

--SCUTTLEBUTT--

JULY 2005



Flotilla 12-8's AOR

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA
12-8, 7TH DISTRICT
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Vol. 31 No. 7

MEMBERSHIP MEETING JULY 13 1900 AT THE BASE

[Full Flotilla Schedule](#)

LCDR Allan Describes Sectors

Happy Birthday!

EPIRB AND A C-130 (cont.)

FLOTILLA COMMANDER

Thomas Schmidt FC



What is happening and not happening in our Flotilla? By your leave, I will take my best shot to answer both of these and will look forward to the reality check from you at the Flotilla Meeting on July 13.

Over the past months, meeting attendance and participation has increased; as has the wonderful tradition of "The Wearing of the Uniform." Hap and I thank all of you for your support!

Our on the water (OTW) program has morphed into a high intensity training and search and rescue stand-by **regimen**. While our new OTW program is

in its infancy, it is being well received by our members and the Coast Guard, especially Station Charleston. We are racking-up tangible positive results. The new program demonstrates a broader participation of OTW personnel and trainees and offers more opportunity for all than is being realized.

While improved, we are continuing to operate in the few-do-the-most mode. In order to better accommodate Station Charleston's need to have Auxiliary augmentation on the water during weekend days, when the heaviest public boating traffic occurs, we need broader commitment and participation by all our OTW personnel. During the past few years when committed patrols were executed only on Tuesdays, there was a continuous outcry from many of our OTWs, "why can't we have more patrols on weekends so that we can all participate." Now that we are conducting the majority of our patrols on weekend days, the same people who wanted a weekend program are proffering a multitude of excuses for their no showmanship. Excuses are born of personal convenience and lack of commitment. Hap, and your OTW comrades (including me), need the commitment of each OTW qualified individual and trainee to rigorously participate in the OTW program. Hap is publishing monthly the OTW schedule in advance. This allows us time to commit to specific dates, block them out, **show up**, participate, enjoy, and then receive the "psychic

income" that we all receive when doing for "our Country". Heave, heave!

On the same note, if OTW is not your bag, Barbara Yeatman, Joe Fleming, Barney Holt, and Dan Cowley, can use plenty of help with Partner Visitation (PV), Vessel Examinations (VE), Public Affairs (PA), and the cutter "Yellow Fin," respectively. Summer is times for fun...let's all have more fun in Flotilla 12-8!

The Member Training (MT) program is proceeding splendidly under the leadership of Bob Mathewes and with the faithful assistance of John Sikes. Bob Lovinger has completed a very successful spring BS&S Course and has more PE scheduled for the fall. Joe Fleming (VE), Barb Yeatman (PV), Barney Holt (PA) are all "banging it out" in the public arena. Hank Wolf (MA), Terry Heinz (AV), Richard Daniel (AN), Brent Hepburn (CC), Joey Bokern (FN), Diane Schmidt (IS), Lou Mintz (MS), John Sikes (CS), are all doing splendid jobs and supporting our overall effort to maintain and move the Flotilla forward.

Shirley Wolf, our Secretary/ Records does a super job on the meeting minutes during her rare visits to the Charleston area. Evidently, Frank Leister is doing his Publications job adequately...or you would not be reading this marvelous epistle. Let us put our hands together for Hap James is really pulling the load. He is a fine VFC, demonstrating diligent follow-up and perseverance and as Flotilla Operations he excels. He not only "keeps a lot of balls in the air", but also is one of those very rare individuals that can catch them all before they hit the floor.

I thank all of the FSOs and Flotilla Members for your support as well as your constructive suggestions for my growth as FC and improvement of "our" Flotilla!

VICE-FLOTILLA COMMANDER

Allen James - VFC



We have not accomplished our goal of bringing inactive members into our meetings and participating in staff functions. I am asking each member to call an inactive member and invite them to the meeting on Wednesday the 13th. We have

approximately seventy members on the roll, but less than half participate. Get on the phone and call inactive members. If they get more than one call.... maybe they will attend! This prodding is something we must do every month, anytime during the month call, call, and call again!

UP PERISCOPE!

Time to look around and see what is happening around you – maintain situational awareness so to speak.



