

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

June

- 20 - Club Social
- 25 - Club Cruise

July

- 18 - Club Social
- 30 - Club Cruise

August

- 15 - Club Social
- 26 - Club Cruise

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Commander's Message



Cdr Jerry Lamb, S

The Good, the Bad, and the Thoughtful

Unfortunately, I must start with the **bad**. Our District Commander, Mark Larson, died May 20th from COVID complications. Jim Wilkins P/D/C will assume his duties and maintain the initiatives that Mark started. This is the message we received.

Mark Larson (1948-2023)

"Our friend, shipmate, and fellow volunteer Mark Larson crossed the bar peacefully on Saturday, after he was removed from life support."



Late Saturday evening, I texted his wife Linda from the Cruise & Rendezvous to let her know that Lake Murray chaplain Mike Charles' before-dinner prayer "included lifting you, Mark, your family, and Mark's medical team up." You were missed and remembered by all your USPS friends. We learned of his passing when she replied Sunday afternoon, "Thank you. It [was] swift, merciful, and [he was] at peace."

Let us keep Mark's family in our prayers during this difficult time.

The **good** was a very successful cruise to Plum Orchard on Cumberland Island. While only two boats and 6 members made the cruise, we re-blazed a trail the club had made several years ago. Contrary to many planned cruises, it was a perfect day, even St. Andrews Sound was peaceful. The tour of the Plum Orchard mansion was very interesting and covered the facility extensively. The horses, at least those hanging around the mansion, were not emaciated as is reported. We had a picnic lunch on our boat (it was cooler on the water).



(Photos: J. Lamb)

Continues on next page.

Commander's Message (continued)

Other **good** news is that our Club is now over 50 members. We are growing while many clubs are declining; two of our D26 sister clubs are dissolving. In January 2022, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) drafted a strategic plan. In reviewing it, we have been successful in many areas but need to do more for current members, especially those who joined recently.

And that brings the **thoughtful** issues to mind. How do we provide more value to keep members active? How do we plan for future officers to keep the club moving forward? What activities are best received? How do we spend our resources in the best way? How do we become better known within the boating and local communities? Lots of questions and you all have the answers.

We will be sending a survey in the near future. We **NEED** you to tell us what you want the club to be for **YOU**.

Jerry

Liberty Ship Park Cleanup



On a beautiful morning the first of June, cool and breezy enough to keep away the bugs, our enthusiasm for tidying up Liberty Ship Park showed! Our 8 members spent about an hour or so collecting 10 bags of mostly small stuff! With a lawn chair, a car vacuum, and the obligatory tire to keep things interesting.

Thank you to new members, Dave and Alice Vaughn and Robin Crawford, for crawling out of bed to join veterans of de-littering, Cathy Stortz, Cynthia and Commander Jerry Lamb, and Rick and Sharon Hindery in our endeavors in keeping this park clean!



(Photos: S. Hindery)

Executive Officer's Report



XO Cynthia Lamb, S

We're Not in Kansas (aka Hampton) Anymore

As most of you know, we keep our boat at the very friendly and laid-back Hampton River Marina. In a previous *Porthole* article, I likened the marina's vibe to that of the nostalgic and fictional Mayberry. We have a sheriff (Dave), a Barney (who is nothing like Barney Fife – they just have the same first name), and lots of cute little Opies (especially when Captain Brooks is running his shark camps). The only character we don't have is Otis the Drunk (thank goodness).

Our Jeanneau 795 is a weekend cruiser that sleeps 2, has a pretty spacious dinette area, functional galley, a stand-up head (sort of, if you're short), and best of all, air conditioning. By the way, the 795 in our boat model does not mean it is 79.5 feet long. When I told fellow club member, Kevin Michael, that Jerry and I bought a Jeanneau 795, he said, "You bought an 80-foot boat?" The Jeanneau is French (mais bien sûr) and the French use the metric system. Our boat is 7.95 meters long – not including the swim platforms and anchor pulpit. At the Hampton River Marina, we are sort of a "big fish." The marina has even given our boat the nickname *Big Blue*.

