



# The Ocean Breeze

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"Innovation, Education, Community"



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**BELATED AUTUMN GREETINGS FROM ABCHH**



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# FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN-IN



I continue to be amazed on the amount of volunteering our club members demonstrate in all the activities that go on every month. Just read below and I'm sure you'll begin to appreciate the time and energy members dedicate to make our club's educational courses, cruises, and community services for your enjoyment. Not only are they for your enjoyment, but also to help you become a safer boater and more knowledgeable of our waterways and environs. We are fortunate. Thank you to every member for your commitment to making our club a lighthouse in our community.

Planning is underway for more cruises, courses, seminars, community service projects, dinner meetings, and social gatherings in the year ahead. Join us in our activities...it's going to be a great year!

Peter J. Dion, SN-IN

## This issue includes:

- Year-end report and future goals - Education Department
- Page, Pine, and Savage Island Cruise w/Photos
- Daufuskie Island Community Service Project w/Photos
- Hilton Head Island Magellan Cruise w/Photos
- Welcome New Members (Lucey's, Caldwell's, LaVigne)

# FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley, P-IN  
Education Officer



Brad Loescher, S-IN  
Asst. Educ Officer



Rick Sturges  
Public Boating Educ Coordinator

As we wind down our education activities for the past year, we had some good successes and results. Despite the ongoing challenges of working around COVID, we still ran six full courses, four sessions of the America's Boating Course, and several seminars, all held in person. Most notable were our 122 graduates of the ABC course, a new record for us, and the six squadron members who achieved their Inland Navigator designation. This reflects both ends of the spectrum... our goal to introduce as many people as possible to safe, responsible, and confident boating... and our goal to recognize significant levels of commitment and achievement in boating education.

For 2022, we have even more ambitious goals. Your squadron leadership team has endorsed an education plan and calendar that will see us offer a record number of advanced courses, sustain our ABC offering and expand it toward younger people, and further encourage and incent the achievement of Boat Operator Certification achievement levels. None of this, I hasten to add, would be possible without a strong corps of experienced, capable, and committed instructors; and we are fortunate to have not only a great continuing group, but also some new instructors that bring the skills, knowledge, and experience to allow us to expand our course offerings.

The 2022 calendar should be posted to the [abchh.org](http://abchh.org) website by early December, and email alerts to members will soon follow. We begin the year with another session of the Boat Handling course, which is the set of six very practical seminars that are the logical follow on to the ABC course, and which will recognize those passing the exam with the designation of S, for Seamanship. We were not able to accommodate all those interested in the two full Boat Handling courses we ran last year, so please consider signing up for this as soon as it is posted.

On the advanced course front, the first quarter will see us again offer Engine Maintenance and Marine Electrical Systems. Both of these are required courses for the Inland Navigator designation, so for those interested, this is the sole offering of these courses in 2022. Concurrently, we will also be offering Advanced Marine Navigation (formerly Advanced Piloting) which is a very intensive course that will be available to graduates of the Piloting (Marine Navigation) course.

Of course, we will also continue to make America's Boating Course a very high priority and lead off the year with a session planned for the USCB on Saturday, February 19. Please encourage anyone you know who is new to the area, or interested in boating, to consider enrolling. The ABC course teaches both essential skills and knowledge for safe boating, and it is the most typical path we have to introduce our squadron and attract new members.

On that last topic, a little bragging. The summary ABC statistics for the whole United States are now in for the past boating year, October 2020 through September 2021, and the state of South Carolina had the second highest level of ABC graduates of any state in the nation, right behind Florida. That reflects an outstanding commitment to boating education among all the squadrons across the state, and with 20% of those graduates from our own Hilton Head squadron, great local commitment as well.

Thanks again for all your support and enthusiasm in 2021, and let's again "raise the bar" for 2022.

Tom Ryley  
Education Officer

Brad Loescher  
Asst. Education Officer

Rick Sturges  
Public Boating Educ Coordinator







**Magellan Cruisers headed up the Cooper River**



**Joe & Chris Dattilo and Eric & Susan Sutherland aboard Niblick Two  
Photo courtesy of Guy Wagner**



**Santiago & Anna Vera and friends**



**Captain Frank Modrowsky**



**Captain Chris Dattilo sharing some area history**



**Guy Wagner on Niblick Two**



**John & Ann Fitzgerald with friends enjoying the view of Savage Island**

# DAUFUSKIE ISLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

By: Craig Loomis, S Executive Officer & Chairperson of This Event

On November 16, 2021, 19 people travelled to Daufuskie Island by boat for a day of community service, helping Sallie Ann Robinson to clean up and reclaim Gullah historical sites on the island.

