



GEECHEE SAILING CLUB

RHUMB LINE

Great Circle 3150 NM



COMMODORE, Linda Howard

OK. Let me explain why the speaker is an either-or situation. Tyler Jones, who was going to speak, is having family problems (taking care of his mother). So he is going to arrange for one of the speakers I listed below to speak at our meeting on Monday the 10th. If I get any more definitive information, I will share it in an email later.

Not another trip, you say! Well, this time it was with the club to Palmetto Bay Marina on Hilton Head. Tim & Judy, Van & Adrienne, Dawson and his friends (Jim and Charity Smith), and Tommy and I

spent Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights there. Van and Adrienne were already there since they were in the middle of a cruise of their own.

It was only a 2½- to 3-hour trip, so we will definitely be going back, even if it's just to go over for lunch at the Black Marlin and head back home. The weather was beautiful, which made for a pleasant boat trip.

Saturday evening was our "Saturday Meal" which we had on Tim & Judy's boat, *Wait for Me*. The snafu was that the marina had told me that

they had a picnic area. They did not! But we set up the food on the "back porch" of *Wait for Me* and ate inside. It had finally turned Summer that day!

It worked out so well, though. Nothing like close quarters for good camaraderie! And it was a "plus" to have Jim and Charity Smith with us. Thanks, Dawson.

Sunday morning was brunch, also on *Wait for Me*. I need to mention that the food was great. Everyone went out of their way to make something special. And, oh Mary Ellen, the King

MEETINGS:
Every second Monday of the month at Carey Hilliard's,
3316 Skidaway Rd.
Order dinner at 6:00;
meeting at 7:00.

WEBSITE:
www.geechesailingclub.org
EMAIL ADDRESS:
geechesailingclub@hotmail.com
FACEBOOK:
 Geechee Sailing Club

GEECHEE SAILING CLUB'S
UPCOMING PARTIES
& CRUISES

Socials:

Pool Party - Friday, July 21, 3:00 p.m., Debiens'

Cruises:

July 28-30 - St. Catherine's

August 12-13 - Elba Island-shark tooth hunting (12:46 pm = low tide)

Sept. 2-4 - Labor Day - Beaufort (make your reservations NOW)

Oct. 20-22 - Bluffton Seafood & Art Festival

THE SPEAKER FOR THIS MONTH (MONDAY, JULY 10)

EITHER:

PAUL MADDERS with the DNR in Brunswick. He is the Marine Education and Public Affairs representative for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division.



or

KARL BURGESS with the DNR in Brunswick, Habitat Management Program Manager for GA Department of Natural Resources, and Asst. Director of the Coastal Resources Division.



at

COMMODORE, Linda Howard (continued)

Cake I took home from the Mardi Gras party, wrapped in foil, and put in my freezer, was just as yummy Saturday night!

Other meals were at the Black Marlin or on our individual boats.

Evenings were spent in the breezes on our boats, telling new and old stories, and generally escaping our busy lives for a few days. You'll have a chance to experience this when we go to Beaufort for Labor Day.



♥♥♥
**IN MEMORY OF OUR FELLOW GEECHEE,
RIC FRAKER**
(1/10/1946 - 5/24/2023)



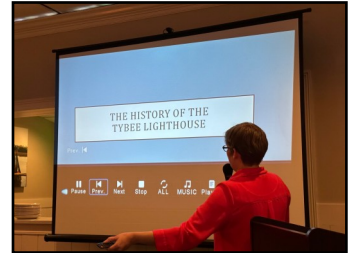
VICE COMMODORE, Tom Howard

SPEAKERS:

Sarah Jones, Tybee Light historian, gave us a lot of information on the history of the Tybee Lighthouse...which is operational as an aid to navigation even today. It is operated under the control of the US Coast Guard.

Historically, Tybee Light was used as a lookout by both Confederate and Union soldiers during the War Between the States. It was burned, yet restored.

Don't miss our next meeting. As you can see on the first page, our speaker will be from the DNR in Brunswick. That's when you can ask your many questions and get direct answers!



MY NEW SAILBOAT:

Some of you know that I acquired a Catalina Capri 14.2 in very poor condition. My brother Jimmy thought I needed another project, so he gave it to me. Thanks, Bro! Although it had two holes in the bottom, I took it and restored it. It now looks like new, with the sails in great shape.

