



# CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 23 - Issue 1

January/February 2016

*Citizens For Florida's Waterways promotes the need for responsible use of Florida's waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property owners and the environment. Citizens For Florida's Waterways advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.*

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## **President's Message** *by Bob Atkins*

It's COLD outside. I try to convince myself that it's nice to have a break from the heat, but NO! I'd rather be boating! Well, this is a good time to think and plan forward.

There are so many ways to enjoy Florida by boat. Have you ever been to the St John's River, the lakes of Central Florida from the chains of lakes in Winter Haven to the Conway or Butler Chains in Orange or the Harris Chain and the Ocklawaha River from Lake County all the way to the Silver River, the West Coast from Crystal River down to Marco Island, or up and down the East Coast from Jacksonville to the Florida Keys. Not to mention the Big Bend and pristine sands of the Panhandle Beaches and Islands.

Florida has so much to offer to those who venture out to find it and the distances are such that whether you are trailering or leaving your slip and whether you are limited to day trips, long weekends or a week's vacation, your boat can take you to what I like to refer to as "Old Florida". You know, those places that are so rugged, pristine and undeveloped that you can just imagine that only a limited number of folks have been as fortunate as you to be able to enjoy them.

While you are making those plans, don't forget your friends and fellow members and include time to take in the 19th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market coming up April 2 and 3. Maybe this is the year you can find the time to spend a couple of hours with us setting up, greeting shoppers at the CFFW Tent or tearing down and cleaning up. We've found that the late June/early July time frame works well so we will be scheduling and defining our 21st Annual CFFW Poker Run in that time. If you haven't done one or haven't been with us lately, we have had some good times and give away a lot of cash and gifts.

Keep dreaming of the days to come on the water. Take a deep breath, slow life down for a minute and commit to get out on the water. We'll see you there. ❖

## CFFW Officers

### President

Bob Atkins  
ratkins@cffw.org

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Kelly Haugh  
321-449-0827

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Peggy Wehrman  
321-698-4159

### Treasurer

Karen Dignan

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Kelly Haugh  
321-449-0827



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ratkins@cffw.org

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robinrealtor@cfl.rr.com

### Membership

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sreynolds@cffw.org

### Government Liason

Steven Webster  
swebster@cffw.org



## Please Mark Your Calendars!

Please call Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827 for more information.



- » **February 29, 2016 CFFW Board of Directors Meeting-** 6:30 pm- Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **March 2, 2016 District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting-** 6:00 pm.- Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **March 17, 2016 Brevard Marine Advisory Council Meeting-** 6 pm.- 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Building A, 2nd Floor, Rm #219 Viera, FL 32940.
- » **March 28, 2016 CFFW Board of Directors Meeting-** 6:30 pm.- Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **April 2 & 3, 2016 Citizens for Florida's Waterways 19th Annual Marine Flea Market-** Harbortown Marina, Sea Ray Drive (SR528) Merritt Island.
- » **April 6, 2016 District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting-** 6:00 pm.- Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **April 21, 2016 Brevard Marine Advisory Council Meeting-** 6 pm. -2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Building C, 2nd Floor, Florida Rm., Viera, FL 32940.

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## Newsletter Delivery Mode

### E-Newsletters Now Available

CFFW is offering all members the option to receive all future newsletters by email instead of a hard copy by mail. The Board of Directors have reviewed the expense logs for the past few years to determine where we could save money and this is the biggest expense we have.

If you wish to save your club money on printing and postage, please reply to [info@cffw.org](mailto:info@cffw.org) and we will add you to the email list for your newsletters! You will receive an email stating your E-Newsletter is ready for viewing. If at any time you wish to receive the hardcopy again, just send us a note at the same email and you will again receive the hardcopy.

You can view the same exact version online at [CFFW.org](http://CFFW.org) and click on "newsletters" tab and the issue you would like to view. ❖

## Citizens For Florida's Waterways Boat Safe Reimbursement Program

CFFW promotes the need for responsible use of Florida waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property owners, and the environment. CFFW advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.

If you would like to receive reimbursement for the class fees charged by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron, you can attend a CFFW meeting, present your certificate of completion, and receive your reimbursement.

