



FLOT Lines

Flotilla 74, Brandon

District 7

USCG Auxiliary

Issue 6 2022

2022 Boat Crew Training: On the water again!



Boat crew class on its first on-the-water training mission Oct. 29. Dean Bell, coxswain, facing Steve Williams. Behind them are Miguel Marquez-Reines, August Miller and Clark Pittman. USCG Auxiliary photo by George Papabeis

The 2022 Division 7 Boat Crew Training program started Thursday, Oct 6, at 7 p.m. at Flotilla 79, Tampa.

It all started with Flotilla 74 member, Steve Williams, offering his vessel for use as a Auxiliary facility. Member, George Papabeis helped Williams equip the facility, prepare it for the vessel examination, and submit the paperwork to get the vessel approved as a facility. (On-going progress was published in issues numbers three and four of *FLOTLines*.)

Once we had a facility, we needed qualified crew. George Papabeis initiated the crew class and enlisted Dean Bell, Flotilla 79, Tampa, and Tony Novellino, Division 7 Staff Officer-Operations to schedule a crew

training class. Papabeis made the calls that secured a commitment from trainees, and recruited instructors, mentors, coxswains, and qualified crew. Once in motion, several members stepped in to offer assistance and resources. Seamanship Fundamentals, Boat Operations, and Rescue and Survival are taught Thursday evenings at Flotilla 79, with surface training offered on Saturdays. Crew classes were suspended over the winter holidays but will resume in January.

Bravo Zulu to everyone who assisted or participated in this endeavor! Contact Dean Bell if you can offer a vessel for use, a coxswain, or crew for the training. ♫

FLOT Lines



Flotilla Staff Officers

August Miller
Navigation Systems

Clark Pittman
Member Training

Richard Strehl, Jr.
Finance
Public Education

George Ppabeis
Public Affairs
Operations

Dottie Riley
Publications

William Sage
Human Resources
Program Visits

Clark Pittman
Secretary of Records

Hilario Benitez Rivera
Vessel Examinations

Tanner Piliego
Information Systems
Communication Services

Newsletter Flotilla, 74 Brandon

William Sage, Flotilla Commander

Dorothy Riley, Flotilla Vice Commander

Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

3006 South Kings Ave., Brandon, Florida

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Hurricane Ian Pounds Florida

By Dorothy Riley

US Customs and Border Patrol Responds to Hurricane Ian. Air and Marine Operations aircrews responded to affected areas along Florida's coast after Hurricane Ian's landfall. Crews are ready with hoist-capable aircraft to assist anyone needing emergency extraction. Photo by Ozzy Trevino, US Customs and Border Patrol.



Hurricane Ian landed in south Florida on Sept. 28 as a category four hurricane. It was the ninth named storm, fourth hurricane, and second major hurricane of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season. Ian caused catastrophic damage in our state, with losses estimated at \$64 billion and over 150 lives lost. South Florida was devastated. What the 150 mph winds did not flatten, the storm surge demolished.

Aside from fallen trees and debris, some light structural damage, and loss of power in more than 900,000 homes, the Tampa Bay region was spared from Hurricane Ian's harshest winds and surge. Several of our members remained without power until Oct. 5. Strong winds from the storm – even though its eye was about 200 miles away from Tampa Bay, pushed water out of the bays and bayous, including Hillsborough Bay along Bayshore Boulevard and the Intracoastal areas in Pinellas County. This resulted in damage to countless boats and docks.

Many Tampa Bay homes sustained wind damage. Hurricane Ian uprooted trees and strewn branches and shingles over yards and roadways. While we sympathize with our neighbors in the path of Hurricane Ian and the storm's surge, we dare be grateful that we were largely spared its worst effects.

(Reprinted from "Intercom," newsletter for United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 7 Tampa Bay, issue 4 2022.)



From the Helm

William Sage Flotilla Commander



In December, I usually ask myself, “where did the year go?” I know it seemed to go pretty fast, and I also know that things are picking up for the flotilla. The last half of 2022 picked up, and we have some great things heading into 2023.

