



Dawg Tales Newsletter



SV Meanwhile

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From the Helm

We've got your back!

It's hard to believe that the winter season of cruising will soon wind down with many heading back to the US as part of the Homeward Bound Rally and others opting to leave their boats in the Caribbean for the summer months or head west to the canal and into the Pacific.

Whatever your plans, the one common bond we all share is that we are part of a community, the community of Dawgs, that makes spending time aboard so rewarding. Whether you are getting ready to "cast off the dock lines" to head to the Caribbean for the first time or if you just want to try your hand at blue water sailing by running to Maine, the SDSA can help you find the way.

I recently received a bad cut on my hand and had to head ashore for medical care. When we pulled up to the dock of a restaurant in St Ann, my hand a bloody mess, a couple who were sitting nearby immediately jumped up and offered to help tie up our dink, anxious to help in any way they could. As we raced off to go to a clinic to get me stitched up, they offered to keep an eye on the dink for us. More than three hours later we returned, and that couple was still there. We introduced ourselves and were surprised to learn that they had been part of the Homeward Bound Flotilla, one of nearly 200 boats SDSA helped during that difficult time. In spite of having never met a single member of SDSA over the years, they kept up their membership and now they were helping Brenda and me. The point of all this is that cruisers, especially Dawgs, are always willing to help when needed.

Of course, things break on passage and nearly every year a boat arrives in Antigua needing help to get into the harbor. Without fail, a flotilla of Dawgs in their dinks heads out to the mouth of the harbor to tow them in. Looking for help in choosing the right boat, the correct equipment to have onboard or just want to be part of a community of cruisers dedicated to "paying it forward"?

Whatever you need, you can count on the Dawgs. They definitely have your back.



Bob Osborn, SDSA President



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Cruising Articles

A First-Timer's View

By Adam Landa

After one season in the Bahamas, Solmate's Admiral (who is also my loving wife) decided we should spend a few seasons in the Caribbean. She promptly signed us up to sail in the 2022 Caribbean Rally with the Salty Dawgs.

Ok, we're signed up, what's next?

What a formidable question for a couple of Rally first timers that have never before been more than 100 miles offshore. Provisions, spares, supplies, connectivity, float plans, rigging checks, engine maintenance, insurance, securing crew, checking safety gear, making watch schedules, precooking passage meals, learning to prepare meals at sea ... the thought of what we had to do, and moreover, concern for what we might miss was daunting.



Adam Landa, S/V Solmate



Jen & Adam

It's mid-August and Rally email #1 arrives with among other helpful things, a pre-passage checklist. Of course, that just gave me more to think about, not less. But like clockwork, weekly Rally emails kept coming announcing webinars, providing important content, and generally ensuring that we have the information necessary to get ready for the planned November 1, 2022 departure.

The apocryphal November 1 date quickly gave way to disorganized North Atlantic weather.



We worked on getting crew first. Even though we were early, we promptly put a Rally crew wanted listing on the SDSA site. We were inundated with responses from friendly, well qualified SDSA members. We conducted 17 one-hour interviews over three weeks and then debated the candidate's qualifications, experience, and compatibility. In the end we had to decide based on our gut instinct. I'd say we chose well, but that may say more about the Dawgs than our selection.



Crossing the Tropic of Cancer

The fleet didn't set out in earnest until November 12. For some, it was a stressful few weeks waiting--with numerous issues mostly relating to the calendar. For Solmate it was salubrious; we reviewed our maintenance items, got to know so many of the Dawgs and had a moment to get a few last-minute Amazon deliveries.

We set out before dawn on the 12th of November. Per Chris Parker, we hightailed it across the gulf stream. We exited the stream on schedule the next morning, ahead of the predicted weather "impulse." The anticipation of the trip gave way to its tangible reality. We were 1700 miles from our destination, and already offshore farther than we've ever been before.



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Solmate Pics!



Cruising Articles



The preparations we made beforehand and the decisions we made aboard (some thanks to Chris Parker and others thanks to Starlink) made for what many would call an easy passage. We had nothing to compare it to, so for us it was just a first passage.

We crossed the Tropic of Cancer at exactly 5 pm on November 20. As the crew celebrated by downing a "Smoky Solmate" (the Admiral's secret drink recipe) we could all sense the end of our journey nearing. We made landfall at 06:05 Atlantic Standard Time 10

days and 23 hours from the time we pulled off the dock in Hampton. Making landfall on such a journey is an emotionally charged moment; both the Admiral and I got a lump in our throats and tears in our eyes.

