

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY RBS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

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From the Director

As this issue of WAVES goes to press, I just connected to the BP oil spill live camera. It's scary to think of all that can go wrong out on the water. Some of the problems are industrial; some weather-related; but many are, without question, caused by boaters who don't know how to be safe. You are the Coast Guard's first line of defense to help our fellow boaters return from an enjoyable day out at sea with sizeable memories instead of sizeable injuries and damage.

Last month saw the launch of boating season in many parts of the country, heralded by National Safe Boating Week from May 21-25 – a landmark event which, I'm sure, kept many of you busy. Maybe you even helped with the first-ever Inflatable Life Jacket World Record event put hosted by the National Safe Boating Council. This issue features several efforts to promote life jacket wear and other Safe Boating Week events. If you did something exciting locally to promote boating safety, let us know – we want to hear about it!



This issue also features an article about Ohio Auxiliarists who participated in a Boy Scout council event to promote the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Thousands of Scouts learned knots, how to toss a ring buoy, and what life is like on an Auxiliary safety patrol. These Scouts and their parents are future boaters. These Scouts and their parents are future Auxiliarists.

The Auxiliary has recently exhibited nationally at the Boating and Water Safety Summit in Florida, and the Boy Scout National Meeting in Texas. We will be out showing the flag at the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators meeting in Hawaii in September.

Please remember to share your ideas for promoting boating safety. Don't forget about the AuxBWiki at <http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org> for boating safety partnership tips and best practice ideas.

Thank you for all you do. You ARE making a huge difference. Please let us know how RBS Affairs can help you. My email address is dir-b@auxbdept.org. Keep up the good work!

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"Flat Richard" Takes a Road Trip

- by Bruce Wright, D7 RBS Specialist

Hi, my name is Flat Richard. You probably know me best as the "I" Guy from "Wear It Florida".

I just got back from the greatest trip. I was traveling with my Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) family and our good friends from the U.S. Coast Guard down the East Coast of Florida to spread the Life Jacket message. We were seen by more than 130,000 people on our journey, and more than 48 agency partners joined us throughout the state.

The trip started in Jacksonville at Sister's Landing on the first Sunday of National Safe Boating Week. The weather was perfect as we pulled into the marina. On Monday, I was introduced to lots of media folks who came to tell the story of the "Life Jackets for Life Tour". There were 2 components of the "Tour" team. One was the Road Team: my friends Bruce and Stacey Wright in the Coast Guard BAT-PAK (Boating Advisory Trailer – Public Awareness Kit), Bill Hanlon from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and my caretaker Chase Runkel in the "Wear It!" Car (with my picture on it!). The other was the Boat Team: a nice Bombardier (also with my picture on it!) driven by my FWC caretakers Ed Cates and Brian Rehwinkle (wearing Coast Guard Approved Inflatables, of course!), donated by Revere.



then we packed up our gear and headed on into Titusville.

In Titusville, not only did we get to see the manatees, but we also shared the Life Jacket Message with more boating folks! We were expected at the Stuart West Marine next, so the schedule was tight. Good thing I was riding with the Road Crew, because CG Auxiliarist Bill Hanlon got a blowout on the I-95 and I had to help read the instruction manual, so my caretaker Ed could help change the tire.

We stopped along the way in St Augustine to share the message and fuel our vehicles and ourselves, and then it was on to Daytona Beach Shores. On Tuesday, we got to visit our Coast Guard friends at Station Ponce de Leon Inlet. They threw me a great Open House where lots of media came to take my picture and hear about inflatable life jackets. We even did a demonstration in the water by the Station! We gave away lots of prizes and talked to folks about Boating Safety;



In Stuart, more than 14,000 people got to share in the Wear It! message along A1A. We even took time to cook hot dogs with the local Auxiliary folks there! We gave away some more Boating Safety equipment, loaded up the gear, and headed on down the highway into West Palm Beach for the night.

