



*Photo Contest Winner*

**Karina McQueen & Gary Peacock**

*This photo was taken in February 2020, just before the pandemic made cruising more difficult for everyone! Sea Rover II can be seen rafted to friends in the glacial waters of beautiful Seno Pia, located in Tierra del Fuego, Chile at the very bottom of the world. Position 54.794°S 69.609°W.*

# Currents

December 2022

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## 10 More Things Learned While Sailing To Mexico

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/10-more-things-learned-while-sailing-to-mexico/>



One of the great things about sailing is that the learning never stops. Even at home in familiar waters, we'd learn new things every year. Now that we're voyaging, the lessons are coming much faster. Here are a few more tips to add to what we wrote previously for *Currents*:

1. **You won't be lonely unless you want to be.** Join the relevant Facebook groups – Southbound PNW Cruisers has been the best for us – and engage in the conversations. Fly your [BCA](#) burgee. Say hi, offer compliments and be helpful on the dock. We've spent almost every night in the last five months hanging out with other cruisers, and the effort has been minimal. The rewards have been huge. Monterey was special because we made fast friends with two locals on the dock. By the way, I'm an introvert.



There are many opportunities to connect with others.

2. **Many of the anchorages are marginal.** I was going to say “suck”, but I’m trying to stay positive. You will miss the 360 degree bombproof comfort of so many of B.C.’s anchorages; except for a few select towns with large breakwaters, that degree of comfort doesn’t exist south of Cape Flattery. We haven’t put out a stern anchor to keep the bow into the swell yet, but we’ve thought about it. We have talked to folks using flopper stoppers and are in the market. Try spending a night anchored off the beach at Shed 4 south of Brooks Peninsula to get a feel for the anchorages you’ll experience farther south. Either side of Savary Island would also serve in a pinch if Brooks is too far to go. Be sure to tie the boom down before you go to bed so that it can’t move. It’s easier than doing it in the middle of the night!
3. **Lose any national pride jingoism that you might have** – it will make you happier. I’ve cruised B.C. for years, and a day of listening to the VHF in B.C. waters will provide plenty of evidence that it exists in Canada. Every cruiser we’ve met so far is amazing.
4. **Learn as much as you can about the weather**, and then try not to stress about it. There is good information available without being a meteorologist. The [NOAA forecasts](#) have been the best, with [Windy](#) coming in number 2. The GRIBs from the [Predictwind Offshore app](#) have 100km resolution. They are very coarse and don’t do a great job close to the shore, usually indicating less wind close along the coast than farther out. This is sometimes true.
5. **Make sure your sails are up to the task.** A new main and foresail are good investments, as is a third reef point if you already have a newer main. We’ve used our third reef twice since we left in May. Make sure you have a way to set a smaller foresail(s) without pulling down your roller furling genny. We have a removable solent stay and hank on blade and storm jibs. We haven’t used either sail but are glad to have the system if and when we need it. Do all of this before leaving – you won’t save any money doing boat work in the USA.
6. **Learn to slow down.** This goes for day to day routine, and for the pace of your voyage in general. In port, our daily routine is to relax until lunch and then go ashore to explore or get a job done. This is a pretty slow pace that takes some getting used to, especially if you transition directly from working to cruising. Have some patience with yourself – most people get used to being less productive than they were in their previous life with practice. As for the pace of your travel, storms in B.C. and hurricane season will bookend your trip. If you’re heading to Mexico, that

means leaving home at the end of summer and arriving in northern Mexico at the beginning of November. The reality of the west coast is that there just aren't that many places to stop, so we stay in each place longer; three nights is now a quick stop. We spent three weeks San Francisco.



Learning to have a slower pace.

7. **Ask yacht clubs for privileges.** Some yacht clubs will extend hospitality to out of town visitors belonging to sailing clubs, even in the absence of reciprocal privileges. Sailors like stories, and most never leave their home waters. Just making it to a port on the California coast is a story that yacht clubs on the coast want to celebrate by inviting you into their facilities. But...you have to ask. The worst that can happen is you'll get a no. You might end up with a night or two of free moorage.
8. **Get wheels for your dinghy** that will allow you to land the dinghy without lifting the motor. Not having to worry about the motor when making a surf landing takes the stress out of a stressful situation. It makes launching a little easier too.
9. **Expect to be disappointed with cell service on the American coast.** It might be hard to believe, but we're spoiled by the quality of service on the B.C. coast, particularly in Georgia Strait. I've had better service in Johnstone Strait than in some of the urban harbours we've stayed in. To add insult(s) to injury, some American plans do not include hotspotting, paying your bill online might require a zip code, and, after factoring in the exchange rate, there are no deals. Port Angeles is a tough place to get a SIM card; it might be worth driving down to Bellingham and doing some plan shopping before setting sail.
10. **Don't expect everyday to be fun.** You aren't on a vacation and you can't be in tourist mode forever. I'm not completely sure how to articulate this point, but it's important. It's more fundamental than the clichés we've all heard: "the cruising life isn't all margaritas and beaches" or "cruising is fixing your boat in exotic locations". These truisms don't really get to the essence of this lifestyle. Cruising is living. You just happen to be on a boat – which breaks – and there are beaches, some of which have margaritas, but it is still living with all the usual stuff that life entails. In fact, the day to day stuff – laundry, grocery shopping, paying the bills – is part of what makes this an adventure because all of it is harder than it was at home.
11. **Bonus point.** Some days will be amazing. Like, really amazing! Try to recognize them for what

they are and enjoy them.

## **About The Author**

### **Greg and Lori Bernard**

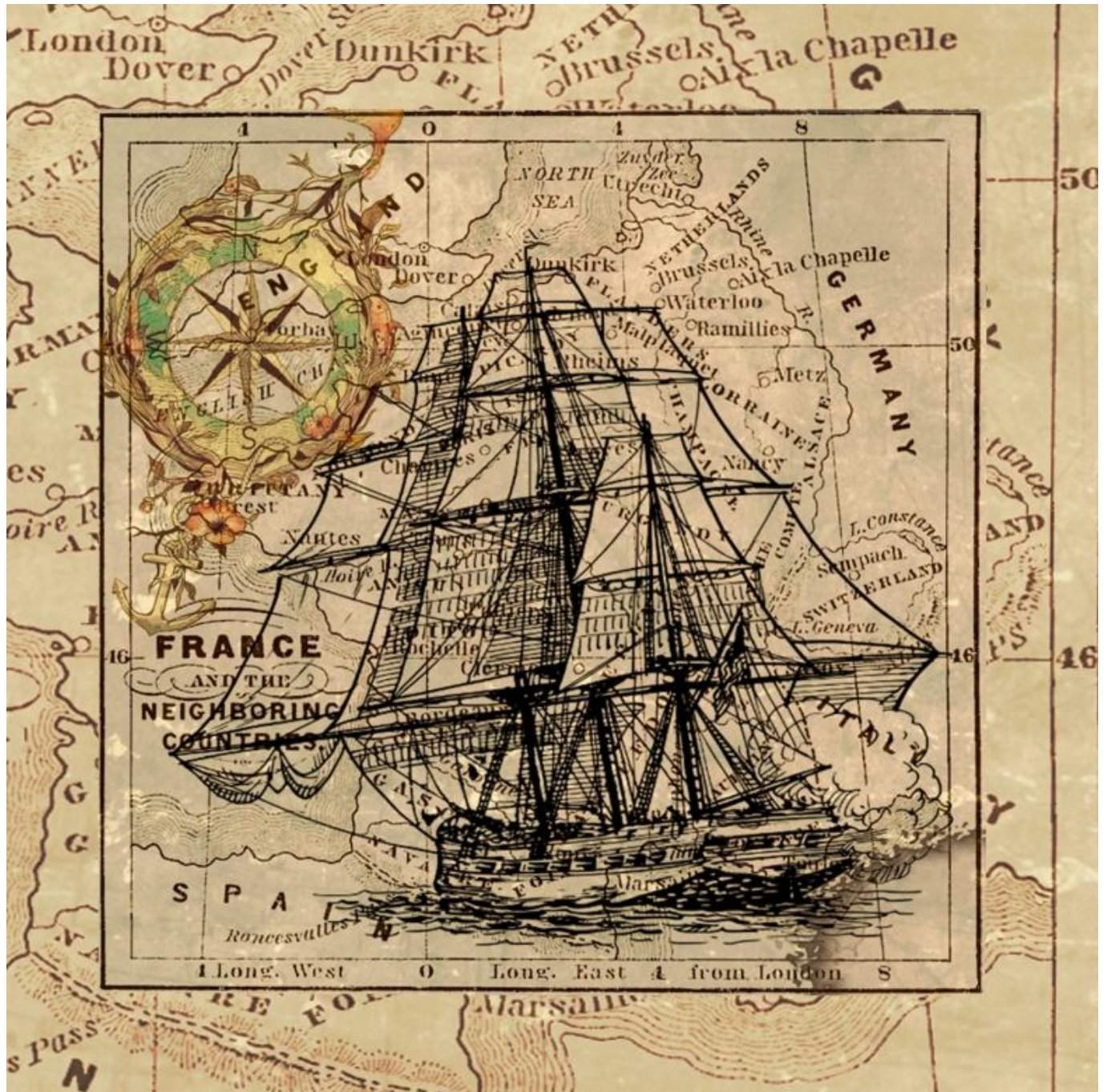
#### **Palomita - Sabre 42CB (centerboard)**

Greg and Lori have been spending the summers aboard for the last 20 years, sailing between home in Port Moody and the Central Coast of B.C. They left this May for their offshore adventure, first sailing to Juneau, Alaska before heading south to the West Coast of Mexico. Their boat, Palomita, is a performance cruiser that draws 5' with the board up and sails to weather like she was on a string with the board down. You can follow their adventures on their YouTube channel, Sailing Palomita.

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## Revisiting MBTiles for OpenCPN

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/revisiting-mbtiles-for-opencpn/>



Back in January 2020, I wrote an article on [making MBTiles](#) for use in OpenCPN or other navigation programs. An [MBTiles file](#) is a tile-based geographic map; its format allows users to save detailed collections of geo-spatial information as a single map. MBTiles still seem to represent the best way to get satellite images into a GPS-aware chart program, and show any chart offset(s), additional features, and generally get more detail in poorly charted areas in the world. The advice here was written in October 2022, but of course the data sources may change at any time so your mileage may vary.

Since 2020, additional data sources have become available; OpenCPN has changed, and I have learned a bit more that cruisers may find helpful. Thus, I thought I would take a few minutes to share an update of what I've learned lately.

