



This award was achieved through the efforts of the Staff and contributors.

Official Publication of the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron - A Unit of the United States Power Squadron @ District23 Sail and Power Boating

COCOA BEACH POWER SQUADRON CHANGE OF WATCH REVISITED

Cdr Dick Fille, AP, welcomed 77 attendees to the 37th Change of Watch at the Radisson Resort on 28 February, 2004. The presentation of colors was led by the color bearers, P/D/Lt/Frank Sebree, SN, and P/C Larry Hatfield, SN. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by P/C George Hess, SN.

Dick introduced those at the head table: D23 Cdr Robert C. Flint, AP, who conducted the Change of Watch and swearing in of the Bridge, Barbara Keneasly, National Auxiliary Advisory Committee Chairperson R/C Carmen Adame, AP, from our squadron, who conducted the installation and swearing in of the Coco-Naut Board., Cdr Marion Miller, JN, his wife, Judy Miller, Lt/ C Pam Johnson, President of the Coco-Nauts and Squadron Secretary & husband, Lt L. Randy Johnson, P, President-elect of the Coco-Nauts, Barbara Millner, S, Lt Gene Millner, AP, and the most honored member at the table, Dick's wife, Penny. Special Guests of the evening were Cdr Robert E. Becker Jr. JN and his wife, Patricia Becker.. It was a very special evening.

Award presentation: Page 3



D23 P/D C Robert Flint, AP, congratulating new Bridge Cdr Bud Miller, JN.

Photographed by: Lt. Trent S. Milliken, P

P/C Dick Fille, AP, receives plaque from Cdr Bud Miller, JN, which reads, "Steady Hand on the Helm, Keen Eye."



The Change of Watch 2004 was a memorable CBPS event.



Meet The 2004 Bridge

Congratulations 2003-04 Bridge (above) and the Coco-Nauts Board. (below)



Greet our lovely bunch of Coco-Nauts.

THE BRIDGE OFFICERS

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SOUNDINGS DEADLINE:
THE 10TH OF EACH
MONTH.



At the Helm

Message delivered at the Change of Watch Dinner
Cdr Marion (Bud) A. Miller JN

Thank you Commander Flint for installing the CBPS 20004 Bridge. We appreciate your being with us to officiate at this significant occasion.

I want to thank the Nominating Committee and the squadron membership for showing the confidence in my ability to lead the Cocoa Beach Power squadron this next year. You have my commitment that I will do my best to keep us on an even keel and on course as my predecessors have done.

I also want to thank P/C Dick Fille, AP, for his leadership and dedication this past year. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Bridge with Dick and will miss the intellectual discussions with both he and P/Lt/C Bob Schaefer on a variety of interesting subjects. The good news is that both plan to stay active and help our squadron grow.

I would like to reflect a little on how I got here. It was about 15 years ago that we bought a sailboat. After sailing it several times and doing everything wrong, I became discouraged with boating and was the brunt of many family jokes.

I saw an ad in the newspaper about a group called the CBPS which was teaching a safe boating course in which you could learn all you needed to know about boating. I took that course and was so impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of the instructors and proctors that I wanted to learn more about boating. I immediately accepted an invitation to join the Squadron and have been learning ever since. Shortly thereafter, I sold the sailboat and returned to power boating.

Along the way, being a member has given me the opportunity to form many good friendships. I am not naive and know that serving as your commander will not be an easy task. It is reassuring to know that you also elected an outstanding group of individuals to serve as Bridge Officers and Ex. Committee members. Together, the new Bridge brings diverse backgrounds of experience and skills to our positions. The present Bridge has counted among its numbers a schoolteacher, an engineer, a graphics illustrator, a business manager, and a union business agent recently switched to insurance. I'll let you figure out who's who.

This group may occasionally handle things a little differently than in the past, but whatever the procedural changes, they will be in the best interest of the CBPS.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, *"that nothing great was ever accomplished without a lot of enthusiasm"*. *The one thing that we do have in common is enthusiasm, and that is the catalyst we will use to take on the many challenges that await us.*

I am confident that working together as a team, and with the support of the membership, CBPS will continue to grow and prosper!

