

Sailing in Maine – Spring 2022

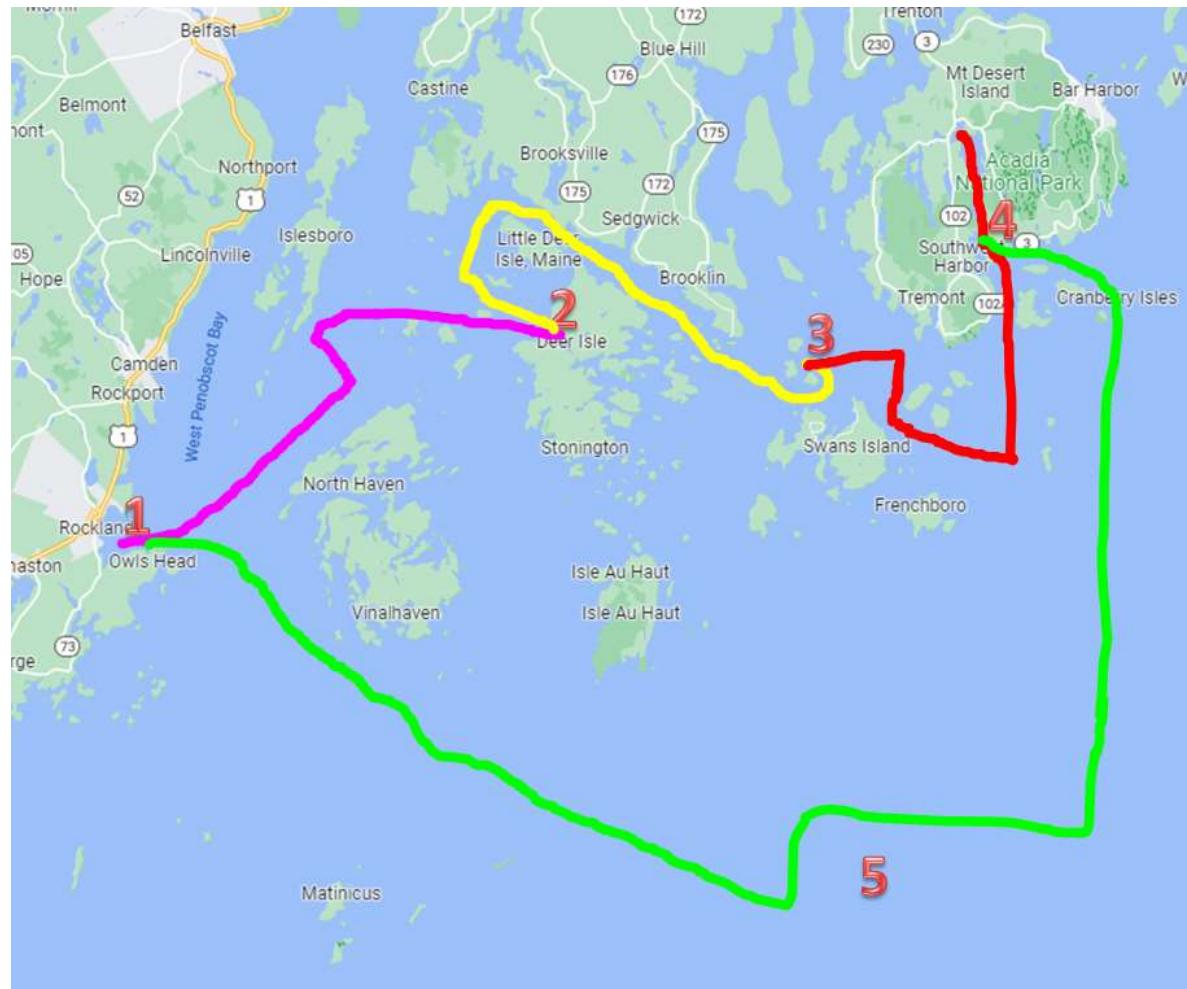
More trips are documented at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yf9rpXCMjBzrMnfyBDakTzFkOfKu5sjW/view?usp=sharing>

This was a coastal sailing trip out of Rockland, Maine by Morse Alpha Expeditions (morsealpha.com) 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.

