



## High- and Low-Tech Combine to Make the 2011 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion One of the Safest Ever!

Tim Teahan, SO-PA 7, FC 79



**Marla Short and Tim Robinson aboard *Miss Marla* from Flotilla 72 display the 'low-tech' but most effective signs for alerting recreational boaters to slow down during the 2011 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion and Boat Parade on January 29, 2011. The signs were made by Robin Conn from Flotilla 79. Rick Short served as coxswain aboard *Miss Marla* for the event. In addition to Robinson and Marla Short, Jim Fogle, Jim DeSanto and Ken Bienkowski, all from Flotilla 72 serve as crew. Photo by Rick Short, FC 72.**

TAMPA BAY- Web-based technology and low-tech signboards utilized by the Coast Guard Auxiliary during the 2011 edition of the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion combined to help make this year's event one of the safest ever. And, the efforts of 23 facilities and 91 coxswains, boat crew, trainees and radio watchstanders from three Auxiliary Divisions: Seven, Eight and Eleven, made Auxiliary involvement in the 2011 invasion one of the largest in the 50 years the Auxiliary has been involved in the event.

As they have for years, Auxiliary vessels monitored security zones in the Port of Tampa and provided a deterrent presence in several key locations along the boat parade route. In addition, five Auxiliary boats and two personal watercrafts (PWC) served as platforms for the manatee watch effort coordinated by the Environmental Protection Commission.\* Two other facilities were designated as 'response boats' and

assisted law enforcement agencies as needed.

This year, the Coast Guard and parade organizers established more encompassing 'No Wake Zones' in and around the parade route to better control the speed of participating vessels. The effort was largely successful, due in part to highly-visible "No Wake Zone" and "Slow Down" signboards created by Robin Conn, FL 79 and displayed by crewmembers aboard Auxiliary vessels.

For the first time during a Gasparilla event, Tampa Radio One watchstanders used Internet technology and their version of low-tech: a white board to monitor the status of all 23 Auxiliary facilities and to observe the hundreds of participating vessels in Seddon, Garrison and Sparkman channels. Terry Affeld, Staff Officer-Communications Division 7, Amos Johnson, Division Commander 7, Craig Starns, Flotil-

*(continued on page 4)*

## Division Elected Officers



<b>Div 7</b>	Division Commander	<b>DCDR</b>	Amos Johnson
<b>Div 7</b>	Division Vice Commander	<b>VCDR</b>	J. Michael Shea
<b>Div 7</b>	Immediate Past Division Commander	<b>IPDCD</b>	Peter Lore
<b>FL-72</b>	Flotilla Commander	<b>FC</b>	Richard L. Short
	Flotilla Vice Commander	<b>VFC</b>	Gene Keller
<b>FL-74</b>	Flotilla Commander	<b>FC</b>	Gilbert Thomas
	Flotilla Vice Commander	<b>VFC</b>	Ken Morningstar
<b>FL-75</b>	Flotilla Commander	<b>FC</b>	Alma Parrish
	Flotilla Vice Commander	<b>VFC</b>	Guy Mandigo
<b>FL-78</b>	Flotilla Commander	<b>FC</b>	Brad Marchant
	Flotilla Vice Commander	<b>VFC</b>	James Armstrong
<b>FL-79</b>	Flotilla Commander	<b>FC</b>	Tim Teahan
	Flotilla Vice Commander	<b>VFC</b>	Theresa (Bunny) Johnson
<b>FL-7-16</b>	Flotilla Commander	<b>FC</b>	James Newman
	Flotilla Vice Commander	<b>VFC</b>	Linda Harwitt

***We're on the web!***

***<http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/>***

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

## Division Staff Officers

Communications	<b>SO-CM</b>	Terence E. Affeld
Communication Services	<b>SO-CS</b>	Joseph Parrish
Finance	<b>SO-FN</b>	Oscar Kramer
Information Services	<b>SO-IS</b>	Theresa Johnson
Materials	<b>SO-MA</b>	Ronald G. Matz
Marine Safety	<b>SO-MS</b>	Robert Starns
Member Training	<b>SO-MT</b>	Clifford J. Martin
Navigation Systems	<b>SO-NS</b>	Marvin Bayles
Operations	<b>SO-OP</b>	Clifford J. Martin
Public Affairs	<b>SO-PA</b>	Timothy Teahan
Publications	<b>SO-PB</b>	Dorothy J. Riley
Public Education	<b>SO-PE</b>	Steven B. Plass
Personnel Services	<b>SO-PS</b>	Heleyde Aponte
Program Visitor	<b>SO-PV</b>	Cinda Hitchcock
Secretary	<b>SO-SR</b>	Richard 'Tim' Manning
Vessel Examinations	<b>SO-VE</b>	Zachary Lessin

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## Words from the Helm....

### Amos Johnson Division

#### Goals for 2011

**GOAL** – *The end toward which effort is directed; the terminal point of a race; an area or object toward which players attempt to advance an object or into which it must go to score points.* (Webster's Dictionary)

This is the time of the year when we should all be setting our GOALS for 2011, so let me try to help you with that task. We should choose numbers that are attainable, hopefully, exceeding the previous year, but we must be realistic.

Many times your goal might be to help others score larger figures. Although we at times act as individuals, our achievements are totaled as flotillas, then divisions and districts, and finally, as the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The reward for all of our work comes at the end of the year, when the Coast Guard leaders are amazed (always!) at the astounding numbers put in by the volunteers of the 'Silver Side'.

Now is the time to look at all we have done in 2010. How many Program Visits, Vessel Exams and Public Education Classes were we able to squeeze in last year? Can we do more? How many Patrol Missions were we able to fit into our schedule? Can we each do one more? How many hours can we each donate to the Auxiliary? Surely, we can find the time to give a few more. And, never forget; if we do not enter reports on all that we do, the Auxiliary does not get the credit that it deserves.

*Amos*



Amos Johnson, DCDR

#### A Message from Commodore Vass, National Commodore (NACO)

A few days ago, our District Commodores received a long-awaited announcement that our new, online 7029 "Webform" was now available for use by the entire membership. Hopefully, each one of you has by now seen the announcement.

The 7029 Webform permits you to enter, keep track of, and submit your Administrative hours (99A - 99E) using any modern Web browser, from any computer on the Internet, anywhere you might happen to be.

It is vitally important that all members routinely and in a timely fashion report their administrative hours since the data becomes critical to funding and other resource allocations that can be important for our future as an organization. The 7029 Webform was designed to make this task as simple as possible.

The 7029 Webform also represents a breakthrough in our methods of data reporting and is an important first step in a long-term goal of significantly streamlining the entire data entry and management process.

It is for these reasons that I urge all members to visit the Webforms site at <http://webforms.cgaux.org>, read all of the information available there, and begin using the system in place of paper or PDF 7029 forms. Replace the paper and save a tree.

In addition, I urge all unit leaders to publicly announce the Webforms capability at your next unit meeting, proactively remind your members to transition to the system at subsequent meetings, and informally appoint a Webforms "promoter" who can help other members adapt to the easy-to-use system. It benefits us all.

