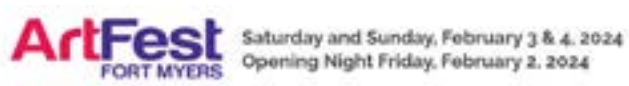


## Upcoming Local Art Shows and Festivals



**Barret's New Year's Resolutions**  
By Barret Bonden

As 2024 is now official here are my New Year's Resolutions. What are yours?

1. Continue to champion:
  - a. The use of inflatable lifejackets for all adult boaters,
  - b. The inclusion of a Personal Locator Beacon on all vessels that spend time offshore in the Gulf of Mexico,
  - c. Every boater getting Annual Vessel Examinations to ensure all their required safety equipment is on board, and in serviceable condition,
  - d. America's Boating Course for all boat operators and their Partner's in Command.
2. Keep abreast of new boating regulations and share the same with the members of our squadron.
3. Enjoy to the fullest, every opportunity I get to go out on the water!

Stay safe on the water in 2024!  
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.

*I can't believe it's been a whole year since I didn't lose weight and I didn't become a better person!*

# COMMANDER'S REPORT



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

Let me start by saying "Happy New Year." With all that transpired this past year it went by pretty fast. Hard to believe that a year ago we were scratching our heads trying to figure out if the squadron was ever going to get back to normal. We did it thanks to a lot of great members, volunteers

and contractors. We also need to be thankful that we were able to get repairs funded by our now cancelled insurance policy.

In this edition of the Buoys you'll see the list of officers that are nominated for our 2024-2025 watch year. Though we have some consistency, we have some new folks who have volunteered for various roles. We could use more as you'll see we have some gaps. If you are interested please let Carl or myself know. It is important to attend the February 8th general meeting because we need a quorum to vote on these nominees and the budget. Our Change of Watch ceremony is scheduled for February 23rd.

For those who couldn't make it, you missed a great Holiday Potluck in December. We had a great turnout and the folks who planned and coordinated it did an excellent job. It was really fun and we have a good assortment of games and activities during the evening. We do have a January event at Cape Cabaret and it looks like we'll have another fun night listening to some Eagles' classics.

January 8th will be the kickoff for our next ABC class. We've got a really nice group signed up. We have over 40 people who have enrolled. We've also had a few sign up for the March class. Boat Handling starts January 9th and we've got a lot of interest in this advanced class. 2024 is off to a good start. As mentioned before, we could use some new folks who would be interested in working with our experienced instructors and eventually taking on some of

these instructor roles. Talk to Neil or Tom for a better understanding of the needs.

Rentals are going well. We've had quite a bit of activity and we are seeing more requests for 2024 rentals. Rentals are a great asset to our squadron, though some do result in a few issues and minor damage. Some renters just can't read or they just don't care about following the contracts. Suffice it to say that we do keep track of who we won't allow to rent in the future.

Though we finished the Ian reconstruction, we do have some additional building improvements in 2024. We need to upgrade our kitchen fire system, do some cosmetic improvements and enhance the air conditioner's electrical circuits. We've had a couple fan motors burn out and we are researching a few ways to avoid these situations. Believe it or not, electricity is not always consistent.

We've been fortunate in welcoming new members. Our membership has been fairly stable. We gain a few and lose a few for various reasons. We are still the largest squadron in the United States. Unlike the City of Cape Coral, our stipends stay the same regardless of size. ( I just couldn't resist. ) Just to clarify, we get no stipends or salary. The Bridge and Officers volunteer because we love working with all the members. Our spouses love it because it gets us out of the house.

Have a Happy New Year and I'll see you next year.

Scott

Cdr Scott Steele, S  
[commander@ccsaps.org](mailto:commander@ccsaps.org)



## 2023-24 BRIDGE OFFICERS

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### 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.

# Holiday OPEN HOUSE



Santa's Elf Brenton finally won a 50-50!



Santas Elves love to party.



Santa elves playing reindeer games  
- ring the reindeer antlers



Santa's Elf Steele admires his light-up  
Christmas necklace.



More happy Santa Elves.



