



Official Publication of the Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron - Unit of the United States Power Squadron ® District 23 Sail and Power Boating

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General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2008 @ 1900

Brevard Veterans Center

400 Sykes Creek, Pkwy., Merritt Island, FL

Doris Valentine's African Safari

Our own Lt Doris Valentine will be the program speaker for the April General Membership Meeting. Doris will provide a DVD presentation about her recent trip to Africa and will share the highlights and her experiences while there.

Attention on Deck

Please remember our senior power squadron members who would like to attend our monthly meetings and/or functions that may need a ride. If you know of a friend or neighbor that might be in need of a ride please make yourself available to accommodate them.

Our Soundings can be found online @ www.cbps.us by clicking on the link that says "Shortcut to this month's Soundings."

At our March General Membership a new member was sworn in, Patricia O'Brien. Everyone please welcome her with "open arms!"

THE BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander

Cdr J. P. Longway, III, P
449-9037

jp13x@yahoo.com

Executive Officer

Lt/C Lance Vandenberg, P
452-2514

lancere@bellsouth.net

Administrative Officer

Lt/C James A. Green, P
412-2239

captain@tencom.us

Squadron Educational Officer

P/D/C Fred P. Adame, AP
635-9455

fredadame@mac.com

Secretary

Lt/C Marilyn Flanigan, P
452-4602

bobmar2215@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Lt/C Marsha Kirkwood
433-0085

celticred3@cfl.rr.com

Soundings

Editor

Lt Debra Burleson
454-3171

debra.burleson@yahoo.com

Advertising Sales

P/C Duane Balkema, AP
452-5892

DBalk17@cfl.rr.com

Chairman, Distribution

Lt Dee Neve, P
784-1513

nurseneve@yahoo.com

Mailing Committee

Lt Johan W. Neve, P

Photographer

Lt Trent S. Milliken, P

SOUNDINGS DEADLINE:

THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH

We welcome comments, boating stories and any articles of interest you'd like to submit...

E:Mail an Attachment to debra.burleson@yahoo.com

AT THE HELM

Commander J. P. Longway, III, P



Your new Bridge Officers and their staffs, as well as the Executive Committee, have been extremely busy identifying, planning and implementing many actions to effect the continuation of the Squadron's operations. This has meant numerous meetings to unite with one another and continue moving in the right direction on behalf of the membership. I am extremely pleased and satisfied with the commitment and progress made thus far by these members who have volunteered to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities from past officers, assistants, members at large and chairpersons/coordinators.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a special "Thank You" to P/C Mike Stone and his mate Lt Denise Stone for being so gracious and helpful to Donna and I, in providing much information, data, advice and lessons learned both prior to and after the Change of Watch. Not only has this made us feel comfortable in our new roles, but more confident that we are up to performing the duties and accepting the challenges ahead.

Additionally, lots of appreciation and kudos to our "Lovely Bunch of Coco-Nauts" for the many, many things that they do and provide in support of the Squadron's operations. Their efforts and functions are always successful, fun and financially rewarding as well. This is evident in the monies that are gifted to the Squadron yearly. This auxiliary is an exceptionally valuable asset of the Squadron. Thank you ladies for continuing to do a "job well done".

I always feel obligated to show my appreciation for those many members who step forward and accept and carry out the many duties necessary to ensure that we are successful in the operation of the Squadron. Some are very visible in what it is they are doing, and in the case of others they are behind the scenes performing their responsibilities, i.e., keeping our DB2000 information current and accurate, maintaining a worthwhile Website, developing the monthly Soundings, reproducing, labeling and mailing the monthly newsletter, performing vessel safety examinations, arranging our upcoming boating and fraternal events, instructing members and non-members in the boating safety and navigational skills, keeping us financially and ethically sound, preparing Squadron information/forums for public awareness in local publications, libraries, marinas, boat shows. etc., lining up enlightening speakers for membership meetings, finding the means to solicit potential candidates for new membership, ensuring the availability of refreshments for our monthly meetings, compiling and submitting merit marks, and the beat goes on, and on and on. This is by no means a complete list of all the many duties that are being performed by so many others, but is my attempt to bring to your attention that there is something happening on a daily basis that contributes to the Squadron's operation.

Donna and I are looking forward to the upcoming D23 Spring Conference in Ocala and representing the Squadron along with the other Cocoa Beach attendees. Plans are also underway to discuss further partnering with the Banana River & Titusville Squadrons in hopes of holding joint activities & events.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt/C Lance H. VandeBerg, P



Our vessel examiners have completed 60 inspections so far this year. We are off to a great start. Keep up the good work. There are two new inspectors being certified.

