

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB THE BUOYS

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

Issue 03-24

March 2024

Clearing the Waterways

SOUNDINGS, BY KIM KAVIN, JAN 12, 2024



Heather Lougheed, the new president of the BoatUS Foundation, says removing derelict vessels will be a priority. Lougheed—who got her start at BoatUS 24 years ago in membership and marketing, and then rose up the ranks to become vice president of the 800,000-member-strong organization of boat owners—is now also taking on the role of president at the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water. Issue No. 1 on her to-do list is making good use of a \$10 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to address the cleanup of derelict vessels.

NOAA awarded the four-year grant to the BoatUS Foundation in September as part of the government agency's Marine Debris Removal Program, which includes not only boats, but also derelict fishing gear, plastics and other types of debris that can get in a boater's way out on the water. Step one for utilizing the grant will be creating a database to document where derelict vessels are located in coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Then, the BoatUS Foundation will create smaller grants that people can apply for to remove the vessels altogether.

"We're really excited about tracking them and removing them, and then doing educational outreach around that issue," says Lougheed, who took on her new role with the BoatUS Foundation in November. "They're not only eyesores; they're also impediments to travel. They can keep people from boating and anchoring where they want. It's an access problem."

Nobody is sure how many derelict vessels are even out there, Lougheed says. Hence, step one for creating the database will include working with individual states to determine what their residents are seeing in local areas. From there, BoatUS will work with NOAA to create a national database of derelict vessels that need to be addressed, with hopes that the database will be up and running by the middle or end of this year.

The project is a big reason Lougheed agreed to take on the new role with the BoatUS Foundation, in addition to keeping the job of BoatUS vice president, which she's held for the past 14 years.

"I was excited about the NOAA grant and wanting to help," she says. "I think it's exciting anytime there's something new to focus on and start at the beginning."

BoatUS and the BoatUS Foundation are often mistaken as the same organization. "They're both called BoatUS, and a lot of people confuse them as one, but they are two separate entities," she says.

BoatUS is an association of boat owners that focuses on making boating better for its members, with services and savings on things like equipment, charters, marinas and access to TowBoatUS. By contrast, the BoatUS Foundation is a nonprofit that works on educational outreach around boater safety and clean water.

Another priority Lougheed expects to focus on is expanding on-the-water training for boaters. Right now, the BoatUS website lists 17 locations for hands-on training through partner organizations—about double the amount listed since 2022, according to BoatUS vice president of public affairs Scott Croft. Lougheed's goal is to expand that list nationwide.

"We also want to work with builders and dealers to get this training information out to their customers," Lougheed says. "As a woman, if I know how to dock, I feel a lot better out there than if I don't know what I'm doing and I get into a fight with my husband."

Croft says on-the-water training can truly help people to embrace the idea of boating, which is why BoatUS also works to make sure the courses are affordable. "I've seen people come off the boat with a big smile on their face because they're confident," he says. "They get it."

Lougheed says the scope of everything she's taking on goes back to her time growing up in northern Virginia, in a family that liked to windsurf and kayak. She's loved the water and the outdoors ever since, including during her years at college in Charleston, South Carolina.

She says she fully intends to keep up the work she does as vice president of BoatUS as well. "I've been there for a long time," she says, "trying to grow programs, partnerships and the value of the association."

This article was originally published in the February 2024 issue.

CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON, INC. — DISTRICT 22

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COMMANDER'S REPORT



Scott Steele | Commander
ABC/ Cape Coral Sail
& Power Squadron

Welcome to the 2024-2025 watch year. Our change of watch dinner was outstanding and I heard a lot of great comments about how it was set up and coordinated. The piano player was a big hit. A lot of folks contributed to this event. Thanks to all who helped. A special thanks goes to Karen Collins for her role in setting things up and being our Master of Ceremonies.

We've got a few repeat members on the Bridge. The experience we have is a positive for our squadron. That said, we need to look to the future and find those who want to take on leadership positions. This includes the Executive Committee and the Bridge. A few of us are going into our third year in various positions. Though we love what we do, we recognize that there comes a time when we need to step away. New people bring new ideas. We need to start getting others involved now versus waiting until the end of the year. Transferring knowledge and learning how things work with USPS and the district takes some time. I was personally fortunate to have Carl as a mentor.

Jill Berger has been doing a great job in training new Duty Officers. Having more people involved running the office is a big plus. It's great to see some of our newest members stepping up and taking on these responsibilities. We've also got additional people involved in helping with databases, spreadsheets and printing the many forms and documents needed for classes and administration.

As to the next twelve months, my first wish is that we don't have any pandemics or hurricanes. We could use another boring year. I know that many are still fighting insurance companies, and hope that most can get some closure sooner rather than later. Relative to insurance, we have found coverage for our building and we have initiated the paperwork. We should have coverage by early April. We changed agents last year and our new agent has done a lot of work in finding us a policy. Finding insurance for a home is not easy. Finding coverage for a

non-profit commercial building is even tougher.

