



Gasparilla: Mayhem, Madness, and Down-right Fun!



January 27, 2007, Tampa Bay: The Jose Gasparilla and its crew of unsavory pirates approaches Tampa, where they will lay siege to the city. Every year the pirates conquer the city despite its vast defenses, and every year the Mayor of Tampa surrenders the Keys to the City to the Pirates. Auxiliarist are charged with protecting manatees from accidental harm from careless boaters, and with keeping the channels clear.



Left: In the calm before the siege, the *Semper Fi* and its crew head away from the USCG Prevention Department in Tampa to the entrance of the channel. Pictured are Dave Rusinko, Coxswain, Frank Ansel, crew, and Stefan Stein, trainee, from our Flotilla, while Steve Rea, FL 11-10, and Jonathon Laroung, FL 84, also served as crew. AUX facilities and members from three Divisions assisted in the event.

Over at last! Gasparilla “booty” adorns the deck and rails of *Water Won Two* as the vessel waits its turn at the Davis Island Boat ramp. Kathi Kruczek, Coxswain, and Joanne Ebborn, crew, smile for the camera, while Sharon Taubenfeld packs away equipment. Mike Shea (not shown) had Reggie aboard for the annual event. Wonder if Joanne intercepted a bone meant for the *Lucky Dog*?





Flotilla Officers

Commander:
Richard George

Vice Commander:
Kevin Williams

Immediate Past FC:
Newton Anderson

Finance Officer:
Frank Ansel, Jr.

Secretary
Betty Hagan

Aids to Navigation:
Bryan Dobson

Communications:
David Rusinko

Information Services:
Vernita George

Communications Services:
Kathi Kruczek

Marine Safety:
J. Michael Shea

Materials:
Richard Rioles

Member Training:
Cliff Martin

Operations:
Robert Stribling

Public Affairs:
Bradley Ware

Publications:
Dottie Riley

Public Education:
Steve Plass

Personnel Services:
R. Tim Manning

Vessel Examinations:
Burnie Wilhelm

Fellowship Chair:
Robert Stribling

Editorial

Recently, a member of the Coast Guard asked me a question, which thankfully, I did not have the opportunity to answer. Someone else walked up to us and injected an entirely different topic into the conversation. I have since had time to reflect on my answer. The question was one that no doubt, many Auxiliarists have heard: “*Why does it seem like everybody in the Auxiliary is an officer?*”

The Coast Guard follows a Chain of Command structure similar to other branches of the military. Within this structure, rank denotes leadership and connotes authority. The word ‘rank’ also suggests a class structure. This concept is further reinforced by the separation of members into *Officers* and *Non-commissioned Officers*, with the second group comprising the majority of the membership.

The USCG Auxiliary, on the other hand,

follows a Chain of Leadership and Management. There is no command authority as is found within the military as every member within the organization is a volunteer, and one simply cannot command volunteers! Also, we do not hold “rank”, but rather Office.

Without the power to command, what does our insignia mean? For staff officers, an Auxiliarist’s “rank” indicates how much *Responsibility* that individual member has volunteered to assume. The greater the office, the greater the responsibility, and usually, the greater the corresponding hours of work. For elected officers, insignia indicates how much *other* members trusted this individual to assume responsibility; and, as with staff offices, the higher Offices usually require more investments of time and effort.

Why do we seem to be a majority of officers? Because as volunteers, our Offices represent our willingness to serve, and we are proud to do so.
Dorothy Joan Riley, FSO-PB FL 79, SO-PB Division 7

Across Flotilla Lines...

Story Outline submitted by Kathi Kruczek. Photo by Christine Cockrell

On February 7th, Auxiliary facilities and members of five flotillas within our Division joined for a training mission to benefit several trainees, and for qualified crew to perform their annual OTW currency maintenance. Shown here, the crew of the *Water Won Two* hauls the *Southern Cross* from a long tow to a short tow. Aboard the *Water Won Two* are Kathi Kruczek, Coxswain, Cortez Lake, FL 72, and Kevin Yeaton, 7-16, crew, and Mercedes Bujans, trainee. Also aboard as guest was Christine Cockrell, one of our newest members, who served as observer and photographer.

The *Southern Cross*, in the role of the “dead



boat” was manned by Bryan Dobson, Coxswain, Peter Ubillos from FL 73, crew and radio operator, and Ralph and Terry Modica, both from FL 74. Bet that was fun!

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Program Updates

Communication Services

Our flotilla web site eliminates the need for a lengthy list of USCGAUX bookmarks within one's internet browser (Netscape, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, etc.) as there are links to just about every site and resource Auxiliarists need and use on a day to day basis. It is, in fact, so easy to navigate that you may consider adding its icon/ link to your desktop, or making it your homepage.

