

# 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

##### April

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

##### May

- 16 - Club Social
- 19-21 D26 Cruise & Rendezvous
- 20 - Club Cruise

##### June

- 1 - Liberty Ship Park Cleanup
- 20 - Club Social
- 29 - Club Cruise

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## Commander's Message



Cdr Jerry Lamb, S

### Change

It is the season of change and the change of seasons, Bridges, and even time itself. March may or may not have come in like a lion or out as a lamb, but March saw a lot of change this year. The change to Daylight Savings Time on March 12 was almost like a starting gun for events to commence.

Last month, I wrote about going to the National Change Of Watch (COW) and was setting off for the District COW, held the next weekend after the time change. It was great – great meeting the faces from District Commander (D/C) Rich Norris's Commanders Zoom calls, great seeing what the other Clubs are doing to entice students and members, and less great to spend money in the silent auction. Lake Hartwell and Golden Corner Lakes put on a splendid conference. To show how the Clubs learn from each other, Beaufort's Club had taken a Tybee Light idea and upgraded it. Cynthia has made one for CoastFest that is even better. Look for a picture of it in the newsletter.

Golden Isles did very well at the Conference. Cynthia and Angela Margolit's talk on women in boating was well attended and well received. For **Mike Moye**, I accepted both the District and National Chapman awards. Cynthia and I received a special Sparkplug Award from 2021 since a mix-up kept us out of the running for the District award. Cynthia was sworn in as the District Secretary as Mark Larson became the new D/C. The only drawback was that we were so busy that we didn't get to see any of Greenville except the inside of the Marriott.



D/C Mark Larson

(Photo: T. Wildsdorf)

The next Friday was our own Golden Isles COW. Most of the old Bridge stayed on to try to steer me in the right direction. We added Mark Crawford as a Member-at-Large. Welcome aboard, Mark.

We were very pleased that D/C Mark Larson came down with his wife Linda to officiate at the COW. Mark's presence and his remarks about where the District is headed made it seem very official.

We had a fun evening and some unique awards. I do want to summarize some of my remarks that evening for those who weren't there.

Continues on next page.

## Commander's Message (continued)

The decorations were spectacular. Lots of people turned out to set up the facility and stayed late to break it down. Thank you all again. Of special note is **Mike Carellas**, who designed the decorations and place settings. I would also like to thank all the members that helped in putting the COW together: **Eileen Berta, Cynthia Lamb, Cathy Brewer-Moore, Pieter van Steen, Vicky Jefferis, Teresa and Charles Wilsdorf, George and Mike Carellas.**

Mark Larson presented the District awards: District 26 certificate of appreciation to **Cathy Stortz** as Editor of the D26 Newsletter. There were District 26 certificates of achievement for 2022 to **Cathy Stortz** and **Sharon Hindery** for earning Distinctive Communicator awards as Porthole and Website editors, respectively. The next award was the "Order of Mariners" to **Vicky Jefferis**. To qualify as a mariner, a member must have earned 15 Merit Marks and attained Educational Proficiency Status (Advanced Piloting plus three electives). This is a very high award and Vicky deserves the silver star that she can now wear. The last award was actually two awards, the District Educator of the Year and the National Charles F. Chapman Awards that went to **Mike Moyer**. The Chapman Award is the Power Squadrons' most prestigious award since it recognizes those who are the best at educating the boating public, the primary mission of the Power Squadrons. I think that all of us have attended one of Mike's classes and know that this was well deserved.

The squadron Awards -- The first award was the "Catch the Spirit" award to a member that has stepped up and pitched in. The winner of the award designed and executed the decorations for the COW, helped in the upcoming CoastFest arrangements, and did whatever else was asked. The winner was **Mike Carellas**.

The "Magellan Award" for the most miles under the keel this year was a no-brainer. **Terry Osman**, who is somewhere south or east of us, has been underway almost the whole year. We just hope that she soon lights nearby and tells us of her travels.

The "Survivors of the Year" award went to a couple who saw their live-aboard boat destroyed by Hurricane Ian. It was an ill wind, but it blew them to our shores to collect their new boat. So far, they have not left us. **Steve Luta**, a past commander of a Great Lakes Power Squadron, and his wife, **Ingrid Whiting**, were the winners.

The "Bruce Willis Diehard Award" went to a couple who will venture out while the rest of us cower in our berths. Dodging thunderstorms and other hazards, they collect more fish than anyone, **Joe and Cathy Stortz**.

