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Membership Meetings

Tuesday 3 July @ 1830 (6:30 PM)
Wine & cheese Party
The Shark Man @ 1915 (7:15 PM)

Tuesday 7 August @ 1830 (6:30 PM)
BBQ Party

Tuesday 4 September @ 1800 (6:00 PM)
Italian Night

Brevard Memorial Veterans Center
400 Sykes Creek Pkwy - Merritt Island
All the details on www.cbsps.org



www.facebook.com/CocoaBeachSPS

**The Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron,
Fun Boating on Florida's Space Coast,
one of 350 nationwide, is a non-profit organization
serving boaters' educational needs since 1967.**

America's Boating Club's mission is:

To promote recreational boating safety through education, hands-on training and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members.

To join in the Fun, contact Membership@cbsps.org

AT THE HELM

Commander Jose Casals, AP-IN

(Page 1/3)



THANKS TO ALL OF YOU for your active participation in our events which is making a huge difference in our organization. The enthusiasm exhibited by our members and by our Bridge, committees and volunteers is extraordinary and makes our Boating Club a very attractive organization for new members.

We now have over 200 members which is good progress towards our goal of 220 members in 2020. I urge all existing members to reach out and meet our new members at our meetings and boating activities. The success of our organization in the long run depends on the continuous integration of existing and new members and the active participation of all in our monthly activities. **We are doing great. LET'S CONTINUE!**

Per United States Power Squadrons' strategy, we have integrated our new branding name, America's Boating Club in our day to day business. You may have noticed that in our publications. Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron (CBSPS) continues to be our legal name, but we now emphasize America's Boating Club, serving Florida's Space Coast. The branding transition continues and I exhort you to **spread the word within our communities that we are America's Boating Club, and we have Fun Boating on Florida's Space Coast.**



We are delighted that most of the active members of Titusville Sail and Power Squadron (TSPS) decided to join us and I am looking forward to learn from their guidance and recommendations. I want to acknowledge the generous financial contribution made by TSPS. **Welcome Friends from North Brevard!!**

CBSPS was responsible for **District 23 Picnic** at Sand Point in Titusville. The team performed detailed planning and execution of the event which was very successful with outstanding attendance. P/C Sandy Schoonmaker, SN, orchestrated 27 volunteers. The D23 Bridge graciously served the food. Lt/C Deb Henry, AP, and P/C Tom Courtney, AP-CN, provided Sandy critical support.

AT THE HELM

Commander Jose Casals, AP-IN

(page 2/3)



At **District 23 Spring Conference** in Daytona Beach, CBSPS received the Activities Award and the Albert G.E. Brent Award for Operations Training. P/C Edward Kydd, SN and P/C Duane Balkema, AP received their 25-year pins and Life Membership; Lt/C Deb Henry, AP and Wilson Suarez, AP received their Educational Proficiency; Theresa FitzGerald, SN became Senior Navigator.

Training and Safe Boating Education continues to be one of our main efforts and our Squadron Education Officer, Lt/C Mike Glynn, JN has done a superb job; see his report (page 6 & 7) and 2017 Quick Facts about Florida's boating accidents (page 19).

I want to **recognize the efforts of the committees** led by:

P/C Jay Longway III, P in coordinating our civic activities with Keep Brevard Beautiful and the Support Volunteers at the Veterans Memorial Center.

Lts Bill Wilkening and Leonard Frasco for our participation at Harbortown Flea Market and Boater's Exchange Boat Show. These two activities helped us greatly in recruiting students for our ABC classes and the Vessel Safety Checks.

P/C Duane Balkema, AP, who in the face of adverse weather affecting our boating events led our Boating Committee to actively pursue alternative options.

Administrative Officer, Lt/C Deb Henry, AP, for the extraordinary and proactive effort exhibited during the planning and execution of our General Meetings. As most of you have noticed, Deb is committed to make these meetings the best ever, and she is now providing an extended social time with food and drinks prior to our speakers. This past quarter we had two outstanding speakers, Nancy Haslam, AP, about her experiences on the tall ship Lady Washington and Michael Ferger on Cuba. Both were excellent presentations well received by all.

