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# JULY 2008 • NUMBER 154



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# **CALENDAR**

# **JULY**

- Territory Day. Public holiday in BVI
- Curação Flag Day. Public holiday in Curação Emancipation Day. Public holiday in USVI 2
- 3
- 3 11 Regatta Time in Abaco, Bahamas, www.rtia.net
- Independence Day (USA). Public holiday in Puerto Rico and USVI; Carnival in St. John, USVI
- 4 5 17th Annual Firecracker 500 Race, Tortola, BVI. West End Yacht Club (WEYC), tel (284) 495-1002, fax (284) 495-4184, mvh@surfbvi.com, www.wevc.net
- 5 Independence Day. Public holiday in Venezuela
- Bequia Fishermen's Day
- CARICOM Day. Public holiday in CARICOM countries
- 7 8 SVG Carnival "Vincy Mas" www.carnivalsvg.com
  8 22 St. Lucia Carnival. www.stlucia.org
  11 14 Premier's Cup International Youth Regatta, Tortola, BVI. Royal British Virgin Islands Yacht Club (RBVIYC), tel (284) 494-3286, rbviyc@rbviyc.com, www.rbviyc.net
- 11 20 Dominica Dive Fest. www.discoverdominica.com/site/divefest.cfm
- Clean-Up Dive, Bongire, www.dive-friends-bongire.com
- Aug 2 Tobago Heritage Festival
- 20th Bastille Kingfish Tourney, St. Thomas, USVI. (340) 774-5206

- Bastille Day, Public holiday in French West Indies
   Luís Muñoz Rivera's Birthday. Public holiday in Puerto Rico
   16 19 3rd Freelander Fishing Festival, Marina Bas-du-Fort, Guadeloupe. www.guadeloupefishingclub.com/calendrier.html
- FULL MOON
- 19 Lowell Wheatley Pursuit Race, Anegada, BVI
- 20 28 Statia Carnival
- Schoelcher Day. Public holiday in Martinique 21
- Birth of Simón Bolívar. Public holiday in Venezuela
- 24 27 USVI Lifestyle Festival, St. Thomas. www.usvimf.com
- Constitution Day. Public holiday in Puerto Rico 25 - 27 Rebellion Days. Public holiday in Cuba
- 25 Aug 5 Nevis Culturama (Carnival). www.nevisculturama.net
- 25 Aug 10 Emancipation Festival, BVI
- José Celso Barbosa's Birthday. Public holiday in Puerto Rico
- 26 Aug 5 Antigua Carnival. www.antiguacarnival.com
- 27 Aug 3 Pro Kids Windsurf Event, Bonaire
- 27 Aug 4 43rd Carriacou Regatta Festival. www.carriacouregatta.com. See ad on page 14.
- Carriacou Children's Education Fund Potluck Barbecue,
- Carriacou Yacht Club. boatmillie@aol.com
- 30 Aug 3 Saba Carnival. www.sabatourism.com

# **AUGUST**

- Emancipation Day, Public holiday in Barbados,
  - St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago
- Carriacou Children's Education Fund Auction, Carriacou. boatmillie@aol.com
- 3 7 Crop Over Festival, Barbados
- 3 10 24th edition Tour des Yoles Rondes, Martinique. Traditional boats' round the island regatta. Société des Yoles Rondes, www.yoles-rondes.org
- August Monday. Public holiday in some places. Kadooment Day. Public holiday in Barbados
- Constitution Day. Public holiday in Anguilla
- 11 12 Grenada Carnival. Public holiday in Grenada
  11 17 55th San Juan International Billifish Tournament, Puerto Rico.
- www.sanjuaninternational.com
- Feast of the Assumption. Public holiday in French West Indies 16
- **FULL MOON**
- 23 Great Race (powerboats) Trinidad to Tobago
- Festival of St. Barthelemy, boat races 24
- 25 St. Louis Festival, Corossol, St. Barts. Fishing contests, boat races
- Local Fishing Tournament, Bonaire
- Independence Day. Public holiday in Trinidad

All information was correct to the best of our knowledge at the time this issue of

Compass went to press — but plans change, so please contact event organizers directly for confirmation.

If you would like a nautical or tourism event listed FREE in our calendar, please send the name and date(s) of the event and the name and contact information of the organizing body to sally@caribbeancompass.com

Cover photo: Chris Doyle

Grenada makes a welcome landfall after non-stop sail from Bonaire

# Info & Updates

# New Yacht Fees for the BVI

New Yacht Fees for the BVI
The British Virgin Islands government has approved the British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 allowing the Ports Authority to enforce harbour charges effective July 1st. Harbour charges are levied on vessels entering and remaining in BVI Territorial waters or using a BVI Ports Authority facility. Under the new fee structure, vessels will be charged US\$1.00 per foot, \$0.75 per foot and \$0.50 per foot of vessel length for the first, second, and third days respectively. Vessels using Ports Authority facilities will pay \$1.00 per foot of vessel length per day. Her Majesty's ships, vessels belonging to the Crown, vessels belonging to foreign governments, vessels under 15 feet overall length and vessels that are home-ported in the BVI are exempted from the payment of harbour charges.

ment of harbour charges.

One cruiser writes, "If I read it correctly, my 38-foot sailboat would incur a fee of almost US\$600 per month for simply being at anchor in the BVI. Rather steep, I'd say!"

Copies of the amended regulation detailing the har-bour charges and exemptions can be accessed at www.bvjagazette.org/extrafile/G00139\_Sik20NO%20 25%20af%202008%20-%20British%20Virgin%20Islands%20 Ports%20Authority%20(Amendment)%20 Regulations,%20200897.pdf.

# Hog Island, Grenada, Notice to Mariners

Edghill Associates Limited, working on behalf of Cinnamon 88 (Grenada) Ltd, developing the Four Seasons Resort & Private Residences, Grenada, would

like to advise the public of the temporary restrictions which will be in place in the water channel between Hog Island and Mount Hartman on Grenada's south coast. These restrictions came into effect from the week commencing June 30th.

The construction of the new bridge will necessitate

the full closure of the channel between the Grenada mainland and Hog Island while construction work is being carried out. This is only a temporary measure to ensure the safety of the public.

The construction of the bridge will be complete by October 2008 and the channel will then be reopened to allow access for small craft.

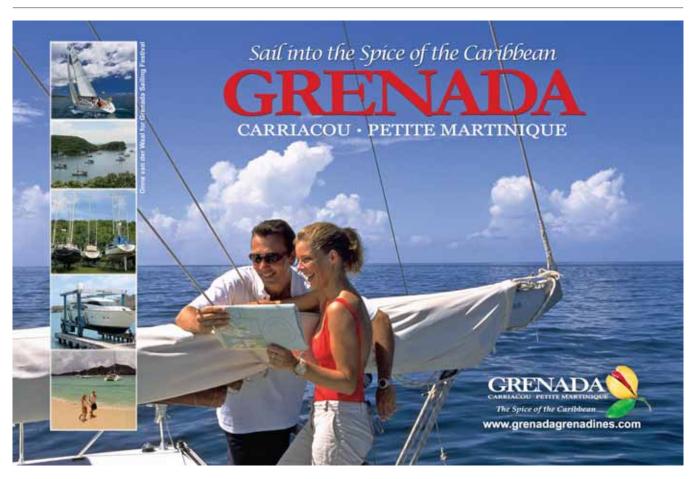
Edghill Associates apologize for the inconvenience caused while these works are being completed.

St. Croix Celebrates Safe Boating Week
Ellen Sanpere reports: In perfect weather, a celebration of Safe Boating Week was held at
Frederiksted's Ann Abramson Marine Pier, Saturday,
May 17th, with an opening ceremony and fair. The
stakeholders in safe boating came out in force to
raise awareness through information, education, and
to facture the resources available for those who mess to feature the resources available for those who mess about in boats in the waters surrounding St. Croix, US Virgin Islands.

The theme for the week was "Boat smart from the start. Wear your life jacket."

—Continued on next page







The week's 'wear your life jacket' theme was demonstrated by oil refinery workboat crew

—Continued from previous page
The USVI Department of Planning and Natural
Resources, US Coast Guard, US Power Squadron, and
the USCG Auxiliary offered safe bootling quizzes, kids'
games, vessel examinations, and radio and fire extingames, vessel examinations, and adda and in eximi-guisher demonstrations, and distributed free children's life jackets. Free hotdogs and hamburgers were given to the hungry crowd. Groups representing game fish-ing, jet-ski rentals, and HOVENSA refinery's marine unit also had booths at the fair, dispensing information

also had booths at the fair, dispensing information and trinkets. Frederiksted Sailing offered rides on Sunfish sailboats, and a large HOVENSA tug and barge circled off shore in light air and flat seas. More than 400 visitors were invited to tour the US Coast Guard's 110-foot cutter, Chincoteague, and the historic schooner Roseway, docked on the pier's north side, stem to stem. On the south side of the pier were a sportfishing boat and small working boats from HOVENEA Cell reference. HOVENSA (oil refinery) Security and the USVI

Department of Planning and Natural Resources. The East End Marine Park displayed their new runabout on a trailer.

To the crowd's delight and amazement, the USCG demonstrated rescuing a man in the water with their HH65C Dolphin helicopter at the start of the fair, and shot off outdated flares to finish the day's activities. The North American Safe Boating Campaign started in 1957, in the US and Canada, to encourage boater education, boating safety and saving lives. The central facus of the Nagth American Safe Boatine.

tral focus of the North American Safe Boating Campaign is life jacket wear, and the simple and memorable campaign theme is "Wear It!" Since most recreational boating fatalities result from drowning, and since over 90 percent of those who drown were not wearing a life jacket, life jacket wear is considered the single most important behavior change that could prevent deaths on the water. Boaters need not worry that they are expected to wear a bulky orange

"horse collar" at all times. Life jackets are available in a wide variety of compact, lightweight, and attrac-tive styles suitable for constant wear. Many are partial-ly or wholly inflatable, and resemble a wide set of sus-

ly of wholly illindable, and resemble a wide set of sus-penders or even a belt pack.

The Campaign also promotes boater education, avoidance of Boating Under the Influence, regular vessel safety checks, awareness of the danger of car-bon monoxide poisoning, and other important boat-

born monoxide poisoning, and other important boar-ing safety topics.

While Safe Boating Week has been an annual event for many years on St. Thomas, this was the first time the fair had been held on St. Croix. USCGA Capt.

Duane Minton said they are hoping to hold the event in alternating years on each of the two islands in the future. Dates for next year are May 16th to 22nd, 2009. For more information visit www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

Help Combat Aliens in Trinidad!
The Yacht Services Association of Trinidad & Tobago (YSATT) and the University of the West Indies need cruisers' help.



Green mussels. University researchers want to know how they're arriving in Trinidad

Invasive alien species are an increasing threat to marine and coastal environments and their biodiversity. At the simplest level, indigenous species in a community may be threatened directly by the proliferation of predators or competitors. However, cumulative effects can result in complex changes in the availability of resources (nutrients, light, oxygen), the dynamics of competition for resources, and ecosystem structure and function.

—Continued on next page



-Continued from previous page
This can have a severe impact on the biodiversity of our islands. Additionally invasive species may outcompete local and commercially important species resulting in economic concerns, e.g. where a fishery

One of these alien species, green mussels (perna viridis), has already invaded the west coast of Trinidad, possibly having been introduced via ballast

water or attached to ships.

The Department of Life Sciences of the University of the West Indies will be assessing the introduction of non-native species to Trinidad and Tobago via recreational vessels at marinas in Chaguraramas.

UWI Lecturer Dr. Judith Gobin and her group of stu-

dents plan to study at least 30 recreational vessels. Divers will do photo-quadrat sampling from each vessel's hull and anchor and representative faunal sam-ples from each vessel will also be collected. Samples will also be collected from nearby

pilings, floating docks, jetties, etcetera. An analysis of photoauadrats and examination of specimens will be carried out to identify invasive alien species.

If you wish to be part of this study and assist students, please contact YSATI before or upon your arrival in Trinidad, either via telephone (868) 634-4938 or via e-mail info@ysatt.org.

# Is That Grass on Your

Antifouling?
John Kessell reports: Bernuth Lines' Caribbean Jade suffered a temporary steering failure when leaving Port Castries, St. Lucia, at 2:00AM on June 14th and ran aground on a soft bottom in Bananes Bay, neatly missing two large work boats, and two mostly submerged wrecks. Both anchors had been dropped: the first broke

its chain and the other dragged.
She was re-floated at noon the next day with the aid of the two harbour tugs in Castries and the two workboats she missed. Divers inspected the hull and she left at

7:00<sub>AM</sub> the next day. *Jade* is 4,000 tons, is 100 metres long and has a draft of 6.47 metres, which can be clearly seen in the photo!

**Cruisers' Site-ings**Well-known cruising writers Kathy Parsons, Gwen
Hamlin and Pam Wall have started a most interesting website called Women and Cruising. Kathy is author of the books Spanish for Cruisers and French for Cruisers, Gwen writes the monthly Admiral's Anale col umn for *Latitudes & Attitudes* magazine. Pam teaches sailing at Women on the Water Week in the British

Virgin Islands.

Begun as a resource for women who attended Kathy, Gwen and Pam's Women and Cruising Seminars at boatshows around the USA, this site is growing and will present women's perspectives and concerns about cruising, showcase the many women cruisers who are out there writing books, websites and



'Who's got the scrapers?' Just kidding... It's not a bad case of bottom - this freighter had a little steering hiccup in Castries Harbour

blogs, and provide a voice for women cruisers. A brand new feature on the site asks "What do women like most about cruising?" and currently includes the thoughts of cruising writers — and, inci-



What do women like most about sailing off into the sunset? Ellen Sanpere says, 'Being a member of the larger cruising community... If there is a better life, I'd like to see it

dentally, past and present *Compass* contributors — Ellen Sanpere, Jody Lipkin, Gwen Cornfield, Elieen Quinn, Marcie Connelly-Lynn and editor Sally Erdle. Other prominent cruiser-writers sharing their thoughts are Heather Bansmer, Beth Leonard, Elaine Lembo, Nancy Birnbaum, Suzanne Giesemann, Debbie Leisure and, of course, the website's three originators. Kathy says. "You certainly don't have to be a famous author says, "You certainly don't have to be a famous author to contribute to this site — we just decided to feature several women cruising writers on this page. We plan to grow this site, adding more topics, giving us all the opportunity to share our thoughts and our experiences on cruising."

Check it out at www.womenandcruising.com.

## Welcome Aboard!

In this issue of *Compass* we welcome new advertisers Beacon Insurance with offices throughout the Eastern Caribbean, page 55; Fottress Marine of St Kitts, page 29; the St. Lucia-Cuba Humanistic Solidarity Association, page 28; and Barrow Sails of Trinidad, Port Marine Supply of Venezuela and Venezuela Marine Supply in the Caribbean Compass Market Place, pages 51 to 53. Good to have you with us!

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Seagull Yacht Services English Harbour Ph: 268-460-3050 Fx: 268-460-1767 info@seaguilivachtservices.com

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Grand Anse Ph: 473-439-2049 Fx: 473-439-2049 enzamarine@spiceisle.com

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St. Croix Marine Ph: 340-773-0289 Fx: 340-778-8974

St. John Coral Bay Marine Coral Bay Ph: 340-776-6665 Fx: 340-776-6859

The Sail Loft Rodney Bay Marina Ph: 758-452-1222 Fx: 758-452-4333 St Maarten

Fx: 599-544-3641

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Marine Maintenance Services Road Town, Tortols Ph: 284-494-3494

Road Town, Tortola Ph: 284-494-2830 Fx: 284-494-1584

# Stratis by Doyle is Tops for Superyachts

The all-black 120-foot *Bristolian*, designed by Philippe Briand, is the latest performance sloop to be wearing the Stratis, custom-laid black dyed fibre-aligned sall-cloth. *Bristolian* took its first sail on the Auckland Harbour recently. The sleek black superyacht has 18,000 square feet of Stratis sailcloth designed and made in the Stratis loft by Doyle Sails New Zealand.

Simultaneously, the 130-foot Tripp-designed Alithia was in Croatia being fitted with

Simulraneously, the 130-tool Iripp-designed Alithia was in Croatia being titted with her new Stratis sails.

And the Stratis onslaught doesn't stop there, with InMocean being launched by Fitzroy Yachts and P2 slipping in the water at Perini Navi. Both yachts will have a complete inventory of Stratis sails with P2 carrying not only the cruising version (GPc) but also a full suit of racing sails (GPx).

For information on Dovle Sails Caribbean see ad on page 3.

The Berth of a New Era?

Camper & Nicholsons Marinas has announced that berths at the exclusive Port Louis development on Grenada are now available for sale and annual rental.

When completed in spring 2009, the luxurious marina development will be a year-round location for those wishing to discover one of the best unspoilt yachting destinations in the Caribbean. Phase One of the development is nearing completion

and the marina currently operates 50 fully serviced berths. When completed, the new marina will offer more than 350 berths for craft from ten to 90 metres — includ-

new marina will offer more than 350 berths for craft from ten to 90 metres — including ten berths for craft more than 60 metres in length.

Situated in a natural lagoon on the lee side of the island, services at the marina will include wireless broadband and cable TV, electric carrying buggies and trollies plus car parking, guardianage services and 24-hour security.

Looking ahead to next year, the Port Louis Grenada Sailing Festival will be held from January 30th to February 3rd, 2009, and registration is already open at www. grenadasailingfestival.com. Regatta junkies can see some of the action from last

year's event and find out more about the Port Louis development featured on Boats on TV via Joost. Go to www.jooost.com 2197p20 for a ten-minute review of the best of the action

For more information on Port Louis Marina see ad on page 22.

# New Premises for Art Fabrik, Grenada...

At the end of 2007 the sudden disappearance of Art Fabrik on Young Street

(opposite Tikal) left the town of St. George's and the sailing community wondering, 
"Where did they go?"

You can now find Art Fabrik at their new premises just 50 steps up the road from their old place, on ground level. You can't miss the latest hot-spot — an airy boutique with a quirky ambiance where Art Fabrik's creative team produces handpainted batik and wearable art all made locally For more information see ad on page 44

....and Down Island VIIIa Rentals, Carriacou
The new premises for Down Island VIIIa Rentals, in Craigston, Carriacou was officially opened by The Hon. Elvin G. Nimrod, on May 9th.
In the words of founding directors Malcolm and Ros Cameron, who started the



Left: Maltese Falcon visited Port Louis Marina earlier this yea

Right: Ribbon-cutting at Down Islands' new building

company in 1992, their goals then were "to provide a first class management and rental service to the growing number of home owners... and to promote Carriacou as a holiday destination." New directors Gordon and Carolyn Alexander, who took over the company in 1998, have continued to work to ensure that they provide secure jobs for local people, offering them training and personal development with a view to handing more responsibility to those who wanted to grow with the company. At the opening managing director Allison Caton thanked her staff, associates and the service providers such as restaurants, taxi drivers, water taxis and specialist shops declaring that "...because of the efforts of all of them I am able to provide the excellent services that the business was founded on."

For more information see ad on page 27

# **Flectronics in Trinidad**

Electronics in Trinidaa

Navtech Electronics of Trinidaad focuses on navigational electronics repair, sales of VHF and SSB radios, antennas and is certified for GMDSS and Raymarine warranty sales/service located in the heart of Chaguaramas, Trinidaad. Manager Aaron Hutchinson works hard to satisfy his customers' needs by working together to engineer a package to meet the yachtsmen's specifications and to keep to their budget. For more Information see ad in the Market Place section, pages 51 to 53.

-Continued on next page





Telephone: + 1 954-525-8707 dyt.usa@dockwise-yt.com

# DYT Newport R.I.

Telephone: +1 401 439 6377 ann@dockwise-yt.com

# **DYT Martinique**

Telephone: + 596 596 74 15 07 nadine@dockwise-yt.com



WWW.YACHT-TRANSPORT.COM

## Continued from previous page

Hurricane Season at Island Dreams, Grenada
As of press time, Island Dreams still has a few of their "strong moorings" available in Hog Island and Clarkes Court Bay on the south coast of Grenada. High specification



A yacht stored on one of Island Dreams' strong moorings in Grenada

design and construction combined with Island Dreams Guardianage offers yachts and their owners a reliable option for Hurricane Season storage. For more information see ad on page 27.

## Errol Flynn Marina — Back Door to Cuba

The proximity of Port Antonio, Jamaica, to the southern coast of Cuba (just 65 nautical miles) makes Errol Flynn Marina the ideal stopping off place before heading to the "forbidden pastures" on this pearl of the Caribbean. Many of the marina's yacht visitors are doing a round frip that includes the south coats of Cuba and Jamaica's delightful north coats. Cuban ports of call include Santiago de Cuba, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Cayo Largo del Sur, Batabano and Isla de la Juventud, plus the Jamaican destinations of Montego Bay, Falmouth, Ocho Rios and Oracabessa on the return trip. The marina recommends stocking up on provisions in Port Antonio before leaving as many items are hard to come by in Cuba. Not hard to come by though are Cuban cigars, which, according to Errol Flynn, present no problems to Jamaican authorities on your return to the island.

Finally, if you are flying into Kingston and travelling from there to Port Antonio, the marina will be happy to book a responsible driver to meet your flight — and at a reduced price. Just call or e-mail in advance with your arrival details. For more information see ad on page 21.

If you've always wanted to go, but haven't been able to sail to Cuba, this might be your answer. The Saint Lucia-Cuba Humanistic Solidarity Association is organizing trips by air to Cuba from Barbados. A ten-day trip from September 28th to October 7th includes round-trip airfare, seven days in Havana and three days in Varadero, and visits to places of interest including Hemingway Marina. For more information see ad on page 28.

**New Home for noonsite.com**World Cruising Club, organisers of the famous Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC), announced last month that they have taken over noonsite.com — the global website for cruising sailors — from its founder, the author and sailing "guru" Jimmy Cornell. Noonsite.com is the culmination of Jimmy Cornell's work on the global cruising scene for three decades and a distillation of his best-selling books *World Cruising* Handbook and World Cruising Routes.

The site provides a free, one-stop location featuring essential information on all matters of interest to sailors planning an offshore voyage anywhere in the world, whether already underway or still in the preparatory stages. All cruising destinations are covered (currently 193 countries and almost 1,800 ports) with information on clearance formalities, visa requirements, fees, weather special events and other facts needed by visiting sailors. Also featured are details of repair facilities as well as marine and shore services for every major port visited by cruising boats.

Sailors from the international cruising community use noonsite.com as a hub for news and information, making regular contributions and helping to ensure the continu-ing accuracy of the information. In addition, a team of editors, all of whom are keen soilors, regularly update and monitor the published information, with input and feedback also invited from the cruising community for corrections and other news.

Commenting on the announcement, Jimmy Cornell

said. "As the best source of information for the alobal cruising community on the internet, noonsite.com will fit logically into the wide range of activities of World Cruising Club. As in the case of the ARC and other rallies, I have absolute confidence that in the able hands of Jeremy Wyatt, Andrew Bishop and their talented team,

Jereinny Wydni, Andrew Bisniop and men Indemide Tean, the future of noonsife.com is assured."
World Cruising Club Director Jeremy Wydt said, "We are delighted that under our auspices, noonsite.com will continue as a free service for cruising sallors. Jimmy and his team have built an excellent reputation for the site

and we aim to enhance and develop noonsite.com, maintaining it as THE one-stop information website for the worldwide community of cruising enthusiasts as well as adding some exciting new features. We are also keen to hear the views of our site users, who are a key part of the unique noonsite.com community.

Antigua Charter Yacht Show
Registration is now open for the 47th Annual Antigua Charter Yacht Show, to be held December 4th through 9th. The popular Welcome Cocktail Party and Buffet dinner will be featured once again this year, as will the End of Show Crew Bash and Party, which this year will also incorporate a Captains VIP Lounge area.
The annual Cher's Competition will once again be on the programme, although changes to the format are in the works! Check out the website for updates on this and all other aspects of the 2008 show.

For more information visit www.antigua-charter-yacht-meeting.com.

## Big Yacht Registry for St. Maarten?

The Netherlands is willing to assist St. Maarten in setting up a registry for big yachts.

If St. Maarten wants to, the Netherlands will assist in building up the capability for the island to register big yachts. That would be an economically interesting activity. It's in line with the tourism activities on the island," said Dutch Minister of Transport and Waterways Camiel Eurlings.

Eurlings met with the Executive Council when he visited St. Maarten during his recent five-day tour of the Netherlands Antilles. He also visited the harbour facilities and received a tour of Princess Juliana International Airport before leaving for Saba. and received a four of Princess Juliana international Airport before leaving for sabot in his talks on all islands, Eurlings was promoting the establishment of a maritime consultative body with the participation of all partners in the kingdom. This body would give his Ministry a tool to keep the cooperation with the islands "practical" after the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles. Speaking of his Caribbean visit, Eurlings said: "What we tried to do is to prepare ourselves for the new situation of two new countries St. Maarten and Curação, the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba for which I will be directly responsible, and Aruba.

—Continued on page 53



# CARIBBEAN ECO-NEWS

## New Marine Protected Areas to Be Created

Caribbean islands will create new protected areas for fish and coral reefs under a US\$70 million plan announced on May 27th that will help safeguard tourism-backed economies. Nine Caribbean nations agreed to extend protected areas to ten percent of their parties or the coral position.

agreed to extend protected areas to ten percent of their marine and coastal habitats by 2012. The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines aim to set aside about 12,500 square miles (32,000 square to set aside about 12,500 square miles (52,000 square kilometres). That area is roughly the size of Belgium or the state of Maryland. The Bahamas will be the largest contributor of protected areas under the "Caribbean Challenge" and aims to set aside 20 percent of marine habitats by 2020.

At the invitation of Caribbean nations, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is coordinating with participating countries to execute the Caribbean Challenge, which represents the largest coordinated, multi-nation conservation campaign in the region. "In many Caribbean nations at least fifty percent of gross domestic product is derived from tourism," said Rob Weary of TNC. "Countries are realizing the need to invest in protected

areas so tourism can remain the economic engine."

TNC said that about seven percent of the Caribbean's TNC said that about seven percent of the Caribbean's marine resources now have protected status but only a tenth of these were considered properly conserved. Countries that sign on to the Challenge will gain access to millions of dollars in new funding to meet their conservation goals, leading to more rangers, patrol boats, scientific expertise and education programs that will help to ensure effective protection of marine and coastal resources.

The US\$70 million cost would comprise \$40 million

The US\$70 million cost would comprise \$40 million Ine US\$70 million cost would comprise \$40 million in a trust fund and \$30 million for expanding protected areas, Weary said. Among major donors, the Conservancy would provide \$20 million and Germany was considering \$8.6 million.

The project illustrates a widening belief that natural

The project inustrates a widening benef that natural systems provide free services that are undervalued by conventional economic theory. Protected corals, for instance, can raise overall fish catches by acting as nurseries for fish that later swim to other waters. Intact reefs also draw tourists and can shield beaches

from storm surges or tsunamis.

