



WET GAZETTE

USCG AUXILIARY DUNEDIN FLOTILLA
Seventh Coast Guard District



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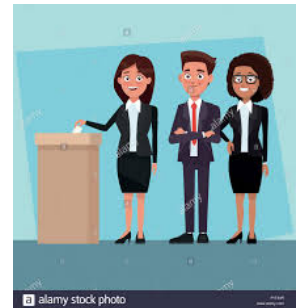
December 2018

Commander's Corner

Shipmates, it is time for me to pass the torch after two years as Flotilla Commander and one year as Flotilla Vice Commander. You are in good hands with Kristi at the helm as your new Flotilla Commander. It has been a wonderful experience sharing some great accomplishments that we have had over the years and improving the safety of the American boating public. Moving forward, we all need to continue our work saving lives and supporting the Coast Guard. Bravo Zulu.

The Votes are In

Congratulations to our newly elected Flotilla Commander, Kristi Mackey and Vice Commander, Rob Bonnem.



Congratulations also go to Sam Walker on becoming the new Division Vice Commander.

Coming Events

December 1	CPR/First Air at Clearwater Flotilla Headquarters
December 1	Change of Watch Banquet
December 6	Flotilla Staff Meeting
December 11	One Hour TCT at Clearwater Flotilla Headquarters
December 13	Flotilla Meeting and Christmas Party
December 15	Four Hour TCT at Clearwater Flotilla Headquarters
December 20	AUXAIR Staff Meeting
December 25	Merry Christmas
December 31	Happy New Year

Veteran's Day Remembrance November 11, 2018

By Scott Birdwell

Three Auxiliarists from the Dunedin Flotilla attended the 31st annual ceremony at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens. This Veteran's Day was also the 100th anniversary of the WWI Armistice Day. Veteran's Day remembers and commemorates the service of all former and active duty members of all US Armed Forces. Memorial Day remembers and commemorates those members of the US Armed Forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice and died in service to this country.

The armistice agreement between the Allied Forces and Germany was signed on June 28, 1919, seven months after a temporary cease fire. That cessation of hostilities is said to have occurred on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. President Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919 as the first Armistice Day. Congress formally recognized the end of WWI when it passed a resolution on June 4, 1926. An Act of Congress, 52 Stat 351 5 U S Code, Sec 87a, was approved on May 13, 1938, marking November 11 each year as a legal holiday known as Armistice Day. President Eisenhower officially changed the Remembrance Day to Veteran's Day with proclamation 3071.

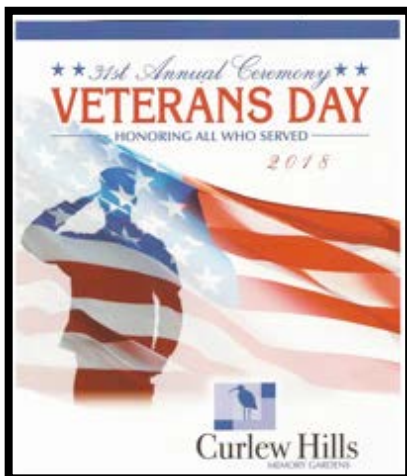


Photo by Scott Birdwell

The Uniform Holiday Bill of 1968 created four three-day holiday weekends for federal employees. These dates to be celebrated on Mondays are: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day.

The first Monday observance of Veteran's Day caused such consternation that President Gerald Ford signed into law 89 Stat. 479 that returned the historic and patriotic significance of the annual remembrance of Veteran's Day to November 11. This is a celebration to honor all of this country's veterans for their love of country, patriotism, service and sacrifice for all citizens.

Col. Jerry Custin, United States Air Force, Retired, was the master of ceremonies at this Veteran's Day Service. He was joined by Rabbi Gerry Klein for the Invocation, the Palm Harbor Methodist Choir, who sang patriotic songs and Rev. Dr. Timothy Parsch for the Benediction. Col. Custin spoke about the historical significance of Veteran's Day, the solemn remembrance of the sacrifices made for this county, and also his relief that the tumultuous election season was over, Florida notwithstanding.

The keynote speaker was Lt. Col. David Koonce, United States Army, Retired. Col. Koonce spoke of his Texas A&M education, his marriage and children, service to this country and how he determines his success. He noted that his measure of success was not in the awards and accolades, but by how those under his command were prepared to carry on in life. That mantra extended to his current position of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) instructor in Lakeland where more than 30 JROTC students are learning responsibility, accountability, patriotism and succession of leadership.



Both Col. Custin and Col. Koonce noted that this country is very proud of those Armed Service Veterans that have paid the price of sacrifice in service to this country and have incurred both physical and emotional injuries, as well as the toll on families and loved ones.



Attending the ceremony from the Dunedin Flotilla were Rob Bonnem, Allen Leimbach and Scott Birdwell.

More Salutes to Veterans 2018

By Joan Gutek

On November 9, the Pasco-Hernando State College saluted veterans with a performance by the Victory Belles, a vocal trio. The program began with the singing of the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The 13 folds of the American flag were explained as a flag was folded. Then, the concert began with music from the 1940's as well as some patriotic songs and ending with a salute to each branch of the service. The young ladies brought up a member of the audience to perform with them who just happens to be a member of Dunedin Flotilla 11-10. You will be happy to know that Jon Nicholls represented us well and many people thought he was meant to be part of the program.



