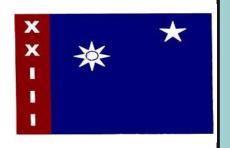


THE GALAXY

District 23

Spring 2024





District 23 Change of Watch Saturday, February 24, 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- D23 Change of Watch Meet the Bridge and Change of Watch Photos
 - D23 Spring Picnic at Bing's Landing Registration Information
 - Upcoming Squadron Activities—You Are Invited to Come Too!
 - Photos from Squadron Events around the District

DISTRICT 23 BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	Gary Callahan, SN-CN	904-629-8310	gnc147@gmail.com
Executive Officer	Mark Adams, SN	904-303-2235	madams1942@me.com
Administrative Officer	Sharon Neitzey	306-290-1243	sneitzey@aol.com
Educational Officer	Tom Anderson, SN-CN	904-704-2746	ander1@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Lisa Harris, AP	352-562-1464	lisabee4him@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Steve Becker, AP	513-600-6902	cyberflgeezer@gmail.com

GENERAL COMMITTEES

RULES COMMITTEE	AUDIT COMMITTEE	NOMINATING COMMITTEE
1 Year—Tim Henke	1 Year—Elmer Bakalla	1 Year—Ron Radford
2 Year—Jim Spencer	2 Year—Catherine Henke	2 Year—Jeff Weiss
3 Year—Jon Vanatta	3 Year—Cal Ray	3 Year—Jon Vanatta

SQUADRON COMMANDERS

Banana River	James Merker, AP-IN	321-604-9342	jm@piratesplay.com
			, ,
Cocoa Beach	John Gonzalez, S	402-432-7055	johngzen@gmail.com
Daytona Beach	Paul Martines, JN	386-451-4575	paulmartinesd23@aol.com
Gainesville	Laraine Teiss, S	352-665-0734	movewithteiss@gmail.com
Harris Chain	Robert Ansbauth	352-216-9642	ansbaughclan@yahoo.com
Jacksonville	William (Buddy) Poe, AP	904-518-2995	sportrac@bellsouth.net

The Galaxy Newsletter Editor	Jan Spencer, JN	802-233-4640	vtspencers1@gmail.com
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The Galaxy, published three times each year, is the official publication of District 23 of the United States Power Squadron, Inc. It is mailed to members of the Banana River, Cocoa Beach, Daytona Beach, Gainesville, Harris Chain, and Jacksonville squadrons which comprise the district and to 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 Galaxy Staff, District 23 or USPS®. At the discretion of The Galaxy Staff, articles submitted may be printed in all, or in part or may be rewritten. The address of The Galaxy is:

P/C Jan Spencer, JN

176 E. New England Drive, Elkton, FL 32033

D/23 COMMANDER GARY CALLAHAN, SN-CN



Wow. Jan sent a fantastic draft of our first Galaxy Newsletter since 2020. Along with the draft were instructions for me to write an article from the Commander. For six years, while on the Jacksonville Bridge, Jan has been challenging and demanding that I produce a monthly article for her Skipper newsletter. Staring at a blank screen and trying to write an intelligent thought has always been a challenge for me. Jan has been my motivator and editor, trying to make sense of what I am trying to write. Not only my spell checker, but a word checker too. Here we go again, Jan.

It is an honor as well as a scary challenge to hold this position. The challenge ahead is to continue the recovery from the COVID hangover and bring us to the next level. The past two years, we have removed our masks and started to meet again in person. Now it is time to get out, have some fun, and grow our clubs.

When Jon passed the gavel, he said use it wisely. I had only one goal for the start of the year. I wanted to increase communications with the

squadron bridges and the individual members. Once we hear from each Bridge and member, then together we can set some targets and goals. The function of the District should be to support the Clubs/Squadrons when they ask, pass communications from National, and through district resolutions express our wishes to National. There is very little required of the squadrons to be part of a great National Organization; complete a few Federal, State, and National reports, pass on your training to other boaters, and have FUN.

Our first step to improving communications, is the resurrection of our Galaxy Newsletter. This is Jan's first of 3 to 4 editions this year. You can post pictures of your events, share your calendar, or post comments.

