



THE INTERCOM

Theresa Rochford Receives Auxiliary Commendation Medal

Story and photo by Dorothy Riley, SO-PB

In a surprise ceremony held on Thursday, February 23rd, Captain Joseph Servidio, Commander, Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, awarded the Auxiliary Commendation Medal to Theresa S. Rochford from Flotilla 72, in St. Petersburg. The citation was read by LTJG LeNell Carson, while CAPT Servidio presented both the Citation and the medal to Mrs. Rochford. Theresa was cited for outstanding achievement from June 1994 through December 2006 while serving in various administrative support capacities at Coast Guard Group St. Petersburg and Sector St. Petersburg. Most notable of her many achievements is that Theresa manually reviewed and processed over 3000 Patrol Orders a year, and provided expert advice, and assisted in the conversion of the Patrol Order entry process into an electronic data base. To date, she has processed over 30,000 Patrol Orders.

The ceremony was attended by several members of the Coast Guard, as well as Edward Rochford, her husband, also a member of Flotilla 72, Carl Nelson, the Division Seven Vice-Captain, Dick Erett, the Immediate Past Commander of Division Seven, Robert Helmling, Vice Commander of Flotilla 72, and other guests from both sides of "Team Coast Guard".

Mrs. Rochford has been a member of the Auxiliary for over 20 years. She and her husband, Edward, participate within the Auxiliary on many levels. She never misses a boat show, assists in her flotilla's Public Education program, and conducts safety and security patrols.

Besides her many duties with the Auxiliary, Theresa and her husband, Edward, served as tour guides for several years aboard the H.M.S. Bounty. Her German speaking skills came in very handy when German, Austrian and Swiss tourists came aboard.

Bravo Zulu, Theresa!



CAPT Servidio attaches the Auxiliary Commendation Medal to Theresa Rochford's jacket.

In this Issue:

Masthead:.....	2
From the Helm:.....	3
Flotilla News:.....	4-10
Staff Reports and Other News.....	11-20

Division Elected Officers

Unit	Position	Name
Div 7	DCP	Conrad Palermo
Div 7	VCP	Peter Lore
Div 7	IPDCP	Richard Erett
FL-72	FC	Glen T. Dobos
	VFC	Robert L. Helmling
FL-73	FC	Robert J. Wild
	VFC	Peter P. Lore
FL-74	FC	Lawrence A. Neu
	VFC	Ronald G. Matz
FL-75	FC	Catherine M. Lori
	VFC	Patrick D. Costello
FL-78	FC	Robert Schuler
	VFC	Edgar O'Krent
FL-79	FC	Richard George
	VFC	Kevin Williams
FL-7-16	FC	Kevin Yeaton
	VFC	Donald E. Rimel

*Division Staff Officers*

Position	Name
SO-AN	Lawrence A. Neu
SO-CM	Terence E. Affeld
SO-CS	Susan J. Fearnley
SO-FN	Wally Lowry
SO-IS	Alma Parrish
SO-MA	Louis Miosi
SO-MS	John Michael Shea
SO-MT	Leonard J. Dolney
SO-OP	Clifford J. Martin
SO-PA	Catherine M. Lori
SO-PB	Dorothy J. Riley
SO-PE	Peter P. Lore
SO-PS	Julie Benedict Dolney
SO-SR	Patricia Erett
SO-VE	Joseph Gonzalez
CH-FEL	Linda Barnard
ASO-CS	Terry Modica
ASO-IS	Joseph Parrish
ASO-OP	Robert Stribling
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 megapixels or better. Do not compress 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 shot the image.

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 expressed 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....

Division Captain, Conrad Palermo

Are you a “United States Coast Guard Auxiliarist”?

If you are, we need you! This message is for all Auxiliarists, but especially for those that for some reason, have found it a little hard to come to the Flotilla meetings or participate in Auxiliary activities. There must have been some reason why you initially joined. It may have been to give a little back, to learn, to be on the water, or just to get together with a group of special individuals that share a common ground. Whatever the reason, we need you.

The Division is going through a revitalization process in order to provide the membership with opportunities to learn, participate, and do something positive. Your Flotilla commanders and their staff are working hard to make a difference. This process will not happen over-night. It will take a little time. It will, however, take even less time if you, the individual member, help by just doing one small thing: come to your Flotilla meetings. That's 1 to 2 hours, once a month, to be able to appreciate not only what the new leaders at the Flotilla level are doing, but to find out how you can attain your original objective; the reason you joined in the first place.

