



FLOT Lines

Flotilla 74, Brandon

District 7

USCG Auxiliary

Issue 2 2024





FLOT Lines

Newsletter Flotilla 74, Brandon
Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Commander
Matthew Stephen, Flotilla Vice Commander
Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
3006 South Kings Ave., Brandon, Florida

Flotilla Staff Officers

Tanner Piliego
Information Systems

Daniel McDermott
Communication Systems

Earl Abbott
Diversity

Christopher Hunt
Communications
Member Training

Kelley McMahon
Finance

William Sage
Human Resources

August Miller
Navigation Systems
Materials

Dottie Riley
Publications (Editor)
Public Affairs

Brett Skaggs
Secretary of Records

Matt Stephen
RBS-Partner Visitation
Vessel Examinations

Background photo: Steve Williams, Dean Bell, coxswain, and August Miller aboard "Ms. Daisy," Flotilla 74, Brandon Auxiliary facility. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabeis



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Get Ready for National Safe Boating Week!



www.cgaux74.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Flotilla74/>

We're on the web!

A dolphin surfaces near a channel marker in Tampa Bay. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabels



From the Helm



Dorothy (Dottie) Riley
Flotilla Commander

I have conflicted feelings about our members. There is the side of me that is so proud of the flotilla's active members, most of whom joined within the last two years. You do so much for the flotilla—in fact, you do everything! Your motivation and commitment are praiseworthy.

We did not weather the COVID shutdown well. Our more seasoned members fell by the wayside. Many of these 'older' members continue to pay dues and remain on our rolls, but the members currently active and serving in staff and elected positions would not recognize them and cannot match their faces to their names. We have a group of younger, more energetic members reshaping our flotilla "in their image" but within the traditional Auxiliary framework. My pride in our members is boundless!

The other side of me sees all that needs doing, and I dread urging our members- who are already overworked- to do more, but there is no one else! We have so few active members that several hold more than one staff office position. We have so few qualified Vessel Examiners and Recreational Boating Safety-Partner Visitors that all of our accomplishments in the boating safety arena are the work of two or three members. We still have no Public Education Instructors,

which will not likely change until June.

Now, National Safe Boating Week is upon us, and this same cadre of newer members has planned and will participate in all of our National Safe Boating Week activities.

While I urge our members to earn boating safety qualifications (Partner Visitations, Vessel Examiner, Public Education) and participate in more events, I must also thank you for all you do! Ω



Here's how to participate:

- *Wear a life jacket wherever you work*
- *Snap a picture*
- *Post the picture on social media with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday*
- *Tag the Safe Boating Campaign (@boatingcampaign)*
- *Send your photo to me!*



From the Helm

The S-Train event was a significant success, offering informative training on Auxiliary capabilities. I strongly encourage more of the flotilla to get involved and attend the next S-Train. The afternoon was particularly enriching, with a tour of Air Station Clearwater led by the wing commander and flight crews.

National Boat Safety Week is fast approaching. We have a couple of events planned to conduct Vessel Safety Checks. This would be a great opportunity for future Vessel Examiners to complete their five safety checks to satisfy the Vessel Examiner's personal qualification standard. The requirements for Vessel Examiners are taking the National Testing Center exam and conducting five safety checks with a certified examiner. Those in required yearly, not met status (REYR) will also have the opportunity to catch up on their five safety checks.

Scheduled Events:

Saturday, May 18: Meet at the flotilla at 6:30 AM to load up gear. Then, meet at Williams Park Boat Ramp, 9425 US Hwy 41 S, River-view, at 7 AM to set up and begin conducting Vessel Examinations. We will end around 11 AM.

Sunday, May 19: Meet at Lowry Park Boat Ramp, 1204 W Flora St, Tampa, at 8 AM. We will end around 11 AM.

