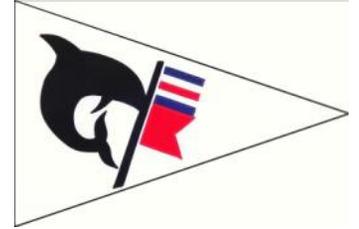




# The Soundings



Spring 2016 newsletter

Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron ([www.cbsps.org](http://www.cbsps.org))

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## Membership Meetings

**Tuesday 5 April @ 1900**

**Tuesday 3 May @ 1900**

**Tuesday 7 June @ 1800**

**Brevard Memorial Veterans Center  
400 Sykes Creek Pkwy - Merritt Island**

## Monthly Specials

**Apr: - Stephen Moon, Marine Lawyer**

**May: - TBD**

**June: - @ 1800 Pizza Night**

**- No "official" meeting**

**All the details on [www.cbsps.org](http://www.cbsps.org)**



[www.facebook.com/CocoaBeachSPS](http://www.facebook.com/CocoaBeachSPS)

## **CBSPS Mission**

**The Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron is a non-profit organization serving Boater's education needs in Central Brevard County since 1967. Our mission is to promote recreational boating safety through education and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members.**

*"Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends"*

To join us, contact [Membership@cbsps.org](mailto:Membership@cbsps.org)

## AT THE HELM

**Cdr John FitzGerald, AP**



I would like to start this year by thanking P/C Lou Harlow for his leadership in 2015. He's not only a good leader but a great friend to all of us. We had a very active year last year. It seems like more and more people are participating in the scheduled activities which will make the squadron strong. With next year being our 50<sup>th</sup> year, I would say we are a very active and strong squadron with great members.

Immediately after the Change of Watch the bridge members, committee members and their assistants got right to work planning the year's events. Jose Casals, our newest bridge member, is proving to be an outstanding addition to our squadron. All the members of the bridge and their committees will all work hard to make this year a great one for everyone. If you have any ideas or suggestions for us, please let us know.

Everyone has heard it 1,000,000 times "If you own a boat and are a member of the squadron, have your boat inspected". We do this at no charge, come to where your boat is and at your convenience. There is really no reason not to get all of our boats inspected. Let's try for 100% of our boat owners to get their boats inspected this year.

I am looking forward to all the activities planned for this year. Let's have a safe and fun time on the water.



**Meet the Bridge  
Picnic**

**5 March 2016**

**Over 50 members!**

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Lt/C Tom Courtney, AP**



**Scholarship:** The Richard and Mary Jane Schnoor undergraduate scholarship at the Florida Institute of Technology is in good shape. You can contribute to the Scholarship Fund; the XO is accepting all donations. For more information go to [www.cbsps.com/About CBSPS](http://www.cbsps.com/AboutCBSPS) .

**Vessel Safety Check & Safety Committees:** P/C Robert Rutigliano, N-IN took the lead of this committee. It's been full steam ahead since then. He has several dates for VSCs scheduled throughout the year. There were 180 inspections last year and Bob pledges to surpass that number this year. We have over 50 already. If you have a boat, have it inspected: it's FREE and we come to your boat. Many vessel examiners dedicate hours of their personal time to this program. Please support this very important program. Great job Bob, keep up the good work.

**Boat Show Committee:** Lt Phil Delgado is the head of this important committee. Thanks for your commitment to the squadron. Throughout the year he will be asking members help at upcoming boat/safety events. Those are fun; you meet people and get to talk to the public about the squadron and our role in the community. It makes the public aware of our organization and gives them an understanding of all the opportunities it has as well as our commitment to education and safety. Do volunteer a few hours of your time to man the booth.

**Facebook:** Lt Winnifred Crawford, JN is the Facebook officer. She is doing an excellent job keeping the page up and running, and has several interesting posts on the site. Go to Facebook and search "Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron." LIKE us.

**Public Relations:** Lt Pat Dinkey heads this committee. She will be working with the education and executive departments. Great to see a new member take a lead role in the squadron.

**Liaison Committee:** This committee is a very important one, P/C J. P. Longway III, P keeps us up to date on what's going in Brevard Co. Jay is also our representative with Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. Thanks for all you do, it's appreciated.