In Grenada, for example, TNC, the Fisheries Department, local partners and community members completed a conservation action plan for Carriacou's Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area, The plan, when implemented, will conserve coral reef habitat, turtle nesting beaches, mangroves and oyster beds. The plan includes no-take zones and areas that provide for community use and support traditional livelihoods. Funding from the Caribbean Challenge will ensure that the management plan becomes a reality for the park.

For more information visit www.nature.org.

Venezuela's Coastal Development Scrutinized

"We do not support any plans that will irreversibly destroy the unique and representative natural spaces of the Venezuelan nation," declared Alberto Boscari, president of Venezuela's environmental watchdog group, Fundación La Tortuga (FLT) in a recent press statement.

recent press statement.

Boscari clarified that the NGO is not against the development of tourism, as long as it is done with adequate consideration for the natural environment. "Our intention is to avoid the repeated cases of development being done without the endorsement of studies that analyze its total impact," indicated Boscari. "The handling of visitors must be rigorously planned

mitigating and corrective measures to diminish the negative environmental impacts.

An Environmental Impact Assessment must consider that the construction and earthworks done during the first stage of the tourist development proposed by the Ministry of Tourism "have generated impacts by the use of machines which have destroyed the coral, turning it into dust that is soon raised by the wind, affecting the vegetation. This action contributes to the desertification of the island, and when the rains begin, desertification of the Island, and when the rains begin, that dust is going to be dragged towards the south, affecting the clarity of the waters and therefore, the existing marine life. In addition, there is much archaeological evidence on the island that, possibly, has been



Protection of unique and delicate natural environments, such as this shoreline on Isla La Tortuga, must be part of tourism planning

before formulating any project development. Integral protection measures should be created that ensure development will interfere as little as possible with the delicate environment and, simultaneously, afford visitors a quality experience that will satisfy their expectations. That is why it is important to establish the maximum visitor capacity that the sites destined for public use can support."

The island of Tortuga is considered to have scien The Island of Tortuga is considered to have scientific value of major magnitude in terms of flora and fauna. However, earthworks that started there for tourism development last year, specifically in the south-central zone of the island at Cerro Gato, one of the distinguishing geological formations of the island, rean ruin all the scientific value that the island has for Venezuela and the world, in addition to reducing its attractiveness for the visitors," explained Alfredo Morales, attorney for the Inter-Institutional Relations Department of the Foundation. As a result of indiscriminate heavy machinery work that began in early 2007 on the environmentally richest and most vulnerable sector of the island, it has been made high-prior ity to immediately initiate a plan of Environmental Restoration in the affected areas, and implement devastated by the machines," said Andrés Osorio.

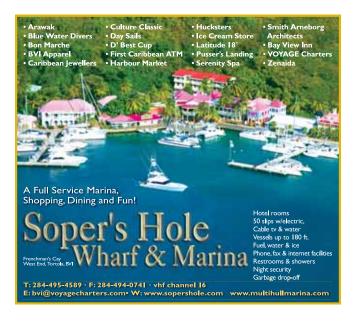
Oceanographer and Scientific Adviser of the FLT.
The FTL endorses the declaration made by Deputy Earle Herrera, Natural Resources President of the Atmosphere Commission, Resources and Arrangement of the Territory of the Venezuelan National Assembly, who recently stated that the tourism plans for that nation's Federal Dependencies, especially Isla La Tortuga, will be the object of inspection and control by the National Assembly. For more information contact

alberto.boscari@fundacionlatortuga.org

# Causes of Reef Fish Depletion in Barbados

Causes of Reef Fish Depletion in Barbados
Norman Faria reports: There's a need to increase the
mesh size of fish pots in Barbados. If not, says a
University of the West Indies professor, the reef fish
population around Barbados could be further depleted.
Already, said Dr. Robin Mahon at a news conference in May, it has reached "dangerously low levels".
The UWI academic also pointed to over-fishing and
pollution factors. pollution factors.

—Continued on next page





Special awards were given to: McKish Compton, age 11, Paget Farm

tact alexandra.paolino@gmail.com.

# Jost Van Dyke to Launch Environmental Initiative

this summer.

Recently, JVDPS won a competitive grant from the UK's Overseas Territory Environmental Programme (OTEP) to fund its "community-based programme advancing environmental protection and sustainable

disseminate information in several formats to island residents, stakeholders, visitors, and BVI government agencies and initiate a long-term programme of education, outreach and environmental monitoring to be sup-ported by the JVDPS. During Phase II, the Society will also hire a local resident to act as an "Environmental Monitor to help continually evaluate the environmental health of the community. The Society hopes to encourage other island communities to initiate similar projects.

—Continued from previous page
"Anybody who has been anywhere where reef fish are
in good condition can just stick their head in the water
and tell that our reef fish (here in Barbados) are very
low in abundance and very depleted," said Dr. Mahon
who is Director of the Centre for Resource Management
and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the regional
adventious incitivities. He added "You can tell by the educational institution. He added, "You can tell by the very small size of them, the low numbers of them, the kinds that there are [that] it is a very heavily depleted

Saying that the problem with fish traps is a regional one, he argued: "The way fish traps are commonly used, the mesh size is too small. In the late 1990s, the Government Fisheries Department (in Barbados) agreed to increase fish trap mesh size by, I think, a quarter inch every year or two years until it reached the right size." Unfortunately, this was never done.

the right size." Unfortunately, this was never done.

Two fish potters, who regularly set their traps in Carlisle Bay on the island's south coast, told this writer in recent weeks their catches were "way less" than, say, ten years ago. Both, who wished to remain anonymous, said part of the reason was that tourist divers from several scuba diving operations are "letting out the fish", further cutting into their earnings.

The "pot fish" are eagerly sought out by ordinary Barbadians on Sunday mornings. The fish are mainly chubs, barbers and grunts. They sell for Bds\$4 (US\$2) per pound. Occasionally, lobsters and "sea cats" (octopus) are also trapped.

For more information on CERMES visit www.cavehill.

For more information on CERMES visit www.cavehill.

**Dominica Supports Ban on Commercial Whaling** The Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit, recently announced his government's reversal of eight recently announced his government is reversa of eight years of support for Japan's pro-commercial whaling position, just prior to the IWC (International Whaling Commission) annual meeting held in Santiago, Chile from June 23rd to 28th as this issue of Compass went to press. The Prime Minister stated, "Our stringent environmental practices and philosophies have earned us the label 'The Nature Island' and, upon careful review and deliberation of the issue, it has been determined that voting for an overturn of the existing world-wide ban on commercial whaling would be inconsistent with the standards and principles of sustainability that we so fervently advocate."

According to Caribbean Net News (www.caribbean-

actording to Caribbean Net News (www.Caribbean-netnews.com), Dominica itself is not a whaling nation, nor is whaling permitted in its territorial waters. The island's tourism industry is nature-based and relies heavily on niche market "responsible tourists" who seek out environmentally friendly leisure travel destiseek out environmentally friendly related restrict ravel destinations. It is renowned for its pristine natural environment and outstanding eco-adventure options including scuba diving, hiking, kayaking and whale-watching. In fact, Dominica is known as the "Whale Watching Capital of the Caribbean" with 22 species sighted in its waters and a 95-percent success record on whale-watching tours.

In recent years, Japan and other pro-whaling nations have failed to obtain the 75 percent of votes needed to overturn the IWC moratorium. The moratorium became effective in 1986 following the vote by IWC members four years earlier to ban all commercial whaling begin-ning in the 1985-86 season in order to protect endangered species of whales and preserve the delicate balance of the global marine environment Bequia Students Fight Litter with Art

Under the theme "What You Do on Land Affects the Sea", all seven schools on the Grenadine island of Bequia recently participated in a poster contest aimed at visibly raising awareness of the importance of not littering. The poster design and choice of colors and materials was open to each student. The main idea



In addition to the successful 'What You Do On Land Affects the Sea' poster contest, youngsters in Bequia are making a nautical-themed mural from discarded

a creative way, how they see litter and how what they do on land affects the sea.

At the awards ceremony, appropriately held outdoors on the bayside under the Almond Tree in Port Elizabeth, each student received an "I LOVE THE ENVIRONMENT" T-shirt and a certificate from the Requist Tourism Acceptation (ETA) for participating Bequia Tourism Association (BTA) for participating. The poster contest was stage one of the BTA's Environmental Awareness Campaign.

The students' posters will be on display at numerous locations in Bequia, including the Post Office, the BTA office, shops, restaurants and schools.

The prizewinners were

1) Akeem Ollivierre, age 12, Bequia Anglican

Primary School
2) Kelton Hazell, age 16, Bequia Community High School

3) Ondine Mitchell Sutton, age 11, Paradise Primary School

Runners-up were: Kodi Williams, age 6, Paget Farm Government School

Ackelia James, age 7, Bequia Sunshine School Laurin Schaedle, age 12, Bequia Seventh Day Adventist Primary School

Keithon Grant, age 18, Bequia Seventh Day Adventist Secondary School

The Jost Van Dyke's Preservation Society (JVDPS), a nascent not-for-profit organisation working to promote environmental, cultural and historical projects on Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands, will launch a new island-wide environmental programme

advancing environmental protection and sustainable development". This programme will include several educational elements for island residents and youth based upon scientific field research and the subsequent publication of an island-wide environmental profile (EP) detailing the terrestrial, coastal and marine environment of Jost Van Dyke and its surrounding out-islands (Little Jost, Sandy Cay, Sandy Spit, Green Cay and Sandy Cay) will be developed. The EP, guided by an Island Advisory Committee comprised of island residents and members of relevant government agencies (National Parks Trust, Conservation and Fisheries), will identify major issues, conflicts and problems in the islands' natural resource management, helping to drive an island-specific conservation agenda on Jost Van Dyke. The EP will be completed by Island Resources Foundation, an enviservation agenda on Jost van Byke. Ine EP will be completed by Island Resources Foundation, an envi-ronmental NGO with a 35-year history of environmen-tal work in the Caribbean. In Phase II, the project will draw upon EP findings to

For more information on JVDPS and this programme, contact Susan at Susan@jvdps.org.

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How time does fly! Easter was just yesterday an' here we are, de 11th May, standin' on Canouan beach, sails up an' ready fo' go. Yes, is de Canouan Whitsuntide Regatta. Yo' see, Easter come early dis year an' so is Whitsuntide. Yes, we ready fo' go to betth ag' is Nitstean best lived beaches. battle again. Nineteen boat line de beach, sails flappin in de little breeze, about eight to 12 knots, enough fo sail. Is 10 o'clock an' de sun hot fo' so but everybody ready. Ready fo' tek revenge. Some ain't satisfy wid de licks dem get at Easter so dem change dis an' dat, lengthen dis an' shorten dat. Dem even change crew. One t'ing though, ah ain't callin' no name, ah don't want no bad blood.

we comin'. Ah holdin' me own, ah say we go' get ah good fight today. But ah say wrong. As *Tornado* mek she first tack, she sprit come down, somet'ing break or bust. As ah pass she, ah ain'i see no repair work goin' on so ah say dis go' be ah easy one. She retire hurt, not de way ah like fo' win. *More Worries* an' *Progress* way back so ah have time fo' watch *Bluff*, *Confusion* an' *Cloudy Bay*. De last race at Easter was ah very close one between den 'tree but pot today. Dem too for close one between dem t'ree but not today. Dem too far apart now fo' ah punchin' wid each other. *Bluff* in de lead, *Confusion* second an' *Cloudy Bay* third. Well, as

ah say, is de first time in ah long time ah skipperin' ah 18-footer an' after dis Regatta, it might be de last because as ah jump out on de sand, ah feel like ah 80. Seeking Revenge at Whitsuntide

de tale. We start at 11 again. It look like de time t'ing improve, dem watch workin' good. Off we go. Nerissa J tek de lead around de first mark an' so did Bluff. But somet'ing wrong. Confusion goin' in de other direction, back to shore, out ah dat. Ah hold me lead on de first lap an' so is Bluff: Cloudy Bay ah good way back. But de wind droppin' an' Tornado inchin' up, we go' fight to de finish! But ah watchin' Cloudy Bay down by de airport. She stand up an' she sails flappin'. Ah say to me self, de airport open yesterday an' ah could bet Nick an' Arnold want to be de first boat fo' ride up 'pon it, but dem only touch up fo' see how it feel an' shove off because now dem on de other tack. Well, dem say may de best boat win an' so Bluff win an' Tornado win. Tornado get two firsts an' ah DNF an' Nerissa J get ah first an' two seconds. Bluff get three firsts. Limbo sail independent. Ah could only tell yo' what ah know so ah will get de rest results from de Commodore!

Orbin Ollivierre is a boatbuilder, fisherman and Commodore of the Bequia Sailing Club.

# Canouan Regatta 2008 Winners

- Class 2
  1) Bad Feelings, Samuel Forde, Mayreau
- 2) My Love, Stanley Harry, Bequia 3) De Robin, Paul Snagg, Canouan Class 3

- Class 3 1) Liberty, Nick Harry, Canouan 2) Scope International, Rannie Hazell, Canouan Class 4 1) Nerissa J. (Canouan) Orbin Ollivierre, Bequia
- 2) Tornado, Kingsley Stowe, Bequia 2) (joint) More Worries, Andy Mitchell, Bequia

# Class 5 1) *Limbo*, Allick Daniel, Bequia **Class 6**

- 1) Bluff, Lashie King, Bequia 2) Cloudy Bay, Arnold Hazell, Bequia 3) Confusion, Wayne Gooding, Bequia

In de big class, we got Bluff, Confusion, Cloudy Bay, In de big class, we got Bluff, Confusion, Cloudy Bay, no Perseverance, she still rig fo' whale, no Spank. We got Limbo but no Trouble, no Iron Duke — she ha' fo' sail alone; dat bad. In de 18-footers, we got Tornado, Nerissa J. Progress, More Worries an' we got ten smaller ones from Canouan an' Mayreau. Not true: My Love in dey, ah can't say if she from Bequia or St. Vincent. Dem Canouan an' Mayreau boat got name like Bad Feelings, Hard Target, De Robin, Scope, ah can't remember all so ah ha' fo' stop dey.

Eleven o'clock, race start. Class 2 gone first, den 3 den 4. Dem doin' ah shorter course. Den Class 5 but is only Limbo. Den off wid de big boys. Dem doin' de long route down to Catholic Rock, south ah Mayreau, Baleine Rock up to ah mark at Friendship an' back to

long route down to Catholic Rock, south ah Mayreau, Baleine Rock up to ah mark at Friendship an' back to de first mark at start an' finish. Well as ah say, de wind light an' ah ha' fo' tell yo', is de first time in ah long time ah sailin' in ah 18-footer, yes, ah skipper in Nerissa J, de new Nerissa J. Is only four boat in de class so ah ha' fo' keep me wits up an' me eyes peeled because Tornado ain't no easy boat fo' beat an' she in de lead not by much. We turn de lee mark an' upwind

All over me body achin'. Time fo' get some greenies down an kill de aches. Ah know one t'ing fo' sure. Ah ain't goin' in no jump-up tonight! Yes, tonight is "wet fête" an' t'ing over at de fisheries complex: could be ah getting' old

getting old.

Sunday mornin' is here, nice an' fresh, church bell sunday mornin is nere, nice an iresn, crurch bei ringin. But sorry, no church fo' me. Heaven will help us all out dev today because de sun hot like Hell. We start at 11 o'clock, reverse course to yesterday, wind good, so we go' finish early. It got trips comin' down from St. Vincent an' is de official openin' ah de jet airport so all de bigwigs on de rock, includin' de Prime Minister. Ah can't tell yo' much about de race, t'ings go nice fo' some. Dem also got Queen Show tonight, party fo' so in de hard court but not fo' me. Ah few cold beers, ah big plate ah chicken an' chips, an' wrap up

in ah soft coat. Good night, Lucy, see yo' tomorrow.

Monday is ah short sail, triangle in de bay, good breeze an' smooth water. Some ah dem boat mek little changes wid dem jib an' t'ing but fo' me, ah ain't changin' not'in', whatever come, ah go' tek. Tornado beat me yesterday so we even de score. Today will tell



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# **LEAVE YOUR BOAT IN SKILLED HANDS**

# IT'S SAILING TO THE MA AMÉRICA'S CUP **NNER JOINS IN**

by Stéphane Legendre

Wind, sun, huge crowds of spectators, fun on the beach and on the water — all this took place at the Karibea Beach Resort at Gosier, Guadeloupe, during the weekend of May 31st to June 1st at the fourth edition of the now famous Zoo Regatta.

# Holmberg's Highlights

Born in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands in 1960, Peter Holmberg has become an international yacht-racing star. Just a few highlights of his career include:

CARIBBEAN
International Rolex Regatta, St. Thomas, 1st place (seven times)
Antigua Sailing Week, 1st place (three times)
St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, 1st place (twice)

BVI Spring Regatta, 1st place (five times) Caribbean Big Boat Series, 1st place INTERNATIONAL

1988 Olympic Games, Finn Class, Silver Medal 1998 Olympic Games, Finn Class, Silver Medal 1990 Maxi World Championships, 1st place 2002 Match Racing World Tour, 1st place 2007 America's Cup, 1st place



Renowned international skippers from all over the Caribbean and Europe came, including Peter Holmberg (USVI), Marc Fitzgerald (UK), Gildas Morvan (France), Claude Thélier (Guadeloupe), Eric Baray (Martinique) and Yvan Bourgnon (France).

Peter Holmberg, who was aboard America's Cup winner *Alinghi* in 2007, and his professional crew from the USVI came clearly to win the regatta. His America's Cup

match racing experience was a lesson for everyone present.

On the Saturday, six qualifying Silver Races preceded the Sunday's final four Gold Races. Races were extremely stressful for both crews and boats due to the high level of competition. The poor Sun Fast 37s suffered and repair crews had a lot to do on Saturday evening to get things straight for Sunday's final, but everything was ready

Holmberg dominated the Gold round on Sunday, winning all four races. Second was Marc Fitzgerald from the UK, who sailed the 2008 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta aboard the winner, Sojana. Fitzgerald scored three second places and a sixth. Gildas Morvan, last year's Zoo Regatta winner, came third (3, 3, 6, 2). Claude Thélier (5, 5, 3, 4) and Eric Baray (4, 4, 4, 5) tied for fourth place. After coming last in the first two or, it has the baddy (1, 1, 19) ted to foot a place have coming as in the last race couldn't lift him out of the basement.

After the notorious Zoo Regatta Bikini Contest, the day ended with the prizegiving

After the notionous Zoo Regatta Bikini Contest, the day ended with the Prizegiving in front of a crowd of racing fans who thoroughly enjoyed their weekend. Receiving his trophy, Holmberg said that it was the first time he had participated in an event exactly like the Zoo Regatta, and that he and his crew would be back next year. Victory for the USVI, victory for the organization of this fourth edition of the Zoo Regatta. A success story!

For full results visit www.zoo-regatta.com.

Some top names in Caribbean and international yacht racing raced head-to-head







Melges Dominate Anguilla Sailing Festival After five races over three days (May 9th through Arier invertaces over inflere adays (wind yffil fillody) in 11h), the three Melges 24s swept a seven-boat spin-naker fleet at Anguilla's annual regatta. They were Budget Marine, skippered by Robbie Ferron; Pelican Marine Residences, skippered by Frits Bus; and French Connection, skippered by Rouault Didier. For more information visit www.anguillaregatta.com.

26th Tobago Sail Week

The spirit of sailing was alive and well in Tobago during the week of May 11th through 16<sup>th</sup> at Angostura Tobago Sail Week 2008. On the first day of racing

On the first day of racing, May 12th, Racing Class was topped by the venerable Bajan Beneteau First 10M



Start of another leg at the five-part, 150-mile Round Guadeloupe Race



Perennial competitor Bruggadung II, above, tried hard for a hat-trick, but Drunken Monkey ended up first overall in Racing Class. Other overall class winners at Tobago 2008 were Wayward, Business Machine and Hemo

Bruggadung II, with Dick Stoute at the helm. Cruiser/Racer Class was won by Jerome McQuilkin's Wayward, a Trinidad-based Beneteau Oceanis 430. In Cruising Class, the famous sailing Farfan family's Business Machine, a Heritage 36, got the upper hand, and Charter Class laurels were captured by Chequeamegone, a Moorings 443.

The next day's competition, sponsored by YSATT, as were the previous day's races, duplicated Day One's winners in every class except Charter, where Hemo, a Bavaria 44, was victorious.

Bavaria 44, was victorious.
The third and final day of racing, May 15th, sponsored by Gulf Insurance, featured a couple of upsets.

Bruggadung II was toppled from first place by Drunken Monkey, a Tinidadian Melges, 24 skippered by Paul Amon. Ánd in Cruising Class, Nirvana, a San

Juan 34, grabbed the top spot from *Business Machine*. In Cruiser/Racer Class, *Wayward* held her position, as did *Hemo* in Charter Class. For more information visit www.sailweek.com.

150-Mile Round Guadeloupe Race

Stéphane Legendre reports: For its 30th anniversary, the Round Guadeloupe regatta gathered 47 boats in four classes: 14 Racing/Cruising, 8 Racing, 7 Multi-hulls and 18 Beach Cats participated in this edition, organized by Triskell Association. Participants came from Saint Martin, Martinique, Antigua, and all the way from mainland France. Local knowledge was important: in the end, all podium places were won by competitors from Guadeloupe, with the notable exception of Sven Harder from Antigua who was first in Racing Class.

This year's event followed the now traditional five-This year's event followed the now traditional five-legged route of more than 150 nautical miles in total, racing around the Guadeloupe archipelago: The 25-mile Leg 1 goes from Gosler to Marie Galante; Leg 2,55 miles, is from Marie Galante to Port Louis: Leg 3, Port Louis to Deshaies is 20 miles; Leg 4, 25 miles, is from Deshaies-Vieux Fort to Les Saintes, with a lap around the Saintes before the finish line; and Leg 5 from Les Saintes to Pointe-à-Pitre is 30 miles. The weather, as usual at this time of the year, was perfect: sunshine, 15 knots of wind and slight seas. Multihulls didn't have quite enough wind this year to reach their full potential, and lighter monohulls had an advantage. Evening parties were as expected by participants: friendly, very exciting and sometimes sleepless!
The beach cats were the best represented this year and fights between competitors from Saint Martin. Guadeloupe and Martinique were fierce. There were seven Hobie Cat Tigers and 11 Hobie Cat 16s in the class. Looking at the overall results, only a few minutes separated the winner from his immediate opponents. This class is well organized and most of the leaders travel to Saint Martin for the Heineken Regatta, to Martinique for the Round Martinique Regatta, and to other Caribbean events. Guadeloupe is a wonderful training ground for young champions — this year Pascal Marchais again won the "tour" in the Tiger class but his son won the Hobie Cat 16 race — watch out, Daddy! Racing/Cruising Class was, as usual, keenly contested, especially between the Archambault 40 and the J/120, which finished with under five minutes difference over-all — good boats with good well-trained crews! The Racing Class confirmed the progress accomplished by Sven Harden's Flying Tiger, manufactured in China, which led the competition this year, We can only hope more of those interesting and affordable boats come to the Caribbean in the future; a onedesign class throughout the Caribbean would be interesting to replace the old Sun Fast 37 fleet we have in Guadeloupe.

-Continued on next page



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Petite Calivigny Bay, St. George's, Grenada W.I., POS 12°00'11N / 61°43'29W

-Continued from previous page Again this year the Round Guadeloupe Race offered the participants a wonderful five days sailing around the "Butterfly" archipelago. Hope to see you join the party next year!

OVERALL WINNERS

## Beach Cats

- Deach Cats
  1) Dell Snickers Quicksilver, Tiger Cat,
  Pascal Marchais
  2) Goyave Tiger One, Tiger Cat, Thierry Matias &
- Rodolphe Sepho
  3) *Tip Top*, Tiger Cat, Thomas Bohl Multihulls

- 1) Coco Kafé, one-off trimaran, Alexandre Bonvoisin 2) Super U, CDK 28 catamaran, Fabrice Enaux
- 3) Eo, KL 28 catamaran, Vincent Trancart

- Racing Crulising

  1) Soguanet, Archambault 40, Didier Coffre
  2) Paulista, J/120, Philippe Champion
  3) Sofala Paraphamacie, Gib-sea 414, Patrick Charré

- Partick Charle
  Racing
  1) Forty-Two, Flying Tiger, Sven Harder
  2) Americano Café, Speed Feet 18,
  Christophe Wilzius
  3) Bati+Bagghi, First Class 8, Luc Duponteil
  For more information visit www.triskellcup.com

CROOD Means Family Fun Ellen Sanpere reports: Family fun was the back story as 16 boats in four classes competed on May 24th and 25th, in Teague Bay, during St. Croix Yacht Club's Cruzan Open One-Design (CROOD) regatta.

Jae Tonachel took an easy first in the Laser Radials;

Adolescent skipper Challis Diaz and her adult CROOD crew Mike Weber took second place in the 420 Class

his worst finish was a third in a fleet of six. Three Schreiber family members composed half of the Laser Radial class with father, Chris, and son, Christopher, finishing second and third, respectively, and mom, Debble, giving Felice Quigley and Beecher Higby a run for their money.
Felice's son, Mack Bryan, took top honors in the

Optimist class, with Eric Perez in second and Harry Hoffman in third place. Eric's brother, Hector, bested Shane Ryan-Bataller and Vincenzo Ambrosi in Sunfish

Snane Ryan-Barailer and vincenzo Ambrosi in suniish. In the 420 class, Rian Bareuther and crew Kyle Davis sailed to an easy first, with Challis Diaz and crew Mike Weber in second and Sydney Jones (daughter of SCYC Fleet Captain Kim Jones) and various crew

Challis's mom is SCYC caterer Kate Diaz, who, with club manager Klomi Pedrini, created a fun pirate-themed party to open the regatta Friday night. CJ Walker, a newcomer, earned the most improved sailor award, finishing first in two of the weekend's 20

Wind conditions were puffy and shifty, resulting in frequent capsizes and righting maneuvers in the small craft. PRO Paul Lordi ran 16 to 20 windward/leeward races in the two-day regatta, allowing a throw-out for those who may have missed a wind shift. The regat-ta's Sportsmanship award went to Bareuther and Davis for abandoning a race to help a competitor who had capsized.

# Sailing Highlights 12th Island Games

Stéphane Legendre reports: The 12th Island Games were held in Guadeloupe from May 25th to 30th. This was the first time the Caribbean hosted those games, which take place every year on a different island worldwide.

and 25 boys participated, some of whom have had

previous international regatta experience.
Competition was fierce between the Canaries,
France and Italy. Young sailors from the Canaries performed extremely well, finishing first and second overall in both the girls' and boys' divisions.
This competition shows an increasing interest among

young sailors on islands that sometimes lack high-level competitions, and it is an excellent opportunity for them to show their talent. It is also a perfect way for them to show their talent. It is also a perfect way for them to discover new islands. Above all, it is a pleasant and interesting way of mixing all those cultures at a very young age, making new friends and, in some cases, having the opportunity to compete again at a high level on the water.

