



# THE INTERCOM

## Division Honors Members' Contributions



The Division Seven Awards Luncheon held on May 12th at the Rusty Pelican in Tampa was attended by many distinguished guests from both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. Guests included COMO Allen Brown and his wife and member, Mary Brown, Commander Dale Folsom, Response Department, Sector St. Pete on behalf of Captain Servidio, BM1 Brian Sanbar from Station St. Pete representing Chief Harris, LTJG LeNell Carson, Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO), and Ensign Derrick Wilson, Response Department, Sector St. Pete, who will be replacing LTJG Carson as AUXLO.

Before the Awards were announced, COMO Allen Brown swore in Betty Hagan as the new Commander of Flotilla 79. In her new role as Flotilla Commander, Betty accepted many

awards on behalf of FL 79 and its individual members, who were not present on this day. These included *Most Public Education Instruction hours* and *Most Member Training Hours* to Amos Johnson, *Most SAR Assists* to Robert Bonanno, and the *Division Merit Award* to Richard George for his efforts in revamping the

ATON verification process of verifying and reporting discrepancies. Rick's endeavors lent logic to a process that was often confusing and redundant.

Auxiliarist of the Year was awarded to Richard Erett, IPDCP, a member of FL 78, for all of his work in better organizing and unifying Division Seven dur-

(Continued on page 12)



### 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	Larry Gellinger
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	Betty Hagan
	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 except for common acronyms.

**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, 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 each other'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](mailto:dottieriley1@verizon.net)



## Words from the Helm....

### Conrad Palermo, Division Captain

We are half way through the year! I would like to congratulate all those FC's, VFC's, SO's, ADSO's, and every member who has had a hand in making things happen this year. While we still have some goals to achieve, we have accomplished much so far. Many of our elected and appointed staff officers have done a fantastic job. My sincere congratulations!

This is just a reminder to all of us: the *Division Team* makes things happen, not just one person or a few. Every single officer should do his/her job with initiative, enthusiasm and determination. I say determination because it takes effort and patience to work out the bugs and silence the nay-sayers in order to accomplish your goals. If you ask some one to do something and that person says no, what do you do? Do you accept the "no" and abandon ship, or do you close the hatches and prepare for bad weather? Anybody can be a good Captain in fair weather. Don't let the resistance deter you from your objective. This reminds me of a little poem. I leave you with this:



#### Don't Quit!

When things go wrong as they sometimes will;  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill;  
When the funds are low and the debts are high;  
And you want to smile, but have to sigh;  
When care is pressing you down a bit-  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Success is failure turned inside out;  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt;  
And you can never tell how close you are;  
It may be near when it seems afar.  
So, stick to the-fight when you're hardest hit-  
It's when things go wrong that you mustn't quit.

**"...the *Division Team*  
makes things happen,  
not just one person or a  
few."**

Your Captain,  
Conrad Palermo

## Flotilla News...

### Flotilla 72



Glenn Dobos, FC 72

Vice Commander:  
Robert Helmling

During National Safe Boating Week the flotilla conducted two VE blitzes. The first was at Mira Bay where members completed eighteen vessel examinations, and the second was held at Demon's Landing in St. Pete. Eighteen people are presently attending our BS&S program, which means that between Vessel Examinations and Public Educations, our Boating Safety programs are going strong.

Last month we completed the AUX Weather course and are proud to announce that three people from Flotilla 72 passed the course. These include Michael Max, Glenn Dobos, and Robert Purdy.

During the cooler, winter months our meeting attendance runs near 80%, but in the summer months with so many of our members returning to their northern homes, things slow down considerably. Despite this, we hope to add another facility to our fleet next month, and have three new member packets in process.

At the Division Awards Luncheon in May, the flotilla earned the Dwight Shingledecker Award for best performance in the Program Visitor program. Congratulations to all of the Program Visitors who worked so hard this past year!

Carl Nelson, FSO-MS, accepts the Shingledecker Award for best performance in the Program Visitor Program.







## Flotilla News...

### Flotilla 73

The Flotilla has added several new members and increased its number of qualified vessel examiners. This should also grow attendance at the Public Education programs as more examiners encourage recreational boaters to attend the program.

