

SHIPMATE

Newsletter of the Christian Boaters Association

"...and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water." — Genesis 1:2b NASB



Review of 2016 CBA Conference

They came to the Lake Erie shore. Some for relaxation, some to reconnect with fellow CBA members, some to assist the organization in looking forward to the future, and all to worship God. Though the weather was dreary, spirits were high. Though numbers were small, the role each attendee had was large.

We welcomed each other with open arms as many had traveled far. President John and Annette Sasser had traveled from Scotland in order to attend the conference. Glen Haines traveled from Israel. New members Jouni and Marianne Ronka came from Finland to join together with their new brothers and sisters. Other individuals traveled from different states to Ohio in order to assist in making decisions needed in order for the organization to be in existence. Though the reasons for coming to the conference differed, all participants stood united in Christ.

For those of you who could not be in attendance, here are some the highlights:

- Officers for CBA include: John Sasser (President), Steve Gilson (Vice-President) and Deb Gilson (Secretary/Treasurer).
- Michele Nicol was elected to the CBA Board and Keith Houseknecht and Steve Gilson were reelected.
- Decision was made that CBA Conferences will go

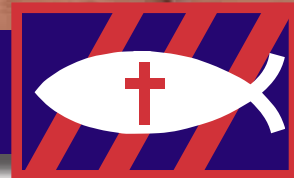
back to being held yearly. The conference in 2017 will be held in Georgia; 2018 will be held in Indiana or Kentucky; 2019 will be held in Florida or Texas and 2020 will be held in Ohio. Everyone is encouraged to attend this yearly event!!

- Regions will remain in effect as they promote cohesiveness within the organization. Region Directors will be held accountable for their regions and will be contacted by President John as to the expectations developed by the CBA Board.
- Suggestions were made as to how CBA can grow in numbers. Suggestions included developing a new form of social media in which CBA members can contact each other with prayer requests, navigational aids, etc. Please see the article by Susan Fitz-Gerald Smith in this issue. In addition to the use of social media, CBA can have a presence at boat shows, passing out flyers, and talking to others about membership in CBA.
- Many of those in attendance talked about their individual ministries and how they have responded to God's call.
- Lastly, many blessings were received by way of special music and the sharing of communion.

For those who have never attended a CBA Conference, please plan now to attend one in the near future. Guaranteed you will be blessed!!

— from Steve and Deb Gilson

A Word From the President



Greetings Fellow Christian Boaters,

It is my prayer that all of you are doing well. I know that several of you were affected in some way, as we were, by Hurricane Matthew. Thankfully we all survived and continue to praise God for seeing us through natural storms as well as spiritual ones.

We were small in number but had a wonderful CBA conference at Beulah Beach this past September, in Ohio. I want to again thank Steve and Deb Gilson for working so hard—"carrying on"—and putting together a great conference.

We are presently working on the next annual conference, which will be held in Savannah or St. Simon's Island, Ga., in the fall of the year 2017. We should have further information on the conference by the time of the next Shipmate.

As we near the end of another year, I would like to encourage all of us to continue on in the Faith and to not "grow weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap if we do not faint (lose heart)." (Gal. 6:9) We want to hear what God is doing in and through your lives and ministries. Prepare now to send your reports to Steve Gilson for the next Shipmate.

There are definite times when it is more difficult to stand strong and wait, or continue on, without "fainting". During such times we need to remember the power of the cross and what it represents. Through the Blood of Jesus and His resurrection power we have been given eternal life for the hereafter, and God's Glorious provisions and promises for an abundant life while we are here on this earth. (John 10:10; Ps. 103).

A few weeks ago, Annette (my wife), awoke one morning and immediately heard the words "Bronze Serpent". We are both familiar with the passage of Scripture in Numbers 21:4-9, which refers to a bronze serpent. As we prayed we were strengthened in the Lord from this Scripture as Holy Spirit once again reminded us of the power God has given us to shake off Satan's attacks.

The people of Israel spoke against God and Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water and our soul loathes this worthless bread (Manna)". Their murmuring and complaining angered the Lord. He sent fiery serpents among them that began to strike the people causing many of them to die.

