

Fall Semester

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With over 120 cases (!!) since the beginning of September, Phase I Trainees signing contracts and officially joining the team, senior crew assessments and coxswains training constantly, fall semester is definitely underway and almost halfway over! The entire team has kept busy with the Triton Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament, various boating safety events at schools, training, everyday maintenance, and the constant influx of cases. Here's the latest and greatest to keep you updated!

Fun Day

Jason Dorfman '09

This year, every EC-SAR member knows that our weekly 'Team Meeting' occurs every Monday at 5:30PM. However, Monday, October 13th was entirely different from most. Instead of the usual status updates on equipment, personnel, and upcoming events, we showed up to the Waterfront in athletic shorts and close-toed shoes, ready to compete head-to-head in a variety of sporting events. This was the celebrated start of 'EC-SAR Fun Day', where we took a break from boats and tested our abilities (or lack there of) on land. Created for the sake of fitness and fun, the evening's events included soccer, football, kickball, and beach volleyball.

Team names, of course, were derived from EC-SAR equipment: The Fenders against the Ring Buoys, the VHF's against the 800MHz, and Team Yamaha



against Team Mercury. I think most agree that EC-SAR Fun Day was a complete success, and when the dust settled there was only one casualty. Team leader, Jim Bonner issued a nasty slide tackle to the ankle of Senior Crew, Graham Ellison. Give him a couple of weeks to get his sea legs, and he'll be back on the water in no time!

Fantastic support leads to new boat

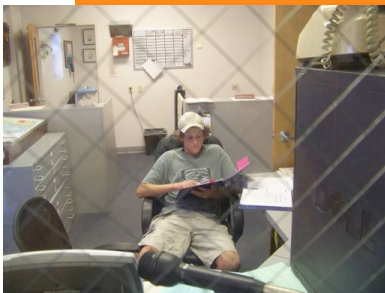
Jessy Ford '10

The addition of a new boat to our fleet has been long awaited, especially since the sale of R3 last year. The wait is over. On October 13th, we learned that we have purchased a new single engine vessel for the fleet. Because our operating budget does not include capital replacement funds, I would like to thank the generous donors of the *Friends of the Waterfront* that made this new boat a reality. It is through their continuing efforts, support, and interest in what we do that this program is able to continue its service to the community and to the growth and development of its members.

R? (a number has not yet been chosen) is a custom built 23 foot **Century** 2301 center console. The factory will lay thicker fiberglass in the stern and keel, place and install larger backing plated cleats for towing, and delete the rear seating area to allow for tow screen installation. These alterations allow for longer hull life, placement of essential rescue gear, and working deck space aft of the console.

While plenty of work and resources went into the purchase of the vessel, more will be necessary to make it functional. One of the largest hurdles is rigging it for SAR response. Once the new boat arrives, the work of transforming the factory fresh model into a functional SAR boat will begin. It will be outfitted with a 225Hp Mercury Optimax engine, so the top speed should be approximately 40 MPH.

A custom fit tow screen will be made and installed to ensure the safety of our crew during underway operations. GPS, VHF Radio, and Chart Plotter electronics must be purchased. Additionally, we will outfit the vessel with supplementary equipment used for technical rescue such as medical gear, fire fighting and dewatering hoses, rescue line pack, and basic articles such as lines and fenders just to name a few. While we have some of this equipment left over from the late R3, much of it will have to be custom made or purchased. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new addition, welcome the challenge of making it SAR functional, and look forward to the day when she can be commissioned as our latest SAR boat.





Parbuckling Extravaganza!

By Emma Hiolski '09

The amount of media attention that EC-SAR receives is usually in the form of a few paragraphs in a newspaper, or even short articles in magazines, etc., describing our contributions to larger, multi-agency cases. These multi-agency cases are important to our public image and awareness, and are a great opportunity for students to practice professional communication and interactions. Our case on October 15, 2008 is just one example of such an instance.

At around 10:15 that morning, we received a call from Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg about an emergency call made to them earlier that morning. The only information they were able to gather was that the caller's boat was sinking somewhere in the vicinity of Ft. DeSoto. As the caller was about to tell the Coast Guard what channel marker they were near, the phone cut out and all communications were lost. In addition to the Coast Guard vessel and helicopter launched, three Pinellas County Marine Units and our vessel, Rescue 5, also responded. Because it was a Wednesday morning, it was rather difficult to pull together a crew due to class schedules, but in the end an abnormally stacked crew consisting of

Jim Bonner, Beth Kates, Frank Hobbie, and Tony Henner (three boat captain trainees and a coxswain trainee) planed out of the creek to respond while I remained in OP-COM to handle communications.

The CG helo that responded was the first with a visual of the VID and its crew near one of the range markers of the main shipping channel. As we found out later, the steering cable had snapped, the vessel turned broadside to the waves, and capsized. The three people on board managed to swim to the range marker and climb up onto it, where the CG vessel picked them up and transported them back to land. We were requested to assist the overturned vessel, and after a long and complicated series of communications with the skipper through the CG vessel, CG Station and Sector, we obtained consent and a promise from the skipper to meet us at Ft. DeSoto boat ramps.

