



INTERCOM

The Majestic Krewe of the Jose Gasparilla Conquers Tampa... *Again!*

By Dottie Riley, SO-PB



The Dan Dee II from Division 8 at the Gasparilla boat parade on January 30, 2010. Photo by D. Riley

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

The event is the annual Gasparilla Pirate Invasion and boat parade. This year, on January 30, 2010

under a cold, gray sky that threatened rain and small craft advisories, the boat parade went on as scheduled. Fortunately, despite the combination of poor weather conditions, vessels too close for comfort and a high rate of alcohol consumption, no serious mishaps were reported.

Members and vessels from all five Divisions under Sector St. Petersburg including Division 7 participated in this year's Gasparilla boat parade. In addition to keeping recreational boaters from blocking the parade route, Auxiliarists play host to dozens of members from Tampa Bay's Manatee Watch.

Every year the Intercom reports on the parade and Division 7's participation. This year we will take a slightly different approach in our reporting. We have divided the Gasparilla boat parade and the concurrent manatee watch into three articles beginning on page 12:

1. Member photos and experiences.
2. The history of the Gasparilla pirate invasion.
3. Information about Florida's manatees.

Hopefully, the information provided will be of interest both to our veteran members and to those new to the Auxiliary or to the Tampa Bay area. ☼

In this Issue:

From the Helm:.....	3
Flotilla News:.....	6-11
Staff Reports and Other News	
Gasparilla.....	12-16
Florida's Manatees.....	17
Sea Scouts	18
Auxiliary Emails.....	20
NSBW Update.....	22
Program Updates and Articles of Interest.....	21-27

Planning for this event begins nearly a year ahead of the date be-

Division Elected Officers

Div 7	Division Commander	DCDR	Amos Johnson
Div 7	Division Vice Commander	VCDR	J. Michael Shea
Div 7	Immediate Past Division Commander	IPDCDR	Peter Lore
FL-72	Flotilla Commander	FC	James Fogle
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Richard L. Short
FL-74	Flotilla Commander	FC	Gilbert Thomas
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	James W. Mulligan
FL-75	Flotilla Commander	FC	Joseph Gonzalez
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Alma Parrish
FL-78	Flotilla Commander	FC	Brad Marchant
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Valerie Fernandes
FL-79	Flotilla Commander	FC	Tim Teahan
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Theresa (Bunny) Johnson
FL-7-16	Flotilla Commander	FC	James Newman
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	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	SO-CM	Terence E. Affeld
Communication Systems	SO-CS	Joseph Parrish
Finance	SO-FN	Wally Lowry
Information Systems	SO-IS	Alma Parrish
Materials	SO-MA	Ronald G. Matz
Marine Safety	SO-MS	Robert Starns
Member Training	SO-MT	Clifford J. Martin
Navigation Systems	SO-NS	Marvin Bayles
Operations	SO-OP	Clifford J. Martin
Public Affairs	SO-PA	Timothy Teahan
Publications	SO-PB	Dorothy J. Riley
Public Education	SO-PE	Steven B. Plass
Personnel Services	SO-PS	Heleyde Aponte
Program Visitor	SO-PV	Glenn Dobos
Secretary	SO-SR	Elizabeth Senesac-Barone
Vessel Examinations	SO-VE	Richard Bailey

The Intercom is a publication of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, District Seven, Division 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 Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB, (813) 684-9996, Email address: dottieriley1@verizon.net

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The Privacy Act of 1974 protects names, addresses, telephone/fax numbers and e-mail addresses of Auxiliary members which may appear in this or other USCGAUX publications. As a matter of policy, information described above is not made available to the general public or outside groups without that member's express and/or written consent. When such information appears, its privacy shall be safeguarded and the information will be clearly labeled. Publication of this information by the general public and/or outside groups is prohibited by the Privacy Act.





Words from the Helm....

Amos Johnson, Division Commander (DCDR 7)

This 'N' That

As I was going through AUXDATA and AUXINFO the past couple of days I have been absolutely amazed at the almost unbelievable numbers I have been seeing. Wow!

I have looked into the records of virtually everyone in the Division. Yes, I am doing a good bit of it myself - with a bit of able assistance from Bunny Johnson and Dottie Riley. If you want to know these numbers, you will want to be at our Awards Luncheon on March 27th at the Colonnade Restaurant. There will be a few surprises as well as some old, familiar members who just refuse to be beaten.

On the operations side, we have survived another Gasparilla! No less that 11 boats and over 40 members from Division 7 helped keep our bay safe and secure during some rough weather during the boat parade. Prior to that Saturday's festivities, we had our Division Orientation, our Operations workshop and a Captains meeting. To all involved, Bravo Zulu.

Since my last report, we chartered a new Detachment of Flotilla 74 in Polk County and received a generous welcome from the Polk County Sheriff's Department. The boaters out there need our help. Thanks to Robert-Gregory Gibson for taking the leadership there. In the future, it will become another Flotilla for us.

The last note is about training. Does it seem that every weekend is taken up by some sort of Auxiliary activity? Well, it is almost true. Orientation, Team Coordination Training, Incident Command System 210, Counter Terrorism Training, Harbor Patrol training and workshops have used up a lot of our time. But, the plan is to get them out of the way early, so we can have some fun doing the things we love to do the rest of the year. Which is coming - - - I promise. ☼



Amos Johnson, DCDR

On January 27, the International Propeller Club held their annual "Tribute to the Coast Guard" at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. ADM Thad Allen was the guest speaker and posed with guests, Braxton Ezell, DCDR 8, Larry Berman, DCDR 15, and Amos Johnson, DCDR 7.

Photo provided by
Braxton Ezell, DCDR 8



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

Photo coming soon

James M. Fogle, FC



James Fogle and Richard Short were sworn in as Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander at the annual Division 7 Change of Watch Ceremony held on December 5, 2009 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa. The Oath of Office was administered by Raymond Paysour, District Captain-West who was assisted by CDR Donald Winfield, USCG, Director of Auxiliary District 7.

From left to right: Amos Johnson, DCDR 7, Raymond Paysour, DCAPT-W D7, Don Winfield, DIRAUX D7, J. Michael "Mike" Shea, VCDR 7, Theresa "Bunny" Johnson, VFC 79, Tim Teahan, FC 79, Alma Parrish, VFC 75, Joe Gonzales, FC 75, Jim Fogle, FC 72, Richard Short, VFC 72, Valerie Fernandes, VFC 78, Gil Thomas, FC 74, Brad Marchant, FC 78, and Jim Newman, FC 7-16. Not shown: Linda Harwitt, VFC 7-16. ☼



CAPT Timothy Close, USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg and Raymond Paysour, DCAPT-W D7 presented Flotilla 72 members Richard Short, Eugene Keller and Marvin Bayles with the Medal of Operational Merit at the Division Change of Watch Ceremony on December 5, 2009 in Tampa. The three members along with Bob Hill, a member of Flotilla 11-3, saved a swimmer from drowning on July 19, 2009 near Weedon Island in St. Petersburg. Photos this page by Dottie Riley





Flotilla News

Flotilla 74, Brandon, Fla.

During the month of January, Flotilla 74 completed ten out of eleven scheduled patrols including Gasparilla. One patrol was cancelled due to truck problems. Three boats from Flotilla 74 supported Sector St. Petersburg.

On January 23, 2010, the American Boating Safety program was conducted at Dundee, Florida. Five people attended and all passed.

Despite the colder than average weather, on February 6 2010, members of Flotilla 74 conducted Vessel Safety Checks at Williams Park. Few boaters braved the chilly temperatures. Of the three boats checked that day, only one passed.

