



*USCG Auxiliary, Division 7, District 7
Tampa Bay - St. Petersburg, Florida*



INTERCOM

High- and Low-Tech Again Combine to Make the 2012 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion One of the Safest Ever.

By Tim Teahan, SO-PA



TAMPA, Fla., Jan. 28, 2012—The José Gaspar makes its way to Tampa to claim the keys to the city. With as many as 3,500 recreational boats participating, the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion is the largest boat parade in the country. Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74

Web-based technology, low-tech signboards and eagle-eyed manatee watchers utilized during the 2012 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion again combined to help make this year's event one of the safest ever. And, the efforts of 21 facilities and 85 coxswains, boat crew, trainees and radio watchstanders from four Auxiliary divisions: Seven, Eight, Eleven and Twelve, made Auxiliary involvement

in the 2012 invasion once again one of the largest in the 50-plus years the Auxiliary has participated in the event.

As they have for years, Auxiliary vessels monitored security zones in the Port of Tampa, providing a deterrent presence in several key locations

(Continued on page 5)

Division Elected Officers

Div 7	Division Commander	DCDR	J. Michael Shea
Div 7	Division Vice Commander	VCDR	Larry Neu
Div 7	Immediate Past Division	IPDCDR	Amos Johnson
FL-72	Flotilla Commander	FC	Richard L. Short
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Gene Keller
FL-74	Flotilla Commander	FC	Ken Morningstar
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Jeffrey Gines
FL-75	Flotilla Commander	FC	Oscar Kramer
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Ray Stewart
FL-78	Flotilla Commander	FC	Jim Armstrong
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Karen Cohen
FL-79	Flotilla Commander	FC	Heleyde Aponte
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Cinda Hitchcock
FL-7-16	Flotilla Commander	FC	Leonard Dolney
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Donald Hershman



We're on the web!

***[http://
www.uscgaux.info/?
unit=070-07](http://www.uscgaux.info/?unit=070-07)***

***You can contact any of
our officers through the
Division website.***

Division Staff Officers

Communications	SO-CM	Gene Keller
Communication Systems	SO-CS	Robin Conn
Finance	SO-FN	Oscar Kramer
Information Systems	SO-IS	Theresa Johnson
Human Resources	SO-HR	Marla Short
Materials	SO-MA	Ronald G. Matz
Marine Safety	SO-MS	Robert Starns
Member Training	SO-MT	Clifford J. Martin
Navigation Systems	SO-NS	Marvin Bayles
Operations	SO-OP	Clifford J. Martin
Public Affairs	SO-PA	Timothy Teahan
Publications	SO-PB	Dorothy J. Riley
Public Education	SO-PE	Steven B. Plass
Program Visitor	SO-PV	Cinda Hitchcock
Secretary	SO-SR	Judith Clapp
Vessel Examinations	SO-VE	Glenn Dobos
Fellowship Chair		Open

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Words from the Helm....

J. Michael Shea, Division Commander (DCDR)

We are off to a great start in Division 7 of the year 2012. Your Flotilla Commanders and our Division Bridge have worked hard to finish the Business Plan for 2012 and the calendar. Please check the Division website on a regular basis for upcoming events. Many of you participated in the annual Gasparilla Marine Event for which we thank you. We will also have the Republican National Convention here in late August as well as the District Annual Conference in September. We will be asking many of you for assistance with these events.

This year we will offer courses in crew and coxswain training as we have in the past. In addition, we will offer some division-wide programs in Auxiliary Operations, Vessel Examinations, Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visitor, Radio Watchstanding and others. We are attempting to make available to the members of our Flotillas some of the programs that are not on the water so that all of our members have an opportunity to serve in some way. All areas are necessary for the successful operation of flotillas and our division. I am asking that each person serve at least one day a month for your United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

I am proud to say that as of this writing, we are 318 souls strong in Division 7 and growing steadily. With that in mind, we will be offering a new member orientation program each quarter. I encourage each Flotilla to send their new members to these orientation programs. At these orientations, we will provide information for all of the various career paths available in the Auxiliary and encourage new members to choose a goal and work towards it.

In the area of Public Education, we are looking at ways to improve our basic Boating Skills and Seamanship course as well offer America's Boating Course, Advanced Coastal Navigation and Global Positioning System navigation courses as a way to increase attendance and broaden our boating safety education mission.

Our Communication Services officer has been working very hard to improve our website and I encourage you to look at it. You will discover many great subjects and gateways to other areas within the Auxiliary.



J. Michael Shea, Division
Commander 7

In the area of Vessel Examinations, we will encourage our Vessel Examiners to visit more boat ramps this year, and to be there more often. In the area of Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visitor, I am encouraging members to visit more dealers and marinas.

I want to remind thank everyone who participated in the Sector Open House, on February 3 at Sector St. Petersburg. We will write more about this event in the next issue of *Intercom*. In closing, I want to remind each of you that we have a lot of hard work to do to remain the best Division in District 7

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Shea, DCDR

Division 7, District 7, USCG Auxiliary

Words from the Helm...

Larry Neu, Division Vice Commander (VCDR)

Greetings fellow shipmates!

As your new Division Vice Commander I would like to introduce myself to those of you that don't know me or have been wondering just who this guy is.

I am a nine-year member of Division 7, have held the position of Flotilla Commander at two flotillas and numerous staff positions at flotilla and division levels. I am also a qualified Coxswain. Unlike so many of us in the Auxiliary, I am one of those unfortunate souls that still works for a living as the owner of a medical device manufacturing company in Lakeland. I look forward to the day when I can retire and be on the water ALL of the time conducting security and safety patrols for the Auxiliary in support of the Coast Guard.

You will find out as we work together for the next year that I am a "Rules" person. The rules were written for a purpose and I believe that the rules pertain to everyone! This doesn't always mean the rules are perfect and they can't be changed, but as long as the rule is in effect, it will be followed. On that note, I will start my writing with a couple of bug-a-boos that Mike Shea, Division Commander, and I have had to deal with.

Chain of Leadership and Management (COMDTINST M16790.1G, Chapter 1, Section C)

"In the Auxiliary, the phrase "chain of leadership and management" describes a system of organizational communication and responsibility providing for an effective and efficient path for the flow of information through all organizational levels. The system is best described as a chain of leadership and management rather than a chain of command, as no military command authority exists".

This is one of the single most important aspects of our volunteer organization. If this chain is not followed it creates confusion in the system and information can get lost or ignored. It is imperative that we follow this chain to resolve issues and institute

idea exchanges and possible implementation. The word has come down to us that this procedure will be followed, and for us, as members, this is a very easy rule to follow!

Please read and become familiar with this and all chapters of the Auxiliary Manual !

ODU Uniforms, (Operational Dress Uniform), (COMDTINST M16790.1G, Chapter 10, Section D, H.4)

As Auxiliarists we are responsible to act and appear in a professional manor by rules set forth by the Commandant. Our appearance is the FIRST thing the public sees in our relationship with them and we, as professionals, need to look the part.

As we take pride in our appearance in our personal lives, so we must exhibit that pride in our auxiliary duties. The proper wearing of uniforms is an essential part in our activities with the public and the active Coast Guard.

"Auxiliarists shall pay particular attention to appearance while wearing the ODU. It shall be serviceable, well-maintained, clean, and not faded or discolored. In addition to the following general provisions, proper wear and maintenance shall be as prescribed in the Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6 (series), or other relevant, interim Coast Guard policy. The untucked version of the ODU has black Coast Guard emblems embossed on them in several locations. Untucked ODUs are not produced without the emblems. Therefore, Auxiliarists are authorized to wear the untucked ODU version with the embossed Coast Guard emblems. Moreover, although the untucked ODU is the prescribed version, Auxiliarists are authorized to wear the tucked ODU version until no longer serviceable."

Take pride in your appearance!

Semper Paratus

Larry Neu,

Division Vice Commander 7





News and Articles by Members...

