

## Fall 2010 Edition

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## Alumni Weekend is on the Horizon

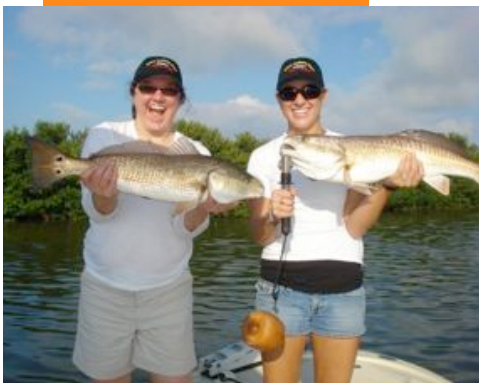
~ Ryan Dilkey '98 (Coordinator of EC-SAR)

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Triton Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament is quickly approaching! The Waterfront Program is in the final stages of preparation for what promises to be another fun-filled day of chasing, and hopefully catching, our fair share of the expanded eight species target. The event is set for Friday, November 5, 2010 as part of the alumni weekend events on campus. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time. Go to the website at [www.eckerd.edu/waterfront/fishingtournament](http://www.eckerd.edu/waterfront/fishingtournament) for the easy online registration process.

All participants enjoy a relaxing experience as everything needed is provided. From the boat, to the professional Captain, to the rods, reels, bait, snacks, goodie bag, t-shirt, and hat, the angler need only show up and let us treat him/her like fishing royalty. The event also includes coffee and doughnuts, a Captain's meeting, five hours of fishing in the beautiful waters surrounding Eckerd College, and a dockside cookout and awards ceremony.

The previous tournaments have proven to be great opportunities for alumni spanning decades of EC-SAR and Waterfront enjoyment to reminisce about 'old times', recount case stories from years passed, and rekindle relationships with those who share an enthusiasm for this special place. Many members of the *Friends of the Waterfront* make this a regular stop in their annual travels, and all are welcome to come join in the fun.

Our second event of alumni weekend is the Annual *Friends of the Waterfront* dinner, hosted at the Waterfront that evening. More food, memories, and friendships are shared as the sun sets over the mangroves of Frenchman's Creek. This year's event is particularly important, as we will discuss the planning of the 2011 celebration of EC-SAR's 40 years of service. The weeklong event will take place from October 30-November 5, 2011. The *Friends* Board is forming committees to help put a special touch on this momentous occasion. If you'd like to help, we'd love to have you!



## Friends of the Waterfront



## Wachee Your Paddles!

~ Meagan Bonenfant '11 (First Mate, Ops Coordinator, First Responder, Instructor, C Watch Leader)

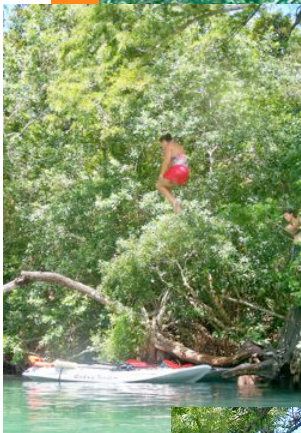
What does it mean to be a good student leader? This is something that is not only discussed but also learned during Leadership Week of EC-SAR's Autumn Term training. Usually the week consists of endless hours of classroom time in a lecture and discussion format. Not this year. This year the team had the pleasure of welcoming back Heather Adams, also known as Ryan Dikey's (Coordinator of EC-SAR) First Mate. Heather showed us that being a good student leader does not only involve being sensitive to others, but also means that you need to bond with your fellow leaders and instructors. So what did we do? We took a kayaking trip to Weeki Wachee. The two Line Leaders from each crew boarded tandem kayaks for a paddle down the river. At first each kayak was paddling out of sync. By the end of the four-hour trip, the kayakers were working as one. Breaks were taken for photo opportunities and for people to test their fear of heights by jumping out of two-story high trees. This provided even more time for team bonding. I personally made the decision to jump, got almost to the top of the tree, and froze. With my teammates cheering me on, I was able to accomplish what I had set out to do. Not only did we all learn so much during that week, but we also bonded like never before.

The leadership team would like to thank Heather for volunteering her time. We also appreciate all the hard work that Emily, Karla, and Alexis put in to ensure another successful Autumn Term.

