



THE INTERCOM

Sector St. Petersburg Welcomes New Commander

Story by D. Riley, SO-PB



Captain Joseph Servidio, outgoing Commander of Sector St. Petersburg, the Honorable C.W. Young, Florida's 10th District Representative, Rear Admiral Robert Branham, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, and Captain Timothy M. Close, the new Sector Commander of Sector St. Petersburg on stage during the Change of Watch Ceremony in St. Petersburg on July 28, 2008. Members of the United States Coast Guard and the USCG Auxiliary stand shoulder to shoulder in the ranks behind them.

(Photo by Petty Officer Robert Simpson, PA Dpt., Sector St. Petersburg,

The United States Coast Guard (USCG), Sector St. Petersburg bid farewell to outgoing Sector Commander Captain Joseph Servidio and welcomed incoming Sector Commander, Captain Timothy M. Close at a Change of Watch Ceremony held on July 28, 2008 at Ruth Eckerd Hall in St. Petersburg.

The ceremony was attended by numerous dignitaries, including but not limited to Rear Admiral Robert Branham, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, the Honorable C.W. Young, Florida's 10th District Representative, Commodore Allen Brown and Vice Commodore Donald Frasch, District 7 USCG Auxiliary, and members of the Coast Guard's various committees and agencies that partner to keep the Tampa Bay ports and waters safe.

Music was provided by the U.S. Navy Band Southeast Ceremonial Ensemble who beautifully played not just the musical accompaniments during the ceremony, but also provided a chamber music ensemble which played during the reception afterwards.

The audience was a sea of white hats dominated by the members of the USCG Auxiliary, and our members stood shoulder to shoulder on the stage behind the official party during the ceremony.

Outgoing Sector Commander Captain Joseph Servidio praised the Auxiliary for its many contributions to the USCG, especially to Sector St. Petersburg. He will be missed by many.

A brief biography of our new Sector Commander, Captain Timothy Close can be found on page 19. We welcome Captain Close and look forward to working with him in the coming years.

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Division Elected Officers

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

*Division Staff Officers*

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

Submission Guidelines:

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

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

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

Dottie Riley, Editor



The Intercom is a publication of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, District Seven, Division Seven. The cost of publication is provided by dues-paying members of the Auxiliary, an organization of unpaid, civilian volunteers whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. Articles may be reprinted only with the express consent of the author or photographer, with proper credit given to same. For permissions or for more information, please contact Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB, (813) 684-9996, Email address: dottieriley1@verizon.net All photographs not otherwise credited were taken by D. Riley.



Words from the Helm....

Acting Division Captain, Peter Lore

Division Seven Still Going Strong!

By now I am sure all of you are aware that Conrad Palermo, our Division Captain, has resigned and I have been appointed Acting Captain by the Director of the Auxiliary D7, CDR David Allen. Our goals and objectives remain the same; "...to support the United States Coast Guard and its purposes, to promote its authorized activities...." That is part of the pledge we took while being sworn in as US Coast Guard Auxiliarists.

I am happy to report that as a division, our members are fulfilling their pledges. Our ranks are beginning to swell thanks to the efforts of Gil Thomas, Staff Officer-Personnel Services, the past two years. He has diligently monitored the E-Directory and brought in 38 new members last year and 44 so far this year. These new members added to our Boat Crew, Vessel Examination, Public Education and Member Training programs, to name just some of our purposes. Some of these new members have already taken on staff positions at the flotilla level and may soon be division staff officers. Jim Mulligan, Staff Officer-Program Visitor, is another SO that is growing his office. He realized that we were not meeting the goals of the Coast Guard in educating all boaters on boating safety. Part of the reason was that we didn't have many program visitors. He conducted a workshop which was so successful that many of our members who were unable to attend asked him to conduct a second workshop. The response has been so great that Jim has agreed to conduct yet another workshop in November.

These are just two of our staff officers who are meeting our goals. They are doing their jobs with enthusiasm. I have noticed a renewed energy within the division. I am encouraged by our elected officers and staff officers at all levels who are meeting their goals, and when they do, they don't stop. They set new goals.

