

Division 7 Expands Into Polk County: A New Flotilla is Formed

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INTERCOM

Newsletter for Division 7 Tampa Bay, District 7, USCG Auxiliary
Volume LXX Issue 1 Spring 2016

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INTERCOM

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Division 7 Elected Officers 2016

Div 7	Division Commander	Gene Keller, DCDR
Div 7	Division Vice Commander	D. Terry Hershman, VCDR
Div 7	Immed. Past Division Commander	Jeffrey Gines, IPDCDR
FL 72	Flotilla Commander	David Rockwell, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Tony Hooper, VFC
FL 74	Flotilla Commander	Carlos Velez, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Mark Jaqua, VFC
FL 75	Flotilla Commander	Gary Mull, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Pat Costello, VFC
FL 77	Flotilla Commander	Gilbert Thomas, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Steven Hunnicutt, VFC
FL 78	Flotilla Commander	Tony Novellino, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Roger Gilmore, VFC
FL 79	Flotilla Commander	Darren Hart, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Emily Schmidt, VFC
FL 7-16	Flotilla Commander	Tom Bodi, FC
	Flotilla Vice Commander	Bill Zinner, VFC

Division 7 Appointed Staff 2016

Communications	David Rockwell, SO-CM
Communication Services	Bryan Cook, SO-CS
Diversity	Stanley Clark, SO-DV
Finance	Linda Brandt, SO-FN
Information Services	John Robbins, SO-IS
Human Resources	Judith Clapp, SO-HR
Materials	Anthony Hooper, SO-MA
Marine Safety	Monica Cook, SO-MS
Member Training	Dean I. Bell, SO-MT
Navigation Systems	David Perillo, SO-NS
Operations	Linda Churchill, SO-OP
Public Affairs	Patricia Prado, SO-PA
Publications	Dorothy J. Riley, SO-PB
Public Education	Michael Massimini, SO-PE
Program Visitor	Darren Hart, SO-PV
Secretary	Zelda Troiano, SO-SR
Vessel Examinations	Donald Rimel, SO-VE
Auxiliary Unit Coordinator	John Simone



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

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: CDR William Seward, Director of Auxiliary District 7 presents the official charter for Flotilla 77 Polk County to Gilbert Thomas, Flotilla Commander and Steven Hunnicutt, Flotilla Vice Commander (left of Thomas) at a ceremony Jan. 23, 2016 in Winter Haven. To the far left is COMO Robert Weskerna. Next to Seward from left are Jeff Gines, Immediate Past Division Commander, CDR Victor Rivera, Chief, Response Department, Sector St. Petersburg; and Senior Chief Eamon McCormack, Officer in Charge, Station St Petersburg. Photo by D. Riley

facebook

Division 7 on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/USCGAuxTampaBay/>



From the Helm Gene Keller, Division Commander

The start of the 2016 hurricane season will be June 1... are you ready?

One of our most important obligations to our order issuing authority, Station Saint Petersburg, is

to make sure we are in contact with our members during storm events. Our primary reason for doing so is simply to make sure all of our members are accounted for and safe. Our secondary reason is to be able to reach out to our members and determine available staffing levels for use during the mitigation phase of the storm. So what should we do to get ready? So much information is available in the media about storm planning, I will for the sake of this article just talk about the special things we need to do as members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

- 1) Remember your safety and your family's safety comes first. Secure your home, take care of your pets, and follow evacuation orders.
- 2) Flotilla commanders, vice commanders and response staff should meet well before June 1 to dust off the flotilla's emergency plan. Review it and update it. This should be done every year. Remember to also update your calling tree. Set up the tree so that your calling crew knows whom to contact and how to report back up the line.
- 3) Ask your members what they plan on doing

in the event of a major storm. Where do you plan on sheltering? Are you going to leave the area, if so, where will you be going? How can we best reach you?

- 4) Members should let their Flotilla Staff Officers-Operations and Communications know if they will be able to serve during the mitigation phase and how best to be reached.
- 5) Make sure all your on the water facilities are ready for the storm and that they are properly stored or trailered to a safe location. Always remember to keep your boat and cars fully fueled. Remember that electricity might be out and fuel pumps might not work after the storm.
- 6) Protect your flotilla's sensitive information that might be in danger in a wind or storm surge event. Remove any paperwork or storage devices that contain any information that might compromise your members as well as any membership applications in process. Move them to higher ground; take them to safer storage areas.
- 7) Crewmembers- if you do evacuate, take your rescue and survival system (RS&S) equipment with you. You might also think about taking along your VHF marine handheld radios.

Remember, Semper Paratus! We are always ready. Whatever nature throws at us, we will be ready to serve. ☸

There's an app for that!

Alex, the first named storm of the 2016 hurricane season has already formed in the Atlantic.

With the hurricane season in mind, here is an app that can help you prepare. Best yet, should disaster strike, the app can help you be found by emergency response teams as well as apply for assistance.

The FEMA app is FREE and available through the Apple app store, Google Play and for Blackberry.

Look for other FREE apps. The Florida Department of Emergency Management also offers an app through Apple and Google Play.



From the Helm

Terry Hershman, Division Vice Commander

The first quarter of 2016 is behind us now. As leaders we should evaluate our goals and objectives. Ask yourself, have you met or exceeded them at this point?

What can we do to improve our leadership skills? Listen to the needs and wants of the membership. Anything that happens in the Auxiliary starts at the flotilla level. It's not about you as a leader- it's the entire membership. Anything we do has to be for the majority of the membership and not to please a few members or special interests.

Recruitment and retention is one of our priorities. We must think "outside the box" in order to survive. We need more members with special skills that can enhance our goals and missions. Once we have a new member we must mentor that person, guide them through the "boot camp," answer all their questions and make them feel part of "Team Coast Guard." We want to see all members engage and

help with events and missions, not just the same people again and again. Everyone needs a break from the everyday routine.

I know 2016 will be a successful year for Division 7. We must work smarter and not harder- and work as a "team." 🌟

Anything we do has to be for the majority of the membership and not to please a few members or special interests.

--D. Terry Hershman
Vice Commander
Division 7, Tampa Bay



Congratulations Len Chiacchia, Flotilla 74

Division 7 Auxiliarist of the Year

CDR Randy Brown, Deputy Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, and Gene Keller, Commander Division 7 Tampa Bay present Len Chiacchia an Auxiliary Achievement Medal at the Division 7 Awards Ceremony held Apr. 16, 2016, in Tampa. Len provided countless hours of service to the division in many capacities, especially as Staff Officer-Information Systems. In addition to this award, Len was honored with the prestigious "Auxiliarist of the Year" award. Bravo Zulu! We could not be prouder of him! Photo by Pat Prado, SO-PA7



Division 7 Coast Guard Auxiliary Expands into Polk County

By David Williams, FSO-PA 77

Flotilla 77 Polk County was chartered in a ceremony held at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Headquarters Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016. The ceremony marked the culmination of a three-year effort by Flotilla 74 Brandon to establish a new flotilla in Polk County, and the beginning of the new flotilla's greater work of bringing the boating safety message to a vast area rich with lakes, rivers and thousands of boaters.

Prominent leaders from the Seventh Coast Guard District, Auxiliary and state and county civic leaders attended the two-hour ceremony. Representing the Coast Guard were CDR William Seward, Director of Auxiliary, Seventh Coast Guard District, and Mrs. Cary Seward; CDR Victor Rivera, Chief, Response Department, Sector St. Petersburg; LT Larry Brant, Command Chaplain, Sector St. Petersburg, Airstation Clearwater and Mrs. Tammy Brant; CWO Charles Perry, Operations Training Officer, Seventh Coast Guard District; and Senior Chief Eamon McCormack, Officer in Charge, Station St. Petersburg. The Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7 was represented by COMO Robert Weskerna, District Commodore and Mrs. Jackie Weskerna; Judith Hudson, District Chief of Staff; Paulette Parent, District Captain-West; and Ron Howington, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator, Sector St. Petersburg.

