The Ocean Breeze

An official publication of America's Boating Club® of Hilton Head

"For Boaters, By Boaters™"

Volume 34 Number 8 July 2019

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

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THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO BOB NEWBERT'S "DAY ON THE WATER" – PARTS 1 & 2. IT'S A WONDERFUL PROGRAM HE CREATED FOR THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN BLUFFTON, SC. I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT.

Thank you to Bob Newbert, Peter Dion, Barb Sommers, and Paul Hoyte for providing the pictures for this special issue.

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"Day On The Water" – Part One: Sea School

Submitted by Bob Newbert, AP – Member-at-Large



"If dolphins must surface to breathe air, how do they sleep?

"Why do pelicans turn to the left when they hit the water?"

"How did the Battle of Port Royal Sound change America?"

"What's the difference between a map and a chart?"

"How does a lock work?"

"What's a cabbage head?"

"How do May River oysters differ from oysters in other parts of the country?"

"How many satellites are needed to fix a position on GPS?"

"What's Marlinspike?"

If you don't know the answers to these questions, ask members of the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club who participated in the year's "Day On The Water" Program (DOW) with America's Boating Club of Hilton Head. DOW is two-part program to introduce youngsters to boating and the beauty of Lowcountry waterways.

"We start with Sea School, a land-based session giving the kids an overview of boats; where we will go on the water; and what we will see when we're out there," says Bob Newbert who developed the program four years ago. "We want the experience to be more than just a boat ride. We want every child to learn about boating and our natural environment."

Newbert explains that Sea School covers nautical terminology, introduction to different propulsion systems (outboard, inboard, I/O's and jet boats), basic navigation using ATONs, VHF radio protocol, charts & chart plotters, the history of our local waterways, and the animals and natural wonders they'll see out on the water.

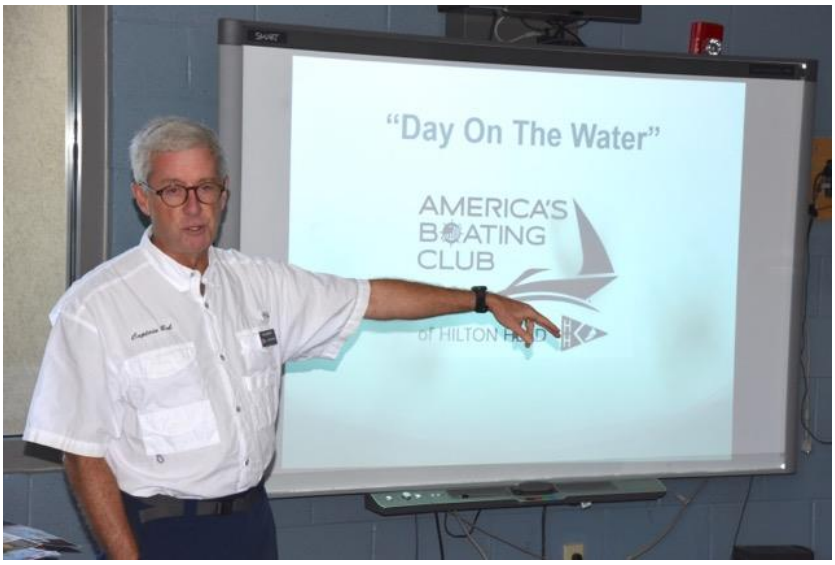
Bob includes hands-on demonstrations to reinforce key learning. "We set up a lock system so the kids can see how a boat goes from one elevation to another; we demonstrate jet propulsion; we visually compare the capacity of our mouths (3 oz.) to a pelican's (3 gallons); we demonstrate filter feeding (one oyster can filter 50 gallons of water per day); we show how long a dolphin can hold its breath (15-minutes); and other 'gee whiz' arcana of our creeks, rivers, sounds and wildlife."

"Day On The Water" is a reward for Boys & Girls Club members who successfully complete "Explorers," a character development program jointly operated by the Boys & Girls Club and the Bluffton Police Department. Explorers runs like "boot camp." The children (age 12-15) wear uniforms, report every morning at 5AM for physical training (mile run, push-ups etc.), and complete

community service projects. Bob Newbert notes that when he first started DOW, the kids reported at for PT at 4AM, but this was too hard on parents (who got up at 3AM) so this year's start time was moved to 0500.

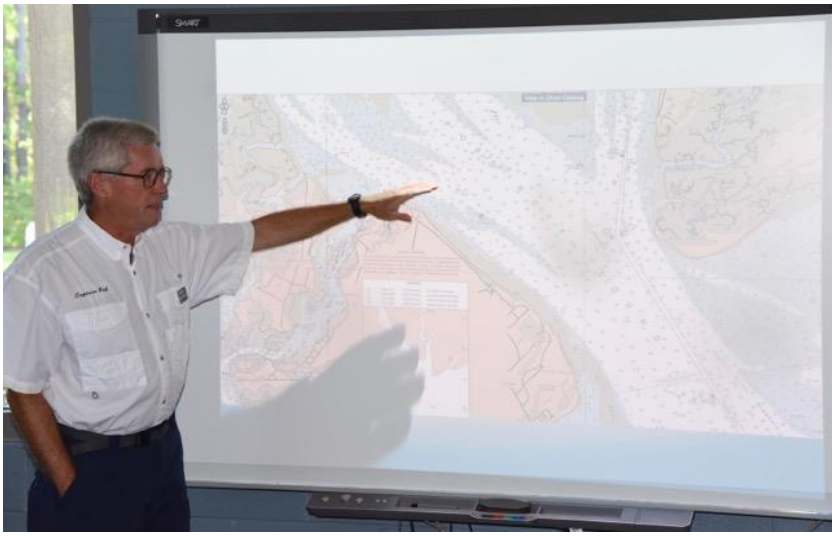
Sea School is Part One of "Day On The Water," and took place at the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club a week prior to Part Two -- the boating session on July 9. Bob invited ABCHH captains volunteering for DOW to attend Sea School to familiarize themselves with the curriculum so they can reinforce key points with their Explorer crew when out on the water. "It's also a good way to break the ice and give captains and crew a chance to meet beforehand," he says.