The winner of this year's Richard and Mary Jane Schnoor **Scholarship Award** is Ms. Andrea Taggart, from the Florida Institute of Technology. Ms. Taggart is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science. She will be reporting to our membership at the General Meeting on Tuesday 6 November.

AT THE HELM

Commander Jose Casals, AP-IN
(page 3/3)



Five of our members and I participated in the yearly **Flare-up Event** executed by our sister organization, Banana River SPS. This was very informative and educational with every type of emergency signal device was explained and everybody had the opportunity to light off flares and shoot aerial signals.

As we all know too well, June 1st marks the opening of **hurricane season**. Please see below for some advice from FEMA or take the AmericaBoatingClub.org seminar *Hurricane Preparation for Boaters*.

To end, **please check our upcoming activities calendar and come and enjoy the warm friendship of all**. I wish everyone a safe summer full of fun boating activities and events.

Have a Plan for Hurricane Season

Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1. [Based on FEMA's 2016 National Household Survey](#), more than half of families living where hurricanes occur have a plan to stay in contact. Make sure you create a family emergency communication plan before the next storm.

Knowing where loved ones are and how to get in touch in the event of an emergency will give you peace of mind. Visit Ready.gov/Hurricanes for tips, tools, and resources to help you prepare.

Planning starts with these three steps:

Collect – Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family. Collect the contact information of other important people and places, such as doctors, insurance companies, or schools.

Share – Make sure everyone carries a copy. If you complete your plan online at ready.gov/make-a-plan, you can print it as a wallet-sized card. Also, post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.

Practice – Bring your family together to review and practice your plan every few months.

Do check www.ready.gov to learn more about preparing for a hurricane.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander George Shapow, SN-IN



From the Vessel Safety Check Committee:

Our seven active Vessel Examiners (VE) chaired by P/C Bob Rutigliano, AP-IN, are again doing an ever better job this year with **127 Vessel Safety Checks** so far of which over 100 passed and were given the USCG 2018 decal. They will be stationed, early morning as usual, at:

Kelly Park	Saturday 14 July
Titusville Marina	Sunday 19 August
Lee Wenner Park	Sunday 16 September

If enough VEs are available, we will cover more than one boat ramp.
Tell your boating friends or stop by to say hello!

From the Public Relations Committee:

Our PRO, P/C Gerard Meunier, SN-CN, has been quite busy implementing the new branding policy with all the changes needed to our marketing tools such as this newsletter, our website and our generic business card:



Also, new signs have been placed by P/C Tom Courtney, AP-CN, at local marinas and selected locations to advertise our new branding and our Vessel safety Check program.

We are now a Partner of the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce and need volunteers to spread the word about our activities to their 1700 members or so. Please contact Gerard at boc@cbsps.org or Jose at Cdr@cbsps.org

SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Mike Glynn, JN
(page 1/2)



One of the many advantages of living here in Florida is that we can enjoy boating just about every day of the year. We don't have to wait for any ice to melt or the temperature to warm up. All we need do is hop in the boat and go! (after you have checked the weather forecast).

As I write this article, **Safe Boating Week** is underway and Memorial Day is just around the corner. These events mark the official start to another boating season. With that in mind, the Bridge and the Education Department wishes everyone a very enjoyable and safe boating season. Remember to wear your life jacket! Wearing a life jacket is the simplest way of saving lives while on the water.

Speaking of safe boating, on May 5th CBSPS conducted one of its **most successful ABC classes ever**. Twenty-eight people attended the day long class, including about eight children and two young adults born after January 1, 1988. Everyone received a very thorough introduction to safe boating practices. All attendees passed the test and will be receiving their Florida Boating Safety Education I.D. card shortly. Our new ABC course fee of \$10/person or \$20/family, plus one free book per family, probably contributed to the good turnout. Five students decided to further their boating education and were enthused enough about CBSPS that they became new members. Conducting a class of this size was a real team effort. Congratulations to the ABC Team for a job very well done!

