



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



Volume IX
 2019 2nd Quarter

In this Issue:

1. Our Birthday!
2. Schools & Becky McCoy
3. Past Events
4. Past Events
5. Past Events
6. Courses & Up Coming Events
7. Refreshment Schedule/ History
8. Safe Boating Week
9. "School is Cool" Bill Zinner
10. Certificates
11. Commander Marty Richardson Jr.

THE BEACON



THE WHITE HOUSE
 WASHINGTON

June 19, 1989

I am pleased to congratulate the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary upon your 50th anniversary of service to our Nation.

For half a century, you have supported the Coast Guard's vital mission of ensuring the security of our coasts and the safety of our citizens. As an all-volunteer organization, the Auxiliary is in the finest American tradition of responsible and concerned citizenship. Through your educational programs, such as Courtesy Marine Examinations, you have performed a great service to the American people by promoting boating and public safety, thereby saving many lives. I commend you for your dedication.

On behalf of the American people, I am happy to extend appreciation and best wishes for a joyful anniversary celebration and for the future. God bless you.

George W. Bush

Another 30 years All you Coast Guard Auxiliarists!!!!

NOW 80 YEARS STRONG!!!!

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=A-DEPT&category=history-1>



OFFICERS:

Flotilla Commander:

Marty Richardson Jr.

VCDR

M. Ruso

Flotilla Secretary

D. Ditto

FSO-CM & IS & MT:

W. Zinner

FSO-FN & OP:

O. Baffi

FSO- VE & PE & VE:

D. Hershman

FSO-HR:

E. Zinner

J. Smith

FSO-PE:

M. Richardson Jr.

FSO-CS & PB & MA:

M. Ruso



We are still full Steam Ahead!!

We have reached out to the area schools It is our hope they will invite us to educate the First and Second grade children. We have a 45-minute program with two videos; "Bobber the Water Safety Dog" and "Inky the Whale", a piece on pollution, and we end with trying on safety vests because little kids do not float - they need to know how to be safe on the water. When we are finished we will leave a Boating Safty Certificate for each child.



We visited Gulfport Montessori Elementary' s Open House on May 17th & May 23rd we were in the 5th grade class for **Safe Boating week!**

Next year are goal will be to reach more First and Second graders in Pinellas.

Becky McCoy

Talk about Full Steam!!

One of Gulfport's Auxiliary cornerstones is still contributing but now she is behind the scenes. I had the pleasure of speaking Becky who said that the Auxiliary holds a special place in hers and Jim's heart.

Before every ABS or SIC class, we have at 7-16 Becky swabs the deck, a truly humble job that seems to go unnoticed and gets little praise. Also, if you get a soda or water it is her again she handles the monies and buys the beverages. For this behind the scenes work I wanted to get to know Becky better. I was in for a delightful hour and an unexpected history lesson about 7-16.

Becky had put together a book of the History of 7-16. Reading it gave me more insight to this extra ordinary lady named Becky.

In 1961 the Coast Guard Auxiliary was established in Gulfport housed at the BCYC then in 1962 Commander Johansen presented the idea of our own building. VFC Netling was the lead on this project, as he was a city employee. 31 July 1962 Gulfport Marine, Training & Rescue Group (GUMTARG) Not for Profit, was incorporated and 7-16 had a place of its own and were fine for some time.

In 2004 Becky and others wanted to save the Auxiliary and under GUMTARG they formed Gulfport Boat Club (GBC) and in 1 year the raised monies for Flotilla repairs. In September it was negotiated with the city that would take over the building and would have office for 2 city maintenances employees and 7-16 and a Flotilla as long as they were around.

Now I see Becky in true light as a savior to her community, a hard worker in front of and behind the scenes and I wish I was there back in 2004 to see her in action an extra ordinary lady! P.S. The history book is on the shelf, read it as I have left so much out ~ I give it 5 stars!! Thank you, Becky!

Our Past Events:

Gulfport Boat Show 2019

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

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



Early morning before the boat race you could see people viewing the warm up practice runs, the boats were humming on the Boca Ciega Bay, the jazz music was coming from Stella's restaurant, the sun was warming the entire show, and all was just perfect in Gulfport!

