



THE INTERCOM

National Safe Boating Week: United We Accomplish So Much!

By Timothy Teahan, FL 79



Don Rimel, FSO-AN/PB/VE FL 1-16 was captured on camera performing his 100th Vessel Examination for 2008 during NSBW events at the Gandy boat ramp on May 24th just as a USCG Buoy tender passes by.

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Activities during the National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) event at the Gandy Ramp on May 24 were successful. Support from Station St. Petersburg, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Division Auxiliarists was strong and the goal of making the public aware of safe boating was achieved. Activities included a live remote radio broadcast by the "Captain Mel Show", to Vessel Examinations (VE) and a flare shoot.

Captain Mel Berman aired his "Captain Mel's Show" live from the Gandy Boat Ramp from 6AM and 9 AM. He mentioned the Auxiliary's NSBW activities at the ramp every 15 minutes and Tim Teahan responded (for about three minutes) on air to a caller's question about the location of safe boating education courses in Tampa Bay.

(Continued on page 4)

Division Elected Officers

	Position	Name
Div 7	DCP	Conrad Palermo
Div 7	VCP	Peter Lore
Div 7	IPDCP	Richard Erett
FL-72	FC	Marvin Bayles
	VFC	Linda Barnard
FL-73	FC	Larry Gellinger
	VFC	Brenda Burger
FL-74	FC	Ronald G. Matz
	VFC	Eleazar Escorihuela
FL-75	FC	Catherine M. Lori
	VFC	Joe Gonzalez
FL-78	FC	Valerie Fernandes
	VFC	Edgar O'Krent
FL-79	FC	J. Michael Shea
	VFC	Kevin Williams
FL-7-16	FC	Kevin Yeaton
	VFC	Linda Harwitt

*Division Staff Officers*

Position	Name
SO-AN	Peter Ubillos
SO-CM	Terence E. Affeld
SO-CS	Terry Modica
SO-FN	Wally Lowry
SO-IS	Alma Parrish
SO-MA	Louis Miosi
SO-MS	John Michael Shea
SO-MT	Eleazar Escorihuela
SO-OP	Clifford J. Martin
SO-PA	Catherine M. Lori
SO-PB	Dorothy J. Riley
SO-PE	Glenn Dobos
SO-PS	Gilbert Thomas
SO-SR	Brenda Burger
SO-VE	Joseph Gonzalez
CH-FEL	Donton Raleigh
ASO-CS	Joseph H. Parrish
ASO-IS	Joseph Parrish
ASO-OP	Robert Stribling
ASO-PA	Ronald Matz
ASO-PB	Guy Mandigo
CH-FEL	Donton Raleigh
SO-PV	James Mulligan

Submission Guidelines:

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

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

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

Dottie Riley, Editor



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



Words from the Helm....

Conrad Palermo, Division Captain

The United States Coast Guard is a unique organization. It is a group of volunteers that put their time, effort and money towards a common cause in order to help others, and let's be truthful, help ourselves too. We are part of the U.S. Coast Guard and we are here to help them in any that way we can.

What brings us together in that common cause is the four cornerstones of the Auxiliary. These cornerstone missions should be balanced within the Flotilla as all of them are important. Each and every one of you should be participating in one or more of them; Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety and Fellowship.

All of us, I'm sure, strive to do something within the Auxiliary. But wait a minute, how come we sometimes don't? Could it be that it's a bit more difficult than we expected it to be, or more difficult than it should be? Maybe it because there is someone you don't get along with very well. Are any of these obstacles in your way? Well, I'm going to tell you what I think obstacles are: they are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals. I challenge you to be an active part of the Auxiliary and participate in at least one of our cornerstones. Show us what you've got.

When deciding whether you want to be successful in something within the Auxiliary remember these words from Vincent Lombardi:

"The difference between
a successful person and others
is not a lack of strength,
not a lack of knowledge,
but rather in a lack of will." ✿



Conrad Palermo, DCP



Peter Lore, VCP

Peter Lore, Division Vice Captain

Conrad Palermo DCP, Cliff Martin, SO-OP, and I met with the new Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of Station St. Petersburg, Senior Chief Sean Benton (BMCS) and with Boatswains Mate 1st Class James Thompson. The OIC expressed his support for the Coast Guard Auxiliary and would like to expand our role in support of the Station's on the water missions. In particular, there are times when the Station's resources are fully committed throughout Tampa Bay and an Auxiliary Facility will be utilized for SAR callout duty. Vessels will be berthed at Station and their crews will have the use of the Station's facilities when not on the water. These missions may be either night or day and will be full eight hour shifts. Cliff Martin, SO-OP, will coordinate these missions and issue orders.

On another note, it is the middle of the summer and before you know it, elections for next year's Division and Flotilla elected officers will be upon us. If you are considering running for one of these offices, check the Auxiliary Manual

to be certain you have completed the requirements to hold that elected office. Many of our newer members need to complete the Administrative Procedures Course. Don't delay; begin the course now so you will be ready when nominations are opened. ✿

National Safe Boating Week (continued) from page 1)



Zachary Lessin, FSO-PS, FL 79 films an officer from Florida Fish and Wildlife explaining the importance of wearing a life jacket while Brad Ware, FSO-PA, FL 79 watches from the side line.

Zach's independently produced videos can be viewed on You-Tube.com.

ary services Division-wide over at least the next month or so.

