CARIBBEAN
COMPASS
DECEMBER 2024 NO. 342
The Caribbean's Look at Sea & Shore

FIND YOUR LUSH HOLIDAY HIDEAWAY

— SEE PAGE 28



Never miss an update, join over 15,000 Caribbean sailing, travel, and lifestyle enthusiasts today.

CHRISTIAN WHEATLEY


GIFTS
for the whole crew!
Take your Pick from a Wide Choice
aquapac
SEAFLO
Have a Blast
HOT DOG
BUDGET MARINE
The Caribbean's Leading Chandlery
ANTIGUA | ARUBA | BONAIRE | CARRIACOU
COLOMBIA | CURAÇAO | GRENADA | ST. KITTS
ST. MAARTEN | ST. THOMAS | TRINIDAD
www.budgetmarine.com

Contents

DECEMBER 2024 • ISSUE 342

6 **Weather Nets Winter 2024-25**
by Bill Woodroffe

7 **Caribbean Safety and Security**
by Kim R. White

16 **Happy 2025: Ring Out 2024!**
by Vincent Mattiola

18 **Christmas Cruise**
by Jeff Wingfield

20 **Sorrel Tea: Holiday Cheer from Martinique**
by Margo Ask

23 **Night Sky: Navigate by the Stars**
by Jim Ulik



COURTESY CRUISING GUIDE PUBLICATIONS

A vendor tends to freshly-picked wares at the open-air market in Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI.

Featured

4 Center of Effort
6 Channel 16
8 Eco News
10 Business Briefs
14 Sounds+
22 Regattas & Rallies
27 Meridian Passage
27 Calendar
28 Island Spotlight: USVI
30 Marketplace
31 Advertisers Index

Find *Caribbean Compass* at caribbeancompass.com/pick-up

On the Cover *The sloop* Equinox *reaches toward St. John, USVI. For more about the wonders of this American territory in the Caribbean, see Island Spotlight on page 28.*

Hey Readers, Get Caribbean Compass By Email!
Visit our website at caribbeancompass.com or just scan the QR code and enter your email address — it's as easy as that!

Caribbean Compass

Caribbean Compass is published by Compass Publishing LLC of Connecticut, USA. www.caribbeancompass.com

Publisher | Dan Merton
dan@caribbeancompass.com

Advertising & Administration
Shellese Craigg
shellese@caribbeancompass.com

Publisher Emeritus | Tom Hopman

Editor Emeritus | Sally Erdle

Editor | Elaine Lembo
elaine@caribbeancompass.com

Executive Editor | Tad Richards
tad@caribbeancompass.com

Art, Design & Production
Berry Creative
abby@berrycreativellc.com

Caribbean Compass welcomes submission of articles, news items and letters to the editor. See Writers' Guidelines at Www.caribbeancompass.com/guidelines.htm. Send submissions to editor@caribbeancompass.com

We support free speech! But the content of advertisements and articles are the sole responsibility of the advertiser or writer and Compass Publishing LLC accepts no responsibility for statements made therein. Articles and letters may be edited for length and clarity. We do not accept individual consumer complaints.

©2023 Compass Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication, except short excerpts for review purposes, may be made without written permission of Compass Publishing LLC.

ISSN 1605 - 1998

Why We Love Boat Shows

High season is in full swing: Locals are taste-testing favorite guavaberry Christmas concoctions. Rally crews are making landfall at hosting marinas, and teams are tuning their rigs for the super-hot racing season ahead.

With so much going on, it's easy to let the fall 2024 frenzied boat show season drift away in our wake. But long ago, I decided the boat show experience is too valuable and important. I look forward to boat shows because that's where I catch up with friends and find out what's important or new and fun for cruising and racing sailors. Boat show buzz is trippy, electrified by warm and sunny days and the sizzle of comings and goings. If something cool or different is going on near or far, you can be sure it's being talked about on the docks at a boat show.

For the team at *Caribbean Compass*, boat show season in Newport, Rhode Island, and in Annapolis, Maryland, was a chance to network, thank our advertisers and contributing writers and content partners, and toot our horn: Our digital footprint is growing. Our bimonthly e-letter goes out to more than 12,000 readers and 25,000 have visited our website. We couldn't do it without our reading community, our hard-working contributors or our advertisers.

Thank you!
Elaine

P.S.

Visit us at caribbeancompass.com and sign up for our e-letter at https://caribbeancompass.com/register.



ELAINE LEMBO

Nautical jeweler Andy Correa poses with Compass *editor in chief Elaine Lembo. The registered trademark of A.G.A. Correa & Son is a representation of the Center of Effort, and provided inspiration for the name of this column. In sailing, the center of effort is defined as the single point on a sail where all the forces of the wind come together to drive a yacht forward.*



ELAINE LEMBO

Also appearing at the Newport show: Meteorologists and Compass *contributing writers Amanda Delaney and Kyle Petroziello of Weather Routing Inc.*



CLARKES COURT
BOATYARD & MARINA
GRENADA W.I.

2024 PROMISES A BOAT CARE EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER; SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW AND DISCOVER THE EPITOME OF NAUTICAL EXCELLENCE AT CLARKES COURT BOATYARD & MARINA.

CREW FACILITIES
• Restaurant, Bar & Luxury Apartments • Laundry, Hot Showers •Taxi & Shopping Bus Services available from the yard
• Customs & Immigration and Fuel Supply are close by • Onsite Chandlery

ON SITE TECHNICAL SERVICES
• Project Management & Consultancy • Yacht Brokerage and Guardianage • Rigging, Sail Making and Canvas Work
• Metal Fabrication • GRP & Composite Fabrication • Fine Wood Work & Carpentry • Electrical Installation & Electronics
• Bottom Painting, Waxing & Polishing • Diesel & Outboard Engine Installation & Repair • Life Rafts, Safety Equipment & Inflatable Dinghy Repair

Clarkes Court Bay Rd. Woburn, St. George's, Grenada. W.I.
1 (473) 439 - 3939 | info@clarkscourtmarina.com
clarkescourtmarina.com
VHF 11

Clarkes Court Boatyard & Marina
ccbmgrenada

VIRGIN GORDA
YACHT HARBOUR

YOUR COMPLETE MARINE CENTRE IN THE HEART OF

Virgin Gorda

Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour is the ideal destination for hurricane season storage in the Northeast Caribbean. Our two large boatyards provide many excellent storage options for vessels up to 9' draft, or 350 metric tonnes.

In addition to our trusted Hurricane Keel Pit service for keelboats, our South Boatyard now offers brand new steel cradles for which will provide extra peace of mind for yacht owners during hurricane season. For any of those bigger tasks that you cannot do your- self, there are several qualified, licensed, and insured sub-contractors available locally who specialize in all manner of shipwrighting, including electronics, rigging, carpentry, and more.

Our North Boatyard boasts the largest hauling capacity in the region, capable of hauling vessels up to 39' beam. Every haul out slip also comes with the option to strap down to helical sand screws, which are an excellent way to ensure the safety of your vessel.

Our facility is situated on 30 waterfront acres, and also offers a 90-slip marina and two retail centres including a Chandlery. Contact us today to see what we can do to protect your vessel!

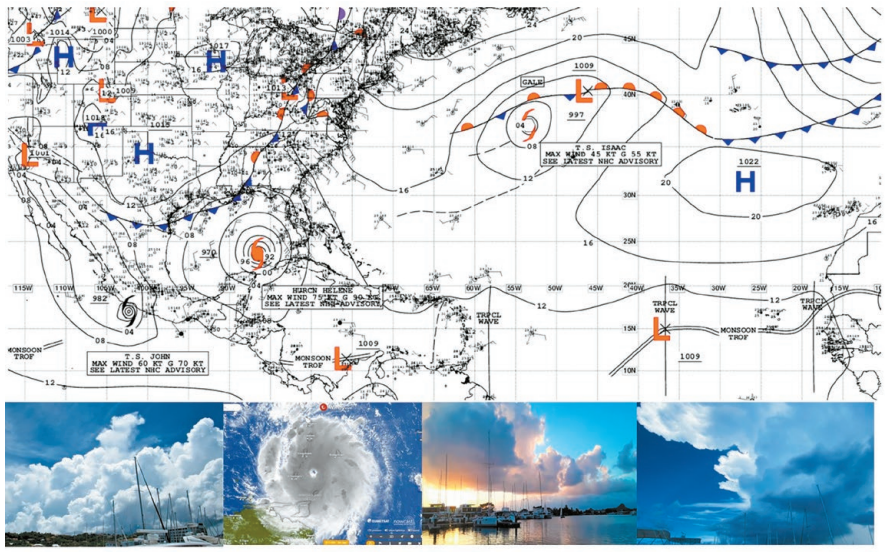
www.vgyh.vg

Email: boatyard@vgyh.vg | Tel: +1-284-499-5501

Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour

virgingordayachtharbour

CHANNEL 16: CARIBBEAN WEATHER NETS WINTER 2024-2025



By Bill Woodroffe

Sailors rely on good weather information every day. With today's communication technology there are multiple ways to gather it. One of the more traditional and reliable ways, worldwide, is via High Frequency (HF) single-sideband radio (SSB). The below station list supplies weather in plain language.

TIMES: Atlantic Standard Time (AST) = -4 hours from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Eastern Standard Time (EST) = -5 hours from UTC. Central Standard Time (CST) = -6 hours from UTC. AST does not change to Daylight Time. AST covers Eastern Caribbean; EST covers US East Coast, Bahamas, Colombia, Panama; CST covers west of Florida, Western Caribbean.

EMERGENCIES: In case of maritime emergency, there is a 24/7 (24-hour) Maritime Mobile Net (Emergency, Weather and Cruiser Assistance) at 14300 kHz Upper Sideband (USB)/ham. Anyone, licensed or not, may legally operate on any radio frequency (ham or marine) in the event of life threatening or distress situations.

Glenn (callsign KPK in Florida) listens for emergency/humanitarian calls of any kind on his 1215 UTC morning SSCA net on 8104 kHz USB, and again at 2130 UTC before the Trans Atlantic Net on 12350 kHz USB (The Trans-Atlantic Cruisers Net is only live during periods when boats are coming and going between Europe and North America.)

Chris Parker of Marine Weather Center (MWXC) in Florida always listens for emergency traffic at the very beginning of his weather net on 4045, 8137 and 12350 kHz USB.

Stations listed as ham can be listened to but a ham license is needed to broadcast (except in emergencies).

SPECIAL STORM NETS:

When there are active tropical systems in the Atlantic, Marine Weather Center (MWXC) runs a net at 2300 UTC /1900 AST on 8.137 kHz USB.

Also, tropical storm or hurricane activity information can be found continuously on the Hurricane Watch Net on 14325 kHz USB ham and 3950 kHz LSB ham.

