



THE INTERCOM

From training for emergencies, to coping with real ones: It's all in a day's work. Article by John Lowe, FSO-PB, FL 74, Photos by Joan Wheeler, FL 75



Tampa Fire Rescue on scene.

Saturday May 9, 2009 was a beautiful day for crew training. Kathleen Heide, coxswain aboard *All Booked Up* with crewmembers Bruce Thornton and Paul Moen teamed up with Walter Wagner, coxswain aboard *Gulf Lady* with crewmembers Joan Wheeler and Sid Maillet. With them were trainees Roger Sneden, Linda Brandt and John Lowe. They left Williams Park at 10:00 a.m. and practiced towing evolutions behind one of the spoil islands.

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At 12:30 they broke for lunch and began making their way back to Williams Park when Walt Wagner called out "coming down", meaning he was backing off the throttle quickly.

Walt received a request from Sector St. Petersburg to conduct a Search and Rescue (SAR) Operation. A 33-foot cabin cruiser with 14 people onboard had been anchored on the west side of Beer Can Island enjoying the beautiful day when suddenly the boat exploded and burst into flames. Walt discussed this with his crew

(Continued on page 5)

Division Elected Officers

	Position	Name
Div 7	DCDR	Peter Lore
Div 7	DVCDR	Donald Rimel
Div 7	IPDCDR	Richard Erett
FL-72	FC	Marvin Bayles
	VFC	Linda Barnard
FL-74	FC	Ronald G. Matz
	VFC	Gilbert Thomas
FL-75	FC	Joseph Gonzalez
	VFC	Guy Mandigo
FL-78	FC	Valerie Fernandes
	VFC	Brad Marchant
FL-79	FC	Kevin Williams
	VFC	Tim Teahan
FL-7-16	FC	Linda Harwitt
	VFC	Cortez Lake

Division Staff Officers

Position	Name
SO-AN	Peter Ubillos
SO-CM	Terence E. Affeld
SO-CS	Joseph Parrish
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	Timothy Teahan
SO-PB	Dorothy J. Riley
SO-PE	Glenn Dobos
SO-PS	Gilbert Thomas
SO-PV	James Mulligan
SO-SR	Elizabeth Senesac-Barone
SO-VE	Richard Bailey
ASO-CS	Terry Modica
ASO-PA	Ronald Matz

*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....



Peter Lore, Division Commander (DCDR)

The year started off with us scheduling our annual boat crew training that started in February at Flotilla 73. The flotilla has a nice classroom and two floating docks that can accommodate four facilities. The class consisted of members from Flotillas 72, 73, 78 and 79. The instructors were from Flotilla 73 with the Mentors and facilities coming from Flotillas 72, 73 and 79. During this training, as part of the "Coast Guard Modernization", Flotilla 73 was transferred to Division 11 and re-chartered as Flotilla 11-3. We were now conducting boat crew training with Auxiliarists from Flotillas 72, 11-3, 78 and 79. The training went smoothly and Division 7 added four new boat crewmembers while Division 11 added five.

The transfer of Flotilla 73 to Division 11 was a big loss to our division. We lost 68 members, 23 boat crewmembers and five facilities, however, Flotillas 74, 75 and 79 are presently conducting another boat crew program and will certify several more crewmembers shortly. Flotillas 72 and 75 have added three new coxswains and two facilities. Cliff Martin, SO-OP, and Al Escorihuela, SO-MT, are set to begin a coxswain program next month, and the way Gil Thomas, SO-PS, is adding new members we will be back to full strength in another year.

At the beginning of the year we recognized that we needed to increase our commitment to surface operations. We set that as one of our stated goals and we are meeting that challenge. As we enter the second half of the year we must continue to excel in what we do for the Coast Guard.

The District Conference will be in St. Petersburg. There will be training in all areas—PA, PE, VE, etc.. Review the agenda and decide what classes you would like to attend. Don't miss this opportunity! ✦



Peter Lore, DCDR

Words from the Helm....

Don Rimel, Division Vice Commander (DVCDR)



Don Rimel, DVCDR

The division staff officers have done an outstanding job and the division is counting on the continued support as we work through the second half of the year. Many members have stepped up to the plate while some staff members have coped with illness. They handled their duties in a professional manner and kept these positions and the division running smoothly. Theresa "Bunny" Johnson filled in for Alma Parrish as the SO-IS and Terry Modica, ASO-CS took over for Joseph Parrish as the SO-CS. Also, Tim Teahan took over the position of SO-PA permanently from Kay Lori. We hope everyone gets well soon. They are missed.

With the modernization and realignment of the Auxiliary, this year Flotilla 73 was transferred to Division 11 as 11-3. Flotilla 73 played a vital role within Division 7 and will be greatly missed. There is an urgent need for more facilities, coxswains and crewmembers to help fill the void left by Flotilla 73. Flotilla 73 members filled three staff officer positions: Peter Ubillos, SO-NS, Louis Miosi, SO-MA, and Terry Affeld, SO-CM. They will finish out the year but will

need to transfer to a flotilla within Division Seven if they intend to serve as our division staff officers next year.

Many flotilla coxswains and crewmembers are taking long vacations this year. This is causing a strain on available manpower, and for Cliff Martin, our Division Staff Officer-Operation (SO-OP) to execute the need for facilities on the water.

