

CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 21 - Issue 4

July/Aug 2014

Citizens For Florida's Waterways promotes the need for responsible use of Florida's waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistance among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, propery 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.

President's Message: The Common Bond

We at CFFW share the bond of a love of boating. Some of us are fishermen, some of us are serious watersports fanatics, some of us just love the open spaces and the feel of distance from everything that has been occupying more of our attention than it deserves. No matter why you cranked up the boat and left the dock or the ramp, there is a feeling that comes with that departure into open spaces where there are no lines to stay between and waving to the folks in the next boat seems so natural – cause you know that they are smiling for all the same reasons you are.

All CFFW has ever tried to accomplish was to keep more of those spaces truly open. Our mission has only ever been to demand that real science and truths – not myths – form the basis of decision-making that impacts those open spaces.

These last couple of weeks we transplanted home to a beautiful location in the Florida Keys. Like most of you would do, every day began and ended with some sort of boating activity. From pure exploration to the off-shore chase for dolphin (or anything else that might bite), to snorkeling the beautiful reefs to just plain enjoying the views from our rental home and sunsets from several waterfront restaurants.

Here's a shot from our oceanfront dock.



Have to admit, we shared some good times with my life-long boating buddy first cousin and his wife from Lee County. There's a strange connection between Lee and Brevard Counties. We were the focal targets of the \$MC for the East and West Coast. Sadly, as bad as things are in Brevard from a manatee protection perspective, they are WAY worse in Lee County.

"" (Continued on Page 4)

CFFW Officers

President

Bob Atkins ratkins@cffw.org

Vice President

Kelly Haugh 321-449-0827

Secretary

Peggy Wehrman pwerhman@cffw.org

Treasurer

Karen Dignan kdignan@cffw.org

Newsletter Editor

Kelly Haugh 321-449-0827



Board of Directors

Gary Haugh

Bob Atkins ratkins@cffw.org

Sandy Reynolds sreynolds@cffw.org

Sales Marketing and Membership

Sandy Reynolds 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.

- 7/12/2014 19th Annual CFFW Poker Run: Citizens For Florida's Waterways Presents The 19th Annual POWERBOAT POKER RUN Saturday, July 12, 2014 Registration Kelly Park East Boat Ramp (Merritt Island) 9:30 to 10:30 am Ending Location Squid Lips (Melbourne). Card Stops may include Ski Island, Nautical Spirits, The Island Waterfront Bar and Grill, Telemar Marina, and Grills Riverside Tiki Bar. Cash Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd best hands. Cash prizes will be determined by the size of the pot. Prizes for Man with the most Kings, and Woman with the most Queens. Fun for the whole family!
 - \$25 Boat Registration Includes a Poker Run T-Shirt and a Hand
 - Additional Hands \$15 each.
- » 7/28/2014 Board Of Directors Meeting: 6:30 pm Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island Open to the public.

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. \$\ddots\$

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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.savefamilyboating.com for the location of our events and meetings.

You may also contact Kelly Haugh CFFW President 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.cbsps.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! *





When Does Your Membership Expire? (See Back Cover)

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President's Message

(continued from Page 1)

Fortunately, Monroe County (the Keys) has not been screwed up by the \$MC types of the world. We left a little statement to that affect along a back country short-cut, famously referred to as "Toilet Seat Pass". Google it and enjoy the many pictures and videos available. We left them some good advice.



We are the lucky ones. We're the ones that know a little something that those who don't boat could never know. If you've been missing that feeling, get the dust off your boat and get out and enjoy freedom all over again. •

Boat Buying Season Scams

Some Red Flags You're About to be Taken for a Ride

It's summer boating season and some boat buyers and sellers are getting ripped off. Here are some ways to greatly improve your chance of a smooth sale or purchase – and when to walk away.

Getting a cashier's check or money for more than asking price: Anytime a buyer offers to pay more than the asking price of the boat your are selling - run away. Today, it's easy for criminals to print counterfeit bank checks, and by the time your bank figures out the loss, the bad guys are far away, and you will be liable for the lost funds. Always contact the financial institution on which the check was drawn to verify the account, but don't dial the phone number printed on the check, if possible. The amount of the bank check should also match in numerals and words, and the account number should not be shiny in appearance. Official checks are generally perforated on at least one side.