I decided to take it out for a sea trial the other day, so I attached my 1957 5hp Evinrude outboard and off I went.

Well...things started out great leaving the dock under sail and continuing up Turner's Creek. I sailed back and forth, tacking and enjoying the breeze.

However, on one tack, I came about and didn't move to the windward side in time. I was under full sail and jib with one motor - and a gas tank on the wrong side. Over I went. I tried to catch my phone sitting on the seat (I had just taken a nice video of my adventure). I could not right it because the mast was stuck in the mud! And, of course, my phone and other gear were (and still are) on the bottom of Turner's Creek.

Some nice people on a nearby dock said they'd call for help, even though I said I was ok. Twenty minutes later, Towboat US and the Chatham County Police showed up. Since I have Unlimited Tow with them, I let them pull me upright and tow me back to my dock.

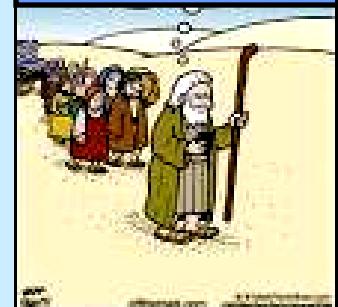
After cleaning up the tangled sail and line, I took my little 1957 Evinrude back to the house and removed the flywheel, plugs, and fuel pump, drained the carburetor, and washed it down thoroughly with fresh water. I then blew it dry and put it back together, cranked it up, and let it run for 30 minutes. What a great little motor!

Well, I decided to take it out again. You know the saying about getting back on the horse after he throws you. This time I left the motor at home and sailed up Turner's Creek with the tide. However...when I started back, the wind quit and I could not gain ground against the tide. Again I was saved. This time it was good ol' Mark Willman who came along and pulled me back to the dock.

The boat is now back on the trailer and in our boatyard!



**"Arriving in 40 years."
That can't be right.**



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

Stuart Gough has a Facebook site with 123,000 members around the world. In a spin-off from that, he recently created a monthly *Sailing & Cruising* newsletter that goes out at the beginning of each month to signed-up members. A new feature he is including each month is to highlight and showcase various "small town" boat clubs, sailing clubs, etc. - most of whom would not normally get that kind of exposure. It is not designed to be a membership drive, simply a means of letting people around the world know a little bit about "grass roots" sailing clubs and their activities. He wanted to start with the club he says he knows best - The Geechee Sailing Club!

He asked me to write a short article about the club, with a little bit of its history, our regular social/sailing activities, photos, etc.

So...I did...and here's what I sent:

Savannah, Georgia's Geechee Sailing Club was incorporated on November 3, 1971. Yes, that's not "Ogeechee" as in the Ogeechee River, but "Geechee" as in the dialect of the area. It seems that a few avid sailors wanted to get together to share and receive boating tips, as well as have fun. So a group gathered, wrote bylaws, and incorporated themselves as a 501(c)(7). I'm not sure how so many got together so fast (beyond word of mouth), but they did. There was obviously a great need.

Personally, my husband and I have been in it since 2004 with our 40' trawler, *Obedience*. Yes, it says "Sailing" club, but we believe that all boats "sail" on the water. So we have sailboats, trawlers, and runabouts. We have found that as you get older, you trade your sailboat in for an easier-to-manage trawler. Then, eventually, the trawler is traded in for a runabout.

Our club has a dinner meeting (off the menu) every second Monday of each month. We meet to order our meals at 6:00, start the meeting at 7:00, and

have a speaker at 7:30. We don't have a clubhouse, but meet at Hilliard's Restaurant on Skidaway Rd. We do, however, have access to a clubhouse and dock (free) for our parties. We also have members with homes and docks on the water for that they offer.

Amazingly, we have been able to find great speakers that share information on our waterways, as well as speakers from area groups and activities. For example, we have heard from the DNR, Coast Guard, Tybee Island Science Museum, Pinpoint Heritage Museum, Savannah Marine Police, Tybee Island Lighthouse Museum, professors from the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, marinas, and many others.

