



Newsletter Vol 2 #4 July 2026

Commodores Corner

Tim's away but will be back for the next meeting.

We will be looking for a member to chair the nominating committee – Its really not hard ...please volunteer!

Happy boating!

Tim Podley

General Meeting

The next General Meeting will be on August 4 at the Power Squadron. 5:00 'happy hour', 5:30 meeting starts, 6:00 Pizza!

Upcoming Boat Trips Rear Commodore Bob Purrone
(Sanibelbob1@comcast.net)

The calendar of upcoming trips is on page 2

Vice Commodore's Report Ted Clark(tedclark12@gmail.com)

Why Is Our Boat Club Membership Shrinking?

I recently conducted an informal member survey to better understand why our boat club membership appears to be shrinking. The answers point to several challenges, not one single problem.

Cost is a major factor. Dues are only part of it. Captains face fuel, maintenance, and insurance costs, while members consider fuel contributions and meals. For retirees, fixed-income members, and seasonal residents, even small increases matter. Restaurant discounts may help make outings more affordable.

Comfort also matters. A day on the water can be wonderful, but sea sickness, rough water, heat, humidity, and fatigue can make some members hesitate before signing up again. I know, I know—it's Florida—but comfort still counts.

Variety is another issue. If trips feel too familiar, interest can fade. Sightseeing cruises, wildlife viewing, educational outings, sunset trips, and guest-friendly events could add fresh energy.

Trip length and timing are also important. Some members prefer shorter outings because of fatigue, mobility limits, doctor's appointments, family responsibilities, or work schedules. A mix of short, medium, and longer trips may help—though we know this can be challenging for captains.

Health and accessibility concerns cannot be ignored. Balance, stamina, illness, and limited mobility affect participation. Safe docks, easy boarding, and helpful captains and crew make a real difference. Members with temporary mobility limits may also choose to drive to destinations.

Snowbirds, employment, and other commitments also affect attendance. Many members are here only part of the year, while others juggle jobs, caregiving, churches, civic groups, charities, and social clubs. Time is limited, so participation must feel worthwhile and manageable.

The good news: some of these challenges have solutions. More flexible trips, improved accessibility, careful attention to cost, and more variety could help strengthen the club.

The E-Board has also decided to begin a recruiting campaign, starting with a presentation at the New Residents Club (NRC) this fall, when many snowbirds return and NRC membership grow

Land Activities Ann Banash (ahbanash@gmail.com)

Working on an activity for August – more details later.

Ideas for new activities are always welcome!

Membership Update Judy Hartig (judyhartig01@yahoo.com)

Our roster is 110 members now. If you know someone who would be interested in joining the Club, please bring them as guests to a meeting or boat trip and contact Judy for the application.

Potluck: Kate Rouse(k.rouse54@gmail.com)

Kate will contact everyone in the Club for the General Meetings and will let you know what to bring to the Potluck. You **MUST** respond to her!!!! We will also be looking for volunteers to sit at the check-in table. Carolyn Clark has volunteered for every meeting and will be looking for helpers for the next meeting. Please volunteer – it's a great way to get to know our members. . Also remember to sit at the table you are assigned to when you check in.

Galley Margaret Dorin (margaretdorin@comcast.net)

Margaret has asked that members **do not** bring crockpots as there aren't enough outlets to accommodate all of them and not enough room on the serving tables Please try to bring the aluminum pans that fit into the chafing pans that we have that will keep food hot. (they are called half-sheets and can be purchased at the Dollar Store) Also, when the meeting is done, please pick up any of your food that is left, please don't leave it for the Galley crew to throw away!!!

Clothing Sales Peggy Talbot (PTPEG@aol.com) and Fran Hoden (jfhodes13@gmail.com) co-chairs

The new iron on decals that can be put on any shirt that you own will be available at General Meetings or by contacting Peg or Fran. Cost is \$8.00 for the logo for dark or light shirts. \$3 for the flag or \$10 for both.

Compassionate Care Pat Zeidman (patriciazeidman@gmail.com)

If you know any members who are ill, having surgery or have suffered the loss of a loved one, please send an email to Pat as soon as you have information.

Calendar

Destination Chairperson: Bob Purrone (239) 691-5850. sanibelbob1@comcast.net or Ed Wallach (954) 649-6791 edwfla127@comcast.net **AS ALWAYS, DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

Please remember to respond promptly when you receive the notice and include your phone number!
Also remember that if the trip becomes a drive trip because of weather, everyone who signed up for a boat is expected to drive to the restaurant as they offer add staff to accommodate our group.

August

Tuesday August 4: General Meeting (Pizza)

Friday August 7: Breakfast

Thursday August 20: Phuzzy's

September

Friday September 11 Doc Fords

Wednesday September 23: Pinchers @ Edison

October

Tuesday October 6: General Meeting

Friday October 9: Parrot Key

Monday October 19: Junkanoo

November

Thursday November 5: Green Flash

December:

Tuesday December 8th: Holiday Party

Thursday December 10 Barnacles at Mainstay