The list of state and county dignitaries attending was no less impressive. Natali Knight represented US congressman Daniel Webster; John Wood, Florida House Representative; Keli Stargel, Florida State Senator; Ed Smith, Polk County Commissioner; Mayor Howard Wiggs, Lakeland; Nat Birdsong, Winter Haven Commissioner; Major Paul Bagget, Polk County Sheriff's Office, accepting the Honorary Membership of behalf of Sheriff Grady Judd. Marco Rubio, US House of Representatives and Honorable Rick Scott, Governor, State of Florida, both sent congratulatory letters which were read during the ceremony.

A joint Honor Guard representing Polk County



Paulette Parent, District Captain-West D7 presents the standard to Gilbert Thomas, Flotilla Commander and Steven Hunnicutt, Flotilla Vice Commander at the chartering ceremony for Flotilla 77 Polk County Jan. 23, 2016. Behind them are COMO Robert Weskerna, D7; CDR William Seward, Director of Auxiliary, Seventh Coast Guard District and Senior Chief Eamon McCormack, Officer in Charge, Station St Petersburg, USCG. Photo by Zac Lessin

Sheriff's Department, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Winter Haven Police Department, Polk County Fire Department, and USCG Auxiliary opened the ceremony. Sarah Ganey, a soloist from Polk State College sang the national anthem.

Jeff Gines, Immediate Past Division Commander, served as Master of Ceremonies. CDR Seward presented the flotilla charter and along with COMO Robert Weskerna, swore in the 18 charter members and elected officers. Gilbert Thomas serves as the first Flotilla Commander and Steven Hunnicutt as Flotilla Vice Commander. The last to speak at the conclusion of the ceremony, Thomas expressed appreciation to all of the individuals and agencies that supported them in their three-year long quest to form a flotilla and did not miss the opportunity to put out the call to recruit more members. Polk County covers over 2,000 square miles and it will take a great many members to provide adequate coverage of the entire area.

According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conserva-

(Continued on page 7)





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tion (FWC), Polk County is home to 554 lakes and numerous rivers. With this wealth of water resources comes an abundance of fishing and boating recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Along with those activities comes a responsibility for safe boating practices. Flotilla 77 offers Recreational Boating Safety classes, free Vessel Safety Checks, and other boating safety-related services and training. There are also opportunities to support Active Coast Guard Units on the coasts.

Flotilla 77 will increase the Auxiliary's coordination and liaison with other Polk County community service agencies and groups including Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Sheriff's Office, Civil Air Patrol, and emergency service providers among others. Flotilla 77 is recruiting new members for current and expanded activities that are in the planning stage. Ω



Top: WINTER HAVEN, Florida—The day before the Jan. 23 chartering ceremony, Jeff Gines, Immediate Past Division Commander, meets with members of Flotilla 77 to review and rehearse the program after which the members set up the hall for the next day.

Mid page: CDR Seward, Director of Auxiliary, D7, Reads the Flotilla 77 Charter. Jeff Gines is to his left. To his right are CDR Victor Rivera, Chief, Response Department, Sector Saint Petersburg; Senior Chief Eamon McCormack, Officer in Charge, Station Saint Petersburg; Gil Thomas, Flotilla Commander 77 and Steven Hunnicutt, Flotilla Vice Commander 77.



Bottom: CDR Seward swears in the charter members of Flotilla 77 Polk County. Photos by D. Riley



This article first appeared in BREEZE, Newsletter of District 7, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Issue 1, Spring 2016.





Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg

David Rockwell, Flotilla Commander



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Research Institute donated an electronic Smart Board to Flotilla 72 for public education.

We are currently hosting a division wide Advanced Coastal Navigation course each Wednesday through June. Gordon Hornby and Jim Fogle conducted a Hurricane Preparation Seminar at the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club April 16.

Flotilla 72 received an approved waiver for Mike Boschetti (AP status) to become the Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications. He was appointed effective April 15 to relieve Jack Satterfield.

We continue to provide B-0 standby for Station St Petersburg. ❄



David Rockwell, Staff Officer-Communications, accepts an award for Most Telecommunications Operator hours in direct support of the Coast Guard missions from CDR Randy Brown, Deputy Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, and Gene Keller, Commander Division 7 Tampa Bay at the Division 7 Annual Awards Ceremony held April 16, 2016, in Tampa. Rockwell put in more than 140 hours in radio support. Photo by Pat Prado, SO-PA 7



Members of Flotilla 72 assist in transporting the Maine 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/ Civil Support Team (CST) National Guard personnel and their equipment from Flotilla 79 to the SS AMERICAN VICTORY for a boarding and training exercise Feb. 10-11, 2016. SANDY CAY with coxswain David Perillo and crew Tony Hooper and Tony Novellino (FL 78) watch as the WMD team boards the SS AMERICAN VICTORY. Photo by Orrie Baffi, FL 7-16





Flotilla 74 Brandon Carlos Velez, Flotilla Commander

Members of Flotilla 74 conducted a Boating Safety education class at West Marine April 9, 2016. Participants included Galen Johnston, Omayra Velez and Len Chiacchia.

Galen Johnston and Len Chiacchia attended the Boating Safety Instructor and Course Provider class at Flotilla 72 March 26, 2016

We conducted Vessel Examination at Williams Park on Saturdays since the start of the year. On Feb. 13, 2016, we made 30 approaches and conducted 13 inspections of which only seven vessels passed. The good news from this event: Omayra Velez completed her five supervised Vessel Examinations to become a qualified Examiner. Congratulations, Ms. Velez!

Member George Papabeis offered his talents as photographer for the United States Coast Guard Reserves 75th Anniversary celebration Feb. 13, 2016, at Sector St. Petersburg. He also accompanied MST1 Mi-

chael Walker, the new Marine Safety technician to Egmont Key and Caladesi Island State Park Jan. 14, 2016 (article and photos this issue). ❄



Galen Johnston instructs a boating safety class at West Marine April 9, 2016. Photo by Omayra Velez



MST1 Michael Walker observes as George Papabeis presents the basics of unmanned aerila vehicle (UAV) operations Feb. 4, 2016, at Flotilla 72 in St. Petersburg. The presentation was attended by members of the Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, Florida Fish and Wildlife and other first responding agencies. Because the Auxiliary does not as yet have an official policy regarding UAVs, Papabeis was not in uniform and presented as a private citizen at the invitation of the Coast Guard. Photos by Skyla Luckey, FL 72

(See article page 30).





Flotilla 75 Ruskin

Gary Mull, Flotilla Commander



Flotilla 75 members maintain a busy schedule. We conduct Public Education courses, Vessel Examinations and other Recreational Boating Safety activities, and are involved in Op-

erations.

We currently have three members attending the Division 7 Boat Crew training program, Hector Romero, George Wightman and Pat McAlvey, and we look forward to adding three qualified crew members to our ranks.

We said goodbye to our Coast Guard Liason officer, CPO Neil Hebert at our March meeting. Neil always attended our monthly meetings, kept us informed and arranged ride alongs on boat/helo ops. He will be missed!

We are proud to report that Division 7 honored member Judith Clapp with the Mentor of the Year award at the Division 7 Award Ceremony April 16, 2016, in Tampa. We know how valuable Judith is both to our flotilla and to the Auxiliary. Bravo Zulu, Judith! 🌟



Tony O'Reilly leads an About Boating Safely course Jan. 9, 2016. USCG Auxiliary Photograph



Flotilla 75 members Hector Romer, George Wightman and Horace Skaggs, FL 79, complete the swim test Apr. 14, 2016. Only a few weeks left before they face the Boat Crew qualifying examination! Photo by Steve Browning, FL 75

Flotilla 75 bid farewell to their Coast Guard Liason officer, CPO Neil Hebert at their March meeting. Hebert always attended the flotilla monthly meetings and kept the members informed. Photo by Steve Browning, FL 75





Flotilla 77 Polk County Gilbert Thomas, Flotilla Commander

The ink was still wet on the flotilla's new charter when the members set about making a name for themselves and putting out the safe boating message. By early February they were already conducting Vessel Examinations on Lake Summit in Winter Haven and Lake Ariana in Auburndale.