It was a gorgeous fall day with clear blue skies, light winds, calm waters and temperatures that rose into the 70's. Five boats arrived on the island at 9:30 AM, and we met Sallie Ann at Freeport Marina. We split into two work teams and Sallie Ann drove us out to our respective work sites: The Mary Fields Cemetery and the Robinson Family Home. Both sites needed significant effort to clear and remove a variety of trees, brush, and vegetation!

For the next several hours (with a lunch break midday) each work site team worked hard to clear unwanted vegetation and debris from each of these sites with substantial great results as reflected in the before and after pictures shown below.

Sallie Ann said at the end of the day,

***"I can't believe what a great job everyone did! You all were awesome!"***

Both teams wrapped up their days work at around 3:00 PM and departed Daufuskie for the boat ride back to Hilton Head Island. There were many aches and pains, but all agreed that it was a great day on Daufuskie Island and being around Sallie Ann brightens one's day!

Our next workdays on Daufuskie will be in January and February with details to follow in December. There are four more cemeteries and at least five more Gullah homesites that require attention.



**The Robinson Family home before work began.**



**The same home after many trees were felled and brush cleared.**

**Photos provided for this article by Craig Loomis and Pete Dion.**



**The "brush pile" at the Robinson home.**



**Sallie Ann Robinson**



**Mary Fields Cemetery before work began.**



**Mary Field Cemetery After cleanup.**



**Don Becker using his weedwacker**



**John Thompson with his leaf blower**



**Frank Modrowsky using his gas-powered trimmer**



**Rick Sturges is pruning overgrown foliage**

The ladies are hard at work. Pictured below is Nancy Stermer-Hoyte and Lisa Becker on the right.



Rick Nelson is busy raking but has time for a photo op



Rick Sturges and Mark Stone have filled up another bucket of trash



### **THE CEMETERY CREW**

Left to Right: Pete Dion, Rick Sturges, Mark Stone, Lisa Becker, Rick Nelson, Frank Modrowsky, Nancy Stermer -Hoyte, Brad Loescher, and John Thompson. (Don Becker was also on the Cemetery Crew but was taking this picture.)



### **THE HOME CREW**

Left to Right: Guy Wagner, Debbie Loomis, Craig Loomis, and guests of Deb Loomis: Barry Moss, Karen Chevalier, and Mike Chevalier. Ted Witman was missing from this picture.

# Cruising Around Hilton Head Island – November 11, 2021

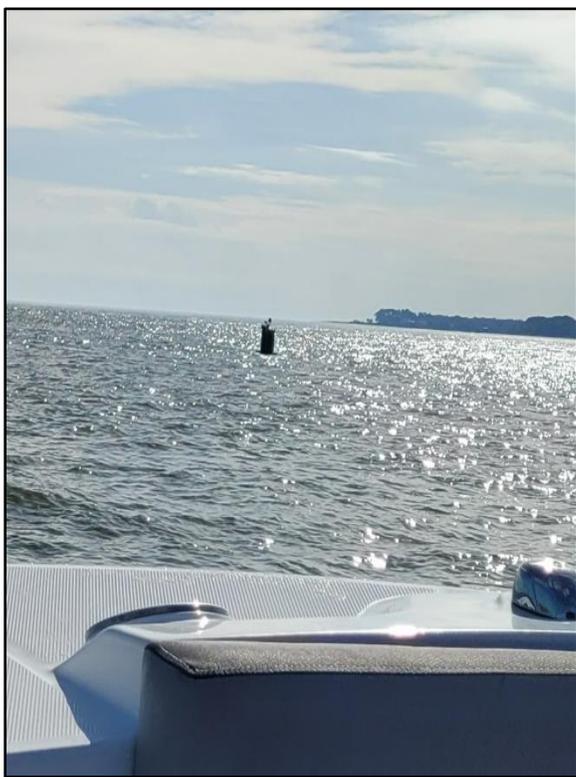
Cruise Leader, Paul Hoyte, AP

By: Nancy Stermer-Hoyte, P

Many people from all over the country and around the world come to Hilton Head Island to enjoy its beauty, diverse attractions, pristine beaches, wonderful restaurants, and rich history. Due to its popularity, many visitors forget that it's an island, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and local waterways, and, were it not for its bridges, it would only be accessible by boat or plane.