Thank you for coming to the Change of Watch Installation ceremony. A special thanks to Lt/C Pam Johnson, P, Lt Doris Valentine, Lt. Agnes Bond, AP, Jane Sebree, AP, and P/C George Hess, SN, who did all the work to make this COW a success.

Your newly installed Bridge has a busy week ahead as we prepare for the Tuesday meeting, Safe Boating course starting on Thursday and a District Conference next weekend.

The Commander's Reception will be held at the Gene and Barb Millner's home, the 14th reception hosted by this gracious pair. You're invited to attend this annual celebration, an informal friendly get-together on Saturday, 17 April from 1400 to 1700.

Cdr Bud Miller

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT

Lt/Cdr Pamela Anderson, P

On Saturday, April 17th we will all be able to enjoy the Commander's Reception. Since 1991, when Barbara and Gene Miller first began hosting this event it has been held 3665 South Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL 32952-6122. If coming by boat, it will be east of Marker 86. Barb and Gene asks that all who elect to come by car don't pull into their driveway. There is plenty of parking available south of their property. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to complement the Commander's offerings 1400-1700 is the time. Please come. See ad on page 7 for further details.

On Friday, April 30th we will have a CBPS Social Hour. This event will be held at Chowders Seafood Grill, 6485 S. Highway 1, Rockledge which is on the Indian River between the hours of 1600-1800. The cost is \$8.00 per person. Hot hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

Contact Ann McCandless for reservations: 253-6243

I need help with the Refreshment Committee and the House Arrangements Committee Call me and just say yes.

Pam Johnson: 783-0560

IN THE SPOTLIGHT Biographer: Pam Johnson

The 2003 recipients of the John E. Brower Award are our chairpersons, Lt Ann W. McCandless, S, and Lt Johnny L. McCandless, S. The John E. Brower Award is presented annually at the Change of Watch to an Active Member(s) who has/have been an active member less than eighteen months and who the Board of Directors selects by secret ballots as the outstanding new member for the year. They won this award because when asked they volunteered to do the unsung job of Refreshment Chairperson. they not only did the job, they did it with panache.

Ann is originally from Birmingham, AL. She received a MA degree in Mathematics from U of AL. She was employed by ITT at Vandenberg AFB, CA for 15 years as radar data analyst. Ann has also taught math at the high school and community college level. She is currently enjoying volunteer tutoring in local elementary schools and community after school programs. This is her first experience in boating, although she has always loved the water, having served as life guard during the summers in high school and college.

Johnny is from Arcadia, Texas (He is an original Dallas Cowboy fan.). He spent a few years in the Air Force before hiring on with ITT in 1966. While with ITT, he served as a ship's supervisor for about 15 years, seeing much of the world while tracking launches from Cape Canaveral. The balance of years with ITT was spent as a Mission Control Supervisor. He is currently employed with Orbital, on a part time basis, as a Range Services Manager. Johnny has enjoyed boating for many years! They moved to Melbourne to retire and love the weather, the water, and the friendly people.

Ann and Johnny are truly enjoying the fellowship, as well as the knowledge, gained from the CBPS. They are the proud owners of a new 24 foot Wellcraft Martinique named the *Miss Ann*. After buying the boat they learned about the BoatSmart class, took it, and joined CBPS.

Lt Pam Johnson, P

WHILE GIVING OUT AWARDS



P/C Susan Kneeland, SN, omitted one important name and award when she was giving out awards- when she was giving out awards-the award for arranging the selection of the recipients of Awards and the engraving of those Awards, then presenting those awards at the Change of Watch.

So here's your award, Susan. CBPS awards you our undying appreciation for all the work you have done for our Squadron.

