

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

October

- 14 - ExCom Meeting at 5PM
- 19 - **Club Annual Meeting 2022 Election of Officers and Social via ZOOM 6PM**
- 22-23 - District 26 Virtual Fall Conference and Change of Watch

November

- 2 - Content for *The Porthole* due
- 5 - **Club Change of Watch Celebration at Hampton Plantation**
- 9 - *The Porthole* distribution
- 13 - Club Cruise to Zachry's Riverhouse Restaurant on Jekyll Island

December

- 11 - Christmas Party

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Commander's Message



Cdr Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON

Our club's 16th Annual Change of Watch (COW) will be held the early evening November 5th. I ask all members to attend and honor our outgoing bridge who will be released and show support for our incoming bridge who will be pledging to share their talents and time to make our club even better next year. This has historically been our club's single semi-formal event of the year. Our club's COW Committee has been working hard to bring this special affair together. It will be a fun evening for all. There will be more COW information to follow but please just make sure you mark your calendar.

You, our Club's Membership Committee, have been busy recruiting new members. Our total membership has returned to prior levels and is trending up again. Good job gang!! Let's keep up the good work!! I would like to welcome Istvan Balog and his wife, Judit Varga to our club. Istvan and Judit have attended a few club dinners in the past and decided it was time to be a club member and be part of the group. I would also like to welcome Bruce and Kay Miles who look forward to participating with us in our local cruises and other club activities.

America's Boating Club announced last month the *Boat with Confidence Campaign*, a non-profit corporate partnership with boat and other marine manufacturers to support boating safety and boater education. The campaign will allow America's Boating Club to provide recreational boaters with a suite of in-person, online, and on-the-water training opportunities that nurture safe boating practices. At the recent 2021 USPS Governing Board Meeting, the organization launched the campaign and welcomed its first *Boating with Confidence* Champion, Grady-White Boats.

One more reminder, the District 26 Conference and Change of Watch will be held on October 22nd and 23rd. Officer training will be held Saturday morning from 10:30 - 11:45. More details to follow.

I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful boating weather. I understand all participants enjoyed the club's last cruise down the Hampton River.

Chas

September Club Cruise



Cindy Simpson

Fall Cruise Plan



Executive Officer
Ed Reynolds, S

Our September 25 cruise was a big success! We had sunny skies, mild temperature, fairly calm water and low winds. Five boats containing 12 boaters made the trip up the MacKay River and around the Hampton River for an on-boat picnic lunch. Participants included our newest members, Bruce and Kay Miles, who keep their boat at Hampton Marina. Welcome Bruce and Kay! During lunch, David Jones did a little fishing and caught a hammerhead shark. This was the first documented fish caught during one of our cruises this year as far as I know. More cruise pictures on page 10.



Let's conclude our cruises for this year with a November 13 lunch cruise to Zachry's Riverhouse Restaurant on Jekyll Island. They have outdoor seating as well as picnic tables on the grounds. Details are as follows:

WHEN: Saturday, November 13

WHERE: Meet near markers R22 and G21 in Saint Simons Sound (about 1 mile from the entrance to Jekyll Creek) at noon

ROUTE: Proceed south on Jekyll Creek to the Jekyll Island Marina. Dock near the gas dock. After lunch, return the same route you came.

WHAT TO BRING: Lunch money, jacket

BOAT RULES: Maintain contact via VHF channel 72, max boat speed 25 mph, may have to raft up at dock.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Reply to Ed Reynolds by text (423-341-2531) or email (ejreynolds3@icloud.com) by Wednesday evening November 10. Let me know if you are coming by boat or need a ride. All are welcome!

As usual, Commander Charles and I will review the weather forecast on Friday afternoon. If we determine it is not safe to proceed you will be notified.

See you on the water!

Ed

Treasurer Report



Teresa Wilsdorf, S

Our 16th Annual Change of Watch (COW) will be held Friday, November 5th. Please mark your calendars now. The invitations will be sent, via email, around October 17th.

To attend:

- When the invitation is received, please email me your RSVP, with your dinner choice.
- Send a check made out to GISPS by the cutoff date to me or, if you would like to pay by PayPal, include that in your RSVP and I will send you a PayPal invoice.
- My mailing address is 14 Berryhill Ln, Brunswick, GA 31523

The team has arranged a terrific COW for you this year and it looks like there is nothing keeping us from having a great time! Hope to see you there.

