

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

August

- 18 - Club Social
- 26 - Club Cruise

September

- 9 - Boat Handling starts
- 15 - Jekyll Island Museum lecture
- 16 - Club Cruise
- 19 - Club Social

October

- 7 - ABC Class
- 17 - Club Social
- 21 - Club Cruise

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Commander's Message



Cdr Jerry Lamb, P

The Good Old Days

I'm older than I thought.

That idea came to me while researching data for an upcoming talk. Our Club and the Mosaic Jekyll Island Museum are sponsoring a joint lecture about the Jekyll Island Club's founding millionaire members and their boats on September 15 at the museum. Patrick Carmody, who replaced Allison Dupuis, will present on the people and I will talk about the boating environs and technology of the day.



1 Jekyll Then and now

We all know about how much information is at our fingertips today on the water.

GPS gives our position to ten feet on a digital chart, depth sounders tell us when we run out of water, our phones have radar apps to see the weather from miles around, and our engines or GPS give us speed to the tenth of a knot. We have Sunbrella Biminis, Dacron sails, and nylon lines.

All this technology sets us apart from those turn of the century sailors, wealthy or not, that we imagine were still in the era of possible sea serpents on their charts.

Not true. They had sextants and compasses for position on printed charts, leadlines for depth, eyeballs for weather, taffrail logs for speed, and paper charts from the U. S. Coast Survey, forerunner of the Coast and Geodetic surveys. Not to mention, canvas sails and manila lines.



2 Tffrail Log

Continues on next page.

Commander's Message (continued)

And that's when I realized how old I was, not chronologically but in experience.

You'd think that we would have made a lot of progress on technology by the time I went to the US Coast Guard Academy. Not true. We sailed on the USCG barque Eagle. We used a taffrail log for speed, sextants for position, paper charts (better data but still the same format), and eyeballs for weather. We did have a depth sounder and a radar, although I could see farther than the radar in good weather as a lookout on the bow. Of course, the sails were canvas and the lines manila.

Recalling the thrills of getting a LORAN receiver and my first handheld GPS, I realize how lucky I have been to witness the great leaps in technology over my boating lifetime. They have made life on the water easier and safer.

These technology changes have taken place in the last 50 years, a microcosm in the history of sailing. But technology can and will fail. What do you do then? And what do you do when you are planning a trip? The old techniques still work and are useful even before you leave port. Cynthia and I have just finished both the Navigation and Advanced Navigation courses. Charles Wilsdorf, who lived five years on board his sailboat and traveled to South America, among various other locations, wisely and skillfully taught the courses.

Even with today's electronics, the concepts and techniques are great to know and help in interpreting and using the fancy electronics. Home computer-based programs, like OpenCPN, are great for planning and armchair cruising.

I'm not advocating a return to the "Good Old Days," but knowing how to do things the old way will help you be a better boater.

Jerry

Note: the lecture I am giving at the Jekyll Mosaic Museum will be held on Friday, September 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the museum. Go to <https://jekyllisland.ticketleap.com/yachting-life-at-the-jekyll-island-club/> to register to attend.



3 USCGC Eagle in 1950's

Greetings from Steve Luta and Ingrid Whiting!



I received this picture from club members Steve and Ingrid who have been cruising for several months aboard their Pilgrim 40 trawler the Sam McGee (shown here on the left in the foreground). The two have been cruising for 102 days and have traveled 1100 miles.

This photo was taken at Penn's Landing at Philadelphia's Delaware River waterfront. The big white ship on the right is the Olympia, which served as a flagship in the Spanish-American war in 1898. Her final mission was to bring home the body of the unknown soldier after World War I. It is currently a museum ship at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia.

Executive Officer's Report



XO Cynthia Lamb, P

What Women Want...It's Not What You Think

I have become obsessed (again) with Barbie dolls since seeing the movie Barbie a few weeks ago. It was funny, silly, poignant, a little sad, and visually appealing; overall, I loved it. Even the two guys I dragged with me – Jerry and our neighbor, Ralph – liked it. From the movie and my own experience, I knew that there were lots and lots of different Barbie dolls, and that she had lots of ‘careers’. Did you know that Barbie has had over 200 different careers?

Given Barbie's wide variety of interests, skills, and accomplishments, I thought it might be interesting to know whether Barbie had any interest in boating.

Of course, she did!

Barbie has owned at various times a speedboat, kayak, jet ski, sailboard, and my favorite – a Chris Craft cabin cruiser; aka “Barbie's Dream Boat.” Barbie has operated all these vessels by herself. She even trailered some of them; now that's impressive.

So that's boating in *Barbieland*. What is it like for women boating in *real life*?

