



The Ocean Breeze

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



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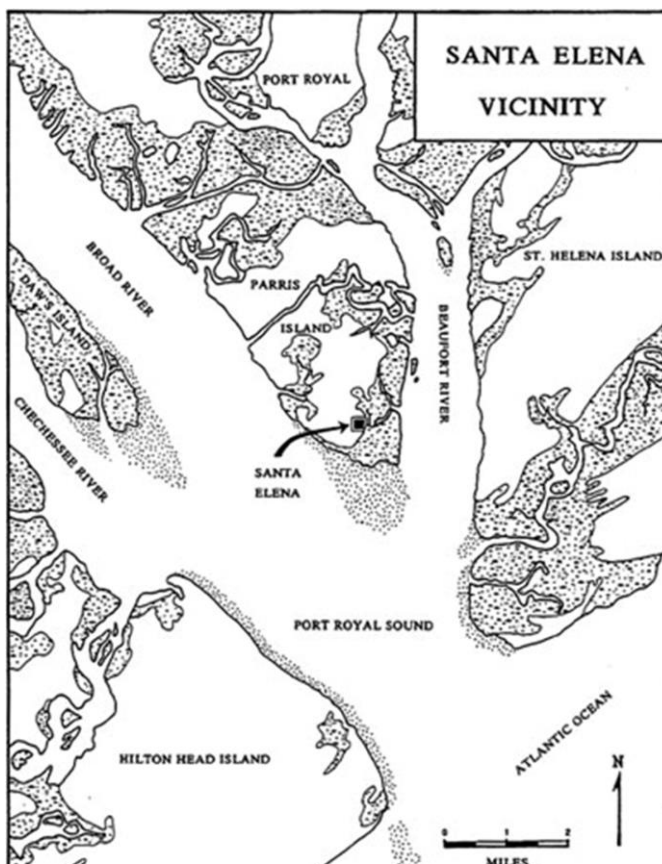


Explore the Lowcountry like the Conquistadors of the 16th Century

America's Boating Club of Beaufort
and

America's Boating Club Hilton Head
invite you to save the dates

District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous
April 21-25, 2021



FROM THE COMMANDER

Peter J. Dion, SN



This issue of the Ocean Breeze features many of the new members that have joined our squadron recently. To our new members, welcome! You have joined the largest United States Power Squadron club in the southeast coastal area. We are a boating club that provides boater education, a variety of cruises, social activities, community service, boating skills, and camaraderie. There will be many opportunities for you to take advantage of all the activities we have to offer. We are a volunteer boating organization that helps you to enjoy all the Lowcountry waters have to offer. Contact any of the Bridge members if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Have you seen the latest edition of the Ensign?

<http://www.theensign.org/imag/winter2021/> (Pages 30 and 31). The article entitled, "**Pick, Shuck, Eat**" features the Oyster Cruise conducted by member Bob Newbert last year. This is our second article in the Ensign in the last year. Nice work Bob!

Two D26 activities coming up soon are the **Virtual Awards Night** followed up by a conference the next day and the **Cruise and Rendezvous** we are co-hosting with ABC Beaufort club. See related information in this edition. More detailed information will be in our next newsletter.

This week, one of our more important seminars was canceled for lack of attendance... **Partner in Command**. I say this is one of our more important seminars because it provides you with lifesaving information that will make you a more confident boater in an emergency situation. What if...the captain (husband, spouse, significant other) of the boat you are in suddenly becomes incapacitated (heart attack, falls overboard, heat exhaustion, broken body part, etc.)? Will you as the first mate know what to do? Do you know where you are? What's your Lat and Lon? How do you help the captain? What do you do first? How do you call for help? Who do you call? Marine radio...how do I use it? What do I say? Can you stop the boat? Can you drive the boat to get back to the dock in rough weather? Provide first aid? Where is the first aid kit?

These are just several things to think about in an emergency situation. All of these topics are presented and discussed in **Partner in Command**. After reading this and if you would like to take this seminar ask our Education Officer, Tom Ryley, if another class can be scheduled. This is an important seminar for your safety! I highly recommend it.

