

Volume XLI

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NINTH DISTRICT EASTERN REGION

The Eastwind

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

EASTWIND BEST IN NATION

MEET THE NEW BRIDGE

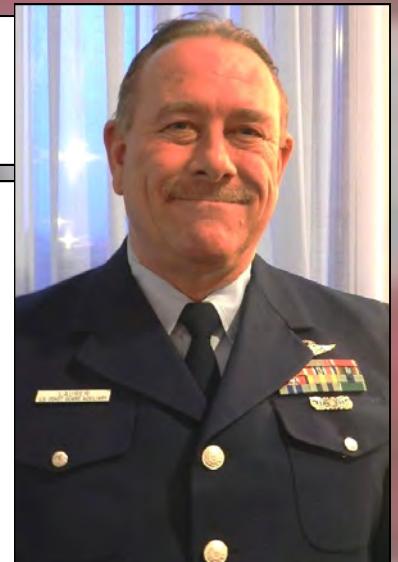
ADMIRAL HAILS
SELFLESS SERVICE



Full Scale SAR Exercise on Oneida Lake

From the Bridge

District Commodore Robert Laurer



We are getting ready to embark on a very exciting journey as Auxiliarists over the next two years. We have a great staff in place and added a third District Captain to help us run the District. I would like to thank the out-going officers, Division Commanders Cummings, Taylor and Suda, and Staff Officers Bert Paultk, Perry Figliotti and Dan Stearns. In order to maintain some continuity with the past I have asked Perry and Dan to remain on the staff as ADSO's so we can hit the ground running in 2013.

Welcome aboard to the new officers, DCDRs John Steinbarge, Mike Bialsezewski, Bob Young and Bob Daley. Also reporting for duty on the staff is Lou Cummings as DSO-SR, Linda Taylor as DSO-FN. We have also added a new Diversity Officer:

Commodore Al Knish. Commodore Knish has also been appointed our new Civil Rights Coordinator who will partner with the active duty CRC's when the need arises. Many thanks to Commodore Knish for accepting these very important roles. Thank you to the Officers who accepted our offer to continue in their roles for another year. For 2013 we have added a third District Captain, Tony Ruque, to manage logistics. Tony joins Bob Scofield and Mike McGrath, in a District Captain role for 9ER. It is my special honor to welcome our new District Chief of Staff, Ed Monaco. Mr. Monaco brings many years of leadership and business experience to the District. We have worked together on many successful projects over the years, the result will be solid leadership performance for 9ER.

Many thanks to Commodore Rudiger for her great leadership over the last three years. Commodore Rudiger was a successful, dynamic and compassionate leader we could all rally around. Commodore Rudiger brought to us a sense of focus and direction that resulted in 405,019 volunteer hours by Ninth Eastern Region members. Her mentoring and leadership motivated the entire region to perform at a very high level. During our time together Commodore Rudiger was an outstanding counselor, particularly adept in solving problems encountered by the members and leadership team of Nine ER. Commodore Rudiger, we in the Ninth Eastern Region, are truly grateful for your leadership of and service to our district. Thank you again, Commodore Rudiger, for a job very well done!

We have been busy working on the following items prior to the transition in January so we can continue the momentum we have built up over the past three years. Our focus in these areas will guarantee the success of the district as we face the future:

- ◆ 2013 District Operational Plan
- ◆ Symposium 2013 Planning
- ◆ 2013 "10 Point" District Improvement Plan
- ◆ 2013 Fall Conference
- ◆ 2013 Administrative Needs Calendar
- ◆ Use of Skype and WebEx to improve District Communications

Those are just a few of the issues; however we will also focus on three deliverables in the "10 Point" Plan:

1. We must continue to attract the best and the brightest Staff Officers to all levels of the District structure to ensure excellence in service delivery to the Sectors, Members and our Customers in the boating public.

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From the Bridge

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Cover photo: Coxswain Deb Somers of Oswego Flotilla 24 takes a turn at the helm of an auxiliary facility from Bridgeport Flotilla 2-14. Her crew deployed six of eight dummies representing victims in a mass casualty exercise on Oneida Lake. The exercise involved multiple fire and law enforcement agencies, and was planned by Auxiliarist Dale Currier and BM1 David Machinski of Station Oswego. Photo by Robert Stronach

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The Eastwind

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Cover Story

'Mass casualties' on Oneida Lake

A 38-foot go-fast boat leaves a party on the north shore of Oneida Lake and speeds along at 67 miles per hour when it runs over a 16-foot aluminum runabout fishing boat on the west side of the lake near buoy 133.

The collision demolishes the smaller boat and injures its five occupants. The go-fast boat sputters wildly out of control for almost a mile before breaking apart and tossing people out along the way. Two of the three people on board are seriously hurt and one is dead. A man, two women and a child who were on the fishing boat are in the water with severe injuries. A second child is fatally hurt.

Another boater calls Oswego County 9-1-1 operators who notify local first responders and the Coast Guard.

Thus, the scenario was set for a full-scale afternoon and nighttime search-and-rescue (SAR) exercise on Oct. 13, planned by the BM1 David Machinski, operations officer at Station Oswego, and AUXOP Dale Currier, a FEMA master exercise practitioner (MEP) with Syracuse Flotilla 21.

"The goal is to recover eight persons," Currier said at a pre-exercise briefing involving personnel from all five flotillas in Division 2.



BM1 David Machinski, left, and AUXOP Dale Currier brief members from Division 2's five flotillas (below). Photos by Bob Stronach.

Noted Machinski: "So many different departments work the lake...We're working with fire departments to teach the basics of search patterns." He said it involved building a cooperative working relationship, and, Currier added later, it's part of an effort to reinvigorate the Oneida Lake SAR Council.



Cover Story

Marine units from Brewerton, Cleveland and West Monroe fire departments responded to the initial call at about 4:30 p.m. A Coast Guard 25-foot response boat from Station Oswego joined the search about 45 minutes later as well as Oneida County Sheriff's marine patrol from the east side of 22-mile-long Oneida Lake.

