

BLUE WATER LOG

INTRODUCTION

This is the 43rd edition of the 'Blue Water Log'. Published annually since 1978, the *Log* is a prior year's archive of significant Blue Water Sailing Club land events, cruises, unique accomplishments by members, and a few facts and figures.

2020 was an exceptional year for the Club. It was the year of adapting to COVID-19. Following the March 11, 2020 declaration by W.H.O. that a serious global pandemic was underway, Blue Water cancelled all in-person activities including every organized cruise. The goals were to respect public health guidelines and do our best to protect the health of our members and guests. We accomplished both.

Ironically, the last 2020 Club seminar held in person was a panel discussion on medical issues at sea organized and hosted by member Eric Pierce, MD, PhD at MGH in Boston. Shortly after, the Bridge and Board of Governors had to cancel or restructure all further seminars and cruises. They quickly developed online socials, meetings and seminar programming and encouraged informal socially-distanced yacht rendezvous through the summer. In retrospect, the Blue Water Sailing Club did a remarkable job of retaining member interest and sharing helpful information. They turned a lemon year into lemonade, and we came through as a strong and vibrant club. We even added thirteen new members under these strange circumstances. Thank you to the Bridge, Board and all members for these achievements.

Mark J. Gabrielson, *Log* Editor and Club Historian

2020 WINTER SEMINARS and EVENTS

NOAA and the Charts of our Future – January 11, Beverly Yacht Club, Marion MA

BWSC member Lisa Goodwin collaborated with the Beverly Yacht Club to have Colleen Roche, New England Navigation Manager, Office of Coast Survey – NOAA discuss NOAA's plans for transitioning the distribution of navigation charts from paper to digital formats. NOAA has been soliciting feedback from the boating community in advance of the change.



NOAA has been providing paper navigation charts for years. They are planning to terminate publication of these paper charts. On November 15th, 2019 NOAA announced a 5-year sun-setting plan for ending updated printed paper charts. In their place, they will develop and make available to the public electronic vector-based navigation charts (known as ENC's). Nearly 20 BWSC members attended this excellent and important feedback session.



Crossing the Atlantic to Croatia – January 25,
Jubilee Yacht Club, Beverly MA.

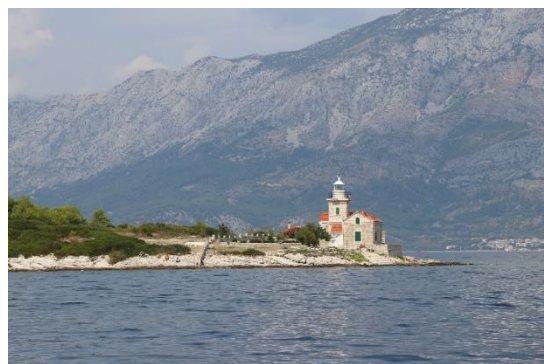
2020 BWSC Rear Commodore Dennis McKay organized a wonderful seminar by members John and Marcia Slingerland along with trans-Atlantic mate Chip Gavin.

This from John Slingerland:

“This was a video and slideshow presentation of our 2018-2019 trip onboard AVOCET, an Oyster 41. We went from the Caribbean, to Bermuda, the Azores, Portugal, Spain, Gibraltar, the Balearic Islands, Sardinia, Sicily, travels in mainland Italy, Greece, Montenegro and ended in Croatia.”



s/v AVOCET (foreground) anchored in Prozura on the island of Miljet, Croatia



The view astern as AVOCET passed the Sucuraj lighthouse on Hvar, Croatia

Thirty-five BWSC members and guests attended this spectacular presentation.

2020 BWSC Ski Getaway – February 5-7,
Waterville Valley, NH

There are several things that make Blue Water unique among sailing clubs: An engaging social calendar; no expensive clubhouse to maintain; co-sponsorship of the biennial Marion-Bermuda Race; a series of organized cruises (including the annual Women's Cruise) spanning at least five weeks each summer; informative winter seminars; and finally, the annual BWSC ski trip!

This from Brenda Miccio:

“Although the event officially began on Wednesday evening the 5th at the opening dinner in Waterville Valley, six members decided to downhill ski during the day Wednesday and then enjoy the hot tub and pool at the White Mountain Athletic Club.



Ellie Scherr had arranged for us to have the opening dinner Wednesday evening at the Coyote Grill. Eleven members had a good time catching up with folks they already knew as well as meeting and sharing stories with new members. It was a great time to reconnect and get motivated for the upcoming sailing season.



Thursday we all enjoyed the fresh snow that had fallen the night before, either snow shoeing, cross country or downhill skiing.

