



The Ocean Breeze

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



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EVENTS CALENDAR

SOCIAL CRUISES

May 4	On-the-Water Scavenger Hunt (Meet at R2 - 0845)
May 11	New River
May 15	Blessing of the Fleet @ Skull Creek Marina w/Hilton Head Plantation Yacht Club - 2:30 p.m. Add'l info sent via email
June 10-12	Overnight #1 - Charleston*
June 27	Fripp Island*
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

May 20	Daws Island & Colleton River w/picnic at Colleton River dock (raft up)
June 15	Circumnavigate Daufuskie & Turtle Islands - Harbour Town Marina for lunch
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

May 11 Meet 'n Greet at The Launch/Driftwood Eatery - Skull Creek Marina from 4:30-6:30. No registration required.

Our first dinner meeting will be at Skull Creek Dockside - June 8



FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



Well, it looks like we're finally losing the grip of the nasty COVID-19 virus. While this is a fairly short newsletter, your club is not short on activities. First of all, join us for a social get-together on Tuesday, May 11 at 4:30 at The Launch/ Driftwood Eatery restaurant at Skull Creek Marina. There is no registration needed; just come and enjoy our little social get together at "BPI Launch/ Driftwood Eatery". NO GATE PASS is needed to enter Hilton Head Plantation -- just tell the Gate Guard that you are going to BPI Launch/Driftwood Eatery. Available are appetizers, sandwiches, salads and entrees, made to order, non-alcoholic beverages, bottled beer and wine. The bar is now open! Please plan to attend and enjoy conversation with old friends and meet new friends.

Secondly, our first overnight cruise of the year is scheduled for June 10-12 in Charleston. Enjoy the beautiful water scenery on your way and historic Charleston upon your arrival. You can travel by boat or meet us there by car. No boat is too small (well maybe 💎). Hotels are available close to the marina. Reservations at restaurants have been made for both nights if you care to join us. Let us know whether you plan to join us by boat or by land. For cruise and contact information, contact Hal Wilson (halwilson48@gmail.com) or Bob Newbert (newbert@me.com). According to Newbert, "This will be a wonderful getaway you will long remember, promise."

Executive Officer Chris Brigham, is coordinating a Blessing of the Fleet activity for us on Saturday, May 15 at Safe Harbor Skull Creek Marina. Details will be coming very soon.

And finally, mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 8 for our first dinner meeting of the year at the Dockside restaurant with guest speaker Larry Toomer. All members are invited, especially new members. Details and registration information will be coming soon.

Congratulations to our three new instructors: Linda Larson, Rick Sturges, and Craig Loomis.

Well, it's a beautiful day today, so I'm going to the boat to do a little cleaning...see you on the water!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



Please join me in welcoming two of our newest members - Jerry and Rose Koetting. The Koetting's moved from Suwanee (Atlanta), Georgia. Hilton Head has been a longtime vacation destination for Jerry and Rose. And since Jerry is retiring the



end of June, they decided that relocating was a great idea. Rose retired 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years ago, so I'm thinking Jerry decided it was time for him to do the same. Rose worked in mortgage lending, and Jerry sells industrial electrification for mobile applications. They are members of Freedom Boat Club, and they previously owned a 27' sailboat for four years. Their interests include traveling, cycling, gardening,

and playing pickle ball. That sport has certainly grown in population the last few years. Jerry and Rose joined America's Boating Club Hilton Head to learn more about safe boating, to explore new places to visit by boat, and to meet new boaters. They've taken the America's Boating Course and want to continue their boating education. They hope to learn more about the Lowcountry waterways and make new friends. ABCHH can certainly teach them a lot about safe boating in our waterways with our ever rising/lowering tides, as well as introduce them to our large membership of seasoned boaters and lots of new boaters. Make sure to introduce yourself to Jerry and Rose when you see them at one of our many activities.



Innovation, Education, Community

District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous 2021

By Craig Loomis, Co-Chairman

The 2021 Cruise & Rendezvous for District 26 of America's Boating Club was held in the Low Country of South Carolina April 21 through April 24, 2021. The event was hosted jointly by the Beaufort and Hilton Head squadrons. Turnout was great - 91 people attended the event from 11 different squadrons!

In spite of the limitations due to Covid, we were able to gather to cruise and learn about the rich history and the amazing waters of the Low Country. Two sunset cruises were held on the opening day; one cruise, departing from Beaufort was held on the Beaufort River and the other cruise, departing from Hilton Head circumnavigated Pinkney Island. Both cruises saw a beautiful sunset that evening.

