



COMMODORE, Angela Margolit

Right after the Pursuit Race of our St. Patrick's Regatta, I drove six hours directly to St. Petersburg, FL, to participate in the Women's *Performance Race Week!* Forty women from across the country came to improve their racing prowess by sailing twice a day on ten relatively new J/70s (four women each plus the instructor).

This event is conducted every year by North U and American Sailing. North U is the Performance Division of American Sailing - born out of North Sails, raised on big ideas, whiteboards, and on-the-water learning. They combine elite-level racing knowledge with real-world teaching experience to help sailors go from "pretty good" to "dangerously good."

The instructors (all female) were professional sailors.

The venue was the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, and on Tuesday night the nearby St. Petersburg Yacht Club hosted a dinner for all of us.



My instructor (far left) goes all over the world to race.



I learned the fine art of raising an asymmetrical spinnaker.



We learned an enormous amount of information on crew communications and duties.

For more information on my experience, check out: <https://americansailing.com/events/performance-race-week/st-pete-03-2026/>

The co-ed courses are held throughout the US plus St. Thomas, USVI. Check out: <https://americansailing.com/events/performance-race-week/>

We Now Have a QR (Quick Response) Code!



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, June 6, 3:00 p.m. - Pool Party at the Allens'

Saturday, July 4 - BBQ at Art Chapple's

Cruises & Events

Thursday-Monday, May 7-11 - Brunswick Landing Marina

Thursday, May 14, 1:00 p.m. - sailing on The Lynx schooner out of St. Simon's Island

Saturday-Monday, May 23-25 - Memorial Day Cruise, Wassaw

SPEAKER FOR MONDAY, MAY 11

WILLIAM BELFORD, PhD

He will be lecturing on "grog" - along with a taste test for all.

COMMODORE, Angela Margolit (Continued)

We are having business cards printed up to help our marketing efforts, and they will have this code! We will pass these out to everyone so that they can give them to other boat owners seeking some “fellowship on the water”!



My hands are on the shoulders of one of my crewmates (who is from England) and my instructor (who is from Canada)

Geechee Field Trips updates:

Ships of the Sea Museum: Come join Mike and I at the Ships of the Sea Museum for their “Drawn to the Sea” Exhibit Opening Night on **Friday, May 1, 2026, from 5:00pm-7:30pm**. That’s a really nice venue! If you aren’t a member, it is only \$15pp. Go to: <https://www.shipsofthesea.org/drawn-to-sea>

Lynx Schooner in St. Simon’s on **Thursday, May 14th, at 1pm**. Check out <https://www.tallshiplynx.org/>. Several of us have already purchased tickets, but you still may be able to do so; just visit their website.

Grey’s Reef Discovery Center has been scheduled for **Thursday, August 13**, followed by dinner at the local Cuban restaurant Rancho Alegre.

R/V Sea Dawg in the fall – mark your calendars for **Thursday, Oct. 15!**

I hope to see you at one of our many upcoming cruises (I’ll be driving my car!) as well as the traditional – and a couple new - social events.



VICE COMMODORE/SECRETARY, Larry Sprague

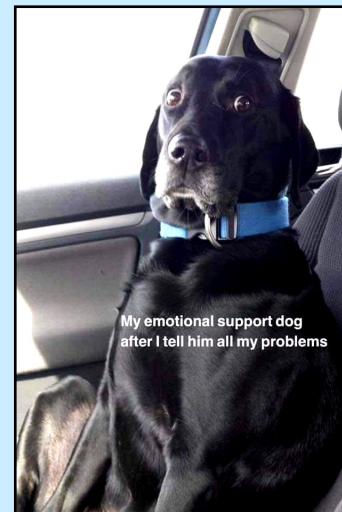
Our May speaker will be William Belford, PhD. He will be giving us a lecture on grog, that concoction that allowed the British Navy to rule the seas for over 200 years. There will also be a taste test of that famous brew for which the sailors eagerly awaited each day.

In June Laura Solomon will give a lecture on raising oysters. She and her husband have a lease from the state of Georgia on which they grow local oysters in cages. I heard Laura’s speech at the Yacht Club, and her talk was fascinating, and the audience asked lots of questions. Bring a friend because I know they would be interested. (See Linda’s article for information on their venture.)

