



The Ocean Breeze

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



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EVENTS CALENDER

NOVEMBER

- 1 Magellan Make-Up Cruise Daufuskie & Hilton Head Islands
4,7,11,14,18,21 Radar for Boaters, HHI Senior Ctr, 6:30-9:00 PM
- 9 Change of Watch & Merit Mark Recognition Dinner, Indigo Hall
Member Survey: Committee report will be presented at this meeting.
- 20 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)

DECEMBER

- 10 Annual Holiday Dinner, Indigo Run Grill Room

Make your reservation today to attend our annual Change of Watch dinner meeting. This year it's combined with recognition of our Merit Mark recipients for their volunteer hours to our Club. The member survey results will also be discussed at this meeting. You will want to hear about those results and find out what we will do going forward to make your membership a more positive and rewarding experience. Great things are in our future on all levels of boating and learning. Please join us on November 9th at Indigo Hall to bid farewell to your outgoing Executive Committee and welcome the incoming Commander and his Executive Committee. Show your support and join us for this event.

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From A Secretary's Perspective...by Debbie Dion, Editor

As the current Watch Year draws to a close, I'd like to reflect upon the last two years during which time Mark Larson served as our Commander. As a former business executive at the top of multiple flow charts throughout his successful career, Mark assumed a low-keyed, unassuming role as he led our organization through a major transition. He surrounded himself with a dedicated group (Executive Committee) of skilled leaders. Mark never raised his voice or barked orders. He knew what needed to be done and transitioned the Hilton Head Sail and Power Squadron into America's Boating Club of Hilton Head. Our name was changed again this year at the D26 Fall Conference to America's Boating Club Hilton Head.

I recall the news article in the local papers announcing our name change. It wasn't just about our name. It was about changing our façade with the community and rebranding ourselves with a new name, a new logo, and a new tagline - "For Boaters, By Boaters." At the same time this was happening, Paul Hoyte launched our new website as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of information to members, other boaters and the community. The reason behind all of this was to strengthen how we are represented and how we would promote our services and brand going forward.

With Mark at the helm, we were about to embark on an exciting new journey after 30 years of pomp and circumstance. The change didn't happen overnight. Sport coats and ties would eventually be replaced with business casual. Things became a little more relaxed and informal, but we never lost sight of our purpose. The United States Power Squadron, USPS for short, immediately made people think about the United States Postal Service. No No No! We promote boating safety education for everyone in Hilton Head and Bluffton. Our new website has links to boating resources, tips, and videos as well as descriptions of all education courses and seminars, boating activities, cruises, and social events that we offer. We are an all volunteer organization who serve the boaters in our community. We teach 'rules of the road' as it applies to the water. That was the message that Commander Larson and his Bridge had to convey and fine tune over the next two years.

A former superintendent of schools once told me that 'It's all about relationships.' Our Club has an excellent relationship with Freedom Boat Club, Skull Creek Boat House and the Senior Center of Hilton Head to name a few. Many FBC members end up joining America's Boating Club Hilton Head to continue their boating education and to participate in the many Magellan Society boat trips and other boating activities that we offer. One of our very own Past Commanders, Larry Tremitiere, is a valued employee at Freedom Boat Club and is a seasoned trainer of new and old boaters alike. We hold most of our America's Boating Courses (ABC) at the Skull Creek Boat House where we have a great working relationship with their staff. Last but not least, many of our courses and seminars are held at the Senior Citizen Center on Hilton Head Island. Mark and his Bridge worked hard to maintain those relationships and create new ones.

Our monthly dinner meetings moved out of Indigo Run and members found themselves dining at Alexander's, the Country Club of Hilton Head, Poseidon, Skull Creek Dockside, and Redfish. And thanks to Bob Newbert, Paul Hoyte, and Peter Dion, we've had a number of captivating speakers at our dinner meetings. We've enjoyed presentations about "Grace." We've listened to Fuzzy Davis, Amber Kuehn, and Chip Michalove, just to name a few.

We've increased the number of Magellan Society boat cruises and Mike Gilroy has developed into a great writer besides being a great boater. The number of boating activities has blossomed under the leadership of PC Barb Sommers. Bob Newbert has narrated several of the cruises through the back waters and has become a local nature guru and avid narrator. Bob has also advanced our annual "Day on The Water" with the Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton.

