



COMMODORE, Larry Sprague

It has been nice getting back to normal, with COVID becoming less of a threat. Our monthly meetings and social events have been well attended, and once again we have been able to enjoy the company of fellow sailors. I have enjoyed working with the Board, and it is through their efforts that we have a strong club. Linda Howard will become the Commodore at the Change of Watch on November 11th, and she is already getting things lined up for 2023.

This weekend Mary Ellen and I are going to Gulf Port, Florida, for the tenth-year anniversary and crew reunion of the sinking of the HMS Bounty in hurri-

cane Sandy. Our daughter Anna and son-in-law Mark Warner were both on the *Bounty* when she sank on October 29, 2012. They are bringing their fourteen-month-old daughter, Addie, to the reunion. Although fourteen of the crewmembers were rescued, both Captain Robin Walbridge and deckhand Claudia Christian died in the sinking. The *Bounty* spent many years in St. Petersburg, and the captain's wife still lives there.

As a group that spends a lot of time on the water, we all take comfort in the knowledge that if the worst happens, we can depend on the Coast Guard to come get us. They are a dedi-

cated and well-trained group of professionals. I see them practicing water rescues every Tuesday night on the Wilmington River. Because of these skilled professionals, we now have a grandchild in addition to a great son-in-law. So we give thanks to those brave men and women of the Coast Guard who go out into the storm, to answer the cry of those in peril upon the sea.

(See page 2 for photos)

Fair winds and following seas,



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
EMAIL ADDRESS:
geecheesailingclub@hotmail.com
FACEBOOK:
Geechee Sailing Club

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

Socials:

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

December 17 - Christmas Party at Marsh Harbor Clubhouse

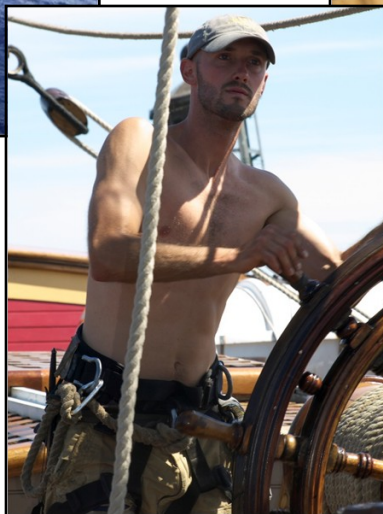
Cruises:

TBA in 2023

**NO MEETING AT HILLIARD'S
IN NOVEMBER**

**(THE MEETING IS THE CHANGE OF WATCH
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11,
AT THE SAVANNAH YACHT CLUB)
See Page 9**

COMMODORE, Larry Sprague (continued)



CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague

The last cruise of the year was to the Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival the weekend of October 23rd through the 25th. *Andiamo*, *Obedience*, *Wait for Me* and *Second Wind* were the four boats that made the trip. Everyone left on Friday, but only *Obedience* and *Wait for Me* actually arrived by Friday evening. *Andiamo* spent the night at Daufuskie while *Second Wind* only made it as far as the South Channel of the Savannah River.

Mary Ellen and I set out later than originally planned, and it was 5:30 PM by the time we left the fueling dock at the Savannah Yacht Club. As we added power to the engine leaving the dock, the boat's response was decidedly slow. It had been since just before Labor Day that the hull had been cleaned, and so I figured that was the reason for our lack of speed. Going against the tide we were doing about 3.5 Kts. Talk about a slow boat to China!

Nevertheless, the afternoon was perfect for being on the water. The temperature was in the low 70's with a nice north wind to keep the bugs away. As we neared Thunderbolt, a dolphin started to ride our bow wave. Standing on the bow, I could see it just under the water, leisurely keeping up with us. After a few minutes I called Mary Ellen up and took over the helm while she got to look at this wonderful sight. The dolphin stayed with us almost to the bridge and then peeled off.

Did I mention the engine was running hot? Instead of hanging around 160° F, the temperature gauge indicated about 183° F. Water was coming out of the port, but the quantity appeared to be less than usual. My guess was that the bottom growth had constricted the flow of water. As the temperature was holding steady, I decided to push on and dive on the boat on the morrow.