The second step is to update our website. Last night, Buddy and Rob demonstrated their working model for the new Jacksonville website. They are in the process of getting National's blessing and will then clone it for the District site. You can check it out on JSPSboating.club. Thinking down the road, does anyone have pictures that they would like to enter in a contest for our home page? More on that later.

Another way to improve communications is through joint events, or just opening invitations to your local events. Last year three clubs got together for a three day cruise from Jacksonville to Palatka, then into Crescent Lake. Some joined us for a day and more met for dinner at Corky Bells.

Visiting other clubs. A few of my more enjoyable days last year were riding with Jon to Banana River, Harris Chain, and Gainesville for their COW. If you are doing a boat show invite other Squadrons. Visiting a few hours with Daytona Beach at the boat show was well worth the drive.

(continued on next page)

Commander's Message Continued:

Lastly (for Now). Serving on a committee. Very few of our committees require advanced degrees or a 60-hour work week. Several only require a few hours a year. One of our important committees is the Nominating Committee. Our Bylaws suggest six members, one from each squadron. This is not the arm-twisting job of filling the Bridge, but looking for members that have a few hours each month to help with the planning and organizing the district organization. Keep an eye out for a help wanted flyer with openings and task descriptions.

I would like to welcome John Gonzalez, D23's newest Squadron Commander. John was elected by the Cocoa Beach Squadron just before District COW. John and I talked this week after Cocoa Beach voted to host the Fall 2024 District Conference. Thanks, Cocoa Beach. I enjoyed John's enthusiasm as he talked about their plans for the coming year.

Keep All Safe on Land and Water D/C Gary Callahan, SN-CN 904-629-8310 gnc147@gmail.com



Cocoa Beach Squadron will be hosting the District 23 Fall Conference.

Arrangements are being finalized for either September 21 or October 5.

Watch your email for registration details. We are looking forward to returning to Cocoa Beach for this conference!



I would like to thank those who contributed to the success of the Change of Watch and Conference in Jacksonville. In no particular order I wish to thank: Jim Suber and Gary Callahan for the planning phase of the COW; our Chaplains Jim Spencer and John Hugus; Jim and Kathy Suber for the Hospitality Room food and candy; Sharon Neitzey and Andrea Schappert for the outstanding decorations, table settings, flyers and posters; Mark Adams for the delicious cake and water.

P/C/C Mary Paige Abbott, our guest speaker, for in-depth knowledge of the Power Squadron; the world-renowned DJ, Jeff Wise and his vast inventory of music and Karaoke; Pre-Registration by Sharon Neitzey; registration table and 50/50 by Jim and Jan Spencer, Linda Newton and Sharon Neitzey; Photos by the "filmless" photographer Bud Newton; Intercoastal boat ride set up by Gary Callahan and the Orleck Destroyer Museum Tour by Jim Suber; all the Squadron members who brought unique baskets. Tim Wysocki for the amazing gift bags. I had numerous members say that they were the best give bags they ever received, and they are involved in multiple organizations. Great Job Tim! As you can see, it was a multi-squadron group effort. If I forgot someone I apologize for the oversight.

Last, but not least, a huge Congratulations to our honored guest, SN Dick Leatherman, for earning 50 merit marks! Job well done!

EDUCATION UPDATE



Greetings from the D23 Education Department.

I would like to start off with a thanks for allowing me to continue as your District Education Officer.

It's an honor and a privilege to serve again this year.

The Education Department at the National Level is working diligently on updates and improvements. Our NEO Chuck Wells and his staff work countless hours on rewriting course materials to meet our changing needs. The Marine Navigation Course is now complete along with an updated Cruise Planning Course. Offshore Navigation and Cruising Under Power and Sail are in the Beta Trial. Close to completion is the stand-alone Celestial Navigation Course (the student will not need any prerequisites for this course).

As I reported at the Spring Conference ABC3 has undergone some changes. The new Powerpoint Presentation now includes the new PFD labeling, changes in the Fire Extinguisher and the Emergency Cut Off Switch (ECOS) information.

