

# ANCHOR LINE

Flotilla 87

USCG Auxiliary

Englewood, Fla.



Volume LII

July-August, 2014

Number 4

---

7th Coast Guard District

[www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com](http://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

*Judith Abbott, FSD-PB*

[heyabbott6767@comcast.net](mailto:heyabbott6767@comcast.net)



## 2014 FLOTILLA 87 OFFICERS DIVISION 8 DISTRICT 7



<b>Flotilla Commander</b>	<b>FC</b>	<b>Graham Leadbetter</b>
<b>Flotilla Vice Cmdr.</b>	<b>VFC</b>	<b>Dane Hahn</b>
Member Training	FSO-MT	John C. Cahow
Public Education	FSO-PE	N. Lee Waters
Vessel Examination	FSO-VE	Ron Walton
Operations	FSO-OP	Gerald L. Meckenberg
Human Resources	FSO-HR	Sandy Bilsky
Public Affairs	FSO-PA	David C. Nielsen
Diversity	FSO-DV	
Navigation Systems	FSO-NS	Al Osiecki
Publications	FSO-PB	Judy Abbott
Secretary/Records	FSO-SR	Mary Walton
Finance	FSO-FN	Sandra L. Hahn
Communications	FSO-CM	Gerald L. Meckenberg
Materials	FSO-MA	Anton (Tony) Durner
Information Svc	FSO-IS	Sandra L. Hahn
RBS Visitation	FSO-PV	Robin R. Lucas
Marine Safety	FSO-MS	Mark Mull
Communication Svc	FSO-CS	Jack W. Rienks
Monofilament Recovery		Arthur J. "Skip" Wilson
Imm. Past Fl. Cmdr.	IPFC	N. Lee Waters
Lay Leader		Carl Chapman
Fellowship		Judy Abbott
Flotilla Webmaster		Jack W. Rienks

## STATION ENGLEWOOD

### JULY CALENDAR

1....NO STAFF MEETING

8.....Flotilla Members' Meeting    7 pm

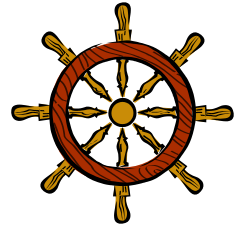
### AUGUST CALENDAR

5.....Flotilla Staff Officers' Meeting    7 pm

12.....Flotilla Members' Meeting    7 pm

### NO MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

## **From the Bridge: Graham Leadbetter, FC**



Since we are half way through the year, I thought my remarks should be in the form of a report card. What have we accomplished and how are we doing?

Simply put we are doing great, notwithstanding a few problems. The big event was of course our moving into our own building in January. Just about every member stepped up to the plate and volunteered their time to get Station Englewood ready for our use. Right now there are two ongoing improvement projects. Sarasota County has approved our engineering design for our flagpole. The flagpole will be a nautical type with a yardarm, capable of flying 3 flags. Work on the installation should begin shortly. Lemon Bay Boaters, Inc., the building owners, have decided to upgrade the air conditioning system. We did receive a complaint from one of our ABS students that the room was uncomfortable, and I am sure that members have experienced this during our meetings.

Mark Mull and his ground crew are doing an excellent job of lawn maintenance.

We participated in safety support for the Port Charlotte Super Boat Grand Prix, including a booth, which was organized by Dave Nielsen. We will have another opportunity next year to participate in this event. We completed the mandatory Team Coordination Training, and the mandatory Sexual Awareness Training, in addition to presenting a Vessel Examination workshop. Our FSO-PE, Lee Waters, has worked hard and presented two boating safety courses, the last one was presented at Station Englewood. During National Safe Boating Week, we were very unique in that we gave away free PFDSs to any boater after a vessel examination. Some boaters were afraid to say yes to a free item! This was made possible by a grant that our VFC, Dane Hahn, was able to procure for us. Jerry Meckenberg, Ronald Walton, and Dave Nielsen expertly managed the VE blitz and publicity during NBSW. Indeed Jerry Meckenberg received on our behalf a NBSW proclamation certificate from Charlotte County Commissioner Deutch. FSO-PV, Robin Lucas is on his way to achieving his goal of establishing 50 business partners to display our literature. His displays are clearly visible at many business establishments around town. Joe O'Reilly, John Cahow, and Jerry Meckenberg have been working hard to get our large number of crew trainees ready to qualify as boat crewmembers. Some of our students are getting quite close to being ready for testing. I consider this the most important activity ongoing in the flotilla. We need boats and crew to spool up our safety patrols. We do have one or more new members with boats, so I believe that we will have more boat facilities by the year's end.

