



GEECHEE SAILING CLUB

RHUMB LINE



COMMODORE, Stuart Gough

Hello Everyone,
Let me begin by wishing all members and their families a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

As we enter into a new year and also a new decade, what better time to look forward and anticipate what lies ahead, yet also take time to reflect and learn from what has gone before. A new beginning always offers up new opportunities, and the Geechee Sailing Club is no different in that respect.

It could be argued that our club has become a little stale and somewhat inward-looking over the past several years. But regardless of whether that is the case or not, I do believe that things certainly need a little in the way of refreshment and bringing up-to-date.

This doesn't mean that we need to tear down the old walls and start rebuilding everything again from scratch. However, what I believe it does mean is that we need to take a long, hard look at ourselves and see which direction we need to go in to make the club exciting again.

This is exactly what the 2020 Board will be doing throughout the year.

I am of the opinion that the

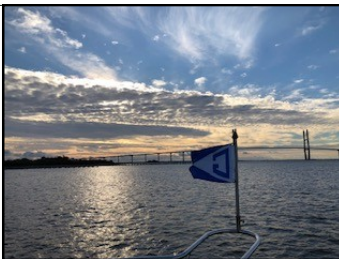
new Board I have gathered around me is the strongest and most driven group of members that the club has enjoyed for quite a long time. Every single person on the Board is determined to bring something new to the table. There is no need to point to individuals...we will all be working as a team towards the same goal. The object of the exercise is simply to make the club more interesting for everyone, and we are going to do this in a variety of ways.

The first thing you will all see is the revamped and much-improved *Rhumb Line* - the club's monthly newsletter.

The second thing that has changed is that we are going back to Board meetings; probably not held every month, but as matters dictate.

The third thing you will see is that at the first membership meeting of the year, January 13, each Board member will present their annual program to the members and outline their ideas, goals, and ambitions well ahead of time.

There will be occasions when an individual Board member needs assistance with a particular event that they are



organizing, and they will look to the general membership for that help. I believe that we have the quality and depth of members who will step up to the plate and offer their services if asked to do so.

As your new Commodore, I can't guarantee success of everything we attempt, but I can guarantee that both I and the Board will be working "flat out" to put the Geechee Sailing Club to the forefront of activities in and around Savannah where it belongs.

The Geechee Sailing Club can be every bit as good as we want it to be...2020 offers that chance...we should take it.

MEETINGS: Every second Monday of the month at Hilliard's, 3316 Skidaway Rd. Order dinner at 6:00; meeting at 7:00.

WEBSITE:

www.geecheesailingclub.org

FACEBOOK:

Geechee Sailing Club

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

March 20-22 = St. Patrick's Regatta

(AND MUCH MORE TO COME!)

VICE COMMODORE, Dawson Long

Geechees, let's gather for an interesting year in speakers. I have lined up three speakers already: Savannah Canoe and Kayak is speaking at our February Meeting; Matt Bowman of M3 Electric (marine electronics) is March; and Walt Suter of Sailor's Marine (sail maker, rigger) is April. Each of these will be followed by question and answer sessions. If you have any additional ideas, please let me know.

I have confirmed a reservation for getting the County Sheriff, John Wilcher, to speak in May. Confirmed for June or earlier is Mickey

from Sail Harbor on boat maintenance repair issues and interesting experiences. Possibly to follow will be a weatherman or weatherwoman; Ships of the Sea may speak about the Slave Ship; there may be an open mic for close calls on our vessels; and, last but not least, the Coast Guard may join us. I would love your feedback on future and potential speakers.

The Board would like to make this as interactive as possible to allow your opinion to be heard. For instance, many potential members are undecided about joining because they may not have a boat. Perhaps, we could create a program for posting cruises where mem-

bers welcome other members to join them on their boats. We encourage anyone with a skill-set to assist us in that process. This would apply to racing and cruising.

One desire of the Geechee Board members is to expand the number of boating experiences in our community for our members and potential members to enjoy. Thank you for taking the opportunity to offer a helping hand when possible. Whereas the overall approval rating of the Geechee Board is good, we desire to deliver outstanding experiences in fellowship this year.

SOCIAL CHAIR, Elke Quinn

I have put together a tentative list of about 8 social events for 2020 that will be discussed with the Board members. I hope to bring back a few of our old favorites and add some new ones.

I do want to add a commentary! I want to thank Tommy and Linda Howard for their generosity in offering us the use of Marsh Harbor's fabulous clubhouse and Tommy's hard work in getting things set up. Having a venue that doesn't cost us anything enables the club to provide more for the occasion. That, to-

gether with the generosity of those ladies who contribute such fine side items and desserts, makes these events very affordable.

I look forward to a fun 2020!