Mel Berman's long-standing support of safe boating in Tampa Bay was recognized with a presentation of a plaque bestowing honorary Auxiliary membership. Mel was very appreciative of the honor. Vessel Examiners from several Division flotillas including but not limited to Flotillas 72, 75, 79 and 7-16 performed well over 30 vessel inspections from 0730 until about 1200. Don Rimel from FL 7-16 conducted his 100th VE by mid-morning.

VEs distributed West Marine discount coupons in addition to copies of float plans (two-sided) and a list of safe boating courses available at all Division flotillas. Copies of the latest brochure describing Tampa Bay security zones and decals about VHF marine radio use in distress situations were also distributed

Tim Teahan who organized the Division's collaborative efforts for NSBW stands at the entrance of Flotilla 79 talking to two crewmen from the USCG Buoy tender that spent several hours on the docks for exhibit in support of this event.



A number of anglers/boaters stopped by Mel's table to greet him and were offered FWC whistles and Auxiliary Safe Boating stickers and material.

Mel's show reaches an audience of over 60,000 listeners every Saturday and while results of the exposure are difficult to gauge, the exposure we gained will help in driving interest in safe boating courses and other Auxil-



by the VEs.

Approximately 15 expired flares were shot from an area east of the ramp. Auxiliarists and Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) officers participated in the shoot.

WFLA Radio created a sales package to present to potential advertisers to participate in the remote broadcast, which was to include a table for exhibit. Despite strong efforts by WFLA sales representatives, no packages were sold, due largely to advertiser involvement in a boat show at the Fairgrounds the previous weekend. The WFLA sales manager related that companies they approached would have more seriously considered exhibiting at the Gandy Ramp event had they not already committed to the Fairgrounds boat show.



Captain Mel Berman broadcasted the ever popular "Captain Mel's Show" beside the Gandy boat ramp. Radio listeners call in and ask questions about fishing and boating in the Bay area. Tim Teahan was able to provide one caller with information on Boating Safety courses.

Photo by Don Rimel

A flyer listing safe boating course schedules at all Division flotillas and copies of a two-sided float plan were available on a table at the ramp, in addition to a display of life jackets, emergency whistles and other promotional material.

At 0800, participants performed 'Morning Colors,' with members of the Auxiliary, FWC, the Coast Guard, Mel Berman and Tampa Police Department represented. The National Anthem was played.

Station St. Pete provided a 41-foot UTB for exhibit purposes. Several boaters viewed the craft from the dock, with UTB crewmen describing the vessel and equipment.

Two FWC officers and Tampa Police Department Officer Novack were in attendance. The FWC officers distributed more than 60 emergency whistles to boaters launching from the ramp and participated in the expired flare launch.

A news release was prepared and distributed to more than 70 Tampa Bay TV, radio and newspaper and recreational website on May 12 describing the May 24 events, including the Tampa Tribune and St. Pete Times outdoor recreation columnists. A notice was published in the Tribune's Friday Extra May 23 edition and was mentioned in columns by Frank Sargeant (Tribune) and Terry Tomalin (St. Pete Times) earlier in the week preceding the event. In addition, Mel Berman mentioned his involvement in the event during his May 17 show broadcast.

The concept of partnering with Captain Mel was a solid one and despite the fact that boat launching at the Gandy Ramp on May 24 was uncharacteristically slow, due likely to adverse weather reports (40% rain) for the day, as well as the price of fuel and the fact that recreational boaters are more likely to go boating on the Monday of Memorial Day than the weekend Saturday. Perhaps holding future NSBW events on the Monday of Memorial Day might be more fruitful. Despite this, this year's activities were quite successful. Many thanks to all who participated! 🌟



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 72



Marvin Bayles, FC

Our members have been busy training. Eight of our members have completed the crew class and several have started to take other courses including Navigation. Two of our members have completed the Vessel Examination (VE) course and are now full fledged Vessel Examiners. We held workshops on Sexual Harassment Prevention- twice, in order to clear all the members who couldn't take it the first time, the 1 hour Team Coordination Training, and the Instructor workshops.

The Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) program continues to be successful. We started with seventeen people and graduated seven. We also picked up seven or eight new people and are running the BS&S program at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club for about fifteen participants. On top of all this, four of the people who attended the program decided to join the Auxiliary.

We are planning a Navigation program to begin in August which will run seven consecutive weeks. Unfortunately, the Auxiliary is in the midst of coming out with a new manual so we may need to postpone the program until we find out more about the new manual.

Our Web site has been completed and just has to be checked. Once we are up and running I hope you will come visit us online! ❁

Right: Cortez Lake Received the Division Award for the Most Crew Hours at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 29th at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa.



Division picnic May 10, 2008

Glenn Dobos, Immediate past Flotilla Commander of FL 72 smiles in the foreground while Jim Fogle, FSO-PA FL 72 stands at the end of the table. Beside him is Al Escorihuela, VFC 74.

Photos by D. Riley





Flotilla News...

