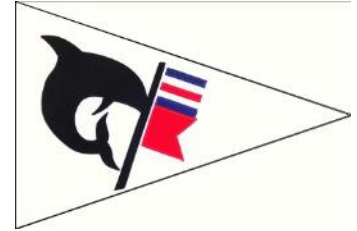




# The Soundings



Summer 2016 newsletter

Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron ([www.cbsps.org](http://www.cbsps.org))

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## Membership Meetings

**Tuesday 5 July @ 1900 (7 PM)**

**Tuesday 2 August @1900 (7 PM)**

**Tuesday 6 September @ 1800 (6 PM)**

**Brevard Memorial Veterans Center  
400 Sykes Creek Pkwy - Merritt Island**

All the details on [www.cbsps.org](http://www.cbsps.org)



[www.facebook.com/CocoaBeachSPS](http://www.facebook.com/CocoaBeachSPS)

**New boating insurance coverage!  
Excellent rates—See page 13  
Another reason to be a Member**

## **Organization's Mission**

The Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron, one of 400 nationwide, is a non-profit organization serving Boater's education needs in Central Brevard County since 1967.

The United States Power Squadrons' mission is to: promote recreational boating safety through education and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members.

*"Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends"*  
To join us, contact [Membership@cbsps.org](mailto:Membership@cbsps.org)

## AT THE HELM

### Commander John FitzGerald, JN-IN



Our Squadron is off to a great year and I thank all the bridge officers and all the committees for their dedication to the Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron. With the officers giving the reports in their sections of our publication I thought it would be interesting to share an annual report by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC):

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) released the 2015 boating accident Statistics on 18 May 2016. They are responsible for reviewing, analyzing and compiling boating accident data for the state. It's statistical report details boating accidents and their causes. Being an organization that promotes safe boating I felt it was important to put out the highlights of their report.

"Many of the accidents in this report could have been prevented if the boat operators had paid attention to everything going on around their vessel, maintained a proper lookout and if everyone had been wearing a life jacket," said Capt. Tom Shipp, FWC Boating and Waterways Section.

"Often, accidents can be prevented by more careful operation," said Lt. Seth Wagner, FWC Boating and Waterways Section. "It is critical for operators to maintain a proper lookout and focus on what is going on around their boat at all times."

Nearly half of boating accidents in 2015 involved collisions and 34 percent of all collisions were due to inattention or the operator failing to maintain a proper look-out.

"The leading type of accident continues to be boaters colliding with other boats or objects," Wagner said. "With the number of boaters in our beautiful state, it's important to pay close attention to everything that's going on around you."

Florida had 737 boating accidents in 2015. That is 103 more accidents as compared to 2014, however, there was a 25 percent decrease in fatalities. A total of 55 people lost their lives last year in boating accidents. Falls overboard have been the leading type of fatal accident since 2003 with drowning as the leading cause of death and 87 percent of these victims were not wearing a life jacket.

Today's boaters can choose from several models of light and comfortable, inflatable belt-pack or over-the-shoulder life jackets that can be worn while fishing or enjoying the sun. The message is clear, 'Life Jackets Save Lives.'

I received the above statistics via email by subscribing to [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)

With the boating season in full swing in our beautiful state, safety is our main concern on the waterways. We can all have fun boating to the islands, fishing and cruising with our friends and family but let's do it safely. It's always the other guy who is boating without any education that causes the accidents. KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT.

I am looking forward to a great summer on the outings we have scheduled as I'm sure you all are. Participation is the key to a fun squadron so let's all get out and make this a successful summer.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Lieutenant Commander Tom Courtney, AP-IN**



**Scholarship:** The Richard and Mary Jane Schnoor undergraduate scholarship is in good financial shape this year, due to the generosity of our members at last year's fund raiser, the Coco-Nauts, who raise gobs of money, selling their Macy's discount cards each year and to all our thirsty members who bring their empty cans for recycling. Lastly, the XO is accepting all personal contributions.

**Vessel Safety Check & Safety Committees:** P/C Robert Rutigliano, N-IN and his team of vessel inspectors are well on their way to surpass last year's total so if you have a boat or friend who has a boat, have your boat inspected: it's FREE and we come to your boat. Our total as of the writing of this article was 116 VSC's completed and 94 having passed. With your help, we can be #1 in the district. Thank you to all the examiners.

