

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

February

- 18-27 - ABC 2023 Annual Meeting in Orlando
- 18 - The 2023 Bridge Fun Run
- 19 - Liberty Ship Park Cleanup
- 21 - Club social
- 24-26 Savannah Boat Show

March

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

April

- 18 - Club social
- 22 - CoastFest
- 29 - ABC Class

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Commander's Message



Cdr Jerry Lamb, S

Harbinger of Hell?

Recent events and expert foretellings point to imminent changes. Boat show season is upon us, and some members are looking to upgrade their ride. Our recent ABC class was filled with people just buying, looking to buy, or perhaps joining the Freedom Boat Club. The recent warm spell after the December freeze coupled with a long-range forecast of much warmer upcoming six weeks (so much for Punxsutawney Phil's shadow) foretell one thing. Summer is coming and with it -- prime boating season.

Unlike Punxsutawney Phil, our Club did not hibernate this winter. We had several great socials and a spectacular Christmas party (the *Sock Monkey* will return!), a large and very well received February ABC class, enrolled several new members, got decent weather to clean up Liberty Ship Park, and generally survived the winter and, so far, the new COVID wave. Personally, we spent time in New England where Cynthia was teaching and came home with a new boat.

Coming up are more good things. We will help clean up Liberty Ship Park after the Bridge Run on February 19. Based on the enthusiasm from students in the last two ABC classes, Mike Moyer is planning a Marine Navigation course in the near future with boat handling on the horizon (see Mike's page). We'll help celebrate St Patrick's Day in Greenville, SC at the District Change Of Watch (COW); our own XO is to be District Secretary. Our club's COW is at the end of March (See Eileen's page for details) and our first cruise (to Blythe Island in March) is coming up. Many people have worked very hard to make all this happen, and more help is always welcome. We need new people in all facets of the Club. Just call any Bridge member to get in on the action.

So what is this "hell" I'm talking about? It's going to be the inside cabin of our new boat if we don't figure something out. We've been going out recently and the cabin is really cozy (which means toasty on a cold day). But that's at 17°C (it is a French boat) or 63° F and a Georgia 93-degree day is very very different. The boat has great visibility all around as you can see, but that makes it a veritable sunroom when cruising, especially at slow speeds.



Our previous boat (an open deck boat) had a simple solution -- speed up and stand up in the wind. Cynthia was always exhorting me to "Go Faster." The alternative was to go slowly and sweat (not perspire).

Continues on next page.

Commander's Message (continued)

At the dock with shore power, there is a good air conditioning unit. But boats are not meant to stay at the dock, though that can be fun (see Cynthia's article about our misadventures there). So, I am looking for a solution. First thought was to run the A/C while underway, or at anchor while lunching. Always seeking the esoteric (and costly) solutions, I looked into Lithium-Ion batteries. According to this month's Boat US magazine, these batteries are touchy and will require us to get a special and costly power management system, a new charger, an upgraded alternator, and we will have to keep a lead acid battery to start the engine. Out of the question in terms of complication and cost, even for me.

We are exploring more realistic options such as wind scoops for the overhead hatch and side windows, for example. Most scoops require a mast and a halyard to put them but not these. But will they work underway on a powerboat??

What about a fan? They make 12-volt fans (don't they?) and I have a plug on the console. Or window shades? Obviously, you can't block the entire window underway (we have a nice privacy curtain for dockside), but we don't often look forward and up that high, so maybe we can do a partial covering to keep some of the sun out.

We are still pondering the answer and would welcome any ideas.

Jerry



Pictures from the January Social



Photos provided by Cynthia Lamb

Almost Ready for Primetime



XO Cynthia Lamb, S

When I was about 6 years old, my two older brothers and I made a tent in our backyard using blankets and a picnic table. We built the tent to use as a fort, then decided that we would try sleeping overnight in it. It started out cozy, then a little scary, then uncomfortable. I believe I made it until midnight before I went in. That was the first and last time I tried "camping" (if you can even call it that). Until now.

