

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

## Golden Isles



For Boaters, By Boaters™

A quarterly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

### Upcoming Events

#### May

- 21 - Club Social
- 21 - Ocean Navigation class

#### June

- 4 & 18 - Ocean Nav. class
- 8 - Club Cruise
- 18 - Club Social
- 20 - Sea School (Boys & Girls Club)
- 27 - Day on the Water (B&GC)

#### July

- 13 - Club Cruise
- 16 - Club Social

#### Inside this issue:

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## Commander's Message



CDR Mark Crawford, AP

### The New Watch Year Has Begun

As I was thinking about writing my first Commander's message, I was looking out my window on a beautiful Spring morning in St. Louis with my feet on my desk and my hands on my head, but I was daydreaming about sunny Saint Simons. I was recalling what I like so much about our time on the Island and my thoughts went immediately to my little boat and cruising around the marsh, fishing, seeing good friends, good food and the beach. It is my happy place; we have even named our house *Marsh Mellow*.

I quickly realized that much of our enjoyment of our time on SSI is connected to America's Boating Club (ABC) Golden Isles. Every aspect of ABC is fulfilling in some way. The social gatherings are great fun and I have met some very interesting people who share an interest in boating. The cruises have given me the confidence to take the boat out in our challenging environment. The education programs can be rigorous, and the community involvement is much appreciated.

Jerry Lamb has stepped away from the Commander's role after two and half years. He has left the club in great shape. His dedication to the role was remarkable. We have many new members, planned cruises for the year, many social activities, several community outreach initiatives, and wonderful education programs. Our other Past Commanders, Vicky Jefferis, Sharon Hindery and Charles Wildsorf, bring a wealth of tribal knowledge to the club.

We have a fantastic group of members serving on the Executive Committee (EXCOM). Cynthia Lamb, AP continues in her role of Executive Officer. Mike Moye, SN administers and teaches as the Education Officer. He is assisted by Jerry Lamb, P. Our new Administrative Officer is Daria Lijoi. She brings a high level of enthusiasm for creative and fun social events. Our new club Secretary is Alice Vaughan, S who keeps us all up to date and informed of club events and Sharon Hindery, AP is the new Treasurer. We also have several Members-at-Large who are willing to step into many roles to assist when needed.

I would be remiss without mentioning the extraordinary efforts made by David Jones on our new website. Our old website was tired, out of date and not user friendly. Through his efforts, we have a first-class functioning website with lots of information and useful tools for our club. We will be live very soon.

New members are the life blood of all clubs. I hope each of you will invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us as we explore the fun of boating.

See you on the water!

## Executive Officer's Report



XO Cynthia Lamb, AP

### What Could Be More Fun?

What could be more fun than seeing your first dolphin surface right near your boat? What could be more fun than seeing a pelican dive headfirst into the water at 40 mph? Who would find something as ordinary as oysters really interesting?

We all enjoy our time out on the water, but we also know how much more fun it is when we include others – especially children. It's like doing something for the first time; things that we've started taking for granted are special again.

Well, members of our club have the opportunity to make all the things we see, know, and do out on the water be very special and fun for themselves and for some great local kids.

On June 27, our club is taking more than 20 children and 8 staff members from the Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Georgia out on the water to introduce them to boating and the beauty of the Golden Isles' waterways. For many of these kids, this could be their first time on the water.

This is our first time putting on this event. It will be a two-part program that includes a land-based (classroom) session that will provide the children an overview of boats, boat terminology, where they will travel and what they will see to prepare them for the on-the-water boating session. This will be held on June 20. We are working on creating hands-on demonstrations to explain concepts like filter feeding (oysters) and jet propulsion (as part of describing different types of boats). We will cover basic navigation using aids to navigation, charts, chartplotters, and the wonderful wildlife that live in and near our waters.

We appreciate the members who have agreed to use their boats and share their knowledge of boating and the local waterways to make this event happen. We still need volunteers to put on a picnic for all participants at Blythe Island. Let me know if you can help with this. This should be a great event for the club that I hope gets repeated every year.

