

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

THE BUOYS



Issue 4-21
April 2021

Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron • A Unit of United States Power Squadrons® • District 22

NEW RULE FOR BOATS UNDER 26 FEET

By Barret Bonden

This is no April Fool's joke. Starting April 1st, there is a new Federal Requirement for boats under 26 feet in length. Federal Regulation, 46 U.S. Code § 4312. Engine cut-off switches has been amended, and is set to take effect 4/1/2021. (<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/46/4312>)

Previously under this regulation, all new recreational vessels built on or after 1/1/2020, under 26 feet in length and capable of developing 115 pounds or more of static thrust are required to have an engine cut-off switch installed. Now operators of these recreational vessels covered under regulation must use the engine cut-off switch.

The regulation states, "an individual operating a covered recreational vessel shall use an engine cut off switch link while operating on plane or above displacement speed." This means if you are idling or traveling at your vessel's displacement speed, you don't need to use the cut-off switch once the bow of your boat starts to rise and begins trying to plane the cut-off switch must be used.

Within the regulations there are a couple of other exceptions. The first exception is if "the main helm of the covered vessel is installed within an enclosed cabin" and the second is if "the vessel does not have an engine cut-off switch and is not required to have one under subsection (a)."



The rule also doesn't specify the type of engine cut-off switch that must be used. Most boats are equipped with a basic lanyard type switch that attaches to the operator. These can be replaced by a remote version of the cut-off switch.

Remote switches operate via radio signal from the operator to the cut-

off switch. The remote switch can be triggered one of two ways, distance, and submergence in the water. These devices can be worn around your neck or on your wrist. Some versions allows you to synchronize multiple devices to the switch so your passengers can wear a device and if they fall overboard, it will stop the boat.

Currently in Florida, only the United States Coast Guard will be enforcing this new regulation as it is part of the Federal Code. At this time, the State of Florida only mandates that engine cut-off switches be used on personal water craft.

Expect the state to modify that regulation in the future. If you are a thinking of boating in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey, or Texas, be advised these states already have a state regulations in place mandating the use of engine cut-off switches so state and local authorities can and do enforce this regulation.

Stay safe on the water,
Barret Bonden

Barret Bonden, a recurring character in the Patrick O'Brian seafaring novels, is the nom de plume for one of our many safe boating instructors at America's Boating Club Cape Coral.

CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC.

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ccsapscommander@gmail.com

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ccsapsexofficer@gmail.com

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ccsapsseo@gmail.com

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ccsapsao@gmail.com

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ccsapssecretary@gmail.com

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Material for publication must be received by the editor no later than the 20th of the month prior to publication. The editor reserves the right to modify materials submitted for publication. We appreciate your articles and input. Please make sure the information submitted to THE BUOYS is correct. All articles will be edited to ensure conformity with USPS® regulations and guidelines.

COMMANDER'S REPORT



Carl McGrath | Commander
ABC/ Cape Coral Sail
& Power Squadron

April's approach brings us certainty that the South Florida sun has not lost its ability to "warm" us, and a reasonable degree of optimism that our year-plus long pandemic interval is slowly coming to new, more workable status. I hesitate to use the term conclusion just yet. A friend commented this morning that "wouldn't it be great to know what we will know a year from now,

younger age categories, and will begin to see a clearer picture of what being around the herd will mean for us later in the year.

At our April Executive Board meeting on Thursday, we will review once again our re-start strategy for Education and other sanctioned boating activities. I will communicate any changes within the first week of April.

We are starting a Marine Navigation (formerly Piloting) class mid April using the Zoom Virtual class platform.

We will be holding an Open to the public Hurricane Preparation Seminar on May 19, likely at the Cape Coral Yacht Club. Details will be available in May. Both seasoned veterans and Florida newcomers should begin their planning now. We have resources on our Web page at <https://www.ccsaps.org/hurricane-info>. To get the process started, check with your boat insurance carrier on what they might require, and also check with the dockmaster if you are in a marina. If you are thinking of having your boat hauled, seek out locations and understand their priority process.

As communicated earlier in the month, we are working to increase our supply of qualified trainers for our OTW (On-The-Water) Training program. In the months between now and September, we will be using Zoom and other virtual techniques to cover key information. If you are interested in joining us, send me an email. We are anticipating a significant uptick in demand during the late fall.

