



## COMMODORE, Stuart Gough

In the early part of the new year, before the real boating season gets underway, thoughts invariably turn to the maintenance and improvements of our beloved boats.

The aesthetics and look of a boat are, for many owners, the base element in the pride they take in keeping their boats in tip-top condition. A clean, bright, shiny hull is the starting point of all of this, but the care and well-being of the gelcoat is also of great importance to the boat itself and its overall condition. Achieving this is not particularly difficult, and is even easier to maintain if certain rules are followed.

Following is a step-by-step guide to maintaining and restoring gelcoat and, if followed carefully, will result in a finished product that you will be proud of all season long. (Acknowledgement to "Bottom Paint Store".)

### New Boats:

If your boat is new and the finish is still in good condition with little to no oxidation, you can use a one-step

clean-and-wax product that combines washing and waxing in one step (i.e. *3M Marine Cleaner and Wax*).

If your boat has light gelcoat oxidation, use the least aggressive method, if possible, to prolong the life of the gelcoat. Cleaning with marine boat soap and buffing with the *3M Imperial Compound* is recommended. Avoid direct sunlight, and room temperature is best for application. Note: An easy way to determine if gelcoat is oxidized is by wiping your hand across the surface. If any chalk wipes off on your hand, the gelcoat is oxidized and you will need to wash and buff the surface before polishing. Follow these 3 simple steps to polish your gelcoat:

1. Once you know which polish to use, use a high-quality microfiber towel to apply the product. Avoid low-quality towels because they will shed fibers and leave streaks and residue on the boat.
2. Wet the microfiber cloth, remove any excess, and apply a tablespoon of polish to the rag. This amount of polish will work for a few square feet. Remember, you want to work in small areas in order to cover the entire surface correctly. Before buffing, spread the polish evenly

across the boat's gelcoat. You will get the best result when working the polish into the surface with circular motions.

3. Once the polish dries into a haze, you can remove it with a clean, dry cloth. Make sure you get in all the nooks and cracks for a smooth, beautiful finish.

### Older Boats:

If your boat has been in contact with the elements over long periods of time (10-15 years), the process of restoring the appearance of the gelcoat will take some additional steps.

1. **Clean the surface.** For boats that need a more aggressive cleaning, just wash the surface and remove any loose contaminants. You can use a non-abrasive light detergent (marine boat soap) to remove all surface dirt and all previously applied coatings. If you need something stronger to remove surface rust, oil, tar, algae discoloration, black streaks caused from water runoff, exhaust and waterline scum, or other stains, use an acid-based stain remover like *Hammerhead Hull Cleaner*. It is important to completely remove

(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](http://www.geecheesailingclub.org)

### **EMAIL ADDRESS:**

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

### **FACEBOOK:**

Geechee Sailing Club

## **GEECHEE SAILING CLUB'S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**February 10 = Meeting**  
(Speaker from Savannah Canoe & Kayak)

**February 29 = Oyster Roast**  
(Marsh Harbor Clubhouse)

**March 7-8 = Shakedown Cruise**  
to Odingsell

**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 16 = Chili Cookoff &**  
Geechee Players  
(Marsh Harbor Clubhouse)

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

<p>all stains before waxing, or you will seal in the stain.</p> <p><b>2. Select your compound.</b> If your boat is a bit more oxidized, a rubbing compound (liquid abrasive which “sands” your hull) is needed, but do so carefully as you can run through the gelcoat. The more faded your hull, the more compounding you will need. The <i>3M Imperial Compound</i>, usually applied with a polisher if possible and compatible <i>3M pads</i> like the white 100% wool pad, are recommended by 3M. Keep product off bottom paint, if applicable, by</p>	<p>taping off since it will spatter. If the compound isn’t strong enough for your level of oxidation and scratches, then you may need to “pre-treat” with a 1200 (or 800) grit sandpaper as needed prior to the compound.</p> <p>Note: When buffing, you should work on small sections of the hull (3-5 ft. sections is recommended). It is important to keep the wool pad damp. If you notice that the pad is dry and the wool looks “matted” after working the material into one area, just rake the wool back into form with a pad spur and re-wet the pad</p>	<p>to continue with the application.</p> <p><b>3. Polish the surface.</b> The <i>3M Finesse-It II</i> is more aggressive. The <i>3M Perfect-It Machine Polish</i> brings the brightest finish that helps provide a nice finish to the gelcoat after compounding and brings it to a gloss. Apply with the yellow pad by 3M.</p> <p><b>4. Wax to seal.</b> The last step is a wax coat such as “<i>Scotchguard Marine Liquid Wax</i> or <i>3M Ultra Performance Wax</i>. These help to seal and protect all the work you’ve just completed.</p>
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## VICE COMMODORE, Dawson Long

