



*USCG Auxiliary, Division 7, District 7
Tampa Bay - St. Petersburg, Florida*



Division 7 Honors Accomplishments of its Members.

Dottie Riley, SO-PB



TAMPA, Fla.—BM2 Curtis Ainsley, USCG Station St. Petersburg pipes aboard BMCS Sean Benton, Officer in Charge, USCG Station St. Petersburg. The 'piping aboard' of the distinguished guests opened the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011, at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. The 'side boys' for the ceremony are Alma Parrish, Flotilla Commander 75, Rick Short, Flotilla Commander 72, James Armstrong, Flotilla Vice Commander 78 on the left. On the right are Gil Thomas, Flotilla Commander 74, James Newman Flotilla Commander 7-16, and Theresa Johnson, Flotilla Vice Commander 79. Photo by Dottie Riley

This year's distinguished guests and visitors were "piped aboard" Flotilla 79 for the division's annual Award Luncheon. "Piping aboard" is a naval ceremony dating back to the 1800's used to welcome senior military officers or officials making a formal visit aboard ships or shore installations. The visitor is 'piped over the side' or 'piped aboard' by the Boatswain's (Bosun's) Mate of the Watch and a number of side boys, corresponding to the visitor's rank.

Distinguished guests and visitors "piped aboard" Flotilla 79 on March 27, 2011, included LTJG Ben Webber representing CAPT Sheryl Dickinson, Commander, United States Coast Guard, Sector St. Petersburg, BMCS Sean Benton, Officer in Charge, United States Coast Guard, Station St. Petersburg, Melvin Manning, District Captain-West, Seventh District USCG Auxiliary, and Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7, Seventh District USCG Auxiliary.

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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	IPDCD	Peter Lore
FL-72	Flotilla Commander	FC	Richard L. Short
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Gene Keller
FL-74	Flotilla Commander	FC	Gilbert Thomas
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Ken Morningstar
FL-75	Flotilla Commander	FC	Alma Parrish
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Guy Mandigo
FL-78	Flotilla Commander	FC	Brad Marchant
	Flotilla Vice Commander	VFC	Jim Armstrong
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	Oscar Kramer
Information Systems	SO-IS	Theresa Johnson
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	Cinda Hitchcock
Secretary	SO-SR	Richard 'Tim' Manning
Vessel Examinations	SO-VE	Zachary Lessin

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Words from the Helm....

Amos Johnson Division

Commander's Ramblings

As we approach that dreaded hurricane season of 2011 and hear how many of them we might expect, it is again time for all of us to make plans for how we will respond in the event a hurricane hits our area. First and foremost is the safety of our families and property. By the time the call goes out to evacuate our particular neighborhood, we should have completed our plan and be able to pack up and leave for a safer place. Do not be a hero and try to ride out one of these storms. In areas that have suffered a direct hit, the people who stayed behind always say "never again."

All good Auxiliarists have a plan as well- for how they will work to be able to help the public prepare for, survive and recover from a hurricane. In the coming weeks we will have exercises to confirm our strengths and expose our weaknesses. If we receive a direct hit, all of us must know that our shipmates are safe. We must compile the information on our whereabouts and safety for the Coast Guard. Please take very seriously the pending tests, radio and calling trees in which we will be asked to participate. We want to see the 100% contact rate that the Coast Guard expects. You need to update all of your contact information now!

There is a new contact system on the horizon called Everbridge that will one day replace our calling trees, but it is not quite ready yet. I will be coming around to each Flotilla to explain this system.

The last note is that you should understand that you are not expected to do anything for the Auxiliary except to let us know that you are safe in the event of a direct hit. Some of our neighbors will come in to help. If, however, they are the ones to get the major assault, we will be the ones to help them.

Now more than ever,
Semper Paratus!



Amos Johnson, DCDR



TAMPA, Fla.—Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7 is 'piped aboard' Flotilla 79 at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011. The 'side boys' for the ceremony are Alma Parrish, Flotilla Commander 75, Rick Short, Flotilla Commander 72, James Armstrong, Flotilla Vice Commander 78 on the left. On the right are Gil Thomas, Flotilla Commander 74, James Newman Flotilla Commander 7-16, and Theresa Johnson, Flotilla Vice Commander 79. Photo by Dottie Riley

News and Articles by Members...

Awards Luncheon, *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

BM2 Curtis Ainsley, United States Coast Guard, Station St. Petersburg, blew the distinctive sounds that heralded each visitor's arrival. The "side boys" were representatives from each flotilla: Alma Parrish, Flotilla Commander 75, Rick Short, Flotilla Commander 72, James Armstrong, Flotilla Vice Commander 78, Gil Thomas, Flotilla Commander 74, James Newman Flotilla Commander 7-16, and Theresa Johnson, Flotilla Vice Commander 79.

The piping ceremony is not all that was unusual about this year's Awards Luncheon. For the first time, the ceremony was hosted by a flotilla rather than held in a restaurant. Members of Flotilla 79 transformed the building's interior from its familiar utilitarian meeting room into a stylish dining room complete with elegant table settings and ferns decorating the corners.

As the name implies, the Annual Awards Luncheon honors the outstanding contributions of both individual members and of the flotillas within our division based upon statistics gleaned from AUXDATA (Auxiliary database maintained by the Coast Guard) for 2010, the previous calendar year. The awards are listed by category- individual, flotilla and special awards, either within sidebars or captions at the end of this article.

We congratulate each of our members who received an individual award and thank all of our members for their contributions that made possible the flotilla awards received this year. Bravo Zulu and thank you, members of Division 7! ✪

Division Seven Awards

Individual Awards

Auxiliarist of the Year

The most prestigious of the awards for individual members is 'Auxiliarist of the Year.' Based on flotilla nominations, this award is presented to the individual who has demonstrated an unwavering involvement and "all around" commitment to the Coast Guard Auxiliary in general and to Division 7 in particular. The recipient for contributions made to Division 7 in 2010 is **David D. Perillo, Flotilla 72.**



TAMPA, Fla.--David Perillo, member of Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg, Fla., accepts the Division 7 Auxiliarist of the Year Award from Amos Johnson, Commander, Division 7 at the Annual Awards Luncheon held March 27, 2011 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

Other Individual Awards:

Most Public Education (PE) Instructor Hours –James Fogle, Flotilla 72 (77 Hours)

Most Public Education Aide Hours – Barry H. Porter, Flotilla 72 (160 Hours)

Most Member (MT) Training Hours – Clifford J. Martin, Flotilla 79 (38 Hours)

Most Coxswain Hours – Richard Short, Flotilla 72 (335.5 Hours)

Most Crew Hours- David C. Langdon, Jr. Flotilla 72 (271.4 Hours)

Most Search and Rescue (SAR) assists –Robert Easterday, Flotilla 79 (4 SARs)

Most Vessel Safety Checks (VCS) – Donald Rimel, Flotilla 7-16 (208 VSC)

Most Marine Dealer Program Visits (MDPV) - Donald Rimel, Flotilla 7-16 (418 MDPV)

Julie Award-Gene Keller, Flotilla 72

This award was donated by Julie Benedict Dolney from Flo-





(Continued from page 4)

tilla 7-16. This award recognizes up to three Division members who have made an outstanding contribution in recruiting and retention by dedication to and utilization of Mentor Excellence.