According to data collected by the market research firm Info-Link, men outnumber women when it comes to registered boat owners by 7 to 1. What about boats co-owned by a husband and wife? Who's in command? Guess! It's much harder to find data for this, but according to one article I read called *Women at the Helm* in Pontoon and Deck Boat magazine, “only 23 percent of women ever put themselves in the captain position on their own boat.” Not only are women missing out on a wonderful and rewarding activity, but it's a whole lot safer if more than one person knows how to steer, anchor, and dock the boat, as well as how to navigate back home and use the radio and GPS.

In one of my previous articles, I talked about why I love to boat. There's something special about time on the water and its beneficial effects on us. I highly recommend the book *Blue Mind: The Surprising Science that Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do* by Wallace J. Nichols. There's a reason humans pay such a premium to live near the water. You can't get any closer than on a boat.

So why aren't more women getting into boat ownership and taking the helm? The reasons are many and include fear of not being competent/good enough, low expectations, and few opportunities. When it comes to boating, *women want role models, training, and to be taken seriously*. Well, our club hopes to help with this.

Starting early in 2024, we will be offering a women-only boating course to the community. It will include classroom-based training as well as on the water time. It will be taught exclusively by several of our women members. Thanks to member Cathy Stortz, we will also provide an opportunity for women to see what it's like to back a trailer into a specific spot. Our first time offering the program will be March 2, 2024, at the St. Simons Casino Building at 550 Beachview Drive. The classroom presentation will be from 9 am to 12 pm. The on-water and trailering portions will be held at a later time.

We will start marketing the program in late 2023. We are targeting women and girls ages 12 and up. This will be a big effort. We will need help spreading the word, putting up posters, drafting press releases, and fine-tuning the curriculum. I expect the public relations and goodwill created for our club by this event will be huge. Please help if you can. Thanks!

Cynthia

Squadron Education Officer Report



SEO Mike Moye, SN

The Education Department of our club is gearing up for a busy fall with three courses in the works. **October 7** is the date for the next ABC course. Please help us spread the word for this event. In addition to boating safety, boating laws, and lots of how-to information about boating, the ABC course is one of our most powerful recruiting tools for attracting new members.

Way back in the 80's, when I took the course, the invitation to join the USPS is what got me started on a great educational and boating journey.

The second course we have planned is Boat Handling. We've talked about it several times before and so you're aware that it is made up of six seminars and those can be taken independently if you wish. The kickoff date is **September 9** and we'll do a fun morning session on knots and line handling. The other classes will be in the

evenings of **September 11, 18, 25, and October 2.**

Our third course, which is being developed this fall but won't be presented until **March 2, 2024**, is one dedicated to the many women boaters in our area - both club members and others who are interested. It's based loosely on the Partner In Command curriculum with lots of extras provided. It will be offered in the early part of next year to give us more time to develop, then market the course to the wider community. Cynthia Lamb is heading this effort and has more details in her *Porthole* column.

A Change is Gonna Come

I mentioned this Sam Cooke song in a column a few years back. I think it continues to be an appropriate theme as it relates to technology on our boats. It seems almost impossible to read a magazine, a forum, a blog, or even a newsletter, that doesn't mention some sort of new device or type of technology that is supposed to make our boating experience more enjoyable.

One of the bigger stirs that I recall from the past concerning technology was the pronouncement by Jeff Siegel, the inventor and publisher of *Active Captain*, that paper charts were no longer needed on our boats. Jeff and his wife Karen were (and still are) cruisers and owned *Active Captain* from 1998 until 2017. In late 2017 they sold it to Garmin (they promptly bought a bigger boat). They had a very wide following on the web and *Active Captain* was (and still is) a wonderful crowd sourced trove of information for boaters - in particular, cruisers.

Back in the day I read every web posting from Jeff and Karen and many of the postings from others on their web site. When he said that I no longer should have my precious paper charts on my boat I was hurt. What is this guy thinking?? How can we ever find our way without paper charts?? Never mind that I had two 14" chartplotters at my helm that I relied on religiously when cruising. Back then I never failed to hold the wheel with one hand and my paper chart with the other. I was definitely a belt and suspenders kind of captain.

I spotted an interesting conversation on a forum recently that really made me think. The conversation was "Do we still need Plotters." Without reading the content I immediately went through the same anguish I had when Jeff said I didn't need paper on board. When I finally got to the meat of what was being discussed I found that they were referring to dedicated chartplotters vs. apps on pads and smartphones. Again, my immediate thought was that somebody has a loose screw; I would never give up my dedicated chartplotter! But then reality kicked in. Just as I finally quit insisting on having paper charts at the helm, a few years back, I actually started using an iPad and an application from the app store for navigation.

