



Dawg Tales Newsletter



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From the Helm

As I write this note, the 2022-2023 winter cruising season is drawing to a close and the Homeward Bound Rally is underway with nearly 30 boats. We had a wonderful cruising season with a record 117 boats heading south in November. 25 boats gathered in February for a week-long rendezvous in Dominica. A great time was had at Carnival in Martinique, the Bequia Easter regatta and many other events. The Bahamas boats had a terrific gathering in Staniel Key with nearly 20 boats congregating for a first ever Exumas rendezvous.



Plans are well underway for our Downeast, Maritime, and Caribbean rallies. If you want to participate in any of these rallies and feel you need a bit more help in preparing for your adventure, enroll in our mentoring program where you can be assigned to someone with lots of experience to help you prepare. And speaking of mentors, if you are an experienced blue water sailor, sign up to help others that are just getting started. Contact Tatja@saltydawgsailing.org to sign up.

Plan on attending our Open Boat Weekend event, co-sponsored by OCC at the Essex Yacht Club on the Connecticut River, July 1st to 3rd. Share your experience and learn from the pros. [Details here](#)

Recently I announced The Founders' Award, designed to recognize one of our own who most exemplifies the spirit of our founders, Bill and Linda Knowles, "sailors helping sailors." The deadline for submissions is June 30 so nominate someone who you feel exemplifies the spirit of Salty Dawgs. nominations@saltydawgsailing.org. This award will be presented at our Annapolis Rendezvous in October. World renowned sailor Gary Jobson will be our speaker at this event so be there!

Finally, membership is at an all-time high. It is through the dedication of our member volunteers that SDSA has been able to accomplish. If you can, please volunteer. It is both big and small contributions that make The Salty Dawg Sailing Association the great group that it is.

Bob Osborn, SDSA President



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Cruising Articles

The Treasure at the End of the Rainbow

By John Hagen

There was a full moon. It hung over the sailboat shining down from the black sky, lighting up the deck of the sailboat. It was a warm evening with a slight gentle breeze, just enough to cause the skin to tingle. The rain softly fell all day, on and off, resulting in magnificent cloud formations. Every few hours during the day, thunder and lightning would pass through the marina, disappearing as quickly as it arrived, and the sun would come out. The sun was scorching, but the brisk breeze cooled the body, making living on a sailboat comfortable. Such is life in the tropics. Pure and exquisite beauty every moment of the day. I have been at the Puerto Bahia Marina in Samana, Dominican Republic for the past 4 weeks.



John & Ileana, S/V Ileana



Ileana Docked by the Hotel Lobby

Six months ago, I loaded S/V Ileana on a truck and shipped her to Annapolis. With the stepping of the mast and rigging completed, Paul and Neil, my crew, helped me sail to Hampton, Virginia. Eager to begin our journey south to Antigua, we waited for a suitable weather window to open. We waited and waited. For almost 2 weeks. There were "pockets of energy" in the Caribbean, potentially developing into hurricanes, causing us to take the sensible precaution of staying in port until the weather settled. Finally, on the tailcoat of hurricane Nicole, we went to sea in mid-November with the rest of the Salty Dawgs. It took about nine days of open water sailing to get there. Ileana, my wife, met me in Antigua and we spent the next two months in Antigua with a one month break for the Christmas holidays in Canada.

In late February, Robert and Roger flew to Antigua to help sail to Samana in the Dominican Republic. The prediction from our weather router, Chris Parker, was that there would be little if any wind during the 450-mile voyage. When the winds arrived, they were gentle with following seas. With the spinnaker hoisted, the sailing was invigorating in the huge undulating swells coming from the north Atlantic winter storms. It was in the middle of whale watching season, and as we entered Samana Bay after sailing on the open ocean for 3 days, we saw the spouts of water coming from whales.

The first impression upon arriving in Puerta, Bahia in Samana was that we found paradise. The sailors docked at the marina have full access to the hotel property, including the infinity pools, the restaurants, the gym, the billiard room, and all the other amenities available to the hotel guests. There were many sailors that ducked into this marina to avoid a storm on their way either north or South but somehow ended up spending a month or longer here.



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Ileana Pics!



Cruising Articles

A typical day for me would begin with a 10-kilometre run through the mountains and then down to the ocean. After a breakfast of banana, mangoes, and papaya, I would take a dinghy ride into town to replenish my supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. The town of Samaná is about 5 kilometres away. Sometimes there was a local who offered to look after my dinghy for \$5 while I went to the market, but I would always lock the boat anyway. There are typically few tourists, although during whale-watching season, an occasional cruise ship would anchor nearby. The market was a beehive of activities. It was the place to go for fresh fruit and vegetables.



