



## COMMODORE, Stuart Gough

Welcome to the June edition of the Geechee Rhumb Line. It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the year, and yet so little club activity has taken place. Maybe, just maybe, there are signs that things are at last beginning to improve. I do hope so. I'm sure that we all want to get back to, or close to, something we used to call normal as quickly as possible.

I do think that the wonderful turn-out of boats and people at Wassaw Creek for the Memorial Weekend Cruise is a strong indication of the determination and desire of the Geechee members to do exactly that - get back out on the water to enjoy themselves once more.

Judy Grissette did a great job putting the cruise together at the last minute following the disappointment of not being allowed into the Ft. McAllister Marina.

Elke Quinn is working her "socks off" to make the Low Country Boil social on June 20th a very special event. We are looking for a big, big turn-out. It's FREE FOR MEMBERS, and it promises to be not only a great day out but, hopefully, the start of reigniting the club's social activities.

By the time you read this Rhumb Line, the Geechee Board members will have already met and continued discussing plans for the club's activities for the remainder of 2020.

The Board has decided to incorporate a shortened version of the June Membership Meeting outside at the social on the 20th, thereby eliminating any possible concerns of social distancing at our normal venue, Carey Hilliard's. There will be no guest speaker, just a brief analysis of the club activities and updates on future events.

I am really looking forward to the social on the 20th. Hopefully, you feel the same and we can use it as a springboard to "kick start" the rest of the year.

Bring a guest and let's make it a day to remember.

**MEETINGS: After Pandemic is over: 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](http://www.geecheesailingclub.org)

### EMAIL ADDRESS:

[geecheesailingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:geecheesailingclub@hotmail.com)

### FACEBOOK:

Geechee Sailing Club

## **GEECHEE SAILING CLUB'S UPCOMING CRUISES, PARTIES, & RACES**

**June 20 = Low Country Boil  
& June Meeting  
Ed Harms'**

**June or July =  
Cruise to be announced**

**November 13 =  
Change of Watch**

## VICE COMMODORE, Dawson Long

With all the extra time to spend in isolation, perhaps you, as I do, spend a little more time looking at bigger boats. Now...to the spouses and girlfriends: we men are not looking for a new model relationally; we are just thinking about the boat. In my case, the one-foot-itis is creeping up again. My medi-

cation has worn off. The side effects, or the repercussions of this affliction, are sporadic bruising or loss of limb. I am careful in planning my presentation of the business proposition I have for us.

The contingency plan is that I desire the boat for pleasure, whether the business

works or does not work. Imagine a 41' fast catamaran Farrier F-41 that sleeps 8 to take people on 1-, 2-, or 3-night excursions to Hilton Head and back. A crew of two and up to 6 passengers would be the plan. The destinations can vary. We could give them the inside ICW or outside ocean op-

tions. I would love your input. Also, thank you for offering any tactics to help convince my wife.



## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Linda Meyer

I hope all Geechees have been doing well while sheltering at home and social distancing. It's pretty difficult to be a Membership Chair in a club that has not been having meetings or socials. We have to depend on each other to spread the good news about the Geechee Sailing Club.

We had a wonderful cruise to Wassaw Creek with many of our members attending. It was really encouraging to see so many members out on the water again. Our newest member, AJ Goldman, and Cherie Dennis were in attendance on their sailboat *Loon*. It was great to see how they fit right in with the group and helped out by ferrying people to the dock in their dinghy - and suggested a sunset gathering for Sunday evening. There's nothing quite like a Geechee cruise.



I want to personally thank Angela Margolit for bringing two members of her racing team on the cruise in the "Little" Tintagel. It was great meeting Hilary Jones and Paige Lauri. From what I understand, they are planning to attend our Low Country Boil/June Meeting on June 20th at Ed Harms' property. Look out for them and make them feel welcome by introducing yourself. They are definitely potential members.

Remember, you can invite potential members to the event on the 20th. Guests cost \$20. Please let Elke know if you plan to bring a guest. Better yet, let's get these potential members to join the club before the social and the event will be free to them - and will also bring us halfway to our membership goal.