**Website Committee:** P/Lt/C Richard Schoonmaker, SN keeps our website up and running ([www.cbsps.org](http://www.cbsps.org)), a very time consuming job. It's a great site Check it out...

**Radio Technical Officer:** Lt/C George Shapow, AP is the RTO and the squadron Treasurer. He's a very busy man. He will keep us up to date with any technical advances this year.

Let's have a safe/fun year and keep CBSPS the best squadron in D23

## **SQUADRON EDUCATION OFFICER**

**P/C Sandra Schoonmaker, SN**



**With the Change of Watch behind us and another new year ahead, I am happy to report that the Education Department is continuing to function.**

**Left-over classes from last year include Seamanship and JN. Both of which have now been tested. Cruising & Cruise Planning finished in January with a 100% passing rate.**

**So what lies ahead for the next year?**

**The enthusiasm for our classes continues. Communication Systems and Advanced Piloting are enrolled and soon underway. A list of the remaining classes for the year are posted at [www.cbsps.org](http://www.cbsps.org) and members are encouraged to review that to make their educational choices for the year.**

**The question arose about the members who are not interested in education, but only want the fun of boating and socializing with other boaters? The love of being on the water and enjoying that pleasure with friends is a major motivator to becoming a member of CBSPS. In recognition of this, boaters are no longer required to complete the public boating course prior to joining USPS.**

**What evidence shows, however, is that those who join for fun, very often realize there is a reason to take classes. They see that by observing the boaters with whom they are socializing, especially when tying correct cleat hitches are discussed. They hear that from members who are discussing their classroom experiences, including a field trip to the Melbourne National Weather Bureau. They learn that many of the closest friendships in CBSPS were created off the water and in the classroom, or more correctly across the street at Ashley's for a late night snack.**

**Life provides choices and being a member of CBSPS is no different. If it's for socialization, civic opportunities or education, welcome all who love boating!**

# **Boating Education**

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lt/C Jose Casals, P**

(page 1/2)



I want to express my sincere gratitude to John Fitzgerald and Tom Courtney for mentoring me last year and making my transition to the 2016 Squadron's Administrative Officer a smooth one. I feel privileged and honored to be part of a well-established boating organization where members care so much about each other, provide world class boating education and contribute to the community.

The first three months of the year have gone very fast, and thanks to the proactive involvement of our committee leaders and volunteers, and the active participation of our membership, we have greatly enjoyed social and boating events celebrating big among friends.

Our Squadron membership continues to increase as new members join us and become part of our extended family of friends. As new members join, it is imperative to welcome them at the individual level and get them engaged in our activities. This year, we will be reaching out to our new members through our mentorship program to familiarize them with our activities and help them embrace our Squadron Organization.

I am very happy to report that our committee leaders and members have been very active in planning and executing exciting events for the entire year. As you might imagine, some of these events require a high level of detail planning as they involve renting of facilities and arranging for food and entertainment. A good example is the Holiday Party, which will be at the Double Tree Hotel at Cocoa Beach on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The Chili Cook Off planned by the Entertainment Committee was a great success with 10 competing members and lots of evaluators/voters. The 1<sup>st</sup> price was awarded to Sandy Hazlett, voted the best Chili for second consecutive year! Second price was awarded to Judy Joustra. Thanks so much to all members that worked so hard in their culinary skills and competed in this event. In addition, the Coco-Nauts donated a beautiful basket prepared by Marge Balkema that was raffled and won by Robert and Susan Blackledge. Thank you Marge and the Coco-Nauts!!

The "Meet the Bridge" picnic was also a great success, with over 50 members participating and enjoying a great day of friendship, good food, and games.

Two boating events were conducted during this period, "Cruise to Sunset Grill" and "Cruise to Samsons Island" both with excellent attendance of members and 10 participating boats in each.

