



# Dawg Tales Newsletter



*SV Kalli*

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## From the Helm

Broadband at sea? Who knew?

I have been thinking recently about all the changes that have come to the cruising community in the decades Brenda and I began sailing together. It wasn't all that long ago, for those of a "certain age," that electronics onboard were mostly limited to a few cabin lights and a VHF. Forget navigation equipment beyond perhaps Loran or an RDF. If you were a "real" cruiser, you found your way around using a sextant. Just a few years back the Iridium Go was the hottest new thing. In this year's rally, nearly every boat in the fleet had one. The Predict Wind maps and routing software were a game changer and great addition to Chris Parker's forecasts.

In the months leading up to the departure of this year's rally I learned that a few boats had installed Starlink, but I didn't think much about it. All that changed for me when one of the Bahamas rally boats called in for a Zoom weather briefing. They were on passage, 200 miles north of the Bahamas, and while the rest of us were using sketchy marina WiFi or cell data to connect, there they were on video, clear as day, with a view of their wake streaming to the horizon.

So, here I am just a few months later and it seems like every other boat around us here in Antigua has Starlink and are enjoying streaming video. A common question that I get when folks are preparing for the rally is "What sort of connectivity is there in the Caribbean?" The answer was always about a mix of WiFi hotspots and the best options for cellular, island by island. Starlink changes all that with its low entry price and reasonable monthly charge.

The pace of change in every aspect of our lives continues to accelerate and none will have more of an impact on the cruising community than inexpensive broadband internet. The need to stay in touch with aging parents, grandchildren, or with customers for those who are still working is more critical than ever. Now that I have seen this amazing service first hand, I just had to get one and a fellow Dawg is bringing mine down soon. By the time you read this Pandora will be connected.

I can't wait.

*Bob Osborn, SDSA President*



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## Cruising Articles

### Sailing Stories from Antigua

By John Hagen

Sitting in the cockpit of S/V ILEANA amongst the mega yachts as the sun sets reminds me of absolutely nothing experienced in my former life as a surgeon. It is a warm evening with a rare westerly breeze blowing gently from the stern. The biggest worry is trying to decide whether it is better to wander over to the Antigua Yacht Club to the mega yacht party and listen to the band or to stay put on our comfortable cushioned cockpit and listen to the music floating across the wharf while playing backgammon. My wife Ileana and I had just returned from visiting another boat and told sailing stories with our new Salty Dawgs friends.



John Hagen, S/V ILEANA



One skipper in our group recounted having a brush with a catamaran while at anchor the previous night. The skipper of the catamaran decided to improve his positioning because the winds were changing and ended up swinging into his boat at 12:30 in the morning. No damage was done, but it's always shocking when these bumps occur in the middle of the night.

I shared a story about how a fellow Salty Dawg was able to salvage my \$13,000 water maker. It had stopped making water halfway across the trip to Antigua. I explained that at one point I had to stop the boat so we could jump into the ocean to wash off the grime and sweat. (My crew later told me that they were having concerns about the state of my mental health when they witnessed a bald, naked senior citizen jumping off a sailboat 800 miles from the closest land.) I slyly suggested that he come over for a beverage, and before he knew it, he found himself wedged under the settee in the main salon making adjustments. After a few minutes, it was all over with the water maker pumping out 1 liter a minute of pure filtered water.

Another Captain recounted a problem he experienced while at anchor earlier on that morning. A cable wrapped around his rudder earlier that was preventing him from moving his boat. There was a new swimming area off pigeon beach that was cabled off, but in the shifting winds, his boat became wrapped around the cable. He described in detail how he was able to salvage the situation with minimal damage.



We talked about the best places to visit from Antigua, whether to sail south to Guadeloupe or north to Saint Barts and St. Martin. We also discussed the anchorages in St. Lucia and Bequia. We also discussed the best islands on which we could provision food and beverages.



Despite all our stories and adversities of our various boats, we were in complete agreement that there was nowhere else on earth we would rather be at this moment. None of us could say with certainty which anchorage we were going to head for or when, or which direction we would be heading, and none of us knew when we would all meet again. We did know that we are all in for a lifetime of adventure over the next few months and there was happiness and satisfaction that we were all in a good place.





