

WELCOME TO

PIECES OF EIGHT



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**Commodore Walter Jaskiewicz addressing attendees at the
Division Change of Watch on November 17, 2012**



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ETHOS

I AM A COAST GUARDSMAN.

I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

I WILL PROTECT THEM.

I WILL DEFEND THEM.

I WILL SAVE THEM.

I AM THEIR SHIELD.

FOR THEM I AM SEMPER PARATUS.

I LIVE THE COAST GUARD CORE VALUES.

I AM PROUD TO BE A COAST GUARDSMAN.

WE ARE THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

2013 Division Staff Officers



(L to R) Jonathan LaRonge, Toni Borman, Murray Price, Mike Mc Dermott, Joan Morello, James Toomey, Roman Gzyl, John DeGeorge, Jim Stewart, Al Bidwick, Joe Young, Ruthanne Bruno, Robert Scott, Ron Krum

Division 8 On The Web!

Division 8

DIVISION COMMANDER

PAULETTE R. PARENT

IMMEDIATE PAST DIVISION COMMANDER

BRAXTON R. EZELL

DIVISION VICE COMMANDER

RANDALL A. MORITZ

DIVISIONSTAFF OFFICER DIVERSITY

JANE W. TOUCHTON

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER FINANCE

JAMES K. TOOMEY

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER SECRETARY/ RECORDS

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DIVISION STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATION SERVICES

CRAIG R. De TOMA

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER HUMAN RESOURCES

KYLE M. WALLACE

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER INFORMATION SERVICES

RUTHANNE BRUNO

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER MATERIALS

ROBERT L. SCOTT

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER PUBLICATIONS

JOSEPH A. YOUNG

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER MEMBER TRAINING

ANTOINETTE V. BORMAN

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

JONATHAN D. LARONGE

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER NAVIGATION SYSTEMS

MURRAY D. PRICE

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER OPERATIONS

JAMES W. STEWART

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER MARINE SAFETY & ENVRN PROT

ROMAN E. GZYL

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ALBERT J. BIDWICK JR

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER RBS/ VISITOR PROGRAM

JOHN T. DEGEORGE

DIVISION STAFF OFFICER VESSEL EXAMINATIONS

RONALD F. KRUM

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-08>

Flotilla 81 Anna Maria

<http://a0700801.uscgaux.info/>

Flotilla 82 Longboat Key

<http://a0700802.uscgaux.info/>

Flotilla 83 Manatee

<http://a0700803.uscgaux.info/>

Flotilla 84 Sarasota

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-08-04>

Flotilla 85 Palmetto

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-08-05>

Flotilla 86 Venice

<http://cgauxvenice.com/>

Flotilla 87 Englewood

<http://coastguardenglewood.com/>

(cover photo by Judi Bidwick)

Paulette R. Parent
Division Commander
Division 8, District 7

This has been my first year as DCDR and it has been a learning experience every day. I truly appreciate the support of each and every one of our members. I would especially like to thank my Vice Commander Randy Moritz for his support and initiatives. His assistance makes my tasks that much easier. I always preach to everyone "train your replacement" and Randy has learned a lot this year and I look forward to working with him again this coming year.



"There is an old saying that goes: "If you ever start to think you are a good leader – try leading an all-volunteer organization!"

I have learned a lot about being a leader over the years and it is something you truly never master. Every day is a learning experience. Sometimes the experience is good and other times it leads to some self re-evaluation. For example, I have been able to resolve many issues faced by our members this past year. Following the Chain of Leadership is important as is a tenacious attitude. I call my method: rattling cages. Conversely, I have had some not so good experiences like going away for a few days and then returning home and opening up my emails! Lots and lots of emails.

This has been quite a year for Div. 8. The cross training between the CG and the Auxiliary is a giant step forward in the perpetuation of our missions. Training goes on weekly at Station Cortez with Ron & Jane Touchton heading up the effort. Four flotillas participate and the group is known as the "MxF6tley Crew". Bill Beckett FC81 is training as CG crew. This is the first time for this type of training. There are also watchstanders working and training. There will soon be four Auxiliarists relieving CG in the watch room. AUXCHEFs continually serve in the galley on an as needed basis.