CRUISE CHAIR, Judy Grissette

First a little history:

From the 70's forward we frequented the beaches of St. Catherine, Bradley Creek, Romerly Marsh, and Wassaw Beach with Labor Day at Harbour Town. Blackbeard was the first long-distance cruise.

We had small sailboats: no generators, open forward hatches, wind scoops for air flow, and solar water bags for warm showers. We rafted up and partied under the stars, often with a guitar player and occasionally our beloved Theresa singing off-key.

When Lem Highsmith joined with his Morgan 42, he found himself being the one in the middle holding us on his anchor and loving it. After breakfast, we waited for the rare dingy to take us ashore. As time went by, more dingies were bought, as well as bigger boats, since we discovered that we enjoyed being sailors and wanted to move on up.



I would like some weekend anchorages for more participation rather than mostly marinas, and continue with Harbour Town, of course. Let me know your wishes.



A schedule will be published in the February *Rhumb Line*.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Linda Meyer

20 in 2020

As your new Membership Chairman, I am looking forward to helping the 2020 Board make the Geechees Great Again. But this isn't just my task or your new Board's task. We will need a lot of help from the membership to attract new members to our great club. Our goal is 20 new members in 2020.

This past Fall many of you contributed several suggestions to help make our club better. I have not forgotten about those ideas. The ones I think will increase membership and attendance at our functions have been pre-

sented to your new Board. I will be reporting on some of these things at the January meeting. There will be events and incentives to attract new members, but I will need all of you to step up and help to achieve this membership goal.

We can definitely thank Dawson Long and Heidi Cross for bringing in the first new members of 2020! At our December meeting, Dawson brought two prospective members: **Bill Oakley** and wife **Kathleen**. They have a 28' Catalina (*Dulcinea*) at Sail Harbor. Bill jumped right into being a great Geechee by reading the Christmas gift exchange poem at our December meeting/party at Marsh Harbor. **Clete Bergen** and wife **Deanie** have a 27' Catalina (*Sundancer*).

Heidi Cross, a new member herself, also had a prospective member come to the December meeting. Cecilia (CeCe) Bianca. CeCe has a 23' Grady White she keeps at her daughter's dock in Richmond Hill.

These people have all filled out membership forms, been accepted by the Board, and have paid their 2020 dues. We look forward to getting to know them better as they become more involved with the club. Please introduce yourself and make our new members feel welcome!

RACING CHAIR, Angela Margolit

Your 2020 Board want to attract new members to help keep the Geechees alive. I feel that encouraging newcomers to Savannah as well as sailing novices to join a race team can be a great way to help us grow! My goal this year is to work more closely with all sail race-related organizations. We may even try to hold more frequent (and informal) midweek races in the Summer.

If you feel that you are more of a cruiser, why not join in the many long-distance races? The 2020 edition of the Biennial Gulf-Streamer Offshore Sailing Challenge from Daytona Beach, FL, to Charleston, SC, will kick off on Thursday, May 21, 2020, with the famous Rum Party at the Halifax River Yacht Club. There is a substantial Early Entry Fee Discount and Complimentary Pre-Race Dockage for entries received before 3/1/20. (Then they can join in the Quicksilver Cup from

Charleston to Port Royal on the way back to Savannah).

I help the local colleges (SCAD & Georgia Southern) race teams, and those young adults would LOVE to be out there with you.

And now an update on:



ST. PATRICK'S REGATTA

We have been working on the 41st St. Patrick's Regatta scheduled for March 21-22. If you have been a sponsor or donated raffle prizes in the past, you will be hearing from us (especially Mark Willman). If this is something you would like to help with, please let me know. I will have a sign-up sheet at the January and March meetings.

NEW THIS YEAR: We are using the Regatta Network to handle registrations as that will allow competitors to pay online with a credit card. We have already been spreading the word throughout the Southeast.

SAILING CLUBS/RACING LINKS

www.charlestonoceanracing.com (CORA)

chathamssailing.org (CSC)

hryc.comm (HRYC)

sayra-sailing.membershiptoolkit.com

skidawayislandboatingclub.org (SIBC)

charlestonraceweek.com (CORA)

www.geecheesailingclub.org (GSC)

regattanetwork.com

www.scyachtclub.com/yachting (SCYC)

www.yachtclubhh.org (YCHHI)

