

Every now and then I get a call from my husband, and he'll say, "You should see this *beautiful* boat that just came into the creek!" He's referring to Jackson Creek in Deltaville, Virginia on the Chesapeake Bay. My husband Edward works at the Deltaville Marina during the summer as dockmaster and, since it is only 10 minutes away from our house, I will often go over to take a look for myself.

Recently, he called me with a question about a flag he saw on a large steel boat in the creek. The boaters stopping over in Deltaville, traveling either north or south depending on the season, are such an international group of travelers that there are times they fly flags we don't immediately recognize. "Which way does the Dutch flag go? Red, white and blue stripes – vertically or horizontally?"

He had the colors right, but had the French flag confused with the Dutch. "Horizontally. Why?" I asked curiously.

"Well, there's this *huuuuge* steel boat that must have come in last night, and they have a Dutch flag. It's a steel boat, at least 60 feet, with two masts – wooden, no less! The name on it is *Saeftinghe*. s-a-e-f..." he spelled out for me. "It has the flag all the way at the top of the mast, you know, like the Dutch boats usually do."

I immediately went online and looked up *saeftinghe*, as it didn't sound Dutch to me at all. Danish maybe, or even some other Scandinavian language. I found however, that it was the name of a city in the southwestern province



Saeftinghe

by
Ingrid A. Peake



of Zeeuws-Vlaanderen in Holland that flooded in 1584 and nowadays is a swamp-nature preserve. So, yes, it *was* a Dutch name after all.

Another call a little later on: “How do you say ‘good bye’ in Dutch again?”

I told him, “*Tot ziens.*”

“Oh yeah, I remember!” He remembered because of my being Dutch, and having been married for quite a while – 37 years to be exact. He has been exposed to the Dutch language over all those years and has even picked up some of the lingo. He called back and said excitedly, “I talked with them. It’s a family with four kids – they’re taking the marina bikes to town to do some shopping and sightseeing! When I said ‘*Tot ziens,*’ they were very surprised and wanted to know how I knew how to speak Dutch. We got talking, I told them you were Dutch and they’re hoping to meet you.”

Okay, twist my arm! When I arrived at the marina I scanned the creek for the very impressive-looking black-hulled ship. There it was: a pilot house, two masts and lots of equipment on the foredeck, and the Dutch flag at the top of the mast. I guess it *looked* Dutch to me. It made me think of those cargo boats called Rhine-arks that transport sand and coal and everything else via the rivers in Holland and Germany and Belgium. They’re comparable to the 18-wheeler trucks here in the States, except they travel by water. I am always interested in meeting fellow countrymen, as my husband knows well. I get excited about being able to speak my mother tongue. It’s like being home, if only for a little while.

I spotted them as they came back from their ride to the local grocery store and farmers’ stand, bike baskets overflowing with supplies. The kids ranged in ages from two to 12. The oldest three loaded the groceries into the dinghy and made a run to their boat while I chatted in Dutch with Erik and Gazalli Klijn, husband and wife. They were from Friesland, in the northeastern part of Holland, where there is lots of



Neda, barely two years old, is strapped in for safety.

Class is in session: (L to R) nine-year old Dante, mom Gazalli, seven-year old Evan and 12-year old Ammedee

Gazalli hanging the international flag out to dry



access to water. It is somewhat like the Outer Banks for the Dutch, just not as warm. There are islands to the north with wonderful beaches and lakes in the interior. It borders the Ijsselmeer, a large body of open water to the west and a paradise for sailors. And they spoke with that guttural “g” as I do.

They talked about their trip. Erik had sailed, with help from his father and friends, via Spain to the Azores last August and then across to the Caribbean while Gazalli flew with the kids to meet him on St. Lucia. From there they sailed to the Bahamas and up along the East Coast “on the outside,” as their mast was too tall for the Intercoastal Waterway. After our initial chat, they invited my husband and me to come to the boat for a drink later on. They had to get back to *Saeftinghe* with the kids as they had a homeschooling class scheduled for the afternoon. Gazalli is a teacher – how convenient – and the three older kids would be getting a combined math lesson while the little one took a nap. By home-schooling, the children will be able to move up to the next grade upon their return in the fall without having lost an entire school year. What a wonderful adventure and experience they will have had, one they definitely cannot get in school.