We also have planned cruises to various anchorages and beaches in our low country area as well as nearby towns on the Intracoastal Waterway. Our Cruise Chair and our Social Chair coordinate those. The Social Chair also plans several stand-alone parties each year such as chili cook-offs, Halloween contests, oyster roasts, fish fries, annual Change of Watch, etc.

Our Race Chair is amazing with her involvement in many boating groups. The big regatta of the year is the St. Patrick's Regatta that our club sponsors for the city. The races are planned, coordinated, and followed up with an award banquet by the Race Chair. The races involve media, awards, gifts, meals, and auctions, to mention just a few components.

Our Membership Chair is always touting the sailing club's winning features. I, as Commodore, have seen a lot of growth in the past couple of years due to the quality of our meetings and the enthusiasm of our Board. Three other Board members: our Vice Commodore who is

responsible for getting speakers, our Treasurer, and our Secretary must be mentioned for all the work they do behind the scenes.

As far as club merchandise, we have a mug that is specially designed for us with a navigation map in the background depicting our immediate waterway. These can be bought for \$12 a piece, but we also give them as thank-you gifts to our speakers. In addition, we have water bottles, burgees, and car plates. In the past we have had ball caps and koozies. If another club wants information on what companies made these, you can contact me (Linda Howard) at howard-home@comcast.net.



CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague

The next cruise will be a three-day cruise to St. Catherine's Island, July 28th to 30th. We will send out more details as the time approaches.

Threads

The past thirty days have been filled with both joy and sadness. On Memorial Day my mother passed away. She had been in hospice, so it was not unexpected. Fortunately, she was able to enjoy visitors right up to the end. About a week later a good friend, Sam Adams, also passed away. Following Mom's death, we headed for my 50th high school reunion and then to Boston to visit my daughter Anna and our granddaughter, something that always brings joy to our souls.

On the long drive I started thinking about the connections in my life that have extended out like tendrils through my family, friends and the places we have lived. One of the threads runs through my love of sailing and boating, the Geechee Sailing Club being a prime example. Prior to, and in parallel with my association with the Geechees has been my connection with the Savannah Yacht Club, both through tennis and sailing. Sam Adams and I became friends on the tennis court at the Yacht Club as we were of about equal ability. On many Sunday afternoons we would hit for a while and then play a single set, which was always competitive. While the winner always took great (and a gracious) joy in winning, we both knew the victory was just temporary.

Sam and I also shared a love of the beach, Tybee Island in particular, and our families had houses not too far apart. Dad had been going to Tybee from early childhood. His mother would take the children out of school

on the first of May and they would not return until the middle of September. Years later I figured out that she did this in order to minimize their risk of contracting polio. It was during his barefoot summers that Dad learned to sail, row, and handle a motorboat, skills that he passed on to us when we too spent our summers at Tybee. In turn, my three children also learned about the water during our summer stays at Tybee.

Sam's cottage faces the south end of the island, so there is a good view of the sand bar and the ocean approach at the south end. His father would sit on the porch with a set of powerful binoculars where he could monitor the activity on the beach, with a particular eye for people who would get stranded on the sand bar as the tide came in.

My brother and I sailed a Hobie 16 when we were young adults, and one of our favorite sails was to go out when there was a northeaster. When we cleared the south end there would be a clear fetch and we would beat to weather about a mile offshore. We then came about and, on a broad reach, rode the large waves that had been built by the wind over the bar with the rudders vibrating at a high pitch and the rigging straining, the bow inches from digging in and causing us to pitchpole. And pitchpole we did...occasionally. Preventing the mast from digging into the sand bar required quick action and good teamwork. So there was an element of danger; that we could become dismasted and no one would know. But I knew someone would know. I knew that Sam's father was on his porch observing us through his binoculars, saying something like, "There go those crazy Sprague boys".

In his earlier years, Sam crewed in offshore races, many times with his good friend Bunky Helfrich, who was also a tennis player. When I asked Sam why he no longer sailed in offshore races, he related the time he and Bunky were on watch on a dark night in high waves, beating into the wind with the rain coming down in sheets. To pass the time they tried to think of ways they could be more miserable. They were unable to come up with one.

