



the porthole



Volume 3, March 2012

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



CDR Vicky Jefferis

Hello, All. Don't you just love this SE Georgia weather? Near eighty degrees, then low sixties, winds that "keeps the dinghy at the dock" for most of



R/C Ron Osborn, SN, Cdr Vicky Jefferis, D/Lt/C Andy Hyman, SN and D/Lt/C Larry Jefferis, AP share a laugh at the D/26 Conference

us, and then those days that are picture perfect! We surely did need the five inches of rain that recently passed through

Sanctuary Cove, though. Hopefully most of you got at least some – besides watering the plants, it

should have washed a lot of pollen off your boats!

The year is off to a good start for our Squadron. Three of our members have just achieved some very impressive Education milestones! Our Executive Officer, Lisa Noetzel, JN, was just awarded Educational Proficiency status, meaning she has passed certain advanced grade courses as well as some additional electives.

GOLDEN ISLES SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON 2011 BRIDGE

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In addition, Coy Hodges and Asst. SEO Jack Sterrett have completed the requirements for USPS members' most advanced grade, Senior Navigator. Attaining the SN grade requires a lot of hard work and dedication, so my hat's off to these two members! Congratulations to all of you!

We just completed a two session ABC class and the students told us it was a success – they learned lots of great information and realized we offer plenty more to become even better boaters. Thanks to P/C Charles Wilsdorf, SN and Lt Jack Sterrett, JN for organizing the class and to Steve Batson, AP, Bob Butler, SN, Margaret Butler, N, Larry Jefferis, AP and Lisa Noetzel for teaching various segments of the class.

As a result of the well presented ABC class, we now have SIX more new members who are going to make great additions to the Squadron! Some of you met Chuck and Susan Boynton and Linda Nelson at our February Membership meeting. Bob Quinn and Mike and Susan Heath have also joined this month and so I want to say WELCOME!!! We're looking forward to having you as members!

Due to popular demand from our recent ABC graduates, Charles Wilsdorf has scheduled this spring's Seamanship Class offering. I know there are other members who've expressed interest in this, so check out the SEO's article for more information. Watch the calendar for other classes that we'll be offering.

Even though there are going to be a few days ahead that're still a little cool for a boat outing, now's the time to start thinking about what it'll take to get your vessels ready for the season ahead. It won't be long before we offer a squadron cruise and a Co-op Charting event. Did any of you see that picture of the sixty pound Black Drum caught in Sisters Creek in Jacksonville? That ought to be some incentive for several of you! Besides studying the catalogs and surfing the web for all new fun gear, don't forget to call one of our Vessel Safety Check certified members to schedule yours! That'll help you focus on maintenance and gear you need to be ready for a safe boating season ahead.

I've just returned from the District 26 Spring Conference in Beaufort, SC. The Squadron received the Educational Fund Certificate of Merit recognition for 100% member contributions to the Education Fund; the Doing It Right Award which recognizes us for our activities in Education, Community Support and Squadron Social Events; Communications Awards for the Website and the Porthole; and the USPS Outstanding Educational Achievement Award, 3rd Place. These awards further underscore just how lucky we are to have so many members who continue to work and play together to further safe boating in the Golden Isles!

Check our calendar elsewhere in the newsletter for upcoming events and watch the website for information regarding the District Cruise and Rendezvous' scheduled for May in Augusta.

Ahoy There! March Cruise to Fernandina Beach

The GISPS will host its Second Cruise of 2012 to Fernandina Beach on Saturday, March 31.

We plan to leave from the Brunswick Landing Marina in the morning and travel down the ICW (or the outside for interested sailors) and meet at the Fernandina City Marina docks at 5:00pm for refreshments and a group dinner. We will return on Sunday. Mark your calendars, check your boat, and get ready for a good time!

Let Jack Sterrett know if you are planning to participate:

Phone 478-232-2908

Treasurer's Report

Teresa Wildorf, S Treasurer



Financial Statement:

GISPS currently has \$6,293.79 in the bank.

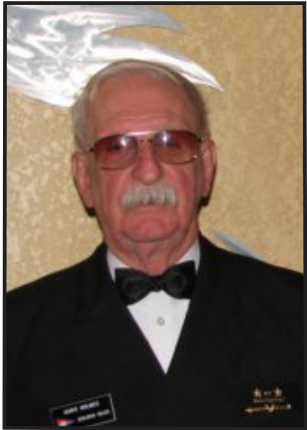
Once again, for those of you that missed it, we had a great meeting in February. I also attended the District 26 Conference this month. There was a meeting with all District Treasurer's and Secretary's lead by our very own Past Commander, now D/LT/C Larry Jefferis, AP, District Treasurer and D/LT/C Andy Hyman, SN, District Secretary. It was a very productive meeting, and it being tax season, centered on tax information. I look forward to attending more of these to learn how other squadrons track their spending.

There are going to be new classes offered, so please get your money in and attend these classes. They are very informative and you can never have too much knowledge when it comes to boating safety. Also, don't forget to ask friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers if they are interest in joining and/or taking any of our boating classes. Word of mouth is the best way to get new members within the squadron and into our wonderful classes.

