

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...



At The Helm

Cdr Marion (Bud) A. Miller, JN

Just when we thought the Hurricane season couldn't get worse, it did. Who ever thought that a hurricane headed north out in the Atlantic would do a loop and head back to Florida and make landfall at almost the same location as one did three weeks earlier. One thing for sure, the dock building and shutter installation business will be strong for some time. Never before did I think Judy and I would stick around during a Category 2 and 3 hurricane, but we did. We all know the drill for hurricane preparation and it paid off again. Our condo had minimal damage for which we are so thankful. However, our beautiful docks here at Oleander Pointe suffered major damage and are in need of some major rebuilding. Our boat and dock section survived in good shape.

This ordeal has taught us several lessons. Boats on lifts can survive a hurricane if they are raised above the level of the wave action and are properly secured with canvas removed. Boats left in the water tied to a dock most likely will receive serious damage depending on exposure to the wind, no matter how many lines are secured. Even with the best set of lines secured they won't hold down a bouncing boat during 100mph+ winds and a 4-5 foot wave action. I had to see it to believe it. Also, in order for a dock to survive, pilings must be large in diameter and sunk deep, while the decking itself should be well over 4 feet above the normal water level.

The damage caused by Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne has had an affect on several power squadron activities lately. First, the District 23 Fall conference scheduled to be hosted by the Banana River Power Squadron was cancelled due to hotel damage. However, a one day conference was held in Leesburg recently instead. In addition, the hotel where our Holiday Dinner Dance was to held on December 17 notified us that it won't open until after the first on the year. However, your Entertainment Chairman, Lt. Ann McCandless, who loves a challenge, reacted quickly and was able to reserve the main ballroom at the newly remodeled Cocoa Civic Center and a very good caterer for the same evening. More details on this will follow. Finally, not due to damage per se, the annual fundraiser marine auction was rescheduled from November to January 24. The Executive Board felt that this was not a good time to solicit from businesses hurt by the hurricanes and many are helping people who have needs for donations greater than ours. The real reason some say is that it gives our master Auction Junk Stuff Sales Manager, Lt. Joe Auchter, more time to recuperate. Are you listening Joe!

Planning for the 2005 Fall Conference was also reviewed. It was determined that Cocoa Beach would be the host as originally planned rather than sliding everyone a year. We wanted to host the conference as we had already started on the planning process. Our first step is to select a location and we are awaiting proposals from several hotels. Once decided, committees will be formed and many of you will be asked to support. This will be a fun event to be a participant.

And speaking of the Auction, although is it nearly 3 months away, there's still a lot of work to do. Lt. Jim O'Malley has mapped out a plan of attack which requires volunteers to solicit donations and help with the Auction itself. PLEEEZE sign on to help when asked!!!

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. The year may be coming to an end but the CBPS still has lots of activities planned for the coming months. There's the Thanksgiving Harvest Party sponsored by the CocoNauts, the Holiday Dinner Dance, completion of the Public Boating Course and start of the new Piloting course. And, if you're looking for something to do, join us for lunch at the Cozy Corner in Merritt Island each Wednesday or Murdock's in Cocoa Village on Friday afternoons for an informal get-together.

Commander Bud

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Lt/C Sandy Schoonmaker, SN

The membership count for the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron stands at 205 as of 01 October. To reflect the changes in membership, a roster supplement has been printed using the National Data Base, DB2000. Copies of this supplement were handed out to interested members at the October membership meeting. A limited number will be available at the November meeting.

A reminder that DB 2000 is maintained by the secretary to assure that National, District and the local squadron have the most recent membership information. National keeps the data base updated with merit marks, education records, rank and grade information while the local squadron provides all the other statistics. The use of this central data base eliminates the need to maintain data in a variety of files and member computers.

If you have an address, phone, or email change, please contact Lt/C Sandy Schoonmaker, SN, at schoon67@msn.com or call her at 453-8130. Please note that the squadron sends out email notices of social and boating events as well as the monthly meetings and minutes; if you are not receiving information on-line and wish to do so, please send your email address to the above.