Don't forget: **Friday, May 17,** is 'Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day.' Ω



Matthew Stephen
Flotilla Vice Commander

2024 BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR



2024 Boating Safety Calendar

Jan Various Boat Shows
Feb Various Boat Shows
Apr 6 #406Day
Apr 8-11 International Boating & Water Safety Summit
May National Water Safety Month
May 17 Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day
May 18-24 National Safe Boating Week
May 19 Kids to Parks Day
May 22 National Maritime Day
May 25-27 Memorial Day Weekend
Jun National Safety Month
Jun 1-9 National Fishing and Boating Week
June 15 National Marina Day
Jun 18 National Go Fishing Day
June 21 Summer Sailstice
Jul Sun Safe Boating Month
Jul 4 Independence Day
Jul 2-4 Operation Dry Water
Sep 2 Labor Day
Sep 26 World Maritime Day
Sep 28 National Hunting and Fishing Day
Oct National Hunting and Fishing Month
Nov Child Safety Protection Month
Dec Holiday Parade of Boats
(check local community calendars)



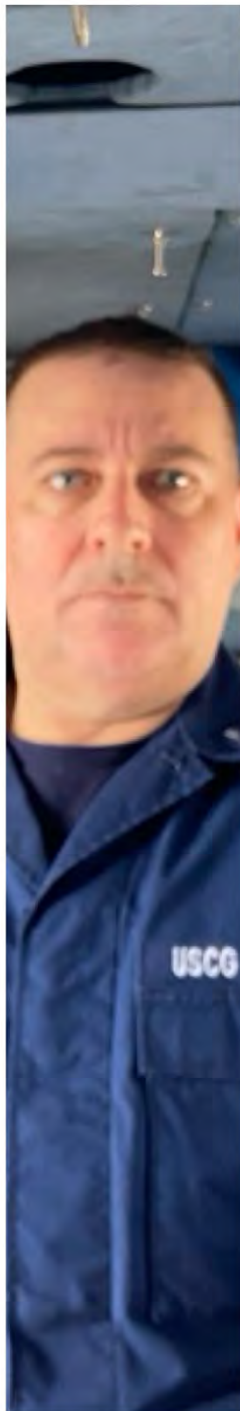
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Articles of Interest

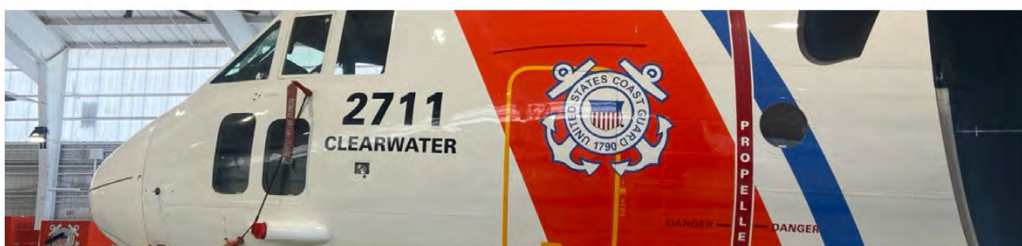


Sector St. Petersburg

First Annual S-Train

March 23, 2024
Air Station Clearwater

What We Do to
Assist the Coast Guard



Articles of Interest



Opposite page: Left image- Matt Stephen. Right image: Christopher Hunt. Top: Participating members tour the Air Station Clearwater hangars.

This page, top: From left- William Sage, Steve Williams, Chris Hunt and Matt Stephen pose on the podium during S-Train on Mar. 23, 2024. Top right: Steve Williams sits inside a helo. Bottom left: Matt Stephen poses inside a Coast Guard helo. Right: Dean Hoskin, Division 7 Commander chats with Matt Stephen and Chris Hunt during S-Train. USCG Auxiliary photographs by Dorothy Riley, Matt Stephen and Steve Williams.

(Article and more photos on next page.)



Articles of Interest

Air Station Clearwater Hosts Sector St. Petersburg First Annual S-Train.

By Dorothy Riley

Sector St. Petersburg conducted a training for the divisions under Sector St. Petersburg on Mar. 23, 2024, at Air Station Clearwater. More than 120 members attended. This was a fantastic training opportunity described as a bit like an Auxiliary boot camp. Members received critical training at an all-day event. Additionally, they had the opportunity to tour USCG aircraft and hangar, meet and speak with active-duty crew members who operate and maintain the fantastic equipment we use in the USCG, and hear about the USCG mission set.

