

# **The Chowder Chatter**

**The Official Newsletter of  
The Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society  
Cape Coral / Fort Myers, Florida  
[www.cmcs-sail.org](http://www.cmcs-sail.org)**

Next Full Moon: March 7

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

March 2023

## **Commodore's Message**



Commodore Bobby Lee

Time marches on! We did not have a February Board of Directors Meeting due to a conflict with Valentines Day. (I guess there are still some romantics amongst us!). The February General Membership meeting was held again at Rusty's Raw Bar. Business was brief, socializing was extensive! Most discussion revolved around future meeting venues. There seemed to be a consensus around moving the general meetings to the Cape Coral Power Squadron but perhaps have regular social gatherings at Rusty's. After checking with the Power Squadron, they indicated that they were not ready yet for us to meet there. We'll continue to follow this. Our March 21 meeting will therefore again be at Rusty's. Our April General Membership will be an Open Grill Night held outdoors at the Edison Sailing Center. See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.



The Board is planning to send out one or more questionnaires to all members in the near future. The need for good responses is very important to aid CMCS leadership in determining the current state of CMCS membership. Over time, the demographics of our membership has changed. This has been accelerated and exacerbated by recent social events such as the pandemic and Hurricane Ian. The recent Board of Directors has waived membership dues for 2023, making it more difficult to determine the current composition of the Society. This survey attempts to provide some guidance to our leadership moving forward.

On a personal note, I moved Sail La Vie to Port Labelle Marina to keep her in fresh water until the Edison Sailing Center docks are re-built. No sailing so I've been riding my motorcycle a lot!

I truly enjoy the camaraderie at the membership meetings. It's great meeting with the members and hearing their stories.

See you at Rusty's on the 21st!

Bobby Lee  
2023 CMCS Commodore  
s/v Sail La Vie

### **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	

**Storekeeper’s Report**

The transition to on-line purchasing is moving forward! Members can now purchase a few articles via the on-line store on the CMCS website. Payment is with a credit card and goods will be delivered at the following general membership meeting or by special arrangement with the Storekeeper. As interest grows, so will the variety of items made available. If you have any special requests or ideas, please contact Gay O’Keefe via e-mail or talk to her at one of our meetings.

Storekeepers  
Gay and Patrick O’Keefe



Don & Joan + Bev On the road at Babcock



Sandhill Cranes at Babcock Ranch

**LADIES BRIDGE CLUB**

February’s activity was an Eco Tour of the Babcock Ranch in a “swamp buggy”. Due to the tour’s popularity and phone issues at their office, only five of us were able to take the tour.

The history and ecology of the ranch are fascinating. The wildlife was plentiful since the swamp is drying up due to lack of rain, lots of alligators, sandhill cranes, wild hogs, deer and more. Another interesting aspect is the community developing up there. It’s the first solar-powered city in the United States. The Lake House was good for lunch too.

On Wednesday, March 8 the CMCS ladies will meet at Jason’s Deli for lunch at 11:30. The address is 2311 Santa Barbara Blvd in Cape Coral. We need some fresh ideas for the Ladies Bridge Club since our boat numbers are dwindling and water activities are limited right now. Let me know if you will be attending so we can save you a seat.

Keep an eye out for emails regarding spontaneous activities that may be popping up.

Yours truly,  
Joan Perkett, Ladies Bridge Club Chairperson  
[donandjoan@mindspring.com](mailto:donandjoan@mindspring.com)



Bald Cypress Trees at Babcock Ranch

## **CRUISING AND RACING NEWS**

A show of hands at the last meeting indicated that CMCS members were receiving e-mails from Gulf Coast Sailing Club announcing their activities including some novel ideas such as a day-trip boat rental flotilla to the Ten Thousand Islands area. They have been very gracious reaching out to CMCS after Ian. Support them if you can and please report back on your experiences!

In addition to racing programs at GCSC in the Naples area, Punta Gorda Sailing Club is hosting their annual Conquistadors Cup Regatta on March 10-12 in Charlotte Harbor. Contact PGSC for additional details and entry information. Land Cruisers are also welcome!