Pete Lore, FSO-PA, VCP, spent three hours at the Park Boulevard Boat ramp on Memorial Day and examined seven High Focus recreational vessels. The results alarmed him. Of the seven vessels he examined, only one vessel passed and was awarded a VSC decal. None of the boaters had attended a Safe Boating Course. Pete provided all seven boat owners with a copy of the Federal and state regulations as well as the flotilla's Safe Boating schedule for the remainder of the year. This should serve as a reminder to all of us that despite our various publicity campaigns, boat shows, media releases and contacts with boaters on ramps, we have reached only a small fraction of the recreational boaters and must continually commit ourselves to our boating safety programs.

The flotilla has several new members attending Division crew training, and several members participating by providing vessels and qualified crew.



Robert Wild, FC 73

All of our hard work this past year did not escape the Division's notice. Flotilla 73 earned the *Oal-mann Award*, presented each year to the Flotilla with the most member training hours per qualified member, and the *Mike Award* recognizing the flotilla's efforts to retain members and to enroll new members. Additionally, the flotilla earned the *Duignan Award* presented to the flotilla with the highest level of fellowship participation, and the *Waldo Chase Memorial Award* for outstanding accomplishments in instruction, vessel examinations and operations. These awards are a testament to the level of commitment of our members.

Congratulations to our newly elected vice commander, Larry Gellinger. Larry replaces Peter Lore, who was recently elected Division Vice Captain.

Bob Wild, FC 73, and Dennis McNeill, FSO-OP/AN, get their facility ready for the night navigation training exercise on May 31 at FL 79. This is one of the many elements of the Division crew training program. The trainees plot a course, which they then follow using only the navigation charts and instruments to guide their course.



## Flotilla News...

### Flotilla 74



Larry Ney, FC 74

As I look back over the past few months at what our flotilla has achieved, I am extremely impressed with the dedication and professionalism that has been displayed by our members.

When I took this position at the beginning of the year I laid out a simple plan, something I thought we could achieve without a great amount of effort:

- (1) Member Involvement
- (2) Recruitment of ten new members for the year
- (3) An active PE program
- (4) Member Training.

Did I ever underestimate the will of the flotilla! The staff has picked up and are running a marathon!

Our PA officer is running rampant with ads in every area I can think of, and some I have never heard of. This effort has had proven results in what we have been seeing in our PE efforts.

The PE officer has conducted our monthly ABC class at West Marine in Brandon without any glitches, and I continually hear from the people that have taken the course what a great job the instructors have done. We also conducted a three day BS&S blitz at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at the end

of April that allowed us to instruct fourteen state employees and three of our members on Boating Safety. Even with twelve hour days, the instructors provided excellence and fun in learning!

Our PS officer is going wild and will easily pass my goal of ten new members for the year. As of this writing, we have submitted seven new member packets and four more are currently being processed. During the process of waiting for member numbers to be assigned, we are steering these people towards the VE program which has been busy conducting inspections on the first Saturday of the month at Williams Park, and the ICS requirements to keep them active and learning.

I am so proud of the entire flotilla that I could go on for pages if given the time and space, but- there is always the next edition to continue my praises of the great people in our flotilla!

On a different note, the new flotilla building is moving along. Two great things to report are the fact that we have POWER and WATER! What a modern day concept!

Now we have the opportunity to get the building situated the way we need it, and to do the many things on our building maintenance list. Thanks to the hard work of a few of our members, and to Maritime Security Corporation of Tampa Bay for making this possible.

Larry Neu,  
FC FL 74







## Flotilla News...

### Flotilla 75

Flotilla members continue to be busy, especially in the Boating Safety programs. Walter Wagner, FSO-VE, regularly visits the area ramps to conduct Vessel Safety Checks, while Guy Mandingo, FSO-PE, maintains a busy Public Education program schedule. A Coastal Navigation Course is scheduled for mid June. Ray Stewart, FSO-PA wrote a news release advertising the course that is simply ingenious and should encourage many Bay Area boaters to attend.

Members Guy Mandingo, William Zimmerman, Pat Costello, VFC, Walter Wagner and James Smyth participated in a flag raising ceremony at the Riverside Club in Ruskin on May 28, 2007. Photos of the event are posted on the Division web site.