There may be a Co-op Charting seminar offered sometime this year. If you are interested in attending please let Lt. Robert Schaefer know.

There are printed labels available with our name, web site, and phone number. Let me know if you need any for printed hand out materials.

Public Relations is currently preparing the press releases for the spring Boat Smart courses.

We have filled all the positions for the Harbor Town Flea Market & Boat Show scheduled for April 5th & 6th. Anyone else interested in helping should contact Lt George Guerrero (783-4940).

SEO REPORT

P/D/C Fred P. Adame, SN



Your Educational Department efforts are well underway .The Advanced Piloting course began on Wednesday, 23 January, in the Brevard Central Library in Cocoa. The course is being taught by Lt Jim O'Malley, AP, and now has four members enrolled.

While we're talking about AP, I should mention that our goal is to have the majority of members earn the Educational Proficiency Award. This is awarded to members who have completed all Advanced Grade courses through AP and any three Elective Courses. The award consists of a certificate and a "gold line" under the grade insignia on the uniform.

One of those Elective Courses is Weather. This course began Monday, 28 January, at Wuesthoff Hospital, and is being taught by P/R/C Dick Schnoor, SN, with Jane assisting. There are currently 11 students enrolled and the first module exam will be completed by the time you read this.

Navigation is steaming along on Monday afternoons at the Cocoa Library. We have five, hard working students who are now trying figured out what time it is: LMT, LAT, GMT or ZT. One student, P/D/C Les Tribout, AP, just completed his JN sight folder which was reviewed and checked by P/C George Hess, SN. (This is quite a task in itself.) When National accepts this sight folder, Les will have completed all the requirements for the grade of Junior Navigator. We'll have an additional N student in a few weeks. P/C Bruce Wade, JN, from Titusville squadron, is flying in from his cabin on Lake Tahoe. He was part of our last JN course and wants to complete N with his JN classmates.

Our Next course on the horizon is the public Boat Smart course which will start on Wednesday, 14 May, at Cape Canaveral Hospital. The course will consist of three consecutive Wednesdays of instruction with an exam on the fourth Wednesday. Please tell your boating friends about it and encourage them to attend. We've found that word-of-mouth is one of the more effective means of advertising the course.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt/C Jim Green, P



At the March membership meeting we introduced Mark and Mona Chatelain as our new refreshment committee coordinators. Please support them by signing up to provide snacks for our upcoming meetings.

April's boating activity will be: "The Ski Island Landing Hot Dog Roast" on Saturday 26 April 1200-1300 Fire Provided-Social until 1500. This will be a great opportunity to knock off a few barnacles from your boat and get together with friends. Call Duane Balkema (452-5892) to register, or use the sign-up sheet at the April general membership meeting. Bring your own food, drinks, plates, utensils, etc. Suggestions for food would be steaks, hot-dogs, hamburgers, sausages and of course your condiments.

Location: Spoil Island 1/10 mi. NNE of Hwy 528 Bridge on Banana River, N of ships channel going into Canaveral Locks. The boating committee will get there early to stake out some territory on the island and try to hold it for us. Come early if you can. Smaller boats can land on the beach sand and larger yachts can do the same or anchor off shore and call for a ride to island. Boats attending the event should use channel 67.

The ANNUAL HARBORTOWN "MARINE FLEA MARKET & BOAT SHOW" is expected to be held April 5th & 6th. As in the past, our squadron will maintain a booth to promote squadron activities and provide boat inspections. Members are needed to man the booth. A sign-up sheet will be available for volunteers. Lt George Guerro, (783-4940) will be the point of contact.

The guest speaker for our May general membership meeting will be Earl Lamar from Cocoa. He currently works as a bridge tender, and is a native of Brevard County. In 1980 he started construction on a sailboat, which he launched in 1990 and the circum-navigated the Caribbean with his wife. Earl will tell us how he built his boat

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Lt/C Marilyn Flanigan, P



Our "Thanks To Our Sponsors" list could use a few more sponsors. This donation, helps with the printing and mailings of "The Soundings." There is no set amount to donate toward the cause, but any monetary amount annually, will help defray the costs of publishing our newsletter. Your gracious donation, will be due the same month, you donated originally unless, you elect not to sponsor future publications of The Soundings. when your sponsorship becomes renewable. When your sponsorship date becomes renewable, your name will have ** before your name to remind you.

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COCO-NAUTS CORNER
Lt Doris Valentine, President

Our March meeting was very successful! We had 20 members and 7 husbands attending and listening to our guest speaker, author Diane Marcum who fascinated the audience with her knowledge of the history on Brevard County. Many of the members purchased her recent book which she personally signed for each individual.

