



The Ocean Breeze

An official publication of America's Boating Club® Hilton Head
"Innovation, Education, Community"



Volume 36

Number 9

September 2021

Editorial Staff

Debbie Dion
Editor

Cdr. Peter J. Dion, SN-IN
Consulting Editor

The Ocean Breeze is published monthly by the America's Boating Club® Hilton Head, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. Articles in this publication represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the United States Power Squadrons or the America's Boating Club® Hilton Head.

The Bridge

Commander, Peter J. Dion, SN-IN
peterjdion@gmail.com
843-521-7071

Executive Officer, Chris Brigham, S-IN
chris@cbrigham.com
808-285-8700

Administrative Office, Mark Hente
mark.hente@gmail.com
614-282-1875

Secretary, Christine Dattilo, S
chrisdat@gmail.com
978-460-0712

Treasurer, Dave Frederick, S
dfrederick@hargray.com
317-691-1606

Education Officer, Tom Ryley, P-IN
tomryley@mac.com
843-298-0628

WEBSITE
americasboatingclubhiltonhead.org
-or- abchh.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

SOCIAL CRUISES

Oct 12 Skidaway Island - Delegal Marina 9:30-3:00 w/picnic lunch
Oct 22-24 Overnight #2 - Jekyll Island*
Nov 6 Chelsea Plantation*
Dec TBD Pop Up Mystery Cruise

Note: 1. Asterisk (*) denotes weekend cruise
2. All dates & destinations subject to change based on tides, weather, dockage, and venue availability.

For more information about the above cruises, contact Bob Newbert at 843-706-3895 or newbert@me.com

MAGELLAN CRUISES

Oct 26 Cawley's Creek & Page and Pine Islands w/lunch
Nov 8 Backside of Bull Island, Bryant Creek, Barataria Island

SOCIAL EVENTS

Oct 21 DINNER MEETING - Skull Creek Dockside - 6:30 PM

COURSES

Oct 7,14,28 - Piloting @ Senior Center > 6:30-8:30 PM
Oct 16 America's Boating Course @ USCB (Hargray Room) 8:00-4:00
Oct 18 Boat Handling (Rules of the Road) Senior Center 6:30-8:30
Oct 25 Boat Handling (Docking & Undocking) Senior Center 6:30-8:30
Nov 1 Boat Handling (Boating with Confidence) Senior Ctr 6:30-8:30
Nov 8 Boat Handling (Emergencies on Board) Senior Center 6:30-8:30
Nov 15 Boat Handling (Anchoring) Senior Center 6:30-8:30 PM
Nov 22 Boat Handling (Knots & Lines) Senior Center 6:30-8:30 PM

FALL CONFERENCE

D26 Fall conference October 22-23. D26 will be sending out information soon.



FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN-IN



Our required **Annual Dinner Meeting** will take place on October 21 at Skull Creek Dockside. (Sold Out!) Nominees for our 2022 Leadership Team will be voted upon as our only business item. Following dinner, we are pleased to have Jeff Fulgham as our guest speaker who is the author of *The Bluffton Expedition*. Jeff will share with us the histories of Port Royal Sound, the May River, and the burning of Bluffton among other stories during the Civil War.

What a great outing! Over 40 members and guests enjoyed a great cruise to the Port Royal Maritime Center recently. The weather was sunny and Port Royal Sound was calm. The self-guided tour of the Center was informative, and the oyster roast catered by Sea Eagle Market was outstanding! Kudos to Bob Newbert for organizing the trip. **Another cruise** recently was to Savannah. Glenn Crews led a large flotilla to the docks of Savannah where everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch at Joe's Crab Shack. Ah, the benefits of being an ABCHH member!

While members enjoyed lunches and activities on these two previously mentioned trips...the important takeaways for our members are the boating and navigational skills, experiences, and opportunities at becoming better and safer boaters. As I always say in our seminars..."it takes practice, practice, and practice".

Finally, our last dinner meeting of the year will be held at Poseidon on November 9. This is the meeting where our new **Leadership Team** will be installed for 2022 and awards for 2021 presented. (Also known as our *Change of Watch*) **If you're going to attend any dinner meeting during the year, this is the one I recommend you attend.** I say this because at this meeting we recognize all members who have **volunteered** for any of the events, cruises, courses, and activities that took place this past year. **Have you enjoyed any of these things?** If so, come and show your appreciation for the work your fellow members have put forth for your enjoyment and education. Oh, by the way, our "special guest speaker" will be none other than our past Commander, Mark Larson!

See you soon!

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley, P-IN
Education Officer



Brad Loescher, S-IN
Asst. Education Officer

We are well underway with our fall education program and finding a huge amount of interest from members in signing up for and attending courses. As we are still limiting attendance due to social distancing concerns, our challenge is how quickly the classes are filling up. A good problem to have, but equally it puts pressure on us to deliver even more education opportunities.

Marine Navigation (formerly Piloting) started on September 30, and we have 20 people enrolled, the largest number we can recall for this demanding course. Fortunately, we have a team effort among Peter Dion, Mark Larson, Klaus Loehr and Al Pepe teaching, and with all the hands-on exercises, it is fortunate to have all their extensive experience to help everyone.