Education is moving forward with quite a few offerings. We've had some really good turnouts for previous classes and expect the same for future classes. These are listed later in the Buoy. One thing I will point out is that we kicked off a new seminar last night. Tom Dawson has put together a 2 hour seminar on boating in our area. It's open to the general public. The purpose is not to replace the need for our ABC course. It's designed to either wet people's appetite for additional learning or to offer some basics for those who may not have the opportunity or need for the ABC course. It's also a great marketing opportunity.

Marketing is something we need to focus on in the coming months. As most know, membership in our national organization and many other organizations is dropping. We could spend a lot of time discussing why this is happening, but that's a pretty broad subject. Suffice it to say that we don't want to follow this trend. As I've mentioned before, we need to grow. We don't want to grow just to be the biggest squadron in the United States. We already are. We need growth to help us sustain what we do and continue to have a strong membership and programs. If you aren't going forward, you're going backwards. Maintaining status quo only lasts for a short time. Some have already approached me with some good ideas on how to better communicate our purpose and club. Getting involved with new residents, working with local boat dealerships and marinas are just a few of the ideas. We know there are more. Anyone who would like to take these ideas and turn them into action would be welcomed. Just let us know if you're interested. Our next Executive Committee meeting is on March 7th. These are open to all members.

March is starting out with great weather. Enjoy it.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Scott

Cdr Scott Steele, S
commander@ccsaps.org



2023-24 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander

Scott Steele, S
commander@ccsaps.org

Executive Officer

John Swift
execofficer@ccsaps.org

Squadron Education Officer (SEO)

Neil Pignatano, SN
education@ccsaps.org

Administrative Officer

Jill Berger, S
adminofficer@ccsaps.org

Secretary

Leslie Corte-Real, S
secretary@ccsaps.org

Treasurer

Carl McGrath, P
treasurer@ccsaps.org

Assistant Bridge Officers

Commander's Aide:
Carl McGrath, P

Assistant Executive Officer

Eric Token

Assistant Admin Officer

Jeff Maddy, AP

Assistant SEO

Antal "Tony" Zsupan, P

Assistant Treasurer

Gary Farwick

Chaplain

Tessa Buechler, S

Building Manager

Terry Rosenstrauch

Assistant Building Manager

Larry Rich, SN

Rental Manager

Kathryn Ferrell

Assistant Rental Manager

Marge Maciag, SN

Executive Department

Vessel Safety Check Program

Craig Buechler, S
Tessa Buechler, S

Co-Op Charting

Denny Pearson, AP

Farmer's Market

Jim Humphrey
Joette Humphrey

CERT and SERAT Coordinator

Vacant

Media Relations

Jeff Maddy, AP

Ship's Store

Delores Buhner

Secretary's Department

BUOYS Editor

Marian Brenton, S

Tech/Dbase/Squadron Directory

Gerry Whisler, S

Webmaster

Nancy Maddy, S

Social Media

Joette Humphrey

Education Department

On the Water Training

David V. Eberle, S/N-CN/C

Administrative Department

Cruise & Rendezvous

Phillip Kryger

Entertainment Committee

Karen Collins
Dani Fergen

Fishing Group

John D'Esposito

Kayaking Group

Jeff Maddy

Membership Chair

Carolyn Token

Member Involvement

Jill Berger, S

Pantry Inventory Mgr

Karen Dipalmo

Weekday Boaters

Doug Brenton, S

Weekender Boaters

Scott Fergen

GRADES

S – Seaman (aka Boat Handling)

AP – Advanced Pilot

P-Pilot

JN – Junior Navigator

N – Navigator

SN – Senior Navigator

Indicates the highest level of education completed. Follows the name of the person.

CCSAPS Entertainment Committee presents

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, March 17
10 AM

RUSTY'S RAW BAR
4631 SE 10th Pl.

Join us at **RUSTY'S RAW BAR & GRILL** for Sunday brunch and more! Pay as you go...Bottomless Mimosas, Bloody Marys and Screwdrivers served all day! \$10 domestic buckets and 75 cent wings all day!

Please RSVP so we know how many folks will be attending, and give Rusty's a heads up... Thanks for your cooperation!

Sign up here for headcount:

SIGN UP HERE

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/st-patrick-s-day-brunch-rusty-s>



CPR Class,
February 21, 2024
15 participants



To VSC or Not VSC, that is the question??

WHAT IS A VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)?

It is an opportunity to have your vessel's safety equipment examined by a qualified vessel examiner of the United States Power Squadrons. There are NO fines, penalties, or reports to any other agency.

If your vessel is properly equipped, you will be awarded a current VSC decal to display. Decal display does NOT guarantee that you will not be boarded.