Some of you are already on the road to visit with family over the Easter weekend. Others are expecting visitors here in the warm and sunny south. Best wishes for a safe and rejuvenating time

Cdr Carl McGrath
ccsapscommander@gmail.com

today." I offered to prepay for ten minutes of use in his time machine.

A few items in March brightened our calendar. Thanks to Administrative Officer, Jeff Maddy, and Member Involvement chair, Jill Berger, we had a chance to meet and greet with a few of our new members. You will find photos on the following pages. We continue to have a good flow of inquiries about ABC classes, and anyone who has been out on the water knows interest in boating might be at an all time high. Personally, I observed that more than a few folks need to re-learn what Slow Speed – Minimum Wake means. It seems too many think it means it's OK to snooze at the helm while moving too fast. We have been able to connect with several callers during the month, and our loaner life jacket supply has been active servicing spring visitors. If you need a loaner, send an email to us at ccsapswebinfo@gmail.com or leave a message on the office phone.

Looking forward into April, I am already hearing of departure plans from some of our traditional snow birds and summer travelers. I do hope that by now our 65+ group has at least a first dose appointment if vaccination is their plan. By May, it appears we will be well into the



Time to get your annual **VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)**. Even if you pay careful attention to safety, dangerous mechanical problems can crop up on the best-maintained boat. That's why the U.S. Coast Guard recommends that all recreational boaters (including personal watercraft users) take advantage of the free Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program every year. VSCs are offered by experienced members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons, two of the nation's premiere volunteer boating safety organizations.

A VSC is your best way of learning about problems that might put you in violation of state or federal laws or worse, create danger for you or your passengers on the water.

Contact us by phone @ (239) 549-9754 Mon-Fri between 8:00 a.m. and noon; email buechlercraig@yahoo.com to schedule yours today, or contact the individual who performed your VSC last year to ensure your boat is safe and in compliance with local, state and federal requirements.

NEW MEMBER MEET AND GREET

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to properly meet and welcome those who joined in February 2020 or later. The leadership of Boating Club of Cape Coral hosted an informal open-house style meet and greet at the picnic area near the kayak rentals at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve. Books and charts were available for purchase. We had a great time, enjoying this beautiful little park and getting better acquainted with some of our new members.



YOU MAY MAKE MISTAKES, BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE USUALLY NOT "WE CAN SEE YOUR MISTAKE FROM SPACE" BAD...

EVEN EXPERIENCED BOATERS CAN RUN INTO TROUBLE!

The Suez Canal, one of the world's busiest and most important waterways, was gridlocked for six days after a giant container ship ran aground in the canal.

Even experienced boaters can run into difficulties, and it helps to know what to do when trouble strikes. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced boater, America's Boating Club® has a course or seminar created just for you! Our goal is to help you build your powerboating skills to make your time on the water not only fun but also safe and rewarding.

CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS (C&R)

SAVE THE DATE 2021

APR 21 22 23
BURNT STORE MARINA

MAY 11 12 13
PINK SHELL BEACH
RESORT

If interested, join the C&R mailing list by contacting Delores at 239-458-1481 or delphi1937@yahoo.com

Some events are at capacity, but cancellations do happen.



Check out our Facebook page for latest updates regarding hours of operation and resumption of activities

<https://www.facebook.com/CCSAPS/>

[HTTPS://WWW.CCSAPS.ORG](https://www.ccsaps.org)

Our website features a live calendar, and now new members may now join and pay online! To access password to the member directory, please contact our office.

C & R OVERNIGHT Destination: _____ Dates: _____

Name: _____

Telephone: (cell) _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Boat name: _____ Draft: _____

Boat Length: _____ Beam: _____

Make & Model: _____

Power: 30 or 50 AMP: _____

Mail Reservations to:

Delores Buhner

1333 Santa Barbara Blvd Apt 670

Cape Coral FL 33991

Email or Questions

DELPHI1937@YAHOO.COM



Burnt Store Marina, Punta Gorda

WHAT IS ABC?

ABC IS AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE. The course gives you the basics you need to get out on the water safely, and it meets most states boating education requirements. Our in-person boating course includes a comprehensive introduction to boating, covering boat types, boat engines, boat selection and more.

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE NEXT ABC CLASS IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER, 2021 (MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS) 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. At this time, all educational activities are subject to change. Call Squadron office at (239) 549-9754 for more information. Please leave a message.

CCSAPS HAS A BOATING GROUP FOR YOU!

