



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
FLOTILLA 7-16
Gulfport, Florida



Volume X
2020 4th Quarter

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THE BEACON

Sector St Pete requested paddle board information stickers. As *team work* would have it... Howard and Gee were there to accommodate Sector St Pete. Thank you!!! Howard and Gee!



SEMPER PARATUS
ALWAYS READY

Meeting
19:00 hr.
Third Wednesday
Of each month.



The 4th was very different this year... We were not in Gulfport's downtown parade in uniforms with life jackets on handing out stickers and candy or riding in Marty's decorated antique truck waving flags! No festival! No fireworks! But our very own Gulfport Gecko Queen did step out to wish all a safe and Happy 4th of July. Thank you Queen Jody Robinson!



Visit Facebook and check out the Coast Guard Bands!

<https://www.facebook.com/uscoastguardband>

These guys are amazing...

<https://www.facebook.com/uscoastguardband/videos/505024383626576/>

<https://www.facebook.com/uscoastguardband/videos/482918679191860/UzpfSTI4MDA5MzYoNDM3OjEwMTU4NDUwNzg4OTgoNDM4/>

Truly a must check out!

Facebook 7-16

<https://www.facebook.com/uscgauflotilla7.16/>



7-16 Mate



Keep your contact information current at AUX DATA using Form 7028. Use link.

<http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php>

Keeping Operations Safe and Clear During Covid-19

Yes, we are back up and operational with guidelines. Covid -19 has changed the way the world does things. Vessel exams and Program/Partner visits were we extend our public outreach. In March Commodore Barth ordered all D7 to cease operations. June 17 USCG CAPT Youngs memorandum set forth the opening of our public outreach with strict compliance to CDC Covid -19 guidelines. June 18 DSO-PV Barbara Birchfield outlined in detail these guidelines. But we need written permission from FC, in detail before we proceed. Confusing at the least. With the email we received on Sunday from SO IS, that this had not been followed when in fact it had but the FC verbal response was not accordance with new guidelines. I contacted our FCO-IS Ackerman and sent him a draft of a blanket form for us to use. He thought it a good idea and returned email with a few suggestions. We did so a couple times and then sent it to the SO-IS, he edited it more and returned to me with the note if I don't have any more suggestions, he may send this out to all VE/PV members. Which on July 20 was done. This form doesn't have an official # and you can use other methods but we, as a team Bill Ackerman, John Robbins and myself came up with something that might lessen the confusion.



PUBLIC OUTREACH REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

VE----- PV----- OTHER-----

DATE:

NAME OF CLIENT:

LOCATION:

ESTIMATED DURATION:

RISK FACTORS: LOW--- MED--- HIGH---

RECENT CONTACT [LAST 14 DAYS W/COVID-19 INFECTED PERSON:

YES----- NO-----

RECENT TRAVEL ON AIRLINE OR OTHER COUNTRY LAST 14 DAYS:

YES----- NO-----

ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR OTHER ILLNESS:

YES----- NO-----

CURRENT HEALTH: POOR--- GOOD--- EXCELENT---

CDC COVID-19 GUIDELINES SHALL BE FOLLOWED

MASK: YES----- NO-----

GLOVES: YES----- NO-----

SOCIAL DISTANCE; YES----- NO-----

HAND SANITIZER: YES----- NO-----

OTHER:

VE: NAME: H. BUSH

ID.#3009146

EMAIL: dukeroxil22@att.net|

USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 7-16

GULFPORT, FL.



Contact Us:

Telephone:
630-674-5352

Email:

auxgulfport@gulfport.com

Website:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-07-16>

"The Beacon" or
Facebook

Submissions:

MarcellaRuso@gmail.com

ONE REASON.... WE DO WHAT WE DO!

To Keep Sending the Message:

There is no stopping the Auxiliary members at 7-16. Howard Bush was able to do 2 Vessel examinations by Gulfport Marina and he posted the new "Wear It" poster also at the Marina! Not only is it important to wear your life jacket but during this pandemic (COVID-19) it is paramount you wear you mask, social distance and do all you can to be safe and protect others... an important message as many have taken to the water with just about all of our social activities shut down.



Thank you, Howard!