Provided you do not remove any equipment, you'll have peace of mind knowing you have the required equipment in an emergency and know where it's located in the event you need it or are inspected by boating law enforcement.

What are the benefits of a VSC?

The VSC can identify SAFETY and money saving opportunities:

- 1-By meeting federal, state, and local safety equipment requirements you will prevent equipment related citations.
- 2-You may receive a boating insurance discount from your insurance provider.
- 3-By increasing awareness of safety practices you may avoid accidents and costly breakdowns.
- 4-The VSC can reduce accidents by educating the boater about the value and use of safety equipment and safe practices on the water.

To schedule yours, contact us by phone @ (239) 549-9754, CCSAPS website, visit the squadron office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - noon, or email buechlercraig@yahoo.com to schedule your safety check today.

THE BUOYS is published monthly, except for July and August, by the Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron, Inc. America's Boating Club®/Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron is a unit of District 22 of the United States Power Squadrons®, Inc. Opinions expressed by individual authors do not necessarily reflect USPS® or Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron policy or endorsement. Please send submissions and suggestions to buoys@ccsaps.org.

ARE YOU A SAFE BOATER?

Test your boating knowledge with this simple score sheet.

Select the correct answer(s) – watch out – each question may have more than one correct answer.



1. To safely anchor your boat, you should:

- Let out at least three times as much line as it takes to have the anchor reach the bottom.
- Make sure the anchor line points straight down into the water.
- Throw the anchor out as far as you can.
- Stand on the “bitter end” of the rope.
- Always anchor from the bow of the boat.

2. The best way to keep from running aground is to:

- Wear polarized sunglasses.
- Always know your location relative to your navigational chart.
- Watch your depth finder.
- Keep the VHF radio on channel 16.

3. When loading a small open boat it is important to:

- Carry as much in your arms as you can to save time when loading the boat.
- Distribute the weight so that most of it is in the bow of the boat.
- Make sure you do not exceed any of the recommended limits as found on the capacity plate.
- Stand up as straight as possible so you can keep your balance.
- Leave the mooring lines loose so that the boat doesn’t bank into the dock.

4. Because a boat does not have brakes, stopping your craft while under the forward motion of the motor involves:

- Throwing out your anchor as quickly as possible.
- Using paddles to paddle backwards while turning off the motor.
- Putting the throttle or gearshift in reverse thrust.
- Turning around as quickly as possible.
- Shutting off the engine and allowing your boat to glide to a stop.

5. Which statements are true about docking your boat:

- Whenever possible, approach the dock into the wind or current, whichever is stronger.
- Have your fenders and mooring lines ready before you approach the dock.
- Never use your hands or feet to fend the boat off the dock.
- Secure the boat at both the bow and the stern.

6. Which of the following flag(s) indicate diving activity?

- A red flag with a white diagonal stripe.
- A rigid replicate of an “alpha” flag (blue and white swallowtail shape).
- A white flag with an orange diamond on it.
- An orange flag with a black square and black ball on it.
- A red flag with the silhouette of a diver on it.

7. Water that appears either white or brown indicates:

- Polluted water that is unsafe for swimming.
- Good areas for anchoring.
- Shallow areas, beware of running aground.
- Channels that lead to deep water.
- Optical illusions created by sun and clouds that frequently confuse boaters.

8. Sitting on the bow of the boat while it is underway is:

- A good way to keep the bow down in rough water.
- A good way to avoid running aground, since shallow areas are easier to spot.
- One method for spotting large schools of fish.
- Extremely dangerous and should never be allowed.
- Illegal and the boat operator can be stopped and fined by the Florida Marine Patrol.

9. If you run aground or find yourself in shallow water you should:

- Stop, turn your motor off, trim it up and wait for high tide to drift free.
- Put on your life jackets and leave the boat in a safe and orderly manner.
- Get the boat up on plane to minimize the boat’s draft.
- Give the boat full throttle to prevent further damage.
- Call TowBoatUS or SeaTow for assistance.

10. If you encounter a large wake from another boat, you should:

- Slow down.
- Point the nose of your boat into the wake.
- Tell everyone to hold on.
- Run parallel to the wake.
- Turn in the opposite direction the wake is traveling.

(Answers: 1 a,e; 2 a, b, c, d; 3 c; 4 c; 5 a, b, c, d; 6 a, b; 7 c; 8 c, d; 9 a, e; 10 a,b,c)

From <https://www.captainpips.com/safe-boating-tips/>

SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER (SEO)



LT/C NEIL PIGNATANO, SN
SQUADRON EDU.OFF.
EDUCATION@CCSAPS.ORG

SEO's Notebook

Wow...March already! Spring break and training are in full swing. Hopefully, you're getting out onto the water, too. And, it's getting a little crowded out there. So, if you'd like a break from the crowds, register for a course or seminar. Improve your boating knowledge so you'll be a safer boater, especially this time of year when lots of inexperienced folks are at the helm.