We are already starting a series of “AUXOP” courses in order to give the members the opportunity to earn their AUXOP device. The first one is hosted by Flotilla 72. More will follow on a constant basis. In April we start with a Division wide Crew training program which will last 3 months, and there are many other areas in which we need you. The bottom line is that we can't do everything without each member participating. We would like to see every member doing a little, vs. a few members bearing the load. After all, we are tasked by the U.S. Coast Guard with certain responsibilities and obligations. Remember that the success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary depends upon the extent of *your* participation.

Please join us in our effort to fulfill our commitments to the United States Coast Guard and its purposes, and be proud to be part of that team.

I leave you with this saying by Katharine Graham: “To love what you do and feel that it matters – how could anything be more fun?”

Conrad Palermo DCP 7-7



“The bottom line is that we can’t do everything without each member participating.”

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 72



Glenn Dobos, FC 72

Vice Commander:
Robert Helmling

Theresa Rochford earning the Auxiliary Commendation Medal is by far, the most significant event to report in this issue. Theresa had no prior knowledge of the award before the ceremony. She was told that the Auxiliary members were at Sector St. Pete to attend a meeting. Hopefully, the award was a genuine surprise.

Flotilla 72 is proud of Theresa for her many contributions over the years. That, however, does not mean that the other members of FL 72 have been sitting idle.

The Flotilla is presently hosting a Weather class, one of the several requirements for the AUX-OP device. Getting members qualified to wear this distinguished device is one of the Glenn Dobos' stated goals for this year. This, and all future Member Training classes are open to all members of Division Seven. We suggest you check the Division calendar regularly to see when and where future Member Training opportunities are scheduled.

Bottom Left: CAPT Servidio shakes hands with Carl Nelson after the award ceremony. Members of FL 72, Division Seven, and active duty personnel from Team Coast Guard socialize and prepare to enjoy a slice of the beautiful cake in honor of the occasion. Husband, and fellow member Edward Rochford, Jr. can be seen at the far right.

Bottom Right: CAPT Servidio holds the Citation for Theresa to see as LTJG LeNell Carson reads the Citation aloud.

Photographs by D. Riley, SO-PB



Auxiliary Commendation
Award



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 73

There have been several activities this month. Some of the members have been attending an AuxWea class at Flotilla 72. We have had several patrols. There was a Vessel Examiner class held at the Flotilla by Flotilla 72 FC Glenn Dobos. Thanks for your help Glenn. This means that shortly, we should be getting quite a few Vessel Safety Checks (VSC)'s accomplished.

Due to the watchful eyes of Jim Greene and Pete Lore, we have a brand new, slightly used gangway. This aluminum structure will replace the wooden one now in place. We are currently looking into doing some work on the existing dock surface.

We are sending several members to a Crew training class at Flotilla 79. This should give us an enhanced on the water presence in our AOR. The Flotilla is moving forward and it will take the efforts of all hands to be successful, so roll up your sleeves and get involved if you are not already participating.

Jim Greene, along with his wife Mary, were most instrumental in getting the first gangway for one of our floating docks. This month we got our second gangway, and guess who was responsible for that? If you answered Jim Greene, you are correct. When Jim got the gangway, it had been in outdoor storage and was filthy. He set about pressure washing it to make it look new, and something Flotilla 73 would be proud of. Over the past few years Jim and Mary took on the job of refurbishing of both heads. Jim also painted the Galley. When we had a leak in the back of our building which was ruining our ceiling tiles, he got roofing materials, climbed on the roof and made the repairs. When I set up the Division 7 display for the boat show, I noticed the tablecloths were worn and the lettering was peeling off. In passing, I mentioned this to Jim and he commented, "Mary can make new ones". Sure enough, at the next boat show, the division had new tablecloths with new lettering with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary logo proudly displayed. In addition to being on the building committee, Jim is a boat crew member and has crewed on different facilities in the Flotilla. When the division needed crew to man boats for Gasparilla, he traveled to Tampa to crew. These are just a few of the things Jim and Mary have done for the Auxiliary, and on behalf of a grateful Flotilla, let me say, Thank You.

Next month Jim and Mary will be going to Alaska for the summer. We wish you a fun vacation and catch lots of salmon!



Robert Wild, FC 73



Peter Lore, VFC,

At the Division Picnic, Peter Lore was elected the Division's new Vice Captain.

District Seven Conference

May 17, 18, 19, 2007
Punta Gorda, Florida



District 7 will have an ISAR Competition Saturday, May 19 at the Best Western Hotel in Punta Gorda, FL. At this time we have 3 teams to compete: Division 9, 10 & 11.

