

The Chowder Chatter

**The Official Newsletter of
The Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society
Cape Coral / Fort Myers, Florida
www.cmcs-sail.org**

Next Full Moon: December 26

P.O. Box 101268, Cape Coral, Fl. 33910

December 2023

Commodore's Message



November has been good but also sad. The sad part is that Past commodore Bob Duff passed on. He will be remembered as have all the other members that have gone before us. Christa Wilson, wife of Dwight Wilson, also passed away recently. They were both very active members years ago. Dwight passed on about 10 years ago.

Talk about the Change of Watch has been the main topic this month. Jason Pim has been working on it and is asking for help from the membership. Please help us fill the vacancies for next year. We really need someone to volunteer for the Commodores position.

Commodore Bobby Lee The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19 at Rusty's. This will be our holiday meeting and election of officers for the coming year. Please plan to attend. More information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Pim family went to Pelican Bay for Thanksgiving, proving that cruising is still possible. See the report elsewhere in this newsletter. Hopefully, this will encourage others to get out in their boats again.

As I mentioned at the November meeting, I would like to start racing again. I am willing to organize races on the river between the Midpoint bridge and the US 41 bridge in downtown Ft. Myers. The first event will be on Saturday, December 9th beginning at 10 AM. These will be very informal races, probably without a committee boat at first. No pressure! Just come out and have fun!

Bobby Lee
2023 CMCS Commodore
s/v Sail La Vie

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
6:30 PM
RUSTY'S RAW BAR & GRILL
4631 SE 10TH PLACE
CAPE CORAL, FL. 33904**

2023 CMCS Officers

Commodore: Bobby Lee	Vice Commodore: Open Position
Vice Commodore – Summerset: Bev Duff	Rear Commodore – Cruising: Open Position
Rear Commodore – Racing: Scott Milligan, Art Schuller	Fleet Yeoman – Bev Duff
Fleet Purser – Julia Robinson	Past Commodore – Gary Blessing
Chowder Chatter Editor—Steve Roake	

8 Bells

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Past Commodore Bob Duff after a long illness. Bob held many positions in CMCS including Commodore in 1985 and again in 2011. He and his wife, Beverly, who was also a commodore in 2007 and again in 2013, were very active both in cruising and racing their Catalina 42 "Chase the Clouds". Bob was always helping out - especially at the annual CMCS Shrimp Festival. He will be greatly missed. A Celebration of Life will be held after the holidays.

We also learned recently of the passing of Christa Wilson. She and her late husband were very active in CMCS for many years, racing their Catalina 27 to many first place finishes.

Membership

Ahoy, sailors!

A big thank you to those who have renewed their membership for 2024. CMCS is in the process of rebuilding and in need of your support, so all hands on deck! Most Board positions are open so if you are interested in serving, please contact a board member.

You should have received notification that your membership dues will be \$40 for a regular membership (with boat) and \$25 for a crew membership (no boat). A regular membership can include members of your family. A crew membership is for an individual.

Our meetings continue to be held on the third Tuesday of the month at Rusty's in Cape Coral. Most gather about 6:30 or so for dinner and camaraderie.

As a member of CMCS, you can be as active as you choose. For the club to continue, willing members will need to come forward to take on leadership roles. Start asking yourself what your talents are that could be used by the club. How can you serve CMCS?

Just a reminder, we all need to read our emails from CMCS. That's how you will be notified of meetings, events, any changes that come along. We have a website that is a good source of that kind of info, but the tricky part comes when a change occurs. Also, be sure the contact info for you is current. If you change phone numbers or email addresses, you may not receive notifications in a timely manner.

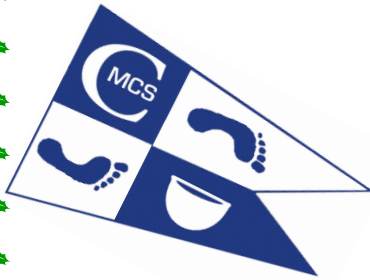
We hope you will invite friends and acquaintances to try out CMCS. We are in the process of rebuilding CMCS. If you have a thought about what path we should follow, please let a board member know.

I have decided to step down from my position on the board. If you are interested in being fleet recruiter/director, please contact me. Gary and I are planning on more travel now that he's retired and family commitments make it more difficult for me to continue in this role.

Hope to see you out on the water soon!

Jean Blessing, Fleet Recruiter

S/V Jazzy



2023 CMCS HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Come one, come all to the annual holiday celebration at the General Membership Meeting on December 19, 2023 beginning at 6:30 PM at Rusty's Raw Bar & Grill.

Jean and Gary Blessing will be our hosts.

CMCS will provide appetizers. Beverages and additional food can be ordered from Rusty's menu.

- Wear your favorite or ugliest Christmas attire
- Play some reindeer games
- Bring you best singing voice for caroling

Members are also asked to bring non-perishable food and canned goods for the Cape Coral Caring Center.
Cash and checks are always welcome!

Festive Holiday Music and Fun!