Contact Us:

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727-322-3040

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Facebook Posts



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Coast Guard rescues man after boat takes on water 13 miles west of Clearwater

U.S. Coast Guard sent this bulletin at 07/14/2020 09:36 PM EDT

News Release

U.S. Coast Guard 7th District PA Detachment Tampa Bay

Contact: Coast Guard PA Detachment Tampa Bay
305-965-4672

PA Detachment Tampa Bay online newsroom

Coast Guard rescues man after boat takes on water 13 miles west of Clearwater



CLEARWATER, Fla. — The Coast Guard rescued a 48-year-old boater Tuesday after his 26-foot boat started taking on water 13 miles west of Clearwater, Florida.

Rescued was North Redington Beach native, Mike Demarinis, 48.

A 29-foot Response Boat-Small II crew from Station Sand Key responded; once on scene the crew used a dewatering pump. The Coast Guard boat crew escorted Demarinis and his boat back to his home in North Redington Beach.

At 3:53 p.m. Sector St Petersburg watch standers received a 911 transfer call from Pinellas County dispatch. Demarinis stated his boat was taking on water and he needed immediate assistance.

Demarinis stated sea conditions caused the boat to take on water and his bilge pump would not operate. Sector St. Petersburg watch standers reported 6 mph winds and 2-foot seas.

There were no reported injuries.

"When you're getting ready to launch, ensure all safety equipment is on board and working properly," said Kevin Coyne, a command duty officer at the sector. "Also, make sure to familiarize everyone with the equipment."

-USCG-

Meeting
19:00 hr.
Third Wednesday
Of each month.

Keep an eye out
for training meetings
held the
First Wednesday
&
Up coming
Activities and Events
(may also be found on
our calendar in the
Flotilla by the
mailboxes)



COURSES:

ON GOING COURSES:

A \$40 About Boating Safety (ABS) class that includes textbook, 8 hours Saturday class and you get your certificate.
Special DISCOUNT rates are available for couples, families and groups of two or more! Call 727-322-3040 or auxgulfport@gulfport.com (Auxiliarist's come the 3rd Saturday of each month and coteach)
COVID -19 please call ahead may still be on hold or limited?
Hoping for July 11th with social distancing and bring a mask.

AVIALABLE COURSES ONLINE:

Welcome to the New National Testing Center

List of Training Courses, Exams, and Manuals... **and take a course.**

<http://ntc.cgau.org/TrainingCourses.php>

Visit our Facebook page... post something or comment!

<https://www.facebook.com/uscgauxflotilla7.16/>

Upcomming Events:

VISIT VETRIANS AT BAY PINES:

Quarterly visit

CXL- COVID-19 / Stay Tuned

Meeting time:

Place: Main Entrance at Bay Pines



The Gulfport Historical Society is planning a porch party on October 9. It's on city property, so will have Covid-19 controls to whatever extent is required by the city on that date. The event is being organized by the (non-partisan) group Gulfport Votes 100 %, and will have entertainment and tables set up for other volunteer groups. <https://www.facebook.com/GulfportVotes100/>

Flotilla Meeting Refesment Schedual for 2020!:

- **Stay Safe till we meet again!**



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Thank you, Bill for all you have done and do!

Bill Zinner passes the FSO-IS to Bill Ackerman.

"Bill Ackerman has agreed to take over the position of FSO-IS for Flotilla 7-16. When things are normal the job can be hectic at certain times of the year: January means Member Letters for all to provide people with a summary of their Auxiliary related activities throughout the year; May means an uptick in vessel exams and public education activities as snowbirds return to the Bay area; Fall reminds members of any qualifications they may need to address to keep certifications active. FSO-CMs have access to Flotilla members' statistics so they can produce reports for Leadership to create programs for the membership. A lot is expected of the FSO-CM: accuracy, quick response, leadership and patience. Bill has all these qualities. He has taken over this position at the start of a transition from one program (AUXDATA) to another (AUXDATA II). In addition to sorting out the new program so he can use it effectively, Bill will need to help our members do the same thing. The new program provides the opportunity for them to take an active role in putting their own data into USCGA records. The FSO-CMs will have an overseer's role to assure the accuracy of a member's input but, as members learn the process, the result should be more member-involvement and a clearer appreciation of the importance of the resultant statistics. After all, our only currency is the hours of work donated by members and Flotillas. The results of the gathering of these statistics can be awards for members and units and backup for the argument made by the Auxiliary of the value of our efforts. This has a direct bearing on government's decision to fund our organization. I expect that Bill will be able to teach the membership how to interact with the new program effectively. The coming year will be a time of transition in many ways. With the organization shut down members have an opportunity to spend some of their free time seeking training via the many on line classes available from the Coast Guard and FEMA (to name a few). We are looking east to the African continent where tropical storms form off the west coast and begin their march toward the Americas and their environs. Coasties - active and Auxiliarists - may yet have critical roles to play preserving the safety and sanctity of our communities. We watch the upcoming elections where we can exercise one of the most important, unique privileges and responsibilities citizens of any country can have. All in all, the role of FSO-CM also has a part in this effort and I know Bill is the right person for the job."

