

COMMODORE, Stuart Gough

It occurred to me sometime last week that, whilst probably all the Geechee Sailing Club members know who I am by now, there might be those among you who know very little about me.

Well I guess, just like most people of my advancing years, it would take many more pages than our Editor will afford me in the Rhumb Line to relate my life story to you and delve into those lengthy corridors of history. But what I can tell you is that my life up to this point has been, for the most part, extremely varied, very interesting (even quite challenging at times), but almost never dull.

Allow me, if you will, to relate one tiny segment of my "sailing life" to you. Several years ago, whilst living in the UK working as a Yacht Broker and as European distributor for Passport Yachts, I used to write a monthly column about various sailing and boating activities for the "late" *Lattitudes and Attitudes* magazine (now recently and happily risen from the ashes). The owner/publisher of the magazine, Bob Bitchen, is an old friend of mine, and he gave me column inches in both printed and e-versions of his magazine.

The name of my column was "*Here's the Thing*" and I would write fact-related UK and European items in a light-hearted and amusing way in an effort to try and interest more international readers for the magazine.

I recall with some interest one of the articles I penned that really convinced me that "rednecks" are not exclusive to the U.S. The UK has its fair share of them, too...believe me!

The following story is true and actually took place just a few miles from where I used to live in Devon, a particularly beautiful part of the country and one of the finest cruising areas on the South Coast of England. Like most of these crazy incidents, it began with a bottle. Let's see what happened.....

"Here's The Thing"
by D. Stuart Gough
Nov. 21, 2012

Jack Sparrow - back in jail, this time in the UK....

Alison Whelan, 51, had just spent two solid days drinking and eating poisonous nightshade in and around the picturesque town of Dartmouth in Devon.

Whilst heavily under the influence and wildly hallucinating, she and her companion Tristram Locke, decided that they would try for a life of adventure and would set sail to roam the Seven Seas.

With their new-found imaginary skills, they staggered down to the commercial dock on the tidal River Dart and clumsily managed to untie a 45' steel, 100-passenger ferry and "set sail." However, unable to start the engines or unlock the steering mechanism, they simply drifted with the fast-flowing current. The alarm was quickly raised by local residents who watched in horror as the ferry drifted away. The police tried to intercept them and reported that the pair were seen drinking rum and were heard laughing whilst shouting back at the officers: "I'm Jack Sparrow and I'm a pirate. You will never catch me!"

For more than an hour and a half the drifting ferry bounced from one moored yacht to another as though taking part in some kind of expensive nautical ping pong game. More than 30 officers from the police, ambulance, Coast Guard, and Royal National Lifeboat Institution were quickly drafted to give chase and try to apprehend the pair.

(continued)

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

EMAIL ADDRESS:

geecheesailingclub@hotmail.com

FACEBOOK:

Geechee Sailing Club

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

March 7-8 = Shakedown Cruise to Wassaw Creek

March 9 = Speaker is Matt Baumann of M3 Electric

March 20-22 = St. Patrick's Regatta


April 18 = Geechee Games and Low Country Boil (Ed Harms')

April 25-26 = Cruise to Brunswick Landing Marina

May 23-25 = Memorial Day Cruise to Ft. McAllister

IT'S TIME TO SPRING FORWARD!

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD SATURDAY NIGHT!

<p>Finally, the ferry came to a halt as it ran aground three miles upstream, but not before it had caused many thousands of pounds worth of damage to the catalogue of boats it had encountered on the way.</p> <p>When finally arrested, Whelan told the police that they were heading for St. Tropez in France. However, it was pointed out by the arresting office, PC Clair Pearson, that the tide was incoming and that they had been drifting inland - away from the sea.</p>	<p>The Magistrate's Court in Torquay heard that this pair had caused immense trouble to the emergency services and also to the ferry owners who had to bear the cost of the vessel's recovery. In her defense, Whelan admitted that she had been on a drinking spree around Torbay, Devon, and had consumed poisonous nightshade, causing her to hallucinate.</p> <p>The Magistrates were obviously not particularly impressed with the defendants' excuses and suggested that they might consider taking navigation classes whilst they</p>	<p>spent the next six months "Resting at her Majesty's Pleasure" in Exeter Jail.</p> <p>Hmmmm. There IS a resemblance!</p> <div data-bbox="1062 247 1529 552">  </div>
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VICE COMMODORE, Dawson Long