To help with this, we have a special offer. The club's Bylaws state that new members who join July 1 or later only have to pay half price for membership (\$62.50). This year, because of our special circumstances with the pandemic, we are allowing anyone who joins in the month of June to only pay \$62.50. So get the word out to interested parties!

**REMEMBER...**  
**20 in 2020**

## CRUISE CHAIR, Judy Grissette

The Memorial Day Cruise was a huge success with 28 people on 11 boats. Anchorage was wonderful with plenty of dinghies to get folks to the Wassaw dock and beach. Thanks to Mark Willman for towing his small power boat behind his big power boat to help a couple of boat-ers without dinghies.

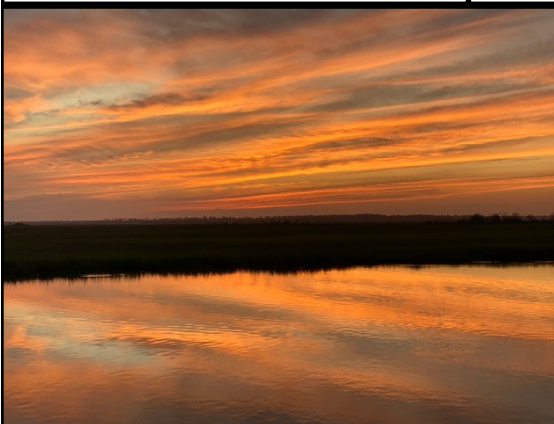
There was visiting on the boats Saturday, then off to the evening party on the dock. Mark's son and grandson entertained us with the catching of several unusual fish that they threw back. I never saw a puffer fish put up such a fight!

Sunday morning all joined together on the dock for a delicious brunch. The Geechees are famous for their food. The afternoon was filled with beach walking, visiting boats, and a bit of quiet time. Angela's girl team swam and then used the sun-shower on their boat. We heard Stuart jokingly exclaim disappointment when they kept their bathing suits on. Two of the girls slept in hammocks each night with the one off the boom hoping an alligator wouldn't take a bite.

The Howards and Grissettes were recovering from a month on the water, ending at the event, and were too tired

to continue hardy partying on boats that evening. We four had supper together and played our unfinished game of Progressive Rummy. Going back in the dark to our boat in the dinghy, we heard much laughter, and it reminded us of never giving up until the wee hours of the morning on cruises of earlier years.

The weather was perfect, and all got home safely Monday before the rain.





## RACE CHAIR, Angela Margolit

Do you wish you had purchased a St. Patrick's Regatta shirt - plus a cool hat? Well, you can! I will have them all with me at the upcoming Low Country Boil on June 20th.

The Savannah Yacht Club has cancelled the Grady Foster Long Distance Memorial Regatta which was scheduled for June 20th. However, the GSC Summer Sailstice Ocean Sprint is ON. But this year, instead of having a race, they are doing a Raft-Up

near Day Mark 17 on the Wilmington River. Details and registration forms can be found at

<https://summersailstice.com/event/chatham-sailing-club-sailstice-raft>.

As of now, the Hook Race from Hilton Head Island to the Landings is also ON. If you want to participate in this, please let me know. I did last year and it was a blast!

What are other boat clubs doing? I am still a member of two chapters up north of SEAS (Society for the Education of

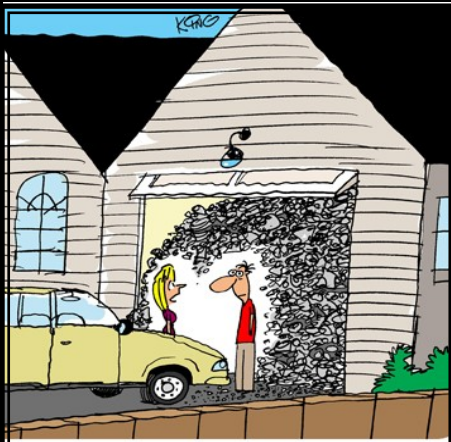
American Sailors). One of them, Bergen County, has had quite interesting monthly meetings via Zoom. The other, Morris County, has been busy planning two exotic flotillas for this Fall: Croatia in September and Bora Bora in October.