Joining this year's Explorer class at Sea School were Captain Barbara Sommers, Captain Peter Dion, Captain Paul Hoyte, Captain Nancy Stermer, Captain Joe Etter and Captain Wayne Mitchell. "I was proud to have them with me representing America's Boating Club of Hilton Head," says Bob Newbert, "but a little disappointed that they didn't show up at 5AM for the mile run and push-ups. We'll have to correct that next year."



Part 1 of Day on The Water included a Sea School for the kids participating in the program.

Bob Newbert (left) explains the "Day On The Water" during Sea School.



Bob Newbert shows a chart to the students and instructors and explains where they'll be going during the actual "Day On The Water" event held on July 9th.

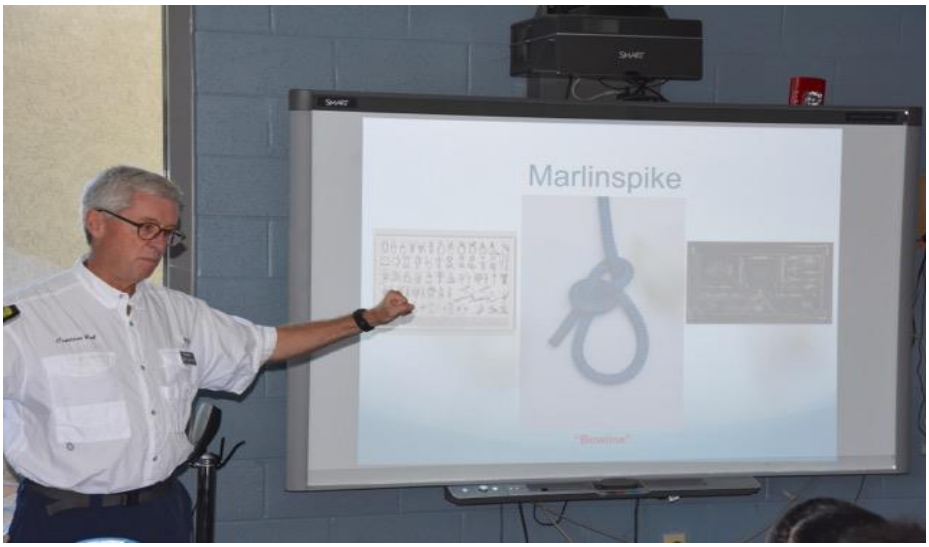


Captains and Crew for this year's Day On The Water included back row left to right: P/C Joe Etter, P/C Barb Sommers, Member-at-Large Wayne Mitchell.

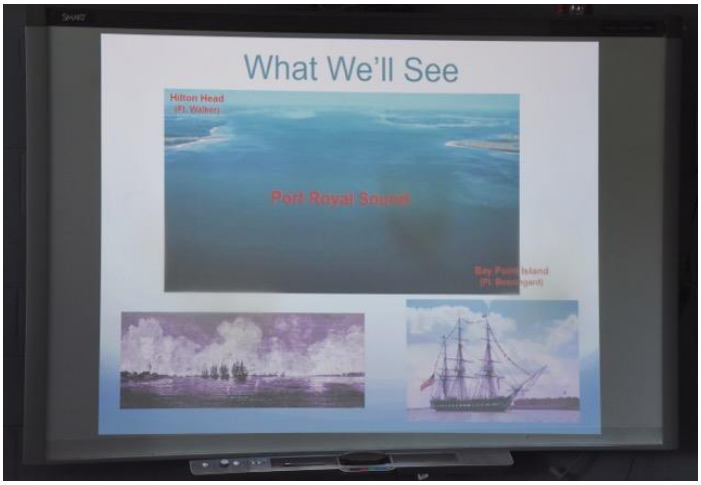
Middle row left is first mate Nancy Stermer, who is seated with her spouse, Captain Paul Hoyte, on her right.

Bob Newbert, who master minded and spear-headed this annual event four years ago, explains the parts of a boat to the students during Sea School.

