

**USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 46
General Meeting Minutes
Lee Wenner Park, Flotilla Building
1900, 02FEB2008**

Officers in attendance:

Roger Bonnett, FC, Gil Steinfort, VFC/FSO-IS, Judy Steinfort, FSO-PV, Richard Bloom, FSO-AN, Ann Bloom, FSO-PS, Howard Miller, FSO-MS, Peter Macaig, FSO-MT/FSO-PA, Dino Koutsaris, FSO-PE, George Hill, IPFC/FSO-OP, Harry Preston, FSO-CM, Frank Fortney, FSO-PB/FSO-CS, Denis Sullivan, FSO-VE

Members in attendance: Lew De Lucia, Christine Downey, Bill Terell, Harry Phillips, Jack Kuehne, Becky Smoak-Preston, John Vitale, Donna Miller, Jack Miller, Darlene Bush, Bill Giers, Martin Steger, Jeffrey Herman, Jim Urick, Rick Marten, Steve Brown, Frank Koneski, Bob Pointdexter

Call to Order: 1900

Pledge of Allegiance: lead by Gil Steinfort

Invocation: Moment of Silence

Quorum: Yes

Welcome to Guests: Gerard Downey, Jim Kight, Robert McQuillen

Installation of new member: Carter Quillen sworn in as a new member by Barbara Carolus, DCP

Awards and Recognition:
Auxiliary Watchstander – Howard Miller

Aids to Navigation Verifier – Harry Preston, Howard Miller, Lee Woods, William Terrell, Peter Macaig

AUX Weather – Frank Fortney

TCT Training – Lee Woods, John Vitale, Darlene Bush, William Terrell, Peter Macaig, Roger Bonnett

Instructor Certification – Dino Koutsaris

FC Report:

In an effort to reduce our cost, we have terminated our internet service at the building. If you have an AOL or other account with which you can use a dial-up modem, it will still work in the building using your personal account.

Starting next month we will be asking for volunteers to bring in snacks for our social gatherings. Nothing big; cookies, cake r other finger foods. It can be a good way to try out recipes for snacks. The Flotilla will not be reimbursing for snacks.

The CG Station is still looking for volunteers to work at the Station. Gil can fill us in on radio watch.

The staff met with the Sea Cadets 2 weeks ago to discuss possible training activities between the 2 groups. Because of the restrictions we have on training and the certificates that can be issued, only 2 courses could be offered to the Sea Cadets, the GPS course and Coastal Navigation. All other training must be given as an individual trainer and not sponsored by the CG Auxiliary.

Would like to see us have a picnic/VE day. Tentative day is 08MAR8. I will hand this over to our Fellowship Committee chair to coordinate.

Upcoming activities: next Flotilla meeting s 03MAR08, Division meeting is 09FEB08 at our building and there will be training after the meeting. 16FEB08 will be the first ABC class of the year. 27FEB08 is the next staff meeting.

Minutes of last meeting: Reviewed. Due to absence of S/R the minutes were tabled until March meeting

Finance report reviewed. Motion made to accept report. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Staff Officer Reports:

AN (Rick Bloom): We held an AV (Aid Verifier) Class on 19 Jan given by Mike Kanis. The new AV's are:

Lee Woods, Howard Miller, Harry Preston, Bill Terrell and Peter Macaig.

There is a "Blue Button" added to the flotilla web site page that will link you directly with the light list.

QE REPORT

There will be 2 QE dates:

FEBRUARY 23

Howard Miller
Peter Macaig
John Vitale
Roger Bonnett
Gary Gunter

MARCH 1

Abel Guerra
William Terrell
Frank Koneski
Frank Fortney
William Giers

CM (Harry Preston): Radio Support:

Twelve training patrols scheduled from Jan. 17, 2008 through Feb. 20, 2008.

Emails sent to all watchstanders of support opportunities

Watchstanders notified of two Trainees that need radio time to complete qualifications

Email groups established for Watchstanders and Report distribution.

Communications Trailer:

Trailer has been moved to FSO-CM's house to commence clean out and rough trailer design. Once rough design completed a meeting of trailer committee will be called to start final plans and rough cost estimate to complete.

CS (Frank Fortney): 1. Updated and maintained the flotilla website.