Our March offerings include a Boat Handling class with our very experienced instructor Herb Schneider, and the Advanced Marine Navigation course, skippered by yours truly. Boat Handling is a great refresher for all the things you learned in ABC, in case you're a little rusty. Advanced Marine Navigation picks up where Marine Navigation left off, and introduces navigational techniques using ship-board electronics, such as sonar and radar. And you'll learn how wind and tides affect your vessel as you cruise (two very important considerations in our local boating environment). Both courses meet once a week for two hours, for eight weeks, followed by an optional final exam.

And if your busy schedule does not allow for the time investment for a formal class, there are our two-hour seminar offerings. These are designed to provide an overview of various topics of interest to recreational mariners. Try the Introduction to Charting and Navigation seminar to gain exposure to electronic navigation. Or, there's the Weather and Forecasting seminar which shows you how to predict the near-term weather by just looking at the clouds and feeling the wind. This way you'll know just how long you have to get to safe harbor before that summer squall line ruins your day!

There is also a seminar specifically designed for those who are not Captains, but spend their cruising time in the role of First Mate. Our Partner in Command seminar provides tips, tricks, and techniques for First Mates should the unthinkable happen and the Captain is no longer able to run the vessel. Learn basic anchoring and docking techniques, first aid, how to call for help, and much more! As First Mate, you should be able to take over when necessary.

All classes and seminars for Winter/Spring 2024 are available for online registration. Scan the QR Code of your choice on the following pages and get taken directly to the registration portal. It's that easy!! The academic calendar is also posted on the CCSAPS website with links to the registration portal.

On a final note, we are currently (always) seeking volunteers to help teach the ABC class. All required training will be provided. Let me know if you are interested.

If you'd like further information or have questions, please contact me at

education@ccsaps.org.

Until next time...



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Scan and find your
next course or
seminar today!

America's Boating Course

ccsaps.org/abc-in-person-classes



Seminars

ccsaps.org/advanced-seminars



CCSAPS.ORG

Advanced Courses

ccsaps.org/advanced-classes



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Course and Seminar Summary

Beginner, intermediate or advanced — whatever your skill level, our in-depth boating education courses will boost your knowledge and confidence on the water.

- **ABC - America's Boating Course** gives you the basics you need to get out on the water safely, and it meets the State of Florida boating education requirements.

- **Boat Handling Course** builds your competence and confidence on the water with an in-depth look at the practical boating skills covered in the ABC course.

- **Marine Navigation and Advanced Marine Navigation Courses** give you the skills you need to get where you're going using charts and marine electronics as well as a knowledge of winds, currents and tides.

- **Engine Maintenance and Marine Electronics Courses and Seminars** deal with common vessel issues faced by today's recreational boater. Learn proper operation and diagnostic techniques for critical systems.

- **Other Seminars** provide a 2 hour introductions to various boating topics, such as Marine Radio, Weather and Forecasting, Handling Emergencies, etc.

For complete course and seminar descriptions, scan the QR code or go to <https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/learn>





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Abrahams	Denise Mcmanus
Robert H. Beach Jr.	Craig McMinn
Robert G. Begbie Jr.	Lynn Mertz
Philip C. Botana	Penny A. Milne
Delores Ann Buhner	Justeen Oess
Larry D. Calander	Wohlrlic G. Pettersson
Pedro Collazo	Paul Pfaeffle
Dan Crofoot	Michael A. Pierro
John A. D'esposito	Carol A. Pruett
Betti Garcia	Tricia SeEVERS
Ken Goldman	Catherine Spillman
Judy Gull	Melissa T. Stubbs
Jody Haas	Craig D. Sullivan
Finn Jensen	Wayne R. Szabo
Raymond Kennedy	Charles F. Wilson
Marguerite D. Maciag	

LIFE JACKET LOANER PROGRAM

This program is a valuable public service. Please pass the word among your boating friends that life jackets are available to borrow at the Squadron, at no cost, for visiting children or grandchildren. We also have life jackets for adults and four legged friends.
 (239) 549-9754
 Contact the Squadron for more details.



CHANGE OF WATCH

FEBRUARY 23, 2024



District 22 Commander Matt Braatz swearing in Scott Steele as Squadron Commander for 2024-2025.