CFFW funds are limited, and we do have a finite amount of money in our scholarship fund, so it is on a first come, first served basis, and as noted above this is for the Basic Safe Boating class only.

You can visit our website at [www.cffw.org](http://www.cffw.org) or [www.savefamilyboating.com](http://www.savefamilyboating.com) for the location of our events and meetings.

You may also contact Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827 for more information.

Enjoy safe boating! ❖

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### Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Safe Boating Courses

The Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Education Officer has graciously invited all of our members to participate in their boating education classes and pay only the member fee!


To enroll, refer to the web site [www.cbsp.org](http://www.cbsp.org) where they post the upcoming classes. Mention that you are a CFFW member and the Education Officer will reply via email and then ask you to confirm you are a CFFW member the first night of classes. You can confirm this with your most current copy of the newsletter, which has your name, address and renewal date on the back page.

This is a great opportunity for education in safe boating if you have not had the chance to participate in any safe boating classes!

Stay safe and see you on the water! ❖

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**Ask A Friend  
To Join CFFW**

*When Does Your  
Membership Expire?*

*(See Back Cover)*

# Boating Apps That Keep You Current

by Mark Corke

Want to be a savvy boater? There's an app for that. Although many of us go boating to escape and unplug, there are some very compelling reasons to take your smartphone or tablet with you, even if you have no intention of making a phone call. With a seemingly unending number of apps available for the boater, we loaded up our phone with some of the latest and most popular, then took them for a spin. Most are available via iTunes and Google Play, but we also included a website, when possible, where you can find extra information.

## Dockwa

This award-winning platform makes it possible to manage your next cruise from one integrated platform. With Dockwa, you can book slips, moorings, and dock space right from your phone or computer. No more reservations via email, phone or VHF radio! Dockwa is driven to simplify the exchange of information between captains and marinas.

BoatUS members will have all booking fees waived when arranging dockage at a BoatUS participating marina, when a discount applies. Average savings are \$20 per booking.

If you do not see a marina on the platform that you like to visit, please let Dockwa know. The app and service is free for marinas, however they must elect to participate. **iTunes, Android, web | Free | Dockwa.com**

## Navionics

The recent addition of SonarChart Live functionality makes this old favorite an even more powerful tool. If your sounder has Wi-Fi, you can stream data from the sounder to your phone or tablet and add your own, personal, and up-to-date HD bottom contours on your chart. The information is saved to your device, so the next time you need to navigate that tricky channel, you'll have the best possible information in your pocket.

The download is free, and with charts stored on the device itself, you can use the phone or tablet to navigate without a cell or Wi-Fi signal. For additional detailed charts and cartography features, there is a charge; even so, the free version is still impressive. **Android, iPhone | Free | www.navionics.com**

## GoFree Hooked

New from Navico, the parent company of Lowrance and Simrad, GoFree Hooked is a mobile tracking solution for anglers, that merges navigation data with your catch data — fish details like size, weight, and a photo or two, for each trip you take. The information is stored on the GoFree cloud server for easy access at any time, so you have a digital fishing log that you can share with your fellow anglers. The app also lets you build communities and “compete” in virtual tournaments with guidelines you set yourself. Right now, GoFree Hooked is only compatible with iPhones 5 or newer. **Find it at the Apple store. www.GoFreemarine.com**

## Boater's Pocket Reference

This app is like having a whole nautical almanac in your pocket. Need to know what a particular sound signal means, how to distinguish a ketch from a yawl, or what's the best way to set an anchor? All this, and more, is displayed in a simple, logical, and easy-to-understand format. Originally published as an 800-page book (the print version is still available), the Boater's Pocket Reference is

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... (Continued on Page 5)

# Boating Apps That Keep You Current

*(Continued from Page 4)*

an indispensable guide that makes interesting reading, even when you're not actually on the water. This is a great app for settling arguments at the marina after a day on the water. Sadly, the app is only available from the Apple store, but an Android version may be on the way soon. **iPhone | \$4.99 | [itunes.apple.com](https://itunes.apple.com)**