Very Respectfully,

*Commodore James Vass*

Pictured at right is the new Member Activity Worksheet



## News and Articles by Members...

# Gasparilla– High- and Low- Tech Combine...

(Continued from page 1)

la Staff Officer-Communications 79 and John Sanchez, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications 74 used a web camera atop a downtown office building to view real time activity along the waterways and Automatic Identification System (AIS) technology to monitor the movements of larger vessels. Tampa Radio One provided the radio guard for all Auxiliary facilities entering the Station St. Pete area of responsibility and heading to their assigned positions throughout the early morning. Once all vessels arrived at assigned locations, their movement was controlled from aboard the *Lucky Dog*, the on-scene Auxiliary command and communications platform.

Overall, the communications component of the mission ran smoothly despite the heavy level of traffic on Channel 81A, which included routine reports and parade-related traffic between Tampa Radio One, Auxiliary vessels with manatee watchers aboard, the Environmental Protection Commission boat, Eagle Eight helicopter, Auxiliary Communications Control, the Coast Guard Patrol Commander and law enforcement boats.

Auxiliary units involved in the event encountered no major problems. One Auxiliary facility responded to a request by a



**All eyes forward! Coxswain Mike Shea, at the helm of the *Lucky Dog*, crewmen Brian Garry (right) and Cliff Martin along with David Perillo (FL 72) (behind Martin) keep a sharp lookout while transiting Seddon Channel during the recent Gasparilla event. Martin served as Auxiliary Patrol Commander during the mission. The *Lucky Dog* was the on-scene Auxiliary command and communications platform. Shea, Martin and Garry are members of FL 79.**

Photo by Jim Frijouf, Flotilla 79

recreational vessel in the Seddon Turning Basin for assistance with a passenger who required immediate medical assistance. The coxswain made contact with the Tampa fireboat *Patriot*, which took control and provided the assistance needed.

Plans for next year's Gasparilla Invasion are already in the works and are expected to include wider use of the signboards introduced this year and expanded integration of web-based technology for use by radio watchstanders. ☼



**Pirates invade Tampa-**This year's boat parade was relatively uneventful for Auxiliary vessels who responded to two persons in the water and one request for medical assistance, which was transferred to the Tampa Fire and Rescue vessel, *Patriot*.

Photo by Rick Short, FL 72





## Gasparilla—High- and Low-Tech Combine...



**Photos provided by Tim Teahan**



**Above right: Joe Lamb, Flotilla 74 served as coxswain aboard the *Catalina* with George Papabeis and John Lowe, both members of Flotilla 74 as crew. The *Jose Gaspar* is visible over Lamb's right shoulder. Photo by George Papabeis**



## Flotilla News

## Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg, Fla.



**Rick Short, FC 72**

While ever active in Operations, Flotilla 72 is taking a lead role in Member Training as well.

In January, the flotilla conducted a workshop for Vessel Examiners. Approximately 40 members from Division 7 attended. A workshop for Program Visitors is scheduled on February 28, and

approximately thirty members are expected to participate. Glenn Dobos, the division's former Staff-Officer Program Visitor will instruct, as will Flotilla 72 members Rick Short and David Langdon.

With Division 7's Boat Crew Program underway, you can expect Flotilla 72 vessels and crew on the water every Saturday until the program's completion.

Meetings at Flotilla 72 offer its members something in addition to conducting routine business. In January, Karl Nurse, St. Petersburg City Councilman, 6th District was our guest speaker and spoke about the city's future plans for The Pier, the city's boat ramps and other matters

**Below: Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7, Gene Keller, Flotilla Vice Commander 72 and Rick Short, Flotilla Commander 72 pose with Karl Nurse, St. Petersburg City Councilman 6th District at the meeting on January 6, 2011. The councilman was the guest speaker at their January meeting.**

**Photo by Loren Reuter**



of interest to the Auxiliary. February's guest speaker was Done Hoge, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) Sector St. Petersburg, who explained the roles of the ASC and the Coast Guard Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO). ☼



**Left: Rick Short, Flotilla Commander 72 administers the oath of office to the new flotilla staff officers at the meeting on January 6, 2011. They are (from left) Jim Fogle (Immediate Past Flotilla Commander) -Public Education, Marla Short-Human Resources, David Langdon-Member Training, David Perillo-Operations, Tim Robinson (behind Perillo)-Communication Services and Information Services, Marvin Bayles-Finance and Navigation Systems, Linda Barnard-Secretary of Records, Stan Clark-Communications, Loren Reuter-Public Affairs and Publications, and Barry Porter (behind Reuter)- Materials.**

**Photo provided by Rick Short**





## Flotilla News

### Flotilla 74 Brandon, Fla.

#### Operations:

Members of Flotilla 74 completed seven missions during the month of January, five of which were Security Patrols and two of which were training missions.

Our current boat crew resources include 12 crew persons, three coxswains and five facilities.

#### Member Training:

Roger Sneden has implemented a course of action to attain Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) certifications starting with the members of Flotilla 74 who are crew qualified. Four members have initiated studies.

Five members have completed all requirements to register for Boat Crew Class beginning on February 10 in Tampa.

Sixteen members attended the Flotilla Leadership Course at Air Station Clearwater on January 15.

On January 26, 2011, a Vessel Safety Examiner's class was held at Flotilla 72. Two members from Flotilla 74 attended.

John Robbins and Roger Sneden provided Member Training on January 11, 2011 on filling out the 7029 forms.

#### Vessel Examinations:

Vessel Safety Checks were conducted on January 22, 2011, and on January 8, 2011. We also conducted Vessel Safety Checks at Williams Park on January 15, 2011. Nine Vessel Safety Checks were completed. Of these, only two passed.

Training was scheduled for new Vessel Examiners on February 5, 2011 at Williams Park in Gibsonton, Fla. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition, Vessel Examiner training is scheduled on February 12, 2011 at Lake Shipp, Winter Haven, Fla. by the Polk County Detachment from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Program Visitor:

On January 11, 2011, 25 Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visits were made.

#### Public Education:

The Polk County Detachment will present an About Boating Safety (ABS) class on March 6 at Indian Lake Estates. They will also attempt to recruit new members.

An ABS class will be held at Flotilla 74 on February 19, 2011. The Class will be open to members who need the ABS Class to become boat crew qualified. They will also attempt to recruit new members.

#### Human Resources:

The Office of Director of Auxiliary 7 (DIRAUX) is processing two new member applications. Six new members are in process, and we have five additional prospective members.

#### Public Affairs:

February 12, 2011, the Third Annual Fish and Dive Expo will be held at Off The Wall Adventure located in Lakeland, Fla.



Gil Thomas, FC 74

**Ron Matz staffed the Public Affairs booth at the Tampa Bay Boat Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds November 19-21, 2010. Matz has likely organized more Public Affairs booths and filled more shifts at boat shows than any other member of Division 7. Photo by George Papabeis**





## Flotilla News

## Flotilla 75 Ruskin, Fla.



**Alma Parrish, FC 75**

While Flotilla 75 was quite active between November 2010 and January 2011 (see pages 20 and 23 this issue for a small sampling of their many activities), the over-arching event was the flotilla's 50th Anniversary celebration held on January 22, 2011 at the Golf Club at Cypress Creek in Ruskin.

