



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



October was an active month for our Flotilla. November was also a busy month with our Palm Harbor Touch-A-Truck and the Flotilla elections. December was even more exciting with the Division Change of Watch, our Annual Holiday Party & White Elephant Auction, where we doubled our auction donations from last year, and we completed the year with participating in the Dunedin Holiday Parade.

I feel privileged to have led such an awesome group of men and woman in our Flotilla. Every time we have asked for volunteers, we always have plenty of you willing to step up to help. I want to say a special "Thank You" to my Vice Flotilla Commander Rob Bonnem who makes the job much easier and fun. I also want to thank our wonderful Staff Officers who have done an awesome job making this one of the best Flotillas in the Division if not the District.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Christmas holiday with your family and friends. I am truly looking forward to another great year with everyone's help.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020



Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander

Semper Paratus

Member Training Update



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

REYR – What Happened and What Do I Do

As the year changes, many members will find themselves falling into the REYR category. So, the question is how did I get there and what do I do about it?

REYR means that you did not complete a requirement. Before we look at the hour requirements for certain certifications, we need to look at the required educational courses. Every five years all Auxiliarists must retake the five Core Training courses, previously called Mandated Training. These courses are available and usually taken online. Because there are five separate courses that must be repeated every five years, some members might need to complete only one or two courses but not necessarily all of them at this time. Being delinquent in even one Core course will cause REYR.

The Risk Management Training course is a requirement for almost every member. The four-hour TCT refresher is necessary for those members working on a Coast Guard base or involved in operations. While Risk Management may be taken online, TCT must be taken as a group workshop.

Some years, a member will have a review workshop for a particular certification. Failure to complete the workshop will cause the member to be in REWK instead of REYR.

The annual performance requirement for some of the more common certifications are:

Vessel examiners must complete five vessel safety checks.

Instructors must be the lead (teach) for two hours or be an aid for four hours or be the lead for one hour and an aid for two hours.

Boat crew members must have twelve hours underway under orders.

Check your training manual for annual requirements in other certifications.

A member in REYR is considered a trainee in that category until they complete the shortage requirement and get the information recorded and displayed in AUXDATA. Once the completed shortages are showing in AUXDATA, *only then*, can the Flotilla Commander or Flotilla Vice Commander request the D7 DIRAUX to return the member to full qualified status. You are not considered qualified again (out of REYR) until “after” DIRAUX has updated your file. In trainee status, you must be supervised by a member with currency in that specific qualification. The delay in getting information recorded into AUXDATA and getting a Helpdesk ticket approved can take weeks.

The best solution to avoid REYR in the future is to perform the requirements early in the year. Then, if something happens to you part way thru the year, with your requirements met you won't become REYR until the end of the following year.

If you still have questions then talk to your FC, VFC, FSO-MT or the FSO over that qualification. REYR happens but what are you going to do about it?

Auxiliary Trivia

In the last newsletter, Harvey asked the following questions from Auxiliary websites. Can you research and find the answers that you don't know? Have fun looking thru Auxiliary websites!!! Here are the answers.

1. For what is form 7055 used?
2. What publication includes channel descriptions, anchorages, bridge & cable clearances, small craft facilities and routes?
3. What is an AUXLWO?
4. The USCG External Affairs Manual provides instructions and policy guidance for the conduct of what programs?
5. Which Directorate includes CS & IS officers?
6. Can an Auxiliarist currently employed by a marina or marine retail outlet become a Program Visitor?
7. What do Auxiliary coxswains have to do every five years?
8. May 17, 2019 was what special day in the boating community?
9. What do you need to be part of the SHARES program?
10. When can Auxiliary vessels use their civilian MMSI number?

11. Auxiliary Tilley hats may be worn with was uniform(s)?
12. How many different Polo shirts are approved for Auxiliary use?
13. What device do you wear on the Cold Weather Cap?
14. How many rings may an Auxiliarist wear?
15. What months may Winter Dress Blue uniforms be worn?

Answers:

1. Bridge Discrepancy Reports
2. Coast Pilot
3. Auxiliary Life Jacket Wear Observer
4. Public Affairs
5. U Directorate
6. Yes but they should not service their employer's facility
7. Pass a Navigation Rules exam
8. Wear Your Life Jacket to Work day
9. An Auxiliarist with a High Frequency Radio facility call sign
10. Only in off-duty civilian mode
11. ODU and Hot Weather Uniform
12. Two - Operational Polo and Vessel Examiner Polo
13. The Auxiliary Combination Hat Device
14. No more than two on each hand
15. November thru March

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.

2020 will be an exciting year for 11-10 Public Education Program. Our first ABS course will be Sat/Sun 11/12 Jan, requests for Instructors will be sent out soon.