**Boat Show Committee:** This year we have pitched our tent at Coastal Angler Magazine Boating & Fishing Expo at Boaters Exchange & Harbortown Marina Flea Market. Many of you have done multiple shows at multiple times. Thank you to all our members who have volunteered at one of these events.

**Facebook:** Lt Winifred Crawford, is doing an excellent job keeping the page up and running. Please contact her with interesting ideas to add to our Facebook page. Go to Facebook and search "Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron" LIKE us.

**Public Relations:** Lt. Pat Dinkey has agreed to do the Public Relations position. It's great to see a new member take a lead role in the squadron.

**Liaison Committee:** P/C J. P. Longway III, P is keeping the squadron up on all things going in Brevard Co. that's important to the squadron.

**Website Committee:** P/Lt/C Richard Schoonmaker, SN keeps our website up and running ([www.cbsps.org](http://www.cbsps.org)). He continues to do a great job with this time consuming task. The website is the spot for all information CBSPS as well as changes to events.

**Radio Technical Officer:** Lt /C George Shapow, AP will continue to keep the squadron up to date with any changes in the technical field.

Finally, I would like to thank all members who pitch in, when needed. Our people make us the Squadron to belong to on the Space Coast.

## SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER

Past Commander Sandra Schoonmaker, SN



Summer in Florida equates to a lot of time in and on the water. It is the time to reap the benefits of all the boating education that has been learned over the previous months.

Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron students have learned the importance of keeping an eye on the weather and to understand the changing conditions. They are well versed in what precautions to take when a summer storm appears. They realize the importance of keeping the electrical systems in good shape to prevent damage from lightning. They know their running lights need to be in good condition since a heavy downpour brings limited visibility and the need to display proper lighting. All this information is covered in the *Weather*, *Seamanship* and *Electrical Systems* classes.

Summer is a good time to head off shore for trips to the Bahamas or just a day out on the big water. Thanks to the courses in *Piloting* and *Advanced Piloting*, CBSPS boaters are confident in their ability to plot courses using both the electronic devices and dead reckoning navigation. Not sure how to use all those fancy electronic devices? There is an *Electronic Navigation* class that covers the basics!

From the practical courses in *Sail* and *Engine Maintenance* to the complex celestial navigation courses teaching the use of the sextant to determine off-shore positions, the squadron provides a comprehensive listing of educational opportunities that are thoroughly explained on the website: [www.cbpsp.org](http://www.cbpsp.org).

Included in the listing of the up-coming classes for fall is a listing of the two new locations where classes are taught. The squadron is grateful to Cape Canaveral Hospital for the use of its conference rooms and to Hobb's Pharmacy that is hosting the advanced celestial navigation class.

Class sign-up is available through the website. Book your classes early and be welcomed aboard an educational journey!

# Boating Education

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lieutenant Commander Jose Casals, P**

(page 1/2)



It is a great pleasure to witness so many happy friends enjoying our Squadron events! Our activities and boating committees are doing great in executing events for our Squadron enjoyment and I am happy to see their enthusiasm and dedication in planning and conducting every event. Most important, our members are participating in increasing numbers, a clear indication of our actively involved membership.

Two outstanding speakers participated in our April and May General Meetings. Mr. Stephen Moon, Admiralty and Marine Lawyer, spoke about common accidents that have occurred to recreational and commercial boaters and their legal implications. Ms. Allison Arteaga, from the Brevard County ZOO provided a great review of their on-going Oyster Restoration Project. Our next scheduled speaker in August is Mr. Wayne Justice, Vice-Chairman of the Port Canaveral Commission.

Our membership lead, Charley Dinkey is proactively managing our squadron membership and is reporting that this year many additional members have joined our Squadron, including new, transferred and associate members. I take this opportunity to introduce these members and welcome them into the Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron. New members: **William Widman, Ted Wyberanec, Jo Edwards, Paul Poulakis, Manuel Oviedo, Tamara Oviedo, Julie Wilbanks, Kevin Luttrell, Carissa Partin, Jean Paul and Laurie Couturier** . Transfer members: **Rex Stone and Deb Henry, Ken and Carol Poole and Twila Nahama**. Associate members: **Bob Kovach and Helen Deitrick-Kovach**. We are delighted to have them on board and look forward to meet them in person during our upcoming meetings and events.