UTC/AST	STATION and DESCRIPTION	FREQ	MODE
0515/0115	NOAA High Seas Forecast	**NOTE 1**	USB
1000/0600	Daily Caribbean Weather	6215	USB
1030/0630	Trinidad Emergency Net HAM	3855	LSB
1030/0630	Caribbean Emergency & Weather HAM	3815/7162	LSB
1100/0700	MWXC (C. Parker) East Carib	4045, 8137	USB
1115/0715	NOAA High Seas Forecast	**NOTE 1**	USB
1130/0730	MWXC (C. Parker) Bahamas	4045, 8137	USB
1120/0730	Carolyn Wardle, Bahamas Weather HAM	3696	LSB
1200/0800	Coconut Telegraph	4048, 8170	USB
1215/0815	KPK Cruising Safety (SSCA)	8104	USB
1230/0830	MWXC US EC, Western Atlantic	8137, 12350	USB
1245/0845	Waterway Cruising Club HAM	7268	LSB
1330/0930	MWXC (Parker) Western Caribbean	8137, 12350	USB
1330/0930	Panama Connection Net	8107, 8167	USB
1330/0930	Cruzheimers Net	8152	USB
1400/1000	Northwest Caribbean Net	6209	USB
1715/1315	NOAA High Seas Forecast	**NOTE 1**	USB
2100/1700	Doo-Dah Net, Bahamas, US EC	8152	USB
2130/1730	Transatlantic Cruisers (SSCA) **NOTE 2**	12350	USB
2200/1800	MWXC (Chris) All areas **NOTE 3**	8137, 12350	USB
2315/1915	NOAA High Seas Forecast	**NOTE 1**	USB
2235/1835	Caribbean Emergency & Weather HAM	3815, 7162	LSB

NOTE 1: NOAA Radio Frequencies (in kHz): NMN, Chesapeake, 4426, 6501, 8764, 13089, 17314; NMG, New Orleans, 4316, 8502, 12788. https://www.weather.gov/marine/uscg_broadcasts

NOTE 2: The Transatlantic Cruisers Net is only live during migration periods when boats are coming or going between Europe and North America. That net is always on 12.350 kHz at 1230 hrs UTC. KPK as net controller will be assisted by stations WCY, KNC and KJM.

NOTE 3: Please hail Marine Weather Center 15 minutes before the net so that Parker knows where to aim his antenna to reach you. This net is geared primarily to offshore Atlantic and Pacific passagemakers. For schedule updates see https://www.mwxc.com.

A more complete schedule of cruising nets is available at:
www.docksideradio.com/east_coast.htm
www.qsl.net/j69ds/ham-info-projects/caribbean-nets.html.

Bill Woodroffe holds a BS degree in meteorology from the State University New York Maritime College, sailed as a deck officer in the US Merchant Marine, and now sails with his wife aboard their 47-foot ketch S/V Kalunamoo *throughout the islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Reach him at whwsailboat@gmail.com.*



Security — Everyone's Concern, Everyone's Responsibility

By Kim R. White

Crimes against yachts do occur in the Caribbean. In 2024, they include the February violent assault/deaths of a cruising couple in Grenada, and an attempted robbery in March in Cabo de la Vela, Colombia. Such events make security a priority in everyone's mind, and that is best achieved by having a well thought out and executed plan. Getting timely, accurate information about incidents is the critical first step in the risk planning process, and makes it possible to assess, evaluate, and perhaps change our own behavior and preparedness.

The resources of the Caribbean Safety and Security Net (CSSN; website www.safetyandsecuritynet.org) and other sources can help you to develop your own individual security plan for every location you choose to visit, and ensure that all crew, including guests, understand what that plan is.

Start by understanding what has happened to others. The CSSN tagline is *Know Before You Go!* And it's true — the more you know about an area before you get there, the more you can formulate your own plan.

Here are some of the ways CSSN can help:

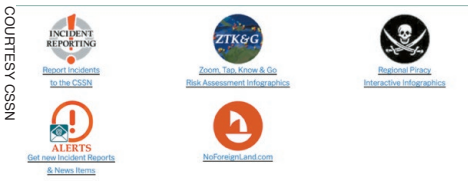
- Make online incident reports — it's easy, menu-driven, and collects all the right information in a complete and systematic way. We confirm receipt of each report and may ask follow-up/clarifying questions. And the more people actively report crimes and other incidents, the more safety is assured for everyone.
- Subscribe to *CSSN Alerts!* — the info you need, delivered to your email inbox, on whatever schedule you desire. There is even a low bandwidth option for those with slow or expensive internet.
- Get the Noforeignland cruising app and add CSSN third party data to your easily customized maps. It can even be used when offline.
- Review the CSSN Zoom-Tap, Know and Go maps, including the dedicated Piracy maps — an easy way to explore activity in areas you plan to visit, and drill down on the specifics of incidents by location.
- Use the Home page "Incident Reports by Country" option to review detailed incidents at the country level, in reverse chronological order.
- Use the recent "Monthly Archive" option to understand the latest activity more generally.
- Review the CSSN annual reports, for yearly summaries of activity and trend analysis.
- Review Precautions and Passage checklists, developed with input from cruisers — those who have been there, and done that.
- Review the robust CSSN website FAQ — a quick way to get answers to the most commonly asked questions.

Once you have made the effort to know before you go, decide proactively with your crew how you will manage risk. First, you may want to avoid certain areas or anchorages, take special precautions against location-specific risks, and understand dynamically the nature of crimes against yachts where you are or wherever you are planning to visit in the Caribbean region.

Then, develop good security habits. It's important to discuss security with all crew and have a well-considered and understood plan before you experience any trouble. The best predictor of a best possible outcome is a well formulated, well communicated and well executed plan.

Making your own online incident report is a particularly important part of this process. CSSN provides the continuously updated factual base from which cruisers can make well-informed decisions and choices, but there is a shared responsibility within the cruising community. The more data CSSN has, the more we can help everyone. The incidents you report will be gathered, vetted, shared widely, retained and made easily accessible. CSSN maintains strict confidentiality and your privacy. The names (boats and people, or any other identifying detail) of those involved or reporting incidents are never disclosed, to anyone, ever.

COURTESY CSSN



The Caribbean Safety and Security Net website (safetyandsecuritynet.org) online tools include incident reporting; Zoom-Tap, Know and Go maps; regional piracy interactive infographics; alerts; and the noforeignland.com app. It's an easy way to explore activity in areas you plan to visit, and drill down on specifics by location.

There are several ways to report. First, and importantly, make reports to local officials, and perhaps to your consulate. Ask for a copy of the report (some Caribbean countries charge a fee for this, but you can usually take a picture with your phone) and get contact information for follow-up. While some local officials may not make much of a meaningful response, if you don't make a report to them the incident in effect "officially never happened."

Once you have done that, take these steps:

- Submit a firsthand report to CSSN. It's quick and easy. Your report will reach the broadest audience and preserve the knowledge and learning.
- Use Noonsite, www.noonsite.com, CSSN's longtime information sharing partner, for inclusion in their piracy or relevant country page. Noonsite has a worldwide scope and audience and source reports for the Caribbean region from CSSN, and you can always add personal comments/insights/lessons learned there.

Do your part for the larger cruising community. If you are a victim, make a report: to the local authorities, to your local VHF net, on social media, and always to CSSN.

If you hear an incident reported on a local VHF/social media net, ask if it has been reported to authorities and CSSN. Support and encourage the victims and remind them of the value and importance of their experience to other cruisers. A few minutes of your time can be of great benefit to many other cruisers. It's important. It's our community; let's each do our part to make it safer for everyone while we enjoy our cruising lifestyle. CSSN Incident Reports, especially those provided firsthand, will make the way safer for all those who follow in our wakes.

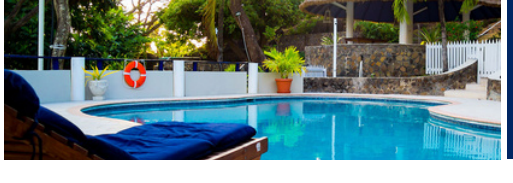
CALL +1 784 458 4308 | MARINA: VHF 16 OR 68 | EMAIL: INFO@BLUELAGOONSVG.COM

BLUE LAGOON HOTEL & MARINA









- Fuel Dock
- 24 Security
- Port of Entry
- Customs & Immigration office - 9am to 6pm
- Marina Office - 8am to 5pm
- Electricity 110V/220v & Water
- Complimentary WI-FI
- Laundry Services
- Lagoon Marketplace
- The Loft Restaurant & Bar
- Dockside Cafe
- Coconut Grove Beach Club
- Café Soleil & Flowt Beach Bar
- Serenity Dive
- Blue Lagoon Charter Boats
- Swimming Pool
- 30 Designed Hotel Rooms

Climate Health Pact Signed

A grant agreement signed between the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission and Direct Relief will mean that Direct Relief, a humanitarian aid organization with a mission to improve the health and lives of people affected by poverty or emergencies, has committed US$3 million to fund the new Enhancing Health Infrastructure and Resilience in OECS Member States (EHR) Project.

The EHR project, which will run for eighteen months, addresses critical gaps in health infrastructure identified by OECS member states, focusing on priority areas specific to each nation's needs. Its goal is to bolster the capacity at both national and regional levels to manage and mitigate the impacts of climate change and other hazards. Implementing countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands.

Marine Biodiversity Protection Program Launched

The United States, through USAID, has launched a five-year Caribbean Sustainable Ecosystems Program to address marine biodiversity threats by focusing on three key areas: improving marine protected area management, enhancing solid waste management, and promoting sustainable fisheries. The initiative aims to build resilience to climate change and support local communities across 13 Caribbean countries.

Implemented by the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) in collaboration with regional organizations, the program will focus on designating protected areas for marine mammals and sea turtles, improving waste management systems, and supporting local fishermen to align with tourism procurement standards. This comprehensive approach aims to safeguard the region's marine resources, which are vital to its $39 billion tourism industry and local livelihoods.

From Dominican Today

Saba's Plan for a Coral Comeback

A new project in Saba, running from 2024 to 2026, will focus on reviving key species in the island's underwater ecosystems. With a collaborative team from the Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF) and Van Hall Larenstein (VHL) University of Applied Sciences, the project aims to restore both corals and sea urchins.

This initiative is centered around reviving two essential species — staghorn and elkhorn coral — with coral nurseries that will eventually be outplanted at key reef sites around Saba.

VHL is leading the charge on cultivating and restocking two key sea urchin species, West Indian sea egg and long-spined sea urchin, known for their ability to keep algae in check, helping the coral to thrive. Restoring these "reef cleaners" will give corals the breathing room they need to grow.

The project is funded as part of the Dutch Government's Nature and Environment Policy Plan (NEPP) 2020-2030 for the Caribbean Netherlands, a comprehensive initiative aimed at conserving and restoring the unique natural environments of the Dutch Caribbean islands, including Saba, St. Eustatius, and Bonaire.

—Continued on next page

COURTESY OECS



Staff of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)-Pooled Procurement Services (PPS), pictured in St. Lucia, load direct relief field medical packs filled with first aid products for triage care as well as other essential medications into a helicopter for delivery to OECS member states impacted by Hurricane Beryl.



Better Coverage, Better Prices, Better Service



The *Best* Solution.

ORM | Offshore Risk Management

www.offshorerisk.com

305-743-7711 or +44 203-371-9167

Caribbean ◆ North America ◆ Bahamas ◆ Saipan ◆ Europe



TURBULENCE LTD

SAIL MAKING RIGGING ELECTRONICS

Clarke's Court Boatyard & Marina

Spice Island Marine | Grenada Marine

SERVICES OFFERED

New Sails Repairs Alterations Custom Canvas

Rigging - Cable / Rod / Textile / Rope

Navtec & Harken Hydraulic repair station

Electronics installation and repairs

+1473 439 4495

+1473 404 4495

www.turbulenceltd.com

info@turbulenceltd.com

NORTH SAILS LOFT 1

DOYLE LOFT 2

HARKEN

GOTTIFREDI MAFFIOLI

antal MARINE EQUIPMENT

NAVTEC Performance Rigging

ProFurl

DEALERS FOR

victron energy

B&G

Raymarine

F-one CULTURE

—Continued from previous page

EU-Caribbean Sargassum Conference

The second EU-Caribbean Global Gateway Conference on Sargassum, convened in October 2024, concluded with a renewed ambition to collect sargassum before it reaches the shores, and develop sustainable value chains. The conference attracted more than 400 regional and international stakeholders from government, private sector, academia, financing institutions, donors and non-governmental organisations.

