



Coastal BREEZE news

America's Boating Club Change of Watch

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Submitted



Submitted Photo | From left, front row: L/C Lindsay McFadden, Treasurer; L/C Meg Smith, Secretary; 1/Lt Kathleen Reynolds, Assistant Secretary; Lt/C Tom Ryan, Education Officer; 1/Lt Steve Riley, Assistant Treasurer. Second row: Commander Thomas Morr; Lt/C Bob Smith, Executive Officer; Lt/C Wanda Burson, Administrative Officer and 1/Lt John Maciolek, Assistant Education Officer. Not pictured: 1/Lt Sonya Benson, Assistant Administrative Officer.

America's Boating Club – Marco Island installed its 2019-20 officers, board and committees at a Change of Watch Ceremony held at the Marco Island Yacht Club on February 13, 2019. This is the Fortieth Change of Watch transition in the organization's history and the first since the Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron re-branded in 2018 as America's Boating Club – Marco Island.

"It takes a Squadron, working together, to organize and conduct the fun events, courses, and services that build the boating community of this island paradise," said Thomas G. Morr who was installed as the Club's Commander for the coming year. "We want Marco's residents to enjoy watersports. We invite all boaters to join us," Morr said.

Bridge Officers installed at the event include: Thomas G. Morr, Commander; Robert N. Smith, Executive Officer; Wanda Burson, Administrative Officer; Sonya Benson, Assistant Administrative Officer; Thomas R. Ryan, Education Officer; John Maciolek, Assistant Education

Officer; Margaret Smith, Secretary; Kathleen H. Reynolds, Assistant Secretary; Lindsay J. McFadden, Treasurer; and Steven W. Riley, Assistant Treasurer.

Installed with the Bridge were Executive Committee members: Earl N. Haldeman, III, John J. Salotto, Donald L. Cates and Gene C. Burson.

An additional 27 leaders assumed committee chairs, committee membership and other responsibilities for the year, bringing the total leadership team to 41.

"Volunteers are the key to the success of America's Boating Club – Marco Island," Morr said. "All of the Squadron's 165 members will contribute time, effort and/or resources this year to make boating fun and safe here. If you want to be a worthwhile part of an active group, this is the place to be."

Two weeks ago, more than 50 members organized the Club's highly successful annual Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres fundraiser to support the non-profit's education program. "It takes teamwork to put on an event like this which makes it fun and builds lasting friendships among Club members," said Morr.

District 22 Commander Donald Cook, Manatee Sail and Power Squadron, recognized the success of the Squadron and swore in the newly-selected leaders.

"Marco Island has successfully grown its membership, increasing by 5.6% in 2018," said Cook. "That is good news. The challenge now is to encourage those and all members to be even more active participants in your activities, community service project and skill development courses," Cook stated.

Outgoing Commander Gene Burson thanked Club members for creating during his watch a strategic plan, new committees and better metrics to measure the organization's success.

"I leave the role of Commander knowing the Bridge and Club have a bright future of growth and success," Burson said. "Being the Club's leader has been a pleasure and rewarding."

"Gene Burson has helped the Club grow its membership, civic activities and boating events," said Morr. "He has done a terrific job leading our fund-raising to support our education program and he spear-headed creation of a new council of all the boating organizations on the island. Congratulations Gene on a job well done!"

Making boating fun and safe is a key purpose of America's Boating Club – Marco Island, Morr explained. Knowledgeable and confident boaters make Marco boating safer for everyone, he said.

"We offer free vessel safety checks to any boater on the island, outstanding courses to educate boaters and help them develop boating skills and the Club's members survey the condition of

aids to navigation (Markers) to help various governments assure that channels and hazards are properly identified,” said Morr.

The Club organizes numerous boat cruises and a full schedule of social events for its members to have fun and sharpen their boating skills. “This is a boating club with a purpose,” Morr stated.

MISPS is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, that is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, a 104-year-old, 346 chapter national boating organization that teaches boating skills and navigation, conducts vessel safety checks, assists Governments in identifying defective aids to navigation and promotes fun and camaraderie among boaters of all kinds.

For information about membership contact Peggy Reiss at 239-213-8686. For a free Vessel Safety Check contact John Salotto at 703-864-5528. For information about skill development courses and registration contact Tom Ryan at 239-887-1556. Additional information is available at www.marcoboatingclub.org.