



Broward County Airboat, Halftrack and Conservation Club

Dedicated to Preserving the Everglades

NEWSLETTER

August 2018

President's Letter

2017-2018 Officers

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Bruce Ward

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Browdairboat@aol.com

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Danandsherrycimas@bellsouth.net

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Sherry Cimas

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(954) 543-3709

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E-Board

Sean McCann

(954) 914-6624

Neil Ruddy

(954) 931-7342

Pete Hora

(954) 444-6836

Jason Freeman

(954) 624-5195

Past President

Brett Holcombe

(954) 684-4858

Past Treasurer

Jim Simon

(954) 553-1989

The Club's Annual Meeting was July 25th, elections were held and some changes were made in your Executive Board. Your newly elected Officers are President Bruce Ward, Vice President Dan Cimas, Treasurer Bill Sirola, Secretary Sherry Cimas, Past President Brett Holcombe, Past Treasurer Jim Simon, Neil Ruddy, Pete Hora, Sean McCann and Jason Freeman. We have been charged with directing our Club's operations for the next year. As expected, there are some ideas that our Directors would like to try, to make BCAHCC even better.

Our Club has been in operation since 1952, so for 66 years, the elected officers have built the Club to what it is today. Those past executive boards have tried many different ideas, some worked well while others may not have been as successful. It is our hope that the next year will be a great success and something we can all be proud of. Speaking of being proud, our club has seen great success and growth under the direction Brett Holcombe, Barney McDougall, Nate Fisher, John Storms and the entire executive boards for the last 5 years.

Our club has seen many changes and is much better because of them, starting with the successes of our Annual Airboat Shows. We always wanted to have that big Airboat Show, with country music legend John Anderson, with the opening act of Diamond Rose; and with the support of Ron Bergeron it happened. The biggest and most profitable show in 29 years.

This past Executive Board was faced with legislation that enabled target shooting on the L-5 Levee during hunting season. Our members were exposed to life threatening gun fire from target shooters. The Club tried to get support to put an end to this unsafe practice. The club was told that the FWC Officers could not stop it and would be exposed to personal lawsuits if they tried. President Holcombe, led the Club to purchase and post signs to warn the shooters of the legality and dangers of what they were doing. Unfortunately, a man lost his life from a stray bullet. Everyone was fully aware the BCAHCC was the only group who had tried to stop this unsafe activity. The FWC approached our Club for help and we responded. Legislation was enacted and signs were put up. There is no longer target shooting off of the Levee and our members and others who hunt there should be safe.

John Storms, our Past President, revived our Youth Hunting Program and made our Club's program the model for the entire state. Not only were our Youth Hunters engaged, but BCAHCC now has over a Dozen Certified Hunt Masters. We currently have Alligator, Deer, Hog and Duck Hunts as part of our program. John Storms also mentored members to replace him. Currently, Jason Freeman and John Conti our heading up the program with many volunteers assisting these great hunts.

Over the past 5 years, our Club has sponsored 70 Children to attend our Everglades Youth Camp. Some of the children we sent have gone on to become Junior Counselors and Counselors. Along the way, our children have been presented many awards.

Another large accomplishment was the completion of the Boars Nest Camp. If you haven't seen it lately, I would encourage you to visit. The docks are in thanks to many volunteers, besides your executive board, it is painted and just looks great.

Yet another accomplishment during President Holcombe's tenure that seemed to be beyond our control, was getting a web site that worked and could be managed. Nate Fisher, Glenn Checchi, Bill Sirola, Jennifer Hora Green, and Marcello all got together to make our website happen. BrowardAirboat.org and Browdairboatclub.com are up and running. You can also visit our Facebook Page. Broward Airboat Club, you can see what the club is doing.

We can Thank President Holcombe (and Danielle Suzanne), Barney McDougall (and Annie), Bill Sirola (and Dianne), and all of the elected officers for the last five years for accomplishing the things I mentioned above and so much more. I have worked with seven different Presidents in the last 20 years, I can say that the accomplishments of President Holcombe and everyone who has helped him, has made our Club Great Again! I will expend all of my and elected Board's efforts to continue what they have done. Thanks to all of you and the efforts you made for the Broward County Airboat Halftrack and Conservation Club. A job well done. On behalf of your 2018-2019 Executive Board we are looking forward to seeing each and every one of our members soon.

Bruce Ward
President
BCAHCC



Monthly Meetings

August 4th Memorial Poker Run 10:00am
Meet at The Boar's Nest Camp. Poker
hands and 50/50 raffle.

August 8th E-Board Meeting 7:00pm
Davie Women's Club, 6551 Orange Drive

August 22nd General Meeting 7:00pm
Davie Women's Club, 6551 Orange Drive
Please arrive at 6:30 to get food and be ready.

August 25th Club Banquet 7:00pm
Tropical Acres, 2500 Griffin Road
Tickets are \$65 per person



Upcoming Youth Hunts

November 2nd – 4th Deer/Hog Hunt at Istokpoga

January 5th Duck Hunt at STA 1

January 19th Duck Hunt at STA 1

March 1st – 3rd Alligator Hunt at STA 2

March 22nd – 24th Alligator Hunt at STA 3/4

Interested youths can apply online at
www.myfwc.com select **Hunting** then **Youth
Opportunities**

**Applicants must have completed Hunter's Safety
Course and be Florida Residents to participate.**

The Picnic Island Story

By Barbara Ouellette

July, 1995

In the 1980's, the Broward County Airboat, Halftrack and Conservation Club was looking for a site in the Glades (with) an adequate space of dry land to hold family gatherings, poker runs and other club functions.

