

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## Golden Isles



The **p**ort  
hole

For Boaters, By Boaters™

A monthly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

### Upcoming Events

#### March

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

#### April

- 18 - Sunset Wine Cruise- Darien
- 22 - CoastFest
- 29 - ABC Class

#### May

- 16 - Club Social

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## Commander's Message



Cdr Jerry Lamb, S

### Hi there and Yon

With the boat out of the water for bottom painting and engine work, we've been focusing, while daydreaming of being out on the water in this beautiful weather, on Club affairs.

First, and also a first for Cynthia and me, we went to the National Power Squadron Meeting in Orlando on March 24 and 25th. It's a week-long event but we only went for one full day – for a very special reason – to be divulged later in my article. On Friday night, I attended a reception for "First Timers" where they plied us with drink, food, a welcome packet, and a picture taken with the Chief Commander. I wasn't going to check the website for the picture and now I'm sorry that I did.

Saturday was the business meeting, which turned out to be an all-day affair. This was no cut-and-dried, pro-forma meeting. There were controversial proposals that directly or indirectly affect each of us and people spoke passionately on both sides. A mundane matter of the size of the quasi-independent Finance Committee, dropping it from six members to three was soundly defeated. The members felt that such a small group could not function effectively and could be directed too much by the executive officers. A dues increase was approved. The amount is minimal but indicative of that a decreasing number of members must finance the organization, which is still structured for a much larger operation. I could wax poetic about how to turn around a struggling organization, what I did for a living in the far distant past. However, Cynthia and I, along with **Sharon Moyer** and **Charles and Teresa Wilsdorf**, had come for the end of the day. (As an aside: Charles introduced Cynthia and me to Dixie Crossroads Seafood in Titusville, FL. We stopped on the way down for lunch. It was awesome! GO!)

The last item of the business meeting was the very prestigious *Chapman Award* for the best educators in America's Boating Club. Our own **Mike Moyer** received the award this year. What an honor for Mike and our club! It was well-deserved. Our classes are the best organized, most enthusiastic, and most effective of any. Not to mention that Mike's prowess as an instructor makes those of us assisting him envious. The winners had the most enthusiastic standing ovation of the day. It was worth the drive and sitting through the entire day to see the smile on Mike's face. Bravo Zulu, Mike!



Continues on next page.

## Commander's Message (continued)

By the way, Mike Moyer is the second Squadron Education Officer (SEO) from our little club to win the prestigious Chapman Award for educational excellence. Our very own Past Commander, Charles Wilsdorf, won it in 2012. What a great group of folks in this club! I am so proud to be part of it.

Because we are not content with one round of meetings, Cynthia and I are off to Greenville, SC for the St Patty's Day weekend. Greenville is not known as a bastion of the Green, but it is hosting the District 26 Annual Meeting and Change of Watch (COW). Again, there are special reasons for going. When the preliminary program was shared with the Club Commanders, I, being my usual pain in the butt, said that the program was too oriented toward bridge members and not regular members, who might be looking for something beyond Constant Contact instruction. As usual my big mouth got a Lamb in trouble. Not me this time – Cynthia. She and Angela Margolit, an accredited captain, will present on women in boating and how to get women to enjoy boating more by actively participating. That means becoming more than a *Partner-In-Command* after the skipper has a heart attack or falls overboard.

Those who have gone out with us know that Cynthia, with no prior experience before our first boat, is fully engaged and we operate as a team. It will be interesting to see the reaction from any "macho" skipper in the audience. Fellas, I urge you to involve your mate more and ladies, don't be shy about wanting to learn. Boating is a lot more fun than just being a passenger.

Another reason that the meeting is special is that Cynthia will be sworn in as District Secretary during the COW. Our club continues to make a splash beyond the Golden Isles.

Traveling hither and yon is enlightening and sometimes entertaining, but home is where the true spirit and good friends lie. The camaraderie of our small group makes being together worthwhile in its own right. See you at the COW.

Jerry

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## Congratulations to Cathy Stortz and Sharon Hindery!