The volunteering of time and expertise from each member is critical to the success of each event, and I thank every one of the members that graciously volunteered. Without them, it would be very hard to maintain the tempo of activities and great social encounters for the Squadron. I also thank the membership in general that participate in these events, without them, we would not be able to maintain an active and healthy organization.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lt/C Jose Casals, P**  
(page 2/2)



Following is a list of the committees that are planning for our safe and happy enjoyment of our Squadron activities:

Entertainment:	Doris Valentine, with Jay Longway, Sandy and Tracy Hazlett, Pam and Randy Johnson, Charley Dinkey, John FitzGerald, Tom Courtney
Boating:	Duane Balkema, with John FitzGerald, Tom Courtney, Robert Blackledge
Membership:	Charley Dinkey
Operations Training:	Sandy Schoonmaker
Mentorship:	Marilyn Flanigan, with Charley Dinkey
Auxiliary Liaison:	Denise Stone
Cookies & Coffee:	Pat Dinkey
Meetings & Program:	Tom Courtney

Activities accomplished to date as well as upcoming events are listed below.

### Squadron Activities: January-March

- February 06 – CBSPS Change of Watch
- February 20 – Cruise to Sunset Grill (10 boats/52 people attended)
- February 27 – Operations Training (Over 12 people attended)
- March 01 – Chili Cook Off (10 competitors)
- March 05 – Meet the Bridge Picnic (Over 50 people attended)
- March 12 – Cruise to Samsons Island (10 boats/31 people attended)

### Squadron Scheduled Activities: April-June

- April 16 – Boat Scavenger Hunt in Banana River
- April 20 – Visit to the Planetarium and Observatory, Eastern Florida State College, Cocoa
- April 30 – Kayaking in Thousand Islands, Cocoa Beach
- May 14 – Blessing of the Fleet at Lee Werner Park, Cocoa
- June 07 – Pizza Night at General Membership Meeting at the Veterans Memorial
- June 25 – Cruise to Capt. Hiram

The speaker for the General Membership Meeting on April 5 is Mr. Stephen Moon, Admiralty and Marine Lawyer. A list of future speakers for our upcoming General Membership Meetings will be announced as soon as we reach commitment from the potential presenters.

Please visit the Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Web site (<http://cbsps.org/index.html>)

for additional details and updated information.

## Boating Report by P/C Duane L. Balkema, AP

### RECENT EVENTS

Weather and boating can always be a challenge. But our **Cruise to Sunset Café happened on a delightful day February 20<sup>th</sup>** and was attended by 10 boats with lots of people on board. Nearly 50 people total attended the event. Following eats, 9 of the 10 boats took to the canals south winding thru parts of Cocoa Beach.

Our March 12<sup>th</sup> **Cruise to Samson Island Park** again was well attended with 10 boats and 31 people attending. Robin Courtney photographed less wildlife this year, but it seemed everyone had a good time. Thanks to all who attend these events.

### COMING EVENTS

Coming up in April and beyond are several interesting events including the April 2, 3 **Harbortown Flea Market** on Sea Ray Road parallel to HWY 528 on Merritt Island.

Our **April 9<sup>th</sup> Kayak Outing**-10,000 Islands was cancelled and is rescheduled **April 30th**

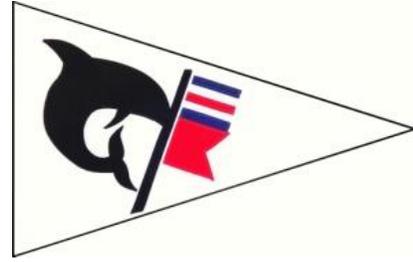
**April 16, 2016, Sat. Scavenger Hunt, Banana River and Cocoa Beach Canals** will see us get together for details, then go hunt from a clues list. Prepare to be on the water for 3-hours. Great prizes will be awarded.

**May 7, 2016, Sat. Dist. 23 Picnic** in Sand Point, T-Ville. Come and see the cardboard boat race and enjoy Chef Elmer's great food. Details on [www.uspsd23.org](http://www.uspsd23.org)

**May 14, 2016, Sat. Blessing of Fleet**, Cocoa Harbor—Lee Wenner Park, 1100 LCL Be there at 1030 LCL in the boat in water. **This is our Premier Activity**, showing off our boats at an area that the community can appreciate our efforts. See the flyer in the Soundings for details. It is easy to participate and provides good rewards. A picnic follows. BRSPS AND TSPS Squadrons participate. The parade is open to all boaters.

**June 25, 2016, Sat. Cruise to Captain Hiram's**, 35 miles south on the Indian River Arrive early afternoon, tie up for the afternoon or spend the night. There is electric at docks and the rates are good. Others may want to drive down for the afternoon and we all join for an evening meal at 1900 LCL. Several may want a hotel room for the night. See the flyer in Soundings.