Flotilla 73

Summer is here and it is showing with our Monday meeting attendance down 10-15%. Our staff meeting attendance is still at 80-90%. Here is a quick summary of where we are today:

- We have four new members in process of enrollment and hope to add more as the year progresses.
- Pat Bannon, FSO-PA, Al MacMillan, FSO-VE, Bob Wild, FSO-PB/MA* and I manned a table at the Walsingham Elementary School on May 3rd. Bob graciously brought his vessel for the kids to climb on. No damage, but we had to clean up the interior. Thanks, Bob. We passed out a lot of program materials and coloring books. (*Bob Wild is also our Immediate Past Flotilla Commander.)
- The Division picnic was held in May at Picnic Island. About 40 members attended and everyone had a great time. Flotilla 73 had four members present along with their spouses.
- Despite the summer haze our Member Training has not slacked off. Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOM) program is scheduled to run from July 2nd through mid August. Auxiliary Navigation (AUXNAV) was completed and ran from April 9th through June 4th, and our flotilla completed the 2008 Instructor Training Workshop for all qualified members. Check the Division calendar as we have many Member Training opportunities scheduled every month through December - in addition to our ongoing Public Education initiatives.
- Our Staff came up with a good idea at the May staff meeting. We decided that one staff member would give a 15 minute presentation on the duties and workings of their office at the membership meeting. We started this at our subsequent membership meetings on June 2nd. We have some other ideas- come to the meeting and see how our Flotilla is changing and growing! ✿



Larry Gellinger, FC

Division picnic May 10, 2008

We cannot begin to explain these facial expressions! Anyone care to write a script for this conversation between Kay Lori, FC 75 and Larry Gellinger, FC 73? Candid action shots can sometimes produce both surprising and amusing results.

Conrad Palermo, DCP, Al Escorihuela, VFC 74, and Jim Fogle, FSO-PA 72 are behind Kay and Larry.

Photo by D. Riley



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 74



Ron Matz, FC

The first half of 2008 was very positive for our flotilla. Gil Thomas, FSO-PS has continued to recruit excellent members. These new members are very active and have a high sense of teamwork. During the past months we conducted the BS&S class for members with the participation of mostly new members that upgraded their status from IQ to BQ. The divisional Crew Member training was also a success. Our Flotilla members showed that we could improve and grow in qualifications beyond what was expected. We have five and three-quarter new crew members that will start participating in operational and safety missions. The three-quarter? One of the six members who completed the training must still pass the Qualifying Examination.

On Saturday June 14th the Aids to Navigation (ATON) verifier course was conducted at Flotilla 79 with the participation of Bob Easterday, FSO-AN, and some of our new and very active members. They earned the ATON Verifier Qualification.

Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) inspections have been increasing and our new FSO-VE, Richard "Beetle" Bailey, has been doing a great job setting up the VSC station at Williams Park, getting members involved and assisting with getting other members VSC qualified. All of our efforts are making the waters of the Tampa Bay Area a safer place for recreational boaters.

During May 2008 there were 53 Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program (RBSVP) visitations conducted by Flotilla 74 members. We have four new Partners with no deletions to the program. Our Flotilla is currently servicing 62 RBSVP Program Partners.*

In a continuing effort to expand Marine Domain Awareness (MDA), contact was made with the Polk County Natural Resources Division. Technical support was provided in rewriting their tri-fold pamphlet, "Boating Safety in Polk County." In Addition to code ordinances, boating safety course information was provided. USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 74 is in the first position of references by name and telephone number, which can be found on the reverse side of the pamphlet. This pamphlet will be distributed in Polk County in addition to other safe boating materials.

June stats not available at time of publication.

Ken Morningstar, Al Escorihuela, Richard Bailey and Jim Potts prepare to board during the Division 7 Crew Training that ended in April.

Photo provided by Al Escorihuela.





Flotilla News...

Flotilla 75

We have been quite busy this year as a flotilla. The Public Affairs team headed by Ray Stewart has provided the flotilla with still another avenue of exposure to the public. The Manatee Arts Festival proved to be an excellent opportunity to acquaint the recreational boaters with the Auxiliary and its mission.

Fellowship under Rosemarie Butti has given us several unusual opportunities to get to know one another. We look forward to the next activity and hope all members participate.

A great big welcome back (after a short hiatus for recuperation) to Bill Paes, our Communications Officer. Bill looks forward to training and qualifying members for radio watch.

A flotilla first occurred this year! Flotilla 75 now has a website of its own. Joe Parrish spent innumerable hours to complete this project.

Come check us out at <http://cgaux75.org/> ☼



Kay Lori, FC



Above: Members Guy Mandigo, FSO-PB, Ray Stewart, FSO-PA, Frank Nunziata, Marvin Bayles, FC FL 72, and Walter Wagner assisted at a flag raising ceremony on Memorial Day at the Riverside Community Center in Ruskin. The flags included the U.S. flag and one for each branch of the service. The Coast Guard flag had a place of distinction. It was raised over the new marina.

Photo provided by Guy Mandigo, FSO/SO-PB

Right: The Flotilla's 4th of July celebration featured a pool to swim in and lounge beside, a lavish catered menu including tasty hors d'oeuvres, salad and desert, great company, and Rosie's not so smokeless celebratory sparklers. The smoke cleared quickly through the open screens and afforded everyone something to laugh about. If you missed this event, you missed a wonderfully entertaining evening! *Photo by D. Riley*



Bill Zimmerman, one of the Flotilla's favorite gentlemen at the 4th of July pool party. Bill has been a member of FL 75 for over 25 years.

Photo By D. Riley



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 78



Val Fernandes

Brad Marchant, our newest member is now teaching BS&S Chapter 5 and Chapter 9 with the assistance of his daughter, Grace Marchant. Grace Marchant was made an Honorary Member of Flotilla 78 during our April meeting. Besides helping with instruction she loves to grade test papers and usually has a line of students waiting for her to grade their tests so they can tell her how well they like the class.