Saturday's dawn harbingered another beautiful Fall day. The night had been cool with the lows in the high 40's, but the sun rose in a clear sky with a nice breeze still blowing from the north. We had a slow morning, reading for awhile and then having a leisurely breakfast of French toast and sausages. I was in no rush to face the morning chill before taking my dive. Just before 10:00AM Mary Ellen helped me pull on the wet suit, as it had apparently shrunk a little sitting in the locker. I didn't know neoprene would do that.

Fortunately, the water temperature was still in the low 70's, so once over the initial shock of jumping into the water, I stayed relatively warm. The tide was rolling out at a good clip, so I had to keep a steady kick with my flippers just to stay in place. After clearing my face mask I dove down to the prop. What an ugly mess! It was covered by a fair

CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague (continued)

growth of barnacles and scum. No wonder we were unable to make any time! Taking several deep breaths and then plunging below for 30 to 40 seconds at a time I was able to clean the prop. Then I went to work on the water line and under the boat, making sure that the raw water intake was cleaned. At the end of half an hour I had had all of the fun I could stand and came out of the water, much to Mary Ellen's relief. My mentioning that I was well insured did not seem to relieve any of her worries. Maybe that is a good thing.

After returning topside, shucking off the wet suit and warmed up with a cup of hot chocolate, we weighed anchor and headed back to the ICW and across the main channel of the Savannah River. After passing the Freeport Marina on Daufuskie, I decided to try a shortcut by going down Bull Creek. We had plenty of water until we didn't. About halfway down, there was a stretch of shallow water that was impassible. I tried three different approaches but had to use the jib to turn around each time. So we had to back track to the Cooper River and then take the northward turn once we reached Calibogue Sound.

The afternoon was a perfect time to be on the water, and so the extra time spent getting to Bluffton was not a loss. As we motored down the May River with our mainsail set, I saw three dolphins approach us in line abreast. I almost expected to see someone on their backs riding them like horses. We arrived at Bluffton around 5:30 and anchored in front of the other boats that had arrived earlier.

My dinghy needed additional air, and Tommy lent us a foot pump with which we made her more seaworthy. Mary Ellen helped me lower the engine to the dinghy by holding onto the line running between the motor and block. It only took a little bit of grunting. A little more bit of grunting was

required to start the engine, but start it did. I left the motor in idle while we made our final preparations to go ashore, as I have found it best to let rarely used outboards run until very warm up. Preparations finished, we cruised to the dock, the passageway to dry land.

Mary Ellen and I walked up Calhoun Street and stepped over to the Old Town Dispensary. While waiting for a table, we got a call from Arthur Chapple who had driven from Savannah. Arthur is a new Geechee member and we had a delightful dinner with him. Although Arthur lived in Atlanta during his career, he has deep roots in Savannah. Following dinner, Arthur left for Savannah and we returned to the dinghy for the trip back to *Second Wind*. My prayer to the motor gods was answered with the roar of a small outboard starting.

Sunday morning again broke with clear skies. We took our time getting going, enjoying a slow morning with reading and breakfast. By 10:00AM we weighed anchor and were on our way back down the May River, running with the outgoing tide. After awhile we saw *Obedience* and *Wait for Me* gaining on us. My 30 horsepower engine was no match for the iron horses of the trawlers as they both slowly passed ahead. Once in Calibogue Sound *Obedience* and *Wait for Me* headed off to spend two days at Palmetto Bay Marina in Hilton Head while we continued on course to the Cooper River and Savannah.

We were cruising along nicely under mainsail and engine enjoying the late morning when the heat alarm went off. Throttling down was sufficient to cool the engine enough to stop the alarm, but we were only making 3.5 kts against the tide. The Freeport Marina was nearby and we (slowly) motored over to it. While Mary Ellen went to get some ice, I pulled out my tools and began tinkering with the engine. The raw water

strainer was clear and the impeller appeared to be intact and functioning. I tightened the belt for the water pump on the off chance that it was part of the problem, and because it was something that I know how to do. No joy when we started the motor. If anything, the problem was worse, as almost no water was coming out. I had checked to see if there was a mechanic available on the island but no luck.

The best option available to us at this point was to call Boat US. Mary Ellen gave them a call and they said that a boat would arrive around 3:30 PM. Fortunately she had purchased the "gold" plan, as it was just under 15 miles to home and would otherwise have been very expensive. It was still a nice Sunday afternoon, so lunch and a nap were in order.

