



CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 22 - Issue 6

November/December 2015

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.

The Year in Review

by Bob Atkins

As we wrap up our 21st year, CFFW has had an unsurpassed year of growth and outreach. We had one of our most successful and widely attended Flea Markets in March, a great 20th Annual Poker Run in July, a few day-trip boating outings and we are in the middle of a complete web-site update and redesign. In addition, we are much more closely aligned with other grassroots organizations around the state that have grown out of concern for their ability to enjoy the environment through recreational boating.

Much of our growth was created by citizen anger in Pinellas County and in Crystal River, where once again our State and Federal Government agencies have stepped in to impose over-reaching regulation in the name of protecting the manatee. This time, our friends at Pacific Legal Foundation took up the cause for both areas and have taken both the FWC and the USFWS to court in defense of private citizens. We have provided history, data and personal participation.

As we began the year, we were all waiting in anticipation for the long overdue results of the USFWS reclassification analysis. I guess we should not be surprised that the Feds have NOT YET shown the courage to act on its own data and remove the manatee from endangered status. Now we can only hope that they will meet the latest deadline of 12/31. Stay Tuned. It probably won't have any immediate affect on our waterway regulations, but the long-term affect of the truth about manatees should serve to undermine the financial status and ultimately the anti-boating rhetoric of the \$ave the Manatee Club.

If you have not seen it yet, there is a very good chart on our Facebook page that illustrates (<http://www.facebook.com/Citizens-for-Waterways-103429649736431/?fref=ts>) 40 years of manatee population data collected by FWC / USFWS. It speaks for itself and dispels the chicken-little anti-boating propaganda. Next time someone makes a disparaging remark about manatees and boating, please show this chart to them and enjoying watching their reaction. It's just amazing the affect that one picture can have on years of purposefully manipulated mis-information. Please do share the truth. ... (Continued on Page 4)

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Please Mark Your Calendars!

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



- » **12/12/15: Cocoa Beach Christmas Boat Parade:** Captain's meeting will be Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cocoa Beach Country Club
- » **12/14/15: Captain's meeting:** Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Community Bldg. at 6 p.m.
- » **12/17/15: Brevard Marine Advisory Council Meeting:** 6 pm 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Building C, 2nd Floor, Space Coast Room Viera, FL 32940
- » **12/19/15: Merritt Island Christmas Boat Parade**
- » **12/19/2015: Annual Banana River Sail & Power Squadron Christmas Boat Parade** on the Grand Canal in Satellite Beach
- » **12/28/15: Board of Directors Meeting:** 6:30 pm Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island Open to the public.
- » **4/2 and 4/3/2016:** 19th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market at Harbor Town Marina.

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 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 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 or 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! ❖

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 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)

The Year in Review

(Continued from Page 1)

Speaking of sharing the illustrated history of manatee data, this chart has made its way into a wide range of Florida Legislators offices. As the year began, we were optimistic that we had secured an amendment to Florida Law to level the playing field for boating against the manatee mafia.

Unfortunately, mafia members within the FWC were able to convince our supporters otherwise. This fall we have gained much more widespread and serious support for change and pre-emptive recognition of where the opposition is and the emptiness of its arguments. Stay tuned.

It is hard to change momentum, especially that of government agencies. For so long the effort to 'save the manatee' has been so desperate that we have broken the basic rules of non-intervention. Now we find ourselves with a population that is growing beyond anyone's wildest imagination and threatening to outpace the availability of the vegetation (seagrass) in the ecosystem. This year the annual count reached 6,063 and there are a lot more out there that were not counted.

East Coast - 3,333

IRL – 1,760

Brevard – 1,670 - North of Sebastian

FPL Outflow in Port St John – 1,062

The good news is that there are an abundance of manatees. The bad news is that all but the 60 animals south of Sebastian in the IRL have lost any sense of migration. One third of the East Coast count was huddled in what must be a disgusting manatee sewage pool at FPL. I've seen first hand what 50 or so can leave floating in a canal. The really bad news is that once again, the IRL has experienced additional seagrass decline. The still unanswered questions that some of us asked in the 80s about understanding carrying capacity are now more important than ever.

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... (Continued on Page 5)

The Year in Review

(Continued from Page 4)

Unfortunately, our agency manatee guardians are still working on the obvious question of reclassification and the totally ineffective creation of new boating regulations and ignoring the bigger concern of potential seagrass over-pressure. We remain relentless in our efforts to WAKE UP our government to the real problem of uncontrolled population growth. Remember, as the seagrass goes – so goes the health of the IRL.

So as we close out 2015, we look forward to 2016 in the anticipation that science may finally trump opinion and, with our help, that legislation will replace litigation and help put an end to the manatee madness. ❖

Winterization and Ethanol Blended Fuels

by BoatUS and American Motorcyclist Association

The coming of cooler weather means an end to the boating and motorcycling season for many. Chiefly important in preparing these vehicles for winter is managing the potential for engine damage from the federally-mandated ethanol blend in our nation's gasoline supply.

