

**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Central Brevard, Flotilla 46
USCG Auxiliary Building, Lee Wenner Park, Cocoa
General Meeting Minutes
Date: 07APR8**

Attendance:

Officers: Roger Bonnett, FC, Richard Bloom, FSO-AN, Ann Bloom, FSO-PS, Chris Tanner, FSO-SR, Howard Miller, FSO-MS, Peter Macaig, FSO-MT/FSO-PA, Mike Kanis, FSO-MA, Dino Koutsaris, FSO-PE, George Hill, IPFC/FSO-OP, Harry Preston, FSO-CM, Frank Fortney, FSO-PB/FSO-CS

Call to Order: 1905

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Moment of Silence

Quorum present: yes

Guests: August Bylott

Lew De Lucia explained his absence due to work; Barb apologized for being out of uniform.

Installation of new members/officers:

Barb and Roger swore in Bill Giers as FSO-VE

Awards:

Donation

Stellar Information Technology Solutions, Inc.
\$200.00

Roger read both the letter sent to the Flotilla and his reply

Vessel Examiner Certification

Peter Maciag

Certificate of Completion –Introduction to Marine Safety & Environment Protection

Peter Maciag
Howard Miller

Sustained Auxiliary Service Award

Frank Fortney – Fifth Award

Auxiliary Membership Service Award

20 Years

Dennis Biondi
Barbara Biondi

15 Years

John (Jack) Kuehne Jr.

10 Years

Harry Preston
Rebecca Smoak Preston

PV Certification

Howard Miller

Performance Award for PE

Jack Kuehne

Commanders Report:

First let me thank Peter Macaig for coordinating the Harbor Town Flea Market display along with his right hand man, Howard Miller. I was there for Saturday morning and we were getting some good activity. Also like to thank everyone else who supported the exhibit and helped with set up and tear down.

We had the Flotilla picnic, which Jack Miller coordinated. Jack is now in contention with Howard and George as our Flotilla cook. I also would like to thank all the members who supported the picnic.

Minutes: January, February, March minutes reviewed. Motion made to accept as written; seconded; passed.

Finance: FSO-FN absent; report tabled until next meeting.

Staff Reports:

AN (Rick Bloom): no report

CM (Harry Preston): Radio Support:

There were no radio support missions completed for this period. FSO-CM underwent neck surgery on 21 March 2008. All went well and he is recovering.

Communications Trailer:

Trailer project still in design stage with no further work completed at this time. Project will encounter some delay due to surgery.

CS (Frank Fortney): After further researching the issue of the District website being down I discovered that I was in error. It is actually the DIRAUX D7 website that is down. Once that was clarified, wearing my FSO-CS hat, I sent DIRAUX D7 an email pointing out the problem we are having in getting our QE mission scheduled and the issue with the commander's certification gateway. I received a prompt reply from DIRAUX D7 stating they were unaware of the challenges we have been having. DIRAUX D7 stated that the QE request link is functional and that, once the QE mission has been requested and is completed, it is simply a matter of the QE Administrator sending DIRAUX an email with the results.

That same evening I received a telephone call from the DIRAUX CQEC D7 (George Kacmarik). He was very apologetic about an apparent

miscommunication with the Division QE and he immediately set into motion the process of setting up the QE mission for our members. The dates are still in the process of being coordinated but, at the present time it appears that the dates will be 13 April, 26 April, and 3 May. We have 13 members requiring either QE certification or re-certification.

I still have not received a response regarding the Certification Gateway.

I provided normal maintenance of our Flotilla website. At the request of the SO-CS I made a slight modification to the wording regarding the FWC requirement about what a boater 21 years of age or younger must have in their possession while boating. The wording we had came directly from the FWC website, but it was confusing. As it was worded it appeared that the boater required a picture ID that was issued by the FWC, when in fact it is any picture ID. I also added a link to the Florida Senate Florida Statutes web page.