If you hear a rumor that Florida will be going to a 75-question test (60 from the book /15 from the state section). It's true BUT NOT at the PRESENT TIME! The new test is NOT ready at the present time so continue using the 60-question test. If you need to download the new PPP let me know and I will send you the information.

National is helping the Districts and Squadrons with information on any student the request the ABC3 Course online. They send the names and contact information by ZIP Code to the District Coordinator, Sandy Schoonmaker, SN. Sandy sends out a very nice email to the student offering assistance and also copying the squadron SEO or Contact person. This is a great opportunity to gain a new member. Please let Sandy know that you have attempted to make contact with them.

In 2023 we did not have a Chapman Award Winner, so there are some changes coming for 2024. I will be sending out more information in the coming weeks. Start Thinking about your Squadron Submission they will be due by 1October, 2024.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

GOOD or BAD

Yours in Safe Boating, Tom

D/Lt/C Tom Anderson, SN-CN
United States Power Squadrons
District 23
District Educational Officer-DEO
ander1@bellsouth.net
904-704-2746 Cell/Text

Come for the Boating Education...

Stay for the FriendsSM

The District 23 Picnic is being held on Saturday, April 27th at Bing's Landing County Park. The address is: 5862 N Ocean Shore Boulevard in Palm Coast.

Each year this event has been a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with old friends (and new friends!) from each of our squadrons.

The price is only \$10 per person for a tasty barbeque lunch from Captain's Barbeque. Please bring a snack or dessert to share.

We hope you will plan to join us for good food, great friends, fun and games!

Squadrons are asked to bring a basket to raffle and bring your life jacket for our group photo.



Life Jacket Photo taken at last spring's District Picnic at Bing's Landing!



DISTRICT 23 ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC BING'S LANDING COUNTY PARK

5862 N Ocean Shore Blvd, Palm Coast, FL 32137

<u>WHO?</u> All members of District 23 are invited to join us. Feel free to bring guests. RSVP by email to sneitzey@aol.com or return form below by mail. <u>WHAT?</u> This is a day of fun and friendship with our fellow members of D23 ABC squadrons. Bring yard games and chairs if you wish. Please bring a dessert or snack to share. Please bring one raffle basket per squadron. <u>WHEN?</u> 11:00-3:00 (Set up at 10:00 if you can help). Lunch at noon. WHERE? See above. Same as last year.

HOW? Come by boat or by car. Find a friend and carpool.

COST? \$10 per person includes barbeque lunch (Captain's Barbeque) and drinks. Checks to USPS D23 or cash. Pay at event or by mail.

RESERVATIONS

	- OFILANIIO	
Name		Phone
# of Guests	X \$10 = Payment included _	OR Pay at picnic
Must receive rese	ervations (U. S. Mail or email)	by April 22. Mail to:
Sharon Neitzey, 7 sneitzey@aol.co	24 Central Park Blvd., Port O m	range, FL 32127 or email

CHANGES OF WATCH



GAINESVILLE CHANGE OF WATCH

January 20, 2024

D/C Jon Vanatta swears in Cdr. Laraine Teiss

JACKSONVILLE CHANGE OF WATCH

February 15, 2024

D/C Vanatta swears in Cdr. William (Buddy) Poe



HARRIS CHAIN

CHANGE OF WATCH

January 16,2024

D/C Jon Vanatta swears in Cdr. Robert Ansbaugh







CHANGES OF WATCH CONTINUED



COCOA BEACH CHANGE OF WATCH

D/C Jon Vanatta swears in Cdr. John Gonzalez



INTERESTING FACTS AROUND OUR DISTRICT

The Banana River Circle



Florida's newest antique discovery, the Circle in Banana River, has piqued the curiosity of historians and locals alike. This peculiar artifact, protruding from the water, presents yet another intriguing chapter in the history of the Sunshine State. Despite its initial resemblance to the famed Stonehenge, it turns out to be something quite different. Strangely enough, this circle is

not a relic from an ancient civilization but rather a remnant from the World War II era. It was found near SR 528 in the river, rusted and covered in barnacles, adding a touch of mystery to the already unique part of the Space Coast. According to an article by Malcolm Denemark in Florida Today, the circle is a remnant from World War II. This revelation counters initial theories that proposed the structure as a fish trap or even Florida's own "Stonehenge". Instead, it was identified as a target used for training pilots during the war, with several more similar structures located around the area.

