



Commodore Log

N Lat: 31° 54' 1.1716" W Long: 81° 2' 50.143'



Ahoy from the Desk of your Commodore.

Well the month of June has been and continues to be a very busy month for SIBC. We held two Events that were very well attended. On June 11th SIBC sponsored the **Pontoon Boat Trip to Ossabaw Island** and on June 17th we held a **Father's Day Celebration BBQ** during the Dockside Bar Happy Hour. On June 25th SIBC is going to the Savannah Banana's ball game supporting The Landings Association special

50th Anniversary Landings Night at the Ballpark on June 25 at 7 p.m.

The Pontoon boat tour the North-End of Ossabaw Island was quite an experience for the 30 SIBC adventurers who went. The weather started out bright and sunny with light winds. Once aboard the Pontoon Boat, our transit across the Vernon River and thru Hell's Gate was very calm and nearly ideal. When we arrived at the Ossabaw Island Foundation Dock, we had to move some of the docked boats around in order to

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to make enough space for the Pontoon boat. But thanks to the exceptional skill of Captain Neil, all went well. We docked and unloaded on Ossabaw Island. Once everyone was off the Pontoon boat and on the Dock, our guide went over the geography of Georgia's third largest barrier island, the history of the Island and of Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West and her family and why the island was donated to the state of Georgia as a Heritage Preserve.

From the dock, it was a short walk to the Club House, built in 1886 but now outfitted with all the modern amenities including toilets and air-conditioning. The Club House was our home base for the day. Following a brief rest stop and a talk by the guide on Ossabaw islands role in making Indigo Blue dye, we were able to tour all of the island structures (careful to avoid a small alligator and a very large rat snake). We were guided to the Tabby Houses built in 1820 to 1840. These structures were built by hand using Tabby created by mixing lime from burned oyster shells, oyster shells, sand and water. The group was also able to tour the Boarding House built in 1918 and after our lunch in the Club House, a few hearty souls walked 1 mile to survey the outside of the Torrey West Main House. The Torrey West Main House was built in 1926 in the architectural style known as Spanish Colonial Revival. On the return trip from the Torrey West Main House, we began to hear thunder and lightning and our small group just made it to The Club House as the first drops of rain were falling. The Club House proved to be a welcome sanctuary for the group when the Thunderstorms hit in full force. Around 2:00 pm, the skies opened up and it poured buckets of rain for a solid hour.

Following the afternoon Thunderstorm, we boarded the Pontoon Boat and left the island around 3:00 pm, arriving at Delegal Marina at around 3:30 pm, avoiding any Thunderstorms. Everyone made it back safe and sound and dry. It was a great day to experience Ossabaw Island. Pictures of the day are posted here: <https://skidawayislandboatingclub.org/>

Following the Pontoon Boat Trip to Ossabaw Island, SIBC Hosted a Father' Day BBQ/Happy Hour at the Dockside Bar on June 17th. It was a Great event! 35 SIBC members enjoyed famous Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with all the trimmings grilled by non-other than our Grill Master **Steve Hernandez** and his assistant Grill Master **Ed Richards**. SIBC members were served their favorite drink by the Ace Bar tenders – **Ric and Cheryl Walters**. A big THANKS are due all the volunteers that worked so hard to get the Dockside Bar ready for the BBQ: **June Schorr Hernandez, Laurie**

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Etherington, Susie Fusco, Ann and John Tripp, Ed and Patti Richards. Pictures from the event are posted here: <https://skidawayislandboatingclub.org/>

Lastly, I want to remind SIBC members of the upcoming Savannah Banana's Game on Saturday, June 25th at 7 pm. We want to show our support for TLA's 50th Anniversary Landings Night at the Ballpark. So, come have a GREAT time at the Ballpark and don't forget to wear your SIBC paraphernalia!!

Boating Safety

Six Boaters Died in May in Preventable Accidents

I wanted to review with our SIBC members two boating accidents on the Wilmington River that led to six deaths that could have been avoided.

