



# The Ocean Breeze

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



Volume 35

Number 13

SPECIAL EDITION

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The Ocean Breeze is published monthly by the America's Boating Club® 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® Hilton Head.

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# FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



Our **Change of Watch** was held in the second week of November at The Launch at Skull Creek Marina. Approximately 30 members attended the event where your Bridge (leadership team) was installed. Your new Bridge for 2021 is as follows:

- Commander: Peter Dion
- Executive Officer: Chris Brigham
- Administrative Officer: Mark Hente
- Secretary: Christine Dattilo
- Treasurer: Dave Frederick
- Education Officer: Tom Ryley
- Assistant Education Officer: Brad Loescher
- Members At Large
  - Glenn Crews
  - Craig Loomis
  - Randy Royen
  - Wayne Mitchell
  - Bob Newbert
  - Hal Wilson
  - Past Commander: Mark Larson

**ANNUAL AWARDS WERE ALSO PRESENTED.  
SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE RECIPIENTS.**

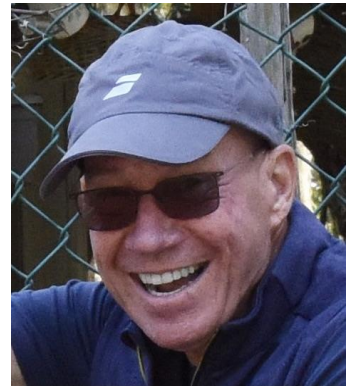
### **Commander's Cup Award - Mark Larson**

Mark was responsible for dramatic change in our club. Our focus on membership's needs was a result of a survey developed under his leadership. Our Squadron went towards a more casual atmosphere, while still respecting the USPS history and traditions. He led us to understanding that members wanted a boating club, not just a "dinner club". His tracking of data in member activities and survey results kept the focus of EXCOMM on membership growth and retention. In addition, he has recently taught courses and seminars. He listened well to his Bridge members resulting in more involvement, participation, and buy-in by the leadership team. Mark's term as Commander was significant in the positive growth of our Squadron.



### **Catch the Spirit, Pass It on Award - Tom Ryley**

Tom has really hit the ground running after being the Assistant Education Officer for only one year, he has become our Squadron Education Officer that has made significant improvement in our education programs. Most importantly, he has authored "How to Plan Your Courses and Seminars" which gives members a pathway to Boat Operator Certification. His relationship with The Boathouse and the Senior Center allows us to continue our courses and seminars uninterrupted. Additionally, he coordinated instructors (experienced and new) to teach courses and seminars and has recruited an Assistant Education Officer. He has worked very cooperatively with our District 26 officers and, with USPS offices in Raleigh, NC. He's written articles for Ocean Breeze and has coordinated four ABC sessions this year enlisting over 100 students. His relationship building with new members has been a huge asset to our club. Tom has volunteered tirelessly to move the mission of boater education in our squadron and establish it as the best educational program in our district of 13 squadrons.



### **Lew Ward Award - Bob Newbert**

This award goes to an individual who performs "above and beyond" their regular responsibilities and for demonstrating a positive attitude that inspires others. Bob has been a Member At Large for the past several years. He has co-chaired the Social Boating activities where he has extensively researched, planned, and led 11 boating cruises. His work with the Jump Start program has helped new boaters learn important navigational skills. Bob has written articles for the Ocean Breeze and has had one article published in the USPS Ensign magazine. And finally, in the past he instituted "The Day on The Water" for the Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton. I believe the reason so many members are signing up for cruises is because the word has spread about the interesting and historical cruises that Bob has put together for our Squadron. From atomic bombs, to drug smuggling planes, to a National Wild Life Refuge in Georgia, and, to Supreme Court Justice Thomas' birthplace on the Intracoastal, Bob's got it covered!



**Thank you Mark, Tom, and Bob for all you do  
to make our Squadron the best squadron in our District!**





**Commander Dion presents the Commander's Cup to PC Mark Larson.**



**Commander Dion presents the Catch the Spirit Pass It on Award to Education Officer, Tom Ryley.**





**Commander Dion presents the Low Ward Award to Bob Newbert.**



**All award recipient  
photos were provided  
by ABCHH member  
Paul Smoke.**

# "Simon Says"

## By Bob Newbert AP-IN

**SIMON SAYS: "Take an America's Boating Club cruise to my namesake island."**

So we did. On November 13, Pete Dion, Tom Ryley and Bob Newbert made the 6-hour journey to St. Simons Island GA aboard Pete's boat "Lady D."



**Pete Dion and Bob Newbert at the start of ABCHH's overnight weekend cruise**

Along the way, we passed through 70-miles of unspoiled Lowcountry scenery with no sign of people (no houses, buildings or bridges) other than the occasional Snow Bird heading South for the winter. It was a beautiful voyage!





**SIMON SAYS: "Enjoy marina life in St Simons."**

Check! We did that very well.