*"It's time we started spending more time together. How fast can you learn to work on boat engines?"*



*Fifty-two hundred is scary.  
Of it you need to be wary.  
Once the top is off  
You'd better not scoff.  
It'll grab you; you'd better not tarry!*



*"Would you mind doing something with all your spare boat engine parts? I'd like to park my car in the garage."*

## SOCIAL CHAIR, Elke Quinn

### MEMBERS' MONTHLY MEETING AND SOCIAL, SATURDAY, JUNE 20

We are still unable to have our monthly dinner meetings at Carey Hilliard's, so our Commodore suggested that we combine our June 20 social with a members' meeting. My idea is to have competitive yard games in the late afternoon followed by the Low Country Boil - and accompanied by live music from our favorite DJ, Savannah Steve. We can have our mem-

bership meeting following the game awards presentation. Hopefully, that will give everyone plenty of time to arrive.

Ed Harms has generously offered to host this event at his place at 290 Center Drive in Vernon View. We can begin gathering at 4:00 p.m. with games to start about 4:30, followed by our meeting and then our Low Country Boil.

**THIS EVENT IS FREE TO MEMBERS. GUESTS MUST PAY \$20 PER PERSON.**

Appetizers, drinks, food, and desserts will be provided. (We will have servers in masks and gloves serving your plates.)

**BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS AND BUG REPELLENT.** If you have questions about how to get to Ed's house, call him at 912/303-9194. If you have any other questions, you can call me at 912/355-0737.

I am looking forward to this as it's been a long time since we have all gotten together. See you on the 20th!

## COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

4/30/20-5/25/20

"It was a dark and stormy night...."

Well, actually it was a dark and windy night (25 mph) our first night out at anchor in Crescent on our way south. "Our" was Tim & Judy and Tommy & I. Every May (and usually October) we head out on our boats just to get away (*Obedience* for us and *Wait for Me* for them). Generally, we take two days and head to Brunswick Landing Marina to stay for a few days - just long enough to get our fill of Fox's Pizza's pizza, hang out at the marina's Yacht Club, and ride our bikes around the historic district. Then it's off to Ortega Landing Marina in Jacksonville, possibly Palatka, St. Augustine, and maybe Daytona.

However...with the Coronavirus, although Brunswick was open, Ortega was closed. So we decided that this was a good time to explore the St. John's River and go to Silver Glen Springs. We headed out, but *Wait for Me* was running hot. The guys removed the thermostat and replaced the impeller, but finally called SeaTow to pull *WFM* back to Brunswick. Tim ordered a new water pump which came overnight, so T&T replaced the pump and fixed the exhaust hose which was improperly installed by mechanics before we left.

Next stop was Jacksonville where we stayed at Jim King Park for free (great floating dock and park for walking Mindy dog). Boaters are allowed to tie up for 72 hours! By the way, as much as we loved Maggie dog, she would never do her business on the boat. Mindy, on the other hand, is a great boat dog with her little grass mat!

Doctor's Lake Marina was our next dockage for one night. It was very reasonably priced. Took our bikes and rode a short distance to a Mexican restaurant.

Finally made it to Palatka where we were anticipating a great meal outside

at Corky Bell's. We were not disappointed. We had eaten there a couple of years ago; it has the BEST seafood! After a huge dinner, we moseyed down the river and anchored around the corner.

Then...for the big surprise! Midge (Blind Mosquitoes!) I woke up the next morning to Tommy's pitiful whine of, "My boat...my boat!" Our boats were totally covered with these bugs so that the boats looked black. They were on and in everything! Unfortunately, although they don't sting, they secrete a kind of green dye which is extremely hard to remove. Needless to say, we headed back to Doctor's Lake Marina. While I drove, Tommy scrubbed and washed down the boat - and I'm talking all day! Then the two guys continued to clean their boats until they were both totally exhausted. To treat ourselves, we rode our bikes to a different restaurant (Santioni's Italian Restaurant). It was just what the doctor (or Doctor's Lake) ordered: quiet, classy, pianist.... A patron even got up and sang an impromptu song in Italian.

Heading back out of the St. John's River the next morning, we discovered that the railroad bridge would not open until 2:00 p.m., so we pulled over and napped. Then it was back to Jim King Park. Beautiful night and great breeze.