Teresa Wilsdorf, S

Membership

Welcome New Members Mike (Michelynn) and George Carellas!

The Carellas became acquainted with the Americas Boating Club Golden Isles by completing the Club's ABC Course last year, and now as of a couple months ago, we can call them members! We are so glad to have the Carellas in our squadron, but - unless you have participated in the Club's Boating Cruises recently - you most likely haven't had an opportunity to know them yet. If that's the case, here you go!

Mike and George moved to the Golden Isles a few years ago (from a stint in Baltimore but raised their family in Atlanta). They are almost fully retired from Civil Service careers with the Army, George as an engineer and Mike responsible for base closures in recent years. Retirement means a greater opportunity to truly explore the outdoors and St Simons has offered the perfect location for that. They live in the South Harington area of St Simons Island and are fortunate to have one of their three girls and her family also now living nearby, with young'uns around to kick things up a notch.

George picked up an interest in fishing, has a Boston Whaler fishing boat on a trailer, and is getting to be quite avid! Wise move, George, to take the ABC Course as a key component of spending more time operating a vessel and expanding a fishing hobby! Mike has taken to the cruising and adventures associated with on-the-water activities, which they have enjoyed on several of the Club Cruises this year.

Say hello to Mike and George at our next gathering - just remember George's key word is "fishing"! Soon, he may be routing some of us around on a fishing outing or heading up a fish fry, who knows.... We are thrilled to have you both aboard in the America's Boating Club Golden Isles and we look forward to many boating adventures with you!



George and Mike Carellas



Cynthia and Jerry Lamb on a recent 8-day river cruise in the Bordeaux region of France.

October ZOOM Social and Presentation

What a great turnout for the interesting and informative Zoom presentation we were treated to in September! Thanks to all who participated!

Bryan Fluech, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Associate Director, shared his extensive knowledge of Georgia's coastal fisheries. We learned about shrimping and fin fish, as well as advances in "aquaculture" - growing oysters and clams. We were surprised to hear about the size of the overseas market for cannonball jellyfish - making these creatures one of Georgia's largest seafood exports! Bryan also provided a diverse list of topics that he and his colleagues can present for us in 2022. We'll be looking for your input as we choose among them.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are going to stick with **ZOOM** for another month. We guarantee you won't be disappointed if you join us for another great program in October! Have you wondered what you were seeing as we cruised past Kings Bay? Retired US Navy Captain Ray Woolrich, who retired after 27 years of active duty aboard six submarines, will provide a short overview of submarines, including types, capabilities and employment, followed by a brief question and answer period.

When: Tuesday, October 19, 6:00pm

Where: Online ZOOM meeting

Questions: Call or email Eileen, 912-602-9500, eileenberta@gmail.com

ZOOM Instructions

Please log in on time

Go Online: www.zoom.us or launch the Zoom app

Login: Meeting ID 2388268407, Password: hRAZr5

Or click here to join: [Click Here to Join](#)

Join us virtually with your cocktails or dinner, or just get comfortable, log in, and enjoy the informative presentation!

Change of Watch - Friday, November 5, 2021

Don't even think about missing this memorable celebration!! For everyone's comfort, we will enjoy a seated catered meal and cocktails at a beautiful outdoor venue. **Watch your Inbox for the email with details and be sure to RSVP with your choice of entree by October 28. See you there!**

