



The Ocean Breeze

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



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EVENTS CALENDAR

SOCIAL CRUISES

- Sept 15 Wexford Canals Cruise (rescheduled from August)
- Oct TBD Overnight #2 - Jekyll Island*
- Oct 13 Skidaway Island (TBD)
- 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.

MAGELLAN CRUISES

- Sept 10 Circumnavigate Hilton Head Island w/lunch
- Sept 24 Cooper River & Daufuskie Island - reverse w/lunch
- Oct 26 Cawley's Creek & Page and Pine Islands w/lunch
- Nov 8 Backside of Bull Island, Bryant Creek, Barataria Island

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Sept 21 DINNER MEETING - POSEIDON @ Shelter Cove - 6:30 PM

COURSES

- Sept 23,30 - Piloting @ Senior Center > 6:30-8:30 PM
- Oct 7,14,21,28 - 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



FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN-IN



The focus of our dinner meeting on September 21st is for everyone, **especially new members that have joined in the last three years**. The main topic of this dinner meeting at Poseidon is "what we're all about". Your boating club (ABCHH) is for all types of boaters - novice and experienced, in coastal or inland waterways. We bring boaters together to improve their skill through education and training, make connections, provide community service, or just enjoy time together. We want all boaters to better understand what your squadron is all about and how does it relate to our National organization and our District 26 organization. Everyone, come and enjoy dinner at the Poseidon and better understand **what we are all about!**

Looking for a fun community service project while boating...check out Coop Charting: The Cooperative Charting Program supplies important information in relation to Aids To Navigation (ATON) so updates can be made to nautical charts and the National Survey Marker databases. This program helps to assure waterways are properly marked and maintained. The purpose of the program is **to compare what is observed during the survey with what appears in print (in the USGC Light List or on a nautical chart)**.

Coop Charting is conducted in close cooperation with United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard and NOAA. Annual awards for excellence in Cooperative Charting are given at district conferences. **The program continues to be a major public service of USPS.**

So far, 10 of us have signed up for a short Coop Charting seminar that Paul Hoyte is presenting on September 9. There is still time to sign up. Contact him at: pahoyte@gmail.com if you are interested.

Check out Tom Ryley's Education Report below as there are some excellent seminars and courses coming up.

Finally, check out our Oyster Roast on September 29 at the Port Royal Sound Maritime Center. Boats are limited because of dock space, but like me, you can drive by car and still enjoy a real Lowcountry treat!

See you at Poseidon on the 21st.

Peter Dion
Commander

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley, P-IN
Education Officer



Brad Loescher, S-IN
Asst. Education Officer

After a break over the summer, our fall Education program started on Saturday, August 21, with the Americas Boating Course. We had 26 participants, ranging in age from 13 to 81, and all successfully passed the exam at the end, qualifying them for their South Carolina Boater's card.

The course was held at the USCB Bluffton campus, which we were able to arrange with the help of the Osher Lifelong learning Institute, (OLLI) . We used the large Hargray Room, which gave us lots of space to socially distance, very comfortable chairs, and terrific presentation equipment for the instructors. For the session, our instructors were Mark Larson, Tom Ryley, Wayne Mitchell, and Peter Dion.

The next session of ABC is scheduled at USCB for October 16. Year to date we have graduated 82 people from the ABC course, all in person, and are again on track to have over 100 graduates for the year. This is a very important cornerstone of our mission to educate boaters in the Low Country, and help them be safe, responsible, and confident out on our local waters.

Beyond ABC, we are also offering several other courses and seminars this fall. First up will be Piloting, which starts September 23, and which is a very thorough and hands on program that will give participants a clear understanding of the principles of charting and route planning, using traditional manual tools such as plotters, parallel rules, protractors, and dividers. Even though many of us rely on GPS these days, the Piloting course will educate you in all the principles and basics and is excellent foundational knowledge for all serious navigators.

We will also be offering the Boat Handling course, starting October 18. This is the logical next step for recent ABC graduates and is an excellent and very practical series of six seminars that deal with the specific skills important to all boaters. The seminars, in order presented, are Rules of the Road, Docking and Undocking, Boating with Confidence, Emergencies On Board, Anchoring, and Knots and Lines. The seminars may be taken individually, but those registering for the full course will also be able to take an exam at the end, which with successful completion results in being awarded the S (Seamanship) designation by the United States Power Squadron.

