
GREATER ATLANTA CHAPTER

IBM QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

Newsletter – January 2002

Jack Wakefield, Chairman

Margaret Betz, Editor

Presidents' Message

By Dave Zilles & Tryon Earl

We welcome **Margaret Betz** (Secretary), **Mike McGuire** (Nominating), and **Ronda Rattray** (Special Events) to our QCC Board. With these new directors, we continue with a strong, active Board. We are proud to be one of the few remaining active QCC Clubs and we keep growing.

We thank our retiring Board members. **Jerry Cushing** was our interface to IBM. **Rusty Mawn** provided experience and good judgment. **Doris Isaacs**, a charter member, who held every position on the Board, decided to contribute to the club in other ways. Doris, on behalf of the entire IBM Quarter Century Club, thank you for your sponsorship and countless contributions to the Greater Atlanta Chapter.

One of our major goals in 2001 was to grow our membership and increase the general participation in QCC activities. We did both. We ended the year with 470 paid members, a 20% growth. Our thanks go to **Tim Murphy** and **Tom Satterlee** for their achievement. We also produced a 2001 Membership directory. Our goal for 2002 is to grow our membership to 500.

We produced three newsletters in 2001, and the feedback indicates they were well received. We are considering offering the newsletter in either hard copy or via e-mail – member's choice.

Tom Neidhardt has taken a good Web site and transformed it into a world-class operation. We will soon be able to update personal data online!

John Hedrick, and his Community Programs Committee, have had three very successful events (Christmas in April, GPTV Fund Raiser, and Habitat for Humanity). We were encouraged that some new people came for each event. For those of you who participated, we thank you. For others, you will have the opportunity this year.

Bill Branson, and his Events Committee, held several successful events (Ice Breaker, Braves Baseball Game, Picnic and Car Show, and the Annual Dinner). Don't miss these in 2002.

We issue the same personal challenge as last year Tell folks about the QCC. Bring them to an event. Ask them to join.

2002 should be a great year and we look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting in March.

Not Quite Around the World

By Ron Wigton

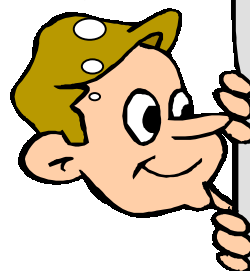
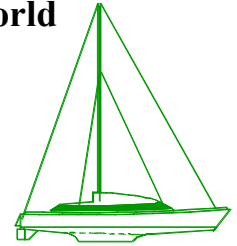
The beginning -- Britain

My wife, Betty, and I began thinking seriously about retirement in 1987.

We began a seven-year plan to retire to a sailboat and sail around the

world. We began collecting magazine articles on boats, boat maintenance, living aboard and bare boat chartering in the Bahamas, the Florida Keys and the Virgin Islands. We also owned a 27' Catalina sailboat on Lake Lanier. In 1991, we went to the Annapolis Boat show. As a result we shifted our interest to Catamarans. We tried several and settled on a Prout 37' Snowgoose sailboat.

In 1993, we put our house up for sale and moved into an apartment in January of 1994. We purchased our boat in the summer of 1994 for pickup at the factory. The boat was what the British called a kit boat; the structure was complete and the engine installed. We would do everything else to save (substantial) money. The factory told us we could complete the boat in 90 days (the Brits do have a droll sense of humor). We purchased all the material to complete the boat in the US and had a half container shipped to Britain, which also saved substantial money. Completion of the boat, suitable to sail, took us six months in the yard and three months in a marina. In June of 1995, we moved onto the boat, launched her and motored her for 10 hours to a marina. The marina was at a little town of 3,000, Burnham-on-Crouch. Finishing the boat here was wonderful, with great people and a beautiful English summer. In September, we were not quite finished. However, we had no desire to spend another winter in Britain, so we set out on our personal odyssey.
(cont'd page2)