<p>From the desk of the Vice Commodore, I want to assure you that the campaign to "Make Geechees Great Again" is going well.</p> <p>I want to offer many thanks to our new friend, Nigel Law of Savannah Canoe & Kayak. He presented at our February meeting the interesting history of the kayak and canoe.</p>	<p>He spoke about his and his wife's adventure canoeing down the entire middle of America from the Great Lakes, mostly down the Mississippi, and over to Key West. He spoke about local adventures that we can have through his offer of guided tours. Please stop by Savannah Canoe & Kayak on Bonaventure Rd. the next chance you get.</p>	<p>For March: Matt Baumann of M3 Electric (marine electronics) will be speaking on things we should know about the electronics on our boats. There will be some question and answer time also. Matt is part of the Geechee family, as he is an in-law to Forrest and Susie Lott. Keep thinking of interesting speakers for the club and get back with me.</p>
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PAST COMMODORE, Kevin Quinn

<p>There has been a lot of excitement in the State of Georgia concerning anchoring. It started years ago with HB-201. Different versions of the bill dragged through the Georgia House for years. HB-201 became a law (GA Code 52-7-8.4) with an effective date of January 1, 2020. This caused a coastal-wide uproar - so much so that Representative Ron Stephens, District 164, introduced a new bill this year: HB-833. This new law and this new bill are the most important pieces of legislation affecting Geechee boaters ever written.</p> <p>If you ever want to anchor in Georgia waters in the future, you need to contact your Georgia House Representative, Lynn Smith, Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, and let her know your concerns.</p>	<p>The law states that you are not allowed to anchor any closer to a structure than 1,000 feet. The new bill will correct that to 150 feet.</p> <p>Even if you don't have a boat at this time in your life, you can help your fellow boating enthusiasts by writing a letter or emailing Lynn Smith, or anyone else on that committee, to say that you are in favor of the bill's passage.</p> <p>Your concerns would be that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with regulating the discharge of sewage. • Agree with the law applying to all people and vessels equally. • Disagree with the restrictions concerning anchoring in front of someone's house. <p>The bill has had its first and second readings and is getting ready to be passed on to committee.</p>	<p>*****</p> <p>Lynn Smith Natural Resources Committee Chair 228C State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334 lynn.smith@house.ga.gov</p> <p>Ron Stephens (the bill's author) Economic Development & Tourism Committee Chair 226A State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334 ron.stephens@house.ga.gov</p> <p>*****</p> <p>P.S. The Geechee Sailing Club's St. Patrick's Regatta is being boosted on the GSC Facebook page. This has brought a dozen-plus people to join our page. We need to be thinking of ways to convert our new-found Facebook Friends to members of GSC.</p>
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CRUISE CHAIR, Judy Grissette

The Shakedown Cruise to Wassaw Creek (aka Odingsell) is **this Saturday & Sunday (March 7-8)** with a full moon on Monday. There is good creek anchorage and dinghy rides to the beach during the day. In the early evening Saturday, you

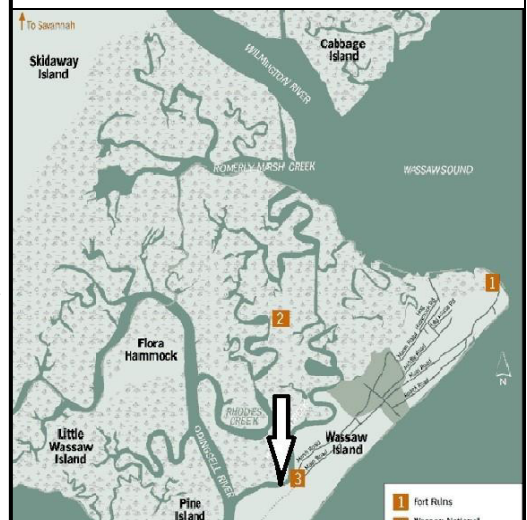


can dinghy over or raft up to our boat (*Wait for Me*) with your cocktails and snacks. Later, we will tie dinghies together and go down the river to watch the moon rise. Usually, we tie up three across with the center dinghy using a motor.

On Sunday you can head home or, if you wish, stay another night. Just remember that Monday is our March meeting.

We hope to have several dinghies; those who don't have one can be passengers. It will be great fun!

