



# **Jamann**

## ***Sailing Adventures Extraordinaire***

[www.jamannsailing.com](http://www.jamannsailing.com)

Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of the Jamann Sailing Adventures Extraordinaire (JSAE) newsletter. Thank you for your interest. Things continue to go well as we keep working on achieving the correct balance between being retired and running a business. We think we might have that worked out pretty well now. Those of you who have yet to come down and sail with us will have to come on down to find out how a retired couple can stay busy running a sailing charter business. And to those of you who have already enjoyed an adventure with us we thank you and look forward to your return in the near future. Our most effective marketing strategy continues to be referrals from those of you who are kind enough to help spread the word. Thank you for helping us in that way. Please feel free to share this newsletter with all of your friends who might be interested in a great Caribbean sailing/snorkeling/dining experience. And if you are reading this and are not on our email list please email us so that we may add you to the list to keep you all informed of our upcoming events, activities and charter opportunities.

### ***Meet our New Friends – Jost Van Dyke Primary School!***

Grey Beard and HiHo have decided to go back to school!!! For a few years we had been hearing how the teachers and staff at the Jost Van Dyke Primary school in the BVI have been working hard to create a great environment of education and learning for the young students on the island. But although their spirits and enthusiasm are quite high they still struggle to get some of the basic resources they need. So we made contact with one of the teachers at the school, Jessica Callwood (who's mother



**Jamann Sailing Adventures Extraordinaire**

**Kathy & Jim Jackson**

(a.k.a. Captains HiHo and Grey Beard)

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Captain Greybeard the Pirate, Executive Editor

Captain HiHo, Contributor and proofreader

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**We Be Jamann!!!**



Strawberry and her family operate Sydney's Peace and Love Restaurant on JVD) who put us in contact



with the Principal of the school, Ms. Lavern Blyden. We discovered that the school was planning a science fair for July. They supplied us with a list of items requested by the teachers and we headed off shopping. We were able to find most of the requested items and were able to deliver them to the school. While there we had a great time visiting with Ms. Blyden and discussing what else we might be able to help with. She gave us a great idea of a need they have for this fall.....and that's where YOU - our family, friends, past and future guests - come in and can help (PLEASE!).

This October 2015 the JVD Primary School will be having a book fair. With 40 students in the primary school their goal is to have enough books available that each student would be able to purchase 2-3 books. Captain HiHo has already started collecting books. But we'd like to solicit help from ALL of you. The books can be new or "lightly" used. If you could purchase or obtain a few books for the students (we'll need books for both boys and girls) and send them to us by September 15, 2015 that would help us with this project which the students will greatly appreciate. The best way to ship those books to us will be by US Postal Service Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes. That will allow the books to get to us relatively quickly at a relatively low shipping cost. Our mailing address is 6501 Red Hook Plaza #201, St. Thomas, VI 00802.

We know that all of you share our belief that education is a major key to future success. We hope that you all will consider helping us achieve the goal of this project and look forward to being able to present the kids of this school with a huge pile of books. Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic help with and participation in this very worthwhile project.

### ***Jamann Sails to Puerto Rico!***

Each year we try to plan our own sailing adventure. Earlier this year in April we had the opportunity to take a few weeks to explore the waters west of St. Thomas all the way over to the east end of Puerto Rico. Ever since we moved down here we've been promising friends in Puerto Rico that we would sail over to visit them and this year we finally did.

From our home port in Red Hook on the east end of St. Thomas we did our provisioning and then sailed around to St. Thomas Harbour and the downtown Charlotte Amalie water front. After final preparations we set off for Culebra in the Spanish Virgin Islands, a leg of about 25 miles. We've made this run several times before and made it to the west side of the island for the night's stop. But the next day we were off early into unfamiliar seas. This leg being only approximately 20 miles and with the Loquillo Mountains rising to over 3500 feet we were never out of sight of land but Captain HiHo had to be quite vigilant watching our chart plotter as there are numerous and some large shallow areas off the east end

of Puerto Rico that she needed to sail around. Captain HiHo brought us safely into Fajardo Harbour where we anchored up in the lee of Cayo Obispo. We took a couple of days to rest and relax. While doing so we were surprised to find out that there are manatees in the waters around Puerto Rico when one swam by our yacht. We took a couple of walks around town to check out Puerto Real where the ferry to Vieques is located and the town of Fajardo.