Fast forward to today, and I'm again "camping" in my backyard. This time it's camping with my husband on our new boat, and our backyard is the Hampton River Marina. Hampton River Marina, our home marina, is literally a mile from our house. We have slept on the boat a total of 3 nights so far (and definitely not in a row). The first night started out cozy, then a little scary, then uncomfortable.

Being on a boat with your best friend at night with warm lighting, snacks, puzzles, and a good book is very cozy. (See boat picture on the right.) But then it got to be time to retire for the evening. We hadn't really thought through how best to configure ourselves for sleeping in our small V-berth, especially when one or both of us has to get up at night to use the "facilities." (It's tough getting old.) I use the word facilities here on purpose. We do have a head on the boat, but when *someone* forgets to replace the toilet paper after the last roll got soaked because that *someone* forgot to close the hatch in the head, then one must use the marina bathroom. (That sounds like that Progressive Insurance commercial, where one spouse decides to throw the challenge flag on who did what. I'm sure you've all seen it. It's cute.)



Just for the record, I am not a high maintenance person (no really, I'm not), but I do like my creature comforts. When you're 6 years old, you can sleep anywhere and on almost anything (e.g., the ground). But when you're 10 times 6, what you sleep on really matters. I bought a foam mattress topper that I cut to fit in the V-berth, but it was only about an inch and a half thick. It was not very comfortable and would definitely need bolstering for the next time.

We turned the heat off before retiring for the night because I like it cold when I sleep (poor Jerry). What this meant was rather than hearing a light fan noise all night, I heard all sorts of weird sounds coming from outside the boat, including creaks, groans, bumps, squeaks, and even splash noises. I'm sure it was all very normal, but I wasn't used to it. I was on high alert and couldn't fall asleep. Not only that, it got pretty cold inside. It had been in the low 40s that night and eventually got down to about 61 degrees in the cabin. The heat needed to come back on. I made Jerry get up and turn it back on. Once the fan noise was on, I fell right to sleep.



In the morning, I was all excited to make breakfast using our single burner stove and my cute little Keurig. (See stove picture on the left.) I had everything I needed except I forgot to bring the Keurig K-cup pods. I was going to drive home to get the coffee, but one of the guys at the marina told me to just take one of theirs. Coffee crisis averted. Everything was fine after that. So that was version 1.0 of us trying to cruise. "Cruise" may be too strong a word to describe just sleeping on the boat at our home marina, but for the newbie that I am it was a beginning.

Version 2.0 included many upgrades and some bug fixes. Big improvements were made in the V-berth with the addition of 3 more inches of foam and a different configuration for sleeping. We also remembered to bring toilet paper and K-cup pods. This time we kept the heat on all night at a mutually acceptable temperature, and I slept much better. In the morning, I made coffee but realized we forgot to bring a pan to cook the eggs. We went home and ate. Nice try.

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Almost Ready for Primetime (continued)

If you're really going to cruise, I think you should be able to cook more than breakfast. My friend Barney says he and his wife just eat out every meal when they cruise, but I want to be able to do some real cooking. And if I was going to make a decent dinner, I was going to need more than that little single burner butane stove. What I really needed/wanted was one of those gas grills that people hang off the sides of their boats. I researched various models and ended up buying the Magma Cabo Marine rectangular gas grill and swivel mount that allows you to put the grill in a rod holder (see picture below). The grill and mount cost \$229 and \$100, respectively. Then I figured I better get the serving shelf with removable cutting board that hangs off the front of the grill. This was another \$80.

So now I have this lovely stainless steel gas grill with all these attachments as well as a couple propane canisters. Sounds great, but I have nowhere to put all this stuff. Because storage is so limited on our boat, I decided to buy the special Magma grill carrying case as well. That was another \$100. Jerry can't believe how big the case is. It does take up a pretty big portion of the cockpit. I'm still working out the bugs with where to keep it, etc., but now I'm ready to make dinner on the boat.

