

# United States Power Squadrons®



**FORT MYERS POWER SQUADRON  
SAIL AND POWER BOATING**

## Scuttlebutt

**P.O. BOX 632 FORT MYERS, FL 33902  
3145 Royalston Avenue  
Phone - (239) 334-6650**

**May 2017**

**Web Address: [fortmyersboating.org](http://fortmyersboating.org)**

**District 22**

### SQUADRON BRIDGE OFFICERS

Commander	774-573-8486
Cmdr Bob Moro, AP bobmoro@verizon.net	
Executive Officer	508-479-6674
Lt/C Andrew Gala Jr., S andygala61@gmail.com	
SEO	239-785-0505
P/C Vic Stewart, SN vicstewart830@gmail.com	
Administrative Officer	612-418-7821
P/C Samuel Bonilla, AP Santico@hotmail.com	
Secretary	239-277-5444
Lt/C Alice Forsyth-Bowley mais@peoplepc.com	
Treasurer	612-616-6152
Lt/C Millie Bonilla, AP mbonilla_3@hotmail.com	

## **Dinner Meeting**

**Thursday  
4 May 2017**

**1800 - Social Hour (BYOB)  
1830 - Dinner      1930 - Meeting**

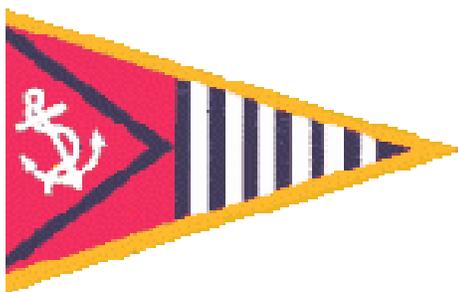
**Contact: Ken Clark 239-652-0087  
for Reservations**

**If anyone would like to make a dessert  
please let Cathy Moro know.  
(774-573-1574).**

**Don't forget your Food Drive Donation**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| P. 1 - Bridge                          | P. 10 - Cruise to Lunch Report            |
| P. 1 - Meeting Information             | P. 10 - Vessel Safety Inspection Contacts |
| P. 3 - Commander's Communication       | P. 11 - April Meeting Pictures            |
| P. 4 - Executive Officers Report       | P. 12 - C-Bells Luncheon Photos           |
| P. 5 - School House Notes              | P. 12 - FMPS Annual Picnic Photos         |
| P. 6 - Administrative Officer's Report | P. 13 - Coastal Information Day Flyer     |
| P. 7 - Secretary's Report              | P. 14 - District 22 C&R Flyer             |
| P. 8 - Safety Report                   | P. 16 - Booster Club & Scuttlebutt Staff  |
| P. 9 - Current Calendars               |   |



**Note:** Reservations are required for dinner.

Call: Ken Clark 239-652-0087

**Admission:**  
\*\*\*\* \$12.50 per person \*\*\*\*  
(dinner included)

We accept cash or check.  
Donations should be made payable to  
Fort Myers Power Squadron.  
Payment is expected for reservations  
made but not kept.

Reservation Deadline  
Monday Noon prior to meeting

No reservations needed if not having  
dinner. Come and enjoy the fellowship,  
program, and meeting!

*Need  
A New Name Tag  
OR  
FMPS Burgee?*

*Contact  
Lt/C Millie Bonilla  
at [mbonilla\\_3@hotmail.com](mailto:mbonilla_3@hotmail.com)*