SEO REPORT

Lt./C Howard Bernbaum, SN

Hopefully the hurricane season is behind us, although I remember getting caught by Josephine in October while cruising the Abacos. It was my first trip over in a little Catalina 25 and it was an attention getter. My crew and I were relaxing after a day spent mostly heeled way over. In fact the spreader tips had touched the water a couple of times. We pulled back into the anchorage at Great Sale Cay and kicked back, intending to head for Umbrella Cay the next morning when the weather should have been a little calmer. We were monitoring channel 16 and were surprised to hear a voice, "Hey, little sailboat that just anchored in Great Sale, come back". Without recounting the conversation we were informed there was a big bad storm brewing 400 miles east of Nassau and headed our way. The next morning, instead of heading for Umbrella Cay we beat it back to West End which was the nearest hurricane hole in the area. Fortunately there was room for us and we dock partied like mad for the next few days. Hurricane Josephine did come through Great Sale and we felt her fury even in our protected quarters.

There were some lessons to be learned from this experience. We should have monitored the weather better than we did, for one. We did have Loran aboard and we did have the appropriate waypoints. However vision was obscured badly and, if not for the Loran, would have easily gotten into trouble. Barricuta Shoals lies between Great Sale Cay and West End. It is a narrow stretch and very shallow out of the channel. We could not see the day marks until we were within 50 feet or so. This would have been an easier sail if I had taken Piloting before attempting the cruise!

Speaking of Piloting, we are starting the new Piloting course on Thursday, November 11. The new course covers all the basics covered in the old Piloting course and introduces the use of GPS as an aid to Piloting. It is not a GPS course and assumes the student has some familiarity with his own GPS. It will, of course, enhance the students knowledge of and use of his GPS. Owning a GPS is not a prerequisite to the course, but, it is useful. I have already ordered the books for the students who have indicated an interest in taking this course. However, if this article stimulates an interest, contact me immediately and I will quickly fax an order for extra books. We are not sure of the cost of the course as of this writing nor are we sure that it will be taught at the Veterans' Center. I can be reached at 321-452-0320 or e-mailed at: howardb@cfl.rr.com

On a different note, The Squadron Boating Course is wrapping up, notwithstanding the interruptions due to the spate of hurricanes wandering around this area. The VMC was closed a couple of times so we moved the class to Cape Canaveral Hospital annex one night. As of this writing (October 15) we are not sure where we will complete the class. The instructors and proctors have stuck with it as have most of the students. We again thank John Mulkey, P for taking over in Pete Schmidt's absence. It is not easy picking up where somebody else leaves off.



Season's Greetings

COCOA BEACH POWER SQUADRON HOLIDAY PARTY

When: December 17th, 2004

*Where: Cocoa Civic Center
430 Delannoy Avenue
Cocoa, FL*

*Time: Cocktails: 1800 - 1900
Dinner: 1900 - 2000
Dancing: 2000 - 2100*

Cost: \$30.00 per person/cash bar

*Dress: Men: Uniform A or Suit and Tie
Women: Formal Attire*

Buffet Menu:

Buttered Hors D Oeuvres:

Assorted Mini Quiches, Swedish Meatballs

Entrees:

Prime Rib Au Jus, Roast Chicken Breast with Lobster Stuffing in Mornay Sauce

Salads and Side Dishes:

*Garden Salad and Dressing, Fresh Fruit Ambrosia, Mashed Red Potatoes,
Fresh Steamed Green Beans with Toasted Almonds*

Dessert Buffet:

*Party Assortment of Mini Cannolis, Tartlets, Brownies, Profiteroles, Cheesecakes,
etc.*

*Menu includes fresh rolls and butter,
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Marker 21 Raft Up & Overnight - Boating Activity

November 6 & 7, Saturday Overnight

By P/C Duane Balkema AP

South of Melbourne and Palm Bay, the ICW (Intercoastal Waterway) tightens up a bit for depth and the markers begin to be a lot closer together. This actually happens at or around some fill islands where "Marker 21" is placed at the side of the ICW. You are in Malabar if on land and almost to Grant. Marker 21 is 6.1 Knots south of the Melbourne and Highway 192 bridge.

