

bayside LIVING

July 2018

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS

Meet Your Neighbors,
THE WILEYS

**Happy
Fourth
of July
MiraBay!**

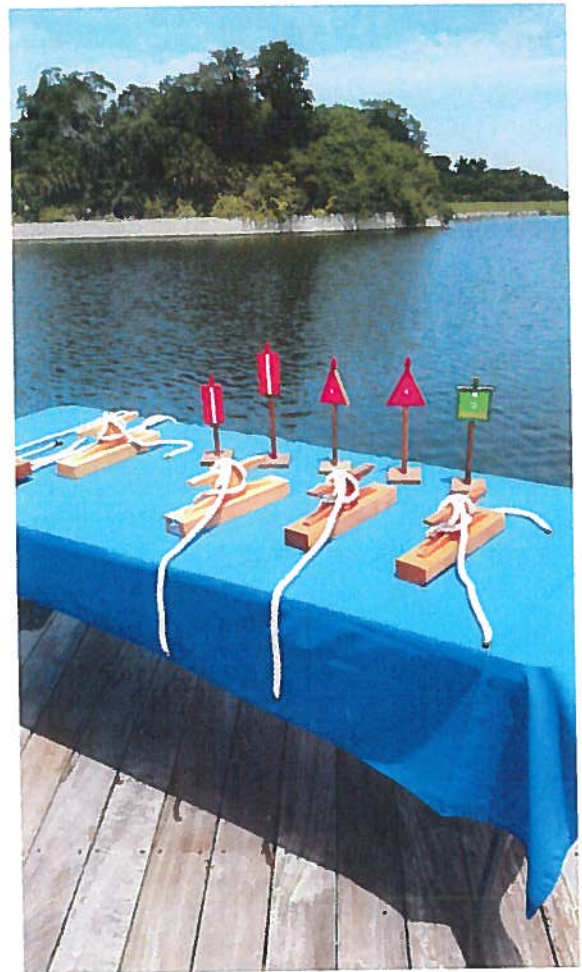
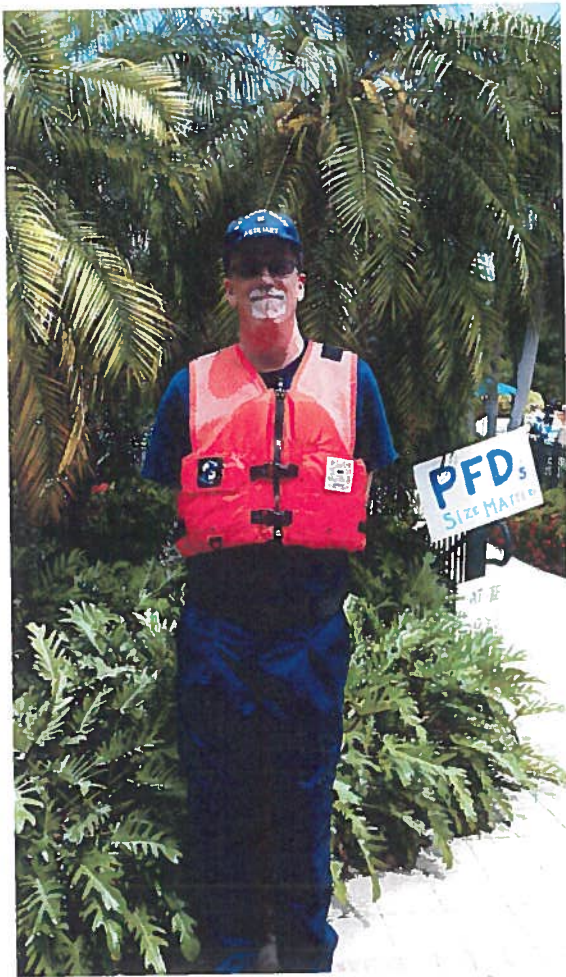


THANK YOU
*To Our Military
Families For
Protecting
Our Freedom!*

Cover Photography
by Theresa NeSmith
Photography



YOUR STORIES. YOUR PHOTOS. YOUR MIRABAY COMMUNITY.