During 2022 we had several new members who joined our flotilla, completed their CORE courses, and then stepped into leadership roles sooner than anyone could have expected. Thank you, Tanner and Clark, for your efforts.

Steve Williams volunteered his boat as a facility, and George Papabeis took over the Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations position. Between them, they got the boat certified as a facility, we now have boat crew classes, and we are back on the water.

In October, we held our election for Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander. For next year, Dottie Riley is taking over as Flotilla Commander, and I am moving to the Vice Flotilla Commander's position. Also, during the last few weeks of 2022, we

processed three new members into our flotilla and will hopefully have two more potential members signing up before the end of January.

Things are looking positive, and we have an infusion of new energy as we enter the new year. I ask all of our members to please give their best efforts and work with us to help you find your way to become qualified in your basic courses and, then, in your area of choice. Here's to a very good 2023! Ω

Happy Holidays!



From the Helm



Dorothy Riley Flotilla Vice Commander

I start by thanking Bill Sage for almost singlehandedly keeping our flotilla afloat during 2022. What kept us buoyant were the members he recruited who took on vital func-

tions within the flotilla. I am ever so grateful to Bill and his recruits, especially Clark Pittman, Tanner Piliego, and Richard Strehl. Richard has resigned, which does not lessen his contributions in 2022. Fair winds and following seas! We thank you and wish you well.

Several of our seasoned members stepped forward and contributed unexpectedly to our growth. Steve Williams (one of our newer members) offered his vessel as a facility. George Papabeis helped Williams outfit the vessel and get it inspected and approved as an Auxiliary facility. August Miller, a member who in previous years avoided holding a flotilla staff office other than Aids to Navigation, took over the Materials staff position and did it splendidly!

A few members started the year active and motivated.

Their enthusiasm waned, and no single reason explains 'why.'

We know a few suffered health problems while others experienced employment conflicts.

It is up to each of us to help reengage members who

have drifted.

When I joined the Auxiliary twenty-plus years ago, our organization was approximately 35,000 members strong. Recently, I read that our numbers have dwindled to roughly 21,000. It is no wonder that recruiting and retention are primary goals at all levels.

My first goal for our flotilla in the coming new year is to grow our membership and then increase our activity. I know several of you share these goals. Let us share our ideas on how to best accomplish our goals.

I believe the best way to accomplish this is to first increase fellowship. It is much easier to succeed in our goals if we know and have fun with each other. For many years, our senior leaders ended every talk or presentation with the words, "Remember to have fun!" Fun was deemed one of the most critical ingredients for member engagement. We must return to that.

I encourage you to re-read the Commandant's ILEAD (Inclusive Leadership, Excellence, and Diversity) program. You need not be a seasoned member to have a great idea, and we cannot remain entrenched in "how things have always been done." Let us begin to practice this at the flotilla level.

Many veteran members (including myself as I am a twenty-plus-year member) have historically resisted change. Change usually meant additional training or costs. The CORE training requirements and the fourth change in operational dress uniforms since I joined are good examples. That does not mean all changes will cost us; some may make things easier and more fun. For instance, we will hold our staff meeting at a coffee shop because our building is unusable. That will go a long way to helping us get to know each other and enjoy each other's company.

I am not Bill Sage. I cannot single-handedly keep us afloat! We encourage you to join us, earn a new qualification, assume a staff office, and make suggestions on improving our flotilla. Ω

Happy New Year!



Flotilla 74 Holiday Gathering

December 12, 2022, at O'Brien's Irish Pub and Grill in Brandon.



Top left: Members Tanner Piliego and Nicole Sandberg open a most intoxicating "Dirty Santa" gift.

Top right: Members and their spouses enjoy their meal at O'Brien's Irish Pub. From left: Charlotte Miller, Steve Williams, Tanner Piliego, Lisa and Clark Pittman (behind Piliego), George Humphrey, George Papabeis. All photos by Dorothy Riley



George Humphrey opened a watch. Nope, it was not a Rolex!