So *Big Blue* set out on a cruise a couple weeks ago that would include an overnight stay. This would be our first overnighter **away from home**. How exciting! We were going to go all the way to Jekyll Island. Whoo hoo! We made reservations on-line, packed some food, drinks, toiletries, change of clothes, etc. Before we left, Pete McLain (one of our new members and coincidentally, a part-time worker at Hampton River Marina) told us that he and his wife, Betty Carol, had cruised over to Jekyll just the other day and found out that Zachry's is closed on Tuesdays. No problem, I thought, we're going on a Wednesday.

We pull up to the transient face dock and are met by, not one, but two, dock hands. Wow. We were definitely not in Kansas anymore. They saw the size of our boat and told us we needed to go on the inside into one of the finger docks. The current was really moving fast and totally perpendicular to the boat. So even though I was planning on a starboard side docking, the conditions strongly suggested we make it a port side docking. One of the dock hands, who turned out to be the marina owner, told me he would just spin me around and got on our boat and docked me stern in on the starboard side. Nice.

We checked in, got hooked up to shore power, got our first ever pump out, and got the A/C cranking. When we checked in, we found out that not only is Zachry's closed on Tuesdays, but they are also closed on Wednesdays as well. Yikes. But never fear, the Jekyll Beach Village area was only a half mile away and the marina has complimentary bikes and a golf cart you can use. Jerry and I grabbed a couple bikes and in less than 10 minutes we were eating blizzards at Dairy Queen. If you remember my previous article about our test cruises at the Hampton River Marina, we invariably forgot something. This time we forgot to bring wine, so we picked up one of those mini-wine boxes at the gas station there.

We rode the bikes back to the marina so we could hang out in the cockpit drinking wine and being cool. We would've invited Mike and Sharon Moye over, but they weren't in town that night. I put on some music – *Brown Radio* on Pandora (my favorite station), but Jerry gets annoyed with it after a while so I switched to *Yacht Rock*.

As we sat there sipping the wine we bought at the gas station, one yacht after another pulled up to the transient dock. These boats had to average 60 feet long. Many of them had captains with crew wearing headsets and had dinghies almost as big as our boat. All of them with bow and stern thrusters. So cool. We took a stroll down the long face dock at the marina to check out the yachts. Very impressive.

Continues on next page.

Executive Officer's Report (continued)

We were no longer *Big Blue*, but more like *Bébé Bleu*. One of the boats had a cockpit with seating for about 20. They had a beautiful and very large bouquet of fresh cut flowers on the table. Maybe that's something I should get for our boat. I'm sure the Hampton River folks would get a kick out of that.

We took the bikes again to the beach village and had dinner at the Wee Pub. The food and service were very good.

So what did we learn on this first cruise away from home?

1. Zachry's Riverhouse restaurant at Jekyll Harbor Marina is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
2. If you take your boat over to Jekyll on a Tuesday or Wednesday and want to get some lunch, just borrow some bikes (or, even better, a golf cart) and go to the Beach Village area.
3. It only costs \$5 to get a pump out.
4. You can definitely make a small V-berth too cold if you blast the A/C all night.
5. I should have brought my blow dryer. (The marina has some nice facilities that I could've used, and my hair ended up looking pretty bad the next day. Thank goodness for ball caps.)
6. I need to practice docking in cross current situations.
7. Bring wine.
8. The folks at Jekyll Harbor Marina are wonderful.

Finally, it was a great experience, and we thoroughly enjoyed our cruise. Can't wait for the next one. Fernandina Beach or bust!

Cynthia

Supporting the Golden Isles Community Sailing Center



(Photo: E. Reynolds)

Future Members?

Golden Isles Community Sailing Center promotes and operates affordable public sailing instruction to create opportunities to attract new sailors to the sport.

Golden Isles Community Sailing Center, founded in 1997, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Golden Isles Community Sailing is the only public sailing center between Savannah and Jacksonville. They operate out of Brunswick Landing Marina.



The Club contributed \$250 in 2021 to support this organization. Pictured on the left is the 8 - 12 year olds' beginner session.

Club member Ed Reynolds volunteered to assist for the first week.

Way to go, Ed!

Administrative Officer's Report



AO Eileen Berta

I hear that while the Bertas were enjoying family time up north, a great potluck social was enjoyed by all at Hampton Plantation. (See pictures below.) Thanks to Cynthia for arranging the evening. (Note: there are more pictures from the social on page 9.)



