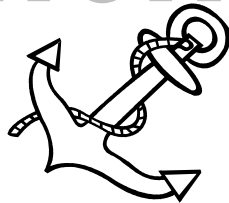


ANCHOR LINE



Flotilla 87

Englewood, Fla.

7th Coast Guard District
www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com

Volume XLIX January, 2011 Number 1



Rod Dimon and Lee Waters are being sworn in as Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander by Chief Bennett along with DCDR Ezell and Robert Waters in attendance

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses, and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safeguarded and the page clearly labeled. The publication of these rosters, addresses, and telephone numbers on any computer on-line service including the Internet is prohibited by the Privacy Act of 1974.

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**2011 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
N. Lee Waters
 Anton (Tony) Durner
 N. Lee Waters
 Gerald L. Meckenberg
 Wilbur R. Gray
 Sandy Bilsky
 David C. Nielsen
 Judith A. Abbott
 Judith A. Abbott
 Judith A. Abbott
 Gerald L. Meckenberg
 Anton (Tony) Durner
 Graham Leadbetter, Ph. D
 David P. Senkpiel
 Gregory J. Masonick

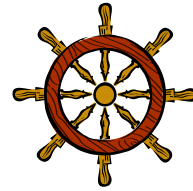
 Jack W. Rienks
 Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson

 Judith A. Abbott
 Ruth A. White
 Jack W. Rienks

JANUARY EVENTS

- 4.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
 6.....BS&S Classes Begin, Lemon Bay Park 6:30 pm
 BS&S Continues Every Monday & Thursday, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
 8.....Orientation for Officers, Keating Bldg, Mote Marine, Sarasota 8:30 am
 11.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
Flotilla 87 Celebrates its 50th Birthday
28.....Blackthorn Memorial Services, St. Petersburg 11 am

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

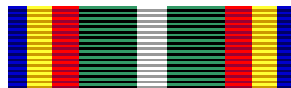


Flotilla 87, Happy New Year! I am certain that 2011 will be a year of accomplishment and celebration! Right off the bat – check this out

On 6 January 1961, our Flotilla was organized! Not only Happy Birthday, but Happy 50th Flotilla 87!!!



The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has been awarded the Coast Guard Unit Commendation “for exceptionally meritorious service from June 24, 1999 through June 23, 2009 while providing superb operational, logistical, and administrative support to the United States Coast Guard and unparalleled performance to our nation.”



During our Jan 11th Flotilla meeting, the Coast Guard Unit Commendation ribbons will be presented. In addition, some other awards will be presented to our members. And please do not forget – our Flotilla 87 birthday cake celebration !

May we all enjoy this great New Year - Rod



New Members Take Oath of Office



George Bazinet and Joseph Mayer are sworn in as new members of Flotilla 87 by Braxton Ezell, DCDR as FC Dimon right, looks on

**WOW!
FABULOUS!**



Ruth Ann White receives an Auxiliary Commendation Medal for serving as District Staff Officer of Public Education from January 2007 to December 2010 from DCDR Ezell. VCDR Parent left, and FC Dimon center, join in the presentation

Change of Watch

Photo Gallery



Rod Dimon Braxton and Suzanne Ezell



Paulette Parent Lee Waters



Grace and Gabby Gray



Jerry Meckenberg Jim Straub



Skip Wilson Joe and Elaine O'Reilly



Gene and Marcia Fowler



Mary and Graham Leadbetter



Robert Waters BM1 William and Arlene Bennett



Beverly and Jack Rienks



Harry and Kay Steele Doris King



Sandy Bilsky Ruth Ann White Judy Abbott



Leslie Nielsen Dave Nielsen

More.....

More Change of Watch Photos



Ruth White receives the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation, 2010 7th District Auxiliary Conference Instructor Team Award from DCDR Ezell as VCDR Parent left, FC Dimon center, and VFC Waters right, look on



Paulette Parent, VCDR addresses the flotilla



Braxton Ezell, DCDR addresses the flotilla



Ruth White offered a gingerbread house as a door prize



Marcia Fowler had the winning ticket and receives the gingerbread house

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



All patrols for the month of November were completed.

All Coxswain and Crew members, if you are due to have your 3 year requalifications this year (2011), please contact MT/OPs so we can make arrangements and get it done EARLY this year. We would like to set a date in March and have a currency maintenance day with several facilities to get every one done early.

Coxswains, please do your 5132s as soon as possible after your patrols and continue filling them out correctly, thanks. (don't forget to fill out a 4612 SAR report if you get an assist.)

Coxswains, don't forget to invite a new Trainee along on your patrols and get them familiar with your towing equipment and where it is kept.

All members, still use caution while transiting Stump Pass because they are setting up to start dredging .

