

Brevard County Airboat Association

POST OFFICE BOX 192

MELBOURNE, FL. 32902

www.brevardairboatclub.com



NEWSLETTER FOR MAY

As of the end of the May meeting 104 of last year's 152 members had renewed their memberships, including 8 families. Nineteen of last year's 40 senior members have paid their discounted dues. As of the end of April the club had \$8,377.34 in its bank account. An abbreviated Treasurer's report for April is located near the end of the newsletter.

Howdy ya'll, welcome to this month's edition of our club's newsletter, loosely taken from my notes and more or less give's ya an idea on what happened at the meetin'.

Our usual culinary arts expert **Corey Nail** wasn't able to cook us supper tonight seein' as he's been busy learnin' to change diapers (under **Tina's** watchful eye). That's right ya'll, they went and made themselves a baby boy and they're a callin' him **Mason**. They showed him off a little bit right before the meetin', cute as a button and weren't screamin' or carrying on like his parents do.

So, **Sandee Stafford** and **John Kisner** were the volunteer chef's this month and they did a great job. They put troughs of grilled pork chops, dressing and green beans with jus' the right amount of bacon to give a lesser man a stroke.

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made to accept the Meeting Minutes for the April meeting, seconded and accepted.

Pres. Report-

V.P. Report- **Tina's** on maternity leave, but she will get the same amount of compensation as if she was still here sittin' next me. That's right; we're a club with benefits. **Corey** wasn't here either but we're a conservative club and don't believe in givin' a man maternity leave so he's gonna get even less than we usually give him for his absence.

Treasurer's Report- Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report as read by **Jim Rosasco**, seconded and accepted. Jim then added that the last

couple of years after we've received our annual dues from our members that we customarily make a motion to donate one dollar for each dues paying member to the NRA/ILA. Seconded and unanimously accepted. Take that **Harry Reid**. We aim to keep our guns and privacy and you better believe we aim good.

Announcements & Entertainment- **Dennis Myers** told us that the B.O.D.'s approved a motion to make **Neil Ridenour** an Honorary Member of our club. A motion was made and seconded; the motion was voted on and passed unanimously. **Neil Ridenour** is now an official Honorary Member of the Brevard County Airboat Association. **Dennis** told us that **Neil** is currently in the **Consulate Nursing Home**. He would like some visitors and you're certainly welcome to stop by and say hello. **Neil** says he ain't giving up yet, so don't none of ya'll give up either. Right on **Neil**, give 'em one for the gipper.

Dennis also filled us in on the possible property issue that was concerning our neighbors over at **Camp Holly**. The Brevard County Property Appraiser's official website showed us owning a small parcel of land by **Camp Holly**. It described and showed pictures of the concrete boat ramp on the northeast corner. **Dennis** followed up on it to make sure if we did own it that we were insured for that and the insurance company said yes we were because it showed it as part of our parcel. **Dennis** also was wondering if we had been paying taxes on that property. Our old timer historian, **Albert Henderson** said he didn't know nothin' about owning any land over that a ways. **Jon Radencic** said he called **Laura Nott** at the Appraiser's office who said she saw it and it looked like it involved about .15 acres and would look into it. **Jon** said she called back about 4 hours later and said that there appeared to be an error on their mapping and that no we were never charged taxes on it. **Joe Kohler** said he had also been looking into it and said he found

out that we had been given access to it but it was recorded wrong.

Dave Porterfield told us again about the toilet flange being broken in the girl's bathroom and that the kitchen sink was leaking. I think my wife made him say that, they're in cahoots.

Mike Hammer told us he saw an airboater goin' on into Christmas Tree Trail and ran hisself on into the willows. He don't rightly know who that fella was, but he made it over to Camp Holly and ended up getting' airlifted outta there for some proper medical attention. And that's all he knew about that.

Now, get an earful of this juicy tale. **Dave Popplin** went out to camp on Tuesday after the last Turkey Season weekend to collect his sleepin' bag and found that the **SJRWMD** had cleaned the camp out. They even took the birds nest and the youngin's livin' in it that we left alone cause they made their nest in our potato sack hangin' from the tree. (I looked on Sunday to check on 'em and there was two chicks inside waitin' on worms or regurgitation from momma bird. Now that's a heck of a way to conserve wildlife.) And then it started all over again, same as last year. Yeppin, if'n ya'll remember last year, a few of our members got all their camping gear, tents, sleepin' bags and other belongin's took and trashed by the SJRWMD. We all thought we had a week after Turkey Season to collect up our stuff and get it out, but I guess we was wrong and so they showed up a day after and took it all an' threwed it away.

Well, we didn't think that was very neighborly of them folks so's we went to their RAC meeting last year and told 'em we thought it was a might bit underhanded and maybe even a little bit cantankerous.

