



WATERLOG



SAFE! SMART! FUN!



Taking on the Loop

Past Commander's Corner

In This Issue

Past Commander's Corner	2
Calvary Kids Day-On-The-Lake	3
2019 Seafarer's Ball	4
2019 Seafarer's Ball, continued	5
Randall's Loop Update	6
Randall's Loop Undate, continued	7
Ringwall's Loop Update	8
Ringwall's Loop Update, continued	9
Williams' Loop Update	9
Williams' Loop Update, continued	10
Some Waterlog Changes	10
Winter Brings a Change of Watch	11
What Our Organization Means to Our Community	12
What Our Organization Means, continued	13
Lies My Mother Told Me	14
Calendar	15
AFterthoughts	16

It has been said that the two happiest days for a boat owner are the day they buy their boat and the day they sell it. I've heard similar thoughts about being the Commander but I have to disagree a little. With so much going on and seeing what we have accomplished with the energy and enthusiasm of our members, I'm already missing the Commandership.



P/C Barbara Tyson, P

I want to reminisce a minute. What did we do this year? What do we have to look back on?

The BoatU.S. Distinguished Civic Service Award, for one. We are now on a long list of past winners. The \$1000 that we won made so many things possible – donations to the Bahamas for hurricane relief, to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and to the Lake Lanier Association to support their maintenance of the solar lights on Lake Lanier. Sponsorship of 2 participants in Georgia River Network's "Paddle Georgia" and of the Barefoot Sailing Club's "Barefoot Open" Regatta. I could go on, but most of you have heard all this already.

Three couples are undertaking the Great Loop, using what they learned from our classes to safely and successfully negotiate their journey. I understand we will have more couples doing this in the future.

We offered more classes online this year, giving members and prospective members a break from Atlanta traffic.

And we have been planning today in anticipation of a positive outcome tomorrow. For instance we will give ourselves another break from Atlanta traffic by holding General Membership Meetings on Saturdays during the summer. These GMM's will be on Lake Lanier, so raft-ups will start as soon as the meeting is over.

Our Marketing is being revamped. We have updated our ad in *The Lakeside News* to be more eye-catching and interesting, and we have a plan to attract new and potential members from the Atlanta Boat Show. Marketing will continue to improve in 2020.

As far as social media goes, we are boosting our page on Facebook, building our Instagram account and continuously improving our website.

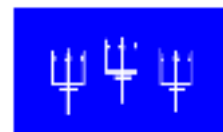
As for finances, we began looking in 2019, and will continue to look in 2020, for a financial strategy that is low risk but also offers a higher return than we now have.

And membership, yes, some members dropped off of our rolls, but more signed up. We will work to keep them, and I am hoping improvements in Marketing and New Member Care will help.

Tim told me recently that he has been Editor of our *Waterlog* for almost 10 years. In the past 9 years I have been Club Secretary for 3 years, District 17 Secretary for 3 years, and "Going through the Chairs", another 3 years. I can't believe how fast the time goes when you are involved in as vibrant and energetic an organization as America's Boating Club Atlanta. Want to see how right I am? Volunteer. You'll find I'm right. You'll also have a great time!

With that, I want to thank each and every one of you for making this job - and my life - so much easier.

Yours always, *Barbara*



Waterlog

Waterlog is published at least four times each year. It is published for the Squadron members by the staff of the Squadron Secretary and is provided to all members and advertisers, and is available to the public. All members in good standing and approved non-members may submit articles and items for publication. They receive no gratuity. The editor reserves the right to revise, change, or reject any materials submitted to the *Waterlog*, consistent with standards of accuracy, fairness, good taste, and available space, subject to the approval of the Squadron Commander.

Pictured right: Calendar and Proof-reading Editor Margaret Sherrod, Editor-in-Chief Tim Tyson, and Co-Editor Barbara Tyson.



On the Cover

With their educational classes under their belts, the Randalls, the Ringwalls, and the Williamses take off on their Great Loop adventures. We look forward to hearing from them as the warm weather approaches and they begin their second legs. Fair weather and safe sailing, dear friends.



Reflections



The Calvary Kids Day-On-the-Lake: Turning a Lemon Into Lemonade

Due to a last minute snafu (an Army expression that I will not go into), we were forced to hold last year's Day-On-the-Lake over the Labor Day weekend. This caused a few difficulties, since so many of the friends we have depended on for recreational activities - tubing, jet skiing, sailing, etc. - were out of town. However we **ARE** ABCA (**A**lways **B**right, **C**heerful and **A**ble), and a good time was had by all. Jack Oliaro, despite a back that would require surgery a few weeks later, provided the tubing fun, Donna Odum brought her jet ski, the ever popular huge floating mat was there, and by all accounts the kids had fun. As Calvary director Brian Busby said, "Heck, these kids are just so happy to be on the water on this beautiful boat!" And as one of the kids told me, "School has just started and this was a break that we really looked forward to."



What Did We Say ABCA Stands For?

