

// INTERCOM

Division 7 Tampa Bay, District 7
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Volume XXXVII Issue 1 Spring 2014



INTERCOM

Newsletter for Division 7 Tampa Bay, District 7, USCG Auxiliary
Volume XXXVI Issue 1 Spring 2014

Division 7 Elected Officers 2014

Div 7	Division Commander	Larry Neu, DCDR
Div 7	Division Vice Commander	Jeffrey Gines, VCDR
Div 7	Immed. Past Division Commander	J. Michael Shea, IPDCDR
FL-72	Flotilla Commander	Gene Keller, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Jack Lee, VFC
FL-74	Flotilla Commander	James Mulligan, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Mark Jaqua, Jr. VFC
FL-75	Flotilla Commander	Guy Mandigo, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Judith Clapp, VFC
FL-78	Flotilla Commander	Bradley Marchant, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Zelda Troiano, VFC
FL-79	Flotilla Commander	Michael Massimini, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	John McLoughlin, VFC
FL-7-16	Flotilla Commander	Donald Hershman, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Donald Rimel, VFC



We're on the web!
<http://A07007.wow.uscgaux.info>

You can contact any of our
officers on the Division 7 web
page!

Division 7 Appointed Staff 2014

Communications	David Rockwell, SO-CM
Communication Systems	Clifford Holensworth, SO-CS
Diversity	Donald T. Hershman, SO-DV
Finance	Linda Brandt, SO-FN
Information Systems	Clifford Holensworth, SO-IS
Human Resources	Judith Clapp, SO-HR
Materials	Ronald G. Matz, SO-MA
Marine Safety	Conrad Palermo, SO-MS
Member Training	David Langdon, Jr., SO-MT
Navigation Systems	Marvin Bayles, SO-NS
Operations	Linda Churchill, SO-OP
Public Affairs	George Papabeis, SO-PA
Publications	Dorothy J. Riley, SO-PB
Public Education	James Fogle, SO-PE
Program Visitor	Timothy Teahan, SO-PV
Secretary	Alexandra Kaan, SO-SR
Vessel Examinations	John Simone, SO-VE
Division Liaison	Richard Short
Fellowship	Brian Garry
Auxiliary Unit Coordinator	Rick Short

The Intercom is a publication of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division Seven, District Seven. The cost of publication is provided by dues-paying members of the Auxiliary, an organization of unpaid, civilian volunteers whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. Articles may be reprinted only with the express consent of the author or photographer, with proper credit given to same. For permissions or for more information, please contact the editor, Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB, Email address:

dottieriley1@verizon.net

Cover photo: Guy Mandigo on the *Bayou Bengal*, looks out at the Mosquito fleet on their way to Tampa. Serving as crew are Keith Westbrook, Patricia Stone and Valerie Fernandes as coxswain (not shown). All are from Flotilla 75 Ruskin except Fernandes, who is from Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille. Photo by Valerie Fernandes

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From the Helm **Larry Neu, Division Commander**

This year, 2014, started out on a very positive note for our division, as the new bridge took over and assumed new tasks and assignments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past divi-

sion leaders, Mike Shea, Immediate Past Division Commander, and Jim Newman, Immediate Past Division Vice Commander, for the tireless effort and hard work they put into running our division in 2013! Their work kept the division on track with the goals set forth by the Auxiliary; they led us through a rather trying year in politics and kept pushing for the greater good of Division 7. Thank you gentlemen for a job well done!

As we embark on this new year with new missions and activities, I look at the wonderful work our division members have accomplished already this year. Gasparilla is behind us and the men and women in Operations did another fantastic job of organizing and executing this mission flawlessly. Our boat coxswains and crews stood up to the mission with true professionalism, and like in all years past, endured the waves of endless pleasure boaters and partiers to make this event as safe as possible. Our members in Public Affairs, Program Visitor and Vessel Examinations have been busy as well working with the public to ensure we get the word out about safe boating and public awareness.

What a wonderful cadre of people Jeff and I get to work with this year! It makes me proud to be associated with so many outstanding people; people that have taken it upon themselves to join an organization and give countless hours to make sure we live in a safer world; people that sacrifice so much of their time and energy to make sure the boating public is safe on the water. Why do we all do it? We do it because we love the organization we joined, because we take pride in helping and teaching others what we have learned and lived, because we care. We are the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary! With that pride and professionalism comes the commitment to carry out the tasks assigned to us, not only the tasks of educating the boating public and standing behind our cornerstones, but also the task put on us by the Coast Guard to help augment their forces as they do the important and essential jobs assigned to them.

Change. That is a word that some people in any organi-

zation have some problems dealing with. We are living in an ever-changing world as the global market heats up. We are now experiencing this in the Auxiliary. For instance, the National board put out their Strategic Plan in 2013, among which one of the District 7 goals was to promote Auxiliary interaction with Coast Guard units at all levels. Auxiliary District leadership established a close working relationship with the area Coast Guard District leadership so that they can assist and support Sector and local Auxiliary operations. The goal is to have an Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) appointed for every Coast Guard Sector. At District level, the goal is also to have an Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC) appointed to every Coast Guard unit within the district's area of responsibility (AOR) below Sector level. We accomplished this with the appointment of Don Hoge as the ASC for Sector St. Petersburg, and within our division, the appointment of Rick Short, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander 72 as our AUC. This is a tremendous boost in our daily interaction with the Coast Guard and it affords the division many opportunities to work with the active duty personnel and to show them the talents and professionalism we exhibit on a daily basis.

Our year will be a productive one and a memorable one. Keep your commitment to this fine organization, keep your professionalism at a high level and keep your faith in your fellow Auxiliarists!

Semper Paratus!

Larry Neu, Division Commander



From the Helm

Jeffrey Gines, Division Vice Commander



With the first quarter of 2014 nearly behind us now, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation and gratitude for the great efforts and contributions of our members across Division 7 who stepped up to the challenges and opportunities we took on during the first months of this year. While there was much activity, and without detailing it all, I want to highlight some of those accomplishments that continue to drive some of the important goals we set for ourselves this year.

To date we are currently scheduled to deliver over 23 Boating Skills and Seamanship and 28 About Boating Safely program courses at various locations across the division. Our Flotillas are ramping up their efforts to bring in new students, so with this type of momentum, we are excited about the possibilities in our Public Education programs this year. There is also a tremendous amount of activity on the training front at the division level to include over ten students in our Telecommunications Operator class, and over 12 participating in the Division Boat Crew class. Some of our on-the-water activities have included participation in and support of another safe and successful Gasparilla Pirate Fest and the Fifth Annual Tampa Bay Frogman Swim. Thanks to all of those involved from coxswains and crew to Telecommunications Operators and to all those who helped plan and support all that was necessary to complete those missions.

In addition, we continue do great work in support of the Coast Guard as part of our on-going B-O SAR standby missions on weekends and holidays. Only possible by the great dedication of our members, we provide an important and valued support capability to Coast Guard Station St Petersburg through our members' significant sacrifices and commitment of time, energy, and resources. Great work here is being done by all; thank you. So far this year, we have also performed over 175 Partner Visits and over 360 Vessel Safety Checks. The list keeps going, so thank you all who have been so instrumental in accomplishing so much so far this year.

Now with spring nipping at our heels, there is still much to do and prepare for this year. With that, I recall the Leadership Workshop in January conducted at both Clearwater Air Station and at Flotilla 84 in Sarasota and attended by several members from across the Division. For me, these workshops have always been a great opportunity to meet the new, emerging leaders across our divisions and flotillas, to share our many

and varied experiences, to discuss our successes and challenges and share what drove us to join the Auxiliary. Those conversations are some of the most important aspects of the workshops and continue be valued when returning to our division to drive ahead on all that we will be taking on for the year. One thing that I also take back is that no matter what the initial reason that someone shared for joining the Auxiliary, the common thread is that we all decided to stand up and be counted among those 'Always Ready' to help save lives and protect the environment, whether it be through Public Education, Vessel Safety Checks, Safety Patrols, Public Outreach events, etc... Please be assured, there are few people who are trained to help save the lives of people who work and play on the water, and even fewer are those who are qualified to train and educate them on boating safely. As members, you are all a part of this important and vital team and mission. Again, we thank you all.

