

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

September

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

October

- 7 - ABC Class
- 17 - Club Social
- 21 - D26 Fall Conference
- 22 - Club Cruise

November

- 18 - Club Cruise

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Commander's Message



CDR Jerry Lamb, P

Where's That Buoy?

Boogying up the Hampton River last week from the Sea Island area, I was looking at my GPS to help spot the HR 2 buoy, a turn for the next leg. From the GPS picture, it should have been right on the starboard bow, perfect for a close aboard turn for home. I couldn't see it, blaming my poor eyesight, the fact that it is a small nun, and the sun on the water. Suddenly, Cynthia, sitting in her favorite spot aft to port (she has a little bit of Sheldon* in her), shouted: "There's the red buoy!" I looked and it was on my PORT bow.

No danger since there is deep water around the nun (a favorite fishing spot for the Sea Island Cloister boats). A quick turn of the wheel, leaving the buoy to starboard as planned, and we headed home. No harm, no foul.

Not quite. Bad enough that I was focusing on the place I thought the buoy should be instead of keeping an all-around lookout; the buoy was not in its charted position, and I KNEW IT. I had just submitted a Cooperative Charting report that it was out of position by 200-250 yards. That is enough to have me running into what could have been shoal waters.

Besides the obvious lessons of keeping a good lookout and using what I knew, there is the fact that we trust our chartplotter and its embedded charts more than we should sometimes. Most of us know that the sand is constantly shifting throughout our area and use the chart as a general indication of the bottom. What we don't expect is that the ATONs might not be where the chart says.

The Coast Guard does a great job of placing and maintaining ATONs. I once heard Ted Turner tell Coast Guard Academy cadets of climbing guano-covered poles to replace light bulbs. He made it sound funny – all those many years and millions later. But the CG can't check all the ATONs all the time. That is why America's Boating Club has a Cooperative Charting Program. I'll write a little about it here, but I urge you to go to our next social on September 19. Charles Wildsorf, a master of Coop Charting (and all other things nautical), will expound upon how it's really done.

(*I refer here to the character Sheldon Cooper of the TV show The Big Bang Theory)



(Photo: J. Lamb)

Continues on next page.

Commander's Message (continued)

The Cooperative Charting Program of the United States Power Squadrons is conducted in close cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, and NOAA's National Geodetic Survey Division (NGSD). You can do three different reports to help these agencies. The nautical ones allow you to report on a problem with things from ATON discrepancies to iceberg sightings (<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/report-a-problem>). Once you report to the CG and get their response, you file a report with the national cooperative charting program. After you log-in to the national website, click on Departments -> Executive Department -> Cooperative Charting Department. Or you can fill out a marina report at the same web page. Charles will explain some nuances, but having done both a marina report and an ATON deficiency, it isn't rocket science.

Happening upon a discrepancy as we did with the HR2 buoy is one thing and we should all be on the lookout. More fun would be to organize a group of our boats, assign areas, and see if the ATONs are where they should be. I believe the XO has that on her cruise horizon. In any case, believe what you see out the window on your boat even if the chartplotter says something different.

Jerry

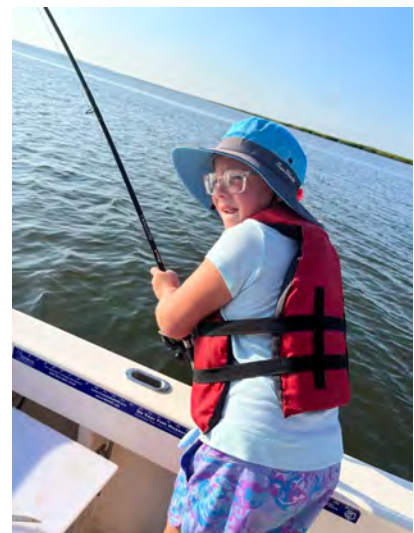
Sign Me Up 4 Grampy Camp!

Rick and I have started a little tradition of hosting our 2 oldest grand girls for a short vacation, without their parents, here in coastal Georgia as a summer's last fling before school starts. We call this "**Grampy Camp.**" We pick them up in Chicago, fly them here for a 4-night stay spoiling them all the way! When we take them back, they literally start school the next day!