On our way to Boston we spent two days in Newport, Road Island. We visited the Sailing Museum where there is a plaque commemorating the 1977 crew of *Courageous*, the winner of the America's cup. Through sailing, Bunky had become friends with an irascible guy named Ted Turner. Word was that Ted, who grew up in Savannah, had taken up sailing because no one would play with him. Bunky learned how to be a friend to Ted and was in his crew when he campaigned *Courageous* in the America's cup. Did I mention that my brother dated Bunky's daughter Holly one summer, having met her on the tennis court?

Bunky joined CNN when Ted created it and worked there for 25 years. When CNN purchased the MGM film library, they also got a full rigged ship in the deal, the *HMS Bounty*. Ted sent Bunky down to St. Petersburg where the *Bounty* was docked to see what they had. At the time, she was a leaky dockside attraction, in need of extensive repairs. The *Bounty* was donated to a group in Fall River, MA. To sail her up there, Bunky impressed a crew made up of many people he had sailed with that included several of my friends from Savannah

CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague (continued)

Unfortunately, I was not included.

The *Bounty* was sold to another owner and extensive repairs were made in 2002. Ten years later, the *Bounty* participated in the 2012 Tall Ships Festival. One of the stops was in Savannah, where my youngest daughter, Anna, joined the crew. Later that summer, Mary Ellen and I joined the *Bounty* in Pictou, Nova Scotia, and crewed on her for the next two weeks. Anna was supposed to return with us and resume her studies at Auburn but wanted to stay on through the fall for the haul-out period. She had a boyfriend from the crew, Mark Warner, and did not want to leave him. It turns out that I left the *Bounty* the same day that Mark's father joined the crew and we just missed meeting each other.

Following the haul-out, the *Bounty* started its voyage to St. Petersburg, FL, where it was to participate in a ceremony in two weeks. Hurricane Sandy was moving up the coast as the *Bounty* departed from Groton. Captain Walbridge anticipated rough weather, but not as great as they experienced. The *Bounty* sank, rolling over and dumping her crew into the sea in the early morning of October 29th. The captain and one of the deckhands, Claudene Christian, died. Claudene claimed she was an ancestor of Fletcher Christian from the original *Bounty*. Anna, Mark and the rest of the crew were rescued by the Coast Guard 92 miles off of the North Carolina coast.

Mark and Anna continued dating until their marriage in October 2018. Mark's family is from Milton, MA, and so Mark and Anna settled in that area, finding an apartment in Quincy. While we would love to have Mark and Anna in Savannah, the cosmic

irony is that the Boston area is where our family started out in America almost 400 years earlier. In July of 1629 Lt. Ralph Sprague and two brothers disembarked from the *Lyon's Whelp* in Salem. The brothers quickly moved south, and Ralph was one of the original settlers of Charlestown. Likewise, his brother William was one of the first settlers of Hingham, to the south of Boston. For the next two hundred years the family stayed in the Boston area before leaving.

Many of my family members have been educated in the Boston area. One relative contributed livestock to the founding of Harvard. Centuries later my maternal grandfather, Dr. Carr, did his residency in thoracic surgery at Harvard. My sister's husband, Philip, did his ENT residency there. During his residency Courtney and Phillip lived in Milton, not far from where Anna's in-laws live. Both grandmothers graduated from Wellesley, so it was no surprise that my mother did too. Dad's sister was Mom's roommate. Mom came to visit Savannah for two weeks following graduation and stayed a lifetime. When she came to visit her roommate's family, they were at Tybee. It is a good thing Mom enjoyed the beach, because being at Tybee in the summer was likely an implicit part of the deal.

So in this month of June, I find myself at sunset in a house in Hull, grandchild in the background, looking out over the bay and down towards the Hull Yacht Club; all due to an improbable series of relationships and coincidences. From time to time I have gone down to the Hull Yacht Club for a drink, and they have been kind enough to welcome someone from another yacht club they never

heard of. We exchanged burgees, so maybe they have accepted my bona fides. Hull, like Tybee, has many people who for several generations either lived there full time or grew up there in the summers. While I am new, it has the feel of a familiar place. There is also the common bond of sailing and the love of being on the water, a love I developed during summers at Tybee and at the Yacht Club.

