



Kevin Williams mans USCG Innovation Expo Booth

Story and Photo by Kevin Williams

The program of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Health Care Support (Directorate of Health and Safety) was accepted for presentation at the 2006 Coast Guard Innovation Expo that was held at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL from 26-28 June, 2006. This is a division within the Coast Guard Auxiliary headed up by Dr. Richard Lavy at USCG Headquarters intended to involve Auxiliarists interested in supplementing the Coast Guard mission in the area of Health Care.

In attendance at the Expo were United States Coast Guard Active Duty, Reserves, and Auxiliarists, including Kevin Williams, who manned the Health & Safety booth. Kevin is a paramedic and a flight nurse.

The Innovation Expo provided a great forum allowing Active Duty and Auxil-



iarists to be introduced to the program. This allowed for the brainstorming of ideas and the

(Continued on page 3)

De ja vu

Story submitted by K. Williams, Photo by PA1 Donnie Brzuska, USCG



On August 1, 2006, a Coast Guard homeland security boat from Station St. Petersburg, Fla., established a security zone around the cruise ship StarShip while a Coast Guard helicopter from Air Station Clearwater, Fla., hovered over head with a joint FBI and Coast Guard boarding team aboard. The cruise ship was playing a motor vessel carrying hazardous cargo attempting to enter the port with a suspected terrorist aboard during *Bay Sentinel 2006*. In this photo, the boarding team is preparing to lower from the helicopter and search for the suspected terrorist. Bay Sentinel is a multi-agency exercise aimed at testing the areas maritime security plan.

For some Auxiliarists, the Bay Sentinel exercise felt eerily familiar. It was reminiscent of a similar event several years ago on a day etched into the minds of most Americans.

On both days, local Auxiliarists rose before dawn to get their vessels into the water –long before the sun dissipated the misty shroud over the water that typify of our early morning hours. Both days witnessed most of the same participants: Coast Guard vessels and a helo, local law enforcement contingents, a cruise vessel, several Auxiliary vessels, and Public Affairs personnel.

The significant difference was that on that other day, September 11, 2001, the exercise was abruptly interrupted by the news of two planes crashing into the Twin Towers. Betty Hagan said, "It gave me strange feelings going on this mission since it was so similar to the one on 9-11."

Fortunately, Bay Sentinel 2006 was not marked by such catastrophic events. David Rusinko reported that the operation went smoothly. Even the weather and water conditions cooperated. After the operation, a film crew from FOX News used David's facility, the *Semper Fi*, to film a short intro for their story which was televised during their broadcast.



Flotilla Officers

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Finance Officer:
Frank Ansel, Jr.

Secretary & Publications:
Dorothy Joan Riley

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David Rusinko

Information Services:
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Aids to Navigation:
Brian Dobson

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Marine Safety:
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Richard Rioles

Member Training:
Cliff Martin

Operations:
Robert Stribling

Public Affairs:
Bradley Ware

Public Education:
Steve Plass

Marine Dealer Visitor:
Raymond Bost

Personnel Services:
R. Tim Manning

Vessel Examinations:
Paul Schweikhart

The Race to Save Qu Yuan



For the many of you who got up before dawn and spent long hours under the hot summer sun maintaining a safety zone, here is a little information for you about Dragon Boat Racing.

The races date back almost 2000 years to the Chinese legend of Qu Yuan. According to the legend, Qu threw himself into the Milou River after being exiled from his beloved homeland. The race is a re-enactment of the local fishermen's attempt to save him from the water dragons and other terrors that lurked beneath. Over the years, the dragon faces came to adorn the sleek, long boats, and lent their name to the event.

The sport has gained in popularity and has spread from Asia throughout the rest of the world. A Philadelphia team presently holds the world champion title.

The event hosted in Tampa this August was the 2006 National Competition. The winning team will go to Sydney Australia next year for the 2007 World Championship. We will not be required to maintain a safety zone for that event!



Joe and Betty Hagan prepare for the opening of the 2006 Dragon Boat Races. Amos and Bunny Johnson with Bob Stribling, crew, follow close behind.

District Seven News

Seventh District Conference

Members of FL 79 who have never attended a District Conference just ran out of excuses. The District Seven Fall Conference will be held at the Westin Tampa Harbor Island Hotel from September 14-17th. The four day conference boasts a number of activities ranging from educational opportunities to social gatherings. Check out: <http://cgaux7.org/> for conference details, and while you are there, register for the event! Come for a few hours; come for a day, or for the entire event. Registration is a mere \$10. The evening socials carry separate charges. Cliff Martin is the On-scene Coordinator for the conference.

