salty Dawg, he so seamlessly worked within the team that you couldn’t tell. You stand a solo watch, but you are not alone.

Rewards came in a variety of forms, but one was an exposure and experience to multiple types of tools and processes related to safe offshore passage making. I became much more familiar with maritime communication systems such as Starlink, SatPhone, InReach, Iridium GO! and SSB. I have a whole new appreciation for PredictWind. Team communications used Skype and Zoom. It was amazing to see the resourcefulness of the Dawgs and their level of preparedness. Weather routing, crossing the Gulf Stream, and flexibility in light of the many challenges faced by the 2022 Caribbean rally were all featured in this edition. An additional reward came through meeting the people on the team and in the rally. They were concerned with the task at hand, but they also took a personal interest in each other. I look forward to meeting some of the team members and crews in person.

Skills I recommend any SSC candidate should possess: commitment, dependability, communication skills (especially written), teamwork and organizational skills. The SSC watch is intense but exciting at the same time and the ability to interact with the participants was a reward in itself—especially when you are able to help someone. I recommend SSC to both seasoned and rising sailors and feel like I have traveled this passage without even leaving my home office. Give thought to volunteering as a Shoreside Coordinator when the next call comes. There are definitely rewards to be had. Well Done 2022 Dawgs, you have earned your salt.





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## Dinghy Security

*By Ken Goodings; SV Silverheels III*

Have you moved up from steel cable dinghy/motor security to 8 or 10mm Stainless Steel chain?

We've found from sad experiences of other yachties that any stainless chain less than 8mm isn't sufficiently strong enough to resist simple cutting shears. We have 10mm SS chain on the dinghy and motor, and 8mm SS chain on the fuel tank.

Please don't be misled into believing that your dinghy and motor are perfectly safe from theft when hoisted on davits or alongside with a halyard. Chain them to the railing. Steel cables, while convenient, are no longer a theft deterrent anywhere in Caribbean. Even in marinas bad things happen! Similarly, we've seen plenty of nice outboards clamped to stern railings but not chained to the boat in marinas or on long term moorings, anchored and in boat yards.

Go one step further to eliminate the padlock at the dinghy end of your chain. Install the largest omega-shaped SS shackle whose pin will just fit through the last chain link. Install the pin with Loc-Tite, cut off the pin's knob with a hacksaw, and hammer both ends of the pin with a ballpeen hammer. Make a noose of the chain through the shackle and slip the noose over your SS outboard bar lock or through the lifting handle. Eliminates one (salty rusty?) padlock at the motor end of your security chain. The chain can run through the handle of your fuel tank too.

We have another similarly attached shackle at the free end of our 15 ft 10mm stainless chain to accommodate a Kryptonite U shaped combination (keyless) New York style bike lock. This lock slips easily through a dock cleat or over a 2x4 dock support leaving plenty of room for other cruisers lines/chains. The long chain loops over the bow (with chafe sleeving) and into the water, its catenary weight holds the dinghy away from the dock to allow access for other dinghies.

GPS trackers are not very expensive these days. They utilize limited range Bluetooth signals to allow you to track the location of your missing dinghy and stolen outboard. So...you have tracked and found your outboard in someone else's possession. Now what? Will you physically confront them with accusations? How will you prove ownership to police? GPS trackers sound great in theory but really...isn't theft prevention with a robust chain a much more practical idea?

To learn more about how we developed this dinghy chain idea, here is the original article published by Caribbean Compass in 2017

[http://www.caribbeancompass.com/dinghy\\_security\\_2017.html](http://www.caribbeancompass.com/dinghy_security_2017.html)

## Starlink Experiences Needed!

*By Tim Metcalf*

Before the rally, I told anyone who asked about Starlink offshore that I expected it to work only in coastal waters. Boy, was I mistaken!

We had excellent coverage until Sunday morning, November 20 at about 24 30N 64W. Then we had nothing until the wee hours of Monday morning when it was back, at about 22 10N 60W. We had sketchy service for most of the day, after which it settled down. Here on the dock on Nelson's Dockyard, it's like being at home.

