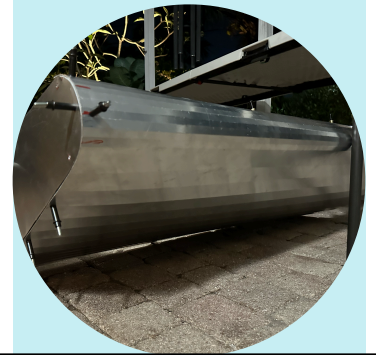


# Gladesmen Times

**Broward County Airboat and Halftrack Conservation Club**



## **Airboat Corner** Members Projects



### **Airboating in the Abacos Bahamas**

Graham Hegameyer, age 40, born in Miami and lived there until 1992, when hurricane Andrew sent he and his family to Charleston, South Carolina. Married to Anna Hayward and has two young children. At approximately seven years old, he took an airboat ride and was hooked. Remembering that fun time, and always wanting his own Airboat, he purchased one finally in 2011. He spent his younger years avidly fishing and became a guide. With a great ability to teach fishing, knot tying and what kind of fishing bait, live or artificial was his strong point. He also is an avid fly fisherman.

He had met and befriended, lifetime, Flip Pallet in the Bahamas. Many of us, remember the Walkers Kay Chronicles. He spent time with him in Mims Florida as well. Airboat and began listening to Flip and what to look for, and not in purchasing an airboat. Through lots of rides and conversation, Graham made a purchase.

Graham and Anna Heyward had moved to the Abacos and 2016. He had assimilated into the Bahama's society by being a good listener and learner. A talented repair person and loved their IOU atmosphere. There were several Airboaters living in those islands and Graham 's intention was to take his Airboat over there, but did not want to be Intrusive or a threat. Because he had made so many friends he was more than welcomed. He said it was better than having an American Express card, the IOU friendships, given repay in kind services.

With the typical islands topography, marl (muck. In thousands of acres of shallow waters, inaccessible by any kind of a boat, he had filled a dream of unlimited duck and hog hunting. That was an 1 foot aluminum ultralight with a Lycoming 200, typically a two person boat. Unfortunately, hurricane Dorian destroyed much of that area, including his home and his Airboat. So with a wife 8 1/2 months pregnant, they moved back to South Carolina he had basically been wiped out. On top of that, the Airboat had been stolen because of friendship and camaraderie. He was able to recover it and bring the shambles of it back to the states. There was a number in between we bought his boat, which was a Thurman the hull.

His friendship that started Years ago with Flip flushed and that led him to a hull designed by Flip with an 0540 Lycoming. Although there's a limited area in South Carolina to legally run an airboat, he chooses to store here so he can maintain it perfectly. That way when he travels to Florida he knows it's ready to go. Graham co-owns a Rum company distributorship called Frigate Reserve Rum. That business opportunity arose over a conversation in the Abaco Islands with several people.

Normaly, he navigates the marshes, lakes, rivers in Brevard County with friends that he has made in that area. If all goes well within the next couple of months, we plan on hooking up with other friends and riding somewheres in WCA2 and or 3.

In Brevard County enjoying everything the new scenery has to offer. Flip and Graham also found another passion they share- Rum. The two found a legendary Master Distiller in Central America and began importing their own aged rum.

In Graham's words, "there was just something...the first time Iheard the engine start, felt that fan blow, and that boat break free and slide that I knew this was something I wanted to be a part of. I wanted to be an airboater."

## Memorial Run - September 14th 2024 - Bill Terry



The MEMORIAL RUN, honoring those who passed in the previous year, was held successfully on September 14. It was originally scheduled August 3, but it was weathered out. We had 18 boats and over 40 people in attendance. I'd also like to note that eight of those were youth. We honored Four Club members: John Waski, Mike Reeves, Rick Nystrand and Roy Parker. We also honored Three nonmembers: Lee Hancock of scorpion airboats, Carroll Wright (Bishop's wife) of GladesMan's fame, and Thomas Ward a tour boat guide.

We met at the club camp, Boars Nest And headed off to the famed gas tree, also known as the gas light tree, for the ceremony. Bill Terry off with a prayer, and Bruce Ward followed up with a short dialogue about each of the above listed. We then took a tour of some of the camps and WCA 2, end up at Willards camp for a visit and stopping points. And then back to the Boars Nest for a cookout.