With that in mind, I want to re-enforce something I've stated in some of our division planning workshops and in several of the flotilla meetings that I attended. Accomplishing many of our goals and objectives across our many programs month after month this year is all about the flotillas. They are the life-blood of the Auxiliary; we are all members of a flotilla. Given that, we need your talents, your expertise, your energy, and your conviction. We need the very most and the very best that all of you are able to offer this great organization and this important missions. Please remember: your team of division staff officers is dedicated to supporting and assisting our flotillas and members in achieving our collective goals and objectives, and in ensuring that all members enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding experience with the Auxiliary.

Respectfully,

Jeff Gines, Division Vice Commander



Division 7 Change of Watch

Meet the new and returning elected and staff officers 2014

Division 7 held its annual Change of Watch ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013, at SeaScapes Beach House Restaurant, on MacDill Air Force Base.

A Change of Watch, or Change of Command is a military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one commanding officer to another. Military units attach a number of rituals and traditions to this ceremony including the inspection of the troops and the passing of the flag or ensign from one commander to another. Additionally, the ceremony symbolizes the transfer of loyalty and allegiance of the soldiers or sailors to the new commander. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is not a military unit and

practices none of these traditions. Our ceremony is marked by taking the oath of office required of elected and staff officers. The names of 2014 elected officers and Division 7 elected and staff appears appear on page two of this publication. We take this opportunity to congratulate each of them. We appreciate their service to Division 7 Coast Guard Auxiliary and to the Coast Guard.

Now, it is your turn. What service will you contribute this year to your flotilla, our division, and the Auxiliary? *Why did you join?* This is a new year. Resolve to commit at least a few hours every month to your flotilla. ⚓

First order of business at the Change of Watch ceremony on Dec. 7, 2013, was to thank last year's Staff Officers. They are (from left/ front row to rear) Terry Hershman, Cliff Martin, Marla Short, Alexandra Kaan, Rick Short, Bunny Johnson, Mike Shea (Division Commander), Jim Newman (Division Vice Commander), Robin Conn, Linda Churchill, Marvin Bayles, Dottie Riley, Paul Cooke, Judith Clapp, Jeff Gines, and Jim Fogle. Photo by George Papabeis



The 2014 elected Flotilla Commanders and Flotilla Vice Commanders take their oath of office. From front left they are D. Terry Hershman (FL 7-16), Mark Jaqua, Jim Mulligan (FL 74), John McLoughlin, Mike Massimini (FL 79). Back row: Guy Mandigo, Judith Clapp (FL 75) and Jack Lee (FL 72). Photo by George Papabeis





Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg Gene Keller, Flotilla Commander

Boating Skills and Seamanship classes are seeing only modest increases in attendance. The flotilla is considering exploring other out-of-the-box alternatives to improve class atten-

dance. The people attending our class are not necessarily those most in need of this training. Our approach to reaching out to under-served members of the boating public should be the priority.

Multiple planning sessions are underway to prepare for a flotilla based coxswain class. Our goal is to certify at least three new coxswains. Curriculum will match Division 7 training format.

Our Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations is working with two to three members who wish to offer new facilities for the flotilla in 2014.

We produced our first in-house video to be used on Facebook, "What to do before you leave the dock."

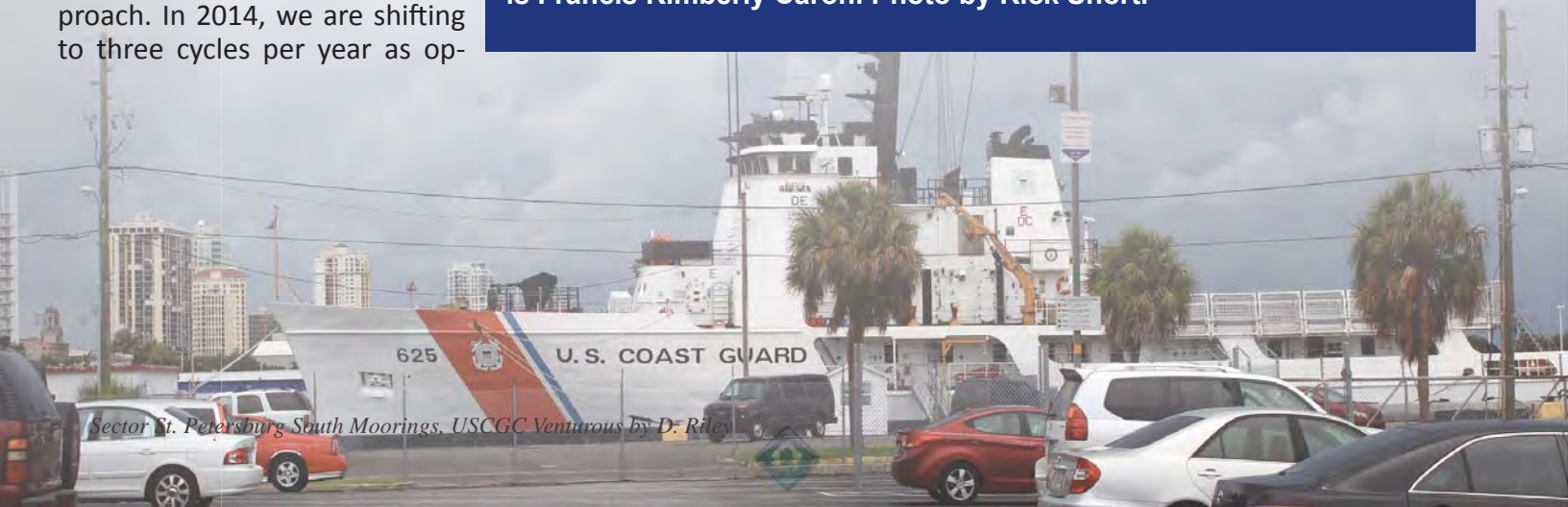
Our Flotilla Staff Officers Human Resources and Member Training are re-evaluating our new member training structure. They plan to re-launch the program in February with an improved approach. In 2014, we are shifting to three cycles per year as op-

posed to two in previous year, with more concentration on "the basics". Cycles that are more frequent will reduce lag-time for new members to get the most important information quickly.

Flotilla 72 members served as coxswains and crew for Frogman Swim event, Gasparilla Pirate Invasion and other missions. ☼



Dean Hoskin, Rick Smith, Marla Short and Rick Short (not shown) participate in a United States Coast Guard tactical exercise in June 2013. Marla is pictured on the bow of the Coast Guard 33-foot Special Purpose Craft-Law Enforcement. The United States Coast Guard gunner is Francis Kimberly Caron. Photo by Rick Short.



Flotilla 74 Brandon James Mulligan, Flotilla Commander

Flotilla 74 Program Visitors have resumed activities in Flotilla 74's area of operations including within our Polk County Detachment. We conducted Vessel Safety Checks at Williams Park in Riverview on Jan. 11, 2014 and will hold a barbeque at Williams Park on Feb. 11 for members following Vessel Safety Checks.

We presented our Boating Skills and Seamanship public education course on Jan. 11, 2014. On the same day, our Polk County Detachment conducted Vessel Safety Checks at Lake Arianna in Auburndale and Lake Summit, Winter Haven.

Flotilla 74 provided two vessels and vessel complements for Domestic Nuclear Detection Office Radiological Operations Preparedness Exercise (ROPE) in December 2013.

Our land mobile radio unit is functioning normally and was transferred to Mark Jaqua, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications.

George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs, completed filming the Public Service Announcements with professional bass fisherman, Shaw Grigsby. The following day, he shot footage of an HC-130 Hercules with members of Division 11 for Connie Irvin, District Staff Officer-Public Affairs.