Dinner preparation on the boat at Hampton River Marina will be part of Cruising Version 3.0. If all goes well, we should finally be ready for primetime. We think our first non-Hampton-River-Marina-backyard overnight stay will be at the Jekyll Island Marina. **Mike and Sharon Moye** need to be on the lookout for an invitation to dinner when we go. I need to get my money's worth on that grill.

Happy and safe boating!

Cynthia



Safe Boating Tip

Provided by: Vicky Jefferis, JN

Be Prepared With Your PFDs

Nobody ever plans to go out for a day on the water that includes stormy weather or some unforeseen emergency. But it happens, so savvy boaters take the time and effort to think ahead and prepare for those unplanned misadventures that can turn a great day of boating upside down.

As members of America's Boating Club, each of us is far more aware of what it takes to be safe boaters than most folks on the water around us. We all know the importance of using personal flotation devices (PFDs) when we're out on the boat, but all too often we're complacent and assume everyone knows what we do about their use. They don't!

As the skipper, YOU are responsible for the safety of your passengers when they board your boat. One of the key steps you can take to assure passenger safety before you leave the dock is to show them where the PFDs are kept, how to put them on, and how to adjust them to fit properly. **Once you've accomplished this, give them each a strip of duct tape and a marker, have them write their name on the tape, then put it on the PFD.**

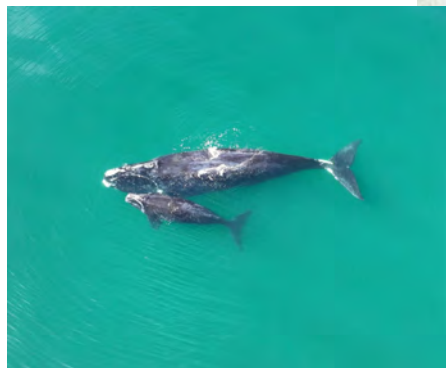
Ideally, all your crew will settle in and wear their PFD's for the entire day. Realistically, that's not likely to happen, but should the need arise, everyone can quickly find and don their PFD when every minute and second counts.

Administrative Officer's Report - February



AO Eileen Berta

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February Social

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 21, 6:00PM

Place: Ember

70 Retreat Village, SSI

912-434-9384

RSVP by February 17: eileenberta@gmail.com, 912-602-9500

PLEASE NOTE: Ember has changed its policy due to the popularity of their AV equipped meeting space. We will need to provide a firm headcount by Friday before our date to avoid additional charges. *Please be considerate and let us know that you will be there, so that Ember can set and staff the room appropriately.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Our gala Change of Watch will be held on **Friday, March 31** this year! We'll return to the scenic **River House at Sanctuary Cove** to celebrate a successful 2022 and mark the installation of the 2023 Bridge. Catering will be provided by Sanctuary Cove Golf Club. Be on the lookout for your email invitation as details come together. If you would like to help with decorating and/or cleanup, please let Eileen know.

I'm thinking it'll be nice to relax in April (on Tax day!) and meet for a casual potluck at the Morningstar Pavilion, weather permitting.

As always, suggestions for our monthly socials or educational programs are always welcome and appreciated!

Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moye, SN

This past Saturday we had 15 students in our America's Boating Course. Two had to leave early and still need to finish up, but 13 were successful and are well on their way to becoming more knowledgeable boaters. Frankly, I'll have to admit that we had some very experienced boaters in the class that were already quite knowledgeable. It's a joy to be involved in a class with eager newcomers to boating along with a few folks with a good depth of knowledge. It makes for a very interesting group.

I believe, also, that we will get some new members from this most recent class. We never hesitate to enthusiastically promote squadron/club membership during the class. Commander Jerry does a great job explaining our three primary areas of focus in the club which are boating education, service to the community, and (of course) social activities. We have a good blend of all three and that's what makes our club really click. Several students made it a point to pick up membership applications and one even wrote a check before she left the classroom. Jerry is a heck of a salesman.



