

the porthole



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Happy New Year!



CDR Charles Wilsdorf

Happy New Year to all GISPS members!! I can not believe an entire year has gone by and the changes that have occurred. Our personal lives, our political scene, our nation's financial institutions, retail sales, and industrial institutions have



changed just to mention a few. These changes combined will likely impact our boating habits and the organizations to which we belong, namely the USPS.

The USPS was in the red almost \$70,000 last year. Most of the loss

was contributed to lost revenue in educational sales. Since membership dues alone won't keep the USPS viable, the USPS Board of Director's are proposing several changes to their marketing efforts. The Board has proposed advertising in "Trailer

Boating" and possibly "Sail" magazines. The Board has also proposed marketing USPS course materials to other organizations such as the USCG Auxiliary and US Sail. They have also agreed to promote two voluntary projects: Automatic one year membership with the basic boating course, and offer our advanced and elective grade courses to the public priced to include at least one year of membership in the USPS. As a squadron, we can choose to participate. I haven't been told, but I hope these programs will work the same as the USPS Membership referral program in place now which yielded our squadron a new member

GOLDEN ISLES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 2008 BRIDGE

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Executive Officer
Squadron Education Officer
Administration Officer
Secretary
Treasurer
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last year. Other changes are also in the works relating to internal auditing and national officer's travel. Members, it is the sign of the times.

Hopefully what won't change is our COW. I am not a good judge of how our recent COW went since I was a nervous participant, but from the positive comments I heard; I think our COW was a success. I would like to thank all our members and guest who attended which is really what makes the COW successful. I would also like to congratulate all our new bridge members for their services that they have volunteered and I am looking forward to working with them this year.

Included in this "Porthole" is a 2009 GISPS Calendar of Events. Please look it over and mark your personal calendar. This calendar is not set in stone, so if you have any suggestions or items you would like to add; please contact myself or one of the bridge members. Also, please take note

that the Executive Committee (Bridge and Members at Large) will meet one hour prior to our membership meeting, but all members are always invited to attend. Hopefully this arrangement will let us take care of most business before the squadron membership meeting and leave the membership meeting for socializing and some other entertaining presentation.

The new Weather Text has finally arrived. Please let me know ASAP if you are interested in the Weather class if you have not already contacted me. Class will meet on Monday mornings at 0930 at my home starting Jan 12. We will try to cover a couple of chapters each week.

As a reminder, please mark you calendar for Saturday, Feb 7, 0900-1300 for Operations Training class which will be held at the UGA Marine Extension on Bay Street in Brunswick. Our knowledgeable instructor, Ed Leibfarth, takes what could be a dry subject and

presents it in a very digestible and pleasurable manner. I encourage all members to attend.

I hope to see you all at our next membership meeting Saturday, Jan 24.

-Chas

Upcoming Events

12 January 0930
Weather Class
Cdr. Wilsdorf's House

24 January Boat Smart
0900-1600, UGA Marine Extension

24 January 1730-1830
Executive Committee

Membership Meeting
1830-2030
La Fuente Mexican Resturant

7 February 0900-1300
Operations Training
0900-1600, UGA Marine Extension

December 2008 COW

Vicky Jefferis, Secretary



Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron
Third Annual
Change of Watch
6 December 2008

Members and guests of the Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron gathered at the Bonefish Grill, St. Simons Island, GA at 1800 6 December 2008 for the Change of Watch. Special

guests attending to install the 2008-2009 Squadron Commander and Bridge were District 26 Commander Ron Osburn, SN, and District 26 Administrative Officer Eric Pearson, SN, accompanied by their spouses.

Following the Social Hour, Chaplain Tommy Cox, S, offered the Invocation. Upon completion of the delicious meal, Squadron Commander Charles Wilsdorf, SN, called the meeting to order. Stuart Stratton, S, announced that a recent change in legislation now enables Veterans to render a salute during the Pledge of Allegiance, and then led the group in the Pledge. Commander Wilsdorf introduced and welcomed several

guests of Squadron members as well as Past Commanders Ed Leibfarth JN, Paulette Harris-Holmes, JN, Audie Holmes, JN, and Nettie Dumais, AP. He then introduced District Commander & Mrs. Osburn and District Admin Officer & Mrs. Pearson. Commander Wilsdorf's last order of business was to announce the recipient of the 2008 Member of the Year Robert "Bob" Woodman, P. Bob's selection was based on his many contributions such as participating in the Savannah Boat Show, Coast Fest, attending and helping present Boat Smart classes, arranging for the Boat Smart course facility, as well as conducting numerous safety inspections and helping wherever needed.