As we continue our efforts to recruit new members into our squadron, I encourage all existing members to talk to their family, friends and neighbors about our Squadron and invite them to our monthly meetings. This is a dynamic Squadron, ever expanding and bringing together boaters interested in boating education, safety and a friendly social environment.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lieutenant Commander Jose Casals, P**

(page 2/2)



I am also requesting mentors from our existing pool of experienced members to guide and assist new members in getting acquainted with our Squadron.

The Planetarium Visit this year, was a total success with a record number of 97 participants! Members, family and friends from the Titusville, Banana River and Cocoa Beach Squadrons enjoyed the experience of delicious food brought by themselves, a variety of drinks for all tastes and extraordinary service by the Planetarium Staff. In addition to the social time together, we enjoyed a great documentary film on elephants, their lifelong journeys and their struggle for survival, and we also enjoyed the laser show with Pink Floyd music! This event was organized by our Social Activities Committee leader, Doris Valentine and her dedicated team of volunteers Randy and Pam Johnson, Jay and Donna Longway, Charley Dinkey, Sandy and Tracy Hazlett, John and Theresa Fitzgerald and Tom Courtney. My heartfelt thanks to all for the time and effort donated to our Squadron.

Also, during the last three months, our members enjoyed fun boating events such as the yearly Blessing of the Fleet and Kayaking in Thousand Islands in Cocoa Beach. Twelve boats were blessed at the Lee Wenner Park by Pastor Greg Le Sieur from the Christ Lutheran Church on Port Canaveral. The Cruise to Captain Hiram's Resort is scheduled for June 25 and a great attendance expected. Details of boating events are presented later in this publication. I thank Duane Balkema for leading the Boating Committee and his team, Robert Blackledge, John Fitzgerald and Tom Courtney for assisting in providing our members with a variety of well planned, safe boating activities.

Following is the list of upcoming events:

June 25 - Cruise to Capt. Hiram's Resort in Sebastian, FL (see page 8)

July 16 - Boat Scavenger Hunt, Banana River (see page 9)

August 20 - Cruise to Marker 21, Indian River, Malabar, FL (see page 10)

September 17— Cruise to Bird Island, Banana River (see page 11)

**Welcome New Members  
Of  
Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron**

## Boating Report by Past Commander Duane L. Balkema, AP

### RECENT EVENTS

I started my last report mentioning weather and it's the same, since **we cancelled the Scavenger Hunt due windy weather**; but never fear, it will be rescheduled.

**Our Cocoa Beach Ramp Road Park Kayak outing** had beautiful weather, 10 kayaks, 3 boats and over 20 people.

Many also attended the **District 23 Picnic at Titusville** for a chance to get to see other folks/Squadrons that make up the District. As you know we are part of a larger group, going to District Level and then National USPS.

**The Blessing of the Fleet** was attended by 12 Boats and a host of people picnicking at the Lee Wenner Park Pavilion.

### COMING EVENTS

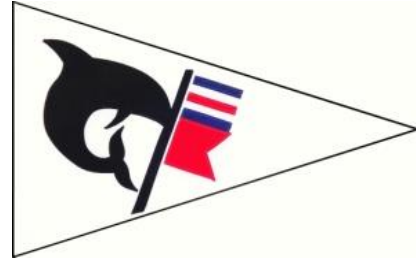
**Cruise to Captain Hiram** is Saturday, **June 25<sup>th</sup>**. Starting from wherever, cruise about 35 miles south to Sebastian, where they have nice docks and even hotel rooms that is just east of US1. The bar and restaurant are lots of fun and we eat our together meal there at 1900. Some folks will overnight at the hotel and others on the boats at the dock.

**July 16, 2016, Sat. Scavenger Hunt, Banana River and Cocoa Beach Canals** will see us get together for details, then go hunt from a clues list. Prepare to be on the water for 3-hours. Great prizes will be awarded.

**August 20, we Cruise South to Marker 21** and visit the island nearby or stay on Anchor. Plan to arrive before 1400 as we will eat about that time.

**The Hoffmans are doing the Great Loop**, north to Canada on their 34' power catamaran and by their reports doing well. In May excitement builds as they are fast approaching New York waterways. **The Greens are cruising out East in the Caribbean** and having a great time as well. Good luck to all.

Every now and then I hear a comment that stuns me about our boating region. Storytelling recently, I mentioned crossing Florida by water to which someone asked, "how?" Folks it's a **great trip to go to Fort Meyers from Stuart**, to and thru Lake Okeechobee You go thru 3 locks climbing up 25' to Lake level and then you lock back down on the 3 locks in the waterway going west. Towns along the way like Lake La-Belle are very interesting. But I still say, boating to the Keys is the best trip and it's really fun.



## Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron

# CRUISE TO CAPTAIN HIRAMS RESORT

1580 US Hwy 1  
Sebastian, Florida 32598  
772-388-8588 or [www.hirams.com](http://www.hirams.com)



**When: 25 June, 2016**

**Plan on arriving at 1600 Hrs. (4:00 pm) and join us at the Cocktail Party at 1700  
Make your own reservations at the Hotel/Dock,  
Hotel rate is \$125 per night (RSV Code TomC16)**

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

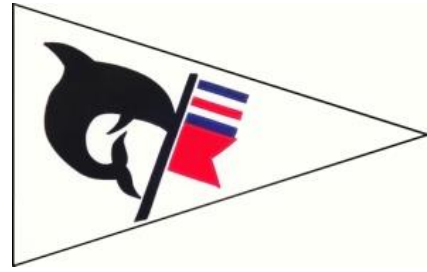
**Book early to get a slip for the night.**

**Details: Cocktail Party beginning at 1700 hrs.  
Eat together at Captains Hiram's Restaurant at 1900 Hrs.  
Party the night away at their Sandbar.**

**If you can't come by boat or the weather is bad, you may drive  
It's rain or shine**

**Questions? Contact Duane Balkema (321) 452-5892**





## Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron

### BOAT SCAVENGER HUNT

When - July 16, 2016  
Where - Launch/Meet up at Kelly Park  
Start - 1000 (10:00 am)  
End - 1330 (1:30 pm)

Cost per Clue Sheet: \$5.00

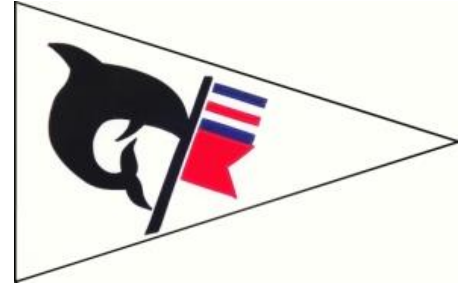
Follow direction to destinations using GPS and or Nautical Charts  
to retrieve Flags

Meet by 1330 at Duane and Marge's waterfront house  
on the Banana River to determine winner and eat lunch.

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH, DRINKS AND CHAIRS**

QUESTIONS?

Contact Duane Balkema (321) 452-5892



## Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron

### CRUISE TO MARKER 21

**When - August 20, 2016**

**Where - Marker 21 on Indian River, East of Malabar/Valkaria**

Latitude N 27.991180

Longitude W 080.539781

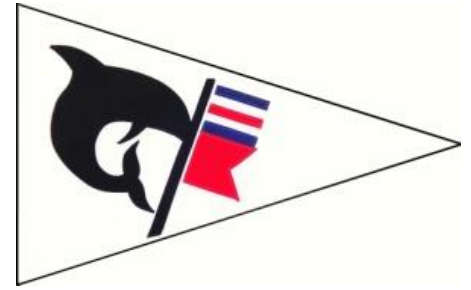
**Start - 1000 (10:00am) Meet near Dragon Point,  
North of Eau Gallie Causeway  
(Lat - N 28.13698, Lon W 080.61447)**

**End - 1600 (4:00pm)**

**Navigate using GPS/Nautical Charts to arrive at meeting point near Dragon Point by 1000. We will cruise together to Marker 21 and anchor/beach west of Marker 21 at an existing spoil island (BC37) for a day of fun and friendship!**

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH, DRINKS AND CHAIRS**

**Contact Duane Balkema (321) 452-5892**



## Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron

### CRUISE TO BIRD ISLAND

**When:** Saturday September 17 2016  
**Time:** 1100 (at Kelly Park) / 1130 (at Bird Island)  
**GPS Coordinates:** Lat. N 28 16 518 Lon. W 080 39 164

Meet at Kelly Park at 1100 hrs. where we will cruise to Bird Island, or meet at Bird Island at 1130. At the island we'll raft up and go ashore for a barbeque (weather permitting) or picnic on the boats. A barbeque/charcoal will be provided for those that want to cook their food on site.