It wasn't long before the people came to Moses and confessed their sin. Moses prayed to God on their behalf and God instructed him to make a

bronze serpent and put it on a pole, so that anyone who had been bitten by a fiery serpent could turn and look at the bronze serpent, and live.

What an awesome picture of the Cross of Jesus Christ. When we recognize that we are sinners and turn and look to the Cross we find deliverance—salvation. Jesus said that as Moses lifted up the (bronze) serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up. And that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn. 3:14) The believer is brought out of darkness (death)—where that old serpent the devil rules—into God's marvelous Kingdom of Light. (Rev. 20:2) As believers we have the Bread of Life—Jesus, the Living Word. (John 1; 6:33-35)

But even as born again believers in Jesus Christ, we are not immuned from "serpent" strikes. A satanic attack can leave us wearied, weak, in despair, angered, hurt, disappointed—and the list goes on. And if the battle, or storm, lasts too long we might even begin to feel that the way is too hard and too difficult to continue on.

Let me remind us all that God has provided a way to overcome enemy attacks. It is through the Power of the Cross! We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us and gave His life for us. (Romans 8:37) When the enemy strikes we can turn and look to the Cross—remembering, declaring, and acknowledging, who we are in Christ Jesus. We can shake him off and overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our Testimony. Hallelujah! (Rev. 12:11; Ps. 103)

Let us pray for one another, Christian Boater's Association, our nation, and the nations of the world, especially as we approach a new year with a new president and a new governmental platform.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily besets (ensnares) us, and let us run with patience (endurance) the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the Throne of God."

– (Hebrews 12:1 & 2)

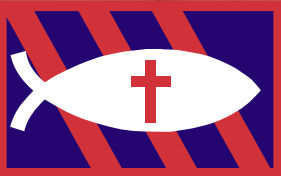


Remember – the Anchor holds

John Sasser, President

E-mail: Sasserseaworks@comcast.net

912-659-1230



2016 CONFERENCE VIDEOS

At this year's conference Jouni Ronka shot a video of some the meetings. It can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/NORYIK-1d-4>.

This video will give you the opportunity to be a part of this conference if you were unable to attend.

Jouni also showed two videos about the Sea Islands Mission- South Pacific. They can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/qUAKutrOa5k>

<https://youtu.be/ZnxYdp3T2bY>

Bonus video for "die-hard" mission sailors from Cook Islands filmed January 2015!

<https://youtu.be/VFSG7gBvubA>

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

 Scott Pitts
Gainesville, GA

Articles Needed:

Your articles are needed for each issue of the Shipmate. If you find something interesting, probably other members would find it of interest also. Send your electronic copies of your newsletter, photos or anything else to gilsonsd@aol.com. Written copies can be sent to the address on the last page of the Shipmate.

— Steve

MURSEA MISSIONS AND "ZEBULUN"

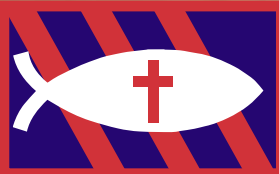
"Zebulun", the 96' aluminum schooner under construction, has been visited often by all kinds of people who get a tour inside the sailboat and out. The Holy Spirit shows these folks what they need to understand about God and His ways. We still need the weld up for "Zebulun" next. There have been a few free welding classes held by Lee Calhoun inside the boat shed.

The sailors we call "Cruisers" from the Lewis & Clark Sailing club again sailed their trailer sailboats for ten days in the Gulf Islands. The "Racers" of which we are, again held the Tribune Cup Regatta and we took third place with our San Juan 21' Sailboat. All this takes place in the inland Port of Clarkston, Washington, where we have the Snake River to sail on. Did you know you can legally anchor in a race if there is no wind and lots of current?

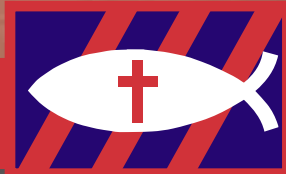
We enjoy our traveling missionary boat friends who stop by. We can offer you power and water and lots of TLC or pick you up at the International airport nearby in Lewiston, Idaho.

