

# HOLLY BLUFF MARINA



## **Cruising Guide & Houseboat Handbook**

## WELCOME TO THE ST. JOHNS...

**“If I could have, to hold forever, one brief place and time of beauty, I think I might choose the night on that high lonely bank above the St. Johns River.”**

*Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings*

Explore the St. Johns River aboard one of our houseboats and you will experience a Florida light years removed from the glitter of Disney World. A cruise upon the St. Johns is a return to the original natural Florida, appearing much as it did when Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings explored the St. Johns in the early 20th century. She and Dessie Prescott traveled the river in a small motorboat and camped on the river bank at night. In a chapter of Cross Creek she wrote about her experience.

Scenery along the river varies with the elevation. Pine flatwood occur on the higher areas, while palm, oak hammocks, cypress swamps and marshes variously border the river and its tributaries. Much of the land bordering the river is part of the Ocala National Forest and will never be developed. Wildlife is abundant. You will see great blue and little blue herons as they pose among the thick clusters of moss-draped live oak and palmetto. Egrets dip for fish while osprey and eagles soar in the sky above you. Alligators and turtles bask in the sun on the banks. Bring your fishing equipment and fish for crappie, catfish and perch. At one time the St. Johns was locally dubbed the bass capital of the world. It is very common to come upon deer crossing the river. Raccoons have been known to raid garbage cans on the front decks of houseboats tied up to the bank of the river at night.

Just one half hour by houseboat south of Holly Bluff is Blue Springs State Park, which is the heart of the manatee protection area. Every winter the manatee travel to our area to winter in the warm water spring which has a constant water temperature of 72 degrees. Slow speed zones are in effect for most of the river so that the slow moving “sea cows” have time to avoid the propellers.

The river features scattered pockets of civilization with small communities, fish camps and boat docks. Many fish camps have restaurants that serve fresh blue crab or alligator tail, delicacies not found in big city restaurants. Life is casual and laid back on the river. You do not need dress clothes so pack light.

Your river experience will not soon be forgotten. You can enjoy an uninterrupted view of the river’s timeless beauty from inside the climate-controlled cabin or outside on the outer and upper deck. Chart your own course and see tropical birds, lush foliage, and lazy alligators while the river unfolds for your enjoyment. Occasionally a pleasure boater will hurry by you and wave while you cruise on savoring the serenity afforded by your private rendezvous with unspoiled Florida. Enjoy the sunset from the loungers on the top deck while sipping your favorite beverage. Prepare savory meals on the gas charbroiler and dine under the stars. Then let the gentle movement of the river rock you to sleep in your boat’s comfortable cabin.

We wish to welcome you to the St. Johns River and aboard our houseboats. We hope you will enjoy your adventure on the legendary waters of this tropical river.

Judy & Rick Armstrong

Silver Glen Springs

Lake George Markers 6 & 7



Recommended Anchorage's



Do Not Enter – Hazardous



Red Markers Even Numbers



Green Markers Odd Numbers

This is how they are differentiated on your chart. The Channel markers are oriented as seen from "returning from the sea". The three R's to follow when returning to Port are red, right, returning.

The river channel marker numbers descend as you progress down the river and as we travel up to the north.

South End of Lake George

Page 12 →

Astor Bridge

Lake Dexter

Mud Lake

← Page 10

White Hair Bridge

Hontoon State Park

Lake Beresford

**HOLLY BLUFF**

Blue Springs

← Page 8

Wekiva River

← Page 6

Lake Monroe

Monroe Harbour Marina

2

← Page 4

## BOUNDARIES FOR HOLLY BLUFF BOATS

### Miles North of Holly Bluff Marina

White Hair Bridge	3.2 Miles
Mud Lake	9.2 Miles
Lake Dexter	15.2 Miles
Astor Bridge	22.1 Miles
South End of Lake George	25.0 Miles
Silver Glen Springs	29.9 Miles
Lake George Markers 6 & 7	32=34 Miles

### Miles South of Holly Bluff Marina

Hontoon State Park	.2 Miles
Lake Beresford	.8 Miles
Blue Springs	5.4 Miles
Wekiva River	9.5 Miles
Boat Tree Marina	15 Miles
Lake Monroe	15.1 Miles

# INDEX

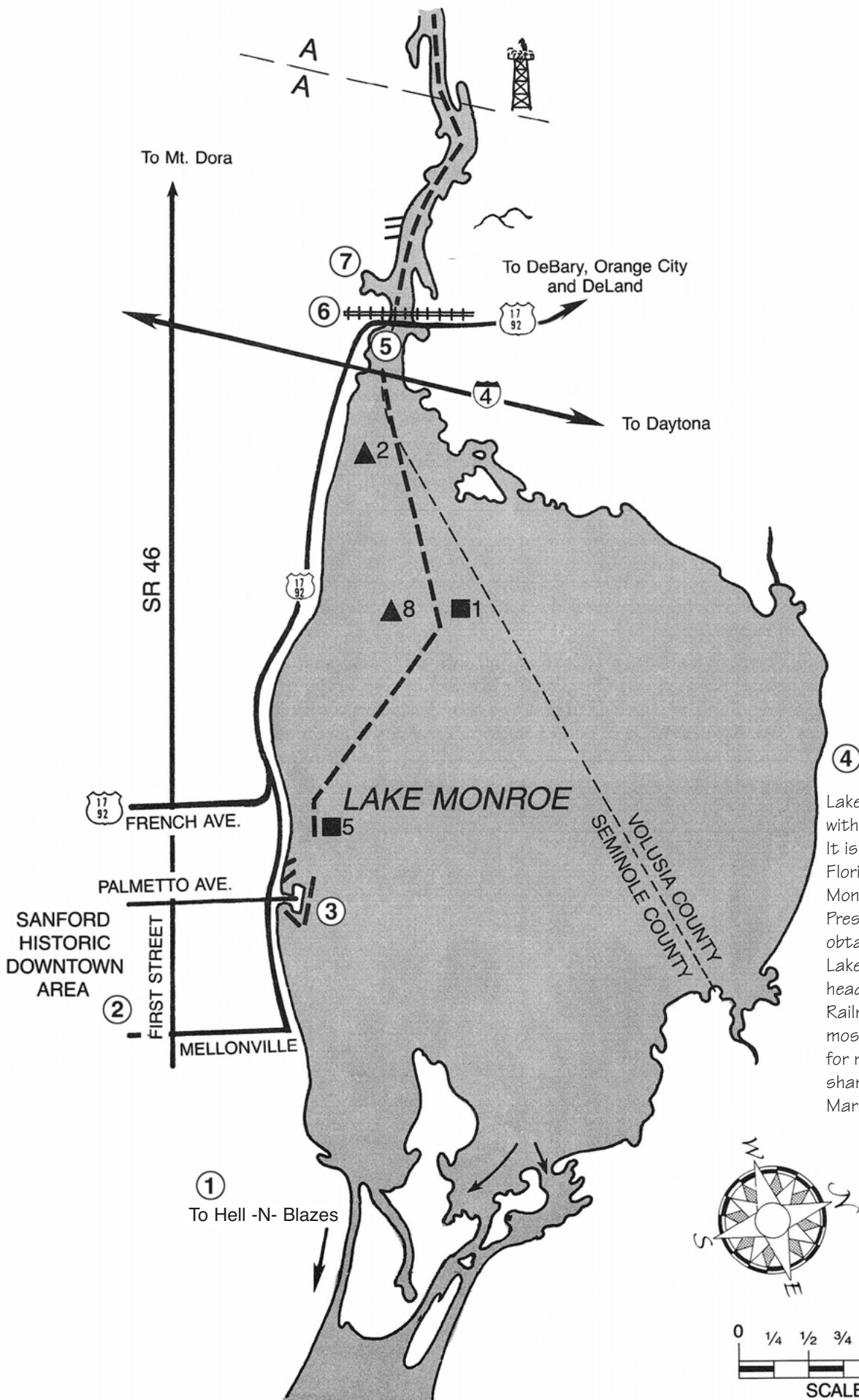
Welcome to the St. Johns River .....	1
Mileage Chart from Holly Bluff .....	2
Map beginning in Sanford .....	4
Map Sanford to Blue Springs .....	6
Map Blue Springs to Horseshoe Mud Lake .....	8
Map Horseshoe Mud Lake through Lake Dexter .....	10
Map North of Lake Dexter to Mid Lake George .....	12
Houseboat Handbook .....	14
Drawings and Descriptions of birds and animals .....	20
Fishing on the St. Johns River .....	22



ALLIGATOR - There is an abundance of alligators on the St. Johns River. Once considered endangered, alligators are now a preservationist success story. Feeding alligators is illegal and can be dangerous. They do not know the difference between your hand and a donut.

