



## COMMODORE, Larry Sprague

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the tail end of the summer. Tonight (September 24) the sun sets at 7:59PM and does not rise until 6:55 AM. For me, true summer is when the sun rises before 7:00AM and sets after 8:00PM. After that, we are into the Fall season.

Fortunately, our boating season extends well into the Fall, although many people do not take advantage of that. We will have a cruise over Labor Day to Beaufort and then a cruise in October to Bluffton.

This time of year I habitually cast a weather eye out into the Atlantic

to see if anything is brewing. So far, there are no tropical storms or hurricanes threatening us (yet). To this point, the hurricane season has been very quiet, and we all hope it will continue to stay that way. One can prepare for a hurricane, but after that it comes down to luck. Savannah has some advantage in that it is tucked into the curve of the Georgia coast, so hurricanes usually turn to the north and northeast before they get as far west as Savannah. But as hurricanes Matthew and Irma showed us, we can still get a pretty fair beating.

Mary Ellen and I will miss the September meeting at Carey Hilliard's. We are taking a three-week river cruise on Viking from Budapest to Amsterdam. However, the water levels in the rivers are low due to the drought in Europe this summer, so it may end up being more of a bus trip. Nevertheless, we will be passing through a very interesting and beautiful part of the world, so we should have fun. I hope everyone will enjoy the opening of the Fall boating season while we are gone.

*Fair winds and following seas,*



**THE SPEAKER FOR THIS MONTH**  
**(SEPTEMBER 12)**  
**IS DR. CLARK ALEXANDER**  
**OF THE UGA SKIDAWAY**  
**INSTITUTE OF**  
**OCEANOGRAPHY**



**He will be speaking about our rising sea levels.**  
**(Read about him on Page 4)**

**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.geecheesailingclub.org](http://www.geecheesailingclub.org)  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
[geecheesailingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:geecheesailingclub@hotmail.com)  
**FACEBOOK:**  
Geechee Sailing Club

### **GEECHEE SAILING** **CLUB'S** **UPCOMING PARTIES** **& CRUISES**

#### **Socials:**

*November 11 - Change of Watch,*  
*Savannah Yacht Club*

#### **Cruises:**

*Sept. 3-5 - Safe Harbor Marina,*  
*Beaufort*

*Oct. 14-16 - Bluffton Arts Festival*



# IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND, LINDA MEYER

(12/24/1947 - 8/31/2022)

**WE WILL MISS OUR LINDA - HER FRIENDSHIP, CONCERN  
FOR OTHERS, AND LEADERSHIP! THANKS, DEAR FRIEND!**



## CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague

The Labor Day cruise will be to Beaufort, Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>. Beaufort lies on the ICW at mile marker 535, right at 50 miles from the Savannah Yacht Club. If you have not done so, call to make a reservation at the Safe Harbor Marina (843/524-4422). We may leave as early as Friday afternoon, anchoring near the public dock (Marshside Mama's) or a little further upstream in Bull Creek. In Beaufort there are a lot of restau-

rants, trails and sight seeing within walking distance of the docks. If you do not have a boat, drive on over and join us for the day and dinner on either Saturday or Sunday. Once on shore, no one knows how you got there.

The Bluffton Arts and Seafood Festival runs through two weekends from Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. I had originally scheduled the Octo-

ber cruise to be on the first weekend of the festival - October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, but ask that the cruise be moved to the second festival weekend of **October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The reason for the shift in dates is that Mary Ellen's brother, who lives in Maryland, has invited us up to attend the Annapolis Sailboat show. If this shift in dates will cause you a problem, please let me know.



## SOCIAL CHAIR, Mary Ellen Sprague

### Come one, Come all!

The traditional Geechee's Change of Watch party will be Friday, November 11, 2022, at the Sail Loft of the Savannah Yacht Club. This will be similar to last year's Change of Watch except with a slightly different cast of characters.

Stephen O'Conner will again provide the music. The menu and cost per person has not yet been approved by your esteemed Board of Directors. However, it should be in the neighborhood of \$50 per person. This covers all costs for you except for the cash bar. Dress is dressy casual. Guests are certainly wel-

come. Elka Quinn has graciously volunteered to help.