Squadron Members, we provide fun, exciting events for all. If you are a new member and feel left out, maybe wanting help with buying a boat, a boating issue or an area of local interest about boating, please call me, Duane Balkema at 452-5892 or any squadron officer. We are inclusive and will listen to any input. We can also help you understand how to operate your boat. Gee, I may even sell you a boat.



## **Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron**

### **BOAT SCAVENGER HUNT**

**When** April 16, 2016

**Where** Launch/meet up at Kelly Park

**Start** 1000

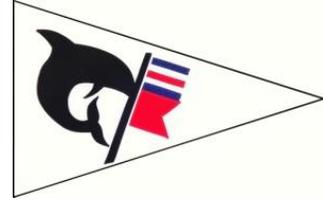
**Follow direction to destinations using GPS and or Nautical Charts to retrieve Flags**

**Meet at last destination to determine winner and eat lunch**

**Lunch at 1230 - Bring your lunch, drinks and chairs**

**QUESTIONS?**

**Contact Duane Balkema (321) 452-5892**



## Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron

# VISIT TO **PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY** At the Eastern Florida State College



**When:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 @ 1800 Hrs.  
**Where:** Eastern Florida State College Planetarium & Observatory  
 1519 Clearlake Rd Cocoa, FL Tel: 321-433-7373  
**Price:** \$ 12.00 P.P. - \$ 10.00 under 12  
 Payments to Doris Valentine

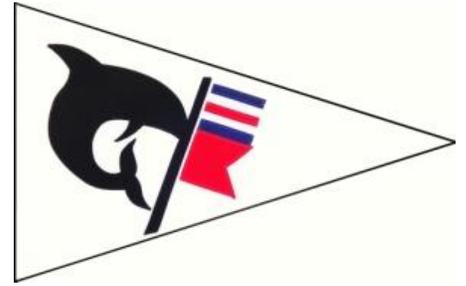
**\*\*\*CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WILL LOVE THIS EVENT\*\*\***

**Details:** IMax presentation: Elephants of Africa  
 Planetarium Show: Laser Light with Pink Floyd

**IF WEATHER PERMITS, OBSERVATORY WILL BE OPENED TO CBSPS**

**BEER, WINE & SOFT DRINKS WILL BE SERVED!!**  
**PLEASE BRING A TRAY OF FINGER FOOD TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.**

**Event Coordinator:** Doris Valentine @ 321 452-1835.



# Cocoa Beach Sail & Power Squadron

## KAYAKING IN THOUSAND ISLANDS

Saturday, April 30 2016

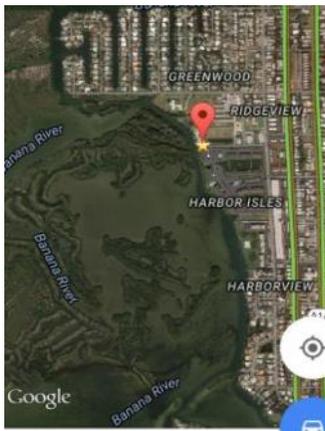
**Meet at Ramp Road Park, Cocoa Beach at 1100**

(Off of S. Brevard Ave. just south of S. 5th St.)

**Launch Kayaks and explore Thousand Islands**

**1230 Hours – Lunch at the Pavilion**

**(Bring your own lunch)**



Thousand Islands



Map Courtesy of Google Maps

## QUESTIONS?

**CONTACT DUANE BALKEMA – (321) 452-5892**



## UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends*



### 2016 Space Coast Blessing Of The Fleet

**Location:** In Water off Riverfront Park, Cocoa, FL.

**Date:** May 14, 2016 @ 1100 Hrs. (arrive at 1030 Hrs.)

The 2016 Blessing of the Fleet will be a three-squadron blessing consisting of the Banana River, Cocoa Beach and Titusville's Sail and Power Squadrons.

**All boaters may participate in this event.**

Come and have your boat blessed for a trouble free boating season!!