Bravo Zulu!



Peter Lore, Acting DCP



Donald Frasca, Vice Commodore, and Allen Brown, Commodore, D7, converse at the Division meeting on August 30, 2008 hosted by FL 7-16.

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 72



Marvin Bayles, FC

In August the flotilla carried out three patrols, one security and the other two assisting the Naval exercise.

Our Aids to Navigation verifiers have been quite busy and turned in reports on ten Private Aids to Navigation (PATON).

The education department has 15 persons taking the Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) program and we have graduated ten participants, still leaving us with 15 (new persons joining the class). We started a Navigation program with 14 participants.

Our members completed 38 Vessel Examinations (VE) in August.

Our first meeting in September was a combination meeting: a fellowship event was held before the regular business meeting, and a few of our members also attended the picnic hosted on September 13th by FL 75 at Simmons Park in Ruskin. Fellowship is one of the four cornerstones of the USCGAUX for good reason. It is always great to get together with old friends.

Marvin Bayles, FC, is pictured here with Joe Lori, a Past Division Captain and Immediate Past Flotilla Commander of FL 75 at the picnic hosted by FL 75 on September 13, 2008 at Simmons Park in Ruskin.





Flotilla News...

Flotilla 73

Every month until the end of the year the Flotilla will have one of its Flotilla Staff Officers speaking about the roles, duties and responsibilities of their offices. Hopefully, this will help members understand exactly what our officers do, and may help them decide what positions they may be willing to assume in the future.



The flotilla will hold a Spaghetti Dinner on October 4, 2008. Two seating times are planned, one at 5:00 PM followed by a second one at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please call Judy Dellerba to reserve a seat. All members and their family and friends are welcome!



Larry Gellinger, FC

An Aids to Navigation (AN) Workshop is scheduled for October 4th at the flotilla. Any member of the Division interested in attending should contact Peter Ubillos, FSO-AN. Members who are not Certified Aids Verifiers are also welcome as they might pick up some information that may make patrols more interesting. There are a lot of navigation aids in our area of responsibility (AOR), and we provide the Coast Guard a valuable service in doing our basic inspections.

The following is taken from a column by Bryan Dillerd, FSO-PS, in the most recent issue of the Flotilla's newsletter, the *Water Wise*. Every member of Division 7 may find this reminder useful:

On Saluting the Colors:

"According to the Auxiliary Protocol Manual (available on the "P" Department website) when out of doors and in uniform and addressing the National Ensign/Flag or whenever the National Anthem is rendered, a military salute is given. This particularly applies to the respect paid at Morning or Evening Colors ceremonies aboard a ship (not underway) or aboard a Coast Guard or other military installation. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag, those present in uniform should come to attention and render the military salute. The same applies if the flag is passing in a parade or in review.



This means that all Auxiliary personnel who are outdoors (and therefore under cover) are required by protocol to salute the colors. Generally speaking, the salute is supposed to be rendered six paces prior to the colors and held until three paces after passing the colors."

Larry Gellinger, FC, accepts an award on behalf of one of the flotilla members at the Division meeting on August 30, 2008 at FL 7-16 from COMO Allen Brown, D7.

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 74



Ronald Matz, FC

Flotilla 74 has been busy so far this year:

- The most successful accomplishment so far was that five of our members completed crew training. A sixth member was injured during the qualifying exams and was unable to complete the qualification process. This was a big disappointment for him, but we are certain that he will qualify for crew training in the near future.
- Our members are performing Vessel Examinations (VE's) on the first and third Saturdays of every month. This requires both planning and dedication.
- In the Public Education (PE) department we presented the America's Boating Course (ABC) program on the third Saturday of every month with one additional presentation given in August at Lakeland. We started the Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) in August at the flotilla.
- We qualified several Vessel Examiners and a couple of Program Visitors and Instructors.

- A lot of work was performed at the building. We are moving right along! Bravo Zulu to all of our members whose dedication and service made this possible.

Hopefully the rest of the year will be as successful!

