

# SHIPMATE

Newsletter of the Christian Boaters Association

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

## The "Scintilla" . . . "A Spark"



In September of 2017 we received a call from our dear friend, Rusty Thomas, who operates an orphanage with his wife, Betty, in Belize. It was concerning a vessel named Scintilla, which means "A spark". The vessel was up for "adoption" (donation) to a ministry. We had previously been praying about some things and immediately felt that Rusty's call was an answer to some specific prayers and that the Lord wanted us to secure the vessel for use in His Kingdom.

The vessel was donated to our ministry, Voice of Judah, Inc., the following month. We went to Key Largo, accompanied by Bill & Michele Nicol, where the boat was moored. The four of us stayed with Marlin & Marian Simon, in Tavernier for about a week, going back and forth to Key Largo while preparing the "Scintilla" to make the journey up to Savannah, GA. A special thanks to Marlin & Marian who helped us ready the vessel and saw us off on our journey.

But three hours after leaving the marina in Key Largo we encountered some problems with the steering system and eventually had to be towed to a marina in Homestead, Florida.

We did repairs on the boat and then made a second attempt to continue our journey. We were two hours into the journey when we encountered further problems (including a sand bar) and had to be towed back to the marina in Homestead.

While we were there Mike & Sara Ryden drove up from Ft. Pierce for a couple of days (thanks guys) to help "fix" some of the lingering problems. I, Annette, somehow contacted some kind of flu virus and Bill & Michele had to leave to attend a conference they were in charge of in Orlando. A few days later we made arrangements with the marina in Homestead and returned home.

We realized at that point that we would need to secure someone to bring the vessel to Savannah. Keith McFarlane and Terry Hatt began doing repairs and alternating times staying on the vessel until it was ready to resume its journey to Savannah. But even before it reached its destination we had the opportunity to lend it to a youth mission organization for a week. (That is another story that will be submitted by those involved, perhaps in the next Shipmate).

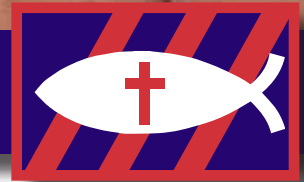
When we felt led to accept the donated vessel we weren't sure why, nor do we know at this time. But we felt and feel, that it has a divine purpose in God's Kingdom, and will be instrumental in the fulfillment of God's plan concerning his prophetic declarations of the days that we are now living in and all that is to come. ***He who has ears to hear let him hear.***

Please pray for God's will concerning Scintilla. It only takes "A Spark" to get a Fire going.

Blessings,

John & Annette Sasser

# A Word From the President



## *Greetings Fellow CBA Members,*

It is my prayer that each of you are doing well and walking in the blessings of the Lord.

Recently Annette and I attended a few meetings where an evangelist from Australia was speaking at a church on the outskirts of Savannah. His messages, about “Conflicts and Crossroads”, were very timely for us. We know that we are at the door of a new season in our own lives. And I truly believe that is true for many of you as well.

I’d like to share a few valuable truths Holy Spirit confirmed and/or revealed to us through those messages. I encourage you to apply them to your heart as the Holy Spirit speaks to you. I believe that this word is for the entire membership of Christian Boater’s Association.

Annette and I have faced some unusual conflicts over the past few years, especially 2014 through 2017. Many of you, if not all of you, can relate when I say that we have been at a crossroads in our personal lives for some time now.

During conflicts—trials and tribulations—we have to continue to preach and teach the Word of God, to pray, and worship Him. Because we know the value of faithfully walking on, persevering and waiting while choosing to trust Him even when we don’t understand everything that is happening in our lives.

We all encounter conflicts in this earth cursed system. These trials lead us forward in the Kingdom and gradually take us to crossroads and into new seasons. But there are some that rock our world so violently that the landscape of our lives are altered and we are changed forever—never to be the same again. Such conflicts try our faith and thrust us into a crossroads situation.

