



# THE EAGLE'S EYE

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 4 [www.marcoboatingclub.org](http://www.marcoboatingclub.org) April 2020

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

Little did those of us in attendance at the March dinner meeting know that that would be the last time we'd be together as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic! We welcomed three new members into the club that night. Jerry and Nancy DuFresne and Bill Russo are our newly installed members. Our speaker that night was Patrick O'Donnell, a research scientist from Rookery Bay Estuarine Research Center, who specializes in sharks. His very interesting talk covered how the Picayune Strand renovation is affecting the salinity of the water going into Faka Union Bay, Fakahatchee Bay and Pumpkin Bay and the impact it has on the types of fish in that area. The estuaries in the 10,000 Islands are important breeding grounds for many fish, crustaceans and reptiles so the health of the water is important to the survival of these species. The most common shark found in these areas is the Bull Shark. More photos from the dinner are on pages 9 and 10.



Commander Bob Smith, AP swears in new members Jerry and Nancy DuFresne



Commander Smith and our speaker Dr. Patrick O'Donnell



New Member Bill Russo



Chief Murphy introduces our speaker



New members Nancy and Jerry DuFresne

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**THE EAGLE'S EYE DEADLINE:** Members and Bridge are encouraged to submit material to the Editor by the 15th of the month or as requested by the editor. *The Eagle's Eye* is the official publication of the Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron with ten issues yearly.

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# Coming Events 2020

April (All April events have been cancelled!)

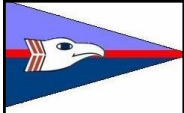


May (Be sure to check the website to insure that May events will go on as scheduled)

5/2	Mini Golf Tournament, Marco Golf & Garden	1700 p. 06
5/2	Golf Awards Dinner, La Tavola (following mini golf)	1830
5/5	Cards at the Condo, Learning Center	1300 p. 14
5/9	Cruise & Picnic, Panther Key	1100 p. 07
5/13	Executive Board Meeting, Learning	0900
5/13	Captain's Meeting, CJ's on the Bay	1700 p. 04
5/19	Silver Trident's Breakfast, Hoots	0830
5/19	Cards at the Condo, Learning Center	1300 p. 14
5/23	Cruise & Lunch, Snook Inn	1200 p. 07
5/27	Captain's Meeting, CJ's on the Bay	1700 p. 04

June

6/2	Cards at the Condo, Learning Center	1300 p. 14
6/6	Cruise & Lunch, Little Bar	1200 p. 07
6/10	Executive Board, Learning Center	0900
6/10	Captain's Meeting, CJ's on the Bay	1700 p. 04
6/16	Silver Trident's Breakfast, Hoots	0830
6/16	Cards at the Condo, Learning Center	1300 p. 14
6/20	Cruise & Picnic, Keewaydin	1130 p. 07
6/24	Captain's Meeting, CJ's on the Bay	1700 p. 04



**THE EAGLE'S EYE EDITOR**  
Lt Marcy Marinelli, P

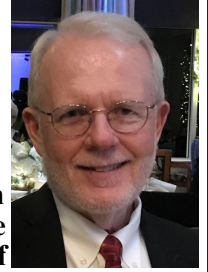
Due to all our events being temporarily cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis, we will not be sending out our monthly reminder postcard in April. Any important information about club activities will be sent out in an e-blast or will be updated on our website.

You may notice that The Eagle's Eye has a new masthead. Our Executive Board felt it was time to redesign our masthead to reflect the change to America's Boating Club-Marco Island and remove the reference to Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron. I think the new masthead has a cleaner look, while still preserving the elements that it had before.



**COMMANDER**  
Bob Smith, AP

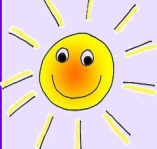
April is the cruelest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.



So begins T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" written nearly a century ago in 1922. The sentiments in the poem were generally inspired by the devastation of World War I. During the past few weeks we have been hurtled unexpectedly into a frightening war with the Coronavirus. We all hope we can avoid the virus but that is not possible unless we take decisive and sustained actions to severely limit our social contacts during the coming months. For us as a Boating Club this means curtailing our educational programs, suspending Vessel Safety Checks and ceasing the many activities we enjoy doing with each other.