Over 40 members and guests attended this momentous

occasion including BM1 Clay Heitt, USCG Station St. Petersburg and his wife, Alex, COMO Allen Brown, Past District 7 Commodore, Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7, Michael Shea, Vice Commander Division 7, Jason Chilson, Senior Manager of Simmins Park in Ruskin, and Mitch Traphagen, Online Editor of the Observer News and his wife, Michelle.

COMO Allen Brown administered the oath of office to Alma Parrish, Flotilla Commander and Guy Mandigo, Vice Flotilla Commander. Johnson administered the oaths to the flotilla's staff officers, and Parrish presented awards and certificates of



appreciation to members who strived to help make Flotilla 75 a success, and to Jason Chilson. The park has long supported Flotilla 75 and afforded the flotilla a space for their radio room and antenna.



Walter Wagner received the Member of the Year Award from the flotilla. Wagner is a familiar face to Division 7 members, and he can always be counted upon to respond to a call for assistance, be it Vessel Examinations, Program Visits, or a request for an operational mission. Congratulations to Wagner, but most of all, Happy Anniversary Flotilla 75! 🌟



**Photos— top right: Marshall Cook, a Past Commander Division 7 and Past Flotilla Commander 75 talks about the flotilla's history and its efforts to create a safe boating environment in their community.**

**Middle: COMO Allen Brown administers the oath of office to Alma Parrish, Flotilla Commander 75 and Guy Mandigo, Flotilla Vice Commander 75.**

**Left: Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7 administers the oath of office to the 2011 Flotilla Staff Officers.**

**All photos by Mitch Traphagen,**







## Flotilla News

# Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille, Fla.

Our Flotilla is back up to full complement with all of our seasonal members back on the island and reporting for duty. This is our busy time of year with major fellowship and service events planned.

We just completed a long and productive January meeting and have a lot going on. We also had an excellent month in December with a boat show booth, a fun Christmas Party and highly successful boat and land parades. Our boat crews participated in a rough weather patrol that resulted in a SAR (search and rescue)! As a flotilla, we are breaking new ground with some of these events. We are establishing our presence and getting the boating safety message out through our service area.

Eric Davis is the new Flotilla Staff Officer-Navigation Systems. Davis has been a member of Flotilla 78 for two years and has proven to be a ready and able Auxiliarist. While he is visually impaired, this staff office appointment will require Davis to be active on patrols. Davis' efforts reinforce the fact that everyone who joins the Auxiliary has an important contribution to make in the service to our coun-

try.

We wish to welcome Jim Armstrong as our next flotilla Vice Commander (VFC). We ran into a few obstacles getting his Incident Command Structure (ICS) classes entered into AUXDATA, which held up his appointment. Fortunately, Bob Schuler was able to rectify this.



**Brad Marchant, FC 78**



Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7 will be attending the meeting in February to assist us with the election process.

Warren Pfirman, Eric Davis and Valerie Fernandes staffed a booth at the St. Pete Beach Yard Sale on January 22, 2011. This community event was another great opportunity to gain visibility and promote boating safety. ☼



**Mid page photo:** Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille, Fla., marched in the annual St. Petersburg Beach Christmas Parade on Dec. 11, 2010. Standing in front of the Auxiliary vessel that served as their 'float' are members Mike Berkowitz, Brad Marchant, Sam Fallenbaum, Warren Pfirman and Valerie Fernandes. In the boat are Grace Marchant and her friend, Olivia.

**Left:** Eric Davis and Warren Pfirman meet Petey and his owner Tom Mastrangelo at the St Pete Beach Community Yard Sale on January 22, 2011. Petey is a two year-old sun conure parrot. Davis, Pfirman and Fernandes setup a table with safe boating literature, spoke to attendees about the Boating Skills and Seamanship classes, and answered general boating questions. Photos by Valerie Fernandes

## Flotilla News

## Flotilla 79 Tampa, Fla.



Tim Teahan, FC 79

Since the beginning of the year, Flotilla 79 has been a buzz of activity. We started with a staff officer meeting on January 13. Flotilla staff officers set goals for the coming year, identified the tasks and resources needed to meet those goals, and aligned into Logistics, Response and Prevention sections. While this helps align us better with the Coast Guard, it also fosters cooperation and collaboration between

the officers of the various departments.

The flotilla has several new officers, many of whom are learning "hands on" as the calendar and the year's scheduled events unfold. This year, we again plan to present America's Boating Course in Spanish, Paddlesport America, and a personal watercraft operators safety course in addition to our regular Boating Skills and Seamanship program.

According to the flotilla's records, this is the 50th year that Flotilla 79 has provided boating safety courses in Tampa.

Last year, members achieved the flotilla's goal of over 300 Vessel Safety Checks. This year, we are aiming for 400 Vessel Safety Checks.

A new member welcome and orientation meeting was held Saturday, January 22 at Flotilla 79. This was an opportunity for new and prospective members to learn just how much they could do for the Auxiliary, and how membership in the

Auxiliary benefited them. We also covered proper uniform wear.

The flotilla has a new DHS compliant web page, and in the Communications Department, Tampa Radio One maintained radio watch for all of the Auxiliary vessels during Gasparilla Invasion. We are still in the process of securing a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number in order to adopt the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) system in the radio room. ☼



### Photographs:

**Below right: Creative Member Awards: Tim Teahan, Flotilla Commander 79 bestows the "Blue Carpet Award" to members Robin Conn and Barry Giacobbe at the flotilla meeting on January 17. Conn donated the blue carpet that now covers the podium at the flotilla while Giacobbe installed it as part of the flotilla's ongoing efforts to seek building improvements.**

**In addition to the carpeting, Conn produced and donated the signs used by Auxiliary boat crews during the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion to warn boaters to slow down. (See cover story) Photo by D. Riley**

**Below left: Seven-Niner Robin Conn traded Auxiliary blue for a pirate costume and beads during the 2011 Gasparilla Land Parade. He provided safety and security for the Krewe of Agustina de Aragon. Robin's wife, Debra is in the top row, fourth from right.**







## Flotilla News

### Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport, Fla.

The Flotilla 7-16 Program Visitor team hit the ground running in 2011. The team completed 54 visits by the end of January. To get the team off to good start, we ordered materials from the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC). The flotilla's goal this year is to complete 450 visits.

The Vessel Examiner team completed 135 Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) by the time their newsletter was published during the first week of February. David Ditto, Flotilla Staff Officer-Vessel Examiners announced, "The three hundred 2011 VSC decals have arrived and it is time to set up some Vessel Exam Blitzes. Our goal is 400 vessel inspections and we are looking to complete 150 vessel exams this month."

Flotilla 7-16 would like to welcome its newest transfer, Bradford Dykens from Madeira Beach. Dykens, a United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Academy Admissions Partner, will serve as the new Flotilla Staff Officer- Public Affairs and will coordinate with other flotilla staff officers to help inform the public about the flotilla's activities. Dykens has also agreed to staff a booth at the Gulfport Art-Walk on Beach Boulevard in downtown Gulfport. The Gulfport Art-Walk is local event that takes place the first Friday and third Saturday of each month from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m.

