



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Established 1994

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November/December 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

From All of Us at CFFW – Have a Safe and Happy Holidays

As time goes by, I value the days a little more. But this year has been one helluva challenge to that philosophical focus. On the other hand, I can't remember a year that has progressed so slowly.

While there seems to be a lot of challenges to traditional holiday celebrations, there is one local tradition that will not be affected. We can all decorate our boats and participate in the Holiday Boat Parades. Thanks to Aaron & Brittney Dumont and Kaleb & Sarah Rennemann, the Merritt Island Christmas Boat Parade tradition started 20+ years ago by CFFW continues and this year's parade will be December 19th.

The Cocoa Beach Holiday Boat Parade will be December 12 and this year, also on the 12th, Cocoa Village will be having it's holiday boat parade. Traditionally there are holiday parades on the water in the Melbourne and Titusville areas. Check with local boaters to get details on all of these events.

There's always more fun ON the water.

Unfortunately, dying and consumed grass (for whatever reason) reduces the nutrient absorbing capacity and directly re-releases the previously absorbed nutrient to the system. These released nutrients fuel the algae blooms. Regardless of the cause-effect relationship between seagrass loss and algae proliferation, the IRL seagrass-nutrient balance is drastically skewed.

To make matters worse, we add more nutrient load to the system with the runoff from each rainfall.

The only hope for the sustained future health of the IRL requires focus on TWO FRONTS:

- 1) Reduction in nutrient loading
- 2) Seagrass Restoration

Share Your Love (and knowledge) of Boating

With all the negatives that one can associate with this past year, there has been a remarkable increase in boat sales, both new and used. The demand for new boats is so high that there are manufacturers

... (Continued on Page 3)

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Please Mark Your Calendars!



- » **November 30: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public
- » **December 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
- » **December 12: Cocoa Beach Christmas Boat Parade and Cocoa Christmas Boat Parade**
- » **December 17: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 2nd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **December 19: Merritt Island Christmas Boat Parade-Captain's Party** TBD. Check out the their FB page for the latest updates.
- » **January 4: 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)

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

that have already pre-sold every boat they will be able to produce in 2021. The demand for new boats has significantly driven up the selling price of used boats. But, if you are planning on taking advantage of the increased value of your existing boat, make sure you secure the replacement before you sell.

Earlier in the year, I wrote about the great escape boating provided from the temporarily limited opportunities to enjoy life on dry land. Millions of Americans realized this and that is what drove up demand for boats. What the increased demand for boats really translates to is an abundance of first-time and under-experienced boaters taking to the water. It is incumbent on each of us to take the time to lend support to our friends and relatives that are new to boating.

CFFW has always advocated for boating safety education including offering to reimburse the cost of boating education for our members. Please encourage our new boaters to participate in boating safety education. As a long-term Power Squadron member and former boating safety instructor, I believe in the value of in-person, hands-on training offered by the Squadron. Of course, there is no replacement for real world experience. Think about offering to accompany your new boating friends either on board or in a lead follow adventure. Remember how intimidated you were on your first outing – or even launching and operating that unfamiliar new boat for the first time.

While you are out there, set a

good example. Let them know what the local rules and regulations are and what they mean from an operator's perspective. Just getting from the ramp or dock to open water can be a challenge in our area. Local knowledge of depth and unseen hazards is much better learned from others than by trial and error first-hand. One of the reasons that CFFW has promoted the annual Poker Run is to familiarize the boating public with the waterfront restaurants and businesses and how to approach their dockage. There are many other organizations and events available to share with a newbie.

Boaters are a friendly lot. Many of us wave and smile to passing boaters like they were old friends. My daughters told me a few years back that when they were younger, they actually thought I must know all the other boaters since I waved to all of them – and they all waved back.

There are many great boating days to be had over the next weeks and months. Get out there and enjoy the freedom of the open water. ❖

An advertisement for a dentist, Joel C. Scalera, D.D.S. The background is a soft-focus image of a toothbrush with blue and white bristles. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Joel C. Scalera, D.D.S.
www.joelscaleradds.com

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What's Different About Fall Boating?

