

Issue 04-24

April 2024

## Early Birds: Burrowing Owl Nesting Season Reaches its Peak

Chad Gillis, News-Press



A burrowing owl peeks out of its burrow.

The burrowing owl nesting season is hitting its peak, just in time for some public celebrations centered around Cape Coral's official bird. More than 3,000 of these pint-sized birds can be found in the city, and support groups and government organizations hold events to raise public awareness about the threatened species.

"The babies are starting to pop up, but there is increasing pressure to build and that puts more pressure on nesting owls," said Janet Windisch, spokeswoman for Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife. "We're trying to purchase land as fast as we can and we're trying to get people to start burrows in their yard. That's our defense against loss of habitat."

Breeding season is typically Feb. 15 through July 10, although the local population appears to be nesting early this year, Windisch said.

Listed as threatened by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, or FWC, burrowing owls moved to the Cape Coral area in droves during the 1960s, when the area was cleared of trees and canals cut to help drain the land. FWC is the state agency charged with protecting threatened and endangered animals, such as the burrowing owl.

The population here has grown since, with the owls making nests on cleared lots, even road medians.

Burrowing owls are among the smallest of owls in

the Sunshine State, and they're known for their large yellow eyes, brown back feathers and white chins.

"The burrowing owl spends most of its time on the ground, where its sandy brown plumage provides camouflage from potential predators," and FWC website reads. "It averages nine inches in height with a wingspan of 21 inches. The burrowing owl lacks the ear tufts of the more familiar woodland owls. Unusually long legs provide additional height for a better view from its typical ground-level perch."

"Females lay up to eight eggs within a one-week period, and they will incubate the eggs for up to 28 days," an FWC website says. "Once the white-feathered juveniles are born, it takes two weeks before they are ready and able to appear out of the burrow. Juveniles will begin learning how to fly at four weeks, but will not be able to fly well until they are six weeks old."

Windisch said the best way to see burrowing owls is to visit parks like the Pelican Baseball Complex and the Cape Coral library.

## CCSAPS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2023

DINNER: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

MEETING: 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

SQUADRON BUILDING

**SPEAKER:** JOE PETRELLA, DIRECTOR, CAPE CORAL PARKS AND RECREATION

**TO REGISTER AND ORDER THE OPTIONAL DINNER**

CATERED BY **BIG 8 BBQ**

(\$10/PERSON AT THE DOOR)

CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/general-member-meeting-lite-bites>

SOFT DRINKS AND BEER PROVIDED

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**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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**WWW.CCSAPS.ORG**

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# COMMANDER'S REPORT



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

The first question of the day: How many made the statement three days ago, "Damn it's hot?" 87 degrees to be exact. I guess winter is over. No more snow. 😊

Believe it or not, one of the toughest parts of this job is writing one page, once a month. After a couple years it doesn't get any easier. I don't write as well as Barret Bonden. My degree is in chemistry. My goal is to convey information that isn't in the following pages. That's the intent. So let me start with a recent Commander's / District meeting that I attended with Carl McGrath and Craig Buechler in Sarasota. As could be expected, not much earth shattering news. One of the things we did hear was that district is considering a move to one annual meeting versus two. We've been pushing this for years. I think the economic reality and the lack of attendance finally sunk in. It got our vote. A lot of newer folks also emphasized the need for new approaches, i.e.: Zoom. It looks like we may be making some progress. That said, the next District 22 meeting is April 12-13 in Punta Gorda. All are welcome to attend.

One of the great things about our squadron is that we have some really smart people who dig into the data. One of the things a lot of squadrons don't realize is the importance of education and the link to membership. National membership numbers have dropped, but guess what? There's a direct correlation to the number of ABC classes and students that have been taught. I'm sorry to report that a lot of squadrons don't teach classes. There's no surprise that these are the squadrons that are losing members. We are also in a competition with all the free and online tools now available. The good news is that we have studied the data and realize the importance of marketing, educating and making a focused effort on teaching more than what's in a textbook. We educate people on the area we live in! Having the instructors we have is a blessing and one that shouldn't be overlooked.

