



# 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



In October we held another successful flotilla meeting. We also have two new members who received their member ID numbers. I would like to officially welcome: Angela Paolillo and Mike Hughes.

We are gearing up for our November boat safety course, which will now be called Boat America with new books issued as well. Rob Bonnem was able to get our Nov and Dec class dates in the Dunedin Patch newspaper. So hopefully we can drum up a few more students.

Since we will not be able to host our annual holiday party in December, Rob and I are working on a virtual awards ceremony. Stay tuned for more details on the event. Again, I sincerely appreciate everyone continuing to hang in there and for being patient during this unusual situation.

The division held their elections, and we would like to welcome Sam Walker, Commander from 11-10 and Stephan Bielawski, Vice Commander from 11-1. Don't forget that our flotilla will be holding our elections on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1900. It is important that we have everyone dial into our zoom meeting so that we have a quorum.

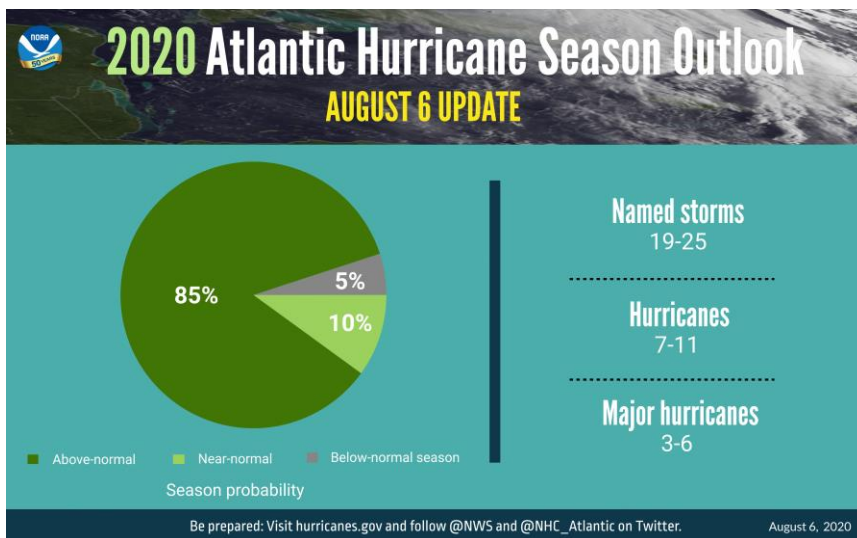
***BE STRONG, STAY SAFE AND KEEP POSITIVE***  
Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander

# 2020 Hurricane Season Monthly Update

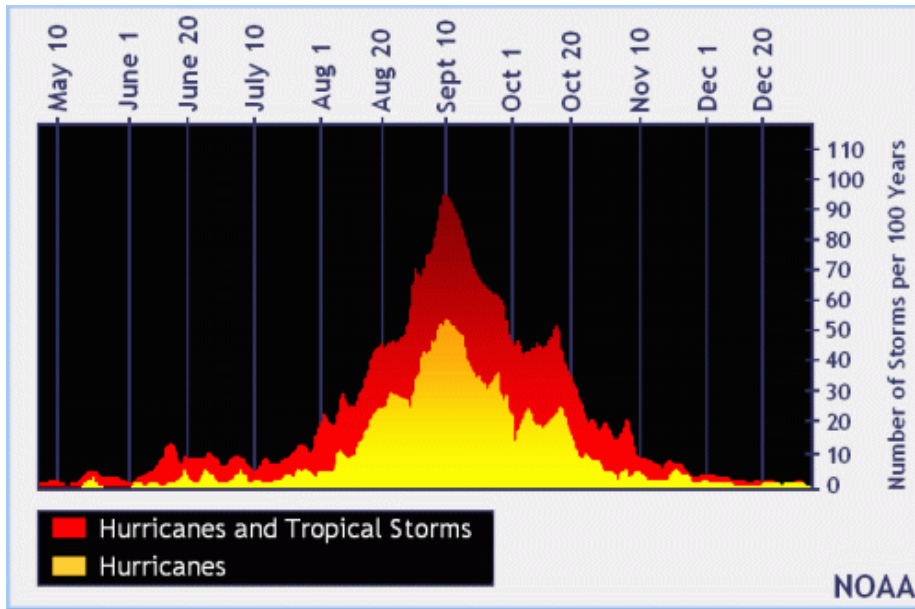
With one month to go in the season, we have surpassed the 2020 hurricane season revised outlook and have tied the all-time record from 2005. The updated outlook predicted a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season and only a 10% chance of a below-normal season. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30.

