

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

Golden Isles



The port hole

For Boaters, By Boaters™

A monthly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

Upcoming Events

March

- 9-ExCom Meeting at 5PM
- 12 & 13 - District 26 Conference (virtual)
- **16 - Club Social** in-person at Coastal Kitchen
- 20 - Club Cruise Blythe Island Area

April

- 6 - Content for *The Port-hole* due
- 10 - ABC Class at UGA
- 13 - ExCom Meeting 5PM
- 17 - Club Cruise to Mudcat Charlies
- **20 - Club Social**
- 21-25 District Cruise and Rendezvous

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Commander's Message



Cdr Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON

For the past several weeks, I have been attending some of the virtual meetings and seminars/workshops offered by America's Boating Club during the Annual Meeting. I sure wish I would have been able to attend the Virtual Meeting Workshop before presenting our recent Navigation Class because it contained many valuable tips to perfect a virtual presentation. There were many other meetings packed with info ranging from club management, club promotion, club education, Cooperative Charting, Vessel Safety Checks, and an overall update from our Chief Commander. These virtual meetings/workshops are now also available via a recording which I encourage you to check out. Follow link: [2021 National Meeting and Seminar Recordings](#).

I stand corrected relating to vhf marine radio checks that I mentioned in the last Porthole. The USCG, even though they do not allow radio checks on channel 16, they do advise using the boater calling commercial and non-commercial inter-vessel hailing channel 9 for radio checks.

The working channels 68, 69, 71, 72 and 78a may also be used.

Just as a reminder, not only is the use of Ethanol (E15) against federal law to use in a boat engine, but it also will severely damage your engine. Luckily, I have not found any gas stations in our area selling E15, but it always pays to double check what fuel you are putting into your boat's tank. I had to learn the hard way not to use E10 in several of my outboard engines.

Hopefully boater education will grow this year after 320,000 recreational boats were sold last year, up 19% from 2019. Please encourage new boaters to learn the proper operation of a boat preferably with our America's Boating Course Class, Saturday, April 10th.

With the advent of our wonderful weather we have had recently, I decided it was time to retrieve my old boat from our neighborhood's boat yard and bring it home for some Spring commissioning. Well, as luck would have it, after hitching the trailer to my car, I noticed I had a low tire. Under closer inspection, my left trailer tire was flat, flat, flat. Oh well, I have a spare. I grabbed my 4-way lug wrench to proceed on removing the lugs. Well, I couldn't budge any of the lug nuts loose; old muscles and corroded lugs. After airing up the tire with a borrowed air tank, the trailer was delivered to my favorite local tire store. This same establishment had recommended replacing both tires five years ago because of rot. So, better late than never, I had to purchased two new tires before I even got our boat to our driveway. Teresa, the admiral, was not overly pleased with this situation, but being the diplomat I am, I changed her mind after I told her that we also needed to replace a battery and in fact, she would have to make the battery exchange since I just don't fit under the console. When I said she changed her mind, it went from not overly pleased to just plain pissed. Now it's time for me to get her out on the water where I am sure all the anger will just melt away.

I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the upcoming District 26 Virtual Awards Presentation, Friday, March 12th and the workshops the next day. I anticipate seeing some of our members being in contention for a several of the awards, so be supportive and attend. You have already been emailed the registration form and schedule and it is also included in this *Porthole* on pages 13 and 14.

I encourage you all to participate in some or all of our club activities and benefits: boat outings/cruises, interesting speakers at our monthly zoom social (Yea, finally a face to face social for March), boating education, monthly *Porthole*, and just plain good fun together as friends and boaters. I also encourage you to support our club by giving a little time to make these activities and more happen; just let any officer know you would like to help. See you soon,

Chas

Club Socials - Third Tuesday of the Month



Wearin' of the Green! **St. Patrick's Day Club Social**

Dust off your shillelagh and mark your calendar for the third Tuesday of March - after a long hiatus we're going to meet in person again this month! To ensure everyone's safety and comfort we have chosen an outdoor venue that will allow us to socially distance while also providing shelter and heaters in case of rain or a chilly evening.

When: Tuesday, March 16th, 6:00 - 7:15pm

Where: Coastal Kitchen - outdoor porch
102 Marina Dr.
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

What to wear: Green - of course!

Questions? Call Terry 414-510-9338

Please note that we will not be returning to in-person meetings every month just yet. We have another great topic and speaker lined up for April, details to follow.