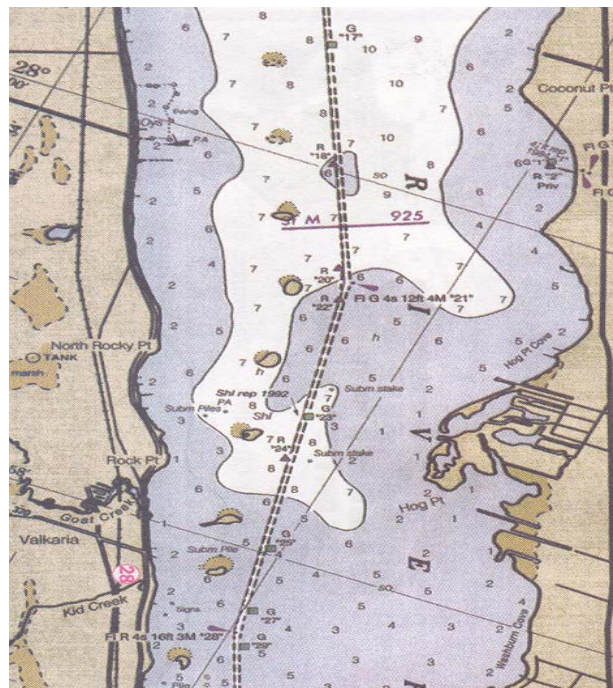
The boat trip down should be scheduled such that you will arrive in early afternoon. We will plan to be anchored together for an evening meal. Some will want to grill food on the island and others may want to cook on the larger boats. Of course, subs work just fine as well. The small islands offer good shelter from winds and there is plenty of deep water, but do pay attention to the depth sounder. Plan an overnight or stay for the evening meal and a late departure. Come join the fun! Trailer boaters can launch near to the site and make it a short run if it pleases you.

Several different boat owner groups meet there for fun and games. One year, when I was there, a Sea Ray Owners group had collected. Other Power Squadrons from the district often make this a destination. I am aware of Daytona, Orlando and Banana River Power Squadrons meeting there through the years. In 1994, I took this picture at a Marker 21 fling. The trawler in the distance belonged to a Squadron Commander.

This is our last scheduled boating event for 2004. The Squadron would like to see a nice turnout. Come join us. Help push the number of participants in this activity. Please contact Duane Balkema, 452-5892 for information on attending this event.



1994 Marker 21 Power Squadron Fling



Intercoastal Waterway



GALAXY 23

*From the District 23 Bridge
D/LT/C George Fontes, AP*

We had a very trying month, with 3 hurricanes passing through District 23. Our thoughts and best wishes are with our members as they work to get their lives back to normal. In spite of these trials, there is considerable good news within District 23!

The Jacksonville Power Squadron did a superb job in hosting the USPS Fall Governing Board. A lot of work by a lot of Jacksonville and D23 members resulted in SUCCESS. Thanks to all these members for their efforts in ensuring that we had a great Governing Board meeting. Other news from the Governing Board: Titusville Power Squadron was one of only four squadrons in all of USPS that had 100% retention of their members - what a great achievement! The Cocoa Beach Power Squadron is the most improved in the Co-Op Charting program within D23, and are currently leading the District in Co-Op credits by a large margin. R/C Richard Peoples, Banana River Power Squadron, was awarded a Power of One Hat for influencing more than 5 new members to join USPS. Stf/C Walt Fields, Ocala Power Squadron, received a Special Recognition Award for his outstanding contribution to the development of the new Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses. Congratulations to these squadrons and D23 members for their much deserved awards!

October 1-3 was the scheduled date of our D23 Conference. However, due to the severe hurricane damage, the hosting squadron, Banana River, and D23, the Fall Conference was changed to a one-day, no-host Conference held on 3 Oct in Leesburg, FL. A big thanks to all the D23 Squadron officers and members who made the extra effort to attend this Conference and help make it a success. Many awards were presented during this Conference. Three Banana River Squadron members were awarded their Senior Navigator awards: Jeffrey Marcus; Gilbert Paradies; and Ralph Taylor. D23 Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching, was presented to P/D/C David D. Legg, SN, Ocala Power Squadron. The National Boating Federation/USPS Excellence in Recreational Boating Award for 2004 was presented to Harris Chain Power Squadron. Three D23 squadrons were recognized for achieving more than a 3% growth in membership this past year: Ponce de Leon (3.64%), Titusville (10.26%) and Harris Chain (10.42%). Bob M. Johnson, JN, Ponce de Leon Power Squadron, was recognized for achieving 50 years membership in USPS. The Daytona Beach Power Squadron received a commemorative certificate signed by the Chief Commander on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary.

