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Where to Find What?

Cover Page	1
At The Helm	2-4
Donation Program	5
Executive Department	6
Education Department	7-8
Administrative Dept.	9-10
Mexican Night	11
Boating Report & Events	12-15
Secretary's Report	16
District 23 Picnic	17
Friends of CBSPS	18-19
Back Page	20

Membership Meetings

Tuesday 3 April @1900 (7 PM)
Tall Ships by Nancy Haslam

Tuesday 1 May @ 1900 (7 PM)
Mike Ferber on Cuba

Tuesday 5 June @ 1800 (6 PM)
Mexican Night

**Brevard Memorial Veterans Center
400 Sykes Creek Pkwy - Merritt Island
All the details on www.cbsps.org**



www.facebook.com/CocoaBeachSPS

**The Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron,
Central Brevard's Boating Club,**
one of 300 nationwide, is a non-profit organization
serving boaters' educational needs since 1967.

The United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club's mission is:
**To promote recreational boating safety through education, hands-on
training and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members.**

"Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends"

To join us, contact Membership@cbsps.org

AT THE HELM

Commander Jose Casals, AP-IN

(Page 1/3)



Greetings to all. I am truly honored with the privilege to serve as the 2018 commanding officer for the **Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of America's Boating Club**, on its 51th year since its establishment.

Our squadron's **Change of Watch** took place on Saturday February 10, 2018 and was well attended. My sincere appreciation to P/C Tom Courtney, AP-CN and P/C Susan Kneeland, SN who worked so hard for this memorable event; and congratulations to all awards recipients for their achievements.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our P/C Tom Courtney, AP-CN, which led our squadron through a very successful year. Thank you Tom for your dedication, time, personal commitment and all the help you provided to me and all squadron volunteers throughout the year. Your leadership kept our squadron sailing strong through its 50th year and pushed it vigorously into the future.

This year we have a great team of **Bridge Officers, Lt/C George Shapow, SN-IN, Lt/C Mike Glynn, JN, Lt/C Deb Henry, AP, Lt/C Carolyn Green, P, and Lt/C Marsha Kirkwood, S.** Together with their assistants, committee leaders and many volunteering members, I am confident that we will maintain the successes of the past and will further enhance our organization for generations to come.

Moving forward, we will market our organization as **America's Boating Club**, in line with USPS strategy. Quoting our 2017 Chief Commander, Louie Ojeda, **America's Boating Club "is a more fitting label for who we are and what we do. It is a more descriptive, modern, and dynamic title that encompasses boating fun, learning boating skills, and working to improve the boating experience"**. The legal name is still the United States Power Squadrons, but, it will be marketed as America's Boating Club and tailored to the local squadrons.



AT THE HELM

Commander Jose Casals, AP-IN
(page 2/3)



So, at this time we will show both names in addition to Central Brevard's Boating Club, targeted to attract boaters from our local communities.

Please log into our web site, WWW.CBSPS.ORG for additional information about America's Boating Club.

I believe that our organization continues to be strong because our members share a common vision and desire to learn and promote safe boating skills. They enjoy with boating friends various on-the-water events as well as social and civic activities. Our Boating Club generate long term friendships and the genuine desire to help each other by volunteering time and effort to keep us marching forward.

Our Education Department is already very active providing many boating courses. Some of the students join us right after the classes as they realize the importance of mastering their safe boating skills. This year I want to increase our efforts in training the next generation of boaters. As highly recommended to me by one of our senior members, P/C Edward Kydd, SN, we must reach out to our School System and Educators and bring the knowledge of safe boating to our youth. With that goal, I want to join forces with Banana River Sail and Power Squadron and expand their highly successful **Junior Safe Boating Course** into our local area. In addition, I want to find any opportunity available to teach safe boating to our youth. Over time, this effort will pay off, and will save many lives, as the next generation of boaters will know how to operate a boat safely, how to prevent accidents and how to safely enjoy our beautiful maritime environment. We will be proactive in developing a community of safe boaters.

Our Boating and Entertainment Committees are actively planning new and exciting events in addition to the traditional ones, and the **Coco-Nauts Committee** continues their commitment to help our Boating Club achieve its mission. In addition, an ad-hoc committee has been formed to plan and execute two extraordinary events scheduled in 2018, the **D23 Spring Picnic** and the **D23 Fall Conference**. More information will be disseminated soon by email, on our Web Page and on Facebook.