As indicated above, ABCA might have one official name, but there are several others that have always applied as well, such as **A** Beautiful, **C**haritable, **A**ssociation. We also discussed turning lemons into lemonade, so how about this: A few years ago we held a chili cookoff at the Ringwall's house. The speaker at that meeting was Snyder Turner, Executive Director at the Calvary Children's Home. Several people asked how they could help and what they could do for the kids. Snyder's answer was simple. "You want to make these kids' happy? Send them a birthday card. That is the one thing that will make their day."

Since that day Genie Troncalli - every month - sends me personalized birthday cards for each child. She prints them on her computer and these cards are something Hallmark could only wish for!

The day I delivered the first cards I stopped by the business owned by a dear friend (who would rather I not give his name). I showed him the \$2 bills I intended to place in each card. "You're putting \$2 bills in the cards?"



he asked. "Yep," I said proudly, "I bet they don't even know the government makes them."

"You cheap !@#\$\$%^," he said, totally deflating my ego. "You need to put at least a twenty in." Well I explained life to him. We didn't have it in our budget, and we can't do it for just one month, we have to do it all twelve. "How many kids are there," he asked, pulling out a wad of bills. "Twenty seven." He pulled out five twenty dollar bills for that month's birthday kids and told me to swing by each time I went out to deliver the cards.

After five years of this my friend has sold his business and I don't see him nearly as often. In fact I will be lucky to see him and his wife once a year if that. So here is an idea we came up with: "Adopt a Kid's Birthday". Today there are 28 kids at Calvary. If you would like to participate in this program, well, it's simple. I have a list of the kids. You let me know you want to help out. Each \$20 takes care of a birthday. I put it in the cards Genie sends me. I give it to Calvary. They give it to the child on his/her birthday

At that point you have made the day of at least two people: the child and you.



More Reflections

2019 Seafarer's Ball...Not a Better Way To See Out the Year

The 2019 Seafarer's Ball, held once again at that beautiful venue, the University Yacht Club, was an evening to behold. The music was perfect, the food delicious, and the group beyond compare. I could go on and on about how much fun we had, how everyone enjoyed themselves, and so forth. But why waste precious space with words when pictures can tell the story so much more eloquently?



Continued on the next page



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Even More Reflections

Seafarer's Ball: The Fun Continues!!!



There is one thing, however, that the pictures will not and cannot show, and that is the hard work done by Virginia Lee, Leycei Hendrix, Eric Ringwall, Donna Odum, and their hearty band of volunteers. Their dedication and enthusiasm could be seen in every smile on every face of every person who attended this wonderful gala. Hats off and a big salute to them for their dedication to making this an event we could all be so very proud of.



Squadron News



The Randall's Loop Update

What did you do for the last 140 days? Probably the typical for a ABCA member. Enjoyed some boating time with friends, experienced some summer thunderstorms, did battle with eight-legged, web-spinning interlopers on your boat, went out to eat, saw some fireworks, and the mundane paying bills and buying groceries. Same for Scotty and me with a little twist. We've been living on our 40' trawler and have cruised over 2,000 nautical miles from the familiar low country of Georgia's coast.



We aren't sure the genesis of this idea. Doing America's Great Loop. We both want to give the credit to the other person. This isn't a typical trip or cruise. It rightfully is and should be called an adventure.

The adventure started on April Fools Day. When Singleton could not haul-out our trawler because of high water on Lanier, we switched to Aqualand whose lift was still working. Aqualand is a DIY yard. Back in our sea scout days, Scot did haulouts for a 63' AVR and I did the bottom work on a 56' tug. This gave us experience and confidence that we could in fact do all the work ourselves. In the four decades since those days, we forgot the long hours, back aches, sanding dust that blankets every exposed body surface, fingers and hands stained by boat paint, and bruises from falling off the ladder. We have a detailed day-by-day project plan since we had to finish everything in 16 days. There are numerous dependencies, and many tasks that can't be done simultaneously. Our schedule was dictated by the marine overland transport vendor hauling our trawler to Thunderbolt, Georgia. Scot took off one day. I took off two. Colin helped us for three and Wesley for one. We also hired Chris Goins of Teak Mafia to rebuild the rub rail of our swim platform and custom build a door for the forward head. Truly without Colin's help the plan would not have been met. We were thankful for the energy, enthusiasm and strength of our twenty-something son! Little did I realize at the start of this adventure that although a plan is important, flexibility and revisions to the plan is the necessary art.

Our first day of cruising we did part of the same route as the ABCA Low Country Crawl cruise last fall. Being in familiar waters for our first day was reassuring. The second day, we cruised past Beaufort, SC and entered new waters. When we arrive in towns or hamlets we look for a place to

tie up, then a place to buy liquor, then a place to buy marine or hardware supplies, then a place to get food. Scot keeps his priorities straight. As we outfitted the trawler for the trip, there were two critical decisions on where to store things. We put Scot's meticulously organized, six-drawer tool chest in a master stateroom closet. The other was the liquor locker. Safe from accidental opening or crashes in rough seas, bigger than you think you need, and convenient. A whole compartment under a salon bench seat fit the bill.

