



November 2024

[Click the blue “back to top” link at end of each article to return to the TOC](#)

Table of Contents Links

View from the Helm: Success at the Boat Shows2

CAPCA 2025 Elections – Vote December 2!3

Speaker Summary October 28: Captain Bob Schwartz, “Occoquan River: Working Together to Keep the Waters Safe”4

Meet the Captain: Brian Morgan5

Fall 2024 Boat Show Report6

Program Director Report for November 20247

Hurricane Helene9

Coast Guard Foundation Activates Emergency Disaster Relief Program9

Continuing Education10

Jobs Program Report for October 202410

CAPCA Female Captains Meeting Report for October 202411

“Ahoy” from Your Membership Director11

ABYC Happenings12

Safety Snapshot: Stay “Face Up”14

Four African Stowaways Survive 2,000 NM Trip on Rudder of MSC Boxship15

Negligent Captain Pleads Guilty in Fatal Charter Boat Capsizing on Hudson River15

U.S. Reaches Settlement for Over \$100M with Owner, Operator of *Dali*15

Tropical Atlantic Weather Briefings on YouTube16

U.S. Coast Guard Changes MMC Format16

Print Your Membership Card17

Your Nautical Knowledge Quiz17

Website Spotlight: Members Kit Menu Tab18

USCG New Online “Launch and Recovery” Charting App19

Busy People Volunteer: What Are You Doing?20

The Speakers Bureau is Now Self-Service for Members and Clients20

The CAPCA Mentoring Program Is Now Self-Service21

Earn rewards for recruiting new members!21

Uninspected Passenger Vessel Exams22

Worldwide Port Information22

BOATU.S. East Coast Alerts – Free to BoatU.S. Members22

UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS and OTHER INFORMATION23

CAPCA’s Crew Registry Program23

Visit the Ships Store. It's Almost Winter.....	25
Current CAPCA Board and Assistants.....	25
The Log Staff.....	26

[back to top](#)

2024 CALENDAR - in progress



November 19, 2024: [Leadership for Captains](#), Elks Lodge, Annapolis. 12 are required to conduct this class. **Registration closes Nov. 9 at 11 p.m. (2300).**

December 2, 2024: Fall Business Meeting for **Members Only**. Quorum needed. Vote on slate of nominees for 2025. **See p. 3.**

Watch for updates to the calendar on the [CAPCA website](#).

The CAPCA calendar, with details of all CAPCA speakers, courses, and events, is available on the website on the CALENDAR menu tab. It's updated as new information becomes available.

[back to top](#)

View from the Helm: Success at the Boat Shows



By Captain Tony Tommasello, CAPCA President

I want to give a special thanks to Alan Karpas for his creation of an attractive eye-catching booth, and to Carl Bart for managing our budget and ensuring that payments were made to secure

the materials used at the booth. In addition, all the volunteers who staffed the booth performed a much-needed service. Booth visitors were greeted with smiles and good conversation.

As a result of all these efforts, between the powerboat show and the sailboat show in Annapolis 55 attendees provided their phone number and email address indicating a desire to be contacted and given information about CAPCA. Twenty-one of these were from out-of-state, several from Florida, one from Georgia, and one from Washington State. The adoption of broadcasting our meetings using Zoom technology allows CAPCA to include in our meetings



Cindy Flowe and Carl Bart at the Spring Boat Show with the old display.

members and the public for whom the drive to Annapolis is too far and at times frustrating given the traffic.

I believe our boat show participation was a good use of our time and money. Obviously, the booth attracted more than the 55 who left their contact information. We greatly increased our visibility and explained to many visitors the value of earning a captain's license, becoming a CAPCA member, or using CAPCA's services.



CAPCA's New Boat Show display October 2024

The booth banner and podium were a one-time expense that can be used for years to come in future shows. Additional shows may also be in our plans, for instance the Trawler show. Volunteers will be needed for all these events. Based on my own experience, I can testify that meeting booth visitors is a bright spot in the day. It offers an opportunity to learn of another's

boating experience, share my own story, offer my enthusiasm as a CAPCA member, and express a reason for them to join or use CAPCA's services.

See the Boat Show Report on p. 6, below.

[back to top](#)

CAPCA 2025 Elections – Vote December 2!

These positions will be voted upon at the [Fall Business meeting on Dec. 2nd.](#)

We need a quorum for the vote to be valid. Please plan to attend the meeting at the Elks Lodge in Annapolis on December 2, 6:45. Zoom attendance will also be possible; the link will be posted November 25 on the CAPCA website.

One year Term:

President	Tony Tomasello
Vice President	Davis Jones
Asst. VP	Greg Pabst
Secretary	Bob Thomson
Treasurer	Carl Bart (term extension)

Con Education Director **need nomination (send names to president@capca.net)**

Jobs Program Director	Laura Olsen
Membership Director	Phil Gauthier (term extension)
Webmaster	Dave Sire(term extension)

NEW POSITIONS

Member at Large
Member at Large
Member at Large

Hilary Ranney-Howes
Robert Dolittle
Alan Karpas

[back to top](#)

Speaker Summary October 28: Captain Bob Schwartz, “Occoquan River: Working Together to Keep the Waters Safe”



By Captain Bob Thomson, CAPCA Programs Committee

I like to think that I keep myself well-versed in the NavRules, but I also like to mentally test myself when I encounter situations that occur less commonly. Among a number of take-aways from the October program, I was prompted to check my knowledge of what rules apply to *any* vessel (in this context, a human-powered craft), compared to the rules for power-driven or sailing vessels. The context for this month’s presentation is Virginia’s Occoquan River, a tributary to the Potomac about twenty miles south of Washington, DC. The nature and density of marine traffic on the Occoquan, and wide range of boating knowledge of the waterway’s users,

suggest that while the NavRules are always important, some additional frameworks may be helpful to promote safety on the water.