# WINE & KNOTS PARTY/SEMINAR

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 10, 2024

**WHERE:** Cape Coral Power Squadron,  
Room 203

**TIME:** 5:00 pm

**COST:** \$25 + 2.25 handling charge

**DESCRIPTION:** Learn four basic knots, beginning with the bowline. Each knot will be paired with wine and an appetizer. Join us for a fun evening with Captains Betti and Seaby!

**Seating limited to 30**



**SIGN UP HERE:**

<https://ccsaps.ticketleap.com/wine-and-knots-feb-10/>

## DOLPHIN FAQs by Peter Duncan

### Why do dolphins ride the bow wave of ships?

Dolphins are known to surf in the wake of boats, often leaping out of the water and performing acrobatic feats. It's believed that dolphins ride the bow wave of ships for the sheer fun of it, as well as for the energy conservation it provides. By surfing in the bow wave, dolphins can swim at faster speeds with less effort, as the wave creates a current that propels them forward.

### Why do dolphins save humans?

There have been documented cases of dolphins rescuing humans from drowning or from shark attacks. While the exact motivation behind these actions is not fully understood, it's believed that dolphins may be instinctually driven to help animals in distress, regardless of species. Additionally, dolphins are highly intelligent and social animals, and they may recognize distress signals or calls for help from humans.

### How long can dolphins hold their breath?

Dolphins are able to hold their breath for several minutes, with some species capable of staying underwater for up to 15 minutes.

### How long can dolphins hold their breath?

Dolphins are able to hold their breath for several minutes,



with some species capable of staying underwater for up to 15 minutes.

### How do dolphins sleep?

Dolphins do not sleep in the same way that humans do, as they need to come to the surface to breathe. Instead, dolphins rest one hemisphere of their brain at a time, allowing them to stay alert and conscious while still getting the rest they need.

### How long do dolphins live?

Dolphin lifespans vary by species and environmental factors, but on average, they can live for 20-30 years in the wild, with some species living up to 50 years or more in captivity.

### How fast do dolphins swim?

Dolphins are incredibly fast swimmers and can reach speeds of up to 37mph (60 km/h) in short bursts.

### How often do dolphins jump out of the water?

Dolphins are known for their acrobatic displays, including jumping out of the water and performing flips and spins. The frequency of these jumps varies by species and context, but they are often used as a form of communication, play, or hunting strategy.

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](mailto:buoys@ccsaps.org).



## New rules for human-powered and emergency vessels

By Barret Bonden

Recently I attended a state sponsored seminar for instructors of the Florida approved boating courses. The host asked that we start including a couple of new items in our classes. One of the items related to human-powered vessels, the other to special hazards.

Florida officially has over one million registered vessels, and it is estimated there is another million unregistered vessels. Human-powered vessels, kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards, along with any vessel powered by an engine with less than 10 HP do not need to be registered.

Paddling is so popular that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection lists over 60 designated trails that cover more than 4,100 miles. The longest trail, the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail, has 1,515 miles of marked trails. Many of those miles follow the Intracoastal Waterway. Locally The Great Calusa Blueway boasts 190-miles of marked trails in Lee County. Those trails extend from Pine Island Sound, up the Caloosahatchee River and down to Bonita Springs.

It seems, like too many recreational boaters, that many paddlers have never learned the Navigation Rules and think due to their size they have the "right-a-way" on the water. The host of the seminar related some phone calls he has received over the years from paddlers. One recent caller complained about the cargo ships going into and out of the Tampa Bay Harbor. The caller wanted to know why the cargo ships did not yield to them as they paddled across the channel.

As any graduate of America's Boating Course or Boat Handling knows under the Navigation Rules "right of way" is only mentioned in the rules in one place. The term is used in a rule that applies to commercial vessels heading downbound on a river. Due to the current, larger vessels and barges are limited in their maneuverability.

Human-powered craft are governed by the same rules as power-driven vessels. Meaning they both rank low in the chain of priority with regards to the rules.

Florida enacted rule, "327.371 Human-powered vessels regulated," that defines how to operate a human-powered craft within the boundaries of the marked channels of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway system. The two applicable sections of the rules we were asked to cover are as follows;

"(a) When the marked channel is the only navigable portion of the waterway available due to vessel congestion or ob-

structions on the water, the operator of the human-powered vessel shall proceed with diligence to a location where he or she may safely operate the vessel outside the marked channel of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway."

