

# the porthole



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## A Very Busy Year For The GISPS



CDR Charles Wilsdorf

Our squadron has been very active so far this year with Boat Smart classes, a Squadron Weather class, two terrific guest speakers (thanks to Steve Batson) at our well attended membership meetings, and participation at the



District Spring Conference 2009

District 26 Conference in Florence, SC. Now, we all have the opportunity for some on the water activities. Please let Larry Jefferis (912 264-1352) know ASAP if you are interested in the Squadron's

Spring Cruise. You have also received information on the District 26 Cruise to Fort McAllister Marina sponsored by the Tybee Light Power Squadron. I am hoping this cruise will be well attended by

our membership since it is in such close proximity to us and the flexibility of participating in just about any size boat or no boat at all. Please check out the details at <http://www.usps.org/localusps/tybee/>.

Audie Holmes and Paulette Harris-Holmes; Larry and Vicky Jefferis; and Teresa and myself attended the District 26 Conference in Florence, SC sponsored by the Swamp Fox Sail and Power Squadron. Our young squadron's presence was accented by being presented with several awards: the National USPS "The Power of One Award" for membership increase and retention; the National USPS

### GOLDEN ISLES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 2008 BRIDGE

**Commander**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Squadron Education Officer**  
**Administration Officer**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Assistant Treasurer**  
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“Education Achievement Award” for contributing to the Educational Fund, the national “N. Club Award” for excellence and advancement of navigation; the District “Prince Henry the Navigator Award” for demonstrating the greatest improvement during the past year in members completing Advanced Education Grades; the District’s “Wolf-Ewing Educational Achievement Award” for highest proportion of members passing courses and achieving/maintaining educational proficiency during the year; and Larry and Vicky Jefferis received the District’s “Spark Plug Award” presented to new members who have contributed the most in time and effort to the USPS. Let’s all give each other a pat on the back for our combined efforts. Now, our challenge is to keep the ball rolling.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our newest members, Willard “Dub” Collins and Karen Hutcheson. Dub and Karen are sailors who want to meet other local boaters and participate in our boating activities. Dub has been boating many years both for pleasure and commercial, holding a 1600 ton Master’s license. As a Captain, Dub runs crew vessels in the offshore oil business. Again, we welcome Dub and Karen. As mentioned earlier, our March 28 Member Meeting was well attended and our guest speaker Wendy Vasquez Galan’s presentation on “Water Quality for the

Georgia Coast” was most informative. Wendy really raised our personal awareness by suggesting steps we, as individuals, might take to make improvements in our environment. Thank you Wendy and Steve Batson, our Admin officer, for such an enlighten evening.

Speaking of on the water activities, I would like to report that I have been invited to crew for GISPS member Coy Hodges on his Catalina 32 to the Bahamas. We plan to leave on or around April 17 and spend the remainder of April and a big part of May cruising the Bahamas. While there, we hope to cross paths with GISPS member Jack Sterrett who will also be cruising the Bahamas in contrast to his most recent cruise around Cape Horn. Yes, that’s right, Cape Horn with his wife Lynda. In the future, we hope get a detailed briefing of their cruise.

Larry Jefferis will be filling in for me as squadron commander. Please feel free to contact Larry on any squadron issues you might have.

In closing I would just like to remind everyone that May 16 -22 is National Safe Boating Week. Audie Holmes, our SEO, will be holding a Boat Smart class May 16. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and fellow boaters to attend. Also, always feel free to attend yourself for a refresher.

-Chas

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## **The Squadron Education Report**

### **Audie Homes, JN**



March, 2009 Report from the GISPS Squadron Education Officer, Audie Holmes, JN

I am so proud to have been the first commander and now SEO of such an outstanding new squadron! We did so well in March at the District 26 spring conference in Florence, South Carolina!! I attended the meetings related to education to be sure that we

meet all requirements. We are certainly doing so. Prince Henry the Navigator and the Wolf Ewing Educational Achievement awards represent our progress, but we must continue to promote education in all we do. How about our new Weather graduates! We are so proud of you! Please note, too, that it was just a year ago when Larry and Vicky Jefferis attended our Boat Smart class, and now they have won the District 26 Spark Plug award. Let’s see who will be our next Spark Plug award recipients for GISPS. It could be you!

