

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## Golden Isles



The   

For Boaters, By Boaters™

A monthly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

### Upcoming Events

Due to social distancing for Covid-19, all Club activities are currently on hold.

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### Commander's Message



Cdr Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON

First, let me say that I hope this issue of the *Porthole* finds you all well both physically and mentally in these trying times. Relatively speaking, we are so lucky to be living in this beautiful area, enjoying the outdoors while we keep our guard up. I am glad to hear many of you, while taking precautions, are able to get out on the water in your boats whether you are just cruising around, fishing, checking the Golden Ray progress, or just enjoying the fresh air.

Many thanks to our virtual cocktail organizer, Terry Osman. Sorry I spaced it, but did get in some of the action toward the end on how to do my nails. It was a big success and I hope Terry will organize another one soon. Promise, I will be on time and more prepared next time.

I would also like to recognize members, Jack Sterrett and Mary "Chri" Gray for their contributions, work, and time to helping George, of *Joybird*, to get his boat prepared for land moving to St Marys for hull repair. These two are the most giving people I think I have ever known. They are certainly friends you want to know, especially if you are in need.

After moving our boat from our neighborhood's boat storage area, my boating thus far

has been in my driveway. I think I am well over my restricted seven-day limit, but much has been accomplished. First, ridding the boat of all the little varmints; bugs, ants, lizards, frogs, and mold. Last time before moving to storage, I polished and waxed *Topwater* which made clean up pretty easy with just a good wash job. After that, it was servicing time: crankcase oil and filter change, lower unit gear oil change, new fuel/water separator, engine gas filter and pumping a little grease in all the fittings. Upon inspection, I found three of the five screws which retain the spark plug cover missing and nowhere to be found. Now, how could that happen? Most of these chores went pretty easy, especially after getting some tips from our resident member mechanic, Joe Stortz. This service being a little more organized than previous services and with the right tools, Teresa could not find any witness marks in our driveway. Now, with this weather, Teresa and I hope to do a little cruising ourselves.

Sure miss getting together with you and hope it will not be too long before we can gather together again to have a little fun.

Chas

It's called quarantine coffee. It's just like normal coffee but it has margarita in it and also no coffee.



## Administrative Officer Report

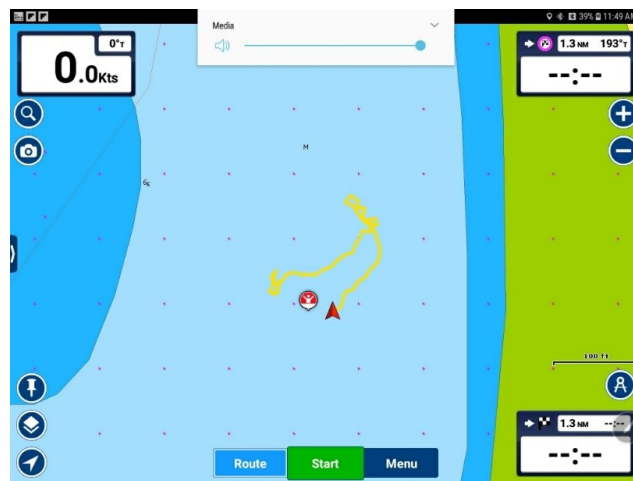


AO Terry Osman, P

Greetings from at anchor in the Cumberland River! I hope you all are enjoying your days, on or off the water. The heat is coming so we're even more conscious to get our outdoor adventures on the books. My only disappointment is that social mixing is still discouraged so we are still unable to gather as a Club, but this too shall pass, hopefully sooner as opposed to later.

I'm on *Willow*, my Shannon 28 cutter sailboat 'project boat'. I want to thank Charles and Jack Sterrett for their help procuring me a used GPS while my malfunctioning Garmin was inoperable. As luck would have it, *Willow's* Garmin got diagnosed, so we ended up using it in this river anchorage with opposing wind and severe tidal current anchorage! Thank goodness because tracking the anchor position throughout the night, we looked at a spaghetti mess picture in the morning!

Question : What were the tides experienced by *Willow* during the period displayed in the screenshot below?  
(top=north=upriver; bottom=south=downriver to ocean pass)



Answer:

1. Anchor down just before last of outgoing tidal current before low tide
2. Rode the full incoming tide
3. Rode the full outgoing tide

So, I hope to read about the on-the-water adventures you have been thinking about, or doing, and how you're faring during this time.

Thank you for being part of our great Club!!!

Terry

## HANG IN THERE!



Executive Officer  
Ed Reynolds, S

Hello again fellow boating lovers!

