



Members' Fun Cruise Benefits Flotilla. *By D. Riley, FSO-PB*



Don and Ruthie Raleigh, organizers of this division-wide fund raising event are pictured here aboard the *Inspiration* during the Captain's Dinner on November 14, 2008.

Earning money for one's flotilla and having a lot of fun in the process are great goals to combine, but seldom do they come together as well as they did when at least ten members of Flotilla 79 and their friends sailed aboard the *Inspiration* to Cozumel on a four day cruise from November 13- 16, 2008.

The event was organized by Don and Ruthie Raleigh, members of Flotilla 79 and this year's Division 7 Fellowship Chairperson. Members of at five flotillas participated including the Raleigh's, Amos and Bunny Johnson, Burnie
(Continued on page 7)

New Officers Elected for Flotilla 79.

When Tim Teahan left his home on the evening of Monday, November 17th, to attend a meeting of Flotilla 79, little did he know that he would return home that same night as Vice Commander. Tim was nominated from the floor on election night.

Congratulations to both Kevin Williams, Flotilla Commander (e) and Tim Teahan, Flotilla Vice Commander (e)! ❄

Tim Teahan contemplating the strange turn of events upon his election as Vice Commander.

Photo by D. Riley



Flotilla Officers

Commander:
J. Michael Shea

Vice Commander:
Kevin Williams

Immediate Past FC:
Betty Hagan

Finance Officer:
Frank Ansel, Jr.

Secretary
Kathleen Heide

Aids to Navigation:
Bryan Dobson

Information Services:
Arthur Womer

Communications Services:
Kathi Kruczek

Marine Safety:
J. Michael Shea

Materials:
Richard Rioles

Member Training
Cliff Martin

Operations:
Robert Bonanno

*Communications &
Fellowship Chair:*
Robert Stribling

*Public Affairs & Marine
Dealer Program Visitor:*
Bradley Ware

Publications:
Dottie Riley

Public Education:
Steve Plass

Personnel Services:
Zach Lessin

Vessel Examinations:
Burnie Wilhelm

WANTED!

During these difficult economic times, enrollment in our Boating Skills and Seamanship program has significantly decreased along with the trend of decreasing boat purchases, from a high enrollment of over 60 students about seven years ago to only about 5 students enrolled now. We need to take action to increase our enrollment. One of the most effective ways to do that is to work with local boat dealers, marinas and bait shops, as well as other locations that sell boating supplies or serve boaters, to reach out to the boating community to advertise our courses. How can you help?

Get trained as a Coast Guard Auxiliary Program Visitor! It's not very difficult or time consuming. You can even help by acting as a trainee, assisting qualified Program Visitors until you're qualified. Those of you who have not been very active with the Flotilla but who would like to make a worthwhile contribution without taking up a lot of your time, here's your opportunity!

For more information, contact your FSO-PV, Cliff Martin, FSO-MT, or your Flotilla Commander.

Congratulations to our new elected officers, Kevin Williams, Flotilla Commander (e), and Tim Teahan, Vice Flotilla Commander (e). Every member should show their support for our newly elected officers, our flotilla and the USCG Auxiliary by volunteering a few hours every month in one of our program areas.

To learn about other areas in which your assistance is needed, please refer to this month's "Program Updates and More" column, then contact the appropriate Flotilla Staff officer for more information.

Mike Shea, FC 79

Thanks to Steve Plass, FSO-PE, for the original text which was adapted for the helm message.

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Program Updates & More

Newly elected Flotilla Officers along with the new calendar year looming just around the corner also usually means new staff of-office appointments. No office/ program can effectively be completed by a single member or staff officer. Most of our programs need members to get involved. There are so many programs to choose from that no matter what your background or present skill level, you have something to contribute. Especially for our new members, we will briefly outline our staff officer's duties and responsibilities and describe these critical programs. The programs will be listed alphabetically, which by means suggests or implies an order of importance.

Aids to Navigation (ATON/ AN)

Learning how to verify the accuracy of private ATONS and report discrepancies to the local Coast Guard unit is a qualification one can earn as an Auxiliary member. These duties are performed in conjunction with the Operations and Marine Safety Departments. ATON verifiers also report chart discrepancies and provide chart updating on forms provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). ATON patrols can be fun and are conducted both during daytime and nighttime hours to ensure that the lights are functioning properly.



Every flotilla has an assigned area of responsibility (AOR) and the FSO-AN can use assistance in checking these vital fixtures at least once annually, and especially after hurricanes and tropical storms. Missing or incorrect ATONS are a hazard to navigation. This is a great program to get involved with, especially for members already Boat Crew qualified.