We are looking forward to our FUNDRAISER CARD-GAME/LUNCHEON on Saturday, April 12th to be held at Cocoa Beach Community Church..... Tickets are \$15 and we hope everyone can attend. Husbands and other guests are invited. Through the efforts of Marion Sweigart, and several others, we have fabulous door prizes!! If you can't make the luncheon, please still buy a ticket!!! It's for a GOOD cause. Our Treasurer, Marion Sweigart is in charge of ticket selling so please contact her.

Our next meeting will be in the new building at Cocoa Beach Library on April 9th at which time we expect to coordinate all of our efforts for the fund raiser which will be three days later.

We have several new members who have joined the Coco-nauts in the past several months and we would like to say "WELCOME!" at this time to:

- MONA CHATELAINE**
- CAROLYN GREEN**
- MARSHA KIRKWOOD**
- MILLIE KIRKWOOD**
- PATRICIA O'BRIEN**
- FRANCESCA RAGUSA**



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:

Check the web site and your email for updates!

MARCH:

- 15 - Saturday, 1130-Meet the Bridge, Merritt Island Kiwanis Park off Hwy 520**
- 25 - Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Meeting, Merritt Island Library**
- 28 to 30 - Fri to Sun, D23 Conference & Change of Watch, Ocala, FL**

APRIL:

- 01 - Tuesday, 1900, CBS& PS General Membership Meeting, Brevard Veterans Center**
- 05 & 6 - Saturday, 0800 to 1700, Harbor Town Flea Market & Boat Show**
- 09 - Wednesday, 1130 Coco-Nauts Brown Bag Luncheon, Cocoa Beach Library (New Bldg)**
- 12 - Saturday, 1030, Coco-Nauts Card Party, Community Church, Cocoa Beach**
- 22 - Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Meeting, Merritt Island Library**
- 26 - Saturday, TBD, Ski Island Raft Up, North of Port Canaveral Locks**

MAY:

- 01 - Thursday, 1800, BCC Planetarium "Living Seas" IMAX movie**
- 06 - Tuesday, 1900, CBS&PS General Membership Meeting, Brevard Veterans Center**
- 10 - Saturday, 1100, D23 Picnic Rendezvous & Council, Titusville, FL**
- 14 - Wednesday, 1900, Boat Smart course begins at Cape Canaveral Hospital**
- 14 - Wednesday, 1130, Coco-Nauts Brown Bag Luncheon, Merritt Island Library**
- 18 - Saturday, 1100, Blessing of the Fleet- Joint w/Banana River West of Dragon Point**
- 27- Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Mtg., Merritt Island Library**

JUNE:

- 03 - Tuesday, 1900, CBS&PS General Membership Meeting, Brevard Veterans Center**
- 04 - Wednesday, 1900, Boat Smart Examination, Cape Canaveral Hospital**
- 14 - Saturday, 1030, Coco-nauts Sun Cruz Casino Cruise**
- 24 - Tuesday, 1830, Executive Board Meeting, Merritt Island Library**
- 28 - Saturday, 1100 CBS&PS Indian River Cruise & Rendezvous @ Chowders**

Note:

CBS&PS members are invited to meet and eat each Wednesday at 1130 at the Cozy Corner Café at 2425 N. Courtenay Pkwy. Breakfast and light lunches are available.

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(** = Up for renewal)

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**2008 Cocoa Beach Sail & Power
Squadron Boating Schedule**

	Event	Date	Day
1	*Ski Island Landing & Hot Dog Roast	26-Apr	Sat
2	Traditional Blessing of the Fleet	18-May	Sat
3	Indian River Cruise to Chowders	28-Jun	Sat
4	Cocoa Fireworks raft up	4-Jul	Fri
5	Cruise/drive to Cocoa Beach Pavilion at CB Country Club	16 Aug	Sat/ Sun
6	Conch Key Grill Cruise & Party Indian River / US1 South	20-Sep	Sat
7	Melbourne Harbor Cruise & Overnight for Weekend	24-26 Oct	Fri-Sun
8	Old Florida Grill & Cruise Party Frontenac	22-Nov	Sat
9	Sunset Café Cruise	6-Dec	Sat
10	Samson Island Park off Grand Canal-Satellite Beach	24-Jan	Sat

Co-Chairmen Duane Balkema 452-5892 &
 Duane McConkey 454-6841

BLOOD DONATION

**The next blood donation will be on 30 April at 0900 at the Blood Center on US Hwy. #1.
 All donations are appreciated!!!!**



Galaxy 23

From the District Bridge Outgoing D/C Donald C. Clark, JN

It seems such a short while ago that I was thanking you for electing me to lead D 23 as the District Commander. I again thank you for the experience and have only one regret and that is that the time was much too short. But, I will now be the “Junior”. I have tried to emphasize to you, without panic, that the USPS is in critical times. The membership continues to decline and we can not continue in a “business as usual” mode and survive. I applaud my own squadron, Harris Chain, for recognizing this and charting a new course of change that has led to a rather spectacular rate of growth. What’s the answer? Recognition of the problem and energetic pursuit of the task at hand.