Credit for line drawings throughout this guide are given to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.





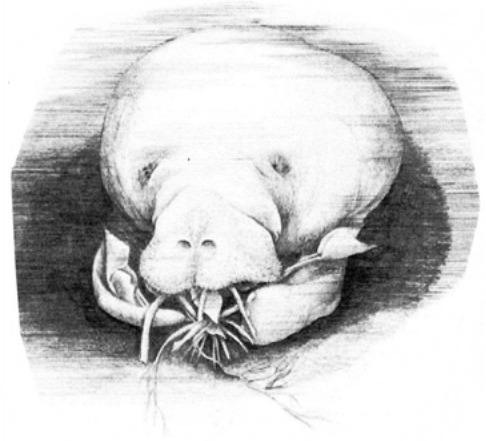
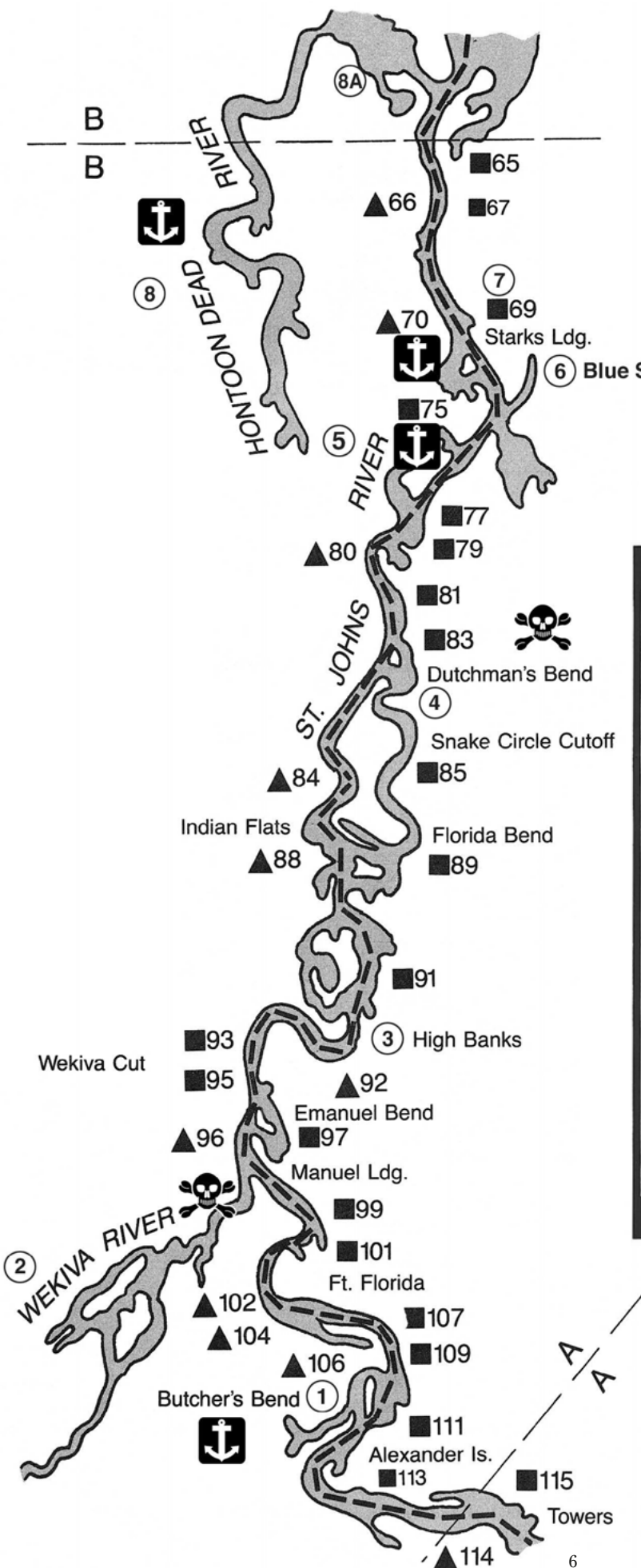
Lake Monroe is a shallow lake with a maximum depth of 7 feet. It is the 11th largest lake in Florida with 13 square miles. Lake Monroe was named for U.S. President Monroe after the U.S. obtained Florida from Spain. The Lake Monroe shoreline was bulkheaded during the 1930's. CSX Railroad Bridge is the southern most point of the cruising range for rental houseboats and time-share houseboats at Holly Bluff Marina.

**The southern travel limit for our houseboats is the CSX Railroad Bridge located at the mouth of Lake Monroe. We do not allow our houseboats to enter Lake Monroe.**

- (1) **To Hell -N- Blazes** - The channel is not marked for navigation past this point. The river becomes very shallow and is mostly used by airboats. From this point the river stretches another 100 miles south and slightly east to one of the southernmost lakes on the St. Johns called Lake Helen Blazes where the St. Johns is thought to originate.
- (2) **Sanford Historic District** - Sanford's first permanent settlement was established in 1836, when troops were stationed on the south bank of Lake Monroe to protect settlers from indian attacks. In 1870 General Henry S. Sanford, former minister to Belgium, purchased 12,535 acres of land and laid out the town which was eventually named in his honor. Today antique shops and restaurants line First Street.
- (3) **Monroe Harbour** - Small boats can dock if a slip is available. Call (407) 322-2910 for docking instructions, or call them on channel 16 on the VHF marine radio. Navigation is very tight in this marina. Be careful, enter at your own risk.
- (4) **Florida Power & Light** - The plant was built in 1926.
- (5) **Highway US 17-92 bridge**. This is a stationary bridge with plenty of overhead clearance.
- (6) **CSX Railroad Bridge** - Sunrail, Amtrak, Autotrain and freight traffic all cross the river on this bridge.
- (7) **Boat Tree Marina and Restaurant** - No overnight docking. Call (407) 322-1610 for docking instructions or call them on channel 16 on the VHF marine radio. We do not recommend entering this marina. The channel is very narrow. Enter at your own risk.



OSPREY - The Osprey is a large, fish-eating bird of prey, frequently mistaken for their famous relative, the Bald Eagle. Ospreys build large nests that they expand and use year after year. Osprey plunge feet first into the water to catch fish with their claws.



## Please Watch For Manatees



### You Can Help!

**C**all (800) 404-FWCC (3922), #FWC, \*FMP, or use VHF Channel 16 if you see an injured manatee.

**A**void running your motor over seagrass beds. Stay in deep water channels.

**R**eflect glare by wearing polarized sunglasses.

**E**njoy manatees but don't touch, feed or give them water.

**F**ollow posted speed zone and sanctuary signs.

**U**se trash containers. Don't discard fishing line, hooks, or other garbage in the water.

**L**ook for the manatee's snout, back, tail, or flipper in the water. A swirl or flat spot on the surface may signal a manatee is below.



