

# // INTERCOM

Newsletter for Division 7, Tampa Bay

USCG Auxiliary

Issue 2

2024



National Safe Boating Week Activities

Independence Day on Both Sides of the Bay

Division 7 Members Earn Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards

## CONTENTS

---

From the Helm:	4
Dean Hoskin, DCDR	
From the Helm:	5
Anthony Hooper, VCDR	
Division 7 Mid-Year Report on Achievement of District Goals	7
Ruskin Radio and Boat Training Crew Assist Coast Guard in Rescue Mission.	10
Barry H. Porter: The Longest Serving Member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.	11
Flotilla 78 Members Honored with Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award	12
Division 7 Flotillas Join to Support Independence Day Parade	14
Sector St. Petersburg Honors Auxiliarist of the Quarter: Martin J. Jordan	18
James Fogle, a Star in the Classroom, on the Water, and Over the Airwaves.	19
Independence Day on the Other Side of the Bay... (Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport)	20
Happy Birthday Auxiliary	21
Division 7 Participates in National Safe Boating Week	22
AV Assistant - Identify and Verify Aids to Navigation	26
Diversity and Inclusion	28
Flotilla News	29
Tropical Storm Debby Skirts the Tampa Bay Coast	34
News and Updates from our Division Staff Officers	35
Division 7 Auxiliary Trains with Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Marine Unit	42
District 7 D-Train	44





# INTERCOM

Newsletter for Division 7 Tampa Bay, District 7, USCG Auxiliary  
Summer 2024

## Division 7 Elected Officers 2024

Div 7 Division Commander	Dean Hoskin, DCDR
Div 7 Division Vice Commander	Anthony Hooper, VCDR
Div 7 Immed. Past Division Commander	Daniel Helou, IPDCDR
FL-72 Flotilla Commander	Gordon Hornby III, FC
Flotilla Vice Commander	Cathy Campbell Heroux, VFC
FL-74 Flotilla Commander	Dorothy Riley, FC
Flotilla Vice Commander	Matthew Stephen, VFC
FL-75 Flotilla Commander	Elliot Seda, FC
Flotilla Vice Commander	Don Binder, VFC
FL-77 Flotilla Commander	Gilbert Thomas, FC
Flotilla Vice Commander	Ronald Ramos, VFC
FL-78 Flotilla Commander	Wally Behrendt, FC
Flotilla Vice Commander	Joe Rice Johnson III, VFC
FL-79 Flotilla Commander	Angel Urbina, FC
Flotilla Vice Commander	Braulio Urbina-Murga, VFC
FL-7-16 Flotilla Commander	Howard Bush, FC
Flotilla Vice Commander	Martin Richardson, VFC



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

## Division 7 Appointed Staff 2024

Auxiliary Scouting Program	Stephen Browning, SO-AS
Culinary Assistant	Patrick McAlvey, SO-FS
Communications	Howard Bush, SO-CM
Communication Services	Robert Witty, SO-CS
Diversity	Joseph Primosch, SO-DV
Finance	Jack Lee, SO-FN
Information Services	John Robbins, SO-IS
Human Resources	Gilbert Thomas, SO-HR
Materials	John Ruckert, SO-MA
Marine Safety	John Laurent, SO-MS
Member Training	Rollin Shouse III, SO-MT
Navigation Systems	Anthony Hooper, SO-NS
Operations	Dean Bell, SO-OP
Public Affairs	Joe Rice Johnson III, SO-PA
Publications	Dorothy J. Riley, SO-PB
Public Education	Thomas Perry, SO-PE
Partner Visits	D. Terry Hershman, SO-PV
Secretary	Martin Jordan, SO-SR
Vessel Examinations	Raymond Langley, SO-VE

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 Riley, SO-PB, email address: [dottieriley@gmail.com](mailto:dottieriley@gmail.com)

Dean Hoskin, Division 7 Commander; Anthony Hooper, Division 7 Vice Commander; and Paul Ruckert from Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach docked at Station St. Petersburg on May 16 while training with the station's Coast Guard members. USCG photograph

## From the Helm

*"As Auxiliarists, it is our solemn duty to always remember that we are the face of the Coast Guard."*



Dean Hoskin  
Division Commander

I am extremely proud of the work that all our flotillas have put in this year. We continue to be force multipliers in all Auxiliary and Coast Guard areas. Our Flotilla Commanders and our Staff Officers and members have put in valuable service hours. Boaters Education is the staple of the Auxiliary. Our Boaters Safety classes are a great resource for recruiting and building our membership. Our boaters' education is seen in the classrooms, in our vessel exams, in Recreational Boating Safety Partner Visits, in Public Affairs opportunities, and in our on-water operations.

Senior Chief Whitby and BM1 Hudson from Station St. Petersburg recently asked for our coxswains and crews to help with their search and rescue equipment and training exercises. These activities have helped train various fire departments and marine reservists on the water in towing evolutions and search patterns. These activities have boosted our relationship with Coast Guard Station St. Petersburg, our willingness to serve, and the professional manner in which these tasks are performed.

