



## 2009 Flotilla Election Ushers In New Leadership and Renewed Commitment For Common Goals

*A Letter From Flotilla Commander Kevin Williams*  
(Originally emailed on January 12, 2009)

Dear Fellow Flotilla Members,

As the New Year starts, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my hope that 2009 is a year full of good health, prosperity and achievement for you and your family.

My personal thanks to Mike Shea, for his service as Flotilla Commander over the past year, as his dedication and leadership helped to guide our flotilla over the past year during difficult times. We look forward to Mike serving in some different capacities this year. I would like to also recognize Frank Ansel who has ably served as our Finance Officer for the last several years. He has been involved in boat crew/coxswain training, BS&S course instruction and as a TCT Facilitator. Frank is leaving the Auxiliary to grow his business as a licensed massage therapist and we wish him 'fair winds and following seas' in his new endeavor!

The Flotilla lost two dedicated members during 2008: Ben Drenth, who passed away in August, served in many Flotilla and Division leadership positions and was instrumental in establishing the Flotilla 79 and organizing building construction. Just before Thanksgiving, Bob Bonanno succumbed to cancer. He was the Flotilla's 'air wing,' stood uncountable radio watches and served as Operations Officer. Ben and Bob contributed much to the Flotilla and the Auxiliary; we can all use their dedication as a model to follow.

This year, the Flotilla faces some unique but not insurmountable challenges. I hope that, with your help and the leadership cadre of 2009, we can tackle them together and generate a



FC Kevin Williams (l) shares a lighter moment with VFC Tim Teahan during the January '09 flotilla meeting. Kevin expressed his sincere thanks to the past leaders and staff officers, and discussed his ideas and plans for 2009. (Photo by Tim Manning)

renewed sense of enthusiasm for supporting Coast Guard missions and participating in member training, boating safety and marine visitor programs. Most importantly, we want to rekindle that spirit of camaraderie and fellowship for which the Auxiliary is famous.

Not too long ago, the new Vice Flotilla Commander, Tim Teahan, and I met to outline our plan for dealing with some of the critical issues with Flotilla 79. We have acknowledged two of those issues

that need our immediate and readied attention, communication and recruitment/retention. These are two of the most immediate, and by far not the only important issues we face together.

It is no secret that the sluggish economy has affected our personal lives. The Flotilla has felt the effects as well, most notably in our BS&S course where attendance has slipped significantly. One of our main goals for 2009 is to provide the support FSO-PE Steve Plass needs to bolster attendance. Despite the economy boaters are still boating, so there is still a 'target rich' market that we want to (and will!) tap.

In addition, our membership has dropped a bit, and more importantly, attendance at monthly meetings and fellowship events has lagged. We realize that each one of us serves as volunteers and our commitment to families and careers must come first. However, I am hopeful that with some changes you'll find it easier to participate in Auxiliary activities throughout 2009. One change is to improve our communication to you - this is the first attempt at doing so.

(See 'Commitment' - page 3)



**'TEAM COAST GUARD'**

Active members, Reservists, and the volunteers of the Coast Guard Auxiliary working together.

(Photo by Tim Manning)



**- 2009 Flotilla Seven-Nine Staff Officers Sworn In -**

The 2009 Staff officers were sworn in at the January monthly meeting. From left to right: VFC Tim Teahan, Burnie Wilhelm (VE), Cliff Martin (MT/SO-OPS), Bunny Johnson (IS), Kathleen Heide (SR), Heleyde Aponte (PS), Steve Plass (PE), Mike Shea (OPS/MS), Bob Vawter (NS), Bradley Ware (PV), Scot Burger (FN), Tim Manning (PB), and administering oath, Flotilla Commander Kevin Williams.

(Photo by Betty Hagan)

**Future ‘Guardians’. .?**

Kathleen Heide, (FSO-SR/7-9) recently took three youngsters on a boat trip - destination: Coast Guard Station St. Pete. The three, Justin & Bryce Solomon, along with another friend, Josh McMurray thoroughly enjoyed their day afloat. “This has been the best day of my life!” proclaimed 8-year-old Justin to his Dad later that evening.

Upon arriving at the base, the lads were treated to an impromptu tour by Station personnel and got to talk with the Commanding Officer and crew of an 87-foot cutter *Reef Shark*, also berthed there. Kathy Heide tells us that the boys are already talking about a return trip one day. As quickly as the pictures could be printed - just a day or so later - the boys had them in class for a ‘show’n’tell’.

From left to right: Kathleen Heide, Justin Solomon, Josh McMurray, and Bryce Solomon.

(Photo courtesy of K. Heide)



**- Thank you, Dottie Riley -**



***There are painters...  
and then, there are artists!***

For this new year, 2009, I have agreed to assume the daunting task of producing the *Seven-Niner* newsletter. Although I like to write and take lots of photographs, my credentials as ‘a painter’ are, well, significantly different than those of my predecessor.

Dot (the artist) has proven to be an ever present spirit when it comes to the coverage's of Flotilla 79, Division 7, and even the 7th Coast Guard District Auxiliary events.

