

**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Central Brevard, Flotilla 46
USCG Auxiliary Building, Lee Wenner Park, Cocoa
General Meeting Minutes
Date: 03MAR08**

Attendance:

Officers: Roger Bonnett, FC, Gil Steinfort, VFC/FSO-IS, Judy Steinfort, FSO-PV, 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, George Hill, IPFC/FSO-OP, Harry Preston, FSO-CM, Frank Fortney, FSO-PB/FSO-CS, Pat Grimmnitz, FSO-FN

Members: Becky Smoak-Preston, Carter Quillen, James Kight, Bill Terrell, Bob Target, Jack Miller, Donna Miller, Barb Carolus, Gary Gunter, Barbara Gunter, John Vitale, Kevin Jarvis, Harry Phillips, III, Jim Urick, Pam Easterwood, William Spencer, Steve Brown, Bob Poindexter, Frank Koneski, Lee Woods, Bill Giers

Call to Order: 1905

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Moment of Silence

Guests: Gerald Downey, Christine Downey

Installation of new members: Lee Woods, Bill Terrell

Quorum present: yes

Awards:

Vessel Examiner

- o Howard Miller

Instructor Certification

- o Peter Macaig

Seamanship Course

- o Mike Kanis

Auxiliary Performance Awards

- o Gil Steinfort - Operations
- o Michael Kanis – Program Visitor
- o William Spencer – Program Visitor
- o Gil Steinfort – Program Visitor
- o Rick Bloom – Public Education
- o Mike Kanis – Public Education
- o Jack Kuehne – Public Education

Shuttle Support – letters and pictures warded to all those who supported the STS Mission OCT07: Rick and Ann Bloom, Bob Poindexter, Chris Tanner, Gil and Judy Steinfort, George Hill, Harry Preston

Bill Spencer received the Recreational Boating Safety Program Specialist Award after having met the requirements in the 3 areas of Legislative Outreach, State RBS Outreach, and RBS Program Visits
Additional Awards were Mike Kanis – AUXPAT course completion, Frank Fortney – 5 year Service Award, Barbara Gunter – 10 year Service Award

Commanders Report:

- FSO staff meeting was held on Feb. 27, 2007
- Next staff officers meeting will be on March 19, 2008. Location: Lee Wenner Park
- Everyone should have gotten the email on new PFD requirements. For us, there will be little to no change unless we go off shore.
- We have received a request from the Sea Cadets for a PWC class. The instructor's manual has been ordered. I am sure Dino will be looking for volunteers to teach it. Contact Dino if you are interested.
- Safe boating week is 17May-23MAY08. We have an ABC course scheduled for 17May08. I have asked Peter Macaig to see if we can drum up some publicity and may be some show-and-tell. We will be looking for member support for that weekend.
- I will be attending a meeting with the on 05March08 (Wednesday) at 1900. FLOT 46 will host an introductory meeting for members of the Brevard County Department of Natural Resources Management. The Director, Department of Natural Resources Management will be there. We would like any of the staff available to attend to show our interest in working together.
- I also had a meeting scheduled with the USCG Research and Development Center scheduled for the same time on Wednesday. I have asked Peter Macaig to attend in my behalf. They are asking for Aux assistance during an exercise they have scheduled at the Cape in June. More to follow next week.
- All staff officers need to check their mailbox slots in the office. If you are not in attendance, information is placed in the slots.
- This year is our 50th Anniversary of the establishment of our Flotilla. We need to have a celebration committee to put the celebration together. We had numerous ideas come up during the staff meeting. We need this committee established tonight if possible because of the time it will take to put it together. Jack and Donna Miller will chair the committee.
- I will be during the last week in March. The VFC will be away from 24MAR-15APR08. Refer questions to FSOs and George Hill, IPFC will be in charge.

Staff Reports: Gil Steinfert, VFC

AN (Rick Bloom): Harry & Becky Preston ran an ATON patrol from Kelly Park. Going west down Barge Canal to Indian River. Then south to 520 bridge.

Howard Miller with an assist from Peter Macaig did chart updating of Lee Wenner

Park and boat ramp on east side of Indian River which is no longer there.

CM (Harry Preston): Radio Support: Two radio support missions were completed on 17 and 20 Feb. 2008.

Two trainees were given additional radio watchstander training during the 17 and 20 watches.

Corrections were made to email groups established for Watchstanders and Report distribution.