SECTOR CHARLESTON: A NEW ERA

Today you are witnessing the establishment of Sector Charleston. To create unity of command in America's ports, better align field command structures, and improve Coast Guard operational effectiveness. Sector Commands will be created throughout the Coast Guard by integrating Groups, Marine Safety Offices (MSO). The strategic intent is to unify Coast Guard operational shore functions into a single Sector Command (SC) through an organizational structure that draws together the full range of Coast Guard missions and melds the organizational and cultural strengths of Coast Guard operational communities. Sector Charleston will be organized into three primary departments: **Logistics, Preventions and Response** and 12 subordinate units.

Logistics Department-

- Direct the management and execution of all unit level support activities for administration, personnel, finance and supply, and logistics engineering support services for the Sector.

Prevention Department-

- Responsible for all Coast Guard operations directed at preventing maritime casualties, accident and security standards, including commercial and fishing vessel inspections, waterways management, aids to navigation, marine casualty investigations and licensing.

Response Department

Responsible for the direction and employment of all assigned Coast Guard response forces for security enforcement, incident response and mitigation operations, including search and rescue, security operations, and pollution response.

LCDR Thomas Allan

Deputy Commander, USCG Group Charleston

Father's Day Patrol

With Allen James as Coxswain & Bob Mathewes & me, Bob Lovinger, we had a routine patrol. It rained heavily while we were in Salty Mike's for lunch, so we waited it out. The only event occurred was when we were asked to look for a



sailboat adrift up the Ashley near I-526. When we got up there, a small sailboat looking like a derelict was anchored. Two of the ports on the deck were missing their lexan windows and, with the rain we have been having, the boat would likely sink unless it was taken care of. We left it, as we had no authority to do more than verify that it was not a hazard to navigation.

Submitted by Robert Lovinger FSO-PE

CHIEF DIRECTOR ALERTS AUXILIARY ON PFD POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

To: ALAUX
 Frm: CHDIRAUX (G-OCX-1)
 Subj: CO2 CYLINDER SAFETY NOTICE -011/05

1. The U.S. Coast Guard has become aware of a potential problem with installation of CO2 cylinders that have bayonet tips in inflatable personal flotation devices (PFDs or life jackets). If a cylinder is not properly installed, the PFD will not inflate with CO2. The problem may affect several thousand PFDs, but the Coast Guard is only aware of one incident to date. The following link to the USCG Boating web site provides detailed information:

<http://www.uscgboating.org/alerts/alertsview.aspx?id=50>

Flotilla 12-8 Assistance Pays Off

Flotilla 12-8 in a patrol detailed in the May Scuttlebutt, EPIRB AND A C-130, assisted the Coast Guard in testing the C-130's ability to detect and locate EPIRBs. With that as background, read on! (Ed.)

Mr. Greg Johnson, MSO Charleston provided the following note:

These are the articles about the sport fisher that was saved by the CG using the C-130, 1504 automatic direction finder. The CG brought down the C-130 from Elizabeth

City NC after not being able to locate the fishermen holding their EPIRB. The C-130, 1504 went directly to the men, and then vectored a helo to pick them up. What a great story, and especially knowing our successful test here in Charleston proved the reliability of the new equipment. Please pass on to your crew that our part was responsible for saving two men already.

Below, from the Miami Herald is the full story. (Ed.)

Miami Herald

Rob Perdigon and his buddy Roger Montz had won a fishing tournament and were enjoying a relaxed boat ride to Fort Pierce on Friday afternoon when their journey turned upside down -- literally. Perdigon, 38, of Coral Gables and Montz, 35, of Melbourne were from the Bahamas about noon when a pair of waves slammed into Montz's 34-foot boat, capsizing it and hurling the men overboard into the Ocean. The men were rescued Saturday afternoon off the coast of Merritt Island near Cape Canaveral by U.S. Coast Guard officials, but not before spending nearly 30 sleepless hours clinging to their only lifeline: a water hose attached to the boat. "It all happened in about three seconds," Perdigon said in a telephone interview from his home Sunday night. "One minute we were listening reggae music, and the next we were swimming in the ocean." The two men had left for the Bahamas on June 6 to compete in a fishing families flew over and met them at Treasure Cay. Perdigon and Montz were supposed to head back Sunday, but decided to leave two days early, hoping to escape Tropical Storm Arlene and the rough waters that was sure to follow. When the boat flipped, the men took turns diving under it to gather supplies like flares and life vests. On one dive, they were able to retrieve bottles of water and cans of soda. They used a plastic bag to store the supplies. That kept them alive. They also got hold of a device called an EPIRB -- Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon. When activated, the EPIRB sends a signal to the Coast Guard pinpointing the boat's coordinates. Montz's EPIRB, however, was not registered, so it took the Coast Guard almost a day before it could correlate the signal with the boat. "We cannot enforce the message enough of registering the EPIRB," said Coast Guard Petty Officer Anastasia Burns. "They save people's lives, but we need to have them registered." Sunburned and dehydrated, Perdigon was in unusually high spirits Sunday as he described his harrowing experience. The two friends kept each other thinking positively throughout the ordeal, reiterating that they would survive, Perdigon said. He said his worst moments came when thinking of his wife and two children. "It was so hard sitting out there and knowing how bad they were feeling," he said. "They did not know if we were at the bottom of the ocean." But thoughts of his family also gave Perdigon strength. "They were a big driving force," he said.