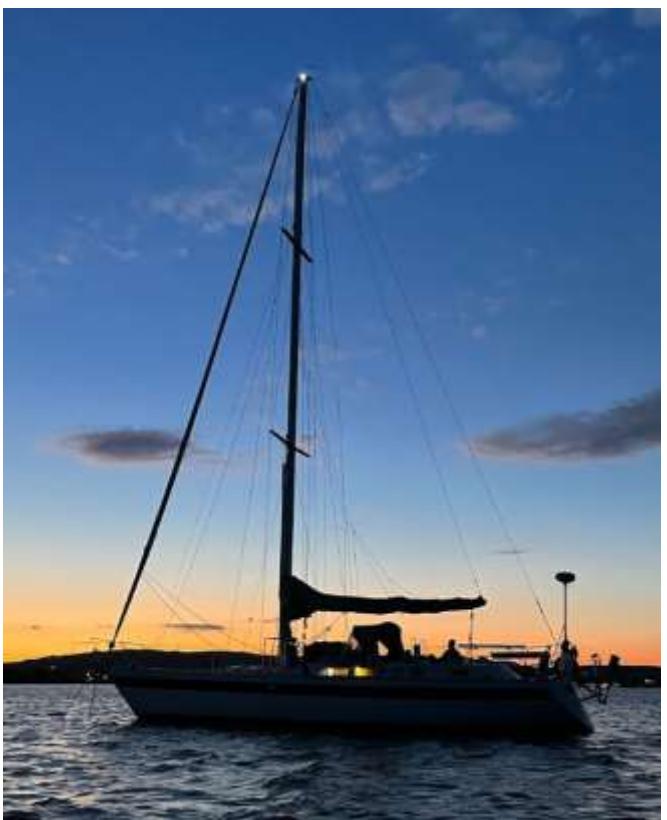
On the right you can see a rough path of our travels, starting and returning to Rockland. The different nights aboard are numbered and the color of the path changes by day.

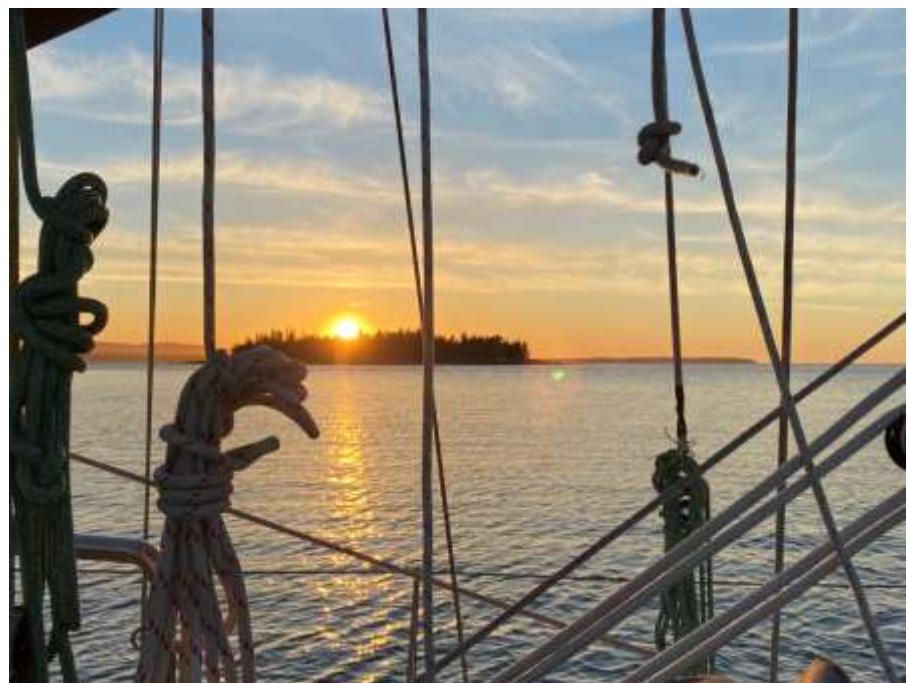
On the next page is a brief log of the trip, followed by additional pages with some highlight photos. You can [click here](#) to see even more photos.



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 rolls. 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 stars 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!





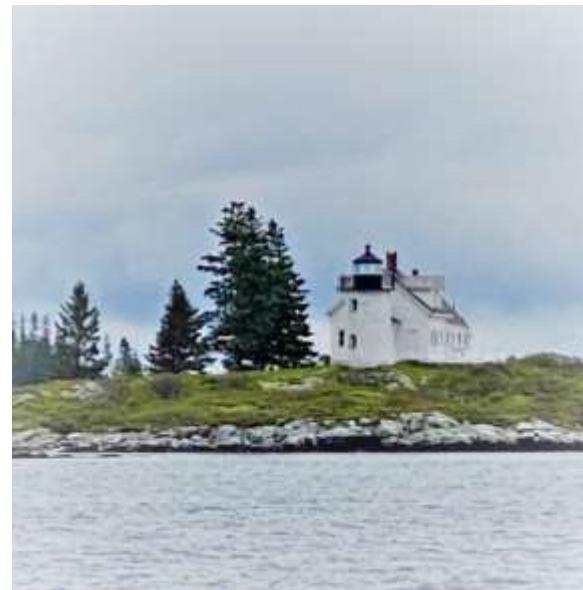


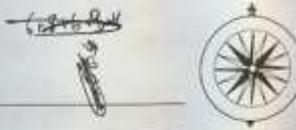










MAY 30 2022 -  Rockland

STEVE HSU
 Aaron Wolfe
 Jesse Shumaker
 Ben Wallace
 Karen Wallace
 Peter Perreault
 Ben Cary - MASTER
 * TUNE RIG + ENGINE CHECK *
 10:30 AM - START ENGINE 439.8 HRS
 10:40 AM - UNDERWAY 11:00 - Set Mainail ENGINE OFF - 440.5 HRS
 OUT OF Rockland to 075 Set JIB 11:40 AM
 0745 - 3 - SAY HI TO MANY DAY BEAUTIFUL WEATHER
 Ocean 100 - Northwest Harbor - ANCHOR AT 16°
 Dropped SAIL AT 16°. 1.3 HOURS ENGINE USE
 Harbor is EMPTY. Engine Hours 441.1 33 MILES TOTAL
 HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY - Great Weather. Rainbow. Scuba - low lights. - Poor Sleep by
 NOT SAILING ENROUTE