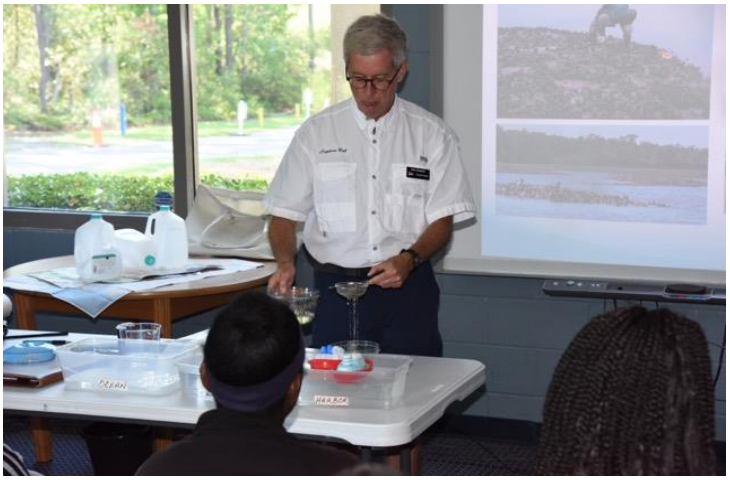




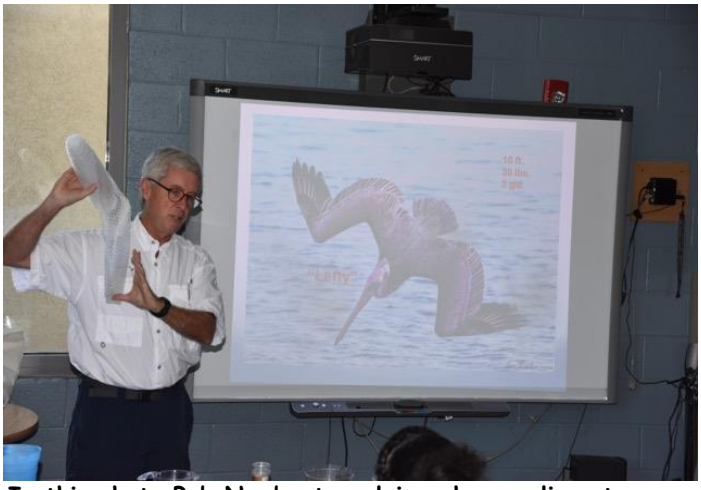
In this photo, Bob Newbert is showing one of the various knots that are used during the process of tying up a boat at the dock or while anchoring or to secure a fender.



Various slides showed what the kids would see on the water as well as what they'd learn about – The Battle of Port Royal Sound and how it changed America.



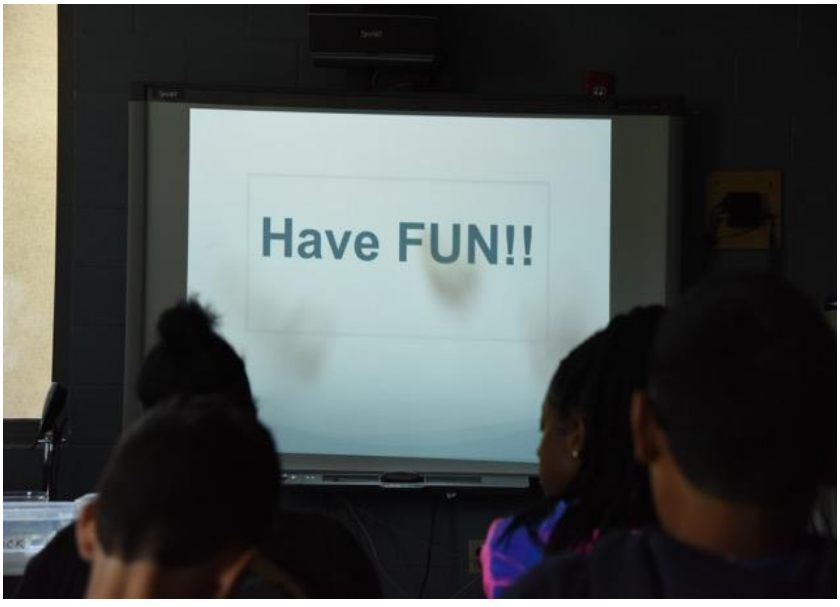
Bob Newbert is demonstrating filter feeding by oysters here in the Low Country waters.



In this photo Bob Newbert explains why a pelican turns to the left when they dive bomb the water to catch their food.



The students are informed about the rules and regulations that must be followed during the Day On The Water.



Last but not least … HAVE FUN!!!

"Day On The Water" – Part Two: The Cruise – Bob Newbert

The highlight of our "Day On The Water" program with the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club is…. you guessed it: A day on the water. This year we set out on July 9 from Skull Creek Marina to Port Royal Sound, the Chechessee River, MacKay Creek, Windmill Harbor, Calibogue Sound, Harbour Town Harbor Yacht Basin and home.

Along the way, we stopped at numerous locations to discuss local history, boating, navigation, and marine life. Our first stop was G "9A" for a radio check. In Sea School, we reviewed VHF radio procedures and put them into practice on the cruise. Each boat designated a Boys & Girls Club Explorer as radio operator to handle communication using call signs for every boat in the fleet.

Out at G "3," at the entrance to Port Royal Sound, we discussed the Civil War Battle of Port Royal, which pitted the Commanding General of the Confederates (Gen. Thomas F. Drayton) against the largest naval fleet of the war; and his own brother, Union Captain Percival Drayton commander of the *USS Pochahontas*. Here, on the battleground, we talked about the Union strategy – a Circle of Fire – and the devasting outcome to the Confederate forces resulting in emancipation for the enslaved people of Hilton Head Island two years before Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and four years before the end of the Civil War!