Friday, May 18 EXCOM will have a board meeting. The teams, judges and fellow

supports of the event will be arriving on Friday. Friday night will be Dinner on your own - there are some very nice restaurants in the area. Saturday night will be an Awards Banquet & PDCPA Meeting at the hotel restaurant.

We have room rates for \$85.00 for May 17, 18 & 19 - it could be a nice short vacation with good shopping, restaurants & sightseeing areas. A lot of shopping for the ladies - cute little shops, we'll have discount coupon books for those that attend.

The hotel has a free continental breakfast each morning in the lobby. We will have a hospitality/headquarters room available, which District 7 will furnish sandwiches, chips & drinks Saturday lunch. People can rest & visit with others in the hospitality room.

There will be observer boats available for those who would like to have a closer view from the water, but we need a head count of those that are interested.

Room reservation can be made directly to the Best Western Hotel by calling 941.639.1165.



Source: http://cgaux7.org/articles_conferences.asp



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 75

The Flotilla has an active Public Education program with various programs scheduled throughout the coming year. The 2007 Boating courses held at the Southshore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin, Florida include America's Boating Course, (ABC) which was offered in February and will again be presented on May 12 at this location. Coastal Navigation, the USCG Auxiliary's comprehensive course designed to prepare boaters with the knowledge necessary to safely pilot a boat, is scheduled for June 16 and November 17, 2007. Guy Mandingo, FSO-PE, is the contact for these programs.

Walt Wagner, FSO-VE, has a full calendar of Vessel Examination events scheduled from January through November. Scheduling dates well ahead allows the flotilla to publicize events on bulletin boards and in local news papers.

Bill Gaither, FSO-PV, found opportunities besides placing literature during a recent marine dealer visit. West Marine in Brandon informed him that they had room for at least 25 people to attend an ABC program at their location. While on a visit there, Bill also met two persons interested in joining Flotilla 75; a couple relocating from a northern division. Both are already members of the Auxiliary looking for a flotilla to join here in Florida. These serendipitous finds bring home the benefits of an active Program Visitor program.

Cooperation + Collaboration = Success!

This is borne out by the collaboration between Joe Lamb, FSO-AN, and Pat Costello, VFC, FSO-OP. Joe and Pat are working together to prepare Walter Wagner and Fred Kramer for their Qualifying exams as coxswains. The two have been working with the trainees on the water for several months, including during some fairly brisk winter days. Braving those chilly winter temperatures is a testament to the commitment of the coxswains, their, crew and the trainees.



Kay Lori, FC 75



Vice Commander:
Pat Costello

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 78

Thanks to the concerted efforts of several of our members, we have successfully turned around two areas that have plagued us for almost two years – our BS&S PROGRAM and OPERATIONS.

The BS&S program, which had been averaging five participants, presently has more than 15, with new people signing up almost every week. This is primarily the result of a significantly broadened advertising campaign by our FSO-PA, Phil Creter. In addition, our FSO-PV, Val Fernandes, has started placing information at other locations, such as the Public Library and City Hall.

By the end of March, all of our crew personnel will have completed the new annual “on-the-water” requirements. At the same time, we have been training one new crew member who hopefully, will be ready for a QE in April.

Our Vessel Examination program will start this month with a “blitz” at Ft. De Soto, and another at Harborside next month.

Our challenge for the summer months will be to maintain this momentum, especially after several of our members return to their summer homes “up north.”



Robert Schuler, FC 78

Vice Commander:
Edgar O'Krent

*PUBLIC
LIBRARY?
CITY HALL?*

THIS DESERVES A “GREAT
IDEA” AWARD!



*Ever wonder what you would do
if your boat's engine
compartment caught fire?
Read Robert Schuler's article
on page 16.
Great info, especially for your
BS&S programs!*





Flotilla 79

Our Flotilla remains active in all of the four cornerstones of the Auxiliary: Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship.

While our Public Education program remains strong with an average of 30 attendees a week, our Boating Safety programs were bolstered when Burnie Wilhelm agreed to once again accept the challenges of serving as FSO-VE. Burnie understands the importance of Vessel Examinations and will do this program proud.

Several of the Flotilla's facilities, coxswains and crew are presently assisting in the Division's crew member training. This, of course, also engages Communications for watch standing during the on-the-water activities. Tampa Radio One is a familiar hail over the radio.

Fellowship is easy when you like and respect your fellow members. The flotilla's Family Night is held on the Friday after the Flotilla meeting, which is every third Monday night of the month. Considering the flotilla memberships' high level of activity within our other programs, photographs of us engaged in the fourth cornerstone- Fellowship, are not seen as frequently. Here are a few.



