

Dawg Tales Newsletter



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From the Helm

Salty Dawg Comes of Age.

As I write this, we are spending time with fellow Dawgs at the lovely Marigot Bay resort in St Lucia, lounging by the pool and enjoying each other's company. After Brenda's and my experience of being locked down with so many other cruisers beginning in March of 2020, being back in the Caribbean two years later is beginning to look a lot like old times, with each week moving closer and closer to normalcy. By the time the fleet arrives in November, I expect that things will feel like old times once again.



Many aspects of our lives changed along the way and one particularly positive change for SDSA has been the move to online education which has allowed us to reach many more cruisers than ever before. For SDSA, online education is here to stay and we plan to have dozens of webinars again this year. If you have not taken advantage of this wonderful free member benefit, I encourage you to sign up today. [Educational Webinars](#)

In addition to our educational programs and popular rallies, the community of Dawgs continues to grow and this winter in the Caribbean, Brenda and I ran into Dawgs in every harbor we visited, leading to many gatherings for sundowners, hikes, island tours and visits to the beach.

Planning for the May Homeward Bound Rally as well as the Downeast and Maritime rallies, along with our biggest rally of the year, the Caribbean Rally to Antigua or The Bahamas are also coming together nicely. Indeed, Salty Dawg has come of age and with your continued support, is enjoying record membership levels and participation.

Next fall's rally to the Caribbean and Bahamas is expected to be our largest ever. Registration is open for all of our rallies so don't delay. Sign up now to take advantage of our many advance planning programs that will be available to registered skippers and crew. [Caribbean Rally](#)

Bob Osborn, SDSA President



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Cruising Articles

[Life on a Performance Catamaran: The Good, The Bad, & The Beautiful](#)

By Jeffrey Marks, s/vTribute

My partner, Melissa, and I commenced our cruising adventure six years ago by seeking out the perfect monohull. Monohulls were what we knew - since 15 of our last 17 sailboats were just that.

After completing a couple passages with friends aboard cruising catamarans, I was told by the admiral that she would join in this adventure if it was via a catamaran. We appreciated that the cats did not heel and that the salon and cockpit living space were on one level and afforded more visibility of our surroundings.



Melissa Fraley & Jeffrey Marks

For the first time, we wanted to purchase a new boat. This change to a cat was late in the game and just in time for the 2017 Annapolis show. We quickly altered course and hit the show to try to choose the right boat for us.

I knew from my prior 50+ years of sailing performance boats, albeit limited cruising cat experience, that I would be most happy sailing a performance cat, preferably a catamaran with dagger boards to enable good upwind vmg. Yet we also wanted the space, nice amenities and comfort a catamaran provides. We prioritized boats that were meant for safe tough offshore sailing, had good build quality and level of fit/finish, and enclosed, protected helms. We narrowed it down to the Balance 526 and the new all carbon construction HH50, also 52' LOA.

We have now lived full time aboard Tribute, hull 1 of the HH 50 for nearly two years. Over 12,000 NM have passed under her hulls. Living aboard and sailing this performance cruising cat has been a marvelous experience. Tribute is quick on all points of sail. She has very responsive handling with an extremely light feel to the helm due to direct rod steering, even though she is still a large cruising catamaran. She tacks almost as quickly as my Farr 395 did.

Tribute points well and is rewarding to sail to windward at 28-30 degrees apparent due to the 11' 'C' shaped dagger boards that provide lots of lift. Her movement through a seaway is quite good, displaying very little of the typical hobby horse cat movement. We assume this performance is due to the combined factors of decreased weight, deep boards, stiffer narrower hull design/construction and speed.

Tribute has all the amenities of most other cruising cats in her size range: multiple fridges/freezers, washer/dryer, multiple A/C units scattered throughout, solar and lithium ion battery bank, generator, nice gas grill, built in microwave, watermaker, and more than enough storage space.



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Pics & Fun



Cruising Articles cont.



