

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

May

- 13 - BOTF Brunswick
- 16 - Club Social
- 19-21 D26 Cruise & Rendezvous
- 20 - Club Cruise

June

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

July

- 18 - Club Social
- 22 - Club Cruise

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Commander's Message



Cdr Jerry Lamb, S

Count Your Blessings

Brunswick's Blessing of the Fleet (BOTF) is May 13. It is Georgia's oldest fleet blessing and America's Boating Club Golden Isles will hopefully have some boats in the parade (if you want to go, see * below). Boats must have a Vessel Safety Check decal to participate; a good idea and one that all boats should have. All boats, not just the fishing fleet, need a blessing, but you can increase the odds of survival with good preparation.

That was brought home just the other day (May 2) when I found the following Facebook post from the Golden Isles Cruisers' Net group.

A U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah aircrew rescued 2 people and a dog after their 28-foot catamaran began taking on water, Monday, near the entrance of St. Simons Sound, Georgia.

"We were able to locate the survivors' exact position because of an alert from their Personal Locator Beacon," said Tyler Murray, the flight mechanic on the case. "A PLB transmits personalized distress signals and helps us find you in search and rescue missions. If you own a boat, the Coast Guard highly recommends this safety equipment. It can save your life as we saw firsthand."



The survivors issued a Mayday call on VHF marine radio Channel 16. U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston watchstanders heard the distress call and immediately issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast and dispatched Coast Guard Station Tybee, Air Station Savannah, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources to respond.

The 2 people and pup Reggie were transported to Hunter Army Airfield in good spirits!

Check out the Coast Guard's [press release](#); it includes a good video of the hoist. Note that the crew had PLBs, a wise decision if going offshore, even a little way offshore. They also had a VHF radio to make the Mayday call. Many boaters today do not bother, "My cellphone is good enough" they say. Maybe yes, but in critical situations, it is better to be able to reach the Coast Guard directly, as these people did.

Continues on next page.

Commander's Message (continued)

That many boaters do not understand even basic safety rules was made obvious during our ABC class last month. The question was, "What percent of boaters have taken a basic boating safety course?" The best estimate was TEN percent. Every boat you encounter out there is being driven by someone who most likely doesn't know the rules of the road. Since there are no "lanes" in the water as on the highway, you can't begin to predict what they might do. To heck with defensive boating, go for paranoid boating to stay safe.

Everybody 25 years old and younger in Georgia is supposed to have taken an authorized safe boating class. Wanna bet? Getting students is not just our club's problem. I talked with Ted Dubose of the Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGAUX) at CoastFest last month (a great success, see the XO page). He thinks that they offer the only CGAUX basic boating course in all of Georgia. They offer it many times a year, in person for one day, or virtually over four sessions. They get very few students despite their large target area, and many people don't show up.

We offer the only ABC course south of Atlanta, so we could reach out to a broader audience than we have been doing. Not sure that we'd be more successful than the CGAUX, but we will try for the next class.

Please don't rely on just a blessing. Count yours but be prepared and knowledgeable. Stay safe this summer!

Jerry

*Information on participating in the Brunswick Blessing of the Fleet:

- Go to <http://www.brunswickbotf.com/boaters> and register. You will receive an email confirming your registration. Before the parade day, you will receive another one with the details of where to rendezvous, etc.
- You need to be registered, even if you do not want to be judged.
- The parade usually starts at the University of Georgia Marine Extension, and will head towards Mary Ross Park where the judging will take place.
- You must have a valid 2023 Vessel Safety Check (VSC) sticker and a VHF radio to participate in the parade. If you don't have a radio, we can let you borrow one. Contact Ed Reynolds, Cynthia Lamb, or Mike Moye to get a VSC ASAP. Their contact info can be found towards the end of this newsletter.



Executive Officer's Report

Can't Wait for Next Time



XO Cynthia Lamb, S

"Except for the animals, you guys had the most fun booth." That's high praise considering there were alligators, owls, turtles, and more. That's just some of the positive feedback we received from people who attended last month's CoastFest held at Mary Ross Park in Brunswick. Animals are definitely hard to compete with, but we held our own.