Something we'll be discussing in the upcoming Executive Committee meeting is developing some strategies and tactics for the future. We really need to look at our existing operating model and identify the risks for the future. It's easy to avoid looking at negative possibilities when things are

going really well. However, now is the time. You don't want to wait for a down period and then scramble or panic. We are a large organization and things need to be analyzed, discussed and evaluated. We need to be open for change, more so now than ever. We need to look at succession, simplification and making sure we are meeting the needs of our membership.

I want to thank all the folks who put together the St. Patrick's Day brunch and Wednesday's ABC potluck. Both were a lot of fun and great social gatherings. Last, but not least, thanks to all the members who earned Merit Marks for all their contributions and hours in 2023. Though you won't see anything show up on a Form 1099, we do recognize your efforts and had a nice social last night for those who could attend.

Happy Easter!

Cdr Scott Steele, S  
commander@ccsaps.org

Scott

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## 2024 Merit Mark Dinner

March 28, 2024





## 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

Jeff Maddy, AP  
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

Curt Collins

### Assistant SEO

Antal "Tony" Zsupan, P

### Assistant Administrative Officer

**Vacant**

### Assistant Treasurer

Gary Farwick

### Assistant Secretary

Edwin Estes

### 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

**Vacant**

#### Webmaster

Nancy Maddy, S

#### Social Media

Joette Humphrey

### Administrative Department

#### Cruise & Rendezvous

Phillip Kryger

#### Entertainment Committee

Karen Collins  
Dani Fergen

#### Fishing Group

John D'Esposito

#### Kayaking Group

Jeff Maddy

#### Membership

Carolyn Token

#### Member Involvement

Tessa Buechler, S  
Barb Riordan, S

#### Pantry Inventory Mgr

**Vacant**

#### Weekdayer 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 competed. Follows the name of the person.



## Cape Coral German-American Club Presents Donation/ Appreciation Check to CCSAPS



**T**hank you to all of our volunteers who turned out to assist with administration of parking during two of the busiest days at Oktoberfest! Here is a photo of Commander Scott Steele accepting an appreciation check to CCSAPS from the German-American Club! It's a privilege to be involved in our amazing community!

CCSAPS ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# MEMBER MEETUP



Located in the Shops at Surfside  
2408 Surfside Blvd Ste 101  
Cape Coral 33991



**SIGN UP HERE**

[https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/  
member-meetup-at-torched-bar-and-grill](https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/member-meetup-at-torched-bar-and-grill)

Join us for a fun member meetup **THURSDAY, APRIL 11**  
**TORCHED BAR & GRILL**

2408 Surfside Ste 101, Cape Coral 33991.

Food and drinks available - **PAY AS YOU GO**

• 5:00 pm Food/drinks

• 6:00 pm Live entertainment

Sign up on this site (Ticketleap) to help restaurant staff.

**SEE YOU THERE!**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:buoys@ccsaps.org).

## Did you hear about this?

By Barret Bonden

### Boat Canopies

At the February 28th meeting of the Cape Coral Council's Committee of the Whole a proposal was made to change the city ordinance 5.4.7 governing Boat Canopies and Sun Shelters to allow for hard topped canopies to be installed in the canals. Other cities in the area allow these, Ft. Myers Beach being one of them.

Councilman Bill Steinke is behind this idea and, according to reporting in the Cape Coral Breeze, he believes it would benefit seasonal residents by hardening their properties. Other members of the council seemed skeptical based on the damage we all saw after Hurricane Ian.

It will be fun watching this idea progress. A copy of the presentation and video of the discussion can be found on the city's website.

### Flare Disposal

In California, a new bill was recently introduced, SB 1066: The Marine Flare Producer Responsibility Act. According to the state senator that introduced the legislation "In 2023, it cost an estimated \$185.00 to properly dispose of one unwanted marine flare, which can be purchased new for approximately \$13.00."

The goal of the legislation is to require producers of marine flares to fund and operate a convenient collection system to manage expired or unwanted flares.

