

Winter 2018

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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Official Newsletter of Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region



topside



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Leadership of 5NR

Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)
LCDR Victoria Taylor

Operations Training Officer (OTO)
CWO4 Richard Clark

District Commodore (DCO)
COMO Barry M. Kyper

District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)
Thomas J. Dever

District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)
Donald W. Merrill

District Captain East (DCAPT-E)
Joseph Smith, Sr.

District Captain West (DCAPT-W)
Robert G. Vanderhook

Immediate Past Commodore
COMO Kevin C. Murphy

President Past Captains Association
Lionel F. Crossman

D-AA Jason C. Flynn

D-AA Phil Walmsley

DSO-C Kevin L. Tyler, Vickie M. Tyler

DSO-C COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown

DSO-DV Marilyn F. Hughes

DSO-FN COMO Robert J. Perrone, Sr.

DSO-LP Martin C. Mooney Sr.

DSO-SL Harry W. Otto

DSO-SL Thomas J. Morrissey

DSO-SL COMO Richard L. Raudabaugh

DDC-Logistics Mark F. Letavish

DSO-CS Richard Taylor, III

DSO-FS Noreen Schifini

DSO-HR Thomas H. Brouillard

DSO-IS Lorraine Cannata

DSO-MA Lorraine Bianco

DSO-PB Timothy P Marks

DSO-SR Rita H. Kratzer

DDC-Prevention Alfred O. Grimminger

DSO-MS Laurie L. Huselton

DSO-MT Steven J. Marthouse

DSO-NS Matthew J. O'Brien Jr.

DSO-PA COMO Kevin C. Murphy

DSO-PE Robert N. Adams

DSO-PV Russell M. Galson

DSO-VE Edwin W. Seda

DDC-Response Douglas L. Smith

DSO-CM Richard F. Lord

DSO-IM Greg M. Stough

DSO-OP Douglas L. Smith



Cover Photograph: WILDWOOD, NJ - Warmer weather patrol season is starting soon within the District, now is the time to prepare your facility and conduct the inspection of safety gear and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) according to Coast Guard and Auxiliary policies.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio

From the Desk of the Commodore

Good Mentoring = Success

Indoctrination into the Auxiliary was vastly different from what it is today when I joined about sixteen years ago. Becoming a member required reading a pamphlet type manual and then taking a ten-question quiz. If you passed the quiz, you took the membership oath and you were in. The Flotilla Commander at the time even helped with the answers a bit to insure that everyone passed and became a member. One of the other positive activities that he did was to introduce new people to all of the other members in the Flotilla. Being the new kid on the block, one of the those current members spent a good bit of time talking to me, getting to know me and also talking to me about opportunities that were available to members. He took me under his wing and became my de facto mentor.



Commodore Barry Kyper
District Commodore
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Carl was also the Vice Flotilla Commander at the time and was shortly elected to the Commander's office. His Vice Flotilla Commander was a young friend of his and both men worked together as mentors to other new members in the Flotilla as well. As luck would have it, after the first term, the VFC moved to a Flotilla closer to his home which left the VFC position open. I was asked to take on the responsibility and considered it a high honor to be a rookie entrusted with this position of responsibility. I then followed Carl through several stages of leadership up to the Division Commander slot. I know Carl would have liked to go further, but he had a family with teen age children and his mantra was "family first" and rightly so. He remained active in the Auxiliary, but his priority was definitely with his family.

I am grateful for all of the advice and guidance that he provided to me. Carl was definitely a "by the book person" and he taught me volumes about the policies and practices of the Auxiliary. Through his steadfast reliance on the AUXMAN (which was a hard copy in those days and still in the 600- 700 page format), he taught me the value of using this resource as a problem solving guide throughout my Auxiliary experience. This served the purpose of providing instruction for completing tasks and for maintaining consistency and standardization of practice. He taught me how to be a good leader and encouraged me to follow this practice with other members that I interacted with as well.

Besides leading me through the challenges of becoming a good Auxiliary leader, Carl also got me involved in the operations program. He guided me through the Boat Crew training and qualification process and later through the Coxswain program. I entered the Auxiliary in the Air Operations program and getting involved in the boating program opened new vistas for me. I no longer am able to fly but am the proud owner of my second boat. I hesitate to say that none of this would have occurred had it not been for the outstanding mentorship provided by this past Auxiliarist of the Year for our Division. I am truly grateful for all that he has done for me as I moved through different aspects of the AUX. I would not have reached this level as District Commodore without the help and encouragement that was provided to me by my friend and mentor.

Continued on the next page...

From the Desk of the Commodore, continued

The purpose of this story is to relay how much of a difference that having a good mentor can make on the experience of a new, impressionable member. Taking a new member under wing and providing the guidance and direction for new members can go a long way in contributing to the success that a young member can experience as part of our organization. Leading members through the myriad of programs and possibilities available for members and then helping them to achieve success attaining qualification serves to solidify the connection between members and the institution. A good mentor can truly make all of the difference in whether a member stays with the Auxiliary and becomes a contributing member or that person loses interest and falls into the background.

With the District wide emphasis on recruiting and bringing new members into the Auxiliary, it is imperative that we simultaneously encourage and maintain a strong mentorship program. Having members willing to befriend, guide, and encourage new members will solidify the attachment of new members to the Auxiliary. Research in finding determining factors that keeps members happy and engaged speaks to the value of positive interactions among members creating a sense of belonging and camaraderie.

