



The

Soundings

<http://www.cbpsps.com>

April 2009
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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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Membership Meeting

**Tuesday 07, April 2009 @1900
Brevard Veteran Center
400 Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL**

Monthly Speaker

This month our speakers will be our own husband/wife members, consisting of Gene Millner, Barbara Millner, Mike Stone and Denise Stone. Their presentation will be "Cruising to the Panama Canal."

ATTENTION ON DECK

We are very pleased to announce we have two new members, who will be sworn in at our April membership meeting. They are Susan & Robert Blanks of Merritt Island. Please make them feel welcome as members of CBSPS! It is an ongoing process to keep the membership data up to date, so please continue to email Lt/C Marilyn Flanigan with any changes you have. Her email address can be found on page 2.

Please remember our senior members who would like to attend our monthly meetings and/or functions that may need a ride. If you know of a member that needs to obtain a ride, please make yourself available to accommodate them. They are our anchors!

THE BRIDGE OFFICERS

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**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@bellsouth.net

AT THE HELM

Commander Lance H. VandeBerg, P



I would like to thank everyone involved with the Change of Watch on March 1, 2009. It was very well organized and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I know this was a lot of effort by several people and it is greatly appreciated by all.

Our guest speaker at the general meeting on March 3rd was Mark Rutledge with the Florida Crime Prevention organization. He spoke on personnel and home safety techniques and was very well received. Several people stayed after and purchased some of his pepper spray devices that he brought along and sold at a discounted price.

Several members have been very active in the cardboard boat race project scheduled for May 9th at the Titusville spring picnic. There is three different designs being built and the first trial run was on March 11th at Gene Millner's house. Test pilots for the trial run included Joe Auchter and Mark Montfort. Both survived the event without getting wet.

The D23 Spring Council will be held in Deland at the Holiday Inn on March 27th – 29th. Several of our members are planning on attending.

Don't forget the Harbortown Marina's annual marine flea market to be held on April 4th – 5th. We will have our tent set up to promote our squadron and members may donate any marine items that we can sell. Contact George Guerrero to volunteer for this event.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

P/C Kermit Forbes, P



As we start this new year, I hope we can minimize the anger and maximize the enjoyment.

Our public relations committee will do their best to publicize all of the good things our sail and power squadron are doing. If anyone has any suggestions on getting our message out please call or send me an e-mail. Growing our membership should be our number one priority for 2009.

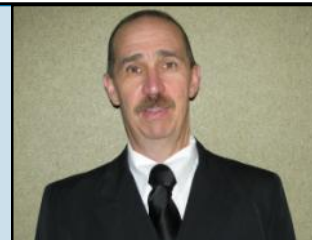
I hope that each of us support the vessel safety check program, so please get your vessel, your neighbor's vessel and your friend's vessel inspected by one of our examiners, they are listed in your roster, the only one missing is myself.

Your bridge is very enthusiastic about the upcoming year and we need your help to make 2009 a successful year.

Hope to see each of you at the upcoming flea market at Harbortown Marina.

SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER

LT/C Paul A. Ragusa, P



Lenny Senabali is our latest member to receive his N grade. That is three out of five so far, for their Instructor P/D/C Fred Adame, SN. The folders of the remaining two candidates' have been checked by P/C George Hess, SN, and forwarded to National.

Marine Electronics began Feb.25 with five students from our Squadron, along with one student, a member of the Palm Beach Squadron. The Instructor is Lt Howard Bernbaum SN. Welcome aboard to our newest member Suzanne Blanks. She joined the Squadron at our general meeting March 4, and enrolled in Marine Electronics the next night. She enjoyed her first class.

The Piloting class is preparing for their exam, with a review by Instructor Lt Jack Wurst, AP, and distribution of the exams on March 30.