District 7 Hosts AUX-12 PA C-School

From July 21-23, District Seven hosted a Public Affairs C-School at the Wyndham Westshore Hotel in Tampa. Auxiliarists from throughout District 7 attended, including your very own Dottie Riley. Lou De Nunzio, DSO-PA7, organized the course, which was taught by Lou and members of the National PA staff including Nick Tarlson, Robert Westcott, and Robert Nelson. The course outlined the newly created Public Affairs Specialist Qualification and covered many subjects vital to those Auxiliarists who have regular contact with the boating public.

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District Seven News (cont.)



Shirley Coleman, DSO-PB, Dottie Riley and David Robinson from Bradenton, pool ideas for creating a dynamic flotilla public affairs program.

Photo by Ken Sommers, D-AA

The Division plans to hold a seminar on September 24 from 0900 to 1200 offering a brief overview of the three day seminar and the new PA qualification. All Auxiliarists are invited. Anyone interested should contact Kay Lori, SO-PA at: klori@tampabay.rr.com

Division Seven News

New Division Web Page

Check out the new Division website! Terry Modica, SO-CS, has compiled a great new page for our Division. It is easy to find. Go to the Fl 79 home page and click on the link to your Division page (the little map with blue near the bottom of the page.) Kathi Kruczek wasted no time in creating a link from the Flotilla to the Division web pages. <http://cgwebs.net/flotilla79/>

Division 7 Fellowship Picnic

If you missed the Division picnic earlier this year, here is another opportunity for fun and fellowship with members of your sister flotillas. The next picnic will be held on September 30th on Picnic Island from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. All sorts of fun-filled competitions are planned including a heaving line and Boccie ball competitions, a dessert contest, and a great menu! Contact Betty Hagan (813) 961-0328 if you plan to attend. There is a minimal charge of \$12 per adult and \$7 per child to cover the cost of the food. Bring your entire family! Boats welcomed, No alcoholic beverages allowed.

(Continued from page 1)

opportunity to meet with some Active Duty health care personnel and Auxiliarists who are currently privileged or credentialed to participate in the Directorate. It also provided an opportunity for members who are interested in participating to meet personnel from that area of the country near them.

The primary focus of the Directorate of Health and Safety at the Expo, was to strategize, brainstorm, and further discuss the process of recruiting, enrolling, credentialing and privileging (when applicable) health care personnel who are interested in participating in the program.

During the Expo there were a number of key speakers ranging from members of the USCG, the Public Health Service, and Department of Homeland Security, to the Mayor of the City of Tampa, Pam Iorio. Of course, the highlight of the expo came on Wednesday, when Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, addressed current issues within the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security.

Information about the 2006 Coast Guard Innovation Expo can be obtained at:

<http://www.uscg.mil/innovation/> <<http://www.uscg.mil/innovation/>>

Department News

Public Education

Several of our most reliable instructors have fallen ill, including but not limited to Ben Drenth and Tom Elarbee. We wish them a speedy recovery and want them to know that they are sorely missed! In the meantime, volunteers are needed to keep pace with our public education program. Call Steve Plass to volunteer, and again, best wishes to Ben and Tom, and to all of our members who find themselves a little bit under the weather!

Annual Dues

Hope you remembered to send in your annual dues! The final date is September 1st.

Hurricane Alerts

With the hurricane season upon us, please check your email frequently and respond to emails and calls to verify your location during the storm. The notification system was put in place by the Coast Guard after Katrina and Rita left hundreds of active duty, Reservists and Auxiliarists unaccounted for after last year's devastating storm season.

Please let us (Nute) know if you will be in the area when a storm is predicted in our sector!

The anniversary of Katrina/ Rita has arrived. Please continue to support our members affected by last year's storms, and pray that our area does not become the next major relief effort.





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Mark Your Calendars...



- Sep 14-17:** District Conference, Westin Tampa Harbor Island Hotel
- Sep 18, 1930:** Flotilla Meeting
- Sep 22, 1900:** FL 79 Family Night
- Sep 30:** Division 7 Fellowship Event
- Oct 16, 1930:** Flotilla Meeting
- Oct 20, 1900:** FL 79 Family Night
- Oct 21, 0900:** Division Meeting



Amos and Bunny Johnson and Bob Stribling prepare to take their positions at the starting line for the opening of the 2006 National Dragon Boat Race competitions.