

EAST WIND

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

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Now that the sun has set on warm water and facilities are tucked away for winter, in what shape is your equipment?

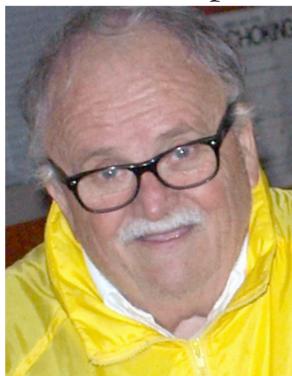
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Dave White
Our Exceptional Guest



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Dan Garcia
Santa's Helper



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LOOK WHO GOT A MAKEOVER!



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Letter from the Commodore



**Edward M.
Monaco
DCO 9ER**

I would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to our newly elected leadership at the District, Division, and Flotilla levels. We begin 2016 developing and improving programs and goals so that we can continue as the greatest boating organization in the country.

For those of you who have completed terms in office and have stepped down, it is important to remain a mentor to the new leadership. In the Auxiliary we all learn from each other and we cannot emphasize enough the importance of mentoring. Help and assist the new leaders in formulating goals and objectives for the coming year. New leadership need to become familiar with 09E's operational plan that as Commodore I have prepared. National Commodore Mark Simoni also has an operational plan that we need to become familiar with to assist with our goals and missions.

Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) remains one of our most important missions. Safety education, Vessel Examinations, and promoting the wearing of life jackets have been very effective in reducing boating casualties on the Great Lakes and inland waterways in our district. We need to continue our work in this area and further reduce these statistics.

The U.S. Coast Guard in the Ninth District has also received some new leadership. Our new commander -- Rear Admiral June Ryan -- has taken over the helm. Many of our membership met the admiral at our Fall D-Train in Dunkirk, NY. Also, we have a new director of the Auxiliary (DIRAUX) in Commander Jorge Martinez and a new Operations Training Officer (OTO) in Chief Warrant Officer Chris Henderson. They are all fully aboard and working with the Auxiliary.

We have many challenges ahead. One such challenge is the Republican National Convention that is coming to Cleveland, Ohio this summer. We will offer our assistance to the US Coast Guard in any way we can to support its efforts in accommodating the large number of visitors that this event will draw.

Whatever it is that we personally do for the Auxiliary and our partners, let's do it to the best of our ability and expertise. We can make our organization a better Auxiliary through participation and reinforcing our local Flotillas to help get the job done. Thank you all for a great job in 2015; let's do it again for 2016.

Edward M. Monaco
District Commodore

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The sun sets on a soft water training exercise Sept. 30 on the Niagara River involving a 25-foot response boat from Coast Guard Station Niagara and a Coast Guard Auxiliary patrol boat belonging to Auxiliarist Mike McGrath. Coast Guardsmen regularly train with Auxiliary crews to keep both ready in case of an emergency.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Seaman Deanna Lewis

Cover Story

Now's the time to equip your facility

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Dan Garcia - by J. Steinbarg,

Ffotilla 21, Syracuse.

Cutter Moro Bay - USCG photo by Petty

Officer 3rd Class Jasmine Mieszala.

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District Nine Eastern Region
NineEastern.org

EASTWIND

EASTWIND welcomes contributions from all interested parties, reserving the right to edit for space and content, and to determine if, when and where such submission might be used. Email is the preferred method of communication:

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Search & Rescue Report

Coxswain Joe Muharsky and his Fairport Harbor Flotilla 7-6 crew successfully executed a search-and-rescue (SAR) mission while out on routine patrol on Lake Erie on Labor Day, Sept. 7. On board were crew members Roger Kish, Gary Lidawer, and trainee Ron Baker.

Lake Erie Labor Day patrol turns into rescue of boat taking on water

Coast Guard Station Fairport (which covers an area from Chagrin River, just outside Cleveland, to Geneva, OH to the international border) alerted the Flotilla 76 patrol to a vessel taking on water a few miles off shore of the mouth of Chagrin River.

With two- to three-foot waves, “I could only make 16 knots,” Coxswain Joe Muharsky noted. “We had traveled about three miles when Station Fairport put out a pan-pan on Channel 16, which I monitor as well as the Coast Guard channel, stating that the vessel taking on water was approximately four miles off shore of the Chagrin River. It had a distress flag up.”

minutes later to give me the approximate position of the vessel.” The Auxiliarists headed three miles out and then followed the coastline. “I felt we would be able to see a distress flag from two to four miles out.”

It wasn’t long before they spotted the vessel, and informed the Coast Guard they had it in sight. “The vessel taking on water was 2.74 miles off shore and 3.2 miles east of the approximate position given,” he said. “When I arrived on the scene, I called the Coast Guard, informing them of my position,” and that he transferring an emergency hand pump to the vessel.

Four people were on board – “two males and two teenage females,” all wearing life jackets. “One male was bailing with a bucket.”

They secured the vessel alongside the patrol boat.

“Since the water coming in was stabilized, I made the decision to send crewman Ron Baker forward with my boat hook, due to the sea conditions banging our boats together. I instructed Crewmen Kish and Lidawer to keep the stern tight and transfer the two teenage girls to my boat. Both girls were distraught; one was crying and hyperventilating. She calmed down when I told her she was no longer in any danger. We gave her water

and offered her a blanket.”

Station Fairport sent a Coast Guard vessel to assist, which at first was delayed when it was diverted to another SAR case. In the meantime, Muharsky “instructed Kish and Lidawer to use ‘walking fenders’ on aft and port beams to keep the boats from banging together as the sea conditions would not work for the banging fenders.”

He was planning to take the vessel in tow, but was alerted the other SAR case was resolved and the Coast Guard boat was enroute with a gas-powered pump.

“Sector Buffalo then called me on the radio for an update. I informed them that the situation was stabilized, and the Coast Guard was on their way with the pump. At that point one of the adult males became seasick. Ron Baker gave him water and told him to rinse out his mouth and stay hydrated as the temperature was about 90 degrees. When the Coast Guard boat arrived on the scene, one of the crew boarded the vessel and got the pump running. Then the Coast Guard vessel took the boat in stern tow with a crew member operating the pump as they proceeded to the Chagrin River. I proceeded there also with the two females aboard my boat.”



Coast Guardsman from small response boat joins two men on the distressed vessel and sets up a gas-powered pump.

Photo by Ron Baker, Flotilla 76, Fairport Harbor, OH

Station Fairport contacted Muharsky again. “I informed them that I had copied the transmission and was changing course to head farther out to sea. The station called me a few

Flotilla 21 was Santa's way station



John Steinbarg with just some of the 600 bicycles stored at the flotilla.

Photo by Dan Garcia. Flotilla 21, Syracuse, NY

SYRACUSE, NY -- Syracuse Flotilla 21 has been in the forefront of a number of Division 2 initiatives – from helping to coordinate outreach and public education at the New York State Fair and other big-venue events to being an integral part of search-and-rescue training

This past December the flotilla stepped it up to take on a mission for Santa Claus, becoming a way station for getting hundreds of bicycles into the hands of needy children.

It all started with Flotilla Commander Dan Garcia got a call from neighbor Will DeSain, asking for help in finding temporary storage space for some 600 bicycles

while they were being collected and, if need be, put into good working order.

Garcia contacted Past Flotilla Commander John Steinbarg to discuss the idea of using the Flotilla Base to store the bikes from October through early December. And just like that, the Coast Guard Auxiliary became part of the Central New York Family Bike Giveaway. The bike giveaway has become an annual Syracuse area event, organized by DeSain, a retired insurance agent, and Jan Maloff, a funeral home director. In the 20 years they have been directing the giveaway, they have put close to 40,000 bikes into the hands of children and teens – including nearly 2,500 this past Christmas.