In addition to Bob Newbert's narration over the radio, ABCHH captains and first mates shared their knowledge one-on-one with Explorers in their boat. These wise Oracles of The Waters were: Barb Sommers, Paul Hoyte, Nancy Stermer, Brian D Matteo, Joe Etter, Neil Boderman, Pete Dion, Wayne Mitchell and Jocelyn Mitchell.

Throughout the cruise, Explorers learned how to tie a bowline; viewed our position on chart-plotters; observed ATONS and boating Rules of The Road; noted tidal change from the time of our departure to our return; saw pelicans turn to the left as they dove; watched dolphins; and generally enjoyed the beauty of our waterways.

Sea Pines Plantation and the Quarterdeck Restaurant hosted us for lunch. Aside from great food, the kids enjoyed free ice cream at Cups & Cones, free tickets to the top of the Harbour Town Lighthouse, and a kitchen tour at Links, An American Grill in the Harbour Town Clubhouse.

A big highlight for the kids was driving the boat on the way home. Not every captain could offer this opportunity, but those that did, provided instruction and the chance to take the helm for a few minutes making small adjustments to speed and direction. "The huge smiles on their faces," said it all explains Bob Newbert. "I think we recruited several new ABCHH members 10 years down the road when they are old enough to skipper a boat."

"Day On The Water" wrapped up with dockside presentations upon our return to Skull Creek Marina. Each captain presented his or her crew with a hat embroidered with America's Boating

Club of Hilton Head's burgee, and a framed Day On The Water Award Certificate with their names in calligraphy. "Many of these kids have never been recognized for anything," says Bob Newbert. "It's great for us to give them the Day On The Water experience, and especially wonderful to provide them with individual recognition. I know our award certificates are hanging proudly in their homes."

Molly Hornbeak, Director of the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club, sums it up best: "Our kids look forward to Day On The Water every year and talk about it constantly. You have a tremendous, positive impact on their lives."



Bob Newbert (left) giving last minute instructions to his boat captains.



Bob Newbert performing roll call and giving instructions to the crew members.



Bob Newbert is pictured with Molly Hornbeak, who is the Director of the Bluffton Boys and Girls Club.



This is "Aniya" who was Bob Newbert's radioman. Kids were taught proper VHF Marine Radio protocol and they communicated boat-to-boat on the radio.



Neil Boderman is pictures with his five crew members for the day's events.



Wayne & Jocelyn Mitchell with their crew.



Brian DeMatteo and his crew.



The group arrived at Harbour Town Marina and is walking to the Quarterdeck for lunch.



Boys & Girls Club members enjoying lunch at the Quarterdeck in Harbour Town Marina.



"Alana" behind the wheel with PC Barb Sommers.



"Alana" enjoying the ride.



Education Officer Pete Dion served as First Mate on Neil Boderman's boat and is shown with their crew.



These kids served as crew on Paul & Nancy Hoyte's boat.



Let's Rock n Roll. Standing is Bob Newbert. Seated left to right: Neil Boderman, Pete Dion, Joe Etter, Jocelyn Mitchell, Wayne Mitchell, and Paul Hoyte.



Bob Newbert (center) is pictured with his crew and Director of the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club (right) Molly Hornbeak.



Paul Hoyte, center, is pictured with his crew after they received their certificates of participation for the day's event.



Another "Day On The Water" is in the history books. Thank you to Bob Newbert and all the volunteer members from America's Boating Club of Hilton Head who gave these youngsters from the Bluffton Boys and Girls Club a day they'll never forget.

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THIS ISSUE INCLUDES A SPECIAL EXPLANATION OF EDUCATION COURSES, SEMINARS & JUMP START PROGRAMS

- America's Boating Course (ABC)
- Boat Handling
- Advanced Navigation Courses
- Elective Courses
- Seminars
- Boater Operation Certification (BOC)
- Jump Start Program

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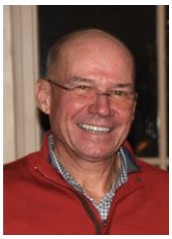
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EDUCATION NEWS

Peter J. Dion, Educational Officer
Tom Ryley, Asst. Educational Officer



ABCHH Course, Seminar, and Jump Start Offerings

Boating education stands at the center of the core purpose of the **United States Power Squadron** and **America's Boating Club of Hilton Head**. Offering a regular program of seminars, courses, and accreditations, is the best way we can accomplish our goal for safe, responsible, and confident boating in the Low Country.

While a number of our seminars and courses are available without the need for any prerequisite courses, there is a core "pathway" of courses and seminars, that is designed to build the knowledge and expertise of ABCHH members, and which lead to recognition of achievement through the **United States Power Squadron** designations.

1. The **ABC** Course

Anyone interested in boating education should take the "first course" entitled **America's Boating Course (ABC).** This course involves two half-days of in-the-classroom instruction, with an On-the-Water (OTW) component on the final day. It is designed to provide a basic knowledge of boat operating practices, including safety, navigation, and communications, as well as state and federal rules and regulations. Successful completion meets the boating education requirements for operator permits in South Carolina. ABCHH will offer this course twice a year, in the spring and fall. It is not necessary to be a member of ABCHH to enroll.