We have a combined social/educational event planned for our June Social. We'll be joined by Abby Sterling, Ph.D., Director, Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative with Manomet (manomet.org). Manomet is an international organization focused on shorebird conservation. Manomet's mission is to use science and collaboration to improve the health of flyways, coastal ecosystems, and working lands and seas.

Abby earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia, where she studied how habitat and landscape features influence beach nesting shorebirds and chick survival. Prior to obtaining her degree, Abby lived on Little St. Simons Island, where she worked as a naturalist guide and assisted on a variety of environmental projects, educated visitors about coastal ecology, and explored the Southeastern coast. Before migrating south, Abby grew up in Western New York and attended SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry for her B.S. in environmental biology. When not birding or working, Abby enjoys spending time with friends and family, going on adventures, learning new things, and snuggling her dog, Baxley.

June Social

Date: Tuesday, June 20

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: 1800 Mexican Restaurant
5296 New Jesup Highway (Rte. 341)
Brunswick
912-289-2083

Questions: eileenberta@gmail.com

Club Burgees Available for Purchase!

We have seven burgees available for purchase that night, first paid first served. If you want a burgee, please remember to bring cash or a check for **\$35** made out to **GISPS** with you to the social.



Squadron Education Officer Report



SEO Mike Moye, SN

We'll remind you of this several more times but allow me to sneak one in now. The ABC course for fall will be October 7. Please help by spreading the word.

Our club will have two advanced courses in the upcoming months. The first will be Advanced Marine Navigation (Advanced Piloting) which kicks off June 12 and will end mid to late July. This is the second course in the sequence of courses in navigation. It continues to build coastal and inland navigation skills which will prepare students to take on more challenging conditions and unfamiliar waters.

The second advanced course will begin in late summer/early fall. It's Boat Handling (Seamanship). That's the course that is broken into six different seminars. Club members (and others) can take any of the individual seminars or bundle them all to get credit for the course and receive the Power Squadron grade of "S" (Seamanship).

We did a survey to determine who would be interested in which seminar and believe that we have enough folks to offer all of them. As a reminder, watch for the announcement of the kickoff date for the six seminars:

- Knots and Line Handling: The Knots You Need to Know
- Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach
- Confidence in Docking and Undocking: Slow Speed Maneuvering
- Anchoring with Assurance: Don't Get Carried Away
- Emergencies on Board: Preparation to Handle Common Problems
- Boating with Confidence: Handling Your Boat Underway

Signs

Please allow me to close out this column with an observation that is geared almost exclusively to the men in our club. It's a fact and a delight that there are women members in America's Boating Club who take the lead and go out and buy boats for themselves and their families. They are as good at captaining their vessels as any guy and better than many (me). However, it is a fact that typically it's the guy who takes the lead when it comes to buying a boat. To convince the lady of the house, he tries things like buying boating magazines and leaving them open to pictures of pretty boats in pretty places just where she can easily spot them (on her dresser, on the stove, on her side of the bed). Usually, in the end, if the guy plays his cards right, the lady is fine with the purchase of the next boat. He might have to work extra hard if it's the purchase of the FIRST boat though. Guys need to look for signs that maybe the coast is clear to move ahead. Look for things like her picking up the magazine and pointing out nice boats to YOU. Things like taking you by the hand and saying, "Let's walk down the dock and see what's new." There are probably lots of other signs, but I'm just now starting my research and wishing that I had known there were things like "signs" 50 years ago when I started pushing to buy boats.

So, when do you know that it's time to act? That's the personal dilemma I faced recently. I saw a "sign" and was hesitant to move on it. I wish I could have stored it away somewhere to pull out when I need it. You see, it has barely been two years since I bought my current boat. It's just not time for another—or is it? The sign was unmistakable though. Sharon brought her twin sister to the boat a while back and the two of them, who are world class shoppers, got interested in the various boats arriving at the marina.

Continues on next page

Squadron Education Officer's Report (continued)

They even went as far as to look them up on the Internet. They actually found interior pictures of similar boats that were passing through. It was "snowbird" season, and some of the really nice boats from south Florida were pausing for a day or two on their way to their summer homes. The twins were burning up the Internet for hours at a time each time another boat arrived.

