

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

“The Keepers of the Flame!®”

THE GULFSTREAM

The Online Magazine of the Southeastern Region, IOBG

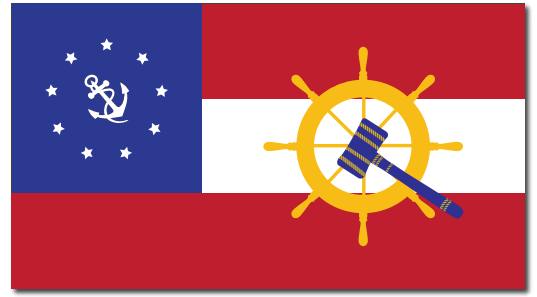


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P/C Joseph A. Tringali, Esq., Editor





We Are the Keepers of the Flame!

Welcome to the Southeastern Region, where we do things a little differently. We are traditionalists. There's a reason for that: according to Google (font of all 21st century knowledge) half of the 8 oldest yacht clubs in the United States (Mobile, Biloxi, Pass Christian, and Southern), are in our region. We see ourselves as the keepers of traditions that go back to 1847, one year before the California Gold Strike and a whole 29 years before General Custer made his Last Stand at Little Big Horn Creek.

Yacht clubs in our region stick to time-honored protocols. As for uniforms the only "hat" issues they've decided in the past few decades are whether to permit oak leaves or "scrambled eggs" on the visor, and the 'proper' kind of chinstrap on a yachting cap—whether it should be gold fabric or black cord. When they discuss issues, they talk about serious things like federal and State regulations that affect private clubs, and liability of members and officers, and new laws regarding things like employment and pollution.

Here are a baker's dozen issues in five major categories that are on the "front burner" of Club life right now:

TAXES:

1. Is your Club properly registered with the IRS? Is it required to pay income tax? Can it re-file as an "educational" organization so the members can get the benefit of a tax deduction for the money they pay to the Club?
2. How about employment taxes? Are contractors who provide regular services to the Club considered employees? Is the Club required to withhold money for their taxes? Are those "trust fund" taxes and are any of the officers personally liable for them?
3. Speaking of trust fund taxes, does the Club collect sales taxes? Are any of the officers personally liable for that money?
4. Does it accept money from non-members including "reciprocity" visits? Does the Club have to pay income taxes on that money? What does that do to the Club's tax-exempt status?



LIABILITY:

5. Is the Club liable for injuries caused by a person who drinks too much alcohol at a Club event? What kind of “injuries” could the Club be liable for? Are any members personally liable for injuries at a Club event?
6. Is the Club required to meet the many regulations of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)? Can it be sued if it does not? Who can do the suing? What is the financial cost in such a case?

LEADERSHIP:

7. What are the new ideas of Leadership in the 21st century? How do you lead people who don't need to follow? Can you “enforce”—really enforce—leadership in a volunteer Club? How do you do it?
8. Do you consider your position—or any position on the Board—to be a “job” or an “achievement”? Is your idea of leadership “pulling” the members up, or are you “trying to push the string” and wondering why that won't work?

CLUB LAW:

9. Is your Club “distinctly private” or is it a “public accommodation? What's the difference? If it is “distinctly private, do all the same laws and regulations apply to it?
10. Can your Club “select” some members and not others without being accused of (and being sued for) “discrimination”? How can you protect your admission process to avoid such problems?

CLUB PROTOCOL:

11. Do most Clubs have a regular “Sundown Ceremony” where the American flag is lowered, and America's veterans are honored? Do all members participate in any ceremony where our flag is taken down with dignity, or is that chore just left to an employee or a few members who volunteer to trudge out to the flagpole and lower the flag when nobody is paying attention?
12. How do you make a toast at the end of a formal Club dinner? Are there standard, recognized toasts, or do you just make one up?
13. How do you scatter ashes at sea? What are the legal requirements? Should it be a Club event, or is it private? Should a Chaplain be on board, and, if so, what is his or her role in the proceeding?



This year, for the very first time, our convention will include a MasterClass conducted by experts of the Academy of Yachting. Unfortunately, they only have two hours to provide information that usually takes two days. But at least they'll be on hand to answer questions and get you thinking!

And that should get all of us "thinking" about the most important issue of all. If you look at schedule on the next page, you'll see that 15 hours have been set aside for "meetings" of one kind or another, but only 2 hours have been scheduled for things that could either enhance the prestige of your Club in your community or put it (and YOU, personally) in really big financial trouble! We're spending 7 ½ times more talking about stuff that is irrelevant in the real world of yacht clubs. Maybe that's the item that should be first on everyone's agenda.

We need to get a grip on reality. We need to talk about bigger things instead of screwing around with petty politics that steal our focus. All of us—members, directors, and officers—need to stop dealing with silly things that cause us to lose both respect and relevancy in the Yacht Club community. We need to stop thinking about and talking about who is who's "boyfriend" or "girlfriend," and instead get down to helping solve the REAL problems of REAL yacht clubs in the 21st century. And only you, my fellow members can decide if we will do that.

The Beacon is Back!



After a few test runs to make sure the quality of the material is up to the standards of the Academy of Yachting, this month The Beacon is returning to YouTube with 10 minute bi-weekly segments.