Fernandina was the next destination since they were finally open after two years rebuilding due to Hurricane Matthew. Nicely done, but transients are put on the end of the loooooongest dock. The end looked like a mile away! It was fun, though, to walk across the street to the Marina Seafood Restaurant for home-cooking and seafood. However, where all the other restaurants were observing social distancing, etc., they were not. We felt very uncomfortable

there. The next night we went to Pepper's Mexican Grill & Cantina where they were doing a great job of social distancing and hygiene.

It was in Fernandina that *Obedience's* forward head quit working and we had to order another motor. Meanwhile, T&T replaced *WFM's* thermostat. Then *Obedience's* new bilge pump went out and Tommy replaced it with a used one he happened to have. Our auto pilot also went out, but Tommy found a loose connection in the upper control unit.

Back to Brunswick: Fourth time crossing St. Andrew's Sound - but it was actually not a problem on any of the crossings. However...we did discover that *WFM* had "sprung a leak." It was the hose again that the mechanics had improperly installed! After temporarily fixing that, we went back to Fox's for our pizza fix.

Anchored in Cattle Pen Creek next with 50-60 mph winds and storm. The following day we anchored in Wassaw Creek and had another stormy night. OK, so it really was, "...a dark and stormy night" after all. Saturday was spent with the Geechees in the creek with dinner on the Fish & Wildlife Refuge dock, and Sunday we were there for brunch. There were 11 boats and 28 people! We headed home Monday, and both *Wait for Me* and *Obedience* made it - along with their crews!

There was a lot of in-between stuff like washing clothes, grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, discovering midges in everything...but there were lots of good times too: beautiful sunsets and sunrises, great breezes for sitting out, the beauty of the low country with its marshes and sea birds (and alligators!), and fun times together. As the old saying goes, "A rough day at sea is better than any day in the office." We're already looking forward to the next journey! Bring it on...we can take it! We're Geechees!

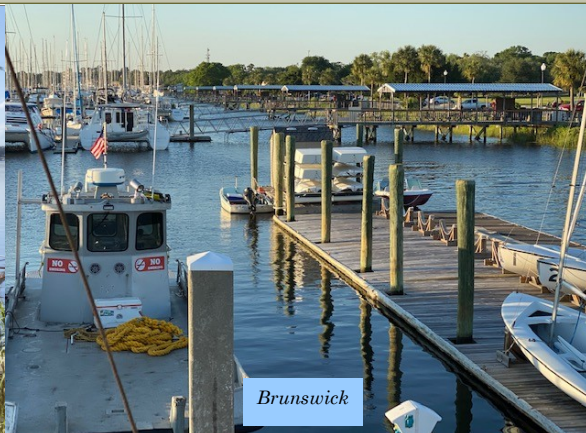




*Wait for Me*



*Obedience*



*Brunswick*



*Brunswick*



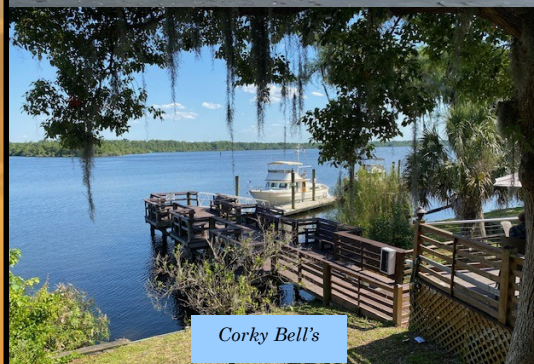
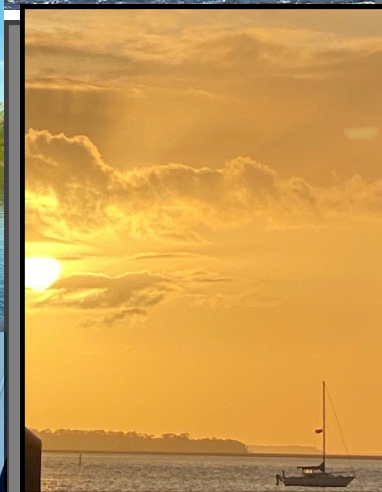
*Golden Ray*



*Jacksonville*



*Midges!*



*Corky Bell's*



*Corky Bell's*



*SeaTow*



*Fernandina*





## SECRETARY, Kim Breland

We headed out to the Odingsell River to join the other Geechees at Wassaw Creek on Saturday, May 23. We motored along the back route from Wilmington Island via the Skidaway and Vernon Rivers and through Green Island and Ossabaw Sounds.