With Machinski acting as incident commander, auxiliaries and agency liaisons staffed a command post at Trade-a-Yacht Marina where two mobile communications units were set up from Oswego and Oneida counties. Auxiliarist controllers/evaluators (John Conroy, John Steinbarge, Dan Welch) accompanied the crews of the fire and sheriff's boats.

Two auxiliary facilities from Bridgeport Flotilla 2-14, sporting crews from multiple flotillas, were pre-positioned on the lake, one at the collision point, where the search would start, and the other along a line of "debris" and "bodies" in the water. The latter boat deployed six mannequin heads attached to life jackets and chemical lights. Each had a number corresponding to victims with specified injuries, which would help the rescue boats evaluate conditions before bringing victims ashore to meet imaginary EMS squads. In addition, the Coast Guard response boat deployed two life-size Oscar mannequins representing deceased victims.

There were some 45 participants on the water and ashore, Currier noted, plus observers from Ithaca Fire Department, interested in doing an exercise with the Coast Guard Auxiliary on Cayuga Lake, and the NY State Police scuba diving team. With two-thirds of the exercise conducted in the dark, and with deteriorating weather that included wind-whipped waves, falling temperatures, and periods of rain and sleet, Currier noted



PA SUPPORT: Dan Golley provided public affairs support at the joint incident command post and served as the ashore photographer. Dan Garcia took care of signing people in at the command post. Terri LaVergne Kunz, Melaine Paatz and Robert Stronach served as photographers on the water.

that the fire and law enforcement crews were able to recover five of the eight victims before the exercise was called. At least one of the other victims floated into shallow areas near shore. In a real incident, ground teams would join the search to find such victims.

Several participants were interested in doing a



Melaine Paatz, Helen Cummings and Tom Paatz prepare to greet rescue boats at the starting point of the search, where the boats in the scenario had collided. The Auxiliarists were aboard the second facility owned by M. Kimber. Bill Cummings served as coxswain. Photo by Terri LaVergne Kunz.

Cover Story



First responders and Coast Guard and Auxiliary personnel huddle at the incident command post for a "hotwash" debriefing immediately following the exercise.

"hotwash" debriefing right away, rather than getting together later in the week. A deep crowd of participants gathered around Machinski, Currier and a board with charts of Oneida Lake, lit up by the headlights of a communications bus.

It's "a very effective way to capture important information when it's fresh on people's minds," Currier said. Participants talked about their experience and offered "some suggestions for further follow-up to improve operational performance." He added: "Some participants noted they had no idea how difficult it really is to function at night and run specific SAR patterns."

It is important to note that the full scale exercise did not happen overnight, Currier said. It was the result of two years of collaborating with Oneida Lake first responders, building rapport, and conducting several orientation and tabletop exercises -- including an advanced tabletop exercise (TTX) last spring that led to the October exercise on the lake.

"The large advanced tabletop last spring blew us away with participation," Currier said. "Over 50 people from local, county, state and federal agencies attended, representing law enforcement, fire, emergency management, 9-1-1 centers, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Coast Guard from Sector Buffalo, and three county fire coordinators' offices. Based on our interim fact finding, we had prepared some unique ways of assessing certain skills, such as plotting and chart work, by building it into activities to support the scenario. Other similar embedded exercise activities got the groups to 'self-identify' many areas where they could use help

or needed to improve their capabilities. So, building on the progressively more complex and difficult 'building block' approach to training exercises, the October full scale exercise was created using a very similar incident scenario."

The exercise accomplished an essential goal -- getting multiple agencies to work together in a catastrophic scenario and discover what they need to address to do it better next time (everything from being able to communicate on the same marine radio channel to developing standard operating procedures for responding to incidents on Oneida Lake).

The good news is, Currier reported, "agencies who don't typically train together found ways to integrate their respective knowledge, skills and experience into a workable search."

- Robert Stronach
Contributing Editor

How to Conduct Tabletop Exercise

FEMA Master Exercise Planner Dale Currier is working with Division 2 Commander John Steinbarger to offer a two-day training in February on how to design and conduct a Seminar and Tabletop Exercise (TTX). It's open to all divisions in Ninth District Eastern Region. Tentative date is Feb 2, 2013. Location: TBD. Contact Currier at dale.a.currier@gmail.com; home phone: 315-342-3924.

Around the District

Division 5 Past Leadership Recognized

ASHTABULA, OH - Division 5 held a recognition event for past Captains, Commanders and District Commodores on 16 October, at Ashtabula Township Hall. Officer of the Day, William O'Brien, opened with the pledge and did a "Passing Over the Bar" ceremony.

The first Captain in 1967 was Carl Gechellor, and presently is Shirley Baker. DCO Nick Virgillio and DCO Rupert Harris families were in attendance to accept the award. Those families members present were very appreciative for the recognition, and for those dedicating their time to make the event a success. Their loved ones, passed on, would have greatly appreciated it. A lot of memories and great stories were recounted.

Certificates were handed out by District Captain Mike McGrath, DCDR Shirley Baker, VDCDR Dennis Baker, FC George Feschenko and FC Clyde Davis.

Ashtabula active duty Coast Guard were in attendance for the ceremony, along with Ohio Department of Watercraft. Refreshments and fellowship concluded the ceremony.

In memory of all the great Captains, Commanders and District Commodores from Division 5.

- Shirley Baker
DCDR
Division 5



Photo by Robert Zajack

Auxiliary members, active duty personnel, and family members all gathered to recognize Division 5 past leadership.

Ninth Eastern adds Air Observers



USCG Auxiliary pilot Bruce Burditt (L) presents a certificate of completion for the Air Observer Qualification to Auxiliary Air Observer Richard Evans. Both are members of Flotilla 11, Massena, NY.

Photo by Richard Evans

MASSENA, NY - An integral part of the Auxiliary AUX-AIR program are Air Observers (OBS). Qualified Air Observers fly as crewmembers, under orders, for various AUXAIR missions.

Initial OBS qualification includes medical certification, passing Part A of the Air Operations examination, and 10 hours of flight time as a trainee. Continued qualification involves in-the-water survival training and participation in Auxiliary or FAA sponsored Aviation Safety Workshops.