Americas Boating Course will begin May 12, at Cape Canaveral Hospital, Room A at 7:00 PM. The exam will be on June 09. This year, especially we need help in generating public interest. Please mention it to your marina mates, neighbors and co-workers. If you can, take a poster and put it up in a location that has high visibility.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

LT/C Gerard Meunier, JN



Membership:

We will have the pleasure to swear in 2 new members at our next General Meeting. They are Suzanne Blanks and Robert Blanks; their home phone number is 321-452-0148. Give them a call to welcome them! Your Bridge would like this event to be a recurrent one at each General Meeting. Have you done your part lately to sign in new Members? If you have any question, give Lt. Doris Valentine (321-452-1835) or me (267-304-7514) a call.

Membership Retention:

The 56 members present at the March 3rd General Meeting saw the new nominative sign-in sheet, where you only need to initialize next to your name. This will help this committee to a more active role in involving non-participating members. You may even be asked to volunteer (Oh My God !!) for a few phone calls to our lost souls.

Entertainment:

Check the new 2009-2010 Roster and the latest Soundings under Calendar of Coming Events and reserve those dates on your own calendar, agenda, computer or whatever, to eliminate potential conflicts and increase participation. As you know, the More, the Merrier.

Programs:

There will be existing and exotic destinations with our General Meeting presentations in 2009. First, we will cross the Panama Canal (April 7th), presently being doubled in size; thanks to our very own P/C Mike Stone, P. Then we shall return to the USA and look at the challenges of the Great Loop (May 5th) with yours truly. And, we'll navigate the mighty Amazon River (June 2nd) draining the largest but disappearing rain forest in the World; thanks to our very own Lt. Doris Valentine.

Most Members have at least one interesting boating story to tell and share their experience with us all. After all, we are a Boating Education organization and value practical as well as book learning. So, come forward with your knowledge and teach us "old dogs, new tricks".

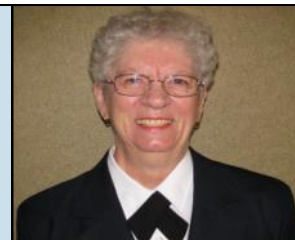
Refreshments:

At our March 3rd General Meeting, P/R/C Carmen Adame, AP looked for Volunteers for this important function. Give her a call !!



Secretary

LT/C Marilyn Flanigan, P



The 2009-2010 Roster is finished and will be ready to mail in a few days. P/D/C Fred Adame has done a great job as usual.

There are some changes you will have to correct in your Roster yourself to bring it up to date. These changes will be in the May 2009 Soundings. Unfortunately, for one reason or another, some of the email addresses and other changes that were sent to National did not appear correctly on the list we ordered from National.

I spoke to our National contact person by phone and this seems to be a problem with all squadrons. It's simply a matter of time when we make changes or order a list from National. It is an on going process that seems to be always behind. So...when you receive The Soundings each month, please take the time to view any changes that have been sent to National. They will be under the Secretary's Report, so you can make those updates to your own Roster. Please remember to email any changes you might have in the coming months to your Secretary. We also have 2 new members to welcome!

Susan M. Blanks
1350 Dolphin Ave.
Merritt Island, FL 32952
452-0148/266-3387
Boat "Flat Black"

Robert Blanks
1350 Dolphin Ave.
Merritt Island, FL 32952
452-0148/266-3387





COCO-NAUTS CORNER President Lt Susan Forbes, S



This is my first message in the Soundings and I hope everyone bears with me as I start this new term. I am unfamiliar with many of your activities so I would appreciate any advise or criticism coming directly to me, and I will try to deal with it. The strengths and weaknesses of all volunteer organizations bear directly on the President and her board. I am always available to any of you, and would hope that you will remember this as we continue in this year. Our first priority is to help the Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron and the rest, I hope, will be having fun. I have some fun ideas for this year, and the first one is to have a picnic at my home for the June meeting. We will discuss this at our next meeting, and I want you to think of some other things we might do for the community as well as the Squadron. I have served for several years as Secretary of the Domestic Violence Safe Haven of Pender Co. in North Carolina, and have worked to stop the annihilation of homeless dogs and cats by supporting the Humane Society. I have run many fundraisers for these causes, and will be looking for ways to help the homeless, people and animals. I have worked for non-profit agencies for the entire time I was in North Carolina, and thoroughly enjoyed doing it. So please, there is no stupid suggestion, so please feel free to express any ideas you might have.