Swearing in of 2024-2025 Bridge: Cdr. Scott Steele, Lt/C John Swift, Lt/C Neil Pignatano, Lt/C Jeff Maddy, Lt/C Leslie Corte-Real, P/C Carl McGrath



Swearing in of 2024-2025 Exec Comm: Craig Buechler, S. Curt Collins, Lee Corte-Real, Tom Dawson, Jim Humphrey, Scott Fergen, Jerry Ferrell, Joette Humphrey, Josh Wurtsbaugh, Ed Estes

Looking Ahead

March 2024

Day	Date	Name	Time	Place
Tues	5	Entertainment Comm	12:30 pm	Rusty's
Thurs	7	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Sat	TBD	Weekenders- date is weather dependent	TBD	TBD
Sun	17	St. Patrick's Day Brunch	10:00 am	Rusty's Raw Bar, Cape Coral
Thurs	21	Intro to Charting	7:00-9:00 pm	Squadron Building

April 2024

Tues	2	Entertainment Comm	TBD	Rusty's
Thurs	4	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Fri-Sat	12-13	District 22 Spring Conf.	All Day	Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center
Tues-Wed	23-24	Cruise & Rendezvous	TBD	Boca Grand Marina

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
AND ACTIVITIES HAVE RESUMED.
CHECK OUT THESE LISTINGS
AND
GET INVOLVED!**

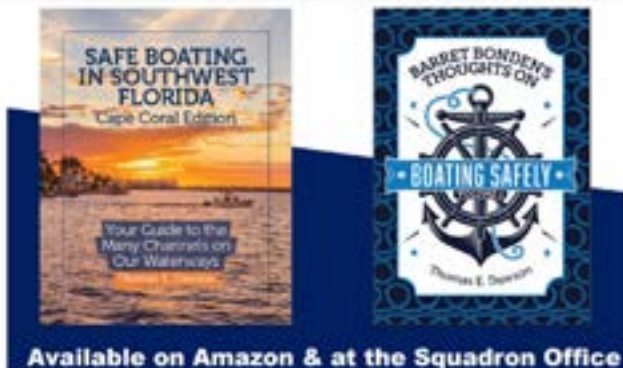
IF YOU WISH TO RENT A ROOM AT
THE SQUADRON BUILDING, PLEASE
CONTACT THE RENTAL MANAGER,
KATHRYN FERRELL AT

RENTAL_MANAGER@CCSAPS.ORG

**HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR E-MAIL OR
PHONE #?** IF SO, SEND YOUR UPDATED
INFORMATION TO CCSAPS Secretary E-MAIL:
secretary@ccsaps.org

**We need volunteers at
the Farmer's Market on
Saturday mornings. If
you can do this, please
contact Jim Humphrey at
jimhumphreyiii@hotmail.com.**

**We get many inquiries
about membership,
building rentals and
boating classes from
this booth and it is a fun,
active, busy time.**



SQUADRON

HELP WANTED

CERTIFIED VESSEL EXAMINERS

- Complete short training course and exam
- Examine vessels for safety and place VSC sticker

Contact: Craig Buechler buechlercraig@yahoo.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

- Join the committee, attend monthly meetings, assist with planning events.
- Help in kitchen and hall, setting up for monthly dinner/social events. Have fun organizing our social events!

Contact: Karen Collins:

missmaui614@gmail.com

LIFEJACKET LOAN COORDINATOR

- Organize, manage and maintain the life jacket closet.

Contact: Jill Berger: adminofficer@ccsaps.org

SHORT TERM INSTRUCTORS FOR MARINE TOPICS

- Teach seminars on topics such as: Trailing Your Boat, Paddle Smart, Tides and Currents

Contact Neil Pignatano: education@ccsaps.org

Executive Committee

Thumbnail Minutes, February 1, 2024

Secretary: Minutes from the meeting held on 1-5-2024 were filed as written.

Treasurer: The FY 24-25 budget is ready to be presented and voted on at the General Meeting. The struggle for building insurance continues, but Terry Rosenstranch, building manager, has presented some viable solutions and a resolution is near. Terry also recommended some needed building updates that will be completed soon.

Education: The largest class in recent ABC history graduated in January with 50 students. There are many more education opportunities and all are out on the website and/or ticketleap for registration. There is a new marketing presentation that will be beta tested at a local condo association with many boaters.

Executive Office: VSC's are off to a strong start with 27 already completed this year. There are plans to perform this service at some local marinas. Additional inspectors are needed. Co-Op charting has completed another successful season. At present there are 9 primary runs and 6 supplemental runs. Denny Pearson and his group are considering combining some of the supplemental runs into the primary runs for the next season. Training will take place in March and April for new members. The Farmer's Market continues to draw new members and ABC recruits. There is a need for additional members to help man the booth on Saturday mornings from 9 to noon. A CPR class has been scheduled for Feb 21 from 1-4.

Administrative Office: A position to focus on marketing activities for the squadron was identified by Jill Berger. There will be a recruitment effort to fill this role. Education and social activities are on Ticketleap. All boating groups are active with Weekday, Weekend and Kayak activities planned.

