



GEECHEE SAILING CLUB RHUMB LINE

Great Circle 3150 NM



COMMODORE, Linda Howard



We did it again! We had a great Geechee party! This time it was our annual Oyster Roast.

Judy Grissette did a fantastic job getting it together. Thanks Judy! She also had help from Audrey Debien and Pam Allen who greeted at the door with the cash box and hand stamp. 8>)

Also...thanks to all who brought yummy sides for our oysters, hamburgers, and hotdogs, and Tommy who tended the oysters.

It was supposed to be the coldest night of the year, but that never stops a sailor, and it didn't stop all the oyster eaters either!

Here are a few pictures:



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:

Saturday, March 23 - St. Patrick's Regatta Awards - Molly McGuire's

Saturday, November 16 - Change of Watch - Savannah Country Club

Cruises:

Saturday, May 25 to Monday, May 27 - Cruise to Odingsell (Ossabaw)

MARCH'S SPEAKER:
KRISTINA WILLIAMS CARROLL
Kris is the Director of the
Caretta Research Project here in Savannah



VICE COMMODORE, Kathleen Buckley-Warshaw, by Linda Howard

JANUARY SPEAKER

Our speaker in January was our own Neal Tutor. He had a slide show about the cruise he and his wife (Cindy) and son (Carson) took to the Bahamas with a flotilla of Pursuit boats.

It looked like a lot of fun and made us all want to join them next year. However...you'd have to buy a Pursuit boat first. Darn!



MARCH SPEAKER

Our March 11 speaker will be Kristina Williams Carroll. She is the Director of the Caretta Research Project on turtles. Here is her bio:

Kris has been working with sea turtles since 1990, after graduating with a Master's Degree in Biology from the Buffalo State College in New York. She has a long history of working with various types of sea turtles in different locations: Kemp's ridleys in New York and Mexico, leatherbacks in Costa Rica, and loggerheads in Florida and Georgia. In 1996 she was hired as the Director of the Caretta Research Project (CRP) in Savannah and has been working there happily ever since.



FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Capt. Lux Lakshman was our speaker in February. "Captain" drew a large crowd of interested sailors to the meeting with his Power Point presentation about his experience as the Captain of the vessel *M.V. Eagle* in 1991 during the Perfect Storm. He is mentioned in Sebastian Junger's book, *The Perfect Storm*.

Captain is owner of Viksniks Consultants, a company specializing in Risk Management for Oil Tankers and Terminals. He is also a Commissioner of the Savannah Pilotage Commission, serves on the Board of Trustees at Savannah Country Day School, and is incoming President of the Rotary Club of Savannah. Thank you, Captain, for a very interesting presentation.



APRIL SPEAKER

Our speaker for April 8 will be our Cruise Chair, Larry Sprague. He will be recounting, with a Power Point presentation, his daughter's terrifying experience as a crew member on the replica of *The Bounty* that sank October 29, 2012.



SOCIAL CHAIR, Judy Grissette

The Valentine's Party was actually a success, even though we had a low turnout and had to postpone the Marriage Game. It meant more food for us and a fun time while we shared boating stories.



TREASURER, Dawson Long

As I write this article to the most premier sailing club in this region, the word that comes to mind is "contentment." It may be ironic that I am writing to a sailing club of yacht owners about contentment. I have been struggling with contentment with the sailboat that I have.

When bringing people to mind, I selfishly remember them by how big their boats are. Most of the time, I engage people the same way whether they have a sailing dinghy or a 47-foot catamaran. But I am envious to be able to buy that bigger boat. The logic that I use to get a bigger boat is that my wife could like it because it would go faster and not heel over. The real reason that I want a bigger boat is

that I could go faster, impress my friends, and enjoy the amenities.

Contentment is not merely being satisfied with the status quo. As my grandfather said, "Act like a duck. Appear calm and unruffled on the outside, but paddle like hell underneath." I also like the saying "work hard and play hard." Someone also said "Be the calming person in the room; peoples' emotions will tend to draw things sideways."

Contentment in the truest sense must be approached from a spiritual level. Worrying about things like smokin' hot catamarans versus what I've got does not help anyone's blood pressure. Worrying about the health of a loved one

does not help the body either. Being anxious or judgmental about whether the doctor is doing his best to heal a loved one harms you and your relationships with family and the hospital staff. Earl Nightingale wrote about sales which also applies to life, "Do your homework, show up, pay attention, ask questions, and do not be attached to the outcome." In the scriptures, it says "Be anxious for nothing..."