2. Attended the District Conference held in Orlando. Unfortunately, I was only able to attend the first day and a half but I believe that I got sufficient information regarding the direction District is going. Here are my thoughts regarding what was presented.

District is moving toward standardizing the Division and Flotilla websites. I believe that standardization is a good thing, but I am quite disturbed at the methodology that is contemplated to be used. It is my understanding that District wants to have one huge website that is managed at the District level. All FSO-CS officers will be required to submit changes and updates to a central point at District where the data will be reviewed and entered into the appropriate sub-website.

After spending 20 years in the Air Force in Air Defense I became quite aware that the only way to manage a large, complex air defense network was through centralized control with de-centralized implementation and management. Any other way was unwieldy and unresponsive. District is proposing that we migrate to a system that uses centralized control and centralize implementation and management. In my opinion this is a formula for disaster. When I look at some of the centralized control currently used by the Auxiliary I find that half of the information we send forward to be entered into AUXDATA is entered only after repeated requests and about a quarter of the information gets entered after long delays and, in many cases, it is inaccurate.

I believe that District should provide clear, concise written direction regarding rules of standardization and provide an avenue for an FSO-CS to get questions answered or find out how to perform specific functions. District should then ensure that the individual websites meet their requirements before authorizing the site to be uploaded onto their servers. This will not only provide standardization, but it will provide the flexibility to

allow the individual websites to be responsive to the specific needs of their Division or Flotilla. It will also enable each site to be updated quickly and accurately.

IS (Gil Steinfort): 1. We have a few members that did not complete various currency maintenance requirements during 2007 and are now in REYR status:

VE 5 REYR
PV 1 REYR
IT 2 REYR
Crew 1 REYR
Cox 2 REYR

I will advise those involved directly as well as the cognizant FSOs. Requirements for clearing REYR status are found in the 7th District directives available on our website. Members are requested to work with the FSO who will forward documentation required to clear REYR to the FC.

2. I have forwarded two information sheets that I picked up in Orlando in January, one on AUXINFO and one on AUXDATA, to all members for whom I have email addresses. I recommend using AUXINFO as much as possible as it is easier to access and does not require a password. All the information you need is probably there. For AUXDATA, send email to me requesting a password. I suggest getting your computer set up for AUXDATA by installing CITRIX or Jinitiator in advance so you are ready to go when you get your password. Initial passwords expire if they are not used quickly and you will be prompted to change your password on the first login.

3. Send those 7029s.

MA (Mike Kanis): 1. As previously reported, an order was placed for the two types FL State Regulations on 3 Jan. The order has not been filled.

2. An order was placed for VSC Decals, Federal Regs, and other materials on 20 January.

3. RSVP Certificates of Appreciation had to be reordered because the last shipment received was defective. This was noted on the Order Form.

4. An order for 100 "About Boating Safety" books (10 boxes) was placed and charged to the Flotilla credit card. These will be delivered to the FC's residence.

5. Former members have provided some "give away" and For Sale items. These include Sign Boards, a Patrol Ensign and an Auxiliary PFD. These will be on display at the February Flotilla Meeting.

6. A former member returned an issued Float Coat to the undersigned. This was turned over to the FSO-OP.

The attachment contains a listing of all items ordered since 1 January 2008

DATE	ANSC #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	COST	AMOUNT	
					DATE RCVD	RCVD
1/3/2008		Florida Regs.	300	0		
"		Florida Regs.- Green	100	0		
1/20/1960	9012	Decal, VSC	200	0		
"	3002	Pamphlet, Your Guide to Towing	50	0		
"	3004a	Pamphlet, Keep Your Boat Afloat	50	0		
"	3005c	Decal, Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	50	0		
"	2009	ICS Training CD	1	0		
"	3006	Federal Regs.	200	0		
"	3020	Decal - Radio Procedures	100	0		
"	3022	Pamphlet, Aids to Navigaton System	100	0		
"	5028	New Member Course Study Guide	10	0		
"	5500a	Specialty Course CD	2	0		
"	6022	Certificate - RSVP	10	0		
"	7001	Enrollment Application	10	0		
"	9017	Card, VSC	100	0		
"	7221	White Envelopes	50	0		
"	7221	Large Manila Envelopes	50	0		
"	n/a	\$1.00 Stamps (for ADSO-AN)	20	0		
2/2/2008	n/a	About Boating Safety	100	\$1,150.00		

MS (Howard Miller): 1. The following Team MS members attended the marine safety sessions of the District 7 Training 2008 Event in Orlando, Harry P, Rick B, Pete M Bill G and Howard P. The sessions were excellent and there was some great networking. Twenty-five attendees provided their e-mail addresses for inclusion on the FLOT 46 e-mail network listing. To date, I have had good feedback from many about the shared info this tool is allowing.

