



The Ocean Breeze

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"For Boaters, By Boaters™"



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SPECIAL EDITION FEATURING NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES W/PHOTOS

I would like to welcome all new members and their beautiful families featured in this special edition to America's Boating Club Hilton Head. Thank you for submitting your information for us to share with our membership. We are excited to have you participate in our future boating activities, classes, and seminars. We hope to resume our dinner meetings with guest speakers when it is determined that we are safe to do so and hope you will be able to attend. It is our hope that we will meet your expectations with our boating activities and course offerings (whether online or in person). If there is something you want us to add or a place you would like to explore by boat, please contact any of the officers listed under The Bridge section. Bob Newbert also welcomes new ideas for "on the water" adventures; he can be reached at newbert@me.com. We also encourage you to consider volunteering or becoming a cruise leader. We welcome your concerns and questions; we will do our best to provide you with an answer or by resolving your issue. Hope to see you on the water. Debbie Dion

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Please join me in welcoming Rick and Karen Dale, who are originally from River Forest, Illinois, and relocated to Bluffton to get out of the cold and snowy winters in the Midwest. Karen is retired but she currently runs the Artists of Palmetto Bluff - a guild of about 25 artists - who produce art shows about three times a year. Karen has her own ceramics studio. Rick is an attorney and partner in a management consulting firm Accenture.



They have two adult daughters and two gorgeous grandsons. They are new to boating and belong to the Palmetto Bluff Boat Club. Karen joined ABCHH at the suggestion of Bob Newbert. (Bob serves as a Member at Large with ABCHH and is a very active cruise leader and newsletter contributor.) Rick enjoys golf, but Karen is the one who initiated boating. She has taken ABC and a recent virtual course on How to Use a Chart. The Dale's hope to learn about local waterways through future boating excursions. They look forward to meeting like-minded boat people.



Chris & Jacqui Donelson are twelve-year residents of Bluffton. Chris is from Iowa and is employed by Air Duct DR ; Jacqui is from Massachusetts and is currently not working. They relocated to our area for a change of scenery and are still here. Chris and Jacqui have five children and two grandchildren. They are members of Freedom Boat Club and took America's Boating Course. Besides boating -- their hobbies include playing the guitar (not sure if that's Chris or Jacqui's hobby), seeing new places and meeting new people. We can certainly show them lots of new places on our boating adventures, and they'll certainly meet a lot of boaters along the way. They want to "learn the ropes" from other locals who have been on the water longer and learn about the area waterways and how to navigate them.



Please welcome the Ericksen family to our boating club. Pictured L to R: Lauren, Brock, Jennifer, and Brian. The Ericksen's reside on Hilton Head and are from Ft. Mill, South Carolina. They are members of Freedom Boat Club and love the beauty of the island and everything it has to offer. As previous members of a boat club on Lake Wylie, they are eager to learn how to navigate the waters of this area. In addition to boating, Brian and Jennifer enjoy biking, golfing, and travel. They've taken the America's Boating Course and hope to continue with future classes and attending social events.

Rick and Nancy Ford are among our newest members, but they are no strangers to boating. Having been power boaters for 40 years, they're now members of Freedom Boat Club. They've resided on Hilton Head for nine years and enjoy picturesque views of Calibogue Sound from their home. They relocated here to be closer to their children and grandchildren, some of whom are pictured with them. Rick is retired while Nancy is semi-retired; she continues to work in Education. She is a former curriculum director and now works in sales. She has a definite passion for what she does and values the education of every child. Rick and Nancy also enjoy fishing, sudoku, traveling and socializing. They joined our club due to their love of boating and to participate in the boating events. They also look forward to future courses/seminars and events that offer socialization to meet other new members.



Top row: Dr. Richard C. Ford, Kristina Ford, Rick Ford.

Middle row: Kristen Ford, Nancy Ford

Bottom row: Porter, Kennedy, and Colton Ford.

This editor is very excited by the number of new families that have joined our boating club; it's such a refreshing reminder that these young people could one day be leading our boat cruises or instructing some of our classes/seminars. The family of Bryan, Amy, Langston, and Rowan Green reside in Spartanburg, SC. They purchased a beautiful second home on Distant Island for vacations and to go boating. They bought a new Grady White from The Boathouse and participated in our Jump Start program. They were trained by Pete Dion on their Grady White, which is named "Smile Maker." The name is very appropriate since Bryan is an orthodontist and Amy is a pediatric dentist. They also took our America's Boating Course. Their son Langston is 16 and a junior at Spartanburg High



Langston, Amy, Rowan, and Bryan with family dog Renfrow.

School; he plays football and is a tight end. Daughter Rowan is nine and going into the fourth grade. The family enjoys fishing, golf, offshore boating, and Clemson football. The other member of their family is a miniature golden doodle named Renfrow. Although their time will be limited on Distant Island, they're looking forward to taking additional education courses. They're anxious to learn more about our local waterways and hope to meet new friends because of their membership with America's Boating Club Hilton Head. Please welcome the Green family to our club.

