



The Ocean Breeze

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



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EVENTS CALENDER

OCTOBER

- 7,10,14,17,21,24,28: Electronic Navigation (ME 103)
5 Magellan Fall Make Up Cruise
8 Dinner Meeting at Poseidon in Shelter Cove (6:30 PM)
12 Basic Weather Forecasting Seminar, HHI Senior Ctr, 9-11 AM
15 Oyster Roast at Colleton River
18-20 D26 Fall Conference, Hotel Tybee, Hosted by ABC of Savannah
21 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
26 America's Boating Course, HHI Senior Center, 8:00 - 4:00

NOVEMBER

- 1 May River/Dispensary Lunch - Land & Sea Cruise
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.
19 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)

DECEMBER

- 10 Annual Holiday Dinner, Indigo Run Grill Room

OUR OCTOBER 8th DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT POSEIDON IN SHELTER COVE. GUEST SPEAKER: CAPTAIN FUZZY DAVIS, HHI FISHING GUIDE

OYSTERS ANYONE? DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST ON OCTOBER 15th AT COLLETON RIVER. THIS IS A MIGHTY 'DELICIOUS' EVENT.

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SKULL CREEK DOCKSIDE DINNER MEETING

Co-Edited by Debbie Dion & Bob Newbert



On the evening of September 10th our monthly dinner meeting was held at Skull Creek Dockside. Members enjoyed cocktails on the upper deck overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). A well-deserved and surprise presentation was made. Members of the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club honored Bob Newbert. Bob spearheaded a marvelous program four years ago called "Day On The Water" and he was recognized for his efforts at the meeting. Bob was presented with a signed photograph from this year's event; participants from the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club autographed the framed picture.



On left ... Bob Newbert accepts his award from Oscar Frazier. Oscar is the Director of the Explorer Club at the Boys & Girls Club of Bluffton; he is also a Bluffton police officer. Above L to R: Molly Hornbeak, Director Bluffton Boys & Girls Club; Bob Newbert, ABCHH Member-at-Large; Oscar Frazier, and Pamela Robinson, Teen Director at the Boys & Girls Club.

Other business during the meeting included comments from Education Officer, Peter Dion (lower left) and instructor Klaus Loehr (lower right). Pete spoke about future courses and seminars while Klaus promoted the new Radar for Boaters class. Klaus will teach this course and said it's one of the best around.



Peter Dion, SN



Klaus Loehr, AP



"GRACE"

Our guest speakers for the evening at Dockside were Captain Herb Rennard and Captain Ed Johnson.

They spoke to us about "M/V Grace," a 106-year old, Pre-WWI, gasoline-powered motor yacht. She is one of the first gasoline powered yachts in the country, and one of the last, vintage commuter yachts still afloat today. Commuter yachts were luxurious, narrow beamed yachts designed to carry wealthy owners from their estates on the Hudson and Long Island to their offices in New York City.

Captains Herb Renaud and Ed Johnson walked us through the design of the boat, her ownership history over the past century, and her sad demise and resurrection as a luxury amenity at the Cloisters on Sea Island, and now at Palmetto Bluff. They also reviewed her most recent restoration in 2014, a year-long project requiring the lost skills of shipwrights using caulking mallets, adzes, augers, draw knives, hand planes, pitch ladles, okers, nogs, jerry irons, beetles and other antique tools of the traditional shipwright's art.



