



# WET GAZETTE



Department of Homeland Security  
USCG Auxiliary  
Flotilla 11-10  
Dunedin, Florida

Kristi Mackey, Commander  
Rob Bonnem, Vice Commander  
Sam Walker, Immediate Past Commander  
Ron Shebanek, Publications Officer

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## Commander's Corner



Summer is winding down with vacations and the kids are back in school. I am very proud of the Flotilla activities we have participated in with so many members out of town.

- We completed 3 of the 6 scheduled, C-130 training patrols in spite of the bad weather
- We have a total of 464 Vessel and Paddle Craft exams year to date
- We completed a Boating Skills & Seamanship class and will be holding an extra Navigation class this weekend Aug 24th. Contact Buddy Casale to help out.

This month we participated Dunedin's Purple Heart dedication, which included a twenty-one gun Salute. Dunedin did a fantastic job honoring the men and women from all military branches. Our Flotilla has six members participate.

We are continuing to do a lot of support at the Air Station Clearwater with Joan and Gordon updating weekly flight maps. I also want to give a big shout out to Jay Pitts who is now providing his Dental Services 3 days a week to the active Coast Guard in order to get them ready for deployment.

We have started a new monthly Fellowship Luncheon at Umberto's, which will be at noon on the first Friday of the month. This month we had nine people join the luncheon with good conversation and food. Let's keep this new tradition going.

This Saturday Aug 24<sup>th</sup> we have a fun Kayak trip planned at Boyce-Wenner Salt Springs Park in Port Richey. This is a new boating and fellowship event for this year and we plan to have lunch following the two hour trip. Please contact Kristi for last minute people who want to join the FUN.

A reminder to everyone who is in need of a class or wants to learn more. NACON training and workshops will be held in Orlando August 23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> and DTRAIN on September 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> in Orlando.

Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander

**Semper Paratus**



## Member Training Update



Harvey Prior, [harvb4@aol.com](mailto:harvb4@aol.com), is the Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for member training.



For those members who need or want the new TCT (Team Coordination Training) refresher course, take it in Orlando at either NACON on August 24 at 1300 or DTRAIN tentatively scheduled on September 22 at 0800. Either class will require you to pay to register for that conference and go to Orlando.

The course is required for some members but any member who has thoughts of working for the Marine Safety Office (MSO), getting into any operations area such as boat crew or becoming a Telecommunications Operator (TCO) should take it as well.

Show up, sign in, participate and you have completed it for this year. If you have already completed the course, then tell another member how easy it is and how they can become more involved.

Remember that you need to have completed the Introduction to Risk Management Course before taking TCT. The Risk Management course is available online.

## Forty plus feet below B4IV: a “Circle of Heroes”



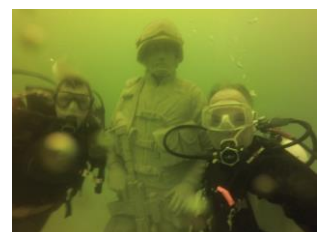
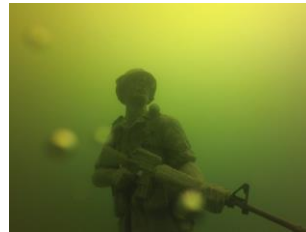
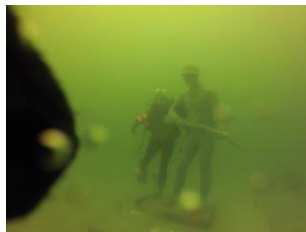
On Saturday July 27th Kristi Mackey, Rob Bonnem and Harvey Prior set out to make their first visit to the recently submerged Circle of Heroes monument. First, a bit of the history of this memorial.

The sinking of the Circle of Heroes statues was eagerly anticipated by the Tampa Bay diving community. These statues, arranged as a



100-foot wide ring, were finally sunk in mid-July, to a depth of 47 feet. They are located near the Veterans Reef dive spot, which is a popular dive spot located nine miles off Clearwater Beach. The Circle of Heroes monument is the nation’s first underwater dive memorial to honor veterans. It features 12 life-sized statues of soldiers from all branches of the military. The plan is for 12 more statues to be added at some point in the future (a great opportunity to make another dive!).

The three of us set out on Harvey Prior’s vessel, the B4IV, for the 80-minute ride out to the monument. Kristi and I splashed first, with Harvey staying about 100 yards off (as there is no anchoring allowed in this area). We dropped down to the sand at 42 feet and started our underwater tour. The visibility was 15 feet at best, - the daily rain showers over the previous week stirred up lots of sediment. Within 30 seconds we saw the first statue. It was a sailor standing watch and very impressive. We followed a line and were able to visit and photograph a few of the figures. We viewed all twelve statues; it was really something to see!



