

# Skidaway Soundings - May 2020



## ***Tight Lines!*** *A Word From Our Commodore - Paulette Hamilton*

It has been quite the year and I miss the monthly gatherings our Events Planning Committee put together for 2020. Hopefully the restrictions of social distancing and threat of COVID-19 will soon be over and we will once again be able to get together.

We are however, truly blessed living on this beautiful island. We are fortunate than most since we can enjoy golfing, boating, fishing, biking or just taking a walk. Our weather couldn't be any better these past weeks to enjoy outdoor activities. I have seen members getting together under social distance guidelines at the Landings Harbor picnic area, golf carts in circles having a social hour with friends, or at the Oakridge gazebo watching the sunset and at Delegal Marina. Members have found ways to occupy their time making masks, cleaning garages, re-sodding lawns, trying new recipes just to name a few. Do you have photos of what you have been up to? Send them to us at [siboatingclub@gmail.com](mailto:siboatingclub@gmail.com) and we will share your photos with members on the Club website. A shout out to The Landings Club doing a phenomenal job with curb-side pickup of groceries and meals supporting not only its members but its employees and all residents as well.

As we proceed through the next few months and make progress on moving through the Government recommendations of relaxing social distancing, we will assess the conditions here on the island and will announce when we can set a date for our next event. In the meantime, be safe, be smart, be healthy. Tight Lines, Paulette

## **SIBC Member Project During COVID-19 Pandemic - Refinishing Landings Harbor Bar Stools in Preparation for Future Tiki Sundays!** By Lee Carroll



See these ugly bar stools! They used to be at the Tiki Bar at Landings Harbor. As you can see they need some sprucing up. SIBC received approval from TLA to refinish them as a service to The Landings community. There are 8 chairs, that structurally, are in OK shape but in dire need of a makeover and TLC.

SIBC reached out to our membership for volunteers to work on the chairs as a way to stay busy during this time of self quarantine, brush off old carpentry, painting and creative skills, and give something worthwhile back to our community. The volunteers met to discuss the refinishing goals and agreed to the following: the seat will be varnished with at least 2 coats of gloss spar varnish, the chair decorative motif is up to the refinisher as long as the finish is smooth and the colors fit in with the “*Caribbean*” atmosphere of the Tiki Bar.

The following members volunteered to participate:

- Linny and Ron Dillard
- June and Steve Hernandez
- Charlene and Hugh Upton
- Joan Page and Wayne Shebilske
- Patti and Ed Richards
- Laurie and Joe Witten
- Bud Equi
- Lee Carroll

Many thanks to all who volunteered! If you are interested in assisting any of our volunteers, please contact the project coordinator, Lee Carroll, at [icar794082@aol.com](mailto:icar794082@aol.com).

## Results of SIBC Member Survey By Linny Dillard

The Board would like to thank the 52 members and 60 past members who took the time to answer the survey and provide valuable insight for the future direction of the Club. From the current member survey, 38.5% of the respondents joined the Club to attend social events with the membership, 21.2% to meet other boaters, and 19.2% to enjoy boating events. While some members felt that the Club should have more on the water events or that they were treated as outsiders and would have benefitted from an effort to make them feel welcome at initial events, 82.7% of the membership indicated that they would definitely renew their membership in 2021. There was also a concern about the Club's connection to the Carefree Boat Club, but 57.1% of the Club membership also belonged to the Carefree Boat Club which has been the Club's past source of boats for on the water events. Another theme discussed was the need to expand membership involvement in the planning and execution of Club events and in the administration of the Club. Even though members felt that too few individuals ran the Club and its events, only 25% of the membership indicated that they would definitely serve on a committee to get involved with Club activities. While these were the major themes of the member survey, the Board received many other suggestions on how to improve the Club experience for the membership.

Many themes were reflected in the past member survey. 59.6% of past members didn't own a boat or belong to the Carefree Boat Club and 44% did not renew their membership after their initial year of membership. Only 8% attended all events and 35.4% attended half the events. Unfortunately, 43.8% attended only one or two events a year indicating the work ahead of the Board to improve Club events. Only 16.7% of the past members did not renew their membership due to moving out of the area or health issues so 83.3% of past members did not

renew due to the Club not meeting their expectations at the time. On a positive note, 20% of past members would consider joining the Club in the future.

Going forward, the Board is committed to improving the Club experience for all members so the Club can return to the growth path which fueled its success in the past. Again, thank you for taking the time to forward your valuable responses.

## **Club Committees In Need of Volunteers - We Need You!**

In the last 2-3 years, member participation and volunteerism to help with Club events has dwindled. Currently, the SIBC Board and Officers have devoted their extra time and efforts to take on the lion share of heavy lifting required to ensure each monthly event is planned, coordinated, safe, interesting and fun for our members. Many on the Board and Officers have served for several years in various capacities (several since the Club's creation) and it is time to find members to replace them which helps to sustain the Club into the future. By serving on committee(s), members who volunteer will have a better understanding of the workings of the Club and hopefully step in to become future Board Directors, Officers and Club leaders.

To further and continue the viability of SIBC, we encourage and need your help in any way that you can offer. Every little bit helps and no good deed goes unnoticed. All committees and volunteers have the full support of the Board and Officers. Please consider volunteering for your Club! Here is a current list of Committees that need you and your skills:

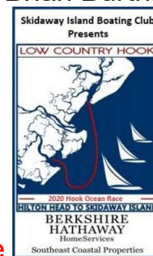
**Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Committee Chair - Ron Dillard:** Members on this committee assist in coordinating Club postings and advertising in such venues as The Landings Journal, TWATL, Skinnie, and others. Activities include writing articles and advertising for publication on Club events, coordinating with local media on event coverage, and taking photos at Club events.