GPS = 31°52'35"N; 80°59'6"W



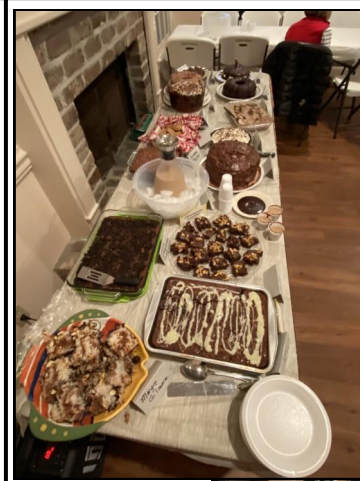
SOCIAL CHAIR, Elke Quinn

The turn-out for the Oyster Roast/Chocolate Dessert Contest was a great success! We had plenty of oysters and 15 DESSERT ENTRIES! Our three judges: Scott Lawson, Joe Lane, and Ric Fraker determined that the best out of the 15 were from Suzanne Plucker, 1st; Linda Howard, 2nd; and CeCe Bianca, 3rd. Receiving the Chairman's Award was Ginger Little for her creative Chocolate Martinis! Not to be outdone by the women bakers, we had two entries made by men: Kevin Quinn's Towering Chocolate Cherry Cake and Ed Harms' delicious and beautiful Chocolate Gran Marnier Trifle.

Much thanks to those who entered - fun AND delicious!

Coming up, be prepared, to participate in the **Low Country Boil and Geechee Games April 18th** at Ed Harms' house. I would like to have contests in Bocce Ball and Horseshoes. **IF ANYONE HAS A SET OF HORSEHOES, LET ME KNOW - PLEASE!**

This April event will require \$15 per person. Again, any non-member guest will be \$20 per person. Appetizers and/or desserts will also be welcome. More details to follow.



(Photos continued on Page 4)



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Linda Meyer

I am full of questions for the membership this month:

Do you know any people outside the club that have some kind of boat?

Have you approached them about visiting the Geechee Sailing Club?

Have you told them about this month's speaker?

Have you given them a GSC business card and encouraged them to look at our website or asked them to "like" us on Facebook?

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!?

Dawson is on top for bringing in the most members so far this year. Can you top him?

Who will bring the most guests to our March Meeting?

**REMEMBER...
20 in 2020**



RACE CHAIR, Angela Margolit

Have you signed up to race yet? If so, is your boat full? We can help fill it with young, strong hands!

Remember to register at: www.regattanetwork.com/event/19926. Alternatively, you can register and pay at the Competitor's Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20, at Molly McGuire's at 216 Johnny Mercer Blvd. (left of ACE Hardware and behind Basil's Pizza and Deli on Wilmington Island).

All Geechee members are invited to attend the Awards Banquet on Sunday, March 22, at Tubby's Tank House, 2909 River Dr., Thunderbolt, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Dinner tickets will be available at the venue for \$20/person.

- First, second, and third place overall winners in each class will receive an award.
- First, second, and third place for the Pursuit Race will be recognized.
- The \$250 Cash "Commodore's Prize" will go to the best-placed newcomer.
- The Sportsmanship Award will go to the Skipper displaying the most polite and fair behavior throughout the races.

Thanks to all who have stepped up to help in various critical capacities during the races. Tim & Judy Grissette will be running the Race Committee boat and have our PRO, Joleen Rasmussen, with them. Tayloe Highsmith has again agreed to run the mark boat.

We could still use more Tricky Tray prizes. If you or your company can do-

nate an item or service, please let me know. It will be too late to put your logo on the shirts, but we will display your logo during the Awards Dinner and on our website.

In other area news:

As you know, the Geechees are a supporter of the Savannah Sailing Center. They sponsor programs throughout the year for all ages. If you know of any children, 5 to 15 years old, who would like to learn how to sail, please refer them to this site: The one-week-long summer camps fill up quickly!

www.savannahsailingcenter.org/index.php/programs/

TREASURER, Pat Howard

As I reported in last month's Rhumb Line, we donated \$500 to the Savannah Sailing Center. The following is their letter of thanks from Debbie Tillman, Treasurer:

On behalf of the Board of Directors at Savannah Sailing Center, I want to express our sincere thanks for your continued support. Your generous donation is paramount to the success of our community outreach and sailing programs. It will afford

us the opportunity to offer more programs while maintaining our fleet of boats.

Good things are happening at SSC because of people like you who continue to support our efforts. We had a banner year for Summer camp and Saturday lessons. Also, we added two College teams to our growing sailing community and look forward to this upcoming season. I have enclosed information

about our Regatta for children with Autism and Special needs, if any of your members would like to join us at this event.

The Savannah Sailing Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Please find enclosed a W-9 and contribution receipt for your records. We sincerely appreciate this donation and acknowledge that you did not receive any goods or services in return for your monetary donation.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

From Boat U.S. Magazine, Feb.-March 2020:

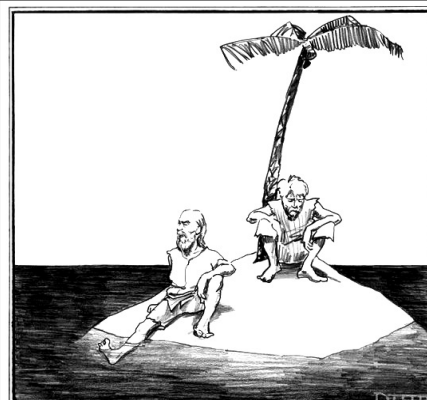
Did you know...

