

# RainbowChaser – Virtual Cruising

## February-March 2021

Sandwich, Massachusetts to Clarenville NL via Halifax NS

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### INTRO

With my Sailonline Marketing and Relationships hat on, I was one of the first on Sailonline to read the request from the prestigious Cruising Club of America for Sailonline to consider creating virtual delivery cruises. With permission of Management and Board, we proceeded to create as helpful a format as is currently possible and using the TIMED Race format to permit a “log starts whenever you start” option, three cruises were created.

Virtual cruising is meant to permit SOLers to sail in the wakes of delivery cruise skippers – bringing a boat from point A to point B within a strict range of parameters to ensure that the boat arrives at its destination in as good a condition as it leaves a marina/refurb. All sailing should be logged and, of course, Sailonline’s TWA=0 option enables boats to replicate mooring up.

This would be an experiment for Sailonline – designed as a racing platform, it would be interesting to see how SOLers took to the leisurely cruising format.

Three courses were created – one from Sandwich, MA, to Halifax NS and then two from Halifax NS to Clarenville NL (one going N around the top of Newfoundland, the second going direct, S of the island).

I cruised Cruise 1 and Cruise 2N but being towed back to start twice, due to not setting a TWA=0 every 24hrs (lesson learned) I then started in Cruise 2S but due to light winds failed to finish in either – here follows the race logs/notes I kept. Mostly just jottings but with some useful links perhaps, for future reference!

### Cruise 1 – Sandwich Massachusetts to Halifax Nova Scotia

Weighed anchor - Friday, 12 February at 1506 with sightseeing in mind

First stop BOSTON - advice from BB to check out World's End in Hingham (<https://thetrustees.org/place/worlds-end-hingham/>) - a pleasant short hop that brought me to Boston Harbor and the splendid views from World's End - a peninsular to the south of Boston Bay. Noted advice from Pit8008 to go to Marblehead N of Boston and check out Isles of Shoals

*SlideRule 17:50:08*

*All; this is a nice trip. I've done it IRL on Slide Rule about 5 times now. Current around Cape Sable are critical, highest tidal changes in the world in Bay of Fundy*

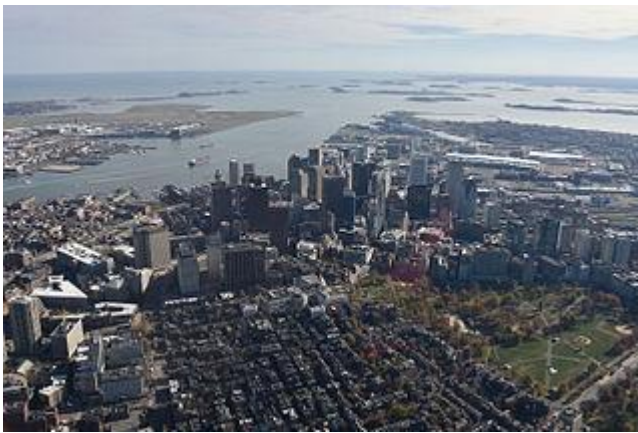
*CCA\_BuzzardsBill 15:05:09*

*For you true cruisers check out Perry Creek in the Fox Island Thoroughfare between Vinalhaven and NorthHaven Islands in Penobscot Bay. Sonar Chart Live shows the 4' rock in the entrance is not there.*

*CCA\_BuzzardsBill 14:56:24*

*Upuaut Duck Harbor just north of your anchorage on Isle au Haut is a snug little "tickle" but it is rolly with a strong westerly.*

**13 February, 1811** - leaving Boston Harbor for Marblehead...



**14 February** - good tucker in Marblehead as advised, now to the Isles of Shoals - it might take a while!



**15 February** - 1715utc - after heading shoreward for nearly 24hrs, a tack for Shoals is now made and arrival should be in time for an evening meal and some bunk-time!

**16 February** - 1410utc - an overnight at Matinicus Island

(<https://www.themainemag.com/features/1307-matinicus/>) an interesting experience and folks were welcoming enough as I was clearly passing through and not planning on staying!



Now Heading now for Fox Island Thoroughfare, twixt Vinalhaven and North Haven..next PoC will be Bar Harbor I think.. Acadia National Park sounds amazing (although this time of year, a tad chilly!)



**17 February** Arrived off Bar Harbor overnight and moored off Bar Island - heading to Bar Harbor for some sightseeing in Acadia National Park (<https://www.nps.gov/acad/index.htm>)

**18 February** stayed in Bar Harbor for 24hrs

**19-20 February** - to Saint John, New Brunswick  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_John,\\_New\\_Brunswick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_John,_New_Brunswick)).