Starting October 18 will be the six-session Boat Handling course. This very practical set of seminars is the logical next step for members having recently completed the ABC course, and for those new to boating in our local waters. Those completing the course and passing the exam at the end will be granted the "S" designation for Seaman. The courses include Rules of the Road, Docking and Undocking, Boating with Confidence, Emergencies on Board, Anchoring, and Knots and Lines. Our very talented instructor group for these classes include Chris Brigham, Mark Dryden, Mark Larson, Klaus Loehr, Craig Loomis, and Rick Sturges. This course is now fully subscribed as well, so we will plan to offer it again early in the new year.

Another session of America's Boating Course will run on Saturday, October 16, at the USCB in Bluffton. For anyone new to boating, this is an excellent introductory course, and those passing the exam will be issued their South Carolina Boater's Card. Please encourage anyone interested to attend, and sign up through our website at abchh.org. The instructors for this session will be Mark Larson, Klaus Loehr, Rick Sturges, and Peter Dion.

With the very strong interest in our courses, and the desire to meet the demand, we will be advancing the planning for our 2022 Education Program. We hopefully will be able to post it on our website in October and enable signups for 2022 soon after. To run our courses, the most critical element is the dedication and commitment of our instructors, as it requires a great deal of time to prepare for and present our classes. We likely don't recognize this group of volunteers as often as we should, so on behalf of all our members, a heartfelt thank you to all of them.

Tom Ryley
Education Officer

Brad Loescher
Assistant Education Officer

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



New members Bill and Betty Anton are from Pennsylvania and have lived on Hilton Head for 1 ½ years. They relocated to be closer to family. Bill and Betty are both retired. Bill was an engineering manager, and Betty was a volunteer director. They have two children and have three grandchildren. They have three months of boating experience since they joined Freedom Boat Club. As new boaters they hope to learn more about boating in the Lowcountry and to meet others who share this interest.



Well, they'll meet a lot of people with shared interests if they sign up for our boating activities, dinner meetings, and courses/seminars. They took our America's Boating Course in August of this year. Bill's hobbies include fly fishing, travel, and reading. Betty enjoys travel, reading, investing, and singing in the choir. Please join me in welcoming Bill and Betty Anton to America's Boating Club Hilton Head. We look forward to seeing them at our upcoming events. And I also want to share a quote from Betty that was included in her e-mail to me.

"Be the change you want to see in the world"

WONDERFUL WEXFORD

By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN



It's the shortest cruise we run.

And it's the least challenging from a navigation viewpoint.

But in many ways, it is our most unique and memorable cruise.

It is the Canals of Wexford, a very special opportunity to take our boats through a "lock" and cruise up and down the water-filled "streets" of Wexford, the Lowcountry's mini-Venice.

Here's a look at Wexford by the numbers:

- 4,808 statute miles from Venice
- 37-acre harbor
- 3.5 miles of pre-stressed concrete bulkheads
- 2 miles of canal
- 7 bridges
- 4 islands
- 1 lock

The lock is the only way IN and OUT of Wexford Harbor. It is one of only three lock systems on the Atlantic Coast. Two of them are on Hilton Head. The other one is in Windmill Harbour.

We entered Wexford at low tide on Broad Creek which meant the lock had to raise our boats around 6 ft. to enter the harbor. So, like seasoned boatmen, we waited for the lock door to open; motored into the lock with confidence (some of us with confidence but not all); watched the gate close behind us thereby "locking us in the lock;" and then held on while the chamber rapidly filled with water rocking & rolling our boats. Once water levels equalized inside and out, and the turbulence of inrushing water quieted down, the gate on the opposite end of the lock opened; and we calmly motored into the beautiful serenity of Wexford Harbor...like seeing a lovely rainbow after a storm.

And what a beautiful harbor it is! Magnificent homes with beautiful boats tied to the back door. Many of the homes have a distinct Mediterranean flair, so it is not implausible to imagine a gondola making its way along the canal.

Although we did not see any singing gondoliers happily poling their way towards us (how romantic), each twist and turn of the canal system unveiled another stunning

home with yet another handsome boat. More often, the next turn revealed an entire array of lovely homes with an equal array of lovely boats. If you like boats, that's romance!

All romantic adventures have to end at some point so after spending 90-minutes cruising the canals and admiring Wexford's homes & boats, we headed back to the Wexford Club where we enjoyed lunch overlooking the harbor while others made their exit for lunch at nearby marinas.

Water levels in Wexford Harbor and Broad Creek were relatively equal upon our departure so exiting the lock & harbor was a less dramatic change in altitude than our entrance, but still fun.

Wexford Canals.

It's the shortest cruise we run. You don't need to chart your course or program waypoints. But transiting the locks surely adds a little bounce to our step as experienced canal runners and "lock captains."

And we didn't have to travel 4,808 miles to Venice!



ENTERING the lock



HOLDING ON TIGHT in the lock are (top) Bob Newbert, and (bottom) Dave Medvedeff (at the helm) while Art LaPoint looks on and the ladies (Joanne Medvedeff, Cathy LaPoint and Susan Collins) do the hard work.



"OVER THE RAINBOW" captained by Ned Owens traverses the Wexford Lock.



FOUR CREW ON A FOUR WINNS captained by Rick Ford with Nancy Ford (bow) and Stephanie and Eric Burns



CAPTAINS TED WITMAN (top) and REBECCA JEFFRIES lead their crew into the twists & turns of the Wexford canals.

And now, take a tour of the Canals of Wexford...