Grand Prix Brings Huge Crowds to Gulfport

By Abby Baker



The races and festivities attracted large groups of people Friday, March 29 to Sunday, March 31 for the 3rd annual Grand Prix of Gulfport. Over 50,000 people visited downtown Gulfport, according to Cultural Facilities Events Supervisor Justin Shea. Photo by Joe Mestas.

From the cover of the Gabber (above)



We had lots of visitors! Thank you for taking the pictures Bill!

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:

MarcellaRuso@gmail.com



Jeremy and Bill are Almost Crew!



Next the class was shown how to operate & stow a dewatering pump.
The *only* thing left is the QE (Thanks Orrie for the pictures)



Fun Day At the BCYC, Marty, Terry and Ellie!



Thank you BCYC for inviting us again to be part of your yearly Educational Fun Day.



Contact Us:

Telephone:

727-322-3040

Email:

auxgulfport@gulfport.com

Website:

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

"The Beacon" or Facebook

Submissions:

MarcellaRuso@gmail.com

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

Facebook Posts



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary:
Flotilla 7-16

@uscgauxflotilla7.16

Home

About

Photos

Events

Reviews

Videos

Posts

Community



Bill took part in the Gulfport Yard Sale!!!

C130 Mission

Coxswain Jack Lee, Crew Orrie Baffi and John Pelzel, AMT 3 (Aviation Maintenance Technician) Ryan DeLeeuw, AMT3 Gordon Hornby



C130 Mission



Thank you Orrie for the pictures



7-8 and 7-16 got together at Mastry's for a very good time!

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:

MarcellaRuso@gmail.com

COURSES

ON GOING COURSES:

A \$40 About Boating Safety (ABS) class that includes textbook, 12-week class and 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)

AVIALABLE COURSES ON LINE:

Welcome to the New National Testing Center

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

<http://ntc.cgaux.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:

Tuesday, June 11

Tuesday, Sept 10

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Meeting time: 6:00pm

Place: Main Entrance at Bay Pines



We visited on 23rd April

DUES – All will be getting a certified letter around July 15th.

20
SEP Tampa Bay Fall Boat Show



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)

Flotilla Meeting Refreshment Schedule

June-	Bill Zinner
July-	Terry Hershman
August-	Eillie Zinner
September-	Orrie Baffi
October-	Marcella Ruso
November-	Open
December-	Holiday Celebration

Bit of History



Don't be a Spare; be a SPAR. Release a fighting Coast Guardsman for combat; train at the Palm Beach Biltmore; wear clothes designed by Mainbocher. Apply nearest Coast Guard office.

— U.S. Coast Guard SPAR Recruiting Poster

The text listed above comes from one of several SPAR recruiting posters produced during World War II. In December 1941, the nation was plunged into the conflict. A year later, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a law creating the Women's Reserve branch of the Coast Guard and the service began recruiting women for the SPARs an acronym for Semper Paratus—"Always Ready." For the war effort, the Coast Guard estimated it would need 8,000 enlisted women and 400 female officers. However, thousands more would volunteer to serve. At first, it was assumed that women had few useful skills other than typing or telephone switchboard skills. However, a former policewoman demonstrated in boot camp that she knew how to shoot, while a former professional photographer demonstrated her skills and became a photographer's mate. SPARs proved they could serve in virtually the same ratings as men and, by war's end, they held 43 ratings from boatswain's mate to yeoman.

Unlike the men, who were assigned specialties when they enlisted, enlisted SPARS were initially given the rating of seaman 2/c. All SPAR recruits had to be at least 59 inches tall and weigh at least 95 pounds and they had to distinguish whispered words at 15 feet. Women joining the enlisted ranks had to be 20 to 36 years of age and hold a high school diploma, while those wishing to enter the officer corps had to be 20 to 50 years old and have at least two years of college experience. In addition, a SPAR who became pregnant during her tour had to "submit her resignation promptly" and no SPAR could issue orders to a male service member.

Read full article: <http://live.cgaux.org/?p=6160>



Safe Boating Week!!!