If you are looking to dispose of old flares locally in Florida, Lee County operates a Household Hazardous Waste drop off site at Lee County Household Chemical Waste Collection Facility at 6441 Topaz Court (off Metro Pkwy) in Fort Myers.

Some of our members are switching to the United States Coast Guard approved electronic SOS beacons in place of flares. The approved beacons, along with a distress flag and whistle will fulfil your carriage requirements for visual distress signals. If you are thinking purchasing one of the electronic devices there are several manufactures to choose from. If you get a vessel safety check our vessel examiners can provide you with a coupons good for 20% off one safety item from West Marine.

## Senate Bill 30 Change to Boating Education Requirements

As of March 8, 2024, SB30 is noted on the Florida Senate website to have "Died in Transportation." So, it looks as if, for the second year in a row, the proposed changes to who needs a Boating Education I.D. Card remain unchanged.

### CCSAPS ANNOUNCES NEW LOCAL WATERS BOATING SEMINAR

Since 1964, CCSAPS has been an active participant in the Cape Coral community. The club provides a variety of education, social and community service activities to our members and the public at large.

Boaters new to Southwest Florida find our waterways "different" and many that stop by our booth at the Farmer's Market ask lots of questions. In response, CCSAPS has created a new seminar for boaters that are new to Southwest Florida.

The Southwest Florida Boating Primer is a seminar that runs approximately 90-minutes and is designed to help boaters understand how the commercial development in Ft. Myers and the draining of the Everglades had both positive and negative impacts on how and where we can boat. It also looks at why it's important to know how to read a chart, understand the impacts of river current, tidal current and winds can have on your boating experience.

Other topics include, a discussion of how being in a Federally Protected Manatee Area impacts how and where we can boat and the impact of being on the Intracoastal Waterway system which can cause confusion for even seasoned boaters.

During the second half of the seminar, we will look at some of the more popular areas boaters like to visit. Some of these places have more than one way to get into them and the shortcuts you see others use may not always be the best option for you boat or current skills.

After the seminar, members of the club will be on hand to answer questions about boating and how our organization is working to make boating safe for everyone in our community.

The seminar will be held on **Thursday April, 18th at 7:00 P.M.** and again on Monday May 1st at 7:00 P.M. Both sessions will be held at the Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron, located at 917 SE 47th Terrace, Cape Coral FL 33904, in room 202.

The seminar costs \$15.00 per person and seating for each session is limited, so reserve your seat now by going to the Events page at [www.ccsaps.org](http://www.ccsaps.org).



## SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER (SEO)



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

### SEO's Notebook

The weather is getting warmer, mangoes are fruiting, and the doves are cooing. Spring is in the air. And to those seasonal residents making their way back to home port, safe travels. The activity here at CCSAPS has not abated. Due to the demand for ABC, we have added an April class. There's still plenty of room in both the April and May sessions, the last two before the summer hiatus.

The newly completed Boat Handling class recently sat for the final exam. I expect to receive their grades within the next couple of weeks. And the March Boat Handling class received great interest and is currently underway. And another Boat Handling session is scheduled for May. This is a great refresher for all the material covered in ABC.

Also ongoing is the Advanced Marine Navigation class. We also recently completed the Introduction to Charting/Navigation seminar. For those interested in extending their knowledge of inland and coastal piloting, we will be offering the full Marine Navigation course in October. The final schedule is being arranged and will be available soon.

The spring seminar calendar still has plenty of activity. Of great relevance is the Hurricane Preparation seminar, currently scheduled for May 15. This is very important if you want to find out the dos and don'ts of how to properly prepare for a hurricane. This is especially important for folks that keep their vessels on a lift. Many boats survived Hurricane Ian (including mine) because proper precautions were taken. There is also the two-hour Weather for Boaters seminar. Learn how predict short term weather conditions by just feeling the wind and looking at the clouds. Don't get caught by surprise by one of our summer squalls.

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](mailto:education@ccsaps.org).

Until next time...



# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Scan and find your  
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[ccsaps.org/abc-in-person-classes](https://ccsaps.org/abc-in-person-classes)



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**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>**



# ABC Graduates and Instructors

March 20, 2024



**INTRODUCING  
OUR NEWEST BOATING GROUP**

# SOLO BOATERS



## SoloBoaters

- Is for boaters without partners, to help you meet and engage with people in a group setting and encourage more participation in larger squadron events.
- Open to members who want to expand their social connections and friendships within the squadron on a one-to-one or small group basis with other members.
- For members who want to find boating partners or crew rather than boat alone.

Please contact Tessa Buechler (904-583-3298) for more information.

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Silver P. Angel     | Ann Klakurka          |
| Theresa Burgess     | Timothy J. Maguire    |
| Lewis D. Clarke     | Jennifer Mazziotti    |
| Lindsey Collins     | Kenneth I. McClendon  |
| Taylor Collins      | Alfred Mea            |
| Thomas Demarzo      | Mark Meinert          |
| Robert Dipalmo      | Nancy Muniz           |
| Stefan Drege        | William Nicholson     |
| Mark D. Dunn        | Jackie A. Pearson     |
| Jerald M. Ferrell   | Neil D. Pignatano     |
| Sandra K. Francis   | Monica Rasgo          |
| Dieter S. Gaubatz   | Terry S. Rosenstrauch |
| Cynthia Guttman     | Reno F. Runck         |
| Ethan Hallforth     | Mary E. Spensley      |
| Michael Y. Hamilton | Beth R. Stark         |
| Robert A. Hibbs     | Jeannette Udway       |
| Janet Iagnemmo      | Daniel P. Vladic      |
| Kimberly King       | Judith M. Widmer      |
|                     | Vince 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

### April 2024

Day	Date	Name	Time	Place
Tues	2	Entertainment Comm	12:30 pm	Rusty's
Wed	3	Co-op Charting Training - Recorder position	7:00 pm	Squadron Building, 1st flr
Thurs	4	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Mon	8	Co-op Charting Training - Navigator position	7:00 pm	Squadron Building, 1st flr
Mon	8	ABC Course begins	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Sat	TBD	Weekenders- date is weather dependent	TBD	TBD
Tues/ Thurs	TBD	Weekdays -date is weather dependent	TBD	Boat House 31
Thurs	11	Meet-up at Torched Bar and Grill	5:00 pm - ?	Torched Bar & Grill, 2408 Surfside Blvd
Mon	18	Southwest Florida Boating Primer Seminar	7:00-9:00 pm	Squadron Building
Wed- Thu	24-25	Cruise & Rendezvous to Boca Grande	TBD	Marina

### May 2024

Wed	1	Southwest Florida Boating Primer Seminar	7:00-9:00 pm	Squadron Building
Thurs	2	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Tues	7	Entertainment Committee	12:30 pm	Rusty's

## Member Involvement Committee Asking for Input

Member Involvement is a relatively new committee to our squadron but one that is a vital part in helping build the future of any organization. The function of this committee is a year-round focus to develop and implement ways and activities to involve all new and established members in the squadron. Initially we will be spending more time meeting and assisting new members meet other members, and to help match up their interests with volunteer opportunities and needs within our squadron. We will also be recommending and starting new activities, such as the very new Solo Boaters, and starting monthly Member Socials. Your input and suggestions for activities and events are welcomed. If you lead an existing committee and are in need of extra help in your group or for an event please let us know. We want you to feel welcomed and appreciated among friends when we get together at Squadron.

Committee contact: Tessa Buechler (phone 904-583-3298)

**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.**



**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](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: Trailing Your Boat, Paddle Smart, Tides and Currents

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

## Executive Committee

Thumbnail Minutes, March 7, 2024

**Secretary:** Minutes from the meeting held on March 7, 2024 were filed as written.

**Treasurer:** Completed fiscal year 23-24 with a small profit. The squadron has secured insurance for the building effective in April.