Richard George, FC 79



Left: Kathi Kruczek, FSO-CS, and Christine Cockrell in front the buffet table. Members each bring a dish; finger food, an entrée, a side dish or a desert. There is always enough for everyone, and some of the dishes are incredible!



**Vice Commander:
Kevin Williams**



Left: Vernita George, Steve Plass, FSO-PE, Rick George, FC, Frank Ansel, FSO-FN, and Joe Hagan fill their plates.

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 07-16



Kevin Yeaton, FC 07-16

On March 09, 2007 we held a work party at the flotilla preparing and painting the new RBS room. Painters were: Linda and Blaise Harwitt, Don Rimel, and Kevin Yeaton. The new radio antenna was put up by Kevin Yeaton, Norman Nickerson, and Bruce Cardall. Kevin and Norman worked to remove the ceiling fan and three light fixtures. The ceiling needs some repair and painting, then three new lights will need to be installed. There will be another work party to complete these items.

Vessel Examinations

The duo of Don Rimel and Kevin Yeaton are piling up the Vessel Examinations (VSC) count with 233 so far this year. Don has 142 VSCs and Kevin has 91 VSCs. There will be more VE exams this month, so jump in and add to the totals. (Don Rimel, FSO-VE)



Shown right are Blaise and Linda Harwitt applying the paint that they donated to the walls of the Flotilla's RBS room. The room will be used for VE and PV materials to supply Marine Dealers and information safety booths.

Personnel Services

We are renewing our efforts to recruit new members this year and refocusing on member training to improve retention. I am confident that through putting forth a team effort, our membership will grow. Last year we increased membership by four new members, and we are confident that we can double that this year. (Don Rimel, FSO-PS)

Next issue: We need the dynamic duo of Don and Kevin to break it down for us:

- *Where and when do they do all of these vessel checks?*
- *How do they maintain the momentum? How do they stay motivated?*
- *What do they suggest other flotillas should do to build up this important program?*

Editor, and curious member.



Vice Commander:
Donald E. Rimel



Staff Reports and News...

Communications, *Terence Affeld, SO-CM*



Radio Facilities must be inspected on initial offer for use and every three years thereafter. The latest Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual indicates a change in who can perform these inspections. Previously, any one who was AuxOp qualified could do the inspection along with any Communications Officer. Now, only a Communications Officer (at any level) can do the inspection. Make sure to use the latest form, ANSC 7004, as the old form, 2736A is now obsolete.

We currently have Seven Fixed Land and one Mobil radio in the Division. On Sunday Feb 18th we held (or tried to hold) a Division Net Drill. It did not go as well as planned. I have not heard back from all of the FSO-CMs yet as to what went wrong, but I will change my method of notification in the future. (Emails can't be trusted). Only Madeira Beach Radio and Tampa Radio One responded. Gulfport Radio tried, but had an antenna down due to a storm. A second net drill is scheduled for April 29th.

On the bright side, radio watch for Gasparilla went the best I have seen ever. I wish to thank Flotilla 79 for their use of their Radio, and for two good Watchstanders, Tim Teahan & Trainee Robert Bonano who got a baptism under fire so to speak. We also thank Flotilla 73 for another good Watchstander, Duke Wheeler, who is a fairly new Auxiliarist, and now FSO-CM for Flotilla 73.

It gets a little hectic on the radio (and telephone) at times for Gasparilla with so many boats to watch over. It sure is nice to have more than one person standing watch. I also wish to thank all of the Coxswains for their cooperation, especially for checking out properly so that Watchstanders know when they can go home.

Member Training, *Leonard Dolney, SO-MT*



The Division calendar is routinely updated with Member Training classes and workshops. Be sure to check regularly to keep abreast of changes.

A team approach is encouraged with all flotillas participating and working together on a schedule. Please coordinate with me to set up training dates. Try to contribute a training in an AUX-OP course. Division Seven has 75 members working on their AUX-OP designations, with eleven people needing just one or two more courses. The courses most needed are AUXSAR, AUX-NAV, and A&B.

The Division's Member Training (SO-MT) and Personnel Services Staff Officers (SO-PS) provided a joint workshops in March on "Sexual Harassment Prevention" and "Uniforms: What to Wear, and Where to Buy". While all members were invited, the workshops were designed to demonstrate how flotillas could conduct this training for their own members. Sexual Harassment Prevention is a required workshop. If you need to attend, keep checking your Division calendar for the next scheduled date, as all of the flotillas are encouraged to enter their scheduled member training events. A re-

minder for the OPS Workshop & HARPAT is on the preceding page.