Here's my message to the guys in the club. When you see the "sign" you must move fast. You have to close the sale. I didn't. By the time I had spotted what was going on and had warmed to the idea, the sign disappeared, and they had moved on to the latest fashions at Macy's. Guys, you snooze, you lose.

Ladies, I hope I have not offended any of you by my observations. But the fact is that YOU don't have to watch for "signs." It's easy as pie to lead your guy to a boat show or an Internet site featuring new boats. We follow you like puppies. You say you want a new boat, we'll just ask, "What color?"

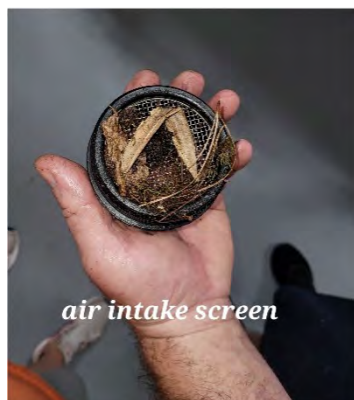
Mike Moyer, SN



A Small Bird Almost Ruined our Boat Engine by Cathy Stortz

Several weeks ago, we were heading out to our new hot fishing spot when our boat engine started having issues. We immediately stopped and Joe (the amazing mechanic) checked out several items relating to a probable fuel issue. The engine was slowing and losing RPMs. Despite having earned the Club's 2022 "Die Hard Award", Joe decided we need to return to Blythe Island dock while we could. But on the way back, the engine stopped having problems so we decided to go fishing. Hey, we earned that award and may be in the running for the award again this year. Anyway, good day fishing and we returned to Blythe Island safely.

Joe decided to be proactive and replace the entire fuel system from the tank to the engine. So yesterday when he pulled off the engine cover to get started with the repairs, he found the problem. A wren built a nest on top of the air intake. You can see the nest's remnants inside the circle of the first picture and the air intake just below the remnants. You can see how clogged the air intake screen was and how massive the nest was for such a small bird. Usually, the mud dauber wasps are our biggest problem. But for all who store their boats outside, check your engines for wildlife!



Photos from the Brunswick Blessing of the Fleet



(Photos: A. Vaughan, B.C. McLain, K. Miles, G. Carellas)

The Hampton Plantation Social

I knew when the inflatable boat went in the pool, things were getting out of hand...



(Photos: S. Krause-Jones)

The Cruise Scene

The cruise to Sapelo Island has been changed to Sunday, June 25. The plan is to anchor off the beach on the south tip of the island near Doboy Sound Light 8 (red ATON). This will give us a great opportunity to do some beach-combing and a little swimming as well. We will have lunch on board while at the beach or on the return trip depending on the timing.

The distance from Morningstar Marina to the Sapelo anchoring point is 24 nmi. It should take about an hour and a half at 15 MPH from Morningstar; 15 MPH average is due to the necessity to slow down through the Little Mud River and some shallow ICW sections. We will rendezvous with Hampton River boats off the mouth of the Hampton River in the Mackay.

Specific times and a .gpx file will be provided. The .gpx files are as accurate as possible but serve only as a guide to navigation. (These files open in several applications like OpenCPN and can be uploaded to your chartplotter.)

Cynthia Lamb, XO/Cruise Director



Screen shot of part of the proposed track through the Little Mud River

SOME CAUTIONARY TALES

I asked some of our most experienced members for their "most memorable boating misadventure." These are some of the stories that they have shared. Scary things can happen to anybody. There are many lessons to be learned.

My "most memorable boating misadventure" should read misadventures. My boating misadventures would take many volumes but this one is scary. In my teens I had access to an Owens 15' runabout with a 40 hp Johnson. I spent many days on the Cumberland River in Tennessee in this little craft. One day while boating alone, I smelled gas. No big deal, this old engine always smelled like gas. Eventually though, the engine quit running. Upon inspection, I found a defective gas hose coupling at the main tank and several gallons of gas sloshing in the aft bilge. I was able to start the engine on the auxiliary fuel tank.