What are the elements of a good cruise and an exciting adventure? Humor. Safety. Delicious food and generous libations. Continuously improving nautical skills. Awe at the wonders of Mother Nature. Awe at the ingenuity, compassion and determination of people in prior centuries. Smiles, interest and conversations with people we meet.

Undoubtedly the best region for seafood was the low country coast up through the Chesapeake. It gave new meaning to the word fresh seafood. Scotty's favorite was the crab dip from Carolina Seafood Market in McClellanville, SC and mine was the shrimp tacos in St. Michaels, MD. We eat out frequently. Our overall best dining experiences were Lucky Bones in Cape May, NJ and Cafe Boheme in Tadoussac, Quebec. Everything delicious, lively places and delightful servers. The visit to Lyon Distilling Co in St Michaels, Maryland was unforgettable because of the co-founder and tour director Jamie Windon. Her enthusiasm is unmatched and she is capitalizing on her extraordinary gifts of smell and taste to make exceptional rum.



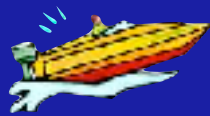
I have decided that boating is similar to yoga. It is a practice and you just strive to get better.

Two boat hooks are a necessity when going through locks on a 40' trawler. The second boat hook is useful in recovery of the wayward boat hook that fell into the water.

Weeds grow so thick in the water that the depth finder registers the top of the weeds not the bottom of the waterway.

A trip line on our Rochna plow anchor is helpful and reassuring. It was a necessity when we snagged an electrical cable between the shore and the Statue of Liberty. With the trip line, Scot could easily slip the cable off the flukes.

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Squadron News



(Randalls' Loop Adventure, continued)

That's after he recovered from the panic of thinking he could be responsible for a power outage at Liberty Island. (We were in a designated anchorage with no indication of a

submerged cable.) Our trawler hit 10 knots at 1200 rpm going downstream in the St. Lawrence. Our radar picks up trains along the shoreline of the Hudson River and low flying helicopters in NY Harbor. Our radar did **not** pick-up three military stealth riverboats in



Delaware Bay.

As teenagers, Scot and I were trained to bring in fenders when underway. That is impractical when transiting canal systems with frequent locks. We even purchased more fenders so we could have four hanging on port and four on starboard ready at all times.

By the rules of the road "underway" is not at anchor, made fast to shore or aground. The implication is that if you are not underway then you are more relaxed (except possibly the aground situation). By strict interpretation, I assume being in a lock is not underway as the boat is made fast to the lock and the lock is built into the ground. However, in our deck log, we are considering being in a lock as being underway as it is definitely not relaxing.

If a chart didn't indicate lateral buoys along many of the river channels then I would never be there in our 20' whaler much less our 40' trawler.

The lateral aid stick (our ABCA training aid winner at D17 last fall) has been very helpful. Scotty loves it. Many channels are very narrow with lots of curves. Remember, a curve in the channel might mean the lateral aid ahead of you is not the next one.

In Canada, red nun and green can buoys are tall narrow spar buoys. Taller but no bigger around than the white and orange informational buoys on Lake Lanier. The nuns have an upside down cone on the top to make them pointed. Another indicator is the can is flat enough to be a roost for a bird but they can't rest atop a nun.

As may have been reported in ABCA meetings Scot has completed and recorded 10 VSCs.

We have covered over 2,000 nautical miles and there have been three tense situations out on the water. The first was at anchor in Brigantine Bay, NJ during small craft

warnings when neither of us even tried to sleep we just sat together on the fly bridge. Another was as we left Atlantic City headed for the open water of the Atlantic our starboard engine failed. We limped back to the marina we had just left using only our port engine and took the first open end tie. Later we discovered we were within moments of losing both engines. There was one important tidbit that I almost missed back on our approach into Cornwall, Ontario. I let our Navionics app do an automatic routing then I look for hazards and manually adjust. That day while we were waiting on a lock just before arriving in Cornwall, I decided to read again about our destination in the guide book. One guide book said "...the current can be swift...". Another guidebook said "...fast and dangerous..." I rerouted us to the east end of an island and the current was strong but not dangerous. Later that day, I rode my bike along the river above Cornwall. Oh my! If we had gone the swift, fast and dangerous route, then if we didn't damage our boat and ourselves we likely would have been scared away from continuing our trip.

About 1/4 of our shore time has been in eating or drinking establishments, 1/4 in museums, 1/4 walking or biking around, 1/8 provisioning and 1/8 everything else. Tour guides can make all the difference in the experience at a museum. Ranger Mac at Yorktown explained so much more about that pivotal battle of the Revolutionary War than I have ever known, understood or remembered before. A retired navy enlisted engineer who had been stationed aboard the USS Wisconsin gave us the engine room tour. I now understand much better the workings of high pressure and low pressure steam engines. A lifetime local, retired crabber at the Tangier Island History Museum explained the life of crabbers. They get soft shell crabs by recognizing when a grown crab is going to shed its exoskeleton which means it will grow almost two sizes and then harvest the crab before the new exoskeleton hardens. The best crab pots use the two level design since already trapped crabs crawl into the upper level in hopes of escaping only to be trapped further and leaving space at the lower level for more unsuspecting crabs to enter.