In early March, Cathy Stortz, who served as our *Porthole* newsletter editor, and Sharon Hindery, our webmaster, were notified that our newsletter and website each received Distinctive Communicator Awards for 2022. Each year the Communications Committee reviews Squadron and District newsletters and websites and selects those which merit special recognition for sustained quality throughout the year that not only promote life within the United States Power Squadrons® but also instill interest and inspire and encourage members of the public to take courses and join our organization. This achievement is recognized with the Distinctive Communicator Award.



Thank you, Cathy and Sharon, as well as all of our contributors!

## Executive Officer's Report

### It's Never Too Late



XO Cynthia Lamb, S

When you're first learning something, don't you hate it when the person who is teaching you says, *"If I can do it, anyone can"*? Well, I guess that annoying person is going to be me.

I did not grow up boating. My parents did not have the time, the money, or the desire to boat. I can't even remember riding on a boat. I thought only "special" people (i.e., the rich) had boats. We would see the yachts in Newport, RI and just gawk. There was a restaurant called The Dock & Dine in Old Saybrook, Connecticut that had great views of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. I was so naive about all things boating that I didn't realize the name of the restaurant was not just cleverly alliterative, but literal. You could dock your boat there and then go dine! When I realized this, it nearly blew my mind. I couldn't imagine that people did this. How did they know how to get there?

Who docked it? Was it hard? Didn't your hair get all messed up getting there? I never thought owning or operating a boat would be in my future.

Jerry and I moved to Saint Simons Island in the summer of 2017. This is the closest to water of any kind that I have ever lived. Obviously, water is everywhere when you live on an island. The pull of the water here is almost irresistible. In February of 2018, Jerry's son, David, and his two teenage children visited. I chartered a two-hour scenic tour for us out of the Hampton River Marina with Captain Brooks Good. It was beautiful! I could've stayed out there all day. We saw so many things including dolphins and a bald eagle. The next day, we all went to the Okefenokee and took a ride on one of their Carolina Skiffs. The scenery was unique, and there were lots of alligators. I even got to wrestle one.



A few weeks after our houseguests were gone, I saw an advertisement on the Fendig Daily at the end of F.J. Torras Causeway for a boat show at Morningstar Marina that weekend. I suggested that we go to the boat show "just to look" and Jerry agreed. On March 15, 2018, we took possession of a new 19-foot NauticStar deck boat with a 115-horsepower outboard motor.

I now owned a brand-new boat and had no idea what I was doing. Granted, Jerry had sailed up north, but he had never operated a powerboat before (unless dinghies count) and had obviously never boated in the Golden Isles. I thought about letting Jerry handle everything, but that didn't seem fair, fun, or fulfilling. It's also not safe

if only one person onboard knows how to drive the boat, dock the boat, navigate, anchor, and use all the equipment. I knew that I was going to have to learn a whole lot of stuff and acquire a whole new set of skills. I was fifty-six years old but determined to become a full-fledged boater.

I eventually learned how to drive, dock, undock, anchor, and navigate. I'm not great at these things, but I'm pretty good and getting better. So how did it go? How did I get there? Do I have any lessons worth sharing?

As I said, I did not grow up boating. I grew up skiing. When you first learn to ski, you start with short skis, and you stay on the easy trails. When you first learn to boat, you might also want to start small and stay in the easy waterways until you know what you're doing. Our 19-foot boat was a good starter boat. We originally only went out in really good weather and stayed in well-marked, deep channels. We also planned our trips on a paper chart because everything out there looked the same to us. One of our first trips down the Mackay River, I went right by the entrance to the Hampton River on our way home and had to turn around when Jerry figured out where we were.

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## Executive Officer's Report (continued)

When I first started docking the boat, I would only dock on our marina's long dock. I was nervous about docking in one of the finger docks because of the other boat that could be docked there. I would also only dock into the current. Actually, I still do that. If there was a lot of wind, I'd be nervous. More fenders would have been nice. It wasn't until I had many, many hours on the water, that I felt comfortable taking other people onboard.

