



Best All-Around Flotilla... *Again!*

Once again, Flotilla 79 walked away from the Annual Division Awards Banquet with trophies and awards too numerous and too bulky for one person to carry. In addition to the *Captain's Jug for Best All Around Flotilla*, our flotilla earned the *Prescott Award* for Vessel Safety Checks, the *Richie Award* for Public Affairs, the *Nettling Award* for Operations, and the *Dugan Award* for Fellowship. While earning awards and accolades at this event was satisfying, they do not fully portray the countless hours and monumental efforts put forth by our members.

Many of our members earned individual awards. Cliff Martin received a cer-

tificate for most member training hours, Kathy Kruczek for most skipper hours, Robert Stribling for most crew hours, Mike Shea for most search and rescues, and eleven of our members earned the Division Honor Roll for serving more than 500 hours in a calendar year. Last but not least, our own Kathy Kruczek was honored as *Auxiliarist of the Year!* Hats off to you, Kathy, and to all of the members who made this possible.

In his role as Division Fellowship Chair, Bob Stribling arranged for this year's banquet to be held aboard a Starship Cruise. What a great setting for such an event! We leisurely cruised through waters that we normally patrolled... and no one wore a PFD!

Captain Farley Retires

One of the best friends the Auxiliary had in recent years retired this month. Captain Mike Farley came to Tampa three years ago as the Commanding officer of the Marine Safety Offices in Tampa (MSO). On July 11, 2005, he became the last Commanding Officer of this Unit. In a joint ceremony, Captain Farley retired from the Coast Guard, while Group St. Petersburg was retired and the new Sector St. Petersburg was formed. At the same Change of Command ceremony, Captain Joseph Servedio took office as the first commanding officer of the new combined unit.

Tampa MSO held its own retirement ceremony on July 8th. At this ceremony, Mike Shea and Dottie Riley presented the Captain with a painting of his new sailboat, 'Red Stripe'. The painting was a parting gift from all of the Auxiliary Units from the west coast of Florida.

Captain Farley was a strong supporter of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He utilized the Auxiliary more than any Captain of MSO in recent times and will be greatly missed. One of the many programs for which he was responsible was the Auxiliary Incident Command System (ICS) Training Team. His vision for the Auxiliary made the funding and support available to train the team, which



soon became the lead training unit for ICS on Florida's west coast.

Captain Farley was a man of vision long before he arrived in Tampa. While still a junior officer, he created the "Sea Partners Program". This program focuses on Environmental Awareness and continues to be a popular part of the Coast Guard's Public Education programs. It is taught by Auxiliarists nation wide. More recently, he encouraged and supported LT Scott Miller in the creation of the first parasail self-regulatory program. The Coast Guard has copied this program around the country.

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Flotilla Officers

Commander:
J. Michael Shea

Vice Commander:
Newton Anderson

Finance Officer:
Thomas Elarbee

Secretary & Publications:
Dorothy Joan Riley

*Communications,
Operations & Materials:*
David Rusinko

Information Services:
Frank Ansel

Aids to Navigation:
Betty Hagan

Communications Services:
Kathy Kruczek

Career Counselor:
Robert Bonanno

Marine Safety:
Lawrence Leduc

Member Training:
Cliff Martin

Public Affairs:
Bradley Ware

Public Education:
Theresa (Bunny) Johnson

From the Helm



The Commander's job is a lot different than any other job I have had in the past. It is even very different from being a Flotilla Staff Officer or Vice Commander. What makes it so different is that that we are all volunteers with important

objectives: to support the United States Coast Guard and its missions. The differences are based not just upon the volunteer nature of our organization, but also upon the important mission we are given as volunteers.

While I am the person who presently holds the Commander's job, I must depend on you, the members, to help me with the jobs we have been asked to do. Herein lays one of the greatest differences: I cannot order anyone

to do anything. I can only ask, and I will continue to ask for your help. I now ask each of you to continue to contribute your time and efforts to support our mission, and that of the United States Coast Guard.

We are the mainstay of the Coast Guard's Recreational Safe Boating Programs. We support many of the Coast Guard's other missions as well. The Auxiliary is most unusual in that none of the other military services have an organization like ours. Flotilla 79 is even more unusual in that we have such a wide array of talented members. While it gives us great potential, it offers me a great challenge in the management of our assets. I need and request your help and cooperation as we finish the remainder of this year.



What Lurks Beneath...

Story and photo submitted by Kathy Kruczek

One recent night while patrolling in the Port of Tampa, a large sheet of plastic below the water line and not visible managed to completely wrap up my lower unit and prop. Thankfully, I was at the Green side of the channel and had a handily deployable anchor. After about 30 minutes of cutting away sheets of plastic, I was able to return to the dock at idle speed. The next day when I removed the prop, I found even more plastic on the shaft. My crew and I were grateful that it happened on a pleasant summer night near home port, but the experience harkened the words, "you never know what lurks beneath the waters..."



