



Division 7 Honors the Outstanding Achievements of Individual Members and Flotillas.

Photos and text by Dottie Riley



Amos Johnson, DCDR 7 accepts a Meritorious Team Commendation from Capt. Timothy Close, USCG, Commander Sector St. Petersburg at the Division 7 Awards Banquet on March 27, 2010. The award was presented to all of the members from several divisions who assisted in this year's Gasparilla Boat Parade on January 30, 2010.

As volunteers of this great organization, members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary do not receive pay checks. Our efforts are acknowledged by awards conferred either by the Auxiliary or by the United States Coast Guard. This year, these awards were conferred at the Annual Division 7 Awards Banquet held on March 27, 2010 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa.

Distinguished guests included Capt. Timothy Close, USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg, COMO Allen Brown, Immediate Past District Commodore D7, and his wife, Mary Llewellyn-Brown, BM1 Heitt, USCG, Operations Petty Officer, Sector St. Petersburg. Newly named Auxiliarist of the Year, Marvin Bayles from Flotilla 72 in St. Petersburg was given a seat at the head table along with the other distinguished guests.

For more information about the Awards Banquet as well as descriptions of the individual and flotilla awards, see page 22-25 of this publication. ☼

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USCG and USCG Auxiliary History: Beach Pounders

For a fascinating glimpse into our history, be sure to turn to page 26.

Right: A Coast Guard sentry and his German shepherd dog watch with alert interest the approach of the automobile whose headlights reveal their presence. Waterfront installations, bridges, river locks and other key defense points are guarded by Coast Guardsmen. Keen senses of trained dogs add to the efficiency of Coast Guard patrol work."

Photo number/date/photographer unknown.



Division Elected Officers

Div 7	Division Commander	DCDR	Amos Johnson
Div 7	Division Vice Commander	VCDR	J. Michael Shea
Div 7	Immediate Past Division Commander	IPDCDR	Peter Lore
FL-72	Flotilla Commander	FC	James Fogle
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Richard L. Short
FL-74	Flotilla Commander	FC	Gilbert Thomas
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	James W. Mulligan
FL-75	Flotilla Commander	FC	Joseph Gonzalez
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Alma Parrish
FL-78	Flotilla Commander	FC	Brad Marchant
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Valerie Fernandes
FL-79	Flotilla Commander	FC	Tim Teahan
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Theresa (Bunny) Johnson
FL-7-16	Flotilla Commander	FC	James Newman
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Linda Harwitt



We're on the web!
<http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/>

*You can contact any of our
officers through the Division
website.*

Division Staff Officers

Communications	SO-CM	Terence E. Affeld
Communication Systems	SO-CS	Joseph Parrish
Finance	SO-FN	Wally Lowry
Information Systems	SO-IS	Alma Parrish
Materials	SO-MA	Ronald G. Matz
Marine Safety	SO-MS	Robert Starns
Member Training	SO-MT	Clifford J. Martin
Navigation Systems	SO-NS	Marvin Bayles
Operations	SO-OP	Clifford J. Martin
Public Affairs	SO-PA	Timothy Teahan
Publications	SO-PB	Dorothy J. Riley
Public Education	SO-PE	Steven B. Plass
Personnel Services	SO-PS	Heleyde Aponte
Program Visitor	SO-PV	Glenn Dobos
Secretary	SO-SR	Elizabeth Senesac-Barone
Vessel Examinations	SO-VE	Richard Bailey

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Words from the Helm....

Amos Johnson, Division Commander (DCDR 7)

Here we are almost halfway through my first year as Commander Division 7, and the question was put to me by Walter Jaskiewicz, Chief of Staff, D7, "What has your division accomplished so far and what is the greatest challenge you face?"

We have almost made up for the loss of our Flotilla 73 to Division 11. With a lot of effort in our training, we added eight new coxswains and seven new crewmembers over the winter, and we are now in the midst of training 17 new crewmen. Putting these members on the water eliminates our loss from last year. But let's not forget the rest of our duties. Across Division 7 we have many new radio watchstanders, program visitors, vessel examiners and instructors. Our membership has been increased by the hard work of our recruiters and our mentors.

The challenge we face now, honestly, has everything to do with getting, and keeping, our active members qualified and certified. We are dealing with changes in AUXDATA and POMS, and even the computer system that records everything we do. Some of it makes our jobs harder, but we need to have faith that it will get better when the bugs are worked out. As a matter of fact, the newest 7029 online form is being beta-tested now and is very much easier to use.

Summer is here- lets enjoy the work that we do.



Amos Johnson, DCDR

Amos Johnson, DCDR 7 and his wife, Theresa 'Bunny' Johnson, VFC FL 79 at the Division 7 Awards Banquet held on March 27, 2010 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa.



J. Michael Shea, VCDR 7 and his companion at the Division 7 Awards Banquet.
Both photos by Dottie Riley

Flotilla News

Flotilla 72, St. Petersburg, Fla.



James M. Fogle, FC

Members of Flotilla 72 recently had two unique training experiences. The first of these was a two-day training exercise on February 25-26, 2010 for the Joint Communications Support Element, Central Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base. This unit provides tactical communications packages tailored to the specific needs of a full joint task force headquarters (JTF HQ) and to a joint special operations task force. JCSE has the unique ability to solve communications and interoperability problems between services, coalitions and host nation partners and has led the way in incorporating the latest communications technologies to better enable the joint force commander. Members of Flotilla 79 assisted by offering their building for use as well as trainers, vessels, coxswains and crew.

Two months later, on April 21, 2010, Richard Short offered his vessel, Miss Marla, for use in another training exercise, this time for two Army Special Operations helicopters. This exercise was conducted just off Anna Maria Island. Again, members from Flotilla 79 assisted by providing crew. On board the Miss Marla were Richard Short, coxswain, Amos

Johnson, Bunny Johnson and Craig Starns as crew along with a Coast Guard rescue swimmer and an Army medic. (Read the full story on page 12.) The flotilla has been busy with vessel safety checks and other programs, but these two are the most 'exciting' events in recent months. ☼



Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Pflieger, U.S. Army, Staff Sgt. Matthew Houde, U.S. Air Force, Staff Sgt. Chad Welch, U.S. Air Force, and Petty Officer Demetrius Belton, U.S. Navy, all members of the Joint Communications Support Element, Central Command headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., with Kathi Kruczek, FL 79 and Jim Fogle from FL 72 bundle up against an unseasonably cold Florida winter evening as they prepare to conduct night operations training. Division 7 trained members of this elite group February 25-27, 2010 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa, Fla.

Photo by Tim Teahan, FC, FL 79

Jim Fogle instructs members of the Joint Communications Support Element, Central Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base.

Photo by Tim Teahan





Flotilla News

Flotilla 74, Brandon, Fla.

Between our flotilla and the Polk County Detachment, Flotilla 74 members stay very busy! Here is just a sampling of what our members accomplished between April 15 and May 15th:

Operations: Our members completed nine missions with all of our coxswains and facilities participating in at least one.

Member Training: Five members from Flotilla 74 started Division Crew Training with six qualified mentors (rotating duties) and their vessels participating in the on the water training. Our currently qualified resources include seven crew qualified members, three coxswains and four facilities with one additional facility awaiting approval, and of course, we will soon have five additional qualified crew members.

Operations is but one of our member training areas. A Vessel Safety Check workshop will be conducted at the Polk County Detachment on May 27, 2010. This will help us increase our ability to provide recreational boating safety awareness to the public.

Communications: Members contributed three watches to Rescue 21 backup watches for a total of 15 hours and four members recently passed the Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOM) examination.

Public Education: The flotilla conducted the ABS program on May 15, 2010 with ten participants.



Gil Thomas, FC

“Take a camera with you everywhere!”



Somebody paid attention to those words that appear in every issue of the *Intercom*!

George Papabeis, Flotilla Staff Officer–Public Affairs (FSO-PA) Flotilla 74, Brandon, Fla., fabricated a camera mount which he describes as, “not very elegant but sturdy.”

He is pictured here adjusting the mount on the bow rail aboard the Kamstarr during a recent training evolution. The Kamstarr is owned by Ken Morningstar, who is also one of the coxswains during the Boat Crew Training evolutions in progress on Saturdays at Flotilla 79 in Tampa, Fla. ♦

Flotilla News

Flotilla 75, Ruskin, Fla.



