



# *Pieces of Eight*

## **Division 8**

*Seventh Coast Guard District*



March - April 2008

Volume XXXXI, No. 2

**Elected Officers**  
**Division Captain**

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**Division Vice Captain**

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**Committees**

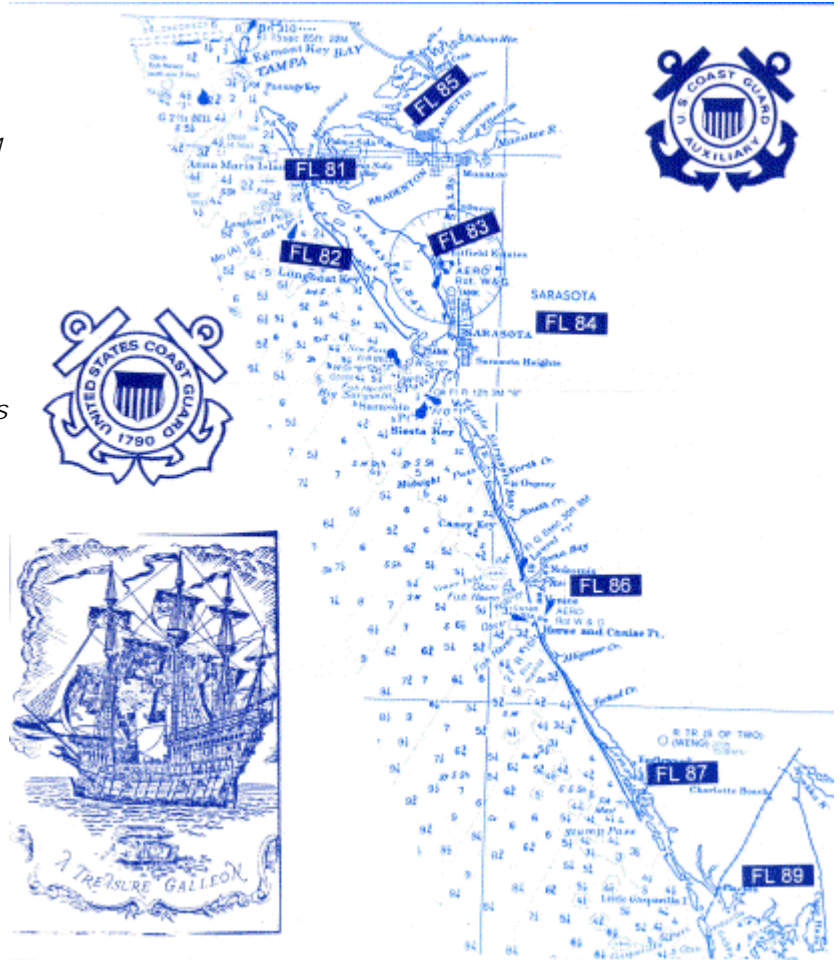
Lay Leader  
Toni Borman  
Aviation Coordinator  
Braxton Ezell  
Fellowship  
Donna Eschedor  
Honor Guard  
Roger Fouracre

**Staff Reports**  
**What's on Deck**

**Flotilla News**  
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**Flotilla 85**

**Staff Officers**

Maurice Sabourin, SO-AN  
Henry S. Reynolds, SO-CM  
Jack W. Rienks, SO-CS  
Robert L. Bartelt, SO-FN  
Harry E. Bruno, Jr., SO-IS  
Ronald C. Mines, SO-MA  
Judith A. Abbott, SO-MS  
Casey Jankowski, SO-MT  
Gabby Gray, SO-OP  
Albert J. Bidwick,, SO-PA  
Paulette R. Parent, SO-PB  
Ruth Ann White, SO-PE  
Thomas J. Johnsonl, SO-PS  
John T. DeGeorge, SO-PV  
Joan H. Morello, SO-SR  
Roger Fouracre, SO-VE



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Paulette R. Parent



## Division Captain

Fred Kermodé

The first quarter is almost gone. It seems like this quarter is always the busiest. We have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming April Division meeting. It is our awards meeting – the time we are recognized for all the hard work accomplished during 2007. It is very difficult sometimes to have to make selections when so many people deserve to be recognized for their efforts, but we must realize we are all winners.

Please plan to attend our Division meeting as we will have a special presentation by our RCO-W, Walter Jaskiewicz. He will be talking about how first responders to catastrophic incidents are affected emotionally. He is bringing this to us from a class he attended while at the conference in Saint Louis last January.