Garcia said they were able to accommodate the 600 bikes “by moving our tables and chairs and using every inch of space,” including the kitchen and bathroom.

“We are happy that our flotilla could be part of such a worthy endeavor,” he said.

Garcia and Steinbarg were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation, citing them for “exceptional support,” at the Division 2 Change of Watch, in which bike giveaway founder Maloff wrote: “Nothing can ever show adequately our appreciation for the efforts and dedication you have displayed to support the CNY FAMILY BIKE GIVEAWAY.”

By Bob Stronach, editor

Flotilla 22 takes part in ‘Wreaths Across America’



Auxiliarist Michael Beeching renders salute after placing wreath at Coast Guard memorial at Armed Services Monument at Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Romulus, NY.

ROMULUS, NY -- Ithaca Flotilla 2-2 personnel participated in the annual “Wreaths Across America” event Dec. 12 at the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

The Veterans Cemetery opened its doors approximately three years ago and now has over 350 Veterans and family members interred there. Seneca County is the current sponsor, but there is hope that it will become a NY State facility in the near future. Cemetery Director Bill Yale coordinated the event. Offering remarks was NY State Senator Mike Nozzolio, long a strong supporter of the Veterans Cemetery.

Color Guards from the Marine Corps League and the award-winning American Legion Minut Men Color Guard from Marion, NY also participated.

Flotilla 2-2 specifically paid tribute to several U.S. Coast Guard veterans who are interred at the cemetery. Auxiliarist Michael Beeching coordinated Flotilla 2-2’s participation and personally placed the U.S. Coast Guard memorial wreath at the

Armed Services Monument.

The weather this year was far superior to last year’s event which was largely held during gale force winds in a snowstorm.

By Kevin Walsh, Flotilla 2-2



Wreaths adorn graves at Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Romulus, NY.

Photos by Kim Walsh, Flotilla 2-2.

Thanksgiving treat at Station Oswego

“We were all honored to help make that happen”



FS crew (from left): Rick Kunz, Terri LaVergne, Kathy Vertetis, Bob Shanahan, Gene Little, and Margaret Little.

OSWEGO, NY -- Members of Division 2 came together to make Thanksgiving a little more like home for the crew of Station Oswego and their families.

A pair of 20 pound turkeys came with a complete crew of mashed potatoes, two types of stuffing, candied yams, and vegetables -- along with a table of deserts and snacks.

“We didn’t just serve the duty crew and their families, but we also fed the off duty crew members and their families,” noted outgoing Division Commander Rick Kunz.

Led by Brewerton Flotilla 2-14 Commander Robert Shanahan, the Auxiliary Food Service (AUXFS) crew included Kunz (F 2-15), Terri LaVergne (district staff officer for public affairs), Kathleen Vertetis (F 2-14), and Ithaca Flotilla 22 Commander Gene Little and his wife, Margaret.

As the official “probie,” “Gene started the day with the potato peeler,” Kunz said and quipped: “His contribution was invaluable to the success of the mission.”

“Margaret did an outstanding job of decorating the mess deck with the help

of Terri who provided an assist when not snapping pictures. Margaret brought coloring books and crafts for the kids and a couple of budding photographers helped Terri with picture taking. Bob hovered over the turkeys while Kathy assisted with the cooking and was in charge of the gravy.”

“The best part of the day for me was looking at the young Coast Guard families, sitting around after dinner, enjoying desert, coffee and conversation,” said Kunz.

“We were all honored to help make that happen.”



AUXFS Bob Shanahan tends to the succulent main course. Photo by Terri LaVergne, DSO-PA



Coasties and families enjoy relaxing conversation after Thanksgiving Dinner. Photo by Terri LaVergne, DSO-PA

Auxiliarists bring taste of holidays to Station Cleveland Harbor

Even before the advent of the Auxiliary Food Service (AUXFS) program, some Auxiliarists went out of their way to provide a “taste of home” for active duty Coasties on holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas.

This past Christmas was no different at Station Cleveland Harbor, where the head of the district FS program and three other AUXFS personnel provided a feast that even accommodated a vegan.

“We served 16, including watch standers from Icebreakers Neah Bay and Moro Bay,” noted Elizabeth Macintyre, MD, AUXFS chair for Ninth District Eastern Region and a member of Flotilla 7-16. Also on the cooking and serving crew were: Robert Daley (7-05), Larry Peltz (7-05), Virginia Suda (7-05).

“Food was prepped and served in the galley in accordance with Coast Guard rules,” Dr. Macintyre said. “This time we also had a vegan on duty (for both Thanksgiving and Christmas).”

By the way, Macintyre and her husband, Joe Sopko, have been providing meals since they joined the auxiliary in 2003. “At that time, Station Cleveland Harbor had no galley, just a kitchenette the active duty used to

heat up food from home or take-out,” she recalled.

“As our children were both living in San Francisco, we started providing ‘home cooked’ meals for those on duty, encouraging them to have their families come and eat with them, all at AUX expense. For the last 10-plus years we have covered every Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter; for the last four-to-five years, we have added the 4th of July.”

“Initially we did the food prep at home and brought it in temp-controlled transport containers, and served on steam trays. With the advent of the AUXFS program, we received additional training, and help from many AUXFS, most often Virginia Suda and Larry Peltz (both Flotilla 7-5), and on occasion, Bob Daley (7-5) and Larry Pizon (7-16).”

Menu *(actually served)*

Delmonico Roast Beef

Honey Baked Ham

Vegan Portobello
Mushrooms with quinoa,
tomato, zucchini stuffing
and Chermoula
sauce (kind of a cilantro
pesto)

Fresh pineapple

Biscuits and butter

Fresh carrots with
butter, brown sugar
and cinnamon

Baked sweet potatoes with
standard and vegan butter

Scalloped Potatoes

Fresh Salad Bar

Homemade Christmas
Cookies with Ice Cream and
home made hot fudge sauce

Vegan Peanut Butter and
Banana Bread

Vegan Fresh and dried
cherry, date, coconut and
almond bars

Station Oswego to host FS training

An Auxiliary Food Service (AUXFS) basic class will take place Friday to Sunday, April 8-10, 2016, at Station Oswego.

The course, with both classroom and galley training, prepares an Auxiliarist to assist or fill in for a Coast Guard FS specialist at a Coast Guard unit. AUXFS personnel can also assist at Coast Guard and Auxiliary VIP events, Chance of Commands and other occasions.

Class will start 1700 Friday in the classroom and continues Saturday. On Sunday, the class will prepare and serve a noon meal to station personnel and invited guests.

Food service specialists are required to have a series of HEP A shots, with the first to be completed prior to class. Additional vaccines may be available at class, along with a health screening.

To register, email a completed registration form – available at NineEastern.org – to AUXFS Branch Chief Ron Ellis at raegraph@msn.com no later than April 1.



Auxiliarists serve holiday meal at Station Cleveland Harbor.

Photo by Larry Peltz, Flotilla 7-5, N. Cleveland, OH

USCG photo.

'Cross-pollination' a good thing for Auxiliary member training

One of the benefits of the 9th District Eastern Region is the geographic access to two of the Great Lakes and other navigable waterways. Our distribution of the Auxiliary divisions and flotillas puts us in near proximity to each other. Many of the divisions and flotillas have taken advantage of this for joint training and other Auxiliary mission opportunities. This "cross-pollination" can take many forms:

- Divisions/flotillas share in the support of regional boat shows and parades.
- Operations share facilities, jet skis, coxswains/crew and techniques for water festivals and major on-the-water events. Aspiring crew members and experienced ones are given opportunities to work major events with diverse logistical challenges, including communications and coordinating with the gold side.