FSO-HR, Sandy Bilsky, is doing a fine job of recruiting new members. Sandy recruited 4 people into our flotilla this year; Alan Ferrigno, Woodrow Bumgardner, Craig McCrodden, and Penelope Feldpausch. Our new members will be a rewarding asset to Flotilla 87.

We had some unintended officer realignments. Our FSO-VE is now Ronald Walton, and our FSO-PB is Judy Abbott and our new FSO-DV will be Penelope Feldpausch.

We entered into an agreement with Englewood Amateur Radio Club (EARS) to hold their monthly meetings at Station Englewood and they held their first meeting at Station Englewood on Tuesday June 17.

Finally, we held our first and highly successful picnic at Station Englewood in May. Judy Abbott did a wonderful job of organizing this event. We can all be proud of our accomplishments this year and grateful that every member is participating in at least one activity of Flotilla 87.

## Auxair Program



The Coast Guard Auxiliary has an active air program. The mission of the Auxair organization is similar to that of the boat side. Auxair conducts coastal safety patrols, assist in SAR operations, and sometimes transport supplies to Coast Guard Stations in the Caribbean area.

I have been involved in this program and have recently met all the requirements to be a qualified Air Observer. The duties of an Air Observer are to assist the pilot in observations of the boat traffic and to maintain communications with the Radio Watch Stander at Sector St. Petersburg.

There are of course numerous steps that must be accomplished to become an Air Observer. An applicant must obtain an appropriate security clearance, pass a medical, demonstrate the ability to swim in a flight suit 3 lengths of an Olympic pool, and then inflate your PFD and climb into a life raft. This swim test is conducted during the annual Air Safety Workshop, held at the Clearwater Air Station. Applicants must also pass Part A of the pilots' examination. This tests the applicant on knowledge of administration of the Auxair wing, understanding of SAR patterns, and a basic understanding of aeronautical charts. In addition the applicant must demonstrate proficient use of the digital encrypted radios during 10 hours of flight time. This can be tricky as the radios pick up the aircraft noise and seriously interfere with the transmissions. Pilot qualifications are not required to become an Air Observer.

I have flown with pilots from Sarasota airport, and from Paige Field, Ft. Myers. An air patrol typically is for 3.5 hours will patrol from north of the departing airport to south of Naples and into the everglades. I have found this to be an interesting and challenging activity.

Graham Leadbetter

FC Flotilla 87

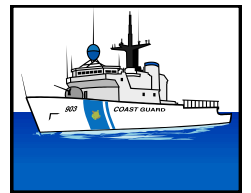
Gulf of Mexico and Lemon bay  
Englewood  
*Photos provided*



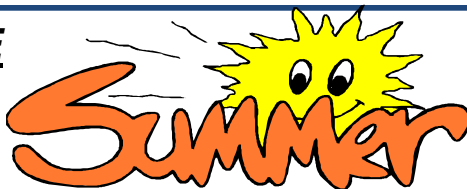
## **Ron Walton, FSO-VE**



Flotilla 87 has had a pretty productive June despite missing the Father's Day weekend. Our VEs had a very good presence at Indian Mound Park as we were able to examine 23 boats bringing us to 99 for the year. We hope to have an even greater impact in July.