From left: "Santa" Tanner, Lisa Pittman and Clark Pittman.





Flotilla 74 Holiday Gathering



Top left: George Humphrey, Elaine Nabach and George Papabeis. Seated on the right not facing the camera are Lisa and Clark Pittman.

Top right: Dottie Riley receives a "Make Money Rain" gadget from "Dirty Santa" complete with fake money. (Why not real money? The flotilla could use it!)



Guests of August Miller, Tara and Lamar sit across from Charlotte Miller. Nicole Sandberg is in the background.



Jean Williams



Articles of Interest



Real change can begin with you!

United States Coast Guard ILEAD Program We need you!

You have ideas- we want to hear them.

- Is something bothering you about how your Auxiliary unit welcomes members?
- Do you have concerns about the lack of inclusion in your unit?
- Do you see members left out? If so, how?
- Do you have ideas that will help your unit be more welcoming?
- Does your unit have an activity that brings members together?
- Do you have a leader who inspires members toward excellence? If so, what is the key?
- Can you share a best practice for recruiting members?
- Can you share a best practice that shows the community who we are?

Yes, you may follow the formal process of presenting ideas by completing and submitting the form found at the ILEAD link at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=091&category=ilead-submission>.

You may choose to remain confidential and anonymous.

You may also discuss your ideas with your fellow flotilla members and leaders. Again:

You have ideas- we want to hear them!



Articles of Interest

Come Work With Us

We provide a range of services directly to members of our communities.

Vessel Safety Checks: The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons have certified vessel examiners who will perform a free Vessel Safety Check ("VSC") at your boat at a time of mutual convenience. There is no charge and no consequences if you don't pass. Our goal is simply to help make boating as safe as possible for you, your family, and your friends through education. <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=i-want-a-vsc>

Boating Courses: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary boating courses provide instruction to boaters at all levels, from the fundamental to the advanced. Our classes are taught by experienced and knowledgeable instructors committed to the highest standards of the U.S. Coast Guard. <http://cgaux.org/boatinged/>

Join the Auxiliary: When you join the Coast Guard Auxiliary, you could find yourself saving lives, protecting the environment from polluters, guarding our shores, and much more. That's our job – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That's life in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We don't just train. We train and perform. Find a Flotilla.

Supporting the Auxiliary: The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association is a national nonprofit organization established in 1957 to support Coast Guard Auxiliary activities. For over 56 years, the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association has conducted the fiscal and business management responsibilities for the Auxiliary, including fundraising, partnerships, and donations that enable America's Volunteer Lifesavers to accomplish their primary mission responsibility: recreational boating safety. Local volunteers - local boaters - local successes. <http://cgauxa.org/> Ω

Get a **FREE** Vessel Safety Check
We can come to you!

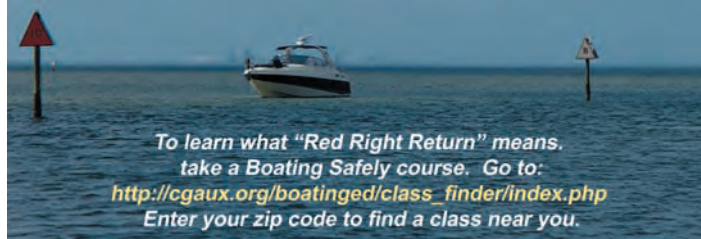


CLICK HERE

(Can it get any easier?)



Red Right Return



To learn what "Red Right Return" means,
take a Boating Safety course. Go to:
http://cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php
Enter your zip code to find a class near you.

- Tell recreational boaters and members of the general public who we are and what we do.
- Share with others the numerous opportunities we have to serve our communities and the Coast Guard.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

Think instead:

- What are your goals for 2023?
- What steps will you take to achieve your goals?
- Are your goals realistic?
- Are they measurable?
- Will you need help? If yes, what?

Let's make 2023 GREAT!

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 frontline 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.

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