Joe Gonzalez, FC

Working With Station St. Pete

By Walter Wagner, photos by Ted Cohen

Thursday, April 22, 2010, Flotilla 75's facility Gulf Lady was requested by Division 7 Operations to participate in a joint training operation with Coast Guard Station St. Petersburg in training new crews and re-qualifying existing crews in towing exercises.

Gulf Lady responded with Walt Wagner as coxswain, Ted Cohen and Paul Moen as crew. They worked with three crews on two 25-foot Response Boats in Tampa Bay waters off-shore from Coast Guard Station St. Pete for approximately three hours doing several evolutions of various towing configurations. The Gulf Lady acted as the vessel in distress and the crew was required to critique the Coast Guard crews who performed the tows.

The weather was great and the young "whippersnappers" did a good job! ♦



Are we close enough, you think?



Line in the water!



Passing the line to the 'dead' boat.



I think we are done for today, folks!





Flotilla News

Flotilla 78, Pass-a-Grille/St. Pete Beach, Fla.

Members of Flotilla 78 have been very busy, especially with the approach of National Safe Boating Week. The flotilla's plans include a presentation to the entire student body at St. John's Catholic School in St. Pete Beach where they will "do it up right". Planned activities include presentations, posters, mock ATON displays and a life vest fashion show starring pupils at the school who will show off their life vests by walking down a runway to music. More on that in the next issue of the *Intercom*. We are still working and planning as the *Intercom* goes to press.

With a young daughter who is an avid boater, Brad Marchant is committed to teaching children all about boating safety. On Friday, May 14, 2010, Brad spent all day at Campbell Elementary School in St. Petersburg, Fla. teaching two fourth grade classes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Most of the materials he used came from chapters two and five of the Boating Skills and Seamanship program: safety equipment required for boats and how to read aids to navigation such as channel markers. Of course, Brad always stresses wearing a life vest!

Other flotilla news includes three members of the flotilla completed their three year re-qualification on April 8, 2010 with the assistance of vessels and crew from Flotillas 72 and 75, and Valerie Fernandes earned the Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) device. Congratulations Valerie! 🌸



Brad Marchant, FC



Brad Marchant presents qualifications and awards earned to flotilla members James Troiano, Warren Pfirrmann, Phil Creter and Ron Bradach at the flotilla meeting on May 10, 2010.

The most significant award was for Valerie Fernandes, who earned the Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) device. Valerie has worked long and hard to earn this qualification.

Amos Johnson, DCDR 7 was present for the presentation and is seen seated beside Brad.

Of course, this award was cause for celebration and everyone present shared in the cake and the fellowship to mark the occasion. Congratulations to all!

Photos provided by Brad Marchant



Flotilla 79, Tampa, Fla.



Tim Teahan, FC

So much is going on at Flotilla 79 that a bullet listing will best highlight our high level of activity:

- We had a successful Vessel Safety Check (VCS) effort at Davis Islands Yacht Club on April 24 and inspected 22 vessels.
- Our Boating Skills and Seamanship program on Wednesday nights is now eight weeks into the second twelve-week cycle. Attendance appears to be on the upswing with eight new participants since last month.
- Division 7 Boat Crew class continues on Thursday evenings and Saturday on the water until the qualifying examination (QE) on June 19, 2010. There are 17 candidates from throughout the division.
- Steve Plass, SO-PE 7 and three FL 79 members who are avid paddle sport enthusiasts are developing a Paddlesport Seminar scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2010. Prominent local canoeists and kayakers and retail stores will be part of the seminar.
- Heleyde Aponte, FSO-HR/SO-HR, sponsored a "One-and-Done" Open House for 15 prospective candidates on May 5. Five prospects attended and five applications were processed. One applicant has already been assigned a member number! We swore in one new member in April but none in May, and expect to swear in at least three new members in June.
- We continue to reach out to inactive FL 79 members to encourage them to participate in Flotilla events, training and meetings, and to update their Vessel Examination, boat crew and coxswain qualifications.
- On Saturday, May 22, we plan to serve lunch to 30 boat crew candidates, mentors, coxswains and crews.



- On Thursday, May 20, 2010, we sponsored the national *Ready, Set, Inflate* event at FL 79 building. Agencies that participated included USCG Station St. Pete, Florida Wildlife Commission and the City Parks and Recreation Department. Channels 8, 10 and 13 provided media coverage.

- Craig Starns, FSO-CM, continues to work with Terry Affeld, SO-CM 7 and Cliff Martin, SO-OP7 to assemble a package to send to National Telecommunications Chief to apply for a Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number for the FL 79 radio station which will enable us to use the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) technology. 🌟

Larry Neu watches a trainee secure the boat at the dock during one of the recent on the water segments of the Division crew training. Photo by Tim Manning





Flotilla News

Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport, Fla.

- Flotilla 7-16 will publish its fifth newsletter for 2010 in May.
- On May 12, 2010, Don Rimel completed his career 1,500 Program Visitor visit in only a 35 months time frame.
- The Flotilla 7-16 Program Visitor team has completed 192 visits to date and should reach their goal of 400 visits this year.
- The Vessel Examiner team has completed 195 Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) to date but need to pick up the pace to reach their goal of 400 Vessel Examinations for the year. This will be a daunting task as two of their four vessel examiners will head out of state in May leaving two to do the National Safe Boating Week one-day Vessel Examination Blitz at the Gulfport Municipal Marina. The event is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 23, 2010.
- Don Rimel submitted an article to the *Gabber* - How Safe is your Boat? The article will run on May 6th, 13th, and 20th for a week each.
- Jim Newman was certified as crewman and three members completed their Auxiliary Crewman third year certification. They are Bruce Cardall, Don Rimel, and Kevin Yeaton.
- Our flotilla is working on ten new member candidates who will be active in the Auxiliary. ♦



James Newman, FC



Don Rimel and Jim Newman staffed a boating safety information booth at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club 'Funday' from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday May 8, 2010. The event offered free sailboat rides, free hot dogs and sodas, tours, and door prizes. There was a large crowd with 68 visitors to the booth. Photo of Don Rimel by Jim Newman

Staff Reports...

Navigation Systems— Marvin Bayles

The crew class has made it very difficult to get boats out to check the Private Aids to Navigation (PATON). The only flotilla that has completed all their PATON verifications is FL 72, and they were completed early in the year. As soon as the class is finished, I have been promised that the flotillas will be going out and getting the PATONs within their areas of responsibility completed.

- Assisted in planning and publicizing National Safe

Public Affairs— Tim Teahan

Boating Week (NSBW) events with Jim Fogle, Flotilla Commander, FL 72 and developed tentative dates.

- Discussed concept plan for Ready, Set, Inflate event with USCG Sector St. Petersburg Public Affairs Office, Don Hoge, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator and with Sector's Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO) to encourage Sector involvement in nationwide NSBW media event on Thursday, May 20, 2010.
- Visited T.A. Mahoney Marine and West Marine stores in Tampa and received promise of 5 inflatable life jackets from each outlet for use during the Ready, Set Inflate event in Tampa.
- Organized Station St. Pete assets/resources to participate in Ready, Set, Inflate Tampa event.
- Planned/executed filming of five Vessel Safety Check and inflatable life jacket use segments for airing on Brighthouse Sports Networks (BHSN)

"Hooked On Fishing" show with host, master angler Bill Miller. Segments began showing on May 16, 2010 and will continue until May 20, 2010.

- Set up participation in "Reel Animals" fishing talk show on WFLA-Radio, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on May 20, 2010.
- Visited with Tampa region Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) commander to coordinate/finalize FWC participation in Ready, Set, Inflate event.
- Taped a segment of NSBW safe boating topics on "Tampa Bay Tomorrow," a community affairs show on Tampa Bay area clear channel radio stations. Show will air on six stations in early June.
- Sending out news releases describing division-wide NSBW events this weekend for FL 72, 74, 75 78, 79, 7-16 and Polk County Detachment. See calendar of scheduled events.

Vessel Examinations— Richard "Beetle" Bailey

On April 10, 2010, Flotilla 74 presented a Vessel Examiner (VE) workshop.

One new facility passed inspection and is presently awaiting the final paperwork.

Flotilla 72: VE blitz at Mirabay in Hillsboro County. Over 30 boats were examined.

Flotilla 74: Due to change in Flotilla Staff Officer-Information Services (FSO-IS), logging is behind. FL 74 is working on VE blitz with Flotilla 75 for kickoff of National Safe Boating Week on May 22, 2010.

