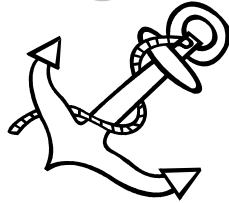


ANCHOR LINE



Flotilla 87

Englewood, Fla.

7th Coast Guard District
www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com

Volume XLIX May, 2011 Number 5



Rod Dimon, FC with "Chef" Gabby Gray at the Flotilla's Spring Picnic

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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
 Monofilament Recovery
 Imm. Past Fl. Cmdr.
 Lay Leader
 Proctor
 Flotilla Webmaster

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
 Joseph Scott Mayer
 Graham Leadbetter, Ph. D
 David P. Senkpiel
 Gregory J. Masonick
 Robert M. Waters
 Jack W. Rienks
 Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson
 Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson
 Judith A. Abbott
 Ruth A. White
 Jack W. Rienks

MAY EVENTS

- 3.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 7 & 14.....ABS Class, Lemon Bay Park 8:30 am—12:30 pm
- 10.....Flotilla 87 Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 21.....Safety Booth, Quality Self Storage Facility, Englewood 10 am—2 pm
- 21.....Always Ready Event, Flotilla 84, Sarasota 10 am—4 pm
- 28.....Safety Booth, Chadwick Park, Englewood 10 am—2 pm

FROM THE HELM: Rodney D. Dimon, Commander



Ahoy Shipmates!

The time has come to begin thinking about the election of Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander which will take place during our November meeting. So, what's the rush you ask?

Our Flotilla Standing Rules, Article VI – Election of Officers , paragraph 6.2 states: “The Flotilla Commander shall appoint a Nominating Committee in the month of June of each year. This Nominating committee shall select nominees for each elective Flotilla office to be filled for the next year, and determine if the selectees are willing to serve”.

Paragraph 6.3 further states: “The Flotilla members may direct the Flotilla Commander to dispense with the appointment of a Nominating Committee in any year. This is possible by a motion duly enacted with an affirmative vote by two thirds (2/3) of those present, with a quorum present. In this event, the Flotilla Commander shall not appoint a Nominating Committee in that year and all nominations to fill elective Flotilla offices for the next year shall be made from the floor”.

Please contact me if you have interest in being part of the Nominating Committee. It will be determined at the May meeting if the membership wants a Nominating Committee. If so, then the Committee will be activated and begin its mission.

Rod

W. R. “Gabby” Gray, FSO-OP



All patrols were completed for the month of March.

I am reminding all of those that need their 3rd year reguals to check with me or Anton Durner so we can make arrangements to get a QE in for your test. I would like to remind all coxswains not to forget we have new members on board, don't forget to take them along on patrols with you. Coxswains you know you can take more than 2 crewmembers out with you so don't let them get stale.

Continued next page.....

FSO-OP continued

Attention all members :

Coxswains, we are going to be a little short during the summer months as some of our coxswains might be going 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.

There are no markers in Stump Pass. Still use caution when entering or exiting the pass.

Thanks for your help and keep up the good work. "Gabby"

N. Lee Waters, VFC/FSO-PE

On the horizon will be our next ABS class May 7th and 14th, 2011. The class will be conducted at Lemon Bay Park from 0830-1230. Our June 14, 15 & 16, 2011 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.

I want to put my **VFC** hat on for a moment and discuss opportunities for the membership to be involved. We have 3 safety booths set for May 21st (at our storage place), May 28th (at one of Englewood's parks TBD at May staff meeting) and on June 11th- National Marina Day (at Royal Palm Marina). If you are interested in helping out on any of these dates, give Bob Waters a call at 941-697-9435.

While I'm changing hats, let me put on my **SO-PE** hat and ask for help with the ALWAYS READY EVENT being held at Flotilla 84. If you could give me a few hours or even the whole day I would appreciate it.

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.