Another safe boating effort by our squadron is our **Vessel Safety Check (VSC)** program. These voluntary VSCs help educate boaters about the federal and state recreational boating safety laws and equipment. Our Vessel Examiners (VE) encourage boat owners to maintain and operate their vessel in a safe manner and to take boating courses, such as the ABC class, in an effort to promote safe boating. And our VEs come to you! To schedule a VSC send an email to vsc@cbpsps.org

Boating Education

SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Mike Glynn, JN
(page 2/2)



The importance of safe boating education can not be overstated. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently published its 2017 Boating Accidents Statistical Report. Some highlights from that report are listed by P/R/C William E. Husted, SN (see **2017 Quick facts on page 19**)

The FWC concluded that, “A large number of the deaths could have been prevented if the victims had worn life jackets.” It also concluded that, “These statistics show us that *the boat operator most likely to be involved in a boating accident is a middle-age or older male who has boating experience yet has never learned the most important safety considerations by having taken a boating safety course.*”

Knowledge is powerful. Safe boating education is critical to giving the public the knowledge they need to prevent needless accidents. And safe boating education is not only necessary for young people born after January 1, 1988, but as the statistics show, it is needed for middle aged adults as well. The FWC’s complete report can be accessed at www.MyFWC.com.

The next ABC class offered by CBSPS will be held on Saturday, September 8th at Port Canaveral Yacht Club. Visit www.CBSPS.org for the details. Please let your friends and family know about this class. If you think you might need to brush up on your safe boating knowledge, sign up as well!

Other upcoming CBSPS courses are:

- Junior Navigation beginning on Thursday 6 September at Hobbs Pharmacy;
- Marine Communication Systems also beginning 6 September but at Cape Canaveral Hospital;
- Seamanship beginning on Monday 17 September at Cape Canaveral Hospital.

Be sure to “Save the Date” for these courses. Sign up sheets will be available at our monthly meetings and you can always sign up online by visiting the Boating Education page on our website.

Have a safe and enjoyable boating season!

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Deb Henry, AP
(page 1/2)



The time is flying by this year! We have seen a lot of weather challenges for our boating events! Please see the Boating Report page ... All this led us to the conclusion that we always **need a Plan B in case of bad weather** as described below for our upcoming events:

June 23: Cruise to Captain Hiram's.

Plan B: Drive there.

July 21: Rescheduled Blessing of the Fleet instead of boating to JB's Fishcamp as the water depth is too low to get there.

Plan B: Meet for lunch at 1230 at Norman's Raw Bar, Northeast of Cocoa Village.

August 18: Scavenger Hunt.

Plan B: Meet for the camaraderie and drinks at the Sunset Grill at 1600.

Sept 15: Cruise to West Barge Canal Island.

Plan B: Meet at 1230 at the Island Grille in Harbortown Marina.

Other news:

On **17 March** we had a very successful meet the **Bridge picnic (62 folks!)** who met for games, food and fellowship on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon.

On **12 May**, we hosted the **District 23 Picnic** with major help from our transferred members from Titusville and had a great time despite misty showers for the entire picnic. 113 adults, 5 children and the band all partook of the great food cooked by Elmer Bakalla and Rex Stone, with Elmer's sons really pitching in. This event was quite profitable for the squadron. Two kayak races were held with a total of 9 boats between the peddlers and the paddlers! Corn hole and rope toss games were also held. Over 25 baskets were raffled or auctioned! Overall, it was a great event and it was made that way because our members (27 in all) contributed their time, energy and experience to make it a memorable event. No one person was overburdened. **This is WHAT WE DO! And we always need volunteers!**

Picture of the Basket Makers by Nancy Haslam;
From Right to left, Karen Andros, Sandy Carlson &
Sandy Schoonmaker at the Merritt's residence
in honor of P/C Anne Merritt, who for many
years led that effort at her home.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Deb Henry, AP

(page 2/2)



I'd like to get member preference for a **potential Paddle Wheel boat dinner cruise.**

(1) Cocoa Paddle wheel 2-hr in the evening is about \$60 per person.

