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# Across the Way...

Life on Dewees Island, South Carolina

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## Comings and Goings

Any story about life Across the Way must include an account of the actual journey across the water that brings the world-weary traveler to Dewees Island's welcoming shores. Our little Island is a realm of its own, and the 20-minute passage into that realm is made possible by a very interesting piece of Dewees' history, the *Aggie Gray*.



*The Dewees Fleet's flagship, the Aggie Gray.*

The *Aggie Gray* is the ferry that so reliably transports residents, staff, and craftsmen to and from the Island every day. She was built in the late 1980s by a Navy shipbuilder in Annapolis, MD, and set to sea as a salvaging boat with a seatless interior. She was designed on the model of an 1800s workboat and built with hardy 1/4-inch aluminum all the way around. Built with a V-shaped hull, the *Aggie* boasts optimum fuel efficiency, transporting up to 62 passengers with four times greater fuel efficiency than our six-passenger Parker. Her body also incorporates the design of an old-fashioned oyster boat, producing very low wake and causing minimal disturbance of shellfish beds.

The owner-composed Transportation Committee searched for two years to find the perfect ferry,

and when they found the *Aggie Gray* she was in her second line of work, shuttling tourists to and from a restaurant on the Waccamaw River in Myrtle Beach. It took vision and creativity on the part of our transportation committee, but after some renovations, the *Aggie Gray* quickly became the flagship of our Dewees Island fleet.

The *Aggie Gray* made her maiden voyage for Dewees Island in the spring of 1996, and has served us faithfully during her years here... delivering residents and guests safely and comfortably in all kinds of weather. Her presence has become a trademark to all who see her, and a comfort to all who know Dewees. We thank the *Aggie* and her crew for all that they do, and we look forward to many a sunny day atop her glorious deck.

**DEWEES ISLAND®**  
**ACROSS THE WAY**  
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*Happy  
Holidays  
from all of us  
on Dewees  
Island!*

# Watching the World Go By

For those who've never spent much time on Dewees, the words "boat access" have broad meaning... and while the uninitiated may view ferry transportation as an inconvenience, the fact is that most owners view the ferry ride as delightful!

In fact, if you ask an owner how they feel about the ferry, chances are you'll hear comments ranging from "As soon as I step on the ferry, I can feel the stress melting away" to "The ferry ride is my primary source of intelligent news and opinions." It is virtually guaranteed you'll never hear a comment of unhappiness.



Take your choice...enjoy the scenery up top...

Why is this? Perhaps it's the length of the ride, a comfortable 20 minutes...

perhaps it's the idyllic Lowcountry scenery, with its broad expanse of marsh, flocks of coastal birds, and playful dolphins...or perhaps it's the way property owners use the time, some for thoughtful relaxation, and some in conversation with

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neighbors and staff. Whatever the reason, the Dewees ferry serves as a meeting place, a community bulletin board,

and a decompression chamber when transitioning from the madness of the mainland to the solitude of a private island.

If you've ever wondered about how our owners get across the way, come see for yourself. Once you settle in on the rooftop platform, and spend a few minutes watching the world go by, you may not want to disembark!



...or relax in the main cabin.

# Low-impact Transportation

If there's one outward and obvious difference about Dewees that a visitor first notices after disembarking the ferry, it's the sight of electric vehicles traveling over sand-based roads.

And often this sight causes the visitor to ask, "Why would a high-end, private resort make such a decision?"

The answer has numerous layers, but the short answer is the reduction of negative impact such a transportation system imposes on the Island. Consider these factors:

- Electric vehicles produce no gasoline exhaust, oil leakage, or combustion noise.
- Without gas and oil leaking onto the roads, rainwater hits the ground and disperses into the environment without pollutants.
- With sand-based, porous roads, rainwater soaks into the landscape naturally, without the damaging effects of rushing stormwater.
- And without acres of pavement, Dewees can easily handle any level of flooding Mother Nature

provides...after all, the entire Island is available to act as a sponge!

The benefits of this system are obvious and immediate: The lack of automobiles is what gives Dewees its delightful, natural quietness...electric vehicles pose far less danger to children playing on the Island...the cleanliness of our stormwater runoff

*The lack of automobiles is what gives Dewees its delightful, natural quietness...*

is what enables residents to fish, shrimp, and crab in the Island's interior impoundment and ponds... and unlike most residential islands, Dewees' oyster beds are almost always open in season. And when viewed at an even broader level, consider how resource efficient the system is in the long run... consider the money, material, manpower, and machinery that will never be needed to sustain the road system!



The entire community takes part in the Annual Labor Day Cart Parade.