Whether crossroads come suddenly or gradually, they usher in new seasons in our lives. The enemy, satan, seeks to kill, steal, and destroy all that God has for us as His children—citizens in His Kingdom. But God will use our trials and conflicts to “increase us” in His Kingdom and take us to places in the Spirit where we’ve never been before.

“Conflicts and Crossroads” can be scary. We need to remember that when in a conflict, despite what it looks like, WE ARE BLESSED. Being blessed is a position not a condition. Though our blessings have enemies—the powers of darkness, God goes before us and makes the crooked ways straight. He opens doors that no man can close, and He closes doors that no man can open. Father God makes a way where there seems to be no way. I feel that He is saying to many of you right now, “Stand by the roads (the crossroads) and look and ask, ‘Where is the old path, the eternal way (the path of Righteousness you need to take at this time in your life), then walk in it, and you will find rest for your soul.’” (Jeremiah 6:16; Hebrews 4:9)

Prayer and communion with Holy Spirit is a must, especially in this time when conflicts and crossroads are facing our nation and other nations as well. Whether you are in a personal conflict now and at a crossroads, or have been in the past (which we all have), you can take courage in the fact that God is for you—not against you. (Romans 8:31)

I believe that Christian Boater’s Association has been at a crossroads for some time. Please pray with me that Father God will reveal the right path (direction) for this time in the life of this organization. I would like to personally hear from you and have your input.

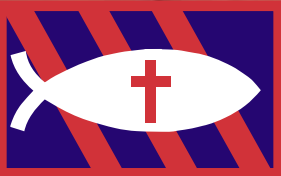
I also encourage you to pray for one another. And if you are able, please send a donation to CBA. We no longer have membership dues and yet still have expenses, like the Shipmate. It takes finances to operate an organization. So pray and give as the Lord leads.

Thank you and may the Lord our God bless you and keep you, May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant to you His Shalom—His Peace.

Anchored in Him,

John





## MAKE PLANS NOW !!

The 2018 CBA Conference will again be held at Epworth By The Sea On St. Simons Island, Georgia. The dates for next years conference are Oct. 25-28, 2018. Plan now to be part of this celebration.

## New MurSea Website UP!

Just log into the original address: [www.mursea.org](http://www.mursea.org) and you will be there. With all the documents and photographs, there are many links that work within the website. One of the changes will be to make the boat "for sale" much more visible.

Please continue to pray for God to intervene on our behalf and get Zebulun sold to someone who wants to finish the project! Lord willing! Share the website with everyone who could be interested!

## DUES

At the 2017 CBA Conference it was decided to drop the \$25.00 annual dues to join or to remain a member of CBA. However, the organization still needs financial support to continue. Therefore, it is asked that members give an annual voluntary donation to cover operation costs. All donations go toward corporation expenses, the website and the Shipmate. CBA had no paid staff or office. Prayfully think about your donation. Please send all donations made out to Christian Boaters Association to:

**Christian Boaters Association, 561 W. Moreland Rd., Wooster, OH 44691**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

**Karren Stonehouse**  
East Moline, IL

## 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](mailto:gilsonsd@aol.com). Also any address changes can be sent to this address.





# A Sailor's Prayer



*WE WILL NOT GO GENTLY INTO THIS DARK NIGHT,  
FOR THE LOVE WE CARRY WILL GUIDE THE LIGHT,  
AND HOLD OUR TEARS TIL THE MORNING'S BRIGHT.*

*AWAKENED AGAIN INTO THE NIGHT,  
WE WILL NOT GO GENTLY INTO THIS DARK NIGHT.  
THE DAY SURROUNDS US WITHOUT ITS LIGHT,  
AND SILENCE FALLS, COME SOON THE NIGHT.*

*WHERE SHADOWS CAST PAST FIRE'S LIGHT,  
WE WILL NOT GO GENTLY INTO THIS DARK NIGHT.  
THE PATHS BEFORE US, THE DARK, THE LIGHT.  
WE ASK FOR NOTHING, WE KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT.*