MK3 Haleigh Franklin, Sta. St. Petersburg, has replaced MK1 Jason Heinz as the flotilla liaison from Station St. Petersburg. ⚓



Caption: George Papabeis, Staff Officer-Public Affairs, video tapes Bassmaster Shaw Grigsby on Jan. 8, 2014, at a Crystal River boat ramp. The context of this shoot is 'rules of the road' and a comparison of aids to navigation to street signs. Photo by D. Riley



Flotilla 75 Ruskin Guy Mandigo, Flotilla Commander

For the first time in over a year, Flotilla 75 was to present a "Boating Skills and Seamanship" course to 16 students; however, the class was cancelled because a paying customer

pre-empted our use of the banquet room at the Sunset Grill in Little Harbor. This underscores the flotilla's need for a permanent location for as well as for a place to store all the equipment

necessary to accomplish our mission.

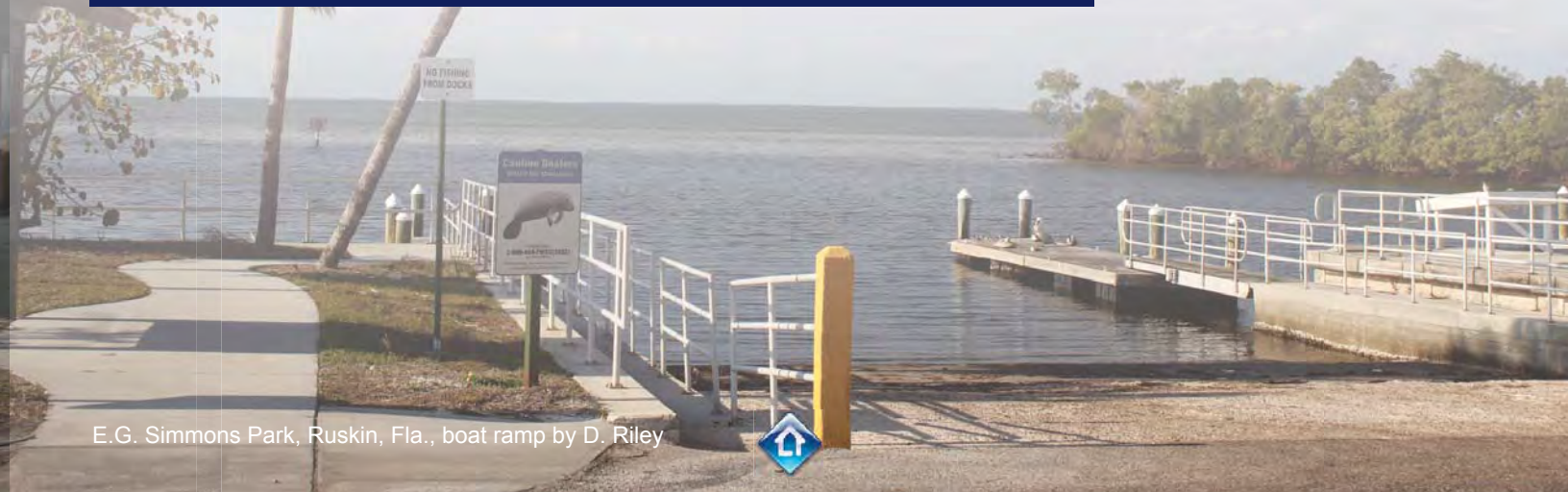
We conducted a 'Meet and Greet' event at Hideaway Recreational Vehicle Resort where we informed the residents of the Recreational Boating Safety missions of the Auxiliary and conducted 21 Vessel Safety Check.

Flotilla 75 plans to conduct a coxswain program at flotilla level during the later part of February. We will also send two candidates and one mentor to the Telecommunications Operator classes to be conducted at Flotilla 72 on Feb. 8 and 15, 2014.

Judy Clapp, Flotilla Vice Commander (and Staff Officer-Human Resources) and Pat Stone, Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources, are preparing a recruiting program with displays of large posters at local marinas and boat ramps. ❁



Guy Mandigo aboard the , *Bayou Bengal*, talks with crewmember Pat Stone during the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion on Jan. 25, 2014. Other crew included Keith Westbrook and Valerie Fernandes, coxswain (not shown). All are from Flotilla 75 Ruskin except Fernandes, who is from Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille. Photo by Valerie Fernandes



Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille Bradley Marchant, Flotilla Commander



After the Change of Watch ceremony in December, not much activity goes on at the flotillas until January, A--right? Not if you are a member of Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille! Before they celebrate the holidays and the flotilla's accomplishments during the calendar year, they have one final event to draw attention to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and our boating safety message: the annual Holiday Parade in St. Pete Beach.



Flotilla 78 was a hit at the annual St. Pete Beach Holiday Parade on Dec. 14, 2014. Participating members are (front to rear, from left) Mike Berkowitz, Warren Pfirman, Zelda Troiano, Tally Abruzzo (carrying American flag), Tony Novellino, Valerie Fernandes, Judy Abruzzo, Guy Mandigo (from Flotilla 75 Ruskin), Brad Marchant and Grace Marchant. Photo by Elizabeth Kreiter

Flotilla 78 was this year's winner of the D7 Commodore's Cup as the best/most improved flotilla in all of District 7. While they ended 2013 with a great display of their commitment to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, they started 2014 with as much dedication and pride in their service to the Coast Guard and to the boating public. Story next page.



Flotilla 78 in Action: *A routine training exercise becomes the 'real deal'.*

Anthony R. Novellino

On a cold, gusty afternoon in mid-January, Valerie Fernandes, USCG Auxiliary Coxswain, with crew Amanda Davis, William (Keith) Anderson and Trainee Anthony (Tony) Novellino, all from Flotilla 78, were on a routine Maritime Observation Mission in Boca Ciega Bay. The multi-mission objectives were to check on some of Flotilla 78's assigned private aids to navigation and to perform some annual division training tasks to include search patterns and man overboard (MOB) evolutions.

The patrol started as a routine patrol often does. Fernandes assigned the crew to forward, aft, and 360 observation and the trainee to monitor Channel 16 on a hand held radio. Fernandes then made radio contact with Flotilla 7-16, which provided radio guard throughout this patrol.

While running a sector search in Boca Ciega Bay, the trainee heard a sailboat hail the Flotilla 78 facility as the blue-hulled vessel. He said his metal dinghy broke free and was moving swiftly away from his boat and into the Boca Ciega Bay. The Auxiliary crew aimed to prevent further emergency call-outs and to stop the dinghy from being a hazard to navigation. The trainee replied to the sailboat that we would begin a search for the drifting dinghy but contact with the owner was lost after his initial transmission.

The crew was not aware that the owner had left the safety of his 36-foot sailboat in his kayak to begin his own search for the lost dinghy under small craft advisory conditions. While searching the bay for the dinghy, the crew observed a sailboat that had freed anchor and appeared to be aground and bouncing bottom in shallow water. The crew responded to the grounded sailboat to see if it was occupied and to get the registration numbers to alert the Coast Guard of a potential



Valerie Fernandes stands beside the operator of a sailboat that grounded on the shallows on Jan. 16, 2014. The operator lost his dinghy and tried unsuccessfully to retrieve it with his kayak- all under small craft advisory conditions! Fortunately for him, a crew from Flotilla 78 was on a maritime observation and training mission. Photo by Amanda Davis

navigation hazard. As they approached the sailboat, the crew observed a kayaker give the distress signal with his paddle. After speaking with the kayaker, the crew learned that he was the one who had initially hailed them. He stated he had been searching for his dinghy. They wanted to bring him on board but he refused. Wind was 20 knots gusting to 26. The kayaker was told to wait on the sand bar since conditions were difficult for him to paddle in. The crew started to check the channel adjacent to Maximo Channel for his dinghy since it was in the direction of drift.

“We came upon the dinghy midway thru the channel bouncing against a dock and seawall blocked by pilings with protruding oyster shells and rocks. After some maneuvering against the wind and current the dinghy was safely secured and taken in tow,” Fernandes stated.

Continued on page 12





Kayak? Dinghy? Both! With the operator safely on board their Auxiliary vessel, Valerie Fernandes along with crew members, Amanda Davis, Keith Anderson, and Tony Novellino (trainee), tow a sailor and his paddle crafts to Gulfport pier. Photo by Amanda Davis

Getting him aboard and securing his two vessels was not an easy task, as the Flotilla 78 facility was being blown onshore by the wind and current.