Although we are currently observing physical distancing, it won't last forever. Plan to add your name to the roster of one of our boating groups:

WEEKENDERS

Meetings normally held the second Monday of the month are cancelled until further notice, but we do go out as an unofficial group.

Four boats and 16 members went to Three Fisherman for lunch December 12. For more information please contact

weekenderboating@gmail.com

WEEKDAYERS

Weekdayers will resume whenever the pandemic subsides and/or Vern and Linda return. Contact Vern Seaton for additional information

vern@seatonsunrooms.com

CRUISE & RENDEZVOUS

Cruise and Rendezvous are not currently meeting, but do go out as an unofficial group

delphi1937yahoo.com



Our kayak group is planning an outing at Manatee Park on April 20, 2021.

FISHING GROUP

Meetings are currently cancelled. Check out their Facebook page for the latest information

[Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron Fishing Group](#)

CO-OP CHARTING GROUP

Meetings are currently cancelled.

ccsapscoopch@gmail.com



We enjoyed beautiful weather March 16 at Yellow Fever Creek in North Ft. Myers

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KAYAK GROUP

Our group typically paddles area waterways on the third Tuesday of the month. We are going to **MANATEE PARK, ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021.**

Manatee Park is managed by Lee County Parks and Recreation, and is located at 10901 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers. The bad news is that as the temperature in the Gulf of Mexico increases, fewer manatees will seek out the warm waters at Manatee Park. The good news is that the Orange River is a great paddle, and there will be fewer visitors at the park. Kayak rentals and restroom facilities will be available. **WE WILL MEET BEHIND THE POWER SQUADRON AT 9:30 a.m., AND CONVOY TO MANATEE PARK.**

For additional information, please contact Jeff Maddy

ccsapsao@gmail.com

SAFE BOATING TIPS FROM OUR ABC INSTRUCTORS

U.S. COAST GUARD INTRODUCES A NEW SEARCH AND RESCUE TOOL i911

By Barret Bonden

The United States Coast Guard continues to innovate, and their new i911 service is an example of seeing a need and filling it. In this case, they are leveraging smartphone technology to assist with rescue operations.

Too many boaters are ill equipped on the water to assist in their own rescue when they get into trouble. Now if the boater can find a way to contact the USCG, and they have a smartphone with location service, the Coast Guard can use that phone to locate the boater.

The USCG contracted with a company called Callyo, of St. Petersburg, Florida, to develop the i911 application. If you are capable of receiving a text message, the USCG will text you an application that when you reply by clicking the “accept” button, the i911 application starts in the

background and sends the U.S.C.G. the boat’s location.

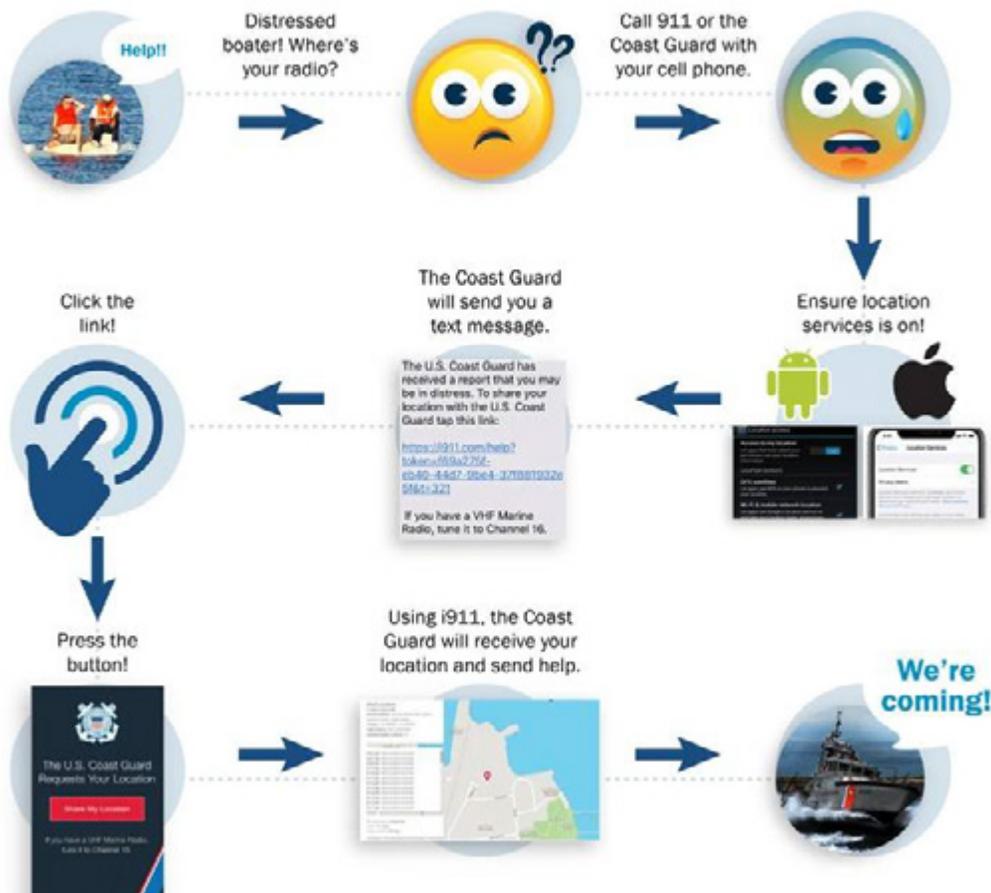
In testing, the Coast Guard found the application was helpful even when the boater in trouble used a VHF marine radio to contact the Coast Guard. In many instances, it turned out the boater couldn’t give the Coast Guard a precise location, but had a smartphone with active cellphone service available, and the i911 application was used to provide that data.