After seven years, Flotilla 7-16's intrepid Publications Officer, Donald Rimel is stepping aside and his publishing duties will fall to new member, David Main. While other flotillas published their newsletters quarterly, Rimel was one of the first Flotilla Staff Officer- Publications (FSO-PB) within Division 7 to publish the Beacon every month. His enthusiasm, Auxiliary participation and hard work earned the Beacon an award from the division.

Main, the new FSO-PB has a background in graphic design, computer graphics and film and television production. The new Beacon will transition from a hard copy newsletter to a more ecofriendly web newsletter sent to members via email. For those members without internet access, the Beacon will still be available in a hard copy version. ☼



Jim Newman, FC 7-16



Donald Rimel and Casey McCormick (not shown) attended the Flotilla Leadership Course at Air Station Clearwater on January 15, 2011. Photo provided by David Main



Be sure to check out the new  
Beacon online!  
[http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/  
download/newsletter716.pdf](http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/download/newsletter716.pdf)

## Staff Reports and Program Updates...

# Logistics

### Logistics Department Chief— Ron Matz

#### Communication Services— Joseph Parrish

- Updated rosters and e-lists with newly elected and appointed 2011 officers and staff officers.
- I am in the process of changing all references and titles (including e-lists) on division website from "PS" (Personnel Services) to "HR" (Human Resources). This is not quite finished in all website references.
- Updated flotilla and division calendars, rosters and e-lists as requested
- Assisted Tim Robinson and Robin Conn, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communication Services, 72 and 79 respectively, in updating their flotilla websites to bring those more in line with USCG Auxiliary standards.
- Working with Flotilla Commanders to determine correct e-mail addresses for "bounced" e-mails. We have five left to reconcile on the division roster.
- Coordinated with the Auxiliary Public Affairs "A" Directorate to determine who was included on Auxiliary Public Affairs Office (AUXPAO) distribution lists and how new Public Affairs, Publications and Communication Services officers are added.

#### Finance— Oscar Kramer

- Attended Flotilla Leadership course taken January 15, 2011 at Clearwater Air Station.
- Assisted with developing Division 7 Budget for 2011.
- Flotilla Finance Officers should submit their Form 7025's (Financial Report of an Auxiliary Unit), have their audit committees review their books, and develop their flotilla budgets.

#### Human Resources— Heleyde Aponte

- Attended Leadership Training Workshop on January 15th at Air Station Clearwater.
- Conducted an Open House at Flotilla 79 on January 22 for new members.
- Acted as Aid-Instructor at Boating Skills and Seaman-ship Public Education program at Flotilla 79 on January 26.
- Would like to have more communication with Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources or the Flotilla Commander of each flotilla to get the information needed

(updates on each flotilla's recruitment progress) in order to prepare proper reports to send through the chain of leadership.

#### Information Services- "Bunny" Johnson

- Attended Leadership Training Workshop on January 15th at Air Station Clearwater and Flotilla 75's 50th anniversary dinner.
- Entered all data submitted by flotillas. I am currently training two new Flotilla Staff Officers-Information Services, one for Flotilla 72 and new assistant for Flotilla 79. We planned a short workshop for Information Services Officers after the Division meeting on February 5.

#### Materials—Ronald Matz

- Attended Leadership Training Workshop on January 15th at Air Station Clearwater.
- Received numerous reports and information from the District Staff Officer-Materials and passed them on to the Flotilla Staff Officer-Materials on changes to forms that are in use by the Auxiliary, in addition to a new form added for doing Safety Checks on Kayaks and Canoes.
- Completed and updated Division inventory, which is filed with the Division 7 Financial Statement.

#### Public Affairs— Tim Teahan

- Planning Division 7 participation in 2011 boat shows and Division 7 flotillas involvement in National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) events.
- Worked with Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg Response and Prevention Dept. and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Public Information Office to organize outreach effort on Jan 27, 2011, for boaters participating in 2011 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion. The messages focused on Vessel Examinations and boating under the influence (BUI) prevention.
- The joint news conference, organized by the FWC, was well attended by five TV stations and three print outlets. The Auxiliary had a five-minute spot during the conference focusing on the safety equipment required by recreational vessels and laws regarding life jacket use.
- Continuing with outreach effort to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Officer at MacDill AFB to promote Division-wide boating safety classes, Vessel Examinations, and other Auxiliary programs.
- Continuing to work with local Hispanic fishing radio







## Staff Reports and Program Updates...

show to promote About Boating Safety course in Spanish during the first quarter of 2011.

### Publications— Dottie Riley

- 2010 ended with little end of the year activity. This is normal due to both the holidays and the annual Change of Watch.
- This year, Flotillas 72, 74, 75 and 7-16 have new Flotilla-Staff Officers-Publication (FSOs-PB). I hope that these flotillas will publish newsletters this year. Assistance was offered to all FSOs-PB, especially the new ones. Flotillas 78 and 79 published newsletters in both December and January. Flotilla 7-16 published during the first week of February.
- The Intercom will publish quarterly this year. All members are encouraged to photograph the events and missions that your flotilla participates in both for flotilla newsletters and for the Intercom. Submit your photos to the Intercom along with basic information: who is in the photo, when and where the photo was taken, what the event or occasion is and who took the photograph. Submission deadlines for the next three issues are April 30, July 31 and October 31.
- Staff Officers and Section Chiefs should copy their reports to the SO-PB.
- Flotilla 78 participated in annual Christmas Parade in St. Petersburg Beach, Fla. (See photo below)



**Left:** For the second year straight, on December 11, 2010, Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grill, Fla., marched in the annual St. Petersburg Beach Christmas Parade. Walking down Corey Avenue in front of the Auxiliary vessel that served as their 'float' are members Mike Berkowitz, Warren Pfirman, Brad Marchant, Sam Fallenbaum, and Valerie Fernandes. In the boat are Grace Marchant and her friend, Olivia.  
Photo provided by Valerie Fernandes

### Auxiliary Participates in Pre-Gasparilla News Conference With Coast Guard, FWC and Law Enforcement Officials.

Tim Teahan, SO-PA 7



**Tim Teahan, Division 7 Staff Officer-Public Affairs, addresses the media during a news conference on January 27, 2011, two days prior to the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion to inform the public about safety equipment required aboard recreational vessels.**

As part of an expanded effort to better inform the public about on-the-water safety and boating under the influence during the 2011 Gasparilla Pirate Invasion, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) arranged for the Coast Guard Auxiliary to take part in a unique news conference two days before the annual event.