## **N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE**



**On vacation!**

**Be back in the fall**

**Just a reminder on life jackets, they only work if you wear them.**

**Happy Boating All!**



# Meeting Highlights



Guests: A. Naguib, SO-DV and W. Beckett, VCDR-8 join G. Leadbetter, FC, D. Hahn, VFC and M. Walton, SR



The meeting was very well attended



J. Abbott was sworn in as FSO-PB, L. Waters received FC of he Year, R. Lucas received O/S Volunteer VSC/RBSVP Award and R. Walton and M. Walton received their TCO Certificates



Jim Straub *left* receives his 30 year Auxiliary Service Award and Judy Abbott *right* receives her 15 year Auxiliary Service Award



Photos by J. Abbott and J. Cahow

National Safe Boating Council  
2014 "Wear It!" Grassroots Campaign  
Midterm Report



Name of Organization: USGC Aux, Flotilla 87

Point of Contact: Dane Hahn 500 Boxwood Lane, Englewood, Florida 34223

Phone: 941-681-0312

Email: dfhahn@comcast.net

This Midterm Report is due no later than **Friday, June 27, 2014**. Please send your Midterm Report to Yalda Moslehian, Communications Coordinator, National Safe Boating Council at [ymoslehian@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:ymoslehian@safeboatingcouncil.org) or 9500 Technology Dr., Suite 104, Manassas, VA 20110. If you have any questions, please call Yalda at (703) 361-4294.

*Please answer the following questions in their entirety.*

What "Wear It!" resources have been provided to you for your grassroots campaign effort? How have you used these resources for your outreach effort?

**A promise of a grant of \$750 was offered in a letter dated April 8, 2014. The original letter suggested that we would have lifejacket invoice the National Safe Boating Council, but we were unable to convince any suppliers to do that, and therefore I purchased life jackets and will submit the receipts to be reimbursed.**

**All lifejackets were purchased at Walmart, are Sterns brand, and approved by the US Coast Guard,**

**The life jackets are designed to be given to local mariners who do not have suitably sized PFD's for children or adolescents who may be on board. Also we have used them as a part of our Vessel Examination program, to insure boats we have inspected have acceptable life jackets on board.**

**In all cases the program has given us great talking points as we interact with the public.**

What was the launch date/event for your "Wear It!" grassroots campaign effort?

**We "kicked off" the program on the first Weekend of Safe Boating Week with a 2 day blitz at our largest local launch area. About 100 mariners were met face to face, as we discussed the life jacket program and performed vessel exams. We had a staff of some 12-15 Auxiliarists on site as well as our communications trailer, which acts both as our gathering point with water and other necessary items, safely holds the supply of life jackets and has great graphics making it in fact a large mobile signboard.**

Please describe all campaign events and outreach efforts to date, including date, the activity, location, and **the type of audience that has been reached at each event and how many at each event**. (Below is an example table to use, but please feel free to provide this information in whatever format works best for you).

## 2014 “Wear It!” Events

Date	Activity	Location	Audience Being Reached	How Many People Reached?	Organizer Comments
May 17-18	2 day blitz at launch area	Indian Mound, Englewood, FL	Boaters & their passengers	100 or more	Very successful
May 17	Open house at our station	1949 S.R. 776, Englewood, FL	Public as well as members	75 or more	Cookout, but also tours of the station and discussion of Safe Boating Week

**Additional “Wear It” events, continue through our boating season, including other visits to home owner associations that have private launch ramps or marinas. Further visits to the main launch areas, and of course augmentation to our life jacket “loaner” program.**

Please identify any partnerships and collaborative efforts you’ve developed with other groups to promote the “Wear It!” message in your area and what these partnerships are accomplishing.

**Our local Walmart was so pleased the National Safe Boating Council was supporting our efforts with this grant, that they asked whether they could help. I suggested a discount on life jackets, but they were unable to offer discounts, however they did provide a \$40 shopping card which we applied to the purchase of lifejackets.**

**Our local West Marine also wanted to assist—but their headquarters determined they were unable to help. Still they loved the idea.**

Please describe additional outreach efforts that you have done in coordination with “Wear It!” including media coverage, Internet presence, etc.

**We have experienced good media coverage, including a feature story in our local regional newspaper, which ran a half page story on May 17<sup>th</sup>. And our regular weekly boating magazine called Water Line which regularly runs a feature story written by one of our members.**

**Members have been instructed to take lifejackets whenever they plan to undertake vessel examinations.**



Please describe your current efforts to identify the **measure of success** of your outreach efforts.

It's fair to say measuring success is difficult. Our program is really a significant benefit to all who are involved. It gives a timid Auxiliarist a talking point and reason to approach a boater and open a conversation. Because America loves "free stuff" the program mitigates the concern some boat owners may have when approached by an Auxiliarist in uniform. And further it provides a need when such a need exists.