The first programs are being presented by members of the Department of the Judge Advocate and will cover (what else?) important legal stuff like personal liability for club offices and directors, and if your club (whether it is a "public accommodation" or "distinctly private") has the Constitutional right to be selective in its membership. If you've ever wondered why your club is "stuck" in section 501(c) 7 of the Tax Code instead of the "golden ticket" 501(3), where everyone wants to be, you need to tune in to these informative 10-minute programs.

Future plans call for discussions on leadership with nationally recognized experts, as well as interviews with well-known club leaders, professional yacht captains and super-amateurs who have cruised both around the world, and around the Big Ditch.

Go to YouTube and look up Academy of Yachting to see what's happening. We guarantee you'll want to subscribe to this entertaining and informative series.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE GAVEL

Schedule of Events October 11-14, 2023

Wednesday, October 11

Registration	Hotel	All Meetings – Winter Uniform 3:00 – 8:00 PM
Hospitality	Hotel	4:00 – 8:00 PM
Dinner		(on your own)

Thursday, October 12

Registration	Hotel	All Meetings – Winter Uniform 8:00 – 11:00 AM
IOBG (EC)	Hotel	9:00- 11:00 AM
IOBGA (EC)	Hotel	9:00 – 11:00 AM
HF Meeting	Hotel	9:00 – 11:00 AM
Lunch	(On your own)	11:30 – 1:00 PM
MasterClass "Club Law"	Hobcaw YC	2:30 – 3:15 PM
MasterClass "Leadership"	Hobcaw YC	3:15 – 4:30 PM
Dinner	(On your own)	4:30 – 5:30 PM
Evening with Tucker	Hobcaw YC	5:30 – 8:00 PM

Friday, October 13

Registration	Hotel	All Meetings – Winter Uniform
IOBG BOD	CYC	8:00 – 11:00 AM
IOBGA	CYC	9:00 – 11:45 AM
Lunch	CYC	9:00 – 11:45 AM
IOBG BOD	CYC	12:00 – 1:30 PM
Dinner/Dance	CYC	1:30 – 4:00 PM
(Formal)		6:00 – 11:45 PM

Saturday, October 14

IOBG Meeting	CYC	All Meetings – Winter Uniform
IOBGA Meeting	CYC	9:15 – 11:45 AM
Lunch		9:15 - 11:45 AM
Sightseeing		(on your own)
Dinner Cruise		(on your own)
Hospitality Room	Hotel	6:00 – 9:45 PM
		10:00 – 11:45 PM



ONE NIGHT ONLY!!!

Tucker Thompson



“The Voice of the America’s Cup”

appearing at

Hobchaw Yacht Club

Thursday, October 12, 2023

**Don't miss this chance to hear the inside
stories of Yachting's Greatest Race!**

CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!
(843) 884-6819

Free Admission, Free Cocktails (Mt. Gay Rum, of course).

Special Prize

Every person who attends the Tucker Thompson presentation will receive a two-volume set of Joseph A. Tringali's Yachting Customs and Courtesies (a \$350 value) FREE of charge from the International Order of the Blue Gavel.

Don't miss this never-to-be-forgotten yachting event!





October 12: Academy Masterclass

Don't say this can't happen at your Club . . .
... because it already happened somewhere!

Members and friends are invited to attend two vital presentations on Law and Leadership at the Hobcaw Yacht Club from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

PROBLEM: Harvey, a member of your Club, has a known drinking problem. He's at the bar as usual, imbibing a few too many, when he shows off his latest toy: a fully loaded, semi-automatic pistol which he slams down on the bar! "Let one of them bastards try robbing me," he brags. "Let'em try; I'll blast 'em!" When he's ready to leave, your bartender does exactly what you've trained him to do: he takes Harvey's car keys and convinces him it's not safe for him to drive home. Then he offers to call a cab. At that point another member, Sam Samaritan, says, "No need for that; I'll drive Harvey home. I know where he lives." Harvey stuffs his new toy back into his shoulder holster, downs the last of his drink, and says, "Okay, Sam, let's go." On the way home something happens: the gun goes off, Sam is shot through the heart and dies instantly. The Samaritan family now brings a lawsuit against Harvey and your Club for "wrongful death."



*P/C Joseph A. Tringali, Esq., JAG
Department, Academy of Yachting.*

QUESTION: Is your club legally liable for Sam Samaritan's death?

PROBLEM: You're a Director of the Silver Spitoon Sailing Club, and the club is getting ready for its annual New Member Party, where members are initiated in a "skit" that has been going on since forever. As part of the fun and games, during the solemn swearing in, somebody is supposed to throw a large firecracker into a nearby trash can to lighten up the proceedings. This year it's your turn to be the so-called "Master at Arms." You are one of the Directors, and you vote to accept the new members and you set the date for the ceremony. Sad to say, you can't be there in person because you and your wife will be visiting her sick mother in Kansas City. Another member is assigned to fill your role, and, to make it a really good "show," he uses a Cherry Bomb instead of an "ordinary" firecracker. The explosive is too big; the trash can is blown apart, and a member is blinded.

QUESTION: Are you personally liable for the member's injury?