"That the magnetic north pole is shifting? The earth's core is liquid iron that is spinning and shifting - a lot! The earth's core is liquid iron that is spinning and flowing, and these interactions create magnetic fields that humans have used for navigation throughout most of our history.

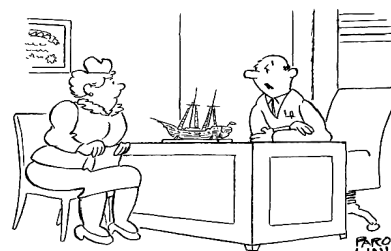
While the magnetic north pole has always drifted at a speed of 10 miles per year, it is now moving nearly 35 miles a year, and this is causing headaches for scientists who are scrambling to keep everything from Google Maps on your cell phone to

navigational GPS software updated on these changes to prevent inaccuracies.

Scientists normally update the World Magnetic Model every five years to account for the drift, with the last one occurring in 2015. But with the magnetic pole streaking toward Siberia, they were forced to make an unprecedented GPS mid-cycle update in 2019. Rest assured, though, Earth scientists are monitoring the drift, so go ahead and untie those dock lines."



"I spy something blue."



"TO PUT IT IN NAUTICAL TERMS MRS. EDMOND YOU ARE TAKING ON TOO MUCH CARGO AND IT'S ENDING UP AS TOO MUCH BALLAST."

MEMBER AT LARGE, David Breland

I sailed as crew on my Uncle Ric Fraker's boat in the Geechee's St. Patrick's Regatta back in '08. I should have known something was up because the only other crew he could muster up for his 32' sloop, in addition to me, was my Aunt Tricia (Pat as you knew her) and Ric's son Ben. Hmmmmm.

Anyway, it was an exciting time milling around the committee boat waiting on the starting horn. We were weaving in and out of boat traffic with sailing craft seemingly heading in every direction trying to time the start. As we skirted parallel to the start line, there were so many boats charging the line that we had to turn away at the far buoy.

Just then, as we were heading away from the starting line, the horn sounded. We had to come

about 180° to head back to the line. At about 45° into our turn, the wind died completely...dead calm. There was not enough wind to push us anywhere, just a mild current bringing us slowly up to the starting line stern-to. All the other boats managed to make it across and were at least pointed in the right direction when the wind died. We slowly drifted across the line.