The loss of Flotilla 73 created budget strains as well. On April 20, 2009, the committee had to make cuts so that the division at least breaks even due to the loss of sixty-eight members to Division 11. Peter Lore, Division Commander, called a board meeting to vote on the Division Standing Rules, and after some discussion, the board voted to accept the necessary changes.

I would like to see more involvement within the Recreational Boating Safety programs by the flotillas. By increasing the number of vessel safety checks and increasing the Program Visitor visits and Public Education attendance we will help with decreasing the number of fatalities on the waterways. ✦

Donald Rimel

"By increasing the number of vessel safety checks and increasing the Program Visitor visits and Public Education attendance we will help with decreasing the number of fatalities on the waterways."

Photo by B. Hagan, FL 79





From training for emergencies... *(continued from page 1)*

and they decided to accept the mission, arriving on scene about the same time as MacDill Air Force Base Marine Security.

The victims were already on the beach receiving emergency treatment for their injuries beneath the thick plume of black smoke from the burning vessel. At that point, the Auxiliary vessel's mission changed from search and rescue to securing the area to keep the pleasure boaters and onlookers at a safe distance. Within the next 20 or 30 minutes, the waters around the beach filled with police, sheriff, and fire-rescue boats. A civilian medical helicopter landed on



A USCG helicopter flies over Tampa Fire Rescue as it prepares to land on the island.



Auxiliary vessel *ALL Booked Up* and its crew maintaining a safety zone to keep curious onlookers from entering the rescue scene.

scene to take victims to local area hospitals, followed by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue transported less critical victims back to the dock while Tampa Fire Rescue extinguished the fire.

Once the Auxiliary vessels were released from the scene they made their way back to Williams Park. There, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue had several ambulances staged awaiting the arrival of victims. ✦



Hillsborough County Fire Rescue at Williams Park prepared to receive victims from the burning boat. The more seriously injured were transported by emergency helicopters to local area hospitals.



Sid Maillet from FL 75 and crew member aboard the *Gulf Lady* watches as Hillsborough Fire Rescue prepares to off load more survivors.

Flotilla News

Flotilla 72



Marvin Bayles, FC

Flotilla 72 continues to participate in all areas including but not limited to Operations, Public Education and Vessel Safety Checks. Our members participated in the 2009 Gasparilla Boat Parade, and in February and March of this year, we offered the *Suddenly In Command* Program. This four-hour program covers the basics such as getting to know your boat, basic marine radio communication, an introduction to the rules of the road, types of emergencies that can arise and what to do when emergencies do occur.



It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of Lt. Col Edward J. Rochford Jr., USMC (retired). Ed was a Veteran of WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War. His many awards included a Purple Heart Medal with Gold Star; the Vietnam Service

Medal with four Stars, and a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. Ed, along with his wife and member Theresa volunteered at the USCG Station St. Petersburg and Auxiliary Flotilla 72 for many years. He will be missed and our deepest sympathies go out to his family.



Uncovering our history...

We found documents establishing our Flotilla on March 15, 1940, making it one of the oldest flotillas in the country. Last year we were joined in the celebration of our flotilla and our history by Peter Lore, then DCDR (elect).

Photos provided by Marvin Bayles, FC

**USCG Auxiliary
Flotilla 72
All Volunteers
Always Ready
Since
March 15, 1940**



St. Petersburg, FL (June 23, 1999) – U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist Ed Rochford plots a course on a chart in the operations center at Coast Guard Group St. Petersburg. USCG photo by PA1 Harry Craft, III





Flotilla News

Flotilla 74

If you have not yet seen the new flotilla sign, it looks great. Sunday, May 31, 2009, the new flotilla sign was installed. The public is noticing. Brian Wohlwend, FSO-PE, is receiving phone calls from people driving on South Kings Avenue in Brandon, Fla. They are requesting information about the Boating Safety Classes. Many thanks to all of the members of FL 74 who worked to make the sign a reality.



We conduct Vessel Safety Checks twice a month at Williams Park in River-view, Florida, right off US HWY 41. Our schedule is the first and third Saturday of each month. Contact Richard Bailey, our FSO-VE, at 813-454-5181 to confirm dates. Please be there by 10:00 a.m. to help Richard set up.

The vessel checks run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The uniform of the day is Operational Dress Uniforms (ODU) and blue Auxiliary ball cap. This is a very important task as it brings us face to face with the boating public.

When you do these Vessel Safety Checks, it becomes apparent how much we can teach boaters about boating safety. We have enlightened many boaters and we can be proud that our diligence has saved lives.



On May 9, 2009, Flotilla 74 held an American Boating Safety program at the Off The Wall Adventures, located at 2055 Shepherd Road, Lakeland, Florida. The American Boating Safety program started at 9 a.m. with eight students attending. Six members of the Jefferson family attended the boating safety program. The Jefferson family decided to attend the boating program after purchasing a new boat. Having limited boating knowledge, they were not taking the new boat out until completing this vital training. The instructors for the program were Wally Lowery, Ronald Matz, Galen Johnston, Jim Mulligan, Gilbert Thomas and Bob Gibson. ✦



Ron Matz, FC



Ron Matz, August Miller and Kevin Matz setting the sign in front of the building on South Kings Avenue in Brandon.

Photo by Gil Thomas, VFC



Left to right: Ed Knight, Ken Morningstar, Bob Hehnlly, Jim Wood and Jim Potts.

