



# THE INTERCOM

## Change of Watch Keeps Division On Course

### In this issue:

- Meet the elected and staff officers of Division Seven.
- Where is your flotilla headed? Read the comments submitted by your flotilla commander.

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The change of watch ceremony on December 2nd at Sam Seltzers Steak House was well attended by Auxiliary members and several honored guests from the "gold side". These guests included CDR Kevin Crawley, Director, USCG Auxiliary 7th District, CDR Chris Palmer, Chief, Prevention Department, USCG Sector St. Pete, CDR Dale Folsom, Chief Response Department, USCG Sector St. Pete, BMCS Daniel Harris, OIC, USCG Station St Pete, VCO-elect Donald Frasch, and RCO-W-elect Walter Jaskiewicz.

As VCP, Conrad worked closely with former DCP Dick Erett to redirect the Division and improve its organization and functioning. Conrad promises to not only keep the Division on its present course, but also to expand upon the groundwork already laid by Dick Erett.

Strengthening the Division and its ability to meet the needs of its flotillas is a primary focus, as is making more resources available to the flotillas to increase and train their members.

The Auxiliary is changing to meet the needs of a post 9-11 environment. Change can be disconcerting, but under the leadership of Conrad Palermo and his Vice Captain, Carl Nelson, we know where we are going. Conrad played a lead role in charting our present course and will keep us pointed in the right direction.



**Conrad Palermo is congratulated by Donald Frasch, VCO, after taking the Oath of Office as our new Division Captain.**

## Dick Erett Receives the Auxiliary Achievement Medal



Commodore Kevin Crawley, Director, USCG Auxiliary 7th District presented outgoing DCP Richard Erett the Auxiliary Achievement Medal at the annual Change of Watch Ceremony. Dick was awarded this distinction for his "inspirational leadership style and broad administrative skills in guiding a Division of more than 400 members through a varied and extensive operational period." The text is much longer and cites the many traits that made him such an outstanding leader. Dick will be a tough act to follow even by someone as promising and energetic as Conrad!

# *Introducing... the 2007 Division Officers.*

## Division Captain



**Conrad Palermo**

*"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals".*

Conrad Palermo

In the nine years since Conrad joined the Auxiliary, his face has become one of the most easily recognizable within the Division. A member of Flotilla 74, he served several staff and elected office positions before becoming the Vice Division Captain under Dick Erett, and presently, the Captain of Division Seven.

Conrad is a National ICS instructor through the U.S. Coast Guard's "Gulf Strike Team". He is qualified to teach ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, and 800, and his "students" include Coast Guard and law enforcement. He leads by example. Conrad participates as much as possible in safety and training missions and in crew training for the newer members, and when the call went out for members to assist in the hurricane ravaged areas after Katrina and Rita, Conrad responded, leaving behind his wife and children for several weeks.

As one might expect from an individual who has risen to the rank of Division Captain, Conrad's awards and qualifications are numerous. He was awarded a ribbon for Superior Performance of Duty and the Meritorious Team Commendation Award and Ribbon.

As Division Captain, Conrad's goals are to strengthen the flotillas through leadership training and member participation, and to grow the membership base. No doubt he will achieve his goals: his energy is contagious! He is a man determined to make a difference. That is what matters most to him.



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## Vice Division Captain



Carl Nelson joined the Auxiliary in 1996 and is a member of FL 72. He has held both the FC and VFC offices as well as several staff office positions within his flotilla. His goals as our Vice Division Captain are to support both the staff officers and the Division Commander. He has a sincere interest in ensuring a successful year for the Division and its members.

Carl received the Coast Guard Commendation Medal in 2005 for his assistance at a Boy Scout Jamboree in Virginia. While waiting for the President to visit the scouts, nearly 800 boy scouts, scout leaders, secret service agents and other support personnel dropped from heat exhaustion in the nearly 100° temperatures. Working with the Coast Guard, he moved the afflicted into shelters and covered them with wet sheets to reduce their body temperatures. This most basic element of our boat crew training saved countless of lives, and stands as a reminder that all of our training is significant. Carl also received the *Silver Beaver Award* from the Boy Scouts.



