



## United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 6 Newsletter

# THE HELM

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2006

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### Summer in Division 6

**Katie Corco, SO-PB6**

We are proud to bring you the latest edition of the Helm.

Division 6 has been very active in promoting, supporting, attending, and running National Safe Boating Week! We want to thank all the Division 6 Auxiliarists who helped make NSBW a huge success. Without your volunteerism and dedication, this most important event would not be possible.

We hope you have fun this summer and continue to read our newsletter for upcoming events.

Enjoy this edition of the Helm! Check out our new calendar on page 3 for a list of events through next year. Be safe.

Semper Paratus,

Katie Corco, SO-PB6

Miguel Corco, Co-editor

### DIVISION 6

#### Elected Officers

Joel Aberbach, DC  
Thomas James, VCP

#### Appointed Officers

Ben Ostrovsky, SO-IS  
Bruce Farkas, SO-PS  
Cal Gordon, SO-OP  
Diane Riggan, SO-SR  
Frank Ryba, SO-PA  
Frank Sullivan, SO-CS  
Henry Cespedes, SO-PS  
James Shea, SO-MT  
Jay Hakerem, SO-CM  
Jeff Cohen, SO-FN  
Katarina Corco, SO-PB  
Mario Gutierrez, SO-PV  
Mark Barros, SO-MS  
Ray Lavin, SO-MA  
Wilson Riggan, Jr., SO-AN

### Captain's Corner

**Joel Aberbach, DCP6**



Going into the 2nd half of '07, the simplest topic I can write about would be our many successes, hard workers, team spirit and notable accomplishments. I elect, however, to save that "good stuff" for the next or final edition.

The subject of succession has been brought up to our elected and staff officers before. The natural progression for a VFC and VCP is to take over the helm, but, that's not etched in stone. If your current VFC isn't really interested, doesn't have the time or possibly the ability, you may want to discuss his potential future. In the case of our Division, Tom James has already served as DCP and is now serving because we needed him so badly. He did all of us a big favor and took a heavy load off of me. That's not succession.

Our staff, both Flotilla and Division are really the ones who runs our units; please remember that none of us have ownership in any given area. At the end of

the year, the proper thing to do is advise your incoming leadership that you understand your term is over and you would like to be considered for whatever they need or want you for.

Now is a proper time to take a good look and ourselves and others around you. Have you been a team player? Do you have an assistant or TEAM of assistants sharing your responsibilities and giving credit to members that have made you successful in what you do for the Coast Guard and Auxiliary? Are you training your successor?

Think about our TCT and try to understand how it applies to what we've been doing over the past couple of years. The future of the Coast Guard is quite secure and must be very flexible. We're in a war we still don't fully understand. It's clear that where ever the Coast Guard goes, we'll be there with them. We need the right leadership to take us into that future.

Joel Aberbach, DCP-Division 6

## **Division 6 Annual Picnic**

**JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF**

**THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF**

**FLOTILLA 6-3 AND Flotilla 6-7**

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park  
(NO NAME COVE), Pavilion H – 19

**JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2007 FROM 1200 TO 1600**

COME BY LAND OR COME BY SEA  
JUST COME WITH YOUR FAMILY

### **MENU**

ARROZ CON POLLO, BLACK BEANS AND RICE, PLANTAINS HOT  
DOGS, KNOCKWURST, HAMBURGERS, BUNS, RELISH, HAM, TUR-  
KEY, BREAD, SALAD AND DESERT

GAMES, TATTOOS, CONTESTS AND PRIZES  
TOUR A COAST GUARD UTB  
MEET OUR ACTIVE DUTY PARTNERS  
HELO DEMONSTRATION

FELLOWSHIP AND MUCH MORE

Committee Chairmen-----Cal Gordon and Felix Garcia

**Semper  
Paratus**

## Division Vice Captain's Report

**Tom James, VCP**



National Safe Boating Week was a great success throughout the Division.

