



# **Jamann**

## ***Sailing Adventures Extraordinaire***

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

Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of the Jamann Sailing Adventures Extraordinaire (JSAE) newsletter. Thank you for your interest. Our list of future adventurers continues to grow while our list of past adventurers also continues to grow. We greatly appreciate the support we've received from those of you who have chartered with us in the past and we look forward to your return sometime in the near future. And for those of you who have yet to join us for a sailing adventure, what are you waiting for? Okay, just kidding. We look forward to hosting a Jamann Sailing Adventure for you in the near future at your earliest convenience. However, it would be nice if you got here before we get too old to do this anymore. 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.

### ***Jamann Sails Down Island!***

This past fall we had a couple of great opportunities to "put some miles under the keel" with some long distance overnight sailing that was exhilarating, challenging and a lot of fun. Our first trip was in September where we sailed to St. Maarten to meet up with good friends Brenda and Bill Dorsey who were vacationing there. We left St. Thomas and took a couple of leisurely days to make our way over to the east end of Virgin Gorda in the BVI and then stopped there to rest up. Then leaving on a Monday afternoon at 3:00PM we headed off to St. Maarten. On the charts it was a distance of 80 miles east-southeast to St. Maarten. But unfortunately the winds were coming directly out of the east-southeast



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**Kathy & Jim Jackson**

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

March, 2015

Captain Greybeard the Pirate, Executive Editor

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We Be Jamann!!!

and were very light. Slow progress through the night with tacking to sail up wind meant we were not even half way there by noon the next day. So we motored for a couple of hours. Finally the winds picked up and shifted favorably as had been forecast by the weather service and we went back to sailing now heading directly towards St. Maarten close reaching on a port tack doing a little over 5



knots (pirate talk for sailing with good speed in the right direction and a happy crew). 39 hours after leaving Virgin Gorda we sailed triumphantly into Philipsburg Harbor, St. Maarten and dropped anchor at 6:00AM Wednesday morning. Yes, we sailed non-stop, taking 4 hour shifts and were very tired when we got there. We enjoyed a couple of great days relaxing, snorkeling and dining with the Dorsey's before they headed back home. We moved the yacht around to Simpson Bay to check out that part of the island for a couple of days. Then we sailed over to the neighboring island of Anguilla. Things were very quiet there as it was the off season and we promised to return some other time to be able to explore the island more. The winds were much more favorable for the sail back home, almost a direct shot, taking only 29 hours to get there.

Then in November we set sail for the island of St. Kitts to meet up with our scuba diving group for a week of diving there. As before we launched from Virgin Gorda, this time with more favorable winds that started slow but kept building. But this time the rhumb line distance was 115 miles. All was going well until the 3:00AM shift change on the 2<sup>nd</sup> night of sailing. Kathy was at the helm, I had just come up to relieve her and she noticed that the lights on St. Kitts, 10 or so miles ahead of us had gone out all of a



sudden. The mainsail was already at the first reef point and we quickly decided to reef the genoa. We had just barely finished that when the heavy rains hit. We were well off shore and not in any danger of hitting anything but visibility went down to zero making it very disorienting sailing in the dark without any references. Luckily our chart plotter, GPS and compass were all working just fine. Fortunately the rain squall only lasted about 15 minutes, long enough

for Kathy to get soaked and cold. So she was happy to be able to go down below and crawl into bed to warm up and sleep when it was all over. And 45 hours after casting off from Virgin Gorda we sailed into the main harbor off Basseterre, St. Kitts and dropped anchor.

We had a couple of days to rest before the dive group's arrival. We joined them at the resort for the week. After they left we continued sailing on down to the island of Nevis. After a couple of days there we started sailing back up the island chain and went to St. Eustatius in time for their Statia/America holiday celebrations. A few days were spent there and then we sailed on to Saba to check it out for the 2015 dive group trip. On the morning of our departure from Saba about an hour after leaving to head

home we got caught in a major squall with winds gusting well over 30 knots. Conditions remained rough with 8-10 foot following seas for several hours after the squall passed. Fortunately things slowly settled down as we changed to 2 hour shifts and made it back home in 25 hours.