Kay Lori, FC 75

Left: Jim Godfrey, skipper of the 23 foot Maxum, *Naughty Jean*, successfully fulfilled all of the safety requirements during a recent vessel safety check at Williams Park, conducted by members Walt Wagner and Ted Cohen of Flotilla 75. Safety Examiners returned to Williams Park in Riverview on June 9 for another round of free vessel safety checks from early morning to mid-afternoon.



Below: The flotilla's Public Education program offers America's Boating Course (ABC) at the Ruskin Southshore Library, among other locations.



Vice Commander:  
Pat Costello



## Flotilla News...

### Flotilla 78



**Robert Schuler, FC 78**

**Vice Commander:  
Edgar O'Krent**

Attendance at the Flotilla's continuous, thirteen week Boating Skills and Seamanship program is holding steady at about sixteen participants. The Instructors and members attending have received numerous compliments from participants on the quality of the material presented and the member's efforts to fully answer all of their questions. The primary program leaders, Phillip Creter, Warren Pfirman and Jim Troiano are to be complimented for their thoroughness and dedication.

All crew members have completed the annual on-the-water requirements as well as their three year QE re-certifications. The newest crew member, Valerie Fernandes, was also certified. The QE complimented her performance stating "She was without a doubt the best crew candidate I have ever had the honor of evaluating. Cool as a cucumber under pressure and confident in her actions." Now, that is the type of member we all need to attract!

Our VSC program has been on the "back burner" until the end of March because of the focus on our BS&S and Crew programs. We held a "blitz" at the Ft. DeSoto boat ramp, conducting ten Vessel Examinations and discussing boating safety and security items with a number of interested boaters. We hope to continue emphasis on this program during the summer months.

Our primary concern continues to be attracting new members. We currently have three individuals who have expressed an interest in joining, and hopefully will attend our next meeting.



Right: Valerie Fernandes, FSO-PV, performs a vessel safety check on the whaleboat, Sam, owned by Dale Hughes who served aboard the USS Sampson, DDG 10, and who purchased and restored the ship's "liberty boat". Read the full story on page 18.





## Flotilla 79

As I take the helm as Commander of Flotilla 79 for the second time, I find events moving at the fast pace begun by Rick George. We are in the middle of Division Crew Training headed by our capable and non-stoppable Cliff Martin, DSO-OP. The members are enthusiastic and are having fun. It is a good group. We are covering a lot of material in a short length of time. Five or six facilities have been participating in the crew training program.

Flotilla Operations have slowed somewhat due to some of the facilities being tied up with crew training, however, radio watches have increased because of the need to maintain watches over the training vessels.

Our PE class averages 20-25 participants every Wednesday night. We are looking for more instructors and are trying to encourage more members to come, at least occasionally. I would like for the participants to know that our flotilla has many members, not just the few who help. The participants raise a variety of interesting questions that make for lively discussions. It is a two-way learning opportunity.

Our Vessel Examination program has been revitalized. Once a month from 0730-1000 at the Gandy Ramp, Burnie Wilhelm, FSO-VE, and other qualified vessel examiners usually conduct a minimum of ten examinations. Half of these recreational vessels do not have the proper equipment on board, and a majority are first time inspections. Fortunately, many of these boaters express an interest in our BS&S program.

It is a puzzle to me why we do not have more members attending our monthly family night dinners. We have so much fun. This past month we had a couple from Flotilla 7-16. COME SEE WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!

The individual Division Awards received by members of FL 79 are reported in this edition's cover story. Other awards received by the flotilla include the *Richie Awards* for both Public Affairs and Publications. What an honor for the flotilla's newsletter, the *Seven-Niner!* The flotilla also earned the *Nettling Award* for the best record in total operational hours per qualified member, and the *Captain's Jug*, an award that represents excellence in all four of the cornerstones of the Auxiliary: Vessel Examinations, Education, Operations and Fellowship. Congratulations to all! We are proud of your dedication and commitment to the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



**Vice Commander:  
Kevin Williams**

Betty Hagan,  
FC, FL 79

Right: OTW Crew training gets underway in April with Kathi Kruczek, Coxswain, Brian Dobson, crew, and trainees Christina Cockrell, Zach Lessin, and Michael Cabrera.



**Betty Hagan, FC, and husband and member, Joe Hagan, at the Annual Awards Luncheon.**



Photo by K. Kruczek

## Flotilla News...

### Flotilla 07-16



Kevin Yeaton, FC 07-16, accepts the Prescott Award at the May Division Awards Luncheon from Peter Lore, VCP.

