[November/December 2026 Issue]

GEECHEE SAILING CLUB RHUMB LINE

COMMODORE, Angela Margolit

I am happy to present to you a full board of directors for 2027!

- Commodore: me again!
- Vice Commodore: Larry Sprague
- Secretary: Elke Quinn
- Treasurer: Steve Allen
- Membership: Scott Lawson, assisted by Kris Hunter
- Communications/Rhumb Line Editor: Linda Howard
- Cruising: Dawson Long
- Race Chair: me again, but assisted by Lucia Marquez
- Member-At-Large: Kris Hunter
- Social Committee: Tommy Howard, Pam Allen, Mary Ellen Sprague, & Elke Quinn

We will continue to meet every month and hope to plan another year of activities!

Our field trip on the *R/V Sea Dawg* excursion was the morning of Thursday, Oct. 15. We all had a wonderful time! Please see all the photos and a couple of videos on our Facebook page.





Next up: The Lynx Schooner on Friday, Nov. 20. A few tickets are still available. They cost $70 each. Please let me know if you're interested.

We have entered the JW Marriott's Festival of Trees. We would like each member to bring a nautical ornament to the November meeting. Cindy will provide the garland of burgees, and the Geechee Burgee will be the topper! I have ordered LED nautical lights and a tree skirt. We will decorate it on Wednesday, Nov. 18. The trees will be on display from Nov. 19 to Jan. 3!



SPEAKERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Geechee Sailing Club members, Larry and Mary Ellen Sprague, will speak about their latest trip: sailing for two weeks on the *Stad Amsterdam*, a fully rigged, three-masted clipper ship!



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 ACTIVITIES

Socials & Cruises

Wednesday, November 18 – 9:00 a.m. Decorate our tree at the JW Marriott's Festival of Trees

Wednesday, November 18 – 5:30 p.m. for setup. Our showing of Mighty Mary at the Tybee Post Theatre

Friday, November 20, 1:00 p.m. – sailing on The Lynx schooner out of St. Simon's Island

Monday, December 14 – Combined Change of Watch and Christmas Party at the Marsh Harbor Clubhouse

COMMODORE, Angela Margolit (continued)

MIGHTY MARY



What happens when an all-female sailing crew takes on the America's Cup establishment—and challenges the sailing world's expectations of who belongs at the top?

That's the story behind *Mighty Mary*, the new documentary about grit, determination, and a groundbreaking team of women who dared to challenge "Mr. America's Cup." As Jesse van Amburg wrote in Oprah Daily: "You'll cheer, cry, and rage right alongside these incredible athletes as the drama unfolds...If you loved *Remember the Titans* or *A League of Their Own* you'll want to snag a ticket to this film."

The Geechees are proud to present a one-time-only viewing here in Savannah of the *MIGHTY MARY* documentary on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Tybee Post Theatre. All of the area boating clubs have been invited to set up a booth on the promenade to tell attendees about their clubs, starting at 6pm. Then, at 7pm, Angela will kick off the presentation from center stage.



To purchase tickets, please visit
https://ci.ovationtix.com/36415/production/1292260?performanceId=11873931

PAST & FUTURE CLUB PROGRAMS/SPEAKERS

SEPTEMBER 14

Steve Smith, Executive Director of The Massie Heritage Center spoke and showed pictures of the history of the Massie School (now the Heritage Center). One of our members even saw herself in one of the pictures, having attended Massie for three years in the 50's.



OCTOBER 12

Our speaker was Molly Carrott Taylor, Executive Director of the Ships of the Sea Museum. She was a wonderful, knowledgeable speaker.



NOVEMBER 9

Larry & Mary Ellen Sprague will be sharing their 2-week trip in July on the *Stat Amsterdam* – a fully rigged three-masted schooner!



DECEMBER 14

Our combined Change of Watch and Christmas Party to be held at the Marsh Harbor Clubhouse.
More information to follow.



VICE COMMODORE, Larry Spraque

The November speaker will be Larry Sprague, our Vice Commodore. The talk will be about the voyage he and Mary Ellen took aboard the *Stad Amsterdam*, a full-rigged sailing ship, from Boston to the Azores this past spring.

The speaker for January will be Captain Jake Ross (Retired). He served for twenty years starting in the late 1970's. Jake served as captain on several US Navy ships, including two guided missile cruisers. On one of his shore assignments Jake carried the "football", the nuclear launch codes which always accompany the president, for President George H.W. Bush.

