

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

Golden Isles



The porthole

For Boaters, By Boaters™

A monthly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

Upcoming Events

January

- 17 - Club social
- 19 - Liberty Ship Park Cleanup

February

- 4 - ABC Class
- 18-27 - ABC 2023 Annual Meeting in Orlando
- 21 - Club social

March

- 17-19 D26 Spring Conference
- 25 - Cruise & picnic at Blythe Island
- 31 - Club Change of Watch & Dinner

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Commander's Message



Cdr Jerry Lamb, S

Keep A Sharp Lookout Fore and Aft

One of our safety mantras is to be constantly vigilant for other boats. A friend of mine was sailing into Block Island off the Rhode Island coast. Block Island is a favorite destination for coastal cruisers and the approaches are always crowded. True to form, he had a bow lookout, his teenage son, at the forestay since the skipper couldn't see under the headsail. Son calls out, "Dad, do you see the sailboat?" Dad- "The red one?" Son- "No, the blue one!" Helm alee and disaster averted because of a good lookout.

We need to keep a good lookout for the Club also. In November, I looked back at the year that was. It bears summarizing here. Our collegiality was enhanced by great socials (thanks, Eileen) and cruises (thanks, Cynthia). The people providing the education (thanks, Mike, Charles, Vicky, Ed, Teresa, and Cynthia) have a camaraderie that is obvious to the students and makes the classes better. We did three ABC classes and a boat handling course. Even slogging through the muck and mire around Liberty Ship Park, led by Rick and Sharon, somehow seems enjoyable as a group. Another civic project sponsored the FOAR From Home crew.

Looking forward, a full slate of socials, cruises and classes are planned for 2023. See the Porthole for specific dates and times. Also, several special events of interest to Club members are on the horizon. First is our own **Change of Watch (COW)** on March 31. It will likely be held at the Sanctuary Cove River House in Waverly. Details to be provided later but SAVE THE DATE. Sharon Hindery and Charles Wilsdorf are the nominating committee. Please contact them if you are willing to serve, especially new members. Besides the Bridge officers, we need a newsletter editor; you just need to edit and put together the inputs that the Bridge submits. Cynthia will help get you started.

District 26 Conference

Next up is the **D26 Conference & Change of Watch** on March 17-19, 2023 at the Marriott Greenville Hotel in Greenville, SC. The agenda was modified after several commanders, including yours truly, suggested that the meeting topics needed to focus on members as well as Bridge members. As a result, several topics of general interest have been added, including a **talk by Cynthia** and another woman called **You, Too, Can Be More than Crew** to inspire more women in boating. Also, Cynthia has been nominated to be the next District 26 Secretary.

If you need another reason to attend, I read recently (<https://www.southernliving.com/travel/greenville-restaurants>) that Greenville, SC is an amazing "foodie town." In addition, hosts Golden Corner Lakes and Lake Hartwell have a great variety of outside activities planned and D26 agreed to cover 20% of meal costs for members who register by early-bird deadline. There are also early bird special room rates at the Marriott Greenville Hotel. Registration forms will be emailed to all members in January.

Check This Out:

Attention all members of the United States Power Squadrons! We invite you to join us for our annual meeting in sunny Orlando, Florida from February 19-26, 2023. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with other members, learn from industry experts, and participate in exciting activities. The theme of this year's meeting is "Navigating the Future Together," and we have a full schedule of events planned that will help you stay up to date on the latest developments in the boating community. Don't miss out on this chance to be a part of the action - we hope to see you in Orlando!

Continues on next page.

Commander's Message Continued

Sounds like a normal blurb, right? But it was written entirely by a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) program called **ChatGPT***. All I did was tell it that I wanted a paragraph about the Power Squadron's upcoming annual meeting. It went to the web, gathered the information, including the theme of the meeting, and wrote the paragraph. I just had to try this new thing out. Pretty amazing stuff!

That said, the annual meeting will have special relevance to the Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron this year. I can't say much more than that because the final meeting agenda isn't out yet, but I'm planning on being in Orlando on Thursday, February 23. I'll keep you all informed as the event gets closer.

Happy New Year!