Mary Ellen and I will be out of town beginning April 30th until July 1st. In my absence Dawson

has kindly agreed to take over the secretarial duties.

We fly up to Boston and then embark on the *Stad Amsterdam*, a full rigged ship for a seventeen day voyage to the Azores. From the Azores we go to Lisbon and Porto, Portugal; fly to Provence, France; then hike in Switzerland with a final river trip from Bazel, Switzerland, to Amsterdam. The only mode of transportation we are not taking is motorcycle.



VICE COMMODORE/SECRETARY, Larry Sprague

MARCH 9, 2026

Flotilla Vice Commander Phil DeLoach of the Coast Guard Auxiliary gave a very informative talk



APRIL 13, 2026

John Maclean did a fascinating presentation about the *CSS Shenandoah* and the part his family had in its history



MAY 11, 2026

Dr. William Belford, Professor at Georgia Southern University, to speak about grog - along with a taste for attendees.

JUNE 8, 2026

Laura Solomon, TIMA Director and founder of Tybee Oyster company, will speak about her company's work and about the kids at the Tybee Island Maritime Academy.



Apparently this weekend there will be constant rane, hale, gails, drissle, thundre, litnin, hy tydes, tawnaydoes and frizzing could.

A really bad spell of weather ahead...



Who ever said 'out of sight, out of mind' never had a spider disappear in the bedroom. 🕷️

CRUISE CHAIR, Dawson Long

Some brave souls on twelve boats raced the Hook from Hilton Head to Priests Landing on Skidaway Island on April 25th. The race started mildly at 10:00 a.m. with light winds. We, on *Andiamo*, our Contest monohull sloop, were neck and neck with *Sea Tiger*, a 90's Gemini 105 (a 34' catamaran). The wind was so relaxed that a crew member started fishing off the back of *Sea Tiger*.

The other boat in our class, *Summer Wind*, a 1973 Sabre 28-1 monohull sloop, passed us early in the race. *Sea Tiger* was not able to point as well as the monohulls, so it kept bearing away from the wind. As it disappeared from us, headed out to sea, it was able to build up more speed than us when the winds came in the afternoon. *Andiamo* held the strategy to sail closer to shore in a more direct line to the R2W mark.

As the rhumb line is thirty miles long, the boat usually has to tack at 90 degree angles to meet the next mark. As

we were beating against the wind out of the southwest, we had to cover a great deal more distance to round the mark. *Andiamo* kept her full sails out as we beat through the four-foot waves at 3.5 knots with an excess of 18 knot winds.

We found out at 6:00 PM that the race was called due to the late arrival of the winds and the late boats to the finish line. Upon getting the news of the called race, *Andiamo* corrected its heading toward home. Then we enjoyed following seas at 5-knot boat speed. Just like the Irish Blessing song goes, the road of the seas certainly "rose to meet us," and eventually "the wind was always at our back." We arrived at the dock at 10:30 pm exhausted from both the early boredom from no wind and the later exhilaration in the great day of sailing.

The results for the Cruiser class were *Summer Wind* in first, *Sea Tiger* in second, and *Andiamo* in

third place. The results in the spinnaker class were as follows. Non-spinnaker class: *Vortex* (J/70) in first, *Get My Boat* (J/70) in second, and *Yahoo* (J/109) in third. Non-spinnaker class: *Apprentice* (our very own Bucky Jones with Mark Willman) in first, *Peregrine* in second, and *Gussie* in third. There were only two boats in the J/24 class: *Bonnie Blue* beating out *Gone with the Wind*.



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Scott Lawson

Bring a guest to our next club function!

There are opportunities coming up to include a friend, neighbor, or family member in our activities. Think about who YOU might want to invite.

Everyone likes a great restaurant value. How about a great meal with friends and a speaker! Join us Monday, May 11th, at Carey Hilliard's (6PM dinner, program starts at 7:00).

May brings us to Brunswick on two trips. Our spring cruise to Brunswick Landing is on the 7th returning home by the 11th. We also have a day trip down by car on the 14th to sail aboard the tall ship *Lynx*...an interesting way to get out on the water. With plenty of room aboard and carpools to get us

down there. Its going to be a fun day.

