

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



SOUTH BREVARD

Banana River

Sail and Power Squadron, Inc.
East Central Florida

DRAGON



TALES

Volume 65; Number 5

www.abc-sb.com or www.bananariversps.org

May 2020

National Safe Boating Week



May 16-22, 2020



WEAR IT

A program of the National Safe Boating Council

IN THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING SEMINAR.....	2	MAY BIRTHDAYS.....	16
UPCOMING COURSES.....	3	AMAZON SMILE REWARDS.....	16
BRIDGE REPORTS.....	4-10	NEWS FROM NATIONAL.....	17-18
BOAT RAMP SIGNS.....	11-12	BRIDGE AND CONTACT INFO.....	19
SURVIVAL AT SEA.....	13-14	CALENDAR.....	20
EARTH DAY.....	15		

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
SOUTH BREVARD



MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
will be a
SEMINAR open to ALL!

“2020 Hurricane Preparedness”
Presented by SEO Jim Merker

Monday, May 18, 2020
7:00—8:30 p.m.

Request an On-Line Invite by Emailing:
Hurricane2020@ABCBSB.org

Or Dial-In to:
1-872-240-3311 (Access Code 252-811-125)

NOAA is predicting an active 2020 hurricane season—
Will you be ready?



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB SOUTH BREVARD



Banana RiverSPS



Next Course:

Junior Basic Boating

Ages: 11 to 17 years

June 22 to 24 or July 13 to 15, 2020

from 9 AM to 11:30 AM

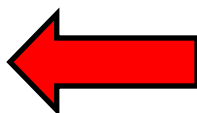
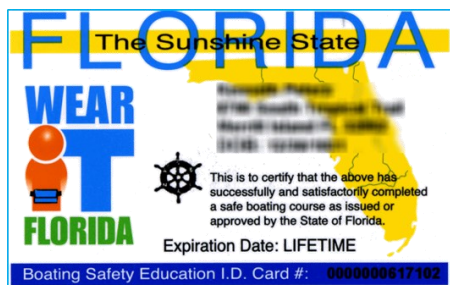
at the DRS Satellite Beach Recreation Center

1089 S. Patrick Dr., Satellite Beach, 32937

Learn the basics of boat handling, safety, navigation rules, water-sports, Federal and Florida government regulations.

Attendance at the 3-day course and passing the test is required to obtain the Boating Safety Education ID card, as required by FL State Law to operate a boat

with 10 HP or more.



Course and Boater ID Card required to operate power boat if born after Jan 1, 1988



ONLY \$20.00

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER: Cdr Shari Marshall, AP

Our Meetings Moving to Seminars



In this time of social distancing, your ABC-SB has decided to offer on-line seminars to our members and other boaters in the community. This may be the safest means for us to gather, share our experiences, and expand our education. Using Go-To-Meeting you simply dial into a phone number we will provide to you OR log on using your laptop, PC, or phone. That web address will be sent out before May 18th so you can practice logging on.

Our first SEMINAR is going to cover “2020 Hurricane Preparedness.” It will be a Power-Point presentation facilitated by our SEO Jim Merker. P/C Ken Peters gave a similar presentation several years ago, and USPS has a hurricane preparedness power-point available as well. Jim will create an updated presentation especially for 2020.

If this format proves to be successful, ABC-SB will offer a seminar each month on our normal meeting date (3rd Monday of the month) focusing on topics which are relevant to boaters in Central Florida.

Topics to be covered on May 18 include:

Florida and Hurricanes

- Florida is one of the most hurricane vulnerable areas on the United States Atlantic Coast
- About 25 percent of hurricane fatalities result from boaters trying to secure vessels in deteriorating storm conditions
- The suggestions and information offered are intended to preserve life and property
- It is the boat owner's responsibility to take precautionary measures to protect property when disaster threatens

The most important issue in hurricane preparation is to **MAKE A PLAN**

Banana River Sail and Power Squadron

2

United States Power Squadron

Educational Department – Seminar Series

Storm Ready

I hope to see you on-line on May 18. Please join us—it's easy, convenient, and in the safety of your own home!

