

# Eckerd College Search & Rescue

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Fall Semester is over and it has flown by. In this edition we bring you some of the events, cases and vessel updates that highlighted our semester. Please enjoy and Happy Holidays!

~Alice Best '10

## HOOK ISLAND

~ Norris Commer '13

As a Phase 1 Trainee I soon learned that the annual Hook Island campout is no joke. Where a well-organized club may simply go out for pizza to welcome new members into the fold or a proactive sports team may spend a night at a Fort Desoto campsite, EC-SAR takes a few boats of the fleet and all of the team out to a Hook Island to have fun in their own way. I arrived on the last EC-SAR operated ferry out to the island, just in time to see the finishing touches put on the three story wood pallet fort and the completion of the bonfire pit, in which we could've easily fit a large truck. I set up my on the beach and spent sunset eagerly creating the A-frame woodpile for the fire. In true EC-SAR fashion, we soon had the fire going and in no time at all we were all eating meat (except for the much-loved vegetarians) around a genuine bonfire even the most senior of us could be proud of.

The crew with a few years under their belts had obviously done this before and we did all kinds of things together at Hook Island that were steeped in tradition: from name games passed through the ages to capture the flag under the stars in the wee hours of the morning. We "Phasers" also learned quickly that capture the flag with the seniors is no laughing matter.

We packed up efficiently the next morning and went our separate ways after clean up Saturday morning. However, things will always be a little bit different. I now know the names of my EC-SAR teammates and even though we all have a long way to go before we Phase 1 Trainees will be a fully functional part of the team, getting to know everyone is a huge first step in the process and I owe that to Hook Island.



Team Members gather around the beginnings of the fire. From Left: Megan, Dan, Allison, Jess, Isabella, Tyler and Dana



Four years ago the first pallet fort was built by the current seniors. The tradition has returned.



The crowning of the fort.



The fire kept us warm through the cool November night.



Packing up and leaving the island took on the scale of an exodus as we cleared the island of all traces of our presence



## FRIENDS OF THE WATERFRONT DINNER

~Stephanie Yagovane '10, Team Leader

This year's 3rd Annual Friends of the Waterfront Dinner on October 23<sup>rd</sup> was part of a full weekend affair that included relaxed and even some competitive interaction between the alumni and current students.

Friday afternoon was a busy combination of boat rides, EC-SAR training, Rescue 4's Commissioning, and storytelling from the "glory days", all of which gave everyone a good appetite just in time for dinner. Alumni, staff, and student leadership representatives from the Sailing Team and EC-SAR then joined together to enjoy a delicious catered meal, with an outdoor photo slideshow afterwards, courtesy of Renee's creativity and a student's technical assistance. Bill Covert segued the speakers from our new Sailing and Asst. Coaches Jesse Combs and Alex Boudreau, to Jim Terkelsen, the Recreational guru, and Ryan Dilkey, Coordinator of EC-SAR. We closed the relaxing atmosphere with inspiring words from Murray Fournie encouraging the donation of resources and gift of self, not limited to monetary capacity, but whatever we can offer of our time and talents. Reflecting on good food and hearty words, everyone then took in the warm Florida evening with fun conversation by firelight.

On Saturday afternoon, what started as an impromptu assortment of students, alumni, Ryan Dilkey and Bill Schmidt collectively practicing marlinespike down on the docks, turned into an all-out on-water competition. With Rescue 6 as the "photography" boat and a group of recreational staff cheering on the students with raucous yelling and a megaphone, two boats got underway in Frenchman's Creek. The contenders: the alumni, headed by Tom Moore and Dom Campanella on the 24' Aquasport, versus current EC-SAR team members on Rescue 5. The challenge: "fender football," a high-energy rivalry with pumps, fire hoses, and a whole lot of aggressive driving. The students were sorely beaten after a long bout of committed defense. Those EC-SAR alums must have been practicing their SAR skills in secret for the past few years.

We are definitely looking forward to "Fender Bowl 2011" for the forty-year reunion when the students have the chance for vindication. On the whole, this was a fun, productive, and successful event!



## RESCUE 2 UPDATE

~ Alice Best '10, Vessel Coordinator

Our newest rescue boat is finally in the water! We have a new coat of epoxy bottom paint and an array of medical response gear on her. We plan on Rescue 2 being an alpha response boat and have equipped her as such. An alpha case is one where life or property is in immediate danger. Rescue 2 will have the full compliment of medical gear and a selection of additional SAR gear as necessary for specialized response.

The vessel handles very well, though rides close to the water. Combined with the speed from the 90 hp engine, it reminds me of riding a super charged PWC. Specialized driver training will begin next semester and R2 will soon be a fully functional SRU.



## SO YOU WANT TO DRIVE IN SEAS...

~Jessy Ford '10, Coordinator Leader

As the bow crashed down cold water flew up all around us. I felt guilty as Dan took the worst of it while I remained relatively dry behind the console of Rescue 6. The waves were getting bigger. Initial case info said we were going to tow a 40ft. sailboat from Bishop Harbor to Tierra Ceia Bay. This would be the first time I towed a large boat and with the waves and wind kicking up I figured it would be a good case. Not two days earlier I had said I wanted more experience in seas.



