

Sea Saba, Juliana's, September 2002, Elizabeth Hiltcher (reefsong@attbi.com) Oak Park, IL.

Vis: 80-110 ft. Vis: 82-84 F. Dives accrued: 226. Dive restrictions enforced: 130 depth, no deco. Pristine, beautiful place with healthy reefs and respectful, service oriented, ecology minded divemasters. Water and weather conditions couldn't have been better. Juliana's Orchid Cottage was wonderful. Sea Saba is a good outfit with a helpful but unobtrusive crew. Gatehouse — the best meals and ambiance on the island.

ST. BARTHELEMY

Dive With Dan, December 2001, Don Henderson, Lockney, TX.

Dives Logged: #42. Vis: clear. Water: 82 F. I really enjoy this little French island and always look forward to it when taking Windjammer's S/V Polynesia on its northern route. WJ booked us a single tank trip and unlike the other divers on board, I had all my own gear with me. I thought that this would be great timing: dive, quick shopping, lunch, then the afternoon on the beach! I did a light breakfast, as I avoid eating much before diving, then dragged my bag up three flights, only to learn that the operator dumped us to cater to a bigger group from a larger boat. We had to schedule our dive for the afternoon, and I wished that I'd had more to eat, as now I was looking at a light lunch and a rescheduled day that no longer included beach time.

When we finally got to the dive boat, the rest of the divers were disappointed that at \$50 for a one tank dive,

they didn't get depth gauges or auxiliary second stages with their steel tanks? We made do, though, and enjoyed the nice reef dive otherwise. My buddy surfaced, habitually looking for any fires, and — spotted one! A boat was burning near where we'd first boarded ours, and we watched as it was towed away from the dock. WJ's M/V Amazing Grace supply ship, which happened to also be in the harbor for delivery, pulled along side to douse the flames. By the time we got back to the Poly, showered and changed, the Grace had repositioned away from the smelly remains, and we all took launches over for a wine and cheese gathering on "the bingo boat" with the ship's quieter passengers. I have quite a collection of souvenir T-shirts, but I was feeling pretty salty by now and thought that this might be the time to wear my WJ Officer's Shirt -- available by special order only, not from the ship's store, along with matching WJ shorts and my straw western hat! Many of the Grace's passengers and some of my own mates took me for an officer, but I behaved pretty well for an old cowboy drinking wine out in the Caribbean on an empty stomach. We returned to our own craft for dinner, and I didn't moon anyone until our rowdy time ashore at one of Jimmy Buffet's old hangouts. I think we weighed and sailed around midnight. (Ph: 590-276478)

ST. EUSTATIUS

An historically significant island, St. Eustatius, which lies fifty miles