**Carl Nelson**

## Immediate Past Division Captain

A member of Flotilla 78, Dick joined the Auxiliary in 1998 and has been going strong ever since. Before serving two years as our DCP, the offices he held included VCP, FC, VFC, and several staff offices. He is held in the highest regard by all of those who know him. Dick has a reputation for being dedicated, honest, and sincerely committed to the USCGAUX and its members.

Despite all of the Awards and accolades he has received, the one that gave him "warm fuzzy feelings" was the Plaque presented to him at the recent Change of Watch, "For Distinguished and Devoted Service Far and Above the Office of Division Captain". The plaque is but a small expression of the positive regard in which the membership of DIV 7 holds him. That he values this so much is an example of his sincere regard of the members.

Dick is proud to hold the AUXOP Certification. To him, it represents his dedication to, interest in, and efforts to improve himself for the benefit of the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard, and he wishes more members would achieve this goal.



**Richard Erett**

## Secretary & Records Staff Officer

Pat joined the Auxiliary in 1998 and is an active member of Flotilla 78. She served her flotilla as treasurer, and as Division secretary under three separate Division Captains. Pat has been a central part of the reorganization process and in establishing the Division's goals, and wants to do all that she can to see those plans come to fruition.

One of Pat's most memorable experiences was working with Doreen Kordek in the World War II history project. The veterans she spoke to had so much to share, and often times, no one to hear about their lives and experiences. Pat feels that losing this immense personal knowledge base would surely have been one of our nation's gravest losses.

During the Change of Watch Ceremony, Dick presented Pat with a bouquet of roses. This tribute to the 'woman behind the man' for all of her quiet, unerring support is a practice she hopes future Captains emulate.



**Patricia Erett**



## Finance Officer



**Wally Lowry**

Wally is a member of FL 74. Her reports and comments will appear in future issues.

Yes, the Division has a budget for this coming year!



## Aids to Navigation



**Larry Neu**

Larry Neu serves as Flotilla Commander to FL 74 in addition to his duties as Division Staff Officer for Aids to Navigation. When the call for help went out after the 2005 hurricane season, Larry was one of the first to place his personal life on hold to answer that call.

In 2004, he served with the Coast Guard during the G-8 Conference Sea Isle Summit in Georgia.

Larry hopes to check and report on every ATON within our area of operation. As much time as Larry spends on the water, checking the ATON's, and collecting reports from the Division's FSO- AN staff officers should be a 'piece of cake' for him!

## Communication Services



**Susan Fearnley** is a relatively new member of FL 73 who joined the Auxiliary in 2005. This has not stopped her from getting involved at both flotilla and Division levels. As our new SO-CS, Susan's goals are to increase the visibility of our Division's web page, and to encourage our members to take full advantage of it.

Within her flotilla she serves as FSO-PV where she has frequent contact with the public. Susan says, "Whenever I have the opportunity to be in public ... in uniform, I am always amazed at how the public treats

me. I am thankful to be part of an organization that is held in such high esteem by so many people, and I think we should never take for granted our privilege of being identified with the Coast Guard."



## Communications

Terry, a member of FL 73, joined the Auxiliary in 1989. He is not new to Communications, having written the Division Communication Guide while previously serving as SO-CM. His goal this year is to revise this now outdated guide.

While working aboard the CG Cutter Joshua Appleby, Terry had the opportunity to take a week-long cruise to Key West on an official Coast Guard mission.

As an Air-Observer, he had the privilege of riding in a C-130. His dedication to the Auxiliary, and his quiet demeanor no doubt represented the Auxiliary well to the "Gold Side".