AT THE HELM

Commander Jose Casals, AP-IN
(page 3/3)



Our Vessel Safety Check Program is now covering the entire Brevard County. I expect that our Boating Club Vessel Examiners will complete well over 200 VSC's by the year end. We will continue our civic support to the Brevard County Veterans Memorial Center by volunteering our time at the museum and the library.

And we will seize opportunities to gain new members and retain existing ones in order to achieve **our goal of 220 members in 2020**. We will execute a dynamic Public Relations strategy with expanded visibility of our mission within our local communities; participation in a variety of community activities to inform the public; distributing promotional literature and products locally; partnering with local businesses; promoting and conducting fun activities suitable for all kinds of boaters, including sailors, power boaters of all sizes, kayakers, canoers, paddlers and others.

Finally, I welcome feedback and recommendations from anyone. Please do not hesitate to **contact me by email at cdr@cbsps.org** should you have a recommendation, question or desire to help. Thank you for your continuing support and active participation in our Boating Club events.

I wish everyone a Safe Boating year!

EXTRA! EXTRA!
Just off the presses!

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Triple the donation on your first order!

From Mar 12 – 31, Amazon will triple the donation rate to 1.5% on your first eligible purchase at smile.amazon.com.

Please see next page for details (Editor)



Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron, Central Brevard's Boating Club



New Donation Program

(Duplicated from the Spring 2017 newsletter)

Many of you probably use Amazon.com, as I do, to shop for many things. I just registered for a relatively new program of theirs called **Amazon Smile** which donates 0.5% of most purchases to a charity of your choice at no cost to the buyer.

While doing so, I found out that one can list one's own Power Squadron as a non-profit charity; so I took the liberty to add Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron as my charity of choice. From now on, I log into Smile.amazon.com instead of Amazon.com to buy stuff exactly as before. I have replaced Amazon.com to Smile.amazon.com in my favorites so it is automatic.

All one has to do is register into the program as follows:

Go to Smile.Amazon.com

Click on "Getting Started"; a page comes up asking you to select a charity.

Go to "Or pick your own charitable organization", type "United states Power Squadrons, Merritt" & enter.

Click on "Select" and go shopping.

Et voila... from now on, CBSPS will get a donation every time we buy at Smile.Amazon.com

Hope many of you will do this for the betterment of our squadron.

All the Best,
Gerard
Editor

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander George Shapow, SN-IN




While I am still trying to figure out my new XO job, I can report that new Boat Show Chairpersons are hard at work. Please volunteer for the various time slots to help out at the Harbortown Flea Market on 24 & 25 March and at the Boater's Exchange Boat Show on 21 April. It's a small commitment but it really helps promote our squadron and finding new members.

Our Vessel Examiners have already done over 50 Vessel Safety Checks. Please contact P/C Bob Rutigliano, SN-IN at VSC@cbpsps.org to get your own vessel and your friends vessel inspected. It may save lives.

Our Boat Ramp Signs Committee has now 5 new signs up replacing some very old and grungy ones. The latest is at the Titusville Marina thanks to P/C Bob Rutigliano. Look forward to new signs at Ramp Road in Cocoa Beach and Griffis Landing in Merritt Island.

As my wrist improves I'll also be more visible at outside events. If you have any suggestion, please let me know; email, tweet or in person.

The new boat ramp sign.
Look for them throughout
Central Brevard County
and Titusville.







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America's Boating Course
USCG & State of Florida approved

Free USCG Vessel Safety Checks
Many Fun Events On & Off the Water

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Central Brevard's Boating Club
WWW.CBSPS.ORG

SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Mike Glynn, AP
(page 1/2)



As I begin to take on the role of your new Squadron Education Officer, I'd like to take a moment to thank those who persuaded me and prepared me to take on this assignment. The Persuader-in-Chief was P/C and long time SEO, Sandy Schoonmaker. After a few phone calls and very complimentary emails, which she really might have intended to go to someone else, Sandy finally persuaded me to take on this role. I only hope I do this job half as well as she has. I also want to thank P/C and immediately past SEO, John FitzGerald. It is amazing how detailed and well-organized John is. He spent hours explaining all the various SEO computer files and most importantly he showed me how to use the Squadron's data base of members and the USPS Education Department's system for setting up classes, enrolling students, ordering books and exams, etc. After a few panicky phone calls, I think I've finally got it, for the most part. I'd also like to thank P/C and former SEO Gerard Meunier, for all the advice he has given me. Lastly, I want to sincerely thank our "senior" most member, P/C and former SEO Ed Kydd. Ed took the time to send me a letter along with a 2003 print out of our squadron's membership roster. He explained in his letter how he and his assistant used this data base to contact each member that was eligible to take an upcoming class. Since email was in its infancy back then, Ed and his assistant contacted members through phone calls, which they felt was more personal and would produce better results. I truly appreciate Ed's advice and will follow through on his suggestion.

