



The Ocean Breeze

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



Volume 36

Number 5

May 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@cbriham.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

June 10-12	Overnight #1 - Charleston*
June 28	Fripp Island* (Captain slots full; accepting Crew)
July 12	Day-On-The Water
July 20	Ft. McAllister
Aug 12	Savannah Yacht Club
Sept 14	Wexford Canals
Oct TBD	Overnight #2 - Jekyll Island*
Oct 13	Skidaway 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.

MAGELLAN CRUISES

June 15	Circumnavigate Daufuskie & Turtle Islands - Harbour Town Marina for lunch (More Captains Needed; Crew Waitlisted)
June 29	May River and Headwaters w/lunch in downtown Bluffton
July 15	Skull Creek Marina, across Port Royal Sound, Parris Island to Beaufort - history cruise. Lunch at waterfront park.
Aug 26	Circumnavigate Hilton Head Island w/lunch

SOCIAL EVENTS

June 9	DINNER MEETING Skull Creek Dockside - 6:30-8:30 PM Guest Speaker: Larry Toomer
--------	---



FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN-IN



We're off to a great year with new members, boating activities, social events, education courses, seminars, and new boater certification awards. What a great time to be an ABCHH member!

Your club continues to grow with over 30 new members since November 1. Each of you bring much added value to our club with vast experiences in your careers. Welcome to all of you, and I hope to see you at our numerous activities!

Our boating activities got off to an interesting start thanks to member Bob Newbert for his creation of an "**on-the-water scavenger hunt**." Read his article below. It really put one's boating and navigation skills to the test.

There is still time to join us for our first dinner meeting of the year. We are fortunate to have local resident, shrimper, and Bluffton Council member Larry Toomer. The dinner will be held at **Skull Creek Dockside** restaurant on the island. Over 40 members have already signed up. There's still room for you! Come and meet several new members, enjoy a great dinner, and listen to an interesting presentation by Larry Toomer.

A word about our cruises: club members in charge of a cruise put a lot of time and energy into planning, researching, scripting, and making reservations for the cruises we offer. Please be mindful of making sure you are **committed** to attending the cruise. Cancellations at the last minute can add extra work for the captain in charge of the cruise. Also, by cancelling very early allows others on the "waiting list" to join. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Did you know that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) offers boat operator credentialing beyond what the United States Power Squadron offers? The **OUPV/ Six-Pack Captain's License** is the most popular of the captain's license and is required for those who wish to operate fishing and sailing charters, run a dive boat, or offer sightseeing tours. This license is commonly referred to as a "Six-pack" because it allows the holder to take up to six paying passengers and crew on the water.

The **Master License** allows you to operate Inspected Passenger Vessels. Ferry boats, harbor tour boats, sailing schooners, and whale watching boats are all examples of inspected vessels.

With an OUPV/Six-Pack or Master Captain's License, you can also be endorsed for commercially assisting other vessels or to carry seven or more passengers on a sailing vessel.

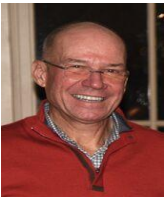
Congratulations to several of our members who were recently awarded the Six-Pack license: **Jim Walters, Bob Newbert, Chris Brigham, Brad Loescher, Larry Tremitiere, and Peter Dion.**

A last word...I hope to see you at our first dinner meeting of the year on June 9 at the Dockside restaurant, and there is still time to join me on the overnight cruise to Charleston on June 10-12.



Innovation, Education, Community

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley, P-IN
Education Officer



Brad Loescher, S-IN
Asst. Education Officer

There were no formal classes or seminars held during May so that our members could focus instead on being on the water, and participating in the many cruise opportunities we are offering. Having said that, it was a busy month for the Education Department, as we were finally able to conduct the On the Water skills demonstration exercise for those working to complete their Inland Navigator (IN) designation.