SENIOR MEMBERS

Lt Mark E. Anderson, AP
Marcia E. McConkey, P
Lt Duane L. McConkey, P
Lt Gary Monai, P

WILLIAM (BILL) FISHER AWARD

Jerry Kadenback, AP (for 2002)

P/C JOHN BROWER, N, AWARD

Lt Ann McCandless, S
Lt Johnny L. McCandless, S

AGNES MARSH AWARD

Lt Rhoda Bernbaum

P/C EDWARD M. KYDD, SN, AWARD

P/R/C Mary Jane Schnoor, SN
P/R/C Richard E. Schnoor, SN

P/C JAMES C. KNEELAND, JN, AWARD

Lt John F. Mulkey, P

P/D/C GORDON W. SEAWARD, SN, AWARD

R/C Carmen Adame, AP
P/D/C Fred P. Adame, SN

COMMANDER'S AWARD

Lt Marian Sweigart, AP

BARNACLE BILL AWARD

Lt David Collins, AP

BENT SHAFT AWARD

Lt Mark Anderson, AP
Lt John Mulkey, P

By joining committees and utilizing your abilities for CBPS, you can become a part of the Award Winners Circle.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt John Mulkey, P

This is going to be a very busy year for the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron. Besides the regular activities there have been some pretty high goals set by some of our committees.

P/Lt/C Robert Schaefer, P, Chairman /Co-op Charting Committee, has put the channels in Cocoa Beach on an electronic chart and plans to place the depths of these channels on the chart. **VOLUNTEERS ARE GLADLY ACCEPTED.** It is a golden opportunity to get out and boat while you perform a needed service to the boating community. Give him a call at **784-9128**.

Lt Robert F. Flanigan, SN, Chairman of the Vessel Safety Check program, had 220 boats inspected last year. He is planning to have even more boats inspected and can always use more qualified Vessel Safety Checkers. Want to join this group? Call Bob at **452-4602**.

You can get your boat inspected at the Blessing of the Fleet which will take place at Lee Wenner Park on May 22, 2004. By having a Vessel Safety Check you will receive a careful inspection of your vessel by trained personnel and will be one more step toward making your boating safe.



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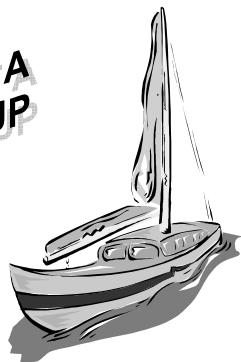
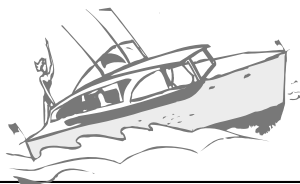
We are still in need of a Chairman for the Public Relations

Committee— someone to promote the activities of the Power Squadron. Is that someone you - orr can you think of a suitable candidate for the position? The pay is appreciation and the knowledge that you are helping the CBPS as it endeavors to reach and teach the public of the need for boating education and safe boating practices.

Many thanks to Larry Hatfield for his filling in as chairman. Because of his and his helpers efforts, 41 people are taking the 8 week boating course.

Lt/C John Mulkey, P

ITS TIME TO GET A VESSEL CHECKUP



SEO REPORT

Lt/C Howard Bernbaum, SN

March brought us two items of interest, our new 8 week Boating Course and news of the new revised Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses coming out this fall.

We were pleasantly surprised at the good turnout with forty men, women and teenagers registering for the Boating Course. Steve Winter, P brought 3 large models of SeaRay cruisers for display and also did the first hour lecture. Pete Schmidt, P our course chairman doctored the CD we obtained from National combining the Anna Maria Island CD and other views to make a powerful Power Point presentation. Ed Kydd, SN and John Lynn, P taught Marlinspike. With proctors at each table, the evening went quickly and the students seemed thoroughly satisfied. I believe CBPS did well and we will report the final results in the next issue.