Once aboard, the kayaker was warmed with a blanket, rain jacket and life jacket. He refused medical assistance and appeared to warm up on the slow choppy ride, approximately 1 nautical mile across the bay. He identified himself and thanked the team as they pulled along his sailboat and returned him to safety.

The Coast Guard located the owner of the grounded sailboat with the registration numbers supplied by the Flotilla 78 crew and resolved the situation without any property damage.

The Flotilla 78 crew returned to their maritime observation mission after returning the kayaker and his boats to his moored sailboat. The 'search and rescue' portion of the mission turned out to be the real thing rather than a training patrol, and the observation part protected the safety of the waterway and prevented damage to personal property.

Another day in fulfilling the overarching mission of the USCG Auxiliary mission to contribute to the safety and security of our citizens, ports, waterways and coastal regions.

Reprinted from Paradise News: <http://paradise-newsfl.com/tidbits/tidbits-january-2014/2281-local-us-coast-guard-flotilla-78-auxillary-in-action.html>

Continued from page 11

The team returned to the kayaker and found him standing in a shallow area near the entrance to Maximo channel alongside his kayak. He advised his sailboat was across the bay moored near the Gulfport Pier. It was cold, very windy, and a small craft advisory was in effect. They knew the kayaker was exhausted, cold, and would not be able to paddle the kayak and dinghy against the wind and current. They threw him line advising him to put his 16-foot kayak inside his dinghy, and to use the line to secure it. He was in a short wet-suit and shivering. He said he was cold. The Flotilla 78 crew battled the wind and current but were able to pull him up over the bow in an effort not to be blown onto the shore.





Flotilla 79 Tampa

Michael Massimini, Flotilla Commander

Flotilla 79 will participate in the Boat Crew training program. We have several trainees attending and will contribute Flotilla 79 facilities, instructors, mentors, and crew for on-the-water

portion of training.

Our flotilla plans to initiate the New Member Training (Boot Camp) similar to the program at Flotilla 72. We plan on three cycles per year and will include topics such as the background of the Coast Guard Auxiliary including how it is organized, chain of leadership and management, flotilla organization, our links to the Coast Guard, member status, uniforms, opportunities to serve, training available to members and certifications.

We had a guest speaker at the January meeting of Flotilla 79. Mr. Fernando Lopez, Hillsborough County Marine Safety Coordinator and prior active duty Coast Guard spoke about various marine safety issues including aids to navigation in Tampa Bay, derelict vessel hazards, 'No Wake' zones and manatee zones.

BM1 Ryan, USCG, Liaison from Station St. Petersburg, attended the January meeting. We were glad to have him and hope to see more of him.

Of course, vessels and crew from our flotilla participated in both the Annual Frogman Swim and the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion. During the Gasparilla Invasion, Linda Churchill acted as Auxiliary Patrol Commander while Tim Teahan served as Auxiliary Communications coordinator aboard the Tampa Fire Department's vessel, *Patriot*. ❄

Karim Merchant keeps a watchful eye on a passing vessel during Tampa's Holiday Lighted Boat Parade on Dec. 22, 2013. He is aboard the Flotilla 79 facility, *Chasin' Tail*; John Simone, coxswain, and Larry Ivey and George Papabeis (Flotilla 74), fellow crew. Photo by George Papabeis





Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport Donald Hershman, Flotilla Commander

By the end of January, Flotilla 7-16 already held five Vessel Examinations blitzes. Don Rimel reached a career milestone by completing his 2000th Vessel Safety Check on Jan. 14, 2014. What an accomplishment. Bravo Zulu, Don!

On Dec. 14, 2013, Flotilla 7-16 held a fellowship open house and potluck. What a wonderful event! We had over 60 people in attendance and probably close to 100 outside the building up and down the marina seawall to see the annual boat parade on Boca Ciega Bay.

The food was great, the boat parade even better. Nate Ogborn brought a nautical cake adorned with "Coast Guard Auxiliary". It didn't last long. Locals had a chance

to see the Safe Boating Training Center all lit up for the holidays. It was great opportunity for people see that the Axillary is an active part of their community. ❄

When You're Hot, You're Hot!

Flotilla 7-16 had a lot to celebrate. They ended 2013 with 697 total Vessel Examinations! Congratulations to all of the Vessel Examiners who made this possible.

Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport celebrated the holidays on Dec. 14, 2013, with a wonderful potluck dinner. Friends from other flotillas joined them in the holiday celebration and to watch the annual lighted boat parade. Photos and photo illustration by D. Riley



Division 7 Celebrates the Holidays

Photos from some of our flotillas



Above: Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport enjoys a full house at their annual end of the year holiday celebration on Dec. 14, 2013, after which the members, guests and visitors from the local community stepped outside and watch the lighted boat parade. Photos by David Main



Above: Flotilla 79 Tampa held its annual holiday dinner and 'Dirty Santa' gift exchange" on Dec. 16, 2013. Member Zac Lessin took on the role of 'Dirty Santa.' He is seen at right with Jean Lorenz who had more gifts 'stolen' than nearly every other member. Photos by D. Riley

Left: Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille participated in the annual St. Pete Beach holiday parade. For names of participating members and complete caption, see photo on page 10. Photo by Elizabeth Kreiter



Gasparilla Pirate Invasion:

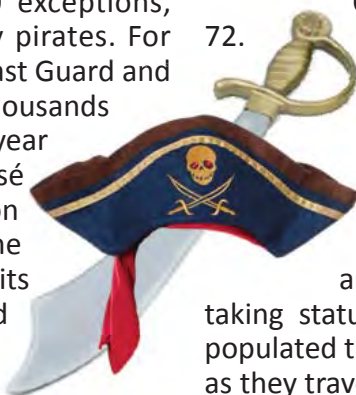
A Tradition Dating Back to 1904.

By Richard Risk



Boaters watch the Jose' Gaspar advance upon the Tampa Convention Center where the pirates will stage a mock attack and secure the keys to the city from Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa. Photo by D. Riley

Annually since 1904, with only 10 exceptions, Tampa Bay has been “invaded” by pirates. For more than 50 of those years, the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary have assisted in keeping the thousands of boaters who came to watch safe. This year was no different, as the pirate ship José Gasparilla sailed into the Port of Tampa on a cold Saturday, Jan. 25, escorted by the Tampa Fire Rescue fireboat Patriot with its water cannons fully energized and trailed by an armada of some 16 vessels for the 2014 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion.



72.

Clapp, Flotilla 75, and Jim Nelson, Flotilla 72. They were on the air from 6:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., rotating one radio operator and one logger each hour. The third person did plotting and tracking when needed, and handled landline traffic. They provided radio guard for Auxiliary vessels en route to Tampa Bay from points all around, conducted roll calls every half hour taking status reports while the recreational boaters populated the bay, and monitored the Auxiliary vessels as they traveled home after the parade.

Gasparilla is said to be the largest boat parade in the nation. It has seen as many as 3,000 boats participating, and nearly every year, draws 300,000 spectators. One year, the parade drew an estimated one million.