Photo by Roger Sneden

Flotilla News

Flotilla 75



Joe Gonzalez, FC

Ray Stewart, FSO-PA, contributed an article and photographs about this event to the most recent issue of the *Breeze*, our District 7 news publication. *Bravo Zulu to Ray!*

Our members are involved in various activities including crew training, Operations, Public Education, Vessel Safety Checks, and Fellowship, and answer the call whenever vessels, crew or other support is needed. Members Walter Wagner, Ray Stewart and Ted Cohen attended the Commissioning of the Cutter *Alligator* on March 9, 2009 at Sector St. Petersburg.



Our Flotilla provides free Vessel Safety Checks at William's Park on Hwy 41 in Gibsonton on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. We also provide vessel exams at the Riverview Community Center launch ramp, and at Simmon's Park in Ruskin. Shown here is Walter Wagner performing a Vessel Safety Check on a Personal Watercraft at the Williams Park boat ramp.

Above photo appears on the Flotilla 75 website under the "Vessel Exams" tab. The photographer's name is not provided.





Flotilla News

Flotilla 78



Valerie Frenandes, FC



The Flotilla has an on-going BS&S class which is well attended. In the top photo provided, participants are learning to tie knots. Left: Robert Schuler teaches the basics of charting and plotting. (Photos courtesy FL 78 web-site.)

While FL 78 is the smallest Flotilla in the Division, we participate in Division events whenever we are called upon, be it offering our vessels or members as crew, or our presence to show our support to our Coast Guard partners.

You will always find our members at fellowship events such as the Division 7 Annual Picnic on May 16, 2009 at Ft De Soto National Park. ✦

*Flotilla 78
celebrated its 50th
Anniversary on
October 10, 2008.*



Flotilla News

Flotilla 79



Kevin Williams, FC



Flotilla 79 hosted the February 14, 2009 Team Coordination Training (TCT), attended by more than 60 Coast Guard active duty and reservists and Auxiliarists from the West Central Florida Coast Guard stations and Auxiliary flotillas. Co-presented by BOSN 4 Pete Louza, USCG, Sector St. Petersburg and Auxiliarist Amos Johnson, FL 79, the training included a number of exercises in which Guardians and Auxiliary members jointly participated.

Right: Newly-appointed FL 79 Fellowship Chairman Brian Garry restocks breakfast snacks for Coast Guard reservists visiting the galley during the TCT seminar. Pete Louzao, USCG, AUXLO, is in the center facing Garry.

Below: FL 79's Bunny Johnson expertly managed the TCT seminar sign-in process.

Photos by Tim Teahan, VFC, FSO-PA FL 79



**See Page 17
for high-
lights of
Flotilla 79
NSBW
events!**





Flotilla News

Flotilla 7-16

On April 10, 2009, Don Rimel performed his career 1,000 Vessel Safety Check during his fifth year as a Vessel Examiner (VE). On April 30, 2009, he performed his career 1,000 visit after being a Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor (PV) for only 22 months.

- Our PV team has performed 295 Program Visits to date and lead the division for the third consecutive year.
- Our VE team has performed 245 Vessel Safety Checks to date and lead the division for the fifth consecutive year.



National Safe Boating Week (NSBW)

April 21, 2009 Don Rimel wrote a proclamation and took it to the Mayor of the City of Gulfport to present later. He then wrote to Gulfport Municipal Marina letting them know about the three-day boating safety booth and vessel exams scheduled May 15-17, 2009, and took a copy of this letter to Gulfport City Hall. Don followed up these initiatives by writing an article about National Safe Boating Week and the flotilla's scheduled events which was published in a local newspaper, the *Gabber*, and ran for two weeks.

On May 07, 2009, Kevin Yeaton and Don Rimel met with Mayor Michael J. Yakes of Gulfport, Fla. where they were parented with the signed proclamation. Photos were taken, and Don wrote another article and took it to the *Gabber* for publication.

May 15 and 17 Kevin and Don were the only members from 7-16 that staffed the Boating Safety Booth and performed vessel exams at the Gulfport Municipal Marina. On Saturday, May 16, Don staffed the boating safety booth but closed down early to join Kevin Yeaton at the Division picnic at Ft. De Soto National Park to help with the cooking. During the three day event at the Gulfport Municipal Marina a total of 15 vessel exams were performed. On May 17, while Kevin and Don were staffing the safety booth, they were interviewed by Channel 9 and Channel 11/28. The interviews were televised on Channel 9 and Channel 11/28 in St. Petersburg, Tampa, and other areas.

On May 23, 2009, Don Rimel, DVCDR, attended the National Safe Boating Week event scheduled by Flotilla 79 at the Gandy Boat Ramp where he performed three more vessel exams.

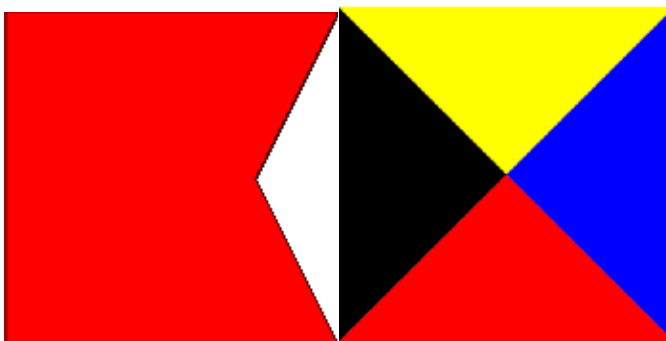


One member, Susan Curcio transferred from New York to our flotilla. One new member, Nancy Lowry, will be sworn in at the July meeting. One member, Leonard Dolney, is transferring from FL 11-3 to our flotilla. Leonard Dolney has taken over as the Public Education officer for the BS&S program. He is filling the void left by instructors who are ill, on vacation, or who return to the North during the hot summer months.