Dale Carnegie said "When fate hands you a lemon, make lemonade." While we can't take classes for the foreseeable future, we can certainly promote our continuing education by reviewing books and course material from previous classes we have taken. I know there is a lot of material in my America's Boating Course and Seamanship books that I can review to refresh my personal knowledge base. Though we can't get a Vessel Safety Check right now, we can all sharpen our safety IQ's by reviewing several of our Safety Officer's articles from past Eagle's Eye publications and by viewing the many boating safety videos from America's Boating Channel available through America's Boating Club's national website.

Let's try to spend some quality time each day focusing on these and other positive activities we can enjoy. Please stay safe by following the latest CDC recommendations and let's let each other know if there is something we need or can do for each other. I know that our members are ready and willing to contribute to the common welfare of us all.



**SUNSHINE NEWS**

We haven't had any reports of members with illnesses or losses this month. Everyone stay healthy and avoid the corona virus!



Please let me know of anyone who is sick, injured or deceased. I will send a card in the name of the squadron.  
AnnMarie Ryan  
908-313-8357  
annmarieryan@att.net




**Captain's Meeting**  
**"Meet & Greet"**  
*everyone welcome!*  
**CJ's Gazebo Bar**  
**at the Esplanade at 1700**  
**on the 4th Wednesday**  
**of the Month (March and**  
**April cancelled!)**

**Contact**  
**Sonya Benson at**  
**414-617-5718 Or Email:**  
**sbensonwi@gmail.com**







**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Lt/C Wanda Burson, S

With all the uncertainty in our Nation and the World it is hard to keep up with all the cancellations and closings. I do find it difficult to focus on everyday events, but that is what we need to do. I want to bring you up to date on what has happened this past month.



Your Ways and Means Committee has completed the first planning meeting of the year. Some of the strategies are getting more people involved in all phases of the Wine and Hors d'oeuvres fund raiser. We want to identify someone in all the major condos to handle ticket sales for us. We would like to advertise our Captain's meetings with photos in the papers.

The Supply Officer reports that the boat totes are being well received as well as the women's long sleeve crew neck shirts. She will be happy to special order many items for you.

The Vessel Safety Check department has completed 126 boats to date with 21 of those being member boats. If you or your neighbor has not had your boat inspected, give them a call and set it up.

You should watch the papers for articles from the club. The Marketing and Communications Committee will be sending these articles in as part of our new marketing initiative.

Several events in our community have been cancelled including the District 22 conference for the time being. Business will continue through conference calls.

We should take this time to look at all the beauty that surrounds us here on this beautiful Island. Go take a boat ride or a long walk. Let us use this time to relax, gather our thoughts and appreciate what we have. Most important let's take care of each other and be good to each other.

As for me, I must keep reminding myself that a dish of ice cream will not make it all go away. Until next time, be cool.



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
Lt/C Steve Riley, S

With the cancellation of all our club activities for the month of April, I've had to revise my report! We had planned a dinner dance for our April dinner meeting as a way to recognize the end of season. Obviously that has been cancelled but we have decided that we will start our fall season of meetings with the rescheduled dinner dance at the October meeting. Entertainment will be provided by the Greg Miller Band and we hope to see many of you there.



We celebrated the life of member Bryan Mordecai on March 12th. Twelve boats joined together to scatter his ashes in the Gulf of Mexico. The photo below shows the fleet of boats that went out to scatter Bryan's ashes. A gathering was held at the home of D/Lt/C Andrea Battaglia, SN later in the day. Lots of happy memories were shared about Bryan, especially about his love of fishing and his generosity in sharing his fishing coordinates. He will be missed.

All the District conference activities have been cancelled. We'll know more about whether anything will be rescheduled at a later date.



Photo courtesy of Ed Bauer

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We've gained 19 new members in the past couple months. Hopefully when we are all back together again we can give them all a proper welcome. Here is a list of the new members of America's Boating Club-Marco Island:

Carol & Jeff Comeaux ; David, Robert & Victoria DiMella; Lee Dorrison & Dwyn vonBereghy; Jerry & Nancy DuFresne; Joseph Kistner; Michelle & Rhodie Niblack; Bernard & Marsha Pointer; Bill & Linda Russo; Paul Sweden; and Cynthia and Geoffrey Walker. Welcome to all!





## EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Tippy Cavanagh, SN

This has become a trying time for all of us due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

For the safety and health of our students and instructors, we have suspended all education classes until further notice.



I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all our instructors who have given their time so willingly to our education program.

