



the porthole



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Dear GISPS Members, It has been approximately a month and half since our last Porthole publication, but a little event known as the D26 Spring Conference occurred at the end of February and early March. Yes, Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron hosted a D26 conference for the second time in 5 years and, by all accounts, it was a

complete success! As the commander, I had the easiest job, greeting people and announcing the next events. However, as I continually repeated to everyone and anyone who would listen to me, a commander is only as good as the team that supports him or her, and numerous people supported and sustained that event. First and foremost, the Jefferis,

who organized the conference and made sure that everyone and everything followed a precise job and order; the Wilsdorfs, who organized registrations and conference fees, set up displays, and greeted attendees; the Boyntons, who made beautiful decorations and organized the square dance; the Hinderys and the Roeders, who

organized and ran a very successful silent auction; the Butlers, who stocked and manned the hospitality bar; the Sterrets and the Vanns, who organized the car pool and trolley tour of St. Simons Island; the Joneses, who assembled 85 conference bags; Joe Scirica, who photographed everyone and every event; Rebecca

Yeomans, Coy Hodges, Cathy and Joe Stortz, Bill Bartlett, Jim Grimshaw, Cecilia Mameli, and Pat and John Rodgers, who helped set-up/tear down different venues, decorated, and provided other general support to the conference attendees. The above descriptions scratch the surface of the activities performed by the aforementioned people (and if I have accidentally forgotten to mention anyone, the mistake is mine)! Everyone gave generously of their time, and I truly appreciate each and every person who helped with the conference.

The D26 Conference also saw GISPS bring home several awards. We won 2 Distinctive Communicator Awards for the Porthole (thank you Joey!) and the GISPS website (thank you Larry!), the 2014 Vessel Safety Check Award (with an average of 24 VSCs per VSE!), the USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit (our 12th one!), and the Prince Henry, the Navigator, prize in education (thank you Charles and ed. instructors!). In all, I was very proud to see GISPS take home as many prizes as some of our larger members. I have always said that although we are one of the smallest groups in D26, we know how to hold our own. So thank you all for making GISPS one of the top squadrons in 2014!

While it was a pleasure and a joy to be recognized by our peers, the close of the D26 Conference saw the scattering of our founder's ashes, P/C Audie Holmes. Although this was a sad and somber time for GISPS and Audie's family, in particular for his wife, Paulette Harris, we are grateful for Audie's contributions to our squadron, and we are honored to have been a part of his life. Our next GISPS meeting is Saturday, March 28th at the Copper Pig at 1800. Please save the date! I hope to see you all there.

Cdr. Lisa M. Noetzel, JN



February

01 Richard Jones
25 Tim Lahrs
26 Scott Bloodworth

March

08 Lynda Sterrett
18 Sam Tannahill
19 Joey Herzberg
22 Rob Woodman
27 Skip Roeder

Treasurer's Report
Teresa Wilsdorf, S



As of February 28, 2015 GISPS had \$5,970.62 in the bank. Keep in mind all money has not been charged or deposited into the account from the D26 Conference. I will be able to give everyone an exact number at our meeting this month.

Speaking of the D26 Conference, not only was it a great success, everyone had a great time. Of course, how can you not have fun being around GISPS members! I personally received numerous compliments of how well everything went. I do believe a good time was had by all. A special "Thank You" goes to everyone that participated and helped make it so successful.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting this month. Maybe we can plan something special in the coming months to celebrate having such a successful conference.

Teresa

Happy boating!
Teresa Wilsdorf, S

GOLDEN ISLES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 2014/15 BRIDGE

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Happy March and Daylight Savings Times!



It is the season to dust off the PFDs and GPSs, hats and sunscreen. 2015 seems to be on a fast pace. We are working to expand USPS exposure to the public. In the process, we are designing new signage and fun displays. If you know of an event that would be a suitable venue to help reach our goals please contact me or other officers. And if you would like to volunteer to 'wo/man a booth', it should be fun.

This month, March 28, Skip Roeder, Tim Lahrs and I will be setting up an exhibit with education materials at the McIntosh Rod and Gun Club Oyster Roast. Their group has facilities in Darien at the Blue 'n Hall Marina off Hwy 99 north of Darien and an emailing list of several hundred members. President of the club Davis Poole gave us a warm welcome (and free oysters) to set up an exhibit targeting improved boater education and safety. Boating safety and education overlaps with their organization's goals. It should be a fun afternoon and give us a great opportunity to get the USPS message out and perhaps get started on additional cooperative endeavors.

Salutes to Larry and Vicky Jeffris and their team of volunteers who pulled off a highly praised district meeting at Jekyll.

See you at our March meeting. Bring a friend!

Rebecca Yeomans, JN

D26 Conference Pictures



Squadron Education Officer
Charles Wilsdorf, SN



I am sure it has already been highlighted several times now in this publication, but, I must say it is truly amazing what we can accomplish as a team working hard together with the direction from excellent leadership. Gang, our squadron hosting of the recent District 26 Conference was highly successful and I hope everyone got the same very positive feedback from attendees as I did. Again, great job gang.