Crew Training is presently being offered by Cliff Martin at FL-79 and was offered to all members of our Division. As he sometimes offers this program in fall as well as in spring, keep your eyes on the calendar if your flotilla members that wish to qualify.

Staff Reports and Other News...

Uniform Tips and Guidelines, *Linda Barnard, FEL-CH*



Linda Barnard, FL-CH, D 7

Over the years I've noticed all kinds of discrepancies in the way Auxiliary members wear the Uniform. Here are some of the Uniform Regulations and Do's and Don'ts for wearing the CG Uniform.

1. The TAB of the BELT should be right next to the edge of the BUCKLE... don't pull it through to fit you. Take up the extra from behind the buckle.
2. Collar Pins means NO RIBBONS. If you are wearing collar pins, do not wear ribbons on your shirt.
3. Shoulder Boards means RIBBONS.
4. Do not place a separate single ribbon bar above a three ribbon bar. Either buy the correct size ribbon bar bracket, or do not wear the odd one.
5. Shoes should be black leather without stitching around the toe, and no tassels, black combat boots, or deck shoes. (For deck shoes, brown leather is preferred).
6. Covers (hats) shall be worn whenever one is outdoors. Remove your hats when entering a building; do not wear a cover indoors. When wearing a Cover (ball cap, garrison cap, combo cover), your hair should not be visible on your forehead under your hat's front brim. (CG REG's)
7. Black Socks are not an option. They are to be worn with all uniforms. The only exception is white crew socks and Deck shoes are to be worn with the Summer Uniform which is ONLY authorized from April – November, and is only authorized for boat crewing, not meetings or other functions.

Here are some good resources for obtaining uniforms and other items:

Local Exchanges/ Uniform stores:

St. Pete South Moorings Exchange- 1300 Beach Dr., SE 727/896-2816

Mon - Sat: 09:00 - 17:00 / Sun: 11:00 - 16:00

AirSta Clw Exchange- 727/535-1437 ext 1710

Mon, Wed - Sat 09:00 - 17:00 / Tue 08:00 - 17:00 / Sun 11:00 - 16:00

MacDill Uniform Store, MacDill AFB, Tampa... 813/840-2375

MON - FRI 09:00 - 18:00 / Sat 09:00 - 16:00 / Sun 11:00 - 16:00

Army - Navy Store, 6000 66th St N St Pete. 727/544-8004

Other Sites for Items of Interest:

GALLS.COM

SOLDIERCITY.COM

CAFEPRESS.COM SEARCH > USCG OR OTHER BRANCH

The Aux Chief Director's Site: Uniform Regs, Ribbon Checker, ODU info: http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx/ (Look to the top, right side bar.)

The CG Exchange online- <http://www.shopcoastguard>

The Used Uniform Exchange... Used and traded Uniform articles- http://users.mo-net.com/district8wr/members/used_uniform_exchg.htm

Dist 7 Store ... <http://cgaux7.org/d7store/default.htm>

For the most part, I feel that our Division personnel look pretty darn good! If you would like to read more uniform tips and updates, be sure to let us know! Contact me or Dottie Riley





Public Education, *Peter Lore, VCP, SO-PE*



On February 14th, Division Seven provided a custom tailored BoatSmart program to 28 employees of Pinellas County at the Mosquito Control Office on 118th Street. The attendees were employees of various departments of Pinellas County Public Works and Environmental Management. Some worked in Mosquito Control around the spoil islands of the Intra-Coastal Waterway, while others worked in construction around the bridges. The class started at 0700, which meant the team of instructors had to arrive much earlier in order to prepare for their busy day.

The instructors were Peter Lore and Peter Ubillos from Flotilla 73. Assisting were Wally Wubbenhorst and Bernyce Wubbenhorst, summer visitors from 053 07 02 in New Jersey. Bernyce is the SO-PE in her Division.

Peter Ubillos created the power point presentation geared towards the eight hour BoatSmart program, which is similar to the Boating Safety program, but has the topics presented in a slightly different order. The presentation that Peter created followed the topics in the order presented in the text, which made it easier for the instructors and the program attendees.

The Pinellas County contact was Nancy Iannotti, Program Manager for Mosquito Control and Vegetation Management. Ms. Iannotti was impressed with the professional manner with which the class was planned and delivered, which she expressed in her letter of appreciation to Conrad Palermo, or Division Captain.