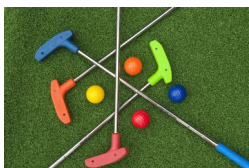
Since “social distancing” has been recommended and there’s no sports to watch on tv, why not watch some of America’s Boating Channel videos on YouTube? New titles are being added all the time. Some of the latest include Docking, Stopping a Boat on Plane, Anchoring a Boat, Navigation Rules FAQ and Life Jackets for Children. The Channel is also presenting videos covering the US Sailing Team as it prepares to compete in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

This morning I was so excited to see three planets (Saturn, Jupiter and Mars) and the crescent moon all together in the southeastern sky. This is a great time to brush up on your astronomy knowledge.

I’m glad that I have been stockpiling yarn for my knitting! Stay safe and be well!

## MINI-GOLF TOURNAMENT IN MAY

Assuming things are back to normal in May, our annual Mini Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd at 1700 at Marco Golf and Gardens on Winterberry Drive. The awards ceremony/party is scheduled to follow at La Tavola after the golf tournament (approximately 1830). You don’t need to participate in the golf tournament to come to the awards ceremony/party. Mark your calendars now for this fun event and we’ll all keep our fingers crossed that the Corona Virus is long gone!

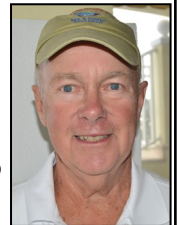


## SAFETY OFFICER

Lt Ed Bauer, S

### Visual Distress Signals

All boaters should familiarize themselves with the various distress signals and the pros & cons of each. U.S. Coast Guard regulations require powerboats 16 feet and over and sailboats 26 feet and over to have three unexpired day/night flares on board.



Most boaters are familiar with the handheld flares specifically designed for boating. Other types of flares include flare pistols, which shoot flares into the air, and small floating cans of smoke-producing flares for daytime use.

Each type of flare has different benefits. Airborne flares can be seen from greater distances, so if you are stranded, they might be best at alerting boats that are farther away. Handheld flares pinpoint your location; use them when another boat is reasonably close and heading in your direction. Use smoke flares in daytime only as the orange smoke is more visible in bright daylight than regular flares, however, they don’t count toward the Coast Guard’s three-flare requirement.

Consider buying more than one type of flare: handheld, smoke, airborne or parachute. Combination kits contain a variety of devices and an orange flag, which can be useful in bright daylight. Also, consider buying the new. Coast Guard-approved electronic flare device which satisfies the three day/night flare requirement. Electronic flares are much safer than conventional flares and can save you money in the long run. For night use only, electronic flares come with an orange signal flag for day use. Don’t forget to ensure your batteries are fresh.

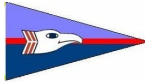
Always wear protective gloves and hold handheld flares overboard when in use or carry a pole to keep them away from passengers and the boat’s deck. In a pinch, you can tape the handheld flare to the end of a boat hook and hold it overboard to light it. Don’t let the flare burn down too far or it could catch your pole on fire or damage your boat hook.

Unused, expired flares can still save your life; save a few of your recently expired flares for emergencies, even though they don’t count for compliance purposes. Dispose of very old flares as you would any other hazardous material. Call your local fire department or recycling center. Be sure the hazardous waste collection folks know you are giving them a box or bag of flares.

*Some content from ABC Cape Coral Squadron*



# Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron Boating Activities



Boating Chair: Lt Nick Rago, AP at (860) 798-4141  
 Boating Assist. Chair: Dan Marinelli (240) 606-1119



**\*\* Call the Lunch Chair for reservations at the restaurants  
 Sonya Benson at 414-617-5718 Or Email: sbensonwi@gmail.com**

**Before cruising, make sure you have your vessel safety check!**

**(April cruises have been cancelled due to COVID-19)**

9 May	Cruise & Picnic, Panther Key	1100
23 May	Cruise & Lunch, Snook Inn	1200
6 June	Cruise & Lunch, Little Bar	1200
20 June	Cruise & Picnic, Keewaydin	1130

If you'd like to go on one of these trips, but don't have a boat, contact the cruise captain who can connect you with someone willing to give you a ride!



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## CRUISE AND LUNCH AT DOLPHIN TIKI BAR

It was a cool, blustery Saturday, but it didn't deter a group of ABC-MI members from cruising to lunch at The Dolphin Tiki Bar. Cruise Captain was Don Cates. Thanks to P/C Tom Morr, AP for the photos of the group.



