



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Established 1994

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July/August 2020

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 the marine environment.

President's Message

Thank Goodness for Florida's Waterways

As I sat down to write my mid-summer message to our CFFW membership, I struggled to focus on anything but Hurricane preparations in light of an approaching storm. I've written that message more than once. Clearly, boat ownership brings an additional set of property concerns and preps. Whether your boat is stored in or overwater, in a dry stack, on your trailer, at your property or in a storage yard, the necessary precautions cover a wide array of activities. Hopefully these preps are routine and easily implemented without great consternation.

Thinking back over the course of the first half of 2020, I couldn't help but focus on how much stability boat ownership has contributed to my continued enjoyment of life. I hope you share that feeling. So, I thought about writing about the joys of boat ownership. I have always held in high disregard, even contempt, all those who rant something along the lines of "the two best days in a boat owner's life . . .".

But really, what good would any of those myriad forms of watercraft be without all that great Florida water. Think of the variety of water you have access to in a half-day drive. Lots of shoreline and estuarial water on both coasts, the Keys, rivers, lakes and springs. There are so many ways to get wet. Combine that with the fact that regardless of the page where your calendar is opened, there will be plenty of opportunity to have weather days that month for exploring Florida's waterways. How lucky are we?

Do some investigation and then take advantage of the abundance of opportunities and pick a new destination to explore this month. Since you should be able to convince the kids that the theme parks may not be an ideal destination, take them exploring some of what the Real Florida has to offer. Some of my favorite Florida exploration memories are in canoes and floating on tubes, but all seem to be on the water. ❖

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Please Mark Your Calendars!



- » **August 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.
- » **August 20: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 2nd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **August 31: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public
- » **September 2: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting** 6:00 pm Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public
- » **September 17: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 2nd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **September 28: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. 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.

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)*

Time Saving Tips for your Boat

by Mark Corke, BoatUS Magazine

You don't always need a wonder product. You might already have just what you need on board.

Take A Load Off - Shore-power cords are heavy, and a plug that fits poorly into the shore-side receptacle could become disconnected while you're away from the boat. Ensure that it's plugged in correctly and securely, then tie a thin length of rope around the cord close to the plug with a rolling hitch or other suitable knot, securing the other end of the line to the top of the shore-power pedestal, pole, or other anchoring point to take some of the weight off the plug.

Thar She Blows -The air conditioning on my boat recently stopped working when a jellyfish got sucked into the water intake and lodged in the hose. After closing the seacock, I removed the hose from the inline water strainer. Holding it vertically so that the end was above the outside waterline, I reopened the seacock and cleared the obstruction with a few puffs from my inflatable dinghy pump. I then reclosed the seacock and reattached the hose.

Pearly Brights - Is your boat's stainless not looking its best? Fear not: Use toothpaste. Rub a little straight from the tube onto the dull metal, then buff with a microfiber towel dampened with a little freshwater. Voila! Bright, shiny stainless with a minty-fresh scent. Some abrasive toothpastes (like those for whitening) can scratch, so experiment in an inconspicuous area first.

Slick Stain Remover - Got an oil stain on your fiberglass boat that you just can't get out? Spray the area with WD-40, let it sit for a few minutes, then wipe with a clean rag. You can use the same technique on upholstery and carpet, too. After spraying the WD-40 onto the affected area, blot with clean paper towels, and then spritz the area with warm water mixed with a little laundry detergent. Blot with a clean, dry towel. Test in an inconspicuous area first to check for colorfastness or other issues. ❖

CFFW is Your Boating Advocate


The Board Directors here at CFFW holds positions on several boards and committees that provide direct interface with relevant boating policy makers at the local, state and federal levels. Our President was appointed by the Governor to represent the 'Boating Public' on the Florida's Boating Advisory Council. CFFW helped organize and maintains a fulltime seat as a voice for boaters at the Manatee Forum. Here in Brevard our Vice President is a long-term member on the Brevard Marine Advisory Council and also a member of the District 2 Dredge Committee. To try to keep the membership and the community informed about what CFFW is doing and other events and news of interest to the boating public, we created and maintain the CFFW Website and Facebook pages. One of our newest members created and moderates the Space Coast Boating Community page on Facebook.