Ever wonder what ship Gen. Oglethorpe sailed on across the Atlantic to Savannah? Well, wonder no more. But the *Ann* was only the first of fourteen ships to arrive the first year, as will be seen in the following.

General Oglethorpe's ship was named the *Ann*. She was a British galley (sometimes referred to as a frigate) of about 200 tons, roughly 87 feet long and 26 feet wide at the beam. The Ann was a medium-sized ship for the early 18th century.

As a galley, the *Ann* was a single-masted sailing ship with a square-rigged mainsail, giving it a distinctive "canvas-winged" profile. Its hull was built for stability and cargo capacity, with a deep hold to accommodate passengers, supplies, and provisions for the two-month voyage from Gravesend, England, to the New World. The interior would have been arranged with berths for passengers, storage for goods, and space for the crew, all in a compact, multi-deck layout typical of colonial transport ships of the era.

Contemporary accounts describe the *Ann* as a sturdy, well-equipped vessel. It was not a luxury ship, but a practical workhorse of the colonial era — long, narrow, and built for endurance rather than speed. The "white sails" mentioned in early narratives were part of its standard rigging, and the ship's silhouette would have been familiar to sailors of the time: a single mast, square sails, and a low, broad hull.

The *Ann* departed Gravesend, England, on Friday, November 17, 1732, with a crew of about twenty sailors and with 112-144 passengers, including Gen Oglethorpe, clergy, and colonists. The ship's captain was Captain John Thomas. The *Ann*'s first leg was a short voyage to Madeira (a Portuguese island in the Atlantic), where it loaded about 5 tons of wine for the journey. The second leg took the *Ann* to Charles Town (Charlestown), SC, where it arrived on January 13, 1733. The *Ann* then proceeded to Beaufort, SC, arriving January 20, 1733, where the colonists boarded small boats to travel the inland waterway to Yamacraw Bluff, arriving February 1, 1733. Thus, the *Ann* never made it to Savannah. Those of us that have traveled the inland waterway between Savannah and Beaufort can have a great deal of sympathy for the crew and passengers trying to sail and/or row the eleven days in the small boats to Yamacraw Bluff.

The Savannah townsite was selected by Oglethorpe who negotiated with Tomo-Chi-Chi (1644-1739), chief of the Yamacraw, and Mary Musgrove, the Muscogee (Creek) and British niece of Emperor Brim of the Muscogee (Creek) Indians, who acted as interpreter.

The arrival of the colonialists from the *Ann* were only the first group of settlers to arrive in 1733. Some fourteen ships in total brought up to 650 settlers in the first year. The first settlers were made up of two groups of people:

Those that came contracted by the Georgia Board of Trustees, usually with large numbers of Charity colonists aboard; and

VICE COMMODORE, Larry Spraque

Those embarkations that were sponsored by third-parties.

There were some 525 colonists among that first category of Trustee-sponsored embarkations. Below are the eleven ships that brought these colonialists to Savannah.

Vessel	Departed	Arrived	Arriving Passengers	Weeks At Sea
Anne	Nov. 17, 1732	Port Royal, Jan. 21, 1733	117	8
Volante	Dec. 1732	Charlestown, by Feb. 24, 1733	4	11
James	Jan. 25, 1733	Savannah, May 14, 1733	19	16
Peter & James	April 4, 1733	Port Royal, July 14 or 16, 1733	23	15
Georgia Pink	June 15, 1733	Savannah, August 29, 1733	88	11
Susannah	May 1733	Savannah, Sept. 23, 1733	12	18
Savannah	Sept. 12, 1733	Savannah, Dec. 15, 1733	129	13
London Merchant	Sept. 21, 1733	Savannah, January 12, 1734	5	16
James (2)	Sept. 28, 1733	Savannah, Jan. 14, 1734	47	15
Hopewell	Dec. 28, 1733	Charlestown, by March 30, 1734	1	13
Purrysburg	Jan. 8, 1734	Savannah, March 12, 1734	80	8

Approximately 110 additional colonialists arrived on three non-Trustee ships.

