



The Ocean Breeze

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"For Boaters, By Boaters™"

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EVENTS CALENDAR

November 4: Ex Comm Meeting 4:30 PM - ZOOM

November 5: Morgan Island Cruise (Monkey Island)

November 7: America's Boating Course - The Boathouse
5279 N. Okatie Hwy., Ridgeland, SC

November 9: Beginning of six consecutive Monday night seminars on Boat Handling either via ZOOM or in person at the Senior Center on Hilton Head Island

November 12: ABCHH Change of Watch - 6-7:00 PM at The Launch in Hilton Head Plantation at Skull Creek Marina. Installation of officers, awards presentation, volunteer recognition. Casual attire. Outdoors on the covered porch. Contact mark.hente@gmail.com for a gate pass.

November 13-15: St. Simons Cruise (Cruise Leader, Hal Wilson)

November 17: Cruise around Hilton Head Island 9:30 AM

December 3: ABCHH Christmas Dinner (Tentative)



FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



We will be holding our **Change of Watch and Volunteer Recognition** on November 12 from 6:00-7:00 PM in Hilton Head Plantation at The Launch located on the grounds of Skull Creek Marina. This is our yearly program in which new officers are installed, awards presented, and our volunteers are recognized. Your attendance would be appreciated to show your support for the people who volunteer their time and effort to make our squadron the most successful in our district. We have the highest number of members, the most cruise activities, and the most courses/seminars of all the squadrons in D26! That takes a tremendous amount of effort and time by volunteers to make it all happen. Come out and show your support for them on the 12th and let them know you appreciate their work.

Speaking of commitment and awards...recently, D26 our regional district, held its annual conference and **Change of Watch** virtually. Awards were given for the 2019 Watch Year. ABCHH was recognized for several awards:

- Commander of the Year: [Mark Larson](#)
- New Member Award
- Membership Growth Award: 16.8% Increase
- Educational Fund Certificate of Merit
- Excellence in Teaching: [Klaus Loehr](#)
- Distinctive Communicator (for Publications) - The Ocean Breeze: Editor [Debbie Dion](#)
- Distinctive Communicator (for Website): [Paul Hoyte](#)
- Spark Plug Award Honorable Mention: [Christine Dattilo](#)
- Certificate of Recognition (for our VSC program): [Larry Tremitiere](#)
- Co-op Charting Honor Roll: [Paul Hoyte](#)

It never stops...there are still more cruises for you to participate in during the month ahead! Morgan Island, Nov 5; St. Simons, Nov 13-15, and Hilton Head Island, Nov 17. Take advantage of these cruises to explore our beautiful Lowcountry and waterways.

SAVE THE DATE

The D26 Spring Cruise and Rendezvous that is being co-hosted by Hilton Head and Beaufort squadrons is April 21-25. The theme is "**Explore the Lowcountry like the Conquistadors of the 16th Century.**" ABCHH members **Craig** and **Debbie Loomis** are on the planning committee working to make this an exciting weekend for all members of D26. Mark your calendars now!

Thank you for your attention and I'll see you out on the water!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



Please join me in welcoming A.J. and Carolyn Coppola. I admired their last name ... and asked myself why ... because I immediately thought of the Francis Ford Coppola Winery in California. I wonder if there's a connection.



Getting back to the matter at hand, A.J. and Carolyn started vacationing in our area over twenty years ago. They are from New York and reside in Bluffton. A.J. is an architect and is still working. Carolyn is a historic preservationist. They have two sons.

They reside in Palmetto Bluff and are members of the Boat Club there. They are just getting into boating and have one of our premier boat captains right in their neighborhood. Yes, Bob Newbert, I'm talking about you. The Coppola's enjoy tennis and history. They joined ABCHH to learn more about the local waterways and to enhance their boating knowledge with our seminars and course offerings. They also look at it as a social boating experience and look forward to meeting other members. Make sure to introduce yourself to A.J. and Carolyn at our future events.