The month of March saw Flotilla members participating in numerous Recreational Boating Safety and Public Affairs events beginning with the March 3 event at Winter Haven Marine Supply 'Customer Appreciation Day.' Gil Thomas, Flotilla Commander (FC); Steven Hunnicut, Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC); James Urbanawiz, Flotilla Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations, and James Mulligan, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications set up the flotilla's display, talked with boaters about boating safety and the Auxiliary and started spreading the word about their presence in the county.

David Williams, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs coordinated with 'Chain Life' magazine's editor to include Flotilla 77's About Boating Safely schedule and notification on Vessel Examination dates, times and locations in their bimonthly magazine.

Additionally, he sent out 18 Public Affairs news releases to the news organizations throughout Polk County.

Thomas, Hunnicut and Williams attended the Florida Governor Scott's Veterans Service Award event in Winter Haven March 22 and discussed with several attendees the Auxiliary and the Flotilla's work in the county. Scott presented the members with medals honoring their service to the county and country. Just a few days later, March 26, Thomas and Mulligan staffed a display table at Lowe's Home Improvement in Lakeland.

U.S. congressman Daniel Webster met with Thomas, Hunnicut and other members of the flotilla March 31 and presented a commendation to the flotilla 77 in recognition of their many activities since their Jan. 23 Chartering, and all of this within 60 days of the chartering ceremony! ❄



Left: Florida Governor Rick Scott meets with members of Flotilla 77 for the Veterans Service Award event in Winter Haven March 22 where he presented the participants with medals honoring their service. Photo by Steven Hunnicut, VFC 77

Right: Flotilla 77 members James Mulligan and David Williams participate in the 'Clean it Up Winter Haven' event Apr. 13, 2016. The event afforded the flotilla with yet another opportunity to let their presence in the county be known while contributing to a cleaner environment. USCG Auxiliary photograph





Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille Tony Novellino, Flotilla Commander



Flotilla 78 reports that their Boating Skills and Seamanship classes graduated five students this period. Four more potential students called to say that they wish to attend. They are maintaining 22-23 students each week so far this year.

Flotilla 78 members Judith and Tally Abruzzo and Tony Novellino collaborated with Harbourside Yacht Club to host a tour of Air station Clearwater March 15, 2016. The event was a lot of fun.

Flotilla 78 also participated in a fellowship event at Tropicana Field April 17 to attend a Ray's baseball game. The event was sold out and everyone had a great time.

We said goodbye to the Old Warren Webster Community Center in April, and hopefully by this July we will be saying hello to the new remodeled Warren Webster building. The city of St. Pete Beach is remodeling the center. In the interim, Flotilla 7-16 has offered their building for use for our Boating Skills and Seamanship classes and our flotilla meeting. Now, that is cooperation! Thank you, Flotilla 7-16. Stand by for further communications on this subject.

The flotilla is proud to report that for the second year, Valerie Fernandes, editor of the SCUTTLEBUTT earned the Division 7 Richie Award for Publications. Fernandes does a great job with our newsletter and publishes every month no matter where she is, be it in Pass-a-Grille or her summer home up north. That is commitment! Bravo Zulu, Ms. Fernandes! 🌟



Tampa Bay Boat Show in Tropicana Field March 11-13, 2016. From left are Dean Hoskin FL 72, Tony Novellino FL 78 and Rick Smith FL 72. (Photo taken by a passerby)



Judith and Tally Abruzzo and Tony Novellino collaborated with Harbourside Yacht Club to host a tour of Air station Clearwater March 15, 2016. USCG Auxiliary photograph



For the second year, Valerie Fernandes, editor of SCUTTLEBUTT earned the Division 7 Richie Award for Publications. Bravo Zulu!





Flotilla 79 Tampa

Darren Hart, Flotilla Commander



Members of Flotilla 79 continue to provide B-0 standby missions for Station St Petersburg and crew training continues. Member John Simone earned the Division award for Most SARs completed at the Division 7 Award Ceremony held April 16, 2016, in Tampa.

USCG Sector St. Pete held SAR training at Flotilla 79 March 19.

TAMPA RADIO 1 covered the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion as well as other mission and is presently covering crew training on the water missions.

Our Recreational Boating Safety activities are ongoing and several members have created new opportunities to spread the boating safety message.

Member Glenn LeRoy set up a month-long Recreational Boating Safety display up at the U.S. Post Office main branch employee cafeteria which was well received. We have also made inroads by setting up a Recreational Boating Safety information table and conducting Vessel Safety Check at Bass Pro Shops' new location in Tampa.

Members Patricia Prado, Glenn Leroy and Paul Anderson staffed a Recreational Boating Safety display at MacDill Airfest March 19-20, 2016.

Flotilla 79 reports 23 Public Education graduates in during the first quarter. Darren Hart, Flotilla Commander, continues to serve as the divisions National Safe Boating Week coordinator and is working with other division and flotilla staff officers to ensure success.

The flotilla held a one-day workshop March 12 to train members in many needed areas including Information Systems, Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor, Vessel Examinations and Public Affairs. Seven members are in line to certify.

Flotilla 79 will hold an all-day Mandatory Training Workshop July 9. If you need to complete these required courses, contact Darren Hart. ☼



Left: Member Glenn LeRoy set up a month-long Recreational Boating Safety display March 2016 at the U.S. Post Office main branch employee cafeteria in Tampa which was well received. Photo provided by U.S. Post Office employee

Right: Member Paul Anderson may have a future in Marine Safety! Anderson participated in the Hillsborough River and Coastal Cleanup April 16, 2016 and several other cleanup projects throughout the year in and around Tampa. After bagging a truckload of debris, Anderson offered the volunteers snacks and drinks. Photos provided by Paul Anderson





Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport

Tom Bodi, Flotilla Commander



Flotilla 7-16 had two members certified as Vessel Examiners. We look forward to them assisting Don Rimel and our other Vessel Examiners maintain our goals and accomplishments.

Speaking of accomplishments, it comes as no surprise that Flotilla 7-16 once again earned the Division 7 Prescott award for the most Vessel Examinations by any flotilla and the Shingledecker award for the most Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visits. As in past years, Don Rimel earned the Division 7 individual awards for most Vessel Examinations and most Program Visits.

tions and most Program Visits.

Flotilla 7-16 is planning more 'Suddenly in Command' classes. This two to four-hour boating safety seminar is intended to assist boat occupants who are not normally at the helm, including guests, spouses, children or others aboard who may find themselves "suddenly in command" if the operator becomes ill, gets injured, falls overboard, or has to attend to some other emergency and is unable to be at the helm. The purpose of this short course is to familiarize the student with essential safety information so they can assess and stabilize the situation, operate the vessel and summon any required assistance. ⚓



Tom Bodi, Flotilla Commander (right) accepts the Division 7 Shingledecker Award for the most Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visits from CDR Randy Brown, Deputy Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, and Gene Keller, Commander Division 7 Tampa Bay Apr. 16, 2016 at the division's annual awards presentation in Tampa. The flotilla also earned the Prescott Award for most Vessel Examinations. Photo by Patricia Prado, SO-PA 7

The flotilla has good reason to look forward to some pretty tasty dishes at future fellowship events. Terry Hershman, Division Vice Commander and member of Flotilla 7-16 attended Auxiliary Food Service Specialist C-School at Air Station Clearwater March 11-13, 2016. Photo by Carlos Arenas, Flotilla Commander, FL 37 Lighthouse Point



Staff Reports

Logistics

Bryan Cook-Communication Services

The Division 7 Facebook page is near 700 "LIKES." Recent posts about SAR activity have seen 2000+ views.

The Division 7 Facebook page is updated frequently with news about upcoming events and photos from recent ones. Remember, you must LIKE our page to receive our most current posts in your newsfeed. You must SHARE in order to help spread the boating safety message.

