

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB THE BUOYS

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

Issue 05-24

May 2024

The truth about marine litter

COMPASS Apr '24



In honor of **Earth Day on April 22**, check out some dirty facts about marine litter:

- Plastic accounts for 80% of marine debris. Its durability, buoyancy, and ability to absorb and concentrate toxins make plastic especially harmful to marine life and people who use marine life as a food source.
- The main types of plastic litter include cigarette butts (filters), food wrappers and takeout containers, bottles, cups, lids, caps, utensils, bags, balloons, fishing line, and six-pack holders.
- Instead of biodegrading, plastics photodegrade, which means they break apart into smaller pieces or pellets that eventually form plastic dust. Through this process, they release toxins into the oceans.
- Fish and other sea animals eat the plastic pellets, which resemble plankton.
- Shoppers worldwide use an estimated **1 trillion plastic** bags each year, many of which make their way into our waterways.
- Plastic debris can entangle, suffocate and starve marine life, including birds, whales, seals, turtles and fish.

As a boater, you can be part of the solution in reducing marine litter:

- Use reusable grocery bags instead of disposable plastic or paper bags.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible.
- Buy in bulk and avoid over-packaged products.
- Think twice about buying disposable products. If you must buy disposable, choose paper instead of plastic.
- Use reusable water bottles.
- Keep plastic debris and other contaminants (leaves, pet waste and toxins) out of street gutters and storm drains.
- Keep beaches and waterways clean. Pick up after yourself and participate in waterway cleanups.
- Don't dump anything into the water. Instead, after time spent on the boat, take all garbage home or dispose using beach receptacles, pump-out stations or other shore collection bins.
- Before you buy something, think about where the products will end up when you are finished with them.

CCSAPS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

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

CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

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

PHONE (239) 549-9754 • 917 SE 47TH TERRACE CAPE CORAL, FL 33904

OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - NOON

WWW.CCSAPS.ORG

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB® IS A TRADEMARK OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



COMMANDER'S REPORT



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

I was sitting here wondering if anyone would notice if I just reprinted my comments from a previous month. It's been a pretty hectic couple of weeks. That said, I better not as we do have some recent and upcoming events that are worth noting.

The migration up north has started. There is one absolute way to measure this occurrence. It's the number of cars in the Ft. Myers Costco parking lot at 9:45am on any given morning. This metric is flawless and shows a decline in the local population.

We are now fully insured! Though we saw a 4X increase in premiums, we did complete the paperwork and get approval last week. It was not as simple as we had hoped, but we got it done. Hopefully we won't need to use it this year, but better safe than sorry. Without our previous policy we'd now be conducting meetings and training in the parking lot. Terry Rosenstrauch and Carl McGrath were key in finding us coverage.

Membership continues to grow and we conducted an orientation session on Monday night. These are always fun and an opportunity to meet new folks and find out their specific interests and talents. I try to do these five times per year. We keep things pretty casual. As most know, our squadron is pretty laid back compared to most. Uniforms went out about the same time as rotary phones.

A small group has been getting together and revising our rental processes and documents. Owning our own building affords us some great opportunities. It also creates additional complexities. One of the key outcomes of this exercise is that we will start requiring renters to acquire event liability coverage and adding us as additional insured. This is a normal practice but one we've not previously required. This will help to protect us from renter's damages, accidents and issues.

The Bridge and Ex Com are also meeting independently to assess our current situation and implement steps to assure that we remain a strong and valued organization. Neil Pignatano has an excellent background in leading these strategic exercises and he has offered to coordinate our activities. We need to continue building on what we do well, fix what we don't do well and make sure we are an organization that meets the

needs of our members. The world changes. We need to make sure that we adapt along with it.

Speaking of adapting, we are looking into some potential modifications for ABC. This is not about what or how we teach it. We know we have great content and our schedule is second to none. We are only exploring using some streamlined materials in addition to those we already possess. Our educators have been looking into this for the past few months, as we know we need to stay ahead of the curve.