This was Sector St. Petersburg's first S-Train modeled after the S-Train in Miami. Members toured a Coast Guard facility, attended classes and job fairs that introduced members to various qualifications and were offered experts to answer questions one-on-one about multiple areas of interest. While offering the members training and training updates



William Sage is seated at the front of the room during S-Train, which was held on March 23 at Air Station Clearwater. At the table behind him is Christopher Hunt. More than 120 Auxiliary members under Sector St. Petersburg attended the training. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley

was an integral part of the event, the focus was geared toward those jobs and qualifications in which

(Continued on page 9)



Articles of Interest

(Continued from page 8)

the Auxiliary could best serve as force multipliers for the Coast Guard.

In addition to the tours and training, the members had the opportunity to visit the Coast Guard Exchange. Air Station Clearwater surprised everyone by giving all members lunch at their expense.

This is what some of our members had to say about S-Train:

"I thought that S-Train was a good idea and that it would be great if it were a two-day event. It was enlightening to hear the Sector Commander let everyone know how appreciated the Auxiliary is to him."

"Unlike D-Train, where you need to wear the Tropical uniform, wearing the operational dress uniforms and/or Auxiliary alternate work uniform was nice. The classes I attended were good. For example, having a two-day session at the same location is more convenient than going to Orlando for similar training."

—Bill Sage

"We had a good turnout for S-Train. It was very good and informative training on what the Coast Guard Auxiliary has available to members. After the morning training classes and lunch, we were given an impressive tour of Air Station Clearwater. We toured the hangars and had an in-depth tour of the Jayhawk helicopter and its crew."

—Matt Stephen

"For me, the real learning was in discovering how much the Auxiliary can contribute to the Coast Guard and how we are true force multipliers."

—Dorothy Riley

WWIf you missed S-Train this year, be sure to attend next year. What a great day! Ω



Matt Stephen poses with CDR Shay Williams during S-Train. CDR Williams is the Deputy Executive Officer at USCG Air Station Clearwater and a subject matter expert on the Incident Command System, one of Stephen's passions. USCG Auxiliary photo.

Bottom, previous page: USCG 2711 is the registration number of an Alenia/Lockheed Martin HC-27J Spartan medium-range surveillance aircraft for the U.S. Coast Guard. The aircraft is based at Air Station Clearwater and, before that, Air Station Sacramento, California. It was previously the USAF 09-27020 and was active in Sacramento from December 2017 to September 2021
USCG Auxiliary photograph



Articles of Interest



Get Ready: Above-Average Atlantic Hurricane Season is Predicted for 2024.

By Dorothy Riley (Source:

Brace yourselves. Hurricane season is upon us! Mark your calendars for June 1st, when the Atlantic officially awakens, potentially bringing more storms than usual. Buckle up because this season is expected to be above average, with forecasters predicting 20 named storms, 9 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes – yikes!

Why the increased activity? It all boils down to warm water. Our oceans are like giant energy sources; they fuel these powerful storms when they're hot. Unfortunately, climate change is cranking up the heat, leading to warmer ocean temperatures and, as a result, more intense hurricanes. This translates to stronger winds, heavier rains, and more flooding when these storms make landfall.

But fear not! Knowledge is power, and being prepared is key. Here's the lowdown on how hurricanes form:

Understanding the process can give you confidence. Warm water is the key ingredient: Think 80°F or higher! This warm water fuels the storm's engine. Air gets a lift: as the water heats up, it evaporates, creating humid air that rises and cools, condensing into clouds and rain. The Earth's rotation gives these storms their

signature spin, drawing in more warm air and moisture.

The power grows. The hurricane strengthens as long as the warm water and favorable winds stick around. Once the storm loses its warm water supply, it weakens and fizzles. Remember, forecasts can change throughout the season, so staying informed and prepared is crucial, especially if you live in an area prone to hurricanes.

