

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

Golden Isles



The **p**ort **h**ole

For Boaters, By Boaters™

A quarterly publication of America's Boating Club Golden Isles

Upcoming Big Events

June

12-19 - Dominican Republic trip

July 1

21 - Weather Wisdom (National Weather Service seminar)

August

13- Tides & Currents Seminar

Inside this issue:

Commander's Message	1-2
SEO's Report	3-5
May Social Recap	6-7
Our new Adopt-A-Highway Area	7-8
In the News	9
CoastFest Report	10-11
Darien BOTF Report	12-13
Member (Good) News	14-15
Welcome New Members	16
Weather Seminar flyer	17
Leadership Contacts	18

Commander's Message



As I begin my term as Commander of the Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron, I've been thinking a great deal about what makes our club special — and what we want it to become in the years ahead.

At its core, our club exists for one simple reason: to help people enjoy boating safely, confidently, and together. That may sound straightforward, but it actually covers a lot of ground. Some members join to learn practical boating skills. Some join (then stay) for fellowship and

friendship. Others want opportunities to get out on the water more often, give back to the community, or simply spend time around people who love boating as much as they do.

The good news is that we do not have to choose just one of those things. Our goal is to be a club that supports all of them.

Over the coming months, you will see us trying some new things while continuing many of the traditions that have made this squadron successful. We want to create more opportunities for members to connect casually and frequently — not only at formal meetings, but through relaxed social gatherings, on-the-water activities, and hands-on boating experiences.

One thing we have heard clearly is that members want more opportunities to simply get together and enjoy boating. In response, we are planning more informal social events and more on-the-water activities — and not just on Saturdays. We know schedules vary, so we want to experiment with different days, times, and formats to make participation easier and more flexible.

Education will also remain a central part of who we are, but we want our educational offerings to feel practical, engaging, and directly useful to local boaters. One upcoming event we are especially excited about is our "Weather Wisdom for Boaters" presentation featuring a senior meteorologist from the

Continues on next page

Commander's Message (continued)

National Weather Service. This should be an outstanding opportunity to learn how professional forecasters interpret weather patterns and what boaters can observe locally to better understand changing conditions on the water.

Looking ahead to the fall, as many of you know our squadron will host the District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous in October. This is a major event for our district and a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our area and our club. Planning is well underway, and we will be looking for volunteers to help make the event a success. If you have never volunteered before, this is a great opportunity to get involved and meet fellow members.

We are also pleased to announce that our squadron has adopted a new litter pickup location on Wilson Way in Brunswick. Community service is an important part of our mission, and we will soon begin scheduling cleanup days. Please see Sharon Hindery's article later in this newsletter. We hope many of you will join us as we help keep our waterways and community looking their best.

Another exciting development is the donation of a 12-foot rigid inflatable boat (RIB) to the squadron (see photo below). This center-console RIB opens up many possibilities for hands-on boating education and community outreach programs (like litter pickups). We are exploring ways to use the boat for docking clinics, close-quarters maneuvering practice, youth boating experiences, and other educational programs that give people practical confidence on the water in a safe and controlled environment. Many thanks to Michael Kienlen for the donated boat, to ace mechanic Joe Stortz for going through the boat, engine, and trailer in great detail to ensure that all is running well, and to the Hampton River Marina owners for allowing us to store and launch the boat from there for free.

As we move forward, one thing I hope we never lose sight of is that this club belongs to all of us. The best ideas often come from members who simply speak up and say, "What if we tried this?" If you have ideas, interests, or skills you would like to share, I would love to hear from you.

Whether you are a longtime member or someone who recently joined us, thank you for being part of the Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron.

I am excited about where we are headed together and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events — on shore and on the water.

Safe boating.



*The club's newest addition
(Photo: C. Lamb)*

Squadron Education Officer's Report



New on the Job

This is my first report as SEO. We all must thank Mike Moye for doing this job for eight years in such an exemplary fashion. There are many reasons why he was named 'Member of the Year'. If I can do it half as well, even with his continuing advice, I will be very pleased.