May 23rd, Memorial Day weekend, will find us on the Odingsell River at the south end of Wassaw Island. Anchor out for a few nights or come for an afternoon. Its a great nearby spot.

There are some great summer cruising/social activities on the horizon: an Isle of Hope pool party in June and a BBQ on Burnside Island on July 4th. (AMERICA 250!)



Come out.
Bring a guest.
Support your club.
Need a ride? Call me
(912)661-3936



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/EDITOR, Linda Howard

Low and behold...our June speaker is going to be Laura Solomon, so I resurrected my article from May/June 2024 (exactly 2 years ago). Be sure to read this again before June 8.

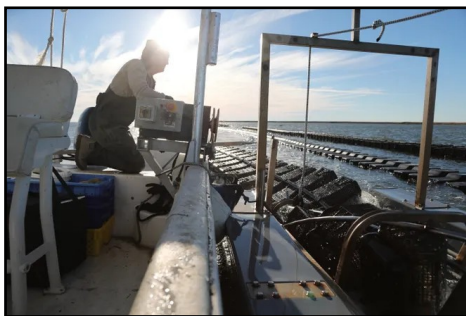
OYSTERS!!!

Yes, I know we just had an oyster roast, but do you really know what you were eating? Some of you have a pretty good idea, so you don't partake. Others actually know...and don't care. 8>) - like me. I actually dissected one in a Zoology course in college.



I did an article on barnacles in the September 2022 *Rhumb Line* and found it very educational! So I thought it was time for something else we have in abundance in the Low Country...oysters.

I saw an article in a local magazine about a couple (Perry & Laura Solomon) who has a "floating oyster farm." They use a Carolina Skiff and head for their "farm", leaving the Savannah Boathouse Marina and arriving at a bend in the Bull River. That's where they keep submerged baskets.



Each basket is attached to containers of fingernail-sized baby Eastern "seed" oys-

ters. In total, they have 100,000 of these "seeds" in 1,200 containers attached to these floating baskets that resemble violin cases.



These baby oysters were purchased in the summer from the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Sea Grant's Shellfish Research Laboratory. In mid-December, the Solomons began harvesting their "Salt Bombs" as they call them, and sell them directly to local restaurants through their business, Tybee Oyster Company.

Who knew we had an oyster supplier so close to us?! They say that they are some of the cleanest oysters you're ever going to see because of the work they put into them. What sets them apart is that they cultivate using a system called "flip farming," which prevents the accumulation of barnacles (yes, check out your September 2022 edition on barnacles) algae, and other elements by periodically exposing the cages to the sun.

The process involves a small catamaran temporarily attached to the skiff. As Perry carefully guides the boat, a line of baskets - each affixed to its own plastic float - twists through the contraption's system of rails - like cars on a rollercoaster.

This time, the baskets are ultimately exposed to the open air. Next time out, the pair will repeat the process and submerge the oysters.

Laura consults a spreadsheet on her tablet to confirm which baskets will be emptied that day. As each one is opened, dozens of oysters crash into waiting plastic bins.



While Perry continues this process, Laura settles in at the back of the boat and begins sorting the contents of the assembled bins. One by one, Laura counts out approved oysters as she places them into a netlike bag. When she reaches 100, she opens a briefcase-like plastic container and, using her mobile phone, sends information to a miniature printer.



The device spits out a paper label including the date, time, and location of the harvest; the name and address of the restaurant to which the bag will be delivered; and a QR Code linked to more information such as tasting notes and appropriate wine pairings. Laura staples the label to the bag, then repeats the ritual.

Under Georgia law, oysters must measure at least 3 inches from hinge to mouth to be harvested. Beyond meeting the minimum requirements, though, Laura looks for like-sized stock.

"Most of the restaurants we work with are high-end, so they're looking for consistency," she explains.

Ten Savannah-area restaurants now serve Tybee Oyster Company's product. That local tie is special for the Solomons,

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR/EDITOR, Linda Howard

Terry says, "Good food connects you to where it is from, and oysters do an exceptional job of making that connection," he explains. "Every one of our Salt Bombs brings a capsule of pristine coastal Georgia to the plates of consumers who can be transported to our lease (site) to taste what makes our little corner of the world so special."