# ***Commander's Communications***

*Commander Bob Moro, AP*



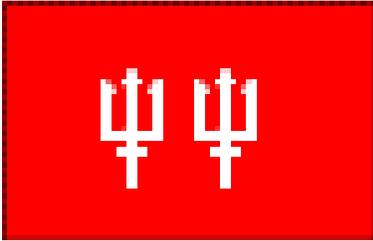
33 members and guests at our April dinner meeting, including new members Barry and Carol Ahlemeier, almost 200 Quad Squad members (and a few prospective new members) at our Boating in Local Waters presentation at Pinchers last month, a free half-page ad promoting our squadron in last month's Nautical Mile Magazine, a table full of awards from the D22 Spring Conference filling our trophy case, 19 students graduated or about to graduate from our latest America's Boating Course class, many hundreds of boating enthusiasts expected at the "Coastal Information Day" on June 17<sup>th</sup>, (with a special 2 for 1 ticket price for squadron members; go to [www.coastalinfoloday.com](http://www.coastalinfoloday.com) for more information), several FMPS boats scheduled to cruise to Lake Okeechobee on April 20<sup>th</sup>, a fun picnic with 29 members and guests and 6 boats at Franklin Locks on 4/15 with our new bean bag toss game (Built by Vic and beautifully painted by Alice.), a pot luck pool party on 4/18 at Barbara and Rich Hartz' home, a new and improved website thanks to 1/Lt. Susan Gala S, lots of positive feedback from our recent Member Survey, and on and on. We're on a positive track and having a lot of fun doing it. It's great to know that D22 thinks our Scuttlebutt is the best Squadron Newsletter in the District, but the most satisfying awards were the 2016 Growth Award Honorable Mention showing a retention rate of at least 87% and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place "Shipping Over" Award for showing the largest % of membership renewals for 2016. My thanks to all of YOU for your loyalty to our squadron.

It's sad to see so many of our snowbirds say goodbye for a while as they repeat their annual pilgrimage north, but we'll spend the dog days of summer resting and planning for a full schedule of events when they return in the Fall. I want to remind all of our snowbirds that we are available to help look after their homes and boats remaining behind if they need us. Just give me a call and we'll help you out!

We've still got a lot of work to do in establishing our own Boating in Local Waters course, moving ahead with our new sewer line and other improvements to our squadron building, and co-hosting the D22 Cruise and Rendezvous at the South Seas Plantation on Captiva in November. Our most pressing challenge is gearing up for National Safe Boating Week, May 20-26<sup>th</sup>. Most of our past volunteers and VSE's will be away for that week, so please consider stepping up to help us out as we continue planning for that event.

Cmdr Bob Moro, AP





**ANDREW GALA Jr., S**  
**Executive**  
**Officer**



I am happy to report to our Vessel Examiners and membership that last week USPS mailed to me fifty (50) additional VSC – Decals to be used by our Vessel Examiners. This process started on March 8<sup>th</sup> and required justification for the additional decals. Special thanks to P/C Sam Bonilla for his advice and also to Richard A. Quodomine, Jr. who serves as liaison to USPS on VSC issues. Richard offered to help us obtain more stickers when we met him at the D-22 Spring Conference, and he came through for us.

Also, congratulations to Dan Deml who has agreed to take on the important position of Chair for the VSC Committee to handle and process all inspection reports for our Vessel Examiners.

Vessel Examiners & Boat Owners Update

**SIRIUS SIGNAL LIGHT**

Vessel Examiners should be aware of the capabilities and approvals of the SIRIUS SOS C-1001 electronic distress light. This light is acceptable as a nighttime visual distress signal. SIRIUS has included a daytime distress flag in the SOS C-1001 packaging so that it can market the package as a solution for a combined day/night signal, and as a replacement for flares. As long as the SIRIUS Signal Model SOS C-1001 is carried in conjunction with an acceptable daytime distress signal, this satisfies the daytime/nighttime signaling requirement. All electronic visual distress signals, in order to be acceptable, must be legibly and indelibly marked with the statement: “Night Visual Distress Signal for Boats Complies with U.S. Coast Guard Requirements in 46 CFR §161.013. For Emergency Use Only”, and must also be marked with the manufacturer’s name, replacement battery type and lamp size. If an electric light is designed for use with dry cell batteries the label must advise the consumer on the battery replacement schedule, which under normal conditions would maintain performance requirements of 46 §CFR 161.013-3 When conducting a vessel safety check, all Auxiliary Vessel Examiners (VEs) and Power Squadron examiners are to check/verify this piece of safety equipment in accordance with the Vessel Safety Check Manual, COMDTINST M16796.8A. Any further questions or concerns regarding this equipment should be routed appropriately via the chain of leadership and management.

