

Side B
By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN

Those who remember 45 rpm records (or singles) recall that they had an “A” side and a “B” side. The A-side was a Top 40 Hit (or song expected to be Top 40) and the B-side was just another song by the recording artist.

Sometimes fate intervened and the B-side emerged as THE hit song. Consider these famous B-side hits:

- “Hound Dog” – Elvis Presley
- “Unchained Melody” – The Righteous Brothers
- “I Saw Her Standing There” – the Beatles
- “Ruby Tuesday” – The Rolling Stones
- “Maggie May” – Rod Stewart
- “We Will Rock You” – Queen
- “Born On the Bayou” – Creedence Clearwater Revival
- “God Only Knows” – The Beach Boys
- “La Bamba” – Richie Valens
- “Rock Around the Clock” – Bill Haley and the Comets

Well, fate intervened on August 20 when our cruise to the Ford Plantation was canceled at the last minute. The weather that day was perfect and some had taken the day out of work. Rather than let an ideal boat day go to waste, we rallied for a cruise up the Wright River with its storied plantations. After all, if we could not go to Ford Plantation, we might as well go Wright. Right?

And right it was.

There are remarkable similarities between the destinations and the tales they hold. Both destinations hark back to larger-than-life millionaires with vast land holdings – Henry Ford of the Ford Plantation and Ward Allen of Allen Station Plantation. Each land baron has a fascinating back story with Ford rising from pocket watch repairman to business magnate while Allen gave up his gentrified life to hunt for a living with his best friend, a former slave.

Hollywood loved both men and made movies about them: Ford (“The Man and the Machine”) and Allen (“Savannah”). Finally, each cruise featured striking natural beauty on seldom traveled waterways – The Grove River (Ford) and Wright River (Allen).

Our B-side trip also had other surprises like the surgeon who resurrected an iconic foodstuff from the 1700’s; the devastation wreaked by Sherman’s army on enslaved people in spite of his order to spare Savannah; a landing site serving bootleggers and African American farmers rowing produce to town on “Market Day;” and even a UFO mystery.

Yes, this cruise may have been a Side B offering, but it turned out to be a smash hit after all.



SOMEWHERE in the uncharted waters of our Wright River “Side B” Cruise.



DAN CLARE takes the helm in Delta Plantation.



***TRAFFIC JAM in the middle of nowhere.
Not much room (or depth) to spare!***



"Oh. Oh. I got us in here but not sure I can get us out."



"We're going to make it!"

(Kevin Thieneman and Tom Cunningham with Stephanie Cunningham and Stefanie Thieneman)



THE B TEAM.
(Better than any A Team)



ABCHH BRAIN TRUST Dave Medvedeff, Executive Officer, in white hat (naturally); and Paula Hanni, Secretary (also a white hat hero) with Sherry Howell and Ben Hanni.



***HOCKEY PUCK? BLACK ELECTRICAL TAPE? WHOOPIE PIE?
What is John Fitzgerald holding?
His accomplices won't tell. Perhaps Anne Fitzgerald (on right) knows.***



***NEW MEMBER Marilyn Sobwick on her 2nd ABCHH cruise in 7-days.
No wonder she's smiling!***

Photo Credits: Bob Newbert, Marilyn Sobwick and Kevin Thieneman