Here are some steps you can take:

- Know your evacuation zone: If you're told to leave, do it quickly!
- Assemble an emergency kit: Pack food, water, first-aid supplies, and other essentials.
- Stay updated: Monitor weather reports and follow instructions from local officials.
- Let's work together to stay safe and weather this stormy season! Ω

(Source: <https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/climate-change.html#:~:text=Higher%20Temperatures,over%2090%20degrees%20each%20year.>)

EVERBRIDGE

Everbridge (EB) is a cloud-based SaaS (software as a service) platform that enables users to send notifications to individuals, groups, lists, and geographic locations. The primary use of EB in the Auxiliary is for member accountability post-incident. Members can respond to the notification via phone, cell phone, text message, or email.

**ALL MEMBERS MUST RESPOND TO EVERBRIDGE.
IT IS REQUIRED - NOT OPTIONAL!**



Articles of Interest

Brandon Flotilla Members Assist at Lakeland SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo.

By Dorothy Riley



The SUN 'n FUN Airshow was held at the Lakeland Linder Airport off Pipkin Road in Lakeland, Apr. 9-14, 2024. The Airshow is one of the most interesting and fun events for which Auxiliary members volunteer.

The SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo has become one of Earth's largest and most successful aviation events. The event is Florida's largest annual convention of any kind, and each year, over 200,000 visitors flock to what has become known as "Aviation's Season Opener."

SUN 'n FUN isn't just for pilots—it also has a STEM and Career Fair, offering valuable educational and career opportunities, a Family Fun Zone, and, of course, the world-famous daily and night air shows that showcase breathtaking displays from dozens of military and civilian performers. Airshow performances are by the Patriot Parachute Demo Team (skydivers), USN F-18 Super Hornet Demo Team (F/A-18F), USN Legacy Flight (F/A-18F and TBD), and Tora! Tora! Tora! various warbirds; the Commemorative Air Force (B-29, B-24, P-5), USAF F-35A Demo Team (F-35A), the USAF Thunderbirds, and more.

The SUN 'n FUN Airshow is not just for aviation enthusiasts, it's a true family affair. With a plethora of kids' activities, evening entertainment, workshops, HAM radio, and Aces Flyin' Flix, there's never a dull moment for the little ones. The sponsors have ensured something for everyone, from the youngest aviation enthusiasts to the seasoned veterans. A day at the airshow is a day filled with excitement and wonder for the whole family.

(Condensed from an article published in INTERCOM, issue 1, 2024, newsletter for Division 7 Tampa Bay)

Auxiliary members staffing the public information booth at Sun 'n FUN pose beside the Coast Guard HC-130J aircraft from Elizabeth City, N.C. Flotilla 74, Brandon member, Steve Williams is second in from the right. USCG Auxiliary photo submitted by Steve Williams



Dorothy Riley and Gilbert Thomas from Flotilla 77, Polk County, the organizer for Auxiliary participation for nearly a decade, stand in the Auxiliary Public Affairs booth.



Articles of Interest

News and Updates from our Flotilla Staff Officers.

Christopher Hunt - Communications

Summary

- The flotilla has two working marine radios (one handheld and one base station) and one non-functional radio. We will recertify these units once we have qualified Telecommunications Operators (TCOs).
- We have two members working through their TCO personal qualification standard checklist toward completing their initial qualification, and one member has passed their TCO exam but needs to attend a TCO workshop.
- We have one member who is in REYR status for TCO.

Successes

Two members will become TCO-qualified once they complete three radio guards.

Challenges

The frequent cancelations for Operations mission and the uncertainty with C-130 training missions are causing delays with completing the TCO PQS and radio guards for qualifications.

Kelley McMahon - Finance

- 2024 Dues are due to be paid to the Division.
- Tampa Electric (TECO) invoice has been automated.
- The water bill (BOCC) invoice has been automated.
- New member dues were received from four members.
- Dues are pending from one additional member. (Note: Names and amounts deleted for publication purposes.)

William Sage - Human Resources

Bill Sage signed up three new members in March and is currently in contact with another prospective mem-

ber. He hopes to complete his application once the prospect has reviewed all membership information.

Thanks to Sage's efforts, the flotilla has qualified for the National Commodore's Membership Growth Award for Net Gains and the individual award for recruiting six members in 1923. Bravo, Zulu, Bill!