So far, we have had 28 named storms including 11 hurricanes with four major hurricanes. August through October are typically the peak months of the hurricane season. The statistical peak was on September 10. The current outlook predicts almost twice as many storms as an average year. 2020 has tied the busiest on record, and only the second time we have used up the alphabet and are using the Greek storm names!

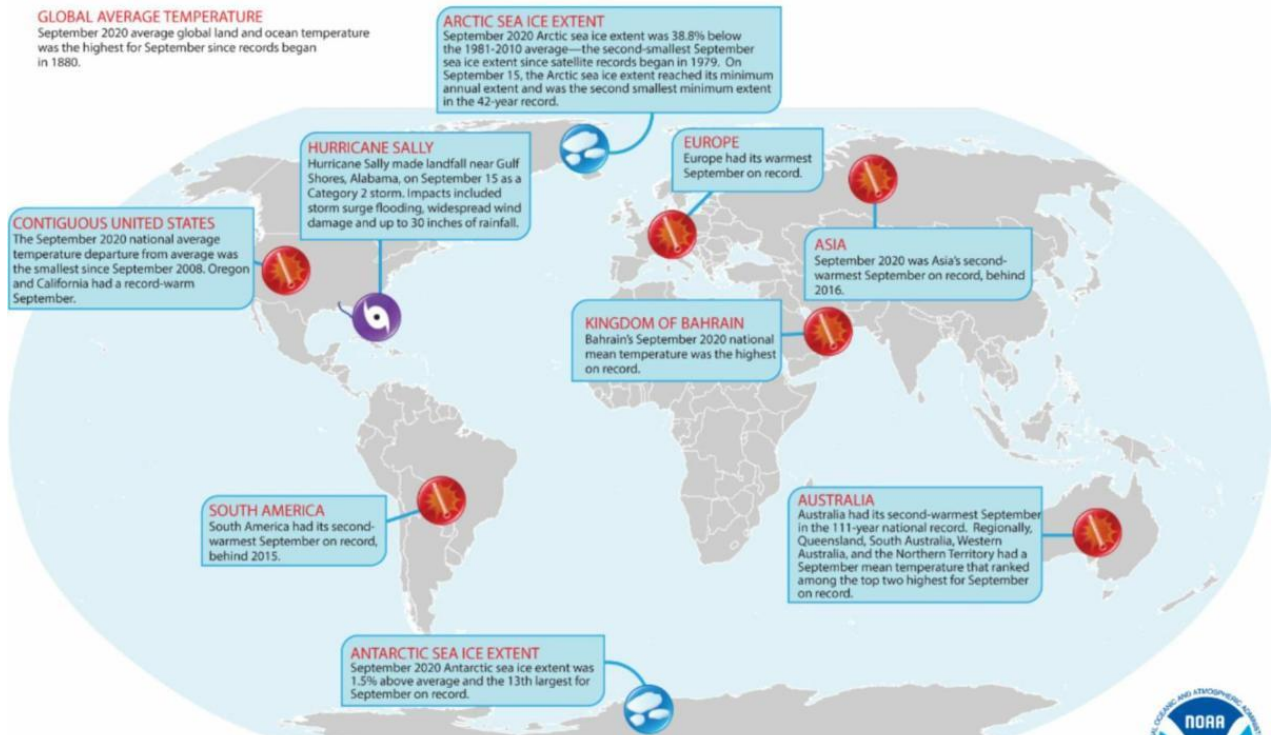
August 2020 land and sea temperatures were the second highest temperatures since records began, in 1880. The gulf temperature was 79 degrees at the end of October.



