

Keepers of the River

Flotilla 45, District 7

Sanford, Florida

August, 2013



UPCOMING:

- **About Boating Safely class – Saturday September 14th**
- **Division 4 meeting, Station Ponce, Saturday October 26th, 0930, Tropical Blues.**
- **Dues are due September 30th! 2014 dues are \$45.**
- **DTRAIN is coming to Orlando! September 25 – 29**
<http://exhibitservicesonline.com/dtrain2013/>
- **Special Event Radio Day, Astor. Saturday 10/19/13**



JO's JOURNAL

From Jo Opisso, Flotilla Commander

I had the opportunity to teach at the recent Boating Safety class. The ABS class is a very important service. Matter of fact, it may be the most important thing we do that reaches the general public next to proper vessel safety checks. New to boating and self-proclaimed experienced boaters take this class.

Unfortunately, Florida does not require any boat handling training or knowledge to operate a vessel. Should we wonder why there are so many accidents with fatalities and injuries? It is amazing that there aren't more.

Imagine if markers were placed in the bodies of water where deaths have occurred like those you see on roadways. I suspect they would be in the hundreds and certain bodies of water would have more than others, right?

Based on the most recent boating accident statistics (2011) from the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement division, ten counties have the most boating accidents. Fifty- nine percent of accidents occurring in Florida happened in ten counties. I list them here from number one to number ten:

Monroe (93, 5 fatal),
Miami-Dade (75, 3 fatal),
Palm Beach (58, 2 fatal),
Broward (41, 5 fatal),
Lee (38, 1 fatal),
Pinellas (36,3 fatal),
Collier (34, 3 fatal),
Brevard (25,3 fatal),
Hillsborough (20, 6 fatal),
Martin (20, 1 fatal).

The causes of these accidents ranged from collisions with a fixed object, running aground or the operator or passengers falling overboard.

Our mission is Recreational Boating Safety. We need to stand ready to fulfill this mission through our training, study, and devotion to duty.



In case you think it can't happen to you...

Every month I listen carefully to the news looking for boating accidents that you just don't think could happen to you. Often common sense prevails, such as had they not been drinking, going too fast after dark without lights or not letting someone know where you are going and when you will be back.

This month as I was considering which accident was "newsworthy." Sadly I have to report about an accident I could not have imagined.



NOODLE's NOOK Service work is exhausting!

I found this on the CBS/Miami webpage. A young woman was sitting in a boat on the Caloosahatchee River when a tube in the boat flew out. Unfortunately, there was a line attached to the tube. And the line wrapped around her neck and pulled her into the river. She did not survive.

I have a friend who lost his thumb in a person watercraft accident when the vessel suddenly accelerated and the kite he was preparing launched and the line severed his thumb.

Who hasn't seen an old black and white movie reel where the boat takes off and the comic foil is standing on a line on the dock and is pulled behind the boat. In this case, he lands on his feet and barefoots to safety. Imagine if a small child is playing and someone lets out the anchor line just as the little one reaches for a toy entangled in said line.

Who hasn't been behind a trailered boat stuffed with toys and had something fly out on the interstate?

Safety is up to you!

If you are out tubing and are loading up to get underway, please untie the tube/floater before taking off. Secure them in your vehicle before hitting the road. And stow those lines when not in use.

Better to say, it will be a few minutes while we make things secure than I'm so sorry for your loss...



Photo by Elizabeth Gallagher

I'm not napping, I'm just waiting patiently for crayons!



The DTRAIN agenda is at the end of the newsletter. Registration is only \$15 and can be done on-line at:

<http://exhibitservicesonline.com/dtrain2013>

If you are not already qualified as a Vessel Examiner, this is a great opportunity to earn one of the basic qualifications (and ribbons) all Auxiliarists should have. If you take this seminar, we hope you will share with us what YOU learned, some of us have been doing VEs for a long time and might have picked up a few bad habits or are missing updated information. We all need to continue learning.

Or if you aspire to elected office, the Flotilla Leadership Course is for you! If you don't like to take boring on-line exams, you can bypass the APC and attend the classroom workshop at DTRAIN.



Did you know that feeding a dolphin is a bigger deal than “molesting” a manatee? And if the manatee is beached, just let it be. She is likely trying to get a little quiet time...that’s what the FWC at Station Ponce said at lunch the other day.



BOB’s BLOG

The past month has turned out to be busier than I would have thought. Traditionally July is a slow month, but not so much this time.

There was the Division meeting at Station Ponce. We had eight members attending, more than any other flotilla. This quarterly meeting is turning out to be one of our best fellowship events, with plenty of time to chat about “stuff” and get to know each other a little better. I heard some folks discussing a “boat-a-cade” like trip to Silver Springs by water once it cools down some.