We rented a car and headed up to San Juan for a few days where we stayed at the Sheraton in Old San Juan. We spent a couple of days walking around Old Juan enjoying its vast and rich history with visits to the Castillo San Felipe del Morro and Castillo San Cristobal forts and all of the very interesting historical sites and buildings in between. And we really enjoyed the various great restaurants and street cafés.



We spent a day and drove up to Arecibo to see the Arecibo Observatory with the world's largest (1000 ft diameter) radio telescope. In addition to its scientific significance you may have actually seen it featured in such movies as Golden Eye and Contact. Then we drove over to the underground Camuy River Caverns to view some of the many amazing caverns in this area.

Making our way back to Fajardo we drove up into the El Yunque National Forest, the only rain forest in the US national forest system. We checked out a number of water falls and towers included a 2.5 mile hike down a valley to see La Mina Falls which was beautiful (but also meant a 2.5 mile back UP the valley back to the car). Then a 1.5 mile hike up to the Mr. Britton tower – which was completely socked in in fog by the time we got up there – we couldn't even see the neighboring hillside not to mention the view to the ocean. At least it was a downhill walk back to the car (in the pouring rain). Oh well, I guess we'll have to go back and try to time it for clearer conditions as there is almost always a cloud at or near the top of the mountain.

We made it back to Fajardo and were able to catch up with good fiends Margarita and Michael Barnick who were the Captain and Chef/mate for the first two sailing charters we were on here in the BVI back in the 90's. It was great seeing them and spending the evening with them.

Then it was time to get back to the sailing part of the adventure. We made the short sail over to Cayo Icacos. After the overnight stay there we had the whole beach to ourselves for nice walk along the shore the next morning where we discovered that during the night a leather back turtle had come ashore, created a nest and laid eggs right in front of where we were moored. The next day we sailed over



to Isla Palominos where we enjoyed some good snorkeling along the shore of this privately owned island leased and used by one of the big hotels across the bay on the mainland.

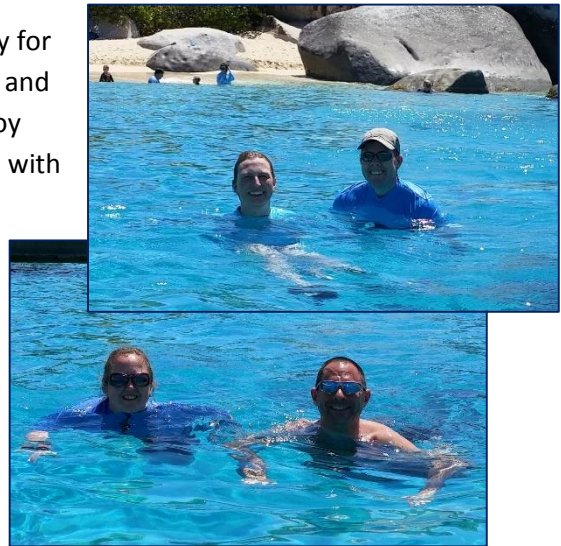
After two easy days we made the long sail back to the north side of Culebra anchoring in Flamenco Bay, considered one of the top 10 beaches in the world. Spending a couple of nights here allowed us to do some snorkeling and spend some time on the LONG beautiful beach. There were a couple of recently made turtle nests along this beach as well. We then sailed around to Bahia Tortuga on the north side of Culebrita for our last stop in the Spanish Virgins. The highlight of this stop always is the hike up to the lighthouse with its spectacular 360 degree views from the top of the tower.

But the highlight of the whole trip happened on our last day of the adventure sailing back to St. Thomas. All was going well as we made good time sailing to windward. As we came sailing up through the passage between Savana Island and the west end of St. Thomas we came upon two humpback whales. It was quite late in the whale migration season so we were quite surprised. As we tried to continue sailing towards home the whales stayed in front of us out of range for a good photo but we could clearly see them exhibiting all of the classic behaviors including breaching, fin waving and flapping and head stands with tail slaps. It was quite fun to watch this activity for about 45 minutes while sailing along the south coast of St. Thomas. They finally took off for deeper waters as we entered the channel heading into St. Thomas Harbour and the end of this year's sailing adventure.