The flow and the layout is intuitive and comfortable, with an open and contemporary feel. Tribute has great ventilation throughout. We love the ease and comfort with which we live aboard both at sea and anchor.

An advantage of a lighter, stiffer boat with slightly narrower hulls means faster performance, but the down side is less space in the hulls and lower buoyancy, although other spaces are nearly equivalent. Weight savings also means no fly bridge seating or forward bridge deck cockpit space. This decreased buoyancy also translates to quicker sinking upon loading. We have to be extremely careful not to overload the boat, or much of that performance ability rapidly disappears. We have to often make difficult choices on what to bring along to avoid boat obesity. I'm sure other catamarans have more leeway here.

As we all know, with every boat choice there involves compromise. New means Not Everything Works. It has taken much of the first two years of ownership to get all the kinks out of the boat. Nothing serious has occurred, but little annoying aspects have finally been resolved.

Another negative of light weight and no keel surface to dig in is difficult docking and maneuvering at low speeds, as she blows like a leaf sideways with either breeze or current. I should've opted for the bow thruster. Performance cats sail well, but we've noticed most other cats have larger engines that motor better and faster.

While the carbon fiber boards give us awesome upwind performance, they can be anxiety provoking when negotiating thin water. Fully lifted, they still draw 5'8" and we need to be extremely careful not to hit bottom when moving- anything more than a soft grounding would slam the boards back into the aft bearings and require repair. Worse yet in a hard grounding with speed, there's a chance the lower portion of the board could snap off. Due to their carbon grid and foam construction, this situation would likely require replacement. We would have to hope for a lottery ticket win in that case.

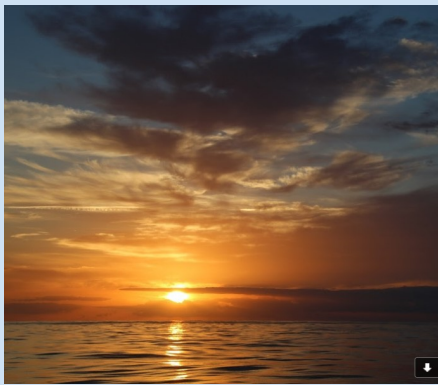
Another consideration of drawbacks is the increased overall financial burden. The increased performance and lighter stiffer all carbon construction require added strength to handle these loads, and this adds to the cost. This type of boat screams for laminate or high tech sails which we have already found aren't as durable or optimal for cruising purposes.

The initial upfront cost is generally greater as are ongoing costs such as insurance (which has been a challenge on all carbon boats) as well as repair and replacement costs - likely slightly greater due to specialized parts and service needs.

Lastly, we have found hauling out and blocking more of a hassle, as we require high density foam blocks to spread the load. We can't use jack stands to store on the hard, as there are no keels to spread the load of the hulls upon.

All in all, we are very pleased with our choice and loving life aboard Tribute. But I'm sure most of our satisfaction is due to the amazing lifestyle we are lucky to live out here - and any boat would be fantastic if you are out here living this dream!





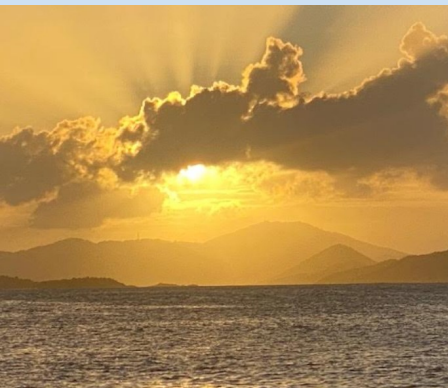
From SV Pandora



From SV Escape



From SV Gemeaux



From SV Island Time



JOIN THE FUN

...and the wind came

By Allan Vanderhaven, SV Wosa Moya

We are s/v Woza Moya. "Woza Moya" is a polysemy, from the Zulu words for "Come Wind" and also "Come Spirit" - usually denoting the Holy Spirit. In sailing lore, there are three kinds of wind: too little, too much and in the wrong direction. We experienced it all!

