



# GEECHEE SAILING CLUB

## RHUMB LINE

Great Circle 3150 NM



### COMMODORE, Linda Howard

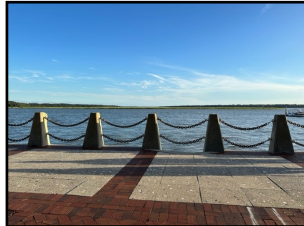
The cruise to Beaufort was so perfect. The weather was just what the weatherman predicted: clear skies and temps in the high 70's and low 80's with a gentle breeze.

The eight who went were: Larry & Mary Ellen (drove over), Michael and Kathleen (drove over), Tim & Judy (boated over), and Tommy & I (boated over). It takes 5 1/2 hours to boat over, by the way, which was enjoyable in itself. We also had a couple we met last year at the marina (who just happened to be tied up across from *Obedience*) join us for brunch.

The food was also great and Mary Ellen did a perfect job, as usual, setting up for us. We never did get around to biking, but decided to just enjoy time together at the beautiful park and on our boats.

Saturday night everyone came over to *Obedience* and spent the evening, and Sunday night we went to The Hearth for supper.

Next year I hope you'll come. The fellowship is worth it, not to mention all the funny boating stories.



**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:**  
*Change of Watch, Savannah Country Club, Wilmington Island; Saturday, November 11, 5:30 p.m.*  
*Christmas Party, Marsh Harbor Clubhouse; Monday, December 11, 6:00 p.m.*

**Cruises:**  
*Oct. 20-22 - Bluffton Seafood & Art Festival*

### THE SPEAKERS FOR THIS MONTH (MONDAY, OCTOBER 9) REPRESENT THE TYBEE LIGHT SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

**Carl Ericsson**



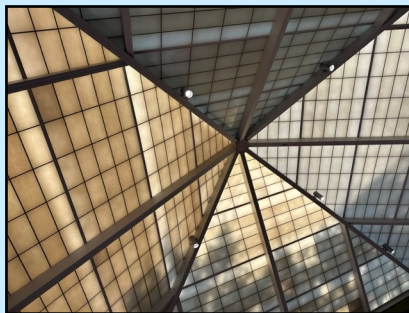
**Gary Riley**



**Steven Jensen**



# COMMODORE, Linda Howard (continued)



# VICE COMMODORE, Tom Howard

## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

### Andrew McIntosh



Andrew McIntosh, a local sailor with a number of awards, gave us a personal story of his youthful sailing accomplishments. He shared with us how his interest in boating moved him into his current position as a bar pilot.

He also shared how one of his vessels ran aground after mechanical failure (not his fault).

If anyone is interested in winning a race, it would be good to invite him to crew on your boat. It sounds like he knows his stuff. It was a great meeting, as usual.

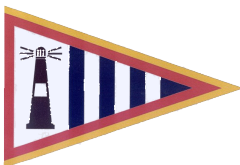


## OCTOBER SPEAKERS

In our next meeting, October 9, we will have three representatives from the Tybee Light Sail & Power Squadron.

Steven Jensen will give an introduction with the club's history and mission; Carl Ericsson will talk about their commitment to education; and Gary Riley will speak about membership.

See page 1.



COFFEE IN HAND, SUPPLIES AT THE READY, ALICE SETTLES IN, WAITING FOR THE FIRST TELEMARKETER TO CALL.

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Nick Robertson

Only fate determines which way the winds will blow. When setting a course for a desired destination that ends up being upwind, all we can do is keep tacking in harmony with whatever breezes providence sends to fill our sails — and sometimes it's best just to drop anchor for awhile and enjoy the waters we find ourselves occupying with those we love.

My *Rhumb Line* column this month is a bit of a bittersweet announcement: after carefully considering our options, Petra and I have decided to stay together in Hungary for the foreseeable future, most likely a year or more, as we continue awaiting the processing of Petra's US visa application. I am sad about being away from Savannah for so long, and missing out on even more Geechee activities... but I can't stand the thought of being apart from my fiancée for many months to come, and so I'll be residing with her in Budapest until Uncle Sam gets around to giving her the green light (knock on wood).