Communications Trailer:

Trailer project still in design stage with no further work completed at this time.

CS (Frank Fortney): Most activities for the FSO-CS were directed toward maintaining and updating the flotilla web site. The one change that notes mentioning is that I revised all links to open in their own, unique page. In the past, the software was designed to open a new page for a link, but when a second link was opened it overwrote the previous page.

The last item is a continuation of expressing my concern regarding the approach that District is taking in revising the District website and eventually consolidating all of our Division and Flotilla websites to be maintained at the District level.

I worked several years in testing and implementing software programs. The main rule was to never take off-line a functional program until a fully developed and tested replacement was available, ensuring that the users were fully trained/informed about the new program. This does not seem to be the approach District is taking and it is causing a lot of confusion and heartache. The old District website has been taken off-line and replaced with a partially developed website. Our Flotilla Commander can no longer enter his required data because the required links have disappeared. Also, we scheduled a QE for our members six weeks ago, only to have it cancelled because the evaluators have lost their link to enter QE data into the system. Extending this approach to managing all of the Division and Flotilla web sites leads me to believe that our whole District will be in disarray for an extended period.

IS (Gil Steinfort): 1. REYR flags were finally set in AUXDATA and I sent a copy of the Training Status Report to each member having a REYR problem as well as a summary of members involved to the cognizant FSOs.

2. I will be away from 24 March until 15 April. Just keep submitting forms and I will catch up on entries when I return.

3. Send those 7029s.

MA (Mike Kanis):		* SKU *	* Product *	* Price *	* Quantity
* Total *					
80139	ODU Sew-on Name Tags (4) (CLICK HERE FOR ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS)	8.00	1	8.00	
90072	ODU Sew-on Auxiliary Tape	2.50	1	2.50	
90119	Sew-on FSO Collar Device	4.00	1	4.00	
90118	Sew-on Member Collar Device	4.00	1	4.00	
80135	Auxiliary Uniform Name Tag (CLICK HERE FOR ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS)	4.50	1	4.50	

Taxes (7%): \$0.00 USD					
* Total = \$23.00 USD					
*					

User Comments:

Name for Uniform Name tag and ODU Sew-on Tags is WEEKS

1. The only item requested by members, large manila envelopes, will be ordered this week.
2. The SO-MA 4 requested that issue of the ANSC 6022 – Certificate of Appreciation RBS Visitation Program be investigated. The ANSC Manager replied that he had examined the certificates and found them to be fine.
 - a. I have sent the SO-MA 4 a scanned PDF copy of the certificate and will send him an original when I have his mailing address.
 - b. The FSO-AN 4 6 agrees that the certificate is defective and we will not use the item.
4. An order was placed for the PWC Course Instructor’s Kit and a Name Tag and Sew-on ODU materials for a new member. This order was placed with the approval of the FC and was charged to the Flotilla credit card.

MS (Howard Miller): 1. Overall, I am ramping down on a number of MS and EP initiatives that I have introduced due to either passing them on to another Flotilla 46 Staff Member or finding that there is little to no interest from others to support my pursuing. These items are noted in **RED** and may be removed from future reports. The specifics are addressed under each line item.

2. 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) There have been no Uninspected Vessel Examinations required or conducted during this reporting period. However, Sector JAX has alerted Team MS that there is one, possibly three vessels in Canaveral, that have failed a USCG boarding and that they may require assistance in a re-examination.

(b) Data not available at the time of this report. Info will be forwarded when available or reflected in the next report. Processed mariners (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 Liferaft Inspector (AUX-LR) training for the Uninspected Vessel Examination trainees (Pete M, Rick B and Howard M) on 21 FEB. Upon completion of the Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Course, they will receive letters of certification. This will enable them to conduct spot inspections of local liferaft inspection and servicing facilities.

(b) **NO CHANGE:** Uninspected Vessel Examiner training for Rick B, Pete M and Howard M is in the final phase. Each is preparing for their certification board. Upon certification, each will be able to conduct commercial examinations on uninspected passenger (6 pack), fishing and towing vessels.

(c) **NO CHANGE:** 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 training for MSD PCAN continues. Pete M and Gary G are in the final phase of security documentation verification; Bill G is working to submit his documents. Investigation for establishing computer accounts for certified Auxiliary members is under review with some obstacles to overcome due to the current computer system security regulations.

