
Fireworks and other fun

By Capt. Ralph Allen

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For decades, boaters have anchored in the Peace River in order to view Independence Day fireworks over the water at Punta Gorda. Some of the more veteran observers of our city's pyrotechnics may even remember the years (late 1980s, I think) when we were treated to two displays spaced a day or two apart. Two service organizations, the local Elks Lodge and a Kiwanis Club, each hosted their own displays, and would take turns each year as to which organization would go on July 4th, and which would choose a date a day or two before or after the 4th, depending on the calendar. In recent years, Punta Gorda's fireworks have been held only on July 4th, and most recently the fireworks have been launched from Laishley Park. Weather permitting, it's not unusual for hundreds of boats to fill the river adjacent to the park, and this Monday evening will likely be no different. One thing that is different though is that the city's new mooring field is being installed just east of the U.S. 41 bridges, so there are now pilings with signage, floating boundary buoys and rows of mooring floats in an area which boats have in the past anchored to view the fireworks. If you've not navigated this part of the river in recent weeks, you'll want to pay attention as soon as you pass beneath the power lines, especially since the new installation is not yet shown on navigation charts or on GPS plotters. And one more note: It's always a struggle to raise funds for the fireworks display, if you can help by chipping in a few dollars to offset the costs visit www.PuntaGordaFireworks.com.

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