To start with, we left Hampton with strong winds and sailed close reach down to Cape Hatteras making record time, with speeds averaging over 7 knots in our Beneteau 393. Then into the Gulf Stream and well, no wind. Fortunately, the Salty Dawgs insisted that I take extra fuel and we used nearly all of it to get to Marsh Harbour.



Wosa Moya Crew

Although We are avid sailors, having raced extensively, most of our cruising was on the Chesapeake exploring the bays on weekends. So, when we wanted to try our arm at a longer cruise, we started looking for a support group, so to speak. What is cool about the Dawgs is that they expect you to be grown-up about sailing – while they offer up all the support you could possibly require, ultimately, they leave you to captain your own vessel. This paradigm carries forward into the rally itself, with plenty of social time, but also plenty of space to do your own thing.



We have sailed quite a bit of the Caribbean on charters, so wanted to try the Bahamas, and could not have been more pleased. First, our Port Captain, Allen Roberts, was very engaging, generous, and knowledgeable. Second, the islands certainly did not disappoint. Third, we met a great bunch of people, both Dawgs and cruisers in general.

But back to the wind. These fronts come on a regular basis and they can bring a lot of wind (twice we have been holed up for more than 5 days waiting on weather), if its not a lot of wind it can be in the wrong direction too (westerly) and even cold (well it

has gone down to the mid-sixties at night).

These two weeks or so of discomfort were more than compensated for by the 5 months of great sailing, fishing, snorkeling, meeting fellow cruisers and learning about the cruising life. Here are a few lessons:

- Invest in a good dinghy. Despite what others tell you, get a set of davits
- Bring beer. The food is expensive, but if you are willing to buy what is on special, its not that crazy so there is no need to overpack.
- Definitely do some fishing. I have never really done it before and we have eaten quite a few of my catches.
- I carry a 6'3" draft and I did not really find it was too limiting. Sure I could not go where some cats went, but I got close enough.
- Utilize the Dawgs – they are a great resource and radio them when you see a flag (Oh yes, fly the flag).

Well from Woza Moya, we are hoping that the moya does not woza quite as much as it has over the last couple of days, but we are looking forward to cruising with the Dawgs again.



RALLY



HOMEWARD BOUND RALLY

The SDSA Homeward Bound Rally to the US departs the USVI and Bahamas in early May, weather permitting and is expected to last 7-10 days. We are considering a gathering in Bermuda for those departing from USVI. Please email info@saltydawgsailing.org if you are interested.



DOWNEAST RALLY

The SDSA Downeast Rally has departure locations from the Chesapeake Bay and Narragansett Bay areas. The departure from Hampton is on July 3 (weather permitting) and Newport July 8 with final landfall in Rockland, ME July 10.



MARITIME RALLY

The SDSA Maritime Rally departs from Provincetown, MA on July 15 and Rockland, ME on July 16 for points in Nova Scotia. Explore Cape Breton and Bras D'Or Lakes until July 23 with the rally!



CARIBBEAN RALLY

The SDSA Caribbean Rally departs the US East Coast on November 1, 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 7-8 days.



VOLUNTEER



The Salty Dawg Sailing Association is "Sailors Helping Sailors!"
We have numerous opportunities for you to volunteer.



Tim Metcalf is in charge of Shoreside Communication and Emergency Response. He is looking for several volunteers to help make our rallies successful! If you are interested, please contact him tim@saltydawgsailing.org.

- Communications Team Leader** - this volunteer will review and approve participants' communications devices, escalate concerns to Tim, and give directions to the "hands-On" team.
- Communications Hand On Team** - these volunteers will work with rally participants "on the dock" to troubleshoot problems and provide basic education where necessary.
- Tracking** - this volunteer will be the liaison between the participants and PredictWind to get all boats on the Fleet Tracking Map and tracking.



