

Fall 2020 | Your Island

The Trawler



Fripp Island
Property Owners Association

The Place to Leave Your Worries Behind



ON THE WATER

Seas of union and solitude

FRIPP ISLAND SEA RESCUE UPDATE



It has been a busy summer season with numerous rescue missions, training and other activities to help aid boaters in distress in the low country around Fripp. Sea Rescue is looking forward to the prime boating weather of late summer and fall.

WATER SAFETY

Hunting Island and Prichard's Island seem only a stone's throw from Fripp. But high winds, currents and waves can make Fripp Inlet, Skull Creek, the salt marsh or the Atlantic Ocean treacherous at times.

To the west of Fripp is salt marsh, Old House Creek and the Story River. On the Story, near an old flag pole with an American Flag, pluff mud and oyster beds are only a few feet below the water at high tide. They are fully exposed when the tide is low.

Stay closer to the center of the channel when underway. Not a good place to anchor.



Photo of the Story River flag at High Tide. (2014)

RESCUE MISSIONS

Whether you are in a kayak, a small fishing boat or a larger cruiser, be aware of the tides, currents and winds before you go out. Sand bars move from one season to the next.

Most of our calls are routine. However, these three summaries are good examples to review for safety training and to help others avoid similar problems in the future.

- **July 21 & 22, 2020, About 8PM.** An experienced boater unfamiliar with our tides anchored for a picnic on the sand bar that extends from the south end of Hunting Island into the Fripp Inlet. The incoming high tide swamped their boat and the boater and his family were unable to walk back through the rising water to the Nature Center area. Their car was at Russ Point. David Manning went to the State Park where he and Park Rangers assisted the family of four get back to their car.

The family came the next day to recover their boat. Just before dark, breaking waves began washing over the stern of their boat and they called for help again. David and John Campbell in Rescue



1 crossed under the Fripp Bridge in just a few minutes but tides and waves over the sand bar prevented them from reaching the swamped boat. They returned by car to the State Park while DNR brought their boat into the small creek on Hunting Island. David, John, and park rangers helped get the family through rising waters so they could get to the DNR boat. Jim Candee met other responders at the Park and confirmed that all were rescued.

The family was safe that evening and SC DNR coordinated removal of the boat from the sand a few days later. 911 Dispatch, Beaufort County deputies and others were also involved on one or both days. Michael Beach was on Base Duty on Fripp both evenings.

- **August 11 at 5:30PM.** Nancy Wingenbach received the report that a family in a small skiff was fishing near the American Flag in the Story River west of Fripp. They had drifted out of the main channel and over the mud flats. When the tide went out, they were stranded amid oyster shells and pluff mud. Thankfully, the mom had her cell phone on board the stranded boat. Jimmy Myers and David Manning took Rescue 1 quickly to the mud flats but neither

Sea Rescue nor a Fripp Island Resort boat could safely reach the family. Beaufort Water Search and Rescue brought Rescue 5 (their air boat) from Port Royal to Russ Point and were able to transfer the family from the stranded boat to R1 in two trips. An excellent example of cooperation with BWS&R and the family was extremely grateful for the success of the mission.

- **August 20 at 9:45AM.** An experienced Beaufort boater ran into trouble just off-shore when the engine died on his 22 ft. Boston Whaler. Despite deploying two anchors, strong on-shore winds and incoming waves were pushing the boat, with 3 adults aboard, toward the rocks on the south end of Fripp Island. The boater had a cell phone and called for help. Mary Jacobs coordinated the rescue while Rich Hartmann and Jim Candee took Rescue 1 from the Fripp Marina. Once in front of the beach they had to go through 5 to 6-foot breaking waves and between sand bars to reach the boater in distress and help him get underway. He followed R1 back to the Marina for gas. Rich and Jim took him on a safer track, a lot farther from the beach, before going to the Inlet.

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TRAINING UPDATE

Helicopter Training with the US Coast Guard has been active over the summer months.

Recent training was visible to many on Fripp. The view was even better from our rescue boat.

BON VOYAGE

Robbie and Cyndi White have moved west-north west after 15 years on Fripp. We hear grandchildren will be very happy.

Officially, Robbie was our most recent Scheduling Officer and has been in Sea Rescue for as long as most of us can remember. Unofficially, Robbie and Cyndi were in charge of dolphins and rescuing dogs (That's an inside joke for those of us in Sea Rescue). We send best wishes and know you will visit soon!



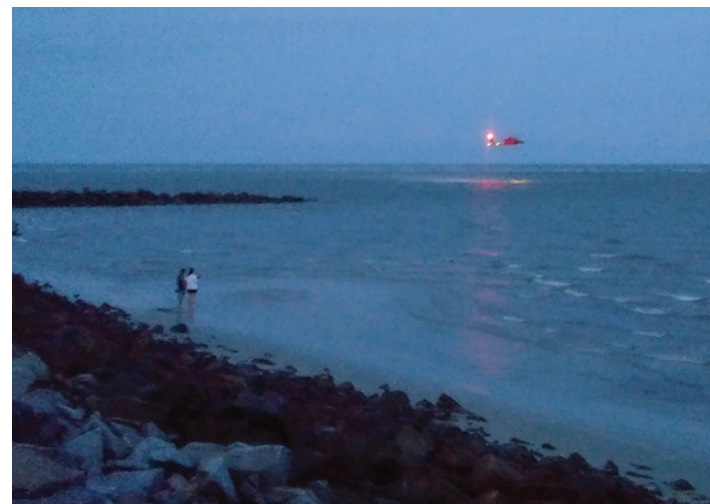
If you have concerns about helicopter activity near Fripp
call Fripp Island Security. (843)838-2155

To Report a Water Emergency: Dial 911 for Beaufort County Dispatch

RESOURCES

- There are on-line apps for your phone or computer with maps, weather, radar and GPS location capability.
- Your cell phone may have built-in GPS capability, check with your service provider and take your phone with you.
- Check Coast Guard Auxiliary and South Carolina DNR web sites for boating safety and on-line boating courses they offer.

Contributed By: Michael Beach



Thanks to Ken Anton and Jimmy Myers for these two photos.





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