"(b) When crossing the marked channel, provided that the crossing is done in the most direct, continuous, and expeditious manner possible and does not interfere with other vessel traffic in the channel."

These rules apply to all designated "Florida Intracoastal Waterways" including locally; the Okeechobee Waterway, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. These rules should also be followed anywhere a paddle craft trail crosses any marked navigation channel in our area.

The other item we were asked to start discussing with our students relates to a new rule found in, "Section 327.463 Special hazards." This new rule requires a vessel near a "special hazard" to operate at slow speed, minimum wake, and not get closer than 300 feet to those vessels that represent special hazards.

The rule defines two categories of special hazards; any emergency vessel, "including, but not limited to, a law enforcement vessel, United States Coast Guard vessel, or firefighting vessel, when such emergency vessel's emergency lights are activated." The rule also applies to any construction vessel or barge when the construction vessel or barge is displaying a 2-foot by 3-foot orange flag.

All the attendees at the seminar were puzzled by the requirement to display an orange flag. Under the Navigation Rules those vessels must already display the day shapes, ball, diamond, ball and at night three lights, red, white, red, when they are restricted in their ability to maneuver.

It turns out, like other odd Florida boating rules, the members of the legislature did not do any research and in this case decided to apply road construction requirements on vessels. So instead of including what is already required of these vessels by the Navigation Rules, they must also fly the orange flag during the day and shine a light on the flag at night.

Welcome to Florida (WTF) where the rules, like some that govern waterskiing and personal watercraft, don't always make sense.

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.



## 2023 Vessel Safety Examinations: A year in review

Let me start by saying, “Thank You” to those individuals who participated in the calendar year 2023 Vessel Safety Check Program (VSCP). As the year draws to a close, I would like to update you on our program’s contribution to the boating community. As a team, we completed 170 examinations, with 148 receiving a decal (87%), based on the condition and preparedness of their craft. That equates to 13% of those examined were not in compliance with Federal and State requirements. Due to your efforts, these boaters corrected their discrepancies and made the local waters a safer habitat for us all.

As a team, we currently have 16 qualified examiners, with 12 completing the requirements to maintain qualification and proficiency for the upcoming year. Ten individuals also met the required number of inspections to receive a National Merit Mark, and these have been sent out to the best of my knowledge. If anyone believes they should have received one and did not, please contact me or Tessa. Those of you who did not complete the requisite number to maintain qualifications, please feel free to contact us, so we can get you scheduled to assist others as the season starts, to allow you to recertify and maintain proficiency.

The VSC is much more than a compliance-oriented certification examination. First and foremost, we are offering a one-on-one educational opportunity for the boater. We have the opportunity and the responsibility to share knowledge with the boater about the benefits of safety equipment and how to use that equipment properly, as well as communicate opportunities to attend boating safety classes in your area. We also share “local knowledge” relative to the area where the safety check is conducted.

The VSC also provides an opportunity to recruit new members. Take the time to explain the benefits of membership. Boaters are people; they come in all sizes, shapes, ages, levels of experience and knowledge— and attitudes. Some boaters will know more than you do; most less so. Most will be pleasant and appreciative; some rude. Many will be delighted at your offer of a VSC and eager to display their well-equipped boats; others reluctant, preoccupied, or concerned that their vessel will not meet the requirements. Remember that you have taken the time to gain this expertise and are providing the boater—and their families and guests—with a valuable and potentially life-saving service.

activity as well as an opportunity to help recreational boaters gain a respect for the boating environment because of the VSC encounter. I’m hoping as you are reading this, you will consider taking the time and effort to become a Vessel Safety Examiner, so CCSAPS can continue to offer this valuable community service and do our part in keeping our local waterways a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

Very Respectfully,

Craig and Tessa Buechler VSC Chair and Co-chair

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## Executive Committee Minutes