I sailed across the Bay of Samana for a second time to the national park. Shelley, our friend from King City, Ontario, was visiting. She is a keen art historian and was excited to see the cave pictographs and stone carvings dating from 500 BC or earlier. We then docked S/V Ileana in front of the open-air palatial hotel lobby made of marble staircases, expensive, comfortable furniture, and a fully stocked bar. The best part about this perfect place in the marina is that when the other sailors walk past as I sit in the cockpit, they all stop and chat. The sailors come from all over the globe, and many have exciting stories. We always exchange our tales and adventures.

The treasure at the end of the rainbow is right in front of us. There is nothing like experiencing new and wonderful things in life. With sailing, often unpredictable weather, and other factors might temper plans, causing us to travel down unknown paths. This makes for interesting and exciting adventures.

Sailing blog: www.dreamingofileana.com

Getting Ready to Cruise—Safely

By Matt Brennan

Last season I had a close brush with an opportunity to crew on the return leg of an Annapolis to Bermuda Race boat. As it turns out the Captain withdrew prior to the start, but I had a good look at the training requirements as found in the Notice Of Race (NOR). One requirement is that “the Captain and at least 30% of her crew must have attended a recognized one-day or two-day Offshore Safety at Sea Seminar or equivalent seminar recognized by US Sailing” within the past five years. Recognizing this as a valuable offshore skillset led me to pursue a Safety at Sea Certificate.



Salty Dawgs

US Sailing organizes multiple levels of safety at sea training, from coastal to offshore. These courses are hosted at various locations and can feature different moderators. The curriculum is standardized but the pricing can differ slightly by location. The jewel in the crown is the International Offshore Safety at Sea Certificate. This course is for “crew members of long-distance and international offshore races, long-distance cruisers, or persons requiring the International Offshore certificate that complies with World Sailing guidelines for Personal Safety (World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix G compliant).”





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

photos@saltydawgsailing.org

The online course features 15 modules moderated by Chuck Hawley. Chuck includes very qualified subject matter experts to speak on specific areas. I frequently paused the course and took notes. By the time the online course was completed, I had nearly filled one entire spiral notebook. The online portion is followed by a hands-on course that you schedule.



International Offshore Safety at Sea Certificate

<https://www.ussailing.org/education/adult/safety-at-sea-courses-2022/>

The Hands-on portion must be completed within 365 days of the online to qualify for the International Certificate. The hands-on class is hosted by multiple organizations such as the Marine Trades Association of Maryland (MTAM), taught at the Naval Academy, or the Mariner's Museum and Park in Newport News, just to mention a few. The certification is good for five years.

I signed up for the Mariner's Museum cohort which was held in March, 2023. The attendees of this course are a mix of racers and cruisers but all are definitely enthusiasts. During the suit up for the pool session, I noticed another Salty Dawg, Jeff Heller, who is an SDSA DelMarVa Circumnavigation Rally (2021) alumni, as am I. Jeff and Joyce enjoy sailing their beautiful Hylas 46, Serendipity, out of Virginia. We enjoyed catching up and participating in the events.

The moderators were very seasoned sailors and shared both personal experiences and curriculum material. Their personal experiences truly added to the course. We inflated our PFDs (auto), climbed into life rafts, and received all sorts of tips on survival in the water. The course expects students to bring foul-weather gear, boots/shoes and offshore PFDs (with tether). We went into the water wearing all of it.

Classroom sessions covered multiple topics including emerging technologies. One of the newest items is a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) with AIS. It has only recently been released and is now available. The one I saw displayed at the session ran \$500.00 and is available at several vendors. <https://www.acrartex.com/products/resqlink-ais-personal-locator-beacon/>

The afternoon session includes outside hands-on stations for flares, smokes, fires and damage control. Students get personal experience on this equipment and are well supervised. The moderators were patient and took time to answer any and all questions and would even provide volunteers additional experiences. I tried out the fire blanket just because he offered.

There are many opportunities to connect to this training. There is a path to become a moderator; there is an ability for groups to host a course; and of course, methods to participate as a student. The online is \$150.00 and the hands-on is \$300.00 at the location I attended. The cost could be slightly different by host. I highly recommend this course and agree that it can be credited with saving lives.





