



Boat Show a Success

Story: 'Bunny' Johnson, Photo: Robert Bonanno



Kathi Kruczek and Robert Bonanno stand ready with literature in hand.

Bunny Johnson thanks all those who made the Tampa Boat Show such a terrific success. Volunteers included Ron Matz, who put up and took down the display and lugged all of

with all of Division Seven's flotilla's information. Thanks to who so generously donated their time!

the heavy boxes. Volunteers who manned the show for the three day event include Amos and Bunny Johnson, Rick George, Kevin Williams, Brad Ware, Al Felman, Dave Rusinko, Brian Dobson, Betty and Joe Hagan, Robert Bonanno, Kathi Kruczek, Burnie Wilhelm. Volunteers from other flotillas were Bob Lowry from FL 74, Jerry Routt, Joe Parrish and Walt Wagner, from FL 75. Over two hundred customers stopped by to pick up information and ask questions.

Brochures were handed out

Taps: The Loss of a Member, Mentor and Friend

Photo courtesy Betty Hagan

If example is the best teacher, then our flotilla lost one of its best leaders and instructors on October 14th with the passing of Thomas Byron Elarbee.

Tom received his forty year pin this year, and his commitment to, and involvement with the USCG AUX exemplified the four cornerstones of the Auxiliary: Public Education, Search and Rescue, Vessel Examinations and Fellowship.

Tom is a past PE officer and was a strong supporter of the PE program. His face was a common sight on Wednesday nights at the BS&S program where he frequently taught the navigation portion of the program. He participated in many search and rescue missions including the Blackthorn disaster.

Tom was a qualified vessel examiner and a past FSO-VE. He recognized that fellowship is the glue of any volunteer organization, and he and his wife, Doris, attended every family night dinner except when family or other matters called him out of town. No face, no voice was more familiar than his. Every



meeting started with Tom's sure voice delivering the invocation.

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Flotilla Officers

Commander:
Newton Anderson

Vice Commander:
Burnie Wilhelm

Finance Officer:
Frank Ansel, Jr.

Secretary & Publications:
Dorothy Joan Riley

Communications
David Rusinko

Information Services:
Amos Johnson

Aids to Navigation:
Brian Dobson

Communications Services:
Kathi Kruczek

Marine Safety:
J. Michael Shea, IPFC

Materials:
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

Touching on Our Cornerstones.



The upcoming months will likely bring more boaters on the water, especially on weekends, as the temperatures moderate. As boating traffic increases, we have an opportunity to demonstrate our presence on the water

through various patrols. Simply being there provides value. An example of being in the right place at the right time occurred a couple of weeks ago.

CG Aux Facility owned by Dave Rusinko and captained by Frank Ansel, with myself and Dave as crew, were on a safety mission and came upon a boater in distress. Seems he had just taken his boat out on a trial run from the repair shop and among other things he was out of oil. His boat was effectively “dead in the water”. We conducted the rudimentary questions and determined it was proper for us to tow him to the nearest public dock, which happened to be at the Courtney Campbell Causeway where his vehicle and trailer were parked. We started with a long-tow, and as we approached the docks, completed the process with an along-side tow. It all went off like clockwork, just as we had trained.

The boat owner happens to own a bakery in south Tampa. He was extremely pleased with our efforts as volunteers and offered to bring cookies to our flotilla for our next meeting. I had forgotten about his offer, but sure enough, a couple of platters of sandwiches and cookies were delivered to our October membership meeting; a nice

token of thanks for our efforts as Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Another opportunity of interfacing with the public occurs during our BS & S Classes, conducting Safety Inspections, etc. As instructors, we all have our individual styles, and as one student said, “You are all unique”. He meant this as a compliment, as it provided another dimension of interest for the participants.

