



The Ocean Breeze

An official publication of America's Boating Club® Hilton Head
"Innovation, Education, Community"



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EVENTS CALENDAR

SOCIAL CRUISES

April 29	Dawtaw Island
May 4	On-the-Water Scavenger Hunt (Meet at R2 - 0845)
May TBD	Overnight #1 - Charleston*
May 11	New River
June 27	Fripp Island*
July 12	Day-On-The Water
July 20	Ft. McAllister

Note:

1. Asterisk (*) denotes weekend cruise
2. All dates & destinations subject to change based on tides, weather, dockage and venue availability.

MAGELLAN CRUISES

April 15	Bull Island w/lunch at Daufuskie Crab
May 20	Daws Island & Colleton River w/picnic at Colleton River dock (raft up)
June 15	Circumnavigate Daufuskie & Turtle Islands - Harbour Town Marina for lunch
June 29	May River and Headwaters w/lunch in downtown Bluffton

SOCIAL EVENTS

May outside Social Event at The Launch - date TBD
June will be our first dinner at Skull Creek Dockside - date TBD

****America's Boating Club of Beaufort & America's Boating Club Hilton Head****

District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous

April 21-25, 2021

Activities include:

Hilton Head Sunset Cruise	Morgan "Monkey" Island Cruise
Beaufort Sunset Cruise	Port Royal Maritime Center Cruise
Daufuskie Island	Low Country Oyster Roast at Waterfront
Beaufort Loop Cruise	Park in Beaufort
Port Royal Sound History Cruise & Optional Cruise to Beaufort	



FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



Hello Spring! The warm weather and the lessening of pandemic restrictions forthcoming sure are a welcome relief. Your squadron has been active with a number of activities recently.

First of all, let me begin by congratulating Tom Ryley who recently received the Carol McVey Award during the D26 Awards Celebration. This is an education award given to the D26 member that has shown excellent educational leadership for the past year. Also, we were given the top New Membership Award for our division with a 6.4% increase. Thirdly, the Ed Fetner Award was given to Peter Dion (runner-up Commander of the Year Award). 2020 Distinctive Communicator's Award were earned for our newsletter (Ocean Breeze, Editor Debbie Dion), and for our website (Webmaster Paul Hoyte). Vessel Safety Check Recognition went to Terry Baehr, Neil Boderman, Peter Dion, Mark Dryden, Linda Larson, David Mauk, Robert McKenzie, Dan Merkel, Randy Royen, Larry Tremitiere, Cecil Viverette, and Jim Walters. Finally, Hilton Head received the Wolf-Ewing Award for the highest amount of educational advancement in a year. **Way to go ABCHH members!**

Next on the docket -- **the D26 Spring Cruise and Rendezvous** on April 21-25 that we are hosting with the Beaufort Squadron. Join other squadrons' members for five days of boating events. **Hold down the Control Key while selecting the link below for D26 Spring C & R information, event schedule, and registration form:** <https://www.usps.org/localusps/d26/>

Special notice for owners of vessels less than 26' in length: Boats less than 26' in length that generate more than 115 lbs of static thrust and were built beginning in January 2020 are required to have, and use, the Engine Cut-Off Switch (ECOS). The effective date of the law is April 1, 2021, and it is referred to as the "use requirement." The initial enforcement posture by the USCG for the 2021 boating season is intended to be educational in nature, ensuring that recreational vessel operators are aware of the new ECOS use requirement. For more information: uscgboating.org

Dinner meetings with guest speakers will be returning soon. We are planning a member "social get-together" in May at The Launch and a member dinner meeting in June at Skull Creek Dockside with guest speaker Larry Toomer. Details will be forthcoming.

Recently, I sent out an email to all members from me rather than our regular method of communication through Constant Contact. I hope you received it. I'm doing this for any information you need to know immediately rather than waiting for our monthly newsletter. Furthermore, we will be sending out Constant Contact information from "ABCHH" so as not to confuse it with our National organization news blasts from "America's Boating Club".