Left: The team of instructors pose with Nancy Iannotti from Mosquito Control. From left to right are Peter Ubillos, Wally Wubbenhorst, Peter Lore, Nancy Iannotti and Bernyce Wubbenhorst.

Below: The instructors presented to a full classroom of employees from the Pinellas County Public Works department.



Staff Reports and News...

Public Affairs, *Kay Lori, SO-PA*



Inspirational

What does PA stand for? Pretty Awesome? I think so. That's what each FSO-PA is to me.

I know what experience each of you has and what you can do with it. I have seen your work, I have heard your ideas, and I have immense respect for each one of you. I have read ads in the newspapers, seen photos you've taken of events published in the Breeze and Navigator, I have listened to reports your flotilla commanders have given on your projects. This is the beginning of the year; I can't wait to see what the rest of the year will bring to Division Seven.

Educational

Everyone should have received the Public Affairs Protocol issued by our Commodore, Allen Brown. You are to read, utilize, and practice these procedures in any facet that you use to promote the Auxiliary. The National site for Public Affairs offers a PA course on line that is not only educational, but it is filled with information that you can use for articles, public appearances, and media contact. Here is the web-

site, use it to make your work enjoyable and your projects easier to achieve.

Please take photos of any events you organize or participate in. Send them to Dottie Riley, SO-PB for our Division Newsletter. Dottie can also edit photos for PA News Releases (crop, straighten, lighten those too dark indoor pictures, etc.). Her new email is DottieRiley1@Verizon.net. Our Newsletter goes out to everyone in our division and District staff. Did you know it gets sent to the Commodore? Let's get going with spreading the news how great Division Seven really is!

Blessing of the Fleet Update

Pete Lore is the POC for the blessing of the fleet event. He has arranged for the Pier in St. Pete to be this year's location. He will be coordinating with Chief Harris and Cliff Martin, SO-OP, for the execution of the event. The date has also been changed. It will be May 19th. I know what you are all thinking. Yes, it is the beginning of Safe Boating Week. Many have VE blitzes planned for this day, but keep in mind that not all VEs are crew qualified. Many of our new members are also not crew qualified as yet and can assist at other planned events. All vessels participating in the Blessing of the Fleet will be manned by coxswains and qualified crew. While guests are most welcome to watch this beautiful ceremony from the pier, no guests will be permitted aboard Auxiliary vessels this year. Active trainees bearing an Auxiliary ID card and wearing proper uniform will be permitted to participate on vessels manned by qualified coxswains and crew. Coxswains will be issued orders for this event.

Other Upcoming Events:

We have been able to secure a segment for PFD's on Channel 13 Fox News TV on May 18th during their "Good Day Tampa Bay" Show. Time of our live presentation will be exactly 8:40 a.m. Larry Neu, FC Flotilla 74, and Debbie Minnick, Flotilla 75 have been delegated the responsibility as coordinators for the segment. Contact either if you wish to participate.

The segment will be geared to safety on the water for children. We are limited in how many people may enter the studio; hence, there will be only four adults and one child. We will have one spokesperson answering questions or narrating, while the others show the different types of PFD's available. This idea will focus on the new poster "Which Life Jacket for You" that recently



Photo by Dottie Riley, SO-PB

Vessels line up in front of Sector St. Pete, the site of last year's Fleet Blessing. Both Coast Guard and Auxiliary vessels participated.





became available. I am also working on trying for another spot the same morning for a boat ramp inspection. We will tie these in with the Blessing for more coverage, and how easy it is to contact the Auxiliary for safe boating programs.

Recent Events

The last Boat Show for the Central Marine Dealers at the Fairgrounds saw alternative ways to set up a booth. First, there was the aerial map donated by Mahoney's Marine, of our AOR that stopped plenty of show attendees. That stopped them to find out where on the map they lived and boated. The second was the poster promoting the benefits of attending one of our safe boating programs. I have preached about thinking outside the box. I went overboard. Bogie and Hepburn towing the African Queen was overstating the importance of taking a safe boating program, but what the heck, people thought it was cute. And it brought them further into the booth. The lighted Auxiliary sign over the backboard, plus the map and poster were possible through the efforts of Ray Stewart, FSO-PA, Flotilla 75. Each of these items acted like magnets to draw people into the booth. Once inside, they asked questions about all the materials we had to offer. So, think outside the box, or boat, like I did. You will find it is fun to come up with a new concept.

We also thank Mary Greene, wife of Jim Greene, Flotilla 73, for the new table cloths. Sally sewed the cloths. Each one is professionally lettered and bears the Auxiliary logo. **Bravo, Zulu, Sally!** (Louis will translate this for you.)