By May 29th, the Flotilla had completed a total of 280 Vessel examinations (VSC). This means the flotilla is well on its way to earning the Division's *Prescott Award* again next year. In addition to earning the *Prescott Award* for this past year, Don Rimel earned the individual award for most Vessel Examinations within the Division. These awards represent countless hours at docks and marinas, and deserves no less than a giant Bravo Zulu!

In addition to the *Prescott Award*, the flotilla earned the *Krough Award* for making the greatest contribution to the Public Education Program, and the *McKendree Award* for the highest growth in specialty course completions.

Four new members are presently participating in the Division's Crew Program. Kevin acts as both crew and mentor for the trainees. This demonstrates true commitment to Operations, and to getting new members qualified and out on the water. Kevin will soon need those new crew members as his vessel will shortly be ready for patrols again.

Growth is an important issue. The flotilla presently has one new member packet being processed and three more in the process of being filled out. New member Gerald Hayward passed both the VSC and Program Visitor tests. Kevin hopes

other new members will follow his lead.



Other news includes a computer for the Flotilla and their new RBS room. This will be a great help to members in preparing for specialty courses and online testing.

Left: On June 7th the Division Crew Training participants met at the YMCA on Himes Avenue in Tampa to complete one of the required tasks: donning an anti-exposure cover-all and entering the water. Gerald Hayward, FSO-CM, MS,SR successfully completed the task. Kevin Yeaton, FC and crew training Mentor, accompanied Gerald.



Vice Commander:  
Donald E. Rimel





## Staff Reports and News...

### Communications, *Terence Affeld, SO-CM*



Take note: Patrols and radio guard are now back on Channel 81A.

We held a Division Net Drill Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>. It went great. The message started out and came back almost word for word. I wish to thank my great staff of Communications Officers. I would also like to thank Station St. Petersburg, which I think had a REAL Distress going on at the same time as our drill, and yet still responded to our drill. Apparently, District did not have the yearly West Coast Net Drill.

Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup> we held the Communications portion of the Boat Crew training program. We should have some good communicators on our patrol vessels.

If anyone is planning on having an AuxCom Course, please let me know as well as your Flotilla & Division Training Officer. Also, if there are any Amateur Radio Operators out there, let your FSO-CM know about it.

Terry Affeld, SO-CM D7

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## Member Training— APC Course Update

Update of Administrative Procedures Course (APC) On-Line Exam, Written Exams and Instructor & Student Study Guides Now Available

The APC is an overview of the Auxiliary Manual for elected officers at the flotilla and division levels and provides a source of material for all members to define the administration of the Auxiliary. All APC resources have been updated and are now available on website sources or ANSC.

The existing on-line exam has been replaced with an updated version now available on the [Exam Gateway](#). Members should access this on-line exam via the current web pages and not attempt to re-use cached sites or favorites. Using cached sites or favorites will result in failure to access the updated exam.

The updated editions (1 March 2007) of the APC Instructor and Student Study Guides are available at ANSC and the National Training Department website. Previous editions should be destroyed. The revised written APC exams (March 2007) are now available from ANSC. Previous copies of the written exams should be destroyed. (Source: Ken Kendall, DVC-TI)



## Staff Reports and Other News...

### Division Honors Members...

(Continued from page 1)

ing his tenure as DCP. Improving the Division's ability to respond as a unified whole was a task Dick willingly took on, and with great success.

Cliff Martin, FL 79, received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of Division Seven Operations. Cliff's finger is on the pulse of all Operations within the Division. His great relations with key persons within Sector St. Pete greatly improve the Division's ability to respond to the needs of the Coast Guard, Sector St. Pete, and the Auxiliary.

Margaret Goff, FSO-SR, FL 72, received an individual merit award for the most hours as an aide within the Public Education program. Margaret's support for her Flotilla and the Auxiliary serves as a great example to new members within her flotilla.

Len Dolney and Julie Benedict-Dolney are this year's recipients of the Vans Evers Award, while Richard Erett, IPDCP, received the Award named in Julie's honor. The *Julie Award* was donated by Julie Benedict-Dolney, SO-PS, and recognizes up to three members who have made outstanding contributions in recruiting and retention by dedication to, and utilization of Mentor excellence.