**We surfaced after a 40 plus minute dive, had a long swim to the B4IV and noted that two dive boats had now arrived on the site. I have no doubt this is going to be a very popular spot in the gulf. We changed locations to give the other boats some breathing room, got in two more dives and returned to the Circle of Heroes so Harvey could check out the monument.**



**It is very impressive monument and with better visibility and the remainder of the statues to be sunk in 2020, we will surely be out there again.**

**Article by Rob Bonnem VFC 11-10**

**Underwater Photos by Kristi Mackey, Harvey Prior and Rob Bonnem**



## Purple Heart Recognition Day

On August 7<sup>th</sup> 11-10 joined the City of Dunedin in a special ceremony to honor and pay tribute to all Veterans, with a special focus on Purple Heart recipients who have earned the military tribute by virtue of their bravery and sacrifice.

Dunedin has a special park dedicated to Purple Heart recipients, which is located at 300 Main Street, Dunedin, FL. Some of our own Auxiliarist families have lost love ones while serving this great country and we were there to honor them in this ceremony. The newest recipients received a quilt representing their branch of the military and the local sheriff's department provided a twenty-one gun salute.

What does the purple heart represent??

A heart is used to symbolize the emotion of love

A purple heart symbolizes a sensitive, understanding and compassionate love, for Duty, honor, royalty, and good judgment.

A purple heart is awarded to United States military veterans when injured in action while serving their country. It's a symbol of honor for their sacrifice. AND we shall always remember them and what they gave.



*Rob Bonnem, Walt Murray, Jon Nichols, Kristi Mackey, Jimmy Ryder, Buddy Casale*



*Photos by Kristi Mackey*

## Monthly Vessel Exam Blitz

Gordon Thomas, (FSO) Vessel Examination, schedules a vessel exam blitz at one of the local marinas on a monthly basis during the boating season.

On August 10, 2019 Saturday Dunedin Flotilla 11-10 did a VE blitz at Marker 1 Marina from 11:00AM to 3:00pm.

Marker 1 was putting on a special Customer Appreciation day with free games, food, and drinks and had 300 RVSP from its members according to the Marina director, Caitlin Womble.

The boaters who wanted a vessel exam were very appreciative of what we do and were glad that we were there.

Vessel examiners in attendance were George White, Allen Leimbach, George Inderwies, Ron Shebanek, and Gordon Thomas, FSO-VE.



*George Inderwies and boat owners, photo by Gordon Thomas*

# Retiring a Workhorse: C-130 Makes its Final Flight

**By Chris Day**  
**The Daily Advance, Elizabeth City NC**

U.S. Coast Guard C-130H aircraft number 1503 is seen on the deck at the Aviation Logistic Center's (ALC) Heavy Maintenance Facility.

The plane was flown in from Air Station Clearwater in Clearwater, Florida, where it had been based. The plane represents the last of the 1500 series aircraft in the Coast Guard inventory.



The gold numbering also denotes the plane as the oldest C-130 used by the Coast Guard. The plane was flown to ALC to be retired, demilitarized and eventually destroyed.

After serving more than 40 years as a flying workhorse for the U.S. Coast Guard, C-130H number 1503 made its final flight on Friday June 21st.

The 1503 represented the last of the Coast Guard's 1500 series C-130s. Commissioned in 1974, the plane was also the oldest H model in the Coast Guard's inventory of C-130s. Near the nose of the airplane the number 1503 is displayed in gold, which indicates the plane's seniority. The 1503 also was 13 hours shy of 30,000 total flight hours, Chief Josh Sandel said.

A Coast Guard crew from the Aviation Logistics Center at Base Elizabeth City flew the 1503 to ALC, where it will be retired, demilitarized and eventually destroyed. It had been based at Air Station Clearwater, in Florida.

Sandel, who is an aviation maintenance technician assigned to ALC, said the crew flew another C130H aircraft to Clearwater to swap it out for the 1503. That plane was number 1702 and was originally assigned to Air Station Kodiak in Alaska. It was flown to ALC, where it underwent a brief maintenance period, before being turned over to Air Station Clearwater.

The 1702 now assumes the distinction as the oldest C-130 in the Coast Guard fleet, Sandel said. The 1700 series are now the only H models in use by the Coast Guard, Sandel said. The remainder of the service's C130s are the more updated J models.



## Future Aircrew

On July 24, 11-10's Joan Gutek, who volunteers at Airstation Clearwater, gave an airstation tour to Dennis Houghton from 11-1 who brought along his twin ten-year-old daughters.

Dennis says his daughters are very interested in the coast guard and they came dressed for the occasion by wearing their own ODU's!

They sat in the pilot's seat on both the C130 and the helicopter to have their pictures taken.



*11-1's Dennis Houghton and daughters, photos by Joan Gutek*

*Written Parental Permission received to use the children's photographs.*

## Other Flotilla Events

On August 2nd we held our monthly fellowship event, a luncheon at Umberto's Italian Restaurant in Dunedin.

