



# The Ocean Breeze

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



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## EVENTS CALENDAR

July 28: Herb River Cruise (coverage will appear in August newsletter)

August TBD: Savannah Yacht Club (SYC cancelled all events)

August TBD: Wexford Canal Cruise (August or September)

August 20: Mini Loop

September TBD: Chelsea Plantation & Oyster Roast at Port Royal  
Maritime Center

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Rick and Nancy Ford.**  
**A special "new member" Ocean Breeze is forthcoming.**



This early evening freighter is one of many that passes by the Dion summer home on Harsens Island in Michigan.

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# FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



Once again, this past month proved to be a great month for cruising and *discovering* the beautiful local Lowcountry. Our cruise captains, **Christine Datillo and Bob Newbert**, did a great job leading many of us on three very interesting and very different day cruises (read below). Thank you, Chris and Bob!

Kudos to our Education Officer, **Tom Ryley**, and Assistant EO, **Brad Loescher** for getting our seminars and courses off and running during this difficult time. Many members have been signing up for seminars (16 for **How to Use a Chart**) and courses utilizing our certified instructors with Zoom online streaming. Four more seminars are scheduled...and filling up fast!

In order to offer new members the opportunity to sign up for cruises, we are offering "**new member only**" cruises. These cruises are especially geared toward new members within the last year and a half in an effort for them to become familiar with our local waters. Look for more day cruises sent to you (new members) directly!

It's great to see so many of our volunteers continue to step forward offering our members **day cruises, courses, and seminars** even in this era of rising COVID-19 cases in our county. Yes, the cases continue to increase in the areas of Hilton Head, Bluffton, and Okatie.

That being said...here are 10 things we can all do to assure we can continue to enjoy our squadron activities by following the suggested guidelines as recently reported in the Ensign magazine. *They are worth repeating:* 1.) Follow all state laws and city mandates. 2.) Remind your crew not to participate if they have a fever, are feeling sick, have been in contact with someone who may have COVID-19 or influenza-type symptoms within the last 14 days. 3.) Wear face masks on shore. 4.) Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival, after handling lines, and frequently throughout the day. 5.) Wash boating equipment with environmentally friendly soap. 6.) Any shared gear of equipment should be cleaned and sanitized frequently. 7.) Do not share water bottles, food, gear, equipment, sunscreen or other items with others. 8. **When renting a boat**, clean steering wheel, gear shift handles, seats, etc. before and after use. 9.) If possible, bring your own life jackets. 10.) Keep a 6' distance from other boats...even on the water. Let's all do our part.

It was nice to see new members Roger and Kim Frederick, and Phil and Lois Velella join us on the Turnbridge Landing Cruise. Welcome to our club!

In case you missed my last month's article about the need for more Cruise Captains, I'll repeat myself because in order for us to offer these interesting and much "in demand" day cruises we need more volunteer help. So, here goes.....*"The increase in members and popularity of our day*

*cruises have demonstrated to us a need for more "Day Cruise Captains." While we have great Day Cruise Captains now, a couple more would be a nice addition to our existing crew. More Day Captains would give us more opportunities for more boats participating on future cruises and even be a substitute in case the captain was unable to conduct a scheduled cruise. If you are interested in becoming a Day Cruise Captain, please contact Bob Newbert at [newbert@me.com](mailto:newbert@me.com)."*

If you are planning an overnight cruise you may want to check the marinas you plan to tie up at ahead of time. **Waterway Guide** has a list of COVID-19 marina service updates, filterable by state, that you can check the status of marinas before you leave the dock. Visit [waterwayguide.com/covid-19-reports](https://waterwayguide.com/covid-19-reports) to learn more.

Finally, the America's Boating Club **National** Fall Conference scheduled for September 8-13, 2020, to be held in Raleigh, N.C., has been **cancelled** due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. (This is the National United States Power Squadron that we all belong to.)

As ABCHH members, I hope you all continue to enjoy the activities throughout the summer months brought to you by the efforts of our volunteers.

Enjoy!

# FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Tom Ryley, Education Officer

Brad Loescher, Asst. Education Officer

Dear Members,

August will be both an exciting and challenging month for our Education group, as we are restarting our Seminar Series, with a different seminar being offered every Monday afternoon. With the resurgence of the coronavirus and the need for masks and social distancing, we are unable to hold any of these seminars in person, so we are moving to "on-line" model. All these classes will, however, still be instructor led, and will use the Zoom account we recently established, to allow people registering to participate through their computer or tablet, and will also feature a question and answer session that is important to active learning.