PROBLEM: As part of its Service to the Community, your Club hosts a Sailing Camp for underprivileged children. Neither the kids nor their parents are members of the Club, but they are welcomed during the camp, and are even allowed to have lunch in the Club restaurant. One day, an elderly handicapped woman arrives in a wheelchair with an attendant and a friend who carry her inside. She is not a member, nor is she one of the parents. As far as anyone knows, she's just some woman from the neighborhood. She complains loudly that you do not have a wheelchair ramp and your restrooms are too small to accommodate her. You're the Commodore, and you explain—very politely—that your legal officer (who retired from active practice a long time ago) has advised you that those things are not necessary in a private club, and, besides that, she was not in the building long enough to be inconvenienced. “We’ll see about that!” she shouts, as her attendant and her friend carry her back down your front stairs to the sidewalk. A short time later, your Club faces a lawsuit in the amount of \$50,000 for violating the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and your insurance agent says you're not covered because this is not “negligence” and it is a clear violation of the law.



*P/C Joseph R. Fields, Jr, Esq., JAG
Department, Academy of Yachting*

QUESTION: Can your Club be successfully sued by this person who is not a member, and had no business being in the clubhouse in the first place?

PROBLEM: There is a crisis in America. There is a shortage of good leaders, and it seems to be getting worse. The problem is people are becoming leaders for the wrong reasons. Too many of today's leaders who are attracted to leadership positions are motivated by the spotlight instead of the of the ideas and the people they serve.¹



*LtCol John A. Tringali, USAF
(Ret.), Instructor, Academy of
Yachting*

The presenters at the Charleston Convention are both men who have served their country in leadership positions in times of peace and in active combat all over the world. They truly are men who have “been there and done that.”

Both men are highly qualified to give their views on how the changes in society have affected the profession of leadership and what can be done to bring things back to a solid foundation. Changing times may mean changes in attitudes, but basics remain must remain the same if we are to survive as an organization—and a Nation.

¹Rennie, Jon S., I Have the Watch: Becoming a Leader Worth Following; Deck & Conn, LLC, c.2019.



Welcome to the Hobcaw Yacht Club!



Hobcaw Yacht Club is where our Thursday evening Kickoff event with Tucker Thompson and the Mount Gay Rum Party will be held. It's only 2.6 miles or 10 minutes from our hotel. Hobcaw is a volunteer-run and maintained club that was established in 1953, and the facilities are the newest you'll find in the Charleston area. You will be impressed!

The Club is located on the eastern

bank of the Wando River just upstream of the confluence of the Wando and Cooper Rivers feeding into the Charleston Harbor. According to HYC's charter, its purpose is to provide its membership with the best possible fellowship, entertainment, and enjoyment in a nautical, family-oriented atmosphere.



Wando Room



Clubhouse

Members enjoy sailing, swimming and just about all activities imaginable involving boating and the waterfront. The Club is completely run and maintained by volunteer members. Volunteering is a membership obligation at Hobcaw; members say it keeps the expenses low, and it's also a great way to meet and get to know other members.



So Where Are We Gonna' Eat Thursday Night???

Hobcaw Yacht Club is a beautiful new waterfront club and you've read that its on the east bank of the Wando River just upstream of the confluence of the Wando and Cooper Rivers that feed into the Charleston Harbor. It's a great Club that provides its membership with the best possible fellowship, entertainment and enjoyment in a building with wonderful facilities. Its volunteer members pride themselves on keeping the place spotless. But, to paraphrase the words of a song from South Pacific:

“What ain't it got?.... It ain't got a kitchen!”

That might be a problem anywhere else in the world, but not here. You see, HYC is 7 minutes away from a special neighborhood called I'On in the town of Mount Pleasant. It sounds strange, but I'On is a world of its own. Its stately architecture exudes southern tradition at its best. The low country vernacular gently wraps residents into a neighborhood apart from the usual suburban sprawl. It's a place where children bike, pets frolic and friendships are forged and nurtured. Parks, lakes, canals, trails and playgrounds are not just an afterthought; they are integrated seamlessly. Often less than a two-minute walk to a beautiful public space from any point, I'On is a special place to visit, and it's one more of those Charleston places where you could easily spend an entire day or a lifetime.

But now let's talk about FOOD. If everybody stays on schedule, you'll have an hour after the MasterClasses end and the Tucker Thompson America's Cup presentation and Rum Party begin. If you haven't brought along a PB&J sandwich in your pocket, here are four memorable I'On places to visit.

The Shellmore located at 357 N Shelmore Boulevard is an upscale restaurant that specializes in shellfish (Surprise!). It's an intimate neighborhood restaurant with indoor and outdoor dining that's open Tuesday-Saturday 5-10pm. The menu changes daily and typically consists of chilled oysters, 2-3 small plates, 4-5 entrees and something sweet to finish. This is, of course, accompanied by plenty of superb wines by the glass and bottle. James Beard, award-winning author of too many books to list, calls the food “superb,” and says, the Chef “cooks the way I like to eat.” The Shellmore is so special you may want to save it for a night all its own.





The Shellmore at 357 North Shelmore Boulevard is the place to go for an upscale, multi-course unforgettable dinner prepared in Low Country style. Make sure you have enough time to savor the ambiance as well as the food!