Communications (CM)

Radio watchstanding is also conducted in conjunction with the Operations Program. Radio watchstanders normally track Auxiliary vessels during training and other non-security patrol missions, report to the local Coast Guard Stations, and often play critical roles in maintaining communications after hurricanes and tropical storms. Trained radio watchstanders may provide mission hours to the Coast Guard to keep their radio stations manned 24-7. The FSO-CM has the responsibility of supervising over all matters pertaining to flotilla radio communications, and to keep members informed of all developments in this area. The FSO-CM also has the responsibility of preparing and publishing an up-to-date emergency "calling tree" for member alerting.

Become a radio watchstander and learn a new language: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, PAN-PAN, COPY, etc.

Communication Services (CS)

The FSO-CS responsibilities include supervision over electronic

communication services and maintaining the Flotilla web page. This person coordinates closely with the flotillas Public Affairs and Publications Officers to ensure that both electronic and printed media are used to their fullest extent in providing information to the membership and to the boating public.

The FSO-CS is constantly monitoring the local district, division and flotilla websites for official information and items of interest to both members and the boating public. Communication Services conducts C-Schools at various locations annually for members who wish to learn and become qualified, and seminars are conducted routinely to keep members informed on changes in the field.



Finance (FN)

As one might suspect, the FSO-FN keeps complete and understandable records of all receipts, disbursements and other financial transactions for the flotilla. This person also prepares an annual budget report for review by the Budget Committee, prepares monthly reports for the elected officers presented at flotilla meetings, and encourages prompt payment of all obligations.

What can you do as a member? Avoid wasteful spending and submit all receipts promptly. *(Note: reimbursement for operational activities are separate and are not submitted to the FSO-FN.)*

Information Services (IS)

The information systems officer probably has one of the most difficult positions within a flotilla. This person exercises responsibility and supervision over all matters pertaining to the collection, recording, and forwarding of the flotillas AUXMIS data, and keeps members informed of all developments in this area. The FSO-IS Coordinates and cooperates with the Flotilla Vessel Examination Staff Officer, Flotilla Public Education Staff Officer, Flotilla Operations Staff Officer, Flotilla Member Training Staff Officer, and Flotilla Personnel Services Staff Officer, so that they are kept advised of progress in each of their areas of

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Program Updates & More

responsibility.

The Information Services Staff Officer also coordinates with the Flotilla Secretary/Records Staff Officer to keep the flotilla roster up to date. Alma Parrish, our Division's SO-IS, conducts workshops to train persons interested in becoming an FSO-IS or in providing much needed assistance in this area.

Your responsibilities as a member: Submit your hours in a timely manner and on the proper forms. Your FSO-IS will be more than happy to show you how.

Materials Officer (MA)

The Flotilla Staff Officer for Materials (FSO-MA) exercises staff responsibility and supervision over the procurement of materials including stationery, forms and publications for distribution to the flotilla officers and members, and keeps the flotilla members informed of all developments in this area. The FSO-MA tracks changes and updates to all of the publications and forms, and is to order material from the ANSC as required and will take orders during a flotilla of meaning.

The FSO-MA also keeps track of all supplies on hand and organizes the flotilla supply room.

Marine Safety (MS)

The Flotilla Staff Officer - Marine Safety is unique and can be one of the most interesting positions within a flotilla. The Marine Safety Officer supervises all matters pertaining to the flotilla's role in the Auxiliary Marine Safety and Environmental Protection activities, and keeps the commander and members informed of all developments in this area.

This officer must be familiar with the contents of the various publications and directives pertaining to Auxiliary Marine Safety and Environmental Protection efforts, provide augmentation, assistance, and support to environmental outreach programs, and MS/MTP missions as outlined in the national program, emergency planning and response teams, and "Sea Partners" "America's Waterways Watch", and other outreach and educational programs.



Requirements for this position are to read the publications, become informed about their contents, and coordinate with the division and district Marine Safety Officers.

Members can assist by volunteering at the many Public Affairs and Public Education events where this information is provided to both adult recreational boaters and to children to educate them about the Coast Guard's Marine Safety programs.

Member Training (MT)

We are very fortunate to have Cliff Martin, who has run the flotilla's Member Training program for several years. The duties of this position span several pages within the Flotilla Procedures Manual and would be difficult to sum up with just a few lines.

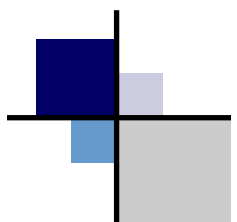


Boat crew training at FL 79.
Photo by Betty Hagan

The flotilla Member Training officer coordinates with all other staff officers to provide training within their departments and for their various qualifications. In addition to providing training for department specific qualifications such as Boat Crew, Program Visitor, and Vessel Examinations, he is responsible for establishing specialty course training programs keyed to the needs of the individual flotilla member.

