

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## Golden Isles



The   

For Boaters, By Boaters™

A monthly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

### Upcoming Events

#### March

- 10 - Intro to Navigation Seminar 6-8pm
- 14 - Peaches to Beaches Yard Sale 8am-5pm
- 17 - Club dinner at 6pm at embers Restaurant (ExCom meeting @ 5pm)
- 20-22 - Savannah Boat Show
- 21 - Club Cruise on Turtle River with lunch at Blythe Island Park

#### April

- 4 - ABC Class at UGA Marine Extension 8:30AM-4:30PM
- 11 - Club Cruise #2: Fishing Trip
- 17 - Dinner at Half Shell @5PM and "Maiden" movie @7PM

See full calendar on page 10.

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### Commander's Message



Cdr Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON

I would like to welcome our newest members to our club, Kenneth and Carla McCully, who just completed our February's America's Boating Course with flying colors.

Congratulations to Sharon Hindery, AP and Cathy Stortz, AP who once again will be awarded "Distinctive Communicator Awards" for their efforts as our *Webmaster and Porthole* editor in 2019. Sharon and Cathy, thank you both for your time and work.

You will not see any of my *Porthole* contributions without a mention of membership and this one is no exception. It takes the membership committee, which includes all club members, working together to promote our club to retain members and seek new potential members. What can you do as a committee member? You can encourage your friends and fellow boaters to join in our club activities. I encourage you to volunteer to help our bridge team by helping to post flyers and distribute literature to promote our club at marinas, marine retailers, health clubs, and other prominent areas. We could also use your skills in advertising, marketing and promoting our club. Please let any bridge officer know you are willing to help. I also encourage you to spend a tiny bit of time reviewing club member benefits for

yourself as well as using them to promote our club. Just hit this link:

[America's Boating Club Members Benefits](#) .

Keeping the Firmware (software) updated in your chartplotter as well as keeping your charts updated is a "necessary evil". **You do update your charts, don't you?** It has been the chartplotters' manufactures practice for years to introduce new models of product with half-baked firmware, and then start issuing software updates to fix the bugs. They must be kin to Microsoft. Luckily, the manufactures generally make updating pretty easy by downloading the changes to your computer and then copying the update to a SD card which then can be inserted into your unit to complete the update. Some manufactures add new features with a firmware or chart update but generally their marketing department introduces new models with more bells and whistles. Your old chartplotter, even though still working, eventually becomes obsolete with ending factory support and the inability to update its charts. This is planned obsolescence at its best. Of course, we all want the latest TVs, cell phones, computers, etc., but for me, by the time I learn how to operate these devices, it is time to buy a new one and the cycle starts over again.

It's that time of year to service our boats and make sure we have all needed safety equipment on board. For those of you who keep your boat in storage make sure you check your battery condition particularly if it has not been on a float charger. I also recommend that you have your boat inspected by one of our Vessel Examiners, Mike Moyer, Ed Reynolds, or myself. Looking forward to seeing you all at our next club dinner.

Chas

## Welcome Aboard to our New Members!

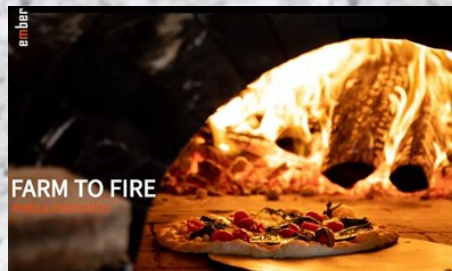
### Carla & Ken McCully

Congratulations to Carla and Ken for successfully completing the America's Boating Course boating skills refresher last month! They jumped right into boating after retiring last Spring when they relocated to Brunswick. The McCully's chose the Southeast Coast and Brunswick after careers which took them literally across the U.S. – Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, DC, etc. Ken was with Department of Homeland Security and Carla a Director of Catering for various resorts. Like many of us, too busy during those working years to satisfy their desire for a cruiser, they began looking for a boat soon after moving here. They are now happy new owners of a 25' Stingray Inboard/Outboard docked at Jekyll Island Harbor Marina. We look forward to breaking that boat in on some fun excursions this year! Welcome aboard!