The Square Onion is a neighborhood “Corner Shop” in I’On, located nearby at 18 Resolute Lane. It’s a contemporary American cafe that opens daily at 10:30 a.m. Cary Zapatka became an owner of Square Onion in 2003, after he had honed his love of food, recipes and service in some of Charleston’s best restaurants. Since the start, Cary’s vision was to provide high quality, simple but flavorful meals in a casual neighborhood corner shop and deli. Now 15 years later, the Square Onion continues to be a Charleston favorite for sandwiches, soups, salads, casseroles and more. As for

Cary, you’ll see him there everyday

keeping his hand in the day-to-day operations to ensure the standards for the high quality food and experience are consistently delivered to his patrons at the Square Onion. It’s open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and specializes in preparing elevated sandwiches & salads, plus baked goods & ice cream.



O’Brion’s Pub & Grille is located at 361 North Shelmore Boulevard in l’On. O’Brion’s offers an even dozen kinds of beer, starting, of course, with Guinness Stout, which is at the top of their list. O’Brion’s has been pouring pints and serving an amazing array of delicious entrees and sandwiches since 2001. Their fun and friendly staff is there to ensure that your experience is nothing short of amazing. Join them for tasty treats, refreshing beverages, and memories you’ll share for a lifetime.

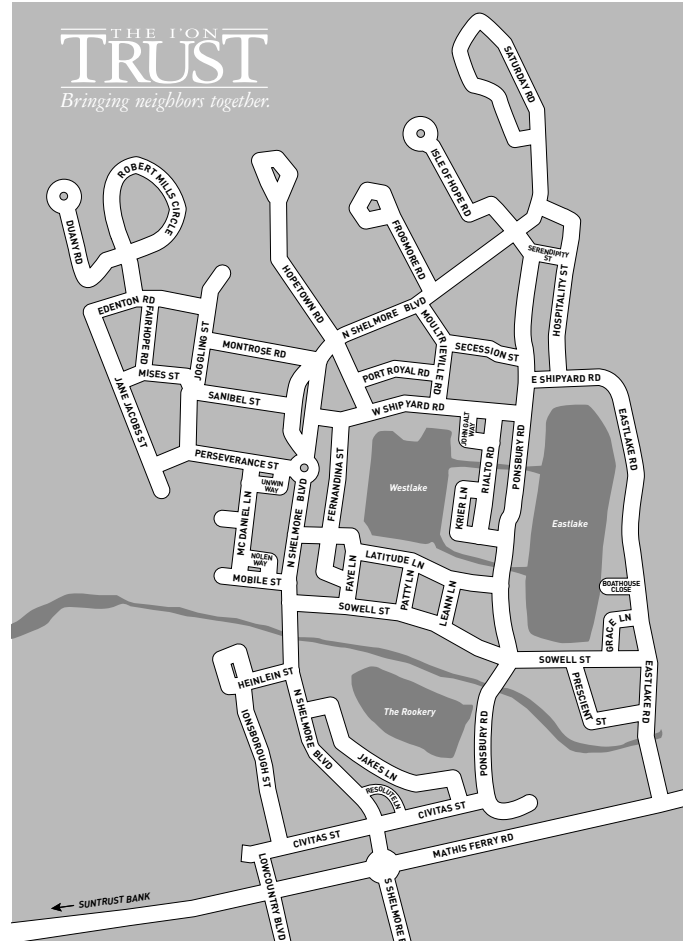


Community Table located at 148 Civitas Street, is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Owners Kiki & Rye bring wood-fired coastal cooking to the centrally located Belle Hall Shopping Center in Mt. Pleasant. The menu highlights local seafood and produce inspired by the local coast and daring dishes forged over the heat of a wood fire in a massive brick oven.





The Community Table prides itself on serving quality, modern comfort food in an approachable atmosphere, by people who care. quality, modern comfort food in an approachable atmosphere, by people who care. And those values are the building blocks on which Community Table stands.