Not the home of TV duo Hudson and Rex (which I had thought it might be) but a neat place even so!

**21 February** ... heading round the S tip of Nova Scotia to Oak Island (of *Curse of Oak Island* TV series fame!) ended up overnighing in St Margaret Bay, NS.  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_Margarets\\_Bay,\\_Nova\\_Scotia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Margarets_Bay,_Nova_Scotia))



**22 February** - 1830utc.. now heading to Oak Island!  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak\\_Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_Island)) Fascinating to catch up on the story of the hunt for alleged buried treasure by the Lagina brothers!



**24 February** - 1400utc - finally on my way to Halifax, but will probably stop off for an overnight at West Pennant ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Pennant,\\_Nova\\_Scotia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Pennant,_Nova_Scotia))



**25 February** - moving on from tiny West Pennant I am loth to finish so have dug out (online) a Nova Scotia Travel Guide (<https://www.novascotia.com/travel-info/travel-guide>) and... have now decided I shall overnight in Lawrencetown (<https://www.todocanada.ca/25-things-around-lawrencetown/>)





**27 February** - I think I am all Lawrencetowned out, so I've found a new spot further up the coast with a curious (to me) name - Musquodoboit ...

[https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Tourism-g1555448-Musquodoboit\\_Harbour\\_Halifax\\_Regional\\_Municipality\\_Nova\\_Scotia-Vacations.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Tourism-g1555448-Musquodoboit_Harbour_Halifax_Regional_Municipality_Nova_Scotia-Vacations.html)) so I'm off there in a few minutes!



**1 March** - interesting wee place Musquodoboit Bay ... but time to make my way back to the Finish, via, I think, Petpeswick Inlet tonight  
(<https://archives.novascotia.ca/communityalbums/easternshore/archives/?ID=762>),