<https://www.facebook.com/USCGAuxTampaBay/>

Stanley Clark-Diversity

Every member counts!



John Robbins-Information Services

Members are reminded to complete and submit their activity reports. Every hour counts!

Judith Clapp-Human Resources

Judy Clapp has collected e-mail lists from some flotillas and will begin entering them shortly. This is part of the drive to create a contact list for recruitment and attracting persons to our boating safety events and programs.



The Coast Guard has mandated a set of training courses for all Auxiliary members. This training is referred to as AUXMT by the Auxiliary. Completion of AUXMT places Auxiliarists on the same footing as other members of the Coast Guard workforce and allows seamless integration with their active duty, reserve and civilian employee counterparts. It also ensures that all members of the Coast Guard workforce stand ready to provide Service to nation, fulfill our commitment of Duty to People, and reflects our Commitment to Excellence. Mandated training requirements are spelled out in the table below:

Course #	Course Name	Frequency
502379	Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide	Every 5 years
810030	Security Fundamentals	Every 5 years
810015	Privacy at DHS / Protecting Personal Information	Every 5 years
810045	Sexual Assault Prevention and Response	Every 5 years
502319	Civil Rights Awareness	Every 5 years

Members can complete their training online at the National Testing Center:

<http://ntc.cgaux.org/> - or the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS).

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=auxmt>

Still need to complete one or more of the Mandated Training Courses?

Contact Darren Hart, FC 79

Flotilla 79 is planning an all-day Mandated Training Workshop July 9. Don't miss out on this 'one and done' opportunity!



Staff Reports

Anthony Hooper-Materials

Judith Hudson, DCOS 7 has confirmed that the Sirius LED SOS visual distress light meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements to completely replace traditional pyrotechnic flares. Unlike traditional flares, this electric flare never expires which solves the challenge of flare disposal.

This floating LED marine flare can be hand-held, tethered, or hoisted aloft. It runs up to 60 hours, unlike traditional flares which last minutes or less.

This information is particularly useful to Vessel Examiners who may find this visual distress light on board vessels when conducting examinations.

The new Auxiliary Awards Primer is available on the Auxiliary's FedEx site for 58 cents.



Patricia Prado-Public Affairs

Darren Hart, National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) Coordinator, has been engaged in preliminary planning with Bass Pro Shops to host the Division 7 NSBW kick off during the weekend of May 21-22.

Division 7 life jacket zone stencil team to stencil up to 22 pre-approved boat ramps during the weeklong event. NSBW proclamation has been received from the City of Tampa

The Hillsborough County Tax Collector's office requested assistance from Flotilla 79 in the observance of Safety Month in June. Possible Auxiliary contributions include Vessel Examinations, setting up a boating safety information table at Tax Collector offices.

Public Affairs was contacted by Station St. Petersburg, USCG Reserve requesting photo coverage of their summer training events (two weeks in June). Our photographers have also been called upon to photograph retirements and the United States Coast Guard Reserves 75th Anniversary.

We may need to expand the D7 Photo Corps.

Dottie Riley-Publications

HELP! We need your contributions for INTERCOM. This is YOUR newsletter! We need members to write articles and submit photographs. (Dottie Riley's job is to EDIT, not to WRITE every article.)

When you participate in an event, send us your photographs and tell us who is in the photo, where this event took place, the type of event or name of the event (if it has one), and who took the photograph.

We deeply appreciate every contribution to this publication!



Response

David Rockwell-Communications

BAYBORO RADIO 1 was restored to full mission capability March 26 when the Internet connection was restored.

TAMPA RADIO 1 covered crew training April 2, however, the mission was cut short due to inclement weather.

Dean Bell-Member Training

A four-hour Team Coordination Training (TCT) was held at Flotilla 79 Feb., 20, 2016, before the commencement of Boat Crew Training.

Coxswains and crew mentors continue to support the Crew Class. Crew Training will extend into June because several on the water days were canceled due to inclement weather. We are working out the schedule for qualifying examination and recertification.

Sector St. Pete held an ICS 339/400 training at Flotilla 79 April 12-15 and SAR training at Flotilla



Staff Reports

79 March 19.

Rescue, Safety and Survival (RS&S) working party was held for the west side flotillas (and east side members who missed their session) March 30 at Flotilla 72.

Flotilla 72 is hosting a division wide Advanced Coastal Navigation course each Wednesday through June.

Flotilla 79 held a one-day workshop March 12 covering Information Systems, Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor, Vessel Examinations and Public Affairs.

First Aid training was held Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Flotilla 79.

Our Member Training team continues to stress completion of the Auxiliary Mandatory Training. Flotilla 79 plans to hold an all day workshop July 9 for all of the Mandatory Training classes. All members are invited to attend.

Linda Churchill—Operations

Officer in Charge of Station St Petersburg approved our Response recommendation to allow Telecommunications Operators to serve on vessels (in addition to certified crew members) to provide communications support while underway.

Rescue and Survival Systems (R&SS) roll-out continues.

Our members supported the Gasparilla Pirate invasion Jan. 30, 2016, transported the Maine 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/Civil Support Team (CST) in February, provide B0-SAR support for Station St. Petersburg on an ongoing basis as well as numerous other on-the-water missions.

We are presently planning to support the Gasparilla Paddle Board Invasion May 1.



With the approach of summer weather in Florida, January and cold weather survival suits seem far behind us! John Simone and his crew take a break at Flotilla 79 during a blustery B0-SAR mission Jan. 9, 2016. They are from left, Larry Vandeyar, FL 79; George Papabeis, FL 74; Michael Massimini, FL 79; Simone, and Rebecca Crum, FL 79 in front. USCG Photograph provided by John Simone



Members of Division 7 transported marine science technicians MST1 Michael Walker and MST3 Daniel Bast from Sector St. Petersburg to Egmont Key. Orrie Baffi, FL 7-16 and one of the Auxiliary crew members took this photo of the island's lighthouse. He was equally enchanted by the local wild life.



Staff Reports

Prevention

Michael Massimini-Public Education

Flotilla 74 conducted a Boating Safety Education class at West Marine April 9, 2016. Participants included Galen Johnston, Omayra Velez and Len Chiacchia.

Flotilla 78 reports, Boating Skills and Seaman-ship classes graduated five students this period. Four more potential students called that they want to attend. The flotilla is maintaining 22-23 students each week.

Flotilla 79 reports 23 Public Education graduates during the first quarter 2016.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Research Institute donated an electronic Smart Board to Flotilla 72 for public education.

Flotilla 7-16 is planning more 'Suddenly in Command' classes. This two to four-hour boating safety seminar is intended to assist boat occupants who are not normally at the helm. This short course is to familiarize the student with essential safety information so they can assess and stabilize the situation, operate the vessel and summon any required assistance should the operator fall overboard or is otherwise unable to operate the vessel.

Photos mid-page and lower right: Darren Hart, Flotilla Commander 79 made inroads with a new local partner by setting up a Recreational Boating Safety information table and conducting Vessel Safety Check at Bass Pro Shops' new location in Tampa Jan. 16, 2016. Participants included Hart, Patricia Prado, FL 79 and Omayra Velez, FL 74. Hart conducted Vessel Examinations outside the shop while Prado and Velez staffed the Recreational Boating Safety information table.

This year, Division 7 will hold its major National Safe Boating Week events at Bass Pro Shops. Look for frequent announcements and updates on the Division 7 Facebook page. Photos by D. Riley



Members of Flotilla 72 organized a boating safety course for the Tampa Yacht Club Feb. 8, 2016, and Flotilla 79 members participated in the training. From left are participants Kat Miller, FL 79; Jim Fogle, FL 72; Darren Hart, FL 79; James Nelson, FL 72 and Dave Rockwell, FL 72. USCG Auxiliary photograph



Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visitor

Flotilla 79 member Glenn LeRoy had a month-long Recreational Boating Safety display up at the U.S. Post Office main branch employee cafeteria.

Flotilla 77 installed a Recreational Boating Safety display at the Winter Haven Library April 28-29, 2016.

