

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB THE BUOYS



Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron • A Unit of United States Power Squadrons® • District 22

Issue 04-25

April 2025

Congrats to our ABC Grads on March 19th

We are proud to continue graduating numerous boaters and boat enthusiasts in America's Boating Course (ABC). Our excellent instructors ensure that students learn the basics to get on the water safely and include a comprehensive introduction to boating, covering boat types, boat engines, boat selection and more. Do you now someone new to boating or maybe you just want to refresh your knowledge? Our next class begins on May 5.



CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC.

America's Boating Club®

A Unit of the United States Power Squadron, Inc. – District 22

Phone (239) 549-9754 • 917 SE 47th Terrace Cape Coral, FL 33904

OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - noon

www.ccsaps.org

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COMMANDER'S REPORT



Scott Steele Commander
ABC Cape Coral Sail
& Power Squadron

Welcome to spring in Florida. We know it's spring because traffic is crazy and Costco is packed. It's great to have visitors from up north, but hopefully things will settle down over the next few weeks. I don't know about everyone else, but I'm getting tired of "spring forward, fall back." The older I get the longer it takes to adjust. Growing up in Indiana we didn't adjust our clocks. They do now, but didn't back then. When we moved to Ohio we had to learn the expression, "Your time or ours" when talking to folks across the state line. Now that I've expressed my opinion on time changes, let's talk about the important stuff.

We'll be listing the building in a couple of weeks. We've been in contact with our local attorney to make sure we are doing everything correctly. Listing a commercial building for a nonprofit is a little more complex than listing a personal residence. There are more i's to dot and t's to cross. The most important thing

is to make sure a potential sale does not interfere with our ongoing activities and events. As I've stated before, we are looking to right size the infrastructure. We have a building that's bigger than we need and the associated costs have increased dramatically. We're very confident that we can find a new facility that we can sustain well into the future. We'll keep you posted as we continue the journey.

March was pretty busy with quite a few education courses. ABC graduation was last Wednesday and we had around 20 students who passed. It was a very good group and many joined us this week for a potluck dinner that was coordinated by Nancy Paterson. Thanks Nancy. We also had the Boating in SW Florida class sessions in March. The boating in SW Florida seminar is April 8th. Both of these offerings have become very popular and well attended. In May we will be conducting our annual Hurricane Preparation seminar. We do this annually and it's definitely worth attending. We always hope we'll be telling you things that you won't need to put into practice. Maybe this year will be a bit less hectic than last year.

Keep in mind that Cape Coral is closing the Chiquita lock on April 1st. By the time you read this it will too late. Hopefully everyone has been able to find temporary dockage while this project is underway.

The Mystery Train social event was March 28th. We had 26 people sign up. As I'm writing this in advance, I can't confirm that everyone made it back. It was a murder mystery. We'll need a headcount in a week or two. Another great social event is coming up April 25th, our chili and soup cook-off. It's a real treat and I can assure you that you'll experience quite the extremes in different recipes.

Our social boating groups have been very active. Unfortunately, we are still in a hold pattern with Co-op Charting. Dennis Pearson is working very hard to try and come up with some options. The key issue is that we want to continue charting as a learning experience in addition to the civic responsibility. This is easier said than done considering the changes with insurance. On a positive note, we are back in action doing Vessel Safety Checks. We've got some really good people who are doing a great service for boat owners.

My last point is that we have our district conference coming up in May. It's in Bradenton. There's a separate flyer in the Buoys with all the information. If anyone is interested in attending please let me know.

Here's a historical fact: This is the 32nd time I've sat down and put together comments for the Buoys. I sometimes think I'll run out of things to write, but that's yet to happen.

Have a great Easter and April.



LT/C Neil Pignatano, SN
Squadron Education Officer
Education@ccsaps.org

SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER (SEO)

SEO's Notebook:

Go Slow and Lookout Below

With spring upon us, manatees have finished their mating season and are migrating from inland waters back to the Gulf. So, while you're out enjoying our great waterways, keep a lookout for them. It's easier said than done. First off, be sure to obey all the posted speed limits. Also, wear polarized sunglasses to reduce the glare and aid visibility. Many times, you'll see snouts at the waterline, or visible manatee "footprints" – large circles on the water that indicate that manatees are just below the surface:



From November 15 -to April 1st, seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow down. Boat strikes continue to be a major threat to Florida manatees. And, remember, manatees are a protected species. It is illegal to feed, harass, or harm them. Physically handling distressed or stranded manatee can cause more stress and do more harm than good, and may put you at risk of serious injury. Instead, please report injured, distressed, orphaned, sick or dead manatees to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) so trained responders can assist.