I made mistakes, hit the dock a little too hard sometimes, put dings in the boat, knocked letters out of the word "Nauticstar" on both sides of the boat, and even got pinned sideways in one of the finger docks when trying to undock against a strong ebb current and a west wind. Jerry told me to "give it some gas" but I didn't. I said I would never drive the boat again after that incident, but I did, and I got better.

Boating is about skills; skills that can be acquired. Being able to operate a boat does not happen overnight and just because your spouse or your partner has been operating a boat longer than you, does not mean you can't eventually get there. You can learn anything if you invest in sufficient learning opportunities, commit to studying and practicing, and get feedback. Taking the helm of a boat may sound daunting, but not if you break it down into smaller and smaller functions. These functions include handling the lines, driving the boat on plane, using the VHF radio, undocking, anchoring, etc.

I am not a boating expert, but I can take the helm if and when I have to or want to. I didn't start boating until I was fifty-six years old. *If I can do it, anyone can.*

Happy and safe boating!

Cynthia

## Pictures from the February Social



Photos provided by Cynthia Lamb

## Administrative Officer's Report



AO Eileen Berta

We had some great weather in February! The Bertas decided to take advantage and headed out with our onboard Sunday Brunch all packed. It seemed calm enough leaving Morningstar, but we soon found out how gusty it was on the open water. So we headed for the Little Satilla, our usual refuge. Still windy and too choppy to anchor and enjoy our brunch, so we ducked into Honey Creek. It was like a different world! We really enjoyed our brunch watching the dolphins graze along the marshline. Beautiful day on the water!

As we were preparing to pack up and leave, other boats came winding down the creek and started rafting up. Apparently, Honey Creek is not the best kept secret. Try it sometime!

On our way back to Morningstar we were treated to this view of the Lynx under sail.



The Lynx taking advantage of a windy day!

(Photo: Berta)

On February 21, twenty-two of us welcomed our friends from *One Hundred Miles*, **Stephanie Chewning**, Coastal Education Coordinator and **Josiah (Jazz) Watts**, OHM Justice Strategist and Sapelo descendant, who presented on Sapelo Island history. Fascinating and so informative, even for those who had been to Sapelo. And Jazz's insights were spot on and invaluable. Thanks to everyone who took the extra trouble to RSVP as needed due to Ember's new policy!



(Photo: Lamb)

There will be no separate 3rd Tuesday of the month social in March, because we will be holding our **gala Change of Watch Dinner!** Join us as we celebrate 2022 and mark the installation of the 2023 Bridge. Hopefully you have all seen the invitation and, if you haven't already, will RSVP that you will attend.

If you did not receive the invitation in your email, please contact Eileen (eileenberta@gmail.com). This is our one "special" event dinner each year - don't miss it!

**Date and Time:** Friday, March 31, 5:30PM cocktails, 6:30PM dinner

**Place:** River House, Sanctuary Cove  
69 River Oaks Trail  
Waverly, GA 31565

**RSVPs with entree choice and checks are due by March 17!**

**Questions:** Eileen, eileenberta@gmail.com, 912-602-9500

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## Administrative Officer's Report (continued)

### April Social (note change of plans from last month's Porthole)

Back by popular demand - **Georgia Tidewater Outfitters Wine Cruise!**



To take advantage of April weather and work around many members' vacations and travel plans, we have decided on **Tuesday, April 18** for our (first) wine cruise of 2023. Since the boat capacity is 20 guests plus their crew, this will be a first come/first served event. RSVP to Eileen as soon as you know you want to attend. Captain Paul has agreed to hold our price from last year of \$62 per person for the two-hour tour with wine and snacks. (Prices will increase April 1.) Our plan is to hold a second trip in the fall for any who may not make the twenty-guest cutoff or have a conflict with the April date.

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

Eileen

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## Club Education Officer Report



**CEO Mike Moye, SN**

The Education Team recently wrapped up an excellent ABC class. The students all did very well, and we were happy to see boaters leaving the UGA Marine Extension building with newly acquired knowledge that will make them more aware and safer boaters in the future. The next ABC course is April 29, and we look forward to meeting that group. Please help us spread the word.