Boat Slips Available

If any member is looking for a rental, four (4) slips are available in the marina at the Caloosa Yacht & Racquet Club with direct access to the river. The slips have access to water and electricity. The depth is 5’ and can accommodate up to a 32’ boat. Current rental cost is \$7.00 per foot. Contact Bill Hasse at 239-851-0532 for more information.

LT/C Andrew Gala, Jr., S  
Executive Officer



## School House Notes

The ABC3 class started with nineteen students. Sixteen finished and passed the Exam. Thanks to Lt/C Millie Bonilla AP and Grant Esser AP for their assistance.

The Piloting exam results are in! One of the great pleasures of mine is to announce a 100% pass rate.

Please congratulate:

Lt/C Andy Gala P

Lt/C Alice Forsyth-Bowley P

Barbara Forsyth-Bowley P

And a non-member Robert McCartney P

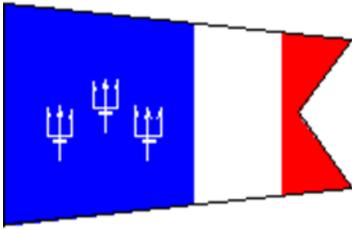
The JN class is in progress. Two new JN's are in the forecast!!

There is a rumor that FMPS will have two new USPS certified instructors very soon, Bravo Zulu to P/C Sam Bonilla AP and Lt/C Millie Bonilla AP.

As always, if you want a course call Lt/C Millie Bonilla AP or me. We will make it happen.

P/C Vic Stewart SN  
Education Officer Ft Myers





**SAM BONILLA, AP**  
**Administrative**  
**Officer**



Greetings!

Hard to believe we are coming up quickly to our mid-year point and already May is here! It has been an exciting year so far, with many activities here in our Squadron and no sooner had we returned from Orlando, after attending the United States Power Squadrons Annual Meeting; we headed out to Port Charlotte to attend our D-22 Spring Conference, 31 March and 1 April 2017. Additionally, I must admit, they were both very interesting and exciting events.

Of great interest was the Commander's Meeting held on Friday, 31 March. Cdr Al Lima, AP ran a very positive meeting and allowed a great flow of ideas and suggestions from the Commanders attending. There were lively discussions on membership, retention, and education, as well as, how squadrons utilize ABC courses as recruiting tools.

The main highlight the following day at the conference was watching our Commander Bob Moro, AP receive the many awards our Squadron was given, especially the trophy won for the best publication, our own *The Scuttlebutt*. I am truly proud of the accomplishments of our Squadron with members that are deserving of the many honors and recognition they work hard at achieving! Lastly, congratulations and best of luck to our new District Commander, Susan Lomastro, SN, sworn in at the Change of Watch in the evening.

Now after all this travelling and partying, it is back to business here at our Squadron. Maintenance issues continue at the forefront. We are almost done researching the best way to proceed with our fluorescent bulbs in the main hall. Looks as though the best option may be to replace the ballasts, use up the inventory of fluorescent bulbs, and eventually go with LED lighting. Meantime Gary Dreischerf, AP is working on upgrading our podium, and Cdr Moro, AP and Gene Kent did a fantastic job cementing the edges of the kitchen drain screen I recently repaired. Always something in our aging building, but thanks to the great teamwork and volunteer efforts by Gary, Gene and Bob!

As I write this article preparations are under way for our joint Cruise and Rendezvous to Lake Okeechobee, our joint event with the San Carlos Bay Sail and Power Squadron. The bulk of the participants will be departing on Thursday, 20 April from the Fort Myers Yacht Basin and others from points north in the river. We are looking forward to a wonderful time at the Roland Martin Marina in Clewiston. We will have as many as 32 participants in 12 boats from both Squadrons. This will be my first trip up the river past the Franklin Lock and Dam.

