

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

February

- 8 - Marine Navigation Course via Zoom
- 15-26 America's Boating Club's National Meetings (virtual)
- 16 - Club Social
- 20 - Litter Pickup at Liberty Ship Park

March

- 2 - Content for *The Porthole* due
- 9 - *The Porthole* distribution
- 12 & 13 - District 26 Conference (virtual)
- 16 - Club Social
- 20 - Club Cruise Blythe Island Area

Inside this issue:

Executive Officer Report	2
Club Social Information	3
Club Educational Officer Report	4
Treasurer Report & Secretary Report	5
D26 Spring Events	6
National News	7
Great Ocean Story	8
Contact Information and Birthdays	9
Club Calendar	10
Membership Information	11

Commander's Message



Cdr Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON

Our club's newsletter, the *Porthole*, has once again been awarded the **Distinctive Communicator Award for 2020**. The award recognizes those publications and websites

that meet or exceed the defined award criteria by America's Boating Club National Communications Committee. Even though our *Porthole* has earned this distinction since 2008, it was completely reformatting with a new look when our editor, Cathy Stortz, AP took the reins in 2018. Our newsletter has received high praise from our members, other clubs, the district and the national organization. Thank you, Cathy and all of our contributors, for your dedication and hard work to bring us a fantastic and informative newsletter each month. Please keep up the good work.

And, our club's website gisps.org has once again been awarded the **Distinctive Communicator Award for 2020**. We also have received this award since Sharon Hindery, AP took the helm. Our club owes Sharon much appreciation for her skill, work, and dedication to our website.

We, as well as all boaters, have lost an important service. Sea Tow nationally, which had over 130 locations with the automated "Radio Check" has ceased this service. My information is that Sea Tow leased the equipment and service through a large national communications company who did not meet up to their end of the contract possibly leaving Sea Tow in a bad situation. Again, it is a loss of a great boater service.

You should use one of the non-commercial channels (68, 69, 71 or 72) for radio checks. Using channel

16 for a radio check is in violation of FCC regulations. Make sure you listen first before keying the mic so that you don't walk on someone else's communication. It is a good idea to prearrange with another boater a time to make the radio check. Radio checks should also, at least initially, be transmitted on low power (1-watt) by calling "radio check" three times ending with your boat name and location. You want someone on the other end to answer with "loud and clear". Please let Michael Moye, SN, our club's Education Officer, know if you are interested in a marine communications seminar.

America Magic is the sailboat that literally flies. See: [Onboard America Magic](#) and [As seen from a chase boat](#). If you haven't watched this class of America Cup boats race, give it a try, you will be amazed.

National and District virtual meetings are both on the near horizon. The date for the annual America's Boating Club meeting is February 15th - 26th. For details see: [Member's Home Page](#) on the USPS website. You will need your USPS certificate number and your password or pin number. I suggest you download the pdf meeting schedule to identify the subjects that might interest you. This is a great way to get first-hand USPS national level information with no travel and it is free.

District 26 will hold a virtual 2020 Awards presentation Friday, March 12th and a virtual Training Workshop March 13th. There is also a tentative plan for a District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous sponsored by the Beaufort and Hilton Head clubs with a theme of "Explore the Low Country like the Conquistadors of the 16th Century" April 21st - 25th. There will be more detailed information to follow.

Now, there is one other subject I would like to broach briefly. I am sure you recognize that our present club bridge officers have been serving for a long time. The precedence in our club has been an annual Change of Watch (COW) in November releasing the present bridge and installing a new one. For the past several years we have recycled the same members over and over. This recycling is not only unfair to members who serve, but it also sty-

Continued on page 2.