## iExit

One of the joys of trailer boating is that you can get to distant launching locations with relative ease. Travel any distance, however, and sooner or later you'll need to find a restaurant, gas for the truck, or hotel for the night. iExit could be the answer. This app lists services that you might need, how close they are to the highway, and which exit you need to take. One of the great functions of this app is that you can tell it what your favorite locations are. So if you can't drive more than 50 miles without refilling your travel mug with coffee, this app could prove indispensable. **Android, iPhone | Free | <https://iexitapp.com>**

## Ship Finder

All commercial vessels longer than 65 feet are required to have an automatic identification system transceiver installed. AIS is a VHF system that continuously transmits the vessel's name, course, speed, MMSI number, and other information. While it's not as good as having a dedicated AIS transceiver on your boat, this app comes pretty close at a fraction of the cost. Providing you're in cell range, you can track AIS-equipped vessels in real time, so if you have to call that big car carrier in the distance over the radio, you'll have its information. **Android, iPhone | \$3.99 | [www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com)**

## BoatUS App

The upgraded design lets you view weather and tide tables, locate BoatUS Towboat ports, switch between day and nighttime modes, and find discounts nationwide. You can connect to the BoatUS 24-hour Towing Dispatch Center for assistance on the water or on the road with the push of a button, and it's also an easy way to display your digital membership card. **Android, iPhone | Free | [www.BoatUS.com/App](http://www.BoatUS.com/App)**

## Boat Ramp

Want to know where to launch your boat? Nothing is as comprehensive as Boat Ramp, which has been around for a while. You can find ramps based on your current location, or put in an address and search there. The app also gives driving directions to the ramp so you shouldn't get lost even if you're in unfamiliar territory. **Android, iPhone | Free | [takemefishing.org](http://takemefishing.org)**

## Radar Now

Knowing the current weather and what's likely to come is important to every boater. Check the weather on this app and you can track storms, check current conditions, and see what's headed your way. Easy to use and comprehensive, it includes satellite images and weather maps, along with local conditions on the ground. A five-day trial period lets you try before you buy. **Android, iPhone | Free for basic download, \$5.99 for premium edition | [www.radarnow.net](http://www.radarnow.net)**

## iFishing Lite

Fishing is one of the most popular sports in the country. For those times when it's impossible to get out on the water, iFishing Lite is a simulator that lets you land the big one right on your phone. This app offers a choice of lakes to fish, and to add to the realism: Reeling speed, lure depth, and choice of tackle, all make a difference to the type of fish that you can catch. You can even record the size, weight, and type of fish you catch so you can brag to your friends. **Android, iPhone | Free | [itunes.apple.com](https://itunes.apple.com) ❖**





# **CFFW 19th Annual Marine Flea Market**

*hosted by*

## **Harbortown Marina**

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(321) 408-2781 or e-mail: [cfwbrevard@aol.com](mailto:cfwbrevard@aol.com)**

# New Signs, No New Zones

*Kelly Haugh-Brevard Marine Advisory Council member report.*

In the next few months many of you will be noticing a change in the Slow Speed/Manatee Zone signs in some areas. There have been ***no new zones implemented***, it is simply that the old signs are being replaced and some of the signs are being moved.

With all of the newer GIS technology it was discovered that there are signs placed in inaccurate locations and FIND (Florida Inland Navigation District) has begun the process of upgrading poles and signs and relocating the signs to the proper locations to be in compliance with State and Federal regulations.

At this point in time the relocations we are aware of are:

Newfound Harbor-along the condos on the west side. It is a slow speed zone and the markers have been in the wrong place since being installed years ago. The local officers are aware of this and don't usually write tickets here, although there are a couple of USFWS officers that come into the area at certain times of the year, and they do write tickets here, knowing full well that it is inaccurately marked, but nonetheless, you are responsible for knowing the zones, regardless of the markings.

These same officers also write in the area between Pineda Causeway and Mather's Bridge in Satellite Beach.

Cocoa Beach-south of Minutemen Causeway-These signs are being moved closer to the Eastern shoreline, they were placed to far out into the river. Good news!

Grant Islands-Around the Islands including Grant Island, all markers will be moved to the East side of the islands, meaning all of the islands and in between each island will now be slow speed. This has historically been an open area, and years ago, the signs were placed in the wrong location.