OVERALL RESULTS

# Opti Girls

- Opii Gilis 1) Sonia Arana-Curbelo, Canaries (Spain) 2) Pilar Caba-Hernandez, Canaries (Spain) 3) Ana-Rita Pinto, Madeira (Portugal)

- 3) Arto-erial Frinto, Middella (Portugal)
  Opti Boys
  1) Luis Benitez-Inglott, Canaries (Spain)
  2) Mario Suarez-Ramirez, Canaries (Spain)
  3) Antoine Lefort, Guadeloupe (France)
  For more information (In French) visit www.lgvoile. com or www.croji2008.com.

Caymans Head for Premier's Cup Regatta
The first-ever youth sailing team from the Cayman
Islands is now fully trained and ready to compete at the international level against the cream of the Caribbean. Between July 11th and 14th, a team of youngsters will be participating in the former Chief Minister's Cup, now the Premier's Cup, in the British Virgin Islands.

Teams from 12 Caribbean islands are expected to

compete in this prestigious regatta, which is the only



Thirteen islands or island groups sent competitors: the Azores, the Canaries, Cyprus, Corsica, Elba, Guadeloupe, Jersey, Madeira, Mayotte, Saint Martin, Sardinia, Sicily and the Isle of Wight. These islands represented six countries: Cyprus, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the UK. Many disciplines were represented, its labeling to be presented. including tennis, swimming, athletics, and, of course, sailing on Optimists.

The five-day sailing competition took place at Datcha Beach next to Gosier Islet. Twenty-four girls

vouth team sailing event in the Caribbean, Each team has a crew of six members between the ages of 12 and 18, along with a coach and a chaperone. Over the weekend, there will be 18 races in 24-foot sailing boats called IC24s.

The event is organized and hosted by the Rotary Club and The Royal BVI Yacht Club is responsible for the racing programme. All the teams will be staying in a tented village at beautiful Nanny Cay.

–Continued on next page

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—Continued from previous page
Five members of the Cayman team have been selected from the Cadets Corps who started sailing just two years ago at the Cayman Islands Sailing Club (CISC). The team comprises Jeremy Hill, Joshua Hill, Romane Blake, Willie Cruz, Craig Ebanks and Stuart Jennings. The team has been training for this event since May using the Fortis-sponsored J/22 boat and being coached by Mike Farrington of Compass Marrine Ltd. Marine Ltd

Marine Ltd.

The fact that the sailing team is able to compete at this event is all due to the generous support of the main sponsors: the Rotary Club of Grand Cayman, who contributed Cl\$4,000, and the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee. Additional support has come from Conyers Dill & Pearman, Stuarts Walker Hersant, Butterfield Bank, Scotiabank and Fortis.

"This sponsorship will enable a team of young enthusiastic Caymanians to compete against their peers on the international stage, which will help to pave the way towards future Caribbean and perhaps Olympic success," said CISC Sailing Director, Michael Weber.

"The event will be an excellent way for our talented rine event will be an excellent way for our talenter young sallors to gain experience and meet other young sallors in our region."

For more information on Team Cayman contact Michael Weber at admin@salling.ky.

For more information on the Premier's Cup regatta

contact Tom Gerker at tom@partsandpower.com.

Carriacou Regatta Festival 2008

Hot fun in the summertime! Carriacou Regatta is coming July 27th through August 4th, and it's got corning July 2/1n Inrough August 4th, and It's got something for everyone — yacht races, races for the renowned Carriacou sloops, open-boat races, and all kinds of shoreside games, cultural activities and entertainment. It's the 43rd running of this unique event. How can one little island offer so much fun? Come and field out! and find out!

For more information see ad on page 14.

# St. Maarten Youth Invited to Sail in Norway

The Maritime School of the West Indies, in coopera-In e Maritime school of the West Indies, in cooper tion with the St. Maarten-St. Martin Classic Yacht Regatta Foundation, is offering a once in a lifetime adventure on board a fall ship to local St. Maarten youth. The Initiative is sponsored by Sail Training International and Canadian Sailing Expeditions.

Two native St, Maarten youngsters, one girl and one boy, between the ages of 15 and 25 will be given a chance to sail as crew on the 190-foot (62-meter) sail-training ship *Christian Radich* during the upcoming Tall Ships Races and sall from Bergen in Norway to Den Helder in Holland, August 11th to 20th. No costs are involved for the participants. Qualified candidates will



Two young sailors from St. Maarten will sail as crew aboard the Christian Radich in the Tall Ships The principal of the maritime School of the West Indies says, "This is a chance we want to give to local youth



The famous Carriacou sloops, along with yachts, open boats, dinghies — and even donkeys — race annually at the Carriacou Regatta Festival

be selected by a jury.
The Tall Ships Races are held every summer in
European waters. Each year between 70 and 100 vessels from 15 to 20 countries, crewed by up to 6,000
young people from more than 30 countries worldwide, take part in this unique event that combines four days of activities in each port with racing or cruising-in-

or activities in each port with racing or cruising-in-company between ports.

During the race series, the young crews gain experi-ence by sailing with their contemporaries from other countries while facing the physical and emotional challenges that only the ocean can provide.

A "Tall Ship" is not necessarily one of the glamorous square-riggers. Entry is open to any monohull sailing vessel of more than 9.14m waterline length, provided that at least 50 percent of the crew are aged between

that at least 50 percent of the crew are aged between 15 and 25 years and that the vessel meets Sail Training International's safety equipment requirements. Christian Radich is one of Norway's well-known sailing ambassadors. The ship functioned as a sail training ship from the start in 1937 to 1998. Now the ship acts as a training ship for the Norwegian Navy during the winter season. During the summer period, the ship offers voyages for school classes, arrangements for companies and private parties. She is a regular participant in The Tall Ships Races and has been first on corrected time on several occasions.

rected time on several occasions.

Veerle Rolus, principal of the Maritime School explained: "This is a chance we want to give to local St. Maarten youth

—Continued on next page



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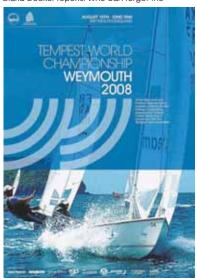
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-Continued from previous page We work a lot with the visiting mega-yachts but more and more local people are also seeing that there is a future in the marine sector and this is an excellent opportunity that we are now able to offer the local kids."  $\,$ 

Jan Roosens from the Classic Yacht Regatta organization ads: "We've been in contact with the Sail Training Organization for years and have tried to bring those magnificent vessels to St. Maarten a long time before we started with the Classic Regatta here. We will have, for the first time, a special Tall Ship Day during the next St. Maarten-St. Martin Classic Yacht Regatta in January 2009." (See related news below.) For more information contact info@MaritimeSchool.net

Martinicans to Tempest World Champions

Ciarla Decker reports: Who can forget the



December 2006 cover of *Caribbean Compass* when Martinique hosted the 2006 World Championship Tempest Series? Since then, Martinican sailors Albert Jean Charles and Alain Lotaut of Reha Team have been active on the local, national and international racing scenes. They recently returned from Maubuisson, France, where, during May, they pocketed first place in the Challenge de France for the second consecutive year. They have participated in the Championnat du Monde in Austria in 2005,

Martinique 2006 and Germany 2007.

Alain and Albert are now preparing for the 2008 World Championship to be held in Weymouth, England, from August 16th to 22nd. Look closely at the poster announcing this international meeting: it's a photo of Reha Team taken during the 2006 Martinique! Good luck to our Tempest sailors.

45th Annual Marlin Tourney in Jamaica
The registrations are already coming in for the Sir
Henry Morgan Angling Association's 45th Marlin
Tournament at Port Antonio, Jamaica, October 4th through 11th. Twenty-percent discount applies to registration fees received before July 31.

For registration details contact

rondq@mail.infochan.com. Coincident with the Marlin Tournament will be the 24th Annual Canoe Tournament scheduled for October 8th. Brochures and registration forms are available at the Errol Flynn Marina office.

Spice Race: England to Grenada

A new transatiantic race ending in the Caribbean aims to raise the profile of Class 40 racing yachts. The Spice Race will start on the 15th of November in the Solent and finish in Grenada in December. The event's organizer, British businessman Tony Lawson, started his first business in Grenada in the late 1960s, at the age of 19, and retains strong connections with the "Spice Island". His 44-foot *Supercilious* has won at Antigua Race Week, he crewed on a winning Transpac yacht and has completed several transatlantics. In recent years, Lawson became involved with the Class 40 and purchased Concise an Akilaria 40. He expects about ten Class 40s to compete in the Spice Race, either fully crewed or two-handed, and is also inviting boats to take part in an IRC division. The 4,300-nautical-mile route is far more tactical than a straight tradewind run.

For more information contact louayhabib@gmail.com.

## New Match Race Set for USVI

New Match Race set for USVI

Carol Bareuther reports: The Inaugural Carlos Aguilar Memorial Match Race Championship is set for December 5th through 7th in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, to be hosted out of the St. Thomas Yacht Club. It will offer a high-caliber format that includes international umpires, IC24s, and clinics leading up to

international umpires, IC24s, and clinics leading up to the event led by America's Cup sailor and native Virgin Islander, Peter Holmberg.
"Carlos was a great sailor and had a deep love of match racing," says Holmberg. "Match racing is dear to me too, and I would love to see it grow in the Caribbean. This event is a great start for a great cause and I'll be making every effort on my part for it to be successful." to be successful.

Bill Canfield, co-organizer of the event along with Aguilar's widow Verian, herself a keen match racer, adds, "Carlos was fascinated by match racing, both as a spectator and as a competitor. He was heavily involved in helping our women's team and junior sailors to hone their match racing skills in the absence of Henry Menin and Peter Holmberg, when these two men were away participating in the last America's

Cup campaign."

Match racing teams from both within and outside of the Caribbean are invited to submit their résumés. Slots are available for up to eight teams in the Open Division and up to six teams in the Woman's Division. IC24s, equipped with competitive sails, will be available.

For more information contact Bill Canfield at styc@ vipowernet.net. The Notice of Race is available on the St. Thomas Yacht Club's website www.styc.net.

## St. Maarten-St. Martin Classic to Host Tall Ships

West Indies Events and the St. Maarten-St. Martin Classic Yacht Regatta Foundation announced that a Tall Ship Day has been implemented in the fourth classic regatta, which will be held during the third week of January in 2009. The first Tall Ship has already registered for the event.

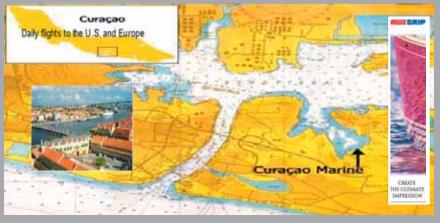
It is the 245-foot (75.5 m) Canadian passenger-carrying barquentine *Caledonia*. She carries 1,579 square meters of sail and 20 crew

The St. Maarten-St. Martin Classic Yacht Regatta 2009 kicks off on January 22nd with a skippers' briefing and official opening ceremony. Sailing starts the next day, from Simpson Bay to

Marigot, where the yachts will be hosted at Fort Louis Marina.

-Continued on next page

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—Continued from previous page Saturday will be the special Tall Ships Day when all classics and the Tall Ships will start out of the bay in Marigot and sall towards the finish line in Great Bay.

Organizers are planning to ask permission to dock the Tall Ships at the Pointe Blanche cruise ship pier so that passengers can disembark and an on-board reception can be held after the regatta that day. The idea is to keep the tall ships at the pier to offer the general public a chance to visit the ships on the Sunday morning. New passengers will board the ship in the afternoon to go on a cruise that evening. The regular classic yachts will set sail that Sunday morning for the last regatta day to Simpson Bay and

Over 30 classic vachts are expected to participate

in the 2009 regatta.

For more information visit www.ClassicRegatta.com. Information about the Tall Ship Cruise can be obtained at www.ClassicYachtForCharter.com.

# Entry List Open for World ARC 2010

World ARC, the flagship event in the global portfolio of World Cruising Club (WCC) rallies, is building on the success of the 2008 Rally with the

announcement that the entry list has opened for a second edition, the 2010 World ARC Rally. This event will leave the Caribbean in January 2010, on a circumavigation of the globe, returning to the Caribbean 14 months later.

Caribbean 14 months later. Ever since the concept for the inaugural World ARC Rally was first announced by World Crulsing in 2006, there has been a continual stream of international enquiries. World Crulsing has created an adventure of a lifetime, with careful planning and using up-to-date routing information and the skills acquired over 20 years of running ocean sailing events.

the skills acquired over 20 years of running ocean sailing events.
Forty-one yachts from 13 nations are participating in the 2008 Raily, which set off from \$1. Lucia in January.
World ARC is open to monohulls with a

minimum overall length of 40 feet (12.19 metres), and multihulls between 40 feet

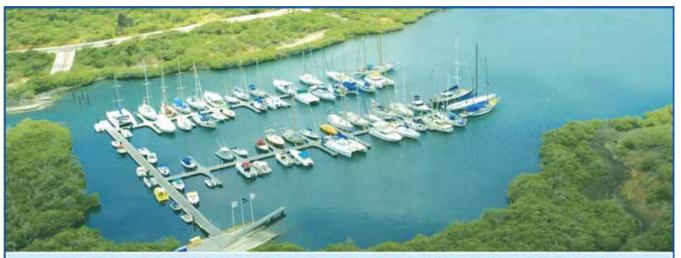
Interfest, and mailinfulls between 4 or 1681 (12.19 metres) and 60 feet (18.29 metres). Minimum crew requirement is two people onboard each yacht.

A range of safety and communications equipment must be carried. The main requirements include, but are not limited to, a liferaft; EPIRB; offshore flare pack; two lifebuoys; two manual bilge pumps; emergency steering and emergency grab bag. The requirements are detailed in the Entry Pack available from World Cruising Club.

For more information visit www.worldcruisina.com/worldarc/ itinerary.aspx.



The passenger-carrying Caledonia has already signed up for the 2009 St. Maarten – St. Martin Classic Yacht Regatta's Tall Ship Day



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# **† DESTINATIONS**



LIKE a lot of cruisers bumping around the Caribbean, I ran across my hero, Jimmy Buffett, one day. I have always wanted to ask him, among other things, "Where in the world were you when you wrote 'Cheeseburger in Paradise'?" I can name six restaurant owners in five countries who will swear he was in their establishment at the time. And why is the Flying Dutchman a prisoner of its fears? Etcetera, etcet-era. But, of course, I came down with an immediate case of buck fever and could only manage to stammer out, "Where have you been in your boat lately?" Jimmy, who

"Where have you been in your boat lately?" Jimmy, who has probably never been at a loss for words, jumped right in to say he'd just returned from Panama and thought it was the best-kept secret in the Caribbean.

I think he's right and I think I know why. It's way over there, no matter where you're coming from.

Coming south from Florida, I spent my first Caribbean hurricane season in Loopy Land (or Luperon, Dominican Republic). There were 80 boats in the anchorage that year. By the time I got to Trinidad, I could only count 20 that I knew. Then Venezuela—eight, Colombia—two, and Boca del Toro, Panama—zero. Jimmy, however, had just left again.

Well, I'm going to blab the secret right out. If you sail the route I did, it just gets better and better as you go

the route I did, it just gets better and better as you go from east to west — and then there's Panama, like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Obviously, there is no finish line in cruising, but if there were one it might be in Panama. Let me tell you a little about that

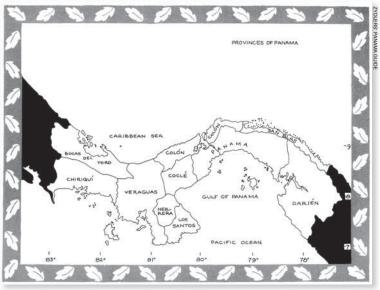
pot, then, we'll take a little adventure.

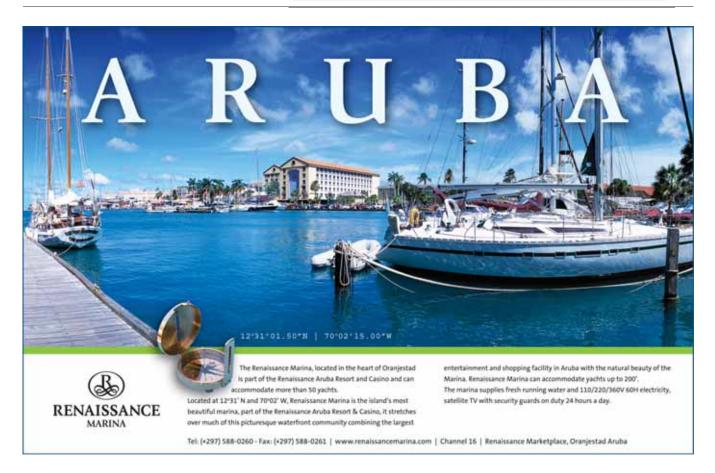
Arriving from the east, the first part of Panama you come to is Kuna Yala, or the San Blas islands. More than 100 miles with more than 200 islands just off the coast of Panama, this is as ideal a cruising ground as I can imagine. There are beautiful islands, large and small pristine beaches, live coral reefs, and abundant fish, birds and other wildlife. There are secluded areas and there are anchorages with 20 or more boats and a radio net; you can tuck in completely alone or join in the potluck dinners. You can trade rice and oil with the polutex miners. To can trade free and on with the indigenous Kuna islanders for fish, lobster and crabs the size of Chicago, or you can eatch them your-self and invite an islander for dinner. You can visit the indigenous villages to seek out basic supplies or take part in their festivities.

-Continued on next page

# A LITTLE OFF THE RHUMB LINE IN PANAMA by Chuck Cherry







tinental divide separating North from South America. There are four national parks along the way, each a rainforest and each preserving a little historical something. For starters, on a day trip from Colón or Panama City you could visit the Miraflores locks, the Summit Botanical Gardens and zoo, and the Sendero del Charro nature trail in Soberania National Park, a preserved parties of the original sold trail used by the Charro nature trail in Soberania National Park, a preserved portion of the original gold trail used by the Spaniards over 400 years ago. This is a setting of serious jungle only 25 kilometers from downtown Panama City. Across the canal from Colón, behind the Shelter Bay Marina, an hour's walk through the overgrown ruins of the US fortifications will impress you with the enormity of that effort. One of the terminally bored fremen at the lonely outpost stations there might gladly offer guide service for the price of a soda or beer. I could continue on and on but the canal itself is the main attraction here. main attraction here.

Around 14,000 ships pass through the canal each year. Ships worldwide are built with the dimensions of the canal locks in mind: 305 meters long and 33.5 meters wide. There are three sets of double locks and the large man-made Gatun Lake in the middle. When created it was the largest man-made lake in the world, with the largest dam. Fifty-two million gallons of fresh water are released into the ocean with each passing ship. The more you learn about the monumental con-struction project (and the associated political intrigue),

the more interesting it becomes.

If you're not doing a transit on your own boat, or acting as a line-handler on someone else's, the easiest way to visit the canal is to go to the free, built-in museum at the Miraflores locks. Here you can watch and learn at the Miraflores locks. Here you can watch and learn at the same time. Or, on Saturday mornings you can climb aboard the tour boat and travel from Panama City to the Miraflores locks and back, followed by a bay tour, for around US\$150. Couch potatoes can log onto the web cams at each set of locks and watch their friends wave as they go through each lock. Once a boat receives its starting time you can accurately predict the time of passage through each lock. The three or four self-contained mountain lodge resorts, and half the hotels in Panama City, exist to accommodate the thousands of visitors from all over the world who have come each year solely to see and explore the canal each year solely to see and explore the canal.

Next stop on the westward cruise is Boca del Toro.

Totally off the beaten path and out of the way to anywhere, this is the epitome of a quaint, historical "sort of" tourist town.

-Continued on next page

-Continued from previous page You can check in at either end of the San Blas chain, the west end being the better choice. But there is no hurry. The island chain is owned and governed jointly by the Kuna people and the Panamanian government. You will pay a fee (which is fairly reasonable and somewhat negotiable) to both upon signing in. You can actually check in and out of San Blas without going to Panama proper, but if you do go on to Panama you must check in again at Colón or Panama City. The

must check in again at Colón or Panama City. The cruising permit from either of those ports of entry will allow you to go anywhere in Panama.

If you anchor near a Kuna village, they will probably charge you a five-dollar anchoring fee, which is good for 30 days. Considered by some a nuisance and by others as an interesting interaction with a centuries-old civilization, the fees are minimal compared to the priceless hurolic heauty of the region. Generally, but priceless bucolic beauty of the region. Generally, but not always, the villagers have a "don't bother the tourists" rule and, occasionally, you'll have to wave over the fresh fruit, fish or bread boat. In any case, if you like cruising you will feel at home in the San Blas. By the way, the whole stretch is navigable between the islands and mainland in calm waters. You do, of

islands and mainland in calm waters. You do, of course, have to pay attention.

Porvenir is the western end's check-in and check-out settlement. From there you can jump off for Colón. There are some interesting stops along the way, especially the historic Portobello. Then you arrive at the entrance to the eighth wonder of the world: the Panama Canal. There are two marinas here to choose from, one on either side of the canal: the Panama Canal Yacht Club and Shelter Bay Marina. Each offers a front-row seat to the 24/7 nageantry of multipage. a front-row seat to the 24/7 pageantry of multina-tional ships the size of football fields passing in and out of the canal with the regularity of Swiss trains. If you prefer, a large anchorage nearby has good holding

and the same view.

The town of Colón is lacking in socially redeeming qualities and deserves to be skipped unless you need supplies. Nearby, however, is a very nice resort hotel, the Gamboa Rainforest Resort, which makes for a pleasant day visit or a somewhat expensive land base for exploration. Also the tourist train to Panama City departs daily at 5:15pm from the station near the marina. It follows along the canal and the ride is rather enjoyable, especially with a group. (If you are alone, you'll find a group in the ever popular bar car.) You could easily spend a couple of weeks exploring the environs of the 80-mile canal as it cuts through the con-



Cruisers Jeanie and Dan Miller took this portrait of a Kuna matron in traditional dress during their sail through the San Blas Islands in 2002. They liked Panama so much they bought property and settled in Boauete



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—Continued from previous page
It's a laid-back destination for backpackers,
Panamanian tourists, cruisers and the occasional
Jimmy Buffett types. By "sort of", I mean it has several amenities over and above the usual small beach
town, without losing its charm. For example, there are town, without losing its charm. For example, there are a movie and sports bar, a makeshift disco on the water, an authentic delicatessen, and a multitude of casual fine-dining establishments for special occasions. All this, plus the usual street vendors, open-air markets, festivals and sea turtles laying eggs. The

marina is lovely, with a quaint restaurant and gazebo bar. It is located beside the town and requires a fiveminute dinghy or dollar water-taxi ride. From there you can dinghy to a dozen different neat places like

sunrise while viewing two oceans at the same time. This is, of course, the only place in the world where

your can uningly to a cozen unierten heat places like reefs, points, bays, mangrove swamps, indigenous villages and little resorts. Or you can hop by boat or taxi to the nearby park islands — it's a great place to leave your boat for a little inland adventure.

One plan is to climb the Volcano Baru and watch the



you can do this (okay, in the western hemisphere), so you gotta go! And, as they say in the cruising world, getting there is half the fun. First, you take the water taxi to the city of Changuinola. This is an exciting opportunity to ride through the defunct banana plantations and spot crocodiles, monkeys and parrots. Then you take a short bus ride to David, a Pacific coast

town, followed by another bus up to Boquete.

Boquete, nestled in a craggy mountain valley at 1060 meters, is cool, pristine and loaded with flowers, sweet oranges (originally from California), coffee (the best in Panama) and refined gringos. If you are over 60, you too can pay the thousand-dollar nationalization fee and buy a small condo in the Boquete burbs and live large on a small pension in paradise. It's an absolutely

large on a small pension in paradise. It's an absolutely fine mountain village of about eight to nine blocks with all the necessities, plus Mary's strawberry pie store. The head of the trail begins at the high side of town. Trail is a relative term. At one point it was a road of sorts used to construct the large communication center of towers, etcetera, on top. Today it would be better described as a steep riverbed, complete with loose wet rocks and muddy rust fit only for very big tractors. On described as a steep riverbed, complete with loose wet rocks and muddy ruts fit only for very big tractors. On the way down it was amusing to watch the mucho macho hombres trying to upright their four-wheel drive jeeps and trucks (twice). It was moderate to difficult hiking with frequent stops for water and breathing, And, naturally, it began just before midnight to catch the 7:00Am sunrise. I suggest bringing a flashlight.

We elected to take a guide, not an absolute necessity but a good idea as there are numerous forks in the road.

but a good idea, as there are numerous forks in the road leading off to pasture lands and farms. Taking the wrong turn would cost precious time in doubling back. Also, the guide acts as a coach, pushing, and pulling and prodding you to stay on schedule. By the second half of the climb, my partner needed a couch. By the fourth quarter so did I. Near the top, the trail turned cruelly steep and it was a big effort to get one foot in front of the other at a snail's pace. Our guide's name was impossible to pronounce but sounded like Geraldine. This guy was anything but girly as he pushed us over the top at 3,475 metres five minutes before sunrise.

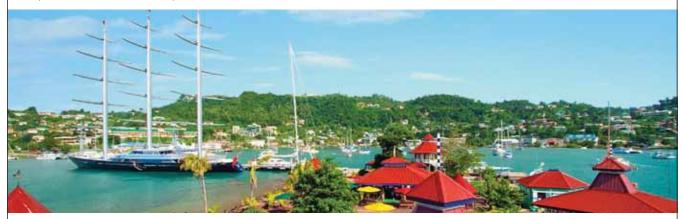
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This old banana plantation is now overgrown — but Monica thinks it's great for dinghy exploration

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It was indeed one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences that make you tingle. Then again, the wind was howling and the temperature dropping. It wasn't until well after the sunrise that we noticed there was one more tip-top left, about 100 metres of straight-up rock with a cross on top. Well, you know you've come this far so you gotta go. Monica volunteered to stay behind and take the picture of me on top, hugging the cross. The guide and I crawled on our hands and knees to the top, kissed the cross, got the picture and scampered down to breakfast and more pictures of the absolutely beautiful panoramic view of both shores, then the descent of only six hours. The other reason to go up at night is to beat the daily clouds that roll in around 10 night is to beat the daily clouds that roll in around 10 to 10:30am every day, reducing visibility to zero. On the way down we met four or five hapless hikers going up (not counting the macho four-wheelers that would never make it). We didn't have the heart to tell them never make it). Wabout the clouds.

