



# The Ocean Breeze

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



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## Editorial Staff

Debbie Dion  
Editor

Cdr. Mark Larson, AP  
Consulting Editor

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## The Bridge

Commander, Mark Larson, AP  
abchcdmrl@gmail.com  
843-706-2420

Executive Officer, Walter Kirk, AP  
walterckirk@aol.com  
843-342-3931

Education Officer, Peter Dion, SN  
peterjdion@gmail.com  
631-456-9134

Treasurer, Craig Christiansen, P  
christiansenhhi@yahoo.com  
843-342-3767

Secretary, Debbie Dion  
debradion1028@gmail.com  
734-558-4971

Technology Officer, Paul Hoyte, AP  
hhsps9900@gmail.com  
248-752-6970

WEBSITE  
americasboatingclubofhiltonhead.org  
-or- abchh.org

## EVENTS CALENDER

### JULY

- 6 Magellan Make-up Cruise
- 8 Boys & Girls Club Day on the Water/Harbour Town
- 11 Savannah Yacht Club (Boating Activity)
- 21 Magellan 4: Page & Pine Islands
- 22 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)

### AUGUST

- TBD Ossebaw, Georgia Nature Day - an all-day event
- 3 Magellan 5: Daufuskie Island
- 10 Hurricane Preparation Seminar, 9-11 AM, HHI Senior Ctr
- 15 Savannah Downtown Dock (Boating Activity)
- 19 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
- 26 May River Red Neck Riviera Sandbar - Beach Picnic

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Magellan 6: Hilton Head Island
- 6 Flying Fish/Bull River Marina (Boating Activity)
- 10 Dinner Meeting at Skull Creek Dockside, 6:30 PM
- 16 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
- 21 Anchoring Seminar, 9-11 AM, HHI Senior Center
- 28 New River Nature Cruise (Boating Activity)

### OCTOBER

- 3,7,10,14,17,21,24,28: Electronic Navigation (ME 103)
- 5 Magellan Fall Make Up Cruise
- 8 Dinner Meeting at Poseidon in Shelter Cove (6:30 PM)
- 15 Oyster Roast at Colleton River
- 19 America's Boating Course
- 21 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
- 26 America's Boating Course



# MEMBER SURVEY FEEDBACK

From Commander Mark Larson



Fifty-five people responded to the recent Membership Survey. **THANK YOU** very much for responding and submitting your feedback. I am very pleased with the results and feel that the information you submitted will be valuable in planning our activities going forward. I have asked our Members-at-Large to review the survey results because I feel they are the appropriate group to move this forward. I've requested that they form an Ad Hoc Committee to not only review the results, but to come back to the rest of the Executive Committee with summary conclusions and recommendations as to what to do with this data. I will continue to keep the membership informed during this process.

Additionally, there were several of you who indicated an interest in participating on the Bridge, the Executive Committee, or other committee levels. I would like to speak with you directly because we will begin the nominating process with our Nominating Committee for next year in the coming days. I encourage all members to become involved in the election process. We will be having an election and a Change of Watch in November.

**Please contact me directly by calling 843-706-2420 or by e-mail at: [abchhcdrrml@gmail.com](mailto:abchhcdrrml@gmail.com)**



# **Boys & Girls Club - Day on The Water**

## **July 9, 2019**

### **Submitted by P/C Barb Sommers**



Once again this year, as a community service, America's Boating Club of Hilton Head will sponsor a "Day on the Water" for the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club.

We are looking for five (5) ABCHH captains to participate in this year's "Day On The Water" program with the Boys & Girls Club on July 9. The program takes local kids out on the water for an educational cruise and lunch. Highlights of the program:

- The children are between 12 and 18 years of age. They are graduates of the BGC's "Explorer" Program, a summer intensive program that includes physical fitness, personal development and leadership skills.
- Two-hour "sea school" at the Boys & Girls Club a week prior to the cruise. Attendance is optional for ABCHH members.
- Half-day cruise on July 9 (9A to 3P) with lunch at the Quarterdeck in Harbour Town. ABCHH covers lunch for the Boys & Girls Club; captains and crew go dutch treat.
- Limit of two ABCHH members per boat: (1) Captain, (2) Crewman
- Crewmen assist with docking; pointing out things of interest that are covered in sea school; answering questions; and generally helping the captain manage the kids.
- Each boat will have four to five Explorers aboard.
- Two or three Boys & Girls Club staff will accompany the group.
- Captain and Crew share fuel cost.

All ABCHH volunteers in the "Day on The Water" are subject to a background check. This is a firm policy of the Boys & Girls Club, local schools, churches and other organizations working with minors. The background check is a database search administered by a third-party firm. Required information for the search: Name, address, length of residence, age, driver's license number and social security number. Both captain and crew must undergo a background check.