**Terence Affeld**

## Information Services

After taking a Boating safety Course and Coastal Navigation through Flotilla 75, Alma and Joe joined the Auxiliary in 2005 hoping to make a difference. That same year, Katrina and Rita slammed through the Gulf Coast states, and make a difference they did! The couple worked three months for FEMA, first in Atlanta, and later setting up an office near Washington D.C..

Alma is an Aids to Navigation Verifier and enjoys on the water activities. Her goals as our new SO-IS are to insure that all unit and individual activities are input into AUXDATA correctly, and in a timely manner.

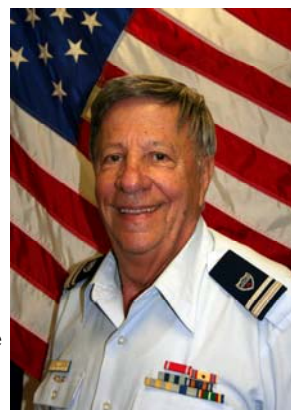


**Alma Parrish**

## Materials

Louis Miosi is a member of FL 73 in Madeira Beach. His goals as SO-MA are to keep abreast of new materials as they become available, to stock as much as possible, and to locate and obtain as much surplus materials as we can use. In this endeavor he has a great head start. Louis works three days a week at the USCG Clearwater Air Station in their Supply Department, a great source of surplus material for the Auxiliary. He has been so helpful in organizing this department that it earned him the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal.

Louis is presently looking for a storefront to house our materials. He hopes a venue of this kind will increase Auxiliary visibility to the public and draw in new members.



**Louis Miosi**

## Marine Safety



**John Michael Shea**

Mike, a member of FL 79, is so well known by his middle name that few people recognize him by his first name. He formerly held both the FC and VFC elected offices within his flotilla, and presently serves as Marine Safety Officer at flotilla, Division, and District levels.

A recipient of the Trident Award, Mike routinely works as many 25 hours a week at the Coast Guard Marine Safety and Prevention Department in Tampa where he assists in investigating and litigating claims and suits for the U.S. Coast Guard. One of his goals as SO-MS is to encourage more members to earn the Trident Award, which requires several qualifications to be earned. The benefit is that the Coast Guard is assured that members who earn this award are competent to serve in various capacities within the Marine Safety and Prevention Department.

## Member Training



**Leonard Dolney**

A member of FL 73, Leonard Dolney has worn many hats, and usually all of them at the same time. Last year, while holding the office of VFC, he also served as FSO for Member Training, Personnel Services and Public Education. This year, in addition to his duties as SO-MT, he serves as FSO-PS for his flotilla.

Leonard is working hard at coordinating training throughout the Division and keeping scheduled member training opportunities posted on the Division calendar. Hopefully, this will allow more members to attend trainings offered by other flotillas. He will also assist the FSO-MT officers in offering the Administrative Procedures Course test to members, a test that is no longer available at the District's web-based testing site. His goals are to increase training opportunities for all of our members.

## Operations



**Clifford Martin**

A member of FL 79, Cliff Martin almost defies the concept that none of us is irreplaceable. Between his many hours at the Coast Guard's Marine Safety and Prevention Department, and his efforts in Operations, and involvement with member training, he is one of the most well known members within our Division. In addition to Operations, Cliff serves as the Division's Security Liaison and assists in processing the security clearances for every one within our Division. For this, he was recently awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal. Some of his other Awards include twice receiving the Auxiliarist of the Year Award from Division, and the State of Florida Governor's *Hero Award* for his innumerable hours of volunteer service.

As Operations officer, he coordinates every patrol and every event in which our Auxiliary facilities participate. What an immense task!





## Public Affairs

Kay Lori, a member of FL 75, has been involved with Public Affairs almost as long as she has been a member of the Auxiliary. Her work in this department quickly progressed from flotilla to Division endeavors. During her second year as SO-PA, our Division earned Second Place in the District Awards for developing a National Safe Boating Week Campaign. What is remarkable about this award, is that it was the first time our Division entered this competition, against Divisions with years of experience. Working with all of the Division's PA officers, Kay succeeded in earning the Division this award by using the skills and traits for which she is best known. She is hard-working, dedicated, and committed to improving the quality of our visibility before boating public.



