

Changes to our Dinner Program

As many of you have no doubt noticed, dining out has become significantly more expensive. While we all appreciate exceptional food and are willing to pay a fair price for it, ABC Hilton Head is committed to ensuring that our dinner programs continue to offer good value, a welcoming social atmosphere, and a setting that supports engaging speakers.

We have enjoyed some outstanding dinner venues in the past, but rising costs have made it increasingly difficult to justify the value they provide. For example, continuing to hold dinners at the Country Club of Hilton Head or Indigo Run (both operated by ClubCorp) would now result in dinner prices exceeding \$100 per person — before beverages. We believe that no longer represents reasonable value for our members.

As a result, we've decided to try something new.

Our February and April dinners will be held at the Spring Lake Pavilion in Hilton Head Plantation, a popular and well-regarded venue among HHP residents. Due to availability, these dinners will take place on Saturdays. We will offer a catered buffet by Roy's Place, with a Bring Your Own Beverage format. The \$60 per person cost covers both the venue and catering.

Importantly, we will continue our tradition of featuring interesting, relevant, and entertaining speakers at each dinner.

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions for speakers or ideas for affordable venues that would enhance our dinner programs, please feel free to reach out to Russ Collins, Glen Crews, or me. We're always looking for creative ways to improve the value and enjoyment of our events.

2026: Two Cruise Programs, One Incredible Season

We're also proud to announce an exciting and expanded lineup of on-the-water cruises for 2026, offering more variety, more destinations, and more reasons to cast off lines than ever before.

Our cruising activities are organized into two complementary cruise series: Adventure Cruises and Low Country Cruises. Each is designed to deliver a different, but equally rewarding, boating experience.

Our signature Adventure Cruise program returns with a carefully curated series of destination-driven outings that blend discovery, storytelling, camaraderie, and unforgettable scenery. These cruises are about experiencing the Lowcountry from the water — often in ways you've never imagined.

Highlights include:

- The return of the always-popular Mystery Cruise, heading to a destination you've never visited before
- A brand-new SLOOP (Southern Mini Loop) — earn your official ABCHH "SLOOPER" certification
- Bucket-list destinations like Sunbury Crab Company, Charleston by boat, and the breathtaking ACE Basin
- Multiple raft-ups, including the always enticing *Hidden Happy Hour*
- One overnight adventure to Seabrook Island / Bohicket Marina

In total, half of our Adventure Cruises visit first-time destinations for ABCHH, ensuring the season remains fresh, surprising, and full of discovery.

Running alongside the Adventure Cruises is our Low Country Cruise series, a more educational and exploratory program led by experienced

ABCHH captains. These cruises focus on *how and why* the Lowcountry works the way it does.

2026 Low Country Cruise destinations include:

- Offshore and inshore fishing areas
- The Colleton, Okatie, and Bull Creek river systems
- Remote islands such as St. Phillips, Bull Island, and Savage Island
- Cultural destinations including Savannah and Beaufort

Participant Waiver Requirement

To help ensure a safe, well-managed cruising program for everyone involved, ABCHH will require all cruise participants to complete an electronic liability waiver prior to participating.

This requirement applies to all members and guests. The waiver will be completed electronically, and instructions will be provided as part of the cruise registration process. This step helps protect our members, volunteer captains, and the organization while allowing us to continue offering a robust and diverse cruising program.

While different in style and focus, the Adventure Cruises and Low Country Cruises are designed to complement one another, giving members the flexibility to choose experiences that best match their interests, schedules, and cruising goals — or to enjoy both.

Whether you're chasing a bucket-list destination, learning new waters, or simply looking forward to another great day on the water with fellow members, 2026 promises to be an exceptional year for ABC Hilton Head.

The full cruise schedule is available now under the Activities section of abchh.org. Start checking your calendars and get ready to cruise.

In Summary

Whether it's gathering around the table for a great meal and conversation, or cruising together to discover new waters and familiar favorites, ABC Hilton Head is about community, shared experiences, and enjoying the Lowcountry to its fullest.

We appreciate your flexibility as we adapt our programs to changing costs and opportunities, and we thank our volunteer leaders and captains who make these events possible. With thoughtful planning, fresh ideas, and your continued participation, 2026 is shaping up to be one of our most engaging and rewarding years yet.

We look forward to seeing you at a dinner, on the dock, or out on the water.