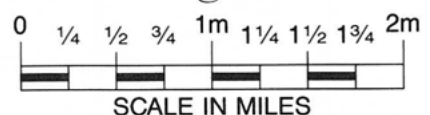
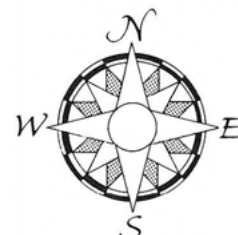
Save the  
Manatee Club

**FWC**  
Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission



Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund

## OPERATE WITH CARE

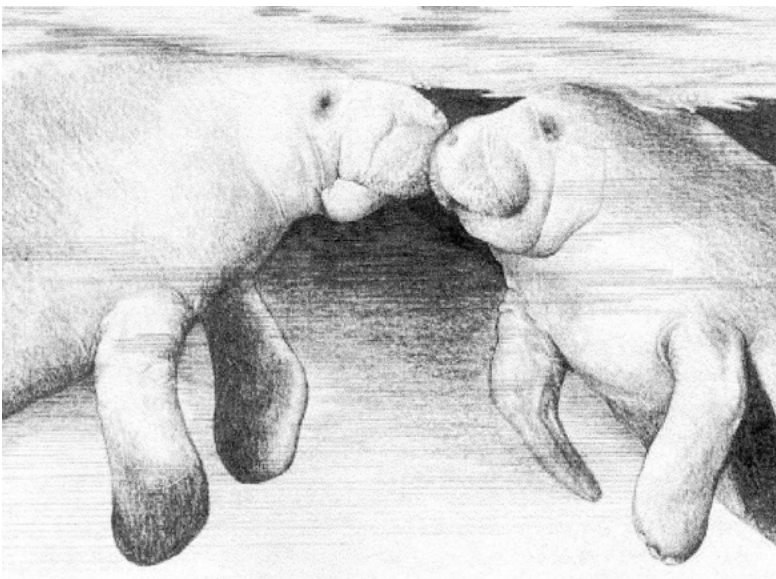




- (1) Butcher's Bend - There is good anchorage behind this island located between markers 109 and 111.
- (2) The Wekiva River leads back to Rock Springs and Wekiva Springs which combined contribute daily to the river over 140 million gallons of spring water. Wekiva is an indian word meaning springs. This river is very scenic but is too narrow for our houseboats. If you have a small boat this is a great area to explore.
- (3) **Highbanks Marina** is now a campground and RV resort of the same name. In 1766 naturalist John Bartram called this area the river's "sweetest shores". They have a store and snack bar but are only accessible by small boat.

**Swamp House Riverfront Grill** at Highbanks Marina has good food, drinks and live music. Call 386-668-8891 to ask about docking. Houseboats are currently welcome to dock after 5 pm at the gas dock. Do not try to enter the marina slip portion of the marina in a houseboat.

- (4) Dutchman's Bend is deep at the mouth, but anything past the island is very shallow. Snake Circle Cutoff is absolutely too shallow for a houseboat.
- (5) Between Markers 75 and 77 go behind the island for good anchorage.
- (6) **Blue Springs State Park**, Marker 71, is a winter refuge for manatee. The spring water temperature year-round is 72 degrees. Do not attempt to moor the boat at the dock. Boats must be beached just south of the dock on the sandy area. The park closes at dusk. No overnight docking is allowed. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any state park in Florida.
- (7) Near Blue Springs is marker 69. Go behind the island on the west side of the river for excellent anchorage.
- (8) **Hontoon Dead River** has deep water and many good places to anchor or tie up to a tree. If you arrive late and want to spend the night close by the marina this is a great area. Please note you cannot get back to the St. Johns going south on the Hontoon Dead River by houseboat. We suggest you do not go farther than Snake Creek.
- (8A) Down the Hontoon Dead River you will see Snake Creek on the left. Snake Creek is very shallow. DO NOT ENTER!



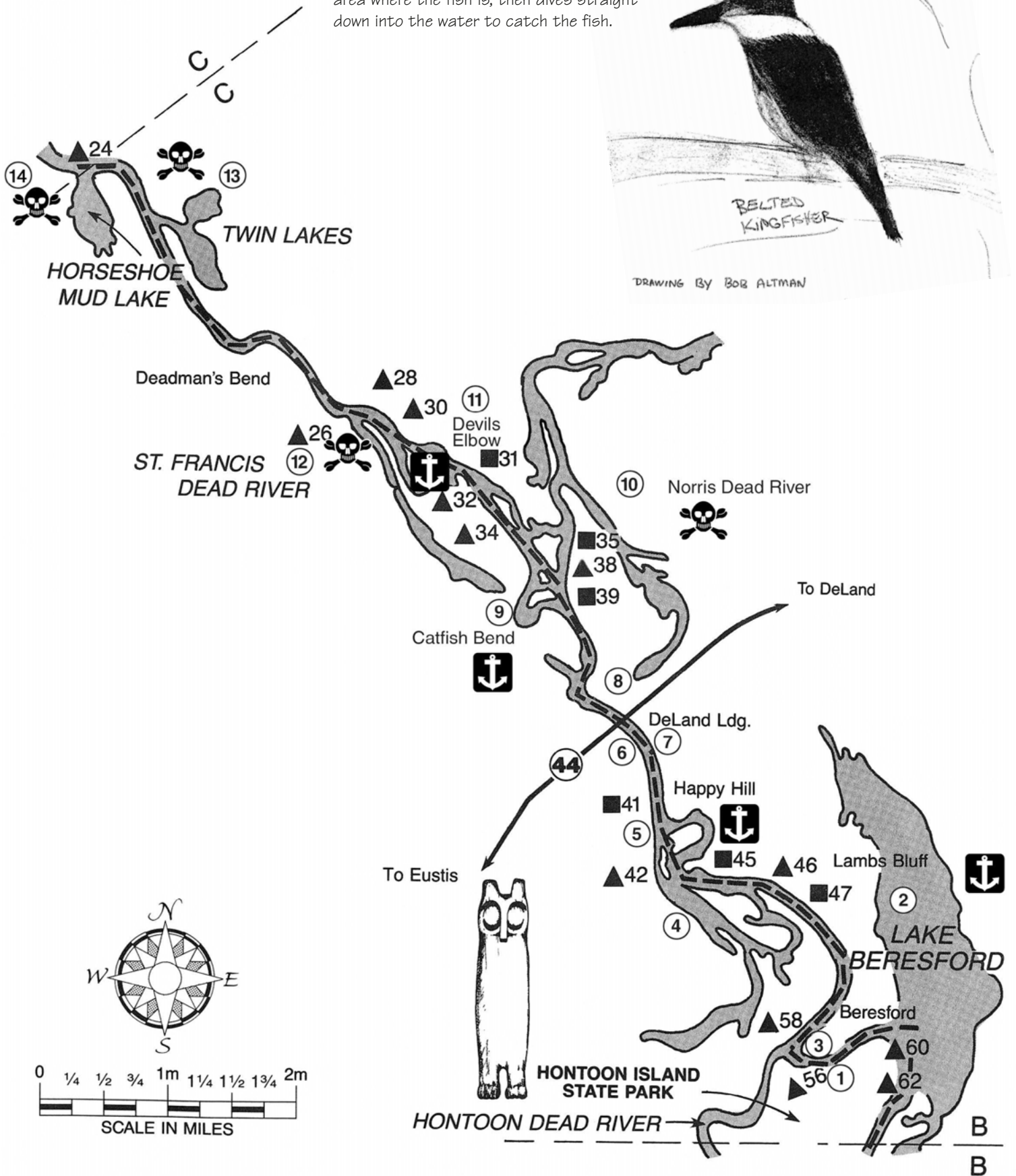
MANATEE - West Indian Manatee, sometimes called the Florida Manatee, is a large, gentle animal that winters in our area. Between the months of October and April, when the weather is cool, manatee are commonly seen in the warm 72° water of Blue Springs. During warm weather you may see manatee munching on grass along the shores of the St. Johns.



