

# The Water Log



March 2009  
Vol. 35-3

Flotilla 9-10  
Fort Myers-Cape Coral

## Well Done Flotilla 9-10 - Dan Godfrey - FSO-FC

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**Dan Godfrey**  
**FC Flotilla 9-10**



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2009 and Flt 9-10 started the New Year by thanking all for attending our first business meeting. Special thanks go out to all who gave up their Presidential Inaugural Ball Tickets to be here.

Speaking of the Inaugural Parade several of our members attempted to attend. Armando Ingratta washed our FLT Trailer in preparation to march in the Inaugural Parade, but with the spat of cold weather in SW Florida, the axles froze and unfortunately had to cancel.

In addition, our very own FSO-PE Dave McDonough attempted to attend the parade with our robotic education tool, COASTIE. When Dave and COASTIE arrived at the airport, "COASTIE" cleared customs, but McDonough was pulled to the side by airport security. Security wanted search his beard for contraband, but Dave refused to have his beard fondled and decided to abort the mission.

After many postponements, on 31 January, The Red Cross

held there 1st "Red Cross Scramble", or as others refer, the "Poker Run". Flt 9-10 sent a boat to Cabbage Key to assist in the handing out of cards.

In other activities, "COASTIE" and our trailer stole the show at Harborside, "Water Safety for Kids" program in Cape Coral at the end of January.

January finished up with one of our members, Bill Gulliver, being Crew Qualified.

Marine Safety took a few steps forward in February. We fined tuned our Vessel Tracking System (VTS) by integrating our facility radios with our computer at the OPS Center. The VTS offers real time information regarding location of our patrol vessels.

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## Well Done, cont.

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### “Water on Wheels Event”

Dave McDonough and  
friends



The system adds to the safety of our patrols as well as shortening the time between an emergency such as a medical problem on board and response. In such a situation, there would be no hesitation as to which drop off point to use and the amount of time to get there.

Locations of the Rescue Ramps in 9-10's AOR have been inputted into our VTS by Pete Bardis. This allows our patrol vessel to be tracked and notified as to the location of the closest Rescue Ramp to his vessel. As a result, “No more guesswork”.

Our Website has been transformed into a Work of Art by FSO-CS Dennis Cheney. With just the click of the mouse, you get the COAST GUARD and COAST GUARD AUX. You need look no further.

Our safety patrols have been busy on the water, running the gamut from assisting boaters with engine problems, soft groundings,” to “Can you help me find the launch ramp where I parked my car and trailer?”, and responding to calls from Station FMB.

In addition, FLT 9-10 patrolled the CALOOSHATCHE RIVER assisting boats from Coast Guard Station, FMB when President Obama visited Ft Myers on 10 Feb.

Additional activities in the month of February included twenty-four members of 9-10 attending the 1 hr Team Coordination Training class on 24 Feb in Cape Coral. In addition, Twenty-two will be attending the 8 hr TCT at Station FMB, on 28 Feb.

Lastly, our Trailer and "COASTIE" will be appearing at Cape Harbor, Cape Coral on 27, 28 Feb and 01 Mar for the "WATER ON WHEELS EVENT"

With the swearing in and signing up of new members, handing out awards for years of service, presenting certificates for passing courses, and ID Cards distributed, outgoes a " WELL DONE to 9-10"

## Meet Cherie Rohn – Fernando Licopoli FSO-PB - Flotilla 9-10

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Cherie Rohn



Talking to our membership is always a fascinating experience. Where else can you find such a spread in talent, know how, and experience? Recently I sat down with one of our newer members, Cherie Rohn and found myself engrossed by her sheer diversity of jobs, travel, and talents.

Anthropologist, Cartographer, professional vocalist, Radio Ad salesperson, casino card dealer, published author, and crew certified are just a part of her resume. And, as they say in the knife commercials, "Wait there's more!" Her travels took her to Australia for eighteen months by way of a Norwegian freighter. During the six-week journey, the freighter experienced Force 10 winds. This is where Cherie got her first taste of marine life and where she fell in love with the high seas. In fact, if she had to do it all over again, she would have pursued the life of a merchant mariner!

While in Australia, Cherie worked as an independent contractor for a cartographic firm. One of her assignments sent her to the jungles of New Guinea mapping out elevations with the help of the indigenous tribes people. In order to communicate, she learned Pidgin English.

It was quite an experience what with earthquakes, snakes, and contracting malaria. Her occasional relapses of malaria are a reminder of that jungle adventure.

After Australia, Cherie returned to the Albuquerque where she left the map-making business to work radio sales. In addition, having formal voice lesson, she sang professionally for various events. Not one to stay still, the media sales job led her to produce her own live show on the public broadcasting station in Santa Fe, called "Bizarre Bazaar".

