

ANCHOR LINE

Flotilla 87
USCG Auxiliary
Englewood, Fla.



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Number 1

7th Coast Guard District
www.CoastGuardEnglewood.com



Robin Lucas and Dane Hahn receive the oath of office as VFC and FC respectively
from William Beckett, DCDR-8

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2015 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. IPFC
Lay Leader/Sergeant at Arms
Fellowship
Flotilla Webmaster
Proctor

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

Dane Hahn

Robin Lucas

John Cahow
N. Lee Waters
Ron Walton
Gerald Meckenberg
Sandy Bilsky
Tom Lane
Penny Brown
Slovak Pardo
Judy Abbott
Carl Chapman
Sandra Hahn
Gerald Meckenberg
Craig McCrodden
Sandra Hahn
Robin Lucas
Bob Eckert
Jack Rienks
Arthur "Skip" Wilson
Graham Leadbetter
Claudia Alexander
Claudia Alexander
Jack W. Rienks
Robert Waters

JANUARY CALENDAR

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

10.....Orientation for Officers, Keating Bldg, Mote Marine, Sarasota 8:30 am

13.....Flotilla Members' Meeting 7 pm

19.....BS&S Classes Begin, Station Englewood 6:30 pm

BS&S Continues Every Monday & Thursday 7 to 9 pm

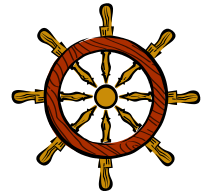
28.....*Blackthorn Memorial Services, St. Petersburg* 11 am