Gasparilla, continued

(Continued from page 1)

along the parade route. In addition, five Auxiliary boats and two personal watercrafts (PWC) served as manatee watch boats, coordinated by the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC). This year, about two hours prior to the start of the parade, at least six manatees were observed in the extreme eastern end of the Port Sutton Channel; fortunately, the mammals seemed content to stay in the channel, well separated from the parade route. Auxiliary vessels with manatee watchers aboard, *Love At First Sight*, the manatee watch 'mother' boat, an EPC boat and the *Eagle Eight* helicopter all combined to keep a constant eye on the manatees and to control traffic. Kathi Kruczek, coxswain aboard *Water Won Two*, ably coordinated Auxiliary boat and PWC movements for the manatee watch effort.

For the 2012 event, the Coast Guard and parade organizers continued the practice begun last year to establish wider 'No Wake Zones' in and around the parade route to better control participating vessel speeds. The effort was again successful, due in large part to highly visible "No Wake Zone" and "Slow Down" signboards creat-

ed by Robin Conn, FL 79, and utilized by crewmembers aboard Auxiliary vessels.

Again this year, Tampa Radio One used the Internet to observe the thousands of participating vessels in Seddon, Garrison and Sparkman channels and low-tech, a white board, to monitor the status of all 21 Auxiliary facilities. Tampa Radio One, at Flotilla 79, provided the radio guard for all Auxiliary facilities entering Tampa Bay and during their transit to assigned positions along the parade route and after the facilities were released from duty stations. Watchstanders Amos Johnson, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications, FL 79, Craig Starns, Staff Officer-Marine Safety, John Sanchez, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications, FL 74 and Peter Lorenz, along with trainees Bunny Johnson, FL 79 and Linda Barnard, FL 72, monitored images coming from a web camera affixed atop a downtown office building to view real time activity along Seddon Channel and the Seddon Turning Basin. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) was also used to monitor larger vessel movements. Once all vessels arrived at assigned locations, their movements were con-

(Continued on page 6)



TAMPA, Fla., Jan. 28, 2012—Craig Starns and Theresa "Bunny" Johnson are two of several radio watchstanders at Tampa Radio One, the communications center at Flotilla 79 during the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion. Photo by D. Riley

News and Articles by Members...

Gasparilla, continued

(Continued from page 5)

trolled from aboard Miss Marla, the on-scene Auxiliary Patrol Command (AUXPATCOM) and communications platform.

Overall, the communications component of the mission ran smoothly despite the extremely heavy traffic on Channel 81A beginning at 6:30 a.m., which included routine and operational reports, parade progress updates and related traffic between Tampa Radio One, AUXPATCOM, the Coast Guard Patrol Commander, the 21 Auxiliary facilities, Eagle Eight and law enforcement and Coast Guard boats.

Auxiliary units involved in the event encountered no major issues, but one facility, Legal Limit, with Pat Costello aboard as coxswain, was assigned to escort a recreational vessel taking on water in the REK Pier area, back to Apollo Beach. The Legal Limit took aboard some of the seven passengers from the 17-foot boat to lighten its load and initially, the distressed boat was making way, but after a few minutes, the engine stopped and what was an escort became a tow. The Legal Limit crew deployed its towing gear and took the distressed vessel under tow to the Davis Islands Launch Ramp. There, crewmembers from other Auxiliary facilities efficiently assisted in securing the vessel.

Note: Photos of some of the many vessels that



The Oracle heads to its assigned post before the start of Gasparilla pirate invasion with Roger Sneden (FL 74), coxswain and crewmembers Jack Lohman (seen at the helm) and Karim Merchant (FL 79). Below: University of South Florida Police get into the act. Are they invaders or defenders? Photos by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74.

participated are located throughout this issue of *Intercom*. ⚙





News and Articles by Members...

Gasparilla, continued



A coast Guard 25-foot Response Boat-Small from Station St. Petersburg watches from a distance as the 'krewes' of José Gaspar and its fellow pirate ships land at Tampa's Convention Center. The heavy traffic continues to enter the Sedden Turning Basin from the channel (top left). Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74

Auxiliary vessels from four divisions assisted at this year's Gasparilla boat parade. We cannot identify these two vessels and crews, but we thank them heartily for their assistance! Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74



News and Articles by Members...

The History of the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion



TAMPA, Fla.—In the early morning hours of Jan. 28, the José Gaspar makes its way to its berth at the yacht club where it will take on its pirate 'krewe'. Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74

The Gasparilla Pirate Festival is an annual celebration held each year in Tampa beginning in late January. It celebrates the legend of José Gaspar (Gasparilla), allegedly a Spanish pirate captain who operated in Southwest Florida. The most celebrated event during the festival is the "invasion" of the city by Gasparilla and his "Krewe", who arrive on a 165' long pirate ship, the José Gaspar, which travels up Tampa Bay and lands near downtown Tampa. The mayor of Tampa then hands the key of the city to the pirate captain signaling the city's surrender, and a parade ensues down Bayshore Boulevard ending in Ybor City. The krewes throw beads, coins and other items while shooting blank pistols from floats during both the boat parade and the victory parade through the city.

While the pirate invasion is the festival's most celebrated affair, the Gasparilla Pirate Festival does not begin or end with this event. The festival includes a number of private and public events. The private events include social events and parties throughout the year for members and philanthropic events for favored causes, formal

balls, brunches and an annual beauty pageant. The public events include no less than three parades. A week before the "invasion" and the main parade, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla sponsors family-oriented children's parade and "Piratechnic Extravaganza" with fireworks over Tampa Bay.

Beginning in January 2008, an old tradition that ended in 1964 was revived. "The Gasparilla March Triumphant: The Return to the Sea" gives the event a sense of closure. During this ceremony, usually held a few weeks after the invasion, the Krewe's pirates return the key to the mayor and board the Jose Gasparilla to return to sea. This tradition was revived as a way to end Gasparilla season officially and is called the Sant' Yago Illuminated Knight Parade.

Until the attacks on September 11, 2001, the US Navy participated in the pirate invasion. The Navy ship would be attacked by small boats throwing Cuban bread and black bean soup. The Navy would respond with fire hoses but would succumb to the Ybor City Navy, and then surrender to the Alcalde of Ybor City. The sailors would be





News and Articles by Members...

The History of the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion, continued



Above: The crowds line the pier in front of the Tampa Convention Center eagerly awaiting the arrival of the invading pirates.

Below: Tampa Fire Department's fireboat "Patriot" has assumed the role of the central defender of the city and uses its water canons in an attempt to ward off the invaders. Photos by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74

treated to an evening on the town. The Tampa Marine Fire Department took over the role of "defender of the city", but rather than wait at the top of the channel to "mount the city's defense",

the firefighting vessels join the parade and use their hoses to keep small craft from getting dangerously close to the Jose Gaspar as she makes her way up the channel.

Gasparilla Facts and Figures:

- The average attendance for the event is over 400,000 people.
- According to Coast Guard estimates, in past years as many as 3,500 boats participated in the Gasparilla Boat Parade making it the largest boat parade in the nation.
- The Gasparilla parade contributes 20 to 25 million dollars annually to the economy of Tampa.
- Gasparilla was first held in May 1904 in Tampa Bay. The first invasions were on horseback instead of in boats.
- Historically, Gasparilla was held on the second Monday of February until 1988, when it was moved to a Saturday festival in February. This change allowed more local communities to take part in the celebration. In 2001, the event was moved to the last Saturday of January to coincide with Super Bowl XXXV weekend because Tampa's Raymond James Stadium was hosting the game that year.
- Vessels and crew from at least four USCG Auxiliary Divisions (often more) participate in the event every year.
- Law Enforcement vessels from nearly two dozen Florida counties assist in maintaining safety on the water as well as numerous vessels from the US Coast Guard, Sector St. Petersburg. 🌀

*Flotilla News***Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg, Fla.**

**Rick Short, Flotilla
Commander 72**

Flotilla 72 had four vessels certified as Auxiliary facilities in 2011. These belong to David Bonacci, David Perillo, Bryan Cook and Loren Reuter. Three vessels participated in the Gasparilla boat parade. Miss Marla, owned by Rick Short, served as the Auxiliary Patrol Command vessel

(AUXPATCOM); Luv@1st Site owned Gene Keller, served as Manatee Control Vessel; and Allure, owned by Loren Reuter, provided traffic control vessel at Cut D.

