



# CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 25 - Issue 5

September/October 2018

*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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## Florida – The Rules Are Different Here

How many of you remember that ‘theme’ from decades past? All it took to remind me was a mid September trip to the lake of my youth on the Indiana/Michigan State Line. Throughout the Midwest, “summer” is defined as the period between Memorial and Labor Day weekends. Vacation resorts, seasonal rentals, public pools and most everything associated with “summer”, open and close on those weekends. On ‘my’ lake, it’s time to haul the docks out of the water so they won’t be destroyed by the 2-3ft thick ice-over coming in a couple of months. Of course, it’s time to winterize the boats and safely store them from the harshness of the impending sustained cold and dream about getting them back in the water in late May.

These are not thoughts that ever cross our minds here. In fact, it’s been a hot September and October. Just the last few days have blown a touch of fall into the air. But other than the occasional cool days of winter ahead, we enjoy a year-round boating season. This time of year lends itself to pleasant fishing, cruising and picnic outings on the water.

One of the benefits of cooler weather is cooler water. We all are looking forward with guarded optimism that the cooler water temperatures will help subside the algae bloom in the estuary. There has already been a welcome and noticeable difference in water clarity and color. Let’s stay focused on all the things we can do as individuals to help turn around the long-term deterioration of the water quality.

We are all fortunate to live, work and play in such a desirable location. East Central Florida offers so many opportunities. One of my favorites is year-round water access. Get out there and enjoy our good fortune. Go Boating.

## CFFW Officers

### President

*Bob Atkins*  
ratkins@cffw.org

### Vice President

*Kelly Haugh*  
321-543-6970

### Secretary

*Peggy Wehrman*

### Treasurer

*Karen Dignan*

### Newsletter Editor

*Kelly Haugh*  
cffwcovergirl@gmail.com



### Board of Directors

*Gary Haugh*  
*Sandy Reynolds*  
*Robin Turner*  
*David Zimmerman*

### Membership

*Sandy Reynolds*  
sreynolds@cffw.org

### Government Liason

*Steven Webster*  
swebster@cffw.org

## Please Mark Your Calendars!



- » **November 5: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm  
Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public. Election of the Board Of Directors.
- » **November 7: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting** 6:00 pm Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **November 15: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 2nd Floor.
- » **December 3: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public.
- » **December 5: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting** 6:00 pm Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **December 15: Merritt Island Christmas Boat Parade** - visit the Merritt Island Christmas Boat Parade FaceBook page for all the details.
- » **December 15: Banana River Sail & Power Squadron Christmas Boat Parade in The Grand Canal Satellite Beach.**
- » **December 20: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 2nd Floor

## 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.

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 can view the same exact version online at CFFW.org and click on "newsletters" tab and the issue you would like to view. ❖

*When Does Your  
Membership Expire?*  
(See Back Cover)

# 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 contact a CFFW Board member and present your certificate of completion, and receive your reimbursement. CFFW funds are limited, but at this time we should be able to accommodate a relatively large class.

Because we do have a finite amount of money, it is on a first come, first served basis. You can visit our website at [www.cffw.org](http://www.cffw.org) for more info. You may also contact Kelly Haugh CFFW V.P. at 321-543-6970 for more information.

Enjoy safe boating!



## Ask A Friend To Join CFFW

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# BoatUS Summer Fueling Survey Shows Recreational Boaters' Challenges with Ethanol Fuels

## *No love for the corn-ethanol mandate: 83 percent would choose E0 if available*

ALEXANDRIA, Va., 2018 – A survey of recreational boaters' experience with refueling their vessels this past summer shows little love for corn-ethanol fuel blends mandated by the federal government's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

The survey was completed by Boat Owners Association of The United States, the national advocacy, services and safety group for recreational boaters, to gauge boaters' use of ethanol-free and ethanol-fuel blends during the peak 2018 boating season. The results identify potential misfueling issues and allow recreational boaters to be heard as RFS policy is being debated on Capitol Hill. Only fuels containing up to 10-percent ethanol (E10) are permitted for use in recreational boats, and anything greater has been shown to damage marine engines and will void warranties.

