



the porthole



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CDR Vicky Jefferis

Spring is officially here! I'm amazed that we're already well into April, but as I look back it shouldn't be such



GISPS Cruise to Fernandina Mar 31 – April 1. GISPS members are the Sterretts and the Rodgers

a surprise because we've been a busy squadron for the past few weeks.

Thanks to a great effort by our SEO, P/C Charles Wilsdorf, SN,

six members and a non-member recently completed the Seamanship class. I'm excited that these GISPS members are now sporting advanced grade designations behind their names and will have their first stickers for their USPS Membership Certificates very soon. Congratulations to all!

GOLDEN ISLES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 2011 BRIDGE

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Squadron Education Officer
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Our March meeting was a huge success due to the tenacity of Admin Officer Richard Jones, AP. Richard found a meeting place that everyone enjoyed and to add even more to the evening, he brought us a great speaker, US Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Tyrome Tillett. CWO Tillett spoke about the mission of his organization, Maritime Force Protection Unit (MFPU) Kings Bay, and shared several tips about how recreational boaters can successfully share the waterways with the submarines and other military traffic

near the Kings Bay area or wherever they may be encountered. Thanks and great job, Richard.



The GISPS welcomed new members at their meeting Saturday, March 24, 2012. Commander Vicky Jefferis, on the left, presented membership certificates to Robert Quinn, Sandra Boynton, and Charles Boynton.

Wrapping up the month, Asst. SEO Jack Sterrett, SN, organized and led a cruise to Fernandina Beach Marina. Jack and Lynda Sterrett and their friends, Beth and Chuck Edwards and Phil Bianco were joined by John, SN, and Pat Rodgers, AP, for the cruise on March 31 and April 1. Glad to hear we have folks out enjoying this glorious weather and getting a great start on the 2012 boating season. Jack, we appreciate your efforts.

Looking ahead, we have more activities and opportunities to look forward to. At our April meeting, P/C Larry Jefferis, AP, will offer a short Organizational Familiarization presentation. Have you ever wondered what USPS really does? What all the letters following people's names mean? Come join us April 28 and let Larry clue you in on this and more! Don't forget the District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous May 11 – 13 in Augusta. This

is a great opportunity to meet members of other squadrons and play on the water with them. This District activity is strictly for fun – no business meetings scheduled. Read all about it and get your registration form on our GISPS Website link. Don't forget, Safe Boating Week is May 19 – 25. As always, GISPS will observe the week with special activities. Stay tuned for more details. SEO Wilsdorf is working on the specifics for future classes. Check his article for more details.

And finally, we learned that we have competition for the room at Exit 38! So, we have a different location lined up for April. We'll meet at the Denny's at the Flying J Truck Stop at I-95 Exit 29 (east of the exit – turn right at the first light after you exit I-95). We'll start at the same time, 6 PM, and have the same menu choices. Hope to see you there!

Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron 2012 Activities Calendar

Date	Time	Function	Location
Jan 10	1830 – 2030	Navigation begins	Wilsdorf
Jan 25 – 29		USPS Annual Mtg.	Jacksonville, FL
Jan 28	1800	GISPS Membership Mtg	Sanctuary Cove Golf Club
Feb 11 & 18	0900 - 1500	ABC Class GISPS EXCOM Mtg	UGA Extension
Feb 25	1800	GISPS Membership Mtg	Sanctuary Cove Golf Club
March 20		Seamanship Begins	Wilsdorf's
Mar 24		GISPS EXCOM Mtg	Denny's/Strike Zone
	1800	GISPS Membership Mtg	I-95 Exit 38
Mar 31		Fernandina Cruise	Dpt B'wick Landing Marina
Apr 28	1645	GISPS EXCOM Mtg	Denny's/Flying J
	1800	GISPS Membership Mtg	I-95 Exit 29
May	TBD	Engine Maintenance	TBD
May 19-25		Safe Boating Week	
May 26 – 28		Memorial Day Weekend	
		No Membership Mtg	
June	TBD	Piloting	TBD
Jun 23	TBD	GISPS EXCOM Mtg	TBD
		GISPS Membership Mtg	TBD
July	TBD	Weather/Other Seminar	TBD
	TBD	Skipper Saver	TBD
Jul 28	TBD	First Aid/CPR Training	TBD
		GISPS EXCOM Mtg	TBD
		GISPS Membership Mtg	TBD
August	TBD	Advanced Piloting	TBD

Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron 2012 Activities Calendar

Aug 25	TBD	GISPS EXCOM Mtg	TBD
		GISPS Membership Mtg	TBD
September	TBD	Weather	TBD
Sep 22	TBD	GISPS EXCOM Mtg	TBD
Sep 22	TBD	GISPS Membership Mtg	TBD
Oct 27	TBD	GISPS EXCOM Mtg	TBD
		GISPS Membership Mtg	TBD
Nov 17	TBD	GISPS Change of Watch	TBD
December	TBD	GISPS Holiday Party	TBD

Treasurer's Report

Teresa Wilsdorf, S Treasurer



GISPS currently has \$6,290.50 in the bank.

