



# The Ocean Breeze

An official publication of America's Boating Club® Hilton Head  
"For Boaters, By Boaters™"



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## EVENTS CALENDAR

**September 3: Magellan Society Cruise - Circumnavigate Daufuskie Island**  
Contact Paul Hoyte to register. [hhsps9900@gmail.com](mailto:hhsps9900@gmail.com)

**September 21: Wassaw Island Beach Party** w/lunch on the beach. This is a fabulous cruise to first come first served with 8-boat limit. The island is uninhabited with a gorgeous sugar sand beach where we can have a beach party picnic (BYO) on 7-miles of pristine sand and ocean. We guarantee social distancing and private swimming so bring your bathing suits. This 115-mile trip to an unspoiled barrier island will go down in the history books as a purely memorable adventure. Wassaw Island is part of the Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge. Registration deadline is September 10. Contact Bob Newbert at [newbert@me.com](mailto:newbert@me.com)

**September 14 - October 1: Cruising and Cruise Planning course** being offered online or in-person. Instructors Pete Dion, Hal Wilson, Mark Larson, and Klaus Loehr. Six two-hour sessions at HHI Senior Center or via ZOOM. Questions - contact [tomryley@mac.com](mailto:tomryley@mac.com)

**October 21: Tybee Island Cruise**

**October 24: America's Boating Course (Location TBD)**

**November 5: Morgan Island Cruise**



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# FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



We're picking up steam... Recently, as you will read below, your club has had three interesting trips for members to enjoy. Bob Newbert's "WYLD" Herb River ride, Bob's inaugural 60-mile "Mini Loop" cruise, and Chris Dattilo's "Fun and Easy Tour of Bull Island" was both fun and informative. Their historical narratives certainly added quite a bit for everyone to learn about in our local waters. Thank you, Bob and Christine.

Seminars and courses continue to be of interest to our members with over 50 members participating in seminars over the past couple of months with more to come. I want to personally put a pitch in for the upcoming Cruising and Cruise Planning course being offered beginning September 14. This is one of my most favorite and interesting courses. If you are planning a cruise, no matter how long or short, or if you are thinking of buying a boat...this course is for you. It places an emphasis on topics such as communications, security, meal planning, people issues, chartering, clearing foreign ports, necessary equipment, etc. In addition, we will describe four cruises and the challenges they present from members who have navigated these waters: the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the Great Lakes, the Inland Rivers, and the Pacific Northwest. Hurry though, only 4 seats left!

ABCHH is one of 13 squadrons in our district. Our District 26 will be hosting a virtual conference on October 30 and 31 that you will be able to log into. More on that next month.

In the meantime, be safe out on the water!

# FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Tom Ryley, Education Officer

Brad Loescher, Asst. Education Officer

Dear Members,

During the month of August, we continued with our online seminar series, using the squadron ZOOM account. Hal Wilson led the class on VHF Radio; Wayne Mitchell instructed the class on Tides and Currents; and Mark Dryden taught Partner in Command. We had 13 people register for VHF radio, 19 for Tides and Currents, and 10 attendees (Craig & Brenda Christiansen, George & Patricia Grieve, Bob & Carole Greene, Wendy Porterfield, Blake & Marjorie Robinson, and Kathy Sturges) for Partner in Command. We have pretty much worked out the kinks for doing online classes, and the response from participants was quite positive as to using instructor led online as an effective teaching format, and one where they felt they could ask questions, and generate dialogue.

With the success of this format, as well as the continuing challenges of social distancing during the pandemic, we are at the point where our plans going forward are to offer online as an option for most of our courses and seminars, even now that we will again have access to the Senior Center for in person classes, beginning in September. The only exceptions will be America's Boating Course, where we think an 8-hour straight online session would be difficult, and perhaps some of the more "hands on" training, such as Knots and Lines.

Speaking of the America's Boating Course, we have had a hiatus during the summer due to a lack of suitable teaching venue, but we remain hopeful we can resolve that in the fall, and be able to move forward with our next scheduled class on Saturday October 24. We have a large backlog of people interested to take this course, and as it's the most effective way we have to integrate new members into our squadron, we are anxious to "make it happen." If you know new boaters looking for some key skills and knowledge for boating in the Low Country, please do whatever you can to promote ABC. Signup can be done through our [abchh.org](http://abchh.org) website.