Our speaker, CAPCA member Captain Bob Schwartz, put the Occoquan operating environment in perspective with these considerations: six marinas, two boating clubs, two boat rental facilities, multiple launch ramps, and a tug and barge operation, all in a no-wake zone on a very narrow waterway, with choke points at highway and rail bridges. An additional challenge is that not all of these boaters (such as operators of non-motorized craft) are subject to Virginia’s boating safety education requirements and therefore may have little or no knowledge of the NavRules or other relevant regulations.

As the Safety Officer for the Prince William Yacht Club, Bob was among those who noticed a sharp increase in water traffic in 2020, perhaps related to the effects of the COVID pandemic. The pleasant day on the water that is often our purpose in boating was becoming a source of tension and misunderstanding between the various types of users, along with elevated safety risks. Bob spearheaded the formation of the Occoquan River Safety Forum to bring a wide range of stakeholders together to address these issues and develop recommendations for increased safety and cooperation. Forum participants include various country marine units, police, fire departments, marina and club operators, Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary, boating associations, and other government agencies.

The goals for the Safety Forum include educating boating user groups, making individual boaters aware of good safety practices, reducing tensions, and promoting coordination and response among federal, state and local agencies. Bob noted that one important approach to defusing tension is to overcome confusion about “right of way” between boats by making operators aware of the importance of the Rule 2, Responsibility, in the Inland Rules. At a more basic level, especially for

boaters who are exempt from the state's boating safety education requirements, it is important to promote general awareness and application of the NavRules.

The Occoquan River Safety Forum meets twice a year, framing recommendations for the coming boating season in March and evaluating outcomes in November. Those interested in learning more about the Forum, or who may be thinking about applying this model to their locales, are encouraged to contact Captain Schwartz at robert.schwartz20009@gmail.com or 202-271-8975. Bob also invites any interested persons to attend the Forum's next meeting on November 14, from 9:00 am to noon, at the Prince William Marina.

You can watch the video of the presentation on the CAPCA YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6poAqYZnAc>

So, going back to my introduction above, here is your test: you're operating a power-driven vessel and a paddle craft is crossing from your port side; which vessel gives way? See me at the CAPCA Fall Business Meeting on December 2 and your prize will be a lively discussion!

[back to top](#)

Meet the Captain: Brian Morgan



Captain Brian Morgan is a lifelong sailor whose love for the water has defined his retirement aspirations. After a 40-year career at Raytheon spanning many different positions, he retired as a Program Area Director. Brian decided to pursue his passion for the water more fully. He currently resides outside of Dallas, on Lake Ray Hubbard and is a member of Rush Creek Yacht Club. He and his wife Julie maintain an apartment in downtown Annapolis they enjoy during the boating season.

Before his retirement, Brian acquired a Shannon 38 SRD, which became the vessel for a year-and-a-half adventure cruising the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. This journey set the stage for his retirement dream to explore the east coast and Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) from the Florida Keys to Massachusetts. In 2023, Brian and Julie realized this dream, completing the cruise that was filled with breathtaking views, unforgettable experiences, and cherished memories.

Brian embraced a new retirement endeavor—captaining small boats for Watermark, a premier boating tour company in Annapolis. This spring, he obtained his U.S. Coast Guard 50GT license, allowing him to share his passion for the water with others. He views his role as captain not just as a job but as an opportunity to inspire guests to appreciate the rich maritime heritage and natural beauty of Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay.



Annapolis holds a special significance for Brian. He had never visited the city until his son showed interest in attending the United States Naval Academy (USNA). It was during his son's time at the academy that Brian first experienced the charm of Annapolis, and he quickly fell in love with its vibrant boating community and decided to immerse himself in the local maritime culture.

When he's not out on the water, Brian values spending quality time with his family, traveling, and sharing stories of his journeys.

[back to top](#)

Fall 2024 Boat Show Report

By Alan Karpas, Boat Show Committee Chair

We had a good, but not great, booth location for both Fall boat shows. The good news was that we had the same place for both shows. Mike Dodd helped me put the booth together on Wednesday, 10/2 at 0900. Took about 1.5 hours for the two of us to put it up.

We had decent traffic for both shows considering that and the fact that the only people stopping were those interested in finding out who we are and what we do.

Powerboat Show

A very special "Thank You, Volunteers" who helped at the booth:

Wednesday – 10/2 Booth setup:

Alan Karpas, Mike Dodd

Thursday - 10/3:

Bill Washington, Tony Tommasello, Bill Washington, Paul Harmina, Erin Manor

Friday - 10/4:

Pat Stadt, Jenifer Fritz, Joe Garrett, John Widmayer, Paul Harmina

Saturday - 10/5:

Alan Karpas; Bill Washington, Michael Dodd, Sean Nunes, Erin Manor

Sunday - 10/6:

Alan Karpas, Erin Manor, Sean Nunes, Dave Sire

17 visitors filled out our "lead card" indicating that they wanted to be added to our mailing list. Several more downloaded the "Join Us" or "Hire a Captain" QR code.

I sent out an email to everyone wanting to be on our mailing list inviting them to our 10/21 Program Meeting.

Sailboat Show

A very special "Thank You, Volunteers" who helped at the booth:

Thursday, 10/10:

Alan Karpas, Mike Lehmkuhl, Davis Jones, Ned Cabot

Friday, 10/11:

Alan Karpas, Pat Stadt, Dave Sire, Paul Taylor, David Ohler

Saturday, 10/12:

Mike Dodd, Cheryl Duvall, Mike Lehmkuhl, Mike Crothers

Sunday, 10/13:

Alan Karpas, Scott Berg, Rob Rowlands, Hans Hoffmann, Mike DeRycke

Monday, 10/14:

Alan Karpas, Joe Garrett, Don Snelgrove, Mike DeRycke, Hilary Howes

Monday, 10/14 "Tear down"

Alan Karpas, Joe Garrett, Hilary Howes

As of 4:00 PM October 14, we had 37 visitors joining our mailing list. The majority are captains interested in joining CAPCA. Others were either past captains no longer interested in renewing their license, but wanted to keep involved with us, or boaters in the process of getting their license.