2. Joint Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Port Canaveral (PCAN) and Flotilla 46 initiatives:

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

(1) Completed one Uninspected Towing Vessel (UTV) Examination at Port Canaveral – passed.

(2) Training: Uninspected Vessel Examiner training for Rick B, Pete M and Howard M is in the final phase. Each is preparing for their certification board, tentatively in February. Upon certification, each will be able to conduct commercial examinations on uninspected passenger (6 pack), fishing and towing vessels.

(3) Ed Weiss, Sector JAX has requested quotas for Flotilla 46 Team MS members to attend the Commercial Vessel Examination Course in Yorktown, Virginia, space available. Pete M and Rick B have requested to attend if there is space available.

(4) 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.

b. **MARINER LICENSING AND DOCUMENTATION** (POC Harry Preston):

(1) Processed 52 mariners (oath, identification verification and fingerprinting) since the last report in support of mariner licensing.

(2) Training: Second day of mariner licensing and documentation support training for MSD PCAN continues. Pete M, Gary G and Bill G are working toward certification.

c. **POLLUTION PATROLS TO SUPPORT MSD PCAN** (POC Howard Miller): In support of LT Hoppe's request to get MSD team members on auxiliary patrols, I have discussed the process with Jules M (FLOT 42) and George H. They support the initiative. To facilitate, a boat owner or Cox'n must request to have an MSD rider. The request will be made to me prior to their submitting for patrol orders. I will orchestrate support from MSD and approval from Jules M, informing George H. After their acknowledgement, patrol orders would be requested with the MSD individual's name provided.

Note: Request that the opportunity to have a USCG MSD member ride during a patrol be announced at the next Division meeting, using me as a POC for boat owners and coxswains to support during this early stage of this initiative.

d. **SHIPBOARD INSPECTION ASSIST BY USCG AUX** (POC Howard Miller): Initiative on hold - nothing to report.

e. **MSD PCAN FACILITY SAFETY INSPECTIONS** (POC Al Medici): Nothing to report.

f. **AUXDATA SUPPORT FOR MSD REPORTS** (POC Howard Miller): Division AUXDATA summary statistics is not accessible - nothing to report.

g. **WATERWAY AND SPOIL ISLANDS** (POC Howard Miller):

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

(a) The next island enhancement event is planned for 09FEB08. This enhancement project will take place at Mosquito Lagoon. Volunteers are being solicited for. Boats will leave from Kennedy Point Boat Ramp, Edgewater at 0900. This event is planned as a half-day event, ending around 1300. Of note is that this event will conflict with those attending the Division 4 Meeting being held at Flotilla 46, Lee Wenner Park.

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

(1) A meeting is set between leaders of Courageous Division, Port Canaveral Sea Cadets and Flotilla 46. It will be conducted at 1900 at the Flotilla 46 building. The agenda will consist of brainstorming as to how the parties can work together to support cadet training. This meeting came about at the request of the Sea Cadet Battalion located in Melbourne in November 2007.

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

(1) At the request of Mr. Ernie Brown, Brevard County Director of Natural Resources (also a LT in the USCG Reserve) and Matt Culver, Boating and Waterways Program Manager, and with the approval of the FLOT 46 FC, I am working to support an introductory meeting of Auxiliary leadership residing in Brevard County. The meeting will be planned for MARR08. The County is interested in developing a working relationship with the Auxiliary. Mr. Brown has appointed Mr. Culver to be the FLOT 46 FSO-MS POC for the Department of Natural Resources, Brevard County.