Our Division picnic is scheduled for Friday, 25 April at Station Cortez. We plan to gather around 1100 and begin serving at 1200. Paulette Parent will be planning activities following lunch and fellowship. A big thank you goes to Donna Eschedor, our Fellowship Chairman for coordinating this event. If you have any ideas for the event, please submit them to Donna.

Your Vice Captain and I just participated in a District Planning Conference in Atlanta. This is a “first of a kind” workshop where our Auxiliary leadership sat down with Coast Guard Planners to work out CG team mission strategies. While this is the first attempt at joint planning sessions, we are very confident that the support our Auxiliary can offer the active duty will be more clearly defined and meld into the overall planning process.

Effective 01 January, 2009, we will be changing some of the Senior Auxiliary Leadership titles so they align more with the active duty. Although not completely decided at this time, our VCO will become “Auxiliary Chief of Staff” or “District Chief of Staff”. RCO’s will become “District Captains” and Division Captains will become “Division Commanders”. It has not been decided what to call our Vice Captains as yet – maybe “Division Chief of Staff?”. No immediate changes will be made at the Flotilla level.

National Safe Boating Week is coming up in May. Lets see what we can do to emphasize “Safe Boating” for our boating public in preparation for this summers boating season.

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## Division Vice Captain

Braxton R. Ezell

### Chain of Leadership and Management

References: Chain of Leadership from Value Added Training.  
How to Address Your Concerns Using the Chain of Leadership, By  
 CAPT Barry P. Smith, USCG, Chief Director of Auxiliary.  
 District 7 Aux Policy Directive AD-03.9  
 Auxiliary Manual (COMDTINST M16790.1F).

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is not a military service. We are the civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard as established by Congress and operate under the authority of the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Auxiliary is a single unit which is internally autonomous with its own chain of leadership. The Auxiliary operates on four unit levels: Flotilla, Division, District/Regions and National with Auxiliary elected and appointed leaders who have administrative/supervisory responsibilities at each level. Our elected and appointed officers have no command authority and therefore there is no chain of command as in a military service.

So how do we perform our duties, accomplish our missions, and resolve problems in the Auxiliary? We do this through a system of communication and responsibility called the Chain of Leadership and Management (COL) and a system of Parallel Staffing which provide an effective and efficient path for relaying information through all organizational levels. This gives us two chains of leadership depending on whether the question/problem/issue involves elected or appointed officers. The following table illustrates the administrative/supervisory relationship, and communication flow between the various officers:

<b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b>		<b>APPOINTED OFFICERS</b>
↓ National Commodore (NACO)	↔ (NAVCO) ↔	↓ Department Chiefs
↓↑ District Commodore (DCO)	↔ (VCO) ↔	↓↑ District Staff Officers
↓↑ Division Captain (DCP)	↔ (VCP) ↔	↓↑ Division Staff Officers
↑ Flotilla Commander (FC)	↔ (VFC) ↔	↑ Flotilla Staff Officers

Elected officers go up and down the left side of the table while the Staff Officers go up and down the right side. Administration, policy, supervision and communication begin at the top with NACO and flows down to the DCO to the DCP, and to the FC. The NAVCO, VCO, VCP and VFC act as Chief of Staff for the appointed officers at their respective level, and communicate laterally with NACO, DCO, DCP, FC and Appointed Staff Offices so that both sides know and are aware of what is happening at their unit level. This is the parallel staffing concept. A Flotilla Staff Officer does not need “permission” to communicate with a Staff Officer in the same area at the Division level (i.e., FSO-OP communicates directly with SO-OP); the Division SO does not need “permission” to communicate with the District SO in the same area (i.e., SO-OP

communicates directly with DSO-OP). The FC communicates directly with the DCP and laterally with the VFC who communicates laterally with the FSOs and the FC, and likewise at the Division, District and National levels. Communication should flow freely up and down both sides of the COL, with communication also moving freely from left to right, and from right to left as well. Just remember this; it is not acceptable to skip a level on either side of the COL. For example a Flotilla Member does not skip the FC and communicate directly with the DCP; the FC does not skip the DCP and communicate directly with the DCO; and so on.

All Auxiliarists, upon enrollment in the Auxiliary and when appointed or elected to a higher office, take a pledge that obligates us "...to abide by the governing policies established by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard." The Auxiliary COL is a policy established by the Commandant, and we all pledged to use the COL to address our questions, concerns, and ideas. The COL is required to rapidly act on issues presented to them.

Auxiliary elected leaders must convey policy accurately and consistently to Auxiliary unit members via the COL. Likewise; all Auxiliarists are expected to use the chain of leadership and management for giving and getting information and voicing appropriate problems and questions, concerns, and ideas. Our elected leader's experience offers a great potential to solve these problems and questions, concerns, and ideas. Thus, these matters should be presented to the elected leaders at the lowest applicable unit level.