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AREA REGATTAS CALENDAR

***Frostbite Series (CSC)** = Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, 29, & March 14

***St. Patrick's Regatta (GSC)** = March 21-22

***Charleston Race Week (CORA)** = April 23-26

***McIntosh Cup (SYC)** = May 16-17

***12th Biennial GulfStreamer Offshore Challenge (HRYC)** = May 22

***Quicksilver Cup, Charleston to Port Royal (CORA)** = May 29

***3rd Annual Grady Foster Memorial Regatta (SYC)** = June 20

***Summer Sailstice Ocean Sprint (CSC)** = June ?

***Savannah Cup, Charleston to Savannah (CORA)** = August 7

***Wassaw Cup (SYC)** = Sept. ?

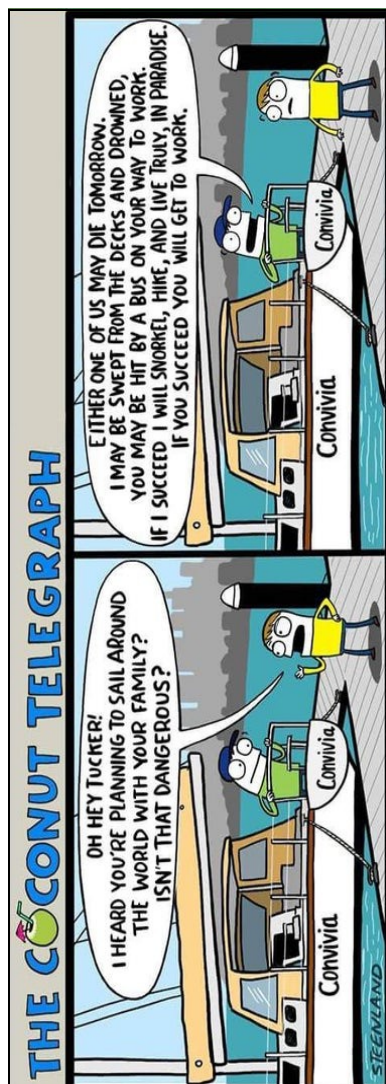
***Hook Race, Hilton Head to Savannah (YCHHI/SIBC)** = Sept. ?

***Oktoberfest Regatta (CSC)** = Sept. 26-27

***Harbour Town Cup & Calibogue Cup (YCHHI)** = Oct. 3-4

***Ocean Challenge Regatta, Port Royal Sound (SCYC)** = Oct. 10-11

***Leukemia Cup Regatta (SYC)** = Nov. 7



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

As you can see, this is my first attempt at the *Rhumb Line*. I will be tweaking it as time goes by. But first...

I (as well as the entire Geechee Sailing Club) want to thank Susie Lott for the MANY years of service to the Club. I have heard it said over and over that she has been the glue that kept us together. Needless to say, we love you, Susie (and, Forrest, you're not so bad either)!

The *Rhumb Line* will be emailed to all - unless you do not have an email address. Those few (I hope) will be mailed USPS. The Membership List will be distributed the same way. If you see any corrections that need to be made, please contact me by email

(howardhome@comcast.net) or phone (658-7398).

Also, if you have something that may be of interest to the club (an article, picture, information, etc.) please pass that on to me. It will be used when and if possible.

And, as Susie would say, "PLEASE READ THE *RHUMB LINE* BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING." You never know when you will be "tested" on its content. PLUS...don't throw the newsletter out...at least until the next month...so you can keep up with the calendar and contact names.

LET'S SHOVE OFF into a fun year of dinners & programs, cruises, parties, races, and everything in-between!



PAST COMMODORE, Kevin Quinn

As Past Commodore, I would like to be the first to welcome Stuart Gough as the new 2020 Commodore of the Geechee Sailing Club. Stuart has a lot of passion for our club. He

has great ideas and will be a brilliant leader. Stuart and I worked to fill all the Geechee Board positions and have found talented people to serve you. In order to be suc-

cessful, however, the GSC members need to support the Board in their undertakings and volunteer their services when needed.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE, David Breland

The first boat I owned by myself (not dad-sponsored) was a 10' fiberglass sloop rigged sailing dingy. Though somewhat rough when I purchased it, after a bit of spit and polish it turned out to be a beautiful craft. I painted the hull a deep blue and the wooden mast a brilliant white. Arched on the back of the transom in the same white, I painted its name, *Amorsita*. Sailing it in the Skidaway River with the main and jib deployed, it was a sight to see. It even had a silky, billowing spinnaker to complete its sail inventory. In a separate purchase, I acquired an old-old painted tilt-back power boat trailer. After scraping, sanding, cutting off excess parts, repainting, rewiring, adding bunks, disabling the tilt function

(the trailer was originally for a much larger boat), replacing wheel bearings, wheels, hubs, and axel...in a jiffy I had an easy way to move my boat on land.

