

Dawg Tales

Newsletter



*A Salty Dawg Sunset
2018 Rally to Maine*

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From the Helm

Hello Salty Dawgs,

If you are like me you paid close attention to the long, drawn out spectacle of Hurricane Florence. This slow moving storm left an extensive trail of devastation. But, when a system as large and powerful as Florence comes along, we are reminded of the unpredictability of the forces of nature. It reinforces a practice and mindset of successful offshore sailors - be ready for conditions to change and for them every once in a while to be worse than predicted. It is just prudent sailing preparation.

I am sure some of our Members and subscribers were directly affected by Hurricane Florence. We do have a good number in the North Carolina and South Carolina areas. We hope you've been able to avoid storm damage, and if not, that you find a path to getting your lives back together quickly.

As we look to the fall season, I hope many of our Members and subscribers are making plans to see us at the [Annapolis Sailboat Show](#), to join us at the [Annapolis Rendezvous](#), and to attend our great [Bluewater Essentials Seminar](#) in Annapolis. This is our seventh year with the Rendezvous, and we welcome all blue water sailors. We have another great speaker, and an incredibly inexpensive BBQ dinner. And, if you can, please come along in this year's [Fall Rally to the Caribbean](#), leaving from Essex CT and Hampton VA. Check out inside this edition for links to more details on these great events, and to register now for the Seminar, Rendezvous and Fall Rally. All are fantastic events!

We also have great coverage of our recent Rallies to Maine and Nova Scotia. Seale and I thoroughly enjoyed these adventures with some special Members. Make plans to join these events next year. And, check out the cruising article in this issue about cruising in Norway this summer, neat stuff!

But for now, be sure to slip the lines and get in some fine fall sailing.



*Cheers - Hank George
President, SDSA*



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Cruising Article

Rally to Maine Review

By Kelly & Ralf Provant, s/v *Iolair*

On July 9, 2018, we set sail on our 47 ft Valiant, *Iolair*, from Indian Creek in Virginia, to experience a wonderful set of firsts: our first opportunity to live aboard with our 2 grown sons and their border collie; our first weather report to include a tropical storm turned hurricane; our first encounter with Maine fog and lobster pots; and our first experience in a Salty Dawg Rally.

Two weeks later, we continued to cruise as liveaboards, as our boys returned to their land lives, and our new Salty Dawg friends spread out across Penobscot Bay. Reflecting on our 2-week adventure with the rally brings fond memories and invaluable learning experiences.

Having met Hank George and Brian Murray several weeks before departure, we immediately had a comfort with the "Salty Dawg" approach to rallies and the level of experience with which we'd be sailing. Guidance and suggestions were readily available and we were full of questions. But decision-making and captaining were left to us, an approach that we wanted. A thorough weather and routing briefing was held prior to departure, and weather updates were available each morning. During the sail, several boats were close enough to provide support and 'comfort' but we still gained a sense of independence and confidence.

The rally included boats of many shapes and sizes, with wonderful folks from all walks of life. The camaraderie was as we hoped: sailing through the night together, happy hours on boat decks, detailed discussions of generators and SSB issues, and overlong discussions around "did your dog go"? With sailors from different backgrounds and boats, it was helpful to hear unique approaches and opinions on various subjects. We could then venture on our own and make decisions that were right for us and our boat.



A highlight of the trip was the music. Not just local music festivals, but our own guitar and banjo picking with our new friends aboard *Aria*. We took turns hosting friends from nearby boats, singing oldies and well as shanties late into the evenings. A great way to meet sailors and enjoy a bit of wine!

One fond memory occurred during a 'hunkered down' day, with rain and wind, when our boys wrote a tune named "Mooring Ball Blues". The boys sang it that evening at our music get-together and were then requested to play at our rally dinner in Rockland. With *Iolair's* guitarists and vocals, teamed up with *Aria's* banjo player and singer, (and a few words changed), it was a hit for the Rockland Yacht Club.