<p>Many of the Geechees have heard me bemoaning on almost every cruise that I have the smallest and oldest boat. I have often thought that all my problems would go away if I could just supersize my boat, because ordering the McDonalds’ supersize always works.</p> <p>I try to control slobbering on other people’s boats, Yet, I have learned that they have problems, too. Deciding which head to use is a prob-</p>	<p>lem I would like to have. I certainly have to make those decision more often these days. Also, many of these fine boats have more things that can break.</p> <p>On my 1969 engine with my 1970 sailboat, <i>Andiamo</i>, there is not much more that can go wrong. My body is just seven years older than the engine, and it is in the same state. So my musings are starting to lean toward another engine. Please share your sympathies with a contribution in the tin cup on the</p>	<p>bow. The “Go Fund Me” page is not getting any traction right now.</p> <p>A friend in the club said of the range of sailboats that he had, his 30-footer gave him the most memories. So, I will hold onto mine for now, and I will keep my Boat US Towing dues paid.</p>
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## PAST COMMODORE, Kevin Quinn

<p>I have lived in the deep South for sixty years, so I am pretty well acclimated to warm weather. I’m not as bad as Floridians who complain when it drops below 79°, but 30° and 30-knot winds...that is too much for me!</p>	<p>Now that I don’t have so many “Geechee” responsibilities and Stuart is doing all the work, I have time to work on my boat. I bought a new VHF/AIS radio with a remote helm station that I am busy installing. The SeaQuinn is also coming out of the water February</p>	<p>10 for the hull to be waxed, the bottom painted, and the prop greased.</p> <p>All that preparation gets me excited to get out on the water with the rest of the Geechees!</p>
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## CRUISE CHAIR, Judy Grissette

<p>Here is the tentative schedule for our first cruises. More detail will be given as it gets closer to time.</p> <p><b><u>March 7-8</u></b> - Shakedown Cruise to Oddingsell River. It will be time to give our boats a “shake down” to prepare them for boating season! There will be a full moon, so it should be easy and fun.</p>	<p><b><u>April 25-26</u></b> - Cruise to Brunswick Landing Marina - one of our favorites.</p> <p><b><u>May 23-25</u></b> - Memorial Day weekend to Ft. McAllister Marina in Richmond Hill.</p>	 <p>“Bad Thing-Good Fun” Grissettes and Stevenses at Sapelo Rvr.</p>
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## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, Linda Meyer

We had a great meeting in January. I introduced our new members who were in attendance: Bill Oakley and CeCe Bianca. We also had four visitors who came to learn about us. Thank you to Linda Howard, Heidi Cross, and Angela Margolit for stepping up and inviting new people to our meeting. Another gentleman came because he found out about us through Facebook, and Linda Howard contacted him, encouraging him to come. I have emailed all the visitors. I also sent them a Rhumb Line and a membership application - and encouraged them to join our club or visit us again. I will also be back in contact with them to tell them about our February social.

We now have Geechee Sailing Club business cards that have all our contact information on them. Many

people took some to hand out to boating people that they know or will meet. I will have them at every meeting on the membership table. Please pick some up.

Membership growth is the engine that powers our club. It is important because new ideas and new interests reinvigorate the club - bringing in new energy and future leaders.

First and foremost, people must know about the Geechee Sailing Club in order to seek membership. Word of mouth is the most powerful way we can drum up interest. I encourage you to tell your friends, family, co-workers, and people you see and meet at marina or boating stores who may be interested in the club to check us out. Give them

one of our business cards and invite them to come to our next meeting, cruise, or social. The Board has voted to suspend with the initiation fee for this year as an incentive to join the Geechees in 2020.

The greatest asset of each organization is its members. Who is responsible for membership growth? The answer to this question is Every Geechee! The future of the Geechee Sailing Club is in your hands. Share the gift of this special club...invite a friend.

**20 in 2020**

## TREASURER, Pat Howard

During their January meeting, the Board voted to contribute \$500 to the Savannah Sailing Center to support their on-going sailing education and training activities. The SSC staff outlined the mission and programs of the organization and answered questions from the Board. They are a volunteer, community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the sport of sailing through outreach programs emphasizing learn-to-sail activities.

The Savannah Sailing Center was formed in 1993 in preparation for the 1996 Olympic Yachting events. Lake Mayer is the main SSC facility and continues to be a great location for beginners to get their feet wet and learn to sail by participating in Saturday lessons or Summer camp programs.

It also helps by hosting high school sailing and serves as a training ground for U.S. Sailing Instructors' courses.