The conference was held as the Caribbean region continues to grapple annually with unprecedented amounts of sargassum washing ashore, impacting beaches, disrupting marine ecosystems, and threatening key economic sectors, particularly tourism and fisheries.

Representatives of countries from the Caribbean basin underscored the need for urgent collective action to turn sargassum into an economic opportunity. They committed to leveraging investments for critical infrastructure and scaling up operations, promoting joint ventures, transfer of technologies and de-risking operations.

Grenada Unveils Electric Car Powered by Sargassum

In a related development, Grenada has unveiled an eco-friendly electric vehicle that is powered by sargassum, rum waste, and sheep manure. The biowaste is used to produce biogas which ultimately runs a generator and charges the electric car.

The car, which is designed to reduce the carbon footprint of the island, was launched during the second EU-Caribbean Global Gateway Conference on Sargassum in fall 2024.

Reprinted from Associates Times

Royal Visit Shines Spotlight on Nature

In her role as patroness of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands visited St. Maarten and Saba in November. She attended educational events at Emilio Wilson Park and Milton Peters College; toured the EPIC Perpetual Plastics Program, a local recycling initiative; and presided over the reopening of Princess Juliana International Airport.

In Saba, she visited the Saba Conservation Foundation's (SCF) Saba Research Center and met with children in the junior rangers program at Queen Wilhelmina Park.

ALWYN HYLKEMA



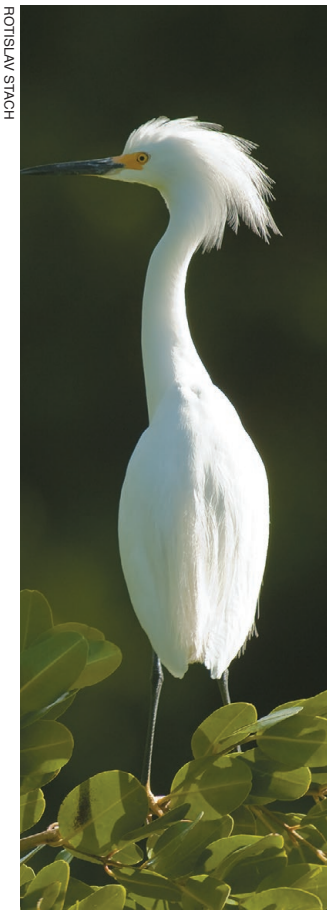
Researcher introducing West Indian top shell (whelk) on artificial reef

COURTESY OECS



An informal discussion among conference attendees

ROTISLAV STACH



A snowy egret in the mangroves on St. Maarten, visited by Princess Beatrix



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ride with Dolphin from USVI to BVI

COURTESY DOLPHIN WATER TAXI



The Dolphin Water Taxi counter at Cyril E. King Airport, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands

Dolphin Water Taxi, one of the largest private water taxi services in the Caribbean, has been rated "Best water taxi in the Virgin Islands" by the *Virgin Islands Daily News* annually for the last seven years. Dolphin is the only USVI/British Virgin Islands water taxi provider with counter space at the St. Thomas airport.

Dolphin prepares all BVI customs forms before guests arrive and delivers guests directly to charter company docks.

Dolphin is the primary service provider for The Moorings, BVI Yacht Charters, TMM, Scrub Island Resort, Dream Yachts, Nanny Cay locations of Marinemax and Horizon Yachts, and Li'l Dix Bay on Virgin Gorda. VIP dockside drop-off and pickup services are offered at those locations.

BVI Volunteer of the Year Named

COURTESY PARTS & POWER



Alyah Mohabir is flanked by Kareem Nelson Hull on her left and His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce on her right.

Alyah Mohabir, sales administrator for Parts & Power, was named Volunteer of the Year from Viconic Training Academy in Road Town, Tortola, BVI. She was also awarded a $2,500 scholarship and an iPad. Alyah began working for Parts & Power after her graduation in 2023. She began working in accounts but was soon promoted by the company to fill roles that needed assistance, including auditing, inventory control and sales.

Plan Your Voyage to the Galápagos with Y.A.G.

COURTESY YAG



A Galápagos tortoise

Yacht Agents Galápagos (Y.A.G.) serves sailing vessels and yachts of any size. Their local agents provide a full range of marine services, utilizing their local knowledge and international experience to help vessels navigate the labyrinth of bureaucracy to get the permit required for all visiting boats and yachts. www.yachtagentsgalapagos.com

CMC Announces New Service For Multihull Brands, Charter Firms

PETER GUNN



Two Balance catamaran entries under spinnakers in Anguilla Channel

Beginning with CMC VII, set to begin the last week of January 27, 2025, multihull shipyards and charter organizers will be allowed to join the CMC Northeastern Caribbean Annual Cruising Rally by enrolling as a promotional partner in the CMC rally group entry program.

This program was successfully pioneered in 2023 with the Balance Catamaran company. For 2025 the concept has been altered to create a seven-day event open to all. The first two days will be for sailing clients to a a choice of destinations in Anguilla, St. Maarten, or St. Martin; the final five days have owners joining in a celebration offering music, foods, beach sports, high speed sailboat racing, and a fireworks show.

For more information www.CaribbeanMultihullChallenge or contact Steve at +1 721 520 6030; or at StephenBurzon@gmail.com





Welcome to your Caribbean haven this season

Annual, seasonal and visitor berthing available throughout the year

Camper & Nicholsons Port Louis Marina provides the perfect base from which to cruise the unspoilt Caribbean paradise of Grenada and The Grenadines. The tranquil marina accommodates 227 berths for yachts up to 90m and 6.5m draft, and offers everything you expect from Camper & Nicholsons Marinas high-quality marina facilities, including:

- Fresh Water & Electricity up to 480V (including 110/220V – 60Hz)
- Wi-Fi, hardwire internet, cable TV
- Fuel bunker
- Grey and black water discharge and refuse disposal
- Port of Entry
- 24h CCTV and full-time security onsite

With the airport just five miles away, providing excellent regional and international connections, the marina is the perfect base for exploring. Ashore the marina village is home to an array of service providers including super yacht agents, yacht management, maintenance and provisioning services as well as established restaurants and bars.

For all enquiries, please contact

Tel: +1 (473) 435 7432
Email: reservations@cnportlouismarina.com
Web: www.cnmarinas.com/plm
VHF: Channel 14



2024 LEOPARD 53 | LOCATED: FLORIDA | ASKING: $1,775,000

FEATURED BROKERAGE LISTINGS



2011 SUNREEF 70
$1,990,000
FLORIDA



2022 BALANCE 482
$1,675,000
FLORIDA



2024 BALANCE 442
$1,349,000
GRENADA



2021 PRIVILEGE 510
$1,299,000
GEORGIA



2011 MOXIE 61
$1,200,000
BAHAMAS



2017 XQUISITE 50
$1,100,000
FLORIDA



2016 LEOPARD 51
$895,000
SOUTH CAROLINA



2019 NAUTITECH 47
$699,000
PUERTO RICO



2015 LEOPARD 48
$560,000
PANAMA



2018 LOOPING 50
$550,000
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



2011 FP SALINA 48
$545,000
PANAMA



2009 LAGOON 500
$475,000
BELIZE



2009 FP ORANA 44
$379,000
GRENADA



2011 FP LIPARI 41
$290,000
GRENADA



2001 LEOPARD 45
$275,000
USVI

CONTACT US! 215-508-2704

WWW.MULTIHULLCOMPANY.COM



SPICE ISLAND MARINE

Supporting the yachting community since 1984

Contact Us

tel: 1.473.444.4257

whatsapp: 1.473.534.6996

simsco@spiceislandmarine.com

www.spiceislandmarine.com

Grenada, West Indies 12°N, 61°W





Services + Amenities

Hurricane Storage · 70-Ton Marine Travelift (25ft beam)
Dockage + 24hr Security
Antifouling · Painting · Carpentry · Electrical · Mechanical
Fiberglass + Composite Work
Budget Marine Chandlery · Restaurant
Studio Apartments · Laundry

About Us

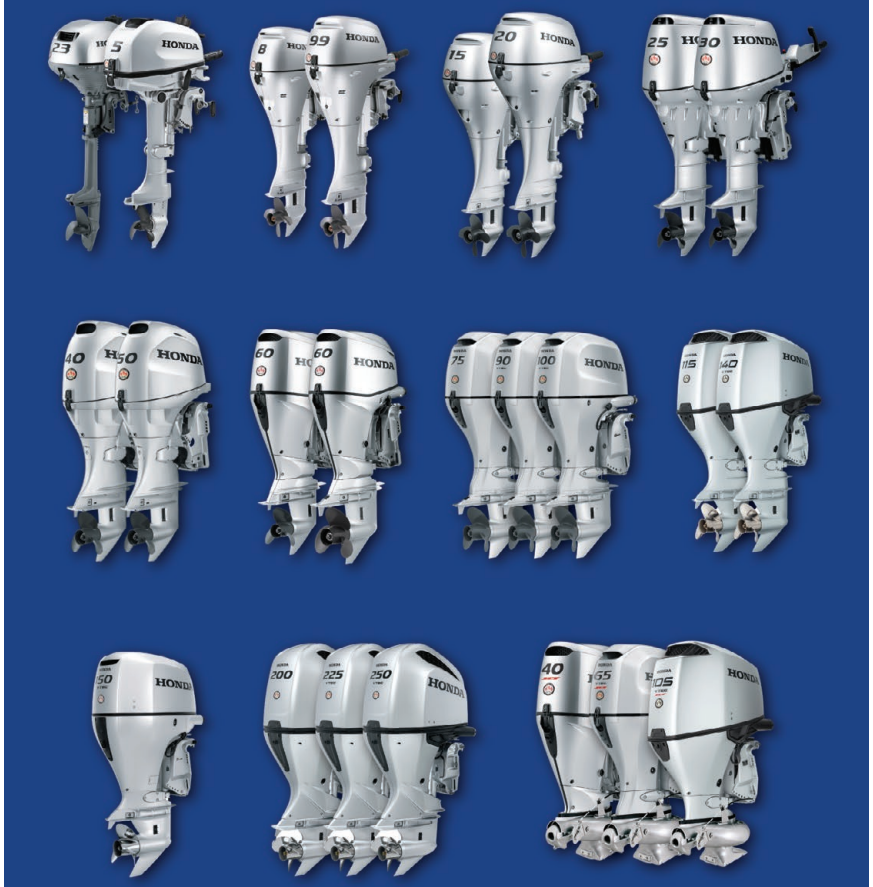
We are a family owned, full service boatyard, with an experienced team ready to give your yacht the love + attention it deserves!

We look forward to meeting you.

HONDA MARINE

FIRST IN FOUR STROKE

PUT THE BEST BEHIND YOU





Trintrac Ltd.
"It's our service that counts"

NO. 8 BOLAI TRACE, I.D.C. ESTATE, CHASE VILLAGE, TRINIDAD W.I.
PHONE: (868) 672-5329 • FAX: (868) 672-5330
EMAIL: TRINTRAC@GMAIL.COM • WEBSITE: WWW.TRINTRAC.COM

Your Honda people in the Caribbean.