FL 74 member Jim Potts attended the picnic hosted by FL 75 on September 13, 2008 in Ruskin. He is shown here with Phil and Rosie Butti, who organized the event.





Flotilla News...

Flotilla 75

Members of FL 75 participated in all of the events read about elsewhere throughout the pages of the *Intercom*. We experienced several changes in both elected and staff office positions due to health and other pressing reasons. Newer members however, have stepped up to fill these offices, and our contributions to the Coast Guard and to the USCG Auxiliary missions continue at a steady pace.

Our most memorable event in recent weeks was the picnic organized by Phil and Rosie Butti, held on September 13, 2008 at Simmons Park in Ruskin. Rosie worked her magic and the food for this event was provided in its entirety by Sweetbay Supermarket in Ruskin. Students from the Culinary School from East Bay High School assisted in serving the meal and in cleaning up afterwards, making this a fully catered event.

Member Dotty Engel helped the Butti's organize fun games and numerous raffle prizes, and while it rained almost every day in mid September, even the weather cooperated on this day. (More of Rosie's magic?) Our deepest appreciation goes out to Sweetbay Supermarket, the students from East Bay High School, and to all of the members who contributed to make this day such a great success.



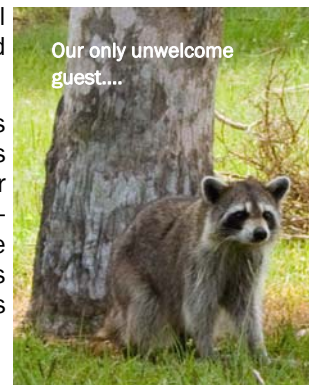
Kay Lori, FC



Top left: Members Ray Stewart, FSO-PA, and Ted Cohen, FSO-MS amidst the colorful Sweetbay balloons.

Top right: Marshal Cook, PROCTOR, and his wife, Virginia.

Left: The pavilion was filled with picnic goers from FL 75 and other members from throughout the division. Some of their photographs appear on other pages of this publication.



Our only unwelcome guest....



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 78



Valerie Fernandes, FC

We graduated five BS&S students in July. Our instructors took the month of August off because of instructor and student vacations. We have two instructors who spend the summer months up north, which puts a strain on the remaining instructors during the summer months. We resumed teaching BS&S classes on September 9th.

We have been having trouble scheduling patrols for lack of a coxswain. We were able to assist the Navy with an exercise the last week of August thanks to a coxswain from Flotilla 79 and an additional crewmember from 72.

All of our current crewmembers have completed the annual on-the-water re-certification requirements.

All current instructors have completed the 2008 Instructor workshop.

In this issue we have a special treat for you: an article written by our Honorary member, Grace Marchant, whom we introduced to the Division in the previous issues of the *Intercom*. You will find her article titled, "Boating Safety is for Everyone" on page 18.

And last but not least, Flotilla 78 received its Fifty Year pennant at the District 7 Fall Conference!

Left: Edgar O'Krent, VFC, and his wife, Pat, during a lunch break at the District Seven Fall Conference (DCON) held from September 19 -21 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Below: Edgar O'Krent and Peter Lore, Acting Division Captain accept the Fifty Year pennant for the Flotilla 78 flag at DCON. From the left are Commander David Allen, Director of Auxiliary D7, Peter Lore, Edgar O'Krent, Steven M. Budar, National Commodore, USCGAUX, Commodore Allen Brown, and Vice Commodore Donald Frasch, USCGAUX, D7.





Flotilla 79

Our August meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Fay making our September meeting both a time to catch up with all of the activities our members engaged in during the previous month, and for planning the months ahead.

Our flotilla now boasts one more coxswain. Kathleen Heide, our Flotilla Staff Officer, Secretary of Records (FSO-SR) passed the Qualifying Exam on August 23, 2008.

One more piece of news that we do not want to overlook: Our flotilla newsletter, *The Seven-Niner* received an award at the District Seven Fall Conference (DCON). Our publication ranked third among all of the flotilla newsletters within our District. Our editor, Dottie Riley, reports that this would not have been possible without all of your contributions, as staff office reports and other input from members are a requirement and elements of a complex rating scheme.