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY: LT/C STEPHANIE MURPHY, P

The Short Sheet of ABC-SB



To All Our Members:

Our Short Sheet this month has been preempted for the first time in 65 years.

Every month, your Squadron has produced a Short Sheet to inform members about Squadron and District 23 activities which are coming up in the next 30 to 60 days

But, this month is different. With Covid-19 spreading across the United States, we have been asked to “stay in place.” Each of us must make daily decisions about when we can leave our homes in a safe manner to get needed supplies and sundries. Many of us are resorting to delivery services and email orders.

Your Bridge has cancelled all general meetings and social events for the foreseeable future. Our education schedule was impacted with the cancellation of the March 2020 Junior Basic Boating class. The next planned class is scheduled for June, and Boat Handling will be scheduled for the Fall.

In order to celebrate National Safe Boating Week, May 16-22, we will be offering an on-line seminar, “2020 Hurricane Preparedness” on Monday, May 18. This will allow us to meet via the internet, continue our educational offerings, and hopefully minimize the feelings of cabin fever from the imposed quarantine. More seminars may be scheduled on our regular meeting dates throughout the summer.

Your Squadron really wants to ensure that each of you is safe and sound. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact one of your Bridge members. Please keep in contact with friends and relatives via phone, mail, email, and the internet. Again, please let us know if you need anything in this time of national emergency. Bridge names, email, and phone numbers can be found on page 19.

Sincerely caring,

Your Bridge

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY: LT/C STEPHANIE MURPHY, P**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB – SOUTH BREVARD (BRSPS)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: April 14, 2020

LOCATION: Via NetMeeting online due to Covid-19 Stay-at-Home

**Exec Board Attending**

Cdr Shari Marshall, AP; P/D/Lt/C Ernst Hofmann, JN; P/C James Merker, AP; Lt/C Stephanie Murphy, P

Exec Board Absent

P/D/C Robert Becker, SN; Lt/C Monika Bradley, S

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Cdr Marshall.

Commander's Report:

Due to Covid-19 Stay-at-Home Unless Essential Business issued by the State of Florida, ABC-SB is not meeting in person.

Jim Merker set up an account with Go-To-Meeting to allow up to 250 people to sign into an online meeting. Depending on how long the Stay-at-Home order continues, the Board may have to move all meetings to this online software.

District 23 and USPS are also in a similar situation. All planned events for April and May have been cancelled or postponed. Again, future dates may also be impacted.

D23 Fall Conference will be Oct 31, 2020 along with our Change of Watch at Melbourne Yacht Club.

Melbourne Beach Founder's Day is May 2nd. We expect this event will be cancelled and we will not be able to participate.

Secretary's Report:

BRSPS has 46 active members and 2 associate members.

Kelly's Burgers and Beer is closed as it is considered a non-essential business. No meetings will be held there until it is allowed to reopen.

It was decided that The Short Sheet be sent out as a letter letting everyone know that the Board is complying with County and State requests to cancel all non-essential meetings and to let members know to contact the Board if we can be of help. The Short Sheet was sent out before the April general meeting would have been held. See copy on Page 5.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY: LT/C STEPHANIE MURPHY, P**Minutes Continued:****Treasurer's Report:**

L/C Monika Bradley provided balances for both the savings and checking accounts.

Ed Department Report:

The first ABC3 class was held in March, but the first Jr. Basic Boating class was cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns.

Once we can start having classes again, we will blitz out notices to the local yacht clubs and marinas and get new class cards out to the boat ramps.

A Boat Handling (replacing Seamanship) course was also planned to start April but has been postponed to later in the year..

The first Flare-Up is tentatively planned for June 6. Jim Merker will send notifications to Fire Departments, police departments, and US Coast Guard before each Flare-Up.

A Navigation Challenge/Man Overboard event is pushed to the Fall, hopefully in conjunction with the Cocoa Beach SPS.

We would like to hold a monthly seminar throughout the summer open to the Public, including a Radar seminar.

Everyone's participation in teaching is greatly appreciated. It takes a village to put on superior boating education.

Ernst Hofmann submitted a grant application for the cost of the replacement signs at 5 community boat ramps.