Ninth Eastern recently added new Air Observers Rich Evans, Sue Hayne, both from Flotilla 11, and Mark Thomas, Flotilla 48. These new additions bring the District total to 15 OBS.

- Bob Fratangelo
DSO-AV

Around the District

Division 7 Stamps Youth Odyssey Passports



Auxiliarist Bruce Harris (R) explains the dangers of a lowhead dam to event attendees. Photo by Andy Killian

CLEVELAND, OH - Division 7 Auxiliarists were invited to be part of the Youth Outdoor Odyssey at the Cleveland Metroparks Canal Way on Saturday, 13 October. This annual fall event gave youngsters and their families the opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor activities. It was sponsored by the Cleveland Metroparks, the Ohio State University Extension, the 4-H Club, and the City of Cleveland.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary had two tables under a tent that displayed a lowhead dam model, nautical knots, and an assortment of life jackets. All exhibitors were located in an area with no electricity, so in order to operate the model lowhead dam (borrowed from Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Watercraft Division), an extension cord was connected to a generator operated by an "Auxiliary friendly" food vendor.

When children arrived at the Youth Outdoor Odyssey, they were given "passports". When visiting each exhibit or activity, they were given a special stamp in their "passports". The Auxiliary had a "penguin" stamp. A completed "passport" with a variety of stamps from different exhibits and activities gave the children an opportunity to redeem a prize at the registration desk.

- Virginia Suda
CDR
Division 7

Over 1,200 were in attendance at the Youth Outdoor Odyssey. Everyone enjoyed connecting themselves to nature on a beautiful fall afternoon. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is looking forward to being part of this event in 2013 .

Division 3 Supports Buffalo Navy Week

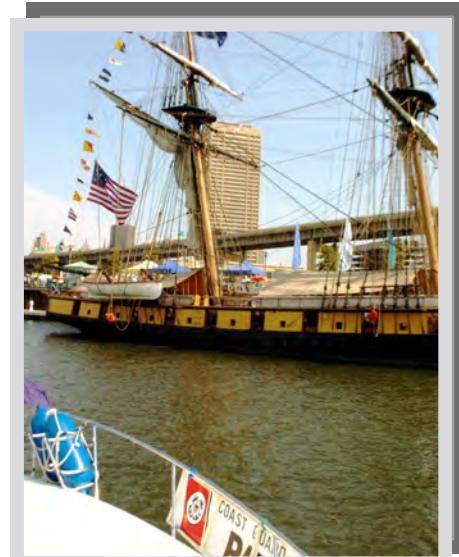
BUFFALO, NY - Buffalo Navy Week, 11-18 September, commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and 'The Star-Spangled Banner' with US Navy, US Coast Guard, and Royal Canadian Navy ship visits to the Port of Buffalo.

The Navy played a major role in the War of 1812, including the Battle of Lake Erie on 10 Sept 1813, when Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry won a decisive victory, and Perry sent this widely quoted message in his report to Gen. William Henry Harrison: "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

Division 3 provided two vessels daily, patrolling the exclusion area around the ships.

- Jeremy Lewis
SO-PB
Division 3

Auxiliary patrol vessel glides by the tall ship "Niagara", Admiral Perry's flagship during the Battle of Lake Erie. Photo by Jeremy Lewis



Around the District

“Christmas Past” in Division 5

ROAMING SHORES, OH - In Charles Dicken's classic story “ A Christmas Carol”, the main character takes a step back in time to “a Christmas Past”. Auxiliary members from Flotilla 56 had a chance to take their own step back in time by resurrecting a simple Christmas tradition - sending Christmas cards to Veterans Homes.

It all began when George Freschenko, FC for 56, was attending the funeral service for Al Sabroco, one of the flotilla founding members. One of Al's friends remarked how some Veterans Homes would miss the Christmas cards that Al would do for them every year. George had an idea that he took back to his next flotilla meeting. It was voted that Flotilla 56 members would buy cards and address them for several local Veterans Homes; Georgetown and Sandusky, OH, and the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie, PA.

A combined effort by Flotilla 56, along with, the Ashtabula and Erie Detachments, resulted in over 950 Christmas cards being addressed and delivered, making sure that every veteran, in each of the three homes, got a Christmas card.

“God bless us, every one!” said Tiny Tim, the last of all...

A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens 1843



Photo by George Freschenko

Flotilla 56 members enjoy a pizza party while addressing hundreds of Christmas cards for Veterans Homes.

- George Freschenko
FC
Flotilla 56

Honors at Division 7 Change of Watch

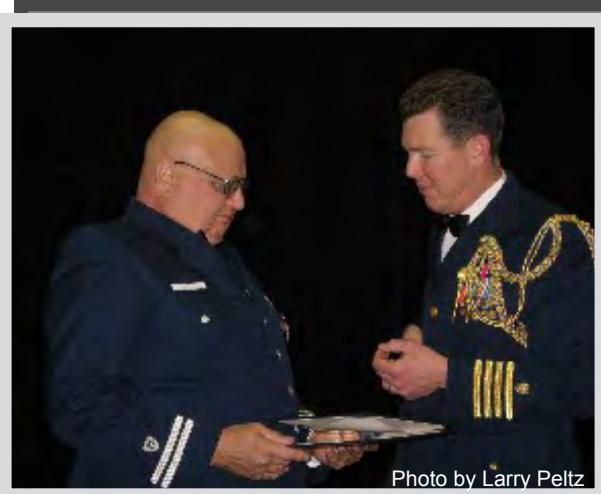


Photo by Larry Peltz

George Zieffle (L) accepts Auxiliary Achievement Medal, awarded by USCG Captain John Bingaman.

CLEVELAND, OH - At the Division 7 Change of Watch, 2 December, USCG Captain John Bingaman, Chief of Staff for the Ninth Coast Guard District, presented the Auxiliary Achievement Medal for “Superior Performance of Duty” to Auxiliarist George Zieffle.