An opinion from the Commander: Our National organization, USPS, has been increasingly sending out more online courses and seminars to all members. While this may be convenient for some, I highly encourage you to take our in-person courses and seminars that we offer to our ABCHH members. Our in-person educational courses give you the opportunity to communicate with our experienced and certified instructors, and, to develop **relationships** with our local members. The **relationships** developed through our courses/seminars are the hallmark of our club. Meeting and talking with all of you further builds comradery and opportunities for sharing boating experiences. Online activities do not build relationships, and, **it's all about relationships!**

Ok, enough said, go out and enjoy the great weather in a boat!

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley, P
Education Officer



Brad Loescher
Asst. Education Officer

Our education schedule has been active since the start of the year. We have completed seminars on GPS, VHF radio, and Weather Forecasting, the Marine Electrical Systems course, and are underway with the Engine Maintenance course, taught by Larry Tremitiere and Phil Burke, with 8 people registered. Further, we have just completed our first spring session of the America's Boating Course (ABC) and held a second one on March 27. The winter is a great time to make good progress on our education program, while the days are shorter and cooler.

Speaking of ABC, the session on March 20 was attended by 30 registrants, and we are pleased to report that all 30 passed the exam, and will be receiving their SC Boaters Card. Notably, of the 30 students, the youngest was 15, and the oldest 87! No age discrimination here! You are never too young, or too old, to benefit from brushing up on your boating skills.

The instructors for this March 20 session were Commander Peter Dion, Past Commander Mark Larson, Link Powell, and Klaus Loehr. It was terrific to have Klaus back with us, after a respite from teaching due to the pandemic. We were pleased to be able to present him in person with the Squadrons Award for Excellence in teaching, recognizing his many years of commitment to ABC Hilton Head.

The second ABC was held March 27; 26 people attended and passed the exam. Our lowest grade was 83, and we had one person achieve 100 percent. Thanks to PC Mark Larson, Commander Peter Dion, Klaus Loehr, and Wayne Mitchell for being our instructors, and for Carl Ericsson for being our guest. We signed up eight new members (4 family memberships) at the end of the session. Our next planned sessions are in the fall on October 16 and 23. These are already listed on abchh.org, and available for registration. As a reminder, the full listing of our courses and seminars for the year is available on our website as well.

Finally, I want to let you know we now have three new USPS Certified Instructors in our squadron. Congratulations to Linda Larson, Craig Loomis, and Rick Sturges, who completed the Instructor Development course led by Joe Etter, and then had their submissions reviewed and approved by the USPS Instructor Development Committee. We would not be able to have the robust education program we have without the significant dedication and commitment of our instructors, and our thanks go out to all of them.

Happy and safe Boating!