As our FSO-CS, Kathi reminds us that E-mail is a great way to exchange information, pictures and documents between two or more people. It is fast and convenient, but like face to face conversations, common courtesies apply. If someone sends you information, or a picture, especially if you requested it, please let the sender know that you received it. "Thank you", or, "Thanks I received it", will do just fine. Of course, Kathi is not referring to e-mail from strangers or "junk mail". She is talking about e-mails from friends and colleagues. Please don't leave your friends guessing. Just hit the "REPLY" button.
Thank you, Kathi, for this much needed reminder!

Public Affairs

Spring is fast approaching, but the boat shows are already here! The first of these events is the Tampa Tribune Outdoors Expo and Boat Show hosted by Frank Sargeant from March 2nd through the 4th. The event features boating, fishing, hunting, the latest in outdoor gear, mini seminars and demonstrations, and is a great opportunity for the Auxiliary to introduce guests to our boating programs, and to the Auxiliary.

The second event is the Central Florida Marine Dealers Expo to be held from March 15th through the 18th at the Florida State Fairgrounds. We have empty slots at both events. Members interested in volunteering should contact Bradley Ware at (813) 855-6997.

Public Education

We are maintaining an average of 30 participants in our BS&S program and are tentatively rescheduling the navigation course (BCN/ACN) to mid- June. Presently, there are no plans to conduct the specialty America's Boating Course (ABC) short course except to fulfill a specific demand.

We can always use more instructors for depth. We have a few instructors who teach several lessons, so it would be good to relieve some of their workload. Members are welcome on Wednesday nights to assist in the on-going program. While your help is sought and appreciated, it is also a great way to determine if becoming an instructor is a 'fit' for you, and is another opportunity to spend time with some great people.



Steve Plass, FSO-PE

Member Training

Several important training dates should be marked on our calendars. Some are required annually while others are mandated every three to five years. If you do not remember when you are due to attend a refresher course, check with your FSO-IS, FSO-MT, or try the new link to the AUXINFO database that lists all of your competencies and the trainings you attended: <http://cgaux7.org/auxinfo/Division7.htm>
This site was forwarded to the members by our FSO-CS, and is very easy to access.



Teaching aids used in the table-top portion of crew training.

Upcoming trainings include Sexual Harassment Prevention (0900) and Proper Uniforms and Where to Buy (1130), March 3rd at FL 79, HAZWOPPER (0900- 1300) at FL 79. Boat Crew Training is scheduled to begin April 5th. New members interested in attending should contact Cliff Martin, FSO-OP.

All TCT requirements are still in effect. The new task is a one hour refresher taken annually. Contact Amos Johnson for questions.

Operations

Several critical procedures are currently in effect, or are expected to change in the near future. All coxswains and facility owners should keep abreast of these changes. Effective February 18th, only Bench marks will be used for OPS reports. OPS normal reports should not be given when doing training revolutions. The GAR assessment has also changed. Contact Robert Stribling, FSO-OP for information, or if you need copies of the Bench marks or GAR assessment guidelines.

Vessel Examination Program

Good news! After taking time off from the program to serve as our VFC, Burnie Wilhelm has agreed to once again serve as our FSO-VE. At the Flotilla meeting on February 19th, Burnie



Photo submitted by Betty Hagan

took his Oath of Office administered to him by Rick George, FC, with Kevin Williams, VFC, in attendance. We can now look forward to a productive year, in this, one of the four corner stones of the USCG Auxiliary.



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Mark Your Calendars:



- Mar 3-5,** Frank Sargeant's Expo,
Florida State Fairgrounds
- Mar 3, 0900** Sexual Harassment Prevention, FL79
- 1130** Prop. Uniforms, and Where to Buy, FL79
- Mar 10, 0900** HAZWOPPER FL79
- Mar 17-19** Boat Expo, Fla. Fairgrounds
- Mar 19, 1930** Flotilla Meeting, FL79
- Mar 23, 1900** Fellowship Night, FL 79
- Apr 5, 1930*** Crew Training, FL79
* Every Thurs night throughout the month
- Apr 14, 0900*** OTW Crew Training
*Every Sat. for the rest of the month
- Apr 16, 1930** Flotilla Meeting, FL 79
- Apr 20, 1900** Fellowship Night, FL 79



Peter Mooy is sworn in at the February 19th flotilla meeting by Rick George, FC. Welcome, Peter! We have several programs that would love to take advantage of your willingness to volunteer and to serve!