All of our current crew members have completed the annual on-the-water re-certification requirements. We also assisted some of Flotilla 7-16 crew with their annual on-the-water re-certifications, thanks to Ed O'Krent and his facility the All OK II. We would also like to thank Bruce Cardall of 7-16 for being our coxswain!

In May we hid a GeoCache at the Warren Webster Building where we teach our boating classes and hold flotilla meetings. For those of you not familiar with geocaching, it is a high tech treasure hunt using a GPS device. The cache is named "USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 7-8 cache". They would not allow us to name it the "safe boating cache" because the guidelines prohibit agendas for geocaches. The cache is filled with safe boating literature, all the pamphlets that we normally bring to program visitors and boat shows in a large plastic container. It also contained some DVDs of the Coast Guard Academy as a reward for the "first to find" it. Go to www.geocaching.com to view the cache and coordinates. Search for the cache with zip code 33706. It will be on the second page of caches for that location. You can view all the positive comments from people who found the cache and took literature. The purpose of the cache is to draw attention to our PE classes and flotilla in hopes of attracting more students and members. It's free advertising and also allows people to have access to safe boating literature 24 hours a day!

Congratulations to Warren Pfirmman for receiving his AUXOP certification. 🌟

Left: Dick Erett, IPDCP and Pat Erett at the April Flotilla Meeting receiving Sustained Service Awards.

Bottom Left: A photo of the GeoCache and its contents buried at the Warren Webster Building.

Bottom Right: Grace Marchant receives an honorary membership certificate from Val Fernandes.

Photos provided by Val Fernandes





Flotilla 79

We recently finished Boating Safety Week for yet another year and I want to thank Tim Teahan, Burnie Wilhelm, Brad Ware, Cliff Martin and all the rest of you who had a hand in this event. It may not seem like a lot, but it is, and all of those hours really add up.

I did something interesting. I took our roster and went through it and estimated how much time in a week each member of our Flotilla gave in service to the Coast Guard. Now this is not scientific or anything, and most likely I missed a few people, but at the very least I came out with 260 hours per week or 13,520 hours a year and 1,127 hours a month. That is a lot of service hours and this is just our little Flotilla. Just think about that for a few moments and what that means overall to the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard and our missions. Why don't you try your hand at it and see what kind of figures you come up with?

And here is the point: most of us do our job willingly and do not think about the large impact we have on the overall picture and the missions of the Coast Guard. Sometimes I even think I may hang it up; after all we are all getting older, but we do it because we care and want to serve our county, and we do not think of it as a big deal because it isn't that much time out of our week. (There are some exceptions. Some of you put in very long hours for the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.) We, as a small group of volunteers all give in varying amounts our time on a weekly basis, and when all those effort are added up we get 260 hours a week. So keep on keeping on, and know that we do make a difference. Please continue to do your small part.

You and the hours you serve are very important to the overall picture of that we are all about – Team Coast Guard – and proud of it. Thanks ! 🌸



Mike Shea, FC

Left: National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) : Division 7 consolidated many of its NSBW activities on May 24th at the Gandy Boat ramp behind FL 79. Vessel Safety Checks (VCS) were conducted between 7 AM to Noon. Steve Plass manned one VCS station while Burnie Wilhelm manned another. **Right :** Cliff Martin tries out a helmet, one of the pieces of Personal Protection Equipment provided by Sector St Petersburg to Division 7. Betty Hagan is to his right. *Photos by D. Riley*



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 07-16



Kevin Yeaton, FC

Flotilla 7-16 Auxiliarists should be proud of our role in Recreational Boating Safety (RBS). We have done a great job in executing the Vessel Safety Check and Program Visitor (PV) programs. By June we completed 213 Vessel Safety Checks and 268 PV visits. We are the Division leader in performance of these missions and we make a difference through RBS and Operations.

We welcome a 'new member' Cortez Lake, who recently transferred to our flotilla from FL 72. He will be a great addition to our PV team and to Operations. On March 29th at the Division Awards Banquet, Cortez Lake won the Award for the most crew hours in 2007 while still a member of FL 72. We will gladly add his many hours to our flotilla's totals in Auxiliary Data (AUXDATA) in both the RBS programs and in Operations this year. While we are a small Flotilla in terms of number of members, we represent a disproportionately large number of mission hours within the Division's RBS and Operations programs.

Ed Gleason came to our fellowship dinner on June 4th. For those of you who remember Ed, he moved to Kentucky but has continued to maintain his membership with Flotilla 7-16. It is always good to see old and familiar faces. ☼

Right: Kevin Yeaton, FC accepts the William Waldo Chase Memorial Award from Captain Joseph Servidio, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, USCG, on behalf of Flotilla 7-16 at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon held on March 29th at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa. Flanking them on either side are Conrad Palermo, DCP and Peter Lore, VCP, Division 7. CMDR David Allen, Chief Director of Auxiliary, USCG Retired, District 7 is behind Kevin. The award is presented annually to the Flotilla that has shown outstanding accomplishments in instruction, vessel examinations and operations.



Don Rimel is awarded a Letter of Commendation and ribbon for his outstanding support of the Recreational Boating Safety programs at the Division 7 Award Luncheon.

Photos by D. Riley





Staff Reports and News...