Additional America's Boating Course dates scheduled during 2023 are April 29 and October 7. **Please note that the April date was changed from April 8 because of possible conflicts with Easter weekend.**

Recently I gave the results of the recent course interest survey and want you to know that we're moving forward with planning for additional courses for 2023. A week or so ago the individuals who indicated an interest in Marine Navigation received an email from P/C Charles Wilsdorf who will be teaching that course. He gave some details about times and days of the week for potential students to consider. He also provided the table of contents from the 2023 Student Manual that will be used with the course. If you didn't get a note from Charles but think you might be interested, please let him know. If you did get a note and have questions or suggestions, give him a call for that too.

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Education Officer's Report (continued)

In a previous edition of the *Porthole*, I mentioned the new America's Boating Club app and promised to provide more information. I'll do that in the next paragraph or two but instead of reading it, you need to just download it onto your phone or tablet. It's free on the App Store on Apple or Google. Just type in "America's Boating Club" (don't overlook the apostrophe). It's FREE and doesn't try to sell you stuff.

The app was designed by America's Boating Club members and Certified Instructors. Most of the content of the app came from our ABC course as well as the new Boat Handling and Marine Navigation courses. The app has lots of boating content that will immediately become familiar to you but it also has links to Internet sites that could be very helpful such as:

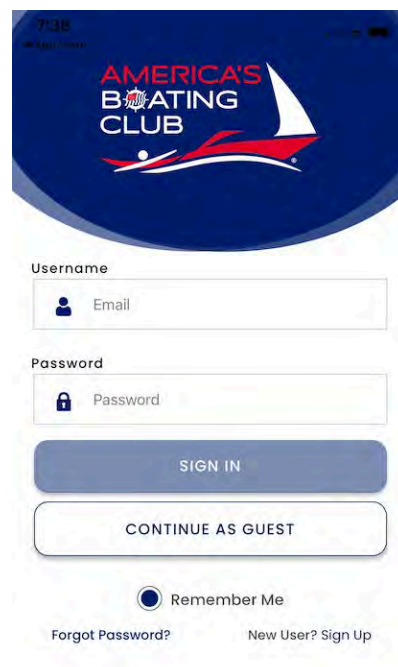
- National Weather Service Chart
- NOAA Tide and Current information
- America's Boating Channel
- Member Benefits site
- Ship's Store

Some of the content you'll spot from courses are things such as descriptions and videos of knots, a comprehensive glossary of nautical terms, basic buoy information, navigation light information, nautical flags, and an abridged version of the navigation rules. We covered much of this information in last Saturday's ABC class, but how long will it stick with us? One of the things I encouraged students to get for their boats is a "cheat sheet" for things like lights, sounds, buoys, and other nautical information. There are lots of commercially available laminated products with pictures and sample charts. I have several on my boat, but this app can replace almost all of them.

One more thing — Spring. It's only a few weeks away. We typically get our boats ready for the boating season during this time (though many of us boat year-round). One of the things we need to do is renew our vessel inspection sticker. Knowing what to prepare for can be difficult with the occasional changes that occur. The America's Boating Club app has the most current check list so you'll know exactly what the inspector will expect (another cheat sheet).

My millennial children would call this app a "no brainer." It's that good — so just get it!

Mike Moyer, SN
Education Officer



The Bridge Run and Liberty Ship Park Cleanup

In case you missed my email.... A few of our America's Boating Club members are registered to Walk (not run) for the Annual Southeast Georgia Health Systems Bridge Run on Saturday February 18th.



SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM
Foundation

If you are not familiar with this annual event (that was on hold since 2020 due to - you guessed it, COVID), it is a lot of fun. The course is the south bound lanes of the Sidney Lanier Bridge. You start by the Liberty Ship Park on the North side, and it is across the bridge and back. A good bit of exercise 3.7 miles with 1/2 the way being up hill on the only hill around these parts. The view of the River/Sound/Marsh from the top of the Bridge is fantastic! And it is quite the festival in the park. Why not join us for a stroll?

Information and Registration is on-line at: The Bridge Run (the-bridge-run.org) There is also a festival, Friday night pasta party, and vendors & giveaways during the event...