On Thursday we had a busy day ahead of us. First stop, Riviera Beach at Phil Foster Park. A great group of kayakers met us from Riviera Beach Marine Academy, and more than 130 boaters got to hear the Life Jacket message. Sixty-three people, including several media outlets, attended our event; and on our road

journey, more than 13,500 saw my picture reminding them to Wear their Life Jackets! It was a pretty hot morning, so our friends from West Marine were more than willing to help share in the Inflatable Life Jacket Demo! Then it was time to pack it in again and join the Open House waiting for us at Alsdorf Boat Ramp in Pompano Beach. Gwen and Richard Leys of the Coast Guard Auxiliary had gathered more than 300 people with plenty of music, safety messages and fun for all. There were 2 National Safe Boating Proclamations, and a pirate even gave the Blessing of the Boats!

I couldn't believe when Friday rolled around so quickly, and I couldn't believe my eyes (well, I would have eyes if I weren't flat and orange!): there were more than 25 agencies participating in our Boat Parade, and the Fire Department threw us the grandest water display to welcome us to Watson Island! Miami presented us with a huge proclamation and we got to meet all sorts of people from the media. We finished off with a Ready... Set... Inflate! – and by noon we were on the news! I want to thank all of our friends in the U.S. Coast Guard D7 Public Affairs Department for getting the word out that we were coming to tell folks to Wear their Life Jackets.

Thank you to ALL of our partner agencies, retail partners, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas from Jacksonville to Miami (there are just too many folks to thank individually there!), and my tour family Brian, Ed, Chase, Stacey, Bruce and Bill! The Life Jackets for Life Tour 2010 has come to an end, and although I, Flat Richard, could use a few quick winks, Saving Lives is my business...so I am off to tell folks to "Wear It!"



what is a ...



BAT-PAK "Lite" ?

Bruce Wright (center) presents flare kits and demonstration EPIRBs to Dave Green (left) and Jesse Stevens (right), both of Flotilla 14-2, at the Jacksonville Boat Show.

The Boating Advisory Trailer – Public Awareness Kit (BAT-PAK), as featured in a previous WAVES issue, has been so popular and under such high demand throughout District Seven for high-visibility events such as the "Wear It!" Florida tour, that D7 Recreational Boating Specialist Bruce R. Wright is encouraging local flotillas to create Boating Advisory Trailers of their own – nicknamed "BAT-PAK Lites".

Mr. Wright can assist flotillas with design ideas, and has even secured demonstration material, including flare kits and EPIRBs, for flotillas with their own BAT-PAKs or BAT-PAK Lites. Not only are BAT-PAK Lites great for public displays; they can also easily transport material to marinas for Vessel Exam Days, be converted to Mobile Command Units, and act as great storage for literature in between public events. For more information, contact the Auxiliary RBS Affairs Department at dir-b@auxbdept.org.

Life Jacket for Life Tour 2010

A National Safe Boating Week Initiative

– by Bill Griswold,
DSO-SL 7

In a highly successful effort to increase awareness among the boating public about the critical importance of wearing life jackets, US Coast Guard District 7, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and a variety of partner agencies including the Coast Guard Auxiliary hosted a week-long outreach in Florida this spring, in conjunction with National Safe Boating Week. Additional local partners included US Power Squadrons, maritime law enforcement agencies, and marine vendors.

The Tour, which ran from Sunday, May 23, through Friday, May 28, 2010, included both land- and waterside components. A “Wear It Florida” jet boat traveled prominently down the Intracoastal Waterway from Jacksonville to Miami, accompanied by a marked FWC boat. At various stops along the way, partner vessels accompanied the “Wear It!” boat, and a variety of media events were scheduled at towns and cities along the way. Auxiliarists at local stops were selected to be “Port Captains”, to help organize events highlighting the Tour and the “Wear It!” message. On land, D7’s BAT-PAK life jacket display trailer was scheduled to parallel the trip south, participating in all scheduled media events. A shore contingent, including maintenance and relief personnel, formed up to support the BAT-PAK’s road trip.

During the BAT-PAK’s pre-Tour trip from Miami up to Jacksonville, an estimated 40,000 people saw the brightly wrapped trailer and tow truck plastered with “Wear It!” messages. About 500 boaters were present at the initial media event at Sister’s Creek Marina, and Auxiliarists and Power Squadron members conducted 55 vessel safety checks. Seven partners and agencies lent their support as the Tour departed for St. Augustine.



