

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB THE BUOYS

Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron • A Unit of United States Power Squadrons® • District 22

Issue 03-26

March 2026

Change of Watch, February 27

Congratulations and thank you to our Bridge Officers for 2026-2027



Commander Scott Steele being sworn in by District Commander Ron Johnson for another term as Commander

(see more photos in Entertainment Committee report)



Bridge Officers:

Tom DeMarzo, Executive Officer
Carl McGrath, Treasurer,
Curt Collins, Asst. Executive Officer

Not pictured:

Neil Pignatano, Education Officer
Tony Zsupan, Asst. Edu. Officer
Judy Hartig, Administrative Officer
Leslie Corte-Real, Assit. Admin. Officer
Wil Foster, Secretary
Gary Farwick, Asst. Treasurer

CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC.

America's Boating Club®

A Unit of the United States Power Squadron, Inc. – District 22

Phone (239) 549-9754 • 917 SE 47th Terrace Cape Coral, FL 33904

OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - noon

www.ccsaps.org

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COMMANDER'S REPORT

Scott Steele, Commander - ABC Cape Coral Sail & Power Squadron



I had big plans for what I was going to write in my last Commander's Comments for the Buoy. Obviously, those plans will need to wait. I'm thankful that people have faith in my abilities for a 5th year. It's not a record I set out to achieve, but I have

to admit that it's been an interesting experience. We've been through quite a bit in the last few years. The only way we survived is because of the efforts of the Bridge, the Executive Committee and all of our members. Thanks to everyone who have contributed to our success. 2026-2027 should be another exciting year.

The Change of Watch was conducted on Friday, February 27th. We welcomed a couple new Bridge members and a few new Executive Committee members. We really appreciate those members who have stepped up into leadership roles. They bring a new perspective and a wealth of real world experience.

We had a really nice Merit Mark dinner on February 9th. We were able to do something to show our appreciation for all of those who earned Merit Marks through their active participation and efforts. I'd love to see more folks earn Merit Marks and get involved. We need active members, not just headcount. We can definitely find things to do for those who want to get more involved.

A few of us attended the national meeting on February 14th via zoom. I wish I could say it was a great way to spend a Saturday, but unfortunately the system that was set up for remote participation left a lot to be desired. National has a lot of work to do to get more involvement and input from the squadrons. It's not economical or feasible to get large volunteer groups to travel to these meetings. Many on the call tried to give their input and comments, but most were overlooked. It didn't sit too well with most who tried to participate. Somebody needs to get their act together. Two things were decided at the

meeting that we opposed, but they passed. The first item was doubling the number of delegates for squadrons. Some think that this would increase meeting participation. We don't. Until the meetings become more efficient and effective, the number of delegates doesn't matter. We have 4 delegates currently and will go to 8.

The second item was an increase in national dues. The original motion was to raise national dues \$2 each year for 3 years. However, it was amended to a onetime increase of \$20 for families and \$10 for singles, effective in 60 days. This will create some massive heartburn for an organization that is already losing members. We think this is a big mistake and feel the organization needs to do better with what they already receive. A lot of folks are not happy campers about this decision.

We've had some interest in our building. There was an open house and it's being actively marketed. Century 21 Commercial has the listing. No offers have yet been received but we'll keep everyone posted on any major activity. One thing a few people have asked is if we have a potential destination after a sale. The short answer is "no." The reason being is that we'll have plenty of time for this once we do sell. Also, where we end up is dependent on what we net from a sale. We don't want to overextend ourselves. We have looked at a few commercial properties to get a feel for the market and have run some numbers, but we don't want to get the cart before the horse.

Let's hope spring arrives on schedule, March 20th. I'm getting tired of wearing long pants and not being able to get my boat off the lift. (Yes, we're spoiled).

I'm looking forward to another great year, and maybe I can write those final comments in 12 months.