The Division honored Kay Lori, SO-PA, by presenting her with a special *Certificate of Appreciation*. As the Division's Public Affairs Officer, Kay has earned great exposure both within electronic and print media venues. Kay organizes a great number of events on behalf of the Division, the recent Fleet Blessing and the TV spot featuring Larry Ney and LTJG LeNell Carson and her children being just two examples of all of her work.

Also honored with special *Certificates of Appreciation* were Amos and Theresa (Bunny) Johnson of FL 79. Both members work tirelessly on behalf of the Auxiliary, Amos as an instructor of TCT and a District QE, and Bunny with her expertise within Information Services.

Al MacMillan, CH-FEL, FL 73 received the individual award for *Most Marine Dealer Visits*. Bravo Zulu, Al!

This year's *Honor Roll* included members from throughout the Division.

(Continued on page 13)



Leonard Dolney, SO-MT, and Julie Benedict-Dolney, SO-PS, accept the Vans Evers Award, which honors the couple demonstrating exceptional dedication to the ideals of the Auxiliary.





## Division Honor Members...

(Continued from page 12)

The Honor Roll recognizes members who volunteer more than 500 hours during the year. This year's Honor Roll Recipients include :

Betty Hagan, FC FL 79	Joe Hagan, FL 79	Kevin Yeaton, FC 7-16
Carl Nelson, FSO-MS, FL 72	Robert Wild, FC 79	Robert Stribling, FSO-OP, FL 79
Dottie Riley, FSO-PB, FL 79	Don Rimel, VFC FL 7-16	Peter Lore, VCP, DIV 7
Leonard Dolney, FSO-PS, FL 73	Louis Miosi, FL 73	Cortez Lake, FSO-RBSV/PV FL 72
Edwin Eggert, FSO-OP/CS/IS, FL 7-16		

Recipients not present include but are not limited to:

Kathi Kruczek, FSO-CS FL 79	Alex De Quesada, FL 79	Amos Johnson, FL 79
Theresa Johnson, FL 79	Mike Shea, FSO-MS, FL 79	
Fred Kramer, FSO-PS, FL 75		

Our apologies to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted.



Above: Long time acquaintances and friends, COMO Allen Brown and Betty Hagan, FC 79, share a congratulatory embrace after she is sworn in as Flotilla Commander.

Right: Kay Lori, SO-PA, and FC FL 75, accepts the Divisions Award of Appreciation from Peter, Lore, VFC. The usually vocal Kay was momentarily speechless and truly touched by the unexpected honor.



Kathi Kruczek, FSO-CS, FL 79 earned the Division Award for most coxswain hours. Kathi maintains a busy weekly patrol schedule and is ever willing to act as mentor for new crew or coxswains. Kevin Yeaton, FC FL 7-16, earned the award for most Crew hours. Like Kathi, he is an active mentor in the Boating Skills and Seamanship program.

Flotilla Awards are listed on the Flotilla pages. ***Congratulations to all!***

## Staff Reports and News...

### Public Affairs, *Kay Lori, SO-PA*



PA? Perpetually Active?

Division 7 Public Affairs is very active of late.

A television news segment spotlighting proper PFD usage with Larry Neu, FC 75, as speaker was aired May 17th on Fox TV Channel 13 during the morning news. A segment of that airing ran again on Memorial Day as a reminder to the recreational boater to be careful during the holiday season.\*

The "rehearsal run" for the Blessing of the Fleet was held May 19th off the St. Pete Pier. We had good turnout and bad weather. Yet, our coxswains came through, adeptly handling the vessels through seas and wind. USCG Captain Servidio, COPT requested we do it again. Plans are forthcoming.\*

We have a new AUXLO, Ens. Derrick Wilson, Response Dept., Sector St. Petersburg. He is replacing LTJG LeNell Carson, who enjoyed helping the PA team whenever she was available.

September 7-9 will be the boat show at the convention center. Which flotilla will host this event is still to be determined.

Brad Ware, PA-79 will be at the MacDill Air Force Barbeque on June 8th. He will be assisted by Division 11 personnel.

Flotilla 75 will be doing a VE presentation for Channel 13 morning news on June 18th.

Channel 10 news has been contacted to do a segment with one of the flotillas in St. Pete. More to report by the division meeting.

Memorial Day services were held in Ruskin at the Riverside Club, with members of 75 and 72 representing Team Coast Guard.