TAMPA, Fla.—Rick and Marla Short from Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg, Fla. accept the Vans Evers Award from Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander and Mike Shea, Division 7 Vice Commander at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

Vans Evers Award-Rick and Marla Short, Flotilla 72

In honor of Vans and Fran Evers. This award is presented annually to a couple or an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the ideals of the Auxiliary.

Special Awards of Appreciation

Richard Short, Flotilla 72, John Sanchez, Flotilla 74, Kenneth Morningstar, Flotilla 74

Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Appreciation – Walter Wagner, Flotilla 75

Legend Awards

Based on Flotilla nominations, this award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated an unwavering involvement and "all around" commitment to the Coast Guard Auxiliary in general, and to Division 7 in particular. Recipients- Wally Lowry, Flotilla 74, Kenneth Bell Flotilla 72 .

TAMPA, Fla.—Wally Lowry accepts the Legends Award from Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander and Mike Shea, Division 7 Vice Commander at the Division 7 meeting on April 16, 2011 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

Division 7 Honor Role

Division 7 Honor Roll certificates, presented annually to those individuals who have expended more than 500 active hours supporting the division and the Coast Guard in 2010. Recipients included (by order of the number of hours recorded in AUXDATA from high to low):

Gilbert Thomas	2,690 Hours
Heleyde Aponte	2,355
Bruce Thornton	1,827
Timothy Teahan	1,725
Dottie Riley	1,670
Guy Mandigo	1,652
Stanley Clark	1,606
Rick Short	1,302
Marvin Bayles	1,268
Cliff Martin	1,176
James Fogle	1,056
Amos Johnson	1,010
Theresa Johnson	1,007
Alma Parrish	941
Ken Morningstar	900
John Sanchez	822
James Newman	804
Walter Wagner	797
Paul Moen	795
Donald Rimel	761
James Mulligan	668
Joseph Parrish	663
Carl Nelson	627
Robert-Gregory Gibson	612
Brian Garry	592
Cinda Hitchcock	575
David Perillo	539
Marla Short	528



News and Articles by Members...

Awards Luncheon, *continued*

Flotilla Awards

Krough Award (Public Education)- **Flotilla 7-16**

Ed Krough, PDCDR and a member of formerly Flotilla 73 conceived and donated this award. This award is presented annually to the flotilla that has made the greatest contribution to our public education program.

Oalmann Award (Member Training)- **Flotilla 74**

Donated by William Oalmann, a past Division Staff Officer and member a Flotilla 78, this award is presented yearly to the flotilla that has achieved the most member training hours per qualified member.

Mike Award (Membership Growth & Retention)- **Flotilla 79**



TAMPA, Fla.—Alma Parrish, Flotilla 75 Commander accepts the McKendree Award from Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander and Mike Shea, Division 7 Vice Commander at the Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

Donated by Mike Adams, a past member of Flotilla 77 and 79, this award recognizes a flotilla's efforts to retain members and to enroll new members (Presented to the flotilla with the best gain in membership).

Prescott Award (Vessel Examinations)- **Flotilla 7-16**

Donated by Flotilla 7-16 members in honor of Mr. Prescott, an outstanding Flotilla member and instructor, this award honors his memory by its annual presentation to the flotilla with the best ratio of Vessel Safety Checks per examiner.

Richie Award for Public Affairs- **Flotilla 79**

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



TAMPA, Fla.—Gil Thomas, Flotilla Commander 74 accepts the Oalmann Award from Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander and Mike Shea, Division 7 Vice Commander at the Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley





TAMPA, Fla.—Don Rimel and Jim Armstrong, Flotilla Commander 7-16, accept the Prescott Award from Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander and Mike Shea, Division 7 Vice Commander at the Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

Richie Award for Publications— Flotilla 79

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

McKendree Award (Specialty Course Advancement)- **Flotilla 75**

Donated in memory of Lee McKendree by Guy Webert, Past Division Commander and member of Flotilla 72, this award is presented annually to the flotilla which achieves the highest growth in specialty course completions.

Nettling Award (Operations)-**Flotilla 72**

Mr. Nettling was a charter member of 7-16, very active in Search and Rescue, and instrumental in the construction of 7-16's present building in Gulfport. The Nettling Trophy is given each year to the flotilla with the best record in total operational hours per qualified member. It honors Bill Nettling's service to the boating public and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Shingledecker Award (Program Visitor)- **Flotilla 7-16**

Dwight Shingledecker, a PDCDR was a found-

er and charter member of Flotilla 71. He donated this award that is presented annually to the flotilla having the best Program Visitor performance of the year.

Duignan Award (Fellowship)-**Flotilla 79**

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

William Waldo Chase Memorial Award-Flotilla 7-16

William Chase, a founder and charter member of Flotilla 78 was a sailor and active instructor of public education courses. This award was donated in his honor by Flotilla 78 and is presented annually to the Flotilla that has had outstanding accomplishments in instruction, vessel examinations and operations.

The Captain's Jug-Flotilla 79

The four cornerstones of the Coast Guard Auxiliary were first instituted shortly after WWII. They were initially established as Vessel Examinations, Education, Operations, and Fellowship. These were changed in 1997 to Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship. Originating in 1959, the Captain's Jug is the oldest of the Division 7 awards. "Fathered" by Auxiliarist Harry Bomford, an active member of Flotilla 79,



TAMPA, Fla.—Tim Teahan accept the Richie Award for Public Affairs from Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander and Mike Shea, Division 7 Vice Commander at the Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

News and Articles by Members...

Awards Luncheon, *continued*



TAMPA, Fla.—Rick Short, Commander Flotilla 72 accepts the Nettling Award from Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander and Mike Shea, Division 7 Vice Commander at the Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

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the jug represents excellence in all of the aforementioned areas. Scoring for this award uses a formula that measures performance in each of these areas. ❁

TAMPA, Fla.—The Awards Luncheon is over and all the guests have gone home— but the work is not done. Amos Johnson, Division Commander 7 and Oscar Kramer, Staff Officer-Finance 7 make out checks for expenses incurred. Kramer points out a line item to Marvin Bayles from Flotilla 72. Beside Kramer, his wife, Judith Kramer waits patiently. Photo by Dottie Riley



TAMPA, Fla.—The transformation is complete! Late in the evening on March 26, 2011, Tim Teahan, Flotilla Commander 79 and Heleyde Aponte, Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources 79 show off the freshly cleaned building with its elegant table decorations in preparation for the Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011. Photo by Dottie Riley



News and Articles by Members...

Flotilla 72 Trains with the USCG A photographic account of a day training with USCG Station St. Petersburg. Photographs by Loren Reuter, FSO PA/PB 72

1.



