



FL 79 Earns Six Division Awards, Several Individual Honors

FL 79 HOME OF AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR – AGAIN !

by Tim Teahan, FSO-PB

Flotilla 79 walked away from the annual Division Seven Awards Luncheon in mid-May with a lot of hardware – six trophies, and a unique honor: for the second straight year, FL 79 was the home flotilla of the Auxiliarist of the Year. IPFC Betty Hagan was named the 2002 Auxiliarist of the Year, following FSO-OP Cliff Martin, the 2001 recipient. Awards presented to the Flotilla were The Captain’s Jug (Auxiliary cornerstones), the William Waldo Chase Award, (PE, VSC, OP), the Krough Award, (PE), the Oalmann Award (MT), the Duignan Award (FEL) and the Nettling Award (OP).

To keep Betty’s award top secret, VFC Mike Shea and Cliff Martin manufactured a ruse worthy of a CIA operation. Cliff and Mike approached an unsuspecting Betty and asked her to research her husband Joe’s Auxiliary accomplishments, which she did with typical aplomb. “I was absolutely shocked,” Betty said, entirely expecting that Joe would be the recipient. “I feel very honored to have received the award, with so many deserving Division members.



Auxiliarist of the Year IPFC Betty Hagan, second from right, with, from left, DCP Steve Plass, CDR Kevin Crawley, USCG, Director of Auxiliary, and VCP Julie Benedict.

In addition to flotilla honors and Betty’s award, five Seven-Niners were recognized for individual efforts and eight members were added to the Division’s Honor Roll.



Five of FL 79’s six 2002 Division awards: the William Waldo Chase, (PE, VSC, OP), Krough (PE), Oalmann (MT), Duignan (FEL) and the Captain’s Jug.

Members earning Division-wide honors were: Tom Elarbee, Most PE Instructor Hours, Amos Johnson, Most MT Instructor Hours and Alex de Quesada, Most Aide Hours, JerryRoutt, Most Skipper Hours and Davis Rusinko, Most Crew Hours. Eight members achieving Division Honor Roll status (500 or more hours) contributed more than 4,400 hours (the equivalent of two people working full time for a year!) to Auxiliary missions in 2001. Honor Roll designees were:

Newt Anderson, Alex De Quesada, Betty and Joe Hagan, Cliff Martin, Steve Plass, David Rusinko and Mike Shea.

“We are fortunate to have members with varied interests who are dedicated to investing the time and effort to fulfill Auxiliary missions,” said FC Amos Johnson. “The number of flotilla awards and the individual tributes make it clear that our flotilla is indeed the most active in the Division.”

Congratulations and a hearty “Well Done” to Betty and to members honored by the Division who have distinguished themselves by their service to FL 79 and to the Auxiliary.



FC Amos Johnson shares a laugh with Steve Plass, CDR Crawley and Julie Benedict as he accepts the Captain’s Jug, presented for excellence in the 4 Auxiliary cornerstones.

Photos courtesy of Jerry Routt



**2003
Flotilla 79
Officers**

Flotilla Commander
Amos Johnson

Vice Commander
Mike Shea

FSO-AN

Rick George

FSO-CM

Bob Stribling

FSO-FN

Peter Folick

FSO-IS

Frank Ansel, Jr.

FSO-MA

Dave Rusinko

FSO-PA

Bradley Ware

FSO-MT

Cliff Martin

FSO-CC

Paul Schweikhart

FSO-MS

Alex deQuesada

FSO-OP

Jerry Routt

FSO-PB

Tim Teahan

FSO-PE & MV

Newt Anderson

FSO-SR

Jeannette Chambers

FSO-VE

Bob Austin

FSO-CS

Kathi Kruczek

FSO-PS

Pete Chambers

CH FEL

Russ Miller



FL 79 Helps Deliver Safe Boating Week Message

by Tim Teahan, FSO-PB

FL 79 helped the Tampa Bay boating public get a strong National Safe Boating Week message for during the rollout of the 2003 edition of NSBW, May 17-23. On Saturday, May 17, Seven-Niners participated in the Tampa Bay NSBW launch aboard the *SS American Victory*, a World War II cargo ship and performed vessel safety checks and marine dealer visits.

In addition to NSBW activities on the *American Victory*, Auxiliarists and Coast Guardsmen from local commands worked hand-in-hand to educate the public about boating safety at area boat ramps and marinas around the area.

Together, FL 79 and FL 75 members conducted 49 Vessel Safety Checks at the Gandy Boat Ramp and performed 48 more checks during the week. FL 79 also held an open house and equipment display, featuring a specially outfitted CG 41-foot patrol vessel. .

Several local Chambers of Commerce and Hillsborough County government officials created civic proclamations to recognize NSBW. The proclamations were presented to several Division flotillas, including FL 79.



RCO-West Allen Brown is piped aboard the *American Victory* by a detachment of the Naval Reserve Military Sealift Command. RADM John Stewart, USN, MSC Vice Commander, is in the foreground.



FL 79 FSO-PA Brad Ware directs fun with a purpose for Cub Scouts during the NSBW launch on the *American Victory*. Here, a young Scout attempts to put on a life jacket in under 20 seconds.