Our next Executive Committee meeting is this Thursday, May 2nd. As I've said before, anyone is welcome to attend an Ex Com meeting. Our next General Meeting is Thursday, May 9th. Big 8 BBQ is supplying the food for Lite Bites. You can sign up on Ticket Leap. For \$10 you can't beat the price for what they offer. We also have Joe Petrella, Director of Cape Coral Parks & Recreation as a guest speaker. Let's remember not to shoot the messenger. I'm sure there will be some good questions.

For those heading north in the near future; safe travels and we'll see you in a couple months.

Scott

Cdr Scott Steele, S
commander@ccsaps.org

TIME TO GO NORTH?

DON'T THROW OUT, DONATE!

- Please bring in your left over canned goods and dry goods before you go up north.**
- There is a collection box in the front lobby and we will make sure these items are sent out to local food banks.**
- Thank you for your generosity. Wishing you safe travels and a happy Summer.**





2023-24 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander

Scott Steele, S
commander@ccsaps.org

Executive Officer

John Swift
execofficer@ccsaps.org

Squadron Education Officer (SEO)

Neil Pignatano, SN
education@ccsaps.org

Administrative Officer

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.

Protect yourself on the water with the proper insurance

By Barret Bonden

Many of us enjoy the social interaction of sharing our love of the water with others. But lately I am hearing a different story, some boaters have stopped taking friends and relatives out for a boat ride. What caused this change?

One couple I spoke with summed it up by sharing an experience their aunt and uncle recently had. During an outing on an inland lake, a friend who was on board, fell inside the boat while moving from one seat to another. This resulted in a small cut and a minor bruise. Both injuries were attended to and the rest of the day proceeded happily with no other incidents.

A few weeks later their relatives received a phone call from "Mr. Slip and Fall, Attorney at Law." Their friend determined there was more to the cut and bruise and decided to hire an attorney to collect some additional compensation for those injuries. Things went downhill from there and their relatives decided it was best not to take friends or relatives out for boat rides anymore.

The story didn't end there, as the couple shared the story with their friends, they were surprised to learn others have made the same decision. Many of their friends had also stopped taking friends and relatives out for rides as they felt the risk was not worth it.

This is unfortunate, but is this the only answer to stop enjoying boating with our friends on board?

We all know from taking America's Boating Course, the operator is responsible for the safety of their vessel and passengers. If you are going to take friends or relatives out on your boat, never assume they know how to behave on a boat. Make it a practice to always brief your guests on how you operate your boat and let them know what you expect of them while they are on your vessel. This sets the tone for the voyage and may provide you some defensive protection. i.e., you can testify that the injured party didn't follow your safety instructions.

The other part of protecting yourself if you are going to take friends or relatives out on your boat is making sure you have proper insurance coverage. While doing research on boat insurance, the first article I read claimed

"Approximately 40 to 50 percent of boaters are uninsured."

Marine insurance can be complicated and expensive, so talk with your agent to get a full explanation of what coverages are available to you. However, it seems obvious to me that having a good liability policy makes sense if you are going to be inviting friends or family on board your vessel.

If you have liability coverage now, consider checking what the limits are on coverage for any medical payments or legal defense. Check to see if your coverage will help pay for removal or disposal of your boat if you are involved in an accident, along with the cost of containment and clean-up expenses resulting from any pollution caused by your vessel.

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.



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

www.emprintpac.com

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

WHAT IS A VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)?

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

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



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

What are the benefits of a VSC?

The VSC can identify SAFETY and money saving opportunities:

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

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

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

CCSAPS ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Let's Get Social

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events



MEMBER MEETUP AT THE MONKEY BAR FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024 5:00 PM MONKEY BAR STEAK & SEAFOOD

MEET US AT THE MONKEY BAR!

Music and dancing starts at 6:00 p.m. This event is PAY AS YOU GO. Please sign up on Ticketleap so we can provide the restaurant an accurate head count. SEE YOU THERE!

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/member-meetup-at-the-monkey-bar>



SANIBEL BEACH BOAT PARTY TUESDAY, JUNE 18 2024 9:30 AM MEET AT MILE MARKER 96

IT'S OFFICIALLY SUMMER! We are planning our first ever... BOAT PARTY on Sanibel Island, Meet at Mile Marker 96 at 8:00 a.m. and follow the lead boat. We will anchor off the beach coastline. The Entertainment Committee will provide finger food and snacks to share. Join us for fun water and beach games! More details to follow.