Pearl	Charlestown, June 12, 1733	app. 30
William & Sarah	Savannah, July 10, 11, or 12, 1733	41-74
Unnamed Irish transport vessel	Savannah, late Dec., or early Jan. 1733/1734	40

The above 14 ships brought a combined total of approximately 650 persons to Georgia over the first year. Some of the vessels claimed prizes offered by the Trustees (*James* and the *Georgia Pink*) for navigating the Savannah River and offloading their passengers/cargo directly, while others (*Anne* and *Peter and James*) never came closer than Port Royal; the *Volante*, *Pearl* and *Hopewell* never came closer than Charlestown. Some ships would never again be found within the Georgia record; others would become a frequent site at harbor.

The *William and Sarah* brought Georgia's Jewish contingent, while the *Peter and James* brought the colony's permanent minister, Samuel Quincy. The Anne and the *Purrysburg* achieved the quickest passage across the Atlantic at just eight weeks; at the other end of the spread, the *Susannah* spent a numbing 18 weeks at sea. This *Susannah* migration was made up mostly of secondary family members from the *Anne* finally coming to join their loved ones in Savannah, including the families of Thomas Causton and Timothy Bowling, and the wife of Joshua Overend. In a cruel twist of fate, Elizabeth Bowling would find herself widowed only five weeks after her arrival. In an even crueler twist of fate, Mary Overend would already find herself widowed the moment she set foot ashore, her husband having died two months before.

From the beginning, as a planned city, Savannah was subdivided into wards, and the initial population of each ward often came from particular ships. The *Ann*'s roster would come to fill Derby Ward, the passengers from the *James* and the *William & Sarah* were largely placed in Decker Ward, the *Georgia Pink* passengers were used to fill out Percival Ward, while Heathcote Ward became the home to passengers from the *Savannah,* and the English contingent from the *Purrysburg*.

VICE COMMODORE, Larry Spraque

But the contributions of the ships of 1733 were not confined to just Savannah. The *Pearl* colonists were used to create the settlement at Thunderbolt. A third of the *Georgia Pink* contingent was used to create the Tybee settlement. Three ships made up the "September Embarkation," accounting for 181 people: the *Savannah*, the *London Merchant* and the second arrival of the *James*. These contributed populaces not only to Savannah but also founded the villages at Abercorn, Highgate and Skidaway.

The *Purrysburg* brought over the long suffering and much-delayed Salzburgers, to found Ebenezer, while the unnamed Irish transport vessel that limped into harbor at the end of 1733 supplied the colony with its first large influx of servants, including the notorious Alice Riley, and other Irish mischief-makers who would later feature in the 1735 Red String Plot. Thus, in the first year of the colony, four of the groups that still make up a large proportion of Savannah's population arrived – the English, Jews, Salzburgers, and Irish. The great American melting pot was already being prepared.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE, Tommy Howard & Cindy Tutor

If you missed the party at Art Chapple's house on the ICW, you missed a great time!

A beautiful setting, good food, and good friends! The homemade ice cream was a big hit: peach, banana, and vanilla custard were the choices. Thanks to Linda Howard for the vanilla, and Cindy Tutor for the banana and peach! The winner of the $20 cash prize was awarded to Cindy and Neal Tutor for the peach!

Thanks to Art for hosting it and to Kevin for all the grilling – and to others who pitched in, as always, to help set up and clean up.

Art's lights that were strung around the lawn and the beautiful sunset added a magical touch!



….Tommy

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Geechee Sailing and Boating Club Holiday Party
and Change of Watch Celebration

The Geechee Sailing and Boating Club invites members to celebrate the holiday season at the combined Holiday Party and Change of Watch Event on Monday, December 14, 2026.

This special evening will bring members together for fellowship and celebration as the club recognizes its accomplishments from the past year and welcomes its incoming leadership team.

Guests will enjoy an evening of camaraderie with cocktails and food provided. Members are encouraged to dress to celebrate the season and join in the festive spirit as we gather with friends and fellow sailing and power boat enthusiasts.

An invitation to the event will be forthcoming with additional details, including event information and other important updates.

We look forward to celebrating with all members as we close out the year and welcome new adventures ahead on and off the water.

….Cindy



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Scott Lawson

What a glorious evening we had at Art Chapple's house for our cookout and ice cream soirée. Perfect conditions and a nice group of our members. Thanks to Art, Vera, and our social committee for a great time!

In attendance were some NEW MEMBERS: Daniele and Liebeth Turbati. They live on Skidaway Island and keep their sailboat (*Last Leg)* in Sicily. Yes Italy! Please introduce yourselves and welcome them to our group.