**Catherine (Kay) Lori**

Last year Kay organized the Blessing of the Fleet. The Captain of Sector St. Pete was so impressed with the Auxiliary's participation that he requested that the event be held annually.

## Publications

Dottie Riley is a member of FL 79, where she serves as FSO-PB for the third year. As SO-PB, she hopes to produce a newsletter that the Division membership will be proud to call their own.

Last year, she attended the AUX-12 Public Affairs C-School in Tampa sponsored by District Seven Public Affairs Department. This training gave her a whole new perspective on Publications, and the inter-relatedness of Publications and Public Affairs.

Dottie served the Coast Guard as a driver at the G-8 Summit in Savannah in 2004. That same year, she earned the Commodore's Certificate of Excellence. Her most valued qualifications are Crew in the Boat Crew Program, and Communications Specialist. She most enjoys the operational activities within the Auxiliary.



**Dorothy Riley**

## Public Education

Peter Lore is a member of FL 73, and presently serves as Flotilla Vice Commander. In addition to this elected office, he holds several staff office positions including FSO-PE and FSO-PA. He is also the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander.

While Pete was FC, two of his top priorities were to paint the inside of their building, and to add two floating docks to their bulkhead. Once started, the membership became so enthused that they not only painted the building, but refurbished the heads and the office, and replaced all of the out-dated radio equipment. They added decks and chairs, and with the help of the Coast Guard, added two floating docks that can accommodate up to four facilities behind their building.

As SO-PE, his goal is to ensure that the Division's Public Education programs are up to date, and that the Division's PE officers have the latest material and equipment.



**Peter Lore**



## Personnel Services



**Julie Benedict-Dolney**

A member of FL 07-16, Julianne Benedict-Dolney has served as a Division staff officer for many years. As SO-PS, the skills and knowledge she acquired in previous years will be put to the test as she distributes and processes the New Member packets, which like many things, has undergone considerable changes.

Julie's goals as SO-PS are to teach all of the new FSO-PE officers how to present the Auxiliary to candidates, and how to process new members. She hopes to grow the awards and incentives initiatives to motivate and retain members, and working with Leonard Dolney, our SO-MT, more closely interface personnel services and member training to quickly get new members involved. Did you guess that that she and Lenny are a couple as well as a team?

## Vessel Examinations



**Joseph Gonzalez**

Joe Gonzalez joined FL 75 in 2005 and immediately involved himself in many trainings opportunities. Within a relatively short period of time, he earned his Vessel Examinations ribbon, and later, Crew qualified in the boating program. As a Division staff officer, he wants to be, "... the best SO-VE" that he can. If his past accomplishments within his flotilla are any example, he will certainly increase the visibility of the VE program and use it to both educate the public and attract new members.

One of Joe's most memorable experiences was a Search and Rescue mission. His vessel towed in a Jonboat that had lost power and was dangerously over-loaded. Experiences like this remind Joe of how truly valuable a resource we are to the boating public, not just to lend a tow line, but also to provide vessel safety checks and safe boating education.

## Assistant Staff Officer– Communication Services



**Terry Modica**

Terry, a member of FL 74, last year accepted the challenge of completely rebuilding the Division's website. She took the site from an outdated format and transformed it into the highly functional resource that we see today.

Her goals as ASO-CS are to help Susan become so adept at doing web-site work that she will be able to continue next year without her help. Terry also makes herself available to Division staff and to Flotillas to provide training on how to use internet technology to its fullest potential. She is a professional web designer and photographer, and has a wealth of knowledge to share.

Of her many accomplishments and Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation, what she prizes most is her Crew qualification.