Highlights from our February Zoom Social

For our February Zoom get together, we were treated to a presentation by Stan Rogers, Superintendent of the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Gray's Reef is a 22 square mile preserve located 19 miles off shore from Sapelo, and one of only a handful of marine sanctuaries on the East Coast.

Stan opened by sharing amazing underwater photography of the live bottom Reef ecosystem and then detailed NOAA and partner activities on the Reef in three main categories - Resource Preservation, Scientific Research, Education and Advocacy. We learned about several Scientific Research projects that are ongoing in conjunction with university partners, including fish tagging and monitoring to determine migration patterns, sonic studies of the impact of ocean "noise" on fish patterns, and studying the effects of temperature change, pH and salinity on fish population, invertebrates and the live bottom reef itself.

Gray's Reef invites the public to become involved through presentations like this and also through their Advisory Council meetings, which are being held virtually and are posted on Facebook. An Open House is also held annually on a NOAA Research vessel in Savannah, an opportunity which hopefully will be reinstituted when possible as the pandemic eases.

For those who could not join us, you can check out the Gray's Reef website (www.graysreef.noaa.gov) or follow Gray's Reef on Facebook.

CRUISING TIME!



Executive Officer
Ed Reynolds, S

Hello again fellow America's Boating Club members!

As a reminder, our first cruise of the season will be on Saturday, March 20. We will convene in the vicinity of the Blythe Island boat dock at 11:30am 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 20, 11:30am

WHERE: Blythe Island Boat Dock

ROUTE: Turtle River and return

WHAT TO BRING: Lunch, drinks, face mask

BOAT RULES: Each Captain will establish face mask and social distancing expectations

HOW TO SIGN UP: Reply to Ed Reynolds by text (423-341-2531) or email (ejreynolds3@icloud.com) by Friday, March 12. Let me know how many will be attending and

if you will be providing a boat (and how many extra passengers you can carry). You will be notified which boat you will be on and when/where to board. All are welcome!

Our second cruise will be on Saturday, April 17. We will return to one of our favorite places - Mudcat Charlie's. We will journey up the intracoastal waterway to the restaurant for lunch. Our itinerary is as follows:

WHEN: Saturday, April 17, 11:30am

WHERE: Manhead Sound (Mackay and Frederica River intersection)

ROUTE: Frederica River to Mackay River to South Altamaha River

WHAT TO BRING: Lunch money, drinks, face mask

BOAT RULES: Each captain will establish face mask and social distancing expectations

HOW TO SIGN UP: Reply to Ed Reynolds by text (423-341-2531) or email (ejreynolds3@icloud.com) by Wednesday, April 14. Let me know how many will be attending and if you will be providing a boat (and how many extra passengers you can carry). You will be notified which boat you will be on and when/where to board. All are welcome!

Commander Charles and I will review the pandemic situation and the weather forecast on Friday prior to each event. If we determine that it is not safe to proceed, you will be notified.

Hope to see you on the water!

Ed Reynolds

INTERESTING PROGRAMS

Reminder! As always, keep your eyes open for speakers you'd like to hear from at our Club Dinners. There are lots of mariners and businesses with expertise in the Golden Isles to tap into. Make a suggestion! Make a referral!

Membership Highlights

New Life Member



Golden Isles
Sail & Power Squadron,
District 26



Paulette Proctor Harris, SN

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters®



Club Member Involvement

Let's turn the spotlight to what it means to be a club - doing stuff you love with people whose company you enjoy.

Basically: going boating!!! And in addition, our club has a mission of education and safety to boot.

Recently, two great club members stepped in to help our club recover from the 2020 COVID fog: **Eileen Berta** and **Cynthia Lamb** are now handling Club Programs and Promotion respectively. Our goal is to help resume club activities that are interesting and attractive so others will want to share our fun. Welcome and thank you Eileen and Cynthia, members of the new **Administrative Team**! The three of us intend to have bunches of fun and hope we're able to bring more boaters along with us!!!!

Terry Osman

Administrative Officer Report



AO Terry Osman, P

FIRST OF ALL - NEWS!!!! March will be our first trial run of an **outdoor, in-person** Club Social since COVID struck! I hope everyone who feels comfortable will join us. Let's wear green and ring in a superb 2021 St. Patty's day. I can't wait for March 16th.

I want to give a big kudos and thank you to instructor Commander Charles Wilsdorf this month. The new "**Open CPN Navigation**" class he taught is now complete – a great reminder of basic piloting principles, so very practical and hands-on! Charles and Mike Moye have been developing it for us to try out, and it paid off! What a great contribution this class is to the training seminar offerings.