Frank added that there would be QE missions on 13APR08, 26APR08, and 07MAY08.

IS (Gil Steinfort): no report

Barb commented that the Sustained Service Awards are obtained by submitting hours via the 7029 form. For every 750 hours, a service award is given.

Frank mentioned that on the Flotilla website under "member info" are instructions on completing forms.

MA (Mike Kanis): Ink Cartridges for the copy machine were purchased – three black and one color. This type cartridge cannot be refilled at Office Depot.

A black ink cartridge was also purchased for the computer printer. The old cartridge should be saved because it is refillable. The cost to refill the cartridge is less than half the cost of a new cartridge.

As previously reported, an order was placed for the two types FL State Regulations on 3 Jan. This order still has not been filled, but a box of this publication was discovered in the South Room. All copies contained Flotilla labels.

In my last report I reported that signboards and an ensign returned by a former member were missing. The FC located the missing signboards, but not the ensign.

Name Tags previously ordered were received and placed in the FC "slot" in the Ira Bickham Room.

The only items requested by FSOs were large envelopes. Therefore, these were the only items ordered last month.

MS (Howard Miller): Joint Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Port Canaveral (PCAN) and Flotilla 46 initiatives:

a. UNINSPECTED VESSEL SAFETY PROGRAM (POC Harry Preston):

(1) Mariner Licensing and Uninspected Vessel Examinations:

(a) Under the supervision of Harry Preston, 4 Uninspected Fishing Vessel Examinations were conducted during this reporting period. All vessels passed.

Sector JAX referred one of the vessels to us due to discrepancies found during a Coast Guard 4100 (at-sea) boarding.

(b) Processed 38 mariners for licensing (oath, identification verification and fingerprinting) since the last report in support of mariner licensing.

(2) Training:

(a) Sector Jax (Ed Weiss) conducted USCG Auxiliary Assistant Life raft Inspector (AUX-LR) training for the Uninspected Vessel Examination trainees (Pete M, Rick B and Howard M) on 21 FEB. All trainees have completed the prerequisites and are awaiting certification by Sector JAX.

(b) Pete M and Howard M have completed their board for Uninspected Vessel Examiner Certification. Their qualification packages have been submitted to the Captain of the Port for signature. Rick B is awaiting his board. Certification will allow each to conduct commercial examinations on uninspected passenger (6 pack), fishing and towing vessels.

(c) Ed Weiss, Sector JAX is pursuing three quotas for Flotilla 46 Team MS members to attend the Spring 2008 USCG Wood Hull Course conducted in Yorktown, Virginia, space available. The offer was extended by the Fishing Vessel Safety Program Coordinator, Seventh Coast Guard District, Prevention Division, Miami. Rick B, Pete M and Howard M are standing by to support.

(d) Second day of mariner licensing and documentation support for MSD PCAN is targeted, tentatively, to commence in April. Pete M and Gary G are now certified by Sector JAX as Regional Examination Center Fingerprint Technicians. Bill G is working on submitting his security clearance to support his certification.

b. POLLUTION PATROLS TO SUPPORT MSD PCAN (POC Howard Miller):

(1) The last pollution patrol was conducted in Harbortown Marina by Harry P during a patrol on 17 FEB. Nothing to report.

c. MSD PCAN FACILITY SAFETY INSPECTIONS (POC Al Medici): NO CHANGE - Nothing to report.

d. WATERWAY AND SPOIL ISLANDS (POC Howard Miller): Check the Marine Safety Notebook website for the specifics on the following:

(1) East Central Aquatic Preserves, Department of Environmental Protection:

(a) No events announced.