Thursday evening eleven of us ordered takeout appetizers, pizza and salad at the Silver Fox Inn where we all were staying.



The Inn was terrific helping us pull together the event. Thanks to many of the members who also brought food to share. In particular: Phil von Hemert's spinach dip, Lisa Goodwin's fish chowder and Toy Fountain's pecan pie, they were all delicious!

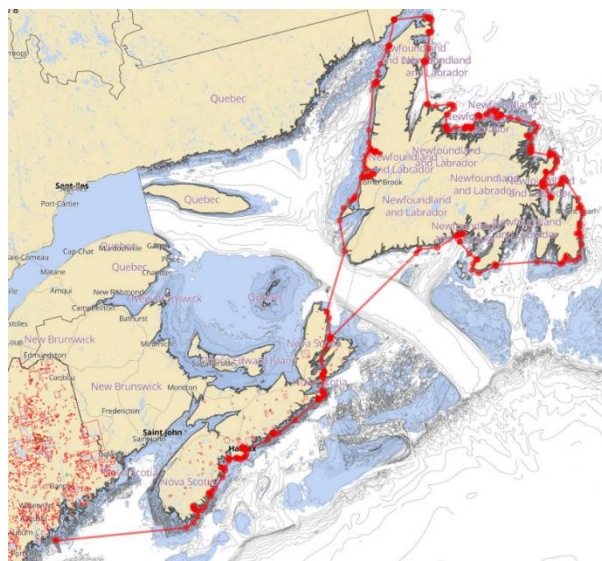
Unfortunately, it rained on Friday, so most of the group elected to forgo skiing. Some of us enjoyed the pool and hot tub, others went home early ahead of the forecasted heavy rain. We were all sad that organizers Ellie and Richard Scherr could not join us, but they were with us in spirit! Overall, it was a great event, and we are looking forward to next year's ski trip!"

Circumnavigating Newfoundland – February 15, Portsmouth NH Public Library.

A large crowd of BWSC members came out to hear Jack Maull and Toy Fountain tell the story of their summer 2019 three-month journey to and circumnavigation of Newfoundland aboard their Bristol 40 JULIA.

This from Jack Maull:

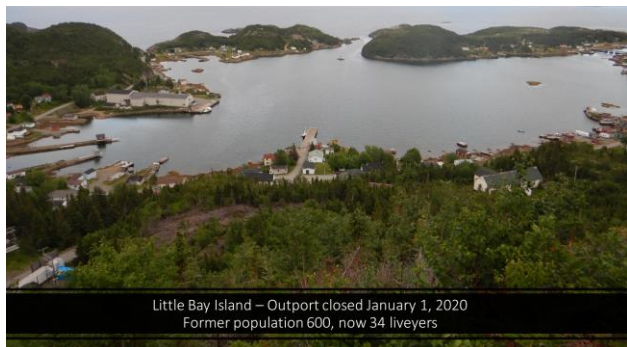
"Toy Fountain and I gave a slide presentation on our 2019 sail around Newfoundland. This trip was planned as a BWSC cruise with four boats, but eventually only one could make the trip. The trip started with coasting Nova Scotia and transiting the Bras D'Or Lakes before crossing the Cabot Strait to Newfoundland. Travelling clockwise around NL allowed visits to the Bay of Islands, Gros Morn Provincial Park, Red Bay on the South Coast of Labrador and then the Viking settlement at L'Anse Aux Meadows at the



northern tip of NL. The east coast of NL afforded visits to the many bays famous among cruisers including Notre Dame, Bonavista, Trinity and Conception Bays (each as large as our Penobscot Bay). The coast is dotted with many



outports, isolated fishing villages only a few of which are still inhabited.



Following a few days in the busy port of St. Johns, this leisurely trip transitioned to a sprint toward home across the south coast of NL dodging weather, crossing the Cabot Strait in messy conditions, riding out Hurricane Dorian on the Liscombe River in Nova Scotia and eventually crossing back to Maine in late September. All told, the trip was 81 days, 60 harbors, 2700 miles. The hope is to plan another BWSC trip to NL soon, as the pandemic allows.”