And for even more fun, whether or not you walk the walk, how about joining us the day after the Bridge Run to pick up any mess left behind- since Liberty Ship Park is our **Adopt a Highway**/park location with Keep Golden Isles Beautiful (KGIB)? The bridge run folks do a pretty good job cleaning up after themselves, but there is always plenty of little stuff that we can tidy up. We will meet at the park at 2 PM Sunday Feb.19. We will supply bags and gloves- and have a couple of pickers too.

Please let me know if you can do either of these activities- both of which allow you to get some fresh air and exercise after our cold-cold winter :)

Sharon Hindery



Sharon during Marsh Madness

2023 Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron Proposed Bridge Officers and Elected Committee Members

The following is our prospective slate of officers. This slate will be voted on at the next club social on February 21, 2023.

Commander

Jerry Lamb, S

Treasurer

Teresa Wilsdorf, S

Executive Officer

Cynthia Lamb, S

Vacant - Assistant

Members at Large

Rick Hindery, AP

Mark Crawford

Vicky Jefferis, JN

David Jones

Administrative Officer

Eileen Berta

Vacant - Assistant

Sharon Hindery, AP - Website & Publicity

Audit Committee

Vicky Jefferis, JN

Sharon Hindery, AP

Educational Officer

Mike Moye, SN

Charles Wildsorf, SN-ON - ASEO

Rules Committee

Vicky Jefferis, JN

Mike Moye, SN

Secretary

Sharon Hindery, AP

Cynthia Lamb, S - Newsletter

Nominating Committee

Sharon Hindery, AP

Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON



America's Boating Channel™

Promoting Boater Education to Our Members and the Public

As production of America's Boating Channel™ Season Seven gets underway, remember the channel has six seasons of videos archived and available to help educate ourselves and others.

An outstanding example is the video "[Boater Education](#)," which underscores the importance and value of taking boating safety courses. Viewers learn about on line, classroom, and on-the-water educational offerings. Screening boater education videos is an excellent way to prepare for safer experiences on the water. "Boater Education" reminds us about required safety equipment and that we need to know the rules of the road when operating a boat.



Taking the concepts in this video a step further, America's Boating Channel produced a sequel entitled "[Knowledge Versus Skills](#)." It covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities and what pitfalls to avoid in boater education. These videos also are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch,

like, and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer. Available on YouTube, America's Boating Channel offers quick and easy access to professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos. [America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar FEB - APR 2023

February

- 18-27 Annual Meeting in Orlando
- 18 - The Bridge Run
- 19 - Litter pickup Liberty Ship Park
- 21 - Club social with presentation by Stephanie Chewning and Josiah (Jazz) Watts, 100 Miles

March

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

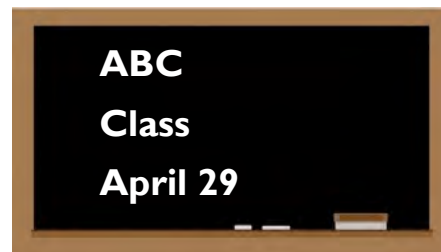
April

- 4 - Content for The Porthole due
- 11 - The Porthole distribution
- 18 - Club social at Morningstar Marina
- 22 - CoastFest (Club will have a booth)
- 29 - ABC Class



Upcoming Club Cruise Dates

March 26 - Blythe Island cruise & picnic
(all invited - come by boat or car)
April - Mudcat Charlie's or Darien
restaurant for lunch (exact date will be
determined based on weather and tides)



America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2022 Bridge & Committee Contact Information

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Website & Publicity	Sharon Hindery, AP	630-323-1206	sharona53@comcast.net
VSC Coordinator	Ed Reynolds	423-341-2531	ejreynolds3@icloud.com

Happy Birthday in February to

Richard Jones
Pieter van Steen
Darja Lijoi



CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Please submit an article, picture, or even a link to a boating story or video that you feel other club members may enjoy. All newsletter content is due to Cynthia Lamb 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 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.