



# The Lighthouse

## Important news for boat owners

*from the Internet*

The U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) issued a statement to the effect that, until further notice and to provide some relief to owners of U.S. recreational vessels caused by the large backlog of processing of initial Certificates of Documentation (CODs) and the reissue/exchange of the COD, the NVDC will be issuing temporary CODs. The temporary CODs will have a maximum validity of one year.

As of September 10, 2013, the NVDC website (<http://tiny.cc/ulqz7w>) contains updated FAQs, Instructions and Forms. Please review carefully; previous/earlier versions of these forms will not be accepted and will result in deficiency letter(s).

From the NVDC:

Until further notice the phone hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT.

New: In order to provide some relief to our recreational customers due to the large backlogs with applications for an Initial Certificate of Documentation (COD) or the reissue/exchange of the COD, the NVDC, effective on or about July 8, 2013, will be issuing Temporary CODs. Please note the Temp COD will be in a different format than the permanent COD; it will be in a letter format printed on blue paper which is embedded with specific security features. The Temp COD letter will include the managing owner's name and address, the vessel's official num-

ber and will be signed by the Director.

Temporary CODs shall be maintained on the vessel at all times while the vessel is being operated. The Temporary COD shall remain valid until the first of the following shall have occurred:

- 1) The elapse of one (1) year from the issue date (above) of this letter; or
- 2) The issuance of the vessel's permanent COD which, upon its issuance, shall supersede this temporary COD; or
- 3) Issuance of written notice of a determination by the NVDC that the vessel is not eligible for documentation; or
- 4) An ownership change to the ves-

sel before the permanent COD shall have been issued.

While it is in effect, the recreational vessel subject to this temporary COD shall be deemed to be a documented vessel of the United States, subject to all of the rights and responsibilities applicable by law to documented vessels and to Certificates of Documentation. However, please note this document is not conclusive evidence of title in any proceeding where ownership is in issue. Complete records are on file at the NVDC.

In order to be eligible for a

*More News, page 5*

## Yachty Gras

The Yachty Gras parade is a bit later this year — mark these dates on your calendars:

- **Friday, February 28; 7-11 p.m.**  
Kick-off Party Clear Lake Shores Civic Club, open to the public
- **Saturday, March 1**  
10 am; Skippers Meeting Sundance Grille  
6:30 pm; Judges Party Clear Lake Shores, (invitation only)  
7 pm; Grand Night Boat Parade
- **Sunday, March 2, 10 am, Awards**  
Presentation the Boardwalk Aquarium

More information at: <http://yachtygras.com/>



# The lighter side . . .

by Keith Emmons

• Sailing from island to island in the Bahamas was a dream come true for the Walker family. At one of the many stops five-year-old Paula asked her mother, "What was the name of the last island we visited?"

Her mother, busy with stowing a sail away said, "I'm not sure dear, is it important?" "Maybe," said Paula, "I'm thinking it might be. "Why do you think so?" asked her Mother. "Because that's where Daddy got left behind!"

• "Mommy, can I swim out to where the waves are breaking?" asked the little girl. The mother shook her head firmly. "Pleease?" she begged. "Daddy's swimming out there." "I know, darling, but he's insured."

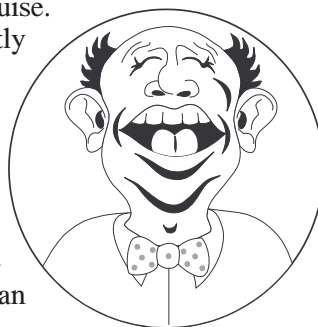
• The captain of the cruise liner fell down the stairs on to the promenade deck. The cruise director saw him fall and rushed to his aide. "Captain," he said, "did you miss a step?" "No," said the captain, "I'm pretty sure I hit every one of them!"

• The new 40 foot yacht owner invited his only sibling to go for a

three-day cruise. Going directly to the dock from the airport the sibling and their luggage arrived a little earlier than expected.

The boat owner, upon arriving and seeing their luggage said, "you should have warned me, I would have bought a bigger boat!"

