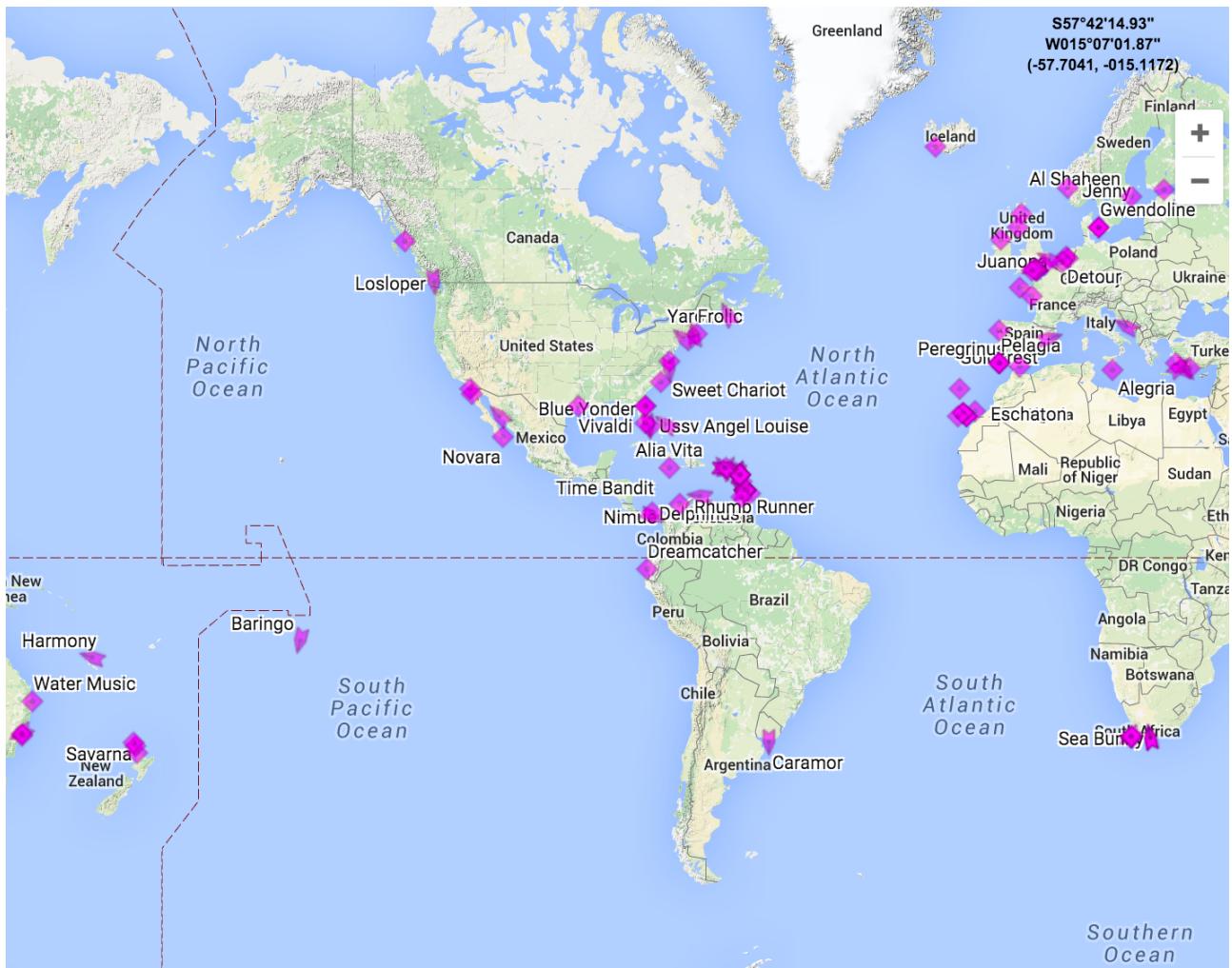
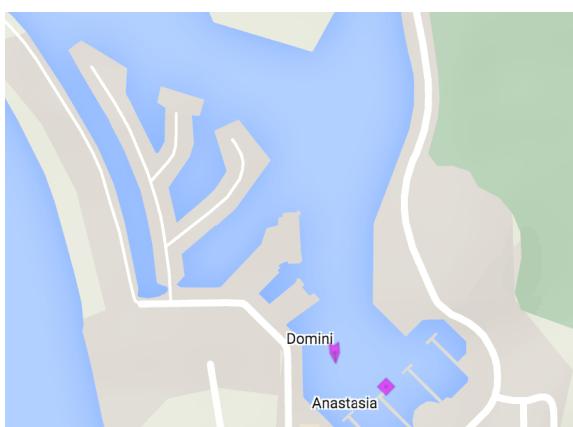