It was great to end the show on a high note, with our last visitor, a captain, joining CAPCA and wanting to hire one to move his boat from FL to MD this coming spring.

I emailed everyone who filled out the form and their names have been added to our mailing list.

[back to top](#)

Program Director Report for November 2024



By Captain Cheryl Duvall

We wrapped up our 2024 programs on October 28 with CAPCA member Captain Bob Schwartz presenting **Occoquan River: Working Together to Keep the Waters Safe**. Attendees at the Elks Lodge as well as on Zoom learned how Bob led stakeholders in a cooperative approach to make the Occoquan waters safe for all types of vessels, especially HPVs (human-powered vessels). His story serves as a model for how to bring together various stakeholders, including boaters, USCG, DNR, Fire, Police, county officials, and CG Auxiliary, to collectively discuss and solve safety challenges. **A summary of this program** can be found on page 4 above and you can review a recording of it on [our YouTube channel](#).

Several CAPCA members arrived early on October 28 to network and dine in the Elks bar, including new member Noel Hall, and Elks Lodge member John Widmayer who signed us in (thanks John!). Additionally, CAPCA member Michael Dodd greeted attendees from a table where he sold and signed his new book, *Suicide Run to Archangel*, a World War II novel based on a true story.

Like last month, we promoted two more reasons to attend in-person at the Elks. Greg Pabst administered **CAPCA's 50/50 raffle**. CAPCA member Bob Thomson had the winning ticket and took home \$45.

And we gave away door prizes! A \$100 gift certificate was generously donated by Bacon Sails & Marine Supplies, and CAPCA member Pat Stadt was the lucky winner. Pat emailed the following day that he had already cashed in about half of the amount on needed supplies. Fast work! And for our second door prize, Hilary Howes donated a book, *The Wide Wide Sea*, by Hampton Sides. And our speaker, Bob Schwartz was the lucky winner! He quipped, "I've never won anything in my life, so I'm especially delighted."



If you know of a local vendor who would be interested in donating a door prize that captains would appreciate, please refer them to Cheryl Duvall at programs@capca.net.

Last Month's Tour

On Tuesday, October 29, a small group of CAPCA members toured the U.S. Coast Guard Command Center in Baltimore, MD, where distress and emergency calls on the water are received. Since space is limited at this USCG facility, we offered a fall tour, similar to the one that CAPCA hosted this past spring. Special thanks to Bob Thomson for coordinating both tours of the USCG Command Center. You can review a summary of the spring tour in our May newsletter [here](#).



The Fall Business Meeting (Dec. 2) is a members-only meeting.

Looking Ahead to 2025

The CAPCA program committee is hard at work securing speakers for 2025. The programs in development include:

- **January 27:** Topic: Panel discussion about setting up a business as a captain.
- **Feb 24:** Topic: Environmental Priorities for Chesapeake Bay (timed to occur during Maryland's legislative session), with speakers from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.
- **March 24:** Topic: Pilot Perspectives, by Captain Elizabeth Christman.

Special thanks to my awesome 2024 Program Committee members: Captains Bob Thomson, Hilary Howes, and Dave Ohler! They rock!

Remember, CAPCA programs are free and open to the public, so please invite your friends and work colleagues to join us, either at the Elks or via Zoom!

[back to top](#)

Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene has caused significant devastation in the southeastern U.S., impacting Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The hurricane brought intense winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding. This has led to widespread power outages and damage to homes and infrastructure across many coastal and inland communities.

Charity Navigator has curated a list of highly rated organizations that are providing immediate or long-term support to the victims of Hurricane Helene. The website lists many charities and has a direct donation button for each.

<https://www.charitynavigator.org/discover-charities/where-to-give/hurricane-helene-2024/>

[back to top](#)

Coast Guard Foundation Activates Emergency Disaster Relief Program

August 15, 2024



The Coast Guard Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to strengthening the Coast Guard community and service by supporting members and families, announced that its emergency disaster relief program is providing vital assistance to Coast Guard members and their families impacted by Hurricanes Beryl and Helene, Tropical Storm Debby, and glacial flooding in Juneau, Alaska.

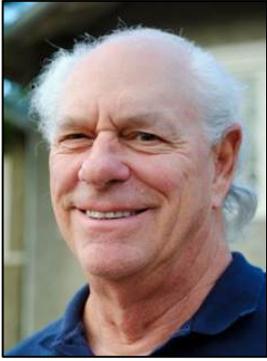
In response to these natural disasters, the Coast Guard Foundation has activated its emergency disaster relief program to provide immediate assistance to Coast Guard members who have been directly affected. The program offers a financial grant to help cover the costs of basic essentials, home repairs, replacement of household goods, temporary housing and emergency travel, and insurance deductibles.

To apply for assistance, visit coastguardfoundation.org/emergency-relief-grant.

To support the Coast Guard Foundation's emergency disaster relief program, visit coastguardfoundation.org/disaster-relief.

To learn more about the Coast Guard Foundation, or to help support its work, please visit www.coastguardfoundation.org or call (860) 535-0786

[back to top](#)



Continuing Education

By Captain Alan Karpas

Leadership for Captains

November 16, 2024

Elks Lodge, Annapolis

Registration closes Nov. 9 at 11 p.m. (2300)

A minimum of 12 students is required to conduct this class. Please register now.

This workshop focuses on recognizing and utilizing your talents and tendencies to flourish as a captain. This program will be conducted by a professional leadership, team building and executive coaching consultant who has worked in over 150 private and public companies.

Here is what you can expect to learn and be able to do:

- ✓ Identify and use your personal strengths
- ✓ Gain insight into your style of interacting with others and know when and how to tap others with different talents to get the job done
- ✓ Look at the roles and responsibilities of the captain and crew and recognize where there could be overlap or things could fall through the cracks and how you can make a difference
- ✓ Experience the impact of team performance
- ✓ Become familiar with a variety of leadership styles and know when and how they can be most effective
- ✓ Apply what you learn to situations you face on the job or on your boat

A minimum of 12 students are needed to conduct this program. The cost for this program is \$190 for members and \$240 for nonmembers. Register for the class at our website:

<https://www.capca.net/classes>

FYI: Similar in-person leadership courses would cost around \$500/PP.