I would strongly encourage every member to become a mentor and friend to fellow members both new and experienced. Teaching and guiding new members provides advantages to both mentor and mentee. It strengthens the commitment to core values and the four cornerstones of our organization. Of all the activities that a member can engage in, becoming a mentor is among the most valuable and beneficial for everyone and I hope this process will continue to be a strength upon which we will always rely.

COMO Barry Kyper



Correction:

The involuntary disenrollment and subsequent court decisions involving former Auxiliarist Christopher J. Verbil reported in the Fall edition (Volume 144 Issue 2) of Topside did not involve allegations of sexual harassment.

Message from the Chief of Staff

More Opportunities Than Ever Before!

Many of you may have shared this pleasant Coast Guard Auxiliary experience: after a day on patrol and especially if it had been a productive day, once things calmed down, we might talk on the way back to our slip. Mostly, we'd all just "catch up." Sometimes though, the talk would turn to comments about how great it was to do what we had done but wouldn't it be even better if we could do more directly with the active duty?

Well, we can now say – yes, for the members who want to do it, it is great to do more with the active duty! Thanks to our 5th Northern Director of Auxiliary, LCDR Taylor and her staff including Operations Training Officer CWO4 Clark and Commander of U. S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay Captain Anderson and his staff, the Auxiliarists in our district have more opportunities than ever before to serve alongside our active duty and reserve teammates. Please keep an eye out for the Notices of General Interest (NOGI) that Commodore Kyper sends and posts on www.5NR.org about once a month for information about these opportunities. Your EXCOM wants to be sure that these opportunities are available to all interested and qualified members.

You will need to obtain training and qualifications for many of these positions but, in many cases, Sector Delaware Bay will provide the needed training. It is really a great way to learn. All they ask in return is that you are professional, reliable and honor whatever commitments you may make. Requests that we've seen recently have included requests for interpreters (Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian), Pollution Response, Container Examinations, and Administrative Support among others. Marine Safety qualifications are often in demand.

There is also demand for members to serve in many of the new Auxiliary roles that work closely with the active duty – the Coast Guard Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) Program, the Auxiliary Financial Educator (AUXFE) Program and the AUXBUILD program in order to assist Coast Guard Civil Engineering Units (CEU) with monitoring and reporting on their shore-side construction projects, and more.

Of course there is much to be done in all of our more traditional roles as well. Nothing is more important than the work we have always done saving lives through recreational boating safety education, vessel safety checks and our visits to marine dealers and our air and surface operations. Our assistance at Sector Delaware Bay, TRACEN Cape May and at the stations is appreciated more than ever. The new opportunities I talk about above are just that – new options.

It has been wonderful to join many of you at D-Train and for your change of watch ceremonies this winter. I continue to be impressed with all of your accomplishments and am honored to be able to call myself a Coast Guard Auxiliarist. Whatever you have chosen to do to the serve the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Coast Guard, I hope you are enjoying it and finding it personally fulfilling. Most of all, I want to thank you!



Thomas J. Dever
District Chief of Staff
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

Thomas J. Dever
District Chief of Staff

Message from the Director

I have been your Director for nine months now and I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting all 12 Divisions to include some of your Flotillas. Again, I am in awe and am very proud that so many people want to give away their most precious commodity of time and give to others in their community. If there are any Division/Flotilla meetings or events that you would like me to attend, please send me an invite.

From what I have seen in person, you are living my favorite quote from Spiderman “With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility”; as you are taking your role serious and are a positive role model to your community and youth.

I was speaking with Coast Guard recruiter YN1 Jamel Brown, and he has new Active/Reserve recruiting pamphlets, as the ones that you have are outdated. YN1 Brown would love to ship as many pamphlets that you need right to your flotilla. Please contact YN1 Brown at 609-484-8260 or email at Jamel.A.Brown@uscg.mil to request updated recruiting material. Once received, please correctly dispose of your old/out dated recruiting material.

We have been working hard in our office and we have processed all new AUX applications, currently having no applications that are awaiting approval/denial. We shortened the timeline from months/year to a week.

Please join me this July 5 to mark two occasions - congratulating Ms. Betty Kain for 20 years of dedicated civilian Coast Guard service, not just 20 years but 20 years in the same job – as your Coast Guard civilian and welcoming BOSN Doug Schubert, your new Operations Training Officer (OTO), who will be starting that day.

I am truly blessed to have been assigned to work with you for the next few years – this is an amazing organization. You have chosen well with electing Commodore Kyper, Chief of Staff Dever, and the rest of EXCOM as they are top notch and truly care about you and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Thank you and Semper Paratus.

LCDR Victoria L. Taylor
U.S. Coast Guard
Director of Auxiliary
Fifth District - Northern Region



LCDR Victoria L. Taylor
Director of the Auxiliary
U.S. Coast Guard

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Semper Paratus

A Focus on 5NR Departments



Marine Safety

Conducting a Marine Safety Outreach Public Event

Introduction.

Conducting outreach at public events is a very important aspect of the work of the MS officer. You will be acting also as a de facto Public Affairs Officer as it has been my experience that often, questions asked by the public are about the Auxiliary and Coast Guard in general rather than being limited to just Marine Safety. You, as a representative of the Gold Side and the Auxiliary, are most likely, the only contact many people will have with the Coast Guard and its Auxiliary. In point-of-fact, It has been my experience at public events, that many people seemingly don't see the many visible references to "Auxiliary" and think that you are the Coast Guard. Presenting the best possible image and message is therefore even more vital to your mission.



