WET GAZETTE

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

Rob Bonnem, Commander
Gordon Thomas, Vice Commander
Kristi Mackey, Immediate Past Commander
Ron Shebanek, Publications Officer

Commander's Corner

We are now entering the beginning of summer and also the home stretch of my command of 11-10. It has been a difficult time, as many activities are curtailed and others have had restrictions placed upon them. In spite of all this, your bridge continues efforts to balance auxiliary activities, fellowship events, Public Affairs (PA) events and the restrictions we are under. All of us have gotten very good at adapting. Our baseball game fellowship event was a prime example of this. We had an exceptional turnout and the feedback I received from our members and friends is that everyone loved getting out together.

Buddy's Romeo lunch continues to be a fun event. Members who attend speak about how much enjoyment they get from this informal get-together. We've had it in eight out of nine of the past months. If you have never attended, look for the invitation that will go out to the entire flotilla the week before the event.

We plan for more activities between now and year's end, both uniform and fellowship. Possible plans include a crew college class (11-10 classroom), continuation of Buddy's Romeo lunch, a game night (July) , a kayak trip and lunch (September), Palm Harbor Touch a Truck (November), Dunedin Holiday Parade (December) and the much awaited restart of the flotilla Holiday party. (December).

Hopefully, we can make all of this happen; we have a new Flotilla Staff Officer-Public Affairs (FSO-PA), Chelsea Miller, and she is already working on our participation in events. Bravo Zulu (BZ) Chelsea. Gordon and I will need some help, as we will be forming a planning committee for the holiday party soon. Please jump in and help out! Ideas are always welcome. We have exceptional members, let's close out this year with a bang.

Auxiliary Operational Specialist

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

The Auxiliary Operational Specialist (AUXOP) is the top membership category that is achieved by only a small percentage of the auxiliarists and is sometimes called the Auxiliary PhD.

When it was originally created there were seven designated courses: Weather, Administration, Patrol, Seamanship, Search and Rescue, Communications and Navigation. The final exam on each course was administered by an auxiliary proctor or a Coast Guard petty officer.

As time passed, the list of courses that could be counted towards AUXOP changed. The AUXOP program now requires member to pass the Weather, Communications, and Seamanship courses, plus an approved leadership course and list of other courses.

The course Basic Qualification Course II (BQC II) is one of the approved leadership courses so new members now complete this course on their way to becoming Basically Qualified.

The list of other approved courses and their point value can be found by clicking on AUXOP Courses at Training under the Directorate's tab on auxiliary home pages. There are some advanced Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses in addition to auxiliary courses. For those interested in the Coast Guard Marine Safety Programs, the Introduction to Marine Safety course is a two point course.

Thanks to COVID changes, you can now take the AUXOP course exams open-book online. You can also take the FEMA ISC 300 course online that was formerly classroom only. **This special opportunity will not last**.

There are ten members of Flotilla 11-10 who have obtained the AUXOP level. Will you be number eleven?

Member Activities

2020 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education awardee Buddy Casale, was honored by being asked to throw out the first pitch at a Clearwater Threshers baseball game. A number of flotilla members and friends attended the game to celebrate Buddy's achievement.

Photos by Judy Deeley and Chelsea Miller

Gordon Thomas was one of the captains on a 12 passenger pontoon boat on Lake Tarpon when they docked at the Tarpon Turtle Restaurant. They came across an anhinga whose beak was sealed shut with a heavy string totally wrapped around it. He approached the bird and sat on the dock moving slowly toward him and was able to quickly grab him by the tail. He was able to hold his body and beak while trying to remove the string.

The other captain was able to get a knife and they had to cut the string to allow him to open his beak and then they had to work each section off the beak since each remaining piece was still tightly embedded in each beak portion. All the time they worked on him, he didn't fight it or try to get away. After removal of the string, he moved to the end of dock to preen himself.

Gordon Thomas, recently performed in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, Ireland. Gordon plays the tuba in a number of bands, one of which is the Second Time Arounders Marching band which traveled to this country for this amazing fun event. After playing in the official St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, they then bussed on to a smaller town in Ireland and marched in a second St. Patrick's Day parade there.