By Tad Richards

During the month of December in the Caribbean, concerts and food festivals take a back seat to the most beloved holiday in many parts of the world: Christmas. There are other equally important religious occasions, but December festivities in this part of the world tend to center around the Yuletide season, and even though there's no Jack Frost nipping at your toes, or folks dressed up like Eskimos, some of the most beautiful seasonal traditions can be found on our islands.

And of course, since Jack Frost and Eskimos don't generally find their way down to these islands, people can find reasons to wear much less, and all of it colorful. So not all of the festivities are Christmas-themed, but all of them are festive. You can find dates of the Christmas and "mas" (for masquerade) events in our calendar, and thumbnail descriptions of them in last year's Sounds+ (www.caribbeancompass.com/online/330-December-2023.pdf). Same for the other festivities, including San Juan's Winter Pride Fest and Jamaica's Rasta Rootzfest.

If you want to stretch the kinks out of those sea legs, the **Jamaica Reggae Marathon**, the **Cayman Islands Marathon**, and the **Run Barbados Marathon** offer distances from 5K to the full monty.

That doesn't mean there's no music. There's good stuff, starting with the Dominican Republic, which opens the month on **December 1-15** with its **Bachata Festival and Dance**. Bachata is the Dominican Republic's homegrown dance style, and this festival offers dance lessons, top music ensembles, and exposure to local cultural history. Meanwhile, on **December 6-8**, the **Afro Fest** offers a wide sampler of the best of world music, from older favorites to cutting edge. This year's lineup hasn't been announced yet.

The **Coca-Cola Music Hall** is the spot for big ticket events in San Juan, Puerto Rico. On **December 4** it features **Caramelos de Cianuro**, a Venezuelan band that's pulled the sounds of the northern and southern hemispheres together with an in-your-face mix of punk and salsa. The pace is changed considerably on **December 15** when the stage is given over to the Christian sounds of **Alex Campos**, three-time Latin Grammy winner for Best Christian Album. And for a more intimate evening, on **December 6** the Steinway Society of Puerto Rico offers the piano duo **Gil-Figueroa**, whose music has pleased audiences at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

Vincent Mattiola has given a connoisseur's guide to New Year's celebrations, but here's one more just as we went to press: Jamaica is planning a December 31 fireworks extravaganza at Kingston Waterfront, Ocho Rios Bay Beach, and Harmony Beach Park in Montego Bay.

Happy Holidays!



DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION BY TAD RICHARDS

Nine Mornings is a traditional St. Vincent Christmas festival on the nine mornings (December 16-25) leading up to the big day. You'll find more on it and all the other island Christmas celebrations at www.caribbeancompass.com/online/330-December-2023.pdf.





Sail Service Stay

Trinidad & Tobago

Your Ultimate Yachting Destination!

Sail... through azure waters and gentle breezes as you explore the enchanting islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Discover hidden coves, pristine beaches, and vibrant marine life.

Service... from hull to mast. We've got you covered! Anchored by excellence, our top-tier repair and maintenance services ensure your vessel is always in immaculate condition.

Stay... and experience Caribbean hospitality like never before. Dock your yacht at our modern, secure facilities equipped with state-of-the-art amenities. Our haul out facilities and spacious storage areas ensure your vessel is well cared for while you relax in luxurious accommodations with stunning sea views – your home away from home.







mti
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MARINE SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
MSATT

trinidad&tobago
Visit our website at:
WWW.VISITTRINIDAD.TT
booktrinidad visittrinidad info@visittrinidad.co.tt

BEST ISLAND NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS 2024

By Vincent Mattiola

Every cruiser dreams of wintering in the Caribbean Islands, and with the holiday season quickly approaching, it's time to start making plans for where you'll ring in the new year. Unlike carnival festivities, with islands celebrating during different months, there's only one New Year's Eve! Plot a course and drop your anchor near these celebrations.

USVI – St. Thomas

St. Thomas boasts some of the liveliest New Year's celebrations with visitors and locals enjoying the **Charlotte Amalie** waterfront promenade at a variety of bustling venues. **Sapphire Beach** is home to delicious craft cocktails and raucous entertainment in conjunction with **Paradise Pie VI** and the **Sea Salt** restaurant. **Coral World at Coki Beach** is an excellent place to watch the last rays of sunset with a party, DJ, and brass band until the ball drops. The tradition of moko jumbie is alive in St. Thomas, with stilt walkers and spirit dancers rumored to appear.

USVI – St. John

The epicenter of NYE on St. John is undoubtedly **The Beach Bar**, with live music and throngs of revelers. Visit **Dr!nk** for a VIP ticketed experience, or "enjoy the party above the crowds" at **Lovango Rum Bar**. **Morgan's Mango** hosts another lively party. Or, if a quieter celebration is more your desire, reserve a table for one of the special dinner menus offered by the best restaurants here: **Ocean 362, Dave & Jerry's Steakhouse, ZoZo's at Caneel Bay, 18°64' Restaurant, The Terrace, or The Lime Inn.**

USVI – St. Croix

St. Croix takes an entirely unique approach with the historically significant **Crucian Christmas Festival**. With an official Festival Village set up in **Frederiksted**, the calendar from Dec. 26, 2024 to Jan. 4, 2025 features daily events blending modern with traditional.

BVI – Jost Van Dyke

Foxy's Bar on Jost Van Dyke hosts the most eccentric celebration each year from home in Great Harbour. This little island throws a massive party for Old Year's Night with music, food, drink, and festivities lasting upwards of 48 hours. With multiple tiers of ticket options, guests are welcome to enjoy the party as a 5-star VIP or from the beach at the cash bar. Ferry service from neighboring BVI & USVI ports typically runs on extended schedules. Be prepared for big crowds!

Saint Martin/Sint Maarten (SXM)

SXM is the place to be for those seeking exceptional fireworks and the exclusivity known to grace the island's shores. **Philipsburg** town comes alive with both bar-hopping and family-friendly celebrations. Other public spaces like **Orient Beach** and **Marigot Beach** host their own events with locals and tourists dancing in the moonlight alongside the ocean.

An intimate, all-inclusive experience can be found at several of the private resorts such as **Sonesta Resort** and **The Morgan Resort**, offering ticketed events to the public. Both feature special dinner menus, open bars, and private entertainment overlooking the Maho Bay Fireworks, while **Sunset Beach Bar** claims bragging rights for "SXM's biggest NYE party" at the infamous airport runway beach.

St. Barts

In true St. Barts fashion, NYE brings out the elaborative style of the island's decorated local and international expat populations. Filling **Gustavia Harbor** with yachts decorated for the occasion, anybody within earshot of the sea is poised to view the spectacular fireworks from Fort Oscar at midnight. Restaurants/hotels welcome crowds for costume parties and special dinners. Ask ahead and try to get yourself onto the official invite lists. During New Years, it's been said that your chances of bumping shoulders with celebrities increases exponentially. Across the island at **Nikki Beach**, expect performances from famous musicians with the incredible backdrop of the sea.

St. Kitts & Nevis

New Year's celebrations flow with the annual ***Sugar Mas*** St. Kitts Carnival running from Dec. 23, 2024 to Jan. 3, 2025 in the capital of Basseterre. The island celebrates in a colorful and joyful mixture of traditional and modern energy, with a formal calendar including Calypso and Soca Monarch competitions, masquerades, pageants, J'ouvert, and the culmination Grand Parade on New Year's Day. Endless fete parties throughout the neighborhoods of St. Kitts offer welcoming atmospheres and delicious local cuisine available for all.

Montserrat

Similarly to St. Kitts, the Emerald Isle of Montserrat hosts a monthlong carnival which culminates in a New Year's celebration featuring an explosion of color, music, revelry, and creativity. You never know what might happen in Montserrat, with visitors regularly reporting the "party of a lifetime" along the streets of Plymouth.

Antigua

Bursting with energy, English Harbour and Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua host superyachts packed into med-moor slips for the annual charter yacht show and charity Nelson's Pursuit Race on Dec. 31.To admire fireworks, head to **Jolly Beach** and **Hermitage Bay** or **Dickinson Bay**. Meanwhile, in the south, **Carlisle Bay** offers everything from cooking demonstrations to beach volleyball and cricket tournaments. There's a raft building competition, gala dinner, and outstanding live music with champagne toast before the beach fireworks.



DYS
Douglas Yacht Services
La Martinique

Service Team

« A to Z » SERVICE AGENT

DUTY FREE PROCEDURES

- Yacht Concierge 24/24 - 7/7
- Electronic Clearance via Email
- 4G/LTE & TVRO products & services
- Project Management: Haul-Out, Maintenance
- Gourmet provisions
- Medical Turnkey Assistance & MEDEVAC

Cell : +596 696 45 89 75 / Office : + 596 596 52 14 28 / mail : douglas@yachtservices.fr

www.douglasyachtservices.fr

SET SAIL FOR Adventure

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

SAILING WEEK 2025!

APR 13-21

Join us for a celebration of sailing
and unique cultural showcases at the
Caribbean's premier sailing destination.

Register Now @ www.svgsailingweek.com

St. Vincent and The Grenadines

The Caribbean you're looking for

Christmas Cruise

By Jeff Wingfield



COURTESY SAILING-CLASSICS

Chronos *and* Rhea *in Antigua*

For most of us, I suspect the desire to be at sea, even for a short while, never goes away. So for the second year in a row, we have satisfied that desire with a charter aboard a classic 170-foot ketch in the Caribbean.

Lee and Me

First, a little introduction. I am 88 years old and my partner, Lee, is 80. We found each other 22 years ago. She was managing a marina just south of Savannah, Georgia, and was living aboard her Cheoy Lee sloop at the marina. I had recently lost my wife to cancer and, having sold my Grand Banks trawler, was trying to cope by crewing on deliveries, in this case a big Hatteras motor yacht on its way to Florida.

After a visit to a boat show together and getting acquainted, we arranged to meet daily via SSB as we made our separate trips southward.

From then on, all our ventures were joint. We managed a Grand Banks 49. An acquaintance who kept his boat at Hilton Head, South Carolina, hired us on standby to move the boat to whatever area he wished to cruise. That entailed trips to Florida and to the Bahamas for his family gatherings.

By 2004, Lee and I decided to build a Cabo Rico NE 400 in Costa Rica. We modified the interior layout to better suit our needs, then sailed *Moon River* to the 2005 Annapolis boat show, followed by the Miami boat show. *Moon River* was followed by *Black Swan*, a Legacy 42 motor yacht, but we missed the joy of sail after a couple of years, and found *Last Tango*, a very well equipped Amel 54.

At the 2016 Annapolis boat show we were captivated by the beauty of Mike Gozzard's prototype 41 RC. He had built one of this model to update the popular earlier version. *Blue Moon* was an impulsive but enjoyable venture, as we worked with Gozzard to complete the fitting out and commissioning of what became our last boat.

The Christmas Cruise

A German-based firm, Sailing-Classics, deploys a trio of steel hulled vessels designed for small, crewed charters: the Mediterranean in summer, Caribbean in winter. This annual shift opens an opportunity for those who wish to make an Atlantic crossing or to visit the Azores or Cape Verde Islands.

We learned about the firm from a travel article in *The New York Times*. Arrangements were via email and an occasional telephone call. There are only a few choices to be made: departure date for the cruise and stateroom configuration (double or twin). Some itineraries may require flights to the departure location and a return from another airport. Air travel is best managed on your own.