Gregg Bollinger
ADSO-W
Marine Safety

Getting Started.

- ◇ Be on the lookout for opportunities around you. Scan the news media as well as listening to other Auxiliarists for opportunities. Your shipmates often belong to other organizations that hold public events or could arrange for you to be a guest speaker at one of their meetings. Sometimes, Auxiliarists in other offices will not be able to attend a public event where they would represent their department opening the door to you as a Marine Safety officer, to present the Marine Safety/Environmental Protection/America's Waterway Watch message. The very first public event I conducted came about this way when our flotilla's PA officer was unable to attend an event sponsored by a local utility company. The relationship that was then established by my attendance "budded" into being invited to several other events held by the company for the public as well as a \$500 donation from them to our flotilla.
- ◇ Try to keep the events within the realm of MSEP/AWW but don't rule-out any opportunity to present our message and mission whether it be an environmentally- themed event, a school fair, or a patriotically-themed event such as one I go to every November to honor veterans.
- ◇ When you find an event to go to, send a well-written, proofread e-mail briefly explaining who and what your mission is to the event contact person or phone them to offer your services.
- ◇ Upon receiving approval, verify date, location, time, parking instructions and any other pertinent information.

Preparation.

- ◇ Prepare for the event by obtaining available MSEP/AWW materials for public distribution. Auxiliary materials such as these are available through your Materials Officer. You will probably need to supplement these with materials you may obtain from organizations such as North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA) and NOAA, both of which are partners with the Gold Side and Auxiliary.
- ◇ Obtain eye-catching banners such as the one available promoting the AWW program (again, order through your MA officer). Construct tri-fold displays on MSEP/AWW topics. Secure a folding table from your flotilla or division, my flotilla graciously supplied the one I use.

Continued on the next page...

Marine Safety, continued

- ◇ Take a folding chair along as some events may not have a spot where you can conveniently sit (which should be kept to a minimum anyway). Duct tape and weights for holding down materials on windy days are advisable

Interaction

- ◇ Upon arriving at the event, if at all possible, touch base with the contact person you have been dealing with to make sure you have parked in the right place and get directions as to where to set-up your display.
- ◇ Regulations call for wearing trop. blues, make sure yours are clean and neat. Breath mints and avoiding “troublesome” foods is recommended as you will be talking extensively with the public. The one exception to the trop. blues would be in a situation where they wouldn’t be practical. When conducting an outreach to fishermen on the first day of trout season for example, ODUs are called for to walk along streams to get the word out to trout anglers, trop. blues would be impractical.
- ◇ Try to stand as much as possible to present a “Semper Paratus” image. Present a military bearing while remaining approachable. Greet everyone who passes by, inviting them to help themselves to the materials. If someone shows interest in a handout, engage them in conversation about it but don’t go on too long about it. Be patient, polite, and prepared to answer questions that sometimes cover a range broader than MSEP/AWW. Don’t neglect chances to be a recruiter for the Auxiliary as well as being a MS Officer. I have had one person, that I know of, join the Auxiliary as a result of talking to him at a public event. Having “business cards” to hand out with pertinent information is also helpful and has in my experience, led to contacts that have opened doors for attendance at other events.

Conclusion.

- ◇ After the event, if it all possible, seek out the contact person to thank them. Many times this will be when they extend an invitation to attend next year or for another event that they will be holding soon. If you cannot locate them, send them a thank you e-mail as soon after the event as possible.
- ◇ Log your time at the event on a 7030 form and make a report of it to your flotilla and division.

Here’s wishing you success in your mission of getting the MSEP/AWW message out at public events!

Gregg R. Bollinger, Th D.

ADSO-MS (W) 5 NR



Communication Services

Another year of challenges this year has begun for the Communication Services group. The team continues to offer training on the WOW website maintenance software for those interested especially the new FSO-CS office holders. We are here to help you all.

Commanders and Public Affairs team members, be sure to review and submit content to your CS office holders. We all need new content for the website.

CS office holders, please review your sites. Some items that aggravate site visitors are broken links and old content. Also keep in mind those that cannot see by filing in the Alternate Text descriptions (aka Alt tags) on every picture.

Expect a visitor to your site; National is reviewing your websites for compliance. So please check them now. This alleviates future aggravation of having to deal with them later. The District CS team tries to get out and review sites, but it can be a daunting task. Division CS members should be also reviewing their sites, both Division and Flotilla levels. If you need help and guidance let me know.

The District still has the GoToMeeting and GoToTraining software. We are working on putting some classes in the system very soon. Also, GoToMeeting is a great tool to use when you have presentations to share with the meeting participants. Otherwise, there are numerous free teleconferencing software sites available on the web. If you need a few suggestions, contact me.

Richard "Rick" Taylor

DSO-CS



Richard Taylor
DSO-CS
Communication Services



A Focus on 5NR Divisions



Division 7

The members of Division 07 are extremely active when it comes to Marine Safety. Monthly reports received from all flotillas are used to alert other members of any potential threats to navigation or to the environment. This important information is also shared with local boating and fishing clubs. Some of the recent items reported include the finding of an unknown surface contamination in the back bay waters of Ship Bottom, NJ during the 2017 boating season and a threat to navigation resulting from a large log found floating in the Barnegat Bay during a routine training patrol. Educating our Division members is, and has always been a priority for our Division said SO-MS Mike Brenner, Vice Flotilla Commander, Flotilla 79. VFC Brenner received his Aux-MEES qualification this year, as well as His Marine Safety Training Specialist qualification and has taken the lead in preparing additional division members to qualify for the Marine Safety training ribbon.