The new i911 service has been in a pilot program since the spring of 2019, and is currently being rolled out across the country. In tests, the Coast Guard has found this new application can work up to 15 – 20 miles offshore in some locations. Boaters here in Southwest Florida know we don’t always have cell service on the water locally. For example, there are places on Pine Island Sound that due to interference, there is no cell service. So you shouldn’t rely solely on your smartphone to save you.

Stay safe on the water,
Barret Bonden

Barret Bonden, a recurring character in the Patrick O’Brian seafaring novels, is the nom de plume for one of our many safe boating instructors whose safe boating articles appear in the New-Press most Thursdays.

i911, helping the Coast Guard save lives



MARINE NAVIGATION TRAINING GOES VIRTUAL

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron will be offering a Zoom (Virtual) based Marine Navigation (formerly known as Piloting) course.

This course will dive deep into using classical paper charts as well as electronic tools such as GPS and chart plotters.

If you ask yourself "what do I do if my chart plotter dies while out on the water....," this is the course for you.

Target start for the class is April 13 as an evening (7:00-9:00 p.m.) Zoom. The standard curriculum calls for 10 two hour sessions.

Once the class participants are identified, they may collectively modify the timing and frequency of sessions to meet collective needs, working with the instructor, Neil Pignatano.

The fee for the course is \$85, a second participant sharing the course materials is \$20 (CCSAPS Member pricing) [\$110/\$45 for non-members]

The final test for the course is a 7-day self paced open book exam.

Those completing the course and passing the test will achieve the Grade "P".

We target maximum class size of 10 participants. The class is near fully enrolled. If interested, send an email to ccsapscommander@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome these new Power Squadron members who joined us February, 2020 to present. We look forward to being together again as a group!

Bruce Abrahams	Stephen John Gotham
Christine Abrahams	Gordon Graham
Janet Apfel	Sheila Graham
Richard Apfel	Michele Hall
Jeffrey Bame	Stephen Hensen
Jeffrey Bame Jr.	Madelyn Henson
Sarah Bame	Noah Henson
Sherry Bame	Stacy Henson
Debbie Barrale	Michael Jaquin
Lari Barrale	Sheryl Jaquin
Jon Burgess	Mike Kelley
Theresa Burgess	Joyce Kelley
Bob Castner	Kattia Lopez Flores
Lisa Christianson	Edward Mason
Mark Christianson	Lindsey McFarren
Mike Dampier	Charles Medeiros
Robin Dampier	Lori Medeiros
Karen Dunn	Tina Perce
Mark Dunn	Ray Schneider
Amy Finnell	Mark Wulber

Available on Amazon!

With charts and satellite images the book guides the reader through our waters from the W.D. Franklin Lock and Dam, down the Caloosahatchee River, up through Matlacha Pass to the top of Bokeelia, down Pine Island Sound, across San Carlos Bay and into Matanzas Pass.

**SAFE BOATING
IN SOUTHWEST
FLORIDA**
Cape Coral Edition

Your Guide to the
Many Channels on
Our Waterways
Thomas E. Dawson



For more information contact: Safe.Boating.SWFL@gmail.com



ALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. MEANWHILE, EXPLORE THESE LISTINGS TO SEE HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED.