(2) Daytona Beach from one of the marinas 2-hr up the Intra Coastal in the late afternoon -1600 hours- is about \$30 per person.

Call or email me at AO@cbsps.org

MEETINGS:

NewsFlash: We will offer wine and beer at all our general meetings starting immediately. We'll have a donation jar and ask for \$1.00 per adult beverage to help defray the cost. Of course, wine and cheese night is a little different! (Still \$2.00 donation)

Don't forget that the July meeting social hour starts at 1830. Wine, cheese, some fruit, deli meats will be available. The speaker at 1915 will be the Shark Man!

August General meeting is the hamburger/hot dog cookout, also starting at 1830.

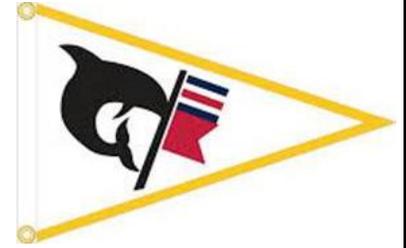
As always, the Bridge and the Board are looking for ways to improve communications to you, our current members, and to solicit new members, so please give us any suggestions you feel will help!

Welcome to our 2018 new members

First Name	Last Name	Date Joined	Home Base	Boat Name	Boat Type
Calvin & Deborah	Funkhouser	5/7/2018	Sykes Creek	Netonic	44' Power Catamaran
Rachel Richard	Malloy Holcomb	5/7/2018	Merritt Island	Grady White	25' Power
Amer	Erheim	5/7/2018	Indian harbor Beach	None yet	
Reggie & Sal	Campanella	5/6/2018	Merritt Island	Nautikstar	18' Power
David Denise	Price Obenour	5/3/2018	Merritt Island	Music	38' Sail
Edwin (Jr.)	Davis	5/3/2018	Merritt Island	Jag	33' Sail
Karen & Steve	Montgomery	3/28/2018	Merritt Island	?	Power
Norma	Thomas	3/17/2018	Cocoa Beach	None	



Fun Boating On Florida's Space Coast



ITALIAN NIGHT



When: Tuesday, 4 September 2018
Where: Veterans Memorial Center
 400S Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL 32952
Time: 1800 (6pm)
Cost: FREE!

Please bring your favorite Italian Dish to share

The squadron will provide wine, beer, soft drinks, water,
 plates, utensils, napkins

Boating Report

Past Commander Duane L. Balkema, AP

RECENT EVENTS:

Our season has been a Weather Washout, I hate to admit. Our Blessing Of Fleet takes a lot of work and then to have thunder storms that whole week was terrible. We did get our first named tropical storm out of it. But have faith, it is rescheduled. The Raft up at Dragon Point in April was on a Small Craft Advisory day weekend. Our intrepid Boating Committee member Bill Ellis and his wife were there on station at the appointed time. The Kayak event in March only had one boat and one brave kayaker due to low temperature.

NEW EVENTS:

Saturday, 23 June 2018: Cruise to Captain Hiram's Overnight (page 14)
P/C Tom Courtney is the organizer on this one and using TC18 may get you a discount on a room. You are welcome to a mixer in his room before going down to eat. Some will sleep on the boats and dock space and electric is real reasonable.

Saturday, 21 July 2018: RESCHEDULED—Blessing of the Fleet (page 15)
off Lee Wenner Park in Cocoa on Indian River. See the Flyer for information. Do come and celebrate this event which has much tradition of past times when boats had no engines and will keep your boat running well. We want you there. I will try again to get the Coast Guard to lead us. A raft-up follows the Blessing; bring refreshments as your crew requires. First Timers will enjoy participating in this event.