We got back to the village about 2:00pm. Cocktail hour came early that day, as did bedtime. Tired muscles and sore feet were a cheap price to pay for a near-Obviously there is more to Panama than there is

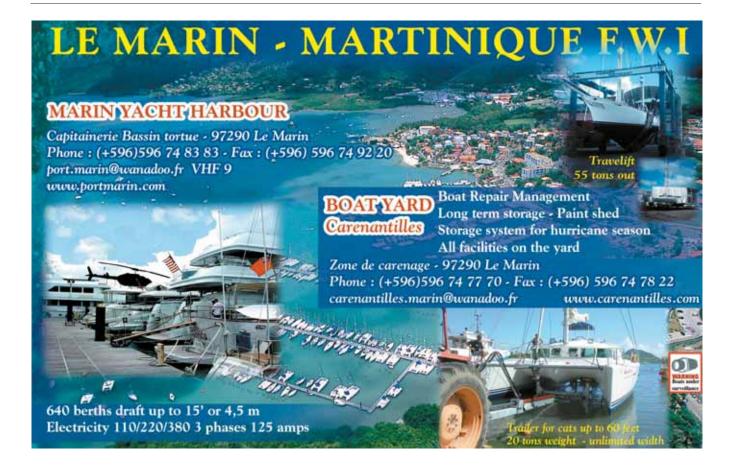
room here to discuss. Taking your boat through the canal, visiting the Pacific side with Panama City, the marinas, beaches and offshore islands, the remainder of the canal environs, the Darien wilderness and the whole banana republic thing to name a few, would make the transit worthwhile

Chuck and Monica live aboard their 55-foot trawler. They enjoy cruising around the Caribbean and talking about it.





Shelter Bay Marina is one of two marinas at the Caribbean end of the Panama Canal; it's on the west side, and the Panama Canal Yacht Club is on the east. When visiting this area, be sure to have a copy of Nancy and Tom Zydler's The Panama Guide.



# **VIEQUES** THE FORGOMEN VIRGIN

"The island pales in comparison to Culebra for cruis-

"The island pales in comparison to Culebra for cruising, dining, beaches, services, good holding, etcetera. We wouldn't stop there unless we needed to on the upwind passage from Fajardo to St. Croix." "Isabel Segunda is an exposed anchorage." "Esperanza is protected, but too grassy for reliable good holding, and the anchorages east of there were in the 'forbidden zone' for so many years, it would never occur to us to go there." These are some comments made by seasoned Caribbean cruisers. But as cruisers increasingly complain about crowded anchorages in the Eastern palain about crowded anchorages.

plain about crowded anchorages in the Eastern Caribbean islands, it might be time to give Vieques — only a day's sail west of bustling St. Thomas — anothonly a day's sail west of bustling St. Thomas — another look. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated activists and a series of protests that began in 1999, the US military, which had expropriated a large part of the island during World War II to use for bombing target practice, finally ceased these activities and pulled out in 2003. In his Cruising Guide to the Eastern Caribbean: Puerto Rico, the Spanish, US and British Virgin Islands,

Don Street writes: "Vieques is one of the undiscovered islands of the Eastern Caribbean, with many fine anchorages... there is enough cruising to keep a yachtsman busy for weeks." Street gives details of numerous anchorages on the island, and it's well worth getting a copy of this book (available at iUniverse.com) to plan your visit.

Bruce Van Sant, in his The Gentleman's Guide to Passages South: The Thornless Path to Windward, also give Vieques praise: "Many consider these bays, coves and beaches the best of all Virgin Island anchorages. Untouched by developers, they have stayed off limits most of the last hundred years.... A good plan would launch a cruise of Vieques from Culebra. While enjoying superb Culebrense cruising, you can watch for a window of favorable weather..." This is another book (available from www.cruisingguides.com) that will be a most useful reference for a Vieques' cruise. Up-to-date charts are also a good idea for navigating the reefs and rocks of this beautiful, uncrowded cruising ground.

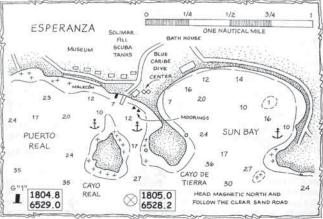
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Above: The lighthouse at Punta Mula, Isabel Segunda

Left: Just a mile from semi-touristy Esperanza, you can usually find a quiet anchorage at Sun Bay







—Continued from previous page

Van Sant predicts, "After munitions cleanup, perhaps years, you can look forward to rampant development to spoil these beautiful coves more than bombs could." But that hasn't happened yet. The largest resort on the island was closed, and had been for some time, as of this writing. Commerce is low key, driven mainly by small guesthouses catering to beach lovers. Small herds of Paso Fino horses, owned by humans but unfenced and unfettered, wander the beaches and roadsides. Long stretches of magnificent sandy beach are backed by trees and shrubs, not high-rises, and dotted with people only at long intervals, even in high season. We recently saw just two yachts anchored at Sun Bay, three on moorings off Green Beach, and four at Esperanza. On the weekends, sportfishing boats from Puerto Rico visit, but during the week peace and quiet reign.

from Puerto Rico visit, but during the week peace and quiet reign.
Cruiser Betty Karl named Ensenada Honda in Vieques (there is also an Ensenada Honda in Culebra) as one of her favorite anchorages: "Ensenada Honda in Vieques is wonderfully wide open, sheltered and almost uninhabited. Such quiet! We saw only one other boat in the week we stayed there. It is totally lined in mangroves, so the water isn't clear, but it's very calm. When we were there, the bombing range was still practicing and we had to let them know we were nearby. were nearby.



Left: A roadside memorial protesting the US military's use of much of the island for bombing target practice and testing of weapons. Marina in this case means Navy



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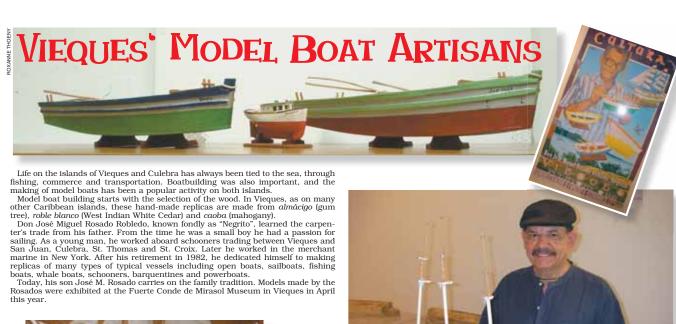
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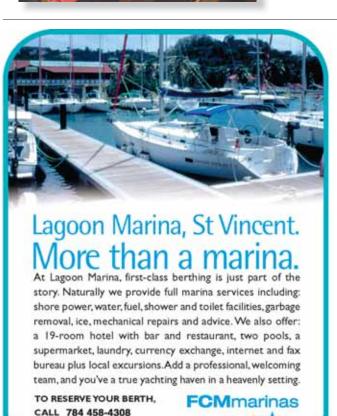




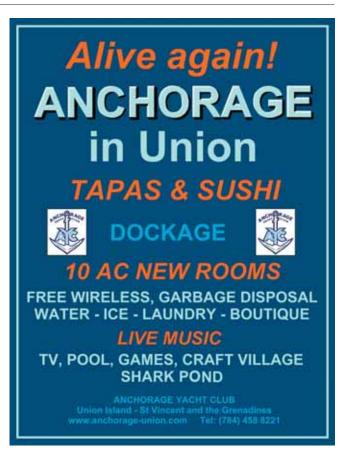




Carrying on his father's tradition, José M. Rosado (right) sets up a display of model boats at Vieques' Fuerte Conde de Mirasol Museum (and yes, the masts got straightened)



**ORVHF CHANNEL 68** 



# ALL ASHORE...

illed as the biggest party of the year on St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands, the events surrounding Carnival covered the entire month of April — and we weren't

going to miss it!

A multitude of events took place, beginning on April 6th with the selection of a Prince and Princess in which children between the ages of 6 and 12 competed. The selection of the Carnival Queen on the 12th contained all the pageantry of a Miss America contest. Women between 17 and 21 years of age were trained, groomed, rehearsed and staged. They competed in the categories of an Introduction Speech, Cultural Costume, Swim Wear, Evening Wear, Talent and

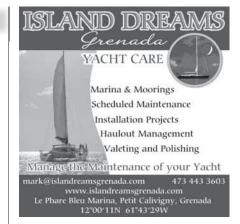
Costume, Swim Wear, Evening Wear, Talent and Question-and-Answer.

Nor were the toddlers overlooked. A Toddler's Derby was held the next day, where scores of ten-month-old toddlers crawled to see who would cross the finish line first. This was a must-see event. The parents were the real show as they placed themselves at the finish line and enticed their offspring with funny faces, treats, and chants

makeshift costumes or T-shirts representing the community group or band of their choice and pranced along the waterfront to Carnival Village.

In the last days of Carnival, the parades take place. The first is the Children's Parade. The Princes and Princesses and a variety of troupes jump and sway along the parade route. The adult parade takes place the last Saturday of Carnival What as extraoraginaral. the last Saturday of Carnival. What an extravaganza! There are spectacular costumes, double-decker buses There are spectacular costumes, double-decker buses containing steel bands, and mocko jumbies (costumed still walkers). Scheduled for 10:0AM, it actually started about 11:00 and was still going at 4:15 when we left! There were several showers and one hard rain—the musicians had to tip their steel drums to empty the water! Various floats throw goodies—candy in small, red Chinese-takeout-style boxes and Chinese yoyos, hand towels, even neckties—an unusual assortment, we thought! The costumes, the music, the dancing celebrate the multitude of cultures in the the dancing celebrate the multitude of cultures in the islands.

And finally, on the last night, there were wonderful, magical fireworks. Following the fireworks was a



# Carnival Time on St. Thomas

by Jacqueline Milman

Traditional games of marbles, spinning tops, jacks, Traditional games of marbles, spinning tops, jacks, and "steal the bacon" were also to take place the evening of the 13th. Intrigued, we went to Lionel Roberts stadium where older people were playing as though they were still the kids they had been 60 or 70 years ago. The whoops and hollers of the lucky winners accompanied oaths spat by the losers.

Being boaters, we also made sure to attend Water Sports Day on April 20th. Engineless IC24 class sail-boats raced as many times as conditions permitted.

Spoits Day of April 20th. Engineess IC24 Class sain-boats raced as many times as conditions permitted, each crewed by three to five persons. We joined the spectators lining the historic Charlotte Amalie water-front, cheering on the racers. At the completion of the competition, the boats paraded along the waterfront throwing Mardi Grass-style beads to the crowd. Then the powerboate raced the powerboats raced.

the powerboats raced.

Every year at carnival, pre-teens and seniors participate in "tramps." Student groups wearing school T-shirts dance in the street to a steel drum orchestra and march ("tramp") from Market Square to Emancipation Garden. A prize is awarded to the school with the most participants. Seniors in colorful costumes tramp to a scratchband playing the traditional quelbe music of the Virgin Islands. Quelbe is a form of the quadrille.

Music is a very important consert of

Music is a very important aspect of any carnival celebration. On St. Thomas, a Junior Calypso Competition is held in which students from various Competition is held in which students from various schools perform original songs dealing with social issues or carnival themes. Some use props, backup singers, or unique costumes to convey their message to the audience. Cultural Night on April 16th was highlighted by the Junior and Senior King and Queen of the Bands Competition. This was the first time that spectators got a peek at the elaborate character costumes that the troupes would enter in the final Carnival parade ten days later. A Steel Band Jamboree on the 20th made for an evening of wonderful music—popular, reggae, calypso, classical—all played on steel drums. This was my favorite of the musical events. There was also a Latin Night, where various musical entourages played samba, meringue, etcetera, musical entourages played samba, meringue, etcetera, a Calypso Review and a Soca Explosion (Soca is a

a Calypso Review and a Soca Explosion (Soca is a mixture of soul and calypso).

During the final week of Carnival, Carnival Village took over the large downtown parking area at Fort Christian. A Food Fair celebrated fare from a variety of island cultures — yummy! Game booths and amusement park rides reminded me of the county fair carnivals we used to attend as kids. And there was a stage where a variety of groups performed. The carnival village provides a focal point for families and friends to gather and there was a bustling crowd there both nights we attended.

Louvert from the French jour ownert, means day-

J'ouvert, from the French jour ouvert, means day-Jouvert, from the French Jour owert, means day-break. It is a night-until-morning street dance or "jump up." It seemed like the entire island was there. From 4:00AM until noon on the Thursday preceding the final weekend of Carnival, revelers dressed in



Mocko Jumbies take to the streets of Charlotte Amalie during Carnival

Calypso Spectakula, wherein the costumed participants danced and pranced one last time, taking the Last Lap at midnight. Then St. Thomas Carnival was

over for another year.

Carnival is generally believed to trace its origins to medieval Italy where a costume festival was held the night before Lent began. Because Catholics were not supposed to eat meat during Lent, the festival was named carne vale, which means "to put away meat" or "farewell to the flesh". This tradition was carried with European Catholics to many parts of the world. Today, in the Caribbean, the religious aspects have given way to a celebration of cultural traditions. Ancient African traditions of parading and moving in circles through villages in costumes and masks, believed to bring good fortune, heal problems and chill out angry spirits, exert a strong influence on modern Caribbean carnival

celebrations.

Once held before Lent, these festivities now occur Once held before Lent, these festivities now occur year-round in various parts of the Caribbean and it's great fun to take part. Upcoming Caribbean Carnivals include those in St. John, USVI, on July 4th; St. Vincent on July 7th and 8th, St. Lucia from July 8th to 22nd; Statia from July 20th to 28th; Antigua from July 26th to August 5th; Saba from July 30th to August 3rd; Barbados "Crop Over" from August 3rd to 7th; and Grenada August 11th and 12th.

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# **CARIBBEAN PASSAGES**

# BONAIRE TO GRENADA, NON-STO

by Jeremy Shaw

friends tended to fall into two camps. Those who don't know the Caribbean and sailing said things like "Oh, that sounds lovely, lucky you." Those who do know the Caribbean would raise their eyebrows and say "rather you than me..." and look pityingly at Léonie, my wife, or offer: "Have you thought about hopping along the Venezuelan coastline? It's lovely." We had been drifting round the Caribbean Sea clock face for a few years, going the usual route after Grenada, which we left in autumn 2004. Tobago... Trinidad... Margarita... Puerto La Cruz... Tortuga... Roques... Aves... Bonaire... Curaçao... Aruba. All very beautiful and special places.
But Aruba was something of a "Rubicon" for us. The next stop going west is Cartagena, and getting back east from there is no joke. Also we are not full-time cruisers right now — we hardly qualify as snowbirds, even. I wanted to leave the boat in places where I knew I could get good work done, and guardianage, while we were away. Plus, in the Eastern Caribbean you can easily get to and from a wide choice of islands, whereas once you get to Venezuela travel is much more east-west, therefore either easy or more difficult.

For all these reasons we were going back east. The mooring field at Kralendijk in Bonaire is 382 miles from the entrance to Prickly Bay, Grenada, and the heading is practically due east, so however you do it, the journey won't be easy.

Which way to go?

Coast-hopping along the Venezuelan mainland is an excellent strategy, and a journey more to many the surface of the proper med a by more weeds. But we were educant to do it for two main seapes. Even

Which way to go?

Coast-hopping along the Venezuelan mainland is an excellent strategy, and a journey made by many people. But we were reluctant to do it for two main reasons. First, without wishing to restart the debate, the security position in Venezuela seems to have deteriorated in recent months judging from reports on nonsite.com and elsewhere. It's always difficult to assess this, as the absolute numbers are small, and none of our friends has had personal problems in Venezuela. But we would be travelling on our own and it was a factor.

Secondly, we were limited for time, so wanted to go more quickly. A coastal-hopping route would take at least ten days, very probably two weeks, whereas if we could average four knots on the direct route it could be done in four days, though mentally I allowed for double that. In addition, the direct route takes you a little north of the offshore islands of Aves, Roques, Blanquilla and Testigos. This gave us the option

tally I allowed for double that. In addition, the direct route takes you a little north of the offshore islands of Aves, Roques, Blanquilla and Testigos. This gave us the option of popping in if we got tired or had gear trouble, and Margarita would be no more than about a day's sail from the direct route once past Blanquilla. The chances of finding a weather window that is good for five or more days of easterly passagemaking are slim indeed. It seemed clear that we'd get some days when the winds were okay and some when they would be stronger than one would like, but they were never going to be in the right direction. So early one morning after saying good-bye to friends and to Bonaire itself — one of our favourite islands in the Cartheau — we set off Caribbean — we set off.

We leave Bonaire

The reach down the lee side of Bonaire is one of the finest sails you'll ever get in

The reach down the lee side of Bonaire is one of the finest sails you'll ever get in the Caribbean. Flat seas and a flat land which make for a steady, predictable breeze and fast reaches. Knowing we'd be facing headwinds after rounding the corner we just unfurled the genoa, and were still zipping along at eight knots.

Zingano is a 43-foot Fountaine Pajot catamaran. In flat water with no wind we'll cruise on one engine at six-and-a-half knots. We can carry 600 litres of fuel, and the Yanmars burn about three an hour. So that gives us a theoretical range of 1,300 miles. Obviously motoring into wind and sea we'd achieve a lot less than that, but it executed we had blenty of reserve. seemed we had plenty of reserve — the theoretical range being over three times the

actual route length.

Once we rounded the southern headland of Bonaire we got pretty much what we expected: a Force 5 on the nose, one-and-a-half-metre swells, and plenty of spray from the odd wave we fell off. But the boat speed was a bit worse than I'd feared — just three knots through the water and two-and-a-half over the ground. We'd plug on through.

Trouble already?

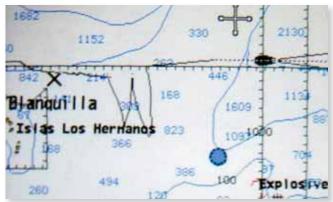
Trouble already?

Some hours later while I was resting between watches, the bilge alarm went off. Never a note that brings joy to the skipper's heart! I got up and found Léonie working on the port hull bilge. We'd let a little water in when refitting the paddle log and she thought this might have triggered it. But it seemed unlikely since we were talking only a few pints and I knew our air switches are triggered by more than that. I traced the action to the port engine bilge where we had a bit of water sloshing around, but no evidence of where it was coming from. Then, as we bounced over a wave, I saw a gush of water coming in through a cable run in the aft bulkhead, about two feet up. This water had not not the aft buvancy compartment, between the engine and

meant that water had got into the aft buoyancy compartment, between the engine and the stern of the boat, underneath the transom steps. How could this be?

Going back on deck I soon spotted the reason. Some years ago in Malta we'd fitted access hatches to the inside of the transoms since it was otherwise impossible to get at some of the fittings (the builder obviously put them on before sticking the hull and declarated them. It has been written to the content of the strength of the strengt deck mouldings together). I'd been wanting to change these hatches, as they were looking chalky and getting a bit powdery when I'd checked them and lubricated the threads about a year ago. But I'd been unable to find them in Bonaire and it was on the job list for Grenada. Now one simply had a hole in it. As the waves had surged around the lower transom step they had clearly created enough pressure to punch through one of the degraded batches. through one of the degraded hatches.

In itself this was not major. We should be able to repair the hatch, and, even if not, the bilge pump should keep us out of trouble. I tried putting duct tape on over the hatch. But every minute or so I'd get knee-deep in water and the hatch would get



As our chartplotter track shows, beating into two or three knots of current didn't really work for us

swamped, so this clearly was not going to work. I went to remove the other hatch to see if I could bail out the water and it started to crumble in my hand. Not good. In the end, I carefully removed both the port hatch covers and accepted the transom would fill with water, but gradually get pumped out via the engine compartment, then stabilise if I could make a temporary repair. We cleaned up and dried the covers, liberally plastered them with duct tape, and put them back. Would this be good for another four to six days? I thought not.

Pit stop at the Roques

So Place By we get in to an island. We were at this time possing the Avec. It was

So, Plan B: we put in to an island. We were at this time passing the Aves. It was dark and we appeared to be getting ID request calls from the Venezuelan coastguard but they did not answer our replies (the base was a dozen miles away). We'd heard that the Aves coastguard could be friendly or not, depending on who you got, so we decided to press on to the Roques, which also meant a late afternoon arrival. This would give us time to do our repair job in daylight, leave stuff to cure overnight and leave at dawn. Better timing.

This worked well. Elbert Cay is the westernmost anchorage of the Roques and we

Inis worked well. Elbert Cay is the westernmost anchorage of the Roques and we felt our way in to a deserted spot on schedule in the late afternoon. We decided to fix all four hatch covers. I'd been carrying a spare, so one was an easy swap. For the others we cut oversize pieces of Sunbrella and glued them on with marine sealant so that they covered both the lid and the mounting ring. The job was done by nightfall, which left them overnight to cure a bit.

—Continued on next page

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# DOLLY'S ANSWERS

Here are 50 words to get you going. Remember to check any other words in the dictionary to make sure that they are correctly spelt.

anger	organ	stain
apron	other	sting
asset	phone	stone
earth	prate	strap
enter	prone	strip
ester	prong	strop
ether	range	tenor
grain	seine	thane
grant	singe	there
graph	snipe	these
grasp	spare	thing
greet	spare	thong
grist	spine	thorn
groan	sport	those
grope	sprat	three
heart	sprit	tripe
hinge	stage	

We had the track set on the chartplotter as we came in so, although at 5:00am the light was decidedly poor, we reversed the route and made our way back out without

It had been my plan to keep friends and family updated with our progress on our blog. We can e-mail blog updates, so sending a single e-mail would also put less stress on the limited e-mail capabilities of our SSB/Pactor modem combo using Sailmail. The previous night, however, the setup fell over for some reason — I suspect the Pactor, but cannot be sure. Fortunately, as we passed Grand Roque I was able get a cellphone signal and called my daughter and asked her to post an update saying we were fine but there would be no more until we got to Grenada in four or fixed our time.

The hatch patches were holding up well and we were back on track. After leaving the Roques, the wind and swell dropped a little so our SOG rose to four knots. We were happy with that and a day later we were trudging past Blanquilla, some eight

were happy with that and a day later we were trudging past Blanquilla, some eight miles distant, though so flat it was impossible to see.

This was the longest passage we'd ever done as a couple (for our Atlantic crossing we had a crewmember) but our watch-keeping system was working fine. Léonie would go down to rest about 7:00Pm and come up on deck around 11:00Pm. I'd then rest and come up at 3:30AM and she would go back down. I find shorter watches pointless as I need half an hour to wash and wind down, and often an hour to get to sleep — especially as in these conditions there is a lot of wave and wind noise down below. Coupled with rest breaks during the day we were both getting enough sleep and doing fine. Even better, Léonie, who often gets seasick at first on the boat, had been absolutely fine, thanks probably to the scopolamine patch that she'd put on at departure. I, on the other hand, had been seasick for a while — the first time even this beat (unless working on engines etcetera in a had sea) in over 15 000 miles on this boat (unless working on engines, etcetera, in a bad sea) in over 15,000 miles of cruising. That's bashing to windward for you!

Set back by three knots

Set back by three knots

Once we got past Blanquilla things deteriorated. The wind got up again to Force 5 or 6, but worse, the current against us rose to three knots. We had expected adverse current of around a knot and a half, but three knots was more than I'd planned on. I started to get worried about the impact on our fuel consumption, since we were now doing two knots SOG. We were motoring along a line between deep water and shallower (more than 1,000 metres versus 200) so I altered course to the south to take us into the relatively shallower water, hoping we'd find less current there. I started to wonder whether we should have taken the coastal route, where favourable counter-current can be found within a mile or two of the shore. But that was more than 100 miles away. than 100 miles away.

than 100 miles away.

The next day we re-did our fuel calculations and worked out that if we could do at least two-and-a-half knots we would have just enough fuel. But that assumption meant using all the fuel in the tank and we did not know where our pick-up point was and whether as much as ten percent of our back tank (30 litres — ten hours worth) might in practice be unavailable. Then there was also the risk of the Racor filters getting clogged as the fuel got low, since the tanks have never been cleaned. I'd tried several times in the Caribbean to get the fuel "polished" but, despite promises, the job never got done. ises, the job never got done.

We decided to see what mileage we could lop off the route by good old sailing and spent the day beating to windward. But what with the wind, waves and current, the leeway was horrendous — 40 degrees at times! We usually tack through about 120 degrees (COG to COG). After all our daylight hours spent beating we'd advanced just ten miles on our rhumb line.

ten miles on our rhumb line.

Margarita or press on?

Margarita would now be an easy sail but we'd arrive at nightfall, so we decided to motor on through the night and make the call at dawn. At that point, if we turned south we'd arrive in Margarita in the afternoon. Come dawn, the wind was down a bit; we were making three knots. We decided that rather than taking a minimum of two days out by going down to Porlamar we'd press on, despite the attractions of cheap alcohol and cheap diesel.

By this time we'd moved virtually all our fuel from the front tank to the back, so the palls have been said to be pressed to the pressure of the property of the pressure of the pressure of the property of the pressure of the

By this time we'd moved virtually all our fuel from the front tank to the back, so we could keep careful eye on the remaining capacity. I was checking the Yanmars daily and they were fine. The access patches were holding up.

The wind had moved a little north of east and we found that, by overhauling the main, we could get another half knot. Not a lot but when you are only making two-and-a-half over the ground, it's a big help.

I had decided to approach Grenada north of the large Reindeer Shoal, which sits off the southwest corner. I had several reasons for this. First, the anchorage off St. George's is easy at any time of day or night, especially when you know it. Second, I knew we'd have flat seas for the approach — good if you are tired. Third, it was an extra seven miles to Prickly Bay and the opposing current could kick up. Having made the Grenada-Trinidad run a few times, I know how that westbound current can really pick up as it starts to get deflected by the shoal. I wanted to have as easy a final run in as possible. Finally by coming in where the current was down, we could always beat if fuel got really low.

The main breaks loose
During the night, shortly after I came on watch, the forefoot of the main broke During the night, shortly after I came on watch, the forefoot of the main broke loose and was flapping around among the lazyjacks. It is our rule at night that before you leave the cockpit you get someone else up. But the seas and wind were down, Léonie was asleep and I had my lifejacket and harness on. I figured if she woke up hearing me bashing about on deck she'd come and help. If not, she needed the rest. I managed to get a line to the tack and haul it back with the winch, then remake the lashing, which had chafed through. Léonie slept on — she needed it.

Looks like we'll make it

Things were now starting to look better. We were 36 hours away from St. George's

LOOKS like we'll make it

Things were now starting to look better. We were 36 hours away from St. George's. The current was starting to drop off to more like a knot and a half opposing and I felt sure that as we got into the lee of Grenada the wind, waves and current would fall further. The wind was now down to a Force 4, which was making a huge difference to progress. At the same time I knew that if we got hit by a Force 6 we'd be set right back. The prospect of having to go back to Margarita if we ran out of fuel, say 30 miles off, was a bit depressing. At least we had that as an option and it would be a lovely downwind sail!

But the wind didn't nine up and at 300 My when Loome on write toward the say of the say o

But the wind didn't pipe up and at 3:00<sub>AM</sub>, when I came on watch towards the end of our sixth day at sea, I found we were motoring in flat seas and light airs with just half a knot of opposing current. We were down to an eighth of a tank of fuel but were now making six knots SOG; the light loom of Grenada, just two hours away, was beckoning.



