



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Established 1994

Volume 28 – Issue 3

May-June 2022

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

Of course. This time of year makes us all think about the weather. April blew through like a March. Then May rolled around and in the first few days couldn't decide if it was April or June. One thing is for sure, within the next few days there won't be any doubt that Summer has arrived. Some will complain about the heat – like there is something you can do about it.

Others (me among them) love the heat. Not just because we truly like the heat, but because the masses land at OIA and head for the concrete kingdoms then rush back to OIA and many decide it's just too damn hot to live here. And OH MY, the humidity!! But having spent too much time in the western deserts – huge beaches with no oceans – without all our great waterways to jump into – I'll take the humidity that comes with all our glorious water and waterways - any day.

So, it's definitely time to get the boats, personal watercraft, paddle craft and all the other water toys back out on the water. Personally, I have been busy doing boat, trailer and tow vehicle maintenance in preparation for an annual trek south to paradise by car (the FL Keys).

I think it is going to be a great summer for boating. Currently, the water is as clear as I have seen it in years. Of course, that can change but until it does, it's so nice to be able to see the bottom in 6 feet of water - at least that is how it looks here in the 520/528 Banana River basin.

Just close your eyes and hold your nose at the pumps. This too will pass but life's much too short to fret about that which we can't control (until November). Until then, plan shorter trips and throttle back a bit and enjoy the ride.

See you on the water.

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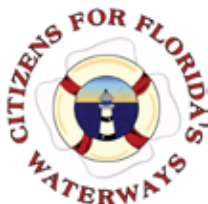
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Please Mark Your Calendars!



» June 6: Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr.
Open to the public.

» June 16: Brevard Marine Advisory Council

» 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C,
3rd Floor. Open to the public

» June 27: Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River
Dr. Open to the public.

» July 6: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting

» 6:00 pm at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public

» July 21: Brevard Marine Advisory Council

» 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. Open to
the public.

» July 30: 25th Annual CFFW Power Boat Poker Run

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)

National Safe Boating Week, May 21-27: 3 Safety Changes You Need To Know

National Safe Boating Week was May 21–27 and we share the Boat US annual reminder for boaters to champion recreational boating safety all summer long. Boat owners need to know about three recent U.S. Coast Guard regulations that have changed, what's needed to be carried aboard, and how a vessel is to be operated at higher speeds.

1. Fire extinguishers: As of April 20, the USCG enacted a regulation allowing them enforce fire extinguishers having a 12-year expiration date from the date of manufacture. Additionally, while the new regulation does not change the type, quantity, or requirement for Coast Guard-approved fire extinguishers aboard, it does specify the minimum Underwriter Laboratory (UL) classification of extinguishers to be carried aboard certain vessels — depending on the boat's model year.

Vessels on the water today that are less than 26 feet and model year 2017 or older may continue to carry older, dated or undated "B-I" or "B-II" disposable extinguishers. However, when they are no longer serviceable or have reached 12 years of age since manufacture, they must be replaced with newer class "5-B" or greater extinguishers. Boats less than 26 feet and 2018 model year or newer must carry unexpired "5-B," "10-B" or "20-B" fire extinguishers. Having older "B-I" and "B-II" types do

not meet the new carriage requirements.

2. Engine cutoff switch:

As of April 1 last year, boat operators have been required to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless engine cutoff switch (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.

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.

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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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(321) 259-3283

National Safe Boating Week, May 21-27: 3 Safety Changes You Need To Know

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3. Electronic visual distress signals (eVDSD):

Solving the disposal problem of expired pyrotechnic flares, newer electronic visual distress signal devices (eVDSD) use either a white or combination of orange-red/cyan LED lights with infrared (for rescuers with night vision) and are now U.S. Coast Guard-approved. However, for daytime distress situations you'll still need to carry aboard an orange distress flag to avoid carrying pyrotechnic devices. eVDSD prices start at about \$100 for the white light version.