We have bolstered our membership to almost 230 members and Mark created flow charts and spread sheets to capture member participation and status. With the help of Glenn Crews we now have monthly membership charts so the Bridge is aware of who joined. New members are welcomed by Glenn, Mark, the Secretary, the Editor of the *Ocean Breeze* and our recently established "Ambassador" Group. New members are also featured in monthly newsletters.

Our Vessel Safety Checks have increased in number and have become an annual renewal process for many of our members and non-members who go boating. We welcome and encourage members to become Vessel Safety Inspectors as sometimes we don't have enough to go around.

Under Peter Dion's leadership the Education Department is on the verge of taking courses and seminars to the next level. There are already new and exciting developments in store called blended learning. We started a 'Jump Start' program to train new boaters; it has made a big splash. We also have a new group of instructors about to be certified this fall.

The membership survey was sent out during Mark's reign and we gained valuable information to move our Squadron in a more responsive and positive direction.

It has been a tremendous privilege for Commander Larson to serve for you and with you. He is immensely proud of what we've accomplished together over the past two years. We've launched new programs, strengthened existing partnerships, and positioned ourselves to be ready for the technology that will be presented in future course offerings. And we've changed our name twice.

Probably the only thing that Commander Larson hasn't been able to accomplish is to sell his boat. If anyone is interested in a beautiful 55' Sea Ray, there's one for sale in Windmill Harbour. "Hey Babe?" "What?"

Thanks for a great two years Commander.
It was a pleasure serving with you.

Debbie Dion, Secretary
America's Boating Club Hilton Head



OCTOBER'S POSEIDON DINNER MEETING

Debbie Dion, Editor



On the evening of October 8th our monthly dinner meeting was held at Rooftop at Poseidon. Members and guests enjoyed cocktails on the rooftop. Our speaker for the evening was Fuzzy Davis. Fuzzy is a local radio fishing talk show host and one of Salt Water Sportsman's Top 50 Charter Captains.



Other business during the meeting included the introduction of new members Bill and Vivian Hinch, Angelo and Reenee Nardi, Blake and Marjorie Robinson, and the return of Bob and Stella White.

The Annual Meeting for our 2020 Watch Year was also conducted. New Bridge officers elected are:

Commander - Peter Dion, SN

Executive Officer - Walter Kirk, AP-CN

Education Officer - Tom Ryley, P

Administrative Officer - Mark Hente

Treasurer - Dave Frederick, S

Secretary - Chris Datillo

Members-at-Large

Chris Brigham

Glenn Crews

Wayne Mitchell, S

Robert Newbert, AP

Mary Richardson

Randy Royen, P

Hal Wilson, AP

Nominating Committee

3 Years - P/C Mark Larson, AP (Chairman)

2 Years - P/C Barb Sommers, AP

1 Years - P/C Larry Tremitiere, S

Rules Committee

3 Years - P/C Joe Etter, AP-IN (Chairman)

2 Years - Larry Tremitiere, AP

Audit Committee

3 Years - P/C Barb Sommers, AP (Chairman)

2 Years - P/C Larry Tremitiere, S

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by: Debbie Dion, Editor



Please join me in welcoming the following new members to America's Boating Club Hilton Head.



Eight new members joined in September; six of the eight will be featured in alphabetical order.



Pat and Deb Futterer are from Joliet, Illinois and have been residents for three years on Hilton Head. Pat was a firefighter and a captain with the City of Joliet Fire Department; he retired in 2016 after 27 years of service. Deb was a manager of an ophthalmology practice. The Futterers enjoy biking, boating and gardening. They consider themselves beginners in boating and have taken the America's Boating Course and the Basic Weather Forecasting seminar. They joined ABCHH to learn more about boating and boating safety; they want to meet new friends. Make sure to introduce yourself to Pat and Deb at a future event.

Jay Landefeld has lived on Hilton Head for six years. The great climate and improved way of life brought Jay to our area from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Does anyone think he might be a Penn State fan? Jay is a member of Freedom Boat Club and puts himself in the beginner category. Join the ranks Jay; there are a lot of beginners and that's why we're here to assist you. It was our very own PC Larry Tremiere who recommended ABCHH to Jay. Jay has taken the America's Boating Course. His hobbies include boating, biking, golf, and walking on the beach. He hopes to gain a better understanding of boating in the Low Country through our Club. He came to the right place.





Meet Blake and Marjorie Robinson. They moved to Hilton Head 2 ½ years ago from Connecticut. Our weather and Connecticut's taxes brought them here. They've both retired. Blake worked in investment management and Marjorie was a teacher. They enjoy photography and tennis. Blake raced small sail boats in his youth and owned several power boats in Connecticut. They joined Freedom Boat Club to learn the local waters and to make boating friends.