Finally, I hope to see you on the water soon!

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 14~~ ~~Pop Up Mystery Cruise~~

February 6 Back to the Future Cruise - Port of Savannah

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

Happy New Year to all our members, and best wishes for 2021, as we work to keep things as normal as possible for ABC Hilton Head, in very abnormal times!

We are happy to report that our 2021 education program is underway, and we have now completed two successful seminars. On January 11, Hal Wilson taught by Zoom the VHF/DSC Radio seminar, and we had 11 attendees with very active questioning.

Then on January 18, we held the Using GPS seminar at the Senior Center, and we were very fortunate to have Dennis Cusanelli of the Tybee Light squadron come to present a program that he personally developed. It is very much up to date with all the recent developments in GPS. Being an in-person class, we were limited to 10 attendees, but it was very well received. We hope to soon offer the seminar again as we had a waiting list.

In terms of upcoming courses and seminars, ~~Partner in Command~~ (cancelled) and the next seminar -- Onboard Weather Forecasting will be February 1, led by former Commander Mark Larson. Our first course will then commence January 28. Marine Electrical Systems (MES) will be taught by Cecil Viverette. For anyone who is interested in the Inland Navigator designation, MES is a required course, so we would encourage you to enroll in this session. (You will also learn a lot about electricity and batteries, which is great knowledge for all boaters.)

Beyond the above, our full calendar of courses and seminars is posted on the abchh.org website, under the Education menu, and members can enroll directly through the website, as well as in response to the emails we do a month before every course or seminar. Also, if you can't remember exactly what you have taken in the past, the website has a link to help look up your Training History on the National USPS website.

As to additional education offerings in 2021, we are still working to develop a stronger "OTW" (On-the-Water) component to our program, including JumpStart, Hands-On Training (HOT), and the Boat Operator Certification offerings. We will be publicizing those more fully when they are "ready to roll."

Finally, we would like to note that the first sessions of America's Boating Course will be held March 20 and 27. These are not only excellent for anyone new to boating, but are also a great source for introducing new members to our squadron. Please promote these actively with interested friends and acquaintances, and tell them they can sign up on our web site.

Thank you again for your support, and we look forward to seeing you during the year.

Tom Ryley, P
Education Officer

Brad Loescher,
Asst. Education Officer

DISTRICT 26 NEWS

D26 Spring **Virtual** Conference March 12-13, 2021

Agenda: Friday - Focus on 2020 Awards

Saturday - Seminars and other learning opportunities

D26 Cruise & Rendezvous - April 21-25, 2021

D26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch - DATE TBD



"Innovation, Education, Community"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Please join me in welcoming Patrick and Mary Rose Coyne, who joined ABCHH in October. The Coyne's are from Chicago and reside on Hilton Head. They have been vacationing on Hilton Head Island for 25 years with their family. Eight years ago they decided to purchase a second home on the island. Patrick



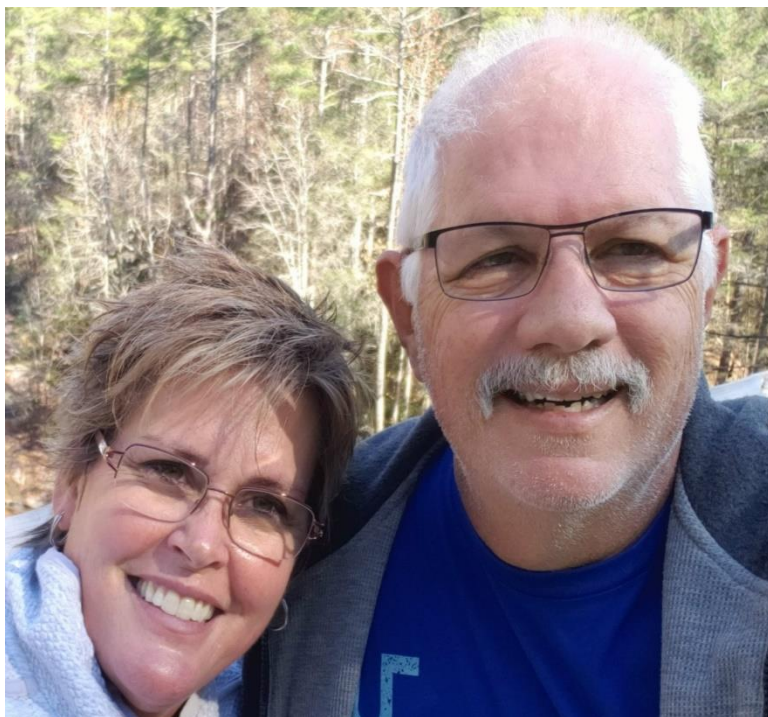
was a Global Managing Director for Accenture and was responsible for corporate real estate and workplace operations. Mary Rose was a pediatric nurse. They're both retired and have three children and ten grandchildren to enjoy. They have a 2020 Hurricane 2410, which they keep at Long Cove Marina, and admit they're in the "beginner" stage of boating. I say that's all the more reason for them to take