Our next meeting March 11 at the Merritt Island Moose, I will be in Pa. but our illustrious Vice President, Doris Valentine will cover for me. This will be a brown bag. On April 8th we will meet at 11:30 at Applebee's on Merritt Island. May 13th we will meet at noon at the Cape Canaveral Library, and June 10th we will have a picnic at my home, 1710 Reef Court, at noon. Details to follow. I have just booked the Clarion Hotel for our Christmas meeting on Dec. 12.

Have a safe and happy boating season.





Galaxy 23

From the District Bridge
Robert E. Becker, Jr., SN
Commander

I am both humbled and honored that you have chosen me to steer the good ship District 23 for the year 2009. Forty six District Commanders have gone before me building our D 23 ship into the fine craft she is today. I hopefully will continue to build during my year.

But this is not a one person show. This is a Team effort! Kim, Walt, Jim, Roberta and Dave represent an outstanding group of USPS members who will also lead our ship in their various departments. Your District is here not only for USPS Headquarters administrative purposes, but most importantly to assist you, our squadrons in any way we can. When questions or problems arise, let us know and hopefully we can come up with possible solutions. When you have suggestions/recommendations, pass them along to us and we will get them to the right people at either district or national level. Again the District is here for YOUR benefit, use us!

In my 43 years as a USPS member I have seen our numbers slide from a high of some 81,000 USPS members down to the 35,000. Yet there are more boaters now than ever before. Forty three years ago we did not face competition like we have today. One of our biggest competitors is the "internet". Boaters can take "on line boating courses" and come away with a certificate. We must insure the boating public that the USPS courses are not only the best and most up-to-date, but our instructors have years of boating experience and knowledge that one cannot get from the internet. Insure that these points are emphasized during your promotion of your Squadron Boating course.

Couple the aforementioned with your squadron's civic and social activities and you have a great story to tell the public about what your squadron does and stands for.

So it's off to start adding the next plank onto our D 23 vessel. We will have a full calendar of educational and social activities to bring our eleven squadrons closer together. First on the list will be the March Spring Conference in Deland followed by the April D 23 Educational Seminar in Melbourne and our May D 23 Picnic and Cardboard Boat Race in Titusville. There will be something for every member so please get as many of your members to come out and see their District 23 in ACTION!

Hope to see you and your squadron members at our District 23 events.

CBSPS COW PHOTO GALLERY (cont. pgs. 2&5)



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:

check website (cbsps.com) or e-mail for updates

March

- 24 - Tuesday, 1830 CBSPS Executive Board Meeting - Merritt Island Library
- 27 - 29, Friday thru Sunday - D23 Conference , Holiday Inn - Deland, FL

April

- 04 - Saturday, 0800-1600 Harbortown Marina's Annual Flea Market
- 05 - Sunday, 0800-1600 Harbortown Marina's Annual Flea Market
- 07 - Tuesday, 1900 CBSPS Membership Meeting - Brevard Veteran's Center
- 08 - Wednesday, 1130 Coco-Nauts Meeting Applebee's, Merritt Island
- 18 - Saturday, TBD D23 Training, Satellite Beach
- 25 - Saturday, 1100 Boating Rendezvous & Lunch Old Florida Grill
- 28 - Tuesday, 1830 CBSPS Executive Board Meeting - Merritt Island Library

May

- 05 - Tuesday, 1900 CBSPS Membership Meeting - Brevard Veterans Center
- 09 - Saturday, 1100 D23 Spring Fling & Cardboard Boat Race, Titusville (great event!!!)
- 12 - Tuesday, 1900 America's Boating Course, Cape Canaveral Hospital Medical Plaza (Rm. A)
- 13 - Wednesday, 1200 Coco-Nauts Meeting Cape Canaveral Library
- 16 - Saturday, TBD Blessing of the Fleet - Dragon Point & Eau Galle Yacht Club
- 21 - Thursday, 1800 Meet Us at the BCC Planetarium
- 26 - Tuesday, 1830 CBSPS Executive Board Meeting - Merritt Island Library
- 30 - Saturday, 1100 Boating Rendezvous & Lunch Sunset Grill