2. Boat Handling

Following ABC, the next recommended course for boaters is **Boat Handling**, a series of six seminars that focuses on the specific skills and capabilities that are essential to become confident, comfortable, and a safe boater in our local waters. The six

specific seminars are **Mastering the Rules of the Road, Docking, Boating with Confidence, Anchoring, Emergencies On Board, and Knots and Lines.**

Registrants in **Boat Handling** will take an exam upon completion of the six seminars. Those individuals passing will be awarded the **S (Seamanship)** designation by the USPS. Completion of **Boat Handling** is also a prerequisite to the **Boat Operator Certificate (BOC)**. Read more on this below.

The separate seminars offered under **Boat Handling** will also be open to registration on an individual basis as well, but registrants will only receive accreditation for the **Boat Handling** certification **(S)** if they are enrolled in the **Boat Handling** seminars, and successfully complete the exam.

ABCHH will offer all the seminars in the **Boat Handling** series at least once a year. It is not necessary to take the seminars in any particular order; and it is not required that registrants attend all seminars prior to taking the exam, if they believe they have proven knowledge and competence in some of the seminar topics.

Beyond the ABC and Boat Handling seminars, those seeking additional knowledge and accreditation have two primary streams they can follow, one focused on **Boat Operator Certifications (BOC)**, and one focused on ***advanced*** knowledge of specific topics, that are offered through our Advanced Courses, Elective Courses, and Seminars, all taught by our certified instructors.

3. Advanced Navigation Courses

Those individuals with a desire to develop an in-depth knowledge of piloting and navigation, there are four courses available, with each being required to be taken in sequence. They are **Marine Navigation** (formerly Piloting), **Advanced Marine Navigation** (formerly Advanced Piloting), **Offshore Navigation** (formally Junior Navigation), and **Celestial Navigation** (formally Navigation). As these courses are extensive and complex, (but very interesting) the demand for these courses tends to be limited. We will endeavor to offer **Marine Navigation** on an annual basis, but we will offer the other advanced courses only when there is a clear demand from our members. As an alternate, we will facilitate interested members in taking these courses through larger squadrons, that may offer them on an online basis.

4. Elective Courses

Elective courses focus on specialized topics that will be of specific interest to some members. These courses include topics on electrical systems, communications systems, vessel maintenance, radar, electronic navigation, weather, and cruise planning. They are geared towards developing in-depth knowledge and practical skills for each subject. They generally require six to ten 2-hour classroom sessions. It will be our intention to offer all of these electives, but not necessarily to offer each one every year, dependent on the number of interested members interested. Again, with the expansion of the USPS online offering, we will be able to facilitate members accessing these courses through other squadrons as well.

Elective Courses: Engine Maintenance, Marine Electrical Systems, Marine Communication Systems, Electronic Navigation, Weather, Sail, Radar for Boaters, Cruising and Cruise Planning, and Instructor Development

5. Seminars

Currently, the USPS provides us with approximately 35 seminar offerings covering a wide range of boating topics. These fall into two categories: the first being general two-hour overviews of topics that would be of interest to most boaters, such as using GPS, VHF, radar, dealing with emergencies, how to use charts, weather, and tides and currents. The second category deals with more narrowly specific topics such as: trailering, propane systems, hurricane preparation, and marine fuels.

Our seminar offerings are central to our general education objective. Seminars allow members to acquire core skills and knowledge they need to safely and capably boat in our local waters. Courses, on the other hand, require a larger commitment to an in-depth course that extends over a number of class sessions that delves into a greater depth on theory, technology, and knowledge necessary to pass an exam.

It is our intention to offer the following seminars at least on an annual basis: These include all the six seminars from **Boat Handling**, as well as **Partner in Command, Using GPS**, **Using VHF Marine Radio**, **Marine Radar**, **How to Use a Chart, Basic**

Weather Forecasting, and **Hurricane Preparation**. Depending on demand, we may offer some of these seminars twice in a year.

We also have a new pricing structure for seminars: Individual $45, Couples $55. Non-members: Individual $55, couples $65. ***Pricing may vary if additional materials are provided.***

6. Boat Operator Certification (BOC)

While courses and seminars are invaluable to establish a core knowledge and understanding of specific boating subjects, **the practical application of these skills in a marine environment is the ultimate demonstration of capability**. For this reason, the USPS offers four levels of **Boat Operator Certificate**, for members who complete a curriculum of courses and seminars on specific subjects and are then able to demonstrate their capabilities through an On-the-Water (OTW) examination.

The four levels of **BOC** begin with **Inland Navigator,** and then progress through **Coastal Navigator**, **Advanced Coastal Navigator,** and **Offshore Navigator**. For practical reasons, the focus of the ABCHH is on the **Inland Navigator** designation (IN), for which there are required courses (**Boat Handling, Engine Maintenance, Electrical Systems**), required seminars (**How to Use a Chart, Basic Weather Forecasting, Using GPS, and Using VHF Marine Radio**), and two skill demonstrations, one for powerboat handling, and one for fire extinguisher handling.

It will be our intention to offer all of these courses and seminars in 2019/2020, as well as to insure we qualify the necessary examiners who can evaluate and certify the boat handling skills demonstration requirement.

7. Jump Start

The **Jump Start** program is a hands-on training program teaching one-on-one training sessions with a student **on their own boat**. The content of the training is customized to the needs of the individual student. Typical sessions last two hours depending on the skills to be taught. The goal is to help the new boat owner develop essential skills for safe operation of their boat, and to break through any barriers that may limit

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NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED ABCHH SINCE APRIL 2019 WILL BE FEATURED IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF "OCEAN BREEZE" NEWSLETTER.