Communications, *Terence Affeld, SO-CM*

The Division Net Drill was a success thanks to our Flotilla Communications Officers and Station St. Petersburg.

In June 2008 a new Personal Qualification Standard for Auxiliary Communications was developed and released and will be required for all new Watchstanders effective August 1, 2008. Members holding Auxiliary Communications (AuxCom) qualification earned prior to 1 August may continue to operate and own radio facilities indefinitely.

There are about 13 pages of Qualifications to complete under the direction of the FSO-CM or his designee. This was brought about due to the extensive use of new technologies involving Rescue 21, Global Marine Distress & Safety System (GMDSS) and new roles for the Auxiliary since 9/11.

All FSO-CMs have been sent the 36 page document outlining the Telecommunications Operator designation with links to the new Personal Qualifications Standard (PQS). ☸

Communication Services, *Terry Modica, SO-CS*

I was unable to attend the Division meeting on June 28 and my assistant, Joe Parrish, has been deployed by FEMA to assist flood victims. We do however, offer the following report:

We have a webpage on the Division site where you can see TV and newspaper articles that get published about members of your flotilla. The most recent article was about Joe Lori called "Still Up To Being All He Can Be". Visit <http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/news.htm>. This is a public link that can be shared with non-Auxiliarists, which makes it a good recruiting tool. If you have news that makes it to the public media, please be sure to remember to include it on your flotilla website as well as the division site.

Recently a discussion was raised (by email) about requirements for posting home-made videos on Coast Guard Auxiliary websites. An enterprising young man made a video of boating safety rules during Safe Boating Week and posted it on "YouTube.com", which is a free-for-all website that is very popular for posting and viewing home-made videos. The video was not, however, appropriate for posting directly on an Auxiliary website because it included copyrighted music, which is illegal to use. We can post links directly to YouTube.com if we want to, letting visitors to our Auxiliary sites know that they are now going to another site. That covers us legally. We certainly want to encourage Auxiliary members to use their talents with the latest tools of technology.

During the month of March 2008 we saw the highest number of visitors to the website since it began – 680, which is up from 560 the previous month. Since that time the number of visitors has averaged 640 a month. The thing to remember about these numbers is that many visitors come via search engines looking for information about the Coast Guard more often than about the Auxiliary, information about boating programs, or oddly enough, "Crystal River Nuclear Security". (How that brought them to our website I surely don't know!) 234 visitors entered the site through the Members-Only page in June (367 in March). This is a key number because it shows us how many of our members are using the site, fulfilling the primary reason why the division website was created to begin with.

Please email me your feedback, if you have any. ☸



Staff Reports and News...



Information Services, *Alma Parrish, SO-IS*

As of the end of June all activities received by the FSOs-IS have been entered into AUXDATA.

Ramona Trimble, FSO-IS FL 73, Dottie Engel, FSO-IS FL 75, and Bob Schuler, FSO-IS FL 78 are entering most of their activities directly into AUXDATA. We hope to have all FSOs-IS doing this by the end of the year.

Another workshop for FSO-IS will be coming up soon. Anyone interested in attending please let Alma Parrish know. We will be covering questions that have come up since we had hands on experience, and will be reviewing the hands on exercises for those of you unable to complete this section of the workshop. I hope that the rest of all FSO-IS can be certified soon.

Flotilla Vice Commanders- please contact me at your earliest convenience. I would like to get some input from you in order to determine our needs for next year. ☼

Member Training, *Eleazar Escorihuela, SO-MT*

Our Personnel Service Officers have done a great job recruiting new members who now need to be trained in our various qualification areas. New members should be mentored and coached, otherwise they stop participating. Encourage new members to receive training in multiple qualification areas. This way they may rotate their activities and make participation in the Auxiliary more interesting, and they may participate in any activity of their choice. Without training and coaching members lose interest and leave. While recruiting is important, let's keep in mind that retention is a key point to consider as well.

A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and a Military License Qualification programs are being held at the Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater. I have been training enlisted persons so they may obtain their CDL and have a career alternative when they get back to the civilian world. I have also been training military personnel in driving skills and truck inspection as well as safety rules for fuel trucks. Lou Miosi has been planning the activities at the Air Station and taking care of the materials needed for these programs. As these programs continue, others will be trained in testing enlisted personnel for the Military License.

I would like to thank the Flotilla Commanders from 72, 73, 74 and 78 for their great participation in Member Training (MT) initiatives as well as the Flotilla Member Training Staff Officers from Flotillas 73 and 74 for their outstanding work. Operations (OP) has been doing their part by holding the Division-wide Crew Member Training which was a success. Other Staff Officers are encouraged to follow the examples provided by OP and MT and steps to start getting new members' feet wet.

Here is what our flotillas have been up to:

Flotilla 72: The 2008 Instructor Training (IT) Workshop was conducted and completed by all qualified members. Some members participated in the Team Coordination Training (TCT) eight hour training at Flotilla 79. Two members completed their Vessel Examiner (VE) qualification. The Sexual Harassment Prevention (SHP) Workshop was also conducted. The Flotilla Commander of 72 also proctored 4 technical tests for a Flotilla 74 member.

Flotilla 73: Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOM) program was scheduled from 2 July through mid Au-





gust. Auxiliary Navigation (AUXNAV) was scheduled from 9 April through June 4. The flotilla completed the 2008 IT Workshop for all qualified members.