We have sailed aboard the sister ships *Rhea*, built in 2017, and *Chronos*, built in 2013. Displacing 333 gross tons, these yachts carry 10,457 square feet of sail. When needed, the auxiliary engine is a 600-horsepower turbo-charged Volvo.

Access up the steep freeboard is by port and starboard gangways that can be lifted well above wave height when under way. Two thirteen-foot RIB dinghies, stowed on deck, ferry passengers, crew, and dunnage ashore.

—Continued on next page



—*Continued from previous page*

With all sails aloft, the ride is exhilarating. Typical trade winds on our trips pushed us along at a steady eight knots with occasional surges to over nine knots. Under power, she was capable of a bit more than seven knots, but generally cruised at a leisurely five to six knots. After all, we were in the islands, so why rush?



COLLECTION OF JEFF WINGFIELD

Jeff and Lee in the cockpit of Last Tango

We had had a fine time on *Rhea* over Christmas 2022, cruising from St. Maarten to Tortola in the BVI. Two weeks before Christmas 2023, Lee and I were musing about how much we had enjoyed it, so why not go again? A call to Germany confirmed space was available and we moved into high gear.

We flew into Grenada with instructions to be on alert for our taxi driver after clearing customs. Our dinghy from *Chronos* picked up us and our eleven fellow guests at a convenient marina dock and the adventure began.

We followed the local custom: a welcome glass of champagne after negotiating the gangway (happily on a calm afternoon); then relaxing until our evening meal. Our Ukrainian chef was a master, and every meal was memorable. Breakfasts were buffet; lunch, afternoon tea, sundowners, and supper were all served by the stewards.

A crew of ten was attentive to every need. One can choose to spend days at one's own pace, except for appearing for meals on time. All dining was on the covered aft deck. Sail handling or any recreation such as swimming, water sports, or short trips ashore are at the choice of the guest.

While the boat has an ample saloon, it was seldom visited — the open decks were too appealing. Staterooms are ample in size with adequate storage. We had two portholes (non-opening) keeping the cabin bright and giving us a preview of our location. Ensuite heads and showers are large. Air conditioning in the cabins provides a pleasant sleeping environment for the warm nights. All spaces aboard are kept pristine.

Our itinerary took us northward to the Grenadines, then as far as St. Lucia. We anchored off beautiful beaches or in quiet coves. Once a week the staff plans a dinner ashore. This trip it was a lobster barbecue on a palm-fringed beach.

Our fellow guests were an interesting mix: a Brit couple, a Swiss couple, a German couple, and five singles — three German women and one American and one German man. The crew was fluent in English, German, Dutch, and Italian. Conversations were lively and ranged from politics to customs in the various regions represented by the guests.

So it is an experience which can suit all tastes. Service and food and comfort were all top-notch. As far as we are concerned, being aboard a classic yacht in stunning cruising grounds was the bonus.

About Sailing-Classics

Sailing-Classics is a European-based company with offices in the Netherlands and Germany. Two of its fleet, *Chronos* and *Rhea*, sail in the Caribbean. Trips are generally a week in length and do not always end at the same port, so care is needed in scheduling flights. The office staff is very helpful in providing advice to assure coordination with the ship's crew. Find a complete list of trips, schedules and fees at www.sailing-classics.com.

DOYLE GUIDES

SCAN ME



40 YEARS OF KNOWLEDGE
in the palm of your hand

Doyle Guides has been writing the region's most comprehensive sailing guides since 1980. Discover the best of the Caribbean yachting industry, access premium and regularly updated content, and read reviews in the free Doyle Guides mobile app.

GET IN ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Voted BEST Marine Service & Marina in the Virgin Islands!



MERCURY AWLGRIP Interlux WEST SYSTEM Sea Hawk PREMIUM YACHT FINISHES

- Mercury Dealership
- Full Chandlery
- Dockage – 44 fixed slips
- 5 Available Moorings
- Maximum vessel size: 125 Feet
- 40 Ton, 17.5' Max Beam Travelift
- Marine Store and Yard Services
- Haul and Launch
- Fuel Dock – Gasoline and Diesel
- WIFI
- Washrooms and Showers
- Ice and Beverages

St. Croix Marine
17° 44' 54.0" N. 64° 41' 52.5" W.

5063 Gallows Bay, Christiansted, VI 00820
Tel: 340-773-0289 | Hail VHF 16
info@stcroixmarinecenter.com
www.StCroixMarineCenter.com

Caribbean Christmas in Martinique: The Story of Sorrel Tea

Story and Photos by Margo Ask

Last Christmas, we found ourselves anchored in Martinique, which radiates a completely different atmosphere from the European Christmas traditions we had grown accustomed to. For me, Christmas has always meant the smell of mandarins and the fresh pine of a Christmas tree. I fondly remember the European Christmas markets, where we sipped mulled wine at the German Weihnachtsmarkt, savored gingerbread, or enjoyed the festive Spanish Christmas lottery with its endless hope and the intoxicating aroma of blooming orange blossoms and juicy clementines. Each of these moments added a new layer to my kaleidoscope of Christmas scents and memories.

But here, in the Caribbean, everything felt different. It was hot, and finding a fresh pine tree was out of the question. Yet, being the Christmas enthusiast I am, I never miss a chance to create a tree from whatever materials I can find during our sailing adventures. Each year, no matter where we are, I try to bring the spirit of the place into our Christmas celebration, decorating the tree with things unique to the place where we happen to be.

In the run-up to Christmas, I scoured the Sainte-Anne and Le Marin areas for inspiration for this year's tree, but nothing seemed to spark the idea. It was Friday, so I decided to visit the local market, where my favorite farmer, Bernard, had my pineapples waiting. As I picked up my fruits and vegetables, Bernard slipped a handful of crimson buds into my bag with a conspiratorial grin. "This is for you," he said. "Try the taste of our Christmas," he said. My surprise must have been evident, but Bernard smiled, "Make a tea from these flowers. It will bring you holiday cheer — we always drink this at Christmas."

Naturally, when I returned to the boat, I brewed the tea following Bernard's recipe, and inspiration struck. This year, our Christmas tree would be our new sheet rope that we had bought as a spare for the Genoa furler. Sipping that rich, spiced sorrel tea, I crafted decorations from local shells, chili peppers, and whole dry spices. To add a touch of tradition, I made stars from the skins of local lemons, a little reminder of the familiar mandarins from back home.

—Continued on next page



I decided to visit the local market and my favorite farmer, Bernard.



—Continued from previous page



"This is for you," he said. "Try the taste of our Christmas."

The most unusual Christmas tree I've had during my time living aboard? That would be the aloe vera plant I dressed up for Christmas while we crossed the Atlantic. It has now traveled over 25,000 nautical miles with me in more than 10 years, but that's a story for another time.

For now, Merry Christmas! And may the Christmas magic find you wherever you are! The key is to keep your eyes and heart open.

Martinique Christmas Sorrel Tea

In the Caribbean, sorrel has become a traditional Christmas drink, partly because the hibiscus plant (from which it's made) used to be available only during this season. It has a distinct holiday flavor, slightly spiced, and perfectly uplifting. But at the end of the day, it's still a Caribbean drink, so even though it's made for Christmas, it's equally refreshing on a hot day. You can even make a version from dried hibiscus flowers (also called sorrel or roselle) found in Caribbean stores.

This recipe is quick, simple, and ideal for any holiday or to celebrate the beginning of a new day.

What You'll Need

8 cups water

1/2 cup fresh flowers of sorrel (hibiscus) or dry

2 cinnamon sticks

8 cloves

5-6 cm piece of fresh ginger, peeled

1 piece of fresh (or dried) orange peel

1 cup honey or agave for sweetening

Instructions

In a large pot, bring 8 cups of water to a boil. Add the sorrel, cinnamon sticks, cloves, ginger, and orange peel. Boil for 2 minutes.

Lower the heat and let the drink simmer for 30 minutes.

Strain the mixture and add sweetener if desired. Chill for a few hours and serve cold.

Pro Tip: Serve with a slice of fresh lime. You can also add rum for an adult version of the drink.

For a deeper dive into our culinary adventures and more delightful recipes, grab the link to my book online on Google Books for Apple, Android and Windows users (https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=rHvnEAAAQBAJ). If you prefer the feel of a book in your hands, order online. (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CQD61QV8?fbclid=IwAR1zYDy7eiOIQCnZ9vWAxYXhP4X2c306933IfcE0OvfJbn_eTJhCVF3Ldf0).



REGATTAS & RALLIES

USVI Women's Adventure Race Week Set for March 2025

The First Annual Women's Adventure Race Week, set for March 10-14, 2025, and hosted by the St. Thomas Sailing Center (STSC) at the St. Thomas Yacht Club (STYC), in the U.S. Virgin Islands, will feature round-the-islands racing and a race clinic with drills and debriefs. There will be two days of instruction on and off water from world-class coaches, a day of Caribbean relaxation and exploration, and two regatta days featuring buoy and short-distance races. All skill levels are welcome.

The individual entry fee for Women's Adventure Race Week is $2,000 per person. Or, put a team of four together and pay $7,000. *Enter now online at stthomassailingcenter.com/womens-adventure-race-week*

Virgins Cup and Willy T Race

Fifteen boats competed in the October 2024 edition of the Royal BVI Yacht Club Virgin's Cup and Willy T Race, with ten of the 15 helmed by women, and overall women outnumbering men for the day.

The dinghies, a combination of 4 RS Fevas, 3 ILCA7s and 2 ILCA6s, raced a course past Pelican and the Indians to port, finishing in the Bight.

Scott Meyers in an ILCA7 took line honors for the day at 53 minutes, 15 seconds. Next were Colm Crilly and Tom Merrigan, also in ILCA7s.

13-year-old skipper Aerin Westlake and her father Paul were the first Feva crew to finish, giving them the overall win in the dinghy class. Aerin also picked up the award for youngest skipper. Second in the RS Fevas and third overall were Briana Boele Van Hensbroek and Sansa Nie. Colm Crilly was fourth. Sarah Latham and Aaron Gardner were third Feva and fifth overall.

The monohulls, featuring two boats, Marentia de Villiers' *Bleue* and *Miss Piggy*, helmed by Kelsie Foley, sailed a course past Pelican to starboard, round Flanagan to port, finishing in the Bight. *Bleue* completed the course in 2 hours, 37 minutes and 41 seconds and took the win.

The trimarans set a course up the channel with Dead Chest to starboard, a long downwind leg to leave Flanagan to port, followed by a loop around Pelican and the Indians to port and finish. *Ting a Ling 2*, helmed by Candice Nichol, was first in two hours, 22 minutes and 37 seconds, beating *Ting a Ling*, helmed by Allie Faulkner, by just 27 seconds. *The Flying Pig*, helmed by Sam Brown, was third.

SVG Youth National Sailing Championships

Vincy Sailing hosted the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sailing Association Youth National Championships in early October at Coconut Grove Beach Club, Calliaqua Bay. Four boat classes competed: ILCA6, ILCA4, O'pen Skiff, and Optimist. Each class completed 11 races. Winners included Scarlett Hadley, ILCA6; Kai Marks Dasent, ILCA4; Joshua Weinhardt, O'pen Skiff; Ira Hadley, Optimist.

COURTESY VINCY SAILING



Winners Scarlett Hadley and Kai Marks Dasent







December Sky

By Jim Ulik

The wind was light as we maneuvered north through the multiple coral heads while leaving the anchorage between Big Ambergris Cay and Little Ambergris Cay. After exiting the Caicos Bank south of South Caicos the winds freshened, providing some smooth sailing. It was during the first overnight on a two-and-a-half-day passage that conditions became less favorable. Strong easterly winds, large waves and the Antilles Current impeded progress toward Luperon, Dominican Republic. It was around 0100 hours* when the primary and secondary GPS units gave erratic readings. Were the GPS satellites being hacked or was the US Department of Defense (DoD) performing maintenance?