We were grateful for the Rally support before and during the passage, but more so for the Salty Dawgs themselves, many of whom are now counted among our dear friends.

To Cat or Not to Cat

By Sheldon Stuchell

Wow, have you noticed how many more catamarans are cruising this year? In almost every case, the owners sold their monohull for a catamaran of basically the same length.

What causes such a change? Well, for Susan and I, we had planned to retire on our 50 ft Beneteau Oceanis. The boat refit and procurement of safety gear for cruising full-time was ongoing. We absolutely loved our Beneteau Oceanis. Caribbean here we come! And, the answer to the question is below.



Susan & Sheldon Stuchell
SV Perfect View



Then, with some friends, we chartered a 48 ft Leopard catamaran in the BVI's. It didn't take long and on the way home we discussed how comfortable the boat was and how easy to live on. Of all the pluses, one big positive was noted by Susan. She is prone to getting seasick, especially when she would go below on the monohull to cook or take a break from the weather. On the catamaran, she could go in the salon, look out the windows and still see the horizon while working inside! The salon layout allowed Susan to cook or take a break





Want a
picture of
your
boat
on the cover
of the
newsletter?
Send a
picture to

photos@saltydawsailing.org

from weather without risking the seasickness she might experience on our monohull. The decision was made. We started cruising full-time on Perfect View, our Lagoon 450s, in June 2018. We noticed almost immediately that we typically sail about 15% of the time. The rest of our time, we are at anchor, on a mooring ball, or in a marina. So, for us it's not so much about how the boat performs while sailing (Perfect View does great), but much more about living aboard in comfort. We have done our share of performance sailing on monohulls.

Perfect View is 45 ft long with a beam of 26 ft. While it may appear that we "downsized" from the 50 ft monohull (with a beam of 16) to our 45 ft catamaran. We nearly doubled our living space!

We now have two engines (no bow thruster), and a completely enclosed helm and aft cockpit. As an extra benefit, we can put out more fishing lines than Susan and I can handle. Everyone stays warm and dry during passage-making.

With three staterooms, each with a queen size bed and it's own head we are never short of company.. Between the three staterooms, the salon, the front and rear cockpits, everyone has more space & privacy.

Once at anchor or on a mooring ball, we might move a little when the bay gets roly, but watching monohulls roll through 50 degrees (25 degrees from one side to 25 degrees on the other side) has definitely affirmed we made the right decision. The stability at anchor, on a mooring ball, or even when sailing is huge.

Keep reading!!! <https://sdsa.memberclicks.net/catamaran-or-not>



Jam Session on the Bow

Technical Article

Starlink RV Rebrands as Starlink Roam, Offers Global Service

Tim Metcalf

SDSA Manager, Safety, Communications, Tracking, Shoreside Coordination, and Emergency Response

I commented in a recent newsletter that I was amazed with the performance of Starlink on "Solmate" during last fall's Caribbean Rally. At that time my concern was that SpaceX might start geofencing their RV offering, and limit it to terrestrial and near coastal waters.

Earlier this month SpaceX brought a little clarity to this issue by splitting their RV offering in two. Users can stick with the original \$150-per-month "regional" roaming plan, or upgrade to Starlink Roam, a global plan for \$200-per-month. Along with this announcement, they announced plans to start geofencing their regional offering.

Presumably this is good news for our offshore rally participants. It appears that they can subscribe to Starlink Roam and expect service while offshore, and while cruising the Caribbean and beyond.

We have begun to conditionally approve Starlink as an offshore communications and email device. This announcement bodes well for Starlink as a tool for our members.

Please contact me with questions or concerns.

Tim@saltydawsailing.org



Volunteer Dawgs!



Upcoming Events



Salty Dawg Exuma Rendezvous 2023!!!

Exumas April 22 - 27

Join the Dawgs in the Exumas! We open with a celebration at the Staniel Cay Yacht Club! Then we are off to Thunderbolt Grotto, the Pigs, Rachels's Bubble Bath (Bring Your Own Champagne), The Aquarium, Pipe Creek, and Warderick Wells. Each boat gets a swag bag, the opening event, and four happy hours on the beach.