The station funding for the program dried up and Cherie found herself looking for a new career. Casinos were hot so Cherie went to Blackjack School, graduated and got a job in Espanola, New Mexico where she met retired professional Las Vegas poker, blackjack player William "Slick" Hanner who experienced the raucous heyday of Las Vegas.

Slick was carrying around a twenty-page outline of his life and was looking for someone to turn it into a book. All it took was one read and Cherie was hooked. She soon began collaboration with Slick on the writing of "**Thief! The Gutsy, True Story of an ex-con Artist**". The gritty story covers Slick's life from a poker room manager, bodyguard for Jerry Lewis, to rubbing shoulders with major crime family bosses.

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## Nautical Terms and their History\* – inspired by Dave McDonough, FSO-PE

### Flying Dutchman

One superstition has it that any mariner who sees the ghost ship called the *Flying Dutchman* will die within the day.

The tale of the *Flying Dutchman's* futile attempt to round the Cape of Good Hope against strong winds and never succeeding, then trying to make Cape Horn and failing there too, has been the most famous of maritime ghost stories for more 300 years.

The cursed spectral ship sailing back and forth on its endless voyage, its ancient white-hair crew crying for help while hauling at her sail, inspired Samuel Taylor Coleridge to write his classic "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," to name but one famous literary work.

The real *Flying Dutchman* is supposed to have set sail in 1660.

### Fouled anchor

The fouled (rope- or chain-entwined) anchor so prevalent in our Navy's designs and insignia is a symbol at least 500 years old that has its origins in the British traditions adopted by our naval service.

The fouled anchor was adopted as the official seal of Lord High Admiral Charles Lord Howard of Effingham during the late 1500s. A variation of the seal had been in use by the Lord High Admiral of Scotland about a century earlier.

The anchor (both with and without the entwined rope) is a traditional heraldic device used in ancient British coats of arms. As a heraldic device, it is a stylized representation used merely for its decorative effect.

## This Day in Coast Guard History –

### 15 March

- 1942- The 172-foot tender CGC *Acacia* was en route from Curacao, Netherlands West Indies to Antigua, British West Indies, when she was sunk by shellfire from the German submarine *U-161*. The entire crew of *Acacia* was rescued. She was the only Coast Guard buoy tender sunk by enemy action during the war.
  - 1944- Coast Guardsmen participated in the invasions of Manus (Admiralties) and Emirau (St. Mathias Islands).
  - 1946- For the first time, U.S. Coast Guard aircraft supplemented the work of the Coast Guard patrol vessels of the International Ice Patrol, scouting for ice and determining the limits of the ice fields from the air.
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## Meet Cherie Rohn, cont

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### Native Helpers in New Guinea



When I asked her how she wound up in Fort Myers, she explained that a friend of Slick's lived here who, like Slick, had a very interesting story to tell. It can't be told quite yet due to certain "constraints", but that's another story!

Say no more and Cherie packs up for Fort Myers to meet this fellow for some background information. When she got here, Cherie found Ft Myers so appealing that she decided to stay.

Within a year she joined the auxiliary and recently transferred to 9-10. Lucky for us that we have Cherie as one of our own.

Cherie is an active crewmember and can be found on patrols on any given weekend.

## Looking for News

The Water Log wants to hear from you. Without your input, the newsletter would not exist.

If you have any updates, news, boating adventures that would be of interest to our Flotilla, do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at ([fernando49@optonline.net](mailto:fernando49@optonline.net)) or cell 816 305 5378.

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## February Activities

FC Dan Godfrey swears in new member Vince Abatiello during February Business Meeting →



Dan congratulates Pete Bardis for five years of Auxiliary Service ←

CPR training – Lee Muehlmann, and former FC Donna Stull observe Pete Bardis compressing the victim's chest →



## February Activities

TCT Refresher 24 Feb @ Publix, Cape Coral. Gary Crittenden looks on in anticipation. →



FC Dan Godfrey explains conditions for the TCT exercise ←

Joe Macri, Fernando Licopoli, and Lee Muehlmann ponder what went wrong in the simulation exercise. →



**Flotilla 9-10**

3414 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Cape Coral, FL  
33993

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.a0700910.uscgaux.info/>

**If you think it was cold in SW Florida ...**



***About Our Organization...***

The US [Coast Guard Auxiliary](#) is a volunteer service organization, civilian in nature, whose purpose is to assist the [United States Coast Guard](#) in any of its missions except direct law enforcement and military actions. As the civilian volunteer arm of Coast

Guard Forces, we volunteer time, talent, boats, radios, and aircraft. We receive special training in order to work effectively with the Coast Guard, which is now an integral part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Our flotilla covers areas of South West Florida waters in support of **USCG Station Fort Myers Beach** and [USCG Air Station Clearwater](#)

**FLOTILLA 9-10**  
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