The flotilla completed the Coxswain training program and two new coxswains passed the qualifying examination held at USCG Station St. Petersburg. Five members are signed up for the Division 7 Crew Class and Flotilla 72 mentors and

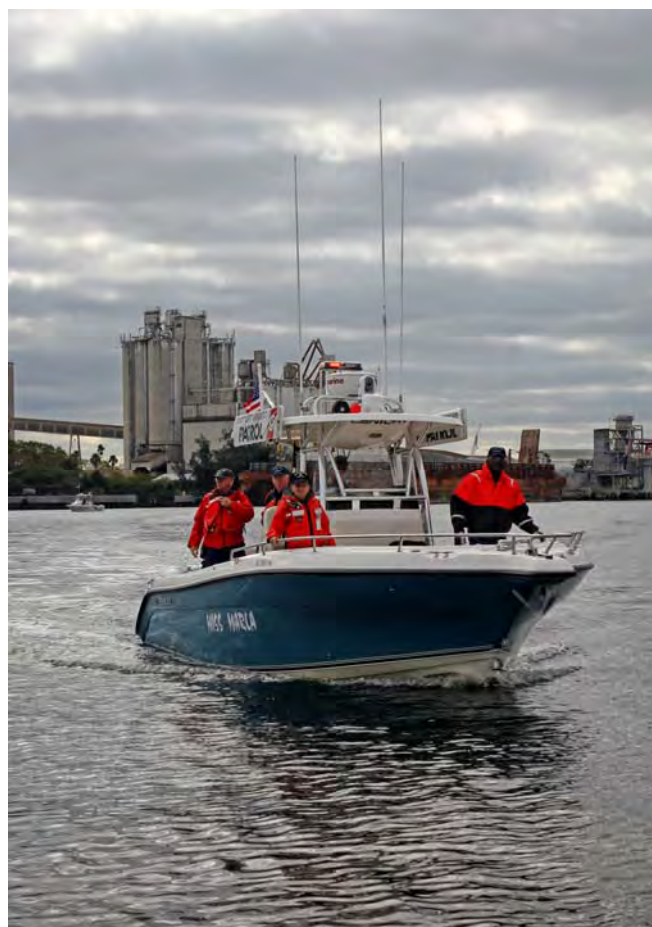
Auxiliary facilities are ready to participate in Crew Class training.

Flotilla 72 is much involved in this year's Division 7 training goals and is offering several Member Training programs in upcoming months. check out the courses available in the near future in the Response- Member Training section (page 18), and watch the division calendar for future course offerings. ❁

Miss Marla served as the Auxiliary Patrol Command (AUXPATCOM) vessel at the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion on Jan. 28, 2012. On board Miss Marla are Rick Short, coxswain, Cliff Martin, Staff Officer-Operations 7, Tim Teahan, Staff Officer-Public Affairs 7, Nat Hall and Don Hoge, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator-Sector St. Petersburg. Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74



When you have a winning team, then by all means, stick with it! This year Flotilla 72 re-elected Rick Short, Flotilla Commander (right) and Gene Keller, Flotilla Vice Commander. Stay tuned...they have great plans for the coming year! Photo credit: Coast Guard Auxiliary





Flotilla News

Flotilla 74 Brandon, Fla.



Ken Morningstar's Kamstar sits alongside the Water Won Too at Davis Island as they pick up their manatee watchers before the start of the Gasparilla pirate invasion on Jan. 28. On the Kamstar are Ken Morningstar, coxswain, and crewmembers August Miller and Carlos Velez from Flotilla 74. On the Water Won Too are Kathi Kruczek, coxswain (not shown) and crewmembers Linda Churchill and Josh Dargoltz. Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74

Flotilla 74 conducted the About Boating Safely program on January 21 at the flotilla. Six boaters attended. The flotilla conducts Vessel Examinations on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon at Williams Park. Afterwards, the members sometimes share a picnic or barbeque lunch and Beetle's (Richard Bailey) hotdogs are gaining fame.

Chris Alexander, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communication Services attended the WOW II website meeting on Jan. 24 and Robin Conn, Staff Officer-Communication Services approved the flotilla's new website on Jan. 30, 2012. We expect the new page to be up and running soon.

Two Auxiliary facilities participated in this year's Gasparilla Pirate Invasion. One facility was assigned to manatee watch and the second was stationed at the south end of the Sparkman Channel. One facility will be at Sector St. Petersburg for the Sector Open House on Feb. 3, 2012.

Three members of Flotilla 74 recently qualified for the Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) device: Kenneth Morningstar, Jeffrey Gines, and Leonard Chiacchia.

Bravo Zulu!☼



*Flotilla News***Flotilla 75 Ruskin, Fla.**

Oscar Kramer, Flotilla
Commander 74

Flotilla 75 started the year with a very ambitious program of activities. They are holding a series of "Meet and Greet" meetings at local mobile home parks (located on or near the water) and are presently processing seven potential new members garnered from the first of these meetings.

Apollo Beach, Fla., and Oscar Kramer was invited to speak at meeting of the South Shore Kiwanis Club in Ruskin.

The Change of Watch Banquet on January 21, 2012, was yet another opportunity for the members to get together and share fellowship.

Of course, our members participated in the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion. Flotilla 75 facility Legal Limit and her crew responded to a call for assistance. (See article on page 27) On board the Legal Limit were Pat Costello, coxswain, and crewmembers Sid Maillet, Judith Clapp, Ray Stewart, Joan Wheeler and Bob Bettinger. ☸

Flotilla 75 is currently presenting an About Boating Safely class at the Tampa Sailing Squadron in



The Legal Limit and its crew during Gasparilla. Read all about their nightmare of a SAR on page 27. (Or maybe it was a comedy?) Photo by George Papabeis, FSO-PA 74





Flotilla News

Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille, Fla.

For the first time in many years, Flotilla has an approved Auxiliary facility, the Thin Blue Line owned by Valerie Fernandes. It went on its "maiden voyage" on December 14 with Valerie at the helm as coxswain. This was also Valerie's first mission as coxswain.

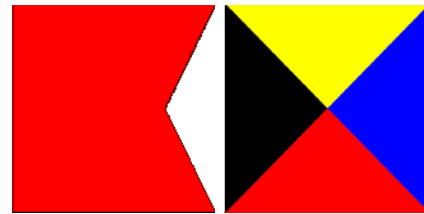
Flotilla 78 started the year strong with its Program Visitor and Vessel Examination programs.

Soon, the flotilla will have a website as well. Their webpage is presently awaiting approval.

Karen Cohen, a qualified Auxiliary Chef (AUXCHEF), continues to plan and prepare meals at Station Sand Key. Jim Armstrong is in the process of becoming AUXCHEF qualified. ☼



Jim Armstrong, Flotilla Commander 78



Above and right: The Thin Blue Line, Flotilla 78's new facility owned by Valerie Fernandes went on its first patrol on Dec. 14, 2011. It was coincidentally, Valerie's first mission as coxswain as well. Crew members are Robert Schuler, James Troiano, and Warren Pfirman. Photo by Elizabeth Kreiter



*Flotilla News***Flotilla 79 Tampa, Fla.**

**Heleyde Aponte, Flotilla
Commander 79**

In 2011, Flotilla 79 members submitted 806 operational hours. The flotilla has four new crewmembers for a total of 25 crew and 14 coxswains.

Flotilla 79 currently has nine facilities, two of which are awaiting recertification. One new facility received an Auxiliary

Facility Vessel Examination on December 31, 2011, and we are waiting for initial certification for a total of ten Auxiliary Facilities. In addition, we hope to qualify at least three new radio watchstanders as a result of the Auxiliary Telecommunications Operator class currently being conducted at Flotilla 72.

Navigation A and B begins in February at Flotilla 79. Others Member Training courses are planned but not yet scheduled. ❁



TAMPA, Fla.—Front to back: Olga Pagán de Aponte, member of Flotilla 1-10 in Puerto Rico, Cinda Hitchcock, and Heleyde Aponte place wreaths at the headstones of fallen soldiers and sailors at the Wreaths Across America Remembrance ceremony on Dec 10. Photo by D. Riley



TAMPA BAY, Fla. - Coxswain Mike Shea explains the 200 yard moving security zone for cruise ships to members of the expedition ship "Ocean". The "Ocean" is used in the National Geographic Series "Sharkmen". Photo by George C. Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74.