Ice Breaker

2/28, 5:30-8:00, T.J.'s

General Meeting

Wed, 3/20, 6:00pm, Hillside

2002 Membership

Mail application & Dues TODAY

The Journey Begins -- France

Our journey took us from Burnham-on-Crouch into the North Sea and South to the Thames River. Gear failure (new user error) forced us to make a night entry into the port of Ramsgate, just South of the Thames, EXCITING. After repairs we crossed to France and decided to enter the canals of France at Calais. Early in this trip we came to the first 30-meter lift lock. We had just gotten in and were trying to secure the boat when the lock keeper got the gate closed and flooded the lock, very quickly. We lost control of the boat and were bouncing side to side, badly. At the top the keeper screamed at us (in French of course), but he opened the lock and we fled. Great anxiety! After several days, we mastered the lock technique. We traveled 650 miles and 350 locks through France. It was very pretty but at each turn it reminded us of places in the US. We passed through Paris and stayed in a marina on the river at the Bastille in the heart of Paris. We were trying to meet our children in Spain so we had to continue through France quickly. We took only 35 days to make the total journey. We ultimately learned not to make hard schedules on a cruising sailboat.

Onward – Spain and Gibraltar

We left France in October of 1995 at Port St Louis, 40 kilometers West of Marseilles, traveling to Barcelona. Spain was wonderful. Where France had a lush, rolling hill beauty, Spain had a stark, mountainous beauty. Where the French tended to be somewhat serious and full of themselves, the Spanish were open and very friendly. Barcelona was a continuous, beautiful art and history lesson. There were museums, beautiful architecture, indoor and outdoor markets and great, inexpensive bus service to everywhere. Our daughter and her fiancée joined us for the trip down the coast of Spain. We sailed south to the Balearics where we put into Andraix at the North end of the Mallorca. After several days in Mallorca we sailed to the East Coast of Spain arriving at Cartagena. Our daughter left us there to catch a bus and train to the airport at Mallaga to return to the US. We had a leisurely cruise 400 miles southwest to Puerto De La Dequesa where we spent two months and the holiday season. Spain and the countries we were to visit had “Super Markets” to buy staples and open-air markets to buy fruit and vegetables, etc. Our son joined us and we all played tourist for a week. As a visitor, I cannot say enough about how pleasant Spain is. We did tend to drive the civil police a little crazy when we would give them a cheery good morning or good afternoon. The Gardia was used to people fearing them – an interesting holdover from Franco, I guess.

The winter weather was not good. In January, when the forecast was balmy for a few days we dashed down to Gibraltar. We thought we would be there just long enough to provision for crossing the Atlantic. Again, poor winter weather held us there until the 5th of April 1996 when we left for the New World. Gibraltar was very interesting, scenic and small. The Gibraltarians were constantly at odds with the Governor of Cadez and border crossings took a long time on the Spanish side to harass and punish everyone ... such childish actions.

Crossing to the New World

Not being superstitious, we left Gibraltar on Good Friday for the New World. Our path took us 500 miles west southwest to Porto Santo then on a day trip down to Funchal on the south side of Madeira. We did “have some Madeira my dear” and it was really great. From Madeira we sailed south for a day and a half to Gran Canaria Island. We topped off our supplies, made some repairs and sailed on the 2800 mile crossing to Granada on the south end of the Windward Islands. The crossing took 31 days in very light winds and was boring. Thank God! We averaged less than 4 knots (5 mph) and the only time we had strong winds is the night I left the spinnaker up. I had to spend 20 thrilling minutes on the foredeck, in the dark trying to get the ... thing snuffed and down. But we dined well, enjoyed wine with our meals (a great European habit), and showered every day in fresh water from our water maker. As a small note, we listened to folks going east to Europe 700 miles north of us and the weather was hammering them. What a difference a few hundred miles makes. Twice we had the twenty-foot waves from up north mix with our eight to ten footers. Interesting but not exciting. In the deep ocean, waves are very smooth and un-threatening. We made landfall at Granada at dusk and entered St Georges Harbor on the West Side of the island the following dawn. Granada is a “Spice” Island. For many years folks there made their living growing various spices. Now, cruise ships stop there and tourists supply the primary income. Granada is a beautiful, small island. After two weeks, we had seen all we wanted to and sailed on to Venezuela.