What should a member do if they believe the COL is unresponsive, or is the source of the problem? All members have a right to expect timely answers to their problems and questions, concerns, and ideas, and prompt resolution of the problem/issue. The process to get a response is actually quite simple even if someone in the COL is perceived as the problem.

So first things first: use the lawyers' guiding principal of communication. A paper trail is always smart and makes a record of all communications. Put it in writing, on paper or electronically via E-mail. If the problem is at the Flotilla level the communication should be addressed to the FC. Problems at the Division, District, or National should be sent via the appropriate elected officer at the appropriate level. For instance a problem at the Division level should be routed through the FC to the DCP.

Start with researching the answer to your question on your own. Check the Auxiliary Manual (COMDTINST M16790.1F); the District 7 Policy Directives (DIRAUX web site at <http://d7diraux.org/>); the National web site at <http://nws.cgaux.org/members/index.html>; and/or the web site of the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX) at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg3/cg3pcx/>. At the CHDIRAUX web site you will find a link to the Auxiliary Knowledge Base (AuxKB). There is a wealth of information available on subjects such as CG Policy, Membership, COL, to name a few. If you cannot find what you need or you have a problem that needs to be addressed then here are some guidelines for addressing problems, questions, concerns, and ideas:

- Address your question or problem to one individual. E-mail is the most expedient means of communication. Only include others on the e-mail if necessary and definitely do not send it to a distribution list. Do Not "broadcast"

the request to multiple individuals or levels.

- Address it to the person at the appropriate lowest level in the COL – generally your Flotilla Commander or a Flotilla Staff Officer in your Flotilla. The COL is responsible for rapidly moving the correspondence up the chain as required. If you perceive a problem with the COL, do not skipping a link in the chain or go outside of the chain. The COL cannot refuse to send the problem up the chain for resolution.
- State the question or problem clearly and succinctly. Provide necessary facts only, including what, when, where, and who. Do not editorialize.
- Give the person adequate time to respond (generally 2 weeks should be sufficient unless there is an extenuating circumstance).
- If you do not receive a response, try again. There may have been a postal or electronic glitch.
- If there is still no response after a reasonable time, you may send it to the next level up with a copy to the original recipient. Again, state facts and do not embellish and explain what actions have already been taken to get your issue resolved.
- Remember, unfortunately, sometimes the correct answer is not the one desired. Do not “shoot” the messenger. Accept the answer and make the best of the situation. Thoughtful consideration must be given before requesting that the COL reconsider the issue. Unless there is additional information that substantially amplifies the issue, requesting a second look isn’t recommended. When an official reply is made to an issue, it is normally upheld and supported if an appeal is made to a higher authority.
- Do not contact District 7 DIRAUX unless they have contacted you first and requested a response. See District 7 Aux Policy Directive AD-03.9, which provides that “Individual Auxiliarists are prohibited from contacting the Director (and Staff) directly, and shall report problems to their Flotilla Commander (FC).” E-mails and phone calls to the Director and Staff from Auxiliarists may not be returned unless they’ve been vetted through the proper COL. Many of the issues can be handled within the Auxiliary and need not ever reach the DIRAUX Office.
- District 7 Aux Policy Directive AD-03.9 further provides that FCs should not call the Director or Staff) directly except for emergencies. Instead FCs should report problems to the Director’s Staff using one of the following prioritized methods:
  - (1) Problem Resolution Gateway on the DIRAUX website at <http://d7diraux.org/>. Separate notification should be made to the Division Captain as appropriate. When submitting issues through this gateway, an email is automatically forwarded to the proper POC within the Director’s Staff.
  - (2) Thru the Division Captain (DCP).
  - (3) E-mail to Point of Contact (POC) listed in Policy Directive AD-03.9, with a copy to the DCP.
  - (4) U.S. Mail, with a copy to the DCP (least desired).

**Keep Auxiliary business within the Auxiliary.** Do not contact active duty Coast Guard, Reservists, Federal Government or State and Local Government Officials. Such correspondence usually ends up at Office of the Chief Director and they must provide a quick reply in order to route it back through the system. There is a very formal process

that the Chief Directors Office must follow when these letters are answered, and valuable staff time is taken away from other Auxiliary projects to answer what often are routine questions more appropriately directed to the Auxiliary COL. A letter routed “up” the Auxiliary COL allows more flexibility and research time than one being routed “down” from a Senator for immediate action. Most of the time it is a relatively minor problem or question that could have been easily handled by following the Auxiliary COL. It is a rare matter that legitimately needs to go to Congress. If that is the case, people far above the local or District Auxiliary COL will handle the matter. If they need your assistance, they will ask for it.