"Day On The Water" is a popular ABCHH program with a surplus of volunteers. This year we will let captains select their ABCHH crewman. If you want to participate as a captain, please respond quickly along with the name of your crewman. Right now, we have space for only five boats. Captains will be assigned on a "first come, first served basis".

**Bob Newbert will be our point of contact for this event. Please respond to Bob Newbert at [newbert@me.com](mailto:newbert@me.com) if you are interested.**

Regards,  
P/C Barb Sommers

## **AMBER KUEHN – LOCAL MARINE BIOLOGIST & SEA TURTLE PATROL WOMAN**

**Submitted by Debbie Dion, Editor**



The June 11<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting was held at our newest dinner location – inside the Hilton Head Golf & Country Club's Magnolia Room within Hilton Head Plantation on. Some fifty members and guests attended the dinner where they enjoyed beef tenderloin brochettes or airline chicken breast. Several diners thought the carrots were some of the best they've ever eaten (myself included).

The speaker for the evening was our very own, homegrown, Amber Kuehn. Amber is a well known and renowned marine biologist, who is a fourth generation Bluffton resident. Amber graduated with a Biology degree from the University of Georgia in 1997 and became a professional boat captain in 1999. She started working with the Sea Turtle Patrol on Hilton Head Island in 1998-2001 and went on to graduate school to complete her master's degree in Marine Biology from Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. She studied leatherback, green, and loggerhead sea turtles nesting on Broward County Beaches.

In 2004 Amber moved to Maui for a career in the diving industry and to study green and hawksbill sea turtles. She completed her master's degree in Marine Biology in 2005.

Husband in tow, she returned to the Low Country in 2006 and has been with the Sea Turtle Patrol on Hilton Head Island for 13 consecutive seasons and currently manages the program. 2019 will be her 21<sup>st</sup> season working on sea turtle nesting beaches.

In a recent article in "The Island Packet" it was reported that Hilton Head hit a record 250 sea turtle nests. A Kemp's Ridley sea turtle nested on a Hilton Head Island beach on April 26<sup>th</sup> – marking not only the first nest of the 2019 season, but the first nest ever laid by the rare sea turtle species on Hilton Head Island. The 250 nests are just over half the total number of nests in 2018. If you're talking about sea turtles, this summer is shaping up to be a historic one for our local island. It's estimated that there are about 25,000 sea turtle eggs currently incubating around the island.

This year's "strawless summer" begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you see anyone ditching a plastic straw on the beach, please retrieve it to keep the straws out of our local waterways. They can threaten our wildlife just if your walking the beach at the end of the day and happen to see a large hole left unfilled, kick some sand back in the hole because if left open it will threaten sea turtles that are making their first journey to the ocean. Any large holes left unfilled can trap baby sea turtles making their way to the sea. The "strawless summer" is much like the ban on plastic bags. They're still making their way onto our beaches in spite of the local ban, so please pick them up and put them in the trash containers. 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags annually.



Amber is an active volunteer for the South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network in Beaufort County, and she performs dolphin necropsies in the field for NOS (National Oceanic Services, a division of NOAA). She also received an award from SCDNR in 2014 for her dedication to sea turtle stranding response.

Amber owns Spartina Marine Education Charters; she operates a US Coast Guard certified vessel carrying 20 passengers. She educates tourists and locals on the unique ecosystem in the Low Country marshland - in her own back yard.

Amber was so full of knowledge that it seeped from her pores, and she has an absolutely great sense of humor. The audience was captivated with her presentation and hung on every word. For those of you who missed the dinner, if you ever have an opportunity to hear Amber speak, you owe it to yourself to listen.





## EDUCATION NEWS

Peter J. Dion, Educational Officer

**LOOK FOR A SPECIAL JULY  
SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE OF THE  
"OCEAN BREEZE" FOCUSED ON  
EDUCATION NEWS...JUMP START  
PROGRAM, BOAT HANDLING, AND  
OTHER BOATING SAFETY PROGRAMS.**

### VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

PC Larry Tremitiere reports that 136 Vessel Safety Checks have been completed to date by our VSC Examiners. District 26 has completed 663 Vessel Safety Checks to date. Thank you to all Examiners for a great job this year. To schedule a VSC please contact PC Lary Tremitiere at 03-517-6626.

