

1/10/03

Dear King Neptune,

I did my first true Blue Water passage this year in the 2002 Newport-Bermuda Race on the Benetton Custom 50 Stagger Lee. Also along on the trip were two other NYC members Alan Goldberg and Danielle Gallo.

Although the trip was for the most part very serious - AKA no one was trying to be very funny. We did have a few yarns to tell.

On the 3rd Day out we hit a meander of the Gulf Stream that had no wind - we are talking None, and this is in the record breaking 2002 Race. The Captain and I after 12 hours ^{and 3 watch changes} of sail flogging took matters into our own hands and took to the fore deck to raise every sail we had not blown out earlier in the Race (by then the Steel Your Face Asymmetrical was ripped in 1/2). The crew watched the two foredeck monkeys in safety gear roll around the pitching fore deck until we finally dropped from fatigue. And as you might guess - No wind - no "correct" sail set. Our final combo before dropping into a coma was No main - but boom out all the way on a preventer with the Code "0" Clew run through a block on the end of the boom → Result = 30 min untangling the Code "0" from the spreaders

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and rig.

Final yarn was entering Bermuda late with the customs office closed for the day. After Many Beers on the hook I decided to call it a night, which you may know from the BVI trips means that it's time to play "Got to get that Monkey off my Back" by Avo Smith, very very very loud. Our Navigator, Dallas Murphy a veteran of 4 Newport-Bermuda races had not experienced this display of audio tire power first hand while anchored in a busy harbor. He informed me and the rest of the crew that in Bermuda this type of behavior was not fitting with local custom. Looking up and seeing our yellow quarantine flag I debated that technically we were not really in Bermuda yet - and if Bermuda wanted us to behave in a manner fitting their local custom they should have a customs office that stays open late during the Newport-Bermuda Race week. A quick crew vote ruled in my favor and the harbor was serenaded with an ear spitting performance of "Monkey off my Back".

Please accept this as my application to the Blue Water Society