The BoatUS Summer Fueling Survey identified

**The boaters' fuel of choice:** About half (49 percent) of respondents said they filled up their boats with E0 (ethanol-free) fuel this summer. However, if they had their choice of fuel, more than four in five (83 percent) would choose E0 (ethanol-free) fuel – if it was available. Forty-one percent reported the availability of E0 has stayed about the same over the last three years. However, by a margin of more than two to one (31 percent to 14 percent), some respondents said the availability of E0 was becoming more

difficult to locate over the last three years.

**Boat refueling locations:** The survey reported that boaters refuel their boats at a combination of locations both off and on the water. Fifty-three percent of respondents said they refuel their boat at roadside gas stations, followed by on-water fuel docks (50 percent) and filling gas cans or portable gas tanks at roadside gas stations (32 percent).

**Misfueling issues:** BoatUS has concerns over potential consumer misfueling as E15 (15 percent ethanol) pump-labeling requirements are minimal with just a small orange warning label on roadside gas station pumps. About half (49 percent) of survey respondents reported being unaware that the use of E15 gasoline in marine engines was prohibited under federal law and will void the engine warranty. More than 4 in 5 survey respondents (84 percent) could not correctly identify the color of the small misfueling warning label required on gas station dispenser pumps that sell E15. Both may be indications that current pump labels are not effective and misfueling could occur.

**Ethanol-related repairs:** About one in three of those surveyed (36 percent) reported having been advised that repairs to their boats' engines and/or fuel systems were required as a result of ethanol fuel.

When it was passed in 2005, RFS assumed that

... (Continued on Page 5)

# BoatUS Summer Fueling Survey Shows Recreational Boaters' Challenges with Ethanol Fuels

(Continued from Page 4)

America's use of gasoline would continue to grow. Since then, however, gasoline usage has not increased as forecast, which today forces more ethanol into each gallon of gas. To keep up with the RFS mandate and avoid hitting a "blend wall" in which the volume of ethanol production would exceed consumption and infrastructure constraints, in 2010 the EPA granted a waiver to allow E15 into the marketplace.

**Prepare for ethanol:** Unless you use ethanol-free fuels, your boat's gas contains a mixture of up to 10 percent ethanol. Mandated by the Renewable Fuel Standard, this fuel could "phase separate" over long winter storage periods and harm boat engines and fuel systems. If you have a portable gas tank on your boat, try to use as much gas as possible before you put the boat away at the end of the season. Any remaining that's left in the portable tank (unmixed) may be put in your vehicle. Your county's household hazardous waste-collection site may also accept small amounts of gas.

If your boat has a built-in gas tank that cannot be emptied, add a fuel stabilizer and fill the tank, leaving a just a little room for expansion. This will greatly reduce the amount of moisture-laden air that can enter through the tank's vent during seasonal temperature changes and could condense inside tank walls, potentially leading to phase separation. ❖



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## 2019 CFFW Board of Directors Slate

All CFFW Members are eligible and encouraged to vote. Please turn in your ballot at the 2019 CFFW annual meeting in October.

Alternately, you may mail in this ballot to:

**CFFW**  
**P.O. Box 541712**  
**Merritt Island, FL 32954-1712**

Write-ins are encouraged.

Nominations from the floor during the October meeting are encouraged.

## **YOUR INVOLVEMENT ON THE BOARD IS ENCOURAGED!**

### **2019 BALLOT**

The ballot includes 8 Candidates. You may vote for up to 11 Candidates, which means you are encouraged to write-in at least one name.

... (Continued on Page 6)

# 2019 CFFW Board of Directors Slate

(Continued from Page 5)

Standing For Re-Election:

Check the  next to the candidates

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Atkins	President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Haugh	Vice President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peggy Wehrman	Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Dignan	Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gary Haugh	Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Zimmerman	Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandy Reynolds	Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robin Turner	Director

Write-Ins: You may write in as many candidates as you wish. Please include their name and phone number. If elected, write-ins may decline the honor.