Journey's end. After making landfall at St. George's, Zingano tucked in at Le Phare Blue Marina on Grenada's south coast

It was a wonderful feeling gliding over those flat seas sparkling with the reflected light of St. George's. It felt like we were hardly moving, as everything seemed so quiet and still. Yet the instruments insisted that our SOG was almost six-and-a-

My fallback plan — to tack in if we ran out of fuel — would not have worked. I'd forgotten how dead the wind can be in the lee of Grenada, so we'd have had to hope for a tow. But anyway, we were going to make it.

Landfall at St. George's

Landfall at St. George's

As we approached the St. George's anchorage at 5:00am, two yachts broke silently away from the pack, heading north. That left a lovely big space for us in the middle, so we dropped the hook and rested for a few hours before clearing Customs.

By mid-morning we had cleared in and filled the tanks a bit; by lunchtime we were tying up at Le Phare Bleu Marina in Petit Calivigny bay and saying hallo to old friends Mike and Lucy, now running Palm Tree Marine there. And they had just go to a fuel-polishing unit! By 4:00pm, Mike had sucked out and polished the fuel (a job well worth doing — there was certainly some crud in there) and by evening we were in the bar with the cruising community, back to the "other" cruising life.

696 to go 382

# 696 to go 382

Time taken: just a shade under six days. We actually logged 696 miles through the water to make the 382 "crow flies" miles. Taking off our reach down Bonaire, deviation to the Roques, and day spent beating, I think that would have come down to maybe 650 miles to windward. I reckon our average head current was about two knots. We'd picked a time of relatively high currents, but this was still higher than

I'd expected.

Shortly after our arrival in Grenada, a couple of tropical waves came through with

Shortly after our arrival in Grenada, a couple of tropical waves came through with stronger winds. If we'd still been out at sea that could have been enough to set us back so we could not quite make it. It was close.

Would I do it again? I wouldn't want to. But no one wants to go to windward for six days. On the other hand, if you accept the penalties, and just want to get there, and get it over, you have a willing engine and crew, with plenty of fuel to spare for each, then this is a perfectly valid route.

We now had time to get jobs done and enjoy Grenada. It was good to be back.



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Safety Device for Boat Kids and Pets
A new boating safety device called the Safety Turtle
will be of interest to boaters with children and/or pets. Advocated by many boating and water safety organizations, it is a device that is worn either around the child's wrist or on their lifevest, or around the pet's collar or lifevest. It sends a wireless signal to a base station (positioned anywhere on the boat) if the child or pet falls overboard. The base station then alarms loudly so that the adults on board know immediately that a child/ pet has fallen overboard and can rush to the rescue.

The Safety Turtle Wireless Alarm is a combination of wireless signal-outfitted wristbands/collarbands and a wireless base station receiver that sounds an alarm the instant a child or pet falls or ventures into water. The base station can be positioned anywhere between 200 and 1500 feet away from the water

(depending on model).
Safety Turtle retails for US\$235 and can be purchased online at safetyturtle.com or at retail stores in the US and Canada.

Chill with Cubes by the Kilo
For most boaters, especially during a Caribbean
summer, ice is a necessity onboard. The redesigned
lear-Ette from Raritan — with a new, streamlined door,
flush mount option and ergonomic door handle was developed specifically for marine applications. The enhanced icemaker produces up to ten kilos of crescent-shaped ice per day.

crescent-snapea ice per day.
With two sizes, several door panel colors and extensive trim options available, the sleek Icer-Ette can be customized to match any boat's Interior design. The standard 85 model fits under normal counter spaces and measures 61cm H x 35.6cm W x 36.8cm D without trim. The smaller 84 model is ideal for small but deeper spaces. The door swings open within the width of the Icer-Ette's cabinet, reducing the installation space

needed. Door panels are simple to remove and replace, and doors can be hinged to open either left or right.

A removable ice bucket stores five kilos of ice, and

the ice production is automatically halted when the bucket is full. Unlike plastic, the durable aluminum doorframe and stainless steel grille will not fade or discolor over time. The unit is constructed from the highest-quality marine-grade, non-corrosive components and hardware. The compressor features a five-year warranty. Environmentally friendly, the Icer-Ette uses a completely CFC-free refrigerant with an ozone depletion rating of zero.

For more information visit www.raritaneng.com.

# Children's UV Protective Swimwear

SunSmart make a range of UV Swim and Play Wear



that is a trendy vet sensible approach to sun protection, and which gives 97-percent (50++SPF) UVA/UVB

blocking through the four-way stretch fabric. This fabric is ideal for kids of all ages because no

chemicals are added, and it dries in minutes for all-day comfort. The SunSmart UV line consists of fun themes like Superman and Supergirl outfits both with towel capes, surfer shirt (long sleeve), Rash Guard (short sleeve), hats, and sunglasses.

(short sleeve), hats, and sunglasses.

For more information visit www.SunSmarty.com.

Hand Pump Gets Renewed USCG Approval

Testiffying to this hand pump's continuing high quality, Beckson Marine has received a five-year renewed approval from the US Coast Guard for the Thirsty-Mate high capacity 519CG+3. "Overbuilt" for superior performance, this pump exceeds USCG standards and is approved for commercial use.

The Thirsty-Mate 519CG#3 moves 85 litres per minute through a 7.6cm diameter hose. Self-priming, it pushes a gallon of water in just three strokes with a one-metre intake hose assembly and a three-metre outlet hose and is able to withstand temperatures up to 49°C.

A comparable consumer version, the Beckson 519C, is also available as a portable pump and with an optional flush deck mount, 519FD, for pleasure boats. For more information visit www.beckson.com

Safe International Ship-To-Shore Power United States-based cruisers leaving home need shore power products that work with 16 or 32 amp, snote power products that work with 16 of 32 dmp, 230-volt systems and are not interchangeable with 30 or 50 amp, 125-volt US configurations. Hubbell Marine offers the only CE-certified electrical systems specifically dedicated to US boats bound for the wider world. Interchangeable systems are hazardous because

they have to operate at both 50- and 60-cycle power. Employing standard US National Electronic Manufacturer's Association designs, Hubbell offers its Internationally-Rated Ship-to-Shore Systems. These safe, non-interchangeable 16 and 32 amp, 230-volt products are for use with 50-cycle systems only. They include traditional, 316 stainless steel or sleek, non-cetallia power labor according to the control and the metallic power inlets, as well as white power supply cords. The convenient cords have color-coded, internal connections that match Europe's harmonized color scheme

UV-resistant, the low-profile, non-metallic shore power inlet has a white, Centrex cover, making it weatherproof when closed. Shielded from the elements by a gasketed, self-closing cover,

—Continued on next page





-Continued from previous page .the stainless steel inlet is watertight when cover is properly closed. Both styles feature easy-to-wire terminals and have a transparent interior to allow for

quick and simple visual inspection.
The inlets' mounting holes are 6cm on center and match most existing mounting patterns. A convenient, rear enclosure/strain relief cap is provided. The Internationally-Rated Ship-to-Shore System offers IP56 suitability.

Available in 15.25m length, the 16 and 32 amp, white power supply cords are vinyl-jacketed and have only the female or boat-side end. The other end is blunt cut. The 16 amp cord also comes in a 7.6m version

For more information visit www.hubbell-marine.com

# On-Board Fire Protection System

If a fiberglass boat catches on fire it can burn down to the waterline literally within minutes. A proper fire protection system should be on any boatowner's safety checklist

Sea-Fire Marine's H Series FM-200 Engineered Fire Suppression Systems protect spaces up to 500 cubic metres in size, and are suitable for pleasure craft, megayachts, workboats or even large structures such as oil platforms. Sea-Fire's systems are specially designed to discharge the entire amount of FM-200 agent in six to ten seconds. This ensures rapid extinguishment of the fire and reduces damage signifi-cantly. FM-200, an EPA-approved alternative to Halon, is a clean, gaseous chemical extinguishing agent that has been proven safe for people, the environment and equipment. It is both non-conductive and non-

corrosive, and leaves no residue behind. Sea-Fire H Series Systems are available with a time delay feature of either 30 or 60 seconds, which provides for an alarm warning and engine and ventilation shutdown prior to discharge. The H Series can take on the most difficult Class A, B and C type fires in engine rooms, electrical compartments, cabins and accom modation areas.

For more information visit www.sea-fire.com

## New Waste Management System Eliminates Worry

Boaters can now rest assured that their onboard waste management system can be used anywhere they go. Legal in all waters, Raritan's new Hold n' Treat System combines the ElectroScan, a US Coast Guard-certified Type 1 marine sanitation device (MSD), with a Type III 15-gallon holding tank. The innovative Hold n' Treat System is the first and only one of its kind for vessels under 20 metres.

Combining overboard treatment and holding tank use, this versatile system stores waste when in sensitive or no-discharge areas. When sewage can be discharged, the waste transfer pump moves waste from the holding tank to the Type 1 MSD, where it undergoes treatment before it is safely and legally dis-charged, ending time-consuming trips to the pumpout station. A locking mode option prevents accidental discharge.
This complete US Coast Guard approved sanitation

system satisfies discharge regulations for all US waters and can be used on inspected or uninspected vessels. Installation of the "drop in place", two-toilet sanitation system is simple and flexible. Ready to use, the system is pre-wired and plumbed. Users just connect

the hoses from the tollet, vent and discharge. Environmentally friendly, the Hold n' Treat System treats waste to a level of 10 coliform bacteria per 100ml of water, far exceeding current Type 1 standards. This can be compared to the 200 coliform that is considered safe for swimming water, as well as the 14 collform allowed for water containing shellfish har-vested for human consumption. The degree of water purity achieved by this system often surpasses that of the water in which the boat is floating, posing no det-rimental effect to the environment. It also kills viruses without the use of harmful chemicals.

For more information visit www.raritaneng.com.

# Versatile Cleanser is Environmentally Friendly

When rinsed directly into the sea, traditional soaps and shampoos can create pollution and harm wildlife. Unlike conventional cleansers, Aqua Lather from Davis Instruments is biodegradable and poses no threat to aquatic life.

This effective body gel and shampoo can be used in all types of water including salt, hard, brackish and chlorinated water, as it will not become diluted. Aqua Lather's unique formula also soothes bug bites, sun burn and rough skin while cleaning and refreshing. This exclusive cleanser counteracts salt, sun and wind damage and removes dirt and grease. Aqua Lather is pH-balanced and won't harm hair or skin, no matter how often it is used. Soft and mild, this formula works into a rich lather with a light and natural fragrance This convenient cleanser's dispensing spout easily

flicks open and closed, avoiding lost caps or mess spills. Aqua Lather's compact bottle contains just the

right amount for travel and easily stows away. Its economical formula is concentrated enough for numer ous baths and shampoos and also works wonderfully on clothes and dishes. Aqua Lather comes in a 150 ml

For more information visit www.davisnet.com

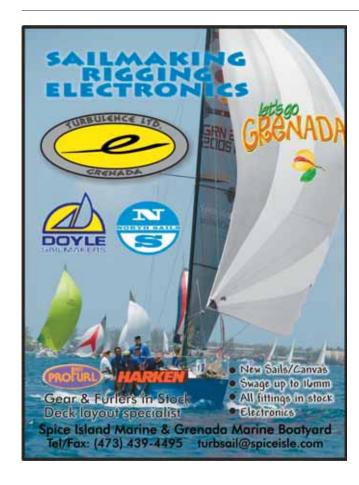
## A Fresh Look at Fresh Water

ITT Jabsco's highly successful carbon water filter, the Aqua Filta, has a fresh look. This simple-to-fit cartridge system absorbs dissolved impurities while retaining beneficial mineral salts, leaving a natural tasting, sweet smelling and clear water flow.



The Aqua Filta is compatible with most manual or electric marine water systems and comes with 180-degree rotating, multi-fit ports allowing easy instal-lation in confined spaces. A permanently fitted filter head is supplied with a replaceable cartridge that has an activated carbon water filter which removes chlorine, unpleasant smells, tastes and colours. The internal inle, unpersaint streis, itsels and colouls. The interior valving facilitates simple, economic replacement without the need to drain down the system or even getting your hands wet. Aqua Filto<sup>™</sup> has a flow capacity of 14 litres per minute (3.7 gpm) and a presented to the colour stress of 14 litres per minute (3.7 gpm) and a presented to the colour stress of 14 litres per minute (3.7 gpm) and a presented to the colour stress of 14 litres per minute (3.7 gpm) and a presented to the colour stress of 14 litres per minute (3.7 gpm) and a presented to the colour stress of 14 litres per minute (3.7 gpm) and a presented to the colour stress of 14 litres per minute (3.7 gpm). sure capability up to 60 psi (4.3 bar).

For more information visit www.jabsconews.com.





# A GUIDE TO NAVIGATING MEDICAL SHOALS

by Lee Kessell

Did the captain break her leg tumbling down the companionway? Did the cook suffer serious burns in bad weather? If you are caught with an ill or injured companion, whether you're cruising the Caribbean or have dropped the anchor permanently here (like we have in St. Lucia), much of the information below will apply. Often a debilitated patient has to fly on a compared a large to a reach appropriate care on another mercial plane to reach appropriate care on another island or in another country. Sometimes you'll have to deal with the situation in a foreign language. I'll tell you my personal story, pointing out my errors and what I think I should have done instead.

Don't Assume Anything, Check Everything
After a near-fatal heart attack, my husband, John,
was "resurrected" by the marvelous care given by the
medical staff at Tapion Hospital, St. Lucia. After
almost a week of intensive care, I was allowed to take
him home and was told that in a month or six weeks I would have to take him to Martinique for an angio-plasty. I prepared myself for this, but John hated the idea, as he was feeling extremely weak and tired very easily after only a little time on his legs. It seemed to me that six weeks would be a better option than four.

me that six weeks would be a better option than lour. Then, on a late Tuesday evening during Week Four, a nurse from Tapion phoned to tell me that it had been arranged for John to visit Martinique the following Monday and this would be confirmed in the morning. I waited for the morning confirmation that never came. so I assumed the nurse had made a mistake and I

forgot about it.

On the Thursday evening, John picked up the phone and immediately a doctor from Tapion began talking about Monday's trip to Martinique, thinking John knew all about it. This came as a dreadful shock to John and a bad one for me as it left me only one day to get currency from the bank, extend our credit card liest and really sure to glick the Martist the Martist and the sure was to get the Martist the Martist the Martist and the sure was the sure of glick to Martist the Martist the Martist and the sure was the sure of glick to Martist the Martist the Martist and the sure was the sure of glick to Martist the Martist the Martist and the sure was the sure of glick to Martist the Martist and the sure was the sure of glick to Martist the Martist and the sure of glick to the sure

to get currency from the bank, extend our credit card limit and make sure of a flight to Martinique. **Do What You Have to Do to Get Attention**The date was November 30th and the bank was jammed with people wanting loans, money orders, currency, etcetera, for Christmas. I obediently took a number and waited. After half an hour of complete inactivity with a number so far down the line that I feared I would never be attended to, I decided to create a big first We first attent for the prowhere set I three. a big fuss. My first attempt got me nowhere, so I threw a hysterical tantrum of eye-opening proportions. This got me an official of high rank who attended to my every need.

Always Get the Print-Out

Now I needed guaranteed flights. I was advised to ring the airline direct and was soon in possession of on-line confirmed return flights with the return openended. I was given only a confirmation number and even though the attendant offered to e-mail me a print-out, I stupidly declined. This lack was to cause the odditional were. me additional worry.

Consider Food and Drink

The flight was mid-afternoon and John and I were so tensed up that we ate very little for breakfast or lunch. Later in the day, this became a problem. Try to

relax and eat light nourishing meals, as you don't know when the next meal will be. Drink lots of water and carry bottled water with you, as dehydration sets

# Guarantee Your Airport Wheelchair

Guarantee Your Airport Wheelchair
I had been assured that John could safely take a commercial flight as long as he took it very easy — a wheelchair out to the plane would be a good idea. The airline offered a wheelchair for John and I gladly accepted.
When our flight was called, I expected that John would be accommodated with the chair and when it didn't arrive I thought they must have been bringing it after exercise lead of our of the terminal. We

it after everyone else had got out of the terminal. No. My mistake. Always make sure the attendants know you must have a wheelchair. As it was, I had to half carry John as he shuffled slowly to reach the gangwy. I was furious by the time we arrived there and asked the attendant if she couldn't see that we needed assistance. She sprang to attention and tried to help him up the steps -

fortunately few.

Arriving at the Lamentin
Airport it was the same story

— everyone else raced off and
left me half dragging John to
the terminal. Make sure you

have a wheelse his restites. Me have a wheelchair waiting. No matter what extra it may cost, this is vital. The wheelchair people will take you into the

terminal and steer you though Immigration, Customs and straight into a taxi. For us it was a horror story. Have an Address at Your Destination

The Immigration officer at the airport looked at our passports, which were in order, then asked where we passports, which were in order, then asked where we were staying. I said John was going to the hospital and I had had no time to find accommodation. This threw him into a silent fit. He spoke no English and I, in my state, had forgotten my entire schoolgirl French. But I worked out that he had to have an address for me. He shuffled papers and looked grim and I thought he was about to return us to St. Lucia. Then he asked to see the "invitation" and I realized this must be the thick envelope of John's records that I had picked up from Tapion. He asked if he could open it, I nodded, and with a flourish he broke the seal and looked learnedly at the pages of medical jargon. He bluffed his way through it, replaced the pages and, mercifully, waved us through.

us through.

All this had taken so long that by the time we found our way out of the terminal, night had set in. I had no idea where anything was but had been told that taxis were always there to take people straight to the hospital. So I helped John out of the terminal through the first double glass door I could find and found myself facing a very dark car park. I left John on a bench and walked up and down. Discovering that I had turned in the wrong direction, I eventually found the car hire people and the taxis were all the way down the other

end. I should have asked. It is also helpful, before you leave, to orient yourself as to where the airport is in relation to the hospital. Maps found on the internet can be useful in this regard.

this regard.

Request a Wheelchair at the Hospital

After what seemed a very long time, the taxi hurtled through wide hospital gates, where we were stopped for an identity check. Then we proceeded on a roundabout drive, eventually being disgorged at the base of a wide flight of concrete stairs leading to the administration desk. I helped John out of the car and up the stairs. The large fover that we entered was virtually tration desk. I helped John out of the car and up the stairs. The large foyer that we entered was virtually empty at this hour: one young man sat alone at the desk. I strode up confidently and presented John's medical file. The young man searched his computer and announced in French — he didn't speak a word of English — that there was no record of a John Kessell. It was easy enough for me to decipher this and now began a hand-waving dialogue. The young man was extremely pleasant and helpful but in the end told us we would have to go to the Emergency Department. And where was that? He pointed in the direction of the elevators and explained with diagrams the circuitous route, and off we went.

Two floors down we came out into a long tunnel-like

route, and off we went.

Two floors down we came out into a long tunnel-like passage and continued on and on. I was extremely worried about John, who should not have been walking about like this, and I made sure he took stps from our water bottle. Eventually we came out to a junction where medical personnel were hurrying about. I thought this can't be right and so we returned.

Back at the desk I told the young man that I couldn't find Emergency so he produced the situation for a few.

find Emergency so he pondered the situation for a few moments. Fortunately a cleaner appeared, and the

# I felt that I had entered a nightmare one of those where you can't find your way back home

young man asked him to take us. Back down the same young man asked nim to take us. Back down the same two floors and along the same passageways, but this time at top speed. I was sure John would drop dead at my feet. All this was a terrible mistake. Request a wheelchair and refuse to make a move without one.

Again, Have an Address at Your Destination

We now found ourselves being raced through the emergency ward itself. A security man armed with truncheon and gun opened the one-way door and we were almost showed out into the emergency recention.

were almost shoved out into the emergency reception

truncheon and gun opened the one-way door and we were almost shoved out into the emergency reception area. We waited our turn to be called to the admittance desk and it took a very long time to fill in forms, produce passports and credit card — and of course, for me to be asked, "Where are you staying?" "Nowhere." "Not good, impossible." If you are not a patient, you cannot stay in Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Fort-de-France, not even on a bench in the foyer.

One of the girls in reception kindly telephoned a few hotels and all were fully occupied. I was told in a mixture of English and French that December was impossible as everyone takes their holidays then, and what with visitors and locals there was not a room to be had. John, meanwhile, was fading at my side from lack of food and sheer exhaustion. I began to make a fuss, stood up, and shouted for someone to care for my husband (see "Do What You Have to Do..."). In desperation to get rid of us, they now allowed John into the interior waiting section. I protested that I wanted to go with him but was not allowed to until, after making more phone calls, the receptionist at last got the promise of a hotel room for me through a late cancelation. With all formalities now complete, I was allowed to go to John.

\*\*Asain.\*\*Consider Food and Drink...\*

# to go to John. Again, Consider Food and Drink...

Again, Consider Food and Drink...
and Sleeping Pills
Now began a long wait with other restless and morose
people. It was like a black comedy, especially when a
frisky blond doctor appeared with John's medical file
that I had left with reception and, in fractured English,
explained that the doctor to whom the Tapion "invitation" was addressed was extremely annoyed that he
should be expected to deal with a mere angioplasty
when he was a by-pass surgeon. His department was
A; John should be directed to department B.
I told the blond bombshell that John needed food
and she replied non, non — no water either. Like hell.
Always carry food and snacks.

and she replied non, non — no water either. Like hell. Always carry food and snacks.

At last I had to go to my room in the Hotel Galleria, part of the extensive Galleria mall. You won't find anything cheaper in Fort-de-France that is decent and safe. The cost included a good buffet breakfast that I made full use of, as I had gone to bed on an empty stomach. I scarcely slept with worrying about John and from then on walked around dazed and disoriented. Make sure you have some sort of sleeping aid, preferably a prescription from your doctor; if not, then Advil or Tylenol PM.

—Continued on next page

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—Continued on next page

—Continued from previous page
So much relies upon your ability to see your patient through his ordeal that you need to be well rested, focused and alert.

# Mission Accomplished...

In the morning I returned to the hospital and went up to the admittance desk in the main administrative

up to the admittance desk in the main administrative building. There were two pugnacious women in attendance that had to be urged loudly to attend to me. They went into the computer, rolled their eyes at each other, shrugged and told me in French that they had no John Kessell in the hospital.

For one ghastly moment I thought he must have died and was in the morgue. Then, with fire in my eyes, I demanded that they find my husband! (See "Do What You Have to Do..."). Quick as a flash they called for a high-level supervisor who, having heard my tale of woe, understood immediately and directed me to go up to Level 7B and follow the signs. She showed me where the elevators were — of course I knew from the previthe elevators were - of course I knew from the previ-

the elevators were — of course I knew from the previous night — and up I went.

I found John in a private room, waiting anxiously to see me and tell me of his experience. He had eventually been seen by a trainee cardiologist, given the first of many blood tests and then put in a wheelchair and transported skyward. There was no room in the men's section, so here he was in the women's section and comfortably at ease in his air-conditioned room.

From them on, we have preling but praise for the

comfortably at ease in his air-conditioned room. From then on, we have nothing but praise for the care and attention he received from doctors, nurses, orderlies and the beautiful — in spirit and gentleness, and not bad-looking either — surgeon who while performing the angioplasty, inserted a stent.

... But Pay the Bill When it is Presented
I was given a set of papers that included the itemized bill just after arriving the following morning at Intensive Care to see John. I would then take him home on the late afternoon flight. For no good reason I assumed that everything would have been deducted from the credit card information I had given the emergency department already and so we would be free to go any time.

Never assume anything. Hours later I was asked for

Never assume anything. Hours later I was asked for the receipt so that John could be released. What's this? So I raced off full speed, omitting to take my credit card with me. Great mistake. Always have your

credit card, passport, etcetera, with you.

Once down in the lobby, I rushed to the main admittance desk and the same two women were there from the morning that I created a scene. I presented my bill. They shouted at me in French and pointed to a set of kiosks in the far wall and told me to take a "billet" and wait. Wait? I ran across and sat down. "Non, non," I heard echoing after me, "billet" Where? Take a ticket out of that red box on the wall you idiot!

Now I found myself waiting for a number that I thought would take all day to come up. Oh God, please let us make it to the airport in time. Eventually (and I think it wasn't quite half an hour) I entered one of the two work-ing kiosks. Once more the person couldn't find John on her computer. There was much calling for assistance,

arm waving and demands for my credit card.

Credit card? But you have all of that information.

Non, non, credit card — and I was pointed to an empty cashier's kiosk across the hall. Oh no! Back I raced to Emergency to find the door locked, so I had to knock and knock. Finally a bad tempered doctor opened one side of the door a crack and I told him I wanted my wallet. He brought my bag; I got the wallet and told him to keep the bag. He would have slammed the door in my face if the door spring had allowed it. Back down I flew, waiting for the dreaded elevators again, and finding the cashier still absent I went around banging on any door I could find. At last she appeared, took my card, swiped it through her machine and gave me the receipt and a release form.

## Don't Panic

Now, my mind went into defunct mode — the batteries had given out. I ran back to the elevators, but went in entirely the opposite direction. I ran down passages, passing waiting rooms filled with people who all turned and looked at me. I raced on and on as if I were having a final tour of the hospital until I came to a wall with windows that looked out upon a grassy field and pas-toral hills in the background. No time to admire the toral fills in the background. No time to admire the scenery. I stifled a sob and turned and ran all the way back. I felt that I had entered a nightmare — one of those where you can't find your way back home. Then I caught up with two young men in white coats. I grabbed at the nearest sleeve and tugged. "The elevators?" I gasped. And they led me back to the foyer and pointed across to the other side. Of course. I slunk back, trying to look as if I had had some important business at the other end of the hospital, and found John dressed, bags packed and waiting for me in the

of the second and waiting for the in the doctor's small waiting room.

Find Out Where Your Departure Gate Is
Back at the airport, having made it in ample time, we checked in and rested on uncomfortable iron mesh chairs until we thought it time to proceed to the departure. trials that we hought it this to proceed to the depar-ture lounge. Good grief, where was it? Not where you would expect it to be when you check in. I now had to run all about to find it — and yes, it was up somewhere at the other end of the mezzanine floor. I had to hurry John along, shuffling all the way, because now we were late. Okay, so I hadn't slept more than two or three hours

okay, so I maint siept inder than two of three hours a night for weeks and almost none at all for the two nights in Martinique. Again, tell your doctor to prescribe something to help you sleep.

And, once again, it's very important to make sure you have a wheelchair waiting for the return journey.

Otherwise, in many island airports, your patient has to negotiate steps, ramps and rough paths to reach

the gangway.

A Few Extra Tips

Make certain that your cellular phone is capable of roaming in your destination. Although my grandson thought he had verified this with one he was giving me for the trip, it never worked in Martinique and this

for the trip, it never worked in Martinique and this caused me infinite trouble and worry.

Don't lose your sense of humour. No matter what, try to see the funny side of things. And don't worry about communicating in a foreign language: a lot of my school French came back and I used it on people. who then tried their English on me — this relieved the tension. At the hospital, kindhearted nurses and the orderlies laughed with me at my mistakes.