The weather held up for us and everybody had a good time. I'd like to extend a comment of appreciation for our president, Fernando, our vice president, Kyle, and former executive board member Chad. I may be missing somebody... who went to Lake Isopo where youth hunts held to prep for the upcoming season. It was great seeing a good turnout for such a meaningful memorial ceremony.

Our next group event is the Halloween Poker run, and we hope to see a large participation for another fun event. While we were at the boars nest, we discussed the plan to build the "Tower", and it seems like the consensus was let's get going on it and give Steven Lorenzi the go ahead to do just that.

## Presidents Letter - Fernando Gonzalez

Our club hopes that you will have time to spend with your family as well as enjoy a fall hunt as the 2024 holiday season draws near. As much as we are grateful for you, our members, we hope you will find plenty to be thankful for later this month, as the BCAHCC wishes everyone a hearty Thanksgiving.

I would like to use this opportunity to inform you about the forthcoming events that your E-board has settled upon:

- **On Friday, December 6, we will have our Deer/Hog Youth Hunt at Lake Istapoga.** If you need any other information, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.
- **Saturday, December 14th is the current date for the Snipe Hunt.** Regretfully, this event is still TBD due to fluctuating water levels. If you're interested, please keep checking the website for confirmation of this event.
- **Frog Giggling Tournament, January 18, 2025.** It will take place at Mile Marker 35 on Alligator Alley. Check-in promptly begins at 5:30 p.m. The competition will begin on time at 6:30 p.m. The hours when you can weigh in are 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be a 50/50 raffle and we are going to serve hot dogs and hamburgers. This will be a family-friendly occasion.

As you are aware, the first quarter of each year is often when our Annual Air Boat show occurs. We are still in the planning phases for 2025, though. For this forthcoming event, we anticipate a completely new layout in addition to other modifications. Additionally, we are already developing a few new vendors, sponsors, and activities. Many of these adjustments will be implemented based on your recommendations for improving performance. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed over the years and to those who want to do so for this next show. Numerous committed members go above and above to ensure the success of this club, including supporting the Everglades Youth Camp, Youth Hunting, and all other events that raise awareness of our club and the conservation of the Everglades for future generations to enjoy.

As a reminder, the club has gone dark for the remainder of 2024. General Club meetings will resume in 2025 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Joining these meetings via Zoom is still applicable. Please take the time to learn how to sign on. If your phone or computer has a camera then we can see one another. If not, you will still be able to listen in. In any case, we still hope you will join us whether virtually or in person. The date of our next upcoming meeting will be on Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

Our club is continually looking for new things of interest to include in our newsletters. If you have anything, please kindly forward it to Bill Terry for review and approval.

On behalf of the club, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Be Safe this Hunting Season,  
Fernando Gonzalez  
BCAHCC President



## KYLES KORNER

As I'm sure most are aware we are dealing with yet another high water closure in Area 3. This year the water was over closure criteria for several weeks before FWC made the decision to close the area. I have dealt with these closures my entire life and can tell you this is a step in the right direction. For many years FWC would close the area weeks before the closure criteria was even met. Historically FWC would also close the area for a minimum of 90 days, in recent years the area has reopened once the water recedes and deer leave the L5. The Club also reached out to FWC after the tornadoes that stemmed from Hurricane Milton and FWC agreed to approve permits for camp owners to inspect for damages.

### **-Broward Airboat and Halftrack Conservation club will host and Deer/hog youth hunt at SFWMD Istokpoga property 12/6-12/8. Youth Hunting Program of Florida I FWC**

-Yes on 2

-Lifetime hunting and fishing License 50% off 17y/o and under

#### Public Land Meetings

10/23-CEPP bi-annual public information meeting was held. This project involves construction on the L5 and L4 levees, and backfilling the Miami canal. Little to no public access issues are expected.

10/28- SFWMD Recreational Public Forum

- SFWMD will not change S8 no camping situation until after L4,L5, and Miami Canal construction is completed. ( Many years away)
- We proposed a new boat ramp for 2B to SFWMD last year. They updated that a new boat ramp is unlikely but they are looking at other options.