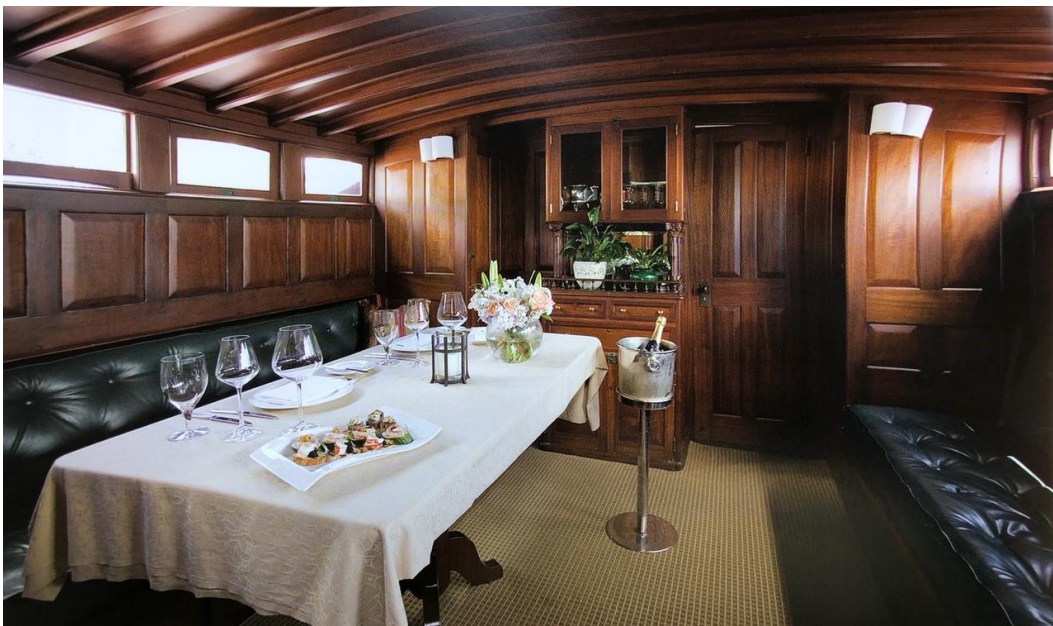
Captains Herb & Ed



Captains Ed & Herb



The Return of the Grace

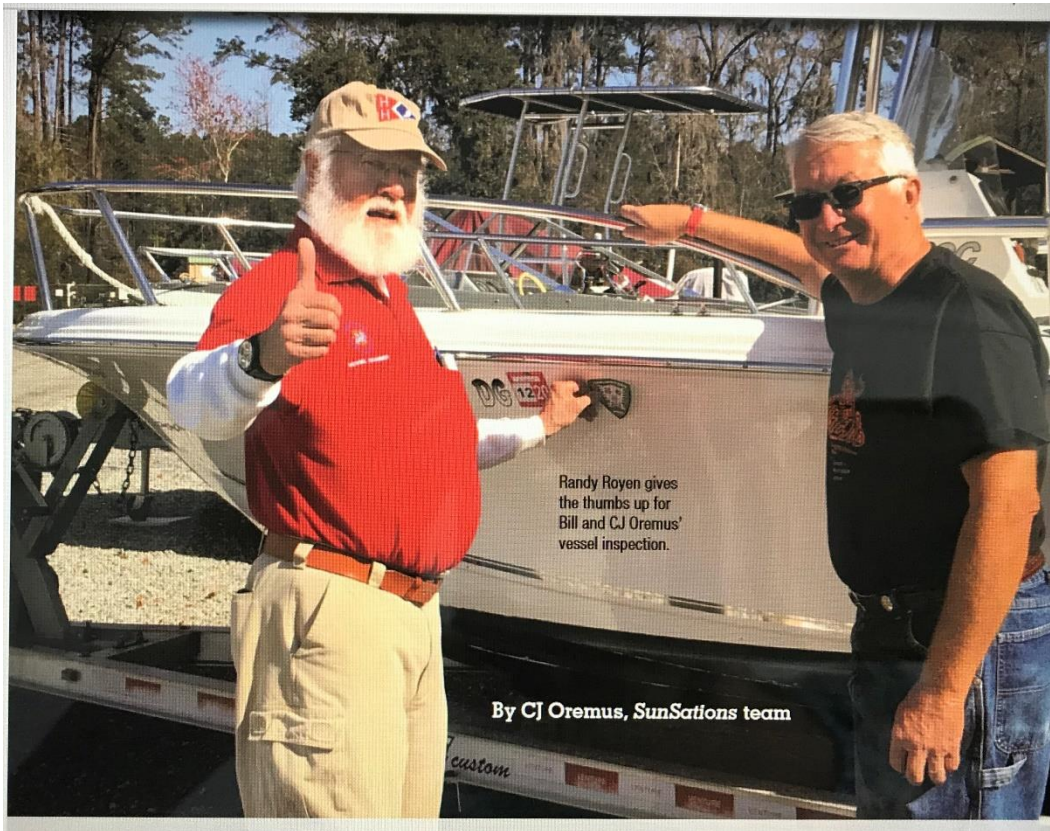


The Interior of the Grace



Boating the Lowcountry by CJ Oremus, *SunSations* team

SunSations is a magazine created and published monthly by the Communication Department of the Sun City Hilton Head Community Association, Inc. ABCHH Member-at-Large Randy Royen was featured in the August 2019 issue of *SunSations*. We are sharing a portion of this article with you today. We received the necessary permission to do so from *SunSations*. Debbie Dion, Editor, *Ocean Breeze*