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

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



Commander Richardson picks up Flotillas 7-16 NSBW Proclamation 5-21.



20 PV's 5-22 and 19 VE's at Freedom Boat club Johns Pass 5-23!!!
Way to go Dave!!!



We went to Gulfport Elementary School on 5-23 and gave the 5th graders a Water Safety Class. Thank you, Apollo Beach, Flotilla 75 - Tony O'Reilly, Marty Richardson, Kevin Buckley, Marcella Ruso, Bill Zinner, Bill Ackerman and Pat Stone (39 students and 4 adults)



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



Bill went to school!

SCHOOL IS COOL

On May 16 I had the honor to represent the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and Flotilla 7-16 at an event held at Gulfport Elementary School. Parents and students as well as faculty and administration got a chance to experience many different information kiosks arrayed along the walkways that border the interior courtyards of the school. The place was packed with kids eager to show their parents and siblings their school and to check out all the different things on display.

I was located approximately the middle of my walkway, flanked by a very popular face-painting, a lady promoting the Toastmasters of Pinellas County and a young man trying to interest people in a gym and fitness program. The kids paused for a moment at each location and then moved on, a few parents lingered to ask questions or pick up information. Not a lot of time to pause if their kids took off – for obvious reasons. All in all, the kids were well behaved and not as noisy as I expected, even though they were very excited. I later found out that after the demos closed the kids were going to get an introduction to their next year's teachers and classrooms.

I realized that most of the adults were not boaters and had little or no related experience. I asked a few then found that they were reluctant to admit that they weren't "boaters" so stopped. Instead, I asked if they knew much about the Coast Guard. That got them talking – mostly about the CG's rescue activities. Many were still talking about recent events, including the drowning of a 3-year old who fell out of a kayak without a PFD. Many picked up information from my display about aspects of the service, Florida and Federal laws and other subjects. They also took home our tri-fold pamphlet about the Flotilla that Marty and Marcella put together. I even got a chance to promote membership in the Auxiliary when anyone showed even a scintilla of interest. At least two women have inquired about joining so Ellie will follow up with them.

All in all, I think the event went well and I hope we get invited back.

On the 23rd we returned to Gulfport to participate in a boating safety presentation put on by Kevin Buckley, Tony O'Neill and Pat Stone. About 30 5th graders attended and seemed engaged by the narrative, stories and videos that made up the presentation. I believe we have a great opportunity to bring the Auxiliary story to local kids who, we hope, will take home what they learn. We will need to develop a corps of teachers to do this so, if you're interested, contact Marty or Marcella. This is a new adventure for us and an opportunity to have a direct impact on the local boating community.



Certificates

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



Orrie Valued Service & Operations

31 Vessel Exams for Terri



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



Commander Richardson

2019 Flotilla Commander for 7-16 in Gulfport, Florida

We have completed the 2019 National Boating Safety Week. I want to recap what our Flotilla here in Gulfport accomplished during the week-long emphasis and thanks those that participated in the activities.

May 18, 2019: Held a “About Boating Safely” Class

May 18, 2019: Vessel Safety Checks at the Gulfport Marina.

May 22, 2019: Vessel Safety Checks and Program Visits in the Johns Pass area.

May 23, 2019: Held a Life Jacket and What in the Water (pollution) class for the 6th Graders at the Gulfport Montessori School.

May 25, 2019: Held a “Suddenly in Command” Class at the CG Auxiliary Building.

I want to thank all those in the flotilla who participated in these events. Also, **BIG Thank you** to Kevin Buckley, Pat Stone and Tony O’Reilly from Flotilla 75 in Apollo Beach for helping us with getting the school program off the ground. It was an exciting and engaging opportunity to provide children our local community school, information that could potentially save lives and protect the water environment. Next year should be an exciting time in our flotilla as we reach out to our local community, become more visible, and grow our flotilla to become an even larger asset to Gulfport.

We are also planning some social activities that I believe will strengthen our relationships with each other and have some fun. Our first outing will be at Caddy’s in Gulfport. More details to follow.

Your Flotilla Commander,

Marty Richardson