We look forward to seeing many of our members at the fall classes, and thank you all for your support and encouragement.

Tom Ryley
Education Officer

Brad Loescher
Assistant Education Officer

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



New members John and Ann Fitzgerald are already participating in many boating events and bringing a boat load of guests with them. They are seven-year residents on Hilton Head. Originally from the north shore of Chicago (Lake Forest, Illinois) and now retired, they love the Lowcountry climate. John was a sales manager in the steel processing industry, and Ann was an assistant principal in a Catholic elementary school. They have two children and four grandchildren. Previously, John was a sailor for 40 years on Lake Michigan and in the Virgin Islands. Now, they have a 23' Bow Rider called Losawata and a 16' Hobie Cat. Their hobbies include investing, pickle ball, bicycle riding, dancing, and gardening. They love music - anything from classical to rock 'n roll. They joined ABCHH to increase their learning about the islands and waterways of the Lowcountry as well as to socialize with other members. Fall courses and seminars are on their agenda. Welcome John and Ann.



Back in 2003... Mark Stone was a Power Squadron member on Hilton Head Island. Welcome back! Mark is originally from Massachusetts, and spent the last 15 years in Charlotte, NC. He and Cynthia were looking for a place to retire and now live in Bluffton, SC. However, Mark is still employed. He has four children and two stepchildren with seven grandchildren and five step grandchildren. Golf and travel are some of their interests. Mark is a novice when it comes to boating; he took the piloting course in 2004. He intends to retake the class this fall as he wants to become proficient navigating and piloting a boat in a safe matter. It's great to have you back in the Club, and we hope you will explore all the boating courses and seminars that we offer.

Wayne and Gayle Snyder originally came to the Hilton Head area as tourists in the 1990's. They are Michigan natives, but they spent most of their adult life in northern and central Ohio. They have been part-time residents of Hilton Head since 2004. Wayne's career was manufacturing engineering. Gayle is/was a real estate attorney and owner of real estate title insurance company. Now, they're both retired. They have three adult sons and five grandchildren - three boys and two girls - ranging in age from 1 year to 10 years. They are new boaters and became members of Freedom Boat Club. They are both registered for the October America's Boating Course, and plan to take Boat Handling. Their hobbies include world and US travel, bicycling, fitness, wine, tourism (Europe and USA) and now boating! They love spending time with their kids and grandchildren. They joined ABCHH to learn more about boating, Hilton Head Island, and boating in the Lowcountry. They want to meet fellow boaters and plan to take several classes. They are eager to start participating in our boating activities because they sound great. I totally agree - they are GREAT.



Santiago and Ana Vera are originally from Venezuela. The beach and weather brought them to Hilton Head Island where they have lived since 2017. Dr. Vera was an organ transplant surgeon for 40 years and is now consulting; Ana was a housewife and mother to their two children. They now have five grandchildren. They are members of Care Free Boat Club and have some boating experience on manmade lakes. Their hobbies include boating, fishing, and golf. By joining America's Boating Club Hilton Head, they hope to meet new people, learn about boating navigation on these waters, and learn about fishing. They also intend to sign up for future courses and seminars. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Santiago Vera and his lovely wife Ana to our Club.

Richard (RICK) Nelson has been a resident of Hilton Head for 1 ½ years. Rick is a native of Newberry, South Carolina. He retired and moved to Hilton Head Island from Cleveland, Ohio in May 2020. He admitted that he had zero boating experience before arriving here. He also shared that he was here for two months before he realized that Freedom Boat Club even existed and that it's within walking distance from his condo. He's hooked and says he's on the water as often as the weather allows. Rick was a professor of music theory and was a choirmaster and organist. Even though he's passionate about "water" ... he still has an interest in Angelican choral music. He joined ABCHH to give him more perspective about boating and to meet other boaters. He fully intends to take future courses and seminars and has been on many boating excursions since joining our club. When he's not boating, he's volunteering with Second Helpings.