Mike Shea, FC, and Brad Ware, FSO-PA and FSO-PV present an Award of Appreciation to the owners of Piper Marine, staunch supporters of the USCGAUX Boating Safety Programs at the Flotilla 79 meeting on August 21, 2008.



J. Michael Shea, FC



Mike Shea, FC, at the USCG Sector St. Petersburg Change of Watch Ceremony on July 28 in St. Petersburg. Just visible behind Mike are other members of FL 79, Timothy Teahan and Cliff Martin, FSO-MT, and SO-OP. Mike Shea is a contender for the Division Vice Commander/ Chief of Staff position, formerly called Division Vice Captain.



Kathleen Heide prepares for the night navigation exercise two nights before the QE mission on August 23, 2008.



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 7-16



Kevin Yeaton, FC

The Program Visitor (PV) team of Don Rimel, Kevin Yeaton, and Cortez Lake completed 554 Program Visits by the end of August and leads the Division for the second consecutive year.

The Vessel Examiners (VE) - Don Rimel, Kevin Yeaton, and Bruce Cardall completed 263 Vessel Safety Checks by the end of August and lead the Division for the fourth consecutive year.

We have three new member candidates waiting to receive their certificates and ID cards and be sworn in. We are working on getting two additional new member candidates this year.

The Division 7 meeting was held at FL 7-16 On August 30, 2008.

One of our members, Don Rimel, is running for the Division Vice Captain position for 2009. We expect that this position will be renamed like so many others, but the duties of the office will remain the same. The Division meeting and elections will be at FL 75 on October 25, 2008.

Are these the faces of next year's 'Dynamic Duo'? Only the upcoming elections will tell. (Move over, Kevin. Don is looking to pair up with a new partner in a whole new role!) Pictured are Peter Lore, Acting DCP, and Don Rimel, IPFC from FL 7-16. Don is one of the division's most active members with countless VE's and PV's to his credit these past several years. Behind them is Bill Gaither from FL 75. The two men are running for office as Division Commander and Division Vice Commander/ Chief of Staff respectively. Photo taken at the picnic on September 13, 2008 hosted by FL 75 in Ruskin.





Staff Reports and News...

Aids to Navigation, *Peter Ubillos, SO-AN*

Aid to Navigation and Bridge verification and discrepancy reports have been received from Flotillas 72 , 73 and 7-16 since the end of June.

Our current status on PATON verification/discrepancy reports is as follows:

Flotilla	Total # Certified Aids Verifiers *	Total # PATONS in AOR	% In- spected To Date
0702	8	83	57%
0703	12	52	61%
0704	9	62	0
0705	11	59	0
0708	4	57	0
0709	8	164	40%
0716	4	48	17%



Peter Ubillos, SO-AN

Two Aids Verifier Workshops were scheduled at the end of July and advertised to all FSOs-AN and FCs. One workshop was scheduled to be held on Sept. 16 at Flotilla 74. The other is scheduled at Flotilla 73 on Oct. 4, 2008. The intention was to have a separate workshop on each side of Tampa Bay to limit the distance to be traveled by our division members. Since no interest was reported for the for September 16 workshop it is cancelled. So far we have a few members interested in attending the October workshop. This may also be cancelled if we don't get at least five participants.

Issues:

- Shallow draft in St. Petersburg area channels: Flotilla 72 needs an airboat to be able to verify several channels. Can we request help from the Coast Guard or Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)?
- Response to Discrepancy Reports: Coast Guard has limited authority to encourage owners of discrepant Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) to repair them. Some of these discrepancies have been reported for several years and this information has been forwarded to our ADSO-AN, D7.
- Participation: We have fifty-six Certified Aids Verifiers and only seven or eight seem to be active. How can we encourage more participation?