## I Know What You Did Last Summer

~ Nick Ward '12 (Coxswain Trainee, Instructor, Ops Coordinator Trainee)

EC-SAR strives to stay available to the greater Tampa Bay boating community throughout the summer - even with a diminished group of students. This past summer was particularly hard with only ten available responders for the majority of the summer. In addition to this, four of the 10 students were working full time as Shop Crew for the Waterfront. Most days these four people were responsible for daytime response, stopping their work, and hopping on a boat with the much-appreciated help of alumni employed at the Waterfront. These hard working souls performed over 100 cases in two months ranging from the simplest tow to sinking vessels and boat fires. The return of the Coxswain trainees and Line Leaders for the scheduled Autumn Term training proved to be a great relief as we prepared ourselves, the fleet, and, our equipment for the start of the new school year.



## Superheroes, Villains, and Pirates

~ Justin Blancher '13 (Crew, Communications Trainee)



Autumn Term training is the time at which the complete EC-SAR team goes about “knocking off the rust,” which mainly implies drills that aim to re-familiarize ourselves with the skills and policies of the team. Being a sophomore, and having never been entirely informed as to what Autumn Term training was, I was expecting a few drills and a lot of time off. What I found was long days on a boat or on a dock heaving lines, tying knots, and performing many of the other technical skills required of the crew aboard a SAR vessel. The days started with what felt like really early mornings, and ended around dinnertime. It became a routine of eating dinner and immediately going to bed. And that was only the first week.

The second week consisted of the long awaited Watch Olympics. Each Watch, which is comprised of a third of the team, competed against the other Watches in simple skills such as heaving and flicking, and also in the more complex skills such as parbuckling, which is the righting of an overturned vessel. Over the course of each day, several events occurred, and the victorious Watch of each event would be awarded a “medal” – a simple tally next to that Watch on the whiteboard. It was actually surprising how competitive some of my fellow teammates got.

On the final day of Watch Olympics, each Watch dressed up in costumes according to the secret theme that they had chosen earlier in the week. The A Watch Avengers, the B Watch Buccaneers, and the C Watch Comic Book Criminals all competed in an unspoken challenge to out do the other Watches in their costumes. The costumes were very well thought out and in some cases very intricate. For example, C Watch was able to learn of A Watch's theme, and decided to be opposing characters; as A Watch was a league of heroes, we dressed as their villains. I decided to be one of Spider-man's villain's, Dr Octopus. I wore a lab coat with four spray painted pool noodles sticking out of my back. My costume was by far the most inconvenient, as I was unable to even sit down. We took off our costumes for the last round of events, and at the end of the day C Watch was the winner of Watch Olympics with C1 being named Top Crew.

Although I expected Autumn Term training to be a cakewalk, it was much more than that in every aspect. I learned, or should I say re-learned, so much, and had a blast doing it. It doesn't hurt that we won either!



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## Congratulations Andrew!

~ Andrew Kropp (Crew, Boatswaine of Ship 912)

Although the primary function of the Eckerd College Search and Rescue team is to render assistance to distressed boaters in the Tampa Bay area, it has also been host to an extremely unique Sea Scouting program.

Sea Scouts is a group made up of youth ages 14-21 that places a particular emphasis on water-based activities such as sailing, kayaking, and water sports, as well as maritime safety. Sea Scout Ship 912, a member of the West Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America, has been chartered out of the Eckerd College Waterfront for over three years.

A connection between EC-SAR and the Sea Scouts has been an idea since Ship 912's arrival at Eckerd due to the obvious similarities between each group's missions. Finally after nearly a month of serious discussion between Sea Scout advisors and the Waterfront Staff last summer, the "SAR Scout" program was developed, approved, and implemented. Two of the senior scouts from Ship 912, one being myself, were asked to join the EC-SAR team. Throughout the year, we participated in lecture, training, patrols, and even responded to cases. We were integrated into the team alongside the freshman.

While participating on the team, I remained active in Sea Scouts and achieved the final rank of Quartermaster in June of this year. In order to achieve this award one must demonstrate marlinspike, seamanship, and leadership skills, demonstrate the ability to teach Sea Scouting skills, complete a Quartermaster Leadership Service Project, and pass a council level board of review. Due to the myriad of requirements and the small number of active Sea Scout Ships, less than 25 people receive this honor in the US each year. My Bridge of Honor, where I officially received the award, was held at the Waterfront on September 25<sup>th</sup> with over half of the EC-SAR team in attendance.

I would like to sincerely thank Bill Covert, Ryan Dilkey, Emily Reichert, Karl Pedersen and the rest of the EC-SAR team for all they have done for the SAR Scout program and helping me achieve my Quartermaster. Being part of the team continues to be an integral part of my Sea Scout career and an overall awesome experience that I am fortunate to have while only in high school. I've learned more about the maritime environment than I ever imagined, and hope to someday use some of the knowledge gained here towards a career in medicine. On behalf of all of the Sea Scouts, thank you for all you have done for us, and our community. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you for a long time to come.