To be continued.



Squadron News



Travel Update from the Ringwalls

Cindy, Molly and I are 1300 miles into our journey and it is already getting hard to narrow down the "bests" and "favorites" from the many wonderful experiences we have had along the way. Since we are not trying to do the Great Loop this year, but just go up to explore the Chesapeake Bay, we are able to take more time to enjoy each stop and get to know the people and places we encounter.

Having purchased our new boat, Flying Colors, a 2004 Pama LX540 in Fort Lauderdale in late February, we put her in the Marine Max boat yard for the month of March to have work done on her to get her ready for some long distance cruising. The month of April was then spent in Aventura, a suburb of North Miami Beach, in a beautiful marina. We used the time to make some short "shake down" trips to Miami and then to the northernmost keys - Key Biscayne and Elliott. Our power squadron friends helped us get her ready and take her for a test drive - many thanks to TJ & Alease, Tony & Anita and John & Cary for their assistance!

From Aventura, we headed north in May, making stops in Boca Raton, Palm Beach, Jupiter, Ft Pierce and Titusville, FL. This segment of the trip was really amazing for the remarkable wealth our nation holds. It is obvious to the most casual observer that we are blessed beyond measure with a country that still provides one with the opportunity to pursue their dreams - or get REALLY lucky! While many stretches of this part of the journey were narrow channels with shallow water on each side, it was an opportunity for a close up view of the life styles of the rich and famous on one hand, or mother nature's beauty on the other. For the bird watchers, saw osprey, flamingo, herons and egrets and even a roseate spoonbill, not to mention the ever present gulls, terns and cormorants. When we arrived in Titusville, we were treated to our first up-close encounters with manatees in the fairway as we entered the marina, in our slip, all around the marina as a matter of fact. Cindy named one very friendly manatee "Titus" of Titusville. That night we were treated to a 2am rocket launch from Cape Canaveral, just across the water from Titusville, a spectacular sight and well worth setting the alarm! On this segment we also encountered thunderstorms and learned our new vessel could be piloted equally well above and below and really enjoyed the air-conditioned comfort of the pilot house, something we would not have been able to do on At Ease!



After a break for a trip to CA and to get some work done at home, Eric returned to the boat with John Holland to continue the journey north out of Florida while Cindy went to CA to spend time with Eric's mom. Our insurance company dictated that the boat had to be north of the Florida/Georgia line before June 1st and we were also being obedient to the Florida State sales tax commissioner who said we had just 90 days to vacate Florida or be subject to their sales tax on the boat - so north we went! From Titusville, we journeyed north to Palm Coast, then St Augustine. In St A, we picked up Richard and Marney Midkiff for the ride from there northward to Georgia. We spent the night at their beautiful home then headed up the inter-

coastal waterway to our next stop, an anchorage at St Mary's - our first port in GA. The next day we made it to our destination of Brunswick, GA, a really nice area where we ran into Brent & Eva Troncalli on their catamaran as well as Phil & Pam Eastman. We enjoyed an evening together aboard Flying Colors over wine and appetizers and swapping stories about our recent adventures and our future plans.

After a break at home and in CA, Cindy and Eric continued the trip north with Chris Goins and his fiancé Chiaki who joined us from Brunswick,

GA to Beaufort and then Charleston, SC. Our objective now was to get the boat to the Norfolk, VA area before we had to leave her again for our annual trip to Cabo San Lucas. We enjoyed the journey through familiar territory here, since we had just covered much of this ground on our recent ABCA Low Country Crawl. No Daufuskie distillery stop this time, but we enjoyed a beautiful evening on the hook near Hell's Gate the first night and great meals in Beaufort and Charleston on the next two. Dolphins were our regular companions during the day as were pop up thunderstorms in the late afternoons. I wish I hadn't recently read about a Nordhavn 76's experience being struck by lightning - no injuries or fires, but basically everything electronic was toast. We tried to steer between the heaviest storms and came out unscathed. The low country part of our country is magical. The views over the spartina grass, the 8' tides moving so much water, the diversity of life is really moving. Travel by boat is really the best way to see this area and appreciate its beauty. For the oyster, crab and red fish or wild life lover, it is a must.

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Squadron News



(Ringwall's Loop Adventure, continued)

From Charleston north it was just Cindy, Molly and I and we had a great time finding our cruising rhythm. We cruised through McLellanville, Georgetown and Myrtle Beach, SC and on to North Carolina where we visited Carolina Beach, Swansboro Oriental, Belhaven and Coinjock



before entering Virginia along the Albemarle to Chesapeake Canal and stopping at the Atlantic Yacht Basin just south of Norfolk, VA. Based on several reports of debris in the Dismal Swamp canal, we

took the alternate route not wanting to risk damaging our new running gear! We crossed the "Nasty" Neuse River, Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds on days when the weather, though hot and humid, was as calm as could be. Hardly a ripple on the water on these sometime challenging sounds. The North Carolina segment of the ICW also has many beautiful homes in view. The waterways have more sand on the banks and less mud "plough" but the spartina grass is still ever present. Tides are no longer in the 8' range, more like 3-4' but there are still some skinny water areas that need to be respected. We ran into ABCA member Malcolm Douglas in Myrtle Beach as he was wrapping up his solo journey aboard his beautiful boat Burning Daylight. The small, historic, coastal towns have been a pleasure to explore on foot. The availability of fresh seafood for restaurants or cooking on board has been fantastic and the new and interesting people we have met are just plain awesome.