## Assistant Staff Officer– Information Services



**Joseph Parrish**

In the two short years since Joe and his wife, Alma, joined Flotilla 75, they have been working together at “full steam” serving the Auxiliary. Almost immediately after joining, the 2005 storm season was upon us, and both Joe and his wife took up the call and went to work for FEMA. He presently serves as FSO-SR as well as assisting Alma with her duties as SO-IS.

Joe is an ATON verifier. He most enjoys participating in the boat crew program and the night navigation training.

## Assistant Staff Officer– Operations

Robert Stribling is a fixture at FL 79. He maintains the building and the galley although he is not tasked to do so, an example of why he earned the Division’s Auxiliarist of the Year Award in 2006. He works closely with Cliff Martin, especially when large scale events like Gasparilla need to be organized.

Bob’s many qualifications include Communications, Instructor, Coxswain, Crew and ATON Verifier. He is always willing to help others, be it assisting with the weekly Boating Skills and Seamanship classes, filling in as crew, or taking a radio watch.

Bob volunteered to work with the Coast Guard providing security for the G-8 Summit in Georgia in 2004, and after the 2005 hurricane season, he worked for FEMA for two months in storm-ravaged Alabama.



**Robert Stribling**

## Assistant Staff Officer– Public Affairs

Ronald Matz joined the Auxiliary in 1994. In addition to his duties assisting in the Public Affairs Department, he is the Vice Commander for FL 74.

Ron enjoys organizing the boat shows and getting the flotillas to work together for these events. His aim is to ensure a consistently high quality display. He tries as much as possible to provide information from near-by Divisions in order to attract new members into the Auxiliary no matter where they live, and to tell boaters whom to contact for Vessel Safety Checks and Boating Safety Courses. Ron is so committed to educating the public about boating safety that he goes to boat ramps just to pass out literature to boaters. Now, that is commitment!

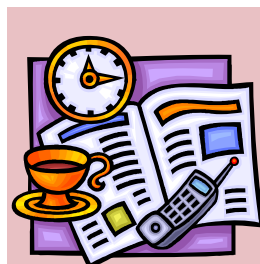


Photo Coming Soon

**Ronald Matz**

## ***Flotilla News...***

### **Flotilla 72**



**Glenn Dobos, FC 72**

Glenn Dobos joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1994. He is a former member of FL67, and has held a number of staff and elected office positions within both divisions. Glenn is proud of his flotilla's history and reports that FL 72 is one of the oldest units in the United States. The flotilla was formed in 1939, which predates the Auxiliary as we know it today. Now, there is some history!

While living in Miami, Glenn had the opportunity to work with the USCG in Helo operations. For several years, he spent every Tuesday and Thursday night at the air station working with the Helo crews.

As the new Flotilla Commander of FL 72, his goals are to increase membership, and to increase proficiency levels. Glenn describes his flotilla members as a "great group". He hopes to train as many of them as possible in the qualifications and proficiencies required to obtain the AUXOP, or Auxiliary Operations device.

As one would expect from someone who is a strong advocate for the AUXOP qualification, Glenn enjoys the boating program as well as the air operations. Between his duties as flotilla commander, and the hours he will need to spend in member training to reach his goals of getting his membership AUXOP qualified, Glenn will be very busy this year.



**Vice Commander:  
Robert Helmling**



## Flotilla 73

Robert Wild joined the Auxiliary in 1999 and has held nearly every staff and elected office position within his flotilla. His goals as flotilla commander for the coming year are to increase member training, and to upgrade and improve the flotilla's building. He is also interested in measures that increase public visibility of the Auxiliary, and in increasing operational participation within his flotilla.

For several years, Bob has edited the flotilla's newsletter, *Water Wise*. This publication earned the Division's award for the best newsletter for the last two years. Despite this honor, he is not content to rest. He plans to improve the *Water Wise*, and to keep it in the forefront as a quality publication.

