



CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 25 - Issue 6

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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.

'TIS THE SEASON

What better way to set the mood for the Holiday's than the first cool day of Fall. After months in the 80s and 90s, this morning's 50 was down right cold. As I write this, we are preparing to have Mom, our Kids and Grandkids all home for Thanksgiving next week. It's not possible every year. For many of us the family is so dispersed that the year everyone gets home is a rare occasion, which truly is cause for celebration.

So for the next month, there will be many additional gatherings with family and co-workers. Regardless of what special days(s) are celebrated in your house, it's hard not to notice the festive decorations throughout our neighborhoods and, of course, in every retail establishment. It's the season to celebrate and be thankful for all the goodness in our lives.

Speaking of decorations. One of the truly unique opportunities for us here in East Central Florida is our annual Holiday Boat Parades. One of the best ways to enjoy them is to take part.

In addition to parades around the county, we have two great traditions here in Central Brevard. The Cocoa Beach Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Cocoa Beach Rotary Club is on Saturday December 8th with a Captain's Meeting on Wednesday November 28 at Cocoa Beach Country Club. There are no height restrictions for boats, other than Banana River bridges, in this parade and traditionally, there have been some spectacularly decorated larger boats participating as well as lots of ingeniously decorated boats of all sizes. Parade info can be found here: (<http://www.cocoabeachrotary.org/CocoaBeachBoatParade.cfm>)

Last year's Merritt Island's Parade was a major success and this year's looks to be bigger and better. The limitations of the Sykes Creek bridges near the Barge Canal had no affect on the variety, beauty and number of craft participating. It was spectacular. This is the second year Aaron Dumont and Kaleb Renneman have had the reigns and they have been busy. This year's Parade is Saturday December 15th. The equally spectacular Captain's Party will be Thursday the 13th at Sunset Waterfront Café and Bar, Cocoa Beach. You can get all the latest details at (<https://www.facebook.com/MIboatparade/>).



Why not decorate your boat this year and participate in BOTH parades or the many others to the north and south. I know from experience that these are memories you, your family and friends will share for years.

*From your friends at CFFW, we wish you
Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year
filled with lots of Florida Boating.❖*

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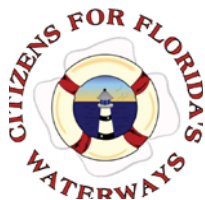
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Please Mark Your Calendars!



- » **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 8:** Cocoa Beach Christmas Boat Parade. Stay tuned for
Captain's meeting info.
- » **December 13:** Merritt Island Christmas Boat Parade Captain's Party 5-8pm
at Sunset Waterfront Grill in Cocoa Beach. Check the facebook page
for all the details.
- » **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 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

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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 for more info. You may also contact Kelly Haugh CFFW V.P. at 321-543-6970 for more information.

Enjoy safe boating! ❖



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Keeping the Momentum Going on the ICW

AIWA meets to discuss improvements, challenges on coastal waterway

Nov. 19, 2018 – The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), the 1,100-plus-mile coastal waterway stretching from Norfolk, Virginia, to Miami, Florida, is getting better. Over the last five years more funding to dredge and maintain the waterway for both recreational and commercial vessels has made shoaling less of a problem, but navigational issues remain. This was the focus at the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association (AIWA) annual meeting held recently in Charleston, South Carolina. Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) is a founding member of the waterway interest group, which includes commercial and recreational users, local governments, and associations.

“We’re gaining recognition and have seen an increase in funding for dredging projects that keep the waterway a viable transportation system,” said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs and AIWA Vice Chairman David Kennedy. “Our goal is to keep the momentum going and continue to grow awareness of this vital waterway that is important to recreational boating.” In addition to being a resource to local boaters, some 13,000 “snowbirds” make the annual migration on the ICW from the Northeast to Florida each year.

The authorized depth of the waterway is 12 feet, but areas remain where shoaling has been reduced to less than 5 feet. Much of the responsibility for maintaining the waterway falls to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ limited operating and maintenance budget. Some states have begun to pick up the slack and have included funds for dredging projects, including South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida.

On the slate during the two-day meeting were a series of updates, reports and discussions revolving around how to improve ICW navigation. These included an outlook on Washington politics and its affect on funding, commercial-access

challenges, engineering with nature in mind, managing dredge material and regulatory policy updates for maintenance dredging, tracking sediments, and maritime community information sharing.

Brad Pickel, executive director of AIWA, said, “We’ve shown that the waterway is a critical part of the nation’s water highway infrastructure, and we need to keep the pressure up to make more investments in improving navigation.” For more information about the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association visit atlanticintracoastal.org.