The Member of the Year is for "service above and beyond the call of duty in helping accomplish the mission of the Club, while enhancing its prestige and improving its image." There were many deserving members who were considered for this award, but only one can be selected. This year's award went to someone who has taken on every open job, from cruise director to Porthole editor to CoastFest organizer to Vessel Safety Examiner to a District position. This year's award goes to **Cynthia Lamb**.

Finally, there is a change of season. It is Spring and has felt like it lately. And more importantly, it is BOATING season. The days are longer and seem longer with Daylight Savings Time. We had five boats on our first cruise to Blythe Island for the annual picnic and dock space at our marina is almost gone. Everyone will soon be out on the water and that also includes those who really need our ABC course. Be vigilant, stay safe, and enjoy.

Jerry



## Executive Officer's Report



XO Cynthia Lamb, S

### So Much More to Learn

*"Your uncle has a 21-foot center console boat that has been in storage for a few years. He has invited you to join him for a shakedown cruise on Bowditch Bay, which will be your first trip on these waters. Before arriving for the cruise, you plan routes based on information your uncle has provided. Start the cruise on the Oyster River. Proceed to Perkins Cove cruising at 18.0 kts. The fuel burn rate at 18.0 kts is 9.0 gallons per hour and 2.1 gallons per hour when transiting NO WAKE zones at 6.0 kts.*

*You place waypoints so that you can proceed out of Oyster River and eventually go to Perkins Cove to refuel and eat lunch. From there, continue to Duttons Island for bird watching, and plan an additional stop to observe elevated navigational lights.*

*The boat is docked on the Oyster River near the ATON GC "5", so this will be the starting point. Create the following waypoints:*

Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude	
ORGC5	41°33.9' N	072°05.6' W	Near GC "5", Oyster River
ORG3	41°35.7' N	072°04.2' W	Near GC "3", Oyster River
ORG1	41°36.9' N	072°01.1' W	Near G "1", Oyster River
PCRN2	41°36.4' N	071°42.2' W	Near RN "2", Perkins Cove

*Your uncle mentioned that several sailing clubs will have regattas in the vicinity of G9 and G7, and you expect many boats on the water during the shakedown cruise. You decide to stay well out the way of the sailboats. You plan to create a route from ORGC5 to ORG1 to PCRN2 near Perkins Cove. After turning at ORGC1, stay in water depths above 12 feet and less than 18 feet. You notice RN2 near Blackfish Creek, and you set a waypoint close to RN 2 to use as a checkpoint in your route. Create 4 additional turning point waypoints. When completed, name this route "Oyster R to Perkins C".*

*What is your estimated travel time from ORGC5 to PCRN2 at Perkins Cove?*

*After the 5th waypoint of this route, what magnetic course should be steered to the next waypoint?*

*After passing RN "2" at Blackfish Creek what should you observe on the port side?*

*What is the latitude and longitude of the last waypoint before you reach PCRN2?*

The above exercise about a trip to fictitious Bowditch Bay was representative of the types of things my fellow students and I worked through as part of the updated USPS Marine Navigation course recently taught by our Assistant Squadron Education Officer (ASEO), Charles Wilsdorf. The class met weekly from 0900 to approximately 1430 hours for 4 weeks with various assignments in between.

In this course, I learned how to plan a trip, navigate to the desired destination, check my progress and position as I go, and to do it as safely as possible. I learned how to plan a trip using both electronic (OpenCPN) and paper charting methods. The course was intense but totally awesome. I couldn't believe what I was able to do by the end of it.

I especially felt like a real salty sea dog sitting at my dining room table with a nautical (paper) chart, dividers, and course plotter determining bearings, plotting routes, and calculating times, distances, and speeds. I could switch from magnetic to true bearings and back again, taking fixes and plotting and labeling all the various legs on the chart. I must admit that I was quite impressed with myself. When I showed my mother what I was doing as part of my homework, she was impressed with me too. Gee thanks, Mom.

The real thanks though goes to Charles.