In the true spirit of team work, Bob is both supportive of, and helpful towards other publications officers, and other unit publications. His supportive comments helped FL 79 when their publication, *The Seven-Niner* resurfaced.

What Bob most enjoys are opportunities to spend time with other flotilla members, be it through on the water operations, member training, or fellowship events. He is proud that over the years, so many members have become such good friends.



**Robert Wild, FC 73**



**Vice Commander:  
Peter Lore**



**Happy to Go Home Again.** Alonzo Schultz of FL 73 loads his boat on to the trailer at Davis Island at the conclusion of the Gasparilla Invasion and annual Manatee Watch events.



# Flotilla News...

## Flotilla 74



**Larry Neu, FC 74**

Lawrence A. Neu came to FL 74 from the recently disestablished FL71 in Lakeland. He is a relatively new member, having joined the Auxiliary as recently as 2003. In this short length of time, he has proven himself to be an invaluable asset both to the Auxiliary and Division 7. He has held twice as many elected and staff offices than he has had years in the Auxiliary, and is usually the first to volunteer when the call goes out for help.

In 2004, Larry volunteered to assist the USCG at the G-8 Sea Island Summit in Savannah, Georgia. The ten days he was there he believes was an excellent learning base on how the Coast Guard handles security, and seeing TCT and ICS in action.

After the 2005 hurricane season, Larry volunteered to assist in the field, where as a FEMA worker, he provided first-hand assistance to victims of the hurricanes. Larry enjoys helping others wherever and whenever he can.

As commander of FL 74, his primary goals for this year are recruiting new members, and the retention of current members by getting them involved in flotilla offices and functions, and advanced training for members. After working with Coast Guard boat crews in Georgia, Larry believes that our operational proficiencies can be improved.

*"I must say that fellowship is the most meaningful to me. [Through the Auxiliary] I have been fortunate enough to meet some of the finest individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing, and learning from them has made a dramatic impact on my life."* Larry Neu



**Right:** This is not a training exercise, although the towing evolution counts for at least one facility and its crew towards annual requalifications! Joe Hagan, Betty Hagan and Cliff Martin of FL 79 assist Larry Neu back to the boat ramp after the Gasparilla Invasion. Sometimes, those who most like to help others, themselves need a helping hand!



**Vice Commander:  
Ronald G. Matz**





## Flotilla 75

Although Catherine "Kay" Lori did not join until 1999, her work on behalf of the Auxiliary began almost two decades before that. The wife of Joe Lori, PDCP, she was pressed into service assisting with public affairs and administrative tasks for many years while Joe served as commander or VFC of at least three flotillas within our Division. In 2003, Joe and Kay Lori earned the Vans Evers Award, presented to outstanding couples serving the Auxiliary.

Since Kay joined the Auxiliary, she has contributed to the growth of the Public Affairs program at both flotilla and division levels. For the second year, she is our SO-PA.

Kay served a number of staff office positions within FL 75. She has served as secretary, public affairs, public education, and publications staff officer, as well as Vice Flotilla Commander.

As commander of Flotilla 75, Kay's goals are to increase the quality, not quantity of flotilla members. She wishes to increase member participation and increase the member's awareness of each other's achievements through award incentives. Kay's encouragement of member participation is not just lip service. Several relatively new members of FL 75 hold either division staff or assistant staff office positions as well as flotilla staff offices.



**Kay Lori, FC 75**



**Vice Commander:  
Pat Costello**

Right: Pat Costello assisted in the recent Gasparilla on his PWC. He stopped by the Prevention Department for a respite, and is seen here talking to Cliff Martin, SO-OP.



## ***Flotilla News...***

### **Flotilla 78**



**Robert Schuler, FC 78**

Robert Schuler has been a member of the Auxiliary since 1992. While he presently serves as FSO-AN and FSO-OP in addition to his duties as Flotilla Commander, his past offices include VFC, SO-AN and member training for his flotilla.