Auxiliarists provide on-water Tour support in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Photo by Judi Bacon, SO-PE 4, D7.

While the shore caravan reached about 15,000 people on the highway, the boats made a large impression on boaters in the ICW. The first overnight stop was Daytona Beach, with an associated media event at Coast Guard Station Ponce de Leon Inlet. Nine partners and agencies participated and 57 members of the media attended. There was a life jacket demonstration and, just outside the station, a boat parade assembled on the ICW.

The next stop was Titusville, where 59 people attended a media event, again complete with life jacket demonstration, on Wednesday, May 26. Many more saw the trailer and the boat parade accompanying the Tour boat. About 14,000 people saw the road caravan as it traveled to Stuart for another quick media event with nearly 90 attendees, this one hosted by West Marine. Then it was on to West Palm Beach; about 13,500 viewed the caravan along the way.

On Thursday, May 27, the BAT-PAK was set up next to the launch ramp at Phil Foster Park in Riviera Beach. The display attracted 121 visitors and 63 attended the associated media event. Next was the Alsdorf Boat Ramp at Pompano Beach where BAT-PAK personnel spoke with 278 boaters. The media event saw a large turnout of 310 visitors – maybe because the Goodyear blimp was floating overhead emblazoned prominently with “WEAR IT!” Local officials made two National Boating Safety Week Proclamations before the tour departed for Miami.

On Friday, 27 May the BAT-PAK trailer made its final stop adjacent to the launch ramp on Watson Island. Seventy-eight boaters visited the trailer and the media event, supported by Coast Guard D7 Public Affairs, drew 223 people. Seven different agencies and partners supported this last stop, providing 25 agency boats for the final on-water parade. The City of Miami presented a Boating Safety Week proclamation.

Overall, the Tour was a highly successful operation in support of boating safety. Over the course of the week-long event, Tour personnel raffled off 42 inflatable life jackets/belt packs and one Personal EPIRB, along with other assorted prizes, to interested boaters. The boat parade and BAT-PAK caravan also reached sizeable numbers of passive observers, communicating the “Wear It!” message to over 100,000 on the highway and more than 1000 on the ICW and at marinas along the way. Support was widespread, with 48 different agencies and partners assisting in Tour events. The media picked up on the events – at least two TV programs and two newspaper articles covered the Tour.

The substantial effort necessary to produce the Life Jacket Tour for Life 2010 depended heavily on the joint participation of hundreds of volunteers, including the Auxiliary “Port Captains”, members of FWC and active duty Coast Guard units, Auxiliarists, Power Squadron members, and a wide variety of marine vendors. Particular thanks are due to Brian Rehwinkle, FWC coordinator, and Bruce Wright, who impressively marshaled a large number of Coast Guard resources. Plans are all ready underway for a similar effort next year, and other states have indicated interest in partnering with Florida or hosting a separate, parallel event.

Boating Safety Tips from



To help keep boaters and anglers safe on the water, the BoatUS Foundation (<http://www.boatus.com/foundation/>) recommends the following tips, which you can remember with the mnemonic **SAVE LIFE**:

Safety Gear: Double-check that you have all mandated safety gear aboard, like visual distress signals, fire extinguishers, a functioning GPS, and updated charts. It's also a good idea to brief your guests and crew on where the important items are located and how to use them.

Anchor: Unlike a car, a boat doesn't have brakes! Having an anchor and rode in good condition with the bitter end firmly secured to your boat will prevent drifting, giving you time to think things through and making it easier for others to find you. It's also easier to find you if you filed a float plan before you got underway, telling someone where you were going and what time you expected to return. This person should call the authorities if you fail to check in by a certain time.

Vessel Safety Check: A free vessel safety check from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is easy to arrange. It can help you identify potential safety issues aboard your boat before you get underway. Go to www.safetyseal.net to find an examiner near you or for a “virtual” vessel safety check.

Electronic Communications: If you don't have a VHF radio, you are taking unnecessary risk. A cell phone won't summon the closest potential rescuers – your fellow boaters or anglers – and you can buy a VHF radio for as little as \$100. If you have a handheld VHF, make sure the batteries are charged and you have extra batteries aboard. In order to take advantage of all the superior safety benefits of a “Digital Selective Calling” VHF radio, like a one-button “Mayday” feature, you need to register the radio and have an MMSI number issued to your boat.