Peter Ubillos, FSO-CS, FL 73 stands beside Don Rimel, VFC, FL 07-16 at the Tampa Tribune Outdoors Expo and Boat Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds Held March 2nd through 4th.

Below: Kathi Kruzcek, FSO-CS, FL 79 and Brian Dobson, FSO-AN, also from FL 79 at the Florida State Boat Expo, also held at the Fairgrounds from March 15-18th. The aerial map is on the left. Brian holds the poster of Bogie and Hepburn on the African Queen.



News and Articles by Members...

Extinguishing an Engine Compartment Fire

By Robert Schuler, FC, FL 78



Have you ever asked yourself how you would put out a fire in an in-board engine compartment? I've asked this question of a number of boat owners and most responded with "Let's hope it doesn't happen." One of the better answers I heard was "One of us would lift the cover a little and the other would discharge the extinguisher into the opening." However, that left the question of whether it would effectively put the fire out.

I recently read an article describing a "test" that a group of boaters performed which provided some insight into just how difficult extinguishing such a fire can be. Members of the North Olympic Washington Squadron built a mock-up of a stern section of a 25-foot boat, placed a mixture of gas and oil in a metal pan, lit the mixture and closed the cover. They waited a minute to simulate the time from when a fire started to when it was recognized and the crew grabbed an extinguisher. They were unable to put the fire out with one B-I extinguisher, all that's required by the Coast Guard on a 25-foot boat. Clearly the suggestion of "lifting the cover and discharging the extinguisher

into the opening" was not the answer.

Searching the internet led to a BoatUS Seaworthy article that further supports their conclusion. It states that "Opening an engine compartment hatch to look for a fire is like throwing gasoline on hot coals; it fans the fire with a rush of fresh oxygen." The article goes on to state that "The solution is to leave the hatch closed and fight the fire either with a fixed extinguisher in the engine compartment or with a portable (gaseous) extinguisher discharged through a fire port..." If you want to read the entire article it can be found at <http://www.boatus.com/seaworthy/swybf.asp>.

If your boat has an inboard engine but no fixed system, the least expensive solution is to purchase:

1. A FIRE PORT (available from Marine East or most marine stores)
2. A GASEOUS (CO2, Halon, or Halon replacements FE-241 and FM-200) FIRE EXTINGUISHER

The FIRE PORT is a small plastic disk and has rubber leafs through which the nozzle of an extinguisher can be pushed. It is mounted in a hole drilled into the engine cover. A gaseous extinguisher is necessary since the fire is being put out by reducing the oxygen supply. Remember to place this extinguisher in a location where it won't be used for other fires because gaseous extinguishers are not effective in open spaces.



The next Division 7 Meeting
Will be April 28th, 0900
Flotilla 73
299 Boca Ciega Dr., St. Pete
See you there!





Clearwater Air Station Hosts Retirees for Lunch

Peter Lore, VCP

On February 28th, an informally organized group of retirees were given a tour of Clearwater Air Station arranged by Lou Miosi, Flotilla 73, who works several days a week at the Air Station's supply depot.

The group started out when several retired Police Officers decided to get together to visit a different restaurant on Wednesdays for lunch. Peter Lore from Flotilla 73 was one of its original members. Peter retired from the New York City Transit Police Department, and after moving to Florida, retired a second time from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office where he worked as a social worker. While the first members of the group were police officers, it grew to include retirees from other service organizations. Two are retired Navy, one is retired Coast Guard, one a retired Dutch Naval Officer, and several are Auxiliarists from Flotilla 73. The group only meets in winter as several of its members return to their northern homes in the summer months.

When Peter Lore mentioned the group to Lou Miosi, Lou immediately recognized a Public Affairs opportunity and invited them to Clearwater Air Station for lunch and a tour. Lou coordinated the event with the Coast Guard and their Public Affairs office. On the appointed day he met them at the gate and brought them directly to the award winning dining hall where they enjoyed what Peter Lore described as a "sumptuous meal".

After lunch they were taken on a tour of the Coast Guard Rescue Helicopters, Air Operations, and C-130 Search and Rescue planes. A Coast Guard crew member took the group into the C-130, showed them the cockpit, and gave them a demonstration of the cargo hold. He also showed them how the C-130 drops rescue gear while flying over a target.

The group agreed that it was the best lunch they ever had. Their appreciation goes out to the base personnel at Air Station Clearwater, and to Lou Miosi for hosting this terrific event.

