

“...the secret is to really begin.”

DIY Sailboat Meetup 2012



schedule and information

diysailboatmeetup.blogspot.com

Ahoy!

Welcome to the DIY Sailboat Meet Up 2012! It's likely you traveled quite a way to get here and we appreciate every adventurous mile you trekked to find us. What you hold before you is a short guide to the meet up containing basic information that we thought would get you through the week. Being the whole point of this get together is for us to meet each other and see what we can do, participation is greatly encouraged. We're hoping that you all will come forward with events, workshops, discussions, or whatever you want to host as the week goes on. We left some spots open for such things near the end, but feel free to add your own as you see fit (please try not to conflict in space and time with another event and get an OK from the location beforehand if it's a business). That being said, the organizers of this get together worked very hard and will continue our efforts throughout the meet up. Any assistance you can offer them such as time, running errands, relaying messages, and even fetching snacks is greatly appreciated. If you have energy to help, just ask what you can do. It's always needed and appreciated.

When You Get Here

The Introduction will be at the bleacher park listed on the map. We'll have schedules for you there with locations for the events and much more info about the meet up. There are many hotels and hostels here such as Backpackers, Brunos, Mar Marine, and Xalahja that are offering us space for the conference so if you need a place to stay we encourage you towards them. If you get into town early, you can contact the crews of S/V Dorothy Ann or S/V Drummer if you need anything. We monitor vhf68 and are very busy, but available if needed.

Where to Stay/Where to Eat

Many of the venues hosting the meet up provide housing for less than 10 USD a night. We encourage you towards them but there are also many other hotels and hostels in the area. The venues almost all serve food as well and your patronage is appreciated. There are also many local restaurants, street vendors, and markets where you'll find delicious food for well under US prices (I implore you to try pupusas and choco bananas, frequently).

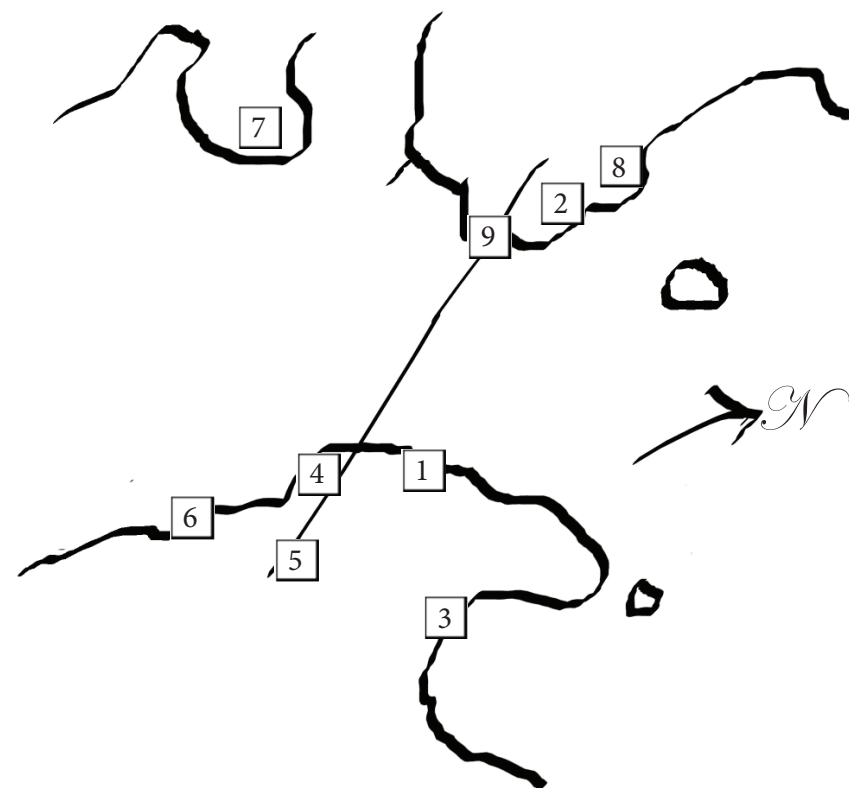
Things to Do

You're in Guatemala! Nearby there are many locations you might find interesting such as the nearby fort Castillo de San Felipe. Finca El Paraiso contains beautiful hot-spring fed waterfalls with caves underneath nearby. Some of the resorts offer nature hikes and the river is amazing any way you travel down it. All these and much more are within a day trip, and even more lies beyond (such as Lake Atitlan, undisputed as "the most beautiful lake in the world" by Wikipedia). Many of the language schools in Guatemala offer extensive information on their websites. Bigger cities are a bus ride away and buses go to Guatemala City all throughout the day. If you're lucky or charming you might even be able to find a day sail or position on a boat.