Auxiliarist Zieffle was the Executive Aide for Captain Bingaman from October 2011 to March 2012. His duties included, but were not limited to, the “day to day tracking of key projects and initiatives that advanced the Ninth District’s Great Lakes Maritime Strategy.”

The Auxiliary Achievement Medal is awarded for superior administrative or operational service.

- Virginia Suda
CDR
Division 7

District Conference



CG leaders bring message of preparedness, proficiency

The new director of the Auxiliary for the Ninth District brought a message of preparedness and safety to the Fall District Conference, held Sept. 13-16 at the Crowne Plaza in Syracuse, NY.

Create a disaster preparedness plan "for your family," Commander Nathan Podoll urged at Friday's board and staff meeting. "Knowing hazards is the first step to mitigating anything that could go wrong."

With preparedness in mind, it's vital for each Auxiliary member to update his or her personal information in the Everbridge web-based alert system. "Part of fellowship in the Coast Guard is making sure everyone is okay (especially when disaster or crisis occurs)," he said. "That's where Everbridge comes in." It's important for members to respond to Everbridge alerts, whether it's a drill, informational or during a real event. Coupled with the skills bank, Everbridge also "is important in daily operations," allowing the Coast Guard to "work smarter and provide opportunities" to Auxiliarists with needed skills.

Commander Podoll went on to laud the Eastern Region for its efforts to educate the boating public and promote water safety -- for "getting people smarter." The past year saw a 27 percent jump in the number of people going kayaking -- "the largest increase in outdoor recreation." The need for safety education is urgent. Even experienced outdoorsmen can fall into the trap of not thinking ahead, such as a friend in Alaska (where the commander served on CG Cutter

Munro) who tried kayaking only to find himself upside down in 38-degree water.

Water-related fatalities nationally jumped 13 percent to 758. However, "in large part to your efforts, the number of fatalities in Great Lakes Region continues to go down." He added: "Continue spreading the message" and "make sure people wear life jackets and don't drink" and go boating.

Thanking Auxiliarists for their patriotism, selflessness and service to others, Commander Podoll reminded them to "do the right thing" and "put the core values (of honor, respect and devotion to duty) first."

THEN MR. PAUL BARLOW, assistant director of the Auxiliary for Ninth District, spoke of the Coast Guard Commandant's vision for proficiency and initiative. The vision's three anchors are "proficiency in craft, proficiency in leadership, and disciplined initiative."

"Proficiency in craft..." is what you're all about" -- such things as boating safety, vessel examinations and AuxChefs. It's a "continuous learning process."

"Proficiency in leadership" -- being able to "inspire and motivate" -- means "seeking all leadership opportunities you can get...continuing to learn and do better."

"Disciplined initiative" relates to practicing and drilling. "It's grounded in standard operating procedures... with core values in mind."

District Conference

District awards recognize outstanding performance

Recognition for outstanding performance was a recurring event at the Fall District Conference as Commodore Nancy Rudiger, Commander Nathan Podoll and Rear Admiral Michael Parks presented awards.

Commodore Rudiger found herself the focus of attention when Admiral Parks presented her with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal, citing her for advancing the strategic objectives of the Coast Guard's Great Lakes Maritime Strategy.

Commodore Robert Laurer received the Coast Guard Auxiliary Commendation Medal "for outstanding achievement" as chief of staff from 2010 to 2012.

District Legal Officer Douglas Cream of East Aurora, NY received the Coast Guard Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal for work with national Auxiliary offices and in joint U.S./Canadian Coast Guard exercises.

The Sylvan Beach, NY Flotilla 26 search-and-rescue team of David Troutman, Robert Newton, Ralph Moore and Mitch Ford received the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation "for exceptionally meritorious service" July 5-6, while searching for survivors of a fatal boating accident on Oneida Lake.

Dale Currier of Syracuse Flotilla 21 received the coveted AUXOP (Auxiliary Operations) Device, recognizing completion of rigorous courses and training.

Eastwind best in nation

Eastwind has been judged the best district publication in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, grabbing first place in the 2012 National Publications Contest. Outgoing District 9ER Commodore Nancy Rudiger hailed the hard work of Editor Mark Thomas, who has been district staff officer for publications since January 2009. Entries were evaluated on design, layout, writing quality, photojournalism, and use of Associated Press Style and Coast Guard PA Style.



Admiral Parks pins Meritorious Service Medal on Commodore Rudiger.

District Member Training Officer Clark Godshall of Barker, NY received the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Device, recognizing "extraordinary effort" and "compiling 120 points (hours) per year for two consecutive years."

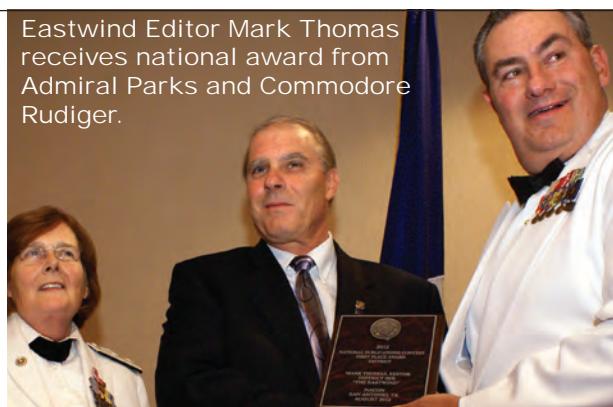
Nine earned Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medals.

- District Captains Michael McGrath and Robert Scofield.
- Division 2 Cmdr. Helen "Lou" Cummings of Utica, NY.
- Division 4 Commander Linda Taylor of Rochester, NY.
- Donald Tedford of Chaumont, NY, past cmdr., Flotilla 12.
- Division 7 Commander Virginia Suda of Lakewood, OH.
- Glen Harman, Canton, OH, dist. staff officer-vessel exam.
- District Training Officer Clark Godshall of Barker, NY.
- Div. 2 Vice Cmdr. John Steinbarger, Baldwinsville, NY.

Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation went to:

- Helen and Steeg Johnson of Williamsville, NY, district staff officers for materials.
- District Operations Officer Lew Wargo of Clarence, NY.
- David Troutman of Rome, NY, and Flotilla 26.
- Robert Moscato of Lancaster, NY, and Flotilla 32.