Like many of our members with a decade or more of Auxiliary membership, Bob was privileged to participate in training conducted by the Coast Guard for the benefit of Auxiliary members. Bob received hands-on training in various areas of the boat crew program, including handling, setting up and operating a dewatering pump, extinguishing an oil fire with a hand-held extinguisher, and planning and conducting a night search and rescue operation. He is most proud to have earned the Auxiliary Operations, or AUXOP device, and encourages others to pursue this distinction.

As Commander of FL 78, Bob has set important goals for his flotilla. He hopes to increase the Boating Skills and Seamanship attendance, increase the number of patrols performed by flotilla facilities and crew, and to increase the flotilla's membership.



**Vice Commander:  
Edgar O'Krent**



## Flotilla 79

Rick George joined the Auxiliary in 2001. His past offices include FSO-AN, FSO-OP, SO-AN, and ADSO-AN. Rick enjoys the boating crew program, and participating in the public education programs. His most meaningful experiences include the expressions of satisfaction and confidence from participants in the BS&S program.

As Commander of FL 79, Rick 's goals include harnessing the many talents of the flotilla's newer members to enhance the performance of the flotilla, and to ensure that FL 79 will have the dedicated leaders necessary for the continued success of the unit. His second most important goal may be his biggest challenge. He hopes to encourage some of the veteran members to revitalize their contributions to the flotilla and the Auxiliary. Many of these members have already contributed countless of years and innumerable hours to Auxiliary programs and initiatives, but their past successes and vast experiences are needed to guide the new leaders.

Fellowship being one of the Auxiliary's cornerstones, Rick encourages the members of FL 79 to participate more fully in social and Auxiliary events for the benefit of all of their diverse members and their families.



**Richard George, FC 79**



**Vice Commander:  
Kevin Williams**

The *Semper Fi* departs the Prevention Department just before the Gasparilla Invasion. David Rusinko, Stefan Stein, Frank Ansel and Johnathan Rea manned the facility for the event.





## ***Flotilla News...***

### **Flotilla 07-16**



**Kevin Yeaton, FC 07-16**

Kevin Yeaton joined the Auxiliary in 2004 and wasted no time in getting involved and making a difference. Besides his duties as Flotilla Commander, Kevin holds the Public Affairs, Member Training, Public Education and Program Visitor Staff Offices within his flotilla.

As VFC, last year Kevin launched himself into the Vessel Examination program. His flotilla performed over 400 vessel examinations, most of them by two individuals. He hopes to continue to build this program this year and beat last year's impressive record.

Kevin recognizes how valuable the Public Education program is to recruiting new members. As an Instructor and FSO-PE, he plans to capitalize on this venue to attract new members to the Auxiliary, and to his flotilla.

Kevin enjoys the boat crew program. He is a qualified crew member and is presently working on earning his coxswain pin. With so much success in such a short period of time, there is no doubt he will make a difference within his flotilla this year!



