



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



Volume XIV
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THE BEACON



"There's no place like home"

After Hurricane Helene destroyed 7-16's flotilla "home" on Osgood Point in Gulfport, word came down that the building would be razed. Former building in the picture below.



photo by Tom Steiger

7-16 also learned that the City of Gulfport was providing us space in the Gulfport Municipal Marina building, on the second floor, with space for our radios and 7-16 will be able to erect a bigger, better, antenna, providing us with a better range than we previously had. The space is air conditioned and we will have space for small meetings as well. This is truly a "dream" come true. Former member, Dorothy Pratt, perhaps was wishing us a new home after Helene. For 7-16, there is "no place like home." *Continued p2*

OFFICERS:

Flotilla Commander:

Howard Bush

Vice Flotilla Commander

Marty Richardson Jr.

FSO-CS & SR:

C. Anderson

FSO-IS & PA:

T. Steiger

FSO-FN:

W. Melnyczenko

FSO-HR & VE

H. Bush

FSO-PV:

L. Cooper

FSO-MT & PB

W. Hoover

FSO-PE

M. Richardson



The new space is ideal in large part because of its location next to the boat ramp, improving our visibility with the area's boaters.



photo by Tom Steiger

The boat ramp is just to the left of the building (pictured above). 7-16 will be in the top right corner of the building and the day room looks out over the marina with a distant view of Boca Ciega Bay (more pictures after the move in). Move in day is not set but a work day is planned for Sept 6, 2025 to remove the old antenna from the wrecked flotilla building and remove signage. Beacon editor's imagined look of 7-16 new home below.



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



7-16 celebrating Independence Day, Gulfport style

It was hot, but we are Semper Paratus!



7-16's Marty Richardson and his '52 Ford Pickup.



What would a parade be without a "float?" And this one actually does float. Chris Anderson at the helm, with his boat, "Lucky Dog," all dressed up for the 4th. *Photos by Tom Steiger*

Member Training Wayne Hoover

TS: This is an interview with FSO member training, Wayne Hoover, Who is the member training staff officer?

WH: In theory, I was supposed have been in at least a year to be a staff officer. When I came in, there was no member training, officer, and nobody knew exactly what to do. So I just alone figured out how to get through, core and all that, BQ, and Howard said, oh, good job. You're member training! There you go. He had to get us to make a waiver to allow me to do that. Continued....

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"The Beacon" or Facebook

Submissions:

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TS: What does the member trainer officer do?

WH: Well, supposedly, he is a source for information, for all the members on what's available. in terms of training. what the requirements are for the various roles, and so forth. And then just supports them as they try to, complete that training. Normally, the way it should work, the way that Coast Guard likes it to work is you would start out with your member training and other officers, help you understand what's required and what's available and that kind of stuff. And then once you have the basic requirements down, like BQ and all those kind of things, then you're assigned a mentor, like, you were assigned with Dean Bell, I think, was. And then the mentor pretty well takes over and completes them through the training. But a number of staff officer are available if there's questions about what they need to complete.

TS: Where do you do these tasks?

WH: I do a lot of them on my computer, do emails. But it used to be we did them all at the flotilla building. And so we don't really have that anymore. But a lot of it's just by phone or by email. You know, that kind of thing. Unfortunately, it's hard to do things face to face right now, because we don't have a good spot to do that to you. We can't just walk in here and do that.

TS: What do you do?

WH: Okay, well. to start with, I have, you know, in our parallel management scheme. I have a staff officer above me at the district level who feeds me information about all kinds of training opportunities, training rules, changes, that kind of stuff. So, I pass that along to whoever might need it, okay? I also look at what people are doing and trying to decide if it looks like they're making progress, if they aren't, offer my assistance, to help them do that, especially if it's stuff like just trying to get through a test online, that kind of thing.

TS: What else do you do?

WH: I have to report our status once a month up through the chain of management. So I write a monthly report to the staff, the SO and the DSO at the next level's up from member training.

Continued....

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TS: Why do you do it?