Ethanol in gasoline stored for long periods can damage marine and motorcycle engines: "phase separation" of the fuel can leave a corrosive water-soaked ethanol mixture at the bottom of the gas tank. Half of the respondents of a recent Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatU.S.) survey reported that they have had to replace or repair their boat engine or fuel system parts due to suspected ethanol-related damage, costing an average \$1,000 for repairs.

To prevent ethanol problems over the winter, boats with built-in gas tanks should have fuel stabilizer added and the tank left nearly full. E10 fuel remaining in small portable gas tanks (and not pre-mixed with 2-stroke engine oil) should be poured into your car's gas tank and used quickly. Same goes for motorcycles - store full with stabilizer or drain completely.

So how did ethanol get into our gas? Signed into law in 2005 and expanded in 2007, the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requires an increasing amount of biofuels such as corn ethanol to be blended into the gasoline supply. However, the ethanol mandate has failed to achieve promised consumer and environmental benefits.

In addition to winter storage and engine repair concerns, ethanol-blended fuel is actually worse for our air and water. According to research from the University of Tennessee, ethanol's "clean alternative" record is "highly questionable."

... (Continued on Page 6)

Winterization and Ethanol Blended Fuels

(Continued from Page 5)

The 2014 federal National Climate Assessment reported that ethanol production can require 220 times more water than gasoline.

Ninety-one percent of those surveyed by BoatU.S. prefer non-ethanol fuel for their boats. An AMA-commissioned poll found that 78 percent of all voters – not just motorcycle owners – have “very serious concerns about E15 use” and 70 percent oppose increasing the amounts of ethanol blended into gasoline.

But the Environmental Protection Agency ignores the public’s concerns and continues to increase the amount of ethanol required to be blended in our nation’s gas. Even though it’s illegal to use E15 (15 percent ethanol by volume) in marine engines, snowmobiles, motorcycles, lawnmowers, and any vehicle made before 2001, E15 can now be found in 24 states. Using E15 in many vehicles on the road today will void the manufacturer’s warranty.

With a recent \$100 million USDA grant made available to subsidize the installation of blender pumps at gas stations throughout the country, access to ethanol-free gas may soon be more difficult, leading to even more cases of inadvertent misfueling and engine damage.



Thankfully, Congress is considering bipartisan legislation to repeal the ethanol mandate, but the question remains whether our legislators will protect consumers and our environment by eliminating the ethanol mandate.❖

Trailer-Boat Toolkit

By Mark Corke

A few tools on the boat can save the day. Here are the items that could prove handy. No one likes to break down, but having a basic toolkit on the boat could mean the difference between a minor irritation and having to call for a tow. Although it’s difficult to plan for every eventuality, being ready with some basic tools could save the day.

Most boaters will likely have a few ideas of their own, and that’s just fine, so use this list as a starting point and build from there. This isn’t a comprehensive toolkit, simply a basic compendium of tools for first-aid maintenance.

... (Continued on Page 7)

Trailer-Boat Toolkit

(Continued from Page 6)

Mirror On A Stick: This lets you look into places that would otherwise be inaccessible to the naked eye.

Hacksaw: Not just for cutting metal, it can also cut wood and fiberglass in a pinch.

Flashlight: Perfect for finding that errant nut and washer that you just dropped into the bilge.

Spray Lubricant: Use this for everything from freeing corroded fasteners, to spraying a protective film on the engine.

Oil Absorbent Pads: The perfect solution to prevent oil and fuel spills from finding their way into the bilge, or worse yet, the water.



Money spent on a good waterproof toolbox is never wasted; it'll keep your valuable tools dry, in one place, and prevent them from corroding.

Pliers: Perfect for tasks such as removing cotter pins from the propeller nut, and for other tasks that require a firm grip.

Wire Strippers: No one plans to do any heavy-duty wiring jobs offshore, but a set of wire cutters with a crimping tool built in means you can always make perfect connections.

Multitool: If you carry only one tool, then this should be it. It includes pliers, a file, screwdrivers, a knife, a small saw, and more.

Fuel Filter: Not really a tool, but so important to the health and well-being of your boat engine that you should always have several spares handy. Take on a batch of bad fuel, and you'll be mightily glad that you thought to carry spares.

... (Continued on Page 8)

Trailer-Boat Toolkit

(Continued from Page 7)

Rags: Keeping a good selection of rags on board makes cleaning up messes a snap. Microfiber cloths are the perfect choice for wiping down chartplotter and instrument displays without damage.

Caulking: Great for on-the-spot fixes of leaking deck fittings. Caulking can be purchased in an assortment of colors, so pick one to suit your boat's finish. Some will cure wet, underwater.

Hose Clamps: Again, not really a tool, but they take up so little space in the toolbox that it seems silly not to have them. A large hose clamp tightened around a spin-on filter can provide the necessary extra grip.