We want to be sure to have a good sized class of students for our next Boat Smart class on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the UGA Marine Extension Services building. Please

encourage everyone you know who has not recently had a Boating Education class to attend. As you know, the course includes boating safety and a whole lot more. At our February Boat Smart I was the instructor and we went from 9a.m. to 4 p.m. without even a lunch break. The four students all did very well! This course exemplifies the USPS motto: “Boating is Fun...Let us Show you how!” Please join our Assistant SEO, Bob Woodman, P, in getting the word out about our class on 16 May.

By the way, as of today, we now have a new Advanced Piloting graduate, our Administrative officer, Steve W. Batson, is now “Advance Piloting!” Congratulations, Steve! Beginning the first week of June the GISPS will offer Cruise Planning and Seamanship. Please email Cdr. Willsdorf as instructor or myself as SEO to let us know which course(s) you are interested in taking. Cruise Planning is a very interesting course! You’re sure to enjoy it.

Don’t forget that the summer council/cruise/rendezvous will be in Savannah –sponsored by Tybee Light. That’s not too far for our whole squadron to go. Mark your calendars now for the weekend of June 12, 2009!

Respectfully submitted,

Audie Holmes

## XO's Locker Larry Jefferis, AP



### Squadron Shirts:

The Squadron shirt issue has moved to the next level. We have made a decision on the logo, the logo has been digitized by BRC Signs & Graphics in Brunswick and we can have the logo embroidered on a shirt of our individual choice for \$10. The sample logo is shown below. The lettering can be changed to any of the other colors in the logo at the time of order to complement the selected shirt color. Teresa Wilsdorf, S, has a limited number of knit shirts with the new logo available for \$30.



### April Squadron Cruise, 24-26 April, 2009:

The cruise is a GO! Destination will be Fernandina Harbor Marina. I have made initial contact and they are expecting us. This destination will allow for those who desire can cruise to the marina but others can drive down for whatever part of the weekend they would like to join us. We'll have an informal Friday evening cocktail hour at ODYSSEY and on the dock. Dinner Friday will be individual choice. I'll arrange for a reservation at the restaurant at the Marina and notify all via e-mail of the time. This will be a good time and will kick off our 2009 cruising season with a shakedown cruise to an excellent facility. Please let me know your level of participation by email or by phone so I can ensure you'll have a slip and/or a place at dinner. I'll need an initial count of diners and your boat name and length by 10 April, 2009. I'll be calling and sending email to attempt to collect this information. Help me out ... give me a call.

### Fernandina Harbour Marina Information

Phone	904-491-2090
Latitude	30° 40' 28' N
Longitude	081° 27' 51' W
Rates	\$1.75 per ft per day, \$4/day - 30Amp, \$8/day - 50Amp
Address	1 S Front Street Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous, Jun 12-14, 2009: This District 26 Cruise, which is being hosted by The Tybee Light Power Squadron, is custom made for members of our squadron with the Fort McAllister Marina at Richmond Hills as the destination( <http://www.fortmcallistermarina.com/> ). Whether you are sailor, powerboater, paddleboater, or non-boat owner this cruise will suit all. The slip rates will be \$1/ft/day with low rates for electrical hookups Please check out the information on Tybee Lights' website ( <http://www.usps.org/localusps/tybee/> ). The registration form which must be returned by May 15 is available for download at ( [http://www.usps.org/localusps/tybee/index\\_files/Page397.htm](http://www.usps.org/localusps/tybee/index_files/Page397.htm) ). Let's all get together and organize a couple of flotillas maybe one intra-coastal and one for the outside. The outline for the Rendezvous is:

#### Friday, 12 June 09

Cookout on the Dock  
(Cash Bar available)

#### Saturday, 13 June 09

Poker Run  
Picnic Lunch  
Cash Bar on the Dock  
Buffet Dinner, Poker  
Run Prizes, DJ,  
Music, and Dancing at the  
Marina Restaurant

#### Sunday, 14 June 2009

Complimentary  
Continental  
Breakfast provided by  
Tybee Light Power Squadron.  
Bon voyage!