Tom Ryley, P
Education Officer

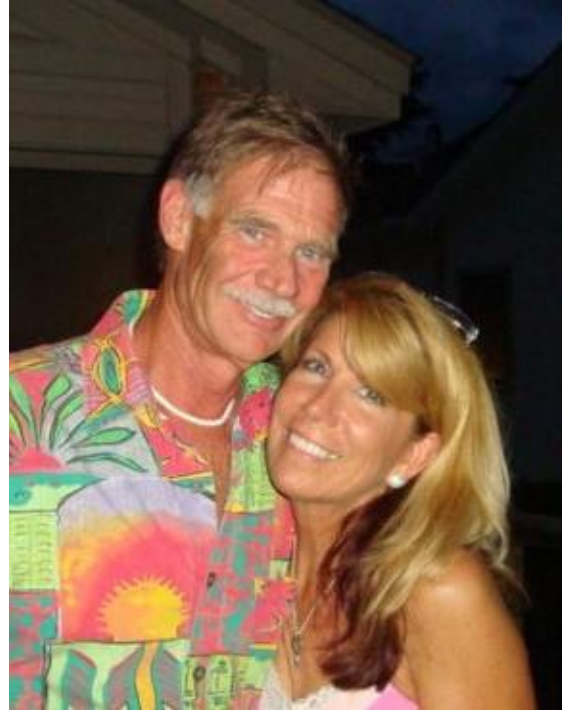
Brad Loescher,
Asst. Education Officer

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



Please join me in welcoming Russ Collins and Susan Boggs who hail from the Wolverine State of Michigan. They are from Wolverine Lake, Michigan, which is named after the wolverine, from which Michigan acquired its unofficial nickname of the Wolverine State. Russ and Susan have lived on Hilton Head for seven years and keep their Hurricane SD2400 power boat at Long Cove Club. They have forty years of boating experience on the inland lakes and the Great Lakes. Additionally, they have experience sailing and racing on the Long Island Sound. They are relatively new boaters here in the Low Country. They've been visiting their parents down here for the last forty years, and retiring here was an easy decision for them. There's no snow here either! Russ worked in chemical sales, rehabbing, and was also a real estate agent. Susan was in IT Management at Ford Motor Company for 31 years, and she was also a real estate agent. They have two children and one grandchild. Their hobbies include golf, boating, pickleball, swimming, biking, Euchre, and music. Other interests for Russ and Susan are travel and cruising. They joined ABCHH to meet fellow boaters and to participate in our social events as well our education classes. Russ registered for our engine maintenance class. They want to become familiar with the Low Country waterways and further their boating knowledge through further educational classes and seminars that we offer.



John and Diana Hooker are from Connecticut and reside on Hilton Head. John's mother has been living here since 1999. John is currently a financial advisor at Wells Fargo; Diana is not currently working. They have a daughter Samantha (age 26) and a son Matthew (age 24). John and Lisa have a 2014 Stingray 23' power boat named "Money Doc" which is on a lift at their property. They are new to boating and joined America's Boating Club Hilton Head to learn about the local waters. They both enjoy fitness, golf, and kayaking. Welcome John and Diana. We hope to see you on the water.



Innovation, Education, Community

Commander Dion and I used to live on Long Island and we were one hamlet away from these new members: Phil and Susan Burke are from West Islip, New York. Phil was a ferry captain for the Fire Island Ferries, and I suspect we saw him on one of our many trips to Fire Island while we lived in Bay Shore. One of the first people that Phil contacted when they arrived part-time in Bluffton was Pete Dion; Phil wanted to know about our organization. We actually took them for a boat ride aboard the Lady D. That was three years ago, and now he and Susan are full-time residents in Sun City and full-time members of America's Boating Club Hilton Head. Phil is currently teaching our Engine Maintenance course with PC Larry Tremitiere. The Burke's have three children and six grandchildren. They received some good news recently -- their son and family are moving to Jacksonville, Florida. Phil and Susan purchased a Grady White 232 a short time ago, which they keep at Skull Creek Boat House on Hilton Head. Phil has a ton of boating experience; he's been boating since he was 12, which was just a few years ago. Kidding!!! He acquired his first Power Squadron license at age 14, and he has relocated boats up and down the Eastern Seaboard for many years. Phil and Susan's hobbies are boating and golf, and they hope to travel more in 2022. Since they're now full-time residents, they want to learn about the Low Country waters and familiarize themselves with our tide tables.



Mark and Janis Rosen have owned their home on Hilton Head since 2008. Mark is originally from Georgia and Janis is from South Carolina. Mark currently works in the D.C. area as a corporate attorney and is a maritime law specialist. Janis is a retired school teacher. They were drawn to Hilton Head by its natural beauty, the beaches, water, and golf. Their children are grown and they have three grandsons. They own a Boston Whaler Conquest 285 named Sea Dawg, which is kept at Broad Creek Marina. Mark was a maintenance officer in the U.S. Navy - OOD. (This editor had to Google OOD. At sea, the officer of the deck [OOD] is stationed on the ship's bridge and is in charge of the navigation and safety of the ship.) Mark, I hope I'm close in this description. Mark's hobbies include golf, bike riding, and mechanical type things. Janis enjoys bike riding and racquet sports. They joined our club to get help "learning the ropes" of operating a small boat in and around Hilton Head Island. They are interested in our boating activities and hope to learn how to offshore fish. Mark took a USCG course through Boat US. With the number of courses and seminars we offer, I anticipate he will be interested in some of them. They're anxious to make new boating friends and learn more about boating in our Low Country waters. Welcome Mark and Janis.



