



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



These are difficult times we are all facing, and I am so proud to be a part of this Dunedin Flotilla. Many of you have stepped up and asked me how you can help. Members have reached out to other members to do a welfare check. They say when times get tough, that is when you see real people shine, when no one else is looking. All of you have shown compassion and strength during these crazy times, and TOGETHER we will get through this.

Calling Tree – Rob Bonnem Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) and I did a call out last week to ensure our members were doing ok considering the circumstances and it went very well. Thank you so much for your quick response and questions. Please be aware that we may do this several times over the next few weeks. If your circumstances change or you leave the state, please let me know.

Flotilla Meeting – April 9th at 1900 (7pm) we will be conducting our meeting virtually. More information to come, but it is critical I have enough members join the call for a quorum so that we can vote for changes. More information will be coming on the specifics.

REYR/REWK Concerns - We have had many questions about members going into a negative status due to inactivity in several areas. Rest assured we are working on a

solution to solve for this until we can go back to our normal activities. So more to come....

Take advantage of this “time off”! - Learn something new, hone your skills, keep your knowledge base fresh, make good use of this time! No matter where you are on the leadership totem pole, completing all modules will enhance and sharpen your leadership skills.

Some of the home study opportunities include:

- **Core Training (AUXCT)** – If you haven’t completed the AUXCT or if you are coming up on the five-year expiration of some of the courses, take them now!
- **Basic Qualification Course II (BQC II)** – This is required of all new members and contains a wealth of information for more experienced members as well. Take some time and go through the modules; there is a great deal of useful information therein.
- **Operational Auxiliant Program (AUXOP)** - The AUXOP Program is an advanced training program available to members who wish to increase their practical relevance to Coast Guard missions, and better assist the Coast Guard to fulfill needed skill sets. Members who successfully complete their training are authorized to wear the prestigious AUXOP Device and their membership level advances from Initially Qualified (IQ) or Basic Qualified (BQ) to Operational Auxiliant (AX2), or just "AUXOP".

Please forward your certificates to me so that I can make sure you receive credit.

Stay involved and active from home!

Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander
Semper Paratus



Member Training Update



Flotilla 11-10 Shipmates, many of us currently some extra time at home. Instead of becoming a couch-potato watching hours of television, please consider taking some online training. It only takes an hour or two to get through many of the courses and lesson listed below. Set a good home-schooling example for the children you know and learn information that can improve your Auxiliary experience.

Core Training classes - there are five courses that must be retaken *at least* every five year plus the ethics course that is permanent. If you need them this year or next, consider these now.

Basic Qualification Course II (BQC II) - there are seven different lessons with an open book test at the end of each one. This course is required for all members who joined the Auxiliary after February 1, 2018 but it has good information for all members. It also qualifies as one point towards the AUXOP rating.

Risk Management - this course is required for members who are officers (elected or appointed) and for currency in many certifications. I recommend that every member take this if you haven't already done so.

Instructor Development Course (IDC) - learn how to be an instructor in the Auxiliary. This course has been revised and most say improved. Pass the online test and do some practice teaching before a qualified instructor and you can be qualified too.

Vessel Examiner - learn the basic knowledge portion of performing Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and facility inspection. After passing the open book written test, you are only five supervised VSCs from being qualified.

Partner Visitor (PV) - learn about the requirements of a partner visitor, a.k.a. a marine dealer visitor. Complete this course and do a few visits with a qualified partner visitor and you can be qualified. Our flotilla only has three PVs who are current and active so there is room for more.

Introduction to Public Affairs - learn about what Auxiliarists can and cannot say to the public and the media. If you enjoy this course, you can continue with other public affairs courses to become qualified to work with the Coast Guard PA officers.

Good Mate and Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (IMSEP) - I know some of you are planning to take some of this with Doug Simpson but we don't know when that will happen. These are both good courses and can be the start of your involvement with the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO). From here you can move to pollution investigation, inspecting everything from life rafts to cargo containers, commercial fishing boats to ocean going ships, and more. IMSEP also counts two points toward AUXOP.