Rest assured that the Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and the Coast Guard Chain of Command will take appropriate action to meet the needs of its members and support the best interests of the organization.

I am here for all of you. I am always open to hear your complaints, ideas and suggestions. If you need assistance or if you feel there is something that needs to be said or done please don't hesitate to call me.

The events of 11 September 2001 forever changed this country. The role of the Auxiliary has expanded since then, and will continue to expand as new opportunities are identified. I know that I speak for us all when I say that Division 8 stands ready to respond and meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Semper Paratus



## What's on Deck?

### Team Coast Guard

Paulette Parent SO-PB


Friday, April 25 at 11:00 AM, USCG Station Cortez.....

That's it, that's all you have to know, except: **BE THERE!!**

The Division 8 Annual Picnic at Station Cortez has been a long standing annual event that deserves the support of every member of the “TEAM”. Not just Auxiliarists, not just Active Duty and not just Reservists. **ALL MEMBERS OF TEAM COAST GUARD!**

This is the only event where “Team” members and their families are invited to join in a single day of camaraderie which will nurture future friendships and enhance those that already exist. This is the day to begin to understand each other personally. This is not an “official” event regulated by manuals and directives. This is a chance to be one-on-one with another person who may just be a member of Team Coast Guard. It is a chance to see members and their families interacting with other families, enjoying the area we live in, eating some great food and having fun, too.

It is up to each of us to support the “Team” and sometimes it is easier than you could imagine. So on Friday, April 25 come to Station Cortez *just for the fun of it!* See you then.....



# From the Staff

## Communications

[Henry Reynolds, SO-CM](#)

The last edition of this newsletter announced the development of a Digital Selective Calling – Tracking System by Flotilla 86 – Venice. This is an update to that article.

The Digital Selective Calling mode software was installed in early February. Shortly after the Watch Standers were trained on the system. The first successful track of a Safety Patrol was conducted on 17 February. The system functioned as expected. In fact, the tracking station was able to track the OPFAC during an actual tow. Another interesting observation was the distance the system was able to receive a DSC signal. Apparently during the patrol another shore station was tracking their vessels and our tracking station intercepted the vessel's response. The vessel was south of our tracking station about 27nm. If you assume the same coverage to the north and west, our tracking station has a coverage of approximately 1717 sq nm. I am sure, due to the terrain, the actual coverage pattern will be much less. Never the less the coverage area for tracking vessels and receiving distress calls extends well beyond our AOR.

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## Marine Safety & Environmental Protection

[Judith Abbott, SO-MS](#)

The Marine Safety and Environmental Protection area is an integral component of the RBS program. It is very important that we remain ever visible in our boating communities promoting safe boating and a clean environment. We need to engage our flotillas in community events and projects as well as offering our regular safety booths at boat shows and marine events. A good start would be to check your community calendar and see what events are scheduled in your AORs and see if you can be included by offering an exhibit or booth. I'd like to see more of the flotillas promoting the Sea Partners and Americas Waterway Watch programs. With regard to Sea Partners, the Officer Snook costume is available for use from Sector St. Petersburg on Davis Island. I want to thank Dee Kermode FC-85 for obtaining that information and the contact person for it. I was able to borrow the costume for a local school event and needless to say it was a huge success. I strongly urge other flotillas to take advantage of it. The kids love it!



And speaking of kids; they are our target audience with regard to the Sea Partners program. It amazes me how much they are in tune to what happens in the marine

environment when trash is not disposed of properly. They know all about the dangers of fishing line and plastic to the sea life around us. They are extremely knowledgeable with regard to the bio-degradable Officer Snook Trash Game and are really concerned that they choose the time line correctly. I enjoy watching the adults observing the kids playing the game. Of course, the adults like to play too.

Try to encourage your newer members to staff a booth at these events. I am sure that the amount of educational and informational material the Auxiliary has to offer may surprise them. They should be familiar with the handouts so if asked a question with regard to any of the material, they would have the answer. Also a good idea would be to include a marlinspike display with a couple of lengths of line and demonstrate various knots. This is a good lead-in technique to draw folks to the booth and opens up a line of conversation. Give them a handout showing the different kinds knots and how to tie them. AND, make sure every piece of material you hand out has your flotilla's website address. Your flotilla business cards should also include your website and list the phone numbers of your PS, PE and VE officers.



