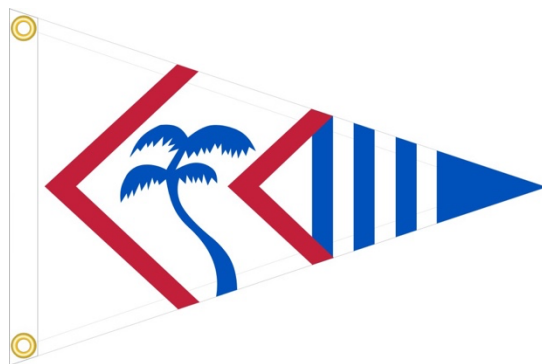




Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron
A unit of the United States Power Squadrons

Welcome Aboard!



Revised 1/11/24

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®
For Boaters, By Boaters™
CAPE CORAL



Dear New Member,

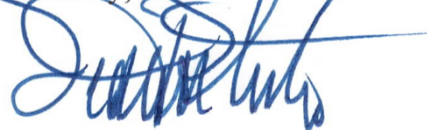
Welcome to the Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron (CCSAPS), America's Boating Club of Cape Coral. I'm very proud of our members and all that they do and I'm excited that you are now a part of our club. Boating education is important to all boaters, and I hope you will take advantage of the numerous educational opportunities we offer, either in the classroom or on the water, and enjoy the many activities and events that take place throughout the year.

We are a very active group, which is run entirely by volunteers. Be sure to look at our calendar and the Buoy's newsletter on our website www.ccsaps.org for the latest information. We have fantastic dinners and entertainment events, as well as regularly scheduled rendezvous for our members to get together at sites accessible by boat or car.

Civic service projects like boat shows, clean water advocacy, waterway clean-up, vessel safety checks, co-op charting, and others are carried out by our groups. This helps our community and provides a great deal of self-satisfaction as well!

I look forward to meeting you at our functions and getting to know you better. I hope you will consider staying involved by engaging in the educational, social and civic activities we provide. Thank you for becoming a member of the *biggest and best* squadron in the United States!

Sincerely,



Scott Steele
Commander

WELCOME ABOARD!

Congratulations on joining Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron (CCSAPS) and the United States Power Squadrons (USPS), America's Boating Club. With around 450 members, the Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron is the largest of 326 component squadrons of the United States Power Squadrons.

USPS has a three-part mission for boaters: learn, engage, connect!

Membership gives you opportunities to connect with others interested in boating. The educational program endeavors to promote a high level of skill and confidence in handling all types of watercrafts. Courses ranging from boat handling through advanced marine navigation enhance the learning of boaters seeking to improve their knowledge and expertise. Engagement in civic service aims at improving boating safety in the community through public education, boat inspection, and co-operative charting.

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS: We are located at 917 SE 47th Terrace in downtown Cape Coral. Our phone number is 239-549-9754. Our office hours vary throughout the year. Please go to www.ccsaps.org for current days and hours of operation. Free parking is available across the street and behind the building.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS: Each new member is assigned a membership number (E number) by USPS. The number appears on the membership certificate as well as on the membership card issued to each new member. It is necessary to have the membership number available when enrolling in educational courses. When using your membership number online, always include the "E".

PIN NUMBERS: USPS also assigns each new member a PIN to use in logging onto the USPS website, usps.org. Please keep this PIN in a safe place. You can change your PIN to a preferred password if you like: Go to USPS.org, select **Member's login** at the top, log in using your E number and assigned PIN. Click on **How Do I** at the top and select **Manage my security information**. There you can change your security question and/or PIN. If you lose or forget your PIN, go to usps.org, select member login. Enter your E number, including the capital E. Click "forgot your password". Answer your default security question, which is "What is your zip code?".

PARTICIPATION: Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron is an all-VOLUNTEER organization. Nothing gets done unless someone donates their time and energy to do it. If you want more done or something done better, offer to help. We need your assistance and will be grateful. You will get more out of your membership, and everyone will profit from your participation.