This class fits perfectly as a partner to the "**Basic Piloting**" navigation class. Jack Sterrett, long-time club member, was also a GREAT instructor for the class that many in the club have already taken. The new Open CPN class of Charles and Mike's reinforced and went the next step to "automate" those basic navigation skills.

The focus of the new class is on the "Open CPN" software, used for planning and evaluating cruising routes on government charts. The User's Guide was especially clear and a lifesaver, unlike some user's guide we get nowadays. Every week in class (Zoom) we had new instruction and worked with the software in real time, with Charles and his charts on the screen. We got a hands-on assignment each session to complete a section in the User's Guide, planning practice routes using the software.

Here are a few of the things we learned:

- identify alternative routes and their pros and cons before departing,
- plot waypoints that avoid obstructions/shallows,
- estimate the time you'll need,
- plan stopovers and points of interest,
- time your trip with the tides,
- transfer your routes and waypoints to your onboard GPS.

After having these two courses, rather than occupy my brain while I am underway with concerns like "where do I want to go" and "where am I now" (all at one time), I can now manage much better, making decisions about both in the moment while I am operating my vessel.

What boater doesn't need this kind of preparation at home before taking off on a day cruise?! Or a long offshore cruise! My advice – don't leave the dock without it!

Thank you, Charles Wilsdorf, Mike Moye and Jack Sterrett!

Terry

Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moye, SN

Our next ABC class will be April 10 at the University of Georgia Marine Extension Building on Bay Street in Brunswick. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the February class because so few students signed up. Those that did register have agreed to attend in April. Please help us fill this class by spreading the word. Our class flyer is available on page 12 in this Porthole and please feel free to post it wherever you can.

Most everyone has participated in video conference calls, Zoom, etc. during the pandemic. It has been a great way to stay in touch with friends and to attend meetings and classes without leaving the comfort of your home or boat. Another computer accessible resource that might interest you as a boater is **America's Boating Channel** (www.americasboatingchannel.com). This website features videos concerning boating subjects about which we all occasionally need a reminder. Occasionally it is more than just a reminder but rather some fresh information about a boating subject that you've been wondering about. Don't pass it up. It was made for boaters, by boaters. No professional actors—just members of a local squadron demonstrating what to do and often what NOT to do on the water. The channel is a great resource, so, as Siri says when I talk to her on my phone—I **found this on the web--check it out!**

As you are roaming through the offerings on our America's Boating Club "channel," don't pass up **ABC Live**. It is a six-episode series that appears through the America's Boating Channel and also through Youtube.com. It's done in a news magazine format and will surprise you with the content and quality. It's also put together using local squadron talent with a variety of information that you will not be expecting. I saw information on making nautical crafts, dancing, book reviews, boating related films, and lots of other just regular boating information. I don't think it was nominated for a Golden Globe, but it was quite interesting. The best thing is that it was produced by America's Boating Club.

Stay safe. Boat safe.

Mike Moye, SN

Education Officer

A promotional graphic for the America's Boating Club mobile app. It features a dark blue background with a red banner in the top left corner that says "NEW". The text reads: "America's Boating Club FREE Mobile App For Your Phone or Tablet", "Your Single Information Source for a Great Day on the Water", and "Nautical Reference Information, Maintenance Records, Float Plans, Weather, Radar, Tides and Currents, and much, much more." Below this is a red button that says "DOWNLOAD NOW!". At the bottom, it lists "AmericasBoatingClub.org", "Apple Store", and "Google Play Store". On the right side, there is a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes icons for "My Location", "Emergency", "Location", "My Log", "References", and "Online".

Secretary Report



Sharon Hindery, AP

First of all, a big thank you to Cynthia & Jerry Lamb for coming out to do a bit of clean up with us on Saturday Feb 20. Between the four of us we picked up 12 bags of TRASH from the grounds and edges of the brush around Liberty Ship Park. Rick and I thoroughly enjoyed our 1½ hours of exercise and sharing the work with the Lambs on a bright and gorgeous morning... note the smiling faces in the photo as proof. I know there were a couple of folks who planned to have joined us, but circumstances prevented this on that particular Saturday. Fret not, there was NO trash talk about *ANYONE*- besides those who believe that tossing a beer bottle or 12 off the fishing pier into the brush is the "right thing to do". You can redeem yourselves by joining any one of the 26 different marsh madness events during the month of March. Please let me know if you do attend one of these, we will make sure that we note it in next month's newsletter.... Check out KGI.B.org or their Facebook page for the current list of events!

