

# ANCHOR LINE

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USCG Auxiliary  
Englewood, Fla.



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7th Coast Guard District

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**2012 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  
RBS Visitation  
Communication Svc  
Monofilament Recovery  
Imm. Past Fl. Cmdr.  
Lay Leader  
Fellowship  
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-PV  
FSO-CS  
IPFC

**N. Lee Waters**

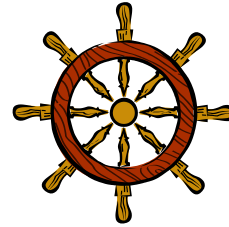
**Graham Leadbetter**  
Anton (Tony) Durner  
N. Lee Waters  
Gerald L. Meckenberg  
Wilbur R. Gray  
Sandy Bilsky  
David C. Nielsen  
Judith A. Abbott  
Judith A. Abbott  
Judith A. Abbott  
Gerald L. Meckenberg  
Joseph Scott Mayer  
Robert M. Waters  
George J. Bazinet  
Jack W. Rienks  
Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson  
Rodney D. Dimon  
Judith A. Abbott  
Eugene Kick  
Ruth A. White  
Jack W. Rienks

**JANUARY EVENTS**

- 3.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm  
9.....BS&S Classes Begin, Lemon Bay Park 6:30 pm  
*BS&S Continues Every Monday & Thursday, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm*  
10.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm  
14.....Orientation for Officers, Keating Bldg, Mote Marine, Sarasota 8:30 am  
**28.....Blackthorn Memorial Services, St. Petersburg 11 am**

## FROM THE HELM:

**N. Lee Waters, Commander**



I hope everyone had joyous and happy holidays and are now ready to help with the difficult task of pumping new life into our Flotilla. There are 3 areas I would like for us to concentrate our efforts: To increase the number of students in our Public Education courses, to help the vessel examiners to increase the number of vessel exams and to increase the number of new members. The officers who are in charge of these areas are working very hard, but now we need ALL our members to step up to the plate to help with these goals.

Several of your officers are wearing more than a few officer hats, but we need to help unburden their loads by taking over some of these officer positions. Don't be surprised if you get a call from me asking for your help. If we are to make this Flotilla the best it can be in 2012, we all need to work harder and smarter to fulfill these objectives.

Again, I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me your Flotilla Commander. I will never ask any of the membership to work harder that I am working. Together we can make this the best flotilla in Division 8 in 2012.

Bravo Zulu

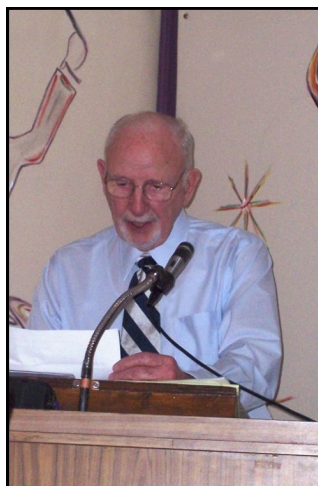
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# Change of Watch

## Photo Gallery



ABOVE L to R: Rod Dimon, IPFC, Braxton Ezell, DCDR 8 and Travis Park, CPO Station Cortez address the audience



ABOVE LEFT: Joe O'Reilly speaks with reference to Harry Steel's history during his 37 years of service to the Auxiliary and Flotilla 87.

ABOVE CENTER: Harry was presented with the Coast Guard *Eagle* ship in a bottle commemorating his retirement from the flotilla.

ABOVE RIGHT: Pictured are Lee Waters, FC, Joe O'Reilly, Harry Steele and Rod Dimon, IPFC.

RIGHT: Lee Waters presents Rod Dimon with a ship's wheel plaque for his service as Flotilla Commander for 2010/2011.



# More Change of Watch Pictures



Pictured above are the members and guests of Flotilla 87 enjoying some fellowship at the Change of Watch which was held at the Englewood Elks on Tuesday, December 6th.

RIGHT: Lee and Graham receive the oath of office from DCDR Ezell as Chief Park looks on.



LEFT: Chief Park helps Robert Waters replace VFC boards with FC boards on Lee Waters.

RIGHT: Mary Leadbetter places the VFC boards on husband Graham.

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



**I would like to thank everyone for all their help and cooperation this past year. I hope everybody has been having a great Holiday Season.**

I am now tracking patrols that are canceled throughout the Division which has over 22% of patrols canceled.

Again I would like to thank all coxswains, crew and radio watch standers for taking up the slack while some of our members have been on vacation and or up north during the summer. A few are starting to return; "Welcome back!"

Crew members don't forget 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. Patrol time for January is 1300 to 1700 hrs.

Coxswains don't forget to go over your towing equipment and the location of all other equipment that you have on board.

Let's not forget our new members; give them a call and take them a long as a trainee.

