



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



Volume VIII
2018 1st Quarter

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THE BEACON

YOUR PASSPORT TO SAFER BOATING!

The Coast Guard Auxiliary's comprehensive Boating Skills and Seamanship Course helps Tampa Bay boaters, at all experience levels, learn the skills needed to protect themselves, their passengers and their boats. Allowing them to enjoy our area's most popular outdoor water pastimes! Each year, more than 100,000 boaters participate.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Boat Equipment** - Operation/Safety items; BUI/substance abuse; PFDs;
- **Boat Handling** - Heavy weather; anchoring/docking; man overboard
- **Highway' signs** - Buoyage systems; chart symbols; GPS navigation
- **Rules of the Road** - Inland rules; stand-on/give-way concepts
- **Marlinspike Skills** - bend, hitch and more knot tying,
- **Navigation** - Compass/chart use; speed-time-distance calculations.
- **Marine Radios** - Operation; distress/urgency/safety call procedures
- **Water Pollution/Environmental Protection Issues**
- **Maritime/Nautical Customs and Traditions**

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE COURSE?

- Boat owners and spouses/operators
- Individuals/families planning a boat purchase
- Families with young kids and boats,
- Jet-ski owners and operators
- Recreational boat passengers
- Anglers and waterborne hunters
- Kayak and canoe enthusiasts
- Children as young as 9 can navigate our course with parental guidance

A \$65 course 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 .



OFFICERS:

Flotilla Commander:

William Zinner

Vice Flotilla Commander:

Marty Richardson Jr.

FSO-CM & IS & MT:

W. Zinner

FSO-FN & OP:

O. Baffi

FSO-MA & VE:

D. Rimel

FSO-HR:

E. Zinner

FSO-NS:

Nomberg

FSO-PE:

M. Richardson Jr.

FSO-PV:

G. Hayward

FSO-CS & NS & PB:

M. Ruso



Commander Zinner



The Journey is the Thing

Ellie and I have been sailors as long as we have been married. We took classes on Lake Erie, the Chesapeake Bay, Lake Michigan and the British Virgin Islands. In between we chartered boats at many locations so we have had exposure to a large number of boats and venues. For me, the Chesapeake and its many estuaries, creeks and byways as well as

islands large and small and little towns or villages were the most rewarding. Not only is it beautiful it is moody and historic. As far as I am concerned, America started there.

I took to sailing immediately. I understood it, I felt it, I loved it, I couldn't get enough. It took 2 hours to drive to Annapolis from where we were living and I gladly undertook that journey under many different conditions just to spend a weekend cruising or racing or waiting for the weather to turn so we could get home. Eventually we moved to Florida and for the first time I was close enough to sail any time I wanted – so I bought an old sailboat only to discover that it was too late. All the feelings are still there and most of the basic skills have survived but my body has not.

So now I spend more time reminiscing rather than sailing.

At first, I took my affinity to sailing for granted. It all made sense and the benefits were so obvious: water (salty or fresh) wind, sun, rain, heat, cold, calm trust and fear. Wait, fear? There were several times when we were scared out of our wits. We made questionable decisions and did some minor damage to fingers, toes, appendages of many sorts and left some paint and fiberglass behind as mementos. But most of the time life on the water was better than just about anything else we could think of. Bone tired but still fascinated by the sound of water lapping against the boat, the click of barnacles on the hull, the stars you never see from land, a moon as big as a house coming up over the dark shoreline and the glow of phosphorescent organisms at the water line - you drift off to sleep with the gentle motion of a boat safely at anchor. That's life!

Continued next page

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

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

Continued

All this time we worked at our careers, raised kids, traveled a bit, saw friends come and go and grew older. And, as old men do, I began to seek answers or explanations. To sum things up and make sense of how I got here. I used analogies and metaphors to try to track my life and came to the obvious conclusion that life, for me, is a lot like sailing (or is it the other way 'round?). And the similarities are significant on several levels. At first, we learn to row a little boat – progress is slow for a while and we go in circles until we learn to pull equally on both sides. One of the biggest discoveries is how to get from one point to another for a purpose beyond just the joy of pulling on the oars and moving forward.

The little boat gives way to something a bit bigger – perhaps a vessel that can accommodate more than one person. You learn to share your beloved craft and discover that others like it almost as much as you. You're glad they are there, together you discover new horizons and the value of teamwork and friendship. Eventually you want to test yourself and your vessel, to try to find the freedom implied by being on the water with something you are confident you can master. You plan voyages, equip yourself based on the cumulative knowledge you have gained and point your vessel toward anticipated new adventures. You fail, you succeed, you fall overboard but survive, you are hot and becalmed, you are cold and yearn for the shore but when you arrive you almost immediately start thinking about the next phase and you are complete. You may not be completely satisfied but you have faith in yourself.

One's life can be a lot like this. Starting and stopping, succeeding or failing, lost or certain of your destination but confident in your skills and armed with lessons learned. You plan and execute all sorts of voyages. I look around me and see a vast regatta, all of us "sailing" in more or less the same direction but at different speeds and with different rigs. All I know is to keep a firm grip on the tiller, trim your sails as you go, keep a weather eye out and enjoy the rest of the journey.

Commander Zinner



Contact Us:

Telephone:

727-322-3040

Email:

auxgulfport@gulfport.com

Website:

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

"The Beacon"

Submissions:

MarcellaRuso@gmail.com



Congratulations to members at our Jan 2018 meeting!

Top left: **James McCormick III**, Auxiliary Award

Top Right: **Marty Richardson**, Auxiliary Performance Award for Public Education.



Bottom left: **Don Rimel**, 2017 Bravo Zulu Award. Paddle Craft for performing 116 Vessel Safety Checks and 109 Vessel Safety Checks.

Events:

Thursday March 1, 2000 - Workshop

A TCT Refresher workshop will be held at Flotilla 72 at approximately 2000 hrs. on Thursday, March 1, 2018. This workshop is open to any interested Auxiliarist. Anyone planning to attend is asked to advise the undersigned so that we have sufficient facilitators and materials.

Tony Hooper
FC/FSO-MT/TCTAUX 07-02

Have you seen?

<http://live.cgaux.org/>



Contact Us:

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UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY

TAMPA BAY Boat SHOW

Presented by Tampa Bay Times
tampabayboatshows.com

Tampa Bay Boat Show

March 2, 3, 4, 2018

Florida State Fairgrounds - Tampa Bay

Tampa Bay Boat Show

June 22, 23, 24, 2018

Florida State Fairgrounds - Tampa Bay

Wednesday, March 7th, 7:00pm

GPS Class

Class held at 07-16 Flotilla. Contact capwillie02@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

Saturday March 23rd, 7:00am – 2:00pm

Gulfport Nautical Flea Market

4630 29th Ave S Gulfport, FL 33711

Saturday, March 17 – 32nd Annual Marine Yard Sale 9:00am – 12:00pm – Eckerd College

Free admission, Eckerd College's Waterfront Complex, 4200 54th Ave S, St. Petersburg. Good prices on used sailboats, powerboats, electronic equipment and motors. Benefits Eckerd College Search and Rescue (EC-SAR), a student-volunteer maritime search and rescue team.

<https://www.eckerd.edu/waterfront/sales>

Tuesday Evenings April 24h through June 5th The Auxiliary Weather Course (if sufficient interest)

Location: Flotilla 79 Tampa

Dates: April 24 - June 5

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Instructor:

George Bartuska - contact George if you are interested

[873-670-0063](tel:873-670-0063) (Cell)

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