Stepping back for a minute, the IN certification is the first level of the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program under the United States Power Squadrons. To achieve the IN level, candidates must complete both a number of seminars, and exam graded courses, as well as demonstrate boat handling, and fire extinguisher skills. The required seminars include How to Use a Chart, Weather Forecasting, GPS, and VHF Radio. The required courses are Boat Handling, Engine Maintenance, and Marine Electrical Systems. As for the skills that must be demonstrated, they include use of lines and knots, docking and undocking, pivot turns, high speed emergency turns, boat control under slow speed in currents and wind, and navigation of a slalom course at high speed. To complete this full program typically takes several years, as well as considerable time on the water mastering the required skills.

The skills demonstration session we did in May was a joint effort between our Hilton Head Squadron, and our neighbor to the south, the Tybee Light squadron. We had seven candidates from HHI, and two from Tybee. Our certified examiners for the session were Al Pepe from our squadron, and David Yost from Tybee. We were also assisted enormously by Dennis Cusanelli from Tybee, who is our District Assistant Education Officer, as well as our own PC Larry Tremitiere. Dennis and Larry did all the leg work to organize and run the sessions, which were held near the Safe Harbour Marina in Skull Creek, and for the high-speed maneuvers, out in Mackey Creek, where the slalom course was set. Dennis and Larry also provided the boats we used for the testing, which required a lot of faith in the candidates.

Fortunately, we had good weather for the session, notwithstanding that the wind and tide later in the day wreaked havoc with keeping our slalom course in place. It was terrific to see all the candidates diligently demonstrating their docking, boat handling,

and emergency skills, under the watchful eye of not only the examiners, but also their fellow candidates! Everyone was, however, up to the challenge, and all were certified as having passed the OTW skills demonstration, as well as fire extinguisher proficiency.

As a result of the skills testing, and all the required courses and seminars, we now have six members of our squadron who have been newly awarded the Inland Navigator (IN) certification. They are Peter Dion, Mark Larson, Brad Loescher, Chris Brigham, Paul Hoyte and Tom Ryley. (David Medvedeff also completed the skills exam, though he has several additional courses he needs to complete for his accreditation). Congratulations to all of the designees, both for their personal accomplishment, as well as their leadership to the squadron in pursuing and achieving the IN level of achievement. They are, however, not our first members to achieve IN -- they follow John Koenig, Jim Walters, Joe Etter, Robert McKenzie, Dan Merkel, Al Pepe, Bob Newbert, Larry Tremitiere and Walter Kirk, all who have previously been awarded IN.

Going forward, we are encouraging our members to use the BOC program for their education planning, with its strong focus on both knowledge and essential skills for safe and enjoyable boating in the Low Country. We are also using the required courses to plan our class offerings, as we did the past several years, and will continue to do. If members wish to pursue IN, they can be confident we will be offering the necessary courses and seminars. We also hope to move beyond IN, to enable those achieving that level to subsequently pursue the advanced designations of Coastal Navigator (CN), Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN) and Offshore Navigator (ON). These require more advanced courses, but it is our job in the Education Department to enable those interested to be able to complete the classes, either through this squadron or one nearby.

For those members who are interested in moving along the BOC track, I would encourage you to talk to any of the above who have completed IN. I know we would all be very pleased to help answer any questions and provide our encouragement. Also, on that point, please note that our fall teaching schedule has now been published, and all courses and seminars are open for registration via our website, abchh.org. For those yet to take America's Boating Course, we will be holding that on October 16 and 23, and would ask that you encourage those interested in boating or new to boating to enroll.

Tom Ryley
Education Officer

Brad Loescher
Assistant Education Officer

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



Please join me in welcoming Eric and Stephanie Burns, who are pictured with their nine-year-old daughter Brynn. They relocated to Bluffton one year ago, and they are from Dallas, Georgia. Dallas is a northwestern suburb of Atlanta, located approximately 38 miles from the downtown area. Eric and Stephanie are both employed in the health insurance field. They are members of the Freedom Boat Club and admit they didn't have a lot of boating experience before joining FBC. Their hobbies include grilling, riding bikes, fishing, traveling, kayaking, and now they're enjoying boating. They love to travel and to go snorkeling. Eric and Stephanie joined our club to learn about the Lowcountry waters and to meet other boaters. They've taken the America's Boating Course and want to further their boating education with additional classes and seminars. They want to become more familiar with our local waters.