Flotilla 7-16 received a proclamation from the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce for NSBW. They also set up a display when they attended a boating event for a local marine dealer.

Vessels exams were done at the Davis Island Yacht Club on May 19th for NSBW.

I haven't been getting reports of anything that was done or will be done by other flotillas. "You can't get paid unless you turn in a time card."

Kay Lori SO-PA Division 7



\*Stories and photos on subsequent pages.





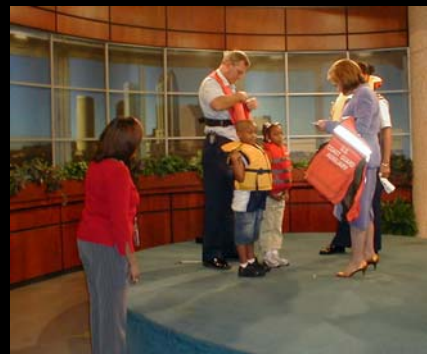
## Lights! Camera! Action!

Story and Photos By Kay Lori, SO-PA



Larry Neu, Flotilla Commander of 74, representing the USCG Auxiliary, expertly fielded questions on a live television segment for Fox News Channel 13 on Thursday May 17, 2007. The early morning program offered a spot to Division Seven to demonstrate how life jackets should be worn by children and adults, and which jackets are suitable for each. Accompanying Mr. Neu were LTJG LeNell Carson, USCG, AUXLO from Sector St. Petersburg, and her two children, Maurice and Marissa.

The reporter, Anne Dwyer, asked many questions regarding the regulations for wearing life jackets and the requirements for children. Ms. Dwyer was slightly startled when a Type 5 was deployed to show it's full size when inflated.



The children modeled two different jackets that would be advisable for any child to wear aboard a vessel and on the dock. Larry Neu emphasized how important it is to wear the jacket, the mistake of "stowing it under a seat", and how to properly fit each of the life jackets.

After the show the group was asked to do a few "teasers", 30 second spots, for release over the Memorial Day Weekend.



Channel 13 News has graciously invited the Auxiliary back to do another segment on vessel examinations on June 18th. Flotilla 75 will be participating in this event.



Left: Larry Neu, FC 74, LTJG LeNell Carson and her children, Maurice and Marissa are shown on the set with Anne Dwyer, reporter for Channel 13 News.



## Staff Reports and News...

### Fleet Passes in Review before Sector St. Pete Commander

By Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB



Division Seven Crew Training participants, who courageously took on wind and weather as "just another training experience". The Auxiliary facilities were met in front of The Pier by four Coast Guard Vessels from Sector St. Pete, which also carried Auxiliarists as crew.

The vessels were present, Captain Servidio, Commander, Sector St. Pete was there, as well as Chief Harris and members of the Coast Guard's Public Affairs team. LTJG LeNell Carson, AUXLO, and Conrad Palermo, Division Seven Commander all waited, when the final element went wrong. The Padre who was

Despite months of planning and countless of hours invested in preparing for a successful event, the Annual Blessing of the Fleet on May 19th at The Pier in St. Petersburg was a prime example of the old saying, "What can go wrong, will go wrong".

The weather was the first element that refused to cooperate. The participating vessels faced high winds and three to four foot swells. Despite this, Auxiliary vessels set out from both sides of the Bay to assemble in front of The Pier.

"Mechanical failure" caused one of the eight vessels to withdraw from the event at the dock, however, its coxswain and crew eagerly boarded several of the remaining vessels, determined to participate in the event. Most of the vessels carried



to perform the Blessing got lost in St. Petersburg traffic and failed to arrive.

Even that could not stop the Auxiliarists from demonstrating their level of commitment to the Coast Guard and to the Auxiliary. All of the vessels proudly passed in review before the assemblage and smartly saluted the Sector Commander. If the rough water was a challenge, it did not show as each vessel adeptly turned in front of the reviewing stand. Just goes to show that neither acts of man nor nature can deter the Coast Guard Auxiliary from successfully completing their mission! Captain Servidio's return salute and his pride in their seamanship was all the reward they needed.