**Did you know that pelicans always turn to their left before plunging into the water? This rotation helps avoid injury to the esophagus and trachea, which are located on the right side of the bird's neck.**

**Did you know that an adult oyster can filter 50 gallons of water a day?**

**Did you know that a dolphin can hold its breath for 15 minutes and that it is able to sleep because only one half of a dolphin's brain goes to sleep at a time?**

**Question:** What is more fun than seeing your first dolphin surface right near your boat? **Answer:** Being with a child when he sees his first dolphin right near your boat.



(Photo: C. Lamb)

## Squadron Education Officer's Report



SEO Mike Moye, SN

### Upcoming Courses

We completed our spring ABC class on April 20. We only had 5 students, but it was a fun, lively class. Our next one will be October 12. As always, we ask that you spread the word about this very important class. There are lots of boaters and potential boaters who can benefit greatly from the information provided by our instructional team.

Offshore Navigation kicked off a few weeks ago. Past Commander Charles Wilsdorf has prepared long and hard for this course and I know his students will enjoy it—even the trigonometry review. We hope that recent ABC students will become interested in Boat Handling and that we can offer that one in late summer.

### Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

During the ABC class, as part of the marine communications section, we talk about and show students Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and a PLB. EPIRBs are emergency location devices usually attached to and/or deployed by a boat. PLBs are attached to you. They are designed to alert potential rescuers to your life-threatening issue. It works everywhere you can get a clear shot to the sky—on land, in the water, or even in the sky. You can use your imagination to think of potential cases where the little device could save your bacon. Most of us boaters who have PLBs attach them to their life jackets—another good reason to wear a life preserver.

Most PLBs are activated by the wearer. On the one we demonstrate in our ABC class, when the antenna is raised, and a button is pressed, the device powers on. There are ways to test the device and its battery, but you don't want to play with it and accidentally deploy an emergency signal. When it's powered on it immediately sends out a signal to satellites a 406 MHz frequency, or depending on the model you have, a signal alerting a Local Area System using 125 MHz, VHF DSC and/or AIS. The result is help coming to your specific location. Help could be from the Coast Guard, DNR, or even a local boater who gets the signal via a DSC alert, it just depends on what type PLB you purchase.

So, who needs to wear a PLB? It basically depends on what's going on in your nautical adventure. If you are working or taking part in an activity where you are likely to fall into a body of water or if you might get stranded in a remote location with no means of calling for help—you need a PLB.

I did a Vessel Safety Inspection for three boats that belong to the United States Geological Survey. In going down the checklist when it came time to ask for their PFDs, they said "yeah, just a minute." The three guys went back into their office and brought out their "personal" PFDs that are issued specifically to each individual. When they go to a lake, creek, or even the Intracoastal Waterway, they put on their personal equipment as soon as they step out of the big Suburban they use for travel. Each of their PFDs is equipped with a PLB, a whistle, a light, and whatever else they might need to operate safely. They also had a couple of spare PFDs aboard for "civilians" who might be aboard.

*Continues on next page*

## Squadron Education Officer's Report (cont'd)

Back to the question “who needs to wear a PLB?” I’ve fallen overboard before—the pitch-black view above my head, until I reached the surface was terribly frightening. It was not as frightening, however, as when my young son fell between the boat and the dock. At night. And I couldn’t find him. Of course, I found my way up from the dark sea and my son, though embarrassed, found his way to shallow water. My point is that things on a boat can go south in a hurry. A big hurry. And frankly, I don’t know that a PLB would have helped us in either case—but what if the boat had been moving? What if it had been night? It gives you something to think about.



PLBs are sold by many marine equipment suppliers. The cost ranges from around \$300 or so to upwards of almost a full “boat buck” (break out another thousand). Personally, I went with a “plain jane” model from ACR like the one we demonstrate in the ABC class. Mine will contact satellites, give my GPS position and get me some help. More expensive ones have

AIS as well as VHF/DSC capabilities. Some even deploy automatically in the water and can be used as a “man overboard” device. They’re very cool, but you must draw the line somewhere. Battery life is five years, and you must register it every two years. Registration is free and not unlike the process you go through with getting a MMSI number for your VHF radio.