"Back to The Future"

By Bob Newbert



~~February 6~~
~~February 9~~
~~February 20~~
February 28

It took four tries due to weather delays, but the 4th "at bat" was a charm. Well ...almost a charm (see "fog" in next paragraph). On February 28, ~~eleven~~ -no make that 9- ABCHH captains and their crew journeyed Back to the Future when we sailed into the modern Port of Savannah to tour Ships of The Sea Maritime Museum and learn about the great era of Atlantic trade during the 18th and 19th centuries.



But first, Poseidon and Mother Nature threw another curve our way. Pea soup fog shrouded our start. Visibility was a few feet at best. Two captains dropped out and another got lost in the fog trying to find our rendezvous point at R "2" whereupon we launched a 20-minute search & rescue mission that successfully escorted the missing captain to the rest of the fleet.

Determined to proceed after weather related cancellations on February 6, 9, and 20, we sallied forth into the fog. After all, this is what real captains are made of. Indeed, one captain bragged that he could now add "fog experience" to his resume. Our captains adding "foghound" to their resumes are Chris Brigham, John Eddy, Gemma Gatti, Bill Hinchcliffe, Cathy LaPoint, Michael Peck, Tom Ryley and Rick Ford.

The fog eventually burned off -as is its habit-and we had an enjoyable cruise into Savannah stopping along the way to talk about Florence Martus' little brother, Savannah's North Pole, the reason we should all be harbor pilots, compulsory public education, the 55th Massachusetts (vs. the 54th Massachusetts), turning basins, RO/RO, and other points of interest along our route.

We entered the port via the South Carolina track to dock in Georgia under challenging conditions - a 3.89 mph tide. The water was ripping! But we landed everyone safely with one minor mishap that will no doubt grow in severity with each retelling over the coming years.

Following a leisurely 1-mile walk through Savannah's Historic District, we arrived at Ships of The Sea Maritime Museum - our destination back in time.



Ships of The Sea Maritime Museum

Located in Scarborough House, an 1819 mansion built for the owner of *Savannah*, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean, the museum showcases an amazing collection of ship models, maritime antiques, scrimshaw, figureheads and other examples of seafaring 200-300 years ago.



One of the many large and exquisitely detailed ship models capturing a moment in maritime history