Do you have other interesting facts to share about your area that we might use in future issues? Please forward them to Jan at vtspencers1@gmail.com [From whatshappeningflorida.com]

JACKSONVILLE SOUTHERN CRUISE 28TH ANNUAL OSPREY BLUFF TO PALATKA CRUISE All District 23 members and friends are invited to join us!

We are going to Crystal Cove Riverfront Resort, and it is booked for **June 21-23 2024**. Make reservation at http://www.crystalcoveresortfl.com/. Four (4) rooms (2 queen beds), river view/poolside have been reserved. Mention "Jon Vanatta Group" or "Osprey Bluff". Rooms are \$150.00 (includes tax/fees) per night.

Friday:

Depart Doctors Lake Inlet/St. Johns River approximately 10 am. Flotilla travels south of the Shands Bridge at Marker 24 to anchor, swim, eat your packed lunch, then on to Crystal Cove Resort. Hotel check- in at 3 pm. Dinner at "Corky Bells at Gator Landing" http://cookybellsseafood.com by boat or automobile at approximately 6:00 pm.

Saturday:

Breakfast is on your own (River Deck Bar and Grill Café opens at 11 am for lunch). Free coffee, toaster and microwave available in lobby. Boat departure approximately 9 am for Crescent Lake by way of Dunn's Creek (left turn prior to Marker 18). Based on tides/rainfall will determine if we can hang-out at the sandbar. Lunch at "3 Bananas" http://3bananas.com. Opens at 1100 am. Plan on 12 noon for lunch. After lunch, hang-out on their huge covered dock pavilion or return to the sand bar. Depart approximately 4:30 pm and head back north for dinner (optional) at "Corky Bells at Gator Landing" http://cookybellsseafood.com. Plan on 6 pm for dinner. While waiting, we can grab drinks, look for manatee and dolphins, or just relax with music overlooking the St. John's River. You are welcome to join us for dinner, even if you didn't come on the trip. After dinner, head back to hotel, approximately 20 minutes by boat. In the evening, hang-out in the spacious lobby, swim at the pool, or enjoy live music at the Tiki Bar.

Sunday:

Breakfast brunch, 8 am-2 pm, available at River Deck Bar and Grill Café, next to the Marina. At your leisure, navigate home safely with a smile on your face! Check-out at 11 am.

Book your room NOW (Samantha, General Manager, (386) 325-1055). Rooms are filling fast due to boating tournament the same weekend. (Note: Expedia.com may have inside rooms or backside rooms available). As a courtesy, after you have made your reservation, please email Jon Vanatta at: vanatta1881@comcast.net or text (904) 859-1724.

Rooms have been completely remodeled 3 years ago (new carpet, bedding, bathroom, hairdryer, microwaves, and extra-large TV. Spacious lobby with koi pond. Free coffee. River <u>Deck Bar and Grill Café, next to the Marina</u> (lunch and dinner) are available. Pool has been remodeled. New floating concrete docks. Call Eric, Crystal Cove Marina @ (386) 328-4000 for boat slip reservations. Cost is \$15/night w/o power, \$25/night with power. Launching from ramp is an option. Ethanol-free fuel is available at Marina.

Five 18-foot pontoon boat rentals available @ \$225.00/day plus gas and tax. This boating trip is NOT limited to Power Squadron members or Osprey Bluff residents. So, invite your friends to join us.

Optional Continuation Trip Sunday

Depart south to "Renegades Restaurant" on the water (386) 524-4179 for lunch and return to Crystal Cove for relaxation by the pool. On Monday, return home at your leisure.



The District 23 Change of Watch was held at the Spring Conference in Jacksonville Beach the weekend of February 23-25. The weekend activities included a boat ride on the St. Johns River, a tour of the historic USS Orleck in downtown Jacksonville, award presentations, a large array of gift baskets donated by the squadrons for auction, a 50/50 raffle, a great buffet dinner and music from our DJ Jeff Wise. It was a very well attended and successful weekend.