Samuel L. Jackson asks the question “what’s in your wallet?” I guess that if you’re a boater you might want to think about sticking a PLB in your pocket. That credit card in the wallet in your pocket he brags about is not going to do you a lot of good if you’re stuck treading water in Sapelo Sound—which brings me to a somewhat embarrassing point. We only have one PLB on our boat Sharona, Too. When we go out, we have to flip a coin to see who gets to wear it. Clearly, I need to start saving some more “boat bucks.”

Safe Boating,  
Mike Moyer, SN  
Club Education Officer

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## AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OF THE GOLDEN ISLES - MAY SOCIAL

COME JOIN US WITH CAPT. PAUL OF GEORGIA TIDEWATER  
OUTFITTERS FOR A WINE SUNSET CRUISE UP THE  
ALTAMAHA...

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 6-8 p.m.

**Place:** Meet @ 5:45 p.m. on the dock behind Skipper's in Darien  
Screven Street, Darien GA

**Cost:** \$71 per person includes - 2hr tour with wine, snacks, and Ultras available. If you wish to bring any other libations you are welcome to do so. The Club will also be providing shrimp.

*Any questions please contact: Daria Lijoi @ 845-527-5214*

Boat capacity is limited to maximum of 20 guests so this will be a first come/first served event. To attend and reserve your seats please text Daria Lijoi @ 845-527-5214 with your Names and Payments must be mailed in and received by Sharon Hindery for your slot to be fully reserved. Mail checks made out to GISPS to Sharon Hindery, 142 Belle Point Parkway, Brunswick GA 31525

**Only 20 Guests Maximum So Reserve Today!**

## Newbie Boater vs. Student Pilot

**Submitted by: Rick Ellis**

Learning to earn my wings as a pilot many years ago at McCollum airport in Kennesaw, Georgia, I was always mindful of the Mark Twain quote, “*good decisions come from experience; experience comes from bad decisions.*” Experience improves knowledge, abilities, skills, and overall enjoyment.

Fast forward to today as a new boat owner in the Golden Isles, transitioning from a lake boater to salt. It has been quite a learning experience for me as I attempt to master navigating with “*the big three*” -- currents, tide, and wind. It has mostly been a fun experience- although sometimes very challenging. Interestingly, I’m amazed at the similarities between learning to fly and mastering proper coastal boating. In aviation, there were a number of guidelines to follow such as:

- Check and monitor the weather conditions
- Inspect the overall aircraft condition and fuel supply before and after each flight
- Always operate in the safest manner possible
- Keep the pointy end going forward

These same guidelines easily apply to boating. Ditto with always landing into the wind and docking using “*the big three*” to the boat’s advantage when possible.

One similarity between flying and boating that rings true is the need for practice to gain experience. I would spend hours practicing “touch & go’s” remembering the equation that *the number of good landings should always equal the number of departures*. For me, both aviation and boating require a qualified instructor followed by hours behind the wheel or yoke honing skills, developing muscle memory and learning to adapt to the constantly changing conditions.

As a saltwater newbie, I have spent many hours on the river at the Hampton Marina simply *docking-departing- docking-- repeat*. I’m sure I’ve been quite entertaining to onlookers as some have been less than stellar performances, especially when docking down current with a receding tide and uncooperating winds.

My original flight instructor was a seasoned old timer with great sayings. One of his favorites was, “*learn from the mistakes of others*. You won’t live long enough to make all of them yourself.” The best learning opportunities often came from the local watering hole located near the airport that was frequented by the pilots. Chatting with the more experienced ones and picking up pointers that they were always happy to



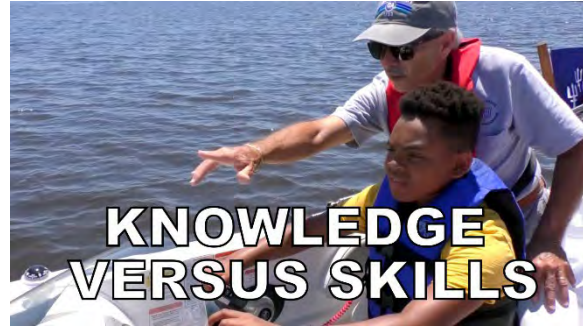
**Rick & Shannon on their Key West 189 named  
“Nibblin’ on Spongecake”**

share was invaluable. It reminds me of the many learning opportunities available by chatting to boaters on the dock and from participating in events and gatherings offered by the America’s Boating Club Golden Isles.