A Guide to Boat Maintenance Programs

By Tyler Vaughn

Introduction: Boats rely on critical equipment to operate safely and efficiently. Maintaining this equipment is crucial to preventing breakdowns and ensuring the longevity of your vessel. A maintenance management program is a systematic approach to managing maintenance activities, from planning and scheduling to execution and evaluation.



Tyler Vaughn

Boat Maintenance Management Programs:

A boat maintenance management program offers several benefits, including:

Improved Equipment Reliability: A proactive maintenance approach can help identify potential problems before they occur, reducing unplanned downtime and improving the reliability of critical equipment such as engines, steering systems, and electrical systems.

Cost Savings: Implementing a maintenance management program can reduce maintenance costs by optimizing maintenance activities, identifying cost-saving opportunities, and reducing repair costs by addressing issues before they become major problems.

Increased Safety: Regular maintenance reduces the likelihood of equipment failure, which can lead to safety hazards and accidents. This is especially critical for boats, where equipment failure can have serious consequences.

Compliance: Boats are subject to regulations that require them to maintain equipment to certain standards. A maintenance management program can help ensure compliance with these regulations.

Best Practices for Implementing a Boat Maintenance Management Program:

Implementing a boat maintenance management program requires careful planning and execution. Here are some best practices to follow:

Define Objectives: Clearly define the objectives of the maintenance management program, including goals for equipment uptime, maintenance costs, and safety.

Identify Critical Equipment: Identify the most critical equipment for your boat and prioritize maintenance activities accordingly. This may include engines, steering systems, electrical systems, and other critical components.

Develop a Maintenance Strategy: Develop a maintenance strategy that includes preventive, predictive, and corrective maintenance for critical equipment.

Implement a Maintenance Management System: Implement a maintenance management system that includes a database of equipment, maintenance schedules, and work order management. This will help you keep track of when maintenance activities need to be performed and ensure that they are completed on time.

Train Crew: Train crew on the maintenance management program and the procedures for reporting equipment issues and requesting maintenance work. This will help ensure that everyone on board understands the importance of maintenance and can help identify potential problems.





The Salty Dawg Founders' Award

By Bob Osborn, President

The Salty Dawg Sailing Association, as it is now known, was founded by Bill and Linda Knowles. Their goal was built on the principle of "Sailors helping Sailors." They also emphasized education in blue water skills and fostering a knowledgeable sailing community.

This award, to be given out on no more than an annual basis, will recognize an individual or crew that most exemplifies the spirit of this goal."

The criteria was made somewhat vague on purpose to honor either an actual act at sea or someone volunteering within the organization that displays our motto. It doesn't have to be a heroic rescue. It can be about the services someone has performed in the spirit of "sailors helping sailors."

Email nominations to nominations@saltydawgsailing.org

October 12, 2023

Salty Dawg Annapolis Rendezvous



Gary Jobson, an America's Cup winning tactician, will be our featured speaker. Gary has spent his life promoting the sport of sailing. He has written 23 books, won two Emmy's, an ACE Award, five Tellys, and spent 31 years as a commentator with ESPN. Gary is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. Don't miss out on what promises to be a memorable event! Catch up with old friends and make new ones.

[Register here](#) .



OCEAN CRUISING CLUB®

The OCC has prepared a review of climate change for distance cruisers

Devon, UK, May 10, 2023 – For some time, OCC members – among the most experienced and adventurous sailors in the world – have been observing and commenting on social media about the climate changes that are affecting decisions about passage making, storm avoidance, and seasonal boat storage. Such changes are now accepted as being exacerbated by humanity's effects on earth's ecosystems and may be accelerating.

The members of OCC's recently formed Environmental Team, in a proactive move to assist cruisers, contacted prominent meteorologists and weather routers and asked for their input on what they are seeing as they track traditional cruising routes.

What ensued is a review of *Climate Change and Ocean Cruising* (the impact on Passage Planning, Weather Forecasting and Weather Routing, etc) – with contributions from:

- Jimmy Cornell
- Frank Singleton
- Fred Pickhardt, Ocean Weather Services
- Sebastian Wache, WetterWelt GmbH
- Jeremy Davis, Weather Routing Inc
- Bob McDavitt.

Visit www.oceancruisingclub.org for more information.





Exumas Rendezvous 2023!



What a time it was!!!

19 Salty Dawg boats gathered for the first ever Salty Dawg Rendezvous in the Exumas, Bahamas. The group enjoyed an opening event at the Staniel Cay Yacht club followed by five days of playing and nightly happy hours. Each one was filled with activities and a contest, but none will ever compare to *that dinghy race!!!*



Please connect with our fabulous Rendezvous Sponsors!



