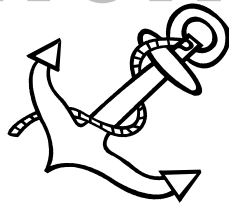


ANCHOR LINE



Flotilla 87

Englewood, Fla.

7th Coast Guard District
www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com

Volume XLIX April, 2011 Number 4



Jim Straub receives his Auxiliary Membership Service Award for 25 years presented by Rod Dimon, FC

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**2011 FLOTILLA 87 OFFICERS
DIVISION 8 DISTRICT 7**



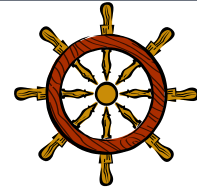
Flotilla Commander	FC	Rodney D. Dimon
Flotilla Vice Cmdr.	VFC	N. Lee Waters
Member Training	FSO-MT	Anton (Tony) Durner
Public Education	FSO-PE	N. Lee Waters
Vessel Examination	FSO-VE	Gerald L. Meckenberg
Operations	FSO-OP	Wilbur R. Gray
Personnel Services	FSO-HR	Sandy Bilsky
Public Affairs	FSO-PA	David C. Nielsen
Publications	FSO-PB	Judith A. Abbott
Secretary/Records	FSO-SR	Judith A. Abbott
Finance	FSO-FN	Judith A. Abbott
Communications	FSO-CM	Gerald L. Meckenberg
Materials	FSO-MA	Joseph Scott Mayer
Information Svc	FSO-IS	Graham Leadbetter, Ph. D
Navigation System	FSO-NS	David P. Senkpiel
RBS Visitation	FSO-PV	Gregory J. Masonick
Marine Safety	FSO-MS	Robert M. Waters
Communication Svc	FSO-CS	Jack W. Rienks
Monofilament Recovery		Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson
Imm. Past Fl. Cmdr.	IPFC	Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson
Lay Leader		Judith A. Abbott
Proctor		Ruth A. White
Flotilla Webmaster		Jack W. Rienks

APRIL EVENTS

- 5.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 9.....Division 8 Awards Meeting, Flotilla 84, Sarasota 9 AM
- 9 & 16.....ABS Class, Lemon Bay Park 8:30 AM—12:30 PM
- 12.....Flotilla Picnic, Oyster Creek MHP 4 PM



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



Ahoy Shipmates !

By the time you receive this issue of the Anchor Line, our northern friends and family will begin their “spring migration.” Some people realize this and they say “time flies.” Unless they are a Blue Shirt, they haven't “seen nothin’ yet”.

Activities for April and May can keep any Flotilla in this Division hoppin’:

Saturday April 2nd is the 8 hour TCT course held at Flotilla 84 – Sarasota starting at 8:00. If you want to take this course, please contact our FSO-MT Tony Durner to enroll.

April 5th is our Staff meeting

April 9th, Saturday is the Division meeting held at Flotilla 84, starting at 8:30. It has been my observation that most of our membership do not show for these Division meetings. Well – this one is worth the effort: get a ring side seat for the annual Flotilla award presentations!!! If you want to attend, call me or the VFC for further information. The uniform is tropical blue long.....BUT WAIT ONE MINUTE! April 9th is also the first session of the 2 Saturday ABS course and Blue Shirt help is needed to assist the instructors and be available to aid and make our students feel like part of the family. So – here is the deal: if you prefer not to go to Sarasota for the Division meeting – then call VFC Lee and volunteer your support to the ABS course. Such a deal!!!

April 12th is our Flotilla Picnic- a great opportunity to take it easy and enjoy great chow and company.

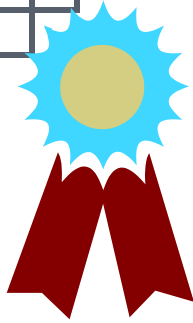
April 16th is the final ABS session, and again your support is needed. (HEY LEE! Count me in for the 16th).

All the above – plus filling watch, patrols and getting VE completions fills out this month.