Eileen Berta

Assistant Admin. Officer

Administrative Officer Report



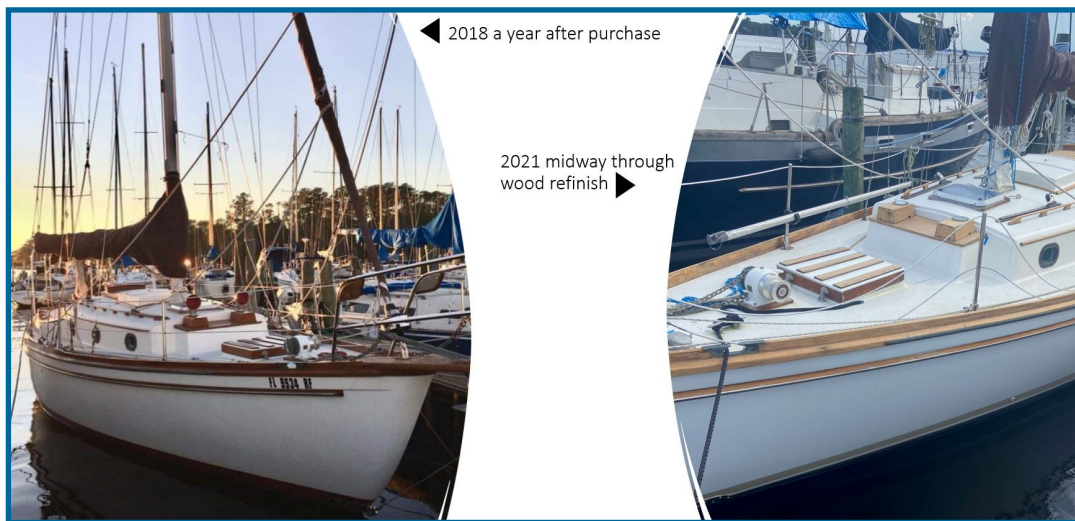
AO Terry Osman, P

Greetings everyone! This may be a bit techie for some for a newsletter, but so many people have asked about the boat refurbishment project that I might as well share it here. A few pictures will tell the story.

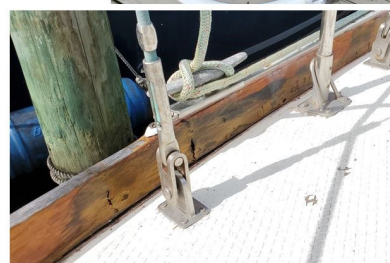
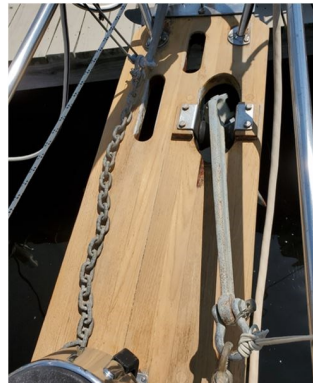
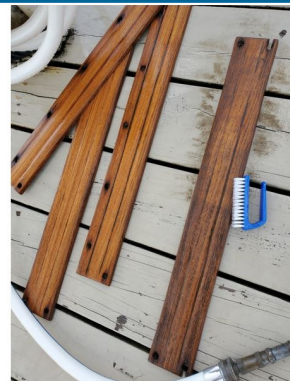
The main project since August has been refinishing teak trim on the exterior. If anyone has been through a similar effort, I'm sure you'll agree that comparing notes with others has been the most critical factor in success so far. It's been fun - selecting teak wood for replacements, sealant/caulks, epoxy choices along with varnish and how different materials adhere or don't - and the UV, water and adhesion properties of everything . . . that should explain in shorthand the whole story of where I've been spending my time.

So from here the end is in sight for Phase I - topsides teak and trim. Phase 2 will be rail replacement (8' stretch on the beam), and Phase 3 is toe and rub rails.

Dial in for the monthly Club Social Tuesday the 19th - a rare opportunity to learn about nuclear subs! And I am hoping to see everyone for the best turnout ever at the Change of Watch Banquet on November 5th! - Terry



Wood trim to be repaired & project work



Club Education Officer Report



CEO Mike Moye, SN

We notified the club in last month's *Porthole* that our October 9 ABC class is cancelled due to pandemic considerations. In addition, we are going to hold off on setting a date for Boat Handling. On a very positive note, the Weather Seminar completed last week was a delight. A couple of folks attending had taken the longer Weather class and this proved to be a great review of that information. For those who had not taken a weather-related course before it was a great introduction to what is undoubtedly one of the more complex aspects of boating. Knowing the weather issues that are lurking "out there" is extremely important. There are so many variables affecting our daily weather that it is difficult to comprehend them all. But boating is "all about the weather." If we want to enjoy the **good days** on the water, we have to be aware of those that might turn into **bad days**. The next time the weather course comes around give it strong consideration.

I've promised several folks that I would share some photos of our recent trip from St. Petersburg to Jekyll. The very first leg of the trip was a planned trip on June 9 to a boat yard in Cortez which is on the intracoastal outside of Bradenton. That was my first turn at the helm of *Sharona, Too* and I was happy to have the assistance of an experienced captain for that twenty-mile trip. What was not planned was a two and a half month visit at the boat yard. The big hold up was sourcing parts on some delayed maintenance items that had to be replaced. In fact, a couple of items couldn't be purchased and had to be

fabricated by local shops. Fortunately, the Tampa Bay area has many, many boat related businesses so it was not difficult finding someone who could do the work—we just had to get in line.