Flotilla 75: The flotilla has been doing regular scheduled Vessel Safety Checks at Williams Park, Simmons Park and occasionally at Riverview Civic Center, and are planning to schedule one or two days at Little Harbor.

The Ready, Set, Inflate event on May 20, 2010 went off as scheduled at the Gandy boat ramp behind Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Participants included members of the USCG Sector St. Petersburg, Florida Wildlife Commission, and members of the Auxiliary, Division 7. Media coverage included filming and still photography by channels 8, 10 and 13 in Tampa Bay.
Photo by Dottie Riley





NSBW Events for Division 7 Flotillas

NSBW Event/Sponsor	Location/Media Outlet	Date	Time
NSBW Proclamation Polk County Detachment	Haines City Commission NSBW Proclamation	Thurs. 5/6	1900
Safe Boating Exhibit FL 75	Boater's Flea Market Land's End Marina, Apollo Beach	Sat. 5/15	0800-1600
NSBW Proclamation Polk County Detachment	City of Lakeland	Wed. 5/18	0900
Radio Interview FL 79	Reel Adventures Talk Show WFLA-AM Radio	5/22	0600-0900
NSBW Proclamation Polk County Detachment	City of Lake Wales	Wed. 5/18	1800
NSBW Proclamation Polk County Detachment	Board of County Commissioners Polk County	Thurs. 5/19	0900
"Ready Set Inflate" FL 79	Gandy Boat Ramp (Tampa)	Thurs. 5/20	1030-1115
NSBW Proclamation Polk County Detachment	Haines City Website	May 22-28	N/A
Vessel Safety Check TV Segments FL 72 and FL 79	Hooked on Fishing with Capt. Bill Miller (Brighthouse Cable Networks)	May 22-28	To Be Announced
Vessel Safety Exams FL 72	Demen's Landing (St. Pete Municipal Launch Ramp)	Sat. 5/22	0800-1400
Safe Boating Exhibit FL 72	West Marine Store St. Petersburg	Sat. 5/22	0800-1400
Vessel Safety Exams FL 72	O'Neill's Marina (South St. Pete)	Sat. 5/22	0800-1400
Vessel Safety Exams FL 7-16	Fort DeSoto Park (Pinellas County)	Sat. 5/22	0800-1400
Safe Boating Exhibit FL 7-16	Artwalk Event (Gulfport)	Sat. 5/22	1700-2100
Vessel Safety Exams FL 74 and 75	Williams Park Boat Ramp (Riverview)	Sat. 5/22	0800-1400
Vessel Safety Exams FL 79	Gandy Boat Ramp (Tampa)	Sat. 5/22	0800-1300
Vessel Safety Exams FL 79	Gandy Boat Ramp (Tampa)	Sun. 5/23	0800-1300
Vessel Safety Exams Kids Program FL 79	Gandy Boat Ramp (Tampa) (Kid's program Tentative)	Sun. 5/23	0800-1300
NSBW Proclamation Polk County Detachment	City of Winter Haven	Mon. 5/24	1700
Vessel Safety Exams Kids Safe Boating Program FL 79	Gandy Boat Ramp (Tampa) (Kid's Program TENTATIVE)	Sat. 5/29	0800-1300

News and Articles by Members...

Auxiliary Members Support Army Special Forces.

Submitted by Rick Short and Bunny Johnson, Photos by Amos Johnson

Ever been out on a boat and found yourself pursued by two Army Black Hawk helicopters? Four Auxiliarists from Division 7 recently had just that experience.

Clearwater Air Station called upon the Auxiliary to assist with a Special Operations training mission on April 21, 2010. Rick Short from Flotilla 72 in St. Petersburg responded to the call with his vessel, the Miss Marla. His crewmembers were Amos Johnson, Craig Starns and Bunny Johnson, all from Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Also with them were a Coast Guard rescue swimmer and an Army medic, "just in case".

The exercise was conducted just off Anna Maria Island. Two Army Black Hawk helicopters dropped their swimmers into the Gulf and retrieved them again. They used their own vessel with an open deck suitable for retrieving swim-



mers, but alas, that vessel experienced mechanical difficulties.

The Auxiliary vessel's purpose was two-fold. The first was to maintain a safety zone while the swimmers were in the water, and the second was to provide a platform for the Coast Guard rescue swimmer and medic. Once, Short had to turn on his lights and move quickly to prevent a recreational vessel from entering the immediate area while an Army swimmer was in the water. The Army medic on board maintained constant radio contact with the helos during the mission and relayed instructions to Short.

After four rescue rotations, the Miss Marla was asked to speed up to 30 knots while both helicopters chased them for a "take down". An experienced boater, Short tried unsuccessfully to evade the helos, which seemed to anticipate his every move. They were surprised at the speed with which the Black Hawks moved. Even with a long lead, the Black Hawks were on them in an instant. They came so close that Short remarked, "they could see the expressions on the faces of the persons in the cockpit." Short said, "these guys were so skillful that it felt like trying to evade dragonflies! No matter which way I turned, they were right on me."

Ok, so it was only a training exercise, but it was still a unique on the water experience! Bunny Johnson said, "It was great fun to help them and exciting too!" After the mission was over Short commented, "These guys really knew what they were doing! So glad to know that

they are on our side!"

This mission is a great example of how Auxiliarists can help our Armed Forces. 🌟

Captions: Top: Bunny Johnson watches as a Black Hawk lowers a swimmer into the water. The helmet in foreground is the Army medic as he maintained constant radio contact with the helos.

Left: The crew of the Miss Marla prepares to heave off. On board are Craig Starns, the USCG rescue swimmer, Rick Short, Amos Johnson, Bunny Johnson (far rear) and the Army medic.





News and Articles by Members...

Auxiliary Members Support the Coast Guard.

Submitted by Bradley A. Ware, FSO-PV 79

On Thursday May 14th 2010, The United States Coast Guard gained a new member, Seaman Andrew Sine from Tampa. Andrew went through Flotilla 79's Boating Skills & Seamanship Program, finishing up in March just before he shipped out to boot camp at Cape May for eight fun filled weeks.

Andrew is one of three children who lived down the street from Brad Ware, a member of Flotilla 79. Andrew knew Ware worked with the Coast Guard in some capacity and asked him if there was anything he could do to prepare himself before entering the Coast Guard. Ware recommended Andrew should attend the Boating Skills and Seamanship program, learn his general orders and be in good physical condition before entering boot camp. Ware suggested that doing these things might relieve some of mental stress, and according to Andrew, it helped.

Andrew will be shipping out to his new duty station in Alameda, California, aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Sherman. This 378-foot high endurance cutter's motto is, "Honorable and Faithful". The Andrew that Ware has known for all these years easily lives up to the ship's motto and will be a fine addition to its crew.

Andrew plans to strike for Boatswain's mate. Ware's



Andrew poses with his mother, Angela, and his stepfather upon graduation from basic training at the USCG Training Center in Cape May, N.J. on May 14, 2010. Photo provided by Andrew Sine

advice: make E-4 as soon as you can, good luck and have fun, mate! And, oh yes--- Don't forget to write your mom!



"QE" Mission

April 8th, 2010 qualifying examination mission for one new crew member from FL 79, and re-qualification for five crewmembers from FL 78 and two from FL 7-16. Many thanks to coxswains Walt Wagner (left) and Rick Short for taking their facilities out on a very windy day! Photos and caption provided by Valerie Fernandes, VFC 78

News and Articles by Members...

New Course - *Paddlesports America* - Soon Available

Anne Lockwood, Director, Public Education

Paddlers – we need to reach them and teach them. Kayakers and canoeists do not think they are boaters, but we know better.

The fastest growing water sport in North America resides in the kayak and canoe arena. However, the increase in paddle sport participants is correlated with the increase in accidents but even more alarming - the increase in fatalities.

Paddlesports America is approved as the official course for the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. This four - hour seminar course, designed and produced by Boat Ed, provides outstanding safety information just for canoeists and kayakers.

The course comes with a five chapter student manual, 30 item test, answer sheet, answer template, certificate of completion, and Instructor notes. PowerPoint presentations to accompany the course will be posted to the E-Library Resource Center for download. The student manual also provides Chapter Review Exercises.

The Instructor Guide provides recommended teaching techniques and indicates appropriate teaching times for each chapter. Extensive chapter lesson plans are for each chapter.

Flexibility is built into the course. Instructors can add region-specific equipment information. Kayaks in Alaska differ greatly from in those used in the Gulf Coast or lake areas, so equipment information can be updated.