our education offerings and join us on our fabulous boat cruises of the Low Country waterways. Their hobbies include travel, golf, fishing, gardening, and now boating. Prior to COVID they traveled throughout Europe and Asia. Patrick and Mary Rose joined ABCHH to gain experience in boating within an organization where training and hands-on support are readily available. They hope to build a network with other local boaters. Given the size of our squadron, I don't think they'll have any trouble getting to know fellow boaters. Most recently they participated in the docking seminar. Their initial goal is to take as many courses as possible and to schedule on-the-water training with one of our captains.



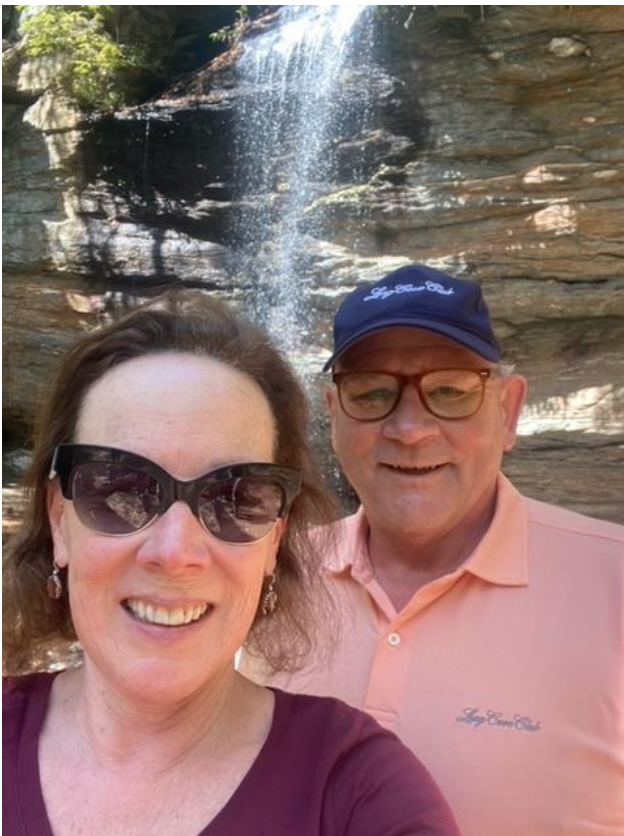
Innovation, Education, Community

Tim Delaney and Cathy Campbell are from Maryland and currently reside in Hardeeville. They relocated for warmer weather and the proximity to the coast. Tim is retired from law enforcement and Cathy still works as a mental health counselor. They have four children and eight beautiful grandchildren. They are currently members of Freedom Boat Club. Their first time on coastal waters was back in August 2020. They both enjoy playing pickleball. Individually, Tim enjoys pottery and music while Cathy likes to walk, read, and enjoys crafts. They participated in the America's Boating Course and intend to take additional courses and seminars to improve their boating skills, learn about local waterways, and meet other boaters.



