

America's Boating Club Offers Educational Courses

Our waterways and beaches are just two of the many attractions of Marco Island. Many residents as well as visitors enjoy boating and other watercraft activities, and America's Boating Club- Marco Island, is proud to be one of the premier organizations that offers both educational and social opportunities on the Island.

The Club offers many educational courses and seminars that are open to the public. All taught by certified instructors, courses include: *America's Boating Course* which teaches basic boating knowledge, what to do when meeting another boat in a crowded waterway, and how to recognize and handle hazards; *Boat Handling*, which focuses on understanding the Nautical Rules of the Road, Docking and Undocking, Anchoring, Emergencies on Board, Knots and Line Handling; and *Marine Navigation*, which focuses on navigation on recreational boats using GPS as a primary tool while also teaching traditional techniques so a boater will still be able to find their way should their GPS fail. While most of the courses are classroom based, the Club does offer On-the-Water training, too.

Seminars include information on use of VHF/DSC radios, what to do if your captain is incapacitated and you find yourself "Suddenly in Command", along with how to prepare your boat for a hurricane.

In addition, the Club offers free Vessel Safety Checks conducted by certified Vessel Safety Examiners. The Examiner makes recommendations as well as discusses safety issues to help make you a better, safer, boater. Items checked on your vessel include: proper display of numbers, proper registration documentation, PFDs/life jackets, visual distress signals, fire extinguishers, ventilation, navigation lights and sound producing devices.

The Club provides many other benefits, all with the goal of making boaters and boating safer and more enjoyable. Additional details are available at marcoboatingclub.org. For more information about classes call Tippy Cavanagh at 239-248-5815; to schedule a vessel safety check call John Salotto at 703-864-5528.