[back to top](#)

Jobs Program Report for October 2024

By Captain Rob Young, Jobs Program Director



8 Jobs Listed
3 Known Filled (27%)
5 x Delivery
1 x Instruction
1 x Charter & Instruction
1 x Short-time Captain
2 x Power, 6 Sail

[back to top](#)

CAPCA Female Captains Meeting Report for October 2024

By Captain Erin Manor

The October gathering seemed to be a meeting up of new and old friends. A few CAPCA members attended with other boaters dropping by and hanging out and chatting for a few minutes. It was nice to see so many boaters sharing stories and enjoying the end of the season as best they can.



L to R: Amy Purves, Julianne Fettus, Emma Jimmyer, Cheryl Duvall, Vicki Saporta, Hilary Ranney-Howes

[back to top](#)

“Ahoy” from Your Membership Director



By Captain Phil Gauthier, Membership Director

Current active membership stands at 320. Please help spread the word to all the non-member captains that you know about the professional development opportunities and benefits, including numerous discounts, that come with a CAPCA membership. Recruiting rewards also apply!

Captains, two notices as noted below have been sent out to those that are listed with expired Merchant Mariner Credentials, (MMC). Please follow through and update your profile with your new MMC Expiration date and upload a copy of your new MMC or Letter of Continuity.

In accordance with the bylaws of the Chesapeake Area Professional Captains Association, (CAPCA) you must maintain a current Merchant Mariner Credential, (MMC) or Coast Guard Document of Continuity. The bylaws also allow members to remain active if their license expiration is within the renewal grace period prescribed by the Coast Guard. **The Coast Guard recently announced a temporary extension of the one-year grace period to six years.** Since you are in this grace period, your membership remains active. As stated in the Coast Guard announcement, “the administrative grace period does not extend the validity of an MMC and a mariner may not sail under the authority of an expired credential.” **If you have renewed your license, please log on to the CAPAC members page to update your license expiration date and upload a copy of your current license.**

An updated list of the new members for the calendar year is available on the member side of the website on the menu item Member Directory/New Members.

[back to top](#)

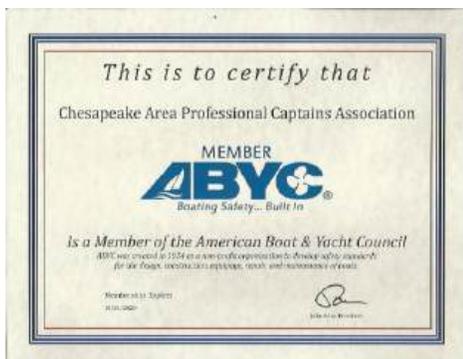


ABYC Happenings

**By Captain John Wesley Nash
ABYC Coordinator**

What can ABYC Do for Licensed Captains?

CAPCA maintains a group membership in the [American Boat and Yacht Council \(ABYC\)](#) for the benefit of our members, but apparently not too many of you have checked out the resources to see what might be useful to you.



Based in Annapolis, ABYC is a non-profit, member organization that develops voluntary global safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of recreational boats. Some of ABYC’s standards are incorporated into USCG regulations.

ABYC also has a long-established commitment to providing technical education, training, certification, and professional development. Their seminars, workshops and technician certification courses are instrumental in increasing the level of knowledge and professionalism throughout the boating industry.

If you have a boat of your own or operate vessels while working your license, ABYC information can be useful to you. Among the many topics we highlight in the CAPCA Log’s ABYC column are articles about electrical systems and batteries, engines, winterizing, buying a European boat, crash investigations, marine law, ABYC Standards application and compliance, safety equipment, ABYC

courses and seminars, joysticks, and towing vessel regulations. The ABYC website has much more for members on the “**Industry Site**” (top menu tab).

To access the member side of the ABYC website, log in to www.capca.net with your user name and password and click on MEMBERS KIT, Discounts. The second item in Discounts list is ABYC, with **the login information for the ABYC website**. We keep that information there for security reasons.

On the “Industry Site” tab of the ABYC website you’ll find:

- The [standards and online Standards Library](#), with enhanced search functionality. You also can call their Technical Department with questions and get free advice.
- [Online referral directories](#): You can look up a business or list your business. Directories include: ABYC Members, Certified Technicians, Manufacturers, and Surveyors.
- [Educational videos and webinars](#) to learn more about marine electrical, marine corrosion, marine systems, diesel and gas engines and support systems, composite boat building, etc.
- [ABYC Certification courses](#), most of which are discounted up to 30% for members vs. non-members. If you are a Master Marine Technician these savings add up fast!

The [ABYC Recreational Boaters](#) side of the website (tab in upper right) is open to the public. There you can find lists of certified technicians and marine surveyors, watch DIY videos, see boat systems checklists, and see how ABYC standards apply to recreational vessels.

Please check out the ABYC website and see what may help you continue to operate your vessels professionally and safely. And keep reading “ABYC Happenings” in the CAPCA Log.

Ed. Note: Log Editor and CAPCA Secretary Priscilla Travis attended the February 2024 ABYC Marine Law Symposium. It was an all-day online or in-person event with excellent speakers. I appreciated the discount offered through CAPCA’s group membership. Check out their online and in person classes.

.....

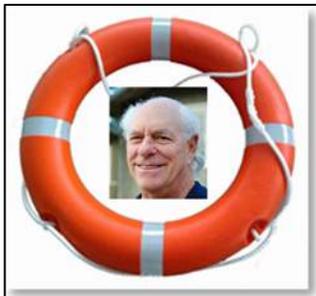
To access the members-only side of the [ABYC website](#) you need the latest CAPCA ABYC member ID and password. First, log in at www.capca.net and click on menu tab “Members Kit,” submenu “Discounts.”

The ABYC username and password are in the ABYC listing at the top of the page. For security reasons we do not put this information in *The Log*.