During the news conference attended by eight broadcast and print media outlets, Tim Teahan, Division Seven Staff Officer - Public Affairs shared the microphone with LT Brian Murphy, USCG, the designated Patrol Commander for the Gasparilla event, along with Florida Wildlife Commission Officer George Pino and representatives of the Tampa Police Department. Teahan discussed the importance of having the required safety equipment aboard recreational vessels and promoted Flotilla 79's VE effort on the day before the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion, scheduled especially so that boaters could have their vessels checked before the event. ☼



## Staff Reports and Program Updates...

# Response

### Projected Business Goals Response "Operations" 2011

	Completed 2010	Projected for 2011
Total Number of Coxswains	28	34
Total Number of Crew	83	100
Total Number of NS	( )	18
Total No. of Facilities (Plus PWCs)	24	30
Completed patrols	351	428



Projected number of patrols is based on the required number of Maritime Security (MarSec) missions, operational training missions needed to accommodate all operational crewmembers and to satisfy the division's training requirements, harbor patrols (HarPat) patrols, and safety patrols to include Navigation Systems (NS) missions and crew/coxswain training missions.

#### Projected for 2011

(MarSec) Missions	156
Deep Draft Harbor Patrols	24
Safety/ Training & NS Missions (two per month per flotilla):	120
Operational Training Missions (six hours, two crews per vessel):	32
Coxswain & Crew training	
<u>Certification and recertification missions:</u>	<u>96</u>
Total Number of Mission projected for 2011:	<b>428</b>

This represents an increase of 77 Mission over 2010

### Response Department Chief– Cliff Martin

#### Operations: Cliff Martin

- Ninety-one members from three divisions participated in the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion and Boat Parade on January 29, 2011. This includes the four members who stood radio watch at Tampa Radio One. All areas from buoy 25 north were designated 'no wake' zones. Auxiliary vessels used signs made by member Robin Conn, FL 79 to slow down recreational vessels. This was so effective that we will use signs again next year.
- We are experiencing some problems getting Auxiliary Operational Facility inspections cleared. Please make sure you are using the correct form and that it is filled out accurately.

#### Communications: Terry Affeld

- Four members provided watch at Tampa Radio One during Gasparilla. These members are Terry Affeld, Staff Officer-Communications Division 7, Amos Johnson, Division Commander 7, Craig Starns, Flotilla Staff Officer-Communications 79 and John Sanchez, Flotilla

Staff Officer-Communications 74. Working together for nine hours, they used the radio room computer, two laptops and webcams. Tampa Radio One could monitor everything that was going on.

- Anyone interested in becoming Radio Watchstander qualified should get the CD called: "CD 2015A". It has all of the reference material needed. Have your FSO-MA order it from Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC). It is also good reading material for all Watchstanders.

#### Member Training– Cliff Martin

- Division crew and coxswain training begins February 10th. To date, 38 members are signed up including six for coxswain training.
- 43 members of Division 7 attended the Auxiliary leadership Course offered at Air Station Clearwater on Feb.5, 2011.☼







## Staff Reports and Program Updates...

# Prevention

## Prevention Department Chief— Steve Plass

### Recreational Boating Safety-Program Visitor— Cinda Hitchcock.

### Vessel Examinations— Zach Lessin



"I am very pleased with how receptive people in the boating industry are to the Coast Guard Auxiliary and to our boating safety classes and Vessel Examination (VE) program," said Cinda Hitchcock, Staff Officer-Program Visitor Division 7. Glenn Dobos, Rick Short, and Dave Langdon, all from Flotilla 72, and Hitchcock are working diligently to prepare for a Program Visitor (PV) class at Flotilla 72 on February 28. They all agree it is very important to our Division to get as many PVs and VEs cross-trained as possible so that at any time, flotillas can send out teams with 'fly away bags' of information and demonstration items such as flares, electronic location devices, and lines for knot and heaving demonstrations. Already, plans are in the works to send teams to Hula Bay, West Marine, Tampa and Davis Island Yacht Clubs, MacDill Air Force Base, boat shows, and malls and local events in our area.

Every Saturday morning, Flotilla 79 PV and VE departments work together at the Gandy ramp. They set up a canopy and table with boating safety information and greet boaters waiting to launch. They have a banner, cones and gates donated by the city Of Tampa, and Zach Lessin, Flotilla and Division Staff Officer- Vessel Examinations, has a light set on his truck to attract attention.

PV and VE working together as a unit is a model that other flotillas should consider adopting. They are working very hard to get the message out to people: *"Think safety. Enroll in our Boating Skills and Seamanship class, and let us perform a Vessel Safety Check on your boat".*

## Get Qualified as an Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor in Almost One Step!

Newly appointed Staff Officer-Program Visitor (SO-PV 7), Cinda Hitchcock, and Glenn Dobos, former SO-PV 7, have scheduled a two-hour training session for all Division 7 members interested in becoming Program Visitors (PV).

The training is scheduled for Monday, February 28, from

1900-2130, at Flotilla 72, 1300 Beach Drive, S.E., in St. Petersburg. The flotilla is co-located at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg's South Moorings, just inside the entry gate and opposite from the Coast Guard Exchange.

There are 30 slots for this class and only a few remain available. To reserve a slot, contact Cinda Hitchcock at: [kitdover1122@earthlink.net](mailto:kitdover1122@earthlink.net) by Friday, February 25.

The class is designed to prepare attendees to tackle the PV on-line test and for the most part, is a "one-and-done" approach to becoming qualified as a Program Visitor. After completing the two-hour course, attendees are encouraged to take the on-line test immediately and arrange with their flotilla FSO-PV to participate in two actual visits to local marine-related outlets, fulfilling the two-visit requirement to become fully qualified as Program Visitors.

As Auxiliary "ambassadors," Program Visitors establish relationships with managers and employees at marinas, outlets catering to fishing enthusiasts, marine equipment stores, boat dealerships, repair facilities and virtually any marine-related business. Program Visitors provide brochure racks to outlets and maintain them with up-to-date state and federal boating safety, marine domain awareness and environmental protection literature, promote boating safety education classes, Vessel Safety Check (VSC) programs, advise of Auxiliary community activities and as appropriate, engage partners in planning special events that promote safe boating.

In Division Seven, program visits are vitally important to "populating" the various boating safety education classes at our flotillas, and create outstanding opportunities to promote flotilla and division efforts to make Tampa Bay a safer place to boat.

Many flotillas have been successful at getting members qualified as both Vessel Examiners (VE) and Program Visitors, which makes Auxiliary outreach efforts much more productive and efficient. Division members not qualified as VEs are encouraged to take the on-line course and arrange with their FSO-VE to participate in five practice VSCs! ☼

## News and Articles by Members...

# Manatees: Florida's Gentle Giants

Article and photos by George Papabeis, FSO-PA 74

I admit to being nervous. I was on an imminent collision course with 1,200 pounds of Manatee flesh. It's how they say hello. They glide up to each other and press snouts. "Mama" manatee decided I was worth saying hello to.

Reviewing the video of the event shows the gentlest of touches. "Mama's" nose scrunches up to the lens and then glides off without disturbing the camera. They are truly gentle giants.

As "Mom" glided by, seven equally spaced pink gashes from a propeller strike were visible on her side. While leaving behind dramatic scars, propellers are not the only part of a boat that can cause damage. Unlike human beings, manatees have their lungs situated close to their backs, which keeps them upright in the water. A hard strike by a boat skeg or the hull can cause internal damage, which may not be visible to the eye. Boat collisions accounted for 83 Manatee deaths in Florida in the year 2010.