### December 7, 2023

- **Secretary:** Final Merit Mark submissions due soon. All submissions to date have been accepted.
- **Treasurer:** Budgets for next year are due by mid-December.
- **Education:** Boat Handling, scheduled for 1/9/24 may have to cancel due to low registration. Ideas to increase advanced class registrations was discussed.
- **Executive Officer:** 170 VSC's were completed this year. There is a need for additional examiners. A Co -Op charting meeting is scheduled for Monday 12/11 at 7pm. Run F has been completed, but Run G/H canceled due to low tides and fog. Runs D and E are scheduled for January. The Farmer's Market continues its success rate with ABC sign ups and sales of squadron merchandise are up. Joette has done a fabulous job with social media and our presence on the web has increased.
- **Administrative Officer:** Membership is at 439. The entertainment committee has planned a potluck appetizer get together for Friday, December 15th and a group table for the Eagles Tribute Band Performance at Cape Cabaret in January.
- **Commander:** Our rental business is picking up. Spread the word that our facility is available! Nominations for Bridge members and Executive Committee members are due now and must be posted in the January Buoys.

# SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER (SEO)



LT/C NEIL PIGNATANO, SN  
SQUADRON EDU.OFF.  
[EDUCATION@CCSAPS.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@CCSAPS.ORG)

## SEO's Notebook

Happy New Year to all! Wow, 2024 already. Seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the turn of the Millenium. As the new year starts, many of us engage in some introspection as to how we can improve ourselves, typically in the form of New Year's Resolutions. If you are having trouble making any, or, maybe, feel that yours don't go far enough, I have a suggestion: resolve to be a better boater!!! And the first step to being a better boater is via education. Becoming more knowledgeable not only improves your boating skill, it also makes you a safer boater. And, as we all know, safety is tantamount!

CCSAPS offers a wide variety of boating courses that will enhance your boating experience. For instance, let's say that it's been a while since you sat through ABC, and your memory is a little hazy about some topics. For a refresher, consider the Boat Handling Course. This six-week course is an in-depth review of everything contained within ABC and a little more. So, resolve to brush up your boating knowledge. The next Boat Handling class starts on January 9th and there is still plenty of room.

Or Santa just gave you a brand new chartplotter to grace your helm. This is a very powerful navigation tool and requires a lot of practice to master. To get up to speed, you get the user's manual and start experimenting. But this is only the first step. You soon find that your navigation skills aren't up to the task of properly leveraging the features of this powerful navigation instrument. Resolve to learn marine navigation. Our next eight-week Marine Navigation course will be held this fall, so watch the calendar for dates and times.

But let's say your busy schedule does not allow for the time investment for a formal class. Then resolve to attend one or more of our two-hour seminars. 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!

For those who are not Captains, you can resolve to be a better 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.

We have a full academic calendar for Winter/Spring (January-June) 2024. All classes and seminars 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.

So, make the resolution to be a Better Boater for 2024. You'll be glad you did.

On a final note, we are currently 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](mailto: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](https://ccsaps.org/abc-in-person-classes)



## Seminars

[ccsaps.org/advanced-seminars](https://ccsaps.org/advanced-seminars)



**CCSAPS.ORG**

## Advanced Courses

[ccsaps.org/advanced-classes](https://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>**





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Richard C. Apfel	Mary E. Heitman
Deborah L. Beach	Walter W. Jenkins
Cathy Bell	David F. Kalish
Ronald G. Blake	John R. Karns
Glenn (Allen) Casteran	Corinne A. Knightly
Leonard H. Chatman	Lori Labout
Kenneth Coates	Augustine Mazziotti
Kathy E. Collazo	Charles Medeiros Jr.
Lewis W. Dance	Helmer W. Meredith
Lauren S. Eisener	Kent Olson
Paul Ellsworth	Barbara Samuel Schindler
Jerry Feldman	Donald Malcolm Schindler
Richard J. Gamauf	Ken R. Schmithorst
Edmund Getts	Ellen Schneider
David J. Gherlone	Jake Schneider
Christopher Hallforth	Zachary A. Seevers
Jamie Lynn Halstead	Jeffrey Urben
William E. Harris	Raymond A. Wlodyka
Dennis A. Heitman	Ava Wurtsbaugh



### 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.

## Looking Ahead

### January 2024

Day	Date	Name	Time	Place
Thurs	4	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Sat	TBD	Weekenders	TBD	TBD
Tues or Thurs	TBD	Weekdays - date depends on weather	TBD	TBD
Mon	8	Co-Op Charting	7:00	Squadron Building
Tues	9-11	Cruise&Rendezvous	TBD	Palm Harbor - 3 nights
Wed	10	<b><i>Eagles Tribute Show</i></b>	7:00-10:00	Cape Cabaret, Cape Coral