Egmont Key light house can only be accessed by boat. When Florida was under British control, surveyor George Gauld named the small island found at the entrance to Tampa Bay Egmont Key, after John Perceval, second Earl of Egmont and First Lord of the Admiralty. Through the years, the island has served as home to two lighthouses, a fort, a movie theater, a cemetery, boat pilots, and a radio beacon. Today, all that remains on the island is a truncated lighthouse, crumbling remains of the fort, a small colony of gopher tortoises, and a park ranger to interpret the island's history.

Photo and text for photo from: WWW.LighthouseFriends.com

Staff Reports and News...

Communications, *Terence Affeld, SO-CM*



Terry Affeld, SO-CM

Wanted – EXPERIENCED Radio Watchstanders to help new Watchstanders through the new qualification process. Previously qualified Auxiliary Communications (AuxCom) Watchstanders do not require the new Personal Qualifications Standards (PQS), however, it is strongly encouraged that you complete the new qualification process, especially if you are going to mentor/instruct new Watchstanders.

Now that we are in hurricane season, all FSOs-CM should make sure you and your radio equipment are ready to go. Besides having a copy of ICS-100 in the radio room, another good document is the National Incident Management System's "Emergency Responder Field Operating Guide" (ERFOG) for the Incident Command System. Check the FEMA Website or try your favorite search engine to download a copy.

One last point:

Since 9/11 our relationship with the Coast Guard has changed, demanding a higher degree of professionalism from the Auxiliary, especially with regard to communications, in what we say, and what we don't say while on the radio.

Some points to remember:

- "Less is best". The radio is not for chitchat.
- Brush up on your prowords.
- Think before you speak. Use discretion.
- Keep a charged cell phone with you on radio watch for information too complicated or too sensitive to discuss over the radio..
- Be aware of what you say. Remember the term "The walls have ears"
- Information about Station, Sector, Marine Safety, or cutter operations should not be shared with anyone.
- Having "inside information" may help us to feel important and like a valuable member of the team, but with that comes responsibility.

The Coast Guard trusts us, and we must not destroy that trust.



The Coast Guard Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1969. It was initially created to provide funds for academic, athletic, and morale needs of the Coast Guard Academy and its cadets, which were not covered by federal operational funding. In 1986, the Foundation expanded its charter to support projects that enhance the education, welfare and morale of all Coast Guard members and their families. A Board of 100 Trustees from all parts of the country governs the Foundation. The Trustees elect from their members a 30 person Board of Directors to oversee the management of the Foundation. Located in Stonington, Connecticut, the Foundation employs a staff of ten civilians responsible for meeting the Foundation's objectives and working closely with the Coast Guard on all issues.

Those wishing to support this emergency fund raising effort may visit the Coast Guard Foundation's website at www.cgfdn.org, call the Foundation at 860-535-0786 or fax a note to 860-535-0944 with donation information and a reference to the Family Disaster Relief Fund. For more information on the Family Disaster Relief Fund, or the Coast Guard Foundation and its many worthwhile scholarship and support initiatives, please visit the Coast Guard Foundation website www.cgfdn.org.





Communications Services *Terry Modica SO-CS*

The rosters for the entire division and for each individual flotilla are posted at <http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/members/flotillas.htm>. Make sure you go here often to download the most accurate, up-to-date rosters.

The following flotillas have not recently updated their rosters for the division website.* If you know of any changes that need to be made, please submit the updates at this webpage: <http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/members/roster-change.htm>

NEW TRAINING TOOLS

If you have questions about the website or other CS stuff, please contact me directly. I'm setting up a new way to discuss and train Auxiliarists about computers, website design, and our division website. Early in the new year I'll be holding an online workshop for CS officers and another online workshop for everyone else who has questions that I am frequently asked.

Please see <http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/members/officers/webconferences.htm> to learn more about it or to initiate an online workshop or conference before the new year or to use the same tools in your own flotilla or with the flotilla officers in your care.

*This information was provided on August 30, 2008 and may not be current at the time of publication.



Terry Modica, SO-CS

Member Training, *Eleazar Escorihuela, SO-MT*

Summer is the slow season for most of us, and Member Training (MT) activities are no exception.