At the recent spring, 2017 D-Train held in Reading, PA, several Division-7 members prepared a Marine Safety Display to further educate fellow Auxiliarists of the importance of this mission.

In April, 2017, Flotilla 79 spearheaded a Division wide clean up at the Crabby Road Dock and beach, in South Toms River, New Jersey. More than twenty members from Division 7 braved a cold and rainy day to collect over 50 lbs. of trash from the beach and dock area, helping to improve the local environment of Ocean County, N.J. But the motivation and can-do attitude of division 7 members does not stop there. Members of Division 7 were also on hand at the Waretown, N.J. Founders Day, where they handed out marine safety coloring books to children and informed the public of the need for keeping our waterways clean. VFC Brenner saw another opportunity to spread the word and further train members of his division by hosting a Marine Safety seminar in October, 2017. His seminar was made available to all Division 7 Auxiliarists as well as the general public and was well attended. His presentation included an informative power point presentation, as well as an interactive display, educating his audience of the type of debris that can be found in our local waterways and the impact that it has on our ecosystem.



Several Members of Division 07 attended the spring D-Train and set up a Marine Safety Display



Crabby Road Beach clean-up, S. Toms River, NJ over 50 lbs. of trash was collected.

Division 15

2017 was a very productive year for Division 15. We elected new leadership: DCDR- James Sheridan and VCDR – Diego Herrera and saw our immediate past Division Commander Robert G. Vanderhook fleet up to DCAPT-W.

Division 15 has 122 members and continues to increase its membership with several new and active members in each of our Flotillas. We continue to engage new members with Division training events and challenging existing members in mentoring positions and through the development of additional Division sponsored events.

Division 15 has five active Flotillas; 15-09 Towanda in Bradford County to the West, 15-10 Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey to the East, and 15-11 Easton, PA to our South with 15-03 Wilkes-Barre and 15-02 Stroudsburg in the middle.

June 24, a Division “VE Day” was held at Harvey’s Lake Boat Launch. Simultaneously two facilities were on patrol. One facility conducted crew training for three new members with a night patrol to assist in completion of crew training for two veteran members. On August 19, a second Division Day was held in response to the PA Fish and Boat Commission requesting patrol assistance on Beltzville Lake. Auxiliary patrols will continue on this lake. On 8/19 two facilities were on the water for 8 hours conducting safe boating patrols together with crew training for members from several Flotillas. 15-09 Ed Hilscher coxswained one Facility and 15-02’s David Edinger coxswained the second. VE’s were conducted the entire day with mentoring and qualifying of Ivan Meixell, 15-11’s FC as a VE. DCDR Sheridan met with two of the local DCNR Officers who welcomed our activities at the lake. A significant percentage of out of state boaters use the lake. We provided educational material on PA. Boating Laws, and distributed CGAUX Marine Safety coloring books to the children.

The Division formed a Color Guard with 8 committed volunteers who underwent detailed preparatory training. We added SO-IS Diego Herrera to the staff after he completed C-School and all of the requirements for his “IS” certification.

Flotilla 15-02 assisted the PA Fish and Boat Commission on July 4 at Lake Wallenpaupak’s firework display as well as several other patrols on both Wallenpaupak and Beltzville Lakes. They also conducted an ABS class in June.

15-03 John Cummings, PA Fish and Boat Supervisor and one of his officers were asked to instruct the Law Enforcement Section at one of the Flotilla’s ABS classes which assisted the PA Fish and Boat Commission personnel in meeting their mandatory instructor hours. SO-MS Kim Weber lead a highly successful Marine Safety Clean-Up event at Francis Slocum Park in May.

15-10 Lake Hopatcong owns a facility, yet had only two qualified crew. Due to transfers 15-10 did not have a qualified coxswain for the boating season. To assist 15-10 and get patrols on Lake Hopatcong, David Edinger, FC 15-02 (Cox) and Bob Vanderhook, D. Captain W. (QE), went to Lake Hopatcong several weekends getting patrols on the lake, resulting in retention currency of 15-10’s crew certifications and trainees certified.

Continued on the next page...

Division 15, continued

15-11 performed several VE days at PA Route 33 Lehigh River's boat ramp and NJ's Round Valley. They have an active Marine Dealer Visitor Program interfacing with L.L. Bean, Dick's Sporting and a number of boat sales facilities. All distributed literature has the Flotilla's contact information. SO-PA has produced several articles for the Lehigh Valley general circulation newspapers and social media. Recruiting new members remains a challenge.

The Division's focus is upon qualifying additional coxswains and crew, challenging new members to assume leadership roles as Staff Officers and eventually to seek Elected Officer positions. The Division works well together and this past summer has been both challenging and rewarding in the participation by all members within the Division.



Civilian Award presentation at 15-03: Various News media, (sitting) FSO-VE Edward J. Schwabe, 15-03; FSO-PA Daniel Schultz, 15-03, DCAPT-W Robert G. Vanderhook, USCG Auxiliary, Captain Kurt A. Clarke, USCG, Deputy Sector Commander, Sector Delaware Bay, LCDR Victoria Taylor, USCG, Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) D5 NR

Edward A. Hilscher Jr (BCCOX) 15-09 and Crew



Richard Lord (BCCOX) 15-02; George Butts (BC) 15-02



Division 20

Information compiled by DCDR Vincent A. Ippoliti Jr.