We found that cruising sailors typically like to meet their neighbors, and the Salty Dawg rally gave us a fantastic head start. Our Salty Dawg group also had a wealth of information about wonderful anchorages and marinas in Maine. With the rally, we visited two of them, Pulpit Harbor and Seal Harbor. After the rally, we continued to Eggemoggin Reach, Brooklin Harbor, and Frenchboro, all recommended by our new friends. *Aria* and *Iolair* adventured and took the music as far Downeast as Roque Island.

We were lucky to have wonderful weather during our time in Maine. Having avoided the weather of Hurricane Chris at the start, the result was low wind and motoring for most of our trip to Maine. Unfortunate, but it gave us more time to focus on charts, night shifts, and ocean traffic. And we were able to sneak in an exhilarating stretch with the spinnaker. Regardless of the conditions, there is always something to learn.



Pulpit Harbor Dinghy Dock



Seal Harbor Raft-Up

As new full-time liveaboards, we're becoming accustomed to this life with all its responsibilities, challenges, and fun times. With the successful season in Maine and passage back to the Chesapeake Bay under our belt, we're preparing to head to the Caribbean in November. With the support of the Salty Dawg Rally of course!

See More Maine Photos [HERE](#)

Send Photos [HERE](#)



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Pics & Fun

2018 Rally to Maine!



Norwegian Summer

by Molly, Baxter & Kala Gillespie, s/v Terrapin

Editorial Note:

Salty Dawg Members Molly & Baxter Gillespie have participated in many Salty Dawg events, including the Fall Rally to the Caribbean and the Rally to Cuba, before venturing across the Atlantic to Europe. Many thanks to Molly and Baxter for sharing their adventures.

After crossing the Atlantic from Newfoundland to A Coruna, Spain in the summer of 2017, we found ourselves spending the winter in Plymouth, England. The unexpected March snow was clearing and our six-month reservation at Sutton Harbour Marina was coming to an end. It was time to put a plan together for the summer. Would we go north or south from the UK? South would be a slow nine-month crawl to the Canary Islands. But north. North was full of possibilities.



We had heard a great deal about Scotland and Norway, specifically the Lofoten Islands. There was an Ocean Cruising Club Scottish Open House in May and coincidentally, a great [BASE jumping](#) event in Lysebotn, Norway in June. With full-hearted motivation, a strong boat and a hardy crew, we pointed the bow north and set off.

Norway was also a great place to explore as we would not have pet concerns with our Collie/Labrador mix, Kala, beyond the normal EU Pet Passport regulations, which have been met and exceeded. We set out of Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands on a 090 course on June 15, 2018 with two teenaged nephews onboard as crew. Crossing the Prime Meridian during the voyage, we arrived in the Eastern Hemisphere in Stavanger, Norway 50 hours and 290 miles later.

Leaving Stavanger, we hopped north to Haugesund, then onto Bergen and then an overnight passage to the island of Runde, near Ålesund. Runde is a brilliant bird sanctuary, home to great skuas, gannets, gulls, kittiwakes, blue herons, and hundreds of thousands of puffins. Puffins make their summer nests in the rocky cliffs on the south side of the island and a one-hour hike in the midnight sun puts you within a foot of these amazing picturesque, relatively small feathered phenomena.



From Runde, it was on to Ålesund. A two-day passage from there took us on a sleigh-ride with the northerly current that runs along the Norwegian coast across 66 degrees, thirty-three minutes north latitude into The Arctic Circle. The Traena Island Group, which lies thirty miles offshore from the mainland, has a dramatic skyline with caves and mountains ready to be explored. We visited anchorages and small villages in Nordland and Helgeland including Bodø, Rodøya, Tjøtta, and Nordskot. One of



the most incredible anchorages was a small island group that resembled the Caribbean of Norway called Indre Vettesoyant.

At a latitude of 68 degrees north, lies the Lofoten Islands. An entire summer could be spent just exploring this four hundred square mile archipelago. With a struggle between time and a high level of interest, we spent three weeks visiting Henningsvaer, Lille Molle, Gullvika, Trollfjorden, Stamsund and the small anchorage of Kunna, near Reine. With warm sunshine, thanks to the Arctic High, we barely remembered we were at a more northern latitude, by almost 250 miles, than even Nuuk, Greenland.