Thanks
Scott



YES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE and WE NEED YOU and HELP WANTED

(you get the idea)

As a continuing reminder about all of the successes our squadron enjoys, we need more help! We truly hope as you read this, you will consider heeding the call! Specifically, right now we need squadron folks to man our Duty Officer desk for Office Hours listed below:

Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays 9:00am-12:00pm

Volunteer options: once, twice, three times a month or more (whatever your schedule allows) and you sign up in advance

Some of the tasks in this role include:

- Greeting people as they come inside. Sometimes you might not get many people at all, other days, you might get more.
- Answering both in person and phone calls questions about our squadron which might include information about our upcoming classes and seminars, membership, children's life jacket loaners, etc.
- Working our room rentals which might include showing our areas for rent and providing any necessary paperwork.

Please note that training for these tasks will be provided and a squadron member is available to assist at any time should you require it.

Volunteering in this role enables you to learn more about our squadron and share this with others. We all benefit with an educated boater or potential squadron member and you can truly make a difference! You don't have to be an expert boater or have any special knowledge, just a willingness to pitch in!

Please contact Judy Hartig, Administrative Officer, at judyhartig01@yahoo.com to sign up or if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

***Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can.***

- Arthur Ashe



SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER (SEO)

Spring is in the Air

LT/C Neil Pignatano, SN
Squadron Education Officer
Education@ccsaps.org

Our flagship ABC course continues to see robust interest, and attendance has been increasing. Our new instructor team keeps growing, and I'd like to express my thanks for their continued assistance. And the Local Waters seminar last month had record turnout. Congratulations to the LW instructor team. The Boat Handling seminar, Boating with Confidence, also had higher turnout than is typically seen. Last, but not least, the Navigating SW Florida seminar series also saw record turnout, so much so, that a waitlist was created. So, there's a lot of pent-up demand for boating education out there, and folks are coming to us as an authoritative source on the subject.

For those who want to get beyond ABC, the offerings for March and April, are:

1. ABC Course, March 9: Our flagship introduction to recreational boating course which allows you to earn your State of Florida Boater Safety Certification;
2. Intro to Charting Seminar, March 26: get exposed to the methods used for electronic navigation.
3. Local Waters Seminar, April 14: there's still room, so if you're new to the area, or need a refresher, this is the place to be to gain insight into our local estuary system;
4. Using Marine VHF Radio, April 14: learn or take a refresher on how to properly use the second most important piece of safety equipment on a vessel.

Sometimes the local weather forecast doesn't give the full picture when out on the water. The Weather for Boaters seminar shows you how to forecast short time changes in weather, without the need of any fancy equipment, that can adversely affect your time on the water, regardless of time of year. Indeed, sometimes it's best to stay in home port, and go out some other day. This seminar is tentatively scheduled for May, exact date to be determined. May also brings the all-important Hurricane Preparation seminar, date still to be determined. Get valuable tips and techniques on how to properly safe your vessel so it survives the storm with minimal damage.

Canal water levels seem to be a little higher with the reduction in the strength of the north winds, but they're still pretty low as there are no releases of fresh water from Lake O. The salinity level of the canals is going higher and bigger salt water fish are moving in. Even in the SW Cape off the S Spreader, you're likely to see sheepshead, mangrove snapper, and snook around your dock. And as the waters warm, the snook will start spawning and by late April you'll likely see baby snook feeding off the insects on the surface of the canal.

And as a reminder, manatees will be on the move to deeper water, so, be sure to keep an eye out for them.

Finally, if there is a course or seminar that you'd like to take which is not on the schedule, let me know and I'll do my best to accommodate you.

Until next time...



The Southwest Florida Boating Seminar

New boaters arrive in Cape Coral every day, most with no idea what they are about to encounter on our waters. Think back to what it was like when you first went out and discovered how crowded and shallow the waters were. Based on member comments and feedback from people visiting our booth at the Farmers Market, we created the *Southwest Florida Boating Seminar*. Since its introduction in 2024 our squadron has helped over 375 people get acquainted with the waters in the safe environment of a classroom.

