

# Sailing in Maine – Spring 2022

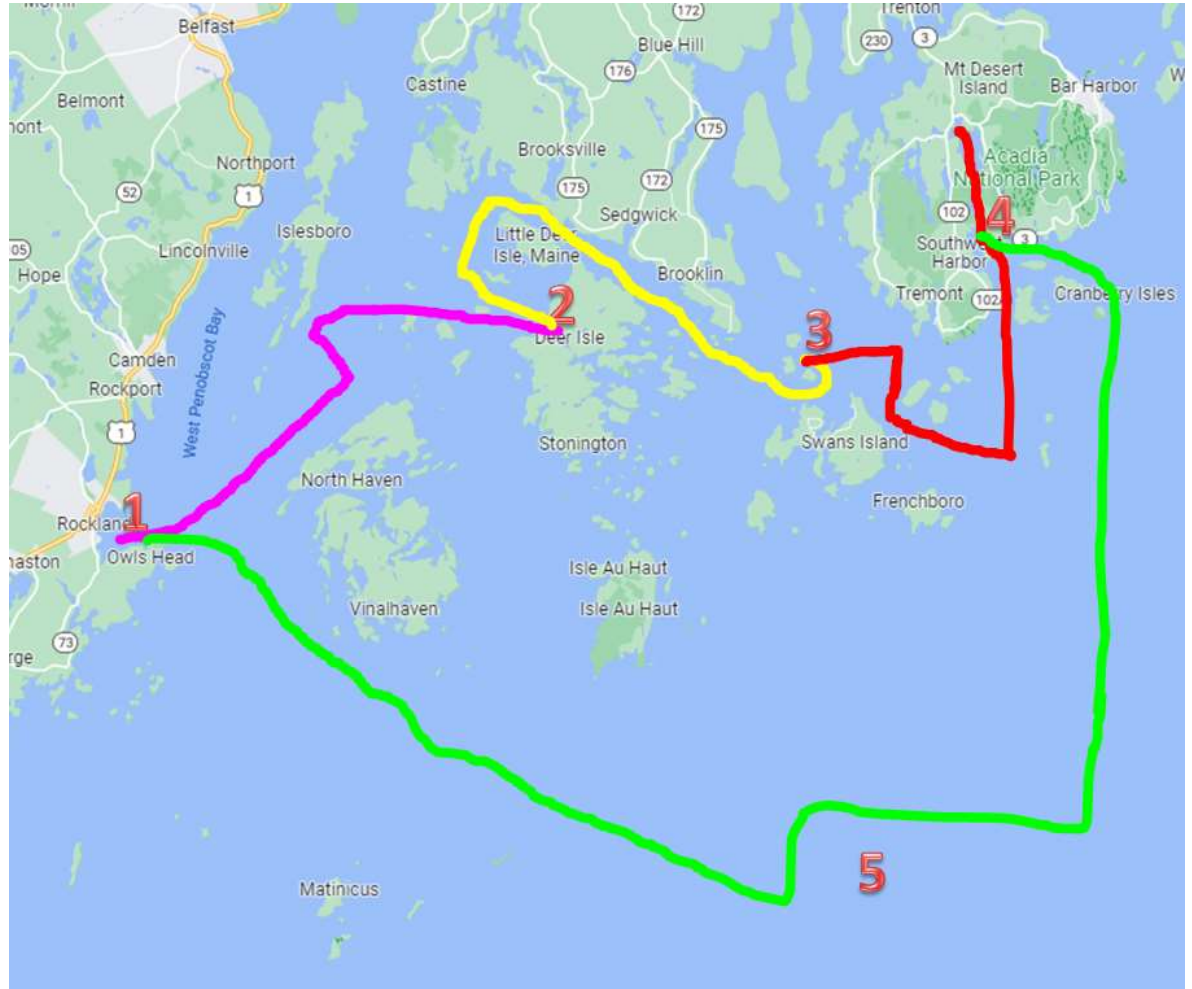
More trips are documented at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yf9rpXCMjBzrMnfyBDakTzFkOfKu5sjW/view?usp=sharing>

This was a coastal sailing trip out of Rockland, Maine by Morse Alpha Expeditions ([morsealpha.com](http://morsealpha.com)) which is run by Ben and Teresa Carey. I had heard their podcast “The Morning Muster” and also watched their film (One Simple Question - <https://simplequestionmovie.com>) about their trip north in small sailboats to see an iceberg. Their coastal trips utilize hands on navigation with charts and visual piloting rather than using a chart plotter. I wanted to get more experience with this type of navigation and in an area that is new to me, with significant tides, currents, and occasional fog. The vessel for the trip was Rocinante, a Norseman 447.

Ben was our instructor and we also had Garth join as an instructor for our overnight passage. Other students included Ben and Karen from Vermont, Aaron from New York, Pete from Philly, and Steve from Michigan. Everyone already knew how to sail and worked well together as we leaned on past experiences while also learning a lot from Ben and Garth. The responsibilities are split up among different roles (such as captain, cook, engineer, boatswain, etc.) which are rotated each day so that everyone shares in the responsibilities.

On the right you can see a rough path of our travels, starting and returning to Rockland. The different nights aboard are numbered and the color of the path changes by day.

On the next page is a brief log of the trip, followed by additional pages with some highlight photos. You can [click here](#) to see even more photos.