*Clark Godshall
District Staff Officer
for Member Training*

- Joint public education (PE) venues allow for instructor training opportunities with shared revenue generation and much greater public attendance.
- Newly emerging programs for the Auxiliary, such as Incident Management (IM), needs to be exercised on a larger scale than one flotilla or division may be able to handle.

So... as you begin to plan for those "soft water" missions, reach out to you neighbors and plan some joint ventures, and let us know how it goes!!

by Clark Godshall, DSO-MT

Flotilla 56 goes for new over recycled

NILES, OH -- Roaming Shores Flotilla 5-6 found its Change of Watch banquet on Dec. 5 to be special, reports member George Feschenko.

Instead of recycling members to be commander and vice commander, the flotilla installed new leadership during the banquet at Café 422 here.

Last year's Vice Flotilla Commander Jeffery Hoover stepped up to be flotilla commander. He joined the

Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2010.

Patrick Sovich stepped up to be vice commander. He joined the CG Auxiliary in 2012.

Division Commander Lorne Mossman, also a member of Flotilla 5-6, did the swearing-in of the two flotilla leaders. Then FC Hoover swore in his staff.

Twenty two people were present.



New Flotilla 5-6 Commander Jeffery Hoover swears in his staff.

Photo by George Feschenko , Flotilla 5-6

Flotillas can get excellence award in Mandated Training

The NACO 3 Star Award for Excellence in Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT) has just been established, the CG Auxiliary announced in January.

This is an annual award

recognizing Flotillas that achieve at least 90% of their members recorded as having completed all 10 Auxiliary Mandated Training courses and are current in the AUXMT requirements.

"A number of flotillas have already approached qualification for this award, and each should be recognized for their efforts in meeting this goal," the announcement said.

Details on this award may be found at: http://tdept.cgaux.org/mt/AUXMT_NACO_3-Star-Award_2016-01-11.pdf

‘But we are already diverse’ doesn’t live here any more!



By Allen Knish
District Staff Officer for Diversity

“Why do we need diversity training? We are already diverse!”

How often has that been heard at a flotilla or division meeting?

The statement hides real issues that we need to flush out. It represents unwillingness or an inability to understand cultural diversity and the Auxiliary’s commitment to inclusion. It not only misses the opportunity for greater cultural awareness, but also could raise some really sticky or embarrassing questions.

“We are already diverse” also means that we are not in a position to evaluate anything else.

Next time you hear this phrase, do not admire anyone for sticking to it. Think about whether he/she is positioned to drive improvement or continuously repeat the inefficiency of the past.

An organization committed to growing must be open to all cultural differences that could improve our organization.

If we are to be committed to growing, then we cannot rely on the motto, “we are already diverse.”

Whether we are a Flotilla, Division, or a District focused on improving our quality of service or are just looking to grow in membership, it is important that our organization always looks forward and not backwards. Having a “why do we need diversity training” mentality limits our success and how we function as an organization.

This mentality is not just damaging to our organization, it limits improvement, stifles creativity and is frustrating to members by failing to adapt to new ideas and a changing demographics.

If we want to be “The Volunteer Organization of Choice,” then we must free our minds from the fear of change, we must increase our awareness enough to realize we are an organization built of members from different cultures.



Spring D-Train boasts training for all skill levels and interests



Commodore Robert Lauer, district staff officer for operations, leads session at a previous D-Train. Photo by Robert Stronach, editor.

Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in District Nine’s Eastern Region have the opportunity to advance their knowledge and skills at the Spring D-Train.

With something for all skill levels and interests, the district training conference takes place March 17-20 at the Clarion Hotel Marina and Conference Center in Dunkirk, NY. The bulk of the training sessions are on Saturday, March 19.

Auxiliarists can take advantage of getting updates in a number of roles, complete mandated training courses, become certified in First Aid/CPR, or take a flotilla leadership class. In fact, there is something for everyone:

- Latest updates for vessel examiners, boating safety program visitors, public education officers.
- First Aid class and Adult/Child CPR & AED course.
- Flotilla Leadership Course.
- 4-hour Team Coordination Training (TCT).
- Aviation Safety Training.
- “Coastie” Certification

Training.

- Incident Management Class.
- Mandated Training Classes (influenza, ethics, civil rights awareness, preventing suicide, sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention, security fundamentals, protecting personal information).
- Computer and Technology update.
- Writing Award Recommendations.
- How to Conduct an Investigation.
- Fingerprint/Citizenship Verifier.
- Paddle Craft Safety.
- Surface Operations (Coxswain/Crew Briefing).
- Honor Guard training.
- Producing a Newsletter.
- How to Take Good and Approved Photos.
- Know Your Uniform.
- ID Photos and Uniform Challenge.
- District Store (credit cards accepted).
- Friday “Fun Night” (includes buffet dinner).
- Saturday Awards Luncheon.
- Saturday Formal Banquet.

Recognizing member efforts reveals excellence



Recognition of members is a highlight of district conferences, including the 2015 Fall D-Train, where outgoing Eastwind Editor Mark Thomas received the national first place award for district publications.

At left is Coast Guard Capt. Brian Roche, Sector Buffalo commander, and at right is District 9ER Commodore Ed Monaco. Photo by COMO Al Knish.

By Virginia Suda, Division 7 Commander

“Auxiliarists, as volunteers, receive no direct compensation for the many hours of time and effort they donate to the Coast Guard. The recognition of an Auxiliarist’s service, through the presentation of timely and appropriate awards, is essential to the success of the Auxiliary program.” (COMDINST M16790.1G pg. 11-1).

Since 2012 Division 7 has not used first, second

and third places to establish division awards for the year. In 2012, there was only one vessel safety check difference between second and third places. Also, there was a pattern that many of the same members placed first, second and third places yearly. Consequently, the efforts of most members went unnoticed.

In an effort to recognize

the contributions of more members, we moved to a system of a range of hours and/or a number of accomplishments as excellent and outstanding for each category. For example, for Public affairs, 25-50 hours is excellent and over 50 hours is outstanding. Under this structure, we recognized the efforts of one member as outstanding and six members as excellent.

Below is the criteria that we use for each category.

Award Category

Vessel Safety Checks
 Public Education
 Public Affairs
 Air Ops
 Surface Ops
 Personal Visits
 MS Patrols
 Food Service
 Admin. Support
 CG Support (must be qualified)

Excellence

25-50 VEs
 25-50 hours
 25-50 hours
 50-75 hours
 30-60 hours
 25-40 visits
 50-75 hours
 25-60 hours
 40-60 hours
 30-60 hours

Outstanding

over 50 VEs
 over 50 hours
 over 50 hours
 over 75 hours
 over 60 hours
 over 40 visits
 over 75 hours
 over 60 hours
 over 60 hours
 over 60 hours

NEW EDITOR AT HELM OF EASTWIND



After seven years as DSO-PB and editor of EASTWIND, Mark Thomas (Hamlin Beach, NY Flotilla 48) has passed the helm of the 9ER District magazine to a new editor – Bob Stronach (Sylvan Beach, NY Flotilla 26).

No stranger to Eastwind, Bob has been contributing editor for the last four years. He also brings a strong editorial and public affairs background – former reporter and business editor for daily newspapers, former Army Reserve public information officer, former PR manager for a dairy cooperative and a hospital, and founding editor of magazines for the Civil Air Patrol (New York Wing and Northeast Region) and the American Legion Department of New York.

Mark’s effort has brought national visibility to 9ER, steering Eastwind to “Best in Nation” status in 2012 and 2015 by first place achievement in the Auxiliary National Publications competition. This event is an annual recognition of the Auxiliary’s best newsletters and magazines, as judged by an experienced panel of national level Public Affairs specialists.

