



COMMODORE, Larry Sprague

The air and water temperatures are both rising as we move into the summer boating season, so it is time to shake off the dock lines and get out on the water.

The Howards and Grissettes already experienced their yearly cruise to Jacksonville, and we had the traditional Memorial Day cruise to the south end of Wassaw May 28th through the 30th.

We will continue to meet at Carey Hilliard's during the summer. The next meeting will be Monday, June 13th. Don't be shy about asking guests to join us. If you know of someone who likes to boat, ask them to a meeting.

Mary Ellen and I will be in Boston with our daughter and our nine-month-old granddaughter for the first three weeks of June. After we return to Savannah, we

will be in town until just after the Labor Day cruise.

While I know I will enjoy Boston, I look forward to being in Savannah and going out on *Second Wind* when we return.

*Fair winds
and following seas*



THE SPEAKER FOR THIS MONTH (JUNE 13) IS SGT. DANIEL WALKER WITH THE CHATHAM CO. POLICE DEPT. MARINE PATROL

We all need to know how to stay out of trouble on the water, as well as know how the police are keeping us safe. Be prepared with your questions!



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:

July 23 - Jimmy Buffett party

November 11 - Change of Watch,
Savannah Yacht Club

Cruises:

June 24-26 - North end of St.
Catherine's

July 16-17 - Herb Creek?

August 13-15 - Daufuskie
(Formerly Marshside Mama's)

Sept. 3-5 - Safe Harbor Marina,
Beaufort

Oct. 14-16 - Bluffton Arts Festival
(See page 2 for further details)

CRUISE CHAIR, Larry Sprague

The June cruise will be to the north end of St. Catherine's over the week-end of June 24th - 26th. We will anchor in Walburg Creek. This is a great spot and civilization seems far away (but still in range of the Coast Guard).

We had several Geechee members participate in the Wassaw Cup May 14th and 15th. I sailed on *Second Wind* with fellow Geechee member Nick Robertson and Bill Doggett also joined the crew. Dawson captained his boat, *Andiamo*, and Angela Margolit captained a J/24.

On Saturday morning of the race, the wind was very calm and the water showed nary a ripple. The race was postponed an hour at the dock. In the late morning we started to feel a breeze, so all of the boats cranked up their engines and headed down the Wilmington River towards Landings Marina. There was another delay, but then we could see a sea breeze starting to build.

The racecourse was set up with the start near the Landings Marina and the windward mark downstream towards Wassaw Island. By the time the race started, we had ten to twelve knots of wind.

Second Wind was in the non-spinnaker B fleet. Without going into

details, suffice it to say we got off to a lousy start. Even once we got going, though, I felt that we were not generating the speed that I expected given the wind. I felt like we were dragging an anchor. Well, I wasn't entirely wrong. When we got back to the dock I found out that my hull had not been cleaned, as I had arranged. Two months of growth on one's hull is a very effective speed break. We needed to be sailing in the E fleet.

On our way to Boston this week we will be stopping to see the *USS New Jersey* near Philadelphia. She is now a museum ship and was originally built during World War II. The *USS New Jersey* was in the last class of battleships built by the United States. During World War II she carried a crew of almost 2,800 men in her 887-foot hull. Imagine how crowded that was! The crew would spend up to eight months at sea without returning to any type of port, and between January of 1944 and the end of the war in August 1945 she did not return to the United States.

The *USS New Jersey* was fortunate in that she did not suffer any casualties during the war. Nevertheless, her crew put their lives on hold for two years while they floated about

on the Pacific, stood watch, spent long hours at battle stations, and were periodically put in harms way. While Memorial Day is a time for remembering the sacrifices of those who died for our country, we should also give thanks to those who served and gave up the early portion of their adult years so that we might continue to enjoy our lives as a free people.

Following is the cruise calendar for 2022

June 24th-26th –North end of St. Catherine's ([Friday-Sunday](#))

July 16th-17th - Herb Creek?

