

ANCHOR LINE

Flotilla 87
USCG Auxiliary
Englewood, Fla.



Volume L
Winter, 2012
Number 8

7th Coast Guard District
www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com



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. The ANCHOR LINE is published at no expense to the government. Cost of its publication is borne by dues-paying members of Flotilla 87, a volunteer, unpaid civilian body whose mission is to assist the Coast Guard in promoting and maintaining safety on the water. Reprints or articles appearing in the ANCHOR LINE may be copied by other publications provided proper credit is given.

EDITOR and PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Judith A. Abbott

e-mail: kegabott6767@comcast.net



**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
Marine Safety
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
FSO-MS
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
Sandra L. Hahn
Gerald L. Meckenberg
Joseph Scott Mayer
Robert M. Waters
George J. Bazinet
Jack W. Rienks
Dane F. Hahn
Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson
Rodney D. Dimon
Judith A. Abbott
George J. Bazinet
Ruth A. White
Jack W. Rienks

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 6.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 13.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm

FC & VFC Election

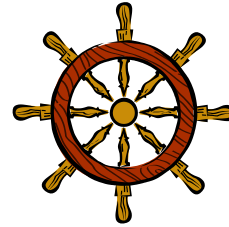
- 17.....Division 8 Change of Watch, Marina Jack II 11 am

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 4.....Flotilla 87 Change of Watch, Englewood Elks 5:30 pm

FROM THE HELM:

N. Lee Waters, Commander



Greetings Shipmates,

I would like to explain the sessions I attended at D7 conference, especially for those of you who missed our last meeting. I will discuss 5 different workshops that could help the flotilla. First, I attended the WOW II session. WOW stands for without webmaster. This program allows anyone to set up a flotilla web site. The downfall of this program is the limited choices; it reminded me of the way you order Chinese food (i.e. 1 from column A, 2 from column B, etc.). At this moment we have a web site using this format, but it is only used as a place holder. In other words, if one day we choose to use this format, we already have the beginnings of a web design.

Second, I attended the PE-Best Practices session. I gathered several good ideas to introduce to the instructors that will make our courses more "user friendly" to the students. I will institute these ideas during the 2013 classes.

Third, I attended the Award Writing session. The most helpful information I got was a set of templates for writing several different awards allowing me some very important saving of time. John Tyson was most helpful with ideas and suggestions for writing awards that would be approved by Sector St. Pete.

Fourth, I attended a session on Mentoring. This involves not only mentoring new members, but also mentoring our present members in order to retain them in the flotilla. More information will be forthcoming after the first of the year.

Finally, I attended the session on a FED EX Printing Program. This is a pilot program only offered by D7 that allows members and flotillas to print up Auxiliary materials that only appear in CD format by the Coast Guard. Case in point is the latest version of the Auxiliary Manual. At 701 pages most places would charge \$70.00 for a copy, but by using the FED EX program the cost is \$17.00, saving quite a bit.

Again I want to remind everyone that Graham has worked hard at preparing our hurricane calling tree and making sure it is up to date. We will need it again for a hurricane drill and don't want to run into the same problems; the major being people who out of town or left for the north and hadn't bothered to let Gabby, Graham or I know. Again I remind each of you that if you plan on being out of town **FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME**, please let Gabby, Graham or I know. We must account for all our members if there is an emergency and I'm sure you don't want to make our jobs any harder than they have to be. To this end I have emailed to all the membership the current calling tree. **PLEASE** take the time to check your personal information and make sure the information is up to date. Contact Graham with any updates.

Lastly I would like to welcome our newest member John Mitchell and transferred member Slavek Pardo. John has just finished his required safe boating course and Slavek as gone on a couple of patrols. We look forward to working with both men in the future.

BRAVO ZULU



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



I would like to thank all members for their help and cooperation this past year. I hope everyone has a great time this Holiday Season!

I am tracking patrols that are canceled throughout the Division which has over 21% of the 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 November is 1400 to 1800 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. Still no Sea Buoy.

Let's keep having fun and keep up the Good Work.

"Gabby"



N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE

Out next endeavor will be the BS&S course held on Jan. 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, & 31 from 1900-2100. Class assignments for the Jan. course will be handed out and instructors can work on preparing lesson plans. We need the membership to recruit students because from our class surveys we have found that a large percentage of our participants were word of mouth referrals or used our web site (CoastGuardEnglewood.com). Keep up the good work. .

Just as our membership rolls are thinning so are the list of qualified instructors. If you have ever thought about wanting to teach a lesson or you know you have a vast amount of boating knowledge gather from years of boating, let me know and I will run you through the process of qualifying as an auxiliary instructor.