Flotilla 77 participated in MDA event at Lowe's, located at 3600 Highway 98 North Lakeland, Florida. Lowe's and a local boat dealer had boats on display and for sale. Flotilla 77 had a display about boating safety and recruited new members.



Omayra Velez and Mark Jaqua conduct Vessel Examinations at Williams Park Feb. 13, 2016. Velez completed her fifth supervised examination to earn the Vessel Examination qualification. Photo provided by Mark Jaqua

Donald Rimel-Vessel Examinations

Flotilla 7-16 had two members certified as Vessel Examiners. Omayra Velez, Flotilla 74 completed her five supervised Vessel Examinations to earn the Vessel Examination qualification in February.

Flotilla 77 is doing an amazing job in the Vessel Examinations arena reaching out to locations in their area of responsibility that have seen little Auxiliary presence in the past

National Safe Boating Week-Darren Hart

Hart is planning and coordinating National Safe Boating Week activities on behalf of Division 7. Sector St. Petersburg/Station St. Petersburg will not be holding their annual Open House this year. Instead, Hart has secured dates and space at

Brass Pro Shops in Brandon to conduct National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) activities in conjunction with individual flotilla plans to hold open houses and conduct Vessel Examinations.

Hart has secured the NSBW proclamation from the City of Tampa. Hillsborough County will present the NSBW proclamation to Flotilla 79 and Division 7 May 4, 2016.

The Division 7 life jacket zone stencil team will stencil up to 22 pre-approved boat ramps during National Safe Boating Week.

Watch for NSBW announcements and updates on the Division 7 Facebook page. 🌟

Division 7 on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/USCGAuxTampaBay/>



In the news...

CARROLLWOOD NEWS • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016 • TBO.com

Community wins award for project

BY ALESSANDRA DA PRA
Special Correspondent

TAMPA SHORES — An innovative project to reduce pollution by installing sturdy baskets with absorbent filters in existing storm water drains to capture oil, trash and lawn clippings before they reach Tampa Bay has won the Golden Mangrove Award.

The award was presented to the Tampa Shores Special Dependent District No. 60 as Tampa Bay Estuary Program's most outstanding Bay Mini-Grant project.

Tampa Shores-Imperial Key is a 240-home canal subdivision built in the 1960s and '70s in northwest Hillsborough County on the northern part of Tampa Bay off of Channel A.

Brad Ware, president of the special district, spearheaded the project after learning similar projects had been implemented successfully in other canal communities in the Tampa Bay area and Cape Coral.

Susan Aungst, president of the Tampa Shores Imperial Key Civic Association, wrote the grant proposal and helped to implement the project. The association provided information to residents about the project, and information about how to help reduce pollution through social media and at business meetings and social events.

"Essentially, the screen mesh and ring filters collect debris like trash and leaves, plus the replaceable, absorptive ring collects the oils/contaminants from street run off," Ware said.

About 20 community volunteers empty the devices twice a year, he said.

The \$5,000 Tampa Bay Estuary Grant for the project



COURTESY PHOTO

Susan Aungst, left, president of the Tampa Shores Imperial Key Civic Association, and Brad Ware, president of the Tampa Shores Special Dependent District No. 60, display the basket designed to reduce pollution. Ware spearheaded the project when he found similar projects implemented in other canal communities. Aungst wrote the grant proposal and helped to implement the project.



An innovative project to reduce pollution has been recog-

Flotilla 79 Member Wins Community Award.

Source: Tampa Bay Times, Carrollwood edition
TBOonline

Bradley Ware, a member of Flotilla 79 Tampa earned his local community, Tampa Shores Imperial Key (Special Dependent District No. 60), the "Golden Mangrove Award" as Tampa Bay Estuary Program's most outstanding Bay Mini-Grant Project January 2016.

Tampa Shores Imperial Key is a 240-home subdivision built in the 1960s and '70s in northwest Hillsborough County on the northern part of Tampa Bay off Channel A.

The project involves installing mesh baskets in storm drains to collect oils and contaminants before they are dumped into the bay. Part of the implementation of the project involved educating the public about the project and how to reduce pollution through social media, business meetings and social events.

As a member of the Auxiliary, Ware has always leaned towards Marine Safety and educating the public about protecting the marine environment. For many years, he worked with Boy Scouts of America and attended summer camp with the scouts teaching them water safety and about protecting our marine environment.

An article describing Ware's successful project appeared in TBO.com and Tampa Bay Times, Carrollwood edition, Jan. 6, 2016.

<http://www.tbo.com/carrollwood/community-wins-award-for-project-20160106/>



And the winners are...

Division 7 held its Annual Awards ceremony April 16, 2016, at the Columbia House Centennial Room in Tampa. In lieu of an article, this year, we list only the award recipients. Congratulations to each of the flotillas and individuals who earned these awards.

Annual Flotilla Awards

Krough Award for Public Education
Flotilla 74

Oalman Award for Member Training
Flotilla 72

Mike Award for Membership Growth and
Retention
Flotilla 72

Prescott Award for Vessel Examinations
Flotilla 7-16

Richie Award for Public Affairs
Flotilla 74

Richie Award for Publications
Flotilla 78

McKendree Award for Specialty Course
Advancement
Flotilla 7-16

Nettling Award for Operations
Flotilla 79

Shingledecker Award for RBS Program Visits
Flotilla 7-16

The Captain's Jug
Flotilla 75



Annual Individual Awards

Auxiliarist of the Year
Auxiliary Achievement Medal
Leonard Chiacchia, Flotilla 74

Mentor of the Year
Judith Clapp, Flotilla 75

Award of Merit
Darren Hart, Flotilla 79

Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of
Commendation
George Papabeis

Most on the water hours in support of CG
Brian Garry, Flotilla 79 (1403)

Most Public Affairs hours in support of CG
Richard Risk, Flotilla 72 (39)

Most Administrative support hours in support
of CG
Patricia Prado, Flotilla 79 (81)

First Place, Telecommunications Operator
David Rockwell, Flotilla 72 (140.60)

Second Place, Telecommunications Operator
Judith Clapp, Flotilla 75 (89.30)

Third Place, Telecommunications Operator
Bill Zinner, Flotilla 7-16 (87.30)



Most Hours...

Public Education Instructor Hours
Galen Johnston, Flotilla 74 (201)

Public Education Aide Hours
Galen Johnston, Flotilla 74 (71)

Member Training Instructor Hours
Tony Hooper, Flotilla 72 (43)

Skipper Hours
John Simone, Flotilla 79 (174.8)

Crew Hours
Tony Hooper, Flotilla 72 (157.6)

Search & Rescue Assists
John Simone, Flotilla 79 (29)

Vessel Safety Checks
Don Rimel, Flotilla 7-16 (278)

Program Visitor Visits
Don Rimel, Flotilla 7-16 (632)



Emergency Response Assessment: “Boots “on the ground” help identify unique challenges.

By D. Riley and George Papabeis, Flotilla 74 Brandon

Despite the 50-degree temperatures and gray skies, one visit to the Caladesi Island State Park made it clear why Myrtle Scharrer-Betz titled her book about growing up on the island, “Yesterday I lived in Paradise.”

Jan. 14, 2016, coxswain Larry O' Brien from Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin, Fla., made his way to through the shallow approach to the island. On board were crewmembers William Kelly from Flotilla 11-7 Hudson and George Papabeis from Flotilla 74 Brandon, Florida. More importantly, they ferried two passengers, MST1 Michael Walker and MST3 Daniel Bast from Sector St. Petersburg. The marine science technicians mission was to conduct an area familiarization of the island to get a clearer picture of the unique challenges that emergency response teams might face.

Papabeis had been out with Walker once before. In November 2015 he accompanied Walker to Egmont Key State Park, also an island and wildlife refuge, but unlike Egmont Key which sits miles out in the Gulf, Caladesi Island can be reached on foot via Clearwater Beach to the south. To the north, it is only accessible by boat.

