

**From:** Jes Staley  
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**Subject:** Day 6

Our current position is N 17.01 by W 45.11.

It was not to last. We ended last evening with the spinnaker up in a light breeze, getting Bequia up to a pleasant 9 knots. We debated whether to keep the "kite" up as the sun set. He have had an occasional, evening lightning flash in the distance, and last evening was more of the same. To be cautious, we took the spinnaker down and reset the yankee and the staysail.

Radar can pick up rain showers, and off our port, the radar started to pick up a fairly large cluster of rain clouds. After a half an hour, the radar was showing a sizable thunder cloud, and the flashes of lightening became more frequent. We all felt better having dropped the spinnaker as the wind built quickly.

At that moment, you feel a little like the farmer in Kansas, knowing that there is nothing to do but brace. Seumas and I were on watch.

It was very dark when the squall hit. Sheets of rain came in waves, you couldn't see a bloody thing, and the winds picked up to 35 knots. We had, fortunately moments before, put one reef in the main. At Seumas' instructions, the goal was to sail down wind as much as possible to lessen the winds effect. It took us an hour and a half of running before the wind to have the storm pass over us. You get very cold and worry a little of lightening.

One of the imposed realities of electronics, is that radar will show the speed that a squall is moving. Our thunder cloud last night was terribly slow.

Of course the next watch came up smiling, commenting on how the decks needed the cleansing fresh water. Thanks mates.

We have passed the half way point, and have less than a thousand miles to go. To night we have a quick, half way party. One Bequia (rum, splash of tonic, and bitters) a piece,

( Btw, Night watches are a little like going out with Andy Cohen, nothing really starts until 2:00 AM, and hour naps are the norm.)

Kite is up and starting a new book.

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