Watch for the **NEXT** announcement of when **Paddlesports America** will be available for order. **Paddlesports America** will be available with an on-line order cost of \$77.75 to flotillas per case to serve 10 students. The product number is 1PA- 10150. The suggested Auxiliary retail price to students is a minimum of \$15 per student.

Through education we save lives. Help save even more lives by reaching out to this vast new audience of paddlecraft enthusiasts. ☼





A Significant Date...



March 1, 2010

Our Department's Seven-Year Anniversary

Dear Colleagues,

Today, we celebrate an important milestone in the history of our Department: our seven year anniversary.

Seven years ago today, 22 federal agencies and offices joined together to form the Department of Homeland Security, and to begin the important work of securing our country against a new era of threats.

I am proud of what we have achieved together in support of our vital missions - guarding against terrorism and other threats; securing our land, air and maritime borders; enforcing our immigration laws; protecting cyber space and critical infrastructure; and ensuring resilience to disasters.

Through One DHS, we're building a more efficient, capable, and collaborative Department. This work continues as we roll out our new Department-wide intranet site, Connect, at <http://dhsconnect.dhs.gov> - it is a powerful tool in bringing our many components together.

As we look forward to this year and beyond, I am proud of the publication of our first-ever Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, which, as a result of the contributions of literally thousands of DHS employees, provides a clear path to ensuring a more secure and resilient future for our Nation.

At the core of these successes are all of you - our DHS employees. You are the Department's greatest assets and the reason for our remarkable progress over the past seven years. I thank you again for your hard work, for your commitment to the Department, and for your service to our country.

Yours very truly,

Janez Napolitano

News and Articles by Members...

Rules of the Road: Are You a Stand-on or Give-way?

By Dave Nielson

Navigating on open waters can be very confusing and dangerous if you do not know the Rules of the Road. Professional mariners know these rules as do most experienced boaters.

The Rules are the NAVIGATION RULES (Nav Rules) which are actually in two parts. The first are the 72 COLREGS, formally known as the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. The second is the Inland Rules. Both were adopted by the United States and the Coast Guard is charged with their enforcement in U.S. waters. These Rules apply to all vessels on international and inland waters.

Although all the rules are important, there are several that pertain to good seamanship in regards to conduct between vessels. Understanding who the stand-on vessel is and who the give-way vessel is when two vessels approach each other can make boating much more pleasant and safer, too.

Determining which vessel is stand-on or give-way requires us to know three sectors of a vessel. The three sectors account for 360 degrees in a circle. The accompanying diagram depicts the three sectors. I'll save the detailed references to degrees of arc for another time. We see these sectors easily at night as the starboard or right side shows a green light, port or left side shows a red light and a white light on the stern.

Basically, the Rules require that the stand-on vessel maintain its course and speed unless a danger of collision is apparent. A give-way vessel must also take any action that is necessary to avoid a collision. The stand-on vessel maintains its course and speed in order that the give-way vessel can predict what the stand-on vessel will do.

The captain(s) must determine what action to take at night when two vessels approach each other from dead ahead. Each will see the other vessel's red and green navigation lights. Both vessels are give-way vessels and each must turn to starboard in order that they pass each other port to port. Passing starboard to starboard is permissible provided both captains agree via sound signals or VHF radio communication.

When you see another vessel's stern light, you are overtaking it. You are the give-way vessel and must avoid this vessel. Deciding which side to pass the stand-on vessel should be determined by sound signals or VHF radio communication.

When you see another vessel's port side or red sidelight, you are again the give-way vessel. This is a crossing situation and you must alter your course to pass astern of the stand-on vessel. The other vessel is the stand-on vessel and sees your starboard side or green sidelight. This vessel maintains its course and speed. Remember, "most" experienced boaters and professional mariners know the Rules. The other captain may not see your lights or know what they mean. Should the other vessel not treat you as the stand-on vessel and

alter their course as required, give the danger signal (5 short and rapid blasts on the horn or whistle) and change your course to prevent a collision.

Certainly, this abbreviated narrative of who is stand-on or give-way does not cover all the situations that may occur on the water. This narrative applies to power driven vessels as these descriptions change if one or both vessels are under sail.

Interested in learning more about navigation and safe boating? For more information visit

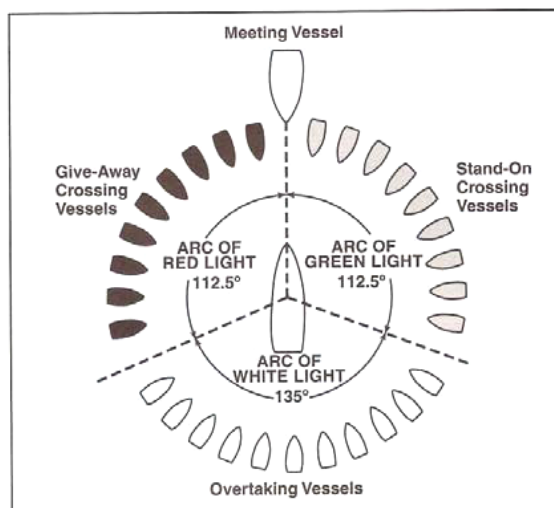
<http://www.cgau.org/boatinged/> or <http://www.usps.org/>

Be safe out there and I'll see you on the water. ☼

Dave Nielsen is a safe boating instructor and vessel examiner for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 87, Englewood Flotilla www.coastguardenglewood.com and the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron, Punta Gorda www.puntagorda-boating.org

Editor's Note:

Dave is a regular contributor to the SUN newspaper's Water-Line boating and fishing magazine promoting the USCG and USCG AUXILIARY's safe boating message. The preceding article has appeared recently in the Waterline and the FL 87 Newsletter, Anchorline. Reprint permission obtained from the editor and author.





Wear Your Uniform Proudly, Correctly!

By Linda Barnard

Recently, at the Counter Terrorism Workshop, I was pleased to see so many Auxiliarists wearing the uniform proudly and correctly! If there is one thing to say about the ODUs, it's an easy uniform to wear correctly. The only errors I noticed were small ones. Remember that as Auxiliarists, we are part of TEAM COAST GUARD and should do our best to represent the service, and wearing the uniform correctly is a big part of that.

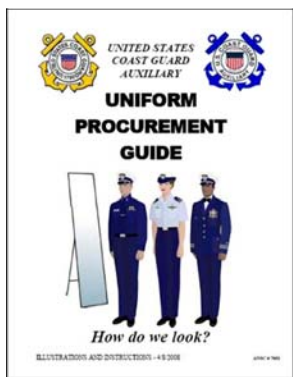
Here are some websites that can help you with Uniform questions and purchases:

Uniform websites, sites of interest / importance, etc.:

Uniform Procurement Guide: Print this or download to your computer for reference.

This has everything about buying, wearing, measuring, etc.. To find this on the web go to the National Aux website (see below) at the very bottom of page is 'Advance Search'. Enter 'uniform procurement guide' and select 2nd choice:

<http://www.auxdept.org/pdf/UPG-10-15-09.pdf>



Soldier City ... USCG stuff
<http://www.soldiercity.com>

Medals Of America
<http://www.usmedals.com>

Ultra Thin Medals
<http://www.ultrathin.com>

RIBBON CHECKER ... The items in *italics* have the same precedence. Adjust these and these alone in the order you qualified for them. These do include Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force Good Conduct Medals!
<http://ribbons.cgaux.info/bin-cgi/ribbons.pl?/config.txt>



Just how informed about uniforms is Linda Barnard? We found out at the Division 7 picnic held May 15, 2010. Linda keeps a notebook in her car that includes a copy of the Uniform Procurement Guide, instructions on how to roll ODU sleeves, USCG customs and courtesies and a lot of other helpful topics. For questions about uniforms, Linda is definitely the source in Division 7. Photo by Dottie Riley

Galls ... uniforms, shoes, boots, etc.
<http://galls.com>

Kingform Cap ... Military Dress Covers (hats)
<http://kingformcap.com>

Division 7 website Tampa, FL
<http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/>

Other useful sites:

District 7 website Miami, Fla.
<http://cgaux7.org>

Auxiliary National website
<http://nws.cgaux.org>

Aux Chief AuxOp National site
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg3/cg3pcx/>
<http://www.cgaux.org/members/uniforms.html>

Aux National Commodore website
<http://www.auxnaco.org/>

Please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions that you may have, if I don't have the answer, I will do my best to find it for you!