I'm interested in your experiences. How long did you have coverage? If you lost it, where and for how long? Overall, were you happy with the experience?

If you are willing, please send a summary of your experience to me at [Tim@saltydawgsailing.org](mailto:Tim@saltydawgsailing.org). I will compile the information and report it in a future newsletter. Thank you!

Tim Metcalf

Manager Safety, Communications, Tracking, and Emergency Response



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newsletter?

800 words or less

Include pics

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## The Tale End

### Salty Dawg Sailing Association (SDSA) Store



The SDSA would like to thank all of our members for their outstanding support of the online store, the Boat Show store, and the Caribbean Rally store this Fall. For everyone on shore, please continue to support our online store. New hat colors are on the way.

This winter for those of you cruising in the Caribbean, we have our traveling stores hosted by S/V Endeavor (Jan & Kurt), S/V Island Time (Kathy & Chris), S/V Lucky (Cat & Ted), & S/V Perfect View (Susan & Sheldon) with a limited inventory of

items and things have been selling fast. Perfect View is out of both hats & rally flags. Burgees are also limited but I'm hoping to re-supply.

We have two items in the traveling stores that are not available online: a t-shirt with our embroidered logo and our solar shirts available in 3 designs.

Don't forget to send in your photos wearing your SDSA swag to

[photos@saltydawgsailing.org](mailto:photos@saltydawgsailing.org)



The 2022 Salty Dawg Annapolis Rendezvous, held this year on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Annapolis Elks Club was a rousing success, with over 240 of our members and guests in attendance. After cocktails and a delicious dinner, and a lot of socializing and reconnecting with old friends, John Kretschmer spoke to us for over an hour with amusing stories and a presentation of his recent high latitude expedition, which included Newfoundland, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. Next year's Rendezvous is currently scheduled for October 12, 2023.

If you want to learn from John, one opportunity is his "Captain's Hour", a monthly, informal 2-3 hour virtual meeting that will allow you to pick his brain on any sailing subject. It's a fun and

lively discussion with lots of interaction which has grown into a great community of sailors from all over the world, who also have useful information to share. Most people join to just listen in, some submit questions ahead of time (by email), some just ask during the Captain's Hour session. Each Captain's Hour includes information sharing, stories, and hard-won expertise, lasts 2-3 hours and costs \$25 per session or \$200 for an annual subscription. The sessions are all recorded so if you can't join live, you will be able to access the recording and watch at your convenience. If you are interested, you can send an email

to: [jrkretschmer@gmail.com](mailto:jrkretschmer@gmail.com) or go to: <https://johnkretschmersailing.com/contact-us/>

### Join the Salty Dawgs in Dominica!

Portsmouth Bay  
March 12-19, 2023  
In conjunction with  
Yachtie Appreciation Week.  
Sponsored by PAYS.

Hikes, River Tours, & Great Dinners!



# Nautical Notes!



## By and large!

Many folks use this phrase when referencing “the big picture.” It comes from a nautical origin: when a ship sailed both “by” into the wind and “large” off the wind, she was said to sail well “by and large.”



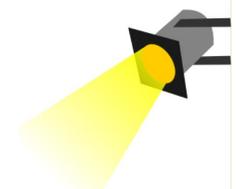
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# Salty Dawg Volunteer Spotlight

*Allen Roberts*



**Home Port:** San Francisco, CA (currently in Sicily)  
**Boat:** Gemeaux  
**Volunteer Years:** 5  
**Interests:** Anything sailing and technology



*Allen Roberts*

## How do you volunteer with the Dawgs?

We facilitated the Salty Dawg boats who left Hampton and traveled to the Bahamas. We also helped all the Dawg boats who travelled to the Caribbean with pets with the import process. We are always looking to help out to make the organization better for everybody.

As an added bonus this year, I was able to make an individual tracking map for each boat on the rally!

## Our Sponsor Highlights



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