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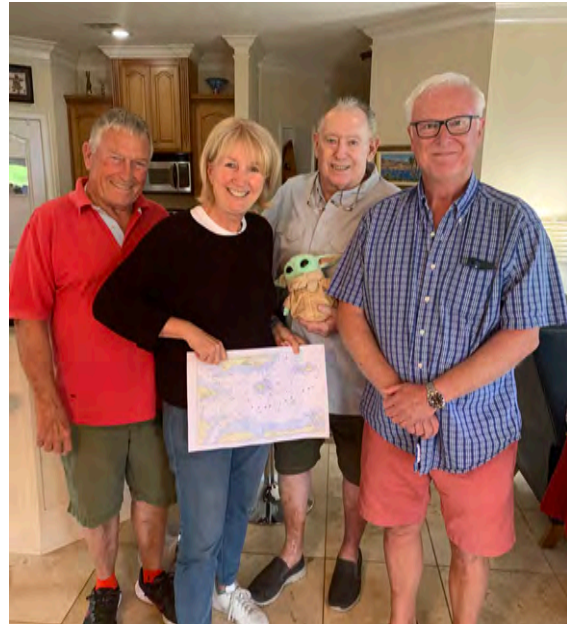


## Executive Officer's Report (continued)

Charles Wildsorf is a fabulous teacher and the most knowledgeable boater I know. Rather than dreading getting up early and going to class on four consecutive Monday mornings, I couldn't wait to go. Even when class had finished for the day, it seemed like no one wanted to leave. We just kept trying things on the computer or on the paper charts and peppering Charles with questions. We were all just a bunch of boating nerds learning these fantastic boating ways from Charles, our Jedi master. Our class even got Charles the cutest little Yoda/Mandalorian doll to express both our appreciation and our admiration for him.

I felt like I went from 0 to 100 on the navigation knowledge and ability scale. I couldn't imagine that there was that much more to learn in the advanced courses; courses that entitle people to put designations like JN, SN, AP, etc. after their names.

When I asked Mike Moyer if the advanced courses covered that much more than what we had just learned, he kind of laughed. He said it essentially would be another "big jump" in knowledge to go from this course to the next and then again, another jump from there to the advanced courses. Wow! How exciting. I can't wait to see what's next on the navigation curriculum. There really is so much more to learn.



*J. Lamb, C. Lamb, C. Wildsorf, M. Crawford*

(Photo: Moyer)

Cynthia

## Scenes from the Change of Watch - featuring the fabulous decorations!



(Photos: J. Lamb)



## Administrative Officer's Report



AO Eileen Berta

No April fooling - a great time was had by all who attended our gala Change of Watch Dinner on Friday, March 31st! A huge thank you to Mike Carellas for designing the amazing tablescapes and to her "crew" who came out early that day to decorate and stayed late to clean up. Thanks to the departing 2022 Bridge for their exemplary service this year, congratulations to the newly installed 2023 Bridge and to all our award winners!!

### April Social

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. 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.) In addition, the Club will be providing shrimp and desserts from the Social fund. All you need to bring is your hat, jacket and bug spray if needed!

Since the boat capacity is maximum 20 guests plus their crew, this will be a first come/first served event. 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.

You must register and pre-pay via Captain Paul's website to be included among the 20 guests!

Captain Paul has opened the link on his website for members to register and pay.



(Photo: Georgia Tidewater Outfitters)

Here is the link and Captain Paul's instructions:

<https://georgiatidewater.starboardsuite.com/e/wine-tour-2hr-4230/blt/d1ed53>

*"Remember to book as "Guest" and not "Private Tour Guest". You will not be able to see this tour on the public calendar. The only way to get to the booking is through this link."*

The website will not accept bookings beyond the boat's capacity of 20 guests, so book as soon as possible. Please let me know when you have registered and paid via the website link. Please also let me know if you are unable to book because we have met the 20-person capacity and we will add you to the priority list for a Fall cruise.

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, April 18, 6-8 pm

**Place:** Meet by 5:45 pm on the deck behind Skipper's in Darien

**Questions:** Eileen, [eileenberta@gmail.com](mailto:eileenberta@gmail.com), 912-602-9500

### May Social

We'll be meeting for a casual pot luck at the Pavilion at Morningstar Marina. Details to follow.

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

Eileen



## Squadron Education Officer Report



**SEO Mike Moye, SN**

The next ABC class is April 29. Please help us spread the word about this class. At last count we only had a handful of folks registered, so there is plenty of room left.

Our Marine Navigation Class has completed one of their major learning activities, their "Practice Cruise" around Bowditch Bay and environs. Bowditch Bay is a very realistic but fictional chart located up in the New England area. Using this chart Navigation students establish waypoints and routes to travel around this large bay. They take bearings on various landmarks to confirm their dead reckoning plot. They run at different speeds and utilize a distance, time and speed formula to determine arrival times and even fuel consumption. The very sophisticated Open CPN computer charting program is used for half of the cruise, and tried and true hand plotting on a real paper chart (see picture below) is used for the other half of the

cruise. In this course, the students learned skills on how to create a navigation plan. These are the same skills we would all use when cruising the Golden Isles sounds, rivers, and especially the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Our goal is always to have fun but do it in a very safe manner. Marine Navigation helps us to learn how to do that.