• The cruise ship was well underway when ship security found the stowaway in the cargo hold. "The Coast Guard will arrest you and take your butt back to port," said the officer. The stowaway begged him to be kind. "I'm going to my daughter's wedding. I have no money for a ticket. Please let me stay." Against his better judgment the officer agreed to let the man stay provided he stay out of sight. On the way out of the hold he tripped over another stowaway. The second stowaway said, "Don't look at me. He invited me to the wedding!"



## CLEAR LAKE BOAT CARE

Get ready for winter and let the Master Captains maintain your boat during the fall and winter seasons.

- ✓ Weekly boat maintenance & checkouts ✓ Run engine
- ✓ Check topside ✓ Test and secure all dock lines
- ✓ Check all fluids, belts, hoses and bilge pumps
- ✓ Clean boat deck and below ✓ Boat secure ✓ Rigging
- ✓ Bottom Jobs ✓ Full Service



Call Captain John today

281.532.1518

galvbaysailing@aol.com

## The Lighthouse

A monthly publication of South Shore Harbour Marina.



### MARINA

2551 South Shore Blvd. Suite B  
League City, TX 77573  
(281) 334-0515 • Fax (281) 334-0288

### MARINA STAFF

#### Donna Rogers

Marina Manager

Donna.Rogers@sshmarina.com

#### Taylor Ihlefeld

Harbormaster

Taylor.Ihlefeld@sshmarina.com

#### Keith Emmons

Newsletter Editor

keith@anastasia3.com

#### Virginia Zelenka

Accounting Coordinator

Virginia.Zelenka@sshmarina.com

#### Tyler Hatthorn

#### Richard Bustamante

Fuel Pier Attendants

#### Chase Cobble

Maintenance Manager

Chase.Cobble@sshmarina.com

#### Amber Moore

Leasing Agent

Amber.Moore@sshmarina.com

### OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sun. Noon-4:30 p.m.

### FUEL PIER HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Lighthouse is a publication of South Shore Harbour Marina. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without permission.

Published by

**Telltale**

A Division of Waterfront Publishing Inc.

228-B Marina Bay Dr.

Kemah, Texas 77565

South Shore Harbour Marina and Waterfront Publishing Inc. are not responsible for claims of manufacturers or their representatives on any items published.

For advertising information, contact  
Mike DuBois at (281) 334-2202.

# ActiveCaptain Companion released

by Jeff Siegel

November 13, 2013 was the official first product release for the ActiveCaptain Companion. We call it the Companion for short. It was the fourth of four things we promised would be completed in 2013 back January 2013.

On that day, we released the Windows, Macintosh, Android and iOS versions. Google Play and Apple iTunes already have the apps ready for download. Our website has a download button for the Windows and Mac version. You can find links to everything and the desktop download here: <https://activecaptain.com/companion> and as promised, all versions are free.

The Companion is a new type of marine electronics. If you expect it to be like something else you've used before, you'll be surprised. It's unlike any chartplotter or charting app you

## *An app for making new functions possible*

already have.

There's no need to duplicate the fantastic products already in that class. Instead the Companion is meant to stand by you at your helm while underway as your personal assistant. Its goal is to use the ActiveCaptain data along with your eBoatCards relationships to enhance your cruising experience and make it safer.

The Companion is a platform for making these new functions possible. It's going to be rolled out slowly and carefully. Like all software, there are surely bugs to uncover and problems we didn't anticipate. The goal of the first version is to roll out all of the software and provide a new proximity hazard warning system. As you approach an existing ActiveCaptain hazard, an optional alarm will sound

along with a verbal warning to tell you that a hazard is up ahead. Beta testers who have been using this capability tell us that they love it. The best testimonial we can give is from one tester who told us this, "Before we leave, the Admiral has a new checklist item — is the Companion voice turned on?"

The Companion keeps all ActiveCaptain data offline so no internet connection is needed. You can access the details and reviews as well as write a review. Writing a review currently requires a live network connection to send the review to our server.

We have added some interesting new capabilities for reviews based on

*More App, page 4*

List with us and get **PROVEN** results!!

*Texas Power Yachts was created to provide clients with a more engaging yacht brokerage experience.*

  
**TEXAS POWER  
YACHTS**



**Dan Hughes**, the Senior Yacht Broker at Texas Power Yachts, has the reputation, the knowledge, the proven results and over 29 years of experience in Professional Yacht Sales and Brokerage.