Commander's Message Continued from Page 1

mies new fresh ideas to inject into the club. Our club's Nominating Committee has diligently attempted to recruit new officers. The fact is, no members would come forward to serve as officers. For the year 2022 we are going to need some of you to come forward and serve. Some of our present bridge members, one including me, are not going to continue to serve in our present position. We will certainly be available to aid new bridge members. Does it take time to perform the officer's functions? Of course it does, but we have strived to simplify the officer's duties to fit our club needs at the same time very loosely following tradition. We have a great bunch of people in the club. I truly consider you all a good friend and I know the other bridge members feel the same way. But, to keep and grow new boating friends through our club, it will take leaders to keep us functioning together. The harsh reality is, if we do not get an influx of new officers with new blood and ideas, I do not see how our club will be able to continue and that would be tragic. So, I plead with you to serve. If you have hesitations and want more information, I ask you to please contact our Nominating Committee (P/C Vicky Jefferis, JN or P/C Sharon Hindery, AP) or just ask any club officer.

Chas

Finally. Time for Some on the Water Fun



Hello again fellow America's Boating Club members!

Our first cruise of the season will be on Saturday, March 20. We will convene in the vicinity of the Blythe Island boat dock at 11:30am and journey up the Turtle River. After exploring that waterway up to Oak Grove Island, we will return to Blythe Island boat dock for a picnic lunch. Our itinerary is as follows:

WHEN: Saturday, March 20, 11:30am

WHERE: Blythe Island Boat Dock

ROUTE: Turtle River and return

WHAT TO BRING: Lunch, drinks, face mask

BOAT RULES: Each Captain will establish face mask and social distancing expectations

HOW TO SIGN UP: Reply to Ed Reynolds by text (423-341-2531) or email

(ejreynolds3@icloud.com) by Friday, March 12. Let me know how many will be attending and if you will be providing a boat (and how many extra passengers you can carry). You will be notified which boat you will be on and when/where to board. All are welcome!

Commander Charles and I will review the pandemic situation and the weather forecast on Friday, March 19. If we determine that it is not safe to proceed, you will be notified.

Hope to see you on the water!

Ed Reynolds

Club Online Social - Third Tuesday of the Month

Mark off your calendar on third Tuesdays at 6PM. Every month until large groups can gather safely, the America's Boating Club Golden Isles holds an ONLINE SOCIAL (on Zoom). This has been the way we meet, to strengthen our associations and continue our Club mission, while pandemic measures are in place.

When: Tuesday, February 16th, 6:00 - 7:15pm

Where: Online at zoom.us with new meeting login (no longer use previous links)

Watch: Your email for the new login information

BYO: Bring your own happy hour or dinner, your choice, your living room

Questions? Call Terry 414-510-9338

Explore Gray's Reef!



Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary is Georgia's amazing underwater park. The natural live-bottom reef is teeming with marine life and is part of the endangered North Atlantic right whale's only known calving ground. Loggerhead turtles, a threatened species, forage and rest at the reef, where scientists have identified more than 200 fish species. The 22 square-mile sanctuary is the only protected natural reef and one of a few natural marine protected areas in the Atlantic Ocean between Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moyer, SN

The first ABC class of 2021 is scheduled for February 6. The numbers of folks signing up looks light at this point. I wish I could blame it on COVID, but frankly we've had some mighty small classes back when folks were not worried about the virus. After the February class the next ABC class is April 3. Large or small, we put everything we have into making our classes top quality. A great example of this is the experimental Marine Navigation class being taught by Commander Charles. He is doing a great job teaching a subject that would be difficult to present even in a face-to-face situation. His version is entirely on Zoom which makes it triple hard on the instructor. In addition to preparing and fine-tuning student manuals and Power-Point presentations, he also had to master presenting on Zoom. This has taken hours and hours (days and days) of behind the scenes work to master this new instructional technique.

Writing this, I'm sitting in front of a nice cozy fire and enjoying a drizzly and chilly afternoon. Hurricanes were the last thing on my mind—until I heard a guy on the tv mumble something about La Niña. You see, I know a tiny bit about La Niña (the little girl). Back in 2013, members Coy Hodges and Charles Wilsdorf taught the USPS Weather course. It was quite interesting, but very difficult. Parts of it were even downright scary too. We learned about some funky stuff like Gustnados and Dust Devils, but also some pretty cool things like the Green Flash and Rainbows. Everything about the course was important, but the thing that really caught my attention was the section on hurricanes and the factors that influence them. That's where La Niña enters the picture.