On Thursday, we all cruised to Daufuskie Island. While the waters that day were a little rough, we all made it to Daufuskie and enjoyed the day there. Many of the cruisers toured Daufuskie with Sallie Ann Robinson on her Authentic Gullah Tour of the island. (Sallie Ann was born and raised on Daufuskie and was a student of Pat Conroy. Ethel in the Conroy book, "The Water is Wide" was based on Sallie Ann.) Others toured Daufuskie on their own in rented golf carts. Many enjoyed lunch at the Daufuskie Crab Company or at Lucy Belle's Café before returning to Beaufort and Hilton Head.



L to R: Craig Loomis, Sallie Ann Robinson, Debra Loomis

On Friday, two cruises were held. The first was the "Beaufort Loop", a 3 ½ hour cruise up the Beaufort River, across the Whale Branch, down the Broad River and into Port Royal Sound and ending at Battery creek. The other cruise was the Port Royal Sound History Cruise, which focused on the history of the sound and lasted about two hours.

On Friday afternoon, a Low Country Oyster Roast was held in the Pavilion at Beaufort's Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park. Sixty-three people enjoyed some great tasting fresh oysters and Low Country BBQ that afternoon. We also were fortunate to be able to see the amazing Blue Angels that afternoon as they "practiced" at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort!

While we were blessed with good weather for Thursday and Friday, bad weather rolled in on Saturday, forcing the cancellation of the two cruises scheduled that day: the cruise to Monkey Island and the cruise to The Port Royal Sound Maritime Center. Even though the Saturday cruises were scrubbed, it was a great week!

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

Hurrah for Dataw

By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN



America's Boating Club Hilton Head returned to Dataw Island for the first time in five years. Not that we wanted to stay away. We love Dataw. But Hurricane Matthew destroyed the marina in October 2016.

The marina sat in ruins for two and a half years until January 2019 when the Dataw Island Homeowners Associated (DIOA) voted to purchase the 7-acre property and rebuild. They passed a referendum to purchase the marina with 94% of the DIOA saying "YES." As a former president of an HOA, I can tell you that getting 94% of homeowners to agree on anything is nothing short of a miracle.

We are certainly glad they agreed because on April 29, we made our triumphant return to a beautiful island and lovely marina where we enjoyed lunch at the Morgan River Grill.

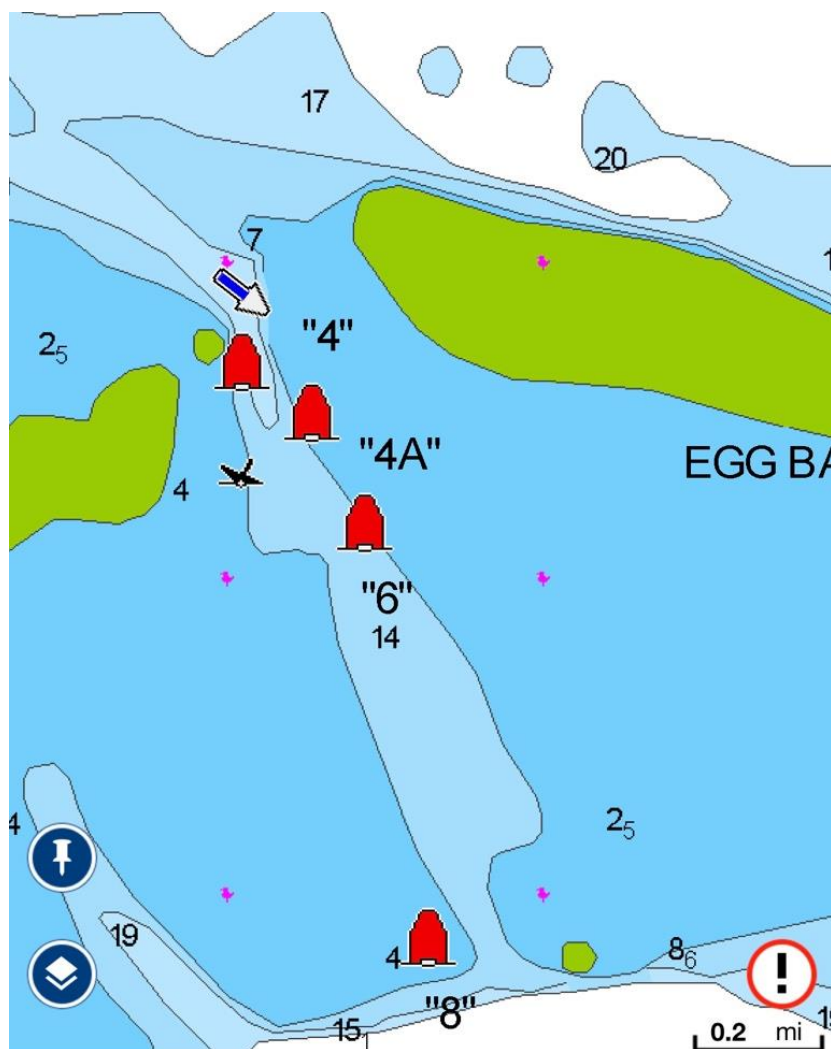
To get there, we charted different courses TO and FROM Dataw in order to showcase the natural beauty that surrounds us. We took the Eastern route up to Dataw in the narrow creeks surrounding Bay Point Island, St Phillips Island, Fripp Island, Hunting Island and Coosaw Island; and went West for the return journey home down the Coosaw River, Brickyard Creek, Beaufort River and across Port Royal Sound.