1. Rick Short, Flotilla Commander 72 and coxswain, talks to his crew as the Coast Guard Response Boat-Medium from Station St. Petersburg approaches Miss Marla for the joint training on March 1, 2011.

2.



2. Timothy Robinson, trainee and David Langdon, crewmember, stand by to assist as the USCG 45-foot Medium Response Boat moves into position with the Auxiliary vessel Miss Marla during joint training exercises.

3.



March 1, 2011– Tampa Bay

3. Coxswain Richard Short stands by at the helm as the 45-foot USCG Medium Response Boat comes alongside the Auxiliary vessel, Miss Marla, for a side-by-side tow.

4. Timothy Robinson, trainee, and David Langdon, crewmember, prepare for another approach by the 45-foot USCG Medium Response Boat during the joint training exercise.

5. Timothy Robinson stands watch as the 45-foot USCG Medium Response Boat makes an approach to the Auxiliary vessel, Miss Marla.

Photos by Miss Marla crewmember, Loren Reuter.

4.



5.



Staff Reports and Meeting News...

Flotilla 72 St. Petersburg, Fla.



Rick Short, FC

While the waxing and waning of activity levels within a flotilla is a normal phenomenon, Flotilla 72 levels have soared off the charts. The flotilla leads the division in Operations in many areas and by several measures. Just look at the awards garnered by the flotilla and its members for 2010:

- Most Coxswain Hours – Rick Short
- Most Crew Hours– David Langdon, Jr.
- The Nettling Award (for Flotilla Operations)-Flotilla 72

In addition to leading in Operations, Flotilla 72 is making its mark in Recreational Boating Safety initiatives as well. Already this year, the flotilla hosted workshops for both Program Visitors and Vessel Examinations. The goal is to make impressive increases in these areas and to grow the flotilla's Public Education Program.

The flotilla's Public Education program is as impressive as its Operations program even without this anticipated growth. Flotilla 72 member, James Fogle, earned the award for Most Public Education Instructor Hours while member Barry Porter earned the award for Most Public Education Aide Hours in 2010.

USCG Auxiliary Public Education Goes to Weekly Radio.

Jim Fogle, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Education Flotilla 72 has been invited by Capt. Mike Anderson, local Fishing Guide and Radio/TV host to give a Safe Boating Tip of the Day on both of his Radio Shows.

Tune in to the "Reel Animals Saturday" show with Captain

Michael Anderson on 970 WFLA AM radio Saturdays from 6-9 a.m. and to the T.A. Mahoney Reel Animals Fishing show on 620 WDAE radio Sundays from 7-9 a.m. Fogle will discuss various Safe Boating topics between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m. ☼



Some members contribute in all areas and are invaluable to their flotillas and to the division. Such is the case with David Perillo, who earned the Division 7 Auxiliarist of the year Award. Perillo can be counted on to assist whenever there is a project to be completed or a job to be done.

Flotilla 72 members work hard and contribute much to Division 7 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and to the Coast Guard. Bravo Zulu to the members of Flotilla 72 for all of their contributions and for these well-deserved awards! ☼



ST. PETERSBURG BEACH, Fla.—Some of the dedicated officers and members of Flotilla 72 at the January meeting. Front row from left are David Perillo, Operations, Eugene Keller, Flotilla Vice Commander, Marla Short, Human Resources. Back row from left are Linda Barnard, Secretary, David Langston Member Training, Ann Marie Conner, Marvin Bayles, Navigation Systems, Robert Helmling, Rick Short, Flotilla Commander, Carl Nelson, Guy Webert, Jim Fogle, Public Education, and Barry Porter, Materials. Photo by Loren Reuter





Flotilla News

Flotilla 74 Brandon, Fla.



TAMPA BAY, Fla.—George Papabeis, member of Flotilla 74, is developing quite a reputation for his interesting and unusual photographs. Here, Papabeis adjusts the angle of the camera mounted facing forward on the bow of the Catalina owned by Flotilla 74 member Joe Lamb. (I'll bet you thought it was a quirky self-portrait!)

Congratulations to the following Flotilla 74 members for receiving these recent awards:

- Richard Bailey – Coast Guard Unit Commendation Award (6/24/1999 – 6/23/2009). Bailey also received the Auxiliary Performance Award, Operations Award, Vessel Safety Check/Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program (RBSVP) Award, and the United State Coast Guard Auxiliary Merit Service Award for Administrative Support
- Eileen Grabi Gibson, John Sanchez and Gil Thomas earned the Sustained Service Award.
- Eileen Gibson (5 years), Gil Thomas (5 years) and Galen Johnston (20 years) - Auxiliary Membership Service Award.

Flotilla 74 also earned the Oalmann Award for Member Training at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 in Tampa.

The flotilla's #1 priority is boating safety and Flotilla 74 will increase its visibility to the boating public by being on the water as much

as possible. The flotilla has a roster of experienced and capable crew and coxswains and will be adding more as the year progresses. They are also looking to add facilities (vessels outfitted and approved to be used under Coast Guard orders) this year to assist in their efforts to reduce boating accidents and make Tampa Bay waters safe for all boaters.



Gilbert Thomas, FC

Flotilla 74 formed a special Communications Committee to research possible alternatives to use when conducting conference calls and meetings. Gil Thomas, Flotilla Commander 74, initiated this special project preparing for possible significant increases in gas prices. Flotilla 74, located in Brandon, Florida is miles away from its detachment in Polk County making meeting attendance a significant expense for some of members. The communications committee will keep Flotilla members informed on their progress. ☼

TAMPA BAY, Fla.—Flotilla 74 member Carlos Velez keeps a sharp lookout during a recent day on the water in crew training. Velez, a trainee, will be another welcome addition to Flotilla 74 roster of experienced and capable crew. Photo by George Papabeis Flotilla 74



Flotilla News

Flotilla 75 Ruskin, Fla.



Alma Parrish, FC

Flotilla 75 has been very active this year. With all of our Staff Officers pushing for success we have been very busy.

Our success last year was topped off by our celebration of our Flotilla's 50th Anniversary and Change of Watch in January. We not only made it into the local newspaper, but also the Auxiliary National newspaper, the Navigator.

Here are just some of our accomplishments for last year.

- In Communications, we cleaned up and painted our radio station, and it really looks great.
- In Human Resources, we enrolled three new members and one transfer. We Picked up these new members through our Public Education classes.
- Awards - Walter Wagner received our Member of the Year Award with a traveling award, a personal award and a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service to Flotilla 75. Additionally, he received an Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011. Other members whose contributions were recognized include Guy Mandigo, Ray Stewart, Bob Bettinger and Dotty Engle.
- In Navigations Systems, we were very busy verifying private aids to navigation (PATON) and lights on bridges and we hope to have them all completed by May.
- In Member Training, we conducted training where needed both on the water and land. Our goal is to have a member training session at every meeting. We have participated in special training with law

enforcement and the military. With all of our training, our crew members and coxswains have become even more proficient.