The Board also discussed having a Hurricane Preparation on-line seminar for the May 18 meeting in conjunction with National Safe Boating Week. Ernst has two hurricane PowerPoint presentations which could be adapted to this seminar.

The meeting was adjourned at **1925**.

Next Executive Committee meeting will be held at 7:00pm on **12 May 2020** at BAAB or On-line.

Submitted by Stephanie Murphy, ABC-SB Secretary

28 April 2020

FROM THE SQUADRON MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: P/D/C Bob Becker, SN

Do you remember when you were first interested in BOATING? You encountered many boating terms you were possibly unfamiliar with like, Port, Starboard, Bow, Stern, Freeboard, etc. Shortly after taking your first USPS boating classes, these and dozens of other boating terms became second nature to you.



Well here we are deeply involved in a world crisis encountering many new terms we were unfamiliar with like, N-95, pandemic, corona virus, lockdown and clustering to name but a few .

How times have changed our lives. But the end result is still the same, SURVIVE! Yes, much like having a PFD thrown to us, if we follow the instructions given to us, We Will Survive this event.

Staying at home, using the N95 mask when going out, staying at least 6 feet from everyone hopefully will ensure our survival rate. And yes, our lives have changed for the moment, but things will get back to normal in the long run.

I am tired of watching, TV, reading several “e” books from my Kindle, and listening to the radio. Thankfully I have my “ham” radio to play with, and even that becomes tiresome at times. But again, we will survive!

This is a good time to spend some time working on the boat if you have one or working around the house getting to items you have been putting off. I see many of my neighbors doing just that, working on house projects. In the past few days I have replaced an outdoor light fixture near our swimming pool, tuning up my pool “creepy crawler,” and cleaning up my garage along with the work bench. Yes, it’s a good time to get the house back in Bristol shape as we do not have a boat to work on. The objective is to make the best of the times.

If you have a boat and a copy of CHAPMANS, it might also be a good time to review some of the many chapters within the book. Just the other day I dusted off my sextant box, took out the instrument and reviewed its working parts. Even took it out into the back yard and shot a sun sight using an artificial horizon. Brought back fond memories of the JN and N courses I took several years ago.

Yes there are many things we can do to get us through this virus event. All we have to do is stay safe and sound, follow the instructions recommended for our survival, and when this passes, get us back to some sort of normality.

Hunkered down, your Membership Chair, P/D/C Bob Becker, SN

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY SEO P/C Jim Merker, AP



www.safeboatingcampaign.com www.uscgboating.org

May 15th, 2020 is *Wear Your Lifejacket To Work Day*

The United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) has a National Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program. The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is published on the uscgboating.org webpage.

“Every year, more than 70 million Americans participate in recreational boating. Recreational boating has significant economic impacts and is an important part of the American heritage and culture.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG), the states, industry, organizations, and other members of the recreational boating safety community are pleased to report that boating is becoming safer over time. Since 1971, the year the United States Congress authorized creation of the National Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program, the estimated number of recreational boats has more than doubled, while the number of reported boating casualties (the sum of deaths and injuries) has decreased by more than 50%. While this trend is impressive, more can be done. No one expects that someone in their family or community will be injured or killed in a boating accident. Yet each year, lives are still lost, adults and children are injured, and property is damaged. The good news is that by increasing boaters’ preparedness, safety education, and awareness, we can continue to decrease risk and evolve a culture of safety.”



All figures are from the U.S. Coast Guard’s 2017 Recreational Boating Safety Statistics, the latest official record of reported recreational boating accidents. Full report available: [The U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division](#).

NSBW Continued:**Key Facts**

- Drowning was reported as the cause of death in 76% of all fatalities (four out of five people died from drowning).
- Approximately 84.5% of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.
- In 2018, the Coast Guard counted 4,145 accidents that involved 633 deaths, 2,511 injuries and approximately \$49 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.
- The fatality rate was 5.5 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. This rate represents a 6.8% decrease from the 2016 fatality rate of 5.9 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.
- Only 14% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instruction.
- Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.
- Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, machinery failure and alcohol use as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.
- Where the primary cause was known, alcohol was listed as the leading factor in 19% of deaths. Where data was known, the most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were:
 - Open motorboats (46%),
 - Personal watercraft (18%)
 - Cabin motorboats (16%)