Etiquette

Welcome to the wonderful world of cruising. It's a different world with its own set of norms, customs, and values. Many cruisers have been saving up their whole lives looking forward to getting a boat and sailing down to Caribbean destinations like the one we're in now. That being said, you're entering a community a lot of us boat-owners are a part of. Here are a couple of things we ask of you so we can keep our relationships with the town and cruisers cordial and intact:

- ★ Always get permission from the captain before stepping aboard another vessel. It's normal to knock or yell for someone's attention while alongside (as if hanging out on their porch) and chat there. On yachts it's customary to ask if you should remove your shoes as well.
- ★ Be mindful of your time on the VHF. Channel 68 is the in-harbor hailing channel, and should only be used to get a hold of another vessel or person in the harbor. Once you establish contact, switch to another channel such as 72 to talk. Channel 16 is for hailing and distress only, worldwide. Basic radio etiquette for hailing is repeating the name of the person/vessel you're hailing thrice followed by your name/vessel. Example:
DA: "Drummer, Drummer, Drummer, Dorothy Ann"
Dr: "Dorothy Ann Drummer, switch to 72."
DA: "Drummer Dorothy Ann, 72."
- ★ Ask before borrowing a dinghy. While it's tempting to use one of the many ones sitting on the dock "just for a minute," it's bad form and people generally aren't too happy about it when they find out.
- ★ All the locations aside from the parks are businesses graciously lending us their spaces for the time of the meet up. They are all open businesses and should be treated as such; for instance they unfortunately don't appreciate bringing in outside food or large groups hanging out without purchasing anything. That being said there is **no requirement** to purchase anything during the time of the events, it's just appreciated.
- ★ At night if you're traveling in a dinghy please carry a light. There is a lot of high-speed motor traffic all night long in the harbor and collisions do happen. If the light you have isn't a 360degree light it's common to circle it around overhead so everyone can see.



/1 Backpackers /2 Brunos /3 Mar Marine /4 South Park /5 Bleacher Park /6 Tienda Reed /7 Isla Xalaja /8 Sundog /9 North Park

Locations

Backpacker's Hotel – Backpacker's is a bar/restaurant/hotel that has been supportive of the meet up from the beginning. As we anticipate many people staying here, we will have an information board and sign-up sheets for different events posted at this location. All income that Backpacker's takes goes to Casa Guatemala, an orphanage slightly up the river.

Bruno's – Located just east of the north side of the bridge, Bruno's is a bar/restaurant/hotel as is common to the area. They offer a free dinghy dock which is an amazingly valuable resource.

Mar Marine – Another bar/restaurant/hotel that offers an air-conditioned room for us to meet in. They are also hosting our movie night.

Mar Marine Park – In Mar Marine they have a small park containing a boat out of water.

South Park – The park south of the bridge immediately west. There are several covered structures and a small dock along with lots of open space.

Bleacher Park – Under the south side of the bridge there's a park with bleachers, used for games and the like. This is where we'll be meeting initially.

Tienda Reed – A little west of the south park, a hardware store with a dock and the best selection in town. Also called "Cheeky's."

Isla Xalaja – Accessible only by boat, this small, interesting, and comfortable hotel/bar/restaurant has a launch available to offer transport upon request.

Sundog – A bar/restaurant offering, for lack of a better term, hippy food (veggie burgers, smoothies, etc).

North Park – The park under the north side of the bridge, characterized by a statue of a man hugging a fish.

Castillo San Felipe – On the 2nd to last day we'll take a family vacation to Castillo San Felipe, 4km down the river. There is a park surrounding the fort with tables, fields, BBQ pits, and a beach. There is an admission fee to the park, we encourage haggling.

★ Day 5

It is the day of rest after all. Casa Guatemala, the local orphanage, is asking for help fixing bikes on this day. If interested contact S/V Drummer before attending. It would also be a good day for a trip to the waterfalls...

★ Day 6

Crew Dynamics- Oddly enough, it can be hard for 4 people to get along in pitching and rolling 29 foot space for months on end. This will be a group discussion of things that have gone wrong and right with having people aboard.