For any questions or additional information, you can contact Captain John Wesley Nash at jwn54@outlook.com or 703-887-1836.

[back to top](#)

Safety Snapshot: Stay “Face Up”



Provided by Alan Karpas
Safety Coordinator

Try on your lifejacket in a controlled water environment to ensure proper fit.

[U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Commons](#), Posted by LT Amy Midgett, May 3, 2019. Submitted by the Office of Design & Engineering Standards and the

Office of Boating Safety

“Recently, the Coast Guard received an increased number of reports of incidents from recreational boaters where infant lifejackets did not perform as expected in the water. These incidents involved multiple models and manufacturers. Investigations were completed, and there were no findings of non-conformance or manufacturing defects. It was confirmed that the products met Coast Guard requirements and the applicable industry standards.

The findings of these investigations highlighted the importance of checking the fit and performance of lifejackets on users, especially on infants and children, while floating in water. **The Coast Guard recommends everyone try on their lifejacket in a controlled water environment to ensure proper fit and performance on their body.** All Coast Guard approved lifejackets meet industry standards and Coast Guard requirements for construction, performance, and manufacturing. However, the only way to ensure proper fit and performance on an individual is to try it on in the water.

Select a lifejacket that is appropriate for your size, environment, and activity. Read the label. A lifejacket should fit snugly. When in the water, if the user cannot maintain a relaxed “face-up” floating position after getting used to wearing the lifejacket, try another style until one is found that fits and performs properly.

We continue to urge and encourage boaters to try on their lifejackets, both when purchasing a new lifejacket and at the beginning of their boating season.”

For more information on lifejackets and lifejacket selection, [visit uscgboating.org](http://visit.uscgboating.org)

Editor’s Note: inflatable lifejackets should be worn with either a crotch strap or thigh straps to prevent the jacket from riding up over your face when in the water. [Take a look at this 37-second demonstration.](#)

Children’s lifejackets are sold with crotch straps: make sure they are always secured on the child.

The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) recommend the use of these devices on inflatable lifejackets, and in the UK many inflatables are sold with the straps. Here in the U.S. you can [purchase straps as an accessory](#) if your inflatables don’t have them.”

[back to top](#)

Four African Stowaways Survive 2,000 NM Trip on Rudder of MSC Boxship

Published Oct 28, 2024 by [The Maritime Executive](#)

“It has happened **again** in the Canary Islands where Nigerian stowaways have been found sitting on the top of a vessel’s rudder having survived the perilous trip from Africa. Salvamento Maritimo and the national police in the Canary Islands reported the detention of four stowaways after an MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company vessel arrived in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on October 26.

According to media reports, the four men were identifying as Nigerian citizens. They said they had climbed onto the vessel while it was in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Tracking data indicates that the ship had been at sea for six days making an approximately 2,000 nautical mile trip during which time the stowaways would have been exposed to the sea and wind conditions. In past cases, it was reported the stowaways had been able to make their way up from the rudder into the steering gear room.”

Read the story [HERE](#).

[back to top](#)

Negligent Captain Pleads Guilty in Fatal Charter Boat Capsizing on Hudson River

[Mike Schuler](#) gCaptain

October 16, 2024

“Richard Cruz, the owner and captain of the ill-fated vessel *Stimulus Money*, has pleaded guilty to charges of misconduct and neglect resulting in the deaths of two passengers on the Hudson River.

The incident, which occurred on July 12, 2022, claimed the lives of a seven-year-old boy and a 48-year-old woman, casting a shadow over what should have been a pleasant river excursion.

The investigation revealed a series of egregious safety violations that directly contributed to the tragedy. Cruz had been operating the *Stimulus Money* without the required United States Coast Guard (USCG) credentials and certifications, essentially running an illegal tour operation for paying customers. On the day of the incident, he recklessly exceeded the vessel’s maximum capacity, carrying 13 passengers despite hazardous weather conditions that had prompted advisories for small watercraft.”

Read the complete article [HERE](#).

[back to top](#)

U.S. Reaches Settlement for Over \$100M with Owner, Operator of *Dali*

“Two companies which own and operate the *Dali* cargo ship, which collided with the Key Bridge, have agreed to pay more than \$100 million to resolve a civil claim from the United States, the U.S. Department of Justice announced.

The settlement does not include any damages for the reconstruction of the Key Bridge, according to the press release. Maryland built and operated the bridge, and attorneys for the state have filed a separate claim for the damages.”

Read the complete WBALTV article [HERE](#).

[back to top](#)

Marine AI Will Touch and Transform Every Aspect of Life at Sea Supplied by Captain Alan Karpas

From *Yachting Monthly*, October 30, 2024

“It’s time to prepare ourselves for what is likely to be the most fundamental technological change the marine environment has ever seen – the AI (artificial intelligence) transition – an advance that will touch and transform every aspect of life at sea, from naval operations, search and rescue, boat building, autonomous ships, crew requirements, to yacht marina maneuvers, autopilots, and augmented reality.”

[Read the whole article](#) for the interesting details.

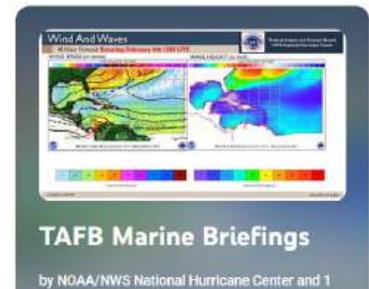
[back to top](#)

Tropical Atlantic Weather Briefings on YouTube

The Atlantic Hurricane Season ends November 30.

The National Hurricane Center provides [weekly tropical Atlantic weather briefings on YouTube](#). Scroll through the playlist.

Graphs and analysis extend north to include the sub-tropical western Atlantic where CAPCA captains might operate. These reports may help you with route planning.