The seminar’s instructors have spent countless hours on the local waters. Josh Wurtsbaugh started out down here as a charter captain and helped many of our members get acquainted with our waters. Mike Carter moved to the Cape with years of fishing experience and now spends as much time as he can finding new spots on the water to try. Besides covering places to go, the seminar also helps new residents understand how our local waters have been impacted by needs to support commercial development in Fort Myers and the efforts to drain the Everglades beginning in the late 1880’s.

The *Southwest Florida Boating* seminar is based on the books by fellow member Tom Dawson, *Barret Bonden’s Local Knowledge* and *Safe Boating in Southwest Florida, Your Guide to the Many Channels on our Waterways*. These books and local charts will be available for sale at the seminar. These items make great welcome gifts for your new neighbors.

If you are looking for a way to introduce your new neighbors to our club, invite them to attend the seminar. It is being held on Tuesday April 14th. The session runs 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Cost per person is \$15 and seating is limited, so preregistration is recommended. Registration is available on line at ccsaps.org; look for the Events/Seminar button.



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BOATING SEMINAR “Things you wish someone had told you about boating here!”

**Tuesday April 14th
7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Sign-up today on the Event Page

Seating is limited!



Both books are available at the Squadron’s Ships Store and Amazon!



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Course and Seminar Summary

Beginner, intermediate or advanced — whatever your skill level, our in-depth boating education courses will boost your knowledge and confidence on the water.

- **ABC - America's Boating Course** gives you the basics you need to get out on the water safely, and it meets the State of Florida boating education requirements.

- **Boat Handling Course** builds your competence and confidence on the water with an in-depth look at the practical boating skills covered in the ABC course.

- **Marine Navigation and Advanced Marine Navigation Courses** give you the skills you need to get where you're going using charts and marine electronics as well as a knowledge of winds, currents and tides.

- **Engine Maintenance and Marine Electronics Courses and Seminars** deal with common vessel issues faced by today's recreational boater. Learn proper operation and diagnostic techniques for critical systems.

- **Other Seminars** provide a 2 hour introductions to various boating topics, such as Marine Radio, Weather and Forecasting, Handling Emergencies, etc.

For complete course and seminar descriptions, scan the QR code or go to <https://americasboatingclub.org/index.php/learn>





United States Power Squadrons

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron



Scan and find your next course or seminar today!

America's Boating Course

ccsaps.org/abc-in-person-classes



Seminars

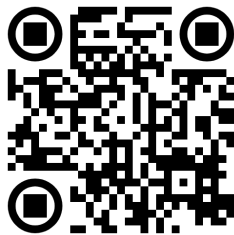
ccsaps.org/advanced-seminars



CCSAPS.ORG

Advanced Courses

ccsaps.org/advanced-classes



Nor-Tech Boat Manufacturing Facility Tour

Join us for a private tour of the Nor-Tech Boat Manufacturing Facility on Friday, March 27, 2026 at 1:00pm Please park at the facility and ask for Terry Sobo. This event is FREE and limited to the first 30 members. RSVP on TicekLeap for a proper headcount:

<https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/ccsaps/nor-tech-boat-facility-tour>

Nor-Tech Hi Performance Boats
2520 NE 9th Ave. Cape Coral



Welcome New Members!

Kevin Eisener
Laurie Eisener
Stephen Spring
Ken Cassell





Barrett's Video Recommendation – "Situational Awareness" By Barrett Bonden

We have all been there after a long day on the water, boater fatigue tends to creep up slowly on us as we cruise the waterways. The combination of sun glare, wind, and rocking movements of the boat can wear you out and lull you to sleep.

Or perhaps you have managed to let yourself get distracted by "playing" with your radar or electronic charts. Maybe you are trying to navigate by looking at your cellphone.

Staying alert to what is happening around you on the water is key to staying safe. "[Situational Awareness](#)" from Season 3 on America's Boating Channel shows you how onboard technology, smartphones, and environmental factors can negatively affect recreational boating safety. Many of the segments in this video were filmed here in Cape Coral, see how many members you recognize.

Find this video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjyuYFas21g>, and others at America's Boating Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel>.

Stay safe on the water!