Name	Phone

## Could Those LED Lights on the Boat Be Causing Your VHF Radio or AIS to go on the Fritz?

### U.S. Coast Guard issues Marine Safety Alert on potential interference problem

ALEXANDRIA, Va., 2018 – With their low battery draw, cooler operation and sturdy construction, LED lights have been popular with recreational boaters. The lights may also be causing poor VHF radio and Automatic Identification System (AIS) reception, according to a Marine Safety Alert issued by the U.S. Coast Guard on August 15. The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is urging boat owners to follow the Coast Guard’s simple test procedures for LED interference and report any instances to the Coast Guard Navigation Center.

The alert, issued for informational purposes,

outlines reports received from mariners concerning radio frequency interference caused by LED lamps that “were found to create potential safety hazards.” In some cases, the Coast Guard says, the interference may cause problems if mariners need to call for help. The interference can affect VHF voice communications as well as Digital Selective Calling (DSC) messages, and it may also affect AIS because they also use VHF radio. In particular, masthead LED navigation lights on sailboats may cause problems due to their close proximity to antennas.

The Coast Guard advises that it is possible to test for the presence of LED interference by using the following procedures:

1. Turn off LED light(s).
2. Tune the VHF radio to a quiet channel (for example, channel 13).
3. Adjust the VHF radio’s squelch control until the radio outputs audio noise.
4. Re-adjust the VHF radio’s squelch control until the audio noise is quiet, only slightly above the noise threshold.
5. Turn on the LED light(s).

If the radio now outputs audio noise, then the LED lights are causing interference and it is likely that both shipboard VHF marine radio and AIS reception are being degraded by LED lighting. Potential solutions include contacting an electronics repair facility to address the problem, changing the LED bulb to incandescent bulb or fixture, or increasing the separation between the LED light and antenna.

The Coast Guard also requests those experiencing this problem to report their experiences to the Coast Guard Navigation Center by selecting “Maritime Telecommunications” on the subject drop-down list, then briefly describing the make and model of LED lighting and radios affected, the distance from lighting to any antennas and radios affected, and any other information that may help them understand the scope of the problem. ❖

# CFFW Member Recognition

## Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins	Don Nesbitt/Waterfront Solutions
Ben Blythe	Cloud & Frances Pawtowski
Harold D. Casleton	Ron & Donna Pritchard
Jack & Karen Dignan	Chuck & Susan Reed
Daniel & Amy Dvorak	Sandy Reynolds
William Eells	Richard Sproc
Charles & Susan Frazier	Robin & Kathy Turner
Gary & Kelly Haugh	Herbert C. Vitt III
Philip Holtje	Thumper Volkmer
Keith & Tamasine Houston	Willie & Peggy Wehrman
Russell Jamieson/Atlass Insurance	Bill & Eileen Wetzel
Doug Jaren	Robert Wille
Troy & Genese Launay	Jess H. Yates, DMD
George & Majel Legters	Gerd Zeiler
Michael & Kristen Moehle	Dave & Bonnie Zimmerman

## Gold Level (\$50 per year):

Duane Balkema	Bruce & Carol Hess
Vincent Barro	Jay Humphreys
Skip & Ruth Bateman	Mike Lopez
Bubba & Paula Beyer	Al Pappas
Don & Annette Doerr	John & Elizabeth Picardi
Glen & Sherry DeJong	Ron & Donna Pritchard
Scott Ellis	Thomas Raftican
David Falabella	Gary & Debra Sawicki
John .C. Farley	Cliff & Diana Schommer
Derek Ferguson	Sea Tow/Port Canaveral
Dan & Terri Friedlander	Wayne & Pat Stratford
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Joe Fust	Jim & Pam Urick
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CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and  
membership dues are not tax-deductible.



## Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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