We left Flying Colors at the Atlantic Yacht Basin in Chesapeake, VA – another of many historic towns, this one the home of the Battle of Great Bridge – one of many Revolutionary War era historical sites in this area. In our next update, we will focus on the Chesapeake Bay. We miss all of you guys and look forward to reconnecting when we are home for a visit this Fall/Winter!

AD28

Eric & Cindy

Editor's Note: As with the Randalls, this update from Eric and Cindy is of interest to us all and we thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts. We can't wait to see you as well and look forward to more interesting updates! Have fun, be safe, and...have fun!!!

Woody and Jade Williams – Our America's Great Loop Trip Begins

On May 2, 2019 (a calm and perfect weather day), we (Woody and Jade Williams, past members of ABCA Squadron) left Wilmington, NC, on our trawler, *ES-CAPADE*, beginning our much-planned and long-awaited adventure on America's Great Loop. *ES-CAPADE* would be our home for the next 4+ months!!

Our northern Loop route took us on the Atlantic Intra-Coastal Waterway to attend the AGLCA Spring Rendezvous in Norfolk, where Scot and Meredith Randall (long-time friends and ABCA members) joined us aboard. What a good time we had, and Scot can repair anything! Up the Chesapeake Bay we went, through the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, down Delaware Bay to Cape May, NJ, out on the open Atlantic Ocean around NJ, then up the really beautiful Hudson river. We entered the Erie Canal at Waterford, NY and passed through the Oswego Canal, navigating 29 locks in all. Crossing the 56 nm and 500+ foot depths of Lake Ontario, we arrived in Kingston, Ontario on August 2nd and were once again able to rendezvous with Scot and Meredith and their boat, *Thunderbolt*. Our two boats then travelled together to Trenton, Ontario, where we met other fellow Loopers that had stopped at Port Trent marina. From here we said a somewhat sad "good-bye" to the Randalls,



who continued northwest up the Trent-Severn waterway to continue their Loop trip, while we, suffering from "lock fatigue", remained at Port Trent for another period of time.

We had made the decision to cruise more locally on Lake Ontario for a while, then return to Brewerton, NY (early Sept.) to store our boat for the winter (out of hurricane danger and protected from ice and snow in climate-controlled storage). Looping plans are certainly TBD as we choose. We learned and firmly believe the old adage, "the most dangerous thing on a

Continued on the following page



Squadron News



Woody and Jade's Loop Adventure, continued

cruise is a schedule". There truly are too many beautiful and interesting places to see, things to do, experiences to have and wonderful people to meet all along the way.

Just as "boat withdrawal" was setting in for us (having arrived back at our "dirt" home in Wilmington, N.C. early Sept...sans *ESCAPADE*), we were fortunate enough to visit with Eric and Cindy Ringwall (also long-time friends and ABCA members) at Sea Path marina in Wrightsville Beach, NC. Eric and Cindy were traveling south on the Atlantic ICW and had stopped at Sea Path for a couple of days. Time was spent catching up on all family news and getting a tour of the Ringwall's beautiful motor yacht ...another great rendezvous moment with good friends from ABCA !!

Some Changes For Our Waterlog

For those of you who are wondering, the *Waterlog* IS alive and well. We appear to have weathered the storm in fine fettle (fine fettle is an idiom that contains a fossil word. A fossil word is an obsolete word that is no longer in common use, yet is preserved in certain phrases. Just thought you might be interested. Thank you, Merriam-Webster). Here's the story.

The seas were angry that day, my friends. Richard Dukes, a past member who owned the Sunbelt Printing Company called me one day to say that he had sold the company. My heart sank (see how neatly I can use nautical expressions and words? I told you we are alive and well.)

You see, for about eight years Sunbelt published our *Waterlog* for what amounted to the cost of paper. Well, maybe a little more. But the hard copy version has and always will be a source of importance to me. I like a paper I can take to bed and read. I know a lot of folks who like it that way, as well. I could never prove it but I think that, as a percentage of people who get it, more *Waterlogs* in received hard copy are read than are copies received via email. It stands to reason that people who look at computer screens all day at work might not want to gaze at their screens when they get home.

But there is another very important point to make: hard copies of the *Waterlog* can be left at marinas, boat dealerships, boat shows...any places where we might be able to snag interest in membership.

All of this said, I visited nine printing companies, all but one of whom were priced too high for our budget. The one who wasn't is located in Lawrenceville, and that posed logistical problems. But then good fortune smiled our way.

One day at work I was talking to one of the volunteers about needing a seamstress and she recommended the app Next Door. I immediately found a terrific seamstress near me and she was great (Laurie Harry, 678-662-2539 and yes, she gave me permission to use her phone number).