Now, if you lived in Buffalo and watched tv up there, you would have caught the part of the discussion about how La Niña will drastically impact the winter pattern in the northern states. But, if you live in the south and happened to hear Glenn Burns, the chief meteorologist for WSB in Atlanta, you would have heard him painting an entirely different picture. We don't worry so much about snow but do have definite concerns about things that influence the severe spring tornado occurrences. If you're a boater (like Glenn), especially if you have a larger boat at a marina, hurricane season keeps you on the edge for a predictable/unpredictable six months.

In the Weather course we learned that La Niña is a naturally occurring ocean-to-atmosphere phenomenon where we see much cooler than average sea surface temperatures around the equator in the eastern Pacific. The opposite is El Niño (the little boy) where warmer than average sea temperatures are seen in that region of the world. One of these patterns can hold for a couple of years or more before slipping into the other. It's interesting how the relatively small change in the ocean's temperature can affect the weather all over the world.

As boaters we really must watch the dramatic effects that come during La Niña. Like last year, the little girl could again lead to more tropical cyclones. Remember the record breaking 30 named storms in 2020 with 12 of them hitting our shores (and boats) in the U.S?

Let's all hope La Niña decides to take a nap in 2021.

Mike Moyer SN

Education Officer

Treasurer Report



Teresa Wilsdorf, S

All current America's Boating Club members. Good News!!! There will be no District 26 assessment for **2021**. This will reduce your 2021 annual membership renewal by \$12 for a single membership and \$18 for a family membership. The Covid virus dampened much of the normal expenditures used for the district's functions resulting in the D26 Bridge favoring forgoing any 2021 district assessments.

Our club's present balance is \$6,379.22. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions.

Secretary Report



Sharon Hindery, AP

I would like to invite y'all to help with a bit of spring cleaning of Liberty Ship Park on Saturday Feb 20 at 9:00 AM. Our club claims this area as our own to tidy up with quarterly litter pickups. Usually we time the first pickup to be right after the annual SGHS Bridge run, but due to Covid, that event is being billed as a run on your own virtual event type thing. (They still are asking for, and certainly need donations to support their Cancer and Cardiac programs). If for some reason, you would like to help, but are not available on Feb 20... we have another opportunity for you to Join us on March 2 at 4:30 PM at the west side of the Mackay River Bridge. Rick and I "host" the cleanup as part of the "Annual Marsh Madness" series of targeted cleanups in and around the local Marshes.



We are still planning our long postponed garage/yard sale... for later this spring...so if you have any stuff to sell ... keep tuned! My garage is looking forward to getting cleaned!

As we all know there is a lot of activity surrounding the Golden Ray. The wreck that has been both a tourist attraction and a very concerning environmental hazard since Sept 8, 2019 close to 1 ½ years ago. It **IS** slowly getting smaller, bit by bit - currently cutting through the engine room's section. Each section is then hauled off, first to Brunswick for preliminary stabilization, then a voyage by barge to Louisiana for final salvage operations. The link below is to the official information, so you can keep up to date on what is happening from the comfort of your desk Great pictures- Since they won't let you closer than 200 yards on your boat!

<https://www.stsimonssoundincidentresponse.com>



District 26 Events

D26 Spring Conference Schedule March 12-13, 2021 *

Friday, March 12, 2021		
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Awards Celebration	
Saturday, March 13, 2021		
9:00 - 10:15 AM	SARS Follow-up	Collaborative Teaching
10:30 - 11:45 AM	Navigating USPS “How Do I” and “Site Index”	Community/Member Involvement
1:30 - 2:45 PM	Nominating Committee as Key to Squadron Success	Marketing of Education
3:00 - 4:15 PM	Member Retention	
4:30 - 5:45 PM	D26 Cruise & Rendezvous	

* The conference will be held virtually and you must register to attend. More information and the registration form will be available soon.

District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous

April 21-25, 2021

Hosted by:

America's Boating Club of Beaufort

and

America's Boating Club Hilton Head

Tune in March 13, 2021, at 4:30PM D26 Spring Conference for up-to-date information on this exciting event.