DCDR: Vince Ippoliti

VDCDR: Mark Lancaster

Flotilla 053-20-01



Left Top: Veterans Day Parade Altoona; **Left Bottom:** Raytown's PDF Kids Loaner Program;

Right: PA booth JAFFA SHOW, Altoona

Division 20, Continued

1. Flotilla 20-01 from April 2017 to September 2017 expanded their Recreational Boating Safety Class instruction to approximately 550 individuals, of which from the months of May 2017 to June 2017 approximately 230 were students from multiple school districts at Seven Points Marina with the Army Corp to Treasure Lake in DuBois, P A.
2. Flotilla 20-01 from April 2017 to December 2017 expanded their Public Affairs outreach and customer service to the community by attending 9 different community events and parades in three different counties surrounding the Flotilla.
3. Flotilla 20-01 in the off months assures that TCT Training is completed and other training is done while not on the water however still participate in the area's largest Sporting Show at the Jaffa Mosque each February for 3 days for Public Affairs and customer service that ranges to contacts from 500 to 1,000 customers in the 3 days.

Flotilla 053-20-03



Northumberland OPS Day, Mark Wirtz, Bret Emigh, Dave Benson (053-20-04)

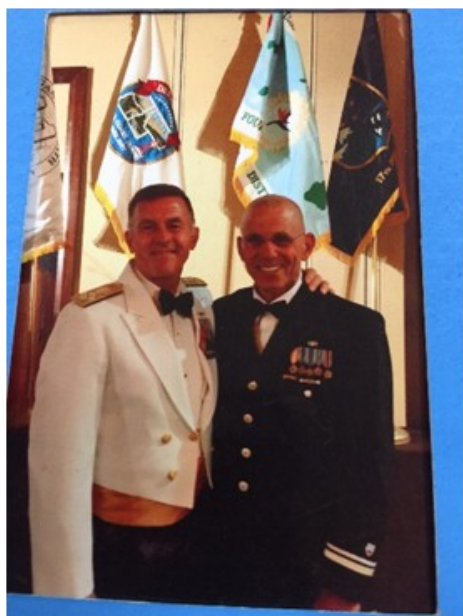


Left Bottom: Northumberland OPS Day Patrol, Eric Mitcheltree, Commodore KC Murphy, and DCAPT West Bob Vanderhook

Division 20, Continued

Flotilla 20-03 with 23 members on the roster and many several ladies and gentlemen Auxiliarists active have had a busy year last year. We accomplished 7 hours of membership training, 16 hours of public affairs, 25 hours of navigation patrols, 26 hours of surface patrols, 22 vessel exams with 3 being facility surface vessels and 1 radio, as well as 3 public education classes. Our on the water season was cut somewhat short do the fiber dam (the one and only inflatable dam in the continental United States) having the inflatable bags repaired on Schikellamy State Park, PA. We hope to outdo ourselves this season with new member recruitment through public education (winter-spring classes have already begun), public affairs and surface patrols. Making our local water ways safer for all of the public.

Flotilla 053-20-04



Left; Terry Banfill with Admiral Zukunft



FLOTILLA 20-04 SAYERS LAKE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◇ 1,250 Vessel Exams
- ◇ 211 RBS Visitations
- ◇ K. C. Murphy, Dave Benson, Terry Banfill, Bill Turner (053-20-01) and DCDR Vince Ippoliti (053-20-03) completed a CPR Course
- ◇ Manned 4 days Safe Boating Booth at Sentimental Journey Fly-In 2017 completing 8 hrs. of instruction
- ◇ Visited 1 Elementary School teaching safe boating skills
- ◇ Conducted vessel checks at Red Moshannon Kayak Race, largest and oldest in state of PA.
- ◇ Inspected APBA race boats at Labor Day Regatta in Lock Haven, PA
- ◇ Spent 8 hrs. as trainee at the annual Pumpkin Chuckin Sayers Lake
- ◇ T. Banfill visited Baltimore's Children's Hospital on Christmas Eve to wish all the children a Merry Christmas and speedy recovery.

2018 GOALS

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Conduct Vessel Exams and RBS Visitations ◇ Attend First Aid Class ◇ Set up safe boating booth at Sentimental Journey Fly-IN 2018 ◇ Attend Red Moshannon Kayak Race ◇ Conduct VE checks ◇ Visit at least 1 elementary school or boy scout meeting teaching boat safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Inspect APBA power boats at Labor Day Race ◇ Help again with pumpkin Chuckin ◇ Set up weather station at Sayers Lake Marina ◇ Visit Pediatric Ward at Christmas. |
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Information from Around the District



Auxiliary Food Service Specialists Support USCGC Tate

During the Change Of Watch for the US Coast Guard Cutter William Tate, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Food Service Specialists (AUXFS) were there to lend a hand and make it a success. Auxiliarists Steve Hewitt, Flotilla 07-02, Don Gerhart, Flotilla 12-02 and Paul Casalese, Flotilla 16-08, all AUXFS qualified, spent two days aboard the TATE helping Culinary Specialist 1st Class (CS1) Daniel Ellis prepare food for the 75 guests and crew members expected for the Change Of Watch. The menu included Pulled Pork, Smoked Brisket, Pork and Beans, homemade Potato Salad and a Relish Platter. Dessert included a custom cake by CS1 Ellis, cupcakes, fruit tray with a yogurt dip, coffee, lemonade and ice tea.