LIFE Jackets: Make sure you have enough life jackets to fit everyone aboard – especially the kids – as well as a throwable flotation device. The life jackets need to be in good condition and easy to reach and use; if they're in their original plastic wrappers, take them out. Inflatable life jackets need to be inspected, inflated manually, and have their CO2 cartridges checked regularly.

Auxiliary joins Boy Scouts for



The Eighth District Eastern Region's Divisions 18 and 06 recently helped celebrate the 100th Year of Scouting by participating in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Centennial Camporall held at the Ross County Fairgrounds near Chillicothe, Ohio from 1-2 May, 2010.

As Branch Chief, Special Projects, Scouts, it is my privilege to help implement the recent Memorandum of Agreement between the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the BSA by coordinating Coast Guard and Auxiliary involvement. This past winter, our Auxiliary committee met with the BSA Simon Kenton Council to see how the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary could enhance the program being planned for the 10,000 Scouts who might be attending the Centennial Camporall. At this initial meeting, we offered the following:

- one of our facilities as a static display
- a communications trailer where the Scouts could practice basic marine radio use
- a life jacket relay game
- a Coast Guard Academy diversity static display
- a marlinspike hands-on exhibit
- an Auxiliary boating safety static display
- a Coast Guard helicopter from AIRSTA Detroit
- a Coast Guard Defender Class RB-S from MSU Huntington (WV)
- a patrol boat from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) for a static display
- Cory (Coastie's cousin) for the Cub Scouts (about 3,000 – 4,000 were expected)

We also discussed bringing two travel trailers to provide lodging for any Auxiliarists choosing to stay overnight. The Scout leaders were very pleased with what we were willing to provide.

In February, we met at the Ross County Fairgrounds to identify our display areas. At our Spring D-Train in March, I updated Commodore Maul on our Camporall plans. He approved "assignment to duty" for Auxiliarists supporting the Camporall. We had one final meeting in late April to ensure "all systems were go". Everything was lined up on our end; we had excellent support from everyone; and we were excited, waiting for the events to start. Little did we know that Mother Nature had a small surprise waiting.

On Thursday, 29 April, Pat Linesch, DCDR 18, and I stationed our travel trailers at the Ohio Valley camping area on the site reserved for Troop 67 out of Jeffersonville, Ohio. Mark Hoppes, Air Force Master Sergeant and Scout leader, invited us to join their troop. We unloaded a large supply of hand-outs provided by ANSC and the Coast Guard Academy. When Bruce Perri, Area Advisor, Diversity Atlantic East and Mike McKay, CG Academy Admissions Partner arrived, I briefed them on the location of our display area and where we were planning to put everything.

Ranger John Wargo of the Army Corps of Engineers arrived early Friday morning with a new ACE patrol boat. Later that morning, Pat Linesch arrived with our communications trailer and I brought our patrol boat, OPFAC 276. We positioned our patrol boat in front of the ACE boat in a simulated stern tow. Jeff Tinklepaugh, DVCDR 18, and Eric Piper, FC 18-6, arrived in the afternoon to round out our "set-up team". All afternoon, we assembled and organized the various canopies for CG Academy/diversity, marlinspike, Auxiliary boating safety, the communications trailer; and we organized the life jacket relay area. We took great pride in running up the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary flags on a tall flag pole. We proudly received many positive comments regarding the



Auxiliary flag flies proudly on Troop 67's campsite.

flags. Since we knew they were forecasting strong winds and rain the next day, we made sure to secure all our displays firmly. After we were satisfied everything was properly set up, we took a well-deserved break in town for dinner. The weather was still nice and we had a relaxing evening at Troop 67's campsite.