With big boat sailing features in such a compact package, it was an excellent craft in which to learn. Now my beloved little doll was not without fault. It had a round bottom and a very tippy nature. It also leaked profusely around the bolt that supported its swinging centerboard. I employed all types of methods to seal the pivot point to no avail. This generous leak, multiplied by the boat's tendency to wind up upside down, was really amplified by the fact that it had no built-in flotation. When uprighted

after a dunking, which happened more often than I'd like, it was barely afloat with just an inch or so of gunnel above the water. Bailing out a boat that is awash AND leaking makes for a difficult task. After being whisked down the river with the tide while ladling out an endless supply of water a couple of times, it was time to end this love affair. We parted ways when I sold it to the owner of a cruiser in transit from Florida to points north for use as his dingy. No doubt, someone is enjoying that boat somewhere today.

SECRETARY, Kim Breland

Happy New Year! I hope this year is off to a great start for everyone! The first Sunday of 2020 found me at home enjoying an unusually quiet afternoon. I poured a steaming cup of coffee and decided to retreat to the couch and leisurely read the *Savannah Morning News*. I settled down and glanced at my feline companion who bestowed a sleepy wink of approval. Feeling rather decadent, my state of relaxation lasted only until page A9. As my eyes scanned the headline, I nearly leapt with joy: a new marina is on the horizon!

Savannah Boathouse will be located in the old William's Seafood location

on Talahi Island. It has been about twenty years since the last marina, Bahia Blue, was built. I hastily read through the article, only pausing at key details...1600 feet of in-water dock space...dry stack facility for 108 boats...on-site bathroom, shower, and laundry facilities...retail store and event deck. This was indeed exciting news!

I was briefly transported to a summer day on the water, visions of *Serendipity* approaching the new marina filling my mind. Would we top off the fuel tank to extend our day on the water? Replenish our refreshments? Perhaps even take a short walk to the nearby seafood

restaurant? The possibilities began to dance delightfully in my head!

The dream takes the first step toward reality when construction begins at the end of January and completes in 12-18 months. I have a feeling it will be worth the wait! Please be sure to read Katie Nussbaum's [January 5, 2020](#), article for all the interesting details.

I am so honored and excited to serve as your Secretary this year. Hope to see you at the January meeting!

EVENTS

BOAT PARADE

The annual Boat Parade was held Saturday, December 7. Our Stuart Gough won 1st Place in Sail, and Kevin Quinn won 2nd Place in Sail.

It was a beautiful night - just perfect for watching the unique entries cruise by. All of this was followed by free chili and hotdogs supplied and served by the City of Thunderbolt. Thanks Thunderbolt!!



CHRISTMAS PARTY & GIFT SWAP

On Monday, December 9, we celebrated the season with a covered dish and gift swap at the Marsh Harbor Clubhouse. Again, we had perfect weather - 70's, moon, high tide. And it was no time for a diet. The club supplied the turkey, ham, and wine. Everyone else brought SO MUCH! Next time we'll set up TWO big serving tables!

As for the winner of the ugly sweater contest, Kevin Quinn won hands down. His sweater with lights, and pears hanging on a tree, had a face peaking out over the tree. Can you guess who it was? Why, it was Danny Partridge, of course!



Winner



DID YOU KNOW?



Did you see our new member in the Savannah Morning News issue of December 15? The main article of the Arts & Culture section featured the Savannah Newcomers Club and Heidi Cross, the President for 2020 (AND our new member as of December).

It is a 430-member club for women who join within two years of moving to this area, but they can stay on as members as long as they continue to pay their yearly dues of \$24. We have several Geechees who are members.

Heidi moved to Savannah in 2016. Originally from New Jersey where she grew up sailing, she has lived throughout the Southeast. She said she jumped right into leading the City Adventures Committee for the Newcomers Club in order to get acquainted with Savannah. So...Heidi...we are looking forward to you jumping right into our Geechee Sailing Club and using your expertise to bring growth and excitement to us as well.

I even understand that you have already signed up to be on the committee boat for the St. Patrick's regatta! Way to go, Heidi!

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Boats spend most of their time trying to gain mastery over waves; sailors spend most of their time trying to gain mastery over boats; and waves spend most of their time trying to gain mastery over sailors. It's like an enormous game of Rock, Paper, Scissors. (From Dave Zobel's *Bent Book of Boatspeak*.)

FOR SALE

(IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING NAUTICAL THAT YOU WANT TO SELL,
PLEASE EMAIL ME - howardhome@comcast.net)
(that is nautical, not naughty!)

2020 OFFICERS

Commodore	Stuart Gough
Vice Commodore.....	Dawson Long
Past Commodore.....	Kevin Quinn
Secretary	Kim Breland
Treasurer	Pat Howard
Social Chair	Elke Quinn
Cruise Chair	Judy Grissette
Racing Chair	Angela Margolit
Membership Chair	Linda Meyer
Communications/Editor	Linda Howard
Member at Large	David Breland

For questions or comments, contact Linda Howard, Editor
(howardhome@comcast.net)