Our first "on-line" seminar was held Monday, July 27, on "How To Use a Chart", led by Link Powell. Member attendees included Dan Allen, Glenn Crews, Karen Dale, Bob Greene, Carole Greene, George Grieve, Bill Hinchcliffe, Jim Houser, Larry Landis, Kim Lozier, William MacLeod, Michael McKelvey, Jan McKelvey, Mike Reeve, Lucia Rosenblatt, and Ted Witman. On subsequent Mondays, we will have Hal Wilson teaching "VHF Radio" on August 3, then Wayne Mitchell leading "Tides and Currents" on August 10, and Mark Dryden with "Partner in Command" on August 17. All the seminars will be from 4 to 6 in the afternoon, and you are able to register by responding to the registration emails you are receiving, or going to the "Events" page on our [abchh.org](http://abchh.org) web page. You do not need a Zoom account to participate; you simply click the link we send you, and you will be connected to the session.

We expect a few "growing pains" as we learn how best to deliver these online seminars, but we see them as a key aspect of our future education program. While we will miss the important social aspect of coming together in a classroom setting, we think that we can still deliver very valuable learning to help us all become safer and more confident boaters. Our current plan is to continue the seminars beyond the first four weeks, and you will of course be advised through our regular e-mailings.

Beyond "on-line", we are also investigating doing some seminars outdoors, where we can still "social distance", but deliver some of the courses we feel are most important to do in person. Our current focus is on "Docking and Undocking" and "Knots and Lines", which are part of the very successful Boat Handling course that follows the ABC class in our educational progression. We hope to have further information on this out to you in the near future.

As for our advanced courses, we did recently complete Marine Electrical Systems online, led by Cecil Viverette, and with a small group of six students, it worked quite well. Our next offering will be Cruise and Cruise Planning, and then hopefully further advanced multi-session courses in the fall.

Thank you all for your support and understanding as we try to adapt to the current circumstances we find ourselves in. We look forward to your active participation, and we would also very much appreciate any feedback or suggestions for improvement.

Tom Ryley



Education Officer

Brad Loescher



Assistant Education Officer



# Wright River Story

By Bob Newbert



Wright River

By Bob Newbert AP

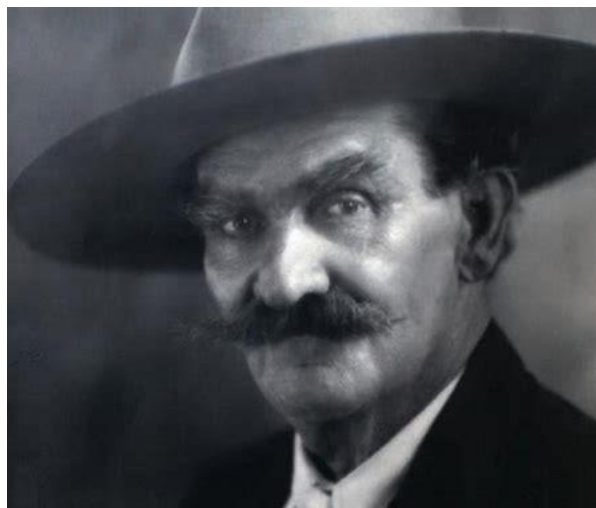
The Wright River. Most of us have crossed it on our way to Tybee, Thunderbolt or Savannah. But few of us have been UP it. Until now.

On July 22, seven adventuresome captains followed me up the Wright River as far as we could go. We navigated until we quite literally ran out of river. Dead End.

Along the way, we talked about fascinating local characters whose stories are forever linked to the Wright River.

Foremost among them is Ward Allen, heir to Allen's Station Plantation, one of Georgia's largest. Ward was clearly to-the-m Manor-born. He attended Oxford University and Edinburgh University. He spoke Latin and Greek and quoted Shakespeare at will.

But this well-educated, Southern aristocrat was also a hellraiser often drunk and rowdy. He killed a man in a fight. He tried to kill the barber who cut off his prized handlebar mustache while he was asleep in the chair. And he regularly shot up Savannah after an evening bar hop.