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SAVANNAH YACHT CLUB CRUISE – July 11, 2019



Submitted by P/C Barb Sommers, AP

What a lovely day we all enjoyed at the Savannah Yacht Club! We had beautiful blue skies with calm winds, but it was still hot -- July in the South! It was a slower trip than normal due to low tide with some very low water spots. In the Ramsons Creek there was a catamaran waiting for rising waters as it sat on sand. You could only wonder the conversation in the vessel; he was sitting at the helm waiting to go and she was lounging and reading a book. A good lesson to take it slow in low water -- err on the side of caution.

Savannah Yacht Club is a private club that is not easy to gain access to; you have to be sponsored from a reciprocal club. A big thank you to Bob Newbert who worked diligently to find us a sponsor -- Helen Ryan. Helen lives in Hilton Head and Cashiers, NC and is a member of the South Carolina Yacht Club. **Thank You Helen** for sponsoring America's Boating Club of Hilton Head luncheon at the Savannah Yacht Club. Bob was able to work with Helen and the Savannah Yacht Club to set up a very beautiful luncheon. We sat in their lovely pub room of wood paneled walls decorated with memorabilia. Last time we enjoyed a lovely luncheon on the veranda, but with the hot temperatures it was refreshing to be indoors. The food was delicious and the service was spot on; thank you to all who expressed your appreciation to the staff. In an email exchange between Bob and Nicolette Hall, Private Events Coordinator, she stated "It was a pleasure having your group for lunch today! Everyone was very complimentary, and super cheerful. Such a great crowd all around. We hope to have you back next year." I hope we can get back next year!

As Nicolette said, "a great crowd" and that the is heart of our Club. All our great members that came together for a great day of boating, enjoyable conversations and comradery. As you can see from the pictures, the group had a wonderful time.

Thank you to the 11 Captains and all members and guests that joined our lovely day and to Bob and Helen for helping to set up a great event. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon, either on the water or at a dinner.



SAVANNAH YACHT CLUB



Bob Newbert and crew



John Eddy and crew



Bob Golden and crew



Mark & Teresa Carroll



Mary Ellen Hughes and crew



Howard Kravitz and crew



Rebecca Jeffries and her crew



Paul Hoyte and his crew



Mike Reever and crew



Lady D II captained by Pete Dion

As your editor (and occasional photographer) I must apologize for not getting an on-the-water shot of Joe and Chris Dattilo during the Savannah Yacht Club cruise. Joe and Chris are pictured below. Their boat "NIBLICK" is pictured right from an old photo. On this cruise they captained their own boat minus crew.







Clockwise L to R: Howard Kravitz (navy shirt), Marilyn Hume, Bob Hume, Steve Ryden, Louise Sola, Kevin Demeritt, Deb Demeritt, and Barbara Chaloux. Steve, Louise, Kevin and Deb were guests of Howard Kravitz.

Clockwise L to R: Patrick Hughes (hat on his back), George Barnes, Cassie Davis, Mary Richardson, Robin Reever, Michael Reever, Mary Ellen Hughes, Dori Barnes. George and Dori were guests of Patrick and Mary Ellen Hughes.





Pictured left to right: Julie Manfredi (Rebecca's guest), Rebecca Jeffries, Christine Wilcox, John Eddy, Michael Kozyr, and Sophie Kozyr.



Clockwise in stripe top: Leslie Gilroy, Andrea Shotz, (Norm was at the bar getting refreshments), Pamela Gustafson, Phil Gustafson, Kathe Golden, Bob Golden, and our very own "Magellan Mike" Gilroy.



Clockwise L to R: Ken Eickhoff (guest of Heidi's), Heidi Huddleston, Nancy Stermer Hoyte, Paul Hoyte, Klaus Loehr.



Seated clockwise L to R: Member Christine Datillo (sunglasses on head), Joe Datillo, Bob Newbert, Mary Jane Newbert, and guests of the Newbert's: Jeff Schreider, Stephanie Schreider, Joe Bracking, and Roberta Marcantonio.



Clockwise L to R: Debbie Dion, John Thompson, Tina Thompson, P/C Barb Sommers, Glenn Crews, Teresa Carroll, and Mark Carroll.

Pictures & captions provided by Debbie Dion, Editor.

Magellan #4 – Page & Pine Islands



Submitted by Mike Gilroy, N

Nature Observed Undisturbed

We here, south of the Broad in Beaufort County, are surrounded by creeks, tidal estuaries, oyster beds, and all forms of southern flora and fauna. Yet, on a day-to-day basis our attention is more drawn to roads, traffic signals, buildings, golf courses and plantation gates. What a vision-clearing experience it is to board a boat and leave all that urbanization behind and cruise up those creeks, embracing those tidal estuaries, passing without disturbing those oyster beds and other low country flora and fauna.

On Sunday, July 21, the Magellan Society was able to do just that: spend 70 minutes cruising Page and Pine Islands via the New River west of Daufuskie Island, leaving behind roads, traffic lights and plantation gates. Magellan Society Cruise #4, with Captains Bobby Golden and Rebecca Jeffries and their crew of nine experienced what this area must have looked like before Captain Hilton discovered our little version of paradise. None of us emerged from the New River without wonderment at the extent and diversity of our natural surroundings.