I was fortunate enough to obtain an outline of the new Piloting course while at the District 23 conference. As an aside, more of our members should attend these conferences as there is a lot of information presented and we get to meet members of other squadrons. The interaction usually provides a warm feeling that we are doing it right. The new course is a 10 week course, 8 in class and two separate weeks doing plotting exercises. The first four chapters covers an introduction to navigation, tools of piloting, plotting & planning techniques, and a chapter called On the Water which covers all the elements a skipper does while underway. Chapter 5 introduces GPS navigation, ie, how to use a GPS. Chapter 6 demonstrates the use of GPS for maintaining course and introduces the concept of bearings. Chapter 7 hones the practice of manual piloting, dead reckoning, and related topics. Chapter 8 is a review and prepares the student for the open and closed book exams. This course covers all the elements of the old Piloting course plus GPS, its use and application as well as its limitations. Very impressive. There is a possibility that we may be allowed to be a beta tester of this new course. Lets all keep our fingers crossed. It would be good for the squadron's reputation and it would give our members a head start on the new courses.

We gave the final exam in Weather last month as well as the Seamanship 101 exam. Results are pending.

Many thanks to Doris Valentine, Marilyn Schmidt, Sandy Schoonmaker, and Lt Marian Sweigert, AP, for helping with student registration. Proctors Joe Auchter, Bob Flanigan, Peter Collett, Sylvia Smith, John Lynne, P, Rick Schoonmaker, SN, and John Mulkey are also deserving of thanks.

Better education than wealth. -
Welsh Proverb

Lt/C Howard Bernbaum, SN

SAFETY Report
WEAR YOUR LIFE VESTS
 P/C Jane Schnoor, SN

In the news recently we heard of a water taxi in Baltimore Inner Harbor capsizing when a sudden storm made the already choppy waters more than the boat could handle. Several people lost their lives as a result, and the rest of the 25 people aboard came close to losing theirs as well. Anybody who has been aboard one of these tourist boats knows that the life preservers are stowed under seats or hanging overhead. They are never put on by the passengers, and in most cases the correct procedure to put one on isn't even demonstrated, unlike the boat drills on cruise ships. This sad event brings home that all important message that life preservers need to be worn when the waters are rough. Once a person is in the water it is almost impossible to don a preserver. In addition to the usual type of preservers there are some new ones on the market that are comfortable to wear. There is the SoSpender (brand name) type which goes over the shoulder and sits comfortably on your chest .like a vest. There is also the newer belt packs that you wear around your waist. The vest type is inflated either by a CO2 cartridge that works automatically when you enter the water or by blowing into a small tube. The belt model has the CO2 cartridge which is pierced when you pull on a short chord. Some of these will also inflate automatically upon entering the water. The belt pack inflatable can be used for inland boating where you do not expect huge seas or dramatic weather, and where you expect help to arrive fairly quickly. The belt model is less expensive than the vest model but both are much more expensive than our traditional life vests. Next time you are in the boat store you may want to check them out. However, even if you buy yourself and your mate one of these newer models, you should still have on board and readily available some traditional life vests in a variety of sizes for your guests. Remember when the seas get rough have every-one put on their preserver. If they complain, remind them of what happened in Baltimore Harbor.



*Thanks To Our
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Dick & Penny Fille
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Marilyn & Bob Flanigan
Joan Montfort
George & Geneieve Link
Rick & Sandy Schumaker

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

CARE TO JOIN THEIR RANKS?
 Please send a check earmarked
"The Soundings" to Sandy Schoonmaker
 1850 N. Courtenay

Blood Bank

Lt Barbara Millner, S

Think of giving blood as giving a gift that keeps on giving. There is no substitute for blood, and blood cannot be manufactured. Every 3 seconds an American needs a pint of blood. Your one donation can save the lives of up to 3 people in our community. Another interesting fact is that only 5 percent of the population donates blood, yet 60 percent of us will need blood in our lifetime. The donation takes less than an hour. Imagine, in one hour you can save up to three lives! What a great feeling that gives!

When making a donation, or in having to use the blood bank for your own needs, you should know the name and account number. Our account number is 34665, and is titled 'Cocoa Beach Power Squadron'. When donating at the Bloodmobile during our Blood Drives, our donations are automatically transferred into that account. Please consider being one of our donors and as mentioned in last month's report, friends are welcome to come and donate. Their donations will go into our account.