MERIT MARK: This is a yearly recognition for the service hours you provided to Squadron activities. Earning a Merit Mark is based on your cumulative volunteer efforts on Squadron committees and activities over a year's time. One Merit Mark is awarded each year for 12 or more hours of service. The Commander hosts a recognition dinner at the beginning of each year to say "thank you" to all who earned a Merit Mark during the previous year.

DRESS: Unless otherwise noted, casual or informal dress is acceptable.

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES are available for purchase. Our Ship's Store carries a variety of charts and flags (ensigns and burgees) for purchase through the Squadron office. For CCSAPS apparel, we use a local company, Proamar America Corp., located at 3029 SW 5th Place, Cape Coral. Go in, check out the great shirts and hats, tell the owner which embroidery you would like, and pick up your new apparel in a few days. Their website is <https://emprintpac.com>. You can contact the owner directly at 786-406-9857, or email: elamberti@emprintpac.com. USPS merchandise is available through www.usps.org

WHO'S WHO: Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron is managed by a "Bridge" of officers elected by, and responsible to, the membership.

The elected officers are:

- Commander (Cdr) – the top-level leader
 - The commander may appoint Aides to assist with certain duties
- Executive Officer (XO) – responsible for all things external to the organization
- Squadron Education Officer (SEO) – responsible for all educational programming
 - Assistant Education Officer
- Administrative Officer (AO) – responsible for all things internal to the organization
 - Assistant Administrative Officer
- Secretary – responsible for recording meetings and conducting correspondence.
 - Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer – financial officer
 - Assistant Treasurer

The Executive Board handles routine Squadron business. The Executive Board consists of the Commander, other elected members of the bridge, the immediate past commander and eleven members elected from the general membership. The Executive Board meets the first Thursday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members. The names of Assistant Bridge Officers, Aides to the Commander, and Executive Board Members can be found on the website, [https://www.ccsaps.org/leadership and in the Buoys](https://www.ccsaps.org/leadership%20and%20in%20the%20Buoys).

The officers are assisted in their duties by committee chairs who carry out the programs, functions, and activities of the Squadron. Each elected officer is responsible for several functions and is an ex-officio member of each committee in his/her department. The officer/committee list is found in the Buoy.

RANK: What is it? Who has it? Rank is the Squadron's way of recognizing the commitment of our volunteer leaders. The Commander's rank is Cdr. The other elected bridge officers have the rank of Lieutenant Commander (Lt/C). Appointed officers have the rank of Lieutenant (Lt).

THE MEMBER DIRECTORY is updated 2-3 times a year and is accessible to members only via the Squadron website. In it you will find a list of all Squadron members. Please be certain you are correctly listed. Errors or changes should be noted and sent to the Secretary. To access the roster, go to ccsaps.org. Under About Us, click Member Directory. The password is [ccsaps](http://ccsaps.org).

THE BUOYS NEWSLETTER is our award-winning monthly newsletter and primary means of communication. We encourage you to read it thoroughly. Of special interest will be announcements of future educational classes, including start date, location, instructor, and cost. Watch for this information in the SEO's report. In addition, announcements and reservation forms for on-the-water and other social events, as well as volunteer opportunities, are included to help you plan participation in the Squadron's upcoming activities.

The Editor is always looking for newsworthy articles, so please write and submit any you think may be of interest to the squadron. The deadline for submission to the Buoys is the Monday after the monthly dinner meeting.

THE ENSIGN NEWSLETTER is a quarterly publication of USPS, sent to all members via email.

WEBSITES: The website for CCSAPS is www.ccsaps.org. Our website is mobile optimized for easy reading on smart phones and tablets, as well as desktops. It is a wealth of information about what's happening and what we are all about. Need another member's contact information? Look under About Us, Member Directory. Need to know when the next fishing group meeting is? Open the calendar on the front page. Want to look something up in the Buoys? It's right there at the touch of a button.

The website for USPS is www.usps.org. This website offers much valuable information. Some is available to the public through the America's Boating Club and America's Boating Channel sections. To access members-only functions and information, select **Member's login** at the top and log in using your E number and assigned PIN.

