

ANCHOR LINE

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USCG Auxiliary
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Memorials Day.....Remember Our Veterans!

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2013 FLOTILLA 87 OFFICERS DIVISION 8 DISTRICT 7



Flotilla Commander

Flotilla Vice Cmdr.

Member Training

Public Education

Vessel Examination

Operations

Human Resources

Public Affairs

Diversity

Navigation Systems

Publications

Secretary/Records

Finance

Communications

Materials

Information Svc

RBS Visitation

Marine Safety

Communication Svc

Monofilament Recovery

Imm. Past Fl. Cmdr.

Lay Leader

Fellowship

Flotilla Webmaster

FC

VFC

FSO-MT

FSO-PE

FSO-VE

FSO-OP

FSO-HR

FSO-PA

FSO-DV

FSO-NS

FSO-PB

FSO-SR

FSO-FN

FSO-CM

FSO-MA

FSO-IS

FSO-PV

FSO-MS

FSO-CS

IPFC

N. Lee Waters

Graham Leadbetter

John C. Cahow

N. Lee Waters

Gerald L. Meckenberg

Gerald L. Meckenberg

Sandy Bilsky

David C. Nielsen

Joseph S. Mayer

Graham Leadbetter

Judith A. Abbott

Judith A. Abbott

Sandra L. Hahn

Gerald L. Meckenberg

Anton (Tony) Durner

Robert M. Waters

Dane F. Hahn

Dane F. Hahn

Jack W. Rienks

Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson

Rodney D. Dimon

Judith A. Abbott

John P. Mitchell

Jack W. Rienks

MAY CALENDAR

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

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

27.....Memorial Day (Observed)....**Remember Our Veterans!**

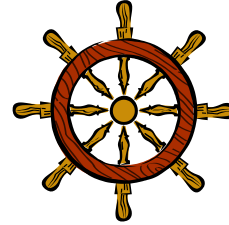
JUNE CALENDAR

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

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

FROM THE HELM:

N. Lee Waters, Commander



Ahoy Shipmates,

As I sat at the recent Division 8 Leadership workshop, I realized we had many members and accomplishments that the flotilla can be proud of this year.

At the Leadership workshop, we were the ONLY FLOTILLA who had written and enacted a flotilla action plan. District 7 Commodore Tyson was pleased with our actions since this is part of his strategic plans for 2013.

I also realized at the workshop that we needed to recognize many people for all their hard work. Do you know that Gabby Gray received the Auxiliary Achievement Medal in recognition of superior professionalism and leadership achievement for his many hours and years he has spent helping our flotilla, Division 8 and District 7 of the Auxiliary as well as the "gold side" at Sector St. Petersburg?

Did you know that Graham Leadbetter created a tri-fold pamphlet on membership in the Auxiliary, PE classes, and VEs regarding our flotilla and that they are on display all over Englewood?

Did you know that Dane Hahn wrote an article on Graham Leadbetter and his QR Code and sent the article to several Auxiliary publications?

Did you know we have several members that are participating in the Auxiliary's AUXOP and AUXCHEF programs?

Did you know that Sandy Bilsky, FSO-HR established and ran his recruitment committee (Skip Wilson, Graham Leadbetter and Bob Waters) that worked on what our flotilla needed to do to improve our flotilla's recruiting skills?

Did you know that Judy Abbott is our "go to person" and is always willing to help the flotilla?

Did you know that John Cahow has established weekly classroom training and has included training during safety patrols?

Did you know that Dave Nielsen writes articles for the Englewood Sun and these articles appear in the Sun's Waterline section in the newspaper?

This is just the start of recognizing some of our membership for all their hard work; but I would be remiss if I didn't say something about MY "go to person" Bob Waters. Did you know that he took it upon himself to become a PV, recruit George Bazinet to be a PV and mentoring George to revitalizing the program? Did you know that for a year he did the IS job for Flotilla 87 and 99? Did you know that he took over the HR job while Sandy was out of town and managed to recruit and mentor two new members? He did all these jobs in addition to anything else I needed for the flotilla.

The membership can be proud of their efforts and proud of their flotilla.

Continued.....

Helm.....

With the hurricane season just around the corner, now is the time to get ourselves prepared for it. I hope everyone has gone through their hurricane supplies to make sure batteries are fresh, food and water supplies are acquired, and are starting to think about what preparations are needed for our boats. There will be a dry run of the calling tree this month so be prepared to hear from us! Again I remind each of you that if you plan on being out of town FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, please let Jerry, Graham or I know. We must account for all out 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.

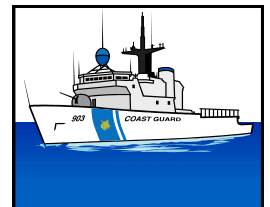
I hope to see many of you at our May meeting. We have lots of awards to hand out to the members; and a presentation by Sandy Bilsky on his Black Swan experience. Hope to see you there and until next month...

BRAVO ZULU

Gerald Meckenberg, FSO-OP/VE



In accord with Division's suggestion for joint Flotilla activities in support of Safe Boating Week we are planning a VE Blitz with Flotilla 99 at Indian Mounds ramp the 18th and 19th of this month. Last year Flotilla 99 provided their info trailer which was a huge interest magnet that resulted in a large number of inspections.