[back to top](#)

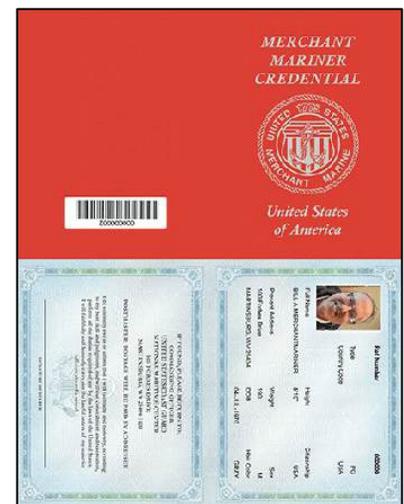
U.S. Coast Guard Changes MMC Format

By Mike Schuler, [gCaptain](#), February 26, 2024

“The U.S. Coast Guard introduced a new merchant mariner credential (MMC) format on March 1, 2024. The current MMC passport-style booklet will be replaced with a single-page certificate.

Mariners currently holding the passport-style credentials do not need to worry as these will not be replaced immediately. The new MMC will be issued during their next application process with the Coast Guard.

The new credentials will be printed on 8.5" x 11" waterproof synthetic paper from the Government Printing Office (GPO). The updated MMC will include improved security features, such as anti-copy measures, micro-printing, foiling, and intricate patterns.



The redesign comes as the Coast Guard National Maritime Center's existing passport style credential printers have become outdated and need to be replaced.

Looking ahead, the Coast Guard also plans to introduce an electronic credential or E-credential, which will meet all domestic and international requirements. Mariners will also have the option to obtain paper or other non-electronic versions.

For more information about the new MMC, visit the National Maritime Center's [website](#)."

[back to top](#)

Print Your Membership Card

CAPCA membership cards are now self-serve. If you would like a new membership card, you can download and print one yourself – anytime.

Log in to the CAPCA Members' pages (<https://www.capca.net/member-pages>) from a PC or tablet. (This feature isn't available for smartphones.)

1. Click MY ACCOUNT and "View/Edit Profile".
2. Click the "My Subscriptions" tab.
3. On the right, under "Member Card", click "Download."
4. Open the downloads folder on your PC or tablet. Find the file that begins with your CAPCA username, open and print. The membership card will be wallet-size when cut out.

Avatar
You have an option to upload a photo of yourself. It's nice for others to be able to put a face to your name, but it's not required.

Code of Ethics
CAPCA members abide by a code of ethics.

Plan	Active Time	Status	Member Card
CAPCA Membership - 1 year	05-19-2017 To 05-20-2025	Active	Download

[back to top](#)

Your Nautical Knowledge Quiz

Provided by Captain Rick Perri, [National Seafarers Academy](#)

1. Certain equipment aboard vessels, inspected under the small passenger vessel regulations, is required to be marked with the vessel's name. This includes _____. (small passenger vessel regulations)
 - A. bunks, silverware, china, and glassware
 - B. anchors, line, paint cans, and fuel drums
 - C. life jackets, life floats and paddles
 - D. whistles, searchlights, navigation lights, and ship's bell
2. What is required in addition to the heat, fuel, and oxygen of the fire triangle to have a fire?
 - A. Electricity
 - B. Chain reaction
 - C. Pressure
 - D. Smoke
3. What frequency has the FCC designated for the use of bridge-to-bridge radiotelephone communications?
 - A. 156.275 MHz channel 65
 - B. 156.650 MHz channel 13
 - C. 157.000 MHz channel 28
 - D. 157.000 MHz channel 20
4. As you enter a U.S. port from seaward, the numbers on the starboard side buoys _____.
 - A. decrease and the buoys are black
 - B. increase and the buoys are green
 - C. decrease and the buoys are red
 - D. increase and the buoys are red

Answers on p. 20. No peeking!

[back to top](#)

Website Spotlight: Members Kit Menu Tab

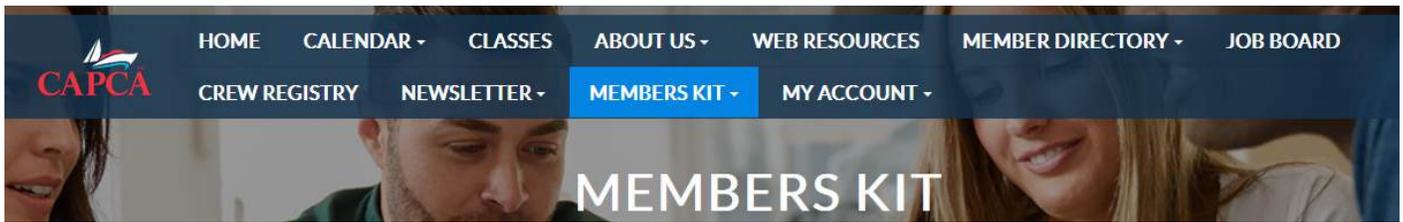


The web team works to make your website a timely resource that's both informative and useful. It's kept up to date and new material is added to keep the site current. This column will help you get familiar with some of the website's features.

Please **bookmark** the **member login page** on all your devices so you can go right to the member side of the website. The member's pages have more information than the public pages. Everything you are likely to need is on the member side, but occasionally take a look at the public side, to see what the rest of the world sees.

The display on your device may not look exactly like this, but the menu tabs are the same. Smaller screens may have a "hamburger menu." 

Check the CAPCA “Members Kit” menu tab for a list of your member benefits.



<https://www.capca.net/member-kit>

If you have a website that you use and like, please send the URL (website address) to webmaster@capca.net and we'll add it to the category list for others to use.

Also, please send us suggestions for other features you would like to see on your website, or if you spot a problem, such as a broken link. E-mail webmaster@capca.net.

[back to top](#)

USCG New Online “Launch and Recovery” Charting App

Provided by Hans J. Hoffmann, CAPCA Vice-President

Captains, indeed, all mariners planning a DELMARVA circumnavigation or cruises to points south, will soon have an additional charting tool available. This charting app will provide space launch and re-entry information off the east coast, including Wallops Island, Virginia. This is how the U.S. Coast Guard has recently announced the new app:



COMING SOON: NAVCEN will be releasing our new Space Operations Launch and Recovery (SOLAR) geospatial visualization tool in the near future. The initial build of this tool will be available in the Coast Guard Seventh District with further expansion in 2024.