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

10.....Flotilla Members' Meeting 7 pm

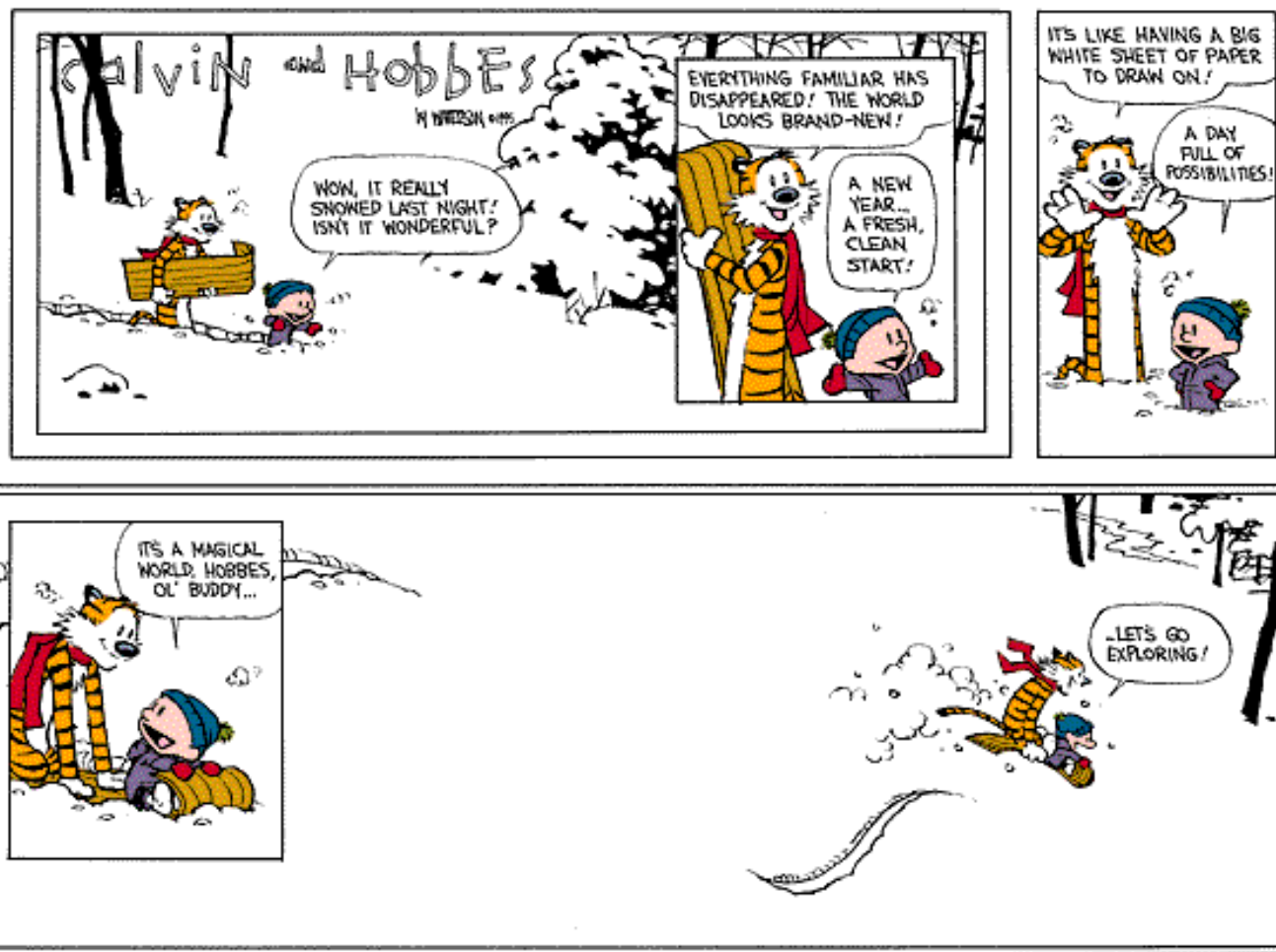
From the Bridge: Dane Hahn, FC



All Hands: Happy 2015

As we start the New Year let me offer all good wishes for health and happiness for each and every member and the same for our families. As a Flotilla we are really one large extended family, with many things in common. We are all willing to support the Coast Guard and each other, and as a team we are going to have a great year.

I'm enthusiastic about the New Year being a time for starting over. Up north, the New Year often came with a snowstorm, making everything white and fresh, really demonstrating that was time to begin again. Here we have no snow, but we have the willingness and desire to get going. And, while we have the continuity of many of the same faces, it's a new time. Whether you are a new member or an old one, *2015 will not be more of the same.*



But first things first. Just as a child can't run until he learns to walk, or swim until he is willing to get his face wet; as boaters and Auxiliarists, we have things we have to accomplish before we can move to the next item.

Continued.....

Bridge cont'd....

At our station we had lots to accomplish before we had even our first meeting—and for 2015 there is still more to do. If you own a boat, you get it, there is still (always) more to do. Vessel Exams are really a metaphor for a new year. Starting over with the check list; dating the flares, being sure the lines are serviceable, looking into the flame arresters, are only a part of it, the list goes on. If you want to do vessel exams, there's a process. Talk to Ron Walton about the process and how you can help.

Our Public Education can't operate without teachers. And there is a process to become a PE instructor. So if you want to assist us in that area, talk to Lee Waters about how to get started. This year we propose to offer new topics, so we need teachers who are first willing to learn so they can teach. Classes start on January 19.

And ditto for Member Training, in MT the material is a little more complex than what we offer the public, and you may need to learn a bit more to teach in this arena. If you want to assist in that area, talk to John Cahow. SABOT training is also scheduled to start in January.

Each Auxiliary role is a specialty. And in it's own way each specialty has many fine points to master. If you are an FSO and have questions, check with your Division SO. If you are not an FSO, but you find yourself in a position that's confusing, help is right around the corner—if you need assistance, would like a mentor, or just need more training--ask Robin or me.

Again, Happy New Year—And in 2015, let's go exploring !

HELP WANTED

The flotilla is looking for a few carpenters to step forward to frame a wall and build storage shelves in the large shed. Also we need to construct additional hanging space for lifejackets and spare uniforms in the small office.



We are looking for a few outdoor folks to trim and shape the trees, and rebuild the fence in the back yard.

If you have one or know how to run a rental back-hoe/trencher, please step forward as well--we want to connect our outflow to the city sewer.

We are also looking for one or two members with a background in finance and/or legal consulting.

Reply to Gerry Meckenberg or Dane Hahn.