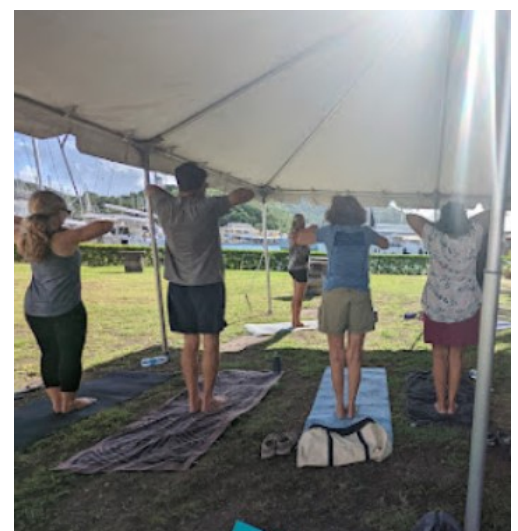
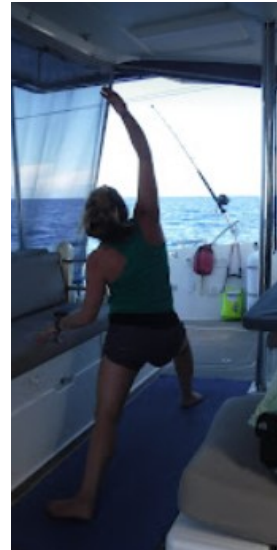
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North Sails Antigua  
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Ladies Lunches!



Caribbean Rally 2022—Yoga Pics!!!







## Dawgs Helping Dogs

*By Cindy Petelinkar*

While shopping with Salty Dawg friends near Nelsons Dockyard in Antigua (or more accurately seeking the next rum swizzler locale), Barb Carlson (S/V Act Three) picked up a Rescue Dogs of Antigua Calendar from an outside table. “Why don’t you bring a pup home”, she says joking, or was she? Teara Carr (crew for S/V Act Three and owner of S/V Gypsy Sol) added, I planned to fly back to the states in 2 days and was feeling quite chill after the journey to Antigua, enjoying everything and open for anything, so truly why not? Besides, if I reach out, it is doubtful the rescue could organize this in less than 48 hours, so I thought.



**Cindy Petelinkar**



I was determined to do my due diligence. That evening, I googled the Dogs and Cats of Antigua (DCOA) and completed their buddy travel form. Within minutes, and I mean mere minutes, I received a text. “Hey do you have WhatsApp?” a local number asked. “Yes” I respond. “Can you talk?” I see moments later in my WhatsApp. “Sure” I say.

Oh no, what did I do? During this conversation I expressed concern of bringing a puppy through US Customs and we talked through all the “What ifs.” It was obvious they were a well-oiled machine for this “puppy mule” process. If I wasn’t committed yet, any doubts dissipated when the next WhatsApp message came, a picture of the to-be transported cutest puppy named Ti Punch (going to have to change that name).

The adventure and do-good deed begins. Diamond (named after S/V Dreamweaver’s Captain), formerly known as Ti Punch, was brought to the VC Bird International Airport by her foster mom, along with a DCOA rescue team member who provided a dog carrier and pad liners, leash, harness and vet signed paperwork with vaccination status. They assisted me at check-in providing a credit card to pay the USD \$125 pet fee. They were thrilled when I offered to take care of that fee as a donation.

This is going to be a long trip with a puppy crying, NOT! Two 3 hour flights and a 2 hour Miami layover where I could let her out of her carry case. It was totally uneventful. No one knew the bag on my shoulder or under my seat contained a cute pup. Not even a whimper.

With Global Entry, I progressed through to the computer terminals, entered my information, and was immediately waved through. Wait. What? No request to see the pups paperwork? No inspection for foaming at the mouth, ticks, fleas? Nope. All good to go.

I considered keeping this pup, wasn’t it meant to be? I requested to keep her overnight although the rescue in the US was prepared to pick her up at Philadelphia airport at midnight when I landed.







I did not want to part from such cuteness, but considering I plan to do more Salty Dawg rallies in the near-term, it made sense she be adopted by another party. I turned her over to a foster family who adopted an Antigua pup last year. And now they have two: they formally adopted Diamond too!