Flotilla 74 and the Polk County Detachment participated in the Third Annual Fish and Dive Expo held at Off the Wall Adventures in Lakeland, Florida on February 6, 2010. Throughout the day, ten members of the Polk County detachment were present plus members from Flotilla 74. This was a major push for boating safety and to recruit new members for the new Polk County Detachment. From 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., we held a presentation of the '*Suddenly You're In Command*' program in the classroom at Off the Wall Adventures. We also scheduled Public Education programs for March and July at the Off the Wall Adventures. The day was very successful.

Six members from Flotilla 74 attended the Communications member training program at Flotilla 75. Our recruiting efforts continue. Two new member's applications are in the mail and three are being processed. Additionally, we have five prospective members.

Last but not least: our new Detachment was chartered on January 19, 2010 in Polk County. The Polk County Sheriff's Department and Bob English, Polk County Commissioner District 1 were distinguished guests at this event. They anticipate that our presence in Polk County will help reduce the number of boating accidents through boater education programs. Robert Gibson will lead the detachment. ☼



Photo Coming soon

Gil Thomas, FC

Flotilla 74 Polk County Detachment was chartered on January 19, 2010. Division 7 members came to show their support. Pictured below are Gil Thomas, FC 74, Bob Gibson, leader of the new detachment, Bob English, Polk County Commissioner, and Amos Johnson, DCDR7. Of course, what is a chartering without a cake to mark the occasion? The cake was enjoyed as much as the sense of pride and the fellowship shared by those who attended.

Photos by John Lowe,
FSO-PB 74.



Flotilla News

Flotilla 75, Ruskin, Fla.



Joe Gonzalez, FC

The Flotilla conducted a series of training classes to prepare members to become Auxiliary Radio Communications Specialists. The series was held for six consecutive weeks on Thursday evenings from January 14 through February 18, 2010 in Sun City Center, Florida.

The training focused on providing members with a basic understanding of operating radiotelephonic systems and their proper use. All interested members of Division 7 were invited to attend.

This training was motivated in part by the installation of Flotilla 75 new radio tower and its resulting improved communication abilities. "Located in a US Coast Guard Auxiliary facility in Simmons Park, the radio base monitors the activities of Auxiliary vessels conducting search and rescue operations, as well as port and safety patrols.

"Recently, the Flotilla 75 members, with the generous assistance of Top Gun Tree Service, hoisted a new 50 foot radio tower greatly enhancing both the quality and range of radio transmissions between Auxiliary vessels and the US Coast Guard Station at Station

St. Pete."*1

Members Ray Stewart and Guy Mandigo recently accompanied members of the Sea Scout Ship 185 and Tampa Bay Sailing Squadron on a tour of Coast Guard Station St. Petersburg. Read all about this fun-filled event on page 18 of this issue of the Intercom. ☼



Top Gun Tree Service and members of Flotilla 75 hoist the new radio tower in place at the flotilla's radio facility in Simmins Park, Ruskin, Fla.

Photo by Ray Stewart, FSO-PA 75

Flotilla 75 member Ted Cohen hard at work at the base of the new radio tower.
Photo by Ray Stewart, FSO-PA 75



*1 News Release: "A more powerful voice for US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 75 in Ruskin." by Ray Stewart, FSO-PA





Flotilla News

Flotilla 78, Pass-a-Grille/St. Pete Beach, Fla.

The Christmas parade was a blast. It was the first time in years that we set up a float and marched in the St. Pete Beach Christmas parade. Everyone had a great time. Many along the parade route shouted, "Thank you for your Service," which made many of us feel good about our contribution to our community.

Our little Flotilla is a buzz with activity the last three months with so many people attending our programs this season and so many members working within the community. Our Flotilla is teaching a continuous 13-week Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) program with between 15 to 20 persons attending each week. In our BS&S program, we have introduced multi-media presentations that include live-action skits and hands-on interactive exercises to help the students learn about safe boating. Our younger students seem to really enjoy the different skits that we do. We have had a much younger group taking our programs than in the past with many younger people and teenagers in attendance.

On January 24, 2010, two Vessel Examiners from Flotilla 78 examined 10 vessels at the Dolphin Cruising Club in St Petersburg. Most of these vessels were 36 to 43 feet in length. This is the second year that Ron Bullock, President of the Club, has requested that we perform Vessel Safety Checks for his members. Warren Pffirman rounded out the event by setting up a table with free boating safety literature and information about the USCG Auxiliary.

Flotilla 78 would like to welcome our first new member this year, Jim Armstrong, who is almost finished with the application process.

Congratulations to Jim and Zelda Troiano who will have 25 years with the Auxiliary in May 2010. ☼

Holiday parades offer a great way to get out our name and our safe boating message. Flotilla 78 members Bradley Marchant, Warren Pffirman, Mike Berkowitz and Valerie Fernandes participated in the St Pete Beach Holiday Land Parade, December 12, 2009.
Photo provided by Valerie Fernandes



Photo Coming soon

Brad Marchant, FC



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

Tim Teahan, FC

Although we are less than two months into 2010, Flotilla 79 has been busy. In addition to its regular monthly flotilla meetings, fellowship dinners and Vessel Safety Checks on Saturdays at the Gandy boat ramp, the Flotilla has played host to a number of division-wide member trainings. These include Division 7 orientation for new and elected officers on January 9th, Incident Command System (ICS) 210 on February 13th, and Counter-Terrorism training on February 20th.

Heleyde Aponte, FSO-PS, continues to recruit new members and we have sworn in several new members at both meetings this year. On Monday, February 18, 2010, we swore in new members Larry Ivey and Steven Long. At 6 a.m. the next morning, Steven Long reported to the United States Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May to begin his training as an active duty member of the Coast Guard. We don't mind at all losing members to the USCG and are in fact, proud to help increase their ranks. At the same meeting, however, we suffered a true loss with the retirement of Betty Hooper after 39 years of service to the USCG Auxiliary and to Flotilla 79. An article about Betty and her many contributions will appear in the next issue of the Intercom. She will be sorely missed. ❀



Left: Bunny Johnson, VFC, Tim Teahan FC and Heleyde Aponte, FSO-PS swear in new member, Steven Long on February 18, 2010 at the Flotilla 79 meeting.

Photo by T. Manning

Right: Betty Hooper and husband Bob Rich in December, 1999.

Photo provided by Betty Hagan



Incident Command System (ICS) 210 was presented at Flotilla 79 on February 13, 2010. The course was open to members of Division 7 as well as neighboring divisions. COMO Donald Frasch, DCO District 7 and a member of Division 11 attended the training.

Photo by Tim Teahan





Flotilla News

Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport, Fla.

Our second monthly newsletter will go out in mid February.

The Program Visitor (PV) team has completed 56 PV visits to date while the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) team has completed 23 Vessel Safety Checks to date. Of that total, Kevin Yeaton completed 12 VSCs and Don Rimel completed 11 VSCs.

The flotilla is working on six new member candidates for this year.

Three members are taking the AUXACN course at Flotilla 72. They are: Jim Newman, Don Rimel and Kevin Yeaton. The flotilla meeting night has been changed to the third Tuesday of each month until the AUXACN course is completed.

Four members participated in the Gasparilla Invasion boat parade. ☼



Photo Coming soon

James Newman, FC



Above: Don Rimel attended the annual Blackthorn Memorial remembrance service on January 28, 2010 in St. Petersburg. He is pictured here with members of the United States Coast Guard Pipe Band and Auxiliary members Jim Mulligan from Flotilla 74 and Steve Rogers from Flotilla 36. The vignette on the right is the memorial after the flowers were placed during the ceremony. Photos provided by Don Rimel.

Right: Kevin Yeaton and Don Rimel complete the post-course test in the Counter-Terrorism Training conducted on February 20, 2010 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa.

Photo by D. Riley



Staff Reports and News...