Venezuela

Venezuela is a large and beautiful country. It is blessed with many natural resources but over the years, exploitation of its many riches have caused raging inflation, collapse of the middle class, social instability, and terrible poverty. The infrastructure built in the oil glory years is beginning to disintegrate. Schools, public hospitals, and the police and Coast Guard are under funded. In spite of these things, the people are wonderful. But one needs to be careful about personal safety. Even Venezuelan women wear no jewelry in public for fear of having it ripped off. On the way into Venezuela we stopped at Isla De Margarita, a Venezuelan Island and European vacation spot. This was a good spot to re-provision, and we met lots of cruising sailors there. We spent most of our six months in the Puerto La Cruz area but also ventured to the Los Roques islands off shore. This whole area is like a pacific atoll. The water is shallow, green in color and is teeming with sea life. Returning to Puerto La Cruz took us through Caranaro. We anchored off shore in the harbor but the yacht club gave us use of its facilities and was very friendly. The “yachties” were mostly businessmen from Caracas and this was the only place in Venezuela where English was spoken. Caranaro is famous for its red ibis and parrot flocks. We left Venezuela in December to travel east to Trinidad Tobago. We traveled at night from Margarita about a mile off shore to avoid the adverse wind and current, which normally travel westerly. Without radar to check our distance offshore, it was a little tense for the twelve hours of darkness.

Trinidad Tobago

Trinidad is the home of steel bands, calypso, and carnival. We arrived in Port of Spain just before Christmas, anchored off Trinidad Tobago Yacht Club, one of three anchorages, and proceeded to have fun.

In Trinidad the British left a good infrastructure. It still works. You feel much safer on the streets, though you must still be careful.

The holiday season was delightful concluding with champagne on the bow of our boat watching hundreds of private fireworks displays at midnight. Perfect. Carnival started in February with preliminary judging of king and queen costumes. They also have contests to select the best steel band in the country and best calypso songs. The steel bands have over 100 players and the music is incredibly good.

Calypso is VERY interesting. Most of the songs brutally satirize politicians or problems the country is having.

Festivities proceeded for a week with these contests, and then concluded with Dimanche Gras (selection of the King and Queen), J'ouvert (celebration of Carnival in the old tradition of imps, blue devils, and white faced minstrels) concluding with the all-night Parade of Bands on Shrove Tuesday. Locals would leave on the Friday before Ash Wednesday and party continuously until Ash Wednesday. They were tougher than we were! We joined a local Band and paraded with them all night long in costume with music and as much rum punch as you could drink. On Ash Wednesday everyone had cause to contemplate their "sins."

Return to the United States

After three months in Trinidad, we returned to the United States by way of the American Virgins and Puerto Rico to enjoy our homeland for a while. The trip to the Virgins was very fast for us as the winds averaged 27 knots for three days and with twin rooster tails behind our catamaran we averaged nine knots for the three-day trip. From St Johns we traveled to Culebra in Puerto Rico then up the Old Bahamas Channel to Key West. We returned to the US in June of 1997. Coastal work and rivers occupied the balance of our five years on Passport II.

Want to have some fun?

Work with a committee of the IBM QCC. There are openings for assistants in every area. You can help make valuable projects and activities happen...AND, you can see if QCC leadership is for you. It is a small investment of your time with a compound dividend of fun and accomplishment. Call me.

Mike McGuire (770) 394-5690

2002 Calendar of Event



January

- Newsletter

February

- Annual Membership Drive
- Ice Breaker
 - Thursday, Feb 28
 - 5:30 – 8:00
 - T.J.'s on Holcomb Bridge

March

- General Meeting –
Wednesday, March 20
 - 6:00pm – Social
 - 6:30pm – Program
 - Hillside Auditorium

April

- Christmas in April
- Casino Bus Trip

May

- Newsletter
- Golf Tournament

June

- Fox Theater--Night at the Movies

August

- Newsletter
- GPTV Telephone Night

September

- Picnic
- Habitat for Humanity

October

Committee Reports



Margaret Betz, Tom Neidhardt, Gene Watson, John Hedrick, Tom Satterlee, Tryon Earl, Dave Zilles, and Mike McGuire take a break at the January board meeting.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Gene Watson

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance 1/01/01 | \$3,151.37 |
| INCOME | |
| Memberships | 4,780.00 |
| Advertising | 700.00 |
| Picnic/car show | 458.00 |
| Dinner | 1470.00 |
| Total Income | <u>7,408.00</u> |
| Carry Over & Income | \$10,559.37 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Web site | 627.45 |
| Floral gift | 42.29 |
| Dinner | 1,889.76 |
| Picnic | 679.25 |
| Newsletter mailing | 746.80 |
| Newsletter printing | 689.62 |
| Gen. Mtg. Refreshments | 149.10 |
| Braves game tickets | 50.00 |
| Plaque | 39.63 |
| Directory printing | 3,549.73 |
| Returned check | 25.00 |
| P. O. Box rent | 45.00 |
| Total Expenses | (8,533.63) |
| Balance 12/31/01 | \$2,025.74 |