It is not expected that the FSO-MT be required to conduct all of the actual training. The FSO-MT should draw on those instructors who are qualified in the various areas that have committed themselves to assist with the member training program. The FSO-MT is however, expected to set up the program and follow-up on its operation to ensure that these objectives are met. If necessary, the FSO-MT should arrange for instructor assistance from other flotillas and the division.

Members seeking to complete Specialty Course Training Programs should speak to Cliff Martin as well as to the flotilla staff officer for that particular specialty course.





Program Updates & More



Auxiliary OTW training February 2007, Photo by K. Kruczek

Manual does state that the FSO-MT should encourage every facility to perform a minimum of one patrol a month. Every patrol requires a coxswain and crew, and Sector St. Petersburg does have a minimum requirement of hours and tasks that boat crew members must perform annually.

Multiply our number of facilities by 50 weeks and you can calculate how many patrols we could be doing every year, and how many opportunities we could have to increase our mission hours!

Public Affairs (PA)

It is the responsibility of the Flotilla Public Affairs Officer to establish effective working relationships with the newspaper, radio and television media in a manner which will facilitate coverage of flotilla activities. The FSO-PA must also coordinate and cooperate with the Flotilla Public Education Staff Officer and Flotilla Vessel Examination Staff Officer to encourage effective coverage of their activities. Public Affairs, however, is about much more than writing and distributing news releases.

Public Affairs is everybody's business!

Operations (OP)

The Flotilla Staff Officer - Operations (FSO-OP) is one of the key positions within a flotilla. This officer exercises staff responsibility and supervision over all flotilla operations programs including Search and Rescue (SAR), regatta, safety and air patrols, and keeps flotilla members informed of all developments in the program.

Operations is closely tied to Communications, and in the absence of a Communications Officer, the Operations Officer assumes responsibility for radio communications within the flotilla. The Operations Officer also maintains an up-to-date list of all Auxiliary facilities, and in coordination with the FSO-VE, facilitates planning for the early inspection of all Auxiliary facilities. This officer maintains a schedule of patrols for security, and marine safety, training, and ATON verification missions, maintains a crew list of all members eligible and available for service crew, and attempts to schedule each facility to perform at least one patrol, reimbursable or non-reimbursable, each month. (*Facility owners: are you surprised? Yes, this is actually in the manual!*)

Not everyone can or should assume the duties of the FSO-OP, however, there is no reason why our members cannot participate fully in the operations program. The opportunities are many and include on-the-water missions, radio watch standing, and for a very select few, Auxiliary Air Patrols.

While there is no firm requirement for the number of patrols facility owners are required to conduct, the Flotilla Procedures

While the FSO-PA is specifically charged with originating articles for flotilla, division, district, and national publications, every staff officer should know how to write basic drafts describing their program activities, or applauding the efforts of their members. Forward these drafts to your FSO-PA and allow them to use their special skills to polish these and to send them on to the appropriate publications. The FSO-PA is tasked with promoting the best possible image of the Auxiliary. This is an impossible task without the input of the other staff officers and members within the flotilla.

National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) is a prime example of how the FSO-PA works with all other flotilla staff officers within the Recreational Boating Safety Programs. NSBW is not just an event that occurs once a year in May. The calendar of suggests activities is for a full year preceding the May date and requires the cooperation and assistance of many members. For members who cannot commit large blocks of time to any single activity, this is a perfect opportunity to volunteer just a few hours every month or quarterly.

Publications (PB)

The flotilla Publications Officer (FSO-PB) works closely with the FSO-PA and all other officers within the flotilla to publish a flotilla newsletter. There is no set frequency, however, flotillas must publish a minimum of six times a year in order to qualify for awards at district and national levels.



Program Updates & More

Newsletters are a great way to keep members informed, publish both past and upcoming activities, and to applaud the efforts of our members.

Members are encouraged to write articles and stories about their activities to contribute to the flotilla newsletter and to other publications. Writing a single article is a great way to start getting involved with Public Affairs and Publications.

A reminder for all of our members: keep your camera with you at all times, whether you're on the water, conducting vessel examinations, or assuming a watch at a boat show. Do your part to promote the best possible public image of the Auxiliary. Write a little- and take lots of photographs!

Public Education (PE)

Between the on-going Boating Safety and Seamanship Program on Wednesday nights here at the flotilla and our Specialty Programs, every member has at least 50 opportunities a year to participate in our Public Education Programs. We need qualified Instructors, but we also need members to attend these programs, both to support our instructors, and to assure the boating public that these programs are an important first step towards recreational boating safety.

As pointed out earlier, the FSO-PE works closely with the FSO-PA to schedule and publicize its programs. The PE pro-

gram is dependent upon the efforts of many staff officers to promote its programs and to encourage and maintain participation by the boating public.