If you see a manatee, come to a complete stop and stay as far away as possible. The manatee will eventually clear the area. Do not try to force the manatee to move or otherwise disturb it. Just sit back and enjoy this unique aspect of Florida nature. The manatees will thank you.

And don't forget to register for spring classes and seminars. Calendar and online registration are available on our website.

Until next time...



Two Seminars You Don't Want to Miss By Barret Bonden

On Tuesday, April 8th it is your last chance to attend the *Southwest Florida Boating Seminar* until next fall. Our very own Josh Wurtsbaugh and Tom Dawson will once again be doing their best to help boaters new to Lee County get answers to some basic questions about boating here.

If you have a new neighbor who wants to boat down here this is a good chance for them to learn some basics and get to know about our club. Invite them to attend the seminar with you.

Let them know the seminar covers a bit of history so will begin to appreciate why it is even possible to enjoy our waters in modern power vessels. It will help them understand some safety basics that are important to know on our crowded waterways and includes a look at how to get to many of the popular spots in Lee County without going aground. The seminar starts at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 per person and pre-registration is encouraged as seating is limited.

The merry month of May is “safe boating” month and June marks the start of hurricane season. So be sure to mark your calendar for our *Hurricane Preparation for Boaters* seminar on May 14. This seminar is another great opportunity to introduce your new friends and neighbors to what our club has to offer.

The focus of the hurricane seminar is on helping you to understand the many factors you need to consider when putting together a plan to prepare your boat for a hurricane. This seminar will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. There is no cost for this seminar, but we encourage you to pre-register.

Stay safe on the water,
Barret Bonden

Barret Bonden, a recurring character in the Patrick O’Brian seafaring novels, is the nom de plume for one of our many safe boating instructors. Consider picking up a copy of “Barret Bonden’s Local Knowledge Recommended - Things You Wish Someone Had Told You About Boating Here!” available at the office and Farmer’s Market.

**Friends don't let friends
get stuck on an oyster bed!
Give a copy to your neighbor!**

Copies available at the office.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Course and Seminar Summary

Beginner, intermediate or advanced — whatever your skill level, our in-depth boating education courses will boost your knowledge and confidence on the water.

- **ABC - America's Boating Course** gives you the basics you need to get out on the water safely, and it meets the State of Florida boating education requirements.

- **Boat Handling Course** builds your competence and confidence on the water with an in-depth look at the practical boating skills covered in the ABC course.

- **Marine Navigation and Advanced Marine Navigation Courses** give you the skills you need to get where you're going using charts and marine electronics as well as a knowledge of winds, currents and tides.

- **Engine Maintenance and Marine Electronics Courses and Seminars** deal with common vessel issues faced by today's recreational boater. Learn proper operation and diagnostic techniques for critical systems.

- **Other Seminars** provide a 2 hour introductions to various boating topics, such as Marine Radio, Weather and Forecasting, Handling Emergencies, etc.

For complete course and seminar descriptions, scan the QR code or go to <https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/learn>





AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Scan and find your next course or seminar today!

America's Boating Course

ccsaps.org/abc-in-person-classes



Seminars

ccsaps.org/advanced-seminars



CCSAPS.ORG

Advanced Courses

ccsaps.org/advanced-classes





CCSAPS Community Outreach Oktoberfest

-John Swift

Each year the CCSAPS offers help to the German American Club (GAC) in the form of Parking Attendant services on selected Saturdays for their annual Oktoberfest celebration. In appreciation for our help, the Oktoberfest management team offers our club a nice donation. This year's donation was even considerably higher than in 2023 showing further signs of community recovery post Hurricane Ian. Shown here in the photo is Ed Freund from the GAC handing over the donation check to John Swift, CCSAPS Executive Officer in recognition of the help offered by our Squadron for the 2024 Oktoberfest. John also wants to take this opportunity to again convey tremendous thanks to the Squadron member 2024 Oktoberfest volunteers for a job very well done! Please keep your eyes out in September 2025 for the call out for volunteers for the 2025 Oktoberfest. All volunteers typically get a tee shirt commemorating the event, food coupons and unlimited beer at the event on the day of volunteering.