Having lungs on your back creates another problem; it interferes with a good belly rub. "Mom" had decided we had to earn the privilege of her company; she swam straight at us and rolled over. The message was clear, "You... in the water... make yourself useful..." Never one to miss an opportunity for interspecies interaction, I obliged. And here it gets a little sticky. Those top mounted lungs make it hard for a manatee to stay upside down. So they grab onto things, like your leg or your chest to keep from flipping over. It can be downright embarrassing. Manatees are related to elephants (they have four toenails on each flipper), so their flippers are deceptively strong. They can hold their breath for four minutes, twenty if they are sleeping. Since they are a protected species, you remain "polite". The belly rub ends when "Mom" lets go and comes up for air.



**"Mama" manatee comes up close to study the author and his camera. Note the vibrissae (hairs) on her snout. Fresh propeller scars are clearly visible on her back.**

Manatees can swim 15 miles per hour in a short burst. Trying to swim away from one that likes you is impossible. I got smart and maneuvered my dive partner Beverly between the two of us. Tag, you are it! She quickly became the recipient of "Moms" affections. It gave me the opportunity to see what the other Manatees were doing.

Our frolicking had kicked up a silt cloud, so I swam towards clear water and turned around to film the action. I turned into the face of a baby manatee. While manatee eyesight isn't very sharp, sensitive hair clumps called "Vibrissae" are distributed along the surface of their bodies. They use these to feel vibrations in the water around them. "Junior" had followed me through the turbulence and was trying to figure out exactly what I was.

On the video, in between my breathing, you can hear "Junior's" high pitched vocalizations, being answered by his mother. "Mom" glided over to offer moral support. Beverly and I kept our distance. In Citrus county Florida, it is legal to swim with manatees. I had done manatee dives with experienced guides. I felt comfortable enough to have my fifth encounter without supervision. I had reviewed the rules







## News and Articles by Members...

with Beverly:

- Do not approach within ten feet of a manatee; if they want to interact, they will come to you
- Never chase a manatee
- Manatees have the right of way; you are the "give way" vessel
- Do not swim over a manatee
- Do not grab a manatee
- Do not ride a manatee
- Stay on the surface, no diving
- No scuba diving- snorkel only
- Do not touch or approach a sleeping manatee
- Never isolate a baby manatee from its mother

We gave "Mom" and "Junior" a respectful distance and floated without moving. After "Mom" had reassured her baby, she swam over to make proper introductions. I pedaled backwards to get a shot of mom with her offspring. It did not work out quite the way I'd expected. The faster I swam away from them, the faster they swam after me. I tried to zip to the side. They were having none of that. They turned on a dime, hot on my heels. It dawned on me that we were playing chase. We went around in a mad circle, like keystone cops. By then a couple of other young manatees had come over to see what the commotion was about. The manatees started playing with each other: chase, nose rub, grab with flippers, repeat.

I moved clear of the manatee melee, looking for the good shots with my camera. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw "Junior" bounce-walking over to me on his flippers like an astronaut on the moon. He turned and appraised me with

one eye. I looked back and saw another sad sight: "Junior" was covered in cold-stress sores.

In 2010, the Florida Wildlife Commission tallied 767 manatee deaths. Almost a third of those deaths were due to cold stress. A manatees' digestive system slows down when exposed to prolonged exposure to cold waters. This has a cascade effect on their health that may include pneumonia, infections, and a compromised immune system. With a steady temperature of 72 degrees, Florida's fresh water springs are an ideal place for manatees to find refuge from the cold during the winter. Other manatees may choose to travel south to warmer waters. Man has provided another option; power plant discharge basins. There is concern about manatees depending on this artificial source of warm water. Where will the manatees go if the power plant closes or is moved?

"Junior" did not seem to be worried about any of this now. After looking me over carefully, he moved away a short distance, and turned around and came right back at me. Much like a playful puppy, he charges and then runs off expecting us to chase him. He did this three or four time before deciding that I was no fun, and swam off to find "Mom".

My camera started to beep its low power warning. A quick glance at my watch indicated that we had been in the water for almost an hour. I signaled to Beverly and we made for the boat. Our new friends followed us for a bit, but turned and left when they saw us leave the water. The gentle giants drifted back into the shallows of the warm lagoon. ☼

Sources:

The Florida Wildlife Institute website: <http://research.myfwc.com/>

The Florida Wildlife Commission, website: <http://myfwc.com/>

Save the Manatees, website: <http://www.savethemanatee.org/>

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. "How A Little Bit Of Cold Can Kill A Big Manatee, And What It Might Mean For The Species." *Science Daily* 5 August 2003. 27 January 2011



© 2011 Papabeis/DeMoss

**Left: "Junior" is not the least bit camera shy. His back is covered with cold-stress sores, but that does not interfere with his natural curiosity.**

## News and Articles...

# Blackthorn Memorial

*All text and photos from Coast Guard News, January 28 and 29, 2011 issues.*



**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** - Chief Warrant Officer Michael Tomasi, the commanding officer of Coast Guard Cutter Joshua Appleby, salutes renders a salute during the 31st anniversary of the Coast Guard Cutter Blackthorn ceremony Jan. 28, 2011, in St. Petersburg. The Blackthorn sank after colliding with the tanker Capricorn near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, in St. Petersburg, Jan. 28, 1980. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Rob Simpson.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. - Coast Guardsmen, survivors, family members, members of the USCG Auxiliary and community members from around the Tampa Bay area commemorated the 31st anniversary of the Coast Guard Cutter Blackthorn tragedy, Friday, January 28, 2011, at Blackthorn Memorial Park, in St. Petersburg.

The Blackthorn sank after colliding with the tanker Capricorn near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge on Jan 28, 1980. Twenty-three of the Blackthorn's 50 crewmembers lost their lives during the Coast Guard's worst peacetime disaster. A memorial inscribed with the names of the crewmembers that perished now stands two miles north of the accident site.

Friday's ceremony consisted of an aerial salute by Coast Guard aircraft, remarks by Coast Guard Rear Adm. William D. Baumgartner, commander Seventh Coast Guard District, posting of the Colors, and reading of the lost crewmembers' names, each commemorated by the placing of a rose beneath the memorial.

The Blackthorn tragedy provided the impetus for the establishment of the Command and Operations School at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. The school offers courses to prepare command-level officers and senior enlisted members for command duty afloat. Commanding officers are now required to formally assess risks such as

transiting an unfamiliar port at night and are given full discretion and encouraged to say no if they feel the risks involved are unnecessary.

Additionally, the Coast Guard developed new training requirements, spent more money on safety equipment and made changes to the navigational aids in and around Tampa Bay. ❄

## History of the Blackthorn Tragedy

On January 28, 1980, having just completed a 3 month overhaul, the Blackthorn was outward bound from Tampa Bay. Meanwhile the tanker Capricorn was standing into the bay. LCDR George Sepel, the captain of the Blackthorn, was on the bridge, but ENS John Ryan had the conn.