June

- 02 - Tuesday, 1900 CBSPS Membership Meeting - Brevard Veterans Center
- 09 - Tuesday, 1900 America's Boating Course Test Cape Canaveral Hospital
- 10 - Wednesday, 1130 Coco-Nauts Meeting- Kermit & Susan Forbes home

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Larry Hatfield (11/09)

Joan Montfort (11/09)

Richard & Ruth Finn (01/10)

Les & Evelyn Tribout (02/10)

Ed & Helen Kydd (03/10)

(** = Up for renewal)

As a Soundings sponsor you help defray the cost of publishing and mailing the Soundings.

CARE TO JOIN THEIR SUPPORT EFFORTS???

Please send a check earmarked

“The Soundings” to:

Lt/C Marilyn Flanigan, P

1490 Holly Avenue

Merritt Island, FL 32952

Boating Activities Report By LT/C Gerard Meunier, JN - for vacant chair

Our first Boating Rendezvous of the new Bridge will be on Saturday April 25th. So far, we have called it Lunch at the Old Florida Grill. The name of the place is actually the Old Florida Grill and Oyster House and is located at 5370 North Cocoa Boulevard in Cocoa, FL 32927. Phone number is 321-636-9222.

For those going by land, it is 4.1 miles North of US 528 on the right side of US1.

For those going by boat, it is on the Indian River West of ICW marker 60 at statute mile 890.

However, unless it rains and the water level goes up, I have been told that there is only 1 foot of water at their dock. This is not a problem, as we will raft-up above marker 60 in more than 6 feet of water. Look for “Cat House”, a power catamaran flying the LT/C flag. We can dinghy to the Old Florida Grill from there.

I believe this first Rendezvous of the year should be the Meet the CBSPS Boats Rendezvous. There is plenty of water in the Indian River and no bridge restrictions so the new Bridge is hoping that all the CBSPS boaters will be there to show their vessels. We will have quite a few Vessel Examiners ready to do Vessel Safety Checks and hand out 2009 stickers.

We can ferry our non-boater friends from the grill to the Raft-up so they can get knowledgeable about the CBSPS fleet. Or better yet, invite a non-boater on your own vessel. Let's have a good time on the water.

PS: We are going to have a busy boating activity year, so mark your calendars for a boating activity every last Saturday of each month!!!



BLOOD DONATION

The next blood donation will be on 29 April 0900a at the Blood Center on US Hwy. #1. All donations are appreciated!!!!



Who Am I?

My interest in boating can probably be blamed on Mother or Dad who read to us almost every night at bedtime. Shortly after we started school, my younger brother and I became avid readers. The adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn gave us the idea of building our own raft and heading down the local river, which normally, was just a shallow stream and certainly bore no resemblance to the Mississippi River. However in the spring, this stream became a fast flowing torrent. Following Huck and Tom's example, we nailed several logs and boards together until we had a fair sized raft. One day, after making ourselves some lunch, we set off using poles for getting clear of the shore and for steering, and were on our way. Somebody must have ratted on us because Grandma met us on a point of land a mile or so downstream from our departure point. She was armed with a willow switch which she applied to the seat of my pants most of the way home. My brother was spared, because I was older and should've known better. This ended my first voyage.

Our second boating experience again involved rafts, made from railroad ties. This was in another town where the Kettle Valley Railroad ran past a fair sized pond. A work crew was replacing rotted ties with new ones so we liberated some, nailed them together in pairs and explored the pond. This episode also ended rather abruptly when the track foreman demanded the ties returned..

Several years later we lived in a home where the back yard went down to a sizeable river. In the spring several paper mills used the river to float pulpwood downstream to the mills. My brother and I decided to buy ourselves a boat. After a considerable search we found a leaky 14 foot flat bottomed punt for six dollars. We caulked the seams with oakum and tar, put on a couple of coats of red paint and were ready to launch. It opened up the world for us. We used it for swimming, fishing and camping. During the summer holidays we would get a couple of friends, stow a tent, blankets, food, pots and pans and take off until we ran out of food, which we supplemented with borrowed corn and fish. We did have to tell mother which river we were going to explore. We did learn to handle a boat, and we loved it. We were very lucky, I can't imagine anywhere that kids could do this today.