Towards the end of July, alas, we headed south in and out of



2018 Rally to Maine!



Raft-Up Fun!



Waiting for Fog to Clear



Fantastic Meals



Great Scenery!



Good Friends—Great Music!

fjords along the coast. Little did we realize we had saved one of the best outdoor enthusiast's spots for last. In a small town called Åndalsnes, a new hike or climb or BASE jump could be done daily for weeks and never the same one twice. A few of the other favorites along the southern route included Bud, Molde and Florø.

We left Florø west across The North Sea bound for Scotland. It proved difficult in late August to find a 48-hour weather window without a southwesterly component. We consulted with a weather router and remained flexible on the destination, using Lerwick, Stromness, Stornoway, Kirkwall and Wick all as possible options. While we were offshore with wind and current in control, we made the decision to carry on to Wick, Scotland arriving approximately 60 hours after leaving Florø.

The summer in Norway took us to thirty-three anchorages in sixty-seven days and a third of that time spent above the Arctic Circle. The views from anchorages and hikes over small towns were unbelievably breathtaking. All of the passages, docks and towns were accessible with standard European considerations for propane, power and fueling. We used Navionics for our charts and every rock seemed to be in the charted location with precision accuracy.

Our Norwegian summer took us further north than we could have ever planned when we crossed the Atlantic. Norway broadened our horizons and provided an experience never to be forgotten.



Rally to Nova Scotia

by Seale & Hank George, s/v Flash

This was one of the most memorable and enchanting rallies we have ever participated in. In warm and unusually foggy weather for August, 10 vessels began congregating in Rockland, Maine early in the month. We had a great pre-departure gathering August 7th, overlooking the Rockland Harbor. Upstairs at the Landings Restaurant and with our own private bar, lasting Salty Dawg friendships were started for many and renewed for several others.

Early the next morning we departed Rockland in thick fog, which lifted a bit at times offshore. About mid-morning, a call came in over VHF from Vessel *Dawn*. They had struck a submerged object in deep water, and with concern about possible damage at the shaft seal and possibly to the prop, they turned around to head for Stonington, Maine. It was clearly a disappointment for Dutch and Elaine to miss going to Nova Scotia. Also, it was a hit to the rally as Dutch was the Fleet Captain for the Rally, and had worked countless hours in arranging activities in Nova Scotia. It fell to us on *Flash* to step in and coordinate rally activities. But, that is the way Salty Dawg Rallies work – sailors helping other sailors. So the fleet pressed on through the day, overnight approaching Nova Scotia, passing Cape Sable Island near dawn, and by early afternoon – all had arrived in Shelburne!



Salty Dawgs in Halifax, Nova Scotia



Thanks to Sponsor Cruising Solutions

Our visit to Nova Scotia over the next almost two weeks had so many great memories, we can't detail them. But, here is a synopsis: sighting offshore scores of the unusual large, flopping Atlantic Sunfish; lobster-pot free waters all along Nova Scotia in the summer; a special welcome dinner shared with members of Shelburne Yacht Club; chart briefing and complimentary breakfast by Salty Dawg sponsors, Cruising Solutions (conveniently based in Shelburne, NS) and Mazu-Marine; the picturesque waterfront of Lunenburg, right in the middle of the big Annual Lunenburg Harborfest with jazz music performances daily around town, and a Salty Dawg pot-luck dinner aboard *Flash*; a friendly welcome at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron and awesome sighting-seeing in Halifax; and, then there was Cape Breton Isle.