But not all boaters take advantage of the offer. Some feel that anything free comes with "strings" attached, and other feel that because we offer a "limited" supply of life jackets, they should not take advantage of the offer—since, as they point out, there are others more needy than they are.

But the bottom line (and so the success that we can measure) is we are talking to everyone—and able to share the message of safety on the water.

What are some changes you will make for the remainder of your 2014 outreach efforts?

We are satisfied that the program is presently running as planned and is working well. I would like to have one or more blitz programs before the 2014 outreach program concludes. Planning for next year (should we get this grant a second time) will include more media efforts. There are various other media that we will reach out to. The newspaper has been very helpful, but I would like to include local radio.

We have a flyer rack in more than 40 local stores, marinas and restaurants. Since we are already placing information in all these locations, I would like to have a cardboard counter card highlighting the program and where and when we will be making it available.

Please include all photos, videos, press information, sample resources (if created for effort) that you have available from your events held so far.





Please include any other pertinent information.

**Many thanks from all of us at Flotilla 87—Englewood Florida**

Photos provided



## **David Nielsen, FSO-PA**



### **Plan Ahead**

Back in my college days I recall my dorm room was just big enough for two spring loaded bed frames, which I think were leftover army surplus, two desks, two chairs and two open wall closets. My roommate and I allocated the wall space evenly for our favorite posters of the day. We routinely switched posters as our semester moved on.

There was one small poster that managed to survive being displayed for one entire semester. I am sure many of you will remember the poster that said PLAN AHEAD with the last few letters crowded into the margins drifting off in font size.

It is good advice even today. Planning ahead for every eventuality can be a life saver in an emergency or save the day when a minor breakdown interrupts the return home from a day on the water.

A FLOAT PLAN is a great way to keep your friends and family informed when you travel away from your home port or to a nearby destination. A float plan tells where you are going, the route you will take, boat description and contact information. It also tells when you plan to return and who to contact in the event you are overdue. Make sure you give the float plan to someone who will notify the authorities in the event you don't return or arrive at your planned destination. In most cases the U.S. Coast Guard would be notified.

A week ago a boater's wife called our local commercial assistance provider's dispatch office to say her husband was broken down and needed assistance getting home. It was interesting that she knew something was amiss when she realized he left on a shakedown cruise in Charlotte Harbor on his pontoon boat and forgot his cell phone. He had a simple float plan which he gave to his wife for the short trip. A good Samaritan also called and confirmed there was a boat of the same description needing assistance.

Apparently he was late for lunch or some other appointment which prompted his wife to call for help. She was sure he did not have a VHF marine radio onboard, knew what his boat looked like and where he launched his boat. His adventure ended safely back at the boat ramp a short time later.

Making a float plan can be as simple as the example above. Or you can make it more elaborate with as much information as possible about you, your passengers, details about the boat and of course the planned trip.

I found two internet sites that offer basic float plans that can be modified as necessary while providing the preparer suggestions or guidance of what information to include.

**Continued.....**

## Plan cont'd.....

The first is [www.floatplancentral.org](http://www.floatplancentral.org). This site sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. has a fill-in-the-blank style with drop down menus for almost every conceivable detail about a boating trip. There are also updated fields for U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue information and an enhanced boating emergency guide for the holder of your float plan in beginning the search and rescue process. This document may be saved as a PDF file for future use.

The second site is sponsored by the Sea Tow Foundation for Boating Safety. [www.boatingsafety.com](http://www.boatingsafety.com). You may print a copy of this float plan document and fill in the blanks as necessary.

And please remember to cancel the float plan or check in with the holder of your plan when you return. There is no need to alert authorities to start an extended search for you if the boat is safely sitting in its slip or in the driveway and you have your feet up watching a ball game on television.

For more information about boating safety visit the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division website at: [www.uscgboating.org/](http://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](http://www.coastguardenglewood.com) and the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron, Punta Gorda [www.puntagorda-boating.org](http://www.puntagorda-boating.org) You may contact him at [dc.nielsen@hotmail.com](mailto:dc.nielsen@hotmail.com)***