So I thought to myself hey, if it's that good at finding a seamstress why not a print shop. So I put a message out on Next Door. Within a day I got several replies and went to a company near the Ronald McDonald House in Sandy Springs. Advanced Imaging was the company and I was greeted by Peter Rehg, the owner. Peter told me that the prices I was quoted were far too high and gave us one we can live with. He even bought an ad (see below)! Advanced Imaging specializes in design layout, variable data mailings, high speed copying, promotional products, social announcements, signs, and banners. I really look forward to working with his wife, Brenda, and him.

The second announcement has to do with our staff. With a HUGE event in her life coming up (as in "Here Comes the Bride"), Rachel Shirey is on a sabbatical. When her life settles back into a reasonably paced routine she will be returning, but for now all I want her to think about is herself. P/C Barbara Tyson has agreed to be our co-Editor and I finally came around to my senses and gave Margaret Sherrod the well deserved title Proofreading and Calendar Editor. Barbara informed me that if she takes this position she will probably be bossing me around a little to get the *Waterlog* out on time. Well, we've been married for over 38 years and....'nuff said.

So, armed with a new staff and a new printing company, off we go to conquer 2020. *Waterlog* will be going out quarterly beginning with this Winter edition. We welcome - as we always do - ideas, articles, suggestions, and softly worded criticisms.

Life is good.



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Squadron News

Autumn Brings a Change of Season - Winter a Change of Watch



Another Change of Watch we can put in the trophy case. Again at the Dunwoody Country Club (thank you, P/C Don Williams) and again another wonderful event. P/C Barbara Tyson thanked our membership for their incredible willingness to volunteer, help, and lend their support for everything our Squadron undertook and accomplished last year.

P/C John Holland won the coveted Nelle B. Moon Award, P/C Kevin Schoonover was given his “keeper” award for the prestigious Troncilli Education Award. Meredith Randall received the 2019 Troncilli Award and will receive it if she ever decides to leave her boat! P/C Barbara Tyson was promoted to *Waterlog* Co-Editor.

As the pictures above show, a good great time was had by all.

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Squadron News

What Does Our Organization Mean to Us and to Our Community?

If you happen to be a new member, your answers to the above question might range from "We help make boating safer," to "We have interesting meetings." There are a lot of things in between but, as time goes on and you are no longer considered a new member, you will see the kinds of things we do both inside AND outside of the boating community. On this page we will try to recap our outreach efforts vis a vis the fund raising we do on a yearly basis.

The Calvary Children's Home

Most of you know the story behind Calvary. If you don't, Tim Tyson is always eager to tell you about it. Our organization contributes to several different areas of Calvary:

- The Scholarship Fund. This fund was started by us to help the kids who live at Calvary and go on to further education. We provide money for them when they register and as needed. There are no forms to fill out and they don't have to carry a 3.5 GPA. They have enough on their plates. Oh, and if they enlist in the military they get some "walking around money" when they go to boot camp or basic training. As we have told the directors at Calvary, "We don't want them to go into the service of our country broke!"

At our Seafarer's Ball, \$1,830.00 was donated to this fund.

- The General Fund. There have been times when the General Fund has had a greater need than the Scholarship Fund (think of the nightmare of burst water pipes flooding the administration building). At times like this we have let our members know where their donations might be best directed.

This year our club raised (again, at our Seafarer's Ball) \$1,300.00 for the General Fund.

- The Calvary Kid's Christmas presents. At our Seafarer's Balls this is a box for Christmas presents. Checks and cash are donated and we purchase gift cards from Target or Walmart for the kids. Snyder Turner, Calvary's Executive Director, has said that, "You wouldn't believe how guarded these kids are with their money. This is a great way to teach them about the differences between thrift and spending."

This year we collected \$1,000.00 to purchase 28 gift cards. Kids under 13 get a slightly lesser amount than the teenagers who, in turn, get a slightly lesser amount than the kids who are in college (Note: for the Calvary kids this IS their home and some of the kids who further their education after high school graduation remain there and help out).

- Adopt a Kid's Birthday. This is the brand new project we wrote about on page 3. All you have to do is have a little girl or boy hug you and thank you for the birthday card (which Genie Troncalli makes and which the Adopt a Birthday Fund supplies with a \$20 bill), to know how much it means to these kids.

- The Calvary Kids Day-On-The-Lake. In 2014 an idea was suggested that we include the Calvary Kids in a raft up. That idea morphed into a special day just for them. We were having a little trouble scheduling boats for the same day when I stepped Tom Shirey. "I think I can solve your problem. Let's just take them out on our houseboat."

"But there are almost thirty kids."

With a look that said, "Earth to Tim" Tom said, "We can hold 100 +." With the ever-gracious agreement of Susan, the Shireys started this annual event. Last year was the 6th. Youth Director Brian Busby said, "You can always tell when this day is coming. The kids behave better that they do all year."