- FL 7-16 is presently the only flotilla putting out a monthly newsletter within the division. ✦



Linda Harwitt, FC



Staff Reports



Terry Affeld

Communications

We held a Division Radio Net Drill on June 21, 2009 which was a success.

A message was passed around the Division Radios including Station St Petersburg. It came back exactly as sent out. Credit goes to Station St Petersburg who (due to a communications glitch) did not get the word of the net drill until about 30 minutes before it was scheduled. Despite this, they did a great job.

We missed Madeira Beach Radio as their flotilla was transferred to Division 11.

Just a reminder to check all radio gear before hurricane season arrives. ✦



Peter Ubillos

Navigation Systems

Navigation Systems (formerly known as Aids to Navigation) includes not only inspection of Federal (ATON) and Private Aids to Navigation (PATON), but also bridge inspection and updating of charts, Coast Pilot, and Small Craft Facility (marinas). Up until now, most of our efforts in Division 7 has been in dealing with the navigation aids.

A workshop was held in June at Flotilla 72 which, due to lack of time, was only able to cover the navigation aids and the reporting procedure, however, another workshop will be scheduled this fall. Participants at this last workshop suggested that we conduct the next one on a Saturday. The next workshop will cover chart and Coast Pilot updating procedures.

Last month we participated in a meeting held with the Aids to Navigation Team, Sector St. Petersburg. We discussed issues such as report quality and their effectiveness. In some cases, the Coast Guard has not kept up with the Local Notice to Mariners or

with our reports. The USCG team members at the meeting we met were responsible for the repair of Federal buoys and daybeacons performed predominantly in 24-foot aluminum boats. Cutters such as the *Joshua Appleby* service buoys, while Day beacon piles are installed by workboats like the *Vise*. This group covers the entire Gulf coast from Venice to Yankeetown.

Except for inspection requests in the aftermath of a storm, most of our work is on PATONS. There are 475 in Division 7's area of responsibility (AOR). Flotillas 72 and 79 have inspected almost all of the PATONS in their respective

AORs and we are only half way through the year. Between these two flotillas they have responsibility for 54% of all the PATONS. - OUTSTANDING!

Inspection work may slow down during the summer months, but I expect it to pick up again in the fall. We have a number of verifiers that are "snow birds" and will not be available until then. ✦



Flotilla	Total # Certified Aids Verifiers *	Total # PATONS in AOR	Inspected To Date
0702	8	148	83%
0704	10	56	0
0705	11	59	0
0708	4	57	11%
0709	8	108	90%
0716	4	47	0





Staff Reports



Tim Teahan

Public Affairs

Tim Teahan's finger prints are all over this issue of the *Intercom*, from photographs for his own flotilla's page to articles about National Safe Boating Week.

Ron Matz, ASO-PA has undertaken setting up and staffing the several boat shows in the

Tampa Bay area. Bravo Zulu to both of these individuals who do outstanding jobs behind the scenes. ✦

Publications

Three flotillas have publish periodic newsletters this year. Two of these editors, John Lowe, FSO-PB 74, and Tim Manning, FSO-PB 79, are new Publication Officers and so far, their work has been outstanding! Don Rimel, FSO-PB 7-16, publishes a newsletter every month despite all of the time he devotes to the



Dottie Riley

Vessel Examiner and Program Visitor programs. I encourage all Flotilla Publication Officers to send me their newsletters before converting them to PDF's. This will allow me to more readily "grab" articles and photographs for publication in the *Intercom*.

The *Intercom* cannot exist without your input. Every member within the division- not just staff officers- are encouraged to submit photographs and articles. I welcome suggestions about subjects, events and articles of interest from every member. This is *your* newsletter- take ownership!

The *Intercom* earned first place in the 2009 District 7 Publications Contest. Our District Public Affairs team headed by Tom Loughlin, DSO-PA, judged this year's entries. My hope is that our prize-winning standing within District 7 will encourage more submissions. All eyes are on us now! Be seen- be heard, and send in your photographs and articles! As Division Publication Officer, I did not accomplish this alone. Your contributions made the award possible. ✦

Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor

During the month of May there were 58 Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) visits (475 year to date). We added three new Partners but lost two others. Division 7 is presently servicing 272 Partners in the RBS program and meeting 87% of all minimal expectations.

Although all FSO's-PV were reminded on several occasions to conduct "Small Craft Facility Updates" (7-55 NOAA) during "Safe Boating Week", none were reported.

At this time, another Program Visitor Qualification Workshop has not been scheduled.

ANSC has sent Division 7 twenty (20) information racks through the SO-PV for distribution, which will be made to the flotillas at the next Division 7 meeting.

Ronny Merritt, DSO-PV, has suggested that as a part of Marina Day on August 8, 2009, all Flotilla Staff Officers-Program Visitors coordinate with their Flotilla Staff Officers-Vessel Examiners and Flotilla Staff Officers-Public Education. These teams should select a marina within their area of responsibility to conduct Vessel Examinations and information sessions. ✦



Jim Mulligan



Other News...

It's been a busy year for Division 7...