Also, if there is again interest in having a centerpiece contest, please let me know. To RSVP and/or to offer, help please contact me.

Mary Ellen Sprague  
Cell or Text: 912-659-0103  
Email: [maryellen31406@gmail.com](mailto:maryellen31406@gmail.com)



**IF A MAN SAYS  
HE WILL FIX IT,  
HE WILL.  
THERE IS NO  
NEED TO REMIND  
HIM EVERY SIX  
MONTHS.**

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.



## VICE COMMODORE, Linda Howard

Our speaker in August was Master Chief Eric Risner, Officer in Charge, Coast Guard Station Tybee.

With each speaker, I think "No one could be as good (they're ALL good) as the last one." But, as usual, he wowed us and kept us entertained and informed. And, of course, we were not shy, asking many questions after he gave his presentation.



### SEPTEMBER'S SPEAKER

Dr. Clark Alexander is the Director of the University of Georgia Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and a professor in the Dept. of Marine Sciences of UGA. Dr. Alexander joined the Skidaway Institute in 1989 and has worked with Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary for 19 years, investigating the Sanctuary to better understand the geologic processes that are important to development and maintenance of habitats.

He has been the chief scientist on 29

oceanographic cruises with a total of more than two years at sea. He has participated in 64 field programs from New Zealand to Siberia.



## SECRETARY/TREASURER, Dawson Long

Greetings Geechees! Solar projects are becoming popular again and, as you know, I desire to be popular. I have engaged a solar company to put solar panels on the roofs of 18 buildings at the Chelsea Apartments. What has your experience with solar on your vessel been like? Please be honest about how many YouTube videos you have watched about using solar on your boat.

I have considered growing my hair, tying it into a man bun, and sailing with solar to do the Great Loop. While some may think that I have gone a little "loopy," you must realize that I was born in California, and I used to drive a Volkswagen Vanagon!

I consider switching my dream

catamaran's motors to electric outboards. I think that perhaps I could motor-sail on the inside up the Intracoastal and then back on the outside in the Atlantic. It could save me from taking down my mast.

They are selling solar sail cloth for the expensive sailboats. I found this option with an electric motor. The electric drive is powered by an integrated system of Valence U24 lithium phosphate batteries and 600W solar panels. The solar panels are laminated right into the Mylar sailcloth mainsail, allowing the batteries to charge while sailing, and another array of panels are sewn into the bimini for charging while at anchor or dockside. In the J-88 configuration that we sailed, the mainsail had 9 solar panels on each side,

and the bimini had a zip-in 6-panel layout. The thin-film solar panels are as flexible as the sail itself, shape smoothly when hoisted, and flake easily over the boom (see photo). The panels can be placed in the lower third of the main for racing configuration, or in the mid-third for cruising. Find out more from [www.solar-cloth.com](http://www.solar-cloth.com)



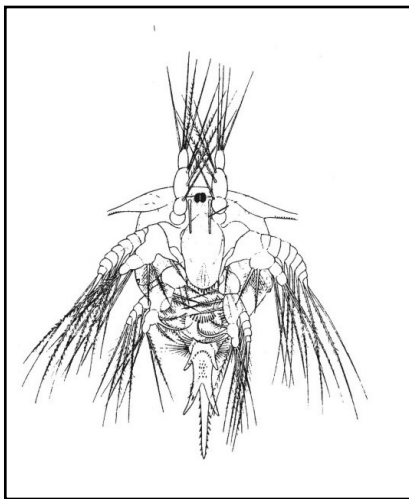
## COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

### HOW'S YOUR BOTTOM?

Are you a cirripedologist? You probably are and don't know it. It's actually the study of barnacles.

If you have a bottom, er, boat bottom, you have some experience. So...what are they, why are they a bad thing, and how do you get rid of them on your boat's hull?

Have you ever looked at one closely? Here's one:



Yikes! I had no idea!

A barnacle is related to crabs and lobsters, but is immobile (sessile). And...there are about 1,000 barnacle species known. What I deduced by my research is that we have acorn barnacles and goose barnacles around here.