SOCIAL MEDIA: If you are a Facebook user, you can Like us from the website www.ccsaps.org or by searching Facebook for "ccsaps" or "America's Boating Club Cape Coral". Follow us to get the latest posts, pics, and updates. You may also like to join the Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron Fishing Group on Facebook. We also have Next Door, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

ABBREVIATIONS: Every organization has its own language, or code, right? We are no exception. As you become involved and engaged in the activities of the squadron, you will hear or see a number of abbreviations that you may not have seen before. Some of the more common ones are listed here. Surely there are more, so we have provided space here for you to record them as they present themselves.

Ranks	Cdr – Commander Lt/C – Lieutenant Commander Lt – Lieutenant P/C – Past Commander	Found before the name of an officer or appointed assistant
Grades	S – Seaman P – Pilot AP – Advanced Pilot JN – Junior Navigator	Indicates the highest level of education completed. Follows the name of the person.

	N – Navigator SN – Senior Navigator	
Groups	C & R – Cruise and Rendezvous Weekenders – Weekend Boaters Weekdayers – Weekday Boaters Co-op Charting – Co-operative Charting	
Misc.	VSC – Vessel Safety Check ATON – Aids to Navigation ABC – America’s Boating Course MM – Merit Mark OTW – On the water	
Organizational	USPS – United States Power Squadrons CCSAPS – Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron D22 – District 22	CCSAPS is in District 22 of USPS

NAME TAGS: All new members are entitled to one name tag at no cost. Single memberships receive one free name tag. Family memberships receive two free name tags. Additional name tags may be purchased by emailing: nametags@ccsaps.org

DAN BOATER worldwide travel safety benefits are now available to members through a partnership between United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club, and DAN Boater. As a new member, you have access to a host of valuable safety resources designed to help you when you travel — whether it's by boat, plane, car, or rail.

DAN Boater travel and safety benefits costs \$25 per year with your individual or family membership and can give you peace of mind knowing that when you travel, you’ll be protected in the event of a medical emergency. Your new benefits will include a 24/7 emergency hotline, medical information line, worldwide medical evacuation, medical repatriation, search and rescue expenses and other travel assistance services. (**Note** that if you received the “18 months for the price of 12” promotion, you will have a six-month waiting period before becoming eligible for this benefit.) To sign up, visit www.usps.org/DANBoater.

GENERAL MEETINGS: There is a calendar on the website and in the Buoys newsletter which shows quarterly General Meeting dates, typically the second Thursday of the month. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Meetings include a speaker or activity, followed by reports from bridge officers outlining the various activities, projects and priorities of the squadron. General meetings are very informative and provide a great venue for meeting fellow members and learning how the club operates. At each meeting, members are encouraged to wear their name tags.

ON-THE-WATER ACTIVITIES: We are fortunate in Cape Coral to be able to boat year-round. We regularly organize social outings at popular boating destinations. Most destinations are

accessible by car, as well as by boat. They may include boating to a local restaurant, staying overnight in a marina, or kayaking in our beautiful natural paradise. Like everything else in the Squadron, on-the-water activities are organized by volunteers. Please help when you can. We welcome new ideas for locations and activities.

OFF-THE-WATER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: We have dinners and parties almost every month, and occasionally dances and other fun activities. Examples include mini golf, baseball game outing, luau, and happy hours at local restaurants. The Entertainment Committee loves new ideas so speak up or consider joining the committee!

SMALL GROUPS: Members can become involved in small groups, making it easier to meet new people and share common interests (see fact sheets in this packet). Our small groups include:

- Cruise and Rendezvous (C&R)
- Weekend Boaters
- Weekday Boaters
- Kayaking
- Fishing
- Co-operative Charting
- Vessel Safety Examiners

The pages that follow will give you more information about each group.

CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS (C&R)

We are a group with sleep-aboard boats. We take 2-3 night trips to area marinas and have been known to take a two-week trip in May staying in several different marinas.