Eastwind Editor Mark Thomas receives national award from Admiral Parks and Commodore Rudiger.



District Conference

Admiral Parks cites Eastern Region's selfless service

"All the work you do I call preventative search and rescue," Ninth District Commander Rear Admiral Michael N. Parks told banquet-goers at the District 9ER Fall Conference. "It helped us hold the line on water-related deaths" in the Great Lakes area.

"The part about the Auxiliary that is so important... is where you help our young men and women on the front line... You care about us."

The admiral offered some "examples of selfless service" in the Eastern Region:

- Division 7 conducted safety patrols during the Cleveland Air Show over Labor Day weekend, and staffed a boating safety booth at the War of 1812 Bi-centennial commemoration at the Port of Cleveland.
- Division 5 conducted Summer Fest for 875 disabled/handicapped adults and children, assisting with dock-side donning of life jackets and boarding of boats.
- Division 2's Flotilla Base 26 supported Coast Guard Station Oswego, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police and the local fire department in a search for survivors, following a fatal boating accident on Oneida Lake. "The base's efforts coordinating communication across multiple agencies and providing SAR (search-and-rescue) assets, to conduct exhaustive searches, was praised by all involved."
- Division 1, 3 and 4 assisted Sector Buffalo, as well as MSD Massena, in oil boom deployment, with more than eight auxiliary members and three facilities participating.
- Division 3 was supporting the high-profile War of 1812 Commemorative and Navy Week events in Buffalo, conducting 16 patrols in direct support of the Coast Guard.
- AUXAIR conducted an aerial search for a missing sailboat in August. After four AUXAIR flights, with more than 13 hours flight time, the sailboat was



located 30 miles north-northwest of Station Erie.

- Auxiliarist Paul Leuchner headed up the annual Paddles Up Niagara event held at Beaver State Park on Grand Island, NY, attracting more than 200 paddlers for a day of paddle sports education on and off the water.
- Compared to 2011, Eastern Region marine dealer visits stand at more than 1,200, or 105 percent, for 2012. Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) are at 118 percent, with more than 3,100 performed. "On top of that, the members of 9th Eastern have conducted 281 boating education classes, and 378 safety patrols with 1,145 hours underway. Most impressive, you saved six lives and assisted 53 others. That's excelling at mission execution!"

He noted: "You continued to have distinguished yourselves...We asked you to deliver, and you did."

Admiral Parks concluded his remarks by saying he was recently asked what he thought was the Auxiliary's greatest challenge. "Recruiting" was what came to mind. "I challenge you to find those who will be us 20 years from now."

And he added: "You are the finest volunteer organization in the world. I truly believe that in my heart."

-- Robert Stronach
Contributing Editor

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Operations

PWC as OPFAC? What is that?

You know that the Auxiliary likes acronyms so some of you are looking at the headline and asking what does it mean? It's a Personal Watercraft (PWC) being used as an Operational facility (OPFAC).

Personal watercrafts are good at helping to maintain a safety perimeter, assisting a person in the water (PIW) and interacting with people operating small watercraft such as canoes and kayaks. Here are examples where a PWC can be used as an OPFAC.

The PWCs have been used during the annual Sodus Point Triathlon. If you're not familiar with a triathlon, it is comprised of a bike course, running course and a swim. The swim starts from the beach, goes out into the lake, passes two markers and back to the beach -- a distance of approxi-

mately one-half mile. The PWCs' main purpose is the safety of the swimmers. First, the PWCs, with assistance from the other facilities (boats), help to maintain a safety perimeter by keeping other vessels out of the designated area. Second, the PWCs help those triathlon participants that are having trouble traversing the course. These participants may need a resting spot to help them get their breath to finish. Others may have problems because of the hypothermia. The water temps for the events have been from 48° to 70°.

PWCs are easy to trailer. This past summer a couple of PWCs were trailered from our normal AOR (Area of Operation), Sodus Bay, to Station Niagara to help with an event on the lower Niagara River. Youngstown Yacht Club calls it "The Niagara River Cruise 'n' Schmooze," which benefits the "Jack Beatty Memorial Hospice Regatta." This event has members of the Yacht Club donate the use of their boats. In return, guests make a donation to Hospice. The flotilla of boats makes its way from the Yacht Club up river towards the Lewiston Bridge. Once there the boats raft together for cocktails, snacks and live music. Yes, live



Joanne Monnat (Flotilla 44) on a personal watercraft working with Station Sodus Point operational facility. Photo by Sheila Rigerman

music by musicians on a pontoon boat. The OPFAC boats and PWCs float down river with the armada towards the mouth of the river to help make sure the flotilla stays in US waters and to keep other boats from cutting through the event.

When the PWCs are used on a safety patrol in conjunction with a boat, they become an extension of the boat. A PWC can be used in shallow water areas a boat cannot access. The PWC can take a line from the OPFAC boat to a boat needing assistance that for some reason is in shallow water. A PWC may be able to get to an incident faster than the OPFAC boat they are operating with. This allows the PWC to possibly be first on scene. The quicker response time can save valuable time assessing the situation and relaying what assets may be needed back to the station.

How about using your PWC as an OPFAC and getting trained to be a PWO?

- Doug Rigerman
VFC
Flotilla 44

Leadership

Meet the New Bridge



Photo by Robert Stronach

The new year brings new District leadership for 2013. Meet the leaders that will chart the course and meet the challenges for the Auxiliary's Ninth District, Eastern Region...