Eight year old Chesney Janes and RCO-West Brown pose after demonstrating the proper way to don life vests during the NSBW launch.



Members assisting with NSBW events aboard the *American Victory*, from left Al Felman, Bob Bonnano, FSO-CM Bob Stribling and DCP Steve Plass.

Photos courtesy of Jerry Routt, Tim Teahan and Jeff Young, Jeff Young Photography

DICK HALL 'FOLDS HIS CHART' AFTER 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

by Tim Teahan, FSO-PB

Almost as permanent a fixture in FL 79's AOR as the Cut K Upper Range Marker off Rattlesnake Point, FSO-AN Dick Hall folded his chart after 15 years of service to FL 79 and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Dick's Auxiliary service was but another chapter in a career that has encompassed sales and management positions with real estate, insurance and financial firms and maintenance engineering for a civil engineering firm, not to mention 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired as Lieutenant Colonel and three years in the Army National Guard as a Platoon Sergeant. His flying career included 70 combat missions over Vietnam as navigator and weapons officer in F-4 aircraft, with the call sign "Gib," for "Guy in Back."



Dick receives recognition for his 15 years of Auxiliary service from VFC Mike Shea and IPFC Betty Hagan.

Despite his success in the business world, however, Dick excelled at learning and teaching. Throughout his career, Dick attended no less than eight formal institutions of learning, including the University of Northern Colorado, where he earned his Master's degree and the Auxiliary's National Instructor's School and the Coast Guard Training Center.

Going from student to teacher, Dick served as Director of Training for the Air Force's Hawaiian Division and taught at the University of Maryland, DePauw University, in public school systems and for countless Auxiliary courses.

In 1988, Dick swapped one wild blue yonder for another, joining the Auxiliary. Almost immediately, he was appointed FSO-MT and soon became an Instructor and Master Instructor.

He served in a number of other flotilla and division positions, including Public Education, Operations, VFC, SO-PE and SO-AN. He was also appointed to the

National Staff as Training Requirement Analyst first as Branch Assistant then as Branch Chief, where Dick reports, he "regained his sense of humor" that he said he lost while in the Air Force. Dick also earned his Master's License, becoming a U.S. Merchant Marine Officer.

A 25-year resident of Tampa, Dick has seen plenty of the world, from his Air Force postings in Southeast Asia, Africa, Korea, Italy, Hawaii and in Texas, which he considers his first "overseas" tour.

His decorations include the Coast Guard Sustained Service Award, the Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award, and Coast Guard Unit and Meritorious Unit commendations. He was twice cited for the most SAR Assists and once for Most Skipper Hours in Division 7.

"Dick's technical expertise and his teaching ability will be missed," said FC Amos Johnson. "As a boater, it was a comfort to know that Dick Hall was on the job, ensuring that Tampa Bay 'roadway signs' were in the right place."

It will come as no surprise that Dick has embarked on a number of new endeavors in his life after the Auxiliary: purely recreational boating and fishing, spending time at a cottage he and his wife Norma have in Indiana and bird watching, in addition to staying active in the Auxiliary and Tampa BayWatch.

Maybe because it is easier to navigate on water than in the air, retired Air Force officers seem to have an affinity for success in the AN staff position. Dick's able replacement, new FSO-AN Rick George, another of FL 79's airmen, has been hard at work since mid-May, taking up where Dick Hall left off.



One of Dick's fortes was teaching - here he demonstrates proper device placement at a new member orientation.

New Members, Training and National Safe Boating Week Vessel Safety Checks Keep FL 79 on the Go



New FL 79 member Sharon Taubenfeld (right) recently became crew qualified.



Richard Rioles (left), Kathi Kruczek and Frank Ansel in front of Water Won.



79ers in a recent crew class use Miss 79er and Deadboat to learn towing skills.



New member Kurt Podall is welcomed by Betty Hagan and Mike Shea.

Photos courtesy of Kathi Kruczek and Jerry Routt

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More Photos of New Seven Niners, NSBW Involvement and a Uniform Fashion Show



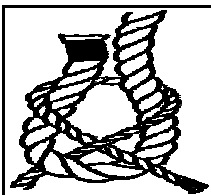
Alex deQuesada and Pat Baldwin pose with boat owners after inspecting their vessel at the Gandy Ramp, part of 2003 NSBW activities.



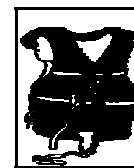
Not a Paris fashion show, but, from left FSO-PE/MV Newt Anderson, FSO-CS Kathi Kruczek, IPFC Betty Hagan and FSO-VE Bob Austin showing the correct way to wear Auxiliary uniforms, while Bob demonstrates the correct length for uniform shorts.



FSO-PS Pete Chambers and FSO-SR Jeanette Chambers observe National Maritime Day and NSBW activities on board the American Victory.



Newest Seven Niner Angelo Nieves proudly displays his membership certificate.



Photos courtesy of Kathi Kruczek, Jerry Routt, and Jeff Young, Jeff Young Photography

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