Flotilla News

Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport, Fla.

The Program Visitor Team completed 523 visits in 2011- 123 more than the goal set in January.

Taylor Dunham, a ten-year-old completed the About Boating Safely class and passed the test. Taylor's dad, Capt. Randy Dunham is a Gulfport native. Taylor was Jim Newman's first student younger than 17 since he started to teach the course and is about the age as Jim Newman was when he took the boating course at Flotilla 7-16 forty years ago! Maybe Taylor is one of the flotilla's future Flotilla Commanders? 🌟



Leonard Dolney, Flotilla
Commander 7-16



GULFPORT, Fla.—Jim Newman teaches the About Boating Safely course. Ten-year-old Taylor Dunham is the youngest student Jim Newman ever taught who passed the About Boating Safely course. Photo provided by Jim Newman

On December 17, 2011, Donald Rimel reached a milestone by completing a career high 1500 Vessel Safety Checks at the Bay Pines Boat Ramp. Way to go, Don! Bravo Zulu!

The Flotilla 7-16 Vessel Examination team completed 413 vessel examinations in 2011, 113 more than the goal set in January of 2011.



Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Logistics

Logistics Department Chief–Ronald Matz

Communication Services-Robin Conn

Robin Conn held a WOW II Website creation workshop in December at Flotilla 79 for all of the new and returning Flotilla Staff Officer-Communication Services. The workshop was well attended and was very productive.

The goal is for every flotilla to have a website this year, and we should have a few websites ready to start the national approval process by the end of January. There will be a 2nd WOW II Website class on January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Flotilla 79. All Flotilla Commanders, Flotilla Vice Commanders, and Communication Services officers, as well as anyone else interested are invited to attend.



Bunny Johnson, seated between Larry Neu, Division 7 Vice Commander, and Tim Robinson, talks about data entry procedures at the Logistics section break-out during the Division 7 meeting on Jan 7 at Flotilla 79. Photo by D. Riley

Information Services-Bunny Johnson

Bunny Johnson asked all of the Flotilla Staff Officer-Information Services to attend the Division meeting. She requests that each of them hold a raining workshop on how to complete forms at their flotillas for the members.



At the Division 7 meeting on Jan. 7, Marla Short, Staff Officer-Human Resources, emphasized the need to mentor new members and to help them identify areas of interest . Photo by D. Riley

Human Resources-Marla Short

Marla Short conferred with Ed Kasper, Staff Officer-Human Resources, Division 11, on best practices for her new position. She has learned that personal calls are more productive than emails when contacting e-responders and other initial inquiries.

Short emphasized the need to mentor new members and interview them early to learn what they are interested in and what they hope to contribute to the Auxiliary.





Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Logistics

Tim Teahan, Staff Officer-Public Affairs, is interviewed on Jan. 7 by WTSP (channel 10) about the importance of vessel safety checks and taking safe boating courses by "Daytime", a syndicated TV show. Produced in Tampa, the show is seen in over 80 markets across the country with an audience of about two to three million viewers. In the boat, Barry Giacobbe conducts a Vessel Safety Check as Larry Ivey (behind the boat) talks to two other boaters. All three members are from Flotilla 79. Photo by D. Riley



Materials— Ron Matz

Notice was received from the District Staff Officer that the Vessel Examination decals are available and were sent to the Flotillas.

Forms updates:

- 5027: Auxiliary Manual - web only
- 5027A: Auxiliary Manual on CD – merged with new member resource CD

Link for the Auxiliary Manual

The manual and its contents can be viewed at:

www.uscg.mil/d13/docs/5421/AUXMAN-AUX-POSTED-VERSION-SEP11.pdf

With so many pages involved, it's obvious that it will be expensive to download and print the new Auxiliary Manual. Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz suggested that each flotilla might prefer to print one copy at flotilla expense, and it would remain in the custody of the flotilla but be available to the membership for researching information.

The Activity Report - Vessel Examination

(ANSC-7038) has been revised to include the Paddlecraft category (AUXDATA mission code 91H). The email version has also been revised. The previous edition may be used until supplies are exhausted for other than Paddlecraft inspection reporting.

Change of Officer Report (ANSC-7006) has been revised to include the office subcodes and 'Reports To' codes. The previous edition is obsolete and may not be used.

Public Affairs-Timothy Teahan

While Tim Teahan will be featured in an upcoming episode of WFLA's "Daytime" (see picture and caption above), Jim Fogle from Flotilla 72 is a weekly guest on T.A. Mahoney Reel Animals Fishing show (620 WDAE radio) Sundays from 7 -9 a.m., and the "Reel Animals Saturday" show with Captain Michael Anderson (970 WFLA AM radio) on Saturdays from 6-9 a.m.. Division 7 Public Affairs is spreading the boating safety message!

Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Logistics

Publications-Dottie Riley

Many flotillas participated in Toys for Tots, Christmas Parades and other community efforts over the holidays. Flotilla 79 participated in Wreaths Across America at American Legion Post 5 in Tampa.

Recommend we organize a joint Public Affairs-Publications workshop to assist our flotilla staff officers (Public Affairs and Publications) and find out where they most need help or guidance.

Our award-winning newsletter, *Intercom*, has a serious flaw: Most of the articles in every issue are by a single author- Dottie Riley. The *Intercom* should more accurately reflect the many members and voices of Division 7. All members of Division 7 are encouraged to submit articles and photographs so that we can truly make the *Intercom* representative of our entire division. In addition to our many talented members, we have several outstanding Publications and Public Affairs officers who could (and should) contribute.

David Main, Flotilla Staff Officer-PB FL 16, produces a monthly newsletter that is outstanding in appearance, layout, and content. ✨

District 7 Youth Programs Clarification

Due to a lack of adequate liability coverage for youth programs and activities that are not part of an established Auxiliary Public Education or Public Affairs Program, such programs and activities are not authorized at this time. The activities with youth that are authorized are listed below with the understanding that all member's Personal Qualification Standards have been acquired and are current. Request for an exception must be submitted to the District Commodore for review and approval.

Present Public Education Youth Instruction Au-

thorized in 7th District

1. Going to public schools with Marine Safety Programs
2. Attending Public Affairs Safety Booths
3. Providing Coastie or Sammy Sea Otter
4. Children's Christmas parties at USCG Stations with Station Commander approval
5. Memorandums of Understanding currently in effect that follow the guidelines in place, training, releases etc.

We all must be cautious when working with our youth today because of our litigious society.

I find the only insurance we have in the auxiliary if an issue arises is Government Protection provided by the Department of Justice (DOJ). This requires that there must be an assignment of duty and members must be within the approved parameters for the assignment.

An example of potential for personal liability would be Auxiliary members of a Flotilla participating with a local scout troop to instruct scouts about safe boating which would include an on the water course. Even if the members have been trained by American Canoe Association as Paddelcraft Instructors, had orders from local Sector, and fully complied with all of the prerequisites required by the scout organization, the DOJ could deny government protection because the Auxiliary members would be in violation of the Auxiliary Manual and the on-the-water training manual.

It is important that enthusiasm does not overcome the need for proper risk assessment and member responsibility. Let's inform members of this.

re: NATIONAL COMMODORES
YOUTH POLICY 24 MAR 2011

Proudly Serving,

COMO Walter R. Taskiewicz
7th District USCG Auxiliary





Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Prevention

Prevention Department Chief-Steve Plass

Public Education-Steve Plass

This year, Division 7 will expand its Public Education course offerings to the public. In addition to the America's Boating Course and Boating Skills and Seamanship, flotillas are encouraged to offer Coastal Navigation, Paddlecraft and other courses to attract boaters.

Vessel Examination-Glenn Dobos

Training for new Vessel Examiners was offered on Wednesday, February 1 at Flotilla 72 in Saint Petersburg. Vessel Examination certification requires taking a two hour introduction program followed by an online test. After passing the test, the trainee must inspect five vessels under the guidance of the Flotilla Staff Officer- Vessel Ex-

amination to become qualified. Vessel Examination is a great way for new members to become involved in Auxiliary activities.

Marine Safety-Robert Starns

There are several positions that Auxiliarists can fill at the Coast Guard Prevention Department in Tampa. Many of these jobs require a two to six week C-School and a long-term commitment of at least one day a week to serving at the Prevention Department. For this reason, only members serious about serving should apply.