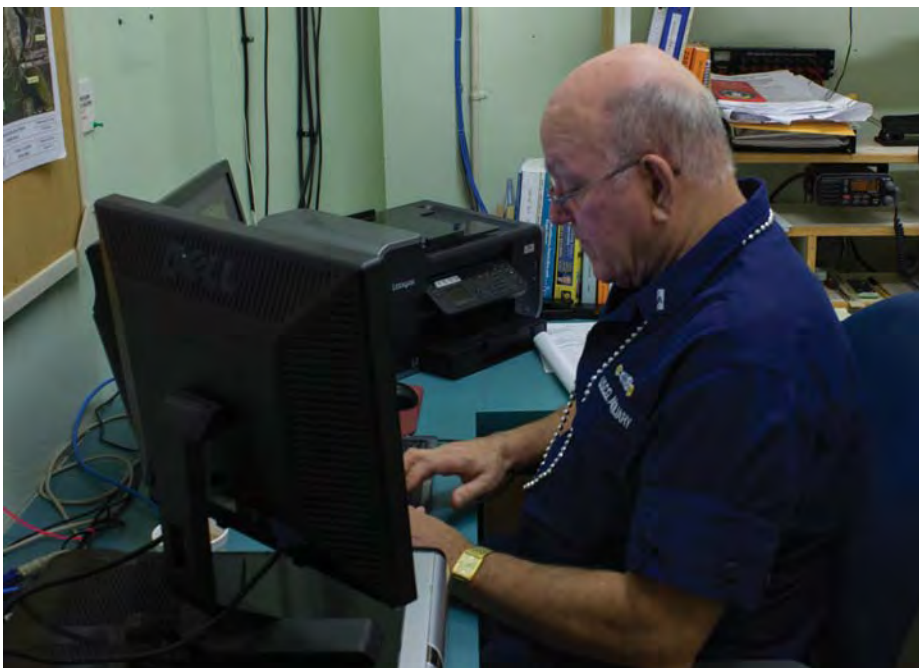
The Coast Guard’s primary mission, along with its partner agencies including the Auxiliary, was to provide safety and security for the Gasparilla parade, which was attended by thousands of recreational boaters. While Auxiliary units are prohibited from conducting law enforcement actions, the 18 Auxiliary facilities patrolling the waters along the parade route and at the entrance to the security zones played a major role in educating mariners of the “No Wake Zone” and existence of restricted areas to boaters. The Auxiliary also supported the Manatee Watch program required under the marine event permit issued by the Coast Guard to the event sponsor, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla. The movement of manatees, an endangered species, into the parade route could have caused a diversion or even a delay of the parade.

Coxswains, boat crew, trainees and radio watchstanders from Divisions 7, 8 and 11, operated the 18 participating Auxiliary vessels and their support systems. They assembled on Thursday, Jan. 23, at Flotilla 79 Tampa to review the Incident Action Plan. Linda Churchill, Staff Officer-Operations, coordinated the Auxiliary component, ably assisted by her predecessor, Cliff Martin, and Tim Teahan, Flotilla 79, who served as Auxiliary Communications aboard the Patriot as the primary link to the Coast Guard and other agencies.

David Rockwell, Staff Officer-Communications, headed the radio guard from Flotilla 79’s “Tampa Radio One” at the Salty Sol boat ramp with watchstanders Len Chiacchia, Flotilla 74, Judith

CAPT Gregory D. Case, commander of Sector St. Petersburg, was the USCG incident commander. Other Coast Guard participants included the USCGC Hawk, Station St. Petersburg, Station Cortez, Station Sand Key and Aids to Navigation. LTJG Shawn Antonelli of Sector St. Petersburg was primary liaison to the Auxiliary.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Tampa Police Department, and Manatee County Sheriff’s Office were also involved in the event. The Ash Group coordinated the Manatee Watch on behalf of its client, Ye Mystic Krewe, in coordination with the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, which provided the aerial spotter, Tom Ash. He rode in WFLA-TV’s helicopter, Eagle 8, piloted by Kevin Shelton. ❁



Len Chiacchia, Flotilla 74, updates the radio log at Tampa Radio One for the status reports received from Auxiliary vessels participating in the 2014 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion. Photo by George Papabeis





The *Jose' Gasparilla* pirate ship makes it way towards Tampa to capture the city accompanied by a flotilla of 'pirate ships'. Recreational boaters play the part of pirates for the day.

Right: The *Coast Guard Cutter Hawk* assists in providing safety and security during the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion on Jan. 25, 2014, in Tampa Bay. Photos by Gerge Papabeis



Gasparilla Pirate Invasion

There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world!



Top: Jim Nelson from Flotilla 72 was one of four members who provided radio guard for the on the water Auxiliary vessels during the parade. Photo by George Papabeis

Left: A member of the annual Manatee Watch sponsored by the St. Petersburg City Commission (E) holds up a sign designating this Auxiliary vessel as on Manatee Watch. Photo by Richard Risk

Right: Pat Stone aboard the *Bayou Bengal* from Flotilla 75 holds up the sign to warn boaters to slow down in Cut "C" during the Gasparilla Invasion. Photo by Valerie Fernandes



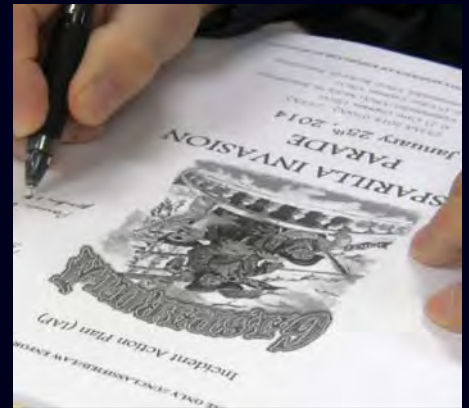


Right: The *Bayou Bengal* and its crew: Guy Mandigo, Keith Westbrook, Patricia Stone and Valerie Fernandes, coxswain (not shown) crew, on patrol in Cut "C" during the Gasparilla Invasion. All are from Flotilla 75 Ruskin except Fernandes, who is from Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille. Photo by Valerie Fernandes

Midpage-right: An Auxiliary member takes notes during the orientation meeting for coxswains and crews assisting with Gasparilla on-the-water activities. Photo by Richard Risk

Center page: Gene Keller, Flotilla Commander 72 radios in his status aboard *Luv@1st.Site*. Stan Clark, Dick Risk, and Marvin Bayles, all from Flotilla 72 served as crew. Photo by Dick Risk

Below right: Coxswains and crew participate in the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion orientation meeting prior to the Pirate Invasion to receive schedules and assignments from Auxiliary Operations and the Coast guard. Photo by Richard Risk





Gasparilla P

More photos

Left: Teresa Kasper from Flotilla 11-1 Clearing the Salty Sol boat ramp (Flotilla 79) in the week before the commencement of the parade. Auxiliary vessels participated in the annual event. Photo by



Below: A pelican seems undisturbed by all of the activity and noise of several Auxiliary vessels launching from the Salty Sol boat ramp in Tampa before the pirate invasion. Photo by George Papabeis



Above left: A helicopter overhead assists in spotting manatees during the pirate invasion. Finding and counting manatees is a required task issued by the Coast Guard to the event planners.

Above right: Auxiliary vessels from several divisions docked behind Flotilla 79 in the early morning hours +before the parade.

Photos by George Papabeis



Pirate Invasion

by our members

Water secures an Auxiliary vessel at the morning hours of Jan. 25, 2014, before y vessels from three divisions (7,8 and 9) George Papabeis



Above: The *Sea Hugger* coxswained by Larry Ivey (Flotilla 79) with crew members Heleyde Aponte (Flotilla 79), and Kathy Clatsworhy (Flotilla 7-16) heads for its assignment with members of the Manatee Watch on board. Photo by George Papabeis



Below: Sorry, guys! No dogs allowed! The *Bayou Bengal* and its crew from left: Keith Westbrook, Guy Mandigo (rear), Patricia Stone and Valerie Fernandes, coxswain (front), board their vessel at Antique Cove Marina in Ruskin before the Gasparilla Invasion. All are from Flotilla 75 Ruskin except Fernandes, who is from Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille. Photo by unnamed passerby.

tees from the air during the Gasparilla Pi-
d function under the marine event permit

ed at the ramp at the Salty Sol boat ramp
parade.



Staff Reports

Logistics

Cliff Holensworth-Communication Services and Information Services

- All Flotilla Staff Officer-Information Systems sent out annual member letters.
- We are scheduling an Information Systems workshop for all of the Flotilla Staff Officers-Information Systems.
- We completed the annual review of Auxiliary Data System (AUXDATA) access rights and submitted it to District 7.
- **Terry Hershman-Diversity**
- All flotillas have appointed Flotilla Staff Officers-Diversity
- Training for Flotilla Staff Officer-Diversity started in January.
- The Staff Officer-Diversity began visiting the various Division 7 flotillas in January.

