

VHF MARINE RADIOS

Marine VHF radios have channels (CH) whose frequencies are designated by the FCC. A VHF radio is a line-of-sight communication system.

EMERGENCY RADIO CALL is on CH 16. To signal distress (extreme danger to life or property), say **MAYDAY** 3 times; tell boat's name 3 times. After Coast Guard responds, give position, compass bearing, tell problem, how many people on board, and condition/description of boat.

To call another boat, call on channel 16. When you make contact, switch to one of these working channels: CH 68; CH 69; CH 71; CH 72, or CH 78.

Sea Tow offers an **Automated Radio Check Service** using CH 27. Conduct a radio check (Sea Tow 3 times; Boat name 3 times; radio check 3 times). Upon releasing the mic, Sea Tow will automatically return your message.



In Florida, bridges use CH 09; locks use CH 13.

RED! Right! Return!

"The 3 R's" of the US Aids to Navigation System:

When entering a smaller body of water from a larger body (ie, Gulf to Bay OR Bay to Canal), keep the **red** navigational markers on your starboard (right) side; keep the **green** markers to your port (left) side.

Square navigational markers are **green** and odd-numbered; triangular navigational markers are **red** and even-numbered.

The I.C.W. (IntraCoastal Waterway)

The ICW runs parallel to the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from Manasquan Inlet, NJ to St. Lucie, FL, across to the gulf, then north to the Mexican border. Aids to navigation marking the ICW are markers with yellow symbols which distinguish them from other aids marking other waters.

The Rule of Thumb: **Red Earth** --- **Green Sea**
RED Navigation aids = land side (earth)
GREEN Navigational aids = sea side (water)

FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECK



The Sanibel-Captiva Sail & Power Squadron offers a **FREE** Vessel Safety Check. The VSC Program helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to the carriage of safety equipment while raising boater awareness about safety and environmental issues through voluntary contact by a Vessel Examiner.

To set up a **FREE** Vessel Safety inspection, email Safety@SanibelCaptivaSPS.org.

"Hey! Let's Be Safe Out There"

-Sgt. Phil Esterhaus, "Hill Street Blues"

•Join [Sanibel Captiva Sail and Power Squadron](http://SanibelCaptivaSailandPowerSquadron.org).

Email: Commander@SanibelCaptivaSPS.org

- Study and carry Chart 25 E.
- It's shallow Out There!
- Follow markers whenever possible.
- Know the tide stage.
- Study chart before entering unknown water.
- Create GPS route to navigate unknown water.
- Leave a GPS track.
- Learn to read the water:

Color changes and surface changes = Caution

Flats are large expanses of shallow water:
Do not cross!

Bars are generally tan color. Stay clear!

Grass humps appear darker than surrounding water. Beware!

An area of unusually fast water may indicate under-water obstruction. Proceed slowly.

It's easier to read water on sunny days. Use caution on cloudy days.

PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCHES

SANIBEL ISLAND: Just east off the Causeway bridge on Sanibel (239-572-3700)

PUNTA RASSA: Off McGregor Blvd., just before Causeway Tollbooth (239-765-6794)

PINE ISLAND COMMERCIAL MARINA:
6001 MARIA DR. (239-229-7367)

MARINAS

Sanibel:

SANIBEL Harbor MARINA (239-437-1660)

TARPON BAY EXPLORERS (239-472-8900)

'TWEEN WATERS (800-223-5865)

Captiva:

CASTAWAYS MARINA (239-472-1112)

JENSEN'S MARINA (239-472-5800)

McCARTHY'S MARINA (239-472-5300)

SOUTH SEAS MARINA (239-777-3625)

WATERFRONT RESTAURANTS

(offering dockage)

Sanibel:

GRAMMA DOT'S (239-472-8138)

Captiva:

THE GREEN FLASH (239-472-3337)

'TWEEN WATERS (800-223-5865)

SOUTH SEAS ISLAND (239-437-1659)

North Captiva:

BARNACLE'S (239-472-1200)

Pine Island:

WATERFRONT (239-283-0592)

WOODY'S (239-283-5555)

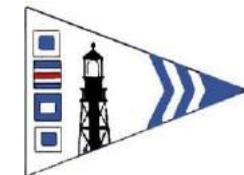
Punta Rassa:

THE LIGHTHOUSE (239-489-0779)

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On the Waters Of Sanibel – Captiva



Sanibel-Captiva Sail & Power Squadron, Inc.

is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of boating safety and education in Lee County, FL, a Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®, District 22.

JOIN US! Go online to:

www.sanibelcaptivasps.org

www.usps.org

S.C.S.P.S

The **Sanibel Captiva Sail and Power Squadron** welcomes you. We meet on [Sanibel Island](#), but draw members from Captiva and the near-island areas of Ft. Myers. If you are interested in learning about boating and boating safety, you will certainly want to take one of our courses.

In addition to education, we have fun day and overnight cruises - you can participate even if you don't own a boat. We are the largest organization on Sanibel but have room for you!