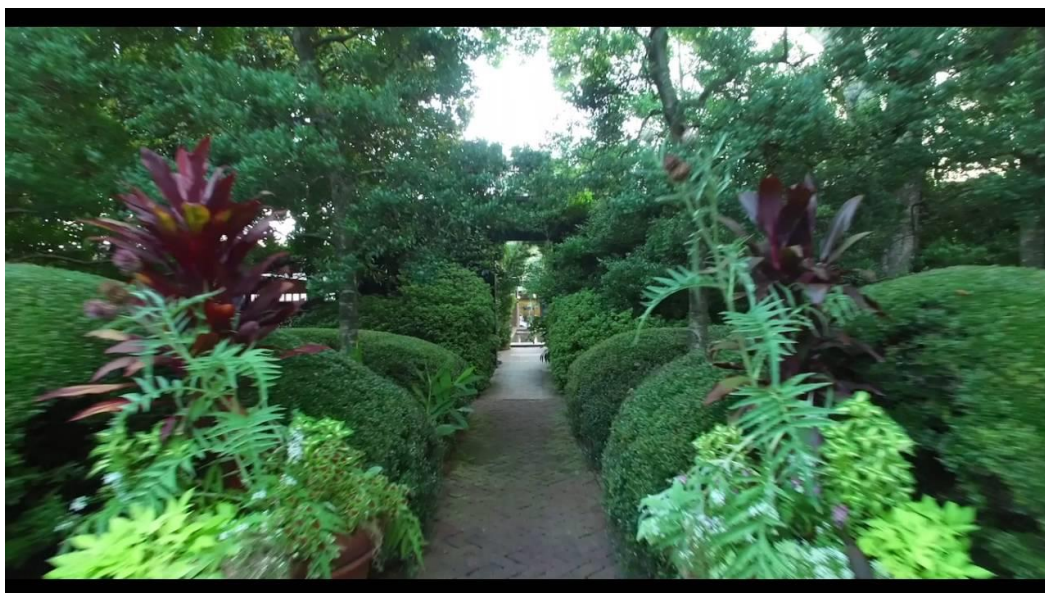


Figureheads once gracing the bow of mighty ships

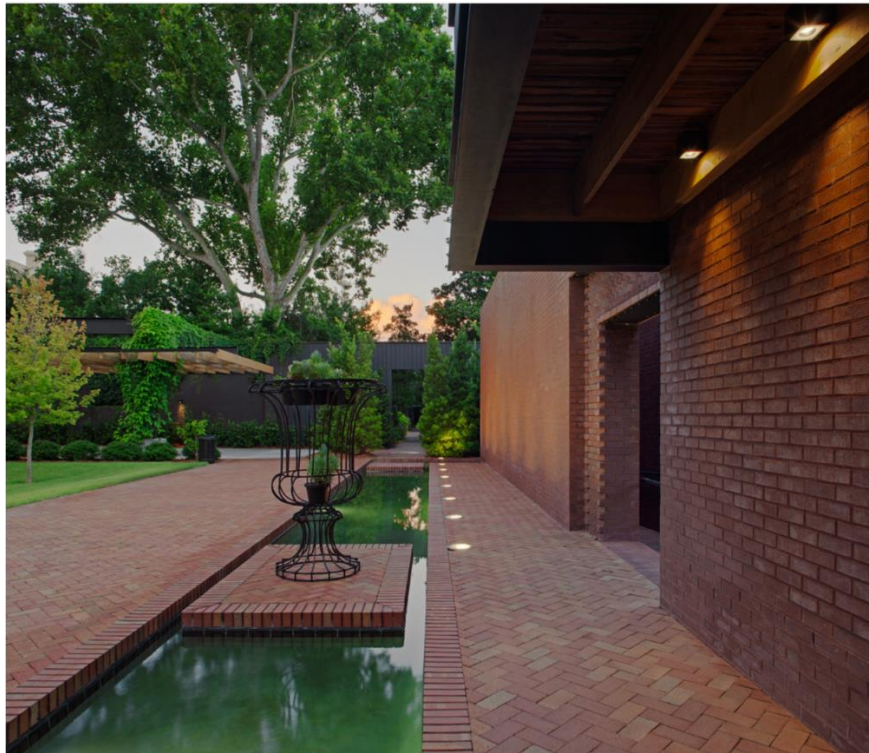
The exhibits are extraordinary. After seeing how captains of the past went to sea, we are less smug about our own seamanship abilities which are propped up by depth finders, GPS, radar, automatic bilge pumps, electric windlass, bow thrusters, automatic motor trim, twin screws, trim tabs, and, yes, even air conditioning. Going back in time grounds you.

We did not take "going back in time" too seriously, however. To wit: Instead of hardtack, we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the beautiful gardens of Ships of the Sea. No stale, mealy biscuits for us!

Ships of The Sea has two lovely gardens - both serene oases in the middle of the city. Scarborough Garden, a 19th century parlor garden, is the largest private garden in Savannah's Historic District. North Garden is a contemporary space with reflecting pools.



Scarborough Garden



North Garden

Following our garden party and tour, we departed Savannah under much friendlier tidal conditions than our arrival. Equal opportunity navigators, we took the "Georgia route" home as opposed to the "South Carolina route" into port.