Communications Services, Joe Parrish SO-CS

New initiative for certified crew and operational members:

Members now have access to the Patrol Order Management Systems or POMS. This access will allow you to see the calendars which contain the patrol schedules for 7th Division Auxiliary facilities. You can review the dates and general times, and if you are interested in participating, you can contact the coxswain to see if space is available. Most of the facilities have room for an additional crew member or trainee. To get started go to the following link: <http://poms.statronics.com/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=poms/poms.htm>

When you open this link go to the tab at the top that says SUPPORT. Read the installation guide and then install the CITRIX client on your computer. This will allow you to use the "POMS OE" to enter the system. When you get to the point that you see a login page, you will enter your member number on the top line and the last six digits of your social security number on the second line. This will open a calendar page. On the top right of the calendar page there is a tab "FILTER" view. Click on this and highlight the Patrols for St. Petersburg.

Again, this is new so expect "glitches" at first. After some initial technical frustrations, it will eventually allow auxiliary members to more fully participate in patrol activities. If you get stuck, call your FSO-CS for assistance.

A second way to access the Read Only Web Based POMS application is via the following Web Link: <https://meta-statronics.fincen.uscg.mil/> click on the online web access. You may get a warning window because it is a special secure government sponsored site. Allow access.

This will open to a page that provides a place to sign in. On the first line enter your member number. On the second line, enter the last six digits of your social security number.

If you get in, click on schedules on the top tab. When it opens go to the tab that says ALL PATROLS and click and change that to ST Petersburg Patrols. Then go to the tab that lets you see either scheduled patrols or requested patrols. Click on the box to "update" the display window. You should now see a list of patrols by date.

In order for this to work, the POMS manager has to make sure that you have been identified for access. Crew members have access to POMS.

I would encourage coxswains who are in the system to try this online access site and become familiar with it so that you can assist our crew in using it on their computers.

E-Learning and TESTING:

Once upon a time, all the testing for the various certifications and Auxiliary qualifications was completed on paper test forms. Now, paper tests are only needed for special situations.

Paper tests are still used when Auxiliarists attend member training presentations. In this case, the instructor arranges in advance for paper tests so that all the students can take the test at the same time. The instructor then collects the tests and sends them in to the National testing center for grading and posting. In other cases, the subject does not lend itself to online testing. For example, the Navigation A and B courses require detailed chart work and supporting testing materials.

Most tests and the required study material are available online. Some online tests can be taken on your computer at home and submitted directly online. Other tests require that you have a certified "proctor" in attendance when you take the tests. Tests that require a proctor, include NAVRULES (required for Coxswain), Search and Rescue, Seamanship, Communications and a couple of others. In order to take these tests on line, you must coordinate the availability of a proctor. You and the proctor then each enter a password which allows you to "pull up" the appropriate test and take it on line. If you need a proctor, contact your flotilla's Member Training Officer.

Some of the tests that DO NOT require a proctor are: Administration, Good Mate, Vessel Examinations, Instructor, Program Visitor and Incident Command System Courses like ICS 100, 700 and 800. Administration, Good Mate, Vessel Examinations, Instructor, and Program Visitor can be taken online by going to the E-Learning Center located at <http://ntc.cgau.org/> and registering.

The ICS courses can be taken on line at the FEMA web site: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp> ☼

Submitted by Kathi Kruczek, FSO-CS 79





Staff Reports and News...

Navigation Systems– Marvin Bayles

Flotilla 72 has completed verifying all its Private Aids to Navigation (PATON). They identified 14 discrepancies in the 148 verified. Flotilla 79 has a program all set to go but the start date had to be changed.

Flotilla 7-16 started its PATON verifications in January but has not yet reported their findings. Flotillas 74 and 75 have also started inspecting the PATONs within their area of responsibility (AOR) but have not yet reported their progress to me. I gave each FSO-NS a package outlining the PATONs within their AOR. Some have told me that they have started with the bridges within their areas. ☼



Test your charting skills: Can you locate this channel marker on a chart of Tampa Bay?

Public Education– Steve Plass

Flotillas 72, 79 and 7-16 started the continuous Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) programs in January, each with slightly different formats. Flotillas 72 and 79 have conducted the continuous 12 lesson BS&S programs for years.

Flotilla 75 plans one BS&S course and a quarterly About Boating Safely (ABS) courses during 2010.

I am communicating with each Flotilla to verify their plans to strengthen and grow their Public Education programs and instructor base in 2010. This would be best accomplished by using the stronger Flotillas to support weaker ones. I am also coordinating with the Division Staff Officers for Vessel Examinations (SO-VE), Recreational Boating safety Marine Dealer Visitor (SO-PV), Marine Safety (SO-MS) and Public Affairs (SO-PA) to broaden awareness of ongoing programs. Each Flotilla has been encouraged to keep their program information up to date on District, Division and Flotilla web sites. Flotilla 79's goal is to double BS&S enrollment in

erational plans for 2010. According to Walter Wagner, quite a bit was accomplished including establishing the flotilla's marketing, recruiting, and training goals. I feel this is a good way for other Flotillas to get out information, get more people involved and to promote fellowship.

At year's end, we need to request decals for Vessel Safety Checks for the coming year earlier. By mid January, we still had no new 2010 decals. They are now



Here is an easy one for the members on the Tampa side of the bay: Where is this ATON located?

Vessel Examinations– Richard "Beetle" Bailey

2010 compared to 2009. ☼

Flotilla 75 held an organizational meeting on Friday, January 8, 2010 at Denney's Restaurant for all Vessel Examiners and interested members to lay out their op-

Member News...

Division 7 Members share their Gasparilla experiences.

Friends Assist at Gasparilla Boat Parade

Photos and article contributed by Marla Short, FL72

Marla and Rick Short from Flotilla 72 and Lynn and Bob Hill from Flotilla 11-3 are both couples who are members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. They met last year when Lynn Hill and Marla and Rick Short attended a crew class taught by Bob Hill. The couples became fast friends and were excited to participate together in the 2010 Gasparilla Boat Parade. They were assigned to an area along the parade route.

The Hills and the Shorts met at 7 a.m. aboard *Happy Ours* in St. Petersburg to begin their pre-patrol checklist. The parade was not due to start for several hours. The weather prediction was dreary that day and they did not know if that would keep the crowds away from this popular event. They hoped not. Marla and Rick Short attended the parade once before as private recreational boaters, but this would be their first time as Auxiliary members.



Above: Rick and Marla Short from Flotilla 72. Below left: Lynn and Bob Hill from Flotilla 11-3. The couples volunteered together aboard the *Happy Ours* during the Gasparilla Boat Parade on January 30, 2010 in Tampa Bay.



Once they arrived at their designated watch area, things were pretty quiet until the parade began. Helicopters and personal watercraft searched for manatees in and along the parade route. The crew of the *Happy Ours* maintained their position and warned recreational vessels to slow down. Law enforcement was everywhere and included police boats from surrounding cities and counties as well as a USCG cutter.

At last they were advised by radio that the parade route was free of manatees. Let the parade begin! Soon, they witnessed pirates flinging beads. They heard lots of cannons and saw plumes of water arching over the water. Horns blew, people laughed and smiled everywhere. They watched as hundreds of boats went by, but by all accounts, the event was only lightly attended due to the weather.

Finally, it was over. They did their best to rid the waters of debris including a funny, oversized Viagra beaded necklace and some black foam balls with Gasparilla marking.