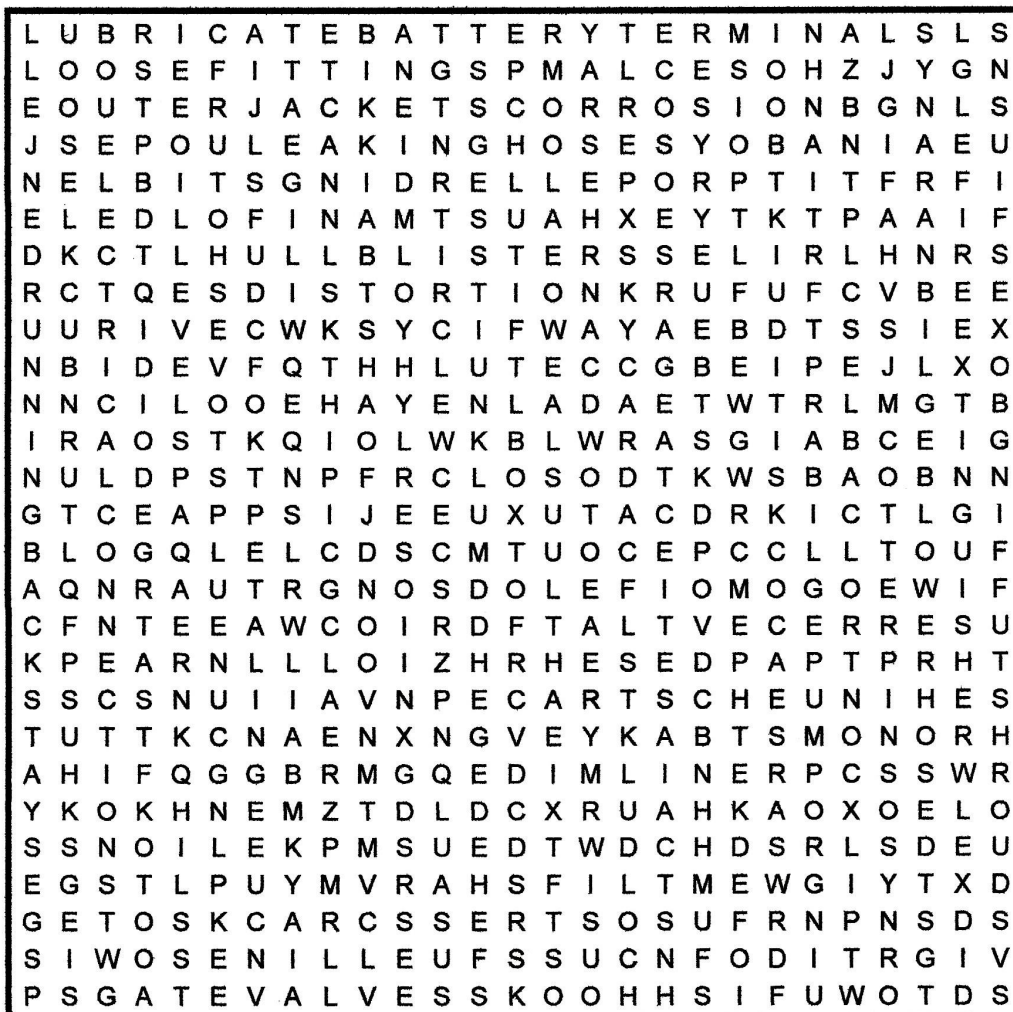
Pretty much after we made it across, the wind picked back up enough to give everyone some headway. Of course, we were absolutely in last place by the time we swung around, and resigned ourselves to just enjoying being out on the water. But it wasn't over yet! This particular race was in Wassaw Sound and one leg ran right along the sandbar that is in the middle. We were cruising along and could see in front of us, then BAM...one, BAM...two, and BAM...three boats ran aground and were stopped cold! This was our chance!

We stayed well to the right of the sandbar and passed all three before they could get ungrounded. We were in this thing! I do remember rounding the far marker and violating some sort of rule where we incurred a penalty, which caused us to have to round the buoy a second time - but even that was fun. If you have never participated in a sailing race before, it may be hard to imagine, but it is a blast trying to squeeze out extra speed, being neck-to-neck with another boat, and skimming along silently at 3 or 4 knots!

We did not win, BUT we did not come in last either!

SECRETARY, Kim Breland

Spring is right around the corner and brings with it many preparations to venture out in our boats. While reading a safety inspection article on www.BoatUS.com, I thought it might be fun to create a checklist puzzle. I hope that *Spring Into Sailing!* will not only provide enjoyable searching, but also a useful memory jogger!



BATTERY CABLES
BATTERY TERMINALS
BILGE BLOWER HOSE
BILGE PUMP
CHAFED WIRES
CHAINPLATES
CONTROL CABLES
COOLING HOSES
COPPER CONNECTIONS
CORROSION
COTTER PINS
CUTLASS BEARING
DECK LEAKS
DISTORTION
ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS
ELECTROLYSIS
EQUAL ANGLES

EXHAUST MANIFOLD
FIRE EXTINGUISHER
FISHHOOKS
FLOAT SWITCH
FUEL FILTERS
FUEL LINES
GASKETS
GATE VALVES
HOSE CLAMPS
HULL BLISTERS
LEAKING HOSES
LOOSE FITTINGS
LUBRICATE
OIL LEVELS
OLD CAULKING
OUTDATED FLARES
OUTDRIVE ZINCS

OUTER JACKETS
PITTING
PROPELLER DINGS
REMOTE TANKS
RUBBER OUTDRIVE BELLOWS
RUDDER STOCK
RUNNING BACKSTAYS
SEA STRAINER
SEACOCKS
SHROUDS
STOVES
STRESS CRACKS
STUFFING BOXES
SWAGE FITTINGS
TURNBUCKLES
WIRE HALYARDS

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Here's a list of boating terminology that was posted in 2006. I kept it because I thought it was appropriate for the Geechees. I will post a few terms each month:

Amidships - condition of being surrounded by boats.

Anchor - a device designed to bring up mud samples from the bottom at inopportune or unexpected times.

Anchor Light - a small light used to discharge the battery before daylight.

Berth - a little addition to the crew.

Boom - sometimes the result of a surprise jib.

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)

Broadband 3G Simrad Radar with monitor (no wiring), 2017 - never used - \$500. Call Linda Howard, 658-7398.

Northill Storm Anchor, \$300. Call Tommy Howard, 658-4281



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

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
Race 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)