Data Snapshot:

- Fatalities 633
- Drownings: 449
- Injuries (requiring medical treatment beyond first aid): 2,511
- Boating accidents: 4,145
- Property damage: \$49,992,120.93

Number of registered recreational boats in the U.S.: 11,961,568

Despite historic reductions in fatality rates over the past 45 years, there are still significant opportunities for improvement. While most members of the boating public practice safe boating behaviors, gaps in individual preparedness and situational awareness remain. To advance the culture shift toward even safer recreational boat operator behavior, this plan includes three major priorities:

Cultivate a boating public that is better prepared to engage in safer boating behaviors,

Make better informed policy decisions by building and using highly integrated systems to gather and evaluate data from many sources, and

Nurture collaborative efforts among the stakeholders that benefit the boating public within the recreational boating safety community.




ABC-SB Signs at Area Boat Ramps

For many years ABC-SB (BRSPS) has maintained 5 signs located at area boat ramps. These signs were designed to describe and promote the courses and classes offered by ABC-SB. Every month a member replenishes the updated course pamphlets in the waterproof plastic holders attached to each sign. However, over the years, weather, sun, and abuse (boaters with trailers backing into them) have deteriorated the colors and overall condition of the signs. Judging on the number of flyers replaced each month, it is obvious that local boaters have enjoyed this service.

It became obvious since Hurricane Dorian that these signs needed to be replaced. Ernst Hofmann put together a cost analysis of what new signs would cost. He also contacted USPS and learned of their USPS Educational Fund Grant and recently contacted the USPS Educational Fund Trustee/Secretary who encouraged Ernst to submit the form below. In keeping with continuing to support these boat ramp signs, we are hoping to receive grant money to defray the cost. See Page 10 for what these large signs look like.

Wish us luck!

 USPS Educational Fund Grant Request Cover Page (Attach supporting data as needed)	
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE USPS EDUCATIONAL FUND:	
The undersigned hereby requests a grant from the USPS Educational Fund in an amount and for the purposes hereafter stated:	
Name of Organization (grantee):	<u>AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB SOUTH BREVARD (BRSPS)</u>
Name of Department or Committee:	<u>EDUCATION</u>
Name & Title of Responsible Officer:	<u>ERNST G HOFMANN ASEO</u>
Responsible Officer: E-mail Address:	<u>HOFMANNEG@GMAIL.COM</u> Phone Number: <u>(321) 615-0553</u>
Title of Proposed Project:	<u>REPLACEMENT OF FIVE SIGNS AT PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS</u>
Total Amount of Grant Funding Requested from USPS Educational Fund:	<u>\$ 977.19</u>
Description of Project (<i>please limit to 300 words</i>):	
<p>REPLACEMENT OF SIGNS AT FIVE PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS</p> <p>Sometime in 2017 we installed the second generation of BRSPS signs at two boat ramps and later expanded to five boat ramps. The time has come to replace these not only aging and obsolete signs with updated ones showing the America's Boating Club logo.</p> <p>The purpose of these signs is to attract attention to what we are offering to the boating community in terms of education, events and services. ABC South Brevard focuses on boating education and safety. We hold several classes each year including basic boating classes for 11-17-year olds as well as adults, advanced classes for adults, and a hands-on class on proper handling of all types of flares. We provide vessel safety checks by our group of certified examiners.</p> <p>A laminated 8½ x 11-inch poster advertises the next class(es) or events. There is also a holder for our four-panel fold-out brochure with detailed information about classes, services and membership.</p> <p>Based on quotes and pricing the total cost for the four signs comes to \$977.19 as shown in one attachment. For the signs at Christensen Landing, Eau Gallie Boulevard and Pineda Causeway the three (2 ft x 4 ft) signs will be taken off their two posts and replaced with new vinyl signs, backing and stainless-steel hardware.</p> <p>The (2 ft x 2 ft) signs at Ballard Park and Front St are low on the ground mounted on single posts. It is our intent to secure permission from the City of Melbourne, FL to entirely replace these signs with each mounted on two treated posts with the signs at eye level.</p> <p>Photographs of the current signs and the new updated design are also attached.</p> <p>These changes and updates will reflect much better the current images and goals that our organizations are projecting.</p>	
Estimated Project Budget (<i>total cost, including monies sought from other sources</i>):	<u>\$ 977.19</u>
Planned Project Completion Date:	<u>August 10, 2020</u>
Signature of Responsible Officer:	<u>Ernst G Hofmann</u> <small>Digitally signed by Ernst G Hofmann Date: 2020.04.24 09:09:02 -04'00'</small>
Date of Written Submission of Grant Request:	<u>April 24, 2020</u>