Flotilla 74: All members participated in the mandatory 2008 IT Workshop. The first session for the 1-hour TCT refresher was conducted. A make up session will be scheduled soon. Two members earned their VE qualification, two members earned the Program Visitor (PV) qualification, and five members earned their Aids to Navigation (ATON) Verifier qualification.

Flotilla 78: All instructors have completed the required 2008 IT workshop. The 1-hour refresher TCT was conducted and all members are up to date.

Flotilla 79 and 7-16: Completed the 2008 IT Workshop for all qualified members. The eight hour TCT training was conducted at FL 79.

Feel free to e-mail or call me with ideas and/or suggestions. ☼

Program Visitor, *James Mulligan, SO-PV*

As of June 21st there is a net increase of 50 Partners since the beginning of the year in the Recreational Boating Safety Visitor Program. A total of 520 visitations have been reported to AUXDATA which represents 91% of minimal expectations.

On May 31st a Division 7 Program Visitor (PV) meeting was held. Flotillas 73, 74 and 7-16 attended. Topics of discussion included PV as mission, PV recruitment, and Marine Domain Awareness.

There will be Program Visitor Qualification Workshop open to all Flotillas hosted by Flotilla 73 on September 27, 2008. The workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation and will be followed by the Program Visitor Exam. All attendees are encouraged to complete the required supervised visitations prior to the Workshop, however, this is not a prerequisite. ☼



Public Affairs, *Kay Lori, SO-PA*

June 23rd was the Birthday of the Auxiliary, the 69th to be exact. The Auxiliary has been around for a long time, evolving, growing, and maturing. Think about what the Auxiliary does, what it will be doing, and how it does the many missions for the Coast Guard. You and fellow flotilla members are making history, have made history and without a doubt, will make history. Tell the public about your flotilla and the members who have made it strong, productive, and above all dedicated to the mission to support the Coast Guard.

National Safe Boating Week saw an abundance of activity. Flotilla 79 had an enormous show on the 24th. Captain Mel broadcasted live from Gandy Ramp. The Coast Guard, Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC), and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) were present. Great job organizing! Tim Teahan outdid himself with everything! The only thing that couldn't be planned was the weather. It was a beautiful day and there was little turn out from the public. Why? Rain was forecast and marine warnings were posted by local TV stations. No one planned to go out, so, no one came to use the ramp. All VEs stayed to do exams and the promotion was carried out.

Memorial Day: Flotilla 75 and 74 participated in events at Kings Point and Riverside Club.

July 4th: How many parades are there on Independence Day? Did your flotilla take part in one? Did you tow a facility and put flotilla members in it? Hope you had some fun, enjoyed the crowds, and

(Continued on page 16)

Staff Reports and News...



Tom Loughlin, ADSO-PA D7, shows the "Trash Game" to Ron Matz, FC, FL 74 at the Division 7 meeting on June 28th hosted by FL 72. The game is a real crowd pleaser at Public Affairs events of all types. As Tom likes to jest, "Everybody likes to talk trash." Photo by Kay Lori

showed your pride in the good ole' USA! If you did not participate this year, put it on your calendar and plan to do it next year. It is a great opportunity to increase public awareness about the Auxiliary and boating safety.

Alert: Everyone check your PA handouts for the 1-800 number to contact the Coast Guard. It is no longer an active number, at least not for anyone wanting information on Team Coast Guard. It has been reported that the number now directs the caller to a risqué enterprise. The number should be covered in some way, preferably with a label containing your flotilla's information. I also noticed it on the PV rack I was putting together.

Saving the best for last: Tom Loughlin, ADSO-PA, dropped by and gave Division 7 a present. It is a environmental tool to use at the boat

shows. Tom uses one for events his division public affairs events and says it is a great people attraction. I brought it to the last Division Meeting so that members could test it out. You may have a member that is skilled in carpentry and your flotilla can copy it for your own events. ❁

Vessel Examinations, *Joseph Gonzalez, SO-VE*

The Auxiliary Operations Polo Shirt is now available for ordering through the Auxiliary Center (AUXCEN). All orders must be processed through AUXCEN to ensure continuity. (ShopAuxiliary.com)

The Auxiliary Operations Polo Shirt is an alternative to the Coast Guard Working Blue Uniform Shirt and the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) Shirt including when worn as a hot weather outfit. No logo, patches, insignia, nametapes, nor nametags of any type may be worn on the polo shirt. Only the prescribed embroidery is authorized.

The Auxiliary Operational Polo Shirt has USCG Auxiliary embroidered in white on the left front side and the Auxiliarist's last name embroidered in white on the right front side. The shirt is dark blue, has no pockets, and is made of 100% combed cotton.

The VE Polo shirt is authorized for wear as an optional uniform shirt as part of the Undress Blue Summer (Bravo), Working Blue, Operational Dress (OD) and Hot Weather uniform. Ref: Auxiliary Manual (AUXMAN), Chapter 10, Section A, A.7. Only the Dark Blue shirt is authorized, No other color is authorized per the AUXMAN. ❁





Fellowship Chair, *Donton Raleigh, CH-FEL*

During the month of May my assistant Fellowship officer and I attended the Flotilla meetings of all the Flotillas in Division 7 to promote Division Fellowship, and I am happy to report that in Division 7, Fellowship is alive and well!