This band has anywhere from about 300-500 members depending on where they travel. They have performed in Calgary, Canada, at the Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C., Seattle, Savannah, Georgia, and Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade twice in New York .

This trip saw about 240 members marching in the parade in Ireland. Many members came earlier or stayed later to enjoy the visit.

Photos provided by Gordon Thomas

AUXAIR UPDATE

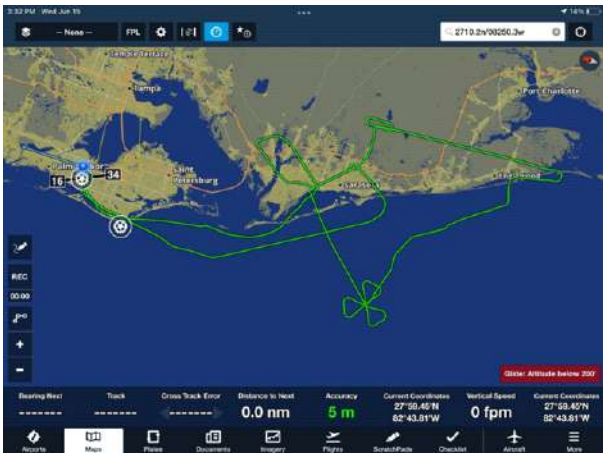
I conducted a maritime operations patrol offshore from Sarasota including search pattern practice followed by a holding pattern and area navigation and instrument landing approaches at Sarasota airport.

My co-pilot was Tom Maloof, a senior Delta airbus pilot with Bill McDonough, a former Navy aircraft carrier pilot and Delta pilot in the rear. Bill serves as AUXAIR's Flight Examiner.

The mission was to prepare Tom for his upcoming Aircraft Commander check ride.

It was an extremely hot and humid day with "feels like" temperatures well over 100 degrees.

We made proper hydration a priority!



John Landon

Images and article by John Landon

Coast Guard rescues seven after lightning strike 100 miles off Tampa Bay

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The Coast Guard rescued seven people, Saturday, June 24, 2022 after their 39-foot personal vessel was struck by lightning 100 offshore of Clearwater, Florida.

A Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter aircrew hoisted the five women and two men without medical concerns and returned them to the air station where family greeted them.

Coast Guard District Seven command center received an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) alert and was able to contact the owner's wife who said her husband and others where part of a fishing tournament.

"Lightning storms are routinely encountered in the Florida maritime environment and can pose a significant hazard to boaters," said Lt. David McKinley, Coast Guard pilot. "Fortunately, the boaters in this case were well prepared with all necessary safety equipment including an EPIRB, flares, and a marine VHF radio to ensure a quick and efficient rescue."

The vessel owner is coordinating with commercial salvage to recover the disabled vessel.

Article and picture source: Coast Guard News coastguardnews.com

Chaplains

Did you know we have auxiliarists serving as chaplains alongside active-duty Coast Guard personnel?

The Auxiliary Chaplain Support program (ACS) boasts over eighty men and women who serve alongside active-duty Coast Guard men and women across the country.

ACS Chaplains are officially recognized clergy-persons, who assist their Sector Chaplain with any needs that may arise. This includes counseling, prayers, religious rituals, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and worship services. ACS Chaplains also provide ceremonial support for change of command and retirements and assist the Sector Chaplain with special projects that support the overall well-being of Coast Guard men and women.

Currently, there are 78 auxiliarist chaplains in the ACS program whose combined ministerial experience is well over 1,600 years. The average ACS chaplain has 22 years of ministerial experience.