PROPOSED NEW BOAT RAMP SIGNS for: Christensons, Eau Gallie and Pineda Boat Ramps

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
SOUTH BREVARD

BANANA RIVER SPS

FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY,
AND CLEAN
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

BOATING EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITY

STARTING NEXT

www.ABCSB.org
321-220-7775

Vessel Safety Check
FREE Confidential

EXPAND YOUR BOATING HORIZONS

The sign features a pennant logo on the left, a central white box for a photo, and a QR code in the bottom left. On the right, there is a steering wheel logo, a 'STARTING NEXT' label with a red arrow pointing to the website, and a 'VESSEL SAFETY CHECK' logo.

PROPOSED NEW BOAT RAMP SIGNS for: Ballard Park and Front Street Boat Ramps

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
SOUTH BREVARD

**FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND
CLEAN INDIAN RIVER LAGOON**

BOATING
EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITY

www.ABCSB.org
321-220-7775

Vessel Safety Check
FREE Confidential

EXPAND YOUR BOATING HORIZONS

BANANA RIVER SPS

The sign features a pennant logo on the left, a central white box for a photo, and a QR code on the right. The text 'FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND CLEAN INDIAN RIVER LAGOON' is prominently displayed in green. At the bottom, there is a 'VESSEL SAFETY CHECK' logo and the text 'BANANA RIVER SPS'.

While We're Trying to Find a Place to Self-Quarantine— Put Yourself in this Position



Lead Photo: Léa Jones/Stocksy

How to Survive 75 Hours Alone in the Ocean

A case study digs into the medical records of a lost diver's incredible survival story.

Alex Hutchinson (Jan 17, 2018)

In February 2006, Robert Hewitt was scuba diving near Mana Island, off the coast of New Zealand's North Island. Hewitt was an experienced navy diving instructor with 20 years in the service, and he told his dive buddy that he would swim back to shore himself. Instead, when he next surfaced, he had been pulled several hundred meters away by a strong current. The dive boat had moved on, and Hewitt was left alone, the tide pushing him farther and farther from shore.

In [a 2017 issue](#) of the journal *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine*, a team of researchers led by physiologist Heather Massey of the University of Portsmouth in the UK take a closer look at what happened next: Hewitt's progressive deterioration over the next four days and three nights, how he survived, and what took place after his eventual rescue. It's an interesting glimpse at a branch of extreme physiology that most of us hope we'll never encounter.

(Massey's interest isn't purely theoretical. She's currently training to swim across the English Channel, which will require prolonged immersion in cool water. She also took home a [gold medal](#) from the World Ice Swimming Championships last year, in temperatures just a few degrees above freezing, and [helped British open-water swimmers](#) prepare for the Rio Olympics.)

The most pressing challenge facing Hewitt was the water temperature of 61 to 63 degrees Fahrenheit (16 to 17 degrees Celsius), well below body temperature. According to physiological models, when water is 59 degrees Fahrenheit (15 degrees Celsius), the median survival time is between 4.8 and 7.7 hours. Amazingly, Hewitt spent the next 75 hours in the water, drifting back and forth over a distance of nearly 40 miles before he was spotted by Navy diving friends and rescued.

In general, immersion in cold water produces a four-stage response. First is the "cold shock response" that triggers "an inspiratory gasp, uncontrollable hyperventilation, hypertension, and increased cardiac workload." If you're not ready for it, this shock response can cause you to inhale water and drown and can set off heart

Survival Continued:

arrhythmias. Hewitt had two key defenses against the cold shock: a five-millimeter custom-fit wetsuit and habituation from more than 1,000 previous dives, which eventually blunts the initial shock response.