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley
Education Officer



Brad Loescher
Asst. Education Officer

Dear Members,

After a hiatus of in-person classes over the summer, we have been able to resume some in-person teaching this fall, albeit with strict adherence to sanitizing of tables and chairs, wearing of masks, limits on attendance, and distancing in the classrooms. Peter Dion, Hal Wilson, Mark Larson and Klaus Loehr ran Cruise and Cruise Planning, using a "blended-learning" approach, and the good news is that all seven participants passed, all with excellent exam scores. Also, on Saturday, October 24th we held a session of America's Boating Course, and passed 23 attendees, with Peter Dion, Link Powell, Wayne Mitchell, and Larry Tremitiere doing the teaching.

We will again run ABC on November 7, and based on current enrollment, we will have graduated close to 100 new boaters from the ABC course by the end of 2020. I think we should be very proud of that, given the limitations we have been working under; Though it's important to recognize that Larry Tremitiere (trainer at Freedom Boat Club) and Gayle Schaffner from Freedom Boat Club have been great supporters, directing most of their new members towards our program. We also want to thank the Hilton Head Boathouse for accommodating us at their Ridgeland store, which has proven to be a very good teaching value.

In addition to ABC, we are pleased that we will again be running all six of the Boat Handling seminars for a second time this year, starting November 9, for six consecutive Mondays. These seminars were very popular in the winter/spring, and they're the ideal next step in boating education for recent ABC graduates. Hence, please consider signing up or encouraging others to do so. All six seminars can be done in class at the Senior Center, or online with Zoom, and those passing the exam at the end will earn the Seaman accreditation from the USPS.

Over the weekend at our District 26 Conference, Commander Dion presented to all the other D26 squadrons on the success we have had with the new Boat Handling program and encouraged them to actively use it to advance the practical skills of their members.

Beyond that, the final educational initiative we are working to complete this year, is to run the "on the water" Power Boat Handling element of the Inland Navigator level Boat Operator Certification course. We have a number of members who have completed, or are close to completing, the fairly rigorous classroom education aspects of IN, and we are anxious to get them out on the water to demonstrate their boat handling skills as well. Having at least several members achieve IN was an important goal for the squadron this year, and we are pleased to report that weather permitting, we are likely to meet the goal.

Finally, we plan by next month to be able to publish our 2021 Education Calendar. Our various courses and seminars are central to our Core Purpose as a squadron, as members of the USPS, and we encourage all members to look to participate in some aspect of the program in 2021.

Thanks again for everyone's interest and support,

Tom and Brad

Hilton Head Island Circumnavigation

Magellan Cruise - October 8, 2020

By Captain Paul Hoyte



Commonly known as the "Granddaddy of the Magellan Cruises", this was one of the most beautiful cruises of the year. It's one thing to drive around the island and see its inherent beauty, as you visit shops and restaurants. Quite another to see this great island from the sea.

12 boats gathered for the start at Skull Creek Marina before we headed out into Port Royal Sound toward our first stop at the marker just off of Bay Point Island.



This is the "bird sanctuary" island that has been the subject of recent controversy about constructing a luxury resort here.