A twist on the same for the electronic age: Recently PayPal has become a target for scammers. A phony buyer again asks to send substantially more than the asking price. Later, you get a fake confirmation email from PayPal with your user ID for more than the agreed purchase price — with instructions from the buyer advising you to send the extra money to a shipper. The scam can seem even more legit — if you refuse, you may receive additional fake email notices ... (Continued on Page 6)

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Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Presents The 19th Annual

POWERBOAT POKER RUN

Saturday, July 12, 2014

Registration - Kelly Park East Boat Ramp (Merritt Island) 9:30 to 10:30 am

Ending Location - Squid Lips (Melbourne)

Card Stops may include Ski Island, Nautical Spirits, The Island Waterfront Bar and Grill, Telemar Marina, Grills Riverside Tiki Bar

Cash Prizes 1st 2nd & 3rd best hands

Cash prizes will be determined by the size of the pot

Prizes for Man with the most Kings

and Woman with the most Queens

Fun for the whole family!

- •\$25 Boat Registration Includes a Poker Run T-Shirt and a Hand
- •Additional hands \$15 each

Call Bob Atkins @ 321-453-1656 for more details, or email ratkins@cffw.org



CFFW.ORG



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Boat Buying Season Scams

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from PayPal threatening to close your account if you don't transfer the extra money as per your "agreement."

An escrow service scam: A bogus seller advertises a boat on a website at a low, but not scam-worthy price. When the scammer finds a buyer, they will tell them to use a legitimate sounding yet fictitious escrow service, like GoogleMoney.com. But once the funds are transferred, you'll never hear from the seller again. It's wise to use an escrow service for a long-distance purchase, but be very cautious with escrow services you're not familiar with, and go with established providers such as eBay's Escrow.com.

Email red flags that mean you may be taken for a ride: Poor grammar, spelling and language use; no phone number for the buyer/seller; generic references (ex. "merchandise") to the boat being sold; changing names and locations in emails; a buyer who shows no interest in haggling over price or seeing the boat firsthand; a buyer or seller who has no interest in discussing titling or verifying the boat's Hull Identification Number (HIN). •







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Towing vs. Salvage: What Boaters Should Know

On the water breakdowns, running aground or other mishaps can ruin a day of boating or fishing. But when a boat offering assistance arrives on the scene, how do you know if the service is a "tow" or a "salvage" job? If you're ever in doubt, ask the boat's captain. That's because there could be a big difference in the cost of each service and who will pay the bill, says Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS).

While there is sometimes a fine line between the towing and salvage, there are a few clear indicators that point to each. With salvage, it is the existence of "peril." Historically and legally, salvage is any voluntary and successful rescue of a boat and/or its cargo from a peril at sea. Today that definition also includes avoiding or reducing damage to a marine environment.

Providing voluntary and successful service to vessels hard aground, on rocks, taking on water or sunk is generally considered salvage, as are rescues necessitated by collisions, fires, breakaways or other types of immediate peril. Salvage may also come into play when specialized equipment such as pumps, air bags, or divers are called for – even if the boat is at the dock.

On the other hand, when there is very little or no peril or damage to a vessel - you have a towing situation, which is far more common. Technically, this service is still salvage but of a "low order," meaning minimal peril. A typical example is when you run out of gas or have a dead battery, and have subsequently dropped anchor to await assistance. Waters are calm, you're no threat to navigation, and your crew and boat are fine. Ninetynine percent of the requests for on the water assistance last year were for routine towing services.

BoatUS members benefit from a special agreement with the TowBoatUS and Vessel Assist on the water towing fleets that treat some low order salvage situations as towing services. For example, if a boat is soft aground, this agreement ensures that if there is little peril, no damage to the member's disabled boat, and no special equipment such as pumps are needed it's a simple towing job. BoatUS cautions this service is still technically salvage and that other commercial towing companies may not honor this agreement.