**Social Events Planning Committee, Committee Chair - Linny Dillard:** Members on this committee help in the planning and execution of Club monthly events. Activities include decorations development, event set-up, and assisting the Committee Chair with liaison and interface with TLA personnel in the use of the venue grounds. Other members on this Committee: Tom Buches.

**Membership and Welcoming Committee, Committee Chair - Jean Kovalesski:** Members on this committee welcome new SIBC members with personal contact and in providing a Club Welcome Packet that outlines all activities the Club is planning and involved with. Committee members would also follow up and ensure new members are recognized and welcomed at Club events and recognized in the Club newsletter.

**Hook Race Committee, Committee Co-Chairs- Lee Carroll and Doug Powelson:** Members on this committee assist in all aspects of planning and execution of the annual Hook Race and Dinner with our premier sponsor, Berkshire Hathaway Southeast Coastal Properties. The Hook Race and Dinner is the Club's primary fundraising and premier on the water activity that showcases the SIBC and The Landings Sailing Club to our wider Savannah and Lowcountry

communities. Others on this Committee: Dave Angell, Jim Landis, Hap Todd, Brian Burtnek (LH



Dockage), Amar Patel (HH Harbor Dockage). [Read more on our website here.](#)

**Charity Committee, Committee Chair - Open:** Members of this committee would be involved with running the Club 50/50 Raffle at Club events and interfacing with the charity to provide informational tours to members on request as well as providing information at Club events. This year's charity supports homeless veterans through the Savannah Tiny Homes Project. Last year the Club donated over \$3,300 to this charity. For more information go to this link: <https://www.homelessauthority.org/the-tiny-house-project/>



If you are interested in volunteering to be a member of one or more of the Club Committees, act as Committee Chair, or have any questions, please email the Club at [siboatingclub@gmail.com](mailto:siboatingclub@gmail.com).

## **SIBC 2020 Event Status:**

Well, the COVID-19 Pandemic has really taken the wind out of our sails and sidelined this year's SIBC monthly event calendar. After our first two highly successful events, the January 2020 Member Kick-Off and February Tall Tales, the pandemic and shelter-in-place orders suspended Club activities. We cancelled the following events due to the virus:

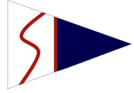
- March - Sock Burning and Chili Cook Off
- April - Member trip to Shelter Cove Hilton Head Island
- April - Delegal Marina Dock Party
- May - It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere Cocktail Challenge

We hope to salvage some events while adhering to social distancing guidelines but as of now, the events below are on hold:

- Summer Solstice Sunset Cruise on Captain Mike's Pontoon Boat
- Tiki Bar Sundays at Landings Harbor

The following events are still on our event schedule as tentative but the virus will have the last word - stay tuned for more information.

- 22 August - SIBC Annual Hook Race and Dinner at Landings Harbor
- 15 September - Low Country Boil at Landings Harbor
- 26 October - Member Year End Bash at Skidaway Island State Park Group Shelter



## **SIBC Ship's Store**

Interested in purchasing SIBC merchandise? SIBC is working with Queensboro retailers to provide members with quality SIBC logoed apparel and items. If you are interested, please email the Club at [siboatingclub@gmail.com](mailto:siboatingclub@gmail.com) and you will be contacted regarding items available for purchase. Pictures of the items on hand will be added to the Club website. Here is a short list of what we currently have in inventory:

- Brushed Twill Ball Caps - \$10
- Bucket Hats (White Only) 50+ UV Protection - \$20
- Mens Wickaway Stretch Pullovers (XL/XXL) - \$40
- Ladies Wickaway Stretch Pullovers (M/L/XL) - \$40



## **SIBC Photo Corner**

**22 January Kick-off Dinner at Delegal Marina:** The 2020 New Year began with a bang at our kick-off. 64 SIBC members enjoyed a gourmet meal by Paul Kennedy Caterers. Members voted on the 2020 charity to support with our 50/50 raffle and once again you overwhelmingly selected the Tiny Homes Project for Homeless Veterans. The 2019 charity proceeds were presented to the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless by Vice Commodore Susie Fusco in the amount of \$3,300. Linny Dillard provided the Club's 2020 event calendar rundown and all who attended commented on a fantastic evening!



**25 February Tall Tales Event at Skidaway Island State Park:** This year's Tall Tales event was a real treat. Ruth and Tom McMullin provided the membership with a lifetime's worth of adventures on the high seas and members brought an ocean of delicious



potluck food that all enjoyed. A huge thank you to Ruth and Tom for a wonderful evening sharing their boating and sailing stories!



*Ruth and Tom McMullin*

*An SIBC full house at the Park*

*Ruth gives her Tall Tales presentation*

Want to learn more about what your Club is doing? [Read more on our website by clicking here.](#) If you have ideas on how we can improve the website or have articles to submit for publication or to include in the newsletter, email us at [siboatingclub@gmail.com](mailto:siboatingclub@gmail.com). We want to hear from you!

The Skidaway Island Boating Club is a non-profit organization with the mission to provide an enjoyable shared social experience that supports boating and water related activities that promote new friendships and enhance existing ones. Boat Ownership is NOT required!

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