## **Data Sources: it's who you know (about)**

Back a few years, only Google and Bing offered accessible data to download to make MBTiles. Now there are a few more interesting new sources:

### **ArcGIS**

ArcGIS is a family of client, server and online geographic information system (GIS) software and associated data sources developed and maintained by Esri (Environmental Systems Research Institute). Esri is an international supplier of GIS software, web GIS and geo-database management applications and associated data. The image sets available through this data set are less 'massaged' than either Bing or Google, and that can be a very good thing.

Bing and Google massage their images to make them pretty and often clip a lot of the image out, replacing actual satellite images of the foreshore and ocean with ersatz ocean views, which contain no real data or value for the navigator. The Esri/ArcGIS images seem to be 'rawer' and sometimes that's a good thing.

### **Navionics and Navionics SonarChart™**

**Navionics** and **Navionics SonarChart™** charts are now available. Of course, you don't get the data (user notes, light characteristics, etc.) that a real subscription gives you, but you can see what are, in effect, raster versions of their vector charts. Details seem to cap out at around zoom level 16.

### **C-Map**

Various **C-Map** charts are available. As in Navionics above, it's just a raster version of a vector chart. Details seem to cap out at about zoom level 16. To gain access, you need to unzip the C-Map\_V2.zip file [found here](#) into the SASPlanet\Maps folder to add C-Map functionality.

## **Combining and Comparing Sources**

When using cartography based sources to make MBTiles, switch off the 'Layers-Google-Hybrid' for making the MBTiles so you don't get double labeling on geographic features like islands. While the labeling can be useful in satellite image MBTiles, it's just irritating in most cartography-derived images.

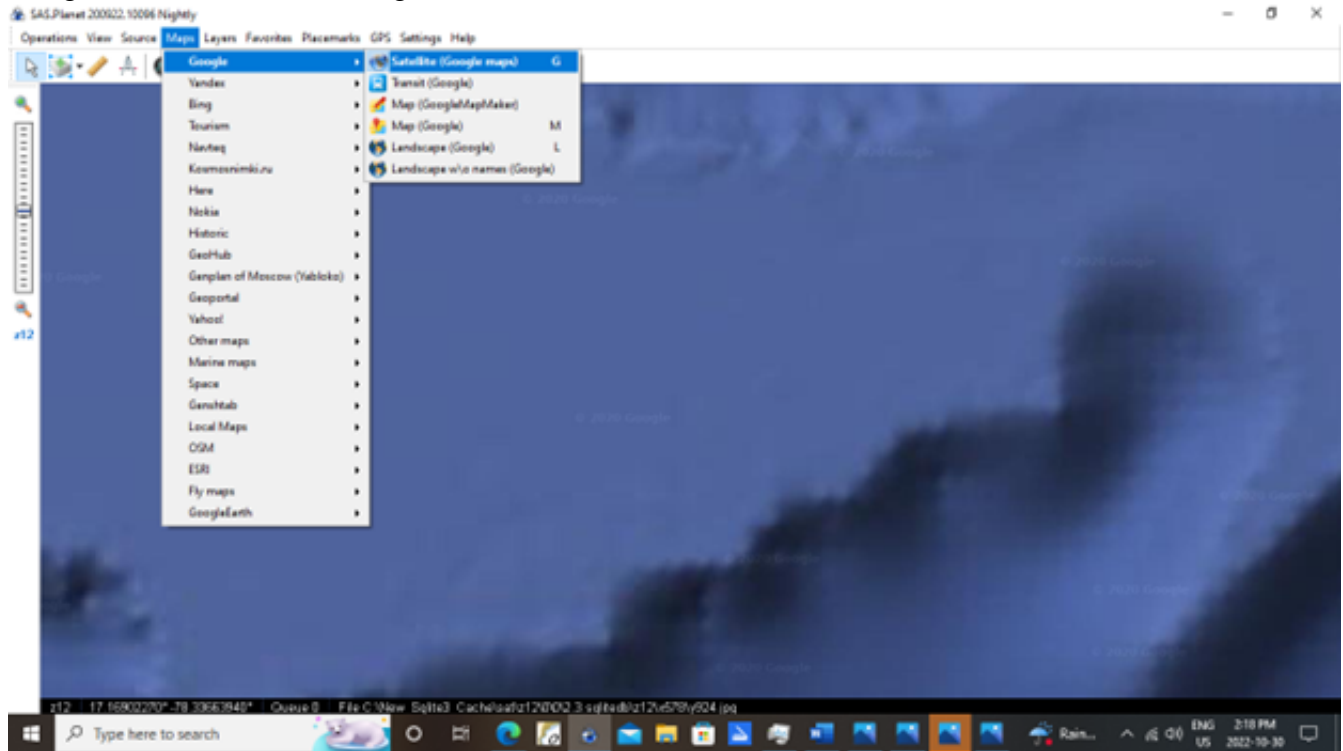
These sources may (probably will) change their access over time, so you may need to update SASPlanet to maintain access. The owners of the data may cut off access, or restrict your ability to download huge amounts of images (throttling) at any time as well.

To see what you might get from these sources, let's have a look at [Pedro Bank](#) (or Petro Bank) south of

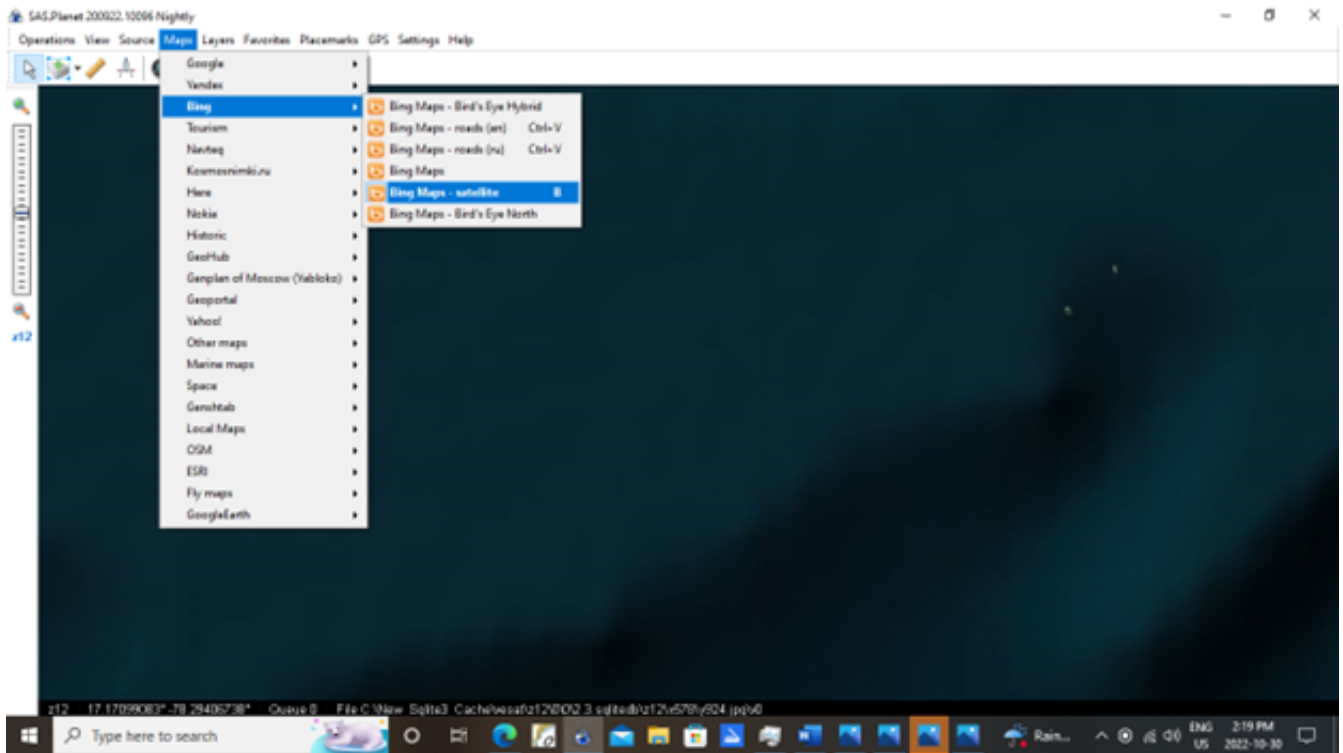
Jamaica at about 17°00N, 077°48W in the Caribbean. It has an area of a depth to 40 metres (130 feet) in a triangular shape, 70 kilometres (43 miles) long east-west, and 43 kilometres (27 miles) wide. Of that, 2,400 square kilometres (927 square miles) are less than 20 metres (66 feet) deep. It's pretty big and has four permanent islands and a few more rocks that break the surface. Cruisers want to avoid it, yet know where the edges are. Knowing where it's sand and where it's rock would be very useful.

Here's how a few of the data sources represent it.

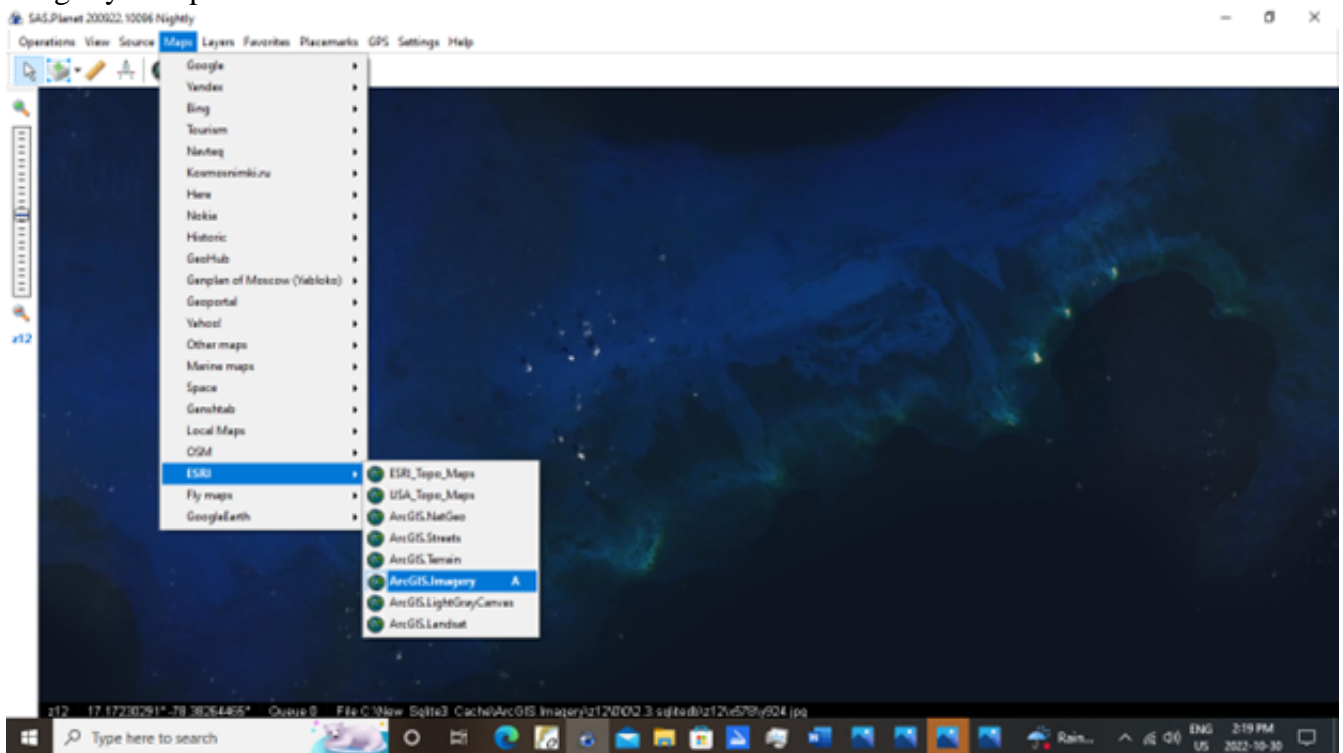
Google Satellite shows nothing:



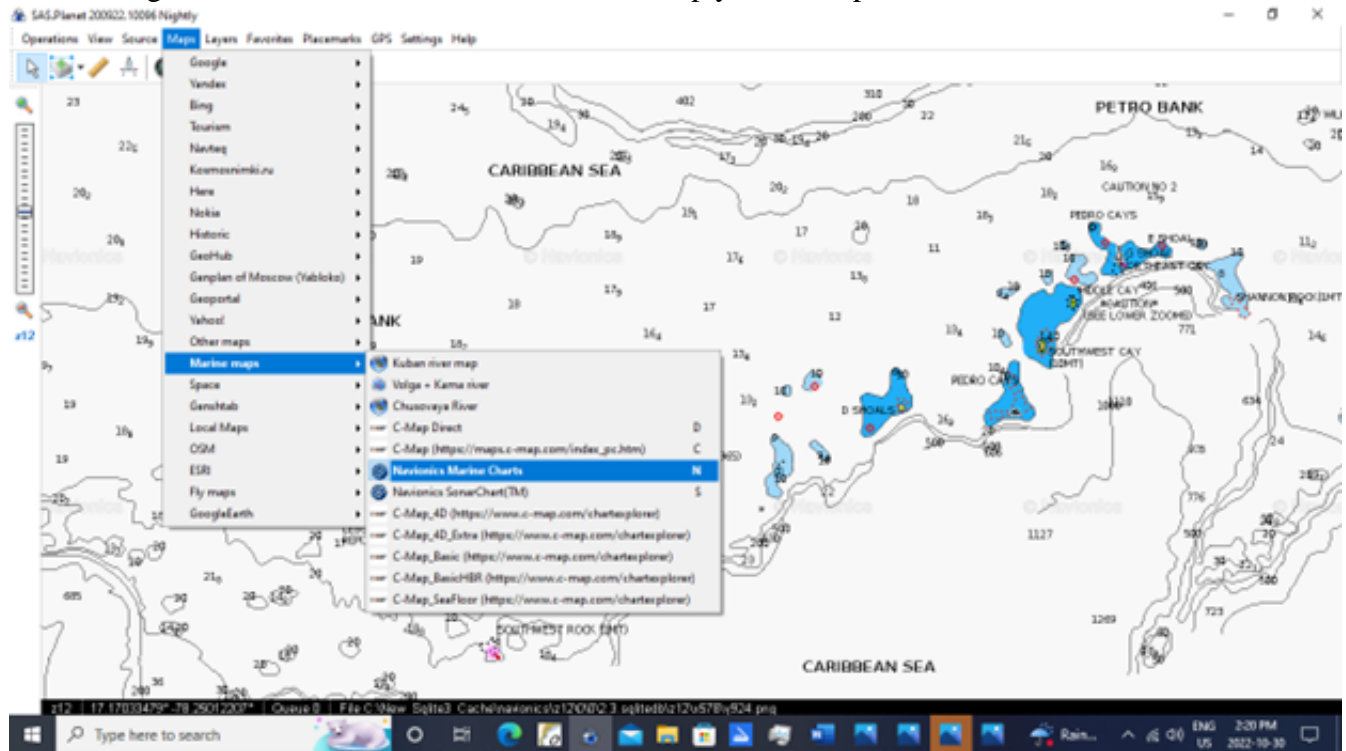
Bing satellite shows two of the four permanent islands (the little white dots on the right):



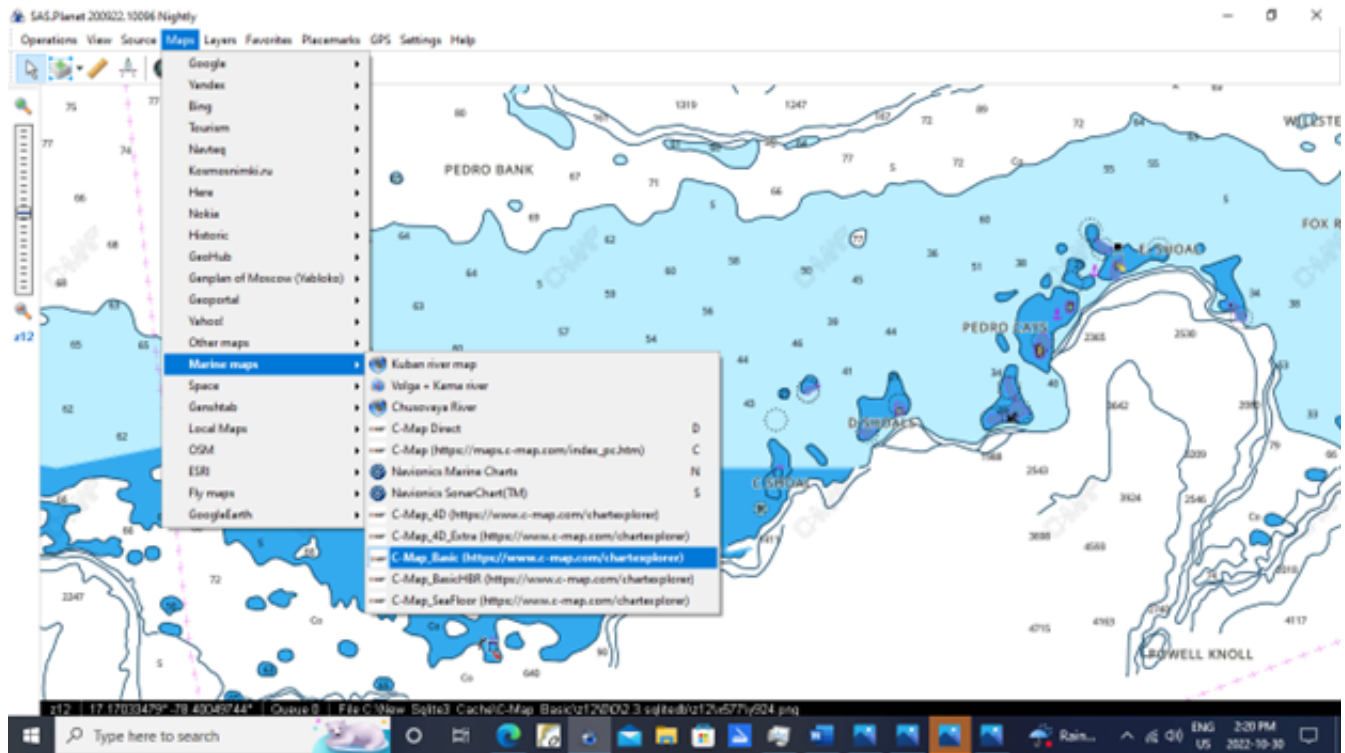
The ESRI ArcGIS imagery shows the bank, indicates depths visually, shows all islands and rocks, and is generally very useful. But these images are at zoom level 12, and disappear at higher zooms, so any images you captured for MBTiles would need to use these lower zoom levels:



Navionics gives a useful overview, but would not help you find a patch of sand to anchor in:



C-Map offers a similar view to Navionics (not surprising considering they would be based on the same cartography provider):

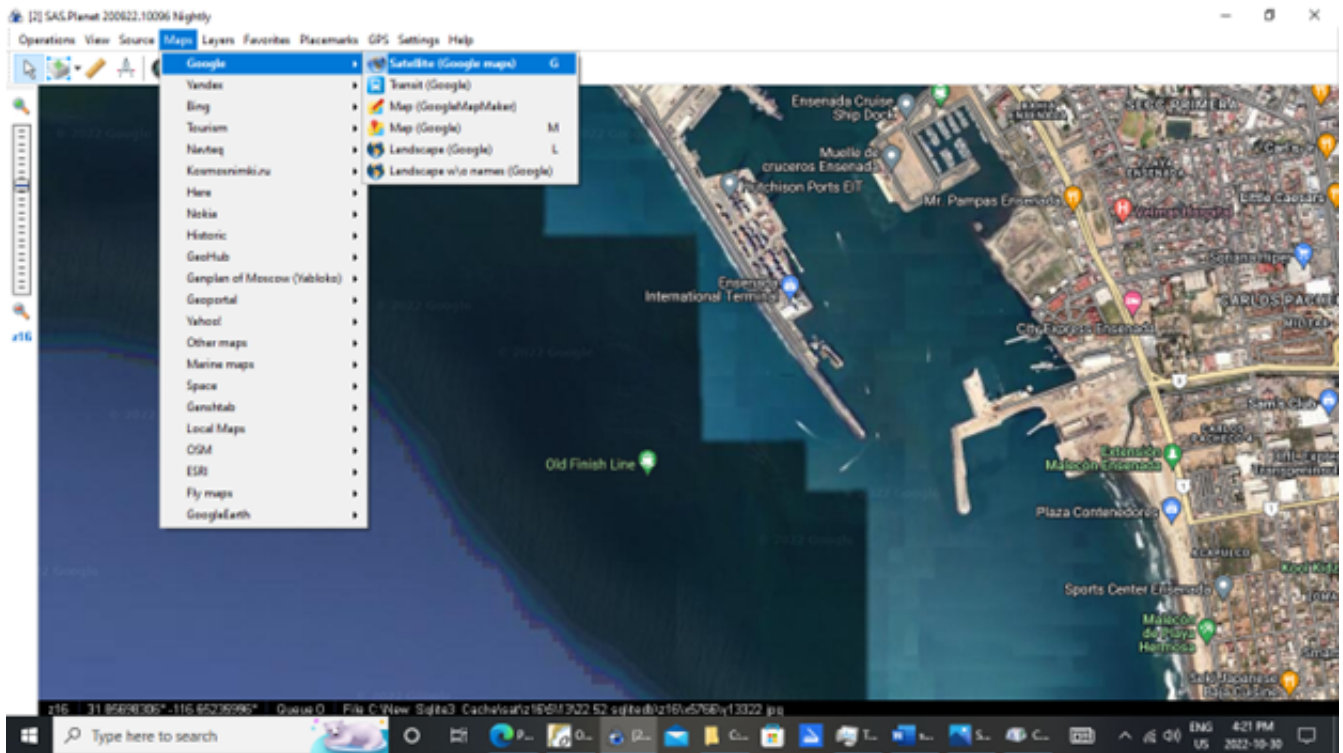


It's always worth having a look at multiple sources. Some may not offer as a clear a view (or a view at all) of the ocean floor as others.