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CFFW is an ALL volunteer organization. Totality of the efforts of the CFFW Board and Membership is non-compensated. When pre-approved representation requires travel to participate, CFFW reimburses a portion of the expenses directly to the member. This is the only time CFFW funds are expended internally.

Our existence traces back to the 80s and the creation of previously unthinkable boating operation regulations imposed on Brevard waterways. Consequently, a significant percentage of our activity is and has been a direct result of resisting the assault on the waterways by the misguided, if not outright malicious, anti-boating organizations. We contemptuously refer to many of the individuals who perpetuated this assault as the “manatee mafia”. Even some local citizens, who bought homesites on OPEN waterways, sided with the mafia. Once that they owned the property, they wanted to limit everyone’s use of the water in front of THEIR property.

There is no doubt that Brevard waterways were victimized by this mafia. Entire residential neighborhoods became and remain locked inside ridiculous shoreline slow speed zones that extend out up to 3500 feet – with no reasonable speed access channels. These 3500ft shoreline buffers are far in excess of the typical 500 to 1500ft buffers recommended and implemented in most, if not all, other coastal counties. An analysis of the Brevard zone configuration indicates it is mostly defined by inclusion of all the recreational designated use spoil islands than it is for manatee protection. In addition to the ridiculous buffer zones, some of the worst offense of restricted waterway use is the year-round slow speed regulation of Sykes Creek and the entire Barge Canal channel from the ICW to Jetty Park.

While there are so many Florida waterways to enjoy beyond the reach of the manatee mafia, CFFW remains focused on trying to right the mafia’s wrongs. It’s time to take a detailed analytic look at what restricted zones might have worked and what zones have accomplished little or nothing and make corrective changes.

In 1994, the Brevard County Commission accepted the requirement from the State to create a Manatee Protection Plan. In reality, the requirement for an MPP was not well founded in law, but undertaken under threat of reducing both private and public waterfront dockage. Several past and current CFFW members (including our President) were appointed by the County Commission to the ad-hoc committee charged with creating the MPP. This was an exhausting and contentious effort that spanned two and a half years and the resulting draft plan was not formalized and submitted to the State until February 2003.

The period from 1994 through 2003 was filled with even longer heated debate within the Commission. Clearly, there was NEVER consensus about the content of the plan that was NINE YEARS in development, particularly the proposed zones. Years after the MPP draft was completed, the members of the ad-hoc committee were shocked to discover that the county employee who was assigned as the principle author of the MPP was in fact a “Regional Coordinator” of the Save the Manatee Club.

Brevard County Commission formally announced the intent to review the Brevard County Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) in 2006 and again in 2016, but FWC refused to participate each time. Now that there has been some organizational changes at FWC, including the departure of some entrenched personnel,

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it is time to make good on the long overdue 5yr review of the highly controversial Brevard County MPP. STAY TUNED. ❖

Web References:

myfwc.com/boating/advisory-council/

brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources/BoatingWaterways/BMAC

brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources/BoatingWaterways/D2DredgeCommittee

cffw.org/

[Citizens for Florida's Waterways on Facebook](#)

[Space Coast Boating Community on Facebook](#)

[Brevard County Manatee Protection Plan](#)

Though COVID-19 still looms large for summer 2020, the water still awaits you.

As we each feel our way through this pandemic that has turned our worlds upside down, one commonality we share is a longing for the return to some semblance of "normal." Well, lo and behold, it turns out that the boating lifestyle we all love is one of the best for weathering this tsunami of turmoil and anxiety in relative safety. This may not be a normal boating season, but we've come a long way from the dark days of March and April, when it seemed destined to be the lost boating season. Now, every state allows recreational boating, with certain commonsense restrictions regarding the number of people on board, social distancing, and wearing masks on the docks.