Merchandising Assistant - this volunteer will work with Susan to help with Salty Dawg merch! The volunteer should have knowledge of digital logo creation, placement, and editing and also knowledge of all-over-print merchandise. Knowledge of online stores would be a plus! This volunteer would be needed 2-4 hours per week initially and then less. Contact Susan @ rmeegirl@gmail.com.



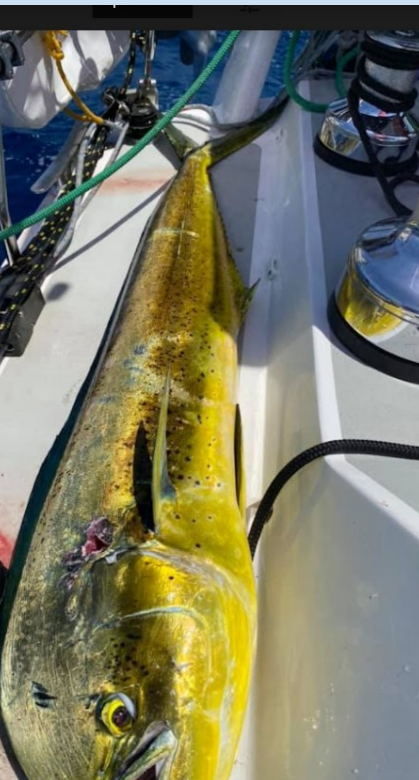
Instagram

Social Media Manager- Feel Like Volunteering Without Leaving Home? The Salty Dawgs rely heavily on social media to get the word out. We have a number of dedicated volunteers and are looking to expand our team. This volunteer will help coordinate our presence on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and any other social media that comes along in the near future. If you would like to help the Dawgs grow without having to alter your daily browsing, this is the position for you. Contact Kathy Kubic at kathyk@saltydawgsailing.org.

Follow us!!!

[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use the #saltydawgsailing when you post.

Send Your Pics & Posts



Fun Pictures!



The Tale End

The Salty Dawg Sailing Association Ships Store!!!

[SDSA Ships Store](#)

Check Out some of the new items available from the Salty Dawgs Ship Store:
making tracks and catamaran tees plus a great headband!



*One ship sails East,
And another West,
By the self-same winds that blow,
'Tis the set of the sails,
And not the gales,
That tells the way we go.*

*Like the winds of the sea
Are the waves of time,
As we journey along through life,
'Tis the set of the soul,
That determines the goal,
And not the calm or the strife.*

Erin Wheeler Wilcox



Your Salty Dawg Membership Benefits

Educational Webinars

Free Educational Webinars. The 2022 live winter webinar series is here! Get access to live and previously recorded webinars. Lots of great topics from a variety of expert speakers!

Educational Articles

Access our library of resources covering topics of importance to those who choose to sail offshore. Topics include heavy weather tactics, equipment repair, offshore forecasting, anchor selection, offshore cooking, first aid and more!

Member Directory & Networking Resources

Reach seasoned Salty Dawg sailors for advice and assistance. Build lifelong friendships and cruise in company with like-minded sailors.

Port Captain Program

Cruising to an unfamiliar port and have questions? Reach out to a Salty Dawg Port Captain for assistance! The Port Captain Program provides Members with a knowledgeable local resource for information about unfamiliar ports.

Ocean Class/World Class Recognition

Your offshore sailing passages are a significant accomplishment worthy of recognition in the Salty Dawg Ocean Class/World Class Register. Get listed in the Register today!

Discounts on Marine Products & Services

Members are eligible for discounts and special promotions from Salty Dawg sponsors. Premium products from top-rated vendors at special Members Only pricing.

Discounts on Rallies, Rendezvous, Educational Events

Members receive discounted prices on Salty Dawg events. Join a rally and pay yourself back for your annual membership fee.