Cindy and I certainly miss seeing everyone! Our virtual Happy Hour last week was a lot of fun. We got to see and hear you all as well as your pets!

Hopefully, we are beginning to see some moderation in this pandemic. As a result, our Bridge has begun to discuss some possible future events. Currently we are planning to resume our cruises on Saturday, June 27. We will publish details in next month's Porthole. Until then, hang in there!

Stay safe,

Ed

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## Member Updates

Chri Gray

Well my life will not change with the easing of restrictions. Will still wear mask, social distance, no restaurants or gatherings. No politician GOP or Dem knows enough about infectious disease to manage this thing. Being retired and having a boat to work on lends itself to isolation. Suspect it is very hard for working folks and especially those with children and especially small businesses. I try to patronize local eateries that offer "to go". I will listen to the infectious disease experts. Dr. Fauci was revered as a giant during the early AIDS epidemic which was when I was in training.

Ken McCully

Jekyll Harbor Marina is back in biz after several weeks "distancing". We've had boat out couple times. Still in the learning curve called tide & wind.

Cathy & Joe Stortz

We recently took our catamaran out to "F" reef and caught tons of fish. The weather was perfect! We hope to venture out farther in the near future. Joe is still off from work and we continue to socially distance which includes many boating outings.

## Secretary's Report



Secretary Sharon  
Hindery, AP

The Hindery's hope that this issue finds everyone well and coping with the changes in our daily lives that this challenge has provided each of us, albeit some more than others.

As our social lives are on hold, we continue to spend time working on the house... a good thing that allows each of us to keep busy with projects that require attention. Rick has attacked the yard that has been ignored and abused for the 2 ½ years since the storm. I spend time finishing up the house's interior. Light is at the end of that tunnel. These daily activities give us direction and keep us from becoming couch potatoes for hours on end in front of the TV.

Outside of occasional trip to the grocery or hardware store, our only face to face contact with humanity has continued to be our weekly obligation with the International Seafarer's Center. The traffic at the port has dropped but continues. We are committed to be available to the crew of the ships that do arrive to help in any way possible in the current environment. Currently, crew are no longer being allowed off the ships by their shipping companies. So now we provide a list of our store items to "order" from and bring the items to the ship. This service is appreciated. Last week we were able to provide 4 guys with their requests for vitamins, snack foods, and an iPhone cable to make the next leg of their trip more comfortable.

This past Sunday we visited the *BBC Destiny* at Mayer's Point. Normally this location serves ships picking up paper rolls and paper fluff (for diapers and other paper products). This ship had just come from Germany to deliver one of the "lifting lugs" for the *Golden Ray* recovery (photo on right). A visit with the Security officer confirmed that they could not leave the ship. After a short visit welcoming them, we outlined what services we currently offered. All this under the constraints of masks and distance and language barriers. As we took our leave, we asked about the yellow flag flying at the top of the ship (photo below)...



Sharon Hindery



Sharon Hindery



Do You know what this means??

## Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moye, SN

In most of our general boating classes we talk at length about safety. During this lengthy “spring break” many of us are spending a little extra time inspecting our boats and getting ready for the annual Vessel Inspection Check. One of the most important items to check on during your spring commissioning activities is an inspection of your life jackets (PFD’s). Remember, they must be readily accessible and not still wrapped in plastic from wherever you bought it. Look the PFD over for tears, zippers that don’t work and broken buckles and straps. In industry we “tag out” equipment that’s out of service—do the same with unusable life jackets and get them into a dumpster—soon.

Test your life jacket—in the water if possible. Make sure it fits the person for whom it’s intended. For type I and type II PFD’s, check to see whether it will roll you over and keep your head (mouth and nose) out of the water. Now is a good time to check this ability rather than when you get a surprise bop on the head. A lot of folks love inflatables (I do!) but don’t jump into the water with this type! If you do, the automatic inflator will deploy, and it will cost you \$25 or so to re-arm it. Instead use the manual inflator tube to inflate it. Leave it in that state for 24 hours just to make sure it does its job. Also, don’t just assume the auto inflator is fine. Look at the arming device and make sure it’s green. I opened the life jacket storage area on my center console to find that I had accidentally deployed the inflator. My assumption is that the pull cord got snagged resulting in a deploy-

ment. It popped the Velcro as designed when the bladder inflated but when I spotted it the air had all escaped. It’s out of service right now and before I rearm, I’ll certainly exercise my lungs with a manual inflation test.

If your PFD’s fail your test and you must replace them, remember that the most important thing about a life jacket is that you wear it. Make sure it’s comfortable and fits properly—just like a favorite article of clothing. There are, of course, lots of other factors to consider such as boating activity, swimming ability and environment. Wearing it though is the most important factor. An overwhelming percentage of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents were not wearing their life jackets.