The animal is fixed to your boat upside down by means of its forehead, lying on its "stomach" with its 8 pairs of feathery legs sticking out to catch plankton (and the females...sperm). It actually only has a head and thorax. It doesn't really have eyes, but does have 3 photoreceptors that signal a sudden decrease in light that causes the trap door to close. They have no heart and no gills, but absorb oxygen through their legs and inside lining.

How on earth do they stick so hard to our boats?! Well...they secrete a natural cement that can withstand a pulling strength of 5,000 pounds per square inch and a sticking strength of 22-60 pounds per square inch! That's how! Scientists are trying to duplicate it for our commercial use!

A ring of 6 plates (that continue to add calcification) cover the barnacle with an "operculum that can be recessed into the carapace" to retain water when the tide goes out. In boating language, it has a trap door it slides closed to seal up the hold.

The larvae go through 6 stages with the last stage (cyprid) being the stage where its only job is to find a suitable place to settle. This could

last from days to weeks. It has modified antennas that assess surfaces based upon their surface texture, chemistry, relative wet-ability, color, and the presence or absence and composition of a surface bio-film. Once attached, it undergoes metamorphosis into a "teenage" (juvenile) barnacle. (I think that's why they are so stubborn.)

Their predators (besides determined boat owners) are whelks that can grind through the exoskeletons, and mussels that eat the larvae.

So, what about your "bottom"? As you already know, a growth of barnacles on the hull will cause drag and increased fuel consumption. Sailors call them "crusty foulers." When attached to a boat's hull, barnacles have a negative impact on the hydrodynamic drag. The hard shells cause increased friction between the hull and water, which is directly related to increased fuel consumption and carbon emissions. **Ten percent barnacle cover can increase fuel consumption by 36%!**

The greatest concentration of barnacles are found in warm water. These areas are called "bio-fouling hotspots" (i.e. Savannah, GA). They also like places with lots of activity in our intertidal zones. Moving objects like boats, manatees, and whales are particularly vulnerable to these pesky critters.

On another note, goose barnacles are a delicacy in Spain, Portugal, and Japan. (No thanks!)

So HELP, what do we do about them?

## COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard (continued)

What I read says to use a combination of techniques. The main one would be ultrasonic antifouling, and the other would be a special paint.

Ultrasonic antifouling uses copper electrodes that work by emitting electronic sound waves in multiple frequencies simultaneously. This creates microscopic bubbles that create a pattern of negative and positive pressure in alternating waves. This acts as a micro-jet and destroys single-celled organisms like algae and bacteria. All you need to do is push a button and it does the work for you.

Painting protects the coat from fouling, but also acts as a water-proof barrier. The goal is to keep it slippery and sealed so Barnacle Bill cannot attach himself to your boat! By the way, I looked on-line for the 10 best paints and they mentioned Rust-Oleum's Marine Bottom Anti-fouling Paint as #1 (which can be found at Home Depot).

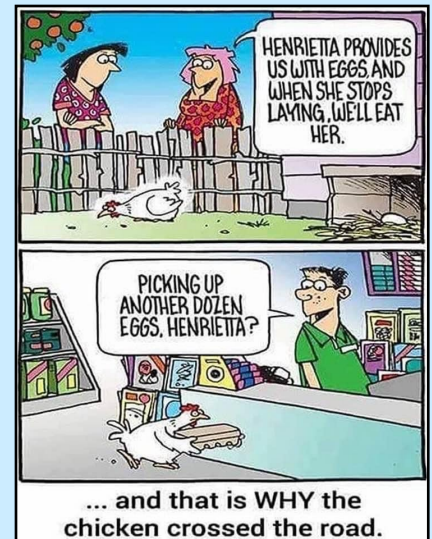
I bet you won't look at another barnacle the same way again! Meanwhile, say hi to Barnacle Bill:



**OLD AGE COMES AT A  
BAD TIME!  
WHEN YOU FINALLY  
KNOW EVERYTHING,  
YOU START TO FORGET  
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.**

**Whoever said  
"Out of sight, Out of  
mind"**

**never had a spider  
disappear in the  
bedroom.**



**A lot of people don't  
realize the actor that  
played Wilson in  
Castaway is the  
same actor from the  
volleyball scene in  
Top Gun.**