Their fleet at Lake Mayer includes (12) Optimist dinghies, (7) 420's, (6) Sunfish, and (2) Harpoon day sailors. Sailing lessons for both adults and children ages 8 and up are available on scheduled Saturdays, so drop by and watch the fun.



## RACE CHAIR, Angela Margolit

Racing can be stressful, but it also can be fun and exciting (nothing is more exhilarating than coming up to the start line)! And there's nothing better than just being out on the water with so many passionate fellow sailors. So please sign up, sail the course at your own pace, and support the club! If you can take more people on your boat for any of the races, please let me know. There are several young people from the local college race teams plus the media who would like to be out there on the water with you.

### New This Year:

\*Online Registration and payment via Regatta Network ([www.regattanetwork.com/event/19926](http://www.regattanetwork.com/event/19926)).

\*There will be a Pursuit Race on Sunday, but the regular Fleet Races will be on Saturday.

\*Instead of random raffle drawings at the Awards dinner on Sunday night, we will be conducting a *Tricky Tray*! Attendees can deposit as many tickets as they want next to the prizes they really want.

\*There will be a \$250 Cash Prize given by our Commodore to the newcomer with the best record, so PLEASE pass this on to anyone who needs a little more incentive to get out there and **race**.

\*There will also be a Sportsmanship Award, based on input from all the competitors!

**\*COURSES WILL BE PRE-DEFINED IN THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS.** The selected

course will be displayed via a numeric pennant flown from the Race Committee Boat.

\*The Competitors' Meeting will take place 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. Here is the Oyster Deck where we will meet.



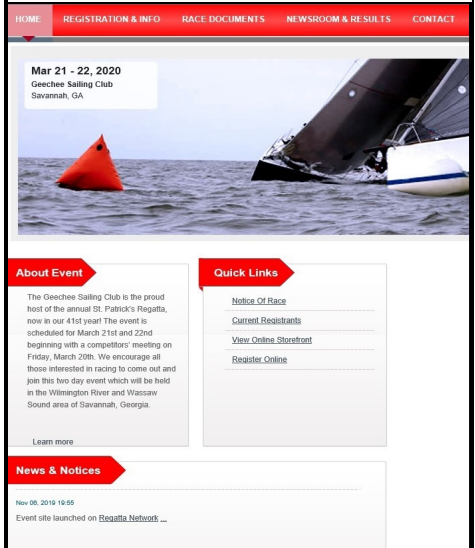
You are all invited to attend the Awards Banquet on Sunday, March 22, at Tubby's Tank House, 2909 River Dr., Thunderbolt, from 6:30-9:00 p.m.



Dinner tickets will be available at the venue for \$20 per person. Note that Sponsor Forms can be downloaded from [www.geecheesailingclub.org/racing](http://www.geecheesailingclub.org/racing). If it will be too late to put someone's logo on the long-sleeve "wicking" shirts, we will display their logo during the Awards Dinner and on our website.

We could still use a couple more desserts and several more Tricky Tray prizes. If you can help out, please let me know. Be creative!

If you Google "St. Patrick's Regatta," you will see that we've already gotten some good press coverage! Here's a screen shot of one:



In other area news: The Frostbite Series will be in full swing in February. Come join us on the water on Feb. 1, 15, and 29. The final one will be on March 14, the weekend before our regatta, so it will be a good time for a tune-up!

## COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, Linda Howard

Last month, Kim told us about all the good things that the new Savannah Boathouse Marina will have when it is completed next year. You need to read her article to see the specifics. But here is a picture of its location where Williams Seafood used to be at Bull River and Hwy. 80.



weeks while you're waiting to go south....We wanted to change that property from a vacant, dilapidated lot into something that can be a thriving community hub. I live in the community. We boat in the community. So we would like to be a part of the marine community."

The Managing Partner, Tom McCarthy, previously owned the Charleston franchise of Sea Tow and currently owns the Savannah and Richmond Hill Freedom Boat Club franchises along with several boat slips at the Skull Creek Marina in Hilton Head. He also grew up in Savannah.

McCarthy said,

"We'll have available storage for people traveling south for the winter or traveling north for the summer; and we'll have fuel, pump-outs, laundry, everything that comes along with docking your boat for a couple of

So, it looks like we should be getting a friend in the marina business - AND a new member for the Geechee Sailing Club!