Bill Zinner

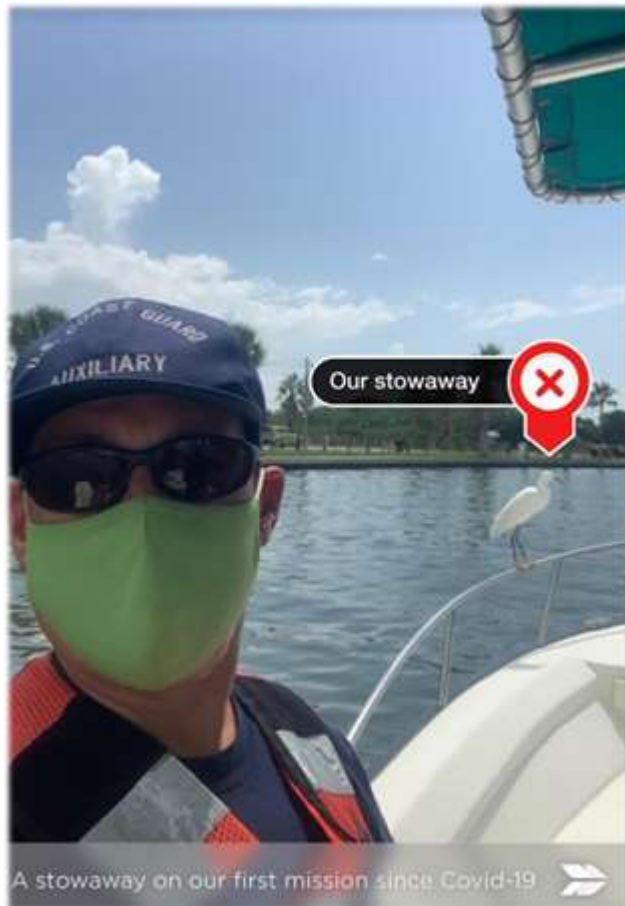
First mission since Covid-19

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<http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php>



Team was coxswain Dean Hoskin, crew Tracy Adkins and Bill Ackerman, with Gulfport radio support from Bill Zinner. All went well, except for the stowaway you can see on the photos.



I do believe that stowaway was happy to see the Coast Guard Auxiliary return to the waters!!





7-16 Guys are AMAZING!!!

Today at 10:00 Bill Zinner and Howard Bush completed the final steps in making a residence out of flood zone, a radio facility. With making Gulfport Radio Transportable, installing of VHF antenna at 1900 52nd St. S. 7004 Radio facility inspection completed today 9/11/20. Upon approval, we will have Gulfport Radio II.



Sixteen feet.



SEMPER PARATUS
ALWAYS READY

Meeting
19:00 hr.
Third Wednesday
Of each month.

INTERCOM Submissions to:
Dorothy J. Riley, SO-PB
Kevin Buckley

Email address:
dottieriley@gmail.com
kbuckley8@tampabay.rr.com

NAVIGATOR EXPRESS
80th Edition

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=a-dept>

Submit photo for:
"Photo of the Month"



<https://www.uscg.mil/Coronavirus/Auxiliary/>



<https://www.uscg.mil/Coronavirus/>
Avoid Close Spaces, Crowded Places, Contact Spaces

We will get through this!!

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19:00 hr.
Third Wednesday
Of each month.

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information current
at *AUX DATA* using
Form 7028. Use lin**

<http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php>



F.Y.I.