Jack Maull and Toy Fountain

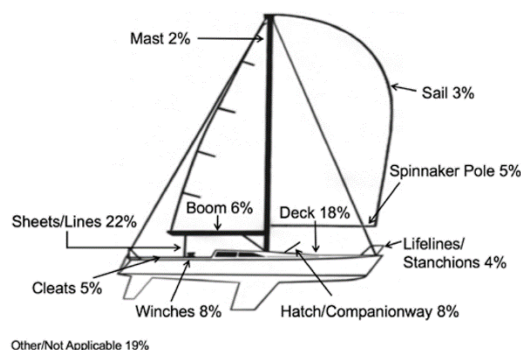
Their presentation was loaded with beautiful photos accompanied by wonderful stories and anecdotes. They also covered some of the

practical basics of taking a long-distance and long-duration trip to a somewhat remote area. Tips included provisioning, fresh water sourcing, fuel supply and management, and even where the thirsty yacht can find liquor and wine! This was an inspiring and informative talk by two accomplished voyagers.

Medical Emergency Response – March 7 MGH in Boston

Organized by Dr. Eric Pierce, BWSC member and former Commodore, he and several other leading experts (Drs. Mike Pierce, Doug Wingrove, and Frank McGovern) presented on how to deal with the most common medical emergencies encountered at sea.

Parts of a Sailboat Associated with Injury



Topics covered included:

- Pre-departure considerations like crew fitness and boat medical equipment;
- Determining when medical evacuation is necessary;
- The causes and signs of seasickness, hypothermia and dehydration, and how to deal with each condition;



- Bleeding control and wound management; and
- What should be included in an onboard medical emergency kit.

This from Dennis McKay, 2020 Rear Commodore and Seminar attendee:

“Eric Pierce did an outstanding job of organizing a very informative agenda for the morning that covered medical preparation, illness mitigation, and emergency response when at sea. In addition to himself, he had his physician son also present, and members from his staff at MGH. The agenda concluded with a panel discussion and Q&A.

For the afternoon, Eric arranged a CPR and AED course sponsored by the American Heart Association. I and several others attended this 3-hour course in the same room at MGH. Successful completion of a prior online course was a prerequisite to attend this class. We received a certificate of completion recognized by the USCG...”

This was a detailed, highly practical seminar involving some of the top medical minds in the field. While 27 members attended in person, anyone planning a passage off shore or extended cruise should review the presented material archived on the Member side of the club website:

https://bluewatersc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=86&club_id=168315

Click on the words **Events 2020 (6)** and a drop-down list should appear. This seminar’s slides are on that list.

Marion-Bermuda Race Webinar – April 16 via Zoom

The Marion-Bermuda Race organizers, led by Trustees Chair Ray Cullum and presenter Bob Kostyla, gave an hour-long webinar on getting ready for the 2021 Marion-Bermuda Race. BWSC is a founding club and co-sponsor of the race. Beverly Yacht Club in Marion and the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club (RHADC) in Hamilton, Bermuda also sponsor.

Where to Begin

Visit our website

www.marionbermuda.com

- Review “Yacht Eligibility and Requirements” in NOR
If uncertain about boat’s eligibility, submit inquiry to: race@marionbermuda.com
- Review the USSER & Inspector’s Check List
- Request a CoPilot through the website
- Request courtesy inspection
- Join us on Facebook *Friends of Marion Bermuda*

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This comprehensive slide program covered race rules, preparation, considerations of weather, Gulf Stream and ocean safety. There also were previews of the wonderful social events at the start of the race in Marion and at the finish in Bermuda.

There is a 50/50 chance the 2021 edition of the Marion-Bermuda race will happen (uncertainty due to pandemic-related constraints), but even if postponed until 2023, the material presented will be helpful. The entire talk can be revisited at:

<https://youtu.be/pMwZ45AKr7g>



True Storm Stories and Tall Tales with John Kretschmer – May 28 via Zoom

Nearly 60 Blue Water members tuned in on Zoom for a casual evening with sailor, author and raconteur John Kretschmer and his wife Tadji. The program was arranged by Board member Jack Savage. They shared "storm stories and tall tales" based on 300,000 offshore miles, a record- breaking voyage from New York to San Francisco by way of Cape Horn, 26 transatlantic crossings, and numerous other long passages in all the world's oceans.



John Kretschmer

John and Tadji gave the talk from the salon of QUETZAL, a Kaufman 47 they had docked in a Chesapeake Bay harbor having recently arrived from the Caribbean. John has written 7 books and hundreds of articles. John's latest book 'Sailing to the Edge of Time' was just released by Bloomsbury. For more information about John, visit <https://johnkretschmersailing.com/>

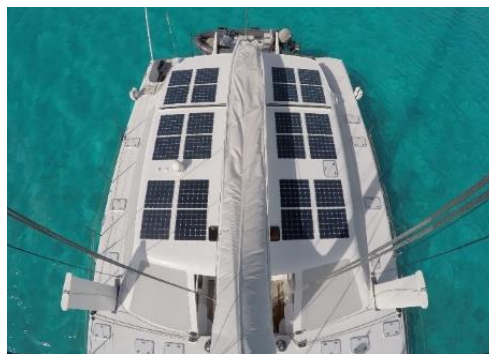
Battery Technology and Charging – November 19 via Zoom

BWSC members joined a large online gathering to hear Bruce Schwab of OceanPlanet Energy discuss the ins and outs of how to optimize onboard electrical systems.