Marine Navigation (Piloting) will kick off on March 13. This will be the first time that our squadron has taught this newly revised course. In fact, we have been asked to treat it as a "beta" and give national developers (our own P/C Charles Wilsdorf serves on the national development committee) feedback as to possible corrections or additions. This course will open a new aspect of boating to students. We've used the analogy of the ABC course and the Boat Handling course as being like instruction for

an airplane pilot taking off and landing. Marine Navigation will be like teaching that same pilot how to get from one airport to another without having to land in somebody's cotton field.

In Marine Navigation, we start with the basics of navigation and the tools used. We move into using the tools on a paper chart and quickly apply those same concepts into electronic navigation. Pretty much the same concepts, only instead of using dividers and chart plotting tools to draw the course line, we use an electronic chartplotter. I took the course in the early 90's and although satellite navigation existed as did LORAN C radio signals, we did not dwell more than a minute or two on electronic navigation. Today it's all about electronic charts. Plenty of folks leave port without paper charts and, in fact, NOAA is getting out of the chart printing business. However, if you look at your chartplotter just to see where your boat is and don't have a clue how to establish waypoints and routes, Marine Navigation is the course for you. I'm sure it will come around again soon.

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## Education Officer's Report (continued)

I've been reading a lot lately about the Altamaha River. That's the huge body of water that you cross when you leave Glynn county and enter McIntosh county. I actually became interested in the Altamaha while reading the book *The River of Kings* by Taylor Brown. It was easy for me to get into the book deeply since the setting was coastal water (both ocean and river) and the towns of Darien and Brunswick — but the star of the book was mainly the mighty Altamaha River.

The Altamaha is 137 miles long and is formed by the confluence of the Oconee River and the Ocmulgee River—two major rivers in Georgia. I've lived and played next to both, and they're very powerful. When you put all three together, you have the third largest contributor of fresh water to the Atlantic from North America. At 14,000 square miles, it is among the larger river basins on the U.S. Atlantic coast. Some of the folks in Georgia call it the "little Amazon";

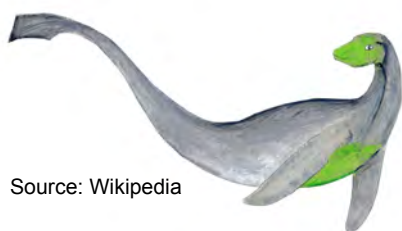


<http://coastgis.marsci.uga.edu/>

I guess because it's pretty wild. There are only five bridges that cross the Altamaha in its length. The "wild" river is home to thousand-year-old virgin cypress trees, direct descendants of eighteenth-century Highland warriors, and lots of rare and endangered species. A couple of those rare creatures are the huge (and protected) sturgeon, and the river's very own but little seen, river monster - the Altamaha-ha. That ha-ha on the end of it's name is not meant to be funny. It really sounds menacing. Kind of like the Loch Ness Monster, if you get the picture.

*The River of Kings* book is in the genre of historical fiction. Basically I figure that's where you have a few actual facts and make up a lot of adventures and stories that surround the real stuff. The book jumps between two brothers who are paddling down the Altamaha to spread the ashes of their father and scenes from the site of Fort Caroline which is thought to be located just west of Darien.

A couple of Florida professors stirred up a big pot of doubt back in 2014. They claimed that Ft. Caroline was not located on the banks of the St. Johns River (where a monument honoring it stands) but rather 70 miles north, on the Altamaha River. There was a lot written back then including articles in national anthropology publications and even the *Brunswick News*. If it turns out to be true, this "rediscovered" location of Fort Caroline will be the site of the oldest fortified settlement in the U.S. It would pre-date the pilgrims, Jamestown, the lost colony of Virginia and even St. Augustine. It was a good read — all about what could have been, what is, and what might be.