Crew Service

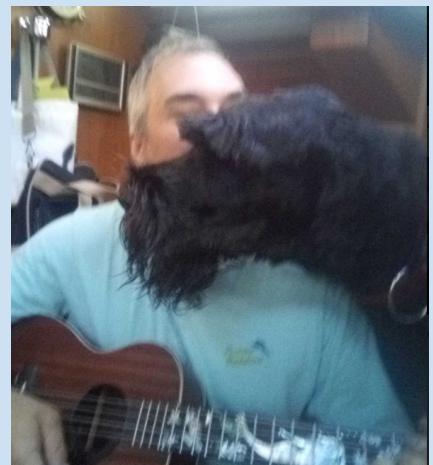
Get access to more than 100 Salty Dawg crew candidates at any time for any sailing requirement. Many candidates maintain previous Salty Dawg rally experience. Members may also serve as a crew candidate. Service is available 24 x 7 x 365.

Free Boat Listing

Need to sell or buy a boat? Get a free listing in two consecutive issues of our newsletter!

Membership Fee is Tax Deductible

The Salty Dawg Sailing Association is a non-profit educational and charitable volunteer organization and your \$75 membership dues may be considered a tax deductible contribution (Ref. IRS Pub 1771)



New Salty Dawg Forum Highlight

Forums	Topics	Posts	Last Post
			Re:Re:Best sources of

More and more Salty Dawg members are enjoying the discussions taking place at the Forum pages of the SDSA Website. We have just launched a "Treasures of the Bilge" section that functions as a Classified Ad section for our members. Here is what our former SDSA President Hank George has to say about the TOTB service: *"We got a great response in moving some lightly used marine gear using the Salty Dawg "Treasures of the Bilge" forum. I highly recommend it."*

Member Boat for Sale

Marlow Hunter MH40, 2014. Two staterooms, two heads, 54 hp Yanmar, new electronics 2019. AB dinghy with 9.9hp Yamaha. \$240,000. John Robbins, Tampa Bay, FL 813-928-4746



Cruising with Dawgs? (or cats?) (Or ????)

Send us a picture of your cruising pet for a special in the next SDSA newsletter edition!

Want to write an article about cruising with pets? Let us know!

kathyk@saltydawgsailing.com



Visit the [SDSA Ships Store](#) for all your SDSA gear!



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Ken with fellow Dawgs

Salty Dawg Volunteer Spotlight

Ken Gelao

Home Port: Apostle Islands, Lake Superior

Boat: Koki

Volunteer Years: 7

Interests: Anything outdoors or recreation oriented. Love sailing, skiing, adventuring, flower gardening and dogs. 😊
Enjoy event coordination and supporting the SDSA.

How and why do you volunteer with the Dawgs?

I volunteer because of my passion for sailing and the enjoyment of helping sailors experience their dream. Volunteering also increases my exposure and education to blue water sailing while making lifetime friendships. I'm

grateful for the opportunity to serve in the areas of Membership, Crew Service, Newsletter, Photo Management and as a Board Member. A very memorable activity was coordinating 150+ Bahamian passage approvals and fuel stops for the Homeward Bound Flotilla during the 2020 COVID crisis. Sincere thanks to our generous and talented team of volunteers who make this organization highly successful! It is a wonderful experience working with a great team of volunteers and supporting the Dawgs from a small grassroots organization to a very successful sailing association. I highly encourage you to reach out and serve as a volunteer!

Our Sponsor Highlights



New SDSA Sponsor!!!

[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!



[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!



[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.



[MWXC](#):

Marine Weather Center's Chris Parker provides high-value-added forecasts, briefings, and personalized routing guidance for all our rallies, all included in your Rally fee. MWXC can also provide these forecasts outside of the rallies, on an economical Annual, Monthly, or per-forecast basis, and by the communications method(s) you prefer, including SSB Voice, email, phone, or fax.



[JOIN](#)

Thank You for Your Participation!



Instagram



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