We plan to meet on the first Friday of each month at noon at Umberto's. Everyone is welcome.



On August 8th during the Flotilla meeting, Kristi announced a surprise Member Uniform Review. Jon Nicholls helped to review each individual and utilized a popsicle stick to measure correct ribbon placements on the blouses.

The results were one wrong color pair of pants, one incorrect shirt, and eight people had incorrect ribbon placement, either too high or too low above the shirt pocket.



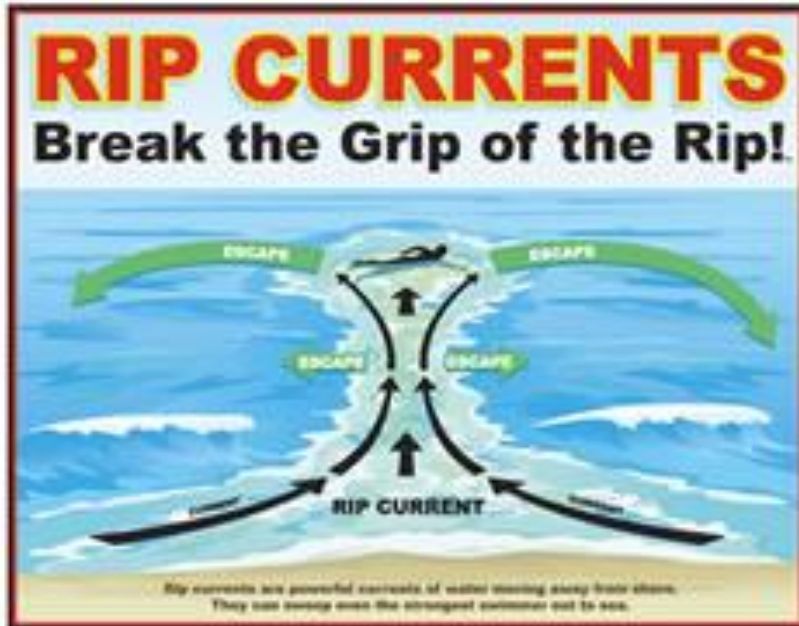
## Flotilla Staff Officers

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| <b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b>                                  |  |
| <b>FC Flotilla Commander</b>                             | <b>Kristi Mackey</b>                             |
| <b>VFC Vice Flotilla Commander</b>                       | <b>Robert Bonnem</b>                             |
| <b>IPFC Immediate Past Flotilla Commander</b>            | <b>Samuel G. Walker</b>                          |
|  |  |
| <b>FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS</b>                           |  |
| <b>FSO-CM Communications</b>                             | <b>Edward Roots</b>                              |
| <b>FSO-CS Communications Services</b>                    | <b>Walter P. Murray</b>                          |
| <b>FSO-DV Diversity</b>                                  | <b>Larry Gilbert</b>                             |
| <b>FSO-FN Finance</b>                                    | <b>Jimmy R. Ryder</b>                            |
| <b>FSO-HR Human Resources</b>                            | <b>Kristi Mackey<br/>Wally Weakley assistant</b> |
| <b>FSO-IS Information Services</b>                       | <b>Walter P. Murray</b>                          |
| <b>FSO-MA Materials</b>                                  | <b>Charles Whitener</b>                          |
| <b>FSO-MS Marine Safety and Environmental Protection</b> | <b>Douglas W. Simpson</b>                        |
| <b>FSO-MT Member Training</b>                            | <b>Harvey Prior</b>                              |
| <b>FSO-NS Navigation Systems</b>                         | <b>Larry Gilbert</b>                             |
| <b>FSO-OP Operations Lawrence</b>                        | <b>Larry Gilbert</b>                             |
| <b>FSO-PA Public Affairs</b>                             | <b>Judith Ann Deeley</b>                         |
| <b>FSO-PB Publications</b>                               | <b>Ronald Shebanek</b>                           |
| <b>FSO-PE Public Education</b>                           | <b>Cono F. Casale</b>                            |
| <b>FSO-SR Secretary/Records</b>                          | <b>Judith Ann Deeley</b>                         |
| <b>FSO-VE Vessel Examination</b>                         | <b>Gordon Thomas</b>                             |

## **Upcoming Dates**

**NACON Orlando**  
**Navigation Class – Dunedin Classroom**  
**Fellowship Kayak Trip**  
**Monthly Luncheon**  
**Flotilla Meeting**  
**DTRAIN Orlando**

**August 19-26**  
**August 24**  
**August 24**  
**September 6**  
**September 12**  
**September 19-22**



- IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT**
- ◆ Don't fight the current
  - ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
  - ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
  - ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

- SAFETY**
- ◆ Know how to swim
  - ◆ Never swim alone
  - ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:

[www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)  
[www.usfa.org](http://www.usfa.org)

