



The Ocean Breeze

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



Volume 35

Number 12

November 2020

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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



This certainly has been a year that has forced us to readjust our boating and education priorities in the Squadron.

The calendar year for our District USPS and our local Squadron (ABCHH) is November 1 - October 31. That being said, let's look back at our accomplishments for the year. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 virus, ABCHH had a very productive year. Our accomplishments:

- **74 people joined our club**
- **Over 100 members participated in at least one activity**
- **We held five courses instructing 48 members**
- **Ten seminars had 247 people attending**
- **We conducted over 150 Vessel Safety Checks**
- **We conducted at least five Jump Start trainings**
- **We held four ABC sessions with over 100 people attending**
- **We held ten Magellan Cruises**
- **314 members and their guests took part in 17 Social Cruises**

These activities forced us to adjust our way of doing things, but not to the extent of cancelling the events. Hats off to the ABCHH members for taking the challenge on and continuing to offer educational programming and cruises to carry on despite the conditions placed on all of us.

All of this took place because 26 members volunteered their time and energy so that members could learn safe boating skills and, members and their guests could enjoy their time out on the water having learned safe and proper boating procedures.

Members volunteering more than 20 hours of service were: Terry Baehr, Neil Boderman, Chris Brigham, Glenn Crews, Chris Dattilo, Debbie Dion, Mark Dryden, Joe Etter, Dave Frederick, Mark Hente, Paul Hoyte, Walter Kirk, Mark Larson, Klaus Loehr, Brad Loescher, David Mauk, Wayne Mitchell, Bob Newbert, David Powell, and Randy Royen.

Thank you all for continuing to move our Squadron forward and providing our members with courses, seminars, boating activities, and even a couple of social events that will make boating on our waters more safe and enjoyable for all.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our many activities and events in the coming year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By: Debbie Dion, Editor



Please join me in welcoming Bill and Jerri Talmage from Cincinnati, Ohio. Bill and Jerri are part-time residents at Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton. They relocated to the Low Country to be close to the water. They are members of the Boat Club at Palmetto Bluff where they keep their Dorado at Wilson Landing. The Talmage's have been boating for the last 25 years and most of their boating experience has been lake boating.



The Talmage's are both retired and Bill was a financial advisor while Jerri was a sales rep. They have two children. Their hobbies include fishing, boating, golf, and tennis. Other interests are reading and gardening. They enjoy being on the water and enjoy the company of other boaters. They are interested in meeting other boaters and exploring the Low Country by boat. Need I say again this month ... that the Talmage's have an advantage of "double dipping" because they can take cruises with ABCHH and with the Boat Club at Palmetto Bluff. Word has it that Bob Newbert is in high demand when it comes to boat cruises. We're so lucky we have Bob as a member.

More new members ... please welcome Jos VanHout and Kelly Maloy.



Jos and Kelly have been residents of Bluffton for about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. Jos is from the Netherlands and moved to South Carolina from northern California. Kelly is from Indiana and she moved to San Diego, then northern California, and finally to Bluffton. Jos is a retired detective and owned additional businesses -- one of which he still owns. Doesn't he look like a private eye? Kelly is retired and worked as a supervising prosecuting attorney.

They've owned several different boats over the years. Their current boat is a Meridian 341, which they keep at Shelter Cove, and they named it "WE LIVE HERE." By the sounds of it, Jos and Kelly have lived in some very nice cities.

Their hobbies include relaxing on their boat and going places. Some of their interests are technology, boating, and fixing things.

Apparently, Commander Dion encouraged them to join America's Boating Club Hilton Head after Jos and Kelly participated in the "Jump Start" program that we offer. Commander Dion went out with them on their Meridian and went through all the usual training that's offered. Jos recently took Rules of the Road, which is one of six seminars we offer, as part of Boat Handling.

Jos and Kelly hope to meet other local boaters and Club members and enjoy their company after COVID settles down.

2021 Social Cruising

Background

Last year was a record for ABCHH. We sponsored more cruises than ever before. We programmed 12 months of on-the-water activity - a club 1st. We successfully launched our first overnight to a distant port. And we introduced members to unique destinations and experiences - places our members had never been to before. Particularly noteworthy were:

Ossabaw Island

Wassaw Island Beach Party

Turnbridge Plantation

The Mini Loop

Okatie River

The Crab Shack

Oyster Harvest (and roast)

Mystery Cruise

The Year Ahead

We have another year-round cruising calendar in the works so ABCHH members can enjoy boating every month. In planning our 2021 Social Cruising Program, I set the following benchmark to keep our events fresh and exciting: Don't repeat. Avoid routine. Space key destinations 1-3 years apart. This way we avoid the "same old; same old" and create pent up demand from one year to the next.

