



the port hole



Volume 9, September 2013

A publication of the Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron • A unit of the United States Power Squadrons



CDR Vicky Jefferis

Hello, everyone, hope you all had an enjoyable and safe Labor Day Weekend. I know that several of us had safety on our mind because we spent that Saturday morning



Coast Guard Auxiliary Commander Don Wellons demonstrates a smoke flare.

attending a Visual Distress Signal (VDS) Seminar hosted by USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 10-10. First, we met for a short talk provided by the Flotilla Commander, Don Wellons, then

watched an informative video demonstrating how to deploy the various types of VDS's. Following that, twelve GISPS members joined several Coast Guard and Coast Guard

Auxiliary members and headed to the Coast Guard/DNR docks to observe and practice deploying various types of VDS's. Since I never had actually had need to use a flare or other signal, it was quite an experience to light and hold a handheld flare. It was also very obvious why smoke flares are far more visible on a bright, sunny day compared to those shot into the air. Thank you SEO Charles Wilsdorf, SN, for working with the Coast

GOLDEN ISLES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 2012/13 BRIDGE

- Commander
- Executive Officer
- Squadron Education Officer
- Assistant Education Officer
- Administration Officer
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Porthole Editor

Vicky Jefferis, AP	(912)264-1352	vickyjefferis@bellsouth.net
Lisa Noetzel, JN	(912)264-2881	lisa.noetzel@gmail.com
Charles Wilsdorf, SN	(912)265-9550	chaswi@aol.com
Jack Sterrett, SN	(478)232-2908	lsterrett@bellsouth.net
Skip Roeder, S	(985)856-1112	el.jefe2011@comcast.net
Sandra Boynton, P	(912)265-0265	scboyntonweb@yahoo.com
Teresa Wilsdorf, S	(912)265-9550	tmwilsdorf@aol.com
Joey Herzberg, P	(706)627-7850	joeyherz@comcast.net



Jennifer and Emil Hoffman, Teresa and Charles Wilsdorf, and Belinda Vitale watch a demonstration of Visual Distress Signals during a seminar sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Guard Auxiliary to allow us to have this great training opportunity!

Once again, Admin Officer Skip Roeder, P, did a great job finding us a speaker for our August meeting! Ms. Ashby Nix, the new Satilla Riverkeeper, gave us a truly informative talk on the status of the Satilla River and surrounding area. She described some of the activities volunteers can help with and answered the many questions posed by the audience.

Welcome to our newest GISPS Jim Hamrick! Jim, we're really glad to have you join us! Congratulations also to our newest Piloting graduates – Skip Roeder, Belinda and John Vitale!

Please don't forget about upcoming events:

Our next meeting is September 28 at Sonny's BBQ in Brunswick. This seems to be a spot that all of you are comfortable with and the staff and management is happy to have us there. Frank Barron, AP, will be our guest speaker.

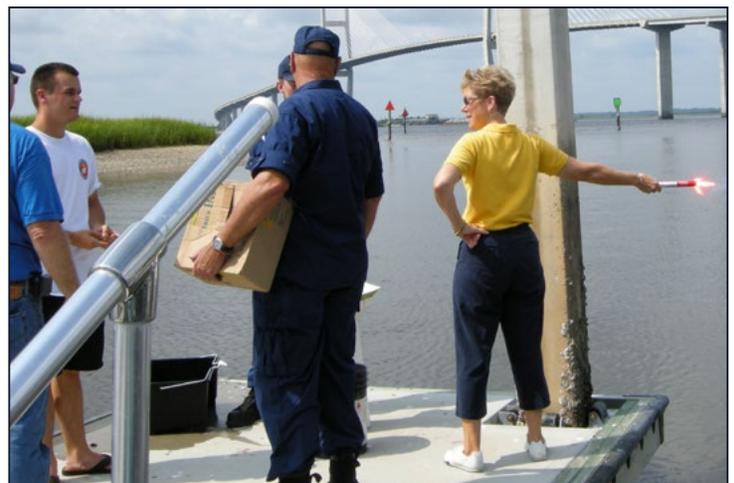
SEO Charles Wilsdorf will offer another Piloting class beginning Sep 30. We plan to conduct an ABC Class on Oct. 12, so help spread the word.