***Our goal is simply this:*** To provide our clients with the best advice, expertise, and service before, during and after the sale. We believe in an informative approach rather than a high pressured environment as this best serves the needs of our clients.

*Our experience in finding, LISTING and SELLING power yachts is second to none both locally and nationwide.*

*This allows us to find the right boat for our clients whether located here or out of state.*

*Please have a look at our yachts for sale at [www.TexasPowerYachts.com](http://www.TexasPowerYachts.com) and learn more about us.*

*We specialize in selling SELECT Yachts of all sizes and types. We look forward to hearing from you!*

Located at Waterford Harbor Pier 4 (Listings wanted! Floating dock space available)



**Trawlers • MotorYachts • Cruisers**

**281-334-2863 • [info@TexasPowerYachts.com](mailto:info@TexasPowerYachts.com) • Dan Hughes, Senior Broker 281-220-7777**

**Premium Brokerage and New Cutwater Boats**



# App

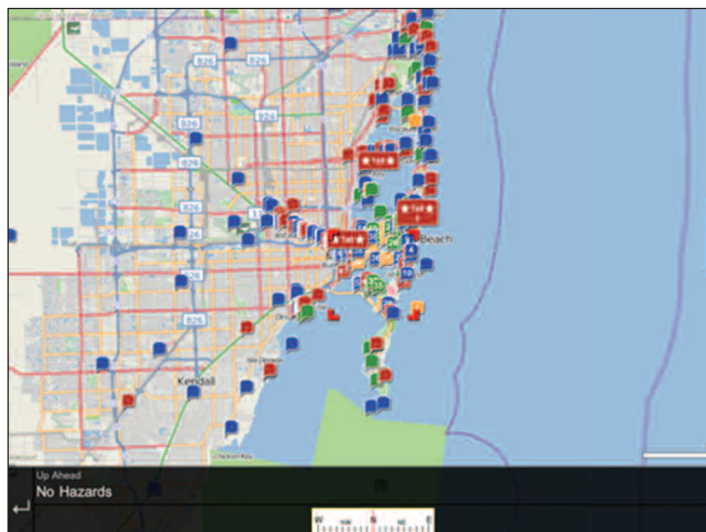
*continued from page 3*

our own experiences and requests from boaters. Whenever a set of marina or anchorage reviews is displayed, the distribution of reviews by star rating is shown in a button. Tap the button and you can filter the reviews to show reviews from only one of the star rating types.

Here are a list of frequently asked questions, issues, and complaints we've seen from people who have been beta testing the Companion.

## Map tiles are blurry

The Companion uses street map background images. There are three layers of map tile support. A base map for the entire world is built into the app and there is support for downloading planning map tiles. Detail map tiles are already implemented but there is no capability yet to download them. So zooming in will make the map background look blurry. This is normal.



This first version of the Companion continually looks out at your surrounding area. If you're moving toward an ActiveCaptain hazard, you'll hear an optional alarm and a spoken warning. This is the first of many capabilities coming. The goal right now is to get the apps out on all of the different computer, tablet, and phone systems.

Remember the Companion is not a chartplotter — the background map image is for basic positioning only.

## Untrusted source warning

The Windows and Mac version give a scary warning message that the software is from an untrusted source. Instead of waiting for the proper certificates to be configured, we made

the software public. That warning will disappear in a couple of weeks.

Installing the software from our website is downloading it from us and it is as secure as possible.

## GPS support

GPS support for the Windows and

*More App, page 5*



**281.334.6086**  
228 Marina Bay Dr., Suite C • Kemah



Your shipping headquarters





**Chuck Ruhl**  
25 years experience

*For All Your Canvas Needs*  
**281-538-4717**  
703A Clear Lake Rd., Clear Lake Shores, TX 77565



**www.galvbay.org**

**Remember, it is illegal to discharge boat waste into Galveston Bay or Clear Lake.**

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Coastal Coordination Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration award Number NA10NOS4190207.



# Bridge range lights

*from the Internet*

I've often wondered why those green lights, one on each side, that hang down below a fixed bridge's channel span are not positioned higher up, keeping them out of the way of wayward mastheads, antenna and smoke stacks.