So, after voicing our concerns, such as not ruining our last day of huntin' getting' our stuff out, and seein' as it's always on a Sunday and not havin' to take off work during the week to get it out, we asked 'em (polite an all) if'n they couldn't give us through the next weekend to git our stuff out. After all, that's how it is in other WMA's like Bull Creek. We also mentioned that we have our Annual Swamp clean-up the weekend following Turkey Season (and we do a good job cleanin' up that swamp I might add) so whatever's left we clean-up for them and take out anyways. Then they (the SJRWMD) really ain't got to do nothing. We'll do

it for 'em and they can spend their time elsewhere, like sprayin weeds or settin' fires or whatnot.

Well, ya know, I think them head honcho's were feelin a bit taken aback and realized that that might be the right thing to do after all so's they went ahead and said; "Yeah, we'll give ya through the next weekend, that shouldn't be a problem."

Welp, I guess it was a problem 'cause the same damn thing happened this year. So, it could be the big boys not talkin' to the little boys, or maybe the little boy's jus' didn't want to listen. But whatever the case, once we found out we were hoodwinked, me and Walt went dumpster diving down at SJRWMD's Palm Bay office and recovered as much salvageable gear as we could find. What we did find we brought back to the clubhouse and we made a lost and found pile for any of ya'll that got your stuff swiped. All the tents in the dumpster weren't worth getting' as they were just cut through their moorings and crumpled up so they got torn up. (It looked as if they almost enjoyed rippin' 'em up.) We also didn't collect dirty pots, pans and dishes, 'cause we figured if ya didn't clean your dishes, you really didn't care about 'em anyways.

Even if ya ain't a member of this club and ya got your stuff took, get with one of us or show up at the general meeting and if there's some stuff there that's yours, you're welcome to it. So now we gotta get back on the wood pile and see what's what.

Doug Hawley said we should bring it up again at this next RAC meeting. **(The next SJRWMD RAC Meeting is June 9th in Viera from 6-8pm.)**

Walt said he wrote a letter to SJRWMD concerning the premature clean-up of the campsites. Walt read the letter to us.

Okey Dokey, so next up was a guest speaker, **Rick Callahan** the President from the newly re-forming **St. Johns River Valley Airboat Association** (SJRVA or the slang name we recognize, Cocoa Airboat Club). He told us he's getting the old club back together again and there appears to be a lot of new interest. He said their dues are currently 25 bucks a year to join. They currently hold their meetings at **Kay's B.B.Q.** on SR520 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Everyone's welcome.

Rick said he'd like to work on few issues, one of 'em being he'd like to help pass a rule to have small watercraft in the swamp display orange flags jus'same as airboats. He feels it would be safer for

them seein' as there seem to be more of them startin' to invade the territory. Another issue he has is the seawall by **Possam Bluff**. He said it needs fixin' in order to save that big ole' oak tree. We asked him what the story is on track vehicles up that way, cause we heard that's one of the few places they could still be run. Rick told us that track vehicles ain't allowed up that way no more either, or 4-wheelers for that matter. He said if'n ya get caught runnin' 'em your lookin' at a \$300.00 fine for destroying wetlands. Youch! Lacey ain't gonna be happy, I know that. Rick thanked us for puttin' up with him and we all thanked him for stoppin' by and wished him good luck on the new club. We let him know if'n he needed any help to give us a shout; we'd be more'n happy to oblige.

Walt asked for donations to the **Happy/Sad Dollars** this month to keep Tina's pet project going for them kids at Christmas time. I think we got a good collection thinkin' of Mason on the really girly-touchy-feely happy end of it, or alternately on the other vengeful happy end of it that the United States of America finally passed judgment on that murderin' bastard Osama Bin Laden. May he rot in Hell!

Bozeman Camp Update- Should be about time to get that floor done, whatch know about that Dave?

Merchandise Update- **Jim Kuhman** reported that we're gettin' low on T-Shirts but we're o.k. on hats.

Walt told us that **Jim Fishback** has been donating free flags with our logo on them and was a wonderin' if'n we might not let him git a couple of T-Shirts and a hat? Motion made to give it to Jim Fishback, seconded and approved.

Old Business- As far as the **4th Annual Neil Ridenour Clean-up**, we had 28 people show up for the club event this year. We'd like to thank **Keep Brevard Beautiful** again for participating, coordinating their schedules, supplying us with garbage bags, gloves and pick-up sticks and promoting the event. Not surprisingly, we didn't bring in a whole a lot a trash. It seems that each year that we've been doing this we've had to bring in less and less garbage.