### Cynthia & Jerry Lamb

Cynthia and Jerry have been in the area for about three years, hailing from Connecticut where Jerry sailed in New England. Cynthia began to love boating after seeing the marshes and creeks in the Golden Isles so much that they put "a very large number" of hours on their 19-foot boat in the first year ... and so decided they needed a bigger boat to go more places. Now they own a 23' dual console NauticStar that resides at Hampton River Marina. The Lambs use local charts to track their progress exploring – marking in red the locations they have visited. The big question is normally: "where to go next?!" We hope they'll help us chart the course on some of our coming cruises! Welcome aboard!

### March Club Dinner Information



March's dinner will be a social for sharing our boating stories, and updates on club activities and education. Ember has become a favorite of members, but if you have a suggestion for other places, let Terry Osman know!

**When:** Tues, March 17  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Ember Restaurant  
**Address:** 70 Retreat Village (near Winn Dixie)  
St Simons Island, GA 31522  
912-434-9384  
[Ember2f.com](http://Ember2f.com)

**REMEMBER to BRING A FRIEND!**

## FIRST CRUISE ALMOST HERE!



**Executive Officer  
Ed Reynolds, S**

Hello again fellow America's Boating Club members!

As a reminder, our first cruise of the season is fast approaching. We will convene at the Blythe Island Dock at 11:00am and journey up the Turtle River. After exploring that waterway up to Oak Grove Island, we will return to Blythe Island Boat Dock for a picnic lunch. Our itinerary is as follows:

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 21, 11:00am

**WHERE:** Blythe Island Boat Dock

**ROUTE:** Turtle River and return

**WHAT TO BRING:** Lunch, drinks, sunscreen, bug spray

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Reply to Ed Reynolds by text (423-341-2531) or email (ejreynolds3@icloud.com) by Tuesday, March 17. We especially encourage our newer members to join us. We have plenty of room on our boats, so you don't need to necessarily

bring yours. Boat captains will soon be receiving course waypoints to be installed on your chartplotter. Participants will be notified of which boat to board by Thursday, March 19. For those leaving from Morningstar, we will leave the dock at 10:00am.

Looking ahead, I still need a fisherman to assist me in planning our fishing trip. Cruise scheduled for April 4. You don't need to be an expert! This is just for fun!

On a related subject, I strongly encourage all members to consider attending our basic boating class on April 11. Even if you have taken it before, it's a great opportunity to refresh your memory on essential boating skills.

See you on the water!

Ed Reynolds



Picture from 2019 cruise with Sydney Lanier Bridge in background.



## Secretary's Report



Secretary Sharon  
Hindery, AP

### Peaches to Beaches...

Coming up very soon, this **Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>!!! 8AM to 4PM** Yikes! Calling all members to scrounge through the **Things** you have floating around your house/ boat/ garage/ yard, that might no longer be adding joy to your life. **YOU** can donate such **Things** to help support America's Boating Club Golden Isles Education Department. In 2018, our efforts earned over \$200 in this endeavor. This year's goal is to beat that amount...but to do this we need **Things** to sell- useful **Things**, fun **Things**, especially boating **Things**. I encourage you to drop these **Things** off at our house by Friday afternoon, or give me a call to arrange for a pickup! Thank you in advance to those who have signed up to help convince other folks to buy our **Things**, and to give community exposure to our club.

Sharon Hindery

630-323-1206

142 Belle Point Parkway

Brunswick, GA 31525

### Brunswick Citywide Cleanup

Our scheduled Litter Pickup on Feb 25 was cancelled due to Rain- but we are offering an alternative way to show our spirit by sailing in to help in Brunswick's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual City wide cleanup on April 18 at 9AM. Lets chart our course to help our neighbors and make new friends by joining in this morning of service. Picnic follows. More details and signup at this months meeting...

Again, ExCom meeting minutes are available by email request- thank you.



Picture from our 2018 Peaches to Beaches event. Vicky Jefferis, center, and Rick Hindery work our table.



Some of the **Things** we sold during the 2018 Peaches to Beaches event.

## Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moye, SN

### Education Report

March 10 will be the date for the seminar titled “Introduction to Navigation.” It will be held at the University of Georgia Marine Extension Building on Bay Street in Brunswick. The hours for the class are 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. It will be interesting and informative but most of all it will whet your appetite for more information. At least we’re hoping that’s what will occur. The topic of navigation is so broad and so deep that we can only scratch the surface with the seminar. While imparting new information, it will also remind you of all the things you need to know and perhaps even the many things that you may have forgotten. There’s a plan for that too—future seminars and classes.