Before starting, the apparent lack of boating education was shown in the May 28 Brunswick News story headlined: "BPD Officer

Rescues Six from Sinking Boats." Women and children had to be rescued from two overloaded boats barely afloat in 20 MPH winds and 2 to 3-foot seas. Passengers had to be told to put on PFDs before being rescued. What's wrong with this picture – that an **ABC** class couldn't fix?

Spring has sprung – right into summer, it seems. Educationally, the Club had a good winter. There were two ABC classes, February 7 and April 25, with a total of nine students with another on October 10. We also have two new instructors who supported out April class - Alan Shedd and Paul Truelove. Paul and Alan are very experienced boaters who have both achieved Senior Navigator (SN) status in the USPS.

Our tried-and-true recruitment methods (which include Nextdoor.com and flyers) managed to garner four students for February. The "tried-and-true" methods are increasingly ineffective with a diminishing number of students from the same pools that we always target. A major task for this year is to identify both new pools of potential students and more effective ways of reaching all groups.

One new way filled our April ABC class with students. The Club had a booth at the three-day Blessing of the Fleet in Darien (see separate report). We got five ABC students from the BOTF contacts, and also two new members.

The **Boating Apps** seminar was well received for its trial run. While providing lots of information on the most popular apps and their features, the seminar needs to add more information on using a subset of the apps and ways of choosing the app for your boating life. It will be offered later this year.

Cynthia's revised **Tides and Currents** seminar has already been taught three times to very appreciative audiences and will be taught again this summer.

Women In Boating had another successful session on May 9. There is some confusion at National on whether you need to have a USCG Captains License to conduct On-The-

Continues on next page

Squadron Education Officer's Report (cont'd)

Water (OTW) training if you charge for the program. Cynthia opted to bring one onboard, although she is a USPS Certified On-the-Water (OTW) Trainer. Administrative hurdles avoided, the class was very enthusiastic, and all were very successful in docking the boat. OTW is an important part of learning. Skills must be practiced in the environment to make the classroom teaching effective.

If OTW is the way to learn skills, our **Boat Handling** course needs to embrace it. After all the insurance uncertainty of the last year, we can take advantage of our certified instructor, who doesn't have to do all the teaching but must be on board. Twenty-eight of our current members have not had Boat Handling.

Yet, many of our Boat Handling offerings have had to be canceled; I think this might be because it just sounds like more ABC. We plan to revamp our approach to the Boat Handling class to address today's boating life and to include OTW training.

That brings up a major issue. What do our members want or need in the education realm? USPS course/seminars/classes/other training (National's categories) are set up along two lines. The first sequences through higher navigational proficiencies, Piloting to Celestial Navigation, and is fashioned after the need for mariners to be self-sufficient before the advent of multiple electronic systems. Piloting and Advanced Piloting have been updated into Marine Navigation and Advanced Marine Navigation to meet modern needs. Beyond the applicability to today's world, the whole sequence is intellectually stimulating (if I can finish my celestial sight folder, I will have done all of them) and are much better than puzzles at keeping you mentally alert.

The other line tackles topics that boat owners need to know for better boating, e.g., electrical systems, engine maintenance, tides and currents with the last revised into a more interesting format by Cynthia. The only other seminar taught recently was **Marine Radar**. The courses were once oriented to the larger boats of yesteryear but are being modernized for today's recreational boater.

Why the long explanation of tedious stuff? A large part of what the Club does is help make our members better boaters. To do that, we need to know what members need/want and also to explain to them, not in syllabus language, what is really available and how it will help them. To that end, after I figure it out myself, I will ask members what they would actually take and we will get them offered.

A long and rambling first report. Guess even learning Celestial Navigation couldn't help this old brain.

Jerry

Good Times and Good Stories at the May Social

Submitted by Alice Vaughan

Tuesday, May 19 about 20 members of the Golden Isles Sail & Power Squadron met at the International Seafarers Center in Brunswick for the club's monthly social. A potluck provided plenty of delicious food for dinner, a 50/50 drawing was held, and the members enjoyed an entertaining and fascinating presentation by Captain Bruce Fendig, a long-time pilot for Brunswick Harbor.