ABC National News

JOIN US FROM YOUR HOME

At the

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters®



Virtual Annual Meeting

February 15-26, 2021

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

Free, Everyone Is Invited, Pre-registration Is Not Required for Majority of the Meetings

Attend One or Attend All! All sessions recorded and available after the meeting.

Highlights:

Keynote Speaker – Capt. Nori Ann Reed, USN, Retired shares her experiences as a Navy Captain

Recruiting and Retaining Members Through Effective Marketing of Educational Programs

Understanding the National Website Information Center

Treasures Found in Commanders Kit for All Members

Create Partnerships & Maintain Contracts with Local Business and Government Agencies

“Why Won’t They Do What I Want”

Instructor Recertification (Pre-registration required)

Environmental Stewardship in the Boating Environment

What is your favorite area of interest in America’s Boating Club? We have a session on that!

Specific Meeting Details are available on the [National Meeting Website](#)



Packing Cubes



Sunglass Case

SHIP'S STORE

<https://store.shopusps.org/>

20% DISCOUNT

on All Items from

FEBRUARY 15 – MARCH 1, 2021

Have product questions?

SS Staff will be available during certain hours.

(Check Agenda for details, dates, and times.)



Stemless Wine Glass



Stainless Tumbler

Interested in Attending But Need Help Connecting?

Check out the Attendee Instructions page

on the [National Meeting page](#) for detailed, step-by-step instructions.

Know someone who would like to attend? Invite them over and watch together while social distancing!

Great Ocean Story - Historic Moment in 1899

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia.

The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought Captain John D.S. Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LONG 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line". Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favor. At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.

The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.

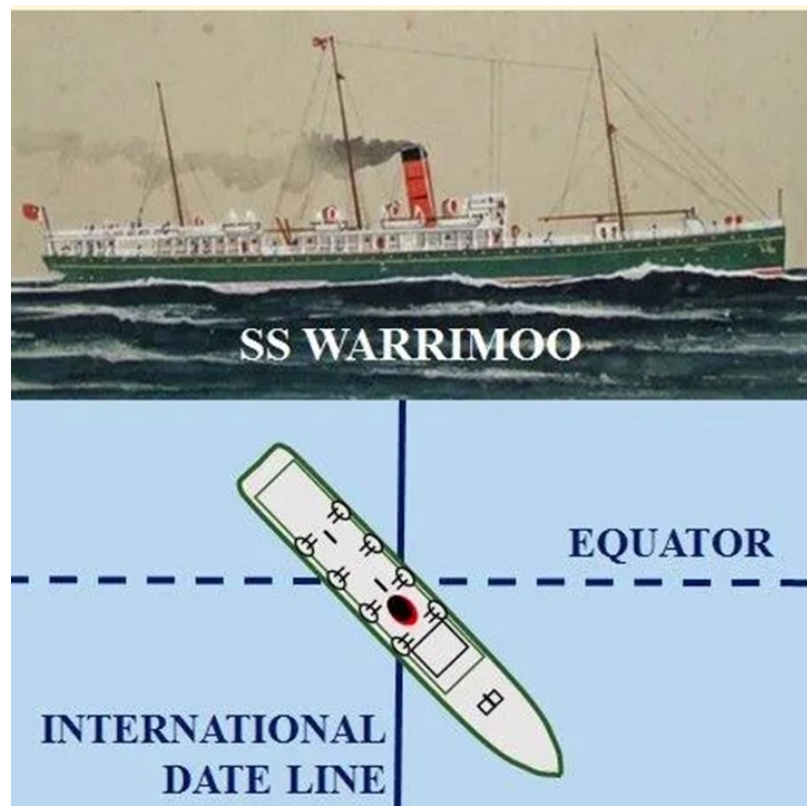
The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.