Once again, for those of you that missed it, we had a great Speaker at our meeting in March. I sold tickets for a fifty-fifty drawing. We took in a total of \$64 and P/C Larry Jefferis won the drawing. He was extremely gracious and donated his fifty percent back to the squadron. As long as people are willing to buy tickets, we will continue to do the fifty-fifty drawing at the meetings.

Also, don't forget to ask friends, neighbors, and co-workers if they are interested in joining the Squadron. Word of mouth is the best way to get new members within the squadron and into our wonderful classes.

I am sure I don't have to remind you, but please do not forget to pay your dues this year! The dues can be paid with a credit card over the internet on the USPS website. If anyone needs help in doing so, please give me a call at 265-9550. I look forward to seeing all of you at the April meeting.

Secretary's Report

Joe Scirica, S Secretary



Cdr Vicky Jefferis, AP called the meeting to order at 6:30pm at the Denny's Strike Zone. Past Cdr. Jefferis, AP suggested that members think about feedback about our meeting place. Past Commanders John Rodgers, SN, Charlotte, SEO Charles Wilsdorf, SN, Golden Isles and

Larry Jefferis, AP, Golden Isles were recognized as present. New members Chuck and Sandra Boynton, Mike and Susan Heath and Bob Quinn were welcomed. Our guest speaker, CWO Tyrone Tillett was welcomed as well.

Admin Officer Richard Jones, AP led the Pledge of Allegiance and P/C Larry Jefferis, AP gave the Invocation. Cdr. Vicky Jefferis handed out name tags and Membership Certificates to the new members, named above, and everyone took the Power Squadron Pledge.

P/C Larry Jefferis, AP won the 50/50 drawing and promptly gave the money back to the squadron.

XO Lisa Noetzel, JN said that she may call members for help with Safe Boating Week.

Richard Jones, AP reported on boating activities.

Secretary Joe Scirica, S said there was a quorum, Vicky moved to accept the minutes, Larry seconded and the minutes were approved.

Teresa Wilsdorf, S gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that we had \$6,303.64 in the bank and that in March we took in \$1087 and paid out \$1329.68. She mentioned that National USPS has changed the membership structure and there are 2 types of membership, Active and Active with Family.

P/C Charles Wilsdorf, SN, Education Officer, talked about the web site he recently found that sells

a variety of articles for very low prices. He's ordered from it, so the company has our logo and can embroider it on a large assortment of clothing. He said that our membership went from 57 to 68. We're making good progress toward our VSC goal and 20 VSCs were reported, including 2 more tonight. Two members took the Weather class in Augusta. Seven students are signed up for Seamanship. A Piloting class will be held in June and he is looking at a Weather and Engine Maintenance class

Cdr Vicky Jefferis said that she met with the attorney Ed Vinhaterio and the process to incorporate GISPS as a nonprofit organization is moving along. Our by-laws need to be updated and the Rules Committee will get going on that. For the Fernandina cruise, call Jack if you are going to be driving down. At this time the next meeting was scheduled 4/28 here at Denney's. (This has been changed to the Denny's at exit 29.) Savannah River will be hosting the D/26 Spring Cruise and Rendezvous on May 11-13.

Dinner was served at 6:55 pm.

Our speaker CWO Tyrone Tillett gave his presentation on his job functions as submarine escort for Mayport.

Pat Rogers mentioned that a co-op charting cruise is planned the 4th week in May, but when reminded that that would be Memorial Day weekend, she will need to try a different week. She reminded all to always look for chart corrections. P/C Larry Jefferis, AP said to also look for correct items on charts, they can be reported as well.

The squadron Newsletter and web site were recognized by receiving the Distinctive Communicator Award. Vicky got the certificate for our 3rd place education award at the District Spring Conference and will scan it so it can be put onto our website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Squadron Education Officer
Charles Wilsdorf, SN



We are rocking right along with squadron education this year with our latest completions of Engine Maintenance, Weather, and Seamanship.

D/Lt/C Larry Jefferis, AP, EM Class Chairman reports that Margaret Butler, N has successfully completed Engine Maintenance. Great job Margaret!!! Keep it up!! Margaret will be earning SN with completion of just a couple more classes. I have a list of names who are interested in an EM class, so I think a class is in the not so distance future. Please contact Larry or myself if you are interested.