Fishing- Often times, it's the freshest food you'll have underway. We'll discuss common methods underway such as trolling, cast netting, and spear fishing.

Emergency Drills- Aboard S/V Drummer you'll learn how to do things right when things go wrong.

Navigation - The age old art of guessing where you might be, maybe. We'll talk about reading charts, dead reckoning, triangulation, and basic celestial navigation.

Sail Trim Day Sail - There's no better feeling than a sailing craft trimmed to perfection making headway. In this activity, you'll learn exactly how to do that.

No Gods No Captains - So many of us are drawn to the seas by promises of freedom, or at least escape from our oppressions. This will be a presentation and discussion of what anarchist practice could look like aboard, and what potential there is for creating anarchy on the high seas.

Canning and Lactofermentation - A hands-on workshop around food preservation.

Diesel Engines- A basic run through of how diesel engines work and how to maintain them.

Movie Night - It'll be hard to choose with so many good options, but we'll sit back and enjoy some of the fantastic cinema relating to the seas.

★ Day 7

Dinghy Regatta - We'll be having races all day of different sorts testing your small boat handling skills that you've recently acquired. It'll be a lighthearted competition; after all it's not a race we just want to see who gets there first.

Open Spots - This is where all you creative and skilled people offer up activities and workshops of all sorts to share with us and your fellow attendees.

Awards and Formal - Naturally you'll be handsomely rewarded for your valiant efforts throughout the day. Henceforth, the night will be filled with a fanciful celebration of victory. Break out your finest.

★ Day 8

Debrief - Here we can air our dirty laundry and examine what went wrong and what went right. We all have a lot to learn from each other and from analyzing how this went for us.

What's Next - A presentation of ongoing projects and projects we hope come to fruition along with a healthy daydreaming discussion of what we'd like to see next for us. The future is unwritten, after all.

Sunset Cruise - There's a reason tourists line up every night and pay for them, they're pretty nice.

Dance Party - What better way to wrap things up than to heat things up.

Donations

We're making every effort to minimize the cost of this meet up, but there are unavoidable expenses. Some of these include making these copies and workshop materials (paper, pens, markers, cans, propane). That being said if you are in a position where you can help donate to levy the costs away from the organizers solely, it's greatly appreciated. To emphasize, this meet up is **free of charge**; donations are appreciated but not required. There is a donate button for Pay-Pal donations on the website (diysailboatmeetup.blogspot.com) or you can just give your donation directly to the organizers in person. If we are able to cover our costs extra funds will go to Casa Guatemala, the local orphanage.

Contact

If you need information or help about anything, feel free to contact the organizers. We're very busy with the meet up but will make efforts to field your questions and meet your needs. In the mornings you can ask questions on our 8am net on vhf72, and you can try to hail S/V Drummer or S/V Dorothy Ann on vhf68 throughout the day (we will be monitoring it sporadically), though we are very busy and should not be expected to be available. You can send us an email for non-pressing questions (there's a chance we won't get to the internet until after the meet up is over) at diysailboatmeetup@gmail.com.

Keep in touch!
<http://diysailboatmeetup.blogspot.com>
<http://groups.google.com/group/diysailboatmeetup>

Event Descriptions

All events will be announced on the tht Net in the mornings. There will be sign-up sheets for events with limited space posted on the days prior to the events themselves. That being said, please be considerate and only attend similar events once so others can attend if things are getting full. Locations of the sign-up sheets will be announced on the Net.

Ongoing:

The Net- Every morning at 0800 on VHF 72 we'll be having our Net. During this time there will be descriptions of the day's activities, any changes in schedule or locations, updates about the meet up, and any other announcements. All boats and hostels/hotels have radios to listen to the Net on.

Yoga- On the last three days we'll have yoga in the park between 0830 and 1000.

Day Sail- Craft willing, we'll have time for people to get on boats during the whole conference.

SBH/Small Boat Handling- Throughout the meet up we'll have one-on-one training with small boats. Here you'll learn the basics of rowing, sailing a small boat, and operating an outboard motor.

★ Day 1

Introduction- Welcome to the DIY sailboat meet up! We'll give you an intro to the beautiful Rio Dulce, along with going over the setup of the events and format of the summit. We'll also hopefully answer a lot of your questions at this time.

Scavenger Hunt/Boat Olympics- This fun team activity will get you oriented with the town along with getting to know other attendees of the meet up. The specifics of the Boat Olympics will remain a mystery until the conference, be prepared for anything.