Membership Committee

Tom Satterlee, Tim Murphy

In 2001, memberships climbed to 470, up 20% from the previous year. Our goal for 2002 is at least 500 paid memberships. To get off to a fast start, we will give out door prizes at the main meeting in March based on how early you join in 2002. The first 100 who join will be in the first drawing (with the best prizes!). Then, the next group will be added for a second drawing (good prizes). The remainder will be in a third drawing (don't count on a great prize). We think it will be fun, so join TODAY. Look forward to seeing you in March!

Community Programs Committee

John Hedrick, Janie Braswell

In 2001, more than 40 QCC members contributed over 50 days of service to our community. We added our painting, clean up, fundraising and landscaping talents to special days with Christmas in April, GPTV and Habitat for Humanity. The QCC volunteer help was outstanding and everyone had a great time. We will continue our high-spirited events in 2002. Our first project will be working with Christmas in April to clean up and repair homes of elderly, low-income homeowners in Atlanta. We will be repeating favorites from last year and looking for new ways to help our community. Our goal is to participate in three or four events during the year.

ATLQCC Website

Tom Neidhardt

The new and improved Web site (<http://www.atlqcc.org>) is eight months old. Thanks for the good feedback.

During 2001, we added frequently called phone numbers and some IBM forms in electronic format (Adobe PDF). In 2002, we plan to make the Web site more interactive, such as allowing you to maintain your QCC profile information online. We included space on the membership application for your IBM serial number. It will become your userID. When the interactive feature is implemented, you will be asked to create a password to give you secure access to your profile information. We also hope to make the QCC Newsletter and Member Directory available on the Internet as an option to hard copy. The savings can be substantial. Let us know if you have ideas for the Web site at webmaster@atlqcc.org.

Special Events Committee

Ronda Rattray

I am excited about being your Chairman for Special Events this year. We will try to offer a wide selection of activities at affordable prices. A general plan is included in the calendar in this newsletter. We will present details at the general meeting and on the QCC Web site. You also will receive e-mail notices of events.

Our first gathering is an "ice-breaker" planned for Thursday, February 28th, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at T.J.'s Sports Bar, 2880 Holcomb Bridge Road (at the intersection of Holcomb Bridge and Nesbitt Ferry -- about five miles east of GA 400). Bring your spouse or have him/her meet you there for drinks and dinner!

Please e-mail me at rattray@us.ibm.com or call me at my home office, 404-255-0125, with your suggestions, ideas or questions. See you soon!

*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."*

Be The Star You Are
Cynthia Brian

This page will be the application....

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| Advisory Board 2002 | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| Co-Presidents: | Tryon Earl | 770-998-6050 | trleea@aol.com |
| | Dave Zilles | 770-399-6710 | zilles@us.ibm.com |
| Vice President | Bill Branson | 770-977-4663 | bransonw@us.ibm.com |
| Secretary | Margaret Betz | 770-835-8183 | mbetz@us.ibm.com |
| Treasurer | Gene Watson | 770-457-0768 | geneandebw@aol.com |
| Community Programs | John Hedrick | 770-394-5683 | jthedrick@aol.com |
| Membership | Tom Satterlee | 770-835-8116 | satterleet@mindspring.com |
| | Tim Murphy | | |
| Newsletter | Jack Wakefield | 770-643-1566 | JWWake@aol.com |
| | Margaret Betz | | |
| Nominating | Mike McGuire | 770-394-5690 | mikemcguire2@earthlink.net |
| Special Events | Ronda Rattray | 404-487-2216 | rattray@us.ibm.com |
| WebSite | Tom Neidhardt | 770-978-8889 | tgneid@mediaone.net |

Gotta Do It

Ice Breaker – 2/28
5:30-8, TJs

General Meeting – 3/20
6:00 pm
Hillside Auditorium

**2002 Membership
Application and dues.**

Greater Atlanta Chapter
IBM Quarter Century Club
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(ATLQCC.org)

Return Service Requested