Sometimes classes don’t happen when they’re most convenient. Sometimes you just have to get down a book and start digging for information. Sometimes reading, however, just doesn’t paint the picture you need for a topic. In those cases, we recommend video—specifically America’s Boating Channel. Go to [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) and across the top you’ll see a button to push to take you to all the videos. There are too many there for us to list them all, so we just encourage you to explore. These videos were sponsored by the United States Power Squadron—America’s Boating Club in partnership with the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund which is administered by the United States Coast Guard.

You’ve heard it said that “there’s an app for everything”. I believe it. If you don’t find an app that guides you through a process or provides the information you need, there’s always YouTube. Between the two, and hundreds of thousands of web sites, boaters can find more information than they even want. Apps come and go on my phone. I’ll play with them for a while and if they don’t seem to be of use, I’ll just delete and go on to something else. That’s pretty easy to do if you pick up a free app. If you pay for it, you tend to keep it much longer—even if you don’t use it. One that I paid for last year and that I use a lot is Aqua Map. It’s a great little chart plotter that I can use on my phone and pad. Some of the free apps that I use are “Anchor Pro” which is an anchor alarm that will tell you when your boat is dragging anchor outside of it’s normal swing pattern (there are some others such as “Anchor Alarm with Late Set” and “Anchor Time” that are also good). If you’ve ever been frustrated at not being able to tie the knot that you wanted, I’d recommend “Animated Knots by Grog”. You have to pay for it but it’s excellent. A freebie that I have on my phone is “Knots: Animated Steps.” It’s a little more basic than Grog, but still very good. I pull it out often when tying knots (but I try not to let anyone see me). I took our Navigation course which was centered on celestial navigation. That triggered a number “is that a planet or a star?” conversations and my solution (since I couldn’t remember) is the “Night Sky” app, which is free. There are many more apps like it to choose from—some even have music to put you in the mood for viewing the Gemini Twins.

Free apps can be a little frustrating to get the hang of and “Boat Master” is no exception. But if you can master it, you’ll have a good feel for docking maneuvers for a big boat. And, when you back into that half million-dollar yacht (on your phone) you won’t feel nearly as bad.

Remember, whether you get it in a classroom, a video, on the world wide web, or an app on your phone—an educated boater is a better, safer boater.

Mike Moye, SN

**The ABC Class flyer is on page 12. Check it out. Print it out and give it to someone who might be interested in the class.**

## Administrative Officer Report



AO Terry Osman, P

The Golden Isles seems to be a place where a relatively large part of our population is boaters. Many are enthusiasts, boat owners and non-owners alike. Some are prior “bigtime” boaters who carry deep experience and are still at it, or now in a lesser way but continue sharing their knowledge with others (our Commander Wilsdorf for example). Recreational, commercial, fishing or paddle-powered - one way or another boating is a big part of our lifestyle.

Equally so should on-the-water safety be part of our lifestyle. I write this with our boating courses in mind - and firmly believe, that whoever you are, a boating refresher course should be taken regularly to bring the principles consciously to mind and prevent ourselves from “lulling” into an easy casual boating habit in which we jump into a boat and “just go out for a little spin”. I’ve been there ... and know I need the courses to stay on my game.

**Just because you have taken  
a course does not mean you  
don't need it.**

I’ve been boating for 30 years, and just last year, a friend visited me on the dock with flip-flops on, tripped over a line and fell off the finger pier right into alligator territory. Thankfully, she is a good-natured sort. She swam around to a ladder and climbed back on the dock no worse for the wear, except our adrenaline went on alert for a few moments. I used to tell people “do not come near my boat with flip-flops on”, but I had stopped saying that! Now I will remember that I MEAN IT – no flip-flops!

I used to think it was funny when we heard about “no texting and boating” – how could anyone be that oblivious as to try to text and drive a boat at the same time? Until two weeks ago: I saw a jet-skier slow and stop in order to sit with his face in his phone for at least 5 minutes in the middle of a busy waterway. He wasn't even aware my vessel was approaching. Or a speed boat skipping over waves with one hand on the phone and eyes (supposedly) on both phone and water ahead ... whoa!