About the time that they were dismissed from their assignment, the predicted rain began to fall. They put on raingear and braved the choppy waters back to St. Petersburg. Rain was no problem a towel couldn't solve a little later! Rick and Marla Short concluded that all in all, it was a wonderful way to serve the Coast Guard and their community. ☼





Member Gasparilla Photos



Left: Judy O'Brien, Kathi Kruczek and Robin Conn from Flotilla 79 on the Water Won II during the Gasparilla festivities.
Photo provided by Judy O'Brien

Right: Cinda Hitchcock, trainee and crew-member Dottie Riley from Flotilla 79 standing at the bow of the Laylow as their facility follows the boat parade up the channel.
Photo by Jim Newman, FC 7-16



Left: Members of Tampa Bay Manatee Watch, Amy and Christy, watch the Gasparilla festivities from the bow of the Water Won II.
Photo by Robin Conn



Member Gasparilla Photos



The crew of the Laylow from Flotilla 7-16 included Michael Cabrera, Kevin Williams, Scott Burger and Trainee Cinda Hitchcock, all from Flotilla 79. Bottom row are Carl Nelson, Flotilla 72, Burnie Wilhelm, coxswain, Flotilla 79 and Robert Patton, trainee and Jim Newman, Crewmember, both from Flotilla 7-16. Not shown: Dottie Riley, who was behind the camera.



Space Coast Division Members Enjoy Gasparilla Fest 2010

These two rabble-rousing pirates are actually members of the USCG Auxiliary. They are Darlene Bush, FSO-SR & FSO-PV 17-6 and Bill Giers, FSO-PB 17-6 & SO-PA 17. Several members from the Space Coast Division attended the Gasparilla Pirate Fest via a chartered tour.

Given a choice between driving three hours in the wee hours of the morning to participate as official crew aboard an Auxiliary facility in inclement weather- or taking it easy on a luxurious bus with bleacher seats to watch the parade, can we question their choice?

P.S.: Bill reports that they had a great time!

Photos provide by Bill Giers





Candidate for Boating Safety Program?

Photo and article contributed by Brad Ware, FL79

Picture this: Gasparilla Boat Parade 2010. It is 20 minutes after the start of the boat parade with choppy to rough seas. An eight foot skiff powered by a 3.5 horsepower motor is operated by a young man who appears to be no more than fifteen years old- and who is *not* wearing his life jacket! He is struggling in the seas running just ahead of the boat parade with 25-30 foot vessels bearing down on him- and losing ground!

The crew of the Auxiliary vessel *Lucky Dog* from Flotilla 79 immediately recognized the danger. Mike Shea, coxswain, crew members Brad Ware, Cliff Martin and Tim Teahan from Flotilla 79, David Perillo from Flotilla 72 and Brian Garry, Trainee from Flotilla 79, came alongside the hapless boater and directed the young man to put on his life jacket and move out of the immediate parade route.

At that precise instant, the skiff ran out of gas. Without power, the skiff began to toss in the wake and rough seas. There was no time to lose; within five minutes this kid could be lost to the Jose Gasparilla and its armada of 'pirate' ships.

The *Lucky Dog* circled the skiff three times attempting



Even before the little eight foot skiff lost power, the crew of the *Lucky Dog* knew that they were witnessing a story to be told. Brad Ware snapped this picture of Tim Teahan photographing the hapless young boater. Moments later, the humorous situation became dangerous as the skiff lost power and the parade vessels came bearing down on him.

to get a line on it. This was complicated by the wakes of boaters whizzing by. Finally, they managed to secure a line on his port cleat, and with the vessel now under control, they proceeded to the nearest dock, a sheriff station located on the west side of the channel. The young man was safe.

On a day like this, it makes you proud to be an Auxiliarist, SEMPER PARATUS. 🌟



Jim Frijouf from Flotilla 79 captured this photograph of the *Lucky Dog* and its crew in front of the Jose Gasparilla. Tampa's firefighting boats can be seen shooting water high into the sky.

The History of Gasparilla



Photo by D. Riley 2008

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

While the pirate invasion is the festival's most celebrated affair, the Gasparilla Pirate Festival does not begin or end with this event. The festival includes a number of private and public events. The private events include social events and parties throughout the year for members and philanthropic events for favored causes, formal balls, brunches and an annual beauty pageant. The public events include no less than three parades. A week before the "invasion" and the main parade, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla sponsors a family-oriented children's parade and "Piratechnic Extravaganza" with fireworks over Tampa Bay.

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

Until the attacks on September 11, 2001, the US Navy participated in the pirate invasion. The Navy ship would be attacked by small boats throwing Cuban bread and black bean soup. The Navy would respond with fire

hoses but would succumb to the Ybor City Navy, and then surrender to the Alcalde of Ybor City. The sailors would be treated to an evening on the town. The Tampa Marine Fire Department took over the role of "defender of the city", but rather than wait at the top of the channel to "mount the city's defense", the firefighting vessels join the parade and use their hoses to keep small craft from getting dangerously close to the Jose Gaspar as she makes her way up the channel.

Gasparilla Facts and Figures:

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





News and Articles by Members...

Auxiliarists Assist With Annual Manatee Watch

By Dottie Riley

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

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



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

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

The range of the Florida manatee is primarily peninsular Florida but extends as far north as Rhode Island. Manatees have been rescued near Houston, Texas and Mississippi. Adult West Indian manatees average about ten feet in length but large individuals may reach lengths of up to thirteen feet. Average adult weights are approximately 800 to 1,200 pounds. One particularly large Florida manatee weighed 3,650 pounds. Females are generally larger than males. Despite their large size, when a boater spots a manatee, it is often no more than its snout breaking the water's surface for air. A manatee's body is streamlined but thick in the middle and ends in a paddle-like tail. They are gray and their bodies are often scarred from brushes with propellers, sharp protrusions on boat docks and piers or fishing hooks and lines.

All manatees live in warm, tropic or sub-tropic waters in temperatures above 64 degrees. They prefer shallow waters near shores, inlets and mangroves where vegetation is plentiful. Manatees feed on more than 60 species of plants including turtle grass, manatee grass, shoal grass, mangrove leaves, various algae, water hyacinth, acorns, and hydrilla. The shallow shorelines preferred by manatees are also filled with docks and boat ramps. This places manatees in grave danger from recreational boaters and accounts for many of their injuries and accidental deaths.

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

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

Injured manatees should be reported as soon as possible to Florida Fish and Wildlife or the Coast Guard. ☼

News and Articles by Members...

The Future in the Present

Photos and story by Ray Stewart, FSO-PA 75



Ensign Mark Rodriguez, USCG, Station St. Petersburg greeted the Sea Scouts and prepared them for what to expect before boarding several USCG vessels that call Station St. Petersburg home. Photo provided by Ray Stewart

Members from Flotilla 75 in Ruskin recently accompanied members of the Sea Scout Ship 185 and Tampa Bay Sailing Squadron on a tour of Coast Guard Station St. Petersburg.

Ensign Mark Rodriguez greeted the group with the exciting proposition of crawling around, over and through the fastest and largest vessels at the Coast Guard Station.

From the wheelhouse to the engine room, the Sea Scouts were able to see exactly what runs these complicated and sophisticated craft—the young men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Seaman Kyle Love, USCG, described to the Sea Scouts how he had been a paramedic in civilian life and joined the Coast Guard so that he 'could jump out of helicopters'—or actually, become a 'rescue swimmer'. A Jack Armstrong look alike, Seaman Love has all the physical confidence of a man who can jump out of a helicopter and into a raging sea.

Seaman Keshia Vazquez, USCG, expressed an enthusiasm for the Coast Guard by taking a long term view and a goal of getting into the medical services unit. The young women of the Sea Scouts had a perfect opportu-

nity to see how women can seize the career choices afforded by service in the Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Auxiliarists, Guy Mandigo and Ray Stewart, clambered about a 25', 70 mph Rigid Inflatable (RIB), a 41' patrol boat and finally the 110' Cutter Nantucket. With every piece of equipment squared away, an attention to workmanlike cleanliness, an economy of space and apparent efficiency, the Nantucket is home to 16 dedicated Guard members.

At home in the Engine Room is Petty Officer Craig Matthews. Lord of his domain, at 23 he makes sure that the boat can leave the dock on a moments notice. He oversees the welfare of the cutter by ensuring that the engines are the best they can be and that fuel, oil, water and the mechanical systems of the vessel are in good order.

