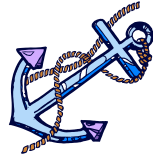


# ANCHOR LINE



**Flotilla 87**

**Englewood, Fla.**

7th Coast Guard District  
[www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com](http://www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com)

Volume XLVIII July, 2010 Number 7



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**2010 FLOTILLA 87 OFFICERS  
DIVISION 8 DISTRICT 7**



**Flotilla Commander**  
**Flotilla Vice Cmdr.**  
Member Training  
Public Education  
Vessel Examination  
Operations  
Personnel Services  
Public Affairs  
Publications  
Secretary/Records  
Finance  
Communications  
Materials  
Information Svc  
Navigation System  
RBS Visitation  
Marine Safety  
Communication Svc  
Imm. Past Fl. Cmdr.  
Historian  
Lay Leader  
Proctor  
Flotilla Webmaster  
Fellowship

**FC**  
**VFC**  
FSO-MT  
FSO-PE  
FSO-VE  
FSO-OP  
FSO-HR  
FSO-PA  
FSO-PB  
FSO-SR  
FSO-FN  
FSO-CM  
FSO-MA  
FSO-IS  
FSO-NS  
FSO-PV  
FSO-MS  
FSO-CS  
IPFC

**Rodney D. Dimon**  
**Max P. Muller**

Nancy Lee G. Waters  
Gerald L. Meckenberg  
Wilbur R. Gray  
Sandy Bilsky  
David C. Nielsen  
Judith A. Abbott  
Judith A. Abbott  
Robert W. Schmidt  
Gerald L. Meckenberg  
Anton (Tony) Durner  
Robert M. Waters  
David P. Senkpiel  
Gregory J. Masonick

Graham Leadbetter, Ph. D  
Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson

Judith A. Abbott  
Ruth A. White  
Graham Leadbetter, Ph. D

**JULY EVENTS**

- 6.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 10.....Division 8 Meeting, Flotilla 84, Sarasota 9 am**
- 13.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm

***NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST***



## FROM THE HELM: Rodney D. Dimon, Commander



Avast Fellow shipmates! Our flotilla finds itself midway through another year. So far, it has been anything other than the same old stuff, as we have experienced a few ill winds along our way, but they have translated into a good learning experience for the flotilla.

What follows are way points of good news: we are getting closer to obtaining a place of our own—thanks to the tireless efforts of Skip Wilson, IPFC and Jack Rienks. And, through your efforts, the flotilla has “pressed” a few new members into membership – and most of them are still with us. I hear scuttlebutt that Max Muller, VFC might be on boarding an FSO-Member Training (in case anyone has forgotten: we need member training at all levels).

Finally, the need for fellowship was met by a successful mid -year luncheon by the water at the Royal Palm Marina. If you could not make this event, or it was not your cup of chowder – please let us know what activities would bring you to a gathering. We cannot plan a function you would like if we do not know what you like.

In the December 09 Anchor Line, IPFC Skip “had to lay down the gauntlet.” So I had to pick it up. As I reached for it, I wondered why it appeared to be getting larger—then it hit me (figure that one out)! This has been some learning experience as FC, and I am grateful to those members who have helped me and offered constructive and positive guidance along the way. Be mindful that there **WILL NOT BE A FLOTILLA MEETING IN AUGUST**. I look forward to the second half of this year’s performance. Like I said earlier – the smart money is on Flotilla 87.

Charlie Mike - out

## **Max P. Muller, VFC**



Well, it's Hurricane season again, the price we have to pay for living in paradise! That means all of us who own boats should be thinking about strategy for protecting them from the elements. Having a plan and the equipment to carry it out, prepared ahead of time, will make it easier when the storms come. Some great advice can be found on the internet at places like Boat US.com, etc.

On a lighter note, I enjoyed sharing the afternoon with our members on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> for lunch at the Royal palm Marina. I appreciated the attendance of the members who were there. I feel that more events need to be planned for the future which hopefully will help to improve morale. Friendship and tolerance are important factors in getting along with fellow members.

As I have mentioned previously, we will be making plans for increased member training in the months to come. Our new Member Training Staff Officer, Tony Durner, has a good handle on the needs of the membership. I will be working with him to set up training and educational programs that will increase our qualifications level. I'm confident that Tony will do a great job. Please be thinking about what programs you would like to see presented and tell Tony or myself at the next meeting so that plans can be made to implement them.

There are a lot of changes being made at all levels, Flotilla, Division, District, and National. Some of these changes might be a little difficult to understand, however, as members we need to support the people who are trying to keep the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary the highly respected unit that it is.

A big thank you to all of the Staff Officers for outstanding commitment to your respective positions, it is greatly appreciated! You are the backbone of this Flotilla.

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## **Lee Waters, FSO-PE**



We can now have a restful summer as we rest and travel and then start preparing for the September ABS session. I will be calling instructors in August to set up the schedule for this program with the session running on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 7th, 8th and 9th at Royal Palm Marina. Along with the great job that Dave Nielsen does with promoting the programs, the membership also needs to promote it to their friends and neighbors.

Continued next page.....

## **FSO-PE Cont'd.....**

Whereas this is a lean time on the waterways for our snowbird friends and neighbors it is the prime time for all of us who live here year round. Just because we have been boating for a number of years, we should remember the importance of wearing a life jacket and filling out a float plan every time we go on the water. Even the FWC officer was shamed into putting on his life jacket when he spotted us on patrol. We are never too old or too smart to be safe on the waters. Have a great summer and see you in the fall.