Most important of all, carry health insurance. John and I thought we would be young and healthy forever and such things as heart attacks would be sudden and final, so no need to pay for health insurance. Wrong. With increasing age all sorts of aging problems occur (not least of which are the skin lesions pale-skinned people get in the tropics, especially if you sail and swim a lot).

That's it then, so off you go and good luck!

## Vieques... -Continued from page 25

It was interesting watching the ripples in our water glasses when a practice bomb went off nearby. That anchorage remains one of my favorites."

If you clear in at Isabel Segunda, you can also stop at the bank there and visit the supermarket to stock up if necessary. At Esperanza, the only other "town", you wont find banks or supermarkets but there are some good restaurants — try Mucho Gusto for local cuisine. Otherwise, you'll be at anchorages with few or no facilities ashore.



Rental cars are readily available for shoreside exploration, and a Jeep is recommended for tackling rough roads. If you want to visit Puerto Rico without taking your boat there, there are daily ferries to Fajardo from Isabel Segunda, and commuter flights from the tiny airport to San Juan.

Don Street says, "Vieques is like Tortola in the early

1960s." If that thought appeals to you, a cruise of Vieques might be just the thing, either this summer, for nearness to a hurricane hole (get to Ensenada Honda before the crowds from Puerto Rico or the US Virgins!) or in the winter, when the milk run anchorages are just too crowded.



Above: Vieques' sleepy main town, Isabel Segunda Left: Idyllic Green Beach, with Puerto Rico in the distance



# Read in Next Month's Compass:

Rio Dulce: the Sweet Summer Season Meet a Caribbean Cargo Ship Regatta Time in Abaco

... and more!

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in touch, and amused and amazed with every issue.

Kasey and Scott Margarita Island

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JULY & AUGUST 2008

Crossing the channels between Caribbean islands with a favorable tide will make your passage faster and more comfortable. The table below, courtesy Don Street, author of Street's Guides and compiler of Imray-Iolaire charts, which shows the time of the meridian passage (or zenith) of the moon for this and next month, will help you

Calculate the tides.

Water, Don explains, generally tries to run toward the moon. The tide starts running to the east soon after moorrise, continues to run east until about an hour after the moon reaches its zenith (see TIME below) and then runs westward. From just after the moon's setting to just after its nadir, the tide runs westward. From just after the moon's setting to just after its nadir, the tide runs eastward; and from just after its nadir to soon after its rising, the tide runs westward. Times given are local. Note: the maximum tide is 3 or 4 days after the new and full moons. For more information, see "Tides and Currents" on the back of all Imray Iolaire charts. Fair tides!

CI.	iarts. ra	air udes:				
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	5	1426	28	0804	17	0009
	6	1516	29	0908	18	0054
	7	1602	30	1013	19	0138
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here is a popular saying that goes "Leave nothing but footprints and take nothing but photographs." But sometimes photographs and memories are just not enough and you would like to bring back different souvenirs of your travels.

There are a variety of things that can help you remember your trip to the islands in the Caribbean. But travelling is quite expensive and, although each island is like a new paradise, as Sydney Hunt says in his book *How to Live in the Caribbean* (for-

a new paradise, as Sydney Hunt says in his book Hou to Live in the Caribbean (formerly titled How to Retire to the Caribbean), "the paradise ends when the wallet gets flat." The first and most obvious way to cut costs is to shop around. Don't buy the first thing you see or in the first shop you visit. You never know, the next shop might have something less expensive and more to your liking.

Local souvenir shops are ubiquitous and offer a slew of items such as T-shirts, hats, ceramics and postcards, just to name a few. But rather than bringing back a selection of things you picked up at random during your wanderings, why not start themed collections? For instance, you can collect flags from the different islands, CDs of island music, beer mugs — or even, since virtually every island has its own brand and brewery, bottles of beer! Foodies can collect bottles of every kind of hot sauce. Personally I prefer small items, so I collect lapel pins featuring the country's sauce. Personally I prefer small items, so I collect lapel pins featuring the country's flag or national emblem, as well as ceramic thimbles. I prefer small items because they are easy to carry and store, and don't take up much space to display.

# Keeping Island Memories

Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal



You can't collect Caribbean forts, but you can collect visits to them — virtually every

If you are into art, there are many galleries and craft stores on the islands that sell paintings and sculpture by local artists, or you can visit their studios or workshops and buy it directly from them. Some islands are renowned for aspects of their artwork or culture so you may want to base your collection on that. For instance, Nevis and Antigua are known for clay sculptures while St. Kitts and Grenada are known for their batik. In Puerto Rico and Venezuela you can buy papier-māché carnival masks. On several islands you can find wonderfully painted or carved calabashes (boleys). The twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago are known for the steelpan music, and you can get a variety of them there with this there.

looleys). The twin islands of Trindad and Tobago are known for the steelpan music, and you can get a variety of items there with this theme.

If photography is your thing, then I suggest doing some research before your visit. Many tourist websites will give information on areas for scenic or nature photography, as well as historical sites. They also frequently provide maps that show the routes, so on arrival you can rent a vehicle or put on your hiking shoes and be on

pny, as wen as nistorical sites. They also frequently provide maps that show the routes, so on arrival you can rent a vehicle or put on your liking shoes and be on your way. Another alternative is to join a tour group. Many tour operators offer half-or full-day driving tours ideal for photographers. Often it is done in special jeeps with an open tray fitted with seats and guardrails and a tarp roof.

Another interesting concept would be starting a "collection" of activities you did, one on each island you visited. One example is taking a bike ride around the entire island, which is possible on most of the small islands like Nevis as there are shops where you can rent bikes. Or you could visit all of the forts or plantation houses (or their ruins) on an island. If you are up to the challenge, you can climb to the highest point on each island you visit. Most of the islands in the Caribbean were formed through volcanic activity so that most of the resulting peaks are quite high, some over 914 metres. (Most tour companies have guides capable of getting you to the top safely.) But if you want to start off small, I would suggest visiting Anguilla where the highest point is about 65 metres at Crocus Hill, or Antigua where you'll find Boggy Peak with a maximum height of 402 metres. Going in the other direction, you could collect scuba or snorkeling site visits.

You might even want to consider sending yourself a postcard from each island, giving a brief summary of what you did during your stay. I like to think of it as an interesting twist to keeping a journal. You get a lovely photo or scene to remember where you visited, the stamps if you like to collect them, and you get to reminisce about your visit.

I hope these suggestions have given you a different outlook in creating memories from visit to the Caribbean island.

I hope these suggestions have given you a different outlook in creating memories of your visit to the Caribbean islands

by Billy Jno Hope

When the party was finished, we searched frantically for food in a house that was

When the party was finished, we searched frantically for food in a house that was notorious for having only snacks for party people. As usual, there was no food left. Wild youth and free liquor combined to destroy coherent thought. Casper voted to plunge headlong into the wild kingdom that we reveled in by drinking everything in sight. I wanted to drink more too but my belly growled for attention. Out of the blue, rail-thin Shark-Boy came up with the perfect, logical, solution to our hunger. "Let's go fish on the harbor," he said, with a glass of rum next to his lips. Casper jumped up. He quickly swallowed his own. "Damn, let's do that, man," he remarked, smacking his lips. Riley rubbed his red eyes and looked away from us. I felt anger boiling inside me. Shark-Boy started walking out followed by Casper, who grabbed a bottle of rum.

grabbed a bottle of rum.

granbed a bottle of rum.

I turned to Riley. He watched me with a grimace. "What?" he asked.

"Nothing, man," I said. "Do what you wanna do." I grabbed the other bottle and went to the street. He shook his head sighing.

"Let's go by me for the fishing lines, and don't forget the rum, man," Shark-Boy shouted. I grinned and followed them. I didn't see Riley making the sign of

the cross.

We made quite a raucous shuffling down to the port at three in the morning. The female guard smiled at me, glared at Casper and warned Shark-Boy to leave some fish for her, please.

"You know how it go," Shark-Boy exclaimed, grinning, trying to hide that same old

ego underneath a layer of false modesty. Riley tried to explain something to the guard, and failed. He came up behind us, complaining about Babylon system.

Two old men with buckets full of writhing fish passed us. We shouted in unison: "Damn!" They laughed out loud then started whistling.

Casper ran after them.

"Give us some bait," he demanded. They watched him, hesitant.

"Give us some bait," he demanded. They watched him, hesitant.
"Come on, just about three fish we need, okay?"
"Why you bothering us?" the shorter one said. "Go finish drinking your rum."
"Mind your damn business," Casper shouted. "Just give us some bait, man."
"Leave them, Casper. To hell with their fish," I shouted, and turned to follow Shark-Boy, who had walked off to the edge of the port.
Riley seemed to be debating something with himself next to a decrepit police boat in serious need of repairs. Suddenly the men laughed again and threw some fishes

He made to scoop to them up and before they knew what was happening he grabbed two fistfuls from their bucket and ran towards us.

They screamed at him. "Damn you, boy. Damn you, boy, we calling the police."

"Take it easy, old timer," I said "You have enough fish for today."

"Damn you, boy," they continued as we ran to meet Shark-Boy.

Shark-Boy caught the first fish and most of the others that eventually thrashed for air in our bucket. Riley fished like a man possessed but without success, while Casper cursed and drank from one side of the port to the other. I caught my usual without success, while Casper cursed and drank from one side of the port to the other. I caught my usual without success.

Casper cursed and drank from one side of the port to the other. I caught my usual pittance and didn't mind.

With the bucket filling up, we drank and enjoyed the sweet air of the morning. After a while, only Riley was fishing. Shark-Boy tried to explain his unorthodox technique for getting so much fish but it only made us explode with laughter.

Only Riley feigned uninterest, and he moved away to another part of the port when Shark-Boy started telling us how he got his most fashionable name. To hell with Riley, I thought.

My words almost came true, Riley was screening. His cries penetrated slowly into

My words almost came true. Riley was screaming. His cries penetrated slowly into our intoxicated consciousness. We got up slowly, swayed and tried to make sense of our environment.

"Riley in trouble, man," I said. Shark-Boy scanned for his location with half-asleep eyes. It took us a while to pinpoint the area where he was screaming from.

Casper spat in the water, then cursed and started grinning. I watched him, puz-zled. "Follow me," he said.

We followed him to a section of the port where steps lead you closer to the water.

We found Riley clinging to a pole and dangling over the water. He looked real fearful.

"What the hell! What happen to you, man?" I asked.

"Help me, man!" he shouted. "Come on, help me, man."

Casper watched him with a spaced-out look. I could feel my head throbbing. "Hold on, Riley, we will pull you up," Shark-Boy said and he nodded to us to get ready. Slowly we leaned together towards Riley and told him to reach for us on the

Shark-Boy tried to explain his unorthodox technique for getting so much fish but it only made us explode with laughter

count of three. We saw the barracudas circling before we even reached the count

Riley lay gasping on the port. I didn't know what to say to him. Casper and Shark-

Riley lay gasping on the port. I didn't know what to say to film. Casper and Shark-Boy were shouting at the barracudas to please bite on their bait. I watched the hill, not looking forward to our climb home but relishing the thought of eating the fresh fish. The sun was about to peek through. I could already see the stirrings of dawn on the edge of the atmosphere. We climbed the hill like dead men, quite unlike the boisterous way we had descended. Somehow we made it home, tired and hung-over, unable to even light

the fire.

Hours later I woke up with a hangover and an empty house. I drifted straight outside to the sweet kitchen smell that wafted into the living room. A huge pot was on the fire and Shark-Boy was stirring it like it was the most natural job in the world. He laughed when he saw my look of surprise.

"The fish ready, man. I just adding spices," he exclaimed.

"Cool vibes," I said. "I hungry enough to eat a horse."

"No horse today, no donkey, just fish, man," he replied.

"Yeah, only fish broth for the next two days," Casper said from behind me.







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# JULY 2008

 $\label{eq:constraints} \gamma \text{ ARIES (21 Mar - 20 Apr)} \\ \text{This will be a flirtatious time. Fluky winds? Who cares?} \\ \text{You'll be inclined to change course and neglect your business destination.}$ 

∀ TAURUS (21 Apr - 21 May)
 Love-life squalls might dominate your energies, with disagreement and arguments that will turn your attention from the boat projects you should be concentrating on.

 $\label{eq:local_continuity} \text{$\mathbb{I}$ $\textbf{GEMINI}$ (22 May - 21 Jun)} \\ \text{At this time you are aspect free, so just ease the mainsheet and take a breather from the usual concerns.}$ 

CANCER © (22 Jun - 23 Jul)

Your creative energy is under full sail; use it to best advantage in business during the last week.

 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{Q}}$  LEO (24 Jul - 23 Aug) Love will blow you off course and will have a distracting effect on the rest of your life.

IP VIRGO (24 Aug - 23 Sep)
Get a haircut (or trim that pirate beard) and clear the decks to make time for the love interest which will sail in around the 23rd.

△ LIBRA (24 Sep - 23 Oct)
You'll feel low in energy but high in humor, so hang out at the beach with friends and take some time ashore to refresh yourself.

M, SCORPIO (24 Oct - 22 Nov)
Relationships will encounter some rough seas this July, so bear off and use the time to create new opportunities in your business or financial life.

 $\begin{subarray}{c} $X$ AGITTARIUS (23 Nov - 21 Dec) \\ Love once again will offer romantic distraction from routine boatyard work. Enjoy it while it lasts! \\ \end{subarray}$ 

76 CAPRICORN (22 Dec - 20 Jan)

This month will be a beat in almost all areas of your life except creativity and business, so concentrate on them and let the rest wait for a wind shift.

 $x\!\!\approx\!\! \textbf{AQUARIUS} \ (\textbf{21 Jan - 19 Feb}) \\ \text{Your love life will be full of squalls. Try not to take it all too seriously and use your sense of humor as your lifeline.}$ 

# **Crossword Solution**

	16) PIECE
41) FAMILY	19) SCROLL
42) RAIN	21) TOILET
44) STICKS	22) AN
45) LOSE	26) MARU
46) SHEETS	27) FAST
47) TIMBER	30) HEAD
	31) BUSY
DOWN	33) BOARDS
<ol> <li>HEADING</li> </ol>	34) BILLET
2) DRUM	35) RAILS
3) ROPE	36) HI
4) HEEL	37) WATER
5) ICE	38) NICE
6) FIDDLE	39) SASSE
9) LOO	40) WINE
10) SAILS	43) TOM
13) ONE	
	44) STICKS 45) LOSE 46) SHEETS 47) TIMBER  DOWN 1) HEADING 2) DRUM 3) ROPE 4) HEEL 5) ICE 6) FIDDLE 9) LOO 10) SAILS

# I Stood One Day Looking

Island Poets

I stood and looked at the deep blue sea When suddenly it occurred to me There is life under the sea Just as there is life on land I told myself I need to take a stand To let you know how things can be That what you do on land affects the sea

The garbage you throw along the beach Do you really know how far it can reach? Cans, bottles, plastics especially Go deep down into the sea Kill turtles, fishes and other lives The next thing you know, no more food for we — What you do on land affects the sea

So listen to me, one and all
Before you and me have to bawl
Dispose of your waste carefully
Comply with the rules of the Central Water and Sewage Authority
And if you do that, you will surely see
How better for us, things will be
Remember, what you do on land affects the sea Remember, what you do on land affects the sea

## — Loulanna Bynoe



Ten-year-old student Loulanna Bynoe of Bequia receiving the Special Award medal she won for writing this poem about how what we do on land affects the sea

# parlumps marooned



1)	Unl	nel	pful	wind	shift	

- 7) What slot between sails should be 8) Rings at corners of sails 11) This can be 30 Down, bilge or fuel
- 14) Snakelike fish

10

30

24

- 15) When weather is bad, some 30 Down \_ to port 18) Scuppers are \_\_\_\_ 20) Rope contrivance spread under bowsprit 22) "\_\_ smooth \_\_ silk"
  23) 30 Down \_\_ : waves you're sailing into
  24) "Wooden ships and \_\_ men"
  25) Halley's is one
  28) Rio \_\_\_ : a popul

- \_: a popular summer destination
- 29) 30 Down \_\_\_\_ motion through water
- 23) 30 Down \_\_\_\_ motion through watch 32) Hints 33) Too heavy forward: down \_\_\_ 30 Down (two words) 34) Common figure-30 Downs

- 36) Or hers
  37) 30 Down \_\_\_\_\_: breezes on the bow
  41) Sailing is fun for the whole \_\_\_\_\_
- 42) Nimbus: \_\_\_\_ cloud 44) Slang for 17 Down
- 44) Sang for 17 Down
  45) \_\_\_ 28 Across: slacken progress through 36 Down
  46) Ropes used to control 10 Down
  47) Large piece of wood used in shipbuilding

#### **DOWN**

- Course setting
   Anchor rode wraps around this part of windlass
   Sheets, halyards and rodes can be made of this
   Lower end of any mast, boom, bowsprit or timber 5) Frozen 36 Down

- 6) 19 Down used instead of a figure-30 Down 9) British slang for 21 Down 10) 30 Down \_\_\_\_\_; jbs, genoas, spinnakers, etc. 13) An Optimist dinghy has this many 10 Down

- 16) Section
  17) These can be main, fore or mizzen
  19) Curved timber bolted to knees
  21) Blake, Raritan and Jabsco make this item for yachts 22) Indefinite article
- 26) Part of Japanese vessels' names 27) Make \_\_\_\_: secure 30) Ship's 21 Down

- 30) Smps 21 Down
  31) Occupied
  33) "And all the \_\_\_\_\_ did shrink..."
  34) Round piece of wood in whaleboat where line is looped when whale is struck
  35) These can be hand or toe

- 35) These can be hand or too 36) Short for hello 37) This can be salt or fresh 38) Well done 39) Navigable sluice 40) Vino, in English 43) Ship's male cat's name?

Crossword Solution on page 36

## **BOAT MAINTENANCE**

Word Search Puzzle by Pauline Dolinski

47

**Compass Cruising Crossword** 

23

25

40

42

35

45

After a day of fixing, adjusting, and working on your boat in the beautiful Caribbean, sit back at anchor and unwind with this word search puzzle.

т	U	В	Α	т	т	E	N	s	М	А	s	т	А	J
U	R	т	s	Α	N	D	P	E	R	0	н	С	N	Α
R	E	D	R	0	L	G	s	Р	0	Ν	G	Ε	1	M
Ν	U	С	н	G	н	C	Ν	1	W	0	0	D	P	С
В	0	D	E	P	Т	Н	S	0	U	Ν	D	E	R	L
U	0	F	D	E	D	0	В	R	U	S	Н	Α	E	E
C	Н	0	N	E	В	C	W	н	1	N	D	0	Т	Α
K	C	1	M	D	R	K	Н	P	Α	1	N	Т	Т	Т
L	L	E	N	M	0	S	E	Н	0	0	K	U	0	S
E	E	J	K	S	L	L	E	H	S	M	Α	L	C	Т
S	Α	U	S	Α	L	M	L	E	P	A	R	C	S	E
Α	T	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	0	R	U	J	Υ	E
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BATTEN HANDLE ROLLERS BOOM **HATCH** RUDDER BRUSH ноок SAND CHOCKS JAM CLEATS SCRAPE CLAMSHELLS JUG SHEETS CLEAT **SPARS COTTER PIN** KEY SPONGE LINE STAY DEPTH TURNBUCKLE MAST SOUNDER PAINT PIN WHEEL GENERATOR POLE WINCH **GPS** WIRE GUY RADIO WOOD

Word Search Puzzle solution on page 46

#### **CRUISING KIDS CORNER**

# Stay away from THE JUMBIE

bu Lee Kessell

"De jumbies go' get yo' an' carry yo' inside dat tree!" Joseph's mother was always telling him that, but Joseph didn't care. Now that is a very silly way to behave, because jumbies are mean and horrible creatures. This particular jumbie tree was at the junction of the dirt road and the riverbank not far from a little ajoupa cottage

at the function of the art road and the inversank not far from a fittle ajoupa cottage in a village deep in the northern range of Trinidad.

Joseph's great great-grandparents had been indentured field labourers, brought across the seas from India, but Joseph's father worked for himself, keeping a water buffalo for its rich, delicious milk and growing crops of pigeon peas and cassava that he sold at the market. Joseph had a younger brother, Saul, and you might think that

he sold at the market. Joseph had a younger brother, Saul, and you might think that the boys would have been given Hindu names like their parents, but it had become the fashion to give the boys "modern" names.

To get back to jumbie trees. In Caribbean folklore, from Jamaica down to Trinidad, the Silk Cotton Tree is known to be the home of the spirits of the dead. The spirits have chosen the Silk Cotton Tree because it lives for over a hundred years, growing so tall and big that it needs buttress roots to hold it up. With age, hollows and fissures open up between the roots and strange creatures make their dens inside and burrow up into the trunk. When the wind blows, the branches creak and moan and at night, eyes glow in the dark as both the living and the dead peer out from between the rustling leaves high at the top of the tree.

Jumbies are the evil spirits of the dead, while the good spirits have separated from the same body and flown off. That is why you must keep your distance from a jumbie tree. Don't walk under it during the day and NEVER, NEVER go anywhere near it at night. During the day, jumbies will grab you, throw dust in your eyes,

aimbie tree. Don't walk under it during the day and NEVER, NEVER go anywhere near it at night. During the day, jumbies will grab you, throw dust in your eyes, pinch you, steal your bangles, and hurl your schoolbooks in the river, all the while remaining invisible. At night the jumbies come out to prowl about the tree and if you ever had the misfortune to see one, you'd know for sure because they have No NAVEL. Even worse are the gods of the jumbies. They guard the tree by day, growling and grunting way up at the top of the trunk, but come nightfall and they are off. If you see a strange, ugly creature made of tree branches and slinking about like a dog on its four stunted feet with twigs for toes, then you'd better run for your life!

Well, it wasn't as if Joseph didn't know all this, but he had boasted at school "Me na 'fraid noffin". So one day, walking home from school with Saul and the rest of the village boys and giving that nasty jumbie tree a wide berth, Naresh the bully grabbed Joseph around his chest and thrust him hard towards the jumbie tree laughing as he did, "Who go' be 'fraid now!" Joseph tried to stop himself as he bounded forward, his arms going like out of synch propellers, but he only stopped when he hit the jumbie tree and fell down between two of the buttresses. The boys ran off laughing but little Saul stood there, shaking with fear.

Joseph had all the wind knocked out of him as the roots of the jumbie tree dug Joseph had all the wind knocked out of him as the roots of the jumble tree dug into his stomach, so it took him a minute or two to catch his breath and when he tried to sit up he felt as if his legs were being held tight and his arms had become numb. "O God!" Joseph cried out, "Me being held by de jumbles!" Poor Saul sobbed out loud and ran off to get his mother, and Joseph thought that even his brother had deserted him. Left alone, Joseph felt sharp prods in his ribs and tugs at his hair. Horrible black wings beat about his face, and a sharp beak pecked at his face, chawing blood that ran down his chin and dripped onto his shirt. Desperation gave Joseph just enough strength to get his arms moving and he waved them about his head until with a loud caw and a clatter of dry feathers, the bird flew away, high up into the branches above Joseph's head. Now for the legs. Joseph struggled and kicked and at last managed to free his feet from the tangles of vines holding him down. He backed out of the prison of the jumble tree and once away from the deep shadows, he struggled up onto his shaking legs and limped off.

Turning the corner towards home Joseph almost knocked into his angry mother

#### Strange creatures make their dens inside and burrow up into the trunk

with Saul running at her heels. "EEEeee!" she screamed. "Stupid, stupid, worthless boy! How often I does tell yo' to stay 'way from de jumbie tree?" She grabbed Joseph by the ear and twisted it until she almost pulled it off, making Joseph bawl loud enough to wake every jumbie for miles around. "Look yo' good school shirt! An' where

enough to wake every jumine for mines around. Look yo good school shirt! An where de name of de Lord yo' school bag?"

"De jumbies hurl it in de river, ma!" sobbed little Saul, who had witnessed it all through wide staring eyes. "EEEeee!" screamed the mother again. "How I go' pay for new bag an' book an' t'ing? You go' work till yo' does pay for everyt'ing!" And the mother picked up a stick from the side of the road and began beating Joseph as hard as she could on his already bruised backside. "Wait till de fadder come home! He go' best we' god!"

as she could on his already brussed backside. Want in de ladder come holler he go beat yo' good!"

Joseph bawled even more and little Saul cried big tears in sympathy, whimpering all the while, "but Ma, it Naresh push Joseph. It Naresh, Ma!"

When the boys' father came home that evening, his wife had calmed down enough to tell her husband what had happened, having listened to little Saul at last. The upshot was that Naresh got a beating from his pa and Joseph worked hard every weekend helping in the fields until he had paid for his new school bag and books. And you can be sure that every time Joseph has to pass the jumble tree he RUNS FAST, FAST!

THE END



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## DOLLY'S DEEP SECRETS

by Elaine Ollivierre

Do you remember how fishes reproduce? Most species are oviparous which means they lay eggs. The females release hundreds of tiny eggs which are fertilized when the males release their sperm on top of them. This is called external fertilization

Sharks do it differently! The male shark has two **claspers** (part of the pelvic fins) underneath which he uses to transfer sperm to the female through an opening on her body called a **clasea**. The female's eggs are fertilized inside her body so it's called **internal fertilization**.

In most sharks, the eggs develop inside the body and hatch there. The babies (called **pups**) grow and are born later: up to two years later in the case of the dogfsh shark! Other sharks lay their eggs in the ocean in tough leathery purses and the eggs stay there until they hatch.

In 2001, a female hammerhead shark at a zoo in Nebraska, USA gave birth to a pup, even though she had had no contact with a male shark. At first, the zoo-

a pup, even though she had had no contact with a male shark. At first, the zoo-keepers could only guess that the mother had stored sperm in her body from a mating encounter before she was captured for the zoo. But that was over three years before, so this was thought to be unlikely.

In 2002, a bamboo shark laid some eggs on the floor of her tank at a zoo in Detroit, USA. She had laid eggs before but the curator had thought they were infertile and always threw them out. This time, he had read about the shark in Nebraska so he decided to keep the eggs to see what would happen. After nearly four months, two baby sharks were born!

In early 2008, a white-tipped reef shark in a Hungarian zoo also gave birth to a pup, even though she had never been in the same pool as a male.

All these cases have been studied by scientists trying to find out what happened. DNA testing was difficult but, this year, new techniques have shown conclusively that no male was involved in the birth of these babies. Virgin birth or clusively that no male was involved in the birth of these babies. Virgin birth' or parthenogenesis is common in smaller, less complex creatures like insects, but this was the first time it had been seen in an animal as large as a shark! Parthenogenesis allows species to reproduce in tough conditions when partners are difficult to find but it also means a loss of genetic diversity. When babies acquire genetic material from two parents, they are better able to survive and adapt to changing conditions in their environment. Still, one parent is better than none if a species is to survive at all, and parthenogenesis may provide some hope of removing sharks from the endangered species list.

