

ABCHH “Jeopardy” Quiz

By Bob Newbert

USCG Master Captain, AP-IN

Which ABCHH cruise features the following?

- Chinese warship
- Broadway musical “Hamilton”
- James Audubon self-portraits
- Gump Boarding House
- Jeep Cherokee
- New \$20 bill
- Hollywood blockbusters “Die Hard,” “The Matrix,” and “Lethal Weapon”

Not sure?

Hint #1: Largest undeveloped estuary on the Atlantic Coast

Still fuzzy?

Hint #2: More than 40 large, private plantations (some up to 20,000 acres)

Want more help?

Hint #3: Five wildlife management areas

Need a little push?

Hint #4: Acronym for three rivers.

Time’s up!

ANSWER: “What is the ACE Basin?”

Named for the confluence of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto rivers, the ACE Basin is 360,000 acres of natural wonder unspoiled by development of any kind.

The ACE is a joint project of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, SC Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy and owners of large private plantations who put their land into permanent conservation easement.

Result: 360,000 acres of nature's best will never be developed.

No shopping centers. No condos. No resorts. No hotels. No large-scale plat housing.

Just nature as it was and always will be. Perhaps that's why the Nature Conservancy calls the ACE Basin "One of The Last Great Places."

It was certainly great for ABCHH as we cruised the ACE from its vast, open, Lowcountry marshland to its narrow "blackwater" woodland rivers with no hint of a manmade skyline, but countless vignettes of nature as it looked hundreds, no thousands of years before.

The ACE is a very special to me and I love sharing it with others. We saw natural beauty & locations that very few people in Hilton Head or Bluffton ever experience. It is a Bucket List cruise.

Along the way, I shared stories on the people, places and history of the ACE Basin some of which are in the quiz above.

The result?

Everyone who enjoyed this one-of-a-kind adventure (regardless of their quiz answers) "aced" it!





***REAL LIFE "JEOPARDY" IN THE ACE - Parts of the ACE Basin are extremely tidal and require careful planning.
To Wit: Above is a scene from my trip in April when a captain did not follow instructions exactly.***



UNDER the TUBMAN BRIDGE on US17 to Charleston and INTO the hinterlands.



WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER. Did we miss a turn somewhere?



FROM Lowcountry marsh TO deep woodlands



TEA HOUSE of an ultra-exclusive private club on thousands of acres. We anchored in front of the tea house for a swim; and pretended we were members of this elite club.



SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMERS Beth Ann Dickie, Joe Tucker, Julie Traylor and Jim Iannacchino.



JULIE TRAYLOR, BETH ANN DICKIE, JIM IANNACCHINO and JOE TUCKER (upper left) show Stefan Gantenbein and Bob Newbert how to enjoy the black waters of the ACE Basin.



CAPT. IANNACCHINO'S SWIM TEAM before taking the plunge.



ENJOYING OUR RAFT UP LUNCH are (L to R) Stefan Gantenbein, Bryan Plonski, Debbie Plonski, Steve Zion and Debby Zion.



BYRAN PLONSKI zips through the narrow twists & turns of the ACE (there are many) while Debby holds on to her hat. We had two "man overboard" hat drills on this trip. All hats survived.



"THE FIRST NOEL." Noel Wendt (L) and Bob Newbert at the dock designed by Frank Lloyd Wright on Auldbrass Plantation (4,200-acres). It was Noel's 1st time to Auldbrass and the ACE Basin.



WE "ACED" OUR CRUISE so we celebrated with a drink at Marker 244 on the way home.

PHOTO CREDITS: Beth Ann Dickie, Bob Newbert, Debbie Plonski, Mark Steffen, Julie Traylor, Noel Wendt