On September 24th Flotilla 72 started a series of four Instructional Development Course (IDC) workshops, and on October 1st the Sexual Harassment Prevention workshop is scheduled for its new members. Flotilla 72 continues to schedule the Auxiliary Communications (AuxCom) course, and member John Greco was recognized by Guy Webert, FSO-MT, for his participation in all Flotilla MT activities this year.

Flotilla 7-16 provided the one hour Team Coordination Training (TCT) refresher course.

Harbor and Security Patrol Training (HARPAT) was scheduled on August 8th at Flotilla 79, with Hazardous Waste (Hazwoper) presented on August 23rd at South Mooring. A Coxswain training will be scheduled soon. Cliff Martin, SO-OP, will provide details.

I have the new Sexual Harassment Prevention (SHP) CD containing both presentations and videos.

On July 9th another Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and military license class for fuel trucks was conducted at the USCG Clearwater Air Station.

I will be working on a Mentor workshop, which once completed, will be distributed to the FSOs-MT.



Al Escorihuela, SO-CS

Staff Reports and News...

Public Affairs, *Kay Lori, SO-PA*



Kay Lori, SO-PA

Boat Show

Tampa Convention Center Boat Show was the weekend of September 5 - 7th. Besides our Public Affairs staff officers, staff officers who are always encouraged to stand a watch are the Personnel Services Officers to sign up new recruits, and the Public Education Officers to promote our many boating safety programs. Every flotilla has a special program they like to present, be it the one day America's Boating Course, all 13 chapters of the Boating Skills and Seamanship program, Navigational programs, or the new How to Read a Nautical Chart program.

September was Children's month.

All the children are back in school and what a time it is for teachers. Just getting the little darlings accustomed to full days behind a desk listening and learning is tiring. Maybe teachers would appreciate a break at the end of the week. Contact your local schools and give a presentation for the environment. Inky would be a great way to end the week. At the last Division meeting, Commodore Brown suggested using Officer Snook. Contact your Parks Department to see if they have a suit. The USCG Marine Safety Office in Tampa had one last year. They may still have it available.

Blessing of the Fleet

Get ready for the Blessing of the Fleet presentation on October 11th. Time has been designated at 1100. Cliff and I will be in touch for the specifics, but since you have done this three times, you're getting to be professionals at this. I am trying to get a "celebrity" for the occasion.

Publications, *Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB*



Dottie Riley, SO-PB

I would like to remind all staff officers and all Flotilla Commanders to send me their reports. I prefer to receive them electronically as it simplifies the editing and pasting process but will accept hard copies as well.

Flotilla Commanders: Please submit articles about your flotilla and what your members have been doing. When you leave it to me you may not always be pleased with the bits I glean from your newsletters. Photos are always appreciated. This is also a message to pass on to your PA and PB officers. Few of our PA-PB officers are contributing to the Intercom, and frankly, most of the by-lines should be theirs.

We have some very new Publications Officers. Guy Mandigo, who already serves as our ASO-PB, is now the FSO-PB for FL 75, and new member, Charles Lusky, is FSO-PB for FL 74. Guy recently completed the AUX 12 C-School, and with no prior experience or training, Charles Lusky has already published a newsletter for his flotilla. Kudos to both of these FSOs-PB! I hope you are going to the Division web site and reading other flotilla newsletters. They often contain great articles of general interest.

Of course, I am leaving the best part for last...

Our Division newsletter, *The Intercom*, was awarded Second Place in the District Publication Contest at the District Conference (DCON) September 19 -21, 2008 in Jacksonville, Florida. While I may also serve as DSO-PB, D7, I had no input in this contest whose committee was Chaired by Carol Rickard, a former DSO-PB, D7, with members Lou DeNunzio, a former DSO-PA, D7, and Tom Loughlin, our ADSO-PA, D7 West.

Now we can honestly refer to our newsletter as 'an award-winning news publication!'





Personnel Services, *Gilbert Thomas SO-PS*

We have over 40 new members this year as well as several member candidates.

