



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Established 1994

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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 the marine environment.

President's Message

We are having another nice Florida Spring with Summer just around the corner. That means nice long days of great Florida weather to enjoy getting the boats out on the waterways. Some of you have new boats, new water toys, new fishing equipment and other stuff to get wet and enjoy. Maybe you even picked up some boating stuff at our recent 26th Annual Marine Flea Market

For your CFFW Board Members, we are finished with the months of preparations and on-site work that goes into making our annual flea market event the success that it has been over the last quarter century. This year was another resounding success. We would like to thank the many members who volunteered their time to assist with setting up and tearing down our tents, providing friendly faces at our tent to the few thousand attendees as they entered the market and cleaning up the property the day after the field was cleared of all the vendors.

And speaking of our vendors, the majority return year after year. It speaks well of the event and the ability of the merchants to show and sell their wares to the crowds that attend. Most of our shoppers return each year because they know that they will find a good bargain or two.

We can't talk about the event without thanking Harbortown Marina for making their property available to us to use each year. That is a tremendous contribution to CFFW and our ability to realize some income for the organization from the event.

School will be out for summer break soon and the waterways will be the perfect destination for a day, a weekend mini-vacation or more. Later this summer when we will once again hold our 26th Annual Powerboat Poker Run. Last year's turnout was tremendous and there were a lot of happy faces at the end of the day as we gave away nearly \$2,000 in Cash and a couple thousand dollars in prizes and merchandise. This year's event is set for Saturday, July 29 with registration from 9:30 to 10:30am at the Kelly Park Pavilion. Mark your Calendars.

Enjoying the waterways begins and ends with SAFE Practices on the water. Happy Boating ❖

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Please Mark Your Calendars!



- » **May 18: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **May 22: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public.
- » **June 7: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting** 6:00 pm at Kiwanis Island, Karen Road Bld. Merritt Island. Open to the public
- » **June 26: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:00 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public.
- » **July 24: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:00 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public
- » **July 29: CFFW Boat Poker Run** Begin and end at Kelly Park East.
- » **Stay tuned for details, check CFFW FB page, Nextdoor and your email with updates.**

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)

Harbor Marina Gas Discounts! June through September



Harbor Town Marina will be offering a **.10** per gallon discount on gas starting **6/1** running thru **9/30** and the proceeds will be donated to CFFW!

They will sell 200 of these cards, so stop in soon to get yours while they are available!

A big **Thank You** to **Fred Whitten**, General Manager at **Harbor Town Marina**, and his entire team for such a generous donation to a worthy cause!

Making Gains with Deeper, Navigable Waters on the Intracoastal Waterway

Goal: Bring important marine highway back to its operational 12-foot depth

Waters have been getting deeper, improving navigation, safety and vessel access along the 1,100-plus-mile Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway since Congress began investing in the waterway as a continuous system across state boundaries and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts. Before the waterway was recognized as Marine Highway 95 by the U.S. Department of Transportation, severe shoaling and thin waters in certain locations were threatening safe navigation and the passage of vessels.

Since 2016, the estimated \$120 million bill for dredging costs to return the waterway to

its originally authorized width and depth has been halved, with projects completed from New Jersey to Florida. More recently, the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL, formerly known as the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act) delivered \$20.25 million in additional funding for upland placement area maintenance in North Carolina. BIL will also fund an additional \$7.47 million in New Jersey dredging projects.

The job isn't done, however, and at the recent annual fly-in to meet with Congressional representatives, in Washington, D.C., Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association board

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Making Gains with Deeper, Navigable Waters on the Intracoastal Waterway

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members (AIWA) stressed efforts needed to address the still-significant backlog of unmet dredging needs.

“AIWA’s efforts showing the importance of continued commercial and recreational vessel activity along America’s Marine Highway 95 is having an impact,” said AIWA executive director Brad Pickel, “But there is still work to do.”

More recent waterway funding projects have addressed the need for important maintenance on upland areas where dredge material is deposited. “Without these upland locations we cannot continue to dredge and keep the channel clear,” said Pickel.

Joining AIWA in Capitol Hill legislator and staff discussions were representatives from

Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), National Marine Manufacturers Association, and other AIWA board members. BoatUS Government Affairs manager and AIWA board member David Kennedy added, “In the last 10 years, we have done a good job helping the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identify unmet dredging needs. We want to ensure evolving trouble spots are also identified.”