We had watched with great interest as a couple of hurricanes skirted the Tampa Bay area. The first was Elsa in early July that finally hit land in Taylor County, Florida. The second was Fred a storm that passed further out to sea and came ashore in mid-August at Cape San Blas. The one that got us though was Ida. Ida was a scary storm that hit Port Fourchon in Louisiana as a category 4 hurricane on August 29 with sustained winds of 150 mph and gusts beyond 170 mph. We left Cortez on August 28 knowing that Ida was in the gulf. However, she was probably a couple of hundred miles from us and clearly headed northwest toward Louisiana. What we didn't count on was the width of the storm and the intensity of the outermost bands.

A little past Sarasota about halfway to our marina destination in Venice clouds began to form and we knew it was about to rain. No worries—we have a good enclosure and I had just replaced the windshield wipers. Driving a car in the rain is something we do all the time—just slow down and be careful. However, when you're in a very narrow intracoastal channel and the summer shower you were anticipating is a band from a very strong hurricane, it's a different story. The winds were fierce, the rain was blowing sideways, and it moved us in directions we sure didn't want to go. I developed very quickly a great appreciation for airplane pilots who fly by instruments. All I had to rely on to stay in the 150 ft. wide channel was my chart plotter and depth sounder. I did some maneuvering that turned out to not be the best thing I could have done and ended up churning mud outside of the channel. In fact, one side dug in so deep that it killed one of the engines. I was able to fire it up again quickly and with the help of bow and stern thrusters got out of what could have been an even bigger mess. Every now and then we could catch a glimpse of a red aid to navigation marker and one of the ever present "watch for manatees" signs. One of my biggest worries was in the blinding rain, hitting one of those telephone poles holding the signs and markers. Well, the storm left as quickly as it arrived, and we continued on toward Venice like nothing had ever happened (and no, I didn't have to change my shorts).

We chose not to anchor during the trip staying in marinas along the way. The towns we visited after St. Petersburg and Cortez were: Venice, Punta Gorda, Fort Myers, Clewiston, Stuart, Fort Pierce, Melbourne, Titusville, Daytona, St. Augustine, Fernandina, and home to Jekyll Island. Best I could tell, the trip was about 450 miles. We kept our speed around ten knots running at 1500 rpms. We don't have a fuel/speed/rpm chart developed yet but I believe that I'm getting about one mile per gallon at that speed. Our Carver Voyager Pilothouse 530 has a five foot hydraulic extension that takes the boat to 58 feet. The engines are twin Cummins 6CTA 8.3/450 h.p. each. At planing speed 17-18 kts., we would burn around 30 gallons per hour. I don't plane off very often...

On the following three pages are some random photos and comments. Even with multiple cameras on board we were a little pre-occupied on the trip, so we didn't have any award winning shots, but you'll get the feel for what was a (mostly) very enjoyable trip. *Sharona, Too*, now resides in our same old slip at Jekyll Harbor Marina. She feels right at home in the Golden Isles.

Mike Moye, SN

Education Officer

Sharona, Too Adventures



Sharon and Enzo looking for dolphins.



Sharona, Too docked in St. Petersburg eager for the trip to her new home.



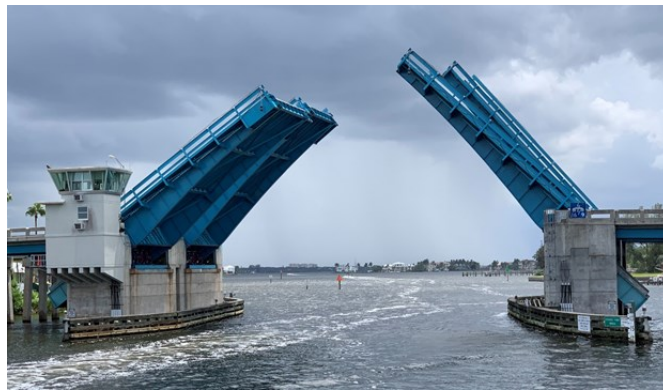
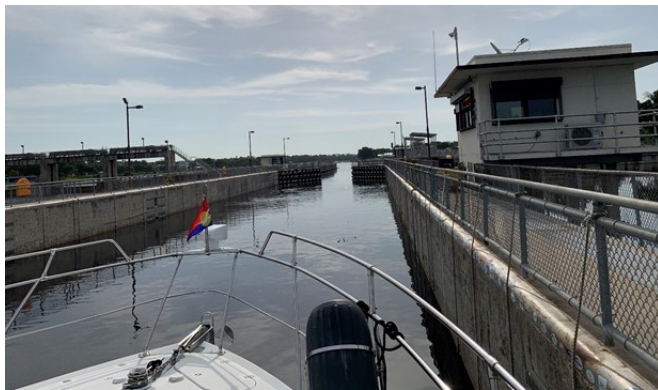
We were not expecting to see car ferries on our trip. Apparently, that's the only way folks can get autos onto some of the very beautiful Gulf barrier islands. Perhaps because they're hard to get to is why they remain beautiful.



