

ANCHOR LINE

Flotilla 87
USCG Auxiliary
Englewood, Fla.



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7th Coast Guard District

www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com



We will never forget!

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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
 Slavek Pardo
 Jack W. Rienks
 Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson
 Rodney D. Dimon
 Judith A. Abbott

 Jack W. Rienks

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

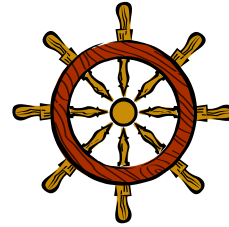
- 3.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 10.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 30.....BS&S Classes Begin, Lemon Bay Park 6:30 pm—9 pm

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 3, 7, 10, 21, 24.....BS&S Classes, Lemon Bay Park 7—9 pm
- 8.....Flotilla Members' Meeting, Lemon Bay Park 7 pm
- 12.....Division Meeting, Flotilla 84, Sarasota 9 am

FROM THE HELM:

N. Lee Waters, Commander



Greetings Shipmates,

First, for many reasons, we will run only one issue for September and October and members need to rely on this issue for the latest information.

Second, with the hurricane season upon us, now is the time to make sure we are 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 have decided on what preparations are needed for their boats.

Third, Graham has worked hard at preparing our hurricane calling tree and making sure it is up to date. We have used it in a recent hurricane drill and ran into some problems, the major problem being people who were out of town or left for the north hadn't bothered to let Jerry, 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 Jerry, Graham or I know. We must account for all of 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 **PLEASE** take the time to check your personal information with Graham to make sure the information is up to date.

Fourth, we as a flotilla now have 10 additional members and 4 more prospective members, but we still need to work on retaining our current membership. One of the ways we can do this is to help our current members with updating their requirements to maintain their different tasks by asking Bob Waters, FSO-IS or John Cahow, FSO-MT their current status of each task.

Finally, I am asking all of our seasoned members to consider becoming a mentor to our new and prospective members to help them with their Auxiliary career. I would also like to welcome all of our newest and prospective members and to know we look forward to working with each of you on your journey through your Auxiliary activities.

BRAVO ZULU



Gerald Meckenberg, FSO-OP/VE/CM



Operation activity has been at an all time low for the past few months. Several factors have contributed to this situation. Shortage of enough qualified crew to staff two vessels at the same time in order to conduct training for the crew/coxswains' facing QE requal date. District/Division restrictions on non-training missions, coupled with weather and seasonal considerations have all combined to limit Operations.

I am encouraged that the recent addition of new members will allow for the development of a coordinated crew training program that will address the needs of the Flotilla with the desires of the members, and allow us to resume our commitment to provide Safe Boating assistance to local boaters.



N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE

Our next endeavor will be a BSS class to be held on September 30, Oct. 3, 7, 10, 21 & 24 from 1900-2100. Class assignments for the October sessions 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 gathered 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 life jackets only work if you wear them. The fisherman who had fallen from his boat last month and not wearing a life jacket treaded water for 24 hours before he was rescued. Who knows how much longer he would have lasted had he not been rescued? He was one very lucky fisherman.

And yes, fishermen are boaters too!



Dave Nielsen FSO-PA



AS IF WE NEED AN EXCUSE TO TEACH SAFE BOATING

From the desk of your friendly commercial assistance provider.

A boater called for assistance as he had run aground south of the Boca Grande Causeway Bridge. The tow captain arrived on scene and instructed the boater to walk a short distance out and get the tow line. The boater did as instructed and as he was walking across the bar, the captain looked up to see the boat that was supposed to be aground, floating away. The boat owner was able to retrieve his boat before it got too far away.

Not needing further assistance for the grounding, the boater asked for directions to a gas dock and where he could buy a nautical chart. The captain had the boater follow him to Gasparilla Marina. Curiosity got the better of him and he asked the boater what he was looking for.

In the ensuing story it was learned that the boater had come down from central Florida, launched his boat at Indian Mound Park in Englewood and was looking for Stump Pass when he ran aground in Gasparilla Sound.

Please believe me when I say you can't make this stuff up. I have not heard anything further from the captain if this boater made it safely to his destination or home for that matter. I would certainly hope he does a better job of planning his trip next time. My guess is Boating Skills and Seamanship was not in his library or there was no boater safety class on his resume.

From the PA Department

On 27 July our flotilla participated in a hurricane preparedness event at the Home Depot in Englewood. Flotilla Vice Commander Graham Leadbetter, FSO-IS Bob Waters, FSO-VE Gerry Meckenberg provided logistical support in setting up and staffing the flotilla's safety booth. I also brought my 1988 DONZI fishing boat which happened to be on its trailer and used it as a static display promoting vessel safety checks.

The Home Depot sponsors several events such as this during the year and invites our flotilla to participate in support of Englewood and surrounding community. The Home Depot will be holding another Safety Event on 5 October. I will be looking for volunteers to help with this event. New members are encouraged to participate as this will be a good opportunity to get acquainted with greeting the boating public, logistics of setting up and staffing the safety booth and teamwork. Additional information to follow at the September membership meeting.

Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Dave's boat

Dave Nielsen, FSO-PA



Rules of the Road

Semper Paratus in a digital world

Semper Paratus is the Coast Guard's motto; it means always prepared, but in a manner of speaking it also means Quick Response. In fact, if you call it QR for short you'd be talking about those funny looking code squares that are popping up in ads in magazines and newspapers and on signs in airports or wherever someone with a message wants to reach the "early adopters". Basically anyone with a "smart phone" can aim their phone's camera at the QR code and be immediately transported to a website.

Graham Leadbetter has taken these Quick Response codes to a new level. Leadbetter, the Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) of Flotilla 87 in Englewood Florida, has a history of computer literacy, and once he saw the QR code he reasoned that many of the folks he sees launching their boats every weekend carry "smart phones", and so he has designed a QR code for use on Flotilla business cards and informational pamphlets which he hands out to boaters.

A self professed computer specialist, Leadbetter spent the last years of his professional life as a systems designer/programmer for the U.S. Army. When he retired back in 2008, he moved to Florida and quickly joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Since joining he has served as FSO-CS (communication services) and FSO-IS (information services).

"When we do a vessel exam or answer boater's questions down at the launch ramp we frequently hand out one of these cards," he said. "And when the boater scans our code they get today's local weather and tides. They also get a link to our website which features our safe boating classes, highlights what we do, and suggests they consider joining the Auxiliary."

"There is also the opportunity to add videos", Leadbetter says smiling, "but our video needs much improvement, right now the only video I have is me at the helm of a boat." This is one area where he concedes he needs some help.

Flotilla 87 has printed the QR code on stickers that are applied to business cards and to maps of Charlotte Harbor and Lemon Bay that they give away. They also have them posted on monofilament fishing line collection bins."

Obviously Leadbetter and his Flotilla members are proud of the progress they have made with the QR code. "We're pretty sure this is the first application of a QR code anywhere in the Auxiliary," he notes. It's a nice tight program and it works. But they are so far ahead of the "curve" in this effort, that to make it all happen Leadbetter had to learn some code, and search for a QR code generator.

He credits a speech he attended in which the speaker talked a bit about the QR code system, he was so charmed with the possibilities and he invited her to an Auxiliary Officers Meeting so the other members could see what he was talking about. In his effort to adopt the code he had to persevere without any teacher to help show him the way, although he confessed, "I did purchase a book on programming web sites for mobile devices, and I found some code snippets on the internet."

He presently serves as VFC. For more information contact Graham Leadbetter leadbetter@embarqmail.com

Written by Dane Hahn FSO-PV
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