

“Day Hopping”

By Bob Newbert

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I attended a men’s college in a New England city as an out-of-state student living on campus. About a third of my classmates commuted from surrounding suburbs. With an air of superiority, resident freshmen called commuters “Day Hops” (which says a lot about the kindness & sensitivity of 18-year-old boys).

Decades later, I am a Day Hop myself. I commuted to Charleston by boat with other ABCHH members. We went Up & Back the same day. We did not stay overnight as we did on our 2021 & 2024 Charleston cruises.

We day hopped.

But what a day!

Our chosen route took us past the outer boundary of the ACE Basin, across three sounds, through three cuts, along five creeks and up 10 rivers into the Holy City.¹

The natural beauty of these waterways totally fit a visit to Charleston, America’s “Most Beautiful” city. The route was gorgeous. Just like Charleston.



¹ Charleston is known as the Holy City because its skyline hosts over 400 steeples, churches, synagogues and spiritual sanctuaries.

Upon arrival, we tied up at the Charleston Mega Dock. Our neighbors were fabulous yachts suited for everything from an overnight study hall to full semester living. These luxury accommodations could even handle an extended, 4-year sojourn if you wanted to stay long enough for a BS degree. They are clearly designed for live-in residents, not day hops.



Like all commuters, we quickly found a place for lunch so we could rest and recharge between the commute TO and FROM campus. For us, it was “Fin & Crab” located within the marina.

Veterans of our overnight cruises to Charleston will recognize the location as the former “Salty Mike’s” which has been upgraded the way the dining hall of my old campus has gone from “mystery meat” in the 60’s to more palatable offerings today.

Clearly, times have changed. It's a great time to be a commuter – a day hop. Although, I surely wouldn't mind being a bona fide "resident" of those beautiful yachts!



CHARLESTON DAY HOPS (L TO R): Stefan Gantenbein, Pat Nesmith, Jim Iannacchino, Ann Fitzgerald, Mark Slavin, Julie Traylor, John Fitzgerald, Scooter Sanfilippo, Marilyn Sobwick, Noel Wendt, Brian Grell, Clayton Henke, Linda Bange and Genevieve Sanfilippo.



FIN & CRAB, the on-campus dining hall for commuters.



“MIKEY LIKES IT!” John Fitzgerald signals his approval just like Little Mikey from the Quaker Oats commercial of my student days.



MICHELIN MAN, Hazmat Suit or Jim Iannacchino smartly attired for the storm we encountered on the way home?

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