Innovation, Education, Community



Having moved nineteen times in a thirty-year military career, Jim and Kris Dixon have been residents of Bluffton since August 2019. They owned a home in Bluffton from when Jim was stationed at Parris Island back in 2005. Jim spent thirty years as a Harrier jet pilot in the United States Marine Corps. Kris served in the Army for thirty years as an Air Defender and Public Affairs Officer. Both of them are officially

retired. According to Kris, they've lived "all over." Jim has two adult sons and two granddaughters with a grandson due in October of this year. Jim and Kris have a Hylas 54 sailboat named "The Beke Deru" and keep it at Skull Creek Marina. We're one dock over so I must make it a point to introduce myself to them when I see them aboard their sailboat. On a side note, I discovered that "The Beke Deru" has its own Face Book page so I asked Jim and Kris if I could use one of their FB photos. Check out these adorable crew members in the master stateroom. Not sure who's



who, but I did find out that they are Vizslas, which is a Hungarian bird dog. BEKE DERU means peace and serenity in Hungarian and KUTYA-HIT means faithful dog in Hungarian. I had a very interesting phone conversation with Jim when I called to ask permission to use the above photo. Their hobbies include fitness, yoga, and Bible Study; their shared interests are hospital chaplaincy, sailing ministry, sailing lessons. They joined ABCHH to meet and connect with other members; they want to stay involved and increase their recreational companionship. Jim and Kris want to become involved with the local boating community. Kris would like to retake some basic sailing courses that will assist her to be a better sailor. I think we have some excellent sailors who can help her attain her goals. Welcome Jim and Kris Dixon; we're happy to have you aboard.

Part-time Hilton Head residents for the last ten years, David and Linda McKamish, joined ABCHH for the boating education offerings. They are from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and reside in Long Cove when they're here in South Carolina. David is still working part-time in the mechanical contracting business. They have two children and their first grandchild is due in August. "The Last Change Order" is their Grady White Freedom 275 which is kept at the Skull Creek Boat House and in Long Cove Marina. David and Linda both enjoy golf and boating. Long Cove allows them to enjoy both of their interests. Several years ago, David took a Power Squadron course in the Chesapeake Bay area. They are anxious to take some of our course and seminar offerings to familiarize themselves with the waters in the Lowcountry. As all of us know, our tides and currents are something every boater needs to be mindful of when we go out on the water.



Reminder: Schedule your Vessel Safety Check by contacting ABCHH VSC Coordinator, Linda Larson at larson419@gmail.com

Soon to be as Famous as as The America's Cup

By Bob Newbert, AP-IN



America's Boating Club of Hilton Head held its On-The-Water Scavenger Hunt on May 4 with over 90 objects to be retrieved or located. They ranged from the fairly easy i.e., "three live shrimp" (caught with a cast net) to the more complex "Object 1-mile from N 32° 12.49' and W 80° 52.77' on a bearing of 052°"

Part Great Race and part USCG Captain's test, the challenge tested members' chart reading, navigation, problem solving and teamwork as well as knowledge of our local waterways.



1st Place "Super Sleuth" Award for the winner of ABCHH's Scavenger Hunt

Boats were required to be at R "2" on Calibogue Sound at 0845 to receive the Scavenger Hunt List by email. Contestants saw the items to be found for the first time, at the same time. This way no one had the advantage of advance research or reconnaissance.

"Official Rules" required that some objects be retrieved and brought to the Harbour Town Clubhouse for judging and the Awards Ceremony. Other

objects on the list were too big to be moved or put in the boat. These were to be photographed. Importantly, the photographs must be instantly recognizable as "local" and not something found on the Internet.

All objects for the Scavenger Hunt were listed randomly and not grouped in any way by category or geography. This required teams to carefully plot their course to find each item and avoid wasting time (there was a three-hour time limit) by going back and forth to the same general area. The starting gun sounded at 0900 and all teams had to be present in the Harbour Town Clubhouse at 1215 or be disqualified.

We determined winners using a point system. Retrieved objects were worth 2-points and photographed objects 1-point. The Rules permitted multiple photos of different objects within the same category with each unique object scoring one point. For example, if a contestant located and photographed all five ferry docks in our area, they would earn five points.