Please remember, the keyword in the M Department is "Prevention." Being an educated and informed community with regard to America's Waterway Watch program will allow the boating public to be more alert to any suspicious activity in and around our waterways and thus possibly preventing a serious situation from happening. Please do all you can to promote the Auxiliary and its programs!



## **Public Affairs**

[Albert J. Bidwick, Jr., SO-PA](#)

### **National Safe Boating Week May 17- May 23**

Public Affairs Officers are busy planning a wide variety of activities to commemorate National Safe Boating Week. Once again, the focus is on getting boaters to wear life jackets (we no longer call them PFDs).

Florida has the dubious distinction of leading the nation in the number of boating fatalities, mostly due to drowning. Do you know that we average approximately one boating fatality each week!

The Wear It Florida web site ([www.wearitflorida.com](http://www.wearitflorida.com)) dispels many common misconceptions about boating accidents. Contrary to popular belief, most victims are sober at the time of their accident, they are usually experienced boaters over 22 years of age who know how to swim, and have the required equipment on board, including life jackets. They usually go overboard unexpectedly. Unfortunately, they are not wearing their life jackets when they enter the water. In most cases they swim around for a while until they become exhausted and eventually go under, or they hit their head, causing trauma which disables the person to recover and save him or herself.

Many lives can be saved each year if boaters will *wear* life jackets. According to North American Safe Boating Campaign statistics, close to 450 drowning victims could have been saved last year if boaters would have worn their life jackets.

Our job is not easy. Old habits are hard to break. Boaters often feel encumbered with life jackets and resist wearing them. They also feel that accidents will happen to someone else. In spite of those attitudes, we need to continue making the case for wearing jackets. We can do it in many ways, but especially through our example. Anyway we can, we need to get out the word to “Wear It!” and save lives.



## **Publications**

[Paulette Parent, SO-PB](#)

Once again the Div. 8 “Pieces of 8” is published for the information of all members. That’s what a newsletter is supposed to accomplish. It should be informative, educational and include activities that may inspire other flotillas to expand their projects and include new/different events. In addition, a newsletter should provide updated information in all areas of Auxiliary functions. I am sure that all FSOs look for new or updated information from their Division Staff Officers or even a kudo or two for an outstanding achievement in their area (and they are probably disappointed when there is no article to peruse). As an FSO, I look forward to the SO’s article and I appreciate when I learn about something new that I am responsible for. With the continuous evolution in all areas of Auxiliary activity it is inconceivable that SOs have nothing to report in the Division newsletter. Without articles from the Division Staff Officers, their FSOs remain oblivious and go about their business thinking they are doing the same old thing the same old way, which may be far from the truth!

As SO-PB8 I am responsible for publishing the Division 8 newsletter and I am constantly in touch with my peers at the District level regarding policy, techniques, etc. In fact, I receive newsletters from several divisions and I often reassess my viewpoints and visions of where I am heading in the publications field. I am in contact with the Div. 8 FSO-PBs encouraging them in their efforts and providing guidance where it is warranted or requested. Part of this give and take is via the “Pieces of 8” which I hope provides a model for other publication officers using it as an inspiration in their creative efforts.

This issue of “Pieces of 8” is limited in its scope because of the absence of information. However, I truly appreciate the quality of the articles submitted by the Division and Flotilla officers! Some say “quality” is better than “quantity”. I am not content with this assumption. I want both and that is not an unreasonable request from the “Great 8”!

Thanks to all the Div. 8 FSO-PBs for continuing to produce high quality monthly newsletters to inform their membership. Keep up the good work!

The next “Pieces of 8” will be published on or about July 1. All articles should be submitted via email by June 20!

# Flotilla News



## Flotilla 81 Anna Maria

[Lillian Revor, FC](#)

On February 23, FL 85 had its first ABC class of the year. We had 12 students, four of whom were new Auxiliarists making certain that they would be basically qualified to start crew classes after being cleared by SecCen. Other news is that Jane Touchton has been named "Humanitarian of the Year" for Blake Hospital. Flotilla 85 will join Flotilla 83 in sharing a booth at the DeSoto Heritage Festival, April 4-6.

Flotilla 85's next meeting will be April 15th and the speaker will be Laurie Feagan, Manager of Manatee County Emergency Management. "The Emergency Management Division of the Manatee Count government functions as a coordinating body for all emergency response agencies in addressing the four phases of emergency management; preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. We function under the Manatee County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which is an all encompassing county wide plan. Emergency Management works with all County departments, all municipalities, and outside agencies or businesses to effectively manage a natural or man-made disaster."

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## Flotilla 85 Palmetto

[Dee Kermode, FC](#)

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