When I led an all-female PHRF sailboat racing team over a ten-year period, I was fortunate: only once did someone get hit on the head by the boom, and we had normal scrapes and dings (and all our relationships stayed intact!). I’m very sure that record is because of the safety disciplines I employed.

One incident in 30 years is my flagship “safety” experience: We were in 50 knots of wind on tethers and jack lines in 25+ foot (and steep) seas on a beam reach in which holding on did NOT work ... so the crew lost contact with the boat with every wave. We had sense enough to rotate strapping in down below till we reached Ft Lauderdale. Many of the troughs were populated by shark fins on the surface which did not help us with our composure! (Composure is a most critical safety element ....) We learned the essence of having the right crew and team character, and navigating with wind, waves, a weather low, daylight and destination options all in mind. And that boat itself was entirely ready to face those conditions - the cabin was safely stowed, staysail easily deployed, and safety equipment within arm’s reach.

Another big-boat racing incident occurred in a race for which race management was criticized (before the race) for not calling the race off due to weather. The expected weather did in fact arrive, and sent a microburst directly on top of this

Continued on next page.

## AO Report Continued

45' racing yacht with a very powerful (huge!) spinnaker now whipping the boat back and forth and down into the bay. Out of the 12-person crew, everyone was hurt in some way in the knockdown. One crew member's foot was caught in a line, he went overboard head first, but managed to get dragged back up and thankfully regained breathing. His injuries required that he abandon his sports therapy career and the boat owner paid dearly. In the end, this Captain learned that the decisions concerning his vessel are HIS, not the race committees. And I have learned to be very careful who I accept boating invitations from.

### What Can We Do?

Each of us, if we are fortunate, has enough close scrapes with danger to formulate our own well-considered perspective on the balance between safety and fun, and recognize that our guests are putting their lives in our hands. You CAN lose that perspective if it is not reinforced! Keep your acute awareness intact by experiencing an America's Boating Club class every now and then. The classes delivered through our Club are developed by our America's Boating Club national organization and are highly regarded across the nation.

- Get involved in our outreach by first taking part in the offerings yourself.
- Let **Mike Moye** know if there is a topic you want to see offered.
- Stay aware of offerings by watching the calendar.
- Talk to your friends about the importance of educated boating.

Happy safe spring boating! And looking forward to seeing you at our **several events** in March!!!

## UPCOMING COURSES

**3/10** Intro to **NAVIGATION** short seminar  
**4/4** America's Boating Course (class flyer  
is on page 12)

## Dinner and a Movie, Anyone?

### "MAIDEN"

Friday, April 17, 2020

5:00 PM Dinner, Half Shell 504 Beachview Drive SSI

7:00 PM Movie, Casino Theatre SSI

Skipper Tracy Edwards led the first all-female team in the racing yacht *MAIDEN* in the 33,000 mile around-the-world Whitbread race in 1989. It is an inspiring and thrilling story of treacherous conditions and succeeding through insurmountable odds at sea and in competition. The documentary tells of a breakthrough by sailors who did something that had never been done before, and the reactions of others and the sailing world to what was believed to be too much for women to handle. Actual race footage is included!

Our America's Boating Club Golden Isles is co-sponsoring this event with the St Simons Literary Guild. No movie tickets required but a donation is requested.

To attend, please RSVP to Terry Osman 414-510-9338, [t.osman@att.net](mailto:t.osman@att.net).



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## Vessel Safety Check (VSC)

As we are readying our boats for another great boating season in 2020, don't forget about your free VSC. Our two boats were inspected last month and now proudly display their 2020 VSC decals (see photo on right). Maybe you bought a new boat (or a well used one that is new to you) that needs a safety inspection. If so, then it is time to have one of our club's certified vessel examiners conduct a safety check on your boat. Contact Charles Wilsdorf, Ed Reynolds or Mike Moye for your 2020 safety check.

You do not need to be a club member to get a vessel safety check. Refer a friend who needs a safety check on their boat, the inspection is free.