Steve Tilton's family moved to Hilton Head in 1964. Julie Edwards moved here 22 years ago from Atlanta. Steve is the principal and founder of Coastal Signature Homes. Julie is a realtor with Carson Realty and is also a licensed massage therapist, who is self-employed. They have five children who are all in their twenties. They keep their Everglades 240cc (*Miss Frances*) at Long Cove. Steve grew up boating but has been out of it for a few years. Julie has been around boats for the last ten years. Steve intends to "knock the rust off of his boating" while Julie hopes to become more familiar with boating so she can do more 'captaining.' Move over Steve! Golf, tennis, fly fishing, and wing shooting are some of Steve's other hobbies. Julie enjoys tennis, golf and the theatre. They want to continue their boating education with workshops and seminars when they can. They both look forward to our group boat cruises so keep an eye out for *Miss Frances*.

Please join me in welcoming Marco and Clare Izzi from Raleigh, North Carolina. They were attracted to Hilton Head Island by its natural beauty and hope to start taking classes in February. Marco has a remodeling company and Clare is a homemaker. Their hobbies include golf, hiking and cycling. Other interests include travel, wine, and wild life. They are members of Freedom Boat Club and joined ABCHH to learn more about boating and to meet others that are also interested in boating. There are lots of those folks around so Marco and Clare will meet our boating family. They look forward to gaining more boating knowledge and discovering new areas to visit. Our very own Bob Newbert does a great job at finding new areas to discover. Right Bob?



Relocating to Hilton Head to get away from the cold of Minnesota are Cathy and Art LaPoint. They've been here less than a year, but I'm certain they enjoy our temperatures and being so close to the ocean. Art and Cathy were both human resource executives before retiring. They have two sons and two grandchildren; Paige is ten and Reid is eight. They have a Hurricane deck boat named "C worthy too" which is kept at Long Cove Marina. They have previous experience with sail and power boats. They also enjoy biking, hiking, skiing, and golfing. Their other interests include travel, reading, entertaining, and the outdoors. They look forward to socializing with other boaters and want to be educated about local boating. They took ABC and have enrolled in our Boat Handling course.

Please welcome Frank and Deborah Modrowsky. They have lived on Hilton Head Island for the last four years and they are from Branchburg, New Jersey. Frank and Debbie decided to retire here after vacationing here for over 35 years. However, they are both still working as managers for CIGNA. They have three who are in their mid-twenties. They are members of Carefree Boat Club. They are new to boating and started in August 2020. Frank's hobbies include model planes, model trains, and woodworking. Debbie enjoys stamping and bird watching. Other interests for the couple include pickleball, and Frank is known to swing a golf club whenever time allows him to hit the course. They joined ABCHH to meet fellow boaters, to participate in the boating trips we offer, and to become more educated. They have already taken advantage of our course and seminar offerings. They are eager to gain boating knowledge - both "book" and practical. With all that we have to offer, I foresee them becoming actively involved in all aspects of America's Boating Club Hilton Head. Welcome Frank and Debbie!!!



Lastly, let me introduce Bernard Rosen and Felicia Altmeyer. They relocated 18 months ago to Bluffton from northern Virginia. They're originally from southern California. Retirement and relaxed living brought them to the Low Country. Felicia is a former attorney, and Bernard is still working in the insurance field. They have one daughter Jenna. The family did a lot of sailing on the Chesapeake. Their hobbies include golf, photography, and gardening. Bernard and Felicity also enjoy travel, cooking, sailing and boating. They joined ABCHH to learn the local waters and to gain experience about power boating. They took the America's Boating Course and are anxious to meet other boaters, gain boating experience, and enhance their boating knowledge in our existing waters with high/low tides.

Cruise to ???

By Bob Newbert



We held our 2nd Annual "Pop Up" Mystery Cruise on January 14 in what is fast becoming an ABCHH tradition. Anytime you do something twice it's a tradition, right?

Anyway, we call it a "Pop Up" Cruise because there's no fixed date on the calendar. January weather varies from warm days to cold. Rather than pick a date in advance, it's best to wait for predictions of warm, sunny weather only a few days ahead.

Well, on Monday, January 11, the weatherman said Thursday would be sunny...in the 60's...with little wind - perfect for winter cruising. With his Thumbs Up, we invited people out for the 14th.