Club members George and Mike Carellas, Bruce and Kay Miles, and Cathy Brewer-Moore joined Commander Jerry and me for a fantastic time last month. We met lots and lots of wonderful kids who really seemed excited by all the nautical challenges we threw at them. We worked in shifts with the Carellas working in the morning, followed by the Miles in the middle of the day, and Cathy working the afternoon until closing. Thank goodness for these folks. They braved the heat, the bugs, and so many people at our booth that we had no time to eat, chit chat, use the restroom, take pictures, or check out the other exhibits. The pictures from CoastFest in this month's newsletter either came from Teresa Wilsdorf or were taken by a photographer hired by DNR.

This was my first CoastFest – either as an exhibitor or a visitor. I really had no idea what to expect. In particular, I did not know how kids (our target audience) would respond. What I think is fun (like tying knots or solving puzzles), may not be fun for kids. Well, guess what? I can still think like a kid! So what did we do and how did we do it? Let's start with our (life) ring toss game. We positioned this out front; it was our kid magnet.



(Photo: T. Wilsdorf)

I got the idea from Mary Corsaro of the Beaufort Sail & Power Squadron, who got the idea from the Tybee Light club. It serves as a game and a teaching aid. The life ring toss instructs techniques of tossing a life ring (or throwable Type IV personal floatation device) to help save a drowning person or someone who has fallen overboard. The challenge is to throw a life ring correctly.

Once the kids finished with this activity, they moved into our exhibit (under the tent). Here we had 3 more hands on activities. We had a knot tying challenge that included 3 knot-tying stations and a poster illustrating how to tie several knots. This section of our exhibit worked well either manned or unmanned. The illustrations were easy to follow which allowed people to try them on their own. Littler kids needed one of us to demonstrate the knots though. Bruce Miles came up with a great demonstration using dock line. He tied it around his waist, playing the role of a boat. The kids had to pull him in and tie him up to the dock. It was fun to watch. Big kids also loved tossing the line like we do in the ABC class.

We had two activities related to maritime signal flags: Crack the Code and DIY Nautical Flags. Signal flags are used by Navy and other large commercial ships to communicate with one another when at sea. With the Internet, radio and satellite communications, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and other Maritime vessels still use the code of signal alphabet flags, numeral pennants, and special flags for visual signaling. These signal flags are used to communicate while maintaining radio silence and with other vessels or allied forces. Naval signal people transmit messages by hoisting a flag or a series of flags on a halyard.

Each letter also corresponds to a particular word such as M is Mike and A is Alfa. This eliminates any confusion when you are talking over the radio. By using the phonetic sound of the letter, people on the other end of the line can be sure that you said C and not D for instance. Because the word "Charlie" would not be confused with the word "Delta".

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Executive Officer's Report (continued)

A series of flags can spell out a message, each flag representing a letter. In our "Crack the Code" activity, kids deciphered a set of coded messages spelled out with nautical flags. We laminated each coded message and had the kids figure out the message by writing on them with a washable, white board type marker. This allowed us to reuse the same messages over and over; our exhibit produced zero garbage. (See if you can decipher the message below.)



Our final activity was also our free giveaway. Kids got to color a nautical flag of their choosing. We then laced a 3-foot-long piece of Dacron cord through holes that we pre-punched and tied a knot to secure it. Kids wrote the letter the flag represented and stamped "America's Boating Club Golden Isles" on the back. Many kids were seen wearing their letter/flag. It was great.

Finally, our club held raffles throughout the day. We gave kids a free raffle ticket for every challenge they completed. Their tickets were put into our multiple raffles. We pulled 2 numbers every hour. We ended up giving away 10 prizes – all with an ocean or nautical theme. (Note: I did give away the captain's hat that Vicky Jefferis donated even though I wanted to keep it. I thought it looked good on me.)

Thanks again to everyone who made America's Boating Club Golden Isles' CoastFest exhibit such a big hit. Besides the volunteers that worked the booth, I received donations from Whippersnapper Toys, Righton Books, and friends for the prizes. My next-door neighbor, Steve Arbogast, built the ring toss game and Charles Wilsdorf and Mike Moyer built the knot tying stations. Teresa Wilsdorf really looked out for us and ensured we got a great spot in the exhibitor tent. Thank you also to the Beaufort and Tybee Light (Savannah) clubs for sharing the idea and design of the ring toss game.