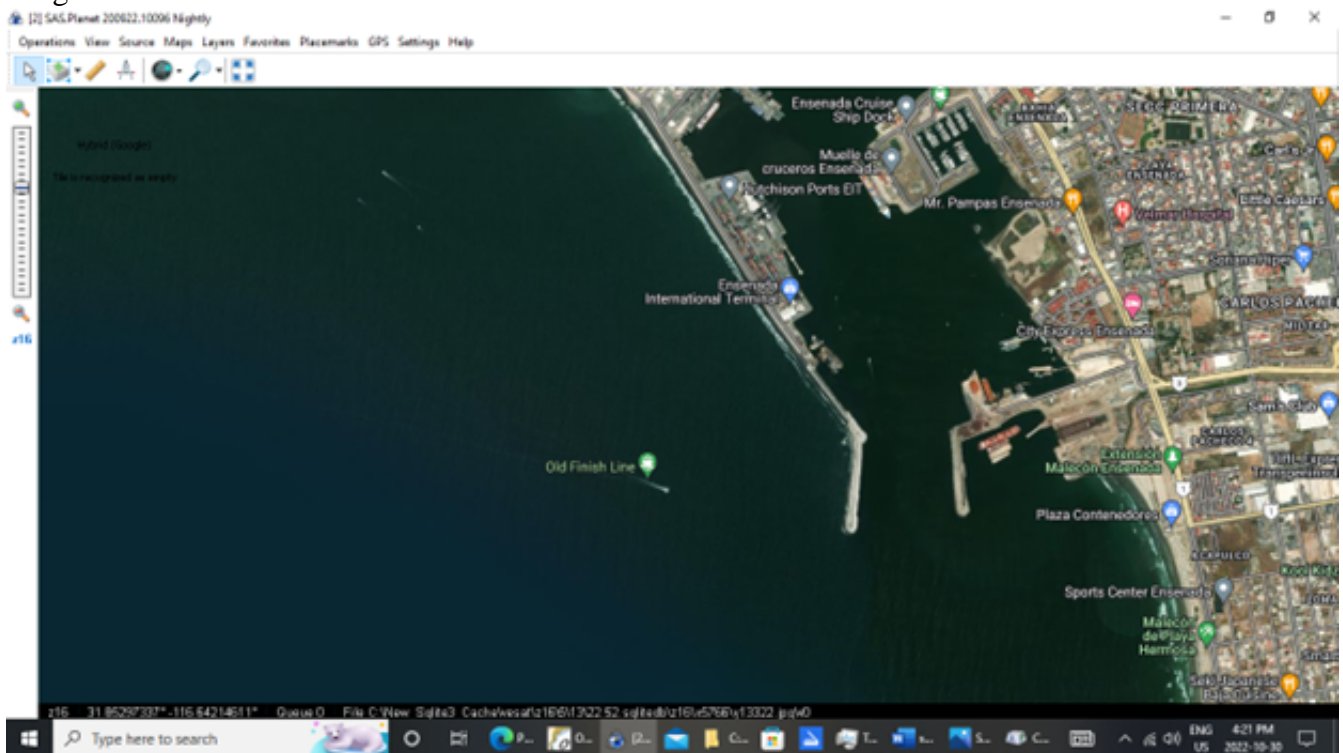
**Time Marches On (but not at the same pace for all sources)**

Some sources are newer than others. For example, they have extended the western breakwater in Ensenada, Mexico. But not every source seems to know this, as you can see below.

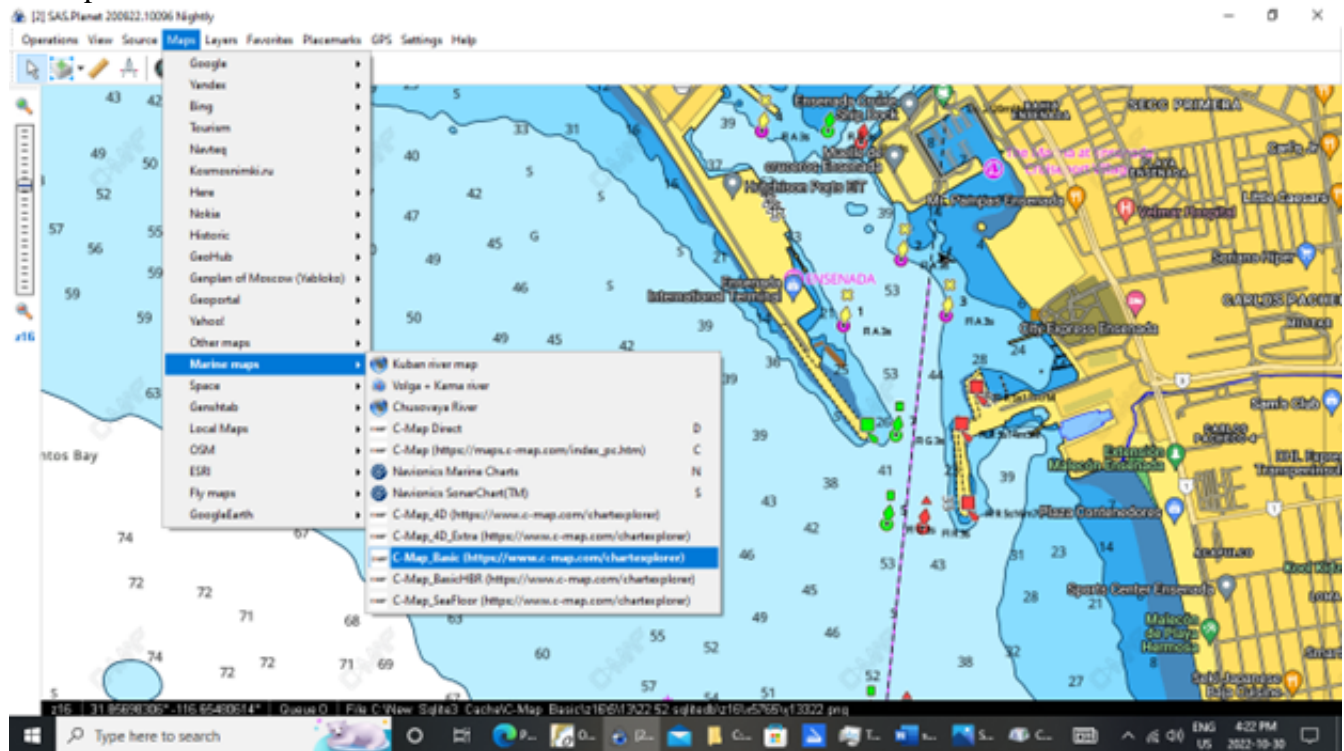
Google satellite shows the shorter old breakwater:



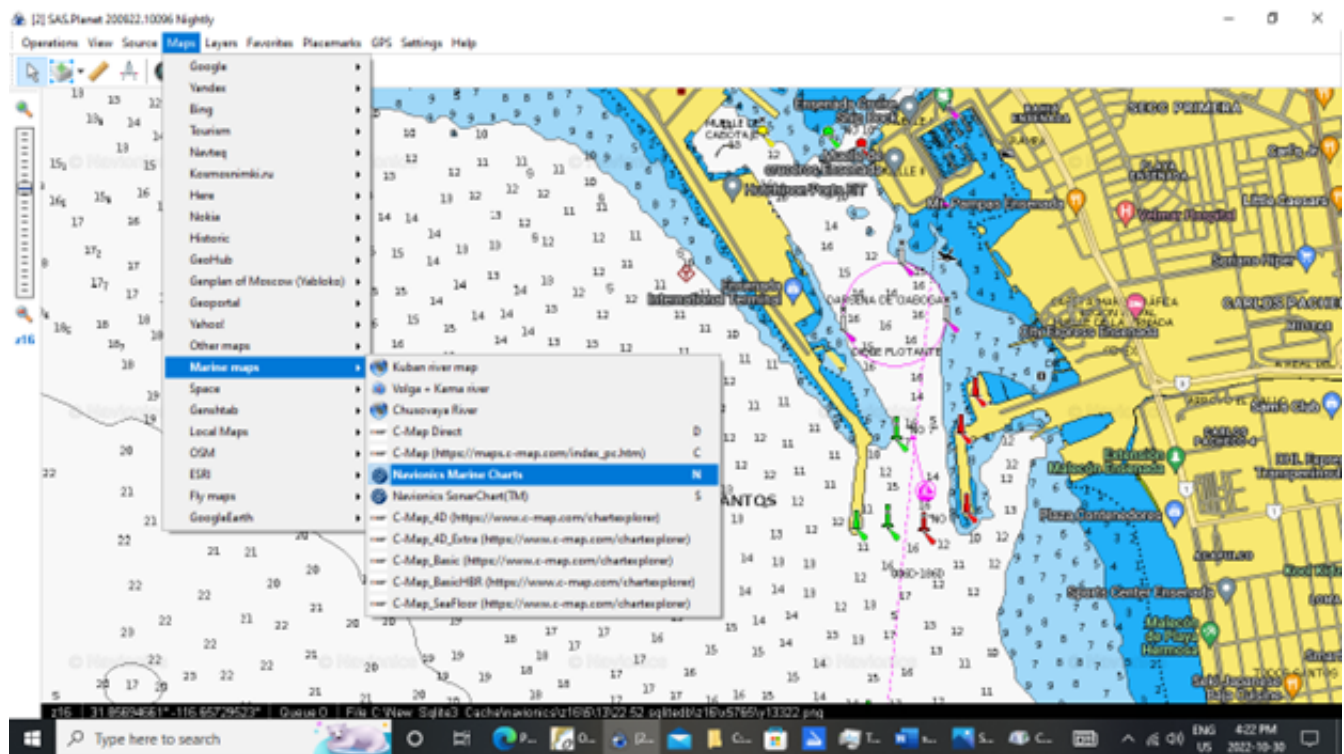
Bing shows the new extension:



C-Map doesn't have the new construction:



Navionics does show it:

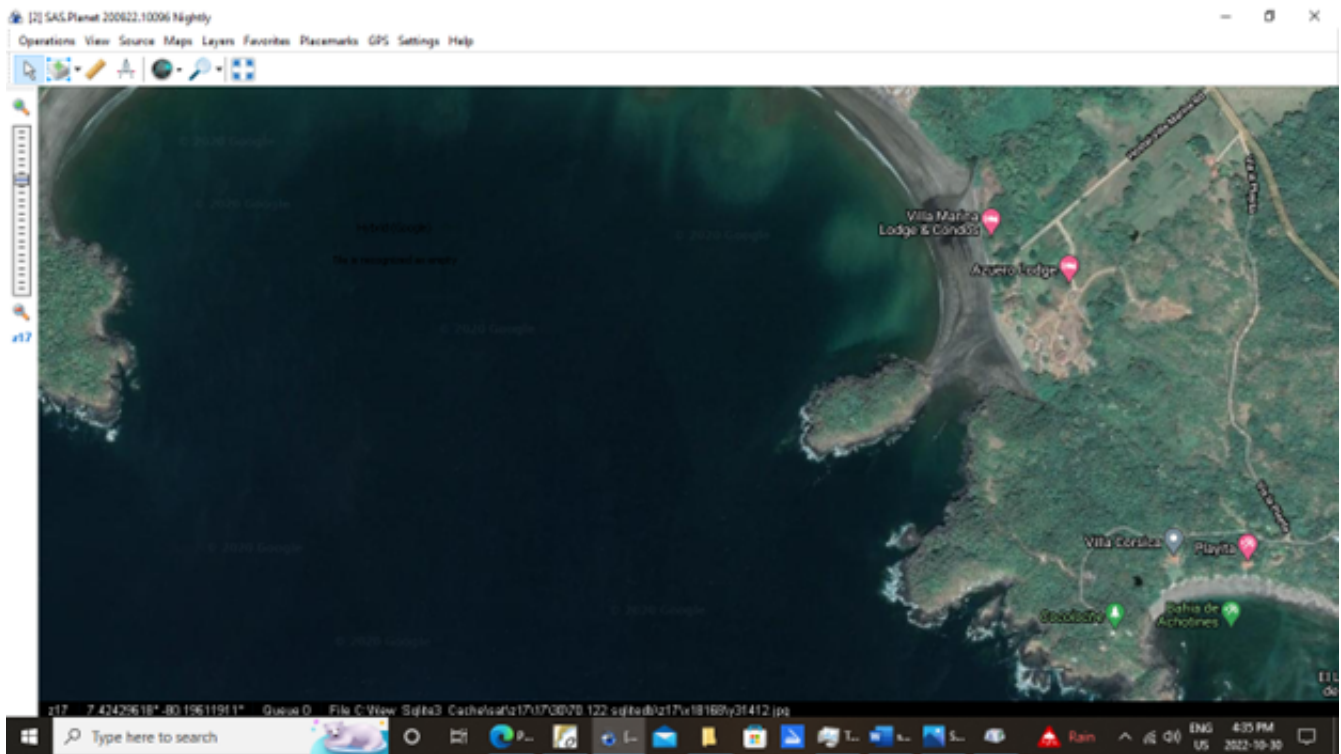


Frequency of updates matters! The schedule of updates differs for different providers, so check on who has what available.

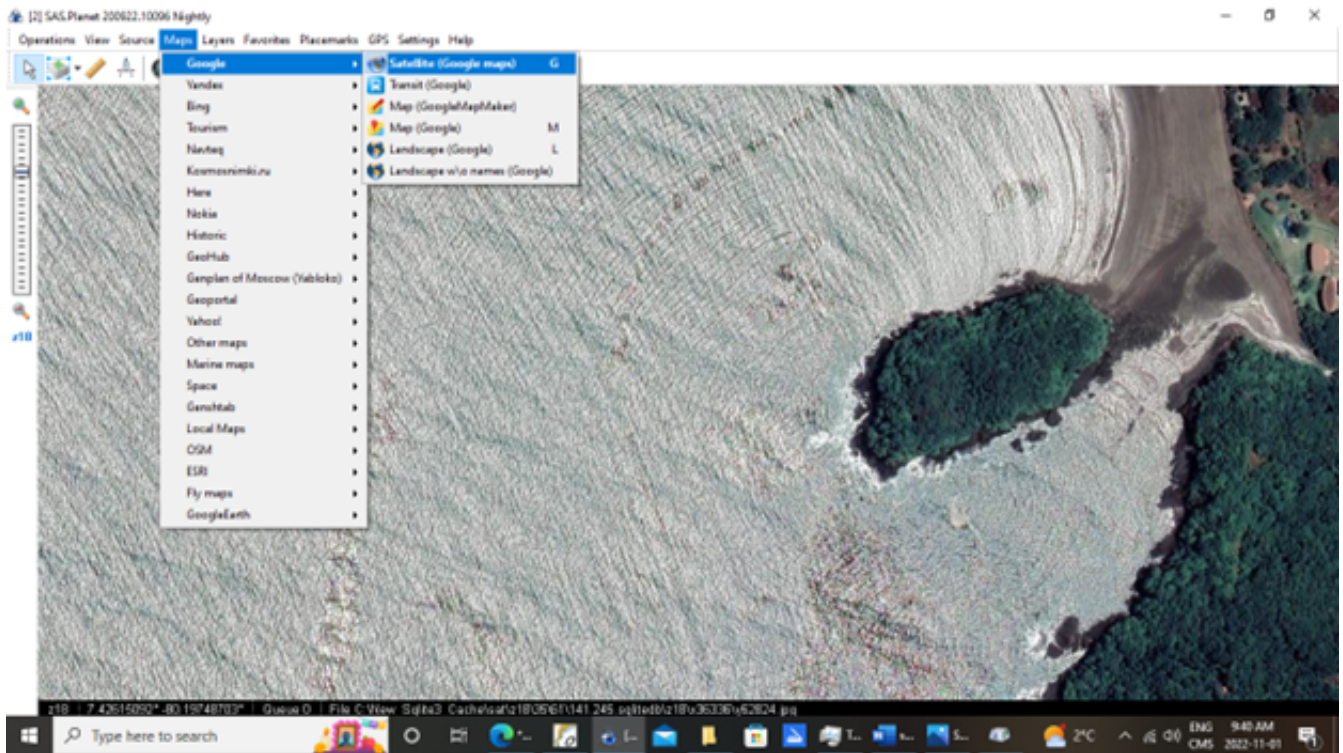
### Close Enough, But No Closer

Sometimes, image providers use images from different satellite passes for different zoom levels. Different passes may be made at different stages of the tide, with a different angle of the sun, or with clouds blocking the view. While I usually like zoom level 18 for detail, sometimes lower magnifications provide a better view or more detail (zoom level is shown on the vertical slider on the left hand side and in the lower left corner of the screen):

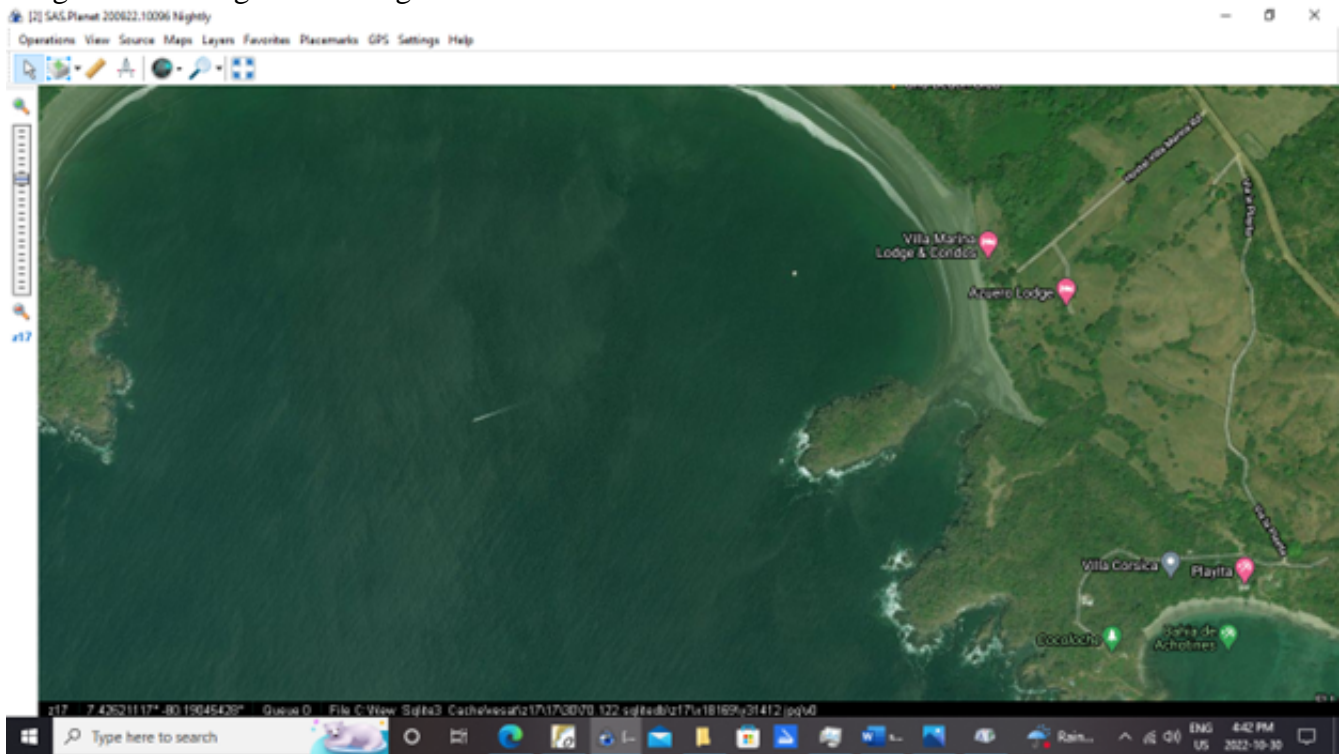
At level 17, you get a pretty good view of Benao Anchorage near Punta Mala in Panama on Google Satellite:



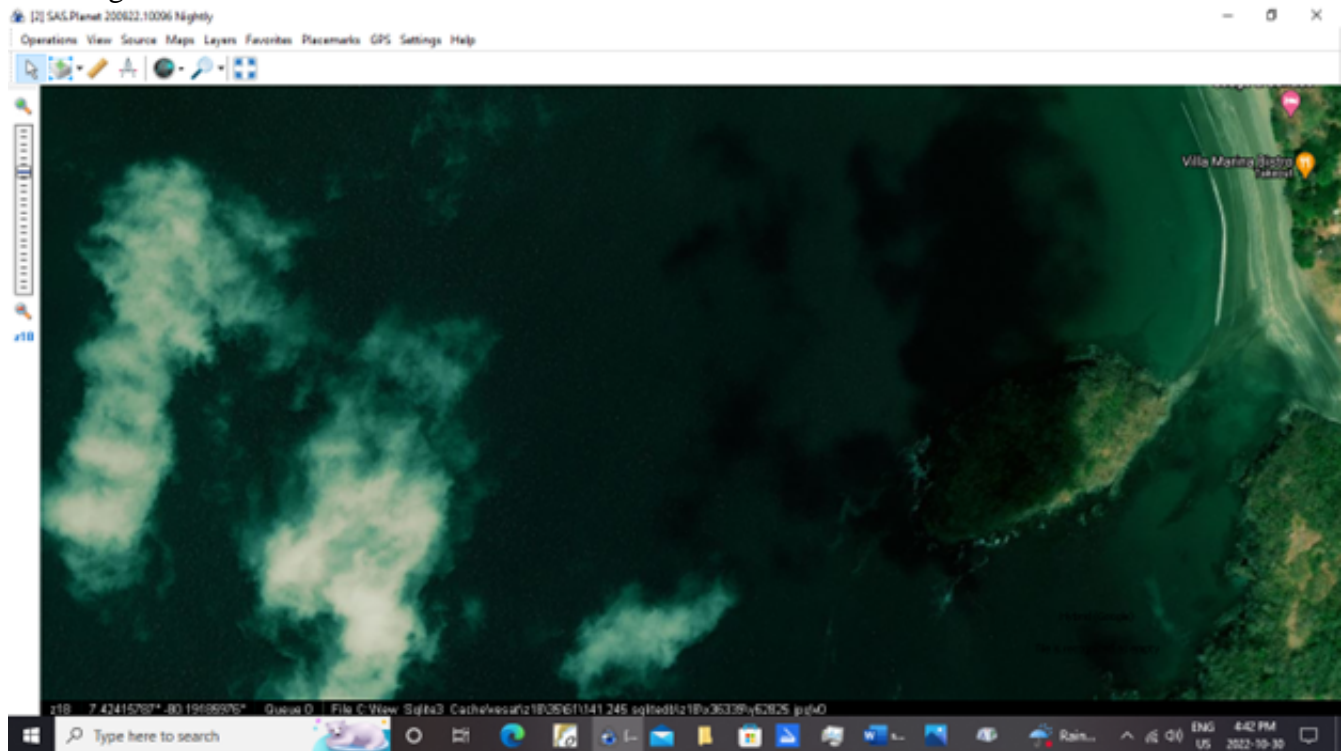
Zooming in to level 18, Google uses a different satellite image that shows no bottom detail at all, lost in the reflection of the sun on the water:



Bing is almost as good as Google at Zoom level 17:



## But Bing loses detail to clouds and their shadows at Level 18:



The current practice among many providers seems to be to occasionally use different satellite passes and images for odd and even zoom levels, so it's always worth a look to see what you'll get before you download and create your MBTiles. In some cases, a lower zoom may provide more useful detail.

## OpenCPN Has Changed Too

OpenCPN now supports zoom levels up to 20 (previously just up to 18), but still suffers lag when indexing very large MBTiles for display. Keeping your files smaller with lower zoom levels and/or smaller coverage areas will give you better performance (less lag) when using them. Doing 100-200 miles of coast, or about 250,000-500,000 tiles or less per MBTiles chart seems to give good display performance on my PCs, but yours may be different, so test a few before you go wild making a ton of charts.

## Check Before You Make

It's always worth a look around to find out what's new in the neighborhood before an MBTiles chart-making session. Make sure you have an up-to-date version of SASPlanet and OpenCPN, and have a browse in the Maps tab to see what's new and what suits your need before committing the time to download images and make your MBTiles. Sources change and using the right ones can make a huge difference in the result. Like so many things in the cruising life, curiosity and flexibility are often rewarded in this endeavor.

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Cover image: [Ship on the map](#) by Pixabay is licensed [Creative Commons – CC0](#)

## **About The Author**

**Rob Murray**

**Avant - Beneteau First 435 Sloop**

Rob Murray and Debra Zhou are doers currently in El Salvador, Central America.

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## BCA's Pre-Thanksgiving Rendezvous Memories (2022)

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/bcas-pre-thanksgiving-rendezvous-memories-2022/>



As we enter the Festive season it is a great time to look back and remember the pre-Thanksgiving Rendezvous. BCA Calgary hosted the Rendezvous once again at Montague Marine Park, Sept 30-Oct 2. Over thirty BCA members participated in the fun. The weather gods smiled on us with a beautiful warm and sunny fall weekend.

September 30 was National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Homage was paid to the Coast Salish people who have inhabited these shores for millennia. The beautiful white Midden beaches leave a lasting impression of their residence.

On Friday evening, boats anchored and members spent time swapping stories (and a bit of wine) aboard each other's boat. Saturday, we met at the park and enjoyed a group walk through the majestic cedars and douglas fir in the park.

The main event was Saturday evening with the annual foil dinner cookoff. Our esteemed judges were Judge Me Not! They had a difficult task but after suffering through one delicious tasting after another,

winners were selected.

## **Foil Dinner Cookoff Winners**

Best Appetizer: Nancy's Nachos

Honourable Mention: Heather's Arrugala Papas and Mojo sauce

Best Dinner: Karen's Thanksgiving Meal with Bourbon Cranberry

Honourable Mention: Linda's Turkish Delight and Rob's Susie the lamb.

Best Dessert: Linda's Pecan Pie with Home-made Maple Syrup

Honourable Mention: Heidi's Apple Freson Delight.



The gathering of the Rendezvous fleet

The group retired, very satisfied. On Sunday Morning a flotilla of kayaks, dinghies and assorted craft met at the dock and navigated around the peninsula before bidding one-another farewell.

Thank you very much to the BC Parks staff who helped us with set up and firewood. They were gracious hosts.

Photos of the event are available at the [BCA Shutterfly site](#). Check them out and if you have photos from the weekend that you'd like to add to this small collection, please send them to [Rosario](#) (high resolution preferred).

## **About The Author**

### **John and Vici Kortbeek**

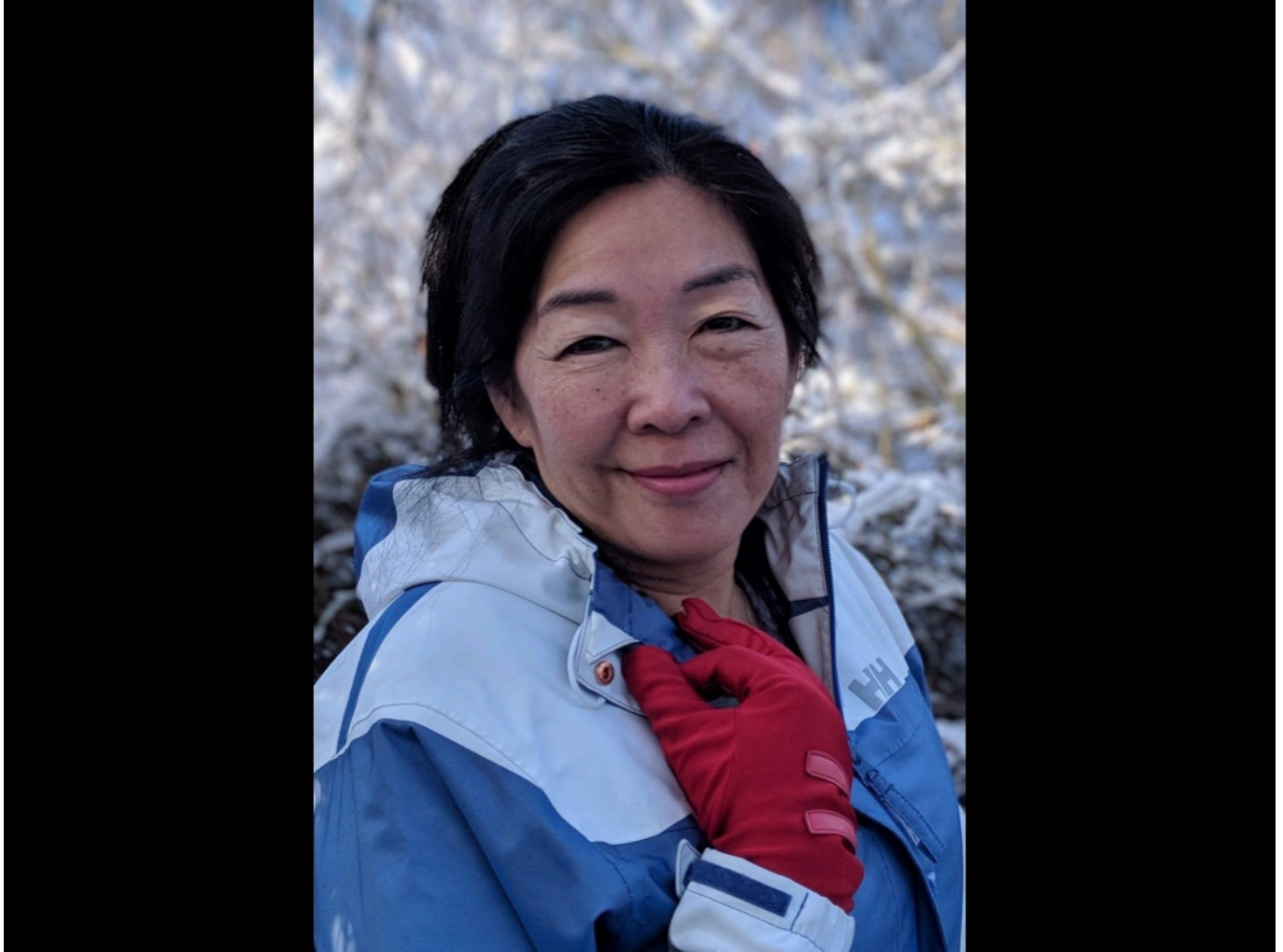
#### **Bear North - Hans Christian 48T**

John and Vici enjoy sailing the West Coast. They share Bear North, a Hans Christian 48T with brother and sister in law, Frank and Judy. Over the last few years, they have ventured north to to the Alaska Border and Haida Gwaii. In 2021 they circumnavigated Vancouver Island. With retirement approaching the plan is to head north in summer 2023 and then reverse course towards Mexico. John has been Calgary Chapter Vice Commodore since 2020.

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## In Memory of Lana Wong

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/news/in-memory-of-lana-wong/>



After a courageous second battle with breast cancer, Lana succumbed to her illness on November 23, 2022. Lana is survived by her four children, Shannon, Tara, Richard, Alex, and her granddaughter Margo.