(3) Miscellaneous:

(a) 5 FEB: Harry P and Pete M attended the local South Eastern Fisheries management Council meeting held at Port Canaveral.

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

(1) MSD PCAN Personnel invited to ride during AUX patrols: **NO LONGER ACTIVELY PURSUING AS THERE HAVE BEEN NO REQUESTS TO EMBARK A MEMBER OF THE MSD FOR THE PAST 6 WEEKS.** However, if I receive a request, I will handle on a case-by-case basis. This initiative was announced at the last Division Meeting.

Background: 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, infoing George H. After their acknowledgement, patrol orders would be requested with the MSD individual's name provided.

(2) Harry P conducted a pollution patrol of Harbortown Marine during a patrol on 17 FEB. Nothing to report.

c. **SHIPBOARD INSPECTION ASSIST BY USCG AUX** (POC Howard Miller): **NO LONGER TRACKING.**

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

e. **AUXDATA SUPPORT FOR PORT CANAVERAL MSD REPORTS** (POC Howard Miller): **NO LONGER TRACKING:** Division AUXDATA summary statistics is not accessible.

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

(1) East Central Aquatic Preserves, Department of Environmental Protection: **NO LONGER TRACKING DUE TO LITTLE TO NO PARTICIPATION OVER PAST FOUR MONTHS.** I will continue to make announcements via electronic media, reporting only if supported.

g. **SEA CADET PROGRAM / USCG AUX INTERACTION** (POC Howard Miller): **NO LONGER TRACKING – see note below:**

Note: The Sea Cadets are interested in the PWC Course. They requested more info on the course. I have passed the Sea Cadet e-mail request for info to the Flotilla 46 VFC for fielding to the requisite FSOs.

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

(1) Meeting set for 1900, 5 March at the Flotilla Building. The meeting was announced to Division and Flotillas 42 and 29. Currently, the Flotilla 42 FC has informed the Flotilla 46 FC that he plans to attend.

Background: 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 set up an introductory meeting of Auxiliary leadership residing in Brevard County. 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) 12 FEB: Facilitated a meeting to introduce Matt Culver, Boating and Waterways Program Manager to MST3 Brandon Todd, MSD PCAN. Pete M (FSO-PA) attended with me. Good meeting, great exchange of information and resources between the two parties. LT Hoppe attended. I am now stepping back from their introduction to let them develop their own working relationship.

(3) 13 FEB: Facilities e-mail connectivity between BM1 Noorigian, OIC ATON Team, USCG Ponce and Matt Culver, Brevard County Boating and Waterways Program Manager. Mr. Culver was looking for a resource to discuss PTON issues within Brevard County. They are not communicating.

i. **SEA PARTNERS: NO LONGER TRACKING**

j. **American Waterway Watch Poster** (POC Howard Miller): **NO LONGER TRACKING.** I will assist when requested.

Background: 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.

k. **Flotilla 46 Training Initiates**

(1) **Guest Speakers: NO LONGER TRACKING.**

Background: Per e-mail, I have requested to invite guest speakers to the Flotilla monthly meetings. 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 t the Central Brevard Aquatic Preserve enhancement projects and environmental protection.

(2) **AWW AND BOATING SAFETY INTRO TO COMMUNITY**: Participated at one community meeting. 17 residents and approximately 11 police officers were in attendance.

Background: 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 92) 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.

I. **Miscellaneous**:

(1) Forward a letter to Flotilla 46 FC, requesting that it be forwarded to Division 4 flotillas for consideration. My letter requested that a POC from each Division 4 Flotilla assign one member to contact me so that I could pass contact info to them regarding excellent resources for the USCG Auxiliary within Brevard County. The intent was to support sharing the resources and establishing connectivity between the individual flotilla and the resources. Resources included MSD PCAN and county government. Received one response based on the letter and had previously established another flotilla at the D-7 Training Conference in Orlando.

(2) **To be discuss**: **NO LONGER TRACKING**. Feedback from the past Staff Meeting (I could not attend) was that the items were discussed and they were not favorably endorsed.

Background: 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): Boat Crew Class

- All individuals eligible for QE have completed sign off by mentors on February 19th.
- QE for class has been canceled with out acceptable reason
- Moral in Boat Crew Class has fallen to an unacceptable level due to cancellation.

Coxswains Class

- Class schedule for March has been revised to start in April providing Boat Crew QE is completed before March 15. Otherwise will schedule for May.
- Inquires to Coxswain class suggest 10 members will participate.