Bob also serves on the District Staff as DSO-CS and joined the Auxiliary in 2011.

Cutter Morro Bay BACK IN SERVICE After 14-Month Overhaul

CLEVELAND -- Edward Morris, assistant district staff officer for public affairs, toured the Coast Guard Cutter Morro Bay last fall after the newly overhauled 140-foot icebreaker returned to its Cleveland homeport.

The cutter underwent a 14-month Service Life Extension Project (SLEP) at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, MD. SLEP is a major, mid-life overhaul that is expected to extend the cutter's service life 15 years.

Morris interviewed the cutter's commander, Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Pepper, who explained that MORRO BAY was one of nine 140' icebreaking tugs built during the late 1970s-early 1980s in Tacoma, Washington. Having served on the Great Lakes, mid-Atlantic and New England waterways

for more than three decades, the cutters were due for a mid-life overhaul. MORRO BAY is the first of the class to undergo SLEP.

“The crew is pleased to have the cutter back”

Major SLEP work items included renewal of the crew's berthing and messdeck, comprehensive navigation and steering systems upgrades, main propulsion motor overhaul,

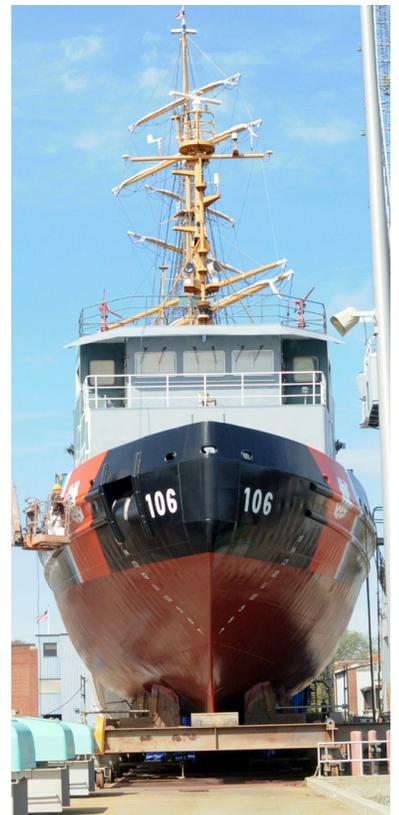


LCDR Kenneth Pepper in the new bridge, photo by Edward Morris, ADSO-PA

and installation of a new engine room water-mist fire fighting system and a modern small boat davit system, LCDR Pepper said. Additionally, the icebreaking bubbler system located on the fantail was decommissioned, and a new bubbler system was installed in the engine room. This large diesel engine and its compressor required plenty of space, so the ship's service diesel generators were moved to make room. The cutter was also sandblasted and painted top to bottom, stem to stern.

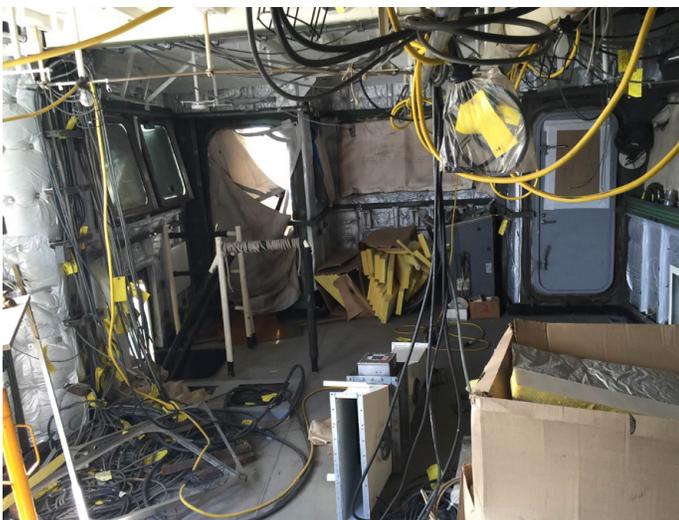
With the cutter in SLEP, he noted, Morro Bay's crew maintained icebreaking proficiency by crew-swapping with sister ship Neah Bay during the 2014-2015 icebreaking season.

“The crew is pleased to have the cutter back,” LCDR Pepper said, “and is looking forward to the first sign of Great Lakes ice this winter and all that follow.”



The Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore docks Cutter Morro Bay for a Service Life Extension Project. The 140-foot tug is the first cutter to enter the In-Service Vessel Sustainment (ISVS) Program, a midlife renovation and system upgrade initiative on select Coast Guard cutters.

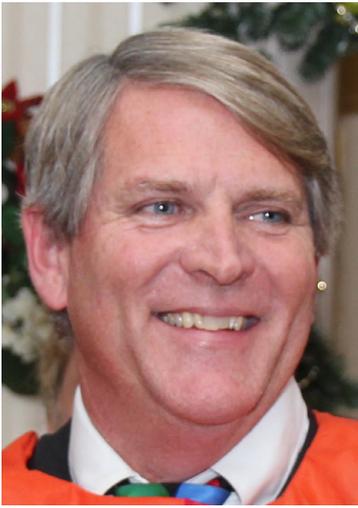
U.S. Coast Guard photo by Dottie Mitchell



The Cutter Morro Bay's gutted bridge, provided by LCDR Kenneth Pepper

Exceptional Guest

He likes to build partnerships based in the belief that a rising tide will raise all ships



Dave White

Dave White and Sea Grant are helping the Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGAUX) to accomplish one of its primary missions “to promote and improve Recreational Boating Safety (RBS).”

*By Gene Little
Flotilla 22, Ithaca, NY*

For several years, Dave White has provided public exposure and educational opportunities for the CGAUX, including materials and technical support at three major New York State events (the Central New York Boat Show, Empire Farm Days and New York State Fair), and for Time Warner Cable News segments, “Discover Better Boating.”

1. CNY Boat Show (NYS Fair Grounds), February 2015, where over 12,000 people were exposed to our message.

We focused on:

- Safe boating practices and safety equipment you should have on board and know how to operate. Our mantra is an emergency is NOT the time to figure out where safety equipment is located and how it works.
- Clean, Drain, & Dry (now a NYS Law), and identifying invasive species and preventing their spread.
- How to select and use life jackets, including in-water demonstrations.
- What to do if you are “Suddenly in Command” – some of the key steps to take and what you need to know to operate the boat you were a passenger in.
- Hypothermia and critical actions if you suddenly find yourself in cold water. Oswego City firefighters who attended the cold water rescue training

at the 2014 Central NY Boat Show credited that training with helping them save a life.

2. Empire Farm Days (just south of Seneca Falls, NY), August 2015, where over 60,000 people were exposed to our message, including more than 250 participants in life jacket demos.

We focused on:

- In water demonstrations of life jacket types, as well as how to select and properly wear.
- In water demonstrations of required and recommended paddlecraft safety equipment.

Because of our 2014 demonstrations, Yates County First Responders followed our lead and now run a similar course. Additionally, the emphasis in dangers associated with farm ponds was the impetus for us at the 2015 Empire Farm Days.

3. NY State Fair (Syracuse), 12 Days in late August to Labor Day, where over 900,000 people were exposed to our message with direct interaction with more than 5,000 fairgoers.

We focused on:

- Safe and Clean Boating – required safety equipment (coupled with recommendations).
- Invasive Species – What are they? Where are they located? How do we help prevent their spread?

• Using “Coastie” to educate youth, to draw them into the conversation on safe boating practices.

