



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



Volume XIV
2025 1st Quarter

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 From the Center Console,
 Howard Bush, FC



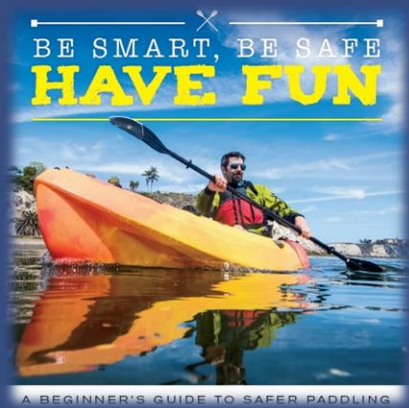
THE BEACON



“We’re Back”

The morning of September 30th, 2024 brought us this: Hurricane Helene’s 6+ foot storm surge caved in the west wall of 716’s flotilla building, our home since the early 1960s. 716 was not the only flotilla to be damaged, as of this writing others are not as operational as 716, but “we’re back” maybe our rally call for 2025.

As of this writing, the buildings’ future is more in doubt that our meeting place, at least for the next year. We are now meeting at the Gulfport Community Center at 1617 49th St. S, in Gulfport.



OFFICERS:

Flotilla Commander:

Howard Bush

Vice Flotilla Commander

Marty Richardson Jr.

FSO-CS & SR:

C. Anderson

FSO-CS & IS & PA:

T. Steiger

FSO-FN:

W. Melnyczenko

FSO-HR & PV & VE

H. Bush

FSO-MA:

D. Pratt

FSO-MT & PB

W. Hoover

FSO-PE

M. Richardson



In short order, however, our radio station was operational and 716 was providing radio guard to both Auxiliary and Auxiliary-CG training missions. 716 has continued its radio operations since.



l-r, Wayne Hoover, Chris Anderson, Howard Bush

We were present at the Gulfport Tuesday Market in November, again indicative of our determination to be back. Indeed, we are back. And publishing the The Beacon is another important indicator of being back, as it has not been published since Covid. Please enjoy our “we’re back” edition of The Beacon. ---Tom Steiger, FSO CS, PA.



l-r, Wayne Hoover, Marty Richardson, Jr, and Howard Bush

On Patrol at Gasparilla 25

Always Ready .

- By Thomas Steiger , FSO-PA, CS
- Photos by Thomas Steiger FSO-PA, CS
- Wednesday, Jan 27, 2025

Joining multiple law enforcement marine units, Division 7 provided four facilities and 716's Howard Bush served as AUXCOM for those patrols. Fortunately, probably due to the extremely chilly weather, there were only minor incidents to deal with, mostly slowing boat traffic down in the increasingly crowded Seddon Channel. ,



Two CGAUX facilities in the middle of the foreground slowing boat traffic. Gaspar's ship in the background as it invades Tampa via Seddon Channel.

Coxswain Juall and crew provided transportation for Commander Kahle (far right), Sector St. Petersburg, to Marjorie



Keep your contact information current at AUX DATA II. Use link.

<https://uscg.experience.crmforce.mil/auxcommunity/s/login/tb://f>



Contact Us:

Telephone:

727-322-3040

Email:

auxgulfport@gulfport.com

Website:

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

**"The Beacon" or
Facebook**

Submissions:

716tts@gmail.com

Park.

Flotilla 716 provided radio guard for two facilities leaving Gulfport and served as AUXCOM in Tampa. Auxcom included Auxiliarists Krukar and Stephen. Auxiliarist Steiger was present to take pictures



TCO Bill Krulak, TCO Howard Bush briefing Commander Kahle.

Auxcom was joined by two CG helo pilots monitoring the vertical airwaves. Auxiliarists set up their antenna. The pilots are sitting in the picture below and two other Coast Guardsmen are enjoying the warming sun.



Muchas gracias a quien proporcionó los sándwiches cubanos para el almuerzo. Eso fue un placer y bastante inesperado.



BSA Sea Scouts and 7-16

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At the February Gulfport Tuesday Market, 716 shared space with Bill Morse from the Sea Scouts. The Sea Scouts are affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America but instead of a troop, their basic unit is a ship, and Gulfport is Ship 915. Bill was spreading the word about this wonderful organization and Ship 915 has won major awards. Each year the scouts sail from Gulfport to the Dry Tortugas. They also earn money by taking donated boats, fixing them, and then selling them. So, the Scouts learn not only sailing but maintenance and repair skills as well.

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

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

E-Directorate What's New!

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=E-DEPT&category=WHATSNEW>

Risking Lives to Save Lives

Brazos Station's Latino lifesavers and the catastrophic Florida Keys Hurricane

By William H. Thiesen, Ph.D., Coast Guard Atlantic Area Historian



<https://www.mycg.uscg.mil/News/Article/3904870/brazos-stations-latino-lifesavers-and-the-catastrophic-florida-keys-hurricane/>



Commander Bush

From the Center Console

Flotilla 716 has the lowest membership of all Division 7 with 17 members. Out of that number only 8 are active. These 8 now fill 14 staff positions and ranked 3rd in total mission hours against Flotillas 2 and 3 times our membership. Since the Hurricanes hit last year these outstanding Auxiliarist have kept 716 humming along. RBS classes, Partner visits, Vessel inspections. Our TCOs are operating Gulfport Radio from outside with 12 v battery power . Not missing a Radio Guard since the Hurricane. My close contact with our Mayor and City Manager has given us a meeting and RBS venue at the Gulfport Community Center at 1617 4 th St S. all the way through the end of 2026. Our Building is a total loss according to the Risk Assessment Supervisor with the City of Gulfport. Only time will tell. We continue to stay active with our Tuesday Market outreach and more. WE get things done.



Howard Bush, FC

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