Gary Braswell, ACS Chaplain District 7

Gail Porter, ACS Chaplain District 13 with CG Captain Mary Durley

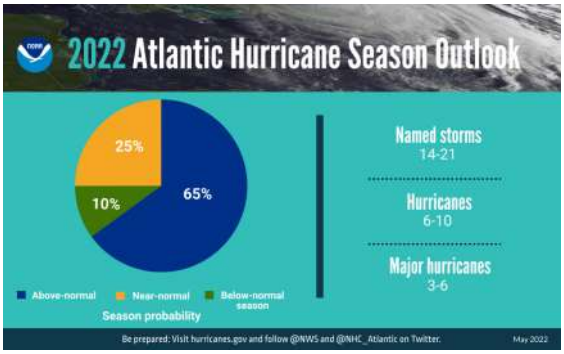
Steve Alexander,ACS Chaplain District 11

Gary Gray, ACS Chaplain District 7 with Navy Chaplain Joseph Seifert

Article and photos by Mike Hughes, Chaplain 11-10

NOAA predicts above normal 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season

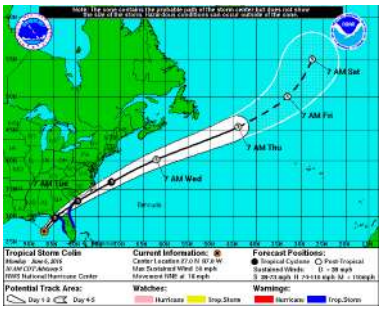
For the 2022 hurricane season, NOAA is forecasting a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence.



To date, there have been three named storms, Alex, Bonnie and Colin. All three storms are unusual.

Tropical Storm Alex was a strong tropical storm that caused flash flooding in South Florida while developing into the first named storm of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season. Alex originated from a broad area of low pressure partially related to the remnants of Hurricane Agatha in the Eastern Pacific. Alex's precursor disturbance flooded streets and caused numerous power outages in Florida. When storms transition form the Pacific to the Atlantic or gulf, they are renamed. Bonnie is going to transition to a Pacific storm when it crosses Costa Rica and will receive a new name when that happens. Colin formed overnight just off the coast of South Carolina.

Tropical Storm Bonnie formed on July 1 and is not expected to be a treat to the United States. Tropical Storm Colin formed on July 2.



So now would be a good time to check the contents of your hurricane evacuation kits and discard and replace any expired food and medications including pet medications. Check on insurance papers, and locate any hardware required for hurricane shutters or boards. Know your evacuation zones for wind and flooding, review evacuation routes and determine locations if you do need to evacuate.

Source: NOAA

Do The stingray shuffle

For Kim Bassos-Hull, getting barbed by a stingray hurt more than giving birth to her two children.

“I had kids with no drugs, like I did natural childbirth. And this hurt more than that,” said Bassos-Hull, a senior biologist with the Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in Sarasota.

Bassos-Hull was on the ocean researching spotted eagle rays, with her leg deep in a tank, when a wave rocked her boat. As the tank water sloshed around, a ray bumped into her, injecting its venomous spine and filling her leg with a throbbing pain.

“It was pretty bad for like an hour there, to the point where I almost passed out,” said Bassos-Hull, one of many experts who encourage beachgoers to employ the stingray shuffle during these hot summer months.

It’s a simple maneuver: As you enter the water, shuffle your feet forward and back or side to side in the sand. This creates vibrations that send a warning signal to stingrays.

The spotted eagle rays that Bassos-Hull encountered aren’t as common in the shallow waters along Pinellas County’s beaches, where swimmers are more likely to step on the sand-colored Atlantic or Southern stingrays lying disguised on the ocean floor. But these rays can inflict comparable pain.

While stingray season runs from spring to early fall, the rays tend to congregate in shallow water during the summer. They can be found at beaches all along the Gulf Coast.

Atlantic and Southern stingrays gravitate to the ocean floor, where they hunt for small invertebrates. As they look for food, they fulfill a crucial role in the marine ecosystem by turning over the sediment.

Partially buried in the sand, the rays are hard to spot and easily stepped on by unsuspecting beachgoers. They’re not naturally aggressive creatures, but they are jumpy, lashing out with their poisonous spine if startled.