## ***2015 Charter Season Highlights – Part 2!***

The second half of the season was just as exciting as the first half.

Lynn and Scott Fyfe came down with Kelly and Jon Litofsky for a sailing adventure around the BVI the end of March. Jon and Scott had done a sailing charter with their sons and the boy scouts. So now it was all about having a sailing adventure with their wives. Being the scouts that they are the hike on Norman Island included some trail blazing on the back side down to one of the typically unvisited bays. They were in the water at every opportunity snorkeling at the Treasure Caves, The Indians, Cooper Island, and the Dogs. Combine with visits to the Rum Bar at Cooper Island, the Arundel/Callwood Rum Distillery in Cane Garden Bay and a taxi ride to the Soggy Dollar Bar for the original Painkillers made for a fun week on the water, in the water and on the land.



After our return from our own sailing adventure to Puerto Rico we met up with Bev Kreeger and Suzanne Lehman, picking them up at the BVI airport on Beef Island. We met them at Baggage claim and a short 5 minute walk brought us to Trellis Bay where Jamann was moored and waiting. With their early





arrival we headed off to the Dogs for some peace and quiet. As usual we were the only ones there for the night. Bev and Suzanne enjoyed the Baths before heading on down to Cooper Island. The highlight of the week, besides the visit to the Cooper Island Beach Club Rum bar, was the opportunity for Bev and Suzanne to dive with Kathy off Red Bluff on Cooper Island. It was a great dive with lots to see. We had a chance to snorkel at the Treasure Caves on

Norman Island before making our way around to Soper's for a brief shopping stop. We enjoyed dinner at Sidney's Peace and Love Restaurant as always and moved on over to Cane Garden Bay. The Arundel/Callwood Rum Distillery is becoming a regular stop which they enjoyed. We finished the week snorkeling at Monkey Point on Guana Island before returning to Trellis Bay at the airport.

Lyn and Joe Brubaker joined us in late May on a return visit for sailing around the US Virgin islands to take in some of the sites we didn't get to do the last time. Highlights of this visit included hikes to the Reef Bay Sugar Plantation ruins, the Rams Head Trail hike and the hike to the Annaberg Country School ruins, all on St. John. With their interest in scuba diving they were very interested in the displays at the Tektite Museum in Lameshur Bay. This museum commemorates the underwater habitat research that had been conducted there back in the 1960's

([www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzEP\\_NmgFig](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzEP_NmgFig)) But we also had some good snorkeling off Buck Island (saw lots of turtles as usual), Lameshur Bay, Salt Pond Bay and Francis Bay. Didn't get much reading done on this trip but still plenty of time to relax and re-energize.



We took a short break from chartering to teach a course at The Captain School in Red Hook (an exam preparatory class for people seeking their USCG Captain's license). And then we welcomed Alana Lambert and her friends Laurie Spoll and David Kane to the BVI in late June. We picked them up in Soper's Hole, West End, Tortola after their ferry ride over from St. Thomas. First stop was snorkeling at the Indians and Treasure Caves off Norman Island. Then we moved on up to Cooper Island for more snorkeling and of course a visit to the Cooper Island Beach Club Rum bar, another regular stop on our BVI tours. They were amazed at the granite boulders at the Baths on Virgin Gorda but really loved the peace and quite of snorkeling and staying overnight at the Dogs. A stop at Trellis Bay allowed our guests



to check out the "artist colony" and make some purchases of local hand crafts. On the way to Jost Van Dyke we stopped for some snorkeling at Monkey Point, which is always a good spot. There's always good food, drink and family vibes at Sidney's Peace and Love Restaurant which they truly enjoyed. A hike to the Bubbly pool and snorkeling off Diamond Cay ended the visit to Jost Van Dyke. Final stop of this tour was at

Cane Garden Bay with a visit to the Arundel/Callwood Distillery (we've stopped there so often, Kathy can now give the tour) and a beautiful sunset dinner at Myets Restaurant. What a grand way to end the week.

All good things come to an end and we finished up this season in early July with a day sail out of Cooper Island Beach Club for Sheri and Holden Stark who were celebrating their anniversary and the upcoming birth of their third child (to be named Cooper – Greybeard suggested James as the middle name, has a nice ring to it, Cooper James). We had great wind and weather for a day sail up to the Dogs for snorkeling and then over to Marina Cay for a little beach time and Painkillers (soft drinks only for Sheri – she'll have to come back after the baby for the Painkillers). After returning them to CIBC we literally sailed off into the sunset heading back home to Red Hook bringing a great season to an end.