### CHOOSE THE DEVICE YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR

**SIZE & FIT**

- Check label for user weight and chest size.
- Different body types float differently.
- Try your device on in the water to ensure your airway is clear.
- A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

TRY IT ON

**PERFORMANCE**

- Lower level number generally offers greater mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation for most people.
- Higher level number generally offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water.

No Turn      Turns Most

CONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITY & ENVIRONMENT

**WATER SAFETY INFO**

- In over 80% of boating fatalities the person was not wearing flotation.
- Most of these are sudden falls overboard or capsize of a small boat.
- The first moments in the water are critical, even for experienced swimmers.
- Cold water shock causes involuntary gasping, loss of muscle control and swim failure.
- Long term immersion in cold water causes hypothermia and requires thermal protection and flotation in the HELP position to conserve energy.

FLotation DEVICES SAVE LIVES

**DESIGN TYPES**

- INHERENT** – built-in flotation (always buoyant).
- INFLATABLE** – activated gas canister inflates chamber(s) (no buoyancy until time of inflation, requires canister replacement, may be manual, may require secondary action to don).
- HYBRID** – combination of flotation and inflation (some immediate buoyancy and supplemental when inflated, may require canister replacement).
- SPECIAL PURPOSE** – your activity may require special features (safety color, harness, straps, etc.) and accessories (whistle, lights, reflectors, etc.) for certain conditions.

YOUR DEVICE ONLY WORKS WHEN WORN

**MAINTENANCE**

- Over time, exposure to sun, salt, fuel, and mildew can damage device.
- Allow to air dry. Inspect and test regularly.
- Inflatables require replacement rearming, repacking and regular servicing.

READ, SAVE AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNINGS**

- Children should have adult supervision when on or near the water.
- Devices must be fastened correctly and securely.
- Some devices were not designed for certain activities or conditions such as water skiing, towed sports, personal watercraft (PWC), or whitewater paddling.

CHECK LABEL FOR LIMITATIONS OF USE

**APPROVAL**

- Some devices are approved only when worn.
- Check federal, state/provincial and local requirements for carriage, use and wear.

☒ US Coast Guard

☒ Transport Canada

WEAR IT

For more info on the right choices for yourself, your family and friends...  
Visit [www.wearlifeflacket.org](http://www.wearlifeflacket.org)

When you’re looking for replacements you may see the new label (see accompanying picture). But, you may not. These are being phased into the supply chain and are still as scarce as Super Soft T.P. Not to worry though. The old labels are fine as long as they meet your appropriateness inspection. When you do spot a new label, you’ll most often probably see life jackets designated as level 70 devices. You’ve probably read much about the numbers already but if you don’t remember the details, you’ll be provided information on a “hang tag” to use as a reference guide.

Our next ABC class is October 17. More about that in upcoming months. Also, we project a Part II to our Introduction to Navigation Seminar. It’s a little difficult planning anything right now but keep those educational activities in mind and we hope to add more to the list when it’s appropriate.

Safe Boating,

Mike Moye, SN







## *JoyBird* and George Houg

A Mid-April tragedy struck at Brunswick Landing Marina for one salty sailor and his 107-year-old wooden yawl. During the wee hours of the morning George Houg woke to water filling the cockpit sole of his vessel *JoyBird*. George is a salty sailor who twice circumnavigated the Atlantic Ocean single handing his beloved boat to Ireland and Spain. He has owned *JoyBird* for close to 60 years and it is his home. George is a very young octogenarian and his life became upside down when *JoyBird* sprung a leak. Thanks to quick acting dock neighbors, *JoyBird* was taken to the nearby boatyard. Since then *JoyBird* has been transported to Rocky's boatyard in St. Marys for eventual repair. A GoFundMe effort supported that transfer. Funds are now needed to begin the assessment and the repair of this grand old lady to allow George to live on board and also to allow George and friends to work on repairing such that she sits in the water on her own bottom.

*JoyBird* was launched in 1913 in Scotland having been built by the Dickies Company, an old proud company still in existence today. She is a yawl that is 40 feet on deck and has yellow leaf pine planking. She is exquisite and rightfully belongs in a museum. The GoFundMe campaign is *Friends of JoyBird and George*. A link to this is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/friends-of-joy-bird-and-george>.

Chri Gray



Top left: *Joybird* at boatyard.



Top right: George Houg on *Joybird's* deck at boatyard.

Bottom right: Loading *Joybird* on trailer for transport to St Marys.

