

## Boating Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

Attendance via Zoom: Bill Anderson, Bill Chamberlain, Justin Campbell, Jim Fourqurean, Rafael Gonzalez-Collazo, Alastair Harborne, Anne Muller

Start: 11:05 am

### Boating Program Updates

- A total of 279 boater's files
- In 2024 current "active" 183
- Always changing of personnel, so trying to keep things updated
- Up until September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o 35 new boaters (mostly crew)
  - o 14 crew members qualified for crew chief
    - Quality control audits were completed by Annie
- CPR/First Aid classes
  - o 35 personnel (crew & crew chiefs)
  - o 20 of the personnel were crew chiefs to stay current
  - o Happy to say quite a few were proactive because their certification was going to lapse during the November to February time period

### Boating Program Statistics

- As of September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - o Total of 967 trips
    - 761 (79%) were FIU owned vessels
    - 206 (21%) were on NON FIU vessels
  - o Vessel size trips
    - 563 (58%) were on vessels classified >16 feet but <26 feet
    - 225 (23%) were on vessels greater than 26 feet
    - 179 (19%) were on vessels less than 16 feet
  - o "Incident" Report Statistics
    - Of 967 trips – rate of "incident": 5.3%
    - Joel Trexler had past BSOs do a checklist compliance rate, so the 5.3% incident rate includes field operations that did not submit vessel safety checklist (administrative incident)
    - A new airboat specific checklist was given to our personnel, but due to some technology glitches, checklists may have been submitted but not received
- Rate of incident without administrative incidents: 1.3%
  - o Airboat engine issues (2) → 235 trips: 0.85%
    - 3/27: Airboat was making a strong distinct gurgling sound, crew cancelled field operations due to long ride out to sites and were being cautious
    - 6/27: Airboat had coolant boiling over
      - Determined that the cap was not screwed on tight enough (due to location it seems crews may have loosened cap while taking tarp on and off)
  - o Motorized vessel engine issues (2) → 520 trips: 0.38%

- 520 trips are FIU specific vessels (does not include non FIU vessels)
- 5/19: OB21's engine did not have reverse or neutral, crew was able to make it back to Flamingo Marina
- 7/31: RV Rolling Rock's starboard engine began overheating that led to other issues
- Injuries (1) → 967 trips with 1 injury: 0.10%
  - 2/29: JB23, while using SCUBA cylinders, personnel knocked into their ankle and had a minor sprain
- Trailer tires (6) → 235 trips: 2.55%
  - 1/22: AB15-4 trailer
  - 6/7: RV Tangaroa trailer
  - 7/18: AB16-1 trailer
  - 6/24: AB15-4 trailer
  - 9/11: AB16-2 trailer
  - 9/13: AB16-2 trailer
  - Due to the nature where these airboat trailers are being taken, construction on Tamiami Trail started in 2021 and will not be completed until 2026
  - Launch "pads" are not paved
- Truck tires (1) → 541 float plans with FIU trucks: 0.18%
  - 9/20: Truck 4009
    - Issue with tire valve
- Truck and trailer tires from freshwater FOC are being replaced with heavier duty tires.

### **Temporary Changes from November 8<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### Float plan approvals

- Bill, Derek, and Jason will be splitting the responsibility and working together to approve float plans
- Roger will CC the three to make sure everyone is aware when dive plans are approved, if there are any issues will also bring everyone in an email to make sure everyone is on the same page
- **Action item: Annie has already met with Derek and Jason to show method of approving and share the Boaters Qualifications Page**

#### Incident Reports

- Active life-threatening incidents in the field – boaters will be given Al and Jim's phone numbers, if life threatening issue during diving operations, Roger will also be on that list of numbers
- Reporting incidents – the boaters will send them to Al who will then send to the Boating Safety Committee, Roger will escalate and report it to EH&S
- Active incidents – mechanical issues, the boaters should contact whomever is in charge of the FOC and then submit incident report when back on land
- **Action item: Annie will send Jim & Al the call tree and method of contacting**

#### Dive Equipment Rentals from BBC

- Bill will be able to give equipment if available, the users need to give him advanced notice

- If by some chance all sixty tanks are used during this time period, the users will need to take them either to the local dive shop to be filled or if they are traveling south to the keys, they can stop at Aquarius to have tanks filled
- Bill will need to send information of who is renting, for how many days to Roger so Roger can complete smartbills
- **Action item: Annie will send out a notice to our boaters about the potential filling of tanks elsewhere if all SCUBA cylinders are used**

#### CPR/First Aid/Emergency Oxygen Courses

- Roger will take over these courses and will do the in-person training at MMC, if possible having bigger classes so personnel do not need to travel a lot
- If someone is absolutely desperate, and needs it last minute – they may need to travel to Aquarius Reef Base (but no one should be desperate since they are getting a lot of notice)
- **Action item: Annie notified personnel whose certifications will lapse during the time period so the past few weeks' classes have been for crew chiefs to stay current during the Nov – Feb time period**

#### AOB (any other business)

1. PQS for our crew chief candidates
  - a. Annie will still oversee paperwork but we wanted to bring up to the committee that since we are holding the P.I's responsible for their people, if they have boating experience they can complete the "dockside" exam with their personnel instead of waiting for Annie to do a quality control check. It is more realistic to have the P.I's or their designee doing these final checkouts during normal field operations instead of coming to BBC to do a loop or two in Biscayne Bay.
  - b. Annie may still do audits for crew chiefs when she returns in February
  - c. Qualifying for crew chief status will be put on hold if candidates need to do the written exam (written exams will continue in February)
2. Training for boating program's personnel on how to change a tire
  - a. Since we expect our crews to be able to change a tire (truck or trailer) we need to offer a training. If crews are on side of the road and feel comfortable they can do the change, but if on the highway such as I95 or the turnpike, they may need to call for help.
  - b. It would be best to do it in the upcoming months, during Florida's "winter".
  - c. Need to give them helpful training, such as detaching the trailer while changing the tire. The jacks contain oil, so if our crews are completely bleeding them and not reporting it, other crews may not be able to use the jack.
  - d. We may need to look into "safety kits" for our trucks in case we do need to be on the side of the road, cones, flares, and safety jackets.
  - e. For all of the marine vessels, Sea Tow has an option that we are paying for and will help with trailer tires. But since the airboats are not covered by Sea Tow, it leads to the freshwater calling local towing companies to see if they are available.
3. Our boaters need to be cognizant of their behavior in the field around officials, behavior in the past has been noted. Friendly reminder in the all hands meeting that they need to be professional

since once they leave FIU campus, they are the university's ambassadors. Which includes while talking to others but also while on the road with or without trailers behind the truck.

4. Our personnel who are operating our vehicles need to be more situationally aware. Trucks are being damaged on FIU property due to hitting yellow posts or running over curbs. While potholes may damage axles and trailer tires, velocity may also be a cause. Friendly reminder that once again, as ambassadors of the university and our program, it is everyone's duty to remain vigilant.

End: 12:05 pm