Would I do it again? Absolutely! Although next time, I plan to be more forthcoming relinquishing the puppy quicker to the new foster family. Or so I say.

What a great deed to do, especially around the holidays. They say giving is always better than receiving, and it truly is! For more information, please feel free to contact me at [cindyjpetelinkar@gmail.com](mailto:cindyjpetelinkar@gmail.com) of DCOA directly

(<https://www.dogsandcatsofantigua.com/about-us>)

Just do it! Salty Dawgs to the Rescue! Kudos go out to crew from S/V Miss T, S/V Zephyr and S/V La Vie, all who also brought pups back to the states.

Tips: In MIA, terminal D has a service dog station with fake grass. Do NOT feed the pup before boarding. Trust me: you are better off not. Have a small dish to pour water into for drinking during layovers or in the terminal prior to the departure. Extra paper towels are key to clean up any messes, or ask for more pad liners. Ask for some puppy food, just to have when you get to the other side.

Travel Buddy form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwjO2wSUEHcndL43WY4waH9r4L7BAY0hysNJmifjy1nf7Hxw/viewform>

Technical Article

Top 10 Gadgets

By Arden & Jim Bradley

We have been sailing and living on our sailboat Kalli for 3 years and recently completed our 3<sup>rd</sup> Salty Dawg rally to Antigua. We have sailed from the Caribbean to Maine and have come to value certain gadgets and appliances on our boat. We thought we would share with you our top 10 favorites. You may not agree that some of these are necessary – these are things that we value. We would like to hear if you have other gadgets that you would place on your list!



Jim & Arden Bradley, S/V Kalli

**1. Dometic refrigerator/freezer:** In Dominica two years ago, we developed a pinhole leak in our cooling plate of our frigiboat refrigerator. Suddenly, we were without refrigeration in the tropics – the freezer kept the refrigerator somewhat cool – but a backup unit would have been nice. The Dometic can function as a refrigerator or freezer and can run on AC or DC. We put in a 12 v perko plug to run the unit on DC power. We use it for additional storage and have a cushion on top – it blends in and we use it as a bench seat in our salon. Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/e3wQvpK>

**2. Rainman watermaker:** We plan to cross the Pacific and wanted a backup to our permanently installed Spectra watermaker. The Rainman runs on gasoline (she sips only a pint or so for 27 – 35 gallons of water/hour ). We mounted the membranes on a wall in our head and run the tubes from the membranes out to the deck through the bathroom window. The whole setup takes only minutes. It performed so well that we started using this as our primary watermaker. Be sure



to use a fuel stabilizer to prevent clogging of fuel in the carburetor lines between uses. We use sodium bisulfite to pickle the water filters and membranes after each use. You simply add a few tablespoons to 10 liters of water you have just made and let it run through the watermaker – easy!  
<https://www.rainmandesal.com/>

**3. Handheld depthsounder:** this runs on batteries. It is especially valuable in the Bahamas where the water can get skinny. We sometimes scout out an anchorage or cove in the dinghy with the handheld depthsounder before pulling Kalli in to anchor. It is also useful to program the offset of the boats depthsounder.  
<https://a.co/d/gz0oMzw>

**4. Yeti 400 lithium battery:** we use this portable battery to power and charge a number of devices including laptops, Ipads, phones, In Reach, and Iridium GO. We charge the Yeti battery with portable solar panels. It can also charge if you have access to AC power at dockside. The Yeti has a number of outputs including a standard AC outlet, 12 volt cigarette lighter connector and 12 volt USB outlets for your devices. It is the size of a lunchbox and is truly portable with a carrying handle.  
 Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/1cQSyej>

**5. Jackery SolarSaga 100W solar panel:** this is a portable solar panel we use to charge our Yeti lithium battery. The real beauty of this panel is the ability to charge devices directly from the solar panel. There are two outputs – a standard USB output and a USB lightning output that fast charges ipads and laptops.  
 Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/6FgJWQ8>

**6. Sena headsets:** yes, these are truly marriage savers. This has improved our communication and docking. To those who have seen us dock and are not impressed, all I can say is you should have seen us before we had these headsets. They are rechargeable and communicate via Bluetooth.  
 Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/hRoDhPJ>