N. Lee Waters, FSO-PE

The new class of the BSS course starts on 19JAN2015 at 1845, instructors are reminded to be at Englewood Station no later than 1830 the night of their assigned chapter. I have sent last year's class schedule to the instructors. Once we have finalized the new 2015 schedule to all those involved people it will then be sent to the membership. We are also in need of "blue shirts" to help with student questions and activities, you don't have to be an instructor to be a blue shirt you just need to have boating knowledge. If anyone is interested in becoming an instructor, please see Lee or Carl ASAP in order to get the process of qualifying you started. Our next course offering is called "Practical Matters" on 16FEB2015 at Englewood Station starting at 1845, the course is an extension of the BSS course and involves basic charting, weather, radio use and marlinspike and cost \$10.00 to cover the cost of materials.

We have added several new courses and revision of previous course outlines and substance and we will discuss each course as we progress through our 2015 PE course schedule.

We still need your help in promoting our course as we have found in our class surveys that most students opt to attend our courses because of recommendations of their friends and neighbors. Keep up the great work!

As always promote the wearing of life jackets because life jackets only work when they are worn.



THE BLACKTHORN INCIDENT

Shortly after sunset on 28 January 1980, the USCGC *Blackthorn*, on its way to Galveston with a young crew; and in sight of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, collided with a fully loaded tanker, *Capricorn*. The *Blackthorn* sunk and took with it 23 Coast Guardsmen. [*Two weeks after the collision the Coast Guard had the *Blackthorn* raised and it was then determined too costly to repair and she was then decommissioned. She was renamed the *Florida Angler* and sunk in 1982 to become a fishing reef 80 feet down about 20 miles offshore from Clearwater.]

A year after the incident, the USCGC Blackthorn Memorial Park was dedicated to the 23 lost Coast Guardsmen. The Park is located at the North end of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, St. Petersburg, FL; and each year members of Coast Guard, CG Auxiliary, survivors of the collision, families and friends of the lost men gather for a Remembrance Service.

If you have never attended this service, please plan to do so this year, it is very moving. The Memorial Service will begin at 11 am at the Memorial Park on January 28, 2015.

Meeting Highlights



Russell Adams and Tom Lane are sworn in as members of the flotilla by Graham Leadbetter, FC

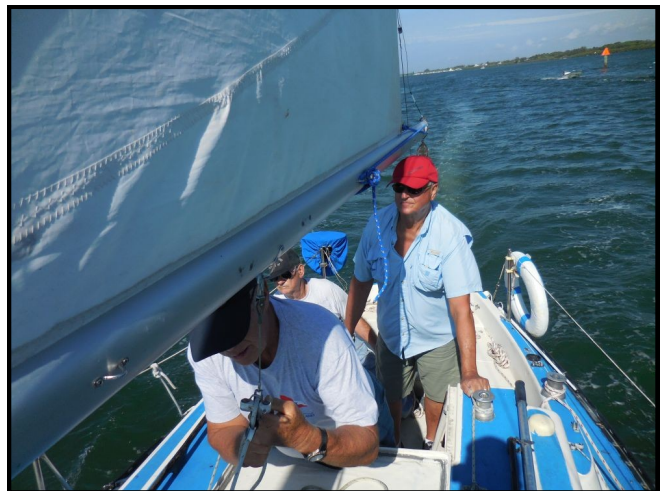


The new members receive their flotilla shoulder boards from their spouses

WOW!
FABULOUS!

Photos by J. Abbott, FSO-PB

Let's Go Sailing



Teamwork and fellowship are important parts of Flotilla 87. Pictured are Sandy Bilsky (FSO-HR) and Graham Leadbetter (IPFC) organizers of a weekly sailing event. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow Auxiliary members and invite potential new member candidates to enjoy the day. Call Sandy or Graham to reserve you space for these events.

Photos provided

Change of Watch Photo Gallery



Graham Leadbetter, FC welcomes everyone to the COW. William Beckett, DCDR-8 addresses the audience.



Certificates and Awards were presented to Robin Lucas and Dane Hahn



Station Cortez was represented



FC elect Dane Hahn congratulates Graham Leadbetter for his service as Flotilla Commander for 2014

More COW pictures.....