The D/26 Fall Conference and Change of Watch is coming up Oct. 4 – 6 in Columbia, SC.

Assistant SEO, Jack Sterrett, SN, XO Lisa Noetzel, JN, P/C Larry Jefferis, AP, and I will be representing GISPS. Once again, I urge you to think about the Youth Poster Contest!

Each year USPS sponsors the Boarman Youth Poster Contest. It's open to ALL children ages 6 – 14. At the National level, a first place award of \$150, second place award of \$100 and third place award of \$75 is given in three separate age groups: 6-8 years; 9-11 years; and 12–14 years. Our District 26 will also be giving cash awards to District winners in the same categories, and those entrants will then compete at the National level.

This year's theme is "100 Years of Wearing It". Of course, we're talking about Life Jackets! Last year participation in our District's contest was very limited and I just know there are some talented kids that you members know who would be able to create some really great



Vicky Jefferis learns how a hand held flare burns during VDS demonstration.

posters. The entrants DO NOT have to be squadron members – SO – tell your kids, your grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors, friends – anyone you know who falls in the age category. The first step is entering the District 26 competition – the judging will be done at the D/26 Fall Conference and I'll be happy to VERY CAREFULLY carry any entries we have to Lake Murray in early October (see below).

All the details, including rules and guidelines, are on the USPS website, USPS.org. Once you're there, search for Youth Poster Contest. Please give this some thought and get your young friends fired up to participate! Call me if you have questions.

The DNR CoastFest will be held Saturday October 5 and once again, we'll participate in this event, so we'll be looking for volunteers to help man the booth and spread the word about GISPS and our activities. Please consider helping out with this activity. CoastFest really is a fun event.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 4 – Vanessa Vitale
- 7 – Mike Moye
- 10 – Dee Morrison
- 12 – John Vitale
- 17 – Bill Gauthier
- 27 – Mae Tannahill
- 29 – Sandra Boynton
- 29 – Jane Tapp
- 29 – John Vann
- 30 – Joe Scirica



Treasurer's Report

Teresa Wilsdorf, S Treasurer



GISPS currently has \$7,281.21 in the bank as of 09/05/13.

I have a spreadsheet that can be emailed to anyone that wants a copy of our year-to-date financial information. Just email me a request and I will send it to you.

I hope to see you at the meeting on September 28th!

Happy boating!

Squadron Education Officer
Charles Wilsdorf, SN



I am happy to report that our squadron has a new AP in our ranks, Lt/C Sandra Boynton, AP who was tutored along by Lt Coy Hodges, SN. I would also like to report that we also have three new P's amongst us, Lt/C Skip Roeder, P; Belinda Vitale, P; and John A. Vitale, P. All of these students aced their exams. Great Job Guys!!!!

We will be offering another piloting class beginning September 30. Please let me know within the next few days if you are interested so I might get class materials ordered. The Piloting class will be the last advanced or elective class this year, but remember you may always "bootstrap" a class if you like. Just let me know and I can get the text ordered for you.

Please contact me if there are any particular classes or seminars you would like to see offered next year. You may get the full listing at: http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/public_ed.htm .

I would also like to report that we have a new member since last month. We all welcome Jim Hamrick to our squadron. Jim's an experienced boater and sailor who I am sure can share his expertise with us. Jim also is the new Brunswick Landing Marina and Boat Yard Manager. So, if you need a slip or your boat hauled give him a call for an estimate.

Lately I have run across a couple of tidbits of info that you might find interesting. The first is "Active Captain" if you are not already familiar with it, that Frank Barron, AP turned me onto. Whether you are preparing for a long cruise or just going out in our local waters "Active Captain" provides information pertaining to safety and convenience. You may get all the information at: <https://activecaptain.com/> . Just register and you can immediately start getting pertinent info.