SOLAR will offer a practical solution for mariners and the shipping industry to access real-time, geospatial information about space launches and reentries. This information is critical for navigating safely in areas affected by space operations. The tool will be available online at www.navcen.uscg.gov, providing an accessible platform for users to stay informed.

Key features of the tool include:

1. Interactive Display: A visual format for easier understanding of restricted navigation areas.
2. Updated Information: Timely data on space launches and reentries to help mariners make informed decisions.
3. Online Accessibility: The tool is readily accessible on the NAVCEN website.

This tool will align with NAVCEN's goals to modernize maritime communications and provide relevant, up-to-date information to mariners and other stakeholders.

[back to top](#)

Answers to the Nautical Quiz

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. D

[back to top](#)

Busy People Volunteer: What Are You Doing?



Licensed captains have many skills to share with others. Some of you provide welcome volunteer support for maritime activities, like the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Sea Scouts, Vessel Safety Checks, the U.S. Power Squadron's Cooperative Charting Program, maritime museum programs, and environmental initiatives. One of CAPCA's missions is to serve the maritime public.

I would like to do a series of short feature articles for *The Log* about the volunteer activities you are doing. The purpose of this is to (1) showcase to our members the many worthwhile areas where captains can volunteer their skills and knowledge, and (2) create an article that we can try to get published in one or more boating magazines.

If you are doing any volunteer activity related to maritime or related interests, would you please send me:

- a brief description of your activities
- link(s) to websites of organization(s) you volunteer with
- a photo or two of the activity, if you have them

Let's help make CAPCA members aware of how and where to volunteer. Thanks very much.
Priscilla Travis, logeditor@capca.net

[back to top](#)

The Speakers Bureau is Now Self-Service for Members and Clients



We've updated our Speakers Bureau website pages to be self-service. Clients who are looking for a speaker can now see who our speakers are and what each has to offer — and they can contact a prospective speaker directly by email.

Current Speakers Bureau members should review their listing as it's now available for public consumption. If you would like **to join the Speakers Bureau**, please [log in and fill out the form](#).

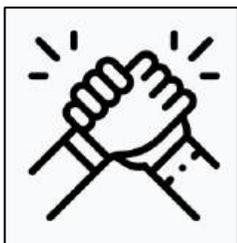
We display names, email addresses, availability, and topics - no phone numbers. Our website has a function that hides email addresses from collection by spammers. So, speakers' email addresses are safe.

Speakers can add, edit, or delete their listing by logging in to the [member pages](#) and clicking ABOUT US > Speakers Bureau Program > Speakers Bureau Members. There are icons to the right of each listing for viewing details, editing, deleting, and downloading a PFD version.

[back to top](#)

The CAPCA Mentoring Program Is Now Self-Service

The CAPCA mentoring program is now self-serve! **If you previously signed up as a mentor, please sign up again** at: <https://capca.net/member-kit/mentoring>.



And we need more volunteers. CAPCA is bursting with maritime talent and experience — let's share some of it among ourselves.

Mentoring can be as simple as a phone conversation or as involved as a day on the water — on someone else's boat. There is no particular time commitment. It is up to you and the person seeking a mentor.

Access to the CAPCA mentoring program for volunteers to sign up and to find a mentor is under [the MEMBERS KIT menu item](#).

From here you can browse for a mentor on a specific subject or sign up to share your own knowledge with other members.

[back to top](#)



Earn rewards for recruiting new members!

Rewards are based on a rolling two calendar years

- Recruit 2 members within two calendar years - receive a CAPCA mug
- Recruit 3 members within two calendar years - receive a CAPCA ball cap
- Recruit 5 new members within two calendar years - receive a free one-year membership (Emeritus members receive a CAPCA shirt since they don't pay for membership.)

We'll keep track through the membership database, so **remind your recruits to include your name when asked, "How did you find CAPCA?"** in the online application. Rewards will be calculated after the first of each year.

[back to top](#)

Uninspected Passenger Vessel Exams



CAPCA member Bruce Johnson is a USCG Licensed Master, as well as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary designated as a UPV examiner. Captain Johnson is available to do Uninspected Passenger Vessel exams for those who want them. Members can request UPVEs or ask questions any time by emailing him at bruce.johnson@cgauxnet.us or calling 410.707.1682 and leaving a message.

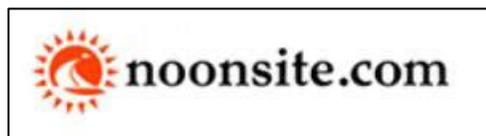
Voluntary UPV examinations are available to assure that owner / operators comply with federal regulations. If the vessel passes a UPV exam a decal is issued. Since this is a voluntary dockside exam, it is not a law enforcement action, and no citations are issued. On the other hand, passing a UPV exam does not absolutely guarantee that the vessel may not be boarded when it is underway.

Uninspected Passenger Vessels (UPVs) are vessels not subject to Coast Guard inspection that are less than 100 gross tons with 6 or fewer passengers, including at least one passenger for hire. UPVs may also include vessels over 100 GTs but less than 300 GTs that carry not more than 12 passengers, with at least one being a passenger for hire. All UPVs must be under the direction and control of an individual credentialed by the Coast Guard. The original license or Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) must be aboard and available for immediate presentation to CG officials whenever passengers are being carried for hire. There are additional equipment and performance requirements for UPVs.

Bruce Johnson, Division Chief, Youth Programs (DVC-SY)
bruce.johnson@cgauxnet.us 410.707.1682 (mobile)

[back to top](#)

Worldwide Port Information



Commercial operators are usually aware of port limitations and recreational mariners, including delivery captains, must stay up to date with fast-changing conditions. [Noonsite](#) is an excellent resource and it's updated DAILY as conditions change.

[back to top](#)

BOATU.S. East Coast Alerts – Free to BoatU.S. Members

BoatU.S. East Coast Alerts Email Signup

Receive via email FREE "BoatU.S. East Coast Alerts," published every two weeks by long-time liveaboard authors and cruisers, Tom and Mel Neale.