He relayed to the Sea Scouts and Auxiliarists how much he likes what he does and how it makes for a substantial future.

Sitting at the mess table, Coast Guard Auxiliarist Bob Bettinger felt quite at home and related stories to the Sea Scouts of his thirteen years with the Coast Guard. His adventurous experiences in Alaska on Coast Guard vessels plying the seas of "The Deadliest Catch" added another dimension to life on a steel-hulled cutter.

In the wheelhouse, Boatswain's Mate Peter Banford spoke of his commitment to the Coast Guard and his excitement at responding to any emergency, any time, day or night. Pounding through heavy seas at night to rescue someone, or to a vessel in distress is what drives him. While too much of his time is engaged in pursuing false alarms, he remains both vigilant and dutiful in his response 'because you simply don't know'.

And while these young Coast Guardsmen and women attended to the questions of curious Sea Scouts, the Coast Guard Cutter Hawk steamed out of the channel with a full complement of Guardsmen to join other young Coast Guardsmen and women already coming to the aid of the people in Haiti.





Flotilla 75 is proud to be part of "Team Coast Guard". The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is a force multiplier for the U.S. Coast Guard. By presenting Boater Safety programs, providing free vessel safety exams, patrolling the waters for boaters-in-distress or securing harbors and terminals, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is an organization for individuals who seek to give something back to both the community and the country. ☼

Right: Bob Bettinger and Guy Mandigo, members of Flotilla 75 shown aboard the Cutter Nantucket with Guardsmen from Station St. Petersburg, USCG and the Sea Scouts.



**109. Uncle Sam's HOME DEFENSE
Auxiliary Coast Guard**

As a backlog of patrol boats for use in an emergency, private yachts and motorboats are being put into service, in some instances along with their owners. Civilians are enrolling in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a voluntary, non-military organization. Men must be citizens, own at least 25 percent of a boat, and pass an examination. Their duties will be to increase safety, promote better understanding of navigation rules and guard against sabotage in emergencies. Boats are armed, some with rifles and pistols, and others with machine guns. All expenses of operating the boats will be borne by the government. The picture shows how one of these armed boats might be used to round up a gang of saboteurs at the water front.

Ask for Uncle Sam Bubble Gum and complete your collection of cards Nos. 1 to 96 picturing U. S. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen in training to Defend America.
Copyright 1941, GUM, INC., Phila., Pa. Printed in U. S. A.
Buy U. S. Defense Savings Bonds or Stamps

An Auxiliary Blast from our Past

*Researched and written by Joseph Giannattasio,
DSO-PB, 5NR*

Many of the events leading up to our country's involvement in World War II, from the late 1930s to 1941, were dramatically depicted on the newest American fad, gum cards.

Insert cards picturing a variety of historical, fantasy and contemporary events were relatively new in 1939. But, as the tides of war swept over most of the world and Americans came to realize it was only a matter of time before our turn came, some gum card sets began taking on a patriotic tone and emphasized the need for America to be prepared. Gum, Inc., in 1941, began inserting "Uncle Sam - Home Defense" (148 cards) and "Uncle Sam - Soldier" (96 cards).

The "Soldier" portion shows men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Corps in training and conducting mock warfare. The "Home Defense" portion highlights home front activities, such as air raid wardens, first aid stations, defense against incendiary bombs, and school children dispersing in the event of an air attack. It also showcased such military complementary outfits as Home Guard, Office of Civilian Defense, women pilots ferrying aircraft overseas to England, and the Auxiliary Coast Guard.

The sets, though, published from 1938 to 1941, are among the best ever produced - from the viewpoints of patriotism, quality artwork, and creativity.

Today, gum card collectors and others eagerly seek them out. ☼

Reprinted with permission from J. Giannattasio.

News and Articles by Members...

Use of E-Mail in the Auxiliary

By *Braxton Ezell, DCDR 8*

E-mail is a wonderful communication tool. It has virtually eliminated the game of telephone tag. No more leaving messages and waiting for a return call, which invariably comes when you are not available and the caller must leave a message for you to get back with them. Then you return the call and the person you are calling is not available and you leave another message. And so the game of tag goes on. Sometimes the game of tag goes on for so long that you forget what the original call was about. Not so with e-mail. With e-mail you can transmit a message to your intended recipients and maintain a record of the message in your computer. When the e-mail is answered you can maintain a record of the reply.

E-mail has become an accepted means of communicating in business and with friends and family. We send and receive e-mail messages containing correspondence and reports for business purposes and personal e-mail containing correspondence, stories, jokes, or religious or political messages to our friends and family. Usually these are to people we know well and from whom we have received e-mails containing similar content. There is relatively small risk in offending our friends and family with these types of e-mail because we know they are amenable to receiving them.

E-mail is both a powerful and a dangerous tool in that we can instantaneously broadcast a message to a single recipient or multiple recipients. But it is one of the easiest forms of communication to misunderstand. The speed with which we can fire off a message or reply to one, often without editing it or checking it for grammar or spelling, can result in a message which conveys an entirely different meaning than the one we intended to send.

In our Coast Guard family e-mail has become an important means of communication. It is a vitally important tool in conducting our business and is considered official correspondence. It facilitates communication and it can help build the organization. But it can also offend, hurt, incite, or spread misinformation or disinformation, causing animosity and division in the organization.

E-mail is a great way to convey the information we deal with in on a day-to-day basis in the Auxiliary. It is a very efficient form of conveying reports, meeting

notices, meeting agendas, and informational messages.

E-mail is useful when you want to:

- Convey detailed information.
- Arrange a meeting.
- Recap your understanding of a spoken conversation (phone or in person).
- Provide a carefully worded response.
- Send a consistent message to a group.
 - Provide a paper trail.

Avoid using e-mail when:

- You're angry.
- You're responding to someone who is angry.
- You're addressing a sensitive issue.
- You're reprimanding someone.
- You're sharing information that you don't want to be shared with others.
- You're gossiping or spreading unsubstantiated rumors.

Here are some guidelines to consider before you click on "send" the next time:

- All Auxiliary and Coast Guard e-mail addresses are obtained from Rosters, other Auxiliarists, Auxiliary e-mail lists, Auxiliary correspondence, etc. and are protected under the Privacy Act. When you give out your e-mail address for the conduct of Auxiliary business, you do so with the expectation that its use will be limited to Auxiliary business.
- The roster should not be used as a distribution list to send e-mails that expresses personal, political, religious, or sexual views. Such e-mails only serve to cause animosity among members and is detrimental to the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.
- Never send unsolicited personal e-mail to a member of the Coast Guard at a *.uscg.mil address!
- Be careful about sending unsolicited e-mails to other Auxiliarists that do not pertain to Auxiliary business. E-mails that contain jokes, pictures, degrading comments about others, etc. can be offensive to other Auxiliarists.
- Before sending non-business related e-mails, make





sure that the e-mail will be favorably received and is not unwanted due to its nature and subject matter.

- Think about your recipients, the subject matter of your e-mail, and your recipients' knowledge of the subject before sending.
- Write clearly to avoid misunderstandings.
- Consider that the e-mail may go beyond your intended recipient.
- Avoid rumor and innuendo, or stating things as fact when you can't be certain that they are.
- Give serious thought about the impact on the sender or others before forwarding someone else's e-mail.
- Don't alter the words in someone else's message without stating that you have done so, or use another's words without attribution.
- Don't use e-mail to discuss personal issues or for

problem resolution between Auxiliary members.

- Avoid using e-mail when dealing with a controversial subject.
- Keep the number of recipients to the minimum necessary. Don't CC up the chain unless it's necessary.