RETURNING APRIL 2nd
By Popular Demand

**The Coco-Naut Card Party ,Games,
 Luncheon and Auction**

Place: Veteran's Memorial Center

1000 -1400

Lunch served at 1130

Need Tickets? Call Doris Valentine
452-1835



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NEXT COLLECTION DATE: MAY 20-THURSDAY AT VSC
We are required to have at least ten members signed up.

Please consider being one of our donors so we reach the required number. Thank you.
Call Barbara Millner: 452-0500 Blood Bank Chair-

DISTRICT 23 SPRING CONFERENCE & CHANGE OF WATCH

Hosted by the Gainesville Sail and Power Squadron
and the Ocala Power Squadron



- 05- Registration, Hospitality Suite, and a Hogtown River boat Cruise and Casino.
- 06- 0900-0945 Bridge Meeting - Council Meeting
- 1000 - 1050 - Various department meetings
- 1100 - 1150 Workshops
 - How to Conduct a Safe Boating Campaign
 - How to Conduct a Co-op Charting Seminar
 - Newsletter Editors
- 1315-1600 General Conference/elections
- 1900 - 2300 D23 Banquet and Installation Dinner

As you can see a District Conference is work and play. All members are invited to participate.

Left - At lunch are P/C Fred Adame, SN, P/C Ed Kydd, SN & Helen Kydd, S.

Bon Appetite!



At the "Flint" table is (L to R) Mrs . Karen Mesenburg, R/C Joe Mesenburg, SN, Chairman of the National Finance Committee and National Educational Officer, V/C Spencer Anderson, SN.

To the right is Stf/C Walt Fields, SN, P/C Les Tribout, AP and Evelyn Tribout.

Pictured Below : Registration at the Boating Course March 2004

Registrars l. to r. P/C Sue Kneeland, SN, Lt Marian Sweigert, AP, Lt/C Sandy Schoonmaker, SN, & Lt Doris Valentine . Right: Very attentive students in the Lt Pete Schmidt, P, Boating Course.





*All CBPS members are cordially invited to attend
The Commander's Reception Saturday, April 17th,
Rendezvous at the home of Barbara and Gene Millner @1400-1700*

*Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres will be provided but you might bring some goodies to share.
If you're having a great time and want to stay for dinner, bring a cooler containing
your covered dish to share and hamburgers, hot dogs or chicken breasts to grill
You'll also need to bring serving utensils and a chair for each member in your party.*

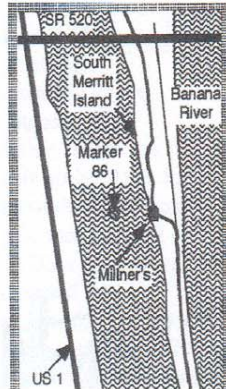


BY LAND

The Millners' home is located at 3665 South Tropical Trail, 5 miles south of SR520 and 6 miles north of the Pineda Cswy.

Look for the big CBPS sign out front.

TO AVOID BEING BLOCKED,
PARK OFF THE PAVEMENT ALONG
THE HIGHWAY.



BY SEA

Head due East from the intra-coastal Marker *86 .

Monitor VHF channel 16 as you approach.

Someone will be at the dock to greet you.



THERE IS PLENTY OF DOCK SPACE,
BUT PLEASE GIVE GENE MILLNER A
CALL AT 452-9500 AHEAD OF TIME

Coco-Nauts Corner Barbara Millner, S, President

Our first meeting with the new officers was held on March 10th at the Cocoa Beach Pier, where everyone could enjoy the beautiful view.

March has been busy for the Coco-Nauts with the finalizing of plans for the April 2nd card/game party luncheon. We have just a few more tickets to sell. If you haven't purchased yours yet, be sure to do so soon, as none will be sold at the door.

The Coco-Nauts' March 13th trip on Mark and Michelle Anderson's *Blue Dolphin* tour boat was absolutely fantastic! We were able to see the wildlife that Mark so ably pointed out, and the weather was picture perfect. Our host and hostess supplied us with plenty of drinks and snacks to further our enjoyment on this three hour tour. (Unlike Gilligan and his crew, we arrived back at our destination after our three hours). As of this writing, the Coco-Nauts who chose to go on March 20th are still looking forward to their trip.