Contact: Kathy on S/V Island Time kathyk@saltydawgsailing.org



SDSA/OCC Open Boat Rendezvous Essex, CT July 1-3, 2023

Join us for a weekend of fun on your way north to the Cape or beyond for the summer. Attendance is limited to 60 SDSA and OCC guests in addition to EYC members that wish to participate. This event will give attendees an opportunity to learn more about blue water cruising and passage making to the Caribbean along with fascinating information about the many islands and cultures of the Eastern Caribbean. Experienced already? Pay it forward and be a part of the event to introduce others to the world of blue water passage making and cruising the Caribbean.

Additionally, a number of well-equipped blue water cruising boats will be on the EYC docks and available for tours. Attendees can talk to knowledgeable owners about what it takes to make for a safe and comfortable blue water voyager.

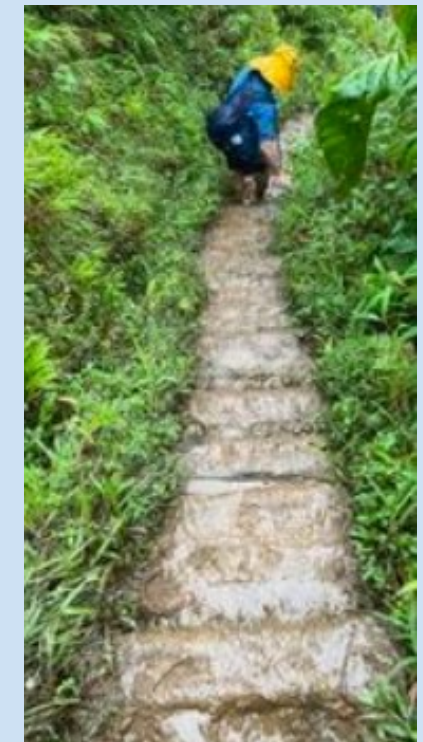
Details and registration [here](#).

Save the Date!!!

October 12, 2023 at the Annapolis Sailboat Show

Gary Jobson is an America's Cup winning tactician who has spent his life promoting the sport of sailing. He has written 23 books, won two Emmy's, an ACE Award, and five Tellys. He will be our guest speaker at the Salty Dawg Annapolis Rendezvous.



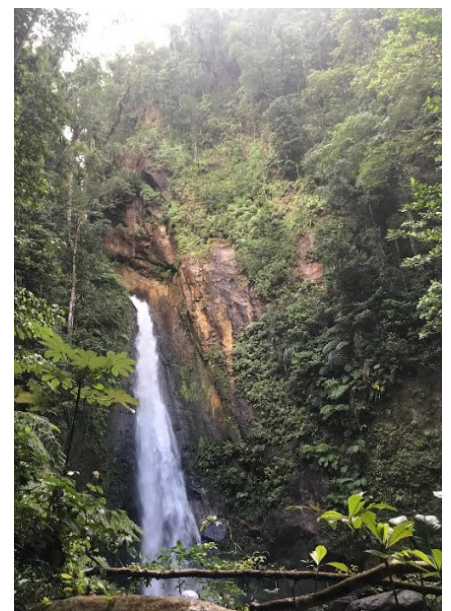


Dominica Rendezvous 2023!



About 30 Salty Dawg boats gathered in Portsmouth, Dominica for five days of tours, barbecues, hikes, sundowners, and cooking lessons. What a great time we had! The P.A.Y.S. guys out-did themselves putting together an agenda that had something for everyone: Syndicate Falls, Boiling Lake, Red Rocks, and the Chocolate Factory. We did it all. We even had a choice of community service projects.

Thanks P.A.Y.S. We'll be back!



Registration
Link
Is now open!!!

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[JOIN THE FUN](#)



HOMEWARD BOUND RALLY

The SDSA Homeward Bound Rally to the US departs the United States Virgin Islands and Bahamas May 10, weather permitting and is expected to last 7-10 days. We are also planning a Rendezvous in the Exumas.



DOWNEAST RALLY

The SDSA Downeast Rally has departure locations from the Chesapeake Bay and Narragansett Bay areas. The departure from Hampton is on July 6 (weather permitting) and Newport July 11 with final landfall in Maine July 13.



MARITIME RALLY

The SDSA Maritime Rally departs from Provincetown, MA and Rockland, ME on July 15 for points in Nova Scotia. Explore Cape Breton and Bras D'Or Lakes with the rally!



CARIBBEAN RALLY

The SDSA Caribbean Rally departs Hampton, VA on Nov 1, and Newport, RI on Oct 28, weather permitting. This rally goes to the Caribbean and the Bahamas. A crossing to Antigua usually takes 10 -14 days. The crossing to the Bahamas is usually 7-8 days.