[https://www.facebook.com/KeepGoldenIslesBeautiful/photos/a.131504757370/10158217699762371/?_cft__\[0\]=AZVsM_UtFp_U4q7Z0Lo296GNidcd4xFdv26kFAZ_cNs0BL5lrikBAZ3OPjiUWgibDlatBKCovm_oDe0V3HBYINZxPbaIyLpz6Argyj6UEWqn-cNjietqS7ByG-s6ny_7lgIPBuiISuZ9M7WSnpicT5vR&__tn__=EH-R](https://www.facebook.com/KeepGoldenIslesBeautiful/photos/a.131504757370/10158217699762371/?_cft__[0]=AZVsM_UtFp_U4q7Z0Lo296GNidcd4xFdv26kFAZ_cNs0BL5lrikBAZ3OPjiUWgibDlatBKCovm_oDe0V3HBYINZxPbaIyLpz6Argyj6UEWqn-cNjietqS7ByG-s6ny_7lgIPBuiISuZ9M7WSnpicT5vR&__tn__=EH-R)

YIKES. Try copying and pasting this to get the list of events throughout the month of March... OR call me and I will let you know 😊. I hope to see you at one of these events!



Sharon Hindery

Liberty Ship Park Cleanup on February 20.

Pictured from left: Jerry Lamb, Cynthia Lamb, Rick Hindery and Sharon Hindery.

Additional Cruising News

The Lambs

When the weather warmed up the week of February 21, the Lambs were cruising. Jerry and Cynthia Lamb managed to cruise well over 100 miles that week, reacquainting themselves with the Hampton, Frederica, Mackay, Little Mud, and Darien Rivers. Dolphins were plentiful, bald eagles were beautiful, and the alligators were elusive.



Bald eagle sitting atop ICW marker at the Northern entrance to the Frederica River off the Mackay.



Dolphins in the Mackay River.

District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous April 21-25, 2021

Hosted by:

America's Boating Club of Beaufort
and
America's Boating Club Hilton Head

Tune in March 13, 2021, at 4:30PM D26 Spring Conference for
up-to-date information on this exciting event.

Bridge Contact Information and February Birthdays

America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2020-2021 Bridge Contact Information			
Commander	Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON	912-265-9550	chaswi30@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Ed Reynolds, S	423-341-2531	ejreynolds3@icloud.com
Administrative Officer	Terry Osman, P	414-510-9338	t.osman@att.net
Asst. Administrative Officer	Cynthia Lamb	860-908-5148	cynthia.l.lamb48@gmail.com
Asst. Administrative Officer	Eileen Berta	912 602-9500	eileenberta@gmail.com
Club Education Officer	Mike Moye, SN	229-454-6791	mmoye@surfsouth.com
Secretary	Sharon Hindery, AP	630-323-1206	sharona53@comcast.net
Treasurer	Teresa Wilsdorf, S	912-265-9550	tmwilsdorf@aol.com
Member at Large	Vicky Jefferis, JN	912-264-1352	vickyjefferis@bellsouth.net
Member at Large	David Jones	912 580-1041	david.earl.jones@gmail.com
Member at Large	Jerry Lamb	860 908-4678	lambo50@icloud.com
Porthole Editor	Cathy Stortz, AP	912-222-1038	cstortz777@yahoo.com



America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar Mar - June 2021

March

9 - ExCom Meeting at 5PM

12 & 13 - District 26 Conference (virtual)

16 - Club Social at Coastal Kitchen at 6PM

20 - Club Cruise Blythe Island Area



April

6 - Content for *The Porthole* due

10 - ABC Class at UGA

13 - *The Porthole* distribution

13 - ExCom Meeting at 5PM

17 - Club Cruise to Mudcat Charlie's

20 - Club Social

21-25 - District Cruise and Rendezvous



2021 Club Cruise Dates

March 20

April 17

May 22

June 19

May

4 - Content for *The Porthole* due

11 - *The Porthole* distribution

11 - ExCom Meeting at 5PM

18 - Club Social

22 - Club Cruise #3

June

1 - Content for *The Porthole* due

8 - *The Porthole* distribution

8 - ExCom Meeting at 5PM

15 - Club Social

19 - Club Cruise #4

ABC CLASS DATES

April 10

October 9



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 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. Our Club website is 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