True to their word, a tow boat arrive at the appointed time. Soon we were on our way, following in the wake of a twin engine boat at up to 7 knots. It was really very pleasant. We just had to steer in the wake of the tow boat and the noise from the boat's engines was minimal, to the point that we could hear the water rushing by our own boat. For the next two hours we followed the familiar route past Daufuskie Island, across the Savannah River, under the Causton Bluff bridges and then past Thunderbolt. The sun was getting low in the sky as we approached the Yacht Club. With the incoming tide, the tow boat was able to bring us straight into the dock against the current where we made fast. Home at last! Later than expected, but all in all a great trip.



VICE COMMODORE, Linda Howard

My neighbor, Matt Wesley, did a great job telling us about his position as a Harbor Pilot. If you weren't there, you missed an interesting time. As usual, we asked a lot of questions. I know that I would never aspire to a job like that. One false move and you wipe out Savannah's harbor! 8>)

Don't fret, though, if you missed it, because his dad is a retired Bar Pilot and has quite a few stories to tell. We will be hearing from him in 2023!



NOVEMBER'S MEETING

CHANGE OF WATCH
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11



HEADS UP

The meeting in December is the Christmas party on December 17.

There will be **no meeting in January** due to the UGA title game (hopefully). (Last year we had to cancel, so I checked the date. It will be January 9 - our regular meeting night again.)

**THEY SAY WITH AGE
COMES WISDOM SO
THEREFORE I DON'T
HAVE WRINKLES I
HAVE WISE CRACKS.**

Oldtimers9.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER, Dawson Long

Enroute to Bluffton last week, *Andiamo* stopped over to spent the night at Daufuskie Island. As members of the Geechee Sailing Club, we should pay homage to our namesake which honors the Geechee-Gullah people. I am honored to work with someone whose family still has some property on Daufuskie from long ago. Previous articles noted some of our experiences at the Daufuskie Island Rum Company and other stops. There is the new country store and *Daufuskie's*, the bar that opened up after *Marshside Mama's* closed. I would like for us to visit more often to give support to the different establishments.

Since I opened with alcohol at Daufuskie's Bar and the rum company, you should try the muscadine wine from the Silver Dew Winery.

Right next to it is the Lighthouse Museum. I do not know how many of us have braved riding a horse on the beach, but it sounds pretty cool. The Daufuskie Community Farm is a great way to meet some animals up close. Island characters are unique whether they are transplants or homegrown. It is very interesting speaking with the people who live on the island. It is almost like the Republic of Daufuskie with independent, free-spirited people. Daufuskie is certainly counter-cultural to Hilton Head.

The ideal cruise north for those of us still working is definitely a Friday night layover in the creek across the Cooper River from the Daufuskie Island Community dock. You can easily sail the next morning to Bluffton or Beaufort. Please check out this website of a world traveling photographer who pointed out the hot spots of Daufuskie Island. <https://throughjuliaslens.com/things-to-do-on-daufuskie-island/>

The balances for the month are \$16,760.65 for the Vanguard account and \$\$2,139.36 for the checking.



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

Finally...I had the time to go on one of our Geechee cruises. As Larry said, Tommy and I and Tim and Judy left Friday morning and made it up to Bluffton around 3:00. Instead of dinghying in, we all decided to just relax on our boats for the evening. It was quite cold that day and night, but we bundled up for a good night's sleep. However, Tommy jumped up at the crack of dawn to crank up the generator for the heater.

We were all ready to dinghy into the dock to wander the Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival the next morning, but they were having a children's fishing tournament and they wouldn't allow us up there until 10:30. It worked out well, though, because it warmed up and was a beautiful day. There were LOTS of people, which was good for their economy, but with our various body aches, it wasn't good for us. So we ducked into The Cottage for a nice noon meal. That night was dinner on our boats again, "witches" on paddle boards, and a surprise fireworks show!

Sunday I had a treat because a good friend of mine, Jane Carson-Sandler who wrote "Frozen in Fear," met me in front of her church (Church of the Cross) for a brief hug. (We were anchored just off of the church bluff.)