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/EDITOR, Linda Howard

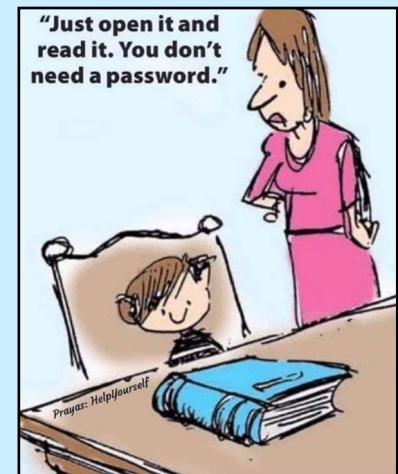
IT'S SPRING CLEANING TIME FOR YOUR BOAT!

I always read the *BoatUS* magazine for tips and found in the latest edition a good list of to-do's for us boat owners.

It listed ten suggestions. I know that most of us are seasoned sailors, but just in case.... These go beyond the cleaning, polishing, sanding, and varnishing; and the renewing of your registrations, insurance, fishing license, BoatUS membership, and checking of your flare expiration dates.

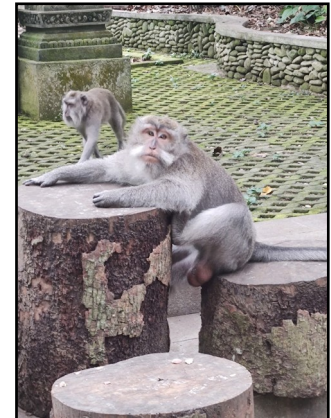
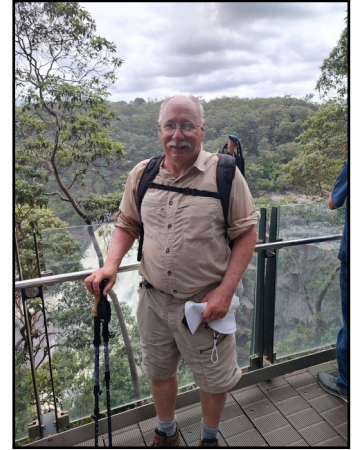
1. **Investigate thru-hulls.** Plastic fittings can break down from stress and ultraviolet light. Often a small crack progresses until the flange falls off, leaving a gaping hole in your hull - and potentially lots of water where it shouldn't be.
2. **Check out all hose clamps.** Make sure that none are suffering from corrosion. (Yes, stainless steel can rust!) Check that exhaust and fuel-fill hoses are double-clamped.
3. **Scrutinize hoses.** While you're looking at the clamps, check all your hoses: fuel, exhaust, septic, raw water, fresh water. They have a shelf life, and you could find yourself with big problems if you forget about them. Look for cracks, splits, dry rot, and chafing, and ensure that the clamps aren't cutting into or crushing the hoses.
4. **Inspect the raw-water pump impeller.** Impellers can last a few years under normal operation, but it's cheap and easy insurance to change them yearly to avoid engine overheating due to wear and failure - and broken rubber impeller parts going into internal engine passageways.
5. **Test the bilge pump float switch.** Floating arm-type switches must be securely mounted, oriented with the flapper pointed toward the stern and clear of obstructions like wires, hoses, and debris.
6. **Assess stern drive bellows, if you have them.** These play a crucial role in maintaining your boat's watertight integrity. Fully extend them to look for cracks and splits, especially in the folds.
7. **Examine shore power cords, plugs, and receptacles.** If any of these overheat, they can cause electrical fires. Tip: avoid plugging and unplugging AC connectors while energized. Tiny pits created on surface connections from this practice can lead to resistance and heat buildup.
8. **Look for and remove battery corrosion.** Corrosion buildup on battery posts may prevent a battery from charging. This leads to your engine not starting...and a call to TowBoatUS to get home.
9. **For those with trailerable boats, check your trailer.** Water can get trapped inside your trailer's axle tube, leading to catastrophic failure. Verify that the axle is completely sealed or that it can drain properly. Check for bent or twisted members, nonfunctioning lights, cracked welds, missing hardware, and corrosion. Replace your tires (including the spare) if they're more than four years old or show cracks in the sidewalls.
10. **Check fluid levels.** Get into the habit of checking oil and transmission fluid levels before you start your engine - EVERY TIME. Also check coolant levels if you have a freshwater system. You'll catch potential problems early and avoid huge repair bills. Be sure to carry extra oil and fluid on cruises.

P.S. Fire extinguishers must not be more than 12 years old.



CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague, by Linda Howard

With Larry and Mary Ellen cruising the Pacific Ocean (New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Vietnam, etc.), I thought I'd just put in a few pictures from their trip so far. When they get back, Larry will wow us with their stories and photos. But for now, a few random pics....