The cooperation between flotillas has served to benefit the flotillas especially with PE and member training. Fl 81 & 85 conduct "joint mission" PE courses for the boating public. Member training courses are open to all flotillas and, in fact, other Divisions.

Thanks to Fl. 82, many local schools now offer safe boating classes as either an extra curricular activity or integrated into their regular curriculum. My own flotilla 83 is now the epitome of the mouse that roared. They have grown to be a very active part of the Division. Fl. 84 is an unofficial base for the Division as well as various activities throughout the year. Fl. 86 has a wonderful member training program which is open to all members. Fl. 87 has an innovative PE program utilizing new electronic techniques to help get the message out.

I've learned that the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to make sure that I surround myself with people smarter than I am. The 2013 Flotilla Commanders, Vice Commanders and Staff Officers have a wealth of experience and I look forward to working with them to help achieve our goals in 2013. I have already asked each FC to compose a mission statement for their flotilla and set up a strategic plan to accomplish their goals. These will be in alignment with the Div. and District mission statements and strategic plans. After all, without a plan there is no direction. Everything is haphazard and inefficient. We need to set our course in order to be successful in our missions or risk being adrift on the ocean without direction.

Thank you again for making Division 8 the "Great 8". Remember: Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

DIVISION 8 FIRST QUARTER REPORT - 2013

Paulette R. Parent DCDR-8

General Information:

At the January Annual Orientation, the Division and all flotillas presented their Mission Statements and Strategic Plans for 2013. All flotillas report they are pursuing their goals and using their plans as guidelines.

US Coast Guard Support:

- Sixteen Division 8 members from Flotillas 81, 83, 84, 86 and 87 assisted at Sector St. Petersburg's Annual Open House. Randy Moritz and crew provided on-the-water security. Others provided security or worked at the Public Affairs Information Booth which displayed an OPFAC from **Flotilla 83**.
- 2 OPFACs participated in the Gasparilla on-the-water parade.
- Paulette Parent and Toni Borman taught **AUXCHEF** classes at Station Ft. Lauderdale, Air Station Clearwater and Sector Key West. A total of 34 members completed the class and will now complete their PQSs.
- Bill Gerst, Pollution Inspector, has been called out 3 times by Sector to investigate suspected spills.
- Toni Borman co-instructed ICS 210 with COMO Walter Jaskiewicz - 12 participants.
- Dick Petrucci attended the Annual Aviation Workshop at CGAS Borinquen (Aquadilla, P.R.), March 2-3.
- Bob Fesko performed approximately 90 hours as Watchstander at Sta. Cortez. Bill Beckett performed 15 hours as USCG Station Crew trainee. T. Allen Jones performed approx. 120 hours at Sta. Cortez as Watchstander trainee. OPFAC Bonnie Sea and crew provided weekly OTW training support to Station Cortez assets.
- Ron Howington and Ron Touchton gave weekly five-hour training class to new Coast Guard personnel and Auxiliarists in chart reading, operations and watch standing. On Thursdays Ron Touchton conducts two boat drills for new Coast Guard personnel and Auxiliarists. Jane Touchton helps with miscellaneous station activities.
- **Flotilla 86** has completed work on their Mobile Communications Trailer.
- **Flotilla 83** has completed work on their Mobile Communications Trailer except for exterior graphics.

Flags and Ceremonies:

Roy Bellas, who supported the USCG mission on many levels, passed over the bar. Paulette Parent DCDR and other flotilla members paid tribute to Roy in the March issue of the **Flotilla 83** newsletter, which was dedicated to Roy.

Community Support:

National Safe Boating Week Projects:

- Receiving Proclamations from the various municipalities throughout the Division.
- Distributing Waterway Watch literature and safety information to various locations.
- Displaying posters in libraries, stores, marinas, etc.
- Erecting NSBW banners at the Boat Ramps and high volume sites.
- Conducting a Vessel Exam "Blitz" during the NSBW weekends.
- Setting up and staffing information booth at Marine Supply Stores and other locations.
- Submitting press releases to local newspapers.