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



## Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events: September 2020



Please note: Material provided in this map was compiled from NOAA's State of the Climate Reports. For more information please visit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc>



# How Face Masks, Gloves and other Coronavirus Waste are Polluting Our Ocean

Based World Economic Forum Article

- Coronavirus waste has become a new form of pollution as single-use personal protective equipment (PPE) floods our ocean.
- COVID-19 has had a number of unexpected impacts on the environment, curtailing recycling and increasing the use of plastic around the world.
- Governments need to act now to ensure a green recovery that incentivizes sustainability.

Waterlogged masks, gloves, hand sanitizer bottles and other coronavirus waste are already being found on our seabeds and washed up on our beaches, joining the day-to-day detritus in our ocean ecosystems.



*Divers on a clean-up mission around the Côte d'Azur are finding increasing amounts of COVID-19 waste*

*Photo by: Opération Mer Propre*

## Meet the New Bridge of Division 11

By Kristi Mackey, Flotilla Commander (FC)

On Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the division held their annual elections, which were uncontested. We have our new 2021 Division Commander and Vice.

Please join me in welcoming Sam Walker as Commander and Stephan Bielawski as Vice Commander.

**Sam Walker former 11-10 FC  
Dunedin**



**Stephan Bielawski current 11-1 FC  
Clearwater**



## Member Training Update



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

### Tales from on the Water

As a flotilla staff officer, I feel that it is part of my job to supply an article for the newsletter. Reviewing what I had written this month I decided it would be more interesting to you to read about some of the past missions involving our flotilla.

Eight years ago, a 60-foot motor yacht “Rovon”, was one of our flotilla’s facilities. The Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) needed to check the backup GPS correction signal for the port of Tampa. The mission involved two Coasties with some electronic equipment needing to be transported to points forty miles off St. Petersburg, forty miles off Sarasota and the Egmont Sea Buoy. The coxswain, Roger Montembeault, and his crew from Flotilla 11-10 met the Coasties at the Clearwater Municipal Marina and the mission began. The underway communications involved VHF radio calls with Station Sand Key and Sector St. Petersburg until the mission got outside of reliable radio comms range and the message traffic switched to satellite phone. Near the end of the eight hours underway, Rovon pulled up to the Station Sand Key dock and refueled with 400 gallons of diesel. The Coast Guard NAVCEN had a successful mission thanks to the Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10.

A few years ago, Don Hoge was the coxswain on his vessel assigned to C-130 drop training support. While headed back to the dock after recovering the drop training gear, Sector St. Petersburg asked if Don and his crew could assist a disabled vessel off Hudson. Don and his crew from Flotilla 11-10, agreed to assist after returning to home dock to drop off the Coasties who were onboard and the gear. After the long run back offshore, the disabled vessel, a commercial bait shrimper, was quickly located. The boat had a net hanging in the water that they cut loose so they could be towed. Hudson channel is not large, but the auxiliary crew successfully navigated the channel and aided in securing the disabled boat to the dock.

For assistance selecting the training that you need to become qualified crew, please contact your Flotilla Commander or the Flotilla Staff Officer – Member Training (FSO-MT).

## Vessel Examination Update



**Gordon Thomas is the Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Examination (FSO-VE).**

**This information is for vessel examiners.**

**We have received word about how to handle the requirements this year for several activities in the auxiliary. Basically, vessel examiners do not need to meet the five required for this year to date December 2020; that requirement has now been extended to December 2021.**

**Since we don't know when blitzes will be allowed again, everyone should now have enough time to still do five vessel exams before the end of 2021 on their own.**

**You should all be getting requests from the auxiliary website for vessel exams from time to time. Try to pick up some of those if you can. Do not ignore them. Also, ask friends or neighbors who have boats if you can do their vessel exams.**