The Trident qualification is not just another qualification to earn or 'shirt ornament' to wear. The Trident Qualification is for members committed to serving the Coast Guard's Marine Safety/ Prevention Department.

On what page was the part about tides?

RIVERVIEW, Fla. - As the poet Henry Longfellow wrote, "the tide rises, the tide falls". A trailer in need of repair and the tides conspired to give this vessel a bath. To his credit, the owner had it floating within hours. Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs 74



Staff Reports and Program Updates...

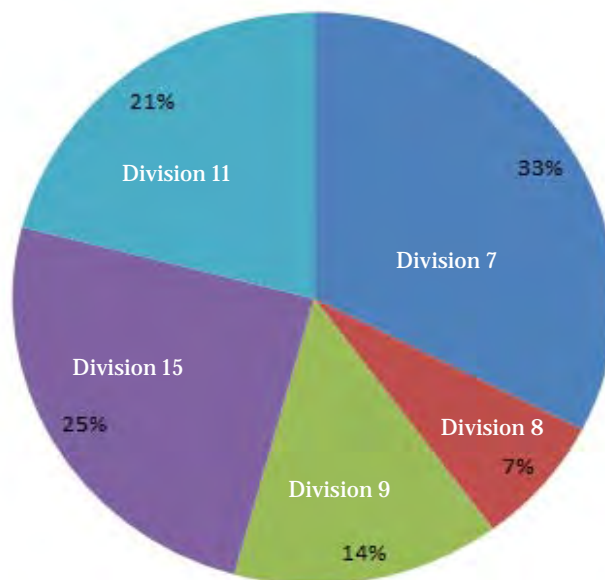
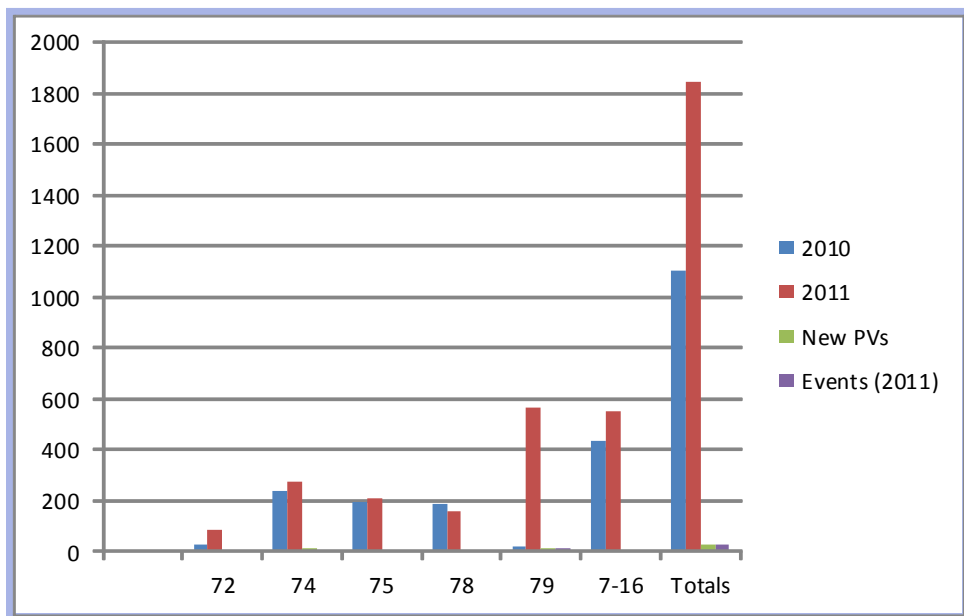
Prevention

Program Visitor-Cinda Hitchcock

Sometimes a graphic representation tells a story better than words. Just how well is the Division 7 Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visitor program doing? Cinda Hitchcock's goal in 2011 was to best the previous year's totals and to revitalize the division's Program Visitor program. The figures speak for themselves.

Flotilla	2010	2011	New PVs	Events 2011
72	29	86	2	2
74	240	276	8	2
75	192	211	2	5
78	189	155	3	2
79	21	568	8	15
7-16	430	548	2	2
Totals:	1101	1844	25	28

While the figures are impressive enough, the graph below clearly demonstrates how nearly every flotilla improved in 2011. Every flotilla's Program Visitor efforts helped the division achieve a whopping 40% improvement over the previous year.



How does our division compare to other divisions within the western area of responsibility? Thirty-three percent of the total 5960 Program Visits are from Division 7.

Hitchcock is determined to keep those figures growing and held a class for members Program Visitors on January 21 at Flotilla 79. 2012 promises to be an interesting year for Division 7 Prevention Department and Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor program! ❄️

Note: Figures used to create these graphs provided by Cinda Hitchcock as reported to her by the Flotilla Staff Officers-Program Visitors in December. Figures in AUXDATA may differ slightly.





Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Prevention

abc ACTION NEWS

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

HOME NEWS WEATHER VIDEO TRAFFIC ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE SPORTS MONEY MARKETPLACE ABOUT

ALERTS Click here for the latest political news

ENROLLMENT ENDS IN: 00 DAYS 04 HOURS 39 MINS

FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PLANS Starting at \$49 a Month. **ENROLL NOW**

Coast Guard Auxiliary offering boat checks before Gasparilla to help boaters avoid fines

Coast Guard checking boats to avoid fines

Video Photo

SHARETHIS

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Posted: 01/07/2012

By: Kimberly Kulzon

TAMPA, Fla. - Brenda and David Archer are getting their boat ready to watch Jose Gaspar and his crew of pirates take over Tampa waterways.

"It's organized chaos," said David Archer. They are getting their boat checked at the Coast Guard Auxiliary on Gandy Boulevard.

The auxiliary unit weekends leading. They said it is to i They check to se board and fill them in on what they are mis "You really have to have your eyes looking the boat traffic," said David Archer.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary said they

Tampa, FL

70° Clear Full Forecast

FORECAST: Even warmer Wednesday

ENROLLMENT ENDS IN: 00 DAYS 04 HOURS 39 MINS

FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PLANS Starting at \$49 a Month. **ENROLL NOW**

**Think
we have
their
attention
yet?**

**Division 7
grabs
headlines
and
broadcast
time!**

United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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7th Coast Guard District
U.S. Coast Guard

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard**

Date: January 27, 2012
Contact: District Public Affairs
(305) 415-6683

News Release

Officers on patrol during Gasparilla Pirate Fest 2012

Please click the thumbnails below for high-resolution versions.



TAMPA BAY, Fla. - Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Lyle, (left photo) coxswain at Coast Guard Station Sector St. Petersburg and Tim Teahan, member of Coast Guard Auxiliary, tell the public how to best prepare themselves before they head out to sea for the 2012 Gasparilla Pirate Fest at a press briefing held at the Tampa Bay Gandy Boat Ramp, Friday. U.S. Coast Guard and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers will team with enforcement agencies to keep waterways safe during the upcoming Gasparilla celebration on Jan. 28. Officers will conduct boating safety inspections targeting boaters operating un-aided, providing educational information.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty officer 3rd Class Michael D.

Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Response

Response Department Chief—Cliff Martin

Member Training/Operations—Cliff Martin

On Saturday, Jan. 7 at 9 a.m., Division 7 held its annual newly elected and staff officer orientation meeting. Immediately after this meeting, a workshop was conducted for all Response Department Staff Officers (Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations, Member Training, Communications and Navigation Systems).

The workshop covered a range of topics including computer use, and those using laptops were encouraged to bring them. This meeting was of critical importance to Flotilla Commanders and Flotilla Staff Officer within the Response Department chain.

Division officers have been busy planning training sessions, workshops, and briefings for January and February 2012, which are described below. Reminders will be sent as each date draws near. All meetings are at FL 79. In addition, information relating to Division plans for presenting AUXOP courses follows the schedule below.

Saturday, Feb 11, 9 a.m.: Sector St. Pete/Division 7 **Disaster (Hurricane) Contingency Plan Review** Workshop. This review is required by Sector/Station St. Pete. Flotilla commanders are asked to collect all unit documents relating to disaster planning [Calling Trees, Rapid Deployment Rosters, crew, coxswain and facility rosters and the unit level disaster plan with assignments for relocating equipment (radio rooms, Flotilla equipment, etc.)]. These documents should be reviewed and updated prior to the workshop.