When Mary Ellen and I were in Europe, we saw these huge tapestries with intricate designs and scenes woven into them. Get close, real close, and one can make out the individual threads and knots. When close enough to see the threads, one cannot make out the pattern. As with the tapestries, so it is with our lives, the threads all connected, running back into time and horizontally into the present, with the new shoots in the form of our children, grandchildren and grandchildren in utero, and with the pattern more discernible as we go back into time, and less so in the present because we are too close. Mom and Sam were important parts of the tapestry surrounding my life. I am grateful beyond words to have had the good fortune to have such a wonderful mother and a friend such as Sam. I also sit in wonderment of how growing up at Tybee and sailing along with many other connections would lead to a train of events that would lead me back to the Boston area where our family first came almost four hundred years ago. All I know for sure is that we are all intricately linked, both in the present and in the past, and that all of the threads are held in the hands of God.



CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague (continued)



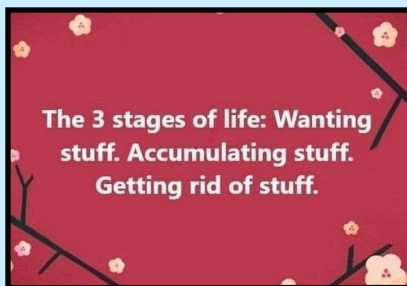
Anna and Larry on the Bounty, 2012



Hull near sunset. The Hull Yacht Club is the building on the left.



Mark Warner, future husband, 2012



TREASURER, Dawson Long

I sailed my boat, *Andiamo*, to the Palmetto Bay Marina with friends to get the bottom cleaned and painted. I am obsessed with doing two things at one time, so I invited a couple to cruise with me to Palmetto Bay to keep me company.

Plan strategically when you have scheduled your boat to be cleaned and painted. Position yourself around as many friends as possible to help you through the contingencies. I have been the beneficiary many times when fellow cruisers have stepped up to help me.

There is a mathematical solution to potential problems that an old boat may face. Start with the age of your boat. For example, *Andiamo* is a 30-foot sloop that is 53 years old. Divide this number by 8. The result is rounded up to 7. This is the target number of boats that should partici-

pate on the cruise. The chances that you will need to borrow something from at least one of these boats is very high. When you have more boats, there is a greater likelihood that one will have the part you need.

In my earlier articles, I wrote about fellowship being a great outcome of a cruise. There is also profound synchronicity when someone pulls out the exact part you need to fix a problem. It was my ignorance to forget to bring my adapter from a 50-Amp plug to a 30-Amp plug. We borrowed one from a neighboring boat, but it shorted out a portion of the dock's electrical service. I felt another entry into Dawson's book of embarrassing moments was warranted. Yet we reset the breaker and the power was restored to the agitated live-aboard boat residents. It seemed that *Andiamo's* hopes for air conditioning

were fading.

Who steps in to rescue me but Tim Grissette who hands me a 20-amp plug adapter that powers my air conditioning. I also hitched a ride home for myself and my friends with my guardian angels, Tim and Judy Grissette. Likewise, Tommy and Linda Howard are Tim and Judy's guardian angels.

There are countless stories embodying the teamwork it takes to make a great cruise. Thank you to all the Geechees who collectively form that mastermind dynamic.

Insurance was paid. Our balance in the checking is \$1,830.69. The Vanguard account is \$17,909.19.



SOCIAL CHAIR, Mary Ellen Sprague

You are invited!
Rain or Shine
Pool Party!

When: Friday, July 21st, 2023, 3 p.m. until....

Where: Audrey & David Debien's home & pool
588 Sunshine Lake Road
Midway Georgia

What to bring: Bathing suit, towel, folding chairs, suntan lotion, umbrellas/pop up tents, side dish and/or dessert

Provided: hamburgers/hot dogs, beer, wine, and water

What else to know: plenty of air-conditioned indoor space in case of rain or for those who need a break from the heat

Cost: Free to Geechee members

RSVP & questions: mary-ellen31406@gmail.com



I will be bringing some of each to our meetings. If you want to give me an idea in advance of how many, you can call or text me (Linda Howard, 912/658-7398). Everyone loves them, so you won't be disappointed. The bottles are \$10/each and the mugs are \$12.