As Division Commander, I am thrilled to witness the significant

growth in our relationship with the Coast Guard. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be recognized and respected by our brothers and sisters in the Coast Guard. This relationship, which has taken years to develop, is a testament to our dedication and professionalism.

As Auxiliarists, it is our solemn duty to always remember that we are the face of the Coast Guard. We must strive to represent the Coast Guard in the best possible way and be ever ready to serve in whatever capacity is asked of us. Our commitment to this responsibility is what sets us apart.

Going back to what I stated in the beginning, I am very proud of all we have done to put in the work necessary to be one of the best divisions in this district.

*Dean Hoskin*

Division 7 Commander



## From the Helm

*"In 2004, the Coast Guard had 39,361 active-duty personnel. In 2023, that number was 41,500. ... The Auxiliary is down from 35,000 in 2004 to 20,101 today"*

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary began in a time of crisis. The development of the single-operator motorboat and then the outboard engine led to explosive growth in recreational boating. Combined with the global war that broke out in Europe, the Coast Guard faced significant challenges.

The Commandant, Admiral Russell Waesche (whose granddaughter is an active sailor living in Tampa), is credited with founding the reserve force that became the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary.

If we complain today about confusion, budgets, equipment, and the list goes on, imagine what it was like for our original members. Instead of moaning about a balky computer system, they had to create everything from scratch.

Our situation today is, hopefully, not as dramatic. But we can still learn from our founding days. We confront major challenges and, like our predecessors, cannot afford to wait for things to trickle down from the top. We must adapt on the ground (and on the water) to the evolving challenges.

What are they?

As much as the organization tries to adapt, it is an adage that we are always prepared to fight the last war. Training and doctrine may lag, so we must partner with our local active-duty units. As they grapple with the conflict of expanding mission and contracting resources, simply gearing up for our traditional roles will not be enough.

We tend to think that today's demand for more Auxiliary support of the active-duty is something new. In June 1995, COMDINST 16500.16A said, "In today's funding and resource-limited environment, the Coast Guard must make better use of the Auxiliary by eliminating unnecessary programmatic restrictions and employing the Auxiliary as a force multiplier."

In 1997, a significant shift occurred, expanding the role of the Auxiliary beyond recreational boating safety. The legislation authorized us to participate in all Coast Guard missions except direct military and law enforcement. This change underscores the importance of our role and the increased opportunities for us to contribute.

In 1939, 26,201,400 automobiles were registered in the United States. Registered recreational vessels numbered 300,000. That means one boat for every 87 cars. In 2023, the records show 286 million cars and 12 million boats, one boat per 24 cars. Anyone who drives in Florida knows our highway law enforcement is stretched, but while there are 11 times as many cars as in 1939, there are 40 times as many boats. Looking at it from another perspective, the number of cars per capita is 4.3 times more than in 1939, while the number of boats per capita is 15.6 times more.

Recreational vessels are only the Recreational Boating Safety component of the Coast Guard mission.

*(Continued on page 6)*



Anthony Hooper  
Division Vice Commander





(Continued from page 5)

The demand for resources to support search and rescue, aids to navigation, environmental protection, marine resources, drug and migrant interdiction, ports, waterways, coastal security, and defense readiness has also grown.

How have resources kept pace? In 2004, the Coast Guard had 39,361 active-duty personnel. In 2023, that number was 41,500. Has that kept pace with the mission growth? The Auxiliary is down from 35,000 in 2004 to 20,101 today.

No matter our age, we have seen profound changes in our lifetimes.

How do we face the challenges ahead?

We need to be creative.

Let's consider our organizational structure as an example. A flotilla requires 17 elected and appointed officers. We have 95 flotillas in D7, meaning 1,615 officers. There are 17 divisions, each calling for 19 officers—a total of 323. Add almost 100 officer positions in the district, exceeding 2,000. At last count, the Seventh District had 3,880 members. That means that 52% of us need to be officers.

We all know that is not how it works in practice. The reality is that many officers hold multiple positions. Can we really train and coordinate all those officers? Are we best served by having placeholders in so many offices?

Now imagine a private enterprise in which half the employees are managers. Can you think of one?