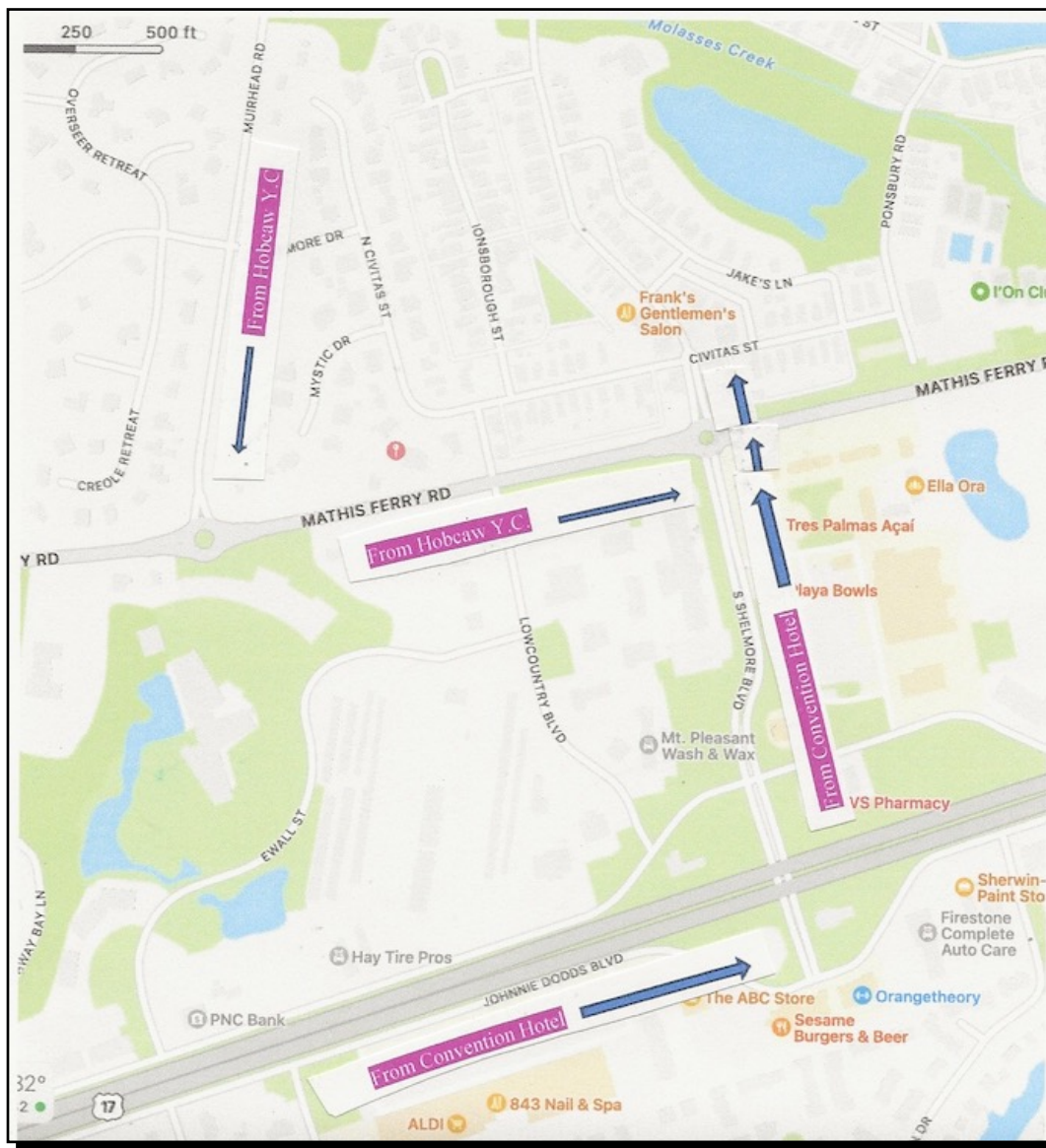
Regardless of whether you go to the I'On neighborhood for a quick bite or an entire evening, or just to stroll around and enjoy the atmosphere of the Genteel Old South, you won't be disappointed in this special treat from the Charleston IOBG Convention.



Directions to I'On

From our Convention Hotel: Go east on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, about 1.2 miles to South Shelmore Boulevard. Turn left on South Shelmore Boulevard, take the 2nd exit around the roundabout at Mathis Ferry Road and continue on South Shelmore Boulevard 1 mile. You're in I'On!

From Hobcaw Yacht Club: Go southeast on East Hobcaw Drive (which becomes Muirhead Road) about 1 mile to the roundabout on Mathis Ferry Road. At the Mathis Ferry Road roundabout, take the 3rd exit, and go a short distance east on Mathis Ferry Road, to the next roundabout. (Mt. Pleasant loves "em!). Take the third exit to Shelmore Boulevard and drive about a block. You're in I'On!



And for For Only a Few Dollars More . . .

... Don't Miss Daufuskie Island

Okay, you've made it to Charleston. But there are a lot of things to do back home: the lawn to cut, bills to pay and meetings to attend; but, heck, now you're in South Carolina! You've already spent money and attended enough God-awful meetings! Isn't it time for you to do Something Really Memorable???



Daufuskie Island is calling you! This Low Country paradise is located near Hilton Head Island. (Members of South Carolina Yacht Club, take note!). Daufuskie is the southernmost of South Carolina's barrier islands. It doesn't have modern "conveniences" like streetlights, sidewalks, and chain stores. But it does have things you won't find anywhere else: ancient oaks

dripping with Spanish moss, quiet horseback trails (you can rent well-trained horses from Daufuskie Trail Rides), pristine beaches and 500 residents who are dedicated to preserving their Gullah way of life.

Tourist hotels with disco bars, giant speakers, hard rock music and flashing lights? Ah, no, Daufuskie doesn't have them! But if you want a taste of fresh seafood, just find your way over to Old Daufuskie Crab Company or D'Fuskie's Store and Eatery. And don't forget to drop in at Daufuskie Island Distilling for a bottle of their very own spiced rum!



If you need something to take home from this idyllic retreat, stop in at the Iron Fish Gallery where artist-in-residence Chase Allen creates one-of-a-kind metal sculptures.

Need more to keep you busy? (Hey! You're not supposed to be "busy," remember?) there's the Harbor Town Lighthouse Museum and the Coastal Discovery Museum that has nature trails, gardens, and a butterfly enclosure.

And then—if you've ever wanted to count the stars in a coal-black sky, fall asleep to the sound of waves gently lapping on the shore and wake up to the music of birds outside your window, contact the Daufuskie Rental Group on the Internet or go to Airbnb where you'll find everything from cottages to restored private homes. It ain't the Hampton Inn, but then, you've been to the Hampton Inn!

The only way to get to Daufuskie Island is by boat. From our hotel, drive two hours south to Bluffton, South Carolina, where a ferry takes visitors to this 5-mile long and 3-mile-wide island. It'll cost you only \$50 for a round-trip ticket, and you'll be welcomed with open arms. There are no strangers in paradise.