Next, Commander Wilsdorf relieved the outgoing Bridge Members Bob Woodman, Audie Holmes, Howard Klippel, Teresa Wilsdorf, Sandra Cox, and Judy McPherson from their duties, thanking them all for their dedication and hard work during the past year. He noted that over the past year,

the Squadron has grown in both size and strength as a result of their efforts.

District Commander Osburn addressed the group, providing an update on a number of items. He noted that the District Newsletter will be provided electronically by 2010, and in 2009, two will be issued electronically with two distributed via regular mail. The District Bylaws are being updated and work is ongoing on developing a new Five Year Plan. The number of District Meetings is being reviewed and ideas to control costs of these meetings are under consideration. Because recruiting and retention of members is so important, changes to current methods are being developed.

D/C Osburn then administered the Oath to Cdr Wilsdorf. Next, D/L/C Pearson administered the Oath to the 2008-2009 Bridge: Executive Officer, Larry Jefferis, AP; Administrative Officer, Steve Batson, P; Education Officer, Audie Holmes, JN; Secretary, Vicky

Jefferis, AP; Assistant Secretary, Jeanne Klippel, and Assistant Treasurer, Sandra Cox, S. Cdr Wilsdorf presented flags to the new Bridge Officers.

Cdr Wilsdorf challenged the membership to work hard to recruit and retain members, remembering the "Power of One" program. He reminded all of the group of the USPS theme – "Boating is Fun" and emphasized his commitment to build on the activities conducted during the past year that provided opportunities for fun for members such as courses, co-op charting, social events, and community activities. All of these have and will provide opportunities for personal and boating growth. National is offering Boat Operator Certification programs and it will be good to add some Certifiers to the Golden Isles Squadron. Cdr. Wilsdorf closed by reminding all that the Squadron's health depends on a strong membership.

The Squadron Education Report

Audie Homes, JN



Let's begin the New Year by spreading our nets to gain more members. Please invite your friends, relatives, neighbors, fellow boaters, and all others to Boat Smart at the UGA Marine Extension Service on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 at 9 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Trust everyone had a great holiday season. The Education Department encourages everyone to take at least one elective or advanced grade course with GISPS this year. Cdr. Wilsdorf will be teaching weather this month. It is a great, practical course. Please sign-up.

All flag officers should take O.T. on 7 Feb. under P/D/C Edward Leibfarth. All future leaders in GISPS should be at the UGA Marine Extension Center on Bay Street for this information morning. Operations Training is essential for the bridge and interested others.

See you at our meetings soon! Remember our department's motto: Safer Boating through Education Audie Holmes, SEO

See you safely on the water.

-Audie

XO's Locker Larry Jefferis



It is my distinct pleasure to assume the position of Squadron Executive Officer for 2009. I thank the Nominating Committee for their nomination. Thank you all. I will do my best to further the mission of the United States Sail and Power Squadrons and increase the presence of the Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron

On New Year's Eve day, moving my boat to Brunswick Landing Marina to link up with other GISPS members provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the direct impact of wind on boat docking procedures. Secondly we had the opportunity to discuss the direct relationship between experience and judgment. For those in attendance, the lesson was clear and the value of the lesson priceless.

As Squadron Executive Officer I am responsible for the "external affairs" of the squadron and in that role, I will be soliciting assistance and support from other members who have an interest in any of these specific squadron areas or activity:

Boat Show representation – This is not strictly boat shows but includes all opportunities we capitalize on to set up a booth or at least a squadron display touting our organization, our mission and our presence. I plan to review the "show" package with the committee and the bridge to identify any shortfalls we can correct before our first showing which could be during National Safe Boating week 16-22 May, 2009.

Cooperative Charting – Past chairman, Patricia Rodgers and the squadron were recognized for our Squadron's Cooperative Charting activities last year. We need to expand our efforts and encourage more participation this year on this activity which has a direct affect on boating safety. We have Coop Charting planned for inclusion during our Spring Cruise. Vessel Safety Checks – More volunteers can get more vessel safety checks accomplished and thereby

improve boating safety in our area. Let me know if you'd like to participate in this area. It's relatively painless and certainly is rewarding.