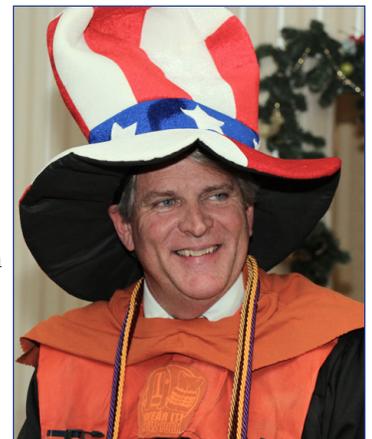
In 2014 at the State Fair, Coastie was featured on Syracuse News Channel 9’s “Bridge Street” morning show.

4. Time Warner Cable News – “Discover Better Boating” Feature, reaching viewers in over two dozen counties of New York State.

We focused on:

- Best Boating Practices, which featured paddlecraft in 2015.

THE QUANTIFIABLE RESULT is we are promoting and improving recreational boating safety to thousands upon thousands, thanks to Dave White of NY Sea Grant.



Dave White dons a fun “uniform” presented to him at the Division 2 Change of Watch banquet in December. It combines an academic gown with an orange “life jacket” cowl and huge patriotic hat. Photos by R. Stronach, editor.

Q&A

You frequently partner with Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel. Why?

Dave: I love working with Auxiliary personnel because of their enthusiasm for education and sharing what they know to help the boating public. Their answer is always “yes, we can” whenever I ask for participation in a project and they often add valuable components to broaden the implementation of exhibits and programming.

For example, the Coast Guard Auxiliary mascot Coastie appeared with me on Bridge Street (News Channel 9) from the Great NY State Fair.

You have coordinated two exhibits for the Great NY State Fair. What makes that a good venue for education?

Dave: The Fair draws a huge number of visitors, ranging from accomplished boaters and water recreation enthusiasts to people learning about NY’s maritime resources for the first time. The venue with the reflecting pool and open air atmosphere is a perfect setting for showcasing our unique historic and current-day maritime resources and

offering demonstrations of the technology now used to manage our water resources.

Our partners have provided everything from a 40-lb. antique diving helmet and a 7-foot Great Lakes weather sensing buoy to a 7-foot-long sturgeon mount and a French and Indian War era bateau replica.

Why is public education about New York’s water resources so important?

Dave: It actively engages citizens to encourage responsible stewardship. It empowers community and agency leaders to develop grassroots programming. It provides a venue for people to ask questions about topics and concerns on their minds. It offers the opportunity to foster the next generation of environmental stewards.

For example, at the 2014 State Fair, Cub Scouts manned a “Treasure Chest” of small prizes for young visitors as a great way to convert interest in pirates to curiosity about maritime history.

Will you share the secrets of your success?

Dave: Emphasize continuing key messages but showcase them in different ways. Package information for easy consumption by the public; for example, New

York Sea Grant’s Top Ten Clean and Safe Boating Tips and ‘Discover Better Boating’ Quick Tip of the Month. Cover a diverse range of waterfront topics to appeal to broad audiences and to draw all the maritime resources all together; that is, boating, angling, diving, paddleboarding, practical maintenance, innovative products, destinations, maritime history. Draw on the expertise of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and others to provide the public with the most accurate and up-to-date information. Provide other frontline public safety professionals, such as paramedics and firefighters, with continuing education opportunities.

Have fun, but always remember your objective is serious: to save lives and enhance responsible enjoyment of our waters, that in turn will support your state’s “blue” economy.

Dave White & NY Sea Grant

David G. White is a coastal recreational and tourism specialist with New York Sea Grant, a Cornell University Extension based at the State University of New York at Oswego. Among his recent honors: 2015 New York State Boating Educator of the Year from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; 2015 Northern States Boating Educator of the Year from the National Association of Boating Law Administrators, and a 2015 USCGA Division 2 Partner Award. He is also the recipient of a BOATUS Foundation Environmental Leadership Commendation and the 2013 USCGA Wear It! Award.

New York Sea Grant is one of 33 university-based programs under the National Sea Grant College Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Through its statewide network of integrated services, NYSG has been promoting coastal vitality, environmental sustainability, and citizen awareness about the State’s marine and Great Lakes resources since 1971.



Dave White (lower right) is shown with Coast Guard Auxiliarists Dale Currier (left) and Gene Little at the Central New York Boat Show. NY Sea Grant photo.

Division 2 Change of Watch Banquet



*Mike Kennedy,
New Division Commander.*

Coast Guard Hails Division 2's Missions

Outgoing Commander Receives Medal of Operational Merit

SYRACUSE – Division 2 Commander Rick Kunz passed the helm of command over to incoming Division Commander Michael Kennedy at a Change of Watch banquet on Dec. 13 – but not before the active-duty Coast Guard hailed the Central New York division's accomplishments.

Cmdr. Joseph Higgins, deputy commander of Sector Buffalo, and Chief Warrent Officer John "Chris" Henderson, the Sector's operations training officer (OTO), touted the division's nearly 12,000 hours of volunteer service in 2015 and presented Kunz with the Auxiliary Medal of Operational Merit.

the Harbor Fest jet ski show, the Brewerton 4th of July fireworks show, the Oswego Paddle Fest, and a search-and-rescue demonstration conducted by the Air National Guard on Oneida Lake."

"By expertly performing these safety zones," OTO Henderson quoted the citation, "Coast Guard Station Oswego was able to ensure the safety of many thousands of people."

In addition, he cited the "keen initiative" in working with Sector Buffalo "to establish and utilize a VHF radio communications system that provided radio coverage from Auxiliary operations occurring in the New York Finger Lakes Region."

The OTO described the impact of those nearly 12,000 volunteer hours another way – calculating that they saved taxpayers the equivalent of \$400,000.

Kunz and division Vice Commander Paul Phelps honored top performers and a special boating safety partner, New York Sea Grant's Recreation and Tourism Specialist Dave White.

The outgoing Division 2 commander also turned the tables on the Coast Guard and announced he was presenting his Division

Commander's Award to BMC William Butkey, BM1 Kristopher Rady, BM1 Jason Gwiazdzinski and the crew of Coast Guard Station Oswego for their support, counseling and willingness to provide training.

The Division Vice Commander's Award went to Past Division Commander John Steinbarg of Syracuse Flotilla 2-1.

Ithaca Flotilla 2-2 captured the rest of the top honors. It was named Flotilla of the Year; member Thomas Every received the Operational Excellence Award, and its commander, Gene Little, was honored as Auxiliarist of the Year.



*USCG Cmdr. Joseph Higgins
pins Medal of Operational
Merit on Rick Kunz,
2015 Division Commander.*

Photos by Robert Stronach, editor

They noted the division conducted 105 safety patrols, responded to eight search-and-rescue missions, and took on a number of support missions – including "safety zones for an inter-agency training exercise,



OTO Chris Henderson

OTO Henderson preached the goals of "safety, standardization and partnerships" for 2016, and said he looks forward to Division 2 members building



BMI Christopher Rady (left) accepts Division Commander's Award from Rick Kunz on behalf of the staff and crew of Station Oswego.

Division's flotilla of year finds goals make a difference

Ithaca Flotilla 22, the Division 2 Flotilla of the Year, compiled a year-end report of accomplishments, including how it addressed four 2015 goals (mentor/succession plan, increasing operational hours, training, recruitment).

Division 2 Commander Mike Kennedy was so impressed he shared it with other flotilla commanders.

"You showed where you wanted to go, and how you performed against the goals," he told Flotilla 22 Commander Gene Little. "Couldn't get simpler than that."

Little, the division's Auxiliarist of the Year, noted that the "magic" for getting things done "is in the goal setting."