So, *thanks to you* Dottie for your untiring efforts during these past years. I hope to carry on with this great publication that you have so carefully nurtured.

*Please feel free to contact me with story ideas & photos:*

**Tim Manning, FSO-PB**  
**1554 Crazy Horse Drive, Lutz, FL 33559**  
**813-416-7016 (cell)**  
**Email: BaratariaW381@aol.com**



Tim Manning, Painter

(Photo by Dottie Riley)



Dottie Riley, Artist

(Photo by Tim Manning)



# Seven Niner

## Where do we go from here?

Welcome to the first edition of the *Seven Niner* which was produced by someone other than Dot Riley. She has done such a great job on it for so long that I have to admit that I was a little intimidated at first. But give-it-a-whirl, I shall.

Although the layout has changed a bit, be assured that I will try to cover the same type of stories and events as previously. I would expect that I will have a few 'bugs' to work out over time. My goal is to have the future issues developed in a more timely manner in an effort to keep you all informed.

I would like to encourage all of you to take lots of pictures and make copious notes while performing the activities you are involved in. The lifeblood of this publication is YOU... The *Seven Niner* is meant to capture news and noteworthy events so that we can all share in them, and to reflect and enjoy the rewards of our volunteer services.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas for potential stories or coverage's that you would like to see included. Thank you.

Tim Manning  
FSO-PB Seven-Niner

'Commitment' - con't from page 1

On the next page, (*omitted here*) some dates of importance are listed. We hope you'll note them and make the effort to participate.

You can count on your leadership cadre to provide the support you need to help you achieve your Auxiliary goals.

It is not said enough, but I want you to know that your efforts on behalf of Flotilla 79 and the Auxiliary are much appreciated. I look forward to your continued involvement and to reviewing the year with enjoyment and a sense of pride in our accomplishments!

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Williams

Kevin S. Williams  
Commander, Flotilla 79



**Frank Ansel - Passing the torch...**

The January meeting was Frank's last. He took time to say 'so-long' and then delivered the Financial Records to his replacement, FSO-FN Scott Burger (*r*). Frank was a very active member who was involved in many aspects of the Auxiliary program. We wish him well as he'll be greatly missed.

(Photo's by Tim Manning)



PHOTO



CONTEST

**- SEVEN NINER Photo Contest - Submit your favorite pic -**

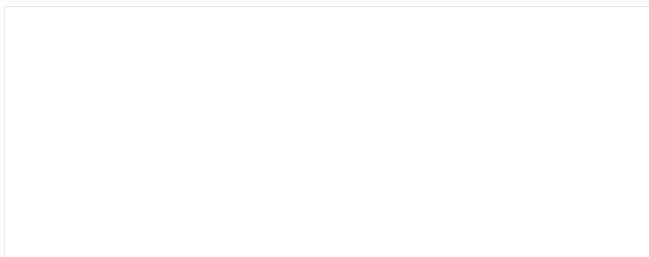
Submit your favorite Coast Guard / Auxiliary photo to me each month and one will be selected for publication. At the end of the year, the BEST 2009 PHOTO will be picked by a team of three judges, and the photographer will win a small prize... Submit your JPEG-image to me at: **BaratariaW381@aol.com** Tim Manning FSO-PB



**USCGAUX Flotilla 79  
FSO-PB/PA**

*Return Address:*

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 *Mark your calendar...  
for upcoming meetings & events.*

**March 2009**

- **3/ 4, 11, 18, & 25**  
**BS&S Program**  
1930 hrs
- **3/ 9 USCGC Alligator Commissioning /**  
**Sector St. Pete**
- **3/ 13-15 Tampa Boat Show - Tropicana Field**
- **3/ 16 Monthly Meeting 1930 hrs**
- **3/ 20 Covered Dish/Fellowship**  
1830 hrs
- **3/ 28 Division Awards Banquet / Colonade**  
**Restaurant**

*Future Events:*

**April 11 - HAZWOPER Training FL79**  
**May 2 - Dragon Boat Races - TBD**

**Flotilla Staff Officers**

**KEVIN WILLIAMS**  
Flotilla Commander

**TIM TEAHAN**  
Vice Flotilla Commander,  
FSO-Marketing & Public Affairs

**J. MICHAEL SHEA**  
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander  
FSO-Operations / Marine Safety

**ROBERT VAWTER**  
FSO-Navigation Systems

**KATHLEEN KRUCZEK**  
FSO-Communications Systems

**SCOTT BURGER**  
FSO-Finance

**BUNNY JOHNSON**  
FSO-Information &  
Communication Services

**ROBERT STRIBLING**  
FSO-Communications &  
Fellowship Chairman

**RICHARD RIOLES**  
FSO-Materials

**CLIFF MARTIN**  
FSO-Membership Training &  
SO-OPS Division Operations

**BRADLEY WARE**  
FSO-Program Visitor

**STEVE PLASS**  
FSO-Public Education

**KATHLEEN HEIDE**  
FSO-Secretary Records

**HELEYDE APONTE**  
FSO-Personnel Services

**TIM MANNING**  
FSO-Publications

**BURNIE WILHELM**  
FSO-Vessel Examination



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