Having gorged ourselves on this natural beauty, the two boats and eleven of us pulled in to the Daufuskie Crab Company and gorged ourselves on something else: island food at its best. Being a Sunday, the crowds were in evidence and service might have been a bit slow; but all of us reveled in "island time" service and provisions. As always, Magellan Society #4, showed us the best of the low country.

NEXT UP: Magellan Society #5, circumnavigation of Daufuskie Island, lead by Paul Hoyte and Glenn Crews, on Saturday, August 3.



Captain Rebecca Jeffries

Sophie & Mike Kozyr enjoy the ride.





Tom Wolfe is taking it all in.



Left to right: Sophie Kozyr, Mike Kozyr, Rebecca Jeffries.



Front to Back on Left: Joe Datillo, Bob Golden, Mary Ellen Hughes, John Thompson, Tom Wolfe.

Front to Back on Right: Christine Datillo, Mike Gilroy, Rebecca Jeffries, Shari Manning, Jim Manning, Sophie Kozyr, Mike Kozyr.



Mary Ellen Hughes & John Thompson



Jim & Shari Manning



Many thanks to our photographer Ann Wolfe. Even though she's not in any of these great photos, she did a great job taking pictures for this Magellan Society Cruise # 4.



The Kozyr's look mighty comfortable with their feet up.

The Ocean Breeze

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"For Boaters, By Boaters™"

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THIS ISSUE INCLUDES A SPECIAL EXPLANATION OF EDUCATION COURSES, SEMINARS & JUMP START PROGRAMS

- America's Boating Course (ABC)
- Boat Handling
- Advanced Navigation Courses
- Elective Courses
- Seminars
- Boater Operation Certification (BOC)
- Jump Start Program

EVENTS CALENDER

AUGUST

3 Magellan 5: Daufuskie Island
5 Ossebaw Island, Georgia – Adventure Cruise – an all-day event
10 Hurricane Preparation Seminar, 9-11 AM, HHI Senior Ctr
15 Savannah Downtown Dock (Boating Activity)
19 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
26 May River Red Neck Riviera Sandbar - Beach Picnic

SEPTEMBER

4 Magellan 6: Hilton Head Island
6 Flying Fish/Bull River Marina (Boating Activity)
10 Dinner Meeting at Skull Creek Dockside, 6:30 PM
16 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
21 Anchoring Seminar, 9-11 AM, HHI Senior Center
28 New River Nature Cruise (Boating Activity)

OCTOBER

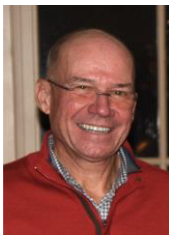
3,7,10,14,17,21,24,28: Electronic Navigation (ME 103)
5 Magellan Fall Make Up Cruise
8 Dinner Meeting at Poseidon in Shelter Cove (6:30 PM)
15 Oyster Roast at Colleton River
19 America's Boating Course
21 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
26 America's Boating Course

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EDUCATION NEWS

Peter J. Dion, Educational Officer
Tom Ryley, Asst. Educational Officer



ABCHH Course, Seminar, and Jump Start Offerings

Boating education stands at the center of the core purpose of the **United States Power Squadron** and **America's Boating Club of Hilton Head**. Offering a regular program of seminars, courses, and accreditations, is the best way we can accomplish our goal for safe, responsible, and confident boating in the Low Country.

While a number of our seminars and courses are available without the need for any prerequisite courses, there is a core "pathway" of courses and seminars, that is designed to build the knowledge and expertise of ABCHH members, and which lead to recognition of achievement through the **United States Power Squadron** designations.

1. The **ABC** Course

Anyone interested in boating education should take the "first course" entitled **America's Boating Course (ABC).** This course involves two half-days of in-the-classroom instruction, with an On-the-Water (OTW) component on the final day. It is designed to provide a basic knowledge of boat operating practices, including safety, navigation, and communications, as well as state and federal rules and regulations. Successful completion meets the boating education requirements for operator permits in South Carolina. ABCHH will offer this course twice a year, in the spring and fall. It is not necessary to be a member of ABCHH to enroll.

2. Boat Handling

Following ABC, the next recommended course for boaters is **Boat Handling**, a series of six seminars that focuses on the specific skills and capabilities that are essential to become confident, comfortable, and a safe boater in our local waters. The six

specific seminars are **Mastering the Rules of the Road, Docking, Boating with Confidence, Anchoring, Emergencies On Board, and Knots and Lines.**

Registrants in **Boat Handling** will take an exam upon completion of the six seminars. Those individuals passing will be awarded the **S (Seamanship)** designation by the USPS. Completion of **Boat Handling** is also a prerequisite to the **Boat Operator Certificate (BOC)**. Read more on this below.

The separate seminars offered under **Boat Handling** will also be open to registration on an individual basis as well, but registrants will only receive accreditation for the **Boat Handling** certification **(S)** if they are enrolled in the **Boat Handling** seminars, and successfully complete the exam.

ABCHH will offer all the seminars in the **Boat Handling** series at least once a year. It is not necessary to take the seminars in any particular order; and it is not required that registrants attend all seminars prior to taking the exam, if they believe they have proven knowledge and competence in some of the seminar topics.

