



The Ocean Breeze

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



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EVENTS CALENDAR

SOCIAL CRUISES

Nov 5 Explore a New World on The New River w/lunch at Lucy Bell's on Daufuskie Island. Cruise leader Bob Newbert

Nov 11 Circumnavigate Hilton Head Island w/lunch in Harbour Town
Cruise leader Paul Hoyte

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

Nov 8 Wildside of Bull Island via Bryant Creek and Baratria Island w/lunch at Daufuskie Crab Company.
Cruise leader Chris Dattilo

SOCIAL EVENTS

Nov 9 DINNER MEETING - Poseidon in Shelter Cove - 6:30 PM
This is our annual Change of Watch

COURSES

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



Quite a bit of interesting information in this Ocean Breeze edition...First, congratulations to our own P/C Mark Larson, who was sworn in last week as the Executive Officer on the D26 Bridge. His presence there will give us an active voice at the District level.

Next, as you read Tom Ryley's article, you'll realize what a huge accomplishment our Education Department has achieved over the last five years. Hundreds of boaters are safer on the water because of our education classes. Tom and his team have done a great job making boating for the public a safer activity.

Our final dinner meeting of the calendar year is Tuesday, November 9, at Poseidon. If you're going to attend any dinner meeting throughout the year, this is the one I want to personally recommend. I say this because not only will we induct our new Bridge for 2022, but we will recognize all the volunteers who have made this year's activities possible. You would not have been able to enjoy the cruises, the classes, the newsletters, Vessel Safety Checks, community service activities, etc., without the volunteers in your club. P/C Mark Larson will be our speaker. Seats are filling up fast, so get you reservation in now. Contact Mark Hente for information at: mark.hente@gmail.com

Last week at the D26 Fall Conference, America's Boating Club Hilton Head (ABCHH) was recognized for the Membership Growth Award with a 7.7% increase. (Several of our members made this happen.) We are the largest squadron in the district with 290 members! Also recognized by Certificates of Appreciation were Paul Hoyte for his work on the D26 website, and our Day on The Water project conducted by Bob Newbert.

Finally, come out on November 9th and enjoy a great meal, friendship, and a Volunteer celebration at Poseidon!

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley, P-IN
Education Officer



Brad Loescher, S-IN
Asst. Educ Officer



Rick Sturges
Public Boating Educ Coordinator

While our Hilton Head squadron prides itself on a strong offering every year of seminars and advanced courses, we never forget that the base of all our education efforts is the America's Boating Course. Whether for new boaters, or inland lake boaters new to our area, ABC is the starting point for our education efforts, and it is central to our education mission of "safe, responsible and confident boater."

ABC is also the course boaters in South Carolina must pass to receive their South Carolina Boater Education Card, and importantly, also the way that many people first become aware of our Americas Boating Club Hilton Head, and the benefits of membership. So, overall, doing an excellent job on ABC is especially important to our success as a squadron.

With that in mind, the table below reports on the number of students who have taken, in-person, our ABC course over the past five years, and passed the exam.

2017 - 77 graduates

2018 - 71 graduates

2019 - 76 graduates

2020 - 99 graduates

2021 - 122 graduates

Adding it up...that's 445 people who have taken and successfully passed ABC with our squadron in the past five years. I know you will agree that's a tremendous achievement, and the fact that we had our largest number during the past two years dealing with the COVID pandemic, an even more formidable accomplishment.

As to who we can credit, we first want to thank our Hilton Head based Freedom Boat Club. Through the support and encouragement of Larry Tremitiere and Gayle Schaffner, new members of the FBC are strongly encouraged to take ABC. We also benefit from the "word of mouth" encouragement of our squadron leadership, and especially our chief cheerleader,

Commander Peter Dion. We also want to recognize the support we have from our District Education Officer Chuck Gresham and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, who ensure that all our ABC courses are actively posted on the Education section of the DNR website, and preregistrations referred to us.

Of course, we also require top notch instructors, and in the case of ABC, which we hold all day on Saturdays, the commitment of those who are willing to give up a big part of their weekend to come out and teach the ABC curriculum and grade the exams. This past session on October 16 for example, we had Mark Larson, Klaus Loehr, Rick Sturges and Tom Ryley presenting, and in our earlier 2021 sessions also Peter Dion, Wayne Mitchell, and Link Powell .