David Lemon, Auxiliary Air Coordinator for West Florida, attended the Division Meeting at Flotilla 7-16 on August 30th and presented an overview of the USCG Auxiliary Aviation Program (AUXAIR). The presentation is a recruitment tool designed to attract aviators into the Auxiliary. It is available as a PowerPoint presentation which describes the AUXAIR program and the requirements to qualify for each of the certified AUXAIR positions, the many types of missions performed by AUXAIR on behalf of the Coast Guard, and other information about the AUXAIR program. Every flotilla and FSO-PS was given a copy of the CD containing the PowerPoint presentation. Hopefully, this tool will help attract members who may be interested in eventually being a part of the USCG Auxiliary Aviation Program.



Gil Thomas, SO-PS



David Lemon, Auxiliary Air Coordinator for West Florida, at the Division Meeting on August 30th presenting an overview of the USCG Auxiliary Aviation Program (AUXAIR).

Gil Thomas at DCON in Jacksonville, Florida held from September 19-21, 2008 in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Gil stopped to chat and have coffee with Angela Pomaro, ADSO-PS D7, before the start of the first training sessions for the day.



Staff Reports and News...

Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor, *Jim Mulligan SO-PV*

As of August 4, 2008 there has been a net increase of two Partners since the last report in the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Visitor Program (PV) for an overall increase of 52 partners since the beginning of the year.

While RBS printed materials are readily available, the display racks used to disseminate materials are not available which restricts growth of new RBS Partners. Program Visitors must recycle display racks from Partners who no longer wish to continue in the RBS Visitor Program.

I am pleased to announce that a total of 794 visitations have been reported to AUXDATA. This represents an increase of 152 visitations over the total number of visits reported last year, and we still have four more months left in this calendar year.* (Reported August 30, 2008)

There will be a Program Visitor Qualification Workshop open to all Flotillas hosted by Flotilla 73 on September 27, 2008 from 9 AM to 2PM. There will be a PowerPoint presentation followed by the Program Visitor Exam. All attendees are urged to complete the required supervised visitations prior to the Workshop, however, this is not a prerequisite.

District 7 Publications Award Winner

Dottie Riley, SO-PB Division 7 and Peter Lore, Acting Division Captain accept the Second Place D7 Publications Award certificate at DCON. From the left are Commander David Allen, Director of Auxiliary D7, Peter Lore, Dottie Riley, SO-PB, Steven M. Budar, National Commodore, USCGAUX, Commodore Allen Brown, USCGAUX, D7.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our publication and made this award possible!





Fellowship Chair, *Donton Raleigh, FEL-CH*

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, Division 070-07



Annual Division Fall Picnic



Saturday, 8 Nov 08
10 AM to 4 PM

Hamburgers & Hotdogs, starting at Noon
Grilled to perfection by Master Chef Lou Miosi, and Staff

FORT DE SOTO PARK, SHELTER # 8
3500 Pinellas Bayway South, Tierra Verde, Florida
www.fortdesoto.com

From I-275, take Exit 17 toward Pinellas Bayway. Merge onto 54th Ave S (Pinellas Bayway/SR-682). Turn left at Pinellas Bayway S (SR-679). Continue to Follow Pinellas Bayway S (SR-679). Turn right at Anderson Blvd., and proceed to Shelter # 8. Park, and join us for a fun-filled, relaxing day by the water!

RSVP to your FC by 4 Nov

Only \$6.00 per person, please pay on arrival at the picnic.

Everything will be furnished, so no need to bring table service, beverage, or anything.
JUST BRING YOUR APPETITE!!!

Cheeseburgers also available.

There will be salad, potatoes in some form, soft drinks, and the usual picnic fare...

Dessert Contest—Bring your favorite dessert for judging and prizes!



Uniform of the day—Civilian
Sun block, sunglasses, and hats are recommended.
No Alcohol Allowed.
Date of this Flyer: 25 Aug 08

**Guests are welcome! Tell all your friends!
Bring your boat! Bring the kids, (only \$3.00)!**

If you have any questions, email: DonRaleigh@USCGAuxRecruiting.com, or Call: 1-800-333-3960

News and Articles by Members...