Reveille Saturday morning was at 0645. Scout Master Glenn Rankin, along with his daughter Tracey Rankin Coe, invited us to a delicious breakfast of sausage, pancakes and coffee. This was a great way to start what was to be a very busy day interacting with 8,000 Scouts. While the Scouts attended the opening ceremony in the grandstand, we reported to our duty stations, standing by for the action. From 0845 to 1200 the Scouts were on the move. Each Scout was issued a "Passport to Camporall, Adventure Tracking" that had to be validated



Scouts line up for Auxiliary exhibits.

with colored ink stamps. The areas to be stamped were shooting sports; super games; military, conservation & program area; and vendors & science and technology. Since our display area was on the way to shooting sports, we had a heavy flow of traffic. Petty Officers Redd and Niles, both from MSU Huntington, arrived around 0900 with a 25-foot Defender Class RB-S. They were an instant hit. They even brought Coast Guard safety helmets for the Scouts to try on.



A popular Defender Class RB-S display.

Lunch was provided for us at 1200, but because of enthusiastic Scouts, we had to eat on the run. With inclement weather forecast, AIRSTA Detroit decided not to send their helicopter. Sure enough, around lunch time, it began to rain. We put on our rain gear and stayed at our post. ACE Ranger Yvonne Schilling, was busy showing the Scouts our boats in "stern tow" while ACE Ranger John Wargo operated "Cory" (Coastie's cousin) inside the various buildings with the assistance of ACE volunteer Dick Armstrong. George Zaebst, 18-6, and Samantha Sharpe, 18-6, hosted the Auxiliary boating safety display. Jeff Tinklepaugh, DVCDR 18-6, and Eric Piper, FC 18-6, led hands-on marlinspike instruction. Bruce Perri, 06-02, and Mike McKay, 06-08, worked the CG Academy and diversity display. Jay Garcia, 18-7, Greg Keith, FC 18-7,

and Jay Middleton, VFC 18-7, led the life jacket relay. Pat Linesch, DCDR 18-6, and Maurice Moulton, 18-6, staffed the communications trailer. I kept busy assisting each area and making sure all was going well.

Around 1500, the rain and wind became quite strong, so we took down our four canopies and put away our handouts. The life jacket relay and the static boat displays remained operational since Scouts were still stopping by to get their passports stamped. With only a few of our exhibits still running, some of our Auxiliary team headed home. Most of the rest left at 1700, but



Scouts at the life jacket relay.



the two of us who were camping overnight were treated to a delicious dinner with Troop 67. At 2000, the Scouts had an event show and concert in the grandstand followed by a fantastic fireworks display. Fortunately, the rain let up for these two activities, though by 2300 "Quiet Time" it had started again, and lasted throughout the night.

Reveille Sunday morning was at 0700, allowing the Scouts an extra 15 minutes of sleep. Troop 67 had breakfast ready right when we woke up. At 0900, Pat Linesch and I attended the "Scouts Own" service in the grandstand in our Tropical Blue uniforms. The rain continued all morning. The Scouts appreciated that we attended their Sunday service and many thanked us. After the service, we changed into our ODUs to tow OPFAC 276 and the communications trailer back to the Columbus, Ohio area.

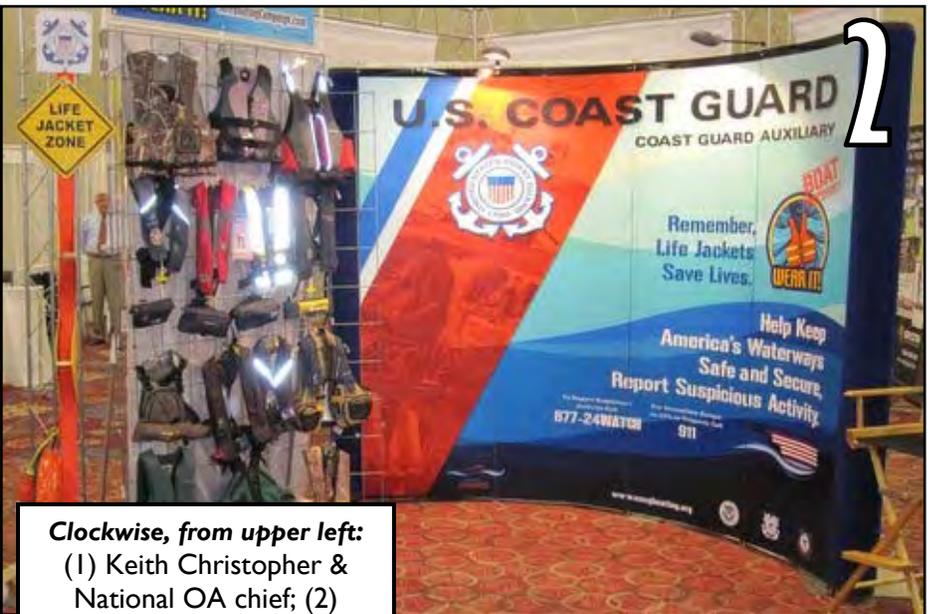
Despite the weather, the Camporall was a very rewarding experience. I'm very glad we had the chance to share the Auxiliary's boating safety message with troop leaders, parents, and thousands of Scouts. We are looking forward to our next opportunity to expand on our MOA with the Boy Scouts of America.