- **Flotilla 72** is planning a Holiday Dinner on a Saturday toward the end of the year.
- **Flotilla 73** is planning a Spaghetti Dinner in the fall.
- **Flotilla 74** is having their Holiday Dinner & Celebration at MacDill AFB on December 13, 2008.
- **Flotilla 75** held a pool party in July, is planning a picnic later in the year, and a Christmas Party at Sun City Center on Dec 13, 2008.
- **Flotilla 78** is planning a casual Dinner Party early in December.



- **Flotilla 79** is having their Christmas Party immediately after a short meeting on Monday, December 15, 2008.
- **Flotilla 7-16** is considering another Dinner Meeting in the fall and then a party close to Christmas.

Division 7 will hold our next picnic at Fort De Soto Park on Saturday, November 8, 2008. See the photographs of our picnic on May 10th and if you were not there, you will know how much fun you missed!

We have 77 guests signed up for the Auxiliary Fund-Raising Cruise out of Tampa on November 13, 2008. We still have cabins available on the ship, so those of you who are not yet signed up are encouraged to join us. Email Don Raleigh or call him if you wish to go.

And finally, the **Division Change of Watch** will be at the Colonnade Restaurant on Saturday, December 06, 2008. ☼

Above: Conrad Palermo, DCP at the grill during the Division 7 picnic on May 10 at Picnic Island.

Right: Setting up the table are from left, Concetta Palermo, Pete Lore, VCP, Conrad Palermo, DCP, Al Escorihuela, VFC FL 74, and off camera, Donton Raleigh, Division 7 FL-CH.

Photos by D. Riley

More Fellowship picnic photos on page 19!



Staff Reports and News...

Happy Birthday USCG Auxiliary!



USCG Petty Officer and Auxiliarist conducting boarding in 1942 in New York Harbor.

National Archives, History Program, USCG Auxiliary

On June 23, 2008 the USCG Auxiliary celebrated its 69th birthday. In honor of this occasion we offer this brief history of the Auxiliary found on Flotilla 75's new web page. Congratulations to Flotilla 75 on their new 'home' on the web, and to Joe Parrish, FSO-CS, who made this possible.

"When the Coast Guard 'Reserve' was authorized by act of Congress on June 23, 1939, the Coast Guard was given a legislative mandate to use civilian volunteers to promote safety on and over the high seas and the nation's navigable waters. The Coast Guard Reserve was then a non-military service comprised of unpaid, volunteer U.S. citizens who owned motorboats or yachts.

"Two years later, on Feb. 19, Congress amended the 1939 act with passage of the Auxiliary and Reserve Act of 1941. Passage of this act designated the Reserve as a military branch of the active service, while the civilian volunteers, formerly referred to as the Coast Guard Reserve, became the Auxiliary. So, February 19 is formally

recognized as the birth of the Coast Guard Reserve while June 23 is recognized as the birthday of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

"When America entered World War II, 50,000 Auxiliary members joined the war effort. They guarded waterfronts, carried out coastal picket patrols, rescued survivors from scuttled ships and did anything else they were asked to do. Many of their private vessels were placed into service.

"After the war, Auxiliarists resumed their recreational boating safety duties. The Auxiliary's four cornerstones - Vessel Examination, Education, Operations and Fellowship - were established and remained the Auxiliary's pillars into the 1990s. Today the four cornerstones have been re-defined as Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship.

"The well-known [Vessel Safety Check](#), a free examination available to any recreational boater, helps boaters ensure their craft complies with Federal boating regulations.

"As for [Education](#), the Auxiliary teaches boating safety to recreational boaters of all ages.

"The Auxiliary operates safety and regatta patrols and is an integral part of the Coast Guard Search and Rescue team. Auxiliarists also stand communication watches, assist during mobilization exercises, perform harbor and pollution patrols, provide platforms for unarmed boarding parties and recruit new people for the Service.

"Following passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996, the Auxiliary assists the Coast



Savannah, Ga.: USCG Auxiliary vessels underway for offshore duty patrols.

National Archives, History Program, USCG Auxiliary



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More Division 7 Fellowship Picnic Photos...



Top left: Donton and Ruthie Raleigh worked hard to plan this great event. **Top right:** Members of several different flotillas share tables, great conversation and camaraderie. **Bottom Left:** Brad Marchant and his lovely daughter, Grace from FL 78. (Photos 1-3 by D. Riley) **Bottom Middle:** Dottie Riley gets an assist when her kite line tangles in the tree tops. **Bottom right:** Brad Ware wins a signed print in the raffle. Over a dozen great prizes were won by members participating in the raffle. (Photos 4-5 by Al Escorihuela)

(Continued from page 18)

Guard, as authorized by the Commandant, in performance of any Coast Guard function, duty, role, mission or operation authorized by law.

"In 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard including the Auxiliary was transferred from the Department of Transportation to the new Department of Homeland Security." <http://cgaux75.org/history.htm> ✨

Note: Red underlined text represent active links on the Flotilla's web page.

Division 7 Honors Member Achievements.

Photos and story by Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB



Wally Lowry is congratulated by Captain Joseph Servidio upon receiving the Auxiliarist of the Year Award. Behind her is CMDR David Allen, DIRAUX D7.

Chief Daniel Harris is hidden behind Captain Servidio.

Wally Lowry also received the Auxiliary Achievement Medal.

While March may feel like the near distant past by this publication date, the achievements of the members honored at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon deserve recognition.