Jim's parbuckle, a term referring to the righting of an overturned vessel, was successful on the third attempt. This difficult maneuver took place on the East side of Egmont Key in 2-3' swells and 15-knot winds. The VID amazingly was not in need of dewatering, and the tow back to Ft. DeSoto was turned over to the coxswain trainee Frank. Back at the boat ramps, Beth got a chance to use her EMT/First Responder skills to bandage the hands of the VID skipper, and with Tony acting as First Mate on the VID, everyone got a chance to utilize both new and old skills spanning the diversity of our various EC-SAR training.

This case was all over the news! Here are the links!

News story on Bay News 9 (click "Watch the story" to view):
<http://www.baynews9.com/content/36/2008/10/15/392339.html>

Breaking news article in St. Pete Times online:
<http://blogs.tampabay.com/breakingnews/2008/10/three-stranded.html>

News story on Tampa Bay 10 News:
<http://www.tampabay.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=92188#comments>

Old Salt Fishing Tournament

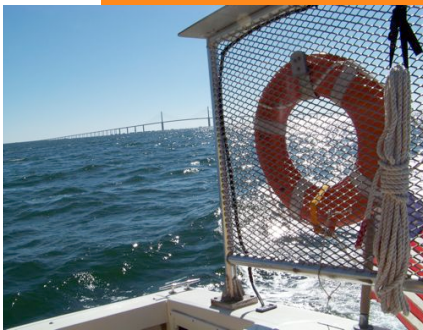
Tony Henner '09

Each year, EC-SAR is fortunate enough to participate in the Old Salt Fishing Tournament. The tournament is an event organized by the Old Salt Fishing Club and allows children with special needs to get out on the water and do something they love. The Club relies on EC-SAR to provide life jackets for all the kids. This gives us a prime opportunity to teach the importance of boating safety. We also provide our SRU as a platform for some of the parents to take pictures of their children fishing. At the end of the tournament there is a barbeque where all the children can boast of the great catches that morning.

This year, Jason Dorfman, Emma Hiolski, Sarah Irwin, and myself were lucky enough to get to volunteer for this amazing event. When we arrived in the morning, we were greeted by groups of anxious kids waiting to be fitted with their life jacket so they could get out on the boats and pull in their prized catch. It was an awe-inspiring

experience to be able to interact with the kids and make sure they were having the best day possible. The kids were by no means shy; each would introduce themselves and immediately begin to tell all their best fishing stories. After all life jackets were successfully distributed, the kids were off to the fish.

After a few hours of fishing, the boats returned to dock and the barbeque and recollections of the day began. There was not a smile-less face to be seen. Each kid, whether having caught a fish or not, ran up to us and told us of their adventures. The kids were also interested in EC-SAR and had plenty of questions as to what we did and why we wore such funny looking blue suits. Before we knew it, the day was over but it was clear that many memories gained from the day would last a lifetime.



Watch Events!

The team is split up into 3 Watches (A, B, and C), so there is consistently a group of 10-15 people on duty for 24 hours, followed by 48 hours off duty. This allows a good rotation of crew and resources, as well as the ability to build a good working relationship with a small group of people. As a tight knit group, we also like to plan events that aren't related to EC-SAR whatsoever, so that we can hang out as a group of friends. These are called Watch Events:

A-Watch

Amber Payne '09

The A Watch Aborigines took over Ft. DeSoto on Friday night for a cookout and sunset swim. While Jason and Zach prepared the grill; Mary Helen, Clarke, and Meagan prepared the kabobs for the feast. Steph set the mood with the music while Jess, Jessy and Christina gave Brett Farve a run for his money in an epic game of pickup football. Our intrepid watch leader Emma diligently watched for sharks as Amy, Sarah, Amber, Jason and Zach went swimming at sunset. With everyone else distracted, Lauren and Ashley annihilated the mac-n-cheese. The night ended with ice cream at Larry's and an A-absolutely A-mazing A Watch A-dventure!

B-Watch

Cristina Rizleris '09

It was a great way to start off a well-deserved weekend. The night started with good bonding time over a wonderful meal at Chili's Bar and Grill. The never-ending chips and salsa paired well with our fajitas, burgers, and appetizers as we munched the night away. Stories were told, laughing was mandatory and fun was shared by all. After stuffing our faces, we rolled our way out and headed back to campus for a viewing of the action packed movie-Iron Man. It was a relaxed, well-needed break from our hectic lives.

C-Watch

Emma Lord '11

Our watch event was an afternoon on Hook Island, a small island near Fort De Soto Park. We grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch and enjoyed the good weather. Some of us walked down the beach to see the new island forming just off shore,



while the others did some fishing. We went swimming, played football, and generally relaxed in the sun. Everyone had a good time.

That's how it could have happened.

This is how it *really* happened:

It was a dark and stormy early afternoon. We arrived at what seemed to be a harmless little island, though its name hinted otherwise: Hook Island. Little did we know that this was a sign of things to come.