In some places this is good news, in others, not so good news, especially at the Grant Island location. Remember, No New Zones have been implemented, just the signage is being relocated to the proper location to come into compliance with the existing zones.

At this point in time, it is my understanding that there is pretty much nothing to be done about this since it is simply a correction of misplaced signage and brings Brevard County into compliance with State and Federal law.

CFFW is working very hard to review the entire Manatee Protection Plan that was put in place many years ago and has never had a FFWCC review, by law it should have been reviewed quite a while ago, but we keep getting the same old response, "we have no money to do the work needed". This makes no sense to me. If they can't afford to fund the process, then maybe it shouldn't be implemented to begin with! (Just my 2 cents worth) ❖

# WE"VE BEEN BUSY

## **ORGANIZATIONAL Actions –**

As we wrapped up last year and kicked off 2016, we at CFFW have been very busy. In October we held our annual Meeting, elected our slate of officers and members of the Board of Directors. Join us in welcoming Robin and Kathy Turner to the Board.

In December, we hosted several members at our reserved seating, dinner and beverages at Baja Seafood and Chowder for the Port Canaveral Christmas Boat Parade. We set April 2 and 3 as the dates for the 19th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market and immediately began the planning and execution of activities to guarantee this market's continued success for both our vendors and our shoppers. Once again, Harbortown Marina is our host for this most important fundraiser. We continue to seek additional support for this newsletter through contributions and advertising in order to expand the printing and distribution.

## **REGULATORY Actions –**

### ***Brevard County Commission Resolution 2016-003 – January 12, 2016***

After a false start in 2015, the Brevard County Commissioners voted unanimously to author and approve a strongly worded resolution and delivered it to the State FWC, which included wording that:

- Brevard manatee protection zones have not been reviewed since they were implemented in 2003,
- FWC has yet to address the effectiveness of its protection measures
- Local governments and citizens should have the right to reduce harms caused by regulation
- FWC has not responded to a Brevard County resolution passed in 2006 requesting creation of reasonable speed channels and restoration of water sports areas and to analyze the effectiveness of speed zones
- Recognizes the pressing need to maintain health and sustainability of the IRL



The Commission resolves to:

- Support efforts to review the Manatee Sanctuary Act during the 2016 Florida Legislative Session to incorporate best science, establish clear criteria and benchmarks for regulations, improve the Local Rule Review Committee Process, and provide for the long-term health of all valued species.
- Support the reclassification of the manatee by USFWS
- Formally petitions the FWC to re-evaluate and modify as necessary, rule making procedures pertaining to manatee protection zones throughout the County and to update the manatee protection plan
- Establish a Local Review Committee within 60 days

***... (Continued on Page 9)***



# WE'VE BEEN BUSY

(Continued from Page 8)

## Changes to the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act

If we are not successful this year, we will build on the momentum and return with long overdue changes to this Act, which is almost entirely comprised of boating regulations based on three assumptions of the 70s and 80s that have long since been proven to be false.

- The manatee is an endangered species and is in immediate danger of becoming extinct. FALSE
- The greatest threat to the manatee is mortality caused by boating. FALSE
- The only way to save the manatee from extinction is to impose slow speed regulations on boating. FALSE

We currently have legislative bills in the House (HB1273) and the Senate (SB1506) in Tallahassee to which the Brevard Resolution speaks. These changes have the potential to affect some long needed changes in the requirement for and the assessed effectiveness of many zones around the state. Your CFFW Board assisted in the writing of these changes and is a major proponent guiding these bills through the legislative process. Your support and response to requests for action to encourage our legislators to demonstrate the courage to go against generally accepted opinions in favor of science based approaches to manatee protection and moreover protection of the entire aquatic environment for all creatures has been an important factor in this process. By the time you read this we will have witnessed the fate of these changes for this legislative session. Rest assured, if we are successful this year we will have taken a major step forward in stopping arbitrary imposition of manatee management based predominantly on boating regulations.