Barret Bonden, a recurring character in the Patrick O'Brian seafaring novels, is the nom de plume for one of our many safe boating instructors. For more local boating information consider picking up a copy of Barret Bonden's Local Knowledge Recommended - Things You Wish Someone Had Told You About Boating Here! Available at the office or at Amazon.

**Friends don't let friends
get stuck on an oyster bed!
Give a copy to your neighbor!
Copies available at the office.**

Entertainment Committee and the Fun Report

- Karen Collins

We had a great turnout, 40 total, at the Change of Watch Dinner. Our meal was catered by Mario's Meat Market and Deli with lasagna, meatballs, salmon, roasted veggies, garlic bread and much more! Our dessert table was a hit with cannolis and a few cakes that seriously satisfied everyone's sweet tooth. Thank you to the Entertainment Committee for setting up this elegant event! Below are more pictures from a memorable night, from swearing in of Executive Committee, training awards, friendship and of course desserts!





Boating Group Happenings

Weekdayers

With cold weather and strong winds in February, the Weekdayers group had to cancel the February outing. On March 10th, the group will be heading to Gramma Dot's and we hope to see you there! For more information on the Weekdayers, please contact Curt Collins at fzq907@gmail.com.

Weekenders

The Weekenders are looking forward to more outings in March. Cold weather and winter low tides have prevented us from getting an outing together. For more information on the Weekenders, please contact Scott Fergen at scottfergen@gmail.com.

Cruise and Rendezvous

We are a group with sleep-aboard boats, both slow and fast. We take 2-3 night trips each month to area marinas, up and down the West coast. Sometimes we head to the East coast for little longer, say 5-6 days. We'd love for you to join us! For information on Cruise and Rendezvous, call Phil Kryger at 847-997-5683.

Co-op Charting

Denny is hopeful that we will be able to restart a modified version of AToN survey runs this winter. Keep checking for more information.

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market is still one of our best means for us getting the word out within our community with what our squadron has to offer. We are able to interact with other boat enthusiasts, whether expert or just beginners, and let them know of the classes and seminars we have to offer for boating safely. Volunteering at the market is a lot of fun and please consider working with us on a Saturday. Just contact Mike Carter, farmmarket2@ccsaps.org, to sign up or for more information.





Looking Ahead

March

	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
5	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	EXCOM Meeting	Cape Coral Power Squadron
9	Monday	7:00-9:00pm	ABC Course begins	Cape Coral Power Squadron
11	Wednesday	6:00-8:00pm	Fishing Group	Cape Coral Power Squadron
17	Tuesday		Happy Saint Patrick's Day!	
20	Friday	5:00pm	Margaritaville	Hurricanes Cape Coral
25	Wednesday	5:30-8:00	Singo Bingo	Sea Craft Waterfront Tiki
25	Wednesday	7:00-9:00pm	ABC Graduation	Cape Coral Power Squadron
26	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	Intro to Charting Seminar	Cape Coral Power Squadron
27	Friday	1:00pm	Nor-Tech Boat Facility Tour	2520 NE 9th Ave., Cape Coral

April

	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
2	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	EXCOM Meeting	Cape Coral Power Squadron
5	Sunday		Happy Easter!	
7	Tuesday	2:00-4:00pm	Marine VHF/DSC	Cape Coral Power Squadron
8	Wednesday	6:00-8:00pm	Fishing Group	Cape Coral Power Squadron
14	Tuesday	2:00-4:00pm	Using UHF Radio	Cape Coral Power Squadron
14	Tuesday	4:00-8:00pm	Miceli's Restaraunt	3930 Pine Island Rd., Matlacha
14	Tuesday	7:00-9:00pm	SW FL Boating Seminar	Cape Coral Power Squadron
21	Tuesday	2:00-4:00pm	Weather for Boaters	Cape Coral Power Squadron

