



New Year , New Faces 2006 Officers Installed

January's meeting was business as usual with a few changes: Newton Anderson, FC and Burnie Wilhelm, VFC, installed their new staff. The names include many of those familiar to the membership, as well as a few newer and less familiar ones. Tim Manning, Dottie Riley, and Kevin Williams (not shown) celebrate their first year with our flotilla, while Brian Dobson transferred into the flotilla at the end of last year. Missing are the names of members who held some positions for so long that their names have become synonymous with those offices: Bunny Johnson declined the Public Education office for another year. Fortunately, Steve Plass agreed to take on this great responsibility, and we can look forward to another great year in our PE pro-



The flotilla's new officers pose for a photo. From left to right: Newton Anderson, Mike Shea, Cliff Martin, Kathi Kruczek, Bob Stribling, Tim Manning, and Burnie Wilhelm. Behind them stand Brian Dobson, Tom Elarbee, Steve Plass, Dottie Riley, with Brad Ware and David Rusinko in the extreme rear. *Photo by K. Kruczek and A. Johnson (Don't we work well together!)*

gram. The new officers started the year by citing their goals. All are committed to the same goals voiced at every January meeting: to make this the best year ever for Flotilla 79!

Building Improvements Continue



Betty Hagan looks down from the ladder as she added the new letters on the sign outside the building. The sign now advertises the days and times recreational boaters may come to attend the Boating Safety and Seamanship Program. *Photo by Joe Hagan*

improvements to our building. As Chairperson for Building Committee, she assessed our needs and made several motions at meetings that got the ball rolling for a number of improvements. One of the needs Betty noted was the sign on the building's exterior. While the sign itself was still in good shape, some information was needed. Betty approached the vendor who originally created the board. The company, *Sign Solutions of Tampa Bay, Inc.*, not only agreed to make the necessary changes, but also gave them to our Flotilla free of charge! Our gratitude goes out to this company. Flotillas are dependent, in part, on this kind of public support in order to conduct their missions. Thanks, Betty, and many thanks to *Sign Solutions of*

Last year Betty Hagan went about initiating *Tampa Bay, Inc.!*



Flotilla Officers

Commander:
Newton Anderson

Vice Commander:
Burnie Wilhelm

Finance Officer:
Thomas Elarbee

Secretary & Publications:
Dorothy Joan Riley

Communications & Operations:
David Rusinko

Information Services:
Kevin Williams

Aids to Navigation:
Brian Dobson

Communications Services:
Kathi Kruczek

Marine Safety:
J. Michael Shea, IPFC

Materials:
Richard Rioles

Member Training:
Cliff Martin

Public Affairs:
Bradley Ware

Public Education:
Steve Plass

Marine Dealer Visitor:
Raymond Bost

Personnel Services:
R. Tim Manning

Vessel Examinations:
Paul Schweikhart

From the Helm



We are well into the new year at 79 and it's CLEANUP TIME. There are two areas that need work. First of course, is the facility. You'll be happy when you see the progress made on the interior of the building. "First Lieutenant"

Bob Stribling has worked diligently and has completed the painting. There being no other volunteers, I tried to assist, but I ended up putting more paint on my clothes than on the walls. Next, is the exterior and getting the colors flying, and beautifying the grounds - again. As soon as the wind lies down a little, Bob will be applying weed killer. Then we

will need more mulch. A work party or two will be needed, and I hope many of you will give Bob a hand. He has a lot of experience in landscaping and he'll get it right.

The second area needing cleanup has to do with qualifications. The REYR's have been posted in AUXDATA. I was surprised to see I have been REYR'd in two qualifications. And, I'm not the only one. I'll be emailing those of you whose qualifications need to be renewed. Please get to work on getting up-to-date. Let me know how I can help.