Open to anyone, the talk attracted 105 registrants. Clearly, a topic on many sailors' mind!



A lithium ion battery bank installed for marine use



A solar panel array

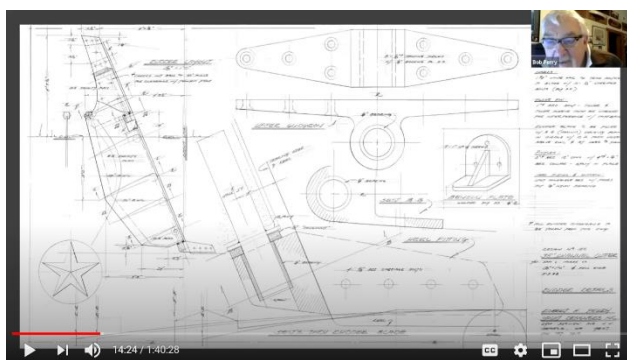
About Bruce: after completing his first circumnavigation in the 2002/2003 Around Alone Race, he came to Portland, Maine to refit OceanPlanet for the 2004/2005 Vendee Globe Race (solo, nonstop, around the world). On February 25, 2005, Bruce became the first American to officially finish the Vendee Globe. Since then, Bruce has devoted himself to providing clients with the best marine energy storage and charging systems through the business he developed in Bath, ME. For more details about Bruce and his capabilities:

www.oceanplanetenergy.com



Bob Perry Discusses Yacht Design – December 10 via Zoom

Bob Perry gave a great online presentation on yacht design. More cruising sailboats have been built to Bob Perry designs than to those of any other designer. Bob initiated the trend toward fast voyaging sailboats with the Valiant 40, a boat that has been in continuous production for 35 years.



Other milestone designs include Islander Yachts and the Freeport 36 and 38, the Passport 40, Nordic 44 and the double-ended, Taiwan-built Tayanas, Tashibas and Babas. He is the author of the book 'Yacht Design According to Perry: My Boats and What Shaped Them'.

2020 Annual Meeting – October 25 via Zoom

The 2020 Annual Meeting went ahead in virtual format. Over 100 members and partners attended. Incoming Commodore Bernie Coyne thanked Steve Ricci (Past Commodore) and Peter Forte (Immediate Past Commodore) for their continuing commitment to the club. He also said: *"I am very excited and proud to be your Commodore and I am very much looking forward to working with the Board and members. I have always felt that the most successful clubs*

are those where members actively engage in the activities and support of the club... Although we are a virtual sailing club, there are many ways to actively participate and enjoy your membership. Len [Thibodeau] and Dennis [McKay] are looking for volunteers now to help with planning and executing seminars and planning cruises during the winter months. Tory Leuteman leads our Marketing efforts where we plan to invest and have a big push to improve our website, our Beacon newsletter and social media channels, to better serve current members and attract new members. Jim Taylor is looking for help with the 'Beacon' newsletter. The Promotion group led by Ron Perkins is looking for volunteers to serve as a first contact when prospective members ask about the club.... So please seriously consider how you can make a difference to our club, have some fun, and reach out to Dennis, Len, Tory, Jim, Ron, myself or any one of the board or committee members. You can find all our contact info on our website bluewatersc.org under About > Committees."



2021 Commodore Bernie Coyne and Lynn Squire



2020 CRUISES AND RENDEZVOUS

As noted earlier, COVID-19 forced cancellation of every club-organized 2020 on-water event. The club needed to do its part to protect everyone's safety and comply with public health guidelines. Regardless, a significant number of members rendezvoused informally using outdoor social distancing. For example, the author and his wife encountered BWSC boats proudly flying the white gull burgee on six occasions in Maine. The typical procedure was to call on the VHF or a cell phone, and if the other party was amenable, visit by dinghy and raft on. The visi-



tor would remain in the dinghy while the visited could remain in their cockpit. It was a very pleasant and safe way to reconnect with friends and to make a few new ones as well. In short, it was an odd cruising season for all, but somehow the Blue Water Sailing Club spirit persevered.

On to 2021!