Early on, I said that I wanted to place emphasis on the Squadron Commander and challenge these commanders “to be all they can be and look for opportunities to move the district ahead”. With a few exceptions, we got that started. Leadership is still the key. With a new group of commanders, I know we will continue to pursue those goals. I thank all of the commanders who gave it their best effort in 2007. They stand out by the results.

We can not forget how meaningful it is to have “on-the-water” activities that provide fun for the members and exciting meetings that emphasize interesting boating subjects. I have tried to do that at district also. On March 29th at the Spring Conference, I have invited outside guests from USPS to talk about membership and protecting the environment. Best of all the speakers, we have a District Member who met the challenge of sailing his own boat across the Atlantic. He will recount for us his own experiences on that trip. Joe Sackett, the speaker from Jacksonville Squadron, is currently in my N class, by the way. Don’t miss this great adventure with pictures by Joe at the Spring Conference.

The conferences and council meetings provide an opportunity for communicating information from national and district. I have supplemented this with my news publication, “The District Commander



Galaxy 23

Message from Incoming

D/C Dick Leatherman, SN

Well folks, it's a big step from District Teaching Aids Chair to District Commander, but I have long legs. Actually, this is an opportunity to guide our District Bridge and the Squadron Commanders in their USPS endeavors. On the social side, Rosemarie and I are looking forward to some fun times with D23 participants. Some of our fondest memories go back to the two occasions of being Squadron Cmdr. in D3 on L.I. We made friends with some super people then and we, again, expect to do the same over the forthcoming year. A tip to all Squadron and District Bridge members – try to attend as many D23 events as you possibly can. Then you will find your “tour of duty” more enjoyable and also, easier to perform the functions of your office.

Permit me to make a few informational points. First, I believe all members should attend the Operations Training course. It will enlighten you as to what goes on at National, District and Squadron levels of USPS. As a member, you really should get to know your organization. Second, all bridge officers and committee chairs should take a stroll through the National website (www.usps.org) and D23's website (www.usps.org/localusps/d23). You'll be impressed by the amount of useful info related to your position. It's like having a personal assistant.

My theme for this year is “The Chain of Success”. In engineering when trying to solve a problem, one first must define the problem. I have observed that our Squadrons could benefit by having more members. So “need more members” is our problem. To solve it, let's follow the logical path along “The Chain of Success”. It begins with the Squadron Educational Officer arranging dates and locations for seminars and public courses. Next, the PRO creates information flyers and enlists the Squadron members to distribute them throughout the community (boating clubs/dealers/stores, supermarkets, newspapers/radio stations and tag agencies). Vessel Safety Inspectors can hand them to boaters at launch ramps. Also, don't forget to use National's advertising reimbursement program. (As a side issue to gain name recognition, Squadrons could participate in civic events such as charity drives, fishing contests, shoreline cleanups, parades, Sea Scouts, etc. Also, plan to have an info booth at each event.)

Moving along the “Chain of Success”, the public course Instructors should alert their students about the other courses offered to USPS members. Then sometime during the public course, the Membership Chair should address the students on the benefits of membership. This should be followed with a phone (not email) solicitation to each graduate. The SEO should then plan an entry level course soon thereafter to involve new members.

As you know, a chain is only as strong as it's weakest link. Failure of any element of the chain will jeopardize our goal of obtaining “more members”. Thus, Squadron Cmdrs are requested to inspire their membership to become links of “The Chain of Success”.



***Coco-Nauts Spring
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Coast Guard to Emphasize Life Jacket Wear

A key outcome of the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety program is to reduce loss of life on the water. A major component of that program is to convince boaters to wear their life jackets while on the water. Various media campaigns have been utilized in the past without a major shift in the desired outcome.

A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) provides the vessel examiner an opportunity to educate the boater on the value and importance of life jacket wear. During the VSC, the criteria for selecting, sizing, and inspection of life jackets is reviewed and demonstrated to the boater.