Jerry

[*https://chat.openai.com/](https://chat.openai.com/)

Meet Two of our New Members: Bruce and Kay Miles

When other people say you're living the dream, it usually means they're jealous. Well, I'm saying it: new club members Bruce and Kay Miles are living the dream. They spend their summers on Madeline Island in Lake Superior where they live on their boat, a Tiara 40 Express called Pearl. They spend their winters here on Saint Simons Island. It was Bruce's dream to live on a boat all year, but not so for Kay. They bought a house and moved here in October of 2020. As a compromise, they spend a lot of time on the Miz Kay, their 20-foot Pro Line that they keep at the Hampton River Marina.

Bruce grew up in Michigan, Kay is originally from Illinois. Bruce grew up boating with his family in the area where the St. Croix meets the Mississippi River. Bruce and Kay met in St. Cloud, Minnesota at St. Cloud University. They both worked as teachers, school administrators, and college professors. Bruce left academia to become an entrepreneur and is the owner & CEO of the Big River Group, LLC. He is a national-level presenter and trainer in the areas of strategic planning and organizational improvement. When Kay retired as a K-12 principal, the couple moved operations to the Pearl and started "living the dream."



Knowing very little about the Midwest and absolutely nothing about what it's like to live on a boat on Lake Superior, I decided to check the place out.

According to the Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce, Madeline Island is the largest island of the Apostle Islands, located in Lake Superior in Wisconsin. "When you're on Madeline Island, forget the clock – you're on island time! Stroll the sandy beaches and relax to the rhythm of waves rolling in. Watch and feel the breezes blowing through the towering pines. Immerse yourself in history." With a population of 302, La Pointe, the only town on Madeline Island, has small town charm. The population increases to over 1500 with the arrival of summer residents. Madeline Island is 14 miles long and 3 miles wide. Hmm, sounds a little like Saint Simons Island.



Continues on next page.

Meet our New Members Continued



Bruce and Kay may be retired, but they definitely don't sit still. Bruce is still consulting and Kay is the president of the Island Newcomers Club. The couple is also becoming active in the club. They have joined us for a couple cruises and attend our socials when they are not up north. Kay was a great help with our CoastFest booth planning (which has been rescheduled to April 22, 2023) and Bruce has already agreed to help teach part of our next ABC Class.

They're excited to be part of our club and look forward to many on-water adventures with us. Welcome, Bruce and Kay!

Submitted by: Cynthia Lamb

P.S. I checked out the live feed from the Miles' yacht club's camera. The image below shows you what it looks like right now. Beautiful but BRR!! (Image source: MIYC.net)

The December (Christmas) Social



We had our December social and rousing Yankee Swap at the River House at Sanctuary Cove. Pictures above provided by Jerry and Cynthia Lamb.

More pictures from the party on page 5

Some New Year's Resolutions



XO Cynthia Lamb, S

This squadron was formed in 2005 with 35 original (founding) members; three of which are still on the roster. The club has basically maintained its size with 40 current members. While not a big club, I feel that we are an extremely active, effective, and fun group. Last year we held three ABC Classes and a Boat Handling Class, taught by club members. Many clubs do not even hold one class a year. We held eleven in-person socials and four cruises. We have three trained and certified Vessel Safety Examiners (VSEs), who provided numerous courtesy examinations of boats (vessels) last year to verify the presence and condition of required safety equipment. We also perform litter pickup at Liberty Ship Park on a quarterly basis as part of the Keep Golden Isles Beautiful program.

We had a great 2022. But this is a new year, and hopefully a new start for our little (but mighty) club. We need your help though to move the club forward. So this is what I'm asking for in 2023 in terms of things we can resolve to do to make the club stronger and more resilient. Some of these are easy, some not so much. Here's my list:

1. Support our Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program by:
 - a. Easy: Having one of our examiners perform a VSC on your boat every year. Our VSEs must perform at least 5 VSCs per year to maintain certification.
 - b. Easy: Encouraging other boat owners that you know to have a VSC performed.
 - c. Harder: Becoming a certified Vessel Safety Examiner (VSE). This is one of the most valuable services the organization provides. The more boats we can inspect, the safer we make things for everyone out on the water.
2. Increase your engagement with the club by:
 - a. Easy: Attending the socials that are thoughtfully planned and executed by our Admin Officer, Eileen Berta.
 - b. Easy: RSVP'ing and/or giving Eileen some feedback even when you can't attend. She puts a lot of thought and effort into these events. It's disheartening to hear nothing back from members when she asks for RSVPs.
 - c. Easy: Bringing a friend to one of our socials or cruises.
 - d. Harder: Coming up with ideas for socials and cruises. We could really use your ideas for some interesting and fun activities – either on the water or on land. Just let Eileen know if you have any suggestions.
 - e. Harder: Helping to organize cruises. We currently do not have a cruise director and need help with planning the cruises.
3. Support our education program by:
 - a. Easy: Taking a class with us.
 - b. Easy: Recruiting students for our classes.
 - c. Harder: Volunteering to teach a section (each section is about 20 minutes long) of the ABC Class. It takes a team of people to teach the ABC Class and we really need some bench strength for when our regular instructors are unavailable.
 - d. Harder: Becoming a certified instructor through the US Power Squadron University.
4. Improve our communication efforts (internal and external) by:
 - a. Easy: Providing content like articles, photos, links to interesting videos, etc. for inclusion in one of our monthly newsletters
 - b. Harder: Helping with the editing and production of the monthly newsletter. I am serving as the interim editor right now and could really use some help coordinating everything.
 - c. Harder: Writing an article for the Brunswick News or for social media to promote what we are trying to do.
 - d. Harder: Giving a talk to a local organization like Rotary or Newcomers about our club.
5. Support our various service initiatives by:
 - a. Easy: Coming to one of our quarterly litter pickups at Liberty Ship Park in Brunswick. Our efforts are managed and coordinated by Rick and Sharon Hindery. They provide everything you need, things like gloves, pickers, fashionable safety vests, and garbage bags. It's a shame that sometimes they are the only ones that show up.
 - b. Easy: Learning about the US Power Squadron's Cooperative Charting Program so you can help keep our waterways safe. We are putting together an informative briefing packet about the program and how you can participate.
 - c. Harder: Participating in a cooperative charting event. This is still TBD. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Well, that's it for now. I know it's a lot to take in, but there's a lot we need to do to fulfill our mission and stay a viable and healthy organization. It takes people – people willing to get involved. Thank you all for being part of this great club and can't wait to see you all in the new year.

Cynthia Lamb, S
Executive Officer

Administrative Officer's Report - January



AO Eileen Berta

Happy Boating New Year!

The Club marked the end of the 2022 boating year with a fun Christmas Party and spirited gift exchange at the Sanctuary Cove River House. I'll be working on that Million Dollar puzzle soon, will keep you posted on my winnings! Thanks to all who attended and brought the yummy appetizers, sides and desserts to accompany the amazing honey baked ham provided by the Club, and thanks to Teresa Wildsorf for delivering it! Everyone pitching in for the speedy cleanup that night was also greatly appreciated!

Our social schedule for 2023 is starting to come together. Your input is always wanted and needed, but here's what we have planned so far -

On **January 17**, we hope to welcome Clay George, Senior Wildlife Biologist with DNR, to tell us about the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale and discuss the pending NOAA regulations with respect to marine navigation here in their calving grounds. January is Clay's

busiest time of year to be offshore doing whale research field work, so we are hoping the marine forecast will allow him to join us that night. Location to be announced.

In **February**, we'll once again entertain a topic relevant to Black History Month. Stephanie Chewning, Coastal Education Coordinator with One Hundred Miles, will join us to present on Sapelo Island history. If schedules permit, we have invited Sapelo descendant and OHM Justice Strategist, Josiah (Jazz) Watts, to join Stephanie that night.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Our gala Change of Watch will be held on **March 31** this year! We will be soliciting bids from several locations and caterers, but right now a return to the River House is a clear favorite!

For the wine and nature lovers among us, we will be scheduling another Wine Cruise with Georgia Tidewater Outfitters as the weather warms. And another fishing trip, this time out of the Little Satilla/Raccoon Spit area, is also a possibility. One of our local breweries is always a fun outing. Stay tuned as plans come together!

More Pictures from the December (Christmas) Social



Photos from Eileen Berta, Sharon Hindery and Cathy Stortz

Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moye, SN

Folks are beginning to sign up for the February 4 ABC class. Please help us by spreading the word. Individuals can sign up on our website www.gisps.org.