Also keep in mind every visual distress signal requires regular inspection and maintenance. Batteries are an eVDSD's potential Achilles heel, so replace them every season. Old eVDSD batteries can be cycled into a flashlight at home – where your life potentially is not at stake. ♦

**Citizens for Florida's
Waterways**

PRESENTS

**CFFWs 25th Annual
POWERBOAT POKER RUN**

Saturday, July 30, 2022

**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
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\$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 Website: cffw.org

Follow "Citizens for Florida's Waterways" on Facebook

Contact Bob – ratkins@cffw.org



21 Gas Saving Tips for Boaters

Gas prices are up. What can boaters do to prepare for a summer of boating? The 800,000-plus member Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has 21 fuel-saving tips boaters can do to help save on fuel and still enjoy a fulfilling season on the water. While some of these techniques may sound obvious, there may be some you never considered.

Before Heading Out:

1. **Tune your engine now.** A once a year for a tune-up and service will help it run more efficiently.
2. **Match the boat's prop to the boat and activity.** Propellers are most efficient when they're matched to the kind of boat you have and what you use it for (e.g., towing water skiers, fishing). Ask the pros at a propeller shop for recommendations and experiment with different models. The right prop can potentially increase fuel efficiency by as much as 10%.
3. **Check your WOT.** Take your boat out on a calm day and run wide-open throttle (WOT). The WOT rating is the RPM range the motor should achieve when running at wide open throttle. If it's not able to reach WOT — or overruns it — you've got the wrong prop and you're not getting the most bang for your fuel buck.

4. **Check for propeller damage throughout the season.** A dinged or broken propeller will hurt your fuel economy, so regularly inspect yours and replace it if it's damaged.

5. **Keep the prop clean.** Barnacles and other growth can attach to the propeller, which will slow it down and impact fuel economy.

6. **Keep a slick hull.** For boats that spend a lot of time in the water, barnacles or stuck-on grass can create drag on the hull and make the engine work harder. Boats in warm places will probably need to be cleaned weekly, while those in colder waters may be able to go a month or two.

7. **Measure your fuel flow.** Install a fuel-flow meter, which can show you in real time how many gallons per hour your engine is burning, and allow you to dial in the most efficient speed for your boat.

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21 Gas Saving Tips for Boaters

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8. **Upgrade your motor** — if you can. With the pandemic, engines have been hard to come by, but newer engines tend to be significantly more efficient than older models. The fuel savings alone might not be enough to justify an upgrade, but you're likely also benefitting the environment. If your vessel is suitable, there are more options for electric and hybrid propulsion than ever before.

9. **Join BoatUS.** Yes, this is a pitch, but it will save you gas money. Members receive exclusive marina fuel discounts at nearly 400 BoatUS Partner Network marinas across the United States that offer BoatUS members up to 10 cents off per gallon of fuel.

10. **Refuel smartly ashore.** Most recreational boats in the U.S. are refueled at roadside gas stations, mini-marts and other retailers. It may be wise to enroll in the retailer's customer loyalty or "cash back" program. Just read the fine print on how your discount is delivered. Your credit card company or grocery store may also offer percentage-based "cash back" program on fuel.

At The Dock

1. **Ditch extra stuff.** Take stock of what's onboard; additional weight means more drag. Clean out anything you won't need, from extra anchors to old, unused lines and

tools. Of course this does not include safety gear or necessary ground tackle.

2. **Lighten your tanks.** Don't run with a full freshwater or fuel tank unless you absolutely need it. Water weighs 8 pounds per gallon, and some boats have freshwater tanks that can hold 100 gallons, so emptying half can add up quickly. Gasoline weighs 6 pounds per gallon, so if you don't need a full tank to safely return (you obviously don't want to worry about getting stranded), lighten your load and bring less. A rule of thumb when planning for fuel use on any outing is you need to have one-third of your fuel to your destination, one-third back home, and one-third in reserve.

3. **Avoid excess idling.** It's a common misconception that engines need time to warm up. Modern engines are fuel injected, so when you start them, they're ready to go in a minute or two.

4. **A note on safety:** Self-refueling your boat while it's in the slip at a marina with portable containers may be prohibited due to fire hazard or potential for a spill, and depending on the volume of fuel needed for a fill-up may be impractical. It's also problematic as the risk of fire and explosion goes up when gas is transported in your vehicle. This type of refueling is better suited to small vessels with portable tanks

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21 Gas Saving Tips for Boaters

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that can be removed, filled at a gas station and returned to the boat. Regardless of how you refuel, follow all safety guidelines.