They say a “*good*” landing is one that you can walk away from, but a “*great*” landing is when the plane can be used again. So far, I’ve mostly managed to keep the pointy end forward; my boat is still floating; and it’s been reusable after each outing. I’m also building useful experience that leads to good decisions.

## America's Boating Channel™ Explains the Difference Between Boating Knowledge Versus Skills

Think about it: knowledge is theory and skills put knowledge into practical practice. It requires a combination to become a better boater.



This is brought home through the "[Knowledge Versus Skills](#)" video that covers differences between boating knowledge and boating skills and why it matters. Viewers also learn approaches to take to improve their boating abilities and the pitfalls to avoid in boater education.



Knowledge doesn't mean you're good at boating, but it can help you more easily and safely develop boating skills that must be practiced on the water. Concepts, principles, and information about boating can be learned through reading, studying, and observing. The ability to plan, depart, anchor, dock, and perform other boat maneuvers is mastered through experience.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the [America's Boating Channel](#) free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. America's Boating Channel™ is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



The latest issue of the United States Power Squadrons' national magazine, [The Ensign](#), contained two submissions from our club.

In this issue, Charles Wilsdorf has an article called Cumberland River Adventures (starts on page 45), and Cathy Stortz submitted the photo that serves as the clue in the Where Away? feature (page 51).

Way to go, Charles and Cathy!

# Fun Happenings... on water and on land



*Hearty souls doing the Bridge Walk  
(we're on a break)*



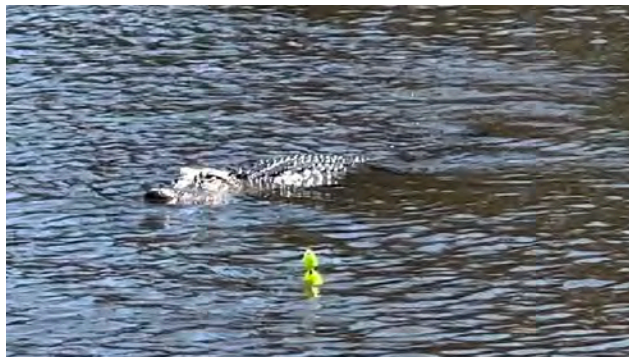
*Coop charting with Charles Wilsdorf & company*



*Daria Lijoi's red bull catch*



*John Lijoi got a speckled trout*



*John playing "catch the bobber" with  
an alligator. Yikes!*

## From our Monthly Socials

We've held a couple socials since our last newsletter. Here are a few photos from these events.



## Change of Watch Recap

America's Boating Club Golden Isles held its 18th annual Change of Watch on April 13 at Sanctuary Cove's River House in Waverly, GA. Eileen and Frank Berta along with Vicky Jefferis put the entire event together. It was a lovely catered affair in a beautifully-decorated venue. Awards were handed out and short speeches were given.

Each Squadron has a yearly formal dinner honoring the incoming new Commander and their Bridge (the bridge officers make up a club's formal leadership team). The dinner and program are called the Change of Watch. There is also a formal installation of the new Commander and Bridge usually presided over by a district representative. This dinner and installation are usually held in late March or early April - after the district holds its Change of Watch.

The club was honored to have District 26 Commander Barb Sommers in attendance this year. Barb handed out the following district awards that were won by our squadron:

- Prince Henry the Navigator - 1st Place
- Wolf-Ewing Award - 1st Place
- Membership Growth Award (Division 3) - 1st Place
- Boating Activities Award (Division 3) - 3rd Place
- Distinctive Communicator Awards for our website and our newsletter

Barb also presented a certificate of appreciation to Vicky Jefferis for her service as District 26 Merit Mark Chairperson.