Watching the tides is an amazing sight and phenomenon here in the Lowcountry. Most experience the 7-and-a-half-foot average tidewaters while going over the Hilton Head Island bridges. One day you'll see the mounds of spartina grass and oyster beds, and the next, you'll experience nothing but intracoastal waters. The environment looks so different when the tide covers up the many obstacles that dot our estuaries. These obstacles are beautiful to look at but make boating in the Lowcountry more difficult than navigating Hwy. 278 on a summer Saturday! The coastal waters of South Carolina have a gentler slope compared to other areas, which results in the tidal swing that exposes the natural coastal beauty. These tides are even more apparent during full and new moons, but this tidal flow, which occurs four times a day, is also what makes our waters great for fishing, shrimping and crabbing. Experiencing all this from the waters of the Lowcountry only requires a boat and top-notch navigational skills.

Sand bars disappear throughout the day with rising waters, and GPS only alerts you when you're right on top of them - which may be too late. Be sure to pack bug spray, snacks and plenty of water in case you need to wait for the next tide to lift you off. A couple of Sun City Hilton Head's clubs have members who are willing to help out fellow boaters get their feet wet, so to speak, on the navigational skills needed to enjoy the Lowcountry waterways.

First, you'll need a registered boat with all the proper safety checks. Randy Royen, a member of the Fishing & Hunting Club and a member of the Hilton Head Sail and Power Squadron, is a certified vessel examiner and provides free, confidential vessel safety checks for Sun City boaters. He checks for personal flotation devices, boat registration and display of numbers, visual distress devices, a fire extinguisher, horn, whistle, throwable on board, operative anchor and navigational lights and more. Upon passing the inspection, he'll sign a vessel safety check form, provide you with a copy and attach the current year's safety decal. If there are any problems, he's happy to offer advice for re-inspection. You can find Randy Royen in the Sun City Resident Directory.



Randy Royen applies a 2019 vessel safety check decal on a boat.

With the relief of a safe vessel, now you only have to focus on getting around the waterways without running aground. Easier said than done, but Bob Gudger, aka "Captain Bob" and current vice president of the Boat & RV Club, has helped new residents and Sun City boaters feel comfortable on the Lowcountry waters. A Sun City resident since 1996, Bob has navigated and fished these waters since moving here and loves to pass along his knowledge.

In the summer of 2018, Bob organized his third boater orientation for interested Sun City residents. Five vessels, mine included, left the Edgar Glenn Boat Ramp on the Chechessee River (the ramp on the right of the Lemon Island Bridge going to Beaufort) and headed north to be introduced to the very shallow Bird Island Creek cut through. It was nearing low tide, so areas were potentially less than 5 feet deep. "Stay in my wake, or you'll be stranded until the tide comes back in," Bob warned.

Once through the navigational challenges of the creek, we found ourselves on the vastness of the Broad River, which seems much larger in a boat than when traveling over it on the bridge. Stopping under the Broad River Bridge, Bob pointed out the sand bar known for catching bull reds and cobia. Then off in the direction of Parris Island, we learned the location of the Turtle and the Parris Island sandbars known for catching cobia, red drum, tarpon and sharks. We then slowly motored through the Parris Island Reef so as not to disturb the other vessels enjoying the day. The adventure with Bob finished with navigating around the tip of Daws Island and back up the Chechessee River. The navigational, fishing and shrimping tips were invaluable to a newcomer of the Lowcountry waters.

New River Adventure

--Bob Newbert

Everyone who joined our New River cruise on September 27 will long remember the beauty and "wildness" of our 28-mile trip up the New River to the Rte. 46 bridge into Jasper County. "Although we were only eight miles from downtown Savannah, it felt like we were in the

middle of nowhere," says Bob Newbert, tour leader who noted that we passed just three homes along the entire length of the river. "The rest of the journey was Lowcountry marsh at its pristine best."

Unlike the rivers we normally cruise such as the May River, Cooper River, Broad River, Colleton River, Chechessee River and others (salt water estuaries all), the New River is a fresh water river - one of just two in Beaufort County. The other one is the Coosawatchie River.

Yet even though it is a fresh-water river flowing in one direction towards the sea (our estuarine rivers don't flow to the sea), the New River is "tidal" illustrating the tremendous tidal force created by the South Atlantic Bite pushing a flowing river back 38-miles inland.

Bob noted that at the Rte. 46 bridge, terminus of our cruise, tidal change is only 2ft-3ft between high tide and low tide compared to 8ft-11ft down river. "It was choreographing a ballet to time our cruise for higher water at the bridge upon our arrival and still have sufficient depth back at the mouth of the river for our return," he said, adding that we had a flood tide at the bridge and ebb tide at the mouth.