So before you click the "Send" button take some time to read your message. Make sure it clearly communicates what you intended to say. Run spell check to check the spelling and grammar. Above all don't write and send an e-mail when you're angry or upset. Instead write up your message and then sit on it overnight. Read it the next day and you will probably have a different perspective. Just writing the proposed e-mail is usually enough to vent your aggravation with the proposed recipient. As Falstaff said, "The better part of valor is discretion, in the which better part I have saved my life." (Henry IV, Part One) ☼

Reprinted with permission from Division 8 Newsletter, Pieces of Eight

New Brochure Center

Ordering brochures and posters for Public Education classes has just become more user-friendly. The frustration of hoping that a certain brochure will meet your class needs has been eliminated. Instructors can now examine the contents of all PE Brochures and posters on the E-Library.

The screen shots may also be enlarged so that the contents may be previewed prior to ordering. As brochures and posters become available, the E-Department will update the site.

Visit the new Brochure Center. [Posted: Nov 19, 2009. Source: Anne Lockwood, DIR-E] Visit the web site at <http://www.cgauxed.org/elib/brochures/brochures.html>



New On the Water Training Manual

The On Water Training Manual (OWT) has been updated. The updates include new cross-references of tasks to the courses now being used:

About Boating Safely, second edition; Boating Skills & Seamanship, 13th edition; and Sailing Skills & Seamanship, 6th edition. Other changes are minor -new job titles. The new Manual is available on the E-Library. [Posted: Nov 16, 2009. Source: Anne R. Lockwood, DIR-E] The web site is: <http://cgauxed.org/owt.htm> ☼



News and Articles by Members...

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN NEWS: Opportunities Abound

By: Harriet Howard, Special Assistant for NSBW

Walmart, K-Mart, Ace Hardware, West Marine, Bass Pro Shops, are just some of the retail stores that have given our Public Affairs Officers space for their boating safety displays for National Safe Boating Week (NSBW). With the 2010 campaign ahead of us, let's plan to use these stores as opportunities to meet the boating public and "sell" them on safe boating practices. Now is the time to contact the managers of these establishments and secure a spot during NSBW. Some of these stores may allow us to use a part of their parking lot to perform Vessel Safety Checks (VCS).

Other opportunities abound to reach the boating public, via the media. Download the statistics from the National Safe Boating Council's website, to list boating accidents and fatalities for your press releases. Editors love statistics. Also, invite the TV and news media to attend your special NSBW events. Life jacket demonstrations and on-the-water rescues make great action footage for television broadcasts.

Look for the free and paid resources available from the campaign site in March. Such items as "Wear It!" stickers, decals and posters are especially favored by our younger boaters. For additional resources, download the Auxiliary Material Supply Center Catalog at <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/misc/DCAI.pdf>. Order through your Materials Officer.

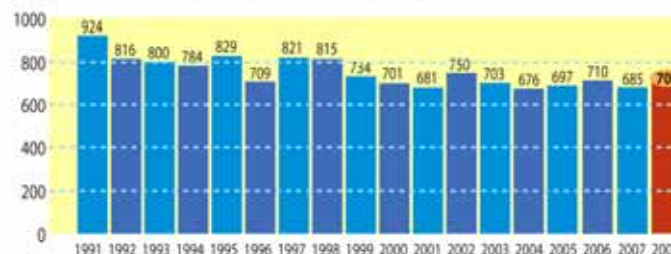
Don't forget to post your planned Public Affairs exhibits and VSCs on the campaign website for NSBW and even before the big event. Share your great ideas. ☼

2008 Boating Accident Statistics

U.S. Coast Guard statistics

In 2008, the number of boating deaths, injuries and property damage decreased from the previous year. Overall, over 69% of all fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those who drowned, over 89% of the victims were not wearing a life jacket. Over 83% of the boaters who drowned were using boats less than 26 feet in length. Consistent with previous years, 75% of reported fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction.

2008 BOATING FATALITIES



2008 FATALITIES AND LIFE JACKET WEAR

CAUSE OF DEATH	TOTAL NUMBER OF FATALITIES	LIFE JACKET WORN	LIFE JACKET NOT WORN	UNKNOWN IF WORN
DROWNING	510	46	459	5
TRAUMA	124	33	90	1
HYPOTHERMIA	12	7	5	0
CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING	11	0	11	0
OTHER	8	1	7	0
CARDIAC ARREST	7	1	6	0
UNKNOWN	37	2	32	3



2008 TOP FIVE TYPES OF ACCIDENTS

CONTRIBUTING FACTOR	ACCIDENT RANKING	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS	NUMBER OF FATALITIES
COLLISION WITH A VESSEL	1	1,237	60
FLOODING/SWAMPING	2	475	89
COLLISION WITH A FIXED OBJECT	3	446	53
FALLS OVERBOARD	4	431	188
SKIER MISHAP	5	383	10

2008 TOP 10 CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

CONTRIBUTING FACTOR	ACCIDENT RANKING	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS	NUMBER OF FATALITIES
CARELESS/RECKLESS OPERATION	1	492	32
OPERATOR INATTENTION	2	488	28
NO PROPER LOOKOUT	3	430	24
OPERATOR INEXPERIENCE	4	429	40
PASSENGER/SKIER BEHAVIOR	5	383	57
MACHINERY FAILURE	6	292	24
EXCESSIVE SPEED	7	282	29
ALCOHOL USE	8	276	124
WEATHER	9	262	54
FORCE OF WAVE/WAKE	10	216	4

www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com

Be sure to visit their website for pamphlets, statistics and other important Information and contests for recreational boaters!





Texting While Driving Some Things Bear Repeating

ALCOAST 012/10 COMDTNOTE 5102

Subj: **Texting While Operating a Motor Vehicle General Order**

A. Executive Order 13513, federal leadership on reducing texting while driving

B. Civilian personnel actions: discipline, performance, adverse actions, appeals, and grievances, COMDTINST M12750.4 (series)

C. Nonappropriated fund (NAF) personnel manual, COMDTINST M12271.1 (series)

D. Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)

E. Safety and environmental health manual, COMDTINST M5100.47 (series) ch10

1. In an effort to reduce the dangers of texting while driving, the president issued reference (a) which mandates a federal government- wide prohibition on the use of texting messages while driving on official business or while using government-supplied equipment. Effective immediately reference (a) will be implemented coast guard wide as follows:

A. All civilian and military members, including reservists in an active status including IDT and ADT, and Coast Guard Auxiliarists when assigned to duty, are ordered not to read, type or send text messages or e-mail when driving a government owned vehicle, when driving a private motor vehicle while on official government business, or when using electronic equipment supplied by the government.

B. Military members: this order is punitive in nature and failure to follow this order can result in disciplinary action under article 92 of the UCMJ.

C. Civilian employees, including nonappropriated fund employees: failure to comply with this requirement may result in disciplinary action in accordance with references (b) and (c).

D. Auxiliarists: failure to comply with this requirement may result in administrative disciplinary action in accordance with reference (e).

E. Exceptions to this order: personnel may use electronic devices if their vehicle is safely parked or, for emergency and law enforcement personnel: the messages are critical

to successful mission execution, stopping/parking the vehicle is not safe or reasonable, and the messages are sent/received while performing their official duties (e.g., including the use of in-car mobile data terminals and other in-car electronic devices).

F. For the purpose of line of duty/ misconduct determinations, failure to take proper vehicular safety precautions, including complying with this order, will be considered as an (act) of the potentially several factors during line of duty/misconduct determination.

Although a members failure to comply with this order will not create an automatic presumption of misconduct or causation, a determination of not of important financial and other benefits to the service member and/or the service members family.

2. The contents of this ALCOAST, including the punitive aspect of it, shall be incorporated in a future change to reference (d).

3. Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, USCG 🌟



Admiral Thad Allen
Commandant, USCG
Photo: U.S. Coast Guard

Recreational Boating Insignia– Eligibility Criteria



1. Changes have been made to the public affairs activity codes that count toward earning the Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) insignia. The RBS insignia recognizes extraordinary effort of Auxiliarists who consistently provide strong support to RBS programs. Its eligibility criteria require significant RBS program activity over a minimum period of two years.

