

ANCHOR LINE

Flotilla 87

USCG Auxiliary

Englewood, Fla.



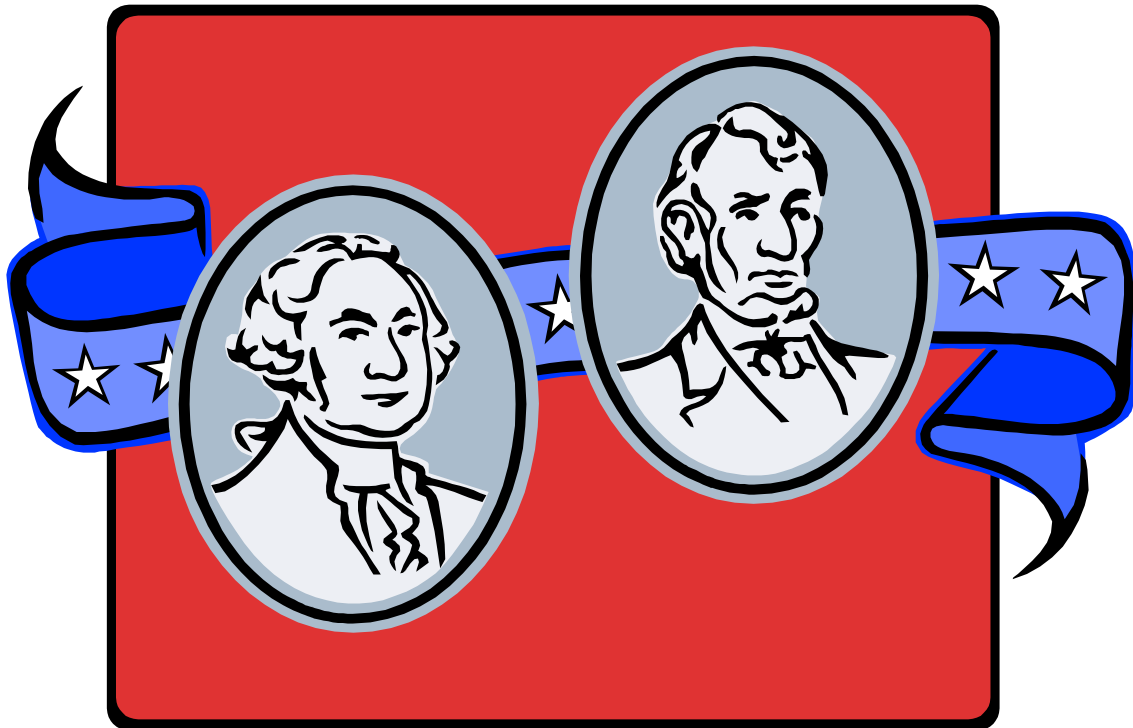
Volume L

February, 2012

Number 2

7th Coast Guard District

www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com



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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

FEBRUARY EVENTS

7.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm

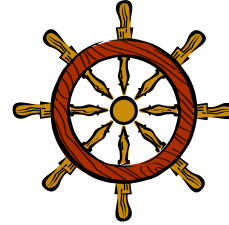
14.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm

Guest Speaker and former Coast Guardsman

Mr. Jim Eastman, author of "The Book for Senior Boaters"

FROM THE HELM:

N. Lee Waters, Commander



As I thought about my article for this month's "Anchor Line", I keep coming back to the chorus of "Semper Paratus":

We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through howling gale and shot and shell,
To win our victory.
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,
Our pledge, our motto, too.
We're "Always Ready," do or die!
Aye! Coast Guard, we fight for you.

Are we "Always Ready"? We have several areas that we need improvement as well; increasing our membership, enlarging the sizes of our PE classes and helping the VEs boost the number of vessel exams. How will we reach these goals? Happily, we got off to a great start in membership direction in January. A welcome surprise was the transfer in of Dane and Sandra Hahn from New Hampshire. Welcome aboard Dane and Sandra! We hope to put you to work real soon. *"Although we're off to a good start, we still need to focus our attention on new members. We all know someone who might be a good candidate. Approach them and explain the many opportunities the Auxiliary provides for them to become involved in furthering boating safety. Oftentimes, people are just looking for such an opportunity. Finally, I'm hoping to see some of our members whom we haven't seen for a while at our next meeting. We need your help."* These significant words come from one of our former Flotilla Commanders, Skip Wilson and are just as relevant today as they were in the February, 2009 Anchor Line.

How else can we help? How many of you have thought of being a Vessel Examiner? You can get a copy of the VE manual online and even take the course exam online. I'm sure Jerry Meckenberg would be happy to welcome you on the active list of VEs. The more examiners we have the more vessel exams we can conduct.

As for the PE classes, I'm working on an effort to combine PE forces with Flotilla 99 from Rotonda. These efforts will help somewhat, but I still need more instructors as many of our senior instructors resign or retire. Consider becoming an instructor, I can mentor you and walk you through the necessary steps to become qualified.

Graham Leadbetter, VFC and I are working to find other areas to be "Always Ready", by attending a Leadership Roadshow, taking the AUXLAM course in March and April in addition to creating working committees. Both Graham and I are open to new ideas or old ideas that work. Let us again be a flotilla that is "Always Ready".