**7. Solar powered Luci lights:** these dangle from the bimini and dodger supports and add some atmosphere to our dinners and cocktail hours when the sun goes down. It also helps us find our way back to our boat on dark nights in crowded anchorages (think Georgetown on a new moon).  
 Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/3EfKMC0>

**8. Groco freshwater flush fittings:** these install on the raw water lines to the engine and generator. If we will not be using the engine or generator for a while, we fill a bucket with freshwater and saltaway solution (West Marine), run a hose from the bucket to the freshwater Groco fitting, close the seacock, and run the freshwater through the engine and generator. It takes no more than 5 or 10 minutes for the whole procedure. We are convinced this adds years of life to your cooling system, heat exchanger, siphon loops, and exhaust elbows.  
 Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/iHGnbxC>

**9. Seagull water filter:** this makes drinking water from our tanks enjoyable without the aftertaste! Yes, they are costly but they are worth it. Ideally, a separate faucet in the galley just for drinking water.  
 Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/h1rA9Ui>

**10. Sodastream:** this was my wife's pick – although I confess I have become a convert. This allows one to carbonate water and comes with a variety of flavoring liquids. We can also make tonic water – essential on our boat to go with Antiguan rum or Malibu! If you enjoy carbonated beverages, it will be difficult to stay stocked with your favorite Pepsi, Coke, Pelligrino, or Ting in the Caribbean or Bahamas.  
 Amazon.com <https://a.co/d/0tSLs9u>

Well – that is our top 10. We would like to hear from you if you have other suggestions that you value. After all, part of the fun is learning what has worked for other cruisers





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!

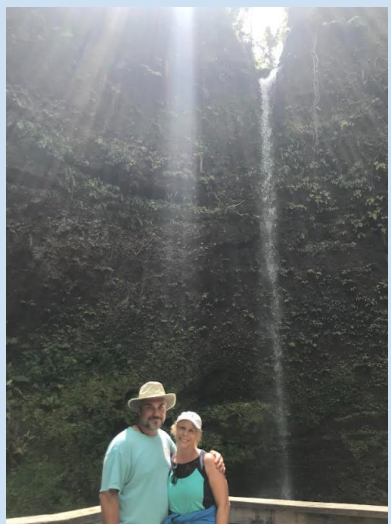


### CARIBBEAN RALLY

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.



## Dominica Pics!



## Events Calendar

### Two Salty Dawg opportunities in Dominica!!!



**Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services (PAYS)  
Welcomes**

### **Salty Dawg Sailing Association (SDSA) Caribbean Rally – Dominica Rendezvous**

9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Prince Rupert Bay, Portsmouth, Commonwealth of Dominica

**Contact:** Lynn on S/V Roxy [Lynn@saltydawgsailing.org](mailto:Lynn@saltydawgsailing.org)

Schedule [HERE](#)

**&**

### **PAYS Yachtie Appreciation Week**

**March 19-26**

Salty Dawg Port Captains Brian & Shelly Stork will host all Salty Dawgs for fun and fellowship with the friendly people in Dominica. It is a special week for PAYS, a local organization that promotes yachting tourism and provides security in the harbor. Yachtie Appreciation Week affords food, music, tours, and free moorings. Our PAYS hosts will take good care of us with their knowledge of local flora, Dominican culture, and some local culinary delights. They also offer great tours. We will keep an eye on the horizon for your sails!

**Contact:** Brian & Shelly Stork on S/V Aria [brianoceansailing@gmail.com](mailto:brianoceansailing@gmail.com)



### *Martinique Carnival Rendezvous*

Fort de France February 16 –21

Parades, Music, & Fun!

**Contact:** Bob on S/V Pandora [Bob@saltydawgsailing.org](mailto:Bob@saltydawgsailing.org)

### **Salty Dawg Exuma Rendezvous 2023!!!**

Exumas April 22 - 27



Join the Dawgs in the Exumas at Staniel Cay Yacht Club, Thunderbolt Grotto, the Pigs, Rachels's Bubble Bath (Bring Your Own Champagne), The Aquarium, Pipe Creek, and Warderick Wells. Space is limited.