2. These activity code changes more accurately reflect public affairs program activities that meet the spirit of service recognized by the RBS insignia. They are now included on the Auxiliary Mission Activity Report (ANSC-7030) form available on the Auxiliary web site, they have been included in AUXDATA, and they must be claimed in order to count towards earning the RBS device from now on. They are incorporated into the summary of RBS insignia requirements that follow:

a. Compilation of 120 points per year for two consecutive years (for a total of 240 points) is required. Hours for prescribed mission codes are reported on the Mission Activity Report (ANSC-7030) form. Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and vessel facility inspections are reported on the Vessel Examinations Activity Report (ANSC-7038). RBS Program Visits are reported on the RBS Visitation Report (ANSC-7046).

b. Public Education: Hours recorded using any mission code 14: one point-per-hour as lead instructor and 0.5 points-per-hour as an assistant/aide.

c. Public Affairs: Activities promoting RBS in the following

areas: one point-per-hour limited to actual mission hours:

- (1) Speech/Talks, mission code 10B.
- (2) Broadcast Media, mission code 10C.
- (3) External Print Media, mission code 10F.
- (4) COMREL, Mission code 10J.

d. Vessel Safety Checks and Vessel Facility Inspections: Based on the number of VSCs and/or vessel facility inspections. 1 point-per-check or inspection.

e. RBS Program Visitation: Based on the number of RBS Program

Visits: one point-per-visit.

f. Legislative Outreach: Hours recorded as

Federal/State

Legislative Outreach or Government Affairs work, mission codes 65A or 65B: one point-per-hour.

g. State RBS Outreach: Hours recorded in meetings with a state BLA or state BLA staff, mission code 65C: one point-per-hour.

3. These RBS device eligibility criteria will be included in the next change to the Auxiliary Manual. ☼

Source: ALLAUX Bulletin from CHDIRAUX



**Homeland
Security**

January 22, 2010

Support for Haiti Relief Efforts

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past eleven days, DHS has mobilized to support the search, rescue, and relief efforts in Haiti.

As DHS employees, many of you are already contributing to the response effort. In addition to everything that the U.S. Government and our international partners are doing, the success of the ongoing recovery effort will continue to rely in large part on the generosity of individual citizens.

Today, we are launching a special fundraising effort along with departments across the federal government. If you are interested in making a contribution to support recovery efforts, you can visit the Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund at <https://re.clintonfoundation.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=3932>.

Thank you again for your service to DHS and to our Nation. Working together, our Department is making a difference for the people of Haiti during this very difficult time.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano

Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

Source: ALLAUX Bulletin from CHDIRAUX





Division Swap Shop

Help Division 7 "Go Green" ... *Actually, "Coast Guard Blue!"*

At the Division's October 2009 meeting, the high cost of uniforms and accessories was discussed at some length. Those in attendance concurred that making no-longer used uniforms and related items available to new Auxiliarists and current members advancing to new positions (or those whose current uniforms have shrunk!) would help all Division members and the environment.

For several years, Flotilla 79 has collected used uniforms, insignia and other material and made the items available to flotilla and division members, with little fanfare. We thought that expanding the idea and making a focused effort to collect/disburse the material and advertise the program on a division level would benefit all members. As the collection grows, an inventory list will be prepared and distributed. Of course your participation is strictly voluntary!

If you wish to participate, and we hope you will, please bring any clean and serviceable shoulder boards (soft/hard), covers, Tropical Blue and ODU uniform shirts, pants, coats, shoes, insignia, ribbon backers, etc. Safety equipment (PFDs, signal mirrors, flares, etc.) can be accepted as well. A form will be available to acknowledge your donation for tax purposes.

Donated material can be accepted at Flotilla 79 when the building is usually open:

- Wednesdays, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. (BS&S course)
- Monthly meetings (third Monday, 7:30–9:30 p.m.)
- Fellowship events (third Friday, 6:30–11 p.m.)
- Training sessions/meetings (check FL 79 & Division web calendars for dates/times)

The collection will be available for viewing (and taking!) according to

the above schedule. The items will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

We feel this Swap Shop idea will benefit us all, particularly new members, at zero cost – and helps us "Go Green – or Blue!"

Sincerely,

Amos Johnson

Amos Johnson

Division Commander

Mike Shea

Mike Shea

Division Vice Commander

HELP STOCK THE DIVISION SWAP SHOP!

BRING US YOUR TIRED, YOUR UNUSED, YOUR ILL-FITTING UNIFORMS, INSIGNIA, PFDs and ACCESSORIES!!

Help new and advancing Division members by donating your unused clean and serviceable shoulder boards, covers, Tropical Blue & ODU shirts/pants, coats, shoes, insignia, ribbon backers, etc. PFDs, signal mirrors, etc. can also be accepted.

A form will be available to acknowledge your donation for tax purposes.

Donations accepted at FL 79 on the schedule below :

- Wednesdays, 1900 – 2100
- Monthly meetings (third Mondays)
- Fellowship events (third Fridays)
- Training sessions and other meetings

The collection will be available for viewing (and taking!) according to this schedule. Items available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Form 7029 Revised

By Terry Barth, DSO-MA

Recently the Auxiliary announced a replacement for our ANSC 7029 form. This form is the catchall form for hours not reported in other places and often accounts for the majority of hours reported by members. But it isn't the form that is important rather it is the change in philosophy from represents. Personally I've been less than satisfied having so many of the hours I contribute to the Coast Guard lumped as administrative – it simply did not represent the complexity and value of some of the work undertaken, be it leading my flotilla or studying to pass navigation rules.

This work is now broken into five categories.

- 99-A Auxiliary Leadership
- 99-B Recreational Boating Safety Support
- 99-C Marine Safety Support
- 99-D Training Support
- 99-E Auxiliary Administrative and Logistical Support

These categories give the Auxiliary a much better understanding of how we spend our time and gives the Coast Guard much better data to use when seeking funding for our activities from the Executive branch and Congress. Perhaps more importantly, this approach will give you as a member a better understanding of how you use the time you contribute to the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. In future you'll be able to view your member record and see those 60 hours of class participation and study time it took to become crew qualified.

You can also list any non-reimbursed mileage and out of pocket expenses related to your Auxiliary activity.

The tradeoff could have been additional complexity in the record keeping, but the team on the National Staff did the opposite and simplified the reporting so you only report your total hours in each of the five categories rather than reporting each activity separately as on the previous form. This is a welcome focus meeting our organizational objectives while at the same time improving the member experience. The leaders and staff responsible have my thanks, Bravo Zulu.

I encourage you to continue to track your time, by whatever method works for you. There is a second, optional page in the 7029 which looks similar to the old form. I have a simple alternate technique which I will share at some point in the near future.

As a Nation we are in a period where resources are tight. There is no better value to the Nation than the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We can't prove that if you don't

submit your time. It's easier than ever. If you regularly turn in your 7029s please start using the new form for January. If you've gotten behind on your reporting please consider the New Year and the new 7029 as an opportunity to get started.

New member note: Most of your activities as a new member will be reported on this new 7029 form. All your meeting attendance, preparation of membership forms, ICS training, and working with your mentor will be reported here. Please be sure to discuss time reporting with your mentor; it is critical to assure we get financial support for the Auxiliary and to assure your contributions are recognized.

Visit <http://forms.cgau.org/forms.html> for two useful versions of this form.

