



Seventh Coast Guard District Auxiliary Flotilla 56 Vero Beach-Sebastian Florida The Indian River Pilot



Volume XXX11
Issue 1



Photo by W. Boluk

January
2009

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Flotilla Commander

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FROM THE HELM

Welcome to the New Year

While the philosophers say every day is an opportunity for a new beginning, it's at this time of year when most of us actually consider making that beginning. This is the time when the resolutions are made, old habits are discarded, and new, better ones are made. So it is with the Auxiliary. This is the beginning of the year, and coincidentally, the start of our busiest season. Flotilla 56 has a new, 'old' bridge and a great mix of familiar and new staff officers. (By the way, we are still in the market for a staff officer for Marine Safety. If anyone is interested in inquiring about the position or learning more about this function, please contact me or Bill.)



Training and orientation for Staff Officers begins this month, followed closely by CPR Training and then the new Navigation Course. We are scheduling Public Education courses monthly and our usual winter and spring festivals are just around the corner. These activities will require the attention and participation of each member and we'll do whatever we can to facilitate full involvement.

The list of Flotilla Staff Officers appears elsewhere in *The Pilot*. At this time I would like to extend our gratitude to each member who has agreed to serve in these capacities. While these individuals are the primary points of contact in these areas, they don't do their jobs alone. Each one can use a bit of help. So if you have interests in these areas, don't hesitate to contact the FSO and indicate you would like to assist.

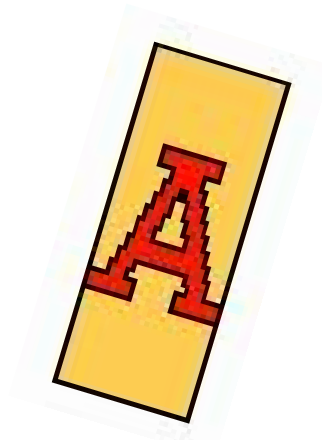
Welcome to the New Year.



Fredrick C. Combs
Flotilla Comander

Staff Appointments Flotilla 5-6 2009

NS Navigational Services	Agnes Mical
CM Communications	John Wisniewski
CS Communications Services	Frans Eyberse
FN Finance	Peggy A. Van Ginhoven
IS Information Systems	Bill Boluk
MA Materials	Linda R. Boluk
MS Marine Safety	Position Open
MT Member Training	Harvey Niblack
PV Program Visitor	Bob Beer
OP Operations	Robert W. Phelps
PA Public Affairs	Rich Steinbach
PB Publications	Linda Boluk
PS Personnel Services	Fred Combs
SR Secretary/Records	Kenneth Manney
VE Vessel Examiner	Sandra Thiel



{In adherence to the Privacy Policy no contact information is printed in the newsletter. You can find contact information in the Flotilla Roster. Editor}



OPERATIONS REPORT

In the calendar year ending 31 Dec 2008, Flt 56 performed 99 surface patrols, with 14 having been done in December.

All current coxswains (8) (Including 2 visitors to D-7) and crew (14) have exceeded their minimum 12 underway hours for re-certifications for the year 2008. All coxswains and crew have also attended the 2008 OPS workshop & required TCTclasses.

Bob Phelps, FSO-OP

ESCORTING COAST GUARD CUTTER

On Sunday, December 14, 2008, the term “patrol boat” took on an entirely new meaning for 7 Auxiliarists from Flotillas 56 and 58. More importantly, what occurred that day demonstrated once again the effective working relationship forged between the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. Also successfully demonstrated was another dimension of the relationship: close cooperation between the two Flotillas working with the Coast Guard.

The mission: escort the 110’ Coast Guard Cutter *Drummond* north from the turning basin at Ft. Pierce Inlet to its destination at Harbor Branch. The Auxiliary role was to ensure the safety of small craft along the route by keeping the ICW and Harbor Branch channels clear for the big cutter. The two Auxiliary patrol boats alerted southbound and fishing vessels of the approaching Coast Guard Cutter. Their Captains were advised of the cutter’s wake and need for deep-water operation. After pumping out her water ballast to reduce draft, *Drummond* made its way to Harbor Branch without incident or disrupting navigation in the much-travelled ICW. Lt. Sanders, *Drummond*’s commanding officer, was very appreciative of the Auxiliary’s assistance.

Drummond, built in Louisiana in 1988, is a well-armed “Island” class patrol boat displacing 155 tons and capable of 30 knots from almost 6,000 bhp.