Our students in that class are about to take the final exam. It's a take home, open book test and they get a week to complete it. It's a challenging course but provides basic skills and information needed to be a competent boater.



*Portion of the fictitious Bowditch Bay chart*

At the end of last Monday's class, I overheard the students talking about the "next step" which is Advanced Marine Navigation. Hopefully we can offer that course very soon as well as Marine Navigation to an upcoming group.

### Fire Prevention

In our ABC and Boat Handling courses we talk a good bit about fire and how to extinguish them. We talk a little about how to prevent fires in the first place; however, it's such a broad subject we don't cover everything. At first glance, you might assume that most fires are the result of mishandling the fuel we use in our motors, especially gasoline. Well, it's a fact that gasoline when ignited can blow a boat "sky high," (I've seen it in the movies) but the real culprit in most on-board fires (55%) is electricity. Both AC and DC wiring can be quite complicated as we attempt to provide lighting, refrigeration, electronics, battery charging, shore power, generators, and a lot more conveniences.

To prevent potential fires, we must maintain our equipment and our onboard systems. The size of a boat is not a diminishing factor either. Even in boats less than 20 feet powered by outboard motors there is a major need to pay attention to the upkeep of the electrical systems. Unless it's an old, old boat, the ABYC (American Boating and Yacht Council) standards and codes have guided manufacturers in the best and most safe building techniques. However, it's up to us as boat owners to maintain the electrical systems. And what boat owner doesn't occasionally add or replace an electrical device? We spot an area aboard that needs additional courtesy lights to make moving around in the dark safer. We think an AIS system would

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## Education Officer's Report (continued)

make our trips in heavy traffic areas safer. We have a boat with an enclosed, air conditioned sleeping area and we'd like to add a generator. We think we need an on-board battery charging system which means we need a way to bring shore power aboard.

You can probably see the point I'm trying to make. All these AC and DC powered devices and appliances can add much pleasure to our boating experience. But they can also add risk. To mitigate the risk, we have to be vigilant in our maintenance of the electrical systems. I can't begin to describe in a couple of paragraphs what that maintenance entails. That's where our quest for information comes in. To have a safe and well maintained boat we have to put the time in to learn the systems and learn how to keep them functioning. Of course, I guess there is another approach. As the TV commercial says: "for everything else, there's Mastercard."

### Parting Thought

When I was a kid, I loved watching cartoons. I especially loved the Disney animations. One that I still remember today is the 1949 Disney version of the 1908 book *The Wind in The Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. Actually, the scene from the film that I remember the most is one with Toad roaring down a road in his new fangled motorcar. However, the scene that I have come to respect and that has become very important in my life is the one where Rat is explaining boats to his new friend Mole. Mole has asked the question, "Is it so nice as all that?" Rat responded, "Nice? It's the only thing. Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. Simply messing—messing—about—in—boats; messing." About that time in the book, Rat ran aground. Maybe that's why I can relate to the book so well...

Mike

## In Case You Missed It...



**Our very own SEO, Mike Moyer, was featured in the Spring 2023 edition of the USPS magazine The Ensign**

### 2023 Annual Meeting Highlights

## Best of the Best

Winners of the 2022 Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching

BY AMY TOWNSEND

During the 2023 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, National Educational Officer Bill McManimen presented the 2022 Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching to three outstanding instructors: Bob Lindholm, Ted Reiss and Mike Moyer. This year's winners represent the best of the best of United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club.

The Chapman Award is the highest recognition awarded to USPS educators, who are selected each year from a pool of nominees by the Chapman Awards Selection Team of the Instructor Development Committee. The honorees receive a recognition plaque, a gold Chapman Award lapel pin, a four-year Certified Instructor wallet card and their names inscribed in a permanent logbook kept in the Chapman Memorial Library at headquarters.



## Meet Two of Our New Members: Matt Emrich and Angie Gipson

On the website Nextdoor.com, there was this crazy video posted last year of a mother alligator and all her babies coming out of a storm drain inside Hampton Plantation. It ended up going viral. It was awesome yet a little anxiety-producing.