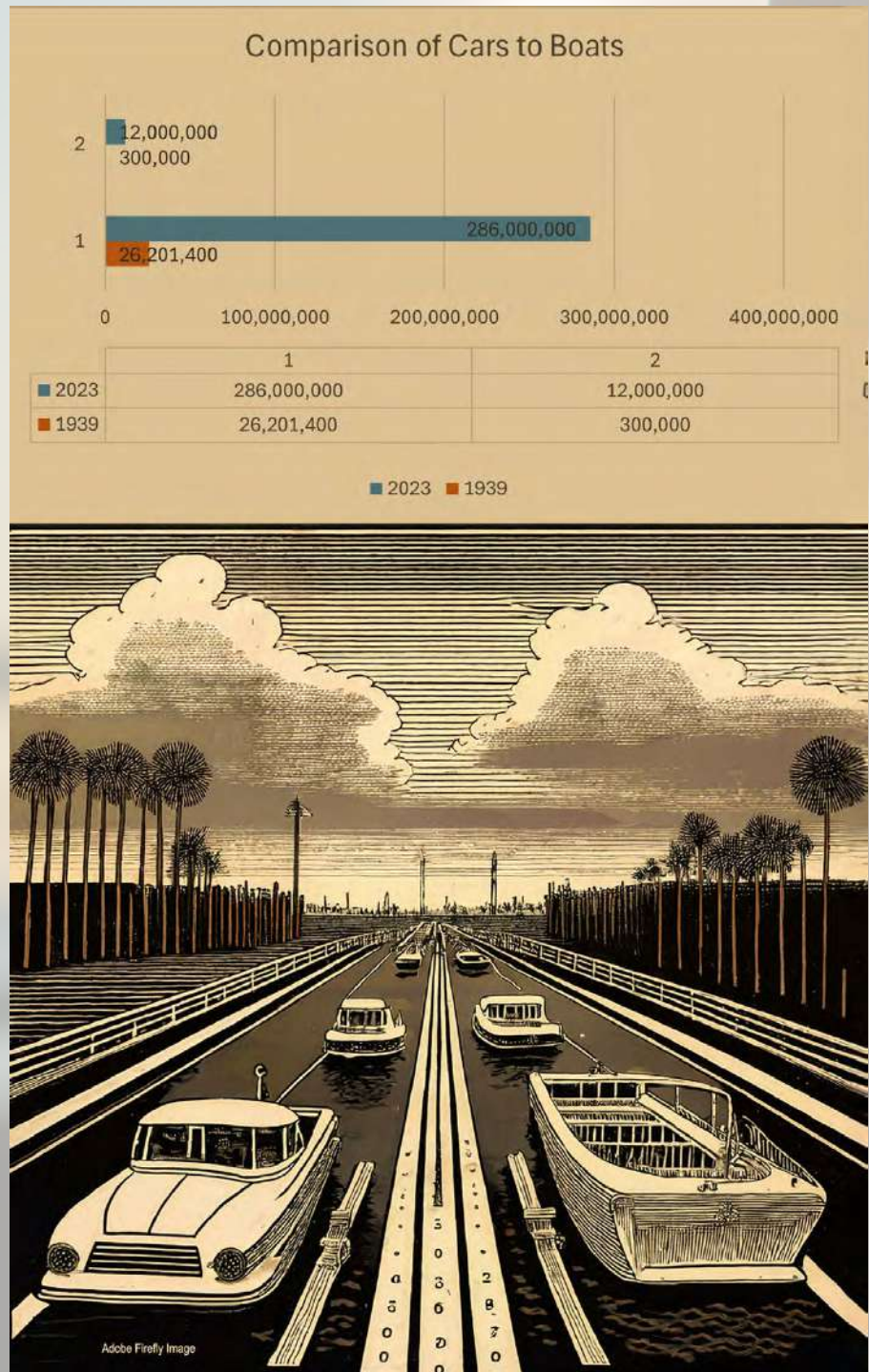
Elected officers are limited to two-year terms, so we have constant turnover. How many companies in the Dow Jones average shuffle their leadership every two years?

Imagine your doctor changing every two years.

This is not advocating that you go

out and overturn the apple cart. It is, however, an invitation to think more creatively about what we can do differently to address the clear challenge: our mission continues to expand. In contrast, our resources will continue to be strained.

This cannot be addressed by trying harder. It requires change. Ω



## By the numbers...

# Division 7 Mid-Year Report on Achievement of District Goals

By Anthony Hooper, VCDR

District 7 has a set of quantifiable goals for 2023 and 2024. This report examines how Division 7 is performing relative to those goals.

### 1. Increase membership by 10% each year.

This table presents the membership numbers by type as of December 31, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