May 21st in Sarasota is the ALWAYS READY EXPO (USCG chopper rescue swimmer, USCG 25 foot rapid response boat, plus first responder demos and more). There will be CGA booths and displays manned by us and other members of the Division. To be part of this significant event contact VFC Waters and a Staff Officer of your choice and tell ‘em to count you in!!!

Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.
Bravo Zulu - Rod





AWARDS & CERTIFICATES



Auxiliary Membership Service Award 25 Years
Jim Straub

Auxiliary Membership Service Award 20 Years
Ruth Ann White
David White

Auxiliary Membership Service Award 5 Years
Rodney Dimon

Auxiliary Sustained Service, 5th Award
David Nielsen

Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award
Public Education
Ruth Ann White

Certificate of Completion
Search Coordination and Execution
Graham Leadbetter



Meet Laddie! Owner Sandy Bilsky, FSO-HR is grooming Laddie to be the next flotilla mascot. Ally, our previous flotilla mascot sadly lost her battle to cancer several months ago.

AWARDS PHOTO GALLERY

WOW!
FABULOUS!



Dave White 20 yrs Jim Straub 25 yrs Ruth Ann White 20 yrs FC Dimon



Dave Nielsen Rod Dimon, FC



FC Dimon accepts his award from
Lee Waters, VFC



Graham Leadbetter
Search & Execution

FC Dimon



All photos in this issue by J. Abbott, FSO-PB

FLOTILLA UNIFORMS



L to R: Gerald Meckenberg, Graham Leadbetter, Dave Nielsen and Rod Dimon display the different types of flotilla uniforms



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



All patrols for the month of February were completed.

All Coxswain and Crewmembers if you are due to have your 3 year requals and currency maintenance this year (2011), please contact MT/OPs so we can make arrangements and get it done EARLY this year. .

Coxswains please do your 5132s and 7030s 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 as they are still working on it.

Keep up the good work this year and thanks all for the excellent cooperation and help in the past years.
"Gabby"

N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE



On the horizon will be our next ABS class. The dates for this class are April 9th and 16th, 2011 from 0830-1230. If you know someone who wants to take a safe boating class but is unwilling or can't spare the time for the long commitment of the BS&S class, this class is the perfect fit! Pass on the word.

If the April class is not a good fit for your friends and neighbors, you might want to tell them about the May 7th and 14th, 2011 ABS class is will also be conducted at Lemon Bay Park from 0830-1230. Our June 14, 15 & 16 class is set up with the youths of the area in mind. It is open, as are all of our classes to anyone, but the June class was scheduled as to not conflict with the youths' school schedules.

We are always looking for "Blue Shirts" to help out with our classes. You don't have to be an instructor to come to one of our classes; you just have to be willing to answer questions about boating and the Auxiliary. One of the best places to recruit new members for the Auxiliary is from our courses. Remember, a friendly face and a helpful manner is a good way to get people involved with our Flotilla.

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. One of the reasons that the two men lost their lives in Boca Grande recently, is the fact that neither man was wearing a life jacket.

Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Rules of the Road

Visual Distress Signals

A couple I met at the Charlotte County Boat Show in January presented with an interesting question; how do they dispose of expired emergency flares? Their dilemma was that they had a significant collection of expired pyrotechnic emergency flares. I must admit that my usual answers all agreed with what they also had learned but none seemed to work for them. Not having a good answer, for them anyway, I agreed to do some research and see what popped up. Before I address disposal I would like to talk about visual distress signal requirements.

All vessels used on coastal waters, the Great Lakes, territorial seas and those waters connected directly to them, up to a point where a body of water is less than two miles wide must, be equipped with United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved visual distress signals. A minimum of either 1) three day and three night pyrotechnic devices, 2) one day non-pyrotechnic device (flag) and one night non-pyrotechnic device (auto SOS light) or 3) a combination of 1) and 2). Recreational boats less than 16 feet on coastal waters or the Great Lakes need only carry night visual distress signals when operating from sunset to sunrise.

Further, it is recommended, but not required, that boats operating on inland waters should have some means of making a suitable day and night distress signal. The number and type of signals is best judged by considering conditions which the boat is operating.