August 13th-15th – Daufuskie (Formerly Marshside Mama's)

September 3-5 – Labor Day – Beaufort Safe Harbor Marina ([Saturday-Monday](#)). Or **Sept. 2-5** (Friday-Monday) depending on your plans.

October 14th-16th – Bluffton Arts Festival (Oct 15th-23rd). Friday night at Freeport Marina or in creek across the river from the marina ([Friday-Sunday](#)).

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, 658-7398). Everyone loves them, so you won't be disappointed. The bottles are \$10/each and the mugs are \$12.



IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND, AL HERNANDEZ
(4/18/1946 - 5/1/2022)

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!!

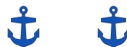


VICE COMMODORE, Linda Howard

Our speaker in May was Mike Sullivan of the Skidaway Institute Of Oceanography.

He educated us on the fact that the Institute is not just the aquarium or Grays Reef. What an eye/mind-opener! Since the program, I have had club members telling me they had no idea how diverse the Institute was.

Mike was a very animated speaker, and we had a lot of questions for him at the end. He apologized for speaking so long, but no one even noticed. Thanks, Mike, for an entertaining and informative evening.



JUNE'S SPEAKER

SGT. DANIEL WALKER

Sergeant Walker is a native of Chatham County and grew up in Thunderbolt. He joined the Savannah Police Department in 1992 where he

served as a patrol officer until moving into the Forensics Division in 1994.

He became a member of Chatham County's Marine Patrol in 2009, and has conducted countless water rescues and recovery missions.

Sgt. Walker was previously a "100-ton Master Captain", and teaches the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Boater Safety Course in Chatham County. He is a familiar face to many because he conducts numerous media interviews about boater safety each year.



SECRETARY/TREASURER, Dawson Long

Andiamo. It's a command meaning "Let's Go." Four of the Geechee Fleet made it over to the great destination of the back side of Wassaw. We had an amazing time. We christened Ray Arnold's Monk 36' as the go-to boat for comfortable entertainment. An interesting fact is that when you board the boat, you actually do not have to take a vow of sobriety or any other vows as you would in a monastery as a monk.

Andiamo, with Dawson Long and Nick Robertson, are pictured here with Ray, and Mark and Becky Wilman, on Ray's boat *One Fine Day*. An additional picture of awesome socks shows Dave Debien and Ray. Not pictured are Audrey Debien, the photographer, and A.J. and Cherie Goldman who joined us on Sunday on their sailboat.

We had a chance to walk the trails to the beach to enjoy the sunshine and shade. It was no less than perfect to arrive at the beach and have 3 chairs waiting for us to sit on.

The weekend was filled with adventure and some other cruisers, including another sailboat, *Makira*, a Brewer 42' skippered by Paul B. from Savannah.

As you see from the blue skies in the background, the three days were beautiful. Part of being aboard a Monk 36' gives you an urge to confess what you are hiding from the group. I confessed that I ran aground at the same point Larry did last time. I am sorry, Larry, but friends share embarrassing moments with friends. I am trying to keep my friends included while keeping my distance from repeating as trophy winner of the "High on the Sandbar" award.

Unfortunately, we turned to the north side of the Green Island Sound too early. We found that you need to keep the underwater spit that looks like a seahorse to port instead of starboard when you are seaward bound in the sound. You do not need to rush to your port side of

Green Island sound on your way to Wassaw.

The Geechee Sailing Club has in the checking: \$2,050.98. The savings account in Vanguard is valued at \$18,919. It is always good summing up on a high note.



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

I am actually writing this as I go. (I'm on our boat in Jacksonville.) So it's going to be sort of a "blow by blow" accounting. Speaking of accounting, Judy is finally relaxing after tax season. So here we are again...the four "Geechee Sea Salts." (I just named us—Tommy, Tim, Judy and I.) I can't count how many years we have taken off in May and October to just sail around to Brunswick, Jacksonville, Fernandina, Jekyll, and St. Simon's. As we get older, we seem to cut down the ports of call. This time we're restricting it to Brunswick Landing Marina and Port 32 at Ortega (was Ortega Landing).

