

Royal Treatment
By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN

How do you sum up our cruise to Port Royal Maritime Center on August 12? Well, if not a cruise fit for a king, it was definitely one for ABCHH royalty.



To start, we had the Port Royal Maritime Center all to ourselves. It is closed on Mondays but they opened just for us. That's regal don't you think? Plus, we enjoyed an Oyster Roast & BBQ overlooking the Chechessee River—most definitely a lordly lunch.

In between, we did a deep dive into the wonders of Port Royal Sound:

- 2nd deepest natural harbor on the Atlantic coast
- More than 200,000 acres of salt marsh - half of all salt marsh in South Carolina
- 950 million gallons of water per minute move with its tides
- Millions of oysters...each one filtering 50 gallons of water per day
- Exceptionally clean and pure water

- Water that is “saltier” than the Atlantic Ocean
- 1,600 sq. mi. of South Carolina land, marsh and water shaped by Port Royal Sound
- Largest concentration of different shark species in the US

The superlatives are many.

And so are the superlatives of our cruise from weather to sea conditions... food to camaraderie. Indeed, our Port Royal Cruise with its scenic journey up the Chechessee River; our exploration of the Maritime Center’s marvels; and our seaside oyster roast dealt a “royal flush” of on-the-water adventure. Unbeatable!



PORT ROYAL ROYALTY—on right— (Commander Craig Loomis and OCEAN BREEZE Editor Deb Loomis) with Ken & Debbie Schroeder and Joe Tucker.



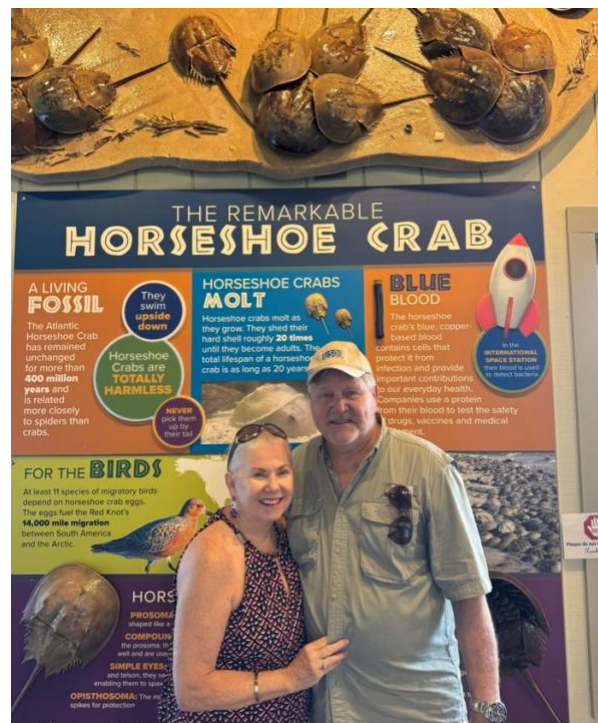
TASTY TIDBITS for the Megalodon Shark (above) – the delectable Eric & Susan Sutherland!



CAPT. JIM IANNACCHINO practices with a “helm simulator” before putting out to sea. (He is most definitely a safe & conscientious helmsman!).



**LOGGERHEADS – the turtles– not this fine group of ABCHH mariners (L to R):
Tom & Stephanie Cunningham, Alex & Judi George, Kevin & Stefanie Thieneman.**



**BLUE BLOODS Nancy & Rick Ford pose with Horseshoe Crabs,
a different kind of blue blood. Literally.**



ABCHH SHUCKERS enjoying fresh oysters (but no pearls) are (Top): Deb & Craig Loomis with Jim Iannacchino; (Bottom): Bob Newbert and Eric Sutherland with Mary Cawley and Susan Sutherland.



JOE TUCKER and THE FORDS (Nancy & Rick) deftly separate delicious bivalves.



LIONS ON A KILL? No, just ABCHH swarming over fresh oysters at the shucking tables.

Photo credits: Bob Newbert and Kevin Thieneman