



the porthole



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CDR Vicky Jefferis

Hello, everyone. It's hard to believe we're already well into February as I write this article. Tomorrow I start my stint as a volunteer tax preparer



Richard Jones, AO, Lisa Noetzel, XO, Vicky Jefferis, Cdr.

for low income and elderly residents of Camden County. Did you know these free services are available at sites throughout our area? If you know

someone who could benefit from this help, call or email me and I'll try to point you in the right direction. For those who do your own taxes or use a paid

preparer, don't forget you can deduct expenses you incur for "official duties" on behalf of Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron if you itemize deductions. For example, if we use your boat for Co-op Charting, you can deduct the cost of your fuel. If you attend a special training event or a District Conference, you can deduct your auto expense, part of your meal costs, and

GOLDEN ISLES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 2011 BRIDGE

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Executive Officer
Squadron Education Officer
Assistant Education Officer
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overnight lodging.

On to more exciting topics – New Members! We welcome Jane Tapp, who transfers from Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron, and Tom Eason, a brand new member. Jane and Tom recently relocated to St. Simons Island. Those of us who met Jane and Tom at our January meeting already know what a great addition to the Squadron these two will make.

At our January Membership Meeting, I mentioned that the Executive Committee met and developed some 2012 Squadron Goals. They are:

Membership - Retain current members

Recruit at least 6 (10%) new members

Education – Offer 2 ABC classes for the public

Offer 4 classes for Squadron members

Offer 4 seminars for members and the public

Offer Operations Training to all members

Co-op Charting – Earn a Co-op Charting Honor Roll designation

Boating Activities – Conduct 2 Squadron Cruises

Complete several additional OTW activities

Vessel Safety Checks – Increase number of Squadron examiners and complete an average of 12 checks per person

Speakers – Schedule 3-4 speakers for monthly meetings

Social Events – Conduct 2-3 this year

Porthole – Publish monthly, but not less than 8 issues

Raise Community Awareness –

Table during Boating Safety Week

Table at Coast Fest, other local events

Posters in local businesses

Use various media: newspapers, GISPS website, social media. Publish at least one article in news media each month

Administrative – Update By-Laws

Incorporate

HAVE FUN!!!!!!

You'll notice that some of the goals are better fleshed out than others, but that doesn't mean the others are any less important. Far from it! The Executive Committee members have a ton of great ideas and frankly, I think we're going to have to do some real work to decide which ones we'll pick to work on knowing that it just isn't possible to accomplish everything we'd like.

This month, I want to highlight the first goal, Membership, and the last one, Have Fun. Do you see a link? Absolutely! A major part of keeping our Squadron healthy is to retain members. We want to offer members something for your time, effort and money. Otherwise, you'll find an organization or activity that does. So, we solicit your input on things that you'd like to do – at meetings, social events, on the water, in the community. New members are also a vital part of the membership mix. They bring new blood with new ideas and experiences. What can you do?? Bring a guest to one of our events at least once during the next year. Encourage your friends to sign up for one of our Seminars or our ABC class. Once they experience our award winning educational opportunities and meet our friendly members we hope they, too, will want to join us. We also plan to take advantage of electronic media to increase publicity and attract potential members for the Squadron. Recently we created a Facebook page. Check it out at www.facebook.com/GISPS.

What's this about award winning educational opportunities? I'm excited to announce that GISPS won third place (out of well over 400 squadrons) in the National USPS competition for Best Squadron Educational Program! Congratulations to our SEO, P/C Charles Wilsdorf, for organizing our program, to the instructors who helped with classes, and to all the members who expressed interest and completed the courses available. Safe Boating!

Treasurer's Report

Teresa Wilsdorf, S Treasurer

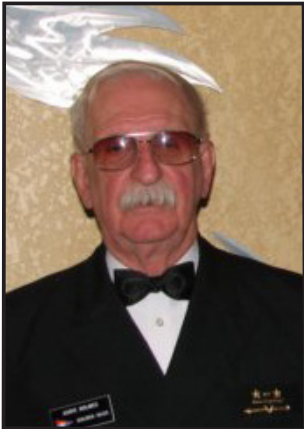
Financial Statement:
GISPS currently has \$6,428.88 in the bank.

We had a great monthly meeting in January. It seems like 2012 will be a great year with cruises, classes, and gatherings to have fun. We are always open to suggestions on things to do, classes to have, speakers for meetings, and places to hold meetings, so don't be shy on any ideas you have, just talk to one of us on the bridge.