## **Boars Nest Camp - Deck Project**

We have approved and have been in the planning process for the new raised deck and sunset viewing area @ Boars Nest Camp. There was a preliminary meeting during the Ghost and Goblins event for the layout and design plans. As of now, we have the material order complete and will be ordering and delivering materials to the stub canal boat ramp in the next couple weeks. Now the weather is getting cooler it is the time to get completed. We will have work days planed for any one that wants to help (weak mind and strong back with some carpentry skills are a plus) but we also are looking for boats to help transport materials that are being delivered @ stub canal to Boars Nest Camp, extra hands to carry materials and some one to help with cooking lunch and telling jokes would be great also. No worries about what skills you have, Everyone that shows up is hired! Our first mission, will be to get materials (the post are 6"x6"x20' and 200lbs each) and we have 15 of those to bring to camp. Next we will work on installation of post and beam structure and stairs. Then, we will have the decking and railing project. And finally, we will complete the upper roofing. For any more information or to get on the group text for work schedules please text your information to Steven

Lorenzi 561-385-1270

## Annual Ghost and Goblins @ Boars Nest

We had a 50-50 raffle, which made some money for the club and it was won by Tyler and Vicky Mayer, they donated half the winning back to the club, very special of them.

Fernando cooked hamburgers and hotdogs as we milled about the camp visiting and reminiscing. Steven Lorenzi and his 'tower group' marked out the outline of our soon to be constructed, raised

deck, lookout platform with roof. Additionally, we will probably mount some swings. Steve will let us know when he's ready to start carrying out the initial materials to begin the project, stay tuned.

Bruce Ward, with a few others worked on the gas tank of a gasoline generator recently donated. We also spoke of getting the newsletter out and streamlining it so the duties are not thrown upon any one individual.

There were several youngsters enjoying the day with us. Special note to the couple with the soon to be two-year-old, he was having a blast. to all the kids involved, you are the future so please get involved

We then mounted the airboats and headed off for an afternoon ride, which included stops at the Willard Brothers camp, and the Ramblin Rose camp, and the Naked Lady Camp We dodged a couple

of small rain, showers and returned to clean up, close up the CLUB camp and ride away into the sunset.



# Up Coming Events

## Broward Airboat and Halftrack Conservation Club

Will host Deer - Hog Youth  
Hunt

SFWMD Istokpoga property  
12/6-12/8.

Youth Hunting Program of  
Florida | FWC

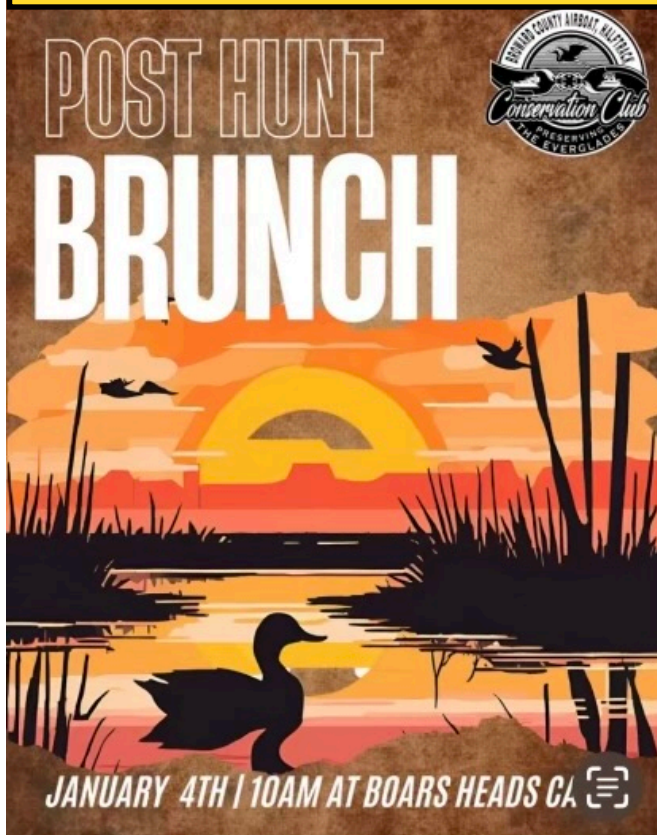
## Snipe Hunt

L5 Levee

Saturday December 14th

(check website for updated information)

January 4th - Boars Nest



January 18th - MM35



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2025 Frog Tournament Shirts