

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## Golden Isles



### The porthole

For Boaters, By Boaters™

A monthly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

#### Upcoming Events

##### August

- ♦ 18 - Online Club meeting at 6:00pm

##### September

- ♦ 15 - Online Club meeting at 6:00pm

##### October

- ♦ 17 - ABC Class 8:30 - 4:30
- ♦ 20 - Club meeting 6:00pm - Annual Meeting
- ♦ 30-31 - Online D/26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch

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#### Commander's Message



Cdr Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON

Sure hope this Porthole finds you all well and safe. This darn virus has really put a damper on our club activities. I encourage all of you to join the social zoom Terry Osman has been hosting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. I also hope all of you are able to get out on the water in your boats. Once out, that seems to be one of the safest places to be; of course, in good weather. I suggest you watch the short video about [social distancing](#) on America's Boating Channel. As you probably read in the June Porthole, the October 30, 31 District 26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch will be virtual (easy for everyone to attend), details to follow. The planned National USPS Governing Board Meeting was canceled.

A couple of weeks ago the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020 which includes provisions that would mandate the usage of engine cut-off

switches for operators of vessels under 26 feet. This bill is expected to pass the U.S. Senate. Using the engine cut-off switch is just good practice which we all should get in the habit of using. Do you use the engine cut-off switch?

The remainder of my contribution this month is an intro to the sailing story on my first coastal cruise as the captain, but first let me preface just a little. Growing up boating on rivers and lakes, I had the desire to travel to exotic places by water. Remember the tv program "Adventures in Paradise" (1959-1962)? Boy, did it get my juices flowing.



In 1996 I joined the USPS and started taking courses to prepare myself for cruising. By the end of 1997 I had completed the advance courses through Advanced Piloting and several elective courses including Weather which I had no previous knowledge or interest. In Nevada days were hot and windy or just hot.

During this time, I boated on Lake Mead both power and sail slipping at the Lake Mead Marina where I became friends with Jim and Sue Johnston, who owned a powerboater slipped across from us. He was getting close to retirement age and I suggested to him he might think about cruising to and in Mexico on a sailboat. I gave him a couple of books about the Sea of Cortez. He initially pegged me as crazy, but about 6 months later he called me out of the blue from San Diego where he had just pulled the trigger on a sailboat. It was a 40' 1970 Mariner

ketch, which would not have been what I would have picked, but Jim fell in love with this boat, *Mokolea*, and it was in perfect shape. It was also well equipped (for this period) for long range cruising and Jim was ready to retire and head to Mexico. His wife, Susan was not as enthusiastic, and eventually agreed to go with the condition that I join them as captain and teach them the ropes for the 800 mile plus trip to Cabo San Lucas.



*Sistership of the Mokolea*

I had recently made this generally downwind/favorable current cruise on a 65' sail training vessel, *Volcano* with the Orange Coast College to get some blue water experience. (As a side note, *Volcano's* mast became dislodged in heavy weather on this same trip a couple of years later eventually holing the bottom. The crew was

Article continues on page 2.

### Commander's Article Continues from Page 1

rescued, but *Volcano* settled in Davy Jones's locker). Now armed with my USPS courses, a coastal blue water cruise under my belt, and years of boating and sailing experience I felt fully prepared to take on the challenge of captaining their ketch to Cabo San Lucas from Ensenada, Mexico in late November 1998. So, what could possibly go wrong?? As Paul Harvey used to say, "stayed tuned for the rest of the story" in September's *Porthole* issue. Hint: Picture the overconfident experienced sailor leading the somewhat clueless.

Stay safe.

Chas



*Mokolea*

## Virtual Boaters' Rendezvous - August 18th at 6pm



*Let's raft up together online! No RSVP required. Enjoy the drink or meal of your choice!*

**"Dial in" to our Virtual Boaters' Rendezvous! It's EASY!**

**Online Club Social - Tues, August 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm**

Last month, we welcomed Peach Hubbard of the Georgia Dolphin Project, and enjoyed hearing insights about our fellow creatures, the Bottlenose. Since then, Peach has confirmed that there are a few teams on the water – including DNR – conducting "photo ID surveys" continuously in the Golden Isles region, particularly in reference to the Golden Ray presence. Included in what they are reporting are "survival and abundance" estimates. We are relieved to know our dolphins continue to be monitored on how they are faring locally.