We asked them what they wanted to do in Georgia. In addition to swimming, going to the beach, making s'mores, Audrey - the oldest at 9, wanted to fish for sharks, the bigger the better. So, shark fishing we went. Audrey got her wish. In the 4 hours we were on the water in Sapelo Sound, we caught well over 12 bonnethead sharks. We eventually lost count. It was crazy! We changed locations and got us some live bait and tried for blacktips and caught 4 of those!

The girls enjoyed the fight of reeling them in, but when it came time to actually hold the shark for the photo op, they both were apprehensive of even touching them! Although Emme (age 7) enjoyed the fishing as well, she got her thrill in being at the helm, driving the boat back to the marina. A future *Women in Boating* student, I am sure!

Submitted by: Sharon Hindery, AP



Executive Officer's Report



XO Cynthia Lamb, AP

The Future's So Bright, [We] Gotta Wear Shades

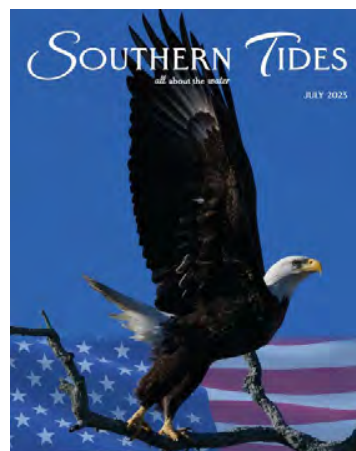
There seems to be a newfound energy in our club that I can only attribute to lots of wonderful people. We're adding new members and we're retaining our existing members. There is no more important metric than this for a membership-based organization like our own. We are also seeing more people getting involved.

On the education front, we've seen an increase in the award of Advanced Grades like Seamanship (S), Piloting (P), and Advanced Piloting (AP), and with the launch of our Boat Handling course this month, we will be awarding even more educational designations. Earning these designations are challenging, requiring huge time commitments from both students and instructors. Completing the courses is also rewarding and fun.

After finding out that he passed the Advanced Piloting (AP) course, member Mark Crawford, in an email exchange with Charles Wilsdorf (our AP instructor), wrote: "I am absolutely thrilled. Charles, thank you for putting in the effort on this challenging class. What's next?" That's the spirit, Mark!

From a public relations perspective, our little club has been making quite the splash lately. Commander Jerry Lamb is co-presenting with one of the museum educators, Patrick Carmody, at Mosaic, Jekyll Island Museum on the Jekyll Island Club millionaires and their yachts. Patrick will talk about how certain Jekyll Club members' social and financial lives intersected with their ownership of private yachts, as well as how the Club itself used yachts that it owned. Jerry's talk will showcase the yachts' designs and capabilities and provide a look at boating techniques and technology of the time. If you're a boating nerd like me, you're going to love it.

Speaking of being a boating nerd, yours truly is now a columnist for the *Southern Tides* magazine which is "all about the water." It is a monthly (physical) publication that is distributed throughout coastal Georgia and South Carolina. The title of my column is "Tales from a Boating Nerd." I'm reusing several of the articles I've written for the Porthole to save on my workload. The editor loved my samples and offered me my own column. I figured this would be a great way to get our club some publicity and to promote safe and fun boating. I'll be plugging the club and its programs whenever I can. Look for the magazine at places like Marshside Grill, Dunbar Yachts/Freedom Boat Club, and Coastal Kitchen.



We should all be proud of the club and the good things that it does. Besides increasing the number of classes this year, we've also increased the number of vessel safety checks performed and have submitted more cooperative charting reports this year than last. Charles Wilsdorf is going to give a talk at our next social about the program and how everyone can participate. It really is fun, and I'm not just saying that.

Finally, we're starting up some new initiatives to make boating and being on the water more inclusive and more fun. We have a Women in Boating program being launched next year and we will be partnering with Captain Brooks Good from Coastal Outdoor Adventures to offer Brunswick schoolkids the opportunity to attend Brooks' Shark Camp. I'm calling it *Operation Little Shark*. Stay tuned! Let me know if you would like to help. We are also talking about putting together a fishing seminar (a *Fishing 101 in the Golden Isles* type thing) for fishing novices or more experienced people that want to know more about fishing here.

I think if more people in the area knew of our existence and all the great things we're doing, they'd be beating down our doors. Go team!

Cynthia

Squadron Education Officer Report



SEO Mike Moye, SN

Seems that I always start off my contribution to the *Porthole* with a request for everyone to help spread the word about our upcoming ABC class. It starts in about a month, and there are lots of seats still available. Word of mouth is our best form of advertising so please help “talk it up.”