A good venue for ABC is also an element of our success, and again that was complicated in the past two years by all the special precautions we had to take for COVID, while also being able to offer students an in person teaching and learning experience. For the four sessions we did in 2020 and the two in March of 2021, we were generously hosted by the Hilton Head Boathouse at their showroom in Ridgeland, through the courtesy of David Hughes, and Grant and Jennifer Kaple, who provided the space as well as the tables, chairs , AV equipment, and the great backdrop of beautiful new boats. In August and October of this year, we held the class at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) Bluffton campus, which can accommodate a larger group, and where we had the advantage of a permanent setup of tables, chairs, and a full AV presentation system.

Moving forward into 2022, it is again our plan to offer ABC as broadly as we can and attract the many new boaters in our region. We also plan next year to put a special focus on younger boaters. While we graduated students as young as thirteen this past year, we only had a handful of graduates under twenty, and we see a great opportunity to reach many younger people and are looking at how we might reach and attract this age cohort. This task will largely fall to Rick Sturges, who has taken on the role for 2022 of Public Education Boating Coordinator, as part of our education team, and will be responsible for organizing our ABC efforts next year.

To summarize, we as a squadron can be very proud of our efforts to provide boating education to as many local residents as possible, and the role our success in delivering ABC plays in our education mission, our service to the community, and the growth of our Hilton Head squadron and membership in the United States Power Squadrons. It is, of course, an effort that involves many people, both within and outside ABCHH, and we thank them all.

Tom Ryley
Education Officer

Brad Loescher
Asst. Education Officer

Rick Sturges
Public Boating Education Coordinator

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



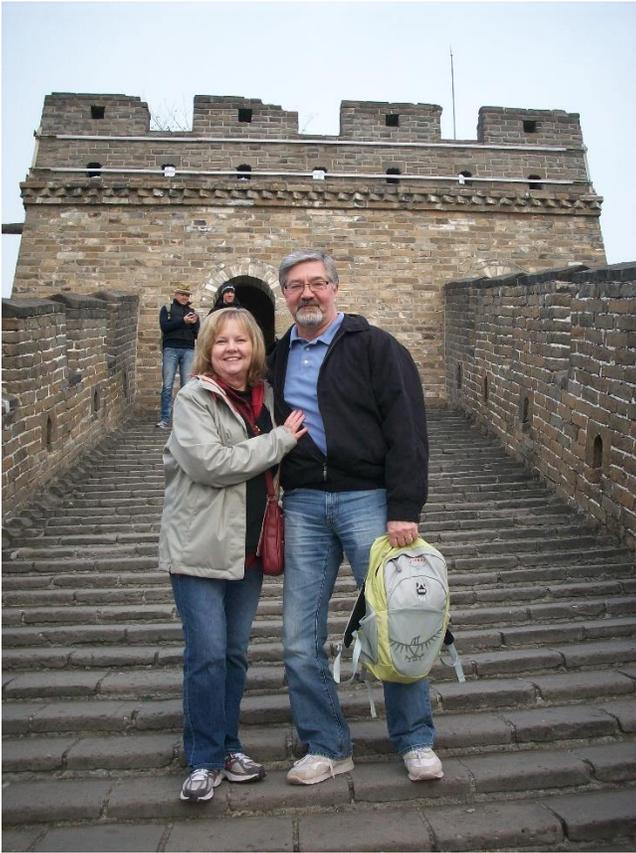
Please join me in welcoming Chris and Susan Carter from Pennsylvania. The Carter's have lived on Hilton Head for a little more than a year. They spent the last seven years in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Previously, they lived in Connecticut. Our great climate and the variety of outdoor activities brought them to the Lowcountry. Chris is still actively employed in the anti-cancer drug



development, and Susan is a retired middle school science teacher. Together they have four sons. Their hobbies include bicycling, flying their small plane, and now boating. The Carter's are anxious to explore new destinations - especially in the Lowcountry. This editor suggests they talk to club members Paul and Nancy Hoyte, who usually have a discovery day one day a week. They could write a book about their adventures and are a great resource of information. Chris and Susan are members of Freedom Boat Club and consider themselves new boaters. They joined ABCHH for the education offerings and to become familiar with the local waterways. Susan took the America's Boating Course in August. They want to improve their boating knowledge and skills and increase their boating experience. Chris wants to learn more about local fishing.

On the next page you will meet Guy and Susan Wagner.