The Auxiliarists were each presented with a unit ball cap and a challenge coin. This is a perfect example of Team Coast Guard in action. If you are a member in D5NR, have completed your Mandated Training, and wish to become a part of the AUXFS team, please contact Noreen Schifini, District Staff Officer-Food Services at schifiniuscgaux@gmail.com.

Noreen Schifini

District Staff Officer-Food Services



Clockwise from top left: Auxiliarist Steve Hewitt, Flotilla 07-02, CS1 Daniel Ellis, Auxiliarist Don Gerhart, Flotilla 12-02 and Auxiliarist Paul Casalese, Flotilla 16-08; Auxiliarist Don Gerhart sets up the dessert table; Auxiliarist Steve Hewitt, far right, serves some potato salad to one of the guests; The cake created by CS1 Ellis

Photos taken by Noreen Schifini

Ice Flights

The eastern section of District 5NR experienced a triple-whammy of unique winter-weather conditions in one day. - A Blizzard accompanied by a Bomb Cyclone, followed by a prolonged Polar Vortex: ^[SEP]Official blizzard criteria is 35+ mph wind gusts held visibility at or below a quarter-mile for 3+ consecutive hours. ^[SEP]Cyclone Bomb or Bomb Cyclone loosely defined is an extratropical cyclone that rapidly intensifies over a short period of time. Hurricanes are a type of cyclone, but any strong storm where winds spiral around a well-defined center fits the criteria.

A Polar Vortex is a persistent, large-scale, low pressure zone that rotates counter-clockwise at the North Pole that extended into North America resulting in a record-breaking freeze as relentless waves of cold air swept down from the high latitudes.

The Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay captain of the port (COTP) set ice condition 3, and cautions mariners to be aware of ice formation on the Delaware Bay and its tributaries. Ice condition 3 is set when weather conditions are favorable for the formation of ice in navigable waters. The status and extent of these restrictions are continuously evaluated, as ice condition reports are received and assessed.

Specific Coast Guard Auxiliary units and assigned Auxiliary Air patrols are assigned to report observed ice conditions to the Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay command center.

by Joseph Giannattasio



Photos taken by
Judy Redlawsk

Standing Watch on the 87s

By Rick Kettinger

Standing Watch, the In-Port Officer of the Deck (OOD) ensures the safety and security of the Coast Guard Cutter, her crew and everyone aboard.

The men and women that serve on Coast Guard Cutters maintain a 24/7/365 vigil on-board to ensure the readiness of the Cutter to serve those in distress, and to enforce the maritime laws of the United States. These men and women are Coast Guardsmen, the Active Duty personnel assigned to the Coast Guard Cutters in the United States and throughout the world.

Stationed in Cape May, NJ at TRACEN, there are a variety of Small Boats and Coast Guard Cutters. Standing Watch on a Cape May based 87 Cutter, the Active Duty OOD is supported by a team of eight qualified Coast Guard Auxiliary In-Port Watchstanders. These Auxiliarists are volunteers from surrounding Flotillas, traveling as much as two hours to Cape May to relieve the Active Duty OOD. These Auxiliarists come from all walks of life, but one thing that they have in common is the passion to actively support the Active Duty Coast Guard.



Under the guidance of John Burns, the Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC), Auxiliarists follow a rigorous qualification program of the same requirements that are met by the Active Duty. Mr. Burns is a mentor to the OOD trainees. He advises that qualification requires the In-Port OOD candidate to be knowledgeable of the operation of all equipment and systems on-board. Every hydraulic, electrical, potable water, wastewater, fire protection, fuel, HVAC system must be traced and diagramed. The OOD candidate must demonstrate not only the knowledge, but also the ability to operate all systems. The qualification process also includes several on-line training courses and examinations. After completing the training, the candidate then goes before a board review usually conducted by the Officer-in-Charge of the Cutter and designates from his crew.

When an Auxiliarist is qualified to Stand Watch, taking responsibility for the Cutter is a rewarding experience, as it keeps one sharp on various aspects of security and general operations of the Cutter. On occasion, the Auxiliary personnel are invited to participate on the Cutter while underway. This provides a hands-on training opportunity for navigation, radio communication and other essential activities on the Cutter. The excitement of working alongside the crew is second to none. Of special note, Auxiliarist Bob Lamendola serves as the OMBUDSMAN for the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter SHEARWATER. It is the gratitude of the Active Duty that makes it all worthwhile and keeps the Auxiliary Watchstanders looking forward to the next time. Last year there were over one hundred Auxiliary missions served on-board by the Auxiliary Watchstanders on the 87s stationed in Cape May. This represents hundreds of hours of service rendered as a force multiplier to the Active Duty on the 87s in Cape May.

Continued on the next page...

Standing Watch on the 87s, continued

Serving as an In-Port Watchstander on a Cape May based Cutter is special because of the opportunity to meet the recruits who are training at TRACEN as they tour a Cutter. Some of the recruits will be assigned to one of the 87s based throughout the country. They are eager to learn, and the Auxiliarist is eager to help them learn.