We’ve started the Boat Handling course and are pleased to have been able to offer two advanced courses this calendar year. Boat Handling, as you will recall, is made up of six separate seminars. The first one was Knots and Line Handling and was held Saturday, September 9. It’s still not too late to attend any of the other sessions. They are all on Monday evenings beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Georgia Marine Extension building. Come join us.

The new name for the Advanced Piloting (AP) course is Advanced Marine Navigation. The two most recent America’s Boating Club—Golden Isles members who have earned the AP grade are Cynthia Lamb and Mark Crawford. Congratulations to both of them. That’s a very challenging course where students attain massive amounts of knowledge about electronic and traditional navigation techniques and factors that impact conditions where we cruise. Hopefully we’ll be able to offer it again in 2024 if we have adequate demand from our membership.

Last month as I was describing Multifunction Displays (MFD) I was listing all the things they can display including Jimmy Buffett music. I’m a bit of a parrot-head and personally feel that fish bite better if there’s a little Buffett music going in the background. As I’m sure you all know, Mr. Buffett recently passed. I don’t normally pay much attention to celebrities and their lives, but Jimmy Buffett was very different. He was one of us. He was a boater and had been for many decades. If you’ve ever heard an interview or read a book by him concerning his time on the water, you can easily get a feel for the reverence he has for the great aquatic world. If you see a video of an interview, you can absolutely see the twinkle in his eyes when he starts talking water and his boats. He had everything from very large trawlers to sailboats and smaller power boats to surfboards and stand-up paddle boards. Whether fresh water or mother ocean, he had much respect for the wonderful resource that we sometimes take for granted.

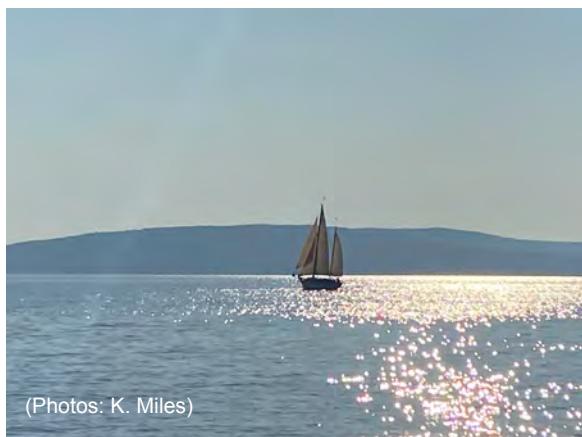
I only know what I’ve read about his cause of death, but the media says that it was related to skin cancer. You and I are probably already going yearly to see about those funny looking moles and dark spots that pop up. Your doc and mine would quickly tell you that most of the problems showing up that must be cut out and analyzed are the results of not having used appropriate sun block when we were much, much younger.

Talk to your kids and their kids about how the world of music lost a shining light and talk to them about how the life-giving sun can also take life away. You must start early to save your skin.

Mike Moye, SN

Club Education Officer

Greetings from Bruce and Kay Miles!



(Photos: K. Miles)



Bruce and Kay live aboard their Tiara 40 Express called Pearl on Madeline Island in Lake Superior. It sure looks beautiful there! They'll be back in the area soon.

What was your favorite nature sighting while on the water?

Mike Moyer: Spotting Loggerhead Turtles while fishing in the Gulf.

Cathy Stortz: This year, Joe and I see a pair of bald eagles frequently. It's amazing how big they are.

Alice Vaughan: Now it is dolphins! My least favorite sightings were the snakes in trees on Clinton, IL lake (see picture - Yikes!)

Teresa Wilsdorf: Definitely dolphins and whales

Daria Lijoi: Fish on the line/alligators in creeks

Bridgette Cuniff: A hurricane while sailing the gulf in Louisiana.

Mark Crawford: All the dolphins are memorable.

John Lijoi: Seeing a manatee

Ed Reynolds: Spinning sharks. Favorite non-nature sighting: submarine entering St. Mary's channel

Jerry Lamb: 2 dolphins jumping (see other picture - aww, so cute)

Pete McClain: Watching the sun set at the mouth of Hampton River and the Intracoastal Waterway.... Dolphins swimming beside the boatmanatees coming up to the dock and laying on their back for me to rub their belly. Leaving the marina at daylight in the fall with the sun coming up....the water is so smooth it looks like you are riding on a mirror.