Judith Clapp-Human Resources

- A workshop for Human Resources Flotilla Staff Officers started on Feb. 4 at Flotilla 74.
- The Staff Officer-Human Resources and Assistant District Staff Officer-Human Resources D7 are in the process of planning to offer Flotilla Staff Officers-Human Resources and other interested parties training on completing the ANSC 7001 (Enrollment Form) and in fingerprinting.

Ronald Matz-Materials

- US Postal Rate increase notification sent to all Flotilla Staff Officers-Materials.
- The Auxiliary has collaborated with FedEx Office (formerly Kinko's) to offer special rates on printing services for Auxiliary members. (See sidebar this page for details.)

George Papabeis-Public Affairs

- Planning is underway for participation in MacDill AirFest on Mar. 22-23, 2014. A call for watchstanders went out via a "Division Seven United" email to the members. Cinda Hitchcock is the point of contact for this event.

Printing Services for Auxiliary Members

The Auxiliary has collaborated with FedEx Office (formerly Kinko's) to offer special rates on printing services for Auxiliary members. A member can go online to FedEx's documentation store, select Auxiliary documents including manuals, order their printing, then pick up the completed order at your nearest FedEx office (or have the order delivered).

As an example of the savings you get through this program, printing the Auxiliary Manual can cost as much as \$70 if printed outside of the program. Through the program, you pay around \$17. Three-hole punched paper is used. Bear in mind that these manuals and documents including brochures and posters are available to members through the Auxiliary's website. *All documents are still available free of charge on CD or in electronic form on the Auxiliary website.* This FedEx program is for those members that like things the old fashioned way - lots of paper!

Please note that the cost of printing through the FedEx program is paid for by the member with the member's credit card.

Using the FedEx website is easy. You will need these three pieces of information in order to log on to the website.

Website: <https://docstore.fedex.com/uscgaux/>

ID: uscgaux

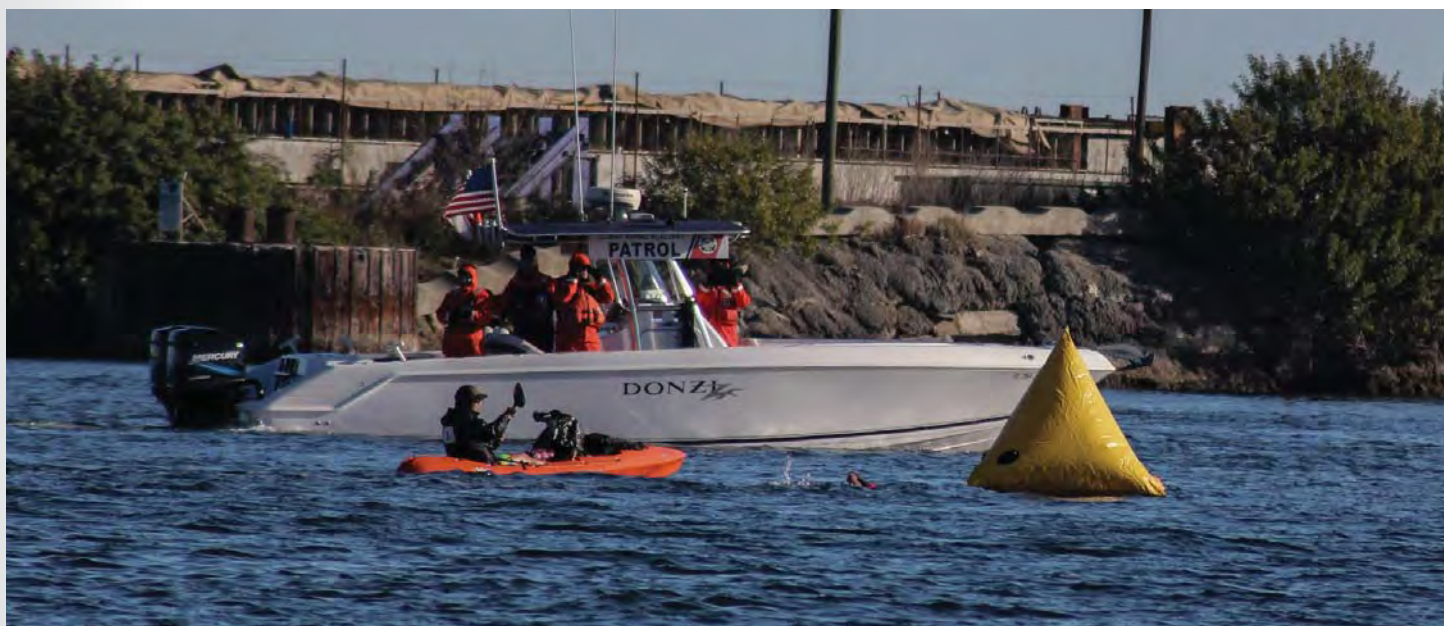
Password: uscgaux1! (Note: the exclamation point at the end of the password)

(The above information is posted on the District7 Staff Officer-Materials web page.)

Continued on page 23



Staff Reports



An unidentified swimmer takes the lead swimming past the Auxiliary vessel *Chasin Tail* and is cheered on by its crew, John Simone, coxswain, and crew Larry Ivey, John McLoughlin, and Jennifer Logan-Porter (trainee) during the Fifth Annual Frogman Swim on Jan. 19, 2014. Photo taken from the deck of the Auxiliary facility *Endurance* with Joe Lamb, coxswain, Bob Easterday, Pat Costello and George Papabeis, crew. All are from Flotilla 79 except Costello who is from Flotilla 75, and Papabeis who is from Flotilla 74. Photo by George Papabeis.

Logistics/Public Affairs Staff Officer report

Continued from page 22

- Photographed 5th Annual Frogman Swim as well as the Gasparilla parade
- All Flotilla Staff Officers-Public Affairs are in the process of, or have completed the AUX 20 Introduction to Public Affairs course.
- The Public Affairs Department initiated planning activities for participation in the 2014 Tropicana Field Boat Show in March.
- We are co-sponsored a fishing/boating safety class with a local fishing guide on Jan. 19, 2014.
- Filmed three Public Service announcements with Shaw Grigsby from elite Bassmasters for the 'V' Directorate working with Dottie Riley, Staff Officer-Publications, Charles Truthan, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander 15-3, Ocala, and Michael Klacik, Director, V-Directorate. Sent out rough edits for approval.
- Photographed C-130 airdrops under direction of Connie Irving, District Staff Officer-Public Affairs D7. Photographs from the shoot are for backlit displays

and posters at the Miami and Orlando airports.

Dottie Riley-Publications

- Completed and distributed the Division pictorial calendar for all members to make notes and to keep for reference. This was a joint venture with George Papabeis, Staff Officer-Public Affairs.
- Planned and organized a video project for the Vessel Examinations Directorate to create three Public Service Announcements. George Papabeis, Staff Officer-Public Affairs, video graphed the footage on Jan. 9, on the Crystal River (Division 15). The third team member, Charles Truthan, is members of that division.
- **Intercom** actively encourages the submission of articles and photographs for publication. In addition to Auxiliary events and activities, subjects may include any topics that may be of interest to our members. These are frequently maritime related, "How-to's", or boating safety related. What interests you? Share it with our members.



Staff Reports



The Tampa Bay Frogman Swim is a 5K Open Water Swim and Fundraiser in support of the Navy SEAL Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non profit ranked by Charity Navigator as one of the top charities in the nation. The proceeds of the Tampa Bay Frogman Swim are used to provide injury assistance to Navy SEALs and tragedy assistance for families who have lost a loved one in training or combat. Their goal is to provide support for the Naval Special Warfare Community and to perpetuate the history and heritage of the U.S. Naval Commandos. (Source: navyseals.com) Photo by George Papabeis

Response

David Rockwell-Communications

- The Communications staff re-established and published the Radio Watch Calendar for all Telecommunications Operators within the division. We also planned and finalized the instructor-lead and mentor sessions for the annual Telecommunications Operator training at Flotilla 72.
- Communication with Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications and Division Response Department is improving significantly due to great efforts of our highly motivated Flotilla Staff Officers from all of our flotillas
- Improved alignment of Operations, Navigation Systems, Member Training, and Communications help

streamline radio support for operations.