We submitted Petra's 'fiancée visa' application back in June, and a recent check of the US immigration website stated something along the lines of "80% of fiancée visa applications are processed within 16.5 months," so based on this ultra-vague verbiage, we don't expect to receive a decision till next summer or so. Until that happens, our immigration lawyer cautioned against Petra returning to the US, because a border guard could choose to deny her entry while her application is not yet approved.

Meanwhile, within a few days after my early-July arrival in Budapest, a relatively painless process at the Hungarian immigration office yielded me a temporary residence permit good through mid-October. Then in late September, I received an official residence permit allowing me to live in Hungary with Petra for up to two years, which also authorizes my

unlimited travel within the European Union throughout that time.

Since I already feel very much at home in Hungary after my 14 years of expat living here, the choice between staying in Budapest with Petra or heading back to Savannah alone was not exactly a no-brainer, but definitely not difficult. Of course I'll miss spending time with my family and Savannah friends, especially the Geechee community that welcomed me so warmly during these past few years, but I hope you all understand why we're choosing to remain landlocked in Central Europe for the unknown interval ahead.

I do regret that because of my long absences from Savannah this year, I could not better serve the Geechees as Membership Chair, or take part in more of the club's many activities that I've enjoyed so much in previous years. I'm proud of the accomplishments achieved with the 2023 Geechee Board, even while participating from afar, but I wish that I could've spent more time with boat shoes on the ground in Savannah to further boost the Geechee membership experience. Petra and I eagerly look forward to resuming an active presence as Geechee members as soon as we're able to return Stateside and rejoin the crew for the club's cruises, racing, social events, and more.

However, I remain committed to helping out as 2023 Membership Chair in any way I can during the time remaining until the next Change of Watch so, if any Geechees have leads for prospective members that I can contact this autumn, I'd gratefully encourage your reaching out; send me an e-mail at [n.h.robertson@gmail.com](mailto:n.h.robertson@gmail.com) anytime.

And while this decision means that Petra and I will sadly have considerably fewer opportunities to get out on the water during the upcoming

months, in a few days we'll be heading to Hungary's "inland sea" of Lake Balaton for a mini-vacation, where we might just be able to get some dinghy sailing in before the bitter onset of Central European winter renders most boating impossible here... so please enjoy Savannah's balmy 'cold' season ahead! We'll be back there aboard with you as soon as we can.



## SECRETARY/AUDITOR, Audrey Debien

Everyone loves dolphins!

We have been delighted to see many dolphins in Georgia! We see them in Jones Creek behind our house. We see them when we go boating in the waters around Savannah. We went on a terrific dolphin tour at Jekyll Island where we saw many of these beautiful creatures and learned about them from the crew.

Here are some facts about dolphins giving birth:

Dolphin gestation periods vary depending on the species, but typically last between 10 and 18 months.

Dolphins give birth with the calf tail-first in the water. This helps to prevent the calf from drowning.

Dolphin calves are born with their eyes open and can swim immediately.

Dolphin mothers nurse their calves for up to two years. During this time, the calf learns how to hunt and survive on its own.

Dolphin mothers form strong bonds with their calves and will protect them from predators.

Here are some more fun facts about dolphin birth:

Dolphin mothers often give birth in areas with calm waters and good visibility.

Other dolphins in the pod will help the mother during birth. They may support her body or push the calf to the surface to breathe.

Dolphin calves are born with a layer of blubber that helps them stay warm.

Dolphin mothers are very protective of their calves and will not leave them alone until they are old enough to fend for themselves.

Dolphins are amazing creatures and their birthing process is just one more thing that makes them so special.