As usual, please feel free to bring guests to our gatherings. The more the merrier?

RACE CHAIR, Angela Margolit

Introducing: SHIPS - The Savannah HIgh Point Series!

As you may know, the Geechee Sailing Club had always been a sponsor of the SAYRA Offshore Championship. Unfortunately, they discontinued it two years ago for various reasons. We, the Geechees, are going to resurrect a similar Championship - but only for regattas that start and/or end in Savannah. We would like to give out trophies at an after-party.

The trophy would go to any skipper/boat that participates in our regattas or a race series and accumulates the most points in these events:
1. Frostbite Series - which ends two weeks before the:
2. St. Patrick's Regatta
3. Hook Race
4. Summer Series
5. Oktoberfest Regatta
6. Wassaw Cup/McIntosh Cup

Points are awarded for participation and performance throughout the series. Awards will go to those who finish first, second, and third in their class.

The Notice of Race, as well as all future updates, will be posted on our website: https://www.geecheesailingclub.org/ships-racing

NOVEMBER REGATTAS

7-8: CSC/LSC – Frostbite Series Race #1
Note that this is the first event for SHIPS 2027! To register: CSC 2026-27 Frostbite Series - Race 1

21-22: SYC – Wassaw Cup/McIntosh Cup, Wilmington River
To register, visit Regatta Network->C

For the Frostbite race: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-YyGKy2kjNQN_UvJ5Tn7RHSzgZaUf6lGg3a7OtaxvhV1f7Q/viewform

For the Wassaw/MacIntosh Cup: https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/31933



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/EDITOR, Linda Howard

Night Navigation Lights vs. Day Shapes- How Boats Communicate Their Status

Navigation lights are used **from sunset to sunrise** (and in restricted visibility at any time) to show a vessel's position, heading, and operational status. **Day shapes** are **black geometric signals** displayed **during daylight hours** to convey the same information when lights are not visible.

Navigation Lights (Night)
Sidelights: Red on the port side, green on the starboard side - each visible over a 112.5° arc from ahead to 22.5° abaft the beam.
Masthead (steaming) light: White, forward, visible over 225° arc.
Stern light: White, at the rear, visible over 135° arc.
Special lights: All-round white (anchor), red/green/yellow all-round (special status), towing lights (yellow).
These lights tell you **which way the vessel is heading, whether it's under power, and if it's anchored or in a special condition**.

Day Shapes (Day)
Day shapes are **black, geometric objects** placed where easily seen.

Wikipedia states:
Ball: Single = vessel at anchor; two vertical = not under command; three vertical = aground.
Cone: Point down = sailboat under power; two points together = fishing.
Diamond: Towing (towed or towing >656').
Cylinder: Constrained by draft. This is my favorite…on a sandbar. Or, to put it another way…"meaning its ability to change course is severely limited by the depth and width of the navigable water available to it."
Shapes are often combined (e.g., **ball–diamond–ball** = restricted in ability to maneuver).

How They Work Together
Night: Lights replace shapes; color and arrangement indicate status and heading.
Day: Shapes replace lights; color is not used, but geometry and placement are.
Restricted visibility: Both lights and shapes may be shown.
Key point: Recognizing these signals helps you determine a vessel's type, direction, and maneuvering ability - critical for collision avoidance.
Example:
At night: Red–white–red lights = RAM (restricted in ability to maneuver).
By day: Ball–diamond–ball = RAM.
Tip: Always identify the vessel's lights or shapes before approaching, and treat any uncertainty as a collision risk.

You don't need to memorize every possible combination to understand all the shapes and lights. However, learning the basic ones can keep everyone safe. If you don't recognize something, slow down and maintain a safe distance.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/EDITOR, Linda Howard (continued)

Navigation status	Day shape	Restriction
Vessel under sail & power	Cone	> 12m
Anchored	Ball	> 7m (not in channel) > 20m (in anchorage)
Constrained by draft	Cylinder	
Aground	3 balls (vert. line)	> 12m
Not under command	2 balls (vert. line)	> 12m
Restricted in ability to maneuver	1 ball+1 diamond+1 ball	> 12m (except dive boats)
Fishing (commercial)	2 cones (vert. line)	> 20m (but must display (nets or trawling) basket shape
Vessel towing	Diamond	Tow > 200m
Vessel being towed	Diamond	Tow > 200m