Captain Bruce Fendig presenting (Photo: S. Hindery)

Bruce began by entertaining the group reading an actual incident report written by the Master of the Craig McGregor to the Master of the Black Pearl, recounting the problems that followed when the Master of the ship yelled 'Let Go!' repeatedly to the mate that was changing the 'G' flag to the 'H' flag (which indicated the pilot has boarded the ship).

What followed had to do with anchors, ill-timed acceleration, hitting a bridge, vehicles falling onto the ship and a continued mayhem from the chain reaction. It elicited a lot of laughs from his audience, even if you were such a novice that you didn't understand all of the language. Suffice it to say, 'you had to be there' and if you ask one of the members who was there, they will laugh and tell let you know you missed a terrific meeting!

Continues on next page

Good Times and Good Stories at the May Social (cont'd)

Captain Fendig also shared a great deal of information about his career as a pilot, and facts about the Port of Brunswick. Some of those nuggets include:

- When he began his career as a pilot, the big ships carried up to 4000 cars. New RO-RO's are being built that will hold up to 12,000 vehicles.
- Pilots in the State of Georgia undergo a far more rigorous training program than federally licensed pilots. The apprenticeship lasts 3 years, and the apprentice in Brunswick who is about to qualify for licensing has made over 1,000 trips on local ships during his apprenticeship.
- There are currently 6 local pilots, and 3 apprentices.
- In Georgia, pilots are required to live in the area they serve.
- Local pilots board the ships coming into Brunswick 10 miles out in international waters, in an area marked on modern charts with a circle and a bar across the circle.



Rhonda DeCrescenzo and Dave Vaughan

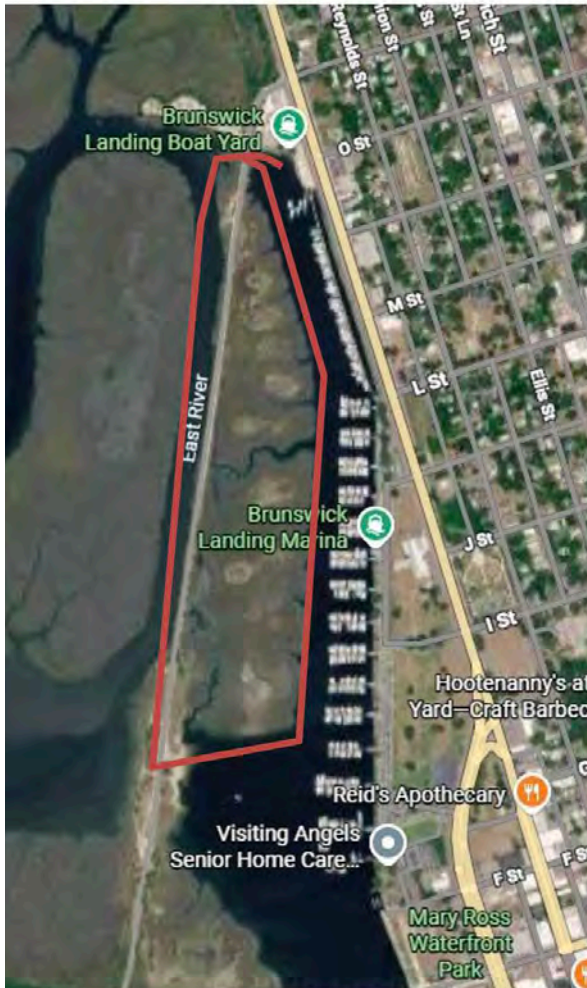


Sharon and Mike Moye

Photos: A. Vaughan

Special thanks to Captain Fendig for taking the time to educate and inform us, and to Peter Boyton, Executive Director of the International Seafarer's Center and our host for the evening, who assisted Captain Fendig with photos and a slide presentation.

ABC Golden Isles has an ongoing “Adopt a” commitment with Keep Golden Isles Beautiful - by Sharon Hindery



In keeping with our focus with boating and local waters, we have selected an area that borders both the East River and marsh areas West of Downtown Brunswick and the Brunswick landing marina. This area is affected by tides and currents moving litter that has reached the water ways from further downstream. Although gated overnight to prevent illegal dumping, the area is heavily visited and often littered on the land as well.