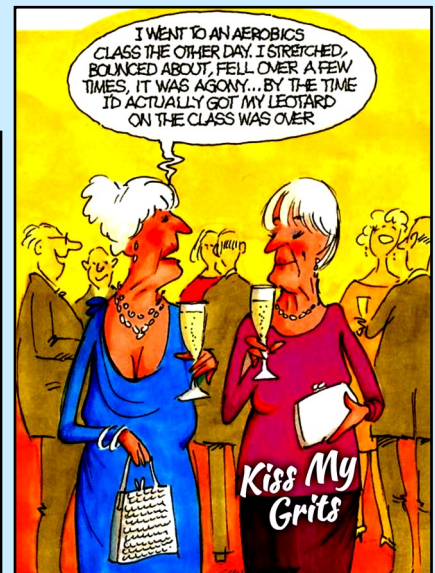


I bought a little bag  
of air today...  
The company that  
made it was kind  
enough to put some  
potato chips in it as  
well.

**FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE  
WHO WORE A MASK  
WHILE DRIVING ALONE**



**THE NEW OUTDOOR SEATBELT  
IS NOW AVAILABLE!**



## COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/EDITOR/FACEBOOK MGR, Linda Howard

**RAFTING UP!** One of the Summer's fun things to do...sometimes.

Yep, it can be fun if you do it right. Otherwise, you can lose good friends in the process.

First, what is Rafting Up? It is tying up with another boat or boat(s) to be able to visit from boat to boat out on the water. We've done it before to share a meal, spend a nice evening, or fix someone else's boat (or they fix ours). Here are a few tips to keep it safe and friendly.

**LOCATION:** Raft up (tie up) out of the wind, current, and away from any place that may have serious boat wakes. Ideally, look for a place that is buffered by the shore with access to shallow water or a beach where kids can wade, swim, or dinghy to shore.

**ANCHORING:** Start with the biggest boats in the middle and smaller boats on the outside edges for balance. The

largest boat should anchor first and set one anchor off the bow and one off the stern for added security.

**PERMISSION:** Maybe I should have listed this first! Always ask for permission before tying up. If you don't know the skipper, approach slowly and ask from a safe distance if you can join the raft-up. "Safe" as in both safety for the boat and safety for you personally. 😊

**FENDERS:** You'll need several (at least two or three per side), depending on boat size. Secure the biggest ones (a minimum of 10 inches) along the side of your boat before you approach to tie up.

**BOAT ALIGNMENT:** To avoid climbing over gunwales, it's best to align swim platforms to move from boat to boat. Tie off at the bow and stern and use spring liens amidships to fine-tune positioning.

**COURTEOUSNESS:** Ask before you crank up the "tunes." Remember that noise levels can also be a bone of contention.

Now you're ready to head out. Have fun, but keep it safe!



### UPS:

"Your package is in your city, on a truck driven by Mike. It will arrive at 6:27pm today."

### FedEx:

"Your package is coming. You'll get it when we get there."

### USPS:

"What package?"

### Amazon:

"We are already inside your residence. Check the bathroom."

### Facebook:

"We know you were thinking about getting a toaster oven yesterday. Here are 20 ads for toaster ovens."

**Y'all need to stop!!!**



### Things I'm Super Good At

1. Forgetting someone's name 10 seconds after they tell me.
2. Buying produce...and throwing it away two weeks later.
3. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions. 😞
4. Making plans. And then immediately regretting making plans.
5. Leaving laundry in the dryer until it wrinkles. Then turning on the dryer to dewrinkle. Then forgetting it again.
6. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".

## CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague

The cruise this month will be to Bluffton beginning on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and ending on Sunday, October 23. This is the second week of the Bluffton Seafood and Arts Festival. For those coming by motorboat, the town has a new public dock at the end of Calhoun Street where boats can be docked for the day. There is additional docking for small boats about a quarter mile further down river just past the Bluffton Oyster Company. I am expecting several of our Geechee members to bring their boats and anchor in the May River. Unfortunately, there will not be a dinghy available this year to taxi members to the dock.