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/sanibel-beach-boat-party>



CATAMARAN CRUISE KEYWAYDIN ISLAND WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024 9:00 -12:30 PM SWEET LIBERTY CATAMARAN, NAPLES

Join us on Sweet Liberty, a 52 ft. catamaran, Wednesday, July 17, 2024. The cruise begins at 9:30 a.m. Meet at the dock at 9:00. Participants are welcome to bring their own snacks and beverages.

We will meet at the Dock at Crayton Cove restaurant for those who want to enjoy lunch after the cruise. The Dock restaurant is adjacent to Sweet Liberty.

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/sweet-liberty-catamaran-cruise-naples>



SPLISH SPLASH COME & HAVE A BLAST! SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024 9:30 AM GOING TO SANIBEL - MEET AT MARKER 96

We will cruise to Sanibel beach & anchor offshore

What to bring: Your favorite float, drink, sub or sandwich

- We will have finger food to share
- There will be water games & music!

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/splish-splash-come-have-a-blast>





SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER (SEO)



SEO's Notebook: Hurricane Season

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

Another winter/spring season has come and gone. Just about time for our summer hiatus. We're wrapping up our Spring term classes with ABC on May 6 and Boat Handling on May 7. As for seminars, there's Weather for Boaters on May 14, the all-important Hurricane Preparation on May 15, and Partner

In Command on June 22. There is still plenty of room and registration is available online at our website.

Speaking of hurricane season, now is the time to get your preparations underway. Hopefully, our seasonal members have already taken care of this before heading back to their respective home ports. This is especially important since the major hurricane forecasting centers are predicting an above average number of storms this season. Regardless of the actual number, it only takes one, as Hurricane Ian demonstrated.

So, in case you can't make it to the Hurricane Preparation seminar, I will offer some of the techniques I used on my backyard lift which enabled my boat to bear the full brunt of Hurricane Ian with no damage. The vessel is a 42' sport cruiser with a closed cockpit, weighing in at just over 23,000 lbs. with full fuel and freshwater tanks. The lift is four motors supported by eight pilings. The bunk is aluminum and the lift cradle itself is galvanized steel. After lowering the radio antenna, removing all canvas, lightweight cushions, and the dinghy, as well as emptying all the outside storage compartments, disconnecting from shore power and switching off all batteries, the boat is raised as high as possible to minimize the effect of any storm surge, as well as reduce the amount the lift will sway in high winds. If you have a lift canopy, be sure to remove the canopy canvas as well. Next, the lift cradle is secured to the dock pilings to actually prevent any sway from happening. The vessel is strapped down the lift cradle to keep it from blowing off in the wind or floating away in the event of a high storm surge.

To secure the cradle to the dock and strap the boat to the cradle, I use a commercially available product from SwingStoppers. And it worked perfectly! At about one percent of the cost of your vessel, it's one of the best investments you can make. Other similar products are available. High quality 5/8" or 3/4" rope can also be used to secure the lift cradle to the dock. To strap the boat to the cradle, use high grade DOT 2" ratchet straps (the kind used by truckers to secure loads) and high-quality stainless-steel ratchets. Depending on the size of your vessel, you can either attach the straps to the boat directly using the on-board cleats, as I do with mine. Or, for smaller boats, wrap the strap around both the boat and the cradle at the bow/cockpit and stern.

Here are some photographs of my set up before, during and after Ian. The only close call was the downed coconut palm near the bow of the boat. Fortunately, it never hit the boat directly, but did destroy my security flood light on the dock. And the storm surge inundated the entire dock electrical system, except for the lift remote control box and the lift motors themselves. All new wires, shore power tower, and lights had to be installed. But the boat was unscathed, and the cabin and engine room stayed dry. It just needed a thorough detailing when it was over.



The "during" photo is right around the time of peak storm surge. You can see that the boat looks like it's floating! On the left side near the chikee, you can barely see to top of the four-foot-high hand rail that goes around the dock. There is also a bar height table top under the chikee that is completely submerged.