... or what lurks above! This gator was sighted by Kathy and her crew at Port Sutton

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Burnie Wilhelm

Vessel Examinations:
Patrick Baldwin

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Program Updates and more....



Member Training

Boat Crew training will be offered for our new members and candidates at the end of this summer, exact dates to be announced. Crew training is one of the best ways to get involved, to begin to understand our language of acronyms, and to get to know other people within the Auxiliary.

We strongly encourage all of our new members to attend this course. Contact Cliff Martin for details, or to express your interest.

Public Education

In addition to our ongoing BS&S course, Basic Navigation is scheduled to begin August 16 here at the building. Members may attend this course free on a space available basis, and should provide their own texts and navigation tools. Contact Bunny Johnson to attend this most valuable training.



Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program

Welcome to the U.S. Power Squadron, our newest partner in the Marine Dealer Visitation Program. Per a memorandum of agreement signed on Jan 1, 2005 between the USCGA and the USPS, the USPS will be visiting marine dealers as of June 1, 2005. The USPS visitors will take the Program test on-line, and their first two visits will be supervised by the Auxiliary. Remember, this is a *partnership*, not a *competition*.

Another important change in the program is to allow for visits to non-traditional partners. Traditional partners have been mostly boat dealers, marine retailers, marinas and yacht clubs. The expanded program recognizes that other establishments are viable venues for delivery of boating safety information. More information about the new and expanded program can be found on the Vessel Examiner's web page, or at <http://safetysal.net>

Captain Farley Retires

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An exemplary leader, Captain Farley knew how to develop the skills and leadership abilities of those serving under him. He was both trusted and loved by his staff and the Auxiliary. Captain Farley will remain in Tampa Bay after his retirement. We wish him well and hope to see him again in the near future.

(Story and photo submitted by j. Michael Shea)

Publications

Support your flotilla newsletter! We need photos, articles, anecdotal items of interest, whatever you are willing to share. Several members have indicated that they have photos, etc., but we cannot publish what is not sent in. With your help, we can have the best dang newsletter in the Division!

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you to complete and forward the member survey to me at driley1@Tampabay.rr.com



Annual Dues

Watch your mailbox this coming month (August). Tom Elarbee will be sending out reminders to the members to pay their annual dues. The annual dues of \$50 is due by September 1, 2005 and is past due October 1, 2005. That is a lot of 'dues' - in one

sentence! No need to wait for the notice... send your check made out to USCGA FL79 to Tom now and save us the cost of postage !

Welcome to our new Members and member candidates...



FC Mike Shea reads the Oath to new member Joanne Ebborn at the July Flotilla meeting as FVC Nute Anderson looks on. *(Photo courtesy of Kathy Kruczek)*

Welcome Aboard!

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Joanne Ebborn | Kevin Williams |
| Russel Smith | Tim Manning |
| Kyle Houck | Edward Smith (candidate) |
| Jose Carbon (candidate) | George Smith (candidate) |

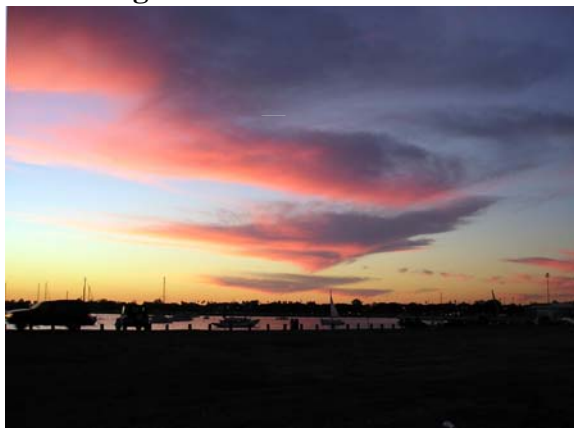


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Patrol Sights....



Been out on patrol recently? The bay is filled with incredible beauty, from spectacular sunsets to birds and marine life. These images are of Davis Island (left) and a vessel approaching Harbor Island (right).
Send in your photos! We will print them here. Maybe we can succeed in drawing more members into our Operations programs.



CO2 Cylinder Safety Notice -- [Posted: 6/22/2005 at <http://www.USCGA.org>]

The U.S. Coast Guard has become aware of a potential problem with installation of CO2 cylinders that have bayonet tips in inflatable personal flotation devices (PFDs or life jackets). If a cylinder is not properly installed, the PFD will not inflate with CO2. The problem may affect several thousand PFDs, but the Coast Guard is only aware of one incident to date. The following link to the USCG Boating web site provides detailed information:

<http://www.uscgboating.org/alerts/alertsview.aspx?id=50>

Leading by Example
As Auxiliarists we are recreational boaters *first...* We are boaters because we enjoy being on the water, enjoy cruising and fishing, and like sharing these wonderful experiences with family and friends. Even when the patrol boards are down, that bright, red USCGA Facility sticker is in plain view on our windshields. Do we observe the rules of the road? Do we signal properly? Wear our PFD's? What examples are we setting?