As for other classes and seminars planned for the fall, next up is the Cruise and Cruise Planning course, led by Pete Dion and Hal Wilson, that starts September 14. Following that, we will again be running the six-seminar series of the Boat Handling course, which was so successful this past spring, and which leads to the Seamanship designation for participants who pass the exam. I suspect we will also be holding several other courses and seminars, so please look for the fall Education calendar which we will be publishing in early September.

Thanks again for your continued interest and support for our classes and seminars. They remain central to our core purpose, and to providing value to you for your membership.

Tom Ryley



Education Officer

Brad Loescher



Assistant Education Officer

# Herb River Story

By Bob Newbert, AP



Two thousand one hundred sixty days (5 years, 10 months, 29 days), after we last cruised the Herb River on August 29, 2014, our club made its triumphant return to the Herb on July 28. That's 51,840 hours if you want to nitpick.

A lot has changed since our last visit to the Herb River. The Hilton Head Sail & Power Squadron is now America's Boating Club Hilton Head. The Bonna Bella Yacht Club where we had lunch back then is now the WYLD Dock Bar with -happily- the same funky dockside vibe and great food. And we are all a little grayer and perhaps a little heavier...not so happily.

But our sense of adventure is still going strong. After meeting at R "32," we made our way down the Cooper River through Ramshorn Creek to the Wright River, Field's Cut, Savannah River, South Channel, Wilmington River, and Herb River to Country Club Creek and the WYLD Dock Bar.

Like August 29, 2014, it was a sweltering day. But the beauty of the cruise and the fun of rediscovering a great destination far outweighed a little heat. Actually, it wasn't bad at all while moving. The only uncomfortable spots were the No Wake Zones (eight of them) where we had to creep along under the hot sun. But look at it this way: A little heat and sweat made "No Wakes" forced weight loss zones. Nothing wrong with that!

Once at the WYLD we were able to get everyone on the dock without rafting. The WYLD is very popular with a premium on dock space, but by planning a late lunch on a Tuesday, we fit everyone in. Yeah!

COVID protocols were faithfully observed by all ABCHH members when ordering and everyone enjoyed their meal and the fellowship of friends. All in all, it was a memorable day at one of the hidden gems of our waterways. You can be sure we won't wait another 51,840 hours for our next "wyld" time.





**ERIC & SUSAN SUTHERLAND (left) enjoy lunch at the WYLD with Eric's brother Ron and his wife Krisann.**



**ORIGINAL BONNA BELLA YACHT CLUB CRUISER Joe Mascetti, who was on Bob Newbert's boat back on August 29, 2014, joined us for an encore performance almost six years later with his wife Linda.**





**AL PEPE observed proper COVID protocols for our photo op while his wife Deb (white hat) joined Norm and Andrea Shotz throwing caution to the wind.**



**RELAXING AT THE WYLD DOCK BAR are (L to R): Tina Thompson, John Thompson, Craig Loomis, Deb Loomis, Leslie Gilroy, Mike Gilroy.**





**GLENN CREWS** at the "time out" table with his fellow co-conspirator **Jack Dowling**.

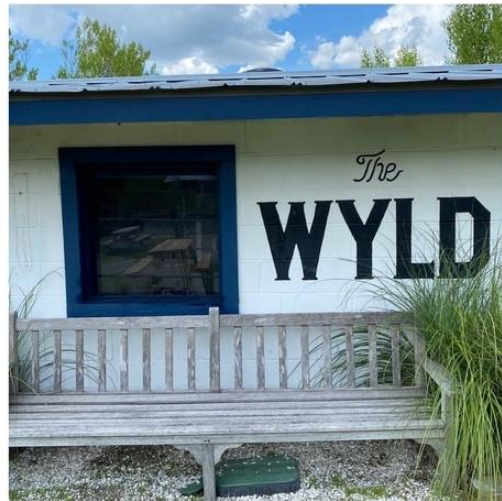


**RAY & MERY OJEDA** with **BILL & VIVIAN HINCHCLIFFE** are all smiles after a beautiful cruise up the Herb River.





**DEB PEPE properly masked and keeping the photographer 6 feet away! (Actually, I asked her to wave as I was sending the photo to a friend of hers.)**