The Ship's Log*

MAY 31, 2022
 SAME CREW
 09:00 LEFT NORTHWEST HARBOR - ~~NOSE~~ - ~~PEACEFUL~~ ~~WINDY~~ ~~WINDY~~
 ENGINES DRIVING 441.0 HRS - LIGHT BREEZE
 09:15 WIND 10 KTS
 09:27 - ~~NOSE~~ - LIGHT WIND + BREEZE, THE ISLAND
 10:45 Engine Driven 441.4 HRS
 10:55 ENGINE OFF WIND FILLED IN FROM NW, SAILING TO EGGEMOGGIN
 HARBOR
 11:20 Engine on
 11:36 OFF 441.7
 * NOT MUCH WIND
 AT HARBOR
 SIGHTS
 2.5 NM
 0.3 NM GRAND
 HIGHLIGHTS - WILDERLY VARIED WIND + WEATHER & ISLANDS + POSSIBLY
 GOING UP THE MAST, NOVEMBER (LAST) PASSAGE FROM WINDWARD
 TO THE
 * SWITCHED WATER TANKS (STANDBY TO FREE) - JOURNAL (CIG - DECEASE)

JUNE 1, 2022
 SAME CREW
 FRIENDS BREWERS (LOVED BY ALL)
 10:10 ENGINE ON 441.5
 10:15 Another anchor, up
 10:31 Engine off, sails hoisted
 12:27 Just west of PCR (prop covered Rock) = Green Island ^{SW of} Black Island
 winds filled in SW by 10-15 kts. (not ocean Breeze)
 * HIGHLIGHTS
 17:45 ENGINE STARTED
 18:10 ANCHORED ANCHORING ENGINE OFF 441.25
 18:30 ANCHORED IN VALLEY COVE, NORTH OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR AT MOUNT DESERT ISLAND
 OF 2021 BOAT SHOW

June 2 2022 (Monday)
 07:00 Dictionay, N - 10 AM 10kts
 09:45 Park Stationed side
 10:00 Diesel off
 SW Harbor lunch (in car)
 Pick up Bob
 12:30 Dropped SW Harbor, with 500 10:45 - DESTINATION BARRING
 13:00 1200ft in man
 13:45 Wind to 240° AHEAD BARRING BAY II
 14:05 Shake Roof, 1/2 way to Mt Desert Rock
 15:00 Pass Mt. Desert Rock. Lots of seals

TIME	POSITION	C/S	W/W/C	BARO	VOLTS	BC	NAME	NOTES
18:00	43° 53' 94.68075N 145° 20' 12.00E	1023	12.9	✓	AN	Emptied Port Tank. 12:40 shark out from		
19:00	43° 49' 6.68779N 145° 40' 11.353E	1023	12.97	✓	AN	Significant current drift NE. - MAY HAVE BEEN SHOT TO 200M		
20:03	43° 45' 8.65080N 145° 43' 5.942E	1024	12.97	✓	AN	headed to Port		
20:55	43° 48.16 68.17.6 300°/3 145° 43' 5.942E	1024	12.84	✓	PSP	Ship spotted off starboard 4 NM		
21:17	43° 48.5 68.158° 310°/25 145° 42' 1.17	1023	12.83	✓	PSP	Not descent light seen off starboard beam, 15 s interval. Ship passed		
23:15	43° 50.20' 68.050N 145° 40' 10.0E	1023	12.73	✓	SUS	WELL FROM START, UNKNOWN GEAR FOLLED IN		
00:04	43° 50.12' 68.050N 145° 39.00E	1023	12.75	✓	SH			
00:22	43° 52.5.1' 68.02276N 145° 38.43.6 14/20.1022	12.7	✓	SUS	INCREASING 1022, GOOD MOTOR IN THE DISTANCE			
01:49	43° 51.04' 68.031.4E N 145° 38.31.4E W	→ BAD 1st reading						
02:15	43° 51' 68.37' 235°	1023	12.65	✓	AN	DEPOT FOR REEFED MAIN, TACKLED TO STARBOARD		
04:00	43° 51.15' 68.39.4' 245°	1023	12.5	✓	AN	Fog lifting, shot reef, ticked		
05:00	43° 49.4 68.41.7 240°/3	1023	12.63	✓	PSP	fog clearing, slow progress		
05:15	340				PSP	running engine, altered course to 240		
06:02	43° 52' 68.46' 330°/23 1/1000	1022	14.20	✓	SUS	"The toggle is the worst part" - Correll		
07:04	43° 52.51.31' 0°/0/1/1000	1022	14.31	✓	SUS	running engine		
07:55	43° 52.51' 68.32.32' 330°							
08:05	43° 51.32' 68.32.32' 280°							

Overnight debrief:

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