With the club's new "Cruise Captain" pennant in place, Captain Paul Hoyte & Navigator Bob Newbert finalize the route. Irene LaVigne awaits the start.



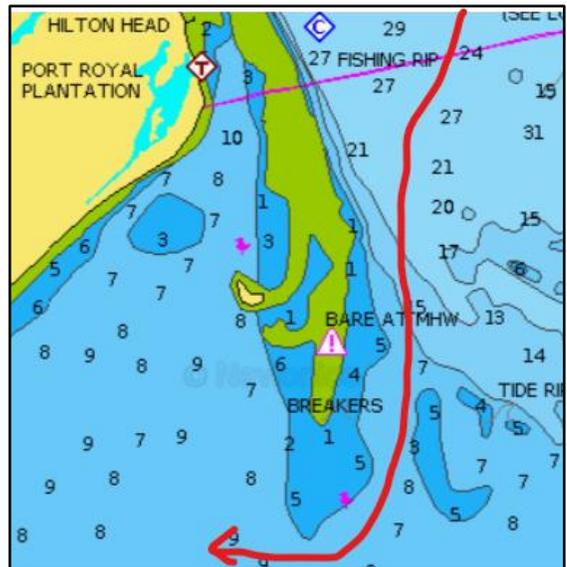
Calm waters as we round marker G23 and Port Royal Plantation.

Seeing this island from the water provides a different perspective, as residents and visitors get a special view when looking at the island from the water. On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021, ten captains, along with 32 guests/members participated in a Magellan Cruise around the island. The weather could not have been better as we motored into Port Royal Sound and headed out to the Atlantic.

Along the way, we recognized St. Phillips Island, Bay Pointe, and Port Royal's Joiner Bank, which stretches out under water at the "heel" of the island. We pointed out that it is quite easy to run aground if attempting to cross Joiner Bank at low tide.

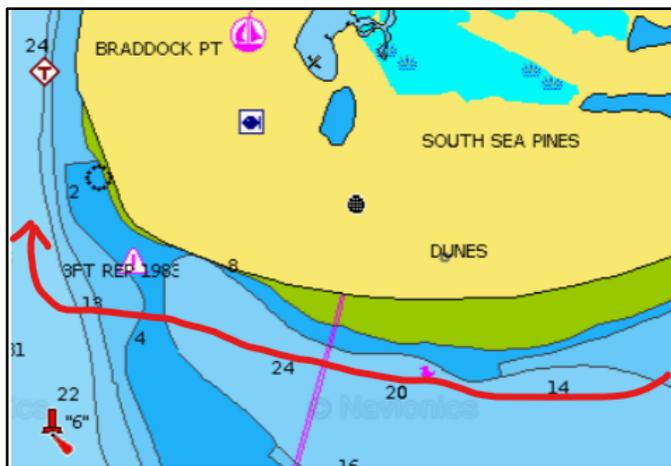
As we approached our entry across the bank, we had to use our navigation software tool to guide us between an opening in the bank, so we could safely cut across. Once across, we headed directly for the shore.

Our cruise route took us along the shoreline where we were able to identify several points of interest and beaches of the island. Being only 100 yards offshore, one member was able to have her neighbor take pictures of our ABC fleet as we went by. Cruising along at a slightly slower speed, we were able to enjoy the sights as well as the remarkably very calm water. One captain expressed a



New member, Irene LaVigne, spots her home and waves to her neighbors.

Arriving at Braddock Point, we pointed out the very narrow path around the tip of the island that should only be traversed at high tide. All boats made it safely thru, and they all gathered together outside of Harbour Town to end our cruise.



As the cruise leader, I would like to thank all who participated, Bob Newbert for being our navigator, and Nancy Stermer for using Google Maps to identify the various buildings and beaches along the route. For those of you who are interested, I used *Garmin's Navionics Boating Software* as the tool to guide us around the shallow parts of our route.

Until our next cruise, have a safe holiday season.