## Personnel Services, *Julie Benedict-Dolney SO-PS*



Personnel Services Officers have been busy processing new membership applications and sorting through e-responder referrals. It has been a real job getting the package of forms straight with the proper ones to use for the submissions in the new member packet. You can address questions to your SO-PS on which forms to use and what your Materials officer should order. You should be aware that any questions your SO-PS cannot answer for you are then addressed to our DSO-PS to be sorted out, solved and answered. Also, your monthly reports contain valuable information which helps us understand what is going on in membership.

Award forms have been submitted for several PS officers, individuals and flotillas who will be receiving District and National membership awards for their work in recruiting and membership growth in 2006.

We in the PS department are extremely proud to be receiving a total of 12 of these membership awards reflecting some very hard work done in recruiting in 2006.

Now our task as PS officers is to assign these new people a mentor and then coordinate training for them with our MT officers. We are asking that our PS and MT work together to integrate these new members into the flotilla. As always, the SO-PS and SO-MT offer training on an ongoing basis if needed at the flotillas.

At our Awards Lunch in May, our "Mentor Award for Excellence" (Julie Award) was awarded to IPDCP Dick Erett for 2006. We are all aware of the tremendous amount of help and advice that Dick has given to us as a group and on an individual basis over the past 2 years. He is well deserving to be designated an "excellent mentor" in all respects. He is continuing this effort on an ongoing basis. At the Lunch, we also saw the "Mike Award" for best membership gain go to flotilla 73. This flotilla and their PS/MT officer Len Dolney worked hard at recruiting and retention in 2006. New member training at 73 was also immediately coordinated to fulfill the goal of "getting new members in and getting them trained".

In the coming months our aim in PS is to continue with our ongoing recruiting as usual but also to train and develop our recent new members. This we must do by interviewing our new members using our "Member Involvement" booklet to set up a plan with attainable goals for each new member. The assigned "Mentor" then gets involved with helping to carry out the plan with the new member.

The Division MT is offering training in VE, APC, AUXOP Specialty courses, New Member Orientation, Sexual Harassment Prevention Workshop, IT, etc. Your flotilla/PS can send your members to these Division wide training sessions or the SO-MT and SO-PS can come to your flotilla. As PS officers we must work together to get the new recruits trained and acclimated into the flotilla and the Division. With this kind of a partnership in training there is opportunity for all to be involved and we are creating much needed future leaders.

Julie Benedict-Dolney  
SO-PS 7



## Staff Reports and News...

### Former Naval Destroyer Motor Launch Awarded Vessel Safety Decal

Story and Photos submitted by Valerie Fernandes, FSO-PV, FL 78



Dick Erett, IPDCP, and Pete Lore, VCP award Dale Hughes and Sam a VCS decal at the ceremony on May 18th.

On Friday, May 18, 2007, a newly restored motor whaleboat once assigned to the USS Sampson, DDG-10, was unveiled at a ceremony in St. Pete Beach, Florida. The ceremony was attended by members of the US Coast Guard in a 25 ft SAFE boat from Station St. Pete, members of the USS Sampson Association, an American Legion color guard, and members of USCG Auxiliary representing Division Seven. Peter Lore,

the Division's Vice Captain, presented "Sam", the vessel's new name, with a Vessel Safety Check decal.

Coast Guard personnel from Station St Pete presented the US Ensign to the guest of honor, William Sampson, the great grandson of Admiral William Sampson, and the last to bear the honored name. Bill Sampson then passed the ensign down the line of assembled former shipmates to Dale Hughes, who put the ensign on board, bringing SAM to life.

Dale Hughes was enrolled in the Boating Skills & Seamanship 13 week class taught by Flotilla 78 in St Pete Beach. He purchased the motor whaleboat, serial # C13236. According to Dale, this boat was built in 1964 and was lost in Navy inventory for about 4 years. It was located and was assigned to the USS Sampson (DDG-10) in May 1970. Mr. Hughes reports that the USS Sampson DDG-10 was the third ship to bear the name Sampson. She was a 437 ft long, 4,500 ton displacement guided missile destroyer in the United States Navy. The USS Sampson was placed into commission in 1961, and was decommissioned in 1991, 30 years to the day.

When the whale boat, or "liberty boat" was purchased in September, 2004, it was in a state of disrepair and required extensive restoration and refitting. The arduous process took two and half years to complete. The goal was to finish the restoration by the spring of 2007, in time for the USS Sampson Association reunion to be held in Dale's "backyard", on the ICW in St. Pete Beach. Dale re-christened his motor launch as "SAM", on February 10, 2007 at the Egan Park Ramp in St. Pete Beach. Mr. Hughes served on the USS Sampson from 1961 to 1962.