(2) Keep Brevard Beautiful:

(a) Trash Bash 2008: 19 APR, Saturday from 0800 to 1200. Many sites will be located along Merritt Island and Cocoa.

e. SEA CADET PROGRAM / USCG AUX INTERACTION (POC Howard Miller):

(1) **FINAL REPORT**: The Sea Cadets are interested in the PWC Course. The instructor package for the course has been received and is being reviewed by the FSO-PE. Info pertaining to the course will be provided to Sea Cadet leadership so that they can decide whether they will request it or not. As the FSO-MS, I will stand down from tracking and pass to the FSO-PE.

f. BREVARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (POC Howard Miller):

(1) A meeting was held on 5 March at the Flotilla Building. The principle attendees present included the Division 4 Captain, Flotilla Commanders from 42 and 46, and the Brevard County Director for Natural Resources Manager and the Boating and Waterway Program Coordinator, among other FLOT 46 staff members. This introductory meeting lasted just short of 2 hours and proved to be an excellent start in partnering with the county.

(a) Discussion Points:

[1] AUX assistance with reporting derelict vessels to the county for investigation and possible removal.

Update: George H (FSO-OP) will kick off the program to support this through vessel facility owners and coxswains; and then Howard M (FSO-MS) will pick up the program for management, making reports to the county POC.

[2] County support in advertising America's Waterway Watch, boating safety courses and vessel safety checks via their electronic media, including television.

Update: AWW and assorted environmental videos were provided to the County on 13 MAR for television airing consideration. I am trying to set up a meeting between the county media/public affairs representative and the Flot 46 FSO-PA for future advertising of the boating courses, VSC and other AUX events.

[3] Invites to the AUX to participate on county and community boards to review initiatives to preserve and safeguard our waterways.

Update: Waiting to hear when and where.

g. AWW AND BOATING SAFETY INTRO TO COMMUNITY: Attended a community Neighborhood Watch Program Meeting, having been invited by a representative of the Rockledge City Police Department. Presented a quick overview of the America's Waterway Watch Program and the Auxiliary's role in support of boater education (classes and vessel safety checks). A total of 25 residents and 7 police officers were in attendance.

h. Miscellaneous:

(1) Nothing to report.

MT (Pete Macaig): Boat Crew Class:

Frank Fortney has resolved the OTW QE's problem; we have one date set April 13 in Cocoa, and are working on setting up April 26 and May 3, for the QE missions.

Members who need to take the 8-hour TCT class to perform the land task have been notified of the availability of a class. Members should be aware they would have to travel to another Flotilla.

New Member Training:

As discussed at the Staff Meeting new members will be required to take and pass the following courses prior to being allowed to take any Specialty or Operations training. The required courses are as follows.

- Recreational Boating Program Visitor
- Recreational Vessel Examiner
- Administrative Procedures Course

Current Training:

Currently no courses are in progress, several members are doing at home or online study.

Testing:

Tests have been ordered and received for Frank Fortney and Harry Philips
Two Navigation Rules 70 tests have been ordered for those who requested them.

Training Classes Scheduled:

April, May Instructor workshops will be held after each of the Flotilla meetings, it is necessary to conduct a weekend class. I have scheduled one for the same days as the QE mission to optimize the use of the building.

Vessel Examiner Course will be scheduled for May.

Program Visitor Course will be scheduled for May.

Administrative Procedures Course to be determined.

OP (George Hill): no report

Barb mentioned that after the Division meeting on Saturday there will be a meeting about the OPs difficulties and George will be attending.

PA (Pete Macaig): Advertising

15 contacts have been made Radio, TV, and Print. Response from Mike & Mindy morning radio appeared favorable. Print Florida today carried our ad for PE only in the Tribune section.

Ads had been placed for the VE day with all contacts.