The former (Eastern route) offers some of the prettiest scenery you can find in the Lowcountry. And, true to form, Port Royal Sound lived up to its reputation with a Bucking Bronco ride on both crossings. But hey, that's what makes us old salts.

The cruise was not without its challenges to build up our old salt experience (too much emphasis on the term "old"?). First, there is a very dicey area heading North before the Hunting Island bridge. There are large sections only a foot or two deep at high tide. Complicating matters is the fact that depth may change

from week to week and you cannot trust your charts. Knowing this, we inched our way forward over several miles doing everything but taking soundings with a lead line marked off for different depths. Happily, we made it...although on the same trip, on the same course line, I hit bottom just two months ago on March 1, 2021!

Getting through the danger zone doesn't mean you can relax, however. Oh no, it's not cocktail time yet. There is a series of red ATONs where you should ignore the traditional navigation buoyage system ("Red-Right-Return"). If you follow your training, you will keep red buoys to port as you head out to sea...and run aground. Instead, you need to thread the needle by navigating *between* buoys. Keeping them on the "correct" side will bring you to a hard stop as the water quickly drops to two feet deep.



Traditional buoyage returning from sea (blue & white arrow) would have you keep red buoys to starboard and place you dead aground in 2 feet of water. The "Egg Bank" has breakers at high tide!

I figured this out from prior trips, but it still bothers me. So, I sat down with the Dataw Marina Harbor Master to review the charts; point out the problem with Red-Right-Return; and explain my needle threading. He said we traversed the area "absolutely correct." Just a few days prior, he had to help a boat grounded in that very area - probably a United States Power Squadron captain following his training.

The challenges continued...

Proceeding up the Morgan River from Hunting Island, I see a red buoy on the far, left side of the river. The buoy was not there on my last trip, and it's not shown on my charts. It also seemed odd so far to port as we headed up river. Nevertheless, I passed it to starboard while closely watching my depth near shore. We got through without a problem. But, after docking, I questioned the Harbor Master about it. "Oh yeah, that's a sea buoy a dredging barge is keeping there for the time being. It's not an Aid to Navigation for the Morgan River," he said.

Great.



Sea buoy that a dredging company is temporarily storing on the river.

It's not a Morgan River Aid to Navigation at all!

Next challenge for the old salts (there's that word "old" again) was docking and undocking. Both presented us with difficult wind and current, especially the current which ripped through there making all captains a little grayer, and perhaps a little older than we were before arriving.

All in all, it was a fabulous trip through picture post card creeks, not to mention fabulous food (best Mahi Mahi sandwich I've ever had); and navigation challenges that built our confidence as boaters...even if they did age us.

"Hurrah for Dataw!"

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Dataw Island Marina (pre Hurricane Matthew)



Island on the Story River where Commander Dion planted the flag claiming the land for ABCHH as the site of our future world headquarters



“Ellie,” honorary ABCHH Member, hungrily eyes the Lobster Bisque of Teresa and Mark Carroll



"Spencer," another honorary club member, is a little camera shy while dining with Dick Lowe (blue shirt), Marianne Lowe and their friend Rick Nelson.



Al Fresco diners (L to R): Curt Jennings, Jocelyn Mitchell, Chris Brigham, Cathy Brigham and Tom Ryley



***Bob Greene, Tom Moore, Joanna Moore and
Carole Greene relax after the 2-hour voyage to Dataw***



Happy cruisers Carrie and Mike Maglich



Honorary "Commander's Table" guests (L to R): Vivian Hinchcliffe, Bill Hinchcliffe, Nancy Ford, Debbie Dion, Rick Ford and Commander Pete Dion



(L to R): Russ Collins, Susan Boggs, Joanne Medvedeff, Dave Medvedeff, Cathy LaPoint and Art LaPoint enjoy the view at Morgan River Grill



Designated driver Bob Newbert raises a glass (ice tea, of course) to all ABCHH Dataw cruisers and his friends Amy & Scott Johnson



"Ellie" and "Spencer" book-end ABCHH Dataw Cruisers in a class photo before the journey home