A very special esprit de corps is fostered between the Active Duty and the Auxiliary on-board the 87s, acting as one unified proud Team Coast Guard with mutual respect, devotion, enthusiasm and honor to duty. Most gratifying to each of the Auxiliarist Watchstanders is the fact that the Active Duty constantly expresses their thanks for the Auxiliary support and service.

John Burns maintains a constant look-out for Auxiliarists interested in qualifying on the Cutters. If you are interested in qualifying as an 87 Coast Guard Cutter Watchstander in Cape May, John can be contacted at: JohnBurns2@comcast.net or 609.780.2314.



About the Author: Rick Kettinger is an AUXOP Member in the 5th Northern District, Cape May Flotilla 08-02. He serves as a Watchstander on the 87s, and is also qualified by the USCG Auxiliary and the New Jersey State Marine Police as a Public Boating Safety Instructor.

10th Anniversary VA Visits

December 9, 2017 - Members of Division 4 visited the Coatesville VA Medical Center (Coatesville, PA) and the Southeastern Veterans Center (Spring City, PA). This was an extra special year because it marks our tenth year visiting these two veteran centers!

The veterans were extremely excited and happy to see the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Some even remembered us from previous years! Once again, we had a special guest appear at the both Veteran Centers. Direct from the North Pole...Santa Claus (also known to some as A. Lindsay from Flotilla 43)! There were never so many smiles when the veterans saw Santa Claus! We also handed each veteran a Christmas card at both facilities and spent a few minutes visiting each one.

We donated a record dollar amount of basic personal needs for the veterans. At both VA's, the staff kept exclaiming, "You mean there is more!" The staff was overwhelmed at each VA with the generosity they received from members of Division 4; along with our corporate and private donors.

All the veterans were extremely happy and thankful that the "Coast Guard" did not forget them and are looking forward to seeing us next year!

A big heartfelt thanks goes to all our corporate donors and private donors:

- ◇ Comfort Products (Croydon Sock Factory)
- ◇ POW-MIA Forget-Me-Nots
- ◇ M. Lucas and her friends, family and contacts
- ◇ D. and K. Spataccino and their family, friends and contacts
- ◇ Boscov's Department Store, Coventry Mall, Pottstown, PA
- ◇ A special BIG thank you to our "special guest," Santa Claus aka A. Lindsay
- ◇ Since there are too many to personally acknowledge: Thank you to all the Auxiliarists of Division 4 who donated to this important project! Without your kind and generous donations, our VA visits would not have been such a huge success for our tenth year!

Written by Linda Skvarla



Coatesville VA: L - M. Lucas, J. Brozonis, friend of T. Foley, T. Foley, J. Powell, Santa Claus (aka A. Lindsay), D. McConnell, D. Spataccino, K. Spataccino, L. Skvarla



Flotilla 44 cargo trailer loaded with basic needs items for the Southeastern Veterans Center



Southeastern VA: L - M. Lucas and J. Skvarla unloading the Flotilla 44 trailer

Southeastern VA:
L - S. Graham,
M. Blumenthal,
D. Spataccino,
M. Lucas, J.
Brozonis, Santa
Claus (aka A.
Lindsay)
L. Skvarla,
K. Spataccino



Philadelphia: Huge Ships + Small Boats = Increased Awareness

By Richard R. Young¹, VFC and FSO-PA, Flotilla 19-04 (Lancaster)

For USCG Auxiliary District 5 Northern Region, mid-February was a momentous time. As the Port of Philadelphia continues to grow with two of the four new large container gantry cranes already in place at the Packer Avenue Terminal, the C/S Shuba B arrived from the west coast of South America to discharge its containerized cargo, much of which was fresh produce that will be distributed throughout the greater mid-Atlantic region.

The C/S Shuba B, operated by Mediterranean Shipping (MSC), is the largest containership to have ever called at Philadelphia, but with the current expansion she will not be the last nor can we assume that she will remain the largest. At 12,200 TEUs² the Shuba B is approximately four times larger than the largest such vessels of 25 years ago, but is still dwarfed by newly launched vessels mostly plying the Pacific that are more than 50% larger—that's 18,000+ TEUs!

While containerships are not new to the Delaware River, as they have called for years at Packer Avenue, Chester, Wilmington, and South Jersey, larger ships will become more commonplace now that the Panama Canal has been widened and deepened to accommodate them—the Shuba B would not have been able to call at Philadelphia previously.

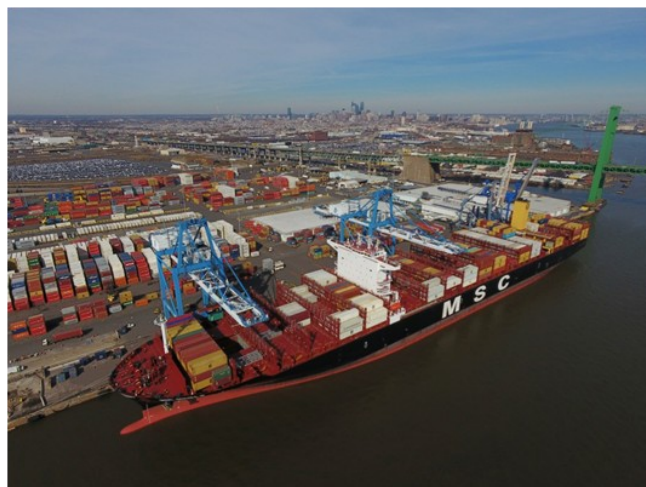
The message here for recreational boaters is that ships of this size pose some serious challenges for the unaware. This ship is 1100 feet long with more than a 50 foot beam. Her as-built draft exceeds 50 feet, the bridge is more than 200 feet above the water, and has a cruising speed of more than 13 knots—speedy, but also intimidating for a ship of 130,000+ deadweight tons. All of this means that there is huge amount of water being disturbed by a vessel that cannot easily maneuver and operated by a crew that is unlikely to be able to see small boat traffic. So with that in mind here are some points that recreational boaters will find worth remembering:

- Be familiar with those channels used by commercial shipping and remain on the lookout for their presence. Some vessels will have a USCG imposed security zone as well that you do not want to violate.
- You might be able to maneuver, but ships of this size have little ability to alter course or turn because of the channel width and depth
- At their average cruising speed, such vessels can be expected to take up to two nautical miles to stop
- The bow and stern of large vessels have accompanying pressure zones that can wreak havoc with the ability to control small boats that venture too close. Amidships they set up suction where you can be drawn closer.
- Be aware that large vessels make for large wakes, which may pose even greater threats when channels become shallower
- Recreational vessels have far more agility, hence don't create dangerous situations thinking that commercial shipping is equally agile. It isn't!

We should welcome the success that Port of Philadelphia has continued to have because of the economic vitality it means for the region, but it does mean that the recreational boater needs to be more cognizant than ever before.

1. The author is also accepted to practice before the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission
2. A TEU means 20' equivalent unit. It is the standard measure for

MSC Shuba B at Port of Philadelphia (Courtesy of Philaport)



The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and Homeland Security

The three primary missions of the United State Coast Guard Auxiliary are recreational boating safety, providing security and safety of our waterways and support of the active duty United States Coast Guard. By supporting these missions the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is also supporting the homeland security of the United States.

The recreational boating safety mission would include vessel safety exams as well as marine dealer and boat marina visits to promote safety on the waterways. There is also the public education program covering the safe operations of power boats, sailboats and paddle craft.

Providing security and safety of our waterways is accomplished by surface and air patrols. This includes assisting boaters in distress, inspecting aids to navigation and monitoring environment issues. There are also patrols in support of homeland security and the United States Coast Guard America's Waterways Watch Program.

Support for the active duty Coast Guard is achieved by having Coast Guard Auxiliary members with advanced training working on United States Coast Guard stations, small boats and Cutters in non-law enforcement and non-military assignments to assist the active duty Coast Guard. This would include administrative functions, communications watch standing and the inspection of commercial vessels and ports.

Recreational boating safety, providing security and safety of our waterways and support of the active duty United States Coast Guard are worthy mission in support of the United States Coast Guard and the homeland security of the United States.

Daniel J. Benny, Ph.D.



Dr. Benny's 1964 Boston Whaler USCGAUX Facility on the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville, PA (Photo by Benny).

Photographs from 5NR





August 10, 2017, Searching over the Susquehanna River while engaged in a MOM patrol. The photo on the left: Judy Redlawsk (formely 5 NR), Pattie Kuhns from 5NR (in the back) and Michelle Halbsgut (5NR) in the left, front seat.

Pictures taken by Michelle Halbsgut



READING, PA - Coast Guard Auxiliarist Tawney Gutierrez enjoying the District (5NR) Air Program display at their Spring DTRAIN's "Hall of Duty." The Hall of Duty is a dedicated area at recent DTRAINS that showcase the various Auxiliary missions within the district.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

DIRAX Staff Having Fun at D-Train



Pictures taken by Barbara Sama



Spring D-Train



*Pictures taken by
Barbara Sama*





A Message from the Editor

Greetings 5NR!

Are you a writer? Do you enjoy telling stories? Are you interested in interviewing people and hearing their journey? If so, we can use you! We are thinking of a special project that we need people with these skills, time, and are interested in working on an exciting project. If this is you, please contact me via email at tpmarks@comcast.net.

I wanted to take some time to review how TOPSIDE is currently set up. It is basically divided into 4 sections, after comments from EXCOM.

The first section is information from the departments. This section gives information from the district level about each department. Usually the DSOs or ADSOs provide this information.

The second section is for divisions to share their information. For both of these sections, I have divided the departments and divisions into 4 groups. Then each department and division has a chance to share what they do once per year.

The third section is general information from across the district. This is information that does not really fit in the other two sections. The final section is pictures.

All members are free to submit articles and/or pictures. There are certain rules I must follow, so not everything can be used. But, please send information! You can always email me to see if something would be appropriate or not.

Semper Paratus,
Tim Marks



Timothy Marks
District Staff Officer -
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Come Visit us on the Web

Coast Guard Auxiliary homepage:

<http://www.cgaux.org/>

5NR Website:

<http://www.5nr.org/index.php>



Parting Shot



Just Chillin' CAPE MAY, NJ - Coast Guard Auxiliarist Russell Rosenzweig stands duty as Inport Watchstander onboard USCGC SHEARWATER that just returned to port from a frigid January patrol. USCGC SHEARWATER is an 87-foot long Marine Protector-class coastal patrol boat stationed in Cape May and her primary missions are ports, waterways and coastal security, search and rescue, law enforcement, marine environmental response, recreational boating safety and military readiness. Since 2009, Cape May has several qualified Auxiliarist Watchstanders ready to stand watch on the 87's. The Auxiliarist Watchstander qualification program is rigorous and the same requirements that are met by the Active Duty.

#USCG

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Donald Dobson.