The second tidbit is the dangers of following the magenta line and commercial predetermined routes. If you have completed P or AP, read just about any navigation book, or have read your chartplotter's manual then you know you never depend on just one source of navigational information. A case in point, is a couple I just recently read about who were following a pre-plotted route on their chartplotter just east of the Great Exuma Island and lost their 40' catamaran to the rocks. The article described the couple as experience boaters who had logged over 10,000 miles on this boat alone. If they had just checked the paper charts or their computer's electronic charts their mishap probably could have been avoided. Bottom line, use several charting sources and make sure you keep your charts up-to-date.

If you are interested in the America's Cup I have included the TV schedule below. I suppose I am a more traditional mono hull type sailor myself, but when the big cats get a little wind they can run over 50 mph which has got to be exciting if not darn right scary.

Oracle at Idle

During the 2013 America's Cup Finals, coverage switches to the main NBC network for the first two days before reverting to the NBC Sports Network, with live broadcasting of all races.



America's Cup Finals

- September 7 - Races 1+2 - NBC - 4:00pm ET
- September 8 - Races 3+4 - NBC - 4:00pm ET
- September 10 - Races 5+6 - NBC Sports Network - 3:30pm ET
- September 12 - Races 7+8 - NBC Sports Network - 3:30pm ET
- September 14 - Races 9+10 - NBC Sports Network - 3:30pm ET
- September 15 - Races 11+12 - NBC Sports Network - 3:30pm ET (if necessary)
- September 17 - Races 13+14 - NBC Sports Network - 3:30pm ET (if necessary)
- September 19 - Races 15+16 - NBC Sports Network - 3:30pm ET (if necessary)
- September 21 - Races 17 - NBC Sports Network - 3:30pm ET (if necessary)

Hope to see you all at the next membership meeting. Think about bringing a boating friend with you. It's my understanding that we will have another interesting speaker.

AO Report
Skip Roeder, S



Our September meeting will once again be at Sonny's BBQ on the 28th. Tim Lahrs has recruited Mr. Frank Barron to speak about some of the more interesting things he has come across in his career as a marine surveyor. We all should find his talk interesting.

A couple of reminders- the cut-off for port tour reservations is September 15th. After I speak to Mrs. Crumpton on the 16th I'll send out an email with the final details. This is also last call for boating activity reports. Now that the deluge appears to be over there have been some nice days to get out.

Last Wednesday I put out some crab pots and scouted a few new fishing locations. Thursday my five pots had 40 big crabs that got steamed up Baltimore style that evening.

After the ISC presentation in July I heard several folks mention that they would be interested in going to the banquet on the 27th. Mary and I have our tickets and if there are other GISPS members going perhaps we could have a squadron table arranged. Let Mary or I know.

Secretary's Report

Sandra Boynton, P Secretary



Cdr Vicky Jefferis, AP, called the meeting to order at 6 PM on Aug. 24th, 2013 at Sonny's BBQ on Hwy 341 in Brunswick, Ga. She introduced Past Commanders Charles Wilsdorf, SN; John Rodgers, SN and Larry Jefferis, AP as well as speaker Ms. Ashby Nix, the new Satilla Riverkeeper and guests Bill & Sandy Hoskins and Leslie Hamrick.

Richard Jones, AP, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chuck Boynton, P, provided the Invocation.

Cdr Vicky had the honors of swearing in new member Jim Hamrick. Welcome aboard Jim!

Cdr Jefferis thanked all for coming and although it is summer we are fast approaching these upcoming Fall events:

- D26 Fall Conference Oct 4 – 6 at Lake Murray, SC. We need attendees, even though it conflicts with CoastFest. Cdr Vicky and P/C Larry Jefferis will be attending. There will be a Youth Poster contest competition. Please get any and all kids you know to participate for cash prizes and to be entered in regional and state competition possibly. This year's theme is "100 years of Wearing It" referring to Life Jackets.
- CoastFest will be held October 5. Kid's contests with prizes, brochures to hand out, and volunteers to man the booth will need to be worked out. Also, Lisa Noetzel, JN, will be heading up the "Bracelet making" prior to the event. She will need volunteers to tie knots!
- The Squadron Change of Watch will be conducted in November.