A man asked me for a dollar. I told him I only carry big bills. He said give me one of those. I gave him my electric bill.

One way to lift your mood is to imagine all the nice things Steve Irwin would say about you if you were a lizard and he found you sunning yourself on a log. 🦎

You know you're getting old, when you look at the clock, to see if it's late enough to go to bed.

RACE CHAIR/WEBSITE MGR, Angela Margolit



Our 45th Annual St. Patrick's Regatta will be held March 23-24 on the Wilmington River, Wassaw Sound, and, if the weather cooperates, out to the Atlantic Ocean!

Can you please donate an item for the **Tricky Tray Raffle** to be held Saturday evening, March 23rd? Please bring it to the March general meeting and give it to Linda Howard. If you cannot make it, just call me and I'll come to you.

For this year's St. Patrick's Regatta, I've had the most sponsors ever! They are:

- Boat US / Tow Boat Savannah - Dana & Esther Rutland
- Cay Insurance Services – Christopher Cay (Dawson's Brother)
- Celebritees – Chris Ramsey
- Chelsea at Five Points Realty (Apartments) – Dawson Long
- Driftaway Café – Robyn Quattlebaum
- Hassell Realty Co., Inc. – Linda Howard
- Hinckley Yacht Services - Dustin Hartley
- Landings Harbor Marina - Larry Sincoskie & Jen Sabo
- Molly McGuire's – Melissa McCurry & Katie Murphy
- Rentgrata – Ben Margolit
- RJC Yachts – Georgia Byrd
- Savannah Marina – Rory Jose
- Savannah Steel Scaffold – Anna & Tayloe Highsmith
- Sunlife Marinas (formerly Hogan's Marina) – Bubba Strickland
- Thunderbolt Marine- Ernie D'Alto
- Town of Thunderbolt – Dana Williams (Mayor) & Katina Spaulding
- West Marine – Brittany Westberry

Yates Astro Termite & Pest Control – Mark Willman
Sail Savannah - Andrew Savage

The Competitors' meeting will take place via Zoom at 7pm on Friday night. The Fleet races will start at Noon on Saturday for **three** classes: Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker, and Rhodes 19s. Then on Sunday we'll have the Pursuit Race, where start times are based on PHRF ratings. The slowest boat will start at 11am.

Similar to last year, we are again having a social gathering at the "Pole Barn" at Molly McGuire's on Wilmington Island from **5 to 8pm** Saturday. Admission for skippers and their crews is included with their registration fee. All other guests (including Geechee members) only have to pay \$10. There will be light buffet and free beer! **If you can volunteer to help me sell raffle and dinner tickets, please let me know.**

Running the show on the water again will be:

- The Grissettes with the RC Boat Carl Ericsson from the Power Squadron with the Mark Boat, assisted by Al Stiles from the Landings Sailing Club
- Joleen Rasmussen as our Professional Race Officer

If you have someone who would like to participate in our 45th Regatta, please have them register on the Regatta Network: <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/27399>

In other news, I attended the National Sailing Programs Symposium, sponsored by US Sailing, on Feb. 1-3 here in Savannah at the DeSoto Hotel. There were over 400 attendees from all over the country!

The keynote speakers were especially interesting:

The opening speaker was Eric Kapitulik, Founder and CEO of "The Program". His presentation began with a 1999 video of his helicopter snagging the net at the stern of an aircraft carrier and crashing, killing six marines. In an effort to raise money for a college scholarship fund set up for the children of his deceased teammates, Eric has completed eight Ironman Triathlons and numerous other incredible events. Some key points he made:

- Trust is based on communication – where you LISTEN to Understand
- Goals are Performance-based but Standards are Behavior-based



The next day, Dawn Riley (who is in the National Sailing Hall of Fame and the international America's Cup Hall of Fame) interviewed Sandra Stosz, retired US Coast Guard Vice Admiral. She told stories of her polar ice-breaking cruises and close encounters with...Sailors!

She said that the three Ps of Power are:

- Personal
- Professional
- Position (but use this as a last resort)

Two mantras of the Coast Guard:
Don't underestimate Mother Nature
Know the Right-of-Way Rules!

RACE CHAIR/WEBSITE MGR, Angela Margolit (continued)



The final day was a presentation by Charlie Enright of the 11th Hour Team. In his third consecutive challenge for Volvo Ocean Race last summer, he skippered 11th Hour Racing team again and won the series. Background story: The team was leading the overall race with just one leg to go, when, on June 25, 2023 in The Hague, just 27 minutes after the start, the team was forced to retire from the final leg, following a no-fault collision with a competing team. The team put in a request for redress to the World Sailing International Jury and, following the hearing on June 29, the Jury had awarded 11th Hour Racing Team 4 points of redress, which gave them 37 points and a first place on the overall race leader board.