AUX-LR Training:

- Training was held on February 21, 2008 at MSD Port Canaveral
- 3 new Aux-LR inspectors trained H. Miller, R. Bloom, P. Macaig
- For Certification they each need to complete IMSEP course on line.

Specialty Courses

- No courses are currently scheduled due to change in QE dates for boat crew.

OP (George Hill): Coverage for the Shuttle Launch, Banana River on 11MAR08. First shift will be 1430-2030 10MAR08, second shift will be 2030-0230 10MAR-11MAR08. Let George know if you want to go out and which shifts you are available for.

At the meeting at Sector Jacksonville, the DCP asked what was required for the Coasties to ride on the AUX boats. He said a Coastie can go out any time without getting specific orders from the Station. That vessel with a Coasties aboard must fly the CG Ensign.

The CG recently announced that soon they will implement a life jacket change. Many active duty and Auxiliarists will need to comply by 01JUN09. The only jackets that will be approved for use in the CG Rescue and Survival Manual after the compliance date will be the ones that have been dynamically strength tested to 50 mph. Only the Auxiliary Surface Facilities that can exceed 35 mph will be required to comply with the minimum flotation requirement by 01JUN08.

PA (Pete Macaig): Advertising

- PE Class held on 16 February was advertised in the Florida Today on Wednesday 13, February.
- Radio announcements were not made.

Public Outreach

- Current outreach is ongoing with attempts to schedule with Cocoa Village
- Harbor town Marina is planning an event I will be contacting them to place a booth at this event. We will need help at this booth the weekend of 05APR-06APR08

Flotilla Anniversary

- This is the fifty year anniversary of our Flotilla an event should be planned to celebrate this year. I suggest a committee be formed for this; Members of this committee should include representatives from the following Staff offices.

1. PE,

2. MS,
3. OPS,
4. PS

PB (Frank Fortney): No significant activity to report.

PE (Dino Koutsaris): report read by Gil; only change in ABC course is the cover of the book

PS (Ann Bloom): New enrollments for February and March are: Kevin Jarvis and Karen Mann. So far in 2008 we have 4 new members.

PV (Judy Steinfort): 1. I recently contacted all PVs to clarify which of the various publications available should be put in our display boxes and which were optional.

2. Howard Miller is the newest member of the PV team having patiently waited for DIRAUX approval.

Banana River Marina should receive an award for their support.

SR (Chris Tanner): no report

VE (open):

Committee Reports

Fellowship Committee (Jack Miller):

FC resumes chair

Old/New Business:

- What about planning a fishing day for those wanting to try fishing? In shore or off shore using their own boats and learning how to find fish and navigate back to the "right spot" next time.
- Schedule for Picnic and VE day. Need a date.
- Training: Coxswain class: wait until after Crew QEs; also need instructors for coxswain and other specialty classes; thank you to Rick Bloom for all of his help scheduling the water time for the crew class and supporting the class
- Jack Miller mentioned that Chief Rice is leaving Canaveral and an invitation has been extended to the Flotilla to participate in any going-away festivities. Harry Preston added that we need to be there as Chief Rice has supported the Flotilla a great deal.
- ID card renewal: Barb will send the information to Frank who will do pictures at the next meeting. If you need a new ID card, let Frank know.

Minutes: tabled until April meeting as no minutes were printed or sent out

Finance: motion made to approve as read; seconded; approved

Note: There was a donation made by the Downeys towards the picnic

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

Barb Carolus, DCP – comments from meeting with Capt. Thomas, Sector Jacksonville: RBS program is great; need more multi-mission patrols; he would like to hear of accomplishments so he can send personal messages; wants to be more involved with the Stations

There have been some comments from some of the Coasties that they are not pleased with the dress and/or demeanor of the volunteers at the Station. Mr. Locke is very satisfied and wishes that all calls be directed to him; he is very impressed with the emergency call list we have in place and wants it continued

When we are involved with different activities such as regattas, there are other agencies we need to communicate with such as law enforcement. We all need to have a briefing before the events to better coordinate the activities.

The next Division meeting will be 12APR08 at Station Ponce.

Barb will be at a meeting with Mr. Locke and Chief Carsons on 05MARre: Shuttle disasters. She will email everyone if there s anything we need to know.

Next Meeting: 07APR 1900

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, passed.

Adjourned: 2045

Respectfully submitted:
Chris Tanner, FSO-SR