Janee Henderson, DCP; Jerry Henderson, SO-MT; and Christal Perkins crewed the Flotilla 58 facility. Fred Schlachter, Harvey Niblack; Steffie Danforth (Flotilla 58), and Mike Wisniewski, FSO-CM crewed the Flotilla 56 facility.

Mike Wisniewski, FSO-CM



VICE COMMANDERS REPORT

Now that the Holiday Season is over, and 2009 begins it is time to think ahead. To those of you who were active in 2008 as members or Staff Officers thank you. Lets all make an effort to participate in more Auxiliary activities. With 5 Operational Facilities, we have ample opportunity to participate in Patrols. There will be plenty of opportunity to participate in Member Training, Public Affairs, Public Education and Vessel Examinations. Our VE's did a bang up job in 2008, we well exceeded last years exams. We gained several new members in 2008; let's keep up with recruiting new members. Unfortunately we had another "not so good" year in Public Education. Attendance left a lot to be desired. This is probably due to the economy, and the competition with the other organizations that teach classes.

Last but not least as Chief of Staff I want to thank our new Flotilla Staff Officers, Rich Steinbach FSO-PA, Agnes Mical FSO-NS, Frans Eyberse FSO-CS, Mike Wisniewski FSO-CM, Mike also accepted the position of Division 5 Staff Officer for Communications, and Harvey Niblack FSO-MT. I also want to thank our returning Staff Officers for assuming the positions for 2009.

Bill Boluk VFC



VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINATIONS

In the tough economic times ahead for this New Year 2009, recreational boating still remains a high priority for those individuals living in Florida. Our members were very active last year and completed over 100 vessel safety checks!

Florida remains the "Fishing Capital of the World" with 2.8 million anglers. In Indian River County alone, these fishing enthusiasts bring along their recreational boats (all 11,740 of them) with 10,493 registered as 25 feet or less in length.

I welcome Agnes Mical and Rich Steinbach to our "crew" this year. There's much more work to do in increasing vessel safety awareness as well as increasing the number of vessel safety checks that we can do in 2009. I look forward to an active and rewarding new year as we continue to share our boating knowledge and skills with others.

Sandy Thiel FSO-VE



DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE OF THE INDIAN RIVER PILOT IS

TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 2009

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

LINDA BOLUK FSO-PB 56 D7

530 DRAWDY WAY

SEBASTIAN, FL 32958

or

EMAIL TO lindybok@yahoo.com



MEMBER TRAINING

At the completion of my term as FSO/MT I want to thank those members who assisted me in our programs, especially our Commander Fred Combs and Vice Commander Bill Boluk. You new member training officer will be Harvey Niblack. Harvey and I have worked together this year and he is ready and able to assume the duties & responsibilities of the Member Training Officer.

Besides the Team Coordination Training programs several of our members have completed a number of Specialty Courses as well as Crew/Coxswain qualification. A special note of recognition to Harvey Niblack who took the AUX SEARCH & RESCUE test (awaiting results), AUX COMMUNICATIONS, AUX SEAMANSHIP, AUX WEATHER, Instructor Development Course, Navigation Rules, Administrative Procedures Course, ICS 200 & 800, and T.C.T. In 2008 he also qualified as Crew, as did Don & Susan Rienzo, Rich Steinbach and Mike Wisniewski. Harvey also completed Coxswain qualification. Mike Wisniewski is also recognized for completing AUX WEATHER, AUX PATROLS AND AUX COMMUNICATIONS. An outstanding job by both members.

Planning into 2009 Harvey is working up a program on AUX NAVIGATION parts A& B for the membership. We are looking for a centralized location in Vero Beach. Any suggestions are welcome.

Thanks for all the support in 2008.

Barney Giordan PRCO.



MEMBER TRAINING NEWS

A CPR class to be taught by Gary and Terry Barth of Flotilla 58 is scheduled for Jan 26th 1630 – 2030 at the American Legion in Sebastian. As of this writing on Jan 6th eight of our members have signed up for the training.

Even if you have had this training in the past it could be well worth the effort to take it again. Some procedures and recommendations have changed and it pays to be current. The life you save may be mine.

The first Member Training class of 2009 will be the Auxiliary Advanced Coastal Navigation (AUXACN). This replaces the Auxiliary Navigation A (AUXNAV A) and Auxiliary Navigation B (AUXNAV B).

Fred Schlachter will be the lead instructor. We have secured the American Legion in Sebastian for Mondays and Wednesdays. The plan is to conduct the classes on Mondays starting the 2nd Monday in February (Feb 9th). When we get into detailed chart work we will offer workshop sessions on Wednesdays for those who would like to take advantage of this.