Source: Wikipedia

Since the weather is gorgeous in the Golden Isles, we're all looking forward to being on the water more frequently. One of the very popular water activities that Eileen Berta, our Administrative Officer, coordinates each year is a wine cruise. If you go, be sure to watch for the **Altamaha-ha**. I promise, a second glass of Pinot Noir will really help.

Be Safe,

Mike Moye, SN

Education Officer

## There's No Place Like Home (aka Brunswick Landing Marina)

Ingrid and I are new members of the Golden Isles Power Squadron; however, I am not new to the U.S. Power Squadron. I no longer have my physical certificate; it was lost when Hurricane Ian took our Beneteau Oceanis 464, but I've been a member since about 1974. I joined the Waukegan (Illinois) Sail & Power Squadron, held various and multiple positions, before becoming their Commander in 1986. I was thinking back on when I took my first Boating Course, and then Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation and all those wonderful electives. I look back very fondly on all my instructors and cruising companions all those many years ago.



People say the most wonderful place on earth is Disneyland. As live aboard boaters, Ingrid and I say the most wonderful place on earth is Brunswick Landing Marina (BLM) and its social club. There are so many activities that the marina owner, Michael Torras, makes available here, including social gatherings three times a week with free wine and beer; 30 to 50 people usually attend. Great conversations with real world boating experiences are always on tap. Themes for some of the socials have included Deviled Egg Night and Margarita Night. We've been here since New Year's Eve when we purchased our Pilgrim 40 Trawler *Sam McGee*.

We've been boaters for over 50 years and have never experienced any place that has been even close to the wonderful atmosphere provided here.

The marina provides free washers and dryers (all new), four iPads and specialized desks in the clubhouse, yoga classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We do cardio work outs on Tuesdays and Thursdays (done at your own risk of heart attack). For those looking for more leisurely activities, there are card games every Tuesday. BLM recently added a pickle ball court.



Brunswick is an excellent 'Hurricane Hole'. I was a resident of Southwest Florida with both a home (on the land) and later as a live aboard (sailboat). We'd weathered numerous hurricanes, but after losing our sailboat *Annelise* to 150+ MPH winds and 20+ foot flood surge, having a secure and safe floating dock is of the utmost importance.

We will spend four months exploring the Chesapeake this summer but have made reservations to return to BLM for November through January. We plan a return to Florida and the Bahamas in 2024, but BLM is our new base.

Come on down and visit us on Dock 11. M/V *Sam MaGee* (Hull #1) is a beautiful home on the water. I call it forty feet with a view.



Photo: Brunswick Landing Marina

Stephen Luta, JN and Ingrid Whiting





Are you aware of the legal requirement for using an engine cut-off switch (ECOS)? This is a requirement that could save your life.

The requirement to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) took effect on April 1, 2021, and applies to all U.S. waterways, with fines of \$100, \$250, and \$500 for the first, second, and third offenses, respectively. State and local authorities may choose to enforce the law differently, but using an engine cut-off switch is now the law for qualified vessels everywhere in the United States.

The law applies to all personal watercraft and recreational boats under 26 feet with motors capable of 115 pounds of static thrust (a little under 3 horsepower). Boats not currently equipped with an engine cut-off switch are exempt, but that grandfather clause is closing fast. Another recent federal law required manufacturers to install engine cut-off switches on all new boats starting in January 2020.

America's Boating Channel™ has produced two videos to help viewers learn about traditional lanyard type devices, as well as the new wireless systems. View "Engine Cut-Off Devices" and "Wear an ECOS" at <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel>.

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™](https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel) 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 MAR - MAY 2023

### March

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 - Sunset Wine Cruise (Social) at Darien

22 - CoastFest (Club will have a booth)

29 - ABC Class

### May

2 - Content for The Porthole due

9 - The Porthole distribution

16 - Club Social



### 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)

**ABC  
Class  
April 29**

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

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## Happy Birthday in March to

*Istvan Balog*  
*Mark Crawford*  
*Terry Osman*  
*Whit Wright*



### 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](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 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.