So...we left Savannah Tuesday, May 10. I didn't want to leave until our meeting on May 9. As usual, we anchored off of Crescent, GA, that night and then went into Brunswick Landing Marina about 1:00 p.m. the next day. Our only problem that day was the wake of a big boat knocking everything off of a shelf (radio, remote, flashlights, speaker...). Priority #1 was to go to Fox's that night for pizza. This time there were 6 of us because Bruce and Ginger Little keep their boat (*Cherokee Lullaby*) there and drive back and forth to Savannah. They love to travel - whether it's a long haul or short.

We were one more day in Brunswick waiting for better weather (it always takes me 3 days to unwind anyway). Grilled burgers on the dock that night.

Then we headed to anchor on Friday night in Mill Cove off of the St John's River. In the middle of that night, I woke up smelling smoke. Not a good thing on a boat! We went outside, but it wasn't outside. We sniffed all through the boat but couldn't find anything. Nearing panic, I approached the 12-volt fan I had plugged in and...tada...the switch was burning out! What a relief! It took a few days, however, to get the smell out of the aft cabin.

On Saturday we arrived at Port 32 in Ortega around 2:00. (Ortega Landing has a new owner.) There our Priority #1 was to ride our bikes to Longhorn's. As an aside, I have noticed that at our age, we tend to always order one meal and split it. Don't know if we're getting cheaper or just not needing/using as many calories.

On Sunday morning Tommy and I joined our Sunday School class on Zoom, then Tommy went over to help Tim fix something on his boat. That is a daily occurrence - either on *Wait for Me* or *Obedience*. They love working on their boats, and sometimes I think they would actually break something so they could work on them. It rained all day, so we couldn't get to Publix, but I had frozen spaghetti sauce available.

Monday was great to start off with, but ended with a "bang." We went to the stores in the morning, had a great lunch at The Loop, and then I put a roast in the Instant Pot for supper. Five minutes before Tim & Judy arrived for supper, I fell. It was a bad fall, but (hopefully) the injuries aren't as bad. Will have a CT scan when I get home. As you know, I had major back surgery in December and am having problems with pain anyway. Well...I was going down the steps backwards to the galley and didn't see that Tommy had opened the floor to get to something in the engine room. My right leg fell through, leaving my left leg wedged on top and twisted. I also have strange knees (4 knee operations and have no kneecaps). I then fell hard flat on my back. I was scared that I had permanently damaged something, but my knee never hurt or swelled, and my back, having my entire lumbar fused, didn't move. However...I am super sore all over. So thankful that it wasn't any worse!

Tommy went down to the clubhouse and did our laundry Tuesday. He

felt sorry for me since we were docked way down on the other end. I wonder how long I can use the "invalid" excuse/reason. Lyft came to get us so we could go to Crystal River Seafood that night. Can you tell that we love to eat?

Tim and Judy woke up Thursday with no a/c. Tommy found a business within biking distance that had the pump they needed (a miracle) and got it put in before noon. Another miracle. Always problems...always repairs. It's called "boating!"

Over the next few days before we left Ortega, we had fun eating out at different restaurants every other night, swimming in the beautiful, heated swimming pool, riding our bikes (Tommy's and mine are electric), playing cards, reading, and working a jigsaw puzzle. On Friday I got my grocery list together since we would be having separation anxiety from Publix over the next few days, and headed there with our baskets, bags, and backpacks.

Our plan was to go further up the St. John's River and investigate the Julington Fish Camp. However, on our way the next morning, Tommy, in checking his charts, discovered that the stationary bridge was not high enough for us to pass under. Rats! So we turned around and headed out of the St. John's. That night we anchored off of Amelia Island, surrounded by a storm full of lightening. Where are those sailboat masts when you need them?!

The following day we made it to Cumberland Island's Brickyard Creek (north end) and anchored in high winds with 30 mph gusts. We needed to cross St. Andrew's Sound the next morning and were praying

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard (continued)

for calm winds, yet we still had 20+ mph wind gusts that morning. However...around 8:00 a.m. the winds died down and we had an easy crossing, reaching Brunswick Landing Marina again around noon. The night before, *Wait for Me* was running hot so we managed to hand over a gallon of oil (we did not have our dinghies, so that was interesting).