**If you would like to come and don't have a boat,  
 contact us to arrange a ride for you.**

**This is a "bring your own food and drinks" event.**

**Contact P/C Duane Balkema at 321-452-5892 for any questions**

**SECRETARY****Lieutenant Commander Theresa FitzGerald, JN****THE BRIDGE OFFICERS**

- **Commander**  
Cdr John FitzGerald, JN-IN  
Cdr@cbpsps.org  
321-446-6714
- **Executive Officer**  
Lt/C Tom Courtney, AP-IN  
XO@cbpsps.org  
407-276-6893
- **Education Officer**  
P/C Sandra Schoonmaker, SN  
SEO@cbpsps.org  
321-241-4002
- **Administrative Officer**  
Lt/C Jose Casals, P  
AO@cbpsps.org  
410-707-3562
- **Secretary**  
Lt/C Theresa FitzGerald, JN  
Secretary@cbpsps.org  
321-446-6716
- **Treasurer**  
Lt/C George Shapow, AP  
Treasurer@cbpsps.org  
585-738-0437

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday to our very own centenarian P/C Edward Kydd, SN. You are truly an inspirational, warmhearted, bright, caring, strong and dynamic individual, and an invaluable asset to CBSPS.

I hope you all have had the opportunity to see our scrapbooks, both old and new. CBSPS historian, Lt Denise Stone, P, has done a wonderful job assembling these books for many years. As we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> year as a squadron, it is nice to have a way to look back at our history and see some familiar faces that go way back.

Don't forget to visit CBSPS.org for a wealth of information including calendar of events, classes, photo gallery, links to district and national and much more.

Smile when you see Lt Nancy Garwood, AP and Lt Robin Courtney, AP, and thank them for the great job they do taking photos at special moments like meetings, ceremonies, events/outings.

Enjoy your summer

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL BORN  
IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER!**



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*Come for the Boating Education... Stay for the Friends<sup>SM</sup>*

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800-763-8777  
[www.uspsboatinsurance.com](http://www.uspsboatinsurance.com)**

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**Our mailing address is:**  
United States Power Squadrons  
P.O. Box 30423  
Raleigh, NC 27622



## COCO-NAUTS CORNER

### Denise Stone, President

Happy Summer to all our Coco-Nauts! Where has this year gone? It seems like I was just putting Christmas decorations away! We presently have 40 members of Coco-Nauts but many are not active members. I would like to see more members come out and join in all the fun! So please consider joining us at one of our activities!

I have heard from Macy's re their Macy's Shop for a Cause. It is now all weekend! So please save the dates August 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Tickets will be available for sale in the first week of August and with this \$5 ticket you will get 25% off of almost everything that Macy's sells. The profits we make will be donated to CBSPS for the Schnoor Scholarship Fund. So please help us by either selling tickets for us or buying a few tickets for yourself and then giving them to family and friends telling them about where the money goes....remember to save one for yourself! This is wonderful PR for both Coco-Nauts and our Squadron!

For the September CBSPS Meeting, it will be Italian night! Marge Balkema will again be making a beautiful gift basket to be raffled off! Many thanks to Marge!! Please come and enjoy the food and buy a few raffle tickets. There will be no regular meeting that night. The proceeds from the basket raffle go to cover the cost of coffee at our CBSPS Meetings! Many thanks to all Coco-Nauts and all CBSPS Members who buy tickets for this raffle!

The Coco-Nauts are still collecting wine bottle corks...both plastic and real cork. We will be making some table decorations from these corks for the CBSPS Holiday Dinner Dance in December. Please help if you can. Give the corks to any Coco-Naut and they will get them to the right person.

Happy Birthday to our Summer babies: Doris Hess, Susan Kneeland, Francesca Ragusa, Debra Burleson, Marian Sweigart, Doris Valentine, Genevieve Link, Peggy Guerrero, Marsha Kirkwood, and Lorraine Morrell.



*Come for the Boating Education...*  
*...Stay for the Friends <sup>SM</sup>*

**District 23 Newsletter**



Greetings everyone and welcome to the 2016, D23 watch year. Thank you for the honor of serving as D23 Commander. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to put on the conference. Dianne and I certainly enjoyed the weekend.

As we learned at the National meeting in February in Orlando “change is coming” and this could be a busy but exciting year. The 2016 vessel safety checks decals have been distributed to the squadrons. Challenge your examiners to increase the number they perform this year over their 2015 count.