Here is a look at the huge tidal differential between our destination at the bridge and Daufuskie Landing (R"40") where we started our journey. The bridge has a 3 ft. difference between high tide and low tide while Daufuskie Landing has a 7 ft. difference. Also note that the first diurnal high tide at Daufuskie Landing is 8:01 AM while it's 11:43 AM at the bridge - three hours and 42 minutes later. This means that when the river is cresting at the bridge it is rapidly dropping at the mouth 28 miles away. No wonder Bob had to choreograph the trip!



Note: Tidal charts refer to this location as the Rte. 170 Bridge even though it is actually the Rte. 46 Bridge.

As we snaked our way through the many "S" turns and oxbows of the New River, we saw the river change from salt water...to brackish water...to black water as the tidal force lessened the further up river we ventured. Not that we were looking down at the water as most of us were captivated by the luscious landscape which, with a few exceptions, looked the same as it did when Spanish explorers first came to the New World.

And those "exceptions" were fascinating! We passed Red Bluff Plantation, a 9,000-acre plantation with seven islands and a grass air strip, for most of our journey. Indeed, we ran along Red Bluff's shoreline for over 20-miles. Gordon Gale, Red Bluff's former owner, joined us to call out points of interest. Among them:



Bob Newbert and Gordon Gale (right), former owner of Red Bluff Plantation, who shared his insight into the history of the New River.

- The plantation house, a reproduction of its predecessors - one of which burned to the ground while the other fell into the river as Red Bluff Plantation has lost more than 60 ft. of shoreline to erosion.
- Rice dikes and canals dug by slaves -remnants of the rice culture that once defined the New River.
- Good Hope Plantation, a former rice plantation, owned by Red Bluff; and Good Hope Landing, a site where cut trees were formed into timber rafts which were then floated down the New River to Savannah for sale.

- The remains of a railroad bridge on the defunct Charleston to Savannah line that was targeted by the Union Army in the Civil War. The bridge was protected by a Confederate force headquartered on Red Bluff Plantation in a fort designed by Robert E. Lee. Gordon said the railroad line was active into the 50's and that one day his father, and Red Bluff's plantation manager, were fishing from the bridge when the Cannonball Express came roaring through. He said that their only escape was to jump off the bridge into the water. Today, only a few rotted pilings mark the location.



Motoring gingerly past the remains of the Civil War railroad trestle once protected by Confederate troops from a fort designed by Robert E. Lee on Red Bluff Plantation.

Like the Civil War bridge pilings which remain, and the Colonial-era rice canals still flowing cleanly with the tide after 350 years, the memories of this beautiful cruise will linger with all who experienced this wonderful, hidden part of our own backyard.







As the editor of the *Ocean Breeze*, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this amazing New Riverside boat cruise. As I sit here reading what Bob Newbert narrated to all of you, I almost feel like I was there with you. Thank you to Gordon Gale for sharing his insight into the New River. And many thanks to Barb Sommers and Bob Newbert for putting together an incredible series of boat cruises for our members to enjoy this past season. Pictures are worth a thousand words, and this cruise appears to be a "one in a million" opportunity for all of you who participated.

Debbie Dion, Editor

Thank you to the following photographers for submitting pictures for this article: Bob Newbert, Peter Dion, Barb Sommers, Deb Loomis, Christine Datillo and Lynne Harris.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by: Debbie Dion, Editor



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



Last month I printed information about new member Angelo Nardi and his wife Reenee. However, I forgot to include their great photo from a recent trip to Italy. My apologies to the Nardi's.



Shots of Lemon-cello in Sorrento, Italy.

Angelo Nardi started his membership in June; and he and his wife Reenee are currently part-time residents of Hilton Head. They are from Chicago, Illinois and will become full-time residents in a few years. They've been coming down to Hilton Head Island for over forty years and purchased a home in 2007 in Palmetto Hall. Currently, they spend mid-September until May 1st in our area. Angelo is a retired insurance broker. They recently purchased a 24' Hurricane with a 250 HP outboard motor, which they are picking up on Monday, September 30th. They used to have a large sailboat in Chicago. Angelo enjoys playing golf and would like to take boating education courses. He looks forward to connecting with other boaters.

ANCHORING SEMINAR

On September 21st certified instructor Klaus Loehr educated 14 attendees about the various techniques involved with anchoring. The Anchoring Seminar included anchor types, anchor sizes, anchoring, tips and tricks, where common anchors work best, how much line or chain to use, anchor lines and chains, holding power, and what anchor a boater should purchase.