For our August social, let's meet on ZOOM to check-in on each other's boating adventures and local water stories. We can also get an update on upcoming Club education events.

### **Online Club Social**

When: Tuesday, August 18th 6–7:15pm  
 Where: Anywhere you want  
 How: [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us) (see instructions)  
 Meeting ID: 2498324807 / Password: 414 510 9338  
 Host: Terry Osman, phone 414-510-9338

\*\*\* Please log in timely so we can begin at 6pm \*\*\*

### Instructions:

1. Go to [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us)
2. Click "Join a Meeting"
3. Enter Meeting ID 2498324807
4. Enter Password 4145109338
5. Wait for Zoom system to launch
6. You may be asked if you want to be on VIDEO? Yes/No
7. Find the mute button so you can turn on/off your microphone.

Different phones and computers have slightly different controls – sometimes touch the screen or move the mouse to make your controls appear. Need help, give the host a call!

## Let's do Some Mini Cruises!



Executive Officer  
Ed Reynolds, S

Hello fellow boating lovers!

As we all know, since our last newsletter the number of COVID 19 cases has continued to rise locally. However, it seems each of us has incorporated into our lifestyle the use of PPE and social distancing commensurate with the degree of risk that we feel comfortable with. Unfortunately, not all of us have adopted a similar risk level due to various factors such as age and underlying medical conditions of family members. This has resulted in a pause in our official club social/water activities. Despite this situation, I know many of us have continued to enjoy our boats so let's try a different approach for now.

The next time you plan on going out on your boat, let me encourage you to consider inviting other members to join you or accompany you on their own boat. This way we can continue to enjoy time with our club friends during this trying period. Let's call them mini cruises! We will send everyone a member contact list in a separate email.

I know we would all enjoy hearing about these mini cruises so please take some pics to share with others in our newsletter.

See you on the water!

Ed

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## Administrative Officer Report



AO Terry Osman, P

### COMMUNITY!

In previous years, our Club has meant this, and more, to me. As we plan for next year's local club COMMUNITY, I hope you are all deciding what part you can lend a hand with. Our larger community needs us. It's a gap only Americas Boating Club fills.

No one on the leadership team will twist arms, we're not that type J. But think about this: who is it in our area that makes boating safety *accessible and welcoming*? ... who actively *promotes* the need for knowledgeable, safe and fully fun-experienced boaters in our Golden Isles - - - while also making education *easily available*, and coordinates community cruises to GO OUT AND DO IT! Plus, if you want to get and stay in touch with boating friends, *this Club is it!*

Think about playing a part next year, large or small, and explore it with one of us. We need you.

Terry

## Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moye, SN

Folks continue to sign up for our ABC class and we're pleased to have that interest in the class we have planned. As always if you know folks who are interested please send them our way. The class is scheduled for October 17 at the University of Georgia Marine Extension Building.

Not much going on in the education department these days beyond discussions about alternative delivery methods for teaching our courses. Many organizations have turned to platforms such as Zoom and various Webinar software to conduct meetings and classes and those may well be our salvation for the near future. Another hot topic that a couple of us have been involved with is a review of the replacement for the old Piloting course. It's called Marine Navigation and is designed to be taught in five seminars which when combined with a final exam would complete the entire course. There may be interest in Golden Isles teaching it in a "beta" format. More on that as

the concept matures.