Belated birthday wishes to Nan Jeffries celebrated on March 5th .



April Coco-Naut Birthdays:

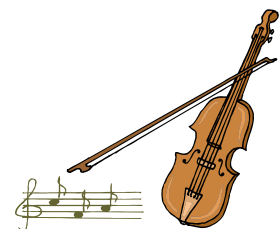
20th—Cheryl Quinn 21st—Ruth Grumblatt 22nd— Rhoda Bernbaum

Mark your calendars for our April 14th meeting. We will be going to the Moose Lodge on Merritt Island for a brown bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. This promises to be an interesting meeting with Janet Steiner from the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation as our speaker.

Barbara Millner **And the song from beginning to end,**

I found again in the heart of a friend.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, from *The Arrow and the Song*



CBPS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2004

APRIL

02 Friday 1000 – 1500
Coco-Nauts Card/
Game Luncheon



Veteran's Memorial Center
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS

05 Monday 1900—2100
Marine Electronics Class begins
Veteran's Memorial Center
Won't you join us?

06 Tuesday 1900-2100
General Meeting
Bob Gunther - Guest Speaker
Veterans Memorial Center

14 Tuesday 1130
Coco-Nauts Luncheon

17 Saturday 1400- 1700
Commander's Reception
Where else but at the Millner's
residence?

27 Tuesday 1900—2100
Executive Board Meeting
Veterans Memorial



*Hope you can
attend!*

MAY

01 Sat. Poker Run
Details in next issue

04 Tuesday 1900-2100
General Meeting
Veterans Memorial Center

12 Wednesday
Monthly meeting TBA
Always enjoyable.

15 Saturday 1400-1700
District 23 Picnic
Sand Point Park—Titusville
Great food, fun, and music

20 Wednesday 0900-2100
Blood Bank
Veterans Memorial Center

19-23 Spring Governing Board
Hilton-Pittsburgh More details
To follow

22 Saturday 1400—1700
Blessing of the Fleet
Lee Wenner Park, Cocoa

25 Tuesday 1900-2100
Executive Board Meeting
Veterans Memorial Center

CBPS WILL BE HONORED TO HAVE BOB GUNTHER AS OUR APRIL 6TH GUEST SPEAKER

Bob Gunther and his wife, Teta, live on Lansing Island. He joined the Brooklyn Power Squadron in 1938 while in High School. He'll make a Power Point presentation about his Atlantic crossing while with a naval convoy. He was aboard a US Army Harbor Tug during WWII and was a First Officer at that time. He works as a CEO of a printing company with plants in Puerto Rico, Florida, Virginia, Connecticut and Ireland.

After WW11 he taught some courses in Brooklyn, was elected Squadron Cdr for 2 terms. We are fortunate to have him as our guest.

*They are with us who
remain in our heart.*

**Our condolences to the
Edson Family. Ted passed
away March 13 after a pro-
longed illness. Ted was a
member of the CBPS for 25
years. He'll be missed.**

Our prayers are with you.

Future Events Planned For the CBPS 2004 Watch by LT/C Pamela Johnson, P, Admin. Officer & Cruise Planning Chmn Larry Johnson, P

Entertainment Schedule:

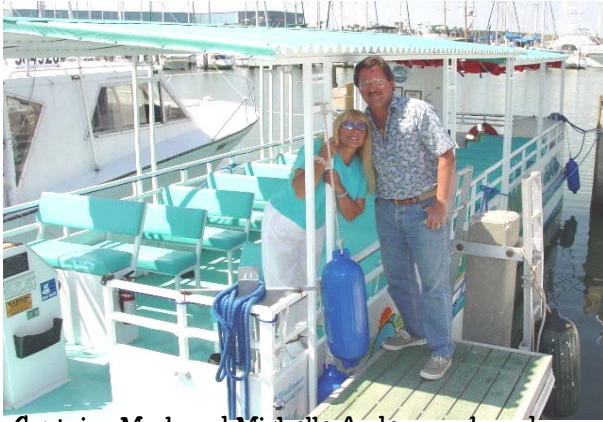
April 30 Chowders On the Patio Social
May 15 Dist. 23 Picnic
June 18 Reverse Raffle Fundraiser
Jul 8 BCC Planetarium
Aug 3 Italian Night General Meeting
Aug 19 Art Museum
Sep 25 River Ship Romance Cruise
Luncheon
Oct. 23 Oktoberfest
Nov 1 Auction
Nov 21 Cocoa-Nauts Harvest Party
Dec 17 Holiday Party
Feb 20 Change of Watch