The following club awards were presented:

- Member of the Year - David Jones
- Bravo Zulu Award - Eileen Berta
- Catch the Spirit Award - Alice Vaughan

The new bridge was then installed. The 2024-2025 Bridge is as follows:

- Commander - Mark Crawford, AP
- Executive Officer - Cynthia Lamb, AP
- Education Officer - Michael Moye, SN
- Assistant Education Officer - Jerry Lamb, P
- Administrative Officer - Daria Lijoi
- Secretary - Alice Vaughan
- Treasurer - Sharon Hindery, AP

*(Continued on next page)*

## Change of Watch Recap (cont'd)

Much work was put into producing 11 copies of the club's award-winning newsletter, The Porthole, over the last year. This required articles, photos, tips, recipes, survey responses, etc. to put together. As such, the editor (yours truly) decided to give out awards (now known as the **Editor's Choice Awards**) to some of her favorite submissions.

- Nature Photographs:
  - Roseate Spoonbill by Daria Lijoi - 1st Place
  - Alligator in the Hampton by Daria Lijoi - Runner-up
- Boat Photograph:
  - Shrimp Boats in Darien at Sunset by Cynthia Lamb
- People Photograph and Best Overall Photograph:
  - Shark Fishing with the Grands by Sharon and Rick Hindery
- Articles:
  - Stephen King Award for Most Prolific Scary Story Contributor to Mike Moye
  - Best Cautionary Tale: "Robin, prepare to abandon ship!" by Mark Crawford
  - Best How To Article for Beginners: Crabbing 101 by John Lijoi
  - Best How to Article for Nerds: Hooking up DSC by Mike Moye
  - Best Boating Story & Best Overall Story: Adventures on the Cumberland River by Charles Wilsdorf

Another new category of fun awards was also introduced at the Change of Watch. This was called the Cruise Director Choice Awards. These awards were also chosen by me. The following awards were given:

- Best Boat Name - "Vaughan Voyage" given to Dave & Alice Vaughan
- The Martha Stewart Award for Excellence in Boat Snacks given to Eileen Berta
- Best Club Cruise was the Sapelo Island Picnic on the Beach ("Anchors Aweigh")

**The winner of the 50-50 Raffle was Frank Berta. Congratulations, Frank!**

## From the Change of Watch



*Jerry Lamb receiving his Past Commander flag from District 26 Commander Barb Sommers*



*L to R: Rick and Sharon Hindery, Vicky Jefferis, Mark Crawford*



*The 2024-2025 Bridge (L to R): Alice Vaughan, Sharon Hindery, Cynthia Lamb, Mark Crawford, Mike Moye, Daria Lijoi*

*Commander Jerry Lamb handing out gifts to his bridge members*



## More Change of Watch Photos



*The outgoing Bridge (L to R): Eileen Berta, Teresa Wilsdorf, Sharon Hindery, Cynthia Lamb, Mike Moye, Jerry Lamb*



*Two of our Past Commanders: Jerry Lamb and Charles Wilsdorf*



*Sharon Hindery presenting Past Commander Jerry Lamb with a gift from the 2023-2024 Bridge*





America's Boating Club Golden Isles participated in the recent Brunswick Blessing of the Fleet. We had great weather and a great time! Five boats and 24 passengers participated. Here are some photos taken at the event.



Photos: T. Wilsdorf

## Golden Isles Welcomes its Newest Members



**Rick Ellis and Shannon Johnson**  
**John and Penny Maddux**  
**David and Mary Samyn**

## The Cruise Scene

The cruise to Sapelo Island is planned for Saturday, June 8. The plan is to anchor off the beach on the south tip of the island near Doby 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 the beach.

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 off the mouth of the Hampton River in the Mackay.

Be sure to bring a second anchor. This will keep your boat from swinging.

Specific times and a .gpx file will be provided as the date gets closer. 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 planned track through the Little Mud River

America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2024 Bridge & Committee Contact Information			
Commander	Mark Crawford, AP	314-469-3252	<a href="mailto:mccrawford@sevenfourcapital.com">mccrawford@sevenfourcapital.com</a>
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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](http://www.americasboatingclub.org). Our Club website is [www.gisps.org](http://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 17,000 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.