Boat Safety FUN DAY

Over 125 people registered for this jointly sponsored event by the MiraBay Club and the MiraBay Mariners. Its purpose was to provide a fun-filled, activities day, focused on boating and being safe on the water. We had 12 groups that provided support for the event that was related to boating and they set up tables with information and giveaways. A special thanks goes out to The Herndon Group Tampa Homes and Beyond, who provided the seed money for this first-time event that we are planning on making a yearly event!

We had boats to board and were able to practice line handling and radio usage. Coast Guard and Auxiliary were present to direct and help with proper fitting of kids PFD's or life preservers. They set up by the pool and helped at least 30 children try on and then test the life preserver in the water! We had captains on hand to answer questions and also some anglers helping to tie fishing knots. Adults and kids got to do hands-on practice.

There was a kids' navigation course set up with blow up boat floats and Captains Hats that the kids got to drive thru and navigate through a series of markers to find their way "home."

Liz Winegrad, a member of the MiraBay Mariners, was the organizer of the event. She had great support from the group and the Clubhouse staff. It was truly a great community effort.

We are very happy with how the event was received and look forward to doing it again!

We would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all those who sponsored and supported this event.

Herndon Group, Tampa Homes and Beyond
Suncoast Youth Conservation Group
Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 75
West Marine
East Bay Insurance Agency
Boat US
MarineMax
Riverside Marine
Freedom Boat Club
Save the Manatee Fund
Tampa Bay Watch
South shore Signs

**out and
about in
mirabay**

Written by
MiraBay Resident
Christine Nargi

Mira Bay: Serious about Boating Safety

The Mira Bay "*Mariners Club*" has tons of experience on Tampa Bay waters (and beyond, sometimes far beyond!) which has led them to have a very healthy respect for the need for professional Boating Safety instruction. Members know that the State of Florida unfortunately leads the Nation in boating deaths, injuries and accidents (Source: The USCG "*Recreational Boating Statistics 2016*"). 10% of the total 4463 boating accidents nationwide in 2016 took place in Florida waters.

The Mariners <https://www.facebook.com/mirabaymariners/> are determined to do something about our State's unwelcome distinction. Thus, complementary Vessel Examinations at 26 Mira Bay homes were conducted by Apollo Beach's Flotilla 75 of the USCG Auxiliary on Saturday, April 28th. These inspections insure that boat owners have all the safety equipment required by law. Owners are not penalized in any way and may help them avoid costly fines if their vessels are later boarded by law enforcement.

The next day saw the initiation of "**Mira Bay Boating Safety and Fun Day.**" Hundreds of people attended the Sunday event and an estimated 125 children participated in life jacket fitting, navigation practice, fishing tips, face painting and knot tying. Burgers, hot dogs and T-shirts came along with the entrance price of only \$5. Numerous donated door prizes underscored wide community support.

Children and their parents learned the proper method to fit a life jacket. This is a critical area: 80% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those, 83% were not wearing a life jacket. May is National Safe Boating Month and "**Wear It**" is a USCG and Auxiliary program which stresses the importance of wearing a life jacket.

The Suncoast Youth Conservancy Center <http://fyccn.org/suncoast> (813) 922-7969 which offers a series of boating camps every summer, fascinated the children with marine creature parts, fishing and kayaking information.

A great marriage for Recreational Boating Safety was demonstrated at the event by the integration of the Mariners, the United States Coast Guard and Auxiliary, the Youth Conservation Center, Sea Tow, West Marine and numerous other marine product companies. We all want the same thing: safe fun on the water!

Kudos to the Mariners and Mira Bay! Other communities which would like to emulate these programs can contact Pat McAlvey, USCG Auxiliary at 214-232-5202 <http://www.flotilla75.org/> or pmcalvey@flash.net. Pat can also put you in touch with Mariners' members who have generously offered to share their planning details.



Auxiliarist Bob Shaw demonstrates proper knot tying to Mira Bay residents.



Auxiliary Coxswain Pat Stone demonstrates proper life jacket fitting to a Mira Bay youngster.