Follow these 5 boating safety tips to ensure a great day on the water

SPRINGFIELD, Va., Fall, 2020 – Other than the colors of trees and cooler temperatures, what's different about boating in the fall? A lot, according to the Boat US Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, especially when it comes your safety aboard. One big issue is there are fewer boats – often the quickest pathway to a rescue – on the water, so flagging down a good Samaritan just got harder. So, what's your plan to stay safe? Here are five fall boating safety tips.

Always leave a float plan. It could be as simple as advising a family member or friend where you're going, what time you expect to return, and picking a time for them to act if you fail to call or text them to advise of your safe return.

Be certain your VHF is working, and if the antenna is on a folding mount, ensure it is in the upright position before you leave the dock.

While using a cellphone aboard your boat to summon emergency help has become common, it requires boaters to remember to ensure their phone is fully charged and remains dry.

Ensure you know where your signaling equipment is located such as handheld flares or aerial signals. They should be in good condition and not expired. Boaters often forget to ensure their boat has the required sound-producing device.

If you're solo boating in an area with questionable cellphone coverage, consider purchasing or renting Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or Emergency Position Indicating Rescue Beacon. ❖

11 Things to Know About Boat Trailer Tires

Tires aren't exciting, until something goes wrong. Then, tires become the topic of the day. Here are some tire basics so that your tires will always be, well, tiresome.

Trailer Made-A tire's sidewall is where you learn everything: dimensions, capacities, age, and most important, purpose. A tire made for a boat trailer is going to have "ST" on the sidewall, or the words "Trailer Use Only." Unlike tires on your car, trailer tires have strengthened sidewalls to handle the weight of a boat, especially when rounding corners. Trailer tires are either bias ply or radial. Bias-ply sidewalls are stiffer, less expensive than radials, and are preferred if the trailer isn't used for long trips. If you take long trips, then radials are a better choice because there's reduced heat buildup as compared to bias ply, greater load capacity, and less road noise. Use all bias ply or all radials; never mix them.

Inflation

Check inflation prior to going on the road when the tires are cold. The tire pressure measured in pounds per square inch (psi) will increase as the tire heats up when used. BoatUS TRAILER ASSIST service

... (Continued on Page 5)

11 Things to Know About Boat Trailer Tires

Continued from Page 4

providers say tires are the main reason they're called to help members experiencing trouble on the road. Under inflation is the cause of most tire trouble because temperatures increase when the tire pressure is too low. So, check inflation prior to going on the road. It's marked on your tire. Remember, boat trailer tires typically need to be inflated to higher psi than tow vehicle tires. And be sure to also check the psi of the spare tire.

Load Range

Every tire has a load range, and trailer tires are no different. Marked on the sidewall, the load range runs from the lightest weight the tire can carry (Load Range B) to the heaviest (Load Range E). Load range is a measure of an individual tire's maximum capacity to carry a boat and trailer. Most boat trailer tires have a load range of B, C, or D. If a tire has load range C, it can carry 1,820 pounds. If it's on a single-axle trailer, this means both tires can carry a total of 3,640 pounds, which includes the weight of the trailer, the boat, the engine, fuel, and anything else inside the boat. Single-axle trailers can carry 100 percent of the load rating. Double-axle trailers require the load be reduced by 12 percent. As load range increases, psi increases.

Tire Wear

Your tires will tell you when something's wrong and usually give plenty of hints before becoming the topic of conversation. Tire pressure that's too high causes center wear on the tire while low tire pressure causes wear on the outside edges.

Sidewall

Inspect the sidewalls for spiderweb cracks, which is evidence of dry rot (and imminent failure).

Tread

A Lincoln penny is a good measure for tread depth on both car and boat trailer tires. Place the penny upside down on the tread. If you can see the top of the president's head, the tread is worn and it's time to start looking for new tires.