So, turning his back on a life of privilege, Ward moved into a ramshackle houseboat to live as a "market hunter" supplying fresh game to Savannah restaurants. The Wright River was his hunting ground where he hunted with his best friend, "Christmas" Moultrie. Together the two of them rowed out at dawn to hunt IN season and OUT with total disregard for bag limits.

Christmas was born Christmas Day on Mulberry Grove Plantation. He was Savannah's last child born into slavery - freed when General William Tecumseh Sherman burned Mulberry Grove Plantation

to the ground. The money Christmas earned from hunting with Ward (and moonshining) put his grandchildren through college. The Moultrie Interchange on Interstate 95 is dedicated to Christmas.

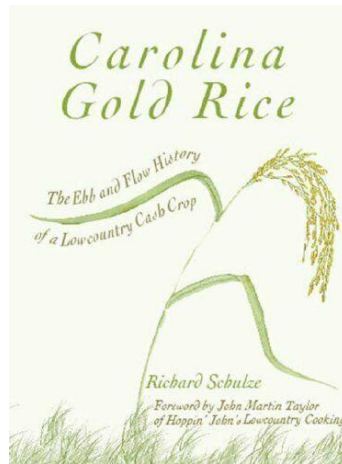


This incredible story of the aristocrat who gave up a fortune to hunt for a living with a former slave, was the subject of a book and the movie "Savannah" starring Hal Holbrook, Sam Shepard, Jim Caviezel (CBS' "Person of Interest"), Jamie Alexander (NBC's "Blindspot"), and Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years A Slave").



Another larger than life character tied to the Wright River is my friend, Dick Schulze. Like Ward Allen, Dick attended Oxford University (as well as Princeton and Johns Hopkins). Adventurous like Ward, he raced cigarette boats; competed 4X in the "Mille Miglia," a 1,000-mile race through Italy in priceless antique cars; and owned two plantations, but never gave them up to be a market hunter.

At Turnbridge Plantation, his home on the Wright River, Dick resurrected Carolina Gold rice, once the most prized rice in the world. The strain disappeared with the plantation economy at the end of the Civil War. Dick tracked down remnant grains at a USDA seed bank and taught himself how to grow and process the legendary rice using century-old machines he had to find and restore. These machines retained Carolina Gold's distinctive, aromatic flavor which would be ruined by modern milling machines. He donates all profits to charity. You can read about Carolina Gold in his book available on Amazon.



At Turnbridge's former boat landing, we walked through the storied history of the old quay. It was here that Sherman's army landed on the frigid night of December 22, 1864. In an ironic twist of history, the Union army, which was fighting the Confederacy to end slavery, promptly tore apart the slave cabins on Turnbridge to use as firewood leaving the occupants homeless and freezing at Christmas. Fast forward another 70 years, and the landing was a smuggler's haven as bootleggers landed ships from Cuba and Barbados to unload barrels of illegal alcohol during the Prohibition era.

Moving on from Turnbridge Plantation, we proceeded to Delta Plantation and the end of the river as seen in this satellite photo of our end point.



*(By the way, in spite of their names, our Lowcountry rivers are not true rivers. A river is fresh water flowing towards the sea. Our rivers are tidal estuaries with salt water pushed up to 20-miles inland. It's why they "dead-end" as you see here. Bonus Points: There are two genuine fresh water rivers in Beaufort County. Can you name them?)*

As we reached the end of the Wright River enjoying the beautiful scenery, I kept thinking of this lovely song by Earl Grant:

"At the end of a rainbow  
You'll find a pot of gold  
At the end of the story  
You'll find its all been told

At the end of a river  
The water stops its flow  
At the end of the highway  
There's no place you can go"

Finally, after running out of water, we turned for home and lunch at Lucy Belle's on Daufuskie Island. Everyone agreed it was a memorable cruise with sights we had never seen in places we have never gone. For sure, it was a spectacular day on the "Right" River.





**TOUR LEADER BOB NEWBERT** runs out of river (no more water) and turns for home.



**ABCHH COMMANDER PETE DION** leads the way home while guests Greg and Carol Ann Wilson casually pray he doesn't get lost.