**THE BIGGEST JOKE  
ON MANKIND IS  
THAT COMPUTERS  
HAVE STARTED  
ASKING HUMANS  
TO PROVE THAT  
THEY AREN'T A ROBOT.**

## RACE CHAIR, Angela Margolit

The latest issue of *Cruising World* magazine (September 2022) has an article by Gary Jobson! Many of us just heard him speak last spring at the Savannah Yacht Club. Apparently while he was in town, he was able to hop on board a 33-foot catboat for the Catboat Rally. This started in Savannah and ended in Beaufort, racing along the various rivers and bays, and included a stop in Hilton Head. His article starts with an overview of Savannah and even mentions the *Midnight In the Garden of Good & Evil* book. Then he describes what it is like to sail in the Low Country and take in the local sights. What a joy to read!

Back to racing:

Last month, August 15-19, three of my fellow members of The Landings Sailing Club raced in the National Rhodes 19 Regatta held in Chicago. It was hosted by the Corinthian Yacht Club. With a borrowed boat and older sails, they didn't do as well as they had hoped, but they created memories for a lifetime. So be sure to congratulate Brian and Hannah Burtnik, plus Doug Powelson, when you see them!

And speaking of Doug Powelson, he is the primary organizer of the upcoming Hook Race. This long-distance ocean race has a course of almost 30 miles. If you are not racing but want to participate in the post-regatta activities at Landings Harbor Marina, let me know so I can get you through the security gate. The dockside bar will be open. There will also be an awards dinner starting around 6:30. Tickets are \$25 and should be purchased in advance.



## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Georgia Byrd

### Let's get happy every month in the Rhumb Line!

Amid our stunning Low Country scenery and occasional ventures to the Bahamas, Florida, South Carolina or the northeast, we can all agree on this fact: things happen on boats. We all have our crazy and difficult moments onboard our own vessels. Borrowing from a game we play with yacht crews in my line of work, I propose a monthly competition, of sorts: "I have never ...," or better, "Never Have I," or better yet, "I have" - a challenge for Geechee members!

### The stakes are high and I'm the judge!

Rules are easy: If you have experienced any one of these events, or something I haven't mentioned, send me your story! It's a fun way to get to know each other and at the same time, laugh at ourselves! Just send them to me at

[georgia@rjcyachts.com](mailto:georgia@rjcyachts.com)

### Here are some ideas:

I have never or I have:

- Put a tender on the hip of my boat in 6-foot swells
- Backed over the tender tow lines
- Deleted a chart course while underway
- Popped a fender
- Lost a hat in the wind
- Been pulled over by the Coast Guard after washing off the life-jackets and leaving them on the dock to dry
- Jumped to the dock before the boat was tied off
- Taken the grandkids tubing without tying the tube first

- Been anchored for months with no land in sight and only chips to eat
- Let your 85-year-old mother drive the boat
- Cleaned dog poop (or worse) from the deck.
- Given the helm over to a neighbor who is not boat savvy
- Had a stomachache onboard without an operational head
- Been attacked by a wild boar on an uninhabited island
- Done something stupid while docking in a crowded marina

Fess up! The winner each month will get a good pat on the back from members and laughter in their easy chair.

### I'll start:

I have: Fallen through a hatch missing the stairs completely and told those looking down at me that I was, "just fine."

### YOUR "OOPS":

(Jot down your stories here so you can share them with us at an upcoming party)



## 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:

R T O O M

S R S A G

G L N I F

Y S E M S

— — — — —

Answers to August's Scramble:    W E S S I N G E R

TWIST

STRUNG

GREEN

TUNE

## 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.

- Linda Meyer's family and close friends.
- Linda Howard with continuing post back surgery issues.

## 2022 OFFICERS

Commodore ..... Larry Sprague  
Vice Commodore ..... Linda Howard  
Secretary ..... Dawson Long  
Treasurer..... Dawson Long  
Past Commodore.....Dawson Long  
Social Chair ..... Mary Ellen Sprague  
Cruise Chair ..... Larry Sprague  
Race Chair..... Angela Margolit  
Membership Chair ..... Georgia Byrd  
Communications Chair/Editor.....Linda Howard

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