



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

Commander's Corner



2019 ended with December being a busy month with an ABS class and the Dunedin holiday parade with the Coast Guard boat where we gave out 800 pieces of candy.

The Holiday Party was great success and the auction brought in double from previous years. This is our once a year Flotilla fundraiser and funds raised can be used towards picnics/parties. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed towards the party. I would also like to say Congratulations to Judy Deeley our FSO-PA for completing her PHD and starting her new job at Dunedin High School.

As we enter into the New Year with our new staff positions, excitement and enthusiasm is over flowing. We swore in two new members Teresa Hughes and Ralph Caridad. Next month we will be swearing in Alberto Valez.

We have more fun public affairs events planned in February starting with the Dunedin Mardi Gras parade. Please show your support by attending meetings and help with our ABS classes. Help me make this another truly successful year.

Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander
Semper Paratus

Member Training Update



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

The first version of the 2020 member training schedule has been released.

All sign ups should be made thru the FSO-MT, Flotilla Staff Officer Member Training. Class sizes are usually limited so sign up early.

The four-night Instructor Development Course begins February 24th. This is the new version and reportedly is much improved.

Plotting 2.0 is being offered March 3rd and 4th.

Introduction to Risk Management is being offered classroom style on March 7th at 0900 in Clearwater.

The annual TCT Refresher is being held at 1100 on March 7th.

Crew College starts March 17th. Members signing up for Crew College should be sure to take Risk Management and TCT as they are required to become qualified crew.

On March 21st there will be a CPR/First Aid course.

If you have questions, please ask. Between the FC, VFC and the FSO-MT answers to training issues are usually readily available.

SIGN UP NOW!

Public Education Update



Buddy Casale, Cono Casale, boatinbud7@gmail.com, is the Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Public Education.

We are always looking for qualified instructors to help teach our popular About Boating Safety and Basic Skills and Seamanship Classes.

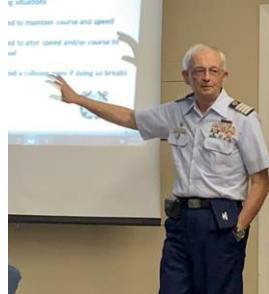
Our all new “Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation “, developed by Flotilla 11-10, was offered in January. The three-hour (0900-1200) seminar lesson objectives are determine position on a chart, set courses using Latitude & Longitude, compute speed, time & distance.

A total of 12 students enrolled in the first class and they provided favorable evaluations for the class.

The Flotilla also graduated 9 students from our ABS, About Boating Safely course.

Bravo Zulu, Buddy!

Good Mate Course



Doug Simpson, FSO Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, presented an overview of the Good Mate course at the January Flotilla meeting.

The Good Mate course provides boaters and marina operators with the basics of environmentally sound operation and maintenance, while supporting recreational enjoyment and sustainable profits.

A thorough discussion and understanding of how boating impacts our waters will help improve the quality and sustain our lakes, rivers, coasts and oceans into the future.

Completion of the course meets one of the basic requirements for the Marine Safety Training Ribbon (MSTR) and the Auxiliary TRIDENT insignia.

Pre-Requisites:

Have a genuine interest in the Marine Safety/Environmental Protection program of the United States Coast Guard and it's Auxiliary.

Course Requirements:

**Study the manual and references listed in the chapters of the manual
Participate in the four lessons online; and pass the on-line examination**

Blackthorn Tragedy and a Hero



Forty years ago, a freak set of circumstances led to catastrophe on the evening of Jan. 28, 1980. That's how long it's been since the Coast Guard suffered the worst peacetime tragedy in its history.

The Blackthorn collided with the tanker SS Capricorn near the Sunshine Skyway bridge, killing 23 crew members aboard the Blackthorn.

At least one of the ships was too close to the center of the channel near the Sunshine Skyway bridge. As the Blackthorn headed out to Mobile, Alabama — and then on to Galveston, Texas — and the Capricorn in toward Weedon Island, lights from a nearby cruise ship may have made it difficult for the two ships' crews to see each other until it was too late. Once the crews did spot one another, an inexperienced Blackthorn officer failed to properly communicate with the Capricorn. All of that is according to two government reports.

Even given those factors, the initial collision between the two ships wasn't catastrophic. The vessels hit almost head-on, with the Blackthorn running down the port side of the much larger tanker. No one on the Capricorn was harmed.

It was the Capricorn's 13,500-pound anchor that sealed the Blackthorn's fate. It tore into the cutter's hull, then pulled the ship down. Water began gushing into the Blackthorn.

On board, chaos. After less than ten minutes, the vessel was sunk, 23 of its crew of 50 lost.

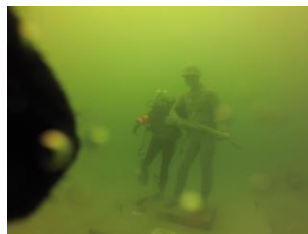
Seaman Apprentice William Flores, age 18, heroically went down with his ship. As the Blackthorn capsized, Flores stayed aboard, throwing life jackets to his fellow seamen. He allowed even more jackets to float to escaping crew members by propping open a locker door with his own belt.

He was honored with the unveiling of a concrete statue of Flores for the Circle of Heroes underwater monument off the coast of Clearwater.



These statues, arranged as a 100-foot wide ring, were 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 initially featured 12 life-sized statues of soldiers from all branches of the military. Flores is number 13 in what is planned to be 24 statues in total.

You may recall that in the August addition of the Wet Gazette, Kristi Mackey, Rob Bonnem and Harvey Prior made their first visit to the submerged Circle of Heroes monument.



Popeye was a Coast Guardsman, who knew?

This may seem like blasphemy to some, but Popeye started his professional career as a civilian mariner and then Coast Guardsman. The famous sailor did join the Navy, but as of 1937, Popeye was firmly in the Coast Guard. A two-reel feature titled *Popeye the Sailor meets Ali Baba's Forty Thieves* introduces Popeye serving at a Coast Guard station.

The sailor man's creator did not live to see the United States enter World War II, but it was in 1941 that his creation joined the Navy and the legend of Popeye the rough and tumble U.S. Navy sailor was born.



Flotilla Fellowship Events

On January 3, we held our monthly fellowship event, a luncheon at Umberto's Italian Restaurant in Dunedin. Please join us for the next one on February 7.

We meet on the first Friday of each month at 12:30 at Umberto's. Everyone is welcome.



October Fellowship Luncheon

Flotilla Staff Officers

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

Upcoming Dates

Monthly Fellowship Luncheon
Flotilla Meeting
About Boating Safety Class – Dunedin
Dunedin Mardi Gras parade

February 7
February 13
February 15
February 22