We borrowed a mini-deadrise from the marina and motored over at a little past five – happy hour for the Dutch too! Erik stood on the gangplank, ready to receive us at the stern, and tied us off. The stern had a ramp that folded down. It was part of the stern itself, which enabled us to take the built-in steps that led us aft, ducking under the dinghy davits and into the cockpit. Of course we opted for a tour of the boat before sitting down. A very sturdy and roomy boat with its own water system, generators, central air conditioning and heat.

Erik and Gazalli own *Saeftinghe* and use her in their chartering business in and around Holland. She will take a dozen



Saeftinghe sailing in Caribbean waters

Saeftinghe anchored in Jackson Creek




NORTON YACHTS PRE-BOAT SHOW OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 2009 11AM TO 5PM



Celebrating 60 Years

Because of our many years of experience, our customers can expect no pressure. A knowledgeable sales staff. Competitive prices. And incomparable service before, during, and after a sale. From our on-site service and yard maintenance to our ASA-sanctioned sailing school. No one offers a better selection of new and used sailboats. We're the #1 Hunter Dealer in Customer Service World-wide for 15 consecutive years!




www.nortonyachts.com



P.O. Box 100 • 97 Marina Road
Deltaville, VA 23041
(888) 720-4306 or (804) 776-9211
fax (804) 776-9044



or so tourists per voyage, plus a captain and crew member. This year they decided to take the boat on a year-long trip before the kids got older and had too many commitments with school and so on. It's not the luxurious and plush sailboat that comes to mind when we think of a charter boat in the States or in the Caribbean. *Saeftinghe* is a more practical vessel with several cabins with stacked bunks, a head with a shower, a nice master v-berth, which was created by combining two forward berths, all situated around a large, open salon and a galley with kitchen cabinetry and even a cooking island.

The washing machine was going and the kids were playing on the computer. There were toys and books and games and a highchair; it felt like someone's living room on land. While the kids played we sat outside in the cockpit, up high overlooking the bow and the three other boats that were anchored in Jackson Creek. We had a glass

of wine and chatted about where they had been and the rest of the voyage that lay ahead. The conversation was in English for my husband's sake, with an occasional sprinkling of Dutch when the English word didn't come to mind.

They discussed their plans to leave the next morning and head for Solomons Island on the Maryland side of the Bay and then up to Annapolis. While there, they would rent a car and visit Washington, D.C. From Annapolis they would sail on to New York. We suggested they consider a marina on the Jersey side rather than in the city, as it would allow them easy access to Manhattan via ferry and a fantastic view of the skyline, both day and night. From there, they would travel north to their final destination, Newport, Rhode Island, where *Saeftinghe* will be put on a freighter and transported back to Holland while the family flies home. They would miss the opportunity to sail back across the Atlantic,

but felt they would rather spend the time available sightseeing on the East Coast.

They left in the morning, and Edward waved good-bye as they passed the marina and sent them off with "Tot ziens!" They waved back as they sailed away.

Ingrid A. Peake, born Feldhaus van Ham, grew up in Holland and Canada where she attended school and majored in foreign languages. She also attended Art Academy in The Netherlands, earning a degree in Fine Arts and Art Education. She and her husband Ed reside in Deltaville, Virginia.

Saeftinghe

Design by Martin Brekebrede,
yacht designer,
Workum, The Netherlands

Length overall	77 feet
Width	18.5 feet
Length at waterline	60.7 feet
Mast Height	85 feet
Depth	9.8 feet
Weight	55 tons
Materials	steel
Motor	120 HP
Speed	6.5 knots
Water Tanks	1850 gallons
Diesel Tanks	528 gallons
Range	Approx. 1650 nautical miles
Berths	7
Beds	13
Heads	2, each with a shower
Sail Sheathing	656 square feet