I am sure I don't have to remind you, but please do not forget to pay your dues this year! The dues can be paid with a credit card over the internet on the USPS website. If anyone needs help in doing so, please give me a call at 265-9550. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on February 25th . If I can be of any help for any reason please give me a call.

Charter Commander's Report

Audie Holmes, SN



Has it ever happened that you invite a friend for a day of cruising or fishing and you are plagued with mishaps from the start? Dead batteries, flat tires, balky engines, or some other unpleasant event? If I had a dollar for every embarrassment I've experienced I could buy a new boat. That's why this early spring we are experiencing may give us just the time we need to prevent some unpleasant mishap.

We could start with the simple expedient of calling one of our qualified members for a vessel safety check. It won't cost anything, it will point out deficiencies, if any, it will take care of our responsibility for community service, and it will set up the squadron member performing the check to get his/her merit mark. Or, by using the vessel safety check list we can perform the check ourselves. It doesn't matter how it is done but it should be done prior to our next trip on the water.

Many of us trailer our boats and too often the trailer is overlooked. The trailer is not on the VSC checklist but it is an important part of our personal equipment checklist. I know this to be true because several times over the years when we have been in convoy to squadron or district events to have trailers (with boat) detach from the tow vehicle, wheel bearings burn out, lose a wheel, lights malfunction, tow straps break, or some other catastrophe occur that will turn a bluebird day into a nightmare. I have seen them all! About ten years ago my boat was towed to the District 26 cruise and rendezvous in Georgetown, SC by Triple AAA with my Chevy truck on the flatbed, all this during a torrential spring deluge. Kind and generous USPS members towed cruiser back to Augusta while I coaxed my jury rigged Chevy pickup some 225 miles back home with my wallet 200 dollars lighter than when I started out. That was a tip for the Triple AAA driver to include my boat in the road service. Did I get the squadron Bent Prop Award that year? I don't remember, I'll have to ask somebody about that.

Anyway, now is the perfect time to perform our preventive maintenance, on our boats, on our trailers, on our tow vehicles, and on ourselves. Yeah! Are we in good shape? How is our health, when was the last time we had our eyes checked, had our hearing checked, and when was the last time we had a physical? All of these things count in our and the USPS mission to "make boating safer and more fun", for family, for friends, and for ourselves.

Sincerely,
P/C Audie (Holmes), SN

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Richard Jones
- 6 – Kathleen Batson
- 25 – Tim Lahrs
- 26 – Scott Bloodworth



Secretary's Report

Joe Scirica, S Secretary

Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron
Membership Meeting
28 January, 2012

Cdr Vicky Jefferis, AP called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Sanctuary Cove Golf Club. Past Commanders John Rodgers, SN, Charlotte, SEO Charles Wilsdorf, SN, Golden Isles and Larry Jefferis, AP, Golden Isles were recognized as present. Guests were welcomed; they were Jane Tapp and Tom Easin from Tybee Light Sail and Power Squadron. Seldom seen members John and Carol Vann were welcomed. It was announced that Bucky Harris is doing better and will rejoin us.

Admin Officer Richard Jones, AP led the Pledge of Allegiance and P/C Larry Jefferis, AP gave the Invocation. Membership certificates were handed out to Emil Hoffman, Jennifer Hoffman and John Vann.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Teresa Wilsdorf, S gave the treasurer's report. She reported that we had \$6,488.77 in the bank.

February 2, 2012 marks the Power Squadron's 98th anniversary.

SEO Charles Wilsdorf, SN gave the Education report and announced that the next ABC class will be held on the 11th and the 18th of February at the UGA extension facility. Also he announced that our squadron won 3rd place in Best Education Program of all the USPS squadrons in the country. He

also offered burgees for sale. He passed out ABC class signage to be put into local marinas. Several members volunteered to put them in their respective marinas.

P/C John Rogers, SN reported on the National Conference held in Jacksonville last week. One VSC inspector had done 20,000 vessel safety checks in the last 10 years. Also that a 77 year old man had just completed his 7th circumnavigation, this one he did backwards. John also reported on his and Pat's Christmas co-op charting trip.

Cdr Jefferis, AP also reported on the USPS national meeting and said that she, Richard Jones, AP and Lisa Noetzel, JN had completed the first session of the Leadership class. Other members, P/C Charles Wilsdorf, SN, Jack Sterrett, JN and P/C Larry Jefferis, AP also attended sessions at the national meeting. Nationally, the membership level is down, but the rate of decrease has leveled off.