**All vessel examiners should help each other out with this. If some of you already have enough exams now, offer new requests to your fellow VEs to get their numbers up.**

**Remember, you still must get all the info about who you are going to examine and where the boat is located and submit it to your flotilla commander for permission.**

**You must also wear a mask and gloves and keep social distancing with the boat owner.**

## **Air Station Clearwater Duties Resumed**

Article and photo by Gordon Thomas, Staff Officer – Vessel Examinations

**My duties have resumed at the Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater after almost a six-month hiatus because of COVID-19.**

**The mask is off for the photo, but everyone on the base wears a mask and keeps social distancing, it is strictly observed at the station.**

**My duties are safe since they are very isolated. I have my own cubbyhole where I download flight maps from a computer into the mobile Garmin GPS systems for the C-130 planes.**

**I then install three Garmins back into each of the four cockpits which is what I am doing here. This usually can be completely accomplished 2-3 mornings each week.**

**Some downloads take much longer than others and there is always the logistics of catching the planes while they are there or going off on a duty. There is also the issue of computer problems as well as glitches with the Garmins and the subscriptions that must be handled that makes the job more complex.**





## Coast Guard cutter Thetis returns home after interdicting \$8.8 million in narcotics

**MIAMI** —Coast Guard Cutter Thetis' crew returned home Friday to Key West, after completing a 42-day patrol to the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

The crew interdicted more than 4,500 pounds of illicit narcotics bound for the maritime domain. In total, the crew prevented more than \$8.8 million worth of narcotics from reaching American streets while working in support of U.S. Southern Command's Joint Interagency Task Force-South, Thetis' crew played a critical role in executing the nation's counter drug mission.

“By remaining active in the Eastern Pacific, we continue to disrupt the flow of illicit and dangerous narcotics into the United States,” said Cmdr. Justin Nadolny, Thetis' commanding officer. “The high operational tempo of the mission was demanding, and I am extremely proud of what this outstanding crew accomplished.”

Thetis' crew deployed with an MH-65 helicopter aircrew capable of conducting airborne use of force from the Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron based in Jacksonville, Florida. The detachment assisted in the interdiction of a go-fast vessel and a low-profile vessel suspected of smuggling illicit cargo.

Named for the famous Greek mythology sea nymph and mother of Achilles, Thetis is a 270-foot famous-class cutter homeported in Key West and has a crew complement of 104.



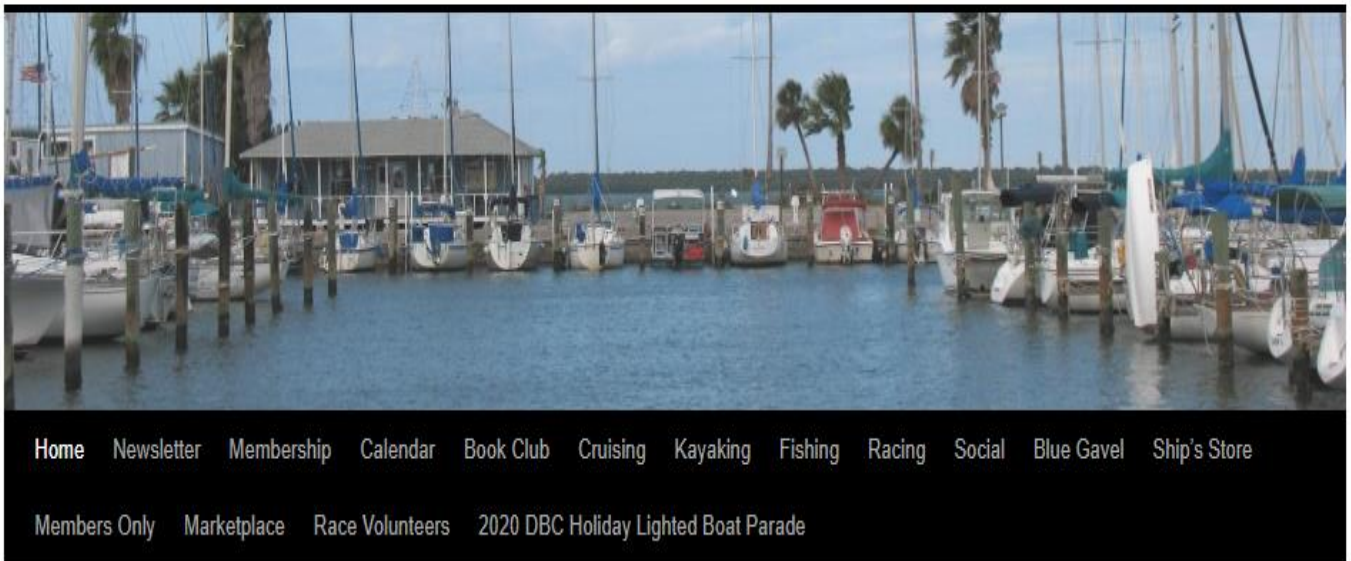
Source: USCG News Release      Submitted by Kristy Mackey