Submitted by Robert Lovinger, FSO-PE

CHIEF DIRECTOR MARKS AUXILIARY BIRTHDAY

To: ALAUX
 Frm: CHDIRAUX (G-OCX-1)
 Subj: SIXTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY-012/05

1. ALCOAST 334/05

June 23, 2005 marks the Coast Guard Auxiliary sixty-sixth year of service to the coast guard and the nation. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to call Auxiliarists our shipmates, for they have stepped forward to help fill our watch, quarter and station bills to ensure the safety and security of our nation. Today the Auxiliary plays a larger role with greater responsibilities than at any other time in history. Today, Auxiliarists are at the helm of Marine safety and security patrols, serving as foreign language Interpreters, educating the public on recreational boating safety, and supporting many other vital operational and administrative Missions. Last year, they saved 257 lives, assisted 10,485 others, Volunteered over 440,000 hours in support of Coast Guard operations and more than 69,000 hours educating the recreational boating public.

http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx/publications/alcoast/alcoast-334-05.html

Operations

Allen James FSO-OP



We kept our patrol commitment in June except for two aborts: one for mechanical problems, and the other for weather.

With patrols being changed to weekends I expected more members to be able to volunteer to go out. We have had a few sign up for patrols. I thank those who stepped up and helped us.

We still need OPFACS for later July and August. Those of you who were just certified, we need you to let me know when you are available! Call me and ask when you can help. Those who are crew and coxswain ask if you are carrying your part of the load or is someone else doing yours and theirs too!

The procedure for patrols that include training and



Picture by FSO-FN Bokern

reduces past fuel consumption is as follows. Transit time from launch to the harbor remains the same and for some OPFACS, is a significant portion of fuel usage. After arriving in the harbor, the coxswain selects a location near high boat traffic and where we can be seen by passing boaters.

We look for a relatively wake free area. Locations near the James Island connector bridge, the harbor side of Drum Island, and just down stream from the Wando SPA meets those criteria. These locations are central to high boat traffic and have a high probability of boats needing assistance or requiring a SAR call out.

While anchored in these locations, we cover prepared lessons with the crew e.g., MOB, marlinspike seamanship, SAR patterns, communications.

The OPFAC anchors for several hours while training then changes locations. This is repeated for the full I patrol.

Results: we are training, we are conserving fuel by being at anchor, and we are close by for call out by The Coast Guard.

Partner Visitation

Barbara Yeatman FSO-PV



The "mad rush" is on--the mad rush to "be legal," to by having the right items on board. The mad rush by the PV Department is also on, to keep the supply current with the demand.

It is a great pleasure to find the rack, just filled a week or so ago, almost empty again. The biggest demand is for the *State Regulations*, followed very closely by the *Federal Regulations* and lastly, STICKERS! Those of you on the water should see all sorts of good boating with the number of stickers the PV's hand out? The Boat Handling stickers SHOULD help point the boater to the proper side of the channel, the proper etiquette when meeting-passing--we can hope that they do.

Therefore, onward we go, stuffing the racks each month. SOMEBODY is taking these booklets!

Information Services

Diane Schmidt FSO-IS



Last month we covered AUXDATA. This month we will look at AUXINFO.