The following is from the event's promotional literature:

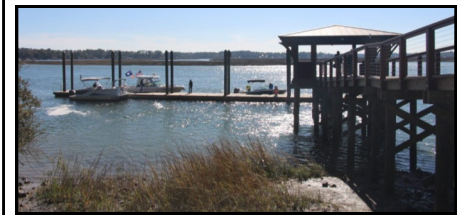
*The highlight of the festival has always been the Street Fest. The 2023 Street Fest will be held Saturday October 21st & Sunday October 22nd.*

*It includes a juried fine art show featuring over 100 artists from ten different states displaying and selling art, delicious food provided by the area's premier culinary spots, along with great music*

*and entertainment.*

The town has several good restaurants, and I suggest that if you want to eat out on Friday or Saturday go ahead and make reservations. Three of the restaurants that are within walking distance of the landing are Okan, The Pearl Kitchen and Bar, and Old Town Dispensary. All three are within a third of a mile. Across May River Drive (HW 46) there are some seven additional restaurants. The distance is about 3/5ths of a mile from the landing.

Mary Ellen and I will not be able to make this cruise as we are spending the month of October in Boston. If we are in luck, we should have a new baby granddaughter by the start of the cruise. For everyone else, I hope you will come to Bluffton by sailing vessel, motorboat, or car. This has always been one of my favorite destinations and I think everyone will enjoy it too.



## SOCIAL CHAIR, Mary Ellen Sprague

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### CHANGE OF WATCH:

Date: Saturday, Nov. 11  
 Place: Savannah Country Club, 501 Wilmington Island Rd.  
 Time: 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
 Dinner & Dancing in the Heron Room  
 Music: Jeff "T-Bone" Taylor of Hilton Head  
 Dress: Black tie, suits, or coats & ties for men; dresses or dressy pants & tops for women.

**Put on the Ritz!**

Cost: \$50 per person  
**RSVP:** to mary-ellen31406@gmail.com  
no later than Nov. 1st

**PLEASE COME!** We had to guarantee at least 25 people!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** (One of our most enjoyable parties of the year!):

Date: Monday, Dec. 11

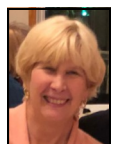
Place: Marsh Harbor Clubhouse (follow arrows after entering Marsh Harbor for Marsh Harbor Cove)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Dress: Casual Christmas

Food: Ham, beer, wine, and soft drinks provided. Please bring covered dish.

Cost: Please bring one wrapped present per person (\$15-\$25). Nautical is nice, but not mandatory.



# RACE CHAIR/WEBSITE MGR, Angela Margolit

## Upcoming Regattas:

The 2023 McIntosh Cup and Wasaw Cup Regatta are scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Savannah Yacht Club. To register for this event, please use the following link to Regatta Network: <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/27112>

## Savannah Sailing Wednesday Evening Race Series:

This summer, one of the Chatham Sailing Club members, Chris Gerards, resurrected the Summer Race Series. Every Wednesday, starting on July 12<sup>th</sup>, local sailors came together for a total of five races (ending on August 9<sup>th</sup>). We raced on the Wilmington River with the start just outside of Turners Creek at marker 27. Depending on the wind, we either went up river to marker R 40 or downriver to marker G25. The start/finish line was closed to make it challenging!

This series was so much fun because they used two really cool apps:

**Yachtbot:** this tracked every boat via GPS by activating the app before the race started. It even created a video of all the boat courses which we could view afterwards.

**Regattr.com:** this is a Timer that everyone was asked to use to countdown to the start. Based on GPS time, it ensured that everyone was on the same clock!

I sure hope that it will be run next summer – and I'd like to see some more Geechees out there!

## Oktoberfest Regatta:

Great sailing took place on Sept. 23-24 in the Oktoberfest Regatta. Almost a dozen boats of various sizes and PHRF ratings participated. I sailed one of the J/24s from The Landings Sailing Club, *Scarlett*. (I normally sail *Gone with the Wind*, but it

and Bonnie Blue were knocked over from their brackets by hurricane Idalia. Repairs are still underway.)