MEMBERS	ST PETE	BRANDON	APOLLO BEACH	POLK	ST PETE BEACH	TAMPA	GULFPORT	DIVISION	DISTRICT
	72	74	75	77	78	79	7-16	7	7
31-Dec-23	AX	11	3	6	3	6	11	1	41
	BQ	63	23	37	18	33	26	14	214
	IQ		6	1	1		3		11
	AP		8	7		2	5	1	23
	TOTAL	74	40	51	22	41	45	16	289
30-Jun-24	AX	10	3	6	3	6	11	1	40
	AX % Total	12.7%	7.0%	11.3%	13.0%	12.5%	23.9%	5.6%	12.9%
	BQ	68	24	38	18	37	26	16	227
	BQ % Total	86.1%	55.8%	71.7%	78.3%	77.1%	56.5%	88.9%	73.2%
	IQ		5	1	1		3		10
	IQ % Total	0.0%	11.6%	1.9%	4.3%	0.0%	6.5%	0.0%	3.2%
	AP	1	11	8	1	5	6	1	33
CHANGE	AP % Total	1.3%	25.6%	15.1%	4.3%	10.4%	13.0%	5.6%	10.6%
	TOTAL	79	43	53	23	48	46	18	310
	AX	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)
	BQ	5	1	1	0	4	0	2	13
	IQ	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	(1)
% CHANGE	AP	1	3	1	1	3	1	0	10
	TOTAL	5	3	2	1	7	1	2	21
	AX	-9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-2%
	BQ	8%	4%	3%	0%	12%	0%	14%	6%
	IQ		-17%	0%	0%		0%		-9%
% CHANGE	AP		38%	14%		150%	20%	0%	43%
	TOTAL	7%	8%	4%	5%	17%	2%	13%	7%
	AX								
	BQ								
	IQ								
	AP								
	TOTAL								

The summary table below offers a quick view of the results relative to the goals.

MEMBERS	72 ST PETE	74 BRANDON	75 APOLLO BEACH	77 POLK	78 ST PETE BEACH	79 TAMPA	7-16 GULFPORT	DIVISION 7	DISTRICT 7
31-Dec-2023	74	40	51	22	41	45	16	289	3,707
30-Jun-2024	79	43	53	23	48	46	18	310	3,857
Change	5	3	2	1	7	1	2	21	150
Percent Change	7%	8%	4%	5%	17%	2%	13%	7%	4%

At mid-year, our division has increased net membership by 7%, while the district has grown by 4%. All but one of our flotillas equaled or outperformed the district.

Of course, we all realize that most disenrollments come in the latter part of the year when dues are collected. This means that we may not hold this net gain, but we made satisfactory progress in the first half. Difficulties with the enrollment process has resulted in losing some applicants.

**Result:** A net gain of 7% in the first half.

(Continued on page 8)





## 2. Increase certifications by 5% each year.

	MEMBERS with Competencies	COMPETENCIES	Per Member
December 31, 2023	103	242	2.3
June 30, 2024	103	242	2.3
Change	0	0	0
Change Percent	0%	0%	0%
Does not include AUXCT, BQC II, Leadership Levels, Youth Protection Training			

**Result:** The goal is not being met. No gain in the first half.

## 3. Increase the number of certified TCO by 5%.

Certified TCO	
December 31, 2023	13
June 30, 2024	18
Change	5
Change Percent	38%

**Result:** We exceeded goal with a 38% net increase in TCO numbers.

## 4. Increase the number of certified AUXPAD by 5%.

**Result:** This goal has not been met. Division 7 still has no certified AUXPAD.

## 5. Qualify at least one member of each Division as an Uninspected Passenger Vessel Examiner (UPV).

Division 7 currently has one UPV, the same as in 2023.

**Result:** This goal was technically achieved, but we should be aiming to qualify another member.

## 6. Increase the number of UPV (Uninspected Passenger Vessel Exams) by 5%.

UPV	
Jan - Jun 2023	2
Jan - Jun 2024	1
Change	-1
Change Percent	-50%

**Result:** This goal was not met. The number of UPV decreased 50%.

## 7. Qualify at least one member of each Division as a CFVE (Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner.)

Division 7 currently has one CFPV, the same as in 2023.

**Result:** This goal was technically achieved, but we should be aiming to qualify another member.

## 8. Increase the number of CFVE by 5%.

CFVE	
Jan - Jun 2023	10
Jan - Jun 2024	5
Change	-5
Change Percent	-50%

**Result:** This goal was not met. The number of CFVE decreased 50%.

(Continued on next Page)





**9. Appoint a Paddlecraft Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO-PAD) in each flotilla.**

Division 7 has not appointed any staff officers for Paddlecraft. It is not clear if this position formally exists yet.

**10. Increase Public Education (PE) graduates. In one place the goal is 10% and in another the goal is 5%.**

PE GRADUATES			
	Youth	All Other	Total
Jan - Jun 2023	919	194	1,113
Jan - Jun 2024	1,442	59	1,501
Change	523	(135)	388
Change Percent	57%	-70%	35%

This result is mixed. The number of youth graduates is up 57%, for which full credit is due to Flotilla 75 and their outstanding outreach to schools. The number of graduates from the more traditional courses is down 70%. This is a great concern. PE is a core part of our Recreational Boating Safety outreach, a critical part of our recruiting process, and, for many flotillas, a key revenue source.

Examining the results by flotilla shows that this decline happened across the board. We need to understand and address this issue.