Two really great adventures to another beautiful part of the Caribbean Island chain. Perhaps there could be some down island charters in our future as we'd love to go back and do some more exploring.

### ***Rummies Unite!***

Captain Grey Beard, the Benevolent Pirate of Red Hook has been on a quest to revive the centuries old Royal British Navy custom of a "tot" of Pusser's rum to every able bodied seaman at the end of each day. So we now have a great way to introduce our guests to the rums of the world (of course Capt'n GB expects them to like Pusser's the best). What has turned out to be a very popular stop on all of our itineraries this season has been a visit to the new Rum Bar at the Cooper Island Beach Club. They have over 100 different rums from around the world (now including one that Capt'n HiHo donated) for you to choose from. You can have your rum "neat" (preferred and the best way), over ice (acceptable) or mixed in a drink (for wimps). You'll be shocked and amazed at how well these rums taste. Capt'n HiHo is keeping track and plans to taste them all (luckily not all in one night). You'll definitely want us to include this stop on your itinerary when you come sailing with us.



### ***2015 Charter Season Highlights – so far!***

Wow, what a great season!!!! The 2015 season is off to a great start. If we weren't having so much fun you'd think we were working. This will definitely be our best season yet. The season got off to a very early start with a return visit from our good friend Tom "Sail board" Bowman who convinced us to let him come sailing with us in December. Tom loves sailing down here especially when the Christmas winds come blowing through, which they did. But Tom was on a mission to make it up to the Bitter End on Virgin Gorda to take a sail board lesson – and hopefully stay up ON the board this time. We have photos and video to prove that he was indeed successful. A great way to start the winter.



Then January turned into day sail month as we made our way over to Cooper Island Beach Club ([www.cooperislandbeachclub.com](http://www.cooperislandbeachclub.com)). We first had the pleasure of day sailing with Julie Villarini (MD) and

Don Fulton (PA) on a down wind run to the Treasure Caves. Then we loaded up Jamann with 6 Canadian guests. Deb and Lionel Duroucher, Janet Murray and John Dill and Donna and John Riddell on an upwind beat to The Dogs and then over to Marina Cay. The Sullivan Family (Suzanne, Jim, Audrey and Neal) from Arkansas and Illinois were next to jump on for a trip to the Indians and the Willy T. And finally Cathy Mabie and David Johnson from Vermont joined us for a trip to the Treasure Caves and a short hike on Norman Island.

February got us back into the week long term charters as we welcomed return guests Kristin and Craig Haberle, Amy Dickerman and Andy Appel in early February. Our mission was to find a few new spots for them to enjoy along with some favorites that they had previously visited. Snorkeling at the Wreck of the RMS Rhone, the sail over to Anegada and Andy's reacquaintance with Cynthia at Harris's restaurant on Jost Van Dyke were among the highlights.



Cathy and John Speitel and their friends Penny and Jeff Pritchett joined us later in February. They really got a taste of our winter winds that week which made for some awesome sailing. The 38 knot winds in The Bight on Norman Island, a trip through the boulders at The Baths, the snorkeling at George Dog island and beach time at the Soggy Dollar Bar were highlights of this week. As

we finished up the week plans were already being made as to when they'll be coming back and what else they'll be able to see and do.

Early March brought the arrival of Jan Lyons and Robin Stokes along with Maureen and Rob Campbell. Jan and Robin spent a couple of days camping at Cinnamon Bay on St. John before joining us in the BVI where they enjoyed some hiking in the National Park (2/3 of the island of St. John is part of the Virgin Island National Park). As many of our guests do, Maureen and Rob spent one night at a Guest House on St. Thomas to destress before joining us the next day. The winds were blowing pretty good this week as well. So every day was a great sailing day and still had plenty of time for some on shore activities. Lots of snorkeling, views from the top of the ridge on Norman Island, the hike to the Bubbly Pool on Jost Van Dyke, a visit to the Callwood Distillery at Cane Garden Bay and REAL Painkillers at the Soggy Dollar Bar highlighted this week.