Your lawn can wait for a few days, and the mailman can stuff a few more bills in the box. Don't use "too busy" as an excuse to pass up Daufuskie Island.



Southeastern Members! Show Your Colors!

We've arranged with Caskey Monograms to have our own Southeastern flag crossed with the national IOBG flag and embroidered for you! Karen Caskey is happy to work with you by telephone or Internet to prepare your special need. Contact Karen at 561-844-5682 or online at www.caskeymonograms.com.



News from the Southeastern Region



Far too often we here in Florida meet people who have already done what they did, and because we didn't know them when they did it, we don't appreciate who they were—and still are. A prime example of that is right here in our Blue Gavel backyard.



P/C Mark Bills of Venice Yacht Club is D/8 Director and a quiet, unassuming dentist in Southwest Florida. But something like half a century ago (back when we didn't know him), Captain Mark Bills was in Vietnam where he was a member of an elite secret U.S. Army Special Forces unit. His assignment: lead a counter-intelligence squad of soldiers, and he went on 22 missions far behind enemy lines to, as he says, “conduct P.O.W. snatches, check out enemy movement and do wire taps. We tried to get a handle on what was coming south in Vietnam.” Mark won't talk about the Presidential Unit Citation his squad received, saying, “I don't feel I deserve it, but I know a lot of guys who did.”

But for the record, Mark's Presidential Unit Citation was awarded for “extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy.” Army regulations require that to receive it, the unit as a whole must display the same degree of heroism that would warrant the award to an individual of the Distinguished Service Cross. (Don't bother to look it up: the DCS is one step below the Medal of Honor.). In addition to his unit award, Mark received a few other personal citations: two Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with “V” for Valor, a Combat Infantryman's Badge, six Air Medals, a Senior Parachute Badge, a Vietnam Gallantry Medal with Silver Star, a Vietnam Special Forces Jump Wings, and, finally, two Vietnam Service Medals. And if you absolutely force him to talk about those days, he will explain, “I'm not anything special at all. I just did what a lot of other guys did better. I had a lot of luck.” Then he adds, “I don't take myself too seriously anymore. I'm way ahead of the game.”

So, after all he's done, what does the quiet IOBG dentist from Venice, do? He doesn't sweat the small stuff of course, and he adds simply, “When the sand runs out on you, it runs out.” Words of Wisdom for all of us. And, by the way, from those of us here at The Gulfstream, WELL DONE, P/C Bills!





Harbor Island Yacht Club in Old Hickory Lake, Tennessee remains a Mecca for sailing enthusiasts. With a racing program that continues to grow and change with the times, and a clubhouse that is second to none in the Nashville area, the Club has been an ongoing story of work and

progress. It boasts a current membership of nearly 250 families and a strong youth program with the Club's Sail Camp, Sea Scout Ship 851, and the Vanderbilt Sailing Team. With fleets of Lasers, Lightnings, PHRF, Vanguard 15's, and Y-Flyers, Club members young and old have an opportunity to fine-tune their skills in familiar boats or try their hands at new ones. Above



and beyond all the competitive sailing however, one event stands out: the annual regatta featuring vessels made of cardboard, duct tape, packing tape, hot glue, rope, or string. The race features some unique rules, such as Rule 11 which provides, "Team members who start the race must finish the race without leaving the interior of the boat," and Rule 13: "Teams are not allowed to sabotage anyone else's boat. Any rough housing in the water will lead to disqualification." And, finally, Rule 16: "Judging will be based on time at the completion of the race or distance traveled and time the boat sinks." Fortunately, there's no "rule" against having fun, which is what happened on September 3 of this year at the Club's Cardboard Boat Regatta.

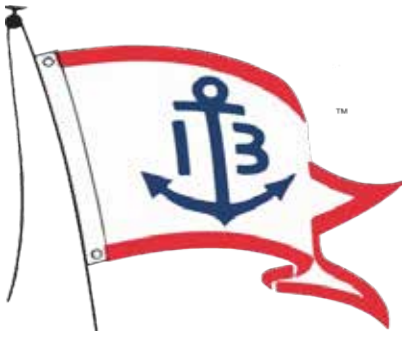
Vero Beach Yacht Club continues its winning ways with the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs. In the May/June issue of *The Gulfstream* we reported that VBYC received two awards at the prestigious FCYC Change of Watch at Eau Gallie Yacht Club in March of this year. The first award was for having the most boats at the event and the second was for having the most members at the event. Then, in September, the VBYC hosted the semi-monthly meeting of the Council for the very first time.



D/8 Secretary, P/C Steve Wurster (center) presents a check to VBYC Commodore Judy Peschio and P/C Rey Neville, to contribute to the success of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs meeting at VBYC in September;

The Florida Council of Yacht Clubs was established with 13-member yacht clubs in 1960 and now has chapters in the most prestigious landed clubs in the State, all of which must be landed and have dockage for visiting FCYC members.





The flag of the FCYC identifies its members while honoring the "Original 13" clubs that were its founders

It represents a population of approximately 37,300 club members who have aided in bringing many legislative matters favorable to the boating public to a successful conclusion. To assist the Council in monitoring boating-related legislation, the Council retains a legislative representative in Tallahassee.