Commander: A new member orientation will be held on February 5th. Participation in the Rotary Club's Cardboard Regatta was discussed and will be presented at the General Meeting. It was noted that our squadron leads the nation in ABC graduates with 118 this season. District 22 has graduated 308 in all of their 15 squadrons including our 118.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE CAPE CORAL SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DAVID CHANDLER PETER MULLALLY

LAURA CERKOVSKI JUDITH L MURDEN

LOU CERKOVSKI WILLIAM MURDEN

LINDSEY COLLINS BOB MUZYKA

LIZ COLLINS PAUL PFAEFFLE

STEVE COLLINS CRAIG RIESEN

TAYLOR COLLINS PAM RIESEN

JOSEPH DESSERT DON SCHMITT

THERESA DESSERT DONNA SCHMIDT

ANN DETRICK RANDI SCHMITT

STEVE HAMMER LISA SNOW

TARA FLANAGAN WILLIAM SNOW

RYAN FULLER DAVID WILLIAMSON

SALLY FULLER MARCEY WILLIAMSON

DEBRA MEINERT

CCSAPS Boating Groups

Plan to add your name to the roster of one of our boating groups.

WEEKENDERS & WEEKDAYERS

Weekenders boat-a-long to waterside restaurants and meet periodically to plan future trips. For more information, or to get on their email list, please contact Scott Fergen at weekenderboating@gmail.com.

On February 10, the **WEEKENDERS** cruised to Cabbabe Key with 7 boats and 30 participants for a fun time by all.





CCSAPS Boating Groups

Doug Brenton leads the **WEEKDAYERS**. This group goes out for lunch at a waterfront restaurant usually on Tuesdays or Thursdays. For more information, or to get on their mailing list, please contact dwbrenton@gmail.com.

On February 8, the Weekdayers chose a beautiful day to travel to Doc Fords on Estero Island with 5 boats a 20 + people.



WEEKDAYER GUIDELINES

Weekdayer Boaters is a group organized with members of the Power Squadron. The purpose is to arrange social outings by boat to on-the-water restaurants in our boating area. After meeting at the rendezvous spot on the water, the group proceeds in single file to the designated restaurant. The return home after lunch is up to the individual Captains.

Currently, the outings are organized by Doug Brenton (515-240-6461). His email is dwbrenton@gmail.com.

All information about the outings is conveyed by email. Announcements will be made by an email "blast" to all members on the Weekdayer list simultaneously. Specific dates will not appear in the Buoys.

Unless unusual circumstances occur, there will be an outing each month year around. These are usually on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Those on the email list should expect an announcement around the first of each month.

General guidelines:

- *Captains must be Power Squadron members.
- *Captains are solely responsible for the safety of their boat and crew—the Squadron and the organizer (Doug Brenton) assume no liability.

- *Please arrive at the rendezvous spot on time.
 - *Guests are welcome to ride along, but cannot bring their own boat.
 - *On the water communications are made on VHF channel 68.
 - *Captains will provide the names of all passengers, a boat description and an emergency telephone # at least 24 hours before the planned outing.
 - *Please put my cell # in your caller list (515-240-6461) for last day changes.
 - *Total attendance is limited to 8 boats and 25 people to avoid overwhelming the destination
 - *An effort will be made for members without a boat to arrange a ride-along on another boat.
 - *A wait list will be kept, if needed.
 - *It is allowed to attend the lunch where possible by car, but sign up is required.
 - *A roster of attendees will be sent out about two days before hand.
- Any questions about the above guidelines or other questions should be directed to dwbrenton@gmail.com.

FISHING GROUP

Fishing Group Learns All About Fishing Over Underwater Lights

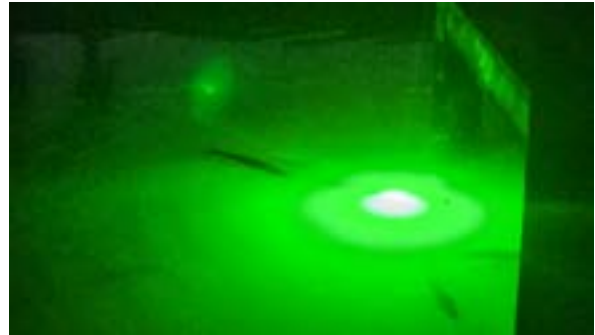
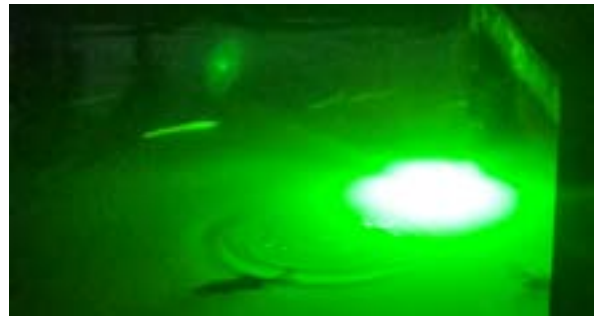
The fishing group hosted Derek Molle, the owner of Underwater Fish Light Company in Port Charlotte recently. Fishing over underwater fish lights or under suspended dock lights is a very effective way to catch both bait fish and the snook that target them. This company was started by Derek and his father as a garage-based hobby business because they love fishing.