God bless you all,
Loren and Georgia Murphy
www.mursea.org
208-659-9161 cell





Member News



IN REMEMBRANCE AND HONOR OF BARRY BRUMER

Barry was an immigration lawyer who was instrumental in helping a countless number of Jewish families make Aliyah (the return of Jews to Israel). He had a heart for his people and held many seminars and gatherings enlightening others about what the Word of God says concerning Jewish people returning to their homeland. This past year he met with CBA boaters in Florida to conduct an Aliyah boat presentation. Michele Nicol shared about this at our recent CBA Conference in September.

We met Barry Brumer in the year of 2002. In April of 2003 we hosted our first CBA conference in Savannah and were blessed to have Barry attend the conference along with his close friend, Gregg Hershburg—a Messianic Jewish Rabbi—who was our main speaker that year.

We became friends with Barry and his wife, Joelle, and enjoyed visiting with them through the years and attending meetings and gatherings with them from time to time. Barry and his friend, Dean Bye, from Canada, were special speakers at another CBA Conference we hosted in St. Simons, Georgia, in 2009. He was a member of CBA and believed that God had his hand upon our organization in a special way.

We thank God for His life and the legacy he left behind. He will be greatly missed.

— John & Annette Sasser

MISSION TO HAITI

While at Barry's Brummer's memorial service two of our fellow CBA brothers Terry Hatt and Keith McFarlane asked us if we would like to help with a mission that will take us to Ile A Vache, Haiti. We said we'll pray about it of course, but to tell you the truth Brigitte's heart was already inflated with the Father's compassion and she said "we'll go".

Brad wanted to help immediately and we embraced this mission. Our only concern was, "is our sailing vessel ready" and "what can we bring and where do we get those things the islanders need"? To bring this short article to a close, we are at Sassers dock welding and getting the vessel ship-shape.

Would you have any thing that you would like to send with us to Ile A Vache? Like dehydrated foods which are super lightweight and much needed. Not a single vegetable plant remained and the whole island was pretty much leveled with every well and cistern unusable.

The list of needs for Ile A Vache is pretty long, so if anyone needs to get a hold of us, try calling us at 310-713-7626 or email islandsailor@cheerful.com

*Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,
and He will pay back what he has given.*

— By Brigitte Whipple



Hey Captain



— *By Captain Keith Houseknecht*

A few years ago Brenda and I were on vacation sailing east on Lake Erie. It was about day four when we woke up to a nice cool day with the wind going in the wrong direction. The warm waters of Lake Erie were too inviting to sit and wait for a better day so we just took off across the lake to Port Stanley, Canada on a favorable tack. We were only a few miles into our 50 mile trek when the chatter on the marine radio took an unexpected turn. The captains on lake freighters were seeing waterspouts.

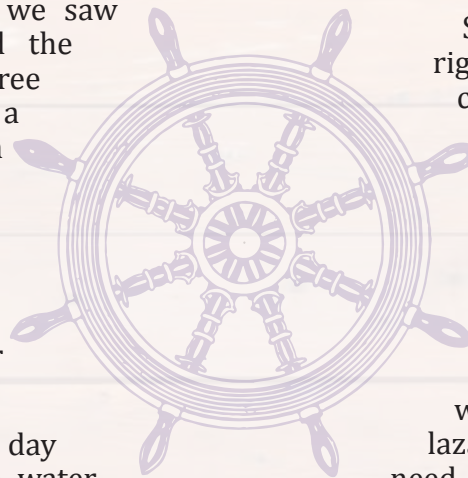
Over a three hour period we saw three large waterspouts and the captains talked about two or three others. As soon as we had a confirmed sighting I turned on the iron jenny and secured the sails like I would for a thunder storm. The wind velocity in these miniature tornadoes can reach well over 100 knots. They also move along the water at 10 to 15 knots.

One of our discussions that day was where to watch to see a water spout as soon as possible? Do I look all around the boat at a distance to see one coming at us? Do I look straight up to see a funnel coming down on top of us? Do I scan the water to see the spout beginning to form? From what I have read since then I think the first indicator is often a "spray ring". I saw several that day and they reminded me of the little twisters that would wander across the hay field, when I was a kid, messing up the rows of hay that I was pitching for my granddad.