Puerto Bahía Dominica Republic

Calling all Salty Dawgs participating in the Homeward Bound Rally! Have you considered a stop in the DR? Make a pit stop at [Marina Puerto Bahía](#).

Samaná,
Dominican Republic.
We are the premier full-service marina strategically located in the heart of the Caribbean.

With 107 slips available for vessels up to 150 feet L.O.A., this marina offers a plethora of on-site services and facilities including electricity, fueling pier, 24-hour security, customs and immigration on-site, mini-market, laundry, restroom and shower facilities.

Plus, enjoy amenities like access to a boutique hotel, three restaurants/bars, two swimming pools, a fitness center, tennis courts, a spa & beauty salon, a conference room, a children's game room, and a billiard room.

Take advantage of the Salty Dawg discount of 15% off dockage rates. Not to mention, the marina is just a few miles away from picturesque destinations: Cayo Levantado Island, Los Haitises National Park, and Rincón Bay. Additionally, indulge in exciting activities like kayaking through mangroves, zip-lining in a Caribbean jungle, and horseback riding to El Limón Waterfall. With so much to do and see, Marina Puerto Bahía is the perfect place to recharge before continuing your journey to the Bahamas.

The Tale End

In Memory of Rick Palm

By George Day

Our friend, fellow SDSA board member and sailing companion Rick Palm passed away on February 28, 2023 after a long and brave battle with cancer. His wife Julie wrote a wonderful remembrance of Rick and their life together, which is posted on the Salty Dawg Sailing website here. If you knew Rick or did not, I urge you to read this moving, loving tribute.

<https://www.saltydawgsailing.org/latest-news>

I first met Rick and Julie in Panama in 1991 when they were heading west around the world aboard their Tayana 52 Sojourner with Jimmy Cornell's first World ARC rally and we were on our



Rick Palm

boat, Clover, heading at a much more leisurely pace in the same direction. We sailed in company through the Canal and then on to the Galapagos Islands. Jimmy had invited Rosie and me and our sons Si and Tim to join the rally so we could stay more than a few days in those magic Isles, which we did. As fellow Americans and experienced sailors, our family gravitated naturally to Rick and Julie's company. Then, the rally departed and they completed their circumnavigation in about another 16 months or so. It would take us almost four more years to close the circle.



One of the things Rick and Julie did after their trip around the world was to get involved mentoring new cruisers and working with Steve Black to help run the Caribbean 1500, a rally that ran from Hampton, VA to the BVI. My company, Blue Water Sailing, was the main sponsor of the rally so our paths crossed again and again and led, happily, to a great passage together on the Hylas 54 Thumbs Up (with owner Tim Robinson and friend Margie Cotta) in the 2006 fall rally. Going to sea with Rick and Julie was a true pleasure because they were so competent, so experienced and so sensible about passagemaking. Plus, they always make life aboard more fun. That we caught a giant blue fin tuna that Rick cleaned and filleted and we subsequently ate fresh tuna at least twice a day made the trip even better.

In 2010, a group of ralliers who had been Caribbean 1500 regulars decided to start their own rally to be called the Salty Dawg Fall Rally. I was lucky enough to join founders Bill and Linda Knowles in the startup. Yes, we were competing with the C 1500 but also offering a different experience: a not-for-profit association dedicated to fostering seamanship, education and safety in the spirit of cruising sailors helping cruising sailors. It wasn't long before Rick joined the Salty Dawgs as rally director and, with our friend Hank George, was able to replace Bill and Linda as the second pair of leaders in the association's history. With a solid business background, Rick was able to take on the position of treasurer for the SDSA and set the association on a sound financial footing, while Hank took on the job of association president.



Rick had a wonderful knack for helping new cruisers prepare themselves and their boats for their first long offshore passage. His advice, based on his vast offshore experience, focused more on seamanship than new technology, more of preparation and practice than book learning. He was a very hands-on guy himself and really inspired others to become self-sufficient at sea.



The Tale End



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A few years after joining the SDSA board, Rick and Julie sold their Saga 48 Altair and purchased a new Outremer 51 performance catamaran that they named Archer. Their shakedown cruise was a transatlantic passage from France to the Caribbean and eventually to their waterfront home in Maine. When the time came for Rick and Julie to sail Archer in a Salty Dawg Fall Rally, they generously invited me to join them as crew.