Boat Cleaning Tips

By Stacey Nedrow-Wigmore

When it comes to tackling your most troublesome cleaning jobs on board, the internet is chock full of advice. Some tips are pure genius; others are downright dangerous. We set out to find some clever (and safe) solutions to five of your toughest challenges. While you shouldn’t discount commercial products, items you may already have on hand can serve up surprisingly good results,



Photo: Thinkstockphotos.com/Tatomm

... (Continued on Page 5)

Boat Cleaning Tips

By Stacey Nedrow-Wigmore
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sometimes for less money. When it comes to getting out tough stains, your first responsibility is to do no harm. You don't want to turn a molehill into a mountain, so we recommend, where possible, to contact the manufacturer of whatever item you want to clean to ask for advice. Read labels on all cleaning solutions carefully to ensure they're safe for use on the surfaces you're using them – and remember that formulas can change. Finally, test any product on a small, inconspicuous area first to ensure there are no unexpected results.

Problem: Stains On Vinyl Cushions

Whether it's stains from mildew or (ewww!) spider droppings, dirty vinyl looks bad and decreases your boat's value.

Solution

OxiClean powder, or its generic equivalent, offers up great results for removing stains on vinyl. Mix according to the directions, and gently scrub with a nylon bristle brush. Let sit for five to 10 minutes, then rinse. You can also try cleaning tough spots with a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. Avoid using products containing bleach; they will break down the vinyl and stitching over time.

Prevention

Once the stains are gone and the material dry, finish with a sealer like 303 Aerospace Protectant.

Problem: Foggy Portlights

You clean your boat's plastic portlights over and over, but they're still hazy. The plastic is probably oxidized or scratched, so no amount of cleaner is going to cut it.

Solution

Clean the window using warm water with a squirt



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of mild dishwashing soap added. Then squeeze some toothpaste or Brasso onto a clean, soft lint-free cloth (an old cotton T-shirt works great) and rub it onto the surface of the portlight until the oxidation is removed. Wipe with a clean cloth. If necessary, use a plastic-safe cleaner to remove any residue.

Prevention

Avoid using glass cleaner (or anything that contains ammonia, alcohol, or solvents) or dry paper towels for cleaning plastic portlights. After removing the haze, follow up with a water-resistant spray, like Rain-X, to slow down future oxidation.

Eco-friendly Cleaning Tips

Regardless of your choice of cleaner, how you use it can determine your environmental impact as much as the toxicity and degradability of the product itself. Factors such as how much you dilute a product, how much you use, and where

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Boat Cleaning Tips

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you clean your boat all contribute to the amount of product that ends up in the environment. Here are some tips to remember:

- Rinse your boat regularly with freshwater to prevent dirt from accumulating.
- Follow the dilution recommendations on all cleaning products. In most cases where a product had a range of recommended dilutions, the weaker mixture works equally well as the stronger mixture.
- Use an environmentally friendly boat soap for overall cleaning, then spot treat troublesome stains with a stronger product.
- Minimize runoff by toweling off harsh spot treatments instead of rinsing.

Problem: Dirty Bilge

A wet, dirty bilge isn't just an eyesore: It can bring unwanted odors, and pumping out oily water is illegal. In addition, the muck makes it hard to spot small problems before they become big ones.

Solution

Turn off the bilge pump and use a wet/dry vac or sponge to remove any remaining water. Pour in some kind of degreaser, like a gentle dishwashing soap. Add a couple buckets of hot water, depending on the size of your bilge. Use a brush to scrub the surfaces, being sure to get into the nooks and crannies. Suck out the dirty water with your wet/dry vac and dispose of properly. (Avoid dumping the dirty water overboard. Doing so can carry a hefty fine.) Remember to switch on your bilge pump to the automatic setting afterward.

Prevention

Once your bilge is fully dry, add oil-absorbing pads in areas where grease or fuel could collect.

Address ongoing leaks or drips, and clean up spills right away.

Problem: Fishblood Stains On Nonskid

While evidence of catches on your deck means you had a great day on the water, it's just plain yucky to look at.

Solution

The best method is to wash down any affected surfaces before the blood has a chance to dry. Should you miss a spot, sprinkle some Bar Keepers Friend on clean, wet nonskid, scrub, and rinse. Alternatively, try hydrogen peroxide or OxiClean (or generic equivalent) for really tough dried-on stains.

Prevention

Thwart future stains with a coat of Woody Wax, which is safe to use on decks.

Problem: Hard water stains

Those icky white spots that appear on your hull, glass, or engine cowlings from mineral deposits mar your freshly cleaned finish.

Solution

Spray a mixture of equal parts vinegar and water, let sit for 5 minutes, then wipe off. Or keep a box of dryer sheets onboard. Moisten one with water, gently rub over the spots, then rinse for a sparkling shine.

Prevention

Immediately after washing in a shady area, spritz the surface with a 4:1 water/vinegar mix. Use a wrung-out chamois to remove water droplets before they dry. Then apply a coat or two of wax, like Woody Wax, to help keep water spots at bay. For very hard water, consider adding a dockside or inline water filter to remove the minerals.❖

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Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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