Jack Winter is a resident of Atlanta, Georgia. He needed a salt water port for his sizeable first boat purchase. He has a Carver motor yacht named Ebb Tied which he docks at Skull Creek Marina. I think it's Jack's floating condo. He considers himself a novice and joined ABCHH after training with Walter Kirk and Peter Dion. Jack has taken some of our courses and seminars; he has also worked with Walter Kirk on boat handling and docking. Jack hopes to gain a knowledge of seamanship. Jack has also attended a number of our dinner meetings.



Ted and Mary Ellen Witman are Hilton Head residents and moved to our area from Andover, Massachusetts. They are both retired. Ted was a mechanical maintenance manager at the power plant in Salem, MA. Mary Ellen was a classroom manager of computer labs at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA. They have three children and seven grandchildren. They are power boaters and keep their Key West 186DC named "Wits End" at Broad Creek Marina. What a great boat name! They are experienced lake boaters. Ted was a Qualified Coxswain 26MSB in the USCG. That's mighty impressive. Ted's hobbies include restoring antique

farm tractors and a 1944 WWII Willy's MB Jeep. He enjoys repairing engines and related equipment. Mary Ellen hobbies include sewing, crafts and knitting. Ted enjoys tennis, general repairs, and history. Mary Ellen likes golf and all outdoor activities. They've yet to take any of our education offerings, but they will in the future. Ted wants to learn more about boating in the Low Country and Mary Ellen wants to be a good crew member. I can already think of courses and seminars they'd both enjoy. They hope to meet new people interested in boating and share other interests. Please join me in welcoming the Witman's to ABCHH.

EDUCATION NEWS

By Peter Dion, Education Officer

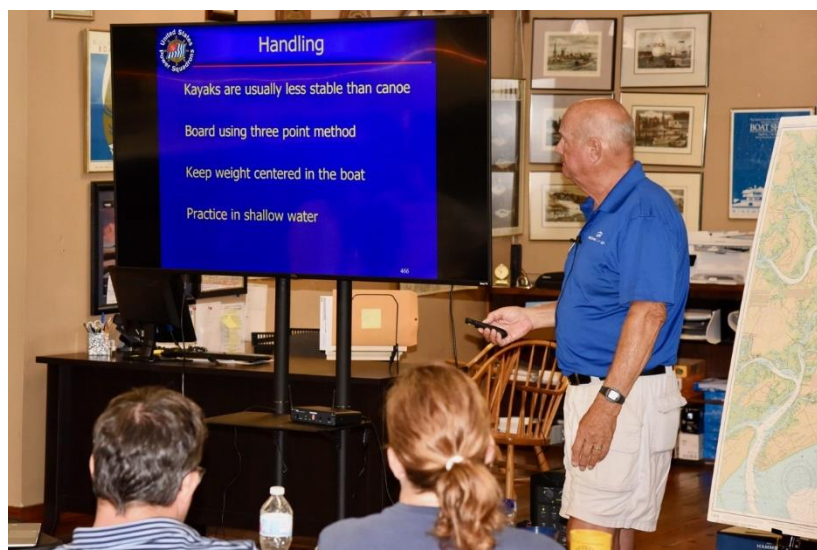
The **Basic Weather Forecasting** seminar was held on October 12th at the Senior Center on Hilton Head Island. Nineteen people participated: Howard Kravitz, Dan Allen, Craig Christiansen, John Eddy, Debra Futterer, Pat Futterer, Phil Gustafson, Joe Harris, Dick Heusinkveld, Louise Heusinkveld, Bill Hinchcliffe, Vivian Hinchcliffe, Rebecca Jeffries, Jeanne Kangas, Brad Loesch, Beth McIntyre, Pat McIntyre, Barry Street, and Jack Winter. The seminar was taught by certified instructor Barry Moore. Thank you all for your participation.

Instructional Development class has been scheduled for January 11 and 18, 2020 from 9:00 - 1:00. Four people have registered to become certified instructors.

America's Boating Course (ABC) was held on October 26th at the Skull Creek Boathouse. Thirty-two people participated in the day long event with some of them signing up for future 'on the water' training. Instructors for the day were Mark Larson, Larry Tremiere, Norm Sholtz, Peter Dion, and Klaus Loehr.



Pictured above is instructor Norm Sholtz



Pictured above is instructor Larry Tremiere