The last issue of the *Intercom* was published in September of 2008. While it is not possible or practical to publish articles about events that are more history than news, we do offer this photographic calendar review of memorable or significant past events.

October 2008

Raymond Paysour, District Captain-West (elect) and Walter Jaskiewicz, District Chief of Staff (elect) preside over the Division 7 election for 2009 officers held on October 25, 2008 at Flotilla 73. Pete Lore and Don Rimel emerged as our Division Commander and Division Vice Commander for 2009.



Flotilla 78 celebrated its 50th Anniversary on October 10, 2008. From left to right, Anita Schuler, Brad Marchant, Gil Murphy, Ron Bradach, Zelda Troiano, Ed O'Krent, Grace Marchant, Phil Creter, Valerie Fernandes, Bob Schuler and Warren Pfirman.

Photo by Pete Lore, DCDR 7



November 2008



The division's November social calendar offered numerous opportunities for participation. The Division picnic was held on November 8, 2008, and the Division cruise left port a week later. Burnie Wilhelm's wife, Doris, (FL 79) celebrated her birthday aboard the cruise ship. Cozumel was beautiful!

(Picnic photo by B. Hagan FL 79)



Note: Unless otherwise credited, all photos are by Dorothy Joan Riley.



December 2008

December is our traditional month for holding the Change of Watch Ceremony and officers are quite busy transferring roles and responsibilities to the incoming staff and elected officers. The Change of Watch Ceremony on December 6, 2008 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa was well attended.



December 6, 2008- Peter Lore and Don Rimel are sworn into office as Division Commander and Division Vice Commander respectively by Raymond Paysour, DCAPT-W at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa.

(Look closely at this photograph. Is that a stable in the background? One can almost hear the refrain, "We three kings....")

Right: December is also the month for many holiday celebrations. Don Raleigh, FEL-CH, and Ruth Raleigh attended many of the flotilla holiday celebrations throughout our division. This photo was taken December 15, 2008 while attending the special holiday meeting at Flotilla 79 in Tampa.



January 2009



Left: **Blackthorn Memorial**

Every January, Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg pays tribute to the twenty-three seamen who lost their lives when the Cutter *Blackthorn* collided with another vessel near the Skyway Bridge on January 28, 1980. Auxiliarists from three Divisions responded to the call for assistance and pay tribute alongside their Coast Guard partners. *Photo by Jeff Lawlor, 11-1*

Right: The **Gasparilla Invasion** prides itself on being the largest boat parade in the country. As in previous years, Cliff Martin, SO-OP 7 coordinated all of the Auxiliary vessels from the several divisions that participated on February 7, 2009 in Tampa Bay.

February 2009



March 2009



Members attended the Commissioning of the *USCGC Alligator* on March 9, 2009 at Sector St. Petersburg. Ray Stewart, FSO-PA 75 took this photograph of Ted Cohen and Walter Wagner, all from FL 75.



Division 7 held its annual Awards Banquet on March 28, 2009 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa. While we include this event in our photographic calendar review, we also have an article on page 18.



Safe Boating Precautions Discussed On FOX TV 13 'YOUR TURN' After Tragic Loss On The Gulf

Flotilla 79's
Amos Johnson
speaks of prepared-
ness and safety tips...



March definitely came roaring in like a lion, especially out on the Gulf of Mexico. A day of not-so-perfect weather took the lives of three men and nearly claimed a fourth. This tragic event once again thrust the subject of Boating Safety to the forefront, unfortunately, due to the effects of bad news.

On Thursday, March 5, the Fox Channel 13's "YOUR TURN" addressed the incident and what possible precautions could have prevented this tragedy.

Fox 13 moderator, Kathy Fountain, sat with three guests: Terry Tomalin, Outdoor Editor of the St. Pete Times; Dan O'Shea, former Navy SEAL; and our own Amos Johnson, of Flotilla 79. They all discussed the effects of hypothermia as it related to the physical

and psychological impact upon persons immersed in cold water; loss of body heat and physical dexterity, and the possibility of hallucinations as the body temperatures plummet.

Amos Johnson spoke about the need to be prepared. Safety is no accident and he displayed a variety of safety equipment: EPIRBs, cell phones, and GPS units among other items. He sited our Boating Skills & Seamanship course as a means for the public to educate themselves.

Photos and story by Tim Manning, FSO-PB, FL 79



Commissioner Ferlita Helps Promote Safe Boating

Article and photos by Tim Teahan, SO-PA

Hillsborough County Commissioner Rose Ferlita celebrated part of the 2009 Memorial Day Weekend by participating in Flotilla 79's National Safe Boating Week promotion at the Gandy Ramp. Along with the Coast Guard, the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Ferlita urged Tampa Bay residents to make boating safer by wearing life jackets and taking a safe boating course.



Commissioner Rose Ferlita dons a leopard print inflatable PFD.

The Commissioner spoke about the ease of wearing inflatable life jackets and then donned an inflatable PFD with a leopard pattern provided by West Marine and activated the jacket.



The FWC's Joanne Adams took a dip to demonstrate inflatable life jacket operation.



Ferlita after activating the inflatable life jacket.



With Ferlita, FWC officers Jack Salafia (right) and Leo Isambert and Tim Teahan, VFC, FL 79.



NSBW 2009 FWC, Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary participants.



From left, Craig Starns, Heleyde Aponte, Commissioner Ferlita, Betty Hagan, Don Rimel and Phyllis Garry.