## **Summerset**

Summerset is still an "if". Many of our members homes and boats were damaged or destroyed by hurricane Ian. Some members have left the area.

It's never too early to start planning for the Summerset Regatta in October!

The Parrot Key Caribbean Grill at Salty Sam's is now open, although the marina itself is still being repaired. Bonita Bill's will be re-opening soon! Dixie Fish House is also open now. Pink Shell's marina is gone with no immediate plans for replacement. Moss Marine is open for limited business.

Let's get pumped up for an exciting return to a very special post-Ian Summerset Regatta!

Many of the 2022 sponsors have kindly allowed us to keep sponsor dollars for youth sailing programs. Edison Sailing has had a huge loss of boats and equipment needed for their programs.

The club needs volunteers NOW to help Bev Duff get the program rolling. Please call Bev to tell her you will help out!! We need everyone to pitch in to help. There is so much more to do to rebuild this program.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

As noted in the Commodore's message, all members will be receiving one or more questionnaires via e-mail in the near future. Please take the time to respond to the questions and return the questionnaire(s) to us. Our club is at a cross-roads. We need to chart a course that will successfully lead our club into the future. We need everyone's help to achieve this.

## **Member News**

Keep fellow members informed of your story. We all have some stories to tell—whether it's about sailing, Ian or your travel adventures.

Send the newsletter editor your story for publishing in the newsletter. Your fellow members would enjoy hearing about you.

Send your news to: [steve@theroakes.com](mailto:steve@theroakes.com).

## **Membership and Recruitment**

Jean Blessing is our membership chairperson this year (again!) It is especially difficult to attract and retain members even during the "normal" times. Now it is really a challenge when we don't even have a regular meeting place or established schedule of events. Please give Jean all of our support. Talk up the club to your fellow boaters. Invite them as you guest to one of our meetings. Getting more people involved is the lifeblood of our organization!



# **CMCS LIBERTY ASHORE OPEN GRILL NIGHT AND POTLUCK**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

**Attention: Please note new location for this event**

**Edison Sailing Center  
North Shore Park  
13001 N. Cleveland Ave.  
Fort Myers, FL. 33903**

[www.edisonsailingcenter.org](http://www.edisonsailingcenter.org)

**This event is free to all members and guests**

CMCS's Liberty Ashore Team will provide the following:

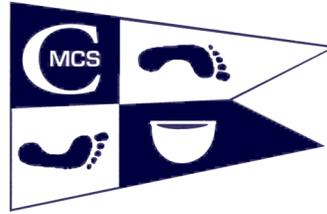
- Hot Grill
- Charcoal or other fuel
- Grilling utensils
- Disposal Plates, Cups, Napkins, and Cutlery
- Condiments

**Grills will be fired up and ready for you to cook the protein portion of your meal beginning at 6:30 PM**

**All attendees should plan to bring the following:**

- The protein portion of your meal that you wish to grill
- A Potluck dish to share: vegetable, salad, appetizer or desert (serving 6 people, or more)
- If your last name begins with A-M: a salad, side or appetizer
- If your name begins with N-Z: a dessert
- Your own beverages

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN COUNTY PARKS**



**HAPPENINGS**

March 10-12	PGSC Conquistador’s Cup Regatta
March 14	CMCS Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
March 21	CMCS General Membership Meeting - Rusty’s
March 23	Chowder Chatter Deadline
March 25	GCSC Naples Classic Regatta - BOTY
April 1	GCSC Bunny Hop Regatta
April 9	Easter
April 11	CMCS Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
April 18	CMCS General Membership Meeting– Open Grill Night
April 22	NSYC Messmer Cup- BOTY
April 23	Chowder Chatter Deadline
April 28– 29	Jerry Pim Bloody Mary Cruise / Pim Memorial Estebel Race
April 30	Bloody Mary Brunch-Location TBA
May 5	CMCS Cinco de Mayo Party
May 9	CMCS Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
May 16	General Membership Meeting TBA
May 23	Chowder Chatter Dedline
May 25-29	Danger Island Cruise

**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](mailto: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