Saturday, 18 August 2018: Scavenger Hunt on Banana River (page 16)
Saturday, 15 Sept. 2018: Cruise to West Barge Canal Island (page 17)

OUT THERE DOING IT:

- Tom & Julia Hoffman are off again on their power cat Next Adventure cruising North; this time for the Little Loop to enjoy the New York Canals, the Thousand Islands, the Rideau Canal to Ottawa, then Montreal and Lake Champlain.
- Frank and Ann Rogers-Witte on their Jubilee IV are doing the Great Loop, up to Canada, Chicago and the Great Rivers back to the Gulf.
- The Bahamas are attractive this year with our own Tony Luciani and crew aboard Hat tricks there for 3 weeks and the Central Florida SPS with over 20 boats last month to the Biminis.
- Squadron Member, tell us all what your boating events are. And where our burgee has been flying. We love a good boat story. Please contact Duane Balkema at 321 452-5892 or the editor.

New CBP Boating Procedure

From Administrative Officer Deb Henry, AP

NEW OPTION FOR REPORTING YOUR PLEASURE BOAT ARRIVAL

It is our pleasure to announce that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is launching the **CBP Reporting Offsite Arrival – Mobile (ROAM) app**, a new way for pleasure boaters to report their U.S. entry in select locations nationwide! This app provides pleasure boaters with a convenient and efficient way to report their U.S. entry from a personal device, as opposed to calling their local CBP number.

Please note: Float plans are no longer required, and the Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS) is being discontinued in the coming months. A notice will be posted to the SVRS website with a specific date and thereafter all travelers will be directed to utilize the CBP ROAM app. Your SVRS, Local Boater, or Registered Traveler numbers will remain in effect and can be utilized and saved within the app to expedite reporting.

What is the CBP ROAM app?

The CBP ROAM app is a free mobile application that provides a new and faster option for pleasure boaters to report their U.S. entry to CBP. Travelers can use their personal smart device (or a tablet located at partner businesses) to satisfy reporting requirements in select areas. All travelers, regardless of nationality or citizenship, are eligible to use the CBP ROAM app.

Where can the CBP ROAM app be used?

Currently, the CBP ROAM app can be used to report U.S. entry by pleasure boat in Florida, select locations in Minnesota, and in the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River area between Buffalo and Ogdensburg, NY. Additional locations are being added, and travelers should contact their local port of entry to confirm whether arrival submissions via the CBP ROAM app are accepted.

Download CBP ROAM on your Android or Apple device! Detailed instructions on how to install and use the app on a personal device are attached for your reference. For more information on the CBP ROAM app, visit the CBP ROAM page on CBP's website. For CBP ROAM questions or comments, please reach out to cbproam@cbp.dhs.gov.

Happy boating and stay safe!
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Boating Product Review

Past Commander John FitzGerald, SN-CN

ARTIC AIR DELUX (evaporative air cooler)

<https://www.buyarcticair.com/?mid=9377218>

For the past few years I've been searching for a way to keep my boats cabin cooler during overnight trips in the spring and summertime. I used a portable home AC unit with a generator but my cabin has limited space and venting the AC unit was an issue. I kept it in near the door of the cabin but it never cycled off since I couldn't contain it within my cabin to stop at a preset temperature.

I was watching an infomercial about a product called the "ARTIC AIR DELUX" an evaporative air cooler. It's a personal cool air cooler. The unit is very small that has an LED light that changes to the a few different colors (green, light green, blue, red, and off). There is three speed fan that quiet enough to sleep without an issue. The unit is powered by either house electric or through a usb outlet.