*THE TRUTH, THE GLORY, IT'S FOUND ITS FIGHT.  
OUR STRENGTH, OUR COURAGE, OUR GUIDING LIGHT.  
WE WILL NOT GO GENTLY INTO THIS DARK NIGHT,  
AND GIVE OUR LIFE WITHOUT THE RIGHT.*

*TO CALL THE SUN INTO THE NIGHT,  
AND QUESTION THE QUESTION, WHAT'S WRONG, WHAT'S RIGHT,  
WE WILL NOT GO GENTLY INTO THIS DARK NIGHT.*

*FOR THE LOVE WE SHARE WILL GUIDE THE LIGHT,  
AND PRAY SOMEDAY YOU FIND WHAT'S RIGHT?  
WE WILL NOT GO GENTLY INTO THIS GREAT NIGHT.*

*THE PATHS BEFORE US, THE DARK, THE LIGHT.  
TOMORROW COMES AND SO THE FIGHT.  
WHERE HEROS FALL BUT STILL WE FIGHT.  
THEIR VOICES CALL INTO THE NIGHT,  
THIS WAR WON'T END, NO END IN SIGHT*

*WE ASK FOR NOTHING, WE FIGHT THIS FIGHT.  
WE ASK FOR NOTHING, WE KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT.  
WE ASK FOR NOTHING,  
WE FOUND THE LIGHT.*

*— Joseph Anthony Welteroth, US Navy  
Winter 1945 Pacific Ocean*

## 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](mailto:gilsonsd@aol.com). Written copies can be sent to the address on the last page of the Shipmate.

— Steve





# Hey Captain



— *By Captain Keith Houseknecht*

**F**or coastal and inland waters we have some great tools available for getting a feel for the weather that we will experience in the near future. The Marine weather forecast on the radio is a great place to start and it is available on websites as well. A phone app like WeatherBug or The Weather Channel will also give you nice hour by hour detail. The radar on these apps is good enough to convince me to stop paying for a service to show weather on my chart plotter.

I use the phone app SailFlow routinely. SailFlow predicts wind direction and velocity for every 3 hours. You can select different forecasting models to see what others are predicting or just use one that seems to be best for your area. The graphics make it real easy to get a feel for the opportunities ahead. I always check SailFlow when I am selecting an anchorage for the night.

Traditionally one of the very first things you did when you got on board was tap on the side of the barometer. A tap in just the right place would jostle the needle enough to get the current barometric pressure. Then a few hours later you could go back tap the side again and see if the pressure was going up or down and how fast. Now for way less money (<\$80) than a good barometer you can get an electronic barometer. The pressure

history for the last few hours is plotted out and may have alarms, time, temperature and other handy information.

No matter how optimistic the data is, keeping an eye on the sky is always essential. With experience the clouds tell you a lot and localized thunderstorms usually give you just enough prep time so you can enjoy the ferocity when it hits. Studying weather and having your own personal plan for storm preparation are well worth the time.

As you monitor the marine radio you may get information of changing weather conditions and special broadcast. If water spouts are developing you might hear some chatter on the radio. My experience indicates that when conditions are right for waterspouts you may see wind devils tossing and swirling the spray from white caps.

One other site I monitor is "greatlakesonline.nos.noaa.gov". This web site gives the history of water levels on Lake Erie. Levels can change 3 to 6 feet in less than six hours when the wind blows or stops blowing. The Coastal Pilot says the record change on the east end is 3 meters. If our plan is to slip into an anchorage that is a little thin changes in water level can make or break our plans.

## 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](mailto:gilsonsd@aol.com)

## **CBA Officers**

**President:** John Sasser (2020)

**Vice President:** Steve Gilson (2019)

**Secr/Tres:** Deb Gilson (2020)

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Keith Houseknecht (2019)

Michele Nicol (2019)

Ted Orem (2018)

Annette Sasser (2020)

Olie Teeter (2018)

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Marlin Simon

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### **Christian Boaters Association**

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