At 10:30 AM, boats will circle up on Indian River just south of the HWY 520 Bridge, tune VHF radios to Channel 71 and wait for instructions. There will be a lead boat for us to follow to the Blessing. Maintain Spacing of 50 to 150 feet between boats. Do not stop anywhere along the Route. As you pass the Pastor give your vessel name and crew over VHF 71. The Blessing will come via VHF 71. You proceed back out to River Center for a year of safe boating.

Squadron members are invited to cookout at the pavilion after blessing. Bring a side dish to share with others if you can.



Picture courtesy of Google Earth

**Any questions please contact: [cdr@cbsps.org](mailto:cdr@cbsps.org)**

**SECRETARY****Lt/C Theresa FitzGerald, AP****THE BRIDGE OFFICERS**

- **Commander**  
Cdr John FitzGerald, AP  
Cdr@cbsps.org  
321-446-6714
- **Executive Officer**  
Lt/C Tom Courtney, AP  
XO@cbsps.org  
407-276-6893
- **Education Officer**  
P/C Sandra Schoonmaker, SN  
SEO@cbsps.org  
321-241-4002
- **Administrative Officer**  
Lt/C Jose Casals, P  
AO@cbsps.org  
410-707-3562
- **Secretary**  
Lt/C Theresa FitzGerald, AP  
Secretary@cbsps.org  
321-446-6716
- **Treasurer**  
Lt/C George Shapow, AP  
Treasurer@cbsps.org  
585-738-0437

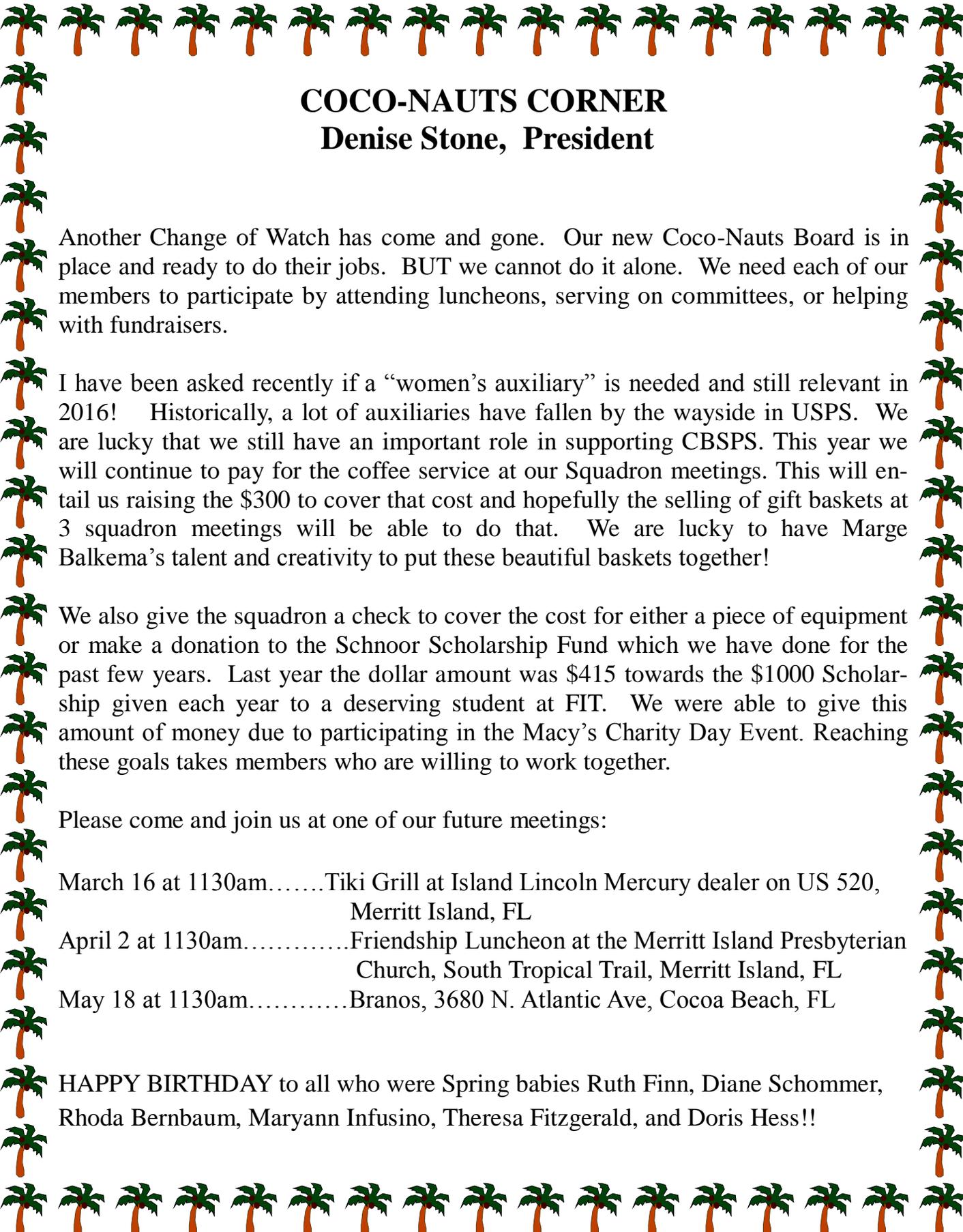
**Happy Birthday to all born in April, May and June!**