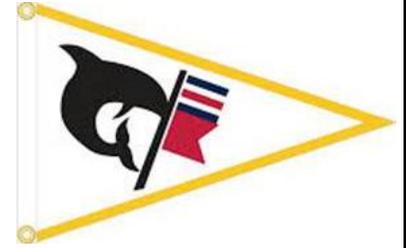
I filled the reservoir with cold water and turned on the fan. To my surprise it cooled the air about 10 degrees. I then put an ice cube in the reservoir to cool it down even more and it dropped the temperature to about 15 degrees below the air temps. It isn't made for a large room but if you want to be cool during the night you can plug it in and keep in next to you and you will be just fine for a good night sleep. I bought two units with their buy one get the other at additional reduced price. Now Theresa and I can sleep in the cabin without dying from the heat. I am truly shocked and surprised at how well this small, inexpensive (\$40.00 first and the second one for \$20.00), light little unit this is. There is a SIXTY day money back guarantee.



phot credit: Artic Air website above



Fun Boating On Florida's Space Coast



2018 CRUISE TO CAPTAIN HIRAMS



1580 US Hwy 1
Sebastian, Florida 32598
772-388-8588

When: 23 June, 2018

Plan on arriving at 1600 Hrs.

Make your own arraignments at the Hotel/Dock,

Hotel rate is \$135 per night

(Mention Tomc18 to get this rate)

10 rooms, minimum, guaranteed at this rate

Book early to get a slip for the night.

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.

Details: Cocktail party beginning at 1600 hrs.

Eat together at Captains Hiram's Restaurant at 1900 Hrs.

Then party the night away at their Sandbar.

COME BY LAND OR BY SEA, RAIN OR SHINE

Contact Tom Courtney @ 407-276-6893



Fun Boating On Florida's Space Coast



2018 "Blessing Of The Fleet"

On Waters off Lee Wenner Park

Indian River, Just South of Hwy 520

Park is 300 Riveredge Blvd, Cocoa, FL 32922

Rescheduled to Saturday, July 21, 2018 @ 11:00
Arrive at 10:30 on location

This event is for all Boaters who want to participate.
Come and have your boat blessed for a trouble free boating season.

At 10:30 AM, boats will circle-up on Indian River, just south of the Hwy 520 Bridge, TUNE VHF RADIO to Channel 71 and wait for instructions. There will be a lead boat for you to follow through the Blessing. Maintain spacing of 75 to 150 feet between boats.

Do not stop anywhere along the route.

As you pass the Blessing Boat, state the Vessel name and Crew names over VHF 71.

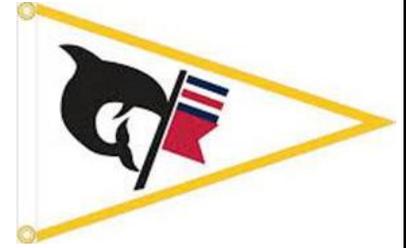
The Pastor will give the Blessing over VHF 71.

Not changing speed, you will proceed back out to River Center and follow the Lead Boat North under the Bridge for a little Parade.

After the Parade, boats will raft-up for lunch and camaraderie before heading out for a year of trouble free boating.



Fun Boating On Florida's Space Coast



BOAT SCAVENGER HUNT

When 18 August 2018
Where In a boat on the Banana River and its canals
Start You pick the time you think you need to start to find all the answers to the clues
End - 1400 (2:00 pm) at Sunset Grill, Cocoa Beach

PLAN B : Meet at Sunset Grill at 1600 for fun and drinks...

Cost per Clue Sheet: Free

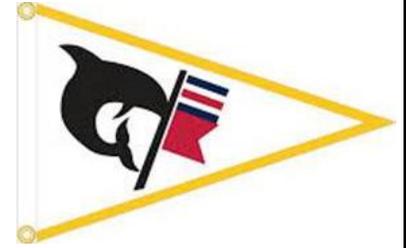
Clue list will be provided the night before to all interested via email.
 Follow direction to destinations using GPS and or Nautical Charts and take pictures (on your phone) of the clue answer.
 Winner will be determined at Lunch. More details available later!