Ben and Paula Hanni both lived in the upper Midwest around the Great Lakes before deciding to make Hilton Head their home. They vacationed on Hilton Head for several years in a time share, and finally decided ten years ago to relocate. They own their own consulting business, which they started in 2004, providing technology solutions to companies that have a nationwide footprint of branch locations. Paula is a USCG 6 Pack licensed captain and spent several years boating on Lake Erie prior to moving to Hilton Head. Hmm. I think we need to consider Paula as an instructor or a trainer with those credentials. They own a Power Cruiser named Tally Ho. Ben's boating experience has been on smaller boats on smaller lakes. Their hobbies include boating, golf, and traveling to new places, which is currently on hold until this pandemic is behind us. Paula also enjoys playing tennis. They want to expand their cruising beyond this area and look forward to making trips to Chesapeake Bay, St. Augustine, and more. Ben and Paula want to join like minded boaters in continuing their boating education and want to go on the cruises we offer to explore our waters.



Relocating from Chapel Hill, North Carolina less than a year ago, Ron Malone and Ellen Newman renovated their long-term rental property on Hilton Head Island into a year-round home. Both Ron and Ellen are still working. Ron is employed by Takeda Vaccines and Ellen is employed by Pfizer Biopharma. Ellen enjoys gardening, interior design, and travel. Ron enjoys home maintenance, boating, and swimming. Their 31' Tiara Open is docked at Windmill Harbour. They've been boating since 1995 and were previous members of the Atlanta Power Squadron. They've taken many courses and seminars over the years and want to continue their boating education course work to become more confident boaters on the local waters. They look forward to taking some day trips as well as some overnight trips. No photo was provided.



Wendy Porterfield relocated to Hilton Head from the New Jersey/New York area after losing her husband. She was an advertising executive with Young, Rubicam and Landor. She frequented the New York Botanical Gardens for years; Wendy is a certified landscape designer and floral designer. She currently works at The Greenery in the antique shop; she is a buyer for shop merchandise and performs retail sales. In her spare time Wendy enjoys fly fishing, cooking, and visiting her home in Bermuda. She has been a boater (power & sail) since her childhood and joined our Club to get back into boating. She took America's Boating Course and intends to further her boating education with future courses and seminars.

Our next family to be featured are the Schultz's - Luke, Hannah, and daughters Claire (8 years old) and Finley, who is six. They are from Jacksonville, Florida and moved to Bluffton for Luke's job. They've been residents for just under two years. Luke is a financial consultant at Fidelity Investments and Hannah is a transaction coordinator at a real estate company. They have limited boating experience and joined Freedom Boat Club a few months ago. They took America's Boating Course and hope to gain further knowledge of boating as well as the local waterways. Their hobbies include hiking, biking, surfing, and watching their girls play soccer. They enjoy the outdoors and hope to gain friendships with Club members, since they are relatively new to the area and new to the boating world. Please join me in welcoming the Schultz family.



Rick and Kathy Sturges are residents of Hilton Head and relocated from Hyannis Port, Massachusetts because they love the Low Country. Kathy and Rick are both retired; she was a teacher/educational consultant. Rick worked in engineering/business management. They have a son James and one grandchild named Parker. They have a Hobie 16 sailboat, which they keep at the owner's beach in Hilton Head Plantation. They have experience in boating/sailing on Nantucket Sound. Rick was a deckhand on his father's 'dragger' and on the ferry boats. They're members of Freedom Boat Club. Their hobbies include boating, golf, woodworking, exploring waterways around the South Carolina coast, and restoring antique cars. They are anxious to learn about the history of the Low Country and want to explore the local waterways. We can guarantee lots of explorations on our boat cruises with ABCHH. Rick and Kathy are interested in meeting people with similar interests. They took the America's Boating Course and hope to take additional courses and seminars in the future.





Relocating from Cleveland, Ohio to Hilton Head, South Carolina about three years ago ... please meet Charles (Ken) and Nancy Turner. Ken still works part-time in the health care industry. Nancy is a retired registered nurse. They have one child and two grandchildren. They own a pontoon boat which is harbored in Maine. They don't have a great deal of experience in boating; but they enjoy being on the water, which is part of the reason why they joined our boating club. They enjoy golf, cycling, and boating. They took the America's Boating Course and hope to take further boating courses to gain experience. They look forward to enjoying our boat cruises and having fun on the water with fellow members. Welcome Ken and Nancy!



Phil and Lois Velella retired to Hilton Head about four years ago from New Jersey. However, Phil is still consulting, but previously worked as a technology staff executive. Lois was in office administration. They have three children. They are members of Freedom Boat Club and have limited boating experience. They took the America's Boating Course and want to learn more about safe boating with additional coursework. Phil and Lois enjoy gardening, golf, and fishing. They want to meet fellow boaters and club members and want to learn about all the interesting areas to boat in the Low Country.



Philip and Susan Zitello have been residents of Hilton Head for 22 years; they are originally from the area of Ohio and Pennsylvania. They came to the Low Country due to their employment and are both still working. They have two children and one grandchild. Philip and Susan owned a sailboat for many years, but they are now transitioning to power. They own a Grady White 235 Freedom, which they currently keep at The Boat House on Hilton Head. They've yet to give it a name because it's so new. Their hobbies include triathlons, kayaking, knitting, cycling, yoga and reading. They joined our ABCHH for the educational opportunities we offer as well as for the socialization. They already took the America's Boating Course and hope additional courses are offered on the weekend due to their work schedule. They want to learn more about power boating and explore the area waterways.