CCSAPS Community Outreach Farmers Market

-Sally Fuller



As a squadron member volunteering at the Farmers Market, I continually see what a phenomenal outreach event this is for our squadron. According to Holidu, a travel tech company and vacation rental search and booking platform, there are 8,600 farmers markets within the U.S. , and the Cape Coral Farmers Market was listed in the top 30! Why is CCSAPS presence at the Saturday morning Farmers Market important? We know that great conversations start with those visiting our displays and usually looking at one of two charts we always have hanging in front of our tent. People usually want to re-trace a trip they've already taken and more importantly, they want to discuss where they might want to go next. Most conversations start easily and no two "customers" are ever the same! People are genuinely interested in sharing their information with us and of course we are always able to assist them in gaining knowledge once we acquaint them with what they can learn from us. Whether it is signing up for an ABC course or the SW Florida Boating seminar, we let them know we have something for everyone including purchasing a chart either folded for the boat, or rolled since many want to display them. We always will need squadron members to assist and it is easy to learn and a lot of fun! Please let Mike Carter know if you are able to help out, farmmarket2@ccsaps.org.

Boating Group Happenings

Weekenders

The Weekenders enjoyed a few great outings this past month. First, we went to the Green Flash with three boats in late February. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast/lunch and amazing views!



A caravan of five boats enjoyed a trip to Mantanza's on the Bay in Estero with perfect weather and easy docking on March 30th. For more info please contact Scott Fergen, scottfergen@gmail.com to join the fun!



Boating Group Happenings pg. 2

Weekdayers

The Weekdayers had a wonderful trip to 3 Fishermen in North Fort Myers with six boats and 25 people including a friendly four legged mascot, Miss Maui out in front! For more info please contact Curt Collins, fzq907@gmail.com.



Cruise and Rendevous

We are planning a cruise to Pink Shell April 10 & 11 for two nights. We will haave a meeting to discuss on April 1st at the Power Squadron at 10:30. Please contact Phil Kryger at ppkryger@gmail.com for more information.

Co-Op Charting

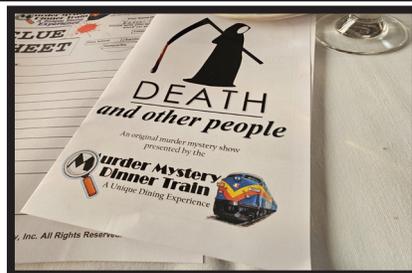
The Co-Op Charting Group currently remains on hold between run seasons. We are looking forward to being able to restart ATON Verification Runs, hopefully late spring. We are currently working with the USPS District Co-Op Charting Chair concerning the loss of insurance and the impact to the operation. We are also discussing the existing National SOP for Co-Op Charting operations. Please take note that there will be no group meetings scheduled for April or May.

Entertainment Committee and the Fun Report

- Karen Collins

The Entertainment Committee has been active and busy! Over these next few pages, you will read and see what we have been up to and what we have planned in the next few months. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

For March, we had 22 guest join us on the Murder Mystery dinner train. What a cool event! We took the train almost to Punta Gorda and enjoyed beautiful views and ate delicious food as we crossed the Caloosahatchee River. A few in our group even guessed who the murderer was. We had a fantastic time!





Entertainment Committee and the Fun Report, pg. 2

In April we are hosting our annual Chili and Soup cookoff! Big money prizes to our top chefs. Sign up on Ticketleap for headcount and pay \$15.00 at the door which includes dinner, dessert and drinks (no entry charge for our cooks). We also have some very creative games planned for all the foodies out there...think 'Hell's Kitchen'... No we won't swear or call you names, promise!

Chili & Soup

COOK-OFF

917 SE 47th Ter, Cape Coral, FL

April 25, 2025 6-9:00 PM

1st prize \$50
2nd prize \$25
For BEST
chili & soup!

*Chef's
admission free*

\$15
Per person
at door

**SALAD, CORNBREAD, DESSERT TABLE
AND BEVERAGES INCLUDED**

**EVERYONE WILL GET TO VOTE FOR
THEIR FAVORITE CHILI & SOUP!**

**RSUP BY CHOOSING "GET TICKET" ON
TICKETLEAP TODAY!**

****Payment will be collected at door****

Chef's must notify Lisa Snow by April 15th
lisasnow1@comcast.net



<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/ccsaps/annual-chili-soup-cook-off>



Entertainment Committee and the Fun Report pg.3

May's event will be an off site dinner stretching out the Cinco de Mayo to a Quince de Mayo! Details are: May 15th at 5:00pm at Mexican Lindo, 3724 Del Prado Blvd., S, Cape Coral. Hope to see you there for delicious food and great fun!

In June, we are planning a very COOL BEACH PARTY on Sanibel (last year we had 16 boats sign up). Enjoy some beach games and pudding shots. We will meet at Marker 96 at 10:30. Remember to bring your favorite float and your own sandwich or sub. The Entertainment Committee will provide fun games, desserts (including Jell-o and pudding shots)!