One of my favorite questions to ask a boat owner is the following: Suppose you have a small boat. It is powered by an out-board engine and the transom has a notch in for mounting purposes. IE has reduced amount of freeboard. You are in rough water, a strong wind is blowing and your motor dies and will not start. What is the first thing you should do to provide maximum protection your passengers and yourself given these conditions? By now, everyone has their life jackets on! My advice is, lower your anchor over the bow with plenty of line, allowing your boat to “come around” with the bow facing the wind. I continue to be surprised by the number of people that had not thought of doing this one simple thing that would allow them to buy time, while others come to their aid.

We should all be proud of our efforts to provide boating education and safety to the boating public. There is no question in my mind that we provide value, and in effect save lives.

Safe Boating and Best Regards,

Burnie Wilhelm, Vice Commander
Flotilla 79



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Tom Elarbee

While Tom Elarbee is also a past VFC, the flotilla owes him much gratitude for taking on the thankless task of finance officer, and getting and keeping the flotilla “in the black”. For this, he received the Flotilla Commander’s Auxiliarist of the Year Award in 2005. He is survived by his wife Doris, his daughter, Elizabeth and her husband, Sean McCarthy, and two grandsons, Dylan and Gavin.

Farewell dear friend. you will be sorely missed!

Program Updates

Communication Services: Kathi Kruczek should be applauded for how quickly she updates our web page. The only drawback for the rest of us, is that we have no excuses for not getting current issues and information from DC7 or our new Division web pages... they are just a “click on a link” away!

Operations: All currency maintenance must be completed and entered into AUXDATA by December 1st. This leaves precious little time for members who have not as yet completed these annual requirements. Changes are in the wind for currency maintenance requirements beginning next year. More information on this once Sector St. Pete issues their directives.

Public Education continues to go strong and is averaging 30 participants a week. We urgently need more instructors and volunteers to assist on Wednesday nights to keep this vital program going. Not instructor qualified? No problem! You don’t need this qualification to show your support and assist with grading the weekly quizzes. Please contact Steve Plass if interested.

District Seven News

One of the events held at the District Seven Conference in Tampa this past month was our annual elections. Next year’s leaders: Allen Brown, District Commodore, and Donald Frasch (DCP, District 9), is our new Vice Commodore. Walter Jaskiewicz (DCP, District 11) is the new RCO-W. The District Seven web site announces that with the new leadership and new staff, the training conference scheduled from January 11-14 in Orlando will also be revised. More details on this event as the time approaches. It is, however, never to early go to the District’s web site and pre-register for the January conference.

Division Seven News

The Division’s coordinated efforts at this year’s Tampa Boat Show graces the front page of this month’s newsletter. Division elections were held November 21st. Congratulations to our newly elected Division officers, Conrad Palermo as Division Captain, and Carl Nelson, Division Vice Captain.

Public Affairs and Publications: A new qualification in Public Affairs is available to members and is recommended for all members who are in routine contact with the boating public. The department’s new motto:

“Public Affairs is Everybody’s Business.”



Take a camera with you to all programs and events. Send your photos to Brad Ware, FSO-PA and Dottie Riley, FSO-PB. Your photographs should always include an Auxiliarist. Remember, we publish *about* Auxiliarists, *for* Auxiliarists! Digital images should always be shot at the highest resolution possible.



Tim Manning has been busy with **Personnel Services**. Nute Anderson and Burnie Wilhelm swore in Mercedes Bujans and Michael Cabrera at the September meeting, while Stefan Stein brought his family to the October meeting to witness him taking his oath. Stefan appears here with his parents, Stefan and Janet, and his brother, Will.

Photos courtesy Tim Manning.



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Mark Your Calendars...



- NOV 13th:** Captain's Meeting
- NOV 20th, 1930:** Flotilla 79 Meeting, Gandy Blvd
Election of Flotilla Officers
(Note: No family night event in November)
- DEC 9th, 1130:** Division Seven Change of Watch, Sam Seltzer's Steak House
- DEC 18th, 1930:** Flotilla 79 Meeting and Annual Christmas/ Holiday Party, Gandy Blvd.



Betty Hooper won a signed print of this painting by Dottie Riley at a raffle held at the September Family night event. Proceeds from the raffle went to the canteen fund. Thanks to all who donated so generously, and congratulations, Betty!