Charlie also talked about communicating in high pressure environments. "It's not what you say. It's what they HEAR." And if you see someone make a mistake, your first words should be "I've done that!"

Several awards were given out at the general sessions. One of the winners of the Community Award gave the keys to her success:

- Reach out to EVERYONE (be inclusive)
- Keep it affordable
- Make it FUN

She also recommended offering classes from Basic Sailing all the way to Boat Ownership.

After the general sessions, there were break-out sessions covering a wide variety of topics. In one of them I learned that people go to regattas to not only race but to:

- Learn and Grow
- Tradition
- Enjoy a hobby sport
- For Connections and Relationships

On Thursday evening, there was a special dinner at the Savannah Yacht Club where the prestigious 2023 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year Award were bestowed upon Charlie Enright of Barrington, RI, and Christina Wolfe of Orcas, WA, respectively.



On Friday afternoon, trolleys transported everyone to the Savannah Yacht Club where we first had a delicious buffet lunch, then were able to try out some new high-tech boats on the water. I, for one, went on a brand spanking new Flying Scot.



Throughout the entire event, numerous vendors had exhibits in the ballroom. I was able to download the Savvy Navvy app for free as I'm a Level One Instructor.



Carol Barger from Chatham Sailing Club and Joleen posed for a photo on the top floor of the DeSoto for the closing "happy hour" event!

Joleen Rasmussen stayed at my house while attending this event with me. Next year we want to go to the national US Sailing event in Coronado, CA, on February 6-8. Wanna join us?



Hallmark Researchers Say They Are Close To Developing A Second Movie Plot

ENTERTAINMENT - Dec 19, 2022 - BabytonBee.com



"Yeah, that's my wife in the boat being carried out to sea. Don't put yourself at risk though - I can get a new boat."

SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP/AUDITOR, Audrey Debien

Cruising:

In February, Dave and I enjoyed a terrific 12-day cruise aboard the *Oceania Sirena*. One of the daily newsletters distributed onboard included an article about Cruising. I've extracted information from that article for the *Rhumb Line*!

The first ship, built exclusively for luxury cruising, was the *Prinzessin Victoria Luise*. The ship was designed by Albert Ballin for the German Hamburg-America Line in 1900.

In the early 1900s, luxury ships (aka Ocean Liners) were primarily used for transatlantic crossings. Competition drove companies to produce ships with added luxuries, such as fine dining and comfortable staterooms. The ill-fated *Titanic* is one of the most famous examples of this era.

In the 1960s, jet aircraft became available for intercontinental travel, causing a decline in demand for transatlantic ocean cruising.

In the 1980s, a television show called "The Love Boat" renewed interest in cruising. Instead of being a means of transportation, ships became attractive as floating resorts. The TV series

was filmed aboard Princess Cruises' ship *Pacific Princess*. Viewers were inspired! The cruise industry was reborn.

Today, megaships feature multi-story atriums with glass elevators, multiple dining rooms, cabins with private decks, spas and more! Initially, luxury cruises took place primarily in the Caribbean. Now, destinations include all parts of the world, even the Arctic and Antarctica. The biggest ships now carry more than 7,000 people with amazing amenities for entertainment.

Cruising is a huge part of the tourism industry. Nineteen million people cruise worldwide, generating revenues in excess of \$29 billion annually. Since 2001, an average of nine new ships have been launched every year just for North American clientele.

The megaships are a bit much for us! Dave and I enjoyed our cruise on the *Sirena* primarily because she is a smaller ship. We recommend Oceania Cruises highly. This was our first cruise of more than seven days and it was wonderful. Seven days is not enough!



Always for sale!



\$12/mug

\$10/water bottle

I will have them at the meetings.



FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Unscramble each word, then take the letters that are underlined and unscramble them to come up with **A NAUTICAL TERM**. (As you can see, I have changed the hidden word from a person's name.)

V L A E R T _ _ _ _ _
D M O B R E O
H I T N
V N Y A

Answer to January/February's Scramble: STARBOARD

TALENT
HOST
BRAND
ROBOT

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.

- Anna Highsmith - Anna says that she is recovering and, hopefully, rid of lung cancer. She had surgery in August and then went through four rounds of chemo. Next scan is February 19.
- (Me) Linda Howard - Started physical therapy for her back. Slowly progressing.

2024 OFFICERS

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Secretary Audrey Debien
Treasurer..... Dawson Long
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Cruise Chair Larry Sprague
Race Chair..... Angela Margolit
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Member-At-Large.....David Debien

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