## Dunedin Boat Club

Flotilla 11-10 shares the marina with the Dunedin Boat Club. The Club has a long heritage as one of Florida's oldest Sailing Clubs, which was established in 1929. The members own a mixture of powerboats and sailboats. The membership meetings are held on the third Monday of the month and the Board meetings are on the first Monday at the clubhouse at 7:30 PM. Two of our newest members of our flotilla; Ralph Caridad and Sheryl Barnes also belong to the boat club.

### Dunedin Boat Club

*Established 1929*



On Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> I as the Flotilla Commander was asked to do a virtual presentation to the boat club on who we are and what the auxiliary is all about. The presentation was well received and will hopefully generate a few more new members to our Flotilla. A special thank you goes out to Sheryl Barnes who helped arrange our invitation to their monthly meeting.

Article by Kristi Mackey

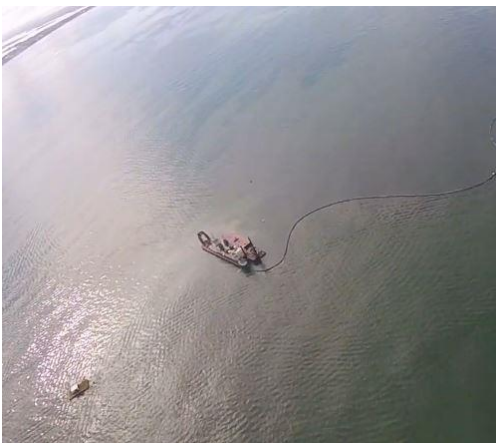
## AUXAIR Patrol

Photos from YouTube videos taken by John Landon, AUXAIR, during a coastal patrol to the Everglades and back. John was experimenting with a GoPro camera mounted on the left wing.

Other crew members were Ann Bennet and Bill Scholz.



*Captiva Area*



*Dredging Operations off Anna Maria*



*Egmont Key*

## Flotilla Staff Officers

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

## Upcoming Dates

### **SAFE BOATING COURSES FLOTILLA 11-10 DUNEDIN FL**

Virtual online teaching using Zoom connection, power points and Instructors.

**4 Weeknights Mon - Thurs. 7pm- 9pm**

**For Novice and Experienced Boaters**

**Topics include: Intro to Boating, safe operation, rules for the waterway and aids to navigation, state and fed laws, safety equipment, problems on the water and much more.**

**November 6,17,18,19**

**December 14,15,16,17**

# Social Distancing When Boating



Only boat with those in your immediate household.



No beaching your boat right next to someone else.



Maintain your distance at the fuel dock – and remember to wash your hands.



No rafting up – keep your distance on the water.

**No guests on your boat!**  
This includes family members not in your immediate household or your closest boating buddies.

**Go right from your house to the boat and back –**  
no unnecessary contact with anyone.

Enjoy your boat, the water and the fresh air;  
but enjoy it while boating responsibly.

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Social distancing is the best way to stay safe.