Contact Duane Balkema (321)452-5892 or Bill Ellis (321) 368-3622





Fun Boating On Florida's Space Coast



CRUISE TO WEST BARGE CANAL ISLAND

Saturday 15 September 2018



Cruise to and meet at the spoil island (by Marker "12" west end of Barge Canal) at 1130. 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.

PLAN B: In case of bad weather—Meet at Island Grill at Harbortown Marina at 1200!

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
or Bill Ellis at 321-368-3622 for any questions/need for ride**

SECRETARY

Lieutenant Commander Carolyn Green, P



Happy Bithday to all those born in the hot months of Summer!

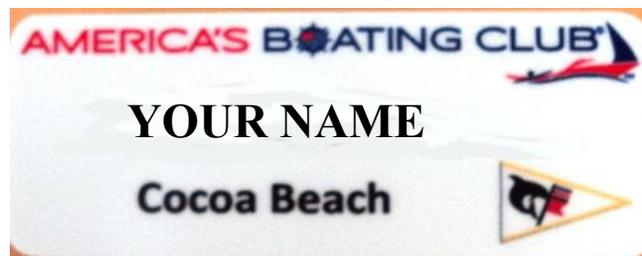
A **new roster** was emailed to all members in March, A strong effort was made to get accurate boat information. Please check and let me know of any errors and/or omissions at Secretary@cbsps.org **OR** go to www.usps.org and click on Member Site (if Member Site not listed, click on Member's Log In and enter your Certificate and Password). Then click on **Manage Profile** on bottom right and review/update your data in the boxes.

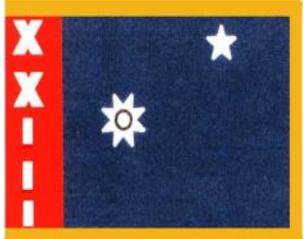
Those who have downloaded DB2000, go to the Boats section to see the most updated list of squadron's vessels. A dated list is also available on www.cbsps.org; click on About CBSPS and scroll down to Squadron Fleet.

America's Boating Club name tags

You may have seen our fantastic looking new name tags on some members at recent events. To **get your own and help emphasize your commitment to branding America's Boating Club**, contact: P/C Sandy Schoonmaker, SN, at membership@cbsps.org

*(Note from editor:
They actually look much
better than this reconstruct-
tion on the right)*



	<p>District 23</p> <p>Newsletter (1/3)</p>	
<p>Florida Boating Advisory Council Meeting May 17, 2018 – St. Augustine, Florida P/R/C William E. Husted, SN, USPS Liaison</p> <p>The following represents a brief summary of items of interest to USPS from the most recent FBAC meeting. In addition to D/C Jim Suber of District 23, guests attending this FBAC meeting included representatives from the National Safe Boating Council, the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, Boat/US, the National Marine Manufacturers Association and the U.S. Coast Guard.</p> <p>2017 Quick Facts.... Florida has 944,162 registered vessels, slightly more than last year. Some 2,456 people were involved in the 766 reportable boating accidents. Forty-seven percent of accidents were caused by collisions which again topped the type of accidents. More than 70% of operators involved in accidents had no boater education. There were 67 fatalities, the same number as last year. Injuries numbered 437. Of those vessels involved in fatal accidents, 42% were 16 feet or less with PWCs accounting for most of the fatalities. Falls overboard resulting in drowning were the leading cause of fatalities as they have been for the past 15 years. Inattention, lack of a proper lookout and inexperienced operators topped the list of causes for boating accidents. The number of Boating Safety ID Cards issued totaled 48,301.</p> <p>Boating-related legislation was minimal this year. A couple of items USPS has been championing are still on the table. While no action was taken on the bow riding issue – I've been told it's still being considered – limiting the effective period of FWC-issued Vessel Safety Check decals is progressing. Florida legislators agreed in principal that granting a lifetime VSC decal was not a realistic approach. A bill was passed for Administrative Review to limit application to 1 year. The implementation date is still undetermined but be confident it's on its way.</p> <p>Derelict Vessels.... FWC was super busy as a result of Hurricane Irma. Of the almost \$1.5 million allocated for removal of derelict vessels in Florida in the 2017-18 legislative appropriation, \$1 million was diverted to cover the costs of this monster storm. The cost to remove a derelict vessel ranges from \$25,000 to \$40,000 depending on the vessel's size. The state pays 75% of the cost of removal with the individual assessed the remaining 25%.</p>		