**Capt. Santiago Vera** with:  
Anna Vera,  
Frank Cullen & Jenny Cullen,  
Don Remlinger & Kitty Remlinger



**Capt. Michael Kozyr** with:  
Sophie Kozyr & Guests



**Capt. Chris Brigham** with:  
Cathy Brigham,  
Julie White & Tim White



**Capt. Russ Collins** with:  
Susan Boggs, Art LaPointe & Cathy LaPointe



**Capt. Rick Nelson** in front with  
passengers Bob Gatens (left rear) and  
Dick Lowe (right rear). Sheri Gatens  
took the photo.





**Capt. John Fitzgerald** with:  
Ann Fitzgerald,  
Joe Lyons & Mary Lyons



**Capt. Tim Russell** with:  
Wyona Russell



**Capt. David Medvedeff** with:  
Joanne Medvedeff,  
Wayne Snyder & Gayle Snyder



**Capt. John Hooker** with:  
Diana Hooker,  
Joe Etter,  
Angela Finelli & Al Finelli



Cruising with **Capt. Hoyte**: Co-Capt. Bob Newbert, Nancy Stermer-Hoyte,  
Irene LaVigne, & Mark Stone (pictured above)

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



John and Mari Lucey have been married for 54 years! I'd like to give them a round of applause and hope their golden years are good to them.

John and Mari joined ABCHH in September. Fifteen months ago they moved to Hilton Head full time. They've been coming to the area for fifty years and Covid convinced them that time was too short so they moved here permanently. John was born and raised in Staten Island, NY. Mari was born in New York City and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After marrying in Philadelphia (lived there five years) they went to Fort Stewart, Georgia for two years.



From there it was Durham, North Carolina for six years, back to Philadelphia for two Years, then Fredericksburg, Virginia for 26 years. After that it was ten years in Weaverville, North Carolina for ten years; and they returned to Philadelphia again for another two years. Finally, it was time to move to Hilton Head, South Carolina. So here they are retired and enjoying life in the Low Country. Well, John isn't fully retired. He continues to work on a medical orthopedic device. He was an orthopedic surgeon and Mari was a community volunteer as well as a bookstore owner and a scientist. They have five children and nine grandsons. They own a Regulator 28 named **HIPSTER** which is moored at Broad Creek Marina. John and Mari have been boaters on and off for 68 years. John enjoys boating, golf, and sculpture. John's continued interest is advancing the use of sensors in orthopedic implants. The Lucey's joined America's Boating Club Hilton Head for the education and the camaraderie. John took a USPS (United States Power Squadron) course many years ago. He took our America's Boating Course earlier this year and recently completed our Boat Handling series of seminars. John and Mari are looking forward to social interaction with our members and to share expertise. John attended our Change of Watch/Volunteer Recognition dinner meeting at Poseidon on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mari was under the weather and unable to attend.



This month we welcome Manelle and John Caldwell to ABCHH. The Caldwell's are from Asheville, North Carolina. They previously lived in this area and wanted to return. They reside in Bluffton and have been here just under two years. They are retired, and John was previously a corporate attorney. He is also a retired LTC from the US Army. John and Manelle have five children and seven wonderful grandchildren. They own a 23H Regulator that is kept at their dock. Their previous boating experience includes mostly fresh water and inshore. The Caldwell's enjoy canasta, pickleball, fishing and boating. Family and friends' gatherings are important to them and is one of their many interests. They joined our Club for boating education, social events, and making new friends. They've taken the America's Boating Course and are currently enrolled in the Boat Handling series. They look forward to the annual Vessel Safety Checks we provide and intend to take additional boating courses to shape their boating knowledge and experiences.



Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Irene LaVigne. She joined our Club in September and has been an active participant ever since. Irene was born and raised in Connecticut. She spent most of her adult life in Southern California with a sojourn to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for three years working as a Radiation Therapy Technologist. Most of Irene's time on the water was spent sailing; she even did some sand sailing in the Saudi desert. At a transitional point in her life, Irene's brother enticed her to Hilton Head Island with an offer to sell her his Hilton Head condo. She came to the island and fell in love with the area. She first joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary for a few years. Since retiring Irene has enjoyed reading World War 2 history. She's also learning to cook vegetarian - mainly the Mediterranean diet. And she joined the World Affairs Council and thoroughly enjoys touring the Low Country environs. She joined the Freedom Boat Club in September 2021 and looks forward to touring the beautiful Low Country waterways.