



## Commodore Log

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



ven by

Ahoy from the Desk of your Commodore.

I am writing this log entry just a day after completing the Pontoon Boat Sunset Dolphin/Dinner Cruise. This was a cruise that was touch and go up to 5:00 pm on the day of the event. There were small craft advisories up to 5:00 pm and thunderstorms threatening to cancel the cruise. But there are times when God smiles on you and everything comes together to create a memory that you don't want to end.

This Cruise was one such event. Everything came together to make for a memorable evening.

26 SIBC members began gathering at Landings Harbor Marina at 6:15pm and the Pontoon Boat arrived at 6:30 pm on the dot and we began loading. The skies were clearing and we left LHM on a flood tide headed to an 9.7 ft high tide at 9:33 pm as a result of a full moon. Conditions were close to perfect: light winds,

flat seas and no thunderstorms in sight.

We headed out of LHM to the Wilmington River towards Wassaw Island North Beach. Since conditions were so ideal, we began to serve dinner almost immediately. On the way, we boated close to Cabbage Island and came across a flock of rare white pelicans which were a delight for everyone to see. We then crossed Wilmington River and passed Sister Island and entered Romerly Marsh Creek. The tide was so high water was everywhere and the marsh grass was no more than an inch or two above the waterline. The white egret's we came across in flight were beautiful and provided a spectacular backdrop against the green marsh grass for our cruise.

Our course wound around the marshes and we came close to Wassaw Island North Beach. Here we came across a whole pod of Dolphins and we followed the pod for some time. They provided a spectacular show for us with some coming very close to the Pontoon Boat to the delight of all on board. A lone sailboat joined us as we followed the pod of dolphins and this provide a beautiful backdrop for photos of the dolphins. Following our encounter with the dolphins, we headed back to Landings Harbor Marina into a setting sun.

It was the kind of cruise that you just don't want to end. But, alas all good things must come to an end and it just leaves us all anticipating the next SIBC Sunset Dolphin/Dinner Cruise.

Pontoon Boat Sunset Dolphin/Dinner Cruise requires a team to make it successful. It would not have been possible to have this event without the volunteers who worked so tirelessly to bring all the pieces together. A **MANY THANKS** are due Lee Carrol, Charlene Upton, June and Steve Hernandez who made the trip possible.

To view photos of the Pontoon Boat Sunset Dolphin/Dinner Cruise click this link:

<https://skidawayislandboatingclub.org/pontoon-boat-sunset-dolphin-dinner-cruise/>

## Boating Safety

### Remember This When Boating

Safe boating can be divided into several parts. First, safe use of your boat. As skipper, have you notified your crew of the safety equipment, life jackets, fire extinguisher and first aid kit? The Coast Guard will stop you and check for the basic equipment required. But you are responsible for telling your crew where it is and how to use it.

Second, is situational awareness. As a skipper, you can tell people where to sit and put equipment for the safe balance of the boat. Consider these questions: Can you start your boat, safely load occupants, pull away from the dock, get it up on plane and trim the boat out? Can you slow the boat down safely, make sure all the fenders and lines are ready and safely bring the boat to the dock? Keeping these in mind makes for a good, safe skipper.

Next, and equally important in the Savannah area, is the safe navigation of the waters around us. Many people, myself included, learned how to boat on a lake. That's great and a great way to enjoy boating. However, the Savannah area has its own unique challenges. We have large tides and swift currents. They have surprised many experienced boaters new to this area. We have rivers, streams, creeks, sounds and access to the ocean. Each one requires experience.

Many of us have gone out for a fun day of boating, only to turn around at Calibogue Sound when the waves went over the bow of the boat. Many of us have run aground because we were following charts and didn't realize that an area is only a few inches deep at low tide.

Savannah is honored as well as challenged to have the Intra-State Waterway (ICW) traveling through our state from South Carolina to Florida. First, if you don't know what a red and green beacon or buoy means, you are going to be in trouble. There are some tight ICW turns that require your full attention.

July 14, 2022

We also are host to a large number of boats of all sizes heading south down the ICW in the fall and back up north in the spring. We can't blame them for getting away from the snow, but you have to realize that a 50-foot cruiser is putting out quite a wake and you must position your boat to avoid being swamped. He isn't going to slow down for you.

Lastly, you too are responsible for your wake, and if you are passing a kayak, a fishing boat at anchor or a sailboat, your wake will impact them. Be aware of the impact your boating has on others. Slow down, if necessary, to avoid upsetting their boat. Slow down just to reduce the size of your wake, then speed up after passing them. It will only take a few seconds and you will be so much more courteous.

And remember, accidents happen in just seconds. Always be on the lookout for a potential collision, and for others boaters who may be in distress and need your help. Teach the other members of your crew to look out also. Boating is fun, and we want it to remain so. Safe boating!

Carl Ericsson

Education officer of the Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunset Pontoon Boat Dolphin/Dinner Cruise

August 18<sup>th</sup> – Tall Tales at Delegal Marina

September 17<sup>th</sup> – Hook Race – Finish Line LHM and

Celebration at Dockside Bar 3 pm to 5:30 pm

October 25<sup>th</sup> – Year End Bash Sponsored by SIBC

Email [hughandcharlene@gmail.com](mailto:hughandcharlene@gmail.com) with questions or for reservations.

## Off Watch



*"I need to buy some gas, but I forgot my wallet. Do you have \$18,000 on you?"*