Crew member Tom Ryley joins Pete and Bob for "docktails"  
at beautiful Morningstar Marina on St. Simons Island.

**SIMON SAYS: "Cruise over to Jekyll Island, once home to Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Kelloggs,  
Goodyears, Pulitzers, Lorillards, J.P. Mogan and other millionaire captains of industry."**



Yup. We did that too.

Below is the Jekyll Island Club where A-Listers hung out.



The circular room behind Tom (below) is the breakfast nook at the Jekyll Island Club. At one time, 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the world's wealth gathered here for breakfast every morning.

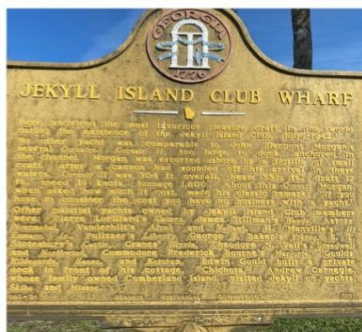




We biked around Jekyll for a bit...



...and went to the Jekyll Wharf where the Rich & Famous docked their yachts as noted on the plaque which details a "Who's Who" of millionaire yachtsmen and their vessels. "Lady D" is in good company!





**SIMON SAYS: "Go to the world-famous Cloister for breakfast."**



We tried, but the resort was closed to outsiders due to COVID. Only registered guests were admitted. Not to worry. We enjoyed a 5-Star breakfast Pete prepared in Lady D's galley. Better than The Cloister any day!



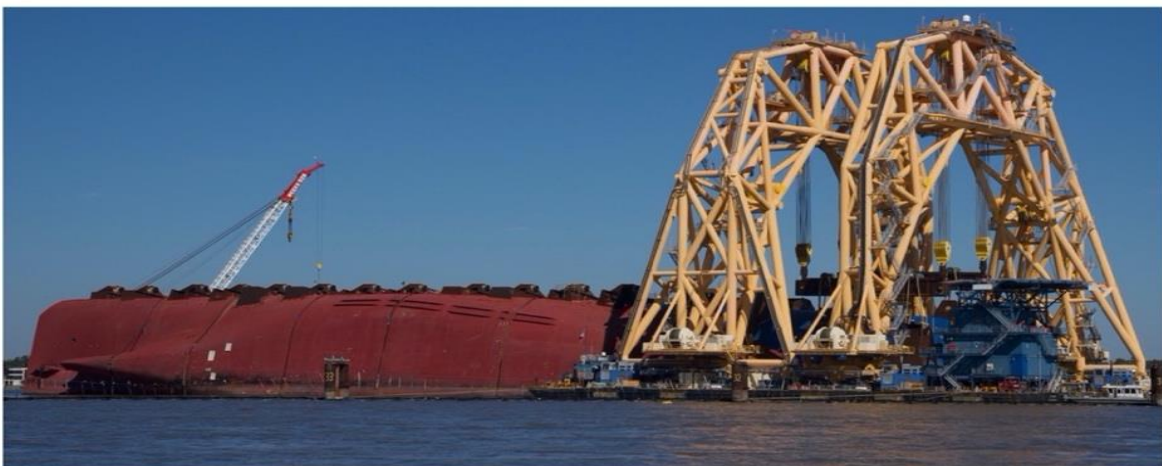


***SIMON SAYS: "Check out the wreck of the 'Golden Ray' car ship which overturned on September 8, 2019 with 4,200 new cars aboard."***

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So, with Simon's encouragement, we cruised out to watch the salvage operation. The crane below can lift 15 million pounds. It rents for about \$1 million per day. Salvagers are cutting up the Golden Ray with a giant chain saw to remove it from the water and sell it for scrap. Rumor has it that "Fast Eddy," used-car salesman, can get you a deal on the car of your choice if you don't mind a little salt water damage.



**SIMON SAYS: "Take a look at other car ships coming into Brunswick Harbor."**

And so we did. We followed these ships to the RORO port ("Roll On / Roll Off") in Brunswick GA. The ship in the bottom photo holds almost 7,000 cars.



**SIMON SAYS: "Safe boaters check their oil before the long voyage home."**

Pete Dion paid special attention to this command from Simon as he enters Lady D's engine room with its twin 450 HP Cummins diesels.





**SIMON SAYS: "Take the 'outside' route home."**

Did that too. We went to St. Simons taking the "inside" route on the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The "outside" route home took us into the open ocean of the South Atlantic where we navigated by compass and charts. Water to the horizon. No land in sight. Good to have that ABCHH training!



***SIMON SAYS: "A picture is worth a thousand words. Capture the feeling of ABCHH's destination cruise by ending this story with a photo of St. Simons Sound at the end of our stay."***

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***SIMON SAYS:***

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***"ABCHH Boaters - We're planning more great destination weekends for 2021. Be part of our next overnight cruise so you don't miss the fun!"***

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**Hey. It's "Simon Says." Simon always gets the last word.**