TO RESERVE A ROOM AT THE SQUADRON- THE SQUADRON OFFICE AND FACILITY REMAINS CLOSED. Notice: Our Rental Chairman position is currently vacant. Please contact Marge Maciag to reserve various rooms at the Squadron. She will coordinate and determine if there are any conflicts. The Rental Book is currently maintained at the Squadron Office. Contact her at margem5@gmail.com

In an effort to keep our facility ready for parties and health inspectors, we would like to put a few teams together to work on our kitchen. 2-3 people per team would work well. Time involved would be 2-3 hours per cleaning.

We would like to schedule clean-ups twice a month, dates and times are flexible. The more volunteers we get, the fewer times a team will be on the rotation. Please send your name and contact information to me ASAP.

Feel free to form a team and let me know you would like to work together. It's also a good way to earn Merit Mark Credit.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

*Lt. Rick Clements, Building Manager
Email: retiredrick@yahoo.com or call 786-338-8159*

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR E-MAIL OR PHONE #?

IF SO, SEND YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION TO:
CCSAPS Secretary: E-MAIL ccsapssecretary@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER NEEDED

We are looking for members who enjoy using social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, to organize and orchestrate our social media presence. We started our Facebook page a few years ago, and use it to publicize events that are open to the public, such as ABC classes. We post and repost videos and articles of interest from USPS and other boating-related sites, with oversight by our administrative and media relations officer, Jeff Maddy. If you would be willing to volunteer for this social media group, contact Jeff at ccsapsao@gmail.com

SQUADRON HELP WANTED

RENTAL CHAIRMAN

- Review rental files as they come in.
- Check to make sure payment was received, seating diagram received and door codes were issued.
- Go over checklist with renters.
- Send reminder email to our room set-up crew.
- Give instructions to our cleaning staff
- Make up new rental files as needed.
- Conduct walk thru after rentals.
- Keep the schedule in Rental Book current.
- Check the cooling (AC) remotely with phone app

CERTIFIED VESSEL INSPECTORS

Complete short training course
Inspect vessels for safety and place CG sticker
Contact: Craig Buechler buechlercraig@yahoo.com

FARMERS MARKET (SATURDAYS DURING SEASON)

Talk to the public about CCSAPS Promote ABC Class, sell charts. Contact: Craig Buechler buechlercraig@yahoo.com

LITE BITES

Prepare simple, light meals before General Meeting
Contact: Jeff Maddy ccsapsao@gmail.com

EVENT SETUP

With other team members, set up and take down chairs, tables (about once a month)
Contact: Marge Maciag margem5@gmail.com Rick Clements retiredrick@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Help in kitchen and hall, setting up for monthly dinner/social events. Have fun organizing our social events! Contact: Jeff Maddy: ccsapsao@gmail.com

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Are you handy? Rick can use some help around the Squadron Building keeping things going.
Call if you can help out on some Projects.
Contact Rick Clements retiredrick@yahoo.com

For Boaters, By Boaters™

If your group needs help, send me the info, and I'll include it on this page
ccsapsbuoyeditor@gmail.com



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Our Squadron supports **CAPE CORAL CARING CENTER** throughout the year. They know the minimal essentials of life are food and shelter, and are here to assist those persons who come to their center needing these essentials:

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED:

- Peanut butter
- Tuna
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta and Pasta sauce
- Rice
- Soup
- Canned pasta
- Dry beans
- Canned fruit
- Any non-perishable item
- Hygiene products

PayPal or Credit Card.

capecoralcaringcenter.org/how-you-can-help/

Then 'click' Donate Today- Choose PayPal or Credit Card and complete the form. Remember to "click" on Write a Note and enter Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron Member

EASTER FOOD DRIVE

- Canned ham
- Canned green beans or corn
- Instant potatoes
- Gravy
- Jello
- Cake Mix
- Pickles or olives

If you prefer to mail a check or money order: Cape Coral Caring Center 4645 SE 15th Avenue Cape Coral, FL 33904

Remember to make a note: CCSAPS Member

DONATE Simply 'click' on the link below (or type it) to make a donation with



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SUPPORT OUR
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Go to smile.amazon.com

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron (CCSSAPS) recently received two Distinguished Communicator Awards at the 2021 United States Power Squadrons (USPS) National meeting; one for our newsletter and one for our website! These two communication formats not only serve to inform the membership, but also other USPS members and, of course, members of the public.