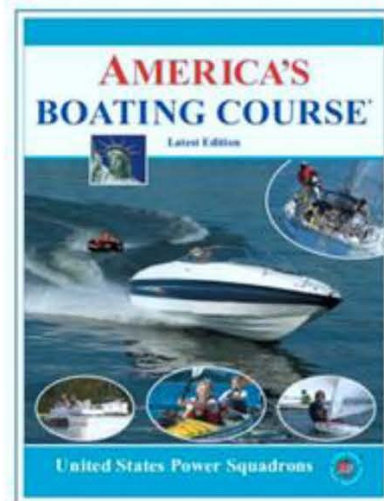
ENGAGE with boating friends

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

- *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 10, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Location:

UGA Marine Extension

715 Bay Street

Brunswick, GA

For info, call: 229 454-6791 or email: mmoye@surfsouth.com

Online Registration: www.gisps.org

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

Lunch Provided



United States Power Squadron®

For Boaters, by BoatersSM



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



March 12/13 Awards Celebration/Workshop/Seminar Overviews

Awards Celebration (Moderator - Cdr Jim Wilkins) - As was done at the D26 Fall Conference last October, we will recognize those individuals/Squadrons that earned various awards during 2020.

Squadron Activities Reporting System (SARS) Review (Moderator - Lt Al Lehman) - In the second seminar since SARS was moved to the web this workshop will review and demonstrate recent changes to the system. It will also cover how to use SARS effectively and the advantages for the squadron including Merit Mark and Commander's Report uses. There will be a question and answer period at the end of the workshop, time permitting.

Collaborative Teaching (Moderators - DEO Chuck Gresham/ADEO Dennis Cusanelli) - Do you want your squadron to offer more seminars and courses, but do not have enough instructors, or subject matter experts? Or do you have students that want a specific course, but your squadron has never taught that course? Help is on the way! Virtually 'attend' the Collaborative Teaching seminar to learn what Collaborative Teaching is, the general approach to establish a Collaborative Teaching event and learn how the Collaborative Reaching technique has been successfully used in District 26.

Using these ideas will help you solve the problems mentioned above.

Navigating USPS "Site Index" & "How do I?" (Moderators - R/C Carl Filios & P/D/C Denise Filios) - Are you lost when you visit the member web site? Come learn about the "Site Index" and "How Do I" to aid you in locating things. We will likely touch on "Information Center", but the main presentation on that will be at the Annual Meeting.

Community/Member Involvement (Moderators - Cdr Jim Wilkins & P/D/C Ron Osburn) - We will provide a variety of illustrations of how our individuals/Squadrons provide support to local communities.

Nominating Committee as Key to Success (Moderators - P/C Jim Hublou & others)

Marketing Squadron Educational Programs (Moderators - National Marketing Committee members - P/R/C Paul Mermelstein and P/R/C Jan Wright) – This 75-minute workshop will be of interest to education, community relations, marketing, and membership teams. Join us for 40 minutes of presentation and 35 minutes of discussion that can help D26 squadrons expand target markets, create effective messaging, and implement promotion strategies to increase educational sales and membership. As input to the workshop, registered participants will be invited to complete a brief pre-workshop survey.

Member Retention (Moderator Stf/C Cookie Stevens & others?)

D26 Cruise & Rendezvous (Moderators Cdr Doug Sherratt & Cdr Peter Dion)



2021 Virtual Awards Celebration & Educational Workshops March 12/13, 2021

Rank/Name/Grade	Street/City/State/Zip	Squadron	Email Address	Cell Phone #

Write first name of each participant on line: _____

Check applicable boxes for each person planning to participate in any of the below activities.

Friday, March 12, 2021

7:00 - 9:00 PM	Welcome - Cdr Jim Wilkins, AP Conference Overview Awards Celebration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Saturday, March 13, 2021

9:00 - 10:15 AM	Squadron Activities Reporting System (SARS) Followup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Collaborative Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10:30 - 11:45 AM	Navigating USPS "Site Index" & "How do I"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10:30 - 11:45 AM	Community/Member Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1:30 - 2:45 PM	Nominating Committee as Key to Success	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1:30 - 2:45 PM	Marketing Squadron Educational Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3:00 - 4:15 PM	Member Retention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4:30 - 5:45 PM	D26 Cruise & Rendezvous	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

To allow the Moderators/Presenters to anticipate the number of participants in their work-shop, it is requested that your registration be returned as quickly as possible but, certainly, no later than March 1.

Mail this registration form to:

Cdr Jim Wilkins
203 Ricelan Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681

The Registration Form can also simply be Emailed to Cdr Wilkins @ jrwretired@bellsouth.net.

Innovation, Education, Community