



# *The Coast Cutter*

*July 2022*



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

The following article is from Tampa Bay 10.

[Link to article.](#)

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The U.S. Coast Guard rescued seven people on a boat off Clearwater after a lightning strike.

On Saturday, a 39-foot vessel was struck by lightning 100 miles offshore of Clearwater, according to a news release. The Coast Guard District Seven command center received an alert from the boat and was able to contact the owner's wife to figure out where they were located.

“Flat sea and beautiful skies turned to living hell,” said Tonya Albritton, one of the passengers on the boat.

Albritton said after the lightning strike, everyone onboard put on their life jackets and tried to keep each other calm.

“God was just like, 'okay, you guys made it,'" she said.

After finding the people, the helicopter aircrew had to hoist the five women and two men off the boat.

All seven of the boaters were taken to the air station unharmed.

Albritton said they are extremely thankful for the crew members who rescued them.

“We all started crying and bawling our eyes out," she said.

"Lightning storms are routinely encountered in the Florida maritime environment and can pose a significant hazard to boaters," Coast Guard pilot Lt. David McKinley said in a statement. "Fortunately, the boaters, in this case, were well prepared with all necessary safety equipment including an EPIRB, flares and a marine VHF radio to ensure a quick and efficient rescue."

The boat owner was able to get the boat towed back to land but said it was totaled.

Author: Courtney Holland

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## **Flotilla Staff Officer Reports:**

### **Communications: 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:**

- No report.

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

### **Marine Safety Report: Tom Luncher, FSO-MS:**

- Will review upcoming Pinellas County beach cleanups: Dunedin Causeway on Friday, August 12.

- Studying for upcoming oral exam for Marine Safety Administrative Management/MSAM.

- Getting red tide water samples off the West Coast of Anclote Key.

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

- Tom Maloof passed initial qualification and is now an AUXAIR aircraft commander.

- Bill Von Weyhe completed all training needed to reach Basically Qualified (BQ) status from Approval Pending (AP).

- We have several new applicants whose interest was piqued due to our National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) displays. Hopefully, they will process quickly and begin training.

### **Finance 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.

### **Program Visitor Report: Mike Vaughn, FSO-PV:**

- Program Visitors Mike Vaughn and Bob Gailey reported 17 marine location visits in July 2022. Any flotilla member interested in becoming a program visitor or to learn more about what we do can contact me (mva1102@yahoo.com.) for more information.

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

- No report.

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

- Our Flotilla Vessel Examiners completed 46 exams for the month of July. It was a hot month and we drank plenty of water. A big thanks to all our examiners who participated. August Blitz will take place the second Saturday of the month.

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

- No report.



## Photos from July Vessel Exams



Photos Courtesy of Bob Gailey.



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

**September 19: Flotilla Meeting**

**October 17: Flotilla Meeting**

**October 23: Auxiliary Barbecue 1200**

**December 4: Holiday Party 1400**

**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-MS Tom Luncher
- 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