Thursday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.: **Boat Crew Training Classes** commence. Flotilla commanders should consult with their Flotilla Staff Officers-Operations and Flotilla Staff Officers-Member



Training and submit names of members wishing to participate. The number of candidates allowed to begin the course is limited to 12 candidates, which will be filled on a first-come, first-vetted, first-accepted basis. Flotilla Commanders are responsible for vetting members who express interest and must advise names of flotilla candidates to the Staff Officer-Member Training no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 6, 2012.

The division will allow members to 'audit' the Thursday night classroom training if the twelve slots are filled. Those auditing the course and successfully completing the classroom portion will have their task books signed off, which is good for two years. These individuals can plan to undergo their qualifying examination within six months, dependent upon mentor and facility availability.

The same attendance and class guidelines apply to both categories of trainees. Members auditing the Thursday classes are not required to participate in the Saturday underway training BUT can be present and participate in underway training on a space available basis on training vessels and with Staff Officer-Operations approval.

Saturday, Feb. 25; 9 a.m.: **Eight-hour Team Coordination Training (TCT) Workshop** for all prospective boat crewmen and any other members who need the course. As a reminder, the eight-hour TCT course is required every five years.

AUXOP Courses

The Division bridge has directed the Response Department to ensure that classes required of members to earn AUXOP status be offered during 2012. This is a major undertaking; the division will have to rely on flotillas to assist in offering the courses required. A complete listing of cours-

(Continued on page 23)





Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Response

TAMPA BAY, Fla., Jan. 7, 2012- Clifford Holensworth contemplates his next shot during the annual Frogman Swim. Chris is the Flotilla Staff Officer-Computer Services for Flotilla 72, St Petersburg. Photo by George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs Flotilla 74.



Note to members:

Several of these courses are already scheduled at Flotilla 79 and Flotilla 72. Please check the Division calendar online!

(Continued from page 22)

es required is in Auxiliary Manual, Chapter 8 (Page 8-27).

The courses the Division would like the flotillas to present are listed below. The command staff at Flotilla 79 has offered the facility to units without a training room. The building can be made available to units for training on Tuesday and Friday nights from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The building is centrally located and can accommodate a large number of students. It is the division's intent to support all flotillas to get as many members par-

ticipating and achieving AUXOP certification as possible. At present, we do not intend to assign a particular course to a flotilla and prefer that each flotilla chooses which course to present.

To assist in our planning, Flotilla Commanders and Flotilla Staff Officers-Member Training should respond to the following questions:

1. Is your flotilla interested in presenting a particular course? If so, which one?
2. Do you have an AUXOP willing to instruct this or any other course?
3. Do you have a qualified instructor, someone who has taken/passed the course your flotilla would like to host, or a qualified instructor willing to take the exam before teaching it?

Core (required) Courses: These courses are one credit each.

- Aux Weather
- Aux Communications
- Aux Seamanship

(Continued on page 24)

Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Response

(Continued from page 23)

These core courses are available on line, but the division recommends that they be presented in person and that paper tests be used. The material can get technical and is more readily learned if presented by an instructor. If there is a qualified member who would like to teach a core course, please let us know.

Leadership Course

- Flotilla Leadership Course: can be taken on-line.

Elective Courses

- Auxiliary Search Coordination and Execution Specialty Course (AUXSC&E)
- AUX NAV Specialty Course (two credits) is a prerequisite for AUXSC&E
- AUX PAT (Auxiliary Patrol Specialty Course) One credit. Not a difficult course.
- Introduction: Marine Safety & Environmental Protection (IMSEP) two credits.

Flotilla Commanders and Flotilla Staff Officers-Member Training should review course materials. Copies are available at the Division Office.

If a flotilla presents a specific course, the flotilla must provide qualified instructors, lesson outlines, and training scenario/exercises. All courses should include a Power Point presentation (available on line). ❁



TAMPA BAY, Fla., Jan. 7-- The crew of the Miss Marla waits for the start of the 2012 annual Frogman Swim. Participants braved five kilometers of chilly water in order to help build national awareness of the Naval Special Warfare community. On board Miss Marla are Rick Short, coxswain, and crewmembers Bryan Cook, David Bonacci, Tim Robinson and Clifford Holensworth. Photo by George Papabeis.





Staff Reports and Program Updates...

Response



District 7 Auxiliary Leadership 'Roadshow'

When: Feb. 11, 2012 at 9 a.m

Where: Clearwater Air Station

Who should attend: Flotilla Commanders are required to attend. Vice Commanders and Staff Officers are encouraged.

Flotilla Commanders are required to attend and will be funded for overnight stay if required to travel 90 miles or more one way. Mileage will be reimbursed if travel of 50 miles or more one way. Carpooling is encouraged. Appropriate per diem will be paid. This applies to Division Commanders also.

Vice Commanders and Staff Officers are encouraged to attend, however no funding is available by the District. Funding may be provided by the respective divisions or flotillas.

This is not the course taught last year. It is not an AUXOP course. The course will be six hours in length.

The class content will include:

Module One - Essential Tools for unit leaders. Includes a discussion of the District Plan and Strategies, Key Provisions of the new Standing Rules, Organizational Performance Measurement Criteria and how it will be used to measure unit performance, and numerous General Administrative Tools that include tips on using

certain essential forms, applying discipline, conducting productive meetings, resolving conflict, and other significant matters.

Module Two - Action Planning

Module Three - Team Leadership Skills

Module One contains some of the "nuts and bolts" information that new leaders must know. It also contains information that addresses common mistakes made by many new unit leaders. Much of the material is taken from workshops in 2008 and 2009. Modules Two and Three are new to the leadership workshop lineup and were beta tested at District 7 Conference this past September. The Action Planning session is intended to help unit leaders form their unit's action plans, while the module on Team Leadership will help unit leaders develop their skills for leading the unit's officers as a team.

Detailed information and registration requirements will be forthcoming.✿

Blackthorn Remembrance Ceremony 2012

Article and photos by Dottie Riley, Staff Officer-Publications Division 7



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Jan. 28, 2012—With the United States Coast Guard Color Guard from Sector St. Pete in the background, Vice Admiral Robert C. Parker, Commander Coast Guard Atlantic Area and Commander, Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic, paid a poignant tribute to the Guardians who lost their lives thirty-two years ago on this day. Photos by D. Riley

Every year, Sector St. Petersburg holds a remembrance ceremony to honor the 23 Coastguardsmen who lost their lives on Jan. 28, 1980. The annual ceremony in St. Petersburg is held at the Blackthorn Memorial located at the northern approach to the Skyway Bridge.

This year's guests included Vice Admiral Robert C. Parker, Commander, Atlantic Area / Commander, Defense Force East; and Rear Admiral William D. Baumgartner, Commander Seventh Coast Guard District. Several members of the Auxiliary also attended including Melvin Manning, District Captain-West, Casey Jankowski, a former District Captain-West D7, and Paulette Parent, Division 8 Commander. Division 7 members attending included Heleyde Aponte, Flotilla

Commander, Cinda Hitchcock, Flotilla Vice Commander, Betty Hagan and Dottie Riley, District Staff Officer-Publications, all members of Flotilla 79.

Vice Admiral Parker delivered a poignant address. He is one of 90 members of the Coast Guard remaining who served at the time of the tragedy and vividly recalled his personal whereabouts and response to when he first heard about the collision. As the Admiral pointed out, the average age of today's member of the Coast Guard is thirty years old, which means most were not born when this tragedy occurred. Given that the average age of Auxiliarists is considerably high-

(Continued on page 28)





Guardsmen and women from Sector St. Petersburg stand during the Blackthorn Remembrance ceremony on Jan. 28. The twenty-three members in front hold roses, each bearing the name of a shipmate lost in the tragedy on Jan. 28, 1980.



A member of the Coast Guard Band Brass Quintet stands ready to play Taps as the Coast Guard Honor Guard prepares to fire a salute.



Stephen and Betty Rogers, members of the Coast Guard Pipe Band, play Amazing Grace near the conclusion of the ceremony.