Above and left: Flotilla 87 staff officers receive their Certificates of Appreciation and their 2015 appointments

Below: Some of the Change of Watch attendees and their spouses/guests



Above left: Jerry Meckenberg, Joe and Elaine O'Reilly

Above: Tony and Linda Durner

Above right: Jeremiah Smith, Barbara Chapman, Claudia Alexander and Carl Chapman

Left: Skip Wilson and friend Amy

Right: Shirley, her mom Norma Jean and hubby John Cahow



Left: Al Osiecki, Doris King and Jim Straub

Right: Joe and Penny Brown



Photos by J. Abbott, FSO-PB

Flotilla 87's Christmas Party



The flotilla celebrated its first Christmas in its new home. Claudia Alexander, Fellowship Chair (pictured bottom left with Carl Chapman and Dane Hahn) arranged the festivities. A surprise visit from Braxton Ezell and Paulette Parent was a plus!



Photos by J. Abbott, FSO-PB



David Nielsen



Rules of the Road

Boat Fires

This past weekend was very active for our local fire fighters and emergency services.

First there was a boat explosion and resulting fire in a Cape Coral resort/marina which seriously injured 2 passengers. The other four passengers received minor injuries and were released from the hospital. News reports stated the boaters had just fueled up and had started one engine. The explosion occurred after the boater attempted to start the second engine. Debris from the explosion was launched skyward, sending persons nearby running for cover. A boater was able to pull the burning boat away from the dock before it could cause further damage.

The second boat fire occurred today in Lehigh Acres. The boat owner and a relative were working on the fuel and electrical systems in their back yard. Witnesses said their father was charging batteries at the same time they were changing fuel filters. Apparently a spark ignited the gas fumes. Both the father and relative were taken to a local hospital and are expected to return home in a few days. Other family members kept the flames under control until the fire department arrived. The boat sustained damage but is expected to be repaired and back in service.

Safe fueling procedures cannot be overstated and boat operators need to be vigilant in making sure gasoline fumes do not accumulate in the bilge. Gasoline fumes are about the most dangerous problem a boater can come across. Keeping fumes under control cannot be taken lightly. As seen in the incidents above, fumes can be disastrous.

From the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary boating safety textbook, Boating Skills and Seamanship, Twelfth Edition, let's review safe fueling procedures.

Know what you are doing. Boaters have pumped gasoline into water tanks and even deck mounted fishing rod holders. Both these major errors have resulted in explosions and serious injuries. Be certain the fuel is going into the fuel tank and not the bilge.

This very scenario happened on the Navasink River in New Jersey a number of years ago. The boater put the fuel nozzle into a fishing pole holder. The gas dock operator noticed the gas sheen on the water as it was being pumped overboard by the bilge pump. The pump was shut off and the boat quickly pushed out into the river away from the gas dock.

Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and settle in the lowest spot on the boat. There are many sources of electrical sparks. The law requires electrical parts in an enclosed engine space to be spark protected. This means that the electrical parts will not produce sparks that can ignite gas fumes.

Unfortunately, rebuilt or replaced parts may not be ignition protected. You may inadvertently replace a marine alternator, for instance, with one built for an automobile.

Avoid trapping fumes. Close all cabin doors ports and hatches. Also turn off all electrical devices before fueling including ventilation fans, radios, bilge pumps, navigation devices,

Continued.....

Fires cont'd.....

generators, lights etc. Extinguish all flames, turn off the galley stove and don't smoke. Consider sending passengers ashore until all fueling procedures have been completed.

After fueling, turn on the bilge blower and run it for 4 to 5 minutes. Before starting the engine(s) check all compartments including the engine room and bilge by sniffing with your nose. Can't smell? Ask a passenger or consider installing a fume detector. Sniffing with your nose is preferred and probably more dependable.

The need to thoroughly air out your bilge and other compartment cannot be overemphasized. It is possible for trapped gasoline vapors to be so rich that a spark will not cause an explosion. When you open a hatch, port or door or when the vessel begins to move you may introduce enough air to make the vapors explosive. Many vessels have exploded and caught fire after leaving the fuel dock.

Want to learn more about on-the-water navigation? Consider taking classes offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on how to read a navigation chart, piloting and advanced piloting. 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. You may contact him at dc.nielsen@hotmail.com