**Julie & Steve Riley, Sonya Benson, Don Cates, Bill Hughes, Jennifer Jewett**



**Nick & Debbie Rago, Mark McFadden, Carl & Sheila Thieme, Mary Alice Wilson, Susan & Ed Bauer, Lindsay McFadden**



**P/C Carl Thieme, JN & Lt Sheila Thieme**



**Lt Susan & Lt Ed Bauer**



**Julie & Lt/C Steve Riley, S**



**Lt. Sonya Benson & Lt Don Cates**



**Lt Nick Rago, AP & Debbie Rago**



**Mark McFadden, S & P/C Carl Thieme, SN**



**P/C Bill Hughes, JN & Jennifer Jewett**



## MARCH DINNER MEETING



**P/Lt/C Lori Williams, S, Lt/C Wanda Burson, S and Jerry Williams, S**



**Lt Ed Bauer & P/C Carl Thieme, SN**



**Debbie Rago, D/Lt Teri O'Connell, JN, P/C Lee Harkness, AP**



**Jennifer Jewett, P/C Bill Hughes, JN, and Lt/C Steve Riley, S**



**Lt Susan Bauer and Jerry Williams, S, exchanging money for a purchase in the Ship's Store**



**Lt Kathleen Reynolds, AP, P/C Gene Burson, JN, and P/C Tippy Cavanagh, SN**



**VSC Co-Chairs Lt John Salotto and Lt Dan Marinelli, P**



**Cdr Bob Smith, AP and Lt/C Meg Smith, AP**

## MARCH DINNER MEETING, Cont.



**Lt/C Lindsay McFadden, S and Lt Sheila Thieme**



**Lt Nick Rago, AP and 1/Lt Bill Krepein, S**



**Lt John Salotto talks about VSCs with 1/Lt Mary Kreppein, S**



**D/Lt Teri O'Connell, JN, D/Lt/C Andy Battaglia, AP, and Debbie Rago**



**Guests were greeted at the door by Lt Don Cates, Lt Dorothy Harkness, S, and P/C Tom Morr, P**



**It was another beautiful evening at the Yacht Club**





**Chief Commander**  
C/C Mary Paige G. Abbott, SN-IN

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

March 17, 2020

COVID-19 continues to challenge us as we all desire a return to 'normal' with ourselves, our families, our communities, and our squadrons. We must, however, proceed to 'hunker down' (hurricane preparation lingo) for a while. All is not lost; there are things you can do to not just entertain yourself during this downtime, but to educate yourself. For instance, take a look at our online offerings:

Courses and Seminars <https://americasboatingclub.org/learn/online-boating-education>

America's Boating Channel – view all of the YouTube videos <https://americasboatingchannel.com/>

Become a Vessel Safety Examiner! Study the manual and take the exam online

<https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/12000/12900>

Member Benefits – have you looked at all of them recently? You can be saving \$\$\$

<https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/14000/1450001/benefits-alphabetical>

**UPDATES: from the Board of Directors and Executive Director:**

1. Our headquarters building in Raleigh will be closed the remainder of this week. Calls and emails will be monitored. A message was sent to all district and squadron commanders today.

2. Also, with regard to squadron and district meetings, votes, changes of watch, etc.: while we do not have a formal (unbelievable, I know, given the size and scope of our Operations Manual and Bylaws) procedure for conducting business when a national emergency has occurred, the National Committee on Rules position is “...for squadrons and districts to conduct business by the best available means while preserving the safety and security of our members”; thus you may make use of electronic means.

3. The Educational Department is in the process of creating a Virtual Meeting Indoctrination seminar which will be sent to all district and squadron commanders. Target: in hands early next week!

4. Vessel Safety Examiners: The USCGAux has recommended that examiners suspend performing Vessel Safety Checks until further notice. We support that recommendation.

I wish you fair winds, calm seas, and good health.

**Mary Paige Abbott**

Chief Commander

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# America's Boating Club, City of Marco Island, Collier County, and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Successfully Work Together for Improved Boater Safety—Part 2

By Lt Kathleen Reynolds, AP

**Editor's Note:** This is the second of a three part series about the work America's Boating Club-Marco Island is doing to improve boating safety in our local waters. A special thank you to Lt Kathleen Reynolds, AP, for authoring this document.

In 2015, MISPS leadership, recognizing the still ongoing and serious need for ATON repair, asked former Commander Carl Thieme to Chair a revived group, now named the Cooperative Charting Committee. The Committee of 14 squadron members would develop a current data base identifying needed repairs, replacements, or repositionings. The Committee also invited local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 95 to join them in this effort. Critical to the eventual success of these efforts was building working partnerships with the US Coast Guard, Collier County Coastal Zone Management Group, and the City of Marco Island's Department of Public Works. All three agencies are responsible for ATON maintenance, but in different geographic areas.