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## **W. R. "Gabby" Gray, FSO-OP**



All patrols were completed for the month of May.

If you are going away for some time during the summer months PLEASE let me or Rod know.

I would like to thank all coxswains, crew and radio watchstanders for taking up the slack while some of our members are on vacation and or up north for the summer.

Remember we are in Hurricane Season now.

Crew members, if you have a free day and have not been called for a patrol lately get on the phone and call a coxswain to see if you can go along. Coxswains, don't forget to go over your towing equipment and the location of all your other equipment.

Also coxswains, please let me or Bob know if you get a tow, so you get credit for your annual maintenance.

Coxswains, don't forget if you get a call-out or a tow, you have to fill out a 4612 "SAR" incident report and send a Copy-1 CG Unit to Station Cortez within 48 hrs.

All members, please use caution when you use Stump Pass; they have not reset any of the markers yet. There is a lot of shallow water.

We are still having fun, keep up the good work. THANKS!

"Gabby"

# NSBW SAFETY BOOTH



Members Bob and Lee Waters right, staff a safety booth during NSBW at True value hardware & Marine Supply



# MEMORIAL DAY

## AT ROYAL PALM MARINA



Top left: Royal Palm Marina was an ideal venue for a safety booth. Top right: Bob Waters, Jerry Meckenberg and Lee Waters speak with a visitor to the booth. Upon arrival the marina was quite empty but it filled up quickly as the pictures above indicate.

Photos by Judy Abbott

More pictures next page.....

**MORE PHOTOS.....**



The marina is hosting an art contest and local artists are painting the seawall surrounding the marina. Flotilla 87's Max Muller, VFC and also an excellent artist, will judge the entries on July 4th. Some of the artwork he will be judging is shown below.



The marina has undergone an extensive make-over and is becoming a very popular location for friendly gatherings as can be seen by the pictures on the next page.....

Photos by Judy Abbott

# FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

## FLOTILLA MEMBERS ENJOYING A GOOD TIME AT RPM



Sandy & Anne Bilsky Dave & Karen Nielsen



Bob & Lee Waters Jim Straub



Graham Leadbetter Tony Durner



Marilyn Durner Mary Leadbetter



Doris King Kay & Harry Steele



Jerry Meckenberg Max Muller

Photos by Judy Abbott



## **Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA**



### **Rules of the Road**

#### **Please wear it!**

At work and in my travels around southwest Florida I meet many boaters, both professional and recreational, and I love to talk about boating and boating safety.

Recently I was asked how old someone had to be in order to be required to wear a life jacket. The boater's grandchildren were coming into town and the grandparents wanted to take the children out onto Charlotte Harbor.

The answer I provided is as follows: in Florida, a child under the age of 6 must wear a USCG-approved Type I, II or III personal flotation device (PFD) while onboard a vessel under 26 feet in length while the vessel is under way. "Under way" is defined as anytime except when the vessel is anchored, moored, made fast to the shore or aground.

I further explained that if they were to venture out where federal regulations apply past the barrier islands into the Gulf of Mexico, on a vessel underway, children under age 13 must wear an appropriate Coast Guard approved PFD, unless they are below decks or within an enclosed cabin.

The grandparent was overjoyed that her grandchildren ages 6 and up would be very excited that they did not have to wear their PFD when on grandpa's boat. They were very good swimmers, she stated, and no doubt much better swimmers than she or her husband.

Gee, I just love talking to myself, especially when someone specifically asks me for information or advice. I am sure I was the only one listening to my side of the conversation.

Anyway, there have been numerous incidents where a boater's life would have been saved had they been wearing a PFD before they unexpectedly ended up in the water. A quick review of boating statistics on the [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org) site found that in 2008, out of 610 total fatalities, drowning was the predominant cause of death and 459 of those fatalities were from boaters who were not wearing their PFD.

I recall one of my own boating instructors suggesting that in a controlled environment, such as a back yard swimming pool, jump in and have someone toss you a PFD and see how long it takes you to put it on.

Continued .....

## **Wear it.....Cont'd.**

The point is that it is not easy or a quick maneuver to put on a PFD once you are already in the water. Imagine if the water was cold and you were shocked at the temperature. What if you received a traumatic injury before going overboard? What if you could not find a PFD before ending up in the water?

I'll leave you with a little more information regarding PFD requirements.

All vessels are required to have onboard a wearable USCG-approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person. The PFDs must be of the appropriate size for the intended wearer, be in serviceable condition, and within easy access. The State of Florida urges all people onboard a boat to wear a life jacket.

Vessels 16 feet in length or longer must also have at least one USCG-approved throwable Type IV PFD that is immediately available in case of a fall overboard.

Be safe out there and I'll see you on the water, wearing a life jacket, of course!

Interested in learning more about navigation and safe boating? For more information visit <http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/> or <http://www.usps.org/>

Dave Nielsen is a safe boating instructor and vessel examiner for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Englewood Flotilla [www.coastguardenglewood.com](http://www.coastguardenglewood.com) and the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron, Punta Gorda [www.puntagorda-boating.org](http://www.puntagorda-boating.org). You may contact him at [dc.nielsen@hotmail.com](mailto:dc.nielsen@hotmail.com).

### **Editor's Note:**

***Dave is a regular contributor to the SUN newspaper's WaterLine boating and fishing magazine promoting the USCG and CG AUXILIARY'S safe boating message.***



Sandy Bilsky, FSO-HR is always ready for recruiting new members with his "Ask me" signs on his vessel and auto

Photos by Sandy Bilsky