There are abundant roadside areas to clean as well as dry and wet marsh and even some wooded areas, so you can choose your level of participation. Some areas on the north end have not been targeted before this year, and the wooded and marsh areas still hides a lot of trash flushed in with roadside drains off highway 341. Since the club now has a small boat that could be trailered and launched from the boat ramp under the Sidney Lanier Bridge (only about 2 miles away), we now have the capability of accessing some areas along the river and Andrew’s Island that cannot be reached from the land.

The image on the left shows the Google Map view of the area “Homer Wilson Way” which is just north of the Boat Yard at P street. The road stretches for a about 1 mile till it ends at Andrews Island which is private property owned by Georgia Power.

A sign at the entrance designates that the America’s Boating Club Golden Isles has adopted the location! In March a few Marsh madness pickups covered the area.

I want to tentatively schedule 4 pickups for the rest of the year- each about 1- 1/2 hours each. Dates and times selected alternates high and low tide times. Hopefully you can find a day that fits your schedule to join the fun. During the summer months, early or late in the day works best due to heat, but tide times also play a part. We would provide gloves, bags and “pickers”, bug spray, water and hand cleaner. You would provide the critical eye to spot the trash in the grass, collect, and bag it.

Believe it or not- this is a fun way to get up close and personal with the marsh! Get some great exercise with a purpose. So, pencil in the dates on your calendar and make a point in joining us!

Pick Up Dates and Times Scheduled!

Monday June 29 @ 9 AM- This is at high tide and would be an opportunity to use our boat to gather floating items from the river side of the marsh, as well as roadside.

Sunday September 11 @ 4 PM- This is low tide. This would allow those with muck boots to adventure into the marsh to collect, as well as roadside collection.

Saturday October 24 @ 8 AM- Another high tide (7:41AM) pickup

Friday December 4th @ Noon - Low tide pickup- maybe head out to lunch afterwards!



Let's join Rick and help out!



Can you spot the problem(s)?



A recent Marsh Madness pickup in our new spot

Photos: S. Hindery

America's Boating Club Golden Isles publishes article in the Brunswick News to celebrate...

National Safe Boating Week

To get our message out during the recent National Safe Boating Week (May 16-22), Rick Ellis (part of our Executive Committee (EXCOM)), wrote and submitted an article to the Brunswick News on boating safety. It was published in the upper left on page 2 of the newspaper on May 16 - a very coveted spot. The article (for those who missed it) is provided below.

Great job, Rick!

Page 2A // The Brunswick News // Saturday, May 16, 2026

Isles boating club raising awareness of boating safety

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

Summer is peak boating season in the Golden Isles and a local organization wants to ensure boaters are being safe on the water.

America's Boating Club Golden Isles is celebrating National Safe Boating Week May 16-22.

"The only fun boating is safe boating, and water safety is the most important consideration for locals and visitors who enjoy boating and fishing in the area," said Cynthia Lamb, commander of the Golden Isles chapter. "Safety begins with education."

A top safety tip, she said, is to wear life jackets every time

on the water. Statistics from the U.S. Coast Guard show that 87% of boating fatality victims were not wearing life jackets and that drowning accounted for three quarters of those fatalities.

"Modern life jackets are far more comfortable, lightweight and stylish than the traditional bulky orange versions most boaters are familiar with," Lamb said.

The local nonprofit club is affiliated with the United States Power Squadrons and promotes safety year round with a focus on education through various courses on boat handling, general safety, women-centered courses, tides and currents and

marine navigation.

Members also participate in community service projects like vessel safety checks, removing trash from waterways and Day on the Water for local youth.

Members also participate in monthly meetings, regular social gatherings, group cruises and more.

There are roughly 50 members of the local club but more are welcome, Lamb said.

"Our members include boat owners and non-owners alike, as well as experienced boaters and those new to boating who want to learn," she said.

For more information on the club, go to gisps.org or call 860-908-4678.