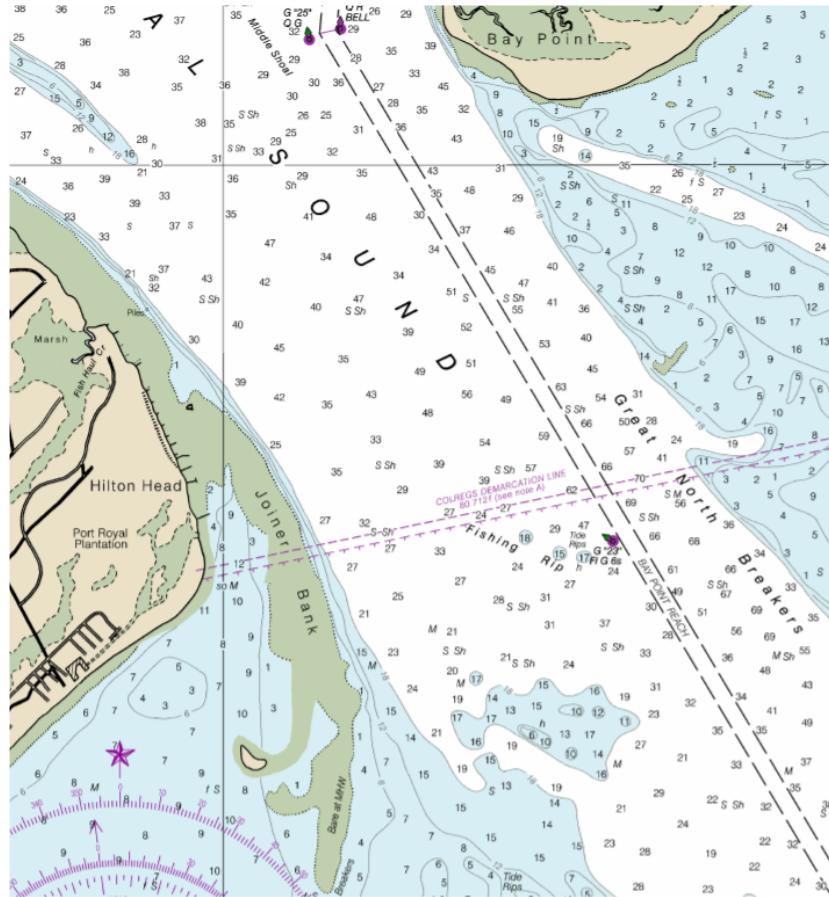
Then, we then headed out Port Royal Sound into the Atlantic.



The water this day was unbelievably calm and flat as we were blessed with very little wind. (Calm water - 3 miles out into the Atlantic!)

Our route took us miles out into the ocean before we turned south to follow the eastern side of the island.

This cruise was mostly about the navigational aspects of getting around Hilton Head and less about the island history. So, our focus was on the impressive ocean breakers just east southeast of Bay Point and how far Joiner Bank extends from Port Royal out into the ocean. Trying to cut across this bank could lead to an unintended stay on dry land at low tide.



As we proceeded down toward the Hilton Head's southern tip, we crossed over Fish Haven and the White Reef.



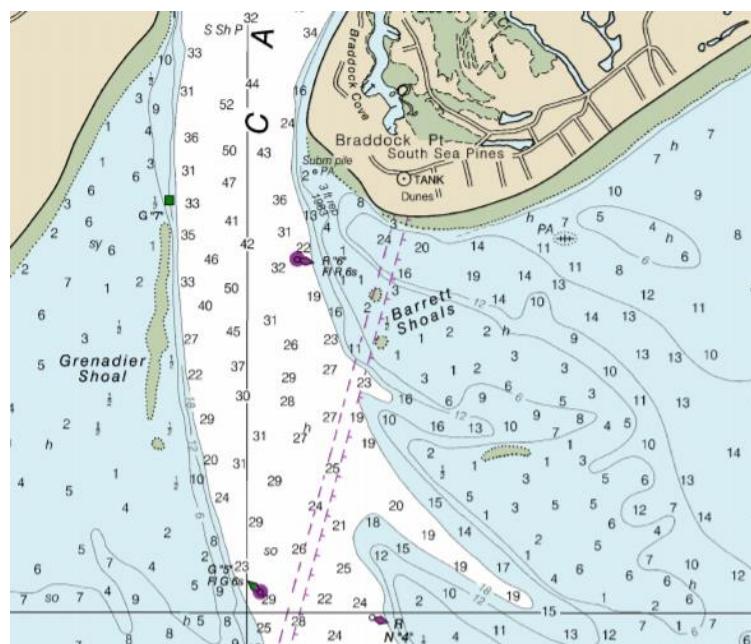
This area is one of a dozen artificial reefs along the lowcountry coastline. Such sites are constructed from structures such as ships and tugboats, barges, even army tanks and subway cars. Once in a marine environment, the structures are rapidly covered by algae, barnacles, and coral to create reefs that are critical to fish.