Adhesive Tape: Use it in a thousand ways. I once sailed all the way across the Atlantic with the toilet held in position with duct tape!

Wrenches: At the very least, stash the wrenches that came with the motor on board. You might want to add a couple of other frequently used sizes. An adjustable wrench is handy, too, but it can be a tight fit in many places.

Fuses: A blown engine fuse could be all that's preventing your engine from cranking over. Make sure you carry a selection of sizes.

Allen Wrenches: These come in both metric and standard sizes. Choose the type that fits your engine.

Marker: A myriad of uses, from marking the change date on fuel filters, to permanently labeling cables.

Screwdrivers: Carry a mix of sizes in both flat-head and Phillips style.❖

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CFF is Seeking Newsletter Advertising

Advertise

Do you have a business and would like to get the word out to our readers and let your fellow CFFW members know what services you can provide for them. We do not want to turn our newsletter into an advertising piece, but we do incur some expenses with printing and distributing these. We would actually like to expand our printing and distribution to provide additional complimentary copies for pick up at boating related businesses in the area. To accomplish this we need just a few additional advertisers to help offset the additional costs. Our annual rates are reasonable starting at \$200 for the entire year. Please contact one of our newest Board Members, Robin Turner to arrange your advertisement. You can find Robin's contact information in his Happy House Real Estate advertisement on page 4.

Maybe you don't have the time or the opportunities to volunteer don't fit your schedule. And yet, you have been looking for an easy way to give something back to CFFW for standing up for recreational boating for the last 20 years. Maybe you or a group of your boating friends would consider placing a "personal" message here in the newsletter in support of CFFW.

Support Our Business Partners

Over the years we have greatly benefitted from the generosity of some very loyal business 'partners' and members.

Many of them advertise here in our newsletter and have so for the long term. Many more have donated time, support and prizes for our Poker Runs and boating outings. We hope that our members remember and support these businesses right here in our community.

Let them know you appreciate their support of CFFW. Most of us support our local businesses when we know a little bit more about them and that they share some of our common interests and favorite pastime – being on the water.❖



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CFFW Wants YOU

Volunteer

We are always looking for additional help. Please make this the year that you commit some time to support CFFW. Our biggest event and the one that requires the most effort to produce, is our annual Flea Market. Mark your calendars today for the first weekend in April the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Our preparations have already begun under the guidance of Peggy Wehrman.

We would like you to become a part of this effort. The work is not hard and the group is friendly. Later this year and early next year we will be looking for all of you to volunteer some time late in the week preceding and over the weekend to accomplish all that needs to come together of another (the 19th ANNUAL) successful Flea Market. You can find Peggy's contact information inside the front cover of the newsletter.

It's a New Year at CFFW!

The CFFW annual meeting was held at Nautical Spirits Restaurant at Harbor Town Marina on October 28, 2015. The food and spirits were great as usual, and the company was even better!

We had our annual elections and are happy to announce a return of Robin Turner to the Board of Directors along with his wife Kathy! Robin has also volunteered to be our Sales and Marketing team leader.

If you are interested in serving as a Board member just contact any one of our Board of Directors and let them know you are interested in helping out. We always welcome new views and ideas!



CFFW members are entitled to a full Membership in BoatUS for only \$15 - that's 50% off the regular \$30 annual dues!



BoatUS and BoatUS ANGLER Member benefits include Member Rewards at West Marine stores, discounts at marinas nationwide on fuel, repairs, and overnight slips, on-the-water Towing Services, highly-respected Marine Insurance, a subscription to BoatUS Magazine or BoatUS ANGLER.

"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.floridain insiderfishingreport.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. ❖

CFFW Member Recognition

New Members

Satellite Beach

Isaac Foster

Cocoa

Angela Donaldson

Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins

Jack & Karn Dignan

Don & Linda Ewers

Col. & Mrs. J.C. Farley

Ollie & Sherry Follweiler

Alston & Kelli Hammons

Gary & Kelly Haugh

Phil Holtje

Keith & Tamasine Houston

Lonnie & Carla Hughes

Troy & Genese Launay

George & Majel Legters

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

Bill & Eileen Wetzel

Robert Wille

Gerd Zeiler

Gold Level (\$50 per year):

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Howard Bernbaum

David DeSouza/D&D Marine at the Port, Inc.

Glenn & Sherry DeJong

Paul Deschenes

Don & Annette Doerr

Scott Ellis

Stephen D. Ferguson

Dan & Terri Friedlander

Joe & Rita Fust

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membership dues are not tax-deductible.



Business Recognition Diamond Level

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by donating a CFFW membership with
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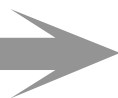
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Please Mark Your Calendars!

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- » **12/14/15:** Merritt Island Captain's meeting, Kiwanis Island.
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- » **12/28/15:** Board of Directors Meeting.
- » **4/2 and 4/3/2016:** 19th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market at Harbor Town Marina.

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