Savannah's waterways and rivers provide a popular escape, especially for recreational boaters on holidays and weekends. But any trip on the water comes with a responsibility to use boating practices that ensure the safety of all passengers aboard.

Nearly 50% of boating accidents in Georgia are caused by collisions with another boat or an object, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Six people died in the month of May in Savannah following collisions while boating.

Local businessman Joe Moore was killed May 5 when a boat he was aboard struck an unlit channel marker near the Savannah Yacht Club and he was hit in the head by an unknown object. More Information can be found here:

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2022/05/05/precision-cutting-service-owner-joe-morris-killed-boating-accident-wilmington-river/9663179002/>

Five people died as a result of a Saturday, (May 28th) morning two-boat collision on Wilmington River. Four of those five were members of the same family. DNR confirmed the identity of the deceased as Robert Chauncy, 37; Chris, 51, and Lori Leffler, 50, a married couple from Savannah; and their sons, Nate, 17, and Zach,

23. Their daughter, Katie, survived the crash as did an unidentified friend. More information on the accident can be found here:

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2022/06/01/savannah-georgia-wilmington-river-boat-collision-leffler-robert-chauncey/7468679001/>

The Lefflers were members of the Savannah franchise of the Freedom Boat Club, joining in January of this year. The Freedom Boat Club is very similar to the Carefree Boat Club on The Landings so this accident hits close to home. While these accidents are still under investigation boating safety should be first and foremost in the mind of every boating skipper. Boating education and boating safety go hand in hand. The Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron offers a 16-hour America's Boating Course taught locally for a nominal fee. All responsible new boaters should invest in this course.

In an effort to keep SIBC members safe while boating, I thought that given these recent boating accidents, it is important to review Georgia's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Rules of the Waterway:

Rules of the Waterway

DNR has a set of safety and operational regulations to ensure that Georgia boaters enjoy the water while staying safe.

One of their most important rules is the 100-foot law, which requires all operators of all kinds of boats to slow to idle speed when they are within 100 feet of docks, piers, bridges, shorelines or people in the water.

The Georgia Boat Safety Act also prohibits anyone from operating any boat, sailboat, personal watercraft, water skis, sailboard or similar device while intoxicated, which for boating is a blood alcohol content of .08, or about four drinks.

When it comes to how to passing another boat, there are a specific set of rules:

- When meeting another vessel, boat operators should pass on the right side unless the boats are far enough apart that they are not meeting head-on or close to head-on.

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- On narrow rivers and streams, boaters should stay as far right as possible and be careful when rounding bends and curves, and overtaking or passing other boats.
- In a crossing situation, the boat on the right should hold its course and the boat on the left should slow down and cross behind the other boat.

DNR also encourages the use of life jackets, especially for children.

According to Georgia boating laws, those 16 years of age or older may legally operate any boat or small vessel on Georgia state waters if they have a proper identification card, such as a driver's license or any other government-issued identification that contains a description of the person, a photograph, and the date of birth, on board.

Be Responsible, Stay Safe and Have Fun on our Low Country Waterways.

Help Wanted

SIBC is seeking volunteer help from our members due to a recent loss of several of our key officers for various reasons.

We currently are seeking members who can help us with the following positions:

Interim SIBC Board Secretary

- **Attends Board Meetings**
- **Is a Voting Board Member**
- **Records Proceedings and prepares monthly Board Minutes and Agendas**
- **Keeps papers, records & documents of the Club**

Interim Vice Commodore

- **Assist the Commodore in the discharge of his duties**
- **In the absence or disability of the Commodore, serve as acting Commodore**

SIBC Upcoming Events

Dockside Bar –July 1strd, July 15th, July 29th from 5pm to 7pm

June 25th – The Savannah Bananas 7pm Game time

July 13th – Sunset Pontoon Boat Dolphin/Dinner Cruise

August 18th – Tall Tales at Delegal Marina

September 17th – Hook Race – Finish Line LHM and

Celebration at Dockside Bar 3 pm to 5:30 pm

Early November – Year End Bash Sponsored by SIBC

Email hughandcharlene@gmail.com with questions or for reservations.

Off Watch