**Result: While we can argue that our total count is up, and can certainly be proud of the stellar increase in outreach to youth, we need to be alarmed about the traditional in-person PE courses.**

**11. Increase Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) by 5%.**

VSC	
Jan - Jun 2023	2,032
Jan - Jun 2024	2,250
Change	218
Change Percent	11%

**Result: The Goal is being met. VSC are up 11%.**

**12. Increase Recreational Boating Safety Visits (RBSV), formerly PV, by 5%.**

RBSV (PV)	
Jan - Jun 2023	485
Jan - Jun 2024	515
Change	30
Change Percent	6%

**Result: The Goal is being met. RBSV are up 6%.**

**Conclusions:**

Our performance is exceeding the goals in Vessel Safety Checks, Recreational Boating Safety Visits, and the number of TCO. Bravo Zulu!

The Youth Education program at Flotilla 75 continues to grow and set an example.

Membership is up in the first half, but the most challenging time of the year awaits us. Achievement of the member growth goal is far from assured.

In a separate report we will examine the issue of active versus total members. (Nerd alert.)

We made no measured progress in growing the number of certifications or members with certifications. Some of those included in the mid-year data will leave us before year end. Nevertheless, the programs underway to increase certified members in key fields should bear fruit in the second half.

The state of our traditional RBS courses is alarming and requires urgent attention.

It is important to have specific, quantifiable goals "What gets measured gets done." However, leaders must remember that the choice of metrics is imperfect and may not properly characterize what is important (think number of cavalry horses in 1914 and number of battleships in 1941).

Progress is in large measure sensed by momentum and morale. Do you feel your team is getting better? Despite the frustrations and, yes, failures, have you made progress?

At every level from AP to National Commodore, we advance by picking the right issues and the right people, by guiding and supporting those people – in other words, by leading. Ω



# Ruskin Radio and Boat Training Crew Assist Coast Guard in Rescue Mission

By Elliott Seda

On Saturday, May 11, Ruskin Radio, operated by Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach, was conducting a radio guard for an Auxiliary training mission. Dean Bell, coxswain, and his crew were one of the vessels conducting a boat crew qualifying examination in the Gandy area.

At approximately 11:15 AM, Ruskin Radio heard a distress call on CH 16. Sector St. Petersburg was in communication with the distressed vessel. The communication was in Spanish. Ariel Rodriguez, a Telecommunications Operator, and Elliott Seda, a Telecommunications Operator, were qualified English/Spanish interpreters who began translating and documenting the communication. The vessel in distress had run aground and was taking on water. Four persons were on board; fortunately, all wore their life vests. The distressed boat gave Sector their position, and the depth of the water in that area was about two feet.

Seda and Rodriguez took down their position and plotted it on the chart at the station. They noted that the vessel was between one and one-and-a-half miles from the Auxiliary boat. They immediately contacted Dean



Bell, the coxswain, gave him the distressed vessel's position, and asked him to verify the distance. He did and responded by letting us know that they had ceased their training and were headed to the vessel in distress. Bell contacted Sector to inform them they were heading to the grounded vessel.

Bell's vessel was first on the scene. The Coast Guard arrived soon after and told Bell they would take over. Bell then headed back to Gandy and resumed training. Due to the radio's abysmal reception, all communication between Ruskin Radio and Bell's Auxiliary facility was via cell phone.

Bravo Zulu to Telecommunications Operators Elliott Seda, Ariel Rodriguez, and Judy Clapp at Ruskin Radio and Dean Bell and his crew, Dean Hoskin, Dennis Smith, and Gloria Bailey, for their immediate reaction and response to the emergency. This is the Auxiliary at its best—Semper Paratus. Ω

Top: Elliott Seda stands radio watch at Ruskin Radio on Feb. 6, 2023. Assisting him is Ray Langley.

Below: Dean Bell conducts Boat Crew training in 2023. USCG Auxiliary photographs





# Barry H. Porter:

## *The longest serving member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary*

By Martin Jordan



Barry H. Porter has been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 1959 for 65 years. He is the most senior and longest-serving member of the USCG Auxiliary.