New boat sales reached a 13-year high in 2020, which in turn has increased the number of boating accidents and deaths. ABCHH member Deborah Pepe, submitted an article from "The New York Times" about the surge in boating during the pandemic and what it potentially leads to. The article can be found online at this address:

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/04/travel/boating-accidents.html?campaign_id=24&emc=edit_tl_20210807&instance_id=37375&nl=travel-dispatch®i_id=60739299&segment_id=65670&te=1&user_id=9a2a7efe83896d8b5c43dd847ee913b6

It's a worthwhile article to read because it's applicable to our area and our busy local waterways. We have ferry boats going back and forth to Haig Point daily; they must contend with new boaters and jet skiers alike, as do we when pleasure boating.

Another tragic boating accident occurred over the weekend on the Savannah River. Two brothers lost their lives when a 21-foot center console boat carrying seven people collided with a dredging vessel Friday night near Elba Island. All seven passengers went into the water; five of them were rescued by crew members on the dredge. The Fox brothers perished in this accident.

Wow! Oh Gee! Ogeechee!

By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN



It was a cruise of “firsts” and “lasts.”

On July 30, we made our 1st cruise up the Ogeechee River to Ft. McAllister, the Confederate fort which marks General William Tecumseh Sherman’s last stop on his infamous “March to The Sea” from Atlanta to Savannah.

Sherman cut a 60-mile wide swath of destruction with his scorched earth strategy of total devastation while, for our 100-mile roundtrip, we employed a gentler approach of “total enjoyment” of our beautiful waterways

And beautiful it was.

Skies were sunny, and the sea moderate as we entered Ossabaw Sound a famously difficult stretch of open water that can make Port Royal Sound look like a kiddie pool on a rough & windy day. We even passed through “Hell Gate” with ease (not a comforting term for boaters), and lived to talk about it.

Turning up the Ogeechee River, we made our way to Ft. McAllister and adjacent marina for lunch at Fish Tales, a funky, eclectic waterfront hangout where regulars tell tall tales about the “one that got away” and other imagined adventures at sea.

We told a few tales of our own along the way. There was the one about a non-peer reviewed study that proved golf is 6x more popular than oceanography. A tale about the most famous creek in America with a special act of Congress to change its name. Not to mention the story of an orphanage that morphed into the largest marching unit in Savannah’s renowned St. Patrick’s Day Parade. And let’s not forget the Woolly Mammoths under our boats or the salt loving pigs found nowhere else.

Yup. We heard fascinating stories on our way to Fish Tales. And they are all true!

One of our true stories covered the groundbreaking, first-of-a-kind naval assault on Ft McAllister with its thunderous bombardment of the Confederate fort parried by 63 direct hits to a Union ironclad. It was a heavyweight fight with monstrous haymakers to the chins of both opponents, but no knockouts.

Our Ogeechee Cruise, on the other hand, was indeed a knockout – a perfect 10! Calm seas, sunny skies, gorgeous scenery, good food, the camaraderie of friends and the joy of discovering new worlds made it a trip we will long remember. Yes, it was our 1st cruise up the Ogeechee, but it will definitely not be our last!



Ft. McAllister, recognized by the National Register of Historic Places as the “Best Preserved” earthworks fort of the Confederacy, and the end point of Sherman’s March to The Sea.

Fun, funky, “Fish Tales”



Photos in this article provided by Bob Newbert, Pete Dion, and Debbie Dion

More.....Funky Fish Tales





“BOLLARD PULL” is a vessel’s pulling or towing power. Most tugboats have a Bollard Pull of 40 to 120 tons. Clearly, the Fish Tales tug, with two outboards, must be the feeblest tugboat on the planet!



FEASTING AT FISH TALES are (L to R): Dave Medvedeff, Joanne Medvedeff, Deb Pepe, Nancy Ford, Rick Ford and Al Pepe



ALL SMILES at lunch are (L to R): John Fitzgerald, Mary Lyons, Joe Lyons, Margo Schubert, Tim Nahley, Denise Hahley, John Thompson, Tina Thompson and Ann Fitzgerald



"YES! WE LOVE IT HERE," say (L to R): Brad Loescher, Gemma Gatti, Mary Richardson, Frank Modrowsky, Debbie Modrowsky, Karen Chevalier, Mike Chevalier, Bob Newbert and Debbie Dion.