### February 2024

Thurs	1	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Tues	6	Cruise&Rendezvous	TBD	Burnt Store Marina - 3 nights
Thurs	8	Squadron General Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Sat	10	Wine & Knots	5:00 pm	Squadron Building
Mon	12	CO-OP Charting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Fri	23	Change of Watch	TBD	Squadron Building

## NEED SQUADRON SWAG?

PROAMAR CARRIES LOGO SHIRTS, HATS, ETC. OR TAKE YOUR OWN TO HAVE A LOGO APPLIED.

**3029 SW 5Th Place**

**Cape Coral, FL. 33914**

or text us, we also pick up.

(cell) 786-406 9857

You can also shop online at

<http://www.emprintpac.com>.





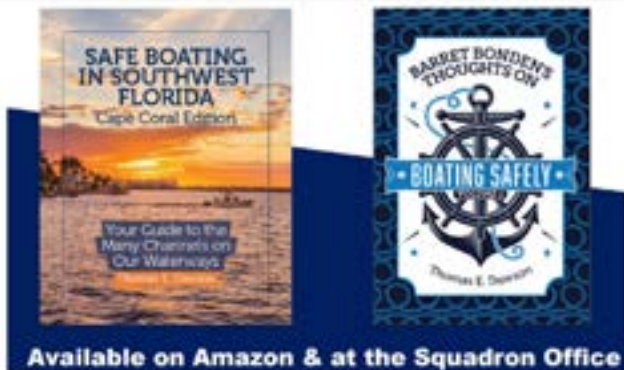
**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES HAVE RESUMED. CHECK OUT THESE LISTINGS AND GET INVOLVED!**

IF YOU WISH TO RENT A ROOM AT THE SQUADRON BUILDING, PLEASE CONTACT THE RENTAL MANAGER, KATHRYN FERRELL AT [RENTAL\\_MANAGER@CCSAPS.ORG](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**



Available on Amazon & at the Squadron Office

**SQUADRON  
HELP WANTED**

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

- Attend meetings as directed by secretary in his/her absence
- Record minutes
- Deliver minutes to relevant persons as directed

Contact: Leslie Corte-Real [secretary@ccsaps.org](mailto:secretary@ccsaps.org)

**CERTIFIED VESSEL EXAMINERS**

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

Contact: Craig Buechler [buechlercraig@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:margem5@gmail.com)  
Rick Clements [retiredrick@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:missmaui614@gmail.com)

**LIFEJACKET LOAN COORDINATOR**

- Organize, manage and maintain the life jacket closet.

Contact: Jill Berger: [adminofficer@ccsaps.org](mailto:adminofficer@ccsaps.org)

**SHORT TERM INSTRUCTORS FOR MARINE TOPICS**

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

Contact Neil Pignatano: [education@ccsaps.org](mailto:education@ccsaps.org)



## Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with section 6.8 of our Bylaws: "The Nominating Committee shall select a candidate for each elective office and for the chair and members of each elective committee provided for therein. It shall submit its' written report to the Secretary at least 40 days before the annual General Meeting."

This report was submitted to the Secretary on 28 December 2023. In accordance with section 9.3 of our Bylaws:

"The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the second Thursday of February at Squadron Harbor at which time election of officers and members of the elective committees shall be held." Written notice of this election has been published in the January 2024 issue of "The Buoys".

### For Watch Year March 2024 – February 2025

#### Bridge Officers / Assistants

Commander	Scott Steele, S
Executive Officer	John Swift
Education Officer	Neil Pignatano, SN
Administrative Officer	Jeff Maddy
Secretary	Leslie Corte-Real
Treasurer	Carl McGrath, P
Commander Aide	Carl McGrath, P