Come join the fun! To be added to the mailing list, contact Phil Kryger, ppkryger@gmail.com



WEEKEND BOATERS

We are members who take lunch trips on Saturdays to various on-the-water restaurants. Our follow-me trips are a great way to learn your boat, the local waters, and safe boating practices.

Check the calendar or Buoy's Newsletter at ccsaps.org for exact dates each month. To be added to the mailing list, email scottfergen@gmail.com.



WEEKDAY BOATERS

We are the group that goes out on weekdays to avoid the weekend congestion on the water, at the docks, and at the venues.

Our adventures have taken us to many great restaurants and through the Franklin Locks. Come and join us for local knowledge and just plain fun. To be added to the mailing list, email weekenderboating@ccsaps.org



KAYAKERS

We are a good natured, fun loving group of paddlers who enjoy gliding through mangroves and along creeks and rivers looking for interesting wildlife. We meet at the squadron and drive to a favorite kayak launch where we help each other get settled in the water. We paddle for a while then raft up for a picnic lunch and fun conversation. Then we paddle back to our launch site together. All skill levels are welcome! If you don't own a kayak, you can often rent one. To be added to the mailing list, contact Jeff Maddy at jeff.maddy@sbcglobal.net



FISHING GROUP

We are anglers who like to gather once a month to share information about what fish are biting, where to find them, and how to catch them. It's a good place to meet other anglers with similar interests. We bring in guest speakers to talk about inshore, offshore, and freshwater fishing strategies. Local guides are our regular guests, and they are ready, willing, and able to share their vast knowledge of our local waters. We have a Facebook group, as well: go to Facebook and search Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron Fishing Group. If you would like to join this group, email fishing@ccsaps.org



CO-OP CHARTING

We examine over 800 navigation aids covering 100 miles of channels. The examinations are split into 13 on-the-water surveys of about 3 hours each. We make sure the aids are where they are supposed to be and in good repair.

You do not need a boat, nor do you need extensive knowledge of boating or the waterways. You can learn with us as you go!

If you would like to join this group, email

coopcharting@ccsaps.org



VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINERS

Have your boat inspected by a U.S. Coast Guard approved Vessel Examiner for FREE and at your convenience. Vessel Safety Checks include vessel documents, personal flotation devices, emergency equipment, navigation lights, federal and state rules, and overall vessel condition. In addition, recommended items such as marine radios, anchor and line, first aid kits, distress signals and other general items are reviewed. Complete a free vessel safety check request card and turn it into the office. An examiner will contact you to schedule an appointment at your convenience. The examiner will come to you, and will inspect your vessel in the water, on a trailer, on a lift, or at a marina. Vessels include power boats, sail boats, paddle boats and personal watercraft. Vessels that pass inspection are issued a sticker to display.



If you are interested in becoming a vessel examiner, email vesselsafetycheck@ccsaps.org



EDUCATION

It makes sense to get involved in our boating education! One of the best ways to have an enjoyable boating experience is to “know before you go”. The primary goal of CCSAPS is to promote safe boating, and an educated boater is a safer boater. CCSAPS provides many skill building opportunities to the general public through a variety of courses, seminars, and marine-related guides. Some courses are designed to be taken in a prescribed sequence, while others are elective and can be taken in any order. Our instructors are certified and use modern instructional techniques.

OUR EDUCATIONAL COURSES (Prescribed Sequence)