Florida's hurricanes contributed greatly to the island's terrain. Both Caladesi Island and neighboring Honeymoon Island were shaped in 1921 when a hurricane split apart a larger barrier island. The divide between the two is called Hurricane Pass. Later, Hurricane Elena in 1985 filled in Dunedin Pass which formed the land bridge from Clear-



MST1 Michael Walker and MST3 Daniel Bast from Sector St. Petersburg are ferried by coxswain Larry O' Brien from Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin aboard Auxiliary vessel, BETTER THAN PROZAK to Caladesi Island State Park, Jan. 14, 2016. The two marine safety specialists conducted an emergency response assessment of the island to prepare for man-made or natural disasters. Photo by George Papabeis, FL 74

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Articles of Interest

(Continued from page 22)

water Beach to Caladesi Island. This means it is no longer an island in the true sense of the word, but why change the name- one never knows how future storms will reshape the terrain.

Once at their island destination, the marine science technicians were met by Rick Coosey, Assistant Park Manager, who piled them into an old Ford Bronco and gave them a tour of the park. They bumped along roads deeply rutted with sand and never thought to complain. The sheer beauty and sense of remoteness filled their senses. Said Walker, "Seeing it on Google maps is so different from being [here] on the ground!" That much is sure. The beaches of Caladesi Island have sustained their rating as one of the top ten most beautiful in the country; this despite storms and oil spills.

Walker and Bast took in the landscape, the vast number of shells on the beaches, the oyster beds and the countless birds. Caladesi Island stands as an example of what we most need to protect within our marine environment. Their trip highlighted the unique challenges emergency response teams might face in times of natural or man-made disasters. ❁



Top: Rick Coosey, Assistant Park Manager of Caladesi Island State Park shows MST1 Michael Walker, USCG, Sector St. Petersburg, some of the safety equipment available on the island.

Below: Rick Coosey, (in green) discusses some of the island's unique features and history with MST1 Michael Walker, USCG, Sector St. Petersburg, Larry O'Brien from Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin, and William Kelly from Flotilla 11-7 Hudson, to his left. To his right is MST3 Daniel Bast. The group conducted an assessment of the island Jan. 14, 2016. USCG Auxiliary photos by George Papabeis, FL 74



This article first appeared in BREEZE, Newsletter of District 7, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Issue 1, Spring 2016.



Articles of Interest

Auxiliary Assists in Success of Annual Pirate Invasion

By D. Riley



A fleet of rowdy pirates armed only with mock canons and pistols and arms full of beads invades Tampa Bay and conquers the city. This scene plays itself out every year, and on this day, Tampa's most respected citizens become marauding pirates— if just for a day.

The event is the annual Gasparilla Pirate Invasion and boat parade. This year, Jan. 30, 2016, under a clear, blue sky, the boat parade went on as in years before. The good weather brought out more boaters than usual but local law enforcement reported no major mishaps. That is because the Coast Guard and local law enforcement agencies are well briefed on what to expect from participating boaters and how to best handle potentially dangerous situations.

Planning for this event begins months ahead of the date and is coordinated between a number of agencies including the Coast Guard, the City of Tampa, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and law enforcement and other agencies from throughout Florida.

Members and vessels from three divisions under Sector St. Petersburg including Division 7 participated in this year's Gasparilla boat parade. Auxiliary contributions included at least 14 vessels, each with 3-5 crewmembers. The more than 50 crewmembers participating assisted with keeping recreational boaters from blocking the parade route and served as host to members from Tampa Bay's Manatee Awareness Coalition. The sheer num-

ber 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. Auxiliarists who assist with the manatee watch stand by areas where manatees are known to congregate and warn off recreational boaters in the event one is spotted.

Tampa Radio One at Flotilla 79 Tampa provided radio watch for all of the Auxiliary vessels involved and maintained contact with the patrol command vessel. Dave Rockwell, Staff Officer-Communications, oversaw a crew of 6 Telecommunications Operators who had by far, the longest day. They powered up the station at 5:30 a.m. and did not close down until after 4:30 p.m.

Pat Prado, Staff Officer-Public Affairs and Darren Hart, Staff Officer-Program Visitor, interacted with the Coast Guard Public Affairs detachment, assisted in planning media coverage before and after the parade, organized a team of 6 photographers to work from assigned locations, and took charge of real-time social media coverage.

An event like the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion requires a lot of Auxiliary assets in terms of manpower, skills and equipment to run smoothly. Once again, those who volunteered did the Auxiliary and Division 7 proud! Bravo Zulu! ✪

(More photos and captions on page 25)



Articles of Interest



Opposite page, left: Jan. 29, 2016: Law enforcements agencies participating in the boat parade are briefed at Flotilla 79 Tampa the day before the invasion. Photo by D. Riley, SO-PB 7 Right: LT Holly Deal, USCG, holds a press briefing outside the flotilla flanked by representatives of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and local law enforcement agencies. Photo by T.D. Parrish, FL 79

This page, top left: An Auxiliary vessel reminds a boater that the area in front of the Tampa Convention Center must be kept clear of recreational vessels. On board are Mike Shea, coxswain, with T.D. Parrish, Brian Garry and Tim Teahan, crew. All are from Flotilla 79. Photo by D. Riley, SO-PB 7



Top right: Alana Bendis, crewmember aboard CHASIN TAIL (coxswain John Simone, Flotilla 79) looks out at the Gasparilla as it transits up the channel. Photo by George Papabeis, FL 74

Mid page, left: The Gasparilla heads for Tampa to conquer the city. Photo by Linda Churchill, SO-OP 7 Right: The Cutter Vise participates in this year's parade and effectively blocks recreational boaters from entering the basin while the Gasparilla and its armada docks at the Tampa Convention Center. Photo by D. Riley, SO-PB 7

Below: From left-Heleyde Aponte, Dave Rockwell and Judith Clapp are 3 of 6 Telecommunications Operators who provided radio support to the 14 Auxiliary vessels participating in the event. Photo provided by Heleyde Aponte, FL 79



Maine National Guard Unit Assisted by Division 7 Auxiliary

Contributors: Orrie Baffi, FSO-OP 7-16; Linda Churchill, SO-OP 7

Members of Division 7 transported the Maine 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/ Civil Support Team (CST) National Guard personnel and their equipment from Flotilla 79 to the SS AMERICAN VICTORY for a boarding and training exercise Feb. 10-11, 2016.

Division 7 participating members included David Perillo (Flotilla 72), Tony Novellino (Flotilla 78), Tony Hooper (Flotilla 72), Dean Bell (Flotilla 79), Richard Riales (Flotilla 79) and Orrie Baffi (Flotilla 7-16) on the Feb. 10; and Riales, Hooper, Baffi, Gene Keller (Flotilla 72), Brian Garry (Flotilla 79) and Heleyde Aponte on Feb. 11. Baffi was given permission to photograph the missions and compiled a video. (See below, right)

The CST mission is to assess a suspected WMD attack, advise civilian responders on appropriate actions, and facilitate the arrival of additional state and Federal military forces. Each team consists of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guardsmen and is broken down into six smaller teams -- command, operations, communications, administration and logistics, medical, and survey -- that have been trained and equipped to provide a technical capability to "reach back" to other experts who can assist the incident commander. In essence, these "scouts" are a unique military capability. They can deploy rapidly to a suspected or actual terrorist attack, conduct special reconnaissance to determine the effects of the attack, provide situational understanding to military command channels and technical consultation to local authorities on managing the effects of the attack to minimize the impact on the civilian population, and facilitate follow-on military support performing validated civilian requests for assistance.*

SS AMERICAN VICTORY, a 455-foot Victory Ship, served as a nearly ideal training vessel affording the Maine WMD/CST unit to simulate boarding a large, sea-faring vessel during an emergent situation.

*Source: *Weapons of Mass Destruction: Civil Support Teams - summary at Center for Army Lessons Learned, from NFTF Nov-Dec 2001, Chapter 1* ❄



Top: Auxiliary members Tony Hooper, David Perillo, Tony Novellino and Dean Bell stand near the Salty Sol boat ramp while the Maine 11th WMD/CST unit readies their gear before boarding the Auxiliary vessels Feb. 10, 2016.