Lana was an active lady. Though a single mom with four children she found the time to volunteer with her children's schools, soccer, dance, and circus clubs. She was active in the Lions Club and Rotary Club. She found a passion for Dragon Boating and was a member of two separate teams.

A businesswoman since her start in the financial field, she then created a business specializing in custom marine canvas work that expressed her ingenuity, proficiency, and interests that she first discovered as a young girl.

A member of BCA since 2013, Lana is remembered for her warm and generous personality. Her work ethic was extraordinary whether acting as Vancouver Chapter Assistant Bosun, Boat Show Volunteer, cashier, or Club Burgee maker. She was generous with her personal time and was always there if you needed her. For many of us she helped us with our boat's canvas projects.

BCA also thanks Bluewater Cruising member Dale Gebhard for his support of Lana and her family during her final months.

## **About The Author**

### **Don Hutchison**

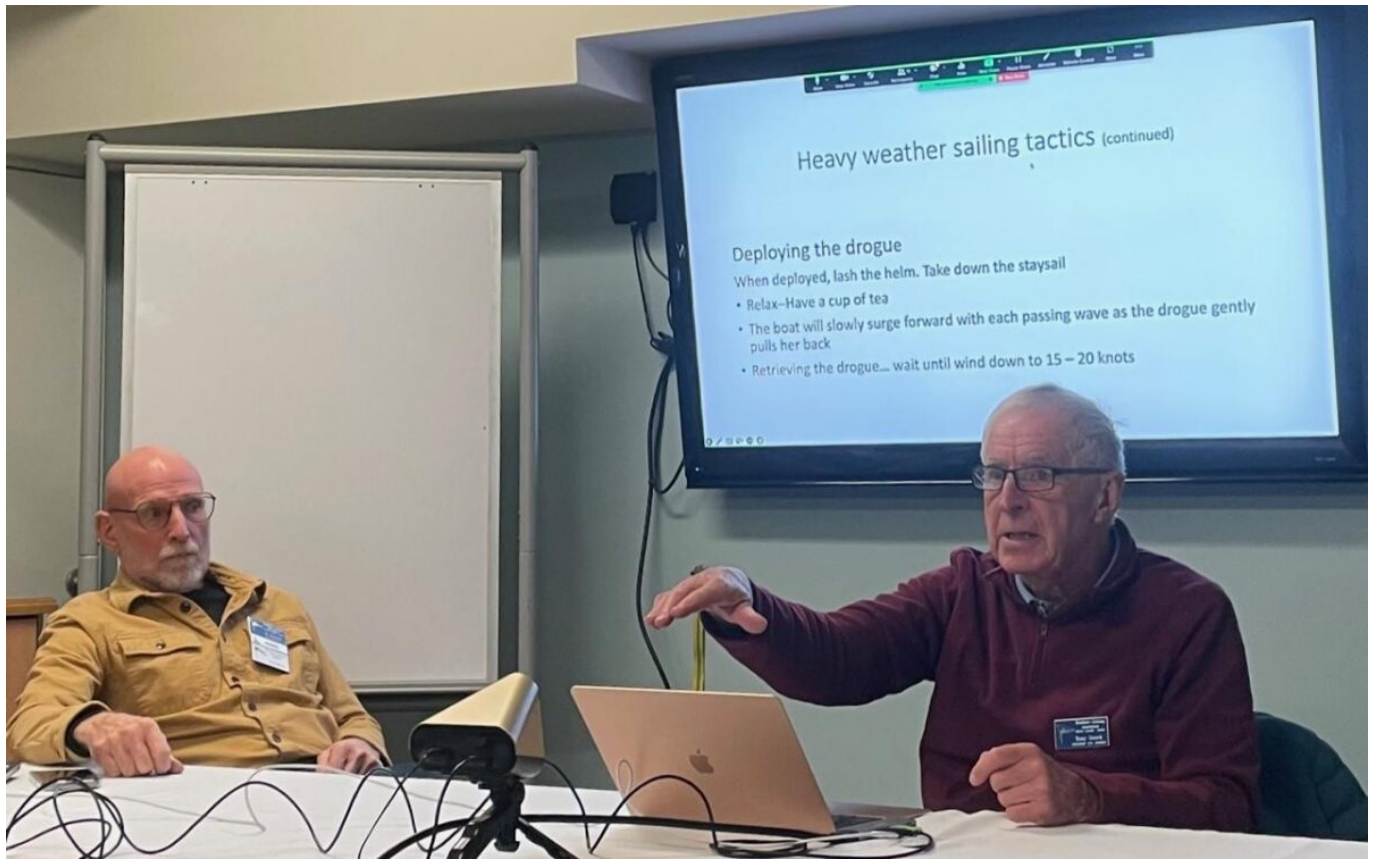
**Nootka - J/130 by J/Boats (Tillotson Pearson)**

Don Hutchison is the 2015 Vancouver Island Cruising Experience (VICE) coordinator. Don is in the preparation phase to go offshore and wants to cruise the World! Nootka, his boat, is a J/130 built in 1994 by J/Boats (Tillotson Pearson), a high performance ultralight racing/cruising sloop capable of fast passages and is currently being fitted for comfortable on-board living and short handed sailing.

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## Vancouver Island Fleet Report - December 2022

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/news/vancouver-island-fleet-report-december-2022/>



On the evening of December 21st, in spite of Christmas preparations, pub meal delays, and road conditions we had 11 people join us in person and the gang of 11 on Zoom to hear Tony Gooch present his thoughts on preparations for Heavy Weather Sailing. Tony has been a perennial pillar of the Vancouver Island Fleet experience and he again demonstrated his skills at adapting to whatever challenges he faces including the usual vagaries like time constraints.

Adam Wilkins warmed the crowd up first with a Show & Tell topic we all love to hear about – head flapper valve failures – and his trick modification to help avoid some of the time required to address this maintenance issue.



After Tony's presentation Rob Warren assisted Daragh and Al in a discussion of Offshore Sail Trim using our adaptation of Norm Cooper's Power Point on the topic before we wished all Season's Greetings and a safe trip home on the dicey roads.

## **About The Author**

### **Al Kitchen - VI Fleet Coordinator**

#### **Wyndspree - Huntingford 53 Ketch**

Al Kitchen has been a BCA member since 2005. Al and his wife Gaye lived aboard Wyndspree (53' ketch) from 1996 until 2007 and cruised the BC coast throughout this time. Between 2006 and the present, Al crewed on different boats with fellow Bluewater members, including voyages from Victoria, BC to San Francisco; Gladstone, Australia to Fiji; New Zealand to Victoria, B.C.; and San Jose del Cabo to Hilo, HI. Al is now co-coordinating the V.I. Fleet group with Daragh Nagle.

## Vancouver Fleet Report - November and December 2022

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/news/vancouver-fleet-report-november-and-december-2022/>



The November meeting of the Fleet of 2023 was a Zoom meeting at 1930 hours on Tuesday, November 29. The topic was a panel discussion on shipyard work at home and offshore.

**Local:** Marilyn Sanford, Rhonda Schuller and Barb Angel provided detailed checklists for local shipyard boat preparation work from the owner's perspective. Skookum Yacht Services provided advice on the same from the shipyard perspective.

**Offshore:** Jean Baillargeon, Kit Griffin and Rob Murray recounted shipyard and long-term storage experiences in Mexico and South Pacific, including cyclone pit use, boat purchase and repair problems in Tahiti, and comparative marina costs in Mexico's Sea of Cortez.

The Solstice Fleet Potluck on the 18th of December was a happy gathering. It was fun to finally see and talk to some of our other Fleet members face to face. We were greeted by a blue clad Santa Claus complete with fluffy beard. It brought back what had come to be a tradition when Dale Gebhard as Santa and his partner Lana Wong dressed as Santa's elf met us at the door.



Santa and Santa's Elf – Vancouver Fleet Christmas Potluck 2014

Sadly, we lost Lana last month, but having Dale there brought her back to us. The costumes that Lana and Dale wore were made by Lana specially for the potluck occasions. One of Lana's last thoughts – she had always been very active in BCA – was to ask Dale to present the Santa suit to the Fleet as a gift from her.

The Vancouver Fleet thanks Past Commodore, Leslie, and her husband Don for hosting our final gathering of 2022.

## **About The Author**

### **Cameron and Marianne McLean, Vancouver Fleet Coordinators**

**Mayknot - Seabird 37**

Cam and Marianne McLean have been BCA members since 1987, cruised offshore, and have served as the Vancouver Fleet Coordinators for many years.

## Vancouver Club Night - Panache: Halfway Around the World

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vancouver-club-night-panache-halfway-around-the-world/>



Price and Gail (Benny) Powell took delivery of a new Leopard 48 catamaran, *Panache*, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and started their circumnavigation in January 2017. They spent the first year sailing south through the Leeward and Windward Islands of the Caribbean, turning west at Grenada to explore the Dutch West Indies and Colombia on their way to Panama. After transiting the Panama Canal, they set off into the Pacific, stopping at the Galapagos Islands en route to French Polynesia, where they cruised the island archipelagos for 18 months. From there they visited the Cook Islands, Tonga and Fiji on their way to New

Zealand. Shortly after their arrival, COVID happened. The country immediately shut its border and *Panache* was suddenly “stuck”. Fortunately, they loved NZ and made good use of their time exploring that breathtaking country. The South Pacific finally opened and *Panache* is currently in Queensland, Australia, after a stopover in New Caledonia.

It’s been 6 years since they set sail and they are now half-way around the world. They expect it will take another 5 years to complete their circumnavigation. Come and see the amazing video and photos they have accumulated from all of their adventures in these beautiful and exotic locations. After 6 years of full-time cruising, Price and Benny are well placed to answer questions you may have on sailing in the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

Note: Price will also be giving this presentation to BCA’s Vancouver Island Chapter (Victoria) on January 17.

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## Hybrid Meeting Format

**In-Person Attendees:** For those attending in-person, the format will be very much the same as “normal”. COVID protocols have been suspended as per BCA policy found [here](#). Doors open at 7:00 and meeting starts at 7:30.

**Virtual Attendees:** Virtual club nights (via Zoom) have enabled BCA to continue our monthly meetings and presentations throughout the pandemic, with an added bonus of expanding our community to members and non-members across the globe. With the return to in-person meetings, BCA has continued to provide a virtual component to our club nights as it has significant benefits to our membership. This however comes at a cost for the purchase of cameras, audio equipment and the lost revenue due to a decrease of in-person attendance used to off-set venue costs.

**Cost:** Members – \$5.00 per connected device; Non-Members, \$10 per connected device

Zoom meeting invitation: Click [here](#) to register for and purchase your virtual meeting ticket and receive the Zoom meeting invitation. Please note that you must be signed in to the BCA website to get the member price.

