



# The Ocean Breeze

An official publication of America's Boating Club of Hilton Head

"Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends"



Volume 33

Number 1

January 2018

## Editorial Staff

Debbie Dion  
Editor

Cdr. Mark Larson, AP  
Consulting Editor

The Ocean Breeze is published monthly or bi-monthly by the America's Boating Club of Hilton Head, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. Articles in this publication represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the United States Power Squadrons or the America's Boating Club of Hilton Head.

## The Bridge

Commander  
Mark Larson, AP

Executive Officer  
Walter Kirk, AP

Education Officer  
Steve Rahn, P

Administrative Officer  
Peter Dion, SN

Treasurer  
Craig Christiansen, P

Secretary  
Debbie Dion

### Website

[americasboatingclubofhiltonhead.org](http://americasboatingclubofhiltonhead.org)  
or [abchh.org](http://abchh.org)



## From Commander Mark Larson, AP

Welcome to 2018! I hope that all of you have had a wonderful holiday season; Linda and I wish you and yours the very best for the new year.

As many of you know, America's Boating Club of Hilton Head will be celebrating its thirty-year anniversary in 2018. The men and women of this Squadron have contributed a great deal over the years to the promotion and education of safe boating; they have shared the camaraderie of fellow members - folks from many places and walks of life and who all love the water. Plans are underway for celebrating this occasion in the coming months, and we look forward to your participation.

We are off to a great start for our new year with 16 new members already on board, a full slate of educational opportunities on the calendar, new and interesting cruises being planned, and a social calendar that you can expect to deliver new dinner locations and interesting topics to discuss. Our new website will keep you to date on all of this.

<https://www.americasboatingclubofhiltonhead.org>

Please utilize your members-at-large: Mark Dryden, Bob Newbert, Randy Royan, and Hal Wilson, as well as all members of the Executive Committee to bring forward any ideas to improve the Club experience.

Fair winds and smooth seas!

*Mark*

## 2018 Course Schedule

Cruising and Cruise Planning	February 15,22 March 1,8,15,19,22,29(8 sessions)
Navigation	Starts February 26
America's Boating Course (ABC)	March 24 & 31 (Open to the Public)
Seamanship	April 16,19,23,26,30

## 2018 Seminar Schedule

Partner in Command	February 17
Tides & Currents	March 10
Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio	April 21

**Our February dinner will be held on February 12, 2018 at Alexander's in Palmetto Dunes on Hilton Head Island. Plan to attend.**

## PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW CLUB MEMBERS



Stacey Groark & Brian DeMatteo reside in Bluffton and are members of Freedom Boat Club.



Teresa and Mark Carroll reside in Hilton Head.

Pictured below is new member Bob Buckley.



These new members were introduced at the dinner meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>, which was held at Red Fish on Hilton Head Island. The group enjoyed a social hour and dinner, which was followed by our guest speaker for the evening - Al Stokes from the Waddell Mariculture Center in Bluffton. Mr. Stokes has been the manager and a wildlife biologist at Waddell for thirty years. He received the Meritorious Service Award from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in September 2017. He was presented with a plaque in November that named the main building at Waddell the "Alvin D. Stokes Building." Al is a graduate of Clemson University.

- Al feels that maintaining good water quality is an important aspect of the protection of the environment.
- Keeping waterways clear of bacteria is cheaper than trying to fix a problem down the road.

- Al and his staff constantly develop tools to track the fish population in the area.
- Al assisted the Clemson University professors in surveys and research which consisted of identifying the South Carolina fish.
- Al conducts lectures to roughly 3,000 people each year about mariculture.
- Al and his staff have done more to maintain and improve our local fishery than most fishermen know.
- Waddell provides a 'scientific boost' to local fishery and is the secret weapon the Low Country deploys to keep Low Country fishing alive and well for all of us.
- The work done at Waddell is valuable to South Carolina's waters and is important because of the pressure that is placed on our environment by development, commercial fishing, and tourism.





## PUNTA GORDA BOUND



Three boats from America's Boating Club of Hilton Head left for Punta Gorda, Florida on January 5<sup>th</sup> - one day after our snow storm. At left is "Indigo" - a 37' Back Cove - owned by Jack and Cindy Wuensch. Jack is accompanied by John Test of Shelter Cove on this trip. Jack's wife Cindy will drive down to Punta Gorda as will Beth Walters. The boats will stay in Burnt Store Marina.

Pictured right are Brenda & Craig (Chip) Christiansen aboard their 37' Back Cove "Vita Brevis." In Latin it means "Life is Short." Brenda is Chip's 'First Mate' and 'Chief Navigator.'



At left is "Blue Bird" - a 38' Sabre captained by Jim Walters. Jim was very excited about this trip. His First Mate is Hal Wilson, another ABCHH member, who is also a power boater. Jim's wife Beth will drive down once they arrive in Punta Gorda.

## Blue Bird, Indigo, and Vita Brevis boat on...

The boats left Hilton Head Island at 9 a.m. on January 5<sup>th</sup> and arrived at St. Simon at 2:20 p.m. Despite the cold weather, they reported calm water and traveled some 117 miles at an average speed of 20 mph. Vita Brevis encountered an issue with its electronic compass. The group enjoyed a nice dinner at Morningstar Marina.



Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> the boats pressed on to St. Augustine Municipal Marina, which is right on the ICW, without any mishaps. A boat tech from Coastal Carolina Yachts was waiting at the marina to deliver a new electronic compass to Vita Brevis. That means Chip and Brenda's chart plotter will actually be pointing in the direction a travel, which is always a plus. The last of the ice that had accumulated on the boats in Hilton Head had melted so all in all it was a good day for boating.

It was a good run from St. Augustine to Titusville on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The trip took a little longer than anticipated due to a long stretch of manatee protected waters. Gotta protect those big babies! By the time they arrived in Titusville the temperature had soared to almost 60 degrees! They continued their tradition of a rotating cocktail party aboard Blue Bird. After dinner they hustled back to the marina to see a rocket launch from Cape Canaveral.





## Blue Bird, Indigo, and Vita Brevis boat on...

Pictured below is a barge full of boats in Fernandina that were pulled after the hurricane. There are still several abandoned boats up high and somewhat dry on shore.



As of this writing the three boats and crew members are due to arrive in Ft. Myers on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Their arrival in Stuart on January 8<sup>th</sup> was hampered by heavy rain, which slowed them down. Chart plotters and Sirius weather were important aids to their progress. The rain was a welcome relief as it washed all the salt off the boats. The weather in Stuart allowed them to leave doors and windows open and enjoy some warm weather for a change. January 9<sup>th</sup> they crossed Lake Okeechobee via five locks and reached Ft. Myers a day ahead of schedule. The trip from Ft. Myers to Punta Gorda featured many islands. All boats arrived safely in Punta Gorda and the temperature was in the seventies.



Above Brenda Christiansen tends to the lines while going through a lock in Lake Okeechobee.

The Christiansen's plan to explore surrounding islands of Captiva, Pine, Sanibel, Cabbage Key, Gaspirilla, etc. Chip and Brenda have several friends that either live or winter in Ft. Myers and Venice so they will spend time seeing them. If they get lucky they're hoping to see Jimmy Buffet in concert.

All boats have day trips planed as well as possible overnight trips to Venice, Tampa, and possibly Key West. They had fun planning the trip with meetings and dinners at each other's homes. We don't plan to see any of them until spring and well after the cold temperatures disappear!