

The Water Log



April 2009
Vol. 35-4

Flotilla 9-10
Fort Myers-Cape Coral

Goodwill Ambassador – Fernando Licopoli FSO-PB

Coastie



Individual Highlights:

Coastie	1
Meet	
Armando Ingratta	2
Nautical Terms	3
This day in the	
USCG	3
Busy Year	6

When it comes to public service, boating education, and just plain good old public relations, it is hard to beat Flotilla 9-10's very own good will ambassador, Coastie. The robotic talking "facility" vessel can be found educating the public at Boat Shows, Elementary Schools, and special events throughout Lee and Charlotte County.

Wherever he goes, he stops both children and adults with his robotic greeting and winking eye and the occasional toot of his horn. Children stand in amazement when Coastie describes the color of their clothing or when a PDF is presented to him, and he reads the PDF rating "Coast Guard Approved".

The heart and soul of Coastie belong to the efforts of Dave McDonough, Ray Knoll and Armando Ingratta who make up the Coastie Team. Dave acts as the front man who meets and greets the public, especially parents with young children, by wishing them a good day and asking if they are

boaters.

As soon as he hears a "yes", Dave goes into action educating parents and using Coastie as his "straight man" on the proper fit of a Child PDF. When Coastie is asked what additional safety items should be included, he'll chime in with "a whistle".

The voice of Coastie belongs to Ray Knoll who sits out of sight and operates a two-way radio, responding to Dave's questions. Also behind the scenes is Armando Ingratta who, with his RF controller, animates Coastie moves from blinking his eyes to moving up to little kids to say a nice hello!

At the end of the day, the greatest thing to see is a five-year-old going up to Coastie and giving him a hug or even a kiss!

Without a doubt, Coastie's contribution to "Boating Safety" and spreading goodwill for the Auxiliary is immeasurable.

See photos on page 6

Meet Armando Ingratta – Fernando Licopoli FSO-PB - Flotilla 9-10

Armando Ingratta



Armando Ingratta is not a man who stands still. Born in Chicago in 1927, Armando's parents were immigrants from Italy who taught him the value of hard work and dedication.

Working around getting his parents' signature to enlist, Armando, at 17, signed up for the US Army in WWII. He served in a mechanized cavalry amour division and during the end of the war, served with seven other GI's at a German POW camps where they supervised some 2000 German war prisoners.

After the war, Armando's dad offered him an opportunity to stay in the family business, but Armando thought otherwise and obtained a job working for the Chicago NW railroad. Starting out in the repair shop, Armando eventually moved up to engineer and eventually Train Master supervising the switching yard. His love of railroading continues today as you can find Armando at the Lakes Parks miniature railroad where he was instrumental in building the engines and the village in the 1.5-mile circuit. He is presently the VP of Operations.

Model trains are a passion and are evident by the large-scale train set up Armando has in his living room!

In addition to his volunteer work at Lake Parks, Armando is an active member of the Cape Coral Chapter of the VFW and a member of their Honor Guard.

Armando joined the Auxiliary some 27 years ago and his list of certifications is as long as one can imagine. He is certified as Crew, ATON verifier, Vessel Examiner, Instructor, and Special Events where you can see him staffing the Flotilla 9-10 Trailer at various shows throughout Lee County. In addition, he was certified as a "Skipper", equivalent to a Coxswain, while in Chicago,

Extremely active in Chicago Armando worked extensively with the USCG. He was especially involved in ATON missions where he served actively on ATON vessels. In addition, he acquired a lot of flight time in USCG Helo's working rescue drills over Lake Michigan as well as C-130 time being flown to Wisconsin for ATON duty.

The circumstances as to how Armando joined our 9-10 are interesting. After moving to Cape Coral in 1986, Armando still kept his membership with the 9th District Flotilla in Chicago. He decided on his own to visit Marine Dealers in the area and began vessel examinations and getting credit with his Chicago Flotilla.

Cont on page 4

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

Keel hauling

A naval punishment on board ships said to have originated with the Dutch but adopted by other navies during the 15th and 16th centuries. A rope was rigged from yardarm to yardarm, passing under the bottom of the ship, and the unfortunate delinquent secured to it, sometimes with lead or iron weights attached to his legs. He was hoisted up to one yardarm and then dropped suddenly into the sea, hauled underneath the ship, and hoisted up to the opposite yardarm, the punishment being repeated after he had had time to recover his breath. While he was under water, a "great gun" was fired, "which is done as well to astonish him so much the more with the thunder of the shot, as to give warning until all others of the fleet to look out and be wary by his harms" (from Nathaniel Boteler, *A Dialogicall Discourse*, 1634). The U.S. Navy never practiced keel hauling.

Scuttlebutt

The cask of drinking water on ships was called a scuttlebutt and since Sailors exchanged gossip when they gathered at the scuttlebutt for a drink of water, scuttlebutt became U.S. Navy slang for gossip or rumors. A butt was a wooden cask, which held water or other liquids; to scuttle, is to drill a hole, as for tapping a cask.

Shows his true colors

Early warships often carried flags from many nations on board in order to elude or deceive the enemy. The rules of civilized warfare called for all ships to hoist their true national ensigns before firing a shot. Someone who finally "shows his true colors" is acting like a man-of-war, which hailed another ship flying one flag, but then hoisted their own when they got in firing range...

This Day in Coast Guard History –

15 April

- 1909- Point Judith, Rhode Island: The schooner *G.A. Hayden* grounded northeast of the station. The sea being too rough for surfboat, life-saving crew took the beach apparatus to the wreck and succeeded in reaching her with the second shot. The first of her crew was landed in the breeches buoy at 12: 10 am. After 4 trips, the last one came ashore at 12: 45. The vessel was a total loss.
- 1986- The Libyan military, on orders from dictator Moammar Gadhafi, fired a missile at the Coast Guard LORAN Station Lampedusa, off the coast of Italy. The missile fell harmlessly in the Mediterranean and there were no casualties.

Meet Armando Ingratta, cont

Armando at 19 coming home from Europe



After awhile a member from 9-10 called Armando and asked him who he was and why was he doing so many examinations! At that point it seemed like a good idea to join up and Armando has been an active fixture in our Flotilla ever since!

Armando in Helo during Rescue Drill on Lake Michigan!



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) or cell 816 305 5378.

Coastie at Work

Dave McDonough explaining proper way to don PDF with Coastie looking on. Punta Gorda Air show March 23 →



The voice of Coastie, Ray Knoll ready for action at the Punta Gorda Air show ←

Armando Ingrassia at the “helm” of Coastie, Punta Gorda Air show →



Busy Year for Vessel Exams

Jack Salis, FSO_VE reports that 111 vessel exams were performed through March. Vessel Exams were conducted at

- Tarpon Point Marina on 28 February
- Cape Coral Yacht Club on 14 March
- Fort Myers Yacht Basin on 21 March
- Legacy Harbor Mariner on 4 April

Flotilla 9-10 to participate in Medical Emergency Response Training on 21, 22, 23 April at USCG Station, Fort Myers Beach

Flotilla 9-10 will participate in MERTS (Medical Emergency Response Training) along with USCG Fort Myers Station and Lee County EMS teams as part of ICS training. Full story in May.

Flotilla 9-10

3414 NW 1st Street
Cape Coral, FL
33993

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

If you think choppy water is tough ...



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
3414 NW 1st St.
Cape Coral, FL
33993