Robert Laurer takes over as Commodore after serving as past Commodore Rudiger's Chief-of-Staff. Laurer joined the Auxiliary in 1999. Working out of Flotilla 16 in Alexandria Bay, NY, he held staff jobs including public education officer and publications officer. During that time he also functioned as division publications officer. He held leadership posts as flotilla commander and Division 1 Commander before moving up to district chief of staff. Laurer is a qualified coxswain and air crew member. He also is a vessel examiner and instructor. His career outside the Auxiliary includes 31 years with Eastman Kodak and the past eight years with Ortho Clinical Diagnostics in Rochester, NY. Laurer resides in Williamson, NY with his wife Carmella and daughter Arline, both of whom are active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Laurer



Monaco

Monaco was elected District Captain in 2010 and 2011, and then appointed as district staff officer for communications. Monaco is a registered architect who has operated his own firm in Akron, OH for the past 28 years. He graduated from Canon McMillan High School in Canonsburg, PA and attended Penn State University in State College, PA for a year before transferring to Kent State University where he received both bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture. Monaco and his wife, Jodi, reside in Cuyahoga Falls, OH, and have two daughters, Amanda and Lauren.

Robert Scofield begins his second term as a District Captain. Joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2003, Scofield has served in various flotilla staff officer positions and was elected commander of Flotilla 15 in 2007

Leadership

and 2008. In 2010 and 2011 he served as Division 1 commander.

Scofield is the retired superintendent of schools for Hammond Central School after serving in that position for 21 years and after being in education for 34 years. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from SUNY Oswego and a master's degree and certificate of advanced standing from St. Lawrence University. Scofield and his wife, Jo-lene, reside in Hammond, NY and have two daughters Jackie, who is a Coast Guard auxiliarist, and Heather.



Michael McGrath begins his second term as a District Captain. A member of the Auxiliary since 2002, McGrath has served as Division 3 training officer as well as elected positions of flotilla commander, division vice commander and division commander. He also served for six years on the District level as members' training officer, coordinating bi-annually the Eastern Region District Conference training and also assisting in the District 9 combined Symposium that was first held in Pontiac, Michigan in 2008

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, McGrath served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966 to 1970, and in 1968 he was transferred from duty in Vietnam to Lockport, NY to a radar site detached out of Niagara Falls Air Force Base. This is where he met his wife Elaine Jack from Lewiston, NY and then married in 1969. They have two married daughters and four grandchildren. He is retired from Delphi/Harrison Radiator in Lockport, NY and he currently resides in Newfane, NY

Anthony Ruque, the newest District Captain,

began his Coast Guard Auxiliary career in 1995 in Flotilla 76 in Fairport Harbor, OH, and immediately became active in the boat crew program. In the next couple of years he would gain qualifications as crew, coxswain, communications watchstander, 41-foot Utility Boat (UTB) crew and engineer, instructor, and vessel examiner. He also served as vice commander and then commander of Flotilla 76, followed by terms as vice commander and commander of Division 7. Ruque is a 47-foot Motor Life Boat (MLB) engineer, and 25-foot Response Boat crew member for Coast Guard Station Fairport. He is also an officer of the deck (OOD) in training for the station. He holds a Coast Guard 100 Gross Tons Master's License. He is the Area Qualifications Examiner (QE) Coordinator for Divisions 5, 6 and 7, and serves as national Branch Chief for Response, Surface, Qualifications.



Ruque is a tenured computer science professor at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, OH. He is also 50 percent owner of a small computer company in Euclid, OH. He holds associate's, bachelor's, and MBA degrees. Ruque and his wife, Laurie, reside in Mentor, OH, and have two sons, and a daughter, Nelson, Steve, and Kate.

- Robert Stronach
Contributing Editor



Sergeant David Bacchus has been a member of the South Australian Police (SAPOL) Water Operation Unit for over 17 years.

David is a Search Mission Controller, and provides training to police from all States of Australia and New Zealand in Search and Rescue. He holds a Master 5 marine qualification and is a Part 3 Diving Supervisor (Surface supplied diving to 50 metres [164 feet]).

David and his Water Operations Unit are based in Adelaide, capital of the state of South Australia.



Guest Essayist: David Bacchus
Sergeant, SAPOL, Water Operations Unit

Training is Essential whether Rescue or Recovery

Australia is much the same size as the US. It is the planet's sixth largest country, the smallest continental land mass, and the world's largest island with almost 3 million square miles. As an island, it is completely surrounded by water so there are over 22,000 miles of coast and nearly 7,000 beaches. There are six Australian states, one of which is South Australia.



Land mass comparison: US-Australia

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) has the legislated responsibility to manage Search and Rescue (SAR) within its borders. In a marine perspective it achieves this through the SAPOL Water Operations Unit, a small specialist unit of 15 fulltime police officers who are all dual trained to a Master 5 level in vessel operation and as commercially certified divers to a depth of 50 metres. Members also train in other specialist roles such as "Search Mission Control".

With a State coastline of over 3000 miles including offshore islands, much of which is unpopulated and remote, the Unit also relies heavily on the 500 plus volunteer marine rescue members based throughout the State. Volunteer Marine Rescue in South Australia incorporates seven separate organisations operating under a common banner of Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR). With such a wide range of specialist responsibilities and the numerous competencies contained within each, training is a major focus for the unit. Similarly, with seven separate VMR organisations operating under separate procedures and hierarchy, training is critical to ensure all organisations, including SAPOL, can operate seamlessly together.

The need for rigorous training was dramatically highlighted one evening when concerned relatives phoned police at 10:30 p.m. advising of two missing male adults who were kayaking in the vicinity of Kangaroo Island. Approximately 60 miles long, Kangaroo Island is situated 10

Eastwind Exclusive

nautical miles offshore from mainland Australia. Cape Jervis is a small community about an hour's drive from South Australia's capital, Adelaide and is the nearest point of land where ferries depart twice daily to Kangaroo Island. The stretch of water that flows between the Island and Cape Jervis is well known for poor conditions and strong currents, up to 3 knots.

Further enquiries revealed that the males were believed to have attempted to kayak to Kangaroo Island from Cape Jervis departing at approximately 7:00 a.m. They were inexperienced and using hired kayaks. The estimated time frame for survival was three to five hours, if immersed.

With a 14 hour head start, a major SAR operation was immediately commenced. This included two helicopters, one fixed wing aircraft, one police boat, 14 VMR boats from four separate organisations in addition to land search parties and numerous police operating in various command and support roles. The

first planned search leg for the vessels was 25 nautical miles long and occurred initially in darkness. The search effort culminated in the locating of both persons (tragically deceased) in addition to the kayak and a single paddle between 7 and 10 a.m. the following day.