AMERICA’S BOATING COURSE (ABC)	This is the basic public course available to everybody. It covers basic information about boats and boating safety, aids to navigation, federal regulations and local water knowledge. It also includes basic boat handling, anchoring and knots.
BOAT HANDLING (formerly Seamanship)	Boat Handling is the first of the Advanced Grades courses for members only. The course covers boat handling, knots, splicing and working rope; as well as Rules of the Road, trim and stability, docking, anchoring, towing, marine emergencies, living aboard, etc.
MARINE NAVIGATION (formerly Piloting)	Marine Navigation follows Boat Handling and introduces you to safe navigation of your boat. It teaches dead reckoning positioning by calculating time, distance and speed and includes charting a position by taking bearings. It also includes compass use and how to plot and label estimated positions and fixes.
ADVANCED MARINE NAVIGATION (formerly Advanced Piloting)	Advanced Marine Navigation picks up where Marine Navigation leaves off with review of compass use, chart work, plotting courses, and determining position using bearings. It also covers danger angles, tides and tide tables, current prediction, and piloting in currents.
OFFSHORE NAVIGATION (formerly Junior Navigation)	Offshore Navigation introduces offshore plotting techniques using celestial navigation, time, the nautical almanac, heavenly bodies, and the sextant.
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION (formerly Navigation)	Last of the Advanced Grades, Celestial Navigation will supplement, extend and deepen your knowledge of celestial navigation, teach you three methods of sight calculation and link navigational concepts of time, compass, movements of sun, moon, planets and stars. All of this incorporates simple arithmetic that you use every day.

ELECTIVE COURSES
(No Prescribed Sequence)

CRUISING AND CRUISE PLANNING	Cruise Planning is a broad ranging course covering all aspects of planning. Whether organizing an overnigher or the extended offshore cruise of your dreams, you will be prepared.
ENGINE MAINTENANCE	Engine Maintenance helps you foresee mechanical troubles and pinpoints them if they do happen. It covers operating principals, maintenance and repair of gas and diesel engines, cooling, lubrication, and fuel systems, plus clutches, shafts, props, and common-sense safety measures.
INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT	ID has less to do with boating than any other USPS course. ID shows you how to be a better teacher and to organize your thoughts for any kind of public speaking.
MARINE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS	Don't get short circuited. Learn how boat electrical systems work, how to diagnose problems, and how to do simple repairs and upgrades. Boat electrical systems are increasingly under load with power demands for electronic navigation, radar, powered windlasses and winches, interior and exterior lighting, personal electronic devices, and more. Most boats have both DC and AC power. Learn about voltage drops, current demands, wiring, and so on. This course covers the topics you need and want to know.
MARINE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS	Learn about the various kinds of radio communication systems for different applications. Learn about VHF radios, Single Side Band for longer distance communication, and satellite systems. Understand voice communications and the use of digital selective calling (DSC), and get the skills you need for a day sail or long-distance offshore adventures.
ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION	Overwhelmed by all those functions on your GPS or chart plotter? Want to use your tablet or smartphone to help you navigate on your boat? Interested in using a desktop computer program to plan your cruise and then copy that information to your GPS? This course covers the topics you need and want to know.
SAIL	Sail provides valuable information about handling, piloting, anchoring, mooring, docking, stability, and true and apparent wind. It also covers rigs, hulls, sailing theory, Rules of the Road, and points of sailing.
WEATHER	Where will you ever find a better lab than our beautiful area for studying classic weather patterns? Learn to read the weather and interpret cloud formations and sequences, make observations while afloat, and prepare to deal with the unexpected. Be a weather expert on land or sea.

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

What you and the community get out of membership can give a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction. There are several committees and volunteer opportunities within the Squadron. Some jobs involve a one-time commitment. Others involve an ongoing effort. Major committees and their chairs are listed in the Buoy newsletter. Take a look. You'll get more fun out of your Squadron membership if you participate in a committee, and the Squadron will benefit. Please select one or more areas that interest you and contact the committee chair or the Member Involvement chair to volunteer your help.