Awards and Social- You deserve to be ceremoniously awarded for your hard work of course, then offered a chance to relax and socialize with your new peers and colleagues.

★ Day 2

Fleet Sail- All boats willing will load up with passengers and set sail! Here you'll get your hands on some lines and time on the water. We'll have two sets of these so hopefully you'll be able to get on several different boats, being all that are attending are quite different.

Debrief and Storytelling- We can talk about how the day went for everyone and share the knowledge we gained with each other. Afterwards we'll spin yarns about the sea and our travels.

★ Day 3

Weather Prediction and Forecasting- The meteorologists have had a stranglehold on incorrect weather prediction for far too long.

After this workshop you'll hopefully have that ability as well along with a basic understanding of how weather works.

Destinations- Many of us get on boats because of the enchanting places you can go. Here we'll share resources and information on some of them, talk about traveling on a boat, and field your questions.

Fiberglass Repair- A hands on demonstration on how to do basic fiberglass repair, conducted on a sailing dinghy.

Knots 101- Knots are the sailor's best friend, they say. We'll teach you a few.

Boat Ownership- A panel discussion about different people's experiences owning different boats. You'll get an idea of what it's actually like taking the plunge and becoming a boat owner.

Crew Finder- We know a lot of you are looking to get onto boats at or after the meet up, here's where we'll try to help you out.

Guest Speaker- Story telling from a world voyager.

Outboard Engines- Tiny simple machines that are notoriously temperamental. We'll try to unlock some of their mysteries.

★ Day 4

Women on Boats- A facilitated discussion around women's experiences aboard boats and in the boatyard.

Intro to Spanish- Exactly as the title says, we'll try to introduce you to the language you'll be surrounded by for the summit.

Knots 201- Beyond the bowline, there's much to be done with rope. We'll delve into more complicated rope work and perhaps even marlinspike seamanship.

Traditional Rigging- Aboard S/V Drummer you'll learn about traditional rigging that was in use before the advent of winches and the like.

Anchoring Techniques- A lot of cruising is the art of keeping your boat from moving. We'll go aboard S/V Dorothy Ann and examine different techniques used to keep your vessel put through gales and calms.

Sail Theory 101- If the time aboard is learning how a sailing vessel moves, this is the why. You'll gain an understanding of how sailing craft make headway and how to best work with the elements around you to get where you want to go.

No Engine No Problem- Tactics under sail. People have been sailing for centuries before the motor was introduced, yet craft without motors are deemed "unseaworthy" or "disabled." Here we'll learn some ways to get your vessel around without the iron wind.

Communications - We'll touch on SSB, VHF, and other forms of communication commonly used on ships at sea.

Cabaret/Open Mic- Bring your best performances because you're the entertainment tonight!

	22/2/12	23/2/12	24/2/12	25/2/12	
0900		Fleet Sail#			
0930					
1000			Day Sail#	Weather Prediction & Forecast-Ing BP	Fiberglass Repair# SBH# SP
1030					SBH# SP
1100	Introduction				TBA MMP
1130					Knots 101 MMP
1200	Bleacher Park	Br	SP	Lunch	
1230					
1300	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
1330					
1400	Scavenger Hunt	Fleet Sail#	Day Sail#	Boat Ownership	SBH# SP
1430					SBH# SP
1500	and Boat Olympics			Br	SP
1530				Crew Finder	SBH# SP
1600			SP	SD	
1630			Dinner		
1700	Bleacher Park	Br			
1730					
1800	Dinner	Dinner			
1830					
1900	Awards and Social	Debrief & Story-Telling BP	Guest Speaker	Outboard Engines NP	
1930			Trivia!	X	
2000+	BP				

	26/2/12	27/2/12	28/2/12	29/2/12	
0900	Mid Conference Intermission		Day Sail#	Yoga 0830-1000	
0930				Dinghy Regatta	
1000		Crew Dynamics	Fishing	Open Spots	Debriefing
1030					
1100					
1130		BP	SP		SP
1200		Lunch			Lunch
1230					
1300		Emergency Drills#	Navigation		What's Next
1330					
1400					
1430					
1500					
1530		Drummer	SP		Br
1600		Canning and Lactofermentation	No Gods No Captains		Sunset Cruise#
1630					
1700					
1730		NP	Br		Br
1800		Dinner and Movie Night			Dinner
1830					
1900					
1930					
2000+		MM			Dance Party X