Sunday morning we headed on up to Palmetto Bay Marina. I had received an advertisement from them with a special dockage offer of \$1.90/ft. from October 1 to February 28. The marina was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2018 and is now brand new. We had two beautiful days (sunny and in the 70's) lazing around and eating at both the Black Marlin and Carolina Crab restaurants. Wonderful food! We will definitely be going back soon. Next time, I hope it will be a Geechee function.

P.S. The photo of one of the docks at Palmetto Bay is to show how long it is! They had us at one end and the Grissettes at the other. I complained until they moved us (since they had promised to dock us together - and close to the dock leading to land). And that photo wasn't even showing end to end.

Of course, Tommy and Tim spent some of the time fixing things that went wrong, but they would have been disappointed if it had been perfect!

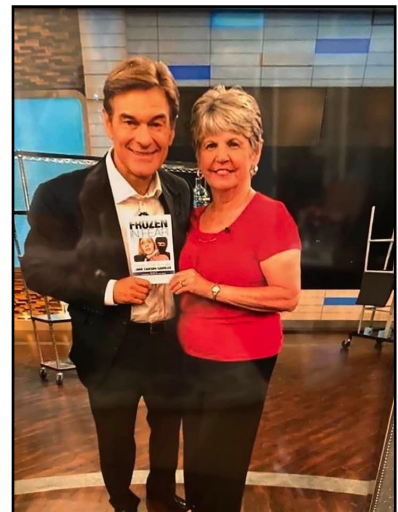
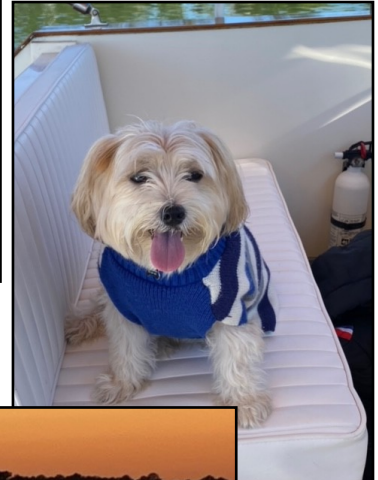


(See page 6
for more photos)

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.



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard (continued)



SOCIAL CHAIR, Mary Ellen Sprague

The next social event will be the **Change of Watch** on Friday, **November 11** at the Dockhouse at the Savannah Yacht Club. It is at this event that the new officers for 2023 will be installed, and we will welcome Linda Howard as our new Commodore. The evening will start at **6:00 p.m.** with drinks followed by a buffet dinner at 7:00 p.m., Change of Watch at 8:00 p.m., and dancing at 8:30 p.m., ending at 10:00 p.m. Dress will be "dressy casual", although many people enjoy a more formal evening and my husband will be wearing a suit.

If you did not sign up at our last meeting, please let me know as soon as possible that you are attending. We need to let the club know how many people are coming by the end of the day on

Friday, November 4th. Please call or text me at **912-659-7046** or e-mail me at

maryellen31406@gmail.com.

(See page 9 for invitation and payment info)

The cost of the function is fifty dollars per person, and there will be a cash bar. The fee does not completely cover the cost of the event, and the club will pick up the difference. We try to make the fee as reasonable as possible to encourage as many people as possible to attend.

When you arrive at the Dockhouse, please take note of the two wooden ship models over the fireplace. They were donated by Chic and Linda Meyer, two devoted and long-time

members of our club. Also take note of the nautical table decorations that have been crafted by Tommy Howard as well as by Jan Vach and Elke Quinn.

The buffet will include:

Salmon Piccata

Beef Short Ribs

Green Beans Amandine

Steamed carrots/broccolini

Potatoes Au Gratin

Rolls and Butter

White Chocolate and Blueberry

Bread Pudding with Crème Anglaise

Coffee and Iced Tea

Cash Bar:

Wine - \$9

Cocktail - \$8.50



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Georgia Byrd

Welcome to our new member, Dave Vreeland

Geechee Sailing Club monthly dinners have been enlightened by the company of visitor and new member, Dave Vreeland! Dave admits he's a west coast kind of guy who has spent the last 30 years living and working in San Diego. With maps in hand, he took off on a great adventure and travelled around the country, visiting places he had dreamed about, staying for a month or two in some locations. to start a new life in a new city.