All Vessel Assist companies are committed to informing the owner or operator of a disabled boat – before beginning any work – if the services they are offering are towing or salvage. If the owner/operator is not on board or the conditions are so perilous and the rescue of the boat requires immediate action, they will be notified as soon as possible after saving the boat.

Nationwide, towing and soft ungrounding costs average about \$600 and \$800, respectively. These are either paid by an annual towing service plan or out-of-pocket by the boater.

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Towing vs. Salvage: What Boaters Should Know

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Salvage services are generally covered by insurance or out-of-pocket if self-insured and are much more expensive than a tow. Salvage awards are the legal system's way to award a rescuer who risks their boat and themselves to save a boat in peril. Salvage charges can be calculated based on the length of the vessel saved or a request for a percentage of the boat's post-casualty value. While it's a reward for successful and voluntary service, the dollar amount awarded factors in, among other things, the degree of peril as well as the risk to the salvor and their crew.

There are significant expenses in operating and maintaining a professional towing operation such as captain's and staff salaries, insurance, equipment maintenance and increasing fuel costs, not to mention capital expenses such as towboats and other specialized recovery equipment – and it must be available at a moment's notice.

Time and circumstances permitting, if your on the water assistance provider says it will be a salvage job, boaters should try to call their insurance company so they may attempt to negotiate with the salvor before the operation gets underway. If circumstances don't allow this, ask the salvor for a fixed price and try to get it in writing.

Boaters should review their boat's insurance policy to ensure it fully covers salvage. Some policies have limits, high deductibles, or may not include environmental damage – all of which would have to be paid out of pocket.

CFFW suggests having a copy of an Open Form Yacht Salvage Contract aboard, which assures that any salvage claim will go to local binding arbitration if negotiations between your insurance company and salvor fails.

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Robin G Turner, Licensed Real Estate Broker



Is this a towing job or a salvage job? Boats that are hard aground like this cruiser are most likely to be declared salvage, which is not typically covered by a towing service plan. •

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How to Prevent Off-Season Boat Theft

Boat owners are a trusting lot and while one would not think of leaving the house with all the doors and windows open, boats are often left wide open and unsecured, equipped with all sorts of small and valuable accessories that can easily end up on eBay.

Boats are also so easily transportable, they're particularly susceptible to theft. Each year, insurance claims for theft losses cost the industry and consumers millions. While some boat thefts are the work of sophisticated rings that target a specific type of boat, others are isolated crimes of opportunity by petty thieves taking small, but valuable, equipment.

Here are some tips to help stem the tide of boat thefts. Not all will apply in every situation or for every boat type, but any obstacle a burglar faces trying to steal your boat or break into it could stave off a painful loss.

On the Boat:

- Engrave all valuables including electronic equipment, outboard engines, radios, loose gear, etc. with the owner's name, home port, state driver's license or identification number, and the boat's hull identification number.
- Install dead bolt locks on all doors and secure ports and windows with inside auxiliary locks.
- Attach inverted, strong hasps and padlocks to all hatches and secure lockers with non-removable hasps and hinges and lock with strong padlocks.
- Remove all portable valuables from your vessel, thereby eliminating possible targets of the thief. Don't leave radios, binoculars, cameras or laptops on board.
- Maintain an inventory list ashore that includes all boat gear with the name, model, serial number, manufacturer, and description of each item. Digital images or photos of your gear could also go into this file.
- Never leave keys aboard a boat, even in a "hidden place." Any seasoned burglar knows all the spots to look.
- Don't leave ownership papers on board the boat.

At the Marina:

- Locked gates and other barriers to both pedestrian and vehicle traffic should be installed at every dock entrance.
- Signs that clearly state marina regulations and access limits should be posted.
- Access to boats should be limited only to owners and other authorized persons.
- Good lighting should be focused on access points and boat docks; security cameras are even better.
- Boat owners should get acquainted with their dockside neighbors and report suspicious "visitors" and activities.
- Consider developing a "Marina Watch" patterned after "Neighborhood Watch."