On The Water

1. **Rearrange your passengers.** Evenly distributing the load aboard your boat is the simplest way to help you boat run most efficiently when the boat's trimmed, which is roughly parallel to its at-rest waterline and not leaning too far to one side or the other.

2. **Get on plane.** Most recreational boats run most efficiently when they're on plane, so once you're out of the no-wake zone, safely get on plane as soon as you can. If your boat has trim tabs, experiment with the up/down switch to find the sweet spot where your boat moves most efficiently and achieves the best trim.

3. **Watch your wake.** One sign you're blowing gas is the size of your wake. While sometimes you have no option, slowing down to no-wake speed saves fuel. It's a matter of plowing a wall of water rather than efficiently slipping over or through it. Of course, wakesurfers will take umbrage to this tip. We get it.

4. **Try slowing down.** Yeah, that's a hard one for a lot of us, but in addition to stretching a tank of gas, it's safer. You'll see more things and have more time to

react in the water, such as other boats or approaching traffic.

5. **Reduce wind drag.** A canvas or bimini top is great for protection from the sun, but you can improve fuel efficiency while underway by taking it down if you can. Just be sure to bring — and apply — sunblock.

6. **Navigate smartly.** The ultimate trick to saving fuel, of course, is running your engine less. Travel to closer destinations or drop anchor somewhere nearer to home to enjoy your fun afternoon on the water. If possible, take the shorter route and route trips in synch with current and tide, and try to avoid a lot of banging into head seas.

7. **Share your angling outings by "buddy boating."** Head out this weekend by inviting the guy in the slip next to you, and then rotate on the next weekend's angling outing. This fuel-saving technique is especially popular with anglers who fish canyons far offshore. Of course, this also improves your social aspects of fishing life as well. ❖

3 Clean Refueling Tips for Boater

ANNAPOLIS, Md., 2022 - At the first-ever Earth Day celebration in 1970, pollution was commonly accepted as the price of prosperity, and many Americans remained unaware of environmental concerns. Recreational boaters, however, could see the damage firsthand.

“Boaters have always had a close relationship with the water,” said BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner. “We swim, fish and recreate in it, so clean water has always been important to us.” BoatUS Foundation offers three marina or gas dock refueling tips that can prevent spills all summer long. “Every drop that makes it safely into the tank is better than a drop in the water,” added Sensenbrenner.

1. **Use a disposable “oil-sorb” every time you fill up.** Fueling can sometimes be messy – so be prepared. As you pull up to the fuel dock, have an oil-sorbent nozzle “donut,” absorbent pump “bib,” or a few absorbent pads ready to go.
2. **Learn how to become a “fuel whisperer.”** Prevent fuel backsplash from getting into the water. That means when you fill up the boat at the gas dock, you’ll hear a distinct sound — a soft bubbling or gurgling noise exiting from the fuel deck fill. If you listen carefully, the sound will change as the tank fills. Experienced boaters can hear when the tank is nearly full, giving them opportunity to ease the dispense lever, stop fuel flow and prevent a bubbling backsplash. Topping off a boat fuel tank is never recommended, as is using the dispensing handle’s hands-free (also known as “hold open”) clip. It’s recommended to leave a little room in the tank for potential fuel expansion on hot days.
3. **Never use dish soap to disperse a spill at the fuel dock.** A bottle of dish soap sitting on top of the gas pump may have been a familiar site in grandad’s day, but it is no more. “People once thought it was a safe way to get rid of a sheen,” said Sensenbrenner. However, using dish soap to disperse a small fuel spill only spreads the oil farther into the water column and sediment. Instead, keep a small supply of absorbent pads aboard just in case. Once used, dispose of them in the right kind of container – ask your marina or fuel dock on how to dispose of as hazardous waste. ❖

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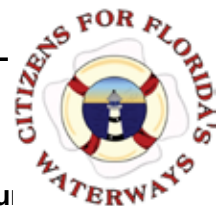
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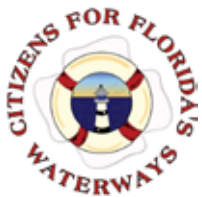
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CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and
membership dues are not tax-deductible.



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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