Tina Thompson and Nancy Ford relax aboard the beautiful "Lady D."



Frank Modrowsky waves to ABC Cruisers on his way to the fort



Bob Newbert and Gemma Gatti celebrate our successful passage through “Hell Gate”



“LADY D” and her crew getting a ‘pulpit’s eye view’ of Ft. McAllister



OUR FLEET proudly passing in review at Ft. McAllister Marina (L to R): Capt. Fitzgerald, Capt. Newbert, Capt. Modrowsky, Capt. Medvedeff and Capt. Dion



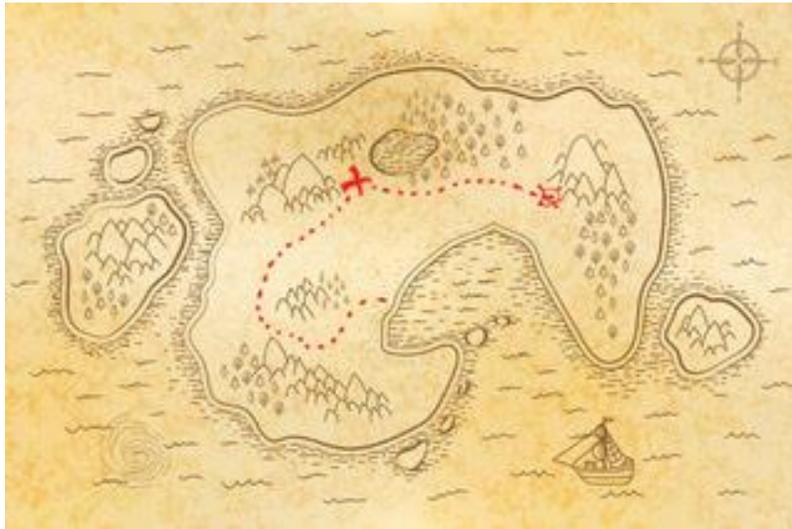
Treasure of a Different Kind

By Bob Newbert, USCG Master Captain, AP-IN



America's Boating Club of Hilton Head launched an expedition to Fripp island, legendary home of Blackbeard's buried treasure, on a "better-than-expected" day weatherwise. (It was supposed to rain on our August 27 cruise...which itself was a rain date for our originally scheduled expedition of June 28). Happily, it turned out to be a glorious day on the water.

So, after a "to-be-expected" Bucking Bronco ride across Port Royal Sound, we wove our way past St Helena Island, Bay Point Island, St Phillips Island, Old Island, and Hunting Island to Fripp. It was a stunning Fripp Trip!



TREASURE MAP we used to find our way through the maze of creeks to Fripp Island and its riches.

Indeed, we enjoyed Lowcountry scenery at its best as we zig zagged through the twists & turns of the marsh which challenged us with its many switchbacks, oxbows, and dead ends.

Our treasure map was proving reliable so as we neared Fripp, the fabled pirate's hideaway, I stopped to review the Terms & Conditions of our voyage. Namely, our agreement to share the spoils if we found treasure. My share being 70%, of course, with the remaining 30% split among the ABCHH swashbucklers who made the journey.

Sadly, we did not find treasure. But we did uncover a first-hand account of the one-handed ghost who appears at Fripp on moonlit nights with an incoming tide – living proof of Blackbeard's storied cruelty and the vengeance of unrequited love.



BLACKBEARD. *Does this look like a man who would cut off the hand of a romantic rival and present it to his beloved in a satin lined box?*

Better yet, we discovered the magnificent beauty of hidden creeks enjoyed with the company of friends. Now that's a treasure worth sharing.



"ARGH!" replies John Fitzgerald when asked if he enjoys treasure hunting on Fripp.



RICK FORD intent on getting his share of the treasure.



CORSAIRS John and Tina Thompson with Debbie and Frank Modrowsky in the bow.



OVERJOYED at receiving their "Letter of Marque" to plunder merchant ships are: Bob Newbert, Gemma Gatti, and Mary Richardson.



ROGUES GALLERY OF BUCCANEERS. Eighteen or so others missed this photo op as they were furiously digging random holes in the ground around Fripp!

PHOTO CREDITS: Mary Lyons, Don Becker, Bob Newbert