Bottom left: Several volunteers including Jack Sterrett, SN on right.



## Member Update

Jerry & Cynthia Lamb

We are doing fine so far with the COVID-19 restrictions. Getting plenty of time on the water after the marina reopened. Lots of alligators, dolphins and bald eagles like our local one. Actually flew to New Hampshire for family needs and stayed a week in quarantine with kids and grandchildren. It was cold and rainy, and we really appreciated all the good weather when we got back. Looking forward to when we can get together again. Hope that everyone is safe and doing well.



## National News

Join Us in Raleigh, NC!

We are bringing it home! The National Meetings Committee has put together a fun and exciting meeting for our members in our hometown, Raleigh North Carolina. The Fall Governing Board meeting will be held September 8-13, 2020 at the Raleigh Hilton North Hills hotel. Having this meeting in Raleigh enables us to cut expenses, offer tours of headquarters and a meet and greet with the staff. The meetings are designed to accomplish the work of the committees and to enhance the organization to keep ahead of the boating community needs. Everyone is welcome to join and those not interested in attending meetings or can break away from meetings, are welcome to join us on various tours and activities in the area. Other activities include kayaking, touring our headquarters building, visiting the NC History and Science Museums, sampling the wonderful IPA beers in the area and afternoon tea in the beautiful wooded property of the Carolina Inn. More details about the event can be found at [https://www.usps.org/php/reservations\\_new/meetings.php?mtg\\_id=39](https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=39). This meeting has been designed with Fun as the theme and learning and communication as the goal. We look forward to seeing you there! (Special gifts for First Time national meeting attendees will be given.)



**Boating Humor** - All cartoons reprinted with permission from America's Boating Club Atlanta Weekly Update "Dead Reckoning".



"My motto has always been--you can never have too much power."



"Ok everyone, Port side to..."



"Our boat is fine, and we're not stranded. We just don't want to go back to that crazy world."



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>
Executive Officer	Ed Reynolds, S	423-341-2531	<a href="mailto:Ejreynolds3@icloud.com">Ejreynolds3@icloud.com</a>
Administrative Officer	Terry Osman, P	414-510-9338	<a href="mailto:t.osman@att.net">t.osman@att.net</a>
Assistant AO	Rick Hindery, P	773-779-5653	<a href="mailto:rfhindery@comcast.com">rfhindery@comcast.com</a>
Club Education Officer	Mike Moye, SN	229-454-6791	<a href="mailto:mmoye@surfsouth.com">mmoye@surfsouth.com</a>
Secretary	Sharon Hindery, AP	630-323-1206	<a href="mailto:sharona53@comcast.net">sharona53@comcast.net</a>
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>
Member at Large	Vicky Jefferis, JN	912-264-1352	<a href="mailto:vickyjefferis@bellsouth.net">vickyjefferis@bellsouth.net</a>
Member at Large	Stephanie Krause-Jones	912-580-1725	<a href="mailto:krause.jones@gmail.com">krause.jones@gmail.com</a>
Porthole Editor	Cathy Stortz, AP	912-222-1038	<a href="mailto:cstortz777@yahoo.com">cstortz777@yahoo.com</a>



**Happy Birthday to Club Members in May!**

**James Bridges  
Joe Stortz  
Steve Druckenmiller  
Betty Whisnant  
Rick Hindery**

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

### May

- 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)



### 2020 Club Cruise Dates

June 27  
August 8  
September 26

### 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)

### September

- 1 - Articles due for September *Porthole*
- 8 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- 15 - **Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm)
- 8-13 - America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board meeting in Raleigh, NC
- 26 - Club Cruise #6

### October

- 6 - Articles due for October *Porthole*
- 13 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- 17 - ABC Class 8:30 - 4:30
- 20 - **Club dinner at 6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm) - Annual Meeting
- 30 through Nov 1 - D/26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch hosted by Dreher Shoals

### November

- 3 - Articles due for November *Porthole*
- 10 - Liberty Park litter clean up 9:00am
- 10 - *Porthole* distribution to club members
- TBD - Club Change of Watch

### December

- No *Porthole* this month
- TBD - Club Holiday Party

Due to social distancing for Covid-19, all Club activities are currently on hold.

meeting

club members  
**6:00pm** (ExCom meeting at 5:00pm)

Here are a few cartoons for some chuckles from <https://americanboating.org/cartoons.asp>



"When will you admit the boating season is over?"



"I got about 30 miles out before I realized I forgot you. Sorry about that."



Courtesy of [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org)  
 "My owner was spending more time with his boat than he was with me...so I bit him. I should feel guilty, but I don't."

## 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.