Lower image: Heleyde Aponte aboard C LOVER watches as members of the Maine 11th WMD/CST board the SS AMERICAN VICTORY. Photos by Orrie Baffi, FL 7-16





MacDill Airfest 2016: Flotilla 79 Struts its Stuff at AirFest 2016

By Patricia Prado, SO-PA 7



Paul Anderson speaks with visitors to the Auxiliary information display at MacDill Airfest 2016 held Mar. 19-20, 2016. The Airfest drew approximately 120,000 visitors over a two-day period.

Right: Flotilla 79 members Glenn LeRoy and Paul Anderson and a prospective new member offer boating safety information to attendees of the MacDill AirFest 2016. Photos by Patricia Prado, SO-PA 7

Following a two-year hiatus and despite heightened security measures and forecasts for rough weather, MacDill Air Force Base opened its gates again to the public March 19 for AirFest 2016 and its 75th anniversary celebration. MacDill's 6th Air Mobility Wing rose to the occasion, and the March 19-20 weekend crowd totaling 120,000 was not disappointed. Who would be when the featured attraction is the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds with their F-16 Fighting Falcons! Of course there were also plenty of other aircraft static displays to explore, including a U.S. Coast Guard C-130 Hercules and an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter visiting from nearby Airstation Clearwater.

If you needed a break from the rain (or sun), you could also browse through Hangar 3 and visit the numerous military support, veterans, educational and public, and volunteer service organization exhibits on display there.

Hangar 3. That's where you would have found

representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division 7, Tampa Bay. Patricia Prado, Staff Officer-Public Affairs, and fellow Flotilla 79 Tampa Auxiliarists Glenn LeRoy and Paul Anderson had volunteered for the weekend mission there. Their basic jobs, or so Prado thought, would be to distribute boating safety information, promote boating safety education, and to recruit new members for the Auxiliary. More simply put, to tell the Coast Guard Family "story." To that end our new modus operandi would consist of asking visitors to sign up to receive regular Auxiliary email boating safety information "blasts," in the hope that they might be encouraged to register for local flotilla-based boating education courses and ultimately join the Auxiliary. Easy enough. The plan should work at your typical boat show, right?

It soon became clear to Prado and her flotilla colleagues that MacDill's AirFest was not like our typ-

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ical boat show; nor were its clientele or exhibitors necessarily the same as at those at boat shows. By and large, local folks came to AirFest to see the planes and probably were much less interested in visiting the information tables in Hangar 3. That could certainly explain why the Auxiliary table collected only 12 safety blast email addresses at an event with a total attendance of 120,000.

So, when one asks whether she is discouraged by the poor numbers, or whether she would consider representing the Auxiliary at the next MacDill Airfest, it all depends on how one measures success.

Once Prado got onto the base, negotiated security, and arrived at their space in Hangar 3, she had a wonderful time on both days! A lot of visitors did approach Anderson, LeRoy and Prado, many of them with some military connection or affiliation, past, present or future. And in turn, they visited with our exhibitor neighbors. In the course of the weekend Hangar 3 was transited by veterans young and old, active duty military, retired/rehired military, Federal Civil servants, Civil Air Patrol members of all ages, USO volunteers, high school

Junior ROTC members, and yes, by Coast Guard Auxiliarists. The typical boat show crowd it was not. But everyone was talking and sharing their stories with one another.

So while LeRoy, Anderson, and Prado worked diligently over two days to tell the boating safety/Coast Guard story at MacDill, there were wonderful people who seemed eager to share their stories and knowledge with the Auxiliary. People like:

L.S.: Active Duty Air Force, Air Force Academy graduate with two sons currently attending the Academy

J.A.: Active Duty Navy, Assistant Scoutmaster for MacDill AFB's Boy Scout Troop

S.C.: U.S. Army Ret., re-hired Civil Servant, key person at Joint Special Operations University (JSOU). located at MacDill. He is anxious for me to coordinate a visit with him at JSOU.

In terms of email addresses collected, we were not very successful, but it looks like we may have indeed found some of the "right stuff" at MacDill's AirFest. ☼

USCG Reserves Celebrates 75th Anniversary

By Patricia Prado, SO-PA 7



Sector St. Petersburg area United States Coast Guard Reservists pose with Guest of Honor Jan Gammon, retired from the United States Coast Guard after 24 years of service, at the Reserves 75th Anniversary celebrated Feb. 13, 2016, at the Windjammer at Sector St. Petersburg. Photo by George Papabeis, FL 74

Sector St. Petersburg celebrated the Coast Guard Reserve's 75th Anniversary Feb. 13, 2016, with a cake cutting ceremony at Sector's Windjammer Clubhouse. The event was attended by members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), United States Coast Guard Reserves (USCGR), Coast Guard Auxiliary and civilian guests. Patricia Prado, Staff Officer-Public Affairs

7 attended and offered her services as Public Affairs Officer While George Papabeis took photographs. LT Alissa Ochoa, USCGR, served as master of ceremonies.

In her opening comments, LT Ochoa said: "... This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Coast Guard reserve which was established by the passage of the Coast Guard Reserve and Auxiliary Act



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of Feb. 19, 1941. ... For 75 years, the Coast Guard Reserve has maintained its heritage of patriotism, professionalism and preparedness to remain always ready whenever and wherever needed."

Master Chief James Pancari read a message from Rear ADM Kirt Hinrichs, Director of the Coast Guard Reserve, and Reserve Force Master Chief Eric Johnson which read in part, "Whether it be man-made or natural, you have remained ready to respond to all threats and all hazards because that is what the American people have come to expect and rely on, and while our numbers have lessened over time, the 7000 reservists in uniform today, reflect a proud history of professionalism,

patriotism and preparedness. I know each of you willingly stand ready to answer our nation's call to serve whenever and wherever it is required. You have our deepest respect and sincerest thanks, Semper Paratus."

Senior Reserve Officer CDR Thomas Sidener and Guest of Honor Ms. Jan Gammon cut the cake marked by a unique tradition. While the first slice is offered to the guest of honor, the second and third pieces are given to the youngest and oldest guardsmen present to represent the passing of history and traditions from one generation to the next.

To all members of the USCGR- thank you for your service! Bravo Zulu! 🌟



Above: CAPT Gregory Case, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, USCG, examines one of George Papabeis' unmanned aerial vehicles at the USCG Reserves 75th Anniversary celebration held Feb. 13, 2016 at Sector.



Top right: Patricia Prado, SO-PA, takes notes from Reservists at the 75th Anniversary event.



Bottom right: Senior Reserve Officer CDR Thomas Sidener and Guest of Honor Ms. Jan Gammon cut the cake. While the first slice is offered to the guest of honor, the second and third pieces are given to youngest and oldest reservists present. The youngest is Rochelle Dugas and oldest, Anthony Guagnini. This represents the passing of history and traditions from one generation to the next. Photos by George Papabeis, FL 74





Unmanned Aerial Systems: *Do they have a future in the Coast Guard Auxiliary?*

By George Papabeis, Flotilla 74

With its strong history of being at the forefront of technology, members of District 7 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary are exploring the possibilities of using unmanned remote controlled aerial vehicles to gain access to areas otherwise inaccessible by boat. It was, after all, members of our district who first introduced personal watercraft (PWC) to the Coast Guard and to the Auxiliary, and our members who first introduced PWCs as facilities and helped write the 'Boat Crew Qualification Guide for PWC Operators.'

Be it the fulfillment of our fantasy of flight, or the application of our problem-solving skills combined with the vision to see greater possibilities, unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are here to stay. True to our exploratory history, members of District 7 recognize this phenomenon and are examining if- and how these vehicles can serve legitimate functions and missions within the Auxiliary.