- In Computer Systems, we updated our web site.
- In Public Affairs, we have been very active preparing articles and press releases for local papers and participating in local festivals. Our local communities have loads of fairs, some even twice a month, and yes, we participate in all of them!
- In Public Education, we conducted continually revolving Boating Skills and Seamanship classes this year which were successfully attended. We also successfully started our new Sailing Skills and Seamanship class on January 16th at the Tampa Sailing Squadron in Apollo Beach. The students are a very enthusiastic group. The Tampa Sailing Squadron has very graciously made their facility available to us for this series of classes.
- In Vessel Examinations, we doubled the number of inspections from the previous year. This has made us all very proud. We have great plans for the coming year and look to our members for their continued participation. ⚓

TAMPA, Fla.—Melvin Manning, District Captain-West and Amos Johnson, Division 7 Commander assist District 7 Past Commodore Allen Brown in attaching the Fifty-year pennant to Flotilla 75's flag held by Guy Mandigo, Vice Commander Flotilla 75. The ceremony took place at the Division 7 meeting on April 16 at Flotilla 79 Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley





Flotilla News

Flotilla 78 Pass-a-Grille, Fla.



TAMPA, Fla.— Larry Neu, member of Flotilla 79 and one of the instructors of the Division 7 Crew and Coxswain Training Program, demonstrates how to open and operate the dewatering pump at the Gandy Boat Ramp during crew training on March 26, 2011. Members shown are David Banacci, Flotilla 72, Val Fernandes, Flotilla 78 and Kathleen Heide, Flotilla 79. Photo provided by Valerie Fernandes



Brad Marchant, FC

will be at the Webster building. I look forward to a report about the Division 7 Awards Luncheon held on March 27 in Tampa.

The days are longer now and the pools have warmed up, and I hope everyone is having a good month. ☼

I (Brad Marchant) was recently in San Francisco and out on the Bay. It was very cold, rough and windy with driving rain. I looked forward to getting home to warmer weather.

We had an interesting winter season this year with successes in several of our programs. We rebounded with our Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) course with a return to normal class size. We have been major contributors to recent boat shows.

I want to acknowledge the superior efforts of Ron Bradach, Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs for having the BS&S advertised in every free newspaper that is distributed in our catch area. I also note that the story about Eric Davis was reprinted in another Coast Guard newsletter.

We should continue to acknowledge Val Fernandes' outstanding effort to get a working facility and to become a coxswain qualified. She has worked very hard to provide our Flotilla with a patrol capacity.

Sam Fallenbaum hosted an excellent March meeting at his house. We thank him for his hospitality. Our April meeting

TAMPA, Fla.—Eric Davis and Payton attended both the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27 and the Division 7 meeting on April 16 at Flotilla 79. Photo by Dottie Riley



*Flotilla News***Flotilla 79 Tampa, Fla.****Tim Teahan, FC**

By mid-April, Flotilla 79 swore in nearly a dozen new members—six alone at the April meeting of Flotilla 79, with three more new members to be sworn in at the May meeting.

Most of these members are already active in training and in our boating safety initiatives. New member, Paul Cooke, completed the Good Mate and Instructor Development course even before taking the Auxiliary membership oath. Linda Churchill was sworn in at the January meeting and has since com-

pleted the Flotilla Leadership course offered in January at Clearwater Air Station and the on-line Program Visitor test.

Examples like this evidence why Flotilla 79 earned the Mike Award at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Heleyde Aponte, Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources puts in countless hours (2,355 in 2010!) and immeasurable energy into recruiting new members and encouraging them to engage in training and in activities even before they take their membership oath. The members and officers of Flotilla 79 are as focused on retaining members as they are on recruiting, which accounts for the flotilla's countless hours logged in AUXDATA (Auxiliary database maintained by the Coast Guard).

We are proud of our members and their many accomplishments. We are proud of our contributions in support of Division 7, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Coast Guard. ✱

TAMPA, Fla.—Heleyde Aponte, Flotilla Staff Officer-Human Resources 79 and Tim Teahan, Flotilla Commander 79 accept the Mike Award for Membership Growth and Retention at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 in Tampa. Presenting the award are Mike Shea, Vice Commander Division 7 (holding award) and Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7. Photo by Dottie Riley





Flotilla News

Flotilla 7-16 Gulfport, Fla.



TAMPA, Fla.— Members of Flotilla 7-16 and their spouses attend the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27 at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Clockwise from left are Kevin Yeaton, Karen Yeaton, Jim Armstrong, Emma Lou Rimel and Don Rimel. Photo by Dottie Riley

Member Service Awards were presented to six members of Flotilla 7-16 at a "Thank You" fellowship meeting on March 16th. Member Service Award recipients in attendance included Art Trinkle, 25 year service award, Leonard Dolney & Julianne Benedict Dolney, 20 year service award, and Linda and Blaise Harwitt, five-year service award. Robert Patton, not present, received a five-year award. In addition to the Member Service Awards, Leonard Dolney & Jim Newman received the Performance Award for Education.

Members of Flotilla 7-16 were honored for significant contri-

butions at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon March 27, 2011. Individual awards included Don Rimel receiving a plaque for the Most Vessel Examinations with 208 Vessel Safety Checks. He also received a plaque for the Most Program Visits with 418 recorded in AUXDATA (Auxiliary database maintained by the Coast Guard). In addition, two members from Flotilla 7-16 received Honor Role Certificates, Jim Newman with 804 hours and Don Rimel with 761 hours.



James Newman, FC

The flotilla received three revolving awards: the Krough Award (Public Education), the Prescott Award (Vessel Examinations) and the Shingledecker Award (Program Visitor). What an outstanding performance for any flotilla let alone the smallest in Division 7!

The Vessel Examiner team of Don Rimel, Kevin Yeaton and David Ditto, completed 200 Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) by the end of March. This means the team achieved half of its annual goal by the end of the first quarter. The flotilla may also soon have another facility to conduct its on-the-water operations. After having his boat inspected, Bradford Dykens volunteered his boat as a facility for Flotilla 7-16. ☼



TAMPA, Fla.— Amos Johnson, Commander Division 7 affixes the Operational Auxiliarist Status (AUXOP) device to Don Rimel's shirt at the Division 7 Awards Luncheon on March 27, 2011 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