OCC Fleet Map



It is less than three months since the OCC Fleet Map went live on the member's website and it has been far more successful than we ever imagined. As I write we have 119 boats signed up and these are displayed on a zoomable map showing the last recorded position of any OCC boat. For 90% of registered boats that position is automatically updated in realtime when the ship's AIS is turned on. For the remaining 10% members choose to update their boat's position by email or by using a, simple to use, free App called mAIS.



The map costs nothing to use and the zoom function can display pontoons in a marina.

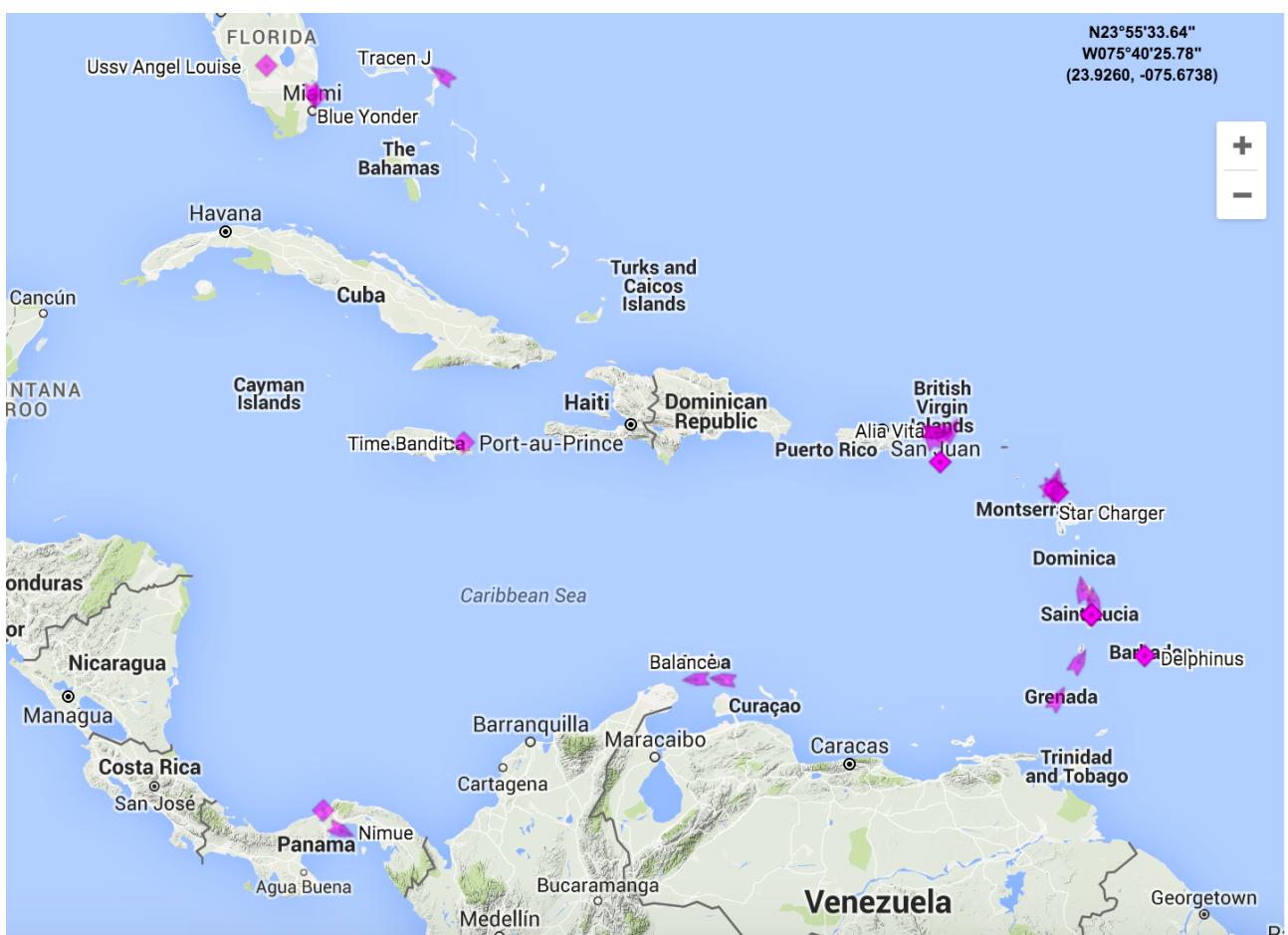
The boat name is automatically displayed and if you click the boat image you can drill down to get more information such as course, speed, wind, temperature, time last position broadcast and in many cases a picture of the boat. To preserve the privacy of our members the map is only accessible on the member's section of the website but it can be viewed on any smartphone, tablet, PC or MAC.