- The 6-7 event last Saturday at Matheson organized by FSO - VE Linda Rickerson was a big success with about 10 flotilla members present with the added support of the Coral Gables Fire dept that had a fire engine, ambulance and personnel present and were giving out information on boat fire safety.
- FSO-VE Damien Boudreaux, Flotilla 6-9, reports they had an equally successful day at Haulover on Saturday. Seven examiners completed 25 safety checks and distributed a substantial amount of boating safety information. Damien found the following link to the White House letter from President Bush about National Safe Boating Week: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070511-1.html>
- Flotilla 6-11 had an excellent day at Crandon marina highlighted by the very visible presence of local TV media, thanks to the great job done by Chris Todd, FSO-PA.



Photograph by Chris Todd

## June 2007 in Division 6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 MIAMI SUMMER	9 BOAT SHOW
10 MIAMI SUMMER	11 BOAT SHOW	12	13	14	15	16 TCT at Sector Miami
17	18 Prospective Member Meeting	19	20	21	22 Change of Command at Sector Miami	23
24	25	26 Prospective Member Meeting	27	28 Division 6 General Meeting	29	30

## Schedule of Upcoming Events

- 8-11 June - Miami Beach Summer Boat Show (this is an IMPORTANT show for us in terms of recruiting and outreach for PE)
- 16 June 0830hr - 8 hr TCT at Sector Miami (must pre-register - contact Joel)
- 18 June 1930hr - Prospective Member Meeting (1 of 2) Station Miami Beach
- 22 June 1000hr - Change of Command - Station Miami Beach
- 26 June 1930hr - Prospective Member Meeting (2 of 2) Station Miami Beach
- 28 June 1930hr - Division 6 General Meeting
- 01 July - Division 6 Annual Picnic at Bill Baggs State Park
- 27-30 July - CG Cutter Eagle in Port of Miami
- 03 Aug - Annual Coast Guard Picnic in Ft. Lauderdale (Auxiliary is INCLUDED)
- 23 Aug 1930hr - Division 6 Meeting
- 25 Sept 1930hr - Prospective member meeting
- 25 Oct - Division 6 Meeting
- 06 January 2008 - Division 6 Change of Watch

## July 2007 in Division 6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 DIV 6 PICNIC	2	3	4 HAPPY 4TH!	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 CUTTER EAGLE ARRIVES	28
29	30 CUTTER EAGLE DEPARTS					



Coast Guard Cutter Eagle will arrive at the port of Miami on July 27 and depart on July 30th.



## Member Training

The Coast Guard Air Station in Miami performs over 300 helicopter training missions a year in order to keep their pilots and rescue swimmers qualified. In an effort to reduce the workload this imposes on the various Coast Guard small boat stations in southern Florida, the Coast Guard has requested help from the Auxiliary.

Auxiliary coxswains and boat crew members are being qualified to assist with these training missions. The missions involving the auxiliary include: (1) rendezvousing with a helicopter; (2) proceeding on a course and speed given to the coxswain by the helicopter pilot; (3) retrieving a rescue line and device as it is being lowered into the stern of the boat while the boat is underway; and (4) tending the line and device while it is being winched back up to the helicopter. In addition to these hoisting procedures, the Auxiliary facility will stand by as a safety platform, ready to respond to any problems, while the helicopter deploys its rescue swimmer.

To date twenty auxiliarists have completed the training. The training was conducted by Coast Guard active duty members aboard a Station Miami Beach 41' UTB. The Auxiliarists are Bob Bartley, Jack Benveniste, Jane Bixby, Henry Cespedes, John Ciampa, Miguel Corco, Gary Ellis, Bob Evans, Bruce Farkas, Cal Gordon, Dick Lapidus, Stanley Lash, Bill Morcom, David Rickerson, Linda Rickerson, Hortensia Sampedro, Jim Shea, Frank Sullivan and Christopher Todd.

In order to become qualified each person attended a "Static display" conducted by Lt. Jared King at the Air Station in Opa Locka on 13APR07. They then completed the Air Operations Study and Qualification Guide and an underway check ride. All were performed in accordance with the active duty qualifications process. Underway check rides were conducted on 03MAY and 09MAY.

Bob Bartley, Cal Gordon, Jim Shea and Frank Sullivan have been designated trainers authorized to qualify other Auxiliarists onboard auxiliary facilities. Coxswains and boat crew members wishing to become qualified should contact Jim Shea, SO-MT. He will provide them with the Study and Qualification Guides and outline the study requirements. After completing these, they will have a training check ride with one of the above instructors. It is our hope that all boat crew members complete this training over the course of the next six to twelve months.

