



The Ocean Breeze

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"For Boaters, By Boaters™"



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EVENTS CALENDAR

June 1: Marine Electronics Course via ZOOM

June 9: Okatie River Cruise #2

June 9: Tybee Roads Cruise

June 13: America's Boating Course

June TBD: New Member Cruise #1

June 24: Ossabaw Island Cruise

July TBD: Savannah Yacht Club Cruise

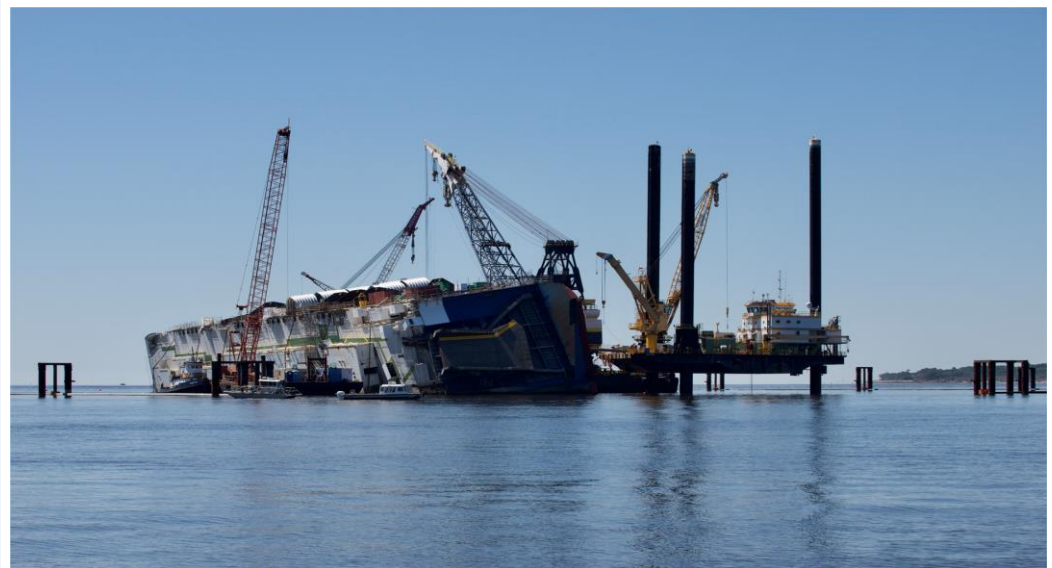
July 22: Turnbridge Plantation Cruise

August TBD: Bull River Cruise

August TBD: Overnight #1 - St Simons Island, GA

August TBD: Wexford Canals Cruise

August 21: Mini Loop Cruise



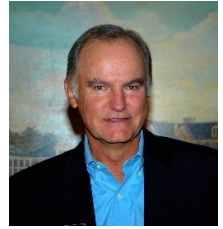
This is the two-year old 656' Golden Ray cargo ship with 4,200 cars aboard that overturned last September in St. Simons Sound near Brunswick, Georgia. Salvage crews will slice the ship into eight segments, lift the pieces up and take them away on a barge. Picture provided by Peter Dion.

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FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



This certainly has been a very strange Spring. As boaters, we are all looking forward to the Summer and enjoying the waters with family and friends; however, we still have to be mindful of the COVID-19. The virus is still hanging around South Carolina. We can all do our part by paying attention to the CDC restrictions even as it relates to boating.

Now, let's move on to what we've been doing and will do soon. As our Education Officer, Tom Ryley, points out below, our education courses are beginning to ramp up. ABC, Marine Electronics, and Cruising and Cruise Planning will be back in action very soon. Our cruising schedule indicates quite a few cruises as well.

The Fall D26 District Conference that I pointed out in an earlier Ocean Breeze has been cancelled; however, a "virtual conference" will be held during the same time frame (Oct 31 and November1). More information will be forth coming. Those wishing to get a Vessel Safety Check sticker...National has put a hold on them (the inspections) until further notice.

In the meantime, enjoy Bob Newbert's colorful review of the Okatie River Cruise #1 below and GO BOATING!

2020 Membership and Fleet Roster Corrections

1. Joe & Beverly Kyle
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From the Education Officer, Tom Ryley, P



Hello Everyone,

After close to a three-month hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on public gatherings, I am pleased to report that we are getting ready to restart our educational offerings in the month of June.

Of course, several aspects of our programs will be different, as we have had to adapt to the new guidelines with respect to social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing facilities and equipment, and encouraging safe practices by all participants. Also, at-the- moment, we still won't have access to the Senior Center, which has been the cornerstone of our teaching for a number of years. We have no timeline for when it may reopen.

In the meantime, the most important thing we have been able to get back on schedule is America's Boating Course. It's the key first step in boating education for many people, and essential to our goal to develop safe, informed, and confident boaters here in the Low Country. (It's also an important opportunity to introduce participants to the value of joining our local squadron.)

The session of ABC originally set for March 21 was postponed till June 13, and we have been fortunate to find a great location for the class at the Hilton Head Boathouse showroom on Highway 170 toward Beaufort. It's a new, 30,000 square foot air-conditioned building, and we will have lots of space to keep a distance between students and the instructors. We will be limiting the class to 25 participants, which we have been able to fully book from those deferring from March 21. As there is additional demand for the course however, we will offer one or two more sessions on Saturday's in the near future. Details will be on abchh.org as soon as finalized, and please let people you know who are interested that they can register on the website.

