

## Crew Release of Liability, part 2

### Just So We Understand Each Other — Frequently Asked Questions

The Salty Dawg Sailing Association doesn't want anybody to sign up for the event without knowing what they are getting into, so we're providing the following answers to common questions to make the situation as clear as possible.

**Q: Is The Salty Dawg Rally a good event for novice skippers to try their hands at ocean sailing?**

A: No. The Salty Dawg Rally is for experienced sailors who would have been willing to sail to the Caribbean or the Bahamas on their own. The Salty Dawg Rally is definitely not an offshore hand-holding service. If at least two of your boat's crew haven't had offshore experience in rough weather and spent several nights at sea, it would be irresponsible for you to sign up for The Salty Dawg Rally.

The Salty Dawg Rally is a high-risk activity open only to those gladly willing to risk injury and death in the pursuit of adventure.

**Q: Does Tow Boat US or any other offshore rescue service operate between the Chesapeake Bay and the Caribbean? If not, will somebody from The Salty Dawg Rally help me out if I get into trouble?**

A: Once you head offshore, you must assume that you'll be 100% self-sufficient. The Salty Dawg Rally does not provide rescue services. The Rally is usually in touch with the US Coast Guard but it may take a long time even after the USCG hears of your distress call.

Remember, The Salty Dawg Rally is a high-risk activity open only to those gladly willing to risk injury and death in the pursuit of adventure.

**Q: What kind of assurances can I get that we'll have reasonably good weather?**

A: None. While the route from the Chesapeake to the Caribbean is usually relatively benign in early November, the fleet could be hit by severe weather. Anyone participating in The Salty Dawg Rally must expect to be exposed to the full wrath of the open ocean.

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**Q: If the fleet gets hit by bad weather, where should I seek shelter?**

A: Such decisions are the responsibility of the skipper, who should study emergency alternatives prior to the start. It's the sole responsibility of each skipper to decide whether to start and continue the Rally, and if, when, or where to drop out.

Again, The Salty Dawg Rally is a high-risk activity open only to those gladly willing to risk injury and death in the pursuit of adventure.

**Q: What kind of medical care does The Salty Dawg Rally provide and/or what kind of care is available on the Rally?**

A: The Salty Dawg Rally provides no medical care. If you begin to suffer from a medical problem, it's unlikely that you'll be able to get treatment for many hours - if not days.

Remember, The Salty Dawg Rally is a high-risk activity open only to those gladly willing to risk injury and death in the pursuit of adventure.

**Q: What kind of inspections does The Salty Dawg Rally conduct to make sure the boats are suitable for the event?**

A: None. It's your responsibility to determine if your boat was built and has been maintained for open ocean sailing. If you're not qualified to make such a determination, it's your responsibility to engage someone qualified to make the evaluation.

Yes, The Salty Dawg Rally is a high-risk activity open only to those gladly willing to risk injury and death in the pursuit of adventure.

**Q: What does The Salty Dawg Rally do to make sure that crewmembers end up on safe boats?**

A: Nothing. It is the responsibility of each crewmember to decide whether or not the boat they're planning to sail on and her skipper are suitable for the event. If a crewmember isn't qualified to make that decision, it's his or her responsibility to consult with someone qualified to do so.

After all, The Salty Dawg Rally is a high-risk activity open only to those gladly willing to risk injury and death in the pursuit of adventure.