FEMA courses - many Auxiliary programs like boat crew require ICS-100 and ICS-700. For positions like coxswain and elected officer, you also need ICS-200 and ICS-800. To move higher, you might also need either ICS-210 or ICS-300. Besides these possible required courses, there are many other FEMA courses that potentially improve your Auxiliary usefulness. Some available courses include topics like Hazardous Materials or Leadership. Remember to save a copy of your course completion certification.

There are more online courses like Administrative Procedures or Operations Policy but I will be lucky if you are still reading this. There are also a number of training presentations that don't require tests but also don't show in your records. These are full of information that is good to know.

Any time spent looking at or taking online training should be reported on your 7029 form as 99D, member training time.

The virus may keep us home, but it shouldn't stop us from becoming more knowledgeable Auxiliarists.

The Mandatory Annual Operations Workshop is required for all boat crew members and coxswains. It is also required for trainees before their Qualification Examination (QE) session. Crew and coxswains who do not take it by June 30th, you will be classified as REWK. Members who are REWK are not considered current, so they do not count towards the minimum requirement for crew on a vessel. There is a webinar scheduled for April 6th at 1415 (2:15 p.m.) and again at 1915 (7:15 p.m.). It will last approximately one hour. To sign up for the webinar, please notify me as the FSO-MT A.S.A.P. with your choice of time. The sign-up deadline is by April 4th but do it now so it gets done. Those signing up will be sent login details a couple of days before the webinar.

Again, the workshop is required for qualified boat crew, coxswains and trainees planning to QE this year. Other members are welcome but not required.

Vessel Examination Update



Gordon Thomas is the Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Examination.

In case you were not able to read the most recent email from Commodore Barth Dist. 7, I have pasted his info here:

Dear D7 Members:

After much discussion between CDR Briggs and COMO Barth, and in the interest of keeping all of the members of District 7 safe, as of today ALL VEs and PVs will cease until further notice. We highly encourage all members to work on courses online and online meetings to continue. The ever-increasing number of cases of Coronavirus COVID-19 in the District 7 AOR is a serious cause for concern for all members. Please continue to utilize precautions against this serious virus. Please continue to check emails and pay attention to upcoming messages affecting all members. As a District, we are planning online courses and more information will be forthcoming. Thank you for your cooperation due this very unusual time. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Very Respectfully,

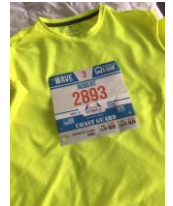
GARY P. BARTH
Commodore, District 7
USCG Auxiliary

"Encourage - Empower - Engage"

Coast Guard leads the way for the Sunshine Skyway 10k

By Robert Bonnem Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) 11-10
Photos by Sharon & Robert Bonnem

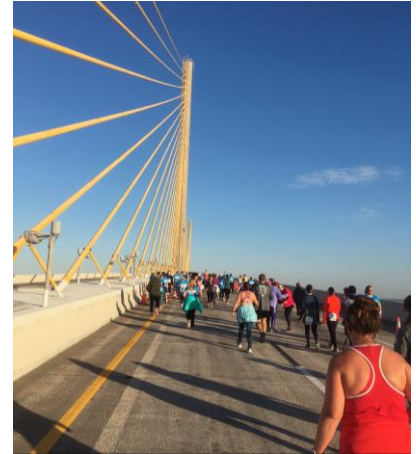
On Sunday morning March 1st, I ran in the third annual Sunshine Skyway 10k. This race benefits military families and has become the biggest run in the Tampa Bay area, with over 8,000 participants. Due to the popularity of this event, participation is now decided by a lottery system. 15,000 runners entered the lottery for the 8,000 spaces. I was able to run under Team Coast Guard and so I was awarded a spot.



I've only run 5ks in the past, so I was apprehensive about a 10k, particularly with a 425 foot incline (all of my 5ks have been in Florida, on flat terrain). I was not disappointed; this race was tough. I arrived at the race staging area at Tropicana Field at 05:30. Due to the huge number of runners, the race is broken down into four waves. I was wave three - scheduled to start at 06:30. We were bused from the Trop to the starting line at the south fishing pier of the bridge. Upon arrival, all I could think was WOW. Here were 2,000 runners, C-130 flyovers low and slow, JayHawk HH-60 Helos "buzzing" the bridge. The starting gun was an Army Howitzer 105 mm cannon.