And here's what happens when you don't secure your boat to the lift. One of my neighbors to the west failed to properly secure his boat (a 35' Express) to the lift and ended up on my other neighbor's seawall cap. It took a barge and two tugs from TowBoatUS to get the boat back in the water. Amazingly, it was still sea worthy.



So, with proper preparation, your boat can survive even the most vicious of storms (as long as a tree doesn't fall on it). If you'd like further information or have questions, please contact me at education@ccsaps.org.



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Scan and find your
next course or
seminar today!

America's Boating Course

ccsaps.org/abc-in-person-classes



Seminars

ccsaps.org/advanced-seminars



CCSAPS.ORG

Advanced Courses

ccsaps.org/advanced-classes



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron

Course and Seminar Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Looking for credit for your past accomplishments? By Barret Bonden

Are you a current or former member of the USCG Auxiliary? How about a holder of a USCG license? If you are, you can get credit for your training. According to Educational Department Notice No. 91 you are eligible for "Recognition of External Training and Achievements" from those organizations.

The memo states:

USCG Licenses

- Coast Guard Launch Operator will receive credit for the USPS ABC3 (8-hr) course.
- Coast Guard OUPV (Six-pack) and Coast Guard Master's License (25 tons or greater) will receive credit for the (8 hour) USPS America's Boating Course plus USPS Seamanship, Piloting, and Advanced Piloting courses.

USCG Auxiliary Member Training

- CGAUX Boating Skills and Seamanship or Sailing Skills and Seamanship will receive credit for the USPS Seamanship course.
- CGAUX Basic Coastal Navigation will receive credit for the USPS Piloting course.
- CGAUX Advanced Coastal Navigation will receive credit for the USPS Advanced Piloting course.
- CGAUX Instructor will receive credit for USPS Instructor Development

If you think you qualify for any of these items reach out to our SEO Neil Pignatano, at, education@ccsaps.org. Neil can help you get the recognition you have already earned!

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. **Barret just received certificates for USPS Seamanship, Piloting, and Advanced Piloting courses.**



ABC Class Graduates, April 24, 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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Manuel Ariza
 Maureen R. Blake
 John B. Bourke
 Marian A. Brenton
 Gary R. Brooks
 Richard C. Buechler
 David Chandler
 Steven C. Collins
 Douglas J. Doty
 Gary Farwick
 Ryan Fuller
 Sally Fuller
 Sean Fuller
 Mary J. Husby
 Johnny J. Joyce
 William J. Knight
 Constance Leege
 Jeff S. Maddy

Skip Marsh
 Carl J. McGrath
 David L. Milne
 Arlene T. Mure
 Linda Nilsen
 Per Nilsen
 K. Reeder
 Richard T. Rowe
 Azim Salmon
 Steven Salz
 Don Schmitt
 William Snow
 Linda Spadaccini
 Sharon K. Steele
 John F. Stubbs
 Debra Ternullo
 Carolyn L. Token
 Daniel J. Waters

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

May 2024

Day	Date	Name	Time	Place
Wed	1	SW Florida Boating Seminar	7:30-8:30 pm	Squadron Building
Thurs	2	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Fri	3	Weekdayers	10:00 am	Phuzzy's (Pine Island)
Mon	6	ABC Graduation and New Members Potluck	5:30-7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Mon	6	ABC class begins	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Tues	7	Entertainment Comm	12:30 pm	Rusty's
Tues	7	Cruise & Rendezvous meeting	10:30 am	Squadron Building
Thurs	9	General Membership Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Mon	13	Co-op Charting Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building, 1st flr
Wed	15	Hurricane Seminar	2:00 pm	Squadron Building
Thurs	23	Introduction to Navigation	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Fri	24	Monkey Bar Meet-Up	5:00 pm	Monkey Bar, 1428 Lafayette St., Cape Coral
Sat	TBD	Weekenders- date is weather dependent	TBD	TBD

June 2024

Tues	4	Entertainment Committee	12:30 pm	Rusty's
Thurs	6	Exec Comm Meeting	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Tues	11	Cruise & Rendezvous meeting	10:30 am	Squadron Building
Mon	17	Co-Op Charting Group Mtg	7:00 pm	Squadron Building
Tues	18	Sanibel Beach Boat Party	9:30 am	Sanibel Beach - meet at Mile Marker 96

July 2024

Wed	17	Catamaran Beach Shelling Cruise	9:30 am	Sweet Liberty Catamaran, Naples
-----	----	---------------------------------	---------	---------------------------------

CHECK OUT THESE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES AND GET INVOLVED!

