



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



Volume VIII  
2018 4rd Quarter

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# THE BEACON

## Making A Difference

Our Flotilla is celebrating with our community for the boat parade! We will be having a holiday party with cookies and hot chocolate! Live holiday music! Yet best of all... our activities will support the Coast Guard missions!

We will be having dogs in life jackets pawing out "Wear It!" stickers. First ten paddle boaters who sign up for a class will be given a free survival kit for kayaks/canoes. There will also be a food and toy drive collection with the food going to the Gulfport Senior Center and toys for the Gulfport Police. We will have a table to tell the community about the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteer component of Team Coast Guard how to join!

But best of all I came across the game that Betty Underwood created for children. She wanted to teach and make a difference by teaching the children. The difference Betty has made in her community has been recognized. Her desire to make a difference shall also touch our Boat Parade Holiday Party. Thank you, Betty, for your game and message "One Person, One World, One Chance". We hear you and we are passing on your message!

Next~ Betty's story



# OFFICERS:

## Flotilla Commander:

William Zinner

## Vice Flotilla Commander:

Marty Richardson Jr.

## FSO-CM & IS & MT:

W. Zinner

## FSO-FN & OP:

O. Baffi

## FSO-MA & PV & VE:

D. Rimel

## FSO-HR:

E. Zinner

## FSO-NS:

Nomberg

## FSO-PE:

M. Richardson Jr.

## FSO-PA:

G. Hayward

## FSO-CS & NS & PB:

M. Ruso



## Betty Underwood Wins local Thomas Jefferson Award for 2012

Article and photos submitted by Arthur Lloyd Slepian, FSO-PB/PA 51

**PALM BEACHES, Fla.**—If you get an e-mail from Betty Underwood, be sure to read the six words at the bottom of the page. "One Person, One World, One Chance." It's Betty's message.

The creator of what has come to be called the Marine Debris/Garbage Game in the 2012 Auxiliary National Supply Center Catalog says she was looking for a way to bring her message to future environmentalists. She specifically had five and six-year-old children in mind because they are "the ones who could make a difference. They are the ones who can influence their parents and grandparents."

But Betty, who served as Flotilla 51's Marine Safety staff officer during 2010 and 2011, wanted to find a visual way to reach the children. "I needed something they could interact with," says Betty. "I needed a game."

The shape of the game, which she called Trolling for Trash, began in 2009 with a comment to her husband.



After saying she needed a "portable ocean" to make her point with the children, her husband said, "Make one." So, she did.

"I went into the bedroom and pulled a plastic sweater storage box from under the bed," Betty says. After emptying the box and deciding to give the sweaters to a charitable organization, she had the beginning of her ocean.

Although it was 11 p.m., her husband, Jim, started painting the bottom of the box beige. Betty went over the seawall near her home in Stuart and came back with a bag of sand. The sand was sprinkled on the wet paint and became the ocean floor. An artist friend volunteered to paint the inside of the box to look like an ocean.

"We have waves and fish, and boats and birds," Betty says. "Yes, we have an ocean."

Unfortunately, these days, an ocean needs trash to be realistic. "We took the wheels off a toy car, hot-glued a magnet to the tire and threw it in the ocean." Small tin cans, paper cups and small plastic bottles – all with magnets – were added. Shells, coral, plastic fish, small boats and turtles – all without magnets – came next.

"Kids love to fish, so Jim took some dowels and made fishing poles, with magnets at the end of the lines instead of hooks. We now had a great teaching tool that was fun," Betty says. "The kids got it. Trash does not belong in the ocean."

Most recently, the game was used at the Port Salerno Seafood Festival where teachers and Scout leaders told Betty they were going to build one for their own use.

"It works. We get great response from the kids and I feel as though I have a whole flotilla helping me clean up the beach," Betty says. "This simple game truly promotes environmental stewardship. Education is the key – the game allows us to engage, educate and inspire the next generation of environmentalists."

In addition to becoming an item in the Auxiliary National Supply Catalog, Betty's initiative resulted in her winning the Auxiliary Achievement Medal,

## TOP 10 ITEMS FOUND



*Continued from page 33*

the Auxiliary's second highest award.

During the Division 5 Change of Watch ceremony in December of 2011, Capt. Christopher Scraba, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami, presented Betty with the Achievement Medal. The citation recognizes Betty's "exceptional vision," noting that the game plays a key role in emphasizing "vigilance in environmental preservation among the boating public." But the awards did not end there. Betty Underwood won a local Thomas Jefferson Award for 2012, the prestigious national recognition system honoring community and public service in America. The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. They began in 1972 to create the equivalent of a Nobel Prize for public service. Today, their primary purpose is to serve as a "Call to Action for Volunteers" in local communities.

The Jefferson Awards has more than 150 media part-



**PALM BEACHES, Fla.**—While Betty Underwood had five and six year-olds in mind when creating the Trolling for Trash Game, younger children – and their parents – enjoy the game as well.

ners in more than 90 communities across the country. A local panel of judges selects the winners at the grass roots. These media partners are major local newspapers, television and radio stations. Most media partners honor a volunteer monthly or weekly. Some honor five or six at an annual ceremony. From each community, the Jefferson Awards Board selects one local winner to represent their community and be honored as part of the National Ceremonies in Washington, D.C., in June.

Betty will be in Washington to accept her award.Ω

## Build Your Own Game

Betty's original Trolling for Trash game is still in her possession and is still in use.

Betty's game can be found listed on page 14 of the 2012 Auxiliary National Supply Center catalog. The description says: "Travel Trunk, Marine Debris/Garbage Game – (e.g. toy fishing poles, marine debris, watershed charts, marine debris fact sheet, etc. (W-18" .. D-9" .. H-21") Wt. 15 lbs. on wheels"

But, you can build your own.