COASTFEST Report

Georgia DNR's Coastal Resources Division held its 29th annual CoastFest Event on March 21, 2026 @ Mary Ross Waterfront Park in Brunswick.

CoastFest is a statewide event dedicated to celebrating and educating the public about the rich coastal heritage and natural resources of our region. The festival brings together a wide range of activities, exhibits, and live entertainment, offering a fun and educational experience for visitors of all ages.

America's Boating Club Golden Isles was one of about 35 exhibitors this year. We had a large number of visitors come to our booth - people of all ages. One of our big attractions was the "photo opportunity" area which let people take photos in front of a cruise ship scene. The other big attraction (at least for little kids) was our life ring toss game. Attendees willing to spend more time inside our exhibit area were able to take an interactive quiz on Georgia's tides and could learn how to tie various knots. Many struggled to tie a flying bowline!

Sincere thanks to our amazing volunteers: John Lijoi, Dave and Alice Vaughan, Alan and Cheryl Shedd, Rick and Sharon Hindery, Jerry Lamb, and Domenick Mastroianni. If anyone has ideas for next year's booth, please let me know. It's fun to change things up. Let's make our booth even better next year. Submitted by Cynthia Lamb



Cynthia Lamb



Alan and Cheryl Shedd

More CoastFest Photos



The flying bowline...almost!

Note: We look forward to supporting CoastFest next year as part of its 30th anniversary. It is tentatively set for Saturday, **March 20, 2027**.



Jerry Lamb and Domenick Mastroianni



Sharon and Rick Hindery

Darien 2026 Blessing of the Fleet

Submitted by Jerry Lamb



Darien's Blessing of the Fleet (BOTF) isn't just a boat drive-by with holy water.

Held each spring along Darien's historic waterfront, the three-day event, the largest event in McIntosh County, began in 1968.

The weekend includes live music, fireworks, a parade, a YMCA 5K race, a classic car show, children's activities, arts and crafts exhibits, and a variety of seafood and food vendors. Today the festival attracts more than

12,000 visitors (over 3 days) visiting approximately 150 arts, crafts, and commercial exhibitors along with about 20 food vendors.

The highlight remains Sunday's boat parade when local shrimp boats, decorated with colorful flags and banners, approach the Darien Bridge to receive prayers for a safe and prosperous season. Unlike the Brunswick BOTF, the boats just approach the bridge and hold position (a seamanship test with the swift currents) while multiple clergy give individually crafted prayers for each commercial boat.

Our club was one of those 150 vendors, capturing one of the few non-profit spaces. Nestled between a no-show and a cane syrup salesman from Savannah (really good stuff), our booth attracted lots of attention.

Our ChatGPT 'advisor' suggested going with a real attention-grabber: a "one minute boating test" (see photo). This really caught everybody's attention, and a majority of folks stopped to try it and chat. (Check out our boating test on the next page. It definitely opened up lots of conversation and teaching opportunities.)



Darien 2026 Blessing of the Fleet (cont'd)

1-MINUTE BOATING TEST

Choose your answers—
most people miss at least one

1. **When is the tidal current the strongest?**
 - A. High tide
 - B. Low tide
 - C. Mid-tide
 - D. Full moon

2. **What kind of knot secures a boat to a dock?**
 - A. Cleat hitch
 - B. Reef knot
 - C. Bowline
 - D. Clove hitch

3. **Who has the right of way: sailboat or powerboat?**
 - A. Sailboat always
 - B. Powerboat always
 - C. Depends on the situation
 - D. The larger boat

3/3 = Captain Status
1 or less = We can help



"Can I get this?" (Shannon Johnson and Boomer enjoying the event)

Photos: R. Ellis



Thanks to our intrepid team of Sharon and Rick Hindery, Rick Ellis, Randy Olson, Cheryl Shedd, Jerry and Cynthia Lamb, we got enough students to hold an ABC class and two new members. Although hot as blazes, we will participate next year for the crowds – and the great lobster rolls.

Bravo Zulu, Vicky Jefferis!