Loads of active duty personnel from all military branches (in uniform) lined the bridge. Team Coast Guard started the race, carrying the colors and running the entire 10k (6.2 miles). The starting gun for wave three sounded at 07:10 and off I went. Due to the amount of people starting at once and in two lanes, the first mile was tough. I was able to hit stride in miles two and three but then the incline started. It's four feet up for every 100 feet of pavement. I know this doesn't sound like much, but it's the hardest running I've ever done. Upon reaching the bridge summit, it leveled off and by mile five we were in downhill mode.



The finish at the North fishing pier was mobbed with military and race officials. What a rush. We were ushered back onto buses heading back to the Trop where we were given our finisher's medal. I was fortunate enough to be "medaled" by a wonderful race volunteer, my wife Sharon. That was the highlight of my morning. I was very pleased with my race time and the party back at Tropicana Field was outstanding. It was a real honor to run this race, particularly as Team Coast Guard.



The Importance of Having a Personal Locator Beacon onboard

On Saturday afternoon March 21, U. S. Coast Guard Station Sand Key responded to a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) sending out a distress call approximately 12 nautical miles off Clearwater Pass. CG SSK crew on a 45-foot Response Boat along with the assistance of an Air Station Clearwater HC-130 Hercules aircrew located the vessel overturned with all members on top of the hull of a medium size boat. They recovered a man and a woman from a sinking vessel after activating a personal locator beacon. They were taken to Clearwater City Marina safely with no injuries or medical concerns.



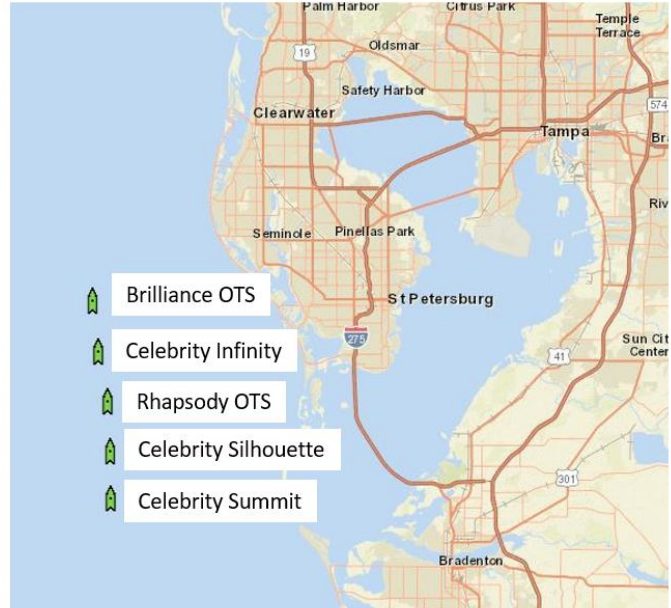
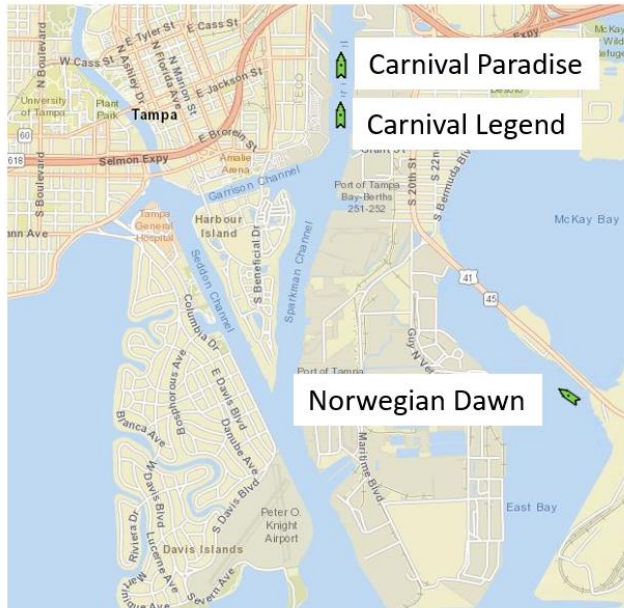
“Having a personal location beacon made a big difference in this case”, said Senior Chief Petty Officer Angel Ramos, the command duty officer at Sector St. Petersburg. “Cell phones don’t always work offshore, and these devices allow us to begin a search from a last known position”.