Another point to keep in mind is what direction to travel if you see a waterspout. Obviously toward the spout is not a bright idea. Running away from the spout could be almost as bad. Traveling at 10 – 15 knots, many of us are not capable of out running this hazard. Changing course to a path 90 degrees to the apparent direction of travel is the best bet. That is with the understanding that you might be wrong about the direction and the direction may change.

So let's say you did everything right and you still end up with a close encounter of the destructive kind. If time permits I would wrap a line around the main sail to keep it tight. Take anything that is loose down below including my horseshoe ring, propane locker cover and any seats or floor boards that aren't fastened down. I would also latch and lock my lazaret cover. The navigation lights need to be on and the radio turned up loud even though you won't be able to hear it. For storms I stay at the helm but with the potential 100+ knot winds I think the best place to be is down below with my life vest on.

Let me know if your experience or knowledge of waterspouts is different than what I have written. I hope you get to see a waterspout, from a distance. They are a great representation of the power and beauty of God's creation.



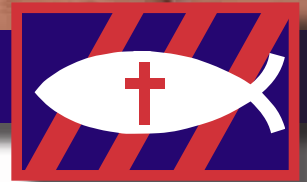
SHIPMATE VIA EMAIL



If you would like to receive your copy of the Shipmate via email, please send your request to Steve Gilson at gilsonsd@aol.com. Also any address changes can be sent to this address.



Florida's CBA Update Report



Praise God for all the dedicated members who were able to attend our CBA international conference. We all appreciate our leadership's hard work that allows our organization to exist and bless others around the world. Many thanks to John Sasser for stepping into the presidency after our dear friend Chad passed away. Many thanks to Steve and Deb Gilson for hosting our conference as we appreciate all you did to make it a success. Our numbers were small, but the impact of the membership's clear vision for the future of CBA was expressed and accepted. Blessing our main speaker, Glen Haines, who came all the way from Israel, we decided that CBA should have a vision for Israel in these end times by allocating a sector of prayer for the coming Kingdom activity and calling of the Holy Spirit. Our Florida captains were excited by this news as many have a heart to help return the Jews to their spiritual land, Israel when their calling comes. I personally was blessed by the young couple that travelled all the way from Finland.

Jouni Ronka was my saving grace when it came time to show our bless Israel excursion down the intercostal with Captain Keith McFarland and Captain Terry Hatt and crew. Captain Bill and Michele Nicol, and their son Sean Nicol, Captain T-bone Bonham, Barry Brummer and Earl Higgins, our new Washington member traveled behind them on Donna Jolay's Terabithia. Barry Brummer, the



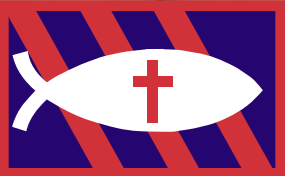
south east director of Cyrus foundation, had a vision to Bless Israel by sailing down the coast with the flags flying of the 12 nations of Israel. Little did Barry know that this vision would be the final chapter in his book of life, as he left the earth to be with his creator 2 weeks later? While Barry was on this earth he had a huge impact on many churches and the Christian body as he taught others about the Jewish Jesus and our call as Christians to support the Jews for their Aliyah, their spiritual journey back to their homeland, Israel.

Many thanks to Capt. Hatt, who helped us, promote CBA, by manning a booth at the Bless Israel event at the Rosen Hotel in Orlando. Both Jew and Gentile were represented and CBA reached out to attract new members and to educate the attendees about the Kingdom service our organization is doing around the world for all mankind.

Here in Florida we survived and escaped the wrath of hurricane Matthew with much prayer and much clean up. Captain Keith and Captain Terry heard the call of God to go serve and help Haiti, as the devastation is beyond what anyone can imagine. Their trailer was packed with clothes and items collected for the needy, FL CBA members contributed by purchasing equipment to show the Jesus film to those who need hope. Only Jesus can be the hope and fill the needs during this terrible devastation that has destroyed this island and its people. We all need to lift these poor people who are suffering up in our daily prayer.