Although the males were found deceased, what stood out was the cumulative training effort that allowed vessels from five separate organisations (including police) to operate in a hazardous area, in close proximity to each other, and in total darkness. A vessel search was conducted over approximately 170 square nautical miles resulting in the locating of the deceased males, providing some small comfort to the relatives, and forming an integral part of the following coronial investigation.

At no time does the critical need for thorough training become more apparent than in unexpected emergencies such as this.

- *Sgt. David Bacchus
SAPOL*

Diving activity usually means recovery, and SAPOL divers train to the highest standards. Continuous training efforts by the entire Water Operations Unit assure efficient and safe mission execution during time-critical rescue or recovery incidents. SAPOL photo



SAPOL Photo

All weather 65-foot vessel provides a base of operations for any SAR or recovery effort by the SAPOL's Water Operations Unit.



CG Stations

USCG Station Lorain



Photo by Joe Weatherby III

LORAIN, OH - Station Lorain is on the western end of Sector Buffalo's AOR on Lake Erie. The station is on the Black River in Lorain, Ohio and is home to 21 active duty Coast Guard, and the station's dog, "Hawkeye", a young golden lab. The station is the center of operations for Flotilla 4, in Division 6. Activities are also supported by four other Flotillas from Akron to Huron, Ohio.

The station's AOR is 15 miles wide from Avon Point to just West of the Vermilion River and north 15 miles to the Canadian border in the middle of Lake Erie.

The station is under the leadership of BMC

Andrew Coppa, and is a multi-mission, small boat station that executes all Coast Guard missions, including search and rescue, ice rescue, maritime law enforcement and homeland security.



The station has no boat ramp, but has a belt hoist to remove its 41-foot UTB (Utility Boat Large), the last one in the Sector, for service and storage. It can accommodate the 45-foot RBM (Response Boat Medium) from Cleveland, and the station is scheduled to get a new 45-

foot RBM in the summer of 2013. It also has a 25-

CG Stations

foot RBM and a 15-foot Ice Rescue boat, and is the summer home to the Lorain County Sheriff's NBI (Northern Border Initiative) boat.

Lorain is a deep water port for ore carriers that supply taconite to the old U.S.Steel mill, about two miles up river, and to cement and stone companies on the river. Lorain is home to the yearly International



Festival of Nations and Bazaar, with over 30 ethnic and American food vendors. Numerous river tours & other activities are under the watchful eye of Station Lorain and the Auxiliary, such as Kayak races and Pro Walleye fishing tournaments.

Lorain's harbor is guarded by the Lorain Lighthouse, built in 1917, decommissioned in 1965, and now a historic landmark. Lorain Port Authority offers tours of the Lighthouse and river during the summer.

Left: Station Lorain main building and dock area. Top: 25-foot RBS Defender Class and 41-foot UTB, vintage 1975. Bottom right: Station Lorain's golden lab, **Hawkeye**. Photos by Jack Benton

Originally established by the US Lifesaving Service in 1904, Station Lorain continues to serve in the Coast Guard tradition of excellence.

- *Jack Benton
MCPO (ret)
FSO-OPS
Flotilla 64*

Diversity

Embracing Diversity

Imagine a flotilla where every member looks alike, thought a like, had the same education and experience. Just think how boring that would be, no new ideas or creative talents. No innovative ways to accomplish our missions or improve the way we do things. Nobody to rely upon for new and improved programs. This flotilla would only have those members who think alike to depend upon. The chances of this



flotilla succeeding relative to other flotillas with a membership full of diverse skills and talent would be very slim.

Now imagine a flotilla where the membership is inclusive of all regardless of their race, gender, age, education, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ethnicity, marital status, etc. This flotilla would be able to utilize the different skills and talents a diverse membership brings to the table. Just think of the variety of ideas and ways that a diverse team would present to achieving our flotilla's goals and objectives. These new and innovative ways not only help us accomplish our Auxiliary tasks, but make them more enjoyable.

Now what flotilla would you like to join? The one where everybody looks and thinks alike, or the one with a diverse membership where we appreciate and value the difference each member brings to our organization.

I would venture to say you would pick the diverse flotilla because of the benefit's a diverse flotilla brings to the organization. A diverse flotilla shows respect for those different from themselves and communicates that respect. I believe that everyone will agree that diversity is really about our respect for others and acknowledging that differences do exist and when we embrace the differences each of us has to offer we build a stronger and more stable organization.

- Allen J. Knish
DSO-DV

(Continued from Page 2; *From the Bridge, Robert Laurer*)

2. We will encourage targeted recruiting techniques to assist the region in attracting new members with needed skills and surface or aviation facilities.
3. We must improve District communication to insure our strategies, goals and expectations are clearly communicated and understood by the membership of the Ninth Eastern Region.

Our attention to these directives will remove many barriers and assist in making our day to day Auxiliary job easier.

Shipmates, thank you for all you have done in 2012. Your performance was stellar. I look forward to 2013, and another great year of service to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and our boating public. See you at the Symposium in Dearborn Michigan!

- Robert Laurer
District Commodore

Together We are Better!

District Captains



Michael McGrath District Captain



Greetings and hope all had a wonderful Christmas and made all your resolutions for the coming year. As we look back, we had a very busy year.

With this past year, we were introduced to the **Everbridge** system and many of its drills with e-mails. The big one came after the storm Sandy, which gave us a full blown drill with e-mails/home phone and cell phone calls. There was a lot to learn from this and corrections will be made in the upcoming drills. We had a 74% response rate shortly after the message was sent out. I thought that was great, but was informed that the real work was still ahead with accounting for the other 24%. It took nearly a week to account for all our members. Now it is time to put together a process for the accountability of our members and to do some training and educating so our members will know and understand what to do in the future.

