



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Established 1994

Volume 28 – Issue 3

May/June 2021

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

Let's all have a great summer of safe boating. As I write this, it is blowing hard here on Lower Matecumbe and not really the perfect boating day – but it is a beautiful day none the less. It is also the first day of National Safe Boating Week May 22 – 28 this year. Really though, every week is safe boating week, because most of us boat for the pure pleasure of it and there is no place for less than an enjoyable day on the water.

We had another great CFFW Marine Flea Market. We had beautiful weather, large crowds and many of our regular vendors had their all-time best day for our events. I know I came home with some new friends and some new stuff too. I hope that all of you had the chance to come out.

Our next event is our annual CFFW Powerboat Poker Run on July 10. This will be the 24th “annual” and this year Boater's Exchange has asked to be a co-sponsor of the event. As usual, we will be setting up as many of your favorite waterfront businesses for stops to eat, drink, and, of course, pick up that valuable color-coded poker chip that earns you a card in our game of 7 card stud.

Our event last year was a major success with a recent year record number of boats entered and poker hands being played and \$900 cash payout plus lots of raffle prizes like gift certificates from the chip stop participants as well as some really nice boating equipment from local marine dealerships. And all this for the same \$25 Captains entry that we have had since the mid-nineties – and that includes one of our famous collector item T-shirts designed and produced locally by Holly over at “All About Hue”

With additional publicity from Boater's Exchange, we expect an even bigger turnout this year. So, in addition to our traditional morning-of registration at Kelly Park, we have reserved the main pavilion near the boat ramp basin for the post run dealing and prize awards event later in the afternoon. As always, we prefer that participation is on the water, but each location participating in the event can be accessed by land yacht.

There are a lot of “new” boaters in the neighborhood and this is a great event for you to invite someone to ride with you or to follow you to learn the locations and over water approaches to all our great participating dockside businesses.

See you on the water.

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ratkins@cffw.org

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Sandy Reynolds

Robin Turner

David Zimmerman

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Sandy Reynolds

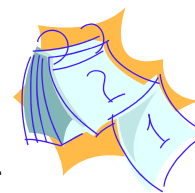
sreynolds@cffw.org

Government Liason

Steven Webster

swebster@cffw.org

Please Mark Your Calendars!



- » **May 20 Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **May 21-23: Thunder on the Beach-Cocoa Beach**
- » **June 2: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting** 6:00 pm at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **June 7: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public
- » **June 17: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **June 28: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public
- » **July 10: Annual CFFW Boat Poker Run** Stay tuned to WWW.CFFW.Org or on Facebook for the latest updates
- » **July 15: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **August 2: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public
- » **August 4: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting** 6:00 pm at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **August 19: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. 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)

New Boat Engine Cutoff Switch Law Went in to Effect April 1

There are new engine cutoff device wear requirements for recreational boat operators as part of the January 1, 2021, passage of National Defense Authorization Act that included a U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization. These devices, commonly referred to as engine cutoff switches (ECOS), are designed to prevent a boat-strike injury if an operator is accidentally ejected overboard while underway.

Engine cutoff devices can be located at the helm of the boat or on the tiller or body of an outboard engine and typically connect a boat's operator to the cutoff switch with a lanyard. Some ECOS devices eliminate the lanyard and rely on wireless proximity devices to shut down an engine if the operator goes overboard.

Effective April 1, 2021, the new law requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless ECOS on certain vessels less than 26 feet when traveling on plane or above displacement speed. These vessels include (1) boats that have a functioning engine cutoff device installed at the helm or on an outboard engine or have wireless ECOS, or (2) boats manufactured beginning January 2020. The Coast Guard increased the number of boats required to have ECOS installed after this date in an effort to reduce boating accidents and fatalities.

Exceptions to the ECOS requirement include if the main helm of the vessel is in an enclosed cabin or the vessel is not operating on plane or at displacement speed. Low-speed activities such as fishing or docking do not require use of an ECOS. The vessel operator is also exempt if the boat's motor produces less than 115 lbs. of static thrust – or about the size of a 2-hp engine.