(2) As a precursor to the previously mentioned meeting, I have set up a meeting between Matt Culver, Boating and Waterways Program Manager and MST3 Brandon Todd, MSD PCAN for 1300, 13 February to discuss partnering to support local boating and waterway initiatives. I will sit in on the meeting, which may also be attended by LT Hoppe, MSD PCAN and Pete M, FSO-PA.

j. **SEA PARTNERS** (POC Howard Miller): As a result of the new contacts made at the D-7 Training Conference, I have received the Officer Snook Trash Game construction plans. This came via an e-mail. This is an education game that teaches the deterioration timeline of items often found discarded in the oceans, such as paper, plastics, bottles, fishing line. I have forward the plans to all FLOT 46 FSO's.

k. **American Waterway Watch Program** (POC Howard Miller): I presented the idea of attaching the American Waterway Watch Program poster to the PV brochure stand during the D-7 Training Conference. It was well received by all and Commodore Marry

Larsen used it during her AWW program presentation. She is also going to use it at future presentations.

1. **Flotilla 46 Training Initiates**

(1) **Guest Speakers:** Per e-mail, I have requested to invite guest speakers to the Flotilla monthly meetings. Standing by if approved. The resources I currently have available are:

(a) LT Hoppe and MST3 Todd, MSD PCAN. The specific subject would be the MSD mission and pollution patrols.

(b) Mr. Brown and Mr. Culver, Brevard County Department of Natural Resources. The specific subject would pertain to program management of local boating and the waterways.

(c) Ms. Tyson or Doctor Ashton, Department of Environmental Protection. The subject would pertain to the Central Brevard Aquatic Preserve enhancement projects and environmental protection.

(2) **AWW AND BOATING SAFETY INTRO TO COMMUNITY:** Officer Deakins, Rockledge City Police manages the city's Neighborhood Watch Program. She has partnered me with another community member that is interested in networking all homeowner associations in the city (about 94) via a phone tree and e-mail. She is also interested in my promoting the AWW program as this matches up with her neighborhood watch initiative. She has agreed to allow me a couple of minutes during her community meetings to introduce the AWW and what the Auxiliary does in regard to boating safety and VSC. I now have her schedule for this quarter and plan to attend to promote the Auxiliary's mission.

m. **Miscellaneous:**

(1) **MSD INVITE TO DIVISION 4 MEETING:** Per an e-mail, I have requested to invite LT Hoppe to attend the 09FEB08 Division 4 Meeting. Standing by if approved.

(2) **MSD and FLOT 45:** LT Hoppe is interested in meeting representatives of other Division 4 Flotilla. I recently met the FSO-MS for FLOT 45. I have since introduced hi, via e-mail, to the MDS POC for future partnering.

(3) **To be discussed:** Will introduce the following three subjects at the next staff meeting for discussion (note, Pete M will present in my absence):

(a) Signage posted at the PCAN lock addressing AWW and boating safety / VSCs conducted by the Auxiliary.

(b) Establishment of a booth at the casino ship terminal(s) to promote AWW, boating safety and VSCs.

(c) Procurement of audiovisual support for showing videos remotely to the public.

MT (Pete Macaig): Aids to Navigation Verifier Course

- The Aids to Navigation Verifier Course was held on 19 Jan
- Mike Kanis Lead Instructor
- Five New members have been certified
 1. L. Woods
 2. H. Preston
 3. H. Miller
 4. B. Terrill
 5. P Macaig

New Member Indoctrination:

- New Member Indoctrination course was held on 23 January
- Lead Instructor was Gil Steinfort
- Trainee Peter K Macaig Sr
- Assistants Howard Miller & Roger Bonnett
- Total of 17 members attended including Instructors
- Total of 5 members recruited within the past 8 months in attendance.

Boat Crew Class

- The current Crew class has begun OTW training
- QE is scheduled for Late February
- Alternative date schedules into March

Vessel Examiner Workshop

- Workshop held on 26 Jan
- Lead instructor Harry Preston
- Assistant Dennis Sullivan
- Total of 6 members attended including instructors

OP (George Hill): no report

PA (Pete Macaig): Advertising

- Ten contacts have been made via E-Mail to radio and Television stations with no response.
- New flyers are being distributed by PV's announcing new ABC class on 16 Feb.
- Florida Today has been contacted for ABC class on 16 Feb with no positive response
- Posting of Flyers in public buildings and local stores has begun by PV's
I suggest that all available members print and post a flyer to the effect in locations of which they frequent.