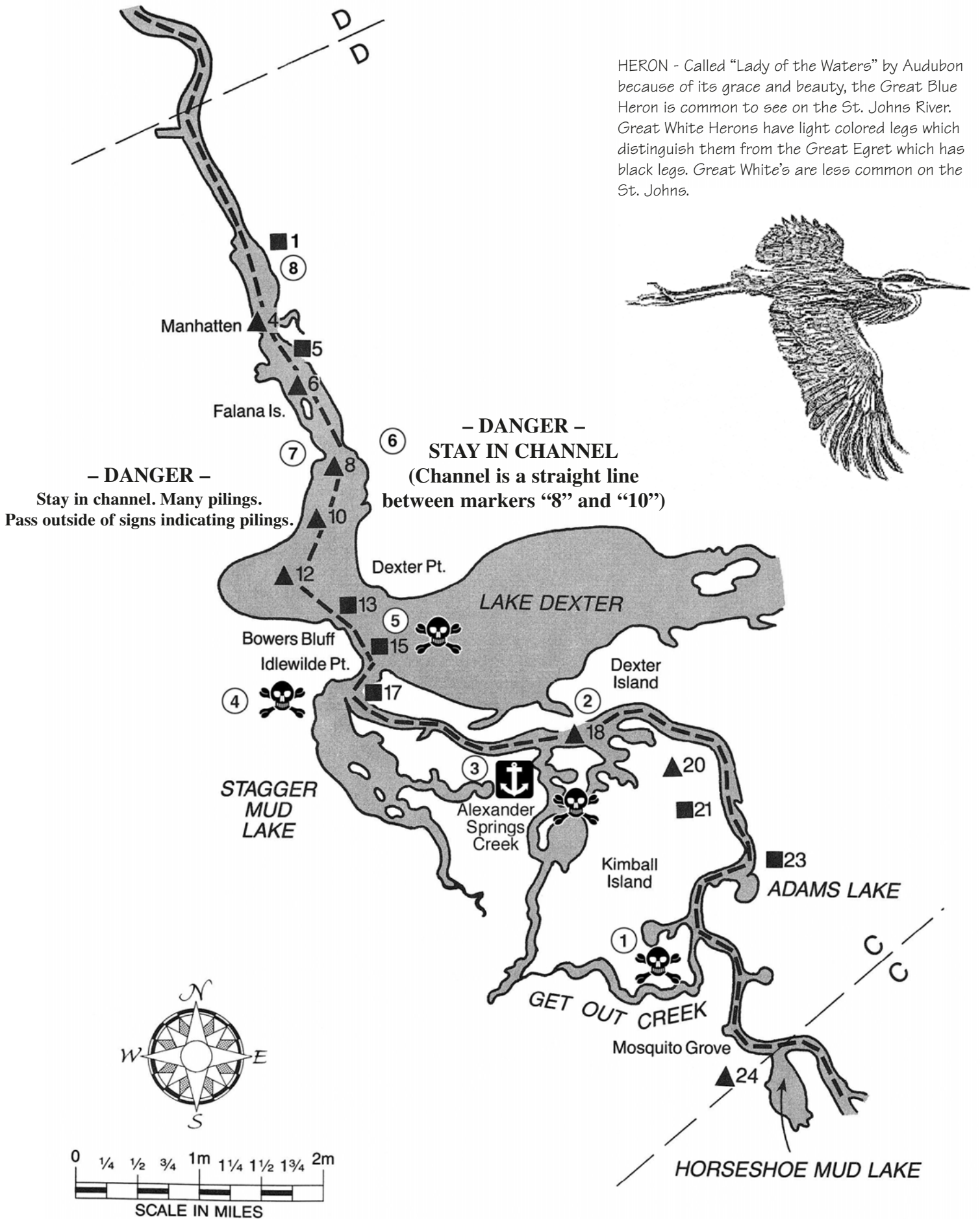
KINGFISHER - You may see the Kingfisher perched on a branch overlooking the water. The kingfisher spots a fish, hovers over the area where the fish is, then dives straight down into the water to catch the fish.



DRAWING BY BOB ALTMAN



- (1) **Hontoon Island State Park** consists of 1650 acres, nature trails, indian mounds and picnic area. The island was home to the Timucuan Indian tribes. These people thrived on snails and other shellfish gathered from the river. Through the years discarded shells accumulated to form two 15 foot high mounds. Overnight dockage is available at this state park. There is a fee to dock overnight. Only 1 50 amp plug is available.
- (2) Lake Beresford is located just South of Holly Bluff and has excellent fishing and mooring. Be very careful entering this lake from the river as there are many submerged pilings near the shoreline, which may not be visible. Stay near the markers. During warm summer months it is not a good idea to overnight in this lake due to hatching blind mosquitos which do not bite but are quite a mess to clean up. **Lake Beresford Yacht Club** is a private club. If you are a member of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs you would be welcomed at this club.
- (3) **HOLLY BLUFF MARINA** has been owned and operated by Judy and Rick Armstrong since 1992. We are a full service marina with boat sales, boat repair, houseboat rental, pontoon rental, fuel and boat storage. Holly Bluff has managed timeshare houseboats for Grand Lakefront Resort Club since 1997. We monitor channel 12 or can be reached by phone at (386) 822-9992 from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST.
- (4) Mud Lake is too shallow for our houseboats. DO NOT ENTER.
- (5) Between channel marker 41 and 42 anchor behind the island on the river's east side.
- (6) St. Johns South Marina has non ethanol fuel and service.
- (7) **Shady Oaks Restaurant** and **Bait Shop** does not allow our houseboats but is a good place to go if you have a smaller boat, or you many want to go by car.
- (8) **St. Johns North Marina** is a KOA property that has a restaurant and ships store, but no fuel. Call the St. Johns River Grille at (386) 626-3386 for docking instruction.
- (9) Catfish Bend between marker 36 and 38 is an excellent place to moor the boat. There are some homes in this area so you feel like you are near civilization. On the north side of Catfish Bend you will notice an area where people dock and have camp fires. You can tie the houseboat between two palm trees and not worry about the anchor slipping during the night. Pets can go ashore on a leash.
- (10) Norris Dead River - DO NOT ENTER - Too narrow for houseboats. If you have a small boat, this is a beautiful area to explore. Fishing is good in this area.
- (11) Devils Elbow between marker 30 and 32 has good dockage behind the island on the West side of the river.
- (12) St. Francis Dead River - DO NOT ENTER - Too Shallow
- (13) Twin Lakes - DO NOT ENTER - Too Shallow
- (14) Horseshoe Mud Lake - DO NOT ENTER - Too Shallow. It is called Mud Lake for a reason.





- (1) Get Out Creek is too shallow - DO NOT ENTER - You Might Not Get Out!
- (2) Marker 18 entrance to Alexander Spring Creek is too shallow for our boats.
- (3) Past Marker 18 is another entrance to Alexander Spring Creek. The water is deep here at the entrance but do not go too far back as it is very narrow and hard to maneuver.
- (4) Stagger Mud Lake - No Anchorage - Too Shallow
- (5) Lake Dexter is a big shallow lake. Several of our customers have attempted to go into this lake and ran aground. This lake is off limits to our boats.
- (6) **DANGER - Submerged pilings. Between Markers 12 and 5 you must stay in the channel which veers to the left of Lake Dexter. The channel is a straight line between Markers 8 and 10. Do not mistake Marker 10 in Lake Dexter for Marker 10 in Lake George.**
- (7) **Astor Landing Campground and Marina** - Located at Channel Marker 8, approximately 3 miles south of the Astor Bridge and across from Lake Dexter. Overnight docking and limited 50 amp power. Water and pump-out also available no fuel. Small Ship's Store. Call for docking instructions as this area is very shallow. (352) 759-2121.
- (8) **Lungren Island** - between markers 1 and 3 is a nice place to stop.

ANHINGA - The Anhinga has no oil glands so his feathers are not waterproof. He becomes heavy when wet which enables him to dive and chase fish underwater. Sometimes when he swims his head sticks out of the water and he looks like a snake. Thus, he is sometimes called a snakebird. You will see this bird after he has had a swim with his wings spread to dry.



IBIS - Ibis have a long downward curved bill. You may see them nesting in large colonies in back of the Hontoon Dead River and other areas of the St. Johns.



EGRET - About any tall white bird you see on the St. Johns is an Egret. They have jet black legs and a yellow beak. Many people mistake them for Great White Herons which are rare on the St. Johns.