The new law applies to all federally navigable waterways. As this is a federal law, states do not have the ability to enforce the new ECOS regulation — though seven states (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey and Texas) currently have their own ECOS laws. While boat operators who fail to follow the new requirement could face a \$100 civil penalty for the first offense, you can expect the U.S. Coast Guard's initial focus will be education.

Boaters are encouraged to check the U.S. Coast Guard website for additional information on this new use requirement and other safety regulations and recommendations.❖

An advertisement for a dental practice. The background is a soft-focus image of a toothbrush with blue and white bristles. On the right side, the text is displayed in a clean, sans-serif font.

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

33 Suntree Place, Suite A
Melbourne, FL 32940
(321) 259-3283



RECYCLED PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS CAN HELP CLEAN LAGOON WATER!!!

Naturally occurring “good” bacteria within the water column and in the sediments help to remove nitrogen from the water. Unfortunately, “good” bacteria grow best only in the right conditions. Partially due to the deterioration of the lagoon over time, including the build-up of “muck,” we are seeing less favorable habitats for these specific bacteria to live and carry out the “good” biochemical reactions that remove nitrogen. In degraded areas, we can provide the “good” bacteria a place to live on bottle caps, creating effectively a pro-biotic for the lagoon. A similar approach is used in home aquaria where plastic balls are used in a filter to promote the growth of “good” bacteria. Plastic bottle caps can achieve the same result and we are seeking help collecting the large quantities of bottle caps needed to make this project possible on a large scale. Bottle caps are perfect for this application because they are available globally, can be obtained relatively inexpensively and could be used to improve water quality in rural and underrepresented communities worldwide.



*Research conducted with Dr. Austin Fox in the Florida Tech Biogeochemistry lab

Help us collect plastic bottle caps!

Donation boxes located at Brevard Zoo and the Sun Shoppe Café in Melbourne!

Keep up with our research endeavors on Facebook @Fox Biogeochemistry Lab and share pictures of your bottle cap collection efforts!

Smaller plastic caps from water, tea, Gatorade, and soda bottles, as well as milk jug caps, orange juice caps, etc., are encouraged

Smaller plastic lids are also accepted



Not Local? You can mail your caps to:

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OEMS Department, Attn:
Bottlecaps
150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901

Contact Abbey at
geringa2016@my.fit.edu for
more information

More Storms Mean More Frequent Recreational Boat Storm Preparations


2021 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins Tuesday, June 1

It's a double whammy for coastal boat owners this Atlantic hurricane season, which begins June 1 and runs through November 30. Not only are more storms predicted for the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season, but also the average annual number of storms has increased from 12 to 14 because of updated storm season data.

The best way to mitigate damage is to remove your boat from the water when a storm approaches, advice based on nearly four decades of storm catastrophe experience. If that's not possible, get your hurricane plan in place now before the season starts. Talk to your marina or storage facility, and get what you need such as extra docklines and chafe protection. A boater's last backstop is the boat's insurance policy. Ensure that it includes full salvage coverage and offers hurricane haulout coverage to help ease the cost of a storm-related haulout.

Colorado State University hurricane researchers point to the likely absence of El Niño for their prediction of an above-average 2021 Atlantic hurricane season with 17 named storms. Of those, eight are expected to become hurricanes (Saffir/Simpson category 1, sustained winds of 74 to 95 mph) with four reaching major hurricane strength (Saffir/Simpson category 3-4-5, sustained winds of 111 mph or greater). When El Niño conditions are present, the wind shear it produces disrupts the creation of storms.

