



Another Great Year for the “Best on the Bay”

The Division’s 2005 Auxiliary Awards Luncheon on May 13th aboard the Starship Dining Yacht was a well attended by our Flotilla. Our members filled several tables while a few others sat with friends from other flotillas. The annual luncheon is one of the few opportunities we have to enjoy the company of the many friendly faces we have come to know and like over the years, but the warmth and camaraderie between our Auxiliarists was just one of many the pleasures experienced by the members of 79 by day’s end. Our flotilla earned a number of the annual awards presented Division. These include the *Richie Award* for Public Affairs, the *Nettling Award* for Operations, the *Duignan Award* for Fellowship, and the *Captain’s Jug*, an award for excellence in Member Services,



Recreational Boating Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship. Individual members also earned prominent awards, most notably, Robert Stribling for *Auxiliarist of the Year*. We are especially proud of Bob, not only for his countless hours on behalf of our flotilla, but for his willingness to forego personal conveniences for two long months while assisting survivors of last year’s devastating hurricane season. Other individual awards include most Skipper/ coxswain hours to Kathi Kruczek, most crew hours to Dorothy Riley, and most Public Education hours to Al Minch who recently transferred to us from the former FL 72. Theresa Johnson received a Division Award of Appreciation for the monumental task of keeping our entire division’s data current for many years.

We have many reasons to feel proud—let’s give ourselves a round of applause!

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Cub Scouts Learn Safe Boating

Lona Elly, scout leader, has organized a day camp for Cub Scouts for over a decade. Since 1999 the Cub Scout day camp has included training for the boys in safe boating practices provided by the USCG Auxiliary. The goal, according to Bradley Ware, FSO-PA and ASO-PA, is to cultivate future safe boaters and good stewards of the water. The scouts are taught to wear life jackets, to be a good look-out, to recognize that in an emergency, five blasts of the horn means distress, and to know that channel 16 on the radio should be used for emergencies.



Brad Ware reviews safe boating points with Cub Scouts at the recent day camp. (Photo provided by Brad and Lona Elly, one of the organizers of this year’s event.)

As good stewards, the cub scouts are taught never to throw trash into the water, and to always try to leave the environment better than they found it. The boys are not too young to be introduced the impact of alcohol on boating safety. Other safety practices include the principles of (plus+1) ... always go out with a partner...

Whenever possible, the information

is offered through inter-active games, such as helping their buddies put on their life jackets. Brad hopes to attend next year’s camp. He believes that if just one of the scouts takes his words to heart, that the program is successful in making our future waters safer. Of course, he knows many of the boys hear his message!



Flotilla Officers

Commander:
Newton Anderson

Vice Commander:
Burnie Wilhelm

Finance Officer:
Thomas Elarbee

Secretary & Publications:
Dorothy Joan Riley

Communications & Operations:
David Rusinko

Information Services:
Amos Johnson *1

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

*1 Acting FSO-IS

National Safe Boating Week



This annual event is supported by nearly all of the major recreational boating organizations as well as the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This year, it was celebrated between May 20th and May 26th with some events as late as the following week end.

This year's message from the United States Coast Guard: **"You're in Command Boat responsibly!"** This message cannot be repeated often enough.

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 per-

cent 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.

Thanks to all of our members who participated in this year's events. Our message is critical in keeping our waters safe. (Facts taken from U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety, You're in Command Resource Center.)



Happy Anniversary USCG Auxiliary!

June 23, 2006 was a significant date for Team Coast Guard. It marked our Auxiliary's sixty-seventh year of dedicated service to the nation. Originally founded on June 23, 1939 as the US Coast Guard Reserve, and later renamed in 1941 as the Coast Guard Auxiliary; this all volunteer force has donated millions of hours to both the public and the Coast Guard over these last years.

"We take great pride in calling the men and women of the Auxiliary our shipmates. As I indicated in my Commandant's Intent Message to all Auxiliarist shortly after assuming command May 25, I consider each of our Auxiliary members an integral part of our Coast Guard. We simply could not meet the challenges we face or execute the missions we do on a day-to-day basis without their selfless

devotion to duty. Our Coast Guard Auxiliary is truly the finest all-volunteer organization on our nation. During the past year, they have answered the call to duty during some of the most trying times in our nation's history. The highest levels of professionalism and selflessness displayed by our Auxiliary Team following the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita was nothing short of monumental. Their heroic response during the worst natural disasters on record clearly illustrates their dedication to the service and our nation."

Read the complete message from ADM Allen at: http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx/ (AUX e-news, 22 June 2006)



The *Seven Niner* is a publication of the 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. All photographs are by D. Riley unless otherwise specified. For permissions or for more information, please contact Dorothy Joan Riley, FSO-PB, (813) 684-9996. DRiley1@Tampabay.RR.com



Program updates and more...

Communications



Oscar Kramer SO-CM, Dottie Riley, and David Rusinko, FSO-CM shown in the AUX Tampa One radio room during the Division net drill on June 25th. The drill tested our ability to communicate effectively and clearly with one another. Four stations within the Division participated in the drill. Thanks to Judy Kramer, we have this photo to share!

Public Education

Our on-going BS&S program is drawing as many as four new students a week. As of June 21st, the program cost increased to \$40 to help off-set the increase in the cost of text books. Two GPS programs have already been completed this year, and both were well attended. Beginning on July 25 and continuing on Tuesdays nights through September 29th, we will offer a Navigation and Piloting Program. This is a great opportunity to learn, or to refresh one's skills in navigation. A few texts and seats are still available. The charge for this program is \$125. Interested persons should contact Steve Plass.



Operations

While the number of patrol requests is down, the need for patrols has not decreased. This is the perfect time to schedule safety-training missions, and to get those annual "re-qual's" out of the way. Now that our summer storms are back, those safety patrols are doubly necessary. While serving as crew aboard the Won Ton II, Peter Ubillos, FL73, and Kevin

Yeaton, FL7-16, maneuvered a large plank floating near the docks up the launch ramp and pulled it out of the water. Hazards to navigation such as this are a serious consideration, especially after dark when objects in the water cannot readily be seen by boaters.

Bryan Dobson FSO-AN (see Member Spotlight inset below) has a 21 foot Cuddy that will soon be a facility. He will be looking for crew, so interested members should contact him by email. Hopefully, his addition to our fleet of facilities will help increase the number of scheduled patrols.



Member Spotlight



(Story submitted by Kathi Kruczek, Photo by K. Saruwatari, FL-74)

Bryan Dobson has been in the auxiliary under a year. Despite performing his demanding full time job as a professional mediator/negotiator and preparing for his wedding to his gracious wife Connie, Bryan completed Crew Training, Coxswain Training, Aids Certification, participated a myriad of other classes, and was appointed our Flotilla FSO-AN. His ability to calmly and expertly meet any challenge was exemplified when he easily demonstrated his boating skills to the Qualified Examiner while under small craft warning.

Low key, quiet, dedicated and goal oriented Bryan is never one to blow his own horn, so we will blow it for him! *Congratulations Bryan on all you have accomplished during your first year in the Auxiliary!*



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Mark Your Calendars...



July

- 4th– Independence Day
- 17th– 7:30PM: Flotilla Meeting
- 21st– Family Night
- 25th– 7 PM– Navigation and Piloting Program

August

- 21st– 7:30 PM: Flotilla Meeting
- 24th– Family Night



National Safe Boating Week activities included a blessing of the fleet at Sector St. Pete. Vessels from our various flotillas participated, as well as a number of Coast Guard facilities. Other NSBW activities included vessel safety checks performed by Burnie Wilhelm, VFC, and Al Minch at the Gandy boat ramp.