Get "the buy-in on a small core set of objectives that can be measured and accomplished," Little said, noting that he discovered in his work experience that "measurement alone can create improvements, even before you improve the process." In fact, he said, "the measurement should not be laborious and/or time-consuming. Simple is best!"

"Our goals in turn should support division goals, which support district goals on up to the mission statements - the first mission being we are to Promote and Improve Recreational Boating Safety. I believe our 2015 and now 2016 goals are on target all the way up the chain of leadership."

"Goal setting and attainment is still a work in progress," he said, but noted his flotilla had "three significant advantages," namely:

1) "a seasoned senior staff to guide us."

2) "a significant portion of our membership is active and contribute."

3) "the addition of new members that have immediately engaged, so tasks do not always flow to the same people that have earned the right to move on."



Gene Little, Division Auxiliarist of the Year

The flotilla attracted six new members in 2015 (out of nine for Division 2).

The flotilla, he said, tries to answer the question, "What's in it for me?" "We are trying to hit on their need and their want to contribute to potentially saving a life -- through Operations, VE, PE, etc." There's "payback for the time and money" they invest, he said, when they are able to accomplish something for the public or themselves.

There's another benefit to the report's summaries, especially when combined with pictures. They "become marketing tools that we share with the public," Little said, "so they see what, how and why we do what we do as volunteers." Added Little: "My experience has been that the public does NOT know what the Coast Guard Auxiliary is or does" and "how we, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, can make a difference!"

on what they're already doing with marine safety outreach, boat crew training and collaborations.

Gene Little, who along with John Steinbarg worked closely with the university-based New York Sea Grant at such public events as the Central New York Boat Show and New York State Fair, spoke of the collaboration as enabling the Coast Guard Auxiliary to extend its reach and impact with the boating public. They showered Sea Grant's Dave White with accolades.

"We" is the key word, White noted. "It truly is a 'we'. We come together."

Representing the District Bridge were Chief of Staff Robert Scofield and Immediate Past District Commodore Robert Lauer.

Scofield encouraged members to take advantage of a flotilla leadership course that will be offered at the Spring D-Train.

Laurer noted: "Folks like you make this the greatest volunteer organization on the planet."

Incoming Division Commander Kennedy took to the podium and pledged his support to members "to help us achieve our goals."

He said the division needs to take advantage of the skills and knowledge of members, get newer members to leadership training, continue to foster partnerships, and "market ourselves," especially if the division's five flotillas want to attract new volunteers.

By Robert Stronach, editor

“ Our
Public
Education
program
is one of
the most
beneficial
to our
boating
public. ”

*David Wall is
Branch Chief for
Special Projects,
Auxiliary National
Public Education,
(E) Directorate.
He reports to
Commodore
Robert Laurer,
Director of E.*

AUXplusPE6 for the PE Officer

By David Wall

Our Public Education program is one of the most beneficial to our boating public.

To help the flotilla public education officer (FSO-PE), we developed and successfully nurtured the AUXplusPE6 program. (We welcome feedback from Auxiliarists and leadership.)

Benefits

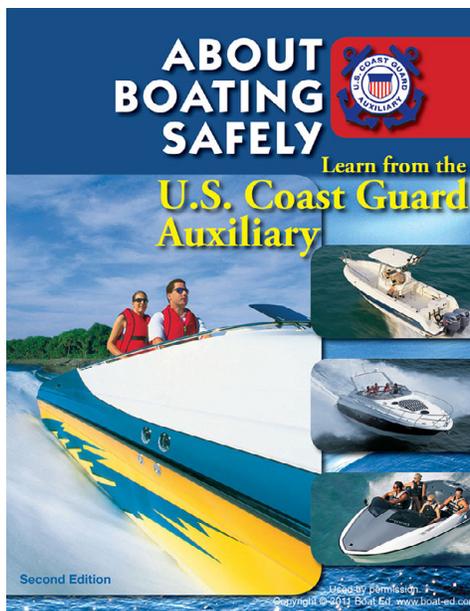
AUXplusPE6 maintains records of all attendees of our PE classes. The program allows specific access to the Internet for Auxiliary reference, although the program is not a web program and does not depend on access to the Internet. The program uses the Internet for email and typical letters about PE as well as other useful web sites.

The software also “phones home”, via the internet, all entered data every time we exit and quit the program. This provides us another backup of our entries and can be merged on a national level as well as optional levels in between.

Deliverables

AUXplusPE6 can automatically generate letters – “welcome letters” and “attended letters,” among others, that require no additional entries because they are merged automatically.

Of course, certificates and cards can be printed automatically and records



are kept.

If needed, AUXplusPE6 can transmit files to local government licensing agencies.

How do we accomplish this

Manual entries are never entered more than once, and they appear wherever needed via relationships (merge). Further, no additional entries are included unless they are needed for some process in the program. We don't maintain entries just to fill squares.

Our program and Internet access are fully password and copy protected in line with Coast Guard privacy policy.

If the computer can do it, we let it. For example, as all your unit Auxiliarists are entered in the password protected program, simply click a popup list to enter an instructor or assistant. Same is true for course name and attributes.

How to get into the program

First contact support@auxplus6.com (note the 6) for the default login. We will vet

you and see if you are part of the PE effort.

Log in with your

Auxdata credentials and download and install the entire AUXplusPE6 to your computer.

Initial workflow

The first login will require you to enter your unique private password.

Import the contact information of the members of your

Flotilla Unit, securely provided by us.

From then on:

- Enter a new class
- Enter any new attendees and all their data once and forever.
- Set an attendance for each by combining a chosen class and a chosen person.
- Now mark attendees as having passed or not yet and then you can produce any or all deliverables with single clicks.

Ongoing maintenance and supervision

Post class availability and contact information.

Inform interested attendees who had expressed interest in certain courses.

National will automatically receive copies of all your data for backup or overall review.

Use of Summary Report for periodic reports

As mentioned before, the program automatically sends all your data to a national database. Keep your directors informed with summery reports via simple clicks.



Planning for an event, not just reacting

By Thom McQueen, BC-QIO

With the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, incident management started to rapidly change in the Coast Guard and in November 2014, Incident Management & Preparedness came of age in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Incident Management & Preparedness was consolidated into the “Q” Directorate and Preparedness is now a mainstay for the future.

It’s a new paradigm, planning for an event instead of reacting to it. Incidents requiring a Coast Guard response, therefore an Auxiliary response, happen often, and sometimes without warning. From oil spills, to floods, hurricanes, manmade disasters and even terrorism, Auxiliarists are needed. To effectively respond to incidents and manage them, it is critical that prior planning and training take place among responders.

The Directorate provides a means of offering training, evaluating events, creating contingency plans, and elevating preparedness.

At the 2016 N-TRAIN, Director John Ellis and Deputy Director Robert Tippet introduced Incident Management & Preparedness. Their

presentations generated a lot of excitement. A lot of this information can be found on the Directorates website under the “Plans & Programs” tab.

The “What’s New” section of the site contains articles and items to keep the Auxiliary current, interested and informed. Information such as training, Coast Guard Publication 3-28 (Incident Management and Crisis Response), the Incident Management Handbook and much more.

The Auxiliary stands ready to provide augmentation and direct support to the Coast Guard. The Incident Management and Preparedness Directorate stands ready to help Auxiliarists be prepared. To that end, the position of District Staff Officer – Incident Management (DSO-IM) has been developed.

The DSO-IM will have an understanding of the ICS system. They understand the training requirements and PQS requirements for the various ICS positions and can insure that Auxiliarists are properly vetted, equipped and trained.

When future Critical Incidents arrive, the Coast Guard counts on the Auxiliary, and the Auxiliary counts on you.

Uniform Challenge can lead to best dressed

Look for class at Spring D-Train



The uniform challenge.