#### WORD PUZZLE

How many five-letter words (not including plurals) can you make from the letters of PARTHENOGENESIS?

– Answers on page 28

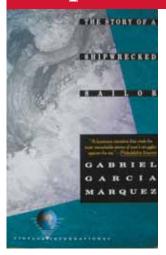
#### **BOOK REVIEW BY RYAN WEAVER**

The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor, by Gabriel García Márquez. Translated by Randolph Hogan. Alfred A. Knopf. 106 pages. ISBN: 9780679722052. US\$13.95. If castaway tales have always titillated the public imagination, how much more so

are boaters apt to find wonderment in them? Very much more, one would think. Similarly, science fiction tales are probably more richly envisioned in the imagination of astronauts.

of astronauts. The Caribbean Sea has played host to countless survival stories, but one that has perhaps escaped modern audiences is *The Story of a Shipurecked Sailor*, written by Gabriel García Marquez. It is not ranked among García Márquez's more famous books, but then again it was never intended to be a book. The story of Luis Alejandro Velasco and his ten days in a liferaft in the Caribbean without food or water was originally published as fourteen daily articles in *El Espectador*, a Colombian newspaper. In those days García Márquez was a young staff writer with a name so useless it was agreed upon that the stories would be written in the first person and signed by Velasco.

# The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor



García Márquez interviewed the survi-vor in 20 daily six-hour sessions, and decided this outstanding youth's account was "so detailed and so exciting that my only concern was finding readers who

would believe it."
On February 28, 1955, eight crewmembers of *Caldas*, a Colombian Navy destroyer, disappeared into the Caribbean Sea. The ship was en route to Colombia from Mobile, Alabama, and was only about 50 miles out of port when the sailors were knocked into rough seas by loosely

knocked into rough seas by loosely secured cargo. All died but one.

The Story of a Shipurecked Sailor recounts Velasco's days at sea one at a time. We quickly see that the term "ship-wreck" does not apply to the ship at all, which docked in Cartagena some hours later without a scratch, but to the state of the sailor himself When Velasco describes. the sailor himself. When Velasco describes the relentless Caribbean sun blistering his skin day after day, Caribbean sailors mis skill day after day, cambrean saints will be able to relate. Also to the stars he observes, the sharks that surface with eerie punctuality, and the telltale signs (seagulls, flotsam) that land is near. The imagination takes over in wondering what

it would be like to try to eat a gull to avoid starvation, or fight sharks with a broken oar for a share of fish guts, or hallucinate, or make a dinner of a few business cards (and enjoy it!).

As with all well-told survivor

stories, reading this one will simultaneously make you thank God you haven't been shipwrecked and make you wonder—if you God you haven't been shipwrecked and make you wonder — if you were, would you have what it takes to float it out? Aside from entertainment value, this quick read is worth the time if

only to peek in on a young author refining a talent so rare that even then it seemed a foreshadowing that he would someday win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Remember, however, that this yarn was originally meant for little

yani was originally flietain to fittle more than selling newspapers. "If it is now published in the form of a book," Garcia Márquez concluded his preface, "that is because I agreed without thinking about it very much, and I am not a man to go back on his word."

Available at bookstores or from



Map shows where crew were knocked overboard from a Colombian Navy destroyer,

and the survivor's subsequent course





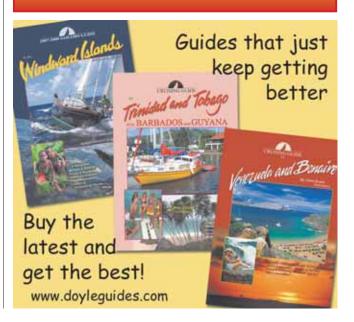
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#### **BOOK REVIEW BY BLOSSOM BROWN**

## Floating In and Out of Lagoonieville

Lagoonieville, Volume 1, by B.R. Emrick. Rogue Publications, © 2005. Paperback,

154 pages. ISBN 1-932560-72-6. US\$12.25

If you ever hung out at the old Larry's Poor Man's Bar at Benner Bay lagoon in St. Thomas, USVI, you'll get the concept. And if you didn't hang out there because Larry kicked you out, you probably won't.



This first novel of Bert Emrick's epic 12-book Lagoonieville series opens at what has to be modeled on Larry's as it was when I first bellied up to the wrecked-boat-turned-bar in the early 1980s: beer joint twelve hundred les southeast of Miami and only five feet from a little backwater lagoon was, like most Caribbean waterfront bars, an Caribbean waterfront bars, an open-air and authentically grubby little place." If you had the appropriate vibe, odor or aura for his establishment, Larry would "welcome" you with a gruff insult and a greenie. Otherwise, it was hit the road, toad.

The author tells us, "Lagoonieville is a state of mind shared by a small segment of society whose members live aboard boats in Jagoons scat-

aboard boats in lagoons scat-tered throughout the tropics.... Lagoonieville books appeal to those with a little salt in their veins, those who wish to be careveins, those who wish to be care-free and adventurous, and to Caribbean tourists. We've also received cheers from prisoners and military personnel."

This is a guy's book — a "real sailor", shoestring cruiser, hard-drinkin', ready for anything or nothing, decrepit-old-wooden-boot-caring drapout, sea-going

boat-owning dropout, sea-going maverick, guy's book — in other

words, a Lagoonie book. But these salty characters don't just sit at the bar and fantasize about treasure maps. They pry themselves off the well-worn barstools at the boatyard and get underway to tackle high adventure, derring-do, true romance, villainous crime, outrageous storms ("Hurricane Bunny"?!?), knuckle-biting suspense, smugglers, thrills, mystery, horror, humor — you name it.

In this volume, our heroes Pete and Tom ramble from the shores of the Virgin

In this volume, our heroes Pete and Tom ramble from the shores of the Virgin Islands to the jungles of Costa Rica, initially searching for buried treasure but ultimately fighting just to save their own lives in the face of bad guys, bad girls and worse weather. There's fun, excitement and humor, but also plenty of bloody violence, damsels in distress, raw language and a soupcon of overwrought writing — hey, it's a guy's book. If you've got a taste for this kind of reading, it's just the tome for a few idle hours in the cockpit or on the beach.

I won't give away the plot or the ending, but will say that it's best if you enjoy this boisterous read enough to want more — because the ending sets you up for Volume 2, Colombian Secrets. Then there's Volume 3, Smugglers, Pirates & Voodoo Meanies, in which US Marshal Maloney, who ran into a few Lagoonies while tracking a criminal in Colombian Secrets. becomes a Cartibbean cruiser. And then our old buddies

in which US Marshal Maloney, who ran into a few Lagoonies while tracking a criminal in Colombian Secrets, becomes a Caribbean cruiser. And then our old buddies Pete and Tom show up again in Volume 4, Marooned on Spook Island — and so on. Emrick explains, "[The] characters... float in and out of Lagoonieville, as each nove is a stand-alone story; the characters' roles change with each book... most get their fifteen minutes of fame as protagonists, or antagonists, in an adventure or two, and then serve as background characters in other stories."

The author, a screenwriter and sailor who lives with his wife and pets aboard a sailboat in the Virgin Islands, has done a marathon job in creating this collection of action adventure novels that take a typical crew of Caribbean characters and vault them into full-sail summertime fiction.

them into full-sail summertime fiction.

The Lagoonieville books are available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and many other on-line bookstores. For more information visit www.roguepublications.com.



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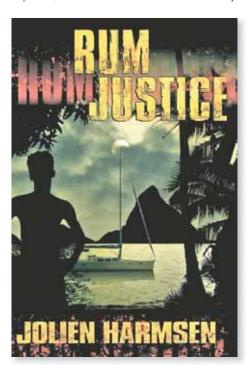
#### **BOOK REVIEW BY BOB BERLINGHOF**

## A GOOD NOVEL ABOUT YACHTIES BEHAVING BADLY

**Rum Justice.** by Jolien Harmsen, Macmillan Education, © 2007. ISBN: 978-1-4050-9905-9.

978-1-4050-9905-9. Ms. Harmsen, a Dutch resident of St. Lucia, has written a thoughtful and nearly factual account of a painful chapter for the people of St. Vincent & the Grenadines — the 1996 murder of Bequia water-taxi driver Jerome "Jolly" Joseph and the outcome of the subsequent trial of two American yachties. By putting the events into novel form, the author has protected herself from any blowback while allowing her

novel form, the author has protected herself from any blowback while allowing her main character, Claire, room to speculate on what really might have happened. Claire, an Australian resident of the island of St. Cecilia, is a reporter for the local newspaper and thus allowed access to certain inside information. The couple accused of the murder, the Cunninghams, bear a striking resemblance to the pair accused of the real-life murder — wealthy dissolute Americans on a yacht holiday from hell. The Cunninghams drink too much, vary between hating locals and pitying them, are allegedly hard-drug abusers, and the deadlier of the species — the female — has a history of mental problems. She also has had affairs with younger black men on every island while her husband drinks himself into a stuor. men on every island, while her husband drinks himself into a stupor



There are numerous inconsistencies in the Cunninghams' testimony about what happened to the alleged murder weapon, a .22 caliber pistol, which they declared upon entry but which they claimed was later stolen by a local crewmember. Claire tries to make sense of the crime, but in the end the reader is unsure of who exactly murdered "Smiley" Riley Jackson, what the motive was, and whether or not the case should have ever come to trial. In the book, as in the events on which it is based, a chain of convincing circumstances presented in the Preliminary Hearing was enough to force the couple to stand trial. In real life, key pieces of the circumstantial evidence to force the couple to stand trial. In real life, key pieces of the circumstantial evidence were not admitted in High Court. The defense moved to dismiss, and the couple was released after almost a year in prison. Without telling the reader that the book adheres to that verdict, I was impressed by the many shades of gray that the author painted on the moral and cultural differences between the plaintiffs and defendants. What role did the US media play in pressuring the judge? Who were the real racists, Claire (accused of reverse racism because she sided with the islanders) or the US media? How much did the defense attorney, who was also the leader of the Opposition in Parliament, stand to gain or lose by seeing the couple acquitted. Fittally with no foresic evidence, no give, and no confession how could a jury of

Opposition in Parliament, stand to gain or lose by seeing the couple acquitted? Finally, with no forensic evidence, no gun, and no confession, how could a jury of St. Cecilians possibly convict an American couple of murder and risk having economic sanctions imposed on their island?

All these issues make Rum Justice an interesting and informative read. And unlike many tales of island life written by foreigners, Ms. Harmsen's prose sparkles with wit, authenticity, humor, pathos and even outrage at what she sees, hears, smells and feels. The plot is, on occasion, somewhat contrived so that Claire is able to learn some facts of the case before the police do, but this is a minor quibble. There are interesting asides about building a house in the West Indies, which succeed, and those such as riding in a "dollar van", which are overdrawn, but in general this book shines with keen observations, written in prose that flows like a river.

shines with keen observations, written in prose that flows like a river.

Everyone in the yachting community has seen foreigners misbehave, but the Cunninghams will live on as the prototypical "Americans gone wild", living life without considering the consequences of their actions, and guilty of crimes more severe than just baring their boobs.

Available at bookstores or from www.macmillan.com.





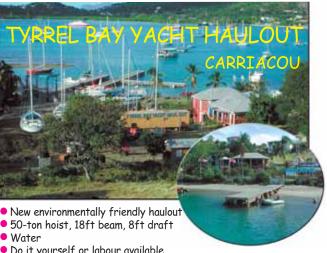
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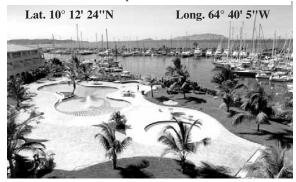


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## THE WEST INDIES INA CHAPBOOK EXHIBIT

by Richard Deu

You go ashore with a list of things to do as long as your arm. You need food and rum and ice and propane and various parts; but you need something else apparently, for you find yourself in a bookshop.

Full of books, the tables and shelves inside the shop are waiting to be considered. You look them over. Basically, you have two choices: to buy something, anything, to read or to buy something decidedly local, something odd and interesting and not something you already have back home or would likely find there.

It is in this spirit that I have entered bookshops and giftshops in the islands for nearly 40 years. I might add that I have entered scores of used- and rare-book shops in the States also looking for island books. It helps, in so far as amassing a collection goes, to know what you are doing. It also helps to remember what you have tion goes, to know what you are doing. It also helps to remember what you have already collected!

The immediate thing is to look over the stock and see what's there, at what price. You never know what you will find, and that lends the excursion an element of discovery. Imported books in the islands can be expensive, due to shipping costs, duties and taxes. On the other hand, imported books from a country not your own may be items you can never get anywhere else. Best of all, locally produced books, or books by local authors, can be a bargain.



The author and collector, at left, with his son Alex (Connecticut College Class of 2009) at the display of chapbooks from the West Indies

In this way I have collected hundreds of island titles, the preponderance of them coming from the Windwards. They are part of a larger, mainly literary and maritime collection. More recently, I have found books on the Internet — at Amazon and sites like it, at used- and rare-book shop sites, and at author websites. In the collection are chapbooks and I recently mounted an exhibit of some of them at Connecticut College, USA, in the lobby of the Charles E. Shain Library. The exhibit of roughly 100 titles filled eight cases, one of which was devoted to chapbooks from the West Indies

from the West Indies

from the West Indies.

A chapbook is any slender volume, hard cover or soft, side-stitched or stapled, that numbers about 32 pages, though it can be as few as four or as many as 48. It exists in the world of print between a leaflet and a book. Chapbooks were popular in 18th-century America and Europe; containing popular matter and illustrated with wood-cuts, they were hawked on street corners by chapmen. Unlike full books of the time, chapbooks were light and cheap and available. They fell into obscurity in the 19th century when they were displaced by the advent of magazines.

A chapbook today is normally literary whereas its sister, the pamphlet, can be prose of almost any sort. The two words, chapbook and pamphlet, are often used interchangeably, and booklet is another synonym. Chapbooks, be aware, are fragile and do not fare well in the salt environment, where staples rust.

interchangeably, and booklet is another synonym. Chapbooks, be aware, are fragile and do not fare well in the salt environment, where staples rust.

In the West Indies case were 25 items. The case was meant to be a summary of the exhibit, in that it featured a variety of forms presenting a variety of genres and topics. Each is interesting in its way, both as an item and for its text; following are highlights. Selected West Indian Chapbooks

It was late in the 19th century that chapbooks, in an ironic evolution, became literary, and often enough contained poetry. Prominent in the exhibit was Shake Keene's The Volcano Suite: A series of five poems. This suite was written in the aftermath of the eruption of Soufrière in April 1979. With dramatic cover artwork by Owen "Sap" Coombs, it was published by St. Vincent's Fishnet Restaurant that year. It came in wrappers, with 20 numbered pages, and was stapled. The number of copies printed in the first and only edition is unknown.

Shake Keane (1927-1997) was a Vincentian jazz trumpeter and poet. As a jazz musician, he lived in London and performed in Europe in the 1950s and 1960s, and was

Shake Keane (1927-1997) was a Vincentian jazz trumpeter and poet. As a jazz musi-cian, he lived in London and performed in Europe in the 1950s and 1960s, and was-best known as a flugelhorn player. The Angel Horn, his Collected Poems, was published posthumously as a full paperback by Nehesi Publishers, in St. Martin, in 2005. When Derek Walcott, the poet from St. Lucia, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993, his acceptance speech was published as a hardcover chapbook. The Antilles: Fragments of Epic Memory, in New York by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Artwork for the front and rear covers of the dust jacket is watercolors he himself had painted.

After poetry, history is probably the most popular genre found in chapbook form. Michael Jessamy's Forts & Coastal Batteries of Grenada was published in St. George's by Roland's Image Productions in 1998. With copious illustrations among its 56 pages and in full color, including a foldout centerpiece showing the 1797 plan for forts at Richmond Hill, it is an example of how desktop publishing has affected island printing.

-Continued on next page

-Continued from previous page

More precious is the eight-page *About Canouan* by Silvanus Burke, published in St. Vincent by the Trustee of the Estate of Burke. The first edition was published in 1966 when Burke, a retired schoolmaster, was alive. It was reprinted at least once, in about 1975.

The title page has a brief Introduction, which begins: "This booklet is intended to

The title page has a brief Introduction, which begins: "This booklet is intended to give the youth especially of Canouan a simple knowledge of the Estate of the Snaggs' Brothers in the days of their parents and grandparents." The small island south of Bequia had been a single estate. After Emancipation, its population survived on subsistence farming, fishing, and boatbuilding. It is a resort island today.

While history, if written seriously, is a product of studious research, it comes also in the somewhat diluted text of guidebooks. If chapbooks are ubiquitous, guidebooks are their most ubiquitous kind in the islands. Like coloring books, recipe booklets, and programmes, they come in every size and shape. An interesting juxtaposition occurs with Visitor's Guidebook: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a compact 24-page item in green ink mublished in 1974 by the Tourist Board and Historic Kingston. item in green ink published in 1974 by the Tourist Board, and *Historic Kingstoun*, a similarly sized booklet in color written and published in 2005 by the polymath of St. Vincent, Edgar Adams.



Anthropology, while a department of study unto itself, is a kind of history, and a rich variety of chapbooks have come out of its various fields.

various neids.

From archaeology, perhaps the most conspicuous of its fields, is the late Earle Kirby's Pre-Columbian Monuments in Stone. Published in Kingstown, St. Vincent, by The St. Vincent Archaeological & Historical Society in 1969, it Archaeological & Historical Society in 1969, it was reprinted in 1977. In distinct yellow wrappers, it has 12 pages of text plus 17 pages of black-and-white photographs of the stone monuments, and a single foldout page showing decorative marks in a cave. Of note is its binding: British stapling top-down, with the wrappers overlaid and glued.

Folklore is considered a field of study under both English and Anthropology. One interest-

Folklore is considered a field of study under both English and Anthropology. One interesting chapbook comes in Christine David's Folklore of Carriacou, privately printed in Barbados in 1985. At 54 pages, it is about as big as chapbooks get and yet it retains the feel of a slender item. Two-color wrappers, along with a map, line drawings, and black-and white-photographs, distinguish it.

A topic of great interest over the centuries to both the indigenous and the visitor is comprehensively dealt with in Bush Medicine in the Rahamas. by Mrs. Leslie Higgs.

is comprehensively dealt with in *Bush Medicine* in the Bahamas, by Mrs. Leslie Higgs. Originally published in 1969, it was reprinted many times. It is a large chapbook, measuring  $10 \times 8$  inches, and has a striking cover in color. Its interior of 20 glossy pages has for a frontispiece a photo of the ageing author, a white Bahamian; her introductory essay; and some 60 annotated drawings in black-and-white of medici-

nal plants.

Linguistics, too, is another crossover field of study. Mary W. Toynbee's A Visitor's Guide to St. Lucia Patois was privately published in Castries in 1969. It comes with color wrappers and in 44 pages, and is stapled. The text was hand-written by the author, and is reproduced as such. It is based on the authority of a doctoral thesis and has the charm of an amateur production. It is enhanced by three pages of local proverbs.

From anthropology finally, is a wonderful item I came across while cruising in the Abacos. Written and drawn by William R. Johnston Jr., Bahamian Sadling Craft: Notes, Sketches and Observations on a Vanishing Breed of Workboats was published by Out Islands Unlimited, a private press, in Coral Cables, Florida, in 1973. This large (12.25 x 9.25 inches) 49-page chapbook was reprinted many times. A handsome, hand-written and illustrated chapbook in pen and ink, it captures a time now gone and will break a sailor's heart. "The End" in the chapbook equals the end of an era.

Tourism and Yachting in Chapbooks

and will break a sailor's heart. The End' in the chapbook equals the end of an era.

Tourism and Yachting in Chapbooks

Chapbooks are uniquely fit for essays, lectures, speeches and other short forms of writing. They help to get the word out — or to pass the word along. None in my collection are better in this sense than several written and initially published by former St. Vincent & the Grenadines Prime Minister Sir James F. Mitchell. It was Mitchell's St. Vincent & the Grenadines Prime Minister Sir James F. Mitchell. It was Mitchell's habit as his political career developed to write speeches and then publish them, first as chapbooks and later collected in paperback form. His speeches are, at best, really essays. I have several as they originally appeared and prize most highly one that contains two essays: Land Reform in the Caribbean (CADEC lecture at the University of the West Indies, August 29, 1972) and To Hell with Paradise: A New Concept in Caribbean Tourism (Address at Caribbean Travel Association Press Conference, Haiti, September 21, 1972). The item is without the usual notation of place, publisher, and date but one assumes Mitchell had it printed in Kingstown in 1972. In plain, heavy-stock wrappers, it has 13 pages and is stapled.

To Hell with Paradise is Mitchell's seminal essay and was prominently featured in, of all places, Sports Illustrated magazine for the benefit of yachtsmen who at the time

To Hell with Paradise is Mitchell's seminal essay and was prominently leatured in, of all places, Sports Illustrated magazine for the benefit of yachtsmen who at the time were the principal tourists in the region. It includes these statements: "Let us face it, there is no paradise, only different ways of life" and "A country where the people have lost their soul is no longer a country — and not worth visiting."

I will conclude with mention of one of the most extraordinary items from the islands in the exhibit, a hardcover by Fritz Seyfarth. There are many others, each interesting for different reasons, and I might add for Compass readers that in the exhibit were several yachting titles, including John Rousmaniere's history of the New York Yacht Chub. The Clubbouse at Sea sumptiously published by the club in 2001

York Yacht Club, *The Clubhouse at Sea*, sumptuously published by the club in 2001, and a fine oblong catalogue of paintings, *John Mecray: The Racing Yacht*, published by Marguerite Riordan in Stonington, Connecticut, in 1988.

by Marguerite Riordan in Stonington, Connecticut, in 1988.

Fritz Seyfarth was a yachting journalist and charterboat skipper who operated out of the Virgin Islands for some 30 years beginning in the late 1960s. He had the unusual biography of having dropped out of a successful corporate career in southern California to take up chartering in his 40-foot Alden ketch, Tumbleweed, in the West Indies, and then having survived in the yacht an open-sea collision with a passing freighter. Seyfarth published articles in the sailing magazines, one mainstream book, Tales of the Caribbean (DeGraff 1978), and numerous chapbooks. He had the great good fortune to team up with artist Dee Carstarphen, whose pen-and-ink drawing illustrate his work.

great good fortule to team up with artist Dee Carstarphen, whose pen-and-ink drawings illustrate his work.

His Mavericks in Paradise. Pirates of the Virgin Islands. was published in St. Thomas by the Spanish Main Press in 1988. A back-to-back book — that is, two books in one binding, with two front covers (and no rear covers), each book is sewn upside-down to the other. *Mawericks* is in 40 pages, *Pirates* in 32 pages. Also known as a *dos-à-dos* book, it has no proper order to its titles. Both were published earlier as separate chapbooks. In effect, this is two chapbooks in one — or is it one book of two chapbooks





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#### SERVING AT SEA BY SHIRLEY HALL

eople in the English-speaking Caribbean call these long pods ochro and use them for many dishes, but in the United States they are called okra and are used mainly in "southern style" dishes.

Ochro or okra is a tall-growing plant in the same family as the hibiscus. Ochro is believed to have originaming as the indiscus. Octaro is believed to have originated in Ethiopia and spread to North Africa and the Middle East before reaching the Americas with the slave trade. The name ochro is of Bantu origin. This green pod is best known as a key ingredient in the thick spicy stew named gumbo, which is Swahill for

the thick spicy stew named gumbo, which is Swahill for ochro. Ochro types vary from shades of green to white, fat to slender shapes, with either a ribbed or smooth surface. Green, ribbed pods are the most common. Ochro is rarely cooked unaccompanied, except when it is fried. Ochro alone is generally too "gooey" for most people's liking. Usually a little of it is added with other vegetables into rice, soups and stews, and the juice will thicken any liquid it is added to. With a unique flavor and texture, somewhere between eggplant and asparagus, ochro mixes well with other vegetables, particularly tomatoes, peppers and corn. Ochro is easily dried for later use. A little dried okra in prepared dishes produces much the same result as the fresh vegetable.

ing, it should be cut up and allowed to thicken with

#### Ochro Melée

2 Tablespoons cooking oil (preferably health-wise canola)

1 large onion, sliced

2 cloves of garlic, chopped 2 bay leaves

1/2 Tablespoon of thyme and basil 1 sweet bell pepper, chopped 3 large ripe tomatoes, chopped

corn kernels cut from four ears
2 Cups small ochro pods sliced in
quarter-inch rounds
1/2 Cup chicken broth

In a large frying pan, heat oil and add onions, garlic, and spices until onions are limp. Add bell pepper and continue cooking until onions are transparent. Add tomatoes, ochro, broth, salt and pepper. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occanically. Add come decal from the Add come of cooking the salt and services and selections. sionally. Add corn and cook five more minutes longer. Season to taste.

Serves six.

#### OCHRO OKRA



In some lands ochro is grown just for the seeds. Ripe seeds produce an edible cooking oil. The ripe seeds of ochro are sometimes roasted and ground as a substi-

tute for coffee.

Ochro has many valuable nutrients. It is a prime source of soluble fiber in the form of gums and pec-tins. Soluble fiber lowers cholesterol and reduces the risk of heart disease. The other half is insoluble fiber, which keeps the intestinal tract healthy, decreasing the risk of some forms of cancer, especially colo-rectal cancer. A half-cup of cooked ochro has only 25 calories, 2 grams of fiber,  $1.5~{\rm grams}$  protein, vitamin A and C, calcium, potassium, and manganese. Nearly ten percent of the recommended levels of vitamin B6 and folic acid are also present.

Don't wash ochro until just before you cook it; moisture will cause the pods to become slimy. Store untrimmed, uncut ochro in a paper or plastic bag in the refrigerator crisper for no longer than three or four days or it will turn to mush.

Never prepare ochro in a cast iron or aluminum pot, or the vegetable will darken. The discoloration is harmless, but makes the okra look rather unappetizing. To remove some of the stickiness from ochro, soak the pods in vinegar for half an hour. I slice my ochro early in the morning and let dry in the sun for hours

before frying.

When serving ochro as a side dish, cook the whole when serving ochro as a side dish, cook the whole pods rapidly — until crisp-tender or just tender — to minimize the thickening juices. Try the same quick cooking when you are adding ochro to any cooked dish in which you want to retain its crisp, fresh quality — add the vegetable during the last ten minutes of cooking time. On the other hand, when ochro is to be used in a soup (such as calalloo), stew or casserole, or a dish like coo-coo that requires long cook-

#### Ochro and Green Beans or Bodi

pound of whole ochro pods

4 Tablespoons olive oil 1 onion, chopped 2 cloves of garlic, chopped

2 pounds green beans or bodi beans 2 ripe tomatoes chopped (or 1/4 Cup ketchup)

1 Cup water

1 Cup water salt and pepper to taste Wash and rinse ochro pods with the caps still on. Chop green beans or bodi into two-inch pieces. In a saucepan, combine water, tomatoes, olive oil, onion, and garlic, bring to a boil stirring frequently. Add ochro and green beans or bodi. Water may be added to cover vegetables if necessary. Lower heat and simmer for half an hour or until the beans just become tender.