Get the latest Coast Guard and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updates and late-breaking news about things that you need to know if you're boating along the East Coast, ICW, Chesapeake and in the Bahamas. Interim updated Special Alerts are emailed as they happen. Includes Districts 1,3,5 and 7 and General Announcements.

Sign up here: <https://www.boatus.com/subscribe>

[back to top](#)

UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS and OTHER INFORMATION

If your e-mail address or other information has changed, please update your information on the **member side** of the CAPCA website. **Log in**, click on "MY ACCOUNT," make your changes on your profile form, **scroll down and click on UPDATE** at the bottom of the screen when you're done.

If you change your email address on Your Profile, also please email webmaster@capca.net.

We use Constant Contact for CAPCA announcements, which is a separate email list.

You're in control of your data! CAPCA relies on accurate information to communicate with you and to administer your membership.

[back to top](#)

CAPCA's Crew Registry Program

Captains: *Looking for licensed crewmembers for a delivery job, an assignment as an instructor, or any other on-the-water venture?*

Crewmembers: *Looking for a slot as a crewmember, either for pay or to gain experience?*



Either way, CAPCA's **CREW REGISTRY** program can help you. **Here's how it works:**

1. If you're a CAPCA member who'd like to **serve as a crewmember** for another CAPCA member, fill out and submit the crew registry sign-up form on the member side of the website. Your name and the information about your interest and qualifications will appear on the Crew Registry list.
2. **IMPORTANT: Note these two questions** on the signup form, "Currently enrolled in a U.S. Coast Guard-recognized random drug screening program?" and "Name of drug screening program."

Your answers to these questions should **reflect your current status**. You DO NOT have to be enrolled in a drug screening program unless your work as a captain requires it. If you're **not** in a screening program, answer "NO" and "NONE" to the questions. If you **are currently** enrolled in a drug screening program, answer "Yes" and enter the name of the program in the box.

A captain seeking crew may need a crewmember who is currently enrolled in a drug screening program, so it's important to indicate if you are or are not in a screening program.

When you renew your license (and in some other employment situations), a drug *screening test* is required, as the Coast Guard specifies: "[A drug test is required](#) for all transactions EXCEPT documents of continuity modifications (increases of scope), duplicates, and International Endorsements (STCW)."

However, a number of captains do the drug screening test just for license renewal, and if their employment as captains does not require enrollment in a drug screening program, they do not enroll after the test.

3. Captains **looking for crew**, log in to the member side of the CAPCA website and examine the crew registry list to see the available crew listings. The most recent postings appear at the top of the list.
4. If a captain is interested, he or she can contact you directly and you two can work out arrangements for duties and pay.
5. The list of members who have signed up for crew duty will remain available indefinitely. The list will form a crew registry to which captains can refer time after time.
6. **Editing your information:** If any of the information you filled out on your registry form changes, or if you no longer want to be included on the Crew Registry list, you can edit or delete your listing yourself. Log in with your member username and password, click the CREW REGISTRY menu item and the blue "Edit Your Listing" button. You will see four icons to the right of your listing for viewing, editing, deleting, or downloading. You can hover your cursor over each icon to see what it does.
7. If you are on the Crew Registry, this might be a good time to **review your listing**. If any of your information has changed, you can update it with immediate results. If you are no longer interested in being listed on the Crew Registry, please delete your listing.

For further information, contact the Jobs Program coordinator at jobs@capca.net.

[back to top](#)



Visit the Ships Store. It's Almost Winter.

Log in to the member side of the CAPCA website. Click on menu tab "Members Kit," "Ship's Store" to read the [Ship's Store general information](#).

To go to the Queensboro store from the Ship's Store page "CLICK HERE TO ORDER."

The ship's store offers various discounts from time to time (see the colored band in the middle of the [store's register/sign in page](#)). Check frequently and remember to use the discount code when you check out.

[back to top](#)

Current CAPCA Board and Assistants

Click on a name to send an e-mail to that person.

OFFICERS

President	Tony Tommasello
Vice President	Hans J. Hoffmann
Assistant Vice President	Davis Jones
Secretary	Priscilla Travis
Treasurer	Carl Bart
Past President	Vicki Saporta

DIRECTORS

Continuing Education	Alan Karpas
Jobs Program	Robert Young
Communication	Mike Clark
Programs	Cheryl Duvall
Membership	Philip Gauthier
Webmaster	David Sire

ASSISTANTS TO THE BOARD

Assistant to the Webmaster	Priscilla Travis
Editor, <i>The Log</i>	Priscilla Travis
@CapcaTweet Editor	John Wesley Nash
Safety Coordinator	Alan Karpas
ABYC Coordinator	John Wesley Nash
CAPCA Video/Audio Editor	Bill Washington
Telephone Monitor	Carl Bart
Raffle Assistant	Greg Pabst

COMMITTEES

Budget and finance	Bill Washington, Carl Bart, Wendy Kravit
--------------------	--

Bylaws Review
Boat Shows
Programs and Events
Facilities Committee

Priscilla Travis, Dave Sire, Alan Karpas
Alan Karpas, Mike Clark
Bob Thomson, Dave Ohler
Cheryl Duvall, Hilary Howes

CAPCA is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit corporation. The CAPCA Board of Directors is bonded and insured. For more information e-mail: president@capca.net

This same information is available on the website, home page, menu tabs ABOUT US, dropdown Our Leadership. **The webpage will have the most current information**, should there be changes between issues of *The Log*.

[back to top](#)

The Log Staff

EDITOR
ABYC HAPPENINGS
MEET THE CAPTAIN EDITOR
SAFETY SNAPSHOT
SPEAKER and EVENT SUMMARIES

Priscilla Travis
John Wesley Nash
Cheryl Duvall
Alan Karpas
Bob Thomson

The editor of The Log reserves the right to edit contributions to fit The Log's format, style, and constraints.

[back to top](#)