Finally at our destination, once secured at the dock at Wassaw Island, we set about applying bug spray and donning our walking shoes. There was a remote island that begged to be explored! We set out for the beach, walking down the main road, then hanging a left. The road seemed endless, and we finally determined that we should have hung a right.

Retracing our footsteps, it wasn't long before we arrived at the trailhead to the beach. The trail wove through an extremely varied landscape, up a steep sandy hill, along a swampy area, through a section of evergreens that was refreshingly cool, and a sun-filled clearing that

was literally humming with bee activity.

Finally, the trees cleared and we arrived on Wassaw Beach. There were five of us in our party and only two other people on a jet ski some distance away. The beautiful pristine beach went on as far as the eye could see! To see this beach from the ocean is one thing, but on foot this vast expanse was a sight to behold.

After a brief time on the beach, we returned to our boat - hot, thirsty, and hungry. First things first...we all jumped in the water to cool off before digging into our lunch basket. Too soon the afternoon passed and it was time to return home. Our return voyage was the ocean route and was a bit rough. However, we gained about 45 minutes and, best of all, had a lingering view of Wassaw Beach to finish up the day. We hope to visit again very soon!



## MEMBER AT LARGE, David Breland

Our Catalina Coronado 15 needed a deep cleaning after sitting up for many months. I took Stuart's cleanup advice to heart and bought a bottle of 3M's Cleaner and Wax. First, a thorough wash, then I applied the 3M product with an electric polisher. I followed that up with a coat of wax and a buffing. Next, I washed all of the halyards, sheets, and lines in a solution of laundry detergent, dish washing liquid, and fabric softener. I inspected all the blocks and cleats and performed the necessary maintenance on the trailer. Everything was in Bristol shape!

Afterwards, Kim and I took it on our first sail of the year this past April. We



trailed it over to the ramp on Johnny Mercer at Turner's Creek, stepped the mast, and got the sails ready to go. After launching, I held the boat in knee-deep water while Kim parked her SUV and the trailer. We paddled out in the river then raised the sails. After tacking around north of the ramp for a while, we set our sights on the Wilmington River.

We sailed under the Spence Grayson Bridge and on down past Ho-

gan's, past Mark Willman's *Our Pleasure*, and past Young's. As we came up to Sail Harbor, we exchanged waves with Angela Margolit as she was prepping Stuart's boat for an afternoon sail as well.

We sailed on out of Turner's Creek and into the Wilmington River. It was a perfect afternoon for sailing with a steady breeze and warm weather. Then, after about an hour of good, long runs and some tacking about, we sailed back up Turner's Creek all the way to the boat ramp. It was a perfect day!

## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

More from the list of boating terminology that was posted in 2006:

- Freeboard - food and liquor supplied by the owner
- Headway - what you are making if you can't get the toilet to work
- Keel - term used by 1st Mate after too much heel by Skipper
- Landlubber - anyone on board who wishes he were not
- Latitude - the number of degrees off course allowed a guest
- Mast - religious ritual used before setting sail
- Mizzen - an object you can't find

## FOR SALE

Mercury outboard, motor, 2.5 hp, 4 stroke - \$300  
Nissan outboard motor, 5 hp, 4 stroke - \$300  
Tohatsu outboard 6 hp, 4 stroke - \$400  
J24 Spinnaker - \$250  
J24 New Code Zero - \$600

Rich Moore (mooregames1@comcast.net)

Northhill Storm Anchor, foldable and stainless steel. \$300. Call Tommy Howard, 4281



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**Looking for Code Zero in good condition for 40' boat (contact Rich Moore at mooregames1@comcast.net)**

## 2020 OFFICERS

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