



Tampa City Employees Attend Auxiliary Training

Story and Photographs submitted by Bunny Johnson, FSO-PE

When Tampa Storm water management acquired their twenty foot boat, Department Coordinator Rick Vincent contacted Theresa Johnson, FSO-PE, to train their employees in Boating Safety. On August 10th and 17th, Bunny and husband, Amos Johnson, VCP-7, trained sixteen of their employees at the Storm Water Management Headquarters



Rick Vincent and Tampa Storm Water Management's new boat.

located at 26th Avenue, East in Tampa. All sixteen students passed the test. The program was so well received that Storm Water Management plans to train additional employees later this year. The twenty foot vessel will be used to check the storm drains from the waterside in Tampa Bay, and will be maintained at the Port of Tampa. In addition to training the department's employees, the Auxiliary will be providing a vessel safety check.

Taps



Division 7 lost a valued friend and member on July 7th with the death of Rudolph (Rudy) Thomann . During his 26 years with the Auxiliary, Rudy served as Commander of both Flotilla 79 and Flotilla 75, in

addition to holding various staff office positions. He was a member of the Division Color Guard, and a crew member on many missions.

Rudy was a quiet, understated man with a gentle sense of humor. He rarely talked about himself and was never mean-spirited in his comments about others. Rudy could only be described as a true gentleman. The Division Color Guard held a Flag Ceremony for him on July 12th in Tampa. Rudy is survived by his wife Joan, three sons, and a daughter.

Good Night! Which put the Candle out?

Good Night! Which put the Candle out?
A jealous Zephyr, not a doubt.
Ah, friend, you little knew
How long at that celestial wick
The Angels labored diligent,
Extinguished now for you!

It might have been the Light House spark,
Some Sailor rowing in the Dark
Had importuned to see!
It might have been the waning lamp,
That lit the Drummer from the Camp
To purer Reveille!

Poem by Emily Dickinson



From the Helm

J. Michael Shea, Flotilla Commander

Flotilla Officers

Commander:
J. Michael Shea

Vice Commander:
Newton Anderson

Finance Officer:
Thomas Elarbee

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Dorothy Joan Riley

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David Rusinko

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Career Counselor:
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Marine Safety:
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Member Training:
Cliff Martin

Public Affairs:
Bradley Ware

Public Education:
Theresa (Bunny) Johnson

Personnel Services:
Burnie Wilhelm

Vessel Examinations:
Patrick Baldwin

*To view our newsletter
online, visit:*

[http://cgwebs.net/
flotilla79/](http://cgwebs.net/flotilla79/)

*Scroll to the bottom of the
page and click on the link
to the newsletter.*



Why are we in the Auxiliary? I can only speak for myself. After 9 -11 I wanted to serve my country. Some of this was motivated by guilt, because after completing my undergraduate studies, I went to law school instead of accepting a commission in the Navy. Some of you may have similar reasons; others are continuing to serve your country after many long years of active duty military service. Whatever your reasons, the one thing I have noticed about every one of you is that your heart is in the right place, and that you want to serve your country. It is our common thread: the desire to serve.

Some of you give much, putting in many long hours. Other are only able to give small amounts of time because of other commitments, but I am reminded that we all joined to serve, and that all of us are here to

do whatever we can, both for the Coast Guard and for our nation.

What is sometimes hard for me in the position that I hold, is to respect and balance the varying amounts of time members can give against the needs of our mission. I am ever reminded that we are volunteers. Within our organization, I can not order anyone to do anything. I can only request your help. That makes the word "Commander" a misnomer. The title should be "Requester." I hope you will find it in your hearts to want to continue to serve, and to do it through Flotilla 79. I for one, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your service to our Flotilla, the Coast Guard, and to our country.



From the Desk of your CS Officer...

Submitted by Kathi Kruczek

Do you get overwhelmed by your ever expanding lists of bookmarks or favorites? Well if you do and you need to find something related to the Auxiliary, then it is time you visited our website: <http://cgwebs.net/flotilla79/> First, I suggest you go to the web site, right click on the page, then click on "Create Shortcut". This will send the page to your desktop where it will appear as a little icon. You can now go to our site any time without opening your browser or your favorites list. If you want to find an auxiliary related link such as forms or manuals, start by

clicking on the word Division on the MAP on the HOME Page. (See illustration on right.) It will bring you to a page where you can click on members. From there you can navigate to frequently used links. There are also other links of interest throughout the web pages for you to explore.