We currently have 9 members signed up for this course. We will now open it up to other Flotillas' membership. Mark your calendars now to reserve the time for this AUXILIARY OPERATIONS course.

We owe Barney Giordan, a large thank you for the dedication and hard work he put in as the Member Training Officer. I personally am indebted to him for the extra effort even coming to my house to give me lessons. He successfully got me through Coxswain, AUXSAR, Instructor Development, AUX Weather and TCT. His are big shoes to fill. Hopefully, with his continued support, I'll get close.

As the new FSO-MT, I am very interested in providing any of the authorized courses desired by the membership so let me know what you want next.

Harvey Niblack FSO-MT

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Here are our activities for 2008:

ATON REPORTS - 34.5 hours

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (7029 FORMS) - 3625 hours (if more members would turn in these forms this would be a lot higher)

MARINE PATROLS - 1580 hours

COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT 104 hours

MEMBER TRAINING - 594 hours

SEARCH AND RESCUE - 93.2 hrs

PROGRAM VISITS - 97 hours (236 visits)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - 946 hours

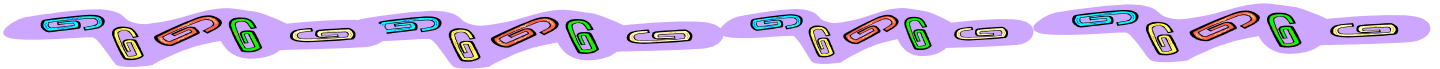
PUBLIC EDUCATION - 158 hours

VESSEL EXAMS - 96.5 hours (116 VE's)

7335.5 TOTAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED IN 2008

BRAVO ZULU

Bill Boluk FSO-IS



PE – REPORT

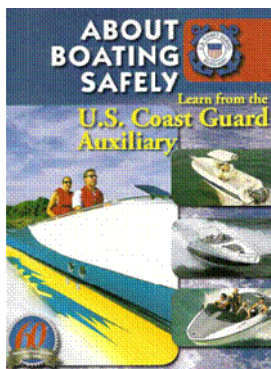
I hope we can improve attendance in 2009. We have 2 members in training for Instructor, and that will help cover some of the summer classes when we are short handed.

Vic Silvestrini and Fred Schlacter are working on a presentation of the new program "WEEKEND NAVIGATOR" we are going to try to do this program with the Vero Beach Power Squadron, and as soon as the details are worked out we will go forward with it.

One of the problems we are facing this year in PE and. Member Training is a class room; since the ELC burned down we have had to look for other sites.

The next PE class is ABOUT BOATING SAFELY on Saturday Jan.10th at the American Legion

Bill Boluk FSO-PE



UPCOMING ABOUT BOATING SAFELY CLASSES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 0830-1700 AMERICAN LEGION SEBASTIAN

SATURDAY MARCH 14 0830-1700 AMERICAN LEGION SEBASTIAN

APRIL DATE PENDING

SATURDAY MAY 23 0830-1700 AMERICAN LEGION SEBASTIAN

MATERIALS

While the District 7 store is closed for reorganization you can order supplies from the Auxiliary National Center. Their phone number is 314-962-8828. The email address is <http://stores.homestead.com/ShopAuxiliary/StoreFront.bok> . In order to purchase online you will need to register at the Auxiliary E-Directory site at: <http://www.auxedirectory.org>.

The National store does charge for shipping, the District 7 store does not.

Linda Boluk FSO-MA



REFRESHMENTS
CONTACT F.C. FRED COMBS
IF YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO BRING REFRESHMENTS TO THE
JANUARY 20TH MEETING
LETS START 2009 WITH SOMEONE WHO HASN'T BROUGHT
REFRESHMENTS TO A MEETING TAKING A TURN



UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY JANUARY 15 WINTER DRESS DINNER
\$15.00 EACH/PAYABLE NIGHT OF DINNER
ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT 1800
DINNER 1900
MOOSE LODGE US 1 MICCO
ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT FC Fred Combs



DIVISION 5 FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICER TRAINING
SUNDAY JANUARY 18 1300-1800
AT FLOTILLA 59 STUART

TUESDAY JANUARY 20
STAFF MEETING 1800
GENERAL MEETING 1900

MONDAY JANUARY 26 1630-2030
CPR TRAINING
AMERICAN LEGION SEBASTIAN

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9
AUXILIARY ADVANCED COASTAL NAVIGATION CLASS
1800-2100
AMERICAN LEGION SEBASTIAN

CPR TRAINING

CPR training for flotilla members is being offered Monday January 26 2009 at the American Legion in Sebastian starting at 1630 and completing at approximately 2030.