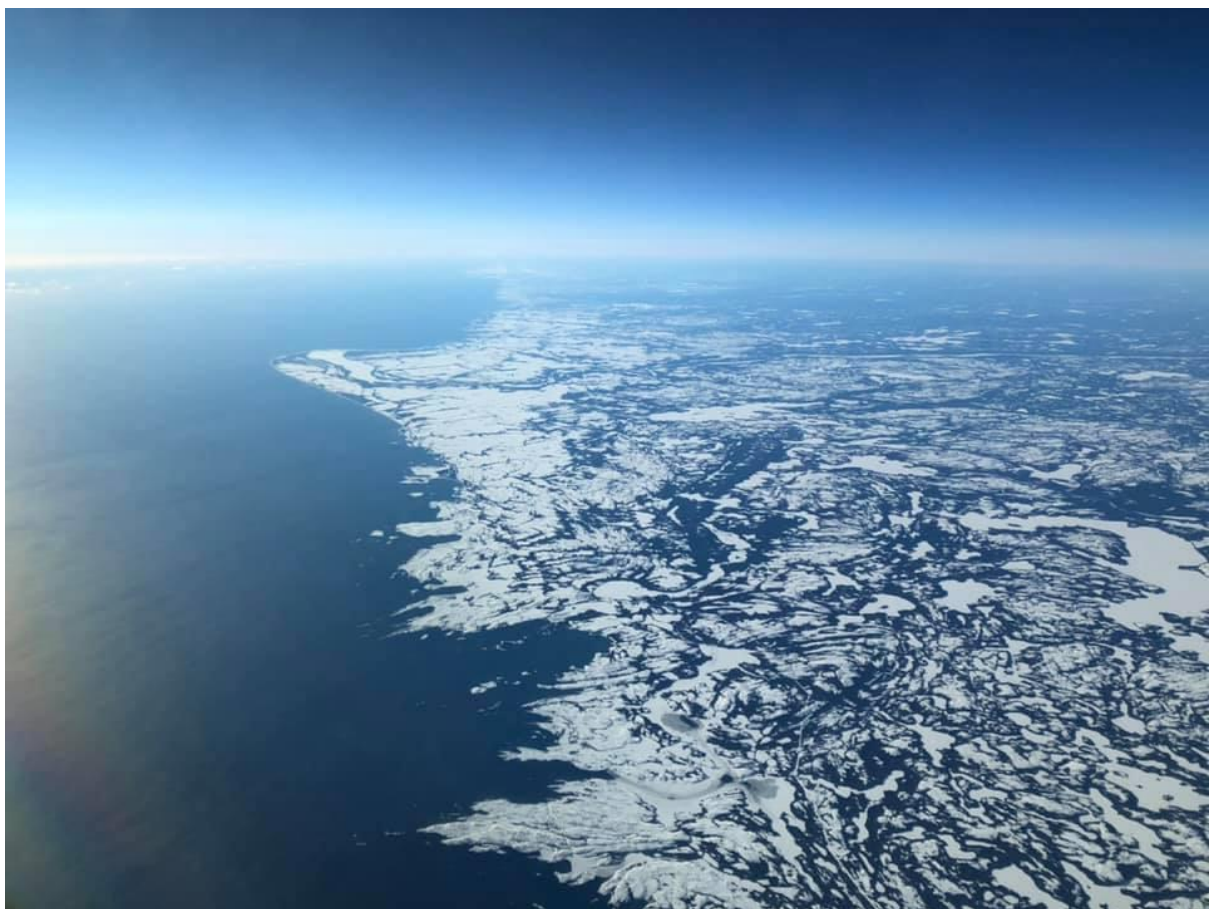
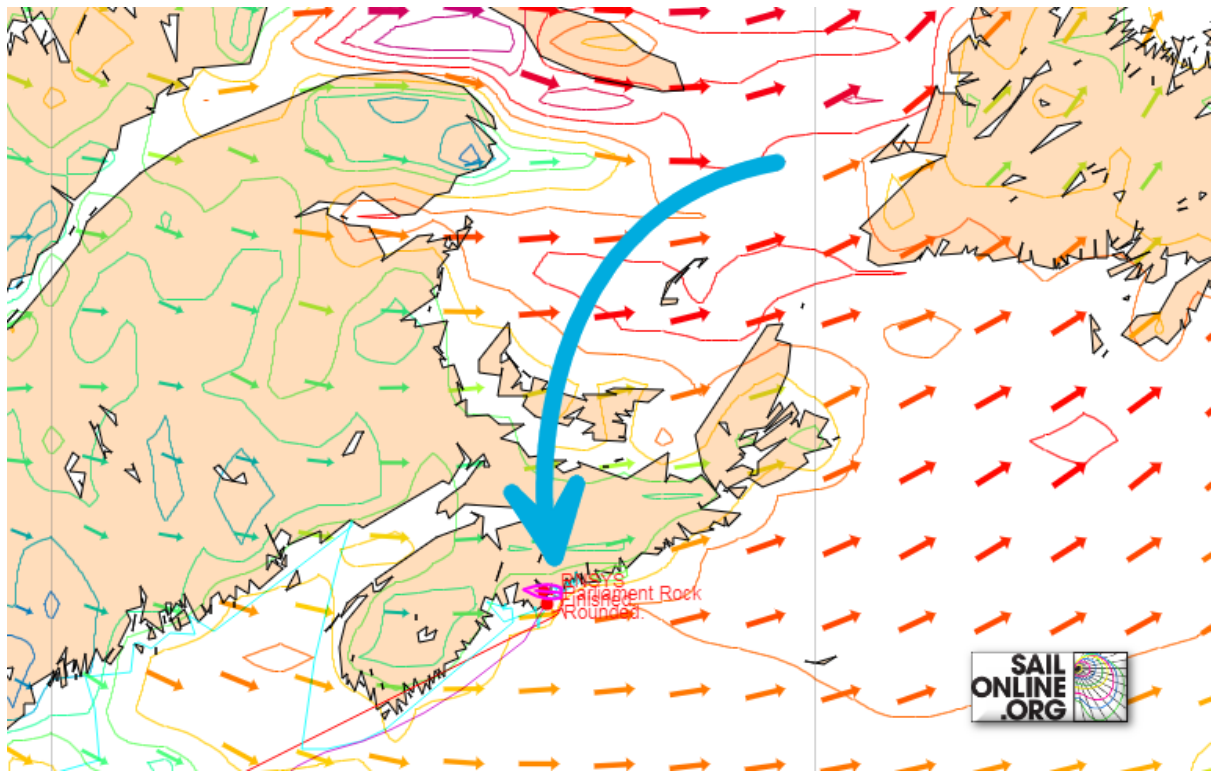
then

Chezzetcook Inlet tomorrow night  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head\\_of\\_Chezzetcook,\\_Nova\\_Scotia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_Chezzetcook,_Nova_Scotia))!

Quiet inlets, good shelter from pretty strong winds but otherwise not notable!