Semper Paratus!
Linda Barnard, FL 72

News and Articles...

Member Training Tasks

New training tasks for members are now available on-line at the USCG Learning website. The 5 training items are:

1. Privacy Awareness Training
2. Security Education (and) Training Awareness (SETA) Training
3. Influenza Training (only once career)
4. Sexual Harassment (and Assault Prevention/Response (SHAPR) Training
5. Information Systems Security

All five of these Mandatory Training items PA, SETA,

INF, SHAPR, and ISS are now in Task Capture in both the Activity Logs and the Training Modules.

As all of these are taken on line at <https://learning.uscg.mil>, there is no need to add them to the 7039 form.

When the member completes one of the above, they print out a certificate. All the member needs to do is send a copy to their SO-IS.

The SO-IS then enters a 06B mission, enters the student as a Trainee (no Lead) and selects the task and credit the member with it. ☼

Honoring Our Wonderful Support Systems.



Karen Yeaton and Emalou Rimel-May 15, 2010
Ft. De Soto National Park. Photo by D. Riley

Many of our members spend thirty to forty hours at their full time jobs and still contribute ten, twenty and more hours a week to the USCG Auxiliary. Other members are in the golden years of retirement, but continue to 'work' full time for the Auxiliary, in many cases devoting more volunteer hours than they spent while employed. It takes a special kind of person to stand behind these members and offer their continued support, so in this issue, we honor our 'support systems', who endure the hours we are away from home or sitting in front of a computer performing administrative tasks.

Karen Yeaton and Emalou Rimel epitomize our support systems.

To them, and to all of our support systems- male and female- we say thank you!





News and Articles...

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Updates

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – United States Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, Fla. and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have been actively preparing for possible marine pollution affects from the spill associated with the sinking of the mobile offshore drilling unit, Deepwater Horizon, on April 22, 2010.

Early on, Pres. Barack Obama directed responding agencies to not only devote every resource to respond to this incident, but to also determine its cause. Also, this event has been deemed as a spill of national significance, which allows the federal government to mobilize additional resources, personnel and assets to fight the spill.

Coast Guard, federal and state partners in Florida are teaming with others to actively monitor all waters from the Fenholloway River in Taylor County south to Everglades City Fla. for any impacts from the spill. On April 22, 2010, initial environmental protection planning efforts began by hosting a joint meeting with several pollution response trustees.

At the end of the meeting the group reviewed highly sensitive areas in northern coastal Florida and prepared pollution response strategies. On Tuesday, May 4, a meeting with key environmental groups was held to share information and discuss pollution mitigation.

"We are working hard to coordinate with all stakeholders well ahead of any impact to our area. If the oil comes this way, we want to seamlessly connect with our partnering agencies and key environmental groups to ensure we are all operating as efficiently as possible," said Cmdr. Tim Haws, Chief of Response at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg.

For more information on the spill responds effort visit www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com ☼

National Guard Activation

Secretary Gates has authorized use of Title 32 status for up to 17,500 National Guard members in four states: Alabama (3,000), Florida (2,500), Louisiana (6,000) and Mississippi (6,000).

The state of Louisiana has activated approximately 1,200 National Guard members under Title 32 for command and control and sandbagging operations in St Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. Louisiana National Guard personnel are actively manning the Joint Operations Center and Tactical Aviation Cell.

Source: Coast Guard News, May 4, 2010



VENICE, La. – Coast Guard petty officers Darrel Boyles and Darrell Greep, Coast Guard National Strike Force, discuss logistical concerns associated with the offload of an anchoring system for protective boom beside a Vessel of Opportunity Oil Skimming System or VOSS, in Venice, May 2, 2010. The Coast Guard is part of the unified response dedicated to the clean up of an oil spill from the explosion from the mobile offshore drilling unit, Deepwater Horizon. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Stephen Lehmann.

TRACKING AUXILIARY SUPPORT OF DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE -020/10

1. The scope of the Deepwater Horizon response effort in the Gulf of Mexico calls for a more accurate means by which the Coast Guard can capture Auxiliary activities in support of it. Therefore, a new entry, "Deepwater Horizon," has been added in AUXDATA to the List of Values for the "Operation" field.

2. Auxiliarists who perform activities in support of the Deepwater Horizon response are requested to add the words, "Deepwater Horizon" in the Remarks section of their ANSC-7029 and ANSC-7030 forms when they report such activities. This applies for any type of activity that is reported in support of this response effort (e.g. - Patrols, CG

Operation Support, CG Administrative Support, Travel, Preparation, etc.). This will help Flotilla and Division Staff Officers for Information Services (FSO-IS/SO-IS) ensure that such activities are properly annotated in AUXDATA.

3. Auxiliary consideration and support of this effort are greatly appreciated.

4. The purpose of this list is to keep Auxiliarists as well as all other interested parties abreast of current developments, policies, manuals, etc. All information contained herein and linked is OFFICIAL policy and information. ☼

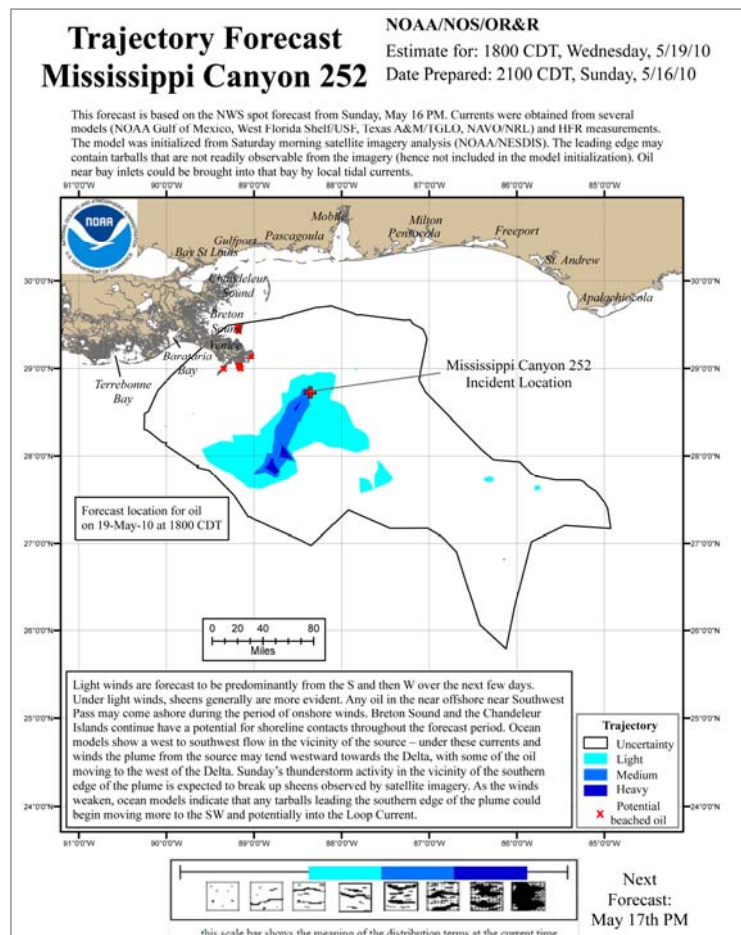
News and Articles...

Facts about NOAA and its Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response Capabilities *(NOAA News Release)*

Did You Know ...

- Oil spill trajectory forecasts are a new disaster management tool developed by NOAA scientists?
- NOAA continuously fine-tunes its products to meet current needs, while developing tools for the future.
- Healthy marine ecosystems may recover quicker from disaster — even man-made events such as an oil spill? NOAA scientists and managers work together to understand the impacts humans have on the marine environment and how we can take steps to keep the ocean healthy.
- NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center maintains a fleet of 13 aircraft, including the Twin Otter used to observe marine mammals near an oil spill? Air and ocean platforms allow NOAA scientists to make direct observations of weather and ocean conditions to support disaster response with the best and freshest information possible.
- The more than 3 million recreational fishermen who use the Gulf of Mexico took 24 million fishing trips in 2008? NOAA values recreation in America's great outdoor spaces, and uses science and stewardship to make sure our citizens never have to travel far to enjoy healthy oceans and coasts.
- More than 50 percent of the nation's population live in coastal watershed counties that are vulnerable to coastal hazards like oil spills and storm surge? NOAA invests in the science to make communities resilient to natural disaster — lessening impacts and speeding recovery.
- 21 different species of marine mammals inhabit the Northern Gulf of Mexico? NOAA science helps communities to find ways to plan their use of oceans and coasts so that we can continue to enjoy the company of neighbors like wild dolphins and whales.
- The National Weather Service New Orleans/Baton Rouge Weather Forecast Office is providing special marine and weather forecasts for the spill site? Responders and emergency workers rely on NOAA science generated in real time to make the best decisions to protect human life and property.