The Wagner's are originally from Buffalo, New York. Most recently they resided in Albuquerque, New Mexico with many stops in between. We'll need to find out more about all the places they've lived. They've resided on Hilton Head for two years and were drawn to our area because of the ocean and related lifestyle. Guy and Susan are both retired. Guy is a former engineer in the field of commercial and defense-related avionics. Sue was an elementary school educator. Guy and Susan are members of Freedom Boat Club and joined ABCHH to learn more about boating in the Lowcountry and to gain proficiency and competence in boating. Guy is currently taking piloting and boat handling courses.

We have some challenging waterways down here so our course offerings and boat training that we provide should make Guy and Susan very proficient boaters. Their experience in boating consists mostly as being passengers and crew for wonderful friends who shared their boats. Aside from boating, Guy enjoys music (guitar and piano), genealogy, and flight simulation. Sue enjoys reading and volunteering. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Bargain Box, which is a local non-profit.

SKIDAWAY GETAWAY

By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN



It was a mission of Stealth & Speed.

We did not stop along the way to air stories of the people, places, history and traditions of the areas we pass through, as is my custom. We went directly to our Skidaway Island hideaway – Delegal Marina.

Well, almost.

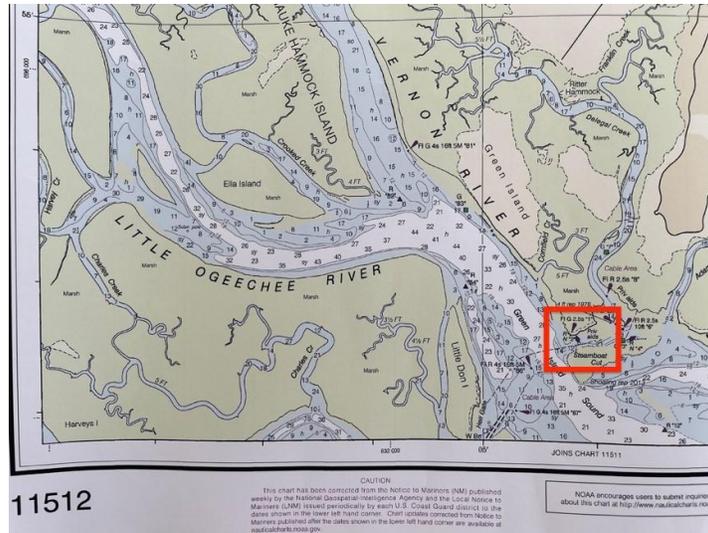
You see, the entrance to Delegal Creek is particularly hazardous with shoals that threaten boats big and small. And just to add drama to our passage into Delegal Creek, G “1” and R “2,” which mark safe entrance to the channel, are MISSING!

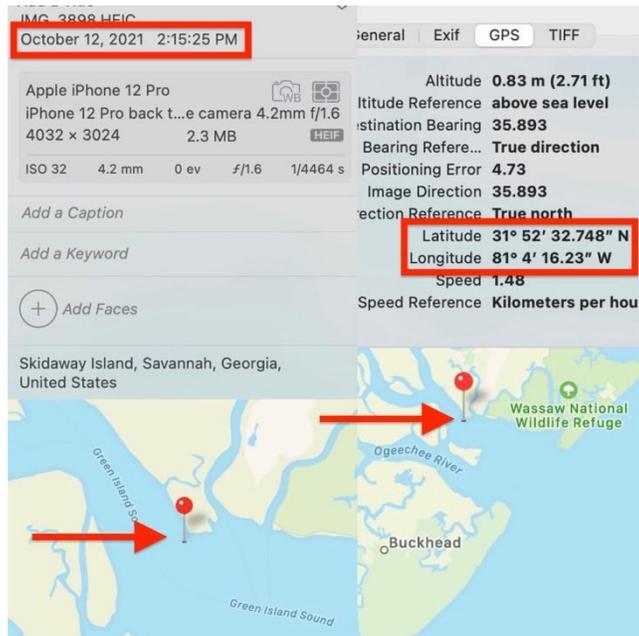
So, we stopped the Game Clock for a 15-minute Time Out to participate in the United States Power Squadrons “Coop Charting” Program, a joint effort with the Marine Chart Division of the National Ocean Service (NOS) and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Under the program, licensed USPS (aka America’s Boating Club) members, document missing markers, chart errors, and other hazards to navigation. Coop Charting has been hailed as the “most effective user-participation program in Federal government.”