4. Auxiliarists Get Rewarded for Their Work



U.S. Coast Guard Photo by PA3 Walter Shinn

There are 33 ribbons, along with medals and badge for top-notch Auxiliarists to earn during their volunteer time. Members with prior military service are also allowed to wear previous service items as long as they're in accordance with uniform standards.

6. Volunteer Experiences Mimic Real Coast Guard Duties



U.S. Coast Guard photo by Auxiliarist Gary McGinnis

Volunteers in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary don't get to be lazy. Because of legislation passed back in 1996, the Auxiliary's role expanded so Auxiliarists' could assist the Coast Guard in pretty much all missions. The only exceptions are they can't participate in direct law enforcement and military operations as authorized by the Commandant.

For the rest... see the link below:

<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/7-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-u-s-coast-guard-auxiliary/>

History



The Long Blue Line: Gun captain and African-American war hero Louis Etheridge

During an escort of Convoy ON-166 from Ireland to the U.S., Chief Steward Louis Etheridge, aboard Coast Guard Cutter

Campbell, commanded an 11-man African-American gun crew of stewards, mess attendants and steward mates. On Feb. 22, 1944, Campbell faced-off against German submarine U-606 in which Etheridge and his gun crew decimated the sub's crew and rendered the U-boat defenseless. Etheridge earned the Bronze Star, the first military medal bestowed on an African-American Coast Guardsman for combat heroism.

In the 1970's, they formed flotillas in sole-state waters to meet local demands for water safety.

Rescue is faster when you use the USCG Float Plan.



Whether you are a power boater or kayaker, the USCG Float Plan works for you. Set up a basic plan ahead of time and save it on you computer. Update it when you decide where and when you're going to go. Then, e-mail your completed plan to whoever you choose to follow up should you not return or check-in as planned.

Features and capabilities, you'll find in this version of the float plan:

- Save and send using any device with Adobe Acrobat Reader installed.
- Can be used with any size or type of recreational vessel.
- Accommodates up to 13 canoers/kayakers/paddle boarders that want to paddle together as a group.
- User defined fields provide increased flexibility.
- The ability to enter the unique identification numbers for the vessel's EPIRB and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) attached to individual PFDs.
- Drop down lists that let you easily see all of your choices.
- Accommodates up to 12 passengers.
- Identify up to 21 waypoints.
- Exclusive Boating Emergency Guide™ assists the person holding your plan with starting the Search And Rescue process.
- 100% digital means it's easy on the environment.
- The float plan and the data you enter is stored on your computer or mobile device under your control.
- It's FREE. From the experts in boating safety, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Saving lives is what the float plan is all about. Create a float plan before your next voyage. <http://floatplancentral.cgaux.org/>



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Kevin Buckley

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**NAVIGATOR
EXPRESS
80th Edition**

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=a-dept>

Submit photo for:
"Photo of the Month"



Marty Richardson, Commander

FC Beacon News Letter Article October 2020

Flotilla 7-16, here we are for another Beacon Newsletter in 2020. I was truly hopeful that we would be back a "New Normal" by now. Unfortunately, that has not occurred. We have made some progress with some operational activities in the last couple of months

- We were approved to do PV (Program Visits), VE (Vessel Safety Exams)
- In September we at 7-16 went live with radio guard watches for CGA Boat operations.
- Installed our Hurricane/Severe Weather alternate radio room.
- The New AUX II data base went live. Although, there is still some fine tuning to be done to it.

What is next? **Annual Officer Elections.** At the flotilla level we will vote on a New Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander for 2021. Our scheduled election date is **November 18, 2020**. Details on how that will work is in a process in development. Unless, we are able to meet in person by then.

We have one declared candidate for Flotilla Commander Marcella Ruso. Also, one declared candidate for Vice Flotilla Commander Howard Bush. Both have been approved through the Election Committee, validating their eligibility to hold elected positions. More to come on how the election process will work in the near future if we are unable to meet in person.

On a personal note; I am looking forward to resume our Boating Safety Courses. As well as meeting together monthly, do some training and doing some social activities as well.

Hope each of you are staying safe, healthy and not in the "Bored" mode as I have heard from some of our members.

Marty Richardson

7-16 Flotilla Commander