

## ***“Assessing Your Marine Weather Self Reliant Skills”***

(Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – 10:30AM)

This seminar discusses the marine advisory, watch, & warning system used by the U.S.’s National Weather Service (NWS) marine program which encompasses the coastal & offshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the Atlantic coastal & overlapping offshore NAVTEX forecast zones of the western north Atlantic & Pacific Oceans (including the high seas). The seminar further introduces some surface pressure weather maps, challenging the audience as to what they know or do not know by highlighting specific weather systems (middle latitude low pressure & high pressure systems & the station observation plot (e.g., wind barbs, surface pressure reading, & present weather conditions reducing visibility such as fog & precipitation). There will also be an introduction of a variety of map symbols such as fronts, troughs, squall & dry lines, & ridges). This free seminar is a prerequisite for attending the pre-paid ***“Surface Pressure Chart Workshop”*** & ***“Understanding Weather & Cruise Decision Making Workshop”*** (See SWIBS schedule for workshop details & registration).

## ***“Unlocking the Mystery of the 500 mb Chart”***

(Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – 1:30PM)

This seminar breaks down the components of an invaluable weather resource as the upper level 500 Mb chart is, even for the casual recreational boater. This “holy grail” weather forecasting product can answer where & why surface low & high pressure systems originate, intensifies, & weakens. 500 mb also controls their direction & speed of motion. The seminar will also discuss what a weather pattern is, how & why surface pressure systems move rapidly from West to East, or from South to North, or even not move at all for days on end. It is strongly recommended that boaters attend ***“Assessing Your Marine Weather Self Reliant Skills”*** free seminar, as the two separate topics tie into one another! This seminar is also a pre-requisite for enrolling in the pre-paid ***“Understanding the 500 mb Chart Workshop”*** & ***“Understanding Weather & Cruise Decision Making Workshop”*** (See SWIBS schedule for workshop details & registrations).

## ***“Wind & Wave Concepts & How to Integrate them with Surface Pressure Charts”***

(Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – 5:30PM)

This seminar will discuss the parameters involved with wave development, propagation, & decay. Specifically, the dominant role of the parameters of wind direction & speed, duration, & fetch in creating “wind waves”, & what happens when these waves leave their generating area as “swell waves”. A boater needs to understand the differences in which the waves discussed will impact their vessel the most. For offshore boaters, it is also important to differentiate between regional wind & wave charts (depicted in feet) versus high seas wind & wave charts (depicted in meters). It is further recommended that boaters attend ***“Assessing Your Marine Weather Self Reliant Skills”*** seminar, as the two separate topics tie into one another. This free seminar is also a pre-requisite for enrolling in the pre-paid ***“Understanding Weather & Cruise Decision Making Workshop”*** (See SWIBS schedule for workshop details & registration).