Editor's Note: Tim Teahan created such an attractive presentation of Flotilla 79's National Safe Boating Week efforts that the Intercom chose to publish it in its entirety (except for some minor edits to make the page fit.)

News and Articles by Members...

Division Annual Awards Banquet: And the Winners Are...

By Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB 7

Division 7 held its Annual Award Banquet on March 28, 2009 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa. Guests of honor included COMO Allen Brown, Immediate Past District Commodore, and Raymond Paysour, District Captain-West, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7. Other guests included BM1 Matthew Fuller, USCG, Sector St. Petersburg, and BM1 Adam Parsons, USCG, Prevention Department, Tampa, Florida.



BM1 Matthew Fuller and BM1 Adam Parsons

Several months have passed since this event, and the awards that were not accepted by the winners at the banquet have since been presented at flotilla meetings. What members may not be aware of at this late date is the complete listing of awards, the category or basis for each, and the individual member or flotilla to whom each was conferred.

Individual Awards

Most Public Education Instruction Hours:
Steve Plass, FL 79

Most Public Education Aide Hours:
Marvin Bayles, FL 72

Most Skipper Hours:
Kathleen Kruczek, FL 79

Most Crew Hours:
Kevin Yeaton, FL 7-16

Most Vessel Safety Checks:
Don Rimel, 7-16

Most Program Visit Hours:
Don Rimel, FL 7-16

Division 7 Honor Roll

Presented annually to those individuals who have expended more than 500 active hours supporting the Division. While a complete list of recipients was not available at the time of publication, in 2008 there was a total of 31,807 hours expended by the members of Division 7.



Honor Roll recipients present at the Award Banquet included From left: Peter Ubillos, FL 73, Larry Gellinger FL 73, Valerie Fernandes, FL 78, Kevin Yeaton, FL 7-16, Robert Wild, FL 73, Peter Lore, DCDR, Don Rimel, DVCDR, Eleazar 'Al' Escorihuela, FL 74, Gilbert Thomas, FL 74, Marvin Bayles, FL 72 and Kevin Williams, FL 79. *Note: Some of the Flotilla Commanders pictured above may be accepting awards on behalf of their members.*

Division 7 Merit Award

Presented to an individual for outstanding contributions to the Division that cannot be measured by man-hours alone:
Eleazar 'Al' Escorihuela, FL 74, SO-MT 7

Julie Award

May be presented to up to three Division members who have made an outstanding contribution in recruiting, and retention and Mentor Excellence:
Larry Gellinger, FL 73





News and Articles by Members...

Vans Evers Award

Presented to a couple or individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the ideals of the Auxiliary:
Donton and Ruth Raleigh, FL 79

Flotilla Awards

Krough Award (Public Education)
FL 7-16

Oalmann Award (Member Training)
FL 79

Mike Award (Personnel Services)
FL 73

Prescott Award (Vessel Examinations)
7-16

Richie Award for Public Affairs
7-16

Richie Award for Publications
FL 73

McKendree Award (Specialty Course Advancements)
FL-78

Nettling Awards (Operations)
FL 79

Shingledecker Award (Program Visitor)
FL 7-16

Duignan Award (Fellowship)
FL-73

The Captain's Jug

Excellence in the "Four Cornerstones" of the Auxiliary: Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship
FL 73

The following members received the **Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon and miniature medal**:

Eleazar 'Al' Escorihuela, FL 74, SO-MT 7

Larry Gellinger, FL 73

Dorothy Riley, FL 79, SO-PB 7

Gilbert Thomas, FL 74, SO-PS 7

Clifford Martin, FL 79, SO-OP 7

Don Rimel, FSO-PB 73

Peter Ubillos, FL 73, SO-NS 7

Robert Wild, FSO-PB, FL 73

Kathleen Kruczek, a member of FL 79 in Tampa earned the most prestigious Award of the day. "Kathi" as she prefers to be called, is the Division's most active coxswain and devotes countless hours every year to Marine Safety, Training and Security Patrols, and Aids to Navigation Verification. She is committed to the Division's Crew Training- Member Training program as has Mentored as many as six new crew members and one new coxswain. Kathi was awarded the **Auxiliary Achievement Medal**. We are all exceedingly proud of Kathi and offer her much deserved congratulations.

The recipient of the Division 7 Auxiliarist of the Year Award was Dorothy Riley, FL 79, SO-PB 7 and editor of this publication. ✦



Raymond Paysour, District Captain West (DCAPT-W) and COMO Allen Brown, Immediate Past District Commodore, D7, present the Auxiliary Achievement Medal to Kathi Kruczek. Beside her stands Pete Lore, Division Commander.

News and Articles by Members...

From Cassock to Tropical Blues: One New Member Can Say Mass.

By J. Michael Shea

On May 18, 2009, Monsignor Desmond Daly was sworn in as a new member of Flotilla 79 in Tampa. The Monsignor is the parish priest at Christ the King Catholic Church, one of the leading Catholic Churches in the Tampa area. Father Daly was born in Ireland, educated in England and Europe and came to

America in the late 1960's. For those of you who thought it took a long time to be approved through the security background checks, this should make you feel a little better: it took seventeen months for our good Father to be approved.