*"To our wonderful members and friends, thank you for your continued support and dedication to our goals and objectives!!"*

P/C Sam Bonilla, AP



## Alice Forsyth-Bowley Secretary



GOOD NEWS! Our 2017 Fort Myers Power Squadron Roster is finished and ready for distribution. Please try to make it to the May 4, 2017 general meeting to pick up your family roster. We appreciate your help in saving us the cost of mailing the rosters.

Did you hear we have the first Fort Myers Power Squadron game for our picnics and events? Thanks to Vic Stewart and Alice & Barb Forsyth-Bowley we are now the proud owners of a set of custom bean bag games. Vic made the boards from on-line instructions and Alice stained them and custom painted them with the Fort Myers Power Squadron insignia. Barb purchased the bean bags in a wonderful backpack carrier for the game. Our members had a great time at the picnic at the Franklin Locks on April 15<sup>th</sup> boating, eating and playing the game. Six boats came, many by car and enough food to feed a navy!

### A LITTLE TRIVIA

We all have heard and read about dugout canoes, lashed rafts, but how about the many varieties of boats from other parts of the world. How about ancient bamboo rafts that are still used in Asia for fishing and most recently tourism. Have you heard of reed boats? They are made by bundling reeds or thin twigs into pointy shapes like a kayak. Petroglyphs from the Mesolithic period (Azerbaijan, 12,000 - 7,000 BCE) show large reed boats, and remains of a 7000 year old reed boat were found in Kuwait. They were used in areas where wood was scarce. The most primitive examples of one-man boats made from banana leaves are found in the area of Peru and Ethiopia. Here large boats, made up of millions of Totora reeds, can support as many as 60 people. Today the reed boats are much more elaborate. They have even been known to cross the Atlantic. Reed boats are still in use in Peru and Ethiopia today. I guess the real education here is boats can and were made of whatever was available. Water is and was a means of curiosity and humans were going to use it however they could.

Information and pictures were taken from: History of Ships 2014.

Lt/C Alice Forsyth-Bowley



## Safety Report By P/C Sam Bonilla, AP

At a recent Squadron dinner meeting, I mentioned some safety issues of great concern to everyone.

There are some things to remember as we enter our golden age of boating. For starters, know well the capabilities of your body and strength when moving about and getting on and off the boat. You might want to ignore the conditions of aging, or you can be proactive and adjust your boating habits. Implement common-sense changes to help reduce the high-risk issues you will come across.

Just recently, I experienced an almost serious fall when getting off my boat simply because I thought I could easily jump over the rail, only to find that I'm not as agile as I used to be. Lucky for me, I fell into the arms of a fellow Squadron member, Barry Ahlemeier who had come over to give me a hand. Lesson learned!

Plan your exit carefully and take your time. Keep your arms and legs inside the boat whenever approaching a dock. Additionally remember that body strength and balance are not necessarily signs of aging but instead, lack of activity. Take a tai-chi class to help improve your balance. That's being proactive.

Another area of concern I mentioned was the need to insure your safety equipment on board your vessel is in good working condition. For example, check that your life jackets, visual safety devices (flares) and fire extinguishers are all easily assessable and functional. A free vessel safety check will insure you are complying with Federal and State boating safety laws, especially as it relates to safety equipment. To arrange for one, contact one of our examiners listed in this issue of The Scuttlebutt.

Finally, I explained the dangers of electric shock drowning (ESD). ESD occurs when an AC electrical current flowing in the water passes through your body while immersed in the water. This current will paralyze you and may cause you to drown. Faulty wiring on boats and docks are largely responsible for this electrical current leaking into the water. Therefore, never ever swim near a dock or boat that is using AC power. Most marinas prohibit this anyway. Especially, watch those precious young ones that like to jump in the water off a boat or dock. Keep them safe!

Boating is fun.....safe boating is better!

P/C Sam Bonilla, AP

The National Boater Safety Committee would like to request that squadron general members assist their Vessel Examiners during National Boater Safety Week. This would be a great opportunity for members to see the VEs at work and have a better understanding of their value. This would also be an opportunity for members to meet and greet the boaters with "America's Boating Club" information.