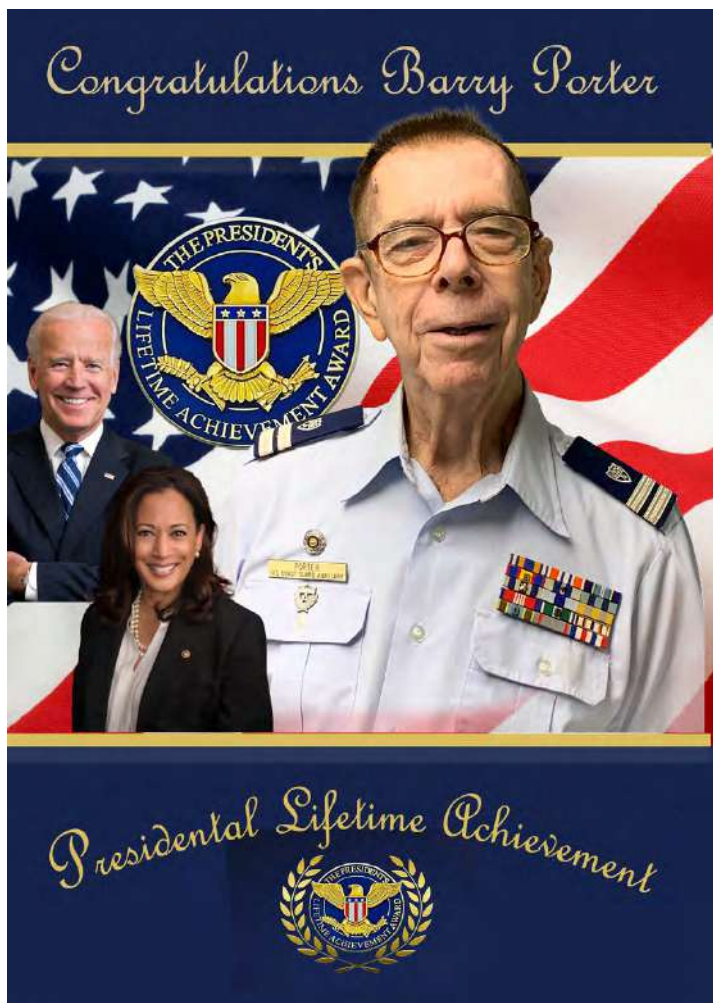
Barry has been a Vessel Examiner for over 20 years and has conducted hundreds of vessel exams. Additionally, he has completed over 450 Member Training activities and received 28 Awards. During his 65 years of service, Barry has held the positions of Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Vice Commander twice, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, Staff Officer for Human Resources, Staff Officer Member Training, and Flotilla Staff Officer Materials seven times and has recorded well over 4,000 hours since the Auxiliary started recording member hours.

Barry Porter has a huge heart and a passion for serving others. He is an icon of Auxiliary history, and Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, will always regard him as such. We are all grateful to Barry Porter for his unwavering service.

Barry epitomizes the words Bravo Zulu! Ω

Top: Barry Porter on patrol in 2019. USCG Auxiliary photograph

Below: Barry Porter received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award May 1, 2024. Image composite by Dorothy Riley



# Flotilla 78 Members Honored with Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

Submitted by Ron Shouse

Daniel Helou, District Captain-West, and Dean Hoskin, Division 7 Commander, presented five members of Flotilla 78, St. Pete Beach, a "Lifetime Achievement Award." The members are Brenda J. Burger, Joseph Perez, Donald E. Rimel, Donald "Terry" Hershman, and Charles Lambeth.

We are proud of their contributions to the USCG Auxiliary and to our nation.



## Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

### Brenda J. Burger

Brenda has been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 2002. She has been certified in 11 different Auxiliary Competencies and has received 50 Awards. Brenda currently holds the FSO-IS position for Flotilla 78, the SO-IS position in Division 7 and the ADSO-IS position for District 7. In her 22 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary, Brenda has recorded over 12,056 volunteer hours.



## Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

### Joseph Perez

Joe has been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 2009. He has received 23 Awards for his work in OPS Support. In his 15 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary, Joseph has recorded over 12,747 volunteer hours.







## Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

### Donald E. Rimel

Don has been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 1990. He has been certified in 7 different Auxiliary Competencies and has received 71 Awards. In his 34 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary, Don has recorded over 15,836 volunteer hours.



## Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

### Donald T. ("Terry") Hershman

Terry has been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 2008. He has been certified in 12 different Auxiliary Competencies and has received 64 Awards. Terry currently holds the FAUC position in District 7 and the SO-PV position for Division 7. In his 16 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary, Terry has recorded over 16,163 volunteer hours.



## Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

### Charles F. Lambeth

Charles has been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 2002. He has been certified in 8 different Auxiliary Competencies and has received 58 Awards. Charles currently holds the FADSO-AV position in District 7. In his 22 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary, Charles has recorded over 17,428 volunteer hours.





# *The Making of a Successful Event:* Division 7 Flotillas Join to Support Independence Day Parade.

By Dorothy Riley



The 2024 Brandon Independence Day Parade was almost a missed opportunity, but thanks to the monumental efforts of William Sage, chairman of the Flotilla 74, Brandon's Fourth of July Committee, and members from three flotillas, Auxiliary participation became a reality. This collective effort is a testament to our unity and shared commitment.

Our journey to the 2024 Brandon Independence Day Parade was not without its challenges. The disbandment of the Brandon Community Council, which had coordinated previous parades, was the flotilla's first hurdle. But William Sage's determination to identify new sponsors and our collective resilience brought us to the entry deadline, inspiring us all with the power of perseverance.