After the cold shock, which peaks within 30 seconds and diminishes after a few minutes, the next stage of immersion is peripheral muscle cooling. For every 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) that your muscles cool, your maximum muscle power drops by about 3 percent. That means you can lose the ability to swim before your core actually gets hypothermic. Hewitt did indeed lose the ability to swim at some points during his ordeal—sometimes because he lost consciousness—but he had a buoyancy compensator that kept him floating with his head above water.

The third stage is deep body cooling, which affects both physical and mental function and eventually results in loss of consciousness and then death. No one took Hewitt's temperature until he had been wrapped in blankets and received warm drinks after his rescue. At that point, it was 96.3 degrees Fahrenheit (35.7 degrees Celsius), which isn't particularly low. He did have some episodes of confusion and disorientation that suggest he was on the border of hypothermia, but it's hard to be sure.

One key factor that helped stave off hypothermia was the fact that Hewitt is (in the words of the researchers) "a large, muscular male"; at 5'11" and 220 pounds, he clearly had a decent amount of insulation. In fact, for every 1 percent increase in body fat, you slow your rate of heat loss by 0.18 degrees Fahrenheit (0.1 degree Celsius) per hour—a big deal when you extrapolate to 75 hours. Hewitt also tried to maintain the fetal position, which minimizes heat loss and extends survival time in cool water.

The fourth and final stage of immersion, if you make it that far, is the "circum-rescue" phase. It's apparently quite common for people to collapse during rescue, thanks in part to the change in pressure when you leave the water and the strong nervous system reaction to the idea of being rescued. With this in mind, Hewitt's rescuers kept him horizontal to maintain blood flow to the brain and gave him "verbal encouragement" to keep fighting for his life.

Of course, cold water wasn't the only challenge in play. Despite water, water, everywhere, dehydration is a serious problem—in fact, the squeeze of the wetsuit and water pressure shunt blood to your core, which stimulates urination, even when you're already dehydrated. The practical guidance in situations like this is that you should avoid drinking for the first day; this will trigger hormone changes that make your body start conserving water. After that, aim to scrounge up half a liter per day. Hewitt used his mask and wetsuit jacket to collect rainwater, but this was far below his needs. When he was rescued, he drank a liter and a half of water, then received another six liters intravenously.

Prolonged soaking in seawater, along with the friction from his wetsuit and fins, damaged Hewitt's skin pretty badly. When found (put your spoon down for a moment), "his body was covered with sea lice feeding on his macerated skin." And then there's the psychological challenge, both during and after the ordeal. By the third day, he was contemplating (and half-heartedly attempting) suicide, but he managed to keep fighting.

Can we extract any lessons from Hewitt's ordeal? Well, wearing a wetsuit and weighing more than 200 pounds obviously helped, but those aren't particularly useful takeaways. Staying in the fetal position—sometimes known as the "heat escape lessening posture," or HELP—was a good idea. Ultimately, the most pointed lesson, and the one Hewitt himself now spreads as a water safety advocate, is that he shouldn't have been in that situation in the first place. Rather than diving alone, he should have aborted the dive and joined another group or, at the very least, used a surface-marker buoy to flag his position. "In some ways, Rob almost contributed to his own demise," the police search team leader said bluntly. "He took some shortcuts."

Still, shit sometimes happens. And if it does, the other big lesson to keep in mind is that in defiance of all the physiological models, Rob Hewitt survived for an astounding 75 hours alone in the cold water. If you find yourself out there, don't give up.

April 22 was the 50th Anniversary of EARTH DAY

The Marine Resources Council is pleased to be an active participant in the Earth Day initiative for over 30 years. Earth Day is usually a month-long campaign for the MRC. Hosting/attending more than 30 community outreach events each year makes April the second highest grossing contribution month of the year for us. In this unique time, we need your help more than ever to continue our mission protecting and improving the water quality of the Indian River Lagoon.

Why are mangroves important?