Newt Anderson, FC



National News

National Safe Boating Council Announces Grant Program

The National Safe Boating Council Announces a "Take 'em Boating" Grant Program (PDF: 12 KB / 2 pages) to promote and develop interest in boating for future generations. The award is one cash grant of up to \$5000 to be used for the enhancement or development of a youth-oriented hands-on boating program. You may also visit the National Safe Boating Council to learn more about the NSBC and their initiatives.

[Posted: 08 FEB 2006. Source: Gordon W. Martin, DVC-BR]

Is Your Information Up To Date?

Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address? Have you updated your personal AUXDATA record? If not, you're missing out! You may not be receiving The Navigator, or may not be getting properly reimbursed, or you may be missing current critical information from your Auxiliary leadership.



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Risky Business



Every year for the past several years the US Coast Guard has published Boating Statistics, a document that cites any number of statistics related boating accidents ranging from location of the accident by state and type of waterway, to vessel details, activities at the time of the accident, number of fatalities, and contributing factors to the accidents. The list is fairly extensive. Alcohol as a contributing factor was cited in 582 accidents. This is lower than in previous years, and failure to use a PFD remains the single most common indirect cause of death.

One of the more interesting statistics relates to the *activity* at the time of the accident. Waterskiing and tubing resulted in 581 accidents and 21 deaths. Clearly, this is one of the most hazardous activities on the water. The most dangerous, however, appears to be *fishing*. This activity was related to 592 accidents ; higher than either alcohol use or waterskiing, and resulted in 236 deaths. This figure represents nearly 35% of *all* fatalities reported. While the Coast Guard does not discourage fishing, boaters are encouraged to take better precautions while fishing. Safety measures include filing a float plan, wearing a PFD, and above all, learning the rules of the road by attending a Boating Safety program. Out of 6,725 ac-

cidents reported in 2004, the last year for which statistics are available, 3,003 accidents, or nearly 47%, involved collisions! The publication from which these statistics were taken can be found on line. Check out: *Boating Statistics-2004*, COMDTPUB P16754.18



Monkey Business

Registration numbers and faces deliberately obscured to protect the innocent.

Sea Partners and American Waterways Promote Boating Safety



Mike Shea, Reggie Rescue, and Chief Petty Officer Carol Ann Mullins pose beside the *Lucky Dog* in front of the New Tampa Publix.

Between holiday parties, Change of Watch, and preparations for the new year, the end of a year tends to be rather hectic. Hopefully, this explains why a November event appears in this month's newsletter.

On November 20th, Sea Partners and American Waterways, a program of the Prevention Unit Tampa (formerly MSO), attended a Boating Safety event at the Publix in New Tampa. Mike Shea represented the Auxiliary in our partnership with the United States Coast Guard, while Chief Petty Officer Mullins represented the "gold" side. Marine Max also participated this event.

The Sea Partners Campaign is an environmental education and outreach program focused on communities at large to develop community awareness of maritime pollution issues and to improve compliance with marine environmental protection laws and regulations. Sea Partners messages include:

1. The effects of oil, hazardous chemicals, waste and debris on the marine environment.
2. How marine environmental protection laws and regulations apply to various marine users.
3. Ways groups and individuals can take action to protect the marine environment.





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Mark Your Calendars...



February

20th, 7:30 PM: Flotilla Meeting
24th- Family Night
25th, 9:00 AM: TCT

March

20th- 7:30 PM: Flotilla Meeting
24th- Family Night

April

6th, 7:30 PM: Boat Crew Training
8th, 9:00 AM: Hazwopper
17th, 7:30 PM: Flotilla Meeting
21st- Family Night
22nd, 9:00 AM: Annual OPS Workshop

Gasparilla 2006



Ahoy, there, Mates! The Jose Gasparilla is loaded and ready to make its precarious journey through the crowded channel. While keeping boaters safe is serious business, the festive atmosphere is contagious.



In addition to her crew, Kathi Kruczek brought along Opus, who, while perched on the anchor, appeared to survive the assault of booty tossed out by the marauding pirates. Photos courtesy Kathi Kruczek