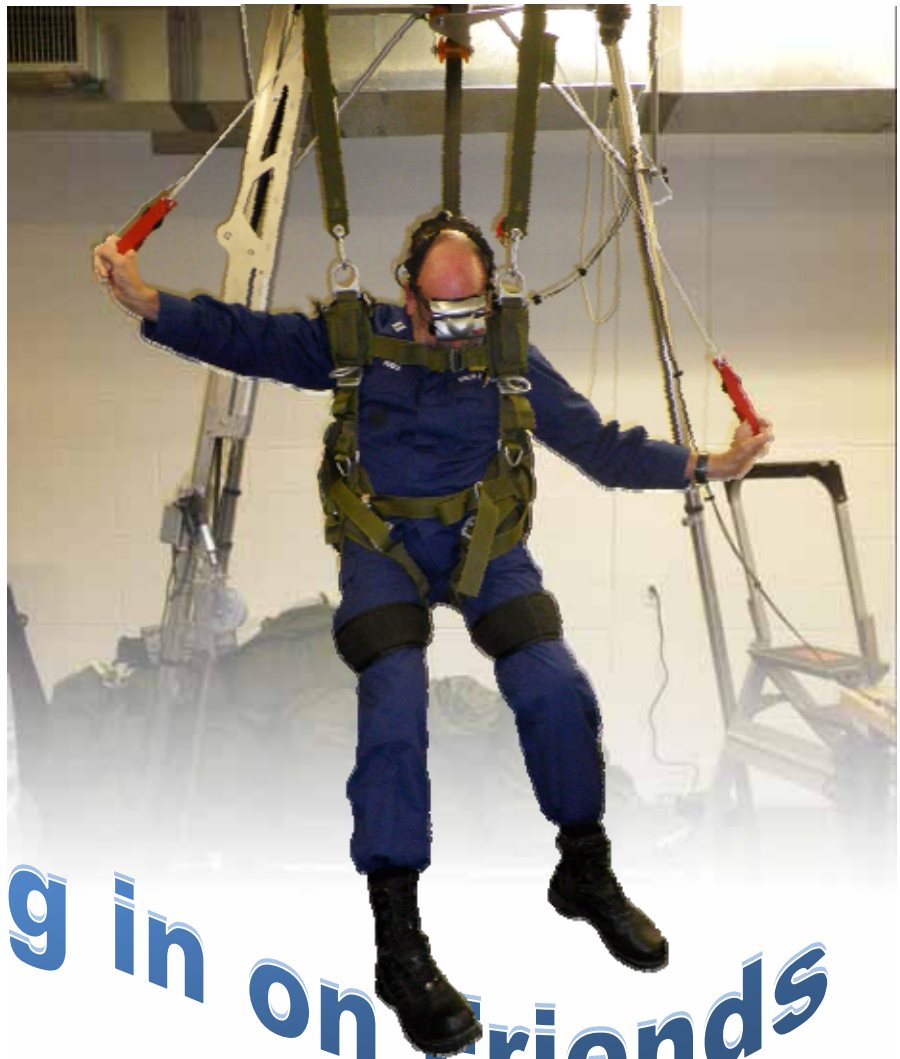
News and Articles by Members...

Right: TAMPA, Fla.—James Fogle tries out the equipment in the Parachute Rigging and Simulation Building on March 11 when 13 members of Division 7 visited MacDill AFB. Photo by Cinda Hitchcock, FL 79

JCSE Invites Division 7 Members to MacDill

Propping in on Friends

James Fogle, IPFC , FSO-PE 72



On a chilly blustery Friday in early March, 13 members of District 7 visited the Joint Communication Support Element (JCSE) of Central Command headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base.

Last year, Division 7 members assisted in the training and qualification of two classes of JCSE troopers as coxswains. The mission from Colonel Stephen Corcoran, USMC, Commander of the JCSE, had been to familiarize, train and test JCSE teams in small boat operations to facilitate the rescue and transport of paratroopers involved in waterborne operations. To express their appreciation to our volunteer members who provided this training, Col. Corcoran invited them to MacDill Air Force Base for a day of adventure and camaraderie.

Division 7 members were treated to demonstration and hands on participation in five areas of JCSE expertise: Live Fire Range with the M4 Tactical Combat Rifle; the Parachute Rigging and Simulation Building, Star War type Communications, Zodiac Boat operations and Combat First Aid.

The day was topped off with our participation along with families at MacDill in the homecoming of a group of JCSE soldiers who just flew in from assignments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was quite impressive and all Auxiliary members thoroughly enjoyed the day and the knowledge that JCSE has our Communications and support well in hand. We were also touched and proud and to be able to actively contribute to our Homeland Defense. ✱





TAMPA, Fla.—Jim Fogle , Flotilla 72, takes aim at the target on the live fire range on March 11 when he and 12 other members of Division 7 were invited to MacDill Air Force Base by the Joint Communication Support Element headquartered at the base. Photo provided by Jim Fogle

TAMPA, Fla.—Members of Division 7 visiting the Joint Communication Support Element (JCSE) at MacDill on March 11 participated in a number of activities including Zodiac boat operations. Brian Garry and Fred Johnson paddle a Zodiac inflatable boat along with members of the JCSE unit. Photo by Tim Teahan



TAMPA, Fla.—Kathleen Heide, Flotilla 79, on the firing range on March 11 at MacDill. The personal protective gear added another layer of adventure to the experience. Photo by Tim Teahan

News and Program Updates...

New Mandated Training Requirements

To: ALAUX
 From: CHDIRAUX
 Subj: AUXILIARY MANDATED TRAINING PROGRAM -
 STATUS UPDATE -008/11

1. Mandated Training Requirements: ALAUX 037/10 described the development of new mandated training requirements for all Auxiliarists. To summarize, it indicated that a mandated training course delivery method was not expected to be completed until early 2011. It also indicated that the new mandated training course and frequency requirements would be placed in effect upon completion, and identified the course and frequency requirements as follows:

a. Required to be performed by all Auxiliarists during their first year of enrollment and then once every five years thereafter:

- Suicide Prevention.
- Security Education & Training Awareness.
- Privacy Awareness.
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment.
- Sexual Assault Prevention.

Civil Rights Awareness (titled changed from Human Relations Awareness).

b. Required to be performed only once by all Auxiliarists (new members during their first year of enrollment):

- Ethics Training.
- Influenza Training.

2. The Auxiliary Learning Management System (LMS):

a. The Coast Guard Force Readiness Command's Performance, Training and Education Branch Advanced Distributed Learning Team (FC-515) has been working with the Performance Technology Center (PTC) at Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown to develop a permanent Learning Management System (LMS, aka - Learning Portal) for Auxiliary use. The Auxiliary LMS will ultimately be found at the following web site: <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil> (i.e. - it is not operable yet), and it will become the primary delivery method for Auxiliary mandated training.

b. This Auxiliary LMS will include most Coast Guard courses that are carried in the Coast Guard Learning Portal as well as the Auxiliary mandated training courses listed above. The Auxiliary LMS will also feed information about Auxiliarists' course completions to AUXDATA.

c. A beneficial aspect of the Auxiliary LMS will be 24/7 Help Desk support through the Coast Guard Operations System Center (OSC) in Martinsburg, WV.

d. Similar to functionality in the active duty learning portal, an end-of-course certificate will only be available for printing upon first-time course completion. Subsequent completions of the same course will not yield a certificate. However, a summary report of course completions for any given individual will be available directly from the LMS.

e. A firm launching date for the Auxiliary LMS cannot be identified at this point, but it will be no earlier than the summer of 2011. The Auxiliary mandated training requirements will not become effective until that site, and all associated system connections, are fully tested and functional.

