



# *The Coast Cutter*

*March 2022*



*U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary - District 7 - Division 11 - Flotilla 9  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689*

## Chip Log Submission – Flotilla 11-9

Once more into the breach, brave comrades! Like most of the other flotillas in the 7th District, our mighty flotilla is emerging from the depths of COVID to try to rebuild and revitalize. One of the more valuable facets of membership in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is the amazing camaraderie that suffered a near-fatal blow with the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic.

But like the rest of the country, our flotilla is shaking off its cobwebs and once more recreating the great sense of fellowship and service we all have in great abundance. Along with COVID, our flotilla was struck a mighty blow with the loss of our quarters for many years and with it, our radio station was gone. We met in a local condo association clubhouse but there was no storage. Then we found ourselves meeting by Zoom. Patrols were suspended, vessel exams stopped. We were becalmed.

Again camaraderie to the rescue! Our local American Legion Post 76, nicknamed “The Ghost Post,” was also in the process of rebuilding and acquired the use of a former gym. United in service, we were allowed to share their quarters for our meetings after in-person meetings were allowed.

A sense of purpose was starting to return. Patrols became active and Tom Maloof ran one surface training patrol in January, with two more in February. Gary Davis was back on the water again as crew. Tom, a professional pilot, flew one AUXAIR patrol in January. He is working with the active duty Coast Guard to plan a pollution response drill on the Anclote River.

One of our members, Joe Visovsky, donated a communications trailer that we are able to house in the Tarpon Springs Safety Center. It is already a certified AUX Facility. Tarpon Springs also provides an important link between Hudson and the southernmost radio stations. We have new members in the pipeline who have expressed interest in becoming watchstanders so we can utilize the facility to augment our patrols. And in the midst of all of this, we have managed to add many new members and some transfers from other flotillas (one from Tampa and one from Long Island, NY). They all bring wonderful skills but most importantly an enthusiasm that’s been dormant for so long.

So look for us coming back! Semper Paratus!

Joan Jennings, Flotilla Commander



## **Flotilla Staff Officer Reports:**

### **Communication Services: Vacant FSO-CM:**

- No report.

### **Diversity Report: Constantine Beyko, FSO-DV/CS:**

- No report.

### **Computer Services Report: Constantine Beyko, FSO-DV/CS:**

- No report.

### **Human Resources Report: Art Chelsey, FSO-HR:**

- requested list of our FSOs

- FSO reports should be cc'd to Art and Ernest Cannon for inclusion in the flotilla newsletter

- Art was asked to check on the status of JoAnn Sawyer's application. He reported that he is unable to check on the status of applications and must wait until they are rejected or accepted by DIRAUX

### **Information Services Report: Vacant, FSO-IS:**

- No report.

### **Materials Report: Joe Tartaglia, FSO-MA :**

- Not a lot to report this month, I did send another order in to central supply to order the brochures Mike Vaughn needs that have been out of stock for quite awhile .

### **Member Training: Tom Maloof , VFC:**

- Reported that several flotilla members are aggressively training to become BQ, boat crew, telecom operators and FSO-IS. A couple of members are still having trouble connecting to AUXDATA II, LMS or other learning platforms.

- Tom is working one-on-one with them. In some cases the members mistakenly think they are on the correct website when they are not.

- Gus Karoutsos expressed an interest in training for FSO-PV and FSO-PA. His Greek language skills could be very useful in attracting new members from the Tarpon Springs area

- Tom has been performing surface patrols as coxswain and flying AUXAIR patrols. Weather has forced cancellation of approximately 50% of recent patrols.

### **Operations Report: Gary Davis, FSO-FN/OPS:**

- The Finance report was given at the meeting.

### **Public Affairs Report: Joan Jennings, FSO-PA:**

- No Report.

### **Publications Report: Ernest Cannon, FSO-PB :**

- *The Cutter* was published.

### **Public Education Report: Vacant, FSO-PE:**

- No report.

## **Flotilla Staff Reports (Continued...)**

### **Program Visitor Report: Vacant, FSO-PV:**

- No Report.

### **Secretary Report: Joan Jennings, FC-PA/SR:**

- No Report.