#### For the Farmer

Ochro is perfect for a hedge around a tropical backochro is periect for a fedge around a tropical back-yard garden, because the three-to six-foot-tall plants produce beautiful blossoms that rival its cousin the hibiscus. Plant the seeds one inch deep and a foot apart. Ochro usually grows well in any good garden soil. Four or five plants produce enough ochro for most families. Trinidad produces five and a half million pods

Pods should be cut (not picked) while they are still immature and tender at two to three inches long. This vegetable must be picked at least every other day. Ochro has short hairs that can irritate bare skin so it is wise to wear gloves and long sleeves when harvesting. A sharp knife will cut off the pods and should not harm the rest of the plant. When the stem is difficult to cut, the pod is probably too old to use. The large pods rapidly become tough and woody.

# **STOVE-TOP** CHOCOLATE CAKE

by Ross Mavis

Gas ovens are great but they aren't meant for confined spaces in warm climates. Add to this the rising cost of fuel and it's easy to understand why stove-top recipes requiring fewer British Thermal Units are popular. Stove-top cooking is a fine art in itself and should not be given short shrift. I learned to cook at my mother's side

itself and should not be given short shrift. I learned to cook at my mother's side when, at an early age, she involved me in the daily meal preparation. I often wonder now, many years later, what really appealed to me to become a chef and a writer who specializes in food and life experiences.

During my school years, right through high school, I wanted to be a chemist or chemical engineer. Life takes many turns and twists and I never did attend university to get my chemical engineer training. However, being completely immersed in the kitchen provided me with domestic or food science at its best.

Mum was proud of me and her lessons paid off well. Stove-top cooking was one of the first methods I mastered. I remember well the salesman that came to our door in the early 1950s selling Wear Ever Aluminum cookware. My father bought the complete set for my Mum and she used her aluminum cookware daily. She was sharn, active and in good health up to the last of her 98 years — so much for the sharp, active and in good health up to the last of her 98 years - so much for the Alzheimer's-and-aluminum controversy.

Aliznemer's-and-aluminum controversy.

One of the great stove-top recipes handed down to me from my mother is the one for this chocolate cake baked entirely on top of the stove in a large heavy duty aluminum fry pan with a tight lid. It can be baked in any cast-type pan that provides ample thickness to allow the cake to bake without burning on the bottom. The lid keeps the heat and moisture in while the cake bakes. The lid is not lifted until the baking is complete. It requires courage not to peek during the baking but no peeking





I remember the first time I saw and tasted this delicious chocolate cake when it came out of the skillet. Wowser! You, too, will be amazed I'm sure.

But before you try this easy recipe on your stove top, let's consider the science behind it. Baking is done either with a dry or moist heat. Take for example the lowly dumpling or doughboy if you wish: a mixture of flour, baking powder for leavening, shortening or butter, pinch of salt for flavor and milk for moisture. This simple batter is dropped by the spoonful into a bubbling stew and the lid placed on the pot to provide an enclosed atmosphere allowing the mixture to rise as the carbon dioxide gas bubbles form from the baking powder. Once again, no peeking is essential for the lightest most delicious dumplings ever. It's an easy jump to chocolate cake in the skillet. Ovens are not new and they essentially are all the same: an enclosure with a heat source to allow food to cook or bake nicely without the disturbance of wind or cold draughts. Some of the first ovens were made out of clay and were fired with reach to exide the presence when they were later compared to work when the presence when they were later compared to work when the presence when they were later compared to work when the presence when they were later compared to work when they were the transpared to work was the presence of the same than the control of the presence of the same than the wood to provide the necessary heat. Years later, commercial ovens were built from brick and finally the more sophisticated metal container with wood, electric or gas

heat became a part of most homes.

A heavy cast skillet with nicely fitting lid works just fine on a galley stove when placed over a constant medium flame providing a proper temperature for baking. If you have a breezy galley you may want to lightly drape aluminum foil around the skillet so the burner flame remains constant. Here's one of many easy cake recipes that bake well on top of your galley stove.

#### Stove-Top Chocolate Cake

- 1 1/2 Cups (375 ml) all-purpose flour 1 Cup (250 ml) white sugar 1/3 Cup (75 ml) cocoa powder

- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) salt 1 teaspoon (5 ml) baking soda
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) baking powder 1/3 Cup (75 ml) vegetable oil or melted shortening 1 Tablespoon (14 ml) vinegar
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) vanilla flavoring 1 Cup (250 ml) warm water

1 Cup (250 ml) warm water

Spray the heavy skillet well with non-stick cooking spray or grease well with shortening. Preheat skillet over low flame. Meanwhile mix all dry ingredients in a large
bowl. Make three wells using the back of a spoon. Pour oil into holes followed by
vinegar, vanilla and warm water. Mix well by hand for a couple of minutes. Pour into
warm skillet and cover with snug-fitting lid. Bake over medium heat for 40 minutes. Don't lift the lid until at least 35 minutes have elapsed. Cake is done when it springs back when lightly touched.

#### Coconut Icing

- 3 Tablespoons (45 ml) butter or margarine 2 Cups (500 ml) icing sugar 1/2 teaspoon (2 ml) vanilla flavoring 4 Tablespoons (40 ml) coconut cream

Place softened (but not melting) butter in a bowl and sift icing sugar over the top. Add vanilla and coconut cream and blend all thoroughly with a wooden spoon.

When the cake has cooled, spread coconut icing over the top. Serve with coffee, tea

or milk. This easy recipe won't have your galley or you in a sweat.

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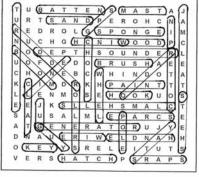




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Dear Compass,

Further to your Letter of the Month in the May 2008 edition of the *Compass*, which deals with the clear-in and clear-out charges on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, I and clear-out charges on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, I would like to point out that the charges listed by Kris on S/V Nomotos in his letter are not always what one ends up paying. The charges seem to vary from boat to boat and maybe depend on which Customs or Immigration official one deals with.

I have been to Margarita many times and always use the local shipping agent, Juan Baro, at Marina Juan. His charges are just 20 Bolivars (about US\$6 at the current schools are the more than the prices for clear.

current exchange rate) more than the prices for clearing in yourself, as stated in Kris's letter. Juan also provides many useful services such as free use of the dinghy dock with security, and a free bus to the shopping mall three days a week. There is a shop with movie rentals and one of the best book swaps in the Caribbean. For me, all that is worth an extra six dollars. I hope others will feel the same, as it would be a shame to lose these facilities.

Regards, Steve Carter S/V Moonshadow 3

Dear Compass.

I read the article entitled "Solitary" by Jan Brogan, included in the May 2008 issue of Caribbean Compass, with horror

presume, however, that Ms Brogan intended to write with some levity.

write with some levity.

The most worrying aspect of her article was contained in her third paragraph. She tells us that after several nights of locking herself into her boat, whilst alone, she decided to try to attract a stranger and asks the question, "Would it be so awful to be ravished by a strange man...." In other words, she imagines being raped as an attractive prospect.

Even if this article was written in a light-hearted manner the orbits of rape is no locking method.

Even if this article was written in a light-hearted manner the subject of rape is no laughing matter and she, together with any reader who found the article funny, should consider the following points before finding this subject even slightly amusing ever again. Rape is a violation of the person just short of murder. The perpetrator of this crime demands absolute control over his victim.

Rape victims are likely to have suffered serious physical harm, both internal and external. Rapists may well use objects such as broom handles or broken bottles during sex attacks. It is most likely that sex

bottles during sex attacks. It is most likely that sex attackers will deviate from normal sex by a wide margin, to satisfy their sickening urges.

Women who are raped never fully recover from their ordeal and many commit suicide.

Women are so traumatised by this heinous act that they find it difficult to enjoy close physical relationships, even a kiss, ever again,

Raped women will, most likely, change personality, and marriages and other relationships often break down.

These women have to undergo AIDS counselling and

an HIV test knowing that their lives may, from this moment forward, be limited. They will already be suf-

fering from feelings of horror, terror and nightmares, which may last for years if not the rest of their lives. Twenty women a day are raped in Caracas, Venezuela, according to the Butler County Rape Crisis Program Website. Several other websites suggest that a conser-Website. Several other websites suggest that a conservative estimate for rapes per annum in the United States of America is half a million. Statistics underestimate the incidence of this appalling crime because many women will not come forward because of guilt, shame and the stigma society attaches to the act. After 25 years as a Professional Counsellor, talking to women who have suffered from this terrible ordeal, I can find nothing amusing about this topic. In answer to the author's question "Would it be so awful..." the answer is that it would be more awful than she could possibly imagine.

Rape is no laughing matter.

Name Withheld by Request

**Dear Compass,**In regard to Fatty Goodlander's recent article in *All At* In regard to Fatty Goodlander's recent article in All At Sea about single-handers, we all surely hope that nothing happens to Fatty's S.O. (Significant Other), a world-class sweetheart. Having spent personal time with Fatty (never more than 30 minutes: who could stand the pain?), it is clear that no other woman (with any self-respect) could put up with him for any longer period.

So if something ever does happen to Fatty's S.O.

So if something ever does happen to Fatty's S.O. (heaven forbid), he will surely become a single-hander and Fatty, in the classic line from Seinfeld, "You're going to need it!"

John St. John

Dear Compass,

I am writing in response to the article in the June 6, 2008 edition of *The Vincentian* newspaper about cutbacks in flights and cruise ship visits to St. Vincent & the Grenadines. This news is indeed something that will have serious consequences for our country and tourism. The soaring cost of fuel is responsible for this drastic action. Indeed, airlines worldwide are serious.

drastic action. Indeed, airlines worldwide are cutting routes and charging passengers more for flights. SVG's Minister of Tourism, Glen Beache, says, "We must reinvent ourselves," but I think what we must do is look back to the beginning of tourism in this country — and that is based on yachting. Our islands have consistently been awarded top marks for being a fabulous sailing destination. Constant tradewinds, proximity of magnificent islands, friendly people and a safe environment politically — all these add up to a great destination.

great destination.

The government decided some years ago that they wanted to attract the large cruise ships. To do this, they built an elaborate cruise ship terminal in St. Vincent. Of course, after terrorist attacks in the US in 2001, security measures around the world tightened up. Our small country was forced to comply with specific security measures if it wanted the cruise ships to continue to write this land. So St. Vincent and Power and Power they are the specific security measures if it wanted the cruise ships to continue to visit this land. So St. Vincent and Bequia built fences and enclosures to US specifications. All

built tences and enclosures to US specifications. All this was done at great expense.

And what benefit was felt by businesses in this country from the cruise ships? A few cruise ship agents have done very well. The government receives its "head tax" levied on each passenger. But businesses in general feel little benefit from the cruise ship visits.

Small business is the financial backbone of every country; all those "little" companies, employing people, training their staff, providing the services that touries.

country; all those "little" companies, employing people, training their staff, providing the services that tourists need and like. This is what keeps a country alive and vibrant. Of course large enterprises have the financial resources to help develop infrastructures that countries need, but it is important for governments to recognize — and support — the small businesses that reate an ambiance that makes tourists love this country and return for another visit.

Many local businesses benefit from yacht tourism. Every yacht-full of guests buys groceries; most dine in restaurants. A lot of them buy souvenirs, hire local vendors to make beach barbecuse some have laundry.

vendors to make beach barbecues, some have laundry done and visit internet cafés. And many donate or otherwise contribute something to this country. What they do is have contact with the islands and the peo-ple. It's not a one afternoon affair. Most yacht charterpie. It's not a one alternoon alian, most yacht charter-ers spend a minimum of one week in this country, specifically in the Grenadines, and frequently make lasting links with local people and businesses. And (guess what?), yachts run on wind power, not fossil fuels. If we have learned anything from all the

writings, warnings and environmentalists, it is that we must find an alternative to burning fossil fuels. We cannot afford it any more. The earth cannot support it

Sustainable" is a word being used by a lot of people these days, but do many know what it means? My dictionary says: "able to be maintained". Well, I believe that sailing yachts are sustainable. The wind is still free. Nobody can raise its price or charge VAT on it. Sailing does not hurt the environment. And we already believe to the property of the price of of have a network of charter yacht businesses in this country. There is a huge investment in bases, yacht inventory, employees, marketing, etcetera. Let us all support this industry. We are lucky to have the perfect

support this mutusty. We are fucky to have the perfect place for sailing. Please, Mr. Beache, go out and market our yacht charter industry. Use "sustainable" and "fossil-fuel-free" as keywords. The world will cheer us on for our proactive and sympathetic approach to keeping our country alive. **Heather Grant** 

Union Island

Dear Compass

On May 19th the King of Redonda left the Royal Limousine in the car park of Slipway in Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua, then climbed aboard John Bentley's Sea Pony for a tow of the Royal Yacht St. Peter up to Jolly Harbour to sort out a leak and complete the standing rigging, left half-done by Russian insurgents. He returned to Slipway the following morning to take the limo (an ancient Mazda 323) back to his home.

—Continued on next page

—Continued from previous page
At some point during those 12 hours, some miscreant had half-inched the Royal Crown that, epoxied in place, had been gracing the roof of the car for several years. Panic ensued in Court when the news of this circulated amongst the members of the Redondan establishment. Many were horrified that the growing crime rate had descended so low, given the vast majority of lawabiding islanders. No such dastardly deed had ever occurred before. When the two newly appointed Royal Canadian Mounted Police heard of this blatant theff they must have shed despairing tears of despondency. despairing tears of despondency. The chief of Slipway, when he heard about it, simply burst out laughing. But he must be a committed republican to behave in such a wav.

such a way.

Two days later Mike East was trucking across the harbour towards Slipway when something floating, glistening, caught his eye. He stopped and fished it out. It was the Royal Crown from the limo. He was at first amazed and then quickly realised that by fish-

then quickly realised that by fishing it out from what was soon to be a watery grave was, in fact, his passport to heavenly recognition — at least a knighthood in the Kingdom. The King was delighted when he heard the news at Skullduggery and, at first, offered Mike the title of Dame.

and, at first, offered Mike the title of Dame.
Mike, surprisingly, turned this down without really
thinking. After all, Geoffrey Pidduck once was dubbed
a Dame and revelled in the title.
Is there anyone out there with a spare bit of
epoxy and a hefty through-bolt, hot-wired with
maximum prejudice?
Bob Williamson, the King of Redonda
Schooner St. Peter

#### Dear Compass Readers,

Dear Compass Readers,
It's time to gear up for the eighth annual Carriacou
Children's Education Fund (CCEF) auction, which will
take place Friday, August 1st, at the Carriacou Yacht
Club. (This is a great time, with the Carriacou Regatta
Festival underway, to be here.)
We have already received several donations from
businesses in Carriacou and look forward to hearing
from each of you that you will once again make a contribution of goods or septices to this worthwhile effort.

tribution of goods or services to this worthwhile effort.

Please do join us for the auction, and for all the other activities — official schedules will be coming just

activities — olinical scienciales will be coming just before the activities begin.

For those of you who would like to view in person and maybe to own the newly published two-volume book set *Carriacou Sloops*, reviewed in glowing terms in the June issue of *Compass*, the author/photograin the June issue of Compass, the author/photographer Alexis Andrews has graciously donated a personally autographed set to the CCEF Auction. For a sneak
preview of the wonderful photos in these books, visit
YOUTUBE.COM and search on Carriacou Sloops.

This is in addition to lots of other good stuff to be auctioned (a brand new cockpit table still in the packing
box, a large CQR anchor, an almost-new VHF radio
which needs some work on the transmit switch, to name

a few items), so join us for the eighth annual CCEF Auction and other fun- and fund-raising activities. Over the past seven years CCEF has raised more than EC\$65,000 used to purchase school books and



'What do I hear for this fabulous necklace? Come on it's for the kids!'

uniforms for needy children of Carriacou, to pay for lunch for a number of Harvey Vale Primary School children who would otherwise not have lunch, and to pay tuition and books for six students to attend the local branch of TA Marryshow Community College. In addition, CCEF has also provided funds for two pri-mary schools to obtain necessary air conditioners for their computer labs.

We expect this year to make a significant addition to that sum.

For more information contact boatmillie@aol.com.

Thanks.

John and Melodye Pompa S/V Second Millennium Founders, Carriacou Children's Education Fund

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## Letter of the Month

Dear Compass Readers,

Here are some tips that might be of interest to cruisers. I'd heard of ethylene incompatibilities before, but here they are in list form [from http://pakupaku.info/knouledge/ethylene.shtml, an interesting vegetarian food site]. With the relatively small spaces in onboard fidels here they are the thylene. fridge boxes, good organization with regard to ethylene will keep foods fresh longer.

Ethylene Gas and Your Grocery Bill: Organize

Your Fridge!

Your Fridge!

Most fruits and vegetables generate ethylene gas while they ripen. Why should you care? This gas is a very active plant hormone, and if you don't get organized, it can get busy with your vegetables and jack up your monthly grocery bill. Leafy vegetables are very sensitive to ethylene, even in very low quantities. Lettuce, for example, begins to decay when exposed to ethylene gas at low temperatures, i.e. even in your refrigerator! Products sensitive to ethylene gas, such as broccoli and bananas, will spoil quickly if stored in as broccoli and bananas, will spoil quickly if stored in the same areas as avocados, melons, and apples, which are ethylene producers. So if you want to be smart, get segregating! Keep your veggies apart and make your food last longer. These Create Ethylene Gas:

Apples, apricots, avocados, ripening bananas, blue-berries, cantaloupe, citrus fruit (except grapefruit), cranberries, figs, guavas, grapes, green onions, ripe kiwi fruit, mangoes, melons, mushrooms, nectarines, okra, papayas, passion fruit, peaches, pears, peppers, persimmons, pineapple, plantains, plums, prunes, quinces, tomatoes and watermelon.

quinces, tomatoes and watermelon.

These Become Damaged by Ethylene Gas:
Asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, cucumbers, cut flowers, egglant, endive, escarole, florist greens, green beans, kale, kiwi fruit, leafy greens, lettuce, parsley, peas, peppers, potatoes, potted plants, romaine lettuce spinach, squash, sweet potatoes, watercress and yams.

And, Electronic Rice...

Another handy tin for sailors comes from an article

And, Electronic Rice...

Another handy tip for sailors comes from an article in the May 22nd edition of *The New York Times*:

"A bag of dry, uncooked rice can save your bacon if you accidentally drop your cell phone in a puddle or some other body of water. If your phone takes a splash, cet it out of the water as soon so possible and take out.

get it out of the water as soon as possible and take out the battery and SIM card (if it has one) immediately. "Pat the phone parts as dry as possible with a paper towel and seal them in an airtight container full of dry rice for a day or two. The rice helps draw out the mois-ture. You can also substitute a desiccant like silica gel - which may work even better.'

packets — whi Fair winds, Ellen Sanpere S/V Cayenne III



#### A Quorum of Few OVNI 435 Alubat 2002 Aluminium Centerboarde Guadeloupe 199 000 € Amel 54 2005 Full Option Amel Super Maramu 53 1998 Beneteau Oceanis 440 1996 Feeling 42 Bavaria 36 1999 by Jim Hutchinson

Despite how it looks in the guide, and things you might have heard, this is a pretty lousy anchorage unless you're just blowing through on your way elsewhere. A handful of yachties asked me to tell you that. The bay has a commercial port, derelict ships, slicks on the water, trash floating by, an occasional loading ramp screeching back and forth across a concrete dock all night long, sometimes all-night machinery. And ships short-cutting through the anchorage. The once sandy bottom is now algae over loose sediment from marina dredging and ship prop wash. All-night lights from a construction site obscure most stars, and light up the interior of my yacht through un-curtained windows... as do intense or flashing anchor lights. Outboard motors blast through the anchorage day and night, both local boats and yacht tenders. And, of course, occasional slapping halyards, barking dogs, and once in a while someone thinks everybody should listen to their morning net on the cockpit speakers. And gasoline generators. And diesel stink and noise when someone runs one off your bow. I've been asked to tell you this by a quorum of yachties I was partying with aboard a forty-some foot retirement yacht in an increasingly crowded bay that was once one of my favorites. These folks are aboard some of the yachts that regularly inhabit the bay. The bay is one of their favorites. We all feel that there are already enough or too many of us here, and that the deterioration of the bay should keep other yachties moving on. Viva yo. Or something.

So, I'm telling you about this place, blowing the whistle on an anchorage once thought (by some) to be paradise... still thought by some.... No need to name it, these bays are all over this part of the world. And elsewhere, I suppose. The difference is, this is the bay that we are in. So, stay away.

One of said yachties said I could mention their whooshy wind generators, too, as long as I mentioned the rest. Most models of wind generators are quiet, some silent. But all the three-bladed wind genera

in the early morning hours which are my favorite time of day, before and as the

Some environmentally minded friends get nervous when I come down on whooshers: "I'd rather those than engine-driven generators." But most wind generators don't make noise. And the ones that whoosh are not necessarily the most powerful. I'd put my money on one of the many-bladed "daisy wheel" generators, which seem to work better in the lighter wind and which range from quiet to silent. And there's a new wind generator on the market that claims to blow the whooshy one away in output and is quiet enough not be heard by the neighbors. Wind generators don't have to be noisy.

But whooshy wind generators overly the little whooshy wind generators overly the little whooshy wind generators.

be noisy.

But whooshy wind generators aren't the biggest noise or stink from the modern yacht. Its propulsion and generating engines sometimes are, but mostly it's the tender, the "dinghy". "I simply won't tolerate a dinghy that won't get me to the dock in less than three minutes" — that's a quote. "Plane two couples and their gear" is a common criterion for these Sporty Utility Vessels that make possible all the running around that the modern yachtie needs to do. I think it is common knowledge that outboard engines should be run flat out.

But, strangely, in this particular bay, the yachties seem to drive a bit more slowly. Quite a few even row. And there are several sailing dinghies. More reasons not to name the bay.

a few even fow. And there are several saming unigness. More reasons not to name the bay.

The secret of generating enough power with the wind and sun, by the way, is to size your system (and your usage) to actual conditions, not their rated potential. And the less up and down your batteries do, the longer they last.



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40' Fount, Pajot Lavezzi '03, 3 cab/2 hd	295K	41' Beneteau Oceanis 413'01, 3cb/2hd	114K
SAIL:		40' Hinkley Bermuda '70, 1cb/1qb/1hd	95K
55'Tayana '89, Cutter CC, 2 cab/2 hd	295K	40' J Boat J/120'97, 2 cab/1 hd	195K
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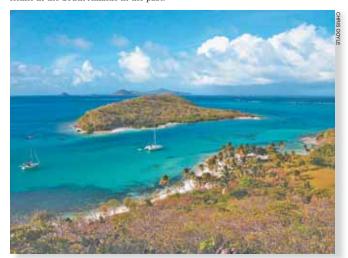
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#### WHAT'S ON MY MIND

by Andy Pell

is the time to start the sailing season. The brown, snuff-dry hillsides will soon start to change to vigorous greens; the birds have started nesting, a sure sign that the rainy season is about to start. The anchorages are emptying and although the salling can be wetter and wilder, the people on the islands have more time for us and are even more welcoming.

This is the time to cruise these islands, to have the freedom of the seas. There is a slightly different feel about; we know that there might be a hurricane; we know that signify different feel about; we know that there might be a nurnicane; we know that we might have to rely on each other. Our boats may even lean on each other if the worst happens, but we are the cruisers who actually choose to be here. There is a greater sense of community and a real feeling of pleasure in meeting other yachties who also stay beyond the time insurance companies feel we should have moved to places where hurricanes have not recently visited. Given the nature of life it may be that the insurers will gamble on the wrong places again. There has even been a hurricane in the South Atlantic in the past ricane in the South Atlantic in the past.



Where is everyone else? Summer can be a wonderful time to cruise the Caribbean

This is the time of year when the weather forecasts are actually immediately considered, rather than soon disregarded. Charts are pored over for the nearest hurricane holes and possible haul-outs. Plans are in hand for anchoring, driving into the mangroves; stores are laid for the contingency of having to manage after a serious storm. The chance of hurricanes does reduce our cruising range, we chose not to be more than a few days from a secure anchorage, but there are many places to visit which are close enough for even our high level of risk-aversion.

Conversations can, however, sound rather worrying but the fact that the interlocutors survived their experiences can be seen as some reassurance. Those who experienced Ivan tell stories that would make your toes curl. As these overheard conversations are often at bar — or poolside — some embroidering is forgivable.

Last year we were caught in Hurricane Dean in Martinique. The locals, lulled into

apathy by the many hurricanes which in previous years approached and then dodged around their island, turned into the kindest, most generous friends after they saw the damage wrought by Dean.

saw the damage wrought by Dean.

Frank ferried us about in both his dinghy and his car; Richard, a newfound friend, insisted on helping with, and solving, a mechanical problem; Robert offered his space in the local marina (a generous offer which we did not need to take up).

We were welcomed into Elie's home for the night of the hurricane and stayed rather longer; he later lent us his car for the period of restoring Tixi Lixi, our by then

rather beaten-up, but still floating, ketch.

Despite the real possibility of having to experience another hurricane, this is a wonderful time to cruise the Caribbean.

If any time of the year gives the pleasurable feeling of being free of the "nine-to-five hamster wheel", this is it. I do sympathize with those racing back to their places in

We do know that this is the Hurricane Season. We are not complacent but we choose to sail when others don't. We left when the charterers started to wreak havoc around us: Tixi Lixi was hauled when others were launched.

Those of us who sail these islands during the quieter times are delighted to be here

for this season.

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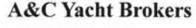
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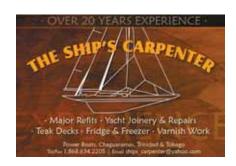


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#### -Continued from page 9 **Business Briefs** YSATT Says Hello and Good-Bye

Sharon McIntosh resigned as General Manager of the Yacht Services Association of Trinidad & Tobago (VSATT) in December 2007, to accept a position within the government service. She joined YSATT in 2005 and worked tirelessly to promote



YSATT, especially with government organizations, for the benefit of the yacht service industry. Sharon is still involved in the industry as manager of The Caribbean Marine

Association and as chairperson of the government-assigned Yachting Steering

Association and as chainpelson of Committee.
Gina Hatt-Carvalho has been appointed Manager of YSATT.
Gina has been employed with YSATT since 2002 and has had a close working relationship with its members and other key players in the industry. Along with the previous General Managers and the Events Committee, she has planned and executed such events as YSATT's Marine Trade Show.

Catherine Whitby is the new Administrative Assistant of YSATT. A familiar face in the Chaguaramas area, Catherine worked at Boaters' Enterprise for ten years, managing the office there and working on familiar media projects such as *The Boca* and the Boaters' Directory of Trinidad and Tobago.



New Manager Gina Hatt-Carvalho steps into the role with six years of experience at YSATT

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