I am most grateful for all the advice and support that squadron members have given me. Jim Green, my ASEO, and I will do the best that we can. I am sure there will be a few hiccups along the way, but I know helping hands are just a phone call away. One of the nicest things I've come to learn about our squadron is the fact that no matter what role anyone steps up to do, there are plenty of other members who will lend their time and experience to make sure the new person succeeds in his role. That's not only comforting to know, it is something that makes our squadron special.

Boating Education

SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Mike Glynn, AP
(page 2/2)



Here's a brief update on the courses completed by our Squadron in 2017. A total of six courses were offered: Seamanship; Piloting; Navigation; Marine Electrical Systems; Weather; and Cruise planning. Thirty-nine members enrolled in these classes and to date, thirty-six have passed and three did not test. That's a 100% pass rate. Kudos to our dedicated staff of instructors and students for doing so well. In addition to these courses, the ABC course was held on four separate occasions. A total of thirty-six members of the public were educated in basic boating knowledge and earned their Florida Safe Boater's ID card.

We started off the current year with Cruise Planning. Thirteen students are in this class and will take their test on March 5th. The Piloting course is also underway with five students registered. The Sail course starts on March 5th with four students enrolled. In April we will offer Advanced Piloting, followed by Engine Maintenance in May. In September we will offer Seamanship, Junior Navigation and Marine Communication Systems. Plenty of good courses to choose from! We will also be presenting the ABC course on Saturday, May 5th at Port Canaveral Yacht Club. Please let your neighbors and friends know about this course. We will hold another ABC course on September 8th at Port Canaveral Yacht Club.

If you do not have the time to take one of our traditional eight or nine-week classroom courses, I strongly urge you to visit the Educational Department's home page on the USPS.org website. Once you sign in with your member ID#, go to the Educational Department page. As you scroll over the topics on the left, you'll find a lot of interesting information. On-Line Courses under "Find a Course" is where you will find out all the various online seminars and webinars that USPS offers. Under "Digital Media Library", you will find out all sorts of free videos such as anchoring, life jackets, man overboard, visual distress signals, mooring, and many more topics. And under "Apps for Boaters", you will find many useful boating related apps for your phone or tablet. There is a wealth of boating educational material available to you on that home page. I urge you to check it out!

Please take advantage of all the educational opportunities, classroom or online, that your Squadron and USPS has to offer. It is one of the main benefits of being a member of United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club!

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Deb Henry, AP

(page 1/2)



It's hard to believe that I am the AO of this Squadron, since I am so new to it! I really want to thank George Shapow, Tom Courtney, Jose Casals and Sandy Schoonmaker for helping me step into this new role. Without their guidance, I would be completely overwhelmed by the number of activities that we are so fortunate to plan! I am thrilled that Tony Luciani, another fairly new member has agreed to be my assistant and has some great ideas regarding how we can help other members prep for local bad weather events.

I also want to thank the following Committee Chairs:

- Sandy Schoonmaker for stepping up to take on the Membership Chair and Mentoring Program along with the ABC Class and Operations Training. Having all these areas coordinated by one person should make the new member experience much better!
- Duane Balkema is continuing as Boating Chair, planning some great activities.
- Doris Valentine has graciously volunteered to Chair the Entertainment Committee with Tom Courtney's help.
- Randy Johnson has volunteered to lineup meeting speakers and Pam Johnson is continuing to "Get the word out" about events for me and the rest of the Bridge!

My goal this year is to provide better communications to all our members about boating, entertainment, meeting and membership events and happenings. Some info through the newsletter for sure, but also through the website, phone calls and flyers. Please check our website periodically for event updates! I distributed a survey to discover what members want to do and we are incorporating some of your ideas!

First off, we're shaking up the meeting food events a bit. Once a quarter refreshments will include wine, cheese, crackers and some fruit. A small donation of about \$2.00 per person is the estimated cost. April will be our first run. We will cookout hot dogs and hamburgers at the May meeting. Buns, condiments, and a side will be provided. Cost for this pre-meeting "meal" will be \$3.00 per hamburger and \$2.00 per hotdog. We'll evaluate whether we continue after the May meeting! Instead of Pizza Night in June, we're doing a Mexican theme dinner meeting (see the flyer I this newsletter for details).

