

Little Tybee Island

A Cruise Into The Infamous & The Unknown

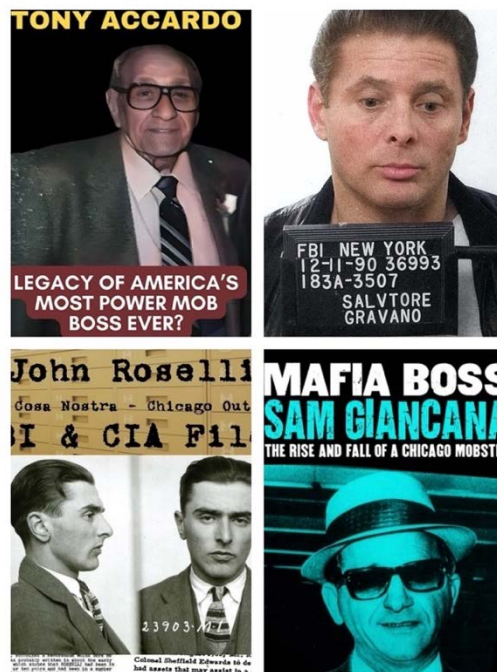
By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN

Our cruise to Little Tybee Island, an uninhabited, 6,800-acre barrier island, included a stop at the favorite hideaway of the Chicago mafia. Their retreat had a grass air strip so they could fly in undetected. Private planes would land with no record of the flight or passengers.

The illustrious, midwest vacationers unwinding at this R&R spot were a “Who’s Who” of gangsters. They came here because...well, extortion & murder are very stressful; and, like all overburdened workers, they needed a break.

But for the passage of time, we would have shared this location with **Sam Giancana**, recruited by the CIA to assassinate Fidel Castro, and then murdered in his home –shot seven times– just before he was to testify about the mafia’s CIA connection; **Tony “Joe Batters” Accardo** who manned a machine gun at the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre and killed three rival mobsters with a baseball bat; **John Rosselli**, whose decomposing body was found in a 55-gal drum floating in Miami Bay after testifying before the US Senate about CIA mob connections; and **Sammy “The Bull” Gravano**, who admitted to 19 murders and sanctioned the killing & dismemberment of his brother-in-law.

Yes, they all kicked back where we kicked back.



FAMOUS MIDWEST VACATIONERS who relaxed along our cruise route.

For sure, there are amazing places to visit when boating in the Lowcountry! Not the least of these is Little Tybee Island, our destination in a Voyage of Discovery. Normally, I “test run” each cruise measuring depth, looking for dangers, best place to anchor, etc. Not so here. I entered an uncharted, untested creek for the first time with my ABCHH wingmen: **Craig Loomis, Dave Medvedeff, David Hofman, Jim Iannacchino, Mark Rosen and Jim Galan.**

Together, we explored the unknown by looking for an opening to the island’s interior and probing our way inland to find a hidden anchorage for lunch. Is there enough water? How far inland can we safely navigate? Can we get IN and back OUT without getting stuck on an ebbing tide? Are there hidden hazards just below the surface? Does the bottom have enough purchase for rafting boats?

The Good News: Our Voyage of Discovery had a happy ending for ABCHH cruisers (unlike “offed” associates of the Chicago tourists noted above) as we successfully found our way to the island’s interior; enjoyed a raft up lunch; and managed to return home in one, un-dismembered piece with no lead poisoning or cement overshoes!

Perhaps one day the names of the intrepid ABCHH captains on our Voyage of Discovery will be as legendary as their Chicago predecessors. Future ABCCH cruises to these waters will pause to honor the daring of Captains Loomis, Medvedeff, Hofman, Iannacchino, Rosen and Galan – Adventurers who risked all to find a new, undiscovered anchorage... safe from mafia hitmen!



***OUR RAFT UP or what Tony “Joe Batters” Accardo would call a “SITDOWN”
(Mafia-speak for a meeting of the different crime families).***



CAPODEREGIME Jim Iannacchino points to an FBI surveillance drone trying to ID everyone at the sitdown.



CAPO DEI CAPI (boss of all bosses) CRAIG LOOMIS (black shorts) with his crew (not the nautical kind but his other "crew") – L to R: Tomasso DeAngelis, Deb Loomis, Lorraine Berry and Ed Berry. Craig is past commander of "This Thing of Ours."



**THE BOSS, Dave Medvedeff (blue hat) with David Winnett, Kim Winnett and Sherry Howell.
"DON MEDVEDEFF" heads the ABCHH family. He runs the outfit.**



CONSIGLIERE David Hofman (center) with goodfellas and comares.



MOB ASSOCIATE, Linda Bange (upper right) waves to the feds letting them know she sees them hiding in the marsh grass as the families gather for a high-level parley. As an "associate," she is not a "made" member. She is hoping to demonstrate her worth to the bosses, underbosses, and capos at the sitdown (all made men) by alerting them to the FBI's presence.



UNIDENTIFIED CAPO trying to make his escape off the back of the boat upon learning the sitdown was under surveillance.



POLICE LINEUP: "Soldatos" Noel Wendt, Jim Galan and John Fitzgerald.



SUE DONNELLEY and LINDA BANGE gun molls in the notorious ABCHH family, Lowcountry affiliate of the USPS Syndicate.

Photo Credits: Linda Bange, Jim Galan, David Hofman, Bob Newbert and Noel Wendt