A few nights ago, while steaming up the St. Johns River, when approaching one of the fixed bridges, and not identifying any reason not to, I used these green lights as a range to guide my approach alignment through the bridge. After all, they are positioned over the center of the channel and being all-round lights they are visible from either direction. This idea worked wonderfully well.

The following day, coincidentally, I happened to be reviewing the chapter on general information in one of our *Coast Pilots* and, lo-and-behold, I discovered wording that indicated that that is exactly why these lights hang down below the structure- to be used as ranges. This wording is easy to miss if one is not alert to the subtleties of the wording "on each channel span of a fixed bridge there is a range of two green lights marking the center of the channel. . ."

So here's another useful tool when yachting around fixed bridges; two green lights as a range for night use and their silhouettes to use as a range during the day.

## App

*continued from page 4*

Mac version requires some additional software to set up. It is explained in the Help section of the app.

### Using the HDG bearing setting

Using the HDG bearing setting in the Settings is not supported except in the iPhone and iPad although some iPhones running iOS 7 have problems with rotation based on heading. All versions work fine in COG mode which uses your course over ground to determine your bearing.

### No scrollbars

The user-interface of the Companion is meant to be used on a touch device. For mouse use, this might feel odd. When you want to scroll a display or a form, click and drag the background. There are no scrollbars and other scroll gestures/mouse wheels are not supported. This might change in the future.

### Compass display

Some users are confused about how the compass display works. When the app is in follow mode, the display is rotated based on your

bearing (HDG or COG). If you drag the map, a compass is displayed at the bottom showing the current display bearing. You can drag that compass to manually rotate the display or double-tap it to force the display to north-up. Tapping the return button in the lower left will return the map to follow mode.

### Downloading ActiveCaptain

You must enter your ActiveCaptain email/password to download the offline ActiveCaptain data. You must also have an eBoatCards card configured for your account because of the connection with that server. The initial database download is large. Use Wi-Fi for it, not cellular. After the initial download, updating the database only downloads the ActiveCaptain data that has changed and is quick. Do it the night before whenever you are cruising.

### There is no auto power off

When the Companion is running it will not automatically power itself off after a few minutes. It is meant to be running continuously when underway. For this reason, whenever you use the Companion, it should be plugged in and powered or else it could drain your device's battery.

There are feedback capabilities and help built into the app. Tap the star/menu button and select Help.

## News

*continued from page 1*

Temporary COD, one must meet the citizenship requirements and nationality requirements (i.e. vessel must not be foreign registered). If the applicant does not meet these minimum requirements, no correspondence will be forthcoming until a complete review of the case file is conducted.

Temporary Certificates of Documentation *will not* be reissued if lost, mutilated or destroyed.

Please note: Our process of *first*

*in, first out*" is still in effect. Temporary Certificates of Documentation cannot be requested. Every effort is being made to process all applications as quickly and efficiently as possible.

NVDC Mission Statement: The National Vessel Documentation Center facilitates maritime commerce and the availability of financing while protecting economic privileges of United States citizens through the enforcement of regulations, and provides a register of vessels available in time of war or emergency to defend and protect the United States of America.



## South Shore Harbour Marina

2551 SOUTH SHORE BLVD. SUITE B  
LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS 77573

In the end, it's not  
going to matter how  
many breaths you  
took, but how many  
moments took your  
breath away.

- shing xiong

**Tommy  
Lipton's**

# Lauderdale Yacht Sales



MEMBER

**"THE GULF COAST PREMIER POWER YACHT SPECIALIST"**

**Pier 14 — South Shore Harbour Marina**

**80+ Yachts Available • \$15 Million in Inventory**



***OUR ONLY BUSINESS IS TO SELL YOUR BOAT***



**43' Hatteras 43 MY '85**



**60' Hampton MY '07**



**35' Chaparral 350 '05**



**445 Carver 445 MY '97**

**START 2014 WITH THE BOAT OF YOUR DREAMS**

***GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELL YOUR BOAT***

**281-535-0900**

**[www.lauderdaleyachtsales.com](http://www.lauderdaleyachtsales.com) • [lauderdaleyachtsales@gmail.com](mailto:lauderdaleyachtsales@gmail.com)**