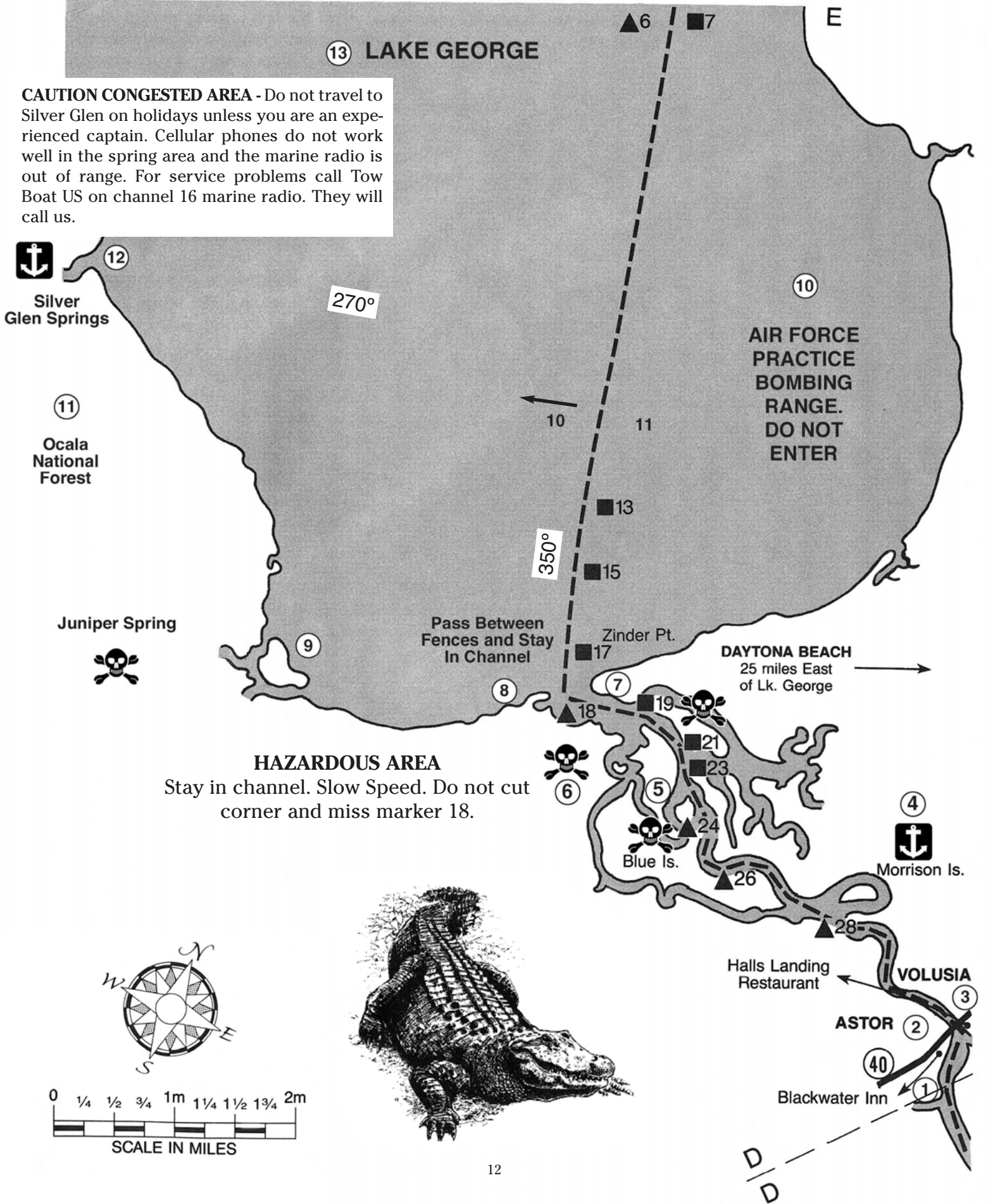


CORMORANT - This bird is often confused with the Anhinga. They are both black birds that dive underwater to feed. The principal difference is that the Anhinga's beak is pointed for spearing fish while the Cormorant's beak is hooked for grasping its prey. The Cormorant's body stays above the water while swimming.



**MARKERS 6 & 7 ARE THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY FOR HOLLY BLUFF MARINA VESSELS.** If you travel this far North looking for Silver Glen Springs you have gone too far. Go back to markers 10 & 11 and head West. **DO NOT GO BEYOND MARKERS 6 & 7.**

**CAUTION CONGESTED AREA** - Do not travel to Silver Glen on holidays unless you are an experienced captain. Cellular phones do not work well in the spring area and the marine radio is out of range. For service problems call Tow Boat US on channel 16 marine radio. They will call us.



- (1) **Midway Marine** has a small ships store and ice. Closed Wednesday. Phone (352) 759-3838.

**Blackwater Inn Restaurant** has excellent food and full service bar. They are open at 4:30 p.m. and are closed on Mondays. Call (352) 759-2802 for docking instructions. No 50 amp power.

**Williams Landing** is located just above Blackwater Inn. This is a sports bar and has live music on most weekends. They open at 11:30 a.m. and serve sandwiches and appetizers. Call (352) 759-2802 for docking instructions. No 50 amp power.

**Astor Bridge Marina** is located directly across the river from Blackwater Inn. Fuel and pumpout are available. Non-ethanol fuel and \$5.00 waste pump out are available. Limited ship's store. Call for docking instructions (386) 749-4407.

- (2) Astor is a riverside community. State Road 40 runs through Astor east to Ormond Beach and west to Silver Springs and Ocala. You will go under the SR 40 bridge.
- (3) **Blair's Jungle Den** - Very hazardous docking for houseboats. Currently closed.
- (4) Morrison Island between markers 26 and 28 offers good moorage.
- (5) Marker 24 behind the island has become too shallow for our boats.
- (6) Blue Island Creek is too shallow for our boats. Best not to enter.
- (7) Volusia Bar is the most hazardous area of your cruising range. Slow speed in this area. It is very shallow. Stay in channel. When heading north at marker 19 do not cut the corner, look to the west side of the river and go to marker 18 then head north to marker 17. If you should run aground call Tow Boat US on channel 16. Matt Moss makes a good living pulling people out of this area.
- (8) Entering Lake George pass between the fences and stay in channel. There are rocks on each side of the jetties.
- (9) Juniper Spring is too shallow. DO NOT ENTER.
- (10) On the east side of Lake George the Jacksonville Naval Air Station has set up practice areas for target bombing. They have 3 targets with a shoreside statistics finding tower. Sometimes you can see them practicing. DO NOT ENTER THIS AREA. They have been known to buzz boats.
- (11) The Ocala National Forest borders the west side of the lake.
- (12) **Silver Glen Springs** is the most popular destination point for houseboaters, but be advised that the entrance is very shallow and that can cause the engine to overheat creating a costly service call. To find the spring entrance from the south travel to marker 10, turn west compass heading 270-275. When you get close to shore you will see the water beginning to clear up. Pass between the red and orange buoys and go right of the island. There are no signs that say Silver Glen Springs. If you can't find the spring watch for boats entering or leaving.
- (13) Lake George is the second largest lake in Florida second only to Lake Okeechobee in size. It is 11 miles in length and 5 miles in width. It is a shallow lake and can get rough very fast. Do not enter unless the weather is good.

SANDHILL CRANES - Every winter we see Sandhill Cranes in our area of the St. Johns. The Sandhill Crane is a large, long-necked marsh bird with a bald red crown, and a gray and rust body. You may see them wading through marshes eating young shoot but are more likely to see them in fields hunting for insects. They mate for life and travel in pairs.



## HOUSEBOAT HANDBOOK

The following is a handbook for the operation of Holly Bluff Marina rental houseboats and Grand Lakefront Resort Club timeshare houseboats. We suggest you read this before you take the boat out to familiarize yourself with the boat operation prior to your orientation. During the orientation your instructor will briefly go through this handbook to familiarize you with the information located herein. Please use this as a guide and if you have any questions, ask your instructor during the orientation. We have tried to cover most situations you might encounter while underway to make your stay more enjoyable.