- NOAA has linked the Gulf of Mexico Marine Mammal Strandings Network into the multiagency command center for the Gulf Coast oil spill in order to be ready for beached whales, dolphins and sea turtles? NOAA engages with communities and stakeholders to guard their interests and make sure they are become part of solutions for their homes and livelihoods.
- NOAA's Satellite Analysis Branch has provided "shapefiles" depicting the location of spilled oil?
- NOAA's investments in satellite technology give local communities time to brace for disaster to save lives and property. ♦





News and Articles...

Flotilla Designations:

Flotilla designations, in print and per the Auxiliary Manual (AUXMAN) should be written as Flotilla 79, Tampa, Fla. (for example).

Hyphens should be used only when the number of digits exceeds two numerals, for example, 7-16, or our neighbors to the north, 11-3. Leading zeros should never be used as they are strictly functions of computer sorting. Please refer to the Auxiliary Manual, Chapter 4, Section A.3.

http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/CIM_16790_1F.pdf

The manual clearly demonstrates the correct way to identify an Auxiliary unit. The name or locale is a part of that designation, for example: Flotilla 79, Tampa, Fla., or Flotilla 7-16, Gulfport, Fla.

While there is a clear way of writing a flotilla and division number, there is no clear cut way of inserting the district number in conjunction with the flotilla number. Generally, if you are communicating with others within your own district, there is no need to identify your district as everyone in your district knows which one they are in. For example, while there can only be one Flotilla 79 in District 7, there could be multiple Flotilla 79's nationwide. When writing to others outside your district, particularly on a return address, write: FSO-PB 79 (D7),

or FL 79 (D7). This is the customary 'shorthand' for the correct and complete unit designation, 'Flotilla 79, Tampa, Fla.' Since the unit you represent always has prominence, the flotilla number should always take the lead over the district. Please do not confuse the AUXDATA/computer format of unit identification with the written and spoken way to identify a flotilla.

The reason for "0700709" (or 070-07-09) is simple: computer sorting. They had to come up with a way of listing the various districts numerically, so that the lower districts remain at the top of the list. Otherwise, if you tried to sort District 11 and District 7, the "11" would supersede the "7" and the "7" would be interpreted as a "70" in a computer. Since there are three District 9 areas, the only way to sort it properly was to insert another number after the 09 as well.

Never use leading zeroes except when entering numbers in a database. District numbers such as 070 are for computer use only. They should never be committed to print, especially when dealing with the public, and should never appear in correspondence or newsletters.

Many thanks to Bill Sorrentino, VCDR-4; BC-IHC, Branch Chief, IH Division, Compliance Branch, Department of Information Technology and a member of Flotilla 44, Daytona Beach, Fla. He sent this information out in an email, which we then liberally plagiarized, edited and adapted for use in our newsletter. ☼

Dear Orville,

Just bought Ma and me a cabin cruiser to take out on the lake. The first time we took it out, the Coast Guard Auxiliary was out there giving those Free Vessel Safety Checks. Well, you know how much I love free stuff so I said ok, but they refused to give us one of them there stickers like everybody else got. Go figure! Instead, me and Ma got sweet-talked into going back to school to learn all about Boating Safety. In just a couple of weeks, you're gonna have educated folks in the family! Far out, huh?

*Yours truly,
Cousin Bubba*



P.S. This here is a pitcher of our cabin cruiser.

We're selling it cheap- wanna buy?

News and Articles by Members...

Division 7 Awards for 2009

By Tim Teahan with photos by Dottie Riley



Division 7 Honor Roll recipients pose with their certificates at the Annual Awards Banquet on March 27, 2010 at the Colonnade Restaurant in Tampa. Flotilla elected officers accepted the awards on behalf of members not present. Back row: Amos Johnson, FL 79, Walter Wagner, FL 75, Marvin Bayles, FL 72, Bunny Johnson, FL 79, Tim Teahan FL 79, Gil Thomas, FL 74, and Craig Starns, FL 79. Front row: Alma Parrish, FL 75, Cliff Martin, FL 79, Don Rimel, FL 7-16, Mike Shea, FL 79, and Jim Fogle, FL 72.

Each year, Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 7 recognizes the best efforts of the more than 500 Auxiliarists in six flotillas and one detachment around Tampa Bay through the presentation of a number of individual and flotilla awards. The awards vary in intent and origin and some are "traveling," held by individual Auxiliarists or flotillas for one year while others are kept in perpetuity by the recipient.



Marvin Bayles accepts the 2009 Auxiliarist of the Year Award from COMO Allen Brown, Immediate Past District Commodore, D7. With them are Amos Johnson, DCDR Div 7 and Capt. Timothy Close, USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg.

Several awards are named in honor of past or present Division Seven Auxiliarists who, in some fashion, have exhibited extraordinary dedication to a specific mission area, or who have contributed to an award's inception. Whatever the award, they serve a singular purpose - to recognize the dedicated commitment to Auxiliary missions by Division Seven Auxiliarists and flotillas. The most prestigious is the Auxiliarist of the Year Award. Based on nominations from Division 7 Flotilla Commanders, this award is presented to an Auxiliarist demonstrating unwavering involvement and an all-around commitment to the Coast Guard Auxiliary in general, and to Division 7 in particular.

2009 Recipient: Marvin Bayles, Flotilla 72

Individual Awards

Individual awards are based on the number of hours accrued by Division 7 members, as recorded in POMS or AUXDATA during the previous calendar year. The awards recognize efforts in Operations, Member Training, Public Education and Recreational Boating Safety endeavors, as listed below:





Joe and Alma Parrish from Flotilla 75 in Ruskin were the recipients of the Vans Evers Award. While Alma is the current VFC of her flotilla, the two also hold several staff positions at flotilla and division levels—in addition to volunteering for FEMA.

- Most Public Education Instructor Hours
- Most Member Training Instructor Hours
- Most Aide Hours
- Most Skipper Hours
- Most Crew Hours
- Most Search and Rescue Assists
- Most Vessel Safety Checks
- Most Marine Dealer Visit Hours

Division 7 Honor Roll

The Division Honor Roll is reserved for individuals contributing 500 or more hours supporting the Division. In 2009, 19 division members qualified for this honor.

Flotilla 72:

Richard Short	704 Hours
Stanley Clark	753 Hours
Marvin Bayles	1,290 Hours

Flotilla 74:

Roger Sneden	552 Hours
Ken Morningstar	709 Hours
Robert Gibson	1007 Hours
Gilbert Thomas	1607 Hours

Flotilla 75:

Paul Moen	589 Hours
Walter Wagner	712 Hours

Flotilla 79:

Craig Starns	540 Hours
Amos Johnson	607 Hours
Heleyde Aponte	612 Hours
Brian Garry	621 Hours
Bunny Johnson	665 Hours
Kathleen Heide	677 Hours
J. Michael Shea	929 Hours

Cliff Martin	1,089 Hours
Tim Teahan	1,635 Hours

Flotilla 7-16:

Donald Rimel	928 Hours
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The Julie Award

This award was donated by Julie Benedict-Dolney, a member of Flotilla 7-16. The award recognizes up to three Division members making an outstanding contribution in recruiting and retention by dedication to, and utilization of mentor excellence.

2009 Recipient: Kathi Kruczek, Flotilla 79

Vans Evers Award

Named in honor of Van and Fran Vans Evers, former Flotilla 79 members, this award is presented to a couple or an individual demonstrating exceptional dedication to the ideals of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

2009 Recipient: Joe and Alma Parrish, Flotilla 75

Flotilla Awards

The Krough Award

Ed Krough, a Past Division Commander 7 (PDCDR) and a member of former Flotilla 73 (now FL 11-3), conceived this award which is presented annually to the Flotilla making the greatest contribution to Auxiliary public education programs.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 7-16

The Oalmann Award

Donated by William Oalmann, a past Division Staff Officer and Flotilla 78 member, this award is presented annually to the Flotilla achieving the most member training hours per qualified member.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 79

The Mike Award

Donated by Mike Adams, a past member of Flotillas 77 and 79, this award recognizes Flotilla efforts to retain members and to enroll new members and recognizes the best gain in membership.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 79

The Prescott Award

Donated by Flotilla 7-16 members to honor Mr. Prescott's outstanding dedication as a Flotilla member and Instructor, this award recognizes the Flotilla with the best ratio of Vessel Safety Checks per examiner.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 7-16

Division 7 Awards, continued...