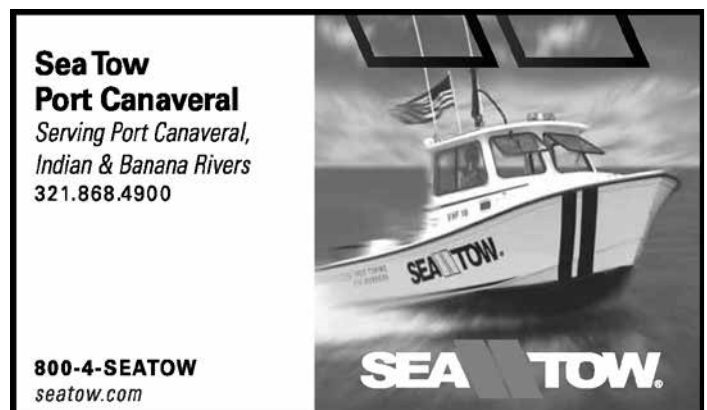
Valve Stem

Often overlooked, the valve stem may be the cause of continued low psi. Press your finger against one side of the stem and listen for any loss of air.

Balance And Rotation

Balance And Rotate Tires?-The answers are "yes" and "maybe." Like tires on your car or tow vehicle, trailer tires that are balanced ensure proper tire wear and reduce vibration. Single axle boat-trailer tires usually don't need to be rotated. A tandem axle trailer rotation isn't necessary unless you notice increased wear that's occurring faster than normal. In that case, rotate the tires from front to back, preferably in an "X" configuration.

If The Trailer Sits Outside-Trailer tires face a pair of threats outside: ❖



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... (Continued on Page 6)

11 Things to Know About Boat Trailer Tires

Continued from Page 5

Sun

Prolonged exposure to the sun's UV rays will deteriorate trailer tires, causing spiderweb cracks. This can be easily resolved by putting tire covers over the tires if the trailer is going to be parked for an extended period of time.

Moisture

The worst thing you can do to a trailer tire is to park it on grass for a long period of time, where moisture is going to slowly get into the tire's protective surface. This can be solved by either removing the tires during the winter (also deters theft) or positioning the trailer tires on concrete or plywood.

Motion Is Good

A parked trailer means the tires are bearing the weight in the same position on the tire, for a long period of time. This can result in "flat spots" on a tire. If the trailer is parked for a while, check the tire pressure from time to time to ensure the tires are properly inflated.

Speed-Most trailer tires have a maximum speed of 65 mph. However, if speeds from 66 to 75 mph are used, the tire inflation pressure can be increased by 10 psi without any increase in load. However, the Tire and Rim Association, which sets standards for tires, suggests decreasing the load capacity of the trailer by 10 percent if you are running at these higher speeds.

The PSI

A Tire Pressure Monitoring System-After all the noise we've made about the importance of checking tire pressure, it can be done without getting out of your truck with a tire gauge. A

number of monitoring systems are available for recreational vehicle owners but here's one designed with a trailer boat owner in mind.

The 507RV made by Truck System Technologies is part of a larger system already in use on semitrucks throughout the country (Freightliner, MHC Kenworth, to name a few). It's simple to set up: A monitor is screwed into the tire stem and a screen is plugged into the tow vehicle cigarette lighter and, once programmed, will provide the psi of each tire as well as the temperature inside the tire (the latter being important to warn that a bearing or brake rotor is going bad). It works when trailers are dunked in fresh water or saltwater, too. **How Old R U?**-Your tire's age (whether for a boat trailer, truck, or passenger car) has a DOT (Department of Transportation) time stamp that provides the tire's date of manufacture. The last four digits tell you everything you need to know. In this example, the tire was manufactured in the second week of 2008.

What Does It Mean?

ST-This tire is designed for a trailer.

205-Width of the tire in millimeters.

75-The ratio of height to width. In this example, the tire's height is 75 percent of its width. The smaller the aspect ratio, the wider the tire in relation to height.

D-This indicates a bias ply tire. "D" stands for diagonal. "R" would mean this is a radial tire.

14-Wheel diameter: This trailer has 14" rims. ❖

CFFW Member Recognition

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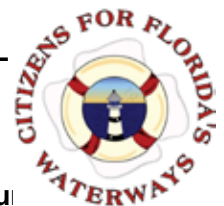
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CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and
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Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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