The Teaching Aids competition was held during this Conference: the Ocala Power Squadron won all the awards for Teaching Aids, including the Wesley Mathews Award for "Best in Show". The James F. Bruner Award for most JN's was awarded to Harris Chain and Gainesville Squadrons (a tie). Banana River Power Squadron won the Preston Heath Award for the highest percent of JNs to pass to Navigator, the Senior Navigator Award and the Education Proficiency Award. The Claude Wilson Award for the most Co-Op Charting credits was awarded to Banana River. The "Ship Over Award" for the highest percent of member retention was presented to the Titusville Power Squadron. A big CONGRATULATIONS to all these individuals and Squadrons for their achievements in winning these awards.

Six squadrons received Honor Roll Certificates from the US Department of Commerce for their work in Co-Op Charting: Banana River, **Cocoa Beach**, Jacksonville, Ocala, Seminole, and Titusville. A total of 24 members received individual Honor Roll Certificates.

A reminder that the USPS Annual Meeting will be held in Orlando again this year, Jan 5-9, 2005. I encourage you to try to attend at least some of the activities, since the Annual Meeting is held so close to home. The Schedule of Events can be found in The Ensign.

Another important event in January is the D23 Winter Council, which will be held Jan 22 at the Silver Lake Community Church facilities in Leesburg. As in past years, the Winter Council meeting is when we conduct the training for the incoming Squadron Bridge officers, so be sure to make your plans to attend. A detailed agenda of the day's workshops and meetings, as well as lunch information, can be obtained from your Squadron Commander or the D23 website: www.usps.org/localusps/d23 a little later this month. The District 23 Bridge joins me in wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving and a great Holiday Season!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER:

02-ELECTION DAY – VOTE!!!



06-07-Saturday-Sunday; 1300; Overnight Cruise to Marker 21
09-Tuesday; 1900; General Meeting; Veterans' Memorial Center (Rescheduled due to Elections)
10-Wednesday; 1230; Coco-Nauts Brown Bag Luncheon; Cape Canaveral Library
11–Thursday; 1700; Piloting course—Call for exact time and location, 321-452-0230
15-Monday; Merit Mark information due to area monitor
17-Wednesday; 0900-1100; Blood Bank; Veterans' Memorial Center
21-Sunday; 1400-1700; Coco-Nauts Harvest Party; Veterans' Memorial Center
23-Tuesday; 1900-2100; Exec. Board Meeting; Merritt Island Library; N. Courtenay Pkwy.

25-THANKSGIVING DAY



DECEMBER:



01-Monday, 0900-1100, Blood Bank, Veterans' Memorial Center
07-Tuesday; 1900; General Meeting, Veterans' Memorial Center

07-FIRST DAY OF HANNUKAH

08-Wednesday; 12:30; CocoNauts Luncheon Meeting; Chowders on U.S.1
17-Saturday; 1800-2100, CBPS Holiday Party; Cocoa Civic Center

25-CHRISTMAS DAY

28-Tuesday; 1900-2100; Exec. Board Meeting; Merritt Island Library; N. Courtenay Pkwy.

31-NEW YEARS EVE

CBPS members are invited to meet and eat each Wednesday at 1130 at the Cozy Corner Café at 2425 N. Courtenay Parkway. Breakfast and light lunches are available. Members are also invited to meet for a casual get together at Murdock's in Cocoa Village on Friday afternoons.

SPECIAL AWARDS to COCOA BEACH POWER SQUADRON and ITS MEMBERS

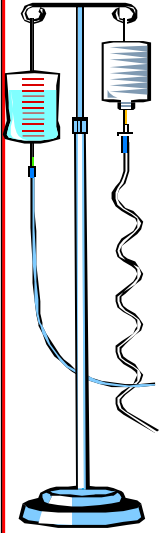
At the recent District Conference, Cocoa Beach Power Squadron received the Educational Proficiency Award for 2004 for the second year in a row. CBRS also won an Award for being on the Co-op Charting Honor Roll.