- We are experiencing some delays submitting Telecommunications Operator packages for certification. Rockwell is working closely with the Assistant District Staff Officer-Communications D7 to have these packages flow through the review and submission process more smoothly.
- The Staff Officer-Communications assisted Gulfport Radio 7-16 with their radio installation. We found a bad antenna coax causing poor radio operation. We replaced the coax and the radio is now operating correctly.

David Langdon-Member Training

- Crew training classes will begin Feb. 20. Other classes and training opportunities are tentatively



Staff Reports

scheduled through mid-year.

- New Member Training (Boot Camp): We plan on three cycles per year and will cover the background of the Coast Guard Auxiliary including how it is organized, chain of leadership and management, flotilla organization, links with the active duty side, different types of member status, uniforms, opportunities to serve, training and certifications.
- We are planning a refresher courses for all crew and coxswains and a review of B-0 and marine observation missions and sharing the experiences of our crew and coxswains.

Linda Churchill—Operations

- We conducted an Operations planning workshop with a follow-up workshop on Jan. 11, 2014.
- The Fifth Annual Frogman Swim benefiting wounded Navy Seals and their families was held on Jan. 19, 2014. Three Division 7 facilities participated and provided safety zones along the five kilometer swim route.
- Gasparilla: Eighteen Auxiliary vessels participated in this year's Pirate Invasion and manatee count. Twelve were from Division 7, three from Division 8, and three from Division 11 representing a total of 18 coxswains approximately 52 crew, four Telecommunications Operators Commander at Tampa Radio 1 as well as one Telecommunications Operator acting as Auxiliary Communications on the *Patriot*, the Tampa Fire boat. We were on station by 10:00 a.m. and released at 1:30 p.m. There were two assists, one done by Manny Sosa from Flotilla 11-1, and one by Rick Short from Flotilla 72. We provided four vessels to the Manatee Watch program for their annual count. Six manatees got quite a lot of press but stayed in Sutton Channel...Great job by all participants!
- We are working on getting additional facilities as several are no longer on the roster due to sales, member health issues, and retirement

Prevention

James Fogle—Public Education

The Staff Officer-Public Education and Flotilla Staff Officers-Public Education are working on a brochure of all of the division's Public Education programs to distribute at Public Affairs and Program Visitor events and venues.

Tim Teahan—RBS Program Visitor

Program Visitor department is a work in progress with new Staff Officer-Program Visitor and both division and flotilla levels who all need training and support. **John**



Gene Keller, Flotilla Commander Flotilla 72 performs a Vessel Examinations on Jan. 19 with the vessel owner standing by. Vessel Safety Check are a great opportunity to educate recreational boaters about boating safety. Photo by Dick Risk

Simone- Vessel Examinations

- Over 30 Vessel Safety Checks were conducted during a planned Vessel Examinations blitz at St. Pete Yacht Club.
- Flotilla 72 improved its capabilities to serve the public with Vessel Safety Check by training an additional seven members to become qualified as Vessel Examiners. ❄



Are We Presentable?

By George Papabeis

Public Affairs is the responsibility of every member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. First, we represent the U.S. Coast Guard. While we are civilian volunteers, the public see the words "Coast Guard" on our uniforms, facilities, and displays and has expectations of our behavior and appearance.

In the 21st Century, the technology for acquiring both still and moving images (video) are at our fingertips. Most cell phones today have built in cameras. In-expensive electronic cameras today offer quality that ten years ago, could only be found only on professional equipment. The opportunity to acquire imagery, coupled with an Auxiliarist's enthusiasm, can come at odds with what the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary and the Public expect of us.

Every Auxiliarist should be aware of the following every time a camera is pointed in your direction:

- No cigarettes. Either discard it or move it out of sight.
- No Alcohol. No explanation necessary.
- No eating. Examples: 1) You are at a banquet: put the fork down when a picture is being taken. 2) You are on a surface patrol: remove the bag of chips from sight.
- No sunglasses. Don't hang them from your shirt pocket; don't perch them on your head. If you are on patrol and can take them off for the photographer that's fine. If taking your sunglasses off will interfere with safe operations, then that takes priority.
- Gig line. Check it. Fix it.
- Footwear. Proper shoes with Tropical Blue uniform, Boots with operational dress uniform (ODU). If you are wearing deck shoes on patrol at the request of the coxswain, keep them out of sight below the gunwales if a camera is pointed in your direction. If you are wearing ODUs on any on shore function, boots are the required footwear.



Dorothy Riley snaps a portrait during the 2013 Division 7 orientation meeting. Photo by George Papabeis.

- Wear name tags, collar devices correctly. This is self-explanatory.

- No chewing gum or tobacco. Stop masticating, or get rid of it during photography.

- Don't look at the camera. There are exceptions, but in general, if you see the photographer framing a shot don't try to help by waving at the camera or doing "thumbs up." Do not move out of the frame to "get out of the way." The photogra-

pher might have something in mind and your helpfulness just ruined the shot.

- Life jackets should be fastened and zipped. This includes float coats. Good photographs have been rendered useless because of this.

- Uniform for Vessel Examinations. There is some latitude when doing vessel exams, however, a hodgepodge of uniforms renders the concept of uniforms useless. Check with your Flotilla Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations, and Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations for acceptable attire.

- Cell phones and personal digital assistants: avoid using cell-phones and tablets when being photographed. Remove cellphone ear buds.

- Covers: On when outside, off when inside. Ball-caps with bill forward at all times.

- If you are approached by a member of the media, say only what you know. Do not guess or exaggerate. Do not talk about it if you did not do it (no second-hand information).

Most of these points are either common sense or part of United States Coast Guard Auxiliary regulations. A few require an extra awareness. The United States Coast Guard motto is "Semper Paratus," always ready. With that in mind, the Auxiliarist will always be "Presentable". ❄





Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Annual Fund 2014

Many people don't realize that the Coast Guard is the least funded of all our country's military branches. That's why I ask for help from people like you who understand that the Coast Guard enables us to sail with confidence, knowing they're there if we ever need them. By making a tax-deductible gift today, you will help us provide vital assistance to the Coast Guard's 43,000 members – especially when they need it most.

When you consider that members of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary risk their lives every day, protecting our safety and defending our country, I'm sure you'll agree they deserve our support. On an average day, they ...

- Save the lives of ten people in peril
- Conduct 56 search and rescue operations
- Aid 100 people in distress
- Prevent 454 pounds of cocaine from hitting our streets
- Respond to eight oil or hazardous chemical spills
- Protect more than 361 ports and patrol 95,000 miles of coastline while keeping a vigilant watch for threats against our nation's security and those who would do us harm.

On behalf of the thousands of Team Coast Guard members we assist each year, thank you so much for your generosity.

www.coastguardfoundation.org



Photographs on left and center right courtesy of NOAA

Top right: Richard Miles, Division 24, District 8 ER checking on a fellow member's welfare. Bottom right: Flotilla 16-9 members assist with clean-up. Photographs provided by Lynn Miles, District 8-ER Public Affairs Officer.



Gasparilla madness serves a greater purpose: Auxiliarist Help Protect Florida Manatees

By Dorothy Riley

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 general 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 touch swimmers deliberately as well as inanimate objects in the water, and are never aggressive.



Above: The Sea Hugger heads for its assigned position to observe manatees with an official observer from Tampa Bay Manatee Watch in the bow. On board are Larry Ivey, coxswain, with crew Heleyde Aponte (both from Flotilla 79) and Cathy Clatsworthy, Flotilla 7-16.

Below: Kevin Shelton, an observer from Tampa Bay Manatee Watch searches for evidence of manatee snouts breaching the water from the deck of the Lil' Nan with Bob Easterday, coxswain, and Joe Lamb and George Papabeis, crew. Photos by George Papabeis



The West Indian (Florida) manatee was once abundant throughout the tropic and subtropical western North and South Atlantic and Caribbean waters. The mana-

Continued on page 29



tee'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 Mississippi.

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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Note: According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, as of their last aerial survey conducting in 2011, only 4,834 Florida manatees remain. Last year (2013), over 800 manatees died from all causes (commercial fishing, Red Tide, etc.), and approximately 99, or one in eight deaths, were attributed to human causes. ★

How real is the danger of extinction to the Florida manatee?

