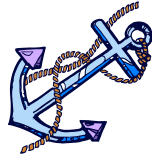


ANCHOR LINE



Flotilla 87

Englewood, Fla.

7th Coast Guard District
www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com

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Skip Wilson, IPFC accepts the Division 8 Outstanding Flotilla Award for 2009
from Braxton Ezell, DCDR and Paulette Parent, VCDR

Photo by Judy Abbott

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

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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
 Social Chairperson

FC
VFC
 FSO-MT
 FSO-PE
 FSO-VE
 FSO-OP
 FSO-PS
 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

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
 Charles E. Schoenfeld
 Judith A. Abbott
 Ruth A. White
 Graham Leadbetter, Ph. D
 Ted Turner

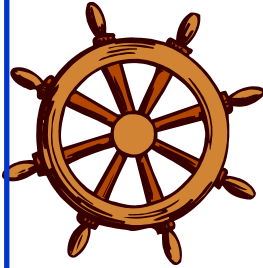
MAY EVENTS

4.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
 11.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
 15 & 22.....ABS Program, Lemon Bay Park 8:30 am—12:30 pm
22—28.....National Safe Boating Week



FROM THE HELM: Rodney D. Dimon, Commander

2009: CHAMPIONHIP YEAR FOR FLOTILLA 87

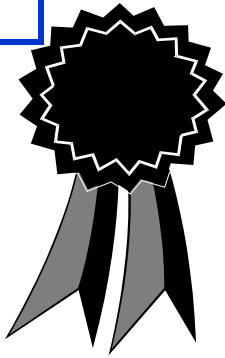


A large portion of April's Flotilla meeting consisted of a dynamic awards ceremony from the Division Commander that included two Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Recognition and Ribbon for individual accomplishment, the Division Outstanding Flotilla Award, and the Outstanding Flotilla Commander Award 2nd Place awarded to IPFC Skip Wilson. Furthermore, eight Flotilla Achievement awards followed by ten Member achievement awards showed what Flotilla 87 is all about. Looking back, these "gold medals" were accomplished in an environment that would make some "Blue Shirts" stay on the porch and not even show up. Our membership numbers continued to shrink, our fleet diminished, and training and the big QE for new coxswains and crewmembers did not happen. I wonder if Jimmy the Greek were around if he would put "smart money" on 87. I know I did, as well as everyone else in the Flotilla, and a few Division Staffers who pitched in to assist. What is the difference between those Flotillas that are not quite as successful as those (like 87) that are an outstanding success? The difference boils down to – a slight edge. In a recent horse race, the first place winner received \$530,000.00, while second place paid only \$150,000.00. The winner wasn't twice as fast, only inches – maybe just a nose- he just had a SLIGHT EDGE! We parlayed our individual and collective strengths, supported each other, and overcame our weaknesses, and the rest is history.

That was then, this is now. Am I putting "smart money" down on 87 again, and why? 1. We still have the slight edge, 2. Our membership is growing (and some have come in with vessels), 3. Our search for a new home is aggressive and organized, and 4. Each week seems to bring another opportunity to win or fail in some aspect of our mission. So, what are the biggest challenges we face (stop for a second: I do not use namby-pamby words. In my "Webster's" challenge is "a big problem that can be solved"). We need to continue being the type of group winners want to join, and we need a qualified, positive motivated person to step up to take the position of Member Training Officer. Now, I found us one of those, but heck, some people ran him off before I knew what happened. So number three, everyone needs to put down the weapons and play nice with each other, including that critter called 'Parallel Staffs'.

Will Flotilla 87 win the 2010 Championship? I say we will. The decision is yours.

Charlie Mike, Out.



AWARDS & CERTIFICATES



Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation

David Nielsen.....Public Affairs
Sandy Bilsky.....Saving a life

Outstanding Flotilla Award 2009 Outstanding Flotilla Commander Award 2009 2nd place

Arthur "Skip" Wilson, IPFC

Most Valuable Member Award 2009

Gerald Meckenberg

Member Achievement Award Public Affairs 2009

David Nielsen....1st place
Judith Abbott....2nd place

Member Achievement Award Health Services 2nd place 2009

Judith Abbott
Rodney Dimon
Anton Durner
Wilbur "Gabby" Gray

Flotilla Achievement Awards 2009:

PA and PE....1st place
Operations, Auxiliary Administrative Support,
and Health Services.... 2nd place
VE, NS, and CG Administrative Support.... 3rd place

Awards Photo Gallery



Eric Schoenfeld, former member of Flotilla 87, is presented a ships wheel plaque on behalf of the flotilla by Max Muller, VFC for his years of service as Flotilla Historian

Dave Nielsen displays his Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation Award along with Rod Dimon, FC, Paulette Parent, VCDR, Braxton Ezell, DCDR and Max Muller, VFC



Sandy Bilsky receives his Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation



Ally (Sandy Bilsky's pet) also receives her life saving medal from Rod Dimon, FC

Photos by Judy Abbott

More Awards Photos



David Nielsen
Public Affairs
1st Place

WOW!
FABULOUS!