His first visit to our lovely Savannah caught his eye. He attended church and started a conversation and friendship with Geechee member, Dawson Long, who invited him to the club.

"We talked about sailing and he invited me to your July meeting. I've been sailing my whole life...starting in high school when our family bought a Sunfish in Ocean City, New Jersey. Since then, I've sailed a number of different boats from a Capri 22 to a Foun-

taine Pajot 47 Catamaran. I've done some racing in Dana Point, CA, on a 36 Catalina and sailed a 40' Lagoon Catamaran for 10 days around Tahiti, Taha'a, Bora Bora, and Raiatea."

Dave is moving forward, participating in club activities and enjoying the camaraderie with fellow sailing and boating enthusiasts. "I'm looking to do some sailing here, of course, and potentially buy my first boat," he said. "I'm always interested in "crewing" as well."

Be sure to ask for the friendly and fun, Dave "San Diego" Vreeland at our next club meeting and be sure to welcome him to the friendliest place to live on the East Coast!

Note from the Editor: We now have a Dave Breland and a Dave Vreeland in the club! 8>)



RACE CHAIR, Angela Margolit

One of the reasons I moved south was to be able to play outside all year round! Since that, of course, includes sailing, I am very happy about the **Frostbite Series** over the winter. If I'm in town, I will be there!

Here are the dates:

FROSTBITE RACE SERIES SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 12: Frostbite #1
Saturday, Jan. 7: Frostbite #2
Saturday, Jan. 21: Frostbite #3
Saturday, Feb. 4: Frostbite #4
Saturday, Feb. 18: Frostbite #5
Saturday, March 4: Frostbite #6

Races will begin at noon on each Saturday. The start lines will be in the Wilmington River, in the vicinity of Government Marker G23. There will be multiple starts if needed for different classes, using a 5-minute start sequence.

A race committee boat will often be on station to run starts and keep scores. If a committee boat is not available for a race, then starts will be managed by other racers and each boat will record and report their own finish

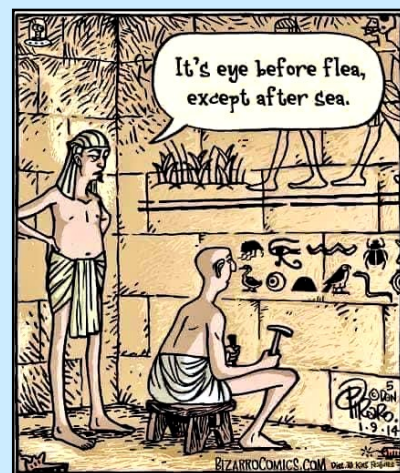
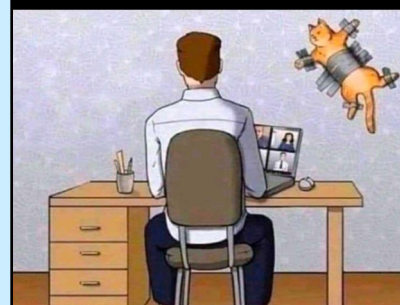
times via email.

The **McIntosh Cup Regatta** took place the weekend of October 15-16. The Savannah Yacht Club always does a wonderful closing ceremony with delicious chicken wings! I managed to snag a second place on the J/24 with new member **Nick Robertson** plus two ladies from my regular team. Beat the first place boat to the windward mark, though!

Plans are underway for the 44th **St. Patrick's Regatta**, which will be held March 25-26. I moved it back a week so as not to interfere with the numerous city-wide events going on the night before. I've already secured our PRO (Joleen) and RC Boat (Tim & Judy), but have lots of work ahead of me now. Fun!



How to prepare for a Zoom meeting





Geechee Sailing Club
Change of Watch

Savannah Yacht Club

Sail Loft

Friday, November Eleventh

Two Thousand Twenty-Two

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Dressy Casual

\$50 per person

Reservations & Cancellations by Nov. 4

*(Mail check to Mary Ellen Sprague at 104 Cedar View Lane
31410)*

made out to The Geechee Sailing Club)

CASH BAR ONLY

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:

L A P E

— — — — —

W L O E T

E I P L

T T L N A E

Answer to October's Scramble: C H A P P L E

PUMPKIN

LEMON

CITRUS

PATCH

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 Howard - Increasing back pain. Myelogram November 8.

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)