Photos by Joan Gutek



Can you find Jon in this picture?

Dunedin Flotilla Meets the Public at the Palm Harbor Touch a Truck

By Scott Birdwell

A small detail from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Dunedin Flotilla 11-10 met with local families and provided entertaining and educational activities at the Fifth Annual Palm Harbor Touch a Truck on Saturday, November 10. This lively event held on the ball fields at Sunderman Complex featured big construction trucks, fire and rescue vehicles and helicopters among other displays. While the Coast Guard patrol boat was not available, the Dunedin Flotilla set up a positive display for children and their parents to discuss all things about boating safety.

Sammy the Sea Otter, Allen Leimbach in costume, was a huge hit giving high fives and hugs and posing for pictures. All children were presented with "Wear It" (personal flotation devices) and/or other boating safety stickers for their shirts. Many kids also opted for the classic "Coastie" temporary tattoos expertly applied by Rosemary Bloomfield, Mike Roots and Kristi Mackey.



Allen Leimbach out of costume with Larry Gilbert and Rob Bonnem.



Rosemary Bloomfield applying tattoos.



Photos by Scott Birdwell and Kristi Mackey



The weather was excellent with broken clouds keeping the direct sun away and a nice northerly breeze helped to prevent the field from getting too hot. Allen Leimbach might not agree because in costume he was feeling the heat even though he had a cryogenic cooling vest under the suit. Allen is a trooper and did not disappoint the kids.



Keith Betzing and Rob Bonnem

Keith Betzing, Larry Gilbert, Rob Bonnem, Ron Shebanek and Scott Birdwell skillfully erected two tents to provide shade in the open field and cover for the display tables. All the Auxiliarists had interesting conversations with the parents and kids, leading them through the “Trash Game” and knot tying. There was plenty of literature to hand out with fishing information. Coloring and activity books were the most popular with the kids.

Through conversations, two gentlemen attending the event with their families expressed interest in Dunedin Auxiliary membership. Their information was forwarded to the flotilla Human Resources Officer.

At the end of the day, Harry Heiser and Harvey Prior assisted the team to pack up the equipment and materials and take them back to the classroom.



Scott Birdwell, Larry Gilbert, Kristi Mackey, Rob Bonnem and Rosemary Bloomfield

This was a wonderful event to meet with the public, involve kids in fun activities that plant the seeds of water safety and provide valuable information to parents.

Photos by Kristi Mackey and Scott Birdwell

Air Station Support

By Joan Gutek



Removing the GPS from the co-pilot position.

John Tassinaro from Dunedin Flotilla 11-10 keeps the Global Positioning System (GPS) updated each week on the four C130 planes stationed at Air Station Clearwater. He begins by getting the SIM cards or the GPS unit itself off of three positions on each plane, the pilot, co-pilot and navigator.

John takes the cards inside the C130 hangar where he downloads the updates from a computer then installs them into the GPS. This can take anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour each depending on whether the updates are from Garmin or Jeppesen.



Downloading updates onto the GPS in the hangar office.

He then returns them to the plane. It becomes challenging when the planes are out flying or are deployed so John comes in several days each week until each plane has been updated.



Reinstalling the GPS on the navigator position.

Photos by Joan Gutek

Come Fly With Me

By Joan Gutek

Each year at our annual holiday party fundraiser, Guy and Heidi Warner offer a ride in their plane up for bid. Last year's winning bid came from Rob Bonnem. Recently, he and his wife, Sharon, collected their prize.

Taking off from St. Pete/Clearwater Airport, they headed to Venice where they visited Sharkey's Restaurant on Venice Beach. After a great lunch, they returned home to St. Pete/Clearwater. Rob said, "We had a fantastic time."

You too can have the opportunity of a lifetime to fly with Guy as they are again offering a ride at this year's flotilla meeting and party on December 13 at the Red Tail. Bring cash or your checkbook to bid on this or one of the many other "deals" at this year's auction.



"Muscleman" Guy bringing the plane out of the hangar.

Photos by Rob Bonnem



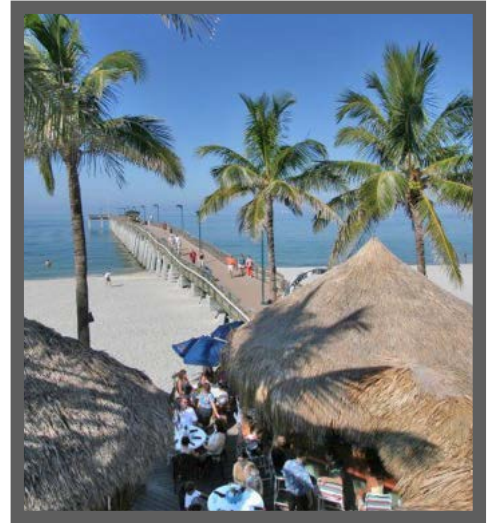
Rob looks like a natural.



Rob and Sharon ready to go.



Guy and Heidi's plane.



Sharkey's on Venice Beach.



Views from the cockpit.