Keep up the good work in the coming year and thanks all for the excellent cooperation and help in the past.

"Gabby"

N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE

I would like our flotilla to start the year off right in PE by having a full class for the upcoming BS&S class. The class starts on 06JAN2011 at 1845. If you plan on helping out (I can always use help), please be at Lemon Bay Park at 1800 for set up. Dave Nielsen has been doing a bang up job with publicizing the upcoming class, but one of the best sources of class members comes from our membership encouraging their friends to attend. So... send your friends to class!!

I'm excited about the upcoming year of classes especially our new class called "Practical Matters". I'm changing up how we teach the BS&S class in the Oct./Nov. slot. Instead of teaching the usual 12 chapters we will only teach the core lessons of chapter 1-8, allowing the class to only run the month of Oct. We are going to use the Nov. allotted days for our new course, which consists of 2 days using Ruth's piloting lessons, lessons on communication, weather and finally a whole evening of marlinspike. I will offer this class to anyone who has taken the BS&S class and/or ABS with us. My hope is that by adjusting our class schedule we will better meet the needs of our community.

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.

Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Rules of the Road

In passing

About a year ago WaterLine published a story titled “Auxiliary Member Rescues Man”.

The short story here is: one of our flotilla members, Sandy Bilsky, and his Australian Cattle dog Ally, were returning from an afternoon fishing trip on the gulf. As they were nearing the outer entrance to Stump Pass, Ally started barking, which is a habit of hers when she sees a flock of birds. On closer observation, Ally was barking at a swimmer in the water who was waving his arms in distress. The swimmer had tried to swim between the islands at Stump Pass and got caught in the outgoing current.

Personally, I think Ally heard me talking about Rule number 5 from the Navigation Rules. Rule number 5 covers keeping a proper look-out when underway, and she made it her job to keep Sandy informed of anything in the water.

Sandy was able to get the swimmer aboard his boat making sure he was OK by letting him rest awhile and giving him some fresh water to drink. Sandy further asked if he needed medical treatment. The swimmer declined medical attention and asked to be dropped off on Knight Island. Saying thanks to Sandy and Ally, the swimmer walked off down the beach.

Their story certainly was a hit in the Auxiliary, making it all the way to the spring 2010 issue of the BREEZE, which is the Seventh District Coast Guard Auxiliary’s quarterly magazine. Recently, their story appeared in the Hurricane Pass Angler’s Club newsletter in Clearwater. LCDR Dale Folsom (ret.), United States Coast Guard, used this story from the one appearing in the BREEZE for his fishing club. According to Dale, Ally tells an interesting tale.

Ally was voted Flotilla 87’s mascot as a result of her adventures. She attended flotilla meetings, always wearing her K-9 life jacket, and greeted all the members and guests when they arrived. When Sandy received the Auxiliary Commandant’s Letter of Commendation for his rescue of the swimmer, Ally received a ribbon to wear on her life jacket.

In her private life, Ally was a loving, playful, smart, and protective friend. She was also a wonderful one-on-one companion to both Sandy and his wife Anne. As a pet therapy dog, she gladly brought warmth and cheer to those in need in hospitals and nursing homes.

Continued

Passing.....Cont'd.

Sadly I report that Ally lost her battle with cancer over the Thanksgiving weekend. I am sure Anne and Sandy will be thinking of all the good times they had with Ally by their side both on and off the water. Ally's family as well as all the members of Flotilla 87, Englewood will miss her.

And when the storm clouds clap loudly with thunder suggesting area boaters head for safe harbor, think of Ally barking at all of us from above.



Ally

Portrait painted by Max Muller

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

THE BLACKTHORN INCIDENT



Shortly after sunset on 28 January 1980, the USCGC *Blackthorn*, on its way to Galveston with a young crew; and in sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, collided with a fully loaded tanker, *Capricorn*. The *Blackthorn* sank and took with it 23 Coast Guardsmen. [*Two weeks after the collision the Coast Guard had the *Blackthorn* raised and it was then determined too costly to repair and she was then decommissioned. She was renamed the *Florida Angler* and sunk in 1982 to become a fishing reef 80 feet down about 20 miles offshore from Clearwater.]

A year after the incident, the USCGC Blackthorn Memorial Park was dedicated to the 23 lost Coast Guardsmen. The Park is located at the North end of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, St. Petersburg, FL; and each year members of Coast Guard, CG Auxiliary, survivors of the collision, families and friends of the lost men gather for a Remembrance Service.

If you have never attended this service, please plan to do so this year, it is very moving. The Memorial Service will begin at 1100 at the Memorial Park on 28 January 2011.

*Thanks to member Joe Sullivan's reference to "Thirty Florida Shipwrecks" for the additional information.