IF YOU WISH TO RENT A ROOM AT THE SQUADRON BUILDING, PLEASE CONTACT THE RENTAL MANAGER, KATHRYN FERRELL AT RENTAL_MANAGER@CCSAPS.ORG

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



Member Michelle Dewitt has stepped up to be the administrator for a new group on our Facebook page. The group is Solo Boaters Cape Coral which exists to support our new solo boaters group in the club. You must be a member of the power squadron to join the FB group. The FB group will serve solo boaters by giving them a space to communicate with each other and plan boating events where someone might need a crew member. Thank you, Michelle!



Available on Amazon & at the Squadron Office

SQUADRON HELP WANTED

CERTIFIED VESSEL EXAMINERS

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

Contact: Craig Buechler buechlercraig@yahoo.com

EVENT SETUP

- With other team members, set up and take down chairs, tables (about once a month)

Contact: Marge Maciag margem5@gmail.com
Rick Clements retiredrick@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

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

Contact: Karen Collins: missmaui614@gmail.com

LIFEJACKET LOAN COORDINATOR

- Organize, manage and maintain the life jacket closet.

Contact: Jill Berger: adminofficer@ccsaps.org

SHORT TERM INSTRUCTORS FOR MARINE TOPICS

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

Contact Neil Pignatano: education@ccsaps.org

Executive Committee

Thumbnail Minutes, April 4, 2024

Secretary: All filings are up to date and there has been no additional feedback.

Treasurer: Income for March was fairly substantial, but we had to pay for our new building insurance, leaving us in a deficit position for the month. Additionally, the machines we use for credit card transactions are no longer supported by our banking institution, so change is necessary. Work arounds to support our need for receipts are in the works.

Education: April ABC is moving along, but the registrations for May are very limited. There is a possibility that May ABC will cancel and students will be asked to attend in September. The MUVIT simulator has arrived, but it is not compatible with our current laptops. Whether to proceed with a laptop or mini tower desktop is under consideration and a price/benefit analysis will be done. Chapman Award nominations for teaching excellence will be available in July and must be submitted by October. There are only 2 nominations allowed per District and each nomination must include 3 recommendations. Our squadron will be appealing to the National organization for a group award, since our ABC team is very deserving of the praise and should be recognized.

Executive Office: VSCs, Farmer's Market and CoOp charting all continue with their successful plans. The Solo Boaters Group had their first meeting and are planning a Facebook page for communication.

Administrative Office: Membership is at 455. Any squadron event is now scheduled in Ticket Leap. The Entertainment committee has completed a calendar of events for every month of the year, and will be posting upcoming events in the Buoy and on Ticket Leap. There is a current effort to reach out to local marinas and boating clubs to promote CCSAPS membership.

Commander: The District 22 meeting will be held in Punta Gorda next week. Several officers are planning to attend. The building manager brought forth a proposal for regular maintenance of our AC systems. The cost was discussed and a motion passed unanimously to purchase the contract.



It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of Marty Lafferty. A dear friend to Cape Coral Power Squadron. A kind, generous and beloved husband, father and grandfather, Marty Lafferty, of Amesbury, Massachusetts, passed away unexpectedly on April 5, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Sari Lafferty, children, and their spouses.

Marty grew up in Niskayuna, NY and developed a passion for directing, boating, and skiing that kept him busy every season for his entire life. Marty was professionally trained as a film and television producer-director, earning his MFA at the Yale School of Drama, and more recently made his passion for safe boating into his legacy educating others through America's Boating Channel.