The long term goal of the Cooperative Charting Committee was to make information on the condition of ATONs readily available on the internet to key government agencies and to the boating public. Committee member Cliff Winings developed (and to this day, continually refines) the data base and monitoring system needed to accomplish this goal; he has recently, for example, integrated current data with Google Earth so that each agency and the public can locate each ATON by its GPS coordinates and then see its actual condition.

Carl and Committee Member Andrea Battaglia, attended every meeting of the City of Marco Island's Waterways Committee for some ten months starting in 2015, and reported each month on the survey's most updated findings.

At a meeting of the Waterways Committee, Carl gave a Power Point presentation about the significant state of ATON disrepair. He also gave a brief overview of the elements being recorded in the survey process, with emphasis on the location and condition of damaged or missing ATONs. Presentations included a series of photographs of ATONs in the Marco River, Caxambas Pass, and around the Coon Key light. Worsened conditions could be demonstrated due to the availability of the data base compiled by MISPS members nine years earlier. After significant effort and communication with city and county staff and with the US Coast Guard and its Auxiliary, at the February 2016 meeting of the City of Marco Island's Waterways Committee, responsibilities for ATON maintenance were finally defined.

Most recently compiled data shows that for an area from Capri Pass in Marco to Lostmans River, approximately 20 nautical miles south of Marco Island, there are 320 ATONs. Collier County has responsibility for 215 of those; the Coast Guard for 68, and the City of Marco Island for 37. Basically, all ATONs in Collier Creek, Collier Bay, Smokehouse Bay and Factory Bay are the responsibility of the City. Other ATONs around the City, not owned by the Coast Guard, are the responsibility of Collier County.

Tim Pinter, Public Works Director for the City of Marco Island, acknowledges that it was a confusing time prior to clarifying agency responsibility for ATON maintenance. When an understanding was reached, then City Manager Roger Hernstadt authorized the initiation of needed work. In 2016, the City replaced 6 Idle Speed, No Wake signs, and 11 Markers. In 2017, 12 Idle Speed, No Wake Signs, 7 Markers, 4 Danger Shoal signs, and 4 Water Depth indicators. In 2018, 7 Idle Speed, No Wake signs, and 8 Markers, and 1 Marker in 2018 and another in 2019. That work will restart when the nests are vacated. Mr. Pinter also noted that the completed MISPS inventory of signs and markers in and around the island, including those in the Marco River and around Goodland was useful for the location and maintenance of damaged or destroyed signs or markers. Estimates of the survey work done some years prior suggested that the volunteer efforts completed by MISPS members could have cost the City of Marco Island upwards of \$300,000. The survey also provided the City with the location of illegal or unnecessary signs placed on private docks or seawalls. The City is now working with Code Enforcement to have those signs and markers removed.

(Continued on page 13)



## ATONS AND BOATER SAFETY, Cont.

(Continued from page 12)

Carl Thieme and his team, including Lee Konecke, Navigation Officer and key liaison with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Marco Island's Flotilla 95 also pursued a corollary track related to ATON identification and maintenance with Collier County. They met numerous times over several years with Chris Darco and Bryan King from Coastal Zone Management (CZM), and presented them with all of the information that had been found. Prior to an April 2019 meeting with CZM, several Cooperative Charting team members met to establish four priority levels among the ATONS needing repair or replacement. In addition the data base was refined by identifying ATON locations by their geographic channel designation on Chart 11430 as well as by their GPS coordinates.

Collier County's Coastal Zone Management staff basically agreed with the Cooperative Charting Committee's findings and the initially determined priorities; a limited number of changes were made during discussions. The consensus was that the critical criteria for priority ATON replacement / repair must be related to improving boating safety. For example, on the Blackwater River, there are ten ATONS on the chart, but five of them are missing and it was agreed that these should be replaced and two ATONS should be added to better mark the entrance to the river. A second example was the entrance to the Port of the Isles where the distances between some ATONS was too great to assure accurate channel markings for proper navigation. Third, in Caxambas Pass, a new Green Marker #5 with a light was needed in addition to a new outer mid-channel marker to be placed one to two miles out in the Gulf to mark the beginning of the entrance to the channel. Coastal Zone Management staff determined a focus on repairing or replacing ATONS that needed the most immediate attention. Of the 215 ATONS for which Collier County has responsibility, 48 were identified as being in poor condition and 36 in fair condition; of those, currently, 55 have been repaired or replaced. The repairs included installing new signs, straightening or removing 20 piles, and installing 17 new fiberglass piles.