We have the D23 Spring Picnic coming up May 7. Hopefully all the squadrons will participate in the cardboard boat race. Check the fliers from the Titusville Sail and Power Squadron for information on the numerous activities and race rules. Last year they added a line heaving contest and rumor has it this year a tug of war contest is being added. Make plans now to attend this day of fun, food and raffle prizes.

Another major event coming up in May is safe boating week. All Squadrons should be advertising their activities planned for the week. Utilize TV, newspapers, squadron and D23 face book pages and websites. Partner with the Coast Guard Auxiliary for an opportunity to increase the safe boating message to the public as well as make new friends.

21 August – 28 August the Governing Board meeting will be held in Pittsburg. The main hotel is the Sheraton at Station Square. When not attending meetings enjoy some of the tours that have been planned to the flight 93 national memorials, a major league baseball game between Pittsburg Pirates and Houston Astros, a sports history tour and a Pittsburg Treasurers Tour.

Then in October will be the D23 fall conference hosted by the Daytona Beach Sail and Power Squadron. We always have fun in Daytona.

In closing, I ask all Squadrons to share their calendar of events. Share your fun with the other members of the district.

Mark Adams, District 23 Commander



*Come for the Boating Education...  
...Stay for the Friends <sup>SM</sup>*

## District 23 Newsletter



*Oh what a beautiful morning, Oh what a beautiful day! I am sitting here this morning on the back deck of our boat watching people in the Marina, some working, some playing. It reminds me of the U S Power Squadron. When you read this letter, many will be working on the D23 Picnic, while others are out boating. The Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016. (Details will follow soon.) Many have other working jobs while others are playing. I think God said, I give you a beautiful sea with many lakes and rivers, so work hard to maintain them so you have a beautiful playground.*

*Safe Boating Week is coming up May 21 – 27, 2016. It would be nice for all Squadrons to hold a Safe Boating Class that week.*

*Some in the U S Power Squadron have more time to give than others, but in the end we are all working for safety on the water.*

*In my new position as District 23 Executive Officer my Committees and I will be working with Coast Guard Auxiliary, Homeland Security; Cooperative Charting; Legislative; Liaison; Public Relations; Vessel Safety Checks and Safe Boating. If any of you would like to chair any of these Committees or help in any of them, please let me know.*

*Also if you see we need improvement, let me know, don't let it pass.*

*Ronald Gagen, District executive Officer*

**District 23**

**Picnic**

**May 7, 2016**

**Titusville, FL**

**Great success**

**as usual!**







United States Power Squadron, District 23, Fall Conference  
 Holiday Inn, LPGA Boulevard, Daytona Beach  
 21, 22 October 2016

Friday, 21 October 2016

0900 - Golf  
 1500-1800 Registration at the D23 Reception Desk, Lobby  
 1600-1800 Hospitality Room Open  
 1830-2030 Cash Bar and Dinner Buffet  
 2030-2300 Post Dinner Pontifications

Saturday, 22 October 2016

0800-1000 Registration at the D23 Reception Desk, Lobby  
 0830-1000 Navigators "N Club" Meeting  
 1000-1200 Recipe Exchange/Craft Discussion Hospitality Room  
 1000-1300 Local Activities (Tours)  
     Daytona International Speedway, 90 min Tour, \$24.00  
     per and paid in advance.  
 1015-1200 Selected Navigation Topics presented by members of the  
     "N Club."  
 1200-1345 Lunch out and about on your own.  
 1400-1600 D23 Conference Time (Bridge Meeting)  
 1600-1800 Hospitality Room  
 1830-2015 Cash Bar - Dinner - "Presentation" of Selected Sea  
 Stories - Parading of Costume & Judging  
 2000-2300 Halloween Party Continues


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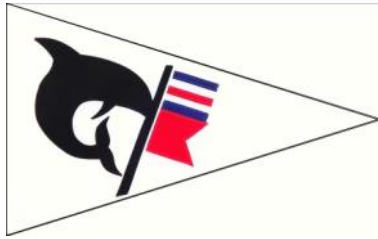
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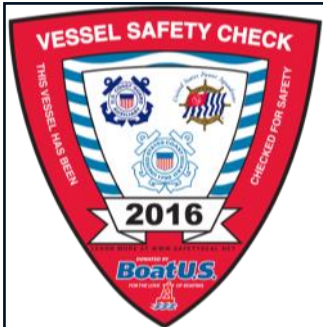
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