It works because we do. Members of America’s Boating Club Hilton Head who are certified to document navigation issues through the Coop Charting Program are Pete Dion, Joe Harris, Mark Hente, Paul Hoyte, Mark Larson, Craig Loomis and Bob Newbert.

And it IS work. Here is a look at just some of the visual documentation needed to report the missing markers. Additionally, there is a whole lot of –you guessed it– paperwork! It is the Federal government after all.





So, after doing our civic duty “photographing what is not there,” we continued on to the marina without incident. (The Harbourmaster is a friend, and he gave me the correct compass headings for our approach).

And what an enchanting marina it is! Beautiful scenes abound along Delegal Creek and across the marsh to Green Island, a private hunting retreat.

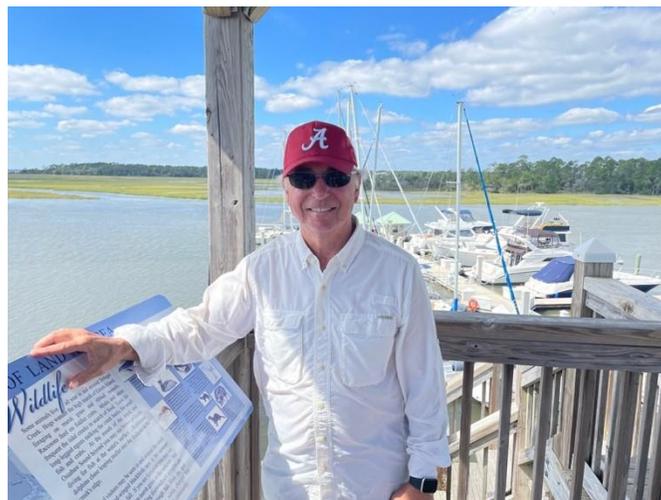


But, if you really want to take in the scenery, there is only one way: UP. And that is exactly what we did climbing the 3-story observation tower to enjoy the view.



WAYNE MITCHELL taking in the sights from Delegal Marina's observation tower.

After a pleasant lunch in the tower, and adjacent gazebo, where we enjoyed the scenery and the company of friends, we headed home, a little less stealthily perhaps; but happy to have been charmed by the beauty of Delegal Creek and its environs. Not to mention pleased with our contribution to safe boating through the USPS Coop Charting Program. With apologies to the great Southern writer Flannery O'Connor (and the National Highway Safety Program which stole her words), "The boat we save may be our own."



AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER John Thompson monitoring traffic from the tower.



ABCHH BOATERS enjoying their time at Delegal Creek Marina, one of two marinas at The Landings, a private club community.



NEXT STOP: MOROCCO (if we miss our turn from the Vernon River into Delegal Creek).



AL PEPE headed toward the open ocean on our way to Delegal Marina.

PHOTO CREDITS: Jerry Koetting, Bob Newbert and John Thompson

ROYAL TREATMENT

By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP -IN



It was a beautiful day. Bright blue skies. Puffy clouds. Water like glass. A Perfect 10 -- A day fit for royalty. And fitting it was as we ran up the Chechessee River to the Port Royal Maritime Center for a self-guided tour of the exhibits.

After a few stops along the way to deal with pressing matters like flounder gigging; the merits of long staple cotton vs short staple cotton; and, of course, a 4,500-year-old trash pile, eleven boats arrived at a dock that can only hold six. Undeterred, we rafted the boats ("Well done captains!") and entered this gem of a museum.

Here, we learned about the unique features of Port Royal Sound, it's marine life and the rich history of Port Royal Sound shrimping, crabbing and oystering. We all came away with a deep appreciation of the Sound's ecosystem not to mention knowledge that makes us top candidates for a winning run on "Jeopardy."

We are primed for success!

Host: It has green eggs and blue blood.

ABCHH: "What is a horseshoe crab?"

Host:

It filters fifty gallons of water each day.

ABCHH: "What is an oyster?"

Host: You find them in pink, brown and white.

ABCHH: "What are shrimp?"

Host: Its guys are cool and chicks hot.

ABCHH: "What are loggerheads?"

Host: They start life as males but transmute into females.

ABCHH: "What are oysters?"