### **Vessel Examinations Report: Bob Gailey, FSO-VE:**

- VE team has performed over 37 VEs so far during the month of March. The VE team is planning on using the first Saturday of each month for vessel exams at the Anclote River Park boat ramp. Last inspection they saved boaters over \$1000 in potential fines by pointing out missing required equipment.

- Gus Karoutsos is interested in joining the VE team. He needs to take the annual VE refresher test to renew his certification.

### **Navigation Services Report: Vacant, FSO-NS:**

- No Report.

Below is a photo of a vessel examiner doing a vessel examination.



Photo by Ernest J. Cannon, II



**USCG AUXILIARY DISTRICT 7 - MEMBER TRAINING**

**DISTRICT 7 STAFF - MONTHLY REPORT**

Monthly reports are submitted in:

NAME:

POSITION:

DATE:

3 UPS

Positive achievements and happenings; Bullet points should include enough information, so everyone understands

- 1) We continue to see interest by people interested in joining the Auxiliary.
- 2) Patrols continue, with at least two members starting Boat Crew training
- 3) All applicants have expressed an interest in either Boat Crew, Air Crew, Telecoms

3 DOWNS

Disappointments; obstacles, delays, failures; what is not working

- 1) HARPAT was postponed by active duty CG due to other commitments.
- 2) Seven FSO positions remain vacant.
- 3) Delays in obtaining member number continue to frustrate new applicants.

SUMMARY

½ Page overview - Text summary; opinion(s) on how things are going and the “whys”

AUXDATA II continues to frustrate old members, not allowing them to set up passwords. They never receive the email with the password reset link. Since they can not access AUXDATA II, they are unable to perform their FSO duties. We are working with SO-IS trying to find a workaround.

Delays in obtaining member numbers continue to frustrate new applicants, some of whom applied as early as last October. The inability to check on the status of applications is disappointing. I continue to encourage applicants to be patient, but I can sense they are becoming discouraged. This dampens their enthusiasm. We'll be lucky to keep them.





# Educating the Public

## Vessel Examinations

Here in District 7 - Division 11 - Flotilla 9, Tarpon Springs, our vessel examiners are hard at work getting requalified and also performing examinations on vessels. In the following photo we see an auxiliarist checking for the proper safety equipment and educating first time boat owners on what proper safety equipment is required. Also informing the public on what steps should be taken in order to boat safely. The Coast Guard Auxiliary prides itself on being able to educate the public and provide preventive knowledge to help prevent boating accidents. We also educate the public on the state, local, and federal fines if they are found without proper safety equipment on board their vessel and where to obtain the safety equipment. This is all done free of charge so that we can provide them with the best chance in case of an emergency. Also so that mariners are the most prepared they can be in case of a boating accident. This past month we had 37 vessel examinations.



Photo by Ernest J. Cannon, II



**April 18: Flotilla Meeting**

**1254 S Pinellas Ave, Tarpon Springs, FL  
34689**

**May 16: Flotilla Meeting**

**1254 S Pinellas Ave, Tarpon Springs, FL  
34689**

**May 21-27: National Safe Boating Week**

**To enhance communication between our  
flotilla and the public, we now have a new phone  
number with automated answering.  
Please make a note of it!**

**727-279-5426**



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**TARPON SPRINGS  
FLOTILLA 11- 9**

**OFFICERS:**

- Joan Jennings,  
Flotilla Commander
- Tom Maloof,  
Flotilla Vice Commander

**FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS:**

- FSO-CM Vacant
- FSO-CS Constantine Beyko
- FSO-DV Constantine Beyko
- FSO-FN Gary Davis
- FSO-HR Art Chesley
- FSO-IS Vacant
- FSO-MA Joseph Tartaglia
- FSO-MT Tom Maloof
- FSO-OP Gary Davis
- FSO-PA Joan Jennings
- FSO-PB Ernest Cannon
- FSO-PE Vacant
- FSO-PV Vacant
- FSO-SR Joan Jennings
- FSO-VE Bob Gailey
- FSO-NS Vacant
- IPFC Tandy Brown