Then there was Coast Guard Day. Station Port Canaveral had a big turnout with lots of stuff for the kids to do, plenty of very good food including two roasted pigs done the Puerto Rican way. Lots of prizes like free dinners, stays at beachfront motels, tickets to attractions, etc. Also free beer, one of the few times you ever find that. Several hundred people turned out.

National Night Out was held in DeBary early in August, and our flotilla was well represented there as usual. A big “thank you” goes out to all the members who gave their time to be there. The community is always impressed by our show of public spiritedness, and that’s one of the reasons we join the Auxiliary.

There were at least two training patrols held in the boat crew program last month.

Our flotilla now has a High Frequency radio facility which has been submitted for DIRAUX approval. There is a nationwide network of Auxiliary radio stations that can provide communications in case of emergency. It requires training and time, but helps the Auxiliary fulfill an important role within the Department of Homeland Security.

Once in a while I hear people, both inside the Auxiliary and out, say something like “There’s just not much to do in the Auxiliary.” When I look at the above I have to think to myself, “They just don’t get it.”



**FLOTILLA 45, Sanford
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

SEPTEMBER

Elections Committee meets

9/10 – Flotilla Meeting

9/14 – PE Class

9/27 – 9/29 – DTRAIN, Florida Mall Hotel Orlando

9/30 – DUES DUE!!!!

OCTOBER

Audit Committee appointed

COW Committee formed. Holiday Party Committee formed

10/8 – Flotilla Meeting

10/12 – PE Class

10/19 – Special Event Radio Day

10/26 – Division Meeting & election

NOVEMBER

Elections for 2014

11/12 – Flotilla Meeting

11/16 – PE Class

DECEMBER

12/10 – Flotilla Meeting? Often suspended in lieu of COW or holiday party.



**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
2013 D7 Board & Training Meeting
Florida Hotel & Conference Center, Orlando FL
27 - 29 September 2013**

Friday, 27 September

Uniform: Tropical Blue

Registration Desk	1000-1200	Forum East 2
DIRAUX	1000-1200	Forum East 2
AUXFS Instructors Orientation	1000-1200	Forum East 3
PDCPA Annual Meeting	1100-1200	Forum East 4
OPENING CEREMONIES & DISTRICT BOARD BUSINESS MTG with ELECTIONS	1300- 1600	Salon 2
Commodore's Reception (cash bar)	1830-1930	Salon 2 Area
COMMODORE'S BANQUET	1930	Salon 2

Dinner Attire: Dinner Dress White Jacket, Dinner Dress Blue or Appropriate Civilian Attire

Saturday, 28 September

Uniform: Tropical Blue

Registration Desk	0730-1200	Forum East 2
Material Store	0730-1600	Forum West 1
DIRAUX	0730-1600	Forum East 2
District CDR Q & A Session	0730-0800	Salon 3
Vessel Examiner Course	0800-1700	Legacy South 1
Information System Inputters	0800-1700	Legacy South 2
Telecommunications Operators Course	0800-1700	Legacy South 3
Flotilla Leadership Course	0800-1700	Salon 1
AUX Weather Course	0800-1700	Salon 3
AUX Aviation Workshop	0800-1700	Forum East 4

LUNCH 1145-1300 (lunch on your own)

COFFEE BREAKS 1000 and 1400

**RECEPTION/CASH BAR 1800 – 1850 Salon 2 Area
(ALL ATTEND)**
**BBQ GET TOGETHER DINNER 1900 – 2100 Salon 2
(Dress: Civilian Casual)**

Sunday, 29 September**Dress: Civilian Casual**

RFO/SABOT/OE	0800-1000	Legacy South 1
Flotilla Leadership Development Center	0800-1000	Legacy North 1
Coffee Break	1000	
Flotilla Action Plans	1000-1200	Legacy South 1
Recognition and Awards	1000-1200	Legacy North 1
Auxiliary Testing	0800-1600	Forum East 4
Civil Rights Awareness	0800-1200	Legacy South 2
Telecommunications Operator Course...continued	0800-1200	Legacy South 3
AUX Weather Course ...continued	0800-1200	Legacy North 2
Senior Leadership Lunch DCDRs/DDCs/ASCs/EXCOM (closed mtg)	1200-1300	Suite TBD
Senior Leadership Meeting DCDRs/DDCs/ASCs/EXCOM (closed mtg)	1300-1400	Legacy North 1
EXCOM Meeting	1400-1630	Legacy North 1