January TBD	Pop Up Mystery Cruise
February 6	Hidden Happy Hour*
March 21	Jazz Brunch at the Westin Hutchinson Island*
April 24	MCAS Air Show*
May TBD	Overnight #1 - Charleston*
May 11	New River
June 27	Fripp Island*
July 12	Day-On-The Water
July 20	Ft. McAllister
August 12	Savannah Yacht Club
September 14	Wexford Canals
October TBD	Overnight #2 - Jekyll Island*
October 13	Skidaway Island
November 6	Chelsea Plantation*
December TBD	Pop Up Mystery Cruise

Note:

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

Summary

We have a robust, fun-filled cruise schedule for 2021.

⚓ Fifteen cruises

⚓ Nine "new" first time destinations

⚓ Seven weekend cruises

⚓ Two overnights

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tom Ryley, P
Education Officer



Brad Loescher
Asst. Education Officer

Dear Members,

This monthly report is being written just after returning from our Hilton Head squadron overnight cruise to St Simons Island, near Brunswick, Georgia. I mention this, as not only was it a great success as a cruise, it highlighted all the reasons education is such an important part of our squadrons activities, and why education is so critical to being safe and confident while enjoying our local waters.

The trip to St Simons was about 120 miles, through the Intracoastal Waterway on the way down, around Brunswick Harbor for a day, and across the open ocean for our trip back. During the trip, we safely passed many other vessels, crossed major commercial vessel channels, navigated by the aids to navigation along the intracoastal, used the marine VHF on numerous occasions, docked and undocked a number of times, actively monitored weather and sea conditions, and for the open ocean voyage back--out of sight of land--used GPS, radar, and piloting practices. The captain of the vessel I travelled on was our Commander Peter Dion, and I was able to see him use his extensive knowledge and skills, as well as him being able to call on the skills and capabilities of his crew, including myself.

During the whole trip, I kept reflecting on how much the knowledge I have acquired from our courses and seminars was so valuable to me in enjoying the trip and being a reliable member of the crew. It very much reinforced the importance of the mission we have for our local squadron, and the immense service to our members and the wider community of the education courses, seminars and training we're able to offer. The message I very much want to leave with you, is to recognize the importance of ongoing boating education for yourselves, as well as promoting our educational offerings to others, whether they belong to our squadron or not.

As to where our educational program stands, as reported last month, we have graduated almost 100 people from the Americas Boating Course in the past calendar year, and are now deep into the second complete offering of the six seminars and exam that make up the Boat Handling course, which is the next recommended step after finishing ABC. We have 12 registrants taking the full series of seminars, and several additional registrants for the individual seminars. These seminars are also the first where we are offering the class concurrently as "in class", or "online class", through Zoom. We have had some "teething" problems with doing both "in class" and "online" at the same time, but I am confident we will work out the bugs. Nevertheless, my apologies and thanks to those in the seminars who have had to live through our "learning experience".

After the completion of these courses, we will have a short year end pause, and then launch into our 2021 education schedule. This has not yet been finalized but will be revised and approved by your squadron leadership during our December 4th meeting. We look forward to sharing it with you in the next Ocean Breeze.

Tom Ryley, P, Education Officer

Brad Loescher, Asst. Education Officer

Monkey Business

By Bob Newbert, AP-IN



Morgan Island is an uninhabited (by humans) island that's populated by 4,000 Rhesus monkeys. The monkeys are wild and free ranging. On November 5, six boats and 19 aspiring primatologists from ABCHH braved a very rough Port Royal Sound to meet our next of kin.



It was not a kissing cousin family gathering, however, as we could not get close to the monkeys. The island is a project of the US Government. The monkeys are used for medical research and are “owned” by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID). It is a federal crime to land on the island, approach the monkeys, or feed them. This is to keep them free of human viruses and pathogens.



If you were on my Okatie River trips in May and June, you know that the vaccine for polio —a horrible disease that killed and crippled thousands in the 1950's— started in Bluffton SC at the Pritchardville Primate Center. Just maybe the vaccine for COVID will have its roots on Morgan Island.

In any event, we started our search on the North side of the island by motoring up tidal creeks looking for monkeys in trees. As soon as we entered the main channel, we spotted a group of 10-12 on the bank. We began jumping up and down with excitement. On the other hand, the monkeys were totally blasé about us. It's like that with relatives, I guess. Some can't wait to see you; others wish you'd stay home. Now I know where I stand with this branch of the family tree.





