

Sunday, December 20th 2015, Captain Valerio Galigani (Italian Passport #YA0509663), First Mate Roberto Dessena (Italian Passport #YA4454144), and Lee Ferber (American Passport #476705168) set sail on S.V. White Dumbo around 7am from Chaguaramas, Trinidad, on route towards Port Louis, Grenada.

After a few hours into the sail, in position 11°13.690'N 61°40.894'W near the halfway point between Trinidad and Grenada, and a few miles north of an oil rig between the two islands, around 12.00 am ECT (16.00 am UTC) we were approached from the south by a narrow fishing boat, approximately 18ft long, with 5 individuals aboard. The boat's hull was white, and the inside was painted blue. They had a 120hp Yamaha outboard engine, 4 blue barrels, and an additional engine laying on the boat's floor. They proceeded to cross our stern, setting up on the leeward, port corner. They were yelling in Spanish, we could not understand them. Then one of the individuals proceeded to pull an assault rifle, similar to an AK-47, from behind his back and points it at the crew. Three of the pirates boarded the yacht from the leeward side while the other two remained on the 18' vessel. The pirates corralled the three of us to the stern, telling us to turn off the engine. We tried to explain that the engine is off and that the sails are generating the yacht's speed and heel, but this concept did not compute to the pirates. The man with the weapon stayed on deck, holding us at gunpoint, while the other two pirates on board went below to look for money and valuables. They all began yelling "Dinero". The pirates had Roberto go below to help them find valuables. Meanwhile, the Captain steered the boat, preventing it from spinning in circles. Roberto then came back on deck. The pirates below deck proceeded to put the valuables in bags and luggage found inside the boat, and transport said bags into their dinghy. After approximately 20 minutes, all three pirates on board, jumped back into their dinghy, and started motoring south, from the same direction in which they came from.

The list of stolen items includes and is not limited to Valerio and Roberto's Passports, White Dumbo documents, cash, credit cards, wallets, computers, phones, clothes, luggage, watches, books, sailing gear, keys, food, miscellaneous electronics, toiletries, and other items.

All of the individuals were of dark complexion, suppose to be Venezuelan. Ages may range between late teens and late twenties. The pirates were shorter, between 5'6" and 5'9". The man with the weapon wore an Oakland A's ball cap, red shirt and green shorts. The men who went below, one wore a red Ferrari jacket and the other has a black shirt. The men who remained on the boat, one wore a black shirt and the other wore a blue hoody.

After the incident, we immediately reported the incident to the United States Coast Guard, who recorded the statement, and alerted the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard. I believe they were to contact the Grenada Coast Guard, but I never received confirmation of this. At some point in-with the hour of reporting the incident to the USCG, the Trinidad and Tobago called the satellite phone to review the report that was forwarded to them via the USCG. Being halfway between the islands, we chose to continue sailing towards our final destination of Grenada, and away from the pirate-infested waters south of our position. Hours later, we arrived in Grenada without further incident.

Valerio Galigani
Captain of s/y White Dumbo