It was also quite a treat to be accompanied by some beautiful cannonball jellyfish.



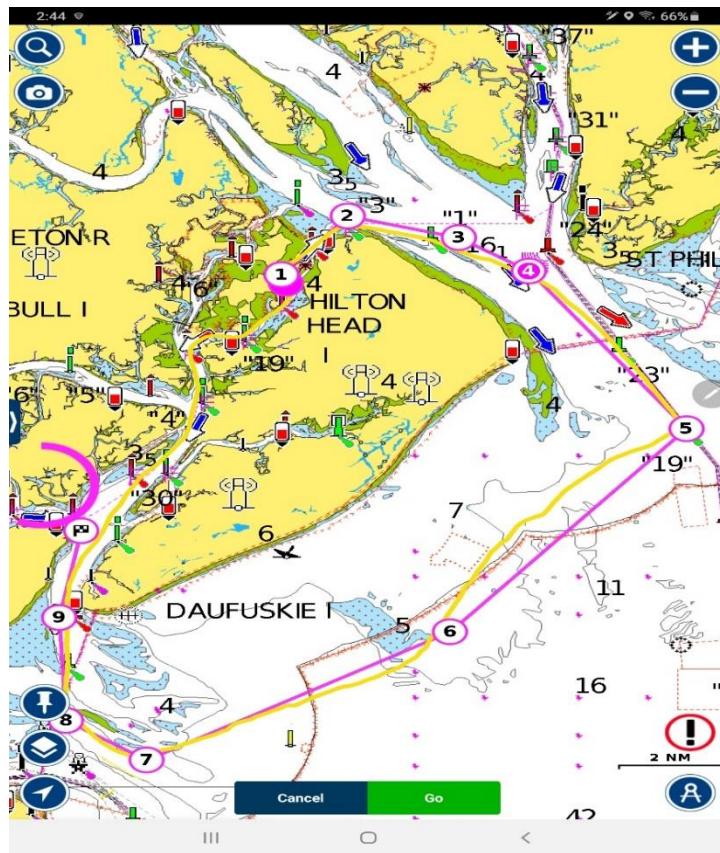
One of the key areas we crossed was the Barrett Shoals. These are actually 9 shallow areas that we had to avoid as we turned toward Braddock Point.

Just south of Braddock Point and north of Daufuskie lies the Grenadier Shoal, known to some as the "Vanishing Island". This strip of land is only seen at low tide and disappears when the tides roll in.



Navigating between these shoals brought us to the entrance to Harbour Town where our cruise ended.

Here is a snapshot of our entire route for those who might wish to recreate the trip:



Overall, our cruise was a nice two-hour excursion on the outside in very calm waters. Hopefully, we can all experience this again on a future cruise.



Thank you to John Thompson for driving our boat, to Nancy Stermer Hoyte for her narration, and to all the boaters who participated.



Charting images provided by Navionics Software and respective NOAA Charts.

"In the Land of Nuclear Mutants"

By Bob Newbert, AP



Fans of Japanese horror movies from the 50's and 60's know that nuclear bombs and radiation gave rise to monsters like "Godzillza," "Mothra," "Gamera" and "Rodan." These giant, mutant creatures destroyed cities and terrorized mankind (as well as my 9-year old self).



Well, on October 21, ABCHH boaters ventured into the Belly of The Beast, by sailing into the "hot zone" that surrounds Tybee Island, location of a "missing" atomic bomb. Fully equipped with dosimeters and protective lead vests borrowed from our dentists, we ventured into the irradiated waters of Wassaw Sound searching for Godzilla's lair.

For those blissfully unaware of the danger, the US Air Force lost an MK15 Nuclear Bomb when an armed B-47 from Florida's Homestead Air Force Base clipped wings over Tybee Island with an F-86 Fighter plane from Hunter Air Force Base in Savannah. The bomber pilot, fearing he would crash, jettisoned the bomb in the shallow waters around Tybee Island rather than have it detonate and wipe out the East Coast.