Without question the highlight of our trip was a visit from granddaughters Charley and Harper who live in Stuart. It was also their first visit with Enzo. We think they liked the dog more than the boat.



Along the Intracoastal Waterway, Gulf, Atlantic and the Okeechobee, it was amazing to see the variety of houses and landscapes. One minute we'd see multi-million dollar mansions and before you could blink there would be rows of mobile homes and cows—then more mansions. Clearly more high end homes than anything else though.



***Bridges and Locks and Hurricanes, oh my!
You just can't get in a big hurry traveling the intracoastal. We found ourselves passing slower boats only to end up waiting at a bridge or lock for a lock through or opening.***



And so we asked the Lock Master "how far do we drop?"

"Just a little," he answered.

Well, fifteen minutes later the water was still rushing out of the lock. We learned later that the drop was an astounding 14 feet. When you look at the walls and gates you can't help thinking about all the tons of water the tiny gates are holding back. Later that evening we were talking to another boater who had recently done the Great Loop. She said that Okeechobee is nothing.

In Kentucky, they dropped 95 feet in one lock.



Sharon is not just smiling at the camera. She's smiling because we're casting off for the final leg of our trip. Before the sun sets we would be in Jekyll Island.



I'm a second amendment kind of guy and always have a tactical shotgun and a Glock pretty handy. It was explained to me, rather vividly, however, that all I needed is this guy to stand guard. (But could he throw a line to the dockhands as well as Sharon??)



We actually have some pretty decent electronics on board including the 7000 series Garmin MFD in the foreground.

However, the iPad with the Middle Eastern head dress was my go-to device for both planning and navigation. I use the Aqua map app and could not be happier with how well the program worked. (The towel was to keep the sun off the unit. Earlier that day it cut off from overheating.)



We arrived at Jekyll Island on September 8. That evening we were blessed with the prettiest sunset seen on the entire trip.

A fun day on the Hampton River.



Cindy Simpson



Eileen Berta



Cindy Simpson



Cindy Simpson



Cindy Simpson



Cindy Simpson

America's Boating Club of Golden Isles Calendar Oct - Dec 2021

October

14 - ExCom Meeting at 5PM

19 - Club Annual Meeting with 2022 Election of Officers and Social via ZOOM. Guest speaker Retired US Navy Captain Ray Woolrich

22-23 - District 26 Virtual Fall Conference and Change of Watch



November

2 - Content for *The Porthole* due

5 - Club Change of Watch Celebration at Hampton Plantation

9 - *The Porthole* distribution

13 - Club Cruise to Zachry's Riverhouse Restaurant on Jekyll Island

**2021 Club Cruise Dates
November 13**

December

11 - Christmas Party

(No newsletter is month.)



ANNUAL CHANGE-OF-WATCH BANQUET

Friday, November 5, 2021

Watch for your personal email invitation and don't miss this traditional year-end celebration - a catered dining evening in an elegant outdoor setting, rain or shine!

5:30 Cocktails

6:30 Dinner

Hampton Plantation Pool Pavilion, SSI

RSVP: by Thurs October 28th

America's Boating Club Golden Isles 2020-2021 Bridge Contact Information

Commander	Charles Wilsdorf, SN-ON	912-265-9550	chaswi30@gmail.com
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Happy Birthday to:

Margaret Butler

David Jones

Sharon Moye

Cindy Simpson

Jack Sterrett

Judit Varga

Charles Wilsdorf

Teresa Wilsdorf

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.