Vicky Jefferis, a past commander of this squadron and current at-large member of the Executive Committee (EXCOM), was recently awarded the USPS designation of Senior Navigator (SN). To earn this designation, Vicky had to pass all advanced grade courses (e.g., marine navigation, offshore navigation) plus six elective courses. Her last elective was Marine Radar.

Please congratulate Vicky on her impressive achievement.



On a recent cruise to the Caribbean Windward Islands, Vicky Jefferis used her new skills to help Le Bougainville safely enter the port of Portsmouth, Dominica (see above). (ONLY KIDDING!)

Just prior to the cruise, Vicky, Sharon Hindery, Cynthia Lamb, Mike Moye, and Charles Wilsdorf successfully completed the Radar course taught by instructor Jerry Lamb. Besides learning a lot, the group had a great time using Jerry's Radar simulator to avoid colliding with land, vessels, and other objects when boating in poor visibility.

The Royal Couple - Rick and Sharon Hindery

As many of you know, Rick and Sharon Hindery are incredible people who are tireless volunteers for several organizations (thankfully, including ours). They are especially involved with **Keep Golden Isles Beautiful** (KGIB). Their unmatched commitment to this organization has resulted in an annual award that is named for them - the Rick and Sharon Hindery Volunteer Award. In fact, Rick and Sharon Hindery have actually won their own award!

Every year KGIB holds its big cleanup project called Marsh Madness. Marsh Madness is a month-long environmental campaign held every March. It is the local kickoff for the national Great American Cleanup, dedicated to protecting the vital coastal salt marshes by removing tons of litter and debris from dozens of marsh-adjacent sites.

Volunteers who work a minimum of 3 cleanups receive a custom Marsh Madness T-shirt, while those who work 5 receive a custom sling bag. The individuals with the highest number of cleanups are traditionally crowned "Marsh King" and "Marsh Queen".

Last year, Sharon was named Marsh Queen and Rick was Marsh Prince (runner-up to the Marsh King). Not satisfied with this result, Rick vowed to win the crown in 2026.

Out of 57 cleanups held in March, Rick worked 33 of those and Sharon 31. This effort earned them both the top honors!

Please congratulate them the next time you see them. We are all very proud of them.



Golden Isles Welcomes its Newest Members



Did you know?

This month marks the 82nd anniversary of D-Day and is a reminder that understanding tides and weather can have enormous consequences. Allied planners needed a rare combination of a low tide shortly after dawn, a nearly full moon for nighttime airborne operations, and a break in the weather.

When storms threatened the invasion, meteorologists identified a brief window on June 6, 1944, allowing the operation to proceed. Even the largest amphibious assault in history depended on reading the tides, moon, and weather correctly.

In fact, there's a new movie, *Pressure*, that has just been released, that focuses on James Stagg, a Scottish meteorologist who served as General Eisenhower's chief weather adviser for Operation Overlord, and the weather forecast that helped determine when the invasion would occur.