We had a great day and really did our club proud at CoastFest. But I think we can do even better. Next year, I'm going to bring a cooler full of half pint bottles of water. Many of the kids (and adults) coming into our exhibit enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the sun, sit, relax, and do some coloring. They also could've used some water.

Also, I think we should look into getting an inflatable boat like the one on the right. It's big enough for two people to sit in and the front is a cooler. How awesome would that be??

Can't wait for next year.

Enjoy safe and fun boating!

Cynthia



Photos from our Day at CoastFest



Working hard making a flag



Kay Miles having fun with guests at the ring toss



Teresa telling people where to go



One of our favorite "customers"; she came twice and won a prize



(Photo: T. Wilsdorf)



(Photo: R. Draper)

Some of our adorable prizes

(DNR Photos: Bobby Haven)

The Cruise Scene

May Plum Orchard Cruise

The next scheduled cruise is a good one! On May 20, we are planning to cruise to Plum Orchard on Cumberland Island. As you know, Cumberland Island is beautiful. Here's a photo from the club's last cruise there back in 2019. Gorgeous!



(Photo: C. Simpson)

According to the National Park Service website, the Plum Orchard dock is the northern most public dock available on Cumberland Island. It is a small dock, and boats are welcome to park where they find space. It is a short walk along the road to the Plum Orchard Mansion. The dock is located on the Brickhill River (see chart below).



The best entry point for this dock is to take the Intra Coastal Waterway (ICW) down to the southern end of the Brickhill River. An openCPN track will be provided. The dock is shown below.



(Photo: C. Stortz)

In order to make the trip through St. Andrews Sound as pleasant as possible, we plan to rendezvous in Saint Simons Sound around 8:30 a.m. The early time should mean little wind. High tide in Saint Andrews Sound (Raccoon Spit) is at 9:43 a.m. Pack a lunch. More specific details will be forthcoming through email. Of course, all of our cruises are contingent on the weather.

Bathrooms facilities are available at the rear of Plum Orchard Mansion. There is a self-pay station for visitors to pay the \$10 park entrance fee. National Parks Passes (Golden Passports) are accepted at Cumberland Island. If you have one of these passes, it waives the entrance fee for you and three adults. You must show your ID to use the pass if the entry is attended.

June Cruise

The June 17 cruise will be to Sapelo Island. The plan is to anchor off the beach on the south tip of the island. This will give us a great opportunity to do some beachcombing and a little swimming as well. Details on the times, etc. will come later.

Let me know if you're interested in participating in either of these cruises – as a boat operator or if you want to ride with someone.

Thanks!



Your Cruise Director

Administrative Officer's Report



AO Eileen Berta

We are one lucky group! The weather was ideal again for our April Wine Cruise with Georgia Tidewater Outfitters! Captain Paul and Kim are such gracious and fun hosts and so knowledgeable of the waterways and history of the area along the way. And the steamed shrimp from The Market in Darien were incredible! Highly recommend you visit them for fresh and prepared seafood if in Darien. For those who didn't join us this time, we will be looking to schedule another trip later this year.



(Photo: Georgia Tidewater Outfitters)

May Social

Slight change from the last *Porthole* announcement. We'll still be meeting for a casual pot luck, but the location has changed to the **Pool Pavilion at Hampton Plantation** in the north end of Saint Simons and the evening will serve as a new member recruiting event as well. Please plan to bring an appetizer or light dish to share, your beverages of choice - and friends who may be interested in joining our club.

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 16, 6 p.m.

Place: The Pool Pavilion at Hampton Plantation
100 Montrose
St Simons Island, GA 31522

Directions: GPS directions appear to work. If you need a bit more: on St Simons Island, go north on Frederica Road from the intersection with Sea Island Road. At the round-about, exit first right onto Lawrence Road, go north (5 miles) into the Hampton Point area (the road's name changes to Hampton Point Drive). Take the left fork onto Butler Lake Drive, then an immediate left through the Hampton Plantation entrance onto Rice Mill. Take the first left onto Montrose where you will see the Pool Pavilion. Look for the America's Boating Club sign.