So how does it work? We stream the position feeds to our website from an international database of ships positions called marinetraffic.com. This live feed costs the club about £100/ year and, if there

is demand, we can display up to 1,000 boats. Potentially every OCC boat could be on there making it easier to track friends, find new ones and to satisfy curiosity. Whilst our map is only visible to our members the whole database is in the public domain which may cause privacy concerns for some. If this is an issue then turn off the transmitter when it pirate infested waters or when going off piste.

Live AIS data is collected worldwide by volunteers with land based AIS receivers and they feed it, via the Internet, to the marinetraffic.com database. This means that generally positions are automatically displayed from transmitting vessels up to 50 miles off shore as reception depends on a VHF signal from the ships transmitter. Positions can be fed into the database by a variety of other ways however which means that any boat can be plotted anywhere in the world. If you don't have AIS on your boat then the free mAIS app is very easy to use and will post the position using the gps in your smartphone via 3G, 4G, GPRS or wifi. If you are mid ocean or want to post the position of your boat from home then a very simple email is all that is needed. One minor catch is that the email has to be sent from the email address used to register your marinetraffic.com account or else it won't update on the map. Certain satellite trackers can also be used to stream positions worldwide to the map although I don't think we currently have anyone using this system of reporting.

Does it cost to register? No it is completely free. You will need to register your boat on the marinetraffic.com database which means you will need either an MMSI number or a radio call sign. Registration is automatic if you have an AIS transmitter on board. The easiest way to register is with the mAIS app.



A glimpse at the OCC Fleet Map shows the world's cruising hot spots at this time of year and one can only be jealous of all those enjoying the Caribbean at the moment. I suspect as we head towards the northern spring the European map will start to light up too.

It will become a great resource for Port Officers and Rally organisers as boats converge on their port or event. Great too for finding out who is anchored in the next bay but out of sight or berthed, without burgee, in the same dock. A rendezvous can be either facilitated or avoided depending on your frame of mind!

You don't need to be a techie to make it work and if you are struggling please don't be afraid to ask. Most get by with the instructions on the Forum but some need a bit of a leg up. Contact me on simon@medex.org.uk and I will be only too pleased to help you get up and running. <http://www.oceancruisingclub.org/index.php/forum/where-is-your-boat-at-the-moment/1471-occ-fleet-map?limitstart=0>

We are off on our boat, Shimshal, to a cruising cold spot this northern summer and will be delighted (but surprised) if the OCC Fleet Map shows others converging on our destination. Be sure to call us up though if you are bound for North East Greenland!

Simon