That video was taken and posted by a couple in my neighborhood called “Matt and Angie.” They have also posted other memorable images from their nature webcam set up in the marsh behind their house (their backyard literally) of a large mama gator burying her eggs and otters running all over them.

Intrigued by these videos, I wondered about these two people. They sounded like they were really enjoying living here and didn’t even mind an alligator or two in their yard. (BTW, one of the first things they did after moving here was to put a fence in their backyard.) Lo’ and behold, I was teaching part of our club’s basic boating class last February only to find out that the famous “Matt and Angie” were in the class! I was so excited. Turns out, not only are they incredibly nice people, but they’re crazy about boats too. They signed up to become members almost immediately after taking our ABC course.



Matt Emrich and Angie Gipson live on Saint Simons Island in Hampton Plantation in a lovely house right on the marsh. They bought their home a little over two years ago. Angie’s mother, who is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Marathon, FL, advised them to put their name on the Hampton River Marina waiting list right away. Good idea!

Right now, they are number eight on the waiting list. They will start looking to purchase their first boat as they get closer to the top of the list.

Matt and Angie moved here from Baltimore – the real downtown/city of Baltimore, not the suburbs. They both work for the Department of Homeland Security and were making the commute into DC from Baltimore everyday up until – you guessed it – COVID hit. Their son, Huck, was born a couple months after COVID started. So now

you have two people working from home with a newborn in a little Baltimore row house, pretty much locked down full-time. Time to look for a new place to live perhaps?

Both Matt and Angie had visited Saint Simons Island before and had done so independently. Matt spent 5 months at FLETC when he was in law enforcement, and Angie had been a guest instructor there as well. Angie is a lawyer at DHS, working in humanitarian law and refugee protection. Matt is the Associate Director for the Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate. He is a veteran having served in the Marines for 8 years and an expert in counterespionage. Matt even had to testify before Congress. Angie tells me that he had the pleasure of “being grilled by Senators Cruz and Sessions.” What fun that must’ve been. Thanks for your service, Matt.

Matt and Angie welcomed their second child, a daughter named Georganna, a little over a year ago. She is adorable and a great walker already. She totally worships her big brother who is now 3 years old and follows him everywhere. Please welcome Matt and Angie to our club!

Submitted by: Cynthia Lamb



## Turtle River Cruise & Blythe Island Picnic

We had 5 boats and 16 people join us on our cruise last month. The weather was cooperative for a change. A great time was had by all!



(Photos: C. Lamb)



## Photos from the Change of Watch & Dinner



(Photos: T. Wilsdorf)

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

### April

- 18 - Sunset Wine Cruise (Social) at Darien
- 22 - CoastFest (Club will have a booth)
- 29 - ABC Class (UGA Marine Ext. bldg, Brunswick)

### May

- 2 - Content for The Porthole due
- 9 - The Porthole distribution
- 16 - Club Social - Potluck at Morningstar Marina Pavilion
- 19-21 D26 Cruise & Rendezvous on Flotilla Island, Chapin, SC
- 20 - Club Cruise to Plum Orchard (Cumberland Island)

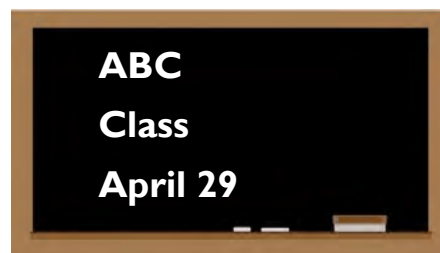
### June

- June 1 - Liberty Ship Park Cleanup
- June 6 - Content for The Porthole due
- June 13 - The Porthole distribution
- June 20 - Club social
- June 24 - Club Cruise to Sapelo Island



### Upcoming Club Cruises

- May 20 - Plum Orchard
- June 24 - Sapelo Island



### America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2023 Bridge & Committee Contact Information

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This is the newest idea for our club's CoastFest 2023 booth, borrowed heavily from the Tybee Light and the Beaufort clubs. It is a boating-themed ring toss game with the following "storyline":

### Ring Toss

**Tina** (Spartina) and **Pete** (Pedro) were on a boat in the Hampton River.  
**They fell overboard.**

We need to rescue them.

We have a **life ring** on our boat, and have it tied off to a line that is **attached** to the boat.

Help us throw the life ring in front of them so they can grab it and be saved.

**Remember, don't hit them with the ring!**  
**Let them reach for it.**

Thank you!

**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB** 

Let me know what you think!

## 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.