These fish lights, start a feeding cycle after a few weeks that brings small bait fish that are attracted to the light and the algae and plankton they eat. The bait fish then attract their predators, which attract even larger target species. In our region, even in the canals, the top targeted fish light species are snook and tarpon. My fish light also attracts catfish. In freshwater, the "top dogs" are usually bass or a variety of other species depending on what is available in the water. Unwelcome species are usually gators, which sometimes eat the light mistakenly thinking they are fish or Goliath groupers, which also make the same error.

To fish over lights, Mr. Molle recommends using small minnows, pilchard, or other "white bait" on a circle hook. If you cast to the shadowy area at the end of the lighted area, you will get hits from larger snook that hide in the shadows, as opposed to the smaller ones nearer the light. If you are using artificials, cast past the lighted area and retrieve through the lighted area to maximize strikes. The target depth is about a foot or so beneath the surface as most of the target predators prefer to make an ambush attack from below. Some rules to follow: 1) Make sure you don't make a lot of noise, because it will chase away the fish. 2) Fish from the shadows so the fish don't see you. 3) If you fish over the light too often, you will chase away the fish, because they will learn that this is a trap. 4) If you do get catfish, do not feed them (they can get very used to human feeding, and won't want to leave).

Fishing over lights can be done from boats with battery operated LED lights. The lights should be suspended beneath the boat at a depth of 5 to 10 feet at locations where there is structure like bridges, because fish congregate there. Cobia, tripletail and tarpon will all start showing up to eat the baitfish you attracted after 30 minutes to an hour. Mr Molle's talk was exceptionally well received, and a number of members planned on getting in some fishing over lights.

The fishing group meets at the Squadron building on the second of the month. If you wish to receive notice of upcoming group meetings, please send your name and email address (phone number optional) to fishingccsaps@yahoo.com.



KAYAK GROUP

Question- what do these places have in common: Shell Creek, Sirenia Vista, Matlacha Canal, 4 Mile Cove, Alligator Creek, Manatee Park/Orange River, Estero River, Judd Creek, Bunche Beach, Yellow Fever Creek, Ponce de Leon Park, Lovers Key State Park?? Answer - they're just some of the place our CCSAPS Kayak Group has paddled over the years. Get involved! We go out as a group on the third Tuesday of the month. We are a friendly, helpful bunch, and can help you with loading/unloading your kayak.

We are looking forward to our next adventure that is close to home, Tuesday, March 19 at Sirenia Vista Park in NW Cape Coral. The park features a kayak launch, restroom and picnic facilities, and top notch bird watching.

Where? Sirenia Vista Park, 3916 Ceitus Pkwy, Cape Coral, FL 33991 **When? Tuesday, March 19, 2024.** Meet at Sirenia Vista's parking LOT AT **9:30 A.M.**

What to bring? Kayak, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, life jacket, and a sack lunch, if desired. Need more info? Call Nancy Maddy at 417-882-2090.





CO-OP CHARTING GROUP UPDATE

Mission complete, another successful season (Nov 2023 - Feb 2024) for Coop Charting. A total of 8 primary runs were completed, examining 685 ATONs and reporting 157 discrepancies back to the US Coast Guard. On behalf of the Coop Charting group team and Cape Coral Squadron, we thank all who volunteered to be our captains and crew members. We could not do this important work for our community without you.

On February 12th we had our Co-Op Charting group meeting to review the last three Runs completed since our last meeting, Routes D (Redfish Cove to San Carlos Bay) completed on January 30 with Captain Jim Humphrey, Route E (Pine Island Sound to Redfish Pass) completed on January 15 with Captain John Swift, and Route I (Sword Point to Matlacha Bridge) completed on February 1 with Captain Doug Brenton. These last three routes complete the runs for the current season with the next season starting in May. During our short break in runs we will be offering New Members Orientation, and crew position training sessions in preparation for the new run season. Information, dates and times will be sent out to all members. Our new members orientation is set for February 20th, 7pm at squadron.

There will no formal monthly group meetings again until May.

CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS

We have booked Boca Grand Marina for 2 nights April 23 & 24 at \$4.00 ft. Let Phil Kryger know if you would like to go. Reservations can be made now and can always be canceled 24-48 hours before the date of the cruise. Please let Phil know by March 20 or sooner who is going and if you want a golf cart. He will be checking on golf cart pricing.