## ENVIRONMENT AND POLITICAL Actions –

CFFW has been demanding a “recount” of sorts since our formation in 1994. Ten years later and nearly 10 years ago, the USFWS determined that the manatee had recovered from the perceived threat of extinction. But, only after twice being threatened with legal action by PLF, the feds spent the last year (a USFWS year seems to have 16 months) determining that it might be time to spend the next year (comprised of an undetermined number of months) re-hashing and re-evaluating the status of the manatee – endangered vs. threatened.

By the time the feds finish this process, and make the determination to move forward with the UPGRADE of status to threatened, it will be 2017. If they arrive at the obvious conclusion and upgrade the manatee, it will take another lengthy period of time to resolve the issue in court because organizations like the Save the Manatee Club will litigate against the change. By the time the manatee is officially UPGRADED to threatened, 3 or 4 more years will have passed and we will more likely be asking ourselves – just how many manatees is too many?



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... (Continued on Page 10)

## WE'VE BEEN BUSY

*(Continued from Page 9)*

The real threat to manatees is more likely starvation due to over-population brought about by poor manatee management decisions – not the least of which is the continuing policy of disrupting the natural migratory habits of the animal by discharging large amounts of artificially heated water into the environment.

All the while, all we are talking about is a simple stroke of the pen. A trivial action to move one species from Column A to Column B of a list of species on a piece of paper called the Endangered Species Act.

This action requires no construction, no legislation, and no real funding - other than the bilking of millions of dollars of bureaucratic salaries and billions of lost property value – all on the backs of the very citizens the USFWS is supposed to serve. ❖



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Dan Dvorak, Owner, Past CFFW President

### “Catch A Memory” Radio Show



The radio show will again be an hour long on WMEL 1300-AM, Saturday mornings at 7:35AM – 9:30AM. The program will be covering the fishing action on Florida’s East Coast. Anglers can tune in to hear Captain Jim Ross and his cohosts provide the latest fishing and new product information. ❖

### “Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report” Television Show

Captain Jim Ross has joined a host of other top professional guides across the State of Florida on a new television show called the “Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report.” The TV show is on the SunSports network on Thursday evenings from 5:00PM to 6:30PM (times vary, check your local TV guide). Reporting expert, Captain Jim Ross will bring you an up-to-date fishing report from our offshore and inshore local waters.


Captain Jim Ross also provides daily reports Sunday through Wednesday on the TV shows web-site: [www.floridainsiderfishingreport.com](http://www.floridainsiderfishingreport.com)

If you would like to contact Captain Jim Ross, his phone number is 321-636-3728 and his web-site is: [www.finelinefishingcharters.com](http://www.finelinefishingcharters.com). ❖




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# CFFW Member Recognition

## New Members

Merritt Island  
Stephen Blackburn  
John J. Fisher

Cocoa Beach  
Ronald Berman

Palm Coast  
John & Carol Hickory

Indian Harbor Beach  
Jerry & Debbie McVicker

Melbourne  
David & Julie Farioli  
Michael & Jacquelyn Scharff

## Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins  
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Gary & Kelly Haugh  
Phil Holtje  
Keith & Tamasine Houston  
Lonnie & Carla Hughes  
Troy & Genese Launay  
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Nautical Spirits/Chris & Becky Hamilton

Don Nesbitt/Waterfront Solutions  
Sandy Reynolds  
Jamie Seymour/New England Mfg. Co.  
Richard Sproc  
Wayne Stratford  
Thumper & Iva Volkmer  
Willie & Peggy Wehrman  
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## Gold Level (\$50 per year):

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Howard Bernbaum  
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Glenn & Sherry DeJong  
Paul Deschenes  
Don & Annette Doerr  
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Jim & Pam Urlick  
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## Business Recognition Diamond Level

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## Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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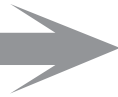
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*Please Mark Your Calendars!*

- » **2/29/16:** CFFW Board of Directors Meeting.
- » **3/2/16:** District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting.
- » **3/17/16** Brevard Marine Advisory Council Meeting.
- » **3/28/16:** CFFW Board of Directors Meeting.
- » **4/2 and 4/3/16:** CFFW 19th Annual Marine Flea Market.
- » **4/6/16:** District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting.
- » **4/21/16:** Brevard Marine Advisory Council Meeting.

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