In any case the westward drift was bringing Bush Cay and its surrounding reef ever closer. Seemingly typical, the wind was on the nose, the direction of one's destination. For this part of the passage planning, the proper time to tack northeast required dead reckoning, the use of paper charts, and of course a compass. As the stars travel west across the sky it was helpful to adjust course over time and aim towards the next visible eastern star. At a rough estimate, a star or planet that is 45 degrees above the horizon will move about 13 degrees westward across the sky every hour. A star or planet on the celestial equator will travel about 15 degrees every hour. Fortunately, the GPS signals stabilized as dawn began to break.

Sunday, December 01

This is a good night to navigate by the stars. The Moon is nearly in line with the Sun, so it won't interfere with your ability to see faint objects in the night sky. At dawn look for the Sun to rise at 112 degrees and later set at 248 degrees.

Monday, December 02

While you don't need a clear view of the southern horizon to spot any meteors over the next few days, it could help. Shooting stars can appear anywhere in the night sky. This is the peak of the Phoenicids meteor shower, active November 28-December 08. This variable shower could produce up to 100 meteors per hour. One good thing about it is you don't have to be up after midnight.

Tuesday, December 03

Besides appearing in the lyrics of Jimmy Buffett songs, Pleiades or the Seven Sisters has been an important asterism for many centuries. The name "Pleiades" originates from the ancient Greek word "plein," meaning "to sail." Petroglyphs, art, music, myths and stories across the centuries were associated with Pleiades. All over Africa, these stars were used as a marker of the growing season. Tonight, the grouping of over 1,000 stars can be easily seen in the east after sunset above Jupiter.

Wednesday, December 04

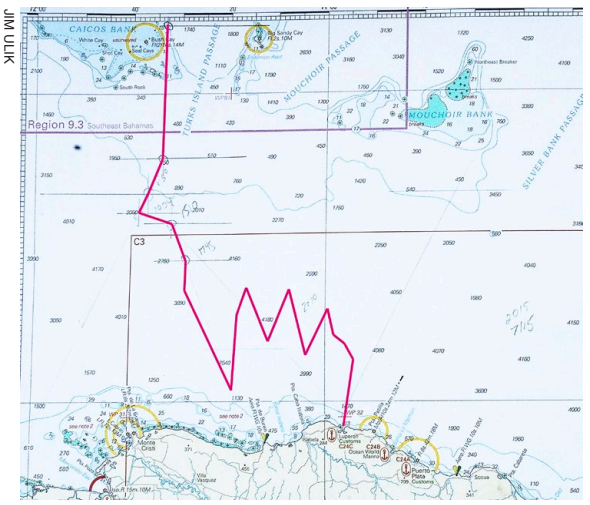
As the Sun sets, look for Venus to light up in the orange colored western sky, sitting about three degrees above the waxing crescent Moon. Venus is approaching its highest orbital point in the western sky.

Saturday, December 07

Jupiter will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view Jupiter and its moons through binoculars. Is there life on Jupiter's moon Europa? We'll have to wait until 2030 to find out.

—Continued on next page

JIM ULIK



After skirting the boundary of the Caicos Bank, the erratic GPS signals continued to finally correct off the coast of the DR east of Monte Cristi.



—*Continued from previous page*

This evening, Saturn will be situated about six degrees to the upper left of the waxing crescent Moon.

Sunday, December 08

The Moon has switched over to the east side of Saturn tonight. It will reach first quarter a few minutes before rising around 1215h at 96 degrees.

Two meteor showers peak this evening. The first to rise is the December Monocerotids, with a radiant east or below Betelgeuse and south or right of Gemini. The second is the sigma Hydrids. These meteors will radiate out of the sky south or right of Mars. They can best be viewed after 2300h.

Friday, December 13

The Geminids can be considered one of the best meteor showers. This year it could produce up to 150 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1982. The shower runs annually from December 02-19. It peaks this year on the night of the 13th and morning of the 14th. Only the brightest meteors will be visible because the Moon is approaching its full phase.

Saturday, December 14

This evening, Jupiter can be found midway between the Moon and Taurus's Bull's eye star, Aldebaran. The waxing gibbous Moon may appear to be full but it is actually 99 percent illuminated.

Sunday, December 15

The Comae Berenicid meteor shower is active from December 10-22. Expect this shower to produce its peak rate of meteors around December 15. Most of the meteors from will shoot through the night sky after midnight. A better chance of viewing meteors will occur after 0100h when the Full Moon makes its way toward the western horizon.

Tuesday, December 17

Mars is nearing its orbital position directly opposite the Sun in relation to Earth. Mars now outshines all evening objects except Venus, Jupiter, and Sirius. Tonight's close approach between Mars and the waning gibbous Moon will become apparent in the east shortly after 2000h. Take a bearing. The Moon rises above the horizon at 65 degrees. A few minutes later Mars will rise at 67 degrees.

Thursday, December 19

A few shooting stars will begin to radiate out of the east northeast around 2200h. They will originate from the area of sky just north of the Moon. The best area of sky to look for meteors from the December Leonis Minorids shower should be about 90 degrees away from where the Moon is located. The Moon has also entered the constellation Leo making a close approach to Regulus.

Saturday, December 21

The December solstice occurs at 0520h. The South Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its southernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.44 degrees south latitude. This is the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere.

Sunday, December 22

The Ursids is a minor meteor shower producing about 5-10 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tuttle, which was first discovered in 1790. The shower runs annually from December 15-25. It peaks this year on the night of the 22nd into the morning of the 23rd. The Moon has reached third quarter, so may block all but the brightest meteors. Best viewing will be just before midnight from a dark location. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor or Little Dipper, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Monday, December 23 – Friday, December 27

Low in the eastern sky before sunrise, Mercury will take up position near Antares in the constellation Scorpius. Mercury will clearly stand out, shining more than three times brighter than that reddish star. On December 25, Mercury reaches its greatest western elongation of 22 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky.

Saturday, December 28

A fine sliver Moon will enter the close approach between Mercury and Antares. The Moon will be positioned less than two degrees above the "heart of the Scorpion."

Sunday, December 29

Earthshine will reveal the Moon since it left Antares behind. It is now located below and right of Mercury. Tomorrow the Moon returns to the New Moon phase.

*All times are given as Atlantic Standard Time (AST) unless otherwise noted.

NORTHERN LIGHTS®

COMPLETE SOLUTIONS
FROM A TRUSTED MANUFACTURER

TECHNICOLD by NORTHERN LIGHTS

Antigua
Marine Power Services
268-460-1850

British Virgin Islands
CRC Engines & Fabricating
284-499-7128

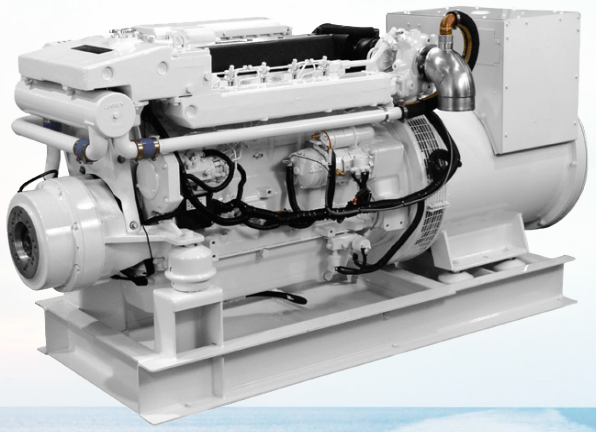
Marine Maintenance
Services Ltd.
284-542-2413
tim@mmsvg.com

Curaçao
MRC
+5999-738-1700

Grenada
Grenada Marine
473-443-1667

Palm Tree Marine
473-443-7256

Guadaloupe
Fred Marine
+590-590-907-137



With Northern Lights generators YES! You can have it all

Martinique
Inboard Diesel Service
+596-596-787-196

St Lucia
Marintek
758-450-0552

St Maarten
Elec, NV
+1-721-544-2051

St Martin
Caraibes Diesel Services
+590-590-870-373

Trinidad
LP Marine &
Industrial Supplies
+868-632-3441
info@lpmarinett.com

US Virgin Islands
Import Supply
340-774-1679

Coral Bay Marine
340-776-6665

High Reliability, Amazing Durability and Maintenance Simplicity combine to ensure your onboard power requirements are always met. Coupled with super-silent capability and a region-wide Caribbean service network, it's easy to see why with Northern Lights generators, yes, you can have it all.

CARIBBEAN-WIDE DEALER NETWORK
www.CaribbeanNorthernLights.com
284-494-2830 info@partsandpower.com

PARTS & POWER
SERVING THE CARIBBEAN SINCE 1973

SVG Air and Barefoot Yacht Charters

The Barnard Family Legacy: Pioneers of Caribbean Yachting and Aviation



The family greets the new SVG Air.



An SVG Air Twin Otter on the runway

Photos courtesy of the Barnard family

The Beginning

In 1986, Martin Barnard and his daughter, Joanne, founded Barefoot Holidays, a travel company with offices in St. Vincent, Barbados, and St. Lucia. This marked the start of the Barnard family's deep involvement in Caribbean tourism, aiming to highlight the beauty of the islands through personalized travel services. Their commitment to enhancing the visitor experience played a transformative role in the region's tourism landscape.

Expansion into Yacht Charters

In 1990, Mary Barnard expanded the family's footprint by founding Barefoot Yacht Charters, which soon became a leading yacht charter company in the southern Caribbean. Mary recognized the growing demand for intimate, personalized yacht experiences and set Barefoot apart by offering private sailboats and catamarans to explore the pristine waters of the Grenadines. Barefoot attracted a global clientele, establishing the Grenadines as a top destination for yacht enthusiasts.

The Birth of SVG Air

That same year, Martin Barnard, along with his pilot sons-in-law, Paul Gravel and Dominic Gonsalves, saw the need for better inter-island transportation. Travel between the islands was challenging, limiting both tourism and business opportunities. In response, the Barnards launched SVG Air in 1990, initially serving the islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines but quickly expanding to other Caribbean destinations.

Seamless Integration of Air and Sea

One of the Barnards' most innovative ideas was integrating their yacht charter and airline services. They offer yacht guests a unique option to sail downwind through the Grenadines and fly back with SVG Air, while a captain returns the yacht to base. This combination allows guests to maximize their time exploring the islands without the inconvenience of upwind sailing, enhancing their overall experience.

This seamless integration of air and sea travel showed the Barnards' deep understanding of their customers' needs and solidified Barefoot Yacht Charters and SVG Air as complementary services that added significant value to each other. By connecting travelers to their desired experiences more efficiently, the Barnards helped position the Grenadines as a premier sailing and travel destination.

Supporting the Yachting Community

For over three decades, SVG Air has been the go-to airline for the island communities, as well as for yacht enthusiasts throughout the Caribbean. The airline's daily flights ensure smooth access to key marinas, making it an essential service for yacht crews, owners, and charter guests. Whether delivering spare parts, transporting crew members, or offering transfers for guests, SVG Air plays a critical role in the smooth operation of the yachting industry in the region. By keeping yachts connected and supplied from Grenada to Antigua, SVG Air helps enhance the luxury sailing experience. As demand for these services continues to grow, the airline is committed to expanding its support for the yachting community and broader tourism industry.