Since this is an Education Column, I personally think that it would be educational for me to talk just a bit about buying a boat—specifically when to buy a boat. One of the earliest boats my parents owned was built out of wood and it leaked. Most wooden boats do leak but as a kid I didn't know that. Apparently, my mother didn't either. This boat was assembled with cedar strips which I know now would have been fine if the boat lived in the water. Kept wet the wood would have swollen and the boat wouldn't have leaked. Our boat lived on a trailer though so on the occasions it returned to its natural environment, it leaked. My Uncle Lewis discovered the answer to leaking boats though. I remember well the day he drove up towing a red and white boat made of plastic. Not only was it plastic, it had wings like a '57 Chevy! Well, as they discussed this new development (there may have been some Schlitz involved), the plastic, my father discovered, was this newfangled stuff called fiberglass.

Well, the summer continued, and our boat kept leaking. We didn't dare leave the dock without a bailing bucket. My mother, I believe, is the one who finally said this has got to stop. She had discovered that this newfangled fiberglass stuff could be applied to wood and that it would keep the water out. Being just a kid, I never got a sense of how happy they were with the results of this project, but I do know that it was quite difficult and very messy. I didn't learn much from watching them except maybe a few new words and to stay far away from fiberglass. The boat continued to have a difficult life, but I won't go into that. I do want to share a quote from Warren Buffett though and this leads to the part of this story that's about when to buy a boat. Mr. Buffett said: "Should you find yourself in a chronically leaking boat, energy devoted to changing vessels is likely to be more productive than the energy devoted to patching leaks." Mr. Buffett must have been talking to my mother. Not long after the fiberglass project my father drove into our yard with a spanking new boat. No, not plastic, still wood, but it didn't leak.

Mike Moye, SN



## District 26 Fall Conference Seminars – October 31, 2020

The District Planning Committee and Bridge are working to identify seminars that will appeal to ALL members, not just Bridge officers. This will be a great opportunity to have access to seminar content that our club may not be able to offer.

Here's a tentative list of Seminars that will be available at the virtual conference on October 31, 2020:

- **Squadron Activities Reporting System (SARS)** - Moderated by Lt Al Lehman, AP - This teleconference will present the latest updates which will include on line access by various persons in the Squadron utilizing a variety of tools - MAC, PC, etc.
- **Instructor Recertification** - Moderated by P/C V Jan Wright, SN - Participation in this teleconference will allow those instructors whose certification has expired or is about to expire to be recertified.
- **Coop Charting** - Having made good progress in our Nautical and Geodetic performances, we'd like to provide more information on how to properly complete an inspection of bridges and the newly added category of marinas.
- **Boat Handling Highlights** - Moderated by Cdr Peter Dion, SN - USPS has a series of 6 on line modules dealing with boat handling. This teleconference will provide overviews of each module to make participants aware of the value for signing up to take these courses on line.
- **Partner in Command** (Name may change) - This session will introduce boating for crew members who need basic information and who may or may not have taken a boating course. It is designed to provide essential information one may require assisting a skipper in the safe operation of a recreational boat and includes actions to take in response to emergencies.

A registration form will soon be posted on the [D26 Website](#) to allow you to indicate the teleconference(s) intend to participate in...this will allow teleconference moderators to know the number of people participating and determine the appropriate tools to reach everyone interested.

Vicky Jefferis, JN

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## The Druckenmiller's New Boat

Steve and I began our journey to get our 2020 Beneteau Antares 27, in January 2020, at the Miami International Boat Show. We met broker, Mike Lecholop, from St. Barts Yachts (Charleston, SC) at the show representing several Beneteau models. We spoke to Mike for quite some time and made plans to visit Charleston after the show to pursue purchasing a boat from St Barts. After conversing back and forth, Steve and I went to Charleston on March 11<sup>th</sup> to test drive the Antares 27, after the drive we purchased the boat and left a 20 % down payment at St Barts.

Our excitement about the boat was short lived, the next day the news about Covid-19 took a turn and the stock market plummeted. For the next few days the news and market continued to drop and by the weekend we were anxious about making this purchase in such a turbulent and unpredictable time. The following Monday we sent an email to Mike expressing our concern and we immediately received a response that they understood our concern and would refund our deposit. Mike stated "we are all in this together" and hoped when this passed we would reconsider and call. I cannot emphasize enough how touched we were with this response.