Following our "Jeopardy" prep, we enjoyed an oyster roast catered by Sea Eagle of Beaufort. Oyster roasts are a wonderful Lowcountry tradition and ours held true to form with one exception – Sea Eagle had to import oysters from Virginia as our local oysters were out of season. Call me a "homer," but Virginia oysters can't hold a shucking knife to our local delicacy. This is understandable because even though all oysters are genetically the same (another "Jeopardy" question?), they are filter feeders whose flavor is determined by their environment.

Now, Port Royal Sound, and local rivers like the May, Colleton, Cooper, etc., are "saltier" than the Atlantic Ocean. Yes, there is more salt in these rivers than the Atlantic so our native oysters have a distinct "salty-sweet" taste that you cannot find anywhere else. That's why people from around the world prefer our local oysters above all others. Indeed, you could say our Port Royal Sound bivalves are oyster "royalty."

And with that terrible pun about our day at the Port Royal Maritime Center, I will go back to shucking my Port Royal oysters because by the time this is published, the South Carolina oyster season will have reopened (October 1 to May 15).

“Ah... delicious!”



TWO THUMBS UP from Mark Larson (left) and Bob Newbert for “glasslike” conditions on the Chechessee River.



RAFTING was our first order of business at PRMC as Wayne Mitchell And Chris Brigham (blue shirts) pull up alongside Bob Greene’s boat



PETE DION and PHIL VELELLA map our route to the Port Royal Maritime Center



COMMANDER'S TABLE at the oyster roast with former Commander Mark Larson and current Commander Pete Dion.



PRO SHUCKERS (L TO R): Bob Greene, Carole Greene and Frank Modrowsky.



SEARCHING FOR A PEARL in the perfect oyster are Lois and Phil Veella.



(L to R): Linda Larson, Mark Larson, Dick Lowe and Rick opted for roast chicken over “foreign” (i.e., Virginia) oysters.



“PORTRAITS OF CONCENTRATION.”
Craig Loomis (L) and Russ Collins focus on opening their oysters



SITTING OR STANDING a good time was had by all.

PHOTOS: Pete Dion and Bob Newbert

It was a great day for a “Cruise to Savannah!”

By: Glenn Crews, Member at Large



The sea was calm...the temperature was perfect...little to no wind, and we looked forward to new sights and lunch in Savannah. Taking the route behind Daufuskie, thru Fields Cut and into the Savannah River, we heard local history along the way.

On the way to Fields Cut, we were treated to the sight of 2 cargo freighters with their load of containers sitting above the horizon as they made their way down the Savannah River to the Savannah Port. As we turned into the Savannah River and made our way by the refinery and LNG storage tanks on Elba Island, we could see a freighter up ahead traveling around 12 knots. As we approached the stern of the freighter, we hailed everyone on Channel 78 to see if all Captains and boats were comfortable in passing. Everyone was good to go so we had a wonderful “up close” view and experience of these huge ships and what it was like being next to one... in our “little” boats!

I had checked the *Vessels in Port* at the Savannah Terminal the previous day for our cruise and the trip was going to be active with eight vessels arriving and three departures. The Port of Savannah is home to the largest single-terminal container facility of its kind in North America, encompassing 1,345 acres and is the third largest port on the east coast...over 2,000 ships stop in the port annually, 35-40 per week. So, if you plan your own water cruise to Savannah, or drive over for the day...you will be treated to seeing these large freighters!

After docking, we stopped under the shade of a tree to hear more history on the city, and finally made our way to Joe’s Crab Shack. Some folks ate outside on the deck next to the water and others ate inside to enjoy the air-conditioning. After lunch, some folks went for a walking tour while others headed straight to the Ice Cream shop across the street.

After sightseeing and enjoying the city, we headed back to our familiar waters reflecting on a “Wonderful Cruise to Savannah!”



Glenn Crews talking about the history of Savannah



COSCO needs a paint job! Going into their distribution center in Savannah

PHOTOS IN THIS ARTICLE PROVIDED BY RICK NELSON



Passing the Chicago Express



Passing between two freighters

PHOTOS IN THIS ARTICLE PROVIDED BY RICK NELSON



A little help from a tugboat



BOY! They are BIG



Captain Eric Burns and Stephanie, Howard Kravitz, Barbara Chaloux, Marilyn and Bob Hume



Captain Santiago Vera & Ana, Carol Charbonau & Don Benjamin



Lois Vellella, Pat O'Brien, empty chair belongs to Captain Rich Delcore, Tina Thompson, and Larry Kulick



Phil Vellella, Jim O'Brien, Glenn Crews, and John Thompson