There is a newly created app for our national organization: America's Boating Club. It's an easy download for your phone or pad. We'll do a full report on the contents next month. Most of the contents comes from our ABC and Boat Handling courses. Best of all, the app is free and doesn't try to sell you anything—well not much anyway.

How safe are you on the water? Do you remember all those rules and requirements we studied in our courses? Well, take the following test and see if that hard earned knowledge stuck with you (control/click on the link below):

[United States Power Squadrons' National Safe Boating Test \(usps.org\)](http://usps.org)

We try to occasionally report on some changes we've observed in our boating world but it's absolutely impossible to talk about them all. We do try to hit on some of the more basic improvements and technology changes that make our boating experiences safer. In the past couple of years, we've reported on what to look for in PFD labels to make sure you have the most appropriate life saving device for your passengers. We've talked a bit about electronic emergency signal devices that are taking the place of pyrotechnic signaling devices (flares) traditionally used. We've introduced new information about fire extinguishers and the new labels they carry, but we've never talked about anything beyond type A (wood, paper, etc.) type B (flammable liquids such as gasoline and oil) and type C (energized electrical equipment).

There are a couple of other classes that we typically don't talk about, nor do we worry much about those kinds of fires. Type K is for cooking oils and greases like animal and vegetable fats. Type D is the one that I see some folks talking and writing about these days and that's for combustible metals—mainly lithium. Type D also covers some other flammable metals such as sodium, titanium, magnesium, and potassium. The flammable metal that we boaters are most concerned with today is certainly lithium—think portable power tools and their chargers, smart phones and their chargers, laptop computers and their built in chargers and even my hearing aids and their charger (if you see smoke coming from my head check and see whether it is from up top or from around my ears—it could just be my hearing aids rather than my brain being overloaded!). Be careful with all of those devices, but the elephant in the room is the battery bank consisting of lithium-ion batteries. They can and do cause problems such as fires and explosions. But at the same time, they can be quite safe if handled and managed properly. Just think about all those electric vehicles that have used lithium-ion batteries for many, many years. In fact, the lithium battery was invented more than 50 years ago—we've learned a lot about managing their use and keeping them safe—but still, if something goes wrong it can be really bad.

Type B and C fire extinguishers are what the United States Coast Guard require for our boats and from what I've read that same fire extinguisher will also put out a fire in a lithium-ion battery. The problem is that the fire will not stay put out. Those batteries are very sensitive to high temperatures which results in what is called thermal runaway (venting with flame). You put out the fire with your typical U.L. (U.S. Coast Guard approved) fire extinguisher and it comes right back—with a vengeance. That's when you need a type D fire extinguisher. You don't eliminate your ABC extinguishers but rather incorporate a type D into your existing fire safety plan for protection from a lithium battery fire.

These fire extinguishers come in all sizes to take care of a vessel's needs. There are probably lots of different brands and technologies. One that I spotted uses tiny bits of aqueous vermiculite to coat the battery to prevent the battery from "venting with flame" again. If you're a gardener, you are most likely familiar with the moisture attracting properties of vermiculite which is found in some potting soils. I never would have pictured it as a component of fire extinguishers.

I guess my earlier point about change is that it keeps coming faster and faster. And change in one component can quickly cause change in another component—in this case fire safety requirements. It's not here yet for lithium-ion batteries but the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) is doing extensive research on lithium batteries and in early results have shown them to be very safe. The safest installations are those done by a pro with proper high quality batteries and charging systems. Converting a conventional battery setup in your boat from AGM or lead-acid to a lithium bank is most likely not a DIY weekend project that you and your favorite YouTube video would want to tackle. A professionally installed lithium battery bank will be costly but can give you a decade of worry free and convenient use.

Happy New Year Boating!