Jim Shea. SO\_MT



## **Vessel Examination Report**

**Tom Walker, SO-VE**

The focus for May were the following VE events that coincided with National Safe Boating Week:

Black Point, May 26 6-7

Crandon, May 19 6-11, May 26 6-3

Haulover May 19 6-9, May 20 6-9/6-10, May 26 6-9, May 27 6-9/6-10

Homestead May 26 6-5

Matheson May 19 6-7

Every flotilla and every Dade County public marina, except Pelican Harbor, were involved.

One of the highlights was the May 19 event at Crandon lead by FSO-VE Vickie Aponte from 6-11 with support from FSO-PA Chris Todd that included coverage by CBS, NBC and Telemundo television and appeared on their subsequent news casts. And the May 19 event at Matheson lead by FSO-VE Linda Rickerson from 6-7 with support from FSO-PA Richard High that included support from the Coral Gables Fire Dept who sent vehicles and personnel to participate in the event. FSO-VE Damien Boudreaux from 6-9 organized a very successful VE blitz for Haulover that included support from 6-10. The Super VE's from 6-3 were ever-present with Ray Lavin reporting that he was at Crandon and did 10 VSCs, and Jim Barfield did his usual great job covering the afternoons single-handedly at Matheson. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate for the weekend of May 26/27, but never-the-less FSO-VE Jorge Iglesias from 6-5 reports they did 15 VSC's with the help of Commodore Peter Fernandez.

I cannot access Auxdata at this time, but will do so in a couple of weeks when reports have been entered so I can give you the success of the Divisions efforts in terms of number of VSCs done.

I want to thank the FC's for selecting such a fine group of Flotilla Staff Officers this year. This is the best group of FSOs-VE I think the Division has ever had, and it was their collective efforts and enthusiasm that made this a great month, and will make this a great year for VE's. (...and makes my job very easy.) Thank you all.

## **Personnel Services**

**Bruce Farkas, SO-PS**

D6 continued its focus on recruiting by conducting 2 division-wide prospective member meetings in May. The result was 10 more Auxiliary recruits. Preparations are underway for the Summer (08 -11JUN07) boat show which is always a major recruiting event for the division. Prospective member meetings are scheduled on 18JUN07 and 26JUN07 to meet with potential members recruited at that show.

## Communications

Jay Hakerem, SO-CM

In May we conducted a Division 6 VHF Radio test, in order to not only test the Land and Mobile radios, but to be prepared for the Hurricane Season. As it were, we discovered several minor problems with transmissions, both from USCG Station Miami, and several member radios. Obviously we have our work cut out for us by attending to these problems and fixing them. We plan to conduct another test shortly and hopefully have a additional participation from members who own facilities.

I can not stress enough how vital these radios are to proper communication in time of emergencies, or National disasters i.e Hurricanes. I would like to urge everyone to participate not only in the VHF radio tests, but also work toward the Basic Com Course.

As an added note, we are in **desperate** need of Watch Standers at Sector Miami and Station Miami, and Hawk-eye. For more information, I may be contacted at (305) 610-3150, or e-mail me at: [eagle43@bellsouth.net](mailto:eagle43@bellsouth.net). To all the members who participated at the last VHF Radio Test, thank you so much for taking the time and making an effort to keep us safe.



## National Safe Boating Week Special to The Helm by Miguel Corco

It was a damp, dreary windy and rainy day on Saturday May 26, 2007.

Yet despite the inclement weather, members of Flotilla 6-5 from Cutler Ridge were performing free vessel checks as part of their participation in celebrating Safe Boating Week.



The surprise visit of Commodore Frank Fernandez, Immediate Past District Commodore, lifted the spirits of the four members who were there at Cutler Ridge Marina, as the continued through out the day to dedicate themselves to providing the boating public with literature on safe boating and helping them by giving them free vessel exams.

Pictured are Auxiliarist Victor Franceschi, Jorge Iglesias, Cliff Harrison and Commodore Frank Fernandez. Missing from the picture is Auxiliarist Dave Welch who was at the moment doing a vessel exam.