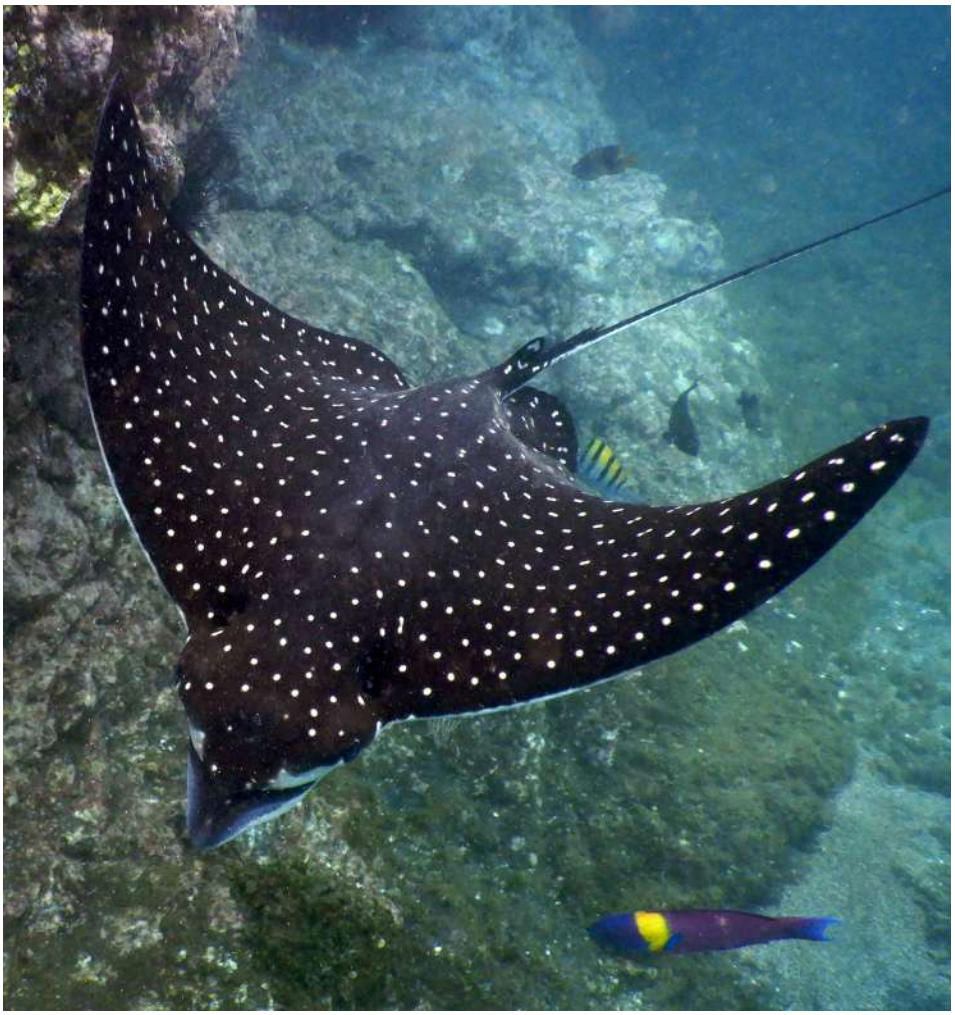
A stingray’s barbed spine — a deterrent against hammerhead sharks and other predators — consists of a series of angled spikes that slide easily into flesh, then rip and tear on the way out.

They’re angled one way so when they rip it out it’s like pulling a fish hook out,

The black skin of the spine contains goblet cells that produce a protein-based toxin, the primary culprit behind that throbbing pain associated with stingray barbs.

If you do get stung, the protein on the stinger is similar to that of a bee sting. A few people (like those allergic to bee stings) may develop a severe allergic reaction to the sting of the Florida stingray, necessitating immediate medical attention.

However, if you're like most people, following the basic first-aid treatment of soaking the affected area in hot water to help break down the toxins will suffice. However, make sure to see a doctor afterward.



Spotted Eagle Ray

Article based on articles from visitflorida.com and a *tampabaytimes* story. Photo Photopixabay.com

We are currently in a La Niña pattern
What are El Niño and La Niña?

El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of a natural climate pattern across the tropical Pacific Ocean that swings back and forth every 3-7 years on average. Together, they are called ENSO (pronounced “en-so”), which is an abbreviation for El Niño-Southern Oscillation.