After passing through the efficiently run St. Peter's Canal: another warm welcome by locals with a hosted hors d'oeuvres spread at St. Peters Marina, Cape Breton Island; beautiful, enchanting lunch stop anchorages at the Crammond Islands and in Maskells Harbour; idyllic sailing on the large,





uncrowded, and incredibly scenic Bras d'Or lakes (called an inland sea by the locals); gracious hospitality and organizing by Paul Jamieson and Brianne Lynch of Sailing CBI all across Nova Scotia; a memorable fleet procession (with Sailing CBI leading in their catamaran) in front of waving Baddeck towns'-folk (some ringing bells) and Bras d'Or Yacht Club Members (with air-horn salute as each yacht passed) – it made us feel special, and above all, like welcome visitors; a friendly happy hour and dinner with Members of Bras d'Or YC; a visit to the first-class Alexander Grahame Bell Museum in Baddeck; a full-day tour around the Cape Breton Isle Cabot Trail, with quaint French (Acadian), Celtic and English sea-side villages and harbors, and awesome views in the highlands; large banners welcoming the Salty Dawgs at every stop; and, a wonderful grand-finale dinner at the Inverary Resort, Baddeck, hosted by the Friends of Cape Breton Island.



s/v Galileo & Fiisky on Bras d'Or Lakes

If you have never experienced the Nova Scotia's beauty, historic towns, dramatic coastline, the pristine Bras d'Or Lakes, and above all the warm, welcoming people, you have to do the Salty Dawg Rally to Nova Scotia. And, if you have experienced this, do it again – it is that special!

[See More Nova Scotia Photos HERE](#)

[Send Photos HERE](#)

Forecast for Safe Seas

by USCG Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua L. Canup

Editorial Note:

We are grateful for the support of the US Coast Guard during our Fall and Spring rallies. The US Coast Guard closely monitors our "Follow The Fleet" Tracking Map 24x7 in their Control Center to ensure our safety. In case of emergency, your properly registered EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon) and the Salty Dawg "Follow The Fleet" Tracking Map, which is updated twice daily, will be the tools that best assist the Coast Guard in a Search and Rescue operation. The following article discusses some precautions you can take to further ensure your safety.



Summer brings a forecast of smooth sailing and fun times for many, but through the eyes of the men and women who coordinate search and rescue, weather is stormier than some mariners realize.

"It's usually something you already think is safe, that's good to go until it's too late," said Geoffrey Pagels, a search and rescue specialist at the U.S. Coast Guard's Fifth District Command Center in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Having spent over 20 years in the field of search and rescue, Pagels knows the oceans and its tributaries can be very unforgiving. Mariners who have missed a few simple precautions have found themselves in much greater danger when the calamity strikes. He and his crew stand the watch in the command center, waiting for the next distress call, as he reflects on ways that mariners think they are prepared when, in fact, they are not.

UPDATE YOUR EPIRB REGISTRATION

A common misstep for mariners is to forget to keep their Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon, or EPIRBs, updated online. An EPIRB is a satellite based distress beacon that can alert responders when activated.



"Often times, mariners will buy a new EPIRB and get it on board but forget to register it, which is a problem itself," said Pagels. "However, when you register an EPIRB and don't update, then we have a false alarm that will call you, even if you've traded it away. It's like a visit to the DMV, you've got to keep your information updated."

A properly registered EPIRB can make a world of difference in an emergency, as well. Pagels recalls one such incident where two fishermen who took the same path every time they went out decided to change course one day and got stuck in a storm. Tossing their EPIRB overboard, the Coast Guard was alerted, called their registered cell phone and arrived shortly.

"It's as easy as pulling a tab," said Pagels. "In about three minutes, we have your location and all the information that goes along with that, including your home address, phone number, and other numbers you can be reached at. But if your registry is old, that information might be wrong."





s/v Expedition Heading Back from Maine



Hoisting the Colors



Rockland Maine



Hiking Maine

Don't Miss the 2019 Rally to Maine!

According to another Fifth District search and rescue specialist, Thomas Botzenhart, there are already cases that show the value of a registered EPIRB.

"Earlier in April, we received a distress signal from the sailing vessel Miniskirt" said Botzenhart. "Because the beacon was properly registered, our command center personnel were able to speak with the vessel's owner who confirmed it was non-distress, and the beacon was lost overboard as a result of heavy weather. This allowed D5 to reserve valuable resource hours for an actual distress case."

INFORM YOUR PRIMARY EPIRB CONTACT

As a second step, be sure to tell the contact you list in your EPIRB Registration when and where you are leaving from, going to and coming back. In a crisis, your contact can quickly inform the US Coast Guard about your voyage, vessel, and approximate location. Even in familiar waters, something can go wrong and having that information in place helps rescuers find you.