**REMINDER ~ Any member planning to attend any of our boating functions MUST HAVE A CURRENT 2019 VSC DECAL ON THEIR BOAT.**



# CRUISE TO BEAUFORT'S NEW DAY DOCK

Submitted by Debbie Dion, Editor

This turned out to be a tiny boat cruise on June 4<sup>th</sup> where only two boats participated. Pete and Debbie Dion captained the Lady D<sup>II</sup> with four crew members - Craig & Deb Loomis and their guests - Pat & Jill Murphy. The second boat was captained by Joe and Christine Dattilo with a crew of new member Cassie Davis. There was ample chop going across Port Royal Sound, but both boats reached their destination safely. It was very warm and humid, but we dined outdoors on the patio at Q on the Bay. Quite a few "Arnold Palmers" were enjoyed during lunch, and everyone had a nice afternoon.



Left to right: Debbie Dion, Jill Murphy, Pat Murphy, Craig Loomis, Joe Dattilo, Christine Dattilo (next to Joe), Deb Loomis (white hat in back row between the Dattilos's) and far right is Cassie Davis.

Left to right: Craig Loomis, Deb Loomis, Christine Dattilo, Joe Dattilo, Cassie Davis (next to Joe in back row), Jill Murphy (pink hat), Pat Murphy, and Peter Dion (far right).





# Magellan Cruise to Bull Island

Submitted by Chris & Joe Datillo

What do Zebras, Albert Einstein, Radio and the Cincinnati Reds have in common? The short answer is: Bull Island. On a beautiful Monday, June 17th seven boats left from R "2" at the mouth of the May River to navigate the shallow and tranquil waters of Bull Creek. Members Mark & Teresa Carroll, Dan & Sarah Allen, Tom & Ann Wolfe, Aubrey & Jan Vaughan, John & Tina Thompson, Linda Levin, Maryellen & Patrick Hughes, Rebecca Jeffries, Chris & Karen Dunn, Mark Larson, Andrea Sholtz, Mary Richardson, Mike and Mary Schmittlein and Joe & Jean Grabias were led by Captains Joe & Chris Dattilo and Captain Norm Sholtz to the mouth of Bull Creek and the May River.

While overlooking Raccoon, Skid and Bull Islands instructions were given on how to navigate the first of two tricky zig-zag sections at low tide. It was important to try and stay on plane while executing critical 90 degree turns to avoid sandbars and shoaling. All boats went through S turns and zig-zag portions perfectly.

Before entering the Cooper River the group paused to learn the full details behind Zebras, the Reds, Radio and Albert Einstein plus much more on the fascinating and current history of Bull Island. There was one more narrow section to navigate on Bull Creek where the water gets very shallow. Again, all boats met the challenge and proceeded up the Cooper River to Daufuskie Crab Company for a delicious lunch.

It was a fun and beautiful day on the water! Bull Island is one of the most interesting islands in our area, and it was great to share her history. After a fun day - some adventurous boats reversed our course at a very low tide entirely on plane without a hitch. A wonderful boating club day had by all.



THANK YOU TO OUR GREAT PHOTOGRAPHERS -- MARY RICHARDSON & ANN WOLFE.





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THANK YOU ANN WOLFE FOR SUBMITTING THE ABOVE FIVE PHOTOS - BULL ISLAND

# FRIPP ISLAND CRUISE - June 20, 2019

Submitted by P/C Barb Sommers



It was a beautiful day to be on the water. A little choppy crossing the sound but what better way to learn how to cross the waters than by doing it in a group. And who doesn't enjoy getting a little spray in their face every now and then. We had a big group 9 boats and 34 participants. We were also joined by Steve Mendoza, CDR Beaufort Sail and Power Squadron and some of the Beaufort members. Great to have the clubs intermingle.

As I said, with the wind, crossing the sound was a little choppy but we made it to the mouth of Station Creek. There are shallow spots in the creek so it was good that we were starting up on an incoming tide. But even with the high tide we still managed to find MUD. Being in the lead boat it is always embarrassing to find mud and grass under your boat with 8 other boats behind you. But I must say, I was not at the helm at the time, another very experienced Captain was driving my boat, that individual shall remain nameless! But, as he said, it was a great learning experience to demonstrate to all how to get yourself out of low water and back into the correct channel.

We made it to the Fripp Island Marina in one piece and enjoyed a very casual lunch from the Marina Deli. It was a good thing we pre-ordered our lunches; I think the two ladies behind the deli counter would been challenged to provide lunch for 40 walking in the door. They did a wonder job and the Marina allowed us to use their pavilion to enjoy our lunch.

It was a great day, beautiful weather, exploring new waters, but mostly a great way to meet new members and catch up with old friends.

Our next cruise is to Savannah Yacht Club on July 11th. Come join this special cruise.





**THANK YOU TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS - DEB LOOMIS & LYNNE HARRIS. GREAT JOB!**



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