Michele Anderson  
Howard Bernbaum  
Rhoda Bernbaum  
Harry Bestow  
Susan Blackledge  
Joseph Brand  
Tom Courtney  
Patrick Deatherage  
Paula Eastman  
Mindy Elfand  
Theresa FitzGerald  
Leonard Frasco  
Nancy Garwood  
Richard Garwood  
Joseph Greene Jr.  
Marlene Guthrie  
Thomas Guthrie  
Louis Harlow  
Carol Hayes

Tracy Hazlett  
Sarah Hedegaard  
Nancy Keane  
Norma Mannon  
Michael McNamara  
Paul Mycoskie  
Dennis Peterson  
Paul Ragusa  
Cintia Ramos  
Diana Schommer  
Judy Shapow  
Peter Skedsvold  
Natalie Small  
Wilson Suarez  
Anna Threatts  
Savannah Threatts  
Charles Vilardebo  
William Wilkening  
Edmund Zahn

The new Membership and Auxiliary Rosters has been compiled by Rick Schoonmaker, and those of you who have email addresses, were sent a copy by Pam Johnson, our Communications Officer. I do hope you have taken the time to view the Roster and hopefully found all your information correct. If you have a printer, print your own copy to have it available whenever it is needed. If there are any errors in your information, please contact me so it can be corrected for the next update. Also contact me if you do not use e-mail and would like to pick up a hard copy at the next meeting.

If you have any changes to your e-mail, address, etc. please send them to me at:  
**Secretary@cbsps.org**. Thank you



## COCO-NAUTS CORNER

### Denise Stone, President

Another Change of Watch has come and gone. Our new Coco-Nauts Board is in place and ready to do their jobs. BUT we cannot do it alone. We need each of our members to participate by attending luncheons, serving on committees, or helping with fundraisers.

I have been asked recently if a “women’s auxiliary” is needed and still relevant in 2016! Historically, a lot of auxiliaries have fallen by the wayside in USPS. We are lucky that we still have an important role in supporting CBSPS. This year we will continue to pay for the coffee service at our Squadron meetings. This will entail us raising the \$300 to cover that cost and hopefully the selling of gift baskets at 3 squadron meetings will be able to do that. We are lucky to have Marge Balkema’s talent and creativity to put these beautiful baskets together!

We also give the squadron a check to cover the cost for either a piece of equipment or make a donation to the Schnoor Scholarship Fund which we have done for the past few years. Last year the dollar amount was \$415 towards the \$1000 Scholarship given each year to a deserving student at FIT. We were able to give this amount of money due to participating in the Macy’s Charity Day Event. Reaching these goals takes members who are willing to work together.

Please come and join us at one of our future meetings:

March 16 at 1130am.....Tiki Grill at Island Lincoln Mercury dealer on US 520,  
Merritt Island, FL

April 2 at 1130am.....Friendship Luncheon at the Merritt Island Presbyterian  
Church, South Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL

May 18 at 1130am.....Branos, 3680 N. Atlantic Ave, Cocoa Beach, FL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all who were Spring babies Ruth Finn, Diane Schommer,  
Rhoda Bernbaum, Maryann Infusino, Theresa Fitzgerald, and Doris Hess!!