The first problem "Des", as he likes to be called, had was with his new member application. We used an old form just as we were changing over to new ones. The new form has four new questions the old one did not have. After some months the application came back. Then, after we completed the new form and sent it in, there was the issue of this Irish heritage. Des was born in Dublin. It did not matter that he has been an American citizen since 1972 or that he submitted a copy of his U.S. Passport with the application, the security folks needed to see his nationalization papers. Well, Des could not locate the original 1972 papers, and the security folks finally accepted that he was an American citizen, had a U.S. Passport and has had one for many years.

The next hurdle was that he had not answered one of the new questions – had he ever been convicted of a felony? The answer was 'no', and by now some fifteen months had passed since Des sent in his original application. At long last the security back ground folks cleared Father Daly and he was sworn in as a



From the left, friend and Mentor Mike Shea, SO-MS, Fr. Desmond Daly and Heleyde Aponte, FSO-PS.

Photo by Tim Teahan

full member of the USCG Auxiliary.

Father Daly has many accomplishments to his name and has been a very active person in the Tampa Bay area for many years. He said he was looking forward to serving his country, just as we all do. He will use his experiences as a priest to help any way that he can. On a light note, he is already saying prayers for those of us who have deviated off course. On a more serious note, Des is willing to provide an ear to anyone who feels they just need to talk, so if you are looking for someone who is friendly and open minded with a good point of view, Des is here for you.

Father Daly will be a great member and you will all find him to be a wonderful guy to be around – after all, he is an Irishman, and we at FL 79 are pleased to welcome him aboard. ✦





News and Articles by Members...

Boating Safety Instructor Course Updates.

By Timothy Teahan, SO-PA 7, FSO-PA FL75



Auxiliarists Pete Lore, DCDR-7, (second from left) and Glenn Dobos, SO-PE (far right) share a light moment with FWC officials Shaun Davis (far left), Capt. Richard Moore and Brian Rehwinkel during the Boating Safety Instructor and Course Provider Update on May 9, 2009 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa.

Flotilla 79 and Division 7 officers worked with Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) Boating Enforcement officials in Tallahassee to organize the FWC's West Coast version of its Boating Safety Instructor and Course Provider Update on May 9, 2009 at FL 79. The seminar, presented by Capt. Richard Moore, Brian Rehwinkel and Shaun Davis, was attended by 25 people including Auxiliarists from Divisions 7, 8 and 11, U.S. Power Squadron representatives and independent boating safety course providers. In addition to providing new information about Florida boating law changes, the update focused on educating attendees on advances in inflatable life jacket technology and demonstrated inflatable PFD activation. ✦

Happy Anniversary!

The United States Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrated its 70th Anniversary on June 23, 2009.

Said Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, USCG:

*"Auxiliary performance has been nothing short of stellar, and its greatest impacts are readily reflected by Auxiliarists spirit of patriotism and dedication to the Coast Guard men and women with whom they serve. I therefore intend to duly recognize the Auxiliary with an award of the **Coast Guard Unit Commendation** as part of its 70th Anniversary celebration at Coast Guard Headquarters on June 23. Please join me in setting aside time to recognize the exceptional honor, respect, and devotion to duty so consistently displayed by our Coast Guard Auxiliarists, and thank them for their service."*



The Yorktown Experience:

Division 7 Member Attends Historic School

Article and photos by Valerie Fernandes, FC 78



Hamilton Hall, where classes were held.

Last summer while recovering from foot surgery in her Virginia home, Valerie Fernandes felt guilty about not being able to go on patrols with Auxiliarists from District 5. She received an email about the Advanced Skills Weekend at Yorktown, Va., and since she needed to take the Auxiliary Navigation (AUXNAV) exam, she thought it worth a try to see if she could attend this course to prepare for the exam. She completed the application, chose three courses in order of preference, and shortly thereafter, received an email stating her first preference, AUXNAV A, was available.

Founded in 1959, TRACEN Yorktown is the Coast Guard's largest training command. It is located on the easternmost tip of Virginia's historic triangle, which consists of Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg.

Yorktown was established by Virginia's colonial government in 1691 to regulate trade and to collect taxes on both imports and exports for Great Britain. By the early 1700's, Yorktown had emerged as a major Virginia port and economic center. On October 19, 1781, the British army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis was forced to surrender the port and all

other British claims to American soil to General Washington's combined American and French armies.

Yorktown is an interesting place to visit, especially the Yorktown Battlefield that is part of the National Park Service system. Valerie chose to stay at a motel on the York River about two miles from the Coast Guard base. The two-mile drive on Ballard Street took

her through the town of Yorktown, wound through the battlefield, and ended at the entrance to the base.

The Fall Advanced Skills Weekend is an excellent training opportunity for Auxiliarists in the Fifth District. It is held at TRACEN Yorktown twice a year, fall and spring. Fourteen courses are available each weekend, and berthing is available free on a first come first serve basis. All the Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) courses are available during this weekend except for Auxiliary Search and Rescue Coordination and Training (AUXSCE), which spans two weekends.

Also available to auxiliarists are:

Initial Introduction To Marine Safety/Introduction To Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (IIMS/IMSEP): IIMS provides comprehensive overview of Coast Guard Marine Safety programs, missions, legal authorities, and relationship to occupational safety and health. The IMSEP course is designed to introduce Coast Guard members to the marine safety organization, history, missions, functions and programs of the US Coast Guard.





Assistant Container Inspector Course (AUX-CI):

Teaches minimum competencies to complete an exterior Container Inspection including a review of both the transportation markings/papers and external container integrity.

