

Underway

Newsletter of the Barbour River Yacht Club



Underway was published originally sort of quarterly or when the spirit moved us. Its considered purpose is to issue resounding calls to action, trumpet ringing praises, declaim bitter denunciations, project pregnant persiflage and generally amuse the writer. This may require bizarre combination of all of the above as the occasion demands.

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Greetings from the banks of the mighty Barbour River

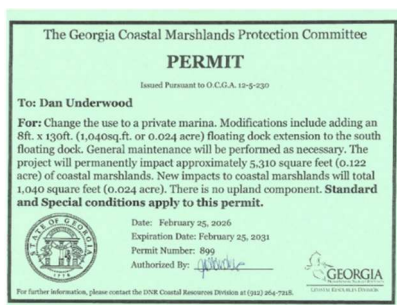
It seems that time continues to move along at its usual pace—sometimes faster than expected when there is work to be done, and occasionally slower when waiting on approvals from distant authorities.

On that note, the biggest news to report is that we have finally **received our updated permit**. After what felt like a rather extended exercise in patience (18+ months), we have transitioned from a **community dock designation to that of a private marina**.

For most of you, nothing will appear dramatically different in day-to-day use. However, behind the scenes, this provides us with a great deal more flexibility in how we serve the membership. Among other things, it allows us to begin offering bait and similar conveniences, which many of you have requested. Thank you all for your patience while we worked through the process.

Progress around the property has continued as well.

Repairs and renovations to the north dock have been completed, and efforts at the clubhouse seawall have been more substantial. We have reinforced and stabilized the structure using a series of new tie-backs—hardware that should outlast most of us. Having learned a few things from the first two attempts, we approached this one with greater enthusiasm and a bit more steel. I am reasonably confident that the seawall is now firmly where it belongs. If it decides otherwise, it will likely be taking the clubhouse along with it, so you may wish to be selective about where you sit during a hurricane.



Less glamorous, but no less important, a **new septic field** has been installed at the clubhouse. While the system is now updated, it will continue to perform best if treated with a certain degree of respect and moderation.

Looking ahead, **we expect to begin offering bait in the near future.** As with most things involving fishing, we anticipate a bit of trial, error, then success. We are not making any grand promises just yet, but we will see how it develops. I have appreciated any feedback. If there are other services or conveniences you would like to see offered before heading out on the water—or while enjoying time on the property—please feel free to pass along your suggestions so they can be considered.

We are in the process of adding 13 **additional covered and enclosed storage stalls.** Construction is underway, with completion expected around mid-April.

We have also transitioned to a required updated version of our accounting platform. As with any such change, there may be a few bumps along the way as we refine the process. If you encounter anything that seems out of place with invoicing or payments, please let me know so we can address it promptly.

A quick note on the dumpsters. They are intended for basic household trash only and are provided for neighborhood and Barbour Island residents. Items such as tires, furniture, construction debris, etc are not permitted and have

recently become an issue. The service provider has indicated that continued misuse may result in service being discontinued. We will install a camera near the dumpster area in case we need to identify misuse originating from outside the community.

Finally, we have explored several alternatives to dealing with rising costs in ongoing maintenance, including hoping for the best and ignoring the problem, but neither proved effective. With rising costs in materials, maintenance, and operations, annual dues have been adjusted to \$980. As always, we will work to keep expenses in check while maintaining the facility in a manner we can all be proud of.

Our annual Nautical Flea Market is scheduled for April 25th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you have accumulated a collection of “perfectly good items” that no longer seem to serve any useful purpose, this is your opportunity to convert them into cash—or at least relocate them to someone else’s dock or garage.

Give us a call if you would like to reserve a space. Otherwise, come on out and see what treasures others have brought with them.

As always, we appreciate your continued support. We will do our best to keep things running smoothly, improving where we can.

Dan Underwood