Stf/C Bob Bales, AP  
Assistant Chair Boating Safety Committee

# May 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4  Dinner Meeting 18:00	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Jim Griffith / D-22	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Leaders Meet at CCPS	19	20
21	22	23  C-Belles Luncheon	24	25  Exec Board Meeting 10:00	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# June 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1  Dinner Meeting 18:00	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Coastal Information Day
18	19	20  C-Belles Luncheon	21	22  Exec Board Meeting 10:00	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



# Cruise to Lunch



A Cruise to Lunch is a wonderful way to spend the day with your friends and fellow squadron members. Now that some of the crowds have faded, we should have a relaxed and uncrowded experience on Fort Myers Beach. Contact Cathy Moro, AP at 774-573-1574 for details and to make your reservations for this event.

**Cruise to Lunch at: Parrot Key Caribbean Grill**  
Saturday, 20 May 2017 at 11:30 A.M.  
2500 Main St,  
Fort Myers Beach, Fl. 33931

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** Take San Carlos Blvd. and then a left onto Main St. just *before* you come to the Matanzas Bridge. Parrot Key is on the right at the end of Main St.

**DIRECTIONS BY BOAT:** From the Gulf, enter the intercostal waterway at the north end of Fort Myers Beach (Bowditch Point). Proceed under the Matanzas Bridge. Follow the channel to the left past Bonita Bills and Doc Fords to Channel Marker 24. Salty Sam's and Parrot Key are on your left. You can hail their dockmaster on Channel 16.

**You can come by boat or car;  
JUST COME!**



**Do you have a VSC Decal?**

**If Not,  
Call One of the Following  
Vessel Safety Examiners**

<b>Daniel Deml, Chair</b>	<b>989-2526</b>
<b>Vic Stewart</b>	<b>239-785-0505</b>
<b>John Theofiles</b>	<b>543-1425</b>
<b>Sam Bonilla</b>	<b>612-418-7821</b>
<b>Gene Kent</b>	<b>207-314-2535</b>

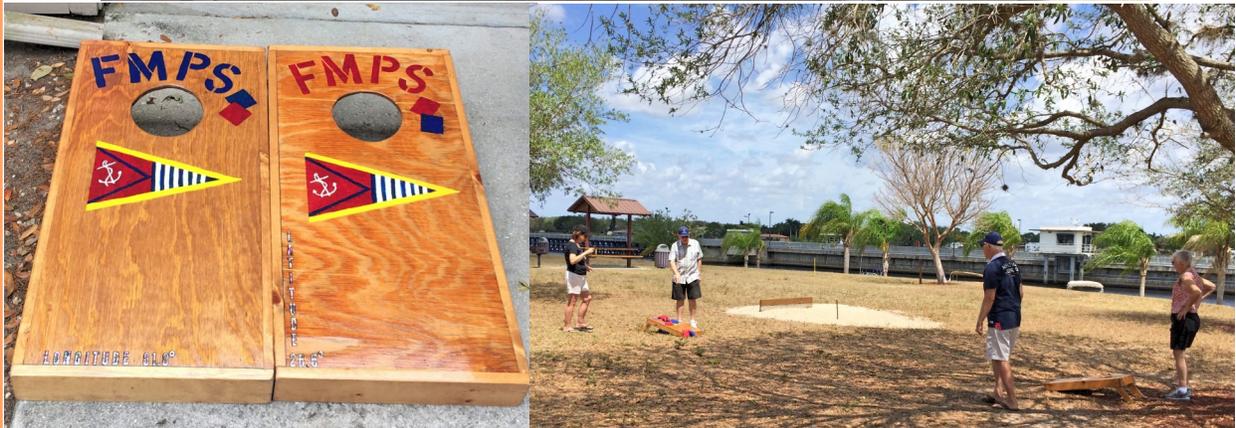
# April Meeting Photos



## C-Bells Luncheon Photos



## FMPS Annual BBQ Photos



**SAVE THIS DATE !**

**NOV  
2-5  
2017**



**D-22 C & R  
LUAU  
FLORIDA  
STYLE**

**LOCATION:  
SOUTH SEAS ISLAND RESORT**

**HOST SQUADRONS:  
CAPE CORAL SAIL & POWER (LEAD)  
CLEARWATER SAIL & POWER  
FORT MYERS POWER  
SARASOTA SAIL & POWER**