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Registration

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Rendezvous & Rallies

Essex Rendezvous!!!

Monday July 1 to Wednesday July 3, 2023

Have you been considering some blue water cruising to the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, or Antigua but not quite sure if you are ready or how to prepare? Are you an offshore cruiser or live aboard wanting to learn more while sharing your own experiences with a group of like-minded sailors?

Come by Land, by Air, or by Sea - but join the Salty Dawgs and members of the Ocean Cruising Club at the beautiful Essex Yacht Club on the CT River. Heck, the water in the river is even fresh so the swimming is terrific

Learn more about our Fall Caribbean Rally and cruising the Leeward and Windward Islands from those who have been cruising those areas for years and hear first impressions from those who are new to cruising.

Additionally, we will have some well equipped blue water boats open for tours on the docks that you won't want to miss. See first hand what it means to make your boat a home and a comfortable, safe blue water vessel. Swap stories. Ask questions. Have a sundowner. Share some meals, and be a part of this great community while learning more about the cruising lifestyle.

See the full schedule of events and details [here](#).

Space is Limited. Register [here](#).



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.





Would you like to write an article for our newsletter?



*800 words or less

*include pictures

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newsletter@saltydawgsailing.org

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The Tale End

More Reasons to Sail With the Dawgs!!!

Salty Dawg Sailing Association exists because of YOU. To say thank you to those who continue to support and sail with the Fall Rally, the following benefit is being initiated with the Caribbean Rally for 2023.

1. Rally fees will remain as established for any given year.
2. If you have participated in two or more Caribbean rallies, your membership fee will be waived for the following year. Each time you participate in a Fall/Caribbean Rally thereafter, your membership renewal fee will be waived.

Just one more reason to enjoy the multiple benefits of Salty Dawg Sailing. :)

SDSA Member Map

Ever wondered if another Dawg was nearby in the anchorage? Now you can see where many of your fellow sailors are hanging out by accessing the Member Map on the Salty Dawg website under the Membership menu. Twice a day the map polls public AIS sources for Salty Dawg boats that have entered their MMSI number into their profile and who are transmitting AIS systems. Currently, we have positions on nearly 400 boats, which are plotted below.



Groups of boats are clustered to avoid clutter on the map. Click on a cluster to see the group of boats or just zoom in. The status of boats is color coded to represent four different situations:



Heard from in the last 12 hours and has not moved more than 1 nm



Heard from in the last 12 hrs and has moved more than 1 nm in the last 24 hours



Heard from in the last 24 hours but not in the last 12 hours



NOT heard from in more than 24 hours

If you click on a boat icon, it will provide a track of that boat since we started the map at the beginning of the year. It will include some boat statistics generated from the member profile, such as make and length of the boat. If a boat is underway, its current position will be estimated from the last reported position, speed and heading. That estimated position is shown with a gray vector extending from the boat position.

If your boat does not appear on the map, then check that your member profile includes your boat's MMSI number and that the number is correct. You will also need a transmitting AIS on board. If you do not want your boat on the map, then select that option in your profile. Profile changes generally are incorporated once a week into the map.

AIS positions used on the map mostly come from coastal stations so positions of boats offshore will not be shown, depending on the age of the AIS responder. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please send an email to

membermap@saltydawgsailing.org

Enjoy tracking your fellow Salty Dawgs!



Nautical Notes!



“Clean Bill of Health”

When sailors arrived at a new port, their hygiene was often questioned. They had to present a “clean bill of health” to assure the ship carried no infectious diseases.



“Did you see that shark?”

Salty Dawg
SAILING ASSOCIATION

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Salty Dawg Volunteer Spotlight

Cat & Ted Grant



Home Port: The transom reads “Annapolis,” but the Capitol Yacht Club in Washington, DC would be the closest thing to a home port for us. In reality, it’s wherever we are!

Boat: Lucky

Volunteer Years: 1

Interests: Sailing, knitting, diving, grandchildren, cooking, and reading

Why do you volunteer with the Dawgs? It is wonderful and rewarding to be a part of the SD community!



Do you like to catch fish???
Send a picture (or two) of your best catch!!!

photos@saltydawgsailing.org

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SeaKits provides ultra-high-quality damage control & repair kits for boat owners and operators. In the event you run into an emergency - a hull breach, burst pipe, or leaking gas line, SeaKits has everything you need to stay afloat and get back to safety. Don't leave the dock without it!



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