Passing the Bar Ceremony

Conducted by P/C/C Jim Spencer and P/C Jeff Wise

The following were recognized as having passed over the bar this past year: Larry E. Spangler, Charles Kilgore, P/C Michael Kinney, P/C Gary Gossinger, P/Lt/C William Bashear, Glenna Brashear and Brenda

Millard.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD- GOVERNING BOARD EMERITUS

P/D/C Dick Leatherman for his earning 50 merit marks in service to USPS.



National and District Awards

Vessel Safety Check Awards

District 23 currently has 29 Vessel Examiners who performed 510 examinations with a passing rate of 89%. National recognizes those Vessel Examiners who perform 100 or more vessel exams in a calendar year with an award into the Century Club. National also recognizes those examiners who have completed at least 1,000 vessel exams over their career with the Millenium Award.

- Century Award Winners for 2023 D23
 Robert Ansbaugh—Harris Chain (106)
 Jim Suber—Jacksonville (109)
- Millenium Award
 Jim Suber, Jacksonville

Achievement Award—Advanced Grades

Awarded to that squadron in D23 which attains the highest number of advanced grade awards during the past calendar year based on a percentage of total membership. **Jacksonville**



P/C/C Mary Paige Abbott, Cdr. Jon Vanatta, and DSEO Tom Anderson present the award to Jacksonville's Commander Buddy Poe.

Elective Course Achievement Award

Awarded to that squadron in D23 achieving the highest number of elective course awards as a percentage of squadron membership during the past administrative year. **Cocoa Beach**



P/C/C Mary Paige Abbott, Cdr. Jon Vanatta and DSEO Tom Anderson present the award to Cdr. John Gonzalez of the Cocoa Beach Squadron.

Squadron Improvement in Education

Awarded to squadron with highest percentage of members completing S, P, AP, EM and Weather—

Jacksonville



P/C/C Mary Paige Abbott, Cdr. Jon Vanatta, and DSEO Tom Anderson present the award to Jacksonville's Commander Buddy Poe.

National and District Awards Continued

Prince Henry the Navigator



In the early 1960s the government of Portugal, at the embassy in Washington D.C. discussed creating an award in honor of Prince Henry the Navigator who, in the early 15th century, started a school of navigation in Sagres, Portugal to advance the science of navigation. Ultimately the Portuguese government awarded an alabaster replica of Prince Henry to each of the Districts of USPS. The deed of gift gave each district the authority to establish its own criteria for earning the award.

In District 23 Prince Henry is awarded to the squadron having the greatest percentage of achievement in three grades, AP, JN and N. The squadron to receive the award is determined by applying a weighted average for the number of candidates advanced to those grades with 1 point for AP,

2 points for JN, and 3 points for N. This year the award was presented to **Daytona Beach.**



P/C/C Mary Paige Abbott, D/C Jon Vanatta and DSEO Tom Anderson present the Prince Henry the Navigator Award to Daytona's Commander Paul Martines.

COMMANDER'S SCROLL

Commander's Scrolls are awarded to members who have performed significant services for the District in addition to their elected or appointed duties.

Commander Vanatta awarded a Commander's Scroll to **Sharon Neitzey**, **D23 Administrative Officer**.



Cdr. Jon Vanatta presents Sharon Neitzey with a Commander's Scroll.









Daytona Beach Squadron

Gainesville Squadron



Swearing into office the D23 Bridge



Jacksonville Squadron

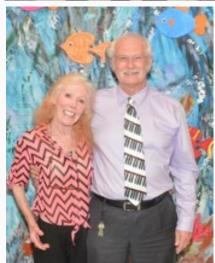




















Great food, wonderful friends—old and new, and a fun-filled weekend for District 23.



America's Boating Channel[™] Warns of Electric Shock Drowning

Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) is a little-known and oftenunidentified killer, severely injuring and killing people every year. It occurs when faulty wiring sends electric current into water, which passes through the body and

causes muscle paralysis that can result in drowning.