RACE CHAIR - Angela Margolit

The Grady Foster Long Distance Memorial Regatta was held by the Savannah Yacht Club on Sunday, June 25th. The purpose of this Regatta is to honor Grady Foster, original BIMBO card holder and mastermind. What is BIMBO? It is the Brotherhood of international mark boat operators. Apparently Grady made quite an impression on the 1996 Summer Olympics organizers for the sailing events too.

This regatta was originally scheduled for the previous weekend, so SYC was a little nervous as to how many sailors were able to participate on the new date.

We didn't let them down. Six boats competed in the A Division (spinnakers) and three in the B Division (non-spinnakers). Unfortunately, the weather – and in this par-

ticular case, it was the wind, not the rain – did not cooperate. For the A Division, it was a 15-mile round trip course from R22 to G9. The starting signal was at 11:10am, and the last boat motored in at 4:30pm.

Sometimes you just have to know when to call it quits. The J/24 I was on got all the way out to G11, then the wind stopped – and the tide was still coming in. Since a couple of the crew was starting to get dizzy, we turned around to catch a little of the flooding tide. Most of the boats gave up and turned on their motors. Three boats – the fastest overall – made it back to the finish line under sail. Two boats that kept up their sails until 4:30pm, *Scarlett* and *Peregrin*, were declared third and second winners in place.

The sailing winners were:
A Division

Gebel Seese, *High Visibility*, J/105
Mark Lamas, *C-Student*, J/100
Brian Burtnik, *Scarlett*, J/24

B Division

Jim Smith Jr., *Y Knot Tri*, Home-made trimaran

Ed Owens, *Peregrine*, Sabre 30

Upcoming races this summer:

July 15-16: Charleston YC – Open Regatta (Including J/24s)

July 22-23: SAYRA – Women's Club Championship, SCYC-Windmill Harbor, Hilton Head (I will be participating in this!)

July 22-23: SYC - Firecracker Regatta (moved from June)

August 26: Hook Race, from Hilton Head to Savannah



Jim Smith Jr. and Crew



Gebel Seese and Crew (RC Chair, Michael Fleming, on far left)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Nick Robertson

Un/fortunately, I'll be missing out on several Geechee activities during the rest of this summer season, as I'm heading across the Atlantic to Hungary for an extended visit with my very favorite club member, Petra Berende — who just happens to be my brilliant and beautiful fiancée.

Some of you had the pleasure of meeting Petra last summer, when she visited Savannah for a blissful few weeks; some Geechees may also recall that I was over in Budapest for three months this past winter to spend time with (and propose to) my lovely Magyar missus-to-be. I met Petra while enjoying the low-budget high life as an expat in Budapest for about 14 years, and though it's a big step for her, she's looking forward to living in the States...as soon as we can get a whole bunch of paperwork sorted with Uncle Sam.

In the meantime, I'm glad to go back to my second-home country in Central Europe to hang out with Petra for as long as the EU will let me. Petra is a native of Hungary, which is a wonderful place that is regrettably rather landlocked, so she's new to sailing — but what she lacks in experience she makes up for with enthusiasm.

After watching pretty much every episode of "Sailing Project Atticus" on YouTube during the pandemic, Petra came to Savannah eager to give sailing a try, much to my delight. We were grateful for her first sailing experience to be aboard the love boat called *Andiamo* — with Dawson Long simultaneously playing the roles of Captain Stubing and Gopher — for last summer's Geechee cruise to Daufuskie Island. Anchored alongside a picturesque stretch of the ICW, we quickly adjusted to island time and the excitement of nautical adventures, complete with a rowboat ride

for sunset drinks aboard *Second Wind* with Mary Ellen and Larry Sprague.

Subsequently, hooked on the cruising lifestyle, Petra was a diligent student during a beginner's sailing class we joined last July — taught partly by Angela Margolit — which only fueled our shared dream of having our own sailboat someday to explore the Caribbean together. I can think of no finer way to utilize the invaluable sailing skills I've gained as a Geechee than to steer a course toward tropical horizons with my darling Petra beside me, sharing the sun-splashed voyage of life.

