



# Seven Niner

## *Fellowship: The Fourth Cornerstone*



October's offerings included sausage appetizers, and sweet potato and squash dishes in keeping with the season. Main courses included chicken and beef dishes, and the dessert table was laden with cakes and pies. *Photo by Betty Hagan*

The Family night event on October 19th at Flotilla 79 was well attended. Why should we headline fellowship when the Flotilla's members participate in Recreational Boating Safety initiatives, Member Services and Operations and Marine Safety? Because Fellowship is the fourth cornerstone of the Auxiliary, and serves a most vital function.

*"Fellowship remains an essential ingredient in making any organization of volunteers successful. The Coast Guard recognizes the importance of this aspect of volunteer participation and encourages close relationships between Auxiliarists and other Coast Guard personnel. Fellowship makes the team work and binds the entire organization together."*

(Auxiliary Manual, CMDTINST M16790.1F, Chapter 2, A.5. Fellowship)

Fellowship has always been important to the members of our Flotilla, and the Family Night event is held every month except in November, on the first night after the Flotilla meeting. It is a great opportunity to get to know the other members in a social setting; to meet their

families, and to watch personalities unfolding that are sometimes obscured by offices and duties.

Members from other Flotillas are always welcome, and at this month's gathering, Jerry Routt, FSO-MT, FL 74, and his wife, Carol, brought fired rice to add to the dinner selections.

New members are encouraged to attend. It is a great way to begin to feel familiar with, and comfortable around the 'older' members. Sometimes, when new members hear only about the accomplishments of the older and more involved members through staff office reports and award presentations at the Flotilla

meetings, it is too easy to think, *"I could never do that!"* Once, all of our members were new members, although for many within our flotilla, that may have been decades ago. They once wondered just how much they could do. There is no question that one of the best ways to get involved, and both support the Auxiliary, and to feel supported by the organization is through fellowship.

Come to the holiday party in December. It is one of our favorite and most fun-filled events.

See you there!

Carol, Jerry's wife, in foreground, laughs at one of the one-liners delivered, as members and guests chat after the meal.





## Flotilla Officers

*Commander:*  
Betty Hagan

*Vice Commander:*  
Kevin Williams

*Immediate Past FC:*  
Newton Anderson

*Finance Officer:*  
Frank Ansel, Jr.

*Secretary*  
Kathleen Heide

*Aids to Navigation:*  
Bryan Dobson

*Information Services:*  
Zachary Lessin

*Communications Services:*  
Kathi Kruczek

*Marine Safety:*  
J. Michael Shea

*Materials:*  
Richard Rioles

*Member Training:*  
Cliff Martin

*Operations &  
Communications:*  
Robert Stribling

## From the Helm

There is a hub of activity as the end of the year draws near. Several QE missions have been scheduled at 79 for division wide coxswain and crew who need requalification. Several facilities from other flotillas will be involved.

Our web site at 79 is a great source of information. Almost anything you need to know can be found by going through 79's web site. Kathi Kruczek does a fantastic job of keeping it up to date. [www.cgwebs.net/flotilla79/](http://www.cgwebs.net/flotilla79/)

We began using the thirteenth edition of Boating Skills and Seamanship this fourth cycle and will finish on 12 December. We would like to have some additional instructors so each chapter will have two instructors. We have had fewer participants this cycle, but it makes for a more relaxed classroom. There is more exchange of information between instructors and participants.

Last month we swore in four new members,

Bob Vawter, Bill Weinstein, Ruth and Don Raleigh. In November we will have three additional members. I would appreciate some volunteers as mentors.

It is certainly an inspiration to have a newly sworn in member (August) pass five courses and get certificates at this month's meeting. Art Womer is an inspiration...way to go Art! I hope this will be contagious. There are many courses available to Auxiliarist, and they are free!

Bob Stribling has been doing a fantastic job, as usual, with our monthly family night dinners. We invite members and families from all flotillas to come; we enjoy kids too. With everyone bringing something to eat, the menu is always a surprise. The more people that come, the more variety of food we have.

Betty Hagan, Flotilla Commander

## Division News

Annual elections for Division Captain and Vice Captain were held at the Division meeting on October 27th at Flotilla 72 in St. Petersburg. One thing was for certain; the board, consisting of all of the Division's Flotilla Commanders, agreed that the Division was on course, and that its present leadership could best carry out the strategic plan and initiatives already started. COMO Allen Brown, District Seven, attended the meeting and conducted the elections. ENS Derek Wilson, AUXLO, Station St. Petersburg also attended.

Next year's Division Captain and Vice Captain will be familiar faces: Conrad Palermo, and Peter Lore, who promise next year will be as successful as this year has been. Congratulations to both.



COMO Brown poses with Robert Schuler, FC, FL 78, Kevin Yeaton, FC, FL 07-16, and Conrad Palermo, DCP.

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# Program Updates & More

## Operations

If you have not already completed your annual currency maintenance and/or need a QE (Qualified Examiner) for REQUAL, a training mission is scheduled for November 9th, point of boarding to be announced. Contact Cliff Martin if you need to complete these tasks. Time is running out. The information must be completed by December 1st. Don't place your operational status in jeopardy. Crew members and coxswains must requalify every three years, and coxswains must also pass NAV Rules.

