



NEWS RELEASE

December 4, 2018

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AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB - MARCO ISLAND ANNOUNCES BOATING SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR THE 2018-2019 SEASON

MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA – America's Boating Club – *Marco Island*, today announced its upcoming boating courses for the 2018-2019 Season.

America's Boating Club – *Marco Island*, also known as the Marco Island Sail and Power Squadron, offers a number of courses at its **Learning Center** located at 1114 North Collier Boulevard, Marco Island.

“America's Boating Course helps boaters learn skills to become successful and safe boaters,” according to Tom Ryan, the Boating Club's Education Officer. “It also satisfies the Florida requirement that anyone born after January 1, 1988 must complete an approved boat safety course and obtain a Boating Safety Education Identification Card in order to operate a vessel of ten horsepower or greater in Florida Waters,” said Ryan.

America's Boating Course meets for five 2.25 hour sessions over two and a half weeks. The next course begins on December 4, 2018. Future courses begin on January 7 and March 4, 2019.

Other courses or seminars on the schedule (see attached chart) include Anchoring, Rules of the Road, Charting/GPS, Weather and Partner in Command, VHF Radio and more advanced courses such as Piloting and Engine Maintenance.

All courses are taught by United States Power Squadrons certified instructors who are members of the America's Boating Club – *Marco Island*. Instructors are experienced and familiar with the waters around Marco Island, Ryan stated.

“Some insurance companies give discounts on boat coverage if the operator has completed a state-approved safety course,” said Ryan.

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“We want every boater here to know this is a club dedicated to them and to safe fun in Marco Island’s waters,” Gene Burson, Club Commander, stated. “Since 1978, the Marco Island Squadron has taught thousands of people to safely operate their vessels and has organized numerous boat outings and social events to help our members enjoy boating here,” he said.

America’s Boating Club – *Marco Island* helps people gain the knowledge, confidence and skills to be better boaters, Burson said.

For more details about the Club’s courses, please visit www.marcoboatingclub.org or call Tom Ryan at 239/887-1556.

America’s Boating Club - *Marco Island* 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 federal, state and local governments in identifying defective aids to navigation and promotes fun and fellowship among boaters of all kinds.

For information about membership please contact Peggy Reiss at 239/213-8686. For a free Vessel Safety Check contact John Salato 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.

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Attachment



2018 - 2019 Season Educational Program

Course/Seminar	Start Date(s)	Number of Sessions per Course/Seminar
America's Boating Course	12/4/18 1/7/19 3/4/19	Five
Partner in Command	12/5/18	One
Engine Maintenance*	1/3/19	Nine
Weather Seminar (Overview)	1/3/19	One
Piloting (Coastal Navigation)*	1/7/19	Eight
Anchoring	1/10/19	One
Weather Course (Reading and Forecasting)	1/11/19	Eight
VHF Radio	1/17/19	One
Boat Handling (Seamanship)*	1/28/19	Seven
Charts and Global Positioning Systems (GPS)	1/29/19	Two

*Limited to America's Boating Club – *Marco Island* members

For information about skill development courses, pricing and registration contact Tom Ryan at 239/887-1556.