The first day saw strong easterly winds. We had three races, each one lasting just under an hour. In the second race, we took first place over the entire fleet, including the 2013 J/70 out of SYC, *Asteria*.

On the second day, we only did two races. The wind died during the first one, but I was happy to be able to raise the spinnaker on the leeward leg.

Our very own Dawson Long took first place in the cruising class. All results can be viewed here: [https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/regatta\\_uploads/27028/Final\\_Results.pdf](https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/regatta_uploads/27028/Final_Results.pdf)

Enjoy the pictures!



Around Committee Boat



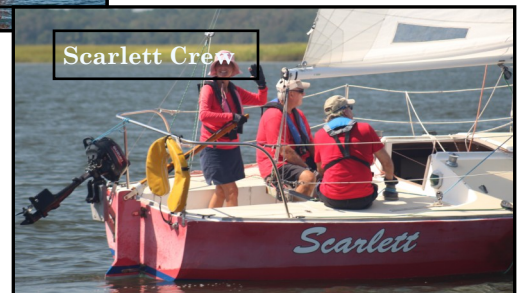
Andiamo



Oktoberfest Regatta Spinnaker



Andiamo



Scarlett Crew

Scarlett



# TREASURER, Dawson Long

The annual Oktoberfest Regatta was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Many are asking why the race is in September. In authentic tradition, the Chatham Sailing Club hosted the race in the appropriate time. Germany celebrates Oktoberfest from September 16th to October 3<sup>rd</sup>. So, it is fine to favor the German beer and bratwurst for a little while longer.

The race had nearly perfect conditions over the weekend. The challenges were variable between having too little wind under 5 knots and 18 knots. The sun was shining, and the weather was cool. Speaking of cool, Mark Wilman was at the helm of *Andiamo* most of the time. We won the first-place award in the cruising class. However, the boats were randomly split between the cruising class and the non-

spinnaker class. The strongest of the three key factors to winning the race were clearly having Mark Wilman on board with his established racing skills.

The second was the Kevlar-enforced racing headsail aboard *Andiamo*. Investing in a strong, light, and lightly used headsail has been a strong benefit to a good show in all the races she has been in.

The third benefit is having a clean bottom on your boat. I have benefitted by applying the harder, less ablative paint that was put on in June. My chief racing nemesis and friend gave me the lead that Palmetto Bay Marina has a very good price utilizing that paint. Many of you may remember that I scheduled a self-serving cruise to Palmetto Bay Ma-

rina to accommodate the painting of my boat. The paint has been very good for keeping the growth off by brushing as needed.

The bottom line so-to-speak is that crossing the finish line well takes finding the best people, the best used sails, and the best attention to the bottom of your boat.

\*\*\*\*\*

The balances are as follows: the checking account is \$983.48; the Vanguard account is \$18,430.41.



This is the view when you're winning



This is the view when you're not winning YET



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.



## 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 A B L                    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

R E F S A T N E

F W R O R D A

D L I M

Answer to September's Scramble:    R U T L A N D

DUAL

START

TRUCE

DANDY

## 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 dealing with lung cancer and chemo.
- (Me) Linda Howard - Bone is broken at earlier surgery site. Will have to remove screws, cages, and rods that were just inserted and redo, fusing farther up the thoracic. Surgery is scheduled for Oct. 18 unless there is a cancellation.

## 2023 OFFICERS

Commodore .....Linda Howard  
Vice Commodore..... Tommy Howard  
Secretary ..... Audrey Debien  
Treasurer..... Dawson Long  
Past Commodore.....Larry Sprague  
Social Chair ..... Mary Ellen Sprague  
Cruise Chair ..... Larry Sprague  
Race Chair..... Angela Margolit  
Membership Chair.....Nick Robertson  
Communications Chair/Editor.....Linda Howard  
Member-At-Large.....David Debien

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