- by Ron Tvorik, BC-ESS

Wear It!

photos by Stu Soffer

at the Boy Scouts of America 2010 National Conference



Clockwise, from upper left:
 (1) Keith Christopher & National OA chief; (2) Auxiliary exhibit at BSA national meeting; (3) Stu Soffer conducts inflatable life jacket demo with Chard Holt, Office Depot executive; (4) Tabletop display; (5) Dr Bruce Trefz, BSA International Committee, tries on a manually inflated life jacket.



**Need additional PE resources?
Try an Auxiliary Partner Magazine!**

- by Kelly Townsend, DVC-BL

With summer boating season now in full swing, and with many states passing mandatory boater education laws, Auxiliarists need all the help we can get to educate the public. Since many Auxiliarists are also boaters, it's helpful for us to have places we can turn to for advice on our own boating projects too. Now we can have both!

The RBS Affairs Department has three fantastic, informative magazines offered to Auxiliarists at great discounts from the Shop Auxiliary website: <http://www.shopauxiliary.com/membersonly.html>.

Soundings Magazine offers Auxiliarists a discounted subscription. They also offer FREE issues to FCs and PE Officers, as well as FREE issues for PE classes! It's all here (click for link):



If you are a District 8 Auxiliarist, you qualify for a discounted subscription to **Heartland Boating Magazine**. Heartland is dedicated to boating in America's mid-western lakes and rivers. All 8th District FCs & PE Officers can receive a free 3-month subscription as well as FREE copies for 8th District PE Classes. Click on the link below:



For those "on-the-go" Auxiliarists who like their information online, we offer **Mad Mariner** magazine. It's a daily online magazine with FREE feature stories, marine news, blogs, forums, boat reviews, and video podcasts. Click below to begin exploring Mad Mariner's features:



The Auxiliary is fortunate to have these fine magazine partners who have agreed to extend us such gracious offers. Let's use them!!



For many years, Auxiliarists from the 5th Northern District have provided Memorial Day weekend Vessel Safety Checks for boaters at Tuckahoe Acres Camping Resort in Dagsboro, DE. Tuckahoe Acres is on the south shore of Indian River Bay, and boaters look forward to these VSCs year after year. On Saturday, May 29, Terry Millard and Billie Cook of 14-07 (pictured above right), and Tom Burns and Bob Lesperance (pictured above left) along with Bob Adams and Bruce White of 12-01, took turns hopping into the ubiquitous Tuckahoe Acres golf carts, driving out to examine boats, whether in the marina or trailered elsewhere on Tuckahoe Acres resort grounds.

Demand was so heavy during the day that at times, all six of the examiners were out conducting VSCs, while boaters lined up to await their "turn". Nearly all of the boats at Tuckahoe Acres are in the High Risk category (most are under 25 feet long, including personal watercraft), so these safety checks and discussions with the owners target a critical audience. All the boaters appreciated the safety checks, even – or perhaps especially – when a trained Auxiliarist pointed out expired flares or a burned-out navigation light to correct before getting underway.



Distribution: All FCs & DCOs with email addresses in AUXDATA, plus NEXCOM, CG-542, CG-5422, and CG-54222 via direct email from Director RBS Affairs Department (DIR-PRR). Upon receipt, FCs are asked to forward the email or provide hard copies to flotilla members.