The Good News-Despite much uncertainty, we have good news: Boat manufacturers across the country report that they're having trouble keeping up with demand. Lenders report that, despite more stringent

lending standards this year, applications for boat loans are on the rise. Brokers report used boats are also selling strong, with a surge of first-time boaters.

"Sales were down when the pandemic hit, but then in April sales for personal watercraft were up 8%. This got our attention," says Sarah Salvatori, director of communications for the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). "Then in May, outboard engine sales increased 7% year over year, and personal watercraft sales skyrocketed to a 75% increase, year over year. That's unheard of and an encouraging indicator for boat sales and boating activity downstream." PWCs are a primary purchase for first-time buyers entering the marine market, she adds.

While boat sales data is still being tallied, Salvatori says the news from dealers is equally strong.

"I can't tell you how many dealers say they can't keep up with demand," she says, noting one California boat dealer reporting May year-over-year sales up 300%." She says, "It's real" that this crisis is drawing more people to the joys of boating.

Other outdoor-oriented industries such as RVs and camping are also reporting similar good sales news. The reason? With traditional summer getaways like amusement parks, hotels, cruises, and all-inclusive destinations closed, or with their inherent close-quarters design deemed to be unsafe to many, families are looking for an escape to the great outdoors. With organized youth sports and summer camps unlikely to open, we'll also probably see more kids on the water with their parents this summer.

What's Open?

Though most fishing tournaments and sailing classes were canceled or postponed in the early summer, some are finding ways to safely open later or carry on as close to normal as they can with some determined and smart thinking. Just days after the start of the

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quarantine, for instance, Oakcliff Sailing on New York's Oyster Bay began developing a comprehensive protocol and product recommendation list for hosting regattas and other boating events. They're sharing it with the general boating community to help keep people safe while using sanitation procedures that are as environmentally friendly as possible. View Oakcliff's full Covid-19 Boating Safety Protocol.

To help boaters coast to coast know where they can boat, Discover Boating, part of NMMA, has created a national Water Access Map to help find places to boat. The interactive tool features the latest information about public water access in the United States during the COVID-19 outbreak. The site is continually updated, but it's best to check with local marine authorities in the location you'll be boating.

"Boating during COVID-19 is one of the safest — not to mention most enjoyable — things you can do this summer," says Colleen Richardson, director of Discover Boating. "As annual traditions such as camping and sporting events have been canceled, more Americans are drawn to the water. It doesn't get more socially distant than boating with loved ones. Studies have shown it's a boon for mental health and well-being."

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water reports a whopping 70% increase in registrations for its free boating safety course in May (year over year)!

'Get Outside. Enjoy Nature' ... Safely

In May 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic continued to weigh on the world, Dr. Tom Frieden, the former director of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had a simple message for Americans: "Get outside. Enjoy nature. It's good for us, and it has very low risk of spreading the virus."

With that in mind, wherever you boat this year, follow your local directives, and guidelines from the CDC, and keep these smart guidelines in mind so that we can protect one another:

THE VELVET ROPE: Restrict those on board to immediate family or to close friends you're confident are playing it smart in their daily lives. If you or a family member are immune-compromised, go boating only with the people with whom you live.

NO DILLY-DALLYING: This is not a typical summer, so be efficient going from house to boat, to back home. Minimizing contact with others can make a big difference.

NO RAFTING UP: Do we really need to say that? The same goes for beaching proximity.

BE CONSIDERATE: Wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart when chatting with the marina crew. At the fuel dock, maintain distance, and wear a mask. Wear gloves, discard them after fueling up, then wash or sanitize your hands.

Discover Boating has more helpful tips on social distancing activities to do on a boat. The take away as we sail into summer? Get out there and enjoy — safely enjoy! The water awaits! ❖

CFFW Member Recognition

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Cloud & Frances Pawtowski	

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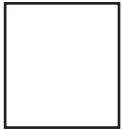


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