Next, we ran against parade requirements. The organizers required at least two safety officers per vehicle or 'float,' drivers, and persons to carry our banner. That was a huge ask for Flotilla 74, as many of the members are seniors and would likely find a two-mile walk in the extreme heat a challenge. Only eight members from Flotilla 74 volunteered to participate. Sage invited other flotillas to join

*(Continued on page 15)*





us, and Flotillas 75, Apollo Beach, and 72, St. Petersburg, answered the call. Let us state this more directly: the Auxiliary's participation in the Brandon Independence Day Parade would not have been possible without their assistance.

On parade day, participants were asked to wear their operational dress uniforms and assemble at Flotilla 74 at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday. From there, they were transported to the parade line-up point. Member Steve Williams brought his boat, and Martin Jordan from Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, positioned himself in the communications van behind the boat. The parade route from Lumsden Road to LaViva Plaza in Brandon is 2.3 miles. The designated Safety Officers wearing green vests

*(Continued on page 16)*

Previous page: Steve Williams' "Miss Daisy" and parade participants from Flotilla 74, Brandon, and Flotilla 75 Apollo Beach pose for a photo at the parade starting point on July 4, 2024. The young people in civilian clothing are the teenage children of Brett Skaggs and a friend. Photo by Natalie Skaggs

Martin Jordan in the Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg communications van in Brandon's Independence Day parade. Several members serving as safety officers flank the van. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley

Above: Top: The teenage children of Flotilla 74, Brandon member Brett Skaggs, carried the flotilla's banner. While uniformed members would have been preferable, we are grateful that Skaggs's children, Chase, Haylee, and Alexa, and their friend, Michael Cartagena, volunteered and filled the void.

"Miss Daisy" decked in preparation for the Brandon Independence Day Parade. Photos by Natalie Skaggs







(Continued from page 15)

and carrying whistles were Earl Abbott and George Humphrey from Flotilla 74 and Jennifer Holmes and Elliott Seda from Flotilla 75. Three individuals carried the Flotilla 74 banner in front of the boat. These volunteers were member Brett Scaggs' teenage children, Chase, Haylee, and Alexa Scaggs, and a fourth teen, Michael Cartagena. Brett Scagg's wife, Natalie, was instrumental in helping to transport walkers and pick up the pizza after the parade.

Despite the 94-degree heat, our members safely completed the parade route. Plenty of cold water was available to keep everyone hydrated.

At the parade's end, everyone was heat-flushed and perspiring, and they were glad to return to the air-conditioned flotilla, where they enjoyed pizza, water, festive cupcakes, and soda, but most of all, friendly camaraderie.

We are extremely proud and grateful to everyone who participated and made this year's parade a success. Ω




At the parade's conclusion, participants flush with heat stand under the shade of oak trees to cool off.

After the parade, participants gather at Flotilla 74, Brandon in the cooling welcome air-conditioning. Within minutes, Natalie Skaggs appeared with the pizza for them to enjoy. USCG Auxiliary photo by Dorothy Riley







**We applaud the members of  
Division 7, Tampa Bay whose  
participation made  
the Auxiliary's representation at  
the 2024 Brandon Independence  
Day Parade possible.**

**Flotilla 74, Brandon**

**Earl Abbott  
George Humphrey  
August Miller  
Vy Pham  
Dorothy Riley  
William Sage  
Brett Skaggs  
Steve Williams**

**Flotilla 74 Friends and Family**

**Natalie Skaggs  
Chase Skaggs  
Haylee Skaggs  
Alexa Skaggs  
Michael Cartagena**

**Flotilla 75, Apollo Beach**

**Larry Binder  
Jennifer Holmes  
Ariel Rodriguez  
Elliott Seda  
Yvonne Gorham**

**Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg**

**Martin Jordan**

Background image: Adobe Firefly



# Sector St. Petersburg Honors Auxiliarist of the Quarter: Martin J. Jordan, Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

JUN 07 2024

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE SELECTION OF  
MARTIN J. JORDAN  
AUXILIARIST OF THE QUARTER, US COAST GUARD,  
SECTOR ST. PETERSBURG  
Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg, Florida**

**For outstanding achievement as a staff officer of Flotilla 72  
St. Petersburg, Florida, from January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024.**

Mr. Jordan demonstrated exceptional leadership, initiative, and dedication in bringing every one of the 83 members of the flotilla into compliance with the Auxiliary Competency Training (AuxCT) program, achieving either Auxiliary Qualification (AX) or Basic Qualification (BQ).


He tirelessly analyzed the flotilla roster, created a list of names and AuxCT course dates, and then visited, emailed, or phoned every member. He also created a form with an active link to the educational resources offered by the District Command website, so that the members could side-step the search for courses and directly access the required courses online. He subsequently followed up daily or weekly with encouragement notes, phone calls, emails, to keep the members informed and on track.

As a result of Mr. Jordan's actions, Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg achieved 100% compliance with the AuxCT program, with all members either AX or BQ.

This remarkable feat had a direct impact on the selection of Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg as the District 7 Flotilla of the Year for 2023, a prestigious award that recognizes the flotilla that has demonstrated the highest level of performance, professionalism, and dedication to the Coast Guard Auxiliary mission.