(cont'd)

DIVISION 8 FIRST QUARTER REPORT - (continued)

- Writing articles for local boating magazines.
 - Visiting elementary and middle schools to discuss water safety and preservation of aquatic resources.
 - Speaking to boating groups.
 - Competing in the “Ready, Set, Wear It” photo contest.
 - Making radio appearances.
- Competing in the “Ready, Set, Wear It” photo contest.

Other:

Marine Safety FSOs are promoting the Sea Partners programming. They are including environmental materials in boat show booths and other public affairs events, including environmental protection information in boating safety classes, vessel safety check and marine dealer visits and providing assistance to unit Sea Partners program through public presentations at schools, yacht clubs and business groups.

- **Flotilla 82** has taught 5 ABS Classes at Riverview High School
- **Flotillas 81 and 83** members staffed an information booth at the Cortez Fish Festival on February 16 and 17.
- **Flotilla 81** set up a two-day information table at the Holmes Beach West Marine store March 8th and 9th.
- Tammie Averso and Toni Borman represented the Auxiliary at the Southside Elementary School Science Fair. An estimated 750-800 people participated.
- Members of **Flotilla 84** conducted VEs at the Sarasota Outboard Motor Club, while the women and family members attended a Safe Boating Program presented by Judi Bidwick (86) and supported by Paulette Parent, Toni Borman and Al Bidwick. Judi directed her remarks especially to the women who piloted their boats in the annual Powder-puff Luncheon Cruise immediately after the program.
- **Flotilla 85** had a PA Booth at the Anna Maria Island Holmes Beach City Fest held March 1 and 2. Judi Bidwick (86) made presentations to members of the Venture Cruise Club and to the Venice Yacht Club.

Member Training

Completed AUX-Weather Course with 7 students.

Local Media Involvement:

Dave Nielsen (87) continues to write for WaterLine magazine, www.boatingandfishing.com. He also maintains a spreadsheet of Division 8 & 9 PE programs and provides the spreadsheet to the SUN Newspaper on a weekly basis.

Other Comments:

The Help Desk has been very helpful in resolving most situations.

Randall Moritz, Vice Division Commander



What an incredible first quarter! As I review reports I see many flotillas are active in their respective communities participating in festivals, farmer's markets, school outreach and the list goes on. I have to commend you for an outstanding job and ask that you please continue your passion and persevere as we face an unknown financial future. I want to personally thank everyone for tightening the belt and doing more with less. You truly are a force multiplier and continue to make Division 8 stand out and really should be proud of your efforts. Thank you.

Reports – We all love to hate them right? Well maybe not hate them, but we certainly do not look forward to them. As with most others, I do not really enjoy sitting down and drafting up my best “gee look at us” statements, but I do understand the importance of reporting and also understand I took an oath to create them as part of my position. This is the same as any other appointed or elected official within the Auxiliary. It is a responsibility we chose when we accepted our positions and a duty we should not take lightly. One part I do not particularly enjoy is asking for them when people neglect to send them in or worse when I get a District report that shows “no report received by Division 8”. It is a poor reflection on us all. You chose the position and you accepted the position with the full realization of the demands of your office. Please respect your decision and follow through with what you swore to uphold. Please remember these reports are not just to toot your own horn, but to document the volunteer activities and accomplishments of those who work with you. You are their voice. Be loud and proud for them! For those of you who do submit your reports on a timely basis I would like to sincerely thank you for your cooperation and outstanding support, it reflects highly on you and your team, **WELL DONE!**

As we continue to navigate through the year we must stay focused on our training and certifications. I am very encouraged by the level of cooperation between flotillas and believe we are actively taking the best practices and resources to ensure our teams are ready for any challenge that lies ahead. We all have a very unique set of skills and as members we must continue to draw off of each other for strength, support and, most importantly, wisdom. As a reminder - please take a moment to update the skill bank in AUXDATA so the gold side knows what you are capable of as well. It is important information and the database is being used now more than ever. If you are not sure how to access the database, please contact your flotilla leadership and I am confident they will be able to guide you.

As I said before, please keep up the good work. You are a great group of individuals – actually a fantastic group of patriots who ask for very little and give so much. It is an honor to work along your side.