(Photo: A. Vaughan)



(Photo: C. Lamb)

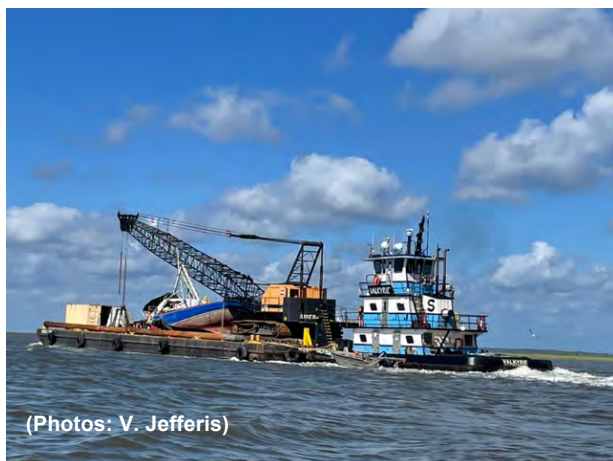
Administrative Officer's Report



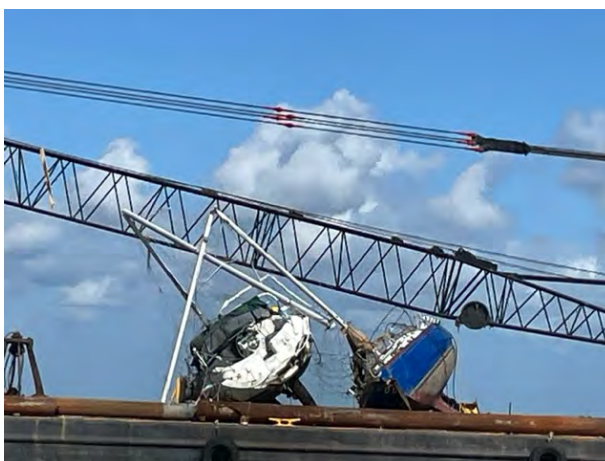
AO Eileen Berta

As Idalia blew through the Golden Isles, the Bertas recalled the stress and prep and worry when we had an in-water boat years ago in New Jersey and the occasional hurricane threatened. We sure were happy that our GA boat was secure in the covered, enclosed barn at Jekyll Harbor Marina! Sadly, not so fortunate were the two vessels that sunk at Frederica Yacht Club. Frank and I saw the crane and salvage operation going on as we ate at Coastal Kitchen Saturday evening after the storm.

The next morning, as we and Vicky Jefferis were departing Jekyll Harbor Marina, observing the no wake zone, and avoiding the kayaking tourists, who should suddenly come up behind us but the salvage barge with both vessels on board. Needless to say, we moved aside.



(Photos: V. Jefferis)



If you weren't able to make our August social at Mullet Bay, you missed the opportunity to meet and spend time with some delightful fellow boaters from Savannah. A great time was had by thirty-two of us from both squadrons. BTW, if you're wondering, they made the trip in about three and a half hours from Savannah to Morningstar, averaging about 30 mph.

PIZZA PARTY! As we announced last month, we have a treat in store for our September meeting when our own Past Commander, Charles Wilsdorf, will present on the Cooperative Charting Program. And another treat - we'll be enjoying a private casual pizza get together while we learn about this cool initiative from Charles. Plan to bring your own wine, beer or soda.

September Social

Date: Tuesday, September 19

Time: 6:00PM

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

Cost: \$10pp, BYOB

RSVP: by Monday, September 18
eileenberta@gmail.com (so I can estimate number of pizzas to order)

Continues on next page

Administrative Officer's Report (cont'd)

Please plan to attend! We're excited for our Golden Isles Squadron to participate in this valuable service and have some fun while doing it!

And - don't forget Commander Jerry Lamb's joint presentation with Jekyll Mosaic on Friday, September 15. Learn about the history of yachting among the Jekyll millionaires and the technology of the day. Tickets are \$15 which includes charcuterie and wine. Let's all come out to support Jerry while also promoting the Club. The talk will be held 6:30-8:00 pm in the museum's Tack Room.

Eileen

Happy Birthday in September to

Stephanie Krause Jones

Mike Moye

Keenen Krause

George Carellas

David Vaughan



THIS IS FOR ALL YOU BOAT NERDS...