ASSISTANTS	Assistants are appointed by the Commander, for the Bridge Officers, to augment their service to the squadron. They carry out special assignments and contribute special skills or knowledge of USPS and squadron procedures.
AUDITING	The Auditing Committee audits the Treasurer's records and verifies the financial status of the Squadron. A bookkeeping background is helpful.
BOAT SHOW	The Executive Officer recruits members to man exhibit booths at boat shows and greet show visitors to promote public Boating Courses. This is a great place to serve and you get free passes to the boat show.
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Since our Squadron owns the headquarters building, maintenance is regularly needed. This committee is for you if you are a handyman (or woman), painter, plumber, contractor, electrician, etc. We do as much work ourselves as we can, but when we need to call in an outside contractor, we need help gathering and reviewing bids and overseeing work.
CHAPLAIN	The Chaplain offers prayers at Squadron meetings and ceremonies.
COOPERATIVE CHARTING	Any member can volunteer in this civic service as a boat captain, observer or recorder. This group will report damaged, missing or deteriorating navigational aids, marine features that disagree with chart data, changes in landmarks, etc.
CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS	This is a fun group! If you like to check out those good food-and-drink sites at nautical destinations, plan and promote good times, shop for door prizes or handle tickets, join this congenial group. If that is not for you, share in the cruises anyway --- a great way to participate in the fun-loving element!
ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE	If you have a flair for showmanship or booking talent, THROWING PARTIES, or organizing games, sign up for this committee!

FACEBOOK MONITORING	Our Squadron has a Facebook page. This committee posts events and safe boating tips, advertises classes, and monitors the site. If you are a regular Facebook user, why not sign up for this committee?
FARMERS MARKET	We have a booth at the Farmers Market behind the Squadron every Saturday where we talk about the squadron, recruit people into our boating classes, sell charts, hand out free material and recruit new members. If you like to interact with people, this is for you.
BUDGET AND FINANCE	The Budget and Finance Committee team works closely with Treasurer, as well as other Bridge Officers and the Executive Committee to plan the Squadron's financial year. This is a good way for finance-oriented people to help.
FLAG LIEUTENANT	The Flag Lieutenant is appointed to assist the Commander with a variety of details. He/she is responsible for the display of flags at Squadron functions.
HISTORIAN	The Historian prepares an annual history report and records Bridge and committee officers, Past Commanders, members serving District 22 and USPS, Education Department achievements, special awards given or received, cruises, other social events, and other significant items.
KITCHEN CREW	This group of dedicated volunteers keeps our kitchen clean and up to health department standards. It does not require a large time commitment...about 8 hours per month...and the group always has fun!
MEMBER INVOLVEMENT	The Member Involvement Committee ensures that new members understand how the Squadron works and encourages members and leaders to welcome new members at Squadron functions. They help new members navigate the organization and stimulate member interest and participation in the work and functions of CCSAPS and USPS.
MEMBERSHIP	The Membership Committee is responsible for membership growth. They work closely with the SEO in recruiting new members from America's Boating Course graduates and processing their applications. They work closely with the Member Involvement Committee to make sure that new members have the opportunity to participate.
NOMINATING	The Nominating Committee weighs qualifications of members being considered for elected offices. They select and recommend candidates for nomination.
PORT CAPTAIN	Any USPS member arriving or passing through the Cape Coral area can get answers to most questions about local boating by calling our Port Captain.

PUBLICATIONS	The Squadron's monthly publication needs news-writers, reporters, editors, artists, and other assistance. This is a great spot for would-be journalists.
PUBLIC RELATIONS	The Public Relations Officer deals with every aspect of external promotion -- media news releases, posters and flyers, merchant-paid ads, and public events. Heavy emphasis is placed on promotion of boating courses for the public. This is a primary factor in obtaining new members. If you have a promotional flair, join in!
RULES	The Rules Committee prepares wording of bylaws and rules and recommends new bylaws or changes to maintain conformity with the policies of USPS.
SETUP CREW	We rent our facilities to outside groups for meetings, weddings, baby showers, and other special parties, classes, and events. Rental of the space includes set up of tables and chairs according to the customer's needs. Crews are assigned set up for a week at a time, several times a year. If you can spare some time to move tables and chairs around, you're hired!
SUPPLY OFFICER (SHIPS STORE)	What do you need? If it's authorized by USPS, our Supply Officer has it or can tell you where to get it --- insignia, burgees and more.
VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINERS	This group of individuals provides a valuable public service by providing free vessel safety checks congruent with US Coast Guard requirements. These checks help ensure that boats have all required safety equipment in good working order. If you join this group, you get to meet lots of people AND check out a lot of very cool boats!