### II. Gauges & Meters & Misc. on Boat Console

- A. *Volt Gauge* - This gauge should register above 12 volts after the engine warms up. If it stays below 12 volts the possibility of a bad battery exists. Please report this to the marina.
- B. *Temperature Gauge* - This gauge should register between the second and third mark (less than 200 degrees). If it exceeds this the overheat alarm will sound. If this happens shut down the engine and call the marina.
- C. *Oil Pressure Gauge* - The Oil Pressure should be greater than 20. Shut down the engine and call the marina if oil pressure is lost.
- D. *Tachometer* - Idle speed is between 700 and 900 rpm's, cruising speed is 2000 to 2400 rpm's. **Do not exceed 3000 rpm's except in emergency situations.** Your boat will use 2 1/2 to 3 gallons of fuel per hour at cruising speed, and 8 to 10 gallons per hour at full speed.
- E. *Fuel Gauge* - Both tanks will be filled before you depart on your cruise at no charge to you. When you return the tanks will be filled again and you will pay only for the fuel you use.
- F. *Hour Meter* - The hour meter tells the amount of hours the engine has been in operation.
- G. *Tilt & Trim Buttons* - The tilt & trim buttons control the position of the lower unit. Under normal conditions leave these alone. If you should run aground in shallow water or if you want to check the condition of the prop, trim the unit up by pushing the top button only. Do not run boat in "up" position for long periods of time or at greater than 2000 rpm's. Damage to the engine or drive could result if you run engine with unit out of water.
- H. *Fresh Water Switch* - This switch activates the fresh water pump. Leave this switch on when using water system such as showering or washing dishes. Turn this off at night before retiring. This boat holds at least 140 gallons of fresh water and the pump pumps water at 3 gallons per minute. Conserve water - if you should run out, water is easily accessible at all large marinas. The water fill connection will be shown at orientation. The pump has an automatic pressure



switch, which shuts off at 30 lbs. pressure. **IMPORTANT: If you run out of water be sure to shut the pump off.**

- I. *Horn* - This button is on the console. One short blast means boat is turning to starboard (right) side. Two short blasts means boat is turning to port (left side). Three short blasts means boat is in reverse. Five or more short blasts means Danger. One long blast should be sounded when boat is leaving slip, pier or wharf. To open bridges sound one long and one short blast.
- J. *Blower* - The blower should be turned on for four minutes before starting the engine to remove any gasoline fumes that might be built up in the engine room. Turn off the blower after the engine starts.
- K. *Running Lights* - Use lights only at night or if visibility is poor. Night running is not recommended except in an emergency situation. Leave anchor light on while moored between dusk and dawn.
- L. *Vertical Light Switches on Side of Console* - Turns on porch lights and interior lights. Burn 12 volt lights only when you are not connected to shore power - 110 volt lights are to be used dockside or with generator.

### III. Throttle and Gear Shift

Leave the throttle in the straight up and down position to start the engine. This is neutral. If the engine is cold disengage throttle and pump throttle one or two times then hold about one-third throttle. Do this for carbureted engines only. The engine is now ready to start. When the engine is cold maintain 1500 rpm's until the engine warms up to the first mark on the temperature gauge. After the engine warms up pull the throttle back to neutral. Engage the shift mechanism. Push the shift handle forward to shift the boat into forward gear, push it further forward to accelerate the boat. Reverse is obtained by pulling the shift handle toward the rear of the boat.

***Caution: Shifting from reverse to forward or forward to reverse without letting the engine slow down will possibly damage the lower unit. Be sure drive unit is down before starting engine.***

### IV. Steering

Boats steer from the back not from the front like a car. Steering the boat right turns the front of the boat right and brings the rear of the boat left. Steering the boat left turns the front of the boat left and brings the rear of the boat right. The boat is stopped by putting the boat in reverse. Over throttling in reverse will cause less braking. Stop the boat gently at about 1500 rpm's, anything over 1500 will not efficiently and effectively slow down the boat.

***Operate the boat at slowest speed possible inside harbors and idle zones. Do not cause a wake. Idle when possible.***



## V. Depth Finder

The depth finder indicates the depth of the water in feet. Your boat drafts about three feet so try to stay in water four feet and deeper.

## VI. Generator (Power Plant)

The Generator “Stop” and “Start” buttons are located on the console. Before starting the generator the blower should be turned on for a few minutes (same as starting engine). Set the dial on the “OFF” position, be sure air conditioner is turned off. Push the “Start” button until generator starts. Allow generator about 5 minutes to warm up before turning dial to generator position, anything on boat may be turned on now. Push “Stop” button to stop generator and return dial to “Off” position when generator is not in use. However, if shore power is desired, plug boat into dock receptacle before turning dial to “shore power” position.

## VII. Marine Radio

### A. Marine Radio Controls

- (1) OFF/VOL KNOB - The off/vol knob is used to apply power to the unit as well as controlling the volume level. Turning the knob clockwise turns the unit on. A click indicates the unit is on. Be sure volume is adjusted so you can hear transmission.
- (2) SQ KNOB - Set the squelch by turning the knob clockwise until the noise is heard. The knob should be turned counter-clockwise until the noise just disappears. Your unit should now be free of noise between transmissions.
- (3) Most areas are served by a National Weather Service Transmitter. Press the down button until you reach the weather channel (WX). Channel 3 is the channel for our area. Weather Stations transmit continuously so you should find activity right away.

*Note: The transmitter is disabled when receiving a weather station.*

### B. Making the Call

- (1) Apply power to the unit by turning the OFF/VOL knob clockwise until it clicks. Adjust the volume. If necessary adjust the squelch by turning the knob counter-clockwise until the noise just disappears. You should not have to adjust the squelch again. **Our marina monitors channel 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** To change the channel simply press the up or down button until the desired channel is displayed, then release the button. Be sure the marine radio is set to 25 watts for better transmission if you are not within sight of marina.
- (2) You are now ready to transmit by pressing and holding the push to talk switch on the hand microphone. To make the call speak clearly, distinctly and directly into the microphone. Call the marina using its name followed

by the name of your vessel, for example: Holly Bluff Marina Boat \_\_\_\_ calling Holly Bluff Marina. Release the push to talk switch and wait for reply. Limit the first transmission to 30 seconds or less then wait at least 2 minutes before repeating the call if contact is not made. Keep all communications as brief as possible and give the call name of the ship at the end of the communications. Remember when calling other marinas or privately owned boats to call on Channel 16 then switch to another channel such as 68 before transmitting your message. Channel 16 is used only for calling. Do not use for casual conversation, this is not a CB. Do not use Channel 17, 21 or 22. These are for law enforcement and Coast Guard only.

### C. *Calling for Assistance*

You will be within radio contact with our Marina if you stay no more than 20 miles from us.

If you are having problems with your boat go to the nearest bay or safety harbor and anchor, stay out of the main river channel. Before calling for assistance please determine your location. Give us the name of the bay or preferably marker number. Look for landmarks such as a home or resort you are nearby. Be able to describe the mechanical difficulty you are having so our mechanics can bring necessary parts and tools to make repairs. Our marina closes at 5 p.m. If you are experiencing a problem please call us prior to 5 p.m., otherwise we will be unable to assist you until the next morning. For safety reasons we do not perform service calls after dark. If you are unable to call our marina call the marina nearest you or Tow Boat US. In an extreme emergency call the U.S. Coast Guard on Channel 16. When calling for assistance be sure to give marina or Coast Guard your exact location and nature of problem. Be sure to leave your radio on Channel 12 so we can contact you.

### D. *What to do in Case of Serious Accident or Collision*

In case of serious accident or collision everyone should put on a life jacket when the boat is in operation. If an accident occurs move out onto the decks. Do not abandon the boat unless it is sinking or on fire. One person should be in charge of turning off the engine and making radio distress signals. Follow the same procedure for operating the radio as calmly as possible.

Begin The Transmission on Channel 16 With:

- (1) Mayday, Mayday, Mayday
- (2) Identify yourself and call any vessel that can respond.
- (3) Give the location of the boat and nature of difficulty.
- (4) Release the button to listen for response.
- (5) If no response is made repeat call in one minute.

*Warning: The Mayday call should be used only in extreme emergencies where lives are in danger. Do not use for running aground or minor maintenance problems.*

## VIII. Refrigerator

We set the unit before your departure for the entire trip. Please do not change refrigerator from this setting unless a problem occurs with the operation. Instructions are printed inside refrigerator.