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Squadron Education Officer Report (cont'd)

I have a couple of boats and I finally removed my last dedicated chartplotter. I replaced it with an MFD (Multifunction Display) and I have one on the big boat too. These devices show charts, sonar, radar, radar overlays on the chart, AIS targets on the chart, three different high-definition fish finders, weather, engine gauges, alarms, and even Jimmy Buffett music.

Some folks want to debate this issue but for me it's not even an issue—it's a matter of personal choice tempered with a need for reliability, redundant systems, ease of updating, needed features (like built-in Active Captain) and other influences. I have both. The MFD is easy to use, has good visibility, runs on the boat's 12 v. system, has a big screen, is durable and has all the other neat functions and capabilities I want. But the pad is the **ONLY** thing I'll use when navigating the ICW. That's because of the dependable routes I've downloaded that keep me out of skinny water. The pad is super easy to update and is thousands of dollars less expensive than a nice MFD with good charts. My back up to the pad is my phone. I have the same app and routes loaded on it. Plus, it's really cool to pull the phone out of my pocket and show someone exactly where the fish were biting or where we churned up mud trying to get from point A to point B.

When in big water, I refer mostly to the MFD (on the big boat I have Garmin, on the small boat a Raymarine). When in really big water, I highly recommend a paper chart. I guess I'll never totally give up paper charts because that's the tool I used when learning navigation. In my opinion, it gives the best view of where you're going if it's a long trip.

I hope to see you on the water soon. I'll be the one waving with the paper chart.

Mike Moye, SN
Club Education Officer

What's your favorite app*?

Ed Reynolds: Navionics boating app

Alice Vaughan: Real Tide GPS

Jerry Lamb: Aqua Map for navigation and MyRadar for weather

Mike Moye: My favorite app, which is loaded on both my phone and tablet, is Aqua Map. I daydream about a lot of "what if" boat trips and Aqua Map has taken me to a lot of places all around the country.

Teresa Wilsdorf: Everyday Jigsaw

Daria Lijoi: PlantSnap

Mark Crawford: Windy

Rick Hindery: Marine Traffic

Cynthia Lamb: Merlin Bird ID



**This is the 3rd of 4 questions I posed to our members in my last survey.*

Administrative Officer's Report



AO Eileen Berta

Given the extreme heat and the planned outdoor venue, we thought it best to cancel our July social. Many members also had travel conflicts. Apologies to those who had planned to attend.

This month we will be meeting our friends from the Tybee Light (Savannah) Squadron, as they are cruising to St. Simons Island for the weekend of August 18-20. ***Please note that we will be gathering on Friday the 18th at 5:00pm, not our usual Tuesday meeting day and time.***

August Social

Date: Friday, August 18

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Mullet Bay Restaurant

512 Ocean Boulevard Saint
Simons Island 912-634-9977

www.mulletbayrestaurant.com



We have a treat in store for our **September 19** meeting! Our own Past Commander, Charles Wilsdorf, will present on the Cooperative Charting Program.

Cooperative Charting is the name of the program of civic service performed by the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) in cooperation with the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Program is conducted and administered cooperatively by the Marine Chart Division of the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the national USPS Cooperative Charting Committee.

The Program is a major public service of USPS. Under it, USPS members supply information to the Marine Chart division of NOS leading to the production "of accurate and up-to-date nautical and aeronautical charts" and related publications, and the preservation of geodetic control stations in the National Geodetic Reference System.

We're excited for our Golden Isles squadron to participate in this valuable service.

We had very limited interest in squadron apparel, so did not meet the supplier's \$75 minimum order requirement for custom logo wear. If you are still interested, let me know and we will order once we can meet the minimum. Burgees are still available if you haven't gotten yours. Cost is \$35, cash or check payable to GISPS.

Happy Birthday in August to

*Vicky Jefferis
Lynn Michael
Ed Reynolds
Alice Vaughan*



BOAT SNACKS

I'm looking for easy-to-make dishes, snacks, and lunches that are perfect for a day on the boat. This month I've found two recipes to share. These are both from MarineMax.

Hawaiian Roll Sammies

You can't go wrong with pretty much any sandwich fixings between a Hawaiian roll. This delicious sandwich includes EverRoast chicken and salami, provolone, and a pesto mayo.

Bruschetta Kabobs

Skewer cheese, a grape tomato, basil, and cheese tortellini for a beautiful and easy kabob.

Source: <https://www.marinemax.com/connect/lifestyles/25-easy-boat-snacks-to-try-this-summer>

THIS IS FOR ALL YOU BOAT NERDS...