3. Importance of Unique E-Mail Addresses:

a. The most accommodating aspect of the Auxiliary LMS will be its ability to allow Auxiliarists to use it from their personal computers without any special access card or tool. However, in order for it to properly synch with AUXDATA and feed the right information to the right Auxiliarist's record, each Auxiliarist who uses the Auxiliary LMS will have to have their own unique e-mail address, and that e-mail address will have to be recorded as the primary e-mail address in their AUXDATA profile. That unique e-mail address will then serve as the Auxiliarist's username for Auxiliary LMS login purposes.

b. It is therefore strongly recommended that all Auxiliarists ensure that they do not have any e-mail addresses in AUXDATA that are the same as those of any family members or friends who also happen to be Auxiliarists. Without a unique individual e-mail address, an Auxiliarist will be prevented from having the Auxiliary LMS directly load their training results into AUXDATA, and there will be no alternative connection.

4. Interim Auxiliary Mandated Training Site:

a. An interim web site where Auxiliarists





News and Program Updates...

may begin taking online mandated training courses until the Auxiliary LMS has been operational since mid-January. It is located at: <http://aux.virtualclassroomuscg.org> This site does not link directly to AUXDATA, so completion of Auxiliary mandated training courses taken on this site must be manually reported and placed into AUXDATA for credit.

b. This interim site has posed many challenges to Auxiliarists

who have attempted to take courses and document credit for them, and it has not had dedicated Help Desk support. FC-515 is aware of these issues and is working to resolve as many of them as possible within the next few days. If they cannot be fixed to the point that this interim site provides clear results and is easy to use, then it will be shut down from further availability. We expect that determination to be made by 31 March 11.

5. Timeline for Auxiliary Mandated Training Implementation:

a. Auxiliary mandated training implementation means that the clock will start for those requirements after the Auxiliary LMS described in paragraph 2 is fully operational...not until then, nor while the interim site is in use.

b. Once that clock is started, currently enrolled Auxiliarists will have until 31 December 2016 to complete all eight of the above courses. As each of the first six courses listed in paragraph 1 is completed, its own five-year cycle will start. Each cycle will extend to 31 December of the fifth year regardless of the date the course was completed during the year, and so on. For example, if an Auxiliarist completes the Civil Rights Awareness course on 15 November 2012, then they will have to complete it again by 31 December 2017.

c. New enrollees will have to complete all mandated training within their first year of enrollment. By definition for this purpose, their first year of enrollment will extend to 31 December of the following year of their Base Enrollment Date. For example, if a new enrollee has a Base Enrollment Date of 15 July 2011, then that individual will have until 31 December 2012 to complete all mandated training. The subsequent five-year cycle for each of the first six courses listed in paragraph 1 will start after each respective course completion, as described above for currently enrolled Auxiliarists.

d. Again, the clock will start for man-

dated training requirements after the Auxiliary LMS described in paragraph 2 is fully operational...not until then, nor while the interim site is in use.

6. AUXDATA Tracking: A competency named "Mandated Training" will be established in AUXDATA that will have all eight mandated training courses assigned to it. This competency will be assigned to all Auxiliarists. The status of each Auxiliarist will be shown in the Training Management Report. This will make it easy to monitor the status of mandated training as a whole for any Auxiliarist, and it will reflect the status of each mandated training course that has been completed by any Auxiliarist.

7. Auxiliary mandated training, like its counterpart for Coast Guard active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel, is meant to ensure awareness and promote embracement of essential elements of the Coast Guard's organizational ethos. All Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to complete these courses and to sustain their required currency thereafter.

8. 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. ☸

TAMPA, Fla.—Training is an integral part of the Auxiliary experience. Below, Cliff Martin conducts Crew and Coxswain training to members of Division 7 on March 26, 2011, at Flotilla 79 in Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley



Staff Reports and Meeting News...

Ron Matz **Section Chief-Logistics**

Dottie Riley, Staff Officer-Publications

- Attended and photographed the Division 7 Annual Awards Luncheon on Mar. 27, 2011
- Flotilla 79 participated in Tampa Chalk Walk Mar. 18-20, 2011. This event was successful on many levels. We reached a wide audience of event-goers with our boating safety message and information about the Auxiliary, and later garnered a lot of coverage in both local media and at Coast Guard Auxiliary national level with a feature story in Sitrep.
- I am pleased to report that every flotilla in Division 7 presently has a Flotilla Staff Officer-Publication (FSO-PB), and all but one flotilla has published a newsletter. Flotillas that published in March include FL 74, FL 75, FL 78, FL 79, and FL 7-16.
- Provided specific assistance to three FSOs-PB. Offered guidance on newsletters and forwarded photographs, and communicated with several FSOs-PB by phone and email.
- Just a reminder- all staff officers should copy their monthly reports to their respective FSO or SO-PB as this information is needed for newsletters. It would also be helpful if officers and members wrote a few brief paragraphs about events in which they participate and forwarded this along with photographs to their PB officer. It can be as simple as an email to the PB officer stating, "On (date), (member names) participated in (event name) at (location.)" This is especially important now that we have PB officers in every flotilla willing and able to produce a unit newsletter- and in need of member input.

Bunny Johnson, Staff Officer-Information Services

- All Information Services (IS) reports received to date are entered.
- The office of Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) is asking all Flotilla IS officers to be sure and keep Flotilla rosters up to date including the last four digits of the complete

zip code. Members can go to AUXOFFICER, enter their member number or name, and get a change of information form to fill out and send electronically to me. It is quick and easy to use.

- I encourage everyone to use the new online 7029, Beta 4, save it to your favorites so you can add a day or two or more at any time and save it. When the month is over or the form full, just save and submit it. My e-mail address is auxdata2bunny@yahoo.com .It is very convenient to use and is sent electronically to me. If you go to the forms link through the Flotilla or Division websites, you can get to all the e-forms, fill out and send electronically to me, and get a copy for your files. Give it a try.
- We have a new IS assistant at FL79, Larry Ivey.

Heleyde Aponte, Staff Officer-Human Resources

- Attended Flotilla 79 Meeting – March 21st
- Training new Flotilla Staff Officers- Human Resources (FSO-HR) how to better communicate along department lines.
- Six new member applications have been mailed, three new members are currently being processed and seven e-responders and prospective members are in the wings.
- During the past month, nine new members were enrolled at Flotilla 79.
- Conducted a Vessel Examination and Program Visit at Davis Island Yacht Club on March 19, 2011.
- Participated in the Tampa Chalk Walk at Hyde Park on March 19.
- Attended the Division7 Award on March 27. For the second year, Flotilla 79 earned the Mike Award.

Oscar Kramer-Staff Officer-Finance

- Attended Flotilla meetings and Flotilla Staff Officer meetings monthly. Attended Division Awards Luncheon.
- Served as crew member for several missions. Served as Watch Stander for Apollo Beach Arts Festival Public





Staff Reports and Meeting News...