Run I: Deb Stetts, John D'Esposito, Doug Brenton



Run D: John Nagle, John Muniz, Mike Carter, Aziz Salmon, Jim Humphrey



C & R OVERNIGHT Destination: Boca Grand Marina Dates: April 23&24 for 2 nights

Name: _____

Telephone: (cell) _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Boat name: _____ Draft: _____

Boat Length: _____ Beam: _____

Make & Model: _____

Power: 30, 2-30 or 50 AMP: _____

Tie Preference: _____

DEADLINE: MARCH 20

Mail Reservations to:

Phil Kryger

1528 SW 51st Ln

Cape Coral, Fl 33914

or Email them to:

ppkryger@gmail.com

Cell: 847-997-5683 (for text)





Friday, 12 April: All Membership Workshop

0930 - Introductions 1015 - 1200 - Roundtables / Workshops

1200 - 1330 - **Lunch on your own** 1330 - 1500 - Group Discussions

1600 - until ? - Gathering at Ice House Pub



Saturday, 13 April:

0830 - 1200 Registration Desk Open

0800 - 0900 Coffee and Danish

0900 - 1015 Roundtables

1030 - 1145 Roundtables

First Aid for Boaters

Dr Carl Schultz, AP

Importance of Public Relations

D/Lt/C Ron Jones, AP & P/C Bob Moro, AP

Coop Charting/Geodetic Marker Intro

P/R/C Jim Strothers, SN

How to Become an ABC3 Instructor

Tom Dawson



0900 - 1130 - Instructor Recertification - *Cdr Susan Agruso, AP*

Registration required by April 5 - jsa818.sa@gmail.com

0900 - 1030 - Town Hall - *D/C Matt Braatz, JN & P/C/C Craig Fraser, SN*

1200- 1330 Lunch - Piloting Crowdsourced Bathymetry
(seafloor depth)

Speakers, *Sarah Grasty-Prueitt, Project Manager and Dr Mark Luther, Director*

*Hear how **you** can help collect seafloor depth measurements
in Tampa Bay and Beyond -in your own boat.*



1345 - 1600 - District Conference Meeting

1700 - 1800 - after Conference Social at Spring Hills Suites (cash bar)

Change of Watch - event center

1800 - 1830 - Social

1900 - Dinner Served

Thank you for your participation - safe travel home!

Dress:

Daytime: Squadron shirt, khaki slacks, shorts or skirt

Change of Watch: Bridge - Uniform G (short sleeve shirt, black pants or skirt)

Members and Guests: Semi Formal or appropriate dressy casual attire

2024 District 22 Spring Conference Roundtables

Friday 12 April

All members and officers alike come together to build networking with their like office holders to set out responsibilities, identify common challenges, solutions and challenges.

Saturday 13 April – 0900 – 1015

Basic First Aid Kits for Coastal Cruising – *Dr Carl Schultz, DO, AP*

Let's talk about what you need in your first aid kit for the boating you do. AND, various scenarios for using items in the kit.

Coop Charting/Geodetic Markers Introduction – *R/C Jim Strothers, SN*

Want to participate in Co-op Charting but do not have a boat? The Geodetic Marker Recovery program is just for you. Come to the Roundtable to learn more about this program.

Saturday 13 April – 0900 – 1130

Instructor Recertification Seminar – *P/C Susan Agruso, AP*

Are you one of the 28 members of District 22 who need to be recertified as an instructor during 2024? If you are, join with other instructors to talk about how to teach more effectively and to share your teaching experiences. Renew your Instructor Certification while enjoying this stimulating learning experience.

Registration required for this course – email Susan Agruso @ jsa818.sa@gmail.com by April 5 to reserve your spot.

Saturday 13 April – 0900 - 1030

Town Hall - *D/C Matt Braatz, JN & P/C/C Craig Fraser, SN*

Hear how the District and National USPS operate. Use this opportunity to discuss issues which may be of interest to the group. Bring your questions and/or issues that you might have.

Saturday 13 April – 1030 – 1145

Importance of Building a Public Relations Program – *D/Lt/C Ron Jones, AP & P/C Bob Moro, AP*

An effective public relations program helps your club attract students to your classes and seminars and increases your club's positive image in your community. Learn how to use your increased visibility to even build membership.

How to Become an ABC3 Instructor – *Thomas Dawson, Cape Coral Squadron*

Florida is working to make boating education mandatory for every boat operator starting July 2026. Are we ready to capitalize on this opportunity? More students in your classes mean more members in your squadron. This session is designed to take the mystery out becoming an instructor.

Saturday's 13 April - Lunch

Piloting Crowdsourced Bathymetry (seafloor depth)

Speakers, Sarah Grasty-Prueitt, Project Manager and Dr Mark Luther, Director of Ocean Monitoring Lab



Crowdsourcing is the collective efforts of a community to gather data. Anyone enthusiastic about the ocean can participate in collecting data about our seafloor. Bathymetry focuses on measuring and mapping the topography of the ocean floor. It is the study of underwater depths, contours and features, providing crucial insights into seafloor formations such as mountains, canyons and ridges.



Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron, Inc.
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