Marty and Sari came to film in Cape Coral multiple times to make safety videos, most recently January 2023. Marty was a Past District Commander (P/D/C) and Advanced Pilot (AP) of the United States Power Squadrons, also known as America's Boating Club.

by Tessa Buechler, Chaplain



CCSAPS Boating Groups

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

WEEKENDERS & WEEKDAYERS by Ed Estes
Weekenders is a monthly outing group of the CCSAPS chaired by Scott Fergen, a Sail and Power Squadron member. The group is open to all members of the Squadron, however, passengers on a members' boat do not have to be members of the Squadron. It's a great way for Squadron members to take out friends and meet, exchange fellowship, improve boat handling skills with other boaters and for their boat guests, and learn about the activities of the Squadron. Contact Scott at weekenderboating@gmail.com.

For those wanting to avoid some of the weekend congestion on local waters, another Squadron group, the Weekdayers, chaired by Doug Brenton, also meets monthly with the same objective: rendezvous at a central location and venture out as a group, but, as the name implies, they gather on weekdays, usually Tuesdays or Thursdays, instead of Saturday. Contact Doug at dwbrenton@gmail.com.

Rendezvous locations and times for both Weekenders' and Weekdayers' locations vary depending on the destination, usually around 10:00a, and most vessels participating are back at their home docks between 2:00-3:00p. Vessels monitor their VHF radios at all times should conditions warrant a change in destination or to update skippers of docking conditions at their destination restaurants. For more information about either the Weekenders or Weekdayers or joining the Squadron, contact the CCSAPS at 239-549-9754 or webinfo@ccsaps.org

Weekender Trip to Boathouse 31

Despite some intermittent morning winds, the Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron's (CCSAPS) Weekender Group meet at Marker 68 on the southwest side of the Midpoint Bridge over the Caloosahatchee River on Saturday, April 13th for their monthly boating venture. The departure was delayed a few minutes as the boat captains discussed the river conditions and how rough the ride might be. An alternative destination was proposed in North Ft. Myers but as it turned out, the river cooperated, and the vessels were able to pick up to speeds above 20 miles an hour to their destination. This day, the destination was Boathouse 31 in Fort Myers, about an hour trek north on the Caloosahatchee River, past the Power Plant, and Manatee Park.

Tides were low and winds still present late morning when the group arrived at the restaurant for lunch, however, everyone assisted each other to provide for a safe docking of the vessels. Present in the group were five vessels, captained by Curt Collins, Ed Estes, Jerry Feldmen, Jeff Maddy and the group leader, Scott Fergen totaling 23 people. The restaurant staff were quick to set tables up for the group upon arrival and got drinks ordered as the group decided what to eat for lunch.

Weekdayer Trip to Boathouse 31

On Tuesday, April 23, the Weekdayer group met at marker # 64 to travel together to Boathouse 31 up the river. It was a lovely day so there was no need to discuss changes to the plan. We had seven boats in our floatilla and 21 people all together. We arrived a half hour early which gave us plenty of time to make sure our boats were well secured and to meet new people. The next Weekdayer outing will be to Phuzzy's on Pine Island in early May.



CCSAPS Boating Groups

FISHING GROUP

THE INVASIVE FISH SPECIES ARE HERE! by John D'Esposito

At the last meeting of the Fishing Group, the guest speaker was Michael Sipos, the Collier County Cooperative Marine Extension Agent, who is an expert in invasive species. Florida is ground zero for these pests, which have come here through a number of vectors, including the aquarium trade, aquaculture, intentional releases, hurricanes or through commerce. Most seem to enter on the East Coast of Florida, but, now, they are here on our coast. When I came to Cape Coral about 10 years ago, if they were here, there were only a few. Recently, I went out to my dock and noticed that my crab trap had fallen into the canal; when I picked it up; I found two fat Mayan cichlids inside, and this was with no bait! There are many tilapia in the canals, both fresh and saltwater.



Mayan Cichlid



Tilapia

Michael is a Fort Myers native, who grew up as “that weird lizard kid” and went on to study zoology at the University of Florida. Invasive species are non-native species that were introduced to a geographic area by humans and can do environmental, economic or human harm. Once they get an established self-producing population with multiple size populations, eradication is not possible, only remediation. For example, there are three separate species of invasive iguanas here.