"Sam" and Dale were ready to greet their former shipmates at the Sampson Reunion on Friday, May 18th. The USCGAUX presented Dale with a VSC certificate to reward him for his efforts in



bringing the restored Navy whaleboat into compliance with federal and state safety requirements. Also present to assist were Dick Erett, IPDCP, Pat Erett, SO-SR, Joseph A. Gonzalez Jr, SO-VE, and Fred Kramer, FSO-PS, FL 75.

Pass-a-Grille Flotilla 78 had the honor of unveiling "Sam" with an Auxiliary facility vessel provided by Ed O'Krent, Vice Flotilla Commander. The coxswain aboard, Edwin C. Eggert, from Flotilla 7-16, was assisted by boat crewmembers Warren Pfirman, Ed O'Krent and Valerie Fernandes, also from 78.



Valerie Fernandes, FSO-PV FL 78, assisted by Robert L. Schuler, Flotilla Commander, FL-78, conducted an initial Vessel Safety Check of the restored whaleboat with Dales Hughes aboard on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

This is what Dale Hughes, the restorer of "Sam", had to say about the significance of the day:

*"Our ceremony May 18th is based around a Motor Whaleboat that came off of the Sampson. We are bringing her "Back to Life" to serve as a Goodwill Ambassador to all ex-shipmates of all ships that have carried the name Sampson. The "Sam" will serve to remind us of who we were and who we are today. Hopefully, the crew of the new USS Sampson DDG102, to be commissioned this year in Boston, will have a glimpse into the past. Some of that crew will just be starting the ship-board part of their Navy life, as many of us did 46 years ago in Boston.*

*"Our honored guest for the Commissioning of Sam is the Great Grandson of Adm. William T. Sampson. He also is the last to bear the Admirals name, William T. Sampson. He will be the featured speaker and will help bring Sam to Life.*

*"The Sampson reunion this weekend will bring many old friends together. A good sea story may be in order, maybe a toast, maybe just a ride in a boat remembering a special time many years ago, and yes maybe, just maybe a tear."*



Flotilla 78 members Ed O'Krent, Valerie Fernandes and Warren Pfirman unveil "SAM" with Dale Hughes at the bow.



## Staff Reports and News...

### Division Crew Training - Photo Journal.

Story by Dottie Riley, SO-OP



The thirteen week long crew training started at the end of March and will perform its final QE mission on Saturday, June 23rd.

New members who have not yet received identification cards were able to attend the 'table-top' portion of the training and are the participants shown not wearing uniforms.

(photo by B. Hagan, FC 79)

To participate in the On-the-water portion of the training, new members must have ID cards and be sworn in. Just in the nick of time, members Christine Cockrell, Zach Lessin and Jose Martinez are sworn in by Rick George, former FC of FL 79. Both Chris and Zach were eager to continue with the OTW portion of crew training.

(Photo by K. Kruczek, FSO-CS FL 79)



In addition to demonstrating their ability to carry the water pump, this group of trainees was able to see how the pump operates. This segment of training was taught by Jerry Routt, FSO-MT, FL 74, and Bob Stribling, FSO-OP, FL 79. Bob really seemed to enjoy shooting that stream of water off the dock.

(Photo by B. Hagan, FC 79)

Note: All photos on the following page are by D. Riley, SO-PB)







Cliff Martin coaches two trainees wearing anti-exposure suits as they swim the length of the pool. After this exercise was complete, they repeated it wearing personal flotation devices.

*How did this frog get in the pool? ▼*



Night time navigation means more than just keeping a sharp look out and handling the lines in the dark. Trainees have the opportunity to test their navigation skills by plotting their course on a chart before heading out on the water. Pat Costello, VFC 74, and Walter Wagner, FSO-VE, FL 74, carefully oversee the course plotted out by the trainees under their charge.

**Bottom left:** Steve Plass, FSO-PE, FL 79, prepares to provide radio guard for the night time mission.

**Bottom right:** Qualified crew and trainees chat before the start of the night navigation mission. The facilities, crews and trainees are from both sides of the bay- St. Petersburg and Tampa.



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