#### Audit Committee

Jim Mullaney
Deana Mullaney
vacant ***
vacant ***
Carl McGrath, P

#### Nominating Committee

Asst. Ex Officer	vacant ***
Asst. SEO	Tony Zsupan, P
Asst. Admin	vacant
Asst. Secretary	Ed Estes
Asst. Treasurer	Gary Farwick

vacant***
vacant***
vacant ***
vacant***
vacant***

#### Executive Committee

Jerry Ferrell	(1)
Craig Buechler, S	(1)
Scott Fergen	(1)
Richard C. Apfel	(2)
Jim Humphrey	(2)
Lee Corte-Real, S	(2)
Richard C. Apfel	(2)
S. Curt Collins	(2)
Joette Humphrey	(3)
Tom Dawson... ..	(3)
Jill Berger	(3)

#### Rules Committee

Gerry Whisler, S
Patrick Flash, SN
vacant ***
Respectfully Submitted,
Carl McGrath, P chair
Nominating Committee

\*\*\* We continue to recruit members to help run our all volunteer organization. If you have time to spend and an interest in the future of our organization, contact the Chairman at [treasurer@ccsaps.org](mailto:treasurer@ccsaps.org).

These nominations will be brought up to the General Membership at the General Meeting on 8 February 2024. It is very important that all members attend this meeting so that the nominations can be approved. See the Commander's Report for the notice of this meeting.



# 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](mailto:weekenderboating@gmail.com).

The Weekenders took a cruise to Phuzzy's on Pine Island on Saturday, December 2 with five boats and 15 people.

Doug Brenton leads the Weekdayers. This group goes out for lunch at a waterfront restaurant usually on Tuesdays or Thursdays. The next Weekdayers outing will be announced in January by email depending on weather and they plan to go to Doc Fords on San Carlos Island. For more information, or to get on their mailing list, please contact [dwbrenton@gmail.com](mailto:dwbrenton@gmail.com).

The December's Doc Fords outing had to be canceled due to high winds.

## CO-OP CHARTING

Best wishes to you all for a very happy and prosperous 2024.

Our monthly meeting took place December 11th at 7PM. The meeting was well attended; Runs F and G&H combined were discussed along with plans for upcoming runs D & E in January. Sign up sheets were distributed for open crew positions. Details will be released in early January. Denny Pearson reported that the new contact at Cape Coral has been taken ill and the planned contract for outstanding ATON repairs will be delayed. He also mentioned that he has made contact with several people at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and, due to low staffing, we might be assisting with some future projects for USCG.

The discussions regarding Run F (Captiva to Cayo Costa) captained by Doug Brenton, which went out December 5th, determined that two segments of the this run need to be reviewed for removal. Safe Harbor still has very shallow waters with unofficial temporary cans marking parts of the channel. The area of Useappa Island was also difficult to access, in part because it is a private island. Both segments are under review and most likely will be removed and archived from these runs until conditions offer a safer environment. Run G&H combined did finally get underway on December 9th with Scott Steele as the captain. Unfortunately, our original captain, Richard Apfel had to deal with unexpected low tides and fog on two previous attempts to get out. Discrepancies were found and logged on both runs and reported back to the various sectors

responsible for repairs.

The next runs will be Route E (Pine Island Sound to Redfish Pass) on January 15th captained by John Swift and Route D (Redfish Cove to San Carlos Bay) on January 23rd captained by Jim Humphrey. Many thanks to all our members who participate and make these runs and reporting possible.

**Our next meeting is set for Monday, Jan 8th at 7pm at the Squadron building.**



RUN F



# CCSAPS Boating Groups

## FISHING GROUP

The fishing group meets at the Squadron building on the second Tuesday 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](mailto:fishingccsaps@yahoo.com).

On September 12, the first meeting of the fishing group post-Ian, the speaker was the President and Vice President of the Cape Coral Tarpon Hunters Club, Sandro Secino and Tom Heller.

This club is the largest tarpon club in the world, with about 250 members. Tarpon are an ancient fish of which we have both migratory and residential populations here in Florida.

Tarpon are huge, powerful fish, getting up to 300 pounds in weight and 8 feet in length. Fighting these fish is a real workout and can be dangerous. It is illegal to take them out of the water in Florida, which is good, since having one jump in the boat is a tarpon fisherman's nightmare. Their range is from Brazil; to Virginia, with a few hardy ones making it up to Cape Cod. A very large female tarpon can lay up to 12 million eggs.