### ***View us on Trip Advisor!***

We continue to hear that many people interested in our type of adventure very often consult Trip Advisor to find out what others think about a business and experience like what we have to offer. So we've gotten ourselves set up on Trip Advisor and have asked guests from the current and past seasons to post a review of their experience with us. We invite you to check out our Trip Advisor page and read those reviews by clicking on the following link: [Jamann Sailing Adventures Trip Advisor Page](#) or just do a search for us from the Trip Advisor home page. Thanks to our guests who have already posted reviews. Your comments are greatly appreciated and will help us to guarantee that all of our guests will have an experience that will exceed their expectations which is our goal.

### ***2016 Charter Season Information!***

For those of you who are still thinking that 2016 will be the year you will join us for a sailing adventure we already have a number of confirmed charter reservations for 2016 but we still have charter dates available in April, May and June. So now would be a great time to contact us, even if you are not quite ready to confirm a reservation. Then we can start looking at potential dates and destinations to see what will work best for you. This would also be very helpful for our planning to know as much scheduling information ahead of time.

As mentioned in previous newsletters and on our website our regular 2016 charter season will run from Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>. We generally do not do any charters between July 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> due to the challenging and unpredictable weather (i.e. hurricane season). But depending on what other

activities we might commit to we might be able to accommodate a charter request during the period of Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Due to the holiday season we usually do not do charters between Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> so that our crew has time off to celebrate with everyone else.

So please contact us immediately and let's get rolling. As Warren Miller says "if you wait another year you'll just be one year older when you do".

### ***Frequently Asked Questions!***

Another question we often get asked is "don't you miss the change of seasons?". I guess the answer is yes and no! Or maybe no and no! As much as we loved to snow ski we don't really miss those extremely cold winters and we really don't miss those really hot summers like we used to have back in PA. Down here the day time high temperature averages 85 degrees – all year round! Out here on the water where we live the temperature rarely gets above 87 degrees. We get plenty of sunshine almost every day (which is good for our solar panels) and there's almost always a breeze blowing (which is good for our wind generator). But we actually do have 4 seasons down here. Our winter season (Jan. through Mar.) is characterized by higher winds and cooler nights with night time temps dropping to the mid to low 70's (the record low temperature here I think is 68 degrees). So on a winter's night some people can be seen with a light jacket or sweat shirt. If you are really into sailing this is the best time of the year to be down here. Spring season is April through June. The winds start to moderate some, the night time temps don't go down as far and the water temps are coming up from their 76-78 degree winter values to more like 80-82 degrees. If you are really into being in the water with some sailing thrown in for good measure you'll really like to be here during the middle and late part of our spring season. Then comes the height of hurricane season from July through mid-October. When there are not big storms around, which is most of the time, the weather is absolutely beautiful. Lots of sunshine as usual water temps get up to 84-86 degrees, often matching the air temps. Night time temps only drop a few degrees to 81-82 degrees and the breezes are relatively light. Winds are still good for sailing and with proper sun screening you can snorkel for hours and not get cold. But we don't do charters during these months as the risks of having your vacation ruined by a storm are too high. October 15<sup>th</sup> is Hurricane Thanksgiving Day marking the end of the height of hurricane season and the start of the fall season. Night time temps are a little cooler, winds start to pick up, water temps start to drop off and the cruise ships and tourists start to come back.

### ***Living the Dream!***

The end of our 4<sup>th</sup> season and the good times just keep rolling along. Obviously this has required some changes and adjustments but it all has been good and keeps getting better. We certainly do love sharing our island life with our family, friends and new friends (a.k.a. guests). And we are humbly gratefully to be able to experience our life in the islands. And the dream goes on. Now would be a great time to

contact us and book a charter sailing adventure with us for 2016. We continue to appreciate all of the support and well wishes we have received from everyone and look forward to having you come down and share the fun and excitement in our neighborhood.

Thanks and see ya in da islands, mon!!!

Life is GREAT! Arrrgghhhhh!

***Kathy & Jim Jackson***

(a.k.a. Capt'n HiHo and Capt'n Grey Beard the Benevolent Pirate)



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