**3 March** - 1100utc - now going to Halifax and see what I can find there!





## Cruise 2 – Halifax Nova Scotia N to Clarenville Newfoundland

Halifax to Clarenville via L'anse aux meadows

**7 March** - 1230 - dept Halifax aiming for a first stop in Canso - "Canso is a community in Guysborough County, on the north-eastern tip of mainland Nova Scotia, Canada, next to Chedabucto Bay."



**8 March** - 1820hrs - after leaving my boat on "auto" and being busy with other Sailonline matters, I return to the helm to find myself beached at an island at 45.12036, -61.56826 - Goose Island in the area of Drum Head, Nova Scotia. I shall endeavour to extricate myself from Birds Cove and once again head out for Canso!



Canso is a fine wee town and I overstayed which meant that the cruise rules saw my boat teleported back to the start!

**15 March** - setting out again, I am resolved to make it to Newfoundland before stopping this time! For sure I will be visiting L'anse aux meadows but before then?

First up will be Salmon Hole Lodge [https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel\\_Review-g674065-d8263794-Reviews-Salmon\\_Hole\\_Lodge-](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel_Review-g674065-d8263794-Reviews-Salmon_Hole_Lodge-)



La\_Poile\_Newfoundland\_Newfoundland\_and\_Labrador.html and  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaZP6U58jG8>

**17 March** - arr at SHL 1300utc or so. YAY!



Will rest up and consider my next destination on Newfoundlands W Coast!

After several days in/near the Lodge and La Poile it is time to move on - I need to see L'anse aux Meadows and get all the way round to Clarenville by 9 April!

SO...

**23 March 2021** - 1330utc - I depart for the City of Corner Brook ...

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corner\\_Brook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corner_Brook) and <https://www.cornerbrook.com/>!



**25 March 2021** - 1340utc - I find my track has overshoot Corner Brook and in fact I am BBQ-ing on the shore near an area of several lakes and a fishing settlement called Baker's Brook (<https://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/plan-and-book/attractions/33780046>) - there's a hiking trail and this is definitely isolated! Can only imagine the wildlife and birdlife (<https://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/things-to-do/birdwatching>) and the views (<https://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/about-this-place/natural-landscape>)...

**27 March 2021** - 1251utc - found my boat had happily transited the Gulf of St Lawrence and BBQed on the coast of Quebec, near Iles Bun! Unfortunately, apart from appearing on a nautical chart and finding current water temperatures in the area, there appears to be no information on why these rocks are named as they are. They are offshore Minganie Regional County ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minganie\\_Regional\\_County\\_Municipality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minganie_Regional_County_Municipality)) and Saint Augustin ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Augustin,\\_C%C3%B4te-Nord,\\_Quebec](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Augustin,_C%C3%B4te-Nord,_Quebec))...



Time to cross the Gulf again, eastwards to my avowed destination of l'anse au meadows once more!!

**28 March** 1920hrs - checked on my position and... I have been BBQing at Cape Norman... (<https://roadsidethoughts.com/nl/cape-norman-profile.htm>) - it has been quiet!! but now, on my way again to Viking-ville :-D



**1 April 2021** - L'anse aux meadows has been amazing - from a world not realising that Vikings settled in N America to what is now known has been extraordinary - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27Anse\\_aux\\_Meadows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27Anse_aux_Meadows) - <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/4/> and although I could happily stay longer, it is definitely time for me to set off for Fogo Island and the extraordinary Inn - the BBC documentary programme has whetted my appetited (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08nx7hd/amazing-hotels-life-beyond-the-lobby-series-1-5-fogo-island-inn-canada>) - 1330utc - on my way!



**2 April** - made it to Fogo Island and its amazing inn... what a place to spend Easter 2021!

**5 April** - after forgetting to set a TWA=0 to keep me in place and have server register I am still "steering", I find myself back in Halifax - I need to be in Clarenville by 9 April, otherwise I will have failed the second leg of this delivery cruise!

I will do my best to arrive in Clarenville in time for cruise close BUT as I may not, I am starting in CCA S!

Here ends my first attempt at virtual cruising – I found it particularly enjoyable as I made it an opportunity to sight-see a part of the world I might never get to see in reality. I could probably have been more diligent in my time-keeping and setting of DCs so I wasn't towed back, and it certainly shows how tricky it is for delivery skippers to deliver boats on time, sailing the shortest distance possible! Here's to more virtual cruising on Sailonline so the art of delivery skippering can be honed!

RainbowChaser/ April 2021

NOTE: click on each image to reveal information about it!