1 meter = 3.28 feet



CRUISE CHAIR, Dawson Long

FALL ABOARD: COMPLETE FALL CHECKLIST
FOR SAVANNAH'S SAILBOAT OWNERS

We ought to complete an Autumn maintenance checklist covering our sailboat, rigging, and systems. Power boats need to pay attention as well. Many of our boats are in repair mode which prevented a number of us from cruising to Beaufort for the Arts Festival. So, this checklist is as much for me as it is for you. Fall offers some of the finest sailing weather in the Southeast. Completing seasonal maintenance now helps prevent breakdowns and extends equipment life. Let's play safe on the water.

Fall Sailboat Checklist:
☐ Inspect hull and bottom paint
☐ Replace worn zincs
☐ Inspect propeller and shaft
☐ Exercise all seacocks
☐ Inspect standing rigging, chainplates, and turnbuckles
☐ Inspect running rigging for chafe
☐ Service winches
☐ Wash and inspect sails
☐ Test batteries and charging system
☐ Inspect shore power cords
☐ Test bilge pumps and floats
☐ Sanitize freshwater system
☐ Review hurricane preparations

Diesel Engine Checklist
☐ Change engine oil and filter
☐ Replace primary and secondary fuel filters
☐ Drain water separator

CRUISE CHAIR, Dawson Long (continued)

- ☐ Fill fuel tank and add stabilizer/biocide
- ☐ Inspect fuel hoses
- ☐ Inspect raw-water impeller
- ☐ Check coolant level
- ☐ Inspect belts and tension
- ☐ Examine mixing elbow
- ☐ Inspect exhaust hoses
- ☐ Test glow plugs and starting circuit
- ☐ Check alternator output

Safety Equipment

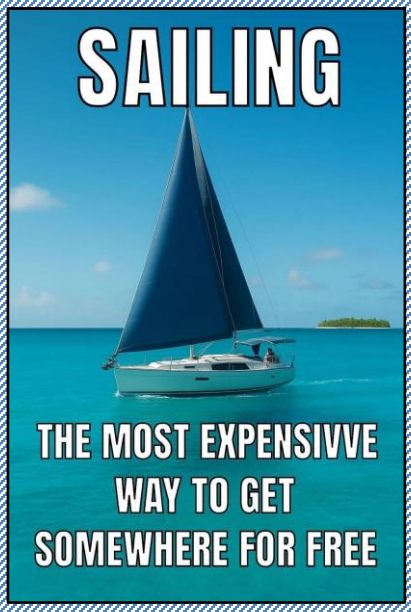
- ☐ Check life jackets
- ☐ Inspect fire extinguishers
- ☐ Verify EPIRB registration
- ☐ Replace expired flares
- ☐ Test VHF and AIS
- ☐ Review MOB procedures











FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Unscramble each word, then take the letters that are underlined and unscramble them to come up with:

A NAUTICAL TERM _ _ _ _ _ _

G H I R T B

L E N I P C

R E V N E

T I R N A

Answer to SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER Scramble: **GENERATOR**

ENGINE
TRANSMIT
ROBOT
PAIN

SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS

This column is for club members to support other members "in need" health-wise (phone calls, visits, prayers, meals, etc.). Let me know of anyone you want to add. I will also get approval before entering any names into this column. Please text me at 912/658-7398.

Also, if you have (or know someone who has) a need to sell something, let me know that as well.

Tommy & I will be moving in the next few months, so I will be listing things to sell or give away. For now…I have 3 good HP printers, 3 monitors (1 large, 1 medium and 1 small), and 1 combined computer and touch-screen monitor. We had our computer system totally rebuilt by a cyber security professional, and now these items, although in perfect condition, do not meet his requirements for our new system. In a way, I wish I had never changed. However….

2026 OFFICERS

Commodore……Angela Margolit
Vice Commodore……Larry Sprague
Past Commodore……Linda Howard
Secretary……Larry Sprague
Treasurer……Steve Allen
Cruise Chair……Dawson Long
Membership Chair……Scott Lawson
Communications Chair……Linda Howard
Race Chair……Angela Margolit
Social Committee……Tom Howard, Cindy Tutor
Pam Allen, Mary Ellen Sprague
Member-At-Large……Carl Ericsson