Here are Betty's instructions:

1. Get a 34-in. by 16-in. by 6-in. plastic under-the-bed storage box.
2. Paint the inside of the box blue to look like an ocean.
3. Sprinkle sand on the bottom and place shells, coral etc.
4. Hot-glue small magnets on "trash" such as small paper cups, bottle caps, small tin cans, etc.
5. Make a fishing pole from a dowel and tie a string for the line, with a magnet on the end instead of a hook.

The plastic box costs about \$12 at mass merchandise stores or home centers. A 48-in. dowel, cut in half, will make two poles for less than \$1. String and magnets from a craft store will cost about \$3. Sea shells and trash are free. The game costs less than \$20.

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

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



## Contact Us:

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727-322-3040

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### Website:

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

### "The Beacon" or Facebook

### Submissions:

[MarcellaRuso@gmail.com](mailto:MarcellaRuso@gmail.com)



**Three  
New  
Members!!!!  
Jeremy Smith  
Bradley Hardy  
Bill Ackerman  
WELCOME  
ABOARD!**

*In our December issue we have three pluses that were sworn in as part of our 7-16 Flotilla team!*

**Bill Ackerman** a longtime sailor/power boater. Currently in ownership of a 1967 Tartan 277 sailboat. Recently retired to Gulfport with his spouse, Valerie. Bill's dad was in the Coast Guard Aux. and he has been looking forward to having the time to volunteer for the benefit of the community and participate in a team. We fell you have joined the right team, Welcome!

**Bradley Hardy** was inspired to become a member because of the water and committing to be part of boating safety. A main interest is that the auxiliary directly helps the Coast Guards.

Auxiliarists are a vital part of the Coast Guard. Under legislation passed in 1996, the Auxiliary's role was expanded to allow members to assist in any Coast Guard mission, except direct law enforcement and military operations, as authorized by the Commandant. You are in the right place Bradley!

**Jeremy Smith** has spent five years in the United States Marine Corps as an F-18 Powers Plants Mechanic. Now working for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics as a machinist fabricating parts for F-16's, F-22's F-35's P-3's and C-130's. Yet he joined us here at the Coast Guard Auxiliary because he is very big on volunteering in his community. We are so happy he joined us on the water!

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[MarcellaRuso@gmail.com](mailto:MarcellaRuso@gmail.com)

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

### Facebook Posts



United States Coast  
Guard Auxiliary:  
Flotilla 7-16

@uscgauxflotilla7.16

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## Upcomming Events:

**Food Drive** - Collecting at Flotilla! **We have 600 lbs! Goal 1,000lbs**

**Toy Drive** – Collecting at the Flotilla! *Everything stays in Gulfport!*

### **Holiday Boat Parade Party at 7-16 on the point!!!**

Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm we will watch the 33rd Annual BCYC Gulfport Christmas Boat Parade till the last boat in the parade! All Gulfport residents and friends are welcome to join us at our flotilla 7-16. We shall have some four legged pups passing out stickers to encourage all to wear their PFD's! We will be serving cookies and hot chocolate, there will be a recruit and inform table, and a table about paddle safety, a Coast Guard game for kids, and best of all Tony will sing holiday songs.

We are collecting food for Gulfport Senior Center and toys for the Gulfport Police!!!

**Tony Treadway** will play his gutair & sing for us at the *Boat Parade Party!* Tony has been playing for 30 years. He is also an artist. His latest mural below. Thank you Tony for sharing your talents with us!



Tony Tready's latest mural in Gulfport..... Breathtakingly Gulfport!!



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[MarcellaRuso@gmail.com](mailto:MarcellaRuso@gmail.com)



## COURSES

### ON GOING COURSES:

A \$65 course (BS&S) 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](mailto:auxgulfport@gulfport.com) (Auxiliarist's come the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

**Don't forget to visit our Facebook page... leave a comment!**

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

### VISIT VETRIANS AT BAY PINES:

Quarterly visit is: **DECEMBER 11th**

Meeting time: 6:00pm

Place: Main Entrance

Additional information: [haywardsnotary@aol.com](mailto:haywardsnotary@aol.com)

## Awards:



**James McCormick III**  
accepts the Century  
Award for turning in  
100 or more Vessel  
Safety Checks  
in September.

Way to go James!

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

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

## Awards continued:



Donald Rimel, Century Club Award!  
Outstanding!!  
You set the bar high!!



**Commander Zinner**

“Looking forward” - sort of an odd phrase that carries a lot of weight. What else can we do? Looking backward can help us determine what works and what doesn't but is only relevant if we apply it to what lies ahead. We are almost in the season of New Year's resolutions – promises of improvement, commitment to changes for the better (we hope) and a forecast of exercise equipment purchases. I stopped making resolutions except to not to make them anymore – but that's just me. I really do believe the saying (I paraphrase here) “those who do not pay attention to the lessons of history are bound to repeat it”. So, looking forward what do you plan to do this coming year? Are you anticipating big changes? There's little we can do to avoid change – large or small – that is imposed on us by fate or happenstance, so we must try to be resilient and flexible. Hard to do if you are set in your ways (as the saying goes) but ever more important for survival in this age of uncertainty. This resilience and flexibility should be consciously maintained – tended like a garden of reason and sanity. And the most important ingredients for sustaining this reason and sanity are common sense and the truth. You owe it to yourself to apply the former and seek the latter. Find them where you will but always be honest with yourself - and others if you have the courage. Ellie and I hope you have a happy holiday season and safe New Year's celebration. Cherish you family and friends and face the future with hope and faith.