Mr. Jordan was also tasked to write the narrative for the Flotilla of the Year nomination, detailing the history and achievements of the flotilla since its inception in 1940.

Mr. Jordan's actions reflect great credit upon himself, Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg, District 7, and the United States Coast Guard and Auxiliary.

  
Michael P. Kahle,  
Captain, United States Coast Guard  
Sector St. Petersburg

Martin Jordan  
USCG Auxiliary photo





## James Fogle, a Star in the Classroom, on the Water, and Over the Airwaves.

By Martin Jordan

James M Fogle has been a member of the USCG Auxiliary since 2003. He has been certified in six different Auxiliary competencies and has received 51 awards, 20 of which are Sustained Service Awards. In his 21 and a half years of service to the USCG Auxiliary, James has recorded over 11,000 volunteer hours.

A member of Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, Fogle is a licensed boat captain who has conducted mariner safety education broadcasts on Saturdays and Sundays on a local radio station for over ten years. He rarely misses a day for 52 weekends

yearly, totaling 1,072 Safety Broadcasts. One can only imagine how many lives have been saved through his dedication.

Fogle is also considered the consummate Boating Skills and Seamanship Public Education Icon that all instructors look to for his many years of teaching the Boater Safety

Classes every Tuesday evening to the public. He has been a Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Education for over ten years. Hundreds of students have graduated from his boating safety classes, and countless lives have been saved.



James Fogle, Division 7 Staff Officer-Public Education co-hosts the Reel Animals Radio Show from the WFLA IHeart Radio (970 AM) studio in Clearwater, Florida, from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. with Captain Dylan Hubbard, President of Hubbard's Marina, Madera Beach. Photo provided by James Fogle

Fogle has held multiple officer positions, including branch chief, Flotilla Commander, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, and staff officer in public education, public affairs, information services, and finance. He offered his vessel as an Auxiliary facility for over six years and participated in numerous training and search-and-rescue missions. Fogle has over 2,000 Member

Activities listed in the Auxiliary Data System and has maxed out the system to view member storage and entries.

James Fogle is an exemplary and consummate Bravo Zulu Auxiliarist. We are grateful for his service, mentoring, and friendship. Ω





# *Independence Day on the other side of the bay...*

## **The smallest flotilla's Vice Commander has the biggest heart, making the parade possible.**

By Howard Bush, Flotilla Commander



With many members out of town and too many others non-active, Marty Richardson, Vice Commander, Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport, with a handful of members, family, and friends, and utilizing Howard Bush's boat, represented the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in Gulfport, Florida's 4th of July Parade celebration. The Gulfport Community, including Marty's wife Corkey, her friend Eleanor, Matt, and his wife Lisa, all wearing the Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport logo tee shirts, jumped at the chance to assist in this memorable event. Ω



Background: Adobe Firefly







Happy Birthday Auxiliary

From: Schofield, Douglas M RADM USCG D7 (USA)

Date: Sun, Jun 23, 2024 at 11:05 AM

Subject: Happy 85th Birthday to the CG Auxiliary!

To: John Holmes

Cc: Carmichael, Willie L. CAPT USCG D7 (USA) , Vaughan, Nicolette A CAPT USCG (USA) , Tuxhorn, Benjamin R LCDR USCG D7 (USA) , Martin Goodwin , Gibson, Eric T. MCPO USCG D7 (USA) , Doug Armstrong , djhelou@gmail.com , Parker, James H III VOL (USA) , Waldo, Kenneth R MCPO USCG D7 (USA)

Commodore,

Please pass along a Happy Auxiliary 85th! Birthday to your D7 Auxiliary Team. After being in this job just a year, I value the D7 Aux Team every day, supporting operations and prevention, standing the watch, providing Chaplain services, or just providing leadership and mentorship to our active duty, reserve, and civilian staff. Thank you and for volunteering to support the U.S. Coast Guard. I am honored to work with you!

Respectfully,

RADM Douglas M. Schofield Commander, Coast Guard Seventh District

Director, Homeland Security Task Force - Southeast (HSTF-SE)







## Division 7 Participates in National Safe Boating Week

Every flotilla within Division 7 participated in National Safe Boating Week. Some of the activities were traditional events such as Vessel Safety Check blitzes, conducting recreational boating safety classes, and receiving National Safe Boating Week declarations from public officials, and others were unique and creative.

Every event promoted boating safety and life jacket wear. The goal of spreading the boating safety message was successful, and several flotillas not only achieved this but also discovered new and exciting venues for Partner Visits, Vessel Safety Checks, and Recreational Boating Safety Public Affairs events, paving the way for even more successful future events. Additionally, Auxiliarists spread the message:



**WE SAVE LIVES!**

*Editors note: While the Intercom received many photos of members participating in National Safe Boating Week events, many images were too small to publish larger than the images depicted in the film strip photo frames.*