From the very beginning of our excursion, nothing went according to what we all thought would happen, even though it was kinda sorta how it would happen if we didn't expect it to go exactly as planned. In any case, Lisa and Jarrod took the longest time getting the boat anchored. I mean, we're talking fearless watch leader Lisa and coxswain extraordinaire Jarrod here. What's up with that?

Once everyone was on the beach, we began to partake in our midday sustenance of hamburgers and hot dogs. Then someone had the bright idea of going for a swim and everyone joined in. Suddenly we spotted a shark but Wes didn't get out of the water in time. Katie made a valiant attempt to rescue him, but he's gone now.

Then the unthinkable happened. Alastair, a master fisherman, impaled himself with his hook. What a disaster. His less than polite outburst had everyone running for the trees. We didn't want to get in trouble for breaking the 'No Excessive Noise' ordinance.

Once the coast was clear, we decided to start a game of football. Fearless watch leader Lisa led the girls against the guys. She showed them no mercy with Katie, Sydney, and Allison backing her the whole way. I'm sure Jarrod, Alan, Alastair, and Wes (his ghost) tried their best, but it was a good game. At least one thing went right. I hope Alice got pictures.

Before we left, some of us had to walk down the beach to visit the new island forming just off shore. We affectionately named it C Watch Isle. We stood at the edge of the rip current between us and that little hill of sand and wondered if we would ever actually set foot on our own island. Oh well.

At the end of the day, we said goodbye to the not-so-harmless island with the spectacularly misleading appearance of the perfect place for a watch event. Too bad the whole team will be coming to the very same place for our annual overnight camping trip. Maybe we should tell the new team members what happened here. Or maybe not. R.I.P. Wes.

EC-SAR Terms:

Parbuckling – righting an overturned vessel using strategically placed lines and engine power.

Helo – shortened term for helicopter, normally from Coast Guard (CG)

First Responder – A training in which students learn basic medical skills and care

VID – Vessel in Distress

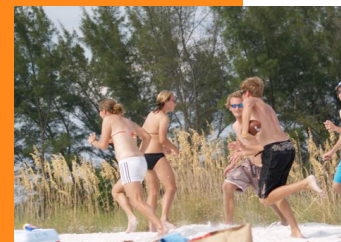
First Mate – qualified to go aboard the VID to assist. Also runs the deck of an SRU (Search and Rescue Unit)

'On Duty' – Being a part of the watch to respond when our assistance is requested, you must stay within 5 minutes of the Waterfront

Dewatering – taking water out of a boat

Boat Captain – pilots a double engine boat

Coxswain – pilots a single engine boat



Meet the Team!

Since we constantly talk about ourselves, we figured it's about time you had the opportunity to get to know some of us!



Jim Bonner
Scottsville, VA
Senior, Human Development
Team Leader, Boat Captain Trainee
Future Aspiration: To sail around the world
Favorite Travel Spot: Costa Rica
Favorite Case: The parbuckle in this newsletter



Ryan McCarthy
Middletown, CT
Sophomore, Marine Geology
Senior Crew
Future Aspirations: Teacher / Researcher
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: When his PFD got stuck & accidentally inflated
Favorite Case: When Coast Guard shot off mortars very close to Rescue 6, and we thought we were being shot at.



Clarke Heyes
Glendale, CA
Sophomore
Environmental Studies & Psychology
Senior Crew Trainee
Future Aspirations: National Geographic Photographer / Writer
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: He couldn't open a child proof gate
Favorite Case: Following the humpback whale!

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Beth Kates
Petaluma, CA
Senior

International Relations
and Global Affairs
Team Leader
Boat Captain Trainee,
Operations Coordinator

Future Aspirations: A job of some sort? Any suggestions?

Favorite Travel Spot: Dominican Republic

Silliest EC-SAR Moment: Hook Island freshman year, a watch leader told us he would give us \$50 if we could fit 4 people in a sleeping bag; we did and were rolled down the beach, stuck.



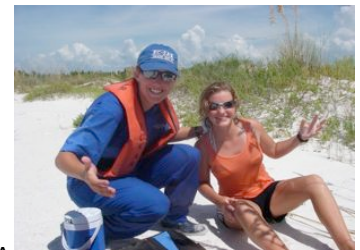
Dana Cubanski
Houston, TX
Sophomore, Environmental Studies
Senior Crew Trainee
Future Aspirations: To work for a national park
Favorite Travel Spot: Greece
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: The whole boat crew on R5 sang the Cha Cha Slide.



Alicia Glatt
Toledo, OH
Junior, Environmental Studies & Psychology
First Mate, Operations Coordinator
Favorite Travel Spot: Fort Desoto on a rainy day
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: Fell off a catamaran in 4 feet of water and grabbed the mast out of reaction. Then I stood up and got laughed at for a solid 20 minutes.
Favorite Dilkey Saying: 'I don't want to go into it but...(30 minutes later) What started this conversation?'

Jessy Ford
Arlington, VA

Junior, Psychology
Coxswain Trainee
Operations Coordinator
Future Aspirations: Helo pilot for Coast Guard
Favorite Travel Spot: Northern California
Favorite Dilkey Saying: Verbage
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: When she almost fell off R3 and ended up hanging from the hard top like a monkey



Look for more team members to be featured in future issues!!