Affairs event.

- Served as Lead Instructor for two classes of the Boating Skills and Seamanship course at Flotilla 75.
- Acted as point of contact for reservations for Division Awards Lunch

Ron Matz-Staff Officer-Materials

- Sent request out to several agency members of the National Safe Boating Council for safety literature. Received several CDs and will be making copies for flotillas in the division.



- Recently received a note from the District Staff Officer-Materials that for now, the Florida Boaters Guide is not available until the State Legislature appropriates monies, which hopefully, will be soon.
- Free publications are available for order at the National Safe Boating Campaign website. The link to the National Safe Boating Campaign website is <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/>. Click on Safe Boating Campaign on the left side of the page, then click on 'Resources' in the upper right of the page.
- The 2011 Vessel Examinations and Program Visitor workshops are now available for download from <http://safetyseal.net/workshops/> ☼



Top: TAMPA, Fla.—Flotilla 79 members (from left) Barry Giacobbe, Ernie Costa, Cinda Hitchcock and Heleyde Aponte pose with a performer in the information booth set up during Tampa's Chalk Walk, a community art event Mar. 18-20, 2011. The event, hosted by Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture and the Arts, is a free annual celebration of the arts held in the Hyde Park district of Tampa. Photo by Dottie Riley

Right: TAMPA, Fla.--Dorothy Riley poses by her completed sidewalk art, the "Wear It!" campaign logo from the National Safe Boating Council at Tampa Chalk Walk, Mar. 18-20, 2011. Riley, a member of the Coast Guard Fine Art Program, decided to take advantage of this free community art event hosted annually by Tampa

Businesses for Culture and Art to deliver a boating safety message. Photo by Ernie Costa

Ready-Set-Inflate!

Participate either by scheduling your own event or by coming to Flotilla 79 on May 21 and inflating your life jacket to kick off National Safe Boating Week.



Ready Set Inflate

WWW.READYSETINFLATE.COM

Staff Reports and Meeting News...

Steve Plass Section Chief-Prevention



Steve Plass Staff Officer- Public Education

Flotilla 79's program is strong, maintaining about 30 students. Flotilla 72's Boating Skills and Seamanship program is maintaining about nine students. Jim Fogle, FSO-PE 72 has also done some local outreach programs at yacht clubs and fishing clubs, he continues to work with the Boy Scouts and provides weekly segments on the local fishing radio shows.

Plans are to conduct the America's Boating Course in Spanish within the coming months.

Cinda Hitchcock-Staff Officer-Program Visitor

On February 28, 2011, a ramped-up Program Visitor (PV) course was offered at Flotilla 72 to all members of Division 7 interested in qualifying as Program Visitor. Twenty members attended included 11 from Flotilla 79 and six from Flotilla 72. The remaining came from other flotillas within the division.

By the date of the Division 7 Meeting (Apr. 16, 2011), 192 PVs were conducted division-wide.

We have several newly qualified Program Visitors including two from Flotilla 72, one from Flotilla 74, and one from Flotilla 78. We welcome these new Program Visitors. These members are vital in spreading the boating safety message and in encouraging boaters to attend our boating safety programs.

Captions for photos on left:
Top: Joanne Wheeler, Flotilla 75, makes a point to Cliff Martin before boarding during the Division 7 crew and coxswain training on March 26, 2011 Photo by Valerie Fernandes FL 78

Lower right: Joe and Betty Hagan, Flotilla 79 deep in a discussion on the JoBe during crew and coxswain training on March 26, 2011. Photo by Dick Risk, FL 72

Clifford Martin Section Chief-Response

Cliff Martin-Staff Officer Member Training/Operations

We are only half way through the fiscal year but had to request additional funding to complete our missions due to the increased on-the-water time required to complete crew and coxswain training program.

Terry Affeld- Staff Officer-Communications

Radio watchstanders support the crew and coxswain class by providing radio guard every Saturday. This is a good time to volunteer and take a watch to get the hours needed to maintain qualification as a radio watchstander.





Staff Reports and Meeting News...

Auxiliary Signs NDSAC Strategic Plan

By Chris Todd, Deputy Chief, Public Affairs Department

SAVANNAH, Ga. - Coast Guard Auxiliary National Commodore Jim Vass today joined a plethora of partner agencies and organizations in signing the Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program 2012-2016 at the 2011 National Boating & Water Safety Summit. Vass was joined by Rear Adm. Kevin Cook, Director of Prevention Policy, and Capt. Mark Rizzo, Chief Director of Auxiliary, U.S. Coast Guard.

The plan, drafted by a team consisting of members of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, the Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety and other subject matter experts, presents the key performance goals toward reducing boating fatalities and injuries over the next five years across the U.S.

Performance Goals - Casualty Reduction

- CY 2012 Total Injuries = 3,295 Total Deaths = 673 CY 2013 Total
- Injuries = 3,212 Total Deaths = 668 CY 2014 Total Injuries = 3,132
- Total Deaths = 665 CY 2015 Total Injuries = 3,054 Total Deaths = 662
- CY 2016 Total Injuries = 2,997 Total Deaths = 659

The strategic plan outlines eleven key objectives/areas toward meeting the performance goals including:

1. Safety Education Certificates and Successful Course Completions
2. Recreational Boating Safety Outreach
3. Advanced and/or On-Water Skills-Based Boating Education
4. Life Jacket Wear
5. Operator Compliance, Navigation Rules
6. Boating Under the Influence (BUI)
7. Manufacturer Compliance
8. Operator Compliance - USCG Required Safety Equipment
9. Boating Accident Reporting
10. Research and Development
11. Effectiveness of Non-Profit Organization Grants.

Specific strategies are outlined in the plan (which will be posted online in the near future).

As a leading force in the instruction and advocacy of recreational boating safety across the nation, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will play a leading role in the implementation of this strategic plan.

Additional information concerning the Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program 2012-2016 will be available in the near future. For additional questions or information regarding this initiative, please submit your queries via the Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management. ☼



What is the National Boating Safety Advisory Council?

In the 1960s, recreational boating safety casualties were increasing at an alarming rate. To address this, Congress enacted the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. This landmark legislation provided the Coast Guard with the authority to develop standards and regulations pertaining to the construction of recreational boats and established the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) to advise the Coast Guard on developing and promulgating these standards and regulations. NBSAC operates as an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Since its inception in 1971, there have been five chairmen and approximately 200 other council members. The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security appoints NBSAC members; solicitations for applications for membership council are also published in the Federal Register each spring. The Coast Guard Director of Prevention Policy, currently RADM Kevin Cook, is the council's sponsor.

Excerpts from *National Boating Safety Advisory Council* by James P Muldoon, Chairman NBSAC

News and Program Updates...

The “New” Auxiliary Manuals

Terry Barth, DSO-MA D7

Many Auxiliarists have been asking why manuals and Auxiliary courses are sent on discs instead of a printed version – even when a printed version was requested. The easiest and most understandable answer in today's economic times is cost. Below is an explanation from the Knowledge Base site that sums it up quite nicely.