Boating Activities:

April 17th Commander's Reception and
Rendezvous
May 1 Poker Run
May 22 Blessing of the Fleet/Picnic
June 12 Marker 21 Overnight Cruise
June 19 Coral Bay Rendezvous
July 4 Cocoa Village Fireworks Raft-
up
July 31 Small boat Water Ski Island
Picnic
Aug. 28 Melbourne Harbor Rendezvous
& Raft-up
Oct. 9-11 Cruise to Palm Harbor

These events are all in the planning stage, but none of the CBPS chairmen can be successful without the help of our membership. Please say yes when asked to help. This will make CBPS a vibrant and successful organization promoting boating education, civic involvement, and let's not forget the fun.

Welcome Aboard the Blue Dolphin



Captains Mark and Michelle Anderson aboard their dreamboat as they await their friends, the Coco-Nauts.

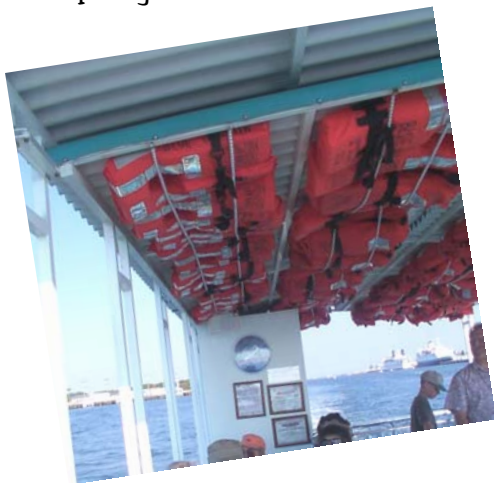
.Mark Anderson, AP, and Michelle Anderson, AP, the Captains of the Blue Dolphin, supplied us with drinks, snacks, and commentaries about the abundant wildlife along the shore shores of the Banana River. 19 members were aboard. As of this writing, the Coco-Nauts who chose to go on March 20th are still looking forward to their trip.



There's Michelle waiting to sign in the Blue Dolphin guests.



And here are their passengers, eager to begin their journey.



Pictured above: All life vests present and accounted for.



Happy passengers. Great day!



Doris Valentine, Barbara Millner, and Carol Bonnett are all smiles as they enjoy the three hour tour.

Photographs by.
P/D/C /Fred Adame
Lt Randy Johnson, P

GALAXY 23

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT BRIDGE

Incoming D/C Ann Fields, SN

The D23 Spring Conference is coming up 5-7 March and will be held at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center in Gainesville. I know both the Gainesville and the Ocala Power Squadrons have worked very hard putting together the Conference weekend, and I hope to see many of you there!

The USPS Annual meeting in Orlando in January gave us all a chance to learn more about some of the new things going on in USPS. We had a good turnout from D23 - everyone left with lots of information from the meetings and Expo, enjoyed the Wednesday and Thursday evenings entertainment provided free to members, and enjoyed the great Hospitality Room that D23 hosted Friday evening.

District 23 members and Squadrons received several special awards at the Annual meeting. **Dick Sullivan** (Banana River) and **Matthew Bandilla** (Titusville) both were recognized for Outstanding Contribution & Support for the Vessel Safety Check Program, 2003. Both are members of the 'Century Club' - they each performed over 100 VSCs in 2003, and this is the second year for Dick! **Fred Adame** (Cocoa Beach) received an award for Meritorious Service as Chairman of the Operation BoatSmart Committee, and **Mike Scallan** (Seminole) received an award for Meritorious Service as Chairman of the Curriculum Development & Coordination Committee. **Don Clark** (Harris Chain) was awarded the **Raymond A Finley, Jr, Sea Scout Service Award**, presented to members of USPS who provide significant service to both USPS and Sea Scouting. Don was instrumental in working on the MOA between USPS and the Sea Scouts which was signed during the Annual meeting, with Don participating in the event. Congratulations to all these members!