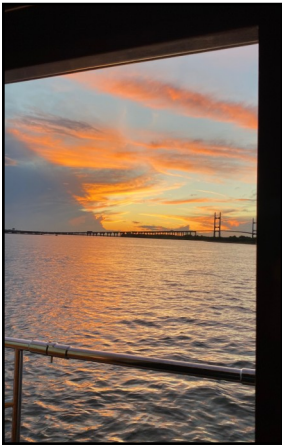
The next morning when Tim cranked up, his cabin filled with smoke. Turns out that his new exhaust hose had broken almost completely in half. After rafting up and Tommy jumping in to help, they duct-taped it back together and we were on our way.

Back to Brunswick and Fox's Pizza - and just finally relaxing. Also discovered Nautica Café which turned out to be pretty good. Stayed two nights and headed home. I was feeling pretty puny with my back, and Tim's boat was feeling pretty puny with a possible injector problem and fresh water leak. So we decided to head on back to home base and miss the Geechee cruise at Wassaw. We anchored at Cattle Pen Creek that night and had a stormy and windy night. (Sounds like the beginning of a novel.)

All in all, we had a great trip despite the setbacks. You can't miss when you're with great friends. It also did not hurt for us to get two new deck chairs and other freebies from the swap shops at the marinas!

Yes, we'll do it again as long as our aging bodies allow it. There's nothing like being out on the water in our low country. If you aspire to do the same, just ask us. We have a boat-load of advice!





MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Georgia Byrd

Watch for Georgia's July article when she introduces and interviews a new member she befriended.



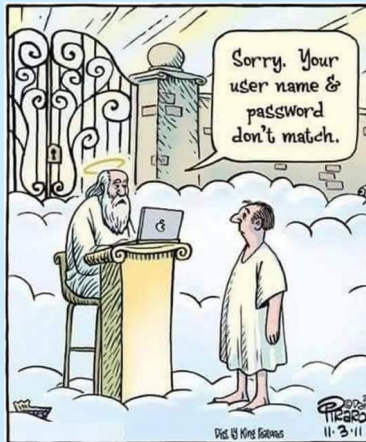
I've come to the conclusion that the bigger the cheerio the better it tastes



SOCIAL CHAIR, Mary Ellen Sprague

REMEMBER:

Saturday, July 23, is our Jimmy Buffett party at 1811 Chatham Avenue, Tybee. There will be prizes for best outfits, so grab your Hawaiian shirts and hula skirts and join us for a Cheese-burger in Paradise!



RACE CHAIR, Angela Margolit

Wassaw Cup:

The Geechees were well represented at the recent Wassaw Cup: your present and immediate past Commodores participated, as well as yours truly. The trophy was again won by Gebel Seese with his very fast J105, *High Visibility*. Check out the photos!

The Lowcountry Regatta is coming up June 25-26 in Beaufort, SC:

Some highlights:

Two days of racing
Three race courses
Approximately 100 boats! Classes expected: MC Scow, Melges 15, Y Flyer, Sea Island One Design, Snipe, Lightnings, Laser, Sunfish, Opti, O'Pen Skiff.

Big junior contingent
Sailing in the Beaufort River/ICW
Lowcountry boil dinner and band
Continental breakfast
Lunches available
Swimming pool

Camping permitted
Bathhouse with showers
Pickleball court
Ample parking
Launching by ramp or by jib crane
Cool breezes and low humidity (or not)
Often seabreeze

Does this sound like fun or what? If I weren't going to be cruising in Italy, I'd be there!



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:

T N A B E E

— — — — —

H I N T G

Y L A R E

D Y R E A

Answers to May's Scramble: **B Y R D**

VANITY

TABLE

RIDDLE

CRATE

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 658-7398.

- Georgia Byrd recuperating from hip surgery.
- Linda Howard with post back surgery issues.
- Family of Al Hernandez. Marilyn's address is: 216 Lincoln Circle, Richmond Hill, GA 31324

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)