## Operations Report

### Cal Gordon, SO-OP

#### Operations

An R & R fishing event for the Active Duty Coast Guard from Station Miami Beach. Five AD members were aboard two Auxiliary fishing boats. Only two dolphin were caught, but all had a good time.

Division six now has about twenty trained helo hoist crew members. We completed all the static and under way training. The Auxfac's will be examined by the Coast guard on 24MAY07.

PPE's should be on it's way, according to LT. Jared King, Air Station Miami. One full set will be located in our north AOR at the fire station at Bakers Haulover, and another set will be located in our south end of our AOR at the police dock at Matheson Hammock.

Division 6 sent two Auxfac's Saturday, and one Auxfac on Sunday, to assist Division 3 with the Air Sea Show. The event was 05 May 07, and 06 May 07. Coverage for safety patrols in both AORs was also provided on each day.

Division 6 has been working with the Helo rescue swimmers at sunset each Saturday evening, and at 1330 each Sunday afternoon. The Auxfac's that are assigned are already on regular safety patrol so in the event the Helo cannot make the mission, nothing is lost. Division 6 still maintains, most weekends, three safety vessels on Saturday and two safety vessels on Sunday.



## Photo Corner

This Dedication was for the 1st inhabited building in Miami Beach. The building housed the Federal Life Sav-



ing Service which preceded the USCG. Built in 1876 it was renamed, "Coast Guard Biscayne Bay Station in 1915, when the US Revenue Cutter Services merged with the FLSS.

Pictured from left to right is the team that made the dedication possible. Cal Gordon (then DSO-OP, Captain James Maes (then Commander Sector Miami, Joel Aberbach (then DSO-MS), Lenore Schiller (then FC67) and Commodore Peter Fer-

nandez (then MO 7th CG District) The ceremony took place in December of 2005. The City Mayor and 3 City Commissioners also participated. The plaque now stands on the ocean side of Collins Ave. and 73rd St.

The second photo is a collection of 48 lbs of aluminum pull tabs from soda cans. (some cat food cans tabs too) A pound of tabs is about 1,350 tabs. That's a lot of soda, but, when a group of people undertake a worthwhile project they get others involved too. It would be a great project for the entire Division to participate in, as Judith Hudson and several other members are now doing. Station Miami Beach and Sector Miami is also on board with collecting. The tabs are turned over to Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ronald MacDonald house. It's then taken to a recycling company who pays hard cash for it, but the pound. That money pays for the everyday operational cost of the House.



Here's a project that costs us nothing, no training involved and no PQS to complete. It takes almost no time and very little effort. We don't get ribbons for delivering but we certainly do get an honest welcome and thank you. Pictures from left to right is Barry Feigenbaum, Donald Blechman, Angel Martinez, Carol Ann Lane and Mario Gutierrez.



## Photo Corner

National Safe Boating Week events occurred around Division 6.

Below, Photos from Vessel Safety Check at Crandon Park Marina:





## Photo Corner



## Safety Tips    Special to The Helm by Frank Stephenson

I never cease to be amazed at the stupidity of some boaters. Here's the story--- Sunday night around 9 or so I was returning from a trip offshore, and noticed this 21' Proline cuddy cabin tied up to one of the old pilings out in front of my house. It was calm, but the forecast was for winds up to 15 knots from the E-SE that evening.



First, you NEVER tie a boat up to a single piling that is flanked by OTHER pilings that the boat can swing into when the tide changes.... Second, these old pilings are rotten at the sand line and can't hold a lot of weight, especially in heavy seas. Third, you NEVER leave your outboard with the foot down---should always trim it clear of the water when leaving it overnight.

Predictably, during the night the boat broke free somehow, and beached itself as seen here, unfortunately right on top of some concrete slabs poured years ago for a boat ramp, now in ruins. The surf was grinding it hard against the concrete, and water poured over the chopped down transom (note: one of the worst boat designs ever invented) and put the

boat in dire shape. No automatic bilge pump, apparently.

Later that morning, some guys tried towing her off the beach, and managed to git 'r done. But their joy was short-lived: once free of the sand, the boat, half full of water, promptly rolled over and sank. The seas soon ripped the top off, as shown. A total loss. The FWC has been notified.....



High Tide



Oops!