D23 squadrons and 'the district' also received awards at the Annual meeting. The District 23 publication, **The Galaxy**, and nearly every one of the D23 Squadron newsletters were recognized for **Excellence in Journalism!** In addition, five squadrons were recognized with the **Website Award for Excellence: Banana River, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Ocala, and Seminole**. A big thanks to our squadron editors, webmasters, and all the folks that contributed articles and helped earn us this recognition. District 23 was presented with a plaque for 3rd Place in 2003 'For Excellence in Promoting Operations Training' - a big thanks to D23 OT Chair **Bernie Sechen** (Ponce Inlet) and all squadron OT chairs for making this award possible.

These awards wrap up a very successful year for District 23, and I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year to continue our growth and achievement. Your 2004 D23 Bridge and Committee members have listened to your suggestions and have planned activities for the year based on what you said you would like to see done. Here are a few of the changes and improvements already slated:

The D23 Summer Council meeting will be held in conjunction with the D23 Picnic and Rendezvous in Titusville on May 15th.

An all-day Education Department seminar will be April 10th in Daytona. The focus of this seminar is SEO training, including information on changes being implemented in USPS education courses.

Starting with the Fall Conference, October 1-3, we'll be using the 'revised' D23 Conference format that was developed as a result of your suggestions.

We're working on a D23 Fall Cruise and Rendezvous for the mid-October time frame.

Mark your calendars with these dates now, and plan on taking advantage of what D23 has to offer you. The 'fun' events - the picnics and rendezvous - are always enjoyable, so plan on being part of the fun this year! We're working to make the 'business' events even more informative, while leaving time for 'fun' activities. Our Conferences will have workshops on topics you've told us you're interested in, and the Conference dinners on Saturday are planned to be casual and 'fun' evenings.

This IS your District. Make plans now to participate and have **FUN!**

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Come enjoy a day of camaraderie with all the D-23 Squadrons



Where: Grand Pavillion , Sand Point Park, Titusville, Fl

What: It's a picnic. Come by boat, car, RV or covered wagon. Bring your friends.

When: Saturday, 15 May, 2004 Time: 100 to 1500

Cost: \$5.00 per adult \$3.00 per child, 6-12 years old.

NO CHECKS IN ADVANCE. Pay at the door.

DISTRICT 23 PROVIDES: Beer. Soft drinks, corn-on -the - cob, condiments, grills with charcoal fire, cooking utensils, paper plates, napkins, cups, plastic forks/spoons, etc.

Please bring a side dish to share.

Bring your own entrée ready to eat or to grill. Fire will be provided.

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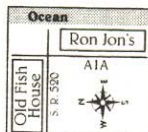
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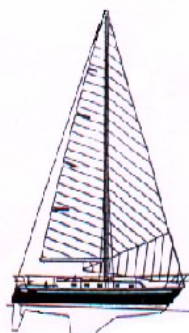
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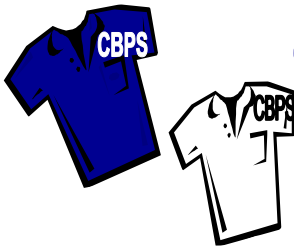
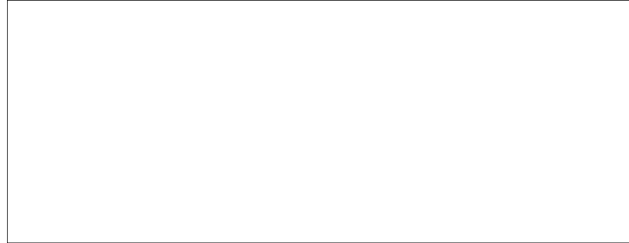
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