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Program Updates and more....



Public Affairs

(Submitted by Bradley Ware, FSO-PA)

National Safe Boating Week was a success at Group St. Petersburg. Our flotilla was well represented. June 7th was Bradley's seventh year working with the Cub Scouts of America Jamboree at the University of Tampa. It was a fine, uplifting experience that is different

every year. MSO's Commander Merlin, the Sea Partner Program coordinator, has asked us to put on a kids program in Bradenton, and has assured us that Division 8 welcomes our participation. The scheduled date is August 27. The Sea Partners Program provides education about environmental hazards such as chemicals and waste, and their effects on the marine environment. More importantly, it describes what recreational boaters can do to protect our waters.

Information Services

(Submitted by Frank Ansel, FSO-IS)

How does our flotilla compare this year what we accomplished at this time last year? Here are our statistics:



Facility	Hours for 2004	Hours for 2005
Air	0	29
Boat	2122	919
Radio	68	10
Unit	5699	4309
Total	7989	5267

When looking for (or wishing you knew how to search for) on-line data, try some of these sites:

The "How To" Library: Step by step tutorials detailing everything from how to load Citrix to updating your personal information:

<http://www.auxservices.org/support/B&B.htm>

AuxInfo: Public access to information. You can sign on as a guest, no username or password required:

<http://www.auxinfo.uscg.gov>

Aux eDirectory: Member lookup. Username and password required. (Note: You must submit your current email to IS in order to obtain a username.)

<http://www.auxedirectory.org>

Still can't find what you are looking for? Call Frank. He will gladly show you how, and he offers in-home service!

Publications



This is your newsletter. Keep those items of interest and photos coming to ensure the next issue! I would also appreciate your input on what kinds of items/ stories you would like to see.

Summertime... and the living is easy...

Easy? Who are we kidding? Between heat and humidity, it sometimes feels like a sweltering Inferno out there! Just as experienced boaters can sometimes forget to check the plug, we can get careless with heat precautions as well. Here are some tips for staying safe this summer:



"To attain optimal hydration drink two or three glasses of fluid over the two hours *before you actually start* boating or other activity. Then maintain hydration by drinking four to eight ounces every half-hour or so. **Do not drink caffeinated sodas, beer or any alcoholic beverages.** They promote dehydration. Your best choice is cool water. Also, to maintain an adequate salt balance, eat regularly or snack on salt containing foods such as pretzels.

To learn more, please read the source document in its entirety: *Heat and Hydration* by Richard C. Lavy, M.D. You can find it at:

http://www.cgau.org/cgauweb/home_frame_955a.htm

Meet new Member : Kevin Williams

Kevin was sworn in as a member of the Auxiliary in December of 2004. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1986-89. The last few years have kept Kevin busy as he moved from pathology to becoming a paramedic, a nurse, and most recently, a flight certified Registered Nurse. Kevin is not yet finished furthering his formal education. Next year he plans to apply for medical school.



As a paramedic and a flight nurse, Kevin experiences more than his share of trauma. He describes himself as a "simple person", and most of his hobbies and personal entertainment choices, while not sedentary, are sedate in nature. He most enjoys the outdoors and being on the water. He likes to read, and all of his time in the class room keeps his nose in one book or another. Kevin admitted that he once played keyboard in a band and likes contemporary Rock music, but with career development being forefront in his life, Kevin no longer has time to play music.



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Patrol Sights....



◀Sector St. Pete,
for those of you who
have not been across
the Bay...

Dry dock in Tampa
Bay ▶
Yes, they do get
those big ones up
out of the water!



Here are the Facts- Information that bears repeating:

The U.S. Coast Guard's most recent boating-related accident statistics show:
• 703 fatalities — 3,888 injuries — nearly \$40.5 million in property damage.

- Eighty-six percent of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets.
- Alcohol was involved in close to 40 percent of all boating fatalities.
- About 80 percent of all boating fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not completed a boating safety education course.
- The most reported types of accidents are collisions with other vessels. However, capsizing and falls overboard are the most reported types of fatal accidents which account for over half of all boating fatalities.
- Overall, operator inattention, carelessness/reckless operation, operator inexperience, and excessive speed are the leading contributing factors of all reported accidents.

Recreation boating accidents are tragic because the great majority of accidents are preventable!

For additional information, and to read the article in its entirety, go to: <http://www.uscgboating.org/command/initiative.htm>