Photo by Terri LaVergne, Flotilla 2-14, Brewerton, NY.

The 2015 Fall D-Train was host to some new and innovative offerings, including the Uniform Challenge.

It was an idea that first came to mind after hearing some comments by former OTO Kevin Kleisath.

Properly wearing the uniform is not only about how the Auxiliary represents the Coast Guard, but also is a matter of pride for Auxiliarists.

So the district made the Uniform Challenge a reality for the fall conference, where members were encouraged learn about proper uniform wear by standing inspection (some carried out by the new OTO, John “Chris” Henderson).

Interested Auxiliarists filled out a basic inspection form and then got the once over. If they had an

error, such as location of ribbons or their “gig line” was out of line, they were given a chance to correct it and then their names were submitted for a random drawing for two \$25 gift certificates at the “9ER District Store”. The winners of the gift certificates were Elizabeth “Betsy” Macintyre from N. Cleveland Flotilla 7-16 and me, Richard Kunz, from Bewerton Flotilla 2-14. Okay, I got lucky.

But you can be lucky at the Spring D-Train. One of the classes will be **“Wearing and Maintaining the Auxiliary Uniform”** where we will demonstrate the “When, Where and How” of wearing the uniform and where to get information to be the best dressed Auxiliarists in the nation.

By Rick Kunz, Flotilla 2-14, Brewerton, NY

Now's the time: equip your facility

By COMO Robert Laurer, DSO-OP

Now that the sun has set on soft water and your facilities are tucked away for the winter, it's time to review all your required equipment and, if need be, bring it back into compliance or proper working order.

When we are out on the water on patrol, it is very important that we look good and our facility is properly squared away.

What condition are your patrol signs in? Are they clean and bright? How are they attached? And last but not least, are they the proper size for your boat?

What does the US ensign look like? Replace it if any damage is evident. Same is true for the Patrol ensign

Add a cleat if you are short one or two to facilitate easier towing and mounting of fenders. What about other equipment -- the binoculars, fire extinguishers and lines? Don't be afraid to trashcan anything in poor shape (especially the tow line; one in poor shape could cause an injury). If you replace the tow line, don't forget to put a mark every 10 feet allowing the crew to know how much line is being deployed. Ensure your towing bridle is in good condition as well. Don't forget to check the

anchor and chain; ensure the line is properly marked and in good condition.

The radio is an important component of our operational gear. Any problems with the radio in the previous year? Consider replacing it and possibly the antenna as well. Make sure all the connections are clean and bright.

For me the chart plotter is one of the more important pieces of equipment we carry; it is extremely important that it works properly, has the proper map sets and all the crew is versed in its operation. I suggest you remove it from your facility and train your crew on its use during the winter months. In that way, navigation will be much easier in the spring.

In what shape are your charts? Are all the required tools with them?

Does your hailer work? Now is the time to fix it.

Check over your first aid kit; refill where necessary. Ensure your PPE has been properly inspected and you have enough for your facility

Regarding running gear, a hardware failure underway will definitely impact the operation you are engaged in, perhaps complicating an

already tense situation. Make sure all the hard steering, shifting problems, bellows leaking and propeller damage issues are sorted out before facility re-entry in to the water.

As surface operations crew and coxswain, we are expected to flawlessly execute the mission(s) we are asked to perform. Our equipment plays a major role in mission success. Crew training and readiness comprise the other part of the equation for mission success. Review best practices frequently with your crews and perform many table top exercises to keep everyone sharp.

Make safety your number one concern, continue to train hard and sharpen your operational skills, and encourage your flotilla mates to get involved in on-water operations. The higher degree of operational capability and readiness we possess, the better we'll respond when the boating public needs our help. Success is defined as that point where preparation meets opportunity.

Keep your facilities crisp and your skills sharp, everyone will benefit as a result.

SEMPER PARATUS



COMO Robert Laurer

“**Make safety your number one concern.**”

Commitment, selflessness make service legendary

Over the past several months I've had the pleasure to attend many Change of Watch ceremonies and it has been a delight. One of my favorite functions during these events is that of the various award presentations; all are impressive and well deserved. In fact, the topic of awards and the humbleness that they warrant comes to mind.

Recently I was given a signed copy of the book, *Guardian of the Guadalcanal* – a book about Douglas Munro. This book, which is a quick read, provides some great detail and insights about Douglas Munro and the events leading up to his gallant action and beyond. For his actions he was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously. The citation reads:

“For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty as Officer in Charge of a group of twenty-four Higgins boats engaged in the evacuation of a battalion of Marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, on September 27, 1942. After making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly 500 beleaguered

Marines, MUNRO, under constant strafing by enemy machine guns on the island and at great risk of his life, daringly led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he signaled the others to land, and then in order to draw the enemy's fire and protect the heavily loaded boats, he valiantly placed his craft, with its two small guns, as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. When the perilous task of evacuation was nearly completed, MUNRO was instantly killed by enemy fire, but his crew, two of whom were wounded, carried on until the last boat had loaded and cleared the beach. By his outstanding leadership, expert planning, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished. He gallantly gave up his life in defense of his country.”

I've read this citation before and every time I do I am humbled. To think of the sacrifice that Douglas Munro gave in defense of his country makes one's contributions to our great organization feel small... but it's not. On the contrary, everything we do

is important because it is part of the long blue line. Everything from the way we wear our uniform to the way we carry out our missions are a complete reflection of our forefathers and also sets the course for those that follow in our wake.

We all often get hung up on inconsequential and sometimes self-serving issues but that is not what has made our service legendary. It is our commitment to each other and our selfless service to our nation that has set us apart. If you re-read the citation you will see that his actions were selfless, simple and to the point. We are fortunate that we do not face the same extraordinary circumstances that Douglas Munro and others did. **However, we stand on the shoulders of giants – those that came before us – and we owe it to them to always do our best.**

In this time of reflection, I am thankful for your service. You are a special part of the long blue line. I wish you Godspeed during the upcoming year. Be safe, be creative, be effective, and be professional!

Semper Paratus.



*Commander Jorge Martinez
Coast Guard Director
of the Auxiliary
(Ninth District)*

“ This evolution brings change and many of us don’t always like change. ”



*Michael Bialaszewski
District Captain for Logistics*

Volunteer leadership

We are honored to be in a very unique organization. It is accurate to say there is no group like us. We are important members of the United States Coast Guard as Auxiliarist.

One of the biggest challenges I have seen, can best be described as continued growing pains. Our role continues to develop, and it develops with great care and aforethought. But this evolution brings change and many of us don’t always like change.

How do we move forward? We each take it upon ourselves to mentor and provide leadership for our shipmates.

Reading an article from handsonnetwork.org, I found insights on providing leadership in a volunteer organization. The article helps “sort” different people traits. If you know a little about what makes people on your team “tick,” it can help you mentor and lead. Taken from that article are the following:

Type “A”. The leader/manager. These folks are independent, take charge kind of people. They do not like routine assignments and in giving them what the end result is, they “cut to the

chase” and work towards the end goal.

Type “B”. The “socializer”. These team members like to have fun (usually always step to the plate for fellowship planning). They crave excitement and have high energy. They are talkative and outgoing.

Type “C”. The “details” person. They thrive on details and accuracy, they take (almost) everything seriously and are very neat and calculated.

Type “D”. The “dependable” person. They usually don’t like change, or taking charge and they prefer to have guidelines; repetition does not usually bother them. Give me a job, tell me once how to do it, I will get it done, again and again.

This is not a comprehensive list, but rather a top four, and there are always those who are part of one and part of another. This list does not take into consideration the generational issues we face; that will be for another article.