We have not yet discussed the duties or responsibilities of Vessel Examiners or Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitors, however, these officers are crucial to keeping the Public Education program viable and effective.

(Have you figured out yet that we are all inter-connected and inter-dependent?)

Marine Dealer- Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor (PV) and Vessel Examinations (VE)

Any member seeking to qualify as a Recreational Boating Safety Visitor must first be familiar with the contents of the Vessel Safety Check Program and the Auxiliary Marine Dealer Visitor manual. Other requirements are listed in the Auxiliary Manual.

The Marine Dealer Visitation Program and the Vessel Examination Programs provide two of the most important functions that a member can perform on behalf of both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.

Marine Dealer Program Visitors make sure that our partner programs carry current information about Marine safety and recreational boating safety issues and provide recreational boaters with our public education programs schedules.

Vessel examiners offer vessel safety checks and information about our recreational safety programs.

The functions provided by these programs are often underrated by Auxiliarists. They are in fact, the best means by which we can distribute our

Amos Johnson reviews the charts while Frank Ansel Jr. provides instruction at a Coastal Navigation Course presented at Flotilla 79 earlier this year.

Photo provided by Theresa (Bunny) Johnson





Program Updates & More

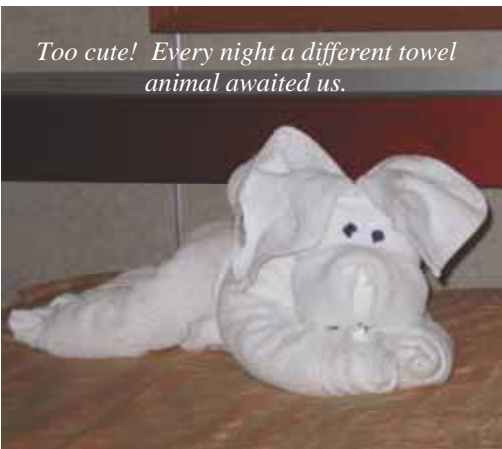
(Continued from page 6)

boating safety messages, engage recreational boaters in our boating safety courses, and inform them about the various Coast Guard marine safety programs.

These functions are, in fact, so highly rated by the Coast Guard that many of the highest awards bestowed upon Auxiliarists fall under these two programs. Best of all, everyone can get involved. Vessel Safety Examinations is often the first program in which members become qualified.

A new year is ahead of us. Where can you best place your time and talents? Don't wait to be asked, volunteer!

Ask questions. Get involved! ❁



Too cute! Every night a different towel animal awaited us.

Cruise...

(Continued from page 1)

and Doris Wilhelm, Tim and Judy Manning, Doris Ellerby and Dottie Riley.



Rich & Deb Harris from Jacksonville, Fla., and Judy & Tim Manning from FL 79 prepare to visit Cozumel with the *Inspiration* in the background. *Photo provided by Tim Manning*

Below: Doris Wilhelm celebrates a birthday aboard the Carnival *Inspiration*. *Photo by D. Riley*



The ship was absolutely beautiful with so many activities scheduled that it was impossible to see and do everything, and for those who simply wanted to relax without children running about, loud music or other distractions, an entire deck was reserved for adults only.

The food was absolutely delicious and quite abundant. Best of all, for the night owls or the restless, it was available 24 hours a day.

Cozumel was beautiful! The water was so blue that it looked painted against the even bluer sky, and the moderate temperatures made touring the seaside resort a pleasure.

We even celebrated a birthday onboard! Doris Wilhelm, wife of Burnie Wilhelm, FSO-VE, was surprised with a cake at Sunday night's dinner.

What a wonderful time we had! Don is planning another fund-raising cruise for next year. If you missed this one, be sure to go next year. The flotilla needs the money, and you could use a few days of pure relaxation and fun. ❁



USCGAUX Flotilla 79
FSO-PB
Return Address:
1630 Wakefield Drive
Brandon, FL 33511-2325

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Mark Your Calendars:



- December 6, 2008, Noon:** Division 7 Change of Watch, Colonnade Restaurant, Tampa
- December 17, 2008, 6p.m.:** Flotilla Meeting- Annual Holiday Party. This is a don't miss event!
- January 19, 2009, 7 p.m.:** Flotilla Meeting, Gandy Blvd.
- January 23, 6 p.m.:** Flotilla Fellowship Meeting



Expert Line Handlers at work!

September 19th Fellowship Night: Gavin and Dillon McCarthy, Tom Elarbee's grandsons, and Kyle Kaicher, Joe and Betty Hagan's grandson. The two older boys tied up Gavin, then went to play else where, leaving him tied! *Photo by B. Hagan*