In other cases, only one photo was allowed and this was noted on the emailed list of things to find. More difficult "finds" accrued bonus points to incentivize rising to the challenge. Bonus points were also noted on the hunt list.

Judging by emailed feedback from contestants, everyone who participated was a "winner."

"Excellent experience on all things water. Such a fun time!"

"A delightful and educational day. We are in your debt."

"An exceptional learning experience which builds strong relationships. This is no ordinary boating club!"

"This was an AMAZING Scavenger Hunt. What FUN it was! And it was a great learning experience, too."

"It was an excellent day on the water, fun with great camaraderie."

"Thank you for creating a great boating experience"

But, contests need official winners. (Whoever heard of an America's Cup without a winner? Those billionaires don't spend hundreds of millions competing for a "participation" trophy).

So here they are - the Medalists of America's Boating Club of Hilton Head's On-The-Water Scavenger Hunt:

	Boat	Crew
1 st Place	"Club Med"	Captain Dave Medvedeff <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joanne Medvedeff• Cathy LaPoint• Art LaPoint
2 nd Place	"Freedom 23"	Captain Glenn Crews <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brad Loescher• Phil Burke
3 rd Place	"Niblick Two"	Captain Chris Datillo <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Datillo• Susan Sutherland• Eric Sutherland



*Awards Ceremony was at the Harbour Town Clubhouse.
Medalists received Sea Pines gift certificates.*

And if you think the Scavenger Hunt was easy, test yourself on a few of the 90+ challenges here. Could you find these 10 things?

#21: Private ATON G "1" and R "2"

#26: Flashing red buoy (*there are only two in our area*)

#30: Oyster farm

#50: Object at N 32° 13.85' and W 80° 52.03'

#51: Dock once home to the Statue of Liberty

#57: Red daymark that you would normally keep to starboard, but keep to port as a result of local knowledge about this waterway

#61: "Welcome to Savannah's North Pole"

#63: Object 1.3 mi. from N 32° 9.01' and W 80° 49.82' on a bearing of 270°

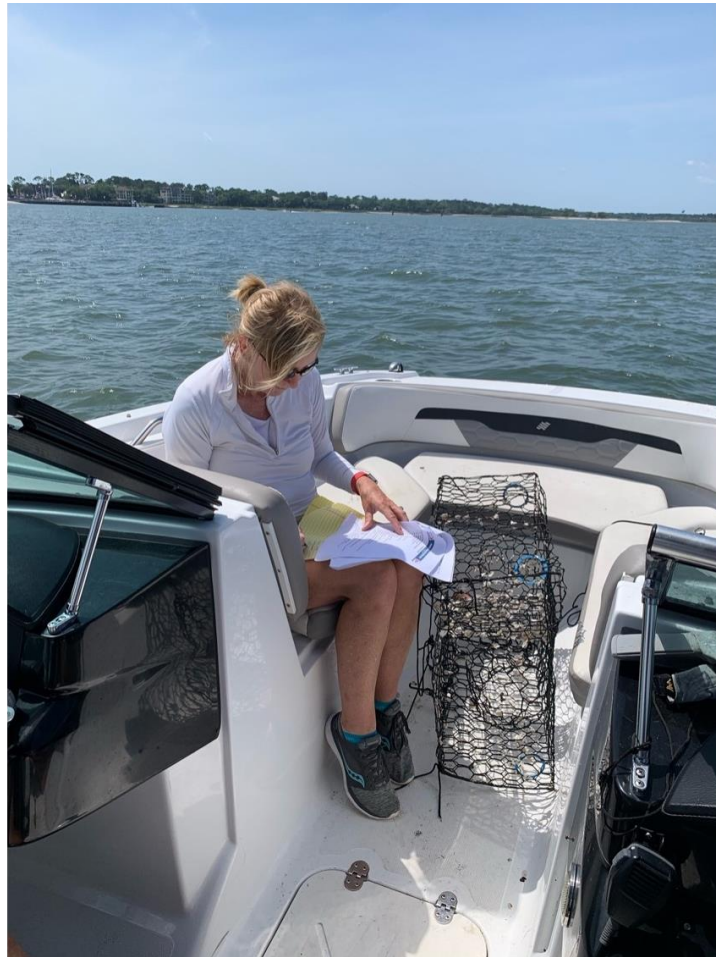
#74: Riverside urn garden

#84: Light: Fl R 6S

Congratulations to everyone who took part in our On-the-Water Scavenger Hunt. You are indeed winners. And a special salute to Dave Medvedeff and the crew of "Club Med" for bringing home the ultimate in prestige and bragging rights - the 1st Place "Super Sleuth" Award.