*Come for the Boating Education...  
...Stay for the Friends<sup>SM</sup>*

**D23 Newsletter  
by D/C Roy Merritt, SN-IN**



Has it been a year already? Where has the time gone? We are fast approaching our annual Spring Conference and Change of Watch and it seems as if it were only yesterday that I assumed the helm. In my final report, I would like to thank all those kind souls that have supported me throughout this past year. It is a job worth doing and a job that cannot be done, at least not well, in isolation.

During the past year, we have seen a slight\* decline in our membership, which appears to be endemic to some degree or other, across all the Districts. Having said that, I still truly believe we continue to be a valuable and relevant District in the USPS. I believe we remain a force for good in safe boating practices and education in the recreational boating community. I have had the opportunity and privilege to visit all eight Squadrons and I see a vibrancy and rejuvenation at many levels so I know we are alive and well. I ask that each of you continue the good fight to bring our outstanding boater education program to the recreational boating communities which you serve.

From National, I am most happy to report that our very own Stf/C Ken Scherz, SN was one of the recipients of the coveted Chapman Award this past year. Well done Ken, congratulations and thank you for all your hard work in boating education.

We also were recognized as one of a small handful of Districts to receive the USPS Education Fund Certificate of Merit – 2015 Honor Roll Award in appreciation of the Extraordinary Contribution of the entire District for the furthering of education in the fields of navigation and small boat handling. Well done to all in District 23.

Further, our very own P/C Bobby Bray, AP was awarded his 5th Century Club certificate for completing over 100 VSCs in 2015. Well done Bobby and thank you.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to each and every member of our District for your support over this past year and for your warm welcome wherever Anne and I have visited.

Thank you.

Yours in Safe Boating

---

\*Note from Editor: The 2015 decline for District 23 is precisely 12.9% as can be seen by all members on [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) in the Statistics page 332 of the Membership Committee (under Administrative dept).



*Come for the Boating Education...  
Stay for the Friends<sup>SM</sup>*

## **District 23 Nominees & Picnic**



### **District 23 Nominations for 2016 – 2017 Watch Year**

<b>District Commander</b>	Dudley (Mark) Adams, SN
<b>District Executive Officer</b>	Ron Gagen, JN
<b>District Education Officer</b>	Edward (Bud) Newton, SN
<b>Assistant Education Officer</b>	Bill Viet, N
<b>District Administrative Officer</b>	Jim Suber, AP-CN
<b>District Secretary</b>	Kurt Mikat, SN
<b>District Treasurer</b>	John Mulkey, AP-IN

#### **Audit Committee**

Member 1 year	Elmer Bakalla, P
Member 2 year	Barbara Bakalla, P
Member 3 year	Louis Ligocki, AP

#### **Nominating Committee**

Member 1 year	Lucy Hixenbaugh, P
Member 1 year	Bob Rutigliano, JN-IN
Member 2 year	Bill Fehr, N
Member 2 year	TBD
Member 3 year	Roy Merritt, SN-IN
Member 3 year	TBD

#### **Rules Committee**

Member 1 year	James Merker, AP
Member 2 year	J.P. Longway, P
Member 3 year	Tom Anderson, SN-CN

### **District 23 Picnic**

**Saturday 7 May, 2016 (0800 to 1600)**

**Sand Point Park, Titusville, FL**

See [http://www.uspsd23.org/2016\\_D23\\_Spring\\_Picnic\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.uspsd23.org/2016_D23_Spring_Picnic_Flyer.pdf)

*Please support our Friends !*

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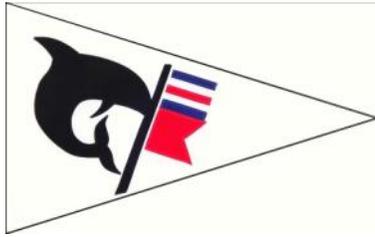
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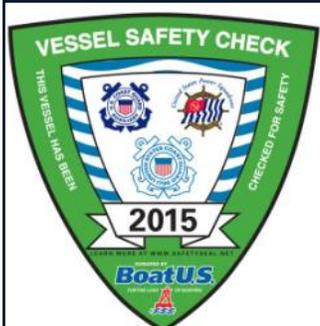
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