**Contact:** Kathy on S/V Island Time [kathyk@saltydawgsailing.org](mailto:kathyk@saltydawgsailing.org)

### **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.





### Rick Palm Recognized for Lifetime Service.



Congratulations to Rick Palm on receiving a special *Lifetime Achievement Award* by the board of directors of the Salty Dawg Sailing Association. You may know Rick from his years on the SDSA board and as a frequent participant on our Zoom webinars. Rick has extensive blue water cruising experience having sailed tens of thousands of ocean miles, lead and participated in many rallies and completed a circumnavigation with his wife Julie.

Rick has been involved with SDSA since it's founding more than ten years ago and was also active in the Caribbean 1,500 rallies.

*"Rick's contribution to SDSA and the blue water cruising community over the years is unequalled. I doubt that there is any individual that has been involved in more rallies as a participant or leader than Rick. There is no one that better represents the values of SDSA of "sailors helping sailors" than Rick Palm."*

Bob Osborn, President, SDSA

*"Rick is someone who has actively put into practice the motto of Salty Dawgs, Sailors helping Sailors. We are all the beneficiaries of that service."*

Jo Barnes, SDSA BOD

*"Rick has always had a very high standard of seamanship and as an example, a mentor and friend to fellow cruisers he has passed that standard on to hundreds in the cruising community."*

George Day, Publisher, Blue Water Sailing.

The plaque reads: Lifetime Achievement Award, Presented to Richard Palm, Blue Water Sailor, Leader, Friend. In recognition of a lifetime dedicated to sailors helping sailors, 2022.

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your  
boat  
on the cover?

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## Thank you to the Dawgs!



After a loss of steering 300 nm north of Antigua, Soulemate was met on December 9 in English Harbor by the dinghy armada and numerous Dawgs who pushed us to the dock. It was such a welcome sight after a tough passage! Thanks to everyone who welcomed us. You all are simply the best.

Karen and David Soule  
SV Soulemate."



# Nautical Notes!



## Feeling Blue

Many folks use this phrase when referencing sadness. It originated when a ship lost its captain, the crew flew blue flags and painted a blue line on her hull.



"Are you making Mahi Mahi?"



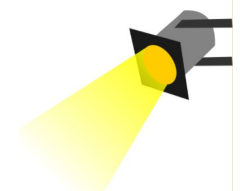
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# Salty Dawg Volunteer Spotlight

Bill Woodroffe



**Home Port:** Brooklyn, NY (or wherever we drop the hook)

**Boat:** KALUNAMOO - 47' Vagabond Ketch

**Volunteer Years:** Since 2013

**Interests:** Anything sailing and technology



Bill & Maureen

## How do you volunteer with the Dawgs?

Linda and Bill Knowles introduced us to their rally when we decided to sail to the Caribbean after 2 seasons in the Bahamas. We owned and sailed for over 30 years at that time, and lived aboard part time for 5 years, but when retirement came we became full time liveaboard cruisers. Volunteering was encouraged from the start with the Dawgs: VHF radio nets, organizing ad-hoc gatherings at The Bitter End YC, etc. In short order, cruisers realize that cruising is a social endeavor as much as a sailing adventure. We prefer the Eastern Caribbean as our "home." We enjoy meeting new Dawgs and introducing them to this lifestyle and answering questions from boat parts, VHF/SSB radio nets, to weather forecasts. Also, I am always looking for those who can play any musical instrument, and to organize non-professional jam sessions. A free musical burgee is given to all those who play aboard KALUNAMOO (I play the keyboard)! Rallies, by their very nature, are social events and we are glad to see all the participants enjoying this adventurous lifestyle and experiencing blue water sailing.

## Our Sponsor Highlights



Blue Heron Lithium Battery LLC

A US company with US inventory, extensive energy-planning expertise, and ready technical support. Our lithium batteries have long-life deep-cycle prismatic cells, proven by over 11 years aboard cruising boats and still going strong. Feature robust BMS monitoring 52 performance and safety parameters, and Bluetooth access;

designed by long term sailors for challenging cruising conditions; modular and integrated designs for best-fit options; tested to the highest international standards (UL, ISO, DOT, UN, CE, RoHS); use only safe LiFePO4 chemistry; competitive prices with a special Salty Dawg discount. [www.BlueHeronBattery.com](http://www.BlueHeronBattery.com)



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