

Making Our Mark
By Bob Newbert
USCG Master Captain, AP-IN

Our next-to-last Adventure Cruise of 2023 was, yes, a “first” – our 1st cruise to Marker 244. It joins four other “firsts” this year: Spring Island, Combahee River, Sunbury Crab Company and Edisto (who can ever forget our docking adventures at Edisto).

The Good News: Our 1st cruise to Marker 244 was delightful with smooth water on Port Royal Sound; and, happily, flawless docking to atone for Edisto.

But the BEST NEWS: We didn’t get shot!

Yes, we emerged unscathed with no wounded (walking or otherwise) as we traversed Parris Island via Archers Creek. The creek, which gained notoriety four years ago with the Murdaugh family saga, runs parallel to the USMC Rifle Range where errant shots can unexpectedly remove the helmsman from the helm.



I am happy to report that all our boats safely navigated the twists & turns of Archers Creek with no boats swerving off course from a helmsman suddenly slumped over, or ducking for cover as bullets pinged off our hull.



WE RAN THE RED LIGHT and lived to tell the tale!



PEACENIK Paul James quieting the guns as we passed.

Safely emerging from the firing range gauntlet, we faced our 2nd challenge of this first-ever cruise when we threaded the needle at Rose Island Narrows. From there, it was smooth sailing as we bravely made our way home down the Chechessee River blissfully unconcerned about sniper fire.

All in all, our penultimate cruise of 2023 hit the bullseye. We made our mark at Marker 244 and the 5.56 mm projectiles of the United States Marines did not find theirs. Now, if only I could say the same about projectiles from the seagull above my boat!



ABCHH had Marker 244 all to ourselves for Liquid Courage before running the firing range on Archers Creek.



PSYCHING THEMSELVES UP TO ASSAULT PARRIS ISLAND are (TOP L to R) Bob Jacksta and Steve DiFrancesco while (BOTTOM L to R) Anne Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, Mary Richardson and Irene LaVigne pose for what they hope will not be the last known photo prior to a “friendly fire” incident.



LAST ~~SUPPER~~ LUNCH before taking our chances on the Firing Range (TOP L to R): Paul James, Joe Tucker, Susan Tucker, Bob Newbert, Terre Newbert, Mark Newbert and Barbara James. (BOTTOM L to R): Peter Gierer, John & Diane Hooker, Cindy & Lenny Minervini and Janice Gierer.



BRAVE SOULS about to sail through a LIVE FIRE ZONE are (TOP L to R): John Benish, Vito, Donna, Jenna, Jim and Jamie Iannachinno. (BOTTOM LEFT): Barb Sommers, Pam & Dave Frederick and Mark Stone. (BOTTOM RIGHT): Shannon & Tee Ramos, Deb & Craig Loomis, Debbie Buzzelli, Chris Brigham and Andrew Buzzelli.



ALL SMILES before challenging the infamous Archers Creek Bridge are Linda & David McKamish and Kathy & Gregg Sierminski



THE BRIDGE