QUIZ TIME

Q: What should you do if you have transmitted a distress call a number of times on channel 16 and have received no reply?

- a) Repeat the message using any other channel on which you might attract attention.
- b) Key the microphone several times before transmitting again.
- c) Turn up the volume on the receiver before transmitting again.
- d) Turn the radio on and off and try again

**I'll provide the answer to anyone who cares enough to ask*

Some Photos from the August Cruise



(Photos: S. Hindery, C. Lamb)

CAUTIONARY TALE, TRUE CRIME, OR...?

A boat captain and his first mate ran a scenic tour business out of the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor Marina in Honolulu, HI. Their boat was a twin-diesel, 36-foot Wheeler Express Cruiser. Normal cruising speed on the Wheeler was 12 knots with a max speed of 14 knots. The capacity of the vessel was 2 crew and 6 passengers.



On the day of what became their fateful trip back in 1964, they were carrying 5 passengers and a large amount of luggage. The boat was said to have hit some "rough weather", gotten blown off course; ending up hundreds of miles away shipwrecked on an uncharted desert island. According to Wikipedia, the group eventually got rescued, fifteen years after being reported missing. All were accounted for, yet one of the survivors (the actress) looked significantly changed. So, what happened? How did they get shipwrecked in the first place?

For this to have been purely an 'accident' or boating misadventure, we need to make a few assumptions. The first assumption is that the business offered an unusual tour. For any boat to get caught so unaware as this one, they had to be very far out to sea when the weather hit. Most boat tours stay close to the coast the whole time. Theoretically, this tour should have taken them no further than 20 miles from the marina (12 knots or 13.8 mph for 1.5 hours (half the advertised tour length)) and probably no further offshore than half a mile. What was the boat doing so far out? By the way, you can see about 3 miles across the ocean if your eye is about a foot above the ocean.

Second, to get that far off course the "rough weather" had to be the equivalent of at least a category 1 hurricane with winds averaging 85 mph. While hurricanes are relatively rare events in the Hawaiian Islands, records show that strong windstorms have struck all major islands in the Hawaiian Island chain since the beginning of history. The first officially recognized hurricane in Hawaiian waters was Hurricane Hiki in August of 1950.

If a hurricane was coming, wouldn't everyone on board (especially the captain and crew) have known this? Even in 1964, the imminent arrival of a hurricane would have been forecast and thus known to the public. In 1960, the world's first weather satellite, the polar-orbiting TIROS I, was successfully launched from the Air Force Missile Test Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. In 1963, TIROS III was launched with automatic picture transmission capability, and began providing continuous cloud images to over 100 nations. Does this mean that nobody on board checked the weather before leaving the marina? Hardly likely. Regardless of how clueless everyone would have been though, there is no record of a hurricane coming anywhere near Hawaii in 1964.

Even given the incompetence of the captain and crew, this leaves us with 2 possible conclusions. The first is that the passenger(s) who brought lots of luggage (the movie starlet being one) were trying to or maybe had to 'disappear' and the captain was in on it. The other passengers were perhaps just 'collateral damage'.

The other conclusion is that Sherwood Schwartz made it all up.

I kind of like the first conclusion better. This could be a true crime podcast. What do you think?

Cynthia Lamb

America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar SEP - NOV 2023

September

September 5 - Content for The Porthole due
 September 9 - Boat Handling starts
 September 12 - EXCOM meeting
 September 15 - Boating History Lecture at Mosaic, Jekyll Museum
 September 19 - Club social @ Sanctuary Cove
 September 23 - Club cruise to Darien



Upcoming Club Cruises

September 23 - Darien
 October 22 - St. Mary's
 November 18 - Jekyll (Zachry's)

October

October 2 - Boat Handling last class
 October 7 - ABC Class
 October 17 - Club social
 October 21 - District 26 Fall Conference (Virtual)
 October 22 - Club cruise to St. Mary's

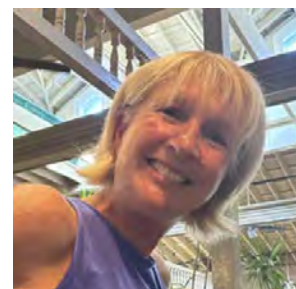
Boat Handling
 September 9 - October 2

ABC
 October 7

November

November 18 - Club Cruise to Jekyll

The August Social with some new friends from Savannah



(Photos: C. Lamb, C. Ericsson)

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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.