Blackthorn



Twenty-three Coastguardsmen from Sector St. Petersburg place a single rose bearing the name of one of the guardsmen who lost their lives on January 28, 1980, at the foot of the Memorial, followed by a reverent salute. In the foreground is the USCGC Blackthorn's anchor, taken from the vessel when she was raised for the investigation after the collision.

(Continued from page 26)

er, even fewer Auxiliarists survive who remember first-hand the events of that day. It is an event that should be remembered. Not only did it constitute the greatest loss of life through a single event by the Coast Guard in peacetime, but also it changed how the Coast Guard trained its command level officers and senior enlisted members for command duty afloat.

The Blackthorn tragedy sent shockwaves throughout the Coast Guard. It was unthinkable that a sturdy buoy tender would sink within minutes and even more disturbing that nearly half of its crew drowned. Subsequent investigations by the United States Coast Guard Marine Board of Investigation concluded that while both the captains of the Blackthorn and the Capricorn were at fault, prima-

ry responsibility rested with the captain of the Blackthorn.

"The board determined that the cause of the casualty was the failure of both vessels to keep well to that side of the channel which lay on their starboard (right) side. Concurring with the marine board's determination of the cause, the Commandant emphasized in his "Action" that the failure of the persons in charge of both vessels to ascertain the intentions of the other through the exchange of appropriate whistle signals was the primary contributing cause. Additionally, Admiral Hayes pointed out that attempts to establish a passing agreement by using only radiotelephone communications failed to be an adequate substitute for exchanging proper whistle signals.

"The collision occurred in the evening of January

(Continued on page 29)





Blackthorn

(Continued from page 28)

28, 1980, near the junction of Mullet Key and Cut "A" Channels approximately three-quarters of a mile from the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Tampa Bay. The vessels collided nearly head on, and as a result, the port anchor of Capricorn became embedded in the port side of the Blackthorn. The momentum of the two vessels caused the Capricorn's anchor chain to become taut which resulted in the capsizing of the Blackthorn. The Capricorn subsequently ran aground north of the channel and the Blackthorn sank in the channel. Twenty-seven of the 50 Blackthorn crew members were rescued."¹

The sinking of the Blackthorn and the subsequent investigative report provided the impetus for the establishment of the Command and Operations School at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Commanding officers are now re-

Vice Admiral Robert C. Parker, Commander, Atlantic Area / Commander, Defense Force East and Rear Admiral William D. Baumgartner, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District at the Blackthorn Memorial ceremony on Jan. 28, 2012 in St. Petersburg.



Flotilla 79 members Betty Hagan, Cinda Hitchcock and Heleyde Aponte stand with Coast Guard Pipe Band members Stephen and Betty Rogers. The Rogers are members of Flotilla 36 Boca Raton Florida.

quired to assess risks such as transiting an unfamiliar port at night, and are encouraged to say no if they feel the risks involved are unnecessary. Additionally, the Coast Guard developed new training requirements, spent more money on safety equipment and made changes to the navigational aids in and around Tampa Bay.

As tragic and unnecessary as were the lives lost in the 1980 collision of the Blackthorn and the Capricorn, crews aboard Coast Guard cutters and Auxiliary operational facilities today know that safety is first, and that our training reflects this all-important worth. ❁

^{*1} Marine Casualty Report, USCGC Blackthorn - SS Capricorn, Collision in Tampa Bay with Loss of Life on 28 January 1980, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Board of Investigation Report and Commandant's Action.

News and Articles of Interest...

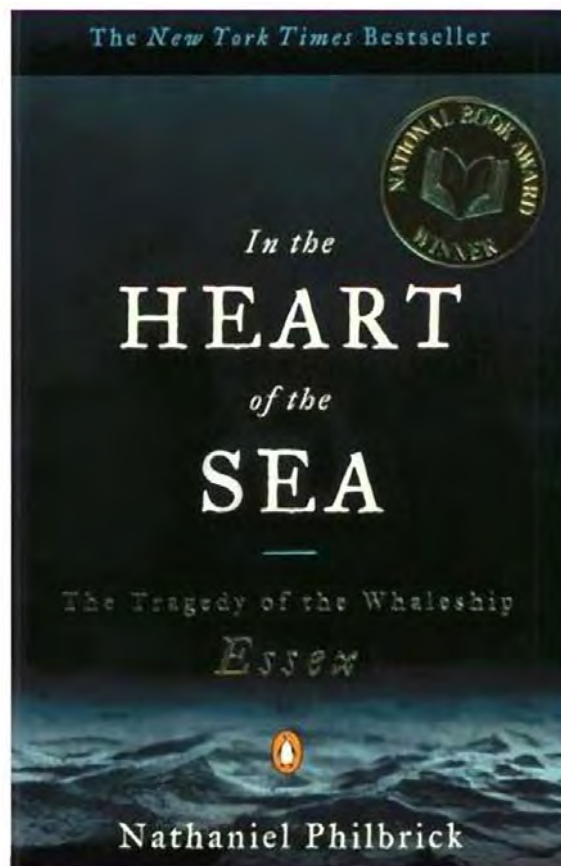
Book Review: In the Heart of the Sea

By Oscar Kramer

I don't know what brought all of you to the service of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, but for me it was partly my love of the sea; not a love created by experience or upbringing, but a love fashioned by books about the sea that I read as a child and as a young man. I still have that love of good books about the adventures of the sea, and I have just finished a great one. The book is titled, "In the Heart of the Sea -The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex" by Nathaniel Philbrick. This true story is the basis for the novel by Herman Melville, "Moby Dick".

Imagine yourself setting sail from Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, (24 miles off the coast of New England) in 1821 on a planned voyage of up to three years. You sail across the Atlantic Ocean to the Azores and then almost to Africa at the Cape Verde Islands. Then you sail back across the South Atlantic and face the dangers of sailing around the tip of South America at Cape Horn. You sail up the west coast of South America and head west 1,000 miles into the North Pacific to the Offshore Ground where sperm whales were usually plentiful. It will take you 15 months just to get there. Your charts are primitive and incomplete, and accurate determination of your longitude is virtually impossible.

The whaleship Essex was 20 years of age and was a complex and sophisticated piece of equipment. It weighed 238 tons, had 3 masts, a bowsprit, and more than 20 sails. A nice feature of the



book is that it provides a sail plan and a deck plan for the reader.

The first-time captain of the Essex was just 28 years old, the first mate was 22 years old, and the total crew numbered just 21 souls. Several were still teenagers. Several more were "green", never having sailed before.

Without giving away the story, let me just say that the author allows you to experience what life on a whaling ship was like; the dangers, the hard work, the smells, and the potential rewards. Moreover, when the ship meets with tragedy, you experience all the difficulties and suffering along with the survivors.

The author also presents a detailed history of Nantucket Island and even researches what the lives of the survivors were like after their rescue.

If this sounds like a book you might be interested in, get it at your favorite book store, or call our shipmate Bob Bettinger. He loaned the book to me, and I'm sure he'll gladly loan it to you. (He says he also has lots more just like it.)

Read this book, and I guarantee that your worst Auxiliary patrol will, by comparison, seem like a pleasure cruise. 🚢

What books have you recently read that stirred your interest in boating, the sea, or the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary? The 'Intercom' would like to publish your book review and introduce the members to new titles..





News and Articles of Interest...

Nightmare Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission

By Ray Stewart, VFC, FSO-PA 75

During Gasparilla, Auxiliary vessel Legal Limit, under the command of Pat Costello, was on station at the northern end of Sparkman Channel. The day was pleasant but largely uneventful. The five crewmembers were Sid Maillet, Ray Stewart, Joan Wheeler, Judith Clapp and Bob Bettinger. Our orders were to slow boaters down to minimum wake speed. The uneventful nature of the day was to change quickly when we received a sudden request for assistance call on the radio. Legal Limit was ordered to the scene of a sinking boat at Berth 232. The boat had already been secured by other Auxiliary facilities as well as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

There were seven persons on board the distressed vessel. The bow was one foot above the waterline, and the bilge pump was running effectively, but the vessel was obviously taking on water. Legal Limit directed all of the passengers on the distressed boat to immediately put on life jackets. The passengers instantly began to argue that they didn't want to put on life jackets but finally put them on when the coxswain insisted.