Our all new “Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation” will also be in January. The three-hour (0900-1200) seminar will be presented on Sat. 25 Jan. Lesson objectives: Determine position on a chart, set courses using Latitude & Longitude, compute speed, time & distance.

Flotilla members are invited to attend the course, free of charge on a first come basis. However, the paying boating public will have priority. A total of 15 students will be enrolled.

Contact me by text, call or email. Happy New Year.

No Kid Sleeps on The Floor In Our Town Update

The September issue of the newsletter featured an article by Buddy Casale on an organization he volunteers for to build beds for the needy. An organization called: “Sleep in Heavenly Peace”, Inc makes beds from scratch for those children who unfortunately must sleep on the floor. They deliver the beds to the kiddies in need.

The organization partners with churches, businesses such as Lowes and volunteers to build them at events called BUILD DAYS.

Here is his latest update: “I received my reward and payday on Saturday 14 Dec. when I made my first bed delivery with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Pinellas chapter group (no kid sleeps on the floor in our town).

Thirteen pickups, two box trucks loaded 80 + bed parts and we scattered throughout St Pete delivered and assembled at each home to a very happy parent and the most excited kids I ever met.

Remember the joyous moments watching our kids open presents. It doesn’t come close to this. I was deeply rewarded. I was told by the director that your first delivery will be a life changer. It sure was. God Bless this Group”.



The Delivery and set up crew



Assembling the beds



Final assembly



The happy recipients!

(Faces blurred to protect privacy)

Annual Holiday Party and Auction

On December 12, the flotilla held its Annual Holiday Party & White Elephant Auction at the newly remodeled Red Tail Lounge, Air Station Clearwater, where we doubled our auction donations from last year.



Kristi Mackey



The auctioneers, Buddy Casale, Jim Ryder, & John Nichols



Hand Carved ornament by Buddy Casale

Dunedin Holiday Boat Parade

11-10 member Keith Betzing and his wife rang in the holidays during the traditional Dunedin boat parade and tree lighting celebration on December 7th, 2019.

They decorated their 22' Carolina Skiff in the Peanuts theme. Donned with Snoopy's doghouse, Snoopy himself and his buddy Woodstock, captain Keith Betzing dressed as Charlie Brown. The Peanuts entry won 2nd place in the category of Best Lights in the Marina.

Congratulations Keith and Andrea.



Touch a Truck

The flotilla participated in the Palm Harbor Touch a Truck event on November 9.

300 people boarded the vessel and 200 tattoos were given out.

Flotilla members participating were Rob Bonnem, Keith Betzing, Bud Heiser, Gordon Thomas, Allen Leimbach, Jim Ryder, Wallace Weakly, Daniel Paolillo, JoAnne Frey, Teresa Hughes and Charles Whitener.



Dunedin Christmas Parade

The Christmas Parade was a big success, beautiful day. We had a 30' Coast Guard Vessel from Station Sand Key that we decorated.

We had 2 Coasties from Sand Key & 8 members from Flotilla 11-10: Kristi Mackey, Rob Bonnem, Walter Murray, Ron Shebanek, Joan Gutek, JoAnne Frey, Teresa Hughes & Dan Paolillo.



Kristi Mackey & Walter Murray



Teresa Hughes & Dan Paolillo



Rob Bonnem & Ron Shebanek



Large, appreciative crowds

Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

Three members from Dunedin Flotilla 11-10, Gordon Thomas (clarinet), Scott Birdwell (saxophone), Allen Leimbach (drums) marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade this year in New York City and are members of the Awesome Second Time Rounders Marching Band from St. Petersburg, Fl.

Many months went into preparation for this amazing event working out hotels, flights, rehearsals, uniforms, activities, marching, and doing formations at Herald Square on National TV.

Over 420 members marched with the Rounders Marching Band at this event. Most people don't know how much is involved with the final activities before marching in this parade on Thanksgiving Day.

We had a major final rehearsal the night before at an Armory in New Jersey which didn't end until about 10:00 pm.

The parade is 2 1/2 miles long and was at a very fast pace this year since some balloons were damaged in the wind and held up the parade. The parade then had to make up the time for TV, so the pace was almost a run for 2 1/2 miles.

This was the second time that the Rounders Band has marched in Macy's. Gordon also marched in Macy's with the Rounders band 11 years ago as well, but then played his sousaphone (tuba).



Gordon Thomas



Scott Birdwell



Allen Leimbach

Flotilla Fellowship Events

December 6, we held our monthly fellowship event, a luncheon at Umberto's Italian Restaurant in Dunedin. Please join us on January 3.

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	Larry Gilbert
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	January 3
Flotilla Meeting	January 9
About Boating Safety Class – Dunedin	January 11
Weekend Navigator Class – Dunedin	January 25