“In the Office of Auxiliary (Commandant CG -3PCX), the Chief Director makes decisions throughout the year on the amount of materials stocked at ANSC. These decisions are made in light of substantial information including stocking levels over several years, trends in Auxiliarist usage, ANSC's unfilled requests, and available funding to stock items.”

Currently, a Boat Crew Manual costs approximately \$40 to print and a CD costs 20 cents to produce. In order to maximize the limited program resources the Coast Guard allocates every year, we promote paperless applications to the greatest extent possible. This closely aligns with, and supports, the Coast Guard's ongoing efforts to leverage electronic tools and processes for its training, communications, and professional development needs.

As a result, there are progressively fewer manuals in print and more are available on CDs as well as web-based sources. Many Auxiliarists have embraced this technology, particularly for the rapid ability to search

several manuals at once using their computers' search function.

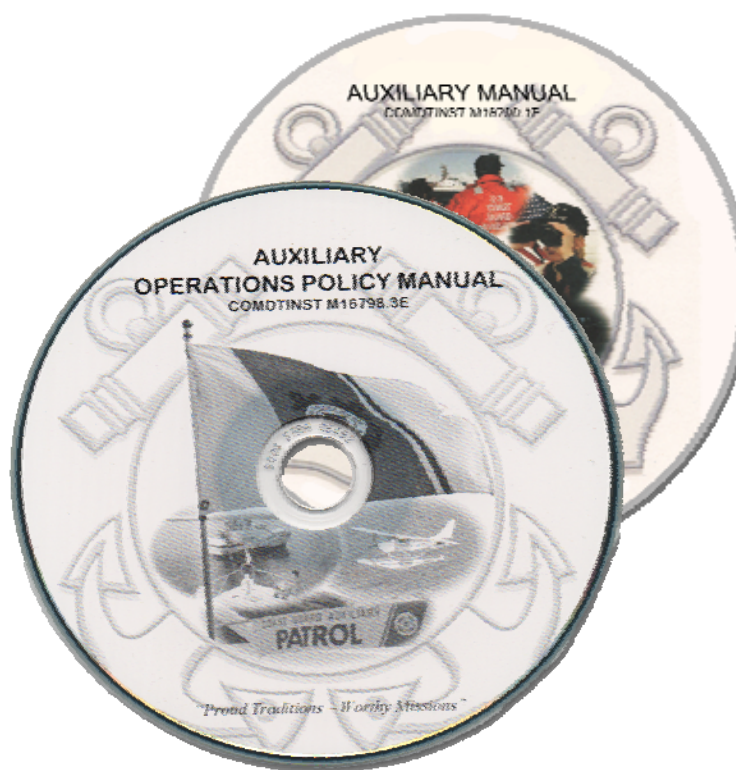
So what does the Auxiliarist who does not embrace this new technology do? Take a deep breath, count to ten and get used to the idea! It's not going away. Yes, those of us who are older and used to “holding” our

reading material will have to learn to press arrows instead of flip pages! But we can do this! We have conquered record albums, 8-tracks, cassettes, CDs, mp3 players etc. I bet some of you even have iPhones! With time, I am sure we can all adjust to reading manuals on the computer.

If you just cannot get used to the idea or do not have a computer, a copy can still be obtained by printing it from the disc. Depending on the size of

the manual/information needed, this can be expensive and time consuming. Some flotillas make a few copies of a manual no longer in print and then sign them out to Auxiliarists for use. The flotilla gets the manual back when the Auxiliarist is finished, and can then sign it out to someone else. This makes better use of the manuals and helps the environment by saving trees.

Try it! You may not like it (as well), but I'm confident you will adjust! ☼





News and Program Updates...

Penalty Stamp to Phase Out



To: ALAUX
From: CHDIRAUX
Subj: COMMERCIAL POSTAGE
STAMP TRANSITION -009/11

1. Effective 29 May 2009, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) stopped printing penalty mail stamps (i.e. - the eagle stamps commonly received from the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC)). The USPS continued to provide these stamps as long as stocks were available, but ultimately shifted to commercial postage stamps. Commercial postage stamps are no different than the stamps that the USPS offers consumers.

2. ANSC still has a considerable supply of penalty mail stamps in stock and will continue to distribute them for Auxiliary use until that stock is depleted. At that point, ANSC will begin providing commercial postage stamps in response to Auxiliary orders. This is expected to begin later this summer, 2011.

3. Commercial postage stamps shall be subject to the same policies and practices for usage as penalty mail stamps. They shall only be used by Auxiliarists for the support of official business associated with their Auxiliary activities. Because commercial postage stamps obtained from ANSC can be so easily integrated with personal mailings, it will be even more incumbent upon Auxiliarists to exercise utmost care, attention, and integrity in their restricted application for official business purposes.

As with other material orders submitted to ANSC, flotilla level authority to order stamps remains limited to the Flotilla Commander (FC) and Flotilla Staff Officer for Materials (FSO-MA) (see the ANSC Catalog at <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/default.asp> for a complete listing of ANSC ordering authority). Provisions of section 5.F. of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction 16790.1 series), which deals with official business mail, also remain applicable.

4. On behalf of the Coast Guard's Mail and Shipping

Manager, the following information is provided to help guide usage and handling of official business mail in the course of your Auxiliary activities:

a. Insufficient postage will result in either the recipient paying postage due upon delivery, or the mail piece being returned to the originator for additional postage.

b. Pricing and shape structure guidelines that went into effect in May 2008 affect all units that generate official mail. Previously, the first class rate was the same for all types of mail. Nowadays, a distinction is made for letter, flats, and parcels. The new shape-based rates reflect the difference in processing costs unique to each mail shape.

c. The maximum weight for letter-sized mail is 3.5 oz. at a cost of 95 cents. Any letter-sized piece exceeding this limit will be charged at the first class "flats" rate, which is almost double the cost of the letter rate.

d. A letter printed on an 8.5 x 11 inch paper weighing 1 oz or less and mailed unfolded costs the mailer 88 cents. If the same letter were folded and placed in an envelope measuring no more than 6-1/8 inches by 11-1/2 inches, the cost would be 44 cents - a savings of 50 percent. All documents that can be folded without negative impact should be folded to fit into smaller envelopes. Use envelopes measuring 6-1/8 x 11-1/2 inches, as this keeps the mail piece in the "letter-sized" rate category, provided you do not exceed the weight limit of 3.5 ounces.

e. More detailed information about USPS shape-based rate can be found on the site: <http://tinyurl.com/2odtrd>

(Long URL -http://www.pb.com/cgi-bin/pb.dll/jsp/Postalinfo.do?sitelet=RCEducation&catOID=19118&editorial_id=ed_ECED_Shape_Based_Price&lang=en&country=US)

(Point of contact for the USCG and authority removed for brevity. See Complete bulletin online.) ☼



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



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.