We're not ready to live out that dream quite yet, but hopefully we will get a chance to do a little dinghy sailing this summer; Hungary is home to Lake Balaton (Central Europe's "Inland Sea"), which has a thriving sailing community — and who knows, perhaps we'll get the chance to pop over to the nearby coastal-cruising paradise of Croatia for a summertime getaway. However, we both very much look forward to getting back to Savannah as soon as possible, and diving right back into the varied Geechee festivities.

While I'm away, Dawson has kindly agreed to carry on our fun little game at the monthly Geechee meetings at Carey Hilliard's, and of course I'll still be available to carry out my Membership Chair duties to the best of my abilities from afar. So, as always, feel free to contact me at n.h.robertson@gmail.com if you have any thoughts to share, or if you know any potential new Geechee members who'd like to learn more about the club.

But for now, I wish all of our fellow Geechees a splendid summertime by raising a glass and toasting our health with the traditional Hungarian saying, Egészségedre! (And yes, that word is even harder to pronounce than it is to spell...)



SECRETARY - Audrey Debien

WATER SKIING:

When I met Dave and we started dating, he and his parents taught me how to ski. I had given up snow skiing because I really hate the cold, but water skiing in Florida was great fun! The Debien family had a long history of show skiing. They were in a ski club and participated in Ski Show Competitions. I really enjoyed the club and watching the skiers. They tried to teach me to do more – dock starts (seated and standing), ballet lines and more. My skills remained limited but I loved riding in the boats and watching the amazing stunts. Pyramids, jumping, swivel skis, doubles and more!

Last year we attended the World Ski Show Competitions in Winter Haven, Florida. Besides watching the skiers, we caught up with some old friends! There were teams representing United States, Canada, Germany and Belgium. Each team would showcase their abilities in a show with a theme. Themes included the Wizard of Oz, Love Boat, Charlie's Angels, and Batman! This was all very entertaining! How they were judged is a mystery to me!

Dave took hundreds of pictures! There is a successful pyramid, four guys going over the jump together, and a graceful ballet line!

At the show site, there was a large sign identifying Dick Pope, Sr. as the "Father of American Water Skiing". Here are key people and dates around this aquatic sport:

1922 - Ralph Samuelson is credited as the inventor of water skiing. He used boards and clothesline to ski on Lake Pepin in Minnesota. He went on to put on ski shows in Michigan and Florida. He was the first ski racer, slalom skier, and organizer of the first water ski show.

10/27/1925 - Fred Waller of Huntington, NY registered the first patent for water skis. They were called "Dolphin Akwa-Skees".

1928 - Don Ibsen developed water skis in Bellevue, Washington. He had no knowledge of the skis created by Samuelson or Waller. Don founded the Olympic Water Ski Club in Seattle. He was a leading promoter of the

sport and was inducted into the Water Ski Hall of Fame in Winter Haven.

1/2/1936 - Dick Pope, Sr. opened Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven. This was Florida's first theme park. It featured a beautiful botanical garden and water ski shows! The sport became internationally recognized when photographs of the Cypress Gardens skiers appeared in magazines worldwide in the 1940s - 1950s.

1940 - Jack Andresen patented the first trick ski. This is a shorter ski used for performing flips and other antics

1972 - Water skiing was included as an exhibition sport at the Olympics.

1974 - First National Show Ski Tournament.

Cypress Gardens closed in 2009, but the lakes in Winter Haven continue to support water skiing. Our friends run a ski school there and put on shows for the town residents weekly.



FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Unscramble each word, then take the letters that are underlined and unscramble them to come up with the last name of one of our members:

D O F L _ _ _ _ _
G I T T H
D O L H
D E R T I

Answer to June's Scramble: L O N G

ALLOW
BORDER
GANG
FINEST

SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS

This column is for club members to support other members "in need" (phone calls, visits, prayers, meals, etc.). Let me know of anyone you want to add. I won't go into a lot of detail on each here, but you can call them. I will also get approval before entering any names into this column. Please text me at 912/658-7398.

- Kim and David Breland in the death of her uncle, Ric Fraker.
- Georgia Byrd dealing with her grandson's ongoing medical issues.
- (Me) Linda Howard. Cancelled back surgery for June 7. Working with the doctor July 6 to discover specific cause of pain.

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For questions or comments, contact Linda Howard, Editor (912/658-7398)