Speaking of a great job, our squadron was awarded the "Prince Henry the Navigator Award" at the D26 Awards dinner Saturday night. This award is earned by the D/26 squadron which demonstrated the greatest improvement during the past year in the Advanced Grades (AP, JN, and N) versus the potential for improvement at the beginning of the year. We all owe our AP, JN, N instructor, Lt Coy Hodges, SN and his hard working students: Jim Grimshaw, JN-IN; D/Lt/C Larry Jefferis, JN; P/C Vicky Jefferis, JN; Mike Moyer, JN; Lt/C Rebecca Yeomans, JN; James Bridges, AP; Tom Eason, AP; Skip Roeder, AP; and John Vann, AP a big hand for their achievement. With a large N class underway and hopefully a full Advance Piloting class later this year, "Ole Hank the Heavy" might just stay with us for a while. We also owe recognition to our squadron's Piloting instructor, Lt Jack Sterrett, SN and our Seamanship instructor, D/L/C Larry Jefferis, JN for their hard work and dedication in preparing member students for the above Advanced grades.



Now, it is time to keep this team focused because we still have many "Irons in the Fire" just around the corner which it will take us all pitching in to make successful. From a squadron education perspective, we have a Navigation class starting 3/5; an Instructor Recertification on Saturday, March 21; and an America's Boating Course on March 28. We hope to follow-up with a Seamanship class in April/May and a Piloting class in June. And yes, let's not forget the Saturday,



June 13 CPR/First Aid Class.

Please help us get the word out about our ABC class. Remember, the ABC class is what generates students for the other classes and most important new members. I will send out signage this week so you might print and put in all the conspicuous places you think where it will get noticed.

On the membership front, I am sad to report we have had 6% net drop in squadron membership over the last year. Remember, we are all on the membership committee. I encourage you to help promote ABC

class where most new members are generated and make yourself familiar with all the membership benefits. Check out the new USPS Membership Benefits Guide at: http://www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/USPS%20Member%20Benefits%20Guide.htm

We really had what I call a “Seaman’s Day” for the spreading of the ashes at sea for Audie Holmes. The date and time were set and the weather cooperated at the last minute with the rain subsiding and the wind lying down. There was a Prayer and Hymn Service at the Golden Isles Morningstar Marina “Vista Terrace” attended by Audie’s family and friends. After the service, a group of twenty-eight in two boats went out past the line of demarcation to launch the model Viking sailing ship built by Kurt Glass, a GISPS member, with Audie’s ashes. After a brief sail, the vessel submerged to spread Audie into the sea which he truly loved. Audie will be missed, but never forgotten, especially for all he did for our squadron.

Hope to see you all at our March 28 membership meeting.

Charles, SN-ACN

Audie Holmes: Memorial

Many thanks go to the Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron for your major assistance in making Audie Holmes’ (GISPS founding commander) cremations out to sea work well. The weather on Saturday, February 28th was horrible; Sunday, March 1, 2015 was a little better. Yet, the program went forward. We’ll never forget how much prep time P/C Charles Wilsdorf put into this endeavor. Audie loved the GISPS. Again, many thanks!

Sincerely, Paulette Harris-Holmes

Savannah Splash!



USPS District 26

Cruise & Rendezvous 5-7 June 2015

Hosted in Savannah by
Tybee Light Sail & Power Squadron



Your Savannah Home!

- Savannah Hilton DeSoto
- Savannah Bend Marina

On-the-Water Fun!

- ICW Cruise—Long Bay to Thunderbolt via Charleston & Hilton Head (starts Wednesday)
- Savannah River Cruise—Mile marker 104 to Thunderbolt (Friday)
- Cruise to Wassaw Beach & picnic (Saturday)
- Guided Kayaking & picnic (Saturday & Sunday)

Landlubber Delights!

Friday Evening

- Hearse-Driven Ghost Tour

Saturday

- Guided walking tours of
 - AM: Savannah's Squares
 - PM: River Street
- Hop-on, hop-off guided trolley tour of historic Savannah

Savor Savannah!

Friday

- Hospitality Suite
- Complimentary Hors d'Oeuvres
- Dinner at the restaurant of your choice

Saturday

- Breakfast on your own
- Box lunches for boaters
- Hospitality Suite
- Banquet Dinner & Entertainment (Dress: "Splashy" Casual)

Sunday

- Complimentary Farewell Breakfast at the historic Pirates' House

Sweet Souvenirs & Silent Auction

Enjoy your complimentary goodie bag and be sure to check out the treasures that await you at our silent auction!

Administration Officer
Sharon Hindery, P



The February meeting was replaced by our Hosting the District 26 Spring conference at Jekyll island. There were several very informative meetings concerning attracting new members and membership involvement. Many if not most of the Dist 26 squadrons are experiencing the same challenges that we are in our Squadron, but there were a lot of ideas tossed around, some that might work for us... Stay tuned.

Our next meeting on Saturday March 28th at 1800 will be at Copper Pig (704 Mall blvd.) in Brunswick. We will NOT have a speaker, but after we finish with the necessary business, we can settle back, socialize, and enjoy the success of our recent Conference- for which we had many complements. I will have some surprises.

I would like folks to look at their calendars for Mother's day Weekend, May 9th and 10th. You may have heard that Brunswick is revitalizing their Blessing of the Fleet event to a 2 day festival with food and entertainment. We have reserved the Virtual trainer again and will be stationed in the "Education tent". We have the potential of getting some needed exposure, including press. We will promote the upcoming safe boating week and any events that we may involved with that as well as the ABC class on May 17 I will have more information at the meeting for anyone who wishes to help out.

Silent Auction:

With the help my co-chair, Mary Roeder and our members, friends and local businesses, who donated fun and unique items, we were able to pull off a pretty successful silent auction. We had fun in putting it together and, I hope those in attendance enjoyed our efforts. We made over \$1800 and sold pretty much everything... Thank you everyone who helped out, and who bought items that I hope they enjoy.

Sharon Hindery, P