Having been overtaken by the Russian passenger ship Kazakhstan, Blackthorn continued almost in mid-channel. The brightly lit passenger vessel obscured the ability of the crews of Blackthorn and Capricorn to see each other. Capricorn began to turn

left, but this would not allow the ships to pass port-to-port. Unable to make radio contact with the tender, Capricorn's pilot blew two short whistle blasts to have the ships pass starboard-to-starboard. With the officer of the deck confused in regard to the standard operating procedure, Blackthorn's captain issued orders for evasive action.

Though the ships collided, damage did not seem to be extensive. The problem, however, was that Capricorn's anchor was ready for letting go. It became imbedded in the tender's hull and ripped open the port side. Just seconds after the slack in the anchor chain became taut, Blackthorn capsized. Six off-duty personnel who had mustered when they heard the collision alarm were trapped in the dark. Several crew members who had just reported aboard tried to escape and in the process trapped themselves in the engine room. Though 27 crew members survived the collision, 23 perished.

In the end, the primary responsibility for the collision was placed with LCDR Sepel as he had permitted an inexperienced junior officer to conn the ship in an unfamiliar waterway with heavy traffic. The Blackthorn was salvaged for the investigation and was then taken out into the Gulf of Mexico and sunk as an artificial reef. ❄







## News and Articles...

# Blackthorn Memorial

*Continued from previous page*



**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** - A Coast Guard chief petty officer rings the ship's bell for each crewmember lost in the Coast Guard Cutter Blackthorn collision during the 31st anniversary memorial service at Blackthorn Memorial Park, Jan. 28, 2011. The Blackthorn sank after colliding with the tanker Capricorn near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge on Jan 28, 1980. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara Molle



### Crew of USCGC Blackthorn lost in the line of duty

**CWO Jack J. Roberts**  
**SS1 Subrino Avila**  
**MK1 Bruce Lafond**  
**MK1 Danny R. Maxcy**  
**SA Charles D. Hall**  
**ET1 Jerome F. Ressler**  
**ENS Frank J. Sarna**  
**SA William R. Flores**  
**MKC Luther D. Stidhem**  
**MK2 Richard D. Boone**  
**QM2 Gary W. Crumly**  
**DC2 Daniel M. Estrada**  
**EM2 Thomas R. Faulkner**  
**SS3 Donald R. Frank**  
**QM3 Richard W. Gauld**  
**DC3 Lawrence D. Frye**  
**EM3 Edward F. Sindelar**  
**SNGM Randolph B. Barnaby**  
**FA Michael K. Luke**  
**SA Warren R. Brewer**  
**SA Glen E. Harrison**  
**SA John E. Prosko**  
**SA George Rovolis, Jr.**

## News and Articles by Members...

# To Mix Gold With Silver, Add Fog!

By Ray Stewart, FSO-PA 75 and Alma Parrish, FC 75

On December 8, 2010, Flotilla 75 members Walt Wagner, Ted Cohen and Paul Moen aboard the Auxiliary facility *Gulf Lady*, worked with four 25' Transportable Port Security Boats (TPSB) of the Coast Guard on a port security training mission in upper Tampa Bay.

Using encrypted radios to communicate, the Coast Guard tried to locate the *Gulf Lady* in pea-soup fog while the Auxiliary vessel gently eluded their predicted or anticipated location included in the original Coast Guard briefing. Coast Guard crewmembers onboard the Auxiliary vessel traded out to give other Guardsmen an opportunity to train on the TPSBs prior to deployment overseas.

The objective of the patrol mission was for the *Gulf Lady* to play the part of a vessel that the Coast Guard TPSBs were attempting to protect from an intruder. To make the exercise more challenging, the Coast Guard Auxiliary was instructed to make unexpected speed, course and destination changes. To complicate the situation further, the Coast Guard Patrol Commander injected an artificial emergency to



which his boat crews had to respond. The thick fog did the rest. Boatswain Mate Mike Miller of the Coast Guard was in charge of the operation and was pleased with the success of the training mission saying that, "Having the Auxiliary vessel participate made it possible to get much more done." ❄



**Above: Ted Cohen poses with the .50 caliber machine gun mounted at the bow of one the Transportable Port Security Boats (TPSB) used in the training exercise on December 8, 2011. In addition to the .50 caliber machine gun on the bow, the Boston Whaler built craft has an M-60 7.62 mm machine gun aft, and twin 150 HP outboards giving it speeds in excess of 40MPH. It is highly maneuverable with a draft of only 16 inches. Now, that is cool!**

**Left: The fog on the morning of December 8, 2010 added another dimension to the Coast Guard training exercise. The Coast Guard TPSB is seen maneuvering in the distance.**

**Photo by Ted Cohen**







## News from National

# USCG Auxiliary Forms New Partnerships.

## Coast Guard Auxiliary Authorized to Train Sea Cadets.

*Coast Guard News, January 28, 2011,*



**Sea Cadets by Brian Lichtenstein, FL 38**

WASHINGTON – Coast Guard Auxiliary members are now authorized to provide shore side and underway training to Sea Cadets & Sea Scouts, under a program that is an outgrowth of the Auxiliary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), and its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

The type of training to be provided includes standard Auxiliary boat crew and coxswain skill training that is already a part of Sea Cadet and Sea Scout training programs. This includes activities such as preparing the vessel to get underway, docking, operating the vessel, anchoring, and safety drills.

The training will be provided by Auxiliary boat crew, selected for their ability to mentor boat crew and coxswain trainees, many having prior experience working with youth or younger trainees through the Coast Guard Auxiliary or other youth-serving organizations. Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets will be provided with the same personal protective equipment as Auxiliarists, including appropriate life jackets.

Each local Coast Guard district will determine how this program is implemented within its area of responsibility. For more information, see <http://bdept.cgaux.org/pdf/NavalSeaCadetCorps-CGAuxMOUNov2009.pdf>.

Information about Tampa Bay U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and U.S. Navy League Cadet Corps can be found at: <http://www.tampabayseacadets.com/index.html> ☼

## American Canoe Association Signs MOA With Auxiliary.

*U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs News Release*



ST. LOUIS - The American Canoe Association (ACA) and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary announced signing of a Memorandum of Agreement to promote safety among those who use kayaks, canoes and other paddlecraft. The new agreement establishes co-

operative efforts broadening outreach and education to the paddle sports community.

Paddlesports boating is one of the fastest growing recreation activities in the United States. In 2008 the Outdoor Industry Association reported that approximately 17.8 million people participated in paddlesports getting out on the water nearly 50,000 times daily. The explosive growth has triggered a disturbing increase in paddlesports injuries and fatalities. Often, with little investment inexperienced individuals are on the water without adequate paddle sport safety equipment or training.

The American Canoe Association and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are committed to reversing this trend. With input from the ACA a new Auxiliary Paddlesports America Course is now available nationwide complementing traditional safety courses that have been offered by ACA for decades. This classroom based training provides paddlers basic knowledge needed to safely operate their vessels including: knowing the paddlecraft, trip planning, safe operation, legal requirements, and paddling emergencies. The American Canoe Association and the Coast Guard Auxiliary will also reach out to paddlers through the paddlecraft vessel safety check program. Experts will talk with paddlers as they examine safety gear and provide personalized paddlesports safety guidance.

"With this cooperative effort we will reach out to the growing population of paddlers providing needed training to keep them safe on the water", said Jim Vass, Auxiliary National Commodore.