Demonstrating its support of FCYC, the Vero Beach Yacht Club chapter of the Blue Gavel presented the Club with a check to help defray the expenses of the meeting. P/C Steve Wurster who is President of the chapter (and doubles as the District 8

secretary) presented a check to VBYC Commodore Judy Peschio and P/C Rey Neville, and, Blue Gavel members made sure the FCYC attendees felt welcome." It's another WELL DONE for Commodore Judy Peschio and the members of VBYC!

Palm Beach Sailing Club is faced with the "problem" that confronts many owners of Florida waterfront property. Thanks to long-time member and P/C Ned Goddard, in 1996 the club bought the abandoned winter home of the Hodge family, and then it struggled through some lean years (don't we all) when the members did most of the work like removing the trees that



Name another club where a member can enjoy his pipe in quiet and peace! Not many have the covered porch of the former winter home of the Hodge family that is now the home of PBSC.

blocked the view of the water and the infamous "Sod Laying Party" thought up by P/C Lou Daniello (the Younger). The bank came up with a loan for an attached pavilion, P/C Joe Tringali created a Flag Room out of the old living room, and then P/C Lou Daniello (the Original) financed a new commercial kitchen. Now the Club has a waiting list of prospective members and a line of drooling real estate brokers at the door. But sorry, NO! The members are happy with their little corner of paradise, and nobody wants to leave. Ever!





PBSC annually hosts the Laser Masters regatta which draws participants from all over the world. And although it's primarily a small boat club with its own beach for family picnics, sunbathing and launching boats, Palm Beach Sailing Club also has plenty activities for "big boaters."

The Club hosts a number of social activities as well, and the open-air pavilion (known to one and all as "The Deck") has been the scene of everything from casino parties to a formal Commodore's Ball.



The Club's lawn out beyond The Deck has hosted events as exotic as Fire Dancers, as formal as the annual Club Commissioning and as stirring as its Sundown Ceremony. All in all, Palm Beach Sailing Club has the boating fun of a "sailing club" and the social and formal events of a "yacht club." This Club has something for everyone!





St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club is one of the oldest and most prestigious yacht clubs on Florida's Northern Gulf Coast. It is a long-standing member of the Gulf Yachting Association (GYA) which is made up of 33 clubs from St. Petersburg Yacht Club on the east, along the Florida Panhandle, through Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and including inland clubs at Jackson, MS, Baton Rouge, and Little Rock.

The mission of the St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club is to provide facilities for its members to share common interests in an atmosphere of mutual camaraderie, both on and off the water.



The Summer Sailing Program is open to the public; membership is not required, and its aim is to accommodate all interests and skill levels. It is based on the US SAILING curriculum and emphasizes fun and safety!

weddings and receptions, and the beautiful waterfront lawn is the perfect place for a tired bride and groom

The SABYC facilities are perfect for weddings and receptions, and the beautiful waterfront lawn is the perfect place for a tired bride and groom to dream about their plans for their future.



All in all, if you happen to be up in Florida's Panhandle, either by boat or auto, stop in at St. Andrews Bay Yacht Club. It's an unforgettable place—and tell 'em The Gulfstream sent you!



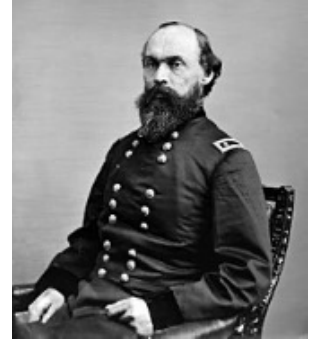


St. Augustine Yacht Club Celebrates Its 150th Year Founding

By Gaye Farris, SAYC member

The 1870s were exciting times in America. The Civil War was over and the economy was booming, which led to a prosperity that Mark Twain dubbed the Gilded Age. In 1873, a group of yachtsmen began planning a yacht club in St. Augustine, Fla. Fittingly, the oldest yacht club in Florida is in the oldest city in the United States. In the 1880s that city would become the winter resort of the Gilded Age's rich and famous. And many of them had yachts.

By 1874, the **St. Augustine Yacht Club** was begun in earnest, with a Civil War hero as the first Commodore. Major General Gordon Granger is known for his part in the Battles of Chickamauga and



Chattanooga. He is also the general who, on June 19, 1865, informed the residents of Galveston, Tex., that the Emancipation Proclamation had ended slavery. His announcement is now celebrated as a national holiday, Juneteenth.

The Club had its first race in 1875 on the Matanzas River with spectators lining the seawall. Under Ulysses S. Grant's presidency (1869-77), the War Department chartered the Club with defending the St. Augustine Inlet in times of war. Youth sailing instruction began in 1889 and became part of St. Augustine Days, of which the Club was a main sponsor.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Club was referred to as the Winter Newport because so many prominent northern members like Henry Flagler, Andrew Carnegie and Louis Tiffany came here for "the season," January through May. The Club became renowned for its parties. The most famous was the "Grand Bal Masque," held each February at a hotel and which "eclipsed anything of the season," according to one scribe. Two hundred attendees, many of them masked, would dance to an orchestra until two in the morning.

Of all the notable members of SAYC during the Gilded Age, one of the more interesting ones was Caldwell Hart Colt, son of Samuel Colt. Caldwell designed the Colt double-barrel rifle in 1879, but loved sailing, not business. He acquired his first of five yachts at 18, spending, some people said, 10



months a year racing. The most famous, Dauntless, had two challenges for the America's Cup, but lost both. A member of three yacht clubs (New York, Larchmont and St Augustine), Colt died young in 1894 in Punta Gorda, Fla. He fell off his yacht under what was called "mysterious circumstances." At the time, he was the richest bachelor in America.