Article and photos from US Coast Guard Station Sand Key Facebook page

Empty Cruise Ships in Tampa Bay

The port of Tampa hosts a large number of cruise ships annually where people board for trips to many destinations. However, due to the current situation with COVID-19 the cruise industry at least here in the US has put a hold on passengers boarding.

As of March 18, Sector St. Pete indicated we had eight cruise ships currently anchored in the Tampa Bay area.



These ships still have a skeleton crew on board, but otherwise are considered empty. According to 11-10 member John Landon from AUXAIR, we have five ships located approximately 17-20 miles offshore and three more inside Tampa Bay. On Sunday March 22nd, John flew his plane over these five ships to check on their status. Single engine aircraft like John's operate up to 25 miles from shore unless guard is transferred to a cutter, then they can go another 25 miles from shore. Twin engine planes can operate 50 miles from shore. We are grateful for members like John who volunteer for these types of necessary missions.

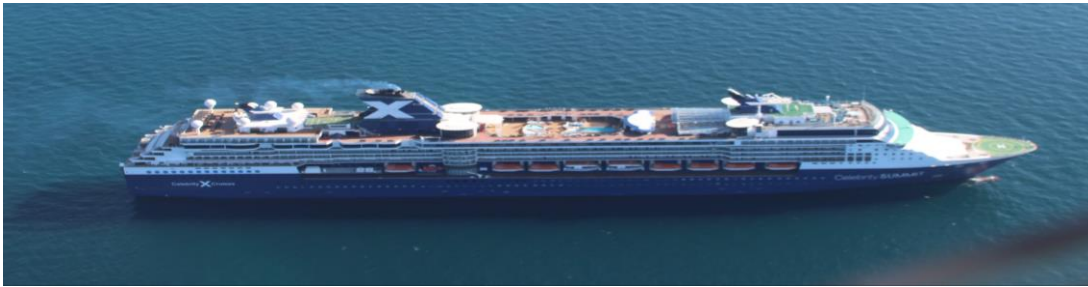


Write up by Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander (FC)

Pictures by John Landon, AUXAIR



Rhapsody



Celebrity Summit



Celebrity Silhouette



Brilliance of the Seas



Celebrity Infinity

Social Distancing along the Shoreline of Tampa Bay

On Friday afternoon March 20, the Governor of Florida ordered the beaches closed to the public. Prior to this order, our beaches here in Clearwater were swarming with Spring Breakers in town to soak up the Florida sunshine. On Sunday 11-10 member John Landon from AUXAIR flew his plane over Clearwater beach and two remote hot spots for local boaters to hang out. As you can see from John's pictures, the beach was empty of visitors.

However, the spoil islands have were still overcrowded. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has instituted a 50 ft boat to boat distance rule to take effect next weekend.



Clearwater Beach



Three Rooker Island



Gandy Beach "Redneck Riviera"

Write up by Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander (FC)

Pictures by John Landon, AUXAIR

Flotilla Staff Officers

ELECTED OFFICERS	
FC Flotilla Commander	Kristi Mackey
VFC Flotilla Vice 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

Cancelled until further notice

East Lake Fire Rescue

Can you remember the last time it rained in our area? Neither can we! So here's the situation:

1. Our district borders the Brooker Creek Preserves
2. Land and vegetation have dried out
3. You are stuck in your home and are looking for fun activities to keep you busy #COVID19

So what does that mean? That means that this is the PERFECT time for you to protect your home against wildfires.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.



VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

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Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at Firewise.org