Can you spot these two? They have red faces (and red fannies).

We quickly anchored hoping more would join our family reunion. Like Jane Goodall, we sat patiently waiting for a close encounter. Instead, we had a close encounter with a human in hazmat gear – coveralls, face mask and gloves. He was a sentry keeping people off the island who was gowned to minimize transmission to the monkeys. He also graduated from the “loose lips sink ships” school of guard duty. Consider: I had heard that NIH and NIAID were taking monkeys off the island for COVID research. I asked him about it (calling from my boat to the shore) and he said it was “CLASSIFIED.” I got similar answers –and non-answers– to other questions about the government’s Morgan Island project. I wonder if it’s a secret CIA base? The guy was very tight lipped.



By all means, don't molest the monkeys.

Clearly, we were not welcome here so we weighed anchor to make the half hour trip to the South side of the island – the beach side. Here, we hoped to spot monkeys in lounge chairs, sipping tropical drinks with little paper umbrellas, playing beach volleyball, or simply soaking up the sun.



But alas, it was not to be. The powerful winds, which made our trip to the island a stomach-churning roller coaster ride, pushed the monkeys away from the beach into the interior where they were no doubt enjoying a hotly contested game of bocce.

Yet even though we missed out on the beach party, we felt good about our simian interaction in the creeks. It was enough to tide us over until the next time we venture to Morgan Island for another family reunion.

—END—



MARY RICHARDSON waves to distant cousins on shore as Tim Delaney and Brad Loeschler look on.



PETE DION calls the monkeys to us by crunching on potato chips (the sound of food) and singing the well-known nursery rhyme "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on The Bed." He really did sing it! Our Commander will go to any length to create an enjoyable cruise for us.



DAN ALLEN maneuvers his boat into position for a little monkey business.



PAUL SMOKE and **BRAD LOESCHER** at anchor hoping for a little "monkey see monkey do." That is all. Just another day in the life of ABCHH members.



GEMMA GATTI and ANNE JARBOE
dining al fresco. Everyone likes a
water view table, but a monkey view
is something else.

BRAD LOESCHER and TIM DELANEY just
monkeying around.
(PHOTO: Mary Richardson)



TOM RYLEY'S "Kandalore" at anchor
waiting for the floor show ashore.



TOM RYLEY (top) photographs BOB NEWBERT (bottom) photographing Tom photographing him...etc., as we pass each other while cruising the creeks of Morgan Island. Surely, the monkeys are more interesting don't you think? (PHOTO: Tom Ryley)



Bob Newbert and his daughter Marcia just off Morgan Island's beach looking for the beach party that had moved inland for the bocce tournament.

Hilton Head Island Circumnavigation

Magellan Cruise - November 17, 2020

By Captain Paul Hoyte



This is a repeat of a previous cruise on October 8th. Due to its popularity, Captain Paul Hoyte brought it back again on November 17th. ABCHH members participating in this cruise were:

Raymond Ojeda & Mery Womack
Dr. Andrew & Debbie Buzzelli
David Frederick, Rick Hamilton, Jay Marshall
Rich Delcore
Bill, Sue & Scott McLeod
Rick Ford

Glenn Crews
Michael & Carrie Maglich
Paul Hoyte & Nancy Stermer-Hoyte
John Eddy
Jim & Mary Murphy
John Thompson

Commonly known as the "Granddaddy of the Magellan Cruises," this continues to be one of the most beautiful and most popular cruises of the year. It's one thing to drive around Hilton Head Island to see its inherent beauty while visiting shops and restaurants. It's quite another to see this great island from the sea.

The group gathered at Skull Creek Marina before heading out to Port Royal Sound toward Bay Point Island. From there the boats were ocean bound into the Atlantic following the eastern side of the island. The focus was on the impressive ocean breakers just east/southeast of Bay Point and how far Joiner Bank extends from Port Royal into the ocean.

While heading toward the southern tip of Hilton Head, the boats crossed over Fish Haven and the White Reef. This area is one of a dozen artificial reefs along the Low Country coastline. Barrett Shoals are nine shallow areas that were avoided when we turned toward Braddock Point. Just south of Braddock Point and north of Daufuskie Island is Grenadier Shoal; this is known as the "Vanishing Island" because this strip of land is only seen at low tide and disappears when the tides roll in. The cruise ended at the entrance to Harbour Town.