



Tampa Boat Show a Success

The Tampa Boat Show held at the Tampa Convention Center from Thursday, September 29th, through October 2nd was another great success for Division 7, and the many members who volunteered their time. Amos and Bunny Johnson set up the booth and volunteered many hours to man the station. Other members of our flotilla who volunteered include Newt Anderson, Tim Manning, Bradley Ware, Rick George, Burnie Wilhelm, Kathleen Heide, Dave Rusinko, and Dottie Riley. Approximately 400 visitors passed through the booth, and many expressed interest in attending Boating Safety courses in their areas, while a few persons inquired about joining the Auxiliary. Members of other flotillas who assisted include Ron Matz, Brenda Burger, Jerry Routt, and Sid Maillet from FL75, and Andy



Amos and Bunny Johnson explain safe boating practices and programs to a visitor at the Tampa Boat Show.

Miziak from FL 73. Bunny expressed a special thanks to all who volunteered and contributed to the show's great success!

Sea Partners Goes Back to School

Photos and Information submitted by Janet Percha, FSO-PA, FL85, Palmetto, and Bradley Ware, FSO-PA, FL79



Bradley shows a child how to properly wear and adjust a PFD.

Department in Tampa. The fair was organized to address many safety issues, particularly tips on how to prevent child abductions and the dangers of sexual predators. *Sea Partners* presented information on how to

At the beginning of this school year, Manatee County schools hosted a "Back to School Safety Fair" on August 17 at the Two Rivers Business Park in Bradenton. Over fifty agencies sponsored a safety booth including the USCG

Prevention Department in Tampa. Assisting the Prevention department were members of FL85 in Palmetto, and Bradley Ware from our flotilla. *Coastie* and *Patches*, the fire department's robot, were able to connect with children and parents with safety information (materials) and demonstrations.

Team Coast Guard!



Coastie and Jan Percha, FL 85, talk to the children about staying safe on the water.



Flotilla Officers

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J. Michael Shea

Vice Commander:
Newton Anderson

Finance Officer:
Thomas Elarbee

Secretary & Publications:
Dorothy Joan Riley

Communications & Operations:
David Rusinko

Information Services:
Frank Ansel

Aids to Navigation:
Betty Hagan

Communications Services:
Kathi Kruczek

Career Counselor:
Robert Bonanno

Marine Safety:
Lawrence Leduc

Member Training:
Cliff Martin

Materials:
Richard Rioles

Public Affairs & Program Visitor:
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/>
Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link to the newsletter.

From the Helm

J. Michael Shea, Flotilla Commander



It is election time again in the Auxiliary, and I just thought I would add my “two cents” on the subject. Elections may not be the best way for the Auxiliary to choose officers. Why don’t we do something revolutionary, like promote the most qualified person using a system like the Coast Guard and other military branches do, whereby the most qualified persons are promoted into these positions? The Auxiliary already operates under a similar system for most of our jobs – staff officer at all levels are chosen based upon their ability and qualifications. Why not choose our elected officers based upon their leadership abilities, their qualifications, and their demonstrated capability to handle the job? Our current system has produced uncertainty and confusion at Division level. With only days to go before we cast our votes, we do not know who is running, or for what office.

It was not hard to find the good staff

officers we have at here at Flotilla 79. You all stepped forward when asked to do so. For the most part, that is equally true at the upper levels of the Auxiliary; people who have shown ability and dedication are asked to serve, and they do.

I suggest we move to a system where some former Flotilla, Division, or District officers sit down on a review committee/board (or what ever we want to call them) and consider the group of officers who could be asked to step up to an open job. After a person is chosen, they should be asked to serve, and if they do not wish to hold that office, then the next most qualified asked until we find a qualified and willing person who is prepared to step forward.

Just one man’s thoughts...



Safety First

Mike Shea, Coxswain, and Kathleen Heide, Crew, prepare to educate recreational boaters about safety as the *Carnivale Miracle* heads out to sea. Auxiliarists have witnessed many dangerous practices by boaters, including boats anchored while fishing **within** the channel as the cruise ship approaches, and boaters cutting directly across the cruise ship’s path. Instances like these are great opportunities to invite boaters to attend a Boating Safety Program, as well as to provide on-the-spot education about the dangers of operating small crafts within close proximity of larger vessels. Kevin Williams accompanied them on this wet



and rainy October 2nd safety patrol. Photographic angles are deceptive... they are not as close as they appear as the cruise ship moves out of its berth.

The *Seven Niner* is a publication United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 79, located at 5108 Gandy Blvd., Tampa, Florida, 33611. The cost of publication is provided by dues-paying members of the Auxiliary, an organization of unpaid, civilian volunteers whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. Articles may be reprinted only with the expressed consent of the author or photographer, with proper credit given to same. For permissions or for more information, please contact Dorothy Joan Riley, FSO-PB, (813) 684-9996. DRiley1@Tampabay.RR.com
Note: Photos not specifically credited to others were taken by the FSO-PB.