Mangroves provide protected nursery areas for fishes, crustaceans and shellfish. They also provide food for a multitude of marine species such as snook, snapper, tarpon, jack, sheepshead, red drum, oyster and shrimp. Florida's important recreational and commercial fisheries would drastically decline without healthy mangrove forests. Many animals find shelter either in the roots or branches of mangroves.

Mangrove branches are rookeries, or nesting areas, for beautiful coastal birds such as brown pelicans and roseate spoonbills. They also stabilize the shoreline and help prevent storm surge and erosion damage to coastal property. Mangroves help maintain water quality and clarity by trapping sediments, absorbing nutrients, and removing pollutants from land that would otherwise harm the coastal waters.

Because of the rapid growth of Florida's population and the coastal development brought by this growth, up to 85% of the mangroves in the Indian River Lagoon have either been destroyed or made inaccessible through impoundments and mosquito control ditches. Currently mangroves are protected by law in Florida to prevent future losses. MRC has over 30 years' experience in farming and repopulating Florida's truest native trees. With your help we can replenish our lost mangroves

HELP MRC PLANT MANGROVES TO SAVE OUR LAGOON



FREE \$\$\$ FOR OUR SQUADRON



You shop. Amazon gives.



Banana River Sail & Power Squadron

\$80.72

Has received

as of February 2020



All charities have received

\$169,850,767.10

as of February 2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ABC-SB Members who have a May Birthday

Ed Carlson

Catherine Vecchio

Jonathan Paine

John Vecchio

Patricia Paine



Chief Commander

C/C Mary Paige G. Abbott, SN-IN

Phone Number: 239.395.9409 Cell Number: 239.246.9687
mpgabbott@gmail.com

27 April 2020

MEMBERSHIP IS JOB ONE!

The Board of Directors, Headquarters, and Department Heads continue to work on your behalf during the Safer-at-Home directives. Some highlights:

UPDATE: The SBA Loan Paycheck Protection Program fund depleted before our application received consideration. The application is in the queue for the second round, though.

HQ membership services staff started calling all of the 392 non-renewals from March 2020. They are checking on the members and learning the reason(s) for the non-renewal. Some members simply forgot and renewed because of the personal call! *(June is a huge month for renewals and everyone's help is needed.)*

UPDATE: Headquarters staff including shipping and receiving are working at headquarters building in limited shifts; this started last week. The building remains closed to walk-ins.

Please keep in mind the following:

- A. Social/physical distancing is active; approved visitors should wear a facemask, please.
- B. Headquarters staff is routinely retrieving mail from the post office. It is okay to use the street address, but the preferred mailing address is: United States Power Squadrons, PO Box 30423, Raleigh, NC 27622.
- C. Headquarters is receiving limited shipments from UPS or FedEx at this time. *Please contact HQ BEFORE shipping anything!*
- D. Please do not return educational material to Headquarters unless it is necessary. The material return policy was extended to 120 days.
- E. The examination expiration period was extended. Please do not return unused examinations. Keep the examinations for later, i.e. when the federal, state and local restrictions are relaxed.

Watch for a notice from the National Secretary regarding the SailAngle situation and solution.

This program has seen better days and service than what is provided to our members at this time.

COVID-19 will have an impact on our finances this year. Our annual budget revenue relies mainly on two (2) sources: membership dues and educational sales. Budget expenses include associated cost of goods sold (i.e. educational materials) and headquarters (overhead, staff/personnel with taxes & healthcare; building, etc). We cannot make a quantifiable 'guess' at how payment of membership dues will affect

C/C Message Continued:

revenues at this time. By examining the number of educational courses cancelled and postponed by squadrons due to national emergency, we can project reduced educational sales. Our projection is a loss of educational sales revenue from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The loss of America's Boating Course classes directly affects membership recruiting and new member dues revenue for squadrons, district and national. Our ability to recover from these reductions is questionable this year. That said we are not idle nor ignoring the situation.