**CRUISING INTO DELTA PLANTATION**





**CECIL VIVERETTE** rounds the corner at Turnbridge Landing followed by Wayne Mitchell.



**Brad Loescher** relaxing in the bow.



**GLENN CREWS** and **MIKE GILROY** weave their way through the maze of marsh.





**TRAFFIC JAM** on Delta Plantation.



**"ISLAND DAZE"** makes one of many tight turns on the Wright River.





**ADJUSTING ATTITUDES** on Daufuskie Island are (L to R): Carol Ann Wilson, Greg Wilson, Joe Datillo, Chris Datillo, Rebecca Jeffries, Brad Loescher, Bob Newbert, Joycelyn Mitchell, Wayne Mitchell, Phil Velella, Lois Velella, Mike Gilroy and Glenn Crews.



**LUNCH LINE** at Lucy Belle's (at least everyone was wearing a mask).





**PETE DION** celebrates after conquering the lunch line at Lucy Belle's.



**GLENN CREWS** standing by for our start up the Wright River.

# Bull Island Exotics - July 23, 2020

By Captain Christine Datillo



Before Netflix's hit show, Tiger King, documenting the private zookeeper - Joe Exotic - there was Bull Island. America's Boating Club of Hilton Head took a trip back in time when wealthy landowners kept exotic animals, had sprawling hunting retreats, and raced America's Cup yachts in their spare time. Bull Island featured all of this and more.

Seven boats with their crew, led by Captain Chris Dattilo met at the mouth of Bull Creek and the May River to start their trek back in time. At our first stop, just off Raccoon and Skid Island we learned the story of Powel Crosley, the first owner of Bull Island. Being from Ohio (of course!) he loved the low country. Powel Crosley purchased the Cincinnati Reds in the late 1920's. At the urging of his young son, he invented a small portable radio so they could listen to baseball games. Bringing baseball, (night games in particular), an innovation of Mr. Crosley's into the homes of millions of Americans with his newly invented pocket radio, made baseball the most popular pastime in America. It also made him a fortune. The wealthy inventor brought in enough money to bring Siberian donkeys, American Buffaloes and Big Horn Sheep to roam the shores of Bull Island. Bull Island Exotics.

After a navigating a series of S-Turns, avoiding some serious shoaling, we stopped just past the first dock on Bull Island. There we learned about the next owner of Bull Island, Alfred Lee Loomis. Relevant to ABC boaters (especially those who have taken the Radar Course), Alfred Loomis invented LORAN (LONG Range Navigation) a radio navigation system for marine navigation that determined a vessel's location. LORAN was used through the 1990's, until President Obama standardized our nation's navigation on the newer GPS system that we boaters rely on today. Without Loomis' contribution to marine navigation - we'd all be lost!

Of course, he too loved exotic animals, and brought Zebras to Bull Island to join the other exotic animals. Bull Island Exotics (improved).

We continued our journey towards the Cooper River, navigating some tricky sandbars and uncharted shoals. We arrived at the second dock on Bull Island. There we were caught up on the modern history of Bull Island. Currently it is owned by a Connecticut family, through a Conservation Trust. They use the island to hunt, fish, boat and enjoy all the beauty of the low country. They do not own any exotic animals, but they have put it in trust so that it will be preserved forever for the birds, marine life, and animals that surround us in the Hilton Head area. Bull Island Exotic FOREVER!

Our last stop Captain Glenn Crews took us to an Oyster monitoring spot at the intersection of the Cooper River and Bull Creek. Captain Crews shared some of the history of shell-rings, oystering,



and the valuable contribution oysters make to our environment. Bull Island is surrounded by Oyster beds that are so critical to the low country.

Finally, on to Daufuskie Crab company for a delicious lunch and a great wrap up of our trip back in time.

Thank you to Captain Glen Crews and Captain Paul Hoyte for keeping the Magellan tradition alive.

Member attendees: Karen Dale and Crew Glenn Crews and Paul Hoyte; John and Tina Thompson; Larry and Dosha Mittelman; Roger and Kim Frederick; Joe and Chris Dattilo; Eric and Susan Sutherland



**Captain Christine Dattilo at the wheel...  
CONCENTRATING!!!**

**Eric and Susan Sutherland (ABC members) are crew on the Dattilo's boat ... Niblick.**







**Clockwise: Susan Sutherland, Joe Datillo,  
Eric Sutherland**



**Captain Paul Hoyte**



**MAGELLAN CRUISERS**



**Captain Glenn Crews & Captain Paul Hoyte  
getting some assistance docking**





**Captain Karen Dale and her crew**



**Right: Captain Tim Scavone and wife Beth; seated left are Captain Glenn Crews (rear left) and Captain Paul Hoyte (left front)**