**Vice Commander:  
Donald E. Rimel**



# The Highest Expression of Praise and Gratitude: The Presidential Unit Citation

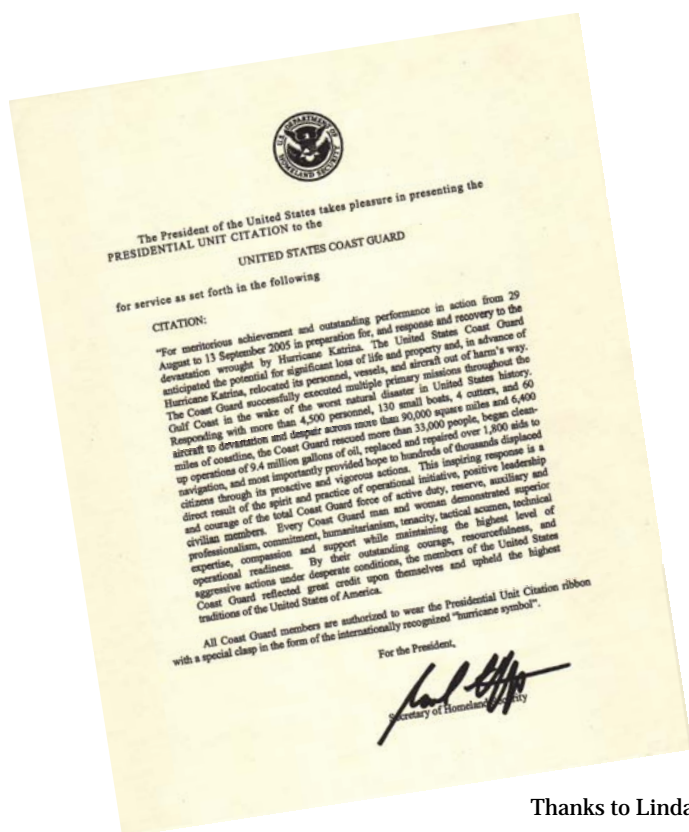


As members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, most of our good works go unnoticed and unrewarded. We tend to take for granted the members who quietly go about doing their job, and doing it well, and too often do not notice their efforts until a 'hole' appears: we can not find someone who can crew on a given day, or someone needs to take over a public education lesson because the regular instructor is down with the flu. Too often we tend to notice when reports are not submitted in a timely fashion, or when no one wants to give up a morning with their grandchildren to help us out with conducting vessel examinations.

As volunteers, we do what we can, be it for the boating public, the Coast Guard, or by assuming greater responsibilities within our flotillas. Sometimes members remember to thank us, or we are presented with a certificate. This is the only "pay" we receive for all of the hard work and long hours devoted to the Auxiliary. What a surprise then, when the President of the United States and the Coast Guard honor us with a Presidential Unit Citation! The award is presented to the entire Coast Guard family for "outstanding performance in action from 29 August to 13 September, 2005 in preparation for, and response and recovery to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina."

Several members of our Division responded to the call for help and assisted the Coast Guard and FEMA in the affected states including, but not limited to at least five of our present elected and staff officers. Other members spent more time on patrols to fill the gap on the water. The Auxiliary responded in countless ways and donated monies to Auxiliarists devastated by the 2005 hurricane season. We quietly went about doing our jobs to the best of our ability, without expecting any rewards. Because of this, we are most honored to accept this citation, and will proudly wear the ribbon.

Note: The ribbon has been milled and will be distributed in the near future. The citation is available for downloading at the national website.



Thanks to Linda Barnard for offering the idea and material for this story.

## USCG Auxiliary, Seventh District, Division 7

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

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## Fellowship Chair



**Linda Barnard**

Linda Barnard's exuberance is a valuable characteristic for one who is charged with improving morale and organizing social events for the membership of Division 7. Her goals are to plan picnics and other events that will allow fellowship opportunities not just for the Auxiliary, but to include the "Gold Side" as well. She would like to see more interaction between the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary, and while the venue will be strictly fun, it will allow each arm organization to more fully understand and appreciate the other.

Linda has already served as Flotilla Vice Commander, and is a recipient of the USCG Meritorious Team Commendation. As you might guess, Linda is a former member of the Coast Guard. She is presently a member of FL 72.

*The purpose of our first issue is two-fold. First, we needed to create a layout and offer visual examples of how each flotilla could contribute to make this a great publication. Second, we wanted you to be able to put faces to the names of your Division elected and staff officers, and help them feel more familiar to you. I especially hope that we succeeded in this second endeavor.*

*A special thanks to Kay Lori, SO-PA, for proofreading our first issue... all 18 pages. What an immense job!*

D. Riley, SO-PB

*"By far, the privilege of serving as your Captain for two years has been the most meaningful experience to me.... I have made many new friends and acquaintances, and I cannot express enough thanks to those of you who supported and counseled me during my tenure."*

Dick Erett, IPDCP