**Education:** The March ABC class has 42 students. An ABC class has been added for April to help with the demand. Chapman and Polaris teaching awards are being reviewed for potential submissions.

**Executive Office:** 77 completed Vessel Safety Checks done year to date. Recorder/Navigator training for Co-Op charting scheduled for April. Curt Collins is the new Assistant XO.

**Administrative Office:** Current membership is 444. The entertainment committee has established tentative plans for April through Dec.

**Commander:** 3 members needed to carry out marketing plans. Rental set up people still needed. District 22 meeting is April 12 and 13. Commander and Treasurer will be attending a pre-meeting in March.

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## New Social Media Assistant



Leslie Dicken

Social media has another helper. Leslie Dicken will be assisting Sherry Carter and Joette Humphrey as they continue to grow our social media presence. Leslie and her husband joined recently and moved to the Cape from Maryland. If you haven't followed us on Facebook, please like our page!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE CAPE CORAL SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

NICHOLAS CARTER

PAULA CARTER

PRINSTON CARTER

DAVID KENNY

NACELLE KENNY

BRENDA NORMAN

THOMAS NORMAN

DANIEL SILVA

## CCSAPS Announces April ABC Course

Due to high demand for America's Boating Course (ABC), CCSAPS has added an April session. The response to our classes held in January and March filled our classroom, as boaters new to our local waters came to learn more about how to boat safely in Southwest Florida.

With over 50,000 registered vessels on our waters, boaters new to Lee County find boating in one of Florida's largest estuaries unlike anything they have experienced "back home." The importance of learning the rules and regulations governing vessel operation is one key to becoming a safe boater in coastal cities.

The April course starts on the 8th at 7:00 p.m. and meets for six evenings (April 8, 10, 15, 22 and 24). On the the 24th there will be a test and a graduation party.

**Classes fill up quickly so be sure to register early. If you are unable to attend in April this course will also be offered again starting on May 6th.**

# 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).

On Saturday, March 23, the Weekenders traveled to Millers on Boca Grande with 5 boats and 20 participants for a lovely dockside lunch.



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](mailto:dwbrenton@gmail.com).

On February 29, the Weekdayers cruised to Nervous Nellie's on Estero Island with 5 boats & 18 people.



# CCSAPS Boating Groups

## FISHING GROUP

### Presentation to the Fishing Group from Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) Officers

At our last meeting, two Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) Officers, Lt. Barrett and Officer Hurst updated us about all the new regulatory changes involving fishing in our area. These officers cover Lee and Charlotte Counties; their troop strength is presently a Lt. and six officers, with some vacancies to be filled.

The biggest change in fishing regulations recently involves Goliath groupers. These huge fish have been protected for many years and, after some heated debates, now have a small season. The Goliath grouper population has rebounded to the point that there has been a robust catch and release fishery under the bridges. Many fishermen even report having their catches stolen right by the boat by these behemoths. To catch and keep a Goliath grouper, you need to obtain a permit, through a lottery, much like the alligator lottery. There are 200 permits each year statewide, with a limit of one Goliath per person. The Goliaths that may be taken have a slot size of 24 to 36 inches in length and can be caught from March 1 to May 31 with the permit. People can still fish for Goliath grouper on a catch and release basis (the Sanibel Causeway is loaded with them), but anglers are cautioned not to remove these fish from the water as, due to their weight, damage can be done to their internal organs if you do.

Other groupers in the region have new regulations, too. There is an aggregate limit of four groupers per day per angler among red, black, and gag groupers. Two red groupers over 20 inches, 4 black groupers over 24 inches, and gag groupers over 24 inches, after the season for them opens on September 1st. You can make up the aggregate of four total groupers taken.

Cobia, a prized eating fish, can reliably be taken in Charlotte Harbor. They have to be at least 36 inches long, and have a bag limit of one per angler and 2 per vessel. From February to May, cobia tend to be found inshore and are often found following rays. For cobia, pass crabs are great bait.