- A. HQ filed the application for the SBA loan to help with associated payroll expenses. This would be a bonus to help meet payroll and avoid furloughing staff.
- B. HQ is examining expense reductions in operations. This may require further streamlining of our operations, staff, and communications methods.
- C. The use of virtual meetings for conferences has saved the organization the Chief Commander's Representatives associated travel expenses to District Spring Conferences.
- D. The travel expense reimbursement program is being completely examined and could be revised for everyone on either a temporary or a permanent basis.
- E. The Board of Directors traditionally meets face-to-face in May or June. That meeting is now a virtual Board meeting, thus saving the travel expenses budgeted for it.
- F. Membership retention is a focal point for all levels; it must be encouraged at all levels.
- G. The marketing communications plan remains operating with modification to drive nonmembers and potential students to our online interactive seminars, videos, and America's Boating Channel options. Once we are open for classroom business then the campaign will shift to promoting the squadron offerings. This is the beauty of social media; we can make modifications in messaging quickly. Keep sharing USPS/ABClub social media posts!
- H. Please keep in mind that both the Educational Foundation and the Endowment Foundation are separate entities from USPS; the funds contained within are not assets of the United States Power Squadrons and therefore not freely available to use.
- I. We are examining external options: new partnerships and corporate sponsorships.
- J. You can review the 2020 National & HQ Budget; it is on the Budget Committee web page (bottom of the page) which is accessed through the Treasurer's Dept on the website.
- K. Change is coming and we are ready to embrace it without compromising service to our members, squadrons, and districts.

ITCOM volunteers continue to upgrade equipment. This past week new back-up hardware systems were installed at HQ. On the very long To Do List is cloud backup and more. Thank you!

Our Online Interactive Seminars and America's Boating Channel videos are keeping America's Boating Club visible! We are fortunate to have multiple delivery systems. In fact, our marketing team created a promotional flier as requested content by marine industry partners for their customers, dealers, and members. These industry partners warrant our thanks and support as we maneuver through this unprecedented time.

I wish you fair winds and calm seas as we weather these turbulent waters together. Please - Stay safe, smart, and healthy!





Mary Paige Abbott

Chief Commander

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB SOUTH BREVARD



Banana River Sail and Power Squadron

<p>BRIDGE OFFICERS Commander Cdr Shari Marshall, AP 734-347-2992</p> <p>Executive Officer OPEN</p> <p>Administrative Officer OPEN</p> <p>Educational Officer P/C James Merker, AP 321-604-9342</p> <p>Secretary Lt/C Stephanie Murphy, P 321-723-1817</p> <p>Treasurer Lt/C Monika Bradley, S 360-286-1399</p> <p>Asst. Educational Officers P/D/Lt/C Ernst Hofmann, JN 321-777-9462</p>	<p>MEMBERS AT LARGE P/D/C Robert Becker, SN P/C Edmund LeCun, JN</p> <p>FINANCIAL REVIEW COMM Lt Terri Friedlander</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP COMM P/D/C Robert Becker, SN</p> <p>NOMINATING COMM Open</p> <p>MERIT MARK CHAIR Lt /C Gail Wall, P</p>	<p>Editor Cdr Shari Marshall, AP 734-347-2992 shar44marsh@gmail.com</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>Web Site: www.abc-sb.com or www.banariversps.org</p> <p>ABC-SB (BRSPS) Voice Mailbox—321-220-7775</p> <p>General Membership Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month.</p>
---	---	---

Dragon Tales, published monthly, is the official publication of ABC-SB (BRSPS). It is mailed to members, district, and national officers and our supporters. Opinions are those expressed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the policy of nor imply agreement with the Dragon Tales staff, ABC-SB, D23, or USPS. At the discretion of the Dragon Tales staff, articles submitted may be printed in all, or in part, or may be rewritten. Advertisements appearing in the Dragon Tales are supplied by our supporters and no endorsement is expressed or implied.

America' Boating Club South Brevard
2773 Floridiane Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32935



ABC-SB Squadron web site - www.abc-sb.com or
www.bananariversps.org

ABC-SB Squadron Voice Mailbox - 321-220-7775
Membership meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of
the month .



----- Cut here to Clip Upcoming Events -----



UP-COMING SQUADRON & DISTRICT EVENTS — 2020

MAY

- 12 EXECUTIVE MEETING 1900 On-line Go-To-Meeting
- 16-22 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK
- 18 ON-LINE SEMINAR FOR MEMBERS 1900 On-line Go-To-Meeting



April 14, Front Street Boat Ramp