Semper Paratus! Ω

NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE THE VALUE OF A US COAST GUARD ID

January 26, 2013 ,

The Value of a USCG ID

In November 2012, my wife and I took a cruise to the Middle East. Our exit city was Cairo, Egypt. At the end of our tour, we were driven to the Cairo International Airport. We were booked on a British Airways flight to London and then home. When our turn came, we approached the desk and a young man took our documents. He then started punching his computer, punched it a second time, looked a little puzzled, and continued to punch. After 4-5 minutes, he excused himself and brought over a supervisor.

I asked what the problem was and the supervisor informed me that the credit card I was carrying was not the same that we used to purchase the ticket. I explained to him that about 3 months previous, I received a call from AMEX asking if I had ordered \$300 worth of golf equipment. They explained that my records have never indicated any previous charges for golf. I told them I had not ordered such a thing and they informed me that my card numbers had been compromised and requested that I immediately cut up my card and they would forward a new one which I would receive the following morning.

The supervisor looked extremely puzzled and after a minute or two of hesitation, asked if I had any other photo ID. At that point, I pulled out my USCG ID. He took one look at it, then at me, his eyes widened, he profusely apologized for the delay, and then he escorted us to the gate. I guess a USCG ID has a lot of value.

C. William Myers, IPFC-82

Staff Officer Member Training

Report for Month of: March, 2013

SO-MT: Toni Borman

Division 8

Summary of Activities:

Fl-82: Reports that they continue to schedule a new member orientation prior to their monthly meetings. They review all forms and this month reviewed the various uniforms and how to order uniforms. They reviewed various forms and reporting, and various programs available for members to participate in: Boat Crew, Coxswain, VE, PE, PV, TCO. Courses and testing on-line available and general questions. Reviewing new VE PowerPoint for new and potential and existing members.

Fl-84: Held a special review of uniforms and how to wear them at their March meeting. They also continue to hold Navigation programs for members.

Fl-86: Continues with the SABOT program. They also are teaching the AUXPAT program.

Fl.-87: Has participated in the following programs:

Sexual Harassment Awareness Workshop, 1 hour TCT, QE Readiness Training, ICS 210 offered on a Division Wide basis at Fl. 84 with COMO

WalterJaskewicz, and Toni Borman, as co-instructors, participated in the Division 8 sponsored **AUX-WEATHER** program, and the **Influenza Training**.

WHAT'S WORKING –WHAT'S NOT:

Fl.-82: The interaction and energy by the combined Flotilla's. Tremendous sharing of knowledge and expression of excitement passed to the new members. Overall feeling of making best use of the allotted time committed.

WHAT'S NOT: Would still like to increase the average attendance from 13 to 20.

Fl. 87: States that their "Study Hall" is still working.

Recognition Recommendations: Fl-82: I would like to suggest that without the assistance of Ron Howington and Steve Budd-Jack our training program would not be anywhere close to what it is now.

Notes from SO-MT—Div. 8: All Flotilla's are participating in various Div. 8 sponsored training programs, on the water training, and training at Station Cortez. Also the Auxchef program. We just finished the AuxWeather program, and will offer the 8 hour TCT on Sat., April 6, and start the AUXCOM program on April 9, 2013. We have great participation in all programs. All Flotillas continue to work together as best they can with programs.

TAKING SEMPER PARATUS TO A HIGHER LEVEL

By Dale Hahn FSO-MS Flotilla 87

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 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 which he hands out to boaters.

"Every time we do a vessel exam or answer boater's questions down at the launch ramp we 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 one of 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 the AOR 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, 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."

A self professed computer nerd, 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 and FSO-IS. He presently serves as VFC. For more information contact Graham Leadbetter <leadbetter@embarqmail.com>

DIVISION 8 AWARDS DINNER APRIL 8, 2013



Robert Weskerna, **DCOS-7** presenting awards to (l. to r.) Robert M. Waters, **Proctor-South**; Rich Markwitz, **FC-86** (accepting for Harry Bruno, Jr.); Robert Johnson, **FC-84** (accepting for Mike McDermott).