I am sure I don't have to remind you, but please do not forget to pay your dues this year! The dues can be paid with a credit card over the internet on the USPS website. If anyone needs help in doing so, please give me a call at 265-9550. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on March 24th . If I can be of any help for any reason please give me a call.

Charter Commander's Report

Audie Holmes, SN



The winter is over for the sunny South (what's winter you may ask, but we'll save that answer for later), and now it is time to get serious about boating. Many of us have, do, or will trailer our boats someplace this summer, and maybe have always have begun to "slick" them up, wash them down, or clean out the cabins or the bilges or other nooks and crannies. Then, the boat is shining and clean; we figure it is time to crank up and get to the ramp.

Unfortunately, many of us never get to that ramp because we have neglected the all-important part of trailering. The trailer! Poor trailer, she has weathered the weight of the boat. Weeds may have grown up around her. The tires have sunk into the dirt. So, we yank her out and get underway with no thoughts to the consequences.

I have no doubt that most of us have passed some poor guy on the side of the road with a flat trailer tire, a burned-out wheel bearing, non-functioning lights, or even expired trailer tags with a representative of the Georgia State Patrol counseling him (in writing) on the error of his ways. Alas, the end of a perfect weekend on the water.

This is why these mild early spring days are the perfect time to perform our boat trailer inspections: check out tires for proper inflation and dry rot, our axles and wheel bearing for wear and lubrication, our lights and wiring to see that all are safe, also, trailer tongue and hitch, safety chains and rust spots, and all other parts of the trailer demand our attention. So, when you invite me out on your boat, I won't have to worry about flagging down a passing car to get me home. I'll make sure that I do the same for you.

By the way, my birthday is April 15, not April 1st, as some have suggested. I'll be 80 years old with no grass growing under my feet. I wish for you the same or better!

P/C Audie Holmes, SN

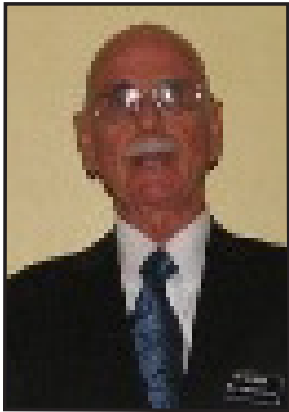
MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 8 – Lynda Sterrett
- 18 – Sam Tannahill
- 19 – Joey Herzberg
- 22 – Bob Woodman
- 27 – Skip Roeder



Secretary's Report

Joe Scirica, S Secretary



Golden Isles Sail and
Power Squadron
Membership Meeting
25 February, 2012

Cdr Vicky Jefferis, AP
called the meeting to order
25 February, 2012
at 7:27pm at the Sanctuary
Cove Golf Club. Past
Commanders John
Rogers, SN, Charlotte,

SEO Charles Wilsdorf, SN, Golden Isles and Larry
Jefferis, AP, Golden Isles were recognized as present.

Admin Officer Richard Jones, AP led the Pledge
of Allegiance and P/C Larry Jefferis gave the
Invocation. Cdr. Vicky Jefferis recognized our 3 new
members Jane Tapp and Tom Eason and Linda
Nelson. She also mentioned that Tommy Cox's
cancer was not doing well and that today was Tim
Lahrs', S birthday.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes
from the last meeting.

Teresa Wilsdorf, S gave the Treasurer's Report. She
reported that we had \$6,703.90 in the bank and
that in February we took in \$488.75 and paid out
\$331.07.

P/C Charles Wilsdorf gave the Education report
and announced that there were 12 students at the
recent ABC class, and 10 of those took the test and
all got an A. The exams have been sent to National.
Three of the 10 have already become members--way

to go team! The class was a very collaborative effort
by several instructors, who were: P/C Larry Jefferis,
AP, Cdr Vicky Jefferis, AP, SEO Charles Wilsdorf,
SN, Steve Batson, AP and Lisa Noetzel, JN.

Richard Jones, AP reported that our next meeting
will be held at the Strike Zone Bowling Alley on
24 March 2012 at 6:00pm. He will be attending
the Administrative Officer Seminar at the District
Conference in Beaufort.

Cdr Vicky Jefferis said that she is making some
progress on our efforts at incorporation.

Pat Rogers, AP reminded everyone that all co-op
charting data must be in by March 15, 2012. As you
are out on the water, remember, even if the chart
is right, you can verify that it is, and submit that
information as a co-op charting activity.

Vicky, Larry and Lisa attended Leadership Training
courses today in Savannah.

Vicky reminded us to complete our boating activity
reports before the District Conference.

Joe Scirica moved and Richard Jones seconded that
the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

Squadron Education Officer

Charles Wilsdorf, SN



I am happy to report that we had a very successful ABC class with 12 students. The exam grades were all A's. I attribute those grades to student dedication and great instructors: Cdr Vicky Jefferis, AP; D/Lt/C Larry Jefferis, AP; Lt/C Lisa Noetzel, JN; Steve Batson, AP; and Bob Butler, SN. We thank you all for a job well done! Also, out of the ABC students who were not already members of our squadron, 60% of the ABC students have joined our squadron: Chuck and Susan Boynton, Mike and Susan Heath, Linda Nelson, and Bob Quinn. We welcome you all to our/your squadron!!