"While people usually plan to go from point A to point B, for whatever reason they get off course, take a rogue wave, it swamps the boat and later we're looking for a boat," says Pagels. "An updated EPIRB can make a huge difference in finding that boat quickly."

Remembering these details can be the difference between a safe return to shore and tragedy. Registering an EPIRB as well as keeping it up to date, informing the contact listed in your EPIRB registration of your whereabouts and double-checking your gear are all ways to make sure that the voyage out is forecasted as smooth seas.

How To Operate and Use Your ICOM M-802

Practical Hands-On Video Instruction Series

By John R. MacDougall

I hear and read HF radio complaints quite often. This thing or the other "just doesn't work right" and "I should have saved my money." The most common problem is simply the lack of user knowledge/expertise to make the bloody stuff work right!!! Unless you're a "radio nut" and an electronics professional, you probably haven't had the opportunity to be trained in "how-to-use" these systems, and certainly many fellow sailors, cruisers, and voyagers are not well versed enough in these matters to make optimal use of them.



After spending many an hour banging away at the keyboard, trying to help fellow sailors with radio and electronics issues, it dawned on me that there are 1) People you can hire to install these systems (and a small number of those may actually know what they are doing), 2) People you can hire to repair these systems (mostly just parts-changers, though), and of course no shortage of 3) People who will sell you even more "stuff" (systems to put on-board). Yet there's hardly anyone around to instruct you on how to actually use the radio.

I felt the need to fill the void. So, I spent a couple hours, over a couple days, recording some instruction videos. This is an area in which I'm well qualified and experienced; that is HF Radio Communications, and specifically, Maritime HF Comms. The videos will help make you comfortable and competent with the use, operation, and programming of the Icom M-802 Marine HF-SSB-DSC Transceiver for Voice and DSC communication.

I'd like to share the videos with you. We'll cover the Icom M-802, HF frequency/channel choice, radiowave propagation, RFI, DSC-Distress Calling, HF-Voice Safety Calling, Ship-to-Shore Radiotelephone Calling, and more.

These are not "installation" videos. These are designed to teach how best to use your HF radio, whether at sea, at anchor, or at the dock.

*Each video is 15 minutes in length and requires an Internet connection for viewing.
We suggest you complete reading this newsletter then return to view the videos.*

[ICOM M-802 Video 1](#)

[ICOM M-802 Video 2](#)

***Want to learn more about Preparing for Being Offshore?
Check out our website Education Library...***

***Preparing For Offshore
Required & Recommended Equipment***



2018 Rally to Nova Scotia!



Cocktail Hour aboard s/v Flash



Schooner Bluenose II



Chart Briefing at St. Peter's



s/v Pelican Express in Lunenburg



Nova Scotia Lobster Traps



Sponsor Spotlight

MAPTECH

Whether your passion is cruising, fishing, day-sailing, or anything else that involves getting from one place to another, **MAPTECH**® helps make your time on the water more enjoyable and a whole lot easier. Thank you MAPTECH for your support, partnership and contributions to the SDSA!



BLUEWATER YACHTING CENTER

Special thanks to **BLUEWATER YACHTING CENTER** for hosting our Fall Rally pre-departure Activities. Bluewater Yachting Center is the best docking destination along the Southern Chesapeake Bay providing premier amenities such as dockage, haul-out, service and meals. Check into Bluewater today!



Coming Events

October 3rd

[Essentials of Blue Water Sailing Seminar, Annapolis, MD](#)

October 4th

[7th Annual Annapolis Rendezvous, Annapolis, MD](#)

October 4th—8th

[Visit our Salty Dawg Booth at the Annapolis Sailboat Show](#)

October 26th

[Pre-Departure Fall Rally Events, Hampton, VA](#)

October 29th

[Fall Rally to the Caribbean Departure, Essex, CT](#)

November 1st

[Halloween Rendezvous, Hampton, VA](#)

November 3rd

[Fall Rally to the Caribbean Departure, Hampton, VA](#)

All sailors are invited to attend our SDSA events. Each event is a great time to share sea stories and learn from others — to catch up with old friends and make new ones. [CLICK HERE](#) for more info or contact info@saltydawgsailing.org



Annapolis Rendezvous Guest Speakers
Charles & Sue Springett



Halloween Rendezvous Fun!