QUIZ TIME

Q: If you are heading on a course of 285 and the current is flowing in the same direction as the ships heading, what is your course made good?

A: Your course made good is 285 degrees because the current is flowing in the same direction you're going.

Some Photos from the Hampton Cruise



(Photos: D. Lijoi, C. Lamb)

SOME CAUTIONARY TALES

A couple months ago I asked some of our most experienced boating members for their "most memorable boating misadventure." I shared several of their stories with you. Well, Mike Moya has another "most-memorable-boating-misadventures" to share with us. Like I said last month, maybe this should become a regular column for Mike. Keep 'em coming!

I was "fixing up" a boat for a friend to use for a "summer of fun." I wanted to make sure the fun did not include scraping barnacles from an unpainted bottom. A couple of coats of anti-fouling paint should do the trick, I thought, but where's the water line?? The boat didn't have one—not even the smudge marks of dirty water. I figured the best approach would be to haul the boat to a ramp, launch it, and with a pencil put a mark on the boat just above the water. A very clever approach I thought. This will be a story I can share at the yacht club tonight during the sundowner gathering. Folks will be impressed with my ingenuity.

The project went well at the bow and about half way down the length of the boat. It was then that I notice that the line seemed to have an upward curve. It didn't bother me though - there are no right angles on a boat so I should expect curves. The curve got steeper and was even steeper when I realized that the boat was filling with water. Some fool had forgotten the plug! Me!

I came close to completely sinking the boat but had accomplished my goal. I had a heck of a story to share with the sundowners.

Mike Moya

In the local news...

Coast Guard rescues two from boat off Jekyll

On July 23, a 16-foot fishing boat capsized 4 miles offshore of Jekyll Island. The two men were out when a vicious line of thunderstorms came through the area. The Coast Guard only knew of the situation because they received a 911 call from a concerned party when the two were late returning to the Jekyll Marina.

Lt. Tucker Williams, Air Station Savannah's public affairs officer, said in a statement that "[o]ur aircrew was able to conduct the rescue safely and efficiently with the best possible results."

"The southeast is prone to powerful storms that aren't predictable and are capable of capsizing smaller vessels," he also said. "We recommend all mariners carry a radio, flares and other distress signals in case they encounter an unexpected situation."

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

August

August 8 - EXCOM meeting
 August 18 - Club social with members of the Tybee Light
 (Savannah) Club - Mullet Bay, SSI
 August 26 - Club cruise to Blythe Island



September

September 5 - Content for The Porthole due
 September 9 - Boat Handling starts
 September 12 - The Porthole distribution & EXCOM meeting
 September 15 - Boating History Lecture at Jekyll Mosaic Museum
 September 16 - Club cruise to Darien
 September 19 - Club social

Upcoming Club Cruises

August 26 - Blythe Island
 September 16 - Darien
 October 21 - St. Mary's

October

October 2 - Boat Handling last class
 October 7 - ABC Class
 October 17 - Club social
 October 21 - Club cruise to St. Mary's



The Cruise Scene

We had a fun cruise in July down the beautiful Hampton River into Village Creek, which separates St. Simons Island (the millionaires) from Sea Island (the billionaires). We had 3 boats and 7 club members willing to brave the heat, beautiful blue skies, lots of sunshine, the pinkest spoonbills ever, and John Lijoi's homemade *Apple Pie a la Mode*. Please note that we're not talking apple pie as in a baked good, but a very strong moonshine-like drink that will knock your socks off. Thank goodness we were finished with the cruise when he started handing it out. It's a secret recipe but I managed to whine enough for him to give it to me. I also had to cough up my homemade Bailey's Irish Creme recipe in a trade.

Well, enough of that, let's move on to our next several cruises. As we have boaters located anywhere from Hampton River to Morningstar to Jekyll Island to various boat launches, I tried to pick the next set of cruises so there was one in the middle (Blythe Island), in the north (Darien), and in the south (St. Mary's). So here's the general plan:

- August 26 Blythe Island: Blythe Island is conveniently located and has great facilities for docking and picnicking.
- September 16 Darien: This trip will include lunch at the Blue Bay Mexican Grill. I've been wanting to try this restaurant for a long time. Whenever I go to Skipper's, I always say, "I want to try the place - it's so cute". Also, the Darien waterfront has events going on every second Saturday of the month so there will be vendors and lots of shopping opportunities that day as well.
- October 21 St. Mary's: I'm saving the longest trip (at least for the Hamptonites) for October when, hopefully, it won't be so hot. This cruise will include lunch at one of the waterfront restaurants.

Cynthia Lamb, XO/Cruise Director

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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.