Assistant Contingency Preparedness Specialist (AUX-ACP):

Teaches minimum competencies to assist the local Marine Safety Office in planning for various incidents.

General Mentoring Session for Marine Safety Personal Qualification Standards (PQSs):

Auxiliarists who need mentoring and sign off in AUX-EK, AUX-MEES, AUX-MSAM, AUX-CI and AUX-MSW are welcome.

Aids to Navigation Verifier Course (AUX-ATON):

Teaches the classifications, types, markings, etc. of aids to navigation, including buoys, markers, ranges, lighthouses, etc., and prepares one to determine if ATONs are in their proper location, good physical condition, and functioning properly, and how to report nonfunctional ATONs.

Assistant Food Services Specialist Course (AUX-CHEF):

Teaches the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare an Auxiliarist to assist or augment a Coast Guard Food Services specialist at a Coast Guard unit. Course includes both classroom discussion and galley food preparation.

Global Positioning System (GPS) Introduction:

Provides a technical overview of GPS and teaches the fundamentals of using GPS in marine navigation.

The Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program:

This course is designed to prepare the student to conduct Recreational Boating Safety visits as a Program Visitor.

Prior to arriving at Yorktown, students should obtain their own study materials and thoroughly review them. The

weekend is an intensive overview of the subject matter beginning on Friday evening and lasting all day Saturday. The exam for AUXOP class is then administered on Sunday morning. The instructor in Valerie's AUX-NAV A course graded the exams once they were finished, so all participants knew immediately whether they passed.

After arriving back home, Valerie learned that the building adjacent to all the ATONS pictured (see photograph) was the ATON Museum. She plans to definitely revisit Yorktown and to make a visit to the museum a priority. ✦



Above: Sunset on the York River in Virginia.

Below: Sailing vessel *Alliance* fires her canons on the York River.



Sometimes You Just Have to Laugh!

July 5, 2009

Dear Cliff,

As I said on the phone, I thought I had seen everything on the water, but this set of pictures proves that I was mistaken.

While on patrol this afternoon, a boat passed us and told us that there was a rubber raft floating in the middle the ship channel. We turned around, went back, and sure enough, there was a child's swimming pool--the type you might find in someone's back yard for use by small children---floating in the channel. The unusual part is that there were two young adult males in the swimming pool with all of their fishing gear. Their intentions were to go fishing, but as they merrily paddled their way across the ship channel, the wind picked up making it impossible for them to reach their intended destination.

We called Station St. Pete, and after conferring with the Officer of the Day, we received permission to tow them to Davis Island where we deposited them safely on the dog park beach.

Clearly, this is one for the record books!

*Sincerely,
J. Michael Shea*



*Photos by
Judy O'Brien*

The two eager fishermen definitely found themselves in harm's way. Davis Island Yacht Club is in the distance.

Edited and condensed version of an email message forwarded to the *Intercom* for publication.





2009 District 7 FALL CONFERENCE (DCON)

September 10 - 13, 2009



Hilton Bayfront Hotel
333 First Street South
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701-4342
Phone: 727-894-5000

ROOM RATE: \$104.00 per night

COMO Frasch and his team have planned a very informative conference with many training opportunities for District 7 Auxiliarist. We will present ICS 210, CPR, RBS, Operations, PS, Joint PA-PB workshop, table-top presentations, computer classes and more! The complete schedule is posted on the District 7 website where you can also find conference registration forms and other information about this annual training event.

In addition to training and instruction, several fellowship events are scheduled. Meet members from other sectors and divisions.

Come for the training! Come for the fun!

Thursday night:

Commodore's Open House at Sector St. Petersburg. The group will have a cookout for us at their beautiful clubhouse and deck overlooking the water.

Friday Night:

RADM Branham and several of our USCG Sector Commanders will be attending the Friday Banquet.

(Uniform: Dinner dress or appropriate civilian attire is suggested.)

Choice for Friday's dinner is: Chicken, Steak or Fish

Saturday Night:

Western Theme Fun Night with live entertainment featuring song and dance music. As always, we will have contests and several prizes to give away!

The cost for the both banquets is \$38.00 per person.

Register for the weekend- or just for a day! The conference is in our "back yard". It cannot get any more convenient than this!



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

SO-PB
1630 Wakefield Drive
Brandon, FL 33511-2325



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We're on the web!
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Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

Message from the Commandant...



"Looking After Our Own" is this year's Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) Campaign theme. I can't imagine one more fitting for the 85th Anniversary of CGMA. It underscores the importance of internalizing our Guardian Ethos — looking after our shipmates with the same level of dedication with which we safeguard the maritime public.

"...I am proud to report that CGMA provided over \$763,000 to fellow shipmates and coworkers impacted by the Hurricanes last fall in addition to \$4.2 million in direct financial assistance to others throughout the year. CGMA also delivered over \$31,000 worth of much needed services through programs such as free personal financial management counseling and training, education loan origination fee reimbursements, respite care, lifetime survivor bene-fit information, and newborn supplies.

"In the face of increased operational activity, rising food and fuel prices, and an economy in turmoil, it's reassuring to know that CGMA is ready to help when times are tough. Each of us is impacted by the current economic downturn so whatever support you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Please carry on this proud tradition of being each other's Guardian by looking after our own!"

T H A D W . A L L E N

Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

"...Looking After Our Own"

If you set aside and lost your donation envelope, it is not too late to contribute. Contributions may be made on the CGMA website at <http://www.cgmahq.org/>