Secretary Sandra Boynton, AP, noted that we had a quorum present. A motion was made for the July meeting minutes to be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

SEO Charles Wilsdorf will be conducting an ABC Class Oct 12 & 19 – will need instructors and also volunteers to get advertising signs delivered to local marinas and businesses. The USCG Auxiliary will conduct a Visual Distress Signal Demonstration on August 31. This will be something worth attending.

Treasurer Teresa Wilsdorf, S, presented the Treasurer's Report a/o Aug. 28, 2013. Balance on Hand is \$7,293.71. She conducted a 50/50 drawing and also announced she had GISPS burgees for sale for \$35.

Admin Officer Skip Roeder, S, reports that Sonny's seems to be the best location for meetings; however, we could have a change of venue once in a while or just keep Sonny's as the permanent location. A vote was taken of a show of hands and the occasionally change was selected. He also stated that he has very little response on boating activities...please turn them in!!!

Port Tour is scheduled for Sept. 20th or 21st depending on when there is a ship in port. Notify Skip

by email by Sept. 16th if you plan to attend. He will know which date is selected the week of the tour. Skip informs us that the September Speaker will be Captain Frank, AP, & Lynn, AP, Barron. They are boat surveyors and will talk to us about what to look for in buying a boat.

Our guest, Ms. Ashby Nix, Satilla Riverkeeper gave an encompassing talk on the Satilla watershed, environmental conditions, and the riverkeepers involvement in guarding against pollution, invasive species, and future management. She handed out brochures and gave links to websites for further information on catfish removal, mercury levels, and water elevations. Thanks for all you do Ashby!!!

Cdr Vicky reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Sept. 28th, thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.

XO Report
Lisa Noetzel, JN



Ahoy GISPS members! At our last meeting I spoke with you briefly about our social calendar. This year, the

**19th Annual CoastFest
will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10:00 - 4:00.**

It's a big event that brings out a lot of families, numerous sponsors, and many potential GISPS members. Last year several volunteers and I made Turk's Head bracelets, which attracted many families with children to our exhibit. Unfortunately, most of our time was spent making the bracelets vs. speaking with the public about boating safety - the top priority of USPS.

As this year's CoastFest coincides with the District 26 meeting in Columbia, SC, I will not be able to help out. Chas Wilsdorf, however, has volunteered to act as point coordinator (Thank you Chas!). In the past we've asked for 2-3 members to man the table for 2 hour shifts at a time. The club will also need help setting up and breaking down our display.

Please contact Chas ASAP about volunteering for this event via email chaswi@aol.com or phone 912-265-9550.

Charter Commander's Report
P/C Audie Holmes, SN



Cdr. Jefferis asked that I center articles from me, the founding commander, this year on topics related to Operations Training (O.T.). I think that was a wonderful suggestion because the more we know about O.T. the more we benefit from being an active member.

This month I have the opportunity to begin by asking you as members of GIPSP: What does one do when an uninvited guest comes to dinner? Is this an unwelcomed in-law? Is this a cousin who always wants to "borrow" money? Is this a politician seeking campaign funds?

What is it is an alligator who shows up at your door to come to dinner? More important just who is to be the dinner? Such were the questions circulating around the shoreline at St. Simons Island a short few weeks ago when a nine foot long alligator decided to make just such a call. Alligators are so deceptive; they have the cutest grins. Their grins never seem to fade even when they are dining on the tastiest of morsels. As we know, alligators do not bite off our human legs. That is an old folk tale meant to scare us. In fact, alligators clamp onto our legs and literally saw our legs off with a back and forth motion of their lower jaw. Alligators are also selfish when dining and seldom share. When an alligator comes to dinner, we can expect him to display a gluttonous attitude with a minimum of table manners.

So, the next time an alligator come to dinner uninvited simply set another place...then beat it to high ground, and don't look back!

I say all of this to comment on the nine foot alligator that showed up at our ocean front condo a few weeks ago. Those of you who have visited know we're about as close to the ocean as one can get. This alligator was right under a bush by the balcony. Our neighbor's dog spotted it first! Thank goodness!!