Another interesting character was Dagmar Chilman, the first female Commodore of SAYC and a member of the International Order of the Blue Gavel. P/C Chilman held the honorary rank of Colonel in the British Intelligence Service. She was born in London and served as a spy during World War II. Because she spoke fluent French she translated French Underground information. On her third parachute into France, she was captured by the Germans but later rescued by Canadian troops.



In contrast to its Gilded Age past, the St. Augustine Yacht Club is now



a community leader, sponsoring boating events, youth sailing education, and member fellowship. Community events include the Holiday Regatta of Lights, Blessing of the Fleet, Sailing Races, Dragon Boating, Lunch and Learn talks, and youth sailing camps for 400 participants a year. Member socials are monthly theme parties with bands and dancing, weekly Friday night dinners, family picnics and games, Mardi Gras and Halloween costume contests,

game and trivia nights, and much more.

A major Club goal is erecting a building alongside the Club to house the St. Augustine Yacht Club Sailing Center. It will provide affordable access to boating for youth in and around St. Augustine by offering sailing camps and racing and on-the-water fun. Scholarships are available as the Club believes no child should be denied access to its programs due to financial need. The St. Augustine Yacht Club Foundation is now fundraising for the building.

On Nov. 17, 2023, the Club will both commemorate its 150th founding and celebrate the future St. Augustine Yacht Club Sailing Center with a Kick-off Party. A Masquerade Ball follows on Feb. 13, 2024. Other events include a sailing regatta, boat parade, boat scavenger hunt, Dragon Boat races, a trolley ride to places associated with the Club's history, a plein air painting event with local artists, and the burial of a time capsule containing Club history. Contact manager.staugustineyc@gmail.com for more information.



From the Southeast Region – a Final Word to Those Who Care!



The Southeast Region covers nine States from North Carolina to Louisiana. According to some very rough statistics drawn from places like the Internet, we are home to something like 2.5 million registered boaters and 127 yacht clubs. That's not bad, is it? Or is it?

The latest membership numbers from IOBG show a total of something like 1,385 worldwide members. That's what we—you and I with our plethora of cheap lapel pins and claims of exclusivity and our past presidents who think they are Knights of the Roses—claim as our “worldwide” membership. No matter how you slice and dice those numbers, they ain't good.

Let's face it: if our Region has something like 127 yacht clubs, we can guess at least half of them—let's say 63—have commodores who retire and are eligible for IOBG membership every year. The sad fact is, we don't even have 63 chapters!

Now check your latest issue of The Log. Our association has 5 regions. So take the already reduced number from our region and multiply it by five. $5 \times 63 = 325$ new candidates per year. To paraphrase the late Ed Koch, “How are we doin'?” The answer is, “Not good!”

A few years ago (okay, many years ago), a dazzling young lady by the name of Eydie Gormé stunned a television audience with her performance of a torch song that asked, “What did I have that I don't have?” (Fortunately, you can still see her electrifying performance on YouTube.). Whether you apply that question to a lost love, or a career that dead-ended, or a decline in health or club membership, we can all ask ourselves the same question: What did we have that we don't have?

Blue Gavel began life in 1952. At that time our founder, Commodore Ev Henry, gave us his dream which included a dozen rules including (1) operating in harmony and fellowship, (2) building prestige and pride of membership, (3) being governed by wisdom and tact, and (4) being adaptable to meet the needs of our members.

Around 30 years after our founding we were up to something like 4,000 members. Since then, we've been in a long, hard, downward spiral. How many of Ev Henry's ideas have we lost? In the words of Eydie's song, are we “just a victim of time, obsolete in our prime, out of date and out classed . . . by our past?” Think about it.



Officers of the Southeastern Region



Southeastern Vice President and District 18 President & Director

Dave Kowert (Christie) (Charleston Yacht Club)

1236 Oak Hill Terrace, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466

Tel: 843-412-0137 | Email: davekowert@bellsouth.net



District 8 Director

Mark Bills (Sandie) (Venice Yacht Club)

1309 Guilford Dr, Venice, FL 34292

Email: mmbdmd@yahoo.com | Tel: 941-484-7033 | Cell: 941-376-4220



District 8 President

Kathy Hockenberry (Doug) (Gulf Harbors Yacht Club)

10956 81st Avenue, Ocala, FL 34481

Tel: 352-282-3341 | Cell: 813-716-5699 | Email: Carrk98@gmail.com



District 8 Vice President

Barbara Dolan (Michael) (St. Augustine Yacht Club)

PO Box 1374, St. Augustine, FL 32085

Tel: 904-806-4142 | Email: surfsidemarina@bellsouth.net



District 8 Secretary

Stephen Wurster (Gwen) (Vero Beach Yacht Club)

1634 Segovia Cir, Vero Beach, FL 32966

Cell: 954-328-5261 | Email: stephenwurster@gmail.com



District 8 Legal Officer and Editor, The Gulfstream

Joe Tringali (Mary Lou) (Palm Beach Sailing Club)

441 Marlin Road, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Tel: 561-906-4642 | Email: j.tringali@academyofyachting.org