Bill and I are looking forward to serving this year as John Sasser takes the helm. Anyone who knows John knows he is an exhorter and a true man of God who knows how to unite and lead. Let us all lift John up in prayer as this New Year approaches. It is time for us to pay extra attention to the call of the Holy Spirit as the time is getting shorter to accomplish our mandate of the great commission.

— Michele Nicol



New Facebook Group

CBA has a new closed Facebook group, recently approved by the CBA board of directors at the 2016 annual meeting, and all members are invited to join! In a closed group, administrators must approve members and only group members can see posted content. (Non members can only see who is in the group but may not join in.) Given the fact that CBA members are scattered throughout the world, Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with friends--and make some new ones.

To join in the conversation type "CBA: The Group" into the search bar at the top of your Facebook page. When the page comes up, just click "JOIN NOW." An administrator will quickly approve you and you're all set. Here's the group's description:

"Welcome to the Christian Boaters' Association closed Facebook Group. Whether you own a boat or simply have an active interest in boats, this page should be both helpful and fun. It is a members-only group and no one will see our posts except other CBA members who have joined this group.

The primary goal of our group is to develop positive fellowship and to provide mutual support and encouragement among CBA members. Feel free to post ministry and outreach reports, both boating and otherwise; inspirational posts or links; ideas for starting boating ministries; prayer requests; requests for your ministry such as prayer, materials, supplies, and needed crew requests; and celebrations, too! Let's share our adventures,

trips, photos, and help each other when we can.

This is NOT a platform for discussing politics, religious views or social issues, and it is not a place for advertising products or services.

Please remember that only CBA members are allowed to belong and share information here. Since some people are working in politically sensitive and potentially dangerous areas of the world, we do not want to compromise anyone by unknowingly sharing sensitive information. For this reason, please share ONLY information about yourself, your own family and your own ministry. If you have a need to share information regarding someone else, please FB message the administrator who will determine the appropriateness of the post.

Let's celebrate our life together!

"...and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters." (NASB)

Looking forward to seeing you on our new closed Facebook group soon!

[In case you didn't know . . . we also have a static Facebook page which is accessible to the public, although they may not engage. We get many views there each day, and it's a good way to encourage membership in CBA. If you have information or articles you think would be of interest to Christian boaters, please send the info, article or pictures by message on the "Christian Boaters Association" (static) Facebook page and we'll publish it there.]

—Susan and Alan Schroeffer
CBA advisors/Facebook administrators

WEBSITE ADDITIONS

A new page (**Affiliated Ministries**) has been created on the membership tab of the CBA website. This page will list the website of any affiliated ministries. If you would like your ministry listed, please send the information in the following format to the email address below:

Ministry Name:

Ministry Description: One paragraph, no more than 4 sentences.

Ministry website address:

Another page has been created (**Useful and Misc. Websites**). This would include any website that you consistently visit for information. It could be about weather, safety concerns, boating conditions or any other useful information. Also send them in the above format to the email address below:

Send them to: Steve Gilson, gilsonsd@aol.com

CBA Officers

President: John Sasser (2017)

Vice President: Steve Gilson (2019)

Secr/Tres: Deb Gilson (2017)

Board Members:

David Chin (2018)

Keith Houseknecht (2019)

Michele Nicol (2019)

Ted Orem (2018)

Annette Sasser (2017)

Olie Teeter (2018)

Board of Advisors:

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Tim Jezek, Jone Kata, Ed Morris,

Loren Murphy, Neil and Earlene Nelson,

Bill Nicol, Dick Rutter, Alan Schroepfer,

Susan Fitz-Gerald Smith,

Glenn Smith, George Wood

President Emeritus:

Marlin Simon

Board Members Emeritus:

Earl & Sharon Cook, Fred & Arlette Barnsdale

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IL, WI, KY, W-VA

Northeast: ME, NH, MA, CT, RI, VT

Mid-US: ND, SD, WY, CO, NE,

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Jone Kata

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Fiji and Pacific Islands

Christian Boaters Association

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