Dress in comfortable civilian clothing as you will be bending & flexing in the practice portion of the program.

If you haven't already signed up contact FSO-MT Harvey Niblack to enroll.



BOATERS EDUCATION EDITORIAL

The following editorial appeared in the *Vero Beach Press Journal* on Friday January 9th.

Editorial: Requiring all Florida boaters to complete training courses would reduce fatalities With rare exceptions, Florida leads the nation each year in boating accidents, injuries and deaths. In 2007 there were 685 boating fatalities nationwide.

Friday, January 9, 2009

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is committed to boating safety.

The same cannot be said of Florida legislators.

The commission recently approved boating restrictions — reductions in vessel speed limits over specified portions of the Martin County Intracoastal and Okeechobee waterways — at a recent meeting in Key West. The goal? To reduce boating accidents in “high risk” areas, which were identified following several public meetings and an in-depth statistical analysis of Martin County waters.

The commission understands the role “speed” plays in causing injuries and deaths. It also understands the value of education — a concept that seems to escape state lawmakers.

There is a direct correlation between the training a boat operator receives and his/her ability to operate a watercraft safely. The 2007 Recreational Boating Statistics — produced jointly by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Coast Guard — supports this conclusion.

With rare exceptions, Florida leads the nation each year in boating accidents, injuries and deaths. In 2007 there were 685 boating fatalities nationwide. Of this total, 10.9 percent of the deaths (75) occurred in the Sunshine State.

One of the major, causative factors is a gaping hole in state law.

Only people 21 and younger are required to complete an approved boating-safety education course in Florida. As a result, the skill level of boaters is dependent upon their willingness to enroll in voluntary training courses offered by sanctioned instructors.

Does boater education make a difference? Yes, a big one.

The annual report found that, of 376 boating fatalities in 2007 where the operator’s instruction level was determined, 282 received no formal instruction whatsoever.

“Only 14 percent of deaths (nationwide) occurred on vessels where the operator had received boating-safety instructions,” the report said.

(Continued from page 8)

During the 2008 Legislature, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Boating Advisory Council advocated a proposal that would have established an 11-year phase-in period for every vessel operator to pass a boating-safety course. The age requirement would have been increased by five years, every year. State lawmakers rejected the proposal.

If the legislature is serious about reducing boating injuries and fatalities, it will require mandatory training for everyone who operates a watercraft in the Sunshine State.

The facts speak for themselves.

BOATING SAFETY

Key national findings to consider the next time you operate a watercraft in Florida waters:

More than two-thirds of fatal boating accident victims drowned; of those, 90 percent were not wearing a life jacket.

Three out of four boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.

Operator inattention, careless/reckless operation, passenger/skier behavior, excessive speed and alcohol use rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. It was listed as the leading factor in 21 percent of the deaths.

Recreational Boating Statistics 2007

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PEARL HARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE.

F.C. Fred Combs and Rich Steinbach participated in the Pearl Harbor Day Observance at Sebastian's Riverview Park. Also participating were Lee Bertman and Dave Caswell who did a fly over in Lee's OPFAC at the time that the first Japanese plane bombed Pearl Harbor.



To left F.C. Combs, above Lee Bertman doing fly over, top right F.C. Fred Combs and bottom right at end of line Barney Giordan participating in the American Legion Color Guard.

Photos by Rich Steinbach



HOLIDAY PARTY



January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 ABS COURSE 0830-1700 AMERICAN LEGION SEBASTIAN
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STAFF TRAINING STUART 1230-1800	MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY	STAFF MEETING 1800 GENERAL MEETING 1900				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	CPR TRAINING AMERI- CAN LEGION 1630-2030					
						

NEXT FLOTILLA MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 20TH
STAFF MEETING 1800
GENERAL MEETING 1900
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
520 ROYAL PALM BLVD VERO BEACH
SCHUMANN CONFERENCE ROOM



Rescue demonstration during-
Coast Guard Station Fort
Pierce's open house May 2008.

Photo by R. Steinbach

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy roster of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safe guarded and the page clearly labeled. The publication of these rosters, addresses, and telephone numbers on any on-line service including the internet is prohibited by the Privacy Act of 1974

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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