The Barnard family — Martin, Mary, Joanne, Denyse, Philip, Leslie

For 14 years, SVG Air managed airlift for Mustique, and for 34 years, Canouan. In 2011, the governments of Antigua and Montserrat invited SVG Air to provide air services to these islands and in 2021, SVG Air signed a contract with the Government of Grenada to operate Twin Otter services between Grenada, Carriacou, and St. Vincent. They continue to provide these services, with plans to upgrade operations with two new Twin Otters. Today, SVG Air remains the exclusive air provider for many distinguished clients and resorts and is the only scheduled carrier to the Grenadines and Barbuda.

As of November 24, 2024, SVG Air started flying from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Castries, St. Lucia; Canefield, Dominica; and Antigua, returning in the afternoon, allowing day guests and businesspersons the opportunity to explore these destinations or conduct business with same-day travel.

Excellence in Sailing Education and the Next Generation

Beyond yacht charters, the Barnard family's contributions extend to sailing education. Mary Barnard founded Barefoot Offshore Sailing School, which offers courses for sailors at all levels, from basic skills to advanced offshore and celestial navigation. The school's high-quality instruction and the varied sailing conditions of the Grenadines make it a top destination for students worldwide.

Under the leadership of Philip Barnard, a professional sailor with international racing experience, Barefoot Yacht Charters has expanded its fleet, catering to the increasing demand for both luxury performance yachts and comfortable cruising vessels. Despite its growth, Barefoot Yacht Charters remains committed to the boutique, personalized approach that has defined the company since its founding. The Barefoot Offshore Sailing School also continues to grow, offering advanced offshore courses and maintaining a reputation for excellence among serious sailors. Philip's own experience has elevated the school's profile, attracting serious sailors seeking both instruction and adventure.

A Lasting Legacy in Caribbean Tourism

The Barnard family's story is one of vision, innovation, and a deep love for the Caribbean. Through the creation of SVG Air and Barefoot Yacht Charters, Martin and Mary Barnard helped lay the foundation for businesses that have become cornerstones of the region's tourism and transportation sectors. Their commitment to offering exceptional experiences by both air and sea has enriched the lives of countless visitors and locals alike.

Today, the Barnard family's legacy lives on. SVG Air, under the guidance of Paul Gravel and Mark Bayne, remains a vital link between the islands, while Barefoot Yacht Charters, led by Philip Barnard, continues to offer unparalleled sailing adventures. Together, these enterprises have helped define the tourism landscape of the southern Caribbean, creating opportunities for exploration, adventure, and unforgettable experiences for generations to come.

SVG Air (flysvgair.com), Barefoot Yacht Charters (barefootyachts.com)

CARIBBEAN MULTIHULL CHALLENGE VII

RACE • RALLY • PLAY

ST. MAARTEN • ST. MARTIN • ST. BARTH



Photo Credit: Laurens Morel

30 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY 2025

All Multihulls Welcome

CaribbeanMultihullChallenge.com

GOLD: St Maarten Tourism • TradeWinds Experience • The Multihull Company
Yacht Club Port De Plaisance • The Moorings • Tito's Handmade Vodka

SILVER: Island Water World • Port of St Maarten • Bainbridge International • FKG Rigging

BRONZE: Lifeline Batteries • St Maarten Yacht Club Bar & Restaurant • Eagle Tours

MEDIA PARTNERS: All at Sea • Multicoques & Multihulls World • Sail Magazine • Caribbean Compass • Island 92 Radio • Multihull Power & Sail

MARINE & INDUSTRY: Imagine Graphics • Artemia • Budget Marine • West System • Private Yacht Charters

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS: Clear Caribbean • Caribbean Cetacean Society • St Maarten Nature Foundation

JAMBOREE FIREWORKS SPONSORS: Bobby's Marina • Dock Maarten

JAMBOREE SPONSORS: Dutch Blonde Beach Bar • Talulah Mango's Beach Bar • St. Rose Bar

CALENDAR

December 2024

1	Cayman Islands Marathon. caymanislandsmarathon.com
1-15	Bachata Festival and Dance, Dominican Republic
2	Gustav Wilmerding Memorial Race, BVI. westendyachtclubbvi.com
4-9	Antigua Charter Yacht Show. antiguacharteryachtmeeting.com
5-8	Course de L'Alliance, St. Maarten, St. Barts & Anguilla. www.smyc.com
5-12	Optimist World Championship. St. Thomas, USVI. stthomasyachtclub.org
6-8	Afro Fest Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
6-8	Run Barbados Marathon
8	Clean Coast Bonaire
8	Jamaica Reggae Marathon, Negril. Reggaemarathon.com
12	ARC+ prize giving in Port Louis Marina, Grenada
12	Parade of Lanterns, Castries, St. Lucia
12-16	Winter Pride Fest, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Gaytravel4U.com
13	Public holiday in St. Lucia (National Day – Festival of Lights and Renewal)
13-2 Jan	Sugar Mas Festival, St. Kitts and Nevis. Skncarnival.com
14-1 Jan	Montserrat Carnival
15	FULL MOON (Full Cold Moon)
15	Kingdom Day. Legal holiday, Bonaire
16-24	Nine Mornings Festival, St. Vincent. discoversvg.com
19-24	Parrandas de Remedios, Remedios, Cuba.
21	Winter Solstice
21	ARC prize giving in IGY Rodney Bay Marina, Saint Lucia
25	Public holiday in many places (Christmas Day)
26	Public holiday in many places (Boxing Day)
26	Maskanoo, Turks and Caicos. turksandcaicostourism.com
26-4 Jan	Crucian Christmas Carnival, St. Croix, USVI
31	Nelson's Pursuit Race, Antigua. antiguayachtclub.com.
31	Festival Day, Montserrat. holidayscalendar.com/event/festival-day-in-montserrat/
31	New Year's Eve/Old Year's Night: Fireworks in many places. Public holiday in Cuba (Year End Celebration)
TBA	Carriacou Parang Festival. www.puregrenada.com

See the entire calendar of events at caribbeancompass.com/caribbean-events-calendar



COURTESY REGGAE MARATHON

Reggae Marathon winner proudly displays Bob Marley trophy. Three island marathons are run in December.

B+G MARINE SERVICES



Shipwright and woodshop | Metal machining, fabrication and welding | Mechanical | Electrical

NEW! Rigging

www.bgbvi.com

Call: 284 345 2656

CARIBBEAN COMPASS

Scan the QR code or visit caribbeancompass.com/register

MERIDIAN PASSAGE OF THE MOON DECEMBER 2024

Crossing the channels between Eastern Caribbean islands, an ebb tide carries you off to leeward and a strong flood tide creates lumpy seas, so crossing with a favorable tide is faster and more comfortable. The table below, showing the local time of the meridian passage (or zenith) of the moon for this month, will help you calculate the tides.

Water generally tries to run toward the moon. The flood tide starts running eastward soon after moonrise, continues to run east until about an hour after the moon reaches its zenith (see TIME below) and then ebbs 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.

The first hour after moonrise, the westerly current is barely negated. The second hour the flood tide is stronger, the third and fourth hour it's strongest, then it eases off in the fifth and sixth hours. The maximum tide is three or four days after the new and full moons. For more detailed information enabling the sailor to calculate the direction and strength of the current, check the tidal section in the booklets that come with Imray-Iolaire charts A27 or B1.

December 2024		10	1944	21	0451
DATE	**TIME**	11	2035	22	0531
1	1158	12	2129	23	0619
2	1253	13	2228	24	0649
3	1349	14	2330	25	0730
4	1445	15	0000 FULL MOON	26	0813
5	1539	16	0033	27	0859
6	1631	17	0134	28	0949
7	1724	18	0231	29	1043
8	1808	19	0322	30	1140
9	1855	20	0409	31	1237

The US Virgin Islands

By Simon Scott, photos courtesy Cruising Guide Publications



The United States Virgin Islands sit atop a curving arc of islands that stretch from the Florida Keys south to Trinidad off the north coast of South America, dividing the tropical waters of the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean. Situated 40 miles east of Puerto Rico, they form the first link in a chain of islands known as the Leeward Islands that extend south to Dominica, where they meet the Windward Islands stretching from Martinique to Grenada. The island group comprises the main islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix along with numerous islets and keys that form, along with the British Virgin Islands to the east, the cruising area collectively referred to as the Virgin Islands.

Purchased by the United States from Denmark in 1917 toward the end of WW1 for the sum of $25 million to protect the strategic Panama Canal shipping routes, these islands have a rich history and have operated under both British, French, Spanish, Dutch and Danish administrations.



Trunk Bay, St. John

Discovered by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493 and claimed for the Spanish Crown, the islands languished for nearly one hundred years. During the seventeenth century, the islands became the home to both pirates and privateers like Blackbeard and Drake, where the quiet coves and hidden anchorages, now a haven for sailors from around the world, provided a unique location from which to lie in wait for Spanish galleons laden with gold mined in Santo Domingo (Hispaniola) and bound for Europe.

All three islands became a Danish Crown colony in 1755; St. Thomas was declared a free port shortly thereafter. As St. Thomas emerged as a major shipping center and distribution point for the entire West Indies, Charlotte Amalie flourished commercially, and a large portion of the West Indies trade was channeled through its harbor. The atmosphere on St. Thomas at the time was cosmopolitan, particularly in comparison to its sister island of St. Croix 40 miles to the south, where plantation life was thriving. Its typography supported over 375 plantations at its peak, perhaps the largest production of sugar cane in the Caribbean region.

Getting there and getting around

Direct air access is well represented by major airlines from the US mainland via many gateway cities. Travel from Europe, on the other hand, is a little more challenging and usually via Puerto Rico, St. Martin or the US mainland.



Magens Bay Beach, St. Thomas

US citizens do not require a passport, but one is required for additional travel to the adjacent British Virgin Islands. Ferry service between St. Thomas and St. Croix is about 2-1/2 hours, between St. Thomas and St. John, 20 mins on a regular schedule between Red Hook, on the eastern end of St. Thomas, and Cruz Bay, St. John.

Visitors from Europe will need to apply for a visa in advance. Cruisers making their way up the island chain and planning to include the USVI in their itinerary may apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) that determines eligibility to travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP); however, admissibility is ultimately determined by the receiving Customs and Border Protection officer upon arrival, which is required to be completed via commercial carrier (see link below for details).

The cruising area of the USVI is usually covered in a figure eight, starting in Charlotte Amalie harbor, then heading east along the south coast to St. John and the home of the VI National Park. There are numerous anchorages (mooring use only) within the park, which extends up the northwest coast and around the eastern end of the island to the south coast bays. This itinerary will then take you back to St. Thomas via the north coast and a visit to Magens Bay, a beautiful deep protected bay, before rounding the western tip of the island and making your way back to Charlotte Amalie.

—Continued on next page



The Whim House Museum, St. Croix

—Continued from previous page

From a cruiser's perspective, perhaps one of the greatest assets of the area would be the associated anchorages of the VI National Park, which covers nearly two thirds of the island of St. John. These pristine bays are carefully managed to protect them from abuse; strict use guidelines are in force. There is no charge to enter the park; however, there are only two designated anchoring areas — all other destination anchorages within the park are by mooring only for approximately $26 a night. For those 65 and older, a permit is available from the parks center which reduces the fee by 50 percent. Within the park at Leinster Bay are the ruins of the Annaberg Plantation, open daily and offering a brief insight into the island's history during the plantation era.