Beyond the ABC and Boat Handling seminars, those seeking additional knowledge and accreditation have two primary streams they can follow, one focused on **Boat Operator Certifications (BOC)**, and one focused on ***advanced*** knowledge of specific topics, that are offered through our Advanced Courses, Elective Courses, and Seminars, all taught by our certified instructors.

3. Advanced Navigation Courses

Those individuals with a desire to develop an in-depth knowledge of piloting and navigation, there are four courses available, with each being required to be taken in sequence. They are **Marine Navigation** (formerly Piloting), **Advanced Marine Navigation** (formerly Advanced Piloting), **Offshore Navigation** (formally Junior Navigation), and **Celestial Navigation** (formally Navigation). As these courses are extensive and complex, (but very interesting) the demand for these courses tends to be limited. We will endeavor to offer **Marine Navigation** on an annual basis, but we will offer the other advanced courses only when there is a clear demand from our members. As an alternate, we will facilitate interested members in taking these courses through larger squadrons, that may offer them on an online basis.

4. Elective Courses

Elective courses focus on specialized topics that will be of specific interest to some members. These courses include topics on electrical systems, communications systems, vessel maintenance, radar, electronic navigation, weather, and cruise planning. They are geared towards developing in-depth knowledge and practical skills for each subject. They generally require six to ten 2-hour classroom sessions. It will be our intention to offer all of these electives, but not necessarily to offer each one every year, dependent on the number of interested members interested. Again, with the expansion of the USPS online offering, we will be able to facilitate members accessing these courses through other squadrons as well.

Elective Courses: Engine Maintenance, Marine Electrical Systems, Marine Communication Systems, Electronic Navigation, Weather, Sail, Radar for Boaters, Cruising and Cruise Planning, and Instructor Development

5. Seminars

Currently, the USPS provides us with approximately 35 seminar offerings covering a wide range of boating topics. These fall into two categories: the first being general two-hour overviews of topics that would be of interest to most boaters, such as using GPS, VHF, radar, dealing with emergencies, how to use charts, weather, and tides and currents. The second category deals with more narrowly specific topics such as: trailering, propane systems, hurricane preparation, and marine fuels.

Our seminar offerings are central to our general education objective. Seminars allow members to acquire core skills and knowledge they need to safely and capably boat in our local waters. Courses, on the other hand, require a larger commitment to an in-depth course that extends over a number of class sessions that delves into a greater depth on theory, technology, and knowledge necessary to pass an exam.

It is our intention to offer the following seminars at least on an annual basis: These include all the six seminars from **Boat Handling**, as well as **Partner in Command, Using GPS**, **Using VHF Marine Radio**, **Marine Radar**, **How to Use a Chart, Basic**

Weather Forecasting, and **Hurricane Preparation**. Depending on demand, we may offer some of these seminars twice in a year.

We also have a new pricing structure for seminars: Individual $45, Couples $55. Non-members: Individual $55, couples $65. ***Pricing may vary if additional materials are provided.***

6. Boat Operator Certification (BOC)

While courses and seminars are invaluable to establish a core knowledge and understanding of specific boating subjects, **the practical application of these skills in a marine environment is the ultimate demonstration of capability**. For this reason, the USPS offers four levels of **Boat Operator Certificate**, for members who complete a curriculum of courses and seminars on specific subjects and are then able to demonstrate their capabilities through an On-the-Water (OTW) examination.

The four levels of **BOC** begin with **Inland Navigator,** and then progress through **Coastal Navigator**, **Advanced Coastal Navigator,** and **Offshore Navigator**. For practical reasons, the focus of the ABCHH is on the **Inland Navigator** designation (IN), for which there are required courses (**Boat Handling, Engine Maintenance, Electrical Systems**), required seminars (**How to Use a Chart, Basic Weather Forecasting, Using GPS, and Using VHF Marine Radio**), and two skill demonstrations, one for powerboat handling, and one for fire extinguisher handling.

It will be our intention to offer all of these courses and seminars in 2019/2020, as well as to insure we qualify the necessary examiners who can evaluate and certify the boat handling skills demonstration requirement.

7. Jump Start

The **Jump Start** program is a hands-on training program teaching one-on-one training sessions with a student **on their own boat**. The content of the training is customized to the needs of the individual student. Typical sessions last two hours depending on the skills to be taught. The goal is to help the new boat owner develop essential skills for safe operation of their boat, and to break through any barriers that may limit

their boating enjoyment. There is no charge for this program. For further information, contact Peter Dion, ABCHH Education Officer at peterjdion@gmail.com.

The above information was provided by Tom Ryley, Assistant Education Officer of ABCHH. He may be contacted at: tomryley@mac.com

ABCHH JUMP START PROGRAM IS UP AND RUNNING



Pictured on left is ABCHH instructor Walter Kirk with new member Joe Kyle. Joe is at the helm of his new power boat and is just one of the participants we have in the Jump Start program currently being offered to members and non-members.

Joe and his wife Beverly will be featured with other new Club members in the regular issue of the ***Ocean Breeze*** due out later this month.

Instructor Walter Kirk is explaining the navigational chart shown on Joe's Garmin chart plotter aboard his new power boat.

Education Officer Peter Dion was also on board and provided these pictures for us.

Editor's Note: Pete needs to win the lottery as I see a new boat in our future or at least new electronics. Thanks Joe!



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