Also, we are recommencing advanced courses on June 1, starting with Marine Electronics, taught by Cecil Viverette. What will be new, however, is that the course will be taught online using our squadron Zoom account. Our resident "ZOOM guru" Chris Brigham is helping set everything up, and we hope this class will be a model for how we offer others, especially those advanced classes with smaller enrollments.

Finally, we hope to have a revised schedule of summer and fall courses and seminars available soon. The main thing holding us up is the lack of a good teaching venue, which is quite important for many of our seminars, such as those in Boat Handling. Once we can secure a satisfactory location however, we will recommence; and we very much hope to offer a range of seminars, especially the six key ones that are part of the Boat Handling course, which is the recommended next step in your boating education after ABC.

Thank you again to everyone for your patience over the past several months. The pandemic has been a life changing experience for all of us. Although, as we learn how to adapt to its challenges, we believe we can get back to offering our core educational program, while at the same time working with you to all stay safe and healthy.

Tom Ryley
Education Officer

REVISED 2020 CRUISE SCHEDULE

Please be advised that the revised cruise schedule is a "work-in-progress" based on several factors related to COVID-19. What was a firm schedule two months is now up in the air. It's a fluid situation based on many factors involving many pieces of the cruising puzzle. We will do our best to keep all members abreast of changes as they occur, and we ask that you remain flexible and understanding as we prepare to return to boating with necessary precautions taken into consideration.

February 5: Oyster Harvest & Roast

March 14: "Pop Up" Mystery Cruise

May 8: Okatie River #1

June 9: Okatie River #2

June 9: Tybee Roads

June TBD: New Member Cruise #1

June 24: Ossabaw Island

July TBD: Savannah Yacht Club

July 22: Turnbridge Plantation

August TBD: Bull River

August TBD: Overnight #1 - St Simons Island, GA

August TBD: Wexford Canals

August 21: Mini Loop

September 20: Monkey Island

October 6: Herb River

October TBD: Overnight #2 - Charleston SC

October 19: Port Royal Maritime Center

October TBD: New Member Cruise #2

November 2: Savannah

December TBD: "Pop Up" Mystery Cruise

May 8 CAPTAIN ONLY Cruise

By Bob Newbert, AP



Our COVID-19 CAPTAIN ONLY Cruise up the Okatie River, cancelled once and rescheduled for May 8, faced an uncertain future on May 7. The weather gods threatened. Fiercely. Forecasts called for 5 ft. seas and gusts up to 30 mph.

Pete Dion and Tom Ryley wisely cancelled their Tybee Roads cruise scheduled concurrently with ABCHH's Okatie River trip. Tybee Roads is a sea lane from the Atlantic and takes the full force of ocean swells. It would not be fun, and some would definitely lose breakfast.

But what to do about our once-delayed-already cruise to the end of the Okatie River? (Almost, but not quite to the end of the river or point where we run out of water). Cancel it again?

And when to reschedule? This trip is an adventure that is highly tide sensitive with little margin for error. A second trip was already planned on June 9 for those shut out on May 8, due to a cap on our fleet size. Push it back again?

After appealing to the weather gods (and consulting four different forecasting apps), Bob Newbert, tour leader, put on his Big Boy pants and with his best NASA Mission Control voice declared: "All systems GO."

You see, strong winds and heavy seas were coming SSW and building throughout the day. If we left at 9:15AM, we would be OK for the trip up the river as we will be in the lee of a large land mass off our port bow (Bluffton). The challenge would be coming home on the final leg down the Chechessee River/Port Royal Sound when we would head straight into roiling water.

No surprise. It was rough indeed. Some say the constant banging loosened the fillings in their teeth! (And thus, an urban legend is born).

But it was worth it!

In between, we had a delightful cruise exploring waters most ABCHH captains never venture into. We also talked about a major environmental challenge that would have changed Bluffton - and Beaufort County - forever (with none of us likely living here as a result). We observed a key link to the English geopolitical strategy for keeping the Spanish bottled up in Florida in the 1600's. And we learned about Bluffton's role in the development of the polio vaccine we all took as kids.

Not bad for a once cancelled, sea and wind threatened cruise into the far reaches of Bluffton's Okatie River. Now, if only Bluffton could help with the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. That would be a trip worth taking.

Pictures provided by Bob Newbert.



OLDFIELD RIVER HOUSE on the Okatie River, former home of Robin Carrier (Carrier Air Conditioning) who raised champion Quarter Horses on the property she called "Indigo Plantation." It is now Oldfield Plantation, a gated residential community. In past centuries, the property was destroyed by the British in the Revolutionary War and the Union in the Civil War. We paused on the Okatie River at the very point Union gunboats fired their salvos.



WE SAW MANY BEAUTIFUL HOMES such as this one at Colleton River Plantation which has rooms imported from Europe and another room dedicated to showcasing the family's silver collection.



END OF THE ROAD...or River, as Bob Newbert runs out of water and turns for home while Chris and Joe Datillo in "Niblick" push on a few more feet to claim bragging rights as "Farthest Up The Okatie" captains.



JOCELYN MITCHELL is all smiles as she enjoys another ABCCH adventure.



BOB AND KATHE GOLDEN aboard "Bob Kat" survey the Okatie River.



BUOYED WITH ENTHUSIASM over not running aground at the end of the Okatie River, the fleet bursts onto the upper reaches of the Colleton River for the trip home.



WAYNE MITCHELL cuts loose for Skull Creek and home port.



**CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR AREA DENTISTS TO REPLACE LOOSE FILLINGS,
our intrepid voyagers bang their way down the Chechessee River on the final leg home.**