	<p>District 23</p> <p>Newsletter (2/3)</p>	
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Hurricane Irma Displaced Vessels.... Major Rob Rowe reported that in FWC's initial response 22 coastal counties were impacted. In this phase, some 2,600 vessels were assessed and 948 were removed to 16 storage sites for disposition. Only 126 vessels remain to be destroyed. Today, major restoration efforts are underway in the Florida's Keys.

Rebranding USPS and America's Boating Club.... I was privileged to present the rebranding effort being conducted by USPS and its transition to America's Boating Club. Outlined were numerous reasons for change involved in the evolution of recreational boating and people's priorities with limited time. Stressed were our incentives to be more inclusive to all types of boating including paddle craft, power and sail. My explanation involved presenting one of the Marketing Committee's 30-second promotional videos as well as a PowerPoint.

St. John's N Club

District 23



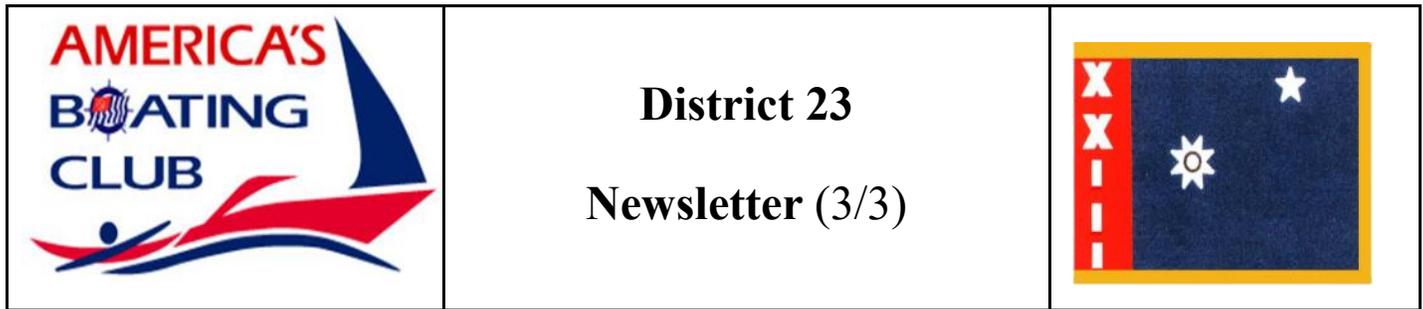
I would like to extend an invitation to all members of District 23 to participate in the annual Celestial Navigation Contest, sponsored by the St Johns N Club. This for sights taken in calendar year 2018.

All information about the requirements and rules are contained on the D/23 website under the St Johns N Club tab.

www.uspsd23.org/Celestial%20Navigator%20Yearly%20Contest.pdf

This is a wonderful opportunity to sharpen skills not recently used or test new skills being learned.

Regards,
Jim Spencer, SN
Captain



D23 Fall Conference

Sponsored by
Cocoa Beach Sail & Power squadron

Saturday, October 20

1 Day event

Cocoa Beach Country Club

5000 Tom Warriner Blvd, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

0900 Business Meeting in Auditorium
N-Club immediately following

Picnic at the Country Club Pavilion

1200 Start

Games, 50/50 Raffle, etc

More Details to follow

Mark your calendars!

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www.cbsps.org/Soundings.html

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1st Friday of March, June, September & December



**Summer
2018
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