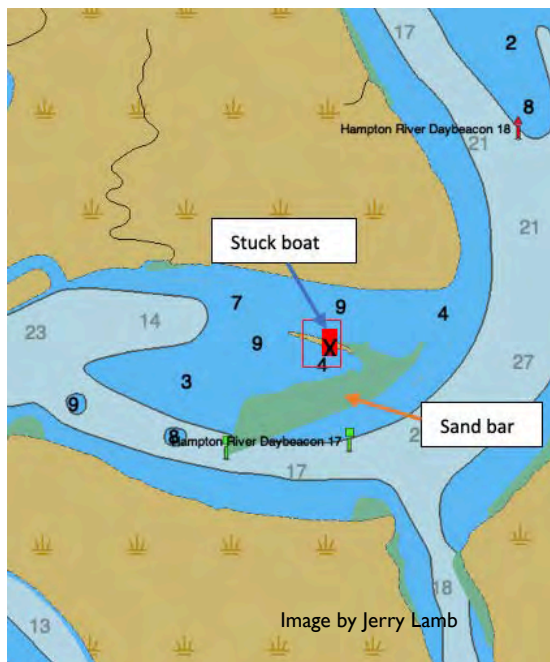
Mike Moye, SN
Education Officer

A Cautionary Tale



Cynthia Lamb

One of the last times Jerry and I were out on our boat in November, we came across this unfortunate group whose boat had run completely aground in the Hampton River. This area is well-known for its fairly substantial sand bar. You just need to see it once during low tide to realize how shallow this area of the river is. Granted, the sand bar does get covered up at high tide, but it can be seen on the GPS. The screen shot below is from the navigation program OpenCPN. It clearly shows the sandbar.



Unfortunately, there was no way to help these people get unstuck. Another boat was there as well trying to contact them on the radio (as we were), but guess what? Not only did these people not know to keep the green ATONs on the right as you head to the sea (in this case, south on the Hampton River toward Sea Island), but had no marine radio on board. So two boats within shouting distance couldn't even contact them (not that we could do much - they were really in there). I'm sure they were able to use their cell phones though - perhaps to play some games or catch up on their news feed. Given that the tide was just starting to go low, these people were going to be there a while.

This is the kind of thing that our educational offerings hope to prevent. This incident cannot even be attributed to a lack of "local" knowledge., it shows a true lack of "boating" knowledge. Understand what the signs mean and stay on the correct side! Red right returning, etc. Know the rules and pay attention. This was not a fun day boating for these people.

Cynthia Lamb

District 26 Spring 2023 Conference & Change of Watch

March 17-19 in Greenville, SC

- Rate at the Greenville Marriott Hotel is \$108 + tax and includes breakfast
- Friday PM, March 17 - social hour
- Saturday all day, March 18 - Activities, social time, seminars & workshops, club business and COW
- 20% discount on meals
- Lots of excursions and good food in Greenville



Support America's Boating Club Golden Isles @ the D26 Spring Conference & COW:

- The Club will have a table at the conference expo (we are looking for ideas and people to man the table)
- Our XO Cynthia will co-present "You, Too, Can Be More than Crew" about women in boating
- Cynthia will be sworn in as the new District Secretary

Our District 26 website is <https://www.abclubd26.org/>

National Conference



<https://www.usps.org/php/reservations/documents/202212282228220.Jan2023Newsletter.pdf>

Don't have a whole week? Come for one day that will be special for Golden Isles. Day to be sent after final agenda is out.

America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar JAN - MAR 2023

January

- 17 - Club social with presentation by Clay George, DNR
- 19 - Liberty Ship Park cleanup at 9 a.m.

February

- 4 - ABC Class
- 7 - Content for *The Porthole* due
- 14 - *The Porthole* distribution
- 18-27 Annual Meeting in Orlando
- 21 - Club social with presentation by Stephanie Chewning, 100 Miles

March

- 4 - Content for *The Porthole* due
- 11 - *The Porthole* distribution
- 17-19 District 26 Conference in Greenville, SC
- 26 - Blythe Island cruise & picnic
- 31 - Club Change of Watch & Dinner



Upcoming Club Cruise Dates

February TBD - Mudcat Charlie's or 100 Tabbystone (Hampton) for lunch (exact date will be determined based on weather and tides)

March 26 - Blythe Island cruise & picnic (all invited - come by car as well)

**ABC
Class
February 4**

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Happy Birthday in January to

Bob Butler
Kurt Glass
Dorothy Jones
Mike Carellas
Cathy Brewer-Moore



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 20,000 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.