## IX. Stove

If your boat has a stove, or stove/oven combination, with a stove top that acts as a cover, stove top must be up and locked in place for elements to heat.

## X. Marine Head

Do not put anything in the head that has not been eaten first. Do not under any circumstances put sanitary napkins in marine head. When flushing hold in button for a minimum of 10 seconds (count 10) to clear line and prevent odor. Waste is discharged into a holding tank and must be pumped out periodically. Holding tanks are pumped out prior to departure. Pump out facilities are available at various major marinas along the river. Charges vary according to the marina.

***Caution: Flushable wipes, sanitary napkins, tampons and cigarette butts will stop up marine head.***

## XI. Shower

Conserve water - shower with a friend.

## XII. Air-Conditioning and Heat

A. Roof mounted air and heat.

1. *For Cooling* - Turn the selector switch to the “cooling” position. Rotate the thermostat (temperature controls) switch to the position that is most comfortable for you. When the temperature of the air entering the air conditioner drops below the selected setting the compressor will automatically turn itself off. The air conditioner, while in the cooling mode, will continue to cycle the compressor on and off in the above mentioned fashion until the selector switch is turned to another mode of operation.
2. *Heat* - The heater is intended to take the chill out of the indoor air when the air is a few degrees too cool for comfort. It is not a substitute for a furnace. Turn the selector switch to the “Heat” position. Rotate the thermostat (temperature control) switch to the position that is most comfortable for you. The heater will automatically turn on.

B. Central heat and air - position thermostat according to your needs.

***Note:*** Air conditioners are designed to lower the temperature of the air by about 20 degrees. For example, if the outside air temperature is 95° then the air conditioner will only cool to approximately 75°. On days with high temperatures and/or high levels of humidity, or when doors and windows are left open, the air conditioner will work harder to cool. If it is set too low, the unit cannot keep up and will likely freeze up and stop cooling.

### **XIII. Batteries**

The big battery is for main engine, lights, toilet, fresh water pump and other 12 volt accessories. The small battery is for generator and its accessories only. Both batteries are connected at all times. Should the big battery run down, please don't panic, the generator should start. Both batteries are charged while the generator is running. While anchored, run generator at least one hour every 24 hours to recharge batteries. Batteries may be recharged at any marina.

### **XIV. Fuel Tanks**

There are two fuel tanks. When refueling be sure to fill both tanks.

### **XV. Anchoring the Boat**

In anchoring your boat use all the anchor line before setting the anchor. This will provide proper scope and increase your security. Always anchor off the bow of the boat into the wind. Always check anchor before turning in for the evening. Leave anchor light on when mooring at night. The anchor light is the white light over the porch of the boat. To pull up the anchor, position one person on the front of the boat to pull in the line. The pilot should gently ease boat in direction of the anchor. When the line is straight up and down pull up anchor.

### **XVI. Navigation**

In navigation of the main lakes or entering marked bays, remember that in going upstream or against the current the red buoys, which are pointed, should be on your starboard or right and the green buoys, which have a flat top, should be on your left or port. Going downstream or with the current, this is reversed, with the red on the left and the green on the right. Crossovers and channels are marked on the map which we have furnished and should be followed.

***Do not travel at night except in extreme emergency!***

### **XVII. Gas Charbroiler**

#### **A. Lighting Precautions**

1. Open hood before lighting match.
2. Turn on gas at tank valve.
3. Strike match, insert in hole.
4. Push in control knob, on post - turn to Hi to pre-heat, cover for 5 minutes. Turn on Lo - start cooking.
5. Be sure to turn grill off when cooking is finished.

NOTE: While cooking, excess fats and greases drip to the bottom of the grill and drain into the easily removed grease cup located on the post at the back of the grill. Please check this and empty grease when cup is full.



## **XVIII. Rules of the Road**

- (1) In crossing situations the boat to the starboard (on right) has the right of way. Slow down and permit him to pass.
- (2) In passing situations the boat being overtaken has the right of way.
- (3) In meeting situations (head on) both vessels turn to starboard (right) and pass port to port.
- (4) International rules prohibit sailboats and other small craft from hindering the passage of large boats that cannot move out of a channel.
- (5) Sailboats under sails always have the right of way over power boats except in item 4. Sailboats under power are considered motor boats.
- (6 ) No wake speed inside marina harbors. Remember you are responsible for any damage your boat causes.
- (7) **Stay clear of barges. Do not cross in front of barges, they have no brakes.**
- (8) Do not dive off top deck of boat.
- (9) Life jackets on boat are for emergency use only. Do not use for swimming.
- (10) When going into a marina please be courteous, wait for your turn to dock if there are several boats in the harbor.
- (11) Do not swim around boat when engine is running.

## **XIX. Overnight Docking Facilities**

You can dock your boat overnight at most large marinas. In most cases there is a fee which should range from \$10 to \$20 per night. Electricity and water is available at some marinas.

## **XX. For Your Safety**

1. Always open the hatch for a few minutes before starting the engine. There is a bilge blower, operated by a switch on the console. This should be used for four minutes before starting. Remember, close the hatch and turn off the blower after the engine starts.
2. Life jackets are stored in the closet of your boat. It is recommended that you place one jacket per person in easy reach while the boat is in use. But remember, they are not for swimming. Use your own jackets or rafts for swimming.
3. To avoid personal injury, stay inside rails at all times especially while boat is in operation, especially dangerous is dangling feet and legs past any of the hand rails.
4. Check out drive area to be clear of persons before starting engine.
5. Do not swim or try to use boarding ladder while the engine is running.
6. Do not travel at night.
7. Dock the boat before dusk in a secure area out of the main river channel.

## **XXI. Miscellaneous Tips**

1. Be sure to check prop with instructor before departure. You are responsible for damaged or destroyed props.
2. Check to be sure anchor is securely tied to boat before throwing overboard. They are extremely hard to retrieve, anchor line does not float. You must pay for a lost anchor.
3. Before going under a bridge check to be sure roof rails will clear.
4. Life jackets are for emergency purposes only. You must pay for them if they are damaged.
5. Deck chairs taken to the top deck should be taken down when not in use. They will blow off top deck if not in use. Bring down when returning boat to ease check-in.
6. Do not swim around boat while engine is running. This is extremely dangerous and can cause death or dismemberment.
7. Alcohol and boat operation do not mix. Be sure driver does not use drugs or alcohol while responsible for boat operation. Alcohol or drugs are involved in almost 100% of boating accidents.

## **XXII. Weather**

When potentially dangerous wind or water conditions exist do not leave the dock.

When afloat, watch for these signs of dangerous weather ahead:

1. Dark, threatening clouds may indicate a squall or thunderstorm.
2. Watch for a steady increase in wind.
3. Heavy static on the radio may indicate thunderstorms nearby.
4. Always check radio weather broadcasts and warnings. Channel 2 and 3 on the marine radio broadcast weather.

Lightening storms occur frequently in Central Florida. At the first sign proceed toward river bank with low tree line and anchor until storm has passed.

Fog can be a serious threat to the boater. It forms frequently in coastal waters, especially during summer. Fog may reduce visibility to only a few feet.

Landmarks and navigational aids disappear. At first sign of fog, the boater should proceed to lighted buoy. If practical, he should return to harbor.

### ***Caught in Foul Weather***

1. Reduce speed. Proceed with caution.
2. Head for nearest shore that is safe to approach. Stay in protected area until storm subsides if one is near.
3. Head bow into waves at slight angle. Watch for floating debris.
4. Secure loose items. Have emergency gear ready.
5. Keep bilges free of water.
6. Seat passengers near center.
7. Put on life jackets.
8. If motor fails drag anchor.

***Hurricane Warnings. Contact marina immediately for instructions.***

### **XXIII. Carbon Monoxide**

Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas. You can not see it or smell it. When inhaled, CO reacts with the oxygen in the blood, and essentially asphyxiates blood cells. Propulsion engines and engine-driven generator sets can produce harmful levels of carbon monoxide that can injure or kill you. Mild effects of CO poisoning include minor eye irritation, dizziness, headaches, fatigue, and inability to think coherently. More extreme symptoms include vomiting, seizures, and collapse. Prolonged exposure can result in severe injury or death.