How does this fit with O.T. ? It is so important to remember that when we have visitors at our dinner meetings or brand new members that we should treat them as the special people that they are. Give them your undivided attention and let them know the benefits of membership. Never remark that they can't stay because they forgot to R.S.V.P. Welcome them wholeheartedly... unless they happen to be the alligator that showed up at Beachview Drive on St. Simons.

Sincerely,
Audie Holmes, P/C

Golden Isles Sail and Power Squadron 2013 Activities Calendar

Date	Time	Function	Location
Sep 28	1645	EXCOM Meeting	Sonny's BBQ
	1800	Membership Mtg	Brunswick
Sep 30		Piloting Class Starts	
Oct 4-6		D26 Fall Conference & Youth Poster Contest	Lake Murray, SC
Oct 5		CoastFest	Brunswick DNR
Oct 12	0900	ABC Class	UGA Marine Ext Ctr, Brunswick
Oct 26	1645	EXCOM Meeting	TBD
	1800	Membership Mtg	
Nov 16		Change of Watch	
Dec ??		Holiday Party	Joe Scirica's Home

A different way of thinking about boating safety – Part 2 ©

by Frank Barron

Could you break the “Error Chain”?

We all think we’re pretty savvy boaters, right? ...Been boating for years...no problem. When I hear that, I flinch. I hear complacency setting in, and it’s a dangerous phenomenon.

Last time we talked about the Error Chain and what the concept is. This time let’s talk about identifying errors, as subtle as they are sometimes. The below narrative is for discussion and education only – no judgment implied. Think of it this way – if you were a guest or crew, would you speak up? As captain, would you say no to friends? See if you would have “balked” at any of the facts or events leading up to fatal disaster.

About a year ago, a 34’ Silverton cabin cruiser was cruising the Oyster Bay waters off Long Island, NY on an evening cruise to watch fireworks. The vessel had a fly bridge for crew and passengers, a foredeck, aft cockpit and a modest cabin. On this cruise, there were 17 adults and 10 children aboard.

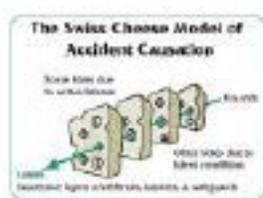
About 10pm the vessel capsized, throwing all but three children away from the vessel. The three children were trapped inside and drowned. They did not have life jackets on, as inside a cabin of this size, a child is not required to do so. If trapped, it’s not clear if wearing one would have helped.

For education sake, let’s imagine and expand some of the subtle threats of this voyage. Darkness, congestion of proximate vessels – thus increased wake, too many people aboard, everyone desiring to be on an elevated vantage point for better viewing (think stability) could have contributed significantly. Darkness brings on its own set of threats (confusion & situational awareness), congestion & wake can make seamanship more challenging, and pressure from friends (direct or implied) can detract from sound judgment. Could the elimination of any one of these threats have changed the outcome – maybe, maybe not? In my opinion, it was the collision of all these threats that resulted in the tragedy.

When presented as above, of course “red flags” go up. But what I want to keep on the forefront of your thinking is some of these items (and others not mentioned) are presented to each voyage we embark on. But here’s the main point – can you identify a “threat” and manage it?! Would you speak up?

By digging this deep into the “whys” of an incident, I by no means want to lead you into ignoring the time tested USCG and US Power Squadron safety principals – always review the seaworthiness of the vessel & are the seas too much for this vessel. Tell friends where and when you’re going. Are you embarking on a voyage above your level of competence? Pack safely – passenger limits, life jackets, flairs, radios....you get it. But ya know what? There’s always a US Power Squadron Vessel Examiner willing to make a personal

**inspection of your vessel and they're ready to discuss any safety questions that you have.
Go on...call me!**



Till then, be aware...

Frank is a captain for a US based airline. He is also SAMS AMS surveyor & USCG 100 Tm Master. He and his wife Lynne (also a USCG Captain) are delivery captains and live aboard their 1958 Wheeler on Jekyll Island, Ga.

www.franklynne.com