Boating Safety is for Everyone

By Grace Marchant



Grace at one of FL 78 Tuesday night BS&S sessions.

Florida is a great place to live when you are a kid because children are allowed to operate boats. It's a lot of fun to get out on the water in your boat with your friends to go fishing or exploring.

The law in Florida (Florida Statue 327.395) makes people who are younger than 22 years old pass a boater safety course and get a Florida boater safety card. You need this card to run most boats that have motors. Our Flotilla, FL 78 in St. Pete Beach teaches this program on Tuesday nights.

One of the jobs for which I have volunteered in our Flotilla is to help teach the program. The people that take the course can be kids all the way up to grandparents. Some have little boats and some have really big boats. It's my job to help them learn how to read

the road signs on the water or Aids to Navigation (ATONS) which is Chapter 5 of the Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) program. I also help teach Navigation, Chapter 9, and I help out with Knots in Chapter 11.

I had to show my Flotilla Commander that I really understood Navigation well enough to help teach it so I took Auxiliary Navigation (AUXNAV) version 'A'. I can answer most of the participant's questions in class and our members help me if I am not sure of the answer. I use the Flotilla laptop to do the presentations. I add slides with pictures of things in the water near our Flotilla. I also use a white board to teach about correcting and un-correcting compass readings, DR and finding a fix.

I built two small day marks of ATONS that are near our Flotilla. They are green and red with the even and odd numbers. I show them to the class with the flashing lights on them so they can see how they work.

My favorite part of teaching the program is at the end when I get to help grade the tests. This is when we see how much the participants have learned. I think its important that kids know as much as their parents about safe boating, and I am glad that I have a chance to help out.

Grace Marchant
Honorary Member Flotilla 78

Editor's note: This article is edited as little as possible both to preserve Grace's voice, and to demonstrate how well informed Grace really is. She is the daughter of Flotilla 7-16 member Brad Marchant.



Right: Grace with the channel markers she made as teaching tools.





Introducing our New Sector Commander: Captain Timothy M. Close

Photos and text courtesy USCG Sector St. Petersburg

"Captain Timothy M. Close is a 1982 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy and is originally from Macungie, Pennsylvania. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering from the Academy, he was assigned to the USCGC STEADFAST. Captain Close was next selected to attend post-graduate school at Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned a Masters Degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

"During his tour as the Executive Officer of the Marine Safety Office, Cleveland, Ohio, over 200,000 gallons of oil were successfully pumped from a sunken barge under Lake Erie that had been lost in a storm in the 1940s. He then was assigned as the Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office Savannah where he served as Captain of the Port and Officer in Charge Marine Inspections from 2002 to 2004. He has just completed a tour as Chief, Western Rivers Division at the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Captain Close's military awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Transportation 9-11 Medal, an Army Achievement Medal, and the Coast Guard Marine Safety Insignia.

"He is married to Peggy O'Keefe Close and has a son, Conor, and a daughter, Haley."

Division Seven welcomes Captain Close!



D7 Elects New Officers at DCON

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX), District 7 elected its new officers on September 20th at the District Conference (DCON) in Jacksonville, Florida. The new Bridge will begin their terms of office in January of 2009, but make no mistake; they are at work already preparing for the coming year.

With the recent re-alignment of the USCGAUX and the Coast Guard, much is changing including the titles of offices from the District Bridge down to elected officers at Division level. Here are the names and faces of those who will guide D7 in 2009:



The new District Captain West (formerly RCO-W) is Raymond Paysour. Congratulations to all of these officers. Next year promises to be a great year!

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

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



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

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Whenever mail is sent via government mail using the penalty indicia system, only titles and addresses are permitted in the return address. The use of personal names makes the envelope a private mailing using government postage, which is prohibited and may be subject to a fine of up to \$300.

Please do not use your personal names in the return address. Use only your office or Flotilla number. Our agency address is USCGAUX. Please see the example below:

USCGAUX Your Tile and/ or Flotilla Number Your Return Address	Official Mail
Official Business Penalty For Private Use \$300	