## SOCIAL CHAIR, Elke Quinn

We have sent out an E-Blast giving details of our February social which is an oyster roast with grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. It will be **Saturday, February 29**, at Tom & Linda Howard's Marsh Harbor Clubhouse (14 Marsh Harbor Rd. off Bryan Woods Rd.), starting at 5:30. The cost is \$10 per member and \$15 each per guest. The club will provide everything, so no other food items need be brought. **Guests should be accompanied by their hosts.**

**We will have a Chocolate Dessert Contest for those who want to enter for a prize (1st, 2nd, and 3rd places).**

In our January membership meeting, I outlined some events and dates. These may, of course, have to change as circumstances and time go by. However, my schedule is as

follows:

**Saturday, April 18** - Geechee Games and Low Country Boil at Ed Harms' home.

**Saturday, May 16** - Chili Cookoff Contest and performance by the Geechee Players at Marsh Harbor Clubhouse.



**June 20** - Caribbean Pool Party pot luck sponsored by the Grissettes.



**Saturday, August 22** - Seafood Buffet and Bingo at Paula Deen's Creek House.

**Friday, October 30** - Halloween Costume Party and Steak Cookout at the Marsh Harbor Clubhouse.

**Friday, November 13** - Change of Watch at the Savannah Yacht Club.

**Monday, December 14** - Christmas Party and Gift Exchange at the Marsh Harbor Clubhouse.

## MEMBER AT LARGE, David Breland

I had learned a lot from my first boat, a round-bottom sailing dingy with a tippy nature. My next boat was a 12' German-made Sunflower with a lateen sail. It was similar to a Sunfish in design, except the cockpit ran the full length of the boat rather than having a simple pit in which to drop your knees. This allowed one to lie out full-length or sit up while racing along. It also had ample room to bring on a passenger. This thing was unsinkable by any measure. It was Styrofoam encased in plastic.

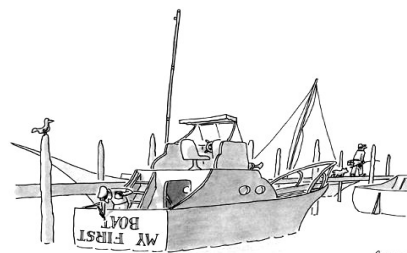
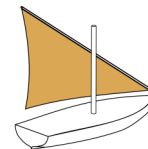
Though the boat itself was in fine shape, the sail was a little bit deteriorated. It was not real sailcloth material, but some thin fabric that was somewhat...well...rotten. Though the sail had a slight tear and was as thin as a spider's web when I purchased it, it lasted out that first summer just fine, sailing

almost every weekend. Alas, when the Fall winds came, the stress was too much, and the sail finally gave way.

I visited a local fabric store and told the sales lady what I was looking for. She recommended a giant piece of nylon cloth which even still was not wide enough to fit the lateen frame. I bought it and cut it to shape, and was able to make it with two pieces that overlapped near the clew of the sail. Folding the nylon over the frame, I temporarily glued the sleeves in place. Slipping it off the frame, I took it to a mom I knew who loved to sew. She graciously machined a seam everywhere I had glued the fabric.

That was decades ago, and though the indestructible plastic hull finally gave way to years of alternating sun and occasional freezing temperatures, I still have that homemade sail to this day!

I might add that I never once overturned my Sunflower!



**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOU HAVE ANY GEECHEE SUPPLIES (BANNERS, ETC.) AND BRING THEM TO THE MEETING - OR CALL DAVID BRELAND AT 417-1200**

## SECRETARY, Kim Breland

To say that I am looking forward to the Geechee Oyster Roast is an understatement. I can hardly stop thinking about it! At one point I thought I might even burst into song or verse! I knew I must somehow channel this oyster-obsession into my article this month. I decided to dive into that vast sea of knowledge (the internet) and discovered *Ode to the Oyster!* I thought you would enjoy the following selection, and hope that it will tide you over until February 29!



### Oysters in My Dreams

It is time to go to bed.  
Oysters in my head!

Dancing bivalves seem absurd to some,  
But to me they laugh and are full of fun.

How many oysters have you et?  
Less than 500 I would bet.

Yet within the world of dreams,  
Oyster Spirits spread their gleam.

Now eyes closed, I fall asleep,  
Watching oysters dance without feet.

In the morning I will wake,  
A shucker's knife in hand I'll take.

Author Unknown  
October 5, 2010



## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

### Trim Terminology:

**Trim a Sail** - Adjust a sail, positioning it to catch all the wind there isn't.

**Trim of a Sail** - Angle between a sail and the place the wind isn't coming from.

**Trim of the Boat** - Angle of the boat to the water (easily measured by checking sneaker dampness).

**Trim the Boat** - "Move your rear before we capsize, you moron; can't you see how wet my sneakers are getting?"

(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](mailto:howardhome@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  
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