Recent technological advances have made unmanned remote controlled aerial vehicles readily

available to the public. While many hobbyists buy RTF (ready to fly) aircraft, there is a core of builders that design, fabricate and program their own multirotor aircraft.

Multirotor aircraft use three or more propellers to fly the aircraft. The most common configuration is four propellers often called a quad-copter. The drive train consists of brushless electric motors, powered by Lithium batteries (LiPo). The cost and weight of LiPo batteries is rapidly decreasing.

The brain of any UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) is called a flight controller. The sophistication of flight controllers increase in an almost exponential fashion, but the price of the units decrease. UAVs are capable of a variety of functions by augmenting hardware and software.

Flight controllers usually have a ground control station (GCS) either on a laptop or a tablet that allows the operator to program the functions of the aircraft.

Left: A view of Apollo Beach from an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). Photo by George Papabeis, FL 74

Below: George Papabeis has a number of UAVs which he has built himself. Several can take off or land in water. Photo by Skylia Luckey, FL 72



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UAV systems can be augmented with infra-red cameras, chemical “sniffers,” Lidar (laser radar), and other sensor packages.

Some of the capabilities include:

1. Altitude Hold – Keeps the aircraft at a steady height.
2. Loiter – Keeps the aircraft in position using GPS.
3. Auto Land – flick a switch on the remote control, and the UAV lands itself. The pilot can make minor corrections, or override as needed.
4. RTH (Return to Home) – Flick a switch on the remote control, and the aircraft flies back to its take off point and lands. Alternately, the operator can pre-specify a “Home Point” different from the takeoff point, or have it return to a point in the air and hover, awaiting further commands.
5. Way Points – The Aircraft will fly a pre-specified pattern uploaded to the flight controller from the GCS. Waypoint missions can be created and saved for later use.
6. Go To – The operator can tap a point on a map using tablet or smartphone and the aircraft will fly to that point, go into a hover and wait for the next command.
7. Circle – On command the aircraft will fly in a circle of pre-specified radius.
8. ROI (Region of Interest) – Regardless of flight direction the front of the aircraft points at a specified location. An onboard camera can be made to point at the ROI in lieu of the aircraft.
9. Follow Me – When this mode is engaged, the aircraft will follow a smartphone or a tablet.
10. Geo Fencing – An area is defined in the GCS map that acts as an electronic “fence” preventing the UAV from flying beyond the fence's boundary. The fence can be set up to trigger a Loiter, Land or RTH condition.



George Papabeis explains the function of a specific part of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to MST1 Michael Walker at a presentation conducted Feb. 4, 2016, at Flotilla 72 in St. Petersburg. The presentation was attended by members of the Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, Florida Fish and Wildlife and other first responding agencies. Because the Auxiliary does not as yet have an official policy regarding UAVs, Papabeis was not in uniform and presented as a private citizen at the invitation of the Coast Guard. Photos by Skyla Luckey, FL 72



What are some of the possible missions that UAV systems can offer to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary?

1. Takeoff and land from water – several airframes are available that are water proof and float. These UAV's can be deployed from small boats without the need for a flight deck. The aircraft takes off from the water and lands on

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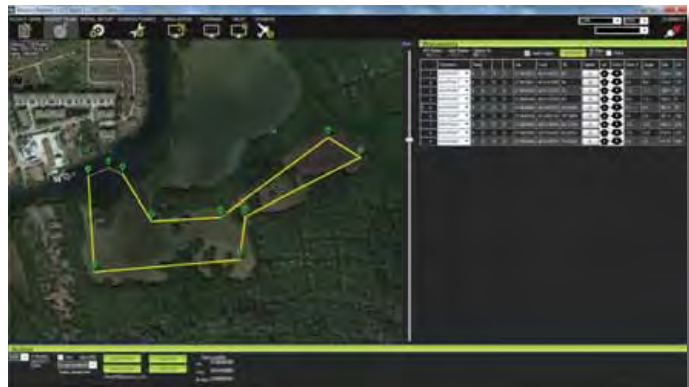
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the water, minimizing risk to the crew.

2. SAR (search and rescue) – A UAV can approach craft in areas that an Auxiliary facility would be restricted from by shallow waters. It can also gain enough altitude to see behind visual obstructions such as mangroves, buildings or large vessels. A video downlink with a 'Heads Up Display' (HUD) can give the operator immediate feedback such as latitude and longitude, show how many people are onboard the vessel, etc.
3. ATON verification – A UAV can approach aids to navigation that might be impossible for an Auxiliary facility to approach due to shallow water or underwater obstruction.
4. Marine Safety – UAV's can be used to monitor pollution, erosion, boom deployment, water quality and chemical contamination.
5. Infrastructure inspection – Radio towers, smokestacks, light houses or ATONS.
6. Public Affairs – dramatic film or photographs, of events, training or locals. 🌟



Few can resist their attraction! COMO Robert Weskerna checks out one of George Papabeis' UAVs after the Division 7 Awards ceremony Apr. 16, 2016 in Tampa. Photo by Patricia Prado, SO-PA7



Upper Image: Mangrove mission screen grab – A waypoint mission that would allow for a waterborne takeoff and landing. The green pin marked "H" is for home, the point from which a hypothetical Auxiliary facility would deploy the unmanned Aerial Vehicle. The mission would take about six minutes to complete and the operator would monitor the aircraft's video feed in real time, and record video or take photos. This mission would "give eyes" to an area of water otherwise be invisible to the crew of an Auxiliary facility.

Lower Image: The ground control station (GCS) heads up display (HUD). The standard blue and green background can be replaced with a video feed.

For more information about UAVs or UASs go to:
<http://www.theuav.com/>
<https://www.faa.gov/uas/>



Articles of Interest

Gasparilla Facts and Figures for Newcomers.

By D. Riley



For the first several years, the pirates invaded Tampa on horseback. Some years after this photo was taken, the Gasparilla was built and the invasion changed to water leading to the boat parade we are familiar with today. Photo from Tampa Historical collection.

The Gasparilla Pirate Festival is an annual celebration held late January through February each year in Tampa. It is named after the legendary José Gaspar (Gasparilla), 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 which travels up Tampa Bay and lands at the Tampa Convention Center. The mayor of Tampa then hands the key to the city to the pirate captain signaling the city's surrender, and a parade ensues down Bayshore Boulevard ending in Ybor City. The Krewes and other parade participants throw beads, coins and other items while shooting blank pistols from floats during both the boat parade and the victory parade through the city. This event is held on the last Saturday in January.

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 a family-oriented children's parade and "Pyrotechnic Extravaganza" with fireworks over Tampa Bay.

Until the attacks Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. 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 treated to an evening on the town. The Tampa Marine Fire Department took over the role of "defender of the city," as did the USS VICTORY in more recent years, but the traditional defense of the city has largely been abandoned.

Beginning in January 2008, an old tradition which ended in 1964 was revived. "The Gasparilla March



The modern day invasion of Tampa is by boat and the Gasparilla pirate vessel dominates the scene. Photo by Darren Hart, FL 79

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Articles of Interest

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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 officially end Gasparilla season and is called the Sant'Yago Illuminated Knight Parade.

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 has an economic impact of 20 to \$25 million to Tampa annually.
- Gasparilla was first held in May 1904 in Tampa Bay. The first invasions were on horseback instead of by boat. In 2004 the event celebrated its 100th anniversary.
- Historically, Gasparilla was held on the sec-



A Coast Guard Response Boat-Medium carries more than a full crew compliment as it accompanies the Gasparilla from the Yacht Club towards Tampa. Photo by George Papabeis, FL 74

ond 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. It has been held on this day ever since. ❄

Nautical terms to know...Chip Log: In the most ancient times, speed at sea was measured by dropping a piece of driftwood or a small log off of the stern of the moving ship. As the ship moved away from the wood, an approximate speed could be guessed. Of course, one could only do this so many times before exhausting the supply of wood aboard. This was remedied by attaching a length of light twine or line to the log; the same log could then be retrieved and used repeatedly. Marks were added to the line to allow for a more accurate speed reading.

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