After a lapse of several years, we spent twenty five dollars for a lifeboat off a Great Lake freighter which was in a scrap yard. We removed it ourselves. The one we picked was on a ship farthest from the water, so we had to use davits, planks, rollers, block and tackle and muscle power to move it across the decks of three freighters, before we were able to lower it into the water. Meanwhile we selected several pair of oars. When we finally launched her in order to move her a few hundred yards downstream to where our borrowed truck was, we found that she leaked at every seam, as well as at the drain in the bottom, which we had not replaced. In fact we did not know there was one. Finally we rowed her to where the truck could haul her ashore. A foot of water had to be bailed out before we could use levers and wood blocks to raise her to the level of the truck in order to haul her home. We added more keel, mounted a Model A Ford truck engine, cut and skinned the mast, boom and gaff, made the sails and had ourselves a sailboat.

An invitation to a male friend to go for an afternoon sail became involved and resulted in me marrying his fiancée's college roommate's chaperone..

Many years passed until I saw an Old Town White Cap Sloop for sale. It was a sister ship to Tinkerbelle, in which a mid-west school teacher, Robert Manly, crossed the Atlantic. single handed. I sailed her all over Western Long Island Sound, both with and without my wife and family. On one occasion, I took my son and daughter and we camped overnight on one of the Fish Islands off Norwalk CT. The weather was Ideal and the boat sailed right along. When we arrived, we hauled her ashore till she was above the high water mark and rigged a sail for a shelter. That evening for supper, we had steak, potatoes and corn, cooked over a small fire. Perfect. Next morning there was a small problem. I had brought cereal but forgot the milk. Have you ever tried Coca Cola on your breakfast cereal? We did.

The mean editor told me this was too long, and I had to quit. If you want to hear more, talk to her, or ask me for the rest of the story!



Answer from last month's
Who Am I?
Howard Bernbaum

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2-Business Card Size \$100.00**4-Business Card Size \$200.00****Contact D. Balkema 452-5892****New Marine Items Classified Ad Program (For CBSPS Members Only)**

1. Ads will be written across the page in ARIAL Type, print size "12".
2. Ads will cost \$5.00 per single line across the page. Use as much of line as needed.
3. Each additional line used, or a part of, will cost \$5.00.
4. Ad Cost is paid in advance or with receipt of Ad information.
5. All Ads drop out of the next month's publication unless paid again
6. All Ads must be submitted in writing by the 8th of each month to: "Duane Balkema, CBSPS Ads" and my address for mailing or delivery are in Soundings.
7. A typical Ad follows: (charge for 1 months insertion would be $5 \times 2 = \$10$)

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 OBO, 321-454-9900 call after 3:00PM, no later than 9:00 PM

Mechanics of Program

Duane Balkema would receive the Ad and \$5.00. (Nonprofits charge no tax)

Retype as necessary, changing nothing.

Ad or Ads are sent to Debra Burleson by 10th of month for insertion.

(Debra acknowledges receipt and inserts in Soundings)(Debra budgets space as necessary, but do not expect to use more than an inch used across one page)

Monthly Duane Balkema passes funds received to Secretary Marilyn Flanigan who
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Approval by Soundings Editor, Debra Burleson

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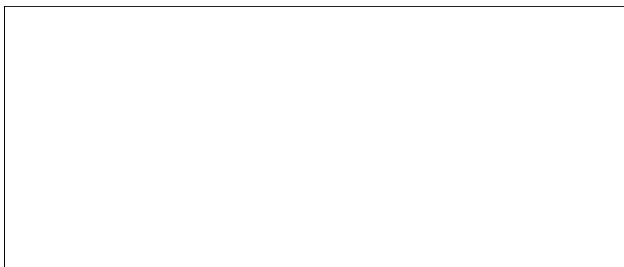
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