We couldn't publish *The Buoy* without the input and contributions of our members, most notably our bridge officers, group leaders, and educator/writer Tom Dawson, a.k.a. Barret Bonden. Furthermore, the newsletter is a testament to the good work and dedication of all our members. We should all be proud of what we can accomplish, even in the alternate reality of COVID-19.



LIFE JACKET LOANER PROGRAM

This program is a valuable public service. Please pass the word among your boating friends that lifejackets are available to borrow at the Squadron, at no cost, for visiting children or grandchildren.

The Buoy is YOUR newsletter. I welcome your suggestions AND submissions! Please contact me at ccsapsbuoyeditor@gmail.com - Nancy Maddy, Editor



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

For Boaters, By Boaters™

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Elaine E. Curtis	1	John A. Hodgkinson	17
Jackie A. Pearson	1	Ann Klakurka	17
Edward J. Mason	2	Charles J. Maclosek	18
Reno F. Runck	2	Sandra K. Francis	19
Kenneth I. McClendon	3	Michael Y. Hamilton	19
Mark A. McPhatter	3	Timothy J. Maguire	19
Christine I. Zimmerman	4	David A. Lovett	21
Zack B. Beasley	7	Paul V. Katinis	22
Stefan Drege	7	John Melilli	22
Mark D. Dunn	7	Robert A. Hibbs	23
Theresa Burgess	8	Elizabeth Lograno	23
Neil D. Pignatano	8	Rochelle Barrisford	24
Al Rubio	8	Mary E. Spensley	24
Karen K. Cation	9	Silver P. Angel	25
Dieter S. Gaubatz	9	Janet Iagnemmo	25
Sandra A. Hoffman Taylor	9	Judith M. Widmer	25
Denise L. Katinis	9	Robert L. Bales	26
Sharon B. Oliver	10	Maureen Gaccione	26
Robert Dipalmo	11	Richard S. Simons	27
Jeannette Udway	12	Bill R. Tyler	28
Chris W. Brown	13	Judith A. Figiel	29
Nancy Muniz	13	Brett T. Floro	29
Patricia A. White	13	Michael P. Warzecha	29
Sarah J. Orum	15	Christina E. Buntin	30
David Michael Bouchard	16	Carolyn M. Mundy	30
Patricia A. Kechik	16	John E. Zimmerman	30
Lewis D. Clarke	17		

USPS DISTRICT 22 HAS A NEW WEBSITE

americasboatingclub-d22.org/

To protect member privacy, some of the pages are password protected. If you desire access, send an email to ccsapswebinfo@gmail.com

NEW FEATURES INCLUDE

- Ability to pay online for events
- Dynamic styling following USPS national marketing guidelines
- Access to District 22 directory
- Access to district documents, newsletters, & office reports

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

As a USPS|America's Boating Club® member, enjoy **SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS** from many marine insurance companies that provide discounts to members, as well as numerous merchant discounts on other products and services. Examples include BoatUS, SeaTow, various hotels, Avis and Budget car rental, Office Depot and Office Max, and various boat insurance companies.

ONLINE BOATING SEMINARS

While You Stay at Home, Learn at Home.

To help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, America's Boating Club has canceled many of its in-person classes, but you can still be productive while practicing social distancing. We offer a variety of online seminars you can take from the comfort of your home until it's safe to be on the water again.

Check out our catalog now! Remember: Members get a 25% discount. <http://americasboatingclub.org/lea.../online-boating-education>



Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron, Inc.
917 SE 47th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33904

COVID-19 RESOURCE GUIDE

SQUADRON HOURS OF OPERATION

The Power Squadron office remains closed.
Phone messages continue to be checked daily.
(239) 549-9754

EMAIL

Email questions and concerns to ccsapswebinfo@gmail.com

WEBSITES

Statewide vaccine registration site (NEW)
<https://myvaccine.fl.gov>

Publix vaccine appointments
<https://www.publix.com/covid-vaccine>

Florida Department of Health
<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

Cape Coral coronavirus information
<https://www.capecoral.net/COVID-19/>

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www.usps.org

America's Boating Club® District 22
americasboatingclub-d22.org/

CCSAPS Website
ccsaps.org

CCSAPS Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/CCSAPS/>

All regularly scheduled monthly group meetings and entertainment activities will NOT occur for the foreseeable future. ExCom meetings will take place online. Education activities will be gradually added. Please contact our office for additional information.