Legal Limit proceeded to take on board three of the passengers from the distressed vessel to lighten the weight on the wallowing boat. The skipper of the distressed vessel requested that we follow him back to his home dock in Apollo Beach as he continued to try to bail out his boat. After traveling about a tenth of a mile, the distressed vessel suddenly stopped, the skipper pulled down his trousers and proceeded to ... (now how do I say this delicately)... defecate into a bucket in full view of all those assembled on both boats. That completed, another passenger on the distressed vessel removed his life jacket and jumped into the water to relieve himself.

At this point, the skipper decided he now wanted to be towed to Apollo Beach. He belligerently argued about the towrope, the need to wear life jackets, and to where his boat should be towed.



The crew of the Legal Limit from Flotilla 75: Pat Costello, coxswain, and crewmembers Sid Maillet, Ray Stewart, Joan Wheeler, Judith Clapp and Bob Bettinger. Photo by George Papabeis, FSO-PA 74

His language was crude and vulgar.

Our coxswain told the skipper that in the interest of safety, we would tow the distressed vessel to the "nearest safe port." That port was Davis Island Marina.

Fellow Auxiliarists awaited our arrival at the dock. They had lines ready and the docking of the distressed vessel was picture perfect. All crewmembers - both those in the towboat and those on the dock - performed flawlessly. Their actions represented what Team Coordination Training is all about. Everyone knew what to do.

After the boats were secured, the rescued boaters suddenly discovered their gratitude and thanked the Auxiliarists for coming to their aid. There was nothing to suggest that the boaters were intoxicated, and nothing to explain their bad behavior. All of the boaters were safe, and their boat was securely tied to the dock.

The bottom line is that, "All's well that ends well."❀



Boating Safety Instructor And Course Provider Update



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Boating and Waterways Section is pleased to offer the latest information about boating safety specifically aimed at boating safety course providers and instructors. This workshop will consist of a full day of information about topics that will help you deliver the most up-to-date and accurate information to the boating public.

Previous attendees have overwhelmingly identified this as a "MUST-ATTEND" event for boating safety course providers!

The following topics will be covered:

- ◆ State and national requirements for approved courses
- ◆ Mandatory education for violators and violator education requirements
- ◆ What the "Wear it Florida" campaign is and how to use it to save lives
- ◆ Florida Boating Safety ID cards and how to get them for your students
- ◆ What resources are available from the state and how to request them
- ◆ The latest state boating accident statistics
- ◆ Legislative boating issues this session

Who should attend? Anyone who teaches boating safety classes or offers a boating safety course by any method within Florida

What is this? A comprehensive update on important boating safety and education topics.

When is it? Saturday, February 18, 2012. The workshop will last from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Where will it be held? Florida Wildlife Research Institute
100 8th Ave SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

What does it cost to attend? Absolutely nothing, it's FREE!

If you plan on attending, please **RSVP** by email (include your name and contact information) to emily.hershman@myfwc.com by Wednesday, February 15th.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has scheduled a Boating Safety Instructor Workshop on Saturday, Feb 18. All Division 7 Flotilla Staff Officers-Public Education and Public Education instructors are urged to attend. Many local Auxiliarists attended the workshop held three years ago at Flotilla 79 and found it to be a very worthwhile presentation and time well spent. Any Auxiliarist who has an interest in public education is also welcome.

This workshop is full of information and statistics that are of immense interest to boaters who take our courses and certainly, to all involved in the Auxiliary's Public Education efforts on any level.

If planning to attend the workshop, please note that the FWC has asked for RSVPs to be sent to the e-mail address listed on the flyer. Suggested uniform for Auxiliarists attending the workshop is Tropical Blue.





Auxiliarists Assist with Annual Manatee Watch

By Dottie Riley, Reprinted from Intercom, Volume XXXIV, Issue # 1, February 2010

Every year as the Gasparilla Boat Parade makes its way towards the Tampa Convention Center, Auxiliarists are assigned duties that often station them far from the madness and the fray. Why, many Auxiliarists ask, are our valuable resources diverted away from the festivities? Many Auxiliarists escort members of Tampa Bay's Manatee Watch, an organization that helps to protect the manatees from accidental injuries by recreational boaters and conducts an annual count to track the animal's dwindling numbers.



While keeping a watchful eye over Florida's manatees may not offer the same thrill and excitement as being in the midst of the boat parade, it is not by any means a less valuable service. Florida's manatees are an endangered species protected by both state and federal laws. The sheer number of boaters during the Gasparilla Boat Parade combined with the high rate of alcohol consumption during these festivities increases the threat to these gentle creatures tenfold. To all of our members who participated in the annual manatee watch—thank you! If you were fortunate enough to catch one of their snouts breaching the water's surface, it is a thrill you will never forget! Here is some information about our manatees, one of Florida's greatest treasures.

Manatees are large mammals of the order Sirenia, named after the Greek mythological sirens thought to lure sailors to their graves. There is, however, nothing sinister about these slow-moving, gentle giants more closely related to elephants than to any other Mammalian order. They are very tactile creatures, are known to deliberately touch swimmers as well as inanimate objects in the water, and are never aggressive.

The West Indian (Florida) manatee was once abundant throughout the tropic and subtropical western North and South Atlantic and Caribbean waters. The manatee's numbers, however, have been greatly reduced. Today, the West Indian manatee is listed as an endangered species throughout its range.

The range of the Florida manatee is primarily peninsular Florida but extends as far north as Rhode Island. Manatees have been rescued near Houston, Texas and Missis-

sippi. Adult West Indian manatees average about ten feet in length but large individuals may reach lengths of up to thirteen feet. Average adult weights are approximately 800 to 1,200 pounds. One particularly large Florida manatee weighed 3,650 pounds. Females are generally larger than males.

Despite their large size, when a boater spots a manatee, it is often no more than its snout breaking the water's surface for air. A manatee's

body is streamlined but thick in the middle and ends in a paddle-like tail. They are gray and their bodies are often scarred from brushes with propellers, sharp protrusions on boat docks and piers or fishing hooks and lines.

All manatees live in warm, tropic, or sub-tropic waters in temperatures above 64 degrees. They prefer shallow waters near shores, inlets, and mangroves where vegetation is plentiful. Manatees feed on more than 60 species of plants including turtle grass, manatee grass, shoal grass, mangrove leaves, various algae, water hyacinth, acorns, and Hydrilla.

The shallow shorelines preferred by manatees are also filled with docks and boat ramps. This places manatees in grave danger from recreational boaters and accounts for many of their injuries and accidental deaths.

Florida's manatees breed year round. Their gestational period is twelve months and they live to be fifty to sixty years old. They communicate with chirps, trills and other sounds, keep their young calves close, and are semi-social creatures.

The Florida manatee is one of the most endangered marine mammals in the United States. Federal and state laws have been passed that protect Florida manatees. Federal laws prohibit hunting, capturing, killing, or harassing these animals. These laws include the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Penalties can include a year in prison and a fine up to \$20,000. Injured manatees should be reported as soon as possible to Florida Fish and Wildlife or the Coast Guard. ☼



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Submission Guidelines:

The **Intercom** is always looking for articles about Auxiliarists, stories of interest, and photographs. Your articles need not be long; just make sure you include all of the basics: **Who** are you writing about? **What** is the topic or event? **Where** does the story take place (location)? **When** did, or **when will** this event take place, and finally, **Why** is this of interest, or **How** was this accomplished? Provide as much information as possible, and always include your email address or phone number. When typing, please **do not** use all caps.

Photographs should always be high resolution images. Use a digital camera that shoots images at 3 mega-pixels or better. Do not reduce the image or crop the photo unless you are an experienced user of one of the high-end photo-editing programs, i.e., *Photoshop CS®*. The final print resolution should be 300 dpi. If this sounds confusing, just send the image straight from your camera and add a description that includes who and what is depicted in the photograph, and the name of the person who took the photograph.

Take a camera with you everywhere! Vessel examinations, member training, patrols, Public Education programs and fellowship events are all great photo opportunities. Be proud of everything that you do, and brag a little bit about each other! It is a wonderful way to express appreciation for a member's efforts.

Dottie Riley, Editor