Judy Abbott
Public Affairs
2nd Place



Skip Wilson receives his award from Paulette Parent, VCDR and Braxton Ezell, DCDR



Skip Wilson accepting one of several Flotilla Achievement Awards

Flotilla Awards



Left: Ted Turner receives his ABS Certificate from Max Muller, VFC, Center: John Cummings receives his Navigation A&B Certificates from Rod Dimon, FC and Right: Rod Dimon presents Max Muller with his Vice Commander Certificate

Photos provided by Judy Abbott

Max P. Muller, VFC

To all the dedicated members of Flotilla 87, I would once again like to express my appreciation for all the work you continue to do. Your Staff Officers are currently working on many fronts in order to maintain the strength and stability of the flotilla. Occasionally, there are some negatives that need to be overcome such as vacancies in staff positions, personality conflicts, illnesses, disagreements etc. Most, or all of these problems can be overcome by pulling together, not for ourselves, but for the best of the Flotilla as a whole. We are currently trying to build up our number of new members toward the goal of filling the vacant positions, but until they have gained the necessary experience, I would encourage the members who have left their staff positions to consider sharing their vast store of knowledge back into a vacant position until we can properly train a suitable replacement.

One of these positions is the Member Training FSO-MT. There is always a critical need for training due to the nature of our organization. I will be talking to several of you to consider helping for awhile. The pay and benefits have just been increased! We need to continue to be united in our "quest to be the best"!

Lee Waters, FSO-PE

Our latest program, ABS will run on May 15 and 22, 2010 from 0830-1230 at Lemon Bay Park. The instructors are working hard to present the materials, preparing to answer questions and preparing the new attendees for their final exam. Our newest instructor trainee, Graham Leadbetter, will present his second presentation and I'm sure he will do a fine job. We look forward to future presentations from him. On the horizon will be our next ABS program. The dates for this session are June 8, 9 and 10, 2010 from 0900-1200 at Lemon Bay Park. If you know someone who wants to take a safe boating program but is unwilling or can't spare the time for the long commitment of the BS&S program, this program is the perfect fit! Pass on the word.

The Weekend Navigator program is moving along with proposed dates sometime in September. The WN instructors and I will present to each other our proposed PowerPoint presentations along with proposed time allotted for each presentation. We had five members who signed up for the program, but I'm hoping that five more members will add their names to the list of participants (ratio of 2 participants to each instructor) allowing us more one on one time.

As I told you last month, all of our supplies have been moved to a storage unit. Now it is much easier for us to access our supplies and for the first time in awhile, we have concentrated our supplies and have a better picture of material we own.

Don't forget to remind your friends and neighbors to wear their life jackets when they are boating because they only work if you wear them.

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



Most Patrols were completed for the month of March.

I'm reminding all of those that need their 3rd.year requals to check with me so we can make arrangements to get a QE in for your test.

I want to remind all coxswains not to forget we have trainee crewmembers on board; don't forget to take them along on patrols with you. Coxswains you know you can take more than two crewmembers with you so don't let their training get stale.

Congratulations to all coxswains and crew members on your requalifications.

Attention all members :

Coxswains, we are going to be a little short during the summer months as some of our coxswains are going to be out of town, so you might be called upon to take an extra patrol if you could.

All Operational members, **please** don't forget to let me or Rod know if you are going out of town for any length of time.

Attention all: just a reminder; **HURRICANE** season starts June 1st. Keep your facilities fueled and ready.

The sea buoy and some markers in Stump Pass are missing. Still use caution when entering or exiting the pass.

Thanks for your help and keep up the good work.

"Gabby"



Gerald L. Meckenberg, FSO-VE

To all Vessel Examiners: The current edition of the FWC "Florida's recreational boating requirements" (an undated 4 fold brochure) has misleading information that suggests the need for registration numbers only on the port side. Nothing is said about spacing between the letters and the numbers. I recommend not distributing this document to the public.



Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Rules of the Road

Do you know your day shapes?

In my previous article which appeared in WaterLine, I talked about navigation lights and the basic configuration of red and green sidelights and the all-round white light. These lights are designed and placed on-board to alert vessels what direction the other vessel is traveling or may be doing during night-time hours or at times of restricted visibility.

Another means of communicating to other vessels during daylight hours are day shapes. The day shapes are in addition to the navigation lights and alert you to their vessel's special conditions or activities. These shapes are called day shapes because they are usually only visible during the daylight hours.

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

Day shapes are always black and may be balls, cones, diamonds, cylinders or basket. I'll try to describe some of the more common day shapes we may see in our area.

International Rules for sailing vessels under sail and also being propelled by machinery (power) shall exhibit where it can best be seen a conical shape, apex downwards. This is also described as an inverted cone. This is the same for Inland Rules except that vessels less than 12 meters are not required to exhibit this day shape, but may do so.

For those of us not accustomed to metric conversions, 12 meters is approximately 39.4 feet in length.

Another shape we may see is two conical shapes (cones) apex to apex displayed on fishing vessels. Both International and Inland Rules describe fishing vessels of many configurations and activities. The lights these fishing vessels are required to display change based on their length and activity but all are required to display the cone day shapes. A fishing vessel less than 20 meters long may instead show a basket. When not actively engaged in fishing, these vessels shall not display the lights and shapes of a fishing vessel but the appropriate lights for a vessel of her size.

Continued next page.....

Shapes.....Cont'd.

Vessels constrained by draft (usually very large vessels) are only recognized under International Rules. Therefore, if you are underway in international waters and see a cylinder displayed, keep out of its way. It may only navigate in marked channels toward its destination.

As a courtesy to other boaters and in consideration of the many shoals, sandbars and oyster beds in our area, please be aware there are many smaller boats on inland waters that may only navigate in marked channels. At my radio console at work I frequently overhear professional and recreational boaters warning other boaters there may be shallow water ahead of them. Unfortunately, I also hear some boaters giving a verbal raspberry to an inconsiderate boater who forced someone out of the channel they were safely navigating within.

This brief narrative of day shapes is not intended to cover all the many vessels required to display day shapes. A thorough study of the Nav Rules is in order if you want or need to know what shapes mean or when to display them.

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

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

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