We will be having a Seamanship Class March 20, 22, 27, 29 which looks to be a good size class. I have gotten a couple responses for an Engine Maintenance Class and a Partner in Command Seminar which we will get scheduled. Please let me know if there are any other USPS courses or seminars you would like to see offered.

I would also like to congratulate Lt/C Lisa Noetzel, JN for earning the Education Proficiency Award which is completing three advanced classes and three elective classes. Good going Lisa!

Last, but not least of GISPS Education announcements, I am honored to report that our squadron has two new SN's (Senior Navigator): 1st/Lt/C John "Jack" Harold Sterrett, SN and Lt Coy Hodges, SN. Great job guys!! These two have put in many hours of hard work to earn SN which consists of completing all Advance Navigation Courses and at least 6 Elective Courses. These completions also earn them the Education Achievement Award. This award is the highest educational recognition awarded by USPS. Jack and Coy are our squadron's first SN's who have taken all of their courses with GISPS. Boy, are we all proud!!

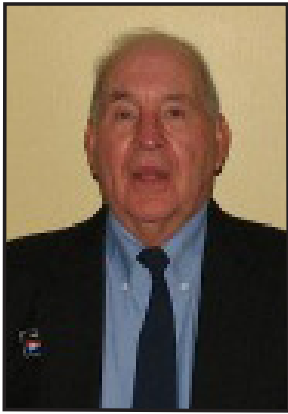
We have discussed the USCG's "Rescue 21" before, but I have just learned of a local quirk which I think you should be aware of. Since the Brunswick USCG station has been online with the "Rescue 21" program all channel #16 transmissions to the Brunswick USCG station are relayed by one of two repeater stations; one of which is located just north of Darien, and the other somewhere south of St. Mary's. That said, there is not a problem contacting them on channel #16 with a standard 25 watt fixed Marine VHF which is working properly. On the other hand, you would not be able to contact the Coast Guard on a handheld locally, which has limited range because of its small antenna and only 5 watt output. So, with a handheld you could contact other boaters or possibly a marina on channel #16 and request them to relay a message. Even though I am not much of a fan of cell phones on the water, I would certainly have one on my vessel with the Brunswick Coast Guard's phone number (912 267-7999) already programed in my phone's address book as another option. The best option of course, is to have a high quality fixed mounted marine VHF radio properly installed on your vessel with a MMSI# programed in with your VHF interfaced with your GPS. See: http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/marcomms/dsc/04_11_dsc.pdf and http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/marcomms/dsc/DSC_VHF_GPS_Install_Final.pdf.

Again, I would like to encourage you to become a VSC Examiner. Boating Safety Week is just around the corner, May 19 – 25. It would be great to have several more squadron examiners particularly for Safe Boating Week. Please give me a call (912 265-9550) if you are interested.

Hope to see you all at the Saturday, March 24 GISPS membership meeting.

AO Report

Richard Jones, AP



Most of the Bridge including myself attended the District 26 Spring Conference in Beaufort, SC last weekend at which I attended several seminars that should help me do a better job as your AO.

In our quest to find a permanent home for our monthly meeting we will be trying a new location for the March meeting.

Our March meeting will be at the Denny's/Strike Zone Bowling Alley. Located just west of I95 at exit 38, this Denny's is different in that they serve alcoholic beverages.

This is just a start at finding a new location so I am asking each of you for your attendance at the March 24 meeting so we can give the location the evaluation that the club feels it deserves.

At the present I am working to get a guest speaker for the meeting, but at this time it is still up in the air. If a speaker happens, will let you know before the meeting.

With your help we will increase our on the water activities this year. By doing this we will accomplish the two most important reasons for being a member of the GISPS, learning and having fun.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Serving our members (you) is my job.
Please email me at rjones8@tds.net

XO Report

Lisa Noetzel, JN



The first trimester of 2012 has been a hectic yet productive one for most GISPS officers! There were two USPS meetings--one in Jacksonville in January, the other in Savannah in February--and a District meeting in March in Beaufort, SC. If anyone were to say that the USPS is not a social organization, he or she would be sorely mistaken! But, more importantly, USPS is an organization that is very well run and very much organized.

Indeed, as mentioned in my previous post, Cdr. Jefferis and I took two leadership classes (AO Jones did one) in Jacksonville and, then in February, we completed the third course. Fortunately, these classes were free for us USPS members who currently occupy the positions of Cdr., XO and AO. I'm happy to report, though, that our District has changed its leader development budget to allow funds be used for all kinds of leader training. This will allow for financial help for any USPS member who attends training.

This new protocol would ensure a greater continuity and easier transition from one bridge to the next in all local chapters. If you have the opportunity or the inkling to serve on the bridge, you can rest assured that national, district and local levels of USPS will be there to help and support you.