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Deb Henry, AP

(page 2/2)



Planned upcoming events are:

District 23 Spring Conference - Daytona Beach	23-25 March
Dragon Point Raft up	21 April
Cocoa Beach SPS hosts District 23 Picnic - Titusville	12 May
Blessing of the Fleet—TBD	19 May
Overnight at Capt. Hiram's	23 June

We are still adding events to the schedule. We are also finding that we may need to be flexible—Hurricane Irma damaged many areas where we have held events. Blessing of the Fleet can be done off of Lee Wenner Park, but the picnic is iffy, so we are still trying to develop a plan. The EFSU Planetarium was damaged and the re-opening date is unknown.

Still in Planning:

JB's Fish Camp in New Smyrna Beach- 21 July; Scavenger Hunt-18 August; Raft up at the Island on the Indian River side of the Barge Canal -15 September; NASA Causeway Raftup-20 October; Marker 21-17 November; Harvest Party in November; Christmas Boat Parade and Holidays Party in December.

We are also researching other possibilities.

Welcome to our 2018 new members

First Name	Last Name	Date Joined	Home Base	Boat Name	Boat Type
Krista	Siddall	2/1/2018	Cocoa Beach		Power
Brian	Siddall	2/1/2018	Cocoa Beach		Power
Deborah	Wolfenbarger	2/1/2018	Merritt Island		Power
Randal	Wolfenbarger	2/1/2018	Merritt Island		Power
Dick	Johnston	02/20/2018	Cocoa Beach	None	
John	Tweedy	02/24/2018	Merritt Island	Sue Marie	29' Trawler



**Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron,
Central Brevard's Boating Club**



MEXICAN NIGHT

TUESDAY 5 JUNE 2018 AT 1800 (6 PM)

BRING YOUR FAVORITE TEX MEX OR TRUE MEXICAN DISH OR CASSEROLE

We'll provide salsa, sour cream and cheese
Soft drinks and water

FREE



SEE YOU THERE!



Boating Report

Past Commander Duane L. Balkema, AP

RECENT EVENTS: *(see pictures under Photo Gallery at www.cbsps.org)*

Our latest event was the Cruise to Samsons Island Park on Grand Canal, Satellite Beach. We had 6 boats, with Bill Ellis on Cyprian II, as the anchor boat, arriving first and taking up 42' of dock space. Others were Tom & Robin Courtney on Jersey Girl, the Hoffmans on Next Adventure, the Rutiglianos on Float Plan and a few others. About 16 of us total. A beautiful day and it happened to be the day Satellite Beach had their Island Park Open House.

NEW EVENTS:

Saturday, 10 March, 2018: "Kayak Cruise out of Ramp Road Park" Cocoa Beach South at 1100. The cruise should wear everyone out by 12:30 and we can eat in the park as you wish. It isn't a big park.

Saturday, 28 April, 2018: "Cruise To & Raft-Up at Dragon Point" Some may want to overnight on this one. Again see the flyer in the Soundings. Margie and I overnighted the last outing there with 2 other boats, Hoffmans & Fitzgeralds. It was a lot of fun. See page 13.

Saturday, 19 May, 2018: "Blessing of The Fleet" which joins Safe Boating Week. As everyone is aware, we are very committed to Safe Boating. More details are forthcoming on the Blessing as it is still in planning. The Lee Wenner Park suffered severe damage and the pavilion is not available, thus ending our chances to meet there following the Blessing as in previous years. See page 14 and look for updates at cbsps.org or via email.

Saturday, 23 June, 2018: "Cruise to Captain Hiram's" This is always a popular favorite. Don't miss it. See page 15.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

P/C Gerard Meunier's new Pontoon Boat may be ready for the Blessing which, if he can make it, should ensure a good year on the water.

(Editor's comment: he would very much like that and progress has been steady but very slow. Don't bet on a favorable outcome just yet!)

Do you have a special idea for a Boating Event?

Please contact Duane Balkema at 321 452-5892 or any Squadron Officer.



***DRAGON POINT
RAFT UP/OVERNIGHT TRIP***



***WHERE: Indian River, West of the
South End of Merritt Island***

Lat:28.145N, Lo: -80.607W

WHEN: Saturday 21 APRIL 2018

TIME: Raft Up By 1:00 PM

(Arrange departure point and time accordingly)

LETS EAT: 1:30 PM

(Several people will have grills)

***DEPARTURE: Late PM or
Spend The Night On The Hook***

CONTACT: Duane Balkema @ (321)452-5892

or DBalk17@CFL.RR.COM



**2018 SPACE COAST
BLESSING OF THE FLEET
AND PICNIC AT TBD**



The 2018 Blessing of the Fleet will include 2 squadrons --Banana River and Cocoa Beach as well as previous Titusville members. All Boaters May Participate!