In the May edition: next steps in the project.



## Dinghy page . . .

Miscellaneous news from America's Boating Club-Marco Island



**Ship's Store**



**540-817-5745**

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**Burgees, shirts, hats,  
jackets & totes**

**Call or see Susan Bauer**

## Boating Maintenance to do during a Pandemic!

If you're looking for things to do in these days of social distancing, here are some boating maintenance ideas that you could add to your project list:

- ⇒ Check your first aid kit and restock any needed items
- ⇒ Check your PFDs
- ⇒ Check your fire extinguishers
- ⇒ Deep clean your boat's surfaces. I've found that *Mold Armor* (available at WalMart) works really well on those pesky black mildew spots on my vinyl.
- ⇒ Inspect running lights, hatches and deck fittings for worn out caulk, dirt, water trails or green corrosion.
- ⇒ Test your bilge pump and high water switches.
- ⇒ Check VHF and GPS antenna connections.
- ⇒ Inspect your props.

Some content from BoatUS.

## "Hand, Knee & Foot" Card Game

Call: Lt Dorothy Harkness, S at 642-3575  
 Email: dorothisharkness@embarqmail.com



Easy to learn this fun game ... nice to play while on cruises. Socialize with members of the squadron, give Dorothy a call ... 642-3575

Cards dates will be at MISPS  
 Condo on the 1st and 3rd  
Tuesdays at 1300.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to the following ABC-MI members who are celebrating this month!

George Engstrom 4/1  
 Rudy Landwaard 4/4  
 Bernard Pointer 4/4  
 Mary Dyroff 4/5  
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1. INLAND ONLY For the purpose of the Inland Navigation Rules, the term "Inland Waters" includes \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the Western Rivers
- b. the Great Lakes on the United States side of the International Boundary
- c. harbors and rivers shoreward of the COLREGS demarcation lines
- d. All of the above



2. BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND Which statement about the Navigation Rules is TRUE?

- a. The rules require vessels to comply with Traffic Separation Scheme regulations.
- b. The rules use the term "safe speed."
- c. The Rules permit a stand-on vessel to take action prior to being in extremis.
- d. All of the above are correct.

3. The best method of determining if a vessel is dragging anchor is to note \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the amount of line paid out
- b. how much the vessel sheers while at anchor
- c. any change in the tautness of the anchor chain
- d. changes in bearings of fixed objects onshore

4. What is meant by "spotting the boom"?

- a. Lowering it into a cradle
- b. Placing it in a desired position
- c. Spotting it with wash primer and red lead
- d. Two-blocking it

Answers: 1 d, 2 d, 3 d, 4 b

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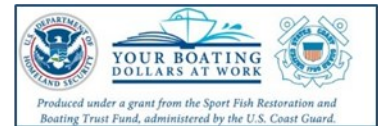
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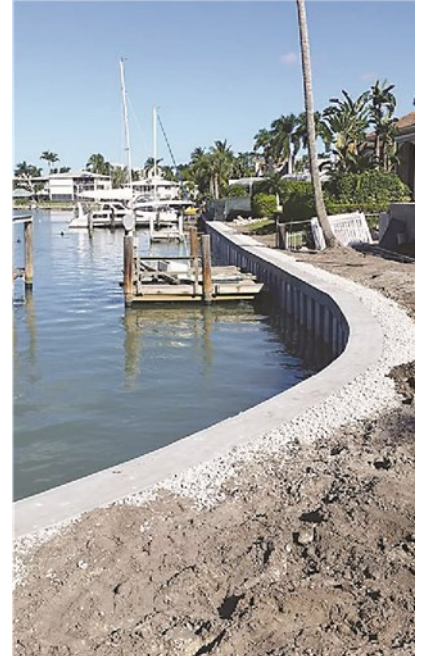
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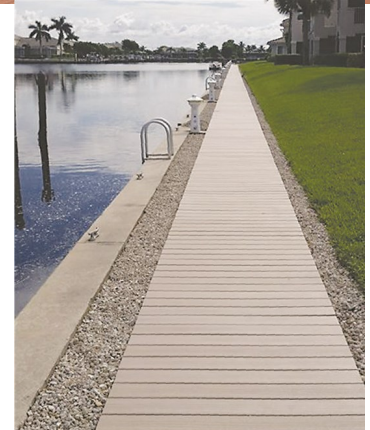
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