The ENSO pattern in the tropical Pacific can be in one of three states: El Niño, Neutral, or La Niña. El Niño (the warm phase) and La Niña (the cool phase) lead to significant differences from the average ocean temperatures, winds, surface pressure, and rainfall across parts of the tropical Pacific. Neutral indicates that conditions are near their long-term average.

During El Niño, the surface winds across the entire tropical Pacific are weaker than usual. Ocean temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean are warmer than average, and rainfall is below average over Indonesia and above average over the central or eastern Pacific.

Rising air motion (which is linked to storms and rainfall) increases over the central or eastern Pacific, and surface pressure there tends to be lower than average. Meanwhile, an increase in sinking air motion over Indonesia leads to higher surface pressure. During La Niña, it’s the opposite. The surface winds across the entire tropical Pacific are stronger than usual, and most of the tropical Pacific Ocean is cooler than average. Rainfall increases over Indonesia (where waters remain warm) and decreases over the central tropical Pacific (which is cool). Over Indonesia, there is more rising air motion and lower surface pressure. There is more sinking air motion over the cooler waters of the central and eastern Pacific.

Between the warm phase (El Niño) and cool phase (La Niña), scientists describe conditions as “ENSO-neutral.” Neutral means that the temperatures, winds, convection (rising air), and rainfall across the tropical Pacific are near their long-term averages.

El Niño and La Niña episodes typically last 9-12 months. They both tend to develop during the spring (March-June), reach peak intensity during the late autumn or winter (November-February), and then weaken during the spring or early summer (March-June).

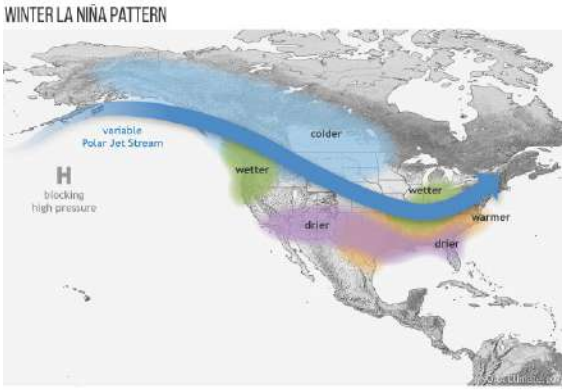
Both El Niño and La Niña can last more than a year, but it is rare for El Niño events to last longer than a year or so, while it is common for La Niña to last for two years or more. The longest El Nino in the modern record lasted 18 months, while the longest la Niña lasted 33 months. Scientists aren’t sure why the duration of the two types of events can be so different.

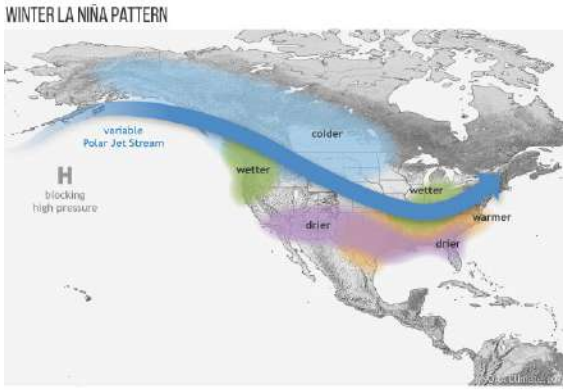
The continental United States and Caribbean Islands have a substantially decreased chance of experiencing a hurricane during El Niño and an increased chance of experiencing a hurricane during La Niña.

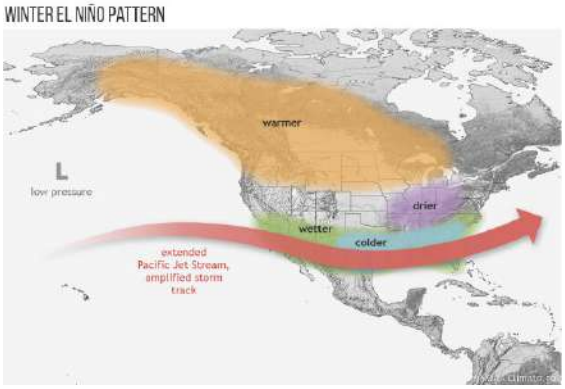
El Niño and La Niña appear to have an effect on tornado activity. Since a strong jet stream is an important ingredient for severe weather, the position of the jet stream helps to determine the regions more likely to experience tornadoes.