St. Croix lies in splendid isolation to the south, surrounded by the largest barrier reef system in the Caribbean. Rich in history and natural beauty, St. Croix remains far less crowded than the other US Virgins. Because of the distance between islands, St. Croix is not generally acknowledged as part of a charter itinerary, but cruisers with some time on their hands can enjoy the beautiful historic town of Christiansted, visit the Buck Island National Park, or enjoy some spectacular diving. Marine service facilities are available from St. Croix Marine in Christiansted and Green Cay Marina, just south of the Buck Island National Park, an ideal location providing a perfect sheltered spot to find dockage or storage.

In a cooperative effort between VIPCA (Virgin Island Professional Charter Association) and the USVI Department of Natural Resources, mooring balls have been installed at strategic locations throughout the territory to preserve the seabed and facilitate management of the marine environment. General marine services are well supported around St. Thomas with several marinas, haul out facilities and chandleries in addition to machine shops, rigging services and sailmakers. Provisioning is readily available on all the larger islands with charter yachts available from a number of companies operating from Charlotte Amalie, Compass Point Marina or Red Hook at the eastern end of the island.

For more information on the Virgin Islands and the sailing areas of the Caribbean, pick up a copy of the latest 2025 edition of the Cruising Guide series or download the free Cruising Guide app on Apple or Google. www.cruisingguides.com

US Virgin Islands Entry and Exit Procedures

Ports of Entry:
There is one port of entry on each of the three main islands: Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; Cruz Bay, St. John; and Christiansted, St. Croix.

Advance Paperwork:
All nationalities, other than citizens of the US, Canada or Bermuda, arriving by private yacht need a valid US visa or visa waiver entry already in their passport. See Immigration Details on Noonsite for additional information. https://www.noonsite.com/place/us-virgin-islands/view/immigration/

Entry Process:
Easy clearance via the CBP ROAM App (Reporting Offsite Arrival Mobile), where users fill in vessel and crew information, declare arrival and answer clearance questions. CBP may request a video interview (via the App), an in-person report to a port of entry, or no further action will be required. https://www.cbp.gov/travel/pleasure-boats/pleasure-boat-overview/roam

Exit Process:
CBP in Puerto Rico/Spanish Virgin Islands and the US do not request exit clearance papers from the USVI. A visit to the authorities is needed if your next port requires an exit zarpe.

Rates:
There are no entry or exit fees for vessels.

noonsite.com

This information is provided by Noonsite.com, specialists in worldwide formalities for yachts, and was accurate at press time. Check https://www.noonsite.com/place/us-virgin-islands/view/clearance for more information and updates.



Seasons Greetings To one & all!

GRENADA MARINE
BOATYARD | MARINA | RESTAURANT

From January 2025 we are reintroducing our
5 lay day package *(inclusive of haul and launch days).*

+1-473-443-1667 +1-473-405-1623
www.grenadamarine.com
Latitude 12° 01:20 | Longitude 61°40:42

CARIBBEAN COMPASS MARKETPLACE

Azores

MID ATLANTIC YACHT SERVICES

PT-9900-144 HORTA / FAIAL, AZORES

Providing all vital services to Trans-Atlantic Yachts!

Incl. Chandlery, Charts, Pilots, Rigging
EU-VAT (16%) importation
TEL +351 292 391616
mays@mail.telepac.pt
www.midatlanticyachtservices.com

Grenada

ART FAB RIK

seldom seen arty boutique
backstage ART gallery
locally made
wearable art
handpainted batik
workshop



shop on famous Youngstreet
www.artfabrikgrenada.com 473 440 0568

NEILPRYDE Sails Grenada

Check out our website or contact us directly for a competitive quote on rugged and well-built sails that are well suited to the harsh environment of the charter trade and blue water cruising.

Jeff Fisher – Grenada (473) 407 6355
www.neilprydesails.com

TURBULENCE Ltd.

(473) 439 4495
info@turbulenceltd.com
www.turbulenceltd.com

DOYLE SAILMAKERS

PROVEN QUALITY

FIVE YEARS /50,000 MILES GUARANTEED
Good for the economy
Made right here in the Caribbean

Minimal Co2 Print No International Air Freight

THIS COULD BE YOUR MARKET PLACE AD
shellese@caribbeancompass.com

Panama



Saint Kitts & Nevis



St. Maarten

Successful marine business for sale based in St. Maarten Caribbean.

Please email
dougieshipmate@gmail.com
for more information

Shipmate Marine

ar@disium tek

SVG



Formal Marine Litter System

Mayreau .Tobago Cays Marine Park. Union Island
Mon - Fri from 9:00 am - 3:00pm

The Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association through grant from the Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Program has put in place a formal marine garbage collection and disposal system in the marine park to protect the marine environment from the amount of garbage entering the sea.

Use the sytem and be a part of promoting a clean & healthy environment for all!

On Call – 532-3822 for more info: https://www.facebook.com/sgwta

SVG

LAC SERVICES

Life Made Easy.



WE OFFER:

- Grocery Shopping / Personal pick-up (with delivery to your dock)
- Argyle International Airport direct shuttle (starting from EC$30)
- Bill payments

LAC Services App (Google App Store)
Tel: (784) 527-3082, (784) 492-9983
E-mail: lacservices@lacsvg.com



Trinidad

www.powerboats.co.tt

Power Boats
"the Place for Yachts"

- 60 Ton Hoist
- Fuel Dock
- Yacht Storage
- Apartments
- Stern-to Docking
- Dockside Food Mart
- Boaters shop

Power Boats Mutual Facilities Ltd. | Tel 868.634.4303 | Fax 868.634.4327
PO Box 3163, Carenage, Trinidad, WI | Email pbmfl@powerboats.co.tt

Caribbean-wide



continued on next page →

McINTYRE BROS. LTD.
True Blue, St George's Grenada
Call 1 (473) 444 3944 macford@spiceisle.com



YAMAHA GRENADA
Revs Your Heart

We service what we sell!
2 & 4-Stroke Engines Genuine Parts & Service
Yamaha Certified Technicians
Duty free deliveries & reliable service for Yachts
Honda, Mazda and Ford Dealership
Vehicle Sales & Service
Book your Car rentals & Island Tours with us
Discover Grenada with
Caribbean Horizons Tours & Services
info@caribbeanhorizons.com
www.caribbeanhorizons.com

MARKETPLACE CONTINUED...

Caribbean-wide

Looking For Crew?
SailOPO.com

Want to Crew?
SailOPO.com

For 30 Years,
The US Leading Crew Network
for short deliveries, or long
offshore passages

HANK@SAILOPO.COM

THIS COULD BE
YOUR MARKET PLACE AD
shellese@caribbeancompass.com

One Man's Sampler
by Jim Hutchinson



Favorite little adventures from several decades of live-aboard sailing. Here are sailing dinghies, crazy craft, a dolphin, hurricanes, a concert, assorted characters and some fiction.
Lots of fun photos and drawings.

Click here to read a sample or to order:
https://amzn.to/2ZaLfzw
— Thanks,
"One Man" Hutch

CARIBBEAN COMPASS

Stay up to date! Sign up now and never miss out on the latest stories of bluewater cruising, regattas, festivals and island music, great destinations and much, much more of the Caribbean lifestyle.

A Passport to Paradise in Your Inbox

Scan the QR code or visit
caribbeancompass.com/register



We'll email you a copy of our monthly magazine, as well as other timely updates!

CARIBBEAN COMPASS **DON'T LEAVE PORT WITHOUT IT!!**

ADVERTISERS INDEX

ADVERTISER	LOCATION	PG#	ADVERTISER	LOCATION	PG#	ADVERTISER	LOCATION	PG#	ADVERTISER	LOCATION	PG#
Antigua and Barbuda Tourism	Antigua	18	Doyle Offshore Sails	Barbados	14	Multihull Company	C/W	12	SVG Tourism	SVG	17
Art Fabrik	Grenada	MP	Doyle's Guides	USA	19	Neil Pryde Sails	Grenada	MP	Tobago Cays	SVG	MP
B+G Marine Services	Tortola	27	Grenada Marine	Grenada	29	North Yacht Shop	Grenada	14	Trintrac	Trinidad	13
Blue Lagoon Hotel & Marina	SVG	7	Horizon Yacht Charters	Grenada	21	Northern Lights-Parts & Power	Tortola	24	Turbulence Sails	Grenada	8/MP
Budget Marine	St. Maarten	2	Hutch's E-book	C/W	31	Off Shore Risk Management	Tortola	8	Umbrellas Beach Bar	Grenada	22
Budget Marine St. Kitts	St. Kitts	MP	Hydrovane International Marine	C/W	MP	Offshore Passage Opportunities	C/W	MP	Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour	Virgin Gorda	5
Camper & Nicholsons	Grenada	11	Island Water World	St. Maarten	32	Power Boats	Trinidad	MP	Westerhall Rum	Grenada	22
Caribbean Multihull Challenge	St. Maarten	26	LAC Services	SVG	MP	Quantum Sails	Tortola	23	Yacht Agents Galapagos	Ecuador	9
Catamaran Brokerage	St. Maarten	22	Mac's Pizzeria	SVG	MP	Shelter Bay Marina	Panama	MP			
Clarkes Court Boatyard & Marina	Grenada	4	Marina Santa Marta	Colombia	20	Shipmate Marine	St. Maarten	MP			
Club De Pesca Marina	Colombia	6	McIntyre Bros	Grenada	31	Spice Island Marine	Grenada	13			
Crown Bay Marina	St. Thomas	10	Mid Atlantic Yacht Services	Azores	MP	St. Croix Marine Center	St. Croix	19			
Douglas Yacht Services	Martinique	16	Ministry of Trade & Industry	Trinidad	15	SVG Air	SVG	25			

MP = Market Place pages 29 - 30
C/W = Caribbean-wide
SVG = St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Island Water World

keeps you sailing!

TREAT YOURSELF TO A HIGH QUALITY COMFORTABLE AND DRY RIDE FOR THE NEW YEAR!

ACHILLES

HB-DX Priced from **$5,197.00**
Sizes:
280 | 315 | 350 | 385cm

HB-LX Priced from **$3,836.00**
Sizes:
240 | 280 | 315 | 350cm

HIGHFIELD
ALUMINIUM BOATS

SPORT Priced from **$19,515.00**
Sizes:
390 | 420 | 460 | 560 | 800cm

CLASSIC Priced from **$4,852.00**
Sizes:
260 | 290 | 310 | 340 | 360 | 380 | 420cm

ROLL UP Priced from **$2,796.00**
Sizes:
250 | 280 | 320cm

ULTRALITE Priced from **$3,745.00**
Sizes:
260 | 290 | 310 | 340cm

ANCHORS AWEIGH FOR HOLIDAY CHEER!

PERFECT GIFTS FOR XMAS!

YETI NEW COLLECTION

YETI XMAS PRESSENTS

Flask **$60.15**

Shotglasses **$39.60**

RETRO SUNSET Shirt **$45.50**

GERBER TRUSS Multitool **$65,35**

SCAN ME & CHECK OUR ONLINE CATALOG

St Maarten, Cole Bay +1 721 544 5310, VHF 74 • Bobby's Marina + 1 721 543 7119 • St. Martin, Marigot + 590 590 51 32 06

St Lucia + 758 452 1222 • Grenada, St Georges + 473 435 2150, • St David's Harbour + 473 443 1028

www. ISLANDWATERWORLD.COM

Published by Compass Publishing LLC, Connecticut, USA, and printed by Guardian Media Limited, Trinidad & Tobago