Attention all members don't forget to use caution while using Stump Pass; it is still shallow in places at low tide outside of the channel. The outer sea buoy has been installed and is white with red squares on sides about 4' tall with a white light on top. Lat. 26°53.350 Lon. 82°20.792.

Let's keep having fun and keep up the good work.

"Gabby"

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## N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE

I hope everyone has marked their calendars with 2012's schedule of classes. If you have forgotten, I've included the dates:

**Boating Skills and Seamanship:** Jan. 9,12,16,19, 23, 26, 30, & Feb. 2  
@ 6:30-9:30 PM.

**Practical Matters:** Feb. 6, 9, 13 & 16 @ 6:30-9:30 PM.

**About Boating Safely:** April 21 & 28 @ 8:30 AM-1230 PM.

**About Boating Safely:** June 5, 6 & 7 @ 8:30 AM-1:30 PM.

**About Boating Safely:** Oct. 15, 18, 22 & 25 @ 6:30-9:30 PM.

I'm excited about the new schedule but know I will need ALL of the membership's help to fill these classes. In this tight economy, we all need to work harder to fill our classes.

Speaking of working harder, we need to also work on increasing our membership. Our numbers are falling as our membership retires or moves on to other activities. Invite a neighbor and/or a friend to our January meeting. Show them what a great bunch of people we are and the advances of becoming a member.

On another note, we still have several staff positions open for 2012. We are still looking for MS (mostly safety booths), NS (ATON verification) and Historian. There are several of our present officers who have taken the huge task of more than one office. If you would like to become the FN (it's all about money), SR (Secretary) or Lay Leader let us know. We all know that Judy is our go to person, but even an energizer bunny needs a little time to recharge. If you can help her out or are willing to take on one of the positions, contact Graham or me. Thanks in advance.

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



### **Rules of the Road**

#### **Boating while Distracted**

I am sure you remember the tragic duck boat accident on the Delaware River in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania back in July of 2010. The event was covered for several days in the national media.

In short, a tour boat became disabled after leaving its dock with a load of tourists. As the captain of the tour boat was calling for help, there was a very large barge being towed by a tug boat transiting the area at the same time. The barge/tug boat collided with and ran over the tour boat. The collision caused the drowning death of two of its passengers visiting from Hungary.

In reading an account of the accident in Seaworthy Magazine, October 2011 issue, the accident unfolded like this. A duck boat crewmember had conducted a pre-underway check of the cooling system on the duck's engine but forgot to replace the cooling system cap. When underway the engine coolant steamed out of the engine compartment and the captain believed there was an engine room fire. He shut down the engine and anchored the boat. The duck boat captain used his VHF marine radio to warn the tug and barge that he was anchored and unable to maneuver.

Initially, the tug was being operated by the First Mate from an elevated wheel house with good visibility. The tug's captain and a deck hand were off watch and two other crew were in the galley.

The First Mate received a phone call regarding his son who was undergoing surgery. The surgery was not going well and the First Mate elected to pilot the tug and barge from the lower wheel house which had significantly lower visibility. I also recall from news coverage video clips at the time the barge was being towed at the hip, a.k.a. side tow.

The investigation by the Coast Guard found that the First Mate was talking on his cell phone, using a laptop computer, and had also turned down the volume on the VHF radio to limit noise interference while talking on the cell phone. At this point this was an accident waiting to happen, and sadly it did.

This past August the First Mate pled guilty in US District Court, admitting that for an extended period of time prior to the accident he was distracted using his cell phone and laptop to attend to personal matters. He surrendered his Coast Guard-issued license as a mate and will serve a year in prison.

A news report in the Coast Guard News stated the First Mate failed to maintain a proper lookout (Rule # 5) or comply with other essential rules of seamanship.

As this is an extreme case in which boating while distracted caused the death of two passengers from another vessel, it points out that the operator of a boat which is underway has the responsibility to pay attention to only the operations of his vessel.

National Transportation Safety Board findings in other transportation modes have found that the use of cellular telephones and other wireless devices can degrade performance, slow response times, and increase attention lapses of those in safety-sensitive positions.

Continued .....

## .....Distracted

By executive order, federal employees including contractors to the federal government are prohibited from text messaging when driving government or privately owned vehicles while on government business. Most states and the District of Columbia have recognized the risk and banned texting while driving. Lastly, the US Department of Transportation has established a national initiative regarding Distracted Driving. You may find more information at: <http://distraction.gov>.

If you absolutely need to tend to your electronic device, both on and off the water, consider turning the device over to a crewmember or stopping altogether until the distraction has passed.

Are you interested in learning more about 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](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 Water Line boating and fishing magazine promoting the USCG and CG AUXILIARY'S safe boating message.***



# Flotilla 87's Officers for 2012