The most notorious invasive fish is the lionfish, which is a venomous predator that will eat any fish or invertebrate that it can get in its mouth. Originally thought to have no predators here, we have seen evidence of large groupers, some sharks and eels eating them, but the lionfish population still spirals out of control. Only one species can effectively remove them...us. They were first found here in 1985, and came in through the aquarium trade. There are actually 20 or 30 different species of lionfish. They have venous spines on their back and big winglike fins. They can live for 10 to 15 years; the largest known one here was 3.77 pounds.

Invasives cost the US economy 120 billion dollars a year. Invasives are one of the leading causes of extinction; 400 of the 1500 species on the endangered species list are affected by them. Florida is uniquely positioned to welcome invasives because tourists bring loads of stuff; we have both a tropical and subtropical environment; there are 1800 miles of coastline; and we are a center of commerce, where 88% of floral imports and 55% of imported fruits



LIONFISH

and vegetables enter the country, sometimes bringing along unwanted guests. A peculiar cause of the flourishing of the invasive species is disturbed habitats, especially gated communities and HOA communities, where most native species are eradicated, allowing invasives to take over. HOA ponds are invasive hotbeds, and it is expected that the record-sized tilapia and cichlids will come from one of them in the future. As an example to show how successful invasives are, 43 of the 59 lizard species in Florida are invasives. Invasives are successful for a variety of reasons; the lack of natural predators, their ability to eat a wide variety of prey, their ability to live in different environments: salinity, temperature, water clarity, etc., and their ability to out hustle native species for prey.

Mayan cichlids came from the pet trade, and were first discovered in the wild in 1983. They grow up to 2.5 pounds, can live up to 7 years, and are good eating. They form nests, and are easily taken with a hook and line. There are between 10 and 12 species of cichlids in the Everglades; none are natives. Another similar pet trade escapee is the Oscar, which is also good eating, but is slimy. They are natives from the Amazon first found in the wild in 1960. The canals along US 41 and US 75 are infested with Oscars. They eat crustaceans and insects and will spawn when the water is between 82 and 91, which means they can spawn a lot in south Florida.

There are over 100 species of tilapia, with 6 of them living in Florida. Natives of Africa and the Middle East, they are easily fish farmed and got out of their farm ponds and into the canals. They can get quite large, but most are the size of oven mitts. I have seen a photo of an 11 pounder a kid took out of a canal! These are algae eaters, so must usually be taken with cast nets. I have caught tilapia on a hook and line with corn as bait. Catfish are voracious eaters that have escaped from the pet trade or were intentionally released by their owners. They are ubiquitous; 1 in 20 species of vertebrates are catfish. Armored catfish burrow into banks to lay eggs, which are protected at the entry by the male. They will eat a lot of things, but prefer small bivalves and algae.

Each year, Mr. Sipos and his partners run the Invasive Fish Roundup Tournament in the spring of the year. The fishing group fields a team, the Royal Reelers. In 2022, the angler teams brought in 3,413 fish weighing an aggregate of 1,884 pounds; last year's take was 5,639 fish weighing 2,549 pounds. The fish were used for research, were composted, and were used in filleting and cooking demonstrations. The Fishing Group members found this to be a wonderful presentation by Mr. Sipos.

Go out to your local canal, catch some of these pests, and do not release them. Report your sightings and catches on the “I’ve Got One” app.

KAYAK GROUP by Nancy Maddy



Sadly, April's kayak trip to Knight's Landing in Bokeelia was cancelled due to high winds. Join us Wednesday, May 22 9:30 a.m. at Gulf Coast Kayaks at Tarpon Point.

Gulf Coast Kayaks offers two hour single and tandem kayak rentals. Single Kayak Rental: \$35.00; Tandem Kayak Rental: \$50.00. Max Weight Capacity per rider may not exceed 275 Pounds

Explore the beautiful mangrove islands and creeks surrounding Tarpon Point Marina Cape Coral in your kayak rental. (PFD/Life Vest and Paddle included). Splash all you want or silently stalk tropical birds and other marine life! You may see Manatees, Dolphins, Eagles, Ospreys and Stingrays on your self guided kayak rental.