Public Relations – This is fertile ground for marketing success! We need to understand today's environment, understand its impact on our membership retention situation and make a conscious effort to "market" our squadron and the USPS philosophy. Member retention and gaining new members is the direct result of an effective Public Relations campaign. Radio Technical – This is an area which is of great importance with the advent of the DSC capable radios and the ability to gain an MMSI for no cost. Knowing how to use these capabilities and how they mesh with the future safety and security programs is of great importance to all of us. We need a volunteer to spearhead this area for us all.

Safety – This is the cornerstone of the US Sail and Power Squadron Mission. "The Safety Committee shall cooperate with the Public Relations Committee to prepare ideas and suggestions to bring safety considerations to the attention of the public,."

If you have an interest in any one of those areas whether you'd like to be chairman or just volunteer to help support a particular activity in one of those areas, please let me know. I plan to shape up the committees and organize the chairpersons and volunteers by the next edition of the Porthole.

The Squadron is not about any individual, though, but is a team with each of us assuming responsibility in areas where we have expertise and/or interest. I'm asking for your support to help the squadron grow and prosper by making it more effective, more enjoyable and more recognizable as an effective entity within the US Sail and Power Squadrons roster of "up and coming" Squadrons.

-Larry

Administrative Offices Report

Steve W. Batson, P



Last year ended at Bonefish Grill with a marvelous dinner and Change of Watch ceremony. I heard several comments from our honored guests that “this meal was the best we have ever had for a Power Squadron meeting.” A good meal and good fellowship are hallmarks of the GISPS.

An example of this fellowship was the conversation Kathy and I had with Jeanne and Howard Klippel over dinner. We easily talked about earlier careers, boats, former boating environments we had experienced, and places we had previously lived.

Howard and I also discussed shifting the responsibilities of being Administrative Officer from him to me. We pledged to work closely together to insure strong service to the Squadron for the coming year.

Officially, the committees under the AO include Membership, Membership Involvement, Boating Activities, Meetings and Programs, Entertainment, Operations Training, and Leadership Development. As activities develop in any of these areas, this column will report on them.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 09 GISPS Birthday Bunch

2 Jan Larry Jefferis
13 Jan Steven Chambliss
19 Jan Chris Herzberg
24 Jan Kurt Glass
24 Jan Dorothy Jones

Happy Birthday to all!





**District 26 Spring Conference
20—22 March 2009
Florence, SC**



Last Name First Name MI Rank Grade Squadron

Address City State/Zip Telephone Guest (Rank, Grade)

Friday 20 March 2009

No. @ Price Total

1400 until 1700
1400 until 1730
1830 until 2030

Registration, Hilton Garden Inn
Hospitality Room
ESAB cabin, BBQ
Program: Arabian Night

_____ @ \$15 \$ _____

Saturday 21 March 2009

0800 until 0930
0900 until 1400
1200 until 1300
1400 until 1730
1800 until 1900
1900 until 2130

Registration, Hilton Garden Inn
Spring Conference
Lunch, Southern Buffet
Hospitality Room, Hilton Garden Inn
Cocktails

_____ @ \$15 \$ _____

Dinner Grand Ballroom: **Seating is limited to 126 people** _____ @ \$30 \$ _____

Buffet: Choice of Chicken cordon Bleu, Medallions of beef tenderloin, shrimp scampi and pasta with 4 side items. Served with a garden salad, rolls & butter, iced tea and assorted desserts.

Spouse/Guest Program: Luncheon at Florence Country Club: soup & salad bar Program TBA _____ @ \$10 \$ _____

**Sunday 22 March 2009
Free**

Activities Total: \$ _____

**Mail this portion of the registration form with a check payable to:
Swampfox Power Squadron, PO Box 5916, Florence SC 29502
Questions: shsnipes@gmail.com**

**USPS D/26 Spring Conference
HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

**Hilton Garden Inn
2671 Hospitality Blvd
Florence SC 29501
843-432-3001 or fax 843-432-3003
Website: www.florence.stayhgi.com**

**Rates: Standard \$99.00 King or Dbl
Jr Suite \$129.00 King or Dbl
plus 12% tax**

BOOK ONLINE: Go to www.usps.org/swampfox

Check in: 1500 Check out: Noon

DEADLINE: February 27, 2009