WH: To be real honest, it gave me a chance coming in as a brand new person to have a significant role. And I think I have pretty good interpersonal skills and stuff, so I think I can do a pretty good job with it.

TS: Thank you. Very helpful. Awesome, thanks for the info! Interesting.



Wayne Hoover,

photo by Tom Steiger

"RBS is Mission 1"

Since the beginning of 2025, Gulfport 7-16 has conducted 159 vessels and paddlecraft exams; 90 vessels and 69 paddlecraft. Plus 111 Program Visits. Our examiners sometimes summer in cooler climes, but that doesn't stop the commitment to RBS. Below are pictures of paddlecraft inspected by Bob McCormick



Member Achievements

FC Bush presenting Laurie Cooper with a unit commendation for meritorious service and



A Certificate of Training for Telecommunications Operator

FC Bush presenting Marty Richardson with an Auxiliary Performance Award for Public



Education.

FC Bush presenting Wayne Hoover with a Certificate of Training as a Vessel Examiner



And it comes with a ribbon!

FC Bush presenting Tom Steiger with a ribbon for achieving Crew



(certificate was awarded last month) and a Sustained Auxiliary Service Award, (his first)

FC Bush was awarded his eighth Sustained Auxiliary Service Award.

Photos by Wayne Hoover and Tom Steiger



ON GOING COURSES:

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(Auxiliarist's come the 3rd Saturday of each month and coteach)

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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>





Welcome new members: Eric Denne

I grew up in Racine, Wisconsin, and have spent most of my life in the Midwest. Until 2021, my wife, Lynn, and I called Minneapolis home. I work as a software engineer and data architect, and when the pandemic shifted my role to fully remote, we took the opportunity to hit the road. For six months, we traveled the U.S. in a 1989 Land Rover—once an RAF crash ambulance—lovingly converted into our camper.

After our travels, we spent about a year each in Amelia Island, Florida, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, before settling down in St. Petersburg two years ago. With roots finally planted again, I'm eager to give back to my new community through volunteer work.

I love spending time on the water, and I recently bought a sailboat. When I discovered the Coast Guard Auxiliary, it felt like the perfect intersection of my interests. I'm currently learning more about the organization and plan to pursue qualifications as both an ATON Verifier and a Telecommunications Operator. Of course, I'm also happy to support the flotilla in any other ways that are needed.

Eric Denne with his BQ diploma! (rumored to be quickest in flotilla history) *photo by H. Bush.*



716 Members Achievements:

Chris Anderson, Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Commendation, 8/5/25

Laurie Cooper, Recreational Boating Safety Visitor 4/23/25;
Telecommunications Operator

Tom Steiger, Boat Crew Crewmember 5/17/25

Wayne Hoover, Instructor 7/14/25; Vessel Examiner 7/28/25

BACK IN THE DAY: Egmont Lighthouse



Photo by USCG, date unknown.



From the Center Console FC Bush

I might be behind the console but my navigators and look outs have been hard at work. 716 is the smallest Flotilla but has mission hours of Flotillas 2 and 3 times its size. Just think 2 years ago we only had a handful of Partner visitors and now over 40! We went from 3 Vessel examiners to 5. Four TCOs, 3 Instructors, 3 PVs . We have Crew /Ops and Facebook and Gabber exposure . My meeting with Dennis Frain, Gulfport Harbor Master and Council Member Marlene Shaw will have our Radio Station at the Gulfport Marina in a few months as well as availability for putting up signage . It will be a win-win for the USCG Auxiliary and Gulfport. VCDR Lambeth had praises for 716 as he attended our last meeting. SO-OP Dean Hoskin has also added his appreciation for our TCO response to missions coverage. We will be giving up Octobers meeting for TCT and TCO classes to keep members certified. With September around the corner we will jump back into our Tuesday Market Booth with a new commitment to safe boating and to our city. I have never been prouder of the active members of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 716. We will have a new Commander in 2025 Wayne Hoover. He will be choosing his staff in November. We are a team BZ



Howard Bush, FC