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, is the fact that neither man was wearing a life jacket.

Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Rules of the Road

False Distress Calls

Back on June 11, 2012 a friend sent a text message telling me there was breaking news about a yacht explosion with 21 persons onboard off the coast New Jersey. As I had boated frequently in that area, I was interested in that specific news. I asked my friend to keep me informed.

From the following morning's national news, authorities had called off the search and rescue effort as it had been determined the reported yacht explosion had probably been a hoax.

From an article in Coast Guard News, June 20, 2012 there was a massive, multi-agency search 17 nautical miles east of Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The 5 ½ hour search effort covered 638-square miles and included two Coast Guard boat crews, four Coast Guard aircraft crews, response units from New York City Police Department, the Fire Department of New York City, New Jersey State Police, Nassau County Police Department and several good Samaritan boats.

The Coast Guard Investigative Service believes there may be a connection between this incident and a similar unresolved boater-in-distress incident on May 20, 2012 near Houston Texas. In both cases the calls appear to have originated from land and the caller specifically initiated the distress call using VHF Ch 11, the Coast Guard's Vessel Traffic Service radio frequency. Distress calls are usually initiated by hailing the Coast Guard or by calling mayday on VHF Ch. 16, the hailing and distress frequency.

The caller also used the same terminology in both cases and provided very specific locations and distances yet was unable to answer or describe his location in terms familiar to many boaters.

As stated in a Coast Guard News article from October 2011, maritime hoax distress calls place unnecessary risk on the rescuers responding to the calls and interfere with actual search and rescue cases. These cases cost the American taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. If the hoax caller is not caught, the tax payers shoulder the burden. Federal, state and local aircraft and vessels are costly to operate. For example, a Coast Guard aircraft costs more than \$4,000 an hour to operate and small boats \$300 to \$400 an hour to operate.

Under federal law, knowingly and willfully making a false distress call is a felony. Even if a child makes the distress call, the parents are ultimately responsible. The maximum penalty for making a hoax distress call is five to ten years in prison, a \$5000 civil fine, a \$25,000 criminal penalty and reimbursement to the Coast Guard for the costs incurred responding to the false call.

Continued.....

Calls.....

Common sources of hoax distress calls are:

- Boater's trying to obtain a radio check. The Coast Guard and/or concerned citizens responding to the calls in belief the boater is in distress. For radio checks, there is automated radio check equipment available in many areas. This radio check equipment uses VHF channels 26 or 27 so it is no longer necessary to get a radio check using VHF Ch 16.
- Some VHF marine radios have a distress button that initiates a digital Morse Code SOS signal. Be aware that improper operation of an automatic SOS feature either by accident or on purpose is a violation of law.
- Unsupervised children playing with radio equipment.
- Adults intentionally transmitting false distress information for the purpose of entertainment or to launch an unnecessary search.

The Coast Guard has greatly improved its communication equipment used to track distress calls with its Rescue 21 system. This system uses radio direction finding, locating and call recording abilities to narrow the location of a distress call and helps determine if the call is a hoax or a real call for help on the water.

You may help reduce hoax calls by removing and locking up radio equipment when not in use. Teach children that unauthorized use puts people in danger. In addition, report suspected hoax calls to the U.S. Coast Guard Tip Line at 1-800-264-5980. Calls are confidential and tipsters may r e m a i n a n o n y m o u s i f t h e y c h o o s e .

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 .



HOME DEPOT SAFETY EXPO



Pictured above Robert Waters, FSO-IS stands ready for some VEs while member Pat Brown is replenishing the boating and safety handouts

Pictured below is FSO-PA Dave Nielsen's 1988 23' Donzi I/O



Photos by Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA

FLOTILLA 87 CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER

DECEMBER 4, 2012



Englewood Elks
401 N. Indiana Ave. (SR 776)
Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 474-1404

Appetizers & Cocktails @ 5:30 PM (Cash Bar) - Dinner @ 6 PM

Cost \$24 per person, gratuity included

ENTRÉE

Filet Mignon with Seafood Stuffed Basa

Served with Salad, Fresh Baked Rolls, Roasted Potatoes

Chef's Vegetable

Apple Blossom ala mode

Coffee or Tea

NAME _____ *Indicate number attending.*

_____ @ \$24 Total \$ _____

Please complete this form and detach and return with your check

*made out to **Flotilla 87** and mail to:*

Judy Abbott 6767 San Casa Dr. #98 Englewood 34224 by **November 23, 2012**