Recipe

Sundowner Zucchini Cakes

By Linda Witham, s/v Frisky & Toni, s/v Celestial Melody

Ingredients

3 cups shredded zucchini (squeeze out all the water/juice)

2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

2 eggs

4 Tablespoons flour

Salt, pepper, garlic powder to taste

Directions

Mix all together and drop by Tablespoon into hot canola oil.

Note: You can also substitute crab meat and/or canned corn for the zucchini.



We need your recipe!

Please send your recipe to newsletter@saltydawgsailing.org





Lobster Boat on The Hard



s/v Akula on Bras d'Or Lakes



Dinner in Shelburne



Grand Narrows, Cape Breton Isle

Check Out More Great Pics [Here!](#)



Submit Your Great Pics [Here.](#)



[Please Join Us!](#)

Member Drawing Winner!

Did you know that if you are a Salty Dawg Member you are automatically entered to win a prize in our bi-monthly Member Drawing? The prize is donated by our wonderful [sponsors](#) and the drawing is just one of many ways we show appreciation for your participation and Membership.



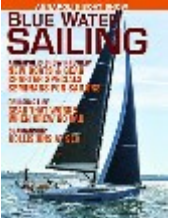
"Thanks Vacay for making my day!
And for making my vacation
wardrobe just a bit nicer than before.
Happy winds and safe sailing!" Julie

The Lucky Dawg prize winner for the recent drawing is Julie Miles and Tim McGough aboard s/v Alliance who have won a \$100

Gift Certificate from our very generous sponsor [VACAY](#). Vacay provides beautifully designed "capsule wardrobes" for women. As few as 5 or 6 basic pieces can be combined to create up to 17 different "looks" and wrinkle free outfits. Salty Dawg Members get a 30% discount! Check out the Vacay collections [HERE](#). Thank you Vacay for your contribution!

Our next Member Drawing Prize will be a free three-year subscription to [BLUE WATER SAILING MAGAZINE](#).

The winner has the choice of receiving the Subscription in print or digital form. Blue Water Sailing Magazine has been a long term sponsor and advocate of the Salty Dawg Sailing Association. Thank you Blue Water Sailing for your support!



Member Boats For Sale

We are pleased to announce a new Benefit for Salty Dawg Members! If you are selling your boat, you get a free advertisement listing in the Salty Dawg Newsletter. Contact newsletter@saltydawgsailing.org for more information.

2004 Beneteau Oceanis 473

Located in Maryland, cruise ready, fast and comfortable. s/v CHILL. [MORE INFO](#)

2004, Jeanneau 54 DS

Located in Virginia, fast and comfortable offshore cruiser. s/v SAPPHIRE. [MORE INFO](#)

2008 Hunter 45CC

Center cockpit sloop located in Virginia, ready to sail away. s/v RIVER RAT. [MORE INFO](#)

Share Your Favorite Sailing Story, Destination and Photos

We want to hear about your favorite sailing experiences so we can share them with other members. Got a favorite anchorage, island, restaurant or other memorable sailing experience? Please send your story and photos to newsletter@saltydawgsailing.org and we will publish your story so we can share with other Members and subscribers.

SDSA Members Only Benefits

Please check the [Members Only](#) section on our website to see a list of SDSA sponsors and vendors who provide product discounts to Members. You will also find a Member Directory to keep in touch with your fellow Salty Dawgs. Contact [Membership](#) if you have not received the Login password.



SDSA Crew List Service

Do you need additional crew to assist you in passaging during a Salty Dawg Rally? If so, we can assist. Are you a crew candidate who would like to crew? We are accepting candidates for all rallies now. Contact crew@saltydawgsailing.org for more information.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for making the Salty Dawg Sailing Association a success!