Date	Notes
5/29 Sun	Before the trip started, I took a walk to the Rock Island Lighthouse which is situated at the end of a long breakwater made of flat rock that protects the harbor. We boarded Rocinante late in the afternoon and then anchored out on the south side of Rockland Harbor. We adjusted the rigging tuning some since the mast had just been put on the prior week and this was the first time the boat was taken out this season. Ben showed us around the boat and explained more about our roles. We discussed some options for where we could go based on the weather.
5/30 Mon	We had a beautiful weather with sunny skies and good wind. We sailed northeast. We got to sail up close by the Mary Day, which is one of the many historic schooners in this area before anchoring in Northwest Harbor on Deer Isle.
5/31 Tue	The day started cloudy, rainy and barely any wind. However, the sky continued to clear, the wind continued to build, and by the end of the day it was clear and windy. Sailed northwest around Little Deer Isle and then southeast through Eggemoggin Reach, then east through Casco Passage, then hooked north around Black Island to anchor between Black, Opechee and Sheep islands.
6/1 Wed	The day started with clear skies and barely any wind. As the day went on, the wind built and clouds started to come in from a front. We sailed southeast around Great Duck Island then NNW between Mount Desert and Cranberry Islands all the way up north to the end of Somes Sound by Bar Island, then back south to anchor in Valley Cove near the mouth of Somes Sound. Somes Sound was beautiful but it the highly variable winds funneled through the fjord made for a challenging sail. Valley Cove provided the backdrop of cliffs that formed protection for our anchorage.
6/2 Thu & 6/3 Fri	First we sailed south just a bit to Southwest Harbor and docked to walk around the town where we got some ice cream and lobster roles. Then departed in the afternoon for our overnight passage. As we exited Southwest Harbor, we sailed by Hinkley Boat Yard where they make Hinkley and Morris sailboats. There are some beautiful boats moored there. We continued east and then south around Sutton, Little Cranberry and Baker islands then continued south about 15 miles past Mount Desert Light (to get out to an area mostly free of lobster pots before dark). We split into watches for the overnight passage. On the first watch, there was cruise ship that crossed our path so that was a good chance to use AIS and Radar to help with planning. Winds gradually decreased until a bit after midnight, when they started to build again. For awhile we had clear skies and a beautiful view of the starts but visibility decreased early in the morning to the point where there was so much fog that you could barely see past the bow. In the middle of the night we started heading back northwest towards Rockland, keeping Vinalhaven Island to our north. The winds lightened and we had to motor for a bit but then we turned off the motor and put up the spinnaker for the final stretch. Right after we docked back in Rockland it started raining, but we were grateful that it held off for the overnight passage. After checking into the hotel and getting cleaned up, those of us that were still in town went out for dinner to celebrate the great trip!































TIME	POSITION	C/S	W/W/C	R/R/O	VOLTS	BC	NAME	NOTES
18:00	43° 53' 40" N 68° 07' 57" W	200°/4.5	70°/10.0	1023	12.9	✓	AN	Empty Pro Tank. 12:40 Short out fuel.
19:00	43° 49' 6" N 68° 07' 9" W	200°/4.0	70°/10.0	1023	12.9	✓	AN	SIGNIFICANT CURRENT DRIFT NE
20:03	43° 45' 8" N 68° 08' 0" W	205°/4.3	SAKE	1024	12.9	✓	AN	TAKEN TO PORT
20:55	43° 46' 16" N 68° 13' 6" W	200°/3	50°/11.2	1024	12.89	✓	PJP	Ship spotted off starboard 4 NM
21:17	43° 48' 5" N 68° 15' 8" W	310°/2.5	40°/11.1	1023	12.83	✓	PJP	Not desert light seen off starboard beam. PS is in wind. Ship paused
23:15	43° 50' 20" N 68° 19' 50" W	205°/4.0	60°/11.9	1023	12.73	✓	SLS	WAKE FROM 500M, LOW DRUG GLOW FELLED IN
00:34	43° 50' 12" N 68° 23' 00" W	330°/4.0	60°/11.1	1028	12.75	✓	SH	
00:52	43° 52' 5" N 68° 22' 7" W	330°/4.3	61°/11.1	1022	12.7	✓	SLS	INCREASING WATERS, DARKER NOTED IN THE DISTANCE
01:49	43° 51' 00" N 68° 31' 40" W							BAD lat rounding
03:15	43° 54' 15" N 68° 37' 1" W	235°	51°/10.3	1025	12.5	✓	AN	DEPART FOR, REPTED MAIN, TAKEN TO STARBOARD
04:00	43° 51' 15" N 68° 39' 4" W	245°	51°/10.3	1025	12.5	✓	AN	Fog clearing, short reef, tacked
05:00	43° 44' 4" N 68° 41' 7" W	240°/3	51°/10.3	1021.5	12.63	✓	PJP	Fog clearing, slow progress
05:15		240					PJP	running engine, altered course to 240
06:02	43° 52' 00" N 68° 46' 00" W	330°/2	31°/11.1	1020	14.20	✓	SLS	"The toggle is the worst part" - Car 2. Well
07:04	43° 57' 45" N 68° 51' 31" W	0°	01°/11.1	1022	14.31	✓	SLS	running engine
07:50	43° 57' 45" N 68° 51' 31" W	330°						
08:05	44° 01' 32" N 68° 55' 32" W	200°						



MAY HAVE  
BEEN WIND  
SHIFT TO 200

## Overnight debrief:

Fog + Night. cruise ship optics; cruise ship avoidance. Not  
motoring @ Night, feeling it. Bioluminescence. Winch override!  
cold!