Everyone should have received a letter from DCO Robert Laurer -Subject: Auxiliary Communication/ Member Action Required. This letter covered **AIMS** (Auxiliary Incident Management System), which uses the Everbridge system. Think of this as the old calling tree (phone tree). Also, the importance of the Skill Bank information, which provides the Coast Guard with a potential pool of resource expertise. There is an easy way for you to keep your personal contact and vocational information up-to-date by accessing it online using the 7028 web form found at <http://webforms.cgaux.org/forms/7028>. If you have a problem with updating information, contact your FSO-IS officer and he will be able to help. Please make every effort to update your skills profile and correct any information regarding e-mail, home addresses and phone numbers.

I want to thank all members that got involved with the 2012 **National Safe Boating Week**. It was highly successful, and I hope they enjoyed the events that each had scheduled. This year will be even better.

Many thanks to our generous members for the 2012 Auxiliary Contributions to **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance**. District 9ER did a great job with their support for this worthy cause.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	D9ER*
Member contribution	\$ 22,221	\$33,411	\$28,856	\$33,628	\$29,426	\$40,717	\$ 1,394

* 2012

As DCO Robert Laurer states at the end of his e-mails:

In whatever job we do, we do the very best we can, every single time. Either we do it top notch, or we don't do it all

- Unofficial motto of the US Coast Guard

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

*- Mike McGrath
District Captain, Prevention
mcjack31@gmail.com*



District Captains



Robert Scofield District Captain

I would like to congratulate the newly elected DCO - Robert Laurer and DCOS- Ed Monaco. I know they will lead the district forward with emphasis on making it better. I would also like to thank the excom and division commanders for their support in the election for district captain.

Another thank you that I would like to express is to the DSOs that make up the Response section. The DSOs do the heavy lifting for the district by making sure we are all abiding by the rules and regulations that come down from national and the gold side. They are also the ones who make sure those new ideas or procedures are instituted so that we keep pace with our gold side counterparts. The DSOs that make up the response section are: Commodore Lew Wargo- OPS, Robert Fratangelo- AV, Virginia Reker- MS, Mike Gabecki- NS, and Ed Monaco- CM. They all do a great job and we are lucky to have them volunteer their time to our organization. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.



Also, there two important issues that I would like you to share and discuss with boaters. First, on November 1st we reached a deadline date in NYS where all persons on the water must wear a life jacket, until May 1st, if they are on a vessel of less than 21 feet. Secondly, this summer, near Chippewa Bay, NY, there was a fatality from a water skier getting back on board the boat and being hit by the moving prop. I know we are in hard water season, but, if we have a chance to discuss boating during the winter, we should make mention of wearing lifejackets and turning the engine off before allowing someone to re-board the boat.

- Bob Scofield
District Captain, Response



Anthony Ruque District Captain



As District Captain of the USCG Auxiliary, Ninth District Eastern Region, I will be working with and supporting the Logistics team for 2013.
The Logistics team is composed of the following District staff officers:

DSO-AX	G. Moore	AUXOP
DSO-IS	R. Dobmeier	Information Systems
DSO-MA	H. Johnson	Materials
DSO-MT	C. Godshall	Member Training
DSO-HR	J. Stobinski	Human Resources
DSO-PB	M. Thomas	Publications
DSO-ID	L. Cummins/B. Cummins	ID Team
CQEC	COMO L. Wargo	Chief Qualification Examiner Coordinator

My congratulations to our DCO, Robert Laurer, and DCOS, Ed Monaco. I am looking forward to their leadership in 2013. I would also like to congratulate all the new Division Commanders and Vice-Commanders as well as our newly appointed staff officers at the District level and below. I am very excited for our new year. To the whole Logistics team: Please do not hesitate to contact me with any issues or recommendations that you may have. How does that famous saying go?.....Ah yes....."Together We Are Better!"

- Tony Ruque
District Captain, Logistics



Edward Monaco District Chief of Staff

To all of our Auxiliary membership, from the deck plate to the bridge, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the time and dedication that you give to our organization every year. Our mission statements find Auxiliarists providing Public Education, Vessel Exams, assisting the gold side and the general public through Air and Boat Operations, Communications, Publications, and the many other activities.

Recently, at our Fall Conference in Syracuse, NY, Admiral Parks was our guest speaker and honored guest. As he circulated through the crowd I had an opportunity to greet him and to have a

short discussion about the future of the US Coast Guard and the USCG Auxiliary. He reiterated the importance that our Auxiliary Missions have to the US Coast Guard and how the gold side relies on the Auxiliary to primarily educate the recreational boating public to be safe on the water. The many programs that we do emphasizing wearing life jackets and utilizing safety equipment on board your vessel help to keep the boating public safe. The gold side appreciates all that we do for them as this allows them to concentrate on other missions such as inspection of commercial vessels and search and rescue operations.

I asked Admiral Parks, in going forward, how does he see the Auxiliary working with the gold side in coming years. I asked him if there was anything we could do to assist the Coast Guard that we currently are not doing. His response to me was one that might affect us all in a way that is perhaps unexpected. The Admiral talked about helping the Coast Guard men and women on a one on one level. Ask yourself what does a young man or woman or family need at your local Coast Guard Station?

Our Auxiliary is comprised of members with numerous skills and experiences that could be shared with new recruits and their families at our small boat stations. Money management, changing brakes on the family car, caring for a new born addition to the family, parenting skills, cooking and nutrition, and many more skills are all second nature to many of our members. These skills, if offered and provided to the Coast Guard men and women close to home at our many small boat stations on the Great Lakes, would mean a great deal to them. Admiral Parks admitted that when he was a young recruit they meant a great deal to him. Those Auxiliarists that found the time to provide personal assistance and friendship to him as a young recruit had and continues to have a strong and positive influence on him throughout his continuing career in the Coast Guard.

This coming year, let's ask ourselves to take a second look at what we have to offer our US Coast Guard men and women right here in our District. One individual's efforts, friendship, and sharing can make a large difference in the lives and careers of our US Coast Guard service men and women.

*- Ed Monaco
District Chief of Staff*

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

7040 Benedict Beach
Hamlin, NY 14464

Official Business



Start planning now!

Combined District Symposium
Dearborn, Michigan
April 7-14, 2013

***“Best training opportunity of
the year - don’t miss the boat...”***