



America's Boating Club of SC & Coastal GA – D26

Dear Members:

By now I am sure everyone is aware that, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we found it prudent to cancel our normal in person Fall Conference and Change of Watch.

In its place, your D26 Bridge, in conjunction with the Conference Planning Committee, have organized a series of teleconferences that will provide seminars, an Awards Celebration, a Conference Meeting, and a Change of Watch that will, as much as possible, replicate having an in person event.

While missing the opportunity to “meet and greet” with old friends in person, we’re sure you will benefit by participating in those seminars and/or meetings that you would have participated in if you could have done so in person.

On Friday evening, October 30th at 5:00 PM, we will be conducting our Awards Celebration teleconference. And, indeed, we plan for it to be a celebration by identifying and recognizing those individuals who earned awards during 2019.

Saturday morning (October 31, 2020) there will be teleconferences as follows:

0800 – 1000 - Squadron Activities Reporting System (SARS)

Moderated by the developer of this new software, Lt Al Lehman of North Strand Sail & Power Squadron, this seminar will present the latest upgrades to SARS wherein multiple users can access the files via a variety of platforms (PC, Apple, etc.). It is a user-friendly tool that allows Squadrons the ability to easily track their various activities and participants. The built-in reporting capabilities will provide a great deal of information, as needed, especially when making Merit Mark eligibility submissions.

0800 – 1000 - Instructor Recertification

Facilitated by P/R/C Jan Wright of Tybee Light Sail & Power Squadron, this seminar has been designed to renew enthusiasm and enhance the instructional skills of the many USPS volunteers who teach our courses.

The Recertification Seminar has two major purposes: one is to expose participants to recent changes relevant to teaching USPS courses; the other, equally important, is to provide an opportunity for participants, who are all experienced USPS instructors, to share their experiences as to what works and what does not work in the courses they have taught. A third purpose is to meet the requirements of those states that require periodic recertification of individuals who teach their state-certified safe-boating courses.

1015 – 1215 - Coop Charting – Geodetic and Marina Surveys

Moderated by R/C Carl Filios of Beaufort Sail & Power Squadron - Geodetic marks are highly accurate reference points established on the surface of the earth by local, state, and national agencies. Maintenance and preservation of these marks is of utmost importance to users of the net and to National Geodetic Surveys, recognizing that many valuable geodetic marks are destroyed by construction, new roads, erosion, or for other causes. Our job is to locate each of these marks and report their condition together with any change in the directions needed to locate them.

Moderated by D/C Jim Wilkins of Lake Hartwell Sail & Power Squadron - The new marina survey program will not only help Cruisers.net with updates on existing marinas in their database, but with our efforts, many more marinas will be added in geographic areas that they do not currently cover.

1015 – 1215 - Boat Handling Highlights

Moderated by Cdr Peter Dion of Hilton Head Sail & Power Squadron: The new Boat Handling seminar series was introduced in January 2020, as a replacement for the Seamanship course. Reviews have been incredibly positive, particularly with respect to the practicality of the content, and the addition of excellent video and animated demonstrations. The series has six separate seminars, each focused on specific skills and knowledge that all new boaters want... navigation rules, tying useful knots, docking, and undocking techniques, boating under power, and dealing with emergencies. Passing the exam after completing all seminars grants graduates the S designation, reflecting a big step up in their boating expertise. This overview will make participants aware of the value for the new Boat Handling seminars.

1015 – 1215 - Basic Weather and Forecasting:

Moderated by Lt Robert Hastie of Tybee Light Sail & Power Squadron - The safety and comfort of those who venture out-on-the-water have always been weather dependent. This seminar is a must for boaters who have never taken a weather course.

In the event any participants wish to get educational credit for having participated in this teleconference, a \$10.00 registration fee for each participant is required. If the participants only wish to gain the additional knowledge without educational credit, no fee is required.

Saturday Afternoon

1300 – 1500 – WOW! Women On the Water (Crew at the Helm)

Moderated by Lt Sue Dragoo and Carol Calhoun of Golden Corner Lakes Sail & Power Squadron - This seminar introduces boating for crew members who need basic information and who may or may not have taken a boating course. It is designed to provide essential information one may require assisting a skipper in the safe operation of a recreational boat. Included in the seminar are actions in response to emergencies.

In the event any participants wish to get educational credit for having participated in this teleconference, a \$10.00 registration fee for each participant is required. If the partici-

pants only wish to gain the additional knowledge without educational credit, no fee is required.

1300 – 1500 - Conference Meeting

Moderated by D/C Wilkins, this meeting is where the normal business of the District will be conducted. We are anticipating the participation of USPS's Chief Commander, Mary Paige Abbott. Each of the District Bridge officers will provide information relative to their areas of responsibilities as well as updates from the Auditing, Rules, and Nominating Committees. Next year's budget will be agreed upon and the election of next year's District Bridge officers will be accomplished.

1515 – 1700 – Change of Watch

D/C Wilkins will provide an overview of the District's achievements (and disappointments) over the past two years. He will then recognize each of his District Bridge officers for their assistance, support, and accomplishments. Thereafter, District Command will be passed to C/C Abbott who will relieve D/C Wilkins and his Bridge of Command and install the newly elected District Commander and his Bridge officers for the coming year. The newly installed District Commander will conclude the meeting by providing his thoughts and direction for the future.

For us to provide an enjoyable and rewarding series of teleconferences it is imperative that we know who and how many participants there will be for each. In that regard, it is requested that the Registration Form be submitted as quickly as possible, but certainly no later than October 24th. This will help us select and utilize the best suited teleconference platform.

We are looking forward to your participation in this unique, but exciting and worthwhile, event.

Sincerely,

D/C Jim Wilkins, AP