The Richie Award for Public Affairs

Donated by Charles Richie, this award recognizes Public Affairs, the "sales" function of the Auxiliary as a special field that requires untold time and patience to accomplish.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 79

The Richie Award for Publications

Charles Richie, once a member of former Flotilla 73 and Division 7 Staff Officer, donated the award for the best newsletter based on content, originality and timeliness.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 7-16

McKendree Award

Donated in memory of Lee McKendree by Guy Weibert, PDCDR and former Flotilla 72 member, this award is presented to the Flotilla achieving the highest growth in specialty course completions.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 78

The Nettling Trophy

Bill Nettling, a charter member of 7-16, was very active in Search and Rescue operations and instrumental in building the Flotilla's Gulfport facility. Honoring Mr. Nettling's service to the boating public and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the trophy is presented each year to the Flotilla with the best record in total operational hours per qualified member.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 79

Shingledecker Award

Dwight Shingledecker, a PDCDR was a founder and charter member of Flotilla 71, donated this award, presented annually to the Flotilla having the best Program Visitor performance during the previous year.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 7-16

Duignan Award

"Duke" Duignan, a former member of Flotilla 75, donated this award known as the "Duke and Duchess Award". It is presented annually to the Flotilla having the most fellowship participation during the year.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 79

William Waldo Chase Memorial

William Chase, a founder and charter member of Flotilla 78, was an active public education instructor and sailor. This award was donated in his honor by Flotilla 78 and presented to the Flotilla with out-

standing accomplishments in instruction, vessel examinations and operations.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 7-16

The Captain's Jug

Originating in 1959, the Captain's Jug is the oldest of Division 7 awards, "fathered" by Auxiliarist Harry Bomford, a former Flotilla 79 member. The initial four Auxiliary cornerstones, Vessel Examinations, Education, Operations and Fellowship, were instituted just after World War II but changed in 1997 to Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations/Marine Safety and Fellowship. The award recognizes Flotilla excellence in each cornerstone.

2009 Recipient: Flotilla 79

Our appreciation goes out to every member who contributed their efforts last year!

Below: In addition to the awards cited, members were honored with other awards for their efforts. Here, Jim Mulligan from FL 74 receives the Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation for his many achievements as Division 7 Staff Officer-Program Visitor during 2009 from Capt. Timothy Close, USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg.

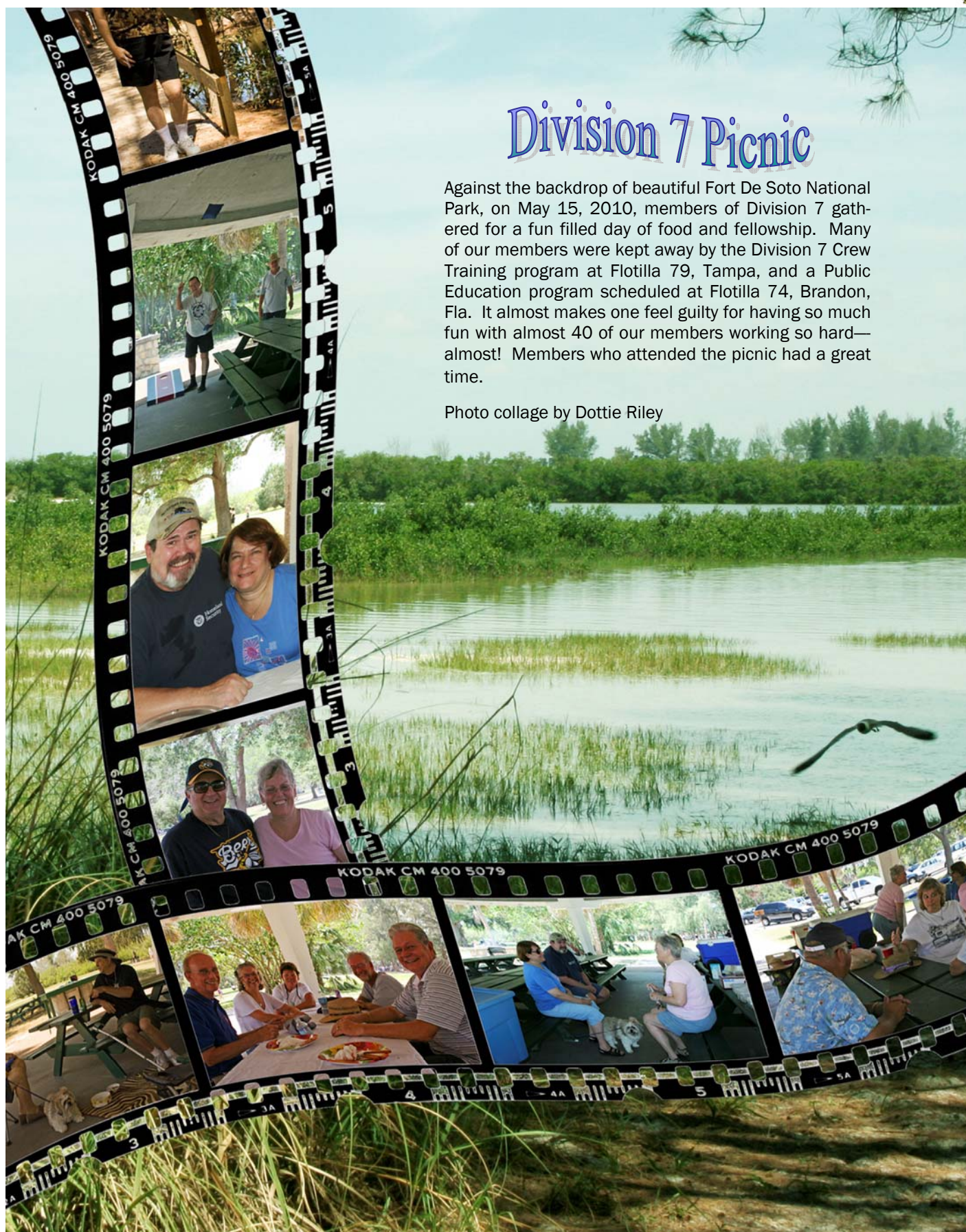




Division 7 Picnic

Against the backdrop of beautiful Fort De Soto National Park, on May 15, 2010, members of Division 7 gathered for a fun filled day of food and fellowship. Many of our members were kept away by the Division 7 Crew Training program at Flotilla 79, Tampa, and a Public Education program scheduled at Flotilla 74, Brandon, Fla. It almost makes one feel guilty for having so much fun with almost 40 of our members working so hard—almost! Members who attended the picnic had a great time.

Photo collage by Dottie Riley



Never fear- the head cropped off (top photo) was my own! Photos by Dottie Riley

News and Articles by Members...

Beach Pounders: American Ingenuity at Work During WWII

By D.J. Riley

Present an impossible scenario and American ingenuity and adaptability will find a way to surmount it. Beach pounders are just such an example.

With passage of the Auxiliary and Reserve Act on June 23, 1941, the Coast Guard Reserve was designated as a military branch of the active service while its civilian volunteers became the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Barely six months later, on December 7, 1941, Japan pushed the United States into World War II (WWII) by attacking Pearl Harbor, and four days after that, Hitler declared war against the United States.

Despite the war which raged world-wide, in December of 1941, the United States military forces were still at peace time strength. This meant conscripting and training soldiers at an incredible rate to meet the immediate demands of not just one war, but of two separate wars at nearly opposite ends of the globe. If one were writing a plot for a gloom and doom movie, this would be tossed out as just too preposterous to ring true. Add to that a victorious outcome for our besieged nation, and one must admit that in the end, fact can be far more astounding than fiction- especially in the history books.

During the years of WWII, American ingenuity and drive was at work wherever one looked. Able-bodied men were called into service, women filled our factories, and dogs and horses patrolled our shores. *Dogs and*



Dogs and their beach patrol handlers leap into action from a surfboat during a landing exercise along the coast of South Carolina, circa 1943.

Photo: USCG historical archives: date/photographer unknown.

horses? Just how did this come to pass?