Faulty wiring or the use of damaged electrical cords and other devices on docks and boats can cause the surrounding water to become "energized," with no visible warning. Avoid getting in the water within 150 feet of where AC power is in use and learn how to test if dangerous electrical currents are in the water around your boat.

To help boaters understand the danger of Electric Shock Drowning (ESD), Season Four of America's Boating Channel offers the video "Electric Shock Drowning (ESD)." The video shows how ESD causes deaths and injuries at marinas nationwide, including many undetected incidents. Viewers also will learn about ESD prevention and how to install ground protection on docks and boats. Also featured are differences between ESD dangers in saltwater and freshwater.



Follow the above link or visit

https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV.

<u>America's Boating Channel™</u> is produced by the United States Power

Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



As members of District 23, you are cordially invited to join in the following squadron activities. If you would like to join the event, please reach out to the contact person listed for complete details. There are some amazing activities being hosted by our squadrons—take advantage of these opportunities!



Daytona Beach Dinner Meeting, Red Lobster	Contact: Sharon Neitzey 306-290-1243 sneitzey@aol.com
Gainesville Rules of the Road Potluck at 5:30 pm	Contact: Laraine Teiss at 352-665-0734 movewithteiss@gmail.com
Jacksonville Blessing of the Fleet, St. Johns River	Contact: Buddy Poe 904-518-2995 sportrac@bellsouth.net
	Gainesville Rules of the Road Potluck at 5:30 pm



April 6	Banana River Flare Up, Melbourne	Contact: Jim Merker at 321-604-9342 edu@abcsb.org
April 6	Jacksonville Fish Fry, Stockton Park, Ortega	Contact: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995 sportrac@bellsouth.net
April 7	Daytona Change of Watch, Boat Club, Halifax Marina	Contact: Sharon Neitzey 306-290-1243 sneitzey@aol.com
April 12-14	Jacksonville Cruise to St. Augustine	Contact: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995 sportrac@bellsouth.net
April 27	District 23 Picnic, Bing's Landing (See the registration flyer in this newsletter)	Contact: Sharon Neitzey at 306-290-1243 sneitzey@aol.com



As members of District 23, you are cordially invited to join in the following squadron activities. If you would like to join the event, please reach out to the contact person listed for complete details.



May 2	Jacksonville Dinner Meeting, Rudder Club	Contact: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995 sportrac@bellsouth.net
May 3-5	Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival, Fernandina Beach	Contact: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995 sportrac@bellsouth.net
May 16	Daytona BeachDinner Meeting, Red Lobster, Daytona	Contact: Sharon Neitzey 306-290-1243 sneitzey@aol.com
May 18	Gainesville Raingutter Regatta Shrum's Shipyard	Contact: Laraine Teiss at 352-665-0734 movewithteiss@gmail.com
May 18	Banana River Flare Up, Melbourne	Contact: Jim Merker at 321-604-9342 edu@abcsb.org



June 7	Boaters Skip Day, Bayard Point	Contact: Jon Vanatta at 904-859-1724 vanatta1881@comcast.net
June 20	Daytona Beach Summer Dinner, Aunt Catfish, Port Orange	Contact: Sharon Neitzey 306-290-1243 sneitzey@aol.com
June 21-23	Jacksonville Summer Cruise St. Johns River Osprey Bluff to Palatka (See the flyer in this newsletter for details.)	Contact: Jon Vanatta at 904-859-1724 vanatta1881@comcast.net



As members of District 23, you are cordially invited to join in the following squadron activities. If you would like to join the event, please reach out to the contact person listed for complete details.



Port Orange

July 4 Jacksonville Cruise and Fireworks, Metro Park Contact: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995

sportrac@bellsouth.net

July 18 Daytona Beach Summer Dinner, McKenna's, Contact: Sharon Neitzey 306-290-1243

sneitzey@aol.com



August 1 Jacksonville Dinner Meeting, Rudder Club, Contact: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995

sportrac@bellsouth.net

August 17 Jacksonville Hot Dog Social, P-32 Marina 432 Contact: Buddy Poe at 904-518-2995

sportrac@bellsouth.net

August 26 ABC3 Satellite Beach Contact: Jim Merker at 321-604-9342

edu@abcsb.org