We are excited to see several new venues opening up soon on the water to where members can drive or boat. Stay tuned for more exciting fun events from the Entertainment Committee!





Looking Ahead -



April

	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
3	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	EXCOM Meeting	Cape Coral Power Squadron
8	Tuesday	7:00-9:00pm	SW Boating Seminar	Cape Coral Power Squadron
9	Wednesday	7:00-8:00pm	Fishing Group	Cape Coral Power Squadron
15	Tuesday	2:00-4:00pm	All About VHF/DSC Radio	Cape Coral Power Squadron
20	Sunday		Happy Easter	
25	Friday	6:00-9:00pm	Annual Chili and Soup Cookoff	Cape Coral Power Squadron

May

	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	EXCOM Meeting	Cape Coral Power Squadron
5	Monday	7:00-9:00pm	ABC Course begins	Cape Coral Power Squadron
8	Thursday		General Meeting	Cape Coral Power Squadron
11	Sunday		Happy Mothers Day	
12	Monday	7:00-9:00pm	Boat Handling Course Begins	Cape Coral Power Squadron
14	Wednesday	2:00-4:00pm	Hurricane Preparation for Boaters	Cape Coral Power Squadron
14	Wednesday	7:00-8:00pm	Fishing Group	Cape Coral Power Squadron
17	Saturday	5:30pm	Member Meet Up	Mexican Lindo 3724 Del Prado
21	Wednesday	7:30-9:00pm	ABC Boating Graduation	Cape Coral Power Squadron
22	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	Intro to Charting Seminar	Cape Coral Power Squadron
26	Monday		Memorial Day	

June

	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
5	Monday	7:00-9:00pm	EXCOM Meeting	Cape Coral Power Squadron
11	Wednesday	7:00-8:00pm	Fishing Group	Cape Coral Power S
12	Monday	7:00-9:00pm	Boat Handling Course Begins	Cape Coral Power Squadron
15	Sunday		Happy Fathers Day	
21	Saturday	TBD	Beach Party at Sanibel	Mile Marker 96



2025 - 2026 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander

Scott Steele, S
commander@ccsaps.org

Executive Officer

John Swift
execofficer@ccsaps.org

Squadron Education Officer (SEO)

Neil Pignatano, SN
education@ccsaps.org

Administrative Officer

Leslie Corte-Real, S
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Secretary

Sherry Carter
secretary@ccsaps.org

Treasurer

Carl McGrath, P
treasurer@ccsaps.org

Assistant Bridge Officers

Commander's Aide:
Carl McGrath, P

Assistant Executive Officer

Curt Collins

Assistant SEO

Antal "Tony" Zsupan, P

Asst Administrative Officer

Vacant

Assistant Treasurer

Gary Farwick

Assistant Secretary

Edwin Estes

Chaplain

Tessa Buechler, S

Building Manager

Terry Rosenstrauch

Assistant Building Manager

Larry Rich, SN

Rental Manager

Allen Casteran

Assistant Rental Manager

Marge Maciag, SN
margedm5@gmail.com

Executive Department

Vessel Safety Check

Craig Buechler, S
Tessa Buechler, S

Co-Op Charting

Denny Pearson, AP

Farmer's Market

Mike Carter

CERT and SERAT Coordinator

Vacant

Media Relations

Vacant

Ship's Store

Vacant

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Sherry Carter
Leslie Dicken

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Cruise & Rendezvous

Phillip Kryger

Entertainment Committee

Karen Collins

Fishing Group

John D'Esposito

Kayaking Group

Vacant

Membership

Carolyn Token

Member Involvement

Tessa Buechler, S
Barb Riordan, S

Pantry Inventory Mgr

Vacant

Weekday Boaters

Curt Collins

Weekender Boaters

Scott Fergen

GRADES

S - Seaman (aka Boat Handling)
AP - Advanced Pilot (aka Adv Marine Nav)

P - Pilot (aka Marine Nav)

JN - Junior Navigator

N - Navigator (aka Celestial Nav)

SN - Senior Navigation

Indicates the highest level of education completed. Follows the name of the person.

Happy April Birthdays!