Though the same species that is traditionally harvested in Georgia, the Solomons' product is unique because of the way it is raised. "Salt Bombs are beautiful to look at, long and narrow, with clean shells and beautiful bands of black, white and even purple," says Andrew Jay Ripley, co-owner of [Sea Wolf Tybee](#). "They are delicious, with a great salinity and a clean, firm texture."

Customers have shared that enthusiasm, making Salt Bombs Sea Wolf's top-selling oyster. "They make their way to practically every table," Ripley added. "There is an immense feeling of pride we're getting from

our locals – to have an exceptional product like this coming from our community."



River-raised oysters also are good for the environment. Naturally growing oysters are filter feeders that clean water and help add structure to coastal shorelines. They also provide a defense against the impact of climate change by helping to protect shorelines from storm surge and high tides, and reducing erosion caused by intense rain.

By farming, the Solomons are leaving naturally occurring oysters in place while their crop improves water quality, Laura notes. And as a product, the oysters are fresher and require less trucking and refrigeration, resulting in less heat-trapping pollution and energy use.

For the Solomons, as is the case with many entrepreneurs, creating Tybee Oyster Company involved a significant

leap of faith. "We were the first to submit our paperwork, and we took a major financial risk by pre-purchasing all of our farming equipment and having it delivered before we had state and federal approval to deploy it on our lease," Perry explains. That risk included taking out a second mortgage on the couple's home to help fund the startup.

Perry, a retired Navy aviator who now works as a commercial pilot, and Laura both must juggle jobs with their oyster business.

"They are great people – kind, generous, smart, hard working and, above all, community oriented," Andrew Ripley says of the Solomons. "It just so happens that their oysters are phenomenal."



SOCIAL COMMITTEE, Pam Allen

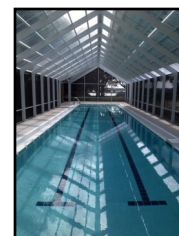
Steve and I are looking forward to hosting a summer pool party again! It will be on Saturday, June 6, starting about 3:00 p.m. The club will supply BBQ & beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert. We do need a head count to know how much BBQ to buy, so pretty please, sign up at the May meeting, or let Pam know by phone or text (912-663-7235) or by email (allenpr@comcast.net).

You can come by car or boat. Our address is 9 Avenue of Pines on Isle of Hope – or the 3rd dock south of the Wymberly Yacht Club. The tide is high 1:30 – 2:30 pm. There's anchorage in front of our dock and tie-up at two of our neighbors' docks. We'll send directions as we get closer to the date.

We will have bocce ball, croquet, and corn hole games available. Feel free to bring any other games that you would like to share. You also can swim in the pool – or the river – so bring your swim suits if you'd like.

But, the highlight of the party will be the Indoor Geechee Regatta – a super fun event from years past that was brought back in 2025. Homemade sail boats will compete in the pool, with fans strategically placed to create wind. So, start now to design and build your boat. See the accompanying photos of the event space and last year's regatta. If you need guidance on how to build an entry, call Tom Howard at 912/658-4281.

See you there!



SOCIAL COMMITTEE, Tommy Howard

Linda and I just returned from a Princess cruise with Tim & Judy and are now getting ready for a Geechee cruise to Brunswick Landing Marina May 7-11. I don't know how many are going, but we always make a day-and-a-half trip: one day to Crescent River where we anchor overnight, then a half day to Brunswick, arriving around 1:00 p.m. Be sure to make your reservations with the marina at 912/262-9264 and tell them you are with the Geechee Sailing Club. Their address is 1 Torras Landing.

If you want to go as a group down the ICW, let me know. Dawson and Steve will probably sail on the outside. If you want to drive down to meet us, we will be eating at Fox's restaurant just a few blocks away from the marina. (Fox's Pizza, 1435 Newcastle St., 912/265-4490). They have a lot more than pizza and it's all good! We are all looking forward to it.