## About The Author

### Heather Marshall

Mischief - Catalina 27

Bluewater BCA member Heather Marshall first fell in love with sailing as a teenager. She sailed to the Mediterranean and back aboard a Bavaria 38 sloop, 'Sea Otter of Canada', with her former husband. Heather single-hands 'Mischief' to destinations in the Salish Sea.



## **VI Mid-Island Club Night - The Long Way Home from Mexico via Hawaii**

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vi-mid-island-club-night-the-long-way-home-from-mexico-via-hawaii/>

In September 2017, Glen and Heidi Priestley made the trip down the coast to Mexico aboard *Borboleta*, their Beneteau First 405. After four very enjoyable cruising seasons in Mexico, it was time to bring their boat home to BC, which they accomplished in the summer of 2022.

Glen and Heidi's presentation will mainly focus on their voyage from Mexico to Hawaii, cruising the Hawaiian Islands, and the return passage from Kauai to Victoria, dealing with the Pacific highs. Glen will discuss various preparations that were made for the long ocean passages, as well as technology used for communications and weather. Heidi will discuss her feelings about going offshore, along with the preparations needed for having appropriate food and medical supplies onboard. They will incorporate photos and a few video clips of the passages and cruising Hawaii, to give the audience a taste of what it was like.

Glen and Heidi will be happy to answer questions about this cruising adventure.

### **Presenters**

Glen and Heidi Priestley each have over thirty years of experience extensively cruising the BC coast, including Vancouver Island circumnavigations and Haida Gwaii. They have owned *Borboleta* for 20 years and sailed her to Mexico twice. Glen is a long time BCA and Fleet member, and they both have taken many BCA courses in preparation for going offshore. Glen organized the VICE 2009 and has participated in several other offshore passages.

### **About The Author**

#### **Kathryn Swangard**

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Kate and her husband Michael joined BCA in 2003 to take advantage of their offshore education courses before heading off on their 5+ year journey around the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Caribbean. Kate currently leads the Mid-Island Group within Vancouver Island Chapter, organizing club nights and education courses.

# VI South Club Night - Panache: Half Way Around the World

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vi-south-club-january-night-panache-half-way-around-the-world/>



Price and Gail (Benny) Powell took delivery of a new Leopard 48 catamaran, *Panache*, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and started their circumnavigation in January 2017. They spent the first year sailing south through the Leeward and Windward Islands of the Caribbean, turning west at Grenada to explore the Dutch West Indies and Colombia on their way to Panama.

After transiting the Panama Canal, they set off into the Pacific, stopping at the Galapagos Islands en route to French Polynesia, where they cruised the island archipelagos for 18 months. From there they visited the Cook Islands, Tonga and Fiji on their way to New Zealand. Shortly after their arrival, COVID happened. The country immediately shut its border and *Panache* was suddenly “stuck”. Fortunately, they loved NZ and made good use of their time exploring that breathtaking country. The South Pacific finally opened and *Panache* is currently in Queensland, Australia, after a stopover in New Caledonia.

It’s been six years since they set sail and they are now half-way around the world. They expect it will take another five years to complete their circumnavigation. Come and see the amazing video and photos they have accumulated from all of their adventures in these beautiful and exotic locations. After six years of full-time cruising, Price and Benny are well placed to answer questions you may have on sailing in the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

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## Hybrid Meeting Format

**In-Person Attendees:** For those attending in-person, the format will be very much the same as “normal”. Doors open at 7:00 and meeting starts at 7:30, with presentation immediately to follow. COVID Protocols have been suspended as per BCA policy available [here](#).

Cost: \$5/Members, \$10/Non-Members

**Virtual Attendees:** Virtual club nights (via Zoom) have enabled BCA to continue our monthly meetings and presentations throughout the pandemic, with an added bonus of expanding our community to members and non-members across the globe. With the return to in-person meetings BCA has continued to provide a virtual component to our club nights as it has significant benefits to our membership. This however comes at a cost for the purchase of cameras, audio equipment and the lost revenue due to a decrease of in-person attendance used to off-set venue costs.

Cost: Members – \$5.00 per connected device; Non-Members – \$10 per connected device.

Zoom meeting invitation: Click [here](#) to register for and purchase your virtual meeting ticket and receive the Zoom meeting invitation. Please note that you must be signed in to the BCA website to get the member price.

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## The Psychology of Voyaging

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/the-psychology-of-voyaging-2/>



Back by popular demand!

As we pursue the challenge to explore the oceans and cultures of the world, inevitably we explore ourselves through our responses to the situations we encounter. Part of preparing for voyaging is preparing ourselves psychologically, and part of voyaging is becoming the adventurer we dream to be. In this course, you will:

- Address what motivates you and your cruising partner(s) to take this challenge on
- Recognize how you tend to make decisions,
- Understand your learning styles
- Kick your fears and anxieties out of the shadows; and
- Bust some cruising myths.

The Psychology of Cruising is one of BCA's signature courses. It's always a sell-out, so if you're serious about it, book quickly.

### About the Facilitator

Rick Ellis is a BCA lifetime member who brings his years of boating experience and professional facilitation expertise to this popular, must-do course.

## **About The Author**

### **Brent Alley**

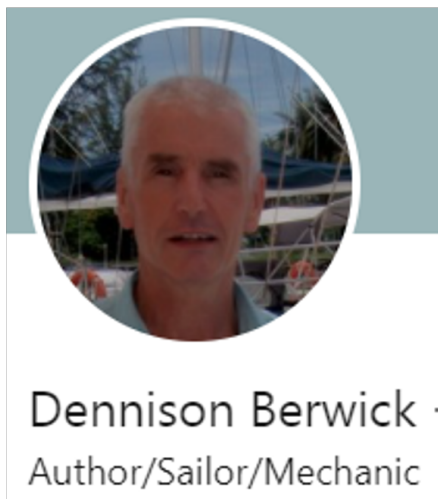
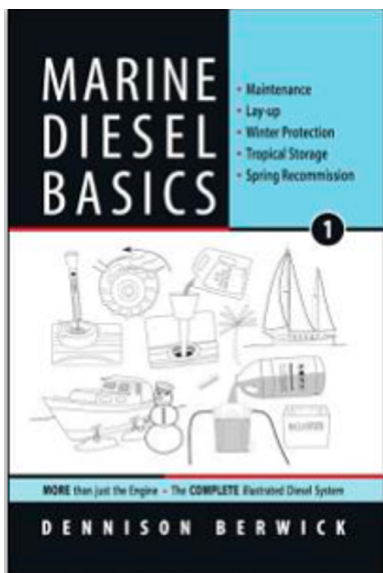
#### **Pegasus II - Nordic 44**

Brent has been member of Bluewater Cruising Association since 2014. Since joining BCA he and Barbara have sailed to Desolation Sound, Alaska, Haida Gwaii and most recently to Mexico.

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## Diesel Maintenance and Best Practices

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/diesel-maintenance-and-best-practices-2/>



This 4-hour webinar is for anyone wanting to learn more about their entire marine diesel system – from the fuel deck fill to the propeller. The course will guide you through an understanding of how things work as well as maintenance best practices.

Dennison Berwick is a marine mechanic and the creator and publisher of the [Marine Diesel Basics Project](#) – the first visual guide to marine diesel systems. His book on maintenance, winterizing and recommissioning has been acclaimed by Peter Nielsen in Sail Magazine as, “*the best guide on the subject I’ve seen, this book has a place on every diesel-equipped boat*”. His website hosts almost 2000 engine manuals and other publications available for free download.

Dennison is also a bluewater sailor with experience on the Great Lakes, North Atlantic, English Channel and Southeast Asia. In 2022, he completed his first ocean passage, and first solo ocean passage, crossing the Indian Ocean from Thailand to Tanzania, east Africa, aboard his 36-foot steel sloop *Oceans Five*. He plans to sail from east Africa to South Africa in late 2023, then onward to Brazil in early 2024.

### About The Author

#### Kit Griffin

SWAN - Pacific Seacraft 34

Christopher "Kit" Griffin is a retired adventure equipment consultant and photographer living in Vancouver, Canada. He's lived in Australia for most of his life, however his childhood was spent on Vancouver Island as his grandfather (and father) worked for Cable and Wireless until the Cable Station closed in 1959. Kit credits his family and Bamfield for a deep affection for the ocean, diving, and sailing. At the start of 2020 Kit bought SWAN, a Pacific Seacraft 34, in Tahiti which he'll be sailing back to Canada in April 2022 COVID-19 permitting. In the meantime, Kit volunteers for Bluewater Cruising

Association in Vancouver Education Watch and sails a Catalina 28 locally.

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## Electrical Skills for Cruisers

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/electrical-skills-for-cruisers-6/>



Spend a day with electrical engineer, Bjarne Hansen, in an interactive session about all things boat electrical.

Bjarne is a popular instructor who's taught sell-out courses in the past. He has the remarkable ability to both do and teach. Learn about the theory behind electricity, how to safely use electrical equipment, repair techniques, avoid problems, troubleshoot, and how to stay safe when mucking about with electricity.

The course will focus on how to fix common electrical problems with hands-on exercises to reinforce learning and improve your skills. Bjarne is very knowledgeable, approachable, and an easy-to-understand instructor.

### Course Information

This course is intended for any cruising member, not just the skipper, who wants to learn more about

electricity and electronics in the boating environment. A non-intimidating lecture with lots of examples will be followed by practical exercises to help reinforce the materials and improve skills.

## **Prerequisites and Materials**

An interest in electricity and boats. Some practical exercises will employ basic tools that you can purchase prior to the course, or you may already have; a list of these will be provided before the course. A limited number of loaner tools will be available.

## **About the Instructor**

Bjarne Hansen trained as an electrical engineer and early in his career worked with radar, radio, and other airfield equipment in the RCAF. More recently, he has been designing medical equipment at a local engineering firm. A BCA member since 2003, Bjarne cruised the South Pacific for two years in 2004 – 2006 and spent winters 2015 – 2019 sailing with Barb in Mexico.

## **About The Author**

### **Kit Griffin**

#### **SWAN - Pacific Seacraft 34**

Christopher "Kit" Griffin is a retired adventure equipment consultant and photographer living in Vancouver, Canada. He's lived in Australia for most of his life, however his childhood was spent on Vancouver Island as his grandfather (and father) worked for Cable and Wireless until the Cable Station closed in 1959. Kit credits his family and Bamfield for a deep affection for the ocean, diving, and sailing. At the start of 2020 Kit bought SWAN, a Pacific Seacraft 34, in Tahiti which he'll be sailing back to Canada in April 2022 COVID-19 permitting. In the meantime, Kit volunteers for Bluewater Cruising Association in Vancouver Education Watch and sails a Catalina 28 locally.

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