Snook are now regulated by regions rather than statewide. We are in Region 9, the Charlotte Harbor Region. Snook may be harvested in this region with a slot requirement of 28 to 33 inches. Snook are fish that all start out as males, and around 32 inches morph into females; the slot is designed to protect the breeding female population. Open seasons on snook in this region are the months of March and April and October and November.

The Officers advised using an App like "Fish Rules", which works off your geographic location, to help you fish in a legal manner. They also told us that there have

been changes to the slow speed minimum wake laws and that there is a new law requiring boaters to stay 300 feet away from a marine emergency vessel with its lights on (law enforcement, Coast Guard, fire or rescue). This was an excellent presentation by these two officers, which the members loved.





## KAYAK GROUP



We enjoyed wonderful weather during our March outing at Sirenia Vista Park. For April, we are planning to visit a new location to us, Knight's Landing in Bokeelia. Bokeelia is at the north end of Pine Island, located on the Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail, which is home to abundant marine life, shore birds and crustaceans. This 190 mile trail attracts water enthusiasts from all over the world, and is suitable for first-time kayakers to advanced paddlers.

We will meet Wednesday, April 24th 9:30 a.m. at CARMEN'S KAYAKS 16499 Porto Bello Street, Bokeelia FL 33922, 239-333-7332. Kayak rentals are available, but must be booked at least 24 - 48 hours in advance to ensure enough kayaks are available. Call 239-333-7332 or visit [carmenskayaks.com](http://carmenskayaks.com) to book a kayak. You can reserve a kayak on the website where you can pay and sign waiver all online, so when you arrive all you need to do is get in your kayaks and paddle. Carmen's Kayaks accepts cash, credit card/debit card, Venmo and Cash App for payment.

Kayak rentals are \$25 for two hours; \$30 for three hours. Tandem kayaks are \$50 for three hours.



Bringing your own kayak/SUP? Knights' Landing offers a great ramp for kayaks/SUPs/canoes and small boats/watercrafts. There is ample parking for vehicles and trailers, as well as a clean restroom for patron use. Launch fee of \$5/kayak or SUP and \$10/boat is payable at the ramp and parking is included. Don't forget to bring a hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

After a morning of kayaking, we plan to go to lunch at nearby Cap'tn Con's Fish House, 8421 Main Street, Bokeelia. You'll enjoy the food, the water view, and the laid back atmosphere!

Please call Nancy Maddy 417-882-2090 for additional information, or if you want to carpool to Bokeelia.

If you're new to kayaking, don't worry! We are a friendly, helpful group and welcome all skill levels. See you there!

## CO-OP CHARTING GROUP UPDATE

Our next season of ATON Verification Runs will be starting in May. With that in mind, I would like to share some additional information from the past season. Last season's runs were completed from November through February and covered a total of 349 miles and 30 hours (dock to dock) on the water over the 8 primary routes. Some of these routes travel waterways that our members may not visit otherwise. During the past season we have seen a marked improvement in the repair and replacement of damaged or destroyed ATONs and PATONs from Ian. Coming up in the month of April, we are offering training sessions for our group members with a Recorder position session on Wednesday, April 3 and a Navigator session on Monday, April 8. The training sessions will be held at the Squadron building, first floor at 7:00 PM on those dates. We do ask anyone attending one or both of the sessions to please confirm your attendance by contacting Denny Pearson at [coopcharting@ccsaps.org](mailto:coopcharting@ccsaps.org) so we know how many to expect for the sessions.

Our next Co-Op Charting group meeting will be on Monday, May 13 at 7:00 PM at the Squadron in room 101 on the first floor.

## CRUISE AND RENDEZVOUS

Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am at the Squadron building for those interested in the Cruise & Rendezvous group. The purpose of the meetings is to plan future trips. Our next trip will be **April 24 and 25th to Boca Grande** for two nights (leaving on April 26th). Please let me know as soon as possible by phone, text or email if you would like to go. Phil Kryger

Phil Kryger 847-997-5683 [ppkryger@gmail.com](mailto:ppkryger@gmail.com)

# St. Pat's Day Brunch at Rusty's

March 17, 2024





**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



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