We have time to prepare for the 4th of July party at Art Chapple's home on Burnside River, but as it gets closer to time, we will need everyone to RSVP so that we do not over-buy as we did for the Oyster Roast. Also, please let me know if you can bring a churn of ice cream.

It will be an old-fashioned summer backyard cookout!



OYSTER ROAST - 4/4/26



RACE CHAIR/WEBSITE MGR, Angela Margolit

THANK YOU to all who helped with our 47th Annual St. Patrick's Regatta:

Race Committee: Tommy & Linda Howard, along with Tim & Judy Grissette and Mary Ellen Sprague. Tommy supplied the Committee Boat and Carl Ericsson once again provided the Mark Boat.

Saturday night: the Quinns once again at the registration table, Mary Ellen Sprague, and Pam Allen who not only helped my hubby set up the Tricky Tray but helped me with awarding the winners!

And thanks to all who donated to the Tricky Tray, which brought in \$380. The Silent Auction was a big success, as there were multiple bidders and it brought in \$320!



And if your company stepped up to sponsor: Thank You! We couldn't do this without your support. Our complete list of sponsors is as follows:



Boat US / Tow Boat Savannah: Dana & Esther Rutland
Cay Insurance Services: Dawson's brother Celebritees
Chelsea at Five Points Apartments: Dawson Long
Driftaway Café
Endurance Lending: my younger son Brian
Hassell Realty Co., Inc.: Linda Howard
Hinckley Yacht Services
Landings Harbor Marina (The Landings Association)
Miss Judy's Charters

Molly McGuire's Restaurant
Rentgrata: my older son Ben
RJC Yachts: Georgia Byrd
Sail Savannah
Savannah Steel Scaffold: Tayloe & Anna Highsmith
Sun Life Marina (formerly Hogan's Marina)
Thunderbolt Marine
Town of Thunderbolt
Yates Astro Termite & Pest Control: Mark Willman

This year we had great media coverage. First, there was the preview article in sail-world.com: <https://www.sail-world.com/news/294365>

On Saturday, WTOC Channel 11 sent a photographer, Megan Leroy, to the Landings where Carl picked her up with his boat. She spent FOUR hours on the water with him, taking tons of photos. The story was on the 11pm news that day, introduced by Shea Schrader!



<https://www.wtoc.com/2026/03/22/47th-annual-st-patricks-regatta-draws-competitors-georgia-coast/>

RACE CHAIR/WEBSITE MGR, Angela Margolit (continued)

Rhodes 19

- 1st – *Sinbad*, Mike Rouzee
 2nd – *Scholar*, Mary Kovats
 3rd – *Susan B*, Jeffrey Chandor

Pursuit Race (held on Sunday)

Spinnaker

- 1st – *High Visibility*, Gebel Seese, J/105
 2nd – *Yahoo*, Michael Sullivan, J/109
 3rd – *Bonnie Blue*, David Bailey, J/24
 4th (Honorable Mention!) - *Gone with the Wind*, Angela Margolit, J/24

Non Spinnaker

- 1st - *Apprentice*, Bucky Jones, Shock 34
 2nd – *Summer Wind*, Eric Shumate, Sabre 28
 3rd – *Andiamo*, Dawson Long, Contest 30



This year the Race Committee gave a Sportsmanship Award to a J/24 from the Landings Sailing Club named *Bonnie Blue*. Their crew went above and beyond to help another boat from the Landings, a Rhodes19 named *Uno Mas*, which ran hard aground during the second fleet race on Saturday (as the tide was aggressively dropping). After driving the club's safety power boat to *Uno Mas*, they walked in deep mud to rescue the crew, visited the stranded boat later that night to secure it at high tide, then rescued it on Sunday morning.



Honorable mention went to *Summer Wind*, who had a crew member who not only dressed in a kilt, but played a guitar to entertain everyone!

We have Regatta shirts for sale, sizes Small through Extra Large, for \$25 each. Let me know if you are interested and I will get it to you. I'll also bring them to the general meetings.



Upcoming Regattas:

MAY

30-31: SYC – D12 Laser Regatta

JUNE

20: CSC - Summer Sailstice Raft-Up

See the complete schedule (and contact information) on our website's Racing page!