N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE

This month will bring National Safe Boating Week May 18th - 24, the annual event that promotes educating the general public on boating safely and protecting ourselves with the proper life jackets. Dave Nielsen hopes to have an article and photo during NSBW. There may be a few more activities as your board works together to create an eventful National Safe Boating Week.

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.

Auxchef Goes Airborne



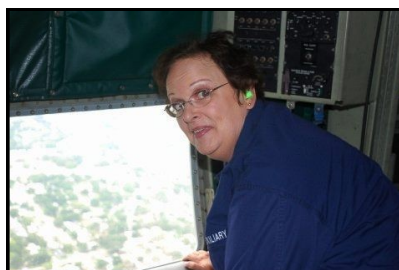
Auxchef class



Boarding the C-130



Pilot Lt. Miller



Paulette Parent, DCDR



Graham checking out the view



Graham Leadbetter, VFC 87

Paulette Parent, DCDR had arranged with Flight Operations at Clearwater to take the Auxchef classes on a Hercules C-130 flight.

The flights are regular Saturday morning training flights. Our class was so big that we were divided into 2 groups for the joy ride. Our group was in the air for approximately 1 hour and we did a touch and go drill at MacDill AFB.

Usually the flights are 4 hrs. and go to Naples and return, but the pilot, Lt. Miller wanted us all back early as a weather front was due to move into the area.

If the pilot received a SAR mission the plan was to drop us off at Clearwater before the mission. The mission of the C-130 is to conduct SAR missions when requested.

Graham Leadbetter, VFC

Pictures provided by G. Leadbetter, VFC 87

Division Awards Banquet



Bob Weskerna, DCOS 7 addresses the audience with Randy Moritz, VCDR 8 and Paulette Parent DCDR 8



Paulette Parent, DCDR 8, Judi Bidwick, FSO-PB 86 and Lee Waters, FC with their Most Reported Hours Awards



Bob Weskerna, DCOS 7 presents Bob Waters his award for CG Support



Graham Leadbetter, VFC accepts his NS Award

WOW!
FABULOUS!



Gabby Gray accepts his CG Achievement Medal Award from DCDR Parent



Recipients of the Member of the Year Award (Lee Waters accepted for John Cahow)

Pictures provided

Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Rules of the Road

Avoiding Propeller Strikes

Sometime ago, more specifically back in the early 1970s when I was slightly more interested in muscle cars than boating, an acquaintance lost his life in a boating accident. The accident, as I remember it, was one in which the guy was hit in the head by the propeller from another boat after he had fallen into the water while water skiing. Believe me when I say I was shaken a bit as I had just been water skiing with my girlfriend and her family.

Of course I wondered how the accident had happened since my water skiing experience was fun and filled with safety precautions. My girlfriend's father was always at the wheel and her mother was lookout. The teenagers and I took turns tending to the tow line and helping get skiers in and out of the water. At the end of the day I thought I could not get enough water skiing until I heard the news about the accident.

I do not recall ever going water skiing again. The accident did not stop me from boating activities and has always reminded me how quickly accidents can occur.

On April 7th, three of my CG Auxiliary friends were on a safety patrol passing through the beach area at Stump Pass heading north into ski alley. As the guys tell it there were many boats pulled up and onto the beach at anchor. Due to the strong tidal current, the boats were tightly stacked parallel to each other. And of course there were swimmers and beach goers everywhere.

As the Auxiliary boat and crew were passing by, one of the beached boats started backing off the beach. At that very moment a swimmer appeared behind the boat that was backing out from the beach. The swimmer could not get out of the way due to the strong current. A lot of screaming and waving of arms helped prevent a potentially nasty accident.

From the Auxiliary Department of Recreational Outreach and Seaworthy magazine April 2012 issue, (the Boat/US Marine Insurance & Damage Avoidance Report) here are a few tips to help avoid propeller strikes:

- *Keep your feet in the boat, never allow passengers to ride on the bow, gunwales or transom.*
- *Never put your engine into gear until you can visually confirm everyone who was in the water is safely inside the boat.*
- *Be aware of wakes, slow down when you see large wakes coming and cross those wakes at an angle.*
- *Booze and Lose, alcohol plays a key role in many propeller injuries. So leave the booze at home or drink in moderation or use a designated driver.*
- *Keep a sharp lookout. Many skiers, swimmers and divers have been killed or seriously injured by propellers. Retrieve skiers quickly, stay well away from swimming zones and never back toward a person in the water*
- *Stay off swim platforms when underway! Keep everyone away from slippery swim platforms while the engine is in gear. Do not use an outboard's lower unit as a boarding ladder. Even when propellers are not moving, they are sharp enough to cause serious injury.*

Continued.....

strikes.....

For more information about boating safety visit the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division website at: www.uscgboating.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.



Kid's Day at Tringali Sport Center



ABOVE: The flotilla's trash games are always a hit with kids and adults alike. Many folks stopped by to play them or just watch the kids in action.

Boating information was also displayed and sign-up sheets for boating classes and vessel examinations were also on hand.



LEFT: Lee Waters, FC is aiding a youngster to keep his balance in the rubber raft which is sitting on top of two small inner tubes.

Photos by Judy Abbott, FSO-PB