The bomb has never been found.

Searching for monsters is hard work so we pulled into The Crab Shack for lunch and libations. There, we found clear evidence of abnormally large, mutant marine life...no doubt deformed by huge doses of radiation from the missing A-Bomb.



We also found large portions of camaraderie and enjoyed the fellowship of friends sharing a dangerous voyage that could erupt with Godzilla's fury at any time as we sat helpless in our small boats.

In spite of the danger, fun and tall tales abounded as we enjoyed lunch overlooking Chimney Creek. Even the sight of a small boat sunk at The Crab Shack dock by Godzilla or Rodan (history did not record which one) could not dampen our spirits.



In planning our expedition, we wisely mapped out an alternative route home through shallow, scenic creeks to lessen our chance of radiation exposure from retracing our route through the DANGER ZONE.



However, a fast-moving storm, trashed that plan so we opened up our throttles and raced through the rain backtracking our route down to Tybee Island. We arrived home wet, but happy knowing that we lived to talk about our adventure with no encounters with Godzilla or other mutant monsters. Now, if only we could stop glowing in the dark!

--END--



"CRABZILLA," one of the overgrown mutants that inhabit Wassaw Sound prepares to attack an unsuspecting Bob Newbert.



PORTIONS ARE OVERSIZED at the Crab Shack like everything else in the irradiated waters of Tybee Island (Photo: John Thompson)



ABCHH ADVENTURERS (Front row L to R): Joe Dattilo, Bob Newbert, Lucia Rosenblatt, Chris Dattilo and Karen Dale. (2nd row L to R): Paul Hoyte, Suzanne Salt, Tina Thompson, Deb Loomis, Kim Hobin, Joe Jarboe, Glenn Crews, Nancy Stermer, Pete Dion, Susan Sutherland and Eric Sutherland. (Back row L to R): John Thompson, Mike Gilroy, Craig Loomis.



CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL VOYAGE THROUGH THE "HOT ZONE" are (L To R): Craig Loomis, Deb Loomis, Deb Pepe and Al Pepe.



BREATHING A SIGH OF RELIEF that we are unharmed by movie monsters are (L to R): Susan Sutherland, Eric Sutherland, Joe Dattilo, Karen Dale, Chris Dattilo, Paul Hoyte, Nancy Stermer, Debbie Dion, Pete Dion and Glenn Crews.



"MADE IT THROUGH THE DANGER ZONE AND LIVED TO TALK ABOUT IT" are (L to R): John Salt, Suzanne Salt, Barb Sommers, Lucia Rosenblatt, Kim Hobin, camera shy Tina Thompson, John Thompson and Mike Gilroy.



OVERSIZED GATORS and "LIVE" BABY GODZILLAS abound at The Crab Shack.



BOB NEWBERT terrorized by one of the Crab Shack's overgrown creatures.



STRANGE FISH, mutated by the radioactive environment of Wassaw Sound, adorn the walls of The Crab Shack.



CHRIS DATTILO bravely captains her new boat into treacherous seas while Eric Sutherland keeps an eye out for danger.
(Photo: Joe Dattilo)



AL AND DEB PEPE RIDE SHOTGUN with CRAIG AND DEB LOOMIS.

(Photo: Joe Dattilo)



SAILING INTO AN UNCERTAIN FATE in the waters around Tybee Island are Karen Dale, Eric Sutherland and Susan Sutherland.
(Photo: Joe Dattilo)



FEARLESSLY FACING THE UNKNOWN Paul Hoyte leads his crew of Nancy Stermer, Mike Gilroy and Glenn Crews into the radioactive waters near Wassaw Sound. (Photo: Joe Dattilo)



A BIG "THANK YOU" TO COMMANDER PETE DION who arranged for a Coast Guard helicopter to stand by for rescue in the event of an attack by one of the irradiated monsters of Tybee Island seas. (Photo: Pete Dion)