According to Coast Guard regulations, the shelf life for pyrotechnic devices is forty-two (42) months from date of manufacture. It is suggested that you should keep the recently- expired flares even though they don't meet the federal requirements; in all likelihood they probably still work if they have been stored in a water tight-container.

As the federal minimum requirements for pyrotechnic flares are only three, should you need to ignite them, you'll find that a single flare's life isn't very long. Should you inadvertently ignite a flare, then you've wasted a third of your chances of being located by a passing ship or plane when the need really presents itself as is the case in an emergency.

If you keep your older recently-expired flares on the boat, and attempt to use these first, and if they do work, you've increased your number of flares and your chances of being located by rescue authorities. If they don't then nothing ventured - nothing gained.

Continued

.....flares cont'd.

Now what do we do about the second generation of retired flares? Ask yourself; "Do I think they will ignite if I need them?" If you don't feel confident with keeping these second generation retired flares on your boat, then you will need to dispose of them, safely and legally.

You have two choices when considering disposal of flares and other pyrotechnical equipment.

1. (**Preferred method**): Contact your local fire department, sanitation department or environmental protection department and determine your local hazardous waste material disposal rules. Then follow the rules. Here I learned that the Charlotte County Recycling Centers will accept expired flares. You may find the recycling centers under solid waste transfer facilities on the county website: <http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/PublicWorks/solidwaste/minitransfer.asp>

2. You may also contact your local Coast Guard Auxiliary and/or United States Power Squadron unit and see if they would like to have some old flares for training purposes. The Auxiliary and the Power Squadron teach safe boating programs year-round, and many of them sponsor (after receiving permission from the Coast Guard and local fire authorities) pyrotechnic training days for the public.

Learning how to use pyrotechnics is a very important experience. Knowing how to ignite them, seeing how they burn, and how the slag drops can make a big difference. Pyrotechnics are dangerous!

However, there is a limit to both the Auxiliary and the Power Squadron's need for flares, and other pyrotechnic devices. Both organizations could not possibly use all the manufactured devices that have fallen outside the Coast Guard legal standards and their practical useful lives.

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

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 Peace 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.

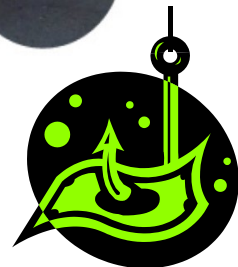


PA Booth At Royal Palm Marina



The flotilla held a PA Booth at a local marina complete with a tent and nautical flags. The marina was quite busy as it was hosting a youth fishing tournament. Above left, Lee Waters, VFC and George Bazinet staff the booth. Above right, many folks gather around. Below left, Lee explains the inflation mechanism on the PFD she is wearing. Below right, a youngster is participating in the fish tank game and is busy pointing out the items that do not belong in the sea. The fish tank is one of the games the flotilla utilizes in its Sea Partners Program which helps to educate children about the marine environment.

Fishing Tournament For the Kids



Above: The kids line up in front of the flotilla's booth for a group picture.
Below: The big winner "Brady" poses with his trophy and cash prize for catching the biggest fish.

ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC



DATE: APRIL 12, 2011

TIME: 4 pm to ?

PLACE: OYSTER CREEK MHP

COST: \$ 4.00 (PER PERSON)

CASUAL ATTIRE

BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS!

Volunteers are now needed for the picnic at 3:30 pm for set up and clean up afterwards.

Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and sausage will be provided with all the trimmings. If you want to bring your own entrée (steak, barbeque chicken, etc.) to cook on the grill, feel free to do so.

The rest will be Potluck. Please bring (and take home) serving utensils. You will be called a week before the picnic for your selections. Please bring enough of your dish for 5 servings. That means you will bring 10 servings per couple. B.Y.O.B.

Enjoy,
Judy Abbott

Directions:

Oyster Creek MHP is located at 6767 San Casa Dr. behind Oyster Creek Regional Park. Look for Turtle Bay Circle off San Casa Dr. Follow Turtle Bay Circle into the park, go either left or right, and the clubhouse is located at the far end.

