



*D.I.Y.C. News* - Wayne Vance, Vice Commodore

Our perpetually beautiful South Carolina Lowcountry seems briefly in slumber during the winter months, then awakens with a burst of life and richness. The marshes thicken and a fresh, rich greenness appears. Wildlife moves more quickly and is abundant. Movements in the waters tell us that the fish, shrimp, dolphin, turtles and all the other sea life we love never left and await us. The waterways beckon the boaters at the Dataw Island Yacht Club to a new year of boating and sharing this watery paradise with our friends.

This is an especially important year for the DIYC. It is our 25th Anniversary. That will be our underlying theme in 2017. It is also the first year post-Matthew, and it will be one of our best. While nature rested over winter, we have planned an ambitious boating and social schedule for the year, and it is underway.

We began the year with our “Final Fridays” in January and February. These well-attended events give us a chance to be with fellow DIYC members while the weather is too cool for boating (for most of us, anyway). At the full-house January gathering, chili was cooked up and served by the Huntley, Vance, Hazelrigg and Stackhouse families. Plentiful side dishes and desserts were provided by the board members. In

February, Bob and Nancy Hazelrigg single-handedly prepared and served delicious shrimp gumbo to all.

The Final Friday events gave us the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Dataw Island’s professional staff in bringing us through the trying days after Hurricane Matthew. In January we were pleased to have the Dataw Island security leaders, Wells Morrison and Arthur Aldridge, join us and be recognized. In February, we recognized the post-Matthew hard work of Christie Henry, Landscape Manager, and Dave Britton, Director of Golf. (Brian Hollingsworth was unable to join us, but we noted our great appreciation for his work as Director of the Golf Courses.)

And now with Spring’s arrival, we are moving to full speed. Keith Aspray, our Cruise Captain, has put together a compelling schedule of cruises for our members. We will begin in March with a lunch cruise to downtown Beaufort, followed in April with a cruise to a new destination, Cotton Island beach on the Broad River. The Navy Blue Angels will perform in late April, and we will enjoy the show rafted up in the Beaufort River. A much-appreciated outing last year was a trip to the upper reaches of the Combahee in the

ACE Basin, passing the old rice plantations. We will return in May – a perfect time to observe the wildlife and foliage there. Our overnight cruise to Charleston is in June, during Spoleto. The Morgan River Sandbar party, a trip to Bohicket Marina at Seabrook Island, and a cruise to the Edisto Island Yacht Club follow. We will have a BYOB and BYOFood cruise on Beaufort's Prince of Tides in June. In another new event this year, we will charter a research boat at the Port Royal River Foundation to cruise the Chechessee River in August.

Roy Crocker, our Sail Captain, unrelenting in the face of post-Matthew challenges, is planning a broad based sailing program to include crew as well as non-sailors who might like to participate in the socials. The season starts in March with participation in the Ribaut/Pedro Melendez Regatta and festivities at the Beaufort Yacht and Sailing Club. We are partnering with the BYSC for the Dataw Cup, scheduled for October 21st, with an awards dinner to follow.

Kayaking has grown to be one of the major boating activities of the Lowcountry, and the DIYC is focusing on its development at Dataw. Herb Stackhouse is our enthusiastic Kayaking Captain, and events are continuously offered in alluring places that can best be enjoyed in kayaks.

Our social chairs, Lenda Jablonski and Holly O'Shea with close support from Assistants Tomilee Harding and Mary Kay Noren, have planned those favorite DIYC summer events, the Pig Pickin' and the Pot Luck. The Pig Pickin' menu in May is returning to a whole BBQ'd pig as well as chicken. The Pot Luck in September is planned for Dataw poolside with special entertainment and a celebration of our 25th anniversary.

We love boats, and kids do, too. We are looking forward to spending a day with a new group this year during Camp Dataw. It lets us all be kids for a day.

The future of the Dataw Island Marina is on all of our minds. It is obvious from our ambitious plan for 2017 that the DIYC will not slacken even as we anticipate along with all Dataw Islanders the progress at the marina. The DIYC leadership is closely monitoring and supporting the rebuilding issue. We all agree that

it is inconceivable that there would not be a marina at Dataw, and DIYC is confident of its return.

Meantime, it's "anchors aweigh" for 2017!