Poseidon, the ill-tempered, moody and vengeful god of the sea, wasn't done with us yet, however. After seeing us persevere through peanut butter fog, he threw one more obstacle our way by disabling Gemma Gatti's boat off Daufuskie Island. Fortunately, I kept my VHF tuned to 72 for the journey home and heard her distress call.

Doubling back, we found her with a dead engine. Remembering my ABCHH training, I rigged a bridle with the spare line I keep in my sea bag, and slowly towed her back to port. Our speed made good was a mere 6 mph just like ships of old - the perfect way to close the loop on a journey "Back to the Future."



Near zero visibility challenged us at the start of our voyage back in time



We shared the river with "MSC Vittoria" arriving in Savannah at 975 ft and 105,101 tons



Tugboat alley... like taxis lined up waiting for fares



Mary Richardson window shopping for a new boat



Free of the fog, ABCHH celebrates the sun with the "Waving Girl" of Savannah



Cathy and Art LaPoint take five.



Rick & Nancy Ford--unscathed by their journey through heavy fog



All fresco diners from L to R: Chris Brigham (blue shirt), Cathy Brigham, Jocelyn Mitchell, Wayne Mitchell, Lori Yingling and Steve Yingling (red shirt)



Gemma Gatti and Marcy Richardson enjoy a Nantucket Sleigh Ride



Bridle maker Bob Newbert adds "tow master" to his resume (and his windbreaker)

"Hidden Happy Hour"

By Bob Newbert



Our local waterways are always beautiful, but often crammed with ferries, jet skis, commercial fishing boats, sailboats, barges, creek cats, kayakers, parasailers, wake boarders, tubers, water skiers, dolphin tours, sunset tours, shrimpers, oystermen, fishermen, and pleasure boats large & small. From the Bluffton sand bar to Freeport Landing, it seems that *everyone* is on the water.

Happily, there are still unknown and unexplored hideaways you can take a boat far from the maddening crowd. And on March 8, we did just that.



Weaving our way through the marsh grass where most boaters dare not go.

We set out to enjoy nature at its best. No destination restaurant, point of interest or special activity. No narration along the route about the places we'll see. No anecdotes about local characters. No description of important events which took place here. Just the quiet beauty of the Lowcountry and the pleasure of sharing the outdoors with friends.

How? By traveling to one of my favorite refuges for a "Hidden Happy Hour." (I have more than a dozen secluded retreats meaning we can plan a Hidden Happy Hour every year until 2039 before repeating ourselves).



Anyway, we made our way to a remote Eden where we could enjoy the serenity of the marsh, listen to waterfowl sing, and commune with nature and each other.

It was magnificent.

Lesson Learned: Sometimes you have to get off the beaten track to truly appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds us.

Time waits for no man (or captain), however, so we weighed anchor in time to get back before the locks closed at Windmill Harbour and the boat lifts stopped running at Palmetto Bluff and other ports of call.

As we zig zagged our way out of the backcountry creeks, I tried to think of the best way to describe the experience. No one captures the feeling better than Pat Conroy in THE PRINCE OF TIDES:

"To describe our growing up in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, I would have to take you to the marsh on a spring day, flush the great blue heron from its silent occupation, scatter marsh hens as we sink to our knees in mud, open an oyster with a pocket knife and feed it to you from the shell, and say 'There. That taste. That's the taste of my childhood.'"



Surely, Pat's words, and the wildness and tranquility of Hidden Happy Hour will long linger in our memory. For all who took part, it was indeed a most happy and memorable hour.

REMINDER TO HIDDEN HAPPY HOUR CAPTAINS & CREW:
"Loose lips sink ships."

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Chris Datillo and crew fall out for inspection and roll call somewhere in a back country creek.



(L to R) Pete Dion, Tom Ryley, Chris Brigham and Phil Burke enjoying the moment.

Bob Newbert and crew eagerly raise their hands to guess at the question: "Where are we?"



Rebecca Jeffries bringing a party boat to the party.

PHOTOS: Pete Dion & Bob Newbert