America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2019 Bridge Contact Information			
Commander	Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON	912-265-9550	<a href="mailto:chaswi30@gmail.com">chaswi30@gmail.com</a>
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Treasurer	Teresa Wilsdorf, S	912-265-9550	<a href="mailto:tmwilsdorf@aol.com">tmwilsdorf@aol.com</a>
Member at Large	Bob Butler, SN	276-229-9099	<a href="mailto:mbutler12323@gmail.com">mbutler12323@gmail.com</a>
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**Happy Birthday to Club Members in  
March!**

**Terry Osman  
&  
Lynda Sterrett**



## America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar March - August 2020

### March

- 10 - Introduction to Navigation Seminar
- 14 - Peaches to Beaches Yard Sale at Mary Ross Park 8am-5pm
- 17 - Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm) ember Restaurant
- 20-22 - Savannah Boat Show
- 21 - Club Cruise on Turtle River with lunch at Blythe Island Park



### April

- 4 - ABC Class at UGA Marine Extension in Brunswick 8:30am - 4:30pm
- 7 - Articles due for April *Porthole*
- 11 - Club Cruise #2; Fishing Trip
- 14 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- 17 - Dinner at Half Shell 5pm and movie "Maiden" at St. Simons Casino Theatre 7pm
- 18 - Brunswick's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual City wide cleanup starts at 9AM
- 21 - Liberty Park litter clean up 9:00am
- 21 - Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm)



### 2020 Club Cruise Dates

March 21  
 April 11  
 May 30  
 June 27  
 August 8  
 September 26

### May

- 1-3 - District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous in Myrtle Beach hosted by North Strand Sail and Power Squadron
- 5 - Articles due for May *Porthole*
- 12 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- 16-22 - National Safe Boating Week
- 19 - Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00 pm)
- 30 - Club Cruise #3

### June

- 2 - Articles due for June *Porthole*
- 9 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- 16 - Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm)
- 27 - Club Cruise #4

### July

- 7 - Liberty Park litter clean up 9:00am
- 7 - Articles due for July *Porthole*
- 14 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- 21 - Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm)

### August

- 4 - Articles due for August *Porthole*
- 8 - Club Cruise #5
- 11 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- 18 - Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm)



### CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Please submit an article, picture, or even a link to a boating video that you feel other club members may enjoy. All newsletter content is due to Cathy Stortz [cstortz777@yahoo.com](mailto:cstortz777@yahoo.com) by the first Tuesday of each month.



The Porthole is the official publication of America's Boating Club® Golden Isles sponsored by the United States Power Squadrons®. The National website is [www.americasboatingclub.org](http://www.americasboatingclub.org). Our Club website is [www.gisps.org](http://www.gisps.org). You may also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GISPS/>.

Our Club is part of the world's largest recreational boating organization with more than 30,000 members. We learn together, boat together, and help each other and other boaters on the water and on land.

Consider joining our Club to:

LEARN boating skills

ENGAGE with boating friends

CONNECT with the boating community

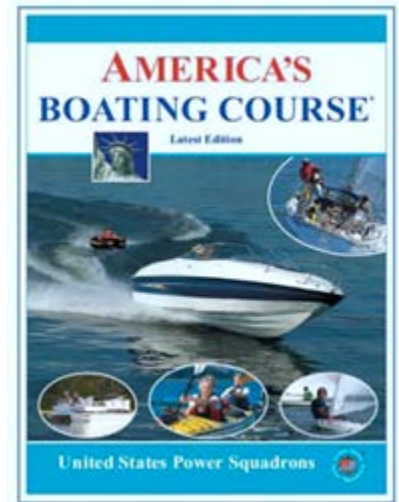
The only requirements for membership are a keen interest in boating-related activities and an eagerness to meet like-minded people whether power, or sail, or paddle boaters; however, **you don't need a boat to join**. Contact us through our website or Facebook page if you would like more information.

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

Golden Isles



- **Become a Skilled Boater**
- **Reduce Boat Insurance Rates**
- **If you were born after Jan 1998 you must have completed a Georgia DNR approved boating education course to legally operate a boat in GA**
- **All types of boating, local inland and coastal**



*Presented by the America's Boating Club Golden Isles*



**Saturday, April 4, 08:30 AM to 04:30 PM**

**Location:**

**UGA Marine Extension  
715 Bay Street  
Brunswick, GA**

**For info, call: 229 454-6791 or email: [mmoye@surfsouth.com](mailto:mmoye@surfsouth.com)**

**Online Registration: [www.gisps.org](http://www.gisps.org)**

**Registration Fee \$10.00, credited to optional suggested text \$40.00**

**Lunch Provided**



**United States Power Squadron®**

*For Boaters, by Boaters<sup>SM</sup>*



*Approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the United States Coast Guard*