Once making way, I pulled the garboard plug from the transom and continued up the river until there was no liquid left in the bilge. I reinserted the garboard plug and off I went.

After that, I learned to inspect the fuel tanks and fittings before leaving. Obviously, polluting the river is never a good idea. Oh, I forgot to mention I was a smoker at this time of my life. I am lucky to be here to tell this story.

Epilogue: several years later the boat was sunk (not by me) and I was able to purchase it for \$1.00 which is another story.

Charles Wilsdorf

Not long after Joe bought his 19 ft Sea Boss (aka "fishing boat"), we launched the boat off the trailer and secured it to the Blythe Island dock while I parked the vehicle. Once I boarded, Joe pulled off the dock slowly as usual while I secured the fenders and dock lines. Then I sat down, and he throttled up as usual.

At that moment we realized the boat's stern was way down in the water and Joe could not bring the boat up on plane. At the same moment we looked at each other and said, "Is the plug in?" NO, it was not!!! Joe immediately returned to the dock. He managed to screw in the plug from the boat and turn on the bilge pump to clear out all the water. PHEW, that was close to a disaster. Well, that is when he realized the bilge was not working so the stern is still down in water too far. Being a mechanic, Joe managed to get the pump working and removed the excess water out of the stern. He did replace the pump after that day. We agreed not to ever repeat these mishaps again.

Our lessons learned were:

- Always install the drainage plug before launching
- Always check the bilge pump before we leave the dock

(P.S. having a mechanic on board is priceless)

Joe and Cathy Stortz

Somewhere along my boating path I *accidentally* obtained a sailboat. Sailboats are cool and are especially lovely when they're flying a spinnaker, I thought. My new sailboat had a spinnaker plus four other sails that I didn't exactly know how or where to hoist.

I moved my sailboat from the Gulf up to my new home on Lake Lanier. For the maiden voyage I packed sandwiches and chips and grabbed a couple of beverages and made my way down to my dock. I cranked the engine (finally), raised the jib, taking great pleasure seeing it billow out. I was still tied to the dock

thinking "this will be great." I untied the boat and let the wind take me. Feeling quite confident I raised the main, killed the engine and that's when it happened. I had forgotten to lower the swing keel. By then I was too far out to turn back, and I experienced heeling for the first time. The gunnel was almost touching the water. I couldn't release the rudder to get down in the cabin to lower the keel for fear of capsizing. I was on a lake and the far shore had become the near shore.

Well, I finally made it back to my dock. The sandwiches were dried out, the beverages were unopened and no longer cold, and I was a total wreck. I never sailed again.

Mike Moye

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

June

June 12 - AP Class starts

June 20 - Club social

June 25 - Club Cruise to Sapelo Island

July

July 5 - Content for The Porthole due

July 11 - The Porthole distribution

July 18 - Club social

July 30 - Club Cruise (TBD)

August

August 1 - Content for The Porthole due

August 8 - The Porthole distribution

August 15 - Club social

August 26 - Club Cruise (TBD)



Upcoming Club Cruises

June 25 - Sapelo Island

July 30 - TBD



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What is your favorite boat/boating song?



Buy Me a Boat (Chris Janson) and Pontoon (Little Big Town) - Ed Reynolds
Sloop John B (Beach Boys) - Mike Moyer

Sailing (Christopher Cross) and Shrimp Boats (Jo Stafford) - Cathy Brewer-Moore
The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald (Gordon Lightfoot) - John Lijoi

Southern Cross (Crosby, Stills & Nash) - Jerry Lamb

Five Pound Bass (Robert Earl Keen) and Big Whiskers (Otis Gibbs) - Alice Vaughan

Toes (Zac Brown) and Southern Cross (CSN) - Cynthia Lamb

Where the Boat Leaves From and Knee Deep (Zac Brown) - Daria Lijoi

Row Row Row Your Boat - Teresa Wilsdorf

Sailing (Christopher Cross) - Charles Wilsdorf

If I Had a Boat (Lyle Lovett) - Bridgette Cuniff

Anything by Jimmy Buffett - Mark Crawford

Sloop John B (Kingston Trio) - Rick Hindery

Key Largo (Bertie Higgins) - Pete McLain



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.