

Low Country Cruise to Fish Camp in Port Royal

By Craig Loomis, P

On April 24, 2025, four boats and 14 people cruised to Fish Camp in Port Royal for our first Low Country Cruise of the year. As we were leaving Skull Creek Marina we were greeted by dolphins and were treated to a “flyover” by a Bald Eagle!

The weather cooperated with calm winds, but cloudy skies. The conditions made for a peaceful crossing of Port Royal Sound to the Beaufort River. During the cruise to Fish Camp, we made several stops to discuss some navigation tips for cruising Port Royal Sound and to learn a little of the rich history of the area.

The two navigation tips:

- **Respect Port Royal Sound.** In certain weather conditions, Port Royal Sound can become very rough and choppy and become uncomfortable and not safe for recreational boaters. Always check weather ahead of a cruise across Port Royal Sound. Be especially cautious when winds are out of the northeast.
- **Parris Island Spit Marker.** Red ATON #246 is known as the Parris Island Spit marker and is located off the southeast tip of Parris Island. If you shortcut this marker (go between Parris Island and the marker) you will likely run aground. Pay special attention to the marker when returning to Hilton Head from Beaufort.

We arrived at the docks at Fish Camp and had a wonderful lunch. A fun time was had by all as captains and crews all got to know each other a little better. It rained as we were inside eating lunch, but the rain quit as we were departing the docks for our home ports!



Enjoying a Fine Lunch at Fish Camp!

(Left to Right – Deb Loomis, Jim Galan, Neil Van Dorsten, James Dickey, Noel Wendt, Susan McDermott, Stefanie Thieneman, Kevin Thieneman, Mark McDermott, Bill Macleod, Susan McCleod, Alex Akens and Jean Akens)



Captain Bill Macleod and Crew aboard “At Last”



Ready to Head for Home Port! (With no short cuts!)

**Standing – James Dickey, Noel Wendt, Alex Akens, Susan Macleod,
Bill Macleod, Deb Loomis, Jean Akens & Neil Van Van Dorsten.**

Kneeling – Jim Galan, Mark McDermott