Program Updates and more....

Fellowship

Our September fellowship dinner was a tribute to the south, and a few good ole' southerners showed up including this pair of 'local yokels' (a reference to the costumes only), Al and Jeannette Chambers.

Anyone who did not come missed Jeanette's incredibly delicious grits and sausage casserole. While no one thought to bring good ole' southern music, Tom Elarbee's heat-warped classical tapes just about did the trick! Our next family night event will be held October 21, here at the flotilla.

All Auxiliarists and their family are invited to attend... and, there will be music!



Coastal Clean Up

Photo by Kathi Kruzcek



Our Flotilla was represented at the annual coastal clean-up event at Ballast Point by Mike Shea, FC, and Kathi Kruzcek, FSO-CS. Kathi brought along her young neighbor, Casey Cannella, shown here with the fruits of his labors. Kathi did not miss out on this valuable opportunity to mentor our youth and imbue them with a sense of civic pride and civic responsibility. Shall we look for Casey to join our flotilla in a decade?

Bob Stribling Aids Katrina Victims

Bob Stribling was called to assist in providing relief to victims of this year's deadly hurricane season. He is presently assigned in Foley, Alabama, where people have lost their homes and their livelihoods. Entire families are living in tents with their children and pets. FEMA places families in temporary housing such as travel trailers and mobile homes, but also attempts to locate permanent housing for them as soon as possible. Once victims have filed their claims through FEMA, financial assistance is also made available to them.

Bob reports some victims walk around as if in a daze, overwhelmed by the loss of homes, jobs and sometimes, family members. He also noted the strong bonds that developed between victim families who survived this traumatic event. FEMA employees work ten hours a day, six days a week, and the housing shortage makes for rough accommodations.

Our hearts and our prayers are with you, Bob! You do us proud!

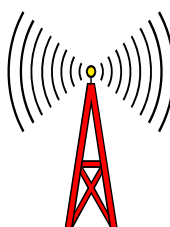
Welcome New Members

Our newest members, Timothy Hamby and Edward Smith were sworn in at the September meeting. Edward is the brother of George Russell Smith, who was sworn in earlier this year.

Member Training

Ten members are currently attending crew training on Thursday nights at the flotilla, including six members from Flotilla 72. The on the water portion of the training is scheduled to begin on Saturday morning from October 8th through the end of November, with QE mission slated for November 19th.

Communications



With crew training moving to the on-the-water portion of the training this October and November, Watchstanders in need of hours to maintain their qualifications have ample opportunity to get those shifts in before the end of the year. The OTW training will be every Saturday, so contact D. Rusinko, FSO-OP/CM as soon as possible to secure your hours!

Light Lists

Submitted by Kathi Kruzcek, SO-AN

Coxswains should recall that we are required to have the Light List on our facilities. The entire 2005 Light List for our District is difficult to obtain in print, and has far more information than we need for our operational area. A shorter version that meets the basic requirement can be obtained via the Flotilla web site: <http://www.cgwebs.net/flotilla79/>. Click on the vessel safety check tab, go to the bottom of the page, and click on Light List. This will bring you to the NOAA site. Click on District 7, or Florida, on the map, and the appropriate light list will open in your browser. Print the following pages: 198 thru 211. You may print each page individually by using 'Print Current Page' command, or you can print the range of required pages. Be careful...don't print the whole light list or you will run out of paper and ink! While you are at it, review the first few pages of the list for general information.



Egmont Key Lighthouse



USCGA Flotilla 79
Return Address:
Dorothy Joan Riley, FSO-PB
1630 Wakefield Drive
Brandon, FL 33511-2325

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Operation Life Ring



Donations Needed: Operation Life Ring Program

Auxiliary members, as well as flotillas, divisions, and districts, are urged to donate whatever they can afford to **OPERATION LIFE RING (OLR)** , to assist their shipmates in the Gulf Coast region whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Donations can be accepted from non-Auxiliary members and corporations. As of this date, almost \$40,000 has been donated..

Visit www.operationlifering.org and click on the "Donate Now " button to donate by credit card.

Patrol Sights... Joe and Betty Hagan took their new digital camera along on a recent patrol and spotted this pair. The barge, from Marine Safety & Recovery Corp., is used to clean up environmental hazards spills. What a beautiful vessel for such a dirty job!

Outrunning the storm... anyone going out on patrol during the summer months has likely had this experience! This shot was taken on a recent patrol with Kathi Kruzczak, Coxswain, Terri Modica, FL-74, and Dottie Riley, Crew. For the record... we made it!