The Spring conference will be hosted by Beaufort on 9-11 March, and links to the welcome letter and registration form are on our web site, gisps.org. She encouraged every to consider attending.

Our next monthly meeting will be held at the Sanctuary Cove Golf clubhouse on Saturday 25 February at 6:00 PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat Rogers, seconded by Larry Jefferis, and the meeting was adjourned.

Squadron Education Officer
Charles Wilsdorf, SN



Congratulations to all GISPS members for your time, effort, and contributions to our squadron's educational efforts in 2011. For the second year in a row our squadron placed third out of 450 squadrons in USPS for our educational program. This award is a combined effort of our instructors and members who took advanced grade and elective courses. Let's continue this recognition this year by teaching and completing USPS courses and seminars. I have already gotten some feedback from members who are interested in the Weather and Engine Maintenance classes. Please let me hear from you on your interest.

We presently have two students, Lt Coy Hodges, JN and 1st Lt Jack Sterrett, JN who are taking their N exam and have already turned in their sight folders. By the next newsletter I predict our squadron will have two new SN's. Now, that's not much pressure is it guys?

Our Augusta contingent has been diligently working their way through the Weather course with P/C Audie Holmes, SN as the instructor. Good going guys on a challenging course.

I want to encourage you to help us in recruiting new members this year. Use our literature and websites (gisps.org and usps.org) to learn about USPS, our squadron, and all the USPS member benefits. Word of mouth is the best advertising we can get. Please give me a call if I can be of any assistance to you on encouraging membership.

Frank Barron has already completed 7 VSC in January. Even though there have probably been some other VSC's completed, I haven't received them as of yet. Our goal this year is to complete 12 VSC's per Vessel Examiner (VE), so it's time to get to work for me. Please check: <http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/> if you are interested in becoming a VE. All training, except 5 actual training inspections with a VE, is completed from this site. Please contact me should you have any questions.

On another note, you would think one that's been fooling around with boats for sixty years, that's right, sixty years, would not get stumped by simple boating diagnostic challenge. I have been fighting a simple problem of priming fuel to my outboard from the remote fuel tank under my Scout's cockpit sole. I could suck fuel with the priming bulb from another source OK and once primed the engine's fuel pump kept plenty of fuel to the engine. After checking the fuel system from the tank's pickup screen to the engine and finding no problems I was still stumped. I even installed a new priming bulb just to make sure; still the same problem. After talking to Bobby Ellis, Ellis Marine, and Soho Marine where I purchased the boat I was informed by both that the priming bulb did have a check valve, but the only way it would work is when the bulb is oriented vertically, not horizontal like 98% of them are. Mine did not lend it to be reoriented, so I installed another check valve in the fuel system at the fuel filter which has cured the problem. Again, what a simple challenge, which you know, is not always so simple when dealing with a boat. Even though the problem is fixed, I still wonder why it quit priming in the first place.

Hope to see you all at the next membership meeting.

AO Report

Richard Jones, AP

In our quest to find a permanent home for our monthly meeting we will be trying a new location for the March meeting.

Our March meeting will be at the Denny's/Strike Zone Bowling Alley. Located just off I95 at exit 38.

This is just a start at finding a new location so I am asking each of you for your input on a new location, please give us some help in finding a meeting location, by giving your suggestions to Vicky, Lisa, or myself.

With your help we will increase our on the water activities this year. By doing this we will accomplish the two most important reasons for being a member of the GISPS, learning and having fun.

I look forward to hearing from you. Serving our members (you) is my job. Please email me at rjones8@tds.net or call (912) 882-3883

XO Report

Lisa Noetzel, JN

Greetings from the XO corner! In my last article I wrote about the necessity of publicity and being more social. I am happy to report that Cdr. Vicky Jefferis, AO Richard Jones and I took that advice to heart and went to the National USPS Convention in Jacksonville. I should clarify that we were not there purely to be social; we also had leadership training classes in which we met a whole lot of people!

Work and play are two activities that are not always combined or associated with one another, but our GISPS contingent experienced just that down in Jacksonville. On a side note: along with meeting many new people, there were also some familiar faces. Photos of us at National are courtesy of my former Kent Squadron pal, Sari Lafferty as are the pictures of the D5 group, which included Sari and her husband Marty.