The annual Awards Luncheon was held earlier than in previous years. This year it was held on March 29, 2008 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa. Distinguished guests included Captain Joseph Servidio, USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, Commander David Allen, USCG Retired, Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) Seventh District, and his wife, Janet; Chief Daniel Harrison, USCG, Officer in Charge, Station St. Petersburg, Donald Frasch, Vice Commodore District 7 and his wife, and Ensign Derek Wilson, USCG, Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO).

The awards conferred honor both flotilla and individual achievements. Individual awards are bestowed annually for records held in Auxiliary data (AUXDATA) and are

as follows (*offices held are omitted*):

Most Public Education Hours: Peter Lore, FL 73, **Most Member Training Instruction Hours:** Amos Johnson, FL 79, **Most Aide Hours:** Ken Bell, FL 72, **Most Skipper Hours:** Kathi Kruczek, FL 79, **Most Crew Hours:** Cortez Lake, FL 72, **Most Search and Rescue Assists:** Jerry Routt, FL 74, **Most Vessel Safety Checks:** Don Rimel, FL 7-16, **Most Marine Dealer Visit Hours:** Don Rimel, FL 7-16.

These members' achievements include countless hours of dedicated service to the Coast Guard and to the Auxiliary and do not include the numerous separate awards that were conferred to members of Division 7 who had more than 500 hours recorded in AUXDATA. This group of awards is referred to as the Division 7 'Honor Roll'.

Other individual awards include the **Julie Award** for outstanding contributions in recruitment and retention awarded to Gil Thomas, FL 74, and Elaine Smith, FL 72, and the **Vans Evers Award** presented annually to a couple or an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the ideals of the Auxiliary presented to Joe and Alma Parrish, FL 75.

Several members received a **Letter of Commendation and ribbon** including Terry Modica, FL 74 for her work building the Division web site and for the creation of the Operations data base, Don Rimel, FL 7-16, for his support of Recreational Boating Safety programs, and Dottie Riley for the re-creation of the Intercom as an electronically distributed newsletter. Wally Lowry, FL-74, received the **Auxiliary Achievement Medal** for her many years of service, especially as the Division's Finance Officer. In addition to this prestigious award, Wally Lowry received the Division's **Auxiliarist of the Year Award**. What can we possibly add to that except to express an emphatic, "Bravo Zulu!"

Many other awards were conferred to Auxiliarists for their individual achievements including, but not limited to Alma Parrish, FL 75, Kay Lori, FL 75, Cliff Martin, FL 79, Kevin Yeaton, FL 7-16, Kathi Kruc-





zek, and Joe and Betty Hagan of FL 79. The most noteworthy individual award, however, was presented to Joe Lori, FL 75, who received the **USCG Meritorious Service Medal**.

Joe Lori was cited for outstanding and meritorious service from 1996 to 2007 for his efforts to enhance and expand the Personal Water Craft (PWC) programs throughout District 7 and police forces throughout the country, as well as to train the US Army at Camp Doha, Kuwait. Joe Lori's achievements have been published in several news magazines and can also be found on the Division's website. In addition to his continued involvement in Operations, Joe is a past Division Captain. Joe's dedication to the Auxiliary is unsurpassed.

Flotilla awards were as follows:

- The **Krough Award** (Public Education) to Flotilla 7-16
- The **Oalmann Award** (Member Training) to Flotilla 73
- The **Mike Award** (Membership Growth and Retention)

Flotilla 74

- The **Prescott Award** (Vessel Examinations) to Flotilla 7-16
- The **Richie Award for Public Affairs** to Flotilla 79
- The **Richie Award for Publications** to Flotilla 79
- The **McKendree Award** (Specialty Course Advancement) to Flotilla 74
- The **Nettling Award** (Operations) to Flotilla 72
- The **Shingledecker Award** (Program Visitor) to Flotilla 7-16
- The **Duignan Award** (Fellowship) to Flotilla 73
- The **William Waldo Chase Memorial Award** (outstanding accomplishments in instruction, vessel examinations and operations) to Flotilla 7-16
- The **Captain's Jug** (excellence in Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship) to Flotilla 72.



Joseph Lori

The Division made special presentations to Captain Joseph Servidio, Chief Daniel Harris and Ensign Derek Wilson. All three are leaving Sector St. Petersburg this year. ENS Wilson was transferred, Chief Harris retired in June, and Captain Servidio will transfer later this month. The Change of Watch Ceremony will be on July 28th in St. Petersburg.



The great number of awards presented is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our members to the Auxiliary and to its mission of supporting the United States Coast Guard. We are proud members of Team Coast Guard. Bravo Zulu to the award recipients and to every member of Division 7 who devotes their time and efforts to achieve our goals. ✿

Marvin Bayles, FC FL 72 accepts the Captain's Jug on behalf of his flotilla. Conrad Palermo, Captain Joseph Servidio, CMDR David Allen and Pete Lore are shown from left. Photo by D. Riley

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Upcoming Conferences...



**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
National Conference (NACON) 2008
Orlando, Florida
August 16 - August 24, 2008**

The theme for NACON 2008 is Recruiting, Retention and Responsibility, National Commodore Steve Budar's watch words for his term of office. This year's NACON will include the election of National Officers following the opening ceremonies on Friday morning, August 22nd. A new attendee's orientation will be held on Thursday afternoon with general training sessions available on both Friday and Saturday afternoon.

Mail-in registration ends August 1, 2008
Online registration ends August 10, 2008
See you in Orlando!



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