**WYLD SCENES**





**HALF THE ABCHH CREW at the WYLD from (L to R): Mike Gilroy, Susan Sutherland, Eric Sutherland, Craig Loomis, Deb Loomis, Bob Newbert, Vivian Hinchcliffe, Bill Hinchcliffe, Ray Ojeda, Al Pepe, and John Thompson. Seated are Tina Thompson and Mery Ojeda.**

Photos provided by Bob Newbert, AP

# Introducing "The Mini Loop"

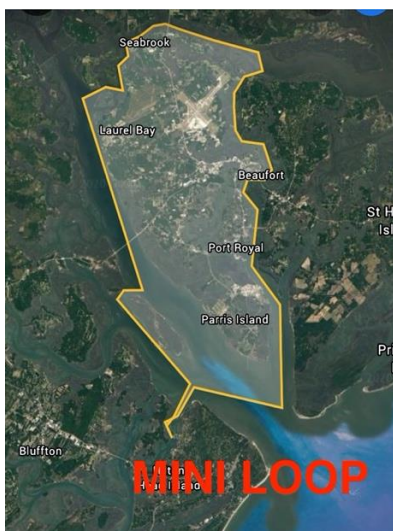
By Bob Newbert, AP

The "Great Loop" is a 6,000-mile circumnavigation of Eastern North America and Canada.

"Loopers," or members of America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association, cruise up the Mississippi River; across the Great Lakes; down the St. Lawrence River; down the Atlantic Coast; across the Gulf of Mexico and home.



Ever resourceful, America's Boating Club Hilton Head miniaturized the Great Loop to 1% of its normal size with a 60-mile circumnavigation of Port Royal Island through waters few have travelled such as the Whale Branch and Coosaw Rivers.



It was a beautiful journey made especially pleasant by glass-like conditions for the long run up the Broad River, a run that often means pounding through heavy chop.



Along the way, we talked about the region's many sporting plantations stopping at Clarendon Plantation, a 6,000-acre property with 9 islands and 29-miles of waterfront. We also stopped at Coosaw Plantation, another beautiful sporting plantation once owned by E.F. Hutton, who gave it to a friend as a "Thank You" for introducing his wife to proper society.

The "Mini Loop" holds many fascinating stories about the bloodiest war in American history (no it's not the Civil War); a 290-year old silver Communion service still in use today (and the reason why); King's Grants (still around 400 years later); Carolina River Rock, once widely considered the best in the world (like Carolina Gold from last month's cruise to Turnbridge Plantation); and a look back at Dr. Buzzard, Dr. Snake, Dr. Bug, Dr. Crow and J.E. McTeer, the White Witch Doctor.

About three quarters of the way through our epic journey, we stopped in Beaufort SC for lunch at Plum's. We were confident of our rest stop knowing that most Great Loopers seldom complete their odyssey in one stretch. Most string it out over several seasons or in some cases years. Trying to be as authentic as possible, we, too, paused for food, water, and bio breaks.

Members inducted into the America's Boating Club of Hilton Head "Mini Loop Honor Society" were: Susan Sutherland, Eric Sutherland, Karen Dale, Dan Allen, Sarah Allen, Paul Hoyte, Nancy Stermer, Glenn Crews, Tina Thompson, John Thompson, Barbara Sommers, Mike Reeve, Robin Reeve, Kathe Golden, Bobby Golden, Rick Ford, Mary Richardson and Pete Dion.

Congratulations Loopers!

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Newbert

Founder of the Mini Loop and Secretary-Treasurer of the Mini Loop Honor Society



**NEWLY CERTIFIED LOOPERS (L to R): Karen Dale, Glenn Crews, John Thompson, Tina Thompson, Bob Newbert, Nancy Stermer, Dan Allen, Sarah Allen, Eric Sutherland, Susan Sutherland**



**PLANTATION HEAVEN (Top):** Clarendon Plantation with 6,000 acres, 29 miles of waterfront, and nine islands. **(Bottom):** Coosaw Plantation, former plantation E.F. Hutton, who gave Coosaw to a friend as a Thank You for introducing his wife to "proper society."



**ANYONE FOR BRIDGE with Susan & Eric Sutherland?**





**A BRIDGE TOO FAR? Nope! The bridges were just right and beautiful to see up close. (Top): Broad River Bridge. (Bottom): Beaufort "swing" Bridge.**



**BOB NEWBERT, Secretary-Treasurer of the Mini Loop Honor Society**



**Tina Thompson at the helm.**





**PAUL HOYTE** relaxing at the wheel.



**TAXI! TAXI!** Eric Sutherland calls for a cab.



**JOHN THOMPSON** on the Whale Branch River.



**MORE CERTIFIED LOOPERS:** Back row: Ted and Mary Ellen Witman.  
Front row: Mary Richardson, Rick Ford, Larry Mittelman – AND don't forget Pete Dion, Photographer!