This is one event that doesn't necessarily require cash donations, though we do need them. Members can also

(Continued on the following page)



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T.J. CONVERY



Squadron News



(What Does Our Organization Mean?, continued)

volunteer to set up, help on the boat, bring their own boats and jet skis for tubing and rides, and all that is needed to make things happen.

It was through this event that the next project was born.

The Jane Valentyne Leaycraft Project

I hope that our readership will forgive me if they have heard this before, but I want any new and/or potential members to know this story.

During the day of the first Day-On-The-Lake, I saw Tom talking with Randy Tahsler and I sat down with them. "Tom has a great idea," Randy told me. Tom looked me in the eye and said, "Let's make this an annual event. Look at the fun they're having. Look at how polite and well behaved they are. This is wonderful."

Wow. As I returned to earth the conversation began to shift to the recycling project we were starting up. The original plan was to collect pop tabs from aluminum cans and recycle them, donating the money we received to the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities (ARMHC). Because collecting the pop tabs, while calling attention to ARMHC, was a slow process, we were beginning to collect all recyclables (metals, wires, etc.). "Susan's mother was very active in supporting the Ronald McDonald House," Tom told us. "They even have a garden named after her."

You know that lightbulb in the cartoons? The one that goes off when someone has an idea? Well I had a 120 watt LED explosion in my head. How do you thank people who donate a day of their lives (actually more, when you figure in the planning) and their beautiful houseboat to the Calvary Day? Answer:

You dedicate the recycling project, the program that donates to the Ronald McDonald House, to Susan Shirey's late mother, Jane Vallentyne Leaycraft.

Our first donation was in 2015...a whopping \$150.00. When we gave ARMHC our donations after the 2019 Seafarer's Ball our total donations from 2015-2019 had swollen to (again, drum roll, please) **\$5,350!!!** This includes recycling, silent auctions, and donations. With that in mind, please remember to set aside your metal (tin) cans, separate them from the aluminum, and save both to be recycled. If you cannot make it to a recycler or if there isn't a recycler near you, just hand it off to Tim Tyson or a member who can either take it or give it off to Tim. You not only will help our environment but you will be helping the families of sick kids while, at the same time, paying a well deserved "THANK YOU" to Tom and Susan Shirey.



Friends of the Waterlog

As long as we are discussing Fund Raising we may as well mention the Friends of the Waterlog (FOW).

Ten years ago, when I first assumed the reins of editorship, I visited the Palm Beach Squadron. I was down there visiting friends and had seen their newsletter *Afterdeck*. I wanted to "chat them up" and they gave me the royal tour. In *Afterdeck* there was a space naming members who wanted to help support the publication of their newsletter. I then noticed this in several newsletters Squadrons were sending me. Hard copies not only are preferable for a lot of members, but they are a valuable tool for membership recruitment. For example some Squadrons (including us) leave them at Marinas for people to pick up and read..

FOW is simply our way of defraying the cost of printing the Waterlog. The guideline is very simple (and has changed slightly since its inception). Make out a check (\$20 minimum, no maximum!) to Americas Boating Club Atlanta, write FOW on the "For" line of the check, and send it to Tim. Your name will be placed on the list of donors for one year (presently at least 4 issues).

Editor's note: It was a bit of a risk to write this article. I don't want people to think that we are "out to get your wallets." But these are ideas that have taken hold and I just want our membership to know that they exist, that's all.

Friends of the *Waterlog*

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To learn more about becoming a "Friend of the **Waterlog**", please contact your editor, Tim Tyson We are grateful for your support.



Bulletin Board



Lies My Mother Told Me

At the May raft-up, I partook in that most celebrated of Squadron customs - eating. We do it big and we do it well, but I digress. Watching everyone in the water, cooling off on a hot day after having just eaten, I began to ponder some of the things my mother told me as a child. Fact or fiction, that is the question. So let's begin to explore:

1. Swimming after eating causes cramps. True or false?

FALSE: When I was little, it was well-known that you had to sit out of the pool for at least a half hour after lunch. Going in meant cramps which could increase the chances of drowning. But actual science has never proved this to be true.

2. Pruney fingers mean it's time to get out of the water. True or false?

FALSE: After you've been in the water for a certain amount of time, your fingers start to wrinkle because they are adapting to their environment and improving your ability to grip things while wet.

3. Reading in poor light worsens your eyesight. True or false?

FALSE: Your eyes are like any muscle in your body that can get strained or tired, but they bounce back. Reading in poor light will not permanently affect you.

4. If you cross your eyes they can get stuck that way. True or false?

FALSE: Voluntary muscles move the eyes. Crossing your eyes for an extended period of time might lead to strain, even twitches or spasms, but all of these will subside with rest.