The 1400-mile trip from Hampton to the BVI was textbook blue water passage under Rick and Julie's capable leadership. We shared watches, shared preparing meals and shared the constant routine of reefing and unreefing the Outremer's powerful sailing rig. Capable of making 18 knots and enjoying cruising speeds at 10 knots or so, we made the trip in record time and Rick piloted us to a safe and seamanlike landfall in the middle of the night into Virgin Gorda's North Sound.

Over the last few years as he battled cancer and took part in a series of experimental treatment trials, he didn't stop sailing and spending as much time on the water as possible. After selling Archer, they purchased a Corsair 37 trimaran, which they named Arrow, that they kept in front of their house in the Chesapeake Bay. I think sailing and owning boats was a real motivation and source of joy in Rick's final years.

And he didn't stop contributing to the cruising community through his work as a board member and treasurer for the SDSA. During the pandemic, when most offshore events were cancelled, the SDSA was able to run the fall rallies and organized a massive spring rally for hundreds of cruising boats that needed to leave the Caribbean. Rick's experience as a voyager and rally director played a large roll in making all of this happen, much to the benefit of the cruising community.

Rick's legacy to sailors lies within all he mentored, all he helped to achieve their cruising dreams, all who became self-sufficient sailors and who thrived in the cruising life. He touched hundreds if not thousands of sailors with his wisdom, his wit and his practical, hands-on style. I for one would sail with Rick and Julie anywhere, anytime. He was greatly admired and is greatly missed.



Jo Barnes

New SDSA Ship Store!

If you haven't had the opportunity to check out the new merchandise in the Salty Dawg store, you are missing out! Choices have been expanded, new colors, items...even for your grand babies!

On shirts and polos, you now have the option to have your boat name added as well as your name and even for your crew. It makes a great way to build your team as you get ready to go on your great adventure.

Just go to the Ship's Store at saltydawgsailing.org. There is even a 10% discount on your order right now. Our partner in this, SquadLocker, will take your order and get it delivered to you at your desired address.

We have the ability to add new items, colors, and sizes any time we want so, if you have a brand, color, or particular piece of swag you would like to see, let us know at info@saltydawgsailing.org. We will look into it and you will probably see it soon in the Ship's Store.

I just got my new summer hat...



Nautical Notes!



Overwhelmed

The word “whelm” actually means to be engulfed or submerged, as if under a wave.



“What’s cooking in the galley?”



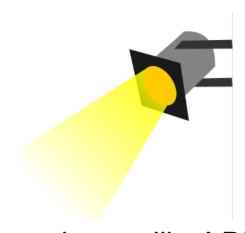
We have a
New Ship Store !!!
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Salty Dawg Volunteer Spotlight

Diane & Don Mackenzie (The D Macs)



Home Port: Wherever we are anchored.

Boat: Hylander

Volunteer Years: 2

Interests: Don loves golf pickleball, paddle tennis, and and these days sailing! Diane loves practicing yoga, cooking, and well—sailing! Since we have begun our cruising life, we have taken on snorkeling and hiking. We love the unknown journey ahead and then the discovery of new places. We love meeting and getting to know the local people—experiencing the local flavor.



Don & Diane

How do you volunteer with the Dawgs?

We have helped out at the Annapolis Boat Show Rendezvous dinners for the last couple of years. We also helped at the booth in Annapolis for a few days and had a blast seeing members we knew, meeting members we did not know, and supporting the sailors we met to join the Dawgs. Diane does some work with the Dawgs and Instagram, and this year we are also helping with the Exumas Rendezvous.

We are honored to give back to the Salty Dawgs. We have met so many fabulous people and received so much support. I am not sure we would have made it to the Caribbean, or done as much exploring, if it were not for more experienced Dawgs showing us the way and sharing their knowledge. Giving back is what the Dawgs is all about!

4 New Salty Dawg Sponsors!!!



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[Charter Rode](#) is building the Sailing Resume Blockchain – a secure, transparent, efficient, and tamper-proof maritime resume system enabled by blockchain. The Sailing Resume Blockchain offers sailors a trusted and secure [sailing resume](#) that anyone can confidently use to determine their seaworthiness.



This pleasant full-service marina is located just behind the Panama Canal Breakwater only two miles from the entrance on the Atlantic side. The marina offers a wide arrange of services: haul out facility, full-service yard, fuel, sail loft, laundry, hotel, restaurant and bar, mini market, and chandlery store. For more information, search available www.shelterbaymarina.com, contact us at info@shelterbaymarina.com



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