

AHOY BOATERS!

Ahoy boaters and welcome to the website of Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 of your United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, located in beautiful Homosassa, FL.

Please allow me to introduce myself to you. My name is Wilbur B. Scott, but my friends and shipmates call me "Scotty". Among other areas of responsibilities within the flotilla one of my duties is serving as the Assistant Public Affairs Officer. Along with our Public Education Department it is our job to keep the public abreast of flotilla activities and to promote boating safety. As part of that effort I and others write a variety of safe boating articles that are distributed to the area media for publication. As we introduce our newly updated Flotilla 15-4 website to the boating public we thought it only appropriate to include a section that not only informs the boating public of our activities but more importantly provides a place that our readers can access to gain helpful information and tips on boating safety, equipment, dealing with emergencies on the water and many other topics. Whether you are a first time recreational boater, experienced boater but new to our area waters or perhaps you are a boater who has been on the water for many years, we will try to have something of interest for everyone.

To start off with though I will be addressing topics of interest kind of geared towards the new or inexperienced boater although I must admit that I have seen many an "Old Salt" who could use a refresher course not only in safe boating but boating etiquette as well!

The article following this one will be entitled, "Your First Boat?" and will offer suggestions and observations on things you should and perhaps should not be doing as a brand new boat owner and "Skipper". This will be followed by an article I plan to title as "Towing Your Boat" and again will offer some suggestions and tips on this very important topic. The third article will be entitled, (as I envision it now), "Launch Etiquette" and it will be about where and how to prepare your boat for launching. So as you can see we have started you off with your new boat, (it really doesn't have to be a brand new boat), then an article regarding how to tow your boat followed by an article of what you should do once you arrive at the launch site. From there I will be offering suggestions and tips on numerous topics regarding boating safety and techniques on our area waters, especially the Gulf of Mexico. If you are used to small rivers and lakes you will find that the Gulf of Mexico offers not only a variety of fish but a variety of boating experiences as well! Boating experiences that you will find most enjoyable for the most part, but on occasion can turn into dangerous situations that you must be prepared to deal with!

At any time should you have a question that you need answered please feel free to drop me an email at seacapt34447@yahoo.com and if I do not have the answer I will do my very best to get it for you or at the very least direct you to the people who can!

Again, welcome to the website of Flotilla 15-4, Homosassa, FL.

"Scotty"