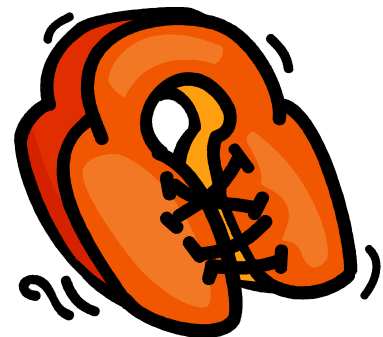
Public education courses are another venue to demonstrate the variety of life jackets available. Of paramount interest is the inflatable life jacket which offers the boater a comfortable and reliable life saving option. Public affairs activities, such as safety exhibits at boat shows, provide another venue to illustrate to the public the variety of life jackets available in the market place.

The Coast Guard's Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, as well as the United States Power Squadron firmly believes that our vessel examiners, public educators and public affairs representatives should be role models for life jacket wear and are encouraging them to wear their life jackets during vessel safety checks, public education classes, and public affair events. As an incentive for demonstrating the "right behavior" on and around the water, inflatable life jackets branded with the "Wear It" logo will be made available (on a loner basis) to each Flotilla and Squadron.

Inflatable life jackets will be distributed to local units which will be responsible for the custody, maintenance, and utilization of this equipment and annual reporting of the local inventory through respective chain of command to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Program Operations Branch (CG-54222). The expectation is that they will be leveraged to provide the maximum possible exposure to support the wearing of life jackets.

Peter Urgola,
USCG Auxiliary
Chief, Vessel Examination Dept.

Bob Miller
US Power Squadrons
Chairman, VSC Committee



Blessing of the Fleet

May 17, 2008, 1100 hours, Saturday

Dockage & Buffet Lunch to follow at Eau Gallie Yacht Club

**Cocoa Beach SPS will join Banana River SPS for this Event
which kicks off "Safe Boating Week 2008"**

Boats will follow the lead boat, (Police Boat with light) in single file, promptly at 11:00 AM, Just WEST of Dragon Point on the Southern Tip of Merritt Island, and PASS by the Blessing Boat in this time honored tradition insuring safe boating for the season. VHF Channel 71 will be selected to monitor for the Blessing and to insure safe maneuvering.

Power Squadron members and guests are invited to join the festivities followed by a luncheon at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club at a cost of \$18.00 per person. BRSPS Admin Officer, Fred Mueller, at 777-3416, will need to be contacted for the count and dockage requirements. CBSPS Boating Chairman Duane McConkey 454-6841 will assist you.

Other boaters attending may choose to raft up and partake of food on the boats.

**CBSPS Boating Co-Chairmen, P/C Duane L. Balkema & Lt Duane McConkey
Coordinated with BRSPS Boating Chairman, Lt/C Eugene Grassie**



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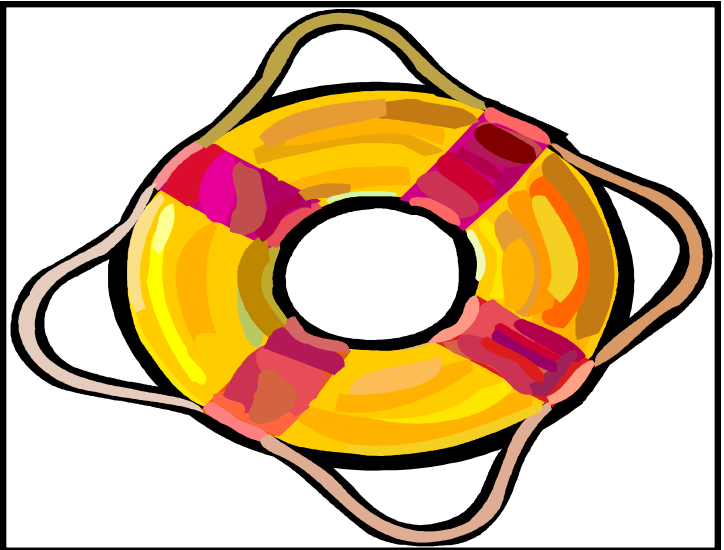
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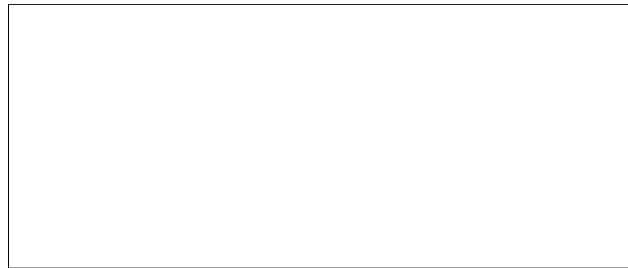
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