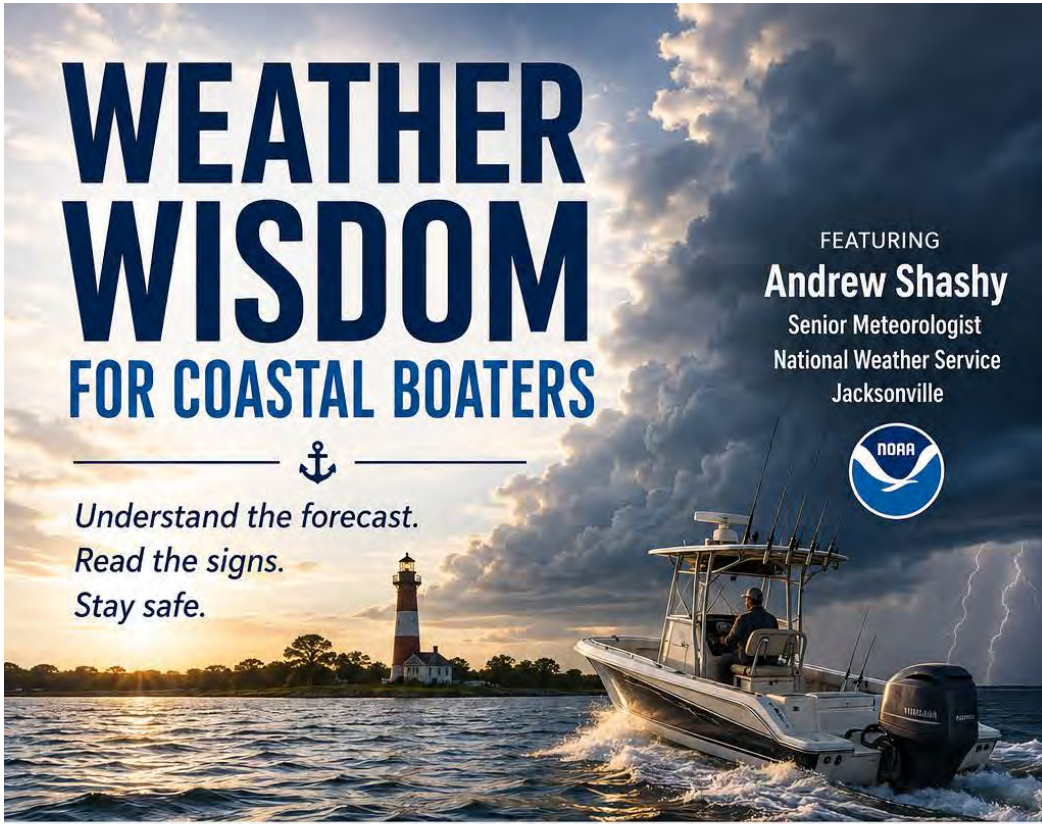


WEATHER WISDOM FOR COASTAL BOATERS

FEATURING
Andrew Shashy
Senior Meteorologist
National Weather Service
Jacksonville



*Understand the forecast.
Read the signs.
Stay safe.*



TUESDAY, JULY 21

6:30 PM Light Hors d'oeuvres & Beverages

7:00 PM Presentation Begins



LOCATION:

University of Georgia
Marine Extension
715 Bay Street
Brunswick, GA



FREE EVENT | OPEN TO AREA BOATERS

For all recreational boaters—from beginners to experienced captains.



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN



How to interpret marine forecasts and radar



Weather clues boaters can observe on the water



Local weather patterns that affect the Georgia coast



Better weather awareness can help you make safer decisions and improve trip planning.



*Be Weather Aware.
Boat with Confidence.*

TO REGISTER GO TO
GISPS.org



Don't forget to sign up for this!

America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2026 Bridge & Committee Contact Information

Commander	Cynthia Lamb, JN	860-908-5148	cynthia.l.lamb48@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Vacant		
Administrative Officer	Alice Vaughan, S	217-841-6172	adv4495@gmail.com
Education Officer	Jerry Lamb, P	860-908-4678	lambo50@icloud.com
Secretary	Stephanie Krause-Jones	912-580-1725	stephaniekrause-jones@iheartmedia.com
Treasurer	Sharon Hindery, JN	630-323-1206	sharona53@comcast.net
Asst. Education Officer	Mike Moye, SN	229-454-6791	mmoye@surfsouth.com
Member at Large	Vicky Jefferis, SN	912-264-1352	vickyjefferis@bellsouth.net
Member at Large	David Jones	912-580-1041	david.earl.jones@gmail.com
Member at Large	Rick Ellis	678-516-0995	mrrickellis@gmail.com
Past Commander	Mark Crawford, AP	314-614-6037	msc1234@aol.com
Webmaster	David Jones	912-580-1041	david.earl.jones@gmail.com
VSC Coordinator	Ed Reynolds, S	423-341-2531	ejreynolds3@icloud.com
Porthole Editor	Cynthia Lamb, JN	860-908-5148	cynthia.l.lamb48@gmail.com

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. Please send all newsletter content to Cynthia Lamb.

