

Winter Term

Winter Term occurs in January and is a part of the Eckerd 4-1-4 schedule. Students can choose between studying abroad in other countries, traveling to another state for a specific course of study, or taking a class on campus. It is meant to give students time to experience the world and non-major academic disciplines. Winter Term is generally a quiet time of the year, but with more students on campus than usual, we were able to keep up with a sudden influx of cases, and the BUSIEST January in years!

Rescue 4

Ashley Hibbard '11

Monday, January 26, we expected to meet officially for the first time in the new semester and enjoy a pizza party from the generous Waterfront staff as an act of their gratitude for all of the team's committed work during Winter Term. Emily spoke to us about organizational details and updates on our rescue boats until Bill Covert quietly entered the classroom.

Bill asked, "Does anybody know why I'm here?" "You have all been very patient about the new rescue boat, and we may have a surprise for you pulling into the parking lot. Go outside and see." The team all rushed outside in time to see Ryan pulling our beautiful, 2009 model, 23' Century into the Waterfront lot. We were all mesmerized by the pristine white hull and clean lines, envisioning the final product in the water outfitted with search and rescue gear and an extremely happy crew.

As of today, the team is still in the

Phasers get rated!

Sara Irwin '12

"Uhh... how do you tie a bowline again??" muttered some newly rated phase ones in a knot race. The three fun filled and busy winter term training days were a blast for many and a wakeup call for some. During training, the phasers learned how to sail, and the first order of business was capsizing. If one were to walk by the waterfront during this training, he or she would hear many agonizing screams of how cold the water was, even though it was not that bad. One would also hear a lot of almost-collision screaming and a few "what in the world do I do with all of these lines??" even though the process was thoroughly explained. The rest of the training consisted of learning how to pull grounded boats (or pilings) as well as races in heaving, flicking, and knot tying. Winter term started off great with a pizza party and ended too soon. Watch out Frenchman's Creek! There is a whole new gaggle of EC-SAR sailors that need to get rated!

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process of preparing Rescue 4 for service. The hull sits at Maximo Marina receiving a fresh coat of bottom paint before launching. The 250 horsepower engine that is slated to power Rescue 4 is en route to the Waterfront. When the hull returns, the team will work diligently to outfit the vessel as a search and rescue unit (SRU) by adding a tow screen, electronics, other supplementary equipment.

The Eckerd College Search and Rescue program would like to graciously thank all of the Friends of the Waterfront that have donated to our cause. Taking part in the preparation of a new rescue boat is an amazing learning experience for every team member. With this addition, we will be able to respond to even more cases, which is our purpose and utmost reward.



Self-Parbuckling Boat

Jason Dorfman '09

Jason Dorfman, Jarrod Marley, Ryan McCarthy, and Allison Peterson, all received a late-morning call from the SAR Coordinators. They reported a capsized vessel near the Venetian Isles, just north of the St. Petersburg Pier. While en-route, we received information that the boat had been righted, and was now only in need of de-watering. However when we arrived on scene, the 16ft. powerboat was still capsized and its stern was resting on the bottom in about 8 feet of water. The father and son crew were safe aboard a St. Petersburg Police Department boat, which had arrived on scene first.

After gathering a laundry list of information, we determined that it was safe to place Jarrod and Ryan in the water to try to parbuckle the boat by hand. After about 15 minutes in the chilly water, it was evident the stern was stuck in the sand. After receiving permission from the SAR Coordinator, we pulled the vessel free from

aground and into deeper water where we could perhaps hand parbuckle it while it was floating - but the boat still wouldn't roll.

Our last option was to use Rescue 6 in the parbuckle. We would attach towlines to the bow and stern of the capsized boat in a particular orientation that would allow us to tow the boat with Rescue 6 while simultaneously rolling it over. Alas, after a few more minutes of floundering with the towlines, we found out that the stern cleat that we needed to attach lines to was much too far under water. We told the father and son that we were sorry about their boat, but there was nothing we could do but tow their still-submerged boat back onto the sand bar so that it did not drift away. After towing for a short while, the boat righted itself, surprising everyone.

My next thought - DON'T SLOW DOWN!! We have learned in training that once you right a capsized boat - keep moving or else it will sink again. We continued to tow at about 5 knots.

Then St. Petersburg Police picked up Jarrod and a de-watering pump off Rescue 6 and tied up alongside the moving boat behind us. We towed the boat with all three boats in sync to the boat ramp in Smacks Bayou where we received a huge thank you from a relieved father and son. -



Winter Term Away!

Stephanie Yagovane '10

During Winter Term, EC-SAR remains active, though down-sized due to students' various academic endeavors. Many take a course while continuing to serve duty on campus; some take an independent study, and a lucky few are fortunate to travel abroad for 3 weeks.

This year myself and fellow team members Zach Ozereko and Michelle Albin, ventured to the frozen North for a course on wolf ecology and the predators of Minnesota's North Woods. While our peers drove boats and rescued the public, we skied trails previously trod by wolves, snow-shoed across frozen lakes, and tracked lynx and weasels through thigh-high snow banks. We

were fortunate to participate in aerial telemetry (tracking a radio collar) up in a Cessna while gazing at Canada, only 10 miles away. It was breathtaking (literally) to hike along frozen rivers in -50 degrees. The course also allowed us to learn about the accomplishments of environmental professionals on visits to rehabilitation centers, zoos, and non-profit agencies. It was the epitome of seeing, learning, and doing, and we would all recommend this J-Term to anyone searching for an adventurous Winter Term.

We had just gotten acclimated to the cold, dry climate when the trip came to an end, as all good experiences must. It's definitely an interesting change to arrive back in Florida. After all, a difference of some 100 degrees does take getting used to!

Aground and Stolen?

Lisa Rodriguez '09

On Friday morning January 23rd a Good Samaritan called us saying that a Fish and Wildlife boat had just run aground outside Skyway Channel, so we called a crew and off we went.

Well, on our way out, we noticed some huge plumes of smoke coming from Egmont Key, and figured out they were doing a proscribed burn there for the weekend, to control non-native grasses. And as it turns out, our FWC boat was headed there.

Coming on scene, the boat wasn't far from the channel, in sea grass and rocking when wakes from other vessels hit it. I proceed to drop off my First Mate, Katie Richwine, and investigate the surrounding area. As we investigate, OP/COM proceeds to ask us a series of

questions, including the boat FLs, officer's name and ID number and his boss's name. Turns out FWC couldn't verify that this guy worked for them and thought someone might have stolen a boat and then run aground!

We discreetly tell Katie of what exactly is going on, as we seem to be just wasting time, not pulling him from aground, and she tells us that the man is very cooperative and indeed in uniform. And then it clicks, OP/COM has been talking to Florida Fish and Wildlife, and we have a US Fish and Wildlife boat, state versus federal agencies, of course they don't know him, he doesn't work for them!

After that was all sorted out, we quickly and easily pulled him from aground, his boat easily started, and he went to help the firefighters on Egmont Key. All in all a good experience, especially since he launches from Eckerd!



Meet The Team!

To help you put a face with all these names!



Sarah Irwin
Amesbury, MA
Freshman, Psychology
Phase II trainee
Future Aspiration: Peace Corps & hiking all of the Appalachian Trail
Favorite Travel Spot: Mexico
Silliest EC-SAR moment: I lost my hat near skyway during a searching drill, and Amber actually found it.
Favorite Case: My first case, a sweet alpha to a fallen windsurfer.



Tony Henner
Highland Park, Illinois
Senior, Environmental Studies
B Watch Leader, Boat Captain
Future Aspirations: Law School
Favorite Travel Spot: Kenya
Silliest EC-SAR moment: Charring my pants on a dewatering case by standing too close to the pump.
Favorite Ryan Saying: Proper Verbage
Favorite Case: We received a call to investigate a 50 foot black object one mile West of Egmont Key. When we arrived off Egmont, we discovered it was a Humpback Whale and then followed it for 3 hours.



Nick Ward
Carmel, Indiana
Freshman, Marine Biology
Phase II Trainee
Future Aspirations: Marine Conservation
Favorite Travel Spot: Sanibel Island, Florida
Silliest EC-SAR moment: Creating the phrase "Check... snub... ow!... cleated" by catching my finger in my cleat knot during training.



Alice Best
Austin, Texas
Junior, Marine Science, Art Minor
Coxswain Trainee
Future Aspirations: To do field research or work in an aquarium
Favorite Travel Spot: I have to choose?
Favorite Ryan Saying: "I tried to change my facial expression...and it hurt"
Favorite Case: The four agency search for a possible PIW off Mullet key, that all started with an overturned canoe with the motor still engaged. The vessel was stolen and set to sea to sink



Alastair McArthur
Mystic Connecticut
Junior, Biology
First Mate Trainee
Future Aspirations: Field researcher
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: Tying Lisa to a chair in the name of knot training.
Favorite Ryan Saying: "We could sponsor an African orphan with all the money we are spending on two-way radios."
Favorite Case: The first time I was paged, we were part of a search party with fire rescue, the sheriff department, and a coast guard helicopter.



Ashley Hibbard
Old Orchard Beach, Maine
Sophomore, Marine Biology
First Mate Trainee
Future Aspirations: I want to study bioacoustics and behavior in cetaceans for graduate school, live in Mexico, and run a marathon.
Favorite Ryan Saying: "If there are birds standing in the water, don't go over there!"
Favorite Case I crewed for a grounded sailboat in which we had to use both a mast pull and a lateral pull to get the VID off of a shoal (the day before our Phase II lecture on those very skills).

EC-SAR Terms:

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

Aground—a boat on in less water than it needs to float, ie, on a sandbar or seagrass bed and unable to get off

OpCom—Operations Communication Center, the center of all communications, a room in the waterfront building

Good Samaritan—A regular person who volunteers help or assistance when someone else is in trouble

Alpha—A type of case in which life or property is in danger, knowing this, the response time is lowered

Watch Leader – A senior staff leader, who is a student that is responsible for making sure there is a function watch (1/3 of the team) able to respond to cases

Phaser—a slang term for a Phase Trainee, who are in their first year on the team, there are 3 phases

Ops Coordinator—An advanced radio operator who is able to handle multiple complex cases including inter-agency interactions and complex situations

Meet the Team Continued!!

Eckerd College Search and Rescue
4200 54th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Phone:
(727) 864-8256 **SAR**
(727) 864-8288 **Office**

Contacts:

Associate Dean of Students
and Director of Waterfront:

Bill Covert

covertwc@eckerd.edu

Coordinator of EC-SAR:

Ryan Dilkey

dilkeyrd@eckerd.edu

EC-SAR Staff Instructor:

Emily Reichert

reicheej@eckerd.edu

EC-SAR Training Assistant:

Karla Pedersen

pedersko@eckerd.edu

EC-SAR Team Leaders:

James Bonner

bonnerja@eckerd.edu

Beth Kates

kateses@eckerd.edu

Newsletter Editor:

Lisa Rodriguez

rodriglg@eckerd.edu

<http://www.eckerd.edu/waterfront/ecsar/index.php>



Cayman Brownfield
Charlottesville, VA
Freshman, Environmental Studies
Phase II Trainee
Future Aspirations: Not too sure, but will hopefully involve sailing, flying airplanes and scuba diving.
Favorite Travel Spot: Caribbean
Favorite Case: Towing Ryan McCarthy and Beth Kates back to the waterfront after their sailboat ran aground just outside the creek.

Emma Hiolski
Oak Park, IL
Senior, Marine Biology and Biochemistry
A Watch Leader, Senior First Mate, Ops Coordinator
Future Aspirations: Career in toxicology
Favorite Travel Spot: Ecuador/Galapagos
Silliest EC-SAR moment: "The tide will be going out until further notice..." (Sophomore year over the radio)
Favorite Case: Whale case (see issue 1)



Julie Shovlin
Parkville, NY
Junior, Biology
First Mate
Future Aspirations: Medical School
Favorite Travel Spot: Ecuador
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: Playing the role of Pancakes, an escaped mental patient, during an ORI.
Favorite Ryan Saying: "Hash it out"

Alan Downey-Wall
Arlington, Ma
Junior, Marine Biology
Coxswain Trainee
Future Aspirations: ...conservation biologist?
Ecuador/Galapagos
Silliest EC-SAR Moment: Standing on the bow of R6, for the Danger Zone music video.
Favorite Case: Responding to a forty something foot Searay at night in eight foot seas in a torrential downpour in the middle of Tampa Bay.

Jess Houghton
Kalamazoo MI
Sophomore, Political Science & Env. Studies. Phase II Trainee
Future Aspirations: Join the Peace Corps after graduation then get a job working with NGOs internationally.
Favorite Travel Spot: North Shore Hawaii
Favorite Case: A U.S. Fish and Wildlife boat ran aground. We called Florida Fish and Wildlife and they thought the boat was stolen but we were talking to the wrong agency.



Sydney Schweng
Henderson, Texas
Sophomore, Marine Biology
First Mate Trainee
Future Aspirations: To do research on seahorses in Australia
Favorite Color: Orange
Favorite Travel Spot: the top of a mountain during the summer
Favorite Case: When I had to walk out to the sea wall by Galbraith Marine Science building to help an elderly man push his canoe off of aground. It was the oddest case since i didn't even get on a boat, yet the most rewarding because he was so thankful.

Andrew Porter
Huntington NY
Sophomore,
Environmental Studies. First Mate Trainee
Future Aspirations: Sail a windjammer
Favorite Travel Spot: the Grenadines
Favorite Case: When we pulled a sailboat off aground just north of Pinellas east west channel. Jessy, Clark, and myself were thinking fat thoughts trying to heel the hunter over while Amber and Emily were pulling with Rescue 6. The most exciting part would be when we dipped the port gunwale underwater about a half a foot.