Public Out Reach

- I am currently looking for information on the Cocoa Village events to set up a booth for PA
- The concept of using the Sea Cadets as a PA venture for there training in radio communication was brought up at the meeting with the Sea Cadets. At this time I feel it would be inappropriate to peruse this. The liability of training is at issue, would this be a Public Affairs event or a Sea Cadet training event, I cannot establish a criteria for this type of event.
- The Spoil Island clean up: Which Howard Miller is involved as FSO-MS is a viable event. Yet we have had no useful participation to make publication of the event practical in print media. Should we ever achieve more that two members total and only one in uniform, I have decided that to publish any information is without merit.
- Merritt Square Mall has a boat on display in the courtyard next to Sears I am trying to find the dealer and request leaving ABC flyers on the deck.
- Public Outreach with Local Police has been suggested as an addition to their neighborhood watch program. I am waiting for confirmation with the Rockledge Police, and Contact with the Cocoa Police Departments.
- I am also seeking individuals to help locate other sources of outreach for Public Affairs to speak to people.
- At the D-7 Conference a suggestion was made to reach out to schools for boating safety. At this time I have not considered this as a viable presentation do to the restrictions of schools, in having what can *appear to be recruiting*.

PB (Frank Fortney): Completed the new Digital Photography (AUX-26). Passed the final exam (unproctored) with a 94%. Other than that there was no significant activity to report for January.

PE (Dino Koutsaris): Finalizing the instructor schedule for ABC Course scheduled for February 16th. Morning crew, please check in at 0700. Status on new course materials, “*About Boating Safely*“, and supplements.

PS (Ann Bloom): I was able to add one member to our flotilla. She is Donna Miller. Hopefully I will be adding several more

PV (Judy Steinfort): 1. Since my last report, PVs have continued to make timely visits to Partners. The three spring ABC class trifolds and posters were put in place during these visits.

2. Gil Steinfort distributed a description of the PV program at the recent New Member Orientation program.

3. Thanks to Howard Miller, we have three new Partners: the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at Cape Canaveral, the Central Brevard Aquatic Preserve, and the Brevard County Department of Natural Resources.

SR (Chris Tanner): If copies of Staff Reports are not sent to Chris Tanner, S/R they will not be included in the minutes.

VE (Denis Sullivan): 1. Tom McQuillen an Auxiliarist from New York has been conducting VE's at Freddy Patrick Park, that's the boat ramp at Port Canaveral. This weekend he conducted nineteen VE's, ten passed, nine failed. Prior to that, during the month, he conducted another six VE's. Howard Miller has also conducted number of VE's.

2. There was a VE workshop conducted on 26 JAN 08 at the Flotilla Bldg.

Six members of the flotilla attended the workshop.

. We run another one in the future.

3. I am also planning to man Kelly Park, the last Sunday of every month. will spend most of the day at this location conducting VE's, any member who needs to get their five VE's to get qualified after they have passed the VE exam, you can there. This will be a yearlong event.

4. I will be also operating at other boat ramps and marinas in the AOR.

Will coordinate some surge events as we go the year.

5. When you submit your 7038 copy me at dencats@bellsouth.net

Old Business:

CG Band was incredible with over 1000 attending

New Business:

Shuttle patrol times – George to check with Jules and notify Coxswain.

Comments from Senior Staff:

DCP – Harry Preston is going to do member training in regard to Uniform protocol for both the flotilla and the division

Please be aware of the names on your email group or distribution lists. In several email lately I have noticed that former members are still be included. Frank keeps us very updated on the latest changes in member status, please make adjustments to your email list accordingly.

Members from other flotillas within the district can participate in our vessel operations program with verification from their Division that they are qualified as crew or coxswain. Members outside our district must have verification of their qualification and must meet with a QE before they can participate in the program.

All members of the Aux can participate in all other areas as qualified (VE, PV, IT, etc) The 7030 or other appropriate forms must be sent to their area IS for entry into AUXDATA.

Next Meeting: 03MAR08 1900

Motion to adjourn made. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted with the help of Barb Carolus, DCP.

Chris Tanner, FSO-SR