Public Outreach

Harbortown Marina Flea market booth, was set up on Friday 4 April, manned on Saturday 5 April, Sunday 6 April the booth was taken down and we did not participate due to the loss of the tent by storms Saturday night

We have been invited to an Earth Day event April 23, 1200 hrs to 1700hrs. I think this would be a good opportunity to show our environmental side. POC is JOHN H. RUSSELL, Maj, USAF Director of Operations Det 1, Spacelift Range Group (SMC) Patrick AFB FL 32925

We still need ideas for Safe Boating week, which kicks off on May 17th the same day as our PE class. I will defer this to the FSO-VE

PB (Frank Fortney): Last October we had a man and wife take our ABC presentation but never received their FWC boater ID card. I have been working this issue the past five months with no results. I called the FWC and verified that their names are in their system with the correct mailing address. They insisted that the cards had been mailed. However the cards were never received. After about seven attempts to solve this issue I finally talked to the right person (at least I hope so). This person has been working in the ID card section for about a month and he discovered a glitch in the system that automatically prints and mails the cards. For some unknown reason the program does not recognize a name or an address and simply doesn't print and mail the card, although the card is logged as having been issued. No error report is provided so the FWC is unaware when this happens. The person I talked with checked the system and these people indeed fell into this category. He promised to manually print and mail the cards.

I recommend that at each ABC presentation we advise the students to call the FWC directly if they do not receive a card within four weeks. The number to call is 850- 488- 5600.

PE (Dino Koutsaris): Finalizing the instructor schedule for the ABC course currently scheduled for April 19th. Morning crew, please check in at 0700.

Received new instructor course materials for PWC. We are interested in compiling a list of qualified instructors to teach the course. Currently, we have a request for information to teach the PWC course from the Sea Cadets, so we are in desperate need of instructors.

Thanks to Bill Giers, he has put in a lot of time and effort revising and finalizing the wording of the 10 test questions of the ABC/ABS with regards to Florida State due to ambiguities in the wording of the existing questions.

Administered the ten Florida State test questions of the ABC/ABS on the March 15th ABC course examination.

Completed the March 15th ABC course with 9 participants. A big thank you to all who volunteered to make this Saturday a success.

Pete Maciag, FSO-MT, will be teaching the "Instructor's Workshop" on April 26 and May 3. All interested instructors must complete this requirement by 31 May 2008. Thank you Pete for volunteering.

What can we do to increase attendance for our ABC/ABS course?
Suggested by Howard Miller, FSO-MS, one consideration for recruiting students for the safe boating class is to seek assistance through local boat dealerships.

I suggest that we table this for discussion in an open forum during our monthly staff meeting, in order to get everyone's inputs.

PS (Ann Bloom): no report

PV (Judy Steinfort): no report

SR (Chris Tanner): no report

VE (office empty): Newly appointed FSO-VE, Bill Giers:

No VSCs were done at the picnic. Bill will gather a list of VEs and do a workshop for those interested in this activity.

Committee Reports

Fellowship Committee (Jack Miller):

Thanks to Donna for her help with the activities.

We helped save a sailboat during the cookout.

We still have condiments, extra plates, cups, and plastic ware from the cookout. All of the extra drinks we added to the refrigerator. No food was wasted.

Next Fellowship activity will be early in May, perhaps the second weekend.

Jack made a motion to increase the budget for the last event to \$47.89 to cover the overage. Motion seconded and passed.

FC resumes chair

Old/New Business:

CPR class for certification and recertification will be held in July. Date TBA.

Question put to Barb about Shuttle disaster preparedness: During the operations meeting at Canaveral, we were directed to get under the nearest bridge for safety and await further orders. Specific instructions were to be sent to the SO-OP's but I don't think that has been received as yet.

There will be a Flotilla Staff meeting on 23APR08 at 1900.

Comments by Attending Senior Aux. Officers or C.G. Officers:

On 19APR08, there will be a Small Vessel Safety Summit in Orlando and Division 4 has been asked to coordinate registration and man the MS booth. Volunteers are needed.

Division 4 has also been asked to do the table setups for NACON. The committee will meet with Becky Smoak-Preston after the Division meeting.

Next Meeting: 05MAY08 1900

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, passed.

Adjourned: 2025

Respectfully submitted:
Chris Tanner, FSO-SR