Flotilla 87's Spring Picnic



The flotilla held its annual spring fellowship picnic on Tuesday, April 12th at the clubhouse in Oyster Creek M.H.P. in Englewood. The weather was super, the turnout was fantastic and the food was great. In the picture at the top Rod Dimon, FC welcomes the members and their guests, which included a few prospective new members, to the festivities. The other pictures reflect some of the members and their guests enjoying each other's company. That's what Fellowship is all about!

Photos by Judy Abbott

ABS SPRING SESSION



Instructor Ruth White



Safety Equipment for your boat



Instructor Judy Abbott



FC Dimon presents top honors to Tekla Dragan



ABS Graduates

WOW!
FABULOUS!

Photos provided by Lee Waters and Ruth White

Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Rules of the Road

What is your position?

I am sure we all remember taking a vacation or trip somewhere and asking mom or dad repeatedly, "Are we there yet"? My favorite response was always; 10 more minutes. Then there was that other question, "where are we?" Another smart remark I received from my father was "Oh, about halfway between here and there". Although reasonably accurate, it would have been better if I had only known where "here and there" was. Now, I know Dad knew better than that as he was a pilot in WWII. Certainly he knew where he was, where he was going and managed to make it home to tell about it.

Almost every communication between the United States Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) watch stander and a vessel in distress over the Very High Frequency (VHF) radio involves a request for a Global Positioning System (GPS) position or latitude and longitude. As an alternative, you could use paper charts to plot latitude and longitude as long as you were within eye sight of land or other identifiable navigation aids. Many seasoned offshore sailors also know how to use a sextant to take readings of celestial bodies. However this is not a method for those who have not learned the art of celestial navigation.

I recall one day listening to U.S.C.G. Sector St. Petersburg asking a boater off Sanibel Island what his position was. The boater stumbled frequently trying to answer the question then finally admitting he did not know how to use his GPS. Apparently the boater knew how to turn on the GPS but was not able to use it to find his current position. The boater in distress could only say he left out of Wiggins Pass and headed south west. I recall the boater finally was able to figure out how to get his GPS to point the way home. From there the authorities were able to piece together a reverse course and distance to the known way point, which happened to be Wiggins Pass.

In another instance I heard a boater aground, looking for assistance; give a fairly accurate verbal description of his location which was just northwest of Pine Island. The boater then gave a GPS position. Cool, no guess work there until I plotted the position which turned out to be inland and of all places several miles up the Myakka River. Rescue assets located the boater on his verbal description.

Personally, the best that anyone could do in using a GPS is to break out the owner's or operations manual and read the directions. I'll admit here that way back when I purchased my first navigation device, I learned the most about its operation when I watched the video at home after an overnight trip to our favorite cove. I can say that I am much better at using my GPS now.

I'll offer here a few tips on getting current position from your GPS. These tips are offered as suggestions and may not apply to your particular unit. Again, referring to the unit's owner's manual is the best method.

Continued

.....**Your position continued;**

- On many units there is a man overboard or M.O.B. button that when activated marks the unit's current position and engages its navigation mode that in the event there really was a M.O.B. you could navigate back to that location in order to pick up the person in the water. If you were stranded, at anchor, or otherwise lost, the GPS would display your current position.
- Turn off the unit's navigation mode. If you should manage to get underway you may always turn this feature back on.
- Another method you could use is the menu button and scroll through menu options until you locate the feature for current position.
- A third method would be to turn off the GPS then turn it back on. The unit should display its current position. Notice I said should. Turning off navigation mode should get the same results.

I like the radar-plotter unit on one of my Coast Guard Auxiliary friend's boat; it always has a continuous position, speed over ground and compass heading on the bottom of the display.

I always carry in my sea bag a small hand held, personal navigation device. I use it for hiking and long trips in my car. It has a digital compass and display that can be set to current latitude and longitude and a few other facts that may be important to the user. Consider buying a hand held navigation device as a back-up and, again, learning how to use it which should be on top of your boating to-do-list.

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