**Bob Golden and crew aboard BobKat**



**Dan and Sarah Allen**





**Bob Newbert on his handheld radio narrating to other boaters on the Mini Loop.**



**Waiting for other boats to begin the Mini Loop are L-R:  
Paul Hoyte, Glenn Crews, Tina Thompson, John Thompson, Nancy Stermer-Hoyte**

**PHOTOS FOR THIS MINI LOOP WERE PROVIDED BY:  
Commander Pete Dion, Bob Newbert, and Nancy Stermer-Hoyte**



# Fun & Easy Tour of Bull Island

By Captain Christine Dattilo



Magellan Society cruisers explored Bull Island between the May and Cooper Rivers on a beautiful day in August. Seven boats and several Captains and Crew set off to navigate the tricky waters of Bull Creek.

Why tricky? Bull Creek offers boaters a series of hairpin S-turns requiring Captains to keep their boat on plane during ebbing tides; otherwise, you'll find yourself run aground. There are hidden sandbars, narrow channels, and at times a lot of boat traffic posing hazards. But the navigational hazard I like to bring to Magellan cruisers attention is shoaling.

I'm not an Oceanographic Physicist nor a Civil Engineer, but I have taken a number of ABC seminars and courses and have learned that shoaling can mean everything from fish shoaling, deep water shoaling, shoals off the parts of shorelines and more. But the shoaling in the estuary waters of Bull Creek is a common type we find in the Lowcountry. This is the shoaling we see on Bull Creek where the sand has moved slowly overtime to create unseen and unexpected shallow waters. True, your chart, which may not have been updated for years and sometimes decades, show deep water. But surprise, you and your boat are now run aground! This is the result of uncharted shoaling.



Joe Dattilo, Chris Dattilo, Mary Murphy, Jim Murphy, Phil Velella, Lois Velella, Michael Kozyr, Sophie Kozyr, Norm Shotz, Andrea Shotz, Deb Pepe, Al Pepe

PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE WERE PROVIDED BY JOE DATTILO AND PETE DION.



Bull Creek (shown this map) has two hidden hazards. (insert map - photo courtesy Navionics)

The first marked by the Red Box is at the intersection of Savage Creek and Bull Creek. Here shoaling has occurred that far exceeds what is shown on the charts. The reason is a combination of currents from Savage Creek and Bull Creek colliding, years of tidal movement of sand, boat wake shifting the sands and driving them ashore and of course hurricanes and storms.

The second shoal is marked by the Black Box. This shoal has grown recently, and we can't be sure of the reason. As you can see it too is at the intersection of a smaller dead-end creek that leads to Savage Island and the much deeper channel of Bull Creek that turns west. As you can see from the chart, no real shoal is being shown. It looks like the safest passage is to stay to the inside of the turn of Bull Creek. But that will lead you aground! Here you need to navigate over what will look like marsh or land on the opposite side (outside of the turn) to avoid the shallow sands that have accumulated over time. Interestingly, the channel by the western shore has become shallow while the eastern shore channel has deepened. A perfect example of a growing shoal, sand from one area migrating to join the sand in another area.

ABC Magellan cruisers learned how to safely navigate these tricky waters and can safely cruise Bull Creek even at low tide. It was a great day to be on the water!





**Captain Chris on her handheld radio**



**Boats are lining up to begin the cruise**



**Michael Kozyr at the wheel while Al Pepe brings in the fender.  
Deb Pepe is seated, and Sophie Kozyr is bringing in the other fender.**



**L to R: Mary Murphy, Commander Pete Dion, Jim Murphy at the wheel**



**Philip Zitello and Susan Zitello**





**"Leader of the Pack" Chris Dattilo**



**Location where May River Oyster Company gets oysters**



**The boat "processional" waiting for Creek Cats to pass on the right**





**Joe Dattilo and Phil Zitello discuss the cruise**



**Susan Zitello (back to camera) talks to Deb & Al Pepe**



**Chris Dattilo talks to the Kozyr's and Murphy's**