Next, make sure you know your desired outcomes, and the rules pertaining to your mission. Do you have the resources

necessary to complete the task? Follow your chain for feedback and issues.

When you are done with an assignment, always always always, look back to see how you did. Assemble your team for lessons learned, as Steven Covey would say, “sharpen the saw” perhaps for the next time you need to do this, but always do this as a group, it provides cohesion and ownership of outcomes.

Lastly, provide feedback. Kind words and awards are how we “get paid.” If the outcomes were not what was hoped for, focus on what did go well and chart what did not, so, next time, the group will “hit a home-run.”

In closing, sometimes as we run into great challenges, we ask ourselves, do I have the ability to move forward? Sometimes a discussion with peers can help; be a mentor to others, be a leader, we are all leaders in some way, shape or form. We can collectively make this a better organization and fulfill our mission to the United State Coast Guard. Thanks.

Expect busy, challenging summer

Hello fellow Auxiliarists! As you can see, I am Stannard Baird Pfahl, but I go by Baird or just "Doc". I am a retired Ophthalmologist and live in Huron, Ohio and am a member of Flotilla 06-05 (Goodyear); it transferred from Akron in 2006. I am a long-time boater (Sandusky Bay and the Islands), a USPS member, and still working part-time for our Hospital in an administrative capacity. Enough with the introduction, just know that I am looking forward to this new office and serving our District and its membership. I stand ready to assist you in any way I can and will strive to keep you informed on the issues we all face.

From what I am hearing on the COW circuit, this summer

will be busy, challenging and a wonderful opportunity to show the general public what we are all about and how to boat responsibly and still have fun.

I encourage you use our "hard water" time to complete your Mandatory Courses. I know you have until the end of 2016, but here are opportunities for your training and education that you might miss out on if you are not complete in your courses. If you are in Operations, your ability to receive orders *may* be jeopardized and with the Republican National Convention being hosted by Cleveland in July, we will need "all hands on deck".

I am certain that Operations (surface and air), FS,

administrative specialists and anyone else who can help us be "force multipliers" for the Coast Guard may be called upon, regardless of how near or far you are from Cleveland.

I suggest that you go online under Directorates (Response) and review the following:

- Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual (COMDTINST M16798.3E). If you have trouble, you can always just "google" it, but make sure you log onto one of our sites.

I hope you will use this time of year make sure your health is up to par and think about how much fun we will have on the water, in the air and on land next summer as Auxiliarists who are SEMPER PARATUS.



S. Baird Pfahl
District Captain for Response

“Use your ‘hard water’ time to complete your Mandatory Courses.”



Glen Harman
District Captain for Prevention

Prep now for new season

Winter is finally upon us, but it isn't too soon to start thinking about the upcoming boating season.

Decals and inspection forms should be ordered. Arrangements and appointments should be made at boat ramps, marine dealers, and sporting stores to do VSCs.

Literature should be ordered for PV to restock the literature holders.

PE classes should be

going on now to ready the boating public for the upcoming season. PA is always educating the public. And "Coastie" is always ready to help.

We are all tasked with the responsibility to take the message of safe boating to the boating public. All aspects of prevention deal with education and communicating our message of boating safety.

Have a great and safe boating season.



Robert Scofield, DCOS

'Together we are better'

Spring is near and soft water will not be far behind. 9ER is going to be coming to life after its slow winter season.

First, let me say welcome to our veteran and new division and flotilla commanders. I am looking forward to working for you in 2016.

Second, the future of our Auxiliary is contingent on our preparing our successors to do our jobs. We need to make sure that our new leaders are well trained so that the Auxiliary can change with changing times. The days of "that's the way we have always done it" are gone. The Auxiliary must adapt to the changing needs of the Coast Guard and be prepared to take on new challenges in the future.

In keeping with the concept of training and preparing new leaders, we are going to offer the Flotilla Leadership course at our March D-Train. It will be an all-day Saturday course taught by our district leadership. Please encourage, and financially help, up and coming or prospective leaders to attend this course.

Another important

concern is mandatory courses. At this writing, 9ER has 20 percent of its members who have completed all the mandated training courses. 2016 is the deadline year for this requirement. We are already seeing the restrictions

“This is going to be a year of challenges.”

that can be applied if we do not complete these courses. All senior members must complete these by 12/31/16 and new members by the end of their first year, or they will not receive awards, orders, C-Schools, or certifications.

We need to strive to have all our members complete these courses. This is going to be a year of challenges. With the revenue from PE classes going down, we need to pull together and help each other find new ways to fund what we need to do as flotillas

and divisions. A previous DCO's motto - "together we are better" - is truer now than ever before.

On a different note, thank you to all who stepped up to take the uniform challenge at the last DTrain. The proper wearing of the Coast Guard uniform is vital as to how the gold side views us as part of their team. Many asked for the guidelines we used that day and mentioned that they were going to use or distribute them at their meetings. We will be doing the challenge again at the next DTrain. We need to keep working on this area if we are to be taken seriously by our gold-side partners.

Lastly, there are awards available from Boat US, Marine Retailers Association and National Boating Federation and they are due by May 1, 2016. Also, the NACO Three Star Diversity award is due by June 1, 2016. More information will be forthcoming on these awards. If you need help with writing an award, contact me.

Thank you for all you do for the Coast Guard and Auxiliary.

Robert Scofield

Raising awareness through a true story of heroism

Continued from Back Cover.

Little and fellow Auxiliarists handed out literature near the Regal Theater at the Ithaca Mall (The Shops at the Mall) on Jan. 30 and 31.

They had sign-up sheets for prospective members, boating safety classes and vessel examinations.

It was similar for **Oswego Flotilla 2-4**, with members manning a table Jan. 29 at Os-

wego Cinema 7 in downtown Oswego, NY.

“We provided information on Auxiliary membership, vessel examination, and general boating safety,” said Flotilla 2-4 Commander John Carpenter.

Since the multi-screen theater was also showing “Kung Fu Panda,” “we provided US Coast Guard Auxiliary PFD Panda Award cards for distribution at the ticket desk for children attending that movie.”

Other Ithaca Flotilla 2-2 members manning the table were: Vinton “Bo” Stevens, John Frieman, Diana Robinson, Walt Robinson, Tom Every, Henry “Bodge” Hyatt, Dave Cornelius and D. Michael Beeching.

Other Oswego Flotilla 2-4 members manning their table were: Sara Powers, Tim Kerstetter, Graig Arcuri and John Gadjo.



Auxiliarists Dave Cornelius, Vinton Stevens and Tom Every helped staff the booth at Ithaca Mall.



Auxiliarists Walt & Diana Robinson staffing the booth at Ithaca Mall. Photos by Gene Little, Flotilla 22.

“ We provided information on Auxiliary membership, vessel examination, and general boating safety. ”

**Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**

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Raising awareness through a true story of heroism



*Rear Adm. Linda Fagan, commander of the First Coast Guard District, is mobbed by news media at the Boston premiere of *The Finest Hours* on Jan. 28 at AMC Loews Boston Common Theater. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cynthia Oldham.*

A number of Auxiliarists were out for the opening weekend of “The Finest Hours,” the Walt Disney movie about the Coast Guard’s 1952 heroic rescue of a crew from a tanker that had split in two during a ferocious storm off Cape Cod.

But they weren’t out just to see the film about BM1 Bernie Webber and crew who rescued 32 men. They staffed Coast Guard Auxiliary tables at movie theaters.

“Our intent was to leverage public awareness of the Coast Guard Auxiliary – who we are and what we do – after they watched this outstanding movie about the heroic effort and rescue under extreme conditions,” noted Ithaca Flotilla 2-2 Commander Gene Little.

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