Our members are part of a boating family comprised of some 30,000 members and 375 squadrons of the [United States Power Squadrons® \(USPS®\)](#), America's largest non-profit recreational boating organization.

As part of its effort to promote safe boating, the Squadron has developed this brochure

Life Jackets

A wearable U.S. Coast Guard-approved Life Jackets of the proper type and in serviceable condition are required to be onboard for **each** person in a boat, including canoes and kayaks.

Florida requires a child under the age of 6 to wear a U.S.C.G.-approved Type I, II, or III Life Jackets while onboard a boat under 26' in length while the boat is underway.

Life Jackets of all sizes are available – **free of charge - for temporary use**. They are available at the Sanibel Fire and Rescue Station (2351 Palm Ridge Rd., Sanibel). These are provided by the Sea Tow Foundation.

Towing Services & On-the-Water Assistance

Boat US (800) 888-4869

Sea Tow (800) 473-2869

ON THE LAND & ON THE WATER:

Safe boating requires you to be alert. So before you cast off and throughout your cruise, you must:

Monitor the Weather!

Via any electronic device, the following apps will provide you with up-to-the-hour weather conditions and forecasts:

The Weather Channel
(www.weather.com) OR
NOAA Hi-Def Radar
Cast

Note: Your cruise may take you beyond electronic range; that is when you must rely on your marine radio.



Check the Wind Speeds!

Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation has three weather stations providing “real time” measurement of wind direction, speed, and gusts. These buoys are in Redfish Pass, Ft. Myers waters, and Gulf of Mexico (Ft. Myers Beach).

Again, on your electronic device:
www.recon.sccf.org

Check the Wave Heights!

Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation has a wave buoy located about three miles west of Blind Pass providing “real time” measurements of wave heights, periods, and direction in the Gulf.

Again, on your electronic device:
www.recon.sccf.org

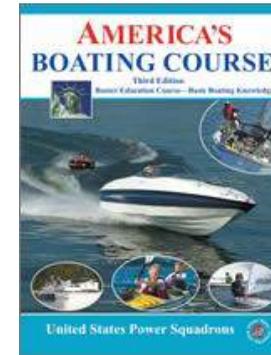
Know the Tides & Currents!

Seasoned boaters attest to the necessity of knowing daily tidal & current information and applying that knowledge to their boats' routes. Local tide and current information, as well as charting information, is available online, from numerous sources. Most GPS system have this.

IMPORTANT! THE SANIBEL CAPTIVA SAIL and POWER SQUADRON'S website

(www.sanibelcaptivasps.org) contains sources for information on Marine Weather, Local Tide Graphic, NOAA Tides and Currents, and Region 7 Notices to Mariners.

America's Boating Course



If you are interested in an exciting, in-depth boating-knowledge course, check out *America's Boating Course*. (**A.B.C.**) offered by the Sanibel-Captiva Sail and Power Squadron at local sites. This course covers:

• Introduction to Boating;

• **Boating Law:** boating regulations; required boat safety equipment; operating safely; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft requirements, etc.

• **Boat Safety Equipment:** personal flotation devices (“life jackets”); fire extinguishers; dock lines; first aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; and other boating safety equipment.

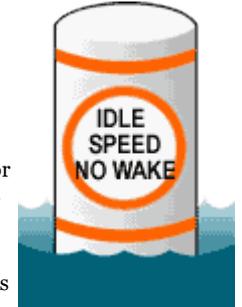
• **Safe Boating:** entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; and general water safety.

• **Navigation:** the U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; PWC “tunnel vision.”

• Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete *America's Boating Course*. This basic boating-knowledge course will give you the education Florida requires to obtain a state boat license or operator certificate.

Advanced courses and seminars are available for those who want to strengthen their boating skills. For info, contact the squadron at Education@SanibelCaptivaSPS.org

SLOW ... NO WAKE



The waters surrounding Sanibel-Captiva are noted for being shallow, filled w/ marine wildlife (specifically, manatee), and laced w/ narrow channels. As a result, knowing and adhering to critical markers is essential to safe boating.

Throughout the bays and channels are orange and white aides used to alert vessels to various warnings and regulations. Adhere to these US Coast Guard aides:

“**Idle Speed**” is the lowest speed at which a vessel can operate and maintain control.

- 100' of Sanibel Causeway
- 500' from shoreline
- 500' offshore of any water-oriented structure
- Any area designated as an official NO WAKE- IDLE SPEED area

“**Slow Speed**” is the speed at which a vessel is fully off plane and not producing a wake that endangers other vessels.

FISHING ON OUR WATERS

It's easy to get “hooked” on fishing in Sanibel-Captiva: great fishing surrounds us.



Resources to guide your excursions:

• **FISHING LICENSES:** For current information, go to www.floridaconservation.org.

• **REGULATIONS & TIPS:** www.leewaterways.com

• **FISH IDENTIFICATION:** www.leewaterways.com

• **SANIBEL ISLAND FISHING CLUB:** www.sanibelislandfishingclub.com