This boat is equipped with a Carbon Monoxide Detector. When the carbon monoxide detector sounds the danger alarm take action immediately by moving everyone, including pets, to fresh air on the front deck at the bow of the boat. Shut down the engine and generator. Open windows and start ventilation of boat. Do not allow anyone to enter the area until the carbon monoxide detector has returned to its normal level.

Even if the boat engine and generator are in good condition through regular check and maintenance, CO is still a health hazard on a boat. There are three main dangers:

- (1) Station Wagon Effect - this effect occurs when air is diverted around the boat cabin and an area of low pressure is formed in below deck cabins. Exhaust from the back of the boat, even when properly vented, can be drawn into this low pressure area, filling the cabins below deck with dangerous CO fumes. Any breeze blowing from bow to stern can create the problem. So a boat at anchor, bow pointed into the wind, with a generator running can display the station wagon effect.
- (2) Obstructions - Sometimes anchoring near a boat house, sea wall, or other large slab-sided objects can block properly vented exhaust fumes from dissipating. As a result the boat could be trapped in a cloud of carbon monoxide gas. It is best to avoid such anchorings altogether, or avoid running a generator at such a mooring.
- (3) Neighbor's Exhaust - When boats are anchored together in tight quarters, exhaust from a neighboring boat can create a CO problem on your own boat. Again it is best to avoid the situation.

***NEVER SWIM OR SNORKEL AROUND THE STERN OF THE BOAT WHILE THE ENGINE OR GENERATOR ARE RUNNING.***

### **XXIV. BEWARE - YOU WILL ENCOUNTER COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC ON THE ST. JOHNS**

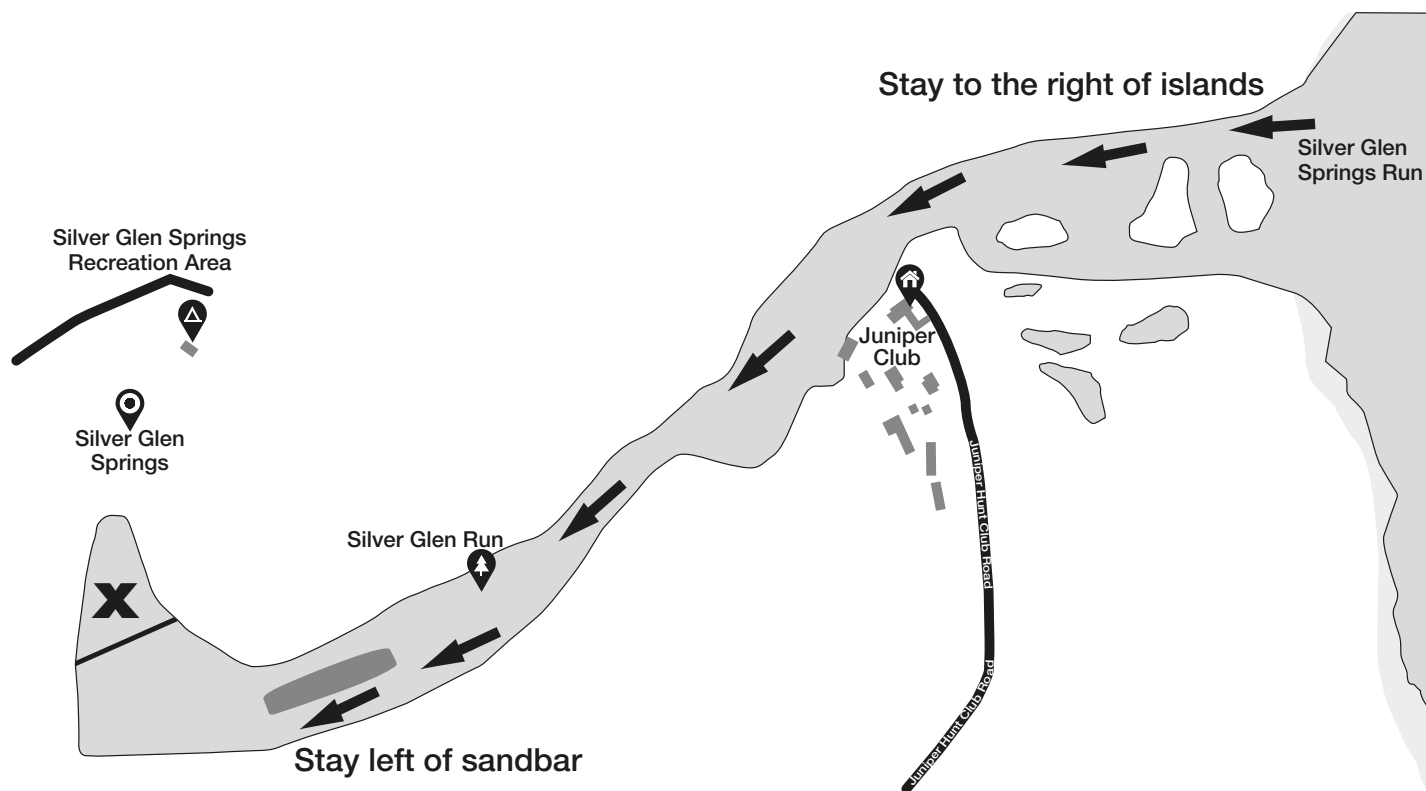
- *Commercial Vessels, including towboats and tugboats operate 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.*
- *The speed of a ship, towboat, or tugboat can be deceptive. A tow can travel one mile in seven minutes - a ship even faster - and it generally takes 3/4 to 1 1/2 miles to stop. For example, if a water skier falls within a thousand feet in front of a moving tug or tow, the skier has less than one minute to get out of the way.*

- *Large vessels must maintain speed to steer*, and they must stay in the channel - it's the only place deep enough for them to operate. Many channels are unmarked. On some waterways, the channel extends bank to bank, so expect vessel traffic in any portion of the waterway.
- *A Pilot's "Blind Spot" can extend for hundreds of feet* in front of deep-draft ships, tugboats and towboats pushing barges.
- *When operating in narrow canals*, be aware that a tug or tow's powerful engines can cause a small vessel to be pulled toward the tow when passing alongside.
- *"Wheel Wash" is a strong underwater current caused by towboat or ship engines* that can result in severe turbulence hundreds of yards behind a large vessel.
- *A tug without barges in front could be towing* a log raft, barge, or other objects on a long submerged line behind it, which lie low in the water and are difficult to see. Never pass closely behind a tugboat.
- *Sailboating on inland rivers can be hazardous*, and sailboaters and wind surfers should know that a tow or tug can "steal your wind" - so you won't have the same wind you started with when executing a sailing maneuver near a commercial vessel.
- *Commercial vessels operate safely in all weather conditions*, including low visibility, making extensive use of radar. Why take a chance?
- *Ships, towboats and tugboats use VHF radio channels 16 and 13*. If you are unsure of your situation, or their intentions, feel free to contact them. Remember you are sharing the waterways with vessels operated by highly trained and conscientious professionals. If you have a true emergency, or need information, they can and will help if properly contacted.
- *Towboats and barges approaching bridges and locks* need to be lined up and committed to their approach well ahead, so it's dangerous and difficult for them to change course. For safety, stay out of the path.
- *Designate a Lookout!* Assign one person in a recreational boat to look out particularly for commercial traffic.
- *Understand whistle signals*. At least five or more short blasts on the whistle is the "danger" signal. Stay clear of vessels sounding the "danger" signal.
- *Don't water ski or jet ski in and around tows*. That's a risk not worth taking. Jumping wakes, riding close alongside, or cutting under the bow or stern of a tug or tow could cause a boat or skier to be sucked through a towboat's large propellers.



## *Silver Glen Springs*

Silver Glen can be very shallow and difficult to navigate. Enter at your own risk.



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**Notes**



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