Adding to the fun was our "mystery" destination. Where are we headed? What are we going to do when we get there? How are we going to get where we're going if we don't know where "there" is? These are deep, existential questions.

Multiplying the intrigue was the fact that January 14 was "Mystery Cruise - PLAN B." Indeed, my PLAN A was a new destination few, if any, have visited, and to get there we would navigate a backwater route none have traveled. Unfortunately, there was a docking problem I could not resolve in time for our Mystery Cruise so it's tabled for the moment.

But, back to the 14th. The weatherman was partially correct in that it was sunny, but rather than low 60's, we started out in the low 50's with double digit winds. Two boats dropped out at the last minute so a small, but hearty band of intrepid captains embarked on our Mystery Cruise: Chris Brigham, Glenn Crews, Bill Hinchcliffe and yours truly.

As we departed R "2," the guessing game started about our final destination with answers ever changing as we progressed. Old Town Bluffton with its beautiful new public dock? Palmetto Bluff? Harbour Town? The Old Daufuskie Crab Company at Freeport Landing? Beaufort County Landing for Lucy Belles? Downtown Savannah? The guesses "evolved" with each numbered ATON that we passed.

The suspense built until we hit Thunderbolt and pulled up to Bahia Bleu. By then, the secret was out. Thunderbolt + Bahia Bleu. Aha! It must be Tubby's Tank House.

Bingo!

Tubby's is a fun place that's featured on the Food Network and Travel Channel. (Check out "Bizarre Foods America" with Andrew Zimmern for his time at Tubby's).

It's been over two years since we visited Tubby's Tank House as a Squadron. Indeed, our previous trip was July 27, 2018. And what a visit it was! Everything was great. The day was sunny. The journey fun. Food and fellowship the best.

Then, former Commander Barb Sommers glanced at her weather radar while we sat enjoying our meal. She saw a huge storm front racing in so she called an audible to change the game plan. Finish up. Get in your boat. Go home. Fast!

So we did. And not a moment too soon for a tornado hit the Wilmington River by Oatland Island at the very moment we would have been passing through if not for Barb's "Get out of Dodge, NOW!" command. (That's why she's the Commander).

Fortunately, we all made it home safely with stories to tell of our "near death" experience... stories that grow more chilling with each retelling every passing year. The Wildlife Center, on the other hand, and many homes on Oatland Island, were not so lucky as these photos illustrate.



Tornado: July 27, 2018

Happily, January 14 held no such danger. The weather warmed. The wind calmed. And we sat outside in the sun enjoying the company of friends. It was a beautiful, mid-winter Mystery Cruise, a perfect Plan B.

But what about Plan A - the most mysterious of mystery destinations? Take heart. Someday, when you least expect it, you will find details for another Pop-Up Mystery in your In-Mail. And this one, no one is going to guess.



CHRIS BRIGHAM (center) with friends Bob and Nancy Dalton



**SOAKING UP THE SUN after a colder than planned boat trip
are Bob Newbert and Joe Jarboe.**



THE NOTORIOUS "DION GANG" assembling for their raid on Tubby's Tank House. The gang, known for its colorful masks, was reported by witnesses to have made their escape by boat.



CONFIDENT OF THEIR ESCAPE, gang members unmask and brazenly pose like Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid. Standing gang members are (L to R): Joe Jarboe, Chris Brigham, Bob Dalton (of the famous Dalton Gang?), Glenn Crews, Vivian Hinchcliffe and Bill Hinchcliffe. Bob Newbert and Nancy Dalton complete the criminal tableau.

Photo Credits: Pete Dion and Chris Brigham

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Understanding the National Website Information Center
Treasures Found in Commanders Kit for All Members
Create Partnerships & Maintain Contracts with Local Business and Government Agencies
“Why Won’t They Do What I Want”
Instructor Recertification (Pre-registration required)
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Specific Meeting Details are available on the [National Meeting Website](#)



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Interested in Attending But Need Help Connecting?

Check out the Attendee Instructions page
on the [National Meeting page](#) for detailed, step-by-step instructions.

Know someone who would like to attend? Invite them over and watch together while social distancing!