In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in:

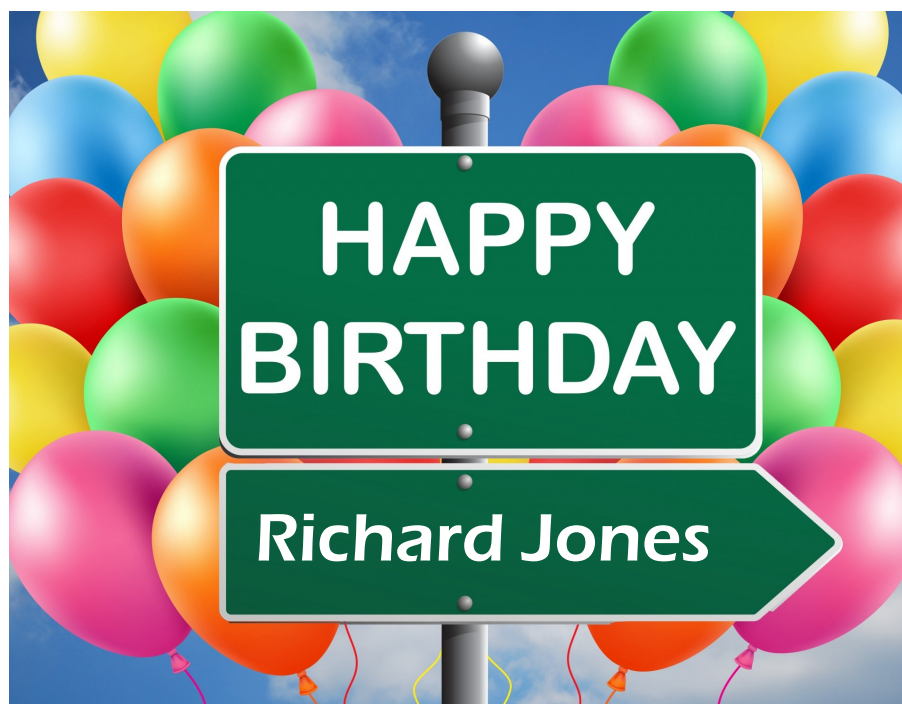
Two different days, Two different months, Two different years, Two different seasons,

But in two different centuries - all at the same time!



Bridge Contact Information and February Birthdays

America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2020-2021 Bridge Contact Information			
Commander	Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON	912-265-9550	chaswi30@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Ed Reynolds, S	423-341-2531	ejreynolds3@icloud.com
Administrative Officer	Terry Osman, P	414-510-9338	t.osman@att.net
Asst. Administrative Officer	Cynthia Lamb	860-908-5148	cynthia.l.lamb48@gmail.com
Asst. Administrative Officer	Eileen Berta	912 602-9500	eileenberta@gmail.com
Club Education Officer	Mike Moye, SN	229-454-6791	mmoye@surfsouth.com
Secretary	Sharon Hindery, AP	630-323-1206	sharona53@comcast.net
Treasurer	Teresa Wilsdorf, S	912-265-9550	tmwilsdorf@aol.com
Member at Large	Vicky Jefferis, JN	912-264-1352	vickyjefferis@bellsouth.net
Member at Large	David Jones	912 580-1041	david.earl.jones@gmail.com
Member at Large	Jerry Lamb	860 908-4678	lambo50@icloud.com
Porthole Editor	Cathy Stortz, AP	912-222-1038	cstortz777@yahoo.com



America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar Feb - May 2021

February

8 - Marine Navigation Course via Zoom

9 - *The Porthole* distribution

15-26 America's Boating Club's National Meetings (virtual)

16 - Club Social via Zoom

20 - Litter Pickup at Liberty Ship Park



March

2 - Content for *The Porthole* due

9 - *The Porthole* distribution

12 & 13 - District 26 Conference (virtual)

16 - Club Social

20 - Club Cruise Blythe Island Area



2021 Club Cruise Dates
March 20

April

3 - ABC Class at UGA

6 - Content for *The Porthole* due

13 - *The Porthole* distribution

20 - Club Social

21-25 District 26 Cruise and Rendezvous

May

4 - Content for *The Porthole* due

11 - *The Porthole* distribution

18 - Club Social



Has anyone tried ice sailing? Creative Commons picture from Bing.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Please submit an article, picture, or even a link to a boating video that you feel other club members may enjoy. All newsletter content is due to Cathy Stortz cstortz777@yahoo.com 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 30,000 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.