RSVP/Questions: Cynthia Lamb, 860-908-5148. Cynthia will provide a gate code for entry as well.

June Social

In June, we'll be joined by Abby Sterling with Manomet, an international organization focused on shorebird conservation. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 20th, and don't miss this informative presentation! Location and details to follow. Thanks, Sharon Hindery, for putting us in touch with Abby.

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

The Darien Sunset Wine Cruise



(Photos: C. Lamb, J. Lamb, and E. Berta)

Squadron Education Officer Report



SEO Mike Moye, SN

We completed an ABC course this past Saturday and it will be the last until the fall (October 7). It was a fun group of students and a joy to note as I was posting grades that of the six students in the class, five are new members of our club. It will be great to see them get involved in some of the advanced courses as well as our wonderful social activities.

We sent out an inquiry last week to determine the interest in a couple of our advanced courses as well as our seminars. When you get an opportunity, please let us know if you spot anything you might want to take. Also let us know when you'd like to see it offered.

At our recent Change of Watch and in last month's *Porthole* there was an announcement that I had been awarded the national Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching. Frankly, I was more than just a little surprised. When I received a call from the National Education Officer, I was not available and had to return his call. I was honestly worried that maybe our education efforts had been determined to be sub-par or that I had failed to complete a report for our classes. I just didn't know. But I gave him a call and was ready to "face the music." To my surprise the chat we had was very pleasant. His call was not to reprimand me but rather to give me a pat on the back and a thank you and to tell me that I had been chosen as a Chapman winner. It was then that I knew that someone had made a mistake. I absolutely was not the person that should be receiving the award. Somebody had gotten something mixed up.

Long story short, I went to the National meeting and came home with a cool plaque and news that our squadron would be receiving a very nice gift. We chose a new laptop since our old one was getting a bit old and very slow.

Since then, I've given much thought to how this could have happened, and I think I've figured it out. You see, I spent nearly 40 years in education. I spent 20 or so years working on diplomas and degrees. Plus, I've taken a major handful of United States Power Squadron courses and a rigorous prep course for a USCG license. With all that sitting in class and observing other folks teach, I guess I've picked up a thing or two about what works and how students want to be treated.

This is my confession: If anything in my approach to boating education was above average, I can assure you that I copied it from someone else. It was not original. In fact, it may not have been an original approach even for the person I tried to emulate. All during my career as an educator and now my advocacy in boater education, if I saw something that was effective or outstanding, I stole it. It became mine. After all, isn't imitating the sincerest form of flattery? When I saw good instruction methodology, I claimed it as mine. I wanted to be a good teacher! I wanted to be like Coy and Jack and Larry.

I especially wanted to be like Charles who won the Chapman a decade ago. I knew what good instruction looked like and so I guess I've put bits and pieces from a lot of folks into my tool bag. It was not me that was awarded the Chapman this year—it was all those folks who allowed me to steal liberally from their tool kit. To all of you, from the past to the present, thank you.

Mike Moye, SN

Club Education Officer

America's Boating Channel™ Promoting National Safe Boating Week, May 20-26, 2023

Recreational boating and water activities are enjoyed by millions of Americans each year. Boating safety advocates recommend all boaters and passengers have a life jacket and always wear it while boating. Regardless of your age or experience level, the data shows that life jackets save lives.



But a life jacket can only save your life if it's used correctly. Always keep life jackets clean and neatly stowed when not in use. Proper care of life jackets ensures that they'll work when they're needed and extends their useful life. Plus, fresh clean life jackets are more attractive to wear and desirable for people to use while underway on your boat.



In-the-water buoyancy testing should be conducted at the beginning of every season. Foam deteriorates over time, so test to ensure that your life jacket keeps your mouth out of the water. A serviceable life jacket should keep you afloat for several hours, with all hardware and straps firmly attached and in working order.

Videos are available that offer an overview of the importance of wearing and caring for your life jacket. America's Boating Channel produced these videos to help viewers learn it only makes sense to treat your life jacket as though your life depends on it.