Tanner Piliego - Information Systems

- Our flotilla is up-to-date with any entries submitted to me.
- In May, it is my goal to encourage all active members to submit an activity log.
- I am looking for the next AUX10 class to approve Flotilla activities.
- I am currently looking for suggestions on how to best train the flotilla in learning AUXDATA II.



Christopher Hunt - Member Training

Summary

- As of May 6, 2024, we have 20 members certified in Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT). One member has the Public Affairs 3 specialist qualification, thirteen 13 members have completed Basic Qualification Courses II (BQC II), two members are boat crew certified, one member is certified in Partner Visitations (PV), and three members are



Articles of Interest

Vessel Examiner (VE) certified.

- As of May 6, 2024, we have the following in REYR status: one member in aids to navigation, 14 members in AUXCT, one member in Auxiliary Paddle Craft, no members in BQC II, four members in boat crew, one member in Fingerprint Tech, one member in Interpreter, two members in PV, one member in Telecommunications Operations, three members in VE, and one member in Withstanding.
- As of May 6, 2024, we have the following in Trainee status: seven members in AUXCT, 28 in BQC II, and one in Basic Boating Course.

Successes

We have changed our member training engagement to include outreach between when their application is accepted and when they receive their member number.

This outreach is an attempt to complete the required FEMA training and the Basic Boating Course before a new member receives their membership number.

Challenges

The biggest challenge is the difficulty with new members not successfully establishing their AUX login to complete training.

The lack of Wi-Fi at the flotilla building prevents us from assisting these new members when they attend our monthly meetings.

Dorothy Riley - Public Affairs

This week/month is the lead-up to National Safe Boating Week. I could use some assistance posting to our social media page.

We need to distribute National Safe Boating Week posters and advertise our Vessel Safety Checks at Williams Park.

Dorothy Riley - Publications

We are late getting out our bi-monthly newsletter. I will need everyone's Flotilla Staff Officer reports for the newsletter. I will also need a brief article by Flotilla Commander (me) and Flotilla Vice Commander (Matt). Please get these to me ASAP!

Matthew Stephen - RBS Partner Visitation

Successes – Conducted three revisits with current partners and one visit with a new and significant partner, Riverside Marina. This new partnership opens up exciting potential opportunities for us.

Challenges – Time. Our Partner Visitations (PV) are slow, as I am the only qualified Partner Visitor. We must recruit more members to become qualified and will address this at the May flotilla meeting.

Matthew Stephen – Vessel Examinations

Successes—I conducted several inspections this month. Some were for a women's jet ski club, which looks like a new source for conducting future Vessel Examinations (VE).

Challenges – Time and lack of qualified Vessel Examiners. We need to get more qualified Vessel Examiners. Hopefully, we will get more members qualified during our two scheduled National Safe Boating Week blitzes. Ω



Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day is May 17. Murray Price, District Directorate Chief-Logistics offered this reminder.



WE WANT YOU TO BE A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



**Find out how you can be
a member by contacting
the number below.**

(813) 644-2894

USCGA-P

FLOT is a military acronym meaning "forward line of own troops." FLOT line or "forward edge of battle area" (FEBA) are technical terms used by all branches of the U.S. armed services to designate the forward most friendly maritime or land forces on the battlefield at a given point in time during an armed conflict.

We are not a military force engaged in armed conflict. We are, however, the front-line of the struggle to save the lives of recreational boaters, and we face this great endeavor armed with Vessel Safety Checks, Public Education classes and all the other Recreational Boating Safety programs in our arsenal. Our newsletter banner serves as a reminder of this mission.

FLOT Lines is a publication of Flotilla 74, Brandon, District 7 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, located at 3006 S. Kings Ave., Brandon. The Auxiliary an organization of dues-paying unpaid, civilian volunteers whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. Articles may be reprinted with the express consent of the author or photographer with proper credit given to same. For permissions or for more information, please contact the editor, Dorothy Riley, SO-PB, Email address: dottieriley@gmail.com

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Be sure to attend flotilla meetings

When: 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Where: Flotilla 74, Brandon

3006 S. KINGS AVE, Brandon, FL

***Why: Membership is more rewarding
when you participate-
and bring a friend!***