Wayne Cone, a club member and Airboating conservationist for over forty years, came upon what is now known as "Picnic Island." Excited by his discovery, Wayne brought, then acting club president, Lee Sweazy to the site. They agreed the area held great promise.

There was only one minor drawback; the island was totally covered with overgrowth of exotic bushes. So thick was it that a path into the interior was seemingly impossible...except to Wayne!

Armed with a chain saw, he returned and was left to the challenge of clearing the island. Slowly the tangled mass of over grown bushes were cut and hauled to the far end of the island to be burned. Rocks covering the island had to be hand raked and disposed of. Little by little, many weekends and with much effort, the island took shape. Finally, after months of hard work the island was usable.

At his shop in town, Wayne built picnic tables, carried them out on his airboat for assembly on the island. Another member, Harold Jones, donated benches. Trees were planted to provide shade, one Ficus tree was planted in memory of Richard Treece, as a reminder of what a beautiful individual he was. A weekend project was organized to erect a BBQ pit. Harold Jones, Curtis Phillips, and Dwight Treece assisted Wayne in the construction. The island was now ready and was indeed used and enjoyed by many who became involved with its upkeep.

After Hurricane Andrew, a team of volunteers from the club gathered with chain saws and rakes to clear fallen trees and debris. They spent the entire day restoring the island to its former state. Not too long ago, another group came with hammers, saws, nails and lumber to build the existing dock on the back side of the island. It was a formidable task, completed with much effort, camaraderie and laughter. The totem pole was the creation of Doug Unsinn and his skillful work with a chain saw. The colorful decoration was completed by Brittany Cone, daughter of Wayne, who has come to love the Glades as much as her dad does!

Out of consideration, (especially for we ladies), Wayne built an outhouse and erected it at the far end of the island. It was a handsome work of art! A "two-holer" constructed solidly out of wood. It provided ample privacy and unknowingly to Wayne, a whole lot more! It seems the woodpecker population found it to be a great source of pleasure. Despite efforts to discourage their attacks, the outhouse was soon full of gaping holes. At a general meeting, Wayne approached the membership. After a short explanation, Wayne made his request for a "PECKER-PROOF" outhouse. Once the roar of laughter finally subsided, his request was unanimously granted.

These days, just about every weekend, you can find Wayne on this island, mowing the grass and picking up after careless picnickers. For Wayne to have accomplished this oasis in the Glades and maintain it, is truly a labor of love. It is a testimonial to his dedication in preservation and conservation of the Everglades. Today, the island is used by airboaters and bass boaters alike. They come to enjoy its conveniences and nature itself.

WE WHO ENJOY THE PEACEFUL QUIET, AWAY FROM THE RAT RACE, SAY 'THANKS' TO WAYNE CONE FOR THIS WONDERFUL PLACE.

SO PITCH A TENT, SPEND THE NIGHT OR A FEW HOURS. BUT PLEASE TAKE THE TRASH WHEN YOU GO...IT'S YOURS NOT OURS!



IN CASE YOU MISSED THE MEETING:



Bruce Ward won the
Membership Drawing:

\$89.40



And Jason Freeman
won the 50/50 Raffle

\$81.00

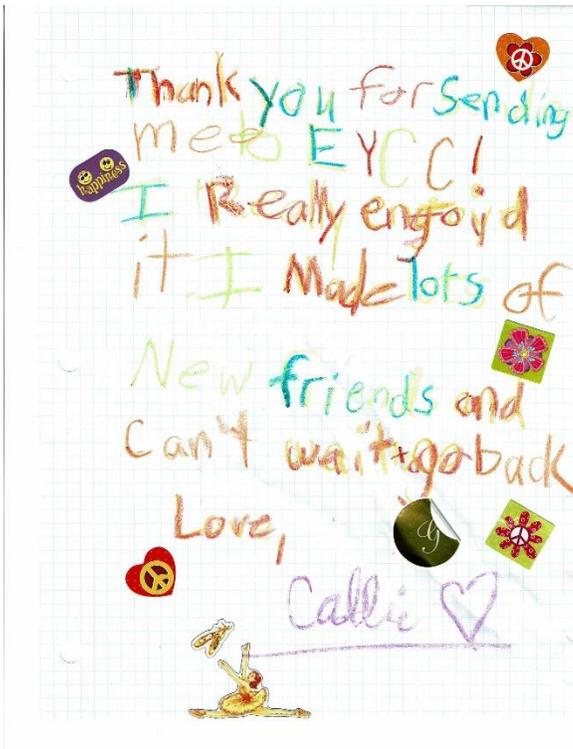
Congrats to our big winners!

A Special thanks from some club sponsored Campers

Dear Broward County Airboat Club,

Thank you so much for sponsoring my two weeks at EYCC this summer. This was my 9th year at camp and I had the privilege of participating in their leadership program. I earned 80 hours of community service from helping out with campers, cleaning, and doing whatever needed to be done around camp. I learned all about what it takes to become a good leader and each skill that will help me succeed in life. I also got to participate in all the fun activities I love to do including fishing, swimming, archery, paddle boarding, camping and so much more! I've made some of my closest friends at camp and I am so grateful for that. I grow to love this camp more and more each year that I go and I hope to one day become a counselor. Thank you so much for sending me to this amazing camp every year, where I am able to detach from my cell phone and enjoy the outdoors.

Sincerely,
Alexis Green



Annual Awards Banquet

When: Saturday, August 25th from 7pm-11pm

Where: Tropical Acres- 2500 Griffin Road

Cost: \$65 Per person

Tickets are still available- they can be purchased at the E-Board Meeting or the last chance at the General Membership Meeting.

Great Raffle Prizes to be won, a 50/50 Raffle Great food and friends!

Do you have any questions?

Contact Bill Sirola for details

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