May

	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
4	Monday	7:00-9:00pm	ABC Course begins	Cape Coral Power Squadron
7	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	EXCOM Meeting	Cape Coral Power Squadron
7	Thursday	6:00-9:00pm	Mexico Lindo	3724 Del Prado Blvd S
13	Wednesday	6:00-8:00pm	Fishing Group	Cape Coral Power Squadron
20	Wedneday	3:00-6:00pm	SlipAway Meet Up	1811 Cape Coral Pkwy E
20	Wednesday	7:00-9:00pm	ABC Graduation	Cape Coral Power Squadron
25	Monday		Memorial Day	



2026 - 2027 BRIDGE OFFICERS

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commander@ccsaps.org

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Gary Farwick

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Terry Rosenstrauch
Assistant Building Manger

Larry Rich, SN

Rental Manager

Allen Casteran

Assistant Rental Manager

Vacant

Chaplain

Tessa Buechler, S

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Tessa Buechler, S

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Denny Pearson, AP

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Mike Carter
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Vacant

Media Relations

Vacant

Ship's Store

Vacant

Administrative Dept.

Membership

Carolyn Token

Entertainment Committee

Karen Collins

Weekdayer Boaters

Curt Collins

Weekender Boaters

Scott Fergen

Cruise and Rendezvous

Phillip Kryger

Fishing Group

John D' Esposito

Kayaking Group

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Pantry Inventory Mgr

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GRADES

S - Seaman (aka Boat Handling)

AP - Advanced Pilot (aka Adv Marine Nav)

P - Pilot (aka Marine Nav)

JN - Junior Navigator

N - Navigator (aka Celestial Nav)

SN - Senior Navigation

Indicates the highest level of education completed. Follows the name of person

**Join us March 20, 2026 for dinner 5pm
@ Hurricanes on SW Pine Island Road
then 7pm show at Cultural Park!!**

JIMMY BUFFETT'S

Escape to

Margaritaville

Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville is a fun musical comedy featuring classic hits like "Margaritaville," "Cheeseburger in Paradise," and "Fins." With a hilarious book by Greg Garcia and Mike O'Malley, it's the ultimate party on stage!

**Purchase show tickets
at CulturalParkTheatre.org**

***RSVP for dinner headcount
only on TicketLeap***

****This is a pay as you go event****





Wake the
Fun up!

SEA-CRAFT WATERFRONT TIKI

Join us on March 25th @ 5 pm for

SINGO BINGO WILL BE
FROM 5:30 PM - 8 PM

3440 Marinatown Ln.
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

RSVP ON
TICKETLEAP TODAY!

THIS IS A PAY AS
YOU GO EVENT





APRIL 14TH
@ 4pm

3930 Pine Island Rd NW,
Matlacha, FL 33993

Join us for a night of
good food, music and of
course great company!

LIVE MUSIC 5-8 PM

RSVP ON TICKETLEAP TODAY!

This is a pay as you go event





2026 Spring Conference Meals

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Luncheon – 1200 - River Palm Room

Lunch Buffet - \$25.00

Speaker from National Weather Service

Caesar Salad with Fresh Croutons, Grilled Chicken Breast, Chicken Salad
Served with Croissants and Butter, Dessert
Coffee and Iced Tea

Change of Watch – River Palm Room

Social – 1730, Dinner Served 1830, Change of Watch 1930

Followed by:

2100 – 2300 - River Palm – Post COW Social

All beverages at the bar for both events are cash only, credit cards are not accepted

Dinner Buffet - \$46.00

Fresh Garden Greens Salad with Assorted Dressing, Pasta Primavera Salad, Caesar Salad
Baked Ziti with Bolognese Sauce, Chicken Breast Marsala
Chef's Vegetable, Herbed Garlic Bread
Chef's Choice Dessert
Fresh Brewed Coffee and Iced Tea

Register for the Conference and Purchase your meals at the District 22 Website.

— americasboatingclub-d22.org — No login or password needed

**Click “About Us”, then “Registration/Purchase” and follow the instructions
(Credit Card required).**

Or highlight and click 'open hyperlink': [Registration/Purchase - District 22 - America's Boating Club](http://americasboatingclub-d22.org/Registration/Purchase-District-22-America's-Boating-Club)

No Reservations or Cancellations after 1200 April 24, 2026!