This year we actually had to hunt to find trash and that's the way it oughta be. We might be on to somethin' here guys and gals. I believe it's not just our efforts on collecting the trash but I also believe

we're gettin' the word out to people that they should "bring back more than ya brought out". The campsites were kept relatively clean this year. Now if we can just pass this tradition on to the younger generation we'll ensure a cleaner future for the wetlands. Of course we might have to get a hipper slogan, like; "Trash, we ain't down with that!" Or better yet, "Yes sir, I'll bring my trash back in to the hill, just lower the shotgun." to peak these youngin's interest.

We also had a potluck lunch that filled our bellies and it was good gettin' together with ya'll again. Thanks to all of ya'll that helped out.

Boat Ramp- Still developing ideas and discussing funds.

New Business- **Doug Hawley** wants ideas for a new T-Shirt Design. **Tami Kelly** said she'd help Doug with that.

Sandra Asbury reported that the **Bylaw Review Committee** was actively meeting and was trying really hard. Right now they're going over the bylaws article by article and beginning to make their recommendations before it goes before the B.O.D. for approval. After that it will come before the club for a membership vote.

We were invited to participate in a gator hunt this year for the **Wounded Warriors in Action** organization. Their website is www.wwiaf.org/. Check it out, they're doin' something they know is righteous. They are dedicated to providing veterans who have been wounded preserving our way of life and the freedoms we currently enjoy. The WWIA helps to provide various outdoor sporting activities to these individuals who have sacrificed for our sake. These veterans all have received the Purple Heart. I brought this up to the membership, to see if they'd be interested, like I had any doubt, and got a resounding affirmative and was asked to press on with the task. I know I speak for the club as a whole when I say we feel honored and privileged to give back to these individuals in whatever way we can. If it's a gator hunt these guys want, then by hell an' high water that's what they'll get! Yeeee Hawww! Let's show these men some of our southern hospitality and git 'em some gators. I'll have more info for ya'll at the next meeting, so make sure you get your patriotic butts in on this one.

There was also the **Osceola Annual Airboat Jamboree** that was on May 7th at Overstreet Landing in Kissimmee.

New Member(s)- Yeah, I think we hooked a couple a good one's this month. They took it hook line and sinker. We snagged **Mike Hammer, Charles (Chuck) Pierson and Ronald (Chris) and Tami Kelly**. The membership approved them unanimously, so I'd say we landed them in the boat and now's all we gotta do is put 'em to work. ☺ Welcome ya'll and hope you're here to have fun.

Safety Tip- It's that time of year that the water's at its lowest so watch out for some of them obstacles that are usually layin' beneath the water and I ain't just talkin' trees and branches, some of them mud tussets will sneak up ya as well as sand bars jus' below the surface in that ole murky water. You think things are just fine and dandy 'til one of 'em up and grabs ya slingin' ya from the boat. Ya'll be careful out there.

50/50 Drawing- I didn't win it so's I guess I lost interest or somethin', anyways I ain't got it in my notes who did win it. But whoever you is, I'm happy for ya.

The Book- Oh, now I remember why I don't remember, 'cause I ain't got who got called for the book either. I was writing down all the volunteer's names that was wantin' to help them there veterans and I guess I plum forgot to pay attention to who didn't win the book. I figure if someone had won it I would have jotted it down too. The book carry's over and starts at \$54.00 next month.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:30pm. (or thereabouts).

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Walt Lorraine	259-5156
Doug Hawley	863-5157
Jim Rosasco	298-4545
Scott Smith	508-7959
Tina Nail	863-7336

Remember how the book works: To win you have to be entered the month your name is drawn **and** the month before. If there is no winner the donations to the book are carried forward until there is a winner. At that time the winner will get 75% of the balance

in the book including that month's donations. The other 25% is donated to the club.

We've started distributing the newsletter via email and this has saved us over \$50.00 per month. If you have an email address but have not been getting a copy of the newsletter electronically please send Jim Rosasco (jrosasco@msn.com) your email address so you can be added to the distribution. There is also several email notices of interest to club members sent during the month which you are missing if you are not on the distribution list.

AIRBOATER'S CODE OF ETHICS

Respect the right of everyone to enjoy Florida's waterways.

Learn and observe all State of Florida boating regulations, navigation rules and vessel safety equipment requirements.

Recognize that the noise generated from an airboat propeller and engine exhaust system may annoy others.

Equip the airboat with an automotive-style muffler and operate it in a manner that will reduce engine exhaust sound levels.

Operate at a slow speed on or near boat ramps and move away an adeequate distance before powering up, and where possible no power loading.

Use slow speed to reduce noise near residential and public use areas.

Be extra cautious to reduce sound levels during nighttime hours.

Understand that the public will judge by one individual's action all airboaters.

Protect natural resources and do not needlessly disturb wildlife