(l. to r.) Randall A. Moritz, **VFC**; Robert Weskerna, **DCOS-7**; BMCS Travis R. Park, **OIC, USCG Station Cortez**; Paulette R. Parent, **DCDR**; Toni V. Borman, **SO-MT**; Rickey W. Owens, **FC-83**



MEMBER of the YEAR Awards for all Flotillas (l. to r.) William R. Beckett, FC-81, (accepting for VC Harry G. Kamberis); David J. Hagberg, FC-82, (accepting for John J. Raleigh, Jr.); Gregory J. Owens, FSO-83; Robert M. Johnson, Jr., FC-84, (accepting for William G. Gerst, Sr.); Thomas J. Johnson, FC-85, (accepting for Deborah A. Healey); Richard E. Markwitz, FC-86, (accepting for Joseph G. Floyd); Lee G. Waters, FC-87, (accepting for John Cahow).



Auxiliary Achievement Medal presented to Wilbur R. (Gabby) Gray by Division 8 Commander Paulette R. Parent with VFC Randall A. Moritz for his service as SO-OP.

**On March 2, 2013 all Flotillas participated
in a day-long Sector St. Petersburg Open House.**

All Division 8 flotillas took part either as security, working in booths, or assisting in some other way. Al Bidwick coordinated activities for Division 8 and furnished the small boat static display.

(photos by Judi Bidwick)



USCGC JOSHUA APPLEBY



HELO WITH RESCUE SWIMMER

Leadership--For You?

by Judi Bidwick

Having trouble getting members in your flotilla to run for office? Do you need a commander or Vice Commander for the coming year or a year from now? Do you have Staff Officer positions that lie vacant? Or better yet, are you thinking you might want to try an office?

One of the most difficult things in any organization is finding members who are willing to step up and meet the leadership challenge. There is either fear of the position itself because of lack of knowledge or the idea of stepping into the leadership of an organization may be overwhelming because there is not enough information about the skill required.

Every organization offers leadership courses and members are encouraged to get their feet wet by seeking the skill set involved in the particular position of interest. The Auxiliary has a number of courses that are designed to feed you knowledge about volunteer or elected offices, and some are set up to divine your particular bent by offering settings or situations whereby you see your qualities for leadership emerge. These generally are courses where you work in groups, problem solve or evaluate and give responses to those who demonstrate positive or negative leadership skills. Some courses are online and you can work at your leisure reading and answering questions that pertain to different forms of leadership. Others are classroom based and meet just a few times a year in pre-determined venues.

Regardless of which course you choose or how you opt to learn about positions of leadership, you still need to look at your options for assisting your volunteer group--whether flotilla, division, or district.

To assist you in determining the particular leadership position, look first at the requirements. Talk with previous members who held the job. Discuss options with leaders you admire or talk with members whom you believe might steer you in the direction of gaining knowledge about your interest. You can do several things. Think about your life before retirement; what made you successful there. What were your strengths; how did you achieve or move up in position. Take a skill evaluation or ask your best friend what he or she feels your strong points are and whether he thinks you might have the qualities to try a position of leadership. Of more importance how do you feel about developing your skills? Are you motivated to grow into a position?

Most who have joined our volunteer organization do so because they think they have something to offer and they are motivated to learn something new. Those two qualities are the guiding light for those who may strive for a leadership position. Take stock in yourself, in your skills, in your will to grow, in your desire to work with others to learn. No position exists in a vacuum and each office is molded from existing guidelines and also around the person who takes it on and bends it to fit his or her read on the best way to move the office forward and make it more than it was before.

Take a class in the thing that peaks your interest. There is a Flotilla Leadership Course which is taught in the classroom and is also online. There is AUXLAMs, part A and B. There are also courses offered for almost every flotilla office--Public Affairs, Publications, Information Systems, Communications Services/ Website Development, and Flotilla Commander. Most of these courses may be taken by members without previous qualifications.

Previous officers in a position are often the best mentors or coaches for budding leaders and these folks are willing to assist you in learning the particular techniques or avenues for gaining knowledge and skills in your field of interest.

We all grow into the positions we hold; few rarely start off running, knowing all there is to know. Remember, you joined the Auxiliary to donate your time or your special skill and to learn new things. Expand your knowledge base and your interest and join those in leadership positions!

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