AUXINFO is another place where you can get information about missions and hours for yourself. It is the URL <http://www.auxinfo.uscg.gov> on the Internet. AUXINFO was given a new look in March and should be easier to use. There is a new guide available to help with the navigation of the new version. If you go to <http://cgaux7.gov> click on Member Information Pages button; select Departments; then select Information Services. You

will find the AUXINFO Information before the beginning of the IS articles. In addition, under the AUXINFO URL address, you will see AUXDATA Cubes, select that, then select Member Activities, and keep drilling down until you get to your record to see what has been posted. I hope this will help you and encourage you to keep track of your own activities and hours to see that they have been posted and posted correctly. Hope to see all of you at our next meeting

Member Training

Robert Mathewes FSO-MT



The beginning of summer finds us in the midst of the AUXSEA class. We have **Bobby Baker, Joe Fleming, Hap James, Tom Schmidt** and **Agnes Wright** from 12-8 and **Bill Riley** from 12-3. Unexpected family situations have

caused two of our group to be away, but we should still finish by, or shortly after 18 July.

I hope to begin AAUXSAR around the first of September. Between AUXSEA and AUXSAR, our FC is trying to arrange an AUXCOM class.

The AUXACN course that we finished in May had only one Auxiliarist in it. She was taking it as a preparatory review for the AUXACN Part "B." Those of you who have taken that test know that it is the most difficult of the specialty exams. Congratulations are due to **Agnes Wright**. She passed AUXACN Part "A" last summer and now has successfully completed the dreaded Part "B" to become our newest Navigation Specialist.

Vessel Examination

Joe Fleming FSO-VE



The June 12th Blitz at Wappoo was very rewarding. Member turnout was fabulous, my thanks to all. By the next meeting, I will have the information for the next Blitz.



Communication Services

John L. Sikes FSO-CS



At mid-year we are often very busy with on-water activities, safety checks and family life. Often we do not think about notifying our FSO-CS of activities that might interest others. Remember the flotilla's calendar on the web site and bookmark it if you have not already (www.uscgauxcharleston.org/calendar.htm) and check it out regularly. If you have something to share with other members, be sure and send it to me so we can post it.

Public Education

Bob Lovinger FSO-PE



A very brief report this month as no classes are currently being given, although I have had a surprising number of requests for the ABC course and some interest in BS&S. Stay tuned for information about the fall term as we may have an adequate number of students.

Publications

Frank Leister FSO-PB



All but eight people receive their Scuttlebutt by email linking them to our web sight, webmaster FSO-IS John Sikes. (There is no count on how many others are on the electronic mailing list but probably in the area of eighty or ninety.) Some of those eight are long time members. Others are required copies for archival purposes. In this month's mailing, I am inserting a note reconfirming they still want to be on the mailing list and or they do not have the ability to get the Scuttlebutt by email. Two-way communications with these folks can be difficult. If you have any information about them please email me at fcl@lwinslow.com. If any of those listed below want to confirm their status or the media for the Scuttlebutt's delivery please email me at the above address or call at 843-991-1118.

Their names are: Louis Engel, Dalke Friedrich, JV Joyner Library, Glenda Lappe, Lola McKenzie, Dudley Overton, Donald G. Smith and Col. Alvin A. Taylor.

Thanks to FSO-PE Lovinger, FSO-FN Bokern and FSO-VE Fleming for the pictures and stories they sent in for this month's Scuttlebutt. Their participation makes the Scuttlebutt more effective in keeping the membership informed and attracting new members. It is appreciated. (They all sent their material in early too ☺)

Secretary/Records
Shirley Wolf FSO-SR



**Flotilla 12-8 Membership
Meeting Minutes
8 June 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by VFC Allen James and commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance led by

FSO-VE Joe Fleming, followed by a moment of silence for the passing of previous Auxiliary member Hal Wood.

Members present: Tom Beauchemin, Dave Beaudrot, Paul Berka, Jerome Bishop, Marguerite Bishop, Joey Bokern, Richard Daniel, Jim Davis, Hugo Endris, Joe Fleming, Allen James, Ellen Kreiling, Robert Kreiling, Bob Lovinger, Bob Mathewes, Lou Mintz, Dick Morgan, Andrew Poole, Diane Schmidt, Thomas Schmidt, Agnes Wright, Barbara Yeatman.

Guests/Visitors: Darwin Goucher, Linda Goucher, Eric Kilpatrick, John Smoak.

Coffee Break: 1910-1925

Tom Schmidt – FC introduced Marguerite Bishop as a guest speaker. Marguerite provided us with an overview of "An Introduction to the Stars." We were also provided with a copy of the overview as well as the names of several books that would provide us with more information on the stars. Please contact Marguerite if you are interested in a class on the stars.