It's a nice paddle into Glover Bight, behind Rotary Park. We can also go from Tarpon Point up Jewfish Creek.

After a morning of paddling, we can eat lunch at the Nauti Mermaid.

What? CCSAPS Kayak Group paddle

When? Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Where? Gulf Coast Kayaks, 5971 Silver King Blvd G Dock, Cape Coral, FL 33914

Located at Marina Village at Tarpon Point (behind the Weston Hotel and The Nauti Mermaid Outdoor Bar).

Call (239) 283-1125 or click here to book a kayak:

https://www.gulfcoastkayak.com/kayak-rentals/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwlZixBhCoARIsAIC745C9a9VyzXRMXk-rCNzbH21bE2z7miQyJ4rE7a2dSOKNc9luqFqQuusaAsZyEALw_wcB

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

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 by Dennis Pearson

Our next season of ATON Verification Runs are starting in May. During the break between run seasons a review of all of the waterway channels included in all Run Routes was completed. Prior to any updates to our Run Routes, there were 8 Primary Routes with 6 Supplemental Routes. The Supplemental Routes included many private waterways outside of our core area and had not been visited for some years. Our core area is the waterways surrounding the city of Cape Coral. Channels that lead to Boat Ramps, Marinas, Restaurants, etc., were kept or added to the updated routes for this season which cover the same general area from the Franklin Lock to Cayo Costa. With all that in mind, the updated Routes include 10 Routes with 709 Aids and cover 134 miles of waterways. The Light List included in the Run Packets have been reworked to flow more in line with direction of travel in most cases. The updated Routes now provide for 20 ATON Verification Runs during the year and offers some additional opportunities for crew volunteers to a growing group. Some of these routes travel waterways that our members may not visit otherwise. Please contact Denny Pearson at coopcharting@ccsaps.org with any questions.

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 by Phil Kryger

Three boats made the trip to Boca Grande, the Nautical Bell, the Could Not Resist, and the y Knot. Everyone had dinner the first night at the Pink Elephant. We rented golf carts to explore Boca Grande and enjoyed Happy Hour cheese and crackers and cheese dip fish bites of grouper. The second night dinner was at Sisters. We all had a fun time.

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.

Phil Kryger 847-997-5683 (cell)

ppkryger@gmail.com

SOLO BOATERS by Tessa Buechler

AHOY SOLO BOATERS!

We had our second get together on Tuesday April 16th, the "5 o'clock somewhere" theme was enjoyed by all. News was shared that the group now has a Private group Face Book page under the current Squadron page; Americas Boating Club of Cape Coral. You will see the private group page option to join, Cape Coral Solo Boaters. This page is only open to Squadron members. Feel free to post crew requests, outing ideas, boating questions on the page and engage in this media community.

Our meeting date for May, has not been set yet. For more information please contact Tessa Buechler, Membership Involvement Phn 904-583-3298





*BE PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON!
DON'T WAIT UNTIL A HURRICANE WARNING TO SECURE YOUR BOAT!*

HURRICANE PREPARATION FOR BOATERS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2022 2:00 P.M.

**CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, ROOM 101
917 SE 47TH TERRACE CAPE CORAL 33904**

*PRESENTED BY AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB CAPE CORAL/
CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER SQUADRON*

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC




CLICK HERE TO RESERVE A SEAT:
[HTTPS://WWW.TICKETLEAP.EVENTS/TICKETS/CCSAPS/
HURRICANE-PREPARATION-FOR-BOATERS](https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/hurricane-preparation-for-boaters)



Member Involvement ! We're here for you!

This is a relatively new committee within squadron and one that is a vital part helping to build the future of our organization. We have a year-round focus to develop and implement ways and activities to involve all new and established members in the squadron. We spend time meeting and assisting new members meet other members, matching up member interests with groups and volunteer opportunities within our groups and to participate in squadron activities. Solo Boaters is a new group and starting in June we will resume monthly Member Socials. An announcement will be coming out shortly. Your input and suggestions for activities and events are welcomed as well as your time spent volunteering. We want you to feel welcomed and engaged with various opportunities to make new friends together at Squadron. Remember, "The more you do, the more people you will meet".

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



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