## Member Involvement



Do you commit four hours a month to the Auxiliary?

When new members join the Auxiliary, one of the documents in their New Member Packet within this Flotilla, is the "Flotilla 79 Member Development Paths". This document is a flow chart depicting all of the areas in which members can become involved, and the process, beginning with 'Trainee' and ending in 'Qualified'.

Across the top of this flow chart are the words: "Note: minimum four hours per month participation expected." Yup. It reads "expected", not "recommended", "desired", or anything else.

Within any volunteer organization, it is a few who do the work of many. Our flotilla, and the Auxiliary on the whole is no different. There are many problems with this. Probably the most dangerous one is that those who do the most work year after year, eventually tire and step away for a time. This is to be expected, as every cycle of great activity is followed by a cycle of rest. Unless other members step up and fill the void, the entire system slows down. We have slowed down. The flotilla's cumulative statistics in AUXDATA bear this out.

The Auxiliary's mission is to assist the Coast Guard. Now is the time for every member to revisit the oath that they took when they joined, and to recommit themselves to this purpose. If every member participated just four hours a month, imagine what we could accomplish! If every member participated just four hours a month, the work load would be spread out over many, and the 'few' would not feel

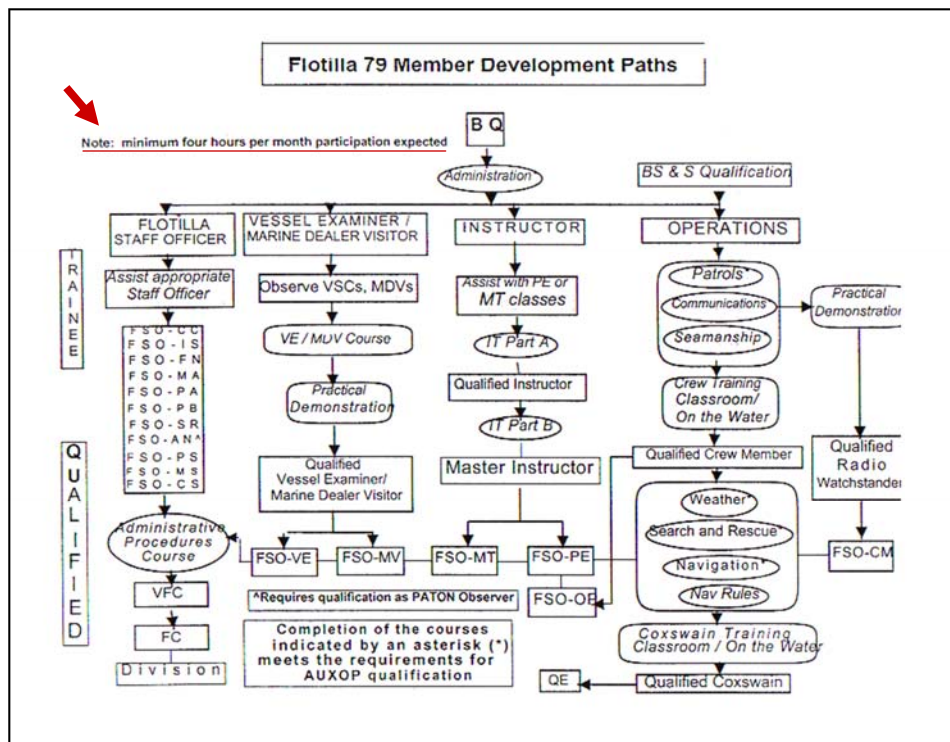
overburdened.

*Do you commit four hours a month to the Auxiliary?*

- This call goes out to our new members. Get involved. Accept that you might feel awkward at first. Your comfort level will increase the more you participate. No one expects you to be an expert at first; it is what one *becomes* from training and doing.
- This call goes out to our inactive older members; the names on the roster that our newer members cannot associate with a face. A new year is fast approaching. Resolve to rededicate yourself to the Auxiliary, and to the oath that you took. Older, familiar faces are always a pleasure to see!
- This call goes out to the active, older members who took that much needed rest. We so appreciate your commitment, and continue to need your leadership.

Flotilla elections are in November. We would love to see a full house at this most important meeting. Our new elected officers will need each and every one of you next year to accomplish our mission. Let us support each other by volunteering to take on a staff office, taking a watch on the radio, going out on patrol, conducting a vessel examination, or becoming an instructor for our BS&S program. Heck, we are easy to get along with! Just put on that uniform and show your support by being a visible presence at any of the above.

Give us just four hours a month, and you will receive a sense of personal satisfaction that will exceed the energy expended.





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**Mark Your Calendars:**



- Nov 20th** Flotilla Meeting– Elections
- Dec 8th** Change of Watch, Rusty Pelican, Tampa
- Dec 18th** Holiday Gathering
- Jan 5th** Division Orientation at FL 79 for Elected Officers and Flotilla Staff Officers



No Family Night in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.  
See ya'll in December!



Photographic images can be as beautiful and as interesting as any painting. This subject is unusual, and both the colors and the light create a harmonious composition. Betty Hagan took this photograph while conducting a harbor patrol.