Tom Schmidt – FC asked that the May meeting minutes as published in the Scuttlebutt be accepted. Bob Kreiling made the motion to accept the minutes seconded by Bob Mathewes.

Joey Bokern – FN presented the financial report, extremely solvent. Motion was made by Bob Mathewes to accept the report, seconded by Bob Lovinger.

FC presented Lou Mintz with his ID card.

Joe Fleming – VE announced the next VE Blitz would be at the Wappoo Boat Landing on June 12th from 1000-1400.

Allen James – VFC sent around a sign-up sheet for Crew/Coxswain training and Currency and REYR hours

Old Business: Paul Berka needs a nametag. Bob Lovinger needs a Crew Qualification Ribbon. Jane Orenstein has a sign-up sheet for the raft-up on 10 July 2005.

New Business: Allen James, VFC, went over the patrol schedule and/or training schedule. **Members who are to be QE'd must go through the Security process first, which is the SF-86 Form.** Bob Kreiling, DSO-OP, explained the procedure for multiple Coxswains to achieve currency on one patrol. Bob Lovinger, PE, explained the various boating education courses to our visitors. BS&S will be in September and ABC in October. FC Tom Schmidt advised that Training, Currency and Re-Quals should be a priority.

Meeting adjourned at 2030. **Next meeting 13 July 2005 at the USCG Base at 1900.**

Submitted by FSO-IS Diane Schmidt in FSO-SN's absence.

--KEY SOURCES FOR INFORMATION--

Following is a list of web sites of value to us all. Please keep abreast of news and directives by checking these sources on a regular basis.

- >USCG Aux Info Tracking Progress http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx/auxdata/auxinfohelp.htm
- USCG Aux What's New Page <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/memtable.shtml>
- > USCG Aux On-line Testing Page <http://cgexams.info/testing/>
- > USCG Aux AuxInfo <http://www.auxinfo.uscg.gov/>
- > USCG Aux e-Train <http://www.auxetrain.org/>
- > USCG Aux Forms & Manuals Page <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/tbforms.shtml>
- > 7th District DirAux West <http://www.dirauxwest.org/>
- > ChDirAux Items of Interest Page http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx/
- > DIRAUX District 7 Homepage <http://www.d7oax3.net/>
- > DIRAUX District 7 Directives http://www.d7oax3.net/pol_dir.htm
- > USCG Aux D7 Member Page http://www.cgaux7.org/index_members.asp
- > Division 12 Website <http://www.uscgaux.org/~07012/>
- > Flotilla Website <http://www.uscgauxcharleston.org/>



Flotilla 12-8 Officers

Click on Name to send an e-mail message

Flotilla 12-8 Elected Officers:

Position	Name	Web Page
FC - Flotilla Commander	Thomas A. Schmidt	Welcome
VFC - Flotilla Vice Commander	Allen N. James	

Flotilla 12-8 Staff Officers:

Position	Name	Web Page
FSO-AN - Aids to Navigation	Richard B. Daniel	
FSO-AV - Aviation Coordinator	Terry Heinz	Air Operations
FSO-CC - Career Counselor	W. Brent Hepburn	Academy Introduction Mission (AIM)
FSO-CM - Communications	Richard R. Clarke	
FSO-CS - Communications Services	John L. Sikes	
FSO-FN - Finance	Joseph H. Bokern, IV	
FSO-IS - Information Services	Diane Schmidt	
FSO-MA - Materials	Henry Wolf	Materials

FSO-MS - Marine Safety	<u>Louis C. Mintz</u>	
FSO-MT - Member Training	<u>Robert H. Mathewes</u>	
FSO-OP - Operations	<u>Allen James</u>	<u>Surface Operations</u>
FSO-PA - Public Affairs	<u>W. Barney Holt</u>	
FSO-PB - Publications	<u>Frank C. Leister</u>	<u>Newsletters</u>
FSO-PE - Public Education	<u>Robert J. Lovinger</u>	<u>Public Courses</u>
FSO-PS - Personnel Services	<u>Thomas A. Schmidt</u>	<u>Join The Auxiliary</u>
FSO-PV - Partner Visitation	<u>Barbara Yeatman</u>	
FSO-SR - Secretary/Records	<u>Shirley A. Wolf</u>	
FSO-VE - Vessel Examination	<u>Joseph L. Fleming</u>	<u>Safety Checks</u>
IPFC - Immediate Past Flotilla Commander	<u>Robert L. Kreiling</u>	