One often overlooked mission of the United States Coast Guard was to patrol our beaches; a monumental task considering the United States has over 6,000 miles of coastlines (not counting Alaska and Hawaii), many of which were in remote areas. Some posts were completely isolated from civilization. Patrolmen worked seven days a week, often 10 to 14 hours a day without leave or liberty, and while many of these men were active duty Guardsmen, most of the Beach Patrol consisted of volunteer citizens. While historians do not specify, it is not unreasonable to assume with the recent formation of the Coast Guard Auxiliary as the civilian volunteer component of the Coast Guard, that many of these volunteers were members of this great organization.

Beach patrols were more than preventive. They also guarded prohibited or restricted beach zones. Patrolmen and patrol boats recovered flotsam and jetsam, discovered booby traps, mines and other dangerous attempts at sabotage by the enemy, and turned over to the authorities valuable articles or bits of wreckage that were found along the beaches. Beach patrols aided in blackout and defense exercises and provided assistance to civil authorities in ordinary law enforcement. They were often the first to spot beach fires set



Man, dog, and horse have always been inseparable pals. U.S. Coast Guardsman Joe Opalka, blacksmith at a horse and dog beach patrol station on the Pacific Coast, prepares to shoe an equine Coast Guard member, while a canine guardian holds fast the reins." Coast Guard Photo No. 1436; date/photographer unknown.





In September 1942, horses were authorized for use by the beach patrol. The mounted portion of the patrol soon became the largest segment of the patrol. For example, one year after orders were given to use horses, there were 3,222 of the animals assigned to the Coast Guard. All came from the Army. Polo players, cowboys, former sheriffs, horse trainers, Army Reserve cavalymen, jockeys, farm boys, rodeo riders and stunt men applied. Much of the mounted training took place at Elkins Park Training Station and Hilton Head, the sites of the dog training schools. Coast Guard Photo; date/photographer unknown.

by saboteurs and put them out before they posed an even greater threat or destroyed nearby forests. While the day to day duties of these 'beach pounders' as they were called, was usually routine and uneventful, fighting fire, or relief work in flooded regions and during storms or hurricanes were often regarded as a welcome relief to an otherwise, monotonous routine.

As more men were needed to fill combat roles, the Coast Guard found new ways to stretch their limited resources and still complete these vital missions. One answer was assigning trained dogs to beach patrols. Dog patrols began in August 1942, and within one year, 1,800 dogs were on active duty for the Coast Guard. One patrolman and his dog worked together as a team. These teams replaced earlier two-man patrols, thereby reducing personnel requirements. The dogs' keen senses and unusual alertness proved to be invaluable as well. They easily sensed the presence of strangers and were formidable adversaries. A fifty to seventy-five pound dog, attacking with teeth bared, was often more dangerous than a man with a gun. The dogs were trained and provided by Dogs for Defense, Incorporated in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. This agency provided about 2,000 dogs to Beach Patrol during its operation.

A second ingenious scheme employed by the Beach Patrol was to conduct patrols on horseback. Horses

were authorized in September of 1942, and by 30 June 1943, nearly 3000 horses were on active duty, virtually all provided by the Army. By September 1943, the number of horses in Coast Guard service reached 3,222. The Army Remount Service provided all of riding gear but the Coast Guard equipped its riders with uniforms.

"The most outstanding work of the Beach Patrol was in its traditional role of life saving. Foot or beat patrols were in a position to sight vessels in distress or to spot planes as they were forced into crash landings. In fact, if not in form, patrols became an important rescue agency. On many remote beachheads or on isolated islands, Coast Guard patrolmen and lookout watchmen were the only people present for this kind of work. The mounted service proved especially valuable because on several occasions, horsemen were able to locate bodies that were missed by the foot patrolman. Further more, the efficient beach communications system enabled alarms to be turned in quickly enough to bring almost immediate assistance. Official reports are filled with instances of outstanding service rendered by patrolmen in saving the lives of shipwrecked sailors or airplane crews that had been forced down or had crashed."*

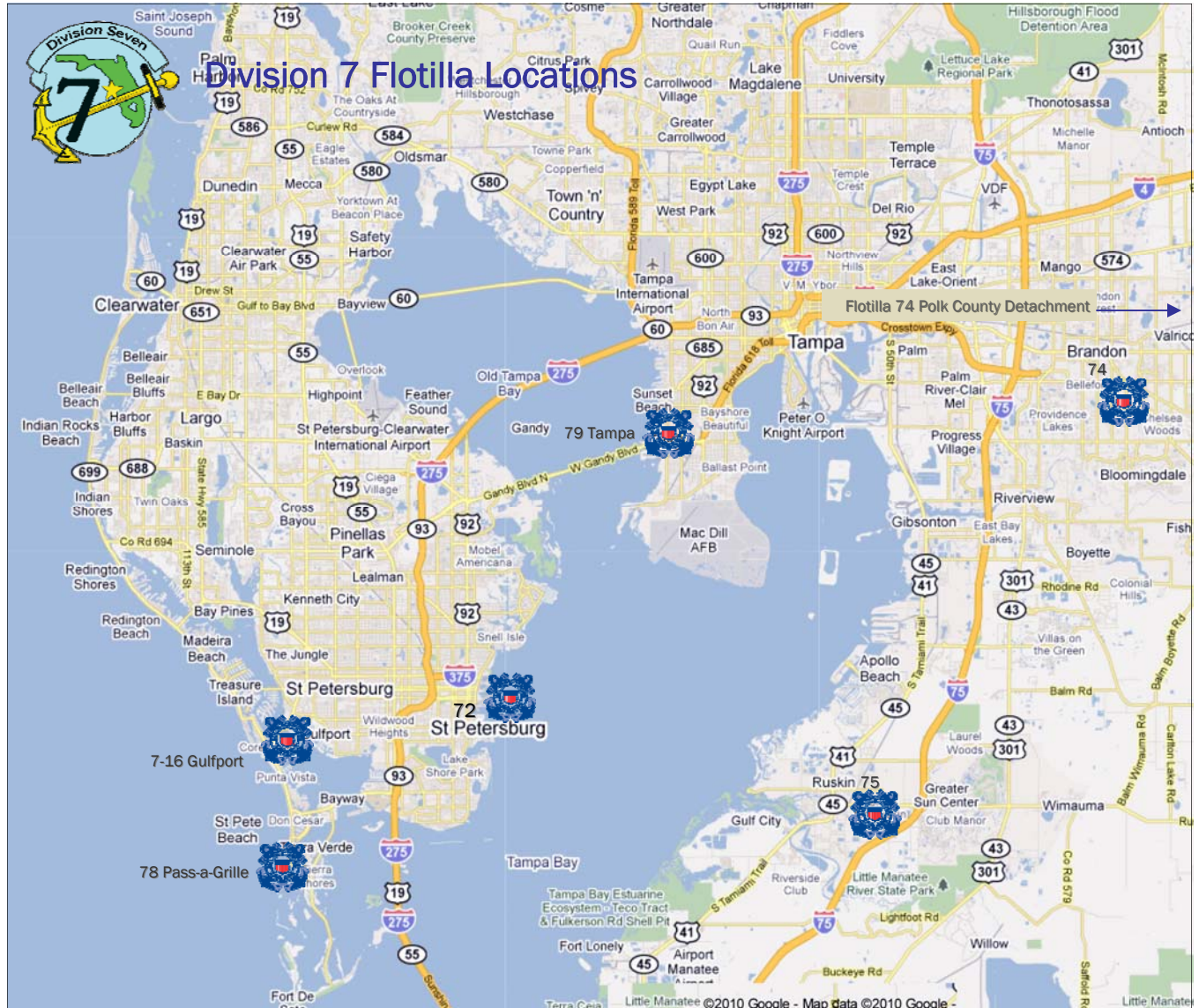
Just how did Americans emerge victorious from the dire circumstances of WWII? While there is not space or time to describe the ingenuity and drive of our soldiers and sailors overseas, there is no doubt that the creative use of resources and manpower illustrated by the Coast Guard's Beach Patrol in protecting America's shorelines serves as a fine example: dogs and horses. Civilian volunteers. ☼

* Malcolm, Francis Willoughby, The U.S. Coast Guard in World War II, Maryland: Ayers Company Publishing, 1980.



Coast Guard Photo; date/photographer unknown

SO-PB 7
1630 Wakefield Drive
Brandon, FL 33511-2325
E-mail: SO-PB@cgauxdiv7-7.org



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.

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