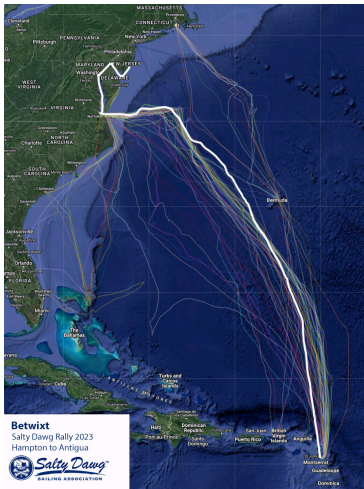


Salty Dawgs of RYC rendezvous in Antigua



Betwixt track RYC to Antigua

Early in November, RYC yachts **Betwixt**, **Sparrow Hawk** and **Odyssey** participated in the [Salty Dog Sailing Association](#) (SDSA) **2023 Caribbean Rally** from Newport, VA to Antigua. The rally provides safety in numbers by creating a flotilla of coastal cruisers for their annual migration to Caribbean waters. As the departure date approaches SDSA provides weather forecasting and routing support for seasoned off-shore captains and crew, both in planning the passage and during the delivery.

This year's voyage offered the entire gambit of off-shore fun from dead calm & flat seas to 25 knot trade winds with 8-10 ft swells. The 11 day, 1400 nm trip served up 2 days of motoring with sails furled, 3 days under a code zero and a finale featuring 1st and 2nd reefs. Add to the mix an assortment of daily squalls, which had the uncanny knack of appearing like clockwork right at the start of one of our unfortunate crew member's watch, and one gets a taste for extended trips on the open ocean.



VC Rugulo challenges the auto pilot to a steering contest

For anyone wishing to recreate the experience at home, lock yourself in a Bouncy House for a week and a half and have the Fire Dept. stop by a couple times a day and hose you down.

All good things come to an end and generally sailing adventures culminate with a large feast featuring small, measured servings of alcoholic beverages. In keeping with that time honored tradition, participant RYCers gathered to share a meal, swap salty yarns and regale each other with tales of high seas derring-do.



RYCers in Antigua

In all seriousness, a great time was had by all and the memories and friendships forged in fires of adversity will endure for many years to come. RYC is the place where young and old, experienced and neophyte, skippers and crew members gather to share the pure joy of sailing. And THAT is certainly worth the price of admission!