**COME HAVE YOUR BOATS BLESSED
FOR A TROUBLE FREE BOATING SEASON!**

WHERE: TBD

DATE: Saturday, 19 May 2018

TIME: 11:00 AM (Arrive at 10:30 AM)

FEE: NONE. Meet for lunch afterward at TBD

At 10:30 Am boats will circle up on **XXXXXXXXXX**.
Tune VHF radios to Channel 71 and wait for instructions.
Maintain spacing of 50 to 100 feet between boats.
As you pass the Pastor,
give your vessel name and crew over VHF 71.

Any questions please contact Duane Balkema @
dbalk17@cfl.rr.com or 321-452-5892.



Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron, Central Brevard's Boating Club



2018 CRUISE TO CAPTAIN HIRAMS



1580 US Hwy 1
Sebastian, Florida 32598
772-388-8588

When: 23 June, 2018

Plan on arriving at 1600 Hrs.

Make your own arraignments at the Hotel/Dock,

Hotel rate is \$135 per night

(Mention Tomc18 to get this rate)

10 rooms, minimum, guaranteed at this rate

Book early to get a slip for the night.

Dockage is \$1/foot overnight (\$10.00 extra if shore power is needed). No charge for dockage if you are not staying over. There are a variety of slips for boats from 16' to 50'. The beam on slips is 15' and the draft is 4' of water.

Details: Cocktail party beginning at 1600 hrs.

Eat together at Captains Hiram's Restaurant at 1900 Hrs.

Then party the night away at their Sandbar.

COME BY LAND OR BY SEA, RAIN OR SHINE

Contact Tom Courtney @ 407-276-6893

SECRETARY**Lieutenant Commander Carolyn Green, P**

Happy Birthday to all the Spring chicks!

My husband Jim and I joined CBSPS in 2006. We sailed our 30 foot sailboat from NC to Florida. For the last couple of years, I have taken 3 months at a time off from my nursing job and we have taken sailing trips up and down the Florida East Coast first to Key Largo then to Boot Key Harbor in Marathon. Last September, we moved ashore to an apartment on Merritt Island. Our boat "Lady Longlegs" is patiently awaiting our next adventure.

Our beloved Historian, Denise Stone, is stepping down from the Historian position. Denise has made such beautiful scrapbooks for our Squadron over the years. She will truly be missed in this capacity. We are hoping someone in the Squadron, maybe a new member, maybe a seasoned one, would like to step up and take on the task of following in Denise's footsteps. I am positive Denise would be willing to be a mentor for the new Historian. Please get in touch with me or anyone on the Bridge to ask about this position.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and fun boating season with lots of opportunities to get out on the water. I am looking forward to getting to know more of the membership and find out from you what you would like to see happening in our community of members, and how we all can work together to make this our most successful year yet!

Happy Boating!

**If you have any changes to your e-mail, address, etc.
please send them to me at:**

Secretary@cbsps.org

Thank you

DISTRICT 23 SPRING PICNIC

Saturday, May 12, 2018

Sand Point Park
01 North Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL 32796
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: Adult = \$10.00
Children under 12 = \$5.00



**BBQ CHICKEN
HAMBURGERS
HOT DOGS
CORN ON THE COB
BAKED BEANS
POTATO SALAD
CABBAGE SLAW
BOTTLED WATER /
SOFT DRINKS
DESSERT
(ALL INCLUSIVE)**

8:00 – SET UP & CREW BREAKFAST

10:00 – KAYAK RACE SIGN IN

10:30 – KAYAK RACE

**11:00 - LINE HEAVING
CORN HOLE**

12:30 – LUNCH

1:30 – AWARDS, RAFFLE & AUCTION




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Submit to: Editor@cbsps.org

Soundings on the Web:
www.cbsps.org/Soundings.html

SOUNDINGS DEADLINE:
1st Friday of March, June, September & December



Spring
2018
Issue

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**CBSPS members are invited
to meet and eat**

**each Wednesday at 1130
at The Cozy Corner Café**

**2425 N. Courtenay Pkwy
Merritt Island, FL**

Breakfast & light lunches available.



Got your Vessel Safety Check?

Our Vessel Examiners are awaiting your call.
Find their names, phones & locations at:

www.cbsps.org/VSC.html or vsc@cbsps.org