- New 7029 - with instructions
- New 7029 - without instructions (recommended after you have read and understood the instructions. ☼)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U. S. Coast Guard ANSC-7029H (01/10)		U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Member Activity Form		Division ____ Flotilla ____
Use this form to report activity not reported on any other AUXDATA form.				AUXDATA Use Only
Month _____		Year _____		99A-Total Hrs 0
Section 1 – Member Information				99B-Total Hrs 0
Member ID _____	Last Name and Initials _____			99C-Total Hrs 0
				99D-Total Hrs 0
				99E-Total Hrs 0
				Activity RBS Mission 99
Section 2 – Activity Information				
MISSION CODES	MISSION DESCRIPTIONS			TOTAL HOURS FOR MONTH
99-A – AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP	Report all time spent by elected and appointed staff performing National, District, Division, and Flotilla position duties. This includes all time spent for preparation and travel for these duties.			
99-B – RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) SUPPORT	Report all time spent in RBS Support that is not otherwise reported on a 7030, 7038, 7039, or 7046. This includes all time for preparation and travel in support of missions reported on 7030, and 7038.			
99-C – MARINE SAFETY (MS) SUPPORT	Report all time spent in MS Support that is not otherwise reported on a 7030 or 7038. This includes all time for preparation and travel in support of Marine Safety, Marine Environmental Protection, Commercial Fishing Vessel, Uninspected Passenger Vessels, and Uninspected Towing Vessels.			
99-D – TRAINING SUPPORT	Report all time spent in Training Support that is not otherwise reported on a 7030 or 7039. Any hours spent as a Trainee, other than attending a workshop, should be reported here. This includes all time for preparation, study, homework, and travel regardless of the level of training.			
99-E – AUXILIARY ADMINISTRATIVE/LOGISTICAL SUPPORT	Report all time spent for Auxiliary and CG Support missions not otherwise reported on any other form or any other Mission Code above. Include all time working on committees or attending meetings (if you are not an elected or staff officer.) This includes all time for preparation and travel.			
Section 3 – Non-Reimbursed Expenses: Please list the total number of unreimbursed miles that you drove and the amount of any unreimbursed expenses required for all of your reported Auxiliary activity during this reporting period:				
Total Miles: _____		All Expenses: \$ _____		
Date Submitted: DD / MM / YYYY		Log Number: (Optional) _____		
Previous Editions are Obsolete		Copy 1 Member Print Form Clear Form		





News and Articles by Members...

New Flotilla 79 Auxiliarist Loren Reuter has “friends in high places”!



In early November 2009, while his Auxiliary application was pending, Loren had the unique opportunity to attend the Woodrow Wilson Awards ceremony at the Hotel Vinoy in St. Petersburg and to have his photograph taken with General David Petraeus, Commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). Loren is a personal friend of Lee Hamilton, Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center Scholars, who arranged the photograph with the general. CENTCOM, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, manages multi-national force operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other Middle East countries.

Submitted by Tim Teahan, FC 79

A Word from the Editor

Many of our members write and contribute to the Intercom. In this issue, a few of our newer members contributed articles and/or photographs. I sincerely thank them and ask that when you see them, please mention to them that you read their article or saw their photograph in these pages. An email will serve as well, especially if the member is not one you see frequently. This simple acknowledgement will encourage them and others to continue writing articles and sending photographs for publication.

I am also soliciting your comments and ideas. What would you change? What do you want to read about?

You do not need to be a Publications Officer or knowledgeable about newsletters or graphics to have sound ideas. This is *your* newsletter. Your input is valued. I am constantly looking for ways to keep the Intercom fresh and interesting.

I am usually an easy person to reach. You can contact me by email at dottieriley1@verizon.net. I made this an active link so that you do not have to write or copy this email address. Send me your comments and ideas. Let me know... *Do you read the Intercom?*☼

Dottie Riley, SO-PB 7, Editor, Intercom

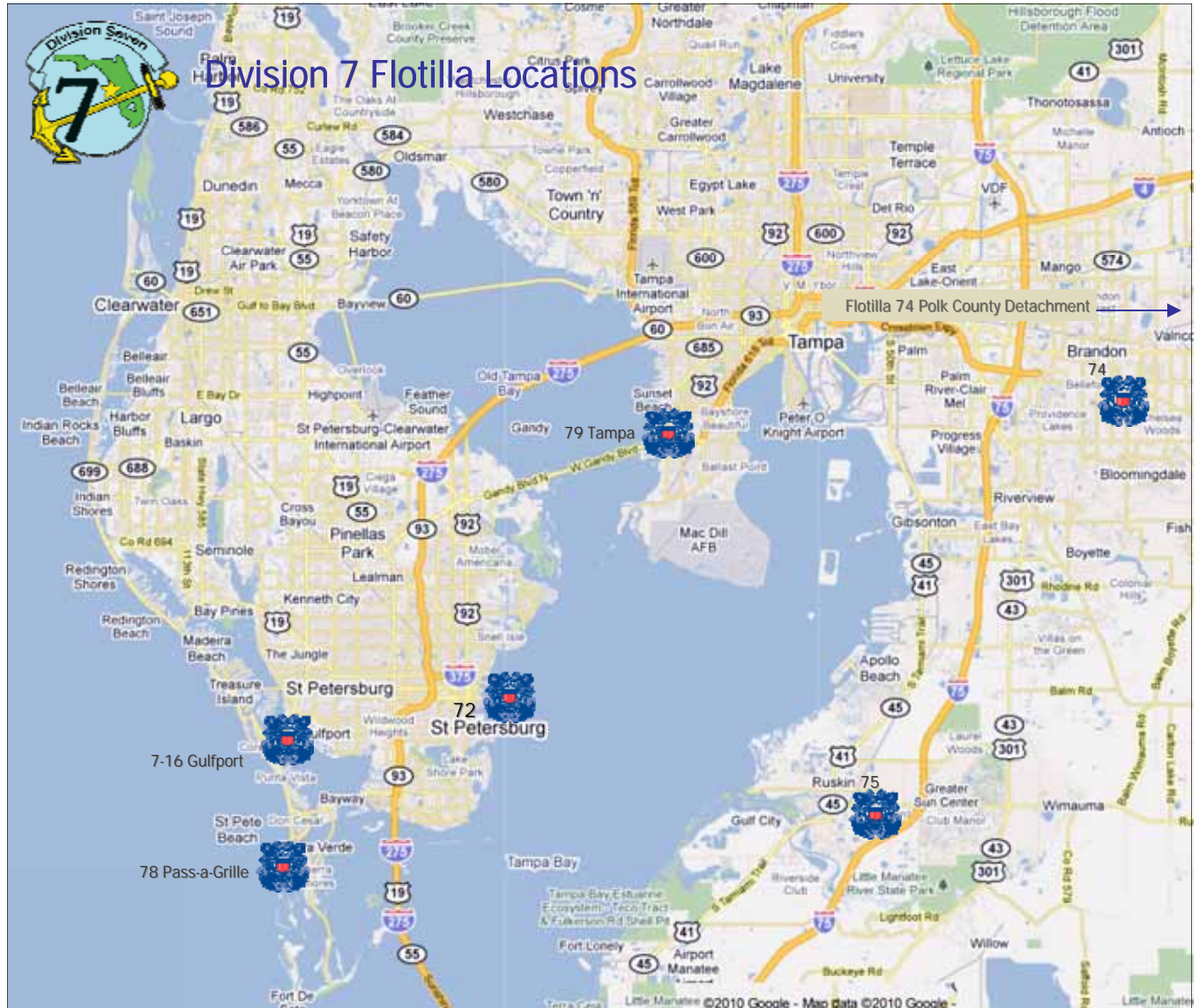


USCG Auxiliary, Division 7, District 7
Tampa Bay - St. Petersburg, Florida



We're on the web!
<http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/>

SO-PB 7
1630 Wakefield Drive
Brandon, FL 33511-2325
E-mail: SO-PB@cgauxdiv7-7.org



Submission Guidelines:

The Intercom is always looking for articles about Auxiliaries, 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 when the photo was taken, who and what (event) is depicted in the photograph, and the name of the person who took the picture.

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

Dottie Riley, Editor