

Cape Fear Sail & Power Squadron

2021 INLET SURVEY CRUISE

As part of our Local Knowledge program, the Chapter is planning a cruise June 8-10 this year to survey 3 unbuoyed ocean inlets near Cape Fear, and one of the unbuoyed slues across Frying Pan Shoals. The inlets are Lockwoods Folly, Shallotte, and Tubbs Inlets, all of which are between Southport and the South Carolina state line. The fourth objective is Four Mile Slue, which is the mid-most of the 3 recognized slues or channels crossing Frying Pan Shoals.

We are not trying to perform hydrographic surveys of these channels, but have written survey descriptions for inclusion in the Ocean Inlet section of our Local Knowledge website feature. Our procedure will be to locate the best channel at each site, determine if it is safely passable and if so run it both ways in suitable vessels. We will have an 11' outboard Zodiac available as our default vessel, but of course, can run channels in other boats as feasible. Ideally, our survey reports will contain a narrative description of the inlets or slue, their location, appearance, and noteworthy features, with minimum observed depths, coordinates of their inshore and their ocean endpoints, and for curving channels, coordinates of one or more midpoints.

Likely, one or more of the channels we visit won't be safely passable, but that will be useful information too and will merit a report.

In addition to the reports for our website, a goal of this cruise is to allow participants to become familiar with these channels, and cruise the surrounding waters. We will travel about 120 NM in total, and be out 2 nights, anchoring overnight or docking in marinas near Lockwood's Folly and Tubbs Inlets, depending on the preference of participants. This cruise is very dependent on good weather.

If interested feel free to call me with questions, and I can email the written Float Plan which shows more detail.

Respectfully,

Lt/C David Parker, S, Cruise Captain
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