Watching videos like ""Life Jacket Care"" (<https://youtu.be/iEofd6mUwN4>) is an excellent way to understand how to properly care for your life jacket. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled ""Life Jacket Wear"" (<https://youtu.be/FgFLNGIbFxo>). It shows how recreational boaters can ensure serviceability and extend the useful life of life jackets.

Viewers also learn about special considerations for inflatable and foam-filled jackets. Also featured are tips regarding life jacket replacement. You can follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which 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.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel on-demand app on Roku or FireTV.

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America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar MAY - JUL 2023

May

13 - Blessing of the Fleet Brunswick
 16 - Club Social - Potluck at Hampton Plantation Pool 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 17 - Club Cruise to Sapelo Island
 June 20 - Club social

Upcoming Club Cruises

May 20 - Plum Orchard
 June 17 - Sapelo Island

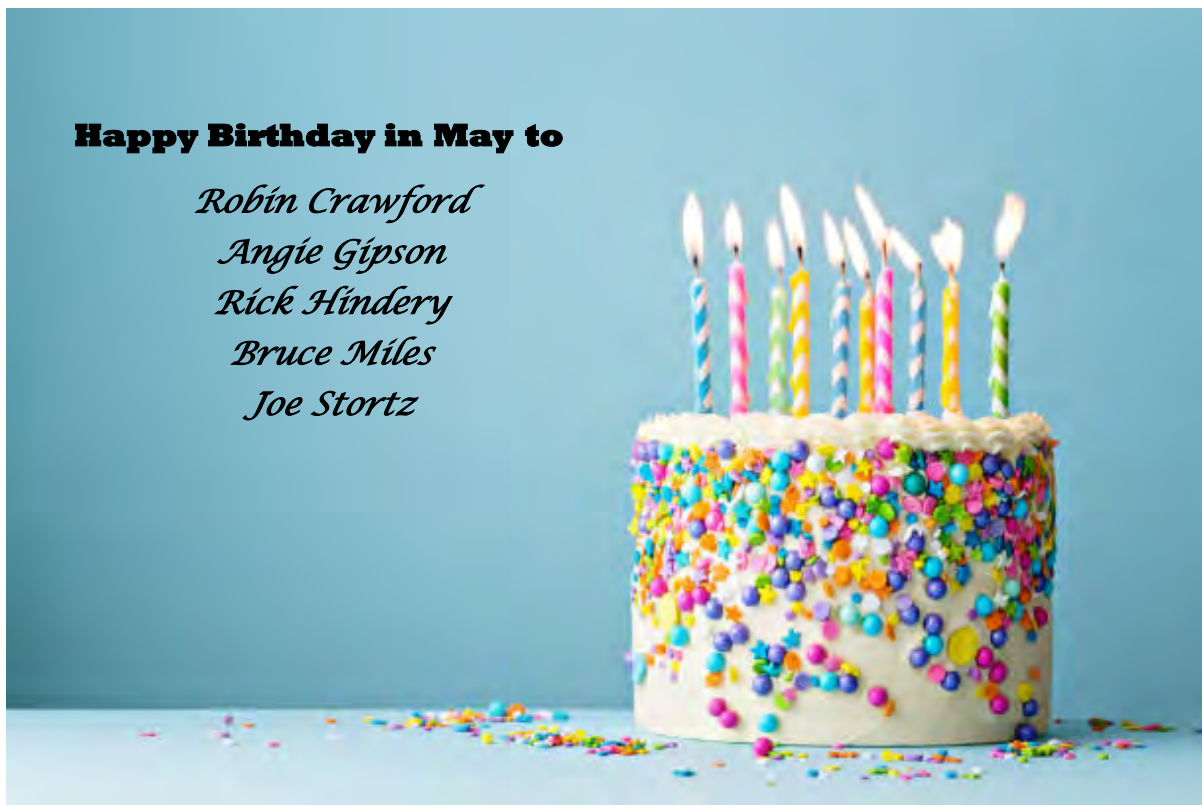
July

July 5 - Content for The Porthole due
 July 11 - The Porthole distribution
 July 18 - Club social
 July 22 - Club Cruise (TBD)



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Happy Birthday in May to*Robin Crawford**Angie Gipson**Rick Hindery**Bruce Miles**Joe Stortz***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.