Beginning with this year's hurricane season outlook, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center will now use 1991–2020 as the new 30-year period of record for the seasonal average, rather than basing it on the prior 1981–2010 period. This means the annual Atlantic hurricane average seasonal outlook has increased to 14 named storms, while the previous 1981–2010 data averaged 12 named storms a year. ❖

<p>Sea Tow Port Canaveral <i>Serving Port Canaveral, Indian & Banana Rivers</i> 321.868.4900</p> <p>800-4-SEATOW seatow.com</p>	
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Citizens for Florida's Waterways



with Sponsorship from
Boaters Exchange

PRESENT

CFFWs 24th Annual POWERBOAT POKER RUN

Saturday, July 10, 2021

**Registration at Kelly Park East
(Merritt Island)**

9:30 to 10:30 am

As Always - Chip Stops at Participating Waterfront Businesses

Cash Prizes: 1st, 2nd & 3rd best hands

Cash prizes will be determined by the size of the pot

**Prizes for Gentleman with the most Kings
and Lady with the most Queens**

PLUS – Many Random Draw Prizes TOO

Always a Fun Day for the Whole Family !

\$25 Boat Registration – Includes one Poker Hand and one Event T-Shirt

\$15 Additional Poker Hands and \$15 T-Shirts Available Separately

For More Information, Updates and Details

Visit our Websites: cffw.org or boatersexchange.com

Follow “Citizens for Florida’s Waterways” and “Boaters Exchange Rockledge” on Facebook

Contact Bob – ratkins@cffw.org or Kara – Kara@boatersexchange.com



CFFW Member Recognition

Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins
Ben Blythe
Jack & Karen Dignan
John Farley
Charles & Susan Frazier
Jay Humphreys
Gary & Kelly Haugh
Keith & Tamasine Houston
Doug Jaren
Frank Jones
Troy & Genese Launay
George & Majel Legters
Mike & Kris Moehle
Tom Mott
Don Nesbitt/Waterfront Solutions

Jim & Ann O'Malley
John & Merri Mulkey
Paul & Tammarra Mycoskie
Cloud & Frances Pawtowski
Chuck & Susan Reed
Sandy Reynolds
Richard Sproc
Wayne & Pat Stratford
Robin & Kathy Turner
Debra Warner
Willie & Peggy Wehrman
Bill & Eileen Wetzel
Robert Wille
Gerd Zeiler
Dave & Bonnie Zimmerman

Gold Level (\$50 per year):

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Vincent Barro
Helen & William Bennett
Marie Bridges
Harold D. Casleton
Iva & Linda Chamless
Don & Annette Doerr
Glen & Sherry DeJong
Scott Ellis
John .C. Farley
Derek Ferguson
Ed French

Joe Fust
Gus & Bobbie Gostel
Harry Highstone
Tad Jackson
John & Elizabeth Picardi
Robert Rusk
Brian & Angela O'Neal
Gary & Debra Sawicki
Orson Tarver
Jim & Pam Urick
Jess H. Yates, DMD

New Member:

Joseph Gregoire
Harry Highstone
Juan & Shanna Lopez
Luke & Jan Miorelli
Tom Morgan

Connie Mosier
Brian Needham
Bert Scofield
Kathleen Wade
Edward & Jennifer Brunner

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!

- ☐ \$25 Silver Family ☐ \$100 Diamond Family
☐ \$50 Gold Family ☐ \$500 Platinum Family
☐ Donation (\$_____)

Date

Check

Credit Card #

Exp. Date

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Company

Join by Check OR Credit Card!

Clip and mail to:

Citizens For Florida's Waterways

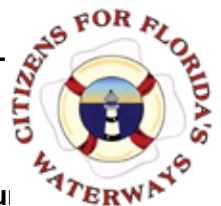
PO Box 541712

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.



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Post Office Box 541712
Merritt Island, FL 32954-1712

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.

*Is it time to renew your membership?
Please note your membership is valid thru:*



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Dan Dvorak, Owner, Past CFFW President



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DON NESBITT
321.454.9100

615 Azalea Avenue
Merritt Island, FL 32952
P:453-3582 F:454-9102

CBC 1251647
docks@cfl.rr.com



CFFW members are entitled to a full Membership
in Boat US for 50% off the regular annual dues!
Please use discount code **GA84884B** to receive
your discounted membership.



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
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subscription to BoatUS Magazine or BoatUS
ANGLER.