**DETAILS:  
MORE INFO IN SUMMER BEACON**

**June 17, 2017**

**Food from  
Lobster Lady,  
Ceno Grill and  
Jets Pizza**

# **SW Florida annual Coastal Information Bottled Waters included Day**



**Invited guests include:**

- Mote Marine - SW Florida Marine Industries**
- Ding Darling Society - Florida Fish & Wildlife**
- Lee County Sheriff Dept. - Captains for Clean Water**
- SW Florida Water Quality - Charlotte Aquatic Preserve**
- Cape Coral Tarpon Hunters - Lee County Visitor's Bureau**
- Local Conservation Experts - US Coast Guard**
- SW Florida Power Squadrons - Fl. Guides Assoc.**



**Representation from groups about  
who they are, what they do, goals, etc.**

**Questions, prize raffle, and PLENTY of food!**



Bring your appetite



**\$60 per person**

Please fill out and mail with a check payable to:

**Nautical Mile**

**PO Box 486 - Bokeelia, Fl. 33922**

**First Baptist Church of Cape Coral**

**4117 Coronado Pkwy, Cape Coral, FL**

**Attendee name(s):**

---



---



---



---



---

**Doors open at 9, fishing seminars  
start at 10. Speakers go on at noon,  
lunch, then another set of speakers.**

 **@NauticalMileMagazine**

**[www.CoastalInfoDay.com](http://www.CoastalInfoDay.com)**

Questions:

Jim - 980-5803 [thenauticalmile@gmail.com](mailto:thenauticalmile@gmail.com)

# SCUTTLEBUTT BOOSTERS

*Is your name listed here?  
Is your name listed here?*

Lois Taylor  
Lorraine Heck  
Howard Sherman  
Diane & Calvin Sawyer

Sam and Millie Bonilla  
Rich & Bobbie Hartz  
Bettyjean Jackson



Thanks to all who have aided the club. Our “Scuttlebutt” has thrived as a superb USPS publication. We have our talented Editor, Bill Hansen, to thank for it’s continued Excellence.

If you are not a Booster consider becoming one of us. As you are aware costs continue to rise. Help make the “Scuttlebutt” #1.

Lorraine Heck, PLt/C

*To join (or Renew )  
for 1 year ( 11 issues)  
Send your check payable to  
FMPS (\$10.00 per line)  
and see Lorraine Heck  
at the next Dinner Meeting.*



<b><u>SCUTTLEBUTT STAFF</u></b>	
<b><u>Editor</u></b>	
Lt/C William Hansen, S	822-4146
FM_Scuttlebutt@comcast.net	
<b><u>Proof Reader</u></b>	
P/C Vic Stewart, SN	694-0446
<b><u>Circulation</u></b>	
Lt/C William Hansen, S	822-4146
<b><u>Booster Club</u></b>	
P/Lt/C Lorraine Heck, P	560-9252

Send your photos and articles for our website to 1Lt. Susan Gala, P at [susanfgala@gmail.com](mailto:susanfgala@gmail.com)

---

**How to Submit to the Scuttlebutt**

All articles for publication are to be submitted in writing and sent via e-mail to the Scuttlebutt Editor at  
**FM\_Scuttlebutt@comcast.net**  
no later than the end of day on the 15th of each month. Editor reserves the right to modify materials submitted for publication.

---

**The “SCUTTLEBUTT” is published monthly (except for August) by  
Fort Myers Power Squadron  
Box 632 Fort Myers, FL 33902**