P/C Al Pappas, SN, P/R/C Dick Schnoor, SN, P/R/C Mary Jane Schnoor, SN and Jerry Kadenbach, AP, also received individual awards for achieving the 136 credits needed to make the Honor Roll.

Way to go folks, we're proud of you!

Blood Bank Report

Lt Barbara Millner, S



Blood supplies continue to be dangerously low due to the many hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters that have hit our area.

In September, only 15 people donated blood. I encourage you to contact your friends and family and urge them to participate in this life saving event.

Just a reminder, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our schedule for donating will be off by a little. The December date for donation is set for December 1 at the Veterans' Center.

Please...if you have never donated blood, consider giving your "gift" on December 1st. If you have donated in the past, take a few minutes out of your day and maybe save a life.

Safety Committee Chairman

P/R/C Mary Jane Schnoor, SN

This time of year it is good to review the maintenance steps that will help you prevent a dangerous explosion or heavy fine caused by fuel leaks and discharges overboard. The most frequent source of fuel leaks is corroded fuel tanks. Even a tiny pinhole can dump a considerable amount of fuel into the bilge.

To reduce the chance of corrosion, the tanks should sit well above the bottom of the bilge and there must be air, not bilge water, beneath it. The tank should never rest on wood or carpeting, both of which retain moisture. Some builders bury the fuel tanks under decks and keep them in place with foam. The best way to test for a leak in this case is with your nose and fume detector.

After the fuel tanks the most likely source of leaks is the fuel lines. (Check the May 2004 issue of Boat U.S. magazine for a detailed discussion of fuel lines in gasoline engines.) On some diesels, lines that carry pressurized fuel to the injectors should be checked for leaks as well as the return lines. Even a pinprick of spray on a hot manifold can be a significant fire hazard.

Fuel filters should be checked for leaks as well. The fuel pump's filter bowl should be cleaned regularly along with the filter screen. The bowl must be centered and flat to prevent a leak. If the pump has to be taken in for repair, be careful the fuel does not leak into the bilge. Check the fuel fill as well for corrosion and rust if the hose is reinforced with wire.

Oil spills must be reported to the National Pollution Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 as well as to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard takes a more favorable view of boaters who take positive steps to contain a spill. Unreported spills can bring a \$250,000 fine and possible criminal charges. Spills caused by gross negligence or willful misconduct may result in fines of not less than \$100,000. There are several new products on the market that can be useful in preventing spills overboard and are worth investigating.



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Coco-Nauts' Corner
Barbara Millner, President

Harvest Party
November 21st
2pm to 5pm
Veterans' Memorial Center

Plan to join us on Sunday, November 21st from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Veterans' Memorial Center as the Coco-Nauts are once again putting on their annual Harvest Party.

Don't miss this great event! The Coco-Nauts will furnish the meat, wine, beer, soda and paper products. Ladies, bring your favorite side dish for the members to enjoy.

The cost for this fun time is only \$5.00 per person. If you plan to attend (and we hope you do!) please call Doris Valentine at 452-1835.

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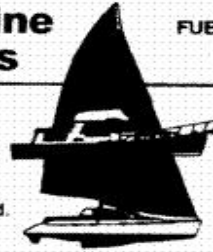
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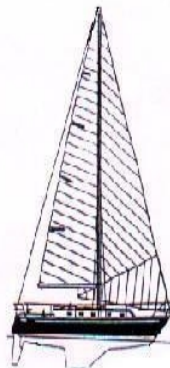
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October
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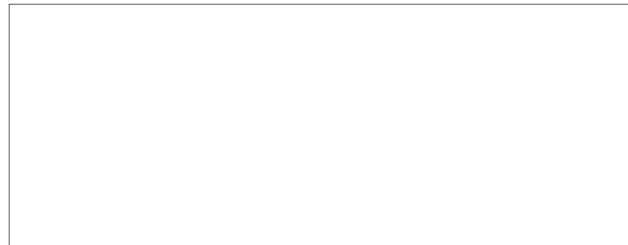
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