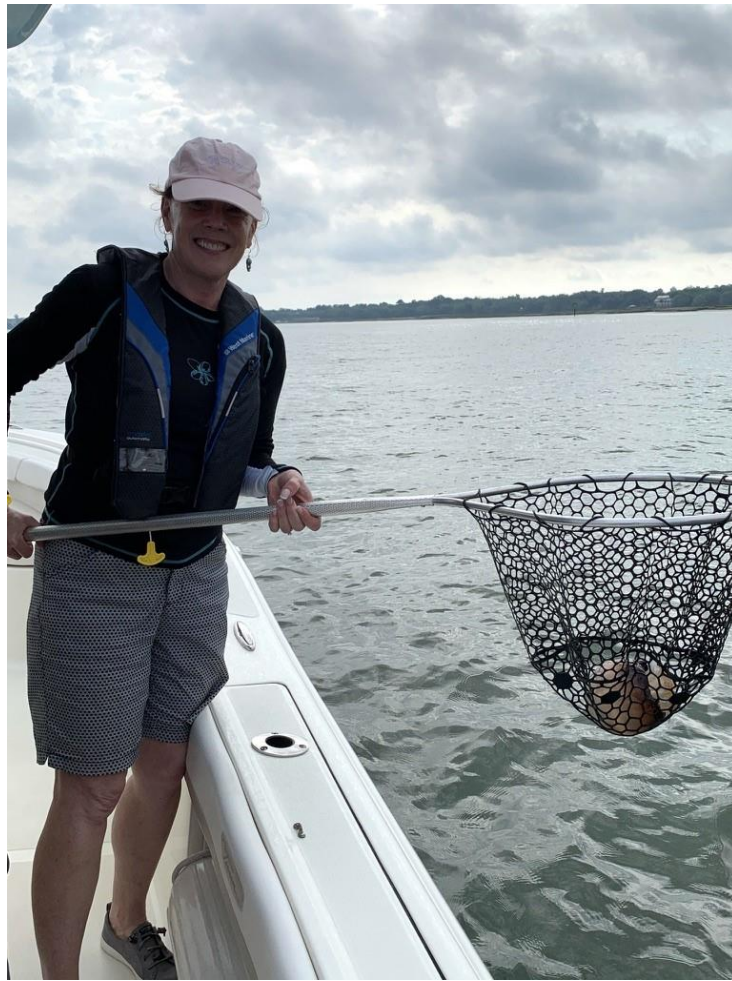
**Bob Newbert presents Dave Medvedeff with
the ABCHH "Super Sleuth" Award**



Cathy Brigham keeps track of each object and helps plan the next "get" for Captain Wayne Mitchell



Captain Paul Hoyte rushes to find objects on the list with crew PC Mark and Linda Larson. (Paul stopped to help a boat aground and earned bonus points for his lost time and sportsmanship).



Cathy LaPoint nets a jellyfish which she brought to the Harbour Town Clubhouse for 2-points.



*Jocelyn Mitchell rejoices in her "find" -- #60:
"Photograph yourself on a dock owned by Beaufort County"*



Nancy Stermer cheers her team on while Linda Larson keeps a sharp eye out for objects to be found.



Captain Dave Medvedeff with crew Joanne Medvedeff (L) and Kathy LaPoint (R) at R "2" awaiting email with the Scavenger Hunt List and the "Official Start" at 0900.



*Eagerly awaiting the Official Results of what will soon be
a more famous boating event than the America's Cup.*

**Photo Credits: Art LaPoint, Paul Hoyte, Nancy Stermer,
Jocelyn Mitchell, Chris Datillo, and Bob Newbert**