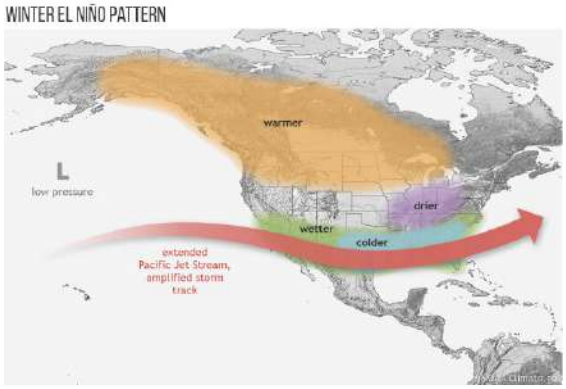
The jet stream over the United States is typically considerably different during El Niño winters as compared to La Niña winters. During El Niño, the jet stream is oriented from west to east across the southern portion of the United States. Thus, this region becomes more susceptible to severe weather outbreaks during the winter. Conversely, during La Niña, the jet stream and severe weather are likely to be farther north.

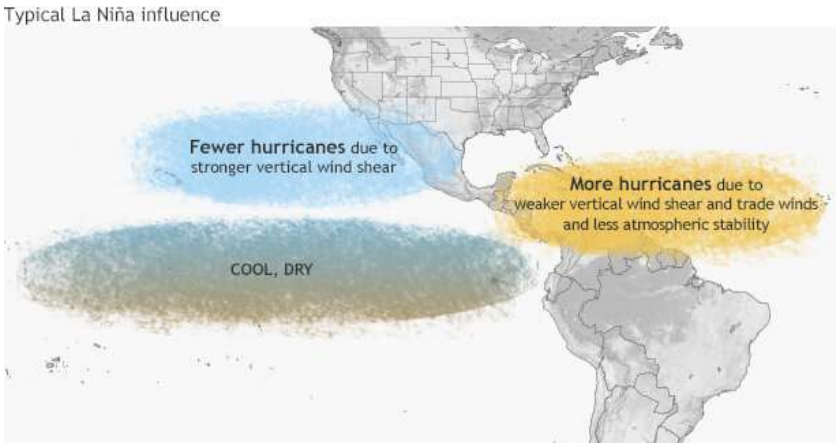
Article source:: NOAA











ELECTED OFFICERS	
FC Flotilla Commander	Rob Bonnem
VFC Flotilla Vice Commander	Gordon Thomas
IPFC Immediate Past Flotilla Commander	Kristi Mackey
FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS	
FSO-CM Communications	Scott Birdwell
FSO-CS Communication Services	Walter P. Murray
FSO-DV Diversity	Rafael Cardid
FSO-FN Finance	Jimmy R. Ryder
FSO-HR Human Resources	Kristi Mackey
FSO-IS Information Services	Rafael Cardid
FSO-MA Materials	Eddie Townsend
FSO-MS Marine Safety and Environmental Protection	Allen Leimbach
FSO-MT Member Training	Harvey Prior
FSO-NS Navigation Systems	Doug Simpson
FSO-Operations	Keith Betzing
FSO-PV Partner Visitor	Rob Bonnem
FSO-PA Public Affairs	Chelsea Miller
FSO-Publications	Ron Shebanek
FSO-PE Public Education	Cono F. Casale
FSO-SR Secretary/Records	Allen Leimbach
FSO-VE Vessel Examination	Gordon Thomas

SEMPER PARATUS for 83 YEARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

WE ARE: 21 thousand members serving our nation and our communities in 793 local units

WE CONTRIBUTE: 3.8 million hours per year in support of the U.S. Coast Guard, including in the classroom, at the ramp & pier, and operating 1,800 vessel, 160 aircraft and 1,400 radio facilities

WE REMAIN: Semper Paratus - Always Ready since 1939

Top images: cgaux.org

Bottom: 11-10s own Facility B4IV (photo from Harvey Prior, Coxswain)