5. Eating chocolate will cause pimples. True or false?



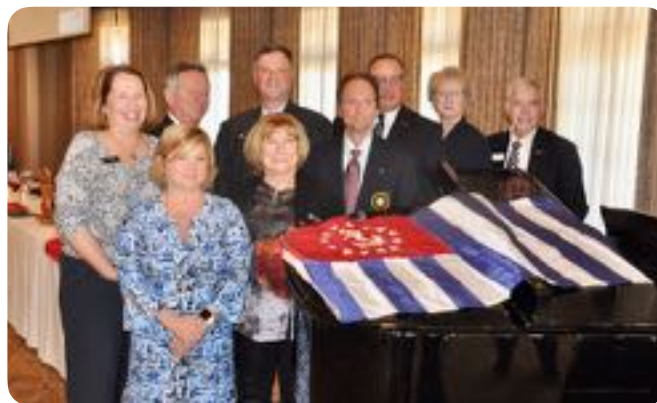
PROBABLY FALSE: All About Acne co-chair Dr. JoAnn See said there is growing evidence of some links between diet and acne but surprisingly, chocolate isn't high on the naughty list yet. "Diet is probably the most controversial area when it comes to acne, with the most consistent evidence relating to the glycaemic index (GI) of foods we eat. Recent studies regarding chocolate and acne have focussed on very high levels of cocoa – up to 99 per cent – and small numbers of males only so it's not possible to extrapolate these findings to the general population."

I hope that these five will help clear up any doubts and/or insecurities you may have kept with you since childhood. We here at Waterlog Publications are here for you, the people.

And by the way, there isn't a chemical available that will change the color of the water if you pee in the pool.



From the Bridge



2020 Bridge

Front: Donna Odum, Secretary; Judy Marcopulos, Administrative Officer (AO); Rhodes Lee, Executive Officer (XO). Back: Alease Perry, Asst. Secretary; John Holland, Asst. AO; Ken Odum, Education Officer (SEO); John Reichmann, Treasurer; Margaret Sherrod, Asst. SEO; Dave Fuller, Commander.

Calendar

February 17, 2020 (Monday) - Weather Class starts. Online, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. See DR for info.

February 23, 2020 (Sunday) - St. John's River/Hontoon Landing Planning Meeting. Tyson's House, 2481 King Arthur Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30345. 4:00 PM - Social Hour, 5:00 PM - Dinner, 5:30 PM - Planning Meeting. See DR for info or contact P/C Barbara Tyson, (404) 358-3687.

February 29, 2020 (Saturday) - America's Boating Course - Basic Safe Boating Class. University Yacht Club Beach House, 6649 Yacht Club Rd., Flowery Branch, GA 30542. 8:15 AM - 5:15 PM.

March 11, 2020 (Wednesday) - Engine Maint. Class starts. Online, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. See DR.

March 12, 2020 (Thursday) - Executive Committee Meeting. Aldo's Italian Restaurant, Sandy Springs. 6:00 PM - Social Hour, 7:00 PM - Meeting.

March 19, 2020 (Thursday) - General Membership Meeting, Dave & Buster's, North Point Pkwy., Alpharetta. 6:00 PM - Social Hour, 7:00 PM - Meeting.

March 21, 2020 (Saturday) - Hands on Training (formerly Practical-on-the-Water Training) Buford area of Lake Lanier. Specific location to be communicated after registering. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

March 28 - 31 (Saturday-Tuesday) ABCA Trip to Hontoon Landing Resort and Marina, St John's River near Deland, FL. See DR for info or contact P/C Barbara Tyson, (404) 358-3687.

April 3 - 5, 2020 (Friday - Sunday) - ABC District 17 Conference. Chattanooga, TN. Embassy Suites Hotel.



And now a word from your editor.

This issue will either end my tenth year as editor or begin my eleventh, depending on how you choose to count. Either way, it's been a decade. A decade in the best volunteer position the Squadron has to offer, and my how the time has flown by. A year and a half ago Barbara and I were driving to Delray Beach. Now to preface this story, she and her parents moved to New Jersey in 1955, the same year my parents moved my family to South Florida. Barbara and I were on I-75 south and "Copacabana" by Barry Manilow came on Sirius. I made the comment to Barb that the song was 40 years old. "That means that when your parents were moving to Jersey and mine were driving us to Florida, if they had heard a song that was 40 years old it would have been popular in 1915." Nothing like a little Tim Tyson thought to lighten the mood.

The point? Heck, I have no idea what the point is. But I know that I have ten years behind me writing about this group and each year gets better. We seem to have this innate ability to take what most Squadrons would term a "perfect year" and build on it. We took a lemon - having to move the Calvary Day to a Labor Day weekend - and made lemonade. We took a meeting where the featured speaker couldn't make it (we found out 10 minutes before the meeting started) and turned it into a session where everyone got a chance to tell a story. Ed Troncalli called it, "one of the best meetings I have ever been to," and he's been to quite a few. We need to spread the cheer. Share the fun with others.

This year we're going to start a few of our meetings at the University Yacht Club where, after lunch, we can all get on boats and get rafted-up. This is an idea meant to try to increase attendance during some of the notoriously slow months, as well as to try and include folks who might not be too wild about Atlanta traffic. We might also attract attention, curiosity from other boaters on the lake. So let's all grab the tiger by the tail. Spread our enthusiasm to new members. Recruit. Recruit some more. Pour some lemonade. Someday a radio will be playing and a member will chuckle and say, "When that song was popular our Squadron only had 235 members."

Tim Tyson
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