So the regular season continues with some great charters ahead the end of March, May and June. What happened to April you ask? Well the crew is going on vacation in April sailing over to Puerto Rico to visit with friends Margarita and Michael Barnick (we did two charters with them as our crew the first two times we came and sailed in the Caribbean) and to visit the tourist sights for a couple of weeks. Every crew needs a little break every now and then. Besides, we are supposed to be retired and not working.

## ***Carnival 2015!***

One of the best things about being in the Caribbean Islands is the celebration of Carnival. And the best thing about celebrating it here in the Virgin Islands is that each island celebrates Carnival at different times. St. Thomas celebrates in April, St. John in July, the BVI in August and St. Croix in December. So we are coming up on St. Thomas' Carnival which is a month long schedule of events culminating the last week of April with the signature events. The Carnival Village is set up in downtown Charlotte Amalie by then featuring rides for the kids, food and beverage stands and musical entertainment every afternoon and evening. On Wednesday of that week the Food and Cultural Fair is held in Emancipation Park downtown. LOTS of great stuff to eat. Thursday morning starting at 4:00AM is the J'ouvert parade (that's a French contraction meaning dawn or day break). This is an informal street parade that commemorates how the people from the far villages used to have to walk many miles starting very early in the morning, singing and dancing all the way, to reach the main town in time for the celebrations. People come out in all sorts of costumes and join the parade as it snakes its way through town with drums pounding. Anyone can participate and it often seems like there are more people IN the parade than watching the parade. Friday is the Kid's Parade and Saturday is the Adult's Parade. Both of these more traditional parades feature school groups, high school marching bands, steel pan bands, comedy and dance troupes, cultural groups, Mocko Jumbies, the Carnival Queen, King, Prince and Princess and many others. So if you are looking for a good time to come to the Virgin Islands you might want to pick a week during one of the Carnivals to have a good time partying with the locals.



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

The 2016 season is already shaping up to be just as good as, if not better than, the 2015 season. We are excited to announce that the Elizabethtown College Alumni Association will be sponsoring a Winter Escape trip to Cooper Island Beach Club in the BVI in January 2016 and we will be providing day sails for the group throughout their stay. All of you E-town Alumni should keep an eye on the Jay Journey Travel Program section on the Alumni website for more details. We also have one additional confirmed reservation for the 2016 season along with several other groups that we are negotiating with to select their dates.

As mentioned in previous newsletters and on our website our regular charter season runs from Jan. 15<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. 15<sup>th</sup> so that our crew has time off to celebrate with everyone else.

So now would be a great time to contact us and let us know if 2016 is going to be your year to come down and enjoy a Caribbean sailing adventure with us. 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. 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!***

We often get asked questions about our life here in the Virgin Island aboard our yacht Jamann. One that often comes up is "do you really live on your boat?". The answer of course is yes! We live on the yacht full time and all year. We do not have a house or apartment on land. And we keep our yacht on our own private mooring out in Muller Bay, the outer part of Red Hook Bay on the east end of St. Thomas. Here's a link to Google Maps and GPS coordinates that in the satellite view shows our exact location: [18°19'27.6"N 64°50'39.6"W](#). Apparently we were home one day when the satellite flew overhead and took pictures as you can actually see our yacht Jamann. From our mooring we use our small dinghy to get back and forth to shore and town. In fact we don't even have a car! Most of the things we need we can get right there in Red Hook easily within a two block walking distance. For other things (like going to the movies, Kmart or Home Depot) we take the local "safari" taxi, open air taxis that follow a specific route around the island, that only cost us \$1 or \$2 depending on how far you ride.

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

And the dream goes on. Mid way through our 4<sup>th</sup> season and the fun just keeps on coming. We are indeed fortunate to be able to enjoy life here in the islands and to be able to share these adventures with all of our many guests (all of whom are now friends). 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! Arrrrghhhhh!

***Kathy & Jim Jackson***

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



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