This is a great time to go boating as a group and a great time to meet other members of our District. Please contact me or commander Wilsdorf if you should have questions. We will be contacting you soon to make plans.

Let's have fun boating together.  
Safe Boating to All.



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## Secretary's Report

### Vicky Jefferis, AP Secretary



Commander Charles Wilsdorf, SN, called the Meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Stuart Stratton, S, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Teresa Wilsdorf, S, provided the Invocation. Commander Wilsdorf opened the session by welcoming guests Bob and Pat Swant and our evening's speaker, Wendy Vasquez-Gallon.

The Minutes from the February membership meeting were approved.

Commander Wilsdorf reported on the District 26 Spring Meeting, describing it as a great opportunity to meet USPS members and make new friends. He announced and displayed the Awards won by the Squadron: National N Club Award for excellence and advancement of Navigation; District Prince Henry the Navigator Award for demonstrating the greatest improvement during the past year in members completing Advanced Education Grades and The District Wolf-Ewing Educational Achievement Award for highest proportion of members passing courses and achieving/maintaining educational proficiency during the year; the Power of One Membership Award for achieving 127% of our goal; and the District Sparkplug Award won by Larry & Vicky Jefferis for outstanding contributions by new members.

**Bridge Officer Reports:** Executive Officer Larry Jefferis showed the new shirts with the Squadron logo. He informed the group they can buy shirts through the Squadron or take their own to BRC and have the logo applied themselves. He also discussed the upcoming April Cruise. He's had suggestions for either Blackbeard/Sapelo Island or Fernandina Beach Marina. The D26 Cruise will be held June 12-14 and everyone is encouraged to attend since it's being held at Ft McAllister, GA. Commander Wilsdorf will provide email Details of the Cruise for everyone's information. This will be a social event only, so should be fun. Vicky Jefferis, Secretary, summarized the Treasurer's and Squadron Education Officer's reports and reported on the earlier Bridge meeting.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Other Business:** Commander Wilsdorf announced plans to offer Seamanship and Cruise Planning courses in June. He asked members to submit articles and photos to Joe Scirica for our new Website and Joey Herzberg, P, for the Porthole. The April meeting will be the Cruise and the May meeting will be held May 16 to avoid the Memorial Day Holiday. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM followed by an informative and entertaining presentation by the Altamaha Coast Keeper, Wendy Vasquez-Gallon.

**HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO:**

15 - Audie Holmes

18 - Stuart Stratton

26 - Wesley ZamZow

## Upcoming Events

24-26 April-TBA  
Spring Cruise  
CoOp Charting

16-May 0900-1500 Boat  
Smart UGA Extension

16-May 1730 - 1830  
Executive Committee  
Meeting La Fuente  
De Pablo Mexican  
Restaurant

16-May 1830 - Monthly  
Meeting La Fuente  
De Pablo Mexican  
Restaurant



District Spring Conference 2009

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## Administrative Offices Report

### Steve W. Batson, AP



Kathy and I missed the March squadron meeting because of a professional conference in New Orleans. This is the first time I have been back to New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. The city has certainly suffered in many areas as it struggles to come back to life as the "Big Easy." I remember well the news

footage of Coast Guard helos plucking persons off rooftops around the city after the levies breached. Thank goodness our friends in blue were prepared for the task.

Similarly, we as boat owners must be prepared for any emergency in which we found ourselves. That preparedness starts each year with spring commissioning. We have a great marina crew who does the major work in this department for Kathy and me, but all of us should know what is needed and what has been done.

Our Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program covers all the bases. We need to insure that the following are in working

order: PFDs, visual distress signals, fire extinguishers, ventilation systems, lights and horn, radios, and navigation systems to name a few. Also, we should check dock lines, anchor rode, galley and heating systems, first aid kits, charts (electronic and paper), and sanitation devices if relevant.

Most importantly, does your "crew" know how to get the vessel back to the dock if the captain is incapacitated? Remind me to tell you a scary conversation Kathy and I overheard from a wife to the Coast Guard from a disabled boat on the Delaware Bay. It started with "Help!"

On a program note, our May program will be a spokesperson from Coast Guard Station Brunswick to update us on all things Coastie. God bless this group on which we so strongly depend! It should be another good one.

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 these areas, this column will report on them.