Semper Paratus



Meeting Highlights



Flotilla 87 ball caps were presented to transferees from NH Sandra and Dane Hahn by L. Waters, FC



Dave Senkpiel received his Certificate of Appreciation for his service as FSO-NS for 2011



George Bazinet and Gerald Meckenberg take the Oath of Office for FSO-RBS/PV and FSO-VE/CM from FC Waters



G. Leadbetter, VFC received his Auxiliary Performance Award in Operations



D. Nielsen, FSO-PA received his 6th Sustained Auxiliary Service Award and 1st place Flotilla Achievement Award in Public Affairs



G. Meckenberg received his Auxiliary Performance Award in Operations

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



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

I would like to thank all coxswains and crew members for taking up the slack lately for our patrols. Coxswains, please do your 5132s as soon as possible after your patrols because we only have 30 days from the patrol date to get it to Group for entering to FINCTR 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 vessel, towing equipment and where it is kept.

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

"Gabby"



N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE

I'm pleased to announce that we had 5 students who graduated from our new BS&S class and they are raring to go. We could still use a few more blue shirts at each class at any of our courses to help with marlinspike and to answer questions, so if you are free for one of our next courses, drop by and help us out. During the running of a class is an excellent time for our membership to meet the students and show them just how nice a group we are and the advantages of joining the Auxiliary.

I'm excited about the upcoming year of courses especially our new course called "Practical Matters" which runs on Feb.6, 9, 13, & 16 from 1900-2100. I changed up how we taught the BS&S class in the Jan./Feb. slot. Instead of teaching the usual 12 chapters we only taught the core lessons of chapter 1-8, allowing the class to only run the month of January. We are going to use the February 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. My hope is that by adjusting our course 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

Excuses

When I first heard the news reports of the Costa Concordia cruise ship's accident off the coast of Italy, January 13, I speculated that the details of this accident might be similar to the Queen Elizabeth II accident off Martha's Vineyard in August 1992. In that accident, the QE2 had hit charted rocks and, because the crew performed admirably to keep the passengers informed and control damage, there were no injuries.

I recall the final determination was a combination of charted depths were significantly less than that shown on their charts and the physics of a large cruise ship's actual depth requirement when underway. The report of this incident can be found through the website www.theqe2story.com.

In the following days since the Costa Concordia hit a reef then was grounded to prevent it from sinking, I tried to read and listen to as many reports of the accident as I could. One very disturbing detail was how the captain of the cruise ship got off the ship before all the passengers were safe and accounted for. His excuse, as I heard it on the news was that he happened to "trip and fall" into a life boat! To make matters worse, the captain argued with the Italian Coast Guard officer over orders to return to the ship to direct rescue efforts.

I am sure more details will emerge in the days and weeks to come. In the meantime, a little closer to home, excuses seem to be just as incredible from the causes of accidents.

In an article written in March of 2009 by Arlyn Hendricks, president of the National Water Safety Congress, here are a few more excuses to ponder:

It was a warm, sunny day; we did not realize how cold the water was.
We thought we had the right of way.
I did not realize how quickly a child can get in the water.
Life jackets are too hot and uncomfortable to wear.
I only turned my head for a second.
The wind was not blowing when we launched the boat.
I can swim well enough to make it to shore.
We did not see the other boat.
We weren't really going boating; we were just hunting ducks.
It was a bright moonlit night so we thought we did not need lights for other boaters to see us.
We thought she did not need a life jacket on; we were close by if she got in trouble.

Continued

.....excuses

Mr. Hendricks further writes that most of these statements were made following accidents that ended in tragedies. Can you imagine what those tragedies were?

Whatever the facts are regarding boating accidents, it is important to remember that boating in any form or fashion, from recreational to professional, being on the water has its dangers. Everyone must be aware of their surroundings, plan ahead and be prepared. Know what to do to avoid an accident and know how to react in the event there is one.

For more information about boating safety visit the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division website at: www.uscgboating.org/ For information on the Coast Guard Auxiliary, visit www.cgaux.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 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 Water Line boating and fishing magazine promoting the USCG and CG AUXILIARY'S safe boating message.

Robert M. Waters, FSO-IS

As we approach the end of the first month of the year, I want to remind you of Form 7029. This is the form you are supposed to submit to get credit for the many hours you give to the Auxiliary and I know you give many hours to the Auxiliary. The problem is many of you don't tell the Auxiliary. Because of this you and the flotilla miss out on honors and awards, plus we lose when the Coast Guards decides to give us stuff.

A couple of years ago a new Form 7029 came to be. It involved setting your hours into 5 different numbered columns and submitting them that way. Evidently this form is not very popular with Auxiliarists because all across the Auxiliary, reporting 7029 hours has dropped considerably.

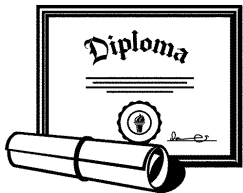
I am happy to announce that in agreement with the SO-IS, we can simplify the process. Just send me an e-mail that tells me who you are (some e-mail addresses can't be linked back to people) and the hours you've spent every month (I can even tolerate every other month),

To help you out even more, I'll pass around a sign up sheet for hours at the monthly meeting.

Semper Paratus!!

Congratulations!

BS&S Students



G. Leadbetter, VFC and L. Waters, FC are pictured with 5 graduates of the BS&S session held last month

PE Class Schedule

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.



Instructor Ruth White