Tarpon are mainly caught in this region in Pine Island Sound, inshore areas like Fort Myers Beach, and in the waters around Captiva and Sanibel Islands. Most fishing is done on anchor using "dead bait", such as cut up chunks of mullet, catfish or lady-fish. As you can imagine, the tackle which is used is heavy duty, with spreads of up to 6 rods 8 feet long, with 50 pound test line married to 6 to 8 feet of a 150 pound ader. The preferred reels are vintage Penn 133H.

The group members found the talk to be fascinating, and a number of them even joined the club that night.

A real bonus of this club is that new members are assigned a mentor to help them catch their first tarpon!



## CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS (C&R)

CCSAPS's first C&R cruise after Covid and Ian was to the Pink Shell on Tuesday, December 5th. It was cool and windy, but we had five boats, at the new floating docks and recovering Pink Shell Resort. Happy hour was at 5:00 pm with appetizers, which led right into dinner on the deck of the dock master. We discussed dinner plans for Wednesday night and decided on Snug Harbor.

Wed. morning was biscuits and sausage gravy on my boat, the Y Knot. It was a little too windy on the deck. Happy hour that afternoon was on Tim's boat, the Waterford, with appetizers, and then off to dinner on the free trolley. Thursday's weather was still windy and cool and we all decided we should call it a fun cruise and head for home.

The next trip is January 9, 10, and 11 for three nights at the Aqua Marine Palm Harbor, near Tampa. In February, we are planning to go to Burnt Store Marina February 6, 7, 8, for three nights. Contact email: [Tbauer@shmarinas.com](mailto:Tbauer@shmarinas.com) to make your reservations. **They want each boater to make his own reservations.** Mention CCSAPS This is the busy season so slips fill up fast. Please make reservations and you can always cancel within 24-48 hours. **Contact me if you plan to go on any trips**

Phil Kryger 847-997-5683







**C & R OVERNIGHT** Destination: Aqua Marine Palm Harbor Dates: Jan 9,10,11 for 3 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: JANUARY 3**

**Mail Reservations to:**

**Phil Kryger**

**1528 SW 51st Ln**

**Cape Coral, FL 33914**

**or Email them to:**

**[ppkryger@gmail.com](mailto:ppkryger@gmail.com)**

Cell: 847-997-5683 (for text)



## Intro to AIS aids to navigation

by Tom Dawson

AIS aids to navigation are becoming a reality in waters in and around the United States. Supplementing existing aids, AIS ATONs are being used as temporary aids in special cases. Boaters should consider upgrading their navigation electronics by adding equipment capable of receiving and displaying Automatic Identification System (AIS) information.

### What are AIS ATONs?

AIS ATONs are a natural extension of AIS technology aboard commercial and recreational vessels. All commercial vessels are required to have AIS transponders, and many recreational vessels broadcast their Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number through their VHF radios. In addition to identifying vessels, the MMSI number broadcast is used to identify land-based stations, search and rescue transponders, man overboard beacons, and now navigational aids.

Using AIS technology, you can track vessels in near real-time on a variety of web-based sites and applications. Ships equipped with AIS-enabled displays can see the positions of other AIS-equipped ships up to 20 nautical miles away, even if they are behind islands or other obstructions that may block the ship's radar. As part of the information commercial vessels broadcast, you can learn the ship's size, draft, position, speed, direction, cargo, destination, and other information.

The U.S. Coast Guard has been attaching AIS transmitters to ATONs that broadcast the aid's position and purpose. This information appears on AIS-enabled navigation systems and radar units. Vessels with equipment capable of receiving these broadcasts can "see" aids on their screens before they can spot them visually.

### Types of AIS ATONs

The U.S. Coast Guard has created three categories of AIS ATONs.

- Real AIS ATONs have an AIS transmitter affixed to an existing aid.
- Synthetic AIS ATONs are also existing aids, but they do not have a transmitter affixed to them. Instead, an AIS message is broadcast from another (usually land-based) location.
- Virtual AIS ATONs are used where no physical aid to navigation is present. The aid exists only as an AIS message broadcast from another location.

In short, AIS ATONs transmit information that further improves situational awareness and helps boat operators navigate safely. The price for recreational vessel AIS receivers and transponders continues to decline, making it easy to invest in AIS capacity as part of your next electronics upgrade. Need an MMSI number? Go to [usps.org/mmsi](https://usps.org/mmsi).



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