Janet Iagnemmo
Mary Spensley
Ann Klakurka
Tim Maguire
Judith Widmer
Ken McClendon
Lewis Clarke
Neil Pignatano
Robert Dipalmo
Silver Angel
Jackie Pearson
Stefan Drege

Nancy Muniz
Jeannette Udway
Mark Dunn
Theresa Burgess
Jerald Ferrell
Jennifer Mazziotti
Beth Stark
Terry Rosenstrauch
Alfred Mea
Kimberly King
Thomas Demarzo
William Nicholson

Mark Meinert
Taylor Collins
Lindsey Collins
Prinston Carter
Christina Belew
Kathleen Samp
Todd Timm
Sandra Francis
Andy Carroll
Melissa DeMars



Welcome New Members

Gary Groene
Darin Cleaveland
Heather Cleaveland



Vessel Safety Checks

Contact John Swift or Craig Buechler to schedule your Vessel Safety Check execofficer@ccsaps.org or buechlercraig@yahoo.com.

Cape Coral Lock to close April 1st for approximately 81 days!

Here is the schedule:

April 1, 2025: Final shutdown for construction, lasting up to 81 days

June 2025: Anticipated reopening of waterway access

Closure Notice: The Chiquita Lock will close to boating access on April 1, 2025, for removal as part of the South Spreader Waterway Enhancement Project, which will enhance water quality and flow in the region. The removal is anticipated to conclude by June 2025.

For more info., please check out:

https://www.capecoral.gov/department/parks_and_recreationhome/chiquita_lock.php

Cape Coral Yacht Club

The City of Cape Coral awaits State and Federal permits for the seawall and marina at the Cape Coral Yacht Club, which has temporarily paused the bidding process. Progress continues on the park's design, with completion anticipated by May 2025. (On the Move - Winter 2025).

Nametags anyone?

Most of us wear our squadron name tags at every event since we all suffer from "I forgot your name" syndrome. We always want to get to know our members better and learning names is the first and easiest way. **New member name tags can be purchased by coming to the office to prepay. Nametags are are \$12.** Please stop by any time the squadron is open and get your name tag and we look forward to seeing you at events and getting to know you better!



District 22 Conference
Courtyard Bradenton Sarasota/Riverfront

2025 SPRING COUNCIL and CONFERENCE

Preliminary SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This is the Preliminary Schedule, watch for details!

March 22, 2025 - Held at Sarasota Power & Sail Squadron Building

2814 Hyde Park Street, Sarasota, FL 34239

Commander & Officer Meeting - 1030-1200 Lunch Council Meeting -1300-1400

May 2 - 3, 2025 - Held at Courtyard by Marriott Bradenton

100 Riverfront Drive, Bradenton, FL 34205

Friday May 2 – *ALL* Member Workshop

1300 -1500 – Discussions on iMIS, Marine SEO and Insurance

1600 - 1800 – District Commander’s ‘Tropical’ Social
enjoy tropical libations in the Commander’s Suite wearing your tropical attire



Saturday May 3

0800 - 0900 – Coffee & Pastry

0830 – 1200 - Registration Desk Open

0900 -1145 - Roundtables and Seminars

1200 -1330 - Lunch with speaker, Lt Garry Stubbs – History of D22

1300 – 1350 – Registration Desk Open

1345 -1600 – **District Conference and Election of Officers**

Change of Watch - social 1745 - 1830 / dinner served 1830

Change of Watch Ceremony

Hotel Info: - - - - Courtyard by Marriott – call 888-731-9096 by April 1

The hotel rate is only \$134.00 per night (plus tax)

Must book for 2 nights and state *America’s Boating Club*/United States Power Squadrons for these rates





District 22 Conference
Courtyard Bradenton Sarasota/Riverfront

2025 Spring Conference Meals

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Luncheon – 1200 - River Palm Room

Speaker – D22 History by Lt Garry Stubbs, S

Lunch Buffet - \$25.00

Caesar Salad with Fresh Croutons, Grilled Chicken Breast, Chicken Salad
Served with Croissants and Butter, Dessert
Coffee and Iced Tea

Change of Watch – River Palm Room

Social – 1745, Dinner Served 1830, Change of Watch 1930

Dinner Buffet - \$46.00

Fresh Garden Greens Salad with Assorted Dressing, Pasta Primavera Salad, Caesar Salad
Baked Ziti with Bolognese Sauce, Chicken Breast Marsala
Chef's Vegetable, Herbed Garlic Bread
Chef's Choice Dessert
Fresh Brewed Coffee and Iced Tea

Register for the Conference and Purchase your meals at the District 22 Website.

— americasboatingclub-d22.org —

No login or password needed. Click “About Us”, then “Registration/Purchase” and follow the instructions. (Credit Card required). Or simply click one of these two links:

[Registration/Purchase Page](#)

<https://americasboatingclub-d22.org/registration-purchase/>

No Reservations or Cancellations after 1200 April 25, 2025!