May they not suffer the same fate as the Caribbean monk seal!

The southern coastal areas of Florida were once home to another large mammalian marine animal, the Caribbean monk seal, also known as the West Indian monk seal. This species is related to (same genus, *Monachus*) the Mediterranean monk seal and Hawaiian monk seal. Both of these species are critically endangered.

The last sighting of a Caribbean monk seal in Florida was in 1952. None were seen in aerial surveys in 1973, and no confirmed sightings have been reported since then. Many scientists believe that the species has been extinct since the early 1950s. No recovery effort is being made for this species.

(Source: www.nefsc.noaa.gov)



Monk seals are critically endangered in both California and Hawaii. Florida's monk seals are extinct. Shown are two Hawaiian monk seals at Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, 2007, NOAA Photo Library: sanc1297, Author: Paulo Maurin. (Reprint ok w/ proper attribution.)

For more information about Florida endangered or extinct species, visit:

<http://www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/imperiled/>



Member Focus: Robert (Bob) Easterday

Interview by George Papabeis

This year marks Bob Easterday's 25th anniversary of joining the Auxiliary. His history with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is a long one. While he joined the organization (Coast Guard District 02W) in 1988, he received his Boy Scout Motor Boat merit badge November 9, 1965. The class was taught by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

When did you become crew/coxswain/AUXOP qualified?

After joining on July 5, 1988, I became crew qualified May 9, 1989. Remember, in St. Louis we don't boat November through April. Also, we didn't have to go to coxswain training right away as there was a level called 'operator' to which I advanced to June 13, 1989. It wasn't until September 10, 1990, that I was awarded the coxswain rating and on August 21, 2003, that I received recognition within the Operational Excellence Program. I don't believe there are too many members, if any within our Division that have earned that distinction.

On October 21, 1991, I became Operational Auxiliarist Specialty Program (AUXOP). I should point out that in my division, there was no formal training for boat crew operations or AUXOP, and that each member was on their own to study, practice and train. We then asked for a qualifying examination to review and test us. There were many restless nights preparing for the examinees.

Where was your original flotilla and area of operations?

Oddly enough, I first joined Flotilla 1, Division 7, Coast Guard District 2. Don't look for it because it no longer exists. Our area of operations was the Mississippi river from about Cape Girardeau, Mo., up to about Hannibal, Mo.; from the mouth of the Illinois River up to the first lock and dam and from the mouth of the Missouri River up to Washington, Mo., several hundred miles of rivers and all of their tributaries. We put many miles on vehicles towing boats from one area to another to save time and costs.



Bob Easterday, Flotilla 79 Tampa, calls in his vessel's status and location during the Gasparilla pirate invasion. This is Easterday's 25th year in the Auxiliary. Photo by George Papabeis

When did you move to Florida?

I moved to Tampa in January of 2003. I needed a change from the mid-west and found it here.

Why did you join the Auxiliary?

As I stated before, I took my first safe boating class in November 1965 from the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I have owned a boat of some form or fashion since then, so I have almost 50 years of boating under my belt. In 1985, I achieved a high calling in one of my loves, scuba diving. I became an instructor and had the dream of retiring someday to work in a dive shop teaching scuba. We didn't have any Sea School or such in St Louis. I ran into some Auxiliarists in 1988 who said they could give me the training to get my commercial endorsement as a Master (Captain), so I joined the Auxiliary and became a Merchant Marine Officer in July 1992. I have served in that capacity on a variety of vessels since that time.

Given your history with the Auxiliary, what are your personal observations?

When I joined the Auxiliary, I had a goal in mind and that was to get the necessary training to get my Mer-



chant Marine License. I accomplished that and thought it was important that I return the favor by working with and training others so that they could accomplish their goals as well. I think that the biggest reason that we have so many people join, only to leave within a year or two, is that either they don't have a goal or they don't know how to go about achieving it. I think that a lot of that falls on the leadership and the failure of our membership to adopt and mentor the new members and guide them towards achievement. I think we are so focused on building membership that we fail to ask the prospect why does he or she want to join. I have a feeling that many don't really know and most don't have a goal to work on once they become a member.

What I have seen throughout the years is so much interest in trying to do everything that we often fail to accomplish anything to the level of excellence that would make us outstanding. The leadership training I was given seems to be different today from the direc-

tion we took 20 years ago. The emphasis today seems to be on unit success rather than on individual development. *'Do all things well instead of doing a few things outstandingly.'* A volunteer has to have a passion for what they are doing to motivate him/her to give up their time and treasure in support of the Auxiliary. Leadership has to make sure that individual efforts stand above those of the unit. There's a nautical phrase that says, *'A flood tide raises all boats.'* When you have people who are motivated and have a solid plan of action, their enthusiasm becomes contagious and then everyone benefits. Martin Luther King said, "If your job is sweeping the streets, then be the best street sweeper you can".

As I look back, I can say that I have enjoyed my time in the Auxiliary and would hope that those who join today can enjoy it half as much as I have. ❀

MacDill AirFest 2014

March 22-23, 2014

See the U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds breath-taking aerial performance!

Division 7 will staff a booth and offer boating information and literature to the public as well as host a great display featuring several types of vessels. We need watchstanders for two shifts on both Saturday and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to noon, and from noon until 4:00 p.m.

Uniform: While either Tropical blue or operational dress uniform is acceptable, we recommend operational dress uniforms as the hangars can be dusty. Our goal is ten members for each shift so that everyone participating can take turns walking around and watching the aerial displays.

We will provide bottled water. (You should bring food, as the food lines are very long.)

Due to MacDill's security policies, participants must provide information ahead of the event for base clearance. Information required includes last name, first name, and middle name, date

of birth, Social Security Number, driver's License number and issuing state. If you plan to bring your spouse, the same information is required. Exceptions: a valid, current military or retired I.D. card. (Auxiliary I.D. is not a military I.D.)

Please respond as soon as possible as it takes time to process these clearances. Please email this information to Cinda Hitchcock. (See AUXOFFICER for email/phone.)



Thunderbirds: U.S.A.F. photograph



Copyrights:

What to watch out for in your publications and videos.



By Dottie Riley

Photographs and illustrations can make or break a newsletter. Pages of plain type are unattractive and often it is the photograph that draws the reader into the article or story. Publication officers are often faced with one of two dilemmas: An interesting article that offers useful information with no accompanying photographs or illustrations, or too many great photos of a single event not to want to share the best with the members. In the second example, members are often inclined to turn the abundance of images into a video complete with music, while in the first example, publication officers may wring their hands or search the internet for relevant images. In both instances, we must be careful not to violate copyright laws.

All images and photographs produced by members may be used in newsletters without fear of violating copyright laws. Photographs taken by Auxiliarists while in uniform or while at Auxiliary functions are automatically the property of the Coast Guard and fall under public domain. We must, however, provide attribution; that is, credit the photographer or source. When the photographer is unknown, attribution should be, "Coast Guard Auxiliary photograph."

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In the second example; turning the photographs into a video, using recorded or digital music owned by an artist or their agents is again, a copyright violation. Just as with imagery and photographs, there are numerous sources of royalty free music that we may use without violating copyrights.

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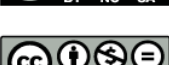
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George Papabeis (blue jacket) on board an Auxiliary vessel from Flotilla 15-1 Crystal River with Don Jones, coxswain, and Charles Truthan, crew, prepares to shoot a series of Public Service Announcements (PSA) of Bassmaster Master angler, Shaw Grigsby (in vessel on right), on Jan. 8, 2014. Temperatures were in the thirties during the taping, one of the coldest days Florida experienced this winter. The PSAs are being produced for the Coast Guard Auxiliary V-Directorate. Photo by D. Riley

Nautical terms to know...

Coxswain: A coxswain or cockswain was at first the swain (boy servant) in charge of the small cock or cockboat that was kept aboard for the ship's captain and which was used to row him to and from the ship. The term has been in use in England dating back to at least 1463. With the passing of time the coxswain became the helmsman of any boat, regardless of size.

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