Our Augusta group; Arthur "Bucky" Harris, P and Veronica Maguire, S; under the masterful instruction of our Weather Class instructor, P/C Audie Holmes, SN; has successfully completed the USPS Weather Course. Great job guys on completing, in my opinion, the hardest elective course the squadron offers!!!

Our squadron has also completed another Seamanship class with D/Lt/C Larry Jefferis, AP; Cdr Vicky Jefferis, AP, and myself as instructors. I am proud to announce all seven students passed with flying colors: Chuck Boynton, S; Sandra Boynton, S; Emil Hoffman, S; Jennifer Hoffman, S; Linda Nelson, S; Bob Quinn, S; and John Fellows. Good job guys!!!

We plan to have a Piloting class in June when our instructors have finished their annual cruises. I encourage all who haven't had Piloting to consider the class. The class will help you get the most out of your GPS as well as give you a backup using traditional piloting skills.

Speaking of cruising, we presently have GISPS members cruising in the Bahamas. George Bloodworth, AP and his wife, Freida, and John and Carolyn Vann. As I write this article, 1st Lt/C Jack Sterrett, SN and his friend Greg Phillips are leaving Brunswick to rendezvous with the others. Have fun guys!!

As your Membership Chairman, I would like to announce this has been a banner year so far with a 16% increase of membership. Remember, all GISPS members are on the Membership Committee. So, I request you all to first reach out to our present members and encourage them to renew and join our fun as well as spreading the word in your boating circles to encourage new members.

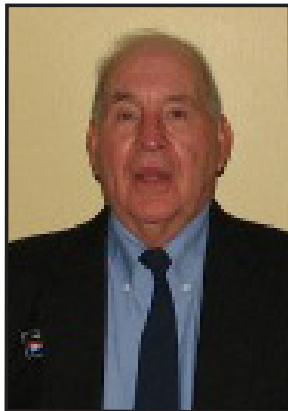
Fellow members, this ends my report. Hope to see you all at the June Membership meeting if not before.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 – Linda Nelson
13 – Lynne Barron
15 – Audie Holmes
18 – Stuart Stratton



AO Report
Richard Jones, AP



Thank all of you for your great attendance at our March meeting.

We had a guest speaker CWO Tillett from the US Coast Guard who gave a great presentation on operations around submarine and other military vessels, followed by a very informative Q and A session.

We were hoping to have the April 28 meeting at the same location but due to scheduling conflicts that was not possible. So we will be moving the April 28 meeting to a new location at Denny's located in the Flying J Truck Stop located just west of I95 at exit 29.

This location has a small drawback, no alcohol beverages, but to take that sting away our Past Commander Larry Jefferis has agreed to be our guest speaker for the meeting. He will be giving us a presentation on Organizational Familiarization.

Anyone who has been involved in any boating activities please let me know so I can include it in the Squadron boating activities report.

With your help we will increase our on the water activities this year. By doing this we will accomplish the two most important reasons for being a member of the GISPS, learning and having fun.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Serving our members (you) is my job.
Please email me at rjones8@tds.net

XO Report
Lisa Noetzel, JN



Hi GISPS boaters!

May 19 - 25, 2012 is National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). The dates may seem arbitrary to the general public, but for people who are involved with boating, the NSBW is always the week before Memorial Day weekend. That should make it pretty easy to remember!

More importantly, we as a boating organization have an opportunity to educate the general public and to make ourselves known. The on-going theme of the North American Safe Boating Campaign is WEAR IT! -- a reference and emphasis on wearing life jackets. GISPS will have a tent outside the West Marine and certified members will be conducting vessel safety checks during that week.

All of that said, I will need volunteers for those days. Please contact me at 912-264-2881 to help us spread the message!

The Last Horizon

A Tribute to Thomas Cox



This is a tribute to Captain Thomas C. Cox (Tommy) who crossed over his Last Horizon last month. More veteran members of the Golden Isles Squadron will remember Tommy Cox. He was a very kind and generous man who helped get the squadron started as both a provisional and then an associate member. He served as our chaplain while remaining an active member of the Savannah River Squadron in Augusta. His wife, Sandy, was a charter member of GISPS, and Tommy was with her all the way.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Tommy Cox will remember him as quiet, confident, religious, kind, efficient and never subject to outward stress or anger. He represented what is known in literature as a “true Southern Gentleman.” He will be missed by all who knew him including the author of this tribute who was born and will always be a New Yorker from Long Island who did not understand the phrase “true Southern gentleman” until I became acquainted with Tommy. I admire the traits Tommy always displayed.

We must all cross over our own Last Horizon someday just like Tommy Cox did. If we have lived our lives just as Tommy did, then I am sure we shall meet Tommy again. His quiet engaging smile and his extended friendly hand will be there to guide us into his eternal world over the last Horizon. Tommy, we shall miss you!