The group does have a name for itself. They call themselves the "V—" Club. The 'v' in this case, is the first letter of that little pill that makes these older gentlemen feel like young men again, and rhymes with "Niagara". A sense of humor is a wonderful thing!

The group on tour of Air Station Clearwater. From left to right are George Edmiston, Vim, a retired Dutch Naval Officer, Joe Platia, Lou Miosi Flotilla 73, Al, a retired Coast Guard helo pilot, James Petrlak, a retired NYC Transit Police Officer, Jim Greene from Flotilla 73, and Les, a retired Police sergeant from England. The group's informal organization makes some identifications beyond first names difficult.



Gasparilla Madness



Which of these is the real *Insanity*?

Insanity, defined here as bizarre and often dangerous activity on the water, would be the image on the left. On the right, we have the Auxiliary vessel, *Insanity*, from FL 74, returning to the docks with its crew of Manatee watchers. The *Insanity* was manned by Jerry Routt, coxswain, Ralph Modica and Terry Modica, crew, all members of FL 74.



Left: Coxswain Mike Shea, FL 79, aboard the *Lucky Dog*, and Kevin Williams, VFC 79, return to the dock at the end of the day with Kevin Williams, crew, and a manatee watcher aboard. Note Reggie in his bright orange PFD setting a good example for other boaters who like to bring along their dogs.

Bottom Right: The *Semper Fi* from FL 79 stops to chat with the crew of the *First Light*, one of the vessels from Division Eight that assisted at this year's Gasparilla event, held every year on the last weekend in January. *Semper Fi*'s crew included David Rusinko, Coxswain, Frank Ansel, both from FL 79, Steve Rea, FL 11-10, and Jonathan Laroung, FL- 84, Crew, and Stefan Stein, FL 79, Trainee.



Left: Betty Hagan and Christine Cockrell, FL 79, watch the Gasparilla Marine Parade, better known as the "Gasparilla Pirate Invasion" from the banks at the USCG Prevention Department in Tampa.

Four thousand boats were on the bay that day, with 500-600 of them making the trek into the Ybor turning basin during the parade.





Division 7 Fellowship Picnic

Dottie Riley, SO-PB



The Division Seven annual Spring Picnic was March 31 at Fort De Soto National Park, located at the far southern end of the Pinellas County Peninsula.

Before picnic goers enjoyed lunch, the Division held a special meeting to elect a new Division Vice Captain. Peter Lore, Flotilla 73, is our newly elected VCP. Congratulations, Pete!

If you did not attend, you missed some of the best fish you ever tasted. Conrad said the seasoning used was watercress. (*Am I in trouble for giving away his secret ingredient?*) I am told that the prime rib was superb too, but that is "landlubber" fare and not enjoyed by this writer. Conrad Palermo, DCP, and Larry Neu, FC, Flotilla 74, manned the grill. Note the sledgehammer beside the cook: no one dared complain if their steak was overcooked! By the way, my praise of the fish has nothing to do with the hammer.

Sometimes, the best story is told in pictures. Other than providing captions, I will let the pictures tell this one.



Top Left: Sid Maillet and his guest, Joanne, and Joe and Alma Parrish, all from FL 75.

Top Right: Ramona Trimble FL-73, Peter Lore, our newly elected VCP, Terry Affeld SO-CM, D-7, Dennis McNeil FSO-OP FL-73.

Bottom Left: From left to right- June Pfirrmann, wife of Warren Pfirrmann, FL 78, Conrad Palermo, DCP, Dick Erett, IPDC, Joe and Fran Zappala from New York (they help FL 78 and FL 7-16 operations when they are in Florida). Joe's daughter, and on the right, Zelda Troiano, FL 78's former CC officer. Her husband, Jim is behind her arm.

More photos on back cover...

USCG Auxiliary, Seventh District, Division Seven

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



Phone: (813) 684-9996
E-mail: SO-PB@cgauxdiv7-7.org
We're on the web!

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

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

More Fellowship Picnic Photos...

Our first Fellowship event of 2007 was a great success, and the weather cooperated beautifully. Thanks, Linda, for a job well done! We also thank the chefs, Conrad Palermo, DCP, and Larry Neu, FC, Flotilla 74.



Above: Larry Neu, Conrad Palermo and Guy Mandingo toss horseshoes during one of the competitions. (Photo by B. Hagan, FL 79)

Left: Joe Lori, IPFC, FL 75, talks to Joe Hagan, FL 79. The two men have a relationship within the Auxiliary that spans several decades. Both were instrumental in obtaining the building that presently houses FL 79.