Pickel, Kennedy and other AIWA board members met with 12 congressional offices including Reps. Nancy Mace (SC), Jen Kiggans (VA), Buddy Carter (GA) and Greg Murphy, M.D. (NC). “We greatly appreciate these legislators who are looking out for the waterway,” added Kennedy. ❖

On the Path to Balance Anchoring Rights, Is There Light Ahead?

BoatUS says Broward County, Fla., ordinance is a win for responsible boaters, communities

SPRINGFIELD, Va. Feb. 27, 2023 – Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) is applauding a recently passed Broward County, Florida, ordinance that, according to the recreational boating advocacy, services and safety group, could lead to a successful path ahead in fairly balancing the needs of both local

communities and responsible cruising-boat owner’s rights when it comes to anchoring.

The ordinance revolves around two small manmade lakes in Hollywood, Florida, North and South lakes, each connected to the Intracoastal Waterway. Locals have long shared

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the waters – North Lake was designated an idle-only area, drawing sailors and paddlers, while South Lake was used for powered-vessel water activities. For years, responsible long-distance cruisers were welcome in both anchorages.

A dramatic increase in abandoned derelict vessels (ADVs), at-risk or improperly long-term anchored boats over the past few years have changed that equation, however, crowding out all other activities with some vessel owners anchoring for months and even years. These vessels are often poorly maintained and their anchoring gear is prone to failure. Each storm only increases the number of safety hazards in the water and ashore. Many anchored boats don't meet U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations on required night time lighting or sanitation equipment. Irresponsible boaters have simply been squeezing out locals and responsible cruisers alike.

Approved last November, Broward County's ordinance tackles the issue directly, allowing for up to 45-days of anchoring for any vessel within any six-month period. It also adds an exemption for imminent or existing hazardous weather – increasing boater safety by not

requiring crews to haul anchor and head out into potentially unsafe weather conditions.

“We believe 45 days is a reasonable time frame for a vessel to remain in a particular area and will allow all active, responsible cruising and recreational boaters to use, anchor, rest, repair, visit, re-provision, and enjoy these bodies of water,” said BoatUS Government Affairs manager David Kennedy.

Kennedy notes, however, that efforts to educate the public, including installation of local signage, updating of navigation aids as well as online cruising resources, and ultimately any enforcement activity could take some time before significant results are seen. “We'll be monitoring the situation closely,” he said.

Since 2009, the Sunshine State has been at the center of the nation's stormy challenge in trying to balance the rights of responsible boaters and local communities when it enacted a state-wide bill to limit local governments from regulating anchoring. For a bigger look into Florida's anchoring story and recent success, go to the February/March 2023 issue of BoatUS Magazine, Big Win for Responsible Cruising Boaters. ❖

Don't Hit the Water This Summer Without a No-Cost, No-Penalty Vessel Safety Check4

Top 3 Reasons Why Boats Fail

How do you know your boat is ready for a safe summer boating season and complies with new U.S. Coast Guard regulations? A no-cost, no-penalty vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club can help. Scheduled inspections are often offered at launch ramps, marinas and boat clubs, or appointments can be made for a vessel examiner to come to your boat. Go to cgaux.org/vsc to learn more. The program is sponsored by the **BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water**.

Upon successful completion of the exam, which typically takes less than 30 minutes, the vessel is awarded a U.S. Coast Guard / Auxiliary / U.S. Power Squadrons decal that informs law enforcement and safety agencies that your boat was in full compliance with all federal and state boating laws during a safety check for that year.

So just what items do vessels typically fail on this important early season inspection? According to the U.S. Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club, the top three reasons are:

- 1. Navigation lights 19%**
- 2. Fire extinguishers 18%**
- 3. Distress signals 16%**

"The numbers tell us a vessel safety check can help owners of every type of boat," said BoatUS Foundation assistant director of boating safety Ted Sensenbrenner. "Nearly as many 'open' type vessels (44%) fail vessel safety checks as much as those with enclosed cabins (47%). A vessel safety check on either type can help a bad day get a lot better, or potentially save a life."

Boat clubs, marinas, boat yards and municipalities with launch ramps are also encouraged to reach out to their local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons/America's Boating Club to schedule a vessel safety check day at their property.

CFFW Member Recognition _____

Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins
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Iva & Linda Chamless
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Mandatory Equipment
For Your Boat:

A CFFW Family Membership!

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secure web site at cffw.org



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



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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If you're not a member... please join.
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*Is it time to renew your membership?
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