"The ACA is proud to continue our partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as we continually strive to improve the boating experience for the recreational paddler."- Chris Stec, ACA Chief Operating Officer ☼

For more information about the American Canoe Association visit <http://www.americancanoe.org>

## News and Articles...

### Linda's Closet



What's new in uniforms? Linda Barnard, member of Flotilla 72 in St. Petersburg always knows... or always knows where to find out.

In past issues of the Intercom, Barnard contributed several articles about proper uniform wear, what uniform items are new and where to obtain them, listings of web pages for miniature ribbons and much more. We finally convinced her that to write a column for the

Intercom, and while we provided little lead time, Barnard was still able to offer a few interesting bits of information and resources.

To begin with, there is the shirt that Barnard wore to the Division meeting on Feb.5, pictured in the above photograph. This is the new operational polo shirt available through the D7 Materials Store. Per ALLAUX bulletin (014-05), the Auxiliary polo can be worn as an alternative to the operational dress uniform (ODU) shirt, including cases when worn as a hot working outfit. Great news for those who find the ODU and t-shirt stifling hot in the summer months! (To order online, go to <https://d7materials.org/>)

There are no other changes to the hot working uniform, worn April 1-October 31. The uniform consists of ball cap or Tillie, ODU shorts, white crew socks with deck shoes or low-cut white or black athletic shoes\*, t-shirt or polo shirt and black belt. \*Athletic shoes are only authorized for boat crew. They should not be worn to meetings, etc.

Information about uniforms, including the Auxiliary Procurement Guide and the ODU Procurement Memorandum can be obtained at:

<http://cgaux.org/>

- Click on Departments (top bar)
- Select "Human Resources" from the drop-down menu
- Select "Divisions of the Department of Human Resources" on the left
- Scroll down to Uniform Division. ☼

### Help Wanted



#### Clearwater Air Station Volunteer Needed

**To assist at least eight hours per week in the fork lift operator and fuel truck driver program.**

##### Duties include:

- Assist in maintaining the computer databases
- Typing military licenses and certificates
- Updating spreadsheets with training information
- Answering the phone (as needed) in Facilities and Engineering.

##### Benefits include:

- Member will be under orders and receive travel expenses and meals at the galley.
- The satisfaction of providing critical assistance to the members of the active duty Coast Guard.

Interested members should contact Lou Miosi at [lmiosi@verizon.net](mailto:lmiosi@verizon.net).

##### Note:

Lou Miosi works at Clearwater Air Station where he is responsible for training and maintaining the licenses of the Coast Guard's forklift operators and fuel truck drivers, a program which he piloted in order for the drivers and operators of heavy equipment at Clearwater Air Station to operate more knowledgeably, safely, and meet OSHA and state licensing requirements.

Miosi was a member of Flotilla 73 which transferred to Division 11 during the realignment with the Coast Guard. He recently transferred to Flotilla 7-16 and we are glad to have him back! ☼







## News and Articles...

### Frogman...Swim?



Two Division 7 facilities protected swimmers participating in the January 2 Tampa Bay Frogman Swim, a 5-K open water swim from the St. Pete Gandy Bridge beach to Picnic Island in Tampa. Due to the low tides, participating swimmers encountered very shallow water and found themselves walking part of the course. In addition to low tides, the swimmers had to contend with unseasonably low water and air temperatures. The event served as a fundraiser to support wounded Navy Special Warfare (SEAL) personnel and their families.

Division 7 facilities and crew that assisted by maintaining a safety zone around the swimmers include *Miss Marla*, crewed by Rick Short (coxswain), Marla Short, David Perillo, all from Flotilla 72, and Craig Starns, Flotilla 79, and the *Catalina* from Flotilla 74, crewed by Joe Lamb (coxswain) and John Lowe from Flotilla 74, and Pat Costello from Flotilla 75. Photo by Joe Lamb

### Calling All Sailors

By Ray Stewart, FSO-PA 75

On January 13th, Tampa Sailing Squadron hosted its first Boating Skills and Seamanship Course specifically focused on the needs of sailors. The course was presented by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75, Ruskin, Fla., and featured certified sailing experts as well as licensed captains.

The course included basic boating elements necessary for recreational sailors to boat confidently and safely. The sessions included boat handling techniques, rules-of-the-road, navigation, weather, simple knots, docking, anchoring and provided an excellent opportunity to improve one's overall boating skills.

Tampa Sailing Squadron and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary share a common commitment to safe boating. Located on Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach, Fla., the Tampa Sailing Squadron provided a large and comfortable classroom setting for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors and sailing enthusiasts in attendance.

Boating Skills and Seamanship is presented on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm. The cost is \$50 for all 12 sessions and includes a 400 page textbook. Additional family members who share the textbook are enrolled at half-price. Successful completion of the course entitles the student to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Boating Card which is good for a 10% insurance fee reduction with many insurance companies. ☼



Graduates of the Boating Skills and Seamanship Course hosted by the Tampa Sailing Squadron on January 13 pose with two members of Flotilla 75, course instructors Oscar Kramer and Jerry Routt.

Photo by Ray Stewart



## News and Articles...

# Preparing for the Gasparilla Invasion



For several years, the Auxiliary has worked with the FWC, other law enforcement agencies and Coast Guard personnel participating in the annual Gasparilla Pirate Invasion. Just before the 2011 event, more than 45 FWC officers, Coast Guard boarding officers from Sector St. Petersburg small boat stations as well as sheriff's deputies and police officers from agencies around Tampa Bay convened at the FL 79 building to receive assignments for protecting the official Gasparilla flotilla during the parade and for enforcing boating laws during the event.

Photo and caption by Tim Teahan

Division 7 held a briefing for coxswains on January 27, two days before the Gasparilla Invasion. Fifty-seven members from three divisions attended the briefing where they received their assignments and instructions for the annual event. While the meeting was only mandatory for coxswains, many crew members also attended.

Photo by Dottie Riley







## News and Articles...

### Photographs by Members



### Fore and Aft

George Papabeis, FSO-PA 75 sees photographs where others may just see...fog!

### New Member Focus

Submitted by Rick Short, FC 72

#### Tim Robinson, Flotilla 72

Tim Robinson is a new member of Flotilla 72. Within six months of joining, he gained the member's respect, and this year, serves as both Flotilla Staff Officer- Communication Services and Flotilla Staff Officer- Information Services. Robinson is an avid boater who has enthusiastically served as crew-trainee on multiple missions including the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion and Boat Parade. He attended the Flotilla Leadership course at Clearwater Air Station in January and is presently attending the Division 7 Boat Crew training program.

Robinson attended the Vessel Examinations (VE) training conducted by Glenn Dobos in late January. That training was on a Wednesday, and by Sunday, he completed the five Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) required for certification. He is pictured here aboard Rick Short's 43-foot catamaran after completing his fifth VSC.

Robinson plans to become instructor qualified. He will be a welcome addition to Flotilla 72's Public Education and Member training programs. ❁





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E-mail: SO-PB@cgauxdiv7-7.org



#### Submission Guidelines:

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

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

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