There is no cost to the members for this event. However, we ask that you respond to the CMCS meeting notice if you plan to attend to allow us to plan appropriately.

For questions and volunteer opportunities contact: Jean Blessing:

jblessingjkan@yahoo.com

Pim’s Pelican Bay Thanksgiving Cruise



The Cayo Costa beaches are open, but nothing bay-side is accessible. Cayo Costa only has beach on Gulfside open and restrooms there are also open. Nothing else. No way to walk across island from Pelican Bay, no ranger station, no concessions, no bikes, kayaks, canoes, paddleboats, no cabins, no nothing.

Approximately six sailboats and eight or nine powerboats. The sand spit had two or three boats.

The Tunnel of Love was barely passable, but we made it. There were plenty of sawed off branches and way too many mangroves completely uprooted, making it difficult to navigate. Inside at the landing area are shelves of sand! Beachside has much debris, driftwood-type. Plenty of shells, but not many good ones. The elusive Junonia did not even yield

a shard!

No notable progress was observed on starting to rebuild the ferry dock. For these reasons, the anchorage and spit were less busy than usual. The manatee pocket probably was the busiest attraction. The southern beach at the Tunnel of Love was deserted the morning we were there.

We enjoyed Thanksgiving Dinner at Cabbage Key, continuing the tradition.



The mangroves around Cayo Costa seem to be rebounding noticeably better than those further south near the mouth of the river (St. James City to Punta Rassa).

The Manatee zone at Redfish Point and Cape "yacht club" is still unposted and ignored by many.

Jason & Carol Pim

Cape Coral Boat Along Parade

Rose Ann Hoffman would like to invite all CMCS members to her condo to enjoy the annual Cape Coral Holiday Boat Parade on the Bimini Canal. This year the boat parade is on Saturday, December 16th. Please Join Rose Ann at her condo at 302 Tudor Dr. apt. 1, Cape Coral from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Please bring a lawn chair (beach chair), your own beverage of choice and a snack to share.

Please RSVP to Rose Ann (239)540-1911.

Rose Ann Hoffman
s/v Sea Isle

CMCS ELECTIONS

It's that time of year again when we begin planning to turn over leadership of CMCS to a new team. The process includes seeking nominations for officers and directors from the general membership. If you have been thinking about getting involved or you know of someone who would be a great addition to the leadership team, now is the time to act.

Due to our late schedule, nominations will be accepted from the floor at our December 19 meeting. Any member of CMCS in good standing is eligible to serve as long as there is no conflict of interest. If a member is nominating someone, we ask that you have that persons permission to do so.

- Commodore
- Vice Commodore
- Vice Commodore - Summerset
- Rear Commodore - Cruising
- Rear Commodore - Racing
- Fleet Yeoman
- Fleet Purser
- 4 two-year directors
- 4 one- year directors

Voting will be done by paper ballot. If there are no contested positions, voting will be done by majority vote with a show of hands. Each member has one vote. A credentials committee consisting of two CMCS members will be appointed to conduct the election.

News from our members



David Naumann (right) replaced his 36 foot sailboat, Jolly Mon, with 36 inch radio controlled sailboat, Jolly Jr.

Elise Missall (Left) continues to crew but her rig of choice (a Harley) is a little faster now.



Ladies Bridge Club

Yes! We have been inactive lately, but it's time for The Ladies Bridge Club Holiday Party! Mark your calendars:

When: Tuesday December 5th at 6:00 PM

Where: My home, 1411 SW 53RD LN, Cape Coral 33914

What: Bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$25 for our Pirate Swap Gift Exchange. We are all nice until we swipe our friends' coveted goods with glee! ARRRR!

What else: BYOB. Bring an hors d'oeuvre/finger food or dessert to share

RSVP to me before the 4th at donandjoan@mindspring.com or call/text me at 239-233-0448.

Why: Because girls just wanna have fun!

Carpool if you can. So looking forward to seeing you.

RoseAnn Hoffman was asking if there is any interest in doing another swamp walk at Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery. We did that a few years ago and it was amazing but only if you LIKE mucking around up to your hips in the swamp. Just a straw poll - let RoseAnn know what you think. It can be open to all members, not just the ladies.

Joan Perkett

CMCS CHANDLERY

It's time to gather the boating stuff you no longer need and list it in our newsletter chandlery. The cost is free to members. Text and pictures are welcome. Please try to submit items for sale by the 20th of the month so they can appear in the newsletter.

C.M.C.S . CHANDLERY ***Buy, sell, trade***

Members, to advertise your boating-related items free in the CMCS Chandlery, e-mail Steve Roake, Chowder Chatter Editor at steve@theroakes.com or use your roster for telephone information.

Your ad will be listed for 3 months unless you notify me to take your listing out sooner.

Non-members are welcome to advertise their items at a price of \$30.00 for 3 months.

Business cards or business related listings sent in digital format only :

Members: 3 months, \$25.00

Non-members: 3 months, \$50.00

Send a check made out to C.M.C.S. to :

Chowder Chatter Editor, P.O Box 101268, Cape Coral, FL 33910