On a Trailer:

- Remove the tires. As an added precaution against theft, be sure to remove the hub nuts and store them with the tires.
- Out of sight is less tempting. If the boat has to stay in the driveway, don't park it facing the street. Thieves may carry coupler devices that can be quickly attached to your ... (Continued on Page 10)

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"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 website: 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. ❖



CFFW members are entitled to a full Membership in BoatUS for only \$15 - that's 50% offthe 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.

How to Prevent Off-Season Boat Theft

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trailer.

- Outboards should be taken off and stored in the garage. Ditto seats, battery, dodgers and canvas; they'll hold up better when stored indoors as well.
- Lock your wheels to the trailer. A length of heavy chain, or cable, run through each wheel and around the axle or trailer frame is a great deterrent to theft of the trailer or your wheels. Also, lock your spare tire.
- Remove the trailer's license plate and, if possible, the tail lights. If practical, chain the trailer to a tree.

Long-term Storage:

- Always tie up a boat to something secure with a chain or cable that cannot be lifted over or torn loose from the piling or mooring. Run the chain or cable around a thwart or stanchion.
- Use one-way bolts, lock nuts, and backup plates on eye bolts.
- Consider leaving a boat's engine out of commission when unattended remove a spark plug, propeller, or the rotor, drain the fuel, or install a hidden cut-off switch.
- Secure outboard motors with special transom bolts or clamping screw locks.

Home For Sale?

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CFFW Member Recognition

Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins George Legters
Thomas Bruckner Troy & Lisa Lotane

Jack & Karen Dignan Nautical Spirits/Chris & Becky Hamilton

Don & Linda Ewers Don Nesbitt
Col. & Mrs. J.C. Farley Sandy Reynolds

Ollie & Sherry Follweiler Scorpion's Port Canaveral Marine

Jeff Haggard & Anita Bromberg Jamie Seymour/New England Mfg. Co.

Jeff & Anita Haggard Wayne Stratford

Alston & Kelli Hammons Thumper & Iva Volkmer
Gary & Kelly Haugh Robin & KathyTurner

Keith & Tamasine Houston Steven Webster

Lonnie & Carla Hughes Willie & Peggy Wehrman

Doug Jaren Bill & Eileen Wetzel

Frank Jones Robert Wille
Troy & Genese Launay Gerd Zeiler

Gold Level (\$50 per year):

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Glenn & Sherry DeJong Bob & Barbara Land Sam & Anne Thorpe

Don & Annette Doerr Nicholas F. Mancini Bob & Cookie Tubielewicz

Clark & Becky Fischer Dentis McDaniel Steven Webster

Edward French Charles Moehle Westland Marina/Titusville

Dan & Terri Friedlander Cloud & Eranges Jim & Pam Urick

in & Terri Friedlander Cloud & Frances Jim & Pam Urio

Gus & Bobbie Gostel John & Elizabeth Picardi

Pawtowski

Business Recognition Diamond Level

Marine Max of Cocoa

This business supports
Citizens For Florida's Waterways
by donating a CFFW membership with
each boat purchased from their store.

Jess H. Yates, DMD

Mandatory Equipment

For Your Boat:

A CFFW Family Membership!

If you own a boat or live by the water, you can't afford not to join Citizens For Florida's Waterways!

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_						

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PO Box 541712

Merritt Island, FL 32954-1712

info@cffw.org Or join with your

credit card on our secure web site at cffw.org

CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and membership dues are not tax-deductable.

Joe & Rita Fust



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Post Office Box 541712 Merritt Island, FL 32954-1712 PAID PERMIT NO. 244 COCOA FL

PRSRT STD U S POSTAGE

If you're not a member... please join.

Your membership dues provide the financial support needed to save family boating from the million-dollar enviro-businesses.

Please join online at cffw.org or by mailing the enclosed membership form.

When Does Your Membership Expire?



- » 7/12/2014 19th Annual CFFW
 - **Poker Run:** Citizens For Florida's Waterways Presents *The 19th Annual POWERBOAT POKER RUN* Saturday, July 12, 2014.
- » 7/28/2014 Board Of Directors Meeting: 6:30 pm Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island Open to the public.
- » SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFO!



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