On June 16, 2020, we called Mike and purchased (again) the 2020 Beneteau Antares 27 and we are so excited to now have it here in St Simons.

The staff at St Barts Yachts have been a pleasure to do business with, President Chuck Laughlin, Broker Mike Lecholop and all the service staff have been great and we would highly recommend visiting them if you are in the market for a Beneteau boat.

Kathy Druckenmiller



*Steve Druckenmiller stands next to their new Beneteau Antares 27.*

## America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar July - December 2020

### August

18 - **Online Club meeting at 6:00pm** (see login information on page 2)



### September

1 - Articles due for September *Porthole*

8 - *Porthole* distribution to club members

15 - **Online Club meeting at 6:00pm**

### 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** - Annual Meeting

30-31 - Online D/26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch



2020 Club Cruise Dates  
TBD

### November

3 - Articles due for November *Porthole*

10 - Liberty Park litter clean up 9:00am

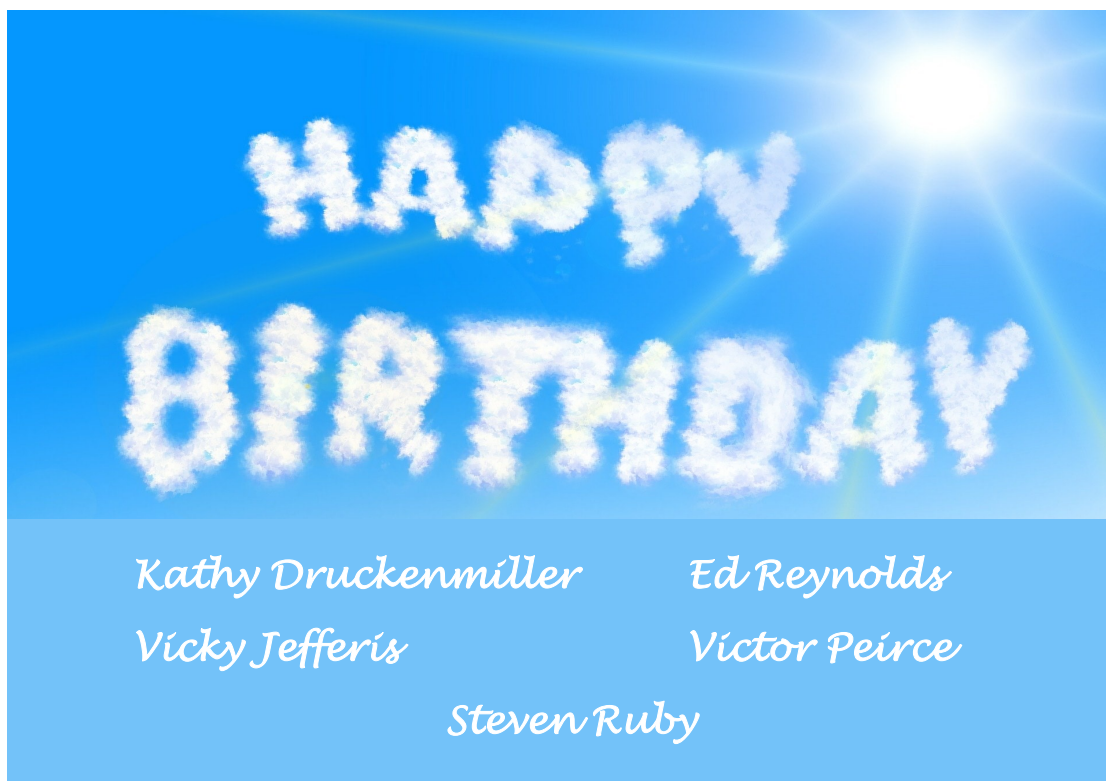
10 - *Porthole* distribution to club members

13 - Club Change of Watch

### December

No *Porthole* this month

TBD - Club Holiday Party





Pixabay

### 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.