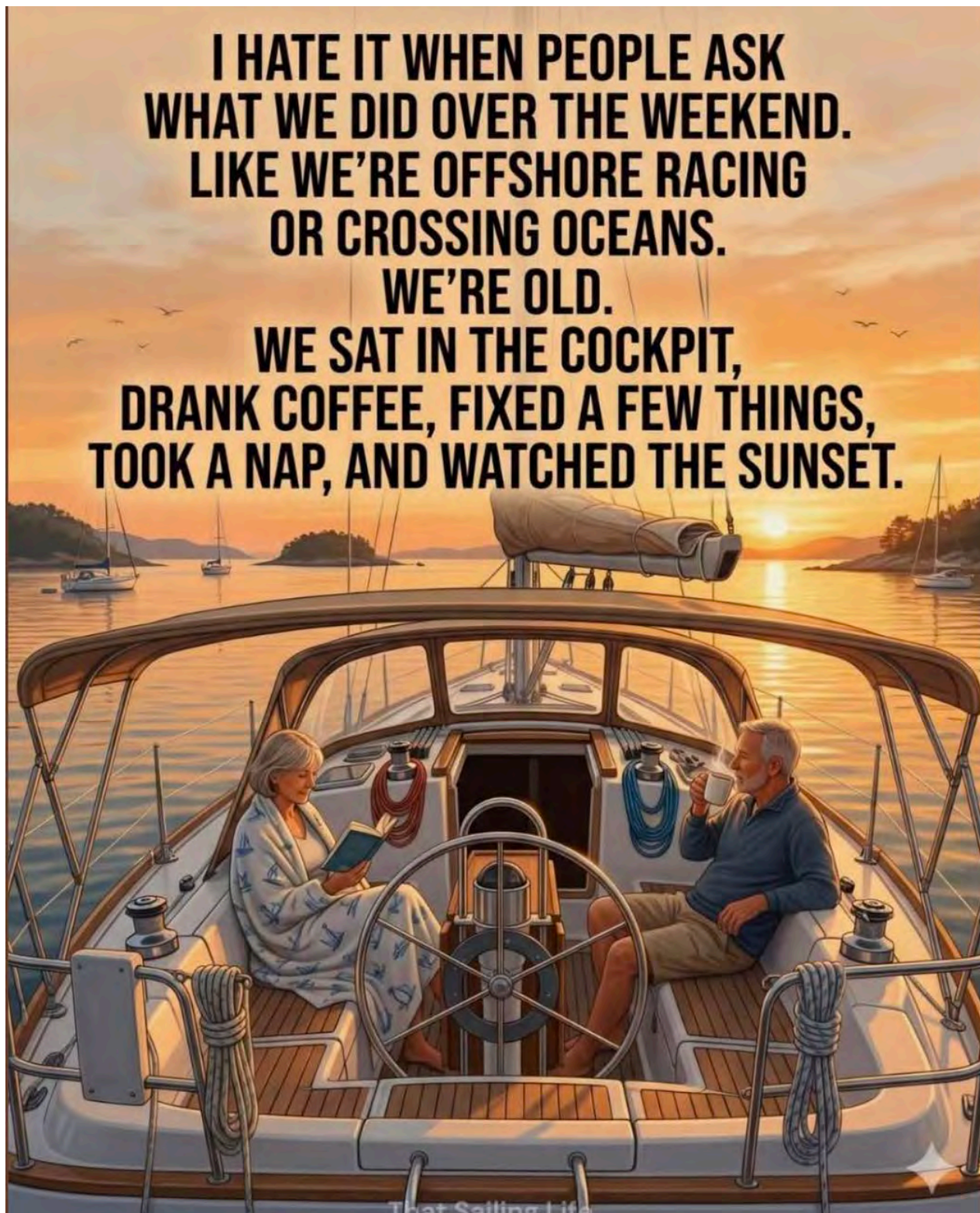


The Porthole is the official publication of America's Boating Club® Golden Isles sponsored by the United States Power Squadrons®. The National website is www.americasboatingclub.org. Our Club website is www.gisps.org. You may also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GISPS/> and on [Instagram](#)



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.

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.



Saw this on Facebook. Thought some of you might like it. I did. - C. Lamb