Once we got across the bay I slowed down so we could look for the entrance markers. That's when I noticed the steering wasn't right. I looked under the helm and discovered a steering fluid leak. It wasn't too bad so we proceeded with the case. After about a half hour of trying to find my way back into the harbor (Bishop Harbor is very shallow except for the unmarked channel that zigzags its way to the boat ramps in the back) we pulled alongside one of the most unique sailboats I have ever seen. Its overall shape was similar to a Gondola and was completely made of wood painted bright colors. It had no keel which became an important factor later on. After marveling at the boat for a minute we proceeded to get our paperwork filled out and set up our tow. As we were heading out I noticed that the steering was getting worse. It took me three extra rotations of the wheel to get the boat to turn, a little concerning but still manageable.

After successfully navigating our way out of Bishop Harbor, we approached the Skyway Bridge. Again the bow leapt up and crashed down in the increasingly large waves. I looked behind me to see the sailboat pitching and yawing like a wild horse. It took me a second to figure out why it was all over the place and then I remembered; this boat had no keel. To make my job even more fun the waves were now at 5ft. with an occasional 6-7 ft., and getting larger as we got closer to the bridge. With the VID fishtailing like crazy we had no choice but to go through the center portion of the bridge, increasing our tow distance. As the seas got worse I found myself thinking of exit strategies. With us heading southeast the waves would likely stay the same or even get bigger and I would be running almost broadside to them. Unfortunately a discussion with the skipper showed that a new tow destination would leave her stranded, so we continued on. The scariest moment of the case came as I was making my way eastward to try and get behind the protection of the bridge. A wave even in height to the t-top approached us broadside. I immediately turned us bow in and slowed to make sure the VID made it through intact.

Once we were even with the southern portion of the bridge the waves calmed down a little bit. The rest of the tow was less stressful and we successfully anchored the skipper in the northern end of Tierra Ceia Bay. On the way back to station Rescue 6 and my crew took quite a beating from the rough seas. Thankfully, I was able to steer us safely back home. I have never been happier to see the creek and the SAR dock waiting for us. In total the case had taken us 8 hours. Soaked and thoroughly exhausted, we de-rigged the boat and did what any self-respecting boat crew does after a long stressful case in seas; we went to IHOP.



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

Phone: (727) 864-8288

**Contacts:**

Associate Dean of Students  
and Director of Waterfront:

**Bill Covert**

[covertwc@eckerd.edu](mailto:covertwc@eckerd.edu)

Coordinator of EC-SAR:

**Ryan Dilkey**

[dilkeyrd@eckerd.edu](mailto:dilkeyrd@eckerd.edu)

EC-SAR Staff Instructor:

**Emily Reichert**

[reicheej@eckerd.edu](mailto:reicheej@eckerd.edu)

EC-SAR Training Assistant:

**Karla Pedersen**

[pedersko@eckerd.edu](mailto:pedersko@eckerd.edu)

EC-SAR Team Leaders:

**Stephanie Yagovane**

[yagovasm@eckerd.edu](mailto:yagovasm@eckerd.edu)

**Alicia Glatt**

[glattar@eckerd.edu](mailto:glattar@eckerd.edu)

Newsletter Editor:

**Alice Best**

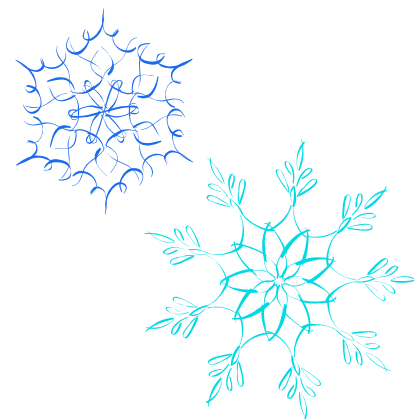
[bestam@eckerd.edu](mailto:bestam@eckerd.edu)



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

## EC-SAR CARROLS

We were invited to the St. Pete Boat Parade this year, and although it was sadly cancelled due to weather, we are proud to bring you the carols that were written in hopes of winning the 'Most Enthusiastic' Award.



Spooky the Tiny Rescue Boat (To the tune of Rudolph)

~Emily Reichert '08

Spooky the tiny rescue boat  
Had a very orange hull  
And if you ever saw her  
You would never think she'd pull

All of the other SRUs  
Used to laugh and call her names  
They never let poor Spooky  
Join in any rescue games

Then one foggy autumn eve  
Ryan came to say  
"Spooky with your gunwales so low,  
for alphas you will steal the show!"

Then all the rescue boats loved her  
and they shouted out with glee  
"Spooky the tiny rescue boat,  
you'll go down in history!"

Jingle Bells , EC-SAR Version  
~ Julie Shovlin '10

Dashing down the dock  
With a five horsepower pump  
O'er the waves we go  
Laughing all the way  
Alarms and pagers ring  
Causing such a fright  
What fun it is to swath and sling  
A broken bone tonight!

Jingle Bells, Breakdowns Smell  
Commercial makes you pay  
The Coast